



Cut trade ties or face 25% tariff 'bomb': Trump to Iran trade partners

WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump on Tuesday announced that any country "doing business" with Iran will have to pay a 25 per cent tariff on its trade with Washington, a move that could impact Tehran's major trading partners such as India, China and the UAE. "Effective immediately, any Country doing business with the Islamic Republic of Iran will pay a Tariff of 25 per cent on any and all business being done with the United States of America. This Order is final and conclusive," Trump said. Among Iran's major trading partners are China, Turkey, India, the UAE, Pakistan

and Armenia.

The announcement by Trump could impact India, which has been among Iran's five largest trade partners in recent years.

The US has already imposed 50 per cent tariffs on India, among the highest in the world, including 25 per cent for Delhi's purchases of Russian energy.

According to the Indian Embassy in Tehran, major Indian exports to Iran include rice, tea, sugar, pharmaceuticals, manmade staple fibres, electrical machinery and artificial jewellery, while major Indian imports from Iran consist of dry fruits, inorganic/organic chemicals and glassware.



According to the Observatory of Economic Complexity (OEC), an online data visualisation and distribution platform, exports from India to Iran in 2023 totalled 1.19 billion dollars, while imports into India totalled 1.02 billion dollars.

During 2023, the top exports from India to Iran were rice (USD 734M), Soybean Meal (USD 96.8M), and Bananas (USD 52M). Top exports from Iran to India included Acyclic alcohol derivatives (halogenated, sulpho-nated, nitrated) (USD 309M).

"India and Iran share a millennia-long history of interactions. The contemporary and relationship draws upon the strength of these historical and civilisational ties, and continues to grow further marked by high-level exchanges, commercial and connectivity cooperation, cultural and robust people-to-people ties," the Indian Embassy in Tehran has said.

A key aspect of India-Iran ties is the joint development of the Chabahar port. Located in the Sistan-Balochistan province on the energy-rich Iran's southern coast, the Chabahar port is being developed by India and Iran to boost connectivity and trade ties.

2,000 killed in Iran after crackdown on anti-govt protests

Dubai: About 2,000 people, including security personnel, are feared killed after a crackdown on anti-government protests in Iran. Quoting an Iranian security official, a news agency reported that the death toll could be around 2,000 people. This is the first time an official has acknowledged the high death toll in the nationwide unrest.

Iran prepared for any action by US: Min

Meanwhile, Iranian foreign minister Abbas Araghchi has said that Iran is prepared for any action by the US as President Donald Trump weighs his options for intervention. Araghchi said Iran's readiness is much greater than it was when the US conducted military strikes on Iran in June last year.

Countries at risk



China remains Iran's top trade partner

China is Iran's largest trading partner. Iranian exports to China totalled \$22 billion in 2022, with fuels accounting for more than half of that amount, as per an agency report, citing World Bank data. Imports from China stood at \$15 billion. In 2025, China bought more than 80% of Iran's shipped oil.

India's trade with Iran remains modest

India's total bilateral trade with Iran reached \$1.34 billion during the first 10 months of 2025, agencies reported citing India's commerce ministry. Major Indian exports to Iran include basmati rice, fruits, vegetables, drugs and other pharmaceutical products.

Turkey maintains strong trade ties with Iran

Iran's exports to Turkey amounted to \$5.8 billion in 2022, while imports from Turkey reached \$6.1 billion, Reuters reported, citing World Bank figures.

Germany's imports from Iran exceeds its exports

Trade between Iran and Germany remains uneven. Iran exported \$178 million worth of goods to Germany in 2022, while imports from Germany totalled \$1.9 billion.

Govt pulls brakes on '10-minute delivery'

The scrapping of 10-minute deadline marks a significant shift for the country's booming quick-commerce sector



NEW DELHI

The Centre has directed leading quick commerce and food delivery platforms, including Blinkit, Zepto and Swiggy Instamart, to stop mandating and promoting 10-minute delivery timelines.

The move follows discussions held with the Union Labour Ministry amid growing concerns over the impact of aggressive delivery targets on gig workers.

'10 minute' goes off from Blinkit tagline

Following the order, Eternal-owned Blinkit has already acted on the directive and removed its long-promoted "10 minute delivery" claim from its branding and communication. The company has revised the principal tagline from "10,000+ products delivered in 10 minutes" to "30,000+ products delivered at your doorstep," signalling a shift away from time-bound delivery

branding. Other companies like Zepto, Zomato and Swiggy are expected to follow suit soon, the sources said.

Recently, the 10-minute quick delivery promise led to a nationwide gig workers' strike on New Year's Eve 2025, drawing the Centre's attention to issues related to delivery workers' health, safety and income. "Following a series of sustained interventions, Union Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya has persuaded major delivery aggregators to remove the 10-minute delivery deadline," labour ministry sources said.

The minister recently held meetings with leading platforms, including Blinkit, Zepto, Zomato and Swiggy, to address concerns related to delivery timelines.

Officials said the move is intended to ensure greater safety, security, and improved working conditions for gig and platform workers.

'Much needed step': Chadha thanks Centre

AAP MP Raghav Chadha on Tuesday welcomed the removal of the "10-minute delivery" branding by quick-commerce platform Blinkit, calling it a collective victory for delivery riders' safety and dignity. He thanked the Central Government for what he described as a timely, decisive and compassionate intervention that led to the change. In a post on X shared after the move, Chadha said, "Satyamev Jayate. Together, we have won." "I am deeply grateful to the Central Government for its timely, decisive and compassionate intervention in enforcing the removal of the '10-minute delivery' branding from quick-commerce platforms," he said. Chadha argued that such branding creates real and constant pressure on delivery workers.

'Empowered to examine citizenship for electoral purposes'

NEW DELHI

The Election Commission told the Supreme Court on Tuesday that it acts as the original authority on issues concerning electoral rolls and the conduct of elections, and that its opinion is binding on the President when a person acquires citizenship of another country.

The panel submitted that an adverse finding during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) would "not ipso facto result in deportation" but lead to the exclusion of a person's name from the electoral roll. It said that the matter could be referred to the Centre for scrutiny and possible action under the Citizenship Act and related laws.

'For every stray dog bite, death, you pay': SC to states, feeders

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday warned the Union and state governments that they could be made to pay heavy compensation for every victim of dog bites and fatalities if authorities continue to fail in implementing the Animal Birth Control (ABC) rules.

Hearing a clutch of petitions on the issue, the bench of Justice Vikram Nath, Justice Sandeep Mehta and Justice NV Anjaria expressed visible frustration, describing the situation as one that has spiralled out of control due to decades of official apathy.

"This issue has been going

on forever," the bench said, pointing out that Parliament had been seized of the problem since the 1950s. "It is because of Central and the state governments that the problem has multiplied a thousand times. There is complete failure on the part of the authorities."

In one of the sharpest warnings from the top court so far, the bench said it would not hesitate to impose compensation on governments for victims. "For every man, woman and child who has lost their lives to a dog bite, we will impose heavy compensation on the

government responsible," the judges cautioned.

Turning its attention to dog feeders, the bench made it clear that compassion could not be divorced from responsibility. "And, also liability to dog feeders," the court said bluntly. "You take them to your house, keep them. Why should they be allowed to roam around, biting and chasing people? The effect of a dog bite is lifelong."

The top court heard arguments of several lawyers in the suo motu case related to the stray dog issue and posted the matter for further hearing on January 20.

It is because of Central and the state governments that the problem has multiplied a thousand times. There is complete failure on the part of the authorities.

—Supreme Court

FESTIVE SPIRIT



Hand-painted pots, which symbolize new beginnings, prosperity, and the celebration of the harvest season, at a sale stand ahead of Makar Sankranti festival at Pottery Town in Bengaluru on Tuesday.

▶ CH PHOTO

'BJP-EC NEXUS'

'EC used BJP-devised AI tools'

KOLKOTA

West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday alleged that the Election Commission (EC) had deleted 54 lakh names from the draft electoral rolls during the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in the state, without giving voters an opportunity to defend themselves.

Addressing a press conference at the state secretariat Nabanna, Banerjee claimed that the deletions

"Those whose names were removed were not even informed about the grounds for deletion, leaving them no chance to respond".

—Mamata Banerjee, West Bengal chief minister

were carried out by misusing the powers of electoral registration officers (EROs) and largely affected what she described as "genuine electors."

According to her, a significant number of the deleted entries belonged to

legitimate voters who were wrongfully excluded during the SIR process.

Banerjee further alleged that those whose names were removed were not even informed about the grounds for deletion, leaving them no chance to respond or contest the decision.

Allegation of AI misuse

"The EC, while sitting in Delhi, used AI tools devised by the BJP to delete names. These AI software accounted for the names mismatch in SIR data. They deleted names of women who changed surnames post marriage," Banerjee told reporters.

Gandhiji murdered again through VB-G RAM G: CM

BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Tuesday reiterated his commitment to continue the struggle until the MGN-REGA is reinstated and VB-G RAM G is repealed.

Addressing the Mahatma Gandhi Udyog Khatra Yojana Bachao Sangram Purva Siddat Sambhava organised by the KPCC at Gayatri Vihar on Tuesday, he stressed the need to make the 'NREGA Bachao Andolan' a people's movement.

He further said in rural areas, one could ask for work for 365 days. People could work in their own village, on their own land. To change this, the Modi government brought in the VB-G RAM G Act. "This is not Dasharatha Ram, Sita Ram or Kaushalya Ram. This is Nathuram, who killed Mahatma Gandhi. Gandhiji has been murdered again through VBG Ram Ji," he alleged.

'No confusion! Meeting with Rahul casual'

Mysuru: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Tuesday said there was no confusion over power sharing in the party and terms it as a media creation. Speaking to reporters at the Mysore Airport after meeting Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, the CM said there was no political discussion with Rahul Gandhi. "He was going to Gudlu to attend a programme and I just met him on the way," the CM said. When pointed out that his party MLAs were talking about leadership change, Siddaramaiah said, "MLAs are not aware of anything. I or DCM should speak about it."



QUICK READ

Karur stampede: Vijay summoned by CBI again

CHENNAI: TVK chief and actor Vijay - who is being questioned by the Central Bureau of Investigation in Delhi in connection with the Karur stampede tragedy - has again been summoned on January 19. Vijay was questioned last yesterday. Sources said in the six-hour session, he had told the Central agency that his party is responsible for the stampede that cost 41 lives. The investigation into the September 27 tragedy had changed hands several times. The case was transferred to the Central agency after the Supreme Court had said more probe was needed.

DKS: Will comply with SC directive on GBA elections

BENGALURU: Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Tuesday assured to comply with the orders of the Supreme Court to conduct pending polls to the five city corporations under the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) before June 30 of this year. "As per the SC order, GBA Corporation elections will be held within the stipulated date. Necessary directions will be given to the State Election Commission in this regard," he said. The court on Monday asked the Karnataka Government and the SEC to hold GBA polls by June 30, with the final ward-wise list to be out by February 20.

QUICK READ

Police tack to trap flyover firecracker miscreants**Bengaluru**

A group of four or five youths who came on a flyover in city on Monday night committed a dangerous act. The miscreants burst firecrackers from the top of the flyover and threw them on the ground, posing a threat to the safety of the public. Prima facie, it is learnt that the incident took place on a double-decker flyover. The police are currently investigating the incident based on the video of the incident.

**CM pays last respects to Hazrat Maulana Sagir Ahmad****Bengaluru**

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah paid his last respects to the late Hazrat Maulana Sagir Ahmad Khan Rashadi, the head of Darul Uloom Sabilur Rashad. Ministers KJ George, Zameer Ahmed, Chief Minister's Political Secretary Naseer Ahmed, Additional Chief Secretary Anjum Parvez and others were present.

Woman brutally murdered with axe**Bengaluru**

A woman was brutally murdered with an axe in broad daylight. The incident took place at Kudragere Colony in Bengaluru North taluk. The deceased was identified as a 55-year-old woman who escaped after being beaten to death with an axe by bike-borne assailants. He is suspected to have committed the murder due to a dispute over land with his relative Veerabhadra. The incident took place when he was serving food to his grandson at the school and a police and forensic team visited the spot and inspected the spot.

Manja thread being used in city despite the ban

The state government had banned the use of manja string in 2016, following the daily increase in bird deaths due to kite flying using this string

BENGALURU

Despite the state government banning the use of manja thread or Chinese thread used for kite flying, it is being sold in the market without any eggs. This Chinese thread is not only harmful to birds but also to humans.

There are three days left for the Sankranti festival, one of the folk festivals of the country. Kite festivals are common during these festivals. We need to keep an eye on those who use manja thread under the pretext of festivals. The use of manja thread has become a thorn in the side of various birds including eagles, crows, and jays. It is a thorn not only for birds but also for humans.



In 2016, the state government had banned the use of manja thread in the wake of the increasing number of bird deaths due to kite flying using it. In 2018, the NGT had also banned the use of manja thread. Not only Karnataka, but also the states of Chandigarh, Delhi, Goa, Haryana,

Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab, Telangana and Tripura had banned manja thread and issued orders. However, despite the orders, it is being sold in the city's black market.

GBA continues to receive calls every day about birds getting stuck in the manja

thread. The fire department and some animal welfare organizations are engaging in rescue operations based on the information received from the calls.

Manja and all its forms pose a risk to humans, birds, other animals and the environment. Manja is a chemical coating applied to a thread made of nylon or cotton threads, usually coated with glass or metal powder. This not only makes the thread stronger but also gives it the ability to cut any object it comes into contact with. Although it helps in cutting each other's threads in kite competitions, in most cases, birds flying in the sky are more at risk from such manja threads.



University of New South Wales to open campus in B'luru by Aug

BENGALURU

The University of New South Wales, one of Australia's leading universities, will open its campus at Manyata Tech Park in Bengaluru in August this year. The agreement in this regard was signed in the presence of Minister for Large and Medium Enterprises MB Patil and Minister for Higher Education Dr MC Sudhakar.

The University of New South Wales Vice-Chancellor Prof Attila Brungs and the Department of Industry Principal Secretary Selvakumar exchanged letters of agreement at a ceremony held at Vidhana Soudha. The university will now offer undergraduate courses in commerce, media, computer and data science, and postgraduate courses in cyber security, said Ministers MB Patil and Sudhakar.

Speaking after exchanging views with the delegation, MB Patil said that the academic council of the University of New South Wales will keep an eye on the students studying at the Bangalore campus. The same curriculum it has there will be taught here as well. Since there are many top companies in the Manyata Tech Park, assistance will be easily available for the students' learning and skill de-

Minister Sudhakar said that the University of New South Wales is known as the educational institution that creates the best job opportunities in the Asia-Pacific region. Employers are looking for graduates/postgraduates from here for their companies. The opening of a campus of such a VVU in Bengaluru will further strengthen the innovative work environment here. He also said that it will encourage more such foreign universities to come to us.

velopment. He said that their campus will come into existence in the Queen City in the coming days.

An academic and research partnership program between India and Australia for the period 2025-30 is now underway. He explained that the University of New South Wales has close links with IIM Bangalore, the Indian Institute of Science, the National Law University, the Union Ministry of Highways and Steel, and the state's Renewable Energy Development Limited.

Cultural Initiative Advances Construction of Balaji Temple

BENGALURU

The Shri Salasar Balaji Seva Samiti is advancing the construction of the Shri Salasar Balaji (Hanuman) Temple in Bengaluru, a shrine envisioned as a spiritual bridge between Ayodhya and Kishkindha, two sacred geographies central to the Ramayana. A cultural fundraising initiative held on Sunday at the Prestige Centre for Performing Arts, Kanakapura Road, marked a key milestone in this journey.

The event forms part of a multi-city outreach programme supporting the construction of the temple at Ranka Colony, Bannerghatta Road.

