CITY HILIGHTS

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THE TRUTH SPEAKS

THURSDAY ▸ NOVEMBER 12, 2026 ▸ VOL: 12 ▸ ISSUE: 117 ▸ PAGES 14 ▸ ₹2.00



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'STATE BEARS 84% OF METRO PROJECT COSTS'

'CENTRAL SHARE JUST 16%'

Ahead of Modi's visit to open Pink Line, K'taka steps up pressure on Centre seeking higher central share for Namma Metro



BENGALURU

Karnataka is bearing 84% of the total cost of Bengaluru metro projects, with the Centre contributing only 16%, Greater Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda said on Wednesday, seeking a greater financial contribution from the Union Government and faster clearances for pending projects.

Addressing the media ahead of the inauguration of the elevated stretch of the Pink Line of the Bengaluru Metro by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on November 13, he said the combined project outlay for metro phases 1, 2, 2A, 2B and the estimated cost of Phase 3 stood at ₹77,891 crore. Of this, Karnataka's share is Rs 65,291 crore, or about 84%, while the Centre's contribution is Rs 12,600 crore, or 16%.

State to make formal appeal to PM during Bengaluru visit

He said Karnataka would formally raise the issue with Modi during his visit. "The state is effectively investing nearly five rupees for every rupee contributed by the Centre," Gowda said, adding that the actual funding pattern differed significantly from the commonly cited 50:50 model for metro projects.

He said the Centre's share had steadily declined over successive phases of Bengaluru Metro, while Karnataka continued to fund land acquisition costs, project overruns and operational losses. The state has so far borne about Rs 1,046 crore in metro operating losses, with another Rs 52 crore yet to be reimbursed, he added.

Calling for greater Central support, Gowda said Bengaluru, a major contributor to GST, income tax and export earnings through its technology and services sectors, required sustained infrastructure investment. Expanding the metro network to 400-500 km was critical for the city's future but could not be achieved through state funding alone, he said.

KARNATAKA'S COMPLAINT

- It contributes nearly Rs 5 for every Rs 1 from the Centre.
- Bears the full cost of land acquisition and much of the cost escalation from project delays.
- Seeks early approval for the 37.8-km Sarjapur-Hebbal Metro line (Phase 3A).
- Plans to seek higher Central funding for future Metro expansion.

PM Modi to flag off Pink Line tomorrow

BENGALURU

Minister Krishna Byre Gowda said Prime Minister Modi will inaugurate the 7.5-km elevated section of Namma Metro's Pink Line on Friday.

The new stretch, connecting Kalena Agrahara to Tavarekere (Suddaguntepalya), will be opened for public service from 6 am on November 14.

He said the launch would take Bengaluru's operational Metro network to approximately 103 km, marking the city's first major step beyond the 100-km milestone.

The new stretch would significantly improve connectivity for residents along Bannerghatta Road, particularly because of the interchange facility at Jayadeva Metro station, which connects commuters to the Electronic City and city corridors.

The connectivity will enable passengers to access key destinations including Silk Board, HSR Layout, Jayanagar, Majestic and Whitefield through the wider Metro network. The minister said the interchange facility would make the 7.5-km extension far more useful than an isolated Metro stretch.

Initially, five trains will be deployed on the Pink Line, operating at eight-minute intervals.

Dairy Circle-Nagawara line by next year



The Pink Line's 13.76-km underground section — connecting Dairy Circle to Nagawara via MG Road — will open next year, he added.

Red Line awaits Central nod

Gowda reserved the sharpest criticism for the "inordinate delay" by the Centre in approving the 37.8-km Sarjapur-Hebbal metro corridor, christened the Red Line. "We sought approval in January 2025. It has been 22 months but we still haven't received it." He said Karnataka would request the Prime Minister to approve the Red Line expeditiously during his visit on November 13.

State to host World Kannada Literary Meet in 2027: CM

MYSURU

Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Wednesday said a three-day World Kannada Literary Conference would be held in 2027 under the leadership of former CM and noted writer M Veerappa Moily.

Speaking after releasing the fourth volume of Moily's literary work, 'Vishwasamskrutiya Mahayana', a prose epic here, the CM said the decision on organising the conference would be taken in the next state Budget. "The conference aimed to bring together Kannadigas living across the world to promote and preserve the Kannada language and culture."

"Kannada enjoys immense respect among people living abroad. We want to bring Kannadigas from across the world onto one platform and organise a World Kannada Literary Conference to preserve and promote our language and culture," he added.

After Nandini, Amul milk prices go up

New Delhi: Dairy major GCMMF, which sells products under the Amul brand, has raised milk prices by Rs 2-4 per litre effective Thursday, citing a sharp increase in input costs.

In a statement on Wednesday, Gujarat Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF) said it has increased prices of fresh pouch milk by 4-5% in major milk variants/packs across India effective November 12.

"The price of our largest-selling Amul Taaza toned milk with 3% milk fat has been hiked by only Rs 2 per litre (3.3%) and Amul Gold Milk with 6% milk fat by Rs 4 per litre (5.5% rise)," it said.

Metro Blue Line begins trial runs

Airport connectivity a step closer.

BENGALURU

Bengaluru's much-awaited and most sought-after Metro project, the Blue Line connecting the city's major IT hubs with Kempegowda International Airport, has begun trial runs, marking a significant step towards its eventual commercial operations.

The 58.19-km Namma Metro Blue Line, also known as the Outer Ring Road-Airport Metro Corridor, is expected to transform connectivity across Bengaluru by passing through major IT and employment hubs such as HSR Layout, Bellandur, Marathahalli, KR Puram, Hebbal and Yelahanka.

> The state is bearing the bulk of metro development costs, including land acquisition, construction and interest payments, while also absorbing additional expenses arising from project delays.
> - DK Shivakumar, CM



Besides providing a high-capacity and budget-friendly rail link to the airport, the project is also expected to drive commercial activity and trigger a 20-35% surge in property and rental demand along the Outer Ring Road, Hebbal and North Bengaluru belts.

Taking to X on Wednesday, Greater Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowd described it as good news for Bengalureans on the occasion of Deepavali. "Metro Blue Line train starts trial movement. During the last week, the train moved from the Bayyappanahalli test track towards KR Puram and on to Doddanekkundi. This takes the project a step closer to mainline testing," he said.

In his Deepavali message, Gowda said the government is committed to completing all pending works and it wants to bring the Blue Line into public service at the earliest. "The aim is to strengthen Bengaluru's connectivity and make urban commuting more convenient."

TARGET OPENING TIMELINE

Central Silk Board–KR Puram (Phase-2A): Targeted for commercial operations by mid-2027 (around May/July 2027).

Hebbal–Airport (Phase-2B): Expected to be completed by Sept-2027.

Full corridor: The entire route, including KR Puram, Hebbal, and Nagawara, is scheduled to become fully operational by March 2028.

Blue Line in depth

Corridor: Blue Line connects Central Silk Board to Kempegowda International Airport (KIA), divided into Phase-2A (Central Silk Board to KR Puram, 19.75 km) and Phase-2B (KR Puram to the Airport via Hebbal, 38.44 km).

Total length: 58.19-km

Current status: Completes trial run on 6-km mainline viaduct, from Baiyappanahalli depot to Doddanekundi station via KR Puram.

QUICK READ

Air India flight hijack alert turns out to be hoax

KOLKATA

A hijack threat to a Mumbai-bound Air India flight at the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport in Kolkata turned out to be a hoax on Wednesday, with the aircraft departing for its destination at 5.38 pm after security checks. The flight, AI 2772, was scheduled to depart at around 10.30 am when a threat note was discovered in its lavatory shortly before take-off, prompting airport authorities to activate security protocols. According to Kolkata airport director Vikram Singh, the note, found by the cabin crew at 10.37 am, warned that the aircraft would be hijacked at 11.10 am. The aircraft, which had 105 passengers on board, was immediately moved to an isolation bay and all passengers were deboarded. Security agencies subsequently carried out the prescribed checks to ascertain whether there was any threat to the aircraft.

'Answer allegations of ethanol adulteration before staging stir'

MYSURU

The BJP should first explain the alleged irregularities in ethanol blending and the damage caused to vehicles before staging protests against price rise, said Chief Minister DK Shivakumar. Reacting to the BJP's protest against price rise in Bengaluru, he said, "Let them protest. What they are doing is politics, not a genuine protest. Why did they remain silent when the Union Government increased fuel prices?" Alleging irregularities in ethanol blending, he claimed that ethanol was being blended with petrol at 30% instead of the prescribed 20%, causing problems for crores of vehicles in Karnataka. Several engines had reportedly developed faults, resulting in financial losses to vehicle owners, the leader alleged. "Can the BJP leaders not see the problems caused by this? Are they unaware of the damage?" Shivakumar asked.

'Don't panic': CM allays farmers' fear

BENGALURU

Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Wednesday assured that every eligible drought-affected farmer in the state would receive a minimum financial assistance of Rs 5,000, urging beneficiaries not to panic as the government verifies bank account discrepancies that have delayed payments.

"No one should panic. Whoever's account details are correct has received the amount. Wherever the money has not been credited, we will verify the details and rectify the discrepancies," Shivakumar said.

He said the state government had decided to provide the assistance even if the Centre did not release funds for the purpose.

The process of disbursing the amount had already begun, and all eligible farmers would receive the relief, he added.

Clarifying the reasons behind delays in payments, he said some beneficiaries had provided incorrect bank account details, while certain accounts were linked to loans. The government was checking such cases and stressed that the delay should not be attributed to officials, he added.

The state government, through an order issued on October 23, 2026, had authorised the release of Rs 2,500 per eligible farmer as the first instalment of drought relief.

On November 5, the government released Rs 17.43 crore to 1,06,462 farmers in Yadgir district as part of the assistance. Under the State Disaster Response Fund and National Disaster Response Fund guidelines, the minimum input subsidy is fixed at Rs 1,500 per hectare for rainfed crops, Rs 2,600 for irrigated crops and Rs 3,200 for perennial crops.

However, the state has decided to ensure a minimum aid of Rs 5,000 per eligible farmer, he added.



CM's assurance

- Rs 5,000 drought relief without fail
- All eligible farmers to get full amount
- Payment discrepancies due to incorrect bank details
- State to verify payment discrepancies and clear the block
- Drought-hit to get aid even if state fails to get Central funds

DyCM: Will soon rectify discrepancies in aid payout

Bengaluru: Deputy Chief Minister G Parameshwara on Wednesday said every eligible drought-affected farmer would receive a minimum of Rs 5,000, irrespective of landholding. He said the government will immediately correct the discrepancies in the drought relief distribution. The farmers, who had received Rs 2,000 or Rs 2,500 as the first instalment, would be paid the remaining amount in subsequent instalments.

3 CRPF personnel injured in Kulgam terror attack

SRINAGAR

Three personnel of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) were injured Wednesday as unidentified motorcycle-borne assailants opened fire with an AK-47, at a bridge guard party in Nawapora, near Mir Bazar, in Jammu and Kashmir's Kulgam district.

A CRPF spokesperson, while confirming the "firing on CRPF Naka at Kulgam", said a massive search operation has been launched to track down the attackers. The area has been cordoned off and a massive hunt is on for the attackers who managed to escape after the gunfire, the officials said.

According to a senior police officer, the incident took place around 2:15 pm near Mir Bazar when the assailants, one of whom is suspected to be a foreign terrorist associated with the terror outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), opened fire at the CRPF personnel before fleeing the spot.

Constable Rakesh Dass sustained injuries on his leg, while Constable Santosh Chadru sustained injuries on his abdomen and spine. Head constable Somveer Singh sustained an injury on his left arm, the senior police officer confirmed.

"The injured personnel, including two constables and a head constable, have been shifted to a hospital in Anantnag district, where they are under treatment," the officer said. Two of the three personnel are critical.



"The assailants were riding a motorcycle when they opened fire at the CRPF personnel. These personnel were part of a bridge guard deployment in the area. Teams have been dispatched to conduct search operations," he said.

1 CRPF personnel criticial

While one of them is critical with wounds in his abdomen, the other two escaped with relatively minor injuries -- one with a grazing bullet wound on his arm and the other who was hit on his foot.

High alert in Kashmir valley

A high alert has been sounded across the Kashmir Valley, with increased force deployment and strict vehicle checking set up along major highways like NH-44.

Key points

- Three CRPF personnel were injured in a terror attack on Wednesday.
- The incident occurred at a CRPF camp near Mir Bazar in Kulgam district.
- Security forces have cordoned off the area and launched a search operation for the attackers.

The incident has prompted security forces to intensify operations in the area. The attackers managed to escape after opening fire, and their whereabouts remain unknown.

BOOST TO NATION'S BACKBONE

PM: Farmers remain top priority

NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Wednesday approved the Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) rates for phosphatic and potassic (P&K) fertilisers for the Rabi 2026-27 season.

The government has set an estimated budgetary requirement of Rs 62,370.02 crore for the six-month period from October 1, 2026, to March 31, 2027.

The allocation is Rs 24,417.73 crore higher than the Rs 37,952.29 crore budgetary requirement for the Rabi 2025-26 season.



The approval is aimed at ensuring that farmers continue to receive essential fertilisers, including Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP) and NPKS grades, at subsidised and affordable prices despite fluctuations in international fertiliser and input costs.

In a post on X, Modi said farmers remained a priority for the government and that steps were being taken to ease the pressure on them amid difficult global conditions.

"Even amid difficult conditions around the world, we are leaving no stone unturned to make their lives easier," the Prime Minister said, adding that the approval would help protect farmers from fluctuations in international prices while ensuring the availability of fertilisers at reasonable rates.

OUTLAY IN DEPTH

- **Total subsidy outlay**: ₹62,370.02 crore (₹24,417.73 crore higher than ₹37,952.29 crore allocated for Rabi 2025–26 season).
- **Covered grades**: 28 grades of P&K fertilizers, including Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP) and NPKS (nitrogen, phosphorus, potash, sulphur) grades.
- **DAP pricing**: Retail price for a 50 kg bag of DAP remains unchanged at ₹1,350 per bag.
- **Reasoning**: Cabinet cites sharp spikes in international fertilizer and raw material prices driven by West Asia crisis and Russia-Ukraine war.

Additional Cabinet approvals

The government also extended the Credit Guarantee Fund for Micro Units (CGFMU) under the PM Mudra scheme for five years (up to March 2031) with a ₹5,000-crore fund, and continued the Stand-Up India scheme for another five years.

Quick Read

IMD reports low probability of rain

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast that dry weather will prevail across Karnataka on November 11 and 12, as recent rainfall intensity subsides across the state. With no rain anticipated in any region, normal conditions will continue for the next few days across Coastal Karnataka (including Dakshina Kannada, Udupi, and Uttara Kannada), all 11 districts of North Interior Karnataka, and the seventeen districts of South Interior Karnataka. Bengaluru will similarly experience dry, rain-free conditions, providing favorable weather for residents, commuters, and farmers to carry out daily and agricultural activities without disruption.

CCB raids illegal drug, hookah party in Marathahalli villa

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Central Crime Branch (CCB) police raided an unauthorized app-organized 'Diwali Pool Party' at a villa on Kariyammana Agrahara Road in Yamalur, Marathahalli, arresting three organizers identified as Arihant Pandey, Abhinav Pandey, and Partha. Operating from 9:00 PM to 5:00 AM, the event attracted over 50 attendees through mobile applications featuring provocative promotional media, with entry fees of Rs 1,710 for men, Rs 1,080 for women and Rs 2,400 for couples. During the raid, police seized alcohol, hookah, and MDMA narcotics. Authorities collected blood samples from approximately 50 partygoers for Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) testing to confirm potential drug consumption and pursue further legal action.

BJP protests against rising prices of essentials

Karnataka BJP leaders lead mass protests at Freedom Park, condemning steep public transport and milk price hikes.



BJP leaders and workers at the protest against price hikes at Freedom Park in Bengaluru.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Protesting against recent steep hikes in public transport fares, milk prices, and essential commodities, top leaders and cadres of the Karnataka Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) staged a massive demonstration at Freedom Park in Bengaluru, fiercely accusing the Congress administration of crushing ordinary families under financial burdens.

The high-profile protest was spearheaded by prominent opposition figures, including BJP State President B.Y. Vijayendra, Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly R. Ashoka, and Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council Chalavadi Narayanaswamy. They were joined by core committee members, parliamentarians, state legislators, and district presidents who raised slogans condemning state governance. The statewide agitation follows sweeping price revisions announced on November 4 by State Transport Minister Byrathi Suresh, which hiked bus ticket fares by up to Rs 9 for KSRTC services and up to Rs 10 for BMTC city buses. Simultaneously, the Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF) and Bangalore Milk Union (BAMUL) raised retail rates, increasing 'Nandini' milk by Rs 8 per liter, curd by Rs 14 per liter, alongside upward revisions for ghee, butter, paneer, and 'Trupti' milk.

Addressing the gathering, BJP leaders launched a scathing critique of the ruling party, arguing that the administration's flagship guarantee and welfare schemes are being counterbalanced by arbitrary price spikes on daily necessities. Party leaders Chetana and Roopa Kumar noted that while the government promised free benefits during election campaigns, escalating household expenses, electricity tariffs, and transit costs have left common citizens in profound distress. Party speakers said they had never asked for anything for free, pointing out that families are finding it increasingly impossible to manage monthly budgets amid recurring inflationary pressures.

The opposition camp demanded immediate rollbacks and policy relief for the public, asserting that anti-people economic decisions are compounding the hardships of working-class and middle-class households across the state. As political tensions escalate over the widening gap between state-backed welfare promises and open-market inflation, the BJP has vowed to sustain its grassroots agitation until concrete relief measures are implemented by the government.

What went up	
Rs 9	KSRTC BUS FARES, UP TO
Rs 10	BMTC BUS FARES, UP TO
Rs 8 /l	NANDINI MILK
Rs 14 /l	CURD

Political fallout

The demonstration underscores escalating political friction across Karnataka as the opposition capitalizes on mounting public frustration over inflation and increased utility expenses following the recent festive season.

Diwali firecrackers spike Bengaluru air pollution by up to 30%

Post-Diwali celebrations in Bengaluru caused a sharp AQI spike up to 186, prompting health warnings for vulnerable groups amid rising particulate pollution.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Following consecutive days of festive celebrations, Bengaluru's ambient air quality has experienced a notable deterioration, with post-Diwali pollution spikes registering a substantial increase across multiple residential and commercial districts.

Data compiled from various monitoring stations indicate that the city's overall Air Quality Index (AQI) climbed significantly following extensive firecracker usage. Neighborhoods such as Koramangala recorded peak index values touching around 186, while Sarjapur registered an AQI of around 181.

Other prominent localities, including the Lalbagh West Gate area and Richards Town, reported elevated indices hovering between 170 and 179, pushing local air quality down into concerning brackets. Major transit corridors and commercial hubs like Majestic and Silk Board similarly witnessed heightened concentrations of fine particulate matter (PM2.5 and PM10), driven by trapped smoke, dust, and particulate fallout under calm meteorological conditions.

Environmental scientists and health officials note that the post-festival surge represents roughly a 25% to 30% jump compared to previous baseline averages, though indices remain below the severe nationwide thresholds seen in northern metropolitan centers. Nevertheless, the sudden influx of atmospheric pollutants has raised alarms regarding public health.

Health advisory

Medical practitioners have strongly advised vulnerable groups, particularly children, the elderly and people with chronic respiratory ailments such as asthma or bronchitis, to exercise heightened caution. Residents have been urged to minimize unnecessary outdoor exposure during early morning and late evening hours when pollutants tend to linger closer to the ground, avoid strenuous physical exercise outdoors, and utilize protective masks if navigating heavily congested areas. Public health advocates emphasize that while seasonal celebrations are integral to community life, the recurring dip in post-festival air quality underscores the persistent need for sustainable practices and greater environmental mindfulness across the urban center.

Activist alleges misinformation linking RSS to cartridges

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Political tensions in Karnataka have escalated following the formal filing of a criminal complaint against State Home Minister Priyank Kharge at the Banashankari Police Station, alleging the dissemination of misinformation and malicious digital content linking a major socio-cultural organization to an inter-state ammunition seizure.

The formal complaint, lodged by a social activist, centers on a controversial digital post shared by the Minister on the social media platform X (formerly Twitter). According to the complainant, Kharge's post referenced a high-profile inter-state ammunition smuggling case which involved the recent recovery of approximately 19,250 live cartridges by Bihar Police in the Bhojpur district and another 25,000 cartridges by the Haryana Special Task Force (STF) near the Rohad Toll Plaza in Jhajjar. Citing images and reports allegedly showing individuals in RSS uniforms, the Minister's post posed critical questions directed at the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), while reiterating demands for the organization's formal registration.


Home Minister Priyank Kharge.

The complainant contends that the Minister's insinuations were intentionally misleading, designed to tarnish organizational reputations, disrupt communal harmony, and incite public mischief. Consequently, the petition urges law enforcement authorities to register a First Information Report (FIR) under specific provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, including Sections 192, 196, and 353, which address the provocation of riots, the promotion of enmity between different groups, and the making of statements conducive to public mischief. Furthermore, the complainant emphasized that holding a high constitutional and ministerial office should not exempt individuals from standard criminal investigation protocols, demanding the preservation of all relevant electronic records.

While investigations into the inter-state ammunition network remain active, police and agency reports have noted that official involvement of any specific ideological or parent organization has not yet been legally established. Political analysts suggest that the legal challenge will likely trigger intensified debate over free speech, ministerial accountability, and political rhetoric across the state.

Surya slams Kharge, demands immediate resignation

BENGALURU: BJP MP Tejasvi Surya strongly criticized Karnataka Home Minister Priyank Kharge, accusing him of spreading fake news regarding high-profile political links. Surya challenged the minister to provide proof or step down from his post. The controversy escalated when a formal police complaint was filed at the Banashankari station, alleging that the minister shared misleading social media content to disturb social harmony. Complainants claimed the statements falsely associated an organization with a major criminal case. While political tension grows across the state, authorities are reviewing the legal aspects of the complaint, and the minister has defended his stance on public accountability, leaving local leaders locked in a fierce debate.

Police push for special prosecutor in massacre

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

New chilling details have emerged in the horrifying Rajajinagar seven-murder case, as police investigations reveal the extensive premeditation undertaken by the prime accused, 52-year-old Indushekhar, to execute the serial killings, bind the victims, and systematically conceal evidence.

According to Bengaluru City Police disclosures, the perpetrator meticulously prepared for the multi-homicide by procuring packing materials, including cello tape, heavy-duty bags, ropes, and protective covers. Following the murders of his wife Sunitha and mother-in-law Rupavathi, the accused purchased a bundle of bedsheets from a roadside vendor. He wrapped the remains in three of the bedsheets, packed them alongside waste cloth, and loaded them into the trunk of his car. The subsequent killings of other family members, including Shivakumar, Shankar, Nalini and Divya, involved stripping the victims and binding their limbs using their own garments and sarees. To mask the decomposition stench during transport, the accused applied specialized chemical solutions before disposing of the bodies in remote Ghat regions. Three of the seven bodies were recovered in an advanced state of decomposition.


The accused in the murder case.

In response to the public outcry generated by the gruesome crime, City Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh announced that authorities are moving swiftly to ensure strict accountability. The investigation, spearheaded by North Division DCP B.S. Nyamagouda, points to a combination of personal and financial motives behind the massacre. Commissioner Singh stated that the police will soon submit a comprehensive charge sheet to the judiciary and formally write to the State Home Department requesting the appointment of a Special Public Prosecutor (SPP) to fast-track the trial. Meanwhile, grieving relatives have completed the final funeral rites and ash immersion rituals for the victims in Srirangapatna, while investigators await final post-mortem reports to scientifically establish the exact causes of death.

Chilling audio emerges in Rajajinagar murder case

BENGALURU: A leaked audio clip has uncovered shocking details in the Rajajinagar family murder case. The recording features a young boy falsely reassuring worried relatives over the phone. Police state that the main accused, Indushekhar, kept the victims' phones after the killings to hide the crime.

Indushekhar allegedly forced children like him to lie, claiming the family went on a three-month trip. In the call, the child rushes the conversation, prompted by someone in the background. Investigators found the accused even used another young boy before killing him too. Grieving relatives handed the audio to police. Authorities are now verifying the file and checking call logs to build a timeline as local residents mourn the tragic multi-homicide.

KPSC OUTLINES SECURITY PROTOCOL FOR GAZETTED POSTS

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Seeking to restore institutional credibility following past controversies, the Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) has finalized a comprehensive security and transparency blueprint for the upcoming preliminary examination for 319 Gazetted Probationary posts, scheduled to be held across the state on November 15.

