CITY HILIGHTS

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MODI ADDS PINK LINE TO NAMMA METRO MAP

PM hails development journey of 'Viksit Karnataka' » Launches projects worth over Rs 15,000 cr, which he says will give fresh momentum to state's growth and connectivity.

BENGALURU

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said the Namma Metro Pink Line is a new chapter in the development journey of Bengaluru and Karnataka, soon after he inaugurated the key train service.

Hailing 'Viksit Karnataka', he said projects worth over Rs 15,000 crore are being launched, giving fresh momentum to the state's growth and further strengthening its infrastructure and connectivity.

"Infrastructure plays a very important role in any country's development journey. Better connectivity creates new opportunities for progress, employment and industry. And when these opportunities for development reach every section of society, the fight against poverty also grows stronger," the PM said, adding that this is why nearly 50 crore Indians have emerged from extreme poverty in recent years.

Highlighting how public transport infrastructure plays an important role in the country's developmental journey, he said the central government is working in partnership with Namma Metro to expand its network. In 2014, it spanned just 14 km while today, it has grown to more than 100 km, he added.

"We are consistently scoring centuries. After the Delhi-NCR and Mumbai Metropolitan Region, Bengaluru has become the third urban centre in the country to cross the 100-km mark in its metro network," Modi said.

Not just Namma Metro, Modi highlighted the growth of the Indian Railways and how it is leaving behind the colonial-era mindset.

"The railways are creating a new legacy for the country. Every aspect now reflects India's own identity. Whether it is Vande Bharat trains or Amrit Bharat Stations, they offer a glimpse of Viksit Bharat. In Karnataka, more than 60 railway stations have already been developed as Amrit Bharat Stations. A few days ago, Karnataka received its first Vande Bharat Sleeper train. Today, the state has received a Vande Bharat train connecting it with Goa. This train will offer people across Karnataka, including Mangaluru and the entire coastal region, a new experience of semi-high-speed rail travel," he said.

Modi also highlighted how infrastructural projects, including the Metro and the Vande Bharat, will be a push towards developed India. "The project launching today will further this development journey. This will give new impetus to the creation of a developed Karnataka and from a developed Karnataka, a developed India," he said.

"It will also strengthen Bengaluru's identity as a tech city. I extend my best wishes to the people of Karnataka," he said

He said the Pink Line will facilitate better connectivity of educational institutions across the city, with commuters saving significant money and time due to the new project.

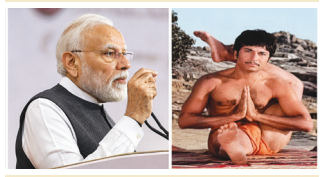


PM MODI'S KARNATAKA VISIT

Development projects worth ₹15,600 crore

- Namma Metro Pink Line elevated stretch (7.5 km) — ₹3,470 crore
- 4 railway stations under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme — ₹87.20 crore
- LPG storage and underground cavern, Mangaluru — ₹850 crore
- GAIL CBG plant — ₹123.42 crore
- Compressed Biogas (CBG) plant — ₹160 crore
- COSMOS Planetarium — ₹116 crore
- Koppal-II and Gadag-II renewable energy transmission — ₹4,450 crore
- Bidar Solar Energy Zone evacuation — ₹1,370 crore
- LPG pipeline (9.4 km) — ₹850 crore
- MRPL Devangonthi Marketing Terminal — ₹330 crore
- Davanagere–Chitradurga and Ballari renewable energy transmission — ₹3,450 crore
- Additional renewable energy transmission strengthening — ₹1,100 crore

PM hails Kannada cinema icon Rajkumar at Prashanti Kutiram



Bengaluru: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday recalled Kannada cinema thespian Rajkumar while hailing the global strides made by Yoga. Modi was speaking at the golden jubilee celebrations of Prashanti Kutiram, a Yoga centre run by the Swami Vivekananda Yoga Anusandhana Samsthana (S-VYASA). "This land of Karnataka, for centuries, has been a centre for Yoga. Numerous Yoga teachers and scholars were born here, strengthening the heritage of Yoga. We all know the great Kannada cinema actor Dr Rajkumar. Such people have served the field of art along with Yoga," Modi said. "Yoga has become a gateway for people across the world to understand India," he added.

B'luru-M'luru-Madgaon Vande Bharat Express

In the railway sector, Modi flagged off the Bengaluru-Mangaluru-Madgaon Vande Bharat Express, which is expected to provide faster connectivity between Bengaluru, coastal Karnataka and Goa. He also inaugurated four redeveloped railway stations, Chamarajanagar, Chikkamagaluru, Sakleshpur and Subrahmanya Road, under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme.

CM to PM: Let us compete in politics but collaborate in development

BENGALURU

Karnataka Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Friday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to ensure a fairer sharing of the financial burden of metro projects between the Centre and states, saying the existing funding arrangement does not reflect the actual expenditure borne by state governments.

In a memorandum submitted to the PM during his Bengaluru visit, the CM said Karnataka's contribution towards building and operating Namma Metro exceeded 80%, despite equal equity participation by the Centre and state in the project's special purpose vehicle.

He said the state bears the entire cost of land acquisition and utility shifting, along with state taxes, a share of central taxes, repayment of foreign loans and most cost escalations.

With Bengaluru's operational Metro network crossing 103 km following the inauguration of the Pink Line's elevated stretch, he said the city needed a network of at least 500 km to address its traffic problems.

Seeks approval for Red Line, double-decker infra

He urged the Centre to expedite approval for the proposed 42-km Sarjapur-Hebbal Red Line under Metro Phase 3A.