The temple is devoted to Shri Salasar Balaji, a revered manifestation of Lord Hanuman, uniquely depicted with a beard and moustache, a form rarely represented in South India. Rooted in the spiritual lineage of Salasar Dham in Rajasthan, the temple seeks to extend this distinct tradition of devotion to the southern region.

Pramod Murarka, President of Shri Salasar Balaji Seva



Samiti, said, the construction of this temple is a collective expression of faith and service. We invite devotees to participate through devotion, time, and contributions to help bring this spiritual mission to completion.

Sanjay Shah, Chairperson of the Temple Construction Committee, added, the work is progressing with dedication and care. With continued support, the temple will stand as a centre of devotion and spiritual inspiration for generations.

Reflecting on the initiative, Dr. Nitish Bharadwaj said, through Chakravayuh, we are contributing to a cause that carries enduring cultural and spiritual significance. It is art in service of a larger dharmic vision.

Two B'deshi nationals arrested for illegally residing in the city

BENGALURU

Hebbagodi police have arrested two Bangladeshi nationals who were illegally residing in the city. The police have intensified operations against those who have arrived in various parts of the city to sell illegal drugs and have settled in the city.

The arrested persons are Jahidul Islam (35) and Firodes (32). They had been residing in Hebbagodi area two years ago. Police interrogation revealed that the accused had entered India through West Bengal and had settled in Bangalore. Police said that these illegal residents, who were working as laborers in a building under construction, were selling plastic items in the city.

A total of six FIRs have been registered in the last week under the jurisdiction of Hebbagodi police station regarding illegal bungalow residents involved in the illegal drug trade. The police have launched an investigation after suspecting the presence of more than 15 illegal residents.

548 families still awaiting allotments under CM's housing scheme

BENGALURU

Administrative confusion between Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) and Rajiv Gandhi Housing Corporation Limited (RGHCL) has left 548 families in the city in limbo, despite fully built homes being ready for allotment under the chief minister's Rs 1-lakh multi-storey housing scheme. Nearly 500 beneficiaries, who gathered at the RGHCL office on KG Road Monday to collect possession documents and house keys, were asked to return empty-handed after officials said the final list of allottees was yet to be sent by GBA. With no clarity on when the issue



would be resolved, the beneficiaries staged a silent sit-in dharna outside the office.

RGHCL Managing Director Parashuram Shinnalkar said the corporation had not received the final allottee list from GBA. The houses in 22 locations are ready. They will be handed over once we receive the list from GBA, he said. Following the protest, GBA Assistant

Commissioner (Welfare) HT Muralidhara met the applicants and assured them that the final list would be prepared by January 31. Explaining the delay, Muralidhara said that after the BBMP released Rs 27.5 crore to RGHCL for 550 beneficiaries, an equal number of virtual accounts received funds, leading applicants to believe they had been selected.

High Court asks govt to reconsider BMIC scheme

BENGALURU

The High Court issued a significant direction to the state government to review the Bengaluru-Mysore Infrastructure Corridor (BMIC) project, of which only one kilometer has been constructed in the last 25 years. The direction was given by a division bench of Justices DK Singh and T Venkatesh Naik, who dismissed a petition filed by Chandrika, a resident of Marappa Garden, seeking a direction to the government to distribute compensation for her land acquired for the BMIC project.

Under the BMIAC scheme, project developers are collecting huge tolls by constructing

peripheral roads and toll plazas. However, the Bangalore Mysore Expressway and the infrastructure corridor remain only on paper. The project developers have kept a large amount of land in their custody.

However, the Bangalore Mysore Expressway has not been fully constructed yet. There is no indication of its construction in the future. The reason for this is that the land is not being utilized properly. Therefore, the bench directed the state government to reconsider the project and take appropriate steps in that regard. Also, the construction of the Bengaluru-Mysore infrastructure corridor was undertaken with the aim of reducing the city's congestion.

HC denies bail to B'deshi accused of human trafficking

BENGALURU

The High Court refused to grant bail to a Bangladeshi national who was arrested on charges of human trafficking after traveling to Bangladesh five times using a passport obtained by submitting a fake Aadhaar card.

The order was passed by a bench of Justices HP Sandesh and Venkatesh Naik, who were hearing a criminal appeal filed by Amol Chandra Das alias Sujeeb, a Bangladeshi national currently residing in Assam, challenging the order of the NIA special court dismissing his bail application.

Also, the criminal appeal petitioner is a citizen of Bangladesh and according to the records, it will be revealed that he had prepared documents regarding Aadhaar card on the same day in Karnataka and Assam. Also, if the Aadhaar card is checked, it will be revealed that he had obtained Aadhaar card with a photo added to the card and Aadhaar card and passport and had travelled to Bangladesh five times using the same documents. The bench, stating that it can consider the argument of the government



counsel that if such an accused is granted bail, there is a possibility of him escaping without facing the judicial process, dismissed the petition.

During the hearing, the NIA counsel submitted that the Aadhaar card submitted by the accused was fake and dated December 18, 2017. On the same date, another Aadhaar card was created in his name, one with an address in Bengaluru and the other with an address in Assam.

They brought to the notice of the bench that an Aadhaar card cannot be issued in both Karnataka and Assam on the same day. Also, the investigation revealed that there was no signature of any registered doctor on the birth certificate submitted by him. The accused has travelled to Bangladesh five times. This proves that he is a citizen of Bangladesh and has connections with that country and his role in the human trafficking case.

Mother caught taking mobile phone to visit son in jail

BENGALURU

An incident has occurred where a mother who had come to visit her son was caught by the officials of Parappana Agrahara Central Jail for keeping her mobile phone in her private area.

In this regard, an FIR has been registered at the Parappana Agrahara police station against the mother of the accused Bharath, who had come to see her son in jail, based on a complaint filed by jail officer Paramesh. Police sources said that the mobile phone

was found when the woman, who had come with a visitor's pass, was checked.

KSISF and staff were deployed on general duty to check the public coming for the interview of prisoners in Inspection Section-1 (General Interview Section) located on the left outside the main gate of the prison and the items they bring. On January 2 at 12.10 pm, when a woman came to talk to the undertrial prisoner Bharath after obtaining a visitor pass for the general interview, a mobile phone was found in his private part, the complaint said.

BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has begun preparations for presenting the 2026-27 state budget, expected in March, with departmental budget meetings likely to commence next week. The Congress government, now in power for over two and a half years, is grappling with the ongoing financial pressures of the Pancha Guarantees, which have already placed a heavy burden on the state's finances.

For the 2026-27 fiscal year, the government faces three



additional major financial challenges that further complicate budget planning. These include the relief expenditure for the Krishna Upper River Project Phase-3, the

financial demands of the G Ram Ji Project, and the significant revenue shortfall resulting from GST rate simplification. Collectively, these new obligations, on top of the ex-

isting Pancha Guarantee commitments, have become a formidable constraint on state finances.

The revenue loss from GST rate simplification is particularly concerning, as the state heavily depends on GST collections for its income. The lower rates have led to a substantial reduction in projected revenue, intensifying the challenge of balancing expenditure with available resources. Financing these new commitments, while continuing to meet the promises under the five guarantees, has emerged

as a major hurdle for Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his administration.

Officials indicate that the government will need to carefully prioritize spending and explore measures to manage revenue shortfalls effectively. Amid rising financial pressures, the 2026-27 budget is expected to be tightly calculated, balancing developmental needs, project obligations, and the state's fiscal stability. The additional financial burdens underscore the complex fiscal scenario the Congress government faces in the upcoming budget.

BUDGET HEADACHE

CM Faces Financial Challenges Ahead of 2026-27 Budget

QUICK READ



Wife murdered for questioning husband's 2 marriage

Hassan
A shocking murder case has been reported from Yaduru village in Alur taluk of Hassan district, where a woman was allegedly killed for questioning her husband's second marriage. The deceased has been identified as Radha (40). Police have accused her husband, Kumar, of committing the murder. According to reports, Radha had been living separately from Kumar for the past four years due to marital differences. In the first week of January, Radha came to know about another marriage. She arrived in Yaduru on the night of January 10 to confront her husband. Following an argument, Kumar allegedly murdered Radha inside his house on the same night. The accused is said to have later disposed of her body by throwing it into the Yagachi river near Kandali in Hassan taluk.

Swami Vivekananda Jayanti Celebrated in Itagi

Kukanur
Swami Vivekananda Jayanti was celebrated with enthusiasm at the Government Model School in Itagi village of Kukanur taluk on Monday. Speaking on the occasion, teacher Jayappa Kanakammanavar urged students and the public to adopt the principles and philosophies of Swami Vivekananda in their daily lives. He described Vivekananda as a great thinker who introduced Indian culture and traditions to the world, adding that his teachings continue to inspire generations, especially the youth. Jayappa emphasised that Vivekananda's thoughts encourage self-confidence, discipline and a strong sense of purpose among young people. Headmaster Ramaredappa Halakeri also addressed the gathering, stating that Vivekananda's ideals play a vital role in shaping students' character and moral strength. He said such values help students grow into responsible and confident individuals.

Hit-and-Run Accident Claims 1 Life, Leaves Another Injured

Hubballi
A tragic hit-and-run accident occurred early Tuesday morning on a national highway near Kiresur village, resulting in the death of a bike rider and serious injuries to his companion. The deceased has been identified as Sharif Saab Babu Saab Seemikeri (35), a resident of Kelur village in Hungund taluk. The injured pillion rider, Duragesh Vaddar (30), also from Kelur, sustained critical injuries and has been admitted to a hospital. The incident took place after 4 a.m. when the two were travelling on a two-wheeler. An unidentified vehicle reportedly hit their bike near Kiresur village and fled the scene. Both riders were thrown onto the road due to the impact. Sharif Saab suffered severe injuries and died on the spot.

Forest Produce Enterprises to Empower Tribal Livelihoods

A district-level meeting focused on promoting minor forest produce-based livelihoods to ensure sustainable income and self-reliance

MANDYA

With the objective of promoting self-reliance among Scheduled Tribes, traditional tribal communities, and forest dwellers who have been residing in forest areas for generations, the government is encouraging enterprises based on Minor Forest Produce (MFP). A district-level meeting of the Scheduled Tribe and Traditional Forest Dwellers Committee was held on January 13, 2026, under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner. The main aim of the initiative is to improve the livelihoods of forest dwellers by facilitating the collection, value addition, processing,



and marketing of minor forest produce such as honey, soapnut, amla, jackfruit seeds, medicinal plants, bamboo, grass, and other forest-based resources. Strengthening these systems will help provide stable income opportunities while also ensuring conservation of forest resources. Officials noted that this approach would enhance economic

self-sufficiency among forest dwellers and enable more beneficiaries to access the scheme in the future.

Several key decisions were taken during the meeting. Forest and Social Welfare Department officials were directed to take rule-based action to allow long-standing forest-dependent families to collect minor forest produce available within forest areas, as permitted under existing regulations.

Further, officials were instructed to urgently process and distribute forest rights titles to 85 eligible beneficiaries from Scheduled Tribes and traditional forest-dwelling communities, in accordance with the provisions of

the Forest Rights Act.

In cases where families have lived in forests for over 75 years but lack documentary evidence, it was decided to re-examine such applications through Gram Forest Committees and Sub-Divisional Forest Committees.

The meeting also emphasized that members of traditional tribal groups, including the Soliga community and other eligible forest dwellers, should be supported in accessing minor forest produce to sustain their livelihoods independently.

Sub-Divisional Officer Shivamurthy, Social Welfare Department Deputy Director Srinivas, and other officials were present at the meeting.

‘No Action on Anonymous, Unsupported Complaints Against Employees’

CHITRADURGA

Additional Deputy Commissioner B.T. Kumaraswamy has directed district- and taluk-level officials not to initiate inquiries or take action against government officers and staff based on anonymous complaints or petitions lacking supporting documents, in line with existing government circulars.

He was speaking while chairing the District-Level Joint Consultative Committee meeting of State Government Employees at the Deputy Commissioner's office auditorium. Kumaraswamy noted that complaints driven by personal enmity, jealousy, or prejudice—without verifiable information or evidence—should not be entertained. The government has already issued clear circulars instructing authorities to disregard anonymous complaints and those unsupported by records. However, instances have been observed where employees were subjected to inquiries solely on such baseless petitions, undermining morale



and hindering honest duty performance.

Employees' Association district president Malatesh Muddajji urged strict adherence to the circulars, recommending that authorities verify complainants' identities and insist on documentary proof before even preliminary scrutiny. Responding, the ADC said fresh instructions would be reissued to ensure compliance and prevent violations.

On healthcare, concerns were raised about empanelled private hospitals refusing treatment under the Karnataka Arogya Sanjeevini cashless scheme, citing lower CGHS rates. Kumaraswamy assured action against non-cooperative hospitals and directed

district health officials to issue clear instructions and address grievances through designated helpdesks.

He also advised employees to work within legal frameworks, dispose of RTI applications within timelines, maintain proper file categorisation, and document any obstruction to official duties. Additional issues discussed included clearing pending "Best Service Awards" for the past three years, granting mandated childcare and menstrual leave to women employees, and sanctioning special leave for employees undergoing cancer treatment. Senior officials and employee representatives from various departments attended the meeting.

Madhubangarappa Failed to Secure Funds for Shivamogga: Prasannakumar

SHIVAMOGGA

Former MLA and JD(S) State Vice-President K.B. Prasannakumar has alleged that Minister Madhu Bangarappa has failed to bring development funds to Shivamogga city and district, resulting in a complete slowdown of development activities. Addressing a press conference on Tuesday, Prasannakumar said it has been over two-and-a-half years since the State government came to power, but Shivamogga has not witnessed any significant development. "No funds have been released, no new projects have been taken up, and the minister has shown no sense of responsibility," he charged.

Citing the example of the Ashraya housing project in Govindapur, he said houses were constructed when he and K.S. Eshwarappa were MLAs, but only a few beneficiaries have been allotted homes. Basic amenities are still missing, and construction work has been stalled for the past two years.

Goonda Act Invoked Against Accused for Attacking Farmer

MULKI

Mulki police have registered a case under the stringent Goonda Act against three individuals accused of attacking a farmer in an attempt to extort money in the Angaragudde area. City Police Commissioner Sudheer Kumar Reddy confirmed the development on Tuesday.

The accused have been identified as Shyam Sundar Shetty, Akash Poojary, and Suveen, all residents of Kerekadu in Mulki. According to police, the decision to invoke the Goonda Act was taken in view of the serious criminal backgrounds of the accused and the threat they pose to public safety.

Police records show that Suveen has multiple criminal cases against him, including one murder case, two cases of attempted murder, one dacoity case, and another related to ganja. Akash Poojary is also facing several cases, including attempted murder, caste-based abuse, and obstructing a public servant from discharging official duties. Several cases against both accused were pending investigation.

Mulki police invoked the Goonda Act against three habitual offenders accused of assaulting a farmer and demanding ₹50,000 as extortion

Commissioner Reddy stated that due to the repeated involvement of the accused in serious offences, Mulki police registered the case under the Goonda Act and initiated further legal action.



The incident occurred on January 1, when the accused allegedly targeted Shamsu Saheb, a farmer from Angaragudde who owns buffaloes used for Kambala races. The trio reportedly attacked a neighbouring shed where the buffaloes were tied and demanded ₹50,000. When Shamsu Saheb refused to pay, the accused allegedly assaulted him and his son.

Following the incident, Shamsu Saheb's son, Sahabuddin, lodged a complaint at the Mulki police station. After a detailed investigation, police proceeded with action under the Goonda Act to curb further criminal activity by the accused.