Amid lingering candidate apprehension regarding potential schedule changes, KPSC officials have firmly clarified that the entire recruitment timeline spanning the preliminary exam, main examination, personality tests, and final result declarations will proceed strictly as planned, with the ultimate selection list slated for submission to the government by June 2027. To prevent any recurrence of previous administrative lapses or malpractice, the commission has introduced a multi-layered security apparatus across all designated test centers.

319	Nov 15	24
gazetted posts	preliminary exam	candidates per hall

Under the new operational guidelines, each examination hall will accommodate a strictly limited capacity of 24 candidates, monitored by two assigned invigilators, marking the first time such stringent room-density controls have been implemented. High-tech surveillance measures include the installation of CCTV cameras and mobile signal jammers at every venue, with live feeds streamed directly to respective Deputy Commissioner offices for real-time monitoring. Furthermore, question paper transit will be managed directly through district administrations, and OMR sheets will be scanned and uploaded to the official website immediately upon the conclusion of the test.

A notable innovation in this year's testing protocol is the introduction of a fifth circle on the OMR answer sheets. Designed to curb illicit post-exam tampering with blank spaces, candidates are required to shade the fifth circle during an allocated five-minute buffer period after the final bell if they wish to leave a question unanswered. While incorrect responses continue to attract negative marking, properly shading the fifth circle for unknown answers prevents unauthorized post-submission alterations without penalty.

E-KYC DEADLINE EXTENDED

Ration card e-KYC deadline extended to November 30

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Providing substantial administrative relief to beneficiaries across the state, the Karnataka Food Department has officially announced a further extension for ration card holders to complete their mandatory biometric and demographic electronic Know Your Customer (e-KYC) verification, pushing the final deadline to November 30.

The extension comes on the heels of the previously designated November 10 deadline, offering much-needed breathing room for households that have yet to fulfill the statutory requirement. According to Food Department guidelines, beneficiaries can complete the verification process through two primary channels: remotely from home using the dedicated 'Anna Seve' mobile application, or offline by visiting their nearest authorized Fair Price (ration) shop.



The Anna Seve app.

To streamline access and eliminate bureaucratic bottlenecks, the state government has expanded the 'Anna Seve' app facility across all 31 districts. Under central regulatory mandates, e-KYC verification is compulsory once every five years to weed out duplicate or ineligible entries and ensure seamless welfare distribution. Notably, the mobile application incorporates an advanced 'face authentication' feature designed to assist senior citizens and young children, sparing them from mandatory physical visits. Furthermore, the digital facility benefits migrant workers who have relocated to urban centers for employment, removing the requirement to travel back to their native hometowns solely for verification purposes.

Completing the process via the app requires only an active ration card and its linked mobile phone number. Users select the "Self/Citizen" login option, input their district and ration card number, verify their identity via a one-time password (OTP), select the respective family members needing updates, and complete the in-app face recognition scan until a confirmation prompt appears. Food and Civil Supplies Minister Rizwan Arshad previously released instructional video demonstrations across official social media platforms to guide citizens through the digital workflow. Authorities have strongly urged all remaining cardholders to finalize their compliance before the November 30 deadline to prevent potential disruptions in subsidized food grain entitlements.

How to complete e-KYC at home

1. **Log in:** open the Anna Seve app and choose "Self/ Citizen".
2. **Verify:** pick your district, enter the ration card number and confirm the linked mobile with an OTP.
3. **Face scan:** select family members, follow the face recognition prompts and wait for "e-KYC Successful".

CH Observer

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Lingarajpuram is buckling under a heavy wave of civic hazards, where overlapping crises along Oil Mill Road and the local bus stop create daily dangers for commuters. Uncollected garbage, tree felling remnants, and scattered construction debris choke the main thoroughfares, while half-done road works, abruptly ending footpaths, illegal parking, and intrusive vendors compound the peril. Residents are urging immediate municipal intervention to clear these hazards and restore basic safety to the neighborhood.

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Garbage, tree-felling debris and construction debris left out on the main road make the place very unhygienic. Oil Mill Road, Lingarajpuram.



Half-done road works, a footpath ending abruptly, garbage, street vendors and footpath parking: so many safety violations in just one place. Lingarajpuram bus stop.

GBA chief directs urgent pothole repairs

GBA Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao orders swift road repairs and warns utilities against unapproved street digging.



Road repairs across the city were reviewed at an online meeting.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

City leaders in Bengaluru have ordered local teams to quickly fix bad roads and potholes across all five urban zones. During an online meeting, top officials stressed that smooth travel is a major priority for everyday commuters who face daily traffic struggles.

Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao told department heads that repairing damaged streets on major travel routes must happen without delay. He specifically pointed out that busy main roads and smaller connecting streets need immediate attention to stop traffic jams and vehicle damage.

Officials managing city works were also told to check roads where fresh concrete or special upgrades are happening. They must make sure these zones stay safe and open so drivers can move easily. For roads still under contractor warranty, the builders must fix any damage themselves. On all other streets, local municipal workers must step in and patch the holes right away.

Another big issue raised during the meeting was unauthorized street digging. Rao warned that any utility group like power or water boards breaking open newly paved roads without proper permission will face heavy fines. Local teams were told to stop all unapproved digging immediately to protect the fresh asphalt.

To make sure the work actually gets done, senior leaders must visit the streets themselves. They need to check the repairs in person and update the digital system once the job is finished.

The meeting also tackled other urgent neighborhood problems. Officials discussed a broken water pipe causing leaks on a busy outer ring road and promised a quick fix. They also planned a site visit to clean up garbage piles dumped along roadsides in Attiguppe.

Many key leaders attended the virtual gathering, including top zonal commissioners and chief engineers. They all agreed to work closely together to clean up the streets and improve civic life for local residents. The public hopes these strict new orders will finally bring relief to drivers across the city.

THE ORDERS

- **Main roads:** damaged streets on major travel routes and connecting streets repaired without delay
- **Under warranty:** the builders fix the damage themselves
- **Other streets:** municipal workers patch the holes right away
- **Digging:** utilities breaking open new roads without permission face heavy fines

Bengaluru North launches weekly public phone line

Bengaluru North City Corporation Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar launched a weekly phone-in program for residents to report civic grievances and track solutions via Sahaaya 2.0

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Local residents living within the Bengaluru North City Corporation will soon have a direct line to city leadership. The Commissioner of the North City Corporation, Pommala Sunil Kumar, has announced the launch of a weekly Phone-In Programme designed to hear public grievances and speed up local civic solutions. The upcoming session is scheduled for Friday, November 13, 2026, running from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

During these morning hours, local taxpayers and everyday commuters can call in to speak directly with the Commissioner about pressing neighborhood challenges. Common urban headaches ranging from road potholes and broken streetlights to inconsistent door-to-door garbage pickup will take center stage. Residents can also report dangerous tree branches, mosquito control needs, stray dog issues, and unapproved banners cluttering public walkways.

Phone-in details

WHEN	Friday, November 13, 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.
MOBILE	9480685705, also on WhatsApp
PHONE	080-22975936, 080-23636671
APP	Sahaaya 2.0, anytime

City officials noted that the interactive program will also handle bureaucratic concerns. People struggling with e-Khata paperwork or fighting unauthorized footpath encroachments can voice their complaints live. Every single grievance logged during the phone session will enter the official "Sahaaya 2.0" digital portal. The system will then route tickets straight to the responsible departmental officers.

To keep everyday people in the loop, the system will text updates directly to citizens via SMS. These messages will provide complaint tracking numbers and the names of the specific municipal officers handling the fix.

For those who prefer digital messaging or need assistance outside the live window, support channels remain open. Residents can reach the control room through mobile or WhatsApp at 9480685705, or via landlines at 080-22975936 and 080-23636671. Complaints can also be submitted anytime through the dedicated "Sahaaya 2.0" mobile application.

Civic leaders hope this direct communication channel will bridge the gap between municipal workers and local neighborhoods, bringing faster accountability and cleaner streets to the northern zone of the city.

BWCC Commissioner reviews waste management operations

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Early morning mist still hung over the streets when top civic officials arrived to check how workers handle the city's daily trash. Shilpa Nag C.T., the Commissioner of the Bengaluru West City Corporation, stepped out early to inspect mustering points in the Basaveshwaranagar and Kottigepalya wards. Her goal was simple: make sure the city stays clean and trash gets picked up without bothering local residents.



Waste collection is checked at a mustering point.

The Commissioner walked through the collection centers to check attendance lists for waste auto-rickshaw drivers, Junior Health Inspectors, and ward marshals. She watched closely as workers loaded wet waste into compactors, making sure every step followed safety and health rules. Speaking with the staff, she urged everyone to work closely as a team and handle waste tasks smoothly without making any mistakes. She stressed that public comfort must always come first.

Zonal-2 Chief Engineer Jayashankar B.S. and Assistant General Managers from the Solid Waste Management Division joined the morning tour alongside local engineers and municipal workers. While visiting the Kottigepalya ward, the Commissioner took time to listen directly to local residents who shared their thoughts and complaints about garbage collection.

> *Her goal was simple: make sure the city stays clean and trash gets picked up without bothering local residents*

This inspection is part of the ongoing Phase 2 operations for the large-scale "Ward One" campaign, which kicked off on November 1. Backed by Greater Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda and led by Commissioner Shilpa Nag C.T., the campaign aims to upgrade local infrastructure, ensure smooth traffic, repair roads and footpaths, and keep neighborhoods clean. Operations rolled out across selected wards in all ten city divisions.

Officials are moving forward according to a strict action plan. Under the watchful eyes of division Nodal Officers and Executive Engineers, different municipal departments are joining forces to build better neighborhoods quickly and efficiently for everyday citizens.

BCCC clears 150 tons of waste from K.R. Market



The K.R. Market area on the last day of the drive.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Municipal workers in Bengaluru have successfully wrapped up a massive four-day sanitation campaign across the bustling K.R. Market area. Launched to tackle the heavy surge of holiday rubbish generated during the Diwali celebrations, the intensive cleanup ran continuously from November 8 through November 11, clearing away a staggering total of 150 tons of festival debris.

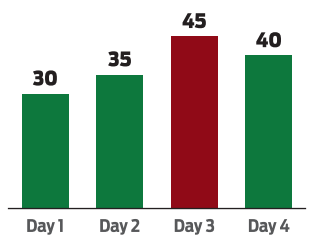
Additional Commissioner (Development) Venkata Chalapathi R. reported that special teams and heavy machinery were deployed to handle the massive influx of ritual items, discarded flowers, spoiled fruits, vegetables, and plastics. Because the historic market area traditionally experiences a dramatic spike in commercial activity during the festive season, city officials prioritized daily sweeps to keep walkways passable and hygienic for shoppers and local traders.

Daily collection totals showed a steady peak throughout the operation: workers removed 30 tons on the first day, 35 tons on the second, 45 tons on the third, and 40 tons on the final day. To speed up the grueling physical labor, teams utilized heavy-duty JCB loaders alongside a rotating fleet of compactor vehicles, deploying between three and four large trucks each day to haul the refuse away.

The successful cleanup relied heavily on coordinated teamwork. Marshals, assistant managers, junior health inspectors, and sanitation supervisors worked side by side on the ground, directing workers to high-priority accumulation zones across the market and surrounding Chamarajapet division streets.

Following the successful completion of the holiday sweep, municipal leaders are shifting their focus to long-term upkeep. Chalapathi issued a direct appeal to local vendors and daily market visitors, urging them to partner with the city by using designated waste bins instead of littering public paths. Officials intend to maintain strict daily monitoring to ensure the market stays clean in the weeks ahead.

150 tons in four days
tons cleared each day, Nov 8-11



K.R. Market: the waste cleared on each day of the drive

Minister directs overhaul of Bengaluru's SWM system



A waste collection vehicle is inspected.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Greater Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda has issued a strong call to action for local officials, contractors, and community groups. During a high-level review meeting on new solid waste management contracts, the Minister stressed that everyone must work closely together to remove the city's long-standing public reputation for poor cleanliness.

Addressing the gathering, Gowda noted that public frustration has grown due to past waste management struggles. He warned that the upcoming rollout presents a crucial window to fix the problem, urging teams to embrace a modern, tech-driven approach instead of falling back on old habits.

Under the new plan, the city will roll out fresh waste contracts across 30 operational packages in phases over the coming two-and-a-half months. The first phase will launch with four packages, followed by groups of seven in subsequent phases next month. Officials explained that the citywide system will deploy a massive fleet of 5,431 vehicles under long-term contracts, with mandatory waste segregation enforced across all neighborhoods.

To eliminate oversight gaps, the Minister ordered full automation across the board. Worker and vehicle attendance will be tracked digitally using facial recognition, RFID systems, and live GPS mapping linked to the Integrated Command and Control Centre. Furthermore, every garbage collection truck will display a scannable QR code, allowing residents to offer instant feedback or log complaints right from their smartphones.

The strategy also expands collection reach by bringing small hotels, local bakeries, and neighborhood shops directly into the official door-to-door network. Authorities believe that stopping commercial roadside dumping will quickly clear out persistent garbage black spots.

Closing the meeting with a passionate appeal, Minister Gowda reminded everyone that the city has provided their livelihoods. He urged all stakeholders to take personal pride and collective responsibility in restoring the region's clean image.

EAST ZONE CRACKDOWN

East Corporation prepares for 'Bengaluru Jatre'



The East City Corporation's review meeting.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Civic leaders in East Bengaluru are ramping up preparations for a massive upcoming cultural festival while cracking down on delayed municipal work. During a high-level review meeting, East City Corporation Commissioner D.S. Ramesh outlined strict orders for local officials, focusing heavily on upcoming celebrations, road repairs, illegal structures, and public grievance systems.

The primary focus centered on the grand "Bengaluru Jatre," scheduled to run from December 4 to 13, 2026. The cultural festival will feature major, medium, and mini community events across various zones. ITI Limited and the Dasara Grounds at Pattandur Agrahara have been selected to host medium events, while ten distinct locations across the K.R. Puram and Mahadevapura zones will host mini daily programs. Commissioner Ramesh urged teams to arrange professional stages, sound systems, and lighting, while actively involving local artists, colleges, and residents through sports competitions, walkathons, and food festivals.

Beyond the upcoming festivities, the Commissioner issued sharp warnings regarding slow municipal performance. He expressed deep dissatisfaction that not a single ward has achieved a pothole-free status four months after initial targets were set. Officials were ordered to personally inspect their streets and patch every hole immediately without waiting for citizens to complain.

Progress on road asphalting and concrete projects under the CMIDP also faced intense scrutiny, with orders to finish all pending work within the month. Furthermore, Ramesh criticized divisions that failed to issue demolition notices to unauthorized buildings and illegal paying guest accommodations, instructing executive engineers to prioritize immediate teardowns.

To clean up public spaces, teams were told to scrap abandoned roadside vehicles and clear long-standing bottlenecks. On the digital front, upcoming training sessions on November 12 will ensure that all staff members properly track and resolve local complaints registered through the Sahaaya mobile application.

Zonal joint commissioners, chief engineers, and additional developers attended the meeting, committing to faster civic delivery and community engagement.



Bengaluru Jatre, December 4-13: medium events at the Dasara Grounds in Pattandur Agrahara; mini daily programs in the K.R. Puram and Mahadevapura zones

Quick Read

B.K. Hariprasad praises Sonia Gandhi's autobiography

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

KPCC President B.K. Hariprasad has lauded Congress leader Sonia Gandhi's newly released autobiography, Belonging: A Journey of Love, describing it not merely as a book but as the documented life of a leader defined by sacrifice, patience, struggle, and unwavering commitment. In a post on X, Hariprasad reflected on her political journey, noting her silent endurance of personal pain, courageous handling of adversity, and prioritization of ideals over power. Having known her personality closely, he emphasized that her life provides direction to Indian political history, offering readers deep insight into familial sacrifice, party struggles, and key democratic milestones.

Prison authorities comply with court medical directive

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

In accordance with a recent court order, prison authorities have arranged specialized physiotherapy treatment for actor Darshan, who remains incarcerated in connection with the Renukaswamy murder case. A medical team from Sanjay Gandhi Hospital is visiting the prison every two to three days, bringing necessary equipment to conduct intensive 90-minute therapy sessions inside the barracks. This resumed medical intervention aims to alleviate chronic back pain that previously troubled the actor, offering him renewed relief following earlier rounds of phased treatment provided by the same hospital specialists.

Dilapidated BMTC buses spark passenger outrage

Commuters slam BMTC over decaying buses and broken seats despite recent steep public transport fare hikes.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Commuters across Bengaluru have expressed widespread outrage over the deteriorating condition of public transport infrastructure, pointing out that recent state-mandated fare hikes have failed to translate into basic vehicle maintenance or passenger comfort within the Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) fleet.

The controversy gained momentum after sharp public grievances emerged regarding severe structural neglect on regular city routes, exemplified by buses operating on major corridors like the Majestic-to-Bagalur route, where passengers reported decrepit interiors, peeling paneling, and missing or broken seats entirely. Daily travelers note that while ticket prices have climbed significantly following the transport department's recent tariff revisions, which pushed minimum ordinary city fares from Rs 6 to Rs 10 and maximum ordinary fares up to Rs 45, alongside increases for air-conditioned Vajra services, the physical state of older vehicles deployed across peripheral and suburban routes has continued to decay.

Civic and passenger welfare groups have strongly criticized the transport utility, arguing that operational cost adjustments and diesel price escalations cited by authorities should not come at the expense of commuter safety and dignity. Daily commuters, students, and working-class residents who rely heavily on BMTC services point out that unclean interiors, torn cushioning, dusty floorboards, and missing seating fixtures force thousands to endure grueling, uncomfortable journeys.

Transport department officials have previously defended structural tariff adjustments as a necessary measure to curb mounting financial losses driven by rising fuel expenditures and wage revisions across Karnataka's state-run corporations. However, commuter associations contend that accountability must extend beyond revenue balancing to guarantee basic fleet hygiene, routine mechanical overhauls, and the immediate withdrawal or refurbishment of dilapidated buses still in active circulation. As public discontent mounts, commuters and local passenger advocacy forums are demanding immediate inspections and rigorous quality control measures from BMTC management across all operational depots.

Commuter demands and accountability

Public transport advocates argue that fare adjustments must be directly tied to service quality enhancements. Passengers are urging transit authorities to prioritize immediate fleet safety audits rather than placing financial burdens on commuters without delivering adequate infrastructure. Transport officials face growing pressure to pull damaged buses off the road, repair essential amenities, and ensure that public funds are utilized to upgrade the city's aging public transit infrastructure.

The fare hike

BEFORE	NOW
Rs 6	**Rs 10**
Minimum ordinary city fare	Minimum ordinary fare; the maximum is up to Rs 45

Firecracker mishaps injure pregnant woman, children

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Festive celebrations across the city have taken a dangerous turn, leaving families in deep distress. Doctors at Victoria Hospital report that six people, including a 21-year-old pregnant woman and several young children, have suffered serious injuries from unexpected firecracker explosions. Two of the victims remain in critical condition and are receiving intensive medical care in the ICU.

Victoria Hospital treats six severe firecracker injuries, including a pregnant woman and children, as total festival burn trauma cases surpass 150.

The most harrowing incident involved the young pregnant woman. While sitting down, she kept a box of firecrackers directly on her lap. A stray spark accidentally ignited the contents, causing a violent chain-reaction explosion. The severe blast left her with extensive wounds, requiring urgent, specialized treatment in the intensive care unit as doctors closely monitor her health and the safety of her unborn child.

Innocent children walking along public streets have also fallen victim to reckless celebrations. Four young kids, ranging from 9 to 14 years old, suffered painful burn injuries on their faces and bodies when crackers went off unexpectedly near them. Medical professionals note that passing pedestrians and passive onlookers continue to account for a major share of the hospital's emergency trauma cases this season.

Dr. N.A. Yogeshwarappa, head of the burn unit at Victoria Hospital, expressed growing concern over the rising numbers. Across different local medical centers, total accident cases have crossed the 150 mark. Officials point out a troubling pattern where people who merely stand on the sidelines or walk past celebrations are getting hurt more frequently than the individuals actually handling and lighting the firecrackers.

> **"Injuries are not limited to those lighting firecrackers; innocent passersby, children, and onlookers are increasingly falling victim to accidental sparks."**
>
> **— Dr. N.A. Yogeshwarappa,** Head of the burn unit, Victoria Hospital

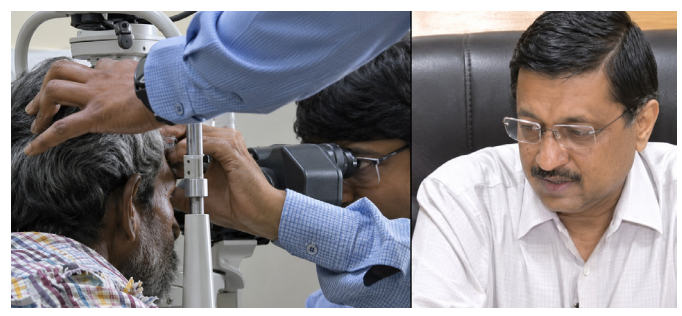
Public health advocates are strongly urging residents to exercise extreme caution during festive periods. Simple safety measures such as maintaining a safe distance from active displays, keeping explosives away from the body, and wearing protective gear can prevent life-altering tragedies and ensure that seasonal celebrations remain joyful rather than painful for everyone.

Simple safety measures

- Keep a safe distance from active displays
- Keep explosives away from the body
- Wear protective gear

Minto hospital reports surge in firecracker injuries

CH NEWS, BENGALURU



Firecracker eye injuries are being treated at Minto Ophthalmic Hospital in Bengaluru.

The bright lights and loud cheers of the recent festival season have left behind a painful reminder across the city. Doctors at the well-known Minto Ophthalmic Hospital report that eye injuries from firecrackers have gone up significantly this year compared to last year. Even though the main days of celebration are already behind us, the stream of worried patients walking through the hospital doors simply refuses to slow down.

Dr. Suresh Babu, the director of the hospital, shared that medical staff have treated a total of 46 injured people so far. The numbers paint a worrying picture of safety on our streets. On Tuesday alone, 16 individuals rushed in for urgent medical care. Out of these recent cases, five people suffered minor scratches, but 11 others faced severe trauma that required deep medical attention.

What makes this year different, and especially alarming, is who is getting hurt. Traditionally, most victims are the ones holding the sparklers or lighting the rockets. However, the data tells a different story right now. For the first time, the number of passive watchers getting hurt has beaten the number of active firecracker users.

Medical experts explain that celebrations in our local culture do not stop with the main festival day. The joyful tradition of bursting crackers usually stretches on until the upcoming Tulasi Habba. Because of this extended festive mood, doctors warn that injured patients will likely keep arriving at the emergency ward for another 10 days or so.

Families across neighborhoods are now being urged to exercise extreme caution. Standing too close to a noisy street display or letting children watch without protective eyewear can change a happy evening into a lifelong medical struggle in just one second.

> *"Patients continue to arrive daily, and with festivities extending toward the Tulasi festival, precautions remain vital for public safety."*
>
> **DR. SURESH BABU** Director, Minto Ophthalmic Hospital

46	16	11
injured treated so far	on Tuesday alone	of them severe

Court rejects bail for Sahukar, Kannale in KPSC scam

CH NEWS, BENGALURU



The KPSC recruitment scam is being probed by the ED, the CID and an SIT.

The legal battles surrounding the high-profile Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) recruitment scam deepened. Judge Manjunath Sangreshi of the 4th CCH Court in Bengaluru delivered a crucial order rejecting the bail pleas of former KPSC Chairman Shivashankarappa S. Sahukar and alleged middleman Basavaraj Kannale. Both individuals, previously detained by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) under money-laundering charges, will remain in judicial custody as investigations continue into widespread irregularities involving leaked question papers and confidential merit lists.

WHERE THE ACCUSED STAND

BAIL REJECTED
Shivashankarappa S. Sahukar, former KPSC Chairman

BAIL REJECTED
Basavaraj Kannale, alleged middleman

BAIL GRANTED
B.V. Geetha, KPSC member

Bail for Geetha

Conversely, in a separate development within the same judicial proceedings, the ED Special Court granted relief by approving bail for KPSC member B.V. Geetha. Geetha, who was arrested alongside Sahukar in October, had faced intensive scrutiny from federal investigators over allegations that key commission members and insiders leaked confidential answer keys and coordinated bribes ranging from ₹30 to ₹40 lakh per candidate for veterinary officer positions.

A multi-agency probe

The multi-agency probe involving the Enforcement Directorate, the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), and a Special Investigation Team (SIT) centers around severe administrative compromises during competitive examinations held for hundreds of government vacancies. Federal investigators allege that top officials abused their constitutional positions, colluding with intermediaries like Kannale and former exam controller Gyanendra Kumar Gangwar to provide selected applicants with advance access to answer keys.

