CITY HILIGHTS

www.ibcworldnews.com **The Truth Speaks** FRIDAY ▸ NOVEMBER 13, 2026 ▸ VOL: 12 ▸ ISSUE: 118 ▸ PAGES 14 ▸ ₹2.00 BENGALURU ▸ HUBBALLI ▸ MANGALURU ▸ MYSURU ▸ KALABURAGI



Shri D.K. Shivakumar
Chief Minister, Karnataka

Advancing Karnataka Accelerating Mobility



Shri Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

Inauguration, Dedication to the Nation, Foundation Stone Laying & Flagging Off of Various Development Projects worth over ₹ 15,600 Crore

by
Shri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister



INAUGURATION

- 7.5 km of Namma Metro's Elevated section of Pink Line
- Transmission Scheme for Integration of Renewable Energy Zone (Phase-II) in Koppal-II (Phase-A & B) and Gadag-II (Phase-A) in Karnataka
- Transmission Scheme for Solar Energy Zone in Bidar (2500 MW), Karnataka
- Four Redeveloped Amrit Stations- Chamarajanagar, Chikkamagaluru, Sakaleshpur and Subrahmanya Road

DEDICATION TO THE NATION

- Doubling of Bagalkot Wandal Rail line (45 km)
- Electrification of Sakleshpur-Subrahmanya Road Ghat Section (55 km)
- Devangonthi Marketing Terminal-MRPL, Bengaluru
- 80 TMT LPG Cavern-HPCL, Mangaluru

FOUNDATION STONE LAYING

- Transmission Scheme for Integration of Davanagere/ Chitradurga and Ballari REZ in Karnataka
- Transmission System Strengthening for Integration of additional RE Potential at Davanagere (0.25 GW) and Ballari (2.75 GW)
- Gail's Compressed Biogas Plant, Bengaluru

FLAGGING OFF

- Bengaluru- Mangaluru-Madgaon Vande Bharat Express

BENEFITS OF THE PROJECTS

- Improvement in connectivity across North and South Bengaluru
- Faster access to business hubs, educational institutions, healthcare centres, and residential areas
- Improvement in air quality by reducing carbon emissions and traffic congestion
- Operational Metro network expands to nearly 104 km with 92 stations
- Modern stations offering greater comfort, convenience, and enhanced travel experience
- Strengthens rail connectivity across North Karnataka and adjoining regions through railway line doubling
- Ensures efficient train operations and reduces fossil fuel dependence through rail route electrification
- Enhances economic and commercial linkages between Karnataka and Goa with the new Vande Bharat Express
- Supplies LPG to millions of households, easing livelihoods and supporting a cleaner environment
- Promotes waste-to-wealth through efficient solid waste management and circular economy
- Improvement in Karnataka's power infrastructure ensuring reliable, sustainable and green energy

In The August Presence Of

Dr. Sudha Yadav
Governor, Karnataka

Shri D.K. Shivakumar
Chief Minister, Karnataka

Shri Manohar Lal
Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs & Power

Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw
Union Minister of Railways

Shri Hardeep Singh Puri
Union Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas

Shri Kishna Byregowda
Minister for Greater Bengaluru Development, Govt. of Karnataka

Shri Tejasvi Surya
Member of Parliament
Bengaluru South

Friday, 13th November 2026 , 12:30 pm onwards
IIM Bangalore Auditorium, Bannerghatta Road, Bilekahalli, Bengaluru, Karnataka

Live telecast on DD News

Quick Read

Bengaluru's AQI rises amid post-Diwali air quality decline

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Post-Diwali air pollution has significantly intensified across Bengaluru, pushing the city's Air Quality Index (AQI) to 173 due to elevated levels of PM2.5 and PM10 particulate matter from firecrackers. Similarly unhealthy readings were recorded in Tumakuru and Ramanagara at 178, and in the city's Kasavanahalli at 175 and Varthur at 172. Other major cities across Karnataka have also experienced a decline in air quality, with Kalaburagi at 163, Mysuru at 157, Ballari at 156, Udupi at 153, Vijayapura at 146, Shivamogga at 142, Belagavi at 128, Hubballi at 120, and Mangaluru at 107. Health authorities have categorized air quality in cities like Bengaluru, Mysuru, and Tumakuru as 'unhealthy', urging children, the elderly, and individuals with respiratory issues to minimize outdoor exposure and wear masks.

IMD forecasts dry weather across Karnataka

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast that dry weather and cool nighttime conditions will persist across almost all districts of Karnataka on November 12 and 13, with no heavy rainfall warnings in effect. Clear, rain-free conditions will continue across Coastal Karnataka (Dakshina Kannada, Udupi, and Uttara Kannada), all eleven districts of North Interior Karnataka, and seventeen South Interior districts, including Bengaluru Urban and Bengaluru Rural. Amid these widespread dry conditions, Dharwad recorded the state's lowest minimum temperature in the plains at 12.2°C, bringing noticeable cooler weather to the region.

Police inspect high-risk apartments in Bengaluru

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

In anticipation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Bengaluru on November 13, city authorities have enforced rigorous security protocols, including extensive apartment checks and mandatory reporting of new residents along high-risk transit zones. Led by City Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh alongside an advanced Special Protection Group (SPG) deployment, the security apparatus involves three Joint Commissioners, 15 DCPs, 20 ACPs, and over 1,000 civil police personnel. The Prime Minister's itinerary includes attending the golden jubilee celebrations at Prashanthi Kutiram, inaugurating the 'Namma Metro' Pink Line at Tavarekere station, riding the metro to IIM Bangalore, and launching development projects valued at over ₹15,600 crore. These heightened measures follow past security concerns, prompting exhaustive route inspections, mandatory CCTV surveillance, and specialized traffic diversions across southern Bengaluru.

HDK questions past coalition government actions

Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy attacked political rivals, criticized agricultural relief payouts, and condemned state governance in Bengaluru.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy has launched a sharp verbal counterattack against Karnataka political figures, questioning past political betrayals and demanding that the state administration urgently fix its approach toward agricultural welfare. Speaking to reporters near his residence in Bengaluru, Kumaraswamy addressed recent remarks made by leaders regarding past political coalitions and government stability.

Reacting to statements claiming no personal ill-will, Kumaraswamy retorted that the public is fully aware of what transpired during past coalition governments. Without dwelling too deeply on history, he noted that he is well-informed about ongoing political maneuvers, including efforts to poach lawmakers from his party. Questioning the sincerity of political rivals who speak favorably in public while undermining opponents behind closed doors, he stressed that trust cannot be earned through double standards.



Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy speaking to reporters in Bengaluru.

Shifting focus to party organization, Kumaraswamy announced that he would gladly welcome back former associates. He noted that dozens of regional leaders who previously left the Janata Parivar for Congress are feeling deeply disillusioned with current state leadership and are considering returning to their roots. Emphasizing his primary responsibility, the Union Minister stated that his main focus remains strengthening the party base and serving the state.

Addressing fiscal disputes between state and central authorities, Kumaraswamy criticized the state government for constantly shifting blame onto the Centre regarding National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) grants. Drawing from his own experience serving twice as Chief Minister under both UPA and NDA administrations, he noted that he never made finger-pointing a full-time job. He advised state leaders to properly utilize tax revenues for public welfare rather than dodging accountability.

> **"Are the state's farmers beggars? Such an indifferent attitude toward farmers is unacceptable; the government must mend its ways."**
>
> — **HD Kumaraswamy,** Union Minister

Finally, Kumaraswamy expressed outrage over inadequate compensation provided to local agriculturalists facing crop loss and drought conditions. Condemning the payout of only ₹1,000 instead of the promised ₹2,500, he sharply asked whether farmers were expected to beg for relief. Warning that such indifferent attitudes toward the farming community are completely unacceptable, he demanded immediate corrective policy action from state leaders.

Crop-loss relief per farmer

PROMISED	PAID
₹2,500 the relief farmers were promised	₹1,000 what the state is paying out

Dangerous chemicals found in state groundwater supplies

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Clean drinking water has quietly become one of the most precious and fragile resources. Recent tests by water safety experts reveal a shocking reality: half of the wells tested across the state fail basic safety standards. As underground water levels drop and towns grow rapidly, families are drilling deeper borewells than ever before. This deep digging stirs up natural rock minerals, releasing invisible toxins into local water supplies, while farm fertilizers and factory waste sneak into shallow water tables.

Water safety tests reveal half of state borewells fail standards, exposing families to dangerous toxins and heavy metals.



Representational picture.

The testing data uncovers a mix of dangerous chemicals and heavy metals lurking in everyday village and city pumps. High nitrate levels, peaking at nearly 936 milligrams per liter in Dharwad, stem mainly from heavy farm runoff. Consuming too much nitrate reduces blood oxygen levels, posing fatal risks to newborn babies and causing thyroid issues in adults. Meanwhile, excessive fluoride plagues districts like Ballari, turning teeth brown and eventually causing painful bone and joint deformities.

Radioactive and toxic elements are also showing up where least expected. Alarmingly high uranium levels have surfaced in Kolar and Chikkaballapura, with some samples climbing past 2,000 parts per billion. Drinking this water over time severely damages kidney function and weakens bones. In industrial and mining zones, dangerous metals like lead, cadmium, and arsenic slip straight into local plumbing networks. Long-term exposure to these heavy metals can trigger chronic illnesses and nerve damage.

Families often rely on borewells assuming the earth filters everything naturally, but geology tells a different story. Without urgent government action to clean up industrial dumping, manage farm fertilizers, and pipe safe drinking water to rural homes, millions of residents remain at risk of silent illnesses. Experts urge citizens to get their local water tested regularly and call for strict new rules to protect the vanishing clean water reserves before it is too late.

PM Modi's Bengaluru visit: Traffic advisory, route restrictions



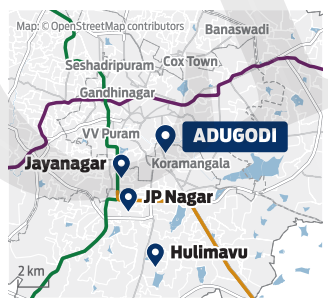
Prime Minister Narendra Modi; traffic on a city road (right).

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Motorists traveling across southern and central Bengaluru face major traffic diversions and strict parking bans as Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrives in the city. The Prime Minister is visiting to inaugurate the newly completed Namma Metro Pink Line extension and launch major infrastructure projects valued at over ₹15,600 crore. To ensure smooth movement for the VVIP motorcade and maintain public safety, the Bengaluru Traffic Police have rolled out comprehensive vehicle regulations across key corridors, including Bannerghatta Road, J.P. Nagar, Jayanagar, and Adugodi.

Commuters on the Adugodi and MICO Layout routes will find traffic restricted near MICO Bande Junction and the Dairy Circle underpass. Authorities advise drivers to use New MICO Road and Adugodi Junction as alternative routes. Similarly, restrictions apply along Marenahalli Main Road, East End Main Road toward Swagat Junction, and sections of the Outer Ring Road in Jayanagar and J.P. Nagar. Motorists traveling toward Hosur Road are encouraged to take Kanakapura Main Road and pass through Banashankari. In the Talaghattapura and Hulimavu zones, vehicles approaching Bannerghatta Main Road from Anjanapura 80-Feet Road, Gottigere Lake, and Loyola School face temporary curbs. Traffic police have directed drivers to navigate via alternative paths such as BK Circle, Jambusavari Dinne, Konanakunte Cross, and NICE Road.

Alongside moving traffic curbs, a total parking ban is strictly enforced today along several busy thoroughfares. Parking is prohibited on J.P. Nagar 2nd Phase 8th Main Road, from Dalmia Junction up to Bannerghatta Main Road, Marenahalli Main Road in Tilaknagar, East End Main Road, Swagat Main Road, and 28th Main Road in Marenahalli. Vehicles found parked in these restricted zones will be cleared immediately.



Curbs: Adugodi and Dairy Circle, Jayanagar and JP Nagar, Hulimavu and Gottigere.

Police officials urge everyday commuters, office workers, and students to plan their morning journeys well in advance, expect minor delays, and utilize public transit where possible. Citizens are requested to cooperate fully with security personnel deployed across every intersection to keep the city moving smoothly during this high-profile national visit.

Court emphasizes accountability in government systems

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

In a landmark ruling emphasizing accountability and administrative fairness, the Karnataka High Court has ordered the State Government to appoint an unemployed candidate from Tumakuru to the post of Excise Guard within eight weeks. The court firmly stated that job seekers should never lose their livelihood or suffer the consequences of printing and clerical errors committed by government officials.

A division bench consisting of Justice S.G. Pandit and Justice Dr. Chillakur Sumalatha issued the ruling while dismissing a petition filed by the State Government, which had challenged a favorable 2018 order from the Karnataka Administrative Tribunal (KAT). The court observed that building a transparent and accountable administrative system is vital for a developed nation, adding that students and parents cannot be held responsible for mistakes inside school records.

The long road to a job

- **2008** KPSC notifies Excise Guard posts
- **2010** Verification flags a misprinted birth year
- **2018** KAT rules in his favor
- **NOW** High Court: appoint him within eight weeks

A printing blunder

The legal battle stems from a 2008 recruitment notification issued by the Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) for male Excise Guards. Manjunath K. from Kallipalya, Tumakuru Taluk, successfully cleared the competitive exam under the Scheduled Caste and Kannada Medium quotas. However, during the 2010 document verification, authorities flagged a discrepancy: while his Transfer Certificate (TC) and secondary records correctly listed his date of birth as June 15, 1982, his SSLC marks card incorrectly listed June 15, 1980, due to a printing blunder.

A missed deadline

Because of the discrepancy, KPSC claimed he exceeded the age limit and gave him a narrow window to submit a corrected card. When he missed the tight deadline, the commission selected a candidate with lower marks, prompting Manjunath to approach the KAT, which initially ruled in his favor.

During the High Court proceedings, government counsel argued that a formal civil court decree is mandatory for birthdate corrections. The bench dismissed this defense, noting that Education Department officials had already corrected the marks card in 2011 without requiring a decree. Furthermore, the court highlighted that KPSC rules permitted candidates to submit multiple valid age proofs, such as a Transfer Certificate. The commission's decision to completely disregard his correct TC was deemed an administrative error, leaving the state's challenge baseless.

ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION

Forest Department orders Conocarpus tree removal

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

In a decisive move toward ecological restoration, the Karnataka Forest Department has issued formal instructions to examine and execute the removal of Conocarpus trees planted extensively across public roadways, municipal jurisdictions, and rural panchayats throughout the state. Driven by growing scientific warnings and appeals from environmental campaigns such as the 'Mukhya Sthavo Bajavo' initiative led by activist 'Parisara Manjunath', authorities are phasing out these exotic ornamental trees to safeguard public health and restore indigenous green cover.

Originally favored by urban developers for their rapid growth and dense, year-round greenery, Conocarpus trees have increasingly sparked severe controversy. Environmentalists and medical practitioners point out that the species releases heavy pollen and airborne allergens, triggering chronic respiratory ailments, severe asthma, seasonal allergies, and persistent coughs among local residents. Furthermore, their aggressive root systems often disrupt underground utility networks and deplete surrounding groundwater tables, placing a silent strain on local ecosystems.



Leaves and flower buds of a Conocarpus tree.

Why are Conocarpus trees being removed?

Respiratory hazards

Medical and environmental groups have pointed out that mature Conocarpus trees release high volumes of pollen and allergens during specific flowering seasons, triggering severe public health issues such as asthma attacks, chronic allergies, persistent colds, and other upper respiratory complications.

Aggressive roots

The species possesses invasive root networks that aggressively seek moisture. These roots frequently crack underground water infrastructure, damage freshwater lines, disrupt sewage systems, and interfere with underground telecommunication and electrical cables.

'Green desert' effect

Conocarpus trees consume vast quantities of groundwater and inhibit the growth of surrounding flora due to their dense canopies and allelopathic properties, creating sterile ecological zones where local biodiversity cannot thrive.

Responding directly to these concerns, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests has directed relevant local bodies, executive engineers, and district forest officers to evaluate existing plantations, systematically extract the invasive trees, including their deep root structures, and replace them with hardy, beneficial native plant species in accordance with established environmental regulations. Officials are required to submit comprehensive compliance reports directly to the Ministry of Forest, Ecology and Environment, ensuring transparent oversight.

Botanists and environmental experts have widely praised the directive, emphasizing that native trees like Neem, Peepal, Indian Beech, and Tamarind play an indispensable role in supporting local bird species, sustaining pollinators, and improving urban air quality without the hidden health hazards linked to exotic flora.

Childhood vaccine shortages hit government hospitals

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A severe shortage of crucial child immunizations in government-run medical facilities has left many families scrambling to protect their little ones. While standard national immunization schedules operate across public centers, several key supplementary shots remain completely missing from state inventories. Parents across the region now report that they must visit private clinics and pay steep out-of-pocket costs to secure vital disease prevention for their households.

Medical experts emphasize that proper early childhood immunization serves as a fundamental shield against severe infections and helps lower overall child mortality rates. However, public facilities currently lack regular supplies for several recommended preventative doses. Specifically, families find that immunizations guarding against Chickenpox, Hepatitis A, Typhoid, and the Influenza virus cannot be obtained through standard government healthcare channels. Additional gaps have also been noted regarding specific schedules for the Inactivated Poliovirus Vaccine, forcing guardians to seek alternative pathways.

Because these preventive treatments are absent from public health centers, families often face difficult financial choices. Private medical facilities frequently charge thousands of rupees for a full course of these additional shots. For lower-income and middle-class households, such unexpected expenses create severe budgetary strain. Many parents struggle to pull together the necessary funds, raising fears that children from economically disadvantaged backgrounds might miss out entirely on important health protections due to financial barriers.

Local families and child health advocates have strongly urged public health authorities to expand the scope of government-supplied medicines. They argue that supplementary vaccines should form a standard part of public healthcare delivery to ensure that every child, regardless of family income, receives comprehensive protection. Health officials have yet to outline specific timelines for restocking these items, leaving vulnerable communities waiting for a policy resolution to ease the mounting financial pressure on households.

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P12 India-EU discuss security, global conflicts

P13 10 die in Nepal electric van crash



P14 Cristiano Ronaldo ventures into television with new series



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K'taka CM orders poll-style security for KPSC prelims

Shivakumar instructed the Police Department to put in place robust security arrangements similar to those adopted during police recruitment exams.

BENGALURU

Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Thursday directed deputy commissioners to put in place election-style security arrangements for the preliminary examination conducted by the KPSC on November 15 to fill 319 Gazetted Probationer posts.

Reviewing the preparations through a video conference with deputy commissioners and superintendents of police, he instructed officials to train all examination personnel on the lines of election duty and submit compliance reports.

The examination must be conducted with utmost transparency, leaving no room for malpractice, and all guidelines issued by the Karnataka Public Service Commissioner must be strictly enforced, his office said in a release. "We have undertaken several reforms in the examination process," he said, directing officials to ensure continuous CCTV surveillance at all examination centres.

He instructed the police department to put in place robust security arrangements similar to those adopted during police recruitment examinations.

No unauthorised person would be allowed inside examination centre premises, while even authorised personnel would have to undergo security checks, he said.

Officials were asked to assess the sensitivity of each examination centre and deploy



personnel accordingly. Additional security equipment could be procured on rent, while police personnel could be mobilised from other locations if required. He also ordered a ban on candidates carrying mobile phones into examination centres and warned that senior officials would be held accountable for any lapses.

For the first time, two invigilators will be deployed in every examination hall, with at least one of them required to be from a government college, he said. The arrangement is intended to facilitate additional identity checks after candidates enter the examination hall and ensure continuous monitoring. Officials were also directed to take stringent measures to prevent impersonation.

The CM warned that the recognition of private aided colleges as examination centres would be cancelled if they were found to have facilitated malpractice. He said stringent legal action would be initiated against anyone involved in examination-related irregularities.

Emphasising zero tolerance towards misinformation concerning the exam, Shivakumar directed the police department to actively monitor social media platforms and ensure that rumours were brought to the notice of officials immediately for appropriate clarification.

He urged candidates and the media to verify information through official sources and appealed to aspirants to appear for the examination with confidence without being influenced by rumours. The directions come amid allegations of irregularities, paper leaks and recruitment scams that have plagued the KPSC examination process in recent years.

Briefing the meeting on the arrangements, KPSC Controller of Examinations H Prasanna outlined several measures being introduced to prevent malpractice. Under the five-option OMR system, candidates who do not know the answer to a question must mandatorily darken the fifth bubble (Option 5). No question can be left unanswered, he said.

Each OMR sheet will have three copies — one for the candidate, another for evaluation by the KPSC and the third to be kept securely in the strong room of the deputy commissioner or the KPSC.

KPSC Gazetted Probationers Preliminary Exam– Key details

- **Candidates**: Over 1.47 lakh candidates expected to appear.
- **Vacancies**: 319 Gazetted Probationer posts.
  - Group A: 117
  - Group B: 202
- **Examination centres**: 345 sub-centres across 15 districts.

15 DISTRICTS

Kalaburagi, Raichur, Ballari, Bagalkot, Vijayapura, Dharwad, Belagavi, Uttara Kannada, Shivamogga, Dakshina Kannada, Hassan, Davanagere, Tumakuru, Mysuru and Bengaluru Urban.

Examination schedule – Nov 15 (Sunday)

Paper	Subjects	Timings
Paper I	General Studies and Humanities	10 am – 12 pm
Paper II	State-related General Studies, Science & Technology, Mental Ability	2 pm – 4 pm

Important numerical facts

1.47 lakh+: Candidates **319**: Vacancies **202**: Group B posts **117**: Group A posts

345: Exam sub-centres **15**: Districts **4 hours** – Total exam duration

MODI TO OPEN NAMMA METRO'S PINK LINE TODAY

He will also flag off the Bengaluru-Mangaluru-Madgaon Vande Bharat Express and lay foundation stones for and inaugurate development projects worth over Rs 15,600 cr.

BENGALURU

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be in Karnataka on Friday to take part in a series of events, including the launch of the Pink Line Metro, a Vande Bharat train and the inauguration of four redeveloped railway stations under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme.

