CITY HILIGHTS

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The Truth Speaks

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B'LURU CABBIE GOES ON A KILLING SPREE, NABBED

Eliminates wife, 6 members of her family over a period of 10-20 days; dumps bodies

BENGALURU

In a shocking murder spree in Bengaluru, a 52-year-old cab driver allegedly killed his wife and six members of her family, including a seven-year-old boy, over a prolonged domestic dispute.

The police on Friday arrested the accused, Indushekhar. According to them, the killings took place over a period of one week at the accused's home in Bengaluru's Rajajinagar.

Indushekhar allegedly dumped the bodies at different locations, including Nandi Hills in Chikkaballapur district and confessed to the murders during interrogation.

The deceased have been identified as his wife Sunitha, mother-in-law Roopavathi, brothers-in-law Shivakumar and Shankar, their wives Divya and Nalini, and seven-year-old nephew Puneeth.

While the body of seven-year-old Puneeth has been recovered near Nandi Hills, a search is underway for the remaining six.

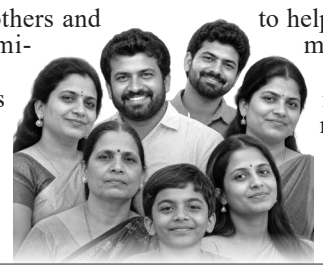
Addressing the media on Friday, Bengaluru Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh said Indushekar murdered his wife Sunitha and six members of her family over a span of 15-20 days, allegedly luring them one by one before murdering them. A missing person's complaint was only lodged at Srirampura police station on November 3, triggering an investigation.



As per sources, Indushekar had frequent disputes with his wife Sunitha, whom he married about 20 years ago, over her frequent visits to her parental home.

Despite attempts by family members to reconcile the couple, their differences persisted. He allegedly grew angry over the support Sunitha received from her mother and brothers and decided to eliminate her family.

Police sources said Shekhar first allegedly murdered Sunitha using a grinding stone, wrapped her body in cloth and dumped it near Nandi Hills. He subsequently switched off her mobile phone and told neighbours that she had gone on a trip to avoid suspicion.



The following day, he allegedly invited his brothers-in-law, Shivakumar and Shankar, to his house for a party and killed them using the grinding stone. He subsequently allegedly murdered their wives, Divya and Nalini, his mother-in-law Roopavathi and Shivakumar's seven-year-old son Puneeth, sources said.

The incident came to light after Nalini's mother lodged a missing-person complaint at Srirampura police station. During the investigation, police examined the missing persons' details, zeroed in on Indushekhar and took him into custody two days ago. His questioning reportedly led to the confession to the seven murders.The accused allegedly used chemicals to clean the house and remove bloodstains after the killings.

Police also recovered the grinding stone allegedly used to commit the crime and the car used to transport the bodies. The accused has been taken to the suspected locations to help recover the remaining bodies.

The Srirampura and Rajajinagar police are conducting parallel investigations into the case.



Cops probe daughter's role

Bengaluru police on Friday revealed that the minor daughter of the accused, Indushekhar, may have assisted him at every stage of the killings and the subsequent disposal of the bodies. Investigators are currently questioning her to establish exact role in the case.

'Saw him dump sacks': Minor boy 'tells' cops

The account of a 13-year-old boy has emerged as a crucial lead in the investigation into the alleged murder of seven members of a family in Bengaluru, with the police relying on his statements to trace where the bodies were dumped.

As per the police, the boy, who is the son of victims Shankar and Nalini, said he accompanied his uncle and witnessed him disposing of gunny bags at isolatawait until there were no people or vehicles around before dumping the bags. He reportedly recalled witnessing the disposal of four such bags. The boy also allegedly told the police that his uncle retained the mobile phones of his wife's family members. The police suspect that Indushekar may have planned to kill the 13-year-old as well. However, he was rescued by the police.

K'taka seeks ₹22,000 crore drought relief from Centre

Seeks appointments with Modi, Shah

BENGALURU

Karnataka has sought around Rs 22,000 crore in drought relief from the Centre under the NDRF norms, against an estimated total crop loss of Rs 62,000 crore, Deputy Chief Minister G Parameshwara said on Friday.

Speaking to reporters, he said the state has submitted three memoranda to the Centre seeking compensation for drought-related crop losses, besides seeking appointments with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan to present its case personally.

Ready to take all-party delegation to Delhi

Parameshwara, who also holds the Revenue portfolio, said the government was prepared to lead an all-party delegation to New Delhi if it granted the appointments. "If the appointments are granted, we will go with an all-party delegation. If we are not given time, we have decided to meet the ministers under the leadership of the Chief Minister (DK Shivakumar) and submit our request."

Clarifying the compensation demand, he said the estimated drought-related crop loss was around Rs 62,000 crore, but the state could not seek the entire amount from the Centre. "Based on the NDRF guidelines, the state has calculated its eligible requirement and sought around Rs 22,000 crore," he said.

On relief for drought-hit farmers, Parameshwara said the government had released Rs 1,250 crore towards the first instalment of Rs 2,500 per farmer, which was being transferred directly to beneficiaries' bank accounts through Direct Benefit Transfer. Over three lakh farmers in Yadgir district had already received the relief amount, he said.



Asked whether the government would meet the PM during his proposed visit to Karnataka, he said it had sought a separate appointment to discuss the state's drought situation. "We expect the PMO to officially give us time. If an appointment is granted in New Delhi, we will go there and explain the drought situation and the need for relief. If we are asked to meet him in Mysuru, we will meet him there and submit our request."

Around 50 lakh farmers had suffered crop losses across 67 lakh acres due to drought, he said, adding that the government had to weigh the cost of Dearness Allowance and other benefits for lakhs of employees. "Decisions are being taken by considering the government's revenue and available resources, while ensuring justice to all sections," he said.

On the financial implications of recent government decisions, he said Karnataka's revenue position was better than that of the previous year, with encouraging collections from commercial taxes, excise, and stamps and registration.

Ground-level facts

- Central aid sought: Rs 22,000 crore
- Total crop loss: Rs 62,000 crore
- Drought-hit taluks: 226 out of 240
- Damage range: 33% to 100%
- Affected farmers: 50 lakh
- Hard-hit regions: Kalaburagi & Yadgir

State's relief measures

- Field-level assessments underway.
- Releases Rs 1,250 crore towards compensation
- Hikes assistance to ₹5,000 per farmer (2 phases)
- Starts compensation payouts of ₹2,500 (1st phase)
- Earmarks ₹1 cr per Assembly constituency for drinking water (₹4-5 cr per district)

Make a commitment to better health this Dhanteras: PM modi

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday urged people to commit to better health this Dhanteras, saying Ayurveda's emphasis on preventive healthcare and healthy lifestyle practices can help families build a healthier future.

In an X post, the Prime Minister encouraged people to make a commitment to better health, highlighting Ayurveda's focus on preserving health rather than merely treating illness.

He said that preventive healthcare plays a crucial role in ensuring the well-being of individuals and families.

The article shared by the PM advocates healthier lifestyle choices, including mindful eating, regular Yoga, adequate sleep, and timely health screenings.

It underscores the need for families to adopt preventive healthcare measures to improve long-term health outcomes. "This Dhanteras, make a commitment to better health! Minister of State Prataprao Jadhav highlights how Ayurveda emphasises the preservation of health and why preventive healthcare matters."

He encourages families to adopt healthier habits, from mindful eating and regular Yoga to adequate sleep and timely health screenings.

He also stressed the importance of investing in the health of loved ones, describing it as the most valuable investment families can make. "Building healthier habits today will contribute to a healthier future."



> Let us invest in what matters most - the health of our loved ones and a healthier future for our families.
>
> Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

Indian rupee hits six-months high

Mumbai: The Indian rupee strengthened past 94 per dollar on Friday (November 6) regaining appeal among emerging-market currencies after spending much of the year in the doldrums, and also posted its best week in three weeks.

The rupee ended at 93.9 and is now down just 4.5% in 2026, after hitting an all-time low of 96.96 in May. Forex traders said a surge in domestic markets and fears of a slowdown in AI spending also supported the rupee. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 94.50 and touched an intraday high of 93.82 and a low of 94.50. The domestic unit closed the session at 93.89 (provisional), registering a gain of 52 paise over its previous close.

EC gives fresh chance to voters excluded from draft SIR rolls

NEW DELHI

The Election Commission on Friday gave a fresh chance to electors of seven states who were marked as Absent, Shifted, Dead and Duplicate (ASDD), and whose names could not be included in the draft rolls during the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise there.

The EC wrote to the chief electoral officers of Delhi, Maharashtra, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Telangana and Nagaland on November 6, asking them to facilitate the inclusion of such electors in the final rolls.

The decision covers those who were issued enumeration forms but whose forms were not received back, resulting in their exclusion from the draft.

It essentially gives a second chance to such people in states where the SIR is on at present.

The Opposition has been accusing the EC of deleting the names of crores of eligible citizens from the electoral rolls at the behest of the BJP. The poll authority has defended the revision, citing its validation by the Supreme Court, while the BJP has said the Congress-led Opposition is merely a sore loser.

Special measures

The commission has directed officials to provide fresh enumeration forms to these electors and make all possible efforts to contact them through Booth Level Officers (BLOs), including house-to-house visits, WhatsApp, e-mail and SMS.

Booth-wise lists of such electors, along with reasons for their exclusion so far, will be displayed at polling stations and designated local government offices once again, says the order. The lists will also be uploaded on the websites of the respective chief electoral officers.

The EC said applications would be scrutinised by Electoral Registration Officers under Rule 21(1) of the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960.

Accepted applications will be kept separately for inclusion in the final electoral roll, with the electors retaining their previous EPIC numbers.

Karmabhoomi Express catches fire in Punjab, passengers escape unhurt

Amritsar: More than 1,500 passengers escaped safely after a fire broke out on the Karmabhoomi Express near Sarai Banjara railway station in Punjab's Patiala district on Friday, engulfing three coaches and partially damaging a fourth, officials said.

The train, which was travelling from Amritsar to New Jalpaiguri in West Bengal, was brought to a halt soon after the fire was detected. The affected coaches were detached from the rest of the train to prevent the blaze from spreading.

No casualties or injuries were reported. The fire broke out on the Rajpura-Sirhind railway section as the train was passing near Sarai Banjara station.

Three general coaches were primarily affected by the fire, while a fourth coach suffered minor damage, Senior Divisional Commercial Manager of Ambala Division of Northern Railways Yashanjit Singh said.

QUICK READ

Fare hike: KSRTC revises monthly bus pass rates from Nov 7

BENGALURU

The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) has revised its monthly bus pass rates following the increase in bus ticket fares. The new rates will come into effect from Saturday, November 7. KSRTC issues monthly passes under different categories to make travel convenient for passengers. In a circular, the corporation said the revision was necessary following the increase in ticket fares.

The revised rates apply to monthly passes for travel in Vegadootha and regular rural buses in Mysuru, Hassan, Tumakuru and Mangaluru cities. The new rates have been detailed in Appendices 1 and 2 of the circular. In its order (No. 798/2019), KSRTC has directed officials to restamp existing bus passes issued to passengers to reflect the revised rates once they come into force on Saturday. The corporation has also instructed officials to restamp passes issued at higher rates to reflect the new, lower rates, wherever applicable.

Mumbai on alert as bomb threat targets HC, BSE, Bachchan's bungalow

MUMBAI

A bomb threat email targeting the Bombay High Court, Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE), Worli Mahalaxmi Racecourse and actor Amitabh Bachchan's bungalow has put security agencies in Mumbai on alert. The threatening email was sent to the Bombay High Court, warning of bomb attacks at the four locations. Following the alert, Mumbai Police launched an investigation and informed the concerned security agencies. Efforts are also on to trace the sender of the email and establish the credibility of the threat. Further details about the contents of the email and the security measures taken at the locations are awaited. It had also warned of an attack during singer Diljit Dosanjh's scheduled concert at the Mahalaxmi Racecourse on November 27. Amid the heightened security concerns, Bachchan was seen greeting a crowd outside his bungalow from behind a transparent bulletproof enclosure.

'GREEN CRACKERS NOT ALWAYS GREEN'

'Crackerless Diwali must be people's movement, not a court order'

NEW DELHI

Clean air initiatives during Diwali and other festivals must transform into a "people's movement" and controlling pollution during such festivals cannot be achieved solely through judicial decrees and police deployment, the Supreme Court said on Friday.

Hence, it urged the government in Delhi and other authorities to ensure active involvement of local municipal councillors to urge citizens against bursting polluting firecrackers during the Diwali.

A Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana remarked that excessive judicial interventions often trigger higher non-compliance. "The more orders the Court passes, the more violations there may be. That is the tendency. Involve local councillors. Ask them to appeal to people to ensure that their Diwali celebrations do not contribute to pollution. It should become a people's movement," the CJI observed.

The remarks were made during the hearing of the case titled In Re: Curbing Air Pollution in the National Capital Region - Regulatory and Policy Framework, Air Quality Governance and Other Ancillary Issues, addressing the worsening air quality in Delhi-NCR ahead of the winter season. During the proceedings, the Amicus Curiae pointed out that physical policing has practical limits and the state "cannot have one police officer in every house."

Senior Advocate Aparajita Singh, also assisting the Court as Amicus Curiae, raised concerns over on-ground enforcement, pointing out that vendors exploit permissions granted for green crackers by displaying green boxes at kiosks while clandestinely selling banned conventional firecrackers inside the shops.

> The more orders the Court passes, the more violations there may be. That is the tendency.
>
> - Supreme Court

Highlighting the acute health risks to younger populations, Singh cited a 2012 Central Pollution Control Board study, which revealed reduced lung function in 43.5% of Delhi schoolchildren compared to children outside the capital.

One of the lawyers appearing in the matter also urged the Bench to recalibrate the Graded Response Action Plan to treat school restrictions independently and trigger protective measures at earlier pollution stages.

Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for the government, concurred with the need for heightened awareness campaigns and placed on record a sector-wise compliance chart compiled from NCR States covering construction dust, municipal waste burning, vehicular emissions, and industrial activity.

The Amicus submitted that states tend to act swiftly only when the apex court directly seeks compliance reports or summons top bureaucrats, noting that comprehensive notes segregating airshed management, vehicular pollution, and industrial emissions have been finalized for a full hearing.

TOP COURT'S OBSERVATIONS

- **Limits of judicial orders**: Excessive court orders may lead to non-compliance rather than solving pollution.
- **Multiple causes of pollution**: Traffic, industrial emissions and stubble burning also contribute to Delhi's poor air quality.
- **Public participation**: Delhi govt should involve municipal councillors to encourage people to avoid polluting firecrackers.
- **Avoid blaming the poor**: Poor people and seasonal workers should not be unfairly held responsible for pollution.
- **Enforcement challenges**: Police cannot monitor every household, and banned crackers are reportedly sold illegally as green crackers.
- **Traditional celebrations**: Court highlighted the excessive commercialisation of festivals and encouraged a return to traditional and responsible customs.

Quick Read

Thunderstorms and rain forecast for Karnataka

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Residents in parts of Karnataka woke up to wet weather as fresh showers hit the state. The Meteorological Department reports that southern districts, including Bengaluru, are experiencing moderate rain accompanied by lightning and thunderstorms. Areas like Ramanagara and Hoskote recorded three centimeters of rainfall over the past day. While southern and coastal zones stay damp, northern parts remain completely dry. Locals are advised to stay cautious during sudden evening downpours and keep umbrellas handy as wet conditions are expected to linger across the region.

Bengaluru air quality remains in satisfactory range

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Air quality across major Karnataka cities remains mostly satisfactory today, according to recent environmental data. In Bengaluru, key areas like Hombegowda Nagar, Hebbal, and BTM Layout recorded Air Quality Index levels between 36 and 67, reflecting manageable pollution levels despite heavy traffic and ongoing roadwork. Other parts of the state show clean air, with Mysuru at 51, Hubballi at 62, and Madikeri enjoying pristine conditions at an AQI of 17. Experts note that vehicle emissions and road dust are primary pollution sources, advising children and elderly citizens with breathing concerns to check local index updates before heading outdoors.

KEA bans exam cheats from government jobs

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Karnataka Examinations Authority has introduced severe penalties for anyone caught using unfair means during official tests. Individuals found guilty of exam malpractice now face a permanent lifetime ban from all future government recruitment tests conducted by the KEA, KPSC, and Education Department. This strict rule follows a recent scandal where a candidate caught cheating in the Village Administrative Officer exam was blocked from taking further tests. Authorities are also investigating suspicious blank answer sheets from 180 applicants. Officials hope these harsh measures will eliminate cheating and restore complete fairness to government hiring.

HDK rejects all-party drought delegation

Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy criticized the state's drought relief efforts, dismissing calls for an all-party Delhi delegation.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Political friction between state administrations and central authorities frequently intensifies during times of natural calamities, centering around resource allocation, disaster relief management, and administrative protocols.

A fresh political dispute has erupted in the region following sharp comments from a senior central minister regarding the state government's approach to securing financial assistance for drought-affected areas.

Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy has strongly criticized the state administration, declaring that there is no historical precedent or administrative necessity for taking an all-party political delegation to the Union Government to seek drought relief funds.

Addressing media representatives in Bengaluru, Kumaraswamy responded directly to recent remarks made by Deputy Chief Minister G. Parameshwara, who had publicly accused opposition parties of failing to cooperate in forming a unified all-party delegation to lobby New Delhi.

Expressing deep frustration over the state's handling of the crisis, Kumaraswamy noted that he has closely monitored the situation over the preceding two months, characterizing the state's efforts as mere bureaucratic correspondence.

He criticized state ministers for failing to schedule formal meetings with key federal leaders, including the Prime Minister, the Union Home Minister, and the Union Agriculture Minister.

Furthermore, he alleged that the state has submitted fluctuating and inconsistent financial memorandums initially requesting Rs 3,000 crore and subsequently escalating demands to Rs 26,000 crore without providing comprehensive, accurate meteorological and agricultural data to substantiate the claims.

The Union Minister drew upon his own extensive tenure as Chief Minister to contrast administrative styles.

He recalled that during severe natural disasters, such as the devastating floods in Kodagu when he led a coalition government alongside the Congress party, he managed relief efforts using state revenues and internal resources without organizing high-profile delegations to the national capital. He also referenced past policy implementations, such as comprehensive farm loan waivers, arguing that effective governance relies on diligent administrative execution rather than political posturing.


Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy.

As both sides exchange sharp accusations, the ongoing dispute highlights the growing friction over federal fiscal cooperation, leaving local agricultural communities waiting for coordinated relief measures.

Criticisms by Kumaraswamy

Lack of direct engagement

Slamming the state administration, HDK noted that ministers have merely engaged in correspondence without showing the courtesy of meeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Amit Shah, or the Union Agriculture Minister directly.

No precedent

Addressing remarks by Deputy Chief Minister Parameshwara regarding opposition non-cooperation, HDK maintained that relief requests are traditionally handled directly by the Chief Minister and relevant cabinet ministers.

Kodagu floods, 2018

Citing his own tenure as Chief Minister in 2018 during the Kodagu floods, Kumaraswamy stated that he utilized state tax revenues for relief and did not resort to sending an all-party delegation to the Centre.

Drought aid sought, as HDK tells it

AT FIRST
₹3,000 cr
in the state's first request

▸

LATER
₹26,000 cr
figures shifted across ten letters

Court rejects plea for concurrent prison terms

CH NEWS, BENGALURU


The High Court of Karnataka.

Karnataka High Court dismisses Ramesh's petition to serve separate prison sentences concurrently, ruling that independent trials cannot share overlapping penalties.

Facing legal consequences in the court of law can take unexpected turns for individuals involved in serious criminal activities. When a person is found guilty across multiple separate legal proceedings, judges must carefully determine how the penalties will be served. A recent high-profile ruling from the Karnataka High Court has brought significant clarity to this complex legal process.

The High Court of Karnataka has officially dismissed a petition filed by a convicted individual seeking to serve two distinct prison sentences concurrently rather than consecutively. The petitioner, identified as Ramesh, had requested that his prison terms for separate offenses be allowed to run at the same time. However, a single-judge bench presided over by Justice M. Nagaprasanna firmly rejected the plea after reviewing the case history and relevant legal precedents.

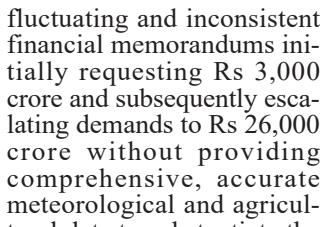
The background of the matter dates back several years. In 2016, a serious case involving murder and attempted murder was registered against the accused under the K.P. Agrahara Police Station jurisdiction. While the legal proceedings for that initial matter were still underway, a separate criminal case was filed against him in 2019 for threatening a witness associated with the ongoing trial.

Because these matters were tried independently, they resulted in separate convictions and timelines. In August 2022, he was sentenced to five years of simple imprisonment for the witness intimidation charge. Later, in January 2023, he received a life sentence along with an additional five-year rigorous imprisonment term for the murder case.

During the hearings, the petitioner's legal counsel argued that both matters were interconnected and requested the court to invoke legal provisions allowing the sentences to run simultaneously. Conversely, the Public Prosecutor strongly opposed this request, pointing out that the criminal acts occurred at different times and involved distinct events.

All government schools to go bilingual in phases

CH NEWS, BENGALURU


A government high school in Bengaluru.

Modern education landscapes across India are shifting rapidly, driven by parental desires to equip children with competitive global skills. For decades, public sector educational institutions have faced declining enrollments as families increasingly gravitate toward private English-medium options. To bridge this divide and restore faith in public education, state authorities have launched a massive structural transformation aimed at reshaping the future of classroom instruction across the region.

The Government of Karnataka has announced a comprehensive plan to transition all government-run schools into bilingual institutions by introducing English-medium streams in a phased manner. School Education Minister Madhu Bangarappa officially shared the initiative, emphasizing that parents should have the absolute freedom to choose the preferred medium of instruction for their children. According to recent UDISE+ data, the state houses 48,527 government schools, all of which are slated for this progressive upgrade.

This policy builds upon groundwork laid in previous academic cycles. Initial bilingual sections began rolling out years ago under past administrations, gradually expanding to thousands of campuses. In urban educational districts like Bengaluru North and Bengaluru South, over a thousand schools have already received clearance to offer bilingual classes starting from the first grade. High public demand was evident when thousands of schools across thirty-three districts applied to adopt the framework.

While parents and communities have welcomed the move, education experts advise a cautious and strategic approach. Critics note that successful implementation requires robust, long-term professional development rather than brief orientation workshops for rural educators.

Equipping teachers with effective communication and pedagogical tools is vital to ensuring that students truly benefit from the bilingual shift. As the state moves forward, this ambitious reform aims to revitalize public schooling and create equal opportunities for every child.

48,527	6,539	4,134
government schools to go bilingual	schools with bilingual sections since 2019	schools approved in 2025-26

Factory collapse exposes construction negligence

CH NEWS, HOSUR

Construction sites are meant to be places of steady progress, but they can quickly turn into scenes of absolute heartbreak when safety rules are ignored. A terrible accident has shaken a local industrial area near the border, leaving families mourning and several others fighting for their lives in the hospital.

A tragic incident occurred near the industrial zone in Hosur during the construction of a private factory building known as Balaji Gears. While workers were actively pouring heavy concrete into a mold, the wooden beams and temporary support structures suddenly collapsed without warning. Three workers became trapped beneath the heavy debris and tragically lost their lives at the scene. Four other individuals sustained critical injuries and were rushed to a nearby private hospital for emergency medical treatment.

Authorities have identified the victims as Kumaresan, Michael, and Srinivasan. Preliminary investigations suggest that the disaster was caused by severe negligence and a complete failure to follow standard safety precautions. Officials noted that there were no adequate supporting pillars or proper structural plans to bear the massive weight of the concrete.