₹165-Cr Action Plan Submitted: Shivamogga Corporation Commissioner



SHIVAMOGGA

The Shivamogga City Corporation has submitted an action plan worth around ₹165 crore to the state government for the 2025–26 financial year, but no funds have been released so far, Commissioner D.C. Mayannagouda said.

He was speaking at the first preliminary meeting on the 2026–27 municipal budget held on Tuesday. At the outset, officials attempted to explain the implementation of last year's budget through a PowerPoint presentation. However, representatives of civic interest groups insisted that printed copies of budget details be distributed before proceeding, criticising officials for failing to provide documents in advance during an important meeting.

The Commissioner stated that although approvals had been granted for various projects, including the Mahatma Gandhi Urban Development Scheme, not a single rupee had been received from the government. Under Mahatma Gandhi Urban Development

Scheme–2, ₹120 crore has been sanctioned, while ₹40 crore has been approved for National Green Tribunal-related works, but funds are yet to be released. Even after funds are received, tenders and execution will be handled through agencies such as NGT and KUIDFC, not directly by the corporation.

He added that a ₹25-crore action plan has been prepared for the development of four lakes—Navule, Tyavarechatnahalli, Gopishettikoppa and Purale—which is currently at the DPR stage. Tenders worth ₹5 crore have been floated for park development, though no direct funding will come to the corporation for these projects.

Shivamogga has 196 parks, of which 98 have basic infrastructure. The corporation has called tenders for developing 75 parks across three zones. Members raised concerns over poor sanitation at the private bus stand, unutilised commercial complexes, delays in drinking water projects, and unscientific lake works, urging immediate corrective measures.

2 children Kidnapped from Dharwad; Accused Arrested

DHARWAD

A man who allegedly kidnapped two primary school students from a government school in Dharwad was arrested by police in Joida taluk of Uttara Kannada district on Monday, after he met with a bike accident.

The accused has been identified as Mohammed Karim Mestri (49), a resident of Hubballi. The kidnapped children—Lakshmi Kareyappanavar and Anwar Doddamani, both Class 3 students of the Government Primary School in Kamalapur locality—were safely rescued and reunited with their parents.

According to police, the incident occurred on Monday afternoon when the children were playing after lunch on the school premises. Karim Mestri allegedly approached them and coaxed them by offering to take them to the Ulavi Basappa temple fair. Trusting him, the children agreed and got onto his motorcycle, after which he fled the area.

When teachers noticed the children were missing, they checked the school's CCTV footage and discovered the abduction. The suburban police were immediately alerted, and an alert was issued across districts.

CHALUKYA UTSAVA RETURNS

Chalukya Utsava Returns After a Decade, To Be Inaugurated on January 19

BAGALKOT

After remaining discontinued since 2015, the historic Chalukya Utsava is set to make a grand comeback, following a significant decision by the state government. The three-day cultural and heritage festival will be held on January 19, 20 and 21 at the renowned historical centres of Badami, Pattadakal and Aihole.

District In-charge Minister R.B. Timmapur announced that the festival will begin on January 19 in Badami, where Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will formally inaugurate the Chalukya Utsava. On January 20, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar will inaugu-



rate the celebrations at Pattadakal. The announcement was made after a preparatory meeting held at a private hotel in the city. The meeting was attended by Badami MLA Bhimmasen Chimmankatti, Deputy Commissioner Sangappa, Zilla

Panchayat Chief Executive Officer Shashidhar Kurera, along with several district- and taluk-level officials.

As part of the festival, a wide range of traditional sports and competitions will be organised, including wrestling, kabaddi,

stone-lifting contests and rock climbing events. In the evenings and nights, cultural programmes featuring renowned music composers and singers will be staged. Popular playback singer Vijay Prakash and singer Sanchith Hegde, along with their respective teams, will perform to entertain audiences.

The festival will also showcase folk and indigenous cultural performances by local artists, highlighting the region's rich heritage. In addition, heli-tourism arrangements have been planned to enable visitors to enjoy aerial views of Badami's iconic historical monuments, adding a special attraction to the revived Chalukya Utsava.

QUICK READ

Preparatory Meeting for Jayanti Celebrations on Jan 16

Chitradurga
A preparatory meeting has been scheduled on Jan 16 at the District Commissioner's office to plan the upcoming Savita Maharshi and Madivala Machideva Jayanti celebrations. Preliminary meetings will discuss the Savita Maharshi Jayanti on Jan 25 at 11 AM and the Madivala Machideva Jayanti on Feb 1 at 11:30 AM. The meetings will be presided over by District Commissioner T. Venkatesh. Representatives, district officials, and community leaders are invited to participate and provide guidance. Dr. B.M. Gurunath, Assistant Director of Kannada and Culture Department, requested active involvement to ensure smooth and organized celebrations.

Olympic Games Mark a new Chapter in Tumakuru's history: GP

TUMAKURU
Tumakuru will script a new chapter in its history by hosting the Karnataka Olympic Games from January 16 to 22, said Home Minister and District In-charge Minister Dr. G. Parameshwara. He described the event as a landmark occasion for the district.
Speaking on Tuesday after inaugurating the pre-event celebrations, unveiling the nameplate of the indoor stadium, and laying the foundation stone for its renovation at the city's indoor sports complex, the minister said hosting a state-level Olympic event in Tumakuru was a historic achievement. He noted that no such state-level games had been held in the district earlier. By persuading the Karnataka Olympic Association leadership, Tumakuru secured this prestigious opportunity, and the event would be organised on a grand scale un-



matched by any other district, he said.
Dr. Parameshwara stated that national and international athletes, along with several dignitaries, would participate in the games. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will inaugurate the event on January 16, while the Governor will deliver the valedictory address on January 22. All preparations have been completed to ensure the games are conducted in a celebratory manner.
Every year, between 5,000 and 10,000 athletes take part in state-level competitions, and the Karnataka Olympic Association aims to groom at least 500 athletes to compete at the Asian level. In this context, hosting the games in Tumakuru would mark a new beginning for local athletes and youth, opening fresh op-

portunities in sports.
The minister also said that sports are being actively promoted in the district, with plans to complete an international cricket stadium within a year to host global-level matches in Tumakuru.
Addressing objections to naming the indoor stadium after him, Dr. Parameshwara clarified that he is a sportsperson himself and that the honour recognises his long-standing contributions and services to the district and the sports sector.
Karnataka Olympic Association President and MLA Dr. K. Govindaraj praised the organisational efforts and highlighted Dr. Parameshwara's significant contributions to sports over the past 25 years. Sports Department Commissioner Chetan noted that Tumakuru's proximity to Bengaluru and its infrastructure made it an ideal venue, especially benefiting rural athletes and local youth.

Unlocking Talent is Key to Achievement: MLA Ravikumar

MANDYA
Children can achieve success only when their innate talents are recognized and nurtured, said Mandya Assembly constituency MLA Ravikumar. He was speaking at the inauguration of the 2025-26 District-Level Pratibha Karanja and Cultural Festival organized by the District Administration, Zilla Panchayat, and Mandya School Education Department at St. Joseph's High School campus in Mandya. The event was inaugurated by lighting a ceremonial lamp.
MLA Ravikumar emphasized that students should actively participate not only in academic studies but also in extracurricular activities. He encouraged students to aim for high positions such as IAS and ITF officers and to serve society, highlighting that the future of India rests on the aspirations and efforts of its youth. "Children must dream big and work diligently to realize those dreams," he said.
District Commissioner Dr. Kumar stressed the importance of providing children with platforms to explore and showcase their talents, noting that every child possesses unique abilities that may remain hidden without proper opportunities. Pratibha Karanja serves as an excellent platform for identifying and nurturing such talents.



Chitradurga Tops State in 'Ganita Ganaka' Programme

CHITRADURGA
Chitradurga district has emerged as the top-performing district in Karnataka in the implementation of the "Ganita Ganaka" programme, a special initiative aimed at strengthening foundational numeracy among primary school children, said Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer Dr. S. Akash.
Ganita Ganaka is an evidence-backed flagship programme of the Karnataka government, introduced from the 2024-25 academic year to improve basic numeracy skills among students of Classes 3, 4 and 5 in government schools. The programme uses a unique phone-based tutoring model, wherein government school teachers conduct weekly one-on-one tutoring calls with students. These calls are held in the presence of parents or guardians, making parental involvement a key feature of the initiative.
This year, Chitradurga achieved outstanding results by initiating teacher training as early as the first week of November and launching the pro-



gramme ahead of many other districts. Across 151 clusters, teachers from 1,586 schools actively participated in and completed the first cycle of the programme. Over 9,000 students benefited, with each child receiving four structured tutoring calls over a six-week period, including orientation and assessment calls. Chitradurga is also among the few districts to successfully begin the second cycle within the same academic year.
Several inspiring instances were reported during implementation. In one case, a headmaster arranged a mobile phone for a student lacking access. Teachers also observed increased confidence among usually quiet students during phone-

based tutoring sessions. In some schools, teachers went beyond requirements by introducing three-digit calculations after students mastered two-digit operations.
Parental participation, especially from mothers, increased significantly, with some parents even purchasing phones to support their children's learning. Data analysis showed clear learning gains, with students solving two-digit division problems rising from 2% to 22%. On average, students learned 2.3 new math operations within one cycle. Dr. Akash said the collective efforts of teachers, institutions and parents have strengthened foundational learning outcomes across the district.

Student Chetana: AYUSH Service Program Launched in Challakere

CHITRADURGA
The Student Chetana – AYUSH Service Program was inaugurated on Tuesday at the Morarji Desai Hostel (Scheduled Caste category) on Pavagada Road in Challakere city.
The program was formally launched by Dr. Chandrakant S. Nagasamudra, District AYUSH Officer, who poured water on medicinal plants to mark the occasion. He highlighted the significance of the Student Chetana program to the students and provided insights into the various services offered under the AYUSH department. During the event, the AYUSH Handbook was released to help students understand the practices and facilities available.
Dr. Bommann from the AYUSH department spoke in detail about AYUSH therapies and treatment methods. He also shared information about hospitals and

healthcare centers in Chitradurga district, including the district hospital, where students could access AYUSH services.
The program was presided over by Revanasiddeshwara, Principal of the hostel, who emphasized that the Student Chetana initiative is an excellent platform for students to learn about health and wellness and adopt a holistic, healthy lifestyle.
Dr. R.D. Channabasavaraj provided an overview of the program's structure and listed the activities planned under Student Chetana. The event was attended by the hostel's Vice-Principal Anil and the students, who actively participated in the inauguration.
The initiative aims to familiarize students with traditional AYUSH practices while promoting overall well-being and encouraging healthy lifestyle habits through interactive learning and departmental guidance.

CH CLASSIFIEDS

To place a classified ad contact: 080-41209042

NAME CHANGE
I, **MUNEER AHMED MAHMOOD SHAKIR**, S/o S M Shakir, resident No 42/1, Harris Road Benson Town, Bengaluru-560046, have changed my name to **SYED MUNEER AHMED**, vide affidavit dated: 13.01.2026, before Notary G. DAYANANDA, Bangalore

NAME CHANGE
I, **ROSHAN ALI MAZAHAR HUSSAIN**, S/o Mazahar Hussain, resident No 20/2, Shanthinagar Main Road, Nanjappa Circle, B Street, Wilson Garden, Bengaluru- 560027, have changed my name to **M ROSHAN ALI**, vide affidavit dated: 13.01.2026, before Notary G. DAYANANDA, Bangalore

**Public Works Department**
Chikkaballapur Division, Chikkaballapur

I.F.T No.16/2025-26 Date: 06.01.2026
(For Road/bridge - Const Works/Building(maint) –As per SBD KW 2 & 4 in Two Tender Document System (Two Cover)
On behalf of The Governor of Karnataka, as per KPPP Act 2000, the undersigned invite tenders for works in two cover system through KPP Portal from eligible contractors registered in PWD. Those interested in participating in the tender can submit the tenders from **Date: 08.01.2026 to 16.01.2026 & 07.02.2026 up to 03:00 pm**. Further details may be obtained from the above office during hours on works days or from websites <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>
Sd/- EE, PWD Division, Chikkaballapur.
DIPR/CHIKKABALLAPUR/R.O.NO:359/KSMCA/2025-26

Government of Karnataka
RURAL DRINKING WATER & SANITATION
DEPARTMENT Office of Executive Engineer,
Rural Water Supply & Sanitation Division Belagavi
Near Krishna Devaraya Circle,
1" Floor of PRED Division, Nehru Nagar -590010
No.RDW&S/ BGM/PB-1,2,3&4/TND- 18/ KW- 1,2&3/2025-26 /1951 Dated: 12/01/2026

ITEM RATE TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (E-PROCUREMENT)
I) The Executive Engineer, RDW&S Division, Belgaum invites item rate tenders on behalf of Governor of Karnataka State Government from the eligible contractors II) Indent Number: 9814, 9233/CALL-2 Calendar events are as follows : i) Last date & time for receipt of tenders through e-portal: 22-01-2026 before 17:00 hours. ii) Date of Opening of Technical Bid : 23-01-2026 before 11:00 Hours iv)Date of Opening of Financial Bid : After Technical Bid approval IV) Amount put to Tender, EMD, work completion period, Class of contractor ,eligibility criteria are as published in e-procurement portal. (Including Rainy Season).
More details can be had from the office of the undersigned and also through website <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> by clicking list of Tenders which will link to all dept works list.
Sd/-Executive Engineer,
RDW&S Division, Belgaum
DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-1629/KSMCA/2025-26

NAME CHANGE
I, **ARFATH ARA ASLAM**, W/o. Naveed Pasha, Resident of No. 34- 35, 2nd Main 2nd Cross, Jamia Masjid Road, Gangondanahalli, Nayandahalli, Bengaluru-560039, have changed my name to **ARFATH ARA**. Vide Affidavit Dated: 31.12.2025 before notary PRAKASH A.C, Bengaluru.

NAME CHANGE
I, **TASMIYA BANO** , D/o, Nazim Pasha, Resident of No.3775,15th Ward 2nd Cross Tippu Circle Mahaboob Nagar Ramanagar, district, 562159, have changed my name to **TASMIYA BANU**, vide affidavit dated: 13.01.2026 before notary B.A. LAKSHMINARAYANA RAO, Bengaluru.

NAME CHANGE
I, **IMTIAZ KHAN MASTAN KHAN** S/o Mastan Khan Resident of No.42 2nd floor M Cross Beside Ya Rasoolullah Masjid New Guruppanapalya Dharmaram College Post Bengaluru-560029 have changed my name to **IMTIAZ KHAN** Vide Affidavit Dated: 08.12.2026 before notary R.BASAVARAJA Bengaluru.

NAME CHANGE
I, **MOHAMMED AMER KHAN** , S/o, Mohammed Khader Khan, Resident of No 1627,B M Road Cross Yarab Nagar Channapatna Dist,562160, have changed my name to **MOHD AMER KHAN** , vide affidavit dated: 13.01.2026 before notary B.A. LAKSHMINARAYANA RAO, Bengaluru.

NAME CHANGE
I, **LEELAMANI NANDAHALLI THIMMAPPA** , W/o, Venkatesh Venkataramaiah, Resident of No 356/73/C,15th Cross Kareem Sab Layout Srigandha Nagar Hegganahalli Bengaluru Dist, 560091, have changed my name to **LEELA** , vide affidavit dated: 13.01.2026 before notary B.A. LAKSHMINARAYANA RAO, Bengaluru.

NAME CHANGE
I, **JABINABI** W/o Akil Shariff Resident of Ganagaluru Village Hosakote Taluk Bengaluru Rural -562114 have changed my name to **JABINA BEGAM**, vide affidavit dated: 13.01.2026 before notary V. RAJASHEKHAR A Bengaluru.