While the court denied freedom to Sahukar and Kannale due to the gravity of the financial offenses and ongoing probe requirements, legal arguments for other co-accused continue to navigate through state and special courts. The widening inquiry has placed intense focus on integrity reforms within Karnataka's public recruitment architecture.

Police recover Somaya's stolen medals, arrest two

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Quick-thinking law enforcement in Bengaluru has successfully closed a deeply distressing chapter for Indian sports history. The Indiranagar police have apprehended two suspects identified as Manikya and Bharat for a brazen burglary at the residential property of former Indian hockey team captain and Olympic gold medalist M.M. Somaya. Investigators managed to recover every single item of stolen property, bringing back priceless national sports heritage alongside valuable personal belongings.

The incident occurred while Somaya was away from his home in New Thippasandra on personal business in Madikeri, Kodagu district. Taking advantage of the vacant premises, the culprits forced entry into the house during the early hours, specifically around 2:34 AM on October 28. The burglars targeted a treasure trove of historical sports memorabilia, making off with precious accolades that included his 1980 Olympic gold medal, alongside valuable gold jewelry, silver items, and cash.



One of the medals recovered by Indiranagar police.

Following an immediate formal complaint lodged by the sports icon, Indiranagar police teams rushed to the crime scene to secure forensic evidence and review residential surveillance systems. Reviewing the closed-circuit television footage from the home proved decisive for the case. The recordings clearly captured two intruders, one in a blue shirt and the other in a red shirt, ransacking the property and fleeing with the loot.

Using the visual evidence to track down the suspects, police teams swiftly apprehended Manikya and Bharat. Authorities confirmed that all recovered medals, gold ornaments, and cash have been safely secured as the ongoing investigation proceeds toward formal prosecution. The swift recovery has brought immense relief to the sports fraternity and the public alike, restoring irreplaceable national treasures to their rightful owner.

EV FLEET FRICTION

Vietnam's Green SM electric taxi set to enter Bengaluru

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The urban mobility landscape in Karnataka is bracing for a major shift as Green SM, an all-electric taxi service backed by the Vietnam-based conglomerate Vingroup, secures official approval to launch operations in Bengaluru. The State Transport Department has formally issued an aggregator license under the Karnataka On-Demand Transportation Technology Aggregators Rules, 2016, granting authorization that remains valid through September 2031. This regulatory clearance paves the way for the Vietnamese firm to enter a high-stakes market traditionally anchored by established platforms like Uber, Ola, Rapido, and Namma Yatri.

However, the expansion has met with immediate resistance. Prominent driver collectives, including the Karnataka State Drivers' Council and the Peace Auto Union, have voiced vehement opposition to the entry of the foreign-owned fleet. Unlike standard asset-light aggregators that rely on independent driver-partners, Green SM operates an asset-owned model using its dedicated inventory of vehicles, specifically the VinFast Limo Green electric multi-purpose vehicle (MPV), and employs its own drivers. Local unions argue that this corporate-owned fleet structure, coupled with introductory fare strategies starting as low as approximately 8 rupees per kilometer, will trigger predatory pricing. Drivers contend that such measures threaten to undercut traditional earnings at a time when commercial operators are already grappling with inflated operational expenditures, vehicle loans, and rising maintenance costs. Consequently, union representatives have petitioned the state administration to review and rescind the license.



Green SM in Bengaluru

PARENT CONGLOMERATE **Vingroup (Vietnam)**	LICENCE VALID TO **September 2031**
VEHICLE **VinFast Limo Green, 7-seat electric MPV**	BATTERY AND RANGE **60.13 kWh, about 517 km**
INTRODUCTORY FARE **About ₹8 a kilometre**	SAFETY **Cabin cameras, AI tools, panic buttons**

Industry observers note that Green SM's entry mirrors previous dedicated-fleet experiments in the country, such as BluSmart. The company officially commenced its Indian operations in the Delhi-NCR region in June 2026 under its 'Green SM Limo' banner before extending its footprint to Hyderabad and setting sights on Bengaluru. The service emphasizes distinct passenger amenities, incorporating high-end safety features such as cabin monitoring cameras, artificial intelligence-backed assistance tools, and direct emergency panic systems.

Despite the regulatory backing and the state's push toward eco-friendly public transit electrification, tensions surrounding livelihood protection remain palpable. Transport unions have demanded stricter enforcement of existing aggregator guidelines to ensure equitable market participation, setting the stage for protracted friction between international EV fleet operators and grassroots driver associations in Karnataka.

Quick Read

Apprenticeship Mela scheduled in Gadag on Nov 18

CH NEWS, GADAG

The Department of Industrial Training and Employment, along with the Government Industrial Training Institute (ITI), Betageri-Gadag, will organise a Pradhan Mantri National Apprenticeship Mela on November 18. The event will be held from 10 am to 4 pm at the Government ITI premises. ITI graduates from various trades and final-year ITI students can participate. Candidates must bring their mark sheets, resumes and other necessary documents. Employers have also been invited to participate and select suitable candidates for apprenticeship training. ITI Principal and Nodal Officer Mallur Basavaraja said interested candidates could contact the institute or call 8105388566, 8951570462, 6360488232 or 8050161710 for details.

Yuvanidhi awareness programme scheduled in Kudumalakunte

CH NEWS, CHIKKABALLAPURA

A Yuvanidhi awareness programme will be held on November 12 at 11 am at GTTC College, Kudumalakunte. The programme is being jointly organised by the District Employment Exchange, Chikkaballapura, Gauribidanur Taluk Panchayat, GTTC College and the Taluk Guarantee Schemes Implementation Committee.N. Ramesh, president of the District Guarantee Schemes Implementation Authority, will inaugurate the programme. GTTC College principal Harish Kumar will preside over the event.Taluk committee president Rangaraju, Taluk Panchayat CEO G.K. Honnayya and committee members will participate.

Arshad questions oil companies' petrol testing practices

The Minister questioned who would compensate vehicle owners for reduced mileage and repair costs from higher ethanol blending.



At the press conference in Davanagere on Wednesday.

CH NEWS, DAVANAGERE

Karnataka Food, Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Legal Metrology Minister Rizwan Arshad has questioned the practice of allowing oil companies that supply fuel to conduct tests and certify its quality.

He said independent testing was necessary to ensure transparency and protect consumers.

Speaking to reporters on Wednesday, Arshad said the Karnataka government had not tested ethanol-blended petrol in its own laboratories. Instead, it had used laboratories recognised by the Central Government and third-party agencies.

He called for public and expert opinions on ethanol blending and its possible impact on vehicles. He also sought a scientific assessment before increasing the blending level from E20 to E30.

The Minister questioned who would compensate vehicle owners if higher ethanol content resulted in reduced mileage or increased repair costs. He said the government had raised questions with Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri but had not received satisfactory answers.

The Karnataka government has maintained that its tests found ethanol levels above 20 per cent in some petrol samples, with the highest reported level reaching 31.2 per cent. However, oil marketing companies have disputed the findings, questioning the sampling and testing procedures and maintaining that their E20 fuel meets the prescribed standards.

Arshad said the state would continue testing fuel in the interest of consumers and demanded clarity from the Centre on responsibility for any additional financial burden.

Minister criticises BJP's protests

Reacting to BJP protests against rising prices of essential commodities, Arshad said the demonstrations should be directed against the Union government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He claimed that the state government was bearing the cost of compensation provided to farmers and criticised the Centre for not extending the expected assistance.

31.2%
the highest ethanol level the state's tests reported in petrol samples; oil companies dispute the findings

Ration card e-KYC deadline extended

On the cancellation of Below Poverty Line (BPL) ration cards, the Minister said he had instructed officials to ensure that no eligible beneficiary's card was deleted.

He explained that the verification process was being carried out using a list provided by the Central Government. The deadline for completing e-KYC for ration cards has been extended to November 30, 2026. He urged beneficiaries who had not completed the process to do so before the deadline.

Patil promises CA site for Thotadappa Trust


At the Gubbi Thotadappa Trust's induction programme for new students in Bengaluru.

HIS PROMISES
- A CA site in an industrial area for a skills and technical training centre
- A reprint of the Shivanubhava magazine at Basava Jayanti next May
- Short books on about 25 prominent personalities

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Karnataka Minister for Large and Medium Industries and Infrastructure Development M.B. Patil has assured the Gubbi Thotadappa Trust that a Civic Amenity (CA) site will be provided in an industrial area to establish a skill development and technical training centre.

Speaking at the induction programme for new students for the 2026-27 academic year, Patil said he considered it his responsibility to support the Trust in setting up a centre offering training in Artificial Intelligence (AI), Information Technology (IT) and other technical fields.

He said emerging technologies such as AI and Quantum Computing were developing rapidly and stressed the need to equip young people with the skills required to meet future challenges. However, he advised students not to forget their history, culture and human values.

Recalling the contributions of philanthropist Gubbi Thotadappa and Shirasangi Lingaraj, Patil said their dedication to education and social welfare had helped many people access educational opportunities. He urged educated individuals who had benefited from hostel facilities to contribute to society.

The Minister also suggested publishing short, simple books highlighting the lives of around 25 prominent personalities who had served the community. He proposed introducing the contributions of notable personalities from North and South Karnataka to people across both regions.

He announced plans for a major programme in Bengaluru next May, coinciding with Basava Jayanti, during which a reprinted edition and a collected volume of the magazine Shivanubhava would be released.

Patil also recalled the educational and social services provided by Siddaganga Matha's Shivakumara Swamiji and Gavi Matha's Gavisiddeshwara Swamiji. He urged institutions to continue their work in providing education, food and shelter to children.

Retired Director General of Police Dr. L. Revannasiddayya presided over the programme. Karnataka Nataka Academy president Dr. K.V. Nagaraja Murthy, former Deputy Mayor B.S. Puttaraju and the Trust's honorary trustees attended.

Balakrishna announces January local body polls, launches Bidadi lake works

CH NEWS, RAMANAGARA



Rs 10 cr Naligudde Lake works | **Rs 5,000** drought relief per farmer

Minister for Municipal Administration H.C. Balakrishna has said that preparations are underway to hold local body elections in January 2027. He made the announcement on Wednesday after launching development works at Naligudde Lake in Bidadi.

The lake development project is estimated to cost Rs. 10 crore, with Rs. 5 crore each allocated from the Greater Bengaluru Development Authority (GBDA) and BMICP funds, according to the minister. The project includes a walking path, cycling track and park around the lake.

On the election preparations, Balakrishna said confusion over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls had caused delays. Discussions are continuing on whether the elections should be conducted using existing electoral rolls or revised lists.

Minister criticises BJP over price rise

Reacting to BJP protests against rising prices, Balakrishna criticised the party and alleged that the Union government had increased prices over the past 13 years, putting a financial burden on ordinary people. He also referred to the Karnataka government's Gruha Lakshmi scheme, which provides eligible women with Rs. 2,000 per month.

Responding to BJP state president B.Y. Vijayendra's criticism of the government, he questioned the BJP's record during former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa's tenure.

Balakrishna also addressed concerns over the Gruha Lakshmi scheme. He said funds for three pending monthly instalments had been released together as a Deepavali gift and that the money was being transferred to beneficiaries' bank accounts. The three instalments were for August, September and October.

Farmers assured of drought relief

On drought compensation, the minister said eligible farmers would receive Rs. 5,000 in two instalments. He assured farmers that payment discrepancies would be corrected. Some beneficiaries had received Rs. 1,500 or Rs. 2,000 instead of the expected first instalment. The Chief Minister has separately clarified that the minimum assistance would be ensured.

Congress confident of Hiriyur victory

Speaking about the Hiriyur Assembly by-election, Balakrishna said he had been assigned responsibility for one hobli.
He expressed confidence in the Congress party's prospects and said the party was prepared to face any candidate fielded by the BJP or JD(S).

GBDA president Ganakal Nataraj, Bidadi Municipal Council president Yallamma Narasimhamurthy, council members C. Umesh, Naveen, Bindiya, Mahima Kumar and Lalitha Narasimhaiah, along with local leaders and contractors, attended the programme.

AHINDA demands apology from Kanheri seer over remarks

CH NEWS, Yadgir

The Yadgir district unit of AHINDA has condemned remarks allegedly made by Adrushya Kadasiddeshwar Swami of Kanheri Mutt, Kolhapur, claiming that elements of the Manusmriti were included in the Indian Constitution.

The organisation has demanded an unconditional public apology from the seer.

Addressing a press conference on Wednesday, AHINDA district president Hanumegouda Markal said the seer's reported remarks, made at an event in Gangavati, were unacceptable and that the organisation strongly opposed them.

Markal said Dr. B.R. Ambedkar had framed constitutional provisions guaranteeing equal rights to all citizens, irrespective of caste or religion. He argued that the Manusmriti promotes caste discrimination and has no connection with the principles of the Constitution.

Recalling Ambedkar's opposition to the Manusmriti, Markal referred to the public burning of the text by Ambedkar in 1927 as a protest against its discriminatory principles.

He demanded an unconditional apology from the seer and warned that AHINDA, along with progressive thinkers and Dalit organisations, would organise protests and stage demonstrations at his public programmes if he failed to respond.

AHINDA leaders Gopal Gireyappanavar, Chandrakanth, Hafeez Patel, Sudharshan Naik, Shekhar Dhore and Saidappa Kulur were present at the press conference.

DC praises Obavva's courage, loyalty and patriotism

CH NEWS, CHIKKABALLAPURA

Deputy Commissioner G. Prabhu described Onake Obavva as an inspiring symbol of courage, patriotism, loyalty and dedication, urging young people and women to follow her ideals.

He was speaking at the birth anniversary celebrations of Veeravanite Onake Obavva, organised jointly by the District Administration, Zilla Panchayat and Department of Kannada and Culture at Kannada Bhavana on Wednesday. He paid floral tributes to her portrait.

Prabhu said great personalities remain alive in people's memories through their achievements and contributions to society. He recalled how Obavva defended Chitradurga Fort from enemy soldiers using an onake (wooden pestle), risking her life to protect the fort.

He said her courage and presence of mind proved that ordinary people could achieve extraordinary things without power or special privileges.

Women can excel in every field

The Deputy Commissioner highlighted the achievements of women in education, agriculture, industry, science, technology and space research.
He said equal opportunities and education guaranteed by the Constitution had helped women progress in different fields. He urged the younger generation to draw inspiration from Obavva's life.

Kannada lecturer Muniraju M. Arikere delivered a special lecture, explaining Obavva's background and her heroic role in defending Chitradurga Fort during Hyder Ali's attempted invasion. He said her bravery continued to inspire people across communities.

Students and achievers felicitated

Students who secured top marks in SSLC and PUC examinations, along with achievers from various fields, were felicitated during the programme.

A colourful procession was organised from Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Bhavan to Kannada Bhavana, featuring folk performances such as Tamate, Nashik Dhol, Kombu, Kahale and Arevadya. Deputy Commissioner G. Prabhu flagged off the procession. Artists from the Gramina Yuva Kala Sangha, led by Gotlakunte Venkataramanappa, participated.

Chikkaballapura Urban Development Authority chairman M.S. Sandeep Chakravarthy, Social Welfare Department Deputy Director Tejananda Reddy, Women and Child Development Department Deputy Director R. Venkatesha Reddy, Backward Classes Welfare Department District Officer Muniratnamma, Tahsildar Rashmi, Taluk Panchayat Executive Officer Srinath Gowda and Kannada and Culture Department Assistant Director D.M. Ravikumar attended the event along with community representatives and officials.

NAME CHANGE

I, **SYED NASRULLAH SYED AHAMED**, S/o. Syed Ahmed, resident of No: 24, 2Nd Cross, New Guruppana Palya, Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru - 560029. have changed my name to **SYED NASRULLA**, vide affidavit dated: 11.11.2026, before Notary MEER HASSAN, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, HANUMANTHARAJU, S/o Gangahanumaiah, Kempalingana Halli, Nelamangala Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, hereby declare that my minor son's name has been changed from **VINITH H (OLD NAME)** to **VIRAJ H (NEW NAME)**. Henceforth, he shall be known as VIRAJ H for all purposes. Affidavit sworn before Notary on 11-11-2026.

Document Lost

The original sale deed (document number SRA-01-05863-15, registered on 30.01.2015) of Site No. 134, bearing Sira City Municipal Assessment Number 2469/2373/8253, located in Asimu Layout, PH Colony, Sira Town, standing in the name of Mehar unnisa w/o sanat ulla, Kasaba Hobli, Sira Taluk, Tumakuru District, was accidentally lost six months ago.

If anyone finds it, you are requested to inform the above-mentioned address or call 9036442543.

IN THE COURT OF ADDL. CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DODDABALLAPUR
CRL. MIS. NO. 706/2026
PETITIONER: Hanumantharayappa V and Others Aged about 74 yrs, S/o. Late Venkataramanappa R/at 2126, Behind Rural Police Station, Rojipura, Doddaballapura, Bengaluru Rural District. VERSUS
RESPONDENT: Tahasildar, Doddaballapur Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.
PUBLIC NOTICE
Whereas the petitioners have filed the above petition under section 13(3) of Registration of Birth and Death Act 1969 for seeking the death certificate of their Grandmother Venkatamma D/o Lakshmaiah @ Lajmaiah @ Dodda Lakshmaiah who died on 10/04/1983 at Aralumallige Village, Kasaba Hobli, Doddaballapur Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District. In regard, it is hereby noticed that whoever has interest in the said matter may appear in person or through an advocate duly authorized before the said court on 23.12.2026 at 11:00 AM. In default, this matter will be heard and disposed of by an ex-parte order.
Given under my hand and seal of the court on the 7th day of November, 2026.
By Order of the Court:
Chief Ministerial Officer, Prl. Civil Judge & JMFC, Doddaballapura.
Advocate for Petitioners: **S. Rudraradhya** #509/98, Vaddarapete, Doddaballapur.

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

I, Renukamma W/o Boregowda, r/o Hittalakoppa village, Mayasandra Hobli, Turuvekere Taluk, Tumkuru District Karnataka State is hereby making paper publication by requesting the public at large to return the following documents, which are lost. The above. said Renukamma had purchased the property, bearing Old Sy No.98/2, New Sy, No.98/18 measuring 24 1⁄2 gunta situated in Hittalakoppa village, Mayasandra Hobli, Turuvekere taluk, Tumkur District under the registered sale deed, dated 25-05-2024 from one Shivanna S/o Hluchhappa @Huchhaiah No. 344, 3rd Cross, Kalikanagara, Andrahalli, Vishwaneedam, Bangalore for the valuable consideration. it is a fact that, the above,said Shivanna had purchased the said property under the registered sale deed dated:09-03-1989 from Huchhamma W/o Mudalagiraiah of Turuvekere Town I Renukamma had received the Originial sale deed dated 09:03,1989 Shivanna at the time of sale deed executed in favour of Renukamma to Shivanna. But, the said sale deed dated:09-03-1989 is lost, when Renukamma dated:05-10-2026 was in Turuvekere Bus stand to go to her village. The number of the said document is 1561/1988-89 Hence I Renukamima is hereby requesting your goodself by making this notification and requested the public at large to return the said,original-said sale deed dated 09-03-1989, if the said document is found to anybody

Dated:18-10-2026

Your's faith fully
Renukamma W/o Boregowda
Hittalakoppa village Mayasandra Hobli
Turuvekere Taluk Mob.No.7349432059

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that my client **Sri.Pradeep S Bhise S/O Siddaram and Shruti P Bhise W/O Pradeep P Bhise,** residing at Plot No.26/732, athani Road, Ward No.10, Daneshwari Nagar house name Laxmi Krupa, Bijapura Sainik School, Vijayapura Karnataka - 586102, My client are willing to purchase the property by availing a loan with Piramal Finance limited by the present property owner Mr.Venkat.K and Mr.Rajesh Kathulapalli, Registered Sale Deed Document No.KRI-1-01424-2019-20, dated: 24-05-2019, my client further states that any disputes his ownership or possession of the schedule property member of the public are hereby notified that if anyone having any adverse claim in respect of the said property hereby advised to place their claim with appropriate written evidence. please note that claims received without written evidence within 7 Days from the date of publication of this notice there after will not be entertained.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY : All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing Site No.70, Katha No.129, Property No.42, E PID no 2797208252 Situated Pattandur Agrahara, Krishnarajapura Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk,BBMP Ward No. 83, Measuring East to West :30 Feet and North to South :50 Feet Totally measuring 1500 Sq.feet and bounded on the :**East by:** Site No.71, **West by:** Site No.69, **North by:** Road, **South by:** Site No.57.
HARISHA .S, Advocate
#1479. DRLS PLAZA, Union Bank Building,
T Dasarahalli, Bengaluru-560 057.
Mobile No. 90609 50265.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that my client **Mr. Krishnappa V.M, S/o. Muniyappa,** Residing at #1163, Idga Road, Fort Street, Behind Temple, Varthur, Bangalore-560087. My client are willing to purchase the property by availing a loan with Piramal Finance limited by the present property owner Mrs. R.Bhargavi, W/o. M.N. Prem Kumar, Registered Release Deed Document No.JAL-1-00316-2016-17, of Book-1, and stored in CD No.JALD218, dated: 02-05-2016, my client further states that any disputes his ownership or possession of the schedule property member of the public are hereby notified that if anyone having any adverse claim in respect of the said property hereby advised to place their claim with appropriate written evidence. please note that claims received without written evidence **within 7 Days** from the date of publication of this notice thereafter will not be entertained.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY : All that piece and parcel of the Vacant Site bearing No. 8 & 9, EPID No. 6648707630, Old Assessment No.19, Situated Kattigenahalli Village, Earlier Bengaluru North Taluk, Presently Yelahanka Taluk, Jala Hobli, presentlu comes under the jurisdiction of BBMP Ward No.5, Measuring East to West :36.6 Feet and North to South :66 Feet Totally measuring 2415.6 Sq. Feet's and bounded on the :**East by:** 25 feet Road, **West by:** Site No.12 and 13, **North by:** Site No.7, **South by:** Site No.10.
HARISHA .S, Advocate
#1479. DRLS PLAZA, Union Bank Building,
T Dasarahalli, Bengaluru-560 057.
Mobile No. 90609 50265.

Document Lost

I, VANIKIRAN.P, Aged major residing at Kunthurudoddi Kasaba Hobli, Mylanayakanahalli village, Channapatna Taluk, Ramanagar District, I am a citizen of India. I am residing in the above mentioned address. I state that, I have lost the Original sale deed dated 25.09.2009 vide Reg. No. CAN. 1-0 4342/09-10 in respect of the property Municipal Katha No. 2298, Site No. C-222, situated at Mangalavarapet village, Chennapatna Town, the same was registered on 05.12.2009 vide C.D. NO. CAND68. The said Sale Deed is got burnt for which I have lodged online complaint before the Bengaluru city police vide Lost Report No. 2432681/2026 dated 18.09.2026 vide Affudavit vide Affudavit dated : 11/11/2026 before Notary MEER HASSAN, Bengaluru.

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

Quick Read

Walk-in interview for bank jobs on Nov 13

CH NEWS, MANDYA

The Mandya District Employment Exchange, in association with AU Small Finance Bank, will organise a walk-in interview on November 13 at 10 am at the bank's branch near Twinkle School in Mandya.The recruitment drive aims to fill vacancies for Bank Officer and Late Recovery Officer posts. Candidates aged 18 to 35 who have completed SSLC, PUC, Diploma, ITI or any degree are eligible to attend. Applicants must be willing to work in Mandya district and carry their resumes or biodata.

For details, candidates can contact 9164642684, 9113500761, 8970646629, 7483630318, 9964113232 or 9741939716.

Hassan festival to become state-level Naadahabba: Minister

Over 30 lakh devotees visited the temple, with cooperation from priests enabling more darshans by reducing puja breaks

CH NEWS, HASSAN

The annual Hasanamba festival will be developed as 'Hassan Naadahabba', on the lines of Mysuru Dasara, from next year to showcase the district's history and cultural heritage, Excise Minister and Hassan District In-charge Minister K.M. Shivalinge Gowda announced.

Speaking at a press conference after the conclusion of the annual Hasanamba darshan festival and Siddeshwara Swamy Jatra Mahotsava, he said this year's celebrations had attracted a record number of devotees.

According to the minister, more than 30 lakh devotees visited the temple. He said the final count, including devotees waiting in the queue, was expected to reach 30.07 lakh. He also appreciated the priests for cooperating with the administration to reduce the afternoon puja and cleaning break from nearly three hours to around 30 minutes. This arrangement, he said, enabled an additional two to four lakh devotees to have darshan.



The press conference after the Hasanamba darshan festival in Hassan.

Revenue expected to cross Rs. 30 crore

The minister said Rs. 24.31 crore was collected through special darshan tickets priced at Rs. 300 and Rs. 1,000, while laddu sales generated another Rs. 1.29 crore. He said the laddus were supplied at a cost of Rs. 40 to avoid making profits from devotees. After counting the hundi collections, total revenue was expected to exceed Rs. 30 crore.