Following the accident, local district officials and the police superintendent visited the site to inspect the damage and oversee rescue efforts using a crane. A total of seventeen people were working at the site when the disaster struck.

The District Collector has instructed local law enforcement to take strict legal action against everyone responsible for the oversight, including the site engineer who designed the unsafe structure. Officials continue to urge all contractors and builders to prioritize worker safety to prevent such devastating accidents from happening again.

The collapse

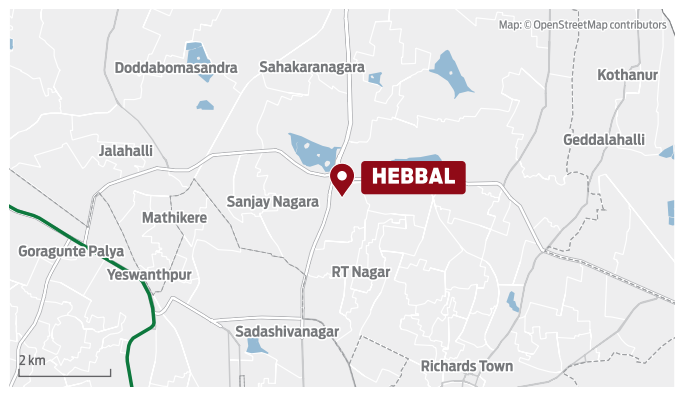
3 workers killed

4 critically injured

17 people at the site

Traffic chaos hits Bengaluru as Hebbal route closes

CH NEWS, BENGALURU



Hebbal: the road to Mekhri Circle is shut for 18 months

Urban infrastructure projects are essential for long-term metropolitan growth, but major construction work often brings immediate commuter nightmares. Millions of residents living and working in fast-growing technology hubs understand that building a better future requires navigating massive disruptions, temporary route diversions, and endless hours spent stuck in vehicle queues.

A massive traffic gridlock has paralyzed normal movement along crucial arterial stretches in Bengaluru following the official closure of a major transit corridor. The road connecting Hebbal to Mekhri Circle has been completely shut down to vehicular traffic for the next 18 months. This drastic measure has been implemented to facilitate a major infrastructure initiative, the construction of a brand-new four-lane elevated road stretching from the UAS staff quarters in Hebbal all the way down to Mekhri Circle.

The complete halt of normal traffic flow along this key section has triggered severe bottlenecks. Thousands of motorists including daily office-goers, school children, and frantic travelers heading toward the Kempegowda International Airport found themselves trapped in extensive tailbacks. Commuters attempting to navigate alternative pathways reported extreme delays, as surrounding roads buckled under the sudden surge of diverted vehicles.

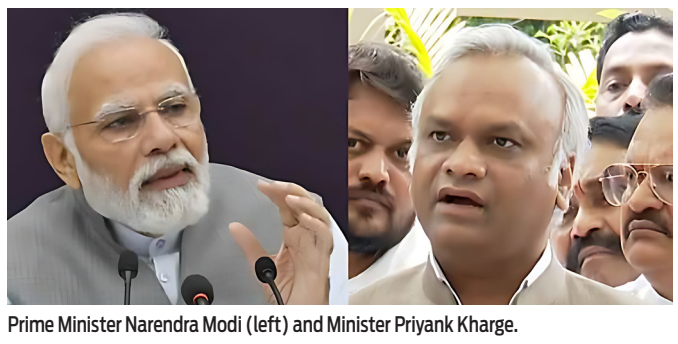
In an effort to manage the chaos, traffic authorities have placed heavy restrictions on commercial transport. Large buses, heavy trucks, and other goods-carrying vehicles are now strictly permitted to travel only via the narrow service roads running parallel to the main corridor. Meanwhile, traffic police have issued advisories suggesting alternative interior routes to help distribute the heavy volume of vehicles and alleviate continuous gridlock.

As the city braces for eighteen months of heavy construction activity, urban planners urge commuters to plan their daily travel schedules well in advance, utilize public transit where possible, and exercise patience while navigating alternate routes across the affected northern corridor.

THE DEGREE DEBATE

Kharge defends qualifications against BJP criticisms

CH NEWS, BENGALURU


Prime Minister Narendra Modi (left) and Minister Priyank Kharge.

Political debates in the state often stretch far beyond governance, frequently touching upon personal backgrounds, educational credentials, and linguistic abilities of prominent figures. A recent war of words has erupted between ruling party ministers and opposition leaders, drawing widespread public attention.

Minister Priyank Kharge has fired back sharply at statements made by BJP leader Chalavadi Narayanaswamy concerning his educational background and qualifications. Addressing critics head-on, Kharge declared his complete readiness to open his academic credentials for public discussion. He pointedly remarked that information regarding Prime Minister Narendra Modi's degree certificates remains notoriously difficult to access, noting that such details have not been made transparent even through formal Right to Information (RTI) channels.

> **"I am a graphic designer, I know English better than Modi does."**
> — **Priyank Kharge,** Karnataka Home Minister

Taking the confrontation a step further, Kharge asserted with absolute confidence that he possesses superior educational qualifications and speaks better English than the Prime Minister. Responding directly to allegations labeling him a "Convent Dalit," Kharge strongly refuted the claim.

He clarified that the children of the very leaders leveling these accusations are the ones who attended elite convent schools, whereas he completed his own schooling at the traditional Adamaru Matha institution. To settle any lingering doubts, Kharge publicly challenged Narayanaswamy to a comprehensive debate on any language or subject, at any time and place of his choosing.

The political sparring also touched upon cultural and linguistic knowledge. While openly acknowledging the limits of his own familiarity with the historical song 'Vande Mataram,' Kharge did not hesitate to question the competence of his political rivals. The exchange also addressed sharp remarks involving Union Minister Kumaraswamy, whom Kharge had previously referred to using a colloquial expression. When BJP leader N. Ravikumar demanded a formal apology for those comments, Kharge dismissed the pressure, firing back with a pointed query asking whether Ravikumar truly represents the sentiment of millions of citizens. As these fiery verbal volleys continue, political tensions across the state remain visibly elevated.

Quick Read

State loses eminent literary critic K.V. Narayan

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Renowned Kannada litterateur, linguist, and cultural thinker Dr. K.V. Narayan passed away at the age of 78. Born in Mysuru district, he made profound contributions to Kannada literature, literary theory, and linguistics, serving as a professor and acting vice-chancellor at Kannada University, Hampi. His notable works, including Nudigala Alivu, earned him prestigious honors such as the Central Sahitya Akademi Award and the Karnataka Rajyotsava Award. State leaders, including the Minister for Kannada and Culture, have expressed deep grief, mourning his demise as an irreparable loss to the entire literary community.

Clean drinking water is government responsibility: HC

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Karnataka High Court stated that supplying safe drinking water to all citizens remains a fundamental responsibility of the state government. During a contempt petition hearing regarding earlier court orders, justices emphasized that full compliance is mandatory. While officials submitted initial urban reports, rural data from many villages remains pending, prompting the court to grant a three-week extension. Furthermore, judges plan to appoint an independent advocate accompanied by experts to inspect village water systems and submit a direct assessment report to ensure proper implementation across the state.

Ashoka slams Congress over 'PhonePe' rackets

Opposition leader R. Ashoka accused the Karnataka government of systemic corruption, dubbing it a "Direct Commission Transfer" network.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU





The political landscape of Karnataka has once again intensified following stinging allegations by the Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly, R. Ashoka. Targeting the ruling Congress administration, Ashoka launched a sharp counter-offensive over the coinage of political catchphrases, arguing that the architects of the erstwhile "Pay CM" campaign have themselves engineered a far more insidious, tech-enabled digital corruption network.

Ashoka characterized the current administration's alleged financial malpractices as a "Direct Commission Transfer" (DCT) mechanism sarcastically comparing it to the government's Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) framework. According to the opposition, systemic bribery has permeated core administrative power centers, specifically highlighting the Vidhana Soudha, Vikasa Soudha, and the M.S. Building.

Central to Ashoka's allegations was a specific incident involving a canteen contractor who was allegedly coerced into paying a bribe of ₹10 lakh via digital payment channels like PhonePe. Pointing to this instance, Ashoka claimed that petty extortion and daylight robbery have become normalized under the current regime, leaving everyday vendors and contractors vulnerable to systematic exploitation by administrative gatekeepers.

The political friction escalated as aggrieved contractors, pushed to the brink by persistent demands for bribes coupled with administrative threats, initiated formal legal recourse. Through their legal counsel, formal notices were served to key administrative figures, including the Secretary and the Deputy Secretary of the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms (DPAR), as well as the Private Secretary to the Chairman of the Legislative Council.

Because the DPAR operates directly under the portfolio of the Chief Minister, the opposition used these developments to question executive oversight. Ashoka publicly challenged the administration, noting that while the state leadership frequently invites citizens to report bribery directly, lower-level bureaucratic channels appear to have institutionalized digital peer-to-peer transfers as a standard medium for settling illegal commissions.

The "PhonePe commission" jibe marks a strategic pivot for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in its ongoing face-off with the Congress government. Having previously faced severe political damage from the opposition's "Pay CM" campaign during earlier election cycles, the BJP is utilizing these digital transaction records and legal notices to turn the narrative around, accusing the ruling party of institutional hypocrisy.

The opposition has demanded a comprehensive, transparent investigation into the administrative departments implicated in the notices, asserting that fiscal mismanagement, empty state exchequers, and stalled development grants are direct symptoms of unchecked institutional corruption. As the war of words continues, the controversy has placed intense pressure on the state government to address digital transparency and tighten accountability across municipal and bureaucratic channels.

Karnataka proposes bioenergy pact with Thailand

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Karnataka has proposed a major bilateral cooperation agreement with Thailand to boost its bioenergy sector, foreign investment, and green technology exchange. Board Chairman S.E. Sudheendra hosted a high-level Thai delegation in Bengaluru, discussing key collaborations on used cooking oil recycling, advanced biofuels like sustainable aviation fuel, and waste-to-energy initiatives. Thai foreign ministry advisor Jukr Boon-Long praised the state's visionary green initiatives and welcomed future technical workshops and joint ventures. Officials hope this partnership will drive sustainable economic growth, attract international investments, and create new employment opportunities across the state.

Globalizing Karnataka Khadi with Ambassadors

CH NEWS, BENGALURU



Economic modernization across traditional manufacturing sectors requires bold strategic vision, international market outreach, and robust institutional backing. Traditional craft industries that once sustained local rural economies are increasingly challenged by changing consumer preferences and globalized retail competition. To revitalize these heritage sectors, state authorities have launched an ambitious administrative initiative aimed at transforming traditional handloom fabrics into celebrated international lifestyle brands while safeguarding the livelihoods of rural artisans.

Karnataka Minister for Small Scale Industries and Public Sector Undertakings, Vijayananda S. Kashappanavar, has announced a comprehensive blueprint to introduce the state's Khadi products to the global stage and dramatically expand domestic demand. Presiding over a high-level review meeting of Khadi, wool, and silk organizations at Khadi Bhavan in Bengaluru attended by Karnataka State Khadi and Village Industries Board Chairman and Maski MLA Basanagouda Turuvihal, CEO Natesh, and sector representatives the Minister emphasized that Khadi represents far more than historical apparel. He highlighted its vital role as the economic backbone for thousands of rural spinners, weavers, and craftspeople across Karnataka, arguing that sustainable livelihood protection requires modern digital marketing, robust branding, and direct access to international export channels.

A central pillar of the newly unveiled strategy involves appointing influential international 'ambassadors' across various countries to champion Karnataka's handloom heritage, showcase contemporary Khadi garments, and facilitate global trade partnerships. To support this massive expansion, Minister Kashappanavar directed senior officials to formulate a special financial proposal worth Rs. 100 crore earmarked for the upcoming 2027–28 State Budget. This proposed capital allocation will fund critical infrastructure upgrades, including modernizing production units, installing advanced machinery, establishing Common Service Centers, improving dyeing and quality-testing facilities, and creating sophisticated e-commerce platforms.

Currently, the state oversees 207 registered Khadi institutions 180 of which are actively operational alongside 196 Khadi Bhandars functioning across diverse districts, taluks, and hoblis. Despite this widespread network, authorities stressed the urgent need to elevate artisans' earnings, upgrade packaging standards to meet global retail expectations, and introduce contemporary ready-made fashion lines tailored to younger demographic groups. Furthermore, the government proposed mandating Khadi usage for departmental institutional uniforms and establishing premier district-level showrooms modeled after the successful 'Cauvery Emporium' framework. By combining aggressive global outreach, continuous Market Development Assistance, and proactive financial adjustments aligned with minimum wage standards, the administration seeks to secure a prosperous, modern future for Karnataka's legendary handloom industry.



Shri D.K Shivakumar
Honourable Chief Minister

Forest, Ecology and Environment Department and
Karnataka State Pollution Control Board

Dr. G. Parameshwara
Honourable Deputy Chief Minister



Let's celebrate Festival of Lights Deepavali through Lighting Lamps



Wishing you all a very happy and safe Deepavali



Shri Ramalinga Reddy
Honourable Minister of Tourism, Ecology and Environment,
Govt. of Karnataka Inspection of Departmental Activities

Karnataka State Pollution Control Board

- Bursting of firecrackers is permitted only between 8:00 PM and 10:00 PM during the Diwali festival.
- Bursting of crackers causing noise more than 125 dB(AI) is prohibited.
- Only approved Green Crackers are allowed.
- Let us refrain from using environment damaging and banned firecrackers, and use only green fire crackers.
- Let us be mindful and take care so that the noise and smoke from firecrackers do not cause distress to children, the elderly, the sick, as well as animals and birds.

Saving the country's forests, wildlife and rivers together" - It is a constitutional fundamental duty of every Indian

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Shri B.Shivanna
Chairman, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board
MLA, Anekal Assembly Constituency

CH Observer

chstatenews@gmail.com

Surrounded by piles of garbage in every direction, a government school in the Gandhinagar constituency, which also serves as an election polling booth, presents a deeply distressing sight. Children are forced to study amidst the filth, drawing severe concern from parents and locals. Despite repeated notices sent to the concerned authorities, no action has been taken to clean the area. Residents and activists are now urgently demanding immediate intervention from municipal officials to clear the waste and restore a safe, hygienic environment for the students.

+91 80730 57594



The Karnataka Public School (Government Primary School) on 2nd Main Road, Sampangiram Nagar, Seshadripuram, opposite Soundarya Arcade Apartment.





Source segregation is non-negotiable; mixing waste or using restricted plastics will invite severe legal consequences



Garbage piled up around the school.

BSCC fines gym, eatery for waste violations

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Maintaining urban cleanliness and ensuring strict compliance with environmental regulations are top priorities for metropolitan civic administrations. While continuous public awareness campaigns encourage eco-friendly habits, municipal authorities must also enforce strict penalties against commercial establishments that flout waste segregation norms and continue to use prohibited plastic products.

The Bengaluru South City Corporation has intensified its ongoing 'Freedom from Waste' campaign, conducting rigorous periodic inspections to monitor waste management practices among bulk generators and local businesses. Led by Commissioner K.N. Ramesh, enforcement squads and marshals have been tasked with cracking down on unscientific waste disposal and the unlawful use of banned single-use plastics across all municipal wards.

Recent surprise checks in prime commercial zones uncovered notable violations. During an inspection in Sector 3 of HSR Layout, marshals discovered that the popular fitness center 'Cult.fit' (Cult.fit Ltd) was improperly handling its waste without enforcing mandatory segregation at the source into wet and dry categories. Consequently, a hefty fine of ₹30,000 was imposed on the establishment for violating bulk waste generator guidelines.

BNCC cracks down on garbage lapses

Bengaluru North City Corporation Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar warned sanitation workers against negligence and fake attendance during a review meeting.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Maintaining cleanliness and managing urban waste efficiently remain among the greatest challenges for growing metropolitan administrations. Ensuring accountability across public sanitation departments requires strict monitoring, transparent operations, and active cooperation between field workers and civic authorities to keep city neighborhoods clean.

Bengaluru North City Corporation Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar chaired a high-level meeting at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Bhavan, Yelahanka, to overhaul and strengthen the solid waste management system across corporation limits. Addressing supervisors, pourakarmikas, and key officials, the Commissioner emphasized that every individual drawing a salary from public tax revenue must perform their duties sincerely. Noting that garbage collection vehicles frequently missed certain localities, he warned that negligence, false attendance records, or evasion of responsibilities under political pressure will not be tolerated.



At the review of the solid waste management system at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Bhavan, Yelahanka.

OFFICIAL DIRECTIVES & TARGETS

TARGET CLEAN CITY
Additional Commissioner Pallavi K.R. urged staff to know their operational boundaries to reach a clean city target by December 1; low fine collections reported by Joint Commissioner Mohammed Naeem Momin must improve

OPERATIONAL CLARITY
Field staff must know their assigned vehicle numbers, driver details and route boundaries without relying on records

PUBLIC GRIEVANCES
Complaints received through the Tuesday SWM Phone-In Programme must be handled with utmost seriousness

The corporation is prioritizing the strict implementation of a structured Micro Plan to track door-to-door garbage collection vehicles across assigned blocks. Officials highlighted that public grievances received through weekly phone-in programs must be addressed immediately. To enforce accountability, the Commissioner announced that he will personally conduct surprise field inspections starting December 1, with strict disciplinary actions including potential dismissal facing any personnel involved in operational lapses or fake attendance scams.

Alongside strict enforcement, civic leaders reiterated their commitment to safeguarding the welfare of pourakarmikas and frontline sanitation workers, promising full institutional protection against outside interference. Additional Commissioner Pallavi K.R. and Joint Commissioner Mohammed Naeem Momin stressed the importance of inter-departmental coordination, urging all staff to master their area boundaries and operational frameworks. By fostering teamwork and transparency, the corporation aims to eliminate garbage and achieve a cleaner city.

DECISIONS & WARNINGS

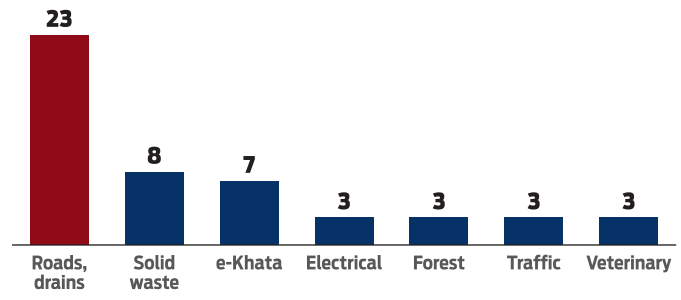
Strict accountability: fake attendance records, vehicle irregularities or failure to collect garbage regularly will invite severe penalties, including potential dismissal

Micro Plan priority: door-to-door waste collection will now be strictly tracked using block-wise Micro Plans

Welfare and protection: full support and welfare protection for pourakarmikas and field staff against undue external pressure

Listening to citizens: North Corporation's 59th phone-in

What the callers raised



Figures: Bengaluru North City Corporation

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Bridging the gap between municipal administration and urban residents requires proactive communication channels that allow citizens to report local civic issues directly to city authorities. Regular interactive grievance redressal programs serve as a vital tool for ensuring accountability, transparency, and prompt problem-solving across sprawling metropolitan municipal jurisdictions.

Bengaluru North City Corporation successfully hosted its 59th weekly Commissioner's Phone-In Programme, providing a direct platform for residents to voice their municipal concerns. Under the leadership of Corporation Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar, the latest session recorded 54 grievances logged through 52 incoming citizen calls. All reported issues were systematically registered on the 'Sahaaya 2.0' software platform and routed to the respective departmental heads via the Integrated Command and Control Centre for prompt action.

A department-wise breakdown of the newly received grievances highlights a strong public focus on infrastructure and municipal upkeep. Road maintenance and engineering issues topped the list with 23 complaints spanning roadside drains, potholes, unauthorized constructions, and footpath encroachments, followed by solid waste management with eight grievances, e-Khata services with seven, and electrical, forest, traffic, and veterinary departments logging three complaints each. Officials confirmed that while two cases were resolved immediately, the remaining 52 have been entered into the active tracking system for timely resolution.

The 59th phone-in logged 54 civic grievances, with road maintenance and solid waste management topping the list

Reviewing the broader performance metrics of the phone-in initiative, officials noted that across 58 previous editions, the corporation has received a cumulative total of 3,410 grievances, achieving an impressive resolution rate with 3,262 cases successfully settled. Additionally, city-wide grievance tracking under 'Sahaaya 2.0' reveals that nearly 88,626 complaints have been processed since the formation of the Greater Bengaluru Authority. Commissioner Sunil Kumar has strictly instructed all executive engineers, health officers, and department heads to prioritize pending cases, conduct necessary field inspections, and ensure that citizens receive timely redressal.

BECC plans K.R. Puram satellite bus stand

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Rapid urban expansion and mounting traffic congestion in major metropolitan peripheries require proactive infrastructure planning to enhance public transit connectivity. To ease commuter movement and streamline long-distance transit, municipal authorities in eastern Bengaluru have initiated concrete steps to establish a major new public transportation hub.



K.R. Puram: about five acres sought near the road to Bhattarahalli

A high-level coordination meeting was convened under the chairpersonship of Bengaluru East City Corporation Additional Commissioner (Development) Lokhande Snehal Sudhakar to evaluate the technical feasibility, land acquisition requirements, and infrastructural planning for a proposed satellite bus stand in K.R. Puram. Emphasizing that the vital transit project has already received attention at the Chief Minister's level, the Additional Commissioner directed officials to identify approximately five acres of suitable land situated near the main thoroughfare connecting K.R. Puram and Bhattarahalli.



The coordination meeting on the proposed satellite bus stand at K.R. Puram.

During the comprehensive review, officials explored various land availability options, including evaluating government and private properties, analyzing potential land exchange frameworks, and reviewing provisions under the Land Acquisition Act for fair market compensation. A primary focus of the discussion centered on exploring the acquisition of suitable land parcels belonging to ITI Limited, alongside addressing commercial valuation norms. Furthermore, authorities addressed critical accessibility challenges, instructing teams to clear illegal encroachments along an unformed 80-metre CDP road alignment and remove obstructions to ensure seamless vehicular connectivity.

To fast-track the initiative, a detailed joint survey has been scheduled for November 16, involving representatives from ITI Limited, the Assistant Director of Land Records, and the Karnataka Housing Board. The survey will accurately demarcate boundaries, verify land extents, and map out encroachments before formal reports are compiled. Following the indoor sessions, executive engineers conducted immediate on-site inspections across the ITI area to assess ground realities. With instructions issued to begin formal administrative procedures immediately, the corporation aims to deliver a modern transport hub that will significantly benefit daily commuters across eastern Bengaluru.

ROBOTS CLEAR DRAINS

Robotic technology deployed for stormwater desilting

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Modernizing municipal maintenance operations and eliminating hazardous manual labor are critical steps for effective urban flood management.

The machine	
8,000	LITRES IN ALL
6,000	LITRES FOR SLUDGE
2,000	LITRES FOR WATER
30 m	REACH

As metropolitan administrations prepare for seasonal downpours, civic authorities are increasingly turning to advanced engineering solutions to clean underground drainage networks efficiently and safely.

The Greater Bengaluru municipal administration has taken a major technological leap forward, initiating a high-profile trial run of a specialized robotic desilting system. Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao personally inspected the live demonstration of a Super Suction Robotic Machine deployed to clear heavy silt accumulation from a stormwater drain in HSR Layout, within the jurisdiction of the Bengaluru South City Corporation.

During the rigorous six-hour trial, municipal engineers tackled a challenging section of a covered stormwater drain measuring roughly six feet in width and 30 feet in length, which had accumulated over two feet of dense sludge. Manufactured by Aryan, the advanced robotic unit is lowered directly into covered drains and operated via wireless remote control. The system features powerful mechanical attachments that loosen compacted silt, which is then extracted through high-capacity vacuum pipes. The machine boasts an 8,000-litre total holding capacity split between 6,000 litres for extracted sludge and 2,000 litres for water with an operational reach of up to 30 metres per deployment.



