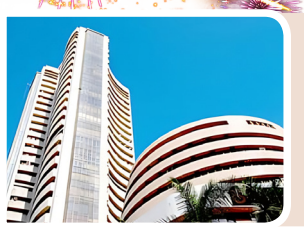
CITY HILIGHTS

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Indian markets brace for volatility in Samvat 2083 P7



Donald Trump faces MAGA backlash after midterm rout P11

Happy Diwali

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MODI ROARS FROM ONCE-NAXAL HOTBED...

‘Beware of Dimagi Naxals hide among us’

PM Modi celebrates Diwali with anti-Naxal warriors in Bastar › hails 'end of Naxal terror' › says Bastar moving from red terror to vikas › claims 1st Diwali after Naxal-mukt India.

RAIPUR

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday celebrated Diwali with security personnel in Chhattisgarh’s once Naxal-hit Bastar district, describing the festival as particularly significant as the country marked what he called the end of its decades-long battle against Maoist terror.

Addressing personnel at the CoBRA Operations Base in Bastar, a key training center and launch pad for counter-insurgency operations, Modi claimed that the threat of Naxalism has not ended even though armed Maoists have been eliminated, alleging that "dimagi Naxals" have infiltrated several organisations, including political parties, and are instigating people against the Constitution and democracy.

"Amid the successes, we must remember one more thing. Naxalites have been eliminated, but the threat is not over yet. Armed Naxalites have disappeared from the forests, but 'dimagi Naxals' (a reference to ideological supporters of Naxalites) have taken control of several organisations," he said.

"Even today, they are instigating people against the country's Constitution and democracy. They have infiltrated several political parties and different organisations. We must identify and defeat them and secure the country."

Modi said this was the first Diwali since every district in the country had become free of Naxalism and crores of citizens had overcome the fear of insurgency. He credited the security forces for ending the terror in once-affected areas and creating conditions for a new phase of development.

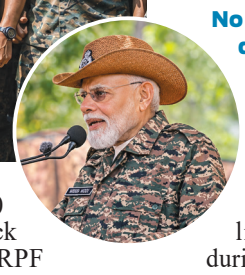
“This is the first Diwali where every single district in the country is free from Naxalism. This is the first Diwali where crores of our citizens have overcome the fear of Naxalism,” he said.

The PM also visited the CoBRA Operations Base at Karanpur, a training centre and launch pad for anti-Naxal operations in Bastar and Abujhmad. Saying he had come on behalf of the country's 140 crore people, Modi thanked the personnel for their dedication, sacrifices and service.

“Bastar is the very land that once suffered the scourge of Naxal terror. But thanks to your sacrifice and dedication, that terror has ended, and a new wave of development has begun,” Modi said.

Reflecting on the decades of insurgency, Modi recalled that more than 230 districts across nearly 20 states had once been affected by Naxalism, with as many as 2,000 attacks recorded in a single year. He said life in several affected areas had come to a standstill, with schools and roads disrupted and people living under constant fear.





DIWALI WITH TROOPS IN BASTAR

Location: Modi celebrates Diwali with security personnel involved in anti-Naxal operations in Chhattisgarh's Bastar.

Special Diwali:: He highlights the significance of this Diwali as the first since the defeat of Naxalism.

Forces honored:: He commends personnel from the CRPF, CoBRA, BSF, ITBP, SSB, state police, and local Special Forces like the Bastar Fighters for their sacrifices that contributed to eliminating Maoist insurgency from the region.

Milestone highlighted:: Modi states that for the first time in 47 years, no CRPF jawan lost his life on duty over the past year, marking a major turning point after decades of Left-Wing Extremism (LWE).

Ideological Naxalism:: Modi cautiones that the threat has not completely vanished, warning about “dimagi Naxals” (ideological sympathizers) who have allegedly infiltrated political parties and civil organisations to undermine the Constitution and democracy.

Freedom for citizens:: He notes that every district in India is now free from Naxalism, allowing citizens to overcome fear.

> The Naxal threat persists despite elimination of armed Maoists as "dimagi Naxals" are infiltrating institutions to undermine constitution and democracy.
> - **Narendra Modi, Prime Minister**

He also recalled the 2010 Dantewada attack in which 76 CRPF personnel were killed, as well as another incident that year which killed 44 civilians. Over 1,000 security personnel had been killed in Chhattisgarh during the decades-long insurgency, Modi said.

Cong treated insurgency as ‘incurable disease’

Targeting previous Congress governments over their handling of Naxalism, Modi alleged that they had treated the insurgency as an “incurable disease” and lacked the political will to confront it. Citing figures from 2004 to 2013, he said the number of security personnel killed in action each year was higher than the number of Naxalites killed.

He said the approach changed after his government came to power in 2014, with stronger political will, greater operational freedom for security forces and a comprehensive strategy combining counter-insurgency operations with infrastructure development.

Modi said his government had also taken steps to disrupt the funding of Naxal and secessionist groups, dismantle their fake currency networks and choke their supply lines.

No CRPF jawan killed on duty in a year

Highlighting the gains in the counter-insurgency campaign, the PM said for the first time in 47 years, not a single CRPF jawan had lost his life in the line of duty during the past year. He described the achievement as a victory for the country's policies and the determination and courage of security personnel.

He credited the CRPF, CoBRA, BSF, ITBP, SSB, IRBs and state police forces, including specialised units such as the Bastar Fighters, as well as women personnel, for their contribution to the campaign. “When a nation's internal security is strong, external enemies cannot succeed. However, when internal security is weakened, external enemies also begin to raise their heads.”

He urged people to remain vigilant against ideological extremism, warning that elements supporting Naxalism could continue to undermine democratic institutions even after the armed insurgency had been brought under control.

He concluded by extending Diwali greetings to security personnel deployed across the country, saying their sacrifices and dedication had helped safeguard India's unity and integrity.

Excess ethanol mix national concern: CM

Shivakumar alleges E20 petrol has more than 20% ethanol, promises evidence today.

BENGALURU

Days after the state government claimed that petrol sold in the state contained more than 30% ethanol, against the prescribed 20% blend under the E20 programme, Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Sunday termed the issue a serious concern for the entire country, warning that it posed a serious risk to public safety.

He said the state government had received thousands of complaints from motorists about vehicle problems, ranging from reduced mileage to engines stalling midway. He added that officials had collected samples from 67 locations and completed around 30% of the investigation into the alleged excessive blending.

"We have collected samples from 67 locations and conducted inspections after informing the Cente. Thousands of motorists have complained that their vehicles are experiencing problems, including engine malfunctions and reduced mileage.” He said the government had ordered a detailed investigation into the complaints and gathered information about petrol bunks and distribution points where the alleged mixing was taking place.

Stressing the need to make people aware of the alleged irregularities and protect their safety, he said the state minister concerned would hold a press meet on Monday to explain the probe findings.



Centre, OMCs rebuttal

NEW DELHI: The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas along with public-sector oil marketing companies (IOCL, BPCL, and HPCL) strongly refuted the Karnataka government's claims. They stated that tests on 893 samples across 27 states and Union Territories, including 56 from Karnataka, conformed standard IS 17021 specifications with ethanol levels strictly between 19% and 21%, questioning the state's sampling and laboratory methodology. Union Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas Suresh Gopi has also defended the Centre's 20% ethanol blending limit, saying the decision was based on scientific evidence and technical assessments.

Shivakumar's claims

Karnataka govt's claims: State tests on petrol samples (analyzed via accredited laboratories rather than OMCs) revealed ethanol levels ranging from 26% to 31.2%, far exceeding the permissible E20 standard of 19% to 21%.

Complaints & vehicle issues: The Chief Minister states that the state received thousands of complaints from motorists regarding reduced mileage and engine malfunctions, noting that most vehicles are not built to handle higher ethanol blends.

Where it happens: Clarifying earlier stances, the CM indicated that the excess mixing is happening further up the supply chain rather than at local retail petrol bunks.

After K'taka, Keralam gears up to test petrol for ethanol content

Thiruvananthapuram: After Karnataka, the Congress government in Keralam is also gearing up to test the ethanol content in petrol being sold in the state. State Food and Civil Supplies Minister Anoop Jacob has given instructions in this regard amidst the row over the test conducted by Karnataka government which found ethanol content of up to 31.2% in petrol samples sold in Karnataka. Government sources said that samples would be collected from at least twenty spots in various districts of Keralam from Monday to conduct the test. The minister, who held discussions with Chief Minister VD Satheesan on the matter, had also directed that swift actions should be taken against petrol pumps that sell fuel with more than 20% ethanol content.

AN EVERLASTING LEGACY

‘Architect of saffron surge’ turns 100!

BJP holds special hawan for his good health at Delhi HQ; PM Modi pens tribute to veteran leader

NEW DELHI

Bharat Ratna and veteran BJP leader Lal Krishna Advani entered his 100th year on Sunday (November 8), prompting tributes from Prime Minister Narendra Modi and several senior leaders of the BJP.

Their messages reflect on Advani’s long political journey, his dedication to public service and his role in shaping the party’s organisation and national presence.

The BJP celebrated the 100th birthday of the former deputy prime minister with a puja and havan at its headquarters here, while several leaders lauded his contributions to Indian politics. The event, coinciding with Diwali, was organised to commemorate Advani’s life, dedication to the nation, organisational contributions and long public career, the BJP said.

Several party leaders, including Advani’s daughter Pratibha Advani and BJP president Nitin Nabin, attended the event. The puja and havan were followed by the screening of a 20-minute video highlighting key speeches and episodes from Advani’s life. Presentations featuring addresses by senior leaders reflecting on his contributions and significant moments in his political journey were also held.

In a post on X, Nabin described Advani as a guide for all and credited him with making an unforgettable contribution to the expansion of the organisation, from the Jana Sangh to the BJP, taking nationalist ideology to every citizen and turning the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi movement into a mass movement. “Your integrity in public life and unwavering commitment to the organisation will always be a source of inspiration for all BJP workers,” Nabin said.

‘Living example of putting nation first’

Home Minister Amit Shah described Advani as a “living example of putting the nation first”, an architect of the BJP and a principled statesman”.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said Advani had set new standards of integrity, dedication and leadership throughout his public life.

Union Minister Piyush Goyal described him as “an extraordinary example of loyalty to the nation, steadfastness in his convictions, and dedication to the organisation”.

PM Modi pens special tribute to Advani

Prime Minister Narendra Modi also paid tribute to Advani on his 99th birthday, recalling his journey from Sindh to becoming one of the prominent figures in Indian politics.

In an authored article, Modi said two qualities that set the BJP patriarch apart were his ideological clarity and intellectual sharpness, besides his ability to expose what he described as the pseudo-secularism propounded by a large section of the Indian polity.

Modi also highlighted Advani’s role in strengthening the Jana Sangh and building the BJP. He said Advani and former PM Vajpayee set a remarkable example of cooperation and together changed the course of Indian politics.



A LIFE OF SERVICE, IDEOLOGY AND NATION-BUILDING

Early life & background

- Lal Krishna Advani was born on November 8, 1927, in Karachi, British India (present-day Pakistan), into a Sindhi Hindu family.
- He joined the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) at the age of 14 in 1942.
- Following the Partition of India in 1947, he migrated from Sindh to India and rebuilt his life in Delhi.

Political career & BJP foundation

- **Bharatiya Jana Sangh**: He began his formal political work with the Jana Sangh, serving as its secretary in Rajasthan in 1951 and later as its All India President.
- **BJP Co-Foundation**: In 1980, along with Atal Bihari Vajpayee and other leaders, he co-founded the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and served as its longest-serving president for multiple terms.
- **Rath Yatras**: In the 1990s, he led prominent political tours, most notably the 1990 Ram Rath Yatra, which heavily shaped national politics and the Ram Janmabhoomi movement.

Ministerial & govt roles

- Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting from 1977 to 1979 under the Janata Party govt.
- Union Minister of Home Affairs from 1998 to 2004 in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee-led NDA cabinet.
- 7th Deputy PM of India from 2002 to 2004.
- Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha during various periods, including from 2004 to 2009.

Honors & awards

- **Padma Vibhushan**: Awarded India’s second-highest civilian honor in 2015.
- **Bharat Ratna**: Awarded India’s highest civilian award in February 2024.

Hasina convicted criminal, extradition request sent to India: B’desh Min

Dhaka: Bangladesh's Law Minister Md Asaduzzaman on Sunday described ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina as a "convicted criminal" and said Dhaka has requested India to extradite her, according to local media reports.

Responding to questions from journalists after inaugurating a training workshop in Dhaka, Asaduzzaman said the government was taking all necessary legal steps to bring Hasina back from India and would follow due process.



"To me, she is a criminal. A criminal convicted by our tribunal. To us, this is her identity," he said, according to a report on bdnews24 website.

On bringing Hasina back to Bangladesh, he said, "Although the Law Ministry is not directly involved in this matter, the Ministry of Home Affairs is concerned, as it relates to the extradition treaty with India.”

US launches Task Force to choke land transit routes into Iran

WASHINGTON

The US military on Sunday announced that it would create a 20-member task force to find ways to disrupt land routes into Iran that are used for shipments of weapons and illicit materials."

The restrictions would be in addition to US naval blockade of Iranian ports amid the ongoing war, during which Tehran has restricted passage of vessels through the critical Strait of Hormuz trade route, choking global energy supplies.

The task force will "further constrain Iran's ability to finance terrorism, rebuild weapons factories, and replenish their military," US Central Command chief Brad Cooper said in a statement posted on X on Sunday.

The team includes both civilian and military personnel based in Florida. They will coordinate with US government agencies on "preventing the movement of advanced weapons systems, dual-use technologies, sanctioned materials, and illegal revenue streams across Iran's land borders and the Caspian Sea," the statement added.

Contradicting the US, Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps said Washington's latest bid "will fail". "The United States will never be able to impose the economic blockade it is pursuing and proposing under various names and through different plans," Guards spokesman Hossein Mohebi said, according to Fars news agency.

"The Americans will not achieve their objective of exerting extreme economic pressure to bring about the collapse and disintegration of Iran's economy."

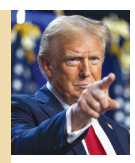
Don vows stronger comeback after Republican rout in midterms

Washington: US President Donald Trump on Sunday described the outcome of the recent midterm elections as a "giant step back in History" for America, after Democrats delivered a sweeping electoral defeat to Republicans, wresting control of both chambers of Congress.

Vowing that the country would return "bigger and stronger than ever before", Trump said the election outcome had dealt a major setback to the country, while defending his economic record and expressing confidence in a comeback. "America took a giant step back in History with the results of the last election. But have no fear, we will be back, BIGGER AND STRONGER THAN EVER BEFORE!"

Trump states...

- Trump calls midterm results a giant step back for America
- Blames $3 trillion stock market loss on election outcome
- Says we will be back, bigger and stronger than ever before



Trump also blamed the election results for a staggering USD 3 trillion loss in the stock market. In a post on his social media platform 'Truth Social',

Quick Read

Karnataka air quality slips to moderate levels

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Cities across Karnataka are experiencing moderate air quality today, impacting daily life. Bengaluru recorded an Air Quality Index of 68, while other urban areas show similar trends. Factors like heavy vehicle smoke, road dust, and continuous construction work are driving up local pollution levels. Experts advise sensitive groups, including children and elderly residents, to limit long outdoor activities during peak traffic hours. Although conditions remain manageable, experts urge citizens to stay aware and take basic health precautions as pollution gradually rises across major cities throughout the state this season.

Tejasvi Surya slams CM over Metro funding

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

MP Tejasvi Surya criticized Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar for playing politics over the Bengaluru Metro project. Surya explained that the project runs on a 20 percent central share, 20 percent state share, and 60 percent international loan model. He stressed that these huge loans are only possible because of the Central Government's sovereign guarantee. Without this crucial central backing, global financial institutions would never lend money to the state. Surya urged the Chief Minister to understand federal cooperation rather than politicizing vital urban development projects across Karnataka.

Dry weather to persist across Bengaluru

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Karnataka is experiencing a noticeable shift in weather patterns. The Meteorological Department forecasts light to moderate rainfall in several districts, particularly impacting coastal and select southern regions over the next two days. Udupi, Dakshina Kannada, and Kodagu will witness isolated showers. Meanwhile, dry weather conditions will persist across most parts of North Interior Karnataka and the state capital, Bengaluru, where rain chances remain very low. Authorities expect this dry spell to hold steady in urban centers while coastal areas enjoy brief relief from the heat through scattered light showers.

Mass murder probe intensifies as DCP takes personal command

The case against cab driver Indushekhar, accused of the chilling murder of seven family members across Karnataka, unveils a horrific dark family legacy.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Law enforcement agencies in Karnataka are intensifying their efforts to unravel a horrifying mass murder case that has shaken the community to its core. A 52-year-old cab driver named Indushekhar stands accused of wiping out seven members of a single family in a series of calculated attacks over a span of several weeks, triggered by an ongoing domestic dispute.

Given the immense gravity of the situation, B.S. Nemagouda, Deputy Commissioner of Police for the Bengaluru North Division, has taken personal command of the inquiry. Investigators reveal that the accused systematically lured his wife's relatives to his Rajajinagar home one by one, brutally bludgeoning them with a heavy grinding stone before packing their remains into plastic bags for disposal across remote locations.

Authorities transported the suspect from Salem, Tamil Nadu, back to Karnataka to execute a critical crime scene reconstruction (mahazar) near the picturesque foothills of Chamundi Hill. Police expect to map out the exact transportation route and pinpoint the precise drop zone where the bodies of victims Shivakumar and Divya were discarded.

This breakthrough follows the recent recovery of other victims across state lines. Search teams located the heavily decomposed remains of the suspect's wife, Sunitha, and her mother, Rupavathi, hidden deep within a dense forest along the Salem Ghats. Earlier operations successfully traced the body of a young boy, Puneeth, near the rugged terrain of Nandi Hills.

To ensure a comprehensive pursuit of justice, leadership has deployed multiple specialized units operating under the direct supervision of three Assistant Commissioners of Police. As the investigation deepens, local authorities remain determined to piece together every chilling detail of a tragedy that has left families across the entire state in absolute disbelief.



Accused killer's brother committed double murder

The brother of Indushekhar, the man accused of killing seven family members in Bengaluru, was a notorious criminal named Belathur Ramesh. Eight years ago, Ramesh plotted a shocking double murder to grab a valuable property worth 15 crore rupees. He used forged documents, killed an accomplice posing as the landowner, and later murdered a witness to cover his tracks. Ramesh spent three years in prison before dying in custody. Now, this dark family history has resurfaced as his brother faces similar horrific charges, leaving local residents stunned by the deep roots of crime linked to the family.

Five bodies recovered in family murder probe

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Law enforcement agencies handling the horrifying seven-person family murder case in Karnataka have achieved significant breakthroughs, recovering a total of five victims so far. Investigators are continuing intensive search operations in remote regional terrain to locate the final two missing individuals connected to the crime.

Police confirmed that two fresh bodies, identified as Shivakumar and Divya, were discovered at the foothills of Chamundi Hill in Mysuru. The breakthrough occurred after the primary suspect, a cab driver named Indushekhar, guided officers directly to the remote disposal site during a coordinated on-site reconstruction. The recovery procedures took place alongside grieving family members.

Earlier phases of the grim statewide search successfully traced three other victims. The remains of seven-year-old Puneeth were previously found near Nandi Hills and laid to rest in Bengaluru, while the bodies of Sunitha and Rupavathi were recovered from a dense forest area in Salem, Tamil Nadu. Families are now making solemn arrangements to conduct joint funeral rites for multiple victims once medical examinations conclude.

Medical teams are currently wrapping up post-mortem examinations for the victims recovered in Salem, while simultaneous autopsies for the newly found couple are being finalized in Mysuru. Meanwhile, specialized search squads have shifted their focus to the rugged terrain of the Shiradi Ghat region. Officers are combing the dense valleys to locate the remaining bodies of Shankar and Nalini based on fresh confessions provided by the suspect.