He also announced plans to reduce the deployment of government employees to 10 per cent next year, with staff working in supervisory roles on a weekly rotation. Private agencies and more than 2,000 Scouts and Guides volunteers would handle crowd management and access control.

Shivalinge Gowda appealed to political leaders not to raise controversies during the religious festival. He said he would continue to respond to allegations against him and prove his position to the public. He also promised to avoid harsh language and adopt a more respectful style of communication while working with leaders and officials across the district.

He further assured that stalled development projects in Hassan would be taken up soon and that his administration would focus on public welfare.

Referring to the difficulties faced by farmers due to inadequate rainfall, the minister said he had prayed to Goddess Hasanamba for timely rains, good crops and relief from the hardships faced by farming families.

Hassan MP Shreyas Patel, Deputy Commissioner K.S. Latha Kumari, Superintendent of Police Shubhanvitha and other officials attended the press conference.

30 lakh+	₹24.31 cr	₹30 cr+
devotees visited the temple	from special darshan tickets	revenue expected after hundi count

Onake Obavva's courage inspires women, says Tajpeer

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

Onake Obavva's courage, presence of mind and sacrifice in defending Chitradurga Fort continue to inspire women across the country, said M.K. Tajpeer, Chairman of the Urban Development Authority.

He was speaking after inaugurating the Veera Vanite Onake Obavva Jayanti celebrations at T.R. Subba Rao Rangamandira in Chitradurga. The programme was jointly organised by the district administration, Zilla Panchayat, Department of Kannada and Culture and City Municipal Council.

Tajpeer said the names of Madakari Nayaka and Onake Obavva were closely associated with Chitradurga's history. He recalled how Obavva used a pestle to fight soldiers of Hyder Ali who attempted to enter the fort through a narrow opening. Her bravery remains a source of pride and inspiration, he said.

He added that Obavva's life teaches people to face difficulties with courage and determination. Women today have made progress in education, employment, the armed forces, aviation and business.



They should continue to pursue their ambitions with confidence.Another speaker, the Chairperson of the District Guarantee Schemes Implementation Authority, highlighted Obavva's courage and presence of mind. He recalled how she confronted enemy soldiers while ensuring that her husband, who was having his meal, was not disturbed.

Additional Deputy Commissioner B.T. Kumaraswamy said Obavva belonged to no single community and her bravery was an example for everyone. He urged women and students to develop courage, loyalty and the ability to make bold decisions.

Sub-Divisional Officer Dr. K.J. Kantaraj described Obavva as a symbol of bravery and patriotism.

Youth must lead India's development, says Mandya official

CH NEWS, MANDYA

Young people have a crucial role in achieving the Central Government's vision of a developed India, said Mandya Urban Development Authority Commissioner M.P. Krishnakumar. He stressed that awareness of the Constitution and its principles is essential for every student.

He was speaking after inaugurating the district-level Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament and Youth Interaction Meet by lighting the ceremonial lamp. The programme was organised jointly by the Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Karnataka Government, district administration, Zilla Panchayat, Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat), Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports, and P.E.S. Engineering College.

The event was held at the K.V. Shankara Gowda Training and Employment Centre on the P.E.S. Engineering College campus in Mandya.

Krishnakumar said Youth Parliament programmes provide an important platform for young people to develop leadership qualities, responsible thinking and awareness of their role in nation-building.

Explaining the three pillars of the Constitution, he said the Legislature makes laws, the Executive implements government policies and schemes, and the Judiciary protects citizens' rights and ensures justice.



He added that these three institutions must work together with mutual understanding and cooperation for the smooth functioning of the administrative system.

Every student should read the Constitution and understand its principles, rights and duties, he said. Knowledge of the Constitution and laws also helps individuals express their views confidently and participate responsibly in society.

The programme was attended by Shruti S., District Youth Officer of the MY Bharat centre; Manujashree Y.C., Assistant Director of the Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports; Prakash, Inspector of Mandya West Police Station; and Nagabhushan of the Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports, among others.

'Kannadigas must preserve language and heritage'

CH NEWS, HUNSUR

Kannadigas should develop love and pride for their mother tongue and remain united to protect Kannada language and culture, said Harave Mahadev, president of the Taluk Kannada Sahitya Parishat.

Kannadigas should remain united to protect Kannada language and culture, Harave Mahadev said

A 2,500-year history

He noted that Kannada has a rich history spanning nearly 2,500 years.

He was speaking after inaugurating the 71st Kannada Rajyotsava celebrations and Kannada song recital programme organised jointly by Sugama Sangeetha Pathashala and Chintana Marga channel in Hunsur.

From Pampa to Kuvempu

Mahadev said several poets and writers, from Adikavi Pampa to Kuvempu, had enriched Kannada literature through their contributions. He recalled the role of Aluru Venkata Rao in the movement for Karnataka's unification. He also highlighted how Huilagola Narayana Rao's song Udayavagali Namma Cheluva Kannada Nadu inspired pride in the Kannada language and land.

He said the efforts and sacrifices of Kannada activists led to the formation of Greater Mysore State on November 1, 1956. Later, on November 1, 1973, the state was renamed Karnataka by then Chief Minister D. Devaraj Urs. He urged everyone to protect and promote the state's rich linguistic heritage.

From Mysore to Karnataka

- **NOV 1, 1956** — Kannada activists' efforts and sacrifices lead to the formation of Greater Mysore State
- **NOV 1, 1973** — Then Chief Minister D. Devaraj Urs renames the state Karnataka

Priority for Kannada

Dr. Bharat Kumar, head of Krishna Hospital and chief guest, said Kannada should receive priority across Karnataka. He recalled forming Kannada associations during his medical service in different places to encourage people to embrace the language.

Former Municipal Council president H.Y. Mahadev, RCN Channel head V.P. Sainath, Hangodu Nataraj, C.S. Mahesh and Mahadevamma also spoke.

The programme was presided over by Karnataka Rakshana Vedike district president Purushotham. Archana, Singesh and Hanumayya of Sugama Sangeetha Pathashala coordinated the event.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಗೇರು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ ಕುಮಟಾ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕುಮಟಾ
ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾ ವಸಾಹತಿನ ಹತ್ತಿರ, ಹೆಗಡೆ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಕುಮಟಾ–581343 (ಉ.ಕ.)
ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 08386–200994 e-mail: kcdckumta@gmail.com
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಕೆಸಿಡಿಸಿ:ಕು.ವಿ:ಕ್ಯಾಪ್ಕೊ ಸೇಲ್:2026–27/216 ವಿಭಾಗೀಯ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕರವರ ಕಚೇರಿ ಕುಮಟಾ. ದಿನಾಂಕ: 06–11–2026.
ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರು ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ
ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರ ತಿಳುವಳಿಕೆಗೆ ಮತ್ತು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಗೇರು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ನಿಗಮದ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಗೆ ಜಾಹೀರಾತು ಪಡಿಸುವುದೇನೆಂದರೆ 2026–27ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಗೇರು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ, ಕುಮಟಾ ವಿಭಾಗದ ಗೇರು ಫಲೋತ್ಪನ್ನಗಳ ಮಾರಾಟದ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್/ಇ–ಹರಾಜನ್ನು www.mstcecommerce.com ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ.
ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್/ಇ–ಹರಾಜು ಇಡಲಾದ ಘಟಕಗಳ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಮತ್ತು ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ: 150 ಘಟಕಗಳು, 7,248.103 ಹೆಕ್ಟೇರು. ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್/ಇ ಹರಾಜು ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 11–11–2026. ಇ.ಎಮ್.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ ಪಾವತಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ: 25–11–2026 – ಪೂರ್ವಾಹ್ನ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ. ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಾರಂಭವಾಗುವ ಮತ್ತು ಕೊನೆಗೊಳ್ಳುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ: 26–11–2026 ಪೂರ್ವಾಹ್ನ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಹಾಗೂ 26–11–2026 ಅಪರಾಹ್ನ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. ಇ–ಹರಾಜು ಪ್ರಾರಂಭವಾಗುವ ಮತ್ತು ಕೊನೆಗೊಳ್ಳುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ: 26–11–2026 ಪೂರ್ವಾಹ್ನ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ, 26–11–2026 ಅಪರಾಹ್ನ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚುವರಿ ಸಮಯ 8 ನಿಮಿಷ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ www.mstcecommerce.com ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಿಂದ ತಿಳಿದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಅಥವಾ ಕುಮಟಾ ವಿಭಾಗೀಯ ಕಛೇರಿಯನ್ನು ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು.
ಸಹಿ/– ಉಪ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ
ಹಾಗೂ ವಿಭಾಗೀಯ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕರು,
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಗೇರು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ,
ಕುಮಟಾ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕುಮಟಾ.
DIPR/KWR/KSMCA/546/26-27
dt. 09.11.2026

ಕೈಗಾರಿಕೆ ಮತ್ತು ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಉಪ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು(ಗ್ರಾಕೈ) ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ,
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ (ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾ ವಿಭಾಗ), ಬಿ.ಬಿ.ರಸ್ತೆ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ.
Tender No:IC/2026-27/IND0188 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 05.11.2026
ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
ಉಪನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು(ಗ್ರಾಕೈ), ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ ವತಿಯಿಂದ 2026–27ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ವೃತ್ತಿಪರ ಕುಶಲಕರ್ಮಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಉಚಿತ ಸುಧಾರಿತ ಉಪಕರಣ ಸರಬರಾಜು ಯೋಜನೆಗಳಡಿ ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ನಿರುದ್ಯೋಗಿ ಅರ್ಹ ಫಲಾನುಭವಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಉಚಿತವಾಗಿ ಹೊಲಿಗೆ ಯಂತ್ರ/ಸುಧಾರಿತ ಉಪಕರಣಗಳನ್ನು ವಿತರಿಸುವ ಸಲುವಾಗಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಹಾಗೂ ಆಸಕ್ತ ಸರಬರಾಜುದಾರರಿಂದ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು Government of Karnataka e-procurement portal website:http/eproc.kar.gov.in ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದು. ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 20.11.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 04:30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಮತ್ತು ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 21.11.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 04:45 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಆಸಕ್ತರು ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.
ಸಹಿ/– ಉಪ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು(ಗ್ರಾಕೈ),
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್, ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ.
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ/ಆರ್.ಓ.ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:242/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2026–27

Government of Karnataka - Zilla Panchayat
Office of The Executive Engineer,
Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Chikkamagaluru
Ph No.: 08262-220936 e-mail: zpedckm@rediffmail.com
Tender Notice No:26/2026-27/2243 Date: 06.11.2026
Tender Notice
Tenders are invited through the KPP portal (kppp. karnataka. gov.in) by the Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Department, Chikkamagaluru, for various works in Chikkamagaluru, Kadur, Sringeri, Ajjampur and Tarikere taluks of Chikkamagaluru District. The estimated cost of the works ranges from a minimum of Rs. 2.54 lakh to a maximum of Rs. 58.85 lakh.Tenderers shall submit details of their experience, capability and capacity as prescribed in the Standard Tender Documents (KW-1, KW-2 and KW-3).
The tender documents can be downloaded & uploaded through the KPPP portal kppp.karnataka.gov.in. The tender documents can be downloaded & uploaded from 07-11-2026 to 23-11-2026 up to 5:30 PM. The technical bids will be opened on 25-11-2026 at 5:30 PM, if possible. The financial bids will be opened on 30-11-2026 at 5:05 PM, if possible. If any of the above dates falls on a public holiday, the next working day will be considered. The tender notification is available on the KPPP website (kppp.karnataka.gov.in). For further details, please contact the Content Administrator during office hours.
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Chikkamagaluru.
DIPR/CKM/KSMCA/26-27/138/1089

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

BENGALURU NORTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer (QA/QC) Zone-1,
Amurthahalli Main Road, Byatarayanapura, Bangalore-92
Tend No: BNCC/EE(QA/QC)/TEND/06/26-27 Date: 09/11/2026
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(TWO COVER SYSTEM) (Only through KPP Portal)
(1). Executive Engineer, Quality Assurance/Quality Control division, Zone -1 invites Request for Proposal on behalf of Commissioner Bengaluru North City Corporation (BNCC) from interested persons/firms those who have done similar type of work for Consultancy Services for Project Management including Supervision, Quality control (PMC) for the below work through KPP Portal by the Executive Engineer QA/QC, Zone-1, BNCC. (2). Tender documents may be downloaded from Government of Karnataka KPP Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in under login for Contractors:

SL. No	Name of the Work	Project Cost (Rs. in Lakhs)	PMC Amount Reserved (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD amount in Rs.
	Sarvagnanagar Division Works			
1	Consultancy Services for Project Management including Supervision, Quality control (PMC) for PACKAGE-03 Comprehensive Development of roads, drains and Footpath in Pillana Garden, Telegraph Street, PNT Colony, in Ramachandra Layout, KSFC Layout, Grance Garden, Thipanna Layout, Subash Layout, Lakshmipathy Layout, and Kammanahalli Main Road, 2nd Block HBR Layout, 3rd Block HRBR Layout, PNS Layout, AK Colony, Ashwathappa Layout, 2nd A,B,C,D,E Cross Roads HRBR 2nd Block in Ward No. 30- Kacharakanahalli, 31 -Kalyana Nagara & 28 Venkateshpura, 29-Lingarajapura (Call-2)	1000.00	8.00	20,000/-
2	Consultancy Services for Project Management including Supervision, Quality control (PMC) for PACKAGE-06 Comprehensive Development of roads, drains and Footpath in 5th, 8th, 9th, 10th Cross, Mehaboob Nagar and VHBCS Layout, Chikka Gulappa Cross Road, Noorani Masjid, Grape Garden, Nanjuppa Layout Cross Roads, 5th Block, 20th,21st,22nd Cross Roads Karnataka Bank 4th Block, CMR Garden, 8th ,9th Cross 5th,6th Main 3rd Block HBR Layout, 1st Cross Zafrulla Layout, 1st,2nd,3rd & 4th Cross New Nobel School, 9th,10th,11th Cross Roads 4th Cross Road Noor Masjid Roads in Ward No.22 Nagawara , 23 Hennur,24 -HBR Layout, 25 Govindapura(Call-2)	1000.00	8.00	20,000/-
3	Consultancy Services for Project Management including Supervision, Quality control (PMC) for PACKAGE-07 Comprehensive Development of roads, drains and Footpath in Chuna Lane & Shampura Main Road, Makka Masjid Main Road & Cross Roads, Railway Parellel Roads, Back Side of EWS Quarters, Back Side of Primary Health Care Center Mariamma Temple Surrounding Area, Cross Roads of Arokyamma Layout, PNT Colony& Pillanna garden Main Road, Sait Palya, Kariyana Palya, 1st to 7th Cross Siddartha School Roads a in Ward No.29 Lingarajapura, 26 Samadhanangara, 27 KG Halli, 28 Venkateshapura. (Call-2)	1000.00	7.02	18,000/-
4	Consultancy Services for Project Management including Supervision, Quality control (PMC) for Providing Thermoplastic Painting for Rumbler strips, Lane marking, Junction Marking, deferent types of sign boards, pelican signals and Kerb stones, HRPC and other safety furniture as per Traffic police requests in Sarvagnanagara division (Call-2)	320.00	2.69	10,000/-
	Pulikeshinagar Division Works			
5	Consultancy Services for Project Management including Supervision, Quality control (PMC) for Comprehensive Develoment Of Roads, Drain & CC Road In Muslim Colony, Chikkanna Block, Karumariyamma Nagar BDA Layout Hanifia Masjid Cross Roads, Rama Temple Cross Roads & Anwar Layout Main Road Cross Road, P&T Colony Cross Roads, YM Public School Back Side, Malik Sab Lane Roads, Ajjugalli Cross Roads Quba Masjid, Ashok Nagar, Muneshwaranagar Cross Roads, Gavau garden Main Road & Cross roads, Urdu School, D.J. Halli Market Road & D.J. Halli Main Road upto Bangaragiri Layout Dead End S.K.Garden & Surrounding areas & Improvements and Upgradation in and around Coles Park, Williams town Park & Old Bagalur Layout park & Lal Bahadur Shastri College near & L.R. Bande In Ward No 47 Pulikeshinagar, ward no 48 S.K. Garden & Ward No 46 Sagayapuram, 38 Shampura, 39 Kavalbyrasandra & Providing of New name boards in ward No 38 Shampura, 39 Kavalbyrasandra, 40 Shakthi Nagar, 41 Periyar Nagar, 42 Aruna Asif Ali, 43 Varalakshmi nagar, 44 Doddannanagar, 45 KushalNagar, 46 Sagayapuram, 47 Pulikeshinagar, 48 S.K.Garden Package no 01 (Call-2)	4850.00	48.50	97,000/-

Time Schedule/Calendar of events:
(1) Pre-bid Meeting : **13-11-2026 @ 11.30 AM Office of the Executive Engineer (QA/QC), Zone-1, Amruthahalli Main Road, Byatarayanapura, Bangalore-560 092.** (2) Last Date & Time for receipt of Tenders :**19-11-2026 up to 4:00 PM.** (3). Opening of Technical bid **: 20-11-2026 at 11:00 AM. (4**). Validity of Tender : **90 Days from last date of receipts of Tender.**
Sd/-
Executive Engineer (QA/QC), Zone-1
Bengaluru North City Corporation

Quick Read

Onion farmers urged to register for crop insurance

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

Farmers growing irrigated onions in Chitradurga district can enrol under the Karnataka Raitha Suraksha Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana for 2026-27. The last date for registration is November 30. The scheme covers notified areas in Chitradurga, Challakere, Hiriyur and Molakalmuru taluks. IFFCO-Tokio General Insurance Company is the designated insurer. The sum insured is Rs. 93,900 per hectare, with a 90% indemnity level. Farmers must pay a 5% premium of Rs. 4,695 per hectare. Eligible farmers can register through banks, Common Service Centres (CSCs), Gram One centres and other authorised institutions. The Joint Director of Horticulture has advised farmers to contact the nearest horticulture office, Farmers' Contact Centre or bank for further details and registration assistance. Farmers should complete registration before the deadline to obtain insurance coverage.

Gram Panchayat Tax Collector computer test on Nov 20

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

A computer literacy test for candidates applying for direct recruitment to Gram Panchayat Tax Collector posts in Chitradurga district will be held on November 20 at the Government College of Teacher Education in the city. According to Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer Dr. S. Akash, a total of 58 candidates have been shortlisted for the test. Their roll numbers and other details have been published on the official district website, chitradurga.nic.in. The examination will be conducted in three batches. Candidates with serial numbers 01 to 20 will take the test from 10 am to 11.30 am. Those with serial numbers 21 to 40 will appear from 12 noon to 1.30 pm, while candidates numbered 41 to 58 will take the test from 2 pm to 3.30 pm. Candidates have been advised to reach the examination centre at least one hour before their respective examination timings.

Hindu activist Pradeep Sangam passes away at 44

CH NEWS, KUNDAPUR

Pradeep Sangam (44), known for his involvement in Hindu organisational and social activities, passed away on Wednesday afternoon following a prolonged illness.He had reportedly been suffering from a serious illness for the past year. He was actively involved in various organisational activities and played an important role in coordinating programmes and social initiatives.He is survived by his mother and brother.His death has left members of Hindu organisations in the Kundapur region grieving. Friends, classmates and fellow activists remembered his dedication, commitment and contribution to organisational and social activities.

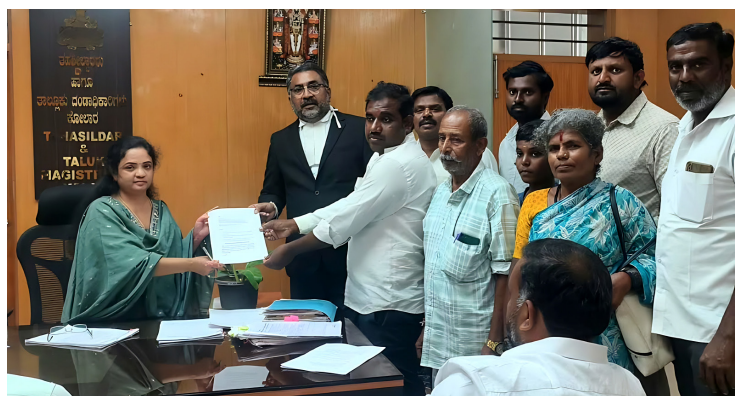
Advocates seek probe into Kolar illegal constructions

The association condemned unauthorised constructions on public and farmland, questioning the issuance of property documents for illegal sites

CH NEWS, KOLAR

The Kolar district unit of the All India Advocates Association has demanded an independent, high-level investigation into alleged illegal layouts, unauthorised buildings and encroachments on government land within Kolar City Municipal Council limits and surrounding Gram Panchayats over the past 25 years.

Led by district president Advocate K.S. Narendrababu, the association submitted a memorandum to Tahsildar Nagaveni at her office on Wednesday. The delegation included Shivakumar, Ambarish, Suresh, Venkateshappa, Muninarayanappa, Subramani, Kushal and Anjuntaz.



Members of the All India Advocates Association's Kolar unit hand over their memorandum at the Tahsildar's office

Allegations of large-scale irregularities

The memorandum alleged that irregularities worth more than Rs. 1,000 crore may have occurred during the period. It sought a comparison of land and property records from the past 25 years to establish the extent of the alleged violations.

The association raised concerns over unauthorised constructions on farmers' land, government property, canals and kharabu land. It also questioned the alleged use of tax records to issue e-Swathu property documents for unauthorised sites.

The memorandum further alleged that providing roads, drainage, water supply and streetlights to illegal layouts had increased their market value. It called for scrutiny of officials and employees suspected of involvement, while seeking verification of Aadhaar and voter identity records linked to disputed properties.

Association lists key demands

The association demanded an independent inquiry, removal of encroachments, action against officials found responsible and an investigation into public money spent on unauthorised layouts. It also sought compensation for affected farmers, publication of ward-wise lists of illegal properties and action against land-grabbing networks.The memorandum further requested special police patrols in affected areas and submission of an investigation report within 90 days.

Narendrababu clarified that the representation was not directed against any particular community but sought accountability and protection of public property.

Kannada literature centre opens in Sandur

CH NEWS, SANDUR



The Kannada Sahitya Parishat's Sandur taluk unit organised a programme to inaugurate the Kannada Sahitya and Samskrutika Bhavana (Kannada Literature and Cultural Centre) and lay the foundation stone for an auditorium in the town.

Ballari MP E. Tukaram, who attended the programme, said Karnataka had made significant contributions to art, literature and culture. He noted that Sandur had its own rich traditions and cultural heritage.

He announced an additional grant of Rs. 1.25 crore from the Chief Minister's Infrastructure Development Programme (CMIDP) funds and the MLA's grant for constructing the auditorium's roof.

Sandur MLA E. Annapoorna Tukaram said the centre should become more than just a building and serve as a platform for promoting local culture, folk traditions, theatre and literary activities.

She expressed hope that the facility would encourage children and young people to develop an interest in reading and writing Kannada books.

She also assured support for Kannada-related programmes and the further development of the centre.

Prabhu Mahaswamiji of Sandur Virakta Matha delivered the benediction.

Health Department conducts awareness drive against TB

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

The Health Department has urged people to participate in the Active Tuberculosis Detection and Treatment Campaign, being conducted from October 27 to December 8, 2026, under the slogan "Defeat TB, Win for the Nation".

Speaking at an awareness programme held recently at G.R. Halli in Chitradurga taluk, Deputy District Health Education Officer Govindareddy Konnuru appealed to the public to make use of the campaign and cooperate with health workers to identify and treat tuberculosis (TB) cases at an early stage.

He explained that TB is an infectious disease caused by the bacterium Mycobacterium tuberculosis. It mainly affects the lungs and can spread through the air when an infected person coughs or sneezes.

Common symptoms include a persistent cough, fever, night sweats, chest pain, breathlessness, blood in sputum, loss of appetite, weight loss and tiredness.

People experiencing these symptoms should visit the nearest health centre or government hospital for medical examination and testing.

Konnuru said that TB can be treated and that free diagnosis and medicines are available at government health facilities. Treatment duration depends on the type of TB and the patient's condition. Patients should complete the prescribed course of medicines under medical supervision.

ASHA workers and other health staff are visiting households, particularly those with people at higher risk, to identify suspected cases, arrange testing and help diagnosed patients access treatment. The public has been asked to cooperate with these workers.

Health Surveillance Officer L.G. Prashanth said that a balanced and nutritious diet, personal hygiene and a clean home environment are important for maintaining good health and preventing several diseases. He also highlighted the importance of preventing anaemia through proper nutrition.