According to an official statement, he will flag off the services on the new metro line and take a ride from Tavarekere to IIM Bangalore metro station, lay the foundation stone, inaugurate various development projects worth over Rs 15,600 crore in Bengaluru and address the gathering.

The Bengaluru metro's Pink Line from Kalena Agrahara to Tavarekere has been developed at a cost of around Rs 3,470 crore.

He will also inaugurate the Transmission Scheme for Integration of Renewable Energy Zones (Phase-II) in Koppal-II and Gadag-II, developed with an investment of around Rs 4,450 crore; the Transmission Scheme for the Solar Energy Zone in Bidar, developed with an investment of around ₹1,370 crore.

The PM will lay the foundation stone for the Transmission Scheme for the Integration of Davanagere/Chitradurga and Ballari Renewable Energy Zones, at an investment of over Rs 3,450 crore and the Transmission System Strengthening project for Integration of Additional Renewable Energy Potential at Davanagere and Ballari, at an investment of over Rs 1,100 crore. "He will dedicate to the nation India's largest underground LPG storage cavern in Mangaluru, constructed at a cost of over Rs 850 crore. With a storage capacity of 80,000 metric tonnes, the facility will significantly strengthen India's LPG storage infrastructure," the statement said.



PM Modi's Karnataka visit – List of events

BENGALURU



- Flag off Bengaluru Metro Pink Line.
- Take a metro ride from Tavarekere to IIM Bangalore.
- Inaugurate development projects worth over ₹15,600 crore.
- Inaugurate renewable energy transmission projects in Koppal, Gadag and Bidar.
- Lay foundation stones for renewable energy transmission projects in Davanagere, Chitradurga and Ballari.
- Dedicate MRPL's Devangonthi Marketing Terminal.
- Lay foundation stone for GAIL's Compressed Biogas Plant at Haralakunte.
- Participate in the Golden Jubilee celebrations of S-VYASA at Prashanti Kutiram.
- Lay foundation stone for the Golden Jubilee Administrative Block.
- Launch S-VYASA's off-campus centre in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

MANGALURU

- Dedicate India's largest underground LPG storage cavern.
- Dedicate the 9.4 km LPG pipeline connecting New Mangalore Port to the main terminal.

MYSURU

- Participate in a tree plantation programme at Bharat Vann.
- Inaugurate COSMOS-Mysuru Planetarium.
- Address the gathering.

RAILWAY PROJECTS

- Inaugurate four redeveloped railway stations under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme.
- Dedicate the 45 km Bagalkot–Wandal railway doubling section.
- Dedicate electrification of the 55 km Sakleshpur–Subrahmanya Road Ghat section.
- Flag off Bengaluru–Mangaluru–Madgaon Vande Bharat Express.

SPECIAL OCCASION

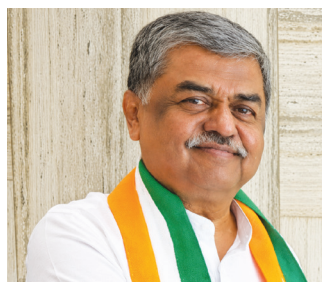
- Commemorate the birth centenary of former RSS general secretary HV Sheshadri.

Govt to repeal anti-conversion law amendments during Belagavi session: KPCC chief

BENGALURU

KPCC president BK Hariprasad on Thursday said the Congress government will repeal the amendments made to the anti-conversion law by the BJP government in 2022 during the upcoming winter session of the Karnataka Legislature in Belagavi next month.

He was responding to a query by media on protests being held by minority and Dalit forms, demanding that the Congress government fulfil the promises made to the public during the 2023 Assembly elections and ensure their effective implementation.



"We will fulfil the promises we have made. The anti-conversion law will be brought back to the way it was in 2022," Hariprasad said. He added that the Congress was a party that represented India and did not stand on the basis of caste or religion.

"We listen to everyone's views and opinions," he added.

Govt plans special Parl session to pass women's quota amendment bill

NEW DELHI

The Union government is planning to convene a "special session" of Parliament to secure the passage of a Constitution amendment bill linked to the implementation of women's reservation, with sources expressing confidence that it would win by a margin of 15 to 18 votes.

The sources said the government was confident of securing the required numbers but did not disclose the dates or duration of the proposed session.

The government needs 361 votes to secure a two-thirds majority for the passage of the Constitution Amendment Bill. The Lok Sabha, with a sanctioned strength of 543 members, currently has three vacancies.

The proposed amendment seeks to increase the strength of the Lok Sabha from the present 543 seats to a maximum of 850 through delimitation, paving the way for the implementation of 33% reservation for women in Parliament and state legislative assemblies. The move comes after a similar Constitution Amendment Bill failed to secure the required numbers in the Lok Sabha during a special sitting of the Budget Session on April 17.

The possibility of convening Parliament at short notice remains open as the Monsoon Session, during which both Houses were adjourned sine die (indefinitely) on August 13, has not yet been prorogued. The session has remained unprorogued for 91 days, breaking the previous record of 87 days set in 2008. An extended sitting within the existing session requires a minimum notice of two days, while convening a fresh session requires at least 14 days' notice.

The government's decision to keep the Monsoon Session unprorogued had fuelled speculation about an extended or special sitting to consider the proposed amendment. The government proposes to increase Lok Sabha seats in all states by 50% to address concerns raised by southern states as it seeks to implement the women's reservation law before the 2029 parliamentary elections.

Building on the earlier bill, the fresh draft is learnt to propose keeping the existing inter-state seat ratios intact based on the 1971 Census.

2 missing SPOs found dead with bullet injuries in Kishtwar

SRINAGAR

A day after three CRPF personnel were injured in a terror attack in south Kashmir's Kulgam district, the bullet-riddled bodies of two Special Police Officers (SPOs) who went missing while travelling to an Army post in Kishtwar district were recovered from a forest area in Dachhan on Thursday, officials said.

The deceased have been identified as Rashpal Kumar (45) and Bobby Chand (57). Both were residents of Kiyar village in Dachhan and were posted with the Special Operations Group (SOG) in Kiyar sector. Officials said the duo went missing on Wednesday while travelling from their Kiyar camp to the Army's Temporary Operating Base (TOB) at Dharna in Marwah sector, where they had been assigned rotation duty. They failed to report at the designated post, prompting a joint search operation by the J&K Police and the Army's Rashtriya Rifles.

Their mobile phones were initially reachable but were switched off subsequently, raising concerns about their whereabouts, officials said. Both bodies bore bullet injuries, while their service weapons were missing from the spot.

Security forces have intensified cordon and search operations in the area to trace those responsible and recover the missing weapons.

In the Kulgam incident on Wednesday, three CRPF personnel were injured when suspected terrorists opened fire near Mir Bazar. The attackers fled after the firing, prompting a search operation.

QUICK READ

'Snubbed for asking fair share': KBG on 'speech cut' from Metro event

BENGALURU

Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda has said that his name is not in the list of speakers at the Metro inauguration programme during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Bengaluru on November 13. In an X post, Gowda wrote, "The reward for asking for justice for Karnataka state, my speech was cut! The Bengaluru Development Minister was not given a chance to speak at the metro inauguration. My speaking slot was included in the draft programme. In the final list that came last night, the Bengaluru Development Minister's speech was cut. (sic)" He also said, "We bear most of the capital expenditure. This is how we are punished for asking for a fair share for Karnataka, (sic)" and added, "That's all right, you can cut my speech. But you cannot stop us from working for Bengaluru's development. We will work even harder. (sic)"

Kejriwal, his daughter get death threat from 'Bishnoi gang member'

MOHALI

The Punjab police has registered a case following a complaint filed by Delhi AAP MLA Jarnail Singh, who reported receiving a death threat message concerning party leader Arvind Kejriwal and his daughter, along with a demand for Rs 7 crore. Singh lodged his complaint with the Mohali police, which has opened a case under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code and the Information Technology Act. In his complaint, the Tilak Nagar MLA stated that he received both a call and a WhatsApp message on November 6 from an individual claiming to be a member of the Lawrence Bishnoi gang. The alleged caller threatened to kill Kejriwal and his daughter if the money was not paid. Following the complaint, the Mohali police registered a case under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and the relevant section of the IT Act.

WATER WAR

Mekedatu dam row escalates as TN rejects K'taka claim

CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Minister for Rural Development and Water Resources, N Anand, on Thursday rejected Karnataka Chief Minister D K Shivakumar's recent assertion regarding construction of the Mekedatu dam on the Cauvery River, saying the state government will not permit the project.

His remarks follow Shivakumar's statement that Karnataka does not need TN's permission to build the Mekedatu dam across the Cauvery River. Shivakumar was responding to a letter sent by Chief Minister Vijay to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, objecting to the Mekedatu project and seeking the Centre's intervention.

In his response, Shivakumar had said there is "no need for



permission from anyone," claiming that the Supreme Court has already given permission for Karnataka to build the dam, provided they release 177 TMC of water to Tamil Nadu. He also claimed the balancing reservoir would benefit Tamil Nadu more than Karnataka.

Speaking to reporters at Tiruchirapalli airport, Anand said, "Under no circumstances will we allow that, and certainly, nothing will ever happen as he (Shivakumar) claims."

'Impossible feat'

Meanwhile, DMK leader Duraimurugan claimed that since the Cauvery is an interstate river, no single state can independently build a new dam or store water. "Not even a single bucket of water from the Cauvery can be withheld without Tamil Nadu's consent," he said.

Refuting Shivakumar's claim that the Apex Court had granted permission to construct the dam, he said there is no such binding legal ruling.

The former water resources minister noted that a judge may have made a suggestion or observation, but it does not amount to court permission.

He highlighted the extensive clearance hurdles the project faces, including mandatory approvals from the Central Water Commission, the Forest Department, and the Environment Ministry.

He recalled that previous attempts to get central clearances were rejected by forest and environment officials. He termed Shivakumar's remarks an "impossible feat" and mere rhetoric driven by enthusiasm rather than a constructive plan.



> Karnataka does not need anyone's permission to build the Mekedatu balancing reservoir across the Cauvery river as the Supreme Court allowed it provided the state releases 177 TMC of water to Tamil Nadu.
>
> - DK Shivakumar, CM

CONTEXT

The statements follow a letter sent by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Joseph Vijay to Prime Minister Narendra Modi urging the Centre to intervene and reject the Mekedatu project.



> Under no circumstances will we allow that and that nothing will ever happen as he claims. Tamil Nadu will block the project at any cost.
>
> - N Anand, Tamil Nadu Minister

CH Observer

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Pottery Road is grappling with severe infrastructural neglect, particularly along its railway-side footpaths where broken guardrails, shattered walkways, and scattered construction debris endanger everyday pedestrians. Uncollected garbage and discarded tree trimmings compound the mess, creating hazardous obstacles for commuters navigating the area. Residents and local groups are urgently demanding immediate municipal intervention to clear the debris, repair the walkways, and restore basic public safety along this vital corridor.

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Pottery Road footpath broken; garbage, tree debris and construction material left as they are.





Left: Pottery Road's railway-side footpath remains littered with debris and badly in need of repairs.
Right: Guardrails broken, Pottery Road footpath in shambles.

GBA officials booked over illegal e-khatas

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Law enforcement authorities have registered two formal First Information Reports at the Ulsoor Gate police station against suspended Greater Bengaluru Authority assistant commissioners and in-charge revenue officers Basawaraju Magi and Lokamatha D.S. for allegedly orchestrating a fraudulent e-khata issuance scheme, according to municipal reports.

The criminal complaints were officially filed following a thorough internal inquiry initiated by senior IAS officer and GBA Special Commissioner for Revenue, Munish Moudgil. Alongside the two suspended municipal administrators, authorities have booked 36 co-conspirators, including several private property developers and real estate builders, for their direct involvement in the multi-layered fraud.

Investigators revealed that the suspects systematically abused the specialized SARFAESI module within the digital e-Aasthi property governance system. The module was originally designed solely to streamline the rapid issuance of e-khatas to financial institutions for commercial properties legally seized and auctioned under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act. Instead of uploading mandatory, verified SARFAESI seizure orders, applicants allegedly colluded with municipal officers to submit fabricated or unrelated documents such as standard joint development agreements and private sale deeds to bypass verification protocols and secure fresh e-khatas for newly constructed apartment units.

Municipal leadership noted that these unauthorized digital transactions represented a severe violation of Section 147 of the Greater Bengaluru Governance Act, which strictly prohibits the generation of e-khatas under such ineligible circumstances. Officials emphasized that the case involves grave elements of criminal conspiracy, document forgery, gross abuse of official administrative positions, and administrative misconduct, necessitating an exhaustive police investigation.

Specific operational breakdowns highlighted the scale of the violations. Lokamatha D.S., who previously managed the Kengeri division under the Bengaluru West City Corporation, faced immediate suspension following the discovery of six illegally approved e-khatas generated using fraudulent SARFAESI documentation. Meanwhile, Basawaraju Magi, who oversaw the KR Pura division within the Bengaluru East City Corporation, was suspended after being implicated in the issuance of 98 unauthorized and ineligible new e-khatas.

The case

- **FIRs:** two, at the Ulsoor Gate police station
- **Booked:** two suspended officers and 36 others, including developers and builders
- **Kengeri:** six illegal e-khatas under Lokamatha D.S.
- **KR Pura:** 98 ineligible e-khatas under Basawaraju Magi

BNCC intensifies Ward One civic drive

BENGALURU NORTH CITY CORPORATION'S 'WARD ONE' CAMPAIGN UPGRADES ROADS, CLEARS WASTE, AND IMPROVES URBAN AMENITIES.



Before and after: a roadside cleared in the Ward One drive.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Bengaluru North City Corporation has successfully carried out intensive civic maintenance operations across multiple wards as part of its ongoing citywide 'Ward One' campaign, aimed at upgrading municipal infrastructure, clearing waste, and improving public amenities.

The latest round of operations was conducted under the direct guidance of Greater Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda and Bengaluru North City Corporation Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar. Teams targeted key zones including Vidyaranyapura, Jakkur, Subbayyapalya, and Shaktinagar wards, spanning the Vidyaranyapura, Byatarayanapura, Sarvagnanagar, and Pulakeshinagar divisions. Municipal workers focused heavily on core urban issues, including road safety, sanitation, drainage desilting, and pedestrian pathway restoration.

Official progress reports released by the corporation highlighted significant achievements during the daily drive. Maintenance operations covered a total road length of 13.7 kilometers, during which municipal crews repaired 15 dangerous potholes to ease vehicular transit. To combat illegal dumping and improve neighborhood hygiene, sanitation squads cleared 79 garbage blackspots, successfully removing 70 tonnes of mixed waste alongside 43 construction debris collection points that yielded 71 tonnes of discarded building materials.

Pedestrian safety and public mobility also received major attention. Crews repaired 2.1 kilometers of damaged footpaths, removed 8 separate walkway obstructions, and completed a major junction improvement project. To prevent waterlogging during seasonal rains, sanitation workers desilted 3.35 kilometers of roadside stormwater drains. Furthermore, municipal electricians installed 5 new streetlights and repaired 13 malfunctioning units to enhance night visibility, while park maintenance teams cleaned 2 local green spaces.

Enforcement squads maintained strict oversight regarding public health and urban aesthetics. The Public Health Department inspected 1,137 commercial establishments across the target zones, penalizing 40 businesses found violating municipal health and safety regulations with fines totaling ₹62,600. Additionally, urban management teams removed 48 unauthorized flex boards, banners, and posters that cluttered public spaces, pruned 19 overgrown tree branches, and cleared 1 tonne of organic tree waste.

Local engagement remained a central focus, with municipal officers resolving 5 citizen grievances directly on the spot. The campaign also saw active community participation from 2 local Residents' Welfare Associations and citizen organizations. Corporation officials emphasized that the 'Ward One' initiative will continue its rigorous schedule across all regional divisions to ensure sustainable cleanliness, smoother traffic, safe pedestrian pathways, and better living standards for urban residents.

A day's work

- **13.7 km** of roads covered
- **79** garbage blackspots cleared
- **71 tonnes** of building debris removed

South City Corporation launches third-phase cleanliness drive

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Bengaluru South City Corporation launched its third-phase 'Ward One' campaign, deploying heavy machinery and marshals across nine wards to clear waste and upgrade infrastructure

The Bengaluru South City Corporation has finalized preparations for the third phase of its ongoing 'Ward One' campaign, launching a massive special cleanliness drive across nine specific wards spanning five administrative zones, according to Municipal Commissioner K.N. Ramesh.

Designed to tackle persistent sanitation challenges, illegal waste dumping, and infrastructure upkeep, the upcoming operation will target 18 major arterial and connector roads. To ensure maximum efficiency, municipal authorities have mobilized a substantial workforce and heavy machinery fleet comprising 14 JCBs, four tippers, 54 tractors, and 191 personnel, including sanitation workers, marshals, and Junior Health Inspectors.

Resource allocation has been tailored to meet the specific needs of each participating zone. The Anjanapura and Begur zones encompassing wards 36, 37, and 38 will receive the largest deployment, utilizing three JCBs, 20 tractors, and 80 workers to clean key stretches such as Hogebandi Main Road, Begur-Hulimavu Main Road, Bannerghatta Main Road, and Doddakammanahalli Main Road. In the Jayanagar division, covering wards 8 and 16, crews equipped with two JCBs, two tippers, 14 tractors, and 42 workers will focus on Sarakki and East End Main Road along Bannerghatta Main Road corridors.

Similarly, the BTM Layout division spanning wards 17 and 18 has been assigned seven JCBs, 14 tractors, and 44 workers to clear major commercial and residential arteries including Lake Road, the Outer Ring Road, 29th Main Road, 16th Main Road, Seventh Main Road, and Seventh Cross Road. In the Padmanabhanagar division, teams will target 18th Main Road, Sixth Cross Road, Thimmayya Road, 11th Cross Road, and 14th Cross Road using one JCB, one tipper, four tractors, and 15 workers. Finally, the HSR division in Kasavanahalli will utilize one JCB, one tipper, two tractors, and ten personnel along the busy Sarjapur Main Road stretch.

Commissioner Ramesh emphasized that preventing the recurrence of unauthorized waste dumping remains a top priority. Dedicated teams of municipal marshals will maintain continuous on-site monitoring across all newly cleared roads to deter illegal dumping and ensure long-term cleanliness standards.

The deployment

9	WARDS
18	MAJOR ROADS
14	JCBS
4	TIPPERS
54	TRACTORS
191	PERSONNEL

Grounded dreams: Karnataka's regional airports stall

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Regional air connectivity across Karnataka faces a severe test as a majority of routes struggle to survive beyond central financial lifelines. Despite substantial capital investments of hundreds of crores, regional airports find it difficult to sustain regular operations due to structural hurdles, thin passenger loads, inconvenient schedules, and waning airline participation.

The central government's Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik (UDAN) scheme aimed to bridge the viability gap for underserved airports. However, the expiration of the mandatory three-year viability gap funding (VGF) period has exposed vulnerabilities in the commercial model of regional aviation. Of the 42 routes originally selected in the state, only 11 remained operational as of January 2026. Thirty-one routes became inactive after their initial subsidy tenure ended. Among the 11 active routes, six continued to receive external backing, while only five managed to survive independently.

The impact of expiring subsidies and airline withdrawals is visible in traffic metrics across major regional gateways. Aircraft movements at Kalaburagi, Hubballi, Mysuru, and Belagavi fell sharply from 13,180 in the 2021-22 fiscal year to 5,372 in 2024-25, representing a drop of about 59.2%. Total passenger traffic across these facilities declined from 4.9 lakh to 3.3 lakh over the same timeframe.



The terminal at Hubballi airport, one of the regional gateways.

Aircraft movements

2021-22	2024-25
13,180 at Kalaburagi, Hubballi, Mysuru and Belagavi	5,372 a drop of about 59.2%

State infrastructure authorities note that the Centre rejected proposals to extend UDAN support from three to five years, followed by a subsequent phase of shared funding. This policy stance contributed to the suspension of operations across multiple domestic airports nationwide, prompting privatization moves for hubs like Hubballi and Mangaluru.

To counteract these trends, the Karnataka government plans to manage select facilities directly through state agencies. Kalaburagi services have been revived with funding from regional development boards and state allocations. A comprehensive civil aviation policy is slated for cabinet review, addressing grants, operational models, and financial support frameworks to prevent regional airports from becoming underutilized assets. Meanwhile, greenfield projects face mixed timelines, with Vijayapura targeting operations while other proposed sites encounter construction and funding delays.

L&T faces blacklisting over water project delays



Representational picture.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Infrastructure major Larsen & Toubro (L&T) faces potential blacklisting by the Karnataka government following severe delays in executing a critical multi-village drinking water supply scheme across Dharwad and Belagavi districts, according to official reports.

Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (RDPR) Minister Eshwar B. Khandre issued the strict directives during a high-level review meeting assessing the implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) across the state. RDPR officials informed the minister that L&T, which was contracted to supply drinking water from the Renukasagar reservoir to 388 habitations in Dharwad district alongside villages in Kalaghatagi and Savadatti, had failed to make meaningful progress. Despite receiving a final administrative notice, the firm reportedly neglected to initiate pipeline procurement, omitted mandatory weekly progress reports, and failed to deploy adequate labor resources, leading to severely stalled works.

Minister Khandre expressed deep frustration over the contractor's lackadaisical approach. He recalled a previous review meeting held on September 11, during which he explicitly instructed contractors and departmental officials to accelerate pending infrastructure works. Because little improvement followed those warnings, the minister ordered penal action, including blacklisting the firm. Furthermore, Khandre directed officials to issue immediate final notices to all other contractors lagging behind schedule, emphasizing that project delays would not be tolerated unless caused by pending statutory forest clearances.

Highlighting the urgency of the initiative, the minister noted that timely completion of rural water schemes remains paramount as Karnataka grapples with water security challenges driven by deficient seasonal rainfall. Officials have been instructed to maintain strict oversight to ensure that basic drinking water delivery under the Jal Jeevan Mission reaches rural households without further administrative or logistical setbacks.