As interrogations intensify behind closed doors, detectives are working to uncover additional motives behind the grisly series of domestic killings. Authorities expect more details to come to light as forensic teams piece together the full timeline of events, bringing a measure of closure to a shaken community.

Case details & body recoveries

- **Chamundi Hill, Mysuru:** Two bodies, believed to be a couple named Shivakumar and Divya, were found at the foothills. Autopsies are currently underway in Mysuru.
- **Nandi Hills, Chikkaballapura:** The body of 7-year-old Puneeth was recovered earlier. His family has already performed his last rites in Bengaluru.
- **Salem, Tamil Nadu:** The bodies of Sunitha and Rupavathi were discovered here. Post-mortem examinations are being completed.
- **Shiradi Ghat:** Search operations are actively underway to locate the remaining two missing victims, Shankar and Nalini, based on information provided by the accused.

Family prepares for funeral

As bodies are gradually recovered and handed over to grieving relatives, the affected family is preparing to conduct joint funeral rites for four of the victims at a single location.

Adding a darker layer to the tragedy, police reports note that the brother of the accused, Indushekhar, had previously caused public outrage by committing a double murder in Bengaluru.

Investigators are continuing their intense interrogation of Indushekhar to uncover the exact motives behind this mass tragedy. Further details are expected to emerge as the search in Shiradi Ghat concludes.

Karnataka introduces uniform question papers for first PUC exams

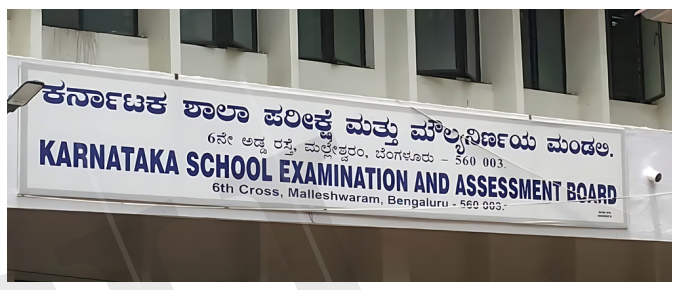
CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Students and teachers across Karnataka are getting ready for a big change in their classrooms. The state government has decided to bring in a brand new system for the first-year Pre-University course annual tests. Instead of different schools handling things in their own way, everyone will now follow the exact same path.

Officials announced that all students will soon write the same tests on the same days. This new rule starts with the upcoming exams in 2027. Under this fresh plan, the Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board will design all question papers at the state level. On exam mornings, these papers will reach every college through secure digital files.

Education leaders believe this shift will make learning much fairer for everyone. No matter if a student studies in a busy city or a quiet rural town, they will face the same academic standards. Minister Madhu Bangarapp explained that the main goal is to boost the overall quality of education and help young learners build stronger skills early on. Officials also hope that better preparation in the first year will naturally lead to higher pass rates when students reach their final board exams later.

Even though the question papers and schedules will now be completely uniform, some things will stay close to home. Local colleges will still host the exams inside their own classrooms. Teachers at each campus will handle the grading of answer sheets, just like they always have done in the past. Once grading wraps up, local district leaders will review and approve the final scores before report cards are officially handed out to families.



Highlights of the new system

- Question papers will arrive securely at colleges in digital formats right on exam days.
- Every Pre-University college in Karnataka will follow the exact same timetable.
- While question papers come from the state, grading and exams remain managed at the local and college levels.
- District-level authorities will oversee practical testing schedules independently.

Practical tests will also follow a clear local calendar managed directly at the district level. Parents, teachers, and college administrators have been advised to note these updates and help students prepare. Education authorities believe this organized approach will bring lasting benefits to every classroom, giving thousands of teenagers a much stronger foundation for their future academic journeys and higher education goals.

BJP LEADERS PROTEST AGAINST KNIFE PARCELS

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Political tensions in Karnataka have reached a dangerous boiling point following a disturbing series of targeted threats against senior legislative leadership. Chalavadi Narayanaswamy, the Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council, revealed that his residence has been flooded with a wave of menacing packages containing sharp weapons, escalating an already volatile political conflict across the state capital.

Speaking to reporters at his home, Narayanaswamy stated that 15 separate parcels containing knives have been delivered since early morning. According to the veteran leader, individuals connected to the ruling Congress party have spent the past week engaging in aggressive tactics outside his property, prompting law enforcement to deploy barricades and step up security patrols.

The controversy erupted amid an intense verbal feud between Narayanaswamy and cabinet minister Priyank Kharge. Launching a fierce critique, Narayanaswamy accused his rivals of turning a blind eye to community welfare while using intimidation tactics to silence dissent. He declared that the opposition coalition remains completely unfazed by these threats, vowing to fight back using constitutional frameworks established by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar rather than resorting to street-level thuggery.

The situation has galvanized opposition ranks across the city. Activists from the Bharatiya Janata Party's Scheduled Caste Morcha staged a loud demonstration at Freedom Park in Bengaluru, shouting slogans to condemn the delivery of daggers to a high-ranking constitutional official. Prominent party figures, including legislators and former civic leaders, joined the public outcry to demand immediate police action and accountability from state authorities.

As local crime units examine the parcels and review security footage, senior police officials are coordinating enhanced protective measures around the council leader's residence. Political analysts warn that this escalating friction could further deepen partisan divides as both sides prepare for upcoming legislative battles.

S.E. Sudheendra inaugurates Ponnonam-26 in Bengaluru



A student receives an award at the Ponnonam-26 celebrations in Kengeri Satellite Town.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Fostering inter-state cultural harmony and community engagement, the Bengaluru South West Kerala Samajam recently hosted its vibrant 'Ponnonam-26' celebrations at the DSA Bhavan in Kengeri Satellite Town. The festive gathering drew numerous members of the Malayali diaspora alongside prominent political figures and administrative officials to celebrate cultural heritage during the festive season.

Karnataka State Bioenergy Development Board Chairman and KPCC Vice President S.E. Sudheendra attended the inauguration as a chief guest alongside Dr. Vaishnavi Sudheendra, KAS, Officer on Special Duty to the Chief Minister. Sudheendra extended warm festive greetings to the Keralite community, marking both the auspicious celebrations of Deepavali and the ongoing spirit of Kannada Rajyotsava. He praised state leadership for maintaining robust cooperative ties with neighbouring states while advancing inclusive regional development.

Highlighting academic excellence, Sudheendra presented special achievement awards to standout students from the diaspora. Gea Mathew was honoured for earning top scores in the SSLC examinations, while Adhya V.T. was recognized for academic brilliance in the recent PUC examinations.

Diwali rush: Bengaluru's K.R. Market packed at dawn

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Festivity and financial frenzy took over the heart of Karnataka's capital as thousands of residents descended upon the historic K.R. Market long before sunrise to prepare for the annual festival of lights. The bustling commercial hub witnessed an unprecedented wave of shoppers starting as early as 3:00 AM, creating a vibrant sea of humanity eager to secure essential holiday goods.

Streets surrounding the famous market complex were jammed with eager buyers seeking traditional items, fresh fruits, and auspicious religious offerings for upcoming home pujas.

HONORING POLICE VETERANS

Proposal to indicate seniority on police uniforms

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Law enforcement personnel across Karnataka could soon see a visible change in their daily attire if state authorities approve a newly submitted administrative proposal. Mohan Kumar Danappa, a prominent member of the Karnataka State Police Complaints Authority, has officially urged the government to introduce distinct visual markers on police uniforms to honor long-serving officers.



Police personnel at a parade.

5 yrs	10 yrs	15 yrs
Senior	Super Senior	Most Senior

In a formal letter directed to Home Minister Priyank Kharge, Danappa emphasized that while current uniform insignia clearly indicate official ranks and structural positions, they fail to reflect the depth of field experience possessed by veteran officers who remain in the same rank for extended periods. To bridge this gap, the recommendation outlines a tiered system using three special designations based on cumulative years of service.

Under this proposed framework, personnel completing five years of service would receive the 'Senior' designation, those reaching 10 years would be classified as 'Super Senior', and officers with 15 years of service would be recognized as 'Most Senior'. The plan dictates that these titles should not remain hidden in bureaucratic paperwork but should instead be proudly displayed directly on uniforms via unique insignia.

Proponents of the measure argue that giving visible credit to seasoned officers will significantly boost workforce morale. Officials believe that acknowledging veteran experience publicly fosters greater internal discipline, enhances professional responsibility, and strengthens the overall spirit of public service within the department.

While the state government reviews the request, law enforcement circles have sparked discussions about how this system might streamline field operations by helping both colleagues and the public instantly recognize experienced personnel during high-stress situations. Leaders hope this small yet meaningful token of appreciation will translate into better guidance for junior recruits and an overall strengthening of public safety standards throughout the region.

Quick Read

Speeding truck knocks down 20 electricity poles

CH NEWS, HUBBALLI

A truck allegedly driven at high speed damaged property along a 10-kilometre stretch of the Chhabbi-Yaliwala road in Hubballi taluk late Saturday night. The truck, bearing a Nagaland registration number and reportedly heading towards the Pune-Bengaluru National Highway, allegedly hit around 20 electricity poles, causing them to collapse one after another. Power lines and cables were also damaged. A motorcycle and a tractor parked along the roadside were reportedly hit. Residents of Yaliwala and Hosakatti villages tried to chase the truck driver on motorcycles. However, fallen poles and damaged power lines blocked the road, allowing the driver to escape. The incident raised concerns over possible power supply disruptions and caused considerable property damage. Local residents have demanded strict action against the driver. The incident falls under the jurisdiction of Hubballi Rural Police Station.

Dharwad student selected for state-level science exhibition

CH NEWS, DHARWAD

Anusha N. Rajur, a Class 9 CBSE student of Presentation English Medium School, has been selected for the state-level science exhibition.

She presented an 'AI-Based Smart Soil Nutrient Testing System' model at the district-level science exhibition organised at the District Institute of Education and Training (DIET).

Her innovative project earned her a place at the state-level event. School headmistress Sister Sylvia and guiding teachers Deepa and Sister Rufina congratulated Anusha on her achievement and wished her success in the next stage.

Davanagere police arrest sixth accused in murder case

CH NEWS, DAVANAGERE

Police have arrested Amanulla (49), who had been absconding for two months in connection with the murder of a youth in B.D. Layout, Davanagere. With his arrest, the total number of accused in custody has risen to six.The incident occurred on September 6, when a group allegedly attacked a family with machetes and clubs after they questioned an extortion demand. During the attack, Zishan sustained serious injuries and later died despite medical treatment. Amanulla was reportedly hiding in Islampur, Hubballi, before being arrested. A complaint was registered against 15 people at Azad Nagar Police Station. Five accused had been arrested earlier, and further investigation is underway.

MLA's transfer demand sparks debate over HDMC Commissioner

A contract dispute involving an MLA has sparked concerns over alleged political interference and pressure on the municipal administration



The Hubballi-Dharwad Municipal Corporation offices (file photo)

CH NEWS, HUBBALLI

A letter reportedly written by a ruling party MLA seeking the transfer of Hubballi-Dharwad Municipal Corporation (HDMC) Commissioner Dr. Rudresh Ghali has triggered a fresh debate over the reasons behind the demand.

According to reports, the MLA became unhappy after the corporation allegedly refused to award a contract to a contractor recommended by him. The development has raised questions about possible political pressure on the municipal administration.

Since Dr. Ghali took charge, the corporation has reportedly introduced changes to its financial management. During a general meeting, members reportedly appreciated the administration for improving the corporation's financial position and introducing a rotational system to clear contractors' pending bills.

The new system aims to settle outstanding payments in an orderly manner, particularly bills pending for the past three to four years.

However, the system has reportedly caused dissatisfaction among some contractors who want their payments cleared immediately. Sources quoted in the report claim that certain contractors approached the MLA to seek faster payment. The MLA allegedly asked the commissioner to clear the bills of a preferred contractor, but the commissioner refused to make an exception to the payment system.

The report further alleges that the refusal has led to efforts to remove Dr. Ghali from the post. The MLA is also reportedly trying to influence the appointment of an officer of his choice as the next commissioner.

The alleged move has raised concerns about political interference in the functioning of the municipal corporation. However, the reasons behind the transfer demand and the claims of pressure over contract payments have not been officially established.

The issue is likely to draw further attention as questions emerge over the administration's financial decisions and the independence of municipal officials.

The row in a nutshell

- **Transfer letter:** a ruling party MLA reportedly sought the transfer of HDMC Commissioner Dr. Rudresh Ghali
- **Alleged trigger:** the corporation reportedly refused to favour a contractor recommended by the MLA
- **Bills in turn:** a rotational system clears bills pending for three to four years in order

The commissioner refused to make an exception to the payment system

Khader announces major reforms to strengthen rural healthcare



At the press conference at the Government Guest House in Ballari on Sunday

CH NEWS, BALLARI

Karnataka Health and Family Welfare Minister U.T. Khader Fareed has said the state government is taking several steps to improve healthcare facilities in rural areas and ensure that people receive quality medical services.

Speaking at a press conference at the Government Guest House in Ballari on Sunday, he said 250 doctors had been recruited directly to address staff shortages in Primary Health Centres (PHCs). The Cabinet has also approved the permanent recruitment of 1,000 doctors. Until the recruitment process is completed, hospitals can hire staff through outsourcing based on district requirements.

The government is procuring 350 new ambulances to strengthen emergency medical services. Khader said patients should be transported from villages to taluk hospitals within 20 to 25 minutes. A penalty of ₹3,000 would be imposed on the responsible service agencies for failing to meet the prescribed time. He also assured that salary delays and other issues faced by 108 ambulance staff would be addressed.

ICU beds in every taluk

The minister said taluk hospitals would be upgraded, with at least five intensive care unit (ICU) beds planned at every taluk headquarters. The government also plans to introduce a Women's Health Policy and establish a separate department focusing on maternal health and women's welfare.

To address medicine shortages caused by technical problems, District Health Officers have been authorised to make emergency purchases. The supply system is expected to improve within two months.

Food safety checks

Food safety inspections have also been strengthened. Khader cited the closure of a KFC outlet in Mangaluru following public complaints. Businesses found selling adulterated food could face heavy fines and cancellation of licences. A QR code-based complaint system has been introduced, and a watchdog committee will be formed.

The programme was attended by City Corporation Mayor P. Gadeppa, Congress district president Allam Prashanth, Venkatesh Hegde, Humayun Khan, Manjula, Sanganakallu Vijayakumar and other leaders.

Rural health plan

- **250** doctors recruited directly for PHCs
- **1,000** permanent doctor posts approved
- **350** new ambulances being procured
- **5 ICU beds** at least, at every taluk headquarters

Seven arrested over robbery plot in Belagavi

CH NEWS, BELAGAVI

Seven people, including Chidananda Kurabet, a gunman associated with Gokak MLA Ramesh Jarkiholi, have been arrested for allegedly attempting to rob ₹2.68 crore under the pretext of a money-doubling scheme in Mudalagi.

The incident took place on October 30 but came to light recently.

Money-doubling promise

According to the police, Chidananda allegedly approached Kalmesh, who had earlier lost money through Shivam Associates, promising to help recover his losses and earn additional profits. He offered an extra ₹30,000 for every ₹1 lakh invested.

Trusting the promise, Kalmesh reportedly arranged ₹2.68 crore by borrowing money from banks, a society, relatives and friends. He was then asked to bring the cash to a shed for counting.

When the money arrived, the accused allegedly attacked those present and threw chilli powder into their eyes to escape with the cash. However, Kalmesh had stationed associates around the shed. They caught the accused and handed them over to the police.



Mudalagi, Belagavi district

The police arrested seven people, including Chidananda, Sanjeev Arabhavi, Rajaram, Ramesh Malyagola, Prakash, Raghavendra Koppad and Ramappa Talawar. Police reportedly seized ₹2.39 crore. Another suspect is believed to be absconding, and efforts are underway to trace the remaining money.

Following Chidananda's arrest, Belagavi Superintendent of Police K. Ramarajan ordered his suspension. The SP clarified that MLA Ramesh Jarkiholi had no connection with the alleged robbery and said further investigation was underway.

The police have urged the public to remain cautious about investment offers promising unusually high returns.

₹2.68 cr arranged by the investor

₹2.39 cr seized by the police

Cancer awareness and screening camp held in Dambal



The screening camp at the Dambal Gram Panchayat office

CH NEWS, DAMBAL

The Primary Health Centre (PHC) in Dambal organised a National Cancer Awareness programme and a non-communicable disease (NCD) screening camp at the Dambal Gram Panchayat office under the guidance of its medical officers.

Early detection

Speaking at the programme, Field Health Education Officer Siddappa N. Lingadal urged people to overcome fear and misconceptions about cancer. He stressed that early detection plays an important role in successful treatment and advised people to undergo regular health check-ups.

He also warned against the use of tobacco, gutka, smoking and alcohol, urging villagers to adopt healthy habits to reduce the risk of cancer and other diseases.

Warning signs

Primary Health Safety Officer Rekha Uppara explained the early warning signs and preventive measures for oral, breast and cervical cancers. She also informed villagers about the free screening and treatment facilities available through government healthcare services.

Health Inspectors Basavaraja Sangamada, S.S. Barakera, Renuka Karigara and Renuka Kattimani participated in the programme and helped create awareness among villagers about cancer prevention and early diagnosis.

Health screenings were conducted for Gram Panchayat staff, ASHA workers and local residents as part of the programme. The initiative aimed to encourage people to undergo timely medical examinations and make better use of government healthcare facilities.

The organisers stressed that awareness, early diagnosis and timely treatment are essential in the fight against cancer.

AT THE CAMP

WARNING SIGNS
Early signs of oral, breast and cervical cancers explained

AVOID
Tobacco, gutka, smoking and alcohol

SCREENED
Gram Panchayat staff, ASHA workers and residents

Tributes paid to Prof. Basavanal on 133rd birth anniversary

CH NEWS, DHARWAD

Prof. Shivalingappa Shivayogappa Basavanal, a respected scholar of Kannada and Vachana literature, was remembered on his 133rd birth anniversary in Dharwad.

Known for his deep knowledge of grammar, poetics and prosody, Prof. Basavanal made significant contributions to Kannada literature and education. He also played an important role in the establishment of the KLE Society and inspired the development of several educational institutions near Lingayat Town Hall in Dharwad. He was widely remembered for his simple lifestyle.

On the occasion, members of the Horakeri Master Education Foundation, Rani Channamma Environment Service Committee and Basava Environment Conservation Committee offered floral tributes to his statue and paid their respects.

Those present included Sohan Suresh Horakeri, representatives of the two environment committees, office-bearers of the Karnataka Jnana Vijnana Samiti and Karnataka Vachana Sahitya Parishat, and trustees of the Horakeri Master Education Foundation.

Librarians Dr. Suresh D. Horakeri, Maruti M. Talageri and Madan Kalaskar, along with Somashekhar and others, also participated in the programme.

ETHANOL POLICY ROW

Union Minister Joshi rejects claims of excess ethanol in petrol

CH NEWS, HUBBALLI

Union Minister Pralhad Joshi has criticised Karnataka Food and Civil Supplies Minister Rizwan Arshad over his allegations that petrol sold in the state contains excessive amounts of ethanol. Joshi described the claims as an attempt to create a misleading public narrative.

Speaking to reporters in Hubballi, Joshi said the prescribed standard operating procedures (SOPs) of oil marketing companies had not been followed while testing the petrol samples.

He said that most of the 14 samples tested reportedly showed ethanol levels within the expected range, while a few showed higher readings.

Joshi defended the Centre's ethanol blending policy and said it benefits sugarcane farmers by creating additional demand for their produce. He also said oil marketing companies had been instructed to clear payments to farmers who supplied ethanol.