The robotic desilting machine at work on a stormwater drain in HSR Layout.

Following the successful demonstration, Chief Commissioner Rao instructed engineering teams to evaluate the technology's long-term viability and expand its deployment across critical flood-prone corridors, specifically targeting Sector 7 and 17th Cross of HSR Layout. Furthermore, addressing broader monsoon preparedness along the high-traffic corridor from Silk Board Junction toward HSR Layout, the Chief Commissioner ordered the installation of a massive three-metre-diameter underground pipeline instead of conventional box drains to prevent severe waterlogging.

Emphasizing worker safety and infrastructure resilience, senior officials including local MLA Satish Reddy, South Corporation Commissioner K.N. Ramesh, and Chief Engineers Basavaraj Kabade and Malathi inspected the operations. Chief Commissioner Rao mandated strict adherence to safety protocols for all field personnel, noting that successful robotic adoption will revolutionize urban drainage maintenance across Bengaluru.

Quick Read

Samvidhana Bhavana foundation stone to be laid soon

CH NEWS, MANDYA

The foundation stone for the Samvidhana Bhavana will be laid by the end of this month in the presence of Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and Supreme Court Justice B.V. Nagarathna, said Advocates' Association President T.S. Satyananda. He was speaking during an inspection of the proposed construction site at the Advocates' Association premises. MLA P. Ravikumar Gowda urged members to focus on development, saying praise and criticism were part of a democratic system. District Panchayat CEO K.R. Nandini also addressed the gathering. Additional Deputy Commissioner B.R. Roopa, SP V.J. Shobharani, MUDA Chairman B.P. Prakash and Association Vice-President Satish attended.

Mandya invites youth for Viksit Bharat Parliament competition

CH NEWS, MANDYA

The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, through its MY Bharat platform, has invited applications for the district-level Viksit Bharat Yuva Sansad speech competition in Mandya. The competition theme is 'Nasha Mukt Yuva – Viksit Bharat' (Drug-Free Youth for a Developed India). Men and women aged 18 to 25 can participate by delivering a three-minute speech in Kannada, English or Hindi. The top three district-level winners will qualify for the state competition, while three state-level winners will advance to the national event. Interested candidates must register through the Google Form by November 10, 2026. The venue and competition date will be announced later. For details, contact 7736811030 or 8970350815.

Hassanamba festival sees sports, VIP visits and preparations

CH NEWS, HASSAN

Excise Minister and Hassan district in-charge K.M. Shivalinge Gowda inaugurated the Hassanamba Volleyball Tournament at the Hassan City Corporation grounds as part of the Sri Hassanamba Devi Darshanotsava and Sri Siddeshwara Swamy Jatra Mahotsava. Interacting with players, the minister encouraged them to participate with discipline, unity and sportsmanship. He said the tournament aimed to encourage rural talent, provide opportunities for young players and promote sports during the festival. Minister Shivalinge Gowda also reviewed preparations for former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's proposed visit to the Hassanamba temple. He directed officials to make proper arrangements for security, traffic management, reception and devotees' facilities to ensure a smooth visit. Minister for Kannada and Culture Shivaraj Tangadagi and Muddebihal MLA Appaji Nadagouda visited Hassan to participate in the festival. They offered special prayers to Goddess Hasanamba at the temple. Minister Shivalinge Gowda welcomed the visiting leaders. Hassan MP Shreyas Patel and District Congress Committee President Shashidhar G.B. were also present during the visit and joined them in offering prayers.

Khader announces healthcare upgrades, recruitment and ambulances

Khader announced 220 new Primary Health Centre medical officers and Cabinet approval for 1,000 vacant medical posts

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

Karnataka Health and Family Welfare Minister U.T. Khader has announced plans to upgrade taluk hospitals, introduce five-bed Tele-ICU facilities and strengthen healthcare services across the state.

Speaking at a press conference at the Deputy Commissioner's office on Friday, Khader said 220 medical officers had been recruited for Primary Health Centres (PHCs), with instructions issued to provide appointment orders immediately. He added that 1,000 vacant posts, including specialist doctors, general physicians and staff nurses, had received Cabinet approval for recruitment.

He said 80 PHCs were still facing a shortage of doctors and recruitment was underway for various posts in district hospitals.

The health push

- 220 medical officers recruited for PHCs
- 1,000 vacant posts cleared for recruitment
- 350 new ambulances to be bought
- ₹540 crore in scholarships for minority students

350 new ambulances to be purchased

The government has approved the purchase of 350 new ambulances to improve emergency services. Currently, 450 ambulances are operating across Karnataka. With the addition of new vehicles, the number will increase to 800.

Khader said a penalty of ₹3,000 would be imposed on service agencies if ambulances failed to reach emergency locations within 20 minutes of receiving a call. An ambulance tracking system is also being planned.

New district hospitals proposed



Health Minister U.T. Khader.

The minister said the government was considering constructing new district hospitals where existing facilities had been transferred to medical colleges. Alternatively, hospitals at taluk headquarters could be upgraded to district hospitals.

Ambulance fleet

NOW	PLANNED
450 across Karnataka	800 with 350 new ones

Minority welfare schemes

Khader said approximately ₹540 crore was being provided as scholarships to minority students. Another ₹20 crore had been allocated for competitive examination training and digital education.

The government also plans to establish 10 CBSE schools named after Saint Shishunala Sharif and upgrade 100 Maulana Azad schools. Under the Arivu scheme, eligible medical and engineering students receive tuition fee assistance.

He also announced ₹50 lakh support for eligible technology startups working on research and innovation and grants of around ₹55 crore for Christian, Jain, Buddhist and Sikh communities.

MLA K.C. Virendra, Deputy Commissioner S. Ramya and other district officials attended the press conference.

Congress faces defeat, people will teach Priyank: Narayanaswamy

CH NEWS, HASSAN

Leader of the Opposition in the Karnataka Legislative Council Chalavadi Narayanaswamy criticised Home Minister Priyank Kharge over his remarks against Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy, warning that people would teach him a lesson for his alleged arrogance.

Speaking to reporters after visiting the Hasanamba Temple in Hassan, Narayanaswamy said Priyank should avoid insulting people from rural backgrounds. Referring to the remark describing Kumaraswamy as a 'halli guggu', he said education and knowledge should not become reasons for arrogance.

He also criticised Priyank over his comments about the Kharge family, alleging that his behaviour had affected the family's reputation. He said Priyank should change his approach for the sake of his political future.



Chalavadi Narayanaswamy, Leader of the Opposition in the Council.

His charges

Arrogance
Warns Priyank Kharge that voters will punish his alleged arrogance

Rural insult
Says education should not breed arrogance, over the remarks on Kumaraswamy

Guarantee theft
Accuses the Congress government of failing to keep its manifesto promises

Welfare delays
Questions delays in Gruha Lakshmi, Yuva Nidhi and Indira Kit

Congress government failed to keep promises

Narayanaswamy alleged that the Congress government had failed to fulfil several promises made in its election manifesto. He criticised the recent price increases and questioned the government's handling of milk prices, bus fares and welfare schemes.

He also accused the government of delaying financial assistance under the Gruha Lakshmi scheme and raised questions about the implementation of Yuva Nidhi and Indira Kit programmes.

Describing the situation as 'guarantee theft' rather than vote theft, he alleged that the government had failed to deliver its promises to the public.

Questions Congress's electoral claims

The BJP leader also criticised the Congress over its statements on electronic voting machines (EVMs). Referring to the party's performance in elections conducted using ballot papers, he claimed that Congress had suffered an embarrassing defeat.

He ruled out allegations of adjustment politics within the BJP and said the Congress would face defeat in future elections. Narayanaswamy was speaking during his temple visit to Hassan.

Bidar MLA distributes sewing machines to 16 women

CH NEWS, BIDAR

Sixteen women from different villages in the Bidar South Assembly constituency have received free sewing machines under the 2025-26 scheme of the D. Devaraj Urs Backward Classes Development Corporation.

The sewing machines were distributed at a programme held at the office of Bidar South MLA Dr. Shailendra Beldale in Pratap Nagar, Bidar.

Speaking at the event, Dr. Beldale said women's economic empowerment was essential for the development of families and society. He said the scheme aimed to help women use their existing skills to earn an income and become financially independent.



Women receive sewing machines at Bidar South MLA Dr. Shailendra Beldale's office in Pratap Nagar, Bidar.

He added that the sewing machines would help beneficiaries start tailoring businesses from their homes and support their families financially. He also stressed the need to create more self-employment opportunities for rural women.

Dr. Beldale said women from rural areas had several skills and could become successful entrepreneurs if they received proper opportunities and encouragement. Such initiatives would help improve family incomes, promote self-reliance and strengthen women's position in society.

He further stated that efforts were being made to ensure government welfare schemes reached eligible beneficiaries.

Deepa Mathapati, an official from the D. Devaraj Urs Backward Classes Development Corporation, attended the programme. Nagesh Sidda, assistant media coordinator to MLA Dr. Shailendra Beldale, was also present.

Ganga Kalyana scheme provides pump sets to farmers



Pump sets for Scheduled Tribe farmers under the Ganga Kalyana scheme in the Hiriyur constituency.

CH NEWS, HIRIYUR

The Ganga Kalyana scheme will support agricultural development and improve the financial condition of Scheduled Tribe farmers, said Minister for Scheduled Tribes Welfare and Chitradurga district in-charge T. Raghumurthy.

He was speaking at a programme organised by the Karnataka Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation in the Hiriyur Assembly constituency, where he distributed pump sets and related equipment to selected beneficiaries.

The minister said the scheme aims to provide irrigation facilities to eligible farmers, helping them improve agricultural production and increase their income.

He added that the government was committed to ensuring welfare schemes reached eligible beneficiaries and promoting the economic development of Scheduled Tribe communities.

Challakere gets nod for ₹35.04-cr commercial complex

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

The Karnataka Cabinet has approved the construction of a new commercial complex in Challakere city of Chitradurga district at an estimated cost of ₹35.04 crore.

T. Raghumurthy, Minister for Scheduled Tribes Welfare and Chitradurga district in-charge, said the decision was taken at the Cabinet meeting on November 5.

The proposed complex will come up in Ward 24 of the Challakere City Municipal Council limits, covering areas along Bengaluru Road, Pavagada Road and Mahadevi Road. The project involves demolishing the existing old municipal shops and constructing a modern commercial complex.

The complex is expected to generate around ₹7.10 crore in annual revenue for the municipal council.

₹35.04 cr	192	₹7.10 cr
estimated cost	shops planned	revenue a year

According to the minister, the proposed facility will have 192 shops, a hypermarket, office spaces, a restaurant and parking facilities. The project aims to provide better business facilities to local traders, create employment opportunities and increase the municipal council's revenue.

The minister said 93 old municipal shops had already been cleared after a Public Works Department report found them unsuitable for continued use. The new complex will replace these structures with improved facilities.

The government has directed that construction be completed within the approved budget. Technical approval, building plans, tender procedures and quality checks must follow the prescribed regulations.

The tendering process will be conducted transparently through the Karnataka Public Procurement (KPP) portal. A third-party quality monitoring system will also be introduced to ensure construction standards.

Raghumurthy expressed confidence that the project would strengthen commercial activities, create local employment and contribute to the overall development of Challakere.

POOR RAINFALL IMPACT

Drought hits Gadag, farmers face mounting hardship



Severe drought: Laxmeshwar, Naragund and Shirahatti taluks (shaded) of Gadag district.

MALINGARAYA PUJAR, GADAG

Farmers in parts of Gadag district are facing serious difficulties due to poor rainfall and crop losses during the 2026 agricultural season. The situation has raised concerns about farm incomes, livestock management and the livelihoods of agricultural workers.

According to the Karnataka government's drought assessment, Laxmeshwar, Naragund and Shirahatti taluks have been classified as severely drought-affected for the Kharif season.

Rabi season in doubt

Farmers who depended on the monsoon for their crops are worried about the impact of insufficient rainfall on cultivation. The situation has also affected preparations for the Rabi season, with farmers facing uncertainty over crops such as chickpeas, wheat, jowar and maize.

Crop losses add to farmers' worries

Maize, which is an important food and fodder crop in the region, remains a major concern for farming families. Safflower and other agricultural crops have also faced challenges due to changing rainfall conditions.

The shortage of agricultural fodder has added to farmers' difficulties. Maize stalks, gram husk and wheat straw are important sources of cattle feed. Farmers facing fodder shortages may struggle to maintain their livestock and could be forced to sell animals at lower prices.

Dairy farmers and agricultural labourers are also concerned about their income and employment opportunities. Some workers may be forced to look for jobs in nearby towns and cities.

At a glance

CROPS
Kharif losses; Rabi uncertain

DEMANDS
Relief, fodder banks, loan help

Farmers seek immediate government support

A farmer from Gadag taluk said that the lack of sufficient rainfall had affected cultivation plans. Farmers had borrowed money and prepared their fields, hoping to secure a harvest. However, crop losses have increased concerns about repaying loans and supporting their families.

Farmers have urged the government to take immediate steps to address the situation. Their demands include declaring eligible areas drought-affected, establishing fodder banks and cattle shelters, providing financial assistance and ensuring access to food supplies.

The district administration has also reviewed drinking water and fodder availability and crop-loss assessments.

Farmers hope that timely relief measures will protect livestock, support rural families and prevent further hardship.

Hasanamba festival sees sports, VIP visits and preparations

CH NEWS, HASSAN

Excise Minister and Hassan district in-charge K.M. Shivalinge Gowda inaugurated the Hasanamba Volleyball Tournament at the Hassan City Corporation grounds as part of the Sri Hasanamba Devi Darshanotsava and Sri Siddeshwara Swamy Jatra Mahotsava.

Rural talent

Interacting with players, the minister encouraged them to participate with discipline, unity and sportsmanship. He said the tournament aimed to encourage rural talent, provide opportunities for young players and promote sports during the festival.

> **The tournament aimed to encourage rural talent and promote sports during the festival**

Arrangements for Siddaramaiah's visit

Minister Shivalinge Gowda also reviewed preparations for former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's proposed visit to the Hasanamba temple. He directed officials to make proper arrangements for security, traffic management, reception and devotees' facilities to ensure a smooth visit.

Ministers offer prayers to Goddess Hasanamba

Minister for Kannada and Culture Shivaraj Tangadagi and Muddebihal MLA Appaji Nadagouda visited Hassan to participate in the festival. They offered special prayers to Goddess Hasanamba at the temple.

Minister Shivalinge Gowda welcomed the visiting leaders. Hassan MP Shreyas Patel and District Congress Committee President G.B. Shashidhar were also present during the visit and joined them in offering prayers.

A festival for devotees

The Hasanamba Darshanotsava and Siddeshwara Swamy Jatra Mahotsava are among the important religious and cultural celebrations in the district. Various arrangements and programmes are being organised to facilitate devotees and visitors during the festivities.

BJP warns protest over Magadi road delay

Taluk BJP president K.R. Prasad Gowda threatened protests after Deepavali if the delayed Magadi-Bengaluru KSHIP road project is not finished.

CH NEWS, MAGADI

Taluk BJP president K.R. Prasad Gowda criticised the Congress government, alleging that rising prices and anti-people policies had increased the difficulties faced by the public. He said people were waiting for the next Assembly elections to express their dissatisfaction.

Speaking at a press conference at the BJP office, he accused the government of burdening people through increases in fuel and milk prices and bus fares.

He also credited party workers for the NDA candidate A.P. Ranganath's victory in the Legislative Council election and urged them to prepare for upcoming local body and Assembly elections. He said the BJP would strengthen its organisation at the booth level and highlight Central government schemes while exposing the State government's failures.



BJP office-bearers and party workers in Magadi.

Protest threat over stalled road work

Gowda expressed concern over the delay in the KSHIP road project between Magadi and Bengaluru. He claimed that only five per cent of the work remained unfinished but had been pending for years. He said road dust was affecting shopkeepers, residents and schoolchildren.

He warned that the BJP, NDA partners and other organisations would stage protests, including a road blockade and a demonstration at the KSHIP office, after Deepavali if the work was not completed.

He urged Minister H.C. Balakrishna to secure additional funds and speed up development works in the taluk.

BJP condemns remarks on Mysore rulers

Gowda also criticised remarks allegedly made by Congress leaders about the Mysore Maharajas. He highlighted Nalvadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar's contribution to the development of the region, particularly the Krishna Raja Sagara (KRS) Dam and educational institutions. He urged political leaders to respect the contributions of the former rulers.

BJP district and taluk office-bearers and party workers attended the press conference.

Key points

Road Project Delay
BJP threatens protests after Deepavali over pending KSHIP road work between Magadi and Bengaluru.

Price Hike Criticism
Taluk BJP president K.R. Prasad Gowda condemns increases in fuel, milk, and bus fares.

Electoral Preparation
Urges booth-level strengthening and highlights central schemes while exposing state failures.

Defence of Maharajas
Condemns remarks made by Congress leaders regarding the historical contributions of Mysore rulers.

Chikkaballapura tops State in Yuva Nidhi implementation

CH NEWS, CHIKKABALLAPURA

Chikkaballapura district has secured the top position in Karnataka in implementing the Yuva Nidhi scheme, said Yaluvalli N. Ramesh, chairman of the District Guarantee Schemes Implementation Authority. Speaking at a review meeting on the five guarantee schemes at the Taluk Panchayat hall on Friday, he said efforts were being made to ensure that all eligible beneficiaries received government benefits.

He said awareness programmes were being conducted in degree colleges to explain the objectives, eligibility conditions and benefits of Yuva Nidhi. Details of graduates who completed their courses since 2023 had also been collected to identify eligible beneficiaries.

Regarding Anna Bhagya, Ramesh discussed the proposed Indira Kits, which are expected to contain rice, pulses, cooking oil and salt. He mentioned January as the proposed starting time for distribution.

Chikkaballapura Taluk Guarantee Schemes Implementation Authority chairman Narayanaswamy said the taluk had recorded 97 per cent progress under Gruha Lakshmi, 92 per cent under Yuva Nidhi and 100 per cent under Shakti and Anna Bhagya.

He added that 3,27,756 out of 3,47,310 registered consumers were receiving benefits under Gruha Jyothi. Officials were instructed to identify eligible people who had not yet received benefits and coordinate efforts to include them.

The meeting reviewed scheme implementation, beneficiary registration, distribution issues and measures to improve delivery.

Taluk Panchayat Executive Officer Srinath Gowda, authority members Gundlamandikal Srirama Reddy and Srinivas, departmental officials and staff attended the meeting.



The review meeting on the five guarantee schemes at the Taluk Panchayat hall in Chikkaballapura.

Chikkaballapura taluk progress

Shakti	100%
Anna Bhagya	100%
Gruha Lakshmi	97%
Yuva Nidhi	92%

Taluk Guarantee Schemes Implementation Authority

Blood donation camp collects 53 units in Haveri

CH NEWS, HAVERI

A blood donation camp organised by the Youth Red Cross unit of K.L.E. Society's Gudleppa Hallikeri Arts, Science and Commerce College, in association with HDFC Bank's Haveri branch and the District Blood Bank, collected 53 units of blood.

Students, teaching staff and non-teaching employees voluntarily donated blood at the camp, showing their commitment to social service and humanity. Speaking at the event, Prof. M.A. Holli and Dr. Atmananda Holli highlighted the importance of blood donation and the role of young people in building a healthy society. They said blood donation was a social responsibility and encouraged everyone to take part in such activities.

The collected blood will help patients requiring transfusions during medical emergencies, accidents and other treatments.

Dr. Rahul Jadhav, an officer from the District Blood Bank, Mohan from HDFC Bank, the college principal and Youth Red Cross representatives attended the programme.

Youth Red Cross officers Dr. Ashwini Hattikala and Prof. Shambhanagouda Neeralagi, NCC Officer Dr. Nagaraja M., NSS Officer Dr. Shamanthkumar K.S. and several volunteers were also present.

The organisers said such camps help create awareness about blood donation among students and encourage young people to serve society. They stressed that every blood donation can help save a life and give hope to patients and their families.

DC orders urgent steps to prevent highway accidents

CH NEWS, KOPPAL

Deputy Commissioner Dr. Suresh B. Itnal has directed officials to speed up road safety works and take strict measures to prevent accidents on National Highways and major roads across Koppal district.

He issued the instructions while chairing the District Road Safety Committee meeting at his office on Friday.

The DC directed officials to identify accident-prone stretches and install thermoplastic road markings, rumble strips and signboards as per safety standards. He also asked officials to resolve issues delaying electricity connections for high-mast lights in Mundaragi and Huligi (Budugumpa).

He instructed the Forest Department to be informed in advance before tree branches are cut for highway works. NHAI officials were asked to speed up the preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) and obtain approvals for proposed service roads and underpasses near Kalyani Steels, Kukanapalli, Kerehalli, Hiresindogi and Mudlapura Cross. Urban local bodies were directed to remove unauthorised stalls and encroachments from footpaths. The Excise Department was also asked to prevent illegal liquor sales near schools and colleges in rural areas.

District Superintendent of Police Sahil Bagla said speeding and reckless driving had led to accidents even on straight road stretches. He stressed the need for speed-control measures and cameras at accident-prone locations.

The meeting also reviewed progress on accident black spots, service roads, high-mast lights and underpasses.

Zilla Panchayat CEO Varnit Negi, Additional Deputy Commissioner Sidrameshwara, Assistant Commissioner Mehaboob Jeelan Khureshi and officials from various departments, including NHAI, attended the meeting.

Schools teach students waste segregation and soil health

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

An awareness programme on waste segregation and soil health was organised for students under the ComPASS project at Maharani High School and A. Bheemappa Nayaka Composite High School in K.B. Layout, Chitradurga. The project is being implemented jointly by the City Municipal Council, the Indian Institute for Human Settlements (IIHS) and the SBI Foundation. Students were given practical demonstrations on separating wet and dry waste, the harmful effects of mixing waste and preparing organic manure from wet waste. School heads urged students to follow waste segregation at home and spread awareness among their families and neighbours. Under the project, wet waste collected from households is scientifically processed into organic manure and supplied to farmers for agricultural use. The initiative aims to improve soil fertility and promote sustainable farming.

Sugar factory set to resume operations: DC

CH NEWS, KARWAR

The sugar factory in Uttara Kannada district is set to resume operations following successful discussions between sugarcane farmers, farmers' organisations and factory management, Deputy Commissioner K. Lakshmipriya said.

She announced this during a meeting with sugarcane growers, farmers' representatives and factory officials during her visit to Haliyal.

Officials of E.I.D. Parry (India) Limited said the factory would purchase sugarcane at Rs. 3,500 per metric tonne, as agreed during discussions between factory management and farmers' representatives in Belagavi district. They also assured farmers that if another sugar factory in Karnataka offered a higher price for sugarcane with a 12 per cent recovery rate, they would match it.

To ensure fair weighing, a committee comprising farmers and officials will monitor the process. The Deputy Commissioner warned that strict action would be taken if any irregularities in weighing were found or complaints received.

Factory officials also announced that the earlier 25 per cent deduction for burnt sugarcane would be waived due to drought conditions. Farmers would receive full payment even for burnt cane.

Youth Parliament gives students practical democratic experience



Students during the mock Assembly session of the Youth Parliament in Gadag.

CH NEWS, GADAG

A district-level Youth Parliament was held at the District Administration Building auditorium on Friday to promote democratic values, parliamentary practices and leadership skills among students.

The programme was organised as part of the International Day of Democracy 2026. Students from different taluks participated in a mock Assembly session, conducting proceedings under the guidance of a student Speaker.