[Pursuant to Rule 30(6) (a) of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014]

ADVERTISEMENT TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE NEWSPAPER FOR CHANGE OF REGISTERED OFFICE OF THE COMPANY FROM ONE STATE TO ANOTHER

Before the Central Government Southern Region

In the matter of the Companies Act, 2013, Section 13(4) of Companies Act, 2013 and Rule 30(6)(a) of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014 AND

In the matter of **TRUVO LIVING PRIVATE LIMITED**, CIN: U55101KA2023PTC181932, having its registered office at F No C, #1102, Vaishnavi Terraces, JP Nagar VIII phase, Bangalore, Karnataka 560076, ... **Petitioner**

Notice is hereby given to the general public that the company proposes to make an application to the Central Government under Section 13 of the Companies Act, 2013 seeking confirmation of alteration of the Memorandum of Association of the company, in terms of the special resolution passed at the Extra Ordinary General Meeting held on **31/12/2025**, to enable the company to change its registered office from the State of Karnataka to the State of Tamil Nadu.

Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change of the registered office of the company may deliver or cause to be delivered or send by registered post his/her objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his/her interest and grounds of opposition to the Regional Director, Southern Region, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Bangalore, within fourteen days from the date of publication of this notice, with a copy to the applicant company, at its registered office mentioned below:

Truvo Living Private Limited
F No C, #1102, Vaishnavi Terraces, JP Nagar VIII phase, Bangalore, Karnataka 560076.

For and on behalf of the Applicant
Amulya Chandra Chintakuntla
Date: 14-01-2026
Place: Bangalore

NAME CHANGE
I, **DEVARAJA CHANDRAPPA** , S/o, Chandrappa, Resident of No 356/73/C,15th Cross Kareem Sab Layout Srigandha Nagar Hegganahalli Bengaluru Dist, 560091, have changed my name to **DEVARAJ CHANDRAPPA** , vide affidavit dated: 13.01.2026 before notary B.A. LAKSHMINARAYANA RAO, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **NITIN** S/o **MANJULA D**, R/o Darji street, Ambedkar Bhavana, Chikmagalur, Chikkamagalur, Karnataka-577101, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as **NITIN RAJ**.

**Zilla Panchayath Kolar-563101**
Office of the Executive Engineer Panchayath Raj Engineering Division Kolar-563101
Phone No: 08152-222570, e-mail: eepredkolar@gmail.com
No: 22/2025-26 Date: 06.01.2026

Two Cover System Tender Notice (Through e-Procurement KW-IV)
On behalf of the Governor of Karnataka as per KTPP Act 2000 item rate tenders were invited in two cover system (SBD) in the forms KW-IV through e-procurement from authorized PWD contractors registered in appropriate class for the work of Improvements to Asphalt Roads From NH Main Road to Nernahalli Village Road in Hutturu GP in Kolar Taluk and Kolar District In the KW-IV forms vide Indent No: RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT21798 Average Amount put to tender from Amount: 131.00 lakhs The contractor's are requested for participate in e-Tender through GOK website: <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> last date for submission of tender application and uploading tender forms through website from **dt: 29.01.2026 up to 4.00pm** and date of opening of technical bids in e-portal on **date: 30.01.2026 at 4.30 pm**. The eligible technically qualified contractors the date of opening of financial bids will be intimated. The notification can be obtained from the e-procurement portal. Further details can be had from the above office on all working days in working hours. E-Procurement helpline No's for tender clarification with respect uploading and downloading you can contact: 91 9240214000 & +91 9240214001.
Sd/- Executive Engineer, PRE Division, Kolar
DIPR/KOLAR/RO:443/KSMCA/2025-26

Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Chikmagalur District, Chikmagalur.
District Urban Development Cell, Chikmagalur
E-Mail:- ka.chikmagalur.dudc@gmail.com Tel: 08262-239010
1115470: File No.- DUDCK-ENGDOMISC/4/2026-ENG Date: 03.01.2026

e-Procurement Tender Notice
A tender is invited from eligible contractors registered with the Public Works Department for the execution of the following works under the Chief Minister's Infrastructure Development Scheme 2025-26, through the rules & regulations of the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (<https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>). Interested contractors may submit their tenders subject to the conditions.

Sl.	Details of Work	Approx. Amount (Rs. in lakhs)	Reservation	E.M.D. Amount (in Rs.)
1	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT53095	100.00	General	84,600.00
2	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT53153	100.00	ST	42,350.00
3	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT53154	100.00	General	84,650.00
4	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT53155	100.00	SC	42,350.00
5	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT53156	97.00	General	82,200.00
6	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT53158	90.00	General	76,000.00
7	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT53159	95.00	Class-1A	40,175.00
8	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT53160	100.00	General	84,650.00
9	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT53161	100.00	SC	42,375.00
10	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT53163	100.00	Class-2A	42,350.00
11	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT53164	68.00	General	57,600.00

Price of Tender Form / documents : As per e-Procurement. Duration : 06 months (excluding rainy season). 1. Last date for submission of tender on the e-Procurement Portal: 22.01.2026 up to 17.00 hrs. 2. Date of opening of technical bid: 23.01.2026 at 17.30 hrs. 3. Date of receipt of financial bid: 27.01.2026 at 11.00 hrs.

Further details are available during the working hours of this office and at <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>. If there are any changes due to any reason, they will be published only in the e-portal. They will not be published in the newspapers. The contractors can check on the KPPP portal <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>.

Sd/- The Executive-Engineer,District Urban Development Cell,Chikmagalur
DIPR/ckm/No.70/ksmca/140/1619

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	ಬೈರೇಗೌಡ ಬಿನ್ ಚನ್ನರಾಯಪ್ಪ	ಬೈರೇಗೌಡ ಬಿನ್ ಚನ್ನರಾಯಪ್ಪ				0-29							
	ಹನುಮಕ್ಕ ಕೋಂ ಕೆಂಪಣ್ಣ	ಹನುಮಕ್ಕ ಕೋಂ ಕೆಂಪಣ್ಣ				0-07							
	ರತ್ನಮ್ಮ ಕೋಂ ಗೋಪಾಲ್	ರತ್ನಮ್ಮ ಕೋಂ ಗೋಪಾಲ್				0-10							
	ಅನುಸೂಯಮ್ಮ ಕೋಂ ಲೇ ರಾಜಣ್ಣ	ಅನುಸೂಯಮ್ಮ ಕೋಂ ಲೇ ರಾಜಣ್ಣ				0-10							
	ವಿನಯ್ ಕುಮಾರ್ ಬಿನ್ ಲೇ ಮಾರಪ್ಪ	ವಿನಯ್ ಕುಮಾರ್ ಬಿನ್ ಲೇ ಮಾರಪ್ಪ				0-28							
	ಅಂಜನಪ್ಪ ಬಿನ್ ಸುಬ್ಬಣ್ಣ	ಅಂಜನಪ್ಪ ಬಿನ್ ಸುಬ್ಬಣ್ಣ				0-13							
	ಬಿ ದೇವರಾಜ್ ಬಿನ್ ಲೇ ಬಸಪ್ಪ	ಬಿ ದೇವರಾಜ್ ಬಿನ್ ಲೇ ಬಸಪ್ಪ				1-28							
	ರತ್ನಮ್ಮ ಕೋಂ ಲೇ ಗೋಪಾಲ್	ರತ್ನಮ್ಮ ಕೋಂ ಲೇ ಗೋಪಾಲ್				0-33							
	ತರನುಂ ತಲತ್ ಹಯಾತ್ ಕೋಂ ಕೆ ಫಾರೂಕ್	ತರನುಂ ತಲತ್ ಹಯಾತ್ ಕೋಂ ಕೆ ಫಾರೂಕ್				1-00							
	ಈ ರಾಮಾಂಜನಪ್ಪ ಬಿನ್ ಈರಬಚ್ಚಪ್ಪ	ಈ ರಾಮಾಂಜನಪ್ಪ ಬಿನ್ ಈರಬಚ್ಚಪ್ಪ				1-10							
50	ಚಂದ್ರಕಲಾ ಆರ್ ಕೋಂ ಲೇ ಪಿ ಸುಬ್ರಮಣ್ಯ	ಚಂದ್ರಕಲಾ ಆರ್ ಕೋಂ ಲೇ ಪಿ ಸುಬ್ರಮಣ್ಯ	181/2	0-37.08	0-02.08	0-35	0-02.08	ಋಷಿ	ಸ ನಂ. 181/5	ಸ ನಂ. 178	ಸ ನಂ. 181/1 181/3	ಸ ನಂ. 181/6	
51	ರಾಜಣ್ಣ- ಚನ್ನಪ್ಪ	ರಾಜಣ್ಣ- ಚನ್ನಪ್ಪ	181/3	0-13	0-01	0-12	0-01	ಋಷಿ	ಸ ನಂ. 110/1	ಸ ನಂ. 181/1	ಎಸ್.ಟಿ. ಆರ್.ಆರ್. ರಸ್ತೆ	ಸ ನಂ. 181/2, 181/5	
52	ಚನ್ನಕೇಶವ ಬಿನ್ ಲೇಟ್ ಪುಟ್ಟರಾಮಪ್ಪ	ಚನ್ನಕೇಶವ ಬಿನ್ ಲೇಟ್ ಪುಟ್ಟರಾಮಪ್ಪ	181/4	0-30	0-00	0-30	0-00	ಋಷಿ	ಸ ನಂ. 110/1	ಸ ನಂ. 181/7	ಸ ನಂ. 181/6	ಸ ನಂ. 151/6, 151/2 151/7 151/1 110/1	
53	ರಾಜಣ್ಣ - ಚನ್ನಪ್ಪ	ರಾಜಣ್ಣ - ಚನ್ನಪ್ಪ	181/5	0-17	0-00	0-17	0-00	ಋಷಿ	ಸ ನಂ. 110/1	ಸ ನಂ. 181/2	ಸ ನಂ. 181/3	ಸ ನಂ. 181/6	
54	ಚಂದ್ರಪ್ರಕಾಶ - ಸುಬ್ಬಣ್ಣ	ಚಂದ್ರಪ್ರಕಾಶ - ಸುಬ್ಬಣ್ಣ	181/6	2-04.04	0-05.04	1-39	0-05.04	ಋಷಿ	ಸ ನಂ. 110/1	ಸ ನಂ. 178	ಸ ನಂ. 181/2 181/5	ಸ ನಂ. 181/7 181/4	
55	ರಾಜಣ್ಣ - ಚನ್ನಪ್ಪ	ರಾಜಣ್ಣ - ಚನ್ನಪ್ಪ	181/7	1-15.04	0-05.04	1-10	0-05.04	ಋಷಿ	ಸ ನಂ. 181/4 151/6	ಸ ನಂ. 178	ಸ ನಂ. 181/6	ಸ ನಂ. 152/6 180/2	
56	ನಾರಾಯಣಸ್ವಾಮಪ್ಪ	ನಾರಾಯಣಸ್ವಾಮಪ್ಪ	222/1	0-08	0-00	0-08	0-00	ಋಷಿ	ಸ ನಂ. 222/2	ಸ ನಂ. 222/4	ಸ ನಂ. 178	ಸ ನಂ. 175 ಕೆರೆ	
57	ನಾರಾಯಣಸ್ವಾಮಪ್ಪ- ಅಂಜನಪ್ಪ	ನಾರಾಯಣಸ್ವಾಮಪ್ಪ- ಅಂಜನಪ್ಪ	222/2	2-17	0-00	2-17	0-00	ಋಷಿ	ಸ ನಂ. 223	ಸ ನಂ. 222/1	ಸ ನಂ. 178	ಸ ನಂ. 175 ಕೆರೆ	
58	ಸುಬ್ರಮಣ್ಯಂ ಎಸ್ ಎ ಬಿನ್ ಎಂ ಆವಲಪ್ಪ ರೇಣುಕುಮಾರ್ ಎ ಬಿನ್ ಎಂ ಆವಲಪ್ಪ	ಸುಬ್ರಮಣ್ಯಂ ಎಸ್ ಎ ಬಿನ್ ಎಂ ಆವಲಪ್ಪ ರೇಣುಕುಮಾರ್ ಎ ಬಿನ್ ಎಂ ಆವಲಪ್ಪ	222/3	0-38	0-00	0-38 ಮೇಲಿನ ಜಂಟಿ	0-00	ಋಷಿ	ಸ ನಂ. 222/5	ಸ ನಂ. 178	ಸ ನಂ. 178	ಸ ನಂ. 175 ಕೆರೆ	
59	ದೇವೇಂದ್ರಪ್ಪ ಡಿ ಬಿನ್ ದಾಸರಪುಟ್ಟಪ್ಪ	ದೇವೇಂದ್ರಪ್ಪ ಡಿ ಬಿನ್ ದಾಸರಪುಟ್ಟಪ್ಪ	222/4	0-38	0-00	0-38	0-00	ಋಷಿ	ಸ ನಂ. 222/1	ಸ ನಂ. 222/5	ಸ ನಂ. 178	ಸ ನಂ. 175 ಕೆರೆ	
60	ಜಿ.ಕೆ.ಸುಮನ್ ಬಿನ್ ಕೋನಪ್ಪ ರೆಡ್ಡಿ ಟಿ	ಜಿ.ಕೆ.ಸುಮನ್ ಬಿನ್ ಕೋನಪ್ಪ ರೆಡ್ಡಿ ಟಿ	222/5	0-38	0-00	0-38	0-00	ಋಷಿ	ಸ ನಂ. 222/4	ಸ ನಂ. 222/3	ಸ ನಂ. 178	ಸ ನಂ. 175 ಕೆರೆ	
61	ಮುನಿಯಮ್ಮ - ನಂಜಪ್ಪ ರಾಮಯ್ಯ - ಅಂಜನಪ್ಪ	ಮುನಿಯಮ್ಮ - ನಂಜಪ್ಪ ರಾಮಯ್ಯ - ಅಂಜನಪ್ಪ	223	5-02	0-01	5-01	0-01	ಋಷಿ	ಸ ನಂ. 178	ಸ ನಂ. 222/2	ಸ ನಂ. 178	ಸ ನಂ. 175 ಕೆರೆ	
62	ಎಸ್.ಕೃಷ್ಣ - ಸುಬ್ಬಯ್ಯ ಉ ಮುನಿಸಿಬ್ಬಯ್ಯ	ಎಸ್.ಕೃಷ್ಣ - ಸುಬ್ಬಯ್ಯ ಉ ಮುನಿಸಿಬ್ಬಯ್ಯ	224/1	4-00	0-00	4-00	0-00	ಋಷಿ	ಸ ನಂ. 171	ಸ ನಂ. 172/7	ಸ ನಂ. 174/1, 174/2 174/3 174/4	ಸ ನಂ. 224/2	
63	ಸೋನಿ ಎಂ ಪಿ ಬಿನ್ ಎಸ್ ಜಿ ಮರಿಯಪ್ಪ	ಸೋನಿ ಎಂ ಪಿ ಬಿನ್ ಎಸ್ ಜಿ ಮರಿಯಪ್ಪ	224/2	0-18	0-00	0-18	0-00	ಋಷಿ	ಸ ನಂ. 171	ಸ ನಂ. 172/25	ಸ ನಂ. 224/1	ಸ ನಂ. 225/1	
64	ಸೋನಿ ಎಂ ಪಿ ಬಿನ್ ಎಸ್ ಜಿ ಮರಿಯಪ್ಪ	ಸೋನಿ ಎಂ ಪಿ ಬಿನ್ ಎಸ್ ಜಿ ಮರಿಯಪ್ಪ	225/1	1-36	0-00	1-36	0-00	ಋಷಿ	ಸ ನಂ. 171	ಸ ನಂ. 172/25 172/9	ಸ ನಂ. 224/2	ಸ ನಂ. 225/2	
65	ಎನ್. ನಂಜೇಗೌಡ ಬಿನ್ ನಾರಾಯಣಸ್ವಾಮಿ	ಎನ್. ನಂಜೇಗೌಡ ಬಿನ್ ನಾರಾಯಣಸ್ವಾಮಿ	225/2	2-13	0-00	2-13	0-00	ಋಷಿ	ಸ ನಂ. 170/1	ಸ ನಂ. 172/9	ಸ ನಂ. 225/1	ಚಿನ್ನ ಕೆಂಪ ಮಾರನ ಹಳ್ಳಿ ಗಡಿ	
66	ಹನುಮಯ್ಯ-ಮುನಂಜಪ್ಪ ಮುನಿರಾಜು- ನಾರಾಯನಸ್ವಾಮಪ್ಪ ಅಂಜನಪ್ಪ- ನಾರಾಯಣಸ್ವಾಮಪ್ಪ	ಹನುಮಯ್ಯ-ಮುನಂಜಪ್ಪ ಮುನಿರಾಜು- ನಾರಾಯನಸ್ವಾಮಪ್ಪ ಅಂಜನಪ್ಪ- ನಾರಾಯಣಸ್ವಾಮಪ್ಪ	226	5-00	0-09	3-00 0-35.08 0-35.08	0-09	ಋಷಿ	ಸ ನಂ. 171	ಸ ನಂ. 171	ಸ ನಂ. 171	ಕುಂದಾಣಿ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಗಡಿ	
67	ಬಿ.ಡಿ.ಸುಮಿತ್ರ ಕೋಂ ಬಿ.ಸಿ.ಶಿವರಾಜು	ಬಿ.ಡಿ.ಸುಮಿತ್ರ ಕೋಂ ಬಿ.ಸಿ.ಶಿವರಾಜು	234/1	1-03	0-03	1-00	0-03	ಋಷಿ	ಸ ನಂ. 171	ಸ ನಂ. 228	ಸ ನಂ. 228	ಕುಂದಾಣಿ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಗಡಿ	
68	ಸುನೀಲ್ ಕುಮಾರ್ ಬಿ ಎಸ್ ವೀರಣ್ಣ	ಸುನೀಲ್ ಕುಮಾರ್ ಬಿ ಎಸ್ ವೀರಣ್ಣ	234/2	0-13	0-00	0-13	0-00	ಋಷಿ					
69	ರವಿ ಕುಮಾರ್ ಬಿನ್ ಎಸ್ ವೀರಣ್ಣ	ರವಿ ಕುಮಾರ್ ಬಿನ್ ಎಸ್ ವೀರಣ್ಣ	234/3	0-14.12	0-00.12	0-14	0-00.12	ಋಷಿ					
70	ಶಾಂತಕುಮಾರ್ ಬಿನ್ ಎಸ್ ವೀರಣ್ಣ	ಶಾಂತಕುಮಾರ್ ಬಿನ್ ಎಸ್ ವೀರಣ್ಣ	234/4	0-13.04	0-00.04	0-13	0-00.04	ಋಷಿ					
71	ಅಂಜನಪ್ಪ ಬಿನ್ ರಾಮಯ್ಯ	ಅಂಜನಪ್ಪ ಬಿನ್ ರಾಮಯ್ಯ	235	1-20	0-00	1-20	0-00	ಋಷಿ	ಸೋಲೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಗಡಿ	ಸ ನಂ. 132	ಸ ನಂ. 171	ರಸ್ತೆ	
72	ಪಿ. ಮಂಜುನಾಥ ಬಿನ್ ದೇವೀರಮ್ಮ	ಪಿ. ಮಂಜುನಾಥ ಬಿನ್ ದೇವೀರಮ್ಮ	236/1	0-20	0-00	0-20	0-00	ಋಷಿ	ಸ ನಂ. 171	ಸ ನಂ. 236/2	ಸ ನಂ. 171	ಸ ನಂ. 171	
73	ಎಸ್.ಪಿ.ಶಿವಣ್ಣ ಬಿನ್ ದೇವೀರಮ್ಮ	ಎಸ್.ಪಿ.ಶಿವಣ್ಣ ಬಿನ್ ದೇವೀರಮ್ಮ	236/2	0-20	0-00	0-20	0-00	ಋಷಿ	ಸ ನಂ. 236/1	ಸ ನಂ. 171	ಸ ನಂ. 171	ಸ ನಂ. 171	
74	ವಿಕಾಸ್ ಬಿನ್ ಅಂಜನಪ್ಪ	ವಿಕಾಸ್ ಬಿನ್ ಅಂಜನಪ್ಪ	237/1	0-12	0-00	0-12	0-00	ಋಷಿ	ಸ ನಂ. 233	ಸ ನಂ. 237/2	ಸ ನಂ. 171	ಸ ನಂ. 226	
75	ಮುನಿರಾಜು ಬಿನ್ ಲೇ ನಾರಾಯಣಸ್ವಾಮಪ್ಪ	ಮುನಿರಾಜು ಬಿನ್ ಲೇ ನಾರಾಯಣಸ್ವಾಮಪ್ಪ	237/2	0-20	0-00	0-20	0-00	ಋಷಿ	ಸ ನಂ. 237/1	ಸ ನಂ. 237/3, 171	ಸ ನಂ. 171	ಸ ನಂ. 226	
76	ವಿಕಾಸ್ ಬಿನ್ ಅಂಜನಪ್ಪ	ವಿಕಾಸ್ ಬಿನ್ ಅಂಜನಪ್ಪ	237/3	0-08	0-00	0-08	0-00	ಋಷಿ	ಸ ನಂ. 237/2	ಸ ನಂ. 171	ಸ ನಂ. 171	ಸ ನಂ. 237/2	
77	ವಿನಯ್ ಕುಮಾರ್ ಬಿನ್ ಲೇಟ್ ಮಾರಪ್ಪ	ವಿನಯ್ ಕುಮಾರ್ ಬಿನ್ ಲೇಟ್ ಮಾರಪ್ಪ	238	0-20	0-00	0-20	0-00	ಋಷಿ	ಸ ನಂ. 226	ಸ ನಂ. 226	ಸ ನಂ. 171	ಸ ನಂ. ಕುಂದಾಣಿ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಗಡಿ	
78	ಸೋನಿ ಎಂ.ಪಿ. ಬಿನ್ ಎಸ್.ಜಿ.ಮರಿಯಪ್ಪ	ಸೋನಿ ಎಂ.ಪಿ. ಬಿನ್ ಎಸ್.ಜಿ.ಮರಿಯಪ್ಪ	239	1-06	0-06	1-00	0-06	ಋಷಿ	ಸ ನಂ. 171	ಸ ನಂ. 171, 225	ಸ ನಂ. 171, 224	ಕುಂದಾಣಿ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಗಡಿ	