Reacting to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's remark, 'E20 turned into 420', Joshi criticised him and questioned his understanding of the issue. He alleged that the Congress was taking an anti-farmer position by opposing the policy.

The Union Minister also questioned Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar's stand on the issue, asking whether he supported Rahul Gandhi's criticism or the interests of farmers.

Joshi also criticised the Karnataka government's taxation policies, claiming that it had collected more than ₹60,000 crore in additional revenue over three years through increased taxes and charges. He questioned the effectiveness of the Congress government's guarantee schemes and said the BJP would examine ways to rationalise taxes if it came to power in the state.

Kharge questions Centre's claims

Meanwhile, Karnataka Home Minister Priyank Kharge accused the Union government of misleading the public about ethanol blending. He alleged that the policy was being implemented to benefit companies associated with Union ministers rather than protect consumers.



Union Minister Pralhad Joshi

35-40%
ethanol in some petrol samples, Kharge claimed, citing NABL-accredited labs

Speaking to reporters in Bengaluru, Kharge claimed that laboratory reports accredited by the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) had detected ethanol levels of 35–40 per cent in some petrol samples. He questioned the Centre's claims and said that experimenting with fuel quality could affect millions of consumers.

Quick Read

PM RAHAT scheme benefits 172 accident victims

CH NEWS, MANGALURU

As many as 172 road accident victims in Dakshina Kannada district have benefited from the PM RAHAT scheme, which aims to ensure timely emergency medical treatment without financial barriers.Mangaluru City Police Commissioner Sudheer Kumar Reddy urged the public to make use of the scheme, emphasising that financial difficulties should never prevent accident victims from receiving immediate medical attention.He highlighted that the initiative provides financial support for eligible accident victims during the critical period following a road accident, helping them access necessary treatment without delay. The Commissioner appealed to citizens to spread awareness about the scheme and ensure that accident victims and their families are aware of the available assistance.

The initiative is aimed at strengthening emergency healthcare access and improving the chances of survival by ensuring that treatment is not held up due to a lack of money.

Diwali oil rituals held at Udupi Sri Krishna Matha

CH NEWS, UDUPI

Traditional Diwali rituals, including 'Enne Shastra' and 'Tailabhyanjana' (ceremonial oil application), were performed at Udupi Sri Krishna Matha in accordance with religious customs. The rituals were conducted under the stewardship of Paryaya Shirur Matha.

Paryaya Shirur Matha head Sri Vedavardhana Tirtha Swamiji performed the 'Enne Shastra' ritual at the Chandrashala hall in the presence of his Vidya Guru, Sri Vidyasagara Tirtha Swamiji of Krishnapura Matha, and Sri Vidyavallabha Tirtha Swamiji of Kaniyoor Matha.

Following the ceremony, the Yatis (ascetics) performed the traditional oil application for devotees. Matha staff members also participated in the rituals with enthusiasm.

Scholars representing Udupi's Ashta Mathas (eight monasteries), Dr. Udayakumar Saralathaya, Diwan of the Paryaya Matha, and Parupatyedara (administrator) Shrisha Bhat Kadekaru were present. Several devotees and Matha staff members also participated in the Diwali celebrations.

MLA seeks ₹21 crore grant for new Bagadal bridge

The MLA inspected the ageing bridge across Karanja backwaters, assessing its condition and discussing transportation difficulties faced by local residents and commuters.



The old bridge across the Karanja backwaters near Bagadal, on the Bidar–Chincholi road.

CH NEWS, BIDAR

MLA Dr. Shailendra Beldale has urged the state government to sanction ₹21 crore for the construction of a new bridge near Bagadal village in the Bidar South Assembly constituency, citing safety concerns over the dilapidated condition of the existing bridge.

The MLA recently visited the old bridge situated across the backwaters of the Karanja River on the Bidar–Chincholi road and inspected its condition. He also discussed the difficulties faced by residents and commuters who depend on the bridge for daily transportation.

The bridge serves as an important link for several surrounding villages. Residents, farmers, school and college students and motorists use this route regularly. Sugarcane farmers also depend on it to transport their produce to sugar factories. However, the deteriorating condition of the bridge has raised concerns about public safety and the movement of heavy vehicles.

MLA Seeks Permanent Solution

Dr. Beldale had reportedly inspected the bridge around three months ago and instructed officials to undertake immediate safety measures and arrange an alternative route for vehicles.

He said temporary repairs would not provide a permanent solution and stressed the need to construct a new bridge. Accordingly, a proposal seeking ₹21 crore has been submitted to the state government. He urged the government to grant administrative approval and release the required funds.

Alternative Route For Heavy Vehicles

Considering the condition of the existing bridge, the Deputy Commissioner has directed officials to arrange an alternative route for heavy vehicles.

Vehicles have been advised to travel from Mannaekhelli Cross through Bangur Cross and Manalli village. Vehicles coming from Bidar city can use the Manalli road near Morarji Desai School.

The MLA appealed to motorists to follow the alternative routes and cooperate with the district administration.

He said improving rural connectivity, protecting farmers' interests and ensuring public safety were among his priorities. He assured residents that he would continue to pursue the matter until the required funds were sanctioned.

BJP Bidar South Mandal president Gurunath M. Rajagiri, Revanappa Mailar, Somnath Poshetti, Shashikant Kalaveti, Shivakumar Goudappanur, Annappa Rajagiri, Prabhurao Halburgi, Hannan Ghazi, Kanteppa Mailar, Ashok Jamadar, Iqbal Ghazi, Subhash Mattige and Yadul were present.

At a glance

Funding demand
₹21 crore sought for a new bridge near Bagadal

Safety concerns
Temporary repairs will not provide a permanent solution, the MLA says

Lifeline route
Villages, students, motorists and sugarcane farmers depend on it

Traffic diversion
Heavy vehicles go via Mannaekhelli Cross, Bangur Cross and Manalli



Bagadal: in Bidar South, on the Bidar–Chincholi road

Tourism development to generate new jobs: Ambadas Joshi

CH NEWS, VIJAYAPURA

Tourism development in Vijayapura district will create new employment opportunities and support the local economy, said Ambadas Joshi, President of the Vijayapura District Tourism Development Action Committee.

He was speaking at a programme organised to recognise historical researcher Layappa Ingale for his contribution to promoting the district's heritage and tourism.

The 'Gandabherunda Rajyotsava' was celebrated on November 1 in front of Kote Mahadwara on Indi Road in Vijayapura. The programme was jointly organised by the Rashtriya Sanshodhana Vedike (National Research Forum) and the Gandabherunda Rajyotsava Samiti.

On the occasion, the Vijayapura District Tourism Development Action Committee honoured Layappa Ingale, who serves as president of the Rashtriya Sanshodhana Vedike and has been actively involved in historical research and organising the state festival.

Speaking at the event, Ambadas Joshi said creating a favourable cultural environment was essential for promoting tourism in the district. He appreciated Ingale's efforts in conducting historical research and organising the Gandabherunda Rajyotsava.

He said such initiatives help create awareness about historical monuments, encourage their preservation and attract more visitors to the district. Increased tourism activity, in turn, would generate employment opportunities for local people.

After receiving the honour, Layappa Ingale said the festival was organised to promote the protection of historical monuments, encourage tourism and familiarise people with the historical significance of the Gandabherunda, a mythical two-headed bird.

He thanked the organisations and officials who supported the programme and appealed to the public to join hands in preserving Vijayapura district's historical heritage.

Gurulingappagouda Patil, Ambanna Gunnapura, Mallikarjuna Biradara, Anil Pawar, Srinivasa Koli and Dadapir Mulla, members of the Gandabherunda Rajyotsava Committee, were present.



The felicitation in Vijayapura.

? DID YOU KNOW?
The Gandabherunda Rajyotsava is organised to promote the protection of historical monuments, encourage tourism and familiarise people with the historical significance of the Gandabherunda, a mythical two-headed bird.

RUDA begins basic infrastructure works in three layouts

CH NEWS, RAMANAGARA

Basic infrastructure development works in three residential layouts in Bengaluru South district will begin with a groundbreaking ceremony on Monday, November 9, at 11 am, said A.B. Chetan Kumar, Chairman of the Ramanagara Urban Development Authority (RUDA).

Speaking to reporters at the authority's office, he said the ceremony would mark the beginning of long-pending development works in the Arkavathi Layout at Jigenahalli and the Kanva Layout at Sunnaghatta.

He credited the cooperation of former MP and BAMUL president D.K. Suresh and MLA H.A. Iqbal Hussain for helping resolve long-standing hurdles by taking the matter to the Cabinet.



RUDA office-bearers at the press conference in Ramanagara.

Chetan Kumar said several site owners had delayed house construction for years due to the lack of roads, drinking water, underground drainage and electricity facilities. The authority has now taken steps to address these problems.

In Jigenahalli, asphalt road works, underground drainage systems and stormwater drains are nearing completion in phases. Drinking water pipeline work has also begun. Arrangements are being made to install electricity poles, transformers and streetlights. Development of parks is also part of the project.

The three layouts will receive infrastructure facilities at a total estimated cost of ₹37.15 crore, benefiting 1,661 site owners.

The chairman urged site owners to pay the applicable development charges and cooperate with the authority to complete the projects. He also invited residents, elected representatives and local leaders to participate in the groundbreaking ceremony.

RUDA directors Srinivas and Sridevi, City Municipal Council member Bairegowda and engineer Shreyas attended the press conference.

₹37.15 crore for three layouts
Estimated cost of works per layout

Kanva: 885 site owners — ₹18.65 cr

Arkavathi: 652 site owners — ₹15.52 cr

R.G.: 124 site owners — ₹2.98 cr

Figures: RUDA

Damaged school roof poses risk to students

CH NEWS, SHIRAHATTI

Parts of the roof have already started collapsing, raising fears that more sections could fall at any time

The dilapidated roof of a classroom at the Government Model Primary School in Hole Itagi village of Shirahatti taluk has raised serious concerns about the safety of students.

Parents and villagers have questioned the education department's failure to address the problem and demanded immediate action to prevent a possible accident.

They have urged the authorities to shift students to an alternative classroom, inspect the damaged building and carry out necessary repairs without delay.

Villagers stressed that providing a safe learning environment is the responsibility of the education department and called for urgent measures to protect the children.

Anganwadi workers warn of protest over pending salaries

CH NEWS, MANGALURU

Anganwadi workers in Dakshina Kannada district have warned of a protest if their pending salaries for the past three months are not paid within a week.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the Dakshina Kannada District Committee of Anganwadi Workers held at Rickshaw Bhavan in B.C. Road. The committee resolved to organise a district-wide protest if the government fails to release the outstanding salaries within the stipulated period.

The members also decided to raise the issue with the government through the Child Development Project Officer (CDPO).

During the meeting, the workers expressed concern over the delay in salary payments, stating that they were facing financial difficulties due to the non-payment of their already limited wages. They questioned how workers could manage their daily expenses when salaries remained unpaid for three consecutive months.

The committee also called upon Anganwadi workers to participate in the 'Delhi Chalo' programme scheduled for December 1, which aims to highlight the concerns of the working class.

A district-level convention of Anganwadi workers will be organised in Mangaluru on December 12. The meeting further decided to send eight representatives to the State Conference of the Anganwadi Workers' Union, affiliated with CITU, scheduled to be held from December 23 to 25.

Union District President Ravikala, CITU Dakshina Kannada District President B.M. Bhat, District General Secretary Sunil Kumar Bajal and CITU leaders Lolakshi, Chandra Poojary, Damayanthi and Shanta attended the meeting.

Union District Secretary Lakshmi delivered the welcome address and proposed the vote of thanks.



3	1	8
months of salaries unpaid	week before a district-wide protest	delegates to the State Conference

WORKERS' RIGHTS CONCERNS

'Labour Codes may weaken construction worker's rights'

CH NEWS, MANGALURU

Yogish Jappinamogaru, district treasurer of the Construction Workers' Union, has alleged that the four new Labour Codes introduced by the Central Government could weaken workers' rights and social security benefits secured through decades of struggle.

He was speaking at a convention organised in Mangaluru to discuss the impact of the new Labour Codes on construction workers.

Yogish expressed concern over provisions relating to the coverage of construction projects, the functioning of Welfare Boards, accident compensation, housing facilities and educational assistance for workers' children. He also warned that the changes could affect migrant workers' rights, workplace safety and overtime payments.

He particularly raised concerns about the exclusion of certain construction activities involving costs below ₹50 lakh from the scope of the law. He said the changes could adversely affect the welfare of construction workers and their families.

Labour leader Sadashivadas said workers' rights were being weakened through changes in labour regulations. He called upon trade unions to unite and fight to protect workers' interests and social security benefits.

The convention also announced a series of protests against the four Labour Codes. A nationwide protest will be held in New Delhi from December 1 to 3, demanding their complete withdrawal.

As part of the protest programme, demonstrations will be organised across the country on November 16. In Dakshina Kannada district, protests will be held at all taluk headquarters and in front of Labour Department offices.

The organisers appealed to construction workers and employees from other sectors to participate in large numbers and support the movement.

Dinesh Iruvail presided over the convention, while Anand Iruvail was present on the dais. Secretary Vasanthi Kuppepadavu compered the programme.



Workers at the convention on the Labour Codes in Mangaluru.

The protest roadmap

- **NOVEMBER 16** — Demonstrations across the country; in Dakshina Kannada, at all taluk headquarters and Labour Department offices
- **DECEMBER 1–3** — Nationwide protest in New Delhi demanding the complete withdrawal of the four codes

Quick Read

Astrologer murdered over inter-caste marriage; accused arrested

CH NEWS, BELAGAVI

Police have arrested Babaso Deepak Makdum for allegedly murdering astrologer Mandar Ajit Rande (35) in Manakapura village of Nippani taluk. According to police, the accused held a grudge against Rande for arranging his daughter's marriage to a man from another caste. His daughter had reportedly left home on January 13 and married the man. Police said Makdum allegedly contacted Rande using another mobile number and invited him to Manakapura on the pretext of fixing an auspicious wedding date for October 30. When the astrologer arrived, the accused allegedly threw chilli powder into his eyes before attacking and killing him. Sadalaga police registered a case and arrested the accused following an investigation.

Teen drowns while swimming in Upper Bhadra canal

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

A 16-year-old boy drowned in the Upper Bhadra canal near Halenahalli in Holalkere taluk of Chitradurga district.

The deceased has been identified as Vijay Kumar. According to reports, he had gone swimming in the canal with his friends when the strong water current swept him away. The boy went missing as the canal was carrying a large volume of water.

Fire and emergency services personnel, along with local residents, launched a search operation. After two days of searching, his body was recovered.

A case has been registered at Chitrahalli Gate Police Station.

Temple tender to former employee sparks controversy

CH NEWS, SRIRANGAPATNA

The decision to award a contract for preparing laddus and food for devotees to a former temple employee accused of theft has triggered controversy at the Nimishamba Temple in Ganjam, Srirangapatna, Mandya district.According to reports, Siddaraju, who previously worked as a temple cook, was caught in 2018 while allegedly stealing a lamp stand and cooking utensils belonging to the temple. Following the incident, the temple management reportedly cancelled his contract and suspended him from service.

However, the temple authorities have now reportedly awarded him a contract to prepare laddus and food for devotees.When questioned about the decision, temple Executive Officer Mahesh Sabubu reportedly stated that the contract had been awarded based on the recommendation of local MLAs.Social activist Kumar has submitted a complaint to the Executive Officer, providing documents related to the 2018 incident. He has demanded cancellation of the contract and warned of legal action if the authorities fail to act.

Health officials warn against child marriage in Chitradurga

Despite legal restrictions, child marriage remains a concern, with Dr. Girish urging families to protect minor girls from early marriage and pregnancy

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

Health officials have urged parents not to marry off girls before the age of 18, warning that child marriage is a punishable offence and can seriously affect girls' education, health and future.

The appeal was made by Chitradurga Taluk Health Officer Dr. B.V. Girish at an awareness programme on teenage pregnancies held at the Anganwadi B Centre in Yelagodu village. The programme was organised jointly by the Primary Health Centre (PHC), Yelagodu, and the Department of Women and Child Welfare.

Dr. Girish said that marrying a girl before the age of 18 amounts to child marriage under the law. He expressed concern that such practices continue despite legal restrictions and urged families to protect minor girls from early marriage and pregnancy.



Health officials with women and children at the awareness programme on teenage pregnancies at the Anganwadi B Centre, Yelagodu.

Education first

Taluk Health Education Officer B. Moogappa said girls should complete their education before marriage. He explained that early marriage often forces girls to discontinue their studies, affecting their opportunities and independence.

He also highlighted the health risks associated with teenage pregnancy, including nutritional deficiencies, premature delivery and low birth weight. Early pregnancy can also cause emotional difficulties, anxiety and mental stress among young mothers. He advised couples to use temporary family planning methods available free of cost at government health facilities to delay pregnancy.

Care during pregnancy

Senior Primary Health Safety Officer T. Kalamma stressed the importance of regular medical check-ups, timely treatment and nutritious food during pregnancy. She also urged parents to ensure that children receive vaccinations according to the recommended schedule.

ASHA workers Sunita and Umadevi, Anganwadi assistant Rekha, pregnant women and other villagers attended the programme.

At a glance

- **Legal caution:** marrying off a girl below 18 is a punishable offence
- **Studies:** early marriage cuts short girls' education and independence
- **Health risks:** malnutrition, premature delivery and low birth weight
- **Free support:** family planning, check-ups and vaccinations at government facilities

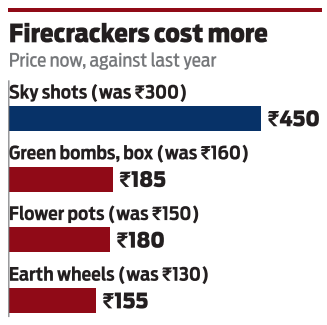
Diwali shopping gains momentum despite rising prices

CH NEWS, CHAMARAJANAGAR

Markets across Chamarajanagar witnessed a rush of shoppers on Naraka Chaturdashi, the first day of Diwali celebrations, as people visited shops to purchase firecrackers, sweets, fruits, flowers, vegetables and decorative items. However, rising prices have affected household budgets.

Poor rainfall this year has reportedly damaged vegetable, flower and fruit crops, leading to a sharp increase in prices. Despite the higher costs, shoppers continued visiting markets from early morning to purchase festival essentials.

Firecrackers cost more
Price now, against last year



Flowers and fruits become costlier

Jasmine flowers were selling at ₹800 per kg, while kanakambara flowers were priced at ₹2,000 per kg. Apples were available at ₹120–₹130 per kg and pomegranates at ₹100–₹120 per kg. Cardamom bananas were reportedly priced at ₹70–₹80 per kg, while other bananas cost ₹50–₹60 per kg.

Firecracker prices rise

Firecracker prices have increased by 20 to 30 per cent compared to last year. Flower pots, which cost ₹150 earlier, are now priced at ₹180. Earth wheels have increased from ₹130 to ₹155, while sky shots have risen from ₹300 to ₹450.

A box of green bombs now costs ₹185, compared to ₹160 last year. Similarly, firecracker gift boxes that previously cost ₹500–₹600 have become more expensive, with larger 51-piece varieties priced at around ₹1,200.

Poor rainfall affects farmers

Farmers are also facing difficulties due to inadequate rainfall and crop losses. Some have reportedly postponed sowing activities while waiting for rain.

Rising festival expenses, along with increases in milk prices and bus fares, have added to the financial burden on households. Consequently, some farmers are reluctant to spend on festival purchases despite the festive enthusiasm.

Textile entrepreneurs urged to explore global export markets


The one-day export incentive workshop for textile exporters at the Taluk Panchayat Hall, Chitradurga.