Where the work stalled

- ✗ Pipeline procurement not started
- ✗ Weekly progress reports not filed
- ✗ Too few workers deployed

WASTE TO ENERGY

Bengaluru to get Rs 160-crore waste-to-biogas plant

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Bengaluru is set to receive a major municipal waste-management upgrade with the upcoming establishment of a modern compressed biogas (CBG) plant near Kudlu, designed to convert segregated organic wet waste into clean cooking fuel.

GAIL (India) Limited will construct the ₹160-crore facility on an 18-acre plot located within the Karnataka Compost Development Corporation (KCDC) premises in Hosapalya, off Hosur Road. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to virtually lay the foundation stone for the project during his upcoming visit.



Gas cylinders are examined. The Kudlu plant will produce about 12.6 tonnes of compressed biogas a day.

According to project details shared by Bangalore South MP Tejasvi Surya during a recent awareness event, the facility will feature a processing capacity of 300 tonnes of wet waste daily. Once fully operational — expected within fifteen months of construction kickoff — the plant will produce approximately 12.6 tonnes of compressed biogas every day, alongside 22 tonnes of high-quality organic manure.

The installation will process roughly 1.1 lakh tonnes of wet waste annually, generating sufficient cooking gas to supply about 25,000 households. Projections indicate that the daily output will match the energy equivalent of roughly 890 standard LPG cylinders, potentially saving the country from importing 3.2 lakh cylinders annually and conserving about ₹27 crore in foreign exchange. GAIL will finance the entire capital expenditure, while the state government has provided the 18-acre land parcel under a 25-year operational lease agreement.

The selection of the KCDC site holds notable significance due to past local opposition. Originally established in 1975 as a scientific composting center, the plant suspended operations in 2008 following intense neighborhood protests over foul odors. Although reopened in 2013 despite lingering community concerns, the new GAIL-backed compressed biogas initiative represents a technologically advanced approach to modernizing urban waste processing and turning municipal refuse into sustainable energy.

Quick Read

Female KSRTC mechanic stabbed by suspended colleague

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A 40-year-old female KSRTC mechanic named Lakshmi was seriously injured when a suspended colleague, Shivaraj, stabbed her as she left the depot near Arishinakunte in Nelamangala after her shift at around 8:30 PM. According to police reports, the attack stemmed from a personal grudge after Lakshmi previously testified against Shivaraj in an earlier case, prompting him to confront her with a knife before fleeing the scene. Local residents and depot staff rushed the injured victim to a hospital, where she is currently receiving treatment. The Nelamangala Town Police Station has registered a case and launched an active manhunt for the absconding suspect.

Wife stabs husband dead over childless taunts

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A tragic domestic dispute turned fatal in Lakshmipura on November 12. Malashree, 44, stabbed her husband Rajashekhar to death after years of relentless harassment over childlessness. Rajashekhar, a bank employee, routinely returned home drunk to verbally abuse his wife.

Minister details cost sharing for Metro project

Minister Ramalinga Reddy emphasizes state taxpayers' major financial contribution as Bengaluru inaugurates the Pink Line.





A Pink Line train and Minister Ramalinga Reddy.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

As the city prepares for the grand inauguration of Namma Metro's highly anticipated Pink Line, Minister Ramalinga Reddy has highlighted the crucial financial role played by the state government, emphasizing that local taxpayers deserve prominent recognition for the monumental transit project.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to inaugurate the new corridor today, which connects Kalena Agrahara to Nagawara. The route is expected to significantly ease chronic traffic congestion across southern and central Bengaluru. However, ahead of the launch, Minister Ramalinga Reddy took to social media to outline the historical timeline and funding structure behind the transit system's expansion.

Recalling the project's origins, Reddy noted that the second phase of Namma Metro, which included the Gottigere-Nagawara corridor now realized as the Pink Line, received formal approval from the Union Cabinet on January 30, 2014, during the UPA administration. At that time, Reddy served as both the Transport Minister and the Minister in charge of Bengaluru Urban district under the Siddaramaiah-led state government.

The minister drew attention to the massive financial commitment undertaken by the state, pointing out that the original estimated cost of the Pink Line was approximately ₹8,730 crore. Due to construction complexities and delays, revised estimates have driven the cost up to about ₹17,346 crore, with the Karnataka government contributing roughly ₹12,000 crore toward this corridor alone.

Furthermore, looking at the broader picture of urban transit development across the first, second, 2A, 2B, and third phases of Namma Metro, Reddy stated that the cumulative project cost stands at ₹77,891 crore. Of this total amount, the Karnataka government has shouldered about ₹65,291 crore, accounting for roughly 83.8 percent of the funding, while the Central government's contribution stands at about ₹12,600 crore, or 16.2 percent.

While welcoming the much-needed transit upgrade, the minister stressed that public infrastructure milestones are built upon the sustained efforts of multiple administrations and the tax contributions of ordinary citizens. He concluded with the empowering sentiment that regional growth drives national progress, urging authorities to honor the state's heavy financial investment as the new line finally opens for daily commuters.

> **"Namma Metro stands as a profound testament to the tax contributions of Karnataka's citizens and the state's own heavy financial commitment."**
> — **Ramalinga Reddy,** Karnataka Minister

Collaborative development and growth

The Minister underscored that while urban expansion relies on inter-governmental cooperation, history must recognize the sustained efforts of successive state administrations.

He concluded with the guiding sentiment: "If Bengaluru grows, Karnataka grows, if Karnataka grows, the nation grows."

Housing Minister Zameer Ahmed Khan inspects Nelaguli housing complex

CH NEWS, KENGERI

State Housing Minister B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan recently conducted an on-site inspection of the multi-story housing complex being developed by the Rajiv Gandhi Housing Corporation in Nelaguli, located inside the Yeshwantpur Assembly constituency.

During his visit to the active construction grounds, where 1,552 residential units are taking shape under the ambitious 'Chief Minister's 1 Lakh Housing Scheme', the Minister issued strict instructions to project officials. He emphasized that the engineering work, structural integrity, and finishing standards must remain uncompromised at every single phase of development. Furthermore, he directed the contracting teams and administrative bodies to ensure that construction milestones are strictly met, completing the entire residential layout within the designated timeframe.

Local MLA S.T. Somashekhar, who accompanied the Minister during the site tour, provided crucial details regarding the upcoming apartment distribution process. He announced that priority for these affordable homes will be granted directly to economically weaker and lower-middle-class families currently residing within the Yeshwantpur legislative boundaries.

Kripa Alva questions CCB summons in sting probe





CH NEWS, BENGALURU

> **Former official Kripa Alva slammed repeated CCB interrogations over a high-profile sting operation, asserting innocence and complete ignorance of covert video recordings.**

Former official Kripa Alva expressed deep frustration during her interrogation by the Central Crime Branch police regarding the high-profile sting operation case involving former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

Appearing before investigators following a previously issued lookout notice, Alva questioned officer Ravi over being repeatedly summoned. Having already submitted formal statements three times, she criticized the ongoing demands for her presence. "How many times must I provide a statement? I have done nothing wrong, yet you keep calling me in and harassing me," she stated, demanding that authorities clearly state the ultimate objective behind the relentless inquiry.

During the questioning, Alva maintained her innocence and offered new details about the controversial events. She claimed that a journalist from a private media outlet alongside another unidentified individual had accompanied her during the period in question. Furthermore, she insisted that she was completely unaware that a covert video recording was taking place at the time.

The CCB launched the investigation to determine her exact level of involvement and uncover any hidden details surrounding the political sting operation that has sparked widespread public debate. Investigators are reviewing her statements carefully to verify whether she knowingly facilitated the recording or if she was used without her consent.

As the legal proceedings continue, the case highlights growing tensions between high-profile figures and law enforcement agencies. Legal experts note that investigators will likely cross-examine the media personnel involved to corroborate Alva's claims.

Meanwhile, the public awaits further developments as the Crime Branch gathers evidence to decide whether formal charges will be brought forward or if the inquiry will uncover broader conspiracies within the state's political circles.



Sri D. K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Chief Minister

Karnataka State Road Safety Authority
TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT



Dr. G. Parameshwar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister



DON'T VIOLATE TRAFFIC RULES
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Department Responsiblities
- Education and training for Road users
- Conducting safety and awareness programmes
- Providing safer roads for all road users

Road User's Responsiblities
- Wear Helmet while Riding (BIS Certified Helmet)
- Don't forget to fasten safety belts
- Keep a safe distance between the vehicles
- Aviod Rash & Negligent Driving
- Always Drive within Speed Limit
- Do not use Mobiles while driving
- Avoid driving during drowsiness
- Don't drink and drive



Sri B.S. Byrathi Suresh Hon'ble Minister for Transport at a departmental programme.

Good Samaritan is a person who helps road accident victims to get medical aid
- No enquiry or detention by Govt.,
- No disclosure of personal identity
- You are protected under law

* As per Motor Vehicle Act 1988 violation of the act & rules is a crime.

Help the road accident victims to save their lives. Alert, Act, Be a Good Samaritan

"Sadak Suraksha Jeevan Raksha"

To cherish and follow the noble ideals which inspired our national struggle for freedom - is the fundamental duty of every citizen of the country

LIFE IS PRECIOUS. PRIORITY FOR SAFE DRIVING

Quick Read

National Library Week celebrations from Nov 14

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

The City Central Library in Chitradurga will celebrate National Library Week from November 14 to 20 by organising various competitions for school and college students on November 17 and 19. The competitions are open to students within Chitradurga city limits. Schools and colleges have been asked to nominate two students each. Institutions that have not received invitations must submit participants' names to the library by 5 pm on November 16. Drawing, essay and rangoli competitions will be conducted. Topics include nature, agriculture, the importance of libraries and books, and the biography of Mother Teresa. The Chief Librarian has invited interested boys and girls to register and participate.

Training held to set up 203 Bharat Jodo Youth Associations

Prabhu urged mentors to guide youth associations as per rules, fostering social responsibility, community service and meaningful contribution to society.

CH NEWS, CHIKKABALLAPURA

The district administration has taken steps to establish 203 Bharat Jodo Youth Associations across Chikkaballapura district to promote national unity, social harmony, sports, culture and scientific thinking among young people.

Deputy Commissioner G. Prabhu instructed officials to begin the registration process from November 13 in accordance with government guidelines.

He was speaking after inaugurating a training workshop for 203 mentors and 16 master trainers at the District Administration Building auditorium on Thursday.

Prabhu said mentors had an important responsibility in establishing the youth associations and ensuring that they function according to government rules. He urged them to encourage young people to develop social responsibility, participate in community service and contribute to society.

He also instructed officials to conduct the registration process without confusion and explain the objectives and benefits of the initiative to eligible young men and women.



Call for youth participation

The initiative aims to bring young people aged between 16 and 35 under the Bharat Jodo Youth Associations. The associations will provide a platform to identify and encourage their talents, creativity and leadership skills.

The programme will promote sports, cultural activities, scientific thinking and social harmony. It will also encourage young people to participate in social service, environmental protection, water conservation, healthcare, cleanliness and youth empowerment activities.

The Deputy Commissioner said young people should contribute their abilities and knowledge to society instead of focusing only on employment and personal development. He called upon eligible youth to register as members in large numbers.

Prabhu further directed mentors and master trainers to create awareness about the initiative and work with local government bodies to complete the registration process successfully.

Mahesh Patri, in-charge Assistant Director of the District Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports, along with mentors and master trainers, attended the programme.

At a glance

- **203** Bharat Jodo Youth Associations across the district
- **16-35** the age group the associations are for
- **203** mentors trained to guide the rollout
- **16** master trainers

Magadi farmers demand urgent road work completion

CH NEWS, MAGADI

Farmers' organisations have warned of a major protest if the Magadi-Bengaluru road work is not completed within the promised deadline. Nagaraju, State General Secretary of the Workers and Farmers Protection Forum, said Karnataka Minister H.C. Balakrishna would be honoured in a silver palanquin if the road was completed by January 15.

Speaking at a meeting of farmers' organisations at the Inspection Bungalow in Magadi, Nagaraju said the incomplete road had been causing accidents, injuries and deaths. He recalled that a road blockade had been held 15 days earlier. Another protest planned for the day was postponed after the Minister reportedly announced through the media that the work would be completed by January 15. Police did not grant permission for the protest and suggested holding it on another date.

Nagaraju said the organisation would arrange a procession on January 30, carrying the Minister in a silver palanquin from Someshwara Temple to Sriranganatha Swamy Temple if the stretch between Someshwara Gudi Colony and Hosapete Circle was completed and opened to the public.

Mandya District Farmers' Association president Indaval Chandrashekhar said the project, which began in 2018, remained incomplete. He criticised the government's negligence and said commuters, schoolchildren, farmers and vegetable vendors faced daily difficulties. He also questioned who would take responsibility for the accidents and deaths caused by the poor road conditions.

He warned that farmers from neighbouring districts would join a large-scale road blockade if the work was not completed on time.Tumakuru District Farmers' Association president Yogesh Gowda said the protest was postponed following a request from police, as the Minister was expected to meet officials. Police had reportedly assured them that permission would be given for a road blockade if work did not begin within 15 days.

Mysuru district president Bannuru Narayan and Turuvekere unit president Chandrashekhar also criticised the authorities. Several farmers' leaders and representatives of progressive organisations attended the meeting.

Yuvanidhi scheme registers 6,976 young people in Chikkaballapura district

CH NEWS, CHIKKABALLAPURA

A total of 6,976 graduates and diploma holders have registered under the Karnataka Government's Yuvanidhi scheme in Chikkaballapura district, with financial assistance of Rs. 17.84 crore reportedly distributed to beneficiaries, said District Guarantee Schemes Implementation Authority Chairman Yaluvalli N. Ramesh.

He was speaking after inaugurating a Yuvanidhi awareness programme at GTTC College in Kudumalakunte, Gauribidanur taluk, on Thursday. The programme was organised jointly by the District Employment Exchange, Gauribidanur Taluk Panchayat, GTTC College and Taluk Guarantee Schemes Implementation Committee.

Of the registered beneficiaries, 6,817 are graduates and 159 are diploma holders. The list includes 3,727 men and 3,249 women.

Rs. 17.84 crore disbursed

According to Ramesh, a total of Rs. 17,84,35,500 has been distributed between 2023-24 and 2026-27.

Ramesh said awareness programmes were being conducted in colleges across the district to explain the scheme's eligibility conditions, registration process and benefits. Sessions were organised in Chikkaballapura, Bagepalli, Manchenahalli, Shidlaghatta and Gauribidanur.

He said the district had secured the top position in Karnataka in implementing the Yuvanidhi scheme. Officials were instructed to identify eligible youth who had not registered and help them access government benefits.

Under the scheme, eligible unemployed graduates receive Rs. 3,000 per month and diploma holders Rs. 1,500 per month, subject to government conditions.

District Employment Officer M. Prasad, GTTC Principal Harish Kumar, committee chairman Rangaraju and other officials attended the programme.

Fee payment dispute leaves four students facing exam uncertainty

CH NEWS, LAKSHMESHWAR

Four degree students of a government college in Lakshmeshwar are facing uncertainty over their examinations after the college administration allegedly failed to deposit the examination fees collected from them into the university account.

The incident has triggered protests on the college premises, with the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) Lakshmeshwar unit demanding immediate action against those responsible.

According to the allegations, the four students had paid their examination fees at the college office within the prescribed deadline. However, the amount was reportedly not transferred to the university. As a result, the students were unable to obtain their examination hall tickets when they approached the college ahead of the examinations.The issue has caused concern among the students, who fear losing an academic year despite preparing for their examinations.

Condemning the alleged negligence, ABVP activists staged a protest and raised slogans against the college principal and administration.

Addressing the protesters, ABVP leaders said the affected students belonged to poor and middle-class families and had made considerable efforts to pay their examination fees. They alleged that the college administration's failure had put the students' academic future at risk.The ABVP demanded that the principal contact university authorities within 24 hours, resolve the fee payment issue and ensure that all four students receive their hall tickets and are allowed to appear for the examinations.

BENGALURU WEST CITY CORPORATION
Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture Zone-1,
Rajarajeshwari Nagara, Bangalore-560091.

No: SADH/BWCC/RRN/TENDER/02/2026-27 Date: 12.11.2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (IFT)
(TWO COVER SYSTEM)

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

The Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture, BWCC Zone-1 (Rajarajeshwari Nagara), (Referred to as Employer in these documents) invites tenders to Implement in accordance with KTPP rules 2000, from eligible and experienced Person/Agencies/Firms (Referred to as Tenderers in these documents) registered in Labour department Providing park/road medians/circles/toilet/borewell maintenance and water supply/security services etc,.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1.	Maintenance of Park, Medians and Circles in Nagasandra-01 ward Parks. **Estimated Amount : Rs. 32,72,094.59. EMD : Rs.85,078.00**
2.	Maintenance of Park, Medians and Circles in Chokkasandra - 02 ward Parks. **Estimated Amount : Rs. 11,49,088.65. EMD : Rs.28,727.00**
3.	Maintenance of Park, Medians and Circles in Nelagadaranahalli - 03 ward Parks. **Estimated Amount : Rs. 22,89,158.43. EMD : Rs.45,783.00**
4.	Maintenance of Park, Medians and Circles in Rajeshwarinagara - 05 ward Parks. **Estimated Amount : Rs. 9,11,502.00. EMD : Rs.22,786.00**
5.	Maintenance of Park, Medians and Circles in Shivapura - 06 ward Parks. **Estimated Amount : Rs. 16,99,932.00. EMD : Rs. 42,498.00**
6.	Maintenance of Park, Medians and Circles in Rajagopal Nagar - 07 ward Parks. **Estimated Amount : Rs. 21,99,392.79. EMD : Rs. 43,988.00**
7.	Maintenance of Park, Medians and Circles in Sunkadakatte 10 ward Parks . **Estimated Amount : Rs. 13,07,822.68. EMD : Rs. 32,696.00**
8.	Security Services to Parks in Dasarahalli Constituency Parks. **Estimated Amount : Rs. 77,38,008.18. EMD : Rs. 1,54,760.00**
9.	Maintenance of Borewell in Dasarahalli Constituency Parks. **Estimated Amount : Rs. 8,17,275.00. EMD : Rs. 20,432.00**
10.	Maintenance of toilets in Dasarahalli Constituency Parks. **Estimated Amount : Rs. 14,42,250.00. EMD : Rs. 36,056.00**
11.	Supply of Water through Tankers Park/Medians and Circles in Dasarahalli Constituency Parks. **Estimated Amount : Rs. 14,46,096.00. EMD : Rs. 36,125.40**
12.	Maintenance of Gym, play equipment etc in Dasarahalli Constituency Parks. **Estimated Amount : Rs. 24,03,750.00. EMD : Rs. 48,075.00**
13.	Maintenance of Park, Medians and Circles in Dodda bidarakallu-11 ward Parks. **Estimated Amount : Rs. 24,50,190.45. EMD : Rs. 49,016.00**
14.	Maintenance of Park, Medians and Circles in Andrahalli-12 ward Parks. **Estimated Amount : Rs. 18,93,193.50. EMD : Rs. 47,330.00**
15.	Maintenance of Park, Medians and Circles in Nadaprabu Kempegowda-13 ward Parks. **Estimated Amount : Rs. 20,14,082.89. EMD : Rs. 40,281.65**
16.	Maintenance of Park, Medians and Circles in Herohalli-14 ward Parks. **Estimated Amount : Rs. 39,82,994.52. EMD : Rs. 79,660.00**
17.	Maintenance of Park, Medians and Circles in Byadarahalli-15 ward Parks. **Estimated Amount : Rs. 22,08,027.06. EMD : Rs. 44,161.00**
18.	Maintenance of Park, Medians and Circles in Ullalu 16 ward Parks. **Estimated Amount : Rs. 41,70,852.39. EMD : Rs. 83,417.00**
19.	Maintenance of Park, Medians and Circles in Nagadevanahalli - 17 ward Parks. **Estimated Amount : Rs. 29,99,322.33. EMD : Rs. 59,986.00**
20.	Maintenance of Park, Medians and Circles in Kengal Hanumanthaiah - 18 ward Parks. **Estimated Amount : Rs. 14,28,587.08. EMD : Rs. 35,714.68**
21.	Maintenance of Park, Medians and Circles in Shivanapalya - 19 ward Parks. **Estimated Amount : Rs. 82,98,744.96. EMD : Rs. 1,65,974.90**
22.	Maintenance of Park, Medians and Circles in Kengeri Kote -20 ward Parks. **Estimated Amount : Rs. 56,76,638.31. EMD : Rs. 1,13,532.77**
23.	Maintenance of Park, Medians and Circles in Kengeri -21 ward Parks. **Estimated Amount : Rs. 26,43,000.04. EMD : Rs. 52,860.00**
24.	Maintenance of toilets in Yeshwanthapura Assembly Constituency Parks. **Estimated Amount : Rs. 28,84,500.00. EMD : Rs. 57,690.00**
25.	Maintenance of Gym, play equipment etc in Yeshwanthapura Assembly Constituency parks. **Estimated Amount : Rs. 57,69,000.00. EMD : Rs. 1,15,380.00**
26.	Maintenance of Park, Medians and Circles in Bangarappa Nagar - 22 ward Parks. **Estimated Amount : Rs. 26,75,710.27. EMD : Rs. 53,514.21**
27.	Maintenance of Park, Medians and Circles in Rajarajeshwari Nagar - 23 ward Parks. **Estimated Amount : Rs. 62,16,107.11. EMD : Rs. 1,24,322.14**
28.	Maintenance of Park, Medians and Circles in Jnana Bharathi Ward - 24 ward Parks. **Estimated Amount : Rs. 27,54,832.11. EMD : Rs. 55,096.64**
29.	Maintenance of Park, Medians and Circles in Vinayaka Layout - 25 ward Parks. **Estimated Amount : Rs. 55,47,605.01. EMD : Rs. 1,10,952.10**
30.	Maintenance of Park, Medians and Circles in Malathalli-26 ward Parks. **Estimated Amount : Rs. 53,46,449.59. EMD : Rs. 1,06,928.99**
31.	Maintenance of Park, Medians and Circles in Srigandhadakaval - 27 ward Parks. **Estimated Amount : Rs.37,40,283.07. EMD : Rs. 74,805.66**
32.	Maintenance of Park, Medians and Circles in Kottigepalya -28 ward Parks. **Estimated Amount : Rs.29,32,315.39. EMD : Rs. 58,656.31**
33.	Maintenance of Park, Medians and Circles in Chowdeshwari Nagara - 29 ward Parks. **Estimated Amount : Rs.6,34,590.00. EMD : Rs. 15,864.75**
34.	Maintenance of Park, Medians and Circles in Kempegowda Layout - 30 ward Parks. **Estimated Amount : Rs.6,34,590.00. EMD : Rs. 15,864.75**
35.	Maintenance of Park, Medians and Circles in Freedom Fighter Layout -31 ward Parks. **Estimated Amount : Rs.1,34,610.00. EMD : Rs. 3,365.25**
36.	Maintenance of Park, Medians and Circles in Laggere -32 ward Parks. **Estimated Amount : Rs.5,26,036.65. EMD : Rs. 10,520.73**
37.	Maintenance of Park, Medians and Circles in Lakshmidevinagar - 33 ward Parks. **Estimated Amount : Rs.15,28,785.00. EMD : Rs. 38,219.63**
38.	Maintenance of Park, Medians and Circles in Peenya - 34 ward Parks. **Estimated Amount : Rs.9,65,826.75. EMD : Rs. 24,145.67**
39.	Maintenance of Park, Medians and Circles in Goruguntepalya -35 ward Parks. **Estimated Amount : Rs.33,30,203.32. EMD : Rs. 66,604.07**
40.	Maintenance of toilets in Rajarajeshwari Nagara Constituency parks. **Estimated Amount : Rs.28,84,500.00. EMD : Rs. 72,112.50**
41.	Maintenance of Gym, play equipment etc in Rajarajeshwari Nagara Constituency parks. **Estimated Amount : Rs.57,69,000.00. EMD : Rs. 1,44,225.00**
42.	Maintenance of Park. Medians and Circles in Nalavadi Krishnaraja vadiyar - 36 ward Parks. **Estimated Amount : Rs.7,56,142.83. EMD : Rs. 18,903.57**
43.	Maintenance of Park, Medians and Circles in Dr. Puneeth Rajkumar - 37 ward Parks. **Estimated Amount : Rs.23,55,107.71. EMD : Rs. 47,102.15**
44.	Maintenance of Park, Medians and Circles in Nandhini Layout -38 ward Parks. **Estimated Amount : Rs.25,81,637.115. EMD : Rs. 51,632.74**
45.	Maintenance of Park, Medians and Circles in Jai Maruthi Nagar - 39 ward Parks. **Estimated Amount : Rs.6,61,550.46. EMD : Rs. 16,538.76**
46.	Maintenance of Park, Medians and Circles in Mahalakshmipuram - 40 ward Parks. **Estimated Amount : Rs.29,58,468.19. EMD : Rs. 59,169.36**
47.	Maintenance of Park, Medians and Circles in Nagapura-41 ward Parks. **Estimated Amount : Rs.43,30,817.14. EMD : Rs. 86,616.34**
48.	Maintenance of Park, Medians and Circles in Rajamayur Varma - 42 ward Parks. **Estimated Amount : Rs.13,22,706.70. EMD : Rs. 33,067.67**
49.	Maintenance of Park, Medians and Circles in Kyatamaranahalli - 43 ward Parks. **Estimated Amount : Rs.6,84,011.10. EMD : Rs. 17,100.28**
50.	Maintenance of Park, Medians and Circles in Shankar Mutt - 44 ward Parks. **Estimated Amount : Rs.37,72,474.09. EMD : Rs. 75,449.48**
51.	Maintenance of Park. Medians and Circles in Shakthiganapathinagar - 45 ward Parks. **Estimated Amount : Rs.6,96,750.97. EMD : Rs. 17,418.77**
52.	Maintenance of Park, Medians and Circles in Kamalanagar - 46 ward Parks. **Estimated Amount : Rs.8,14,255.89. EMD : Rs. 20,356.40**
53.	Maintenance of Park, Medians and Circles in Vrishabhavathinagara - 47 ward Parks. **Estimated Amount : Rs.3,21,362.14. EMD : Rs. 8,034.05**
54.	Security Services to Parks in Mahalakshmi Layout Constituency parks. **Estimated Amount : Rs.77,38,008.18. EMD : Rs. 1,54,760.16**
55.	Maintenance of Borewell in Mahalakshmi Layout Constituency parks. **Estimated Amount : Rs.25,96,050.00. EMD : Rs. 64,901.25**
56.	Maintenance of toilets in Mahalakshmi Layout Constituency parks. **Estimated Amount : Rs.14,42,249.99. EMD : Rs. 36,056.25**
57.	Supply of Water through Tankers Park/Medians and Circles in Mahalakshmi Layout Constituency parks. **Estimated Amount : Rs.11,53,800.00. EMD : Rs. 28,845.00**
58.	Maintenance of Gym, play equipment etc in Mahalakshmi Layout Constituency parks. **Estimated Amount : Rs.48,07,500.00. EMD : Rs. 1,20,187.50**