QUICK READ



Andhra CM orders help for Kakinada fire victims

Amaravati

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu directed officials to provide full assistance to victims of a massive fire in Kakinada's Sarlankapalle village. The blaze destroyed 38 thatched houses, leaving over 100 people homeless, though no casualties were reported. Immediate relief of ₹25,000 per family has been announced, along with food, shelter, and help replacing lost documents. New houses will be built for all affected families, and officials will monitor support until completion. Former CM Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy expressed grief, urging additional ex-gratia payments and quick government action to ensure victims face no hardship.

CBI court sentences firm, director in coal scam

New Delhi

A CBI court in Delhi has convicted M/s SKS Ispat & Power Ltd, its director Deepak Gupta, and two authorised signatories in a coal block allocation scam. This is the 20th conviction in such cases. Gupta was sentenced to three years rigorous imprisonment and fined ₹10 lakh. Satya Narain Dwivedi and Amrit Singh received two and one year RI, with fines. The company was fined ₹50 lakh. The CBI said the accused submitted false documents to secure the Rawanwara North Coal Block. The case highlights continued action against financial fraud and corporate wrongdoing nationwide.

SC questions feeding stray dogs in public

New Delhi

The Supreme Court raised concerns about people and organisations feeding stray dogs in public, asking whether their care extends to humans too. The bench questioned accountability after a nine-year-old was killed in a dog attack. Lawyers said sterilisation, not killing, is the only solution, while poor fund use and weak ABC Rule implementation worsen aggression. Experts noted stray dogs also help control rats and maintain ecological balance. Victims highlighted that cruelty triggers dog aggression. The court stressed humane treatment and responsibility of animal welfare groups. The case has been under suo motu hearing since July 2025.

Nitin Nabin set to take BJP helm

NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party is set for an important organisational change as its Working President Nitin Nabin is expected to file his nomination for the post of national President on January 19, according to party sources. The formal announcement of the new party chief is scheduled for January 20.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to be present as the proposer during the nomination process. His presence is being seen as a strong signal of confidence in Nitin Nabin's leadership and a sign of continuity in the party's direction and organisation.

The nomination process will follow the BJP's established internal procedures for selecting its national President. Several senior leaders, central office bearers and key members of the party are expected to attend the event, making it a high profile moment in the BJP's organisational calendar.

Party sources said the official declaration on January 20 will bring clarity to the BJP's leadership structure ahead of future electoral challenges. The appointment is being closely watched as the party prepares its long term political and governance strategies at the national level.

MP approves ambitious space technology policy

Madhya Pradesh cleared its 2026 Space Act and Policy, aiming to boost satellite tech, attract ₹1,000 crore, and create 8,000 jobs

BHOPAL

The Madhya Pradesh government on Tuesday approved several major initiatives covering space technology, renewable energy, agriculture and education, signaling a strong push towards innovation and sustainable growth. The decisions were taken at a cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Dr Mohan Yadav in Bhopal.

A key highlight was the clearance of the Madhya Pradesh Space Act 2026 along with the Madhya Pradesh Space Tech Policy 2026. The policy aims to promote satellite manufacturing, geospatial



services and space based applications. Officials said it could attract investments worth Rs 1,000 crore and create nearly 8,000 jobs over the next five years, placing the state firmly on India's space industry map.

In the renewable energy sector, the cabinet approved

large solar to storage projects to ensure round the clock power supply. These include two 300 megawatt projects with four and six hour storage, and a 200 megawatt solar project capable of storing power for 24 hours. Projects will be awarded through competitive bidding at low tariffs.

Agriculture also received a boost with approval for major irrigation projects. Funds were cleared for the Mohanpura Expansion Project, Sultanpur Lift Irrigation Project and Bana Uhan Irrigation Project. Together, these schemes will help irrigate large areas across several districts and directly benefit over

20,000 farmers.

In education, the cabinet approved the second phase of the Sandipani School Scheme. Under this phase, 200 fully equipped schools will be built at a cost of around Rs 3,660 crore. A new four tier time bound pay scale for teachers was also approved, offering financial relief.

Other decisions included higher compensation for a police officer's family, tax exemptions at trade fairs and a major water augmentation project for the Ujjain division. The government said farmer welfare, education and innovation will remain top priorities in 2026.



Nitish cabinet clears 41 proposals for Bihar growth

PATNA

The Bihar cabinet on Tuesday approved 41 important proposals aimed at boosting job creation and strengthening infrastructure across the state. The meeting, chaired by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, was the first cabinet meeting of the new year and was attended by all ministers, including Deputy Chief Ministers Samrat Choudhary and Vijay Kumar Sinha.

The decisions are seen as a key step towards fulfilling promises made by Nitish Kumar and the NDA during the 2025 Assembly elections. After forming the new government, the administration has started work on a special action plan focused on jobs and employment generation.

The cabinet stressed the need to fill vacancies in various departments and attract private investment to create large scale employment opportunities. Several development and employment related schemes were approved during the meeting.

One major approval was for a Rs 33.29 crore project to construct a 220 KV DC transmission line. This project aims to ensure uninterrupted and quality power supply to the Integrated Manufacturing Cluster in Gaya under the Bihar State Power Transmission Company Limited.

The cabinet also cleared the reorganisation and creation of 694 posts in the Agriculture Department. These include 534 Plant Protection Supervi-

The cabinet emphasized filling departmental vacancies and boosting private investment for large-scale employment, approving several development and employment-focused schemes during the meeting to strengthen job creation.

sor posts and 160 Plant Protection Inspector posts, created by restructuring existing sanctioned positions.

A temporary ex cadre post of Forest and Environment Advisor was approved for three years. The position will be filled by a retired forest service officer to speed up environmental clearances and project execution.

In another move, 200 sanctioned posts in the Fisheries Directorate were reorganised under new service rules. The cabinet also approved the Bihar Anand Karaj Marriage Registration Rules, allowing formal registration of marriages under the Anand tradition.

In the transport sector, the minimum qualification for a Conductor License was reduced from Class 10 to Class 8 to expand job access. The cabinet further approved Rs 314.20 crore for constructing Bihar Bhawan in Mumbai.

Overall, the decisions reflect the state government's strong focus on employment, infrastructure development, administrative reform and inclusive governance at the start of the year.

Uddhav Thackeray urged unity to protect Marathi interests, resist external pressure, and said January 15 elections determine Mumbai's future

Thackeray brothers revive Marathi pride in BMC polls

MUMBAI

The campaign for the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation elections has turned intense as the Thackeray brothers invoked memories of the historic Samyukta Maharashtra Movement to corner the BJP and rally Marathi voters. Uddhav Thackeray and Raj Thackeray compared the civic polls to a renewed struggle to protect Mumbai's identity.

Both leaders described the upcoming BMC elections as a decisive battle to stop what they called a hostile takeover of the city. By recalling the movement that ensured Mumbai remained part of Maharashtra, they sought to remind voters of past sacrifices and link them to present political choices.

Uddhav Thackeray said that differences were set aside to safeguard Maharashtra and Mumbai. He warned that the city should never bow to external pressure and stressed that unity was needed to protect Marathi interests. He said the January 15 elections would decide the future of



Mumbai's identity.

Explaining their reunion after years, Uddhav said the decision was taken only to protect Maharashtra. He added that any attempt to weaken Mumbai's link with the state would be strongly opposed.

Raj Thackeray issued a sharp warning to Marathi voters, calling the election the last chance for the Marathi mannos. He urged people not to fight among themselves, claiming that internal divisions only benefit the BJP.

The brothers accused the BJP of revenge politics and alleged that Mumbai's control was slowly shifting away

from Maharashtra. They claimed that economic and political interests linked to Gujarat were gaining influence over the city.

Raj clarified that the concern was not about Mumbai changing states, but about losing control over land, wealth and decisions.

They also accused the BJP of focusing on religious polarisation instead of development. Uddhav targeted Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, alleging that communal issues are raised before every election. He even offered a reward to anyone who could show an election fought without such tactics.

German Chancellor Merz concludes landmark India visit

GANDHINAGAR

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz departed for home on Tuesday after completing a two day official visit to India that marked a significant step forward in bilateral relations. Gujarat Governor Acharya Devvrat, Chief Minister Bhupendraabhai Patel and senior officials saw him off at Ahmedabad Airport.

During his visit, Chancellor Merz held delegation level talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Mahatma Mandir Conven-



tion Centre in Gandhinagar. Both leaders agreed to take India Germany relations to a higher level with deeper cooperation in defence, space and critical emerging technologies.

Prime Minister Modi said the visit added fresh momentum to ties as the two nations mark 25 years of

strategic partnership and 75 years of diplomatic relations. He noted that India was honoured to be Chancellor Merz's first destination in Asia, reflecting his personal commitment to the partnership.

The discussions also covered climate action, trusted supply chains, education, skilling, sports and stronger cultural and people to people links. The leaders later attended the International Kite Festival at the Sabarmati Riverfront, where they flew kites together and took part in the celebrations.