₹500 fee for an Importer Exporter Code | **24 hrs** parcel delivery to major cities

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

Small-scale textile entrepreneurs and weavers can succeed in international markets by producing high-quality goods and making use of government export support schemes, said D. Sumalatha, Joint Director of the Department of Handlooms and Textiles, Tumakuru East Zone.

She was speaking after inaugurating a one-day export incentive workshop organised by the department for textile exporters at the Taluk Panchayat Hall in Chitradurga.

Sumalatha explained that entrepreneurs could obtain an Importer Exporter Code (IEC) by registering through the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) website. The application fee is ₹500. She encouraged small businesses to explore export opportunities and improve product quality to meet international standards.

She also urged weavers and small-scale industries to use postal services for exporting products in small quantities. The initiative aims to make international trade more accessible to local manufacturers.

Y.M. Bindu, Deputy Director of the Textiles Department, said the initiative would benefit silk saree and blanket manufacturers. She added that products such as shawls and chowkis would also receive support through market promotion activities. The government is encouraging textile exports to increase the sector's contribution to the economy.

Postal Department Marketing Officer Karisiddappa explained that postal services were available in villages as well as cities. He said parcels booked for Bengaluru and other major cities could be sent on the same day, with arrangements for delivery within 24 hours. He added that postal parcel charges had been reduced under the guidance of Union Minister for Communications Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, making the services more affordable than many private courier options.

He encouraged textile entrepreneurs and exporters to make greater use of postal services to reach customers in domestic and international markets.

Taluk Panchayat Planning Officer Raghavendra, Abdul Rehman Tajuddin of Mangaluru, Dr. Viraj Somakuvar of Dharwad and Assistant Director of the Textiles Department B. Thippeswamy attended the workshop.

Darga School celebrates golden jubilee with grand event

CH NEWS, HUNSUR

The high school section of Darga Government Pre-University College in Ratnapuri, Hunsur taluk, celebrated its 50th anniversary with a grand programme. An initiative to support students' educational needs was also announced during the celebrations.

The programme was inaugurated by MLA G.D. Harish Gowda and former MLA H.P. Manjunath by lighting the ceremonial lamp.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Harish Gowda asked the school administration to submit a written list of facilities and requirements needed for the institution's overall development. He also announced that he would take responsibility for the complete educational expenses of two talented students from the school.

Former MLA H.P. Manjunath recalled his contributions to improving educational infrastructure during his tenure. He said he had prioritised the construction of classrooms and toilets in schools to provide better facilities for students.



Guests light the lamp to open the golden jubilee programme of the Darga school in Ratnapuri, Hunsur taluk.

Manjunath also appreciated Vice-Principal Mohan Raj for his efforts towards the school's development. In recognition of his contribution, he honoured Mohan Raj on stage by presenting him with a silver bracelet.

Film actor Abhijit, mimicry artist Gopi, Ravi-Santu Bhagya, former Taluk Panchayat member Ajgar Pasha, Prabhakar R., Dr. Kiran H.S., Vice-Principal Tejaswini M.S. and Ramakrishna attended the programme.

Dalit leaders Harihara Ananda Swami, D.K. Kunnegowda, Surendra and Nageshwara Mengani Babu were also present.

Block Education Officer Kalanayaka and School Development Committee President Janardhan participated along with other dignitaries, teachers and well-wishers.

The golden jubilee celebration marked five decades of the institution's contribution to education in the region.

Farmers seek crop compensation, insurance and loan waiver

CH NEWS, GADAG

The Federation of Samagra Kisan Sangathan has urged the state government to address farmers' growing difficulties caused by inadequate rainfall and changing weather conditions.

The organisation has demanded immediate crop compensation, release of pending insurance claims and a complete waiver of agricultural loans.

Crop losses and loans

The organisation said the lack of rainfall this year has severely affected agricultural activities, resulting in crop losses and financial difficulties for farmers. It also highlighted the growing burden of agricultural loans and the shortage of essential facilities in rural areas.

The organisation also urged the government to identify villages experiencing drinking water shortages and provide immediate relief to affected residents.

The federation stressed that farmers are facing serious financial challenges and cannot depend on assurances alone. It called for practical measures and timely implementation of relief programmes.

It appealed to the state government to consider the demands seriously and take immediate steps to protect farmers, agricultural workers and rural families from further hardship.

THE FEDERATION'S DEMANDS

- **Compensation** at once for crops damaged this season
- **Insurance:** pending 2025–26 kharif claims paid, interim relief for 2026–27
- **Loans:** recovery suspended and a complete waiver for distressed farmers
- **Water and fodder** for villages and livestock
- **Gaushalas** where fodder is short



Gadag: farmers in the district want drought relief.

LIFE-SAVING DONATION

Blood donation camp marks Kannada Rajyotsava celebrations

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

Voluntary blood donation is a noble act that can save lives, as blood cannot be manufactured despite advances in science and technology, said K.G. Satish, First Additional Civil Judge and Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC).

He was speaking after inaugurating a voluntary blood donation camp organised at Government Arts College in Chitradurga to mark Kannada Rajyotsava.

The programme was jointly organised by the District Legal Services Authority, Indian Red Cross Society's Chitradurga District Branch, DGM Alumni Association (Gadag, 2001 batch), Government Arts College, Amrutha Ayurveda Medical College and Hospital, and the Justice Shivaraj V. Patil Foundation.

Satish said blood donation was an important social responsibility and encouraged people to participate in such camps. He added that regular voluntary blood donation drives could help meet the needs of patients and save many lives.

Government Arts College Principal Dr. R. Tarini Shubhadayini said blood donation programmes contribute to building a healthier society. She noted that blood collected from a single donor could help save up to three lives, depending on how its components are used. She also appreciated the college's various units and associations for their social service activities.



Blood from a single donor can help save up to three lives

Senior Civil Judge and District Legal Services Authority Member Secretary Shameer P. Nandyal donated blood during the programme, encouraging others to follow his example.

Several dignitaries attended the event, including Indian Red Cross Society district chairperson Gayathri Shivaram, DGM Alumni Association Joint Secretary Dr. Naveen B. Sajjan, Justice Shivaraj V. Patil Foundation District Coordinator Dilshad Unnisa and college IQAC Coordinator Dr. Leelavathi.

M.K. Anantha Reddy, Arun Kumar, Harish Babu Reddy and District Secretary Mazhar Ulla were also present.

Dr. Prasad V. delivered the welcome address, Dr. Pradeep Kumar compered the programme, and Dr. B.K. Basavaraja proposed the vote of thanks. Certificates were distributed to blood donors.

MLA visits shooting victims, assures medical and financial aid

CH NEWS, MYSURU

MLA G.D. Harish Gowda visited Govindaraj and Jinjanna, who were injured in a shooting incident at the Tibetan Camp in Gurupura, Hunsur taluk, at K.R. Hospital in Mysuru.During the visit, he spoke to medical staff to enquire about their health condition and the treatment being provided. He also offered words of support to the injured shepherds and extended personal financial assistance.

Govindaraj and Jinjanna, natives of Sira taluk, had migrated from their hometown in search of a livelihood through sheep rearing. Harish Gowda expressed concern over the attack on the two men, who were earning their living through livestock rearing.

JIO'S HISTORIC LEAP AND THE NARRATIVE OF A DEVELOPED INDIA



LALIT GARGG

A nation's progress cannot be measured merely by its towering buildings, gleaming highways or rising Gross Domestic Product figures. Its true development is reflected in how effectively entrepreneurship transforms people's lives, how widely technology reaches, and how far economic strength empowers the aspirations of ordinary citizens. The story of Reliance Industries and Jio in India's development journey draws attention to this broader transformation. In the history of Indian industry, the Tata Group has built an enduring legacy of trust, institutional values, social responsibility and long-term vision. Reliance, on the other hand, has carved out a distinct identity through large-scale investments, an instinctive understanding of market dynamics, the democratisation of technology and its decisive entry into emerging sectors. Both groups are important pillars of the Indian economy. Therefore, Reliance moving ahead of the Tata Group in market valuation should not be viewed merely as the defeat of one and the triumph of another. It is more appropriately understood as a new chapter in the evolution of competition within Indian industry. Jio's journey is a remarkable illustration of this transformation. Since entering India's telecommunications sector, it has played a significant role in making internet services more accessible, reshaping data pricing and bringing digital opportunities within the reach of ordinary citizens. Jio's real achievement lies not merely in increasing its market share, but in expanding the scope of participation in India's digital economy.

Reliance's success must be understood in the context of the long-term business vision developed under Mukesh Ambani's leadership, substantial capital investment and a strategy of expanding into new areas in response to changing times. Dhirubhai Ambani laid the foundation for an entrepreneurial model that connected ordinary people with enterprise and the capital market. Building upon that legacy, the group strengthened its presence across diverse sectors, including petrochemicals, energy, retail and telecommunications. Jio extended this legacy into the digital age. The message of this journey is unmistakable: those who fail to adapt to changing times risk being left behind,

"When a spirit of blessing becomes part of business and society becomes a stakeholder in success, enterprise evolves beyond a means of generating wealth. It becomes a celebration of public trust."

— Lalit Gargg

while those who recognise the emerging signals of change can help shape the future. On October 28, 2026, the historic stock market listing of Jio Platforms added a new dimension to this journey. Following a public issue of approximately ₹30,213 crore, the company's market capitalisation rose above ₹12.5 lakh crore, making it India's second-most-valuable listed company on its first day of trading. The combined market value of Reliance Group's listed companies also moved ahead of that of the Tata Group. These figures reflect the changing contours of India's capital markets and investors' confidence in the digital economy. However, it is equally important to recognise that market capitalisation measures the market's valuation of a company; it is not a direct measure of the prosperity of ordinary citizens. The heights achieved in the stock market acquire real significance only when their benefits reach the grassroots of the economy.

At this historic occasion, the heartfelt remarks attributed to Anant Ambani attracted considerable attention. By connecting the business milestone with family values and spiritual sensibilities, he highlighted the importance of harmonising material achievement with spiritual depth. He compared business to worship and expressed the sentiment of sharing the company's success with the nation, likening its shares to prasad, a sacred offering. His words conveyed gratitude, respect for family heritage and recognition of the contribution made by millions of customers. Mukesh Ambani's emotional response, too, symbolised the years of hard work, struggle, trust and generational dreams that lie behind a major achievement. One particularly significant idea emerges from this moment: business is not merely a mechanism for generating profits; it is also a means of earning society's trust. When a company acknowledges the contributions of its employees, technicians, partners and consumers to its success, the human dimension of enterprise comes to the fore. The higher a fruit-bearing tree grows, the more gracefully its branches should bend. Such humility lends lasting dignity and credibility to a business empire. Anant Ambani's commitment to animal welfare and wildlife conservation can also be viewed in the broader context of social responsibility. The true prestige of industry grows when economic progress advances alongside compassion for living beings and sensitivity towards the environment.

Mahendra Nahata, industrialist and founder of Himachal Futuristic Communications Limited (HFCL), a leading company in the telecommunications sector, participated in Jio's historic launch ceremony and described the occasion as a unique confluence of India's economic strength, technological progress and spiritual sensitivity. In his view, Jio's remarkable ascent represents far more than the commercial achievement of a single company; it symbolises India's digital capabilities, entrepreneurial ambition and aspirations for global leadership. He also observed that Anant Ambani's heartfelt address, rooted in blessings, family values and a spirit of public participation, gave the event a distinctive human dimension.



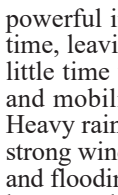
Undoubtedly, Jio's rise represents a significant chapter in the story of a self-confident New India, bringing renewed energy to innovation and the national aspiration of building a developed India. Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, initiatives such as Digital India, digital payments, the expansion of foundational digital infrastructure and policies encouraging entrepreneurship have helped create a favourable environment for the country's technological transformation. This progress reflects the combined contribution of government policies, private-sector investment, scientific talent and the participation of millions of citizens. Jio has leveraged this environment to expand digital connectivity. India's ambition to become the world's third-largest economy is also part of this broader development journey. Yet, alongside the expansion of the economy, improvements in per capita income, quality employment, education, healthcare and social security are equally essential.

The challenges ahead are even more consequential. Investments in artificial intelligence, cloud computing, satellite-based connectivity and emerging digital services could open up substantial opportunities for India. However, technological progress will be genuinely inclusive only when robust connectivity in rural areas, digital literacy, cybersecurity and the protection of personal data are ensured. Telecommunications companies must strike a careful balance between service quality, affordable pricing and consumer interests. Competition from Tata, Airtel and other Indian enterprises can further strengthen the sector, encourage innovation and improve consumer choice. After all, it takes more than one hand to clap. Building a developed India requires the collective participation of the government, industry, investors, workers and consumers. Reliance, too, faces significant tests in the years ahead. Its impressive market valuation must translate into sustained innovation, durable profitability, employment generation and public trust. Alongside meeting investors' expectations, the company must give due importance to environmental responsibility, transparency and fair competition. The purpose of economic development cannot be confined to transforming a handful of corporations into global powerhouses; it must also create stability, dignity and opportunity in the lives of millions of families.

In essence, Jio's achievement symbolises the aspirations of a New India that seeks confidence in technology, expansion in business and leadership in the global economy. Yet the destination remains some distance away. True success does not lie merely in enabling a few to reach the summit; it lies in opening the pathways to that summit for everyone. Reliance's economic leap will secure a lasting place in history only if it contributes to greater employment, reduces income disparities and carries the light of development to the last person in society. That is the essence of a developed India: prosperous industries, empowered citizens and a compassionate society.

Anant Ambani's heartfelt interpretation of the blessings embedded in the name Jio beautifully brought together Indian culture, family values and spiritual consciousness. He observed, "A mother says, 'Jio, my son'; a grandmother says, 'May you live for a thousand years'; and friends say, 'Jio, my friend.'" Through this expression, Jio becomes much more than a commercial name. It emerges as a living message of goodwill, blessings, affection and auspicious wishes. By describing business as worship and shares as prasad, he presented a distinctive vision of connecting economic achievement with public participation and gratitude.

THE FUTURE OF COASTAL INDIA UNDER THE SHADOW OF CYCLONES



DR. PRIYANKA SAURABH

As life-giving as the ocean is, its fury can be equally destructive. India's nearly 7,500-kilometer coastline is crucial to the country's economy, trade, fisheries, and tourism. However, these same coastal areas face the threat of cyclones, storm surges, floods, and coastal erosion every year. Cyclone Arnab has once again raised questions about coastal India's vulnerability and disaster management preparedness. The question is not only when and where a cyclone will strike, but also how strong our preparedness is to deal with it. In this era of changing climate, we must now develop strategies to mitigate damage in advance, rather than providing relief after a disaster strikes.

The biggest challenge in dealing with cyclones is predicting their changing nature and intensity. Despite modern technology and improvements in weather forecasting, cyclones often become more powerful in a short period of time, leaving authorities with little time to evacuate people and mobilize relief supplies. Heavy rains, accompanied by strong winds, high sea waves, and flooding rivers can wreak havoc. Climate change and rising sea temperatures have exacerbated this challenge.

Poor infrastructure in coastal areas is also a major problem. During cyclones, power poles collapse, roads become submerged, and communication services are disrupted. This hampers relief and rescue operations. In many coastal cities, unplanned construction, poor drainage systems, and the expansion of settlements in low-lying areas increase the risk. This makes it a major challenge to not only rescue people during a disaster but also to quickly restore essential services like electricity, water, health, and transportation.

After all, safe coasts are built not just by strong buildings, but by aware citizens, accountable administration, and a protected environment.

The India Meteorological Department's early warning system has improved, but the challenge remains ensuring that warnings reach everyone in a timely manner. Disseminating information to fishermen at sea, people living in remote villages and small islands is not easy. People often don't take warnings seriously or delay moving to safer locations due to fear of abandoning their homes and livelihoods. Therefore, simply



issuing warnings is not enough; it's also crucial to educate people about the dangers and how to avoid them.

Cyclones don't affect everyone equally. Poor families, women, children, the elderly, and the disabled are most affected. Families whose livelihoods depend on farming, fishing, or daily wage labor find it difficult to leave their homes and move to safety. They worry about their property, livestock, and jobs. Following a cyclone, fishing ceases, fields become inundated with saltwater, and small businesses come to a halt. This leaves affected families with long-term economic hardship.

The weakening of natural protective shields is also a matter of concern. Deforestation of mangrove forests, destruction of wetlands, and increasing construction on beaches increase the risk of cyclones. Mangrove forests play a vital role in reducing the force of sea waves and protecting coastal areas. Despite this, natural resources are being damaged in the name of development. Development in coastal areas is necessary, but development at the expense of the environment can become a major threat for the future.

To address these challenges, the first step is to strengthen the early warning system. Along with enhancing the technical capabilities of the Meteorological Department, it is essential to expand satellites, Doppler radar, and marine monitoring systems. Warnings should not be limited to mobile messages. Information should also be disseminated to the public through sirens, community radio, local administration, and panchayats. Warnings should be in the local language and clearly state what to do and where to go.

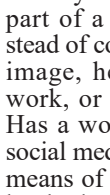
Additionally, robust infrastructure must be developed in coastal areas. There is a need to increase the number of cyclone shelters, establish safe evacuation routes, and strengthen hospitals, power plants, and drinking water systems for disaster preparedness. Special attention should be paid to the needs of women, children, the elderly, and the disabled in shelters. Regular mock drills can help train people on the right steps to take during a disaster.

The participation of local communities is also essential in disaster management. Panchayats, NGOs, fishermen's associations, and youth should be involved in disaster management plans. Disaster awareness and first aid training should be provided in schools. Local people have better knowledge of the risks in their areas. Therefore, their participation can make relief and rescue operations more effective.

Damage can also be minimized by working in harmony with nature. Mangrove forests, wetlands, and coastal vegetation should be protected. Uncontrolled construction in sensitive areas should be prohibited, and coastal regulations should be strictly enforced. Furthermore, insurance, financial assistance, and livelihood rehabilitation are essential for fishermen, farmers, and small businesses, so they can recover after a disaster.

Cyclone Arnab has provided an opportunity to understand that while it's impossible to completely avoid natural disasters, their damage can certainly be mitigated through better preparedness. India has made significant progress in weather forecasting and evacuation, but much remains to be done in coastal areas. The need now is not to limit ourselves to relief and rescue, but to create systems that can mitigate damage before a disaster strikes.

THOUGHTS STUCK ON THE FEMALE BODY, DREAMS OF BECOMING A WORLD LEADER!



DR. SATYAVAN SAURABH

Social media has given everyone the opportunity to express their views, opinions, and connect with the world. It can become a powerful medium for disseminating knowledge, science, literature, art, and social concerns on a wide scale. But the question is: what are we using this medium for? To understand scientific discoveries, to read literature, to reflect on national and global problems, or to search for body parts in others' photos and make obscene comments? This question is not only about social media use, but also about our mindset, interests, and social priorities.

A woman complains that her photos repeatedly receive comments asking why she shows her backside in every photo. Such comments have appeared hundreds of times. This situation raises many questions. What is the perspective of the person commenting on the photo? Why do they focus on a particular part of a woman's body instead of considering her entire image, her personality, her work, or her achievements? Has a woman's presence on social media become simply a means of public comment on her body?

This woman's response is sharp. She says that when some people are interested in such photos, she shows them those because their interest and understanding level doesn't seem to go beyond that. Her response is full of sarcasm, anger, and even contempt for those who limit a woman's photo to her body rather than her personality. However, the most important aspect of this entire incident is not the woman's photo or her response, but the mentality that considers it normal to constantly objectify women and make obscene comments about their bodies.

A fundamental point needs to be understood here. What a woman chooses to portray in her photo is her personal decision. Some may like her photo, others may not. But likes and dislikes do not justify posting obscenity, making derogatory comments, or attacking someone's character. Freedom of expression does not mean the right to trample on another person's dignity. There is a clear distinction between expressing disagreement with someone's photo and insulting them.