Former Gram Panchayat member Mallikarjun, ASHA workers Shivamala, Drakshayini and Veeramma, along with local residents, attended the programme.

The Health Department has appealed to people to support the campaign and work towards the goal of a TB-free India by 2030.

The TB campaign

- **Oct 27 to Dec 8:** active detection and treatment drive
- **Free** diagnosis and medicines at government facilities
- **ASHA workers** visiting households to find suspected cases
- **2030:** the goal of a TB-free India

Girls' PU college hosts legal awareness programme



CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

Students should develop a proper understanding of laws and their rights

A legal awareness and assistance programme was organised at the Government Girls' Pre-University College in Chitradurga on Wednesday under the initiative titled 'Awareness for a Drug-Free India and Wellness Guidance'.

Inaugurating the programme, Second Additional District and Sessions Judge Gangadhara Chennabasappa Hadapad said students should develop a proper understanding of laws and their rights.

The programme was organised to mark National Legal Services Day. Students were informed about the services offered by the District Legal Services Authority and important legal provisions under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act.

Shameer P. Nandyal, Member Secretary of the District Legal Services Authority and Senior Civil Judge, also attended the programme and provided guidance to students.

Women's Police Station Inspector Naeem Ahmed, District Hospital psychiatrist Rajeshwari and college principal Sanna Palayya were present. College lecturers and students also participated.

Mandya sports meet promotes children's hidden talents

CH NEWS, MANDYA

A sports meet organised to mark Children's Day was inaugurated by District Child Protection Officer Yogesh at PET Stadium in Mandya.

The event was jointly organised by the District Administration, Zilla Panchayat, District Child Protection Unit, Child Care Institutions and Janata Shikshana Samsthe.

Speaking at the inaugural programme, Yogesh said Children's Day should not be limited to ceremonial celebrations. Instead, organising sports activities would give children an opportunity to showcase their talents, interests and abilities.

He stressed that every child should participate in at least one sport. He said winning or losing was not important and every child taking part in the competitions should be considered a winner, irrespective of whether they received a prize.

He encouraged the participants to enjoy the games, take part with enthusiasm and play with a winning spirit. He explained that the main aim of the event was to identify children's sporting abilities and encourage their overall development.

He also informed the participants that prizes would be distributed by the Deputy Commissioner at a later stage. Representatives of all participating organisations were urged to take an active interest in the children's activities and encourage them throughout the programme.

BENGALURU NORTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Vidyaranyapura Division, Zone-1,
No. 582, 1st Main BEL Layout, 2nd Stage, Vidyaranyapura, Bengaluru - 560097.

No: BNCC/EE/VDP-D/KPPP/06/2026-27 **Date: 11-11-2026**

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

The Executive Engineer, Vidyaranyapura Division, Zone-1, BNCC, Bengaluru invites Tenders from eligible Contractors registered in BNCC or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Government Organizations for the Construction of Works detailed below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work / Category
1	Improvements of Roads, Construction of Culverts and Drains at M.S. Palya, Vinayaka Layout and Surrounding Areas in Ward No. 08, Singapura. **(Others) - Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 41.45, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 83,000.00**
2	Improvements of Roads, Construction of Culverts and Drains at Vinayakanagara, Bharath Nagaraand and Surrounding Areas in Ward No. 08, Singapura. **(Others) - Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 41.48, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 83,000.00**
3	Improvements of Roads, Construction of Culverts and Drains at Srinidhi Layout, Vaishnavi Layout and Surrounding Areas in Ward No. 08, Singapura. **(Others) - Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 41.46, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 83,000.00**
4	Construction of Retaining Wall at Kuvempunagara Gutte in Ward No. 09, Kuvempunagara. **(Others) - Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 41.52, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 83,000.00**
5	Improvements of Roads, Construction of Culverts and Drains at Gangammagudi and Surrounding Areas in Ward No. 09, Kuvempunagara. **(CAT-I) - Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 41.5, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 83,000.00**
6	Improvements of Roads, Construction of Culverts and Drains at Ramachandrapura Surrounding Areas in Ward No. 09, Kuvempunagara. **(SC) - Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 20.75, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 21,000.00**
7	Improvements of Roads, Construction of Culverts and Drains at Kuvempunagara 1st and 2nd Stage Surrounding Areas in Ward No. 09, Kuvempunagara. **(Others) - Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 20.75, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 50,000.00**
8	Improvement of Roads and CC Drains and Culverts in V.P. Layout, Munishamappa Layout and Utnalappa Layout in Ward No. 10, Vidyaranyapura. **(Others) - Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 124.53, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 2,00,000.00 (Rs. 1.00 Lakh through KPP Portal and Rs. 1.00 Lakh in the form of B.G)**
9	Improvement of Roads in BEI North Colony in Ward No. 11, Doddabommasandra. **(Others) - Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 62.26, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 1,25,000.00 (Rs. 1.00 Lakh through KPP Portal and Rs. 0.25 Lakh in the form of B.G)**
10	Improvement of Roads and Drain in Kateramma Temple Surrounding Areas Ward No.11, Doddabommasandra. **(CAT-II(A)) - Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 62.3, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 1,25,000.00 (Rs. 1.00 Lakh through KPP Portal and Rs. 0.25 Lakh in the form of B.G)**
11	Improvement of Roads and Drains at Bullet Krishnappa Layout and Surrounding Areas in Ward No. 12, Thindlu. **(SC) - Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 41.48, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 41,500.00**
12	Construction of New CC Drain and Culverts in V.P. Layout, Munishamappa Layout and Improvements to Roads in Utnalappa Layout and Surrounding Areas in Ward No. 12, Thindlu. **(Others) - Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 83.03, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 1,67,000.00 (Rs. 1.00 Lakh through KPP Portal and Rs. 0.67 Lakh in the form of B.G)**
13	Improvements to Roads, Drains and Other Allied Works at Devinagara, Kannurnagara, Kannuramma Layout and Surrounding Area in Ward No. 13, Kodigehalli. **(Others) - Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 62.27, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 1,25,000.00 (Rs. 1.00 Lakh through KPP Portal and Rs. 0.25 Lakh in the form of B.G)**
14	Improvements to Roads, Drains and Other Allied Works at Tatanagara and Kodigehalli Village and Surrounding Area in Ward No. 13, Kodigehalli. **(SC) - Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 62.25, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 62,500.00**
15	Improvements to Roads, Drains and Other Allied Works at AMCO Layout in Ward No. 14, Rajiv Gandhinagara. **(Others) - Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 62.27, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 1,25,000.00 (Rs. 1.00 Lakh through KPP Portal and Rs. 0.25 Lakh in the form of B.G)**
16	Improvements to Roads, Drains and Other Allied Works at Balaji Layout in Ward No. 14, Rajiv Gandhinagara. **(ST) - Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 62.27, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 62,500.00**
17	Maintenance of Vidyaranyapura and Kuvempunagara Sub Division Office Building in Vidyaranyapura Division. **(CAT-II(A)) - Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 12.45, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 31,000.00**
18	Repair and Maintenance of Kuvempunagara Samudaya Bhavana in Vidyaranypuara Division. **(ST) - Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 41.5, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 41,500.00**
19	Repair and Maintenance of School Buildings in Vidyaranyapura Division. **(Others) - Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 12.45, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 31,000.00**
20	Repair and Maintenance of Primary Health Center in Vidyaranyapura Division. **(Others) - Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 12.45, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 31,000.00**
21	Repair and Maintenance of Burial Grounds in Vidyaranyapura Division. **(Others) - Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 33.17, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 66,000.00**
22	Repair and Maintenance of Lottegolahalli, BEL and Kodigehalli RUB in Vidyaranyapura Division. **(CAT-II(A)) - Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 62.28, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 1,25,000.00 (Rs. 1.00 Lakh through KPP Portal and Rs. 0.25 Lakh in the form of B.G)**
23	Repair & Maintenance of Canara Bank Layout Play Grounds in Vidyaranyapura Division. **(CAT-II(A)) - Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 24.9, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 50,000.00**
24	Repair and Maintenance UGD and Water Supply in Vidyaranyapura Division. **(SC) - Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 4.14, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 5,000.00**
25	Rain Water Harvesting in All Parks and Building in Vidyaranyapura Division. **(Others) - Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 20.68, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 50,000.00**
26	Removal of Unauthorised Building Construction and Advertisement Boards in Vidyaranyapura Division. **(ST) - Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 33.21, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 33,500.00**

Calendar of Events: 1) Tender Documents may be Downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 13-11-2026, 16.30 Hours onwards. 2)** Last Date for Receipt of Queries and Pre Bid Meeting on **19-11-2026 at 15.00 Hours. 3)** Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tenders: **01-12-2026 upto 16.00 Hours. 4)** Date and Time for Opening of Technical Bid: **02-12-2026 at 16.30 Hours. 5)** Date and time for Opening of Financial Bid: **Will be intimated after obtaining Approval for Technical Evaluation.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Vidyaranyapura Division, Zone-1, BNCC.

IMF RAISES ITS FORECAST FOR INDIA'S GROWTH



MAHENDRA TIWARI

The International Monetary Fund's increase in India's GDP growth forecast for the fiscal year 2026-27 from 6.4 percent to 7 percent is a highly encouraging and positive sign for the Indian economy. At a time when many large and developed economies globally are facing recession, inflation, and instability, such a positive revision in India's growth rate testifies to the success of the country's economic policies and strong infrastructure. This is not just a numerical increase, but a symbol of the global community's unwavering confidence in India's economic potential. This remarkable seven percent growth rate places India at the top of the list of the world's fastest-growing major economies and demonstrates that despite global challenges, the country's economic wheels are turning at a rapid pace.



The biggest reason behind this impressive economic growth is the country's strong domestic demand. Unlike Western countries, the Indian economy is not entirely dependent on exports. Instead, the large middle class and its consumption capacity provide a strong cushion for the economy. When global demand declines, domestic consumption prevents production from falling. The improvement in people's purchasing power over the past few years has maintained a steady demand for products and services in the market. It is this domestic demand that keeps the cycle of small and large industries running smoothly. Increased consumption in both rural and urban areas is significantly benefiting manufacturing and retail trade, which is ultimately reflected in GDP figures.

Continuous expansion and innovation in technology have enabled Indian enterprises to compete globally. Modernization of financial services and new technological transaction systems have also made business easier and transparent. The continued expansion of the services sector is not only increasing foreign exchange reserves but also creating new employment opportunities for millions of youths. India's growing penetration into the knowledge-based economy is preparing it for future challenges.

The government's massive capital expenditure on infrastructure development is also a major driver of this seven percent growth. The construction of new roads, highways, railways, airports, and ports not only improves connectivity across the country but also significantly reduces freight and trade costs. Funds spent on infrastructure have a multiplier effect on the economy. This directly benefits the construction materials industry and creates jobs at all levels, from daily wage labourers to technical experts. This visionary approach by the government is providing long-term strength to the economy, which will further accelerate future growth.

In addition, schemes like production-linked incentives implemented to revive the manufacturing sector are also showing positive impact. This is a major step towards making the country a global manufacturing hub. From communication equipment to defence materials and electrical appliances, large-scale manufacturing is now taking place within the country. This is reducing dependence on imports and improving the trade deficit. When new industrial units are established in the country, they bring with them livelihoods for both skilled and unskilled workers. Employment increases the income of young people, which in turn encourages them to spend more money in the market, and this cycle continuously fuels the entire economy.

Real economic growth in a vast country like India is impossible unless the rural economy fully connects with the mainstream. Agriculture and related industries contribute significantly to the country's GDP. The increase in rural incomes due to good harvests and better support prices has fuelled demand for agricultural equipment and daily use goods. Rising consumption in rural areas indicates that the benefits of development are not limited to cities but are also reaching the lower echelons of society. This process of economic inclusion makes growth more sustainable and balanced.

This new estimate by the International Monetary Fund will also have a direct impact on the mindset of foreign investors. Investors worldwide are always looking for markets that guarantee stability, security, and high returns. When a top global institution rates India's growth rate, it is a clear signal to investors that India is a safe and profitable place to invest. Increased foreign direct investment brings new technology to the country, expands production capacity, and facilitates access to global markets. Additionally, it infuses positive energy into the country's securities markets, increasing the wealth of ordinary investors.

> **"This projection by the International Monetary Fund is irrefutable proof that India is moving in the right direction, and the coming decades are sure to be a golden age for the Indian economy."**
>
> — Mahendra Tiwari

However, this high growth rate is also accompanied by some challenges that require constant attention. Controlling inflation is a top priority. If the prices of goods and services rise rapidly, it reduces the purchasing power of the common man, ultimately impacting domestic demand. Furthermore, global geopolitical tensions, such as war and supply chain disruptions, can destabilize the prices of crude oil and other essential commodities. The impact of climate change and erratic weather on the agricultural sector also remains a major concern. Therefore, maintaining this growth rate requires special emphasis on risk management.

In conclusion, this journey from 6.4 percent to 7 percent is not just a minor mathematical change, but a reflection of the strong foundation of a strong and self-reliant nation. Government policies, the courage of entrepreneurs, and the hard work of ordinary citizens are jointly writing this economic epic. If this process of economic reforms continues unabated and the challenges that arise are managed efficiently, nothing can stop India from achieving its goal of becoming a developed and prosperous economy.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Protecting Our Urban River

The recent report highlighting dangerous pollution levels in the rivers must serve as an urgent wake-up call for municipal authorities. Unchecked urban runoff and inadequate sewage treatment threaten public health and fragile aquatic ecosystems. We cannot afford to treat local water bodies as dumping grounds. Stringent enforcement of environmental standards, rapid infrastructure upgrades, and active community monitoring are critical to safeguarding our natural resources. **– Shantha**

Guarding AI in Classrooms

Recent surveys reveal that while students appreciate generative AI for speeding up coursework, many fear it impairs deeper critical learning. Educational institutions must establish clear guidelines that position AI as a supplementary research aid rather than a substitute for rigorous thinking. Curriculum design must evolve to balance modern technological tools with foundational problem-solving skills, ensuring students remain independent, analytical thinkers in an automated world. **– Rose Wilson**

SEWER CLEANING: WHY IS LACK OF SAFETY COSTING LIVES?



Dr. Vijay Garg

Sewer cleaning is one of the most essential yet least visible forms of public service. Every day, sanitation workers enter environments that most people never see and perform work that is necessary for cities, towns and villages to function safely. Yet when adequate safety measures are missing, this essential work can become life-threatening. The question is not simply why accidents happen. The deeper question is why workers continue to face serious risks while performing work that society depends upon.

A Dangerous Working Environment

Sewers and manholes can contain toxic gases, contaminated water, sharp objects and other hazards. Some gases may reduce the oxygen available for breathing or cause poisoning. A worker entering such an environment without proper assessment, ventilation, protective equipment and supervision may face severe danger within a very short period. The risks are often invisible. A manhole may look like an ordinary opening in the road, but conditions below the surface can be completely different. The concentration of gases can change, oxygen levels can fall and wastewater can suddenly rise. Therefore, sewer cleaning cannot be treated as ordinary manual labour. It requires trained personnel, appropriate technology, risk assessment and emergency preparedness.

When Safety Becomes Secondary

Fatal incidents can occur when safety procedures are ignored, equipment is unavailable or workers are pressured to complete a task quickly. In some situations, workers may enter confined spaces without adequate gas detection, respiratory protection, communication systems or rescue arrangements. Another serious problem is the absence of proper supervision. Entering a confined space should never be treated as an individual decision without a safety plan. Before work begins, hazards need to be identified, the atmosphere tested and appropriate precautions established. Most importantly, a rescue plan must exist before anyone enters. A common danger in confined-space accidents is that a second person may enter impulsively to rescue a colleague and become another victim. Rescue should be conducted using trained personnel and suitable equipment.

Training Is Not Optional

Equipment alone cannot guarantee safety. Workers need regular and practical training. Training should cover confined-space hazards, gas detection, personal protective equipment, communication procedures, emergency response, first aid and safe use of machinery. Supervisors also need specialised training because they are responsible for ensuring that safety procedures are followed. Training should not be limited to a single orientation session. Skills must be refreshed periodically, especially when equipment, working conditions or procedures change.

Protective Equipment Must Be Practical

Personal protective equipment is important, but it must be appropriate for the actual hazard. Depending on the work involved, workers may require protective clothing, gloves, boots, helmets, eye and face protection, gas-monitoring devices, harnesses and appropriate respiratory protection. However, simply providing equipment is not enough. Workers must know how to use it correctly, equipment must be properly maintained and damaged or expired items must be replaced. Safety equipment that is unavailable, unsuitable or difficult to use cannot provide meaningful protection.



The Importance of Gas Detection

One of the most critical precautions in confined-space work is atmospheric testing. Before entry, the atmosphere should be assessed for oxygen deficiency and hazardous gases. Conditions should also be monitored during the work because the atmosphere can change. A worker should never have to guess whether the air inside a sewer is safe to breathe. Portable gas detectors and other monitoring systems can provide essential information and help prevent workers from entering dangerous conditions. But these devices must be properly maintained, calibrated and used by trained personnel.

Emergency Rescue Must Be Planned in Advance

Safety does not end when an accident occurs. The ability to respond quickly can determine whether an incident becomes fatal. Every high-risk sewer operation should have a clear emergency procedure. Rescue equipment, trained personnel, communication systems and access to medical assistance should be arranged before work begins. The principle should be simple: No entry without a rescue plan. Emergency preparedness also requires regular drills. Workers and supervisors should know what to do, whom to contact and how to respond without creating additional casualties.

Responsibility Is Shared

Protecting sanitation workers is not the responsibility of workers alone. Municipal authorities, contractors, employers, engineers, supervisors and government agencies all have responsibilities. Authorities must establish and enforce safety standards. Employers must provide suitable equipment and training. Supervisors must ensure that procedures are followed. Workers must be trained and empowered to refuse unsafe work without fear of losing employment. Contracting arrangements should not allow responsibility for safety to become unclear. When work is outsourced, the duty to protect workers does not disappear.

Dignity Must Be Part of Safety

> **A clean city should not be built on unsafe labour. Those who protect public health by keeping our surroundings clean deserve the same protection that society expects them to provide to others.**

Sanitation workers perform work that protects public health. Their contribution deserves dignity, respect and fair working conditions. Society often notices sanitation workers only when something goes wrong. Yet clean roads, functioning drainage systems and healthy communities depend partly on their daily labour. A worker should never have to choose between earning a livelihood and protecting their life. Safety is therefore not a luxury or an additional benefit. It is a basic requirement of decent employment.

The Role of Citizens

Citizens also have a role to play. Waste should not be thrown into drains because plastic, chemicals, construction debris and other materials can block sewer systems and increase risks for workers. Communities should understand that a blocked drain is not merely an inconvenience. Someone eventually has to deal with the blockage. Responsible waste disposal, proper maintenance of drainage systems and public awareness can reduce the hazards faced by sanitation workers.

From Manual Entry to Safer Sanitation

The long-term goal should be to move toward sanitation systems in which hazardous manual entry is avoided wherever technology and engineering solutions can perform the task. This does not mean eliminating sanitation workers. It means upgrading sanitation work. Workers can be trained as machine operators, equipment technicians, safety assistants, inspectors and sanitation supervisors. Such a transition can create safer employment while improving the efficiency and dignity of the sanitation sector.

A Moral Test for Society

The true measure of a city's development is not only its roads, buildings, technology or economic growth. It is also how safely the people who maintain that city are able to work. When a sanitation worker enters a sewer, the responsibility does not end at the manhole. It extends to the employer, the authorities, the technology providers and society as a whole.

QUESTIONING THE GOVERNMENT OR DISRUPTING THE SYSTEM?



DR. SATYAVAN SAURABH

The right to peaceful assembly is a vital cornerstone of democracy in India. Article 19(1)(b) of the Indian Constitution guarantees all citizens the fundamental right to assemble peacefully and without arms. In a democratic system, public meetings, sit-ins, demonstrations, and rallies are not only a means of expressing dissent, but also provide citizens with an opportunity to voice their demands, ensure accountability from the government, and influence public policy. In India, the current debates surrounding the permissibility of protests, restrictions in public places, road blockades, and preventive legal provisions have further increased the relevance of this right.

India's freedom movement is a historic example of the power of mass mobilization and peaceful resistance. Mahatma Gandhi's Satyagraha demonstrated that nonviolent public participation can be an effective means of challenging an unjust system. Even after independence, various movements on issues related to corruption, social justice, environmental protection, women's rights, employment, and farmers have influenced public discourse. Peaceful protests provide an opportunity to citizens and communities whose concerns may not receive adequate attention under normal circumstances.

The right to peaceful assembly is also closely linked to freedom of expression. Article 19(1)(a) grants citizens freedom of speech and expression, while Article 19(1)(b) provides them with the opportunity to express themselves collectively. Protests can prompt governments to reconsider their policies, address administrative deficiencies, and address public concerns. In this sense, peaceful dissent is not a weakness of democracy, but a testament to its vitality and responsiveness.

In India today, protests over agricultural policies, citizenship, unemployment, recruitment exams, reservations, the environment, and other public issues highlight the importance of this right. On the other hand, questions have been raised about prolonged street protests, bans on public gatherings, internet shutdowns, and the use of preventive orders. The key challenge is to ensure that legitimate citizen dissent is not suppressed in the name of maintaining law and order.

The Constitution does not recognize the right to peaceful assembly as absolute. Under Article 19(3), reasonable restrictions can be imposed on this right in the interest of the sovereignty and integrity of India and public order. Such restrictions are necessary because the state has a responsibility to protect the rights of protesters as well as the rights of other citizens. Violence, intimidation, damage to public property, and serious threats to public safety cannot be justified in the name of democratic protest. Similarly, prolonged blockades of essential routes can cause inconvenience to patients, emergency services, daily commuters, traders, and local residents.

In the Amit Sahni v. Commissioner of Police (2020) case, relating to the Shaheen Bagh protests, the Supreme Court clarified that public roads and places cannot be occupied indefinitely, obstructing the movement of others. This decision underscored the need to strike a balance between the right to protest and the rights of the general public. However, this does not mean that every demonstration in public places can be prohibited. The administration must distinguish between the general inconvenience caused by a peaceful demonstration and a serious or prolonged obstruction.



Similarly, in Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan v. Union of India (2018), the Supreme Court considered the question of balancing the right to protest in public places with the interests of other citizens. Such judicial decisions make it clear that neither the right to protest nor the government's power to regulate it is unlimited. The aim should be to strike a balance that protects democratic expression and does not unnecessarily disrupt public life.

The use of preventive legal powers also needs to be exercised with caution. Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023, empowers competent authorities to issue immediate preventive orders under circumstances specified by law, such as a disturbance or imminent danger. Such measures may be necessary in serious security situations, but they must be based on factual circumstances and appropriately limited in scope and duration. The widespread or routine use of such orders against peaceful assemblies could undermine constitutional freedoms.

Another concern is the unequal and discriminatory application of restrictions. If rules permitting or preventing protests are applied differently based on the political ideology or identity of protesters, public trust in democratic institutions is undermined. Criticism of government policies should not automatically be considered anti-national or hostility towards the state. Disagreement with the demands of a protest cannot be grounds for abrogating citizens' constitutional rights.

Under the current circumstances, India needs to adopt a more transparent and collaborative approach to public demonstrations. The permitting process should be simple, fair, and timely. Authorities should provide suitable venues for demonstrations and ensure access to hospitals, emergency routes, and essential public services. Communication between demonstration organizers, police, and local administrations should be prioritized to resolve disputes regarding routes, timing, and crowd management.

The principles of legality, necessity, and proportionality should apply to every restriction. Before imposing a blanket ban on a gathering, the administration should assess whether the problem can be resolved by rerouting, rescheduling, arranging alternative traffic, or other less restrictive measures. Police personnel should be properly trained in peaceful crowd management, communication, and de-escalation. Effective judicial review should also be available to challenge arbitrary or excessive restrictions.

Citizens and protest organizers also have a responsibility to exercise their rights peacefully, protect public property, and respect the rights of those not participating in the protests. Responsible protests strengthen democracy and prevent real public issues from being ignored due to violence or disorder.

> **"The goal should be a society where, rather than suppressing protests, dissent is peacefully expressed, fairly heard, and democratically resolved."**
>
> – Dr. Satyavan Saurabh

Ultimately, the right to peaceful assembly is a testament to India's constitutional commitment and democratic maturity.

BEYOND BEAUTY: THE POWER OF GRACE

Beyond beauty lies grace, the quiet strength that gives dignity to character, warmth to relationships and meaning to life. True beauty may catch the eye, but grace touches the heart.



Beauty is often associated with appearance. We notice a beautiful face, an attractive smile, elegant clothing, a scenic landscape or a work of art. But true beauty is much deeper than what the eyes can see. It is found in kindness, humility, compassion, dignity and the way a person treats others. This deeper quality can be called grace.

