CITY HILIGHTS

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The Truth Speaks

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P7 India Strengthens Preparedness Against FMD SAT-1 Threat

P11 Pope begins journey across 3 American nations



P12 Nayar doubts Kohli can reach century milestone



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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 a probe,

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.



November 3.

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 Indushekhar 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 and dumped their bodies in different parts, sources added.

Drought: K'taka seeks ₹22k cr 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

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.

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."

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)

Modi: Make a commitment to better health this Dhanteras

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 a post on social media platform X, 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 said.

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



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





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

On this Deepavali, let's light Environment-friendly clay lamps and minimize the bursting of crackers. Deepavali is the festival of lights, Let us avoid Air & Noise pollution.

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

Published in the Public Interest: **Karnataka State Pollution Control Board**
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Shri B.Shivanna
Chairman, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board
MLA, Anekal Assembly Constituency

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	LATER
₹3,000 cr	₹26,000 cr
in the state's first request	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

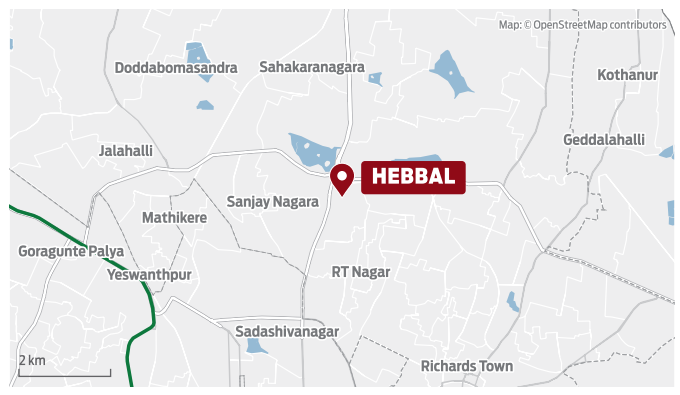
- **3** workers killed
- **4** critically injured
- **17** people at the site

Traffic chaos hits Bengaluru as Hebbal route closes

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

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.



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

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.

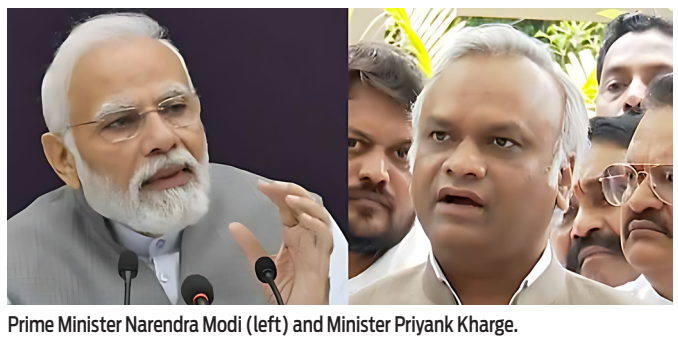
THE DEGREE DEBATE

Kharge defends qualifications against BJP criticisms

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

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.


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

> **"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

Mangaluru Police seize 3.8 kg ganja, arrest youth

CH NEWS, MANGALURU

Mangaluru City Police have arrested a 23-year-old man and seized 3.8 kg of ganja allegedly in his possession. The arrested person has been identified as Mohammed Nisar. The seizure was made during an operation conducted by the police as part of their efforts to curb drug trafficking in the city. City Police Commissioner Sudheer Kumar Reddy C.H. confirmed the arrest and seizure. Further investigation is underway to determine the source of the narcotics and whether the accused was involved in a larger drug supply network.

Three policemen booked for alleged extortion

CH NEWS, MANGALURU

Three personnel attached to Pandeshwar police station have been booked for allegedly assaulting, threatening and extorting money from an electrician. The complainant, Raviraj, alleged that the personnel repeatedly stopped him on August 25 and 27 and November 4, assaulted him, seized his mobile phone and demanded money. He claimed they forcibly collected a total of Rs 4,000 after threatening to implicate him in a criminal case. The accused have been identified as Hiranna Benni, Shivraj and Umanath. Raviraj has sought legal action against them.

Bhatia questions Congress over SIR opposition

Bhatia criticized the Congress for opposing the electoral roll revision while contradicting its own claims of constitutional violations regarding SIR.

CH NEWS, MANGALURU



BJP leaders at the press conference in Mangaluru.

BJP National Spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia has taken on the Congress over its opposition to the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, asking whether Kerala Chief Minister V.D. Satheesan should step down if the party considers the exercise unconstitutional.

Taking aim at the Congress and its political stand on SIR, Bhatia questioned the consistency of the opposition's arguments. He asked why the Congress was opposing the electoral roll revision while its leaders were making allegations that the exercise violated constitutional principles.

The BJP spokesperson argued that the opposition's criticism raised questions about its understanding of constitutional procedures and democratic institutions. He challenged the Congress to explain its position.

The SIR exercise has emerged as a major political issue, with opposition parties alleging that the revision could lead to the exclusion of eligible voters from electoral rolls. The Congress and its INDIA bloc allies have demanded that the exercise be withdrawn, raising concerns about transparency, voter rights and the Election Commission's functioning.

The BJP, meanwhile, has defended the revision, maintaining that updating electoral rolls is necessary to ensure accuracy and remove discrepancies.

Bhatia's remarks come amid an intensifying political confrontation between the BJP and the Congress over electoral reforms and the role of the Election Commission. His challenge has added another dimension to the debate.

The controversy continues to draw attention across the country, with both sides presenting contrasting arguments over the legality, purpose and implementation of SIR.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Opposition fears eligible voter exclusion
- BJP defends electoral roll revision
- Congress demands exercise withdrawal
- Debate centers on democratic institutions

The SIR row explained

Q What is SIR?
A The Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls by the Election Commission.

Q What is Bhatia's challenge?
A Whether Kerala Chief Minister V.D. Satheesan should step down if the Congress considers the exercise unconstitutional.

Advocate files SIT complaint against Thimarodi,Vittal Gowda

CH NEWS, MANGALURU

High Court advocate Amruthesh has filed a complaint with the Special Investigation Team (SIT), seeking an investigation into Mahesh Shetty Thimarodi and Vittal Gowda over the statements they allegedly made about the Belthangady rape and murder case.

In his complaint, Amruthesh has requested the SIT to investigate public statements made by the duo, in which they allegedly claimed that the release of Santhosh Rao, the accused in the case, was facilitated through monetary payments to the public prosecutor, the presiding judge and other lawyers.

Probe sought

The advocate has urged the investigating agency to examine the allegations and establish whether there is any truth behind the claims made by Thimarodi and Gowda.

The complaint reportedly focuses on the serious nature of the allegations against individuals associated with the judicial proceedings. Amruthesh has sought an appropriate investigation into the statements and the circumstances under which they were made.

The allegations, if substantiated, could raise serious questions about the conduct of the legal proceedings. However, the claims regarding payments to the public prosecutor, judge and lawyers remain allegations.

Renewed attention

The complaint has brought renewed attention to the case, which has continued to attract public interest and debate over the years.

The rape and murder triggered widespread protests and demands for justice. Santhosh Rao, who faced trial in the case, was subsequently acquitted by the court.

The latest complaint seeks to bring the allegations made by Thimarodi and Gowda under the scrutiny of the SIT. Further developments will depend on the action taken by the investigation team and the findings of any inquiry.

Shivamogga Airport flights to be suspended from November 21

With IndiGo and SpiceJet gone, Star Air has halted bookings, ending its flight services from the airport soon.

CH NEWS, SHIVAMOGGA

Air connectivity to Shivamogga, a key gateway to the Malenadu region, is set to suffer a major setback as all commercial flight services from Shivamogga Airport are expected to be suspended from November 21.

Star Air, the last remaining airline operating from the airport, has reportedly stopped accepting bookings and is preparing to discontinue its services from the date. Earlier, IndiGo suspended its Shivamogga-Bengaluru flights from May 1, while SpiceJet stopped operations on June 9.

The suspension is reportedly linked to the expiry of financial assistance under the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS-UDAN), coupled with rising operational expenses and inadequate passenger numbers.

The lack of sufficient demand has made it difficult for airlines to sustain their services without government support.

The airport reportedly employs more than 200 staff members, while monthly salary and maintenance expenses amount to approximately Rs 95 lakh, adding to the financial burden.

Reacting to the development, Shivamogga MP B.Y. Raghavendra said the suspension of commercial flights would be temporary. He stated that the Central Government was preparing the UDAN-6 scheme and that the Karnataka Government had submitted a proposal seeking 10 new flight routes from Shivamogga.

He expressed hope that flight services would resume within the next two months.

The likely suspension has caused concern among passengers and tourism stakeholders.



Shivamogga Airport. All commercial flights from it are expected to be suspended from November 21.

The airport, built with substantial public investment, plays an important role in improving connectivity and promoting tourism in the Malenadu region. A prolonged shutdown could affect business travel, tourism and regional development.

Airlines pull out

- **MAY 1** — IndiGo suspends its Shivamogga-Bengaluru flights
- **JUNE 9** — SpiceJet stops operations
- **NOVEMBER 21** — Star Air, the last airline, set to end services

Diwali celebrated with children at Bijai Anganwadi

CH NEWS, MANGALURU



Children at the Bijai Kapikad Anganwadi with the eco-friendly bags given out at the Diwali celebrations.

Diwali was celebrated with enthusiasm at the Bijai Kapikad Anganwadi School in Mangaluru, bringing festive cheer to the young children.

As part of the celebrations, sweets, traditional earthen lamps (diyas) and eco-friendly bags provided by the Adani Group were distributed among the children.

Speaking on the occasion, Yatish N. Bangera, president of the Karnataka State Judo Sports Association, said that celebrating Diwali with an emphasis on environmental protection conveyed a positive message to society.

He highlighted the importance of celebrating festivals responsibly while creating awareness about environmental conservation among children from an early age. He also appreciated the initiative to distribute eco-friendly bags and traditional earthen lamps as part of the celebrations.

Duke Ahluwalia, vice-president of the Beach Games Federation of India and the Women's Football Federation of India, extended his Diwali greetings and wished that the festival of lights would bring renewed enthusiasm, happiness and prosperity into everyone's lives. He encouraged everyone to celebrate the occasion with joy and enthusiasm. He also assured that all necessary support for the education of children studying at the Anganwadi centre would be extended.

The celebrations provided an opportunity for the children to understand the significance of Diwali and experience the spirit of sharing and togetherness. Srinivas Nayak Indaje, member of the State Executive Committee of the Karnataka Union of Working Journalists, judo coach Harshit Mendon, schoolteacher Nanda and assistant teacher Lakshmi were present. The programme concluded on a cheerful note, with the distribution of festive gifts bringing smiles to the faces of the children.

Controversial grave inscription sparks tension in Chikkamagaluru

CH NEWS, CHIKKAMAGALURU

Tensions have escalated in Indavara locality of Chikkamagaluru after controversial anti-Kalma inscriptions were found on the grave of a follower of Pakistani-origin religious figure Riaz Ahmed Gohar Shahi.

The incident has sparked anger among Muslim community leaders, who have demanded immediate action.

Rizwan, who died last year, was buried at the Indavara burial ground despite opposition from some local residents over his association with Gohar Shahi. The controversy resurfaced recently when his family members placed a green cloth (chadar) over his grave and began constructing a tomb structure.

Community members alleged that the original Kalma inscription on the grave had been altered and replaced with words opposing the Islamic creed. The development triggered strong objections, with several Muslim leaders demanding the removal of the disputed writings and the green cloth.

Gohar Shahi is regarded as controversial by sections of the global Muslim community, which considers his teachings contrary to Islamic beliefs. His followers have also faced opposition in several places.

The latest incident led to a heated exchange between Rizwan's brother, Barkath, and Muslim community leaders. Expressing concern over the inscriptions, community representatives approached Chikkamagaluru Superintendent of Police Jitendra Kumar Dayama and submitted a complaint.

They urged the police to intervene immediately, remove the controversial inscriptions and prevent the situation from escalating further. The issue has heightened tensions in the locality, with authorities being urged to maintain peace and communal harmony.

DSS demands appeal against reservation verdict

CH NEWS, SHIVAMOGGA

15 → 17%	3 → 7%	56%
SC quota hike	ST quota hike	total reservation

Activists of the Karnataka Dalit Sangharsha Samithi (DSS) staged a sit-in protest in front of the Deputy Commissioner's office in Shivamogga on Friday, demanding that the State Government immediately challenge the High Court verdict quashing the increased reservation for Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) in the Supreme Court.

Before staging the dharna, the activists formed a human chain at Mahaveera Circle to draw public attention to their demands.

Ninth Schedule sought

Addressing the protesters, DSS State Convener M. Gurumurthy urged the State Government to lead an all-party delegation to New Delhi and put pressure on Prime Minister Narendra Modi to ensure constitutional protection for the increased reservation by including it in the Ninth Schedule.

He recalled that the previous BJP government had increased SC reservation from 15 to 17 per cent and ST reservation from 3 to 7 per cent based on the recommendations of the Nagamohan Das Commission, taking the total reservation to 56 per cent. However, the High Court's October 12 verdict striking down the increase had caused concern among these communities, he said.

The organisation also placed 15 demands before the government. These included conferring the Karnataka Ratna award on DSS founder Prof. B. Krishnappa and observing his June 9 birthday as an official government event.

Other demands included providing housing sites to landless families, regularising land cultivated by Bagair Hukum farmers, protecting SCSP/TSP funds from diversion, and filling backlog vacancies.

The protesters also sought ₹25 lakh compensation and government employment for families of SC/ST atrocity victims, release of pending corporation scheme funds, regularisation of contract employees, and an increase in monthly pensions for Devadasis and widows to ₹5,000. They further demanded raising hostel students' food allowance to ₹3,000.

District Convener M. Elukoti, Bommanakatte Krishna, Narayana, Ramesh Chikmaradi, Harige Ravi, Hasvi Basavaraj and several other activists participated.

JOURNALISTS PAY TRIBUTE TO SENIOR MEDIA VETERANS

CH NEWS, MANGALURU

A condolence and tribute meeting was organised at Patrika Bhavan (Press House) in Mangaluru on Friday to honour the memory of senior journalists Ramachandra Rao and J.K. Rai of Sullia, who passed away recently.

The programme was jointly organised by the Dakshina Kannada Working Journalists' Union (Regd.), Mangaluru Press Club and Patrika Bhavan Trust.

Journalists and representatives of various media organisations gathered to pay their respects and remember the contributions of the two senior journalists to the field of journalism.

The speakers recalled the services and dedication of the departed journalists and acknowledged their contributions to the media fraternity. They also expressed their condolences to the bereaved families and prayed for peace to the departed souls.

Pushparaj B.N., president of the Dakshina Kannada Working Journalists' Union, P.B. Harish Rai, president of the Mangaluru Press Club, and Annu Mangaluru, president of the Patrika Bhavan Trust, were among those present.

Srinivas Nayak Indaje, member of the State Executive Committee of the Karnataka Union of Working Journalists, also attended the programme.

Lokesh Perlampadi, president of the Sullia Taluk Journalists' Union, senior journalists Bhaskar Rai Katta and Guru Raj Paniyadi, District Union Treasurer Vijaya Kotian and Secretary Suresh D. Palli participated in the tribute meeting. Satish Ira and executive committee members Ashok Shetty B.N., Kiran Sirsikar, Girish Adpangaya and Harish Motukana were also present, along with several other members of the journalist community.

MUTT THEFT CASE

Police search for Balekudru seer after FIR over idol sale

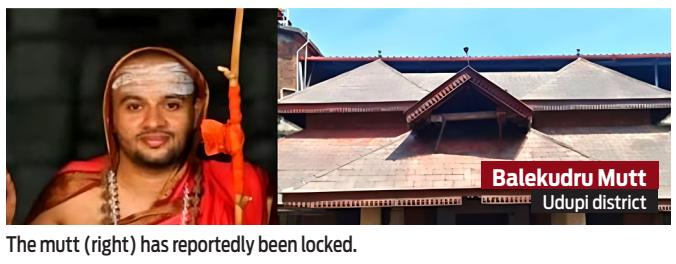
CH NEWS, UDUPI

The head of Balekudru Mutt, Sri Vasudeva Sadashivashrama Swamiji, has reportedly gone missing after Bengaluru police registered an FIR against him and four others over the alleged theft and sale of ancient idols belonging to the mutt.

The case was registered at Basaveshwaranagar police station following a complaint by Jagadish Aithal, a disciple of the mutt. The other accused include administrative officer Anil Kumar Madhyastha, staff members Jayalakshmi and Shreyas, and Bengaluru antiques dealer Nagendra Prasad. Police have reportedly taken the antiques dealer into custody for questioning.

According to the complaint, several valuable idols used for daily worship at the mutt were allegedly stolen and sold to an antiques shop in Bengaluru in 2025. The idols reportedly include Vallabha Ganapathi, believed to date back to the sixth or seventh century, Shakthi Ganapathi, Lakshmi Narasimha from the Vijayanagara period and a 12th-century Mahishamardini Devi idol.

The complaint further alleges that replicas were subsequently made and placed in the mutt for worship, while the original idols were sold. Police are investigating the allegations.



The mutt (right) has reportedly been locked.

Meanwhile, the mutt was reportedly locked, and the Swamiji, administrative officer and staff members were said to have left the premises. Police have launched a search for the seer.

The closure has angered devotees, who alleged that traditional three-time daily pujas were disrupted and local worshippers were denied entry. Members of the Mutt Protection Committee have demanded the restoration of regular rituals and a comprehensive investigation.

Devotees have also sought details about the missing idols, their present whereabouts and the alleged sale. They have urged authorities to investigate whether the case has any connection with an international antique idol-smuggling network.

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.

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.



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

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.

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.

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

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.

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.

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.

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

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.

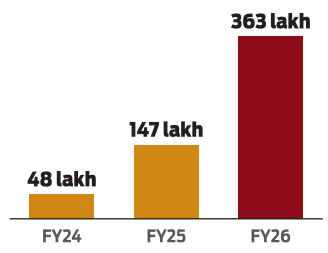
Maharashtra accounts for around 1.1 crore installations, or 17% of the cumulative total, while Maharashtra, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh together contribute nearly 47% of all installations. However, deployment remains uneven across states.



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

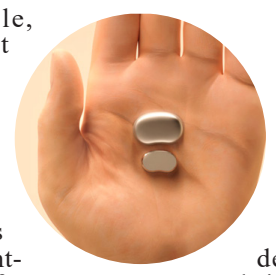
NEW DELHI

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.

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.**

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.

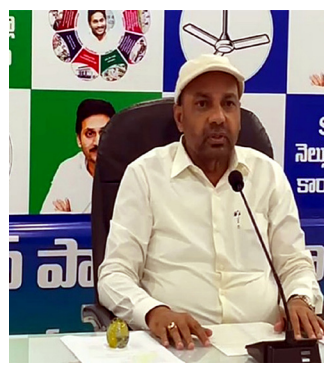
YSRCP demands fresh polls over alleged election irregularities

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

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

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 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.

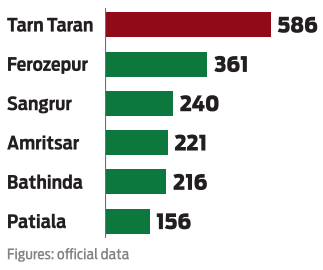
Punjab records 2,787 farm fires, 710 FIRs filed

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

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.

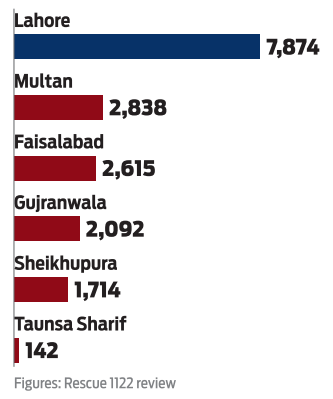
Figures presented at a Rescue 1122 review showed that 464 people died and 23,543 suffered serious injuries in 44,797 road crashes during October. Nearly three quarters of those incidents involved motorcycles, according to reports citing rescue officials.

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.

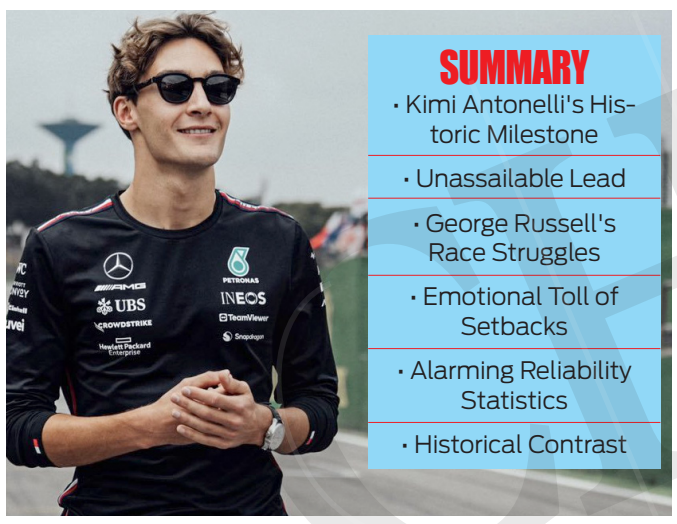
He described the season as a continuous cycle of setbacks and recovery, saying the repeated problems had taken an emotional toll. He admitted that after the Mexico race, he simply wanted to leave and spend time away from the disappointment.

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

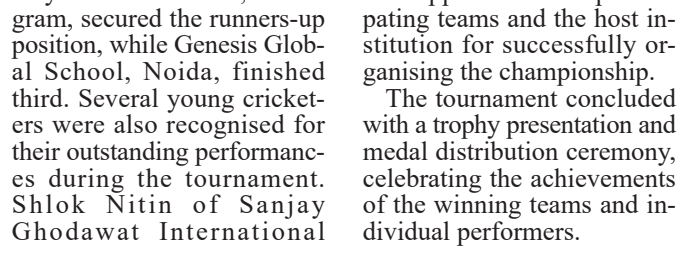
AUSTRALIA

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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