The other side of this issue is even more serious. When a post is shared about the achievements of Nobel Prize-winning scientists in chemistry, it often doesn't receive the expected response. Not even a hundred people like the post, and not even fifty people express their opinion. Meanwhile, images that center the body seem to garner far more interest. If this is the experience of any social media user, it should be considered where our collective interests are headed.

However, the intellectual capacity of an entire society cannot be judged based on the likes and comments received on a single post. Social media algorithms, the timing of a post, its presentation, subject matter, and audience interest also influence its reach. Nevertheless, if we repeatedly find that entertainment and materialistic content garners greater response, while science, research, and critical thinking are ignored, it is a fitting opportunity to review our digital culture.

We want India to lead the world in science and technology. We want our scientists to make new discoveries, our universities to become world-class research centers, and our young generation to break new ground in medicine, space, artificial intelligence, and chemistry. We aspire to surpass the technological achievements of countries like the United States, China, and Israel. But is this possible only through slogans? Can we, while dreaming of becoming a world leader, shirk the responsibility of understanding the work of scientists, understanding research, and sharing knowledge?

A country's scientific progress doesn't happen solely in laboratories. It also requires a social environment where curiosity is respected, the habit of asking questions is cultivated, researchers are encouraged, and knowledge is respected. Only when young



people discuss the achievements of scientists, understand the findings of research, and consider the social impact of new technology does scientific consciousness become part of society. If knowledge is considered boring and vulgar entertainment is considered the most attractive, then serious discussion on this trend is necessary.

It's also true that entertainment and science aren't mutually exclusive. Social media should also have a place for humor, beauty, fashion, and entertainment. Everyone can't be expected to read serious articles all the time. The problem isn't with entertainment, but rather when a woman's photo is used to promote obscenity, insults, and misogyny, while efforts to cultivate interest in informative content are consistently ignored.

The double standards toward women are equally worrying. On the one hand, people view their photos, comment on them, and share in their popularity; on the other, they lecture those same women on morality. If you don't like a woman's photo, it's not necessary to view or comment on it. However, using derogatory language about someone's photo shows disrespect for that person's dignity. Before questioning a woman's freedom, one should also consider the responsible behavior of the person making the comment.

The question of popularity and revenue on social media is also linked to this debate. When a particular type of content attracts a large audience, some people turn it into a source of income. This is not surprising; audience interest on digital platforms often influences content dissemination and revenue. But it does raise the question of what type of content we are encouraging. If viewers consistently view, share, and respond to content, they contribute to its circulation, even if unknowingly.

Therefore, blaming only the content creators isn't enough. Viewers also need to understand their role. The posts they respond to, the videos they rewatch, and the comments they forward shape the digital environment. If we want science, literature, education, and social concerns to find greater space on social media, we must also learn to read, share, and engage in meaningful discussion of such content.

Ultimately, the question isn't about a woman's clothing, her photographs, or her responses. It's about a vision that reduces women to body parts rather than a complete human being. It's also about a society that aspires to be a world leader but doesn't make sufficient collective efforts to popularize knowledge and scientific achievements.

To become a world leader, it's not enough to simply dream of technological progress; society must also cultivate respect for knowledge, dignity for women, and curiosity for ideas. It's easy to make lewd comments after seeing someone's photo, but understanding a scientist's discovery, reading a book, and seriously considering a social problem requires effort.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Call for Better Public Transit

Rising traffic congestion is making daily commutes longer and more stressful for everyone. Investing in reliable, expanded public transit will reduce traffic, lower emissions, and make commuting affordable. Prioritizing cleaner transportation options improves air quality and overall city liveability. Local leaders must make modernizing public transit a top priority now to build a cleaner, more efficient city for the future. **– Mary Vanaja R.**

Protecting Local Green Spaces

Our community's green spaces and parks are disappearing fast due to continuous urban development. These natural areas are essential for fresh air, mental well-being, and providing children a safe place to play. Overdevelopment threatens local biodiversity and damages our environment. We must act immediately to protect our existing parks, plant more trees, and ensure future generations can enjoy accessible green spaces. **– A. Jaikumar**

APPLE'S TIM COOK SHARES DIWALI WISHES WORLDWIDE

Cook celebrated Diwali with a global greeting, sharing a photograph of a glowing diya captured by Indian photographer Gursimran Basra using the latest iPhone 18 Pro Max.

NEW DELHI

Apple Executive Chairman Tim Cook extended Diwali greetings to people celebrating the festival across the world on Sunday, November 8, sharing a festive photograph captured using the company's latest flagship smartphone, the iPhone 18 Pro Max.

In a post on social media platform X, Cook wished people celebrating the festival and highlighted the camera capabilities of Apple's latest smartphone.

The photograph, credited to Indian photographer Gursimran Basra, featured a glowing diya in a festive setting, capturing the spirit of Diwali.

"Happy Diwali to everyone celebrating around the world! May the light of this festival brighten your year ahead.

Shot on iPhone 18 Pro Max by Gursimran Basra," Cook wrote in his post.

The festive greeting also brought attention to Basra's photography, with the Indian photographer's work being selected for the Apple executive's Diwali message to a global audience.



Shot on iPhone

- **2021** Gursimran Basra, iPhone 13 Pro Max
- **2024** Rohit Vohra, iPhone 16 Pro Max
- **2025** Apeksha Maker, iPhone 17 Pro Max
- **2026** Gursimran Basra, iPhone 18 Pro Max

Cook has regularly marked major Indian festivals, particularly Diwali and Holi, by sharing photographs captured by iPhone users. The practice has become a recurring feature of his social media posts, combining festive greetings with Apple's focus on smartphone photography.

In 2025, Cook shared a Diwali photograph captured on the iPhone 17 Pro Max by Mumbai-based photographer Apeksha Maker.

The picture featured a woman lighting diyas against a backdrop decorated with marigold flowers.

In 2024, he extended Diwali wishes using a photograph taken by Delhi-based photographer Rohit Vohra on the iPhone 16 Pro Max.

Basra has also featured in Cook's earlier festive greetings. In 2021, Cook shared two photographs captured by Basra using the iPhone 13 Pro Max while extending Diwali wishes.

Quick Read

Sensex, Nifty end lower in Diwali special session

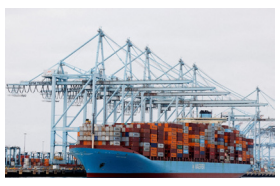
MUMBAI

Benchmark equity indices ended Sunday's special Diwali trading session on a subdued note, with a negative bias, as losses in banking and IT stocks weighed on market sentiment. The Sensex declined 28.62 points, or 0.04 per cent, to settle at 80,999.40, while the Nifty fell 43.95 points, or 0.18 per cent, to close at 24,986.40. The Nifty touched an intra-day high of 25,132 during the session before giving up its gains and settling below the 25,000 mark.

Traders blend tradition with technology in Diwali puja

NEW DELHI

Traders across the country celebrated Diwali by worshipping traditional account books alongside iPads, laptops, computers, mobile phones and other digital devices, reflecting the growing adoption of technology in India's trading community while preserving age-old customs. The initiative, encouraged by the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) for several years, highlights the changing face of Indian commerce, where traditional business practices are increasingly making way for digital tools without losing their cultural significance.



California port talks extended, strike averted

CALIFORNIA

A potential strike at two major US seaports has been averted after port employers and a dockworkers' union extended their bargaining deadline. The Los Angeles and Long Beach port employers' association and the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) Local 26 have extended their bargaining deadline until November 20, averting the immediate threat of a potential strike involving approximately 250 maritime watchmen. According to the PMA, a strike by these workers could disrupt operations at terminals handling approximately 85 per cent of the cargo at the Port of Long Beach and 33 per cent of the cargo at the Port of Los Angeles.

Tesla adds Cybertruck shift to clear orders

TEXAS

Tesla will add an extra production shift at its Texas factory to complete outstanding Cybertruck orders before dismantling the production line for a planned expansion of Cybercab manufacturing next year, Chief Executive Officer Elon Musk said. In a post on social media platform X, Musk said the existing Cybertruck order backlog was significantly higher than the number of vehicles the company could manufacture before the production line is dismantled around June or July 2027. He added that the company would introduce an additional shift to accelerate production and attempt to fulfil pending orders within the available timeframe.

Adnoc signs 10-year LNG supply deal

NEW DELHI



Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (Adnoc) has signed a 10-year liquefied natural gas (LNG) supply agreement with Gujarat Energy Ltd (GEL), strengthening the UAE state-owned company's presence in India's rapidly expanding energy market.

Under the long-term Sales and Purchase Agreement (SPA), Gujarat Energy will receive up to four million tonnes of LNG, with deliveries scheduled to begin in 2028. The gas will come from the international portfolio of XRG, Adnoc's global investment company.

According to reports, the agreement marks the first LNG sale from XRG's international gas portfolio, highlighting its efforts to establish a globally integrated gas and LNG business.

This is Adnoc's fifth LNG supply agreement in India. In January, Adnoc Gas signed a $3 billion agreement with Hindustan Petroleum Corporation to supply 0.5 million metric tonnes of LNG annually for 10 years. With this latest agreement, the value of Adnoc's contracts with Indian customers has crossed $20 billion.

Deal highlights

10 yrs	SUPPLY TERM
4 mn	TONNES OF LNG, AT MOST
2028	DELIVERIES BEGIN
44	DISTRICTS IN GEL'S GAS NETWORK

Adnoc's Chief Marketing and Origination Officer (LNG), Rashid Al Mazrouei, said the agreement would strengthen the company's long-standing energy partnership with Indian customers.

He added that Adnoc's integrated LNG marketing and trading platform would connect its growing international portfolio with customers in key global markets while ensuring reliable and flexible long-term supplies to India.

S. Korean firms back Vietnam ops

SEOUL

More than 90 per cent of South Korean companies operating in Vietnam intend to continue their businesses in the Southeast Asian country despite rising labour costs and increasing regulatory burdens, according to a survey released on Sunday.

The survey, conducted by the Korea International Trade Association (KITA), found that 92 per cent of South Korean companies operating in Vietnam had no plans to withdraw from the country.

Among those planning to maintain their presence, 87.5 per cent cited Vietnam's cost advantage compared with other countries as the primary reason for continuing operations.

The findings come amid a significant increase in wages in Vietnam over the past 14 years. According to KITA, the monthly minimum wage for Vietnamese workers rose more than 4.5 times, from $45.4 in 2010 to $205.3 in 2024.

KITA said monthly wages rose at an average annual rate of 11.4 per cent during the period, representing the fastest pace among major Asian economies.



92% have no plans to leave

87.5% of those staying cite costs

72% see a global business hub

Despite the rising labour expenses, South Korean businesses remain optimistic about Vietnam's economic and commercial prospects. Nearly 60 per cent of respondents expected their operations in the country to improve over the next three to five years. In comparison, only 12.4 per cent expressed a pessimistic outlook.

Furthermore, 72 per cent of the companies surveyed believed Vietnam would continue to serve as an important global business hub in the coming years.

KITA advised South Korean companies operating in Vietnam to reassess their cost structures and improve operational efficiency to adapt to the changing business conditions.

India set to join EU's 93.5 billion euros horizon Europe programme

NEW DELHI: India and the European Commission have concluded negotiations on India's association with Horizon Europe, a move expected to significantly strengthen scientific and technological collaboration between the two sides and deepen their strategic partnership, it was announced on Friday.

The agreement, once formally signed and approved through the required procedures, will allow Indian researchers, businesses and research organisations to participate more closely in Horizon Europe, the European Union's research and innovation framework with a budget of 93.5 billion euros for the 2021-2027 period.

Under the arrangement, Indian entities will be able to receive direct funding from Horizon Europe and lead collaborative projects under Pillar II, titled "Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness."

Samsung set to be first South Korean firm with $146.6 bn cash

SEOUL

Helped by the artificial intelligence (AI)-led chip supercycle, Samsung Electronics is poised to become the first South Korean company with cash assets of over 200 trillion won ($146.6 billion), industry data showed on Sunday.

Cash and cash equivalents at the chip giant are estimated to have reached 214.8 trillion won as of the third quarter, up 24.8 trillion won from 190 trillion won recorded three months earlier, according to the data.

The amount is also nearly double from the 108.5 trillion won recorded at the end of the third quarter of 2025.

Market watchers estimate Samsung's current cash assets are enough to fully fund the top-line payout in its landmark shareholder return policy announced in August. The chip behemoth said about 90 trillion won to 110 trillion won will be available for shareholder returns in 2026.

Investments into chipmaking infrastructure and research and development are expected to reach a historic high of over 100 trillion won this year, too, with 84.4 trillion won to be spent in expanding its memory production facilities.Samsung said it expects the semiconductor supercycle to continue through next year amid sustained investments in AI and a memory supply crunch while adding it plans to announce its shareholder policy for the coming year at a board meeting scheduled for January.

Indian markets brace for volatility in Samvat 2083

MUMBAI

Indian investors should prepare for another year of uncertainty as domestic equity markets are expected to remain volatile in Samvat 2083, according to market analysts. The new Hindu calendar year, which began with Diwali on Sunday, comes after a turbulent Samvat 2082, marked by significant fluctuations and challenging global economic conditions.

Geopolitical developments, movements in crude oil prices and foreign institutional investor (FII) flows are expected to remain the major factors influencing market performance in the coming months. Analysts believe these external uncertainties could continue to affect investor confidence and determine the direction of domestic equities.

Samvat 2082 witnessed one of the Indian stock market's weakest performances in nearly 15 years. However, the calendar year concluded on a positive note, with benchmark indices registering a strong recovery. The Nifty 50 and BSE Sensex recorded weekly gains of approximately 8.6 per cent and 8.8 per cent, respectively, marking their biggest weekly advances in nearly six years.

The recovery came amid significant global developments, including a Democratic victory in the US midterm elections and a partial unwinding of investments linked to the artificial intelligence (AI) trade. These developments contributed to changes in global market sentiment and eased some pressure on financial markets.

What will move markets

- → Geopolitical developments
- → Crude oil prices
- → Foreign institutional investor (FII) flows



Meanwhile, international economic indicators also showed signs of moderation. Brent crude prices declined to $98.3 per barrel, while the yield on 10-year US Treasury bonds fell to 4.86 per cent from a multi-year high of 5.37 per cent.

The US Energy Information Administration's October outlook projected Brent crude prices to average $84 per barrel in 2027, provided most Middle Eastern oil production returns to pre-conflict levels by June 2027.

However, the agency cautioned that the projection remains conditional, warning that attacks on oil tankers could rapidly alter the global energy outlook.

Gold, silver may remain under pressure next week

MUMBAI

Bullion prices are likely to remain under pressure in the coming week as investors closely track developments in the US-Iran conflict, crude oil price movements and key inflation indicators across major economies. Market analysts believe these factors will play an important role in determining the direction of precious metal prices.

Investors will particularly focus on inflation data from China, the United States, Germany, Japan and India. Speeches by Federal Reserve officials and upcoming US employment figures will also be closely monitored for indications about the future direction of interest rates. Developments in China's economy are expected to influence industrial metal prices as well.

Geopolitical uncertainty is likely to remain another major factor influencing commodity markets. US President Donald Trump recently confirmed fresh military strikes on Iran while claiming that Washington had made "a lot of progress" in negotiations with Tehran.



? MARKET HOLIDAY

The domestic commodities market stays shut for the morning session on Tuesday for Diwali-Balipratipada.

The conflicting developments have added uncertainty to the global economic and financial outlook.

Pranav Mer, Senior Vice President, EBG – Commodity and Currency Research at JM Financial Services Ltd, said gold and silver were witnessing downward momentum. He added that investors would closely monitor inflation figures from major economies and commentary from Federal Reserve officials.

Mer said developments in peace negotiations between the United States and Iran, aimed at ending the conflict, would also remain important. Progress in Russia-Ukraine peace talks will be another factor influencing investor sentiment.

Meanwhile, domestic commodity markets recorded gains during the previous week. On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold futures for December delivery rose by ₹3,682, or nearly three per cent, to close at ₹1.42 lakh per 10 grams.

The domestic commodities market will remain closed during the morning session on Tuesday on account of Diwali-Balipratipada.

Investors are expected to remain cautious amid global uncertainties and important economic announcements.

CONSTRUCTION BOOST

Tamil Nadu clears new infrastructure corporation

CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu government has approved the establishment of a new state public sector entity, the Tamil Nadu Infrastructure and Construction Corporation, to undertake major government construction projects valued at more than Rs 200 crore.

Officials said on Sunday that sanction had been accorded for setting up the corporation, which will be responsible for executing large-scale government building projects across the state.

The decision follows an announcement made by Public Works and Sports Development Minister Aadhav Arjuna in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on August 18, 2026. A Government Order has now been issued to implement the proposal, officials confirmed.

While announcing the initiative in the Assembly, Arjuna had stated that the proposed corporation would undertake government building projects costing more than Rs 200 crore. The latest Government Order formalises the proposal and clears the way for establishing the new public sector entity.



The corporation is expected to serve as a dedicated agency for handling major construction assignments undertaken by the state government. Its mandate will cover projects exceeding the specified financial threshold of Rs 200 crore.

The move is significant as state governments increasingly undertake large infrastructure and public building projects requiring dedicated institutional mechanisms for planning and execution.

> **"The Tamil Nadu Infrastructure and Construction Corporation will undertake government building projects in the state costing more than Rs 200 crore."**
>
> **– Aadhav Arjuna**
> Public Works Minister, TN

By establishing a separate corporation, Tamil Nadu aims to create an organisational structure specifically responsible for handling its high-value government construction works.

However, further details regarding the corporation's administrative structure, operational framework, staffing arrangements and commencement of activities have not been provided in the announcement.

Quick Read

Woman, mother-in-law and baby die in roof collapse

KANPUR

A woman, her mother-in-law and her 21-day-old son died after the roof of their house collapsed in Kanpur's Panki Padaw area on Sunday morning. Police suspect heavy water seepage weakened the non-permanent structure, causing it to collapse.

The deceased woman was around 27–28 years old, while her mother-in-law was approximately 60–65. A rescue operation was launched immediately, and the bodies were sent for post-mortem examinations.

A local resident said the family was living in a mud-walled house and was in a poor financial condition. The woman was reportedly nursing her baby when the roof collapsed, leaving the three with no opportunity to escape. Residents have appealed to the authorities for financial assistance for the surviving family members.

3 killed, 14 injured in Telangana truck-auto collision

RANGAREDDY

Three people were killed and 14 others injured after a truck collided with an auto-rickshaw on the Outer Ring Road near Himayat Sagar in Telangana's Rangareddy district early Sunday. The accident occurred around 12.45 am, with 17 people travelling in the auto-rickshaw at the time of the collision, police said.

The injured passengers were shifted to a hospital for treatment. Police have launched an investigation to establish the cause of the accident. Further details are expected following the enquiry.

JNU student arrested for attacking peer over friendship

NEW DELHI

A Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) student has been arrested for allegedly attacking a fellow student over his friendship with a woman, police sources said on Sunday. Three other students were also injured in the altercation.

The incident reportedly occurred around 3 pm on November 5 inside a room on the university campus. The accused, who is pursuing an MA, also sustained injuries.Following a complaint, Vasant Kunj North Police Station registered a case on Friday under relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), including attempt to murder.Police have arrested the accused, and further investigation is underway to establish the circumstances surrounding the incident.

'A fox cannot become a tiger': Revanth Reddy takes dig at KTR

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy criticised BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao, questioning his leadership and accusing him of imitating others.