The participants took the roles of ruling party and opposition members and discussed the Constitution, democracy and the responsibilities of elected representatives. They also debated public issues relating to education, healthcare, drinking water, roads, agriculture, food supplies, forests, social welfare, labour, Kannada and culture, and handlooms. Issues concerning rural journalists were also raised.

The session gave students practical experience in parliamentary debates, discussions and decision-making. It also encouraged them to respect different opinions, express their views confidently and understand democratic responsibilities.

A total of 225 students participated, including 129 from the ruling party and 96 from the opposition. Of them, 31 students were assigned cabinet positions and departmental portfolios.

Madhushree Mathapati of Government Boys' High School, Nargund, served as Speaker, while Shrikanth Thimmapura of J.A. B. Ed. College, Mundaragi, was the Deputy Speaker.

Mahesh Lamani was the Chief Minister, Basanagowda Dyamangowdar was the Deputy Chief Minister, and Manjunath Kalmani served as the Leader of the Opposition.

Teachers and students from various colleges attended the event. The programme aimed to develop leadership, confidence, public speaking skills and awareness of constitutional values among young people, preparing them to become responsible citizens.

225	129	96	31
students took part	on the ruling side	in the Opposition	given cabinet portfolios

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(A Govt. of Karnataka Enterprises)
Executive Engineer, KNNL, U.T.P. Division, Ranebennur
Ref: No: EE/ RNR/UTP/PB-1/2026-27/1803, 1804
Date : 31-10-2026, & 1826 Date : 03-11-2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP-portal system)

Percentage tenders are invited by the undersigned on behalf of the Managing Director, KNNL, Bangalore, from eligible bidders who satisfies through GO KPPP platform shall submit the bid as per Ref in two cover Electronic document system for 03 Works under the head of account 4701 for Tender amount of Rs. **699.075** (without GST) Lakhs. The details are as follows: Indent No 1456 CALL-5 1458 CALL-5 & 4666
(1) The contractor can have access to e tender documents for above Tenders From : **03-11-2026** to **13-11-2026** @ 5-30 pm (2) Last Date and time for tender queries before Date : **11-11-2026** Upto 04.30 PM (3) Technical Bid will be opened On **16-11-2026** @ 11.30 AM & financial Bid will be opened after the Approval Technical Bid at office of the Executive Engineer, KNNL, UTP Division, Ranebennur. Any changes made in the said Notification Corrected /Corrigendum's will be uploaded in the KPP- portal.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
KNNL, U.T.P. Division, Ranebennur.
DIPR/Haveri/392/KSMCA/2026-2027

NAME CHANGE
I, **SAYEDA FARHANA SULTANA**, W/o. Razikhulla Khan Resident of No. 11, 2nd Floor 8th Cross Dinnur 2nd Main Chamundi Nagar R T Nagar Bengaluru -560 032have changed my name to **SYEDA FARHANA SULTANA** vide affidavit dated: 06.11.2026 before notary R. BASAVARAJA, Bengaluru.

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

Directorate of Minorities
Maulana Azad Bhawan, No.16 C, Miller tank Bed Road, Vasantnagar, Bangalore-52.

No.: DOM/DEVP/GEN/16/2026 **Dated: 07-11-2026**

Paper Notification

The Directorate of Minorities has invited short-term tenders from eligible organizations to provide residential Drone training program for minority communities candidates for the year 2026-27.

- **Start date to submit the tender: 07.11.2026**
- **Pre-Bid Meeting: 12.11.2026.**
- **Last date to submit the tender: 26.11.2026**

For more information and tender documents: Interested organizations can visit the department's official website at https://dom.karnataka.gov.in or the Government of Karnataka Public Procurement Portal at https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/

- Helpline Number: 8277799990 Or 080-22535902

Sd/-
Joint Director,
Directorate of Minorities,
Bangalore.
DIPR/CP/3576/AKAR/2026-27

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಪುರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ ಜಿಗಣಿ
ಜಿಗಣಿ ಹೋಬಳಿ, ಜಿಗಣಿ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ. –560–105
ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : 080–27825780/ 29760400
ಇ–ಮೇಲ್ : Email-itstaff_ulb_jigani@yahoo.com, jiganideo@gmail.com

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ:–ಜೆ.ಪು.ಕಾ/ಆ.ಶಾ/ಪಿ.ಆರ್/05/2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 06/11/2026

ಜಿಗಣಿ ಪುರಸಭಾ ವತಿಯಿಂದ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ 1999 & 2000 ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ 15ನೇ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಆಯೋಗದ 2024–25ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಮಿಲೇನಿಯಮ್ ಪ್ಲಸ್ ಚಾಲಂಜ್ ಫಂಡ್ ಅನುದಾನ ಹಾಗೂ 2026–27ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪುರಸಭಾ ನಿಧಿಯಡಿ ಪುರಸಭೆಯಿಂದ ನಿರ್ಮಿಸಲಾಗಿರುವ ಎಂ.ಆರ್.ಎಫ್ ಘಟಕಕ್ಕೆ ಯಂತ್ರೋಪಕರಣಗಳನ್ನು ಖರೀದಿಸಿ ಅಳವಡಿಸುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ವಿವರಗಳಂತೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಇಟ್ಟಿರುವ ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)
1	Indent No-DMA/2026-27/IND6688	47.90

ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 20.11.2026ರ 17:00** ಘಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ. ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 21.11.2026ರ 17.30 ಘಂಟೆಗೆ**. ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕವಾಗಿ ಅರ್ಹತೆ ಹೊಂದಿರುವ ಇಚ್ಛೈಯುಳ್ಳ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು/ಸರಬರಾಜುದಾರರು ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಶಾಖೆಯಿಂದ ಮತ್ತು ಕಛೇರಿ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ http://www.jiganitown.mrc.gov.in/ ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– ಮುಖ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು
ಪುರಸಭೆ ಜಿಗಣಿ

ವಾಸಾಸಂ೨/ಉನಿ–ಸಿಪಿ/3581/ಎಂಸಿಎಸ್/2026–27

Govt of Karnataka
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD DIVISION KALABURAGI
No: EE/PWD/Klb/Div/TS-2/TN/2026-27/4476 Dated:03.11.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

1) Name of Work: Executive Engineer PWD Division Kalaburagi Invites the Tender (K/C-4) for Gangman of Service Indents-SE1536, SE1537, SE1538, SE1539, SE1540, SE1542, SE1547, SE1548, SE1562, SE1563, SE1622 & Prequal_Tender_Number_50, Prequal_Tender_Number_51, Prequal_Tender_Number_52 (KW1, KW2, KW3 & KW4) works under KKRDB, 3054, 2059 & 2216 Maintenance, 5054-Appendix and 8443 (DCW) in General-38791, 38794, 38795, 38796, 38797, 38799, 44028, 44029, 43113, 44031, 44032, 42780, 42778, 43241, 43240, 39044, 44371, 44372, 44430, 44397, 44398, 41542, 44402, 44115, 44118, 44115, 44118, 44538, 41445, 45101, 44122, 44168, 37111, 41559, 44699, 44794, 44825, 36808/CALL2, 36761, 45466 Reserved for SC Category-38792, 44030, 44370, 44393, 44399, 44401 Reserved for ST-43594, 43597, 44392 Reserved for CAT-2A-38793, 38798, 43602, 44033, 43364, 44394, 41709 and Reserved for CAT-1 -43600,44400 in KPPP portal. 2) Estimated Cost: **Estimate cost Rs. 2500.00 Lakhs Max 3.00 Lakhs Minimum,** 3) Eligibility of Contractor: PWD, Civil Contractor License Class-IV, Class-III and above, 4) Tender fees and EMD details: Application Fees as per KPPP portal EMD Rs. 3200.00 Min and Max Rs. 21,00,00.00, 5) Pre Bid Meeting: 11/11/2026 upto 17.30 Hrs. 6) Last date for queries: 12/11/2026 upto 17.30 Hrs., 7) Last date for submission of tender: 13/11/2026 upto 16.00 Hrs, 8) Date of opening of Technical Bid: 16/11/2026 at 16:30 Hrs, 9) Date of opening of Financial Bid: 17/11/2026 at 16:30 Hrs, 10) Enquiries: Office of the Executive Engineer PWD Division Kalaburagi, 11) website : **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**, 12) Bidders Should Note That : **Note:** 1) Undersigned reserves the right to Cancel/ Postpone/Recall/Reject any or all the tenders at any point of time during tender process without assigning any reason. 2) Changes in the tender process, Cancel/ Postpone/Recall/Rejection of tender will not be Published in the News Papers Bidders may get Details of Changes In KPPP Portal Only.

DIPR/Kalaburagi/658/KSMC&A/2026-27
Sd/- Executive Engineer
PWD Division Kalaburagi

Gramanubhava takes students closer to rural life

Mandya MLA P. Ravikumar Gowda inaugurated a programme organized by education and district authorities

CH NEWS, MANDYA

The Karnataka Government's Gramanubhava programme, aimed at introducing students to rural life, agriculture, dairy farming and local culture, was inaugurated at the Government Girls' Pre-University College in Kallukattada, Mandya.

The programme was jointly organised by the District Administration, Zilla Panchayat, Department of School Education and Literacy, and Samagra Shikshana Karnataka. Mandya MLA P. Ravikumar Gowda (Ganiga), who is also the College Development Committee Chairman, inaugurated the initiative.

Addressing the gathering, Deputy Director of School Education Basavaraju said the Government Girls' PU College at Kallukattada and Government PU College at Guttalu had been selected for the programme. More than 500 students from Class 9 and first-year PUC will participate.

Students will visit the farms of successful farmers to learn about agricultural activities, dairy farming and rural lifestyles. The programme aims to help students understand village life, develop an interest in agriculture and recognise the importance of farmers' hard work.

On the first day, two buses carried students to the farms of progressive farmers in K.R. Pet taluk. The programme will be conducted in phases, with 50 students in each group. A schedule has been prepared by the college principal to ensure that all selected students get an opportunity to participate.

College Principal Thammegowda, DDPI Prasannakumar, Block Education Officer Mahadeva and lecturers Roopa, Chandralingu, Manukumar and Srinivasu attended the programme. Teaching and non-teaching staff members and hundreds of students were also present.

Gramanubhava in numbers

- 500+ students of Class 9 and first-year PUC
- 2 PU colleges: Kallukattada and Guttalu
- 50 students in each group
- 2 buses to K.R. Pet farms on day one

Officials must improve their work culture, says Lokayukta Patil

CH NEWS, KOPPAL

Government officials must change their administrative approach, work with integrity and ensure that welfare schemes reach eligible beneficiaries, said Karnataka Lokayukta Justice B.S. Patil.

He was speaking at a meeting with district-level officials held at J.H. Patel Hall in the Zilla Panchayat office on Friday.

Justice Patil said the government had introduced several welfare schemes and allocated substantial funds for public welfare. Officials must ensure that these benefits reach deserving people honestly and without delay. He warned that strict action would be taken against officials found guilty of corruption.

He said efficient administration and genuine concern for the public would improve people's living standards and contribute to the state's development. He also pointed out that repeated visits by people to government offices for the same work reflected administrative inefficiency.

Lokayukta's

Administrative reform
Officials told to improve their work culture and deliver schemes honestly.

Anti-corruption warning
Violations under the Lokayukta Act will invite strict legal action.

Hostel overcrowding
No admissions beyond the sanctioned capacity of hostels.

Every official has specific responsibilities, and they must perform their duties sincerely. He urged government employees to maintain honesty and remember that they are public servants. He also warned that violations under the Lokayukta Act would invite legal action.

Focus on hostels

Justice Patil instructed officials of the Social Welfare and Backward Classes Welfare departments not to admit students beyond the sanctioned capacity in hostels and residential schools.

He said overcrowding affected basic facilities and students' education. Students staying in overcrowded hostels should be shifted to rented buildings wherever necessary. Officials were also instructed to ensure proper infrastructure, cleanliness and discipline.

Repeated visits by people to government offices for the same work reflect administrative inefficiency

Lokayukta Secretary Srinath, Additional Registrar Krishnayya, Deputy Commissioner Dr. Suresh B. Itnal, Zilla Panchayat CEO Varnit Negi, Superintendent of Police Sahil Bagla and Karnataka Lokayukta Raichur SP Siddaraju attended the meeting along with other officials.

Discipline and hard work key to student success: Swamiji

CH NEWS, GADAG

Discipline, self-control and continuous hard work are essential for achieving success in life, said Sri Abhinava Budheeshwara Swamiji of Hosalli Sri Jagadguru Budheeshwara Samsthana Matha.

He was speaking after inaugurating the Deeksharambha programme for first-year postgraduate students of the 2026–27 academic year at Mahatma Gandhi University of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj.

Swamiji advised students to set clear goals, manage their time effectively and maintain good conduct. He said education should not be limited to obtaining degrees but should also help students develop strong personalities, moral values and social responsibility.

Practical knowledge

Gadag Superintendent of Police Mithun H.N., IPS, who attended as the chief guest, said hard work, practical skills and experience-based learning were important for success. He encouraged students to develop self-confidence, remain committed to their goals and face challenges with determination.

University Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. Suresh V. Nadagoudar said the programme was organised to introduce students to higher education and help them adjust to the academic environment. He explained that the university aimed to equip rural youth with practical knowledge, entrepreneurial skills and opportunities for self-employment. He urged students to make effective use of the facilities available at the university.

Students urged to develop learning habits

University Registrar Prof. Amaresha Yatagal advised students to develop interest and dedication towards learning. He encouraged them to make use of libraries, participate in group discussions, undertake field studies and engage in extracurricular activities.

Education should not be limited to obtaining degrees but should also help students develop strong personalities

He said students should apply their knowledge in practical life and use it for the welfare of society. University Special Officer for Academics M.B. Channappagoudar delivered the welcome address. Programme coordinators Dr. Amit Vikram Navalagatti, Dr. Archana N.L. and Shweta Sandur were present.

Kala Pratibhotsava provides platform for young artists

CH NEWS, MANDYA

Every child has unique talents that need encouragement and proper opportunities, said Deputy Commissioner Dr. Kumara.

He was speaking after inaugurating the two-day district-level Kala Pratibhotsava at Gandhi Bhavan in Mandya. The event was organised by the District Administration and Department of Kannada and Culture.

He said cultural competitions help children discover their abilities, build confidence and preserve traditions. He encouraged students to participate without worrying about winning or losing. Mandya Urban Development Authority Chairman B.P. Prakash urged students to pursue art and culture alongside education.

B.V. Nandish, Sridhar, Harish, folk singer Ummadahalli Ramayya, artists Manjesh and Vidyashankar, teachers, parents and students attended.

Milk prices, bus fares add to common man's burden

CH NEWS, SRINIVASPUR

Rising prices of essential commodities, including Nandini milk and dairy products, along with higher KSRTC bus fares, have increased the financial burden on ordinary families in Karnataka. With household incomes failing to keep pace with rising expenses, the government must balance the interests of farmers and consumers.

Milk is an essential part of daily life, particularly for children and elderly people. Higher prices of milk, curd, ghee and butter directly affect household budgets.

THE WAY FORWARD

Farmers, consumers and commuters all need support

- Subsidies and affordable cattle feed for dairy farmers
- Efficiency, not only fare rises, for transport corporations
- Proper financial planning to protect the Shakti scheme

At the same time, dairy farmers face increasing costs of cattle feed, veterinary care, electricity and labour. They deserve fair prices for their produce. However, the entire burden should not fall on consumers. The government should explore subsidies, affordable cattle feed and financial assistance to support both farmers and families.

The increase in KSRTC fares has created additional difficulties for students, workers and daily commuters. Many people from rural areas depend on buses for employment, education and healthcare. The government should consider improving transport corporation efficiency, controlling unnecessary expenditure and increasing financial support instead of depending mainly on fare increases.

The Shakti scheme has helped women access education, employment and healthcare through free bus travel. Its benefits should be protected through proper financial planning and regular assessment. Any changes must ensure that women who depend on the scheme are not disadvantaged.

The government must review dairy prices and bus fares while considering the financial difficulties faced by ordinary families. Supporting farmers, protecting consumers and providing affordable public transport should go hand in hand.

A welfare-oriented government must ensure that its decisions improve people's lives. A balanced and transparent approach is essential to protect the interests of all sections of society.

Hindu groups protest vandalism of Navagraha idols

CH NEWS, RAMANAGARA

Hindu organisations staged a protest at Kempegowda Circle in Ramanagara, condemning the vandalism of Navagraha idols at Sri Lakshmi Venkateshwara Temple. The protesters demanded a thorough investigation and strict legal action against those responsible.

Addressing the protest rally and awareness meeting, Sri Annadaneshwaranatha said Hinduism stood for sacrifice and tolerance, but attacks on religious places could not be ignored. He urged the authorities to ensure that those responsible were punished to prevent similar incidents.

Dr. Mallesh Guruji of Gaudagere Chamundeshwari Kshetra said India respected all religions and the Constitution guaranteed equal rights to everyone. He urged the police to investigate the incident thoroughly and take action against the culprits.

Shivarudra Swamiji of Channapatna Virakta Matha questioned the claim that the vandalism was committed by an intoxicated person. He said the destruction of all nine Navagraha idols raised concerns about the intention behind the incident. He urged the police to investigate whether anyone else had assisted the accused. Rajashekhara Shivacharya Swamiji of Revanasiddheshwara Matha recalled previous incidents of temple vandalism in Ramanagara and urged the Hindu community to raise its voice against attacks on religious places.

Chandrashekhar, a social activist, also condemned the incident, referring to earlier cases involving damage at Arkeshwara Temple and footwear being thrown during Chamundeshwari and Banni Mahakali Karaga celebrations. He called for greater vigilance and collective efforts to protect religious places.

Former MLA A. Manjunath, former KSIC Chairman Gautam Gowda, Hindu Hitarakshana Samiti Convener D. Girigowda, BJP District President M.N.L. Anandaswamy and JD(S) District President H.C. Jayamuthu attended the protest along with leaders and members of various Hindu organisations. Manjunath said, "Attacks on temples are condemnable; this is a despicable act that infringes upon the religious beliefs of Hindus. Such incidents must be curbed. If the police fail to take action, Hindu activists will step in to handle it themselves. Should such an incident recur, the consequences will be severe."

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,
DIVISION, CHITRADURGA
No:EE:PWD:CTA:DN:AE-3:Tender- 32:2026-27 Dated: 05.11.2026

SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Division, Chitradurga is inviting tenders for preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the work to be taken up under 5054-80-190-0-01-132 KRDCL as per Standard Bidding Document and KPWD Norms.
Name of work:- (1) Preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the work Re-construction of Bridge at chainage 18.05 km on Dodderi- Obenahalli MDR Road in Challakere Taluk of Challakere Constituency.
EMD Details may be obtained through KPPP Portal
Tender Process Details : (1) Tender Dcoument can be downloaded in KPPP Portal from 05.11.2026 to 13.11.2026 upto 16.00 Hours **(2)** Pre bid meeting on 09.11.2026 at 11.30 Hours (o/o Executive Engineer Office, PWD Division Chitradurga) **(3)** Last date & Time for Receipt of Tenders 13.11.2026 upto 16.30 Hours **(4)** Date & Time for opening of Technical bid 16.11.2026 at 16.45 Hours **(5)** Date & Time of Opening of Financial Proposal: will be informed separately to those consultants whose technical proposal is accepted. **(6)** Corrigendums, Addendums and Modifications in Notification if any will be published in KPPP Portal only. Terms of Reference may be downloaded in KPPP portal of the Government of Karnataka (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) from 05.11.2026.
Registered Consultancy firms in KPPP portal are eligible to participate in any number of tender, But on consultancy firm is eligible to obtain Tender. Any information can be obtained from o/o Executive Engineer Office, PWD Division Chitradurga during office hours on all working days and also through kppp.karnataka.gov.in KPPP Portal Helpdesk Telephone No. 91 9240214000 & 91 9240214001. The tender details published in the KPP portal are Final.

DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/ 386/2026-27
Sd/- Executive Engineer
PWD, Chitradurga.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,
DIVISION, CHITRADURGA
No.EE:PWD:CTA:AE-3,2:Tender-33:2026-27 Dated:- 05.11.2026

SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders are invited from registered Contractors in KPWD for the following works through KPPP Portal as per standard tender documents rules.
Name of work:- General:- Head of Account 8443 Deposit Contribution:- (1) Construction of Muslim Shaadi Mahal Continued work in Holalkere Town, Chitradurga District (PWD/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT45441) **Estimate Cost Rs. in Lakhs:-100.00**
Head of Account 3054-03-102-0-01-200 SH Bridges:- (2) Repairs to CD at Km 216.35 of State highway Connecting Challakere (NH-150A) to Vishwanathanahalli (SH-48) in Holalkere Taluk (PWD/2026-27/BR/WORK_INDENT45209)
Estimate Cost Rs. in Lakhs:-13.83
Cat-IIA Reserved:- Head of Account 3054-03-337-0-05-200 SH Maintenance:- (3) Road Safety works to the State Highways of Hangal Sub divison in Molakalmuru taluk for the year 2026-27 (PWD/2026-27/RD/WORK_INDENT45189)
Estimate Cost Rs. in Lakhs:-15.70
Sl. No. 1 Tender dates are as mentioned below: Late Date & time for Tender Queries/ Clarifications 13-11-2026 Time: 17.30
Last Date & time for receipt of tenders 16-11-2026 Time: 16.00
Date & time for opening of Technical Bid 17-11-2026 Time: 16.15
Date & time for opening of Financial Bid 19-11-2026 Time: 11.00
Sl. No. 2 and 3 Tenders dates are as mentioned below: Late Date & time for Tender Queries/ Clarifications 13-11-2026 Time: 17.30
Last Date & time for receipt of tenders 16-11-2026 Time: 16.00
Date & time for opening of Financial Bid 17-11-2026 Time: 16.15
Further details can be obtained from this office and H.P. Company helpline Numbers 91 9240214000 and 91 9240214001. The tender details published in the KPP portal are Final.

DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/ 390/2026-27
Sd/- Executive Engineer
PWD, Chitradurga.

BENGALURU NORTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Yalahanka division,
CMC Road, Yalahanka Old Town, Bengaluru – 560064.
No:EE/BNCC/Y.D/PR/383/2026-27 Date: 06-11-2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

The Police Inspector, Yalahanka Police Station, has furnished a list of vehicles that have been parked for a long period on public roads, footpaths and other public places and are causing obstruction, inconvenience or hardship to the general public, within the jurisdiction of the following wards of the Yalahanka Division of Bengaluru North City Corporation: 01 – Raja Kempegowda, 02 – Aerocity, 03 – Chowdeshwari, 04 – Judicial Layout, 05 – Yalahanka New Town, 06 – Doddabettahalli and 07 – Atturu.

Since the said vehicles have been parked on public roads, footpaths and other public places, thereby causing obstruction, inconvenience or hardship to the public, action is being taken for removal of the said vehicles in accordance with Section 324 of the Greater Bengaluru Governance Act, 2024, and other applicable laws, rules and prescribed procedures. The applicable provisions of Section 127 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, relating to the removal and shifting of such vehicles, shall also be complied with.

A spot inspection/mahazar has been conducted in respect of the vehicles listed below in co-ordination with the Assistant Engineers of the Yalahanka Division and police personnel. The details of the vehicles have been recorded, and a period of 7 days was granted to the vehicle owners to remove the vehicles from the public places. As the vehicles were not removed within the stipulated period of 7 days, pursuant to the said notice further action has been initiated in accordance with Section 349 of the Greater Bengaluru Governance Act, 2024..

However, since the vehicles illegally parked in public places were not removed even after the expiry of the 7-day period, the said vehicles have been shifted by the Bengaluru North City Corporation to the designated premises at Survey No. 99, Kogilu Village, and have been kept in safe custody.