Calendar of Events : (1) Date of Notification : **12.11.2026 (2)** Tender can be downloaded from : **19.11.2026 (3)** Pre bid Meeting : **26.11.2026 (4)** Tender Closing Date : **30.11.2026, 5.00 PM (5)** Technical bid opening date : **01.12.2026, 11.00 AM Onward (6)** Financial bid opening date : After Approval of Technical bid.

Sd/- Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture Zone-1, Rajarajeshwarinagar, BWCC

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

Quick Read

Public Service Campaign scheduled in Mandya on Nov 14

CH NEWS, MANDYA

A 'Praja Seva Andolana' (Public Service Campaign) will be held on November 14 at 11 am at the Government High School premises in Chikkagangavadi village, under G. Malligere Gram Panchayat in Mandya taluk.

The programme will be held under the chairmanship of the MLA representing the Melukote Assembly constituency.

Residents can submit petitions regarding their grievances during the campaign. They are advised to bring all necessary supporting documents along with their applications.

The Mandya Taluk Tahsildar has urged the public to attend the programme and make use of this opportunity to resolve their grievances.

Power supply to be disrupted in Mandya on Nov 13, 14

CH NEWS, MANDYA

Electricity supply will be interrupted in several areas of Mandya district on November 13 and 14 due to scheduled maintenance work on power lines. On November 13, power supply will remain suspended from 9 am to 6 pm due to urgent maintenance work on the 11 KV Gandhinagar power line originating from Mandya. Annapoorneshwari Nagar, 7th Cross (Phase 2) and surrounding areas will be affected, according to the Assistant Executive Engineer of CESC's Mandya Sub-division.Similarly, on November 14, power supply will be disrupted from 10 am to 6.30 pm due to maintenance work on the F-7 Pura NJY feeder line from the 66/11 KV Kolakaranadoddi Power Distribution Station.

Mandya DC stresses coordination to benefit farmers

Dr. Kumar reviewed scheme implementation with officials, focusing on targets, beneficiary selection, benefit distribution, pending applications, and operational challenges



The review meeting on agricultural schemes at the Deputy Commissioner's office in Mandya.

CH NEWS, MANDYA

Deputy Commissioner Dr. Kumar has directed officials to work together to ensure that government agricultural schemes reach all eligible farmers without delays. He issued the instructions during a review meeting held at the Deputy Commissioner's office in Mandya on Thursday.

The meeting reviewed the progress of several Central Government schemes, including the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), Watershed Development Component 2.0 (WDC 2.0), Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses, National Mission on Edible Oils, Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PM-FME) and Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY).

Dr. Kumar sought details from officials about physical and financial targets, beneficiary selection, distribution of benefits, pending applications and implementation-related challenges.

He stressed the need to promote the processing and marketing of locally available agricultural products, particularly millets and jaggery. He instructed officials to create awareness among farmers, Self-Help Groups and entrepreneurs about available subsidies, bank loans and credit facilities for establishing food-processing units.

The Deputy Commissioner also directed officials to provide proper guidance to eligible beneficiaries so they could access government assistance.

Emphasising timely implementation, he said departments must coordinate effectively to ensure that scheme benefits reach the intended beneficiaries. He instructed officials to resolve pending issues and achieve the prescribed targets within the stipulated deadlines.

Joint Director of Agriculture Jayaswamy, Deputy Director of Agriculture Malathi and Assistant Directors of the Agriculture Department attended the meeting.

New Aadhaar Seva Kendra opens in Mandya

MANDYA: A new Aadhaar Seva Kendra has been opened in Mandya to provide faster and easier Aadhaar-related services to the public. Deputy Commissioner Dr. Kumar inaugurated the centre at S.N. Complex on the old Mysore–Bengaluru Road.

Established by the Bengaluru Regional Office of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), the centre will provide services such as new Aadhaar registrations, personal detail corrections, information updates and photograph changes. Speaking at the inauguration, Dr. Kumar said the facility would help people access various Aadhaar services under one roof, reducing unnecessary travel and delays. He urged residents to make use of the centre.

The centre will remain open seven days a week, including government holidays, from 9 am to 5.30 pm. In a special gesture, Kiran and Manjushree from Bidara Hosahalli village in Maddur taluk, along with their daughter Sudiksha Gowda, who had visited the centre to access Aadhaar services, joined the inauguration. UIDAI Deputy Director Priya Kumar and Information and Public Relations Department Senior Assistant Director T.K. Harish attended the event.

MLA warns contractors over poor-quality work

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

Construction of check dams is helping conserve rainwater, improve groundwater levels and support agricultural activities in Chitradurga district, said Chitradurga MLA K.C. Veerendra Puppy.

He was speaking after performing the Bhoomi Pooja for a check dam across a stream between Jodi Chikkenahalli and Devapuradahatti villages.

The MLA said Chitradurga is a semi-arid region where agriculture largely depends on rainfall and groundwater availability. During the monsoon, large quantities of rainwater flow through streams and are lost without being properly utilised. Constructing check dams helps store this water and allows it to seep into the ground, improving groundwater levels.



The Bhoomi Pooja for a check dam between Jodi Chikkenahalli and Devapuradahatti villages.

He explained that these structures would help recharge borewells and open wells, maintain soil moisture and provide better water availability for crops. The projects would particularly benefit farmers who depend on rain-fed agriculture and face water shortages during summer.

Veerendra Puppy said priority was being given to rainwater conservation and groundwater development across villages in the constituency through the Minor Irrigation Department. He also stressed the importance of protecting existing lakes, ponds and other water sources.

Warning contractors against poor-quality construction, the MLA said strict action would be taken if the work did not meet the required standards.

Minor Irrigation Department Assistant Executive Engineer Bheemaraj said check dams benefit not only the villages where they are constructed but also surrounding areas. He urged farmers and villagers to cooperate in maintaining water conservation structures.

The programme also included the groundbreaking ceremony for a check dam and cascading structure at Jodi Chikkenahalli and another check dam at Devapuradahatti.

Tahsildar Fathima, Taluk Panchayat Executive Officer Jayasimha, Assistant Engineer Suhil Rahim, District Guarantee Committee member Santhosh and several village leaders attended the programme.

K.V. Prabhakar praises vital newspaper distribution role



Newspaper distributors honoured at the sixth State conference in Belagavi.

CH NEWS, BELAGAVI

Newspaper distributors must take pride in their profession and perform their duties with dedication, said former Media Advisor K.V. Prabhakar at the sixth State Conference of Newspaper Distributors held in Belagavi.

The conference was organised at Dharmanatha Bhavan in Ashok Nagar under the joint auspices of the Karnataka State Newspaper Distributors' Federation, Newspaper Distributors' Charitable Trust and Belagavi Daily Newspaper Distributors' Association.

Inaugurating the event, Prabhakar said no profession was inferior or superior and highlighted the important role played by newspaper distributors in the media industry. He described them as the backbone of newspaper distribution, delivering newspapers to thousands of homes every morning.

He urged media organisations to recognise distributors as an important part of their institutions and provide them with proper facilities and respect. He also encouraged distributors to take pride in their work and ensure quality education for their children.

Karnataka State Working Journalists' Association President Shivananda Tagaduru advised distributors to register for e-Shram cards to access government welfare schemes. He called for unity among distributors and demanded a separate corporation or academy to address their concerns.

Federation President K. Shambhulinga said nearly 25,000 newspaper distributors were working across Karnataka. He demanded accident insurance, relaxation of insurance conditions and a separate welfare fund for distributors.

Conference President Pratap Bhosale and State General Secretary Suresh P. also stressed the need for better welfare facilities. Suresh said a request had been submitted seeking a Rs. 2 crore grant. He also demanded Rs. 10 lakh health insurance coverage and electric two-wheelers.

During the event, district presidents, including Shivamogga District President N. Malathesh, were felicitated. Children of journalists who excelled in SSLC and PUC examinations were honoured. The Seva Ratna awards were also presented to media representatives, editors and newspaper distributors.

Several federation office-bearers and representatives from different districts attended the conference.

At a glance

Backbone of media
Distributors deliver newspapers to thousands of homes every morning.

Workforce
About 25,000 newspaper distributors work across Karnataka.

Welfare demands
A Rs. 2 crore grant, insurance cover and electric two-wheelers.

Government access
Distributors urged to register for e-Shram cards.

LEGAL ADOPTION ONLY PROPER WAY TO ADOPT CHILDREN

CH NEWS, KOPPAL

Legal adoption is the only proper way to become a parent through adoption, and people must follow the prescribed legal procedures instead of taking shortcuts, said Senior Civil Judge and Koppal District Legal Services Authority Member Secretary Mahantesh S. Daragad.

He was speaking at a legal awareness programme held at Sri Gavisiddeshwara Pre-University College in Koppal on November 11. The programme was organised to mark National Legal Services Day in association with the District Administration, Zilla Panchayat, District Legal Services Authority, Department of School Education and Literacy and District Child Protection Unit.

Magadi demands its allocated share of Hemavathi water

CH NEWS, MAGADI

Magadi taluk is entitled to 0.6 TMC of Hemavathi water, and the people are only demanding their rightful share, said BDCC Bank President H.N. Ashok.

Speaking at a press conference at the BDCC Bank hall in Magadi, Ashok said the water allocation was not limited to Tumakuru district. "We are not asking for charity. We are demanding the water allocated to Magadi," he said.

Ashok also defended Kunigal MLA Dr. Ranganath against allegations made by JD(S) leader Jagadish. He said people had elected Ranganath twice because of the development works undertaken in the constituency.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Enayathulla alias Inayath Basha K S/o Rajaksaab, R/o Hampasandra Hampasandra Chikkaballapur Karnataka 561209, have changed my name to Inayath Basha K.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, PUSHKAR ANAND S/o JUGAL KISHORE PRASAD R/o 38043, 4th Floor, Wing 38, Sobha Dream Acres, Varthur, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560087, have changed the name of my minor son SHIDH aged 3 years and he shall hereafter be known as SAUBHAGYAA ANAND.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Sardar E Azam S S/o S. Subhan R/o Zakir Hussain Mohalla Polytechnic Main Road, Gate Srinivaspur Taluk Kolar-563135, have changed my name to Shaikh Azam.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This notice is given to the General public that my client, Canara Bank Huliyar Branch, Chikkanayakanahalli Taluk, is going to sanction loan in favour of **Sri Rahamath Ulla S/o Abdul Shukoor**, aged about 54 years R/o Pesh-Imam Mohalla Sira Town, Sira Taluk, Tumkur Dist, against security of below mentioned schedule property. As per the information from Sri. Rahamath Ulla, he has acquired the schedule property, under registered Gift deed dt 1.02.2013, Regd as No.SRA-1-10850/2012-13 and further he has given information to my client that, at the time of execution of Registered Gift deed dt 01.02.2013, his father Abdul shukoor has handed over the original Registered **Sale deed dt 15.02.1995**, Regd No.**2505/1994-95**, which is parent deed of above said gift deed, further he stated that, unfortunately he has misplaced the Registered Sale deed dt **15.02.1995**, Regd as No.**2505/1994-95**. In this regard he has lodged online Complaint Vide Loss of Article No. 2532745/2026 Hence anybody having title interest, and right in any manner over the schedule property, may intimate the same in writing with documentary evidence to the undersigned within 07 days from the date of this publication, failing which my client will proceed with the loan transactions as not claimed. Further it is requested that if anybody finds regd original sale deed, the same may be handed over above said either to me or to my client. **SCHEDULE**: Site bearing No. 5279/5156/4/A, measuring East-west:**1372 meters** North-South: **9.14 meters** Situated at **Pesh-Imam-Mohalla**, Sira Town, Tumkur Dist,

H.Wajid Ahmed
Advocate and Notary
R.T.Road Sira Town
Mob: 9448101786

Bengaluru South Zilla Panchayat
Office of the Executive Engineer
PANCHAYATHRAJ ENGINEERING DIVISION
Ramanagara, Bangalore South Dist.

No.EE/PRED/RMG/JE/TEND-18/2026-27 Date: 11.11.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Only through KPP Portal system)

The Executive Engineer, Panchayathraj Engineering Division, Ramanagara, Bangalore South Dist. invites the Itemwise tender. Contractors registered in KPWD, enrolled in PRED/PWD Licence for the works in Kanakapura Taluk under Head of Account Development Scheme of CMIDP Grant and Different Head of Account Indent No.: **1)** RDPR/2026-27/OW/ WORK_INDENT 30246, **2)** RDPR/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT30248, **3)** RDPR/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT 30250, **4)** RDPR/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT30251,**5)** RDPR/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT30257, **6)** RDPR/2026-27/OW/ WORK_INDENT30258, **7)** RDPR/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT 30254,**8)**RDPR/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT30255,**9)** RDPR/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT30252. Tender Minimum Estimated amount work of **Rs.122.00 lakh**. Maximum Estimated amount **Rs.200.00 lakh**. Last Date for submission of Tender Dated: **19.11.2026 by 4:00 PM**. Opening of the Technical Bid Tender Dated: **20.11.2026 at 4:30 PM**. Opening of the Financial Bid Tender Dated: **30.11.2026 at 4:30 PM** onwards (Only for KW-III & IV) . For details & further information visit the website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or contact this office in office hours.

Sd/- **Executive Engineer**
Panchayathraj Engineering Division
Ramanagara

DIPR/BSD/388/SA/2026-27

TUMKUR URBAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Belagumba Road, Tumkur - 572103.
Ph: 0816-2272280, Fax: 0816-2255761
email: tudatmk2009@yahoo.co.in; website: tuda.co.in

No. TUDA/Tech/AEE/R.W/2026-27 Date: 07-11-2026

Notification

Tenders are invited from eligible civil contractors for the works as per Karnataka Public Transparency Ordinance 1999-2000 and as per KW-1, & KW-2, Standard Bid Document and latest amended provision through e-procurement portal of Government of Karnataka Web Address **(https//kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** Downloading Tender Documents from e-Procurement Portal of Government of Karnataka. Submission of tenders online through e-procurement portal within the prescribed date and time.

Date of issueing of blank tender forms	**Date. 07-11-2026 to D. 23-11-2026 Time 17-00 Hours**
Last date for submission of filled tender forms	**Date. 23-11-2026 Time 17-00 Hours**
Time and date of technical bid opening	**Date 24-11-2026 After 17-30 Am.**
Date of opening of financial bids	**After technical bid approval**

For further details technical branch can be contacted during office hours.

Sd/- Commissioner,
Urban Development Authority,
Tumakuru.

DIPR/TUM/RO-125/26-27/Oysters

ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರವರ ಕಚೇರಿ, ಸಿವಿಲ್ ವಿಭಾಗ
ಸಯ್ಯಾಜಿರಾವ್ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು

ಸಂ.: ಮೈನಪಾ/ಕಾ.ಇಂ(ಪೂ&ಪ)/ಸಾ.ಟೆಂ.ಪ್ರ–20/2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 09.11.2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ನಗರಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಅನುದಾನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ವಿವರ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ.	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	ಒಟ್ಟು ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು	ಒಟ್ಟು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ	ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಚಾಲ್ತಿಗೆ ಬರುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ
1	ಮೈನಪ್ರಾ/ಕಾಇಂ(ಪೂ)/ಟಿ.ಎನ್–55/2026–27. ದಿನಾಂಕ: 03.11.2026	08	125.50	**04.11.2026**	**18.11.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ**	**19.11.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.15 ಗಂಟೆ ನಂತರ**
2	ಮೈನಪ್ರಾ/ಕಾಅ(ಪ)/ಟಿ.ಎನ್–56/2026–27. ದಿನಾಂಕ: 07.11.2026	04	226.77	**09.11.2026**	**16.11.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ**	**17.11.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆ ನಂತರ**

ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು (https://kppp.karntaka.gov.in) ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರವನ್ನು ಕಚೇರಿ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ಸಿವಿಲ್ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ಪೂರ್ವ & ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ) ರವರ ಕಚೇರಿಯನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ವಿಶೇಷ ಸೂಚನೆ: ಮುಂದೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ಸೂಚನೆ/ಬದಲಾವಣೆ/ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿಗಳಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು ಮತ್ತು ಯಾವುದೇ ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

ಸಹಿ/–
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ಪೂರ್ವ)
ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು.

ಸಹಿ/–
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ)
ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು.

DIPR/MYS/929/SA/2026-27

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು,
ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಸರಬರಾಜು ಮತ್ತು ನೈರ್ಮಲ್ಯ ಇಲಾಖೆ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಗದಗ

ಕಾ.ಇ: ಗ್ರಾ.ಕು.ನೀ&ನೈ.ವಿ/ಗದಗ/ ಕಿ.ಇಂ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/2026–27/1262 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 12.11.2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಪಂಚಾಯತ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರಿಂಗ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಿದ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಐಟಂ ದರದಲ್ಲಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ–2000 ಮತ್ತು ಇತ್ತೀಚಿನ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿಗಳಂತೆ, ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಸರಬರಾಜು ಯೋಜನೆ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಗದಗ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು "ಇ **ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯುರಮೆಂಟ್–2**" ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ	ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ/ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಹೆಸರು	ಟೆಂಡರಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ	ಮುಂಗಡ ಠೇವಣಿ ಮೊತ್ತ
1	RWSSD/2026-27/WS/WORK_INDENT11127	**82.92 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು**	**1.66 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು**
2	RWSSD/2026-27/CT/WORK_INDENT10674	**16.82 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು**	**0.420 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು**

ಈ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಡೌನಲೋಡ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರಕಾರದ "ಇ ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್" ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ **https://KPPP.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಪ್ರಾರಂಭವಾಗುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **13.11.2026,** ಪ್ರಶ್ನೋತ್ತರದ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **19.11.2026** ಟೆಂಡರ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **21.11.2026** ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ಟೆಂಡರ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **23.11.2026** ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಟೆಂಡರ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **25.11.2026**. **ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು,**

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಗದಗ/309/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2026–27 **ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಮತ್ತು ನೈರ್ಮಲ್ಯ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಗದಗ**

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MINISTERS IN HONEYMOON MODE: WAKE UP BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE!