Grace is difficult to define in a single sentence. It is a quiet quality that appears in our behaviour, words and actions. A graceful person does not need to attract attention. Their presence itself can create comfort, respect and positivity.

Physical beauty may change with age, circumstances and time. Grace, however, can grow stronger with experience. A young person may possess physical attractiveness, but an elderly person who has lived with kindness, wisdom and dignity may possess a different and deeper form of beauty.

In everyday life, grace can be seen in small actions. A gentle word to someone who is struggling, patience with a child, respect for an elderly person, forgiveness after an argument or helping someone without expecting anything in return are expressions of grace. These actions may never appear in newspapers or on social media, but they can leave a lasting impression on human hearts.

Grace is particularly visible in difficult situations. It is easy to remain polite when everything is going well. The real test comes when we face criticism, failure, disagreement or disappointment. Responding with patience instead of anger, dignity instead of revenge and understanding instead of hatred requires inner strength.

This does not mean that a graceful person never becomes angry or never disagrees. Rather, grace gives a person the ability to control emotions and respond thoughtfully. It allows us to disagree without insulting others and to defend ourselves without deliberately hurting someone.

Society often gives excessive importance to external appearance. Advertisements, social media and popular culture frequently create unrealistic ideas about beauty. People may begin comparing their faces, bodies, clothes, lifestyles and achievements with carefully presented images of others. Such comparisons can make people forget that human worth cannot be measured by appearance.

True beauty is not a competition. A person does not become more valuable because someone else looks less attractive. Likewise, a person's dignity does not depend upon wealth, clothing, social status or popularity. Grace reminds us that every individual deserves respect.

Nature also teaches us something about grace. A flower does not announce its fragrance. A tree provides shade without asking who will sit beneath it. A river continues to flow and support life. The beauty of nature often comes from simplicity and quiet usefulness rather than display.

Human beings can learn the same lesson. The most graceful people are often those who serve without seeking applause. Teachers who patiently guide students, parents who make sacrifices for their children, doctors who care for patients, workers who perform difficult tasks honestly and volunteers who help strangers all demonstrate forms of beauty that cannot be captured by a mirror.

Grace is also closely connected with gratitude. A grateful person recognizes the value of people and opportunities around them. Gratitude reduces unnecessary comparison and teaches us to appreciate what we have. It can transform ordinary moments into meaningful experiences.

Another important aspect of grace is the ability to forgive. Forgiveness does not mean forgetting injustice or accepting harmful behaviour. It means refusing to allow anger and resentment to control one's life. Sometimes the most powerful response to hurt is to move forward with dignity.

In relationships, grace creates trust. A graceful person listens before judging, gives others a chance to explain themselves and understands that everyone makes mistakes. Such behaviour strengthens families, friendships and communities.

The digital age has made this lesson even more important. Online communication can be fast but often lacks the warmth and nuance of face-to-face interaction. A careless comment can hurt someone within seconds. Grace in the digital world means thinking before posting, disagreeing respectfully and remembering that there is a human being behind every screen.

Grace also means being comfortable with imperfection. No person, family or life is perfect. Accepting imperfections does not mean giving up on improvement. It means understanding that growth is more important than pretending to be flawless.

Perhaps the greatest form of beauty is the ability to make others feel valued. A kind smile can brighten someone's day. A few encouraging words can restore confidence. A helping hand can change someone's difficult moment. Such beauty may not be visible in photographs, but it remains alive in memory.

Beauty attracts attention, but grace earns respect. Beauty may impress us for a moment, but grace can influence us for years. Physical appearance may open a door, but character determines what happens after the door is opened. In the end, life is not remembered only for how we looked. It is remembered for how we behaved, whom we helped, what kindness we shared and how we made others feel.

— DR. VIJAY GARG

THE HIDDEN COSTS OF MODERN HIGH-POTENCY CANNABIS

For years, public discourse surrounding cannabis has leaned heavily toward normalization and commercialization. However, beneath the polished branding of dispensaries lies an uncomfortable truth: today's high-potency weed is fundamentally different from the lower-THC varieties of past decades, carrying significant physical, psychological, and social risks.

The most critical concern with modern cannabis is its staggering potency. Decades ago, typical dried flower contained around 2% to 4% delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the primary psychoactive compound. Today, selective breeding has driven THC concentrations in commercial flower above 20%, while concentrates like shatter, wax, and oils routinely exceed 80% to 90%. This radical shift in potency transforms cannabis from a mild intoxicant into a powerful compound that can easily overwhelm the human nervous system.

Psychologically, frequent consumption of high-THC cannabis carries severe risks. Epidemiological studies increasingly link regular, high-potency usage — especially among adolescents and young adults whose brains are still developing — to a heightened risk of developing anxiety, panic attacks, depression, and persistent amotivational syndrome. More alarming is the documented connection between heavy usage and psychosis. For individuals with a genetic predisposition, frequent exposure to elevated THC levels can trigger psychotic episodes or accelerate the onset of chronic psychotic disorders such as schizophrenia. Furthermore, daily use disrupts executive functioning, impairing memory consolidation, attention span, and cognitive processing speed over long periods.

Beyond mental health, physical side effects present serious health concerns. Contrary to the popular myth that smoking cannabis is harmless compared to tobacco, burning organic material releases toxic tar, carbon monoxide, and carcinogens. Chronic users frequently experience persistent respiratory issues, including chronic bronchitis, airway inflammation, and increased phlegm production.

> *"Today's high-potency weed is fundamentally different from the lower-THC varieties of past decades"*
> **SHADY**

A lesser-known yet severe gastrointestinal consequence is Cannabis Hyperemesis Syndrome (CHS). Occurring primarily in long-term, heavy users, CHS causes recurrent episodes of severe nausea, persistent vomiting, and excruciating abdominal pain. Patients often require emergency hospitalization and intravenous hydration, with symptoms resolving only upon complete cessation of cannabis use.

Dependency represents another underreported crisis. Studies show that roughly one in ten adult users and nearly one in six who start during adolescence develop Cannabis Use Disorder. Discontinuation among regular users frequently triggers withdrawal symptoms, including insomnia, extreme irritability, loss of appetite, severe anxiety, and intense cravings, making cessation difficult without structured intervention.

The social and economic ramifications are equally profound. Chronic impairment often manifests as reduced educational attainment, declining workplace productivity, increased risk of motor vehicle accidents, and strained personal relationships.

While debate continues regarding legal frameworks and medical applications, public health communication must remain grounded in clear evidence. Society cannot afford to overlook the acute mental, physical, and cognitive hazards posed by modern high-potency cannabis. Fostering a healthy public requires acknowledging these severe side effects without illusion.

— SHADY



SACRED SMOKE: WHY INCENSE STILL MATTERS TODAY



In an era dominated by sleek electronic diffusers, synthetic air fresheners, and smart-home ambient tech, an ancient ritual continues to quietly hold its ground: burning incense. For thousands of years, across cultures from ancient Egypt and Vedic India to East Asia and the Indigenous Americas, the aromatic smoke of aromatic woods, resins, and herbs has served as a bridge between the physical and the spiritual. Yet today, as our lives become increasingly digital, fast-paced, and sensory-deprived, incense is experiencing a subtle yet profound renaissance. It is no longer just a relic of religious traditions or hippie subculture — it has become an essential anchor for modern mindfulness.

At its core, the simple act of lighting a stick or cone of incense demands a pause. In a world calibrated for instant gratification, burning incense is inherently slow. You light the tip, watch the flame catch, gently blow it out, and observe the faint ribbon of smoke rise into the air. This brief, intentional ritual acts as a sensory boundary, signaling to an overworked brain that it is time to transition from work to rest, from noise to quiet, or from distraction to focus.

Scent is the only human sense directly wired to the limbic system, the brain's emotional and memory center. While synthetic fragrances often overpower the senses with sharp, chemical notes, natural incense crafted from sandalwood, frankincense, myrrh, or agarwood offers a grounding, organic complexity. The subtle aroma evokes a deep-seated nostalgia, grounding us in the present moment while connecting us to centuries of human tradition. When we light frankincense, we share a sensory experience with ancient temple-goers; when we burn sandalwood, we participate in a quiet lineage of meditation that spans millennia.

> **"In a noisy world demanding constant output, that delicate, rising thread of smoke remains a powerful, accessible sanctuary for the soul."**
> **— R. IMMANUEL RAJ**

Moreover, incense serves an essential psychological function in our contemporary living spaces. With the rise of remote work and urban density, the boundaries between professional and personal life have blurred. A room can be an office at 5:00 PM and a sanctuary at 5:05 PM, but only if we intentionally alter its environment. Lighting incense marks that transition cleanly. The physical trail of smoke renders the invisible passage of time visible, offering a natural timer that burns down gradually, reminding us to slow down and breathe.

Critics often raise valid concerns regarding indoor air quality and ventilation when burning incense. Indeed, quality matters immensely. Moving away from cheap, synthetic-dipped sticks toward ethically sourced, natural botanicals ensures both a safer and far more enriching experience.

Ultimately, incense persists because it satisfies a uniquely modern hunger: the desire for ritual without complexity. It costs very little, requires no technology, and asks only for a few seconds of our attention.

— R. IMMANUEL RAJ

Quick Read

3 killed, about 25 injured as bus falls into ditch

SANGRUR

Three passengers were killed and around 24–25 others injured after a bus lost control and plunged into a ditch near an overbridge in Punjab's Sangrur district on Wednesday. The bus was travelling from Sangrur to Chandigarh via Dhuri when the accident occurred. Sub-Inspector Mehar Singh said the vehicle was running slightly behind schedule before it veered off the road. The deceased included two women and one man. All injured passengers were shifted to different hospitals for treatment. Police have initiated an investigation into the incident.

65-year-old e-rickshaw driver beaten to death

NEW DELHI

A 65-year-old e-rickshaw driver was allegedly beaten to death with a wooden stick following an altercation in Jahangirpuri, Delhi, police said. The accused, identified as Vikas, 32, has been arrested. The deceased, Goverdhan, was initially found unidentified within the jurisdiction of Jahangirpuri police station. During the investigation, police discovered that both men had consumed alcohol before an argument broke out around 4 am. Vikas allegedly attacked Goverdhan with a wooden stick, commonly used by security guards, resulting in his death. Police apprehended the accused, while further investigation is underway.

Gangrape survivor allegedly thrown from roof in Begusarai

BEGUSARAI

A 30-year-old gangrape survivor was allegedly thrown from a building's roof by a man in Bihar's Begusarai district on Tuesday, leaving her injured. Police arrested the accused. The woman was admitted to Begusarai Sadar Hospital. Her family alleged that they were being pressured to withdraw the gangrape case registered in June and claimed the attack was intended to intimidate them. The survivor was allegedly assaulted by five men on June 11. All five accused were arrested. Police are investigating the latest attack and the family's allegations.

Keralam Assembly to hold special session from Nov 30

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The United Democratic Front (UDF) government in Keralam has decided to recommend that the Governor convene a special Assembly session from November 30 to December 10 to discuss pending legislative matters and introduce new Bills. Chief Minister V D Satheesan announced the decision on Wednesday following the weekly Cabinet meeting. He said the session would focus on clearing pending legislation while providing an opportunity to introduce new laws.

Vijaya Sai Reddy launches new regional party in Andhra Pradesh

Former YSRCP leader V Vijaya Sai Reddy launches a new regional party in Andhra Pradesh, promising political change and youth representation.

VIJAYAWADA

Former YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) leader and former Rajya Sabha MP V Vijaya Sai Reddy on Wednesday launched the Parivarthana Rajaneethi Party (PRP) in Andhra Pradesh, positioning it as an alternative to the YSRCP and the ruling Telugu Desam Party (TDP). The new regional party was unveiled at a convention centre in Vijayawada at 11.11 am.

Sai Reddy said the launch date and time were chosen on astrologers' advice. The party introduced a saffron-and-white flag featuring a traditional Dharma Chakra at its centre. Its slogan is "For the nation, for the dharma."



Attack on Jagan's leadership

The former MP criticised YSRCP president YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, blaming the party's electoral decline on the arrogance and unwillingness of its leadership to accept criticism. The YSRCP, which won 151 of 175 Assembly seats in 2019, secured only 11 seats in the 2024 elections.

Sai Reddy said the party's leadership had created barriers between elected representatives and the public, preventing people from approaching them with their concerns. He urged YSRCP workers to join his new political organisation, promising greater importance to grassroots members.

Two-thirds Gen Z candidates

He also announced that Gen Z candidates would account for two-thirds of the PRP's candidates in the 2029 Assembly elections, while women would receive half of the remaining representation. The party, he said, would reject authoritarian leadership and challenge the dominance of two major political families.



Vijayawada: where the PRP was launched

Sai Reddy promised free electricity, free education for students and employment and livelihood opportunities for all young people. He also pledged to improve middle-class incomes and address long-standing public aspirations.

PRP LAUNCH IN FOCUS

11.11 AM
PRP launched in Vijayawada

TWO-THIRDS
of 2029 Assembly candidates to be Gen Z

HALF
of the remaining seats for women

151 TO 11
YSRCP's Assembly seats, 2019 to 2024

THREE PROMISES
free electricity, free education, jobs for the young

Quit the YSRCP in 2025

Sai Reddy was elected to the Rajya Sabha in 2016 and secured a second term in 2023. He resigned from the Upper House and left the YSRCP in January 2025 following differences with Jagan.

Vijay calls TVK MLAs' meeting amid misconduct allegations

CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) chief C Joseph Vijay was scheduled to chair a crucial meeting of party legislators on Wednesday following allegations of misconduct involving some MLAs. All TVK legislators were asked to attend the meeting, which was also to be attended by party General Secretary N Anand.

The leadership was expected to issue strict instructions on maintaining discipline and responding to the recent controversies. The meeting comes amid allegations that TVK MLA Arul Vignesh sent inappropriate WhatsApp messages to the Kallakurichi District Collector.



Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay

MLA denies the charge

Vignesh denied the allegations raised by DMK MP Kanimozhi, describing them as rumours and accusing her of engaging in "dirty politics". He maintained that he had done nothing wrong and questioned how he could enter the Collector's residence, which he said was protected by security guards and CCTV cameras.

Deputy Speaker accused

In a separate incident, Tamil Nadu Deputy Speaker Ravishankar has been accused of assaulting a man in Tiruchirappalli. The alleged victim, Karthik Kumar, was admitted to Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Government Hospital following the incident. He also claimed that he was threatened and forced to record a video denying the assault.

Kumar, a resident of Kannabiran Colony in Thuraiyur, said he had repeatedly approached the municipal administration over the lack of basic amenities in his locality but received no response. He alleged that when he approached Ravishankar, the Deputy Speaker got out of his car, verbally abused him, assaulted him several times, kicked him and chased him away.

The meeting was expected to address the allegations and reinforce discipline among party representatives as the TVK leadership faces scrutiny over the conduct of its members.

Defence Ministry signs ₹498.58 crore INS Betwa refit contract



The INS Betwa refit contract is exchanged in New Delhi on Wednesday

NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Defence has signed a ₹498.58-crore contract with Cochin Shipyard Limited for the normal refit and re-powering of Indian Naval Ship INS Betwa. The agreement was signed in New Delhi on Wednesday in the presence of Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh.

INS Betwa, a Brahmaputra-class frigate of the Indian Navy, will undergo a major propulsion system transformation. Its existing steam-based propulsion system will be replaced with a diesel-engine-based system to improve operational efficiency. The refit will also include the installation of an upgraded weapon suite to strengthen the warship's combat capabilities and overall operational effectiveness.

The project is expected to enhance India's indigenous ship repair and maintenance capabilities, particularly in handling complex propulsion upgrades and modernisation of naval platforms. More than 50 micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) are expected to participate in the project, generating employment opportunities across the country's shipbuilding and ancillary industries.

INS Betwa re-powered

NOW **Steam** propulsion ▸ AFTER REFIT **Diesel** engines

The initiative is also expected to support the government's Aatmanirbhar Bharat and Make in India programmes by strengthening domestic expertise in naval maintenance, repair and modernisation. It marks another step towards reducing dependence on foreign support for specialised naval infrastructure and technology.

Earlier, on November 2, the Defence Ministry signed contracts worth ₹53,866.50 crore with Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited and Goa Shipyard Limited for the construction of eight Next Generation Corvettes for the Indian Navy.

India signs a ₹498.58-crore contract to modernise INS Betwa, upgrade its propulsion system and strengthen indigenous naval repair capabilities.

Under the agreement, GRSE will construct five vessels, while GSL will build the remaining three. The corvettes will be designed by the Indian Navy and constructed by the two defence public sector undertakings selected through a competitive process.

The project is expected to strengthen India's domestic warship-building ecosystem by involving public sector companies, private shipyards and Indian industrial partners, including MSMEs.

Cabinet approves ₹3,230 crore for national museum

NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved ₹3,230 crore for developing the Yuge Yugeen Bharat National Museum in the historic North Block and South Block buildings in New Delhi. The project, which will showcase 10,000 years of India's civilisational history, is expected to be completed by March 2031.

The museum will be developed by adapting the two nearly century-old heritage structures, which previously housed key offices of the Union government. The redevelopment will cover approximately 1.92 million square feet and include visitor pavilions, conservation facilities, intermediate floors and public circulation areas.

Glass Peacock Pavilions

The proposed design features glass-covered courtyards and glass Peacock Pavilions at visitor entrances. An underground service tunnel will connect the two buildings, allowing the movement of artworks, equipment and essential utilities.

The redevelopment will follow heritage conservation principles, with interventions kept minimal, sensitive and reversible. New additions will also be designed to avoid placing additional structural loads on the historic masonry. The project aims to preserve the architectural significance of the buildings while transforming them into a major cultural institution.

? DID YOU KNOW?
The museum will tell 10,000 years of India's civilisational history in about 1.92 million sq ft of the North and South Blocks.

The initiative follows the relocation of government offices under the Central Vista redevelopment project. The new executive enclave, Seva Teerth, began functioning in February, housing the Prime Minister's Office, Cabinet Secretariat and National Security Council Secretariat.

India also signed an agreement with France Museums Développement in December 2024 for technical cooperation in developing the museum. The partnership includes expertise in heritage conservation and the adaptive reuse of historic buildings.

Rice prices climb on fears that drought may hit production

NEW DELHI

Rice prices are rising across India amid concerns that inadequate rainfall, reduced fertiliser use and intensifying El Niño conditions could lower paddy production during the 2026-27 crop year.

In Kota, Rajasthan, paddy prices have increased to ₹4,500–₹4,700 per quintal from ₹3,200–₹3,400 a year ago. Traders attributed the rise to declining carry-forward stocks and expectations of lower yields.

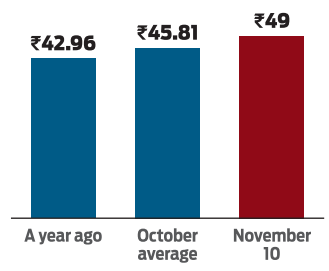
The impact is also visible in retail markets. The average all-India retail price of rice stood at ₹49 per kg on November 10, nearly 14% higher than ₹42.96 recorded a year earlier. Prices were also 7% above the previous month's average of ₹45.81. Broken rice averaged ₹34.87 per kg.

A report by S&P Global Energy estimated that India's paddy production could fall by eight million tonnes year-on-year to 146 million tonnes in the 2026-27 marketing year. Meanwhile, the Food and Agriculture Organization's All Rice Price Index rose 1.6% in October to 112.3 points, citing weather disruptions, harvest delays and rising costs.

Growing demand for broken rice from ethanol manufacturers and poultry-feed producers is adding pressure. Exporters anticipate possible restrictions on shipments of 100% broken white rice, although no fresh curbs have been officially announced.

India exported 10.68 million tonnes of rice between April and September 2026, up 4.8% from the corresponding period last year.

Rice, all-India retail
Average price per kg



Figures: the report

Award-winning farmer arrested in banana drug smuggling case

KOCHI

A 31-year-old award-winning farmer from Keralam has been arrested for allegedly smuggling synthetic drugs from Karnataka by concealing them inside banana bunches. Dhanesh S Nair, also known as Dani, was apprehended in Ernakulam district on Monday with eight grams of MDMA and 803 grams of suspected hashish oil.

Nair received the best young farmer award in 2022 from the state-run Krishi Bhavan in Haripad, Alappuzha district. Police said he owned banana plantations in Nanjangud near Mysuru and allegedly used the agricultural consignments to transport drugs into Keralam for distribution across several districts.

Drugs in a bird feeder

Investigators also recovered a portion of the suspected narcotics from a bird feeder at his residence. His arrest followed the interrogation of two alleged associates, Harikrishnan KS and Shinu Sebastian. Harikrishnan was arrested in Aluva with 185 grams of suspected MDMA, while Shinu was caught in Thoppumpady with seven grams.

Police said mobile phone footage recovered from the two men showed drugs being concealed and transported through banana consignments. Both allegedly helped Nair move the substances into Keralam and also purchased and resold drugs independently.

Links in Bengaluru probed

Investigators are examining suspected links between Nair and Nigerian nationals in Bengaluru allegedly involved in drug manufacturing and supply. Police are also attempting to establish the size of his distribution network and identify others involved.

Nair has been booked under non-bailable provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act and remanded to judicial custody.

Minister seeks report

Agriculture Minister T Siddique expressed shock over the allegations, describing the incident as an affront to the farming community. He said he had sought a report from the agriculture department regarding Nair's background.

DIWALI LPG ASSISTANCE

Delhi transfers ₹141.88 crore Diwali LPG aid to families

NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Tuesday transferred ₹141.88 crore in financial assistance to 15,45,994 eligible ration cardholder families to support their LPG cylinder expenses during Diwali. The amount was disbursed directly into beneficiaries' bank accounts through the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system at an event held at Talkatora Stadium.

Diwali LPG aid

TRANSFERRED
₹141.88 crore

FAMILIES
15,45,994

PMUY FAMILIES, ₹642 EACH
1,24,964

OTHER FAMILIES, ₹942 EACH
14,21,030

The beneficiaries included 1,24,964 families covered under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) and 14,21,030 families outside the scheme. Each PMUY household received ₹642, while other eligible families were provided ₹942 each.

The initiative is part of the Delhi Government's commitment to provide financial assistance for LPG cylinders during Holi and Diwali. The scheme aims to reduce household expenses during major festivals and ensure that welfare benefits reach eligible families directly.

Gupta said the government was committed to fulfilling its promises and making welfare support accessible to citizens. She described Diwali as an occasion to share happiness and support one another, adding that the initiative would help families manage festival-related expenses.



A beneficiary receives a symbolic ₹942 cheque at Talkatora Stadium on Tuesday

The government said beneficiaries were identified through verification of ration card details and data matching. The assistance was transferred to bank accounts linked to the Aadhaar number of the family head. Monitoring and audit mechanisms have also been introduced to prevent duplicate payments, misuse of funds and irregularities.

The event was attended by Member of Parliament Bansuri Swaraj, Cabinet Minister Sardar Manjinder Singh Sirsa and MLAs Abhay Verma, Jitendra Mahajan, Kuldeep Solanki and Chandan Chaudhary, among other dignitaries.

Quick Read

Himachal police trace 1,172 missing people, 156 remain unaccounted

SHIMLA

Himachal Pradesh Police traced 1,172 of the 1,328 people reported missing across the state between January 1 and September 30, 2026, recording a recovery rate of 88.7 per cent. However, 156 individuals remain unaccounted for. During the nine-month period, police registered 893 missing-person cases involving 1,328 people.

Those traced included 722 adults and 470 children. Nearly 20 per cent of the missing individuals were located within 24 hours, while 20.9 per cent were traced within 24 to 72 hours. Another 47.9 per cent were found after 72 hours. Director General of Police Ashok Tewari said the state had strengthened procedures for registering, investigating and tracing missing-person cases.

4-year-old girl raped in Goa, second case in a week

CANACONA

A man in his mid-20s was arrested for allegedly raping a four-year-old girl in a Goa village late Tuesday night, police said. The incident marks the second reported sexual assault of a minor in the state within a week. The accused, a native of Bihar, had arrived in Goa two days earlier and was working at a local bakery. Police said he was arrested shortly after the incident was reported. The latest case follows the alleged rape of a three-year-old girl on Sunday night. Police are yet to identify the accused in that case.

4 drown in Rajasthan tank while attempting rescue

BIKANER

Four people, including three siblings and their 21-year-old cousin, drowned in a water tank in Rajasthan's Bikaner district on Wednesday afternoon after a rescue attempt ended in tragedy. The incident occurred around 12.15 pm in Chak 9 AWM, under Chhatargarh police station limits. A 14-year-old girl had gone to fetch water for household chores when she accidentally slipped into the agricultural field's water tank. Her brothers, aged 18 and 16, jumped in to rescue her but struggled because they could not swim. Their 21-year-old cousin also entered the tank, but all four drowned.