CPI M hit as Ayisha Potty joins Congress

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The ruling CPI M in Kerala suffered a major political jolt on Tuesday as three time former MLA Ayisha Potty formally joined the Congress, boosting the Opposition ahead of the upcoming Assembly elections. Her move is being seen as a serious setback for the Left and a morale lifter for the Congress. Ayisha Potty, a lawyer by profession, represented the Kottarakara Assembly constituency for three consecutive terms from 2006. During her tenure, she built a strong image as a grassroots leader and gained attention for her ability to connect with ordinary people. Her relationship with the CPI M leadership reportedly began to weaken over the years. In 2021, she was denied a party ticket, a decision that marked a turning point in her political career.

Congress projects Rahul Gandhi as Thalaiva in Tamil Nadu

CHENNAI

Congress leader and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi received a grand welcome on his arrival in Tamil Nadu on Tuesday, with party workers hailing him as "Thalaiva", meaning leader. The display reflects the Congress party's effort to assert greater political space within the ruling alliance ahead of the Assembly elections later this year.

Rahul Gandhi is visiting the state to attend the golden jubilee celebrations of a school in Gudalur in the Nilgiris district. While the party has described the visit as non political, it has sparked wide speculation about its timing and intent.

According to party sources, Gandhi is expected to interact with students and local residents during his visit. However, the Tamil Nadu Congress Committee organised a show of strength at the Chennai airport, where supporters held banners projecting him as a supreme leader.

The public enthusiasm comes at a time when the



Congress is demanding a bigger role in the state government, a proposal that has so far been rejected by its ally, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, which leads the government.

Recent reports have also suggested that the Congress is exploring options with actor politician Vijay's Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam to strengthen its bargaining position. Though TNCC leaders have denied such talks, the "Thalaiva" slogan is being seen as a message of political intent.

Sources say tensions be-

tween the allies have grown in recent days, with the Congress seeking at least 40 seats in the 234 member Assembly and pushing for a formal coalition framework. Currently, the party has 17 MLAs.

DMK leaders have firmly rejected the demand. State minister I Periyasamy reiterated that Tamil Nadu follows a tradition of single party rule under Chief Minister M K Stalin.

Rahul Gandhi is scheduled to meet district level party leaders later in the day to discuss the Congress strategy for the coming months.

STATE CORRUPTION CRACKDOWN

Rajasthan ACB cracks down on illegal mining

JAIPUR

The Anti Corruption Bureau of Rajasthan has registered a case against officials of the Mining Department, crusher owners and royalty contractors for allegedly allowing large scale illegal mining and causing heavy revenue loss to the state government. The action follows a preliminary investigation into mining activities in the Bharatpur region.

According to officials, the case was filed by the ACB's Bharatpur unit under directions from its Jaipur headquarters



after receiving complaints about serious irregularities. The complaint alleged that illegal mining was being shown as legal through the misuse of official permits.

The investigation found that permits issued for closed or non operational mines were al-

legedly used to transport and process minerals extracted illegally. These minerals were falsely recorded as legally mined, helping the accused avoid paying royalty and other government charges.

The ACB said it found initial evidence pointing to collusion

between public officials and private players. Named in the case are several mining department officials, including engineers, supervisors and surveyors posted in Bharatpur at different times. The accused officials allegedly abused their positions to support illegal activities.

Private parties named include lease holders, crusher owners and royalty contractors who are believed to have benefited from the operation. The inquiry revealed that millions of tonnes of minerals were extracted illegally through this

network. By manipulating records and permits, the accused allegedly caused a major financial loss to the state exchequer. The ACB described the acts as criminal conspiracy involving both government officials and private individuals.

Based on the findings, the bureau has registered a case under relevant sections of the Prevention of Corruption Act. Officials said the investigation is still in progress and aims to determine the full scale of illegal mining, calculate the total revenue loss and identify more people involved.



QUICK READ

Japanese PM
Takaichi plans to
dissolve House

Tokyo
Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi intends to dissolve the House of Representatives for a snap election at the start of the regular Diet session scheduled to be held on January 23, local media reported on Tuesday, citing a source familiar with the matter. The move conveyed to senior ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) members comes at a time when Takaichi's cabinet enjoys a high approval rating, raising hopes that an early election could improve her fragile political standing, considering the ruling coalition has a razor-thin majority in the lower house.

Karachi residents
suffering as gas supply to
several areas suspended

Islamabad
Several areas of Pakistan's Karachi remained without gas supply while other regions received gas with low pressure, local media reported on Tuesday. Residents in Karachi continue to face reduced gas supply amid severe winter weather. People said that winter weather had once again exposed the gas utility distribution infrastructure's failure. They have been facing a gas crisis for the past four days, leading to residents turning to expensive LPG cylinders, further increasing their financial woes. How long will Karachi tolerate a utility that can't secure its own supply, Dawn quoted a housewife from Gulistan-i-Jauhar as saying.

Rising violence fuels
fear ahead of February
parliamentary election

Dhaka
With Bangladesh moving closer to its 13th parliamentary election scheduled for February, a sharp rise in violence, including targeted killings and the widespread use of illegal firearms, has sparked growing fear among political parties and prospective candidates across the country, according to local media reports. Reports suggest that killings linked to political rivalry, the struggle for dominance, and personal disputes have escalated, fueling growing security concerns among ordinary citizens. Citing Police headquarters data, Bangladeshi leading daily Dhaka Tribune reported that from January to November last year, 3,509 people were killed across Bangladesh.

South Korea, Japan Leaders Stress
Cooperation Amid Global Order

South Korean and Japanese leaders underscored deeper cooperation, urging future-focused ties despite historical grievances and escalating regional uncertainties.

SEOUL

South Korean President Lee Jae Myung on Tuesday emphasised that cooperation between South Korea and Japan has become more vital than ever, pointing to an increasingly complex and unpredictable international environment. Speaking at the opening of summit talks with Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi, Lee urged both countries to pursue a forward-looking relationship, even as they continue to grapple with the painful legacy of Japan's colonial rule over the Korean Peninsula.

Amid a complex and dizzying international order, I believe that cooperation between Korea and Japan is more important than ever, Lee said. His remarks reflected growing concern over geopolitical instability, intensifying



rivalries in East Asia, and the erosion of traditional multilateral frameworks.

The summit followed Lee's recent talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing, held against the backdrop of heightened tensions between China and Japan. Strains have particularly risen over sensitive regional issues, including comments made by Prime Minister Takaichi regarding Taiwan, which have drawn sharp reactions from Beijing.

Highlighting the progress achieved since Seoul and Tokyo normalised diplomatic relations six decades ago, Lee noted that the two neighbours have built a largely mutually beneficial partnership over the past 60 years. He expressed hope that the next six decades would see even closer collaboration based on trust, realism, and shared strategic interests.

Prime Minister Takaichi echoed this sentiment, saying she was committed to work-

ing closely with Lee to promote regional stability. She expressed optimism that the South Korean leader's visit would help further elevate bilateral ties and create momentum for sustained dialogue and cooperation.

Lee also called for expanding cooperation across a wide range of areas, including artificial intelligence, economic security, social and cultural exchanges, and people-to-people contacts. He warned that geopolitical uncertainty is rising, global supply chains are increasingly being weaponised, and multilateralism is under severe strain.

To address the pressing challenges we face, I hope that the two countries will squarely confront history while expanding cooperation based on deep mutual trust, Lee said.

Thousands of Afghan women and families face poverty, winter hardship, and rights abuses after forced deportations from neighbours.

Deported Afghan Women and
Families Face Deepening Poverty

KABUL

Thousands of Afghan women and families deported from neighbouring Pakistan and Iran are facing worsening poverty, lack of shelter, and mounting human rights concerns as they struggle to rebuild their lives in Afghanistan, according to local and international reports released on Tuesday.

Afghan returnees have described severe economic hardship, inadequate housing, and limited access to essential services such as food, healthcare, and heating during harsh winter conditions. Many of the affected households are headed by women who were previously employed in Pakistan and Iran. However, sudden deportations have stripped them of income and support systems, leaving entire families vulnerable to extreme deprivation.

The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) has



warned that more than two million Afghan returnees now face serious livelihood challenges. Forced deportations, the agency said, are further intensifying an already dire refugee and humanitarian crisis. Women and children are particularly at risk, with many being returned to regions where gender-based violence, early or forced marriages, and severe restrictions on women's freedoms remain widespread.

Journalists and media workers in Afghanistan are also facing growing dangers. According to Khaama Press, reporting on sensitive issues such as forced deportations,

public protests, and women's rights has become increasingly risky. Many journalists have reportedly been subjected to detention, harassment, or violence, contributing to a climate of fear and restricting the flow of independent information.

Data from United Nations agencies paints a bleak picture of the situation on the ground. UN reports indicate that only 11 per cent of Afghan returnees are currently employed, while one in four lacks adequate housing. More than half of all returning households are unable to meet even basic daily needs, with women-headed families facing particularly high levels of food insecurity and unemployment. Women reportedly account for nearly half of all returnees from Pakistan and about one-third from Iran. Overall, around 75 per cent of Afghans are unemployed, and nearly 90 per cent live below the poverty line.

Deadly Winter Storm
Claims Palestinian
Lives in Gaza

GAZA

At least eight Palestinians have died across the Gaza Strip as a powerful winter storm swept through the war-ravaged enclave, bringing freezing temperatures, torrential rain, and strong winds. The harsh weather has compounded the suffering of tens of thousands of displaced residents who are surviving in flimsy tents and makeshift shelters after months of relentless Israeli attacks.

According to Gaza's Civil Defence, four people died as a direct result of exposure to extreme cold caused by a severe weather depression affecting the coastal territory. A spokesperson for the agency said the plunging temperatures and fierce winds proved fatal for families lacking proper shelter, blankets, or heating fuel. The deaths were reported as Israel continues to restrict the entry of humanitarian aid and essential shelter materials into the besieged enclave, despite provisions under a ceasefire agreement reached on October 10.

Medical sources confirmed that one of the victims was a one-year-old child who died inside a family tent before being rushed to al-Aqsa Hospital in Deir al-Balah. Doctors said the child succumbed to the cold amid relentless rain and freezing winds, highlighting the extreme vulnerability of infants and the elderly in current conditions.

In addition to deaths caused



A severe winter storm has killed eight Palestinians in Gaza, worsening humanitarian suffering amid displacement, destruction, and restricted aid.

by exposure, four other Palestinians were killed when weakened buildings collapsed during the storm. Civil Defence officials and medical staff at al-Shifa Hospital reported that three people, including a 15-year-old girl, were crushed when a war-damaged structure collapsed in Gaza City. A fourth person was killed in a separate building collapse in another part of the city, where infrastructure has been severely compromised by months of bombardment.

Mahmoud Basal, spokesperson for Gaza Civil Defence, warned that the storm could have catastrophic consequences for the wider population. He said the majority of Gaza's residents have been left without adequate housing due to the ongoing Israeli military campaign and restrictions on goods entering the territory.

Government employees
protest in Balochistan,
seeking 30 pc disparity
reduction allowance



QUETTA

Government employees held protests in Pakistan's Balochistan, demanding the implementation of the Disparity Reduction Allowance (DRA), leading to road blockades and arrests, local media reported. The employees from various government departments have been holding protests for the past seven months, demanding 30 per cent DRA, like how it has been granted in Punjab and Sindh provinces.

Employees from various sectors joined the protest led by the Balochistan Grand Alliance (BGA). They have claimed that employees of institutions like the Governor's House, Chief Minister's Secretariat, and High Court have been paid higher salaries despite being in the same grade as workers in other government departments, The Balochistan Post reported.

The BGA emphasised the need to address this salary disparity, stressing that the committee established by the Balochistan government has already recommended the DRA. However, the Balochistan CM has taken no action on the issue so far.

In retaliation for the protests, the Balochistan government has reportedly launched a crackdown on protest leaders, with more than 50 employees

arrested so far.

Previously, 38 assistant professors and lecturers from government colleges were suspended for participating in the protest.

In response to the government's actions, employees have intensified protests, with strikes, road blockages and mass deportations. Employees blocked key highways connecting Quetta to Karachi, Taftan, Gwadar, and Sindh in cities like Khuzdar, Lasbela, and Nasirabad, stalling traffic movement on the roads.

The BGA has said that it plans to hold protests in phases, with the first phase involving road blockages until January 14, followed by a complete closure of government offices in Balochistan on January 15.

The BGA announced that the final stage of the protest will be held on January 20, with a sit-in planned near the Red Zone in Quetta. The employees have warned the government that they will launch a 'Jail Bharo' (Fill the Jails) movement if no action is taken.

Previously, the Balochistan government suspended 38 assistant professors and lecturers, including six female teachers from various departments of the colleges, for three months over their participation in strikes and protests, local media reported.

SU DO KU

Brain-Bender: Can You Solve It?

4	6	1	2			9
	5		4		2	8
8	2		5	9		6
	8		9		4	6
	1		7			9
6	4	2		3	5	1
5		8		9		3
	6		5		2	9
3		9	8		7	1
				7	1	5

6	8	4	1	5	9	7	3	2
7	5	1	8	3	2	9	4	6
9	2	3	6	7	4	1	8	5
1	9	2	3	6	5	8	7	4
8	4	5	2	1	7	6	9	3
3	6	7	4	9	8	2	5	1
2	3	9	7	4	9	5	1	8
5	1	6	9	8	3	4	2	7
4	7	8	5	2	1	3	6	9

Fill a 9x9 grid with numbers so that each row, column and 3x3 section contain all of the digits between 1 and 9.

GREENLAND REJECTS ACQUISITION

Greenland Leaders Push Back as Global
Spotlight Grows Over US Interest

DENMARK

Inside the Danish parliament, international media attention has surged to unprecedented levels for Greenland's political representatives. In a tightly packed schedule of back-to-back interviews, journalists are ushered in and out of the office of Aaja Chemnitz, one of Greenland's two members of the Danish parliament, reflecting the sudden global focus on the Arctic territory.

The rising interest follows a crisis meeting held last week by Denmark's foreign relations committee, convened to address a single urgent issue: the rapidly deteriorating relationship between the Kingdom of Denmark and its NATO ally, the United States. At the centre of the dispute is renewed pressure from former US President Donald Trump, who has once again voiced ambitions for Washington to



acquire Greenland.

Speaking to Al Jazeera, Chemnitz, a member of the Inuit Ataqatigiit (IA) party, firmly rejected the idea. Greenland is not for sale, and Greenland will never be for sale, she said, stressing that the issue goes far beyond economics or strategic interests. According to Chemnitz, Greenland's identity is deeply rooted in its culture, language, and history, all of which would be fundamentally altered by any change in sovereignty. People seem to think they can buy the Greenlandic soul, she added, noting that

becoming American citizens is not something the majority of Greenlanders desire.

The controversy has placed enormous pressure on Greenland's small population of around 56,000 people, many of whom are unaccustomed to being at the centre of global geopolitical rivalry. The island's other parliamentary representative, Aki-Matilda Hoegh-Dam of the Naleraq party, described the situation as deeply unsettling.

It has been a very turbulent time for many Greenlanders, Hoegh-Dam told Al Jazeera. She explained that Greenland has historically been isolated from major global powers, particularly in the realm of foreign relations, for nearly three centuries. But now we feel cornered, and that is making a lot of people anxious, she said, pointing to growing fears about external pressure and loss of self-determination.

QUICK READ

India auto sales hit record Q3 high

New Delhi

India's auto industry posted strong growth in the third quarter of FY26, driven by festive demand and better affordability. Passenger vehicle sales jumped 21 percent to a record 12.76 lakh units, while exports also hit new highs. Two-wheeler sales crossed five million units for the first time, supported by tax relief and rate cuts. Three-wheelers and commercial vehicles also reported their best-ever Q3 sales. Rising incomes, policy support, and strong overseas demand from Africa, the Middle East, and nearby regions lifted overall industry confidence. Analysts expect momentum to continue into coming quarters nationwide despite global uncertainty.