With just 17 months left to seek a fresh mandate, the D.K. Shivakumar government must move beyond political sparring and demonstrate tangible results on the governance front



SHYAM SUNDAR VATTAM

Where are the ministers? This is perhaps the question increasingly being asked by people who expected the Congress government to hit the ground running after assuming office under Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar. More than three months have passed since the new government came into existence, but the enthusiasm and urgency expected of an elected government seem to be missing in several departments.

The Shivakumar Cabinet is almost complete, and ministers have had sufficient time to settle into their respective portfolios. Yet, barring a handful, many ministers appear to be taking their own time to get down to serious business. The corridors of Vidhana Soudha and Vikasa Soudha should have been bustling with ministerial activity, departmental reviews, policy discussions and decisions aimed at improving public service delivery. Instead, the impression gaining ground is that governance has been left largely to the bureaucracy.

A government cannot afford to remain in a state of political transition indefinitely. The electorate did not give the Congress a mandate merely to occupy the seats of power; it voted for a government that promised better administration, accountability and development. The expectation was that the new dispensation would correct the shortcomings of the previous BJP government and provide a more responsive and people-oriented administration.

Unfortunately, the pace of governance has so far failed to match these expectations.

The prevailing drought situation has become a convenient explanation for the slow pace of administration. While drought undoubtedly demands the government's immediate attention, it cannot be an excuse for ministers to remain inactive in their respective departments. On the contrary, a drought calls for more intensive monitoring, frequent reviews, coordination among departments and prompt decisions. Water management, drinking water supply, agricultural relief, employment generation and rural development require political leadership, not merely routine bureaucratic correspondence.

There are, of course, ministers who have demonstrated a degree of seriousness in handling their responsibilities. Krishna Byre Gowda, Eshwar Khandre, U.T. Khader, M.B. Patil, Ramalinga Reddy and Dr. G. Parameshwara are among those who have been visible in their respective areas of administration. Their engagement, however, cannot compensate for the lack of urgency in several other departments.

Both first-time ministers and experienced political veterans must understand that ministerial office is not a ceremonial position. Taking charge of a portfolio is only the beginning. Ministers are expected to understand the functioning of their departments, identify bottlenecks, review ongoing projects, set priorities and ensure that decisions translate into results on the ground.

Have all ministers conducted comprehensive reviews of their departments? Have they identified pending projects and administrative hurdles? Have they established clear timelines for implementing development programmes? These are questions the government must answer.

Instead of concentrating on governance, several ministers appear to be spending considerable political energy trading accusations with the BJP-JDS combine. The controversy surrounding the alleged sting operation and other political confrontations has occupied considerable public and media attention. Political rebuttals may be unavoidable in a democracy, but they cannot become the principal occupation of those entrusted with running the State.



"The message to the ministers is simple: Stop the political sparring, get into your offices, review your departments and start delivering. Wake up before it is too late."
— Shyam Sundar Vattam

The Opposition has every right to question the government, and the ruling party has every right to defend itself. But people expect ministers to devote more time to their departments than to political mudslinging. Karnataka needs administrators in the Cabinet, not merely spokespersons for the ruling party.

Adding to public resentment are the increases in the prices of essential commodities and public transport fares. The hike in milk and milk products, along with higher bus fares, has placed an additional burden on households, particularly the middle class and economically weaker sections.

The five guarantee schemes were among the Congress party's major electoral promises. Their implementation may involve substantial financial commitments, but the government must ensure that the burden of financing them does not repeatedly fall on ordinary citizens through increases in the prices of essential services and commodities.

People may be willing to accept reasonable adjustments in prices when unavoidable, but steep increases in everyday expenses directly affect household budgets. For salaried employees, small traders, pensioners and daily wage earners, every additional rupee matters. The government must strike a balance between fulfilling its welfare commitments and protecting the purchasing power of ordinary families.

The bigger concern is the shrinking window available to the government to demonstrate its performance. With only about 17 months remaining before it faces the electorate for a fresh mandate, the administration cannot afford to lose valuable time. The honeymoon period is over. The government must now move into performance mode.

The recent elections to the State Legislative Council have already offered political signals that the ruling party cannot afford to ignore. The BJP-JDS combine's performance in the four MLC seats has underlined the need for the Congress leadership to introspect. Though Legislative Council elections cannot be treated as a direct reflection of the Assembly electorate's mood, they do offer an indication of the political challenges ahead.

The 2028 Assembly elections may still appear distant, but for a government that has promised transformative governance, the countdown has already begun. Every month lost through administrative inertia will make it harder to convince voters that the mandate was put to effective use.

Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar must take stock of the functioning of his Cabinet and ensure that every minister is made accountable for the performance of his or her department. Regular departmental reviews, measurable targets, time-bound project execution and transparent reporting should become the order of the day.

The people are not interested in endless political exchanges or explanations for administrative delays. They want better roads, reliable drinking water, improved healthcare, quality education, employment opportunities and efficient public services.

Ultimately, governments are judged not by the number of press conferences held or political statements issued, but by what they deliver to the people.

Ministers must realise that the privilege of holding office comes with the responsibility of serving the public. The electorate that brought the Congress to power is watching the government's every move. If the present pace of governance continues, the ruling party may find that political promises and electoral guarantees alone are insufficient to win public confidence.

THE QUESTION OF THE SAFETY OF GIG WORKERS



DR. SATYAVAN SAURABH



The need of the hour is to recognize gig workers not just as part of the digital economy, but as workers with rights and dignity.

In a changing economy, employment patterns are rapidly changing. Digital technology and internet-based services have challenged traditional ways of working. Today, individuals can earn a living by delivering food through mobile apps, driving online taxis, delivering goods, providing domestic services, or doing freelance digital work. This form of employment is called the gig economy, and those working in it are identified as gig workers. The most significant characteristic of these workers is that they can choose work according to their convenience and availability, but this flexibility is accompanied by insecurity in their livelihoods. Unlike regular employees, they generally lack access to benefits such as salary, provident fund, pension, medical care, and paid leave. Therefore, social security for gig workers is no longer merely a matter of labor welfare, but has become an essential prerequisite for inclusive development and economic justice.

The expansion of the digital economy in India has given new impetus to gig employment. According to a NITI Aayog report, the number of gig workers in the country is projected to reach approximately 23.5 million by 2029-30. This number indicates that this sector of employment is poised to become a significant part of the Indian economy in the future. Millions of people working in food supply, transportation, e-commerce, domestic services, and various digital platforms are driving economic activity in cities. Despite this, their social and economic status remains relatively vulnerable. A delivery worker involved in a road accident can immediately lose their income. Missing work for several days due to illness makes it difficult to support their families. Women face challenges such as maternity leave and income continuity. The lack of a regular pension in old age further increases their worries.

The fundamental purpose of social security is to provide financial support to workers in the uncertain circumstances of life. This becomes even more important for gig workers, as their income depends on the availability of work, customer demand, weather, platform policies, and incentive schemes. Changes in payment rates or reductions in incentives by platforms often impact their actual income. In such circumstances, benefits like accident insurance, life insurance, health coverage, maternity benefits, and old-age pensions can protect them from financial crisis. Social security benefits are not limited to the worker, but provide protection to their entire family. This also helps reduce poverty, inequality, and economic instability.

Keeping this need in mind, gig workers and platform workers have been recognized as a separate category in the Social Security Code, 2020. This Code provides for the formulation and implementation of social security schemes for them. Institutional arrangements like the National Social Security Board aim to coordinate between workers, aggregators, and the government and determine the direction of welfare schemes. The provision for the participation of various stakeholders in the 22-member National Social Security Board is an important step in this direction. It is essential to ensure that such boards do not merely become institutions that recommend schemes, but also understand the real problems of workers and become effective means of resolving them.

The role of these boards is important on several levels. First, they can contribute to the formulation and prioritization of social security schemes. Second, they can oversee the expansion of benefits such as life insurance, accident insurance, disability assistance, maternity benefits, and old-age security. Third, they can ensure accountability by reviewing the expenditure on schemes and their implementation. Fourth, they can help develop a system to ensure that a worker's social security benefits are not lost when they move from one digital platform to another or work from one state to another.

The e-Shram portal can be an important tool in this direction. Aadhaar-linked registration can facilitate the identification of workers and their access to welfare benefits. However, mere registration is not enough. Real success will be achieved when registered workers also receive timely payments of accident assistance, insurance, health services, and other prescribed benefits. To achieve this, the digital system must be simplified, transparent, and worker-friendly.

However, this system faces several serious challenges. The most significant problem is the ambiguity of employment relationships. Gig workers are often treated as independent partners or service providers, while their working conditions, payment, task allocation, and performance evaluation are controlled by digital platforms. This makes it difficult to determine who is responsible for social security. Another problem is the gap between plans and actual benefits. Many workers are unaware of the plans, and the registration and claim process is complex for some. The third challenge is worker representation. Without their actual participation in policy decisions, the plans will not be tailored to the needs on the ground.

The availability of financial resources is also a major issue. The Social Security Code provides for contributions from aggregators of one to two percent of their annual turnover, but not exceeding five percent of the total amount paid to workers. This system aims to create a sustainable financial foundation for social security. However, transparency in the calculation, collection, and use of contributions is essential. It must also be ensured that the financial burden is not indirectly transferred to workers' incomes.

The way forward is clear. The central and state governments must work together to ensure effective implementation of social security schemes. Simple registration of each gig worker, portable benefits across multiple platforms, regular social security audits, and effective grievance redressal mechanisms must be developed. Special attention should be paid to maternity assistance and safe working conditions, taking into account the specific needs of women workers. Furthermore, genuine and adequate participation of worker representatives on social security boards must be ensured.

The gig economy is India's new economic reality. It should be viewed as an opportunity for job creation and entrepreneurship, but simply increasing employment opportunities is not enough. Development will be meaningful only when the lives of the workers who drive that growth are also secure and dignified. The benefits of technological and market advancements must reach workers. Social security boards can be an important bridge in this direction. Their role must not be limited to paper recommendations, but rather ensure that the benefits of schemes reach the last worker. Flexible employment can increase workers' independence, but in the absence of social security, this independence turns into economic insecurity.

VILLAGES ONCE KNOWN FOR PURE AIR ARE NOW IN THE GRIP OF POLLUTION

DR. VIJAY GARG





"The time has come to restore villages as symbols of fresh air, greenery and natural beauty. Clean air is not a luxury; it is one of the most fundamental necessities of life."
DR. VIJAY GARG

There was a time when the mention of villages brought to mind green fields, shady trees, open skies, clean water and fresh, unpolluted air. Mornings in villages began with the melodious chirping of birds and refreshing breezes. People often preferred villages to escape the crowds, smoke and pollution of cities. However, the situation is changing rapidly. Today, the villages of Punjab are also facing the serious problem of air pollution. The places once known for their clean environment are increasingly filled with smoke, dust and harmful particles.

There are several reasons behind the growing air pollution in Punjab. Crop residue burning, particularly after the paddy harvest during October and November, is one of the major contributors. The smoke released from burning agricultural waste spreads across neighbouring villages and towns. It increases the concentration of fine particulate matter in the air, which can enter the human body through breathing and adversely affect health.

However, stubble burning is not the only cause of pollution. Increasing numbers of vehicles, diesel-powered agricultural machinery, brick kilns, construction activities, road dust, waste burning and smoke from household fuels also contribute to deteriorating air quality in villages. The excessive and improper use of pesticides and chemicals in agricultural fields raises additional environmental concerns.

Today, children, elderly people and women living in villages are also experiencing respiratory problems. Exposure to polluted air can increase the risk of coughing, eye irritation, allergies, asthma and cardiovascular diseases. Prolonged exposure may seriously affect lung and heart health. Young children, whose lungs are still developing, and elderly people with vulnerable health are particularly at risk.

Another worrying aspect of this problem is the relatively limited awareness and monitoring of air pollution in rural areas. Many villages lack adequate air-quality monitoring facilities. As a result, residents often remain unaware of the actual quality of the air they breathe every day.

To address this crisis, farmers should not simply be blamed; instead, they must be provided with practical and affordable alternatives. Machines such as Happy Seeders, Super Seeders and balers should be made easily accessible for effective stubble management.

Agricultural residue can also be converted into organic manure, biogas and other useful products.

Farmers need adequate financial assistance, technical guidance and institutional support to adopt environmentally friendly practices.

Increasing tree cover, developing community forests, planting trees along roadsides and protecting ponds and natural water bodies are equally important. Burning garbage and plastic waste must be discouraged through effective awareness and enforcement. Clean cooking fuels should be promoted, while emissions from brick kilns and industrial units must be properly controlled.

Schools and village panchayats can play an important role in this campaign. Students should be encouraged to participate in environmental awareness rallies, plantation drives and programmes promoting clean air. Regular monitoring of air quality and the formation of local environmental committees in villages can also prove beneficial.

Governments, panchayats, farmers, scientists and ordinary citizens must work together to address this growing challenge. Clean air is not merely an urban concern; it is a basic necessity and a right of every citizen, irrespective of where they live.

We must remember that villages are not merely centres of agricultural production. They are also the foundation of our culture, natural heritage and way of life. If the air in our villages becomes polluted, the dream of a healthy society and a secure future will remain incomplete.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Fix Crumbling City Roads
Commuting across our city has become a daily nightmare due to crater-sized potholes and unscientific road digging. Multiple civic agencies repeatedly excavate freshly laid asphalt for utility work, leaving behind hazardous stretches and thick dust. Motorists risk fatal accidents every evening, while ambulances lose precious minutes navigating damaged roads. Civic authorities must immediately enforce strict coordination among utility departments, penalize contractors for substandard patchwork, and restore motorable, safe roads before the next downpour worsens this infrastructure crisis. **–Aaron**

End Perennial Traffic Gridlock
Severe traffic congestion continues to rob citizens of productive hours and mental peace every single day. Poorly synchronized signals, rampant illegal parking on arterial roads, and stalled infrastructure projects choke major junctions during peak hours. Commuters are forced to endure exhausting journeys, while vehicular emissions steadily degrade our air quality. The traffic police and urban planners must urgently clear encroachments, improve last-mile public transit connectivity, and enforce strict lane discipline so the city can finally move smoothly again. **– Fedrick**

Resolve Mounting Garbage Crisis
Overflowing waste dumps and irregular garbage collection are turning residential neighborhoods into breeding grounds for disease. Despite citizens diligently segregating dry and wet waste at home, civic contractors frequently mix them during transit or leave black spots uncleared for days. Stray animals scatter plastic across footpaths, blocking storm water drains and causing foul odors. Civic authorities must streamline doorstep collection schedules, penalize illegal dumping, and ensure scientific waste processing to restore cleanliness and public health across our wards. **– Jerome**

CAREGIVERS DESERVE A SAY IN PUBLIC POLICY



Care keeps daily life going, yet much of it happens beyond the reach of public attention. The people who provide it often carry responsibility for someone else's comfort, safety and dignity while trying to protect their own. Their work requires patience, judgment and time. It can also limit their income, interrupt their sleep and narrow their choices. A society that depends on this labour should give caregivers a say in the decisions that shape it. Their needs belong in discussions about working hours, public spending and social support, where the cost of care is too easily left out.

Part of the difficulty is that care is often understood as a private duty. People may feel a deep obligation to those close to them, and that commitment deserves respect. Yet the bonds that make care meaningful can also make it harder to ask for help. Guilt can grow when a caregiver needs rest or wants to keep working. Public policy can ease that pressure by making help easier to obtain. The ability to share responsibility allows caregivers to give attention freely, with enough time and energy to sustain the relationship over the long term.

The financial cost deserves particular attention. Time spent caring is time a person may be unable to spend earning a wage or gaining experience at work. That loss can follow someone long after their caring duties have changed. It can affect savings, retirement and the ability to make independent decisions. Paid leave and income support can reduce that burden, provided people can access them without facing a long and confusing process. The cost of support belongs in public budgets because the consequences of leaving it to individual households already fall across society.

The person receiving care also has a stake in how support is organised. They should be able to express their wishes and take part in decisions about their daily lives. Caregivers need room to raise concerns and set limits without fear of letting someone down. Good public services can help both sides maintain that balance. Support should be reliable enough for people to plan around it and flexible enough to respond when needs change. The quality of care depends in part on whether the people involved can speak honestly about what they can manage.

Recognising care means taking responsibility for the conditions under which it happens. Public leaders should pay attention to the time people spend caring, the income they lose and the support they can reach. Caregivers should have a direct role in setting those priorities, because they know how a delay or an unreliable service changes their daily responsibilities. Employers also have a role in making work predictable enough for people with caring duties to keep their jobs. These changes would give caregivers more control over their lives and give those who rely on them more secure support. People should be able to care for someone they love and still have the time, resources and freedom to build a life of their own.

— LATHA

ADULT FRIENDSHIP NEEDS TIME AND SPACE

Adults often learn to keep loneliness to themselves. Admitting that they want more company can feel like admitting that they have failed at something everyone else finds easy. That silence makes loneliness harder to see and easier to dismiss. It also gives public institutions an excuse to treat social connection as a matter of personal effort. Adults can take steps to build relationships, but their chances of doing so depend on how much time, money and freedom they have. The conditions that help people form and keep friendships deserve a place in discussions about public life.

Friendship takes repeated contact, and repeated contact takes time. People are less able to make plans when their working hours change without warning or their other responsibilities leave them little control over the day. A friendship can gradually weaken even when both people value it. That gradual loss can be especially hard to talk about because there is rarely a clear point at which it begins. Greater control over working time would give people more room to maintain relationships. Time to spend with others should count when public leaders and employers consider what makes a working life sustainable.

The design of public space matters too. People need somewhere they can spend time together without feeling obliged to buy anything or explain why they are there. Access has to be practical for people with different incomes, physical needs and schedules. The value of such space lies partly in the freedom it gives people to return regularly. Familiarity can build slowly, and the choice to stay or leave matters to those who find social contact tiring. Public space should welcome people who are still deciding how much company they want and what kind of contact feels comfortable.

There is also a difference between having contact and feeling known. A person can speak to many people during a day and still have nobody with whom to share a worry. Being heard requires time, trust and a willingness to accept that another person's needs may be unfamiliar. It takes patience to build that kind of connection. Public efforts to reduce loneliness should allow relationships to develop at their own pace. Counting attendance can help establish whether people have access, but it reveals little about whether they feel welcome or intend to come back.

"Asking for company should feel ordinary, and having time for it should be possible across income levels and at every stage of adult life."

The responsibility for reducing loneliness should be shared. Public officials can protect access to common spaces and consider whether the way services operate makes it easier for people to stay in touch. People should also be able to use shared spaces without having to disclose that they are lonely or seeking organised support. Employers can give workers more notice and control over their hours. Individuals can make room for friendships to change as people's lives change. The common goal is to give adults a fair chance to build relationships they value.

— ROSE

PUBLIC SERVICES SHOULD BE EASIER TO USE

Public services often ask people to prove that they qualify for help. Some checks are necessary to make sure resources reach the people entitled to them. But every request for proof costs time, and the people making those requests seldom bear that cost themselves. A process can look orderly from an office and still be difficult to complete from outside it. Public agencies should measure success by how well eligible people can receive a service. That requires paying attention to the work applicants are expected to do before their request is even considered.

An application takes more than the time needed to fill in a form. It requires people to understand what is being asked, gather the right information and work out what to do when instructions are unclear. That effort grows when separate offices ask for the same details or send applicants elsewhere for answers. People with limited time or money have less freedom to keep trying. When an application is abandoned, an agency may record a case as closed without finding out whether the person still needs help. That gap hides an important part of the service's performance.

Digital access can reduce waiting and make it easier to follow a request. It can also shift work to the applicant, who must have a suitable device and enough privacy to share personal information. Access to a person who can explain the process remains important. Agencies should give staff enough authority to answer questions and resolve errors. The first explanation an applicant receives should be clear enough to act on. Any deadlines and next steps should be stated plainly, especially when a decision may affect the person's income, housing or health.



A fair process also gives people a real opportunity to challenge a decision. The agency should explain its reasons in words the applicant can understand, and the applicant should have enough time to respond. That is particularly important when an error can interrupt a service someone relies on. Agencies can reduce mistakes by checking whether their instructions are understood and whether applicants can reach someone when they need help. They should pay attention to how many requests are left unfinished and find out why. Those findings can show where an apparently routine requirement is doing avoidable harm.

Making services easier to use takes work, and some of it belongs with the institutions that have the staff and authority to do it. Agencies should ask only for information they need, handle personal details carefully and explain how decisions are made. Agencies should also explain when people can expect a decision, so that they can make informed choices while they wait. They should also make it possible to correct an honest mistake without starting the whole process again. Public money is spent whenever people have to call repeatedly or resubmit information. Reducing that work can free staff to make better decisions. It can also give applicants back time they need to deal with the circumstances that brought them to the service.

— VELUMUTHU K.

AN APOLOGY SHOULD LEAD TO CHANGE

An apology can open a difficult conversation, but the person who has been hurt decides whether they want it to continue. Too often, the person who apologises sets the pace and expects relief as soon as the words are spoken. That expectation can place another burden on the person already dealing with the harm. A sincere apology should recognise that burden and allow room for a response that may take time. The point of apologising is to accept responsibility and begin to put things right. Any change in the relationship depends on what both people are willing to do afterwards.