Supreme Court orders UP to identify eligible undertrial prisoners

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has directed Uttar Pradesh to identify undertrials unable to secure release despite bail, ensuring legal assistance and suitable modifications to conditions.

The Supreme Court has directed the Uttar Pradesh government to identify undertrial prisoners across all districts who remain behind bars despite receiving bail because they cannot meet the conditions imposed by trial courts, including furnishing sureties.

A Bench comprising Justices M.M. Sundresh and P.B. Varale said the exercise must cover all eligible prisoners, regardless of whether they are represented by private lawyers or receive assistance through District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs).

The court directed DLSAs to extend support to every undertrial unable to secure release after being granted bail. It also asked concerned courts to consider cases brought to their attention by legal services authorities and suitably modify bail conditions wherever necessary to facilitate release.

IN 20 DISTRICTS

264	GRANTED BAIL, IDENTIFIED
158	RELEASED
106	STILL IN JAIL

The directions followed information presented before the court that 264 undertrial prisoners granted bail had been identified across 20 districts of Uttar Pradesh. Of these, 158 had secured release, while 106 remained incarcerated because they could not furnish sureties or comply with other bail conditions.

The Bench noted that the figures covered only 20 districts, with similar identification exercises yet to be conducted in the remaining parts of the state.

The court further observed that responsibility for facilitating the release of such prisoners ultimately rests with the state government. The directions were issued on November 4 as part of suo motu proceedings examining systemic issues involving undertrial prisoners and prison reforms.

Sonia Gandhi questions Modi government's stability

Sonia Gandhi's new memoir criticises the Modi government's policies, raises concerns over democracy and predicts growing resistance to its political dominance.



NEW DELHI

Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson Sonia Gandhi has said the political ground has shifted beneath the Narendra Modi government, expressing confidence that the ruling regime will not remain in power indefinitely. In her newly released memoir, Belonging: A Journey of Love, she argues that the government's actions reflect growing insecurity despite its claims of continued popularity.

In the 526-page memoir, which was released on Tuesday, Gandhi writes that the younger generation is increasingly seeking fairness, equality and an end to oppressive systems and injustice. She believes young Indians will protect the country's democratic freedoms and social harmony. She expresses confidence that they will eventually restore the nation's values and address its divisions.

240	272	293	235
BJP seats, 2024	needed for a majority	NDA	INDIA bloc

Gandhi raises concerns over alleged electoral irregularities, referring to opposition claims of large-scale manipulation of voter lists during recent state elections. She also accuses the government of avoiding important parliamentary discussions concerning China's presence along the border, federalism, minority rights and citizens' privacy. Rising prices, unemployment and corruption, she says, have encouraged people to speak more openly against the establishment.

She further criticises what she describes as the divisive politics of the BJP and the RSS, arguing that attempts to impose religious and linguistic uniformity will face resistance from India's diverse society. Gandhi also warns that authoritarian governments often respond to public opposition through increased repression.

Reflecting on the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, Gandhi says the opposition INDIA bloc challenged the BJP's political dominance. The BJP won 240 seats, falling short of the 272 required for a majority, while the NDA secured 293 seats and the opposition alliance won 235. She describes the outcome as a significant setback to the BJP's perceived invincibility.

Gandhi says the result demonstrated that parliamentary opposition remained strong, offering hope that India's democratic institutions and pluralistic traditions would withstand attempts to weaken them.

Issues she raises

- **Electoral transparency:** Alleged voter-list manipulation
- **Border security:** China's presence along the border
- **Democratic rights:** Minority rights and privacy
- **Religious diversity:** BJP-RSS divisive politics
- **Public hardships:** Inflation, unemployment and corruption

Tamil Nadu launches 'Eri' portal to restore waterbodies

CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu government has launched the 'Eri' online portal to speed up the restoration of lakes and other waterbodies by providing time-bound No Objection Certificates (NOCs) to non-governmental organisations, volunteers and other stakeholders. The platform aims to process eligible applications within 15 days, replacing the earlier manual approval system.

Developed by the Water Resources Department, the portal brings information on more than one lakh waterbodies managed by different government departments onto a centralised digital platform. Organisations can identify waterbodies, submit restoration proposals, apply for permissions and track their applications online.

The system allows applicants to seek approval for activities such as desilting, strengthening lake bunds and carrying out permitted improvement works. The Chief Engineer and Director of the State Water Resources Management Agency (SWaRMA) will serve as the nodal officer, coordinating application screening, approvals and communication between departments.



Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay launched the portal at the State Secretariat on Tuesday and handed over the first set of online NOCs to representatives of environmental organisations, including Siruthuli, Environmental Foundation of India, Exnora International Foundation, Mega Foundation and Dhan Foundation.

The initiative aims to address delays previously faced by environmental groups and organisations using Corporate Social Responsibility funds to restore waterbodies.

The Eri portal

NOC WITHIN
15 days

WATERBODIES
More than one lakh

WORKS
Desilting, strengthening lake bunds

BUILT BY
Water Resources Department

Naidu allots ₹632 crore for irrigation repairs

AMARAVATI

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has directed officials to restore 789 defunct lift irrigation schemes across the state at an estimated cost of ₹632.07 crore, with the aim of making them operational before the next kharif season. The restoration work is expected to improve irrigation facilities across 7.4 lakh acres of agricultural land.

Reviewing the progress of irrigation projects and lift irrigation schemes at his camp office on Wednesday, Naidu instructed officials to complete all repairs by June 2027. He asked departments to conduct field-level inspections, invite tenders immediately and begin restoration work without further delay.

A new division

The Chief Minister proposed assigning continuous monitoring and maintenance responsibilities to the Jalaharathi Corporation. He also suggested establishing a dedicated division within the organisation and appointing a Chief Engineer or Superintending Engineer in every district to supervise the restoration process.

During the review, officials informed Naidu that 4,171 acres of government irrigation land could be utilised to establish solar power plants with a combined generation capacity of 903.1 megawatts. Of the 5,565 acres available under the Water Resources Department, 4,061 acres have been identified for installations capable of generating 877.3 MW. Another 25.8 MW could be generated using 110 acres across 84 locations managed by the Irrigation Development Corporation.

Naidu asked officials to explore solar and hydropower opportunities along canals, ensure uninterrupted electricity for irrigation schemes and examine the possibility of selling surplus power to the grid.

The Chief Minister assured that funds would be released for 36 priority irrigation projects, directing officials to complete them within two-and-a-half years.

Amit Shah to inaugurate CII summit in Vizag

VISAKHAPATNAM

Union Home Minister Amit Shah will inaugurate the two-day Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Partnership Summit in Visakhapatnam on Thursday, bringing together international representatives, diplomats and business leaders to explore investment opportunities and strengthen economic cooperation.

The summit, organised by the CII in association with the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), will be held at the Andhra University Engineering College grounds. Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, Union Minister Pralhad Joshi and other dignitaries are expected to attend. Vice-President C.P. Radhakrishnan will address the valedictory session on November 13.

According to the state government, representatives from nearly 58 countries are expected to participate, including around 16 foreign ministers, 40 international delegates, ambassadors, diplomats and business leaders. Participants will represent countries such as Singapore, Nepal, Cambodia, Myanmar, the UAE, Canada, Mauritius, Egypt, Algeria and Tanzania.

More than 400 business-to-business and business-to-government meetings are planned to facilitate investment agreements and partnerships. The AP Women and Growth Summit 2026 will also take place, with Shah attending its inaugural session.

The state government said 272 projects involving investments worth ₹6 lakh crore have commenced operations, while projects valued at another ₹17 lakh crore have received approval.

Woman, 62, cycles 3,000 km for a drug-free India

HYDERABAD

A 62-year-old woman, Vijayalakshmi, has embarked on a 3,000-kilometre cycling journey from Bhimavaram in Andhra Pradesh to New Delhi to raise awareness about drug abuse under the Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyan. Her expedition, which began on October 2, is aimed at encouraging young people to stay away from substance abuse and supporting the campaign for a drug-free India.

Vijayalakshmi hopes to reach the national capital by December 10. She has covered approximately 800 kilometres so far, continuing her journey to communicate the dangers of drug addiction and the importance of prevention. The journey is focused on reaching students and making them aware of the consequences of substance abuse.

Although she does not have a background in cycling, Vijayalakshmi said she undertook the challenge with a purpose: to protect young people from drugs. She has already visited 40 colleges as part of the campaign and aims to reach one lakh children by the time her awareness effort progresses further.

She undertook the challenge with a purpose: to protect young people from drugs

The Telangana State Eagle Force welcomed her initiative and praised her efforts to spread the message.

Its Superintendent of Police, Sitharam, urged citizens to take part in the effort to build a drug-free society. He encouraged people to contribute to the campaign against substance abuse, highlighting the need for collective responsibility.

Vijayalakshmi's 3,000-kilometre expedition combines a physical challenge with a public awareness mission. As she continues towards Delhi, her stated goal remains reaching more children and motivating communities to work towards a society free from drugs.

Bombay High Court upholds adult woman's right to marry

MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court has ruled that an adult woman has complete freedom to choose her life partner irrespective of their religion, caste or beliefs, observing that the right to marry a person of one's choice is protected under Article 21 of the Constitution.

The ruling came while hearing a petition filed by a 21-year-old Hindu woman who married a 21-year-old Muslim man in October. A vacation bench comprising Justices Advait M. Sethna and Ranjitsinha Raja Bhonsale, in an order dated November 9, said an adult is capable of making conscious decisions and informed choices about personal relationships.

Taken to Uttar Pradesh

The couple had reportedly been in a relationship for four to five years, with both families aware of their relationship. Shortly after their marriage, they approached Dharavi police station seeking protection, as the woman feared opposition from her parents. However, the police allegedly did not take action, and her parents subsequently took her to Uttar Pradesh against her wishes.

The woman later returned to Mumbai and approached the High Court, seeking protection to live with her husband at their matrimonial home.

Right under Article 21

The court emphasised that an adult woman must be allowed to exercise her right to select a life partner without force, coercion or external pressure. Referring to Supreme Court rulings, it reiterated that the freedom to marry a person of one's choice forms an essential part of the fundamental right to life and personal liberty.

METRO EXPANSION APPROVED

Cabinet clears Aqua Line extension to Greater Noida

NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the extension of the Noida Metro Aqua Line corridor from Sector 51 in Noida to Sector 4 in Greater Noida. The project will add 8.449 kilometres to the existing network, with five elevated stations, at an estimated cost of ₹2,390 crore.

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said the expansion would strengthen connectivity between Noida and Greater Noida, particularly benefiting residents, commuters and employees working in nearby commercial and technology hubs. He noted that several information technology companies and Global Capability Centres operate in the region and would gain from improved public transport access.



The proposed corridor will provide an interchange facility with the Blue Line at Noida Sector 61. It will connect important commercial locations, including Gaur City Mall, H&S Mall, Blue Sapphire Mall and IKEA, along with office complexes and major business centres.

The extension will additionally improve access to educational institutions, healthcare facilities and residential areas. Schools such as Delhi Public School, hospitals including Kailash Hospital and Rama Hospital, and residential communities such as Cleo County and Gaur City will gain better access to the metro network.

Once operational, the expansion will increase the combined active metro network in Noida and Greater Noida to 71.878 kilometres. The project is expected to reduce dependence on road transport, ease traffic congestion and shorten commuting times for daily passengers.

8.449 km	5	₹2,390 cr
new elevated corridor	elevated stations	estimated cost

India, Canada vow to strengthen economic partnership ties

Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said the proposed agreement would boost commerce, market access and mutual economic prosperity.

NEW DELHI

India and Canada have reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening bilateral economic relations, with the proposed Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) expected to boost trade, investment and commercial cooperation between the two countries.

> **"The proposed agreement could create fresh opportunities for businesses and investors while establishing a framework for sustainable and long-term economic growth."**
>
> — **Piyush Goyal,** Union Commerce and Industry Minister

Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Wednesday that the proposed agreement would act as a catalyst for deeper commercial engagement, improved market access and shared economic prosperity.



In a post on social media platform X, Goyal said he held a breakfast meeting with Canada's Minister of International Trade, Maninder Sidhu, and the accompanying Canadian delegation to discuss ways to accelerate negotiations on the India-Canada CEPA and strengthen bilateral economic ties.

During the meeting, both sides exchanged views on the need to conclude a balanced and mutually beneficial trade agreement that would provide meaningful market access to businesses in both countries.

He emphasised that both countries were committed to taking their economic partnership to new heights through stronger cooperation and closer commercial engagement.

The minister described CEPA as an important driver of deeper trade relations and broader economic collaboration, expressing confidence that a comprehensive and balanced agreement would unlock significant opportunities for businesses on both sides.

The renewed engagement comes as India and Canada seek to strengthen their economic partnership by expanding market access and creating favourable conditions for bilateral trade and investment. The proposed CEPA is expected to provide a structured framework for enhancing cooperation across various sectors and promoting shared prosperity.

Quick Read

India's Q2 FY27 GDP growth may reach 7.8%

NEW DELHI

India's economy is expected to grow by 7.8 per cent in the second quarter of FY27, according to an SBI Research report released on Wednesday. The projection is higher than the Reserve Bank of India's estimate of 7.2 per cent, reflecting strong domestic demand, corporate performance and credit growth. Nominal GDP growth is estimated at 11–11.5 per cent, while Gross Value Added (GVA) growth is expected to exceed 8 per cent. The report also highlighted improved corporate profitability, with EBITDA and profit after tax of nearly 2,300 listed companies growing by 35 per cent and 33 per cent, respectively, compared with the corresponding quarter last year.

SIP stoppage ratio surges to 115.7% in October

MUMBAI

India's systematic investment plan (SIP) stoppage ratio surged to 115.7 per cent in October 2026, reversing five consecutive months of improvement, according to industry data released on Wednesday. Despite the increase, monthly SIP inflows remained strong at Rs 32,162 crore, slightly below September's record collection of Rs 32,490 crore. Around 59 lakh SIP accounts were discontinued or completed their tenure in October, while only 51 lakh new accounts were registered. This means nearly 116 SIPs were stopped for every 100 new registrations. The rise was driven by fewer fresh registrations and increased closures.

Adobe, Google expand AI partnership across creative tools

NEW DELHI

Adobe and Google have expanded their strategic partnership to integrate advanced artificial intelligence models into creative and productivity applications, including Photoshop, Acrobat, Premiere and Adobe Express. Announced at Adobe MAX, the collaboration will also bring Adobe tools to Google platforms such as Gmail, Google Drive, Gemini and Google Search. Google's AI models will enhance image and video editing, while Gemini technology will support AI features in Acrobat.

Cabinet clears Rs 5,000-cr micro loan guarantee fund

NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the continuation of the Credit Guarantee Fund for Micro Units (CGFMU) with a corpus of Rs 5,000 crore for another five years, until December 31, 2031. According to the government, the extended scheme is expected to facilitate loans worth Rs 12.6 lakh crore over the next five years. It provides credit guarantee coverage to lending institutions through the National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Limited (NCGTC), protecting them against potential default risks. The fund provides guarantees for loans of up to Rs 20 lakh extended to eligible micro enterprises under PMMY.

Emart's Q3 net profit plunges 99.8%

SEOUL

Emart's July-September net profit plummeted to 600 million won from 310.3 billion won, primarily due to losses from affiliates like Starbucks Coffee Korea.

Emart, South Korea's largest discount retailer and operator of Starbucks Coffee Korea, reported a 99.8 per cent decline in its net profit for the third quarter, mainly due to losses from affiliated companies, including Starbucks Coffee Korea and e-commerce platform SSG.COM.

According to a regulatory filing released on Wednesday, the company's net profit for the July-September quarter fell sharply to 600 million won (about $449,102), compared with 310.3 billion won during the corresponding period last year.

A company spokesperson said losses from affiliates had significantly affected quarterly earnings. These included Starbucks Coffee Korea (SCK), which is 67.5 per cent owned by Emart.

SCK reported an operating loss of 45.3 billion won during the third quarter, partly due to the continuing impact of a controversial promotional campaign launched in May.

The campaign triggered widespread public criticism because the term 'tank' recalled the military's violent crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators during the uprising. The promotion was withdrawn within hours of its launch.

Shinsegae Group Chairman Chung Yong-jin and Starbucks' US headquarters subsequently issued apologies over the controversy.

Starbucks Coffee Korea also cancelled its annual summer e-Frequency promotional campaign this year as part of efforts to rebuild customer confidence, further affecting its quarterly performance.

Meanwhile, Emart's operating profit fell 69.6 per cent to 46.1 billion won from 151.4 billion won a year earlier.

For the first nine months of 2026, Emart recorded a net loss of 56.8 billion won, compared with a net profit of 362.6 billion won in the same period last year. Operating profit fell 45.4 per cent to 181.3 billion won, while sales declined 0.6 per cent to 21.5 trillion won.

Qualcomm begins India layoffs; 1,000 may be hit



Qualcomm's layoffs in Bengaluru reportedly target senior engineers and experienced staff.

NEW DELHI

US technology giant Qualcomm has begun laying off employees in India as part of a broader global workforce restructuring programme, with around 1,000 employees, or about 5-6 per cent of its Indian workforce, expected to be affected.

The layoffs have reportedly started at the company's Bengaluru operations, primarily affecting senior engineers and employees with several years of experience.

The exercise is expected to extend to Qualcomm's engineering and research centres in Hyderabad, Delhi-NCR and Chennai in the coming days.

According to reports, affected employees have been offered severance packages equivalent to three months' salary, along with additional compensation based on their length of service.

Employees signing their exit documents within three days have reportedly been offered an additional month's salary. However, Qualcomm has not publicly confirmed these compensation arrangements.

Qualcomm CEO Cristiano Amon announced the global workforce restructuring on October 20, following the company's annual performance review process. The company described the exercise as performance-focused, aimed at strengthening accountability and aligning its workforce with changing business priorities.

However, the reported job cuts in India have raised concerns about possible organisational restructuring and cost-cutting measures, particularly as experienced engineers are among those affected.

The restructuring could also affect engineering teams working on radio frequency (RF), Bluetooth, Wi-Fi and GNSS (global navigation satellite system) technologies.

The latest layoffs come amid an accelerating global technology-sector restructuring, with several major companies reviewing workforce requirements and operating costs in response to changing market conditions.

India logs 227 deals worth $12 bn in October

NEW DELHI

India's deal-making activity recorded 227 transactions worth $12 billion in October 2026, with total deal values increasing by 8 per cent month-on-month despite a 2 per cent decline in transaction volumes, according to a report released by Grant Thornton Bharat on Wednesday.

The report stated that mergers and acquisitions (M&A) and private equity (PE) investments together accounted for 199 transactions worth $9 billion. Their combined deal value increased for the fourth consecutive month, reflecting continued activity across India's investment landscape.

The rise in overall deal value was primarily driven by Fairfax Financial Holdings' $5.6 billion acquisition of IDBI Bank. The transaction accounted for 81 per cent of the month's M&A value and pushed inbound M&A activity to its highest level since August 2025.

M&A activity registered 69 transactions worth $6.9 billion during October. Although transaction volumes declined by 21 per cent, deal values increased by 66 per cent compared with September. Domestic transactions accounted for 68 per cent of M&A volumes, while their total value fell 48 per cent to $882 million. Outbound deals also declined, with volumes and values dropping by 29 per cent and 82 per cent, respectively.

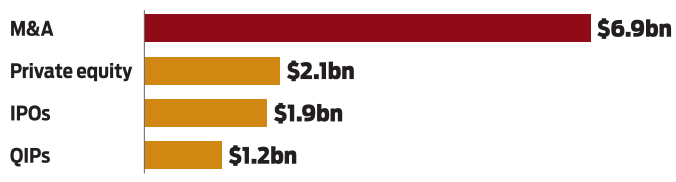
Private equity activity recorded 130 transactions worth $2.1 billion. While transaction volumes reached an eight-month high, deal values halved, falling 50 per cent and indicating a shift towards smaller and mid-market investments.

Grant Thornton Bharat Partner Shanthi Vijetha said October's performance reflected continued activity across private and public markets, supported by capital availability.

Public market fundraising remained strong, with 21 initial public offerings (IPOs) raising $1.9 billion, the second-highest monthly amount of 2026. Seven qualified institutional placements mobilised another $1.2 billion.

With 107 IPOs completed so far this year, India's issuance activity is on track to approach last year's record levels.

October deals by value



Figures: Grant Thornton Bharat

Markets close higher on foreign buying

NEW DELHI

Indian benchmark equity indices closed higher on Wednesday, supported by renewed foreign investor buying and improved market sentiment, although profit booking during the session limited the gains.

The BSE Sensex rose 1,194.45 points, or 1.47 per cent, to 82,301.10. The NSE Nifty 50 advanced 312.55 points, or 1.25 per cent, to close at 25,358. The gains followed strong buying across several heavyweight sectors and renewed interest from overseas investors.

Foreign portfolio investors have turned significant buyers of Indian equities in November after two months of substantial withdrawals. Overseas investors purchased about $5.68 billion worth of Indian shares during the month, marking their biggest monthly inflow since September 2024.

Easing crude oil prices also supported sentiment by reducing concerns over imported inflation and pressure on the rupee. Fourteen of the 16 major sectoral indices advanced, with financial stocks gaining around 1.6 per cent. Small- and mid-cap shares also recorded gains during the session.

However, investors booked profits at higher levels, restricting the benchmarks' advance after their strong early gains.

The latest rally has strengthened the market's performance in November, with both the Sensex and Nifty gaining about 10 per cent so far this month.

Market analysts will closely watch the sustainability of foreign inflows, movements in crude oil prices and upcoming domestic economic data for further direction. Continued overseas buying could support sentiment, while any reversal in flows or renewed global risk aversion may trigger volatility in the coming sessions.

82,301.10	25,358	$5.68 bn
Sensex, up 1.47%	Nifty 50, up 1.25%	FPI buying in November

Rupee may fall to 100 a dollar by June 2027

NEW DELHI

The Indian rupee could weaken to 100 against the US dollar by June 2027 despite its recent stability, according to a report by Axis Bank Research.

The report also suggested that a slowdown in global artificial intelligence (AI) investments and a reversal in foreign portfolio investor (FPI) outflows could redirect international capital towards Indian markets.

The report said a potential shift in global capital flows could help bring India's financeable current account deficit (CAD) down to 0.8 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP).

However, it cautioned that India's foreign exchange reserve adequacy remained relatively low under traditional measures as well as the International Monetary Fund's Assessing Reserve Adequacy (ARA) metric.

Key findings

- **Rupee:** could weaken to 100 a dollar by June 2027
- **Deficit:** the financeable CAD could fall to 0.8% of GDP
- **Reserves:** adequacy low under the IMF's ARA metric
- **Forex shorts:** about $200 bn beyond a year, nearly $150 bn of it in three to five years

The report also flagged India's substantial external liabilities as a concern. It noted that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has significant short foreign exchange positions, with approximately $200 billion in maturities extending beyond one year. Nearly $150 billion of this falls within the three-to-five-year maturity period.

According to the report, declining global savings and rising government debt amid geopolitical conflicts could restrict the availability of international capital for investment in Indian assets.

It further observed that the rupee had started depreciating even when the country's current account deficit was relatively low, indicating that a decline in crude oil prices alone may not be enough to change the outlook for the currency.

The report said diminishing benefits from global geopolitical stability were also affecting savings available for emerging markets such as India.

INDIA NORWAY COLLABORATION

India, Norway explore technology to recycle industrial waste

NEW DELHI

India and Norway have explored opportunities for joint research and technology development to convert industrial and construction waste into sustainable resources for the cement and construction sectors, an official statement said on Wednesday.

The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), in collaboration with Norway's SINTEF and the Research Council of Norway, organised the India-Norway Dialogue on 'Waste to Resource Solutions in the Cement and Construction Sector' in New Delhi.

Waste to resource

- Construction and demolition waste
- Steel slag
- Fly ash
- Red mud

The meeting brought together representatives from CSIR institutes, SINTEF, regulatory authorities and the cement and construction industries to discuss collaborative approaches to sustainable waste management and resource recovery.

The discussions were held under the Green Strategic Partnership established between India and Norway during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Norway in May. Circular economy, clean technology and scientific research have been identified as important areas of bilateral cooperation.

CSIR-CBRI Director Prof. R. Pradeep Kumar highlighted the need to move from a linear to a circular economy by transforming construction and industrial waste into valuable resources.

Participants discussed the potential use of construction and demolition waste, steel slag, fly ash, red mud and other industrial residues in construction activities. They also examined challenges relating to processing technologies, standardisation, economic viability and market acceptance.

The dialogue emphasised the importance of developing joint technology-based research proposals involving CSIR institutes, SINTEF and industry partners to translate scientific research into practical and scalable solutions.