Nvidia plans priority GPU supply for Korea

Seoul

Nvidia has shown interest in giving South Korea priority access to its next generation graphics processing units. A senior government official said the move could help the country stay ahead in artificial intelligence competition. During a recent visit to Nvidia headquarters after CES 2026, officials promised early supply of Blackwell GPUs and priority access to Vera Rubin chips. The Korean government said faster access to advanced chips is vital for AI, robotics, autonomous driving, healthcare, and smart technology growth. Talks also included setting up a Nvidia research centre to support startups and strengthen future digital innovation nationwide.

Amex shares slide after trump rate cap

New Delhi

American Express shares fell sharply after US President Donald Trump proposed a one year cap on credit card interest rates at ten percent. Amex dropped over four percent, while Capital One, Citigroup, Wells Fargo, and Synchrony Financial also declined. Analysts warned the move could cut profits and limit lending. Trump said high rates hurt working people and promised strict action. Industry groups supported cheaper credit but cautioned availability may suffer. Experts added such a cap needs congressional approval and faces strong banking lobby resistance. Markets reacted quickly as investors feared tighter rules before upcoming elections nationwide.

US Iran tariffs raise fresh concerns India

NEW DELHI

India may face fresh trade pressure after the United States announced a 25 per cent tariff on countries doing business with Iran. The move comes at a time when India is already dealing with high US tariffs on several exports. Experts say the decision could affect India due to its strong trade links with Tehran. India is among Iran's top five trading partners. Official data shows that during the financial year 2024–25, India exported goods worth 1.24 billion dollars to Iran, while imports stood at 0.44 billion dollars. This took total bilateral trade to around 1.68 billion dollars. Major Indian exports to Iran include rice, tea, sugar, medicines, manmade fibres, electrical equipment and artificial jewellery. In return, India imports dry fruits, chemicals and glassware from Iran. These trade ties have remained steady despite global sanctions on Tehran. India and Iran also share strategic cooperation. In 2015, both countries signed an agreement to jointly develop the Shahid Beheshti Port at Chabahar. India continues to support the port's growth as a key hub for regional trade and humanitarian supplies.



Government pushes safer rules for delivery workers

After govt intervention, Blinkit removed its ten-minute delivery claim, while others pledged removing delivery-time promises.

NEW DELHI

The government has asked online food delivery and quick commerce platforms to remove rigid ten minute delivery promises to ensure the safety of gig workers. Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya raised the issue during meetings with major companies operating in the sector. Mandaviya held discussions with representatives of Blinkit, Zepto, Swiggy and Zomato, urging them to put worker safety above speed. He advised the companies to stop using strict delivery timelines on their apps, advertisements and promotional material, saying such commitments create unsafe pressure on delivery partners. After the government's intervention, Blinkit has reportedly removed its ten minute delivery claim from all its brand platforms. Other companies also assured the minis-



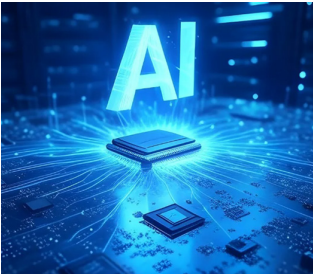
ter that delivery time promises would be removed from advertisements and social media pages. The move is being seen as an important step towards improving working conditions for delivery partners, many of whom rush through busy roads to meet tight deadlines. Safety concerns for gig workers have been growing, especially in crowded urban areas. The issue has also received political attention. Aam Aadmi Party Rajya Sabha MP Raghav Chadha has been highlighting the risks faced by delivery workers. On Mon-

day, he shared a video of himself spending a day as a delivery partner in Delhi to understand their daily struggles. Wearing a delivery company jacket, Chadha was seen riding through traffic and delivering parcels. He said the experience helped him understand the challenges faced by gig workers beyond policy discussions. Earlier this month, Chadha welcomed the draft social security rules for gig workers, calling them a first step towards dignity and protection. He also supported delivery partners who held a symbolic nationwide strike on New Year's Eve. The strike saw thousands of workers logging off apps or reducing work, causing delays on a busy day. Chadha said their demands for fair wages and safety are valid, adding that gig workers play a vital role in India's urban economy.

India AI Impact Summit set to redefine future

NEW DELHI

The upcoming India AI Impact Summit 2026 is expected to become a major turning point for the country in shaping the future of responsible and inclusive Artificial Intelligence, according to experts. The summit will be held in New Delhi from February 16 to 20 and is being seen as a key global platform for meaningful AI discussions. An official statement from the IT Ministry said the event was highlighted during the 38th episode of Digital India Ask Our Experts. Experts explained that the summit is built around three guiding principles, known as the "Sutras" — People, Planet and Progress. These pillars aim to ensure that AI development benefits society, protects the environment and supports steady growth. Several focused working groups, called "Chakras", will hold discussions on policy, skills development and real-world use of AI. The outcomes are expected to influence AI planning not only in India but also across the Global South. Special attention will be given to young people, startups, women inno-



vators and learners from Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities. The summit will also host the India AI Impact Expo 2026 at Bharat Mandapam. The expo will showcase AI solutions improving education, healthcare, agriculture and governance. Events such as AI and Data Labs, pitch fests and the YUVAI Global Youth Challenge will offer learning and growth opportunities. During the programme, citizens raised questions about AI infrastructure, open data access, healthcare data and inclusion of non-technical users. Experts assured that IndiaAI is building open, safe and inclusive platforms. Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi encouraged startups to use AI for social good, calling his interaction with young innovators meaningful and inspiring.

South Korea manufacturers expect tough economic year

SEOUL

Around 40 percent of South Korean manufacturers expect economic conditions to worsen this year, showing rising concern over currency swings and global uncertainty, according to a new industry survey. A poll by the Korea Chamber of Commerce and Industry covering 2,208 manufacturing firms found that

40.1 percent of respondents foresee a deterioration in the economy. Among them, 14.7 percent expect a clear decline, while 25.4 percent anticipate a mild slowdown. Only 23.6 percent of companies believe conditions will improve, while 36.4 percent expect the economy to remain mostly unchanged from 2025. The results point to cautious sentiment across

the manufacturing sector. The chamber said 47 percent of respondents cited a stronger US dollar and rising volatility in the foreign exchange market as major drags. Sharp changes in crude oil prices and raw material costs were also named as key risks. Trade uncertainty linked to policies of US President Donald Trump's administration added further pressure

on business confidence. Due to these concerns, only 20 percent of firms said they plan to expand operations this year. About 67 percent said they would maintain current business levels and delay major investments. The outlook differed across industries. In the semiconductor sector, which is enjoying strong global demand, 47 percent of companies plan to

expand. Pharmaceutical and cosmetics firms were also relatively optimistic, with around 39 percent in each sector expecting growth. Kang Seok-koo, head of research at the chamber, said that while exports and domestic consumption may recover, uneven industry growth and a strong dollar are pushing firms to remain cautious this year overall.

ELECTRIC-INDIA-ACCELERATES

Government drives electric vehicle growth at record pace

NEW DELHI

India's push towards electric mobility gained strong momentum in 2025 as the Centre accelerated electric vehicle adoption through record investments and successful policy measures, according to an official statement released on Tuesday. The Ministry of Heavy Industries said the Production Linked Incentive scheme for the auto sector played a major role in strengthening India's EV ecosystem. During 2024–25, claims worth nearly Rs 2,000 crore were disbursed under the PLI Auto scheme, reflecting rising industry participation and confidence.



By December 31, 2025, incentives had supported more than 13.61 lakh electric vehicles across the country. These included over 10.42 lakh electric two wheelers, around 2.38 lakh three wheelers, nearly 80,000 electric cars and more than 1,300 electric buses.

A major boost came from the PM E DRIVE scheme, launched in September 2024 with a total outlay of Rs 10,900 crore. The scheme aims to speed up EV adoption, expand charging infrastructure and strengthen domestic EV manufacturing.

Under the scheme, Rs 3,679 crore has been set aside to support over 28 lakh electric vehicles, while Rs 4,391 crore has been allocated for deploying more than 14,000 electric buses through public transport agencies. As of the end of 2025,

claims worth Rs 1,703 crore had been cleared and over 21 lakh electric vehicles sold under the scheme. In addition, government owned CESL finalised one of India's largest tenders for 10,900 electric buses across five major cities. The ministry is also implementing the Electric Car Manufacturing scheme to attract global investment and boost local value addition. Approved companies must invest at least Rs 4,150 crore within three years. Officials said these efforts support Make in India, generate jobs and firmly place India on the global electric mobility map.

Critical minerals key to India manufacturing push

NEW DELHI

Strengthening critical mineral supply chains is essential for boosting India's manufacturing strength and supporting long term growth, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Tuesday. The minister made the remarks while participating in the Critical Minerals Ministerial Meeting held in the United States. Vaishnaw, who handles the Railways and Electronics and IT portfolios, arrived in the US on Sunday to attend the high level meeting hosted by US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent. The discussions focused on securing mineral supply chains that are crucial for modern industries and advanced technologies. Sharing his views on social media, the minister said strong and reliable access to critical minerals is vital for improving the resilience of India's manufacturing base and its fast growing electronics sector. He stressed that supply chain stability is necessary to meet future industrial demand. US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said participating nations showed a shared



commitment to quickly addressing weaknesses in global mineral supply chains. He added that countries should focus on reducing risks rather than cutting economic ties, and act decisively to ensure long term stability. The visit comes as India recently announced a major scheme to promote the manufacturing of sintered Rare Earth Permanent Magnets. The scheme aims to reduce import dependence and strengthen India's role in global advanced materials supply chains. With a financial outlay of Rs 7,280 crore, the plan targets setting up 6,000 metric tonnes per year of integrated manufacturing capacity, covering the entire process from rare earth oxides to finished magnets. The initiative is expected to

Vaishnaw, overseeing Railways and Electronics & IT, arrived in the US Sunday to attend a high-level meeting with Treasury Secretary Bessent on critical mineral supply chains

attract technology focused investments, generate jobs and support India's Net Zero 2070 goals. It also aligns with the vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat by building strong domestic capabilities. India is also working through global platforms like the Minerals Security Partnership and the Indo Pacific Economic Framework to develop secure and resilient critical mineral supply networks.

Bond markets anticipate higher 2026 state borrowing, while RBI support, fiscal prudence, and index inclusion may attract foreign investors

India growth sweet spot spurs policy rethink

NEW DELHI

India appears to be in a Goldilocks phase of strong economic growth and low inflation, with economists calling for a shift towards a near neutral policy path to support stability in 2026. A new report by HSBC Global Investment Research said India is currently enjoying balanced conditions, where growth remains healthy while inflation stays under control, creating space for thoughtful policy decisions. The report suggested that a near neutral approach, combining fiscal discipline with continued monetary support, would help markets and the broader economy perform steadily in the coming year. It added that a mix of tight government spending and easier monetary policy could create better balance and remain positive for all major asset classes. However, economists warned that deeper issues such as weak corporate in-



vestment and limited foreign capital inflows still need careful attention. Bond markets have already priced in higher state borrowing expected in early 2026, while steps like RBI bond purchases, fiscal prudence in the Union Budget and possible global bond index inclusion could draw foreign investors. The report noted that equities may benefit from recent reforms, rising nominal GDP and more reasonable valuations, but lasting gains will depend on structural reforms that encourage private investment. Chief India Economist Pranjul Bhandari said inflation is likely to stay just be-

low the four percent target next year, easing pressure on the central bank to raise rates. She added there is room for further easing if growth slows, a view different from market expectations of tighter money and looser fiscal policy. Globally, factors such as tariff developments, bond index inclusion and changing developed market yields continue to influence Indian markets. The central government plans to reduce public debt to pre pandemic levels by financial year 2031 through steady fiscal consolidation, supported partly by privatisation efforts.



Brooks Koepka Seeks PGA Tour Return After LIV Exit

DETROIT

Five-time major champion Brooks Koepka is set to make a high-profile return to the PGA Tour after formally applying for reinstatement, following his departure from LIV Golf. However, his comeback could come at a steep cost, with potential financial implications reportedly reaching up to \$85 million under a newly announced PGA Tour program.

Koepka, a former world number one, joined LIV Golf in 2022 during the peak of the breakaway circuit's controversial expansion, lured by lucrative contracts and guaranteed prize money. Last month, he officially parted ways with the Saudi-funded league and subsequently informed PGA Tour officials that his previous affiliation had concluded. PGA Tour CEO Brian Rupp confirmed the development in an open letter to fans, stating that Koepka had followed the required process to seek reinstatement.

Under revised PGA Tour policies introduced this week, players returning from rival circuits may be subject to significant financial obligations. While specific details of Koepka's case have not been publicly disclosed, sources suggest that participation requirements, deferred compensation structures, and potential repayment clauses linked to past commitments could amount to a figure nearing \$85 million. The program is aimed at reinforcing tour loyalty while creating a structured pathway for returning players.

Koepka's potential return would mark one of the most notable reversals since the emergence of LIV Golf reshaped professional golf's landscape. Known for his dominance in major championships and ability to peak on the biggest stages, Koepka remains one of the sport's most recognisable figures. His reintegration into the PGA Tour could significantly boost tournament fields, fan interest, and competitive depth.



Olympic medallist Aman Sehrawat connects with Mumbai's youth

MUMBAI

Mumbai experienced a vibrant blend of tradition and modern sports enthusiasm as Olympic bronze medalist Aman Sehrawat wrapped up a one-day youth and akhada outreach tour across the city. The excitement now shifts focus to the upcoming Pro Wrestling League, starting January 16, where Tigers of Mumbai Dangal (TOMD) will debut.

Sehrawat, a bronze medalist at the Paris 2024 Olympics, interacted with college students and grassroots wrestlers all over Mumbai. He shared his journey from traditional akhada training to competing on the world's biggest stages.

His day started with an early training session in Mumbai, followed by a meet-and-greet at a college in Bandra, where he spoke to young athletes and sports fans. He emphasised that achieving elite success relies on discipline, patience, and persistent effort beyond what is visible.

Mumbai has a different kind of fire, Sehrawat said during one of the interactions.

Texans Dominate Steelers in Wild-Card Rout

PITTSBURGH

The Houston Texans delivered a commanding performance to defeat the Pittsburgh Steelers 30-6 in a one-sided NFL wild-card clash, leaving little doubt about the outcome long before the final whistle. What was billed as a potential postseason battle instead turned into a sobering night for Pittsburgh — and possibly the final chapter of a legendary career for Aaron Rodgers.

Rodgers, a future Hall of Famer, endured a miserable outing at quarterback, failing to throw a single touchdown and committing two costly turnovers. Both mistakes directly led to defensive touchdowns, effectively crushing any hope of a Steelers comeback.

The offense sputtered, the defense spent extended stretches on the field, and special teams failed to provide a spark. Despite entering the playoffs with optimism and belief, the Steelers were outmatched in intensity and execution by a Texans side that looked sharper and more prepared for postseason football. The spotlight, however, remained firmly on Rodgers. At 41, questions about his future have grown louder throughout the season, and Monday night's performance did little to quiet speculation. If this indeed turns out to be his final NFL appearance, it will be remembered as an uncharacteristically flat ending for one of the most gifted quarterbacks the league has ever seen.

Houston Texans overwhelmed Pittsburgh Steelers in a lopsided wild-card win, overshadowed by Aaron Rodgers' disappointing performance.