People often struggle to admit fault because they fear what the admission will cost them. They may want to explain what they intended or make sure their own feelings are understood. There can be a time for that discussion, provided the apology itself makes clear what happened and who was affected. A person who accepts responsibility gives the other person space to describe how the harm was experienced. They listen even when the account is uncomfortable. That willingness can matter more than finding language that presents the person apologising in a favourable light.

Repair involves practical decisions about what should change. The person who caused the harm may be able to undo part of it or prevent it from happening again. Those steps should be shaped by the needs and wishes of the person affected. The effort should continue even if the injured person chooses to keep their distance. An apology loses credibility when a promise depends on immediate forgiveness. The person offering it has control over their own conduct and can show care by following through, including when their actions receive little recognition from others.

The same principle matters when an organisation apologises. Its leaders should explain who will take responsibility for making changes and how the people affected can raise further concerns. Those people should have a choice about whether to take part in the process. Requiring them to repeat painful details or follow up repeatedly can make a promise of repair feel like more work for them. An organisation can show that it takes responsibility by making it easier to get a clear answer and by reporting what has changed in a way people can check. Progress should be visible to the people affected even if they choose to have no further contact.

The hardest part of an apology may be accepting that it cannot restore the relationship as it was. People are free to decide what degree of contact feels safe and what they need before they can trust again. The person apologising can respect that decision without withdrawing the offer to repair what can still be repaired. That takes patience, especially when the consequences last longer than the conversation.

An apology has lasting value when the person who caused the harm accepts those consequences and changes their behaviour. The person who was hurt should be able to see that change without having to demand it.

— SHARON FAUSTINA J.

EVERYONE DESERVES RESPECT REGARDLESS OF EMPLOYMENT

People are often asked what they do for work before they are asked how they are. Employment can give a person a sense of purpose and belonging, but it also shapes how others judge their place in society. Losing a job can therefore mean losing income and feeling less entitled to be heard. That second loss is avoidable. A wage tells us something about a person's circumstances and very little about the respect they deserve. Public discussions about unemployment and income support should begin from the assumption that every person has the right to make decisions about their own life.

The line between employment and unemployment can change for reasons beyond any individual's control. Even when people are able to make choices about work, their options depend on their health, responsibilities and the conditions attached to available jobs. Treating employment as a measure of character obscures those differences. It also makes it harder for people to speak openly about what they need. Someone seeking work has enough to consider without having to defend their value as a person. Respectful treatment can make it easier to ask for help before financial pressure narrows the options further.

Paid work also leaves much of human effort outside the way we judge contribution. The time people give to one another helps sustain relationships and communities. Much of that effort goes unmeasured because it is shared freely or undertaken in private. A person's right to dignity, however, should hold even when they have little to give. Illness, exhaustion and grief can affect what people are able to do. They should be able to receive care and support without feeling they must justify it through their past achievements or a promise to become productive again.



There are consequences for the way public services deal with people out of work. Staff should speak plainly about what support is available and what conditions apply. People seeking help should have a chance to explain their circumstances and challenge decisions that affect them. Rules deserve scrutiny when they force people to spend scarce time proving their willingness to work at the expense of finding a suitable job. A fair system should make room for individual judgment and give people enough stability to decide what kind of work they can reasonably take on.

Work will remain an important part of how many people understand themselves. It can offer companionship, satisfaction and the means to live independently. The challenge is to protect those benefits while ensuring that people retain a voice and a sense of belonging when their employment changes. That responsibility belongs to public institutions and to the people who shape daily conversations about work. We can take someone's ambitions seriously while allowing them to decide how much of their identity a job should occupy. That respect also leaves people free to pursue work they find worthwhile without treating every career decision as permanent. Respect is most dependable when people can count on it through periods of work, unemployment and uncertainty.

— R. SOLOMON PRASHANTH

Quick Read

GreenLine deploys electric trucks for Kirloskar Ferrous

MUMBAI

GreenLine Mobility Solutions Ltd., an Essar Group venture and India's leading green logistics operator of LNG and electric-powered heavy commercial trucks, announced its partnership with Kirloskar Ferrous Industries Limited for the deployment of electric trucks to support its logistics operations.

The partnership was marked by the flag-off of electric trucks at Kirloskar Ferrous' plant in Taloja in Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra. The deployment brings electric mobility into Kirloskar Ferrous' goods transportation, adding another application for lower-emission solutions in industrial logistics.

Astrobase to invest Rs 800 cr in Andhra Pradesh

VISAKHAPATNAM

Astrobase Space Technologies on Thursday announced an investment of Rs 800 crore in Andhra Pradesh to significantly expand its rocket testing and launch vehicle development infrastructure, marking a major step in strengthening India's private space transportation ecosystem. The space technology company signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Andhra Pradesh Economic Development Board during the 31st CII Partnership Summit 2026 in Visakhapatnam to expand its existing rocket engine testing facility at Thimmasamudram in Sri Sathya Sai district. Under the expansion plan, Astrobase will add 339 acres to its existing facility, increasing the total footprint to around 360 acres from approximately 22 acres at present.



INSA endorses G20 science statement on using AI

NEW DELHI

The Indian National Science Academy (INSA) has endorsed the Joint Science20 (S20) Statement released by the science academies of the G20 countries, reaffirming its commitment to advancing science-based solutions for disaster preparedness and resilience, the Ministry of Science and Technology said on Thursday. The statement was released on November 10 under the leadership of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences (NAS) as part of the S20 engagement process.

INSA, an institution under the Department of Science and Technology (DST), actively participated in the S20 2026 deliberations and backed the recommendations aimed at helping governments harness advanced technologies to better prepare for and respond to natural hazards and disasters.

Developed through consultations among science academies across G20 nations, the statement is intended to guide discussions within member governments and will also be presented to the G20 ahead of the summit scheduled to be held in Miami, Florida, in December 2026.

India-EU discuss security, global conflicts

THE TWO SIDES ALSO EXCHANGED VIEWS ON THE UKRAINE CONFLICT AND OTHER PRESSING REGIONAL AND GLOBAL DEVELOPMENTS.



NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar met Marie-Agnes Strack-Zimmermann, Chair of the European Parliament's Committee on Security and Defence, on Thursday, to discuss strengthening India-European Union cooperation across several key sectors, including security, economy, technology and people-to-people ties.

The meeting also witnessed an exchange of views on the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict and other important regional and global developments.

Following the meeting, Jaishankar shared details of the discussion in a post on X. He described the interaction as productive and highlighted the areas discussed, along with possible next steps to advance bilateral engagement.

"Glad to meet Dr. Marie-Agnes Strack-Zimmermann, Chair of the European Parliament's Committee on Security and Defence. A good discussion on our security, economic, technological and people-to-people cooperation, and next steps," Jaishankar said.

The meeting comes amid continued diplomatic engagement between India and the European Union over pressing international developments, particularly the ongoing conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East.

Last month, Jaishankar met EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Kaja Kallas on the sidelines of the G20 Foreign Ministers' meeting in Atlanta. The two leaders discussed the Ukraine conflict and the situation in the Gulf region.

During the G20 meeting, both sides highlighted the importance of protecting maritime routes, ensuring energy security and strengthening global supply chains.

Jaishankar reiterated India's position that diplomacy remains essential in resolving international conflicts, while emphasising freedom of navigation and the protection of civilian shipping under international law.

> **"A good discussion on our security, economic, technological and people-to-people cooperation, and next steps."**
> — **S Jaishankar,** External Affairs Minister

India gears up for IITF with global participation



The 45th India International Trade Fair will showcase thousands of exhibitors, startups and regional products at Bharat Mandapam.

NEW DELHI

Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal is set to inaugurate the 45th India International Trade Fair (IITF) 2026 at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi, bringing together businesses, startups and exhibitors from across India and abroad.

Organised by the India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO), the fair will run from November 14 to 27, featuring more than 3,500 exhibitors across 17 halls covering over 1,00,000 square metres of exhibition space.

The event will feature 32 states and Union Territories, along with 51 Central Ministries, government departments, PSUs and public sector banks.

Bihar, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh have been designated Partner States, while Assam, Delhi, Jharkhand and West Bengal will participate as Focus States.

International exhibitors from 11 countries will showcase products and explore opportunities for strengthening global trade partnerships.

A major attraction will be the Hall of Inspiration in Hall 14, featuring approximately 600 Indian startups working across deep-tech, agri-tech, drones, space, healthcare and education technology.

The fair aims to strengthen market access for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, startups and small traders by connecting them with potential buyers and expanding commercial opportunities.

Organisers expect the exhibition to promote innovation, entrepreneurship and India's diverse industrial and cultural heritage.

ITPO Chairman Jawed Ashraf said IITF 2026 would celebrate India's progress, diversity and heritage, with a special focus on youth through startups and regional craftsmanship.

Andhra Pradesh plans investor protection law



Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu announced plans for legislation to protect investors from political vendetta and regime changes.

VISAKHAPATNAM

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Thursday announced that his government would introduce an Investment Protection Act to safeguard investors against political vendetta and uncertainties arising from changes in government.

Addressing the inaugural session of the 31st CII Partnership Summit in Visakhapatnam, Naidu said concerns over political developments and the possibility of decisions being reversed after regime changes were causing apprehension among investors.

He said the state government was preparing the proposed legislation and would forward the Bill to the Centre after securing its passage in the state Assembly.

Naidu also urged Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal to take up the proposal with the Central government and work towards introducing similar legislation at the national level.

The Chief Minister expressed confidence that a nationwide Investment Protection Act would provide greater assurance to domestic and international investors, encourage fresh investments and strengthen India's position as an investment destination.

Earlier, state Human Resources Development, Information Technology, Electronics and Real Time Governance Minister Nara Lokesh also announced that the government would enact legislation to protect investors.

Lokesh said the state, which had earlier pioneered the implementation of escrow accounts, was preparing to become the first state in the country to introduce such a law.

India second only to US in critical minerals pacts

NEW DELHI

India has signed 15 critical minerals-related agreements since January 2025, making the country one of the world's most active participants in the race to secure resources needed for the global energy transition, a new report has said.

India's agreements reveal a growing recognition that its clean energy ambitions hinge on securing access to unavailable or domestically insufficient resources such as lithium, cobalt, nickel, graphite, copper and rare earth elements, essential for electric vehicles, batteries, wind turbines, electricity grids and semiconductors.

India's National Critical Mineral Mission, approved in January 2025, aims to strengthen the entire critical minerals value chain from exploration and mining to processing, recycling and the recovery of minerals.

The programme, running from FY25 through FY31, envisages government expenditure of Rs 16,300 crore and aims to catalyse Rs 18,000 crore of investment by public sector undertakings.

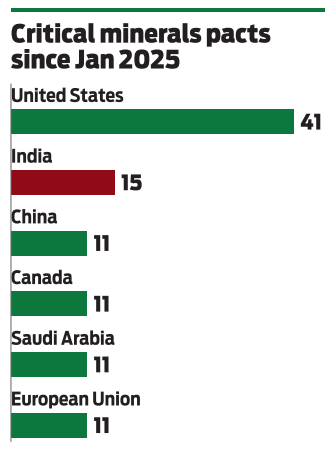


These include 1,200 domestic exploration projects led by the Geological Survey of India, with plans to secure 26 foreign mining assets through PSUs and 24 through the private sector.

"International partnerships are an important part of this strategy. State-owned Khanij Bidesh India Ltd (KABIL) has signed an agreement with Argentina's CAMYEN to explore and develop five lithium brine blocks covering 15,703 hectares in the province of Catamarca. India has also entered into an arrangement with Australia to explore opportunities for joint investment in lithium and cobalt assets," the report said.

India has also recently expanded cooperation with Germany and Norway on critical minerals, supply chain diversification, research, processing and recycling to develop the capacity to process minerals, manufacture higher-value products and set up a stronger domestic industrial ecosystem.

Critical minerals pacts since Jan 2025



Figures: Climate Action Live

Commercial real estate investment rises 15%

NEW DELHI

Investment in India's commercial real estate sector rose 15% year-on-year in the first nine months of 2026, while cross-border inflows reached $5.5 billion, according to a report released on Thursday.

The growth came as commercial real estate investment across the Asia-Pacific region climbed 27% from a year earlier to nearly $200 billion during the period, according to a report by Savills.

India remains one of the few markets in the region offering both relatively high rental yields and income growth, it added.

"India continues to strengthen its position as an attractive destination for global real estate investors," Anurag Mathur, chief executive of Savills India, said. Strong occupier demand, healthy rental growth and competitive yields were supporting investor confidence, while growing interest from overseas buyers reflected both current returns and long-term growth prospects, he added.

The report also highlighted India's urbanisation trend, noting that around 36% of the population lives in cities and that about 12 million people are being added to urban areas every year.

Across Asia-Pacific, investment activity remained concentrated among large institutional investors.



The 25 biggest buyers accounted for 47% of regional deal volumes in the first half of 2026, up from 34% two years earlier.

Among property segments, data centres posted the strongest growth with investment volumes rising 79% year-on-year, followed by retail assets at 36%.

15%	$5.5 bn	7.75-8%
rise in investment, Jan-Sep	cross-border inflows	Grade A office yields

Seoul shares snap rally on Nvidia worries

SEOUL

South Korean shares ended a two-day winning run on Thursday, slipping 0.6% as uncertainty over Nvidia's leadership weighed on the market.

The benchmark Korea Composite Stock Price Index (KOSPI) lost 32.63 points, or 0.61%, to finish at 5,342.73, after climbing 4.39% on Tuesday and 2.6% on Wednesday.

The index opened 0.2% higher and swung between gains and losses through the morning, touching a high of 5,458.84.

According to US media reports, Nvidia's board was preparing to remove chief executive Jensen Huang after reports of his alleged multiple extramarital affairs. Questions over Huang's future weighed on investors, as the US chip giant has close business ties with Korean technology companies.



Trading was light, with 233.7 million shares worth 20.6 trillion won (US$15.5 billion) changing hands, and decliners beat gainers 595 to 268. Foreign investors were net buyers of 370.4 billion won worth of shares, while institutions were net sellers of 690.3 billion won and individuals of 204.3 billion won.

"The KOSPI was hit by uncertainties stemming from the scandal involving Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang," said Lee Kyoung-min, an analyst from Daishin Securities. "At the same time, some investors sought profits following the recent rally."

Chip stocks mostly ended lower, although Samsung Electronics gained 0.97% to 208,000 won. SK hynix lost 1.8% to 1.25 million won, and chip equipment maker Hanmi Semiconductor slipped 1.14% to 181,900 won.

Samsung Electro-Mechanics fell 4.01% to 886,000 won, and SK hynix's parent, SK Square, eased 0.63% to 791,000 won. Internet company Naver, in which Nvidia is the third-largest shareholder, sank 6.43% to 181,800 won.

SPACE INTELLIGENCE

TDB backs AI-powered indigenous spy satellite project

NEW DELHI

The Technology Development Board (TDB) has signed an agreement with Bengaluru-based Astrome Technologies to provide financial assistance of Rs 64.05 crore for developing an indigenous artificial intelligence-enabled electronic intelligence satellite constellation for national security applications.

According to an official statement issued by the Ministry of Science and Technology on Thursday, the project has a total estimated cost of Rs 128.11 crore and will receive funding under the Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) Fund.



The initiative aims to establish a sovereign space-based electronic intelligence (ELINT) constellation, strengthening India's capabilities in strategic intelligence gathering, data processing and secure space communications.

Under the project, Astrome Technologies plans to develop and deploy a constellation of 50-kg-class microsatellites capable of providing wider geographical coverage and more frequent observation of designated areas.

The project

- **Total cost:** Rs 128.11 crore
- **TDB support:** Rs 64.05 crore from the RDI Fund
- **Satellites:** 50-kg-class microsatellites
- **Technology:** from TRL-4 to TRL-9

The company will also develop inter-satellite communication technology, enabling satellites to exchange information and function as an integrated network in low-Earth orbit.

TDB Secretary Rajesh Kumar Pathak said the initiative demonstrated the potential of India's deep-tech ecosystem to develop advanced space technologies by bringing together artificial intelligence, electronic intelligence and next-generation communication systems.

Astrome said the financial support would accelerate the development and integration of critical technologies and help take the programme towards operational readiness.

The latest agreement follows another major funding initiative by TDB in October, when it committed Rs 116 crore to Manastu Space Technologies for developing an integrated green propulsion system for satellites and launch vehicles.

The projects underline India's growing focus on strengthening indigenous space technologies and reducing dependence on foreign systems for strategic applications.

Quick Read

Trichy man missing after Malaysia flash flood

TIRUCHIRAPPALLI

The family of Durai Murugan, a man from Tamil Nadu's Tiruchirappalli district, has sought government intervention after he went missing in a flash flood at a Malaysian waterfall on November 9.Murugan, who had been working in Malaysia for two-and-a-half years, visited the waterfall with 17 friends during the Diwali holidays. Eight people were swept away, five bodies have been recovered, while three, including Murugan, remain missing.His wife last spoke to him at around 6.30 am on November 9. Relatives have urged the Tamil Nadu government to coordinate with Malaysian authorities and the Indian diplomatic mission to trace the missing man.

Woman allegedly plots boyfriend's murder, five arrested

TIRUR

Five people, including three women and two men, were arrested in Tirur, Malappuram district, for allegedly plotting to murder a young man at the request of his girlfriend.The 19-year-old woman, Safana, allegedly conspired with four friends to eliminate her boyfriend. Police said the group abducted him, robbed his mobile phone and brutally assaulted him.The victim had travelled to Tirur around midnight searching for his girlfriend. The accused allegedly lured him onto a motorcycle, forced him into a car and attacked him before abandoning him near a riverbank at Thazhepalam.The injured man approached the police, leading to an investigation.

Delhi battles heavy smog as AQI remains very poor

NEW DELHI

Delhi recorded an overall Air Quality Index (AQI) of 321 on Thursday morning, remaining in the 'very poor' category despite a marginal improvement. Thick smog continued to cover several areas, reducing visibility.According to pollution monitoring data, NSUT Jaffarpur recorded the highest AQI at 399, followed by Chandni Chowk at 387 and Pusa at 386. Pollution levels worsened after Diwali celebrations on November 8, with several areas previously recording severe levels above 400.The Delhi government has deployed water sprinklers, while Stage III restrictions under the Graded Response Action Plan remain in force across Delhi-NCR.

AP sets three-phase panchayat poll schedule

AMARAVATI

The Andhra Pradesh State Election Commission on Thursday announced a three-phase schedule for gram panchayat elections across the state, with polling scheduled for November 26, November 29 and December 2. State Election Commissioner Anil Chandra Punetha also announced election dates for 23 pending urban local bodies, including four municipal corporations and 19 municipalities and nagar panchayats.

Guwahati becomes first city in Assam to win Swachh City honour

Guwahati makes history as Assam's first Swachh City, earning national recognition for its collective efforts towards urban cleanliness and sanitation.

GUWAHATI

Guwahati has achieved a major milestone in urban cleanliness by receiving the prestigious Swachh Sarvekshan Award under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban). With this recognition, the city has become the first in Assam to receive the distinction of a Swachh City from the Government of India.

The award was presented by President Droupadi Murmu at a ceremony held at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi on Tuesday. Assam Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Kaushik Rai received the honour along with Guwahati Municipal Corporation (GMC) Mayor Mrigen Sarania, Housing and Urban Affairs Commissioner and Secretary Kavitha Padmanabhan, and GMC Commissioner Chinmoy Prakash Phukan. Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Manohar Lal Khattar and Minister of State Tokhan Sahu were also present during the ceremony.



Guwahati receives the Swachh City honour at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi on Tuesday

Team effort hailed

The recognition highlights the collective efforts of sanitation workers, government officials, municipal employees and residents in improving the city's cleanliness and waste management practices.

Minister Kaushik Rai expressed gratitude to Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma for his continued guidance and support in strengthening urban sanitation and civic infrastructure. He congratulated the officials, workers and residents who contributed to achieving the recognition.

> **"Cleanliness is not just a civic responsibility; it is a collective commitment to building a healthier and more sustainable city."**
> — **Kaushik Rai,** Assam Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs

Rai said the award was not merely an achievement but also a responsibility to maintain and improve the city's cleanliness standards. He acknowledged the contribution of sanitation workers, describing their efforts as essential to creating a healthier urban environment.



Guwahati: Assam's first Swachh City

The recognition marks an important step in Guwahati's urban development journey.

Hyderabad police station to become India's first AI hub

HYDERABAD

Hyderabad's Panjagutta Police Station is set to become India's first AI-powered police station, transforming public services, investigations and police efficiency through technology.

Panjagutta Police Station in Hyderabad is being developed as India's first artificial intelligence-based police station, with plans to integrate AI technology into its services to improve public access, police efficiency and investigation procedures.

Hyderabad City Police Commissioner V.C. Sajjanar announced that the initiative is being developed as a pilot project under the directions of Director General of Police C.V. Anand. The project is expected to be launched during the first week of December.

Surprise inspection

During a surprise inspection on Wednesday, Sajjanar reviewed the technological arrangements and interacted with complainants to understand their concerns.

One of the key features will be the 'SETU' kiosk installed at the station reception. It will allow victims to register complaints in nearly 10 languages. Artificial intelligence will translate the complaints into the local language and forward them to the concerned officers within moments, making the process easier for people who face language barriers.

The new system will also use AI for several police procedures, including First Information Report registration, case diaries, investigation reports and charge sheet preparation.

Sajjanar added that AI-based analysis of traffic congestion, hostels, commercial buildings and crime records in the Panjagutta area would help improve patrolling arrangements.

What AI will do

- SETU kiosk takes complaints in nearly 10 languages
- FIR registration and case diaries
- Investigation reports and charge sheets
- Traffic and crime-record analysis for patrols

President Murmu encourages tribal students to pursue ambitions through education



President Droupadi Murmu with Eklavya Model Residential School students at Rashtrapati Bhavan on Thursday

NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu interacted with meritorious students from Eklavya Model Residential Schools at Rashtrapati Bhavan on Thursday, encouraging them to pursue their ambitions through education, dedication and self-confidence.