A technical session on the safe destruction of persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and hazardous waste was led by SINTEF Chief Scientist Dr. Kare Helge Karstensen and CSIR-NEERI Chief Scientist Dr. Ramesh Kumar.

CSIR-NEERI also presented India's National Implementation Plan under the Stockholm Convention, the 2025 Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules and the country's inventory of legacy persistent organic pollutants.

Norwegian experts highlighted the potential of cement kilns to destroy hazardous organic contaminants under controlled high-temperature conditions while replacing conventional fossil fuels with waste-derived alternatives. They stressed the importance of technical protocols, industrial trials, emission monitoring and regulatory compliance.

Quick Read

Nepal celebrates Bhai Tika, marking Tihar festival finale

KATHMANDU

Nepal celebrated Bhai Tika, the final day of the five-day Tihar festival, on Wednesday, with sisters praying for their brothers' long lives, good health and prosperity. Tihar is Nepal's second-largest festival after Dashain.

Cambodia expands HPV vaccination drive

PHNOM PENH

Cambodia has launched a nationwide human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination campaign to protect adolescent girls against cervical cancer and expand access to preventive healthcare. Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, has committed more than $3 million towards the campaign, which aims to protect over 700,000 girls through schools and communities.

Iran lists Argentine military as 'terrorist organisation'

Tehran's countermeasures relied on reciprocity and domestic laws targeting nations supporting the US IRGC terrorist designation.



File picture: Iran has listed Argentina's Navy and Air Force as terrorist organisations

TEHRAN

Iran has designated Argentina's Navy and Air Force as terrorist organisations, escalating diplomatic tensions between the two countries following Argentina's decision to classify Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) as a terrorist entity.

Iran's Foreign Ministry announced the decision on Wednesday, describing Argentina's earlier move as hostile and contrary to fundamental principles of international law.

In an official statement, the ministry said Tehran's action was based on the principle of reciprocity and domestic legislation providing for countermeasures against countries supporting the United States' designation of the IRGC as a terrorist organisation.

The ministry said the law required equivalent action against countries that comply with or support Washington's measures against Iran.

The office of Argentine President Javier Milei announced on March 31 that the country had designated the IRGC as a terrorist organisation. The decision followed calls from US President Donald Trump's administration for its allies to take similar action against the IRGC and Hezbollah.

Buenos Aires said its decision was linked to the IRGC's alleged support for Hezbollah, a Lebanese armed group blamed by Argentina for the 1994 bombing of the AMIA Jewish community centre in Buenos Aires. The attack killed 85 people and injured more than 300 others.

Action in a nutshell

- → Iran condemned Argentina's IRGC terrorist designation.
- → Argentina cited 1994 AMIA bombing links.
- → Tehran vowed equivalent retaliatory actions.
- → Britain previously faced Iranian terrorist listing.

Iran's latest announcement follows another diplomatic escalation earlier this month, when Tehran designated Britain's Royal Navy, Royal Air Force and Secret Intelligence Service as terrorist and hostile entities over the British government's actions against Iran.

Bangladesh rocked by fresh wave of violence

DHAKA

Bangladesh witnessed a fresh wave of violence, with more than 100 crude bomb explosions, vehicle arson attacks and violent demonstrations reported across several districts, leaving one person dead and triggering widespread security concerns, according to reports on Wednesday.

According to police, over 100 explosions occurred near the Padma Bridge toll plaza in Shariatpur district during an overnight blockade. The blasts disrupted toll collection, created panic among commuters and reportedly resulted in damage to several vehicles.

In a separate incident in Faridpur district, a 55-year-old bus driver, Md Kalachan Sheikh, died after unidentified attackers set fire to a parked bus while he was sleeping inside. He was trapped in the vehicle and died from smoke inhalation. Faridpur Kotwali Police Station Officer-in-Charge Mahmudul Hasan confirmed the death and said an investigation was underway.

Violence was reported in Dhaka, Shariatpur, Gopalganj, Chittagong and Manikganj, with explosions, clashes and road blockades disrupting normal activities. At least eight vehicles were reportedly set ablaze between early Tuesday and the evening. Police Headquarters recorded 22 vehicle arson incidents nationwide during the 24 hours ending Tuesday morning.

Over 100 blasts near Padma Bridge and arson attacks claim one life, causing panic.

The latest incidents follow several days of attacks targeting public transport, police facilities, educational institutions and government establishments. Authorities have strengthened security arrangements and intensified intelligence operations.

On Monday, crude bomb explosions and bus arson attacks were reported at several locations in Dhaka. A bus was set ablaze beneath the Farmgate metro rail station, prompting additional security measures.

South Korea reviews rights protection for overseas adoptees

SEOUL

South Korea's presidential office on Wednesday held a meeting to discuss measures to protect the rights of Korean children adopted overseas and address complaints raised by adoptees from around the world.

Second Deputy National Security Adviser Lim Woong-soon chaired the meeting of the presidential task force on overseas Koreans. The discussions focused on strengthening government-wide efforts to safeguard adoptees' rights and improving support mechanisms, the presidential office said.

The meeting reviewed measures to resolve complaints from overseas adoptees and examined progress in implementing recommendations made by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

In March last year, the commission recognised dozens of overseas Korean adoptees as victims of human rights violations following complaints from hundreds of individuals. It found that inadequate government supervision had contributed to abuses during the country's five-decade history of overseas adoptions.



The commission identified cases involving fabricated documents that falsely described children as orphans and insufficient checks on the qualifications of prospective adoptive parents. It recommended an official government apology, relief measures and improvements in access to adoption-related records.

168,000

overseas adoptees from South Korea, the presidential office estimates

South Korea has an estimated 168,000 adoptees living overseas, according to the presidential office.

Wednesday's meeting also examined procedures for managing adoption records, restoring Korean nationality and helping adoptees trace their biological families. Officials discussed measures to improve resettlement assistance and strengthen systems providing adoption-related information.

President Lee Jae Myung had apologised in October last year for the suffering experienced by overseas adoptees and promised stronger efforts to protect their rights.

In October this year, First Lady Kim Hea Kyung also expressed hope that overseas adoptees would strengthen their connections with South Korea during a gathering organised by the International Korean Adoptee Associations (IKAA) in Seoul.

Lim Woong-soon chaired a presidential task force meeting to enhance support mechanisms and safeguard adoptees' rights globally.

Trump nominates Natalie Baker as Pak ambassador



WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump has nominated career diplomat Natalie Baker as the next American ambassador to Pakistan, seeking to fill a key diplomatic position that has remained without a Senate-confirmed ambassador for nearly two years.

Baker, who has been serving as chargé d'affaires at the US Embassy in Islamabad since January 2025, is among several diplomatic nominees whose names were submitted by the White House to the US Senate on Monday.

The nominee

- **Now:** chargé d'affaires in Islamabad since January 2025
- **Before:** deputy chief of mission in Doha, 2021-2024
- **Speaks:** Arabic, Spanish, Farsi and Russian

The White House described Baker as a career member of the Senior Foreign Service with the rank of Minister-Counselor. Her nomination has been referred to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and requires Senate confirmation before she can formally assume the ambassadorial post.

Baker arrived in Islamabad in August 2024 as deputy chief of mission. She took charge of the embassy after former ambassador Donald Blome left Pakistan on January 10, 2025, following his service since 2022.

A senior diplomat with extensive experience in the Middle East and North Africa, Baker previously served as deputy chief of mission at the US Embassy in Doha, Qatar, from 2021 to 2024. She also headed the State Department's Office of North African Affairs and held diplomatic assignments in Libya, Kuwait and Dubai.

A Princeton University graduate, Baker holds a master's degree in public policy from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government. She also graduated from the National War College in 2017 and speaks Arabic, Spanish, Farsi and Russian.

Nadda offers India's healthcare expertise to BIMSTEC

COLOMBO

Union Health and Family Welfare Minister J.P. Nadda has reaffirmed India's willingness to share its healthcare expertise and best practices with member nations of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC).

Addressing the inaugural BIMSTEC Health Ministers' Meeting in Colombo, Sri Lanka, on Wednesday, Nadda highlighted India's progress towards Universal Health Coverage through the Ayushman Bharat scheme, improved public health infrastructure and digital healthcare initiatives.



India offers BIMSTEC members its healthcare know-how

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare said in a post on X that Nadda emphasised the importance of regional cooperation in addressing common health challenges. He called for stronger collaboration in health security, pandemic preparedness, the One Health approach and traditional medicine.

The minister also highlighted India's commitment to hosting the BIMSTEC Centre of Excellence in Traditional Medicine at Jamnagar in Gujarat. The proposed centre is expected to promote joint research, capacity building and the exchange of knowledge among member countries.

Nadda said India remained committed to building a healthier, more inclusive and resilient BIMSTEC region, guided by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of "One Earth, One Family, One Future".

The minister arrived in Colombo on Tuesday to attend the first-ever BIMSTEC Health Ministers' Meeting. He was received by Indian High Commissioner Santosh Jha.

'CHINA'S BRI PROJECTS FAIL IN IMPLEMENTATION ACROSS SOUTH ASIA'

NEW DELHI

China's ambitious Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is facing growing implementation challenges across South Asia due to economic, political, security and geographical constraints.

The withdrawal of China Merchants Port Holdings from a $392 million joint venture to develop a logistics hub at Sri Lanka's Port of Colombo has renewed questions about the sustainability of Chinese-backed infrastructure investments in the region.

A report said the decision highlighted the difficulties in converting large-scale infrastructure investments into sustainable economic development. The development has also drawn comparisons with Sri Lanka's Hambantota Port, which was leased to a Chinese company for 99 years in 2017 amid financial difficulties.

Hurdles in Pakistan

In Pakistan, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), designed to connect China's Xinjiang region with Pakistan's Arabian Sea coast through transport and energy infrastructure centred on Gwadar Port, has encountered significant obstacles.

Economic instability, energy-sector liabilities, financing difficulties and security threats, including attacks on Chinese nationals and projects, have affected its implementation.

The report observed that infrastructure investments do not automatically generate sufficient revenue to repay debts or ensure sustainable development. It added that strong political relations between Beijing and Islamabad alone could not guarantee the economic success of major projects.

Nepal has also faced difficulties in implementing BRI-related projects due to challenging Himalayan terrain, high construction costs, financing concerns and practical obstacles to cross-border connectivity.

In Bangladesh, political changes have influenced the country's infrastructure and investment priorities. Although Chinese investments have contributed to infrastructure and industrial development, changes in the political landscape have highlighted the possibility of shifting strategic relationships.

$392m

joint venture for a logistics hub at Colombo port that China Merchants Port Holdings has quit

As a strategically located island nation in the Indian Ocean, the Maldives faces the challenge of balancing economic opportunities with national decision-making autonomy and relations with regional powers, particularly India and China.

INDIAN CULTURAL HERITAGE

Australia returns three ancient Indian artefacts

CANBERRA

The National Gallery of Australia has formally handed over three ancient Indian artefacts to the Indian High Commission in Canberra, marking a significant step towards restoring India's cultural heritage.

The transfer fulfils a commitment made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese during the Third Annual Leaders' Summit in July 2026.



Artefacts being returned by the National Gallery of Australia in Canberra

The three artefacts include a bronze trident of Goddess Bhadrakali, a granite idol of Nandi and a basalt sculpture of the six-headed Karthikeya. The valuable historical objects are being transferred to India following sustained diplomatic efforts by the Indian High Commission in Australia.

In a statement posted on X, the Indian mission confirmed that it had formally taken possession of the artefacts and appreciated the cooperation extended by the National Gallery of Australia in completing the transfer. It said the objects would soon arrive in India, bringing an important part of the country's cultural heritage back home.

During his July visit, Albanese announced that several items of cultural significance to India, previously held in Australian museum collections, would be voluntarily returned. These included artefacts from the National Gallery of Australia and the Art Gallery of New South Wales.

Australia, India cultural exchange

Australia is voluntarily returning cultural artefacts to India following sustained diplomatic efforts. Simultaneously, India is unconditionally repatriating the remains of an Australian First Nations ancestor, highlighting mutual respect and shared heritage.

The announcement came alongside India's decision to repatriate the remains of an Australian First Nations ancestor preserved at the Government Museum in Chennai. Albanese welcomed the move, describing it as an expression of mutual respect and the strong cultural relationship between the two nations.

Hardik Pandya joins PBKS, Arshdeep moves to MI



CH NEWS, MUMBAI

In a major player trade ahead of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2027 season, Hardik Pandya will move from Mumbai Indians (MI) to Punjab Kings (PBKS), while Indian pacer Arshdeep Singh will join the five-time champions in exchange. The trade was confirmed in an official IPL statement on Wednesday.

Pandya will join Punjab Kings for ₹18 crore, an increase from his existing fee of ₹16.35 crore. Arshdeep, meanwhile, will move to Mumbai Indians at his existing fee of ₹18 crore. The exchange brings together two established Indian players as both franchises prepare for the upcoming season.

The move marks the end of Pandya's second stint with Mumbai Indians. He initially joined the franchise in 2015 and played a key role in four title-winning campaigns in 2015, 2017, 2019 and 2020. Ahead of the 2022 season, he moved to Gujarat Titans and led the newly introduced franchise to the championship in its debut year. Gujarat also reached the final in 2023 before Pandya returned to Mumbai in 2024 and took over as captain.

Across 162 IPL matches, Pandya has scored 2,955 runs at a strike rate of 146.28 and claimed 82 wickets. During his second Mumbai stint, he managed 647 runs and 29 wickets in 39 matches. Under his captaincy, MI reached the playoffs in 2025 but finished 10th in 2024 and ninth in 2026.

Arshdeep departs Punjab after eight seasons, having made his IPL debut for the franchise in 2019. With 111 wickets in 96 matches, he remains PBKS's leading wicket-taker. He claimed 21 wickets in 2025 and 14 in 2026.

His left-arm pace and ability to deliver during powerplays and death overs are expected to strengthen Mumbai's bowling attack. The high-profile exchange gives both franchises an opportunity to reshape their squads ahead of IPL 2027.

NIRAJ'S BRONZE SECURES INDIA'S FIRST RIFLE QUOTA

CH NEWS, DOHA



Indian shooter Niraj Kumar won bronze in the men's 50m rifle three positions event at the ISSF World Championship in Doha on Wednesday, securing India's first rifle quota place for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

Niraj scored 346.5 points in the final to finish third. Dmitrii Pimenov of the Individual Neutral Athletes team claimed gold with 362.8 points, setting a junior world record, while Slovakia's Patrik Jany took silver with 357.2 points.

The podium finish continued India's strong run in the event at the World Championships. Akhil Sheoran won bronze in 2023, followed by Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar's silver medal in 2025. Tomar also reached Wednesday's final but finished fifth with 323.7 points.

Niraj's achievement takes India's Olympic quota tally to two. The country had earlier secured a place through Jaypal Malviya, who won silver in the men's 10m air pistol event at the championships. Malviya scored 242.2 in the 24-shot final to finish behind China's Hu Kai, who won gold with 243.9. Czech shooter Jindrich Dubovy claimed bronze with 220.9.

Malviya remained in contention throughout the final, scoring 50.5 in the opening series and reaching 100.0 after the second. During the elimination rounds, he produced consistent high-10 shots, including scores of 10.8 and 10.7, to stay ahead of the chasing competitors. He held his nerve in the closing shots to secure silver.

The two quota places strengthen India's shooting representation prospects at Los Angeles 2028. Quota places are secured for the country and do not automatically guarantee participation by the athletes who won them. The results underline the depth of India's rifle and pistol shooting programmes, with both athletes delivering medal-winning performances on the world championship stage in Doha.

Niraj Kumar won bronze at the ISSF World Championship in Doha, securing India's first rifle quota place for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

Rahmat Shah makes history with top ten ICC ranking

CH NEWS, NEW DELHI



Afghanistan captain Rahmat Shah has become the first cricketer from his country to break into the top 10 of any category in the ICC Men's Test Player Rankings, following an impressive performance against Zimbabwe in the opening Test in Sharjah.

The 33-year-old batter climbed six places to reach seventh in the latest Test batting rankings after scoring 173 runs in the first match of Afghanistan's two-Test series. The innings also earned him a career-best rating and marked his fifth Test century and second hundred this year.

Rahmat moved ahead of several established players, including India's Shubman Gill, South Africa's Aiden Markram and Sri Lanka's Kamindu Mendis. His achievement comes during a successful period for Afghanistan cricket, which recently reached its highest-ever position of sixth in the ICC Men's ODI Team Rankings after winning a tri-series involving Zimbabwe and Bangladesh.

Zimbabwe's Craig Ervine also improved his position, climbing nine places to 48th following his unbeaten double-century in the second innings of the drawn Sharjah Test. Meanwhile, West Indies players recorded gains after the conclusion of their World Test Championship series against Bangladesh. Kavem Hodge rose 12 places to 52nd, while Bangladesh's Towhid Hridoy climbed to 60th. West Indies batter Amir Jangoo advanced 28 places to 62nd.

West Indies spinner Jomel Warrican moved 11 places to equal 19th in the Test bowling rankings after being named Player of the Series. He also reached 31st among Test all-rounders, while teammate Justin Greaves climbed to equal eighth in the same category.

In the ODI rankings, India's Axar Patel rose 23 places to 21st, Arshdeep Singh advanced 11 places to equal 31st, and Gurnoor Brar jumped to 48th. New Zealand bowlers Jacob Duffy and Kyle Jamieson also improved their positions to 43rd and 60th, respectively.

Test batting climbers

7	**Rahmat Shah** Afghanistan, up six
48	**Craig Ervine** Zimbabwe, up nine
52	**Kavem Hodge** West Indies, up 12
60	**Towhid Hridoy** Bangladesh
62	**Amir Jangoo** West Indies, up 28

Mukund urges CSK to trade Urvil Patel

CH NEWS, NEW DELHI

Former batter Abhinav Mukund has advised Chennai Super Kings (CSK) to trade wicketkeeper-batter Urvil Patel ahead of the 2027 Indian Premier League season, arguing that competition for places could limit his opportunities.

Urvil attracted attention during the 2026 season when he struck a 13-ball half-century against Lucknow Super Giants. The innings equalled the fastest fifty in IPL history and set a new record for a CSK batter. He had joined the franchise midway through the 2025 tournament as a replacement for injured wicketkeeper Vansh Bedi. Speaking on JioStar's Game Plan, Mukund said CSK already had several young batting options, including Ayush Mhatre, Kartik Sharma, Dewald Brevis and Sarfaraz Khan. If those players are fit, he believes Urvil may struggle to secure a place.

Mukund suggested Urvil could be more valuable to a franchise seeking an explosive top-order batter who can also keep wickets. He added that CSK should retain Mhatre, whom he described as a major prospect, and keep Sarfaraz as a backup wicketkeeper, with Sanju Samson expected to be the first-choice keeper.

Mhatre, Mukund said, should not be considered for a trade because he can open or bat at number three and provide an aggressive start. He felt CSK's surplus of top-order players made a reshuffle necessary, while a move could give Urvil more playing time.

Urvil has continued his run in domestic cricket, recently scoring his maiden first-class double century against Kerala in the Ranji Trophy. He remained unbeaten on 210 from 227 deliveries at Ahmedabad's Narendra Modi Stadium, hitting 17 fours and six sixes.

NOSKOVA DEFEATS GAUFF TO SECURE WTA FINALS SEMIFINAL SPOT

CH NEWS, INDIAN WELLS



Linda Noskova became the first player to qualify for the 2026 WTA Finals semifinals after defeating American Coco Gauff 6-3, 6-3 in a dominant round-robin encounter on Tuesday. The Czech secured victory in one hour and 15 minutes, confirming her place in the knockout stage.

The eighth-seeded Noskova delivered a composed performance against the 22-year-old Gauff, maintaining consistent pressure throughout the match. She won five consecutive games to take control of the opening set and establish a 3-0 advantage in the second. Noskova eventually sealed the contest with her ninth ace on match point.

"Coco's a big competitor, so I was ready for everything to come my way today," Noskova said after the match. She added that she had managed several difficult situations during the contest. The 21-year-old is making her debut at the season-ending tournament after winning her maiden Grand Slam title at Wimbledon in July.

Gauff, meanwhile, struggled to match Noskova's consistency and fell behind by a double break in the opening set. She had entered the tournament with a narrow victory over compatriot Jessica Pegula in her opening round-robin match. Gauff is also the youngest player since Martina Hingis, between 1996 and 2000, to reach five consecutive WTA Finals.

The remaining semifinal place from Group 1 will be decided between Gauff and Pegula. Pegula kept her qualification hopes alive by defeating Ukrainian Marta Kostyuk, who entered the eight-player tournament as a late replacement for world number one Elena Rybakina following her withdrawal due to a viral illness.

Kostyuk, despite being eliminated, will face Gauff on Thursday. The match offers her an opportunity to avoid a winless group-stage campaign and earn an additional $230,000 in prize money. The final Group 1 standings will be determined by Thursday's results.

Capri Sports bets on India's growing women's football

CH NEWS, KOLKATA



Capri Sports has taken a long-term bet on Indian women's football, aiming to strengthen the commercial appeal, visibility and growth of the country's top two women's club competitions. The company believes India's women's football ecosystem has the potential to benefit from the global rise of women's sports.

On September 22, the owners of Women's Premier League franchise UP Warriorz signed a 15-year agreement with the All India Football Federation (AIFF) to commercially develop and market the Indian Women's League (IWL) and its second division, IWL 2. The agreement gives Capri Sports responsibility for promoting both competitions and expanding their reach.

The IWL, established nearly a decade ago, is preparing for its 10th season, which begins in Kalyani on Friday. Despite its long-standing presence, the competition continues to receive limited attention compared with major men's football tournaments. IWL 2, meanwhile, was established in 2024.

Capri Sports had been exploring the league's commercial rights since November 2025. When the AIFF invited bids in March 2026 for a 15-year agreement, with an option for a five-year extension, the company emerged as the sole bidder.

Capri Sports director and promoter Jinisha Sharma said the decision was influenced by the growing global popularity of women's sports, particularly football. She pointed to rising valuations, viewership and stadium attendance as signs of increasing commercial opportunities.

Sharma said the company wanted to explore whether India could experience similar growth by investing in women's football.

Vaishali sees Total Chess as world championship preparation

CH NEWS, BUDAPEST



Indian Grandmaster Vaishali Rameshbabu views the Total Chess pilot tournament as valuable preparation for her upcoming Women's World Chess Championship title clash against reigning champion Ju Wenjun. The 24-player event in Budapest is providing her an opportunity to compete against several elite players and sharpen her game ahead of the major challenge.

Vaishali made an impressive start to her campaign by defeating American Grandmaster Hans Niemann in a blitz encounter on Tuesday. She also defeated Wesley So and secured draws against Jan-Krzysztof Duda, Richard Rapport, Anish Giri and Bibisara Assaubayeva. She eventually finished 17th among the 24 participants.

The Indian player is one of only two women competing in the elite field, alongside Kazakhstan's Bibisara Assaubayeva. Her participation comes as she prepares for the biggest title challenge of her career.

"For me, I see this event (Total Chess) also as a training for my World Championship match." — Vaishali Rameshbabu, Indian chess player

Speaking about the difference between preparing for the Candidates tournament and a World Championship match, Vaishali explained that the preparation now focuses on studying one opponent at a time. Unlike the Candidates, which involves facing seven opponents in a double round-robin format, the championship will be a direct contest against a single player.

Vaishali said she was continuously working to improve her game and become the best version of herself before the title match. She also confirmed that she continues to work with a psychologist, who has supported her over the past two years.

City Hilights (English Daily) published by P. Sunil Kumar (Publisher) on behalf of Immaculate Broadcasting Consortium World News (P) Ltd., No. 18, JRV Court, Queens's Road, Bengaluru – 560001 and printed at Vihaan Media #85/J, Industrial suburb 2nd stage, Yeshwantpur Extension,Bangalore-560022, Printed at No-7/2 plot no.CA-3/1,28(p)&29(p) Kapanoor 2nd Stage Industrial Area Kapnoor Village Kalaburagi -585104. Printed at S. J. R. V. Printers, No. 208 Plot No. B-019 KSSIDC Industrial Area, Irfan Ahamed Khan Pathan, 4th Main Road Gamanagatti, Hubballi-Dharwad – 580025. and Elegant Offset Printers Pvt. Ltd. No. 5-61/1, Shed No. M-6, Yeyyadi Industrial Estate, Yeyyadi, Mangalore - 575 008. (RNI No: KARENG / 2015 / 63243), Regd. No. BGGPO-2581/2017-2019 Posted at Bengaluru PSO-560026 Email - cityhilights.news@gmail.com Phone: 080-41209042. Copyright. All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is prohibited.