He said the proposal was submitted in January 2025 and subsequently revised to reduce costs following the Centre's request. Delays in approval, he warned, could lead to further cost escalation and postpone construction.

He also sought permission to revive double-decker infrastructure along Bengaluru's Metro corridors, particularly the 42-km Phase 3 stretch.

Pointing out that roads account for only 8-9% of Bengaluru's geographical area, against a requirement of 18-20%, Shivakumar said combining road flyovers with elevated Metro lines could help address the shortage of road space and reduce land acquisition costs.



While similar structures exist in Nagpur and Pune, Karnataka's proposal had been scaled down. Shivakumar said the state was willing to bear the additional cost of elevated roads and sought permission to build them wherever technically feasible and economically viable.

Seeks drought relief, support for cane farmers

Apart from Metro-related demands, Shivakumar urged the Centre to expedite drought relief for Karnataka.

He said 226 of the state's 240 taluks had been declared drought-affected, with crop losses estimated at Rs 62,482 crore. Karnataka had sought Rs 22,400 crore under the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF).

He also raised sugarcane farmers' demand for Rs 5,500 per tonne for the 2026-27 season, against the fair and remunerative price (FRP) of Rs 3,650 per tonne.

Shivakumar further sought a revision of the minimum selling price of sugar, unchanged at Rs 31 per kg since 2019, citing rising production costs.

On the Western Ghats, he urged the Centre to reconsider the draft notification identifying 20,668 sq km across 1,449 villages in 10 Karnataka districts as ecologically sensitive areas.

While supporting forest and wildlife conservation, Shivakumar called for a ground-level survey and consultations with the state to safeguard the livelihoods of communities in the region.

Key demands made by DKS before Modi

- **Metro funding**: Fairer cost-sharing between Centre and state; Karnataka currently bears over 80% of the expenditure.
- **Metro expansion**: Expedite approval for the 42-km Sarjapur–Hebbal Red Line (Phase 3A).
- **Double-decker infra**: Permit elevated road flyovers along metro corridors.
- **Drought relief**: Release ₹22,400 cr under NDRF for drought-affected areas.
- **Sugarcane farmers**: Increase sugarcane price to ₹5,500 per tonne for 2026–27, against the existing FRP of ₹3,650.
- **Sugar MSP**: Revise the minimum selling price from ₹31 per kg, unchanged since 2019.
- **Western Ghats**: Reconsider the ESA draft notification covering 20,668 sq km across 1,449 villages in 10 districts.
- **Farmers' welfare**: Hold ground-level surveys and protect the livelihoods of Western Ghats communities.

Visas a 'sovereign' matter, says MEA as Tharoor alleges 115 Bharat Summit speakers barred

NEW DELHI

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said Friday that visa decisions are a sovereign matter, as a row escalated over allegations that more than 100 foreign speakers invited to the Bharat Summit in Hyderabad were denied entry into India or had their visas cancelled.

"Visa matters are sovereign functions of any country or any government," MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said at the bi-weekly briefing, when asked about a post by Congress MP Shashi Tharoor.

Tharoor alleged that 115 of the 315 speakers cleared by the MEA for the 13-14 November summit had been refused entry or had their visas cancelled, apparently on the instructions of the home ministry.

Tharoor said he learnt of the cancellations on reaching Hyderabad. He questioned the legal basis for the action, noting that the summit would end Saturday and the affected speakers could no longer attend. He called it a shame that a proud democracy had become so insecure.

Telangana CM A Revanth Reddy accused the Centre of preventing people who question Prime Minister Narendra Modi from reaching India. "I don't understand why the BJP is worried about diverse oppositional voices. Narendra Modi thinks he is a dictator who can stifle all voices."

The two-day summit, hosted by the Congress-led Telangana government at HITEX, has drawn around 1,000 delegates from India and more than 70 countries.

24 killed in bus-truck collision near Kaziranga

GUWAHATI

At least 24 people, including students, died and 15 others were injured after a mini-bus collided head-on with a container truck near Kaziranga National Park in eastern Assam's Golaghat district on Friday.

The incident took place around 1 pm at Rangajan area on the NH-715, when the vehicle was on its return journey from neighbouring Jorhat to Nagaon district in central Assam. The site of the mishap is about 230 km east of Guwahati.



At least 15 died on the spot and nine others succumbed to injuries while being rushed to hospitals in Golaghat and Bokakhat.

Police said several students, who were returning home were among the deceased while the driver and helper of the bus also died. There were 39 persons on board including the driver and his helper.

Eye witnesses said the mini-bus was overspeeding. Police said investigation was underway to ascertain how the mishap took place in the broad daylight. Local MLA and senior Cabinet Minister Atul Bora, who visited the site soon after the mishap, said death toll touched 24. The injured are being provided best possible treatment, he added.

PM announces Rs 2 lakh ex gratia

Prime Minister Narendra Modi condoled the death and announced Rs 2 lakh to the family of each deceased from Prime Minister's National Relief Fund while Rs 50,000 to each of the injured. Home Minister Amit Shah also condoled the death caused in the mishap.

In a social media post, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said he was deeply distressed by the tragic accident in Kaziranga earlier during the day. "The scale of this loss has shaken all of us, and my heart goes out to every family that has lost a loved one. No words can ease their pain, but I want them to know that they are not alone. All of Assam stands with them in this hour of grief," the CM added.

THE WORLD LOGS OFF

Microsoft outage hits biz, airlines, govts worldwide

NEW DELHI

A prolonged Microsoft outage disrupted businesses, airlines and government operations across several countries on Friday, knocking out access to widely used services including Outlook, Teams and its AI assistant Copilot, as the technology giant struggled to restore normal operations hours after the disruption began.

The US-headquartered tech giant said