The owners/registered owners of the said vehicles are hereby required to approach the Executive Engineer, Yalahanka Division, BNCC / Yalahanka Traffic Police Station / Office of the Yalahanka Sub-Division, within 15 days from the date of publication of this Public Notice, along with appropriate documents establishing ownership of the vehicle. The vehicle may be released after payment of the applicable prescribed fee, removal/towing, transportation charges and penalty as applicable.

As per Section 127 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, the towing/removal and other applicable expenses incurred in respect of a vehicle lawfully removed shall be borne by the owner of the vehicle.

If the owner/registered owner fails to establish his/her lawful ownership of the vehicle by producing appropriate documents, or fails to claim and take release of the vehicle within the stipulated period of 15 days, necessary action shall be taken to dispose off the said vehicle(s) through public auction, e-auction, or any other legally permissible method of disposal, in accordance with the applicable laws, rules, orders issued by the competent authority and the prescribed procedure in force.

Therefore, if any person has any ownership claim, title document, objection or any other relevant document relating to the said vehicles, such documents shall be produced before the above-mentioned offices within 15 days from the date of publication of this Public Notice in order to establish and substantiate their claim.

If the ownership of the vehicle is not established within the stipulated period, or if the vehicle is not claimed and released, further disposal action shall be taken in accordance with the applicable laws, rules, orders of the competent authority and the prescribed procedure.

Details of the vehicles seized/shifted and kept in safe custody are as follows:

Sl.No	Vehicle Details	Vehicle Number	Chassis Number	Remarks
1.	Bajaj Auto	KA 02 D 7202	MD2AAMZZPWB00252	
2.	EV-Bike	KA 50 Q 7198	MBTXL010JCK003986	
3.	Ambulance	KA 05 C 7735	-	
4.	Auto	KA 05 AH 4042	MD2A45AY7JWC43133	
5.	Maruti - 800 Car	KA 04 P 3036	SB308IN1266471	
6.	Car	KA 02 MB 9393	MAJAXXMRTA4B69002	
7.	Car (Tata Indica)	KA 01 MJ 3226	MAT611436CPF3963	
8.	Auto	KA 04 D 4648	MD2A45BZ8CWG10356	
9.	Auto	KA 03 AI 4732	MD2A45AYIJWB37860	
10.	Car	TN 01 A 2566		
11.	Auto	KA 05 9562	MD2AA24ZZNWE58715	

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Yalahanka Division,
Bengaluru North City Corporation

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

CELEBRATE DIWALI WITH DIYAS, LIGHT EARTHEN LAMPS

A message of tradition, culture and environmental protection



DR. PRIYANKA SAURABH

In the race for modernity, we are gradually forgetting our traditions and cultural heritage. The tradition of lighting earthen lamps on the sacred festival of Diwali is also fading away. They have been replaced by electronic lights, garlands, and other artificial illumination. This change is not only affecting our cultural traditions but is also having far-reaching consequences on the social and economic levels. To protect the environment and preserve our cultural heritage, it is essential that we pledge to light earthen lamps and avoid firecrackers on Diwali.

The festival of Diwali is deeply connected with earthen lamps. It is a festival deeply rooted in our culture and faith. It is believed that the people of Ayodhya welcomed Lord Shri Ram back to Ayodhya after completing fourteen years of exile by lighting lamps in their homes. Since then, the tradition of celebrating Deepotsav on the new moon day of Kartik month has been prevalent. Lighting earthen lamps is not only a religious tradition, but also a symbol of our cultural identity and connection to nature.

The allure of artificial lighting has grown rapidly over the past two decades. In the glare of modernity, we are drifting away from our traditional lifestyles. The use of colorful electric lights and garlands has increased during Diwali, while loud firecrackers have exacerbated the problem of air and noise pollution. This has the greatest impact on the environment, animals, birds, the elderly, children, and people suffering from respiratory problems.

> **"Remember, the real light of Diwali is not in the electric lights, but in the flame of earthen lamps, mutual love and the light of humanity. May everyone have light!"**
> — Dr. Priyanka Saurabh

This change also has an important social and economic aspect. The traditional occupation of potters, who make clay lamps, is gradually being affected. There was a time when people would place orders for diyas with potters weeks before Diwali. Their families would work day and night to craft the diyas. Even though their income wasn't very high, they certainly had a passion for keeping their art and tradition alive.

Today, the situation has changed. The decline in demand for clay lamps has dampened the enthusiasm of potters. Many families are forced to abandon their ancestral profession and take up other occupations. On Diwali,



many homes now only symbolically light a few clay lamps, while most decorations are done with electronic lights and garlands. We must understand that our small gesture can make a big difference in the lives of an artisan's family. By purchasing clay lamps, we not only preserve our culture but also support the livelihoods of local artisans.

The tradition of lighting earthen lamps has its own unique beauty and significance. The flame of a mustard oil lamp brings a special sense of peace and intimacy to the mind. Artificial light cannot match the simplicity and natural beauty of the lamp. Earthen lamps are linked to local resources and traditional crafts. However, to protect the environment, oil, wicks, and other resources should be used judiciously when using them.

Our culture isn't limited to lighting lamps. It also includes cleaning homes, preparing delicious food, sharing sweets, giving gifts to neighbors and those in need, and maintaining mutual love and harmony. The true joy of Diwali lies in bringing happiness to our homes and the lives of others.

Today's young generation needs to be especially aware of this. The responsibility of passing on culture and traditions to the next generation rests on their shoulders. They should prioritize earthen lamps over electronic decorations. Awareness campaigns should be conducted through schools, social organizations, and local organizations, raising awareness about the importance of earthen lamps and environmental protection.

Diwali is a festival of light, love, harmony, and positivity. Instead of turning it into a festival of pollution and ostentation, it should be celebrated with simplicity and sensitivity. The smoke and noise from firecrackers not only pollute the environment but also cause problems for many animals. Therefore, we should strive to celebrate a clean and safe Diwali by staying away from firecrackers.

This Diwali, let us all pledge to light earthen lamps in our homes, purchase them from local potters, avoid firecrackers, and spread joy in the lives of those in need. Earthen lamps are symbols of our culture, tradition, labor, and self-reliance. By adopting them, we can pass on our heritage to the next generation.

THE PRICE OF EXTREME WEALTH: A WORLD DIVIDED BY INEQUALITY AND CLIMATE INJUSTICE



LALIT GARGG

The world today is passing through an era of profound contradictions. On the one hand, remarkable milestones are being achieved in development, prosperity and modernization; on the other, poverty, hunger, violence, displacement and environmental destruction are becoming increasingly alarming. This raises a fundamental question: when the world possesses abundant resources and science and technology have made unprecedented advances, why are millions of people still struggling to secure even the most basic necessities of life? The international organization Oxfam, through its report 'The Disaster Divide', offers an uncomfortable yet thought-provoking answer. It reveals that the climate crisis is not merely the consequence of nature's fury, but is also deeply rooted in economic inequality, excessive consumption and the growing concentration of resources and power in the hands of a privileged few.

The report highlights how the lifestyles and investments of the world's wealthiest 0.1 per cent, approximately eight million people, are contributing disproportionately to carbon emissions, with consequences extending to billions across the globe. According to the report, this privileged group is responsible for more carbon pollution than the poorest 44 per cent of the world's population. This disparity is not merely a statistical difference; it is a disturbing reflection of human insensitivity, in which the entire world is being made to pay for the extravagant lifestyles of a handful of people. Private jets, luxury yachts, excessive energy consumption and investments in polluting industries have become symbols of modern affluence, while millions of people struggle for clean air, safe drinking water and two square meals a day. The real question is not how much wealth an individual possesses, but who bears the social and environmental cost of that prosperity.

> **The true measure of a prosperous society lies in how it treats its most vulnerable people and how responsibly it uses the resources entrusted to it. For development that neither protects nature nor safeguards human dignity is not progress; it is merely a prelude to destruction.**

The most alarming dimension of this crisis is that climate disasters, too, are increasingly exposing the divide between the rich and the poor. A flood may strike a wealthy person's luxurious mansion and a poor person's modest dwelling at the same time, but its consequences are vastly different. The wealthy can relocate to safer places, rely on insurance and use modern facilities to recover their losses. The poor, however, often lose their homes, agricultural land, livestock and livelihoods, pushing them years behind in their struggle for survival. According to Oxfam, countries with greater economic inequality experience up to seven times more flood-related deaths. The report further estimates that emissions generated by the world's richest one per cent could lead to approximately 1.9 million additional heat-related deaths in the future. An



estimated 78 per cent of these deaths are likely to occur in low- and lower-middle-income countries. Thus, those who contribute least to the climate crisis are often forced to bear its most devastating consequences.

The widening gap between the rich and the poor is not confined to environmental concerns. When resources, opportunities and rights are distributed unjustly, social discontent inevitably takes root. Unemployment, inflation, food insecurity, water scarcity and displacement intensify social tensions. Gradually, these tensions can manifest themselves in anger, rebellion, crime, communal conflicts and violence. It would be simplistic to attribute every form of violence solely to economic inequality. However, when the benefits of development remain concentrated in a few hands while the burden of crises falls upon the overwhelming majority, the foundations of social harmony and stability are bound to weaken. Ironically, some major investors first accumulate enormous profits through polluting industries and subsequently find opportunities to profit from disaster management, environmental clean-up and reconstruction. Oxfam's 'Destroy and Rebuild Index', which examines 217 companies, investigates this disturbing pattern of double profiteering. It raises serious questions about an economic system in which a disaster becomes a business opportunity for some, while turning into a lifelong tragedy for others.

In the Indian context, this warning assumes even greater significance. A substantial section of India's vast population depends on agriculture, construction, small businesses and the informal sector for its livelihood. Farmers are battling erratic rainfall, droughts, floods and rising temperatures. Laborers are compelled to work in extreme heat, while families living in urban slums face the combined hardships of waterlogging and scorching temperatures. According to the World Bank, more than 80 per cent of India's population lives in districts vulnerable to climate-related disasters. Furthermore, approximately 76 per cent of the population residing in 57 per cent of the country's districts faces high or very high risks from extreme heat. These figures underline the scale of India's vulnerability and the urgency of a comprehensive response.

For India, the challenge is not merely to accelerate the pace of economic growth, but to ensure that development is equitable, inclusive and environmentally sustainable. The vision of a Viksit Bharat 2047 will acquire real meaning only when the benefits of progress reach the person standing at the very end of the social and economic spectrum. If metropolitan cities continue to set new benchmarks of luxury and conspicuous consumption while farmers in villages struggle for water, electricity and sustainable livelihoods, the picture of development will remain incomplete. India, aspiring to emerge as a Vishwaguru and a guiding force for the world, must demonstrate that economic prosperity and environmental conservation can coexist in a balanced and sustainable framework.

Achieving this requires certain fundamental policy priorities. The accountability of affluent sections and highly polluting industries must be clearly established. An appropriate taxation framework should discourage excessive luxury consumption, while clean and renewable energy must receive greater encouragement. The conservation of water, forests and land must become an essential condition of development rather than a secondary consideration. Equally important is the need to establish effective systems of social security, insurance, healthcare and rehabilitation for farmers, laborers and vulnerable communities affected by climate disasters. The benefits of economic growth must not remain confined to the owners of capital; they must also reach the hands that create wealth through their labor. Development cannot be considered meaningful if those who contribute most through their hard work remain deprived of its rewards.

India's civilizational wisdom has long upheld the ideals of 'Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah' (May all be happy), 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' (The world is one family) and 'Aparigraha' (non-possession and restraint). Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy of 'Simple Living and High Thinking' is not merely a message for individual conduct; it represents a broader vision of the judicious use of resources and social responsibility. The Jain philosophy of Aparigraha likewise teaches that accumulation beyond one's genuine needs ultimately creates imbalance and injustice in society. Nature is not our personal property; it is a precious inheritance entrusted to us for future generations. These values offer a meaningful moral foundation for addressing the challenges of a world increasingly driven by excessive consumption and limitless accumulation.

Ultimately, Oxfam's 'The Disaster Divide' places a fundamental moral question before humanity: Can development mean unlimited prosperity for a privileged few alongside growing deprivation and helplessness for the overwhelming majority? The Earth is not the private estate of any particular class, nor can its resources become the exclusive preserve of a handful of powerful individuals. The need of the hour is not to treat wealth itself as a crime, but to make prosperity inseparable from accountability. We must remember that when the gulf of inequality becomes too deep, the resulting discontent cannot remain confined within geographical or political boundaries. Its consequences can threaten social harmony, economic stability and global peace. If we are to save our planet, we must change the direction of development, connect prosperity with compassion and make the global economic system accountable to humanity. Economic progress must be measured not merely by the accumulation of wealth, but by the quality of life it creates, the dignity it ensures and the environment it preserves.

THE PRICE OF CELEBRATION: RISING FESTIVE POLLUTION



DR. VIJAY GARG

Festivals are an essential part of human culture. They bring happiness, strengthen social relationships and provide opportunities for families and communities to celebrate together. Whether it is Diwali, Dussehra, Christmas, New Year, weddings or other public celebrations, people express their joy through lights, decorations, music, fireworks and grand gatherings. However, behind this excitement lies a growing environmental concern: festive pollution.

Celebrations that are meant to spread happiness are increasingly becoming sources of air, noise, water and solid-waste pollution. The rising environmental cost of festivities forces us to reconsider how we celebrate and what kind of world we are leaving for future generations.

Air pollution is one of the most visible consequences of large celebrations. Firecrackers release smoke, fine particulate matter and harmful gases into the atmosphere. These pollutants can worsen respiratory problems, trigger asthma and create serious difficulties for children, elderly people and those suffering from heart and lung diseases. During periods of poor air quality, even a few hours of excessive fireworks can add to an already dangerous pollution burden.

Noise pollution is another major concern. Loudspeakers, firecrackers, high-volume music and prolonged celebrations disturb neighborhoods and affect public health. Excessive noise can cause stress, sleep disturbances, headaches and hearing-related problems. It also creates difficulties for hospital patients, newborn babies, elderly people and students preparing for examinations.

Festive pollution does not end with air and noise. Decorative materials, plastic packaging, disposable plates, cups, thermocol, artificial flowers and other non-biodegradable products generate enormous quantities of waste. Many of these materials are used for a few hours but remain in the environment for years. Improper disposal blocks drainage systems, pollutes water bodies and creates unhygienic surroundings.

Water pollution also increases during certain festivals. Religious offerings, plastic materials, colors, chemicals and other waste are sometimes dumped into rivers, ponds and lakes. Such practices damage aquatic ecosystems and threaten the survival of



fish and other organisms. Our rivers and water bodies deserve respect and protection, not the burden of irresponsible celebrations.

The environmental impact also extends to animals and birds. Loud explosions frighten domestic animals, disturb wildlife and interfere with the natural behavior of birds. Stray dogs and other animals often experience severe anxiety during fireworks. Birds may abandon their nests or become disoriented because of sudden flashes and loud sounds. A truly joyful celebration should not become a source of suffering for voiceless creatures.

Another overlooked issue is the excessive consumption of electricity and natural resources. Decorative lighting, temporary structures, unnecessary packaging and large-scale commercial activities increase energy use and carbon emissions. The growing culture of showmanship and competition has transformed many festivals into expensive displays of consumption rather than meaningful occasions of togetherness.

The solution is not to stop celebrating but to celebrate responsibly. Festivals should reflect our cultural values, compassion and respect for nature. People can choose traditional lamps, energy-efficient LED lights, reusable decorations and biodegradable materials. Community celebrations can reduce unnecessary fireworks, loud music and disposable products.

Schools, colleges, resident welfare associations, religious organizations and local authorities can play an important role in promoting eco-friendly festivals. Awareness campaigns, cleanliness drives, waste segregation and tree-planting activities can turn celebrations into opportunities for environmental education. Children should be encouraged to understand that protecting nature is also a form of celebrating life.

Government regulations are equally important. Rules regarding firecrackers, noise levels, waste disposal and pollution control must be implemented effectively. However, laws alone cannot bring lasting change without public cooperation and responsible behavior.

The media and social platforms can also promote the message of green celebrations. Instead of encouraging extravagant displays, they should highlight communities that celebrate through charity, kindness, cleanliness and environmental protection.

Festivals are meant to unite people, not endanger their health or damage the planet. The real spirit of celebration lies in sharing happiness, helping the needy, respecting others and protecting the environment.

We must remember that the atmosphere, rivers, trees and wildlife are not separate from our celebrations; they are essential parts of our lives. If our festivities leave behind polluted air, mountains of waste and frightened animals, we must question the meaning of such happiness.

> *"Let us celebrate with lights, not smoke; with music, not noise; with kindness, not waste. The true price of celebration should never be the health of people or the future of our planet."*
> **DR. VIJAY GARG**

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Air Pollution Health Emergency

Through your newspaper, I wish to express concern over the severe air pollution crisis affecting large parts of the country. Every winter, air quality reaches hazardous levels, causing breathing problems, eye irritation and serious health risks for children and the elderly. The main causes are vehicle emissions, industrial smoke, dust from construction and burning of waste. Despite repeated warnings, action remains slow and temporary. We need strict enforcement of emission norms, better public transport, control on construction dust and mass awareness on waste burning. Clean air is not a luxury but a basic right, and urgent steps are needed now. **– Vidhyashree J.**

Rising Youth Unemployment Crisis

I am writing to highlight the growing problem of unemployment among educated youth in the country. Lakhs of graduates and post-graduates apply for a few thousand jobs, and many remain jobless for years despite qualifications. This leads to frustration, depression and loss of talent. The main reasons are lack of skill-based education, slow job creation in manufacturing and over-dependence on a few sectors. The government must promote vocational training, support small businesses and startups with easy loans, and align college courses with industry needs. Only meaningful employment can secure the future of our youth. **– Sharon Faustina J.**

Stop Online Financial Frauds

I want to draw attention to the alarming rise in online financial frauds across the country. Every day innocent citizens lose their savings to fake calls, messages and links claiming to be from banks or government agencies. Many victims are senior citizens and first-time internet users who trust such messages. Cybercrime cells are overburdened and recovery of money is rare. There is urgent need for stronger cyber security systems, faster complaint redressal, mandatory verification of senders by telecom companies and nationwide awareness campaigns in local languages. Digital progress must not come at the cost of public safety. **– Anna B.**

WE NEED TO MAKE TIME FOR LONELINESS



Loneliness rarely announces itself in a way that demands attention. It can sit beside someone at a crowded dinner, follow a worker home, or fill the quiet hours after a phone stops ringing. We often mistake it for a private weakness when it is also a failure of how we organize daily life.

Our schedules reward speed, usefulness and constant availability. Relationships receive whatever time remains. We postpone visits until work settles, delay calls until the weekend and assume that a familiar face must have someone else to talk to. Gradually, ordinary companionship becomes an appointment that nobody manages to keep.

Digital contact can help, especially when distance or disability limits movement. Yet a stream of reactions does not always offer the comfort of being heard. A person may receive dozens of messages while feeling unable to tell anyone that the day has been difficult. Visibility and belonging are different experiences.

The answer does not require everyone to become outgoing. Some people enjoy solitude, and that choice deserves respect. The concern begins when isolation feels unwanted and there seems to be no dependable route back to other people. Help should offer connection without turning quiet personalities into problems that need correction.

Small, regular gestures can make that route easier. A neighbor who checks in without demanding conversation, a colleague who shares lunch, or a relative who calls at a predictable time creates something valuable: continuity. Care becomes more believable when it survives beyond birthdays, emergencies and public displays of concern.

Public life matters too. Affordable gathering spaces, accessible transport, welcoming libraries and comfortable benches allow people to meet without having to buy something. When every shared space expects spending, companionship becomes harder for those already watching their money. A community needs places where simply being present is enough.

Employers should consider the social cost of exhausting work patterns. A worker who finishes every shift drained may have little energy left for friendship. Flexible schedules and reasonable boundaries cannot manufacture intimacy, but they can protect the time and strength that relationships require. Connection needs room to develop.

We should also resist making loneliness another task for people who already feel excluded. Telling someone to join a club assumes confidence, money, mobility and welcome. Sometimes the more useful question is whether our existing groups make newcomers comfortable, or merely invite them into circles that remain closed.

There is no single gesture that repairs every form of isolation. Grief, illness, migration and family conflict create different needs. Listening matters because it prevents us from offering our favorite solution to someone facing a different difficulty. Companionship begins with curiosity about another person's experience. A kinder society would treat time spent with others as part of a worthwhile life, rather than a distraction from achievement. We cannot promise that nobody will feel alone.

We can notice who has fallen silent, keep ordinary promises and make belonging easier to find. Often, that begins with staying just a little longer.

— SHARON FAUSTINA J.

CAREGIVERS DESERVE SUPPORT BEYOND WORDS OF GRATITUDE

Care often begins with something: a prescription collected, a meal prepared or a ride arranged. Then the tasks multiply. Someone becomes responsible for appointments, washing, bills and reassurance, often while holding a job and managing another household. What looked temporary becomes the structure around which a life must bend.

Families frequently describe this work as love. That description can be true, but it is incomplete. Love does not remove exhaustion, replace lost earnings or create uninterrupted sleep. When affection becomes the reason support is withheld, caregivers are asked to prove devotion through sacrifice that others would never accept as reasonable employment.

Much of the burden remains invisible because it happens behind closed doors. The person who remembers medication times may also remember school deadlines, grocery shortages and insurance forms. This mental work continues even during apparent rest. A caregiver sitting quietly may still be planning the next difficult hour.

We should stop treating help as a reward for reaching breaking point. Support works best when it arrives before resentment, injury or financial crisis. Reliable respite, clear information and affordable professional assistance can protect both the person receiving care and the person providing it. Neither benefits when exhaustion becomes routine.

Other relatives have responsibilities too. Asking a caregiver to request help places another management task on already crowded shoulders. A better approach is to offer something specific and dependable: cover an evening, prepare meals each week or handle transport. Shared calendars are useful only when people honour the commitments written there.

Workplaces can make a difference by recognising caregiving as a part of adult life. Flexible hours, predictable shifts and leave arrangements allow employees to remain useful without hiding family responsibilities. Policies should include different kinds of households, rather than assuming that care always follows one familiar family pattern.

> **"We should measure compassion by whether caregivers can rest, remain financially secure and preserve a life beyond their duties. Those are needs, not excessive demands."**
>
> **— VIDHYASHREE J.**

The dignity of the person receiving care must remain central. Needing assistance does not erase preferences, privacy or the right to participate in decisions. Care arrangements should protect independence wherever possible. Supporting caregivers and respecting recipients are connected goals, even when difficult conversations are needed to balance their wishes.

Money deserves honest discussion. Families sometimes avoid it because calculating costs appears unloving. Yet silence can leave one person paying through savings, reduced hours and missed opportunities. Agreeing on expenses and responsibilities early helps prevent unequal arrangements from becoming permanent simply because nobody wants to sound selfish.

Caregivers also need permission to have ordinary feelings. Irritation, boredom and longing for freedom do not cancel affection. Constant praise for being strong can make it harder to admit distress. Listening without judgement offers more support than insisting that dedication should always look patient, cheerful and grateful.

A society that values care must organise practical ways to sustain it. Gratitude matters, but gratitude without time, money or shared responsibility leaves the hardest work untouched.

— VIDHYASHREE J.

CHILDREN NEED FREE TIME WITHOUT A SCORECARD



A child's afternoon can now resemble an adult's busiest working day. Lessons follow school, organised practice follows lessons, and the evening ends with preparation for tomorrow. Much of this comes from loving intentions. Adults want children to have opportunities. Yet opportunity loses something when it leaves no room to breathe.

We have become skilled at measuring childhood. We count marks, certificates, reading levels and competition results. The quieter parts of growing up resist that accounting: inventing a game, repairing a friendship, staring at clouds or discovering what to do when nothing has been arranged. These experiences still matter.