The interaction was organised by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs as part of Janjatiya Gaurav Pakhwada, observed to mark the birth anniversary of tribal freedom fighter Bhagwan Birsa Munda. Addressing the students, Murmu highlighted the importance of providing equal educational opportunities to every section of society to achieve the goal of Viksit Bharat by 2047. She said Eklavya schools were helping tribal students receive quality education while developing their talents in different fields.

The President emphasised that India had no shortage of talent but students needed proper guidance, opportunities and a supportive environment to succeed. She also appreciated the equal representation of boys and girls in these residential schools, describing it as a sign of progress towards inclusive development. She urged students to aim high and work towards their dreams with discipline and determination.

Murmu also encouraged students to use their education beyond securing personal employment. She said they should aim to become job creators and contribute to the country's economic growth.

She urged students to share information about government welfare schemes and current affairs with their families and communities whenever they returned to their villages.

Shah's Delhi Police review targets organised crime



Union Home Minister Amit Shah

NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah was scheduled to visit the Delhi Police Headquarters on Thursday to review the law-and-order situation and discuss measures to tackle organised crime, illegal weapons trafficking and other unlawful activities in the national capital.

According to police sources, Shah was to meet senior officers and issue directions to develop an effective strategy against criminal networks. He was also expected to seek updates on measures taken to improve women's safety and control the illegal drug trade, issues discussed during his previous visit on October 24. The meeting was to focus on strengthening security arrangements and improving coordination among law enforcement agencies.

During his earlier visit, Shah held discussions with senior police officials in the presence of Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta. The discussions covered women's safety and measures to prevent drug-related activities. The meeting also took place amid protests by opposition parties and student organisations over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

The Union government has set a target of making India drug-free by December 31, 2029. Announcing the deadline during Police Commemoration Day, Shah described drug abuse as a serious challenge facing the country. He said, "We have set a target to eliminate the drug menace from India by December 31, 2029."

Modi recalls media's move from press releases to Instagram reels

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday highlighted the transformation of India's media industry, recalling how communication methods had changed from traditional press releases to social media platforms such as Instagram Reels. He made the remarks while addressing journalists during a Diwali Milan gathering at the Bharatiya Janata Party headquarters in Delhi.

Extending festive greetings to journalists and their families ahead of Chhath, Modi recalled his early experiences handling media communication for the party. He said, "I have witnessed the entire evolution of media communication—from the era of the press release to the age of the Instagram reel."



Prime Minister Narendra Modi

> *"I have witnessed the entire evolution of media communication—from the era of the press release to the age of the Instagram reel."*
> **NARENDRA MODI** PM

Recalling the 1990s, the Prime Minister said communication was difficult when technology was limited. During his responsibilities for two nationwide campaigns, he often had to search for fax machines to send press releases. Despite fewer cameras and limited technology, he said relationships with journalists remained strong.

Modi also recalled how journalists informed him about his appointment as Gujarat Chief Minister before many party members knew about it.

The gathering also marked his reflections on completing 25 years as head of a government. Modi first became Gujarat Chief Minister on October 7, 2001, before becoming Prime Minister in 2014.

Namo Bharat crosses 5 crore journeys, last crore in just 93 days

NEW DELHI

India's first Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS), Namo Bharat, has crossed five crore passenger journeys, marking a major achievement in regional public transportation. The latest milestone was reached on November 10, with the corridor recording its most recent one crore journeys in just 93 days, according to an official release.

The corridor has witnessed a steady rise in passenger numbers since operations began on October 21, 2023, with the launch of the 17-km priority section between Sahibabad and Duhai Depot. It took 574 days to reach its first crore passenger journeys on May 16, 2025. The second crore was achieved on December 11, 2025, followed by three crores on May 2, 2026, and four crores on August 10, 2026.

35 lakh trips in August

Passenger numbers remained strong between August and October 2026. The corridor recorded 35.25 lakh journeys in August, 32.41 lakh in September and 33.49 lakh in October. Its highest single-day ridership of 1,68,666 journeys was recorded on August 28.

The corridor connects Delhi, Ghaziabad and Meerut through air-conditioned coaches, reliable services and interchange facilities. The entire corridor, along with Meerut Metro, became operational on February 22, 2026.

Namo Bharat's crore journeys

- **MAY 16, 2025** — 1 crore journeys
- **DECEMBER 11, 2025** — 2 crore
- **MAY 2, 2026** — 3 crore
- **AUGUST 10, 2026** — 4 crore
- **NOVEMBER 10, 2026** — 5 crore

The National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) also received the 'Best Passenger Services and Satisfaction' award at the Urban Mobility India Conference and Expo 2026 in Bhubaneswar.

COASTAL DEFENCE DRILL

Navy launches nationwide coastal security exercise Sea Vigil

5th	9 days	2
edition of Sea Vigil	November 11-19	phases: audit, then drills

VASCO

The Indian Navy has launched the fifth edition of its nationwide coastal defence exercise, Sea Vigil-26, to strengthen maritime security and assess India's preparedness against potential threats. The exercise is being conducted along the country's coastline and Exclusive Economic Zone from November 11 to 19.

The biennial exercise is divided into two phases. The first phase, running from November 11 to 17, focuses on evaluating coastal security arrangements. Audit teams comprising personnel from the Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, Fisheries and Customs are inspecting coastal police stations, fishing centres and other important security installations to identify gaps and operational challenges.

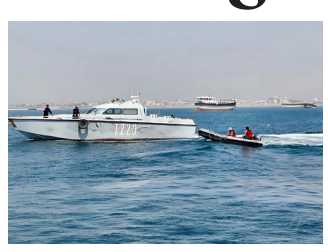
Finding the gaps

Captain James John, Officiating Chief Staff Officer of the Goa Naval Area, said the evaluation would help authorities identify weaknesses in existing security systems and improve preparedness.

Red force, blue force

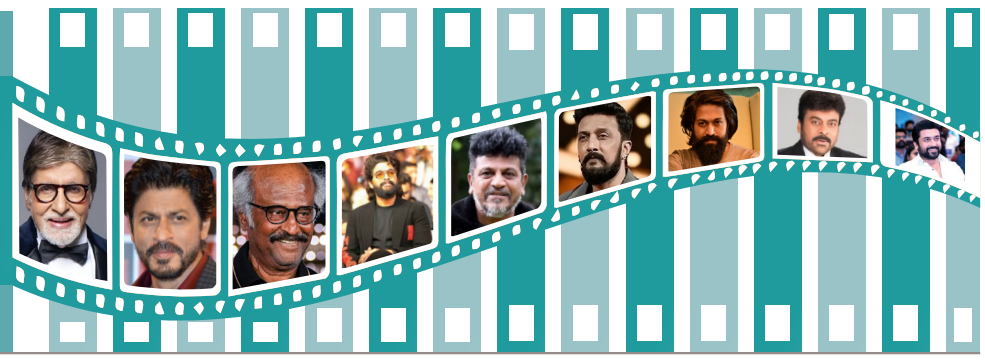
The second phase, scheduled for November 18 and 19, will involve a tactical exercise featuring red and blue forces. The red force will simulate hostile elements attempting to enter coastal areas, while the blue force will represent security agencies working together to protect the coastline.

The exercise will involve all coastal states and Union Territories, with participation from the Navy, Coast Guard, coastal police, Customs, fishing communities and other maritime organisations. Introduced in 2018 following the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks,



Sea Vigil-26 runs along India's coastline and Exclusive Economic Zone till November 19

Sea Vigil aims to test India's coastal defence arrangements.



Jailer 2 OTT release gets mixed reactions



Rajinikanth's action entertainer Jailer 2 has finally arrived on Amazon Prime Video, bringing excitement among fans. However, while several viewers have praised the performances and entertainment value, others have expressed disappointment over the streaming quality and absence of additional scenes.

Directed by Nelson Dilipkumar, the sequel has attracted positive reactions following its OTT release. Fans have appreciated Rajinikanth's screen presence, the director's storytelling and Anirudh Ravichander's background music.

Several viewers have praised the combination of action, comedy and dark humour. Suraj Venjaramoodu's performance has also received appreciation. Some fans described the film as an entertaining sequel with engaging storytelling and well-timed humour.

However, the digital release has also attracted criticism. Several viewers have complained about the audio and video quality on Amazon Prime Video. Some questioned why a major film was not offering a better streaming experience.

According to viewer discussions, the film is available in 4K SDR with 5.1-channel sound but does not support Dolby Vision, Dolby Atmos or HDR. The absence of an extended version has also disappointed some fans.

Several viewers had expected additional scenes featuring actors Mohanlal and Santhanam. However, the streaming version reportedly contains the same theatrical cut without extra footage.

The film features Rajinikanth alongside Mohanlal, Shivarajkumar, Vijay Sethupathi, Vidya Balan, S.J. Suryah, Mithun Chakraborty, Santhanam, Suraj Venjaramoodu and Yogi Babu.

Produced by Sun Pictures, the film has music composed by Anirudh Ravichander. Despite complaints about the streaming experience, its OTT release has renewed interest among Rajinikanth's fans.

Shah Rukh Khan reveals Mannat was once unaffordable



Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan has spoken about his long-standing dream of owning a house, revealing that even his iconic Mumbai residence, Mannat, was once beyond his financial reach. The actor shared his personal experiences at an event in Dubai hosted by filmmaker Karan Johar.

The event was organised for Shahrukhz Residences by Danube and was attended by his wife, Gauri Khan. Recalling his childhood, Shah Rukh said losing his parents at a young age made owning a home particularly important to him. He revealed that he did not have a house of his own until he married Gauri.

The actor said that both the first house he purchased with Gauri and their later residence, Mannat, were beyond their financial means at the time. He described a home as a place where people can find comfort, regain confidence and prepare themselves to face life's challenges.

Encouraging people to pursue their dreams, Shah Rukh said that faith, determination and self-belief could help them achieve their goals. He also shared that his children often tease him about wanting to buy houses in different cities. During the event, the actor recreated popular dialogues from Raees and Om Shanti Om. He also danced to Tu Mil Jaaye, a song from his upcoming film King.

Shah Rukh purchased Mannat in Mumbai's Bandra in 2001. The property is currently undergoing renovation, with the work reportedly expected to be completed by December 2026.

Directed by Siddharth Anand, King also stars Suhana Khan, Deepika Padukone and Abhishek Bachchan. The film is scheduled for release on December 24, 2026.

Barbara Broccoli named president of UK Film school

James Bond producer Barbara Broccoli has been appointed the next president of the UK's National Film and Television School (NFTS). She will succeed Oscar-winning producer Lord David Puttnam, becoming the first woman to hold the position in the institution's history.

Puttnam, known for producing films such as Chariots of Fire, The Killing Fields and Midnight Express, will take on the honorary role of president emeritus. Broccoli's appointment comes ahead of the opening of the Cubby Broccoli Building at the school's Beaconsfield campus in January 2027. The building is named after her father, Albert R. 'Cubby' Broccoli, who established the James Bond film franchise.

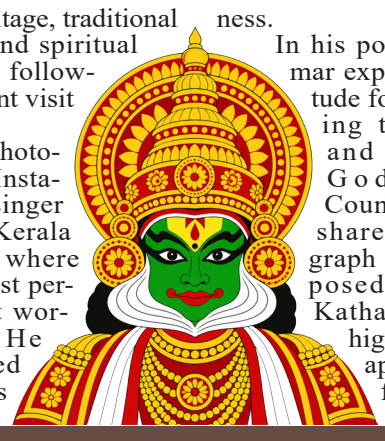
The new facility will feature modern teaching spaces, specialist creative facilities and the institution's first purpose-built, fully accessible accommodation for students.

Expressing her happiness over the appointment, Broccoli said she was honoured to follow Puttnam. She also highlighted the school's contribution to developing new filmmaking talent and preparing future professionals for the entertainment industry.

Puttnam welcomed her appointment and expressed confidence in her leadership. He also reflected on his long association with the institution, describing his experience there as an important part of his professional journey.

Broccoli has been associated with the NFTS for several years and is recognised for her contribution to the James Bond film franchise. Her appointment marks a new chapter for the institution as it prepares to expand its facilities and support emerging filmmakers.

Roopkumar Rathod praises Kerala's timeless cultural heritage



...a place where art is not just performed but worshipped

Singer and music composer Roopkumar Rathod has praised Kerala's rich cultural heritage, traditional art forms and spiritual atmosphere following his recent visit to the state.

Sharing photographs on Instagram, the singer described Kerala as a place where art is not just performed but worshipped. He also praised the state's traditions, saying they reflect centuries of history and India's cultural richness.

In his post, Roopkumar expressed gratitude for experiencing the warmth and beauty of God's Own Country. He also shared a photograph in which he posed alongside Kathakali artists, highlighting his appreciation for Kerala's traditional performing arts.

The singer's visit comes shortly after his trip to Banaras last month. During that visit, he shared photographs and reflected on the spiritual atmosphere of the ancient city.

Roopkumar said he had initially visited Banaras hoping to capture beautiful photographs but returned with a deeper sense of peace and stillness. He described the mornings in Kashi as a reminder of spiritual renewal and shared the message, 'Har Har Mahadev!'

Through his social media posts, the singer has shared his appreciation for India's diverse cultural traditions and spiritual destinations.

Choreographer Sekhar uninjured in truck crash

Dance choreographer Jani Master has confirmed that his colleague Sekhar Master is safe following a road accident near Shamshabad in Hyderabad. He also said that Sekhar would return to the sets of actor Chiranjeevi's upcoming film Kaaka.

Taking to X on Thursday, Jani Master said he had received several calls from people enquiring about the accident. He added that he had spoken to Sekhar and was happy to know that he was doing well. He also urged everyone to pray for Sekhar's good health and safety.

According to reports, the accident took place on November 11 near Kollur Junction in the Shamshabad area. Sekhar was returning home after completing a song shoot for Kaaka when a truck carrying fruit reportedly hit his vehicle. He escaped the incident without life-threatening injuries. Meanwhile, Kaaka has generated considerable interest among film fans. Directed by Bobby Kolli, the film marks his second collaboration with Chiranjeevi after Waltair Veerayya. Filmmaker and actor Anurag Kashyap has also joined the cast in an important role.

KIARA ADVANI DISMISSES RUMOURS OF QUITTING ACTING



Popular Bollywood actress Kiara Advani has firmly ended rumors suggesting she plans to step away from the film industry to focus entirely on her personal life and growing family.

The star, currently expecting her second child with her husband and fellow actor Sidharth Malhotra, made it clear that embracing motherhood will not slow down her professional career. She stated her intention to keep accepting interesting movie roles that align with her artistic goals.

The couple recently appeared together on filmmaker Karan Johar's popular talk show, Koffee With Karan Season 9. During their candid conversation on the program, they shared details about their relationship history, family life, and individual journeys in cinema. Kiara fondly recalled how Sidharth first noticed her talent after watching her performance in the anthology film Lust Stories, which eventually blossomed into a strong friendship, a loving relationship, and marriage.

Aside from domestic life, the actress openly addressed the heavy online criticism she faced regarding her intimate scenes with actor Yash in the movie Toxic. She discussed the emotional toll brought on by the severe internet trolling and the film's disappointing box-office performance. However, she credited Sidharth for offering unwavering support during that tough period, noting that her husband was completely unfothered by the controversy surrounding her screen role.

By speaking out on television, Kiara has successfully cleared up widespread questions concerning her future in entertainment. Her resolute stance reassures fans that she remains fully dedicated to her craft, ready to balance family responsibilities with her passion for acting in upcoming cinema projects.

Mouli faces crucial box office test with DNK



Actor and social media personality Mouli Tanuj Prasanth is preparing for an important phase in his film career as his second film, DNK, is set to release in theatres.

After making a successful debut with Little Hearts, the actor now faces the challenge of repeating that success.

Mouli gained popularity through his YouTube videos, Instagram content and short films before entering the film industry. His debut film, Little Hearts, became an unexpected box-office success and brought him recognition. The film's performance also earned him an opportunity to work with leading production house Mythri Movie Makers.

In DNK, Mouli shares the screen with Sushmita Shetty, who plays his partner. Actors Rajitha and Ali appear as his parents. The film explores online betting addiction and its financial impact on young people, using humour to present the subject.

Mythri Movie Makers has also involved Mouli as a production partner in the project. The arrangement is aimed at controlling expenses and avoiding unnecessary spending. Mouli has reportedly said that the filmmaking experience taught him valuable lessons.

However, the film faces competition from major releases, including Ramayana: Part 1, starring Ranbir Kapoor and Yash.

A positive response to DNK could strengthen Mouli's position in the Telugu film industry and help him secure bigger opportunities. The film's performance will be an important test of his ability to sustain his early success.

Sonia Gandhi memoir set for Telugu film

Congress leader Sonia Gandhi's autobiography, Belonging: A Journey of Love, is set to be adapted into a Telugu feature film, Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) Working President T. Jagga Reddy announced on Thursday.

He made the announcement at a Congress workers' meeting in Sangareddy and appealed to party leaders and workers to contribute towards the film's production. Constituency Congress convenor Julakanti Anjaneyulu announced a contribution of Rs 2 crore for the project.

Jagga Reddy proposed forming a 50-member committee to oversee the initial production arrangements. Gandhi Bhavan Public Relations Officer Hariprasad will supervise the proposed committee. He also said that Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and TPCC President B. Mahesh Kumar Goud would be invited to launch the shooting after the preparations were completed.



Divya Bharathi gets emotional at G.O.A.T event

Actress Divya Bharathi became emotional at the pre-release event of her Telugu film G.O.A.T (Greatest Of All Time) in Hyderabad while speaking about producer Chandrasekhar Reddy Mogulla and the challenges faced during the film's production.

The actress said she had been waiting for nearly two years for the film's release and described it as an important project in her career. She also highlighted the film's message about online betting and gambling in rural areas.

Praising the producer for his efforts, Divya Bharathi said Chandrasekhar Reddy had faced several difficulties but remained committed to completing the project. She became tearful while speaking about his contribution, prompting members of the film team to comfort her. She later apologised to the audience for becoming emotional.

The event was attended by actor Manchu Manoj and producer Niranjan Reddy as special guests. Director Vedavyas spoke about the growing problem of online betting and gambling and explained how the film addresses the issue through a village-based story.

Starring Sudigali Sudheer and Divya Bharathi, G.O.A.T is directed by Vedavyas Akula and presented by Asian Cinemas.

The film also features Anaswara Rajan and Nivetha Pethuraj in important roles. It was scheduled for a theatrical release on November 12, 2026.

SCENE box office slows as Ramayana continues soaring



Suriya's latest action entertainer, Scene, has witnessed a sharp decline in box-office collections after a strong opening weekend. The film has earned ₹188 crore worldwide in six days but is yet to cross the ₹200-crore mark.

The film started its theatrical run on a positive note, collecting ₹63 crore net in India during its opening weekend. It added another ₹21 crore on Monday. However, its collections dropped by 40 per cent on Tuesday, followed by a further 37 per cent decline on Wednesday, when it earned just over ₹8 crore net domestically.

According to the reported figures, Scene has collected ₹105 crore net in India, with its domestic gross standing at ₹122 crore. Its overseas earnings have reached $7 million, including approximately $450,000 on Wednesday.

The film's declining collections coincide with the strong performance of Ramayana, which has attracted audiences during the same period. Despite the slowdown, Scene is expected to approach the ₹200-crore worldwide milestone in the coming days.

Directed by Jithu Madhavan, the film stars Suriya as a police officer named Inbaraaj. Nazriya Nazim makes her return to Tamil cinema after 12 years, while Naslen makes his Tamil debut. The cast also includes Anandaraj, Lal and Gajaraj.

Produced by 2D Entertainment and Zhagaram Studios, the film will need a strong second weekend to improve its domestic box-office performance.

Quick Read

Nvidia board weighs Jensen Huang's future

Nvidia

Nvidia's 10-member board is weighing whether Jensen Huang should remain chief executive after reports about his personal conduct. Reuters reported that directors discussed possible successors and an interim appointment on Wednesday, days after expressing confidence in Huang. He acknowledged being unfaithful in a memo to staff. The New York Times later reported an affair with an Nvidia executive who reported to him. The board includes early investor Tench Coxe, Caltech professor John Dabiri, lawyer Stephen Neal and former PepsiCo executive Dawn Hudson. Huang has led Nvidia since it's founding in 1993, turning it into a leading supplier of AI chips.

PTM seeks answers about missing activists

PESHAWAR

The UK chapter of the Pashtun Tahafuz Movement has demanded answers about two activists who disappeared in Pakistan a year ago. Hanif Pashteen and Noor Ullah Tareen went missing on November 12, 2025, after attending a peace meeting in Peshawar as community representatives. Amnesty International said police took the men into custody as they left the gathering. The UK chapter has raised their case with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sohail Afridi and highlighted it at a protest outside Britain's Parliament. Amnesty International has urged Pakistani authorities to disclose where the men are and either release them or bring lawful charges.

10 DIE IN NEPAL ELECTRIC VAN CRASH

An electric passenger van plunged down a hillside in central Nepal on Thursday, leaving at least ten dead and five injured.

KATHMANDU

At least ten people were killed and five others were injured on Thursday when an electric passenger van went off a mountain road in central Nepal. The van was travelling from Kathmandu to Sarlahi district when it crashed near Bhimphedi in Makwanpur district.

The crash happened early in the morning at Chisapani Gadhi, about 60 kilometres southwest of Kathmandu. The van was on the road that links the capital with Kulekhani and Bhimphedi. Police told the Associated Press that the vehicle rolled about 700 metres down the hillside before coming to a stop.

Five men, three women and two girls were among those killed. The driver was also among the dead. Police officers from a nearby station helped take the injured to hospitals for treatment. Teams from the Nepal Police, the Armed Police Force and the Nepal Army took part in the rescue.



Rescue on a steep slope

Police found a young boy alive on the hillside above the crash site. The Kathmandu Post reported that the five injured passengers were being treated at Hetauda Hospital. The steep slope and the remote location made it difficult for rescue teams to reach the site and help the passengers.

Some of the passengers were heading to Sarlahi to celebrate Chhath, local media reported. The crash came during a week of festival travel in Nepal. The Associated Press reported that people were also travelling home to spend time with their families during Tihar.