Jack Doohan Parts Ways with Alpine as Formula One Contract Ends

AUCKLAND

Australian driver Jack Doohan and the Renault-owned Alpine Formula One Team have agreed to terminate the young driver's contract, bringing an early end to his time with the Formula One outfit. The announcement was confirmed on Tuesday, with both parties stating that the decision was made by mutual consent, freeing Doohan to pursue alternative racing opportunities elsewhere.

Doohan began last season with high expectations after being promoted to a full-time race seat alongside French driver Pierre Gasly. The move was seen as a major milestone in the Australian's career, following years of development within Alpine's junior programme and strong performances in feeder series. However, his tenure at the top level proved short-lived. After just six races, Doohan was dropped from the race lineup as Alpine opted for a change in direction. The team replaced him with Argentine rookie Franco Colapinto, a decision that reflected Alpine's urgency to improve



results during a challenging campaign. While Doohan showed flashes of promise, consistency and points finishes proved elusive in a car that struggled for competitiveness across much of the grid. In a brief statement, Alpine acknowledged Doohan's professionalism and commitment during his time with the team, thanking him for his contribution and wishing him well for the future. Doohan, in turn, expressed gratitude for the opportunity to compete in Formula One, describing the experience as a valuable learning chapter despite its abrupt conclusion.

The contract termination now leaves Doohan free to consider options beyond Alpine, with potential paths including reserve roles at other Formula One teams, a return to endurance racing, or opportunities in international leading championships such as Formula E or sports car racing. At just 22, the Australian remains highly regarded for his technical feedback and racing intelligence, attributes that could appeal to teams across multiple categories.

For Alpine, the move signals another step in an ongoing period of transition as the team continues to search for stability and competitiveness.



NORWAY CHESS SHIFTS TO OSLO AFTER 13 YEARS IN STAVANGER

OSLO

After thirteen years in Stavanger, Norway Chess and Norway Chess Women will be hosted in Oslo, with Deichman Bjorvika acting as the primary venue, the organisers said on Tuesday. The event is scheduled from May 25 to June 5. Since its inception in 2013, Stavanger has hosted Norway Chess.

Norway Chess would not have become the event it is today without the cross-party political support and the generous welcome we have received in Stavanger. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the City of Stavanger, which has stood by us all the way, especially in the development of Norway Chess Women, a pioneering women's tournament with equal prize conditions, said Kjell Madland, founder and CEO of Norway Chess. Norway Chess will be held for the 14th time, and Norway Chess Women for the 3rd time. Carlsen has taken part in every edition and has won seven of them.

We see great opportunities in establishing Norway Chess in the nation's capital. Oslo is an international meeting place and gives us a unique opportunity to reach an even wider audience, among spectators, partners, and new generations of chess enthusiasts, says Benedicte Westre Skog, COO of Norway Chess.

Magnus Carlsen is the first player to publicly confirm his participation in Norway Chess 2026. The organisers' remaining participants will be announced in the coming weeks, along with the lineup for Norway Chess Women. Founded in 2013 with the ambition to bring together the world's best chess players. Over the years, it has consistently attracted the world's best players, including Magnus Carlsen, Fabiano Caruana, Hikaru Nakamura, and Alireza Firouzja.



FOOTBALL CLUB DEAL

Manchester United Agree Interim Deal with Michael Carrick

MANCHESTER

Manchester United have reached an agreement in principle with Michael Carrick for the former Middlesbrough manager to take charge of the Premier League side on an interim basis until the end of the season, according to a club source on Tuesday. The decision comes at a critical juncture for the club as they look to stabilise their campaign following a turbulent period both on and off the pitch.

Carrick replaces Ruben Amorim, who was dismissed earlier this month after a string of disappointing performances left United struggling for consistency in domestic competitions. The club's hierarchy is understood to have prioritised familiarity, leadership, and calm authority in appointing Carrick, a figure who knows the club's culture intimately and commands respect within the dressing room.

A former Manchester United midfielder, Carrick enjoyed a distinguished playing career at Manchester United, winning multiple Premier League titles, FA Cups, and the UEFA Champions League. Following his retirement, he transitioned into coaching and later took charge at Middlesbrough, where he earned praise for his tactical organisation and player development before leaving the role earlier this season.

Carrick's return, however, comes with an immediate and



formidable challenge. His first match in charge will be the high-profile Manchester derby against second-placed Manchester City at Old Trafford on Saturday. The fixture represents a baptism of fire, with City arriving in strong form and firmly entrenched in the title race.

United supporters will be hoping Carrick can inject stability, tactical clarity, and renewed confidence into a squad that has struggled with inconsistency this season. While expectations will be tempered given the interim nature of his appointment, the club believes his deep understanding of United's identity and values could help steady the ship during a crucial phase of the campaign.

Club officials are continuing their search for a permanent manager, but Carrick's tenure will be closely scrutinised, particularly in marquee fixtures such as the derby.

Tatjana Maria tops Venus Williams in Hobart



HOBART

Germany's Tatjana Maria registered a 6-4, 6-3 win over Venus Williams in the first round of the Hobart International on Tuesday. The first-ever meeting between the two players featured the oldest combined age between competitors, with Maria entering the tilt at age 38 and Williams at 45, since the 1973 founding of the WTA Tour by nearly three years.

Venus has received a wild card entry for the Australian Open, which is set to begin on January 18 in Melbourne. This will be the first major tournament of the year. She featured at the Hobart International as part of her preparation for the season's first Grand Slam, but exited empty-handed after losing in the opening round.

It was the second consecutive tournament in which the American bowed out at the first hurdle, following her defeat at last week's Auckland Classic. Williams will return to Melbourne Park after a five-year absence. Her participation will also see her rewrite the record books, as she becomes the oldest player ever to compete at the Australian Open. The previous age milestone was held by Japan's Kimiko Date, who was 44 years old when she played in the 2015 edition of the tournament.

Williams has won seven Grand Slam singles titles, five at Wimbledon and two at the US Open. She also achieved the world number one ranking in singles for 11 weeks in 2002, becoming the first African American woman to do so in the Open Era.

Her success extends to doubles as well, where she and Serena won 14 Grand Slam titles and remained undefeated in major doubles finals.

The most decorated tennis player in Olympic history, Venus has claimed four gold medals and one silver medal across five Olympic Games, including singles and doubles gold at the Sydney 2000 Games. Despite later career disruptions due to injuries, she still continues to battle for glory.

Government Orders Sports Bodies to Form IR

NEW DELHI

In a policy move to strengthen India's global sporting presence and domestic capabilities, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has directed all recognised National Sports Federations (NSFs) to constitute committees on International Relations and Make in India in Sports. The initiative supports greater international engagement while promoting self-reliance under the Atmanirbhar Bharat vision.

The International Relations Committee will track developments within international federations, including competition rules, governance frameworks, election processes, and athlete-focused programmes. It will also advise NSFs on aligning international engagements with government policy, the Olympic Charter, and principles of good governance, anti-doping, and athlete welfare.

The Make in India in Sports Committee will focus on strengthening domestic sports manufacturing by engaging Indian manufacturers, start-ups, research institutions, and testing bodies. The aim is to reduce import dependence, promote innovation, and ensure globally competitive indigenous sports equipment.

Officials believe the twin-committee framework will help NSFs operate more strategically and sustainably.

ALYSSA HEALY

Announces Retirement Ahead of T20 World Cup 2026

Australian cricket icon Alyssa Healy announces retirement before T20 World Cup 2026, concluding a glittering era for fans.

SYDNEY

In a significant development for women's cricket, Alyssa Healy, captain of the Australia women's cricket team, has announced her retirement from all forms of international cricket. The 35-year-old revealed the decision on a podcast, ending widespread speculation about her future ahead of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026.

Healy cited persistent mental fatigue and recurring injuries as the main factors behind her call, explaining that the physical and emotional demands of elite cricket had taken a sustained toll. While she had hoped to compete in another global tournament, she said stepping aside now would better serve her wellbeing and the team's long-term planning.

The wicketkeeper-batter confirmed that the upcoming home series against India in February-March will be her final assignment in Australian colours. As part of a planned farewell, Healy will skip the T20 Internationals to allow selectors to finalise World Cup combinations. However, she will continue to lead Australia in the One-Day Internationals and make her final international appearance in the one-off Test match in Perth.

Widely regarded as one of the most influential cricketers of her generation, Healy's career has been defined by innovation, fearlessness, and sustained success. An eight-time World Cup winner across formats, she reshaped expectations of wicketkeeper-batters with her aggressive batting and sharp game awareness. Tributes from across the cricketing world have highlighted her competitive spirit and lasting impact, underlining her enduring legacy in the game.

India Open Badminton 2026 Begins in New Delhi

NEW DELHI

The India Open Badminton tournament got underway on Tuesday at the iconic Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium, marking the start of one of the most important events on the Indian badminton calendar. As a Super 750 tournament and the second stop of the BWF World Tour in 2026, the competition is set to feature several of the world's top-ranked players alongside a formidable Indian contingent.

Leading the home challenge is two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu, who enters the tournament ranked 18th in the world. Sindhu is making her return to consistent competition after a challenging 2025 season marred by injuries and extended rehabilitation. Encouraging signs of resurgence were evident recently when she reached the semi-finals of the

India Open Badminton 2026 begins in New Delhi as top Indian shuttlers aim strong starts on home courts

Malaysia Open, and she will be eager to build on that momentum in front of home supporters. She is joined in women's singles by Malvika Bansod and promising youngster Tanvi Sharma, both looking to make an impression at the elite level.

India's women's doubles challenge will be spearheaded by the experienced pairing of Tressa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand, who enjoy strong crowd backing whenever they play on home soil. Their presence adds depth to an Indian lineup that has grown increasingly competitive in doubles events over recent years.

In men's singles, fans are set for an early domestic clash as Lakshya Sen faces Ayush Shetty in the opening round, ensuring that only one Indian progresses from that encounter. Former world championship medallists Kidambi Srikanth and HS Prannoy are also part of the draw, bringing experience and pedigree to the men's singles competition.

In men's doubles, world number three duo Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty will aim to reclaim the India Open title they last won in 2022. They will be joined by MR Arjun and Hariharan Amsakarunan, further strengthening India's doubles representation. The mixed doubles challenge will be led by Paris 2024 Olympians Tanisha Crasto and Dhruv Kapila, who are seeded as India's top pairing.



DeRozan, Monk Power Kings Past Lakers as Sacramento Secures Convincing Home Win

CALIFORNIA

The Sacramento Kings delivered a confident all-round performance to defeat the Los Angeles Lakers 124-112, snapping lingering doubts after a difficult stretch and building momentum with a second straight victory. Playing with renewed energy and depth, Sacramento showcased offensive balance and control against a traditionally formi-

dable opponent.

Leading the charge was DeMar DeRozan, who produced an outstanding display with 32 points and six assists. DeRozan dictated the tempo for much of the game, mixing mid-range efficiency with smart playmaking to keep the Lakers' defense under constant pressure. His composure in key moments ensured the Kings maintained their advantage whenever Los Angeles

threatened a comeback.

A major boost came from the bench, where Malik Monk delivered one of his finest performances of the season. Monk poured in a season-high 26 points and dished out eight assists, providing scoring punch and creativity that tilted the game decisively in Sacramento's favor. His ability to exploit mismatches and push the pace proved vital during crucial stretches.

Nylander's Overtime Goal Sinks Avalanche

DENVER

A thrilling overtime finish saw the Toronto Maple Leafs stun the Colorado Avalanche 4-3, snapping the Avalanche's remarkable 17-game home winning streak. The dramatic victory came at 3:59 of overtime when William Nylander produced a moment of brilliance to silence the Denver crowd.

Nylander, showcasing composure and precision under pressure, skated down the right flank before receiving a well-timed pass from Oliver Ekman-Larsson. Without hesitation, the Swedish forward released a low shot that slipped through the pads of goaltender Trent Miner, who finished the night with 27 saves. The goal sealed a memorable road win for Toronto and marked one of the most significant results of their season so far.

The loss was Colorado's first at home since October 23,



underlining just how formidable the Avalanche had been at Ball Arena. Despite the setback, the Avalanche remain unbeaten at home in regulation time, holding an impressive 17-0-3 record. However, the defeat denied them an opportunity to equal the franchise record for consecutive home victories, adding a layer of disappointment to an otherwise

dominant home campaign.

The contest itself was evenly matched, with both sides exchanging goals and momentum throughout regulation time. Toronto displayed resilience and tactical discipline, repeatedly answering Colorado's offensive pressure. The Avalanche, known for their speed and depth, pushed hard late in the

third period but were unable to find the decisive breakthrough before overtime.

For the Maple Leafs, the victory represents a confidence-boosting result against one of the league's strongest home teams. Nylander's performance once again highlighted his importance to Toronto's attacking structure, particularly in high-stakes moments. His ability to deliver in overtime further strengthens his reputation as a clutch performer.

Colorado, meanwhile, will look to quickly regroup as they continue their push toward the postseason. While the home streak has ended, their overall home form remains among the league's best. As both teams move forward, this tightly contested matchup is likely to be remembered as one of the season's standout encounters, defined by Nylander's decisive overtime heroics.

Djokovic Returns to Melbourne Aiming to Defy 'Sincaraz' Era

MAROUSI

As the Australian Open gets underway, Novak Djokovic returns to Melbourne Park with a familiar yet formidable mission: to reassert his dominance in men's tennis and confront the rise of the so-called Sincaraz era. An Australian Open title would further enhance his legacy and could see him stand alone as the most successful Grand Slam champion in history. Djokovic claimed his 24th major title at the US Open in late 2023, equalling Margaret Court's all-time record. Since then, the Grand Slam landscape has shifted. Italy's Jannik Sinner and Spain's Carlos Alcaraz have emerged as the sport's dominant forces, sharing major titles with relentless, high-tempo tennis.

The pair represent a new generation defined by explosive movement, heavy groundstrokes, and fearless shot-making. Their baseline

dominance has challenged even the most experienced players, suggesting men's tennis has entered a new phase. For Djokovic, now in the latter stages of his career, the challenge is both physical and symbolic. Yet Melbourne remains his fortress. A record Australian Open champion, Djokovic draws strength from his experience, resilience, and tactical intelligence, and few are willing to dismiss his chances of another historic run.

**DHAKA**

With less than a month remaining before the start of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026, uncertainty has emerged over Bangladesh's participation following high-level discussions between the Bangladesh Cricket Board and the International Cricket Council.

The two bodies held a video conference call on Tuesday to deliberate on logistical and operational matters related to the tournament.

During the meeting, the BCB formally requested the ICC to shift Bangladesh's group-stage matches from India to Sri Lanka. The request was made amid ongoing concerns raised by the Bangladesh board regarding the security of



players and support staff. Officials reiterated that the issue was not related to cricketing preparations but stemmed purely from safety considerations. The BCB was represented in the meeting by its President Md Aminul Islam, Vice Presidents Md Shakawat Hossain and Faruque Ahmed, along with Director and Chairman of the Cricket Operations Committee Nazmul Abedeen. Chief Exec-

utive Officer Nizam Uddin Chowdhury was also part of the discussions. The delegation collectively reaffirmed the board's position, stressing that their concerns had been communicated earlier as well.

According to sources familiar with the deliberations, the ICC acknowledged the concerns raised by the Bangladesh board but has not yet taken a final decision on the venue

change request. The global governing body is understood to be evaluating security assessments, logistical implications, and the broader tournament schedule before responding formally. Any alteration to match venues at this stage could have significant ripple effects on planning, broadcasting, and fan arrangements.

The development has sparked debate within the cricketing community, as the T20 World Cup is entering its final phase of preparation. India is scheduled to host several matches, and the possibility of relocating fixtures adds an element of uncertainty so close to the tournament's commencement. Sri Lanka, meanwhile, has emerged as a potential alternative venue given its recent experience in hosting major international events.