VIKARABAD

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Sunday launched a sharp attack on Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) working president K.T. Rama Rao, questioning his leadership and political approach. Addressing a gathering in Vikarabad, Reddy said imitating another leader would not help KTR earn public trust. He compared the BRS leader to a fox attempting to appear like a tiger, suggesting that political image alone could not establish leadership.

"Just as a fox cannot become a tiger by trying to mimic its stripes, you cannot become a tiger by imitating one," Reddy said. He also referred to



KTR's beard, remarking that growing one would not make him resemble the Telangana Chief Minister. Reddy added that it had taken him 50 years to grow a beard and questioned how long KTR might take to gain political wisdom.

The Chief Minister further said that the people of Telangana would not trust a leader unless there was a genuine change in mindset. His remarks come amid increasing political exchanges between the ruling Congress and the opposition BRS over governance, leadership and development issues in the state.

Meanwhile, Reddy highlighted the proposed Rural Agri-Region Economy (RARE) Industrial Hub in Kodangal, stating that the project would generate large-scale employment opportunities for people in the region. He said the development initiative would strengthen the local economy and encourage industrial activity.

The Chief Minister also announced that the radial road connecting Shamshabad and Kodangal would be completed by December 2027. He noted that areas located near airports had considerable potential for industrial growth. According to the state government, improved road connectivity and the proposed industrial hub would support investment and create employment opportunities in the region.

Kodangal pitch

- **RARE hub:** Rural Agri-Region Economy Industrial Hub in Kodangal, for large-scale jobs
- **Radial road:** Shamshabad-Kodangal link to be completed by December 2027

Congress will continue agitation until CEC is removed

NEW DELHI



K.C. Venugopal, Congress general secretary

Congress general secretary K.C. Venugopal on Sunday said the party would continue its nationwide agitation against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar until he was removed from office and the country's electoral system became impartial, transparent and fair.

Speaking to reporters, Venugopal said protests were underway across states and districts, with only a brief pause expected during the Diwali festival. He described the November 1 rally organised by the Congress in New Delhi as one of the strongest protests in the country, alleging that the party was fighting against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

"We will withdraw from this agitation only after Gyanesh Kumar is removed from the post and steps are taken to make India's electoral system and processes flawless, impartial and fair. This is not a struggle that we will abandon midway," Venugopal said.

Congress general secretary K.C. Venugopal vowed to continue nationwide protests demanding the Chief Election Commissioner's removal and reforms ensuring electoral transparency and impartiality.

> **"We will withdraw from this agitation only after Gyanesh Kumar is removed from the post and steps are taken to make India's electoral system and processes flawless, impartial and fair."**
>
> **– K.C. Venugopal** Congress general secretary

'Vote Rakshak' at every booth

He alleged that deleting names from electoral rolls could deprive poor people of their voting rights and access to government welfare benefits, which he claimed were increasingly being linked to voter identity cards. He announced that the Congress would launch its nationwide 'Vote Bachao, Desh Bachao' campaign at the panchayat level over the next one-and-a-half months. The party plans to appoint a 'Vote Rakshak' at every polling booth to examine electoral rolls, identify deleted names and help affected voters restore their registration.

Venugopal said Congress units were organising programmes across states and districts, while discussions were underway for joint initiatives with other political parties. He added that the Opposition would raise the issue during the upcoming Parliament session, along with other public concerns. On the Keralam government, he defended its administration and said allegations involving Excise Minister M. Liju and bar owners would be examined. He also said the government had agreed to investigate corruption allegations raised by former Excise Commissioner Seeram Sambasiva Rao.

Congress donations plunge nearly 75%, biggest fall in a decade

NEW DELHI

The Congress party's donations exceeding ₹20,000 declined nearly 75% to ₹130.69 crore in the financial year 2025-26, marking the sharpest annual fall in such contributions in a decade, according to an analysis of its filings with the Election Commission of India.

The party had received ₹517.39 crore in donations above ₹20,000 during 2024-25, as recorded in its contribution report submitted to the poll panel. The latest figures show a substantial reduction in the party's disclosed contributions compared with the previous financial year, reflecting a sharp drop in the funds received from donors in this category.

Steepest since 2015-16

A comparison of the Congress party's donation records over the preceding 12 financial years shows that the last steeper decline occurred in 2015-16. During that period, disclosed donations fell by approximately 86% from ₹141.46 crore in the previous financial year. This remains the largest annual decline recorded in the comparison until the latest financial year.

The nearly 75% fall in 2025-26 is therefore the steepest contraction in contributions above ₹20,000 in the past decade. The figures are drawn from the party's contribution disclosures submitted to the Election Commission, which provide details of donations received from individuals and other contributors falling within the reporting category.

The latest report highlights a significant change in the Congress party's disclosed financial contributions over the past year. The difference between the two financial years amounts to ₹386.70 crore, underlining the scale of the decline.

Congress donations above ₹20,000

2024-25		2025-26
₹517.39 cr	▸	₹130.69 cr
as filed with the EC		down nearly 75%

Nabin recalls Advani's role in Ram Mandir movement

NEW DELHI

BJP national president Nitin Nabin on Sunday paid tribute to veteran leader L.K. Advani as he entered his 100th year, remembering his contribution to the Ram Mandir movement. Nabin performed a havan at the BJP headquarters in New Delhi and said the Ram Temple in Ayodhya marked the completion of a journey that Advani had started decades ago.

Recalling Advani's Ram Rath Yatra, Nabin spoke about how the procession was stopped at Samastipur in Bihar. He said the movement had captured the attention of the entire country, even when he was young. He added that the karsevaks continued Advani's mission despite the interruption. Nabin also credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi with taking the movement forward until the temple became a reality.

Describing Advani as a determined leader, Nabin said he had experienced the pain of Partition but remained committed to serving the nation. He also recalled the BJP's difficult early years, when the party had only two members in Parliament. According to Nabin, the determination of Advani and former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee helped the party grow into a major political force.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi also praised Advani through an article, highlighting his contributions to Indian politics. He recalled how Advani rebuilt his life after Partition and strengthened the BJP through his leadership. Born on November 8, 1927, in Karachi, Advani served as BJP president for three terms and held the positions of Home Minister and Deputy Prime Minister.

In recognition of his contribution to the country, Advani was awarded the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian honour, by President Droupadi Murmu in March 2024.

L.K. Advani

- **NOV 8, 1927** Born in Karachi
- **RATH YATRA** Stopped at Samastipur in Bihar
- **MARCH 2024** Bharat Ratna from President Droupadi Murmu
- **NOV 8, 2026** Enters his 100th year

The Ram Temple in Ayodhya marked the completion of a journey Advani started decades ago, Nabin said

'First Diwali in five decades without Naxalism': Shah

NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday said this Diwali marked a historic moment for India, claiming it was the first Diwali in five decades with the country free of Naxalism. He made the statement as Prime Minister Narendra Modi celebrated the festival with security personnel in the forests of Bastar, Chhattisgarh, once considered a stronghold of Naxal activity.

In a post on X, Shah praised the courage and dedication of security forces in tackling Naxalism.

He said the Prime Minister's visit to soldiers during Diwali was a way of honouring those who protect the country while staying away from their families. Shah dedicated the festival to personnel who had sacrificed their lives for national security and peace.

Modi at CoBRA base

Earlier, Modi visited the CoBRA Operations Base in Karanpur, Bastar, which serves as a training centre and operational base for anti-Naxal missions in the region, including Abujhmad. During his interaction with personnel, the Prime Minister highlighted the transformation of Bastar from a region affected by Naxal violence into an area witnessing development and celebrations.



Modi said strong internal security was essential for protecting the country's borders. He compared the responsibilities of security personnel working within the country with those of soldiers guarding India's frontiers. He also expressed gratitude for their sacrifices, dedication and service towards maintaining national unity and security.

The Prime Minister extended Diwali greetings to security personnel stationed across the country and acknowledged their contribution to protecting citizens.

Shah also said the nation would remain grateful to those who had risked their lives to ensure peace and safety, describing their sacrifice as the foundation of India's security.

Fresh harassment complaint filed against granite businessman Veeramani



Granite businessman R. Veeramani

CHENNAI

Police have received a fresh sexual harassment complaint against granite businessman R. Veeramani, who is facing multiple allegations involving minors. The latest complaint was filed by another girl who was previously a witness in an existing case.

The case dates back to October 2025, when a child rights activist handed over a pen drive to the Anti-Vice Squad containing a video allegedly showing the sexual assault of a minor. A note accompanying the device identified Veeramani as the alleged accused. Initially, police attempted to close the case, citing difficulties in identifying the victim. However, a Special POCSO court rejected the closure report in February 2026 and ordered further investigation.

Following the court's intervention, police recovered the original video during searches and arrested Veeramani, Shanthi and Mahendra Simhan in August 2026. A Special Investigation Team was subsequently formed to investigate the allegations. So far, eight cases involving the alleged sexual harassment of minors have been registered, with Veeramani arrested in all eight cases.

Other accused include Shanthi, Lazar, Mahendra Simhan and Ganesan, along with Srinivasan, Sakthivel, Babu and Parthiban. All the accused are currently lodged at Puzhal Central Prison in Chennai. During the investigation, driver Lazar was taken into one-day police custody for questioning. Based on the inquiry, investigators identified a white car allegedly used in the crime and initiated further action.

Meanwhile, a POCSO court directed the Tamil Nadu government to provide financial assistance of ₹2 lakh to one of the victims. Police are expected to submit final reports in two of the eight cases in the coming week.

DEEPAVALI FIRECRACKER INJURY TOLL

Deepavali firecrackers leave one dead, 269 injured in TN

1	269	16,079	1,283	110
child dead	burn injuries	emergency calls	ambulances deployed	burn admissions

CHENNAI

One child died and 269 people received treatment for firecracker-related burn injuries across Tamil Nadu during Deepavali celebrations, according to official emergency data. The figures covered a 24-hour period between 7 am on November 7 and 7 am on November 8, highlighting the injuries reported during the festival.

The state's 108 emergency ambulance service received 16,079 calls during this period. Of these, 2,475 were related to accidents, 396 involved minor injuries and 98 were specifically linked to burns. To manage the emergency situation, 1,283 ambulances were deployed across the state.

Hospitals under pressure

Government hospitals recorded 1,387 inpatient admissions, including 956 accident cases, 321 cases involving minor injuries or assaults and 110 burn-related cases. The only reported burn-related death involved a child below 15 years. No adult deaths due to burns were recorded during the period.

Men accounted for the highest number of burn victims, with 92 treated as outpatients and 76 admitted to hospitals. Children below 15 years formed the second-largest group, with 48 outpatients and 17 inpatients. Adult women accounted for 19 outpatient cases and 17 hospital admissions.

Thanjavur Government Medical College Hospital recorded the highest patient numbers, treating 36 outpatients and admitting 87 inpatients across burn, accident and minor injury cases. Madurai and Chengalpattu government medical colleges also handled a significant number of patients, highlighting the pressure on public hospitals during the festive period.

Quick Read

Fire breaks out at plastic factory, six tenders deployed

GHAZIABAD

A massive fire broke out at a plastic factory in the Vijay Nagar industrial area of Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, on Sunday. Six fire tenders were rushed to the spot, and firefighting operations are currently underway. The cause of the fire and the extent of damage have not yet been established.

In a separate incident, a major fire erupted at a building housing a garment factory in Nangli Sakrawati, near Najafgarh Road in Delhi, around 4:22 pm on Sunday. Twenty-five fire tenders were deployed to control the blaze. Preliminary information indicated that the fire spread from the ground floor to the fourth floor. Cooling operations are underway, while the cause remains unknown.

4 of family killed in Odisha house fire, short circuit suspected

JAJPUR

Four members of a family, including two children aged 11 years and eight months, were burnt alive after a fire broke out at their residence in Nalipur village of Odisha's Jajpur district on Saturday evening.

The incident occurred around 8 pm at the house of Sk Nizam Uddin in Badachana block. Police suspect a short circuit may have triggered the blaze, though the exact cause is yet to be established.

The deceased were identified as Gul Afsa Parveen (26), Nizam Uddin's daughter; Tabassum Parveen (40), his daughter-in-law; and his grandchildren Roshni Parveen (11) and an eight-month-old boy.

Fire personnel from Chandikhol and police from Balichandrapur rushed to the spot and launched rescue and firefighting operations. A youth also sustained serious burn injuries and was shifted to Cuttack after his condition deteriorated.

2 teenagers stabbed to death in separate Delhi incidents

NEW DELHI

Two teenagers were allegedly stabbed to death in separate incidents in north and northeast Delhi on Saturday, a day before Diwali, police said on Sunday.

In the first incident, 16-year-old Devansh was killed in Wazirabad after allegedly resisting an attempt to snatch his mobile phone. He had gone to purchase firecrackers with his friends and was returning home around 2.30 am when a group of men intercepted them in Surendra Colony. The attackers allegedly stabbed him multiple times before fleeing. His friends rushed him to a hospital, where doctors declared him dead.

In a separate incident, a 19-year-old man was stabbed to death following an alleged dispute linked to personal enmity in the G-Block area of Nand Nagri. His family accused three identified men of involvement in the murder. Police teams visited both locations and launched investigations. Forensic experts collected evidence in the Wazirabad case, while CCTV footage is being examined.

'Modi will go in 2029': Abhijeet Dipke

Cockroach Janta Party founder Abhijeet Dipke predicted a change in government, urging electoral reforms and demanding the Chief Election Commissioner's resignation.

KOCHI

Cockroach Janta Party founder Abhijeet Dipke on Saturday predicted that the Narendra Modi-led government would lose power in the 2029 Lok Sabha elections.

Addressing a protest meeting in Kochi, he urged people to prepare for a change of government and called for an independent and impartial electoral system.

The meeting was organised under the party's 'Jantar Mantar at Kochi' campaign against the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls and Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar. Referring to claims that Modi would remain in office, Dipke said,



"Be prepared for 2029. He will definitely go." He added that a change in government could happen only through elections and demanded Kumar's resignation to ensure fair polls.

Dipke also referred to his arrest in Delhi along with CJP leaders Saurav Das and Ashutosh Ranka for entering Jantar Mantar with the national flag. He said the arrests would not stop him from carrying the Tricolour across the country. "I will carry this Tricolour everywhere, in every part of this country," he said, adding that he was prepared to face arrest wherever he went.

> **"Be prepared for 2029. He will definitely go."**
> — **Abhijeet Dipke,** CJP founder

He accused the government of restricting citizens' freedoms, alleging attempts to influence what people eat, whom they marry and whom they vote for.

He also claimed the SIR exercise could affect electoral outcomes and accused the BJP of dividing people along religious lines.

Actor Prakash Raj led a march from Marine Drive to Rajendra Maidan, where the meeting was attended by youth and socio-cultural organisations.

Anti-drug activist Parvinder Singh Jhota cremated after 26 days

MANSA

The mortal remains of anti-drug activist Parvinder Singh Jhota were cremated at his native place in Punjab on Sunday, 26 days after he was shot dead in Mansa. His murder had triggered widespread protests and a political controversy, with his family demanding justice and stronger action against drug trafficking in the state.

A large number of people gathered to pay their last respects as his body was brought from Chandigarh following a post-mortem examination at the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER) on Saturday.

Jhota was shot dead on October 13 in broad daylight at a medical store in a busy marketplace in Mansa while conducting a Facebook Live session. The incident occurred after he confronted the store owner over the alleged sale of addictive drugs to an elderly man. The shop owner, who allegedly fired at Jhota, was subsequently arrested.

Jhota's family and the Joint



Action Committee (JAC) had staged a prolonged protest demanding justice. The agitation continued for 22 days before the family agreed to a post-mortem following discussions with Punjab government representatives on November 4.

Jhota's father, Bhim Singh, urged Punjab's youth to take a stand against drug abuse, saying his son had sacrificed his life fighting the menace. "I thank the joint action committee which stood by us all through," he said.

The Punjab government transferred the investigation to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) following the family's demand. It also suspended a station house officer, a deputy superintendent of police and a drug inspector.

TN dissolves Kurian panel citing overlap with law commission

CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu government has dissolved the high-level committee on Centre-State relations headed by retired Supreme Court judge Justice Kurian Joseph, citing an overlap in responsibilities with the newly reconstituted Tamil Nadu State Law Commission.

The decision was issued through a government order on November 6, bringing the committee's tenure to an immediate end, six months before its scheduled deadline of May 31, 2027.

The three-member panel included Justice Kurian Joseph, retired Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer K Ashok Vardhan Shetty and former State Planning Commission vice-chairman M Naganathan.

It was established to examine issues concerning relations between the Union government and state governments. The committee had submitted the first part of its report to then Chief Minister M K Stalin in February 2026.

The Kurian panel

CHAIR	Justice Kurian Joseph (retd)
MEMBERS	K Ashok Vardhan Shetty, M Naganathan
FIRST REPORT	February 2026
WAS DUE	May 31, 2027

Overlapping mandates

The government order stated that the committee's responsibilities were similar to those assigned to the Tamil Nadu State Law Commission. It observed that both bodies examined issues relating to Centre-State relations, making their functions overlapping in nature and scope.

The State Law Commission was reconstituted on August 7, 2026, with a broader mandate to examine Centre-State relations and review existing laws.

Administrative difficulties also reportedly contributed to the panel's closure. Following the formation of the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) government, M Naganathan resigned from the committee, while existing staff arrangements were not extended.

Kerala HC directs SIT to probe all roles in Milma ghee irregularities

KOCHI

The Kerala High Court has directed the Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing alleged irregularities in the procurement and supply of Milma ghee to the Sabarimala temple to investigate the involvement of every individual connected to the matter, regardless of their official position or status.

A division bench comprising Justices Raja Vijayaraghavan V and K V Jayakumar issued the direction after examining a progress report submitted by the SIT. The report stated that investigators had identified the principal accused, while some individuals had approached the High Court seeking anticipatory bail.

> *"We expect the investigating agency to pursue all relevant leads and examine the involvement of every person who may have played a role in the alleged irregularities, irrespective of their official position or status."*
> **KERALA HIGH COURT** Division bench

The court noted that investigators had obtained call data records and financial transaction details from the relevant period, which are currently being examined.

"We expect the investigating agency to pursue all relevant leads and examine the involvement of every person who may have played a role in the alleged irregularities, irrespective of their official position or status," the bench observed. It expressed satisfaction with the progress made so far and directed the SIT to take the investigation to its logical conclusion.

The High Court had earlier ordered a vigilance probe after preliminary findings suggested possible coordinated involvement of certain Board members and officials in the ghee supply process. The alleged irregularities reportedly caused substantial financial losses to the Board and raised concerns about the possible supply of substandard ghee used in preparing 'Aravana', the rice-and-jaggery payasam distributed as prasadam to devotees at the Lord Ayyappa temple in Sabarimala.

Minor allegedly throws newborn from nursing home window

HOOGHLY

A newborn girl died after a 16-year-old minor allegedly threw her out of a nursing home's washroom window shortly after giving birth in West Bengal's Hooghly district on Saturday, police said.

The incident occurred at a nursing home, where the teenager had been admitted late on Friday night after complaining of severe abdominal pain. According to preliminary investigations, her pain intensified the following morning, prompting her to visit the washroom, where she delivered the baby without assistance.

The nursing home authorities alleged that the minor subsequently threw the newborn through the washroom window. A passerby discovered the baby lying in a pool of blood and alerted the authorities. A nurse rushed to retrieve the child but found the newborn dead.

The girl's family claimed they were unaware of her pregnancy and had brought her to the facility believing she was experiencing ordinary abdominal pain. Police said they were verifying the family's statement and investigating the circumstances surrounding the incident.

Officials are examining the nursing home's CCTV footage and questioning the parents and other family members. A post-mortem examination is also expected to be conducted.

Bihar to launch voluntary electricity subsidy contribution drive

Bihar will launch a voluntary contribution campaign from December 1 to support its electricity subsidy scheme benefiting 1.92 crore families.