Officials had identified the driver and one passenger by midday. Local officials were still working to confirm the names of the other eight people who died.

Kantipur reported that the van was built to seat ten people and was carrying 15 when it went off the road. Police were investigating what caused the crash.

THE CRASH

10	KILLED, AT LEAST
5	INJURED
15	ABOARD A 10-SEAT VAN
700 m	ABOUT HOW FAR THE VAN ROLLED

XI renews push for unification with Taiwan

BEIJING

President Xi Jinping called for peaceful unification with Taiwan on Thursday, saying it was bound to happen. Taiwan's government rejected his remarks and said people on the island could not accept rule by China's Communist Party.

Xi spoke at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing at an event marking 160 years since the birth of Sun Yat-sen. Sun helped lead the 1911 uprising that ended imperial rule and led to the founding of the Republic of China. Its government moved to Taiwan in 1949 after losing the civil war to the Communists.

Xi said Beijing was willing to talk with Taiwan on the basis that both sides belong to one China. He repeated Beijing's offer of a system that would give Taiwan some control over its own affairs under Chinese rule. No major Taiwanese political party supports the proposal.

Taiwan's Mainland Affairs Council said accepting Beijing's offer would mean submitting to Communist Party rule. Council spokesperson Liang Wen-chieh said Xi's remarks largely repeated Beijing's previous position.

Xi did not mention military force in his speech. Beijing has kept that option open. Taiwan's defence ministry said it detected 29 Chinese military aircraft, including fighter jets and drones, taking part in a patrol with Chinese warships nearby on Thursday.

India-Brazil plan joint satellite rocket



The Skyroot-Concert memorandum of understanding being signed

BRAZIL

An Indian space company and a Brazilian technology firm have agreed to work together on a rocket that could carry small satellites into orbit. The project brings together India's Skyroot Aerospace and Brazil's Concert Technologies, a company involved in Brazil's programme to develop a small satellite launcher.

The companies signed a memorandum of understanding in October at the International Astronautical Congress in Antalya, Turkey. The agreement sets out an initial two-year plan. Their proposed rocket would be able to carry at least 100 kilograms into low Earth orbit. That is the region close to Earth where many satellites circle the planet.

Brazil's small launcher programme, known as MLBR, said the proposed rocket would sit between its own vehicle, designed to carry up to 40 kilograms, and larger rockets in Skyroot's Vikram family. The partners plan to draw on work already done in both programmes to develop the new vehicle.

The proposed rocket would be able to carry at least 100 kilograms into low Earth orbit

The Brazilian programme said the project could give satellite operators another launch option, particularly for satellites that need to travel around Earth near the equator. A date for its first flight was still unclear.

The two countries have worked together on satellite launches before. In February 2021, the Indian Space Research Organisation launched Brazil's Amazônia-1 satellite from Sriharikota. Brazil designed, assembled and tested that satellite, which was built to collect images of Earth. Its launch showed how the countries could work together to put a Brazilian satellite into orbit.

Iran sets 7 conditions for US talks

TEHRAN

Iran will decide whether to hold talks with the United States after Washington meets seven conditions set by Tehran, Basij chief Hossein Taeb said on Thursday. He said Iran would decide how the talks would be held and what they would cover once those terms were met.

Taeb spoke at a ceremony honouring members of the Revolutionary Guards' Aerospace Force who were killed in the war.

Ghalibaf's demands

Iranian parliament speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf had outlined several of Tehran's demands in an interview with Al Jazeera on Wednesday. He said Iran wanted Washington to lift sanctions, end its naval blockade of Iranian ports and withdraw extra US forces sent to the region after the war.



File picture: a gathering in Iran

Ghalibaf also called for an end to fighting involving Iran and its allies, a ceasefire in Lebanon and the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanese territory. He said the future of the Strait of Hormuz had to be part of any talks.

Rezaei denies talks

Mohsen Rezaei, the secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, said on Tuesday that Tehran was not holding talks with Washington. Rezaei said Iran would keep the Strait of Hormuz closed until its conditions were met.

Ghalibaf, who leads Iran's negotiating team, said Tehran had already sent Washington its position and was waiting for a formal answer.

Some of Tehran's demands

- **Sanctions:** lifted
- **Ports:** the naval blockade ended
- **US forces:** extra troops sent after the war withdrawn
- **Lebanon:** a ceasefire and Israeli withdrawal
- **Hormuz:** the strait's future part of any talks

Fire guts rooms at Bangladeshi MP Tabassum's Kushtia home

KUSHTIA

A fire destroyed five rooms at the family home of Bangladeshi lawmaker Nusrat Tabassum in Kushtia overnight. Tabassum said petrol bombs were thrown at the property. Local police said on Thursday they had found no physical evidence of a petrol bomb and were still investigating the cause.

The fire broke out in Baguan village in Daulatpur. Tabassum said her grandfather built the house and that she grew up there. Police said the old building was used to store furniture and animal feed and to keep livestock. Two goats died in the fire, while the caretaker escaped unharmed. Police said Tabassum's parents lived in a separate building about 20 minutes from the house.

Daulatpur police chief Khaledur Rahman said Tabassum called shortly after midnight to report the fire. Police and firefighters went to the property, and local residents helped bring the flames under control. Officers stayed at the site through the night.

Tabassum, who became known during Bangladesh's 2024 uprising, is a joint convener of the National Citizen Party and holds a seat in parliament reserved for women. In a Facebook post after the fire, she said she would continue her work. Party spokesperson Asif Mahmud Shojib Bhuyain also alleged that the property had been attacked with petrol bombs.

Rahman said police had found no glass fragments to support the allegation. The fire service had yet to submit its findings, he said. Electricity officials also inspected the property to see whether a short circuit might have started the blaze, and their findings were still pending. Police were looking into the cause of the fire and whether anyone was responsible.

Who is Nusrat Tabassum

Tabassum, who became known during Bangladesh's 2024 uprising, is a joint convener of the National Citizen Party and holds a seat in parliament reserved for women.

US envoys arrive in Moscow for talks with Putin

MOSCOW

US envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner arrived in Moscow on Thursday for talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin. Their visit followed two days of meetings in Abu Dhabi, where the United States brought Russian and Ukrainian officials together to discuss ending the war.

Kirill Dmitriev, a special envoy for Putin, met the Americans at Vnukovo Airport. Russia's state news agency TASS reported that the three left the airport in a convoy. Kushner had announced the Moscow trip on Wednesday after the meetings in the United Arab Emirates.

Abu Dhabi talks

The Abu Dhabi meetings marked the first direct talks between Russia and Ukraine with US mediators in nine months. Russian and Ukrainian negotiators reported some progress, but the US side said major differences remained, including over territory.

Kushner said the sides had agreed to arrange a large release of prisoners on humanitarian grounds. He said the numbers still had to be settled and that he expected them to be finalised on Thursday. The proposed release was one of the few concrete steps Kushner described after the talks.

Europe at the table

Kushner also said Washington wanted European representatives to take part in future negotiations. Bringing them into the process was one of the issues the envoys planned to raise in Moscow.

In focus

- → US envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner arrived in Moscow for talks with Vladimir Putin on ending the war in Ukraine.
- → Kushner said the Abu Dhabi talks produced an agreement to release prisoners, with the numbers still to be settled. Disputes over territory remained.
- → The envoys planned to brief Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in Dublin after their meeting with Putin.

After their talks with Putin, Witkoff and Kushner planned to travel to Dublin to brief Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on their Thursday meeting with Putin and discuss ideas that came up in Abu Dhabi.

North Korea rejects G7 call to disarm

SEOUL

On Thursday, North Korea rejected a call from the Group of Seven to give up its nuclear weapons. Foreign Minister Choe Son-hui said her country would keep its arsenal, arguing that it was essential to protecting North Korea's independence.

Choe's remarks, carried by the state-run Korean Central News Agency, followed a meeting of G7 foreign ministers in Paris earlier this week. In a joint statement, the ministers condemned North Korea's nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programmes. They renewed their call for the country to give up its nuclear weapons in line with United Nations Security Council resolutions, which bar Pyongyang from developing those weapons.

Choe said denying North Korea's status as a nuclear-armed country amounted to an act of hostility

Choe argued that North Korea had a constitutional right to possess nuclear weapons. She accused the United States and its allies of applying a double standard, pointing out that the United States and Britain both have nuclear weapons and belong to the G7. She said the group had no right to judge other countries' nuclear policies.

The foreign minister said she saw no way for the G7's demand to be put into practice.

Choe also said that denying North Korea's status as a nuclear-armed country amounted to an act of hostility.

COP31 leaders push for cleaner energy use

100+ national leaders at the opening

15% reuse and recycling share sought

ANTALYA

More than 100 national leaders gathered in Antalya with United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres for the opening day of the COP31 Leaders' Summit. Their discussions focused on using more electricity, cutting pollution from industry and reducing waste.

Turkiye's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan hosted a discussion on where countries could replace fossil fuels with electricity and what stood in the way.

COP31 President Murat Kurum said climate measures could help countries secure their energy supplies, create jobs and make cities better able to cope with climate risks. Summit organisers also sought support for the Antalya Green Industrialisation Compact, which aims to attract investment and build markets for goods made with lower emissions.

Industry emissions

Industry accounts for about a quarter of direct global carbon dioxide emissions. The compact promotes using electricity in factories and reusing materials to cut those emissions.

The summit presidency wants to cut projected growth in household and similar waste by at least half by 2035 and raise the global share of reused and recycled materials to at least 15 per cent.

EUROPEAN SECURITY PROPOSAL

US asks Russia for European security plan

WASHINGTON

The United States has asked Russia to draft a new security proposal for Europe as President Donald Trump's administration seeks to end the war in Ukraine, Axios reported. Washington wants Moscow to explain what it would do to ease military tensions with European countries.

Trump envoys Jared Kushner and Steve Witkoff raised the request during meetings with Russian and Ukrainian officials in Abu Dhabi this week. Two days of meetings marked a return to US mediation. The envoys were expected to meet Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow on Thursday and ask him to let European representatives join the next round of peace talks.

Russian officials pointed to a letter Putin sent to then US President Joe Biden in 2021 about Moscow's security concerns. Kushner and Witkoff told the Russian side that much had changed since then and asked for an updated proposal. Russia has long sought limits on NATO expansion and a smaller NATO military presence in Eastern Europe.

The Trump administration wants to discuss European security alongside efforts to end the fighting in Ukraine. Under that approach, any wider security deal would take effect only after a peace agreement. Washington has told European governments that it would need their approval and Ukraine's consent before agreeing to a deal with Russia, Axios reported.

Russia has resisted giving European governments a place in the negotiations. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said talks on a new security agreement involving Russia should wait until the war in Ukraine ends. The meetings in Abu Dhabi ended without a clear breakthrough, leaving Trump's envoys to take their request directly to Putin.

World tennis league returns to Bengaluru for season five

BENGALURU

The World Tennis League (WTL) will return to Bengaluru for its fifth season, with the four-day tournament scheduled to take place from December 17 to 20, 2026, at the KSLTA's SM Krishna Tennis Stadium.

The upcoming edition will feature a combination of established international stars and emerging Indian players, continuing the league's effort to strengthen tennis's popularity in the country. The competition has attracted several prominent players across its previous four seasons, building a growing audience for franchise-based tennis.

Several familiar faces from last season are expected to return, including Spain's Paula Badosa, India's Yuki Bhambri, Sumit Nagal, Dhakshineswar Suresh, Maaya Rajeshwaran Revathi and Shrivalli Bhamidipaty. Their participation



is expected to add quality and competitiveness to the upcoming tournament.

WTL co-founder Mahesh Bhupathi said the previous edition successfully brought together international and Indian talent, receiving an encouraging response from spectators. He added that the fifth season would aim to build on that success, attract wider audiences and further strengthen the league's global standing. Co-founder Hemali Sharma expressed happiness about bringing the competition back to Bengaluru, describing the city as a destination with a strong sporting culture and enthusiastic tennis followers. She said the organisers were looking forward to presenting international stars alongside India's established and promising players.

The tournament aims to provide Indian audiences with greater access to international tennis while offering domestic players an opportunity to compete alongside experienced professionals.

The organisers are expected to announce the complete player list and team combinations in the coming days. With Bengaluru hosting the competition once again, the fifth season is expected to bring four days of exciting tennis action to the city.

India face New Zealand in fourth ODI

AUCKLAND



India will head into the fourth One-Day International (ODI) against New Zealand with a favourable position in the series after the third match in Hamilton was washed out. With rain affecting all three matches so far, the upcoming encounter at Mount Maunganui offers an opportunity for uninterrupted cricket, with clear weather forecast for the game.

Following the washout in Hamilton, India cannot lose the series, while New Zealand's best possible outcome is to force a series draw. Although Mount Maunganui witnessed rainfall a week ago, the weather forecast currently provides some encouragement for both teams.

The change in venue will also bring significant changes to India's playing combination. Shreyas Iyer will take over the captaincy as regular skipper Shubman Gill, KL Rahul and Anshul Kamboj leave the ODI setup to join preparations for the upcoming Test series. Some members of the coaching staff will also shift their focus towards the red-ball assignment. With several established players unavailable, attention will turn towards the performances of Ishan Kishan, Ruturaj Gaikwad and Tilak Varma. The fourth ODI will provide the trio with an opportunity to make an impression and strengthen their claims for regular opportunities in the Indian team. New Zealand have also reshuffled their squad, bringing in Finn Allen, Mitch Hay, Dean Foxcroft and Brett Randell. Several regular players, including Test captain Tom Latham, have departed to prepare for the first Test at the Basin Reserve next week.

India will look to strengthen their series position against New Zealand as both teams introduce significant personnel changes for the fourth ODI.

Key Changes Ahead of Fourth ODI

INDIA
- Shreyas Iyer will lead India in the absence of regular players.
- Ishan Kishan, Ruturaj Gaikwad and Tilak Varma could get opportunities.

NEW ZEALAND
- Finn Allen, Mitch Hay, Dean Foxcroft and Brett Randell join the squad.
- Tom Latham and other regulars have left the ODI squad to prepare for the Tests.



India endures 0-5 defeat against New Zealand

AUCKLAND

India suffered a comprehensive 0-5 defeat against New Zealand in their opening international friendly of the November window at Go Media Stadium on Thursday, marking a disappointing start to their tour of the country.

Jesse Randall scored twice, while Chris Wood and Lachlan Bayliss also found the net as the hosts registered a dominant victory. India's difficult evening began in the fifth minute when defender Bijoy Varghese inadvertently turned the ball into his own net following a scramble inside the penalty area.

India gradually settled into the contest and created an opportunity in the 19th minute. Ryan Williams combined with Varghese down the right flank before delivering a cut-back for Manvir Singh. However, Callan Elliott produced a timely block to deny the Indian forward.

Goalkeeper Vishal Kaith, returning to the national team after his last appearance in June, kept India in contention with several impressive saves. He denied Randall twice around the half-hour mark but could not prevent the New Zealand forward from scoring in the 34th and 43rd minutes.

India went into half-time trailing 0-3. Head coach Khalid Jamil introduced five players after the break, including Jay Gupta, Lalrinliana Hnamte, Mehtab Singh, Ricky Meetei Haobam and Muhammad Suhail. The latter two made their international debuts.

New Zealand continued their dominance, with Wood heading home the fourth goal in the 57th minute before Bayliss volleyed in the fifth in the 74th.

Kaith produced another outstanding double intervention in the 78th minute, saving Bill Tuiloma's penalty and subsequently denying the rebound.

India will look to recover when the two sides meet again in Christchurch on Sunday.

Mumbai City Sign Slovenian Forward Luka Majcen

MUMBAI

Mumbai City FC have strengthened their attacking options by signing experienced Slovenian forward Luka Majcen for the ongoing Indian Super League (ISL) 2026-27 season. The club confirmed the signing on Thursday, bringing an experienced campaigner with an established record in Indian football into their squad.

The 36-year-old centre-forward has been playing in India since 2020 and has represented several clubs, winning multiple domestic titles during his time in the country. His arrival is expected to provide additional depth and experience to Mumbai City's forward line alongside Wilmar and Ajsal.

Majcen began his Indian football journey with Churchill Brothers, where he finished as the second-highest scorer in the I-League. He later joined Bengaluru United and helped the club win the Bangalore Super Division title, finishing as the competition's leading scorer with 15 goals.

In January 2022, he moved to Gokulam Kerala, scoring 13 goals as the club successfully defended it's I-League title. Later that year, he joined RoundGlass Punjab and played a crucial role in their I-League-winning campaign and promotion to the ISL. He finished the season as the league's top scorer with 16 goals and was named Player of the Season.

Majcen also created history by becoming RoundGlass Punjab's first-ever goalscorer in the ISL. His most recent assignment was with Diamond Harbour FC, where he helped the club win the 2025-26 Indian Football League title. Speaking after completing the move, Majcen expressed his excitement about joining Mumbai City and contributing to the club's ambitions.

HIGHLIGHTS
- Majcen is 36 years old and plays as a centre-forward.
- He scored 16 goals for RoundGlass Punjab and won the I-League Golden Boot.
- He helped Diamond Harbour FC win the 2025-26 Indian Football League title.
- The Slovenian has been playing in Indian football since 2020.



"I am delighted to join the club and excited for this new challenge. I will give my best to contribute to the team and help achieve the club's objectives."
Luka Majcen
Mumbai City FC Forward

"Given his proven experience in India and the ISL for several years, we are hopeful he will get us goals and convert chances we will create going forward."
Sujay Sharma
Mumbai City FC Director of Football

Scindia envisions Olympic glory for Shivpuri's young athletes

SHIVPURI



Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia on Thursday said Shivpuri was emerging as a centre for sporting talent in Madhya Pradesh and expressed hope that the town would produce athletes capable of winning Olympic medals for the country.

Inaugurating the 70th National School Games Under-17 Boys Athletics Championship at the Shrimant Madhavrao Scindia Sports Complex here, he said the gathering of young players from across the country was a matter of pride for the region.

"Shivpuri's sporting talent should aspire to reach the Olympics. My dream is that a player from this land wins an Olympic gold medal and brings glory to the country," Scindia said.

A total of 765 players and 120 officials from 38 states and regions are participating in the championship, which is being organised in Shivpuri for the first time. The Union Minister for Communications and Development of North Eastern Region also inaugurated an Under-18 inter-district cricket tournament and played cricket with young participants, encouraging them to pursue sports.

Scindia said Shivpuri had been developing its sporting infrastructure, citing facilities such as the Shrimant Madhavrao Scindia Sports Complex, Veer Savarkar Stadium, Vijaypur Stadium and an indoor sports hall.

He also highlighted the Madhya Pradesh State Women's Cricket Academy in Shivpuri, describing it as the country's first government-run women's cricket academy.

Referring to emerging sporting talent from the region, Scindia congratulated Dakshata Yadav and Lavanya Yadav, daughters of cricketer Kapil Yadav, on their selection in the Madhya Pradesh Under-17 cricket team. He said the region had considerable sporting potential and that young players needed better training, guidance and opportunities to compete at higher levels.

"The players have not come here merely to win medals, but to give wings to their dreams and represent their states and the country," he said. Scindia said the sports complex, named after his late father Madhavrao Scindia, was envisioned as a centre for nurturing national and international-level sporting talent.

JEET JHABAKH CREDITS SCHUMACHER AS RACING INSPIRATION

NEW DELHI

Indian racer Jeet Jhabakh called Formula One legend Michael Schumacher the one he looked up to during his early days in racing as he gears up for more success after his FIA Asia-Pacific Rally Championship success.



Jeet made history earlier this month when he won the FIA APRC overall title with co-driver Musa Sherif, becoming the first all-Indian driver-and-co-driver pair to win the continental title. He is also the first driver to win the title in a two-wheel-drive car, rather than the traditional four-wheel-drive, in the 38-year history of the event.

Jeet won a circuit title in his early racing days in 2016 when he won a junior championship. He also has a couple of National Racing Championship titles, along with what is now a cherry on the cake at the APRC level.

Speaking of his early days and whom he idolised in racing, Jeet stated that it was the F1 legend and seven-time world champion Schumacher whom he looked up to. "In racing specifically, I grew up in that era where Michael Schumacher was absolutely dominating, right, so for me, the fact that, also, whoever knows Schumacher knew that he was not always the fastest on the track, but he was a great tactician," Jeet told.

"So, he used both his speed as well as his tactics to make sure he won multiple titles, so for me, he was always (my idol), though it's Formula One, he was always the guy I was like, okay, you know what, this guy has done it on such a large scale, there is no reason why we cannot attempt it," he added.

Jeet moved to rally from circuit racing only a couple of years earlier and got a continental title in his first international season. He hopes that he can achieve success at the world level now, as he takes inspiration from Schumacher. "So, the goal is always obviously to get on the world stage; we have gotten a continental title now, so we're hoping that this translates to one step higher and going to WRC. So, for me, or for racing for that matter, Michael Schumacher would have been the one that I would look up to," he added.

Cristiano Ronaldo ventures into television with new series

LISBON

Portuguese football superstar Cristiano Ronaldo has expanded his professional career into television, announcing the production of his first series, titled Day 1s, alongside British filmmaker Matthew Vaughn.

The 41-year-old forward shared the announcement on Instagram, expressing excitement about the new project. Production has already begun, although the makers have not revealed an official release date. Ronaldo will serve as a producer alongside Vaughn, with football expected to play a significant role in the storyline.

The series will reportedly follow British agent Stanley Dalton, portrayed by actor Damian Lewis. French football legend Thierry Henry and British rapper Dave are also expected to feature, while musicians Burna Boy, James Blake and Central Cee are set to appear in the opening episode. Filming reportedly began in London.

The television venture comes as Ronaldo continues his playing career with Saudi Arabian club Al-Nassr, following his international retirement in September 2026. He concluded his Portugal career with 146 goals in 234 appearances, holding the records for most appearances and goals in men's international football. Ronaldo also holds several major international records, including scoring at six different FIFA World Cups and netting 14 goals in European Championship final tournaments. His international career included three major honours: the 2016 European Championship and two UEFA Nations League titles in 2019 and 2025.

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