Free time does not mean the absence of learning. It allows children to choose, negotiate and make mistakes without immediate evaluation. A game that changes its rules halfway through may teach cooperation. An abandoned drawing may reveal a preference. A long afternoon can give an interest time to emerge naturally.

Boredom, within safe and supportive circumstances, need not be treated as an emergency. Adults do not have to supply entertainment at the first complaint. Sometimes children need a little space before curiosity takes over. This is different from neglect: freedom grows best when dependable care remains available in the background.

> **"A healthy afternoon may end with muddy clothes, an unfinished game and no certificate at all."**
>
> **— MARIA RINCIA P.**

The pressure to fill every hour also affects family relationships. Conversations become instructions about what comes next. Shared meals turn into progress meetings. A child may learn that attention arrives most reliably after achievement, rather than through ordinary companionship. Affection should remain recognisable on days when nothing impressive happens.

Schools and activity providers can help by keeping demands proportionate. Homework and practice should have a clear purpose, with room for rest and different home circumstances. Families cannot all provide transport, quiet rooms or paid tuition. An overcrowded schedule can turn unequal resources into another source of shame.

Parents need support rather than another standard they must meet perfectly. Some rely on organised activities because working hours make supervision difficult. Others face strong pressure to keep pace with peers. Criticising individual choices misses the need for affordable childcare, safe play areas and reasonable expectations from institutions.

Screens complicate the discussion but should not consume it. Digital play can be creative or social, just as offline activities can be stressful or exclusionary. The useful question concerns the quality of experience and whether children have varied choices. Replacing every screen minute with another lesson preserves the same crowded pattern.

Children should have a voice in their schedules. Their interests may change, and leaving an activity need not mean failure. Learning commitment matters, but so does recognising an arrangement that no longer fits. Adults can guide these decisions without making every choice a test of future success.

Childhood is a stage of life with value in itself. It should contain rest, laughter, friendships and unplanned discoveries alongside effort. We can prepare children for responsibility while allowing them moments that produce nothing to display.

— MARIA RINCIA P.

REPAIRING EVERYDAY THINGS CAN RENEW OUR CONNECTIONS

A broken zip or a loose chair leg presents a small decision with wider meaning. We can replace the object, put it aside or try to repair it. The easiest option often appears obvious. New goods arrive quickly, while finding someone who can mend the old ones takes time.

That imbalance shapes our habits. We begin to expect short lives from everyday belongings and accept replacement as the normal response to minor damage. Yet an object may have years of use left. Throwing it away can waste materials, money and the skill already invested in making it.

Repair deserves attention because it offers practical value, particularly when household budgets are tight. A dependable repair can delay a purchase and keep familiar tools working. But it must remain a real choice. Nobody should be expected to use unsafe equipment or pay more for mending than replacement would reasonably cost.

Manufacturers influence that choice. Products designed with sealed parts, unavailable components or inaccessible instructions make repair difficult before anything breaks. Clear repair information, reasonably priced spare parts and replaceable components give owners more control. Durability should be a feature people can assess, rather than a promise hidden behind attractive packaging.

Repair workers deserve fair payment and respect. Their judgement may involve years of experience, even when the final adjustment looks simple. Bargaining down skilled labour while accepting the price of a new product reveals a confused sense of value. The work of making things last is worth sustaining.

There is a social benefit too. A workshop can become a place where practical knowledge passes between generations and strangers begin talking. Community repair sessions can connect people who rarely meet otherwise. Their value comes from patient cooperation as much as from the number of objects returned to use.

These spaces should welcome beginners without embarrassment. Many people were never taught basic maintenance, and confidence grows through clear guidance. Asking how something works should not invite ridicule. At the same time, organisers must recognise limits and direct electrical, structural or otherwise hazardous jobs to qualified professionals.

Repair also changes our relationship with ownership. Learning how to tighten, clean or adjust something can make us more attentive to its condition. We notice early signs of wear instead of waiting for failure. Care becomes an ordinary habit, extending beyond purchases made only when something stops working.

Still, individual effort cannot carry the whole responsibility for waste. Repair works best alongside better design, reliable services and sensible access to parts. Public institutions and large buyers can encourage durable products through their purchasing decisions. A household should not have to overcome an entire market to keep one appliance functioning.

We need a culture in which maintenance receives some of the admiration usually reserved for novelty. The repaired object carries evidence of attention: someone thought it worth keeping. That attitude can save resources and preserve useful skills. It can also remind us that care often means giving something another chance to serve.

— PREME V. PAUL

PUBLIC SPACES SHOULD WELCOME EVERY AGE EQUALLY

A public space reveals its priorities through details. A bench offers rest, a working toilet makes a longer visit possible, and a level path allows a wheelchair to move freely. Their absence sends a quieter message about who is expected to stay and who should simply keep moving.

We often judge shared spaces by how they look in photographs. Attractive paving and dramatic features receive attention, while shade, seating and maintenance seem less exciting. Yet the everyday experience depends on those elements. A beautiful square offers limited comfort when nobody can find drinking water or escape the heat.

Older people, children, disabled people and caregivers experience these shortcomings especially clearly. A short walk can become difficult without somewhere to pause. A parent may avoid an outing because changing facilities are unavailable. Accessibility concerns the entire journey, including transport, entrances and the confidence that basic needs can be met.

Good design should begin by listening to people who use a space differently. Consultation cannot consist only of inviting comments after decisions are settled. Residents need understandable plans, accessible meetings and evidence that their observations influence the result. Everyday experience can identify problems that polished drawings easily conceal.



Safety matters, but it should not become an excuse to exclude. Bright lighting, visible routes and dependable maintenance can support confidence. Rules that discourage young people from gathering or remove resting places may simply transfer discomfort onto those with fewer alternatives. Shared space requires fair access as well as reasonable boundaries.

Commercial activity can bring energy, but public life should include places where spending is optional. Someone eating a packed lunch deserves a seat as much as someone carrying a purchased drink. When every comfortable corner belongs to a business, limited income becomes a barrier to participating in community life.

Maintenance deserves a stable budget. A broken lift, blocked path or locked toilet can undo the promise of an expensive redevelopment. People plan around reliability. If facilities repeatedly fail, those who need them most may stop coming altogether, creating an appearance of low demand that disguises the original problem.

There will be disagreements about noise, play, pets and opening hours. These are reasons for thoughtful management, rather than proof that different groups cannot share. Clear rules, spaces for varied activities and opportunities to resolve complaints can help. Nobody should expect complete control over a place intended for everyone.

We should also consider workers who keep these areas usable. Cleaners, gardeners and maintenance teams need equipment, fair conditions and enough time to do their jobs. Public appreciation is hollow when essential upkeep relies on exhausted staff. A welcoming environment rests on their labor as much as on design.

The best shared spaces allow ordinary life to unfold with dignity. They make room for conversation, solitude, movement and rest across different ages and abilities. Their success is visible when people feel comfortable returning.

A public place offers something simple and valuable: permission to belong without having to explain yourself.

— SANDRA LISA

Quick Read

TN appoints 3 prosecutors in Veeramani POCSO cases

CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu government has appointed three special public prosecutors to handle multiple cases under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act against Gem Granites founder Veeramani. The appointments come ahead of the filing of the chargesheet, with the government seeking to strengthen its legal proceedings against the accused. Veeramani, an octogenarian mining businessman, faces allegations of sexually exploiting minor girls from economically weaker backgrounds over several years. One of the cases also involves the alleged abetment of a minor girl's suicide. Questions have also emerged over alleged political connections and previous inaction by authorities. The investigation is ongoing.



Delhi inspects sweet shops ahead of Deepavali

NEW DELHI

The Delhi government has intensified food safety inspections ahead of Deepavali, collecting 40 food samples from sweet shops, dairies and manufacturing units across the city. Nearly 100 kg of food material unfit for consumption was destroyed at a dairy in Mandoli Extension. Inspectors found foul-smelling khoya and rasgullas, along with milk contaminated by mosquitoes and flies. A sweet manufacturing unit in Nihal Vihar was also found operating without FSSAI registration. Eight establishments received improvement notices for hygiene and sanitation violations. The collected samples will undergo laboratory testing, following which further action will be taken. Chief Minister Rekha Gupta directed officials to continue inspections and take strict action against violators.

Kolkata teen set ablaze; 5 detained in attack

KOLKATA

A teenage boy was allegedly blindfolded, doused with petrol and set on fire in southern Kolkata on October 27, with the accused suspected of recording the assault for a social media reel. Police have arrested three people and apprehended two minors in connection with the incident. The victim's family alleged that the attack stemmed from a ₹500 financial dispute, claiming he had repaid the amount borrowed from one of the accused six months earlier. Police are investigating other possible motives.
The teenager suffered burns to his chest and abdomen but was reported to be stable and receiving hospital treatment. According to police, he was intercepted near a pond in Lenin Nagar while returning home, blindfolded and forced to wear a helmet before being attacked. Locals rushed to rescue him after he caught fire.

CWRC directs Karnataka to release Cauvery water for 15 days

Karnataka has been directed to release 3,000 cusecs of Cauvery water daily to Tamil Nadu for 15 days from November 7.

NEW DELHI

The Cauvery Water Regulation Committee (CWRC) on Friday directed Karnataka to release 3,000 cusecs of water daily to Tamil Nadu for the next 15 days, beginning at 8 am on November 7. The directive requires the state to ensure the stipulated water flow reaches Biligundlu on the inter-state border.

The committee, chaired by Vineet Gupta, reviewed rainfall, crop conditions and reservoir storage across the Cauvery basin before issuing the order. Under the directive, Karnataka must release a total of 3.88 thousand million cubic feet (tmcft) of water during the specified period.

Karnataka's case

During the meeting, Karnataka highlighted the severe water shortage affecting its Cauvery basin. The state informed the committee that inflows into its four major Cauvery reservoirs were 53.88 per cent below the 30-year average. It also stated that drought conditions had affected 55 of the 56 taluks in the state's Cauvery basin. Karnataka further pointed out that its projected water availability of 57 tmcft would leave only seven tmcft after meeting priority requirements until July 2027. It argued that this would be insufficient to sustain standing crops and requested that no additional releases be ordered.

Tamil Nadu, meanwhile, said Karnataka had released only 53.435 tmcft of water until November 4, leaving a backlog of 16.895 tmcft. It alleged that releases had fallen below the previously directed 3,000 cusecs on several days between October 24 and November 4. The state sought the release of 20.678 tmcft at Biligundlu between November 5 and 21, including the pending quantity.

Tamil Nadu also argued that its reservoirs, including Mettur, Bhavani and Amaravathi, held 37.125 tmcft as of November 5. It urged the committee to consider water inflows, usage and withdrawals across the basin while determining the states' respective shares.



Karnataka must keep 3,000 cusecs a day flowing at Biligundlu for 15 days

The two sides

KARNATAKA: WATER LEFT	TAMIL NADU: BACKLOG
7 of 57 tmcft after priority needs	16.895 tmcft till Nov 4
KARNATAKA: DROUGHT	**TAMIL NADU: SOUGHT**
55 of 56 basin taluks	20.678 tmcft, Nov 5-21

3,000 cusecs	15 days	3.88 tmcft	53.88%
daily release ordered	from 8 am on November 7	in all	inflow deficit, Karnataka's four reservoirs

Jharkhand HC restores cancelled JSSC-CGL appointments

RANCHI

The Jharkhand High Court on Friday set aside the State government's decision to cancel the Jharkhand Staff Selection Commission Combined Graduate Level (JSSC-CGL) examination and the appointments made through the recruitment process. The ruling restores the positions of candidates selected under advertisement number 10/2023.

Jharkhand High Court reinstates JSSC-CGL appointees, overturning the state government's cancellation of the recruitment examination and restoring their service continuity.

A single-judge bench of Justice Deepak Roshan quashed the government's cancellation decision and directed that the affected candidates be reinstated. The court further ordered that their service be treated as continuous, without any interruption. The direction means the candidates' employment must not be regarded as having been broken during the period affected by the cancellation.

The State government had announced the cancellation on August 17, 2026, following a report from the Jharkhand State Crime Investigation Department and protests by candidates. The decision covered both the examination process and appointments made on its basis. The government's move had therefore put the recruitment and the status of selected candidates in question.

The case concerns the JSSC-CGL recruitment exercise, conducted to fill posts through the commission's combined graduate-level selection process. The cancellation had followed the investigation agency's report and protests from candidates. The High Court has now set aside the cancellation, restoring the appointments made through the examination.

The order brings relief to candidates whose appointments had been cancelled by the State government. The State has been directed to reinstate them and recognise their service as continuous. The ruling settles the immediate status of these appointments.

CM Naidu puts Cyclone Murasu damage at ₹1,918.5 crore

AMARAVATI

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Friday estimated the damage caused by Cyclone Murasu at Rs 1,918.5 crore, based on preliminary assessments. After reviewing the situation with officials on Thursday, he directed departments to accelerate relief and restoration work.



Clearing a fallen pole in the rain after the cyclone

Murasu's toll

- 1.4 lakh ha — of crops damaged
- 983 — houses damaged
- 346 — boats damaged
- 871 of 1,103 — power feeders restored

Naidu said he would visit affected areas in Bapatla and Guntur districts to assess the damage. He stressed restoring electricity and drinking water, repairing roads and preventing hardship for farmers and residents after two successive cyclones, Arnab and Murasu. Officials reported eight deaths: five in Bapatla, two in Guntur and one in Palnadu.

Agricultural crops were damaged across 1.4 lakh hectares, affecting more than 1.8 lakh farmers. Horticultural crops suffered damage across 6,749 hectares, affecting 12,586 farmers. The cyclone also damaged 983 houses, 346 boats and 220 fishing nets.

Of 1,103 affected 11-kV power feeders, 871 had been restored, while 1,493 of 3,946 damaged electricity poles were repaired. The Roads and Buildings Department reported damage to 760 km of major district roads and state highways. Seventy-four rural roads spanning 204 km were damaged, with repairs estimated at Rs 92 crore.

By Thursday, 30,518 of 31,428 telecom towers were operational, restoring 97 per cent of services. The cyclone affected 59 mandals and 649 gram panchayats; all 336 identified drainage blockages were cleared. The government released Rs 37 crore for immediate relief. Thirteen NDRF teams, 11 SDRF teams and 390 fire personnel joined rescue operations.

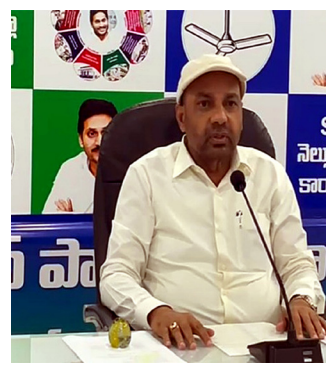
YSRCP demands fresh polls over alleged election irregularities

AMARAVATI

The YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) on Friday accused the ruling Telugu Desam Party (TDP)-led coalition government in Andhra Pradesh of large-scale irregularities during the Zilla Parishad Territorial Constituency (ZPTC) and Mandal Parishad Territorial Constituency (MPTC) elections. The opposition party alleged misuse of official machinery, intimidation of its workers and violations of Supreme Court directives.

Addressing the media in Amaravati, former minister Kakani Govardhan Reddy claimed that YSRCP voters, polling agents and party leaders were prevented from participating in the electoral process. He alleged that several active party members were detained at police stations or placed under house arrest, while ruling coalition workers were allowed to move freely.

Reddy further accused TDP supporters of rigging, vote cycling and driving away opposition polling agents. He claimed that party workers were attacked in several locations and that some were forced to leave their villages. Despite complaints to senior officials, he alleged, no action was taken against those responsible.



The YSRCP alleged misuse of official machinery in the ZPTC and MPTC polls

Questioning police conduct, Reddy condemned the alleged treatment of former Atmakur MLA Mekapati Vikram Reddy. He also raised concerns over the presence of sitting ministers and MLAs at polling stations, alleging that some were involved in booth capturing. He questioned how constitutional safeguards could be protected if police personnel themselves were allegedly involved in electoral malpractice.

The YSRCP wants the polls cancelled and fresh elections held where ministers or MLAs visited polling stations

The former minister urged the District Collector to intervene and demanded cancellation of the polls followed by fresh elections in areas where ruling party ministers or MLAs had visited polling stations in violation of the Model Code of Conduct. He also alleged an attempted attack on YSRCP Gudur constituency in-charge Guravaiah.

Reddy called for action against officials allegedly involved in the irregularities and demanded accountability to ensure free and fair elections.

RAHUL GANDHI LIKELY TO VISIT US FOR UNIVERSITY ADDRESSES

NEW DELHI

Congress leader and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi is likely to visit the United States from November 16 to 19, with planned engagements at two prominent universities, according to sources. The proposed trip is expected to include interactions with students at Columbia University in New York and the University of Chicago.

Gandhi is likely to address students at Columbia University on November 17 before travelling to Chicago for an interaction at the University of Chicago on November 18. He is expected to return to India on November 19. The details of the engagements are yet to be officially confirmed.

THE PROPOSED TRIP

- **New York** — Columbia University, Nov 17
- **Chicago** — University of Chicago, Nov 18
- **Home** — Back in India, Nov 19

The proposed visit comes weeks after Gandhi's reported trips to Vietnam and Thailand, which triggered a political exchange between the Congress and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). His earlier travel coincided with protests by Congress and other INDIA bloc parties over alleged irregularities in the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls.

The BJP criticised Gandhi for travelling abroad during the political agitation and questioned the timing of his visits. BJP leaders also raised questions about his overseas meetings, including interactions with American lawmakers Ilhan Omar and Ro Khanna. The party accused him of neglecting domestic political issues and making statements that could affect India's image.

Gandhi's earlier visits to the US have also attracted political controversy. During his May 2023 visit, he criticised the BJP government over alleged misuse of investigative agencies and institutional independence. In September 2024, his remarks on the rights of Sikhs in India drew criticism from the ruling party. During an April 2025 visit, he described the Election Commission as "compromised", prompting another political confrontation.

SC seeks replies from KPCC leaders over CJI post

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday issued notices to office-bearers of the Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) over a contempt petition concerning a social media post targeting Chief Justice of India Surya Kant. The court observed that judicial restraint should not be mistaken for institutional weakness and warned that attempts to undermine judicial authority would be dealt with firmly.

The petition seeks contempt proceedings against the party office-bearers over a post published from the official X account of the Congress's Keralam unit. The post went viral on October 12, attracting widespread criticism before it was subsequently deleted.

KPCC president Sunny Joseph had apologised for the post, stating that it was not authorised by the organisation and had been published by an individual without approval. The party leadership distanced itself from the content after the incident triggered criticism on social media.

The notices seek responses from the concerned office-bearers, marking a further development in the controversy. The matter concerns the responsibility of political organisations and their representatives for content shared through official social media accounts, particularly when it relates to constitutional institutions and judicial authority.

SC ON CYBERCRIMINALS

Cybercriminals deserve jail, have no place in society: SC

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday observed that cyber criminals have no place in society and deserve to remain behind bars while rejecting a bail plea filed by an accused in a cyber fraud case. A three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant declined to grant relief to the accused and also refused to entertain his request to surrender after Deepavali.

"You do not surrender, the police will take care of you."
— Justice Joymalya Bagchi, Supreme Court

During the hearing, the Chief Justice made strong oral remarks about cybercrime and its impact on society. "They have no space in society," he said, indicating the court's firm approach towards offences involving digital fraud. The Bench's observations came while considering the accused's plea for bail.

The accused's lawyer also sought permission for his client to surrender after the Deepavali festival. However, the court did not accept the request. Justice Joymalya Bagchi responded to the submission by telling the lawyer, "You do not surrender, the police will take care of you." The remarks underscored the Bench's refusal to grant the accused additional time or immediate relief.



The Supreme Court in New Delhi

The hearing reflects the judiciary's concern over cyber fraud and the growing challenges posed by crimes committed through digital platforms. Such offences can involve financial deception and misuse of technology, affecting individuals and institutions. The court's observations highlighted the seriousness with which it viewed allegations of cybercrime and the need for accountability.

The court's decision leaves the accused without the requested bail relief, while the police remain responsible for taking further action in accordance with the law.

Quick Read

7 killed as speeding truck runs over crowd

KHUNTI

Seven people were killed and one injured after a speeding truck ran over a group of people in the Karra police station area of Khunti district in Jharkhand, police said on Friday. According to the Khunti Superintendent of Police (SP), the incident occurred when several people had gathered at the spot following an earlier accident involving a scooty rider. The truck, which was reportedly travelling at high speed, ran over the people gathered at the location, resulting in seven deaths and leaving one person injured.

Gujarat man gets life term for bus station murder

BHAVNAGAR

A Gujarat court has sentenced Faisal Lakhani to life imprisonment for murdering Kajal Baraiya at a busy bus station. Principal Sessions Judge Rizwana Bukhari delivered the verdict on Thursday, within two months of the crime. Baraiya had lived with Lakhani on a footpath for eight years as his wife. The brutal assault and killing at the bus station triggered widespread public outrage. Following the incident, police formed a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to investigate the case.

2 workers killed in Gujarat sugar mill tank collapse

TAPI

Two employees were killed after hot and cold-water tanks collapsed at the Copper Sugar Mill in Dadariya village of Gujarat's Tapi district on Thursday evening. The incident occurred around 6.45 pm at the facility in Valod taluka, trapping the workers beneath the debris. Police personnel and fire teams from Vyara and Bardoli rushed to the site and launched a rescue operation. After nearly five hours of searching, rescuers recovered the bodies of the two employees and handed them over to the police. The deceased were identified as Arun Patel, 54, and Dharmesh Patel, 30.

Delhi court rejects plea seeking FIR against CM Rekha Gupta

A Delhi court dismissed a complaint seeking an FIR against Chief Minister Rekha Gupta over alleged remarks comparing officials to Lord Hanuman.

NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Friday dismissed a complaint seeking registration of a First Information Report (FIR) against Chief Minister Rekha Gupta over her alleged remarks comparing Delhi government officials to Lord Hanuman.

Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate Ashwini Panwar dismissed the complaint. A detailed order explaining the court's decision is awaited. The complaint alleged that Gupta made the remarks on September 23, 2025, during an official government programme organised at Kashmere Gate Inter-State Bus Terminal.

The event marked the launch of Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) bus services connecting Delhi with Baraut in Uttar Pradesh. The complainant had approached the court seeking police action over the chief minister's alleged statement.



On October 15, the Delhi Police submitted a status report stating that there was no basis for registering an FIR, as the alleged remarks did not disclose any cognisable offence.

Earlier, on October 3, the court had directed the station house officer of Kashmere Gate police station to submit a status report on the complaint.

The case so far

- **SEPT 23, 2025** — Alleged remarks at a DTC bus launch, Kashmere Gate ISBT
- **OCT 3** — Court asks the Kashmere Gate SHO for a status report
- **OCT 15** — Police report: no cognisable offence
- **FRIDAY** — Complaint dismissed

Owaisi extends SSC fee aid to students

HYDERABAD

AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi distributed assistance for Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examination fees to nearly 1,700 students from Government Urdu Medium Schools in Hyderabad. The programme was sponsored by the Majlis Charities Educational and Relief Trust.

The Trust had earlier distributed nearly 12,000 educational kits, including school bags, long books and guide sets, to students in Classes 6 to 9 in September. In October, it provided All-in-One study material to around 8,000 Class 10 students across Telangana. About ₹86 lakh is being spent on educational assistance this year. Over 21 years, the Trust has spent nearly ₹10.50 crore on educational kits, examination fees, cash awards for SSC toppers and study materials for underprivileged students.

> *"By withholding scholarships for the last four years, you are doing injustice to students. The CBI has not asked the government to stop scholarships. I strongly condemn this action of the Union Government."*
>
> **ASADUDDIN OWAISI** AIMIM president

Addressing the gathering, Owaisi said the Gross Enrolment Ratio for Muslims was 40 per cent, while Telangana recorded 36 per cent, which he described as the highest among Indian states. He criticised the Centre for discontinuing pre-matric, post-matric and merit-cum-means scholarships for Muslim students over the past four years. He questioned the government's explanation that the decision was linked to alleged corruption during Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi's tenure and an ongoing CBI inquiry.

Owaisi cited education data showing Muslim dropout rates of 8 per cent at the primary level, 6 per cent at the secondary level and 4 per cent in higher education. He also referred to Uttar Pradesh government figures for 2021-22, which recorded higher rates of 17.3, 12.6 and 11.7 per cent respectively.



In focus

40 %	MUSLIM GROSS ENROLMENT RATIO
36 %	TELANGANA'S OVERALL GER
8 %	MUSLIM DROPOUTS, PRIMARY LEVEL
6 %	MUSLIM DROPOUTS, SECONDARY LEVEL
4 %	MUSLIM DROPOUTS, HIGHER EDUCATION

Kerala to review 488 bar licences granted under LDF

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala Excise Minister M Liju said the United Democratic Front (UDF) government would closely examine 488 bar licences granted during the previous Left Democratic Front (LDF) administrations and act if irregularities were found. He was responding to allegations by former Excise Minister M B Rajesh over action against officials who issued licences under liquor policy.

Liju said the licences were granted after a rule amendment on June 23, 2017. The change allowed establishments that lost bar licences in 2014 and later operated as beer and wine parlours to apply afresh. Of the 488 licences, 410 were issued during the first Pinarayi Vijayan government and 78 during its second term. In 2014, the UDF government led by Oommen Chandy had restricted licences to five-star hotels, resulting in more than 700 hotels losing their licences.

The minister rejected the argument that Deputy Excise Commissioners had only renewed licences. He said the establishments had lost their licences years earlier, making the process a restoration rather than an annual renewal. Liju said the government would withdraw the authority given to Deputy Excise Commissioners to grant new FL 3 licences through the renewal provision.

Kerala government will scrutinise 488 bar licences granted under previous LDF administrations and take action if any irregularities are identified.

On FL 7 licences for airport transit lounges, Liju alleged that the Excise Commissioner granted two at Cochin International Airport in June without informing the government. An Excise Deputy Commissioner was removed, while two others were suspended over decisions contrary to government policy.

Liju said the department would upload every order on its website to improve transparency.

Tamil Nadu's Cauvery water shortage raises festival concerns

MAYILADUTHURAI

The dry condition of the Cauvery River at Tula Ghat has raised concern ahead of the Kadai Muga Theerthavari festival scheduled for November 16. With thousands of devotees expected to visit the town from across the region for the annual event, social activist Appar Sundaram has urged the Tamil Nadu government to release water from Mettur Dam in advance.

The festival is held during the Aippasi month and includes a ceremonial procession of deities from prominent temples, including Mayuranathaswamy, Ayyarappar and Vadhanyeswarar, to the Cauvery riverbanks for the sacred Theerthavari. Devotees traditionally take a holy dip in the river, but the dry riverbed has raised doubts over whether the rituals can take place as usual.



Stagnant water on the dry bed of the Cauvery.

Sundaram said the Cauvery normally carries water during this period, but its flow has been severely reduced because of the low water level in Mettur Dam. He warned that the lack of water could affect thousands of pilgrims travelling long distances to Mayiladuthurai for the festival.

He appealed to the State government and Chief Minister to arrange an early release from the dam so that water reaches Tula Ghat before November 16. Sundaram said immediate action was needed to preserve the traditional significance of the event and ensure that devotees were not disappointed. He also stressed that the religious ceremonies should be conducted without disruption.

> **"With just 10 days remaining for the festival, we urge the government to immediately release water into the Cauvery to facilitate the celebrations."**
>
> — **Appar Sundaram,** social activist

Gujarat launches 101 buses ahead of Diwali



GSRTC staff at the launch of the new buses.

GANDHINAGAR

Gujarat Deputy Chief Minister Harsh Sanghavi on Friday inaugurated 101 new buses of the Gujarat State Road Transport Corporation (GSRTC), marking their entry into public service ahead of Diwali. The new vehicles are expected to improve passenger comfort, strengthen connectivity between rural and urban areas and make travel easier during the festive period.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by Minister of State for Transport Pravin Mali. In a departure from the usual protocol, Sanghavi invited GSRTC employees to participate in flagging off the entire fleet. Drivers, conductors and workshop staff joined the ceremony and formally launched the buses for public use, recognising the contribution of employees to the transport network.

Sanghavi also announced that GSRTC employees would receive half a month's salary in advance to help them meet expenses and celebrate Diwali. Before the programme, he interacted with drivers, conductors and workshop personnel, acknowledged their role in keeping services operational and extended festive and New Year greetings to employees and their families.

The event brought together representatives from the state and local administration. Gandhinagar Municipal Corporation Mayor Rupsinh Thakor, District Panchayat President Rajesh Patel, and legislators Alpesh Thakor and Rita Patel were among those present. Transport Department Principal Secretary Hareet Shukla, GSRTC Vice Chairman and Managing Director Dr Rajender Kumar, GSRTC Secretary Ravi Nirmal and corporation employees also attended.

Cyclone Arnab floods Ganjam market, traders suffer heavy losses

GANJAM

The aftermath of Cyclone Arnab has caused extensive damage in Aska market and surrounding areas of Odisha's Ganjam district, with floodwaters submerging the marketplace for three days and leaving traders and residents struggling to recover their losses.

Damage estimate

Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee president BC Das, who visited the affected areas, estimated that the damage across Ganjam district exceeded ₹5,000 crore. He called for a comprehensive recovery plan, emphasising that financial compensation alone would not address the long-term challenges. Das urged the government to provide adequate assistance and strengthen drainage infrastructure to prevent similar devastation in the future.

Traders count losses

Local traders have suffered substantial losses as floodwaters damaged stocks and commercial establishments. With goods becoming unsellable, shopkeepers are disposing of surviving merchandise at heavily reduced prices. Garments originally priced at around ₹400 are being sold for just ₹100 to ₹150. Trader Sarat Ghadei estimated his losses at ₹5 lakh to ₹6 lakh, while larger businesses reported even greater damage.

Homes under water

The flooding also affected residential areas, including concrete houses constructed under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. Fisherman Paresh Nayak said his newly built house, which received ₹2 lakh in government assistance, was completely submerged. Residents were forced to move to higher ground, with villagers helping rescue elderly people, women and children. Nayak said recovering lost livelihoods could take four to five years.

Encroachments blamed

Residents also blamed unauthorised constructions along a local drainage channel for obstructing the natural flow of water towards the river, worsening flooding in nearby settlements and farmland. Meanwhile, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi discussed relief, restoration and disaster-resilient infrastructure with Union Home Minister Amit Shah. An eight-member Central Inter-Ministerial Team also visited Odisha between November 2 and 4 to assess the cyclone damage.

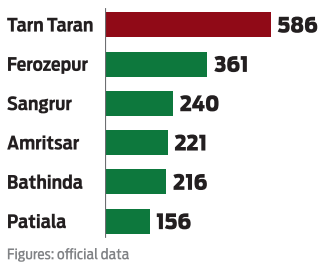
Punjab records 2,787 farm fires, 710 FIRs filed

CHANDIGARH

Punjab recorded 2,787 stubble-burning incidents between September 15 and November 5, 2026, with authorities registering 710 first information reports (FIRs) against those involved in the practice, according to official data. The figures highlight the continuing challenge of controlling farm fires during the paddy harvesting season.

Tarn Taran reported the highest number of incidents at 586, followed by Ferozepur with 361. Other districts also recorded significant cases, including Sangrur with 240, Amritsar with 221, Bathinda with 216 and Patiala with 156. The overall number of incidents had stood at 2,347 on November 4, indicating an increase of 440 cases by the following day.

Farm fires by district
Sept 15 to Nov 5



Figures: official data

Authorities have also initiated financial penalties to discourage farmers from burning crop residue. Environmental compensation exceeding ₹46 lakh has been imposed in 914 cases, while more than ₹24 lakh has been recovered so far. Police have registered 710 FIRs in connection with stubble-burning incidents as enforcement measures continue across the state.

The annual monitoring period for farm fires begins on September 15, ahead of the paddy procurement season, which starts on October 1. During this period, officials monitor agricultural fields and record incidents of crop-residue burning.

INDIGO FLIGHT DISRUPTIONS

IndiGo warns passengers of Hyderabad flight disruptions

HYDERABAD

IndiGo has issued a travel advisory after low visibility caused by adverse morning weather disrupted flight schedules at Rajiv Gandhi International Airport. The airline urged passengers to check their flight status through its official website before travelling and said it was closely monitoring weather conditions.



An IndiGo aircraft.

In a post on X on Friday, the airline said reduced visibility over Hyderabad had affected operations. It said its teams were making continuous efforts to help passengers reach their destinations safely and smoothly.

The India Meteorological Department forecast partly cloudy conditions in Hyderabad on Friday morning, with the possibility of rain, thunderstorms or dust storms. Similar conditions may continue over the next two days, according to the weather department. From November 9 to 12, Hyderabad is expected to experience partly cloudy skies accompanied by haze.

Weather and flights

HYDERABAD **Low visibility on Friday**	IMD FORECAST **Rain, thunderstorms possible**	NOV 9-12 **Partly cloudy, with haze**
VIJAYAWADA **8 flights cancelled, Nov 3**	CANCELLED **7 domestic, 1 international**	PASSENGERS **Check flight status online**

The latest advisory follows a separate disruption earlier this week at Vijayawada Airport. IndiGo cancelled eight flights scheduled for November 3 to and from the airport as a precautionary measure due to Cyclone Murasu, according to information shared by the Airport Public Relations Officer.

The cancellations affected seven domestic services and one international flight. The affected routes connected Vijayawada with major destinations, including Delhi, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Chennai, Kadapa and Singapore.

Quick Read

'Dhanteras expected to generate over Rs 1 lakh crore

MUMBAI

Dhanteras is expected to generate business worth more than Rs 1 lakh crore across the country on Friday, with gold and silver sales alone projected to exceed Rs 60,000 crore, the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) said. The trade body said festive buying activity remained strong, with consumers purchasing jewellery, silver coins and traditional gift items despite elevated prices of precious metals. According to the All India Jewellers and Goldsmith Federation (AIJGF), demand for lightweight jewellery, silver coins and traditional decorative items has increased, indicating that higher prices have not significantly dampened consumer enthusiasm.

Markets log longest winning streak in 3 years

MUMBAI

Indian equity benchmarks extended their winning streak to seven straight trading sessions on Friday, marking the first such run in three years, as heavy buying in banking heavyweights and select earnings-driven stocks lifted market sentiment. The Sensex jumped 1,718.01 points, or 2.17 per cent, to close at 81,028.02, while the Nifty advanced 493.75 points, or 2.01 per cent, to settle at 25,030.35. The rally helped the Nifty reclaim the psychologically important 25,000 level for the first time since February 27, 2026, while also recording its strongest closing level in nine months.



Vehicle retail sales rise 25% month-on-month

MUMBAI

India's automobile retail sector recorded 31,72,466 vehicle registrations in October, marking a 25.05% increase over September, although sales declined 23.80% compared to October 2025. The Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) said the year-on-year decline was largely due to an unusually high base last year, when Navratri and Diwali coincided in October.

The strongest performance came from the electric vehicle segment, which recorded an all-time high of approximately 3.55 lakh units, registering 44.88% year-on-year growth. Overall electric vehicle penetration increased to around 11.5% from approximately 6% a year earlier. Electric two-wheelers, three-wheelers, passenger vehicles and commercial vehicles all recorded their best-ever October sales.

According to FADA data, two-wheeler retail sales stood at 23,21,419 units, declining 28.35% year-on-year but increasing 29.67% over September. Passenger vehicle sales fell 14.23% compared to October 2025.

Commercial vehicles emerged as another strong performer, recording sales of 1,15,140 units, an increase of 2.29% year-on-year and 11.19% month-on-month.

India Strengthens Preparedness Against FMD SAT-1 Threat

India strengthened preparedness against FMD SAT-1 through a national exercise assessing surveillance, diagnostics, emergency vaccination and coordinated responses.

NEW DELHI

India has stepped up its preparedness against the potential entry of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) serotype SAT-1, a strain not yet reported in the country but increasingly monitored due to its spread beyond Africa into parts of West Asia.

The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD), in collaboration with the ICAR-National Institute of Veterinary Epidemiology and Disease Informatics (ICAR-NIVEDI), conducted a two-day national tabletop exercise to assess the country's readiness to tackle a possible outbreak.

Held under the theme "Detect Early, Confirm Fast, Contain Together," the exercise focused on strengthening disease surveillance, improving diagnostic capabilities and ensuring coordinated responses to potential incursions of the transboundary animal disease. The initiative aims to protect livestock health, farmers' livelihoods and India's broader livestock economy.



A total of 83 participants representing 25 states, three Union Territories and several national institutions took part in the exercise.

Participants examined simulated outbreak scenarios and assessed preparedness across critical areas, including early disease detection, laboratory diagnosis, epidemiological investigations, animal movement restrictions, emergency vaccination strategies and risk communication.

Animal Husbandry Commissioner Dr. Naveena B.M. highlighted the importance of advance planning, early detection, rapid response and coordination between central and state authorities.

ICAR-NIVEDI Director Dr. Baldev R. Gulati stressed the need for risk-based surveillance, epidemiological intelligence and effective early warning systems to address emerging disease threats.

India chalks out how to tackle FMD threat

- Two-day national tabletop exercise organised by DAHD and ICAR-NIVEDI
- 83 participants from 25 states and three Union Territories
- FMD SAT-1 has not been reported in India
- The strain has spread beyond Africa into parts of West Asia
- Focus on surveillance, diagnostics, vaccination and emergency response
- Officials called for stronger laboratory infrastructure and border vigilance

During the concluding session, DAHD Additional Secretary Rama Shankar Sinha called for stronger preparedness at the national and state levels, improved diagnostic infrastructure and expanded regional laboratory capabilities to ensure a coordinated response to any potential outbreak.

India targets higher fish production, productivity

NEW DELHI



Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Rajiv Ranjan Singh has called for further increasing India's fish production and productivity, stressing the need for measurable outcomes and stronger implementation of fisheries development programmes.

Chairing the 13th governing body meeting of the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) in Hyderabad, Singh appreciated the growth in fish production, which rose from 141.64 lakh tonnes in 2019-20 to 197.75 lakh tonnes. He urged the board to strengthen its role as a proactive development institution with greater outreach to fish farmers and closer coordination with states and Union Territories.

The minister emphasised timely completion and operationalisation of projects, along with effective utilisation of funds to improve fishers' incomes and livelihood security. He also called for focused support to northeastern and inland states to address gaps in production, supply and consumption and help them achieve self-sufficiency.

Dr. Abhilaksh Likhi, Secretary of the Department of Fisheries, highlighted the government's efforts to expand aquaculture and boost seafood exports, currently valued at approximately Rs 70,000 crore. He also stressed the need to strengthen NFDB's digital presence, simplify stakeholder support systems and encourage private investment through cooperatives, Fish Farmer Producer Organisations, start-ups and entrepreneurs.

State fisheries ministers sought continued central assistance for developing fish markets and Integrated Aqua Parks.

NCLT declares ex-Videocon promoter Venugopal Dhoot bankrupt

NEW DELHI

The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has declared former Videocon Industries promoter Venugopal Nandlal Dhoot bankrupt, paving the way for proceedings to recover outstanding dues of more than Rs 12,668 crore owed to State Bank of India (SBI).

A Mumbai bench of the tribunal admitted SBI's petition under Section 123 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), initiating bankruptcy proceedings against Dhoot in his capacity as a personal guarantor for loans extended to Videocon Group companies.

The decision follows the failure of Dhoot's personal insolvency resolution process after creditors rejected his proposed repayment plan. The tribunal appointed insolvency professional Asish Narayan as the bankruptcy trustee and directed that Dhoot's estate be vested in him for administration and distribution among creditors.

Key details

CREDITOR	State Bank of India
DUES	Rs 12,668.06 crore as of September 30
PLAN	Rs 600 crore over three years
SOURCE	Real estate project in Siliguri
TRUSTEE	Asish Narayan
INVOKED	February 2018, after loan defaults

According to SBI, Dhoot's outstanding liabilities amounted to Rs 12,668.06 crore, including interest and penalties, as of September 30.

SBI had invoked the personal guarantees in February 2018 following loan defaults by the group.

During the insolvency resolution process, Dhoot proposed repaying Rs 600 crore over three years through a proposed real estate development project in Siliguri. The proposed amount was less than one per cent of the admitted claims.

However, the resolution professional raised concerns over the proposal, citing its dependence on future project approvals, uncertain cash flows and the absence of any upfront payment.

Sber to present new 2027–29 strategy at Investor Day on Nov 12

NEW DELHI

On November 12, 2026, its 185th anniversary, Sber will hold Investor Day — the main event of the year for the investment community. The bank will sum up the results of the current strategy's implementation and present a new three-year strategy for 2027–2029.

Sber's current strategy for 2024–2026 focused on preparing for the transition to a human-centered business model and on developing artificial intelligence technologies. During Investor Day, the bank will share what has been achieved over the past three years, how Sber's business has changed, and what



goals and priorities will shape its development in the new strategic phase over the next three years.

The new strategy will be presented by the bank's executives: Herman Gref, CEO and chairman of the Executive Board, Alexander Vedyakhin, first deputy chairman of the Executive Board, Kirill Tsaryov, first deputy chairman of the Executive Board, Taras Skvortsov, CFO and deputy chairman of the Executive Board, and Andrey Belevtsev, senior vice president, head of Technological Development.

The focus will be on business development prospects, the role of technology and artificial intelligence in Sber's further transformation, and financial targets for the next three years.

The presentation will be followed by a Q&A session, during which Herman Gref will answer participants' questions. A live broadcast of Investor Day will be available on the event's website and in the Sber for Investors Telegram channel.

In March, Sber retained its lead among the most valued Russian banking brands in 2025.

Nov 12
Investor Day, 185th anniversary

2027–29
new three-year strategy

$4.8 bn
brand value in 2025

Smart meter installations must rise to 2.5 lakh a day, says report

NEW DELHI

India will need to accelerate smart meter installations to nearly 2.5 lakh meters per day to achieve its target of deploying 25 crore smart meters by March 2028, a report said on Friday.

The report noted that around 6.5 crore smart meters had been installed across the country as of April 2026, representing nearly one quarter of the target.

The required pace is more than 2.5 times the roughly 99,000 meters installed daily in FY26, while installation rates have improved significantly.

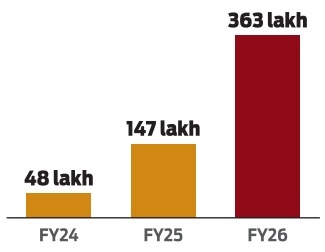
Maharashtra accounts for around 1.1 crore installations, or 17% of the cumulative total, while Maharashtra, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh together contribute nearly 47% of all installations. However, deployment remains uneven across states.



Uttar Pradesh has installed around 32% of its sanctioned volumes, compared with approximately 52% in Bihar, highlighting the importance of execution capabilities and state-level implementation in translating allocations into actual deployment.

The report estimated that full-scale smart meter deployment could generate cumulative additional revenue of approximately Rs 1.84 lakh crore over the five years ending FY31, through improved billing and collection efficiency and lower Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) losses.

Smart meters added
installed in the year



Figures: the report

Sector indicators have improved, with AT&C losses declining from 20.73% in FY20 to 15.04% in FY25.

Smart metering could raise billing efficiency to 97% to 98%, increase collection efficiency beyond 99% under prepaid models and reduce AT&C losses to around 12%.

Deepinder Goyal in face-off with doctors over wearable

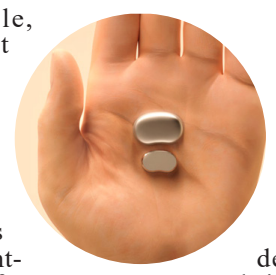
NEW DELHI

Temple, the wearable device startup founded by former Eternal CEO Deepinder Goyal, has come under scrutiny from doctors over its scientific claims, prompting the entrepreneur to publicly defend the product and reject allegations that it is misleading consumers. In a series of posts on social media platform X, Goyal said Temple's claims would be quickly tested by users once the device reaches customers, noting that the company offers a 14-day no-questions-asked return policy.

He said Temple has invested about $30 million in developing the wearable, including around $20 million of his own capital, saying that the scale of investment and long-term commitment behind the project run counter to suggestions that it is a fraudulent venture.

Goyal, who said he stepped away from his role as CEO of Eternal to focus on Temple, maintained that his reputation was tied to ensuring the science behind the product is accurate.

"Temple is a fitness tracker and wellness device. We are not a medical device."
— **Deepinder Goyal,** Founder, Temple



The comments come amid mounting criticism from doctors, led by hepatologist Cyriac Abby Philips, popularly known online as The Liver Doc.

Philips has publicly questioned Temple's scientific claims, particularly its ability to assess brain-related metrics through measurements from the superficial temporal artery.

In posts on X, Philips alleged that the company had not provided sufficient evidence to support claims related to brain blood flow and other advanced metrics.

He argued that existing public material and preprint research papers do not conclusively establish the device's claimed capabilities and accused the company of overstating the science behind the product.

COAL SECTOR REFORMS

Govt boosts mining sector with 20 new blocks

NEW DELHI

The fourth conference of mining ministers saw the launch of the 9th tranche of auctions for critical and strategic mineral blocks, offering 20 mineral blocks across eight states, and the unveiling of two digital platforms to strengthen data-driven governance, an official statement said on Friday.

The event also saw the launch of a third tranche of exploration licence auctions, comprising 11 exploration blocks across 6 states, unlocking the country's untapped mineral potential, the statement from the Ministry of Mines said.

Rare earth elements, graphite and vanadium were among the strategically important minerals covered by the critical and strategic mineral block auction.

ANVESH (Analytics and Navigation for Valuation, Evaluation and Strategic Headway in Mining) will facilitate access to and analysis of important mining-related data, including mineral production, despatch, sale quantities, average sale prices and imports and exports.



The conference also unveiled the ANVESH and EKAM portals

Minister of State for Coal and Mines Satish Chandra Dubey highlighted the importance of effective coordination between the Centre and states, strengthening exploration activities and addressing challenges in the mining sector.

Chief Minister of Goa, Dr. Pramod Sawant, highlighted the importance of the mining sector in Goa's economic development and emphasised sustainable mining practices, responsible resource utilisation and cooperation between the Centre and States.

Union Minister of Coal and Mines G. Kishan Reddy underscored the strategic importance of the mining and coal sectors in achieving the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047. He emphasised strengthening domestic mineral production, accelerating exploration, promoting processing, refining and recycling of critical minerals, adopting modern technologies and enhancing Centre–State cooperation.

Quick Read

TikTok faces EU scrutiny over algorithm

BRUSSELS

European Union regulators have accused TikTok of failing to protect users from harmful video recommendations, according to Reuters. Preliminary findings say its algorithm can repeatedly show content about sadness, isolation and body image, potentially harming mental health. The European Commission wants TikTok to change its For You feed, respect users' stated preferences, improve controls and regularly test recommendations. TikTok could face a fine of up to six per cent of global annual turnover if it fails to address the concerns raised.

Canada keeps core immigration targets steady

TORONTO

Canada will maintain annual permanent resident admissions at 380,000 from 2027 to 2029 under its latest immigration plan. Economic admissions will account for 244,700 places each year, reflecting the government's focus on growth and stability. An additional 200,000 permanent residence places are planned for 2027 as a temporary measure, divided between workers awaiting decisions and humanitarian cases. Indians were the largest nationality among economic immigrants, students and workers in 2025.

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf seeks urgent care for Khan

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has urged authorities to provide urgent medical care for jailed former Prime Minister Imran Khan, citing concerns about his health. Following reports of high blood pressure, the party's core committee alleged inadequate medical facilities and restrictions on meetings with relatives and personal doctors. It sought immediate examinations, diagnostic tests and his transfer to Shifa International Hospital. Khan has been imprisoned since August 2023.

Belgian King rejects resignation, urges budget deal

BRUSSELS

Belgium's King Philippe rejected Prime Minister Bart De Wever's resignation on Friday and urged him to restart budget talks after coalition leaders promised to make concessions. De Wever must report back to the King on November 16.

Rights groups condemn violence against Bangladesh workers

NEW YORK

Rights groups have condemned violence against protesting garment workers in Bangladesh, urging authorities to protect labour rights and investigate abuses. Workers demanding a monthly wage of Tk 30,000 have staged protests across industrial areas. Garment worker Toufiq Hossain reportedly died in a Dhaka hospital on November 3 after suffering injuries during unrest in Joydebpur, Gazipur.

Pope begins journey across 3 American nations

The pontiff will meet communities and national leaders during a journey connecting faith, public service and his deep regional ties.



The 12-day journey takes in ten cities across Uruguay, Argentina and Peru

VATICAN CITY

Pope Leo XIV left Rome on Friday for a 12-day visit to Uruguay, Argentina and Peru, beginning a journey that will take him to ten cities across Latin America.

The visit runs from November 6 to 17 and is his sixth international journey as pope, according to Vatican News. His aircraft departed from Rome's Fiumicino International Airport at 7:05 am, carrying journalists accompanying him.

Uruguay is the first stop. The Pope is scheduled to arrive at Montevideo's Carrasco International Airport at about 4:30 pm, where he will receive an official welcome.

His programme includes a welcome ceremony at Independence Square, followed by a meeting with government officials, members of civil society and diplomats. He will then visit Uruguay's president before leading evening prayers with bishops, priests, deacons, religious communities and seminarians at Montevideo's metropolitan cathedral.

During his stay in Uruguay, from November 6 to 8, he will also visit Paysandú and Florida.

The journey will continue in Argentina, with stops in Buenos Aires, Córdoba and Luján. Argentina was the homeland of his predecessor, Pope Francis, who did not return to the country during his papacy.

THE ROUTE

- **Rome** — Left Fiumicino at 7:05 am on Friday
- **Uruguay** — Nov 6-8: Montevideo, Paysandú, Florida
- **Argentina** — Buenos Aires, Córdoba, Luján
- **Peru** — Lima, Chiclayo, Cusco, Pucallpa

The final stage will bring Leo to Peru, where he served for years as a missionary and bishop. His itinerary includes Lima, Chiclayo, Cusco and Pucallpa, making this part of the journey a return to communities closely linked to his earlier life.

Vatican officials expect the tour to involve about twelve flights and nearly 40 addresses in Spanish.

India, Japan near 75 years of ties as business grows

TOKYO

India and Japan will mark 75 years of diplomatic relations in 2027, with growing business links adding another chapter to their partnership.

Japanese semiconductor component maker Tem Tech Lab is looking to expand its presence in India, according to report. The company sees opportunities in supplying components, maintaining factories and providing services.

Chief executive Jubee Aizawa said the company already reaches Indian customers through an American firm. Its participation in SEMICON India helped it recognise the size of the market.

Founded in 1982, Tem Tech focuses on sensor technology and system development. Aizawa said flexibility allows the company to respond to different customer needs.

Its pressure sensor range now includes more than 30 types, designed to work with different systems. Overseas business accounts for 70 per cent of sales, with customers in countries including the United States, South Korea, Taiwan, China and Malaysia.

The relationship has deep roots. India and Japan established diplomatic relations in 1952. Their economic cooperation grew over subsequent decades, with Japan beginning yen loans to India in 1958.



India and Japan established diplomatic relations in 1952

Japanese semiconductor firm Tem Tech sees opportunities in India as both countries prepare to celebrate decades of friendship and cooperation.

Both governments have agreed to celebrate 2027 as the Year of Shared Horizons. Planned anniversary activities will involve young people and encourage exchanges across the two countries.

The week of April 28 will be observed as Japan-India Week, while a logo and theme competition will invite public participation in imagining the partnership's future.

Pakistan's malnutrition crisis demands stronger joint action

FAISALABAD

More than 40 per cent of children and women in Pakistan face malnutrition, according to a report citing officials, who called for stronger cooperation to improve diets and tackle food insecurity.

Punjab Higher Education Commission Chairperson Professor Iqrar Ahmad Khan said growing more food alone would not solve the problem. Universities, researchers and development partners needed to work together on practical nutrition measures, he said.

Khan was speaking at the closing session of an international conference at the University of Agriculture Faisalabad. The Pak-Korea Nutrition Centre organized the event, which focused on partnerships and policy.

He explained that the centre initially concentrated on farm production, food supply and links between human, animal and environmental health. However, widespread malnutrition showed that these efforts also needed a clear focus on nutrition.

40%+

of children and women in Pakistan face malnutrition, officials say

The centre later widened its work to include improving skills, cutting food waste and finding practical answers to community problems.

Professor Imran Pasha, dean of the university's Faculty of Food, Nutrition and Home Sciences, urged federal and provincial authorities to develop a joint national plan with universities, research institutions and international partners.

He also proposed a Centre of Excellence in Nutrition at the university to support research, improve policies and bring institutions together.

Pasha said better monitoring was needed in places that influence what people eat, especially children. Such evidence could help authorities develop healthier food policies.

11 die as bus collides with truck in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD

At least 11 people were killed and 33 injured when a passenger bus collided with a truck near Pakpattan in Pakistan's Punjab province, according to media reports on Friday.

The bus was travelling from Multan to Kasur when it hit an oncoming truck on Depalpur Road, the district administration said in a statement.

Rescue 1122 said 11 people died at the scene. Eight others suffered minor injuries, while 25 were taken to hospitals in Pakpattan for treatment, Dawn reported.

Emergency workers spent three hours freeing people trapped in the wreckage. Cranes and other heavy machinery were brought in to help rescuers reach the victims.

The collision comes against a pattern of road accidents across Punjab.

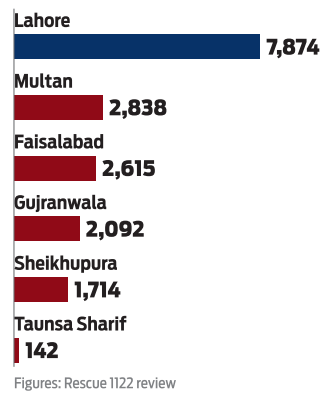
Figures presented at a Rescue 1122 review showed that 464 people died and 23,543 suffered serious injuries in 44,797 road crashes during October. Nearly three quarters of those incidents involved motorcycles, according to reports citing rescue officials.

Lahore recorded the highest number of crashes, with 7,874 incidents. Multan reported 2,838, followed by Faisalabad with 2,615 and Gujranwala with 2,092.

Sheikhupura recorded 1,714 crashes, while Taunsa Sharif reported 142.

The review also showed the pressure on emergency services beyond road accidents. Rescue teams handled 231,056 emergencies during October, including medical cases, fires and drownings, The Express Tribune reported.

Punjab road crashes, October



Figures: Rescue 1122 review

Liberman softens draft stance, opens coalition door

TEL AVIV

Yisrael Beyteinu leader Avigdor Liberman said on Friday he was ready to compromise on military service rules for ultra-Orthodox Jewish men and consider joining a government with their parties.

The shift reverses his opposition to such an alliance as political leaders seek a way forward after Israel's election.

Liberman indicated that he could support a government led by Yashar leader Gadi Eisenkot. However, he maintained that any coalition must avoid relying on the Arab parties, Ra'am and the Joint List.

In a statement on X, he set out three priorities: ending Benjamin Netanyahu's time in power, preventing another election and rejecting a government dependent on those parties. He said his party would vote against a government relying on their support or abstention.

On other matters, including the draft law, Liberman argued that compromise was necessary. He acknowledged that changing his position would upset supporters but said national interests had to come first.

Liberman's three priorities

1. Ending Benjamin Netanyahu's time in power
2. Preventing another election
3. No government dependent on the Arab parties

The draft dispute concerns military service for ultra-Orthodox men, an issue on which Liberman has demanded change.

He also warned that a minority government could prove unstable and allow Netanyahu to return stronger.

Citing the Bennett-Lapid government formed in 2021, which lasted just over a year, he argued that another short-lived administration could produce a similar outcome.



Baloch disappearances spark calls for independent probe

BALOCHISTAN

Reports that at least 26 people have disappeared in Kech district, alongside the discovery of four previously missing men's bodies in Balochistan, have prompted demands for independent investigations.

The Balochistan Post reported that five men from one extended family were allegedly taken away during raids in Batt, Buleda.

Local sources accused Pakistani military personnel and intelligence officials of assaulting relatives before detaining Younus Khaliq, Mahboob Baloch, Mujahid Baloch, Abdul Rahim and Balach Khan. Their whereabouts remain unknown, according to the report.

The raids followed a reported military operation in Kolwah last week. Twenty-one people allegedly detained during that operation had been identified, while details of others remained unclear.

Australia opens Maitri grants, strengthening India ties

CANBERRA

Australia has opened applications for its 2026-27 Maitri Grants and Fellowships, offering support for projects and research that build connections with India.

Foreign Minister Penny Wong said the programmes would expand cooperation across business, culture, education, research and sport.

Run by the Centre for Australia-India Relations, the Maitri initiatives have supported more than 110 projects since the centre was established in 2023. Maitri means friendship in Sanskrit.

The grants will support exchanges and joint projects involving communities and organisations in both countries. They will also help put Australia's roadmap for economic engagement with India into practice.

The fellowships will fund Australian organizations to host Australian or Indian researchers working on policy questions involving strategy and economic relations.

DID YOU KNOW?

Maitri means friendship in Sanskrit. The Maitri initiatives have supported more than 110 projects since the Centre for Australia-India Relations was set up in 2023.

Priority areas include clean energy, education, technology, agriculture-related business and tourism.

Wong said economic, policy and cultural connections with India were important for Australia's economic security and prosperity. She highlighted the partnership's role in supporting peace and stability across the region.

Applications opened on November 5, according to the centre's programme pages.

For grants, organizations must submit concept notes by 5 pm Australian Eastern Daylight Time on December 14. Fellowship applications close at the same time on February 15, 2027.

INDIA-SPAIN TALKS

Margherita meets Albares to strengthen bilateral ties

MADRID

Minister of State for External Affairs Pabitra Margherita met Spanish Foreign Minister José Manuel Albares in Madrid, discussing ways to strengthen relations between India and Spain.

The meeting took place alongside the 30th Summit of the Ibero-American Conference, as India joined the grouping as an Associate Observer.



India has joined the Ibero-American Conference as an Associate Observer

In a message posted on X on Friday, Margherita welcomed the reception from Albares and expressed interest in building closer links with the wider Ibero-American community.

The conference brings together 22 member countries, including 19 from Latin America and three European nations: Spain, Portugal and Andorra. It also has 12 Associate Observers and 20 Consultative Observers.

In focus

- Margherita met Spain's foreign minister to discuss stronger bilateral ties
- India joined the Ibero-American Conference as an Associate Observer

Margherita held talks with his Colombian and Bolivian counterparts during the visit.

Earlier, on Wednesday, Margherita addressed a ministerial dialogue involving Associate and Consultative Observers, hosted by Albares. He thanked the Latin American community for supporting India's inclusion in the grouping.

India's observer role creates another channel for dialogue with countries across the region, while the meetings allowed Margherita to discuss areas of cooperation with individual partners.

Premier League demands constant focus: Alonso



NEW DELHI

Chelsea manager Xabi Alonso has described the Premier League as one of the most demanding football competitions, stressing that no team can afford to lose concentration at any stage of a match.

Alonso said the quality of teams and players across the English top flight makes every fixture challenging, regardless of the opponent's position in the standings.

Chelsea have made a positive start to the 2026-27 Premier League season, occupying fourth place with 16 points from nine matches. However, Alonso acknowledged that his team still needs to improve defensively.

He said conceding goals had become an area of concern and stressed that reducing defensive mistakes was essential for the club's progress. According to him, several goals conceded this season resulted from individual errors rather than opponents successfully breaking through Chelsea's defensive structure. Alonso called for greater compactness, improved decision-making and stronger performances in individual duels. He also emphasised that defending should not be considered the responsibility of defenders alone, as it begins with the forwards and their pressing efforts.

The Chelsea manager also spoke about England international Cole Palmer's role in the team's attacking setup. He identified the central attacking midfield position as Palmer's most effective role.

Alonso explained that Palmer could create scoring opportunities, deliver decisive passes and make dangerous runs when operating between the opposition's midfield and defensive lines.

The manager expressed confidence that Chelsea would continue improving through consistent preparation, collective responsibility and better performances in both defence and attack.



Nayar doubts Kohli can reach century milestone

NEW DELHI

Former India assistant coach Abhishek Nayar believes Virat Kohli may not have enough matches before the 2027 ODI World Cup to reach the landmark of 100 international centuries. Although he hopes the batting star achieves the feat, Nayar feels the limited number of opportunities could make it difficult.

Nayar discussed Kohli's prospects alongside former India batter Cheteshwar Pujara. Kohli currently holds the record for the most centuries in men's ODI cricket, with 55 hundreds. He surpassed Sachin Tendulkar's previous record of 49 centuries and became the first batter to score 50 ODI hundreds during the 2023 World Cup semi-final against New Zealand in Mumbai.

Nayar said the number of matches available before the next World Cup might not be sufficient for Kohli to reach 100 international centuries. He also pointed out that Kohli's motivation after the 2027 tournament could be different.

The discussion also focused on India's search for another seam-bowling all-rounder to support Hardik Pandya. Nayar suggested grooming an additional option who could play alongside Hardik, providing greater batting depth and flexibility, particularly on overseas tours to New Zealand and South Africa.

He also backed the revival of tri-nation and quadrangular ODI tournaments, saying they would make matches more competitive and improve fan engagement. Nayar recalled memorable multi-nation contests, including Sachin Tendulkar's famous performance against Australia in Sharjah.

Pujara agreed that India should develop Nitish Kumar Reddy as a backup for Hardik, considering the latter's fitness concerns.

Russell opens up after Antonelli's historic triumph

SAO PAULO

Mercedes driver George Russell has opened up about his disappointment after watching teammate Kimi Antonelli secure his maiden Formula One world championship, admitting that he wanted to leave the venue following another frustrating race affected by technical problems.

Antonelli became the youngest Formula One world champion after finishing third at the Mexico City Grand Prix. His points tally of 380 made him uncatchable with four races remaining in the season.

Russell congratulated Antonelli and his family on the historic achievement but left the scene without attending the post-race media commitments. He finished sixth after starting from second position, with deployment issues affecting his performance.

Speaking ahead of the Brazilian Grand Prix in Sao Paulo, Russell said he was extremely disappointed, particularly because another promising result had slipped away due to circumstances beyond his control.

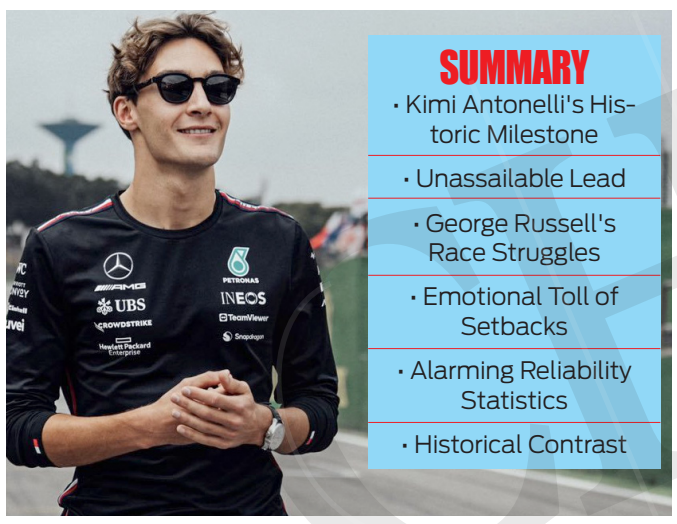
He described the season as a continuous cycle of setbacks and recovery, saying the repeated problems had taken an emotional toll. He admitted that after the Mexico race, he simply wanted to leave and spend time away from the disappointment.

Russell also revealed the extent of Mercedes' technical difficulties this season. According to him, a review with his race engineer showed that the team had encountered problems in 14 races, while only six races passed without any issues.

He compared this record with previous seasons, saying that he had generally experienced only two problematic races annually, while the team faced four such races in 2023.

Despite the difficult campaign, Russell said he was ready to return to competition after four days of recovery. He emphasised the importance of resilience, adding that difficult seasons should not define an individual's career.

He expressed determination to overcome the setbacks and return stronger for the remaining races.



SUMMARY

- Kimi Antonelli's Historic Milestone
- Unassailable Lead
- George Russell's Race Struggles
- Emotional Toll of Setbacks
- Alarming Reliability Statistics
- Historical Contrast

Mumbai City FC parts ways with Marquez

NEW DELHI

Mumbai City FC and head coach Manolo Marquez have mutually agreed to part ways for the remainder of the 2026-27 Indian Super League (ISL) season following the club's disappointing start to the campaign.

The club announced the decision on Friday after failing to secure a victory in its opening four matches. Mumbai City suffered defeats against Churchill Brothers and Sporting Club Delhi, while managing draws against Kerala Blasters and Punjab FC.

Marquez, who joined the Mumbai-based club ahead of the current season on a one-year contract, will now end his association with the Islanders. The management expressed confidence in the existing squad and said its priority was to improve performances in the upcoming matches.



In an official statement, Mumbai City FC confirmed that the decision was mutually agreed upon. The club also indicated that it would continue its campaign with the current squad while exploring opportunities to strengthen the team.

Director of Football Sujay Sharma said the club was navigating a new phase in Indian football and remained focused on supporting the first team and achieving its objectives for the season. He added that further updates regarding the squad and coaching arrangements would be communicated through official channels.

The club also stated that neither party would make further comments on the matter.

Marquez brought considerable experience in Indian football to Mumbai City. He guided Hyderabad FC to their maiden ISL title during the 2021-22 season before taking charge of FC Goa, where he won back-to-back Super Cup titles and led the team in the AFC Champions League Two campaign.

The Spanish coach also served as head coach of the Indian national football team alongside his club responsibilities.

His departure comes as Mumbai City look to revive their campaign and improve their position in the ongoing ISL season.

CABI announces squad for Women's T20 series

GURUGRAM

The Cricket Association for the Blind in India (CABI) has announced a 17-member Indian women's squad for the upcoming five-match bilateral T20 series against Nepal, scheduled to be held from December 2 to 8 at The Ball Park Cricket Ground in Gurugram.

The series, titled the Women's T20 Cricket Series for the Visually Impaired, will mark the return of India's reigning world champions to international cricket on home soil.

The Indian team will face Nepal following their memorable encounter in the inaugural Women's T20 Blind Cricket World Cup, where India defeated Nepal to claim the historic championship title. The upcoming series is expected to provide both teams with valuable international exposure and an opportunity to showcase their talent.

Ahead of the competition, the Indian women's blind cricket team will attend an intensive coaching camp in Gurugram beginning November 16. The camp will focus on improving cricketing skills, physical fitness, tactical preparation, team combinations and match readiness.

CABI Chairman Mahantesh G. Kivadasannavar said the series would provide players with valuable international experience and help strengthen women's blind cricket in India. He also thanked IIFL Home Finance Limited for supporting the initiative.

Girish Kousgi, Managing Director and CEO of IIFL Home Finance, said the organisation was proud to support the world champion athletes through its corporate social responsibility partnership with Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled.

The initiative reflects the joint efforts of CABI, Samarthanam Trust and IIFL Home Finance to promote inclusive sports and create greater opportunities for visually impaired women athletes.

AARYAVIR SEHWAG POWERS INDIA TO DOMINANT VICTORY

OMAN

India Under-19 began their campaign in the ACC Men's U-19 Asia Cup 2026 with a convincing 10-wicket victory over Nepal at the Al Amerat Cricket Ground on Friday.



An unbeaten half-century from Aaryavir Sehwag and a disciplined bowling performance helped India register a commanding win.

After winning the toss, India elected to bowl and restricted Nepal to 128 runs in 42.3 overs. India's bowlers maintained pressure throughout the innings, preventing Nepal from building substantial partnerships.

Ishan Sood led the attack with an impressive spell of three wickets for 18 runs in his 10 overs, including four maiden overs. He struck early, dismissing Prashiddha Jaishi, Suryanshu Koirala and Nischal Chhetri to reduce Nepal to 27 for three.

Arjun Rajput also claimed three wickets for eight runs, while Yashveer Goud picked up two wickets. Manal Chauhan and Kavya Patel took one wicket each.

For Nepal, Darsh Sonar was the highest scorer with 43 runs off 93 deliveries. Wicket-keeper-batter Aashish Luhar contributed 29 runs off 45 balls, but their efforts could not prevent Nepal from being bowled out for 128.

India made light work of the 129-run target, reaching 129 without losing a wicket in just 19.1 overs. Aaryavir Sehwag, son of former India opener Virender Sehwag, remained unbeaten on 70 off 52 deliveries, hitting seven fours and four sixes. Captain Lakshya Rajesh Raichandani provided excellent support with an unbeaten 53 off 63 balls.

Brook targets higher fitness standards ahead of Australia series

AUSTRALIA

England captain Harry Brook has emphasised the need to improve the team's fitness, preparation and performance standards ahead of the upcoming white-ball series against Australia, as the side begins its preparations for next year's ODI World Cup in Africa.

England are scheduled to play three One-Day Internationals (ODIs) and five Twenty20 Internationals (T20Is) against Australia Down Under. Brook believes the series will provide an important opportunity to strengthen the team's skills, improve physical conditioning and build consistency ahead of the global tournament.

With the World Cup just 12 months away, Brook said England must focus on learning from previous experiences and developing into one of the fittest and strongest teams in international cricket.

He also stressed that while victories cannot always be guaranteed, players and support staff can take responsibility for improving their preparations away from the field. Better preparation, he believes, can contribute significantly to winning matches.



SGIS Kolhapur clinch ISSO National U-17 Cricket championship

GURUGRAM

Sanjay Ghodawat International School (SGIS), Kolhapur, has emerged as the champion of the International Schools Sports Organisation (ISSO) National Under-17 Boys Cricket Tournament 2026.

The six-day championship was held at Pathways World School in Gurugram from Oct 30 to Nov 4. A total of 96 players representing six teams from leading international schools across the country participated in the tournament. Sanjay Ghodawat International School delivered an impressive performance in the final, displaying composure, teamwork and tactical skills to lift the championship trophy.

The host institution, Pathways World School, Gurugram, secured the runners-up position, while Genesis Global School, Noida, finished third. Several young cricketers were also recognised for their outstanding performances during the tournament. Shlok Nitin of Sanjay Ghodawat International School was adjudged Man of the Match in the final. His teammate Samarveer received the Best All-Rounder award.

Arjun of Genesis Global School was named Best Batsman. Karanvir Singh of Pathways World School received the Best Bowler award, while his teammate Ahaan Pasricha was recognised as the Best Wicket-Keeper.

ISSO Director Gaurav Dixit said school-level sporting competitions play an important role in developing confidence, discipline, resilience and teamwork among students. He highlighted the growing interest in cricket among international school students. ISSO Administration Head Abhishek Saraswat also appreciated the participating teams and the host institution for successfully organising the championship.

The tournament concluded with a trophy presentation and medal distribution ceremony, celebrating the achievements of the winning teams and individual performers.

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