PATNA

Bihar Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary on Sunday announced that the state government will launch a campaign from December 1, encouraging people to voluntarily contribute towards the electricity subsidy provided to households.

The initiative aims to involve willing beneficiaries and other residents in supporting the government's electricity assistance programme.

Speaking to reporters, Choudhary said the free electricity scheme was benefiting 1.92 crore families across different economic backgrounds. Under the programme, each eligible household receives 125 units of free electricity, while the state government spends approximately ₹10,000 annually per family on electricity subsidies.

Like the LPG appeal

The Chief Minister said the voluntary contribution campaign would be similar to the initiative introduced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who had appealed to people to voluntarily surrender their cooking gas subsidies. He clarified that the proposed campaign would encourage only those willing to contribute towards the electricity subsidy.

PM invited for Nov 21

Extending Diwali greetings to the people of Bihar, Choudhary expressed hope that the state would continue progressing towards prosperity. He also announced that Prime Minister Modi had been invited to Bihar on November 21 to mark the completion of one year of the National Democratic Alliance government in the state.

Choudhary said several announcements and memorandums of understanding were expected during the Prime Minister's visit. He added that industrialists had expressed interest in investing in Bihar and would participate in the programme. Highlighting the government's unity, he said NDA partners were working together.

Praise for Bastar visit

The Chief Minister also praised Modi's recent Diwali visit to Bastar in Chhattisgarh, where he celebrated the festival with security personnel. Choudhary described the visit as a matter of pride and congratulated the Prime Minister, soldiers and police personnel. He also credited Modi's leadership for progress towards eliminating Naxalism in the country.



WHAT NEXT

- Contribution campaign opens on December 1
- PM Modi invited to Bihar on November 21 for the NDA government's first year
- MoUs and investment announcements expected during the visit

FSSAI seizes food products worth ₹81.8 crore in nationwide drive

NEW DELHI

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has seized more than 3,270 metric tonnes of food products worth approximately ₹81.80 crore and suspended 1,133 licences during a nationwide enforcement drive conducted between September 1 and November 5. The operation aimed to identify food safety violations and prevent the sale of substandard and unsafe products.

According to the regulator, authorities inspected 56,431 food establishments across states and Union Territories in coordination with state food safety departments. During the inspections, 10,047 improvement notices were issued, directing establishments to address violations and comply with prescribed food safety standards.

The enforcement operation also involved the collection of 43,939 food samples, of which 23,648 had been analysed. Among the tested samples, 2,273 were found to be non-compliant with food safety requirements.

In addition to the seizures, the regulator cancelled 52 food business licences and sealed 314 establishments for violations. It also initiated 410 prosecutions against those found violating food safety regulations.

"Through rigorous checks on over 56,000 food establishments, authorities took decisive action against substandard practices, issuing over 10,000 improvement notices and suspending more than 1,100 licences to maintain uncompromising safety standards," the FSSAI said.

Sept 1 to Nov 5	
56,431	OUTLETS INSPECTED
3,270+ t	FOOD SEIZED
1,133	LICENCES SUSPENDED
10,047	NOTICES ISSUED

DELHI AIR QUALITY

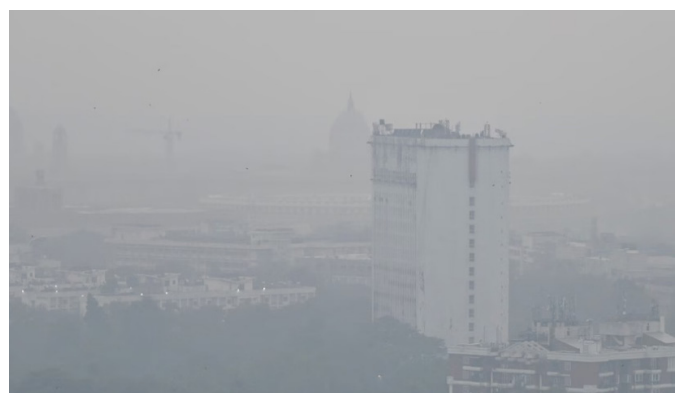
Delhi records decade's worst air quality before Diwali

NEW DELHI

Delhi recorded its worst air quality on the eve of Diwali in a decade, with pollution levels rising sharply on Saturday amid increasing farm fires, firecracker emissions and unfavourable weather conditions. Authorities have warned that weak winds could further worsen air quality, potentially pushing it into the severe category by Monday.

The city's Air Quality Index (AQI) stood at 369 at 4 pm on Saturday, placing it in the very poor category.

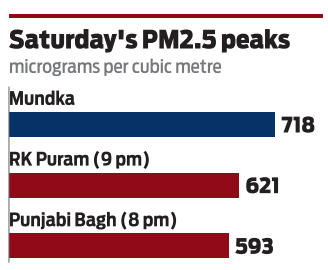
This was the highest pre-Diwali reading since 2016, when the AQI reached 404. The index had risen steadily from 261 on November 1, reflecting deteriorating air conditions.



Farm fires in Punjab and Haryana also reached their highest levels of the season on Saturday, contributing to the pollution burden. Satellite observations indicated a rise in fire incidents for the tenth consecutive day. Meanwhile, calm winds after sunset prevented pollutants from dispersing, allowing emissions to accumulate over the city.

Particulate matter levels increased significantly after the permitted evening firecracker window opened at 8 pm.

Saturday's PM2.5 peaks
micrograms per cubic metre



Figures: monitoring station data

PM2.5 concentrations rose from 177 micrograms per cubic metre at 7.45 pm to 208 at 8 pm, eventually reaching 289 by 10 pm, according to an analysis of monitoring station data.

Residential areas witnessed particularly sharp increases. In Punjabi Bagh, PM2.5 levels nearly tripled within an hour, rising from 208 at 7 pm to 593 at 8 pm.



Most Powerful War Machines in the World

Modern warfare has evolved into a sophisticated dance of technology, engineering, and strategic innovation. Today's most powerful war machines represent the pinnacle of human ingenuity applied to military capability, combining cutting-edge electronics, advanced materials, and devastating firepower. These instruments of modern combat span across land, sea, air, and even space, each designed to project power and maintain strategic advantages in an increasingly complex global security environment.

The Evolution of Military Technology

The concept of war machines has transformed dramatically over the past century. Where once cavalry charges and artillery barrages decided battles, today's conflicts are shaped by stealth technology, precision-guided munitions, and networked warfare systems. The most powerful war machines of our era are not merely weapons but integrated platforms that gather intelligence, communicate across vast distances, and deliver force with unprecedented accuracy. This evolution reflects changing military doctrines that emphasize speed, precision, and information dominance over sheer destructive capacity. Modern war machines must operate in contested environments where adversaries possess sophisticated detection and countermeasure capabilities, requiring constant innovation to maintain tactical and strategic advantages.



Stealth Aircraft: Masters of Invisible Warfare



The development of stealth technology has revolutionized air combat, and the F-22 Raptor stands as perhaps the most formidable air superiority fighter ever built. Entering service in 2005, this fifth-generation fighter combines stealth, speed, agility, and advanced avionics in a package that remains unmatched in air-to-air combat. The F-22's stealth characteristics derive from its carefully shaped airframe, radar-absorbent materials, and internal weapons carriage. Its radar cross-section is reportedly comparable to a marble, making it nearly invisible to enemy air defense systems until it's too late. The aircraft can supercruise at supersonic speeds without using fuel-guzzling afterburners, maintaining both stealth and efficiency during extended missions. Equally impressive is the F-35 Lightning II, a multi-role stealth fighter designed for versatility rather than pure air superiority. The F-35 exists in three variants for the Air Force, Navy, and Marines, with the F-35B featuring short takeoff and vertical landing capabilities. What distinguishes the F-35 is its sensor fusion capability, combining data from multiple sources to provide pilots with unprecedented situational awareness. The aircraft essentially functions as a flying intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance platform that can also engage targets with precision weapons. Stealth bombers represent another category of invisible warfare. The B-2 Spirit, with its distinctive flying wing design, can penetrate sophisticated air defense networks to deliver both conventional and nuclear weapons. Its successor, the B-21 Raider, promises even greater capabilities with improved stealth characteristics and more advanced systems, though details remain classified.

Main Battle Tanks: Armored Fist of Ground Forces

Despite predictions of their obsolescence, main battle tanks remain crucial components of modern armies, combining firepower, protection, and mobility in a single platform. The latest generation of tanks incorporates composite armor, active protection systems, and advanced fire control that would seem like science fiction to tankers from previous eras. The American M1A2 Abrams, particularly in its SEPv3 (System Enhancement Package version 3) configuration, exemplifies modern tank design. Its gas turbine engine provides impressive acceleration and speed, while its composite armor, supplemented by reactive armor tiles, offers protection against a wide range of threats. The 120mm smoothbore cannon can engage targets at distances exceeding two miles, guided by thermal imaging, laser rangefinding, and ballistic computers that account for variables like wind, temperature, and target motion. Russia's T-14 Armata represents a radical departure from traditional tank design, featuring an unmanned turret with the crew protected in an armored capsule in the hull. Its active protection system can reportedly intercept incoming projectiles, while its 125mm cannon or optional 152mm gun provides formidable firepower. However, production has been limited, and combat performance remains largely untested. Germany's Leopard 2A7+ combines proven reliability with modern upgrades, including enhanced urban warfare capabilities and improved armor packages. South Korea's K2 Black Panther features an autoloader and hydropneumatic suspension that allows the tank to "kneel" or "lean" to improve firing angles, while Israel's Merkava IV prioritizes crew protection with its engine-forward design and trophy active protection system.



Strategic Bombers: Long-Range Devastation

Strategic bombers represent the ultimate expression of long-range power projection. The United States operates a triad of bombers that span from Cold War veterans to cutting-edge designs, each serving distinct roles in the nuclear and conventional deterrence mission. The B-52 Stratofortress, despite entering service in 1955, remains relevant through continuous upgrades. Its cavernous weapons bay and external hardpoints can carry everything from cruise missiles to precision-guided bombs, while its long range and endurance make it ideal for extended missions. Plans call for keeping the B-52 in service until 2050, making it a century-spanning design. The supersonic B-1B Lancer serves as a conventional heavy bomber, capable of carrying the largest payload of guided and unguided weapons in the Air Force inventory.

Integrated Air Defense Systems

Modern air defense systems have evolved into sophisticated networks capable of tracking and engaging multiple targets simultaneously. Russia's S-400 and upcoming S-500 systems can reportedly engage aircraft, cruise missiles, and even ballistic missiles at ranges exceeding 250 miles. These systems integrate multiple radar types, command and control networks, and various missile interceptors to create overlapping fields of fire. American systems like the Patriot Advanced Capability-3 and Terminal High Altitude Area Defense provide layered defense against different threat types.



Aircraft Carriers: Floating Cities of Power

Among the most formidable war machines ever created are nuclear-powered aircraft carriers, with the United States Navy's Gerald R. Ford-class carriers representing the current apex of this technology. These massive vessels, displacing over 100,000 tons, serve as mobile airbases capable of projecting power across thousands of miles of ocean. The USS Gerald R. Ford, commissioned in 2017, incorporates revolutionary technologies including electromagnetic aircraft launch systems that replace traditional steam catapults, advanced arresting gear, and a redesigned island superstructure. The ship can carry approximately 75 aircraft and houses a crew of over 4,500 sailors. Its two nuclear reactors provide virtually unlimited range and can generate enough electricity to power a small city. What makes carriers truly powerful is not just their individual capabilities but their role as the centerpiece of carrier strike groups. Accompanied by guided-missile cruisers, destroyers, submarines, and supply ships, a carrier strike group represents a complete naval task force capable of conducting sustained combat operations far from home ports. The ability to launch and recover fixed-wing aircraft at sea gives these vessels unmatched flexibility in power projection, humanitarian assistance, and deterrence. Other nations have developed their own carrier capabilities, though none match the scale of American super-carriers. China's Type 003 Fujian, launched in 2022, represents Beijing's growing naval ambitions, while Russia, France, India, and the United Kingdom maintain their own carrier fleets. Each design reflects different strategic priorities and technological capabilities, but all share the fundamental advantage of mobile aviation at sea.



The Human Element

Despite the technological sophistication of modern war machines, their effectiveness ultimately depends on the training, judgment, and courage of the humans who operate them. The most advanced fighter aircraft is only as capable as its pilot, and the most powerful naval vessel is only as effective as its crew. Modern militaries invest heavily in training programs that allow personnel to extract maximum capability from their equipment while adapting to rapidly changing battlefield conditions. Moreover, the integration of these various systems into coherent operational concepts requires sophisticated command and control, robust logistics, and clear strategic thinking. The most powerful military forces are those that can effectively combine different types of war machines into coordinated operations that leverage their respective strengths while compensating for weaknesses. The most powerful war machines in the world today represent centuries of accumulated military experience combined with cutting-edge technology.

Hypersonic Weapons: The Next Frontier

The development of hypersonic weapons represents a new chapter in military technology. These systems, capable of traveling at speeds exceeding Mach 5, challenge traditional defense systems with their combination of speed and maneuverability. Russia's Kinzhal and Avangard systems, China's DF-17, and ongoing American programs like the AGM-183 ARRW suggest that hypersonic weapons will play an increasingly important role in future conflicts. What makes hypersonic weapons particularly challenging is their flight profile. Unlike ballistic missiles that follow predictable parabolic trajectories, hypersonic glide vehicles can maneuver during flight, making interception extremely difficult with current technology. The compressed timeframe for detection and response fundamentally changes defensive calculations.





Submarines: Silent Hunters of the Deep

Nuclear-powered submarines, particularly ballistic missile submarines, represent perhaps the most survivable component of nuclear deterrence. These vessels can remain submerged for months, silently patrolling vast ocean areas while carrying enough firepower to devastate entire nations. The Ohio-class submarines of the U.S. Navy each carry 20 Trident II ballistic missiles, with each missile capable of carrying multiple independently targetable reentry vehicles. The certainty that several of these submarines are always at sea, undetectable and ready to launch, forms a cornerstone of strategic stability. Russia, China, the United Kingdom, and France maintain their own ballistic missile submarine fleets, ensuring second-strike capability. Attack submarines like the Virginia-class serve different but equally vital roles. These vessels hunt enemy submarines, gather intelligence, conduct special operations support, and can strike land targets with cruise missiles.

Quick Read

Media industry still has a problem with sexual abuse: UK minister

LONDON

Britain's culture minister, Lisa Nandy, said on Sunday there was still a problem with sexual abuse in the media industry after Russell Brand, once a high-profile comedian and actor, was convicted of raping a woman and sexually assaulting three more. "Time is up," Nandy said. "It really is time for the media industry to take this seriously."

Judge orders Paraguay's ex-president Peña held before trial

ASUNCION

A Paraguayan judge ordered former President Santiago Peña held in pretrial detention at a military facility while prosecutors investigate his ties to digital lender ueno, whose collapse has left millions of customers struggling to access their accounts. Judge Humberto Otazú ordered Peña, who has been charged with breach of trust and administration for personal gain, held at the facility, saying detention was necessary to ensure he remained in the country while the case proceeded.

Heavy rain floods tents housing Gaza displaced people

GAZA

Heavy rains have flooded tens of thousands of tents housing displaced Palestinians crammed into encampments across the Gaza Strip, washing away shelters and soaking blankets and mattresses, local authorities said. The Hamas-run Gaza government media office said at least 70,000 tents had been flooded in the past 12 hours, affecting tens of thousands of displaced people and causing injuries although no fatalities had been reported. The territory's civil defence service said it had received 1,500 distress calls from displaced residents.

Aramco building in Riyadh damaged by falling debris

RIYADH

An administrative building belonging to state oil giant Saudi Aramco in Riyadh was damaged by falling debris following an attempted attack on Sunday, with no injuries or fatalities reported, the kingdom's Energy Ministry said. The incident, which the ministry said caused limited damage, came after the Saudi-led coalition said it had intercepted two missiles fired by Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthis towards Riyadh.

Donald Trump faces MAGA backlash after midterm rout

Republicans point to the Iran war, rising living costs and Trump's political style as the party grapples with losing control of both chambers of Congress

DALLAS

Republican supporters are questioning Donald Trump's leadership after the party suffered major electoral losses, raising concerns about the future direction of his political movement.

The backlash became visible in Dallas, Texas, where supporters gathered to celebrate Republican Senate candidate Ken Paxton's expected victory. As election results turned against Republicans, attendees began leaving the ballroom, reflecting disappointment within Trump's political base.

Among those expressing frustration was Michael Little, a 59-year-old businessman and three-time Trump voter. Speaking at the hotel bar, he openly criticised the president's role in the party's electoral setbacks.

"People are pissed off at Trump. Trump has cost us," Little said. The sentiment reflects growing divisions within the Make America Great Again (MAGA) movement. Some supporters who previously considered Trump its greatest political asset are now questioning whether his leadership has become a liability.



Some supporters now question whether Trump's leadership has become a liability

The election results also exposed broader concerns about the movement's political direction. Voters expressed frustration over rising fuel prices, the Iran war and corruption in Washington, contributing to decisive Democratic gains in Congress.

However, Trump has shown little indication of changing his approach following the defeat. On November 6, he announced that Stephen Miller, a key architect of his administration's hardline immigration policies, would replace Susie Wiles as White House chief of staff.

After midterm losses, MAGA asks if it's over

- → Republicans suffered major defeats in the 2026 midterm elections.
- → Democrats secured decisive majorities in both chambers of Congress.
- → MAGA supporters are increasingly questioning Trump's leadership.
- → Rising fuel prices, the Iran war and corruption emerged as voter concerns.
- → Trump appointed Stephen Miller to replace Susie Wiles as White House chief of staff.

Pope Leo's Argentina visit tests Vatican ties

MONTEVIDEO


The 12-day tour runs from November 6 to 17 across Uruguay, Argentina & Peru

Pope Leo is set to meet Argentina's President Javier Milei during a closely watched visit, highlighting differences over economic policies and international conflicts.

The 71-year-old pontiff is undertaking one of the most extensive overseas journeys by a Catholic leader in decades. The 12-day tour, running from November 6 to 17, includes Uruguay, Argentina and Peru, with visits to ten cities. Argentina holds particular significance as the homeland of his predecessor, Pope Francis. The country has not received a papal visit since Pope John Paul II travelled there in 1987.

Milei came to power in 2023 after campaigning on an ambitious programme of reducing government expenditure. His campaign featured a chainsaw as a symbol of his commitment to deep spending cuts and restructuring Argentina's economy.

The Vatican has raised concerns about the social consequences of these policies, particularly their impact on poorer sections of society. Milei, however, has defended the spending reductions as necessary to stabilise public finances and control inflation.

> *"The patient search for agreements is a service that Uruguay can continue to offer its neighbors."*
>
> **POPE LEO XIV** head of the Catholic Church

Differences have also emerged over international affairs. Milei has supported the Iran war, while Pope Leo has criticised the conflict, placing the two leaders on opposing sides of an important geopolitical issue.

However, his remarks on poverty, economic inequality, government responsibilities and international peace are likely to attract considerable attention.

POLAND MOURNS 6 KILLED IN KRAKOW SHOOTING



Police increased security across Krakow as the country entered its mourning period

Key details

6	KILLED
17	WOUNDED, INCL. TWO POLICE OFFICERS AND THE SUSPECT
2	DAYS OF NATIONAL MOURNING
12 hrs	ST MARY'S TRUMPET CALL SUSPENDED

KRAKOW

Poland began two days of national mourning after six people were killed in a mass shooting in Krakow, with authorities suspecting far-right ideological influence.

The shooting took place in Krakow's historic main market square, one of the city's most prominent public locations. The attack left six people dead and 17 others wounded, including two police officers and the suspected gunman, according to authorities. The incident has shocked Poland, a country that has traditionally considered itself safer than several Western European neighbours. It has also intensified concerns about growing extremist influences, particularly following a series of school stabbings reported across the country in October.

Authorities suspect that the 24-year-old gunman may have been motivated by far-right ideology. The suspect's parents and sister were subsequently found dead at their home. He remained hospitalised in critical condition following the incident. Police increased security across Krakow as the country entered its mourning period. The historic market square and surrounding streets were closed, with access restricted to essential workers.

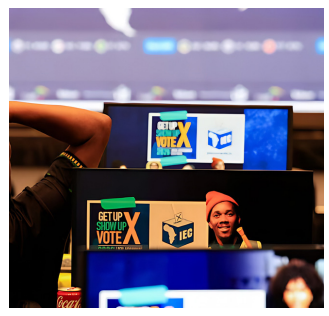
In a significant gesture of mourning, the traditional trumpet call from St Mary's Church was suspended for 12 hours. The suspension was reported to be the first of its kind since 1939, highlighting the scale of the tragedy.

S. Africa's ANC battered by local poll losses ahead of coalition talks

JOHANNESBURG

South Africa's African National Congress (ANC) was dealt a stinging blow in last week's municipal elections, near-complete results showed on Sunday, weakening its hand in the coalition talks that will follow to form city governments. With 99% of votes counted, the ANC had 31% against 25% for its main rival, the Democratic Alliance (DA). Former President Jacob Zuma's party uMkhonto we Sizwe had about 10% of votes, putting it in third place, while the rest was split between hundreds of smaller parties.

The outcome marks a painful setback for the ANC, which has seen its vote share fall steadily in local elections over the last 15 years due largely to failures in basic services such as water and electricity.



With 99% of votes counted, the ANC had 31% against 25% for the DA

Since no party won more than 50% of votes in many cities including South Africa's commercial hub Johannesburg, the ANC and DA will have to team up, or hash it out with smaller parties to form majority municipal governments.

ANC Secretary-General Fikile Mbalula called the result "catastrophic" for the ANC but said the party would not go begging for positions when coalition talks begin soon.

"When the people tell us we have fallen short... the honest answer is not to argue with them but to go home and put our house in order," Mbalula said. Parties will have 14 days to negotiate before city councils are formed.

In Johannesburg, the pro-business DA led the count with about 35% of votes, compared to 20% for the ANC.

31%	25%	10%
ANC, with 99% counted	Democratic Alliance	about, for Zuma's MK party

Rubio warns top staff against conflicts of interest

WASHINGTON

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio has moved to tighten control over the State Department, telling senior officials that staff must stay in their lanes and avoid actions that present conflicts of interest, four people familiar with the matter said.

Rubio's message, delivered in a meeting last week before the Republican Party's electoral losses on Tuesday, comes as its leading figures attempt to put distance between themselves and an increasingly unpopular Trump administration.

The meeting followed the high-profile resignation of US Ambassador to Greece Kimberly Guilfoyle in mid-October after news reports raised concerns that she sold access to Trump administration officials in exchange for money, gifts and favors.


The State Department declined to comment on the meeting

Guilfoyle has called the reports false and in a post on social media said she would defend her reputation. Rubio told the meeting, which included many of the roughly two dozen assistant secretaries of state, that unethical behavior would result in a firing, regardless of how well-connected an official might be, said one of the people.

He added that too many officials were making decisions or pushing policy agendas without coordinating and that significant decisions required his signoff or that of Deputy Secretary of State Christopher Landau, according to the people, who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

The State Department declined to comment on the meeting. Soon after the meeting, three of the people said, the State Department's policy chief, Jeremy Lewin, was forced out of his job in part due to concerns that he was working on matters outside his area without proper coordination.

After close vote, NZ must wait weeks for new govt


Neither leader claimed victory in their speeches

> **"I've been saying it's going to be a very tight election — it has definitely proven to be that."**
>
> — **Christopher Luxon,** Prime Minister

WELLINGTON

New Zealanders faced weeks of uncertainty on Sunday over who will govern the country after their general election, with the current coalition holding a slim majority but a potentially decisive slice of votes still to count.

Prime Minister Christopher Luxon's National Party and its partners ACT and New Zealand First were on track for 67 of the currently projected 131-seat parliament, Electoral Commission preliminary results showed. Sixty-six seats are needed for a majority.

But special votes, around 14% of the total, remain to be counted, the commission said. These, including ballots from overseas New Zealanders and people voting outside their electorates, have historically favoured the left. They will be announced with the final count on November 27.

Neither the prime minister nor opposition leader Chris Hipkins of the Labour Party claimed victory in their speeches following the election, which has been dominated by talk of a soft economy and the cost of living.

"I've been saying it's going to be a very tight election — it has definitely proven to be that. We unfortunately don't know what that means for another three weeks," Luxon told a press conference but added that on current numbers it was "quite feasible" that National could build a government with its current partners.

If the National-led coalition loses its majority at the official count, either it or a left-leaning coalition would require the support of the centrist Opportunity Party, which looks likely to enter parliament for the first time.

ISRAEL POLITICAL DEADLOCK

Eisenkot gets first chance to form Israel's next government

JERUSALEM

Israel's President Isaac Herzog has selected opposition leader Gadi Eisenkot to form a government after an inconclusive election left the country's political future uncertain.

Former military chief Eisenkot emerged as the candidate with the most parliamentary endorsements, despite Netanyahu's coalition remaining the largest political bloc following the October 27 election. Netanyahu, Israel's longest-serving prime minister, is attempting to retain power after his religious-nationalist coalition lost its parliamentary majority.

Eisenkot's nomination followed support from Arab political leaders, who opposed Netanyahu and his far-right allies over policies they consider discriminatory. However, Eisenkot has previously ruled out joining forces with Arab parties, creating uncertainty over how he could secure the parliamentary numbers needed to govern.

President Isaac Herzog's office confirmed the decision, announcing that Eisenkot would receive the mandate to form the next government.

"I will do everything I can to ensure we are worthy," Eisenkot said.

He has 28 days to assemble a governing coalition, with the possibility of a 14-day extension. His options include forming a minority government with support from Arab lawmakers, negotiating with ultra-Orthodox parties or attempting a national unity arrangement with Netanyahu.

However, all three possibilities face significant political obstacles. If Eisenkot fails, another candidate could receive an opportunity to form a government. Parliament may also nominate a candidate.

If no government emerges within approximately 100 days, Israel could face another election, extending the country's political uncertainty.

The road to a government

- **28 DAYS** for Eisenkot to assemble a governing coalition
- **14 MORE DAYS** a possible extension
- **IF HE FAILS** another candidate could get the chance, or parliament may nominate one
- **ABOUT 100 DAYS** with no government, Israel could face another election


If no government emerges within about 100 days, Israel could face another election



Messi MAKES MLS history with consecutive Golden Boot Awards

NEW DELHI

Inter Miami captain Lionel Messi has created history in Major League Soccer (MLS) by winning the 2026 Golden Boot award for the second consecutive season, becoming the first player in league history to achieve the feat.

The Argentine superstar finished the regular season with 26 goals in 31 appearances, four ahead of FC Dallas forward Petar Musa, who scored 22 goals. Vancouver Whitecaps FC's Brian White finished third with 20 goals.

The achievement also made Messi only the sixth player in MLS history to win the Golden Boot multiple times.

Despite featuring in just 31 matches, the 39-year-old delivered an outstanding campaign, adding 17 assists to his 26 goals for a total of 43 goal contributions. It was the third-highest single-season tally in MLS history.

Messi led the league in goals per game with 0.87 and shared the top position for most multi-goal performances, recording six. He also averaged 0.91 goals per 90 minutes, ranking second in the category.

His productivity from open play was particularly impressive, with 25 of his 26 goals coming without penalties. This was the second-highest single-season non-penalty goal tally in MLS history, behind his own record of 28 in 2025.

After scoring 29 goals last season, Messi became only the second player in MLS history to score at least 25 goals in consecutive regular seasons.

Across the last three campaigns, he has registered 75 regular-season goals, while his 127 goal contributions between 2024 and 2026 stand 28 ahead of the next-best tally of 98 recorded by Evander.

Messi's latest achievement further underlines his remarkable consistency and growing legacy in American football, establishing him as one of the most dominant attacking players in MLS history.



Key points

Top Scorers Leaderboard (2026 MLS Regular Season):

1.Lionel Messi (Inter Miami CF) – 26 goals

2.Petar Musa (FC Dallas) – 22 goals

3.Brian White (Vancouver Whitecaps FC) – 20 goals

2026 Regular Season Performance Statistics

Sammy backs West Indies for strong second-innings show

SYLHET

West Indies head coach Darren Sammy expressed confidence in his team's ability to deliver a strong second-innings performance against Bangladesh in the second Test at the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium, despite conceding a 30-run first-innings lead.

Bangladesh posted 386 in reply to the West Indies' 356, with Towhid Hridoy producing a historic unbeaten 242, the highest individual Test score by a Bangladeshi batter.

Sammy praised Hridoy's outstanding effort and described the contest as evenly poised, stressing that plenty of time remained for both sides to secure victory.

The West Indies coach urged his batters to negotiate Bangladesh's new-ball attack carefully and avoid losing early wickets. He specifically highlighted the importance of a solid start from Brandon King and Joshua Da Silva.

Earlier, Amir Jangoo played a magnificent innings of 133 to guide the visitors to a competitive first-innings total.

Sammy also expressed confidence in his team's batting form, believing they could put themselves in a strong position by successfully handling the new ball.

At tea on Day 4, the West Indies were 259/2, extending their lead to 229 runs with four sessions remaining in the match.



India A dominate with 464/5 declaration against New Zealand A

LINCOLN

India A strengthened their position in the third unofficial Test against New Zealand A after declaring their first innings at 464/5 on Day 2, with Dhruv Jurel, Tilak Varma and Washington Sundar delivering impressive half-centuries at the Bert Sutcliffe Oval on Sunday.

Resuming their innings at 227/2, India A added 237 runs before declaring with around an hour remaining. In reply, New Zealand A struggled against the Indian bowling attack, reaching 36/2 at stumps and trailing by 428 runs.

Jurel provided an attacking start, scoring 71 with a series of well-timed boundaries before falling to Darun Ferns. Sai Sudharsan continued his impressive innings but missed out on a century, departing for 88 after being bowled by Zak Gibson.

Ravindra Jadeja contributed 25 before being caught at first slip. Tilak Varma and Washington Sundar then took control, building an unbeaten 114-run partnership to extend India's advantage. Tilak remained unbeaten on 81, while Washington finished on 50 not out.

India A declared at 464/5, with Yashasvi Jaiswal also making a valuable contribution of 102.

New Zealand A's response began poorly as Prasidh Krishna struck twice, dismissing Rhys Mariu for a duck and Curtis Heaphy for 19. The hosts finished the day at 36/2, with Dean Foxcroft unbeaten on 10 alongside Zak Gibson.

With a massive 428-run deficit, New Zealand A face a challenging task on Day 3 as India A look to strengthen their grip on the contest.

Brief Scores: India A 464/5 declared (Jaiswal 102, Sudharsan 88, Tilak 81*, Jurel 71, Washington 50*); New Zealand A 36/2 (Prasidh Krishna 2/12), trailing by 428 runs.

Match Highlights (India A vs New Zealand A)



Mendis backs experienced batters ahead of Pakistan Test

NEW DELHI

Sri Lanka Test captain Kusal Mendis expressed confidence in his experienced batting line-up ahead of the opening Test against Pakistan in Rawalpindi, beginning Monday, despite the possibility of a green pitch favouring fast bowlers.

Mendis believes his batters have the necessary skills and experience to handle challenging conditions, drawing confidence from their performances during last summer's tour of England. He particularly highlighted the experience of Dinesh Chandimal, Dhananjaya de Silva and other senior players.



The Sri Lankan skipper insisted that he had no doubts about his batting unit's ability to adapt to different conditions and deliver a strong performance in the two-match series.

The opening Test will also mark Mendis' first assignment as Sri Lanka's Test captain after taking over the leadership from Dhananjaya de Silva in early October.

The 31-year-old admitted that spending more than a month in Pakistan had been challenging, particularly the extended periods in hotels. However, he said the team had kept itself entertained through indoor activities and team games.

Mendis also expressed satisfaction with Sri Lanka's bowling unit, praising the progress of the fast bowlers across formats. He described the squad as balanced, with experienced players in both batting and bowling departments.

Sri Lanka's pace attack includes Asitha Fernando, Lahiru Kumara, Dilshan Madushanka and Eshan Malinga, while Prabath Jayasuriya will lead the spin department.

Despite failing to secure a Test victory in their two series this year against West Indies and India, Mendis remains optimistic about the Pakistan challenge.

He also appreciated the Pakistan Cricket Board's security arrangements and hospitality, saying the visiting squad had enjoyed a comfortable stay.

Hamilton uses qualifying as test ahead of Brazil gp

SAO PAULO

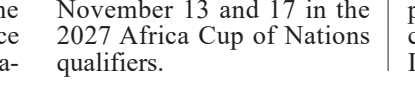
Ferrari driver Lewis Hamilton admitted that he treated Saturday's qualifying session at the Sao Paulo Grand Prix as a test ahead of Sunday's race, as he prepares to start from the back of the grid following a full power unit change.

Hamilton qualified 11th but will begin Sunday's race from P20, while Red Bull's Max Verstappen will start 21st after receiving a power unit penalty.

Reflecting on the rain-affected qualifying session, Hamilton said he enjoyed the challenging conditions but had to manage his tyres carefully with potentially wet weather expected during the race.

The seven-time world champion explained that he used the session to check whether his new engine was functioning properly and to ensure the car felt comfortable.

Hamilton also expressed confidence about moving up the order, although he acknowledged that difficult weather conditions could make the race unpredictable.



Meanwhile, Verstappen said starting at the back was the most suitable opportunity to take his power unit penalty. The Dutchman explained that he avoided unnecessary risks during qualifying and focused on completing a lap.

Verstappen, who famously won the 2024 Brazilian Grand Prix after starting from 17th, remained hopeful of making progress through the field.

Elsewhere, McLaren's Lando Norris secured pole position for the third consecutive time at Sao Paulo and will start ahead of Kimi Antonelli. George Russell, who initially qualified second, dropped to seventh following his penalty.

With rain potentially influencing Sunday's race, Hamilton and Verstappen will look to make impressive recoveries from the back of the grid.

Ali Maher replaces Hossam Hassan as Egypt coach

CAIRO

The Egyptian Football Association (EFA) has appointed Ali Maher as the new head coach of the senior national team after parting ways with Hossam Hassan and his coaching staff.

The decision followed a meeting of the EFA Board, which reviewed recent developments and their impact on the national team's image and stability. The association has asked Maher to present his vision for forming a new technical staff.

Hassan, a former Egyptian football legend, had been in charge of the Pharaohs since 2024. During his tenure, he guided Egypt to fourth place at the 2025 Africa Cup of Nations and secured qualification for the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

He also led Egypt to their first World Cup victory in 92 years, defeating New Zealand 3-1 in the group stage through goals from Mostafa Zico, Mohamed Salah and Trezeguet.

The 52-year-old Maher brings considerable experience in Egyptian football, having enjoyed a successful coaching spell with Ceramica Cleopatra.

He guided the club to the Egyptian League Cup title in the 2024-25 season.

Maher takes charge ahead of Egypt's crucial double-header against Malawi on November 13 and 17 in the 2027 Africa Cup of Nations qualifiers.

KL RAHUL WINS HEARTS WITH HEARTWARMING GIFT GESTURE

NEW DELHI

Indian wicketkeeper-batter KL Rahul won widespread appreciation for his heartwarming gesture after gifting his Game Changer of the Match award, a mobile phone, to a ground staff member following the rain-affected second ODI against New Zealand in Wellington.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) shared a video of the incident on its official social media handle X, praising Rahul with the caption, "Big player. Bigger heart."

In the video, the ground staff member appeared surprised and delighted after receiving the phone from the Indian batter. She expressed her gratitude, admitting that she had never expected such a thoughtful gesture from the cricketer.



Rahul was also seen smiling as the staff member acknowledged his kindness.

The 34-year-old received the Game Changer of the Match award for his valuable unbeaten contribution of 26 runs off 34 deliveries, which included two boundaries and a six.

Rahul played a crucial role in keeping India ahead of New Zealand's DLS par score during the rain-interrupted contest. He also shared a valuable 39-run partnership with Shreyas Iyer, who contributed 30 runs, helping India recover after losing wickets at regular intervals.

India eventually secured a narrow four-run victory under the Duckworth-Lewis-Stern (DLS) method.

The match was abandoned due to persistent rain with New Zealand at 113/7 in 26 overs while chasing a revised target of 135.

Rahul's generous gesture quickly attracted appreciation from cricket fans, with many praising the Indian batter not just for his contribution on the field but also for his kindness towards the ground staff.

Eric Garcia, Christensen return to Barcelona squad for Atletico test

BARCELONA

Barcelona have received a major boost ahead of their La Liga clash against Atletico Madrid, with defenders Eric Garcia and Andreas Christensen returning to the squad after receiving medical clearance.

The return of the defensive duo comes as head coach Hansi Flick continues to manage several injury concerns. Former Atletico Madrid player Rodri, Dani Olmo, Jules Kounde and Xavi Espart remain unavailable for the crucial encounter.

Youngster Ebrima Tunkara has also earned a place in the travelling squad, while Gavi, Fermin Lopez, Frenkie de Jong, Pedri and Marc Bernal have been included.

Barcelona head into the match in impressive form after registering a convincing 6-1 victory over Alaves in La Liga and defeating Aston Villa 3-0 in the Champions League on Tuesday.

However, Atletico Madrid are expected to pose a formidable challenge. Diego Simeone's side have won their last seven La Liga matches, including a 2-1 triumph over Real Madrid.

Atletico have recorded nine wins, one draw and one defeat in their opening 11 league fixtures.

Taniya creates history with beach wrestling silver

DAKAR

Indian wrestler Taniya created history at the 2026 Youth Olympic Games in Dakar, Senegal, by winning the country's first-ever medal in beach wrestling.

She secured silver in the women's 75kg category after finishing runner-up in the gold medal bout.

Taniya went down 2-1 to China's Min Zhao in the final at the Saly Beach West venue. Zhao, the 2025 U17 World Wrestling Championships gold medallist in the 69kg category, claimed the top honour.

The Indian wrestler had produced an impressive performance to reach the final, defeating the United States' Matilda Hruby 3-1 in the semi-finals.

Beach wrestling made its debut at the Youth Olympic Games in the Dakar edition, making Taniya's achievement particularly significant for Indian sports.

The youngster had already demonstrated her potential on the international stage, winning bronze in the women's freestyle 69kg category at the 2026 U17 World Wrestling Championships in Baku, Azerbaijan. She had also secured silver at the U17 Asian Championships earlier this year.

Taniya's silver medal took India's tally at the Dakar Youth Olympics to seven, comprising three silver and four bronze medals.

Deepak Chahar to lead Rajasthan in Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy

JAIPUR

India fast bowler Deepak Chahar will captain Rajasthan in the 2026-27 Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy, with left-arm spinner Manav Suthar appointed vice-captain of the 15-member squad announced by the Rajasthan Cricket Association (RCA).

Rajasthan have been placed in Elite Group A and will play all seven league matches in Mumbai. They will begin their campaign against Uttar Pradesh on November 14.

Deepak, who has represented India in 13 ODIs and 25 T20Is, will return to competitive action after missing the first half of the Ranji Trophy season. His younger brother, leg-spinner Rahul Chahar, has also been included in the squad. Rahul has played one ODI and six T20Is for India and will continue representing Rajasthan in the domestic season.

However, left-arm pacer Khaleel Ahmed has not been included as he continues recovering from hamstring surgery sustained during his stint with Chennai Super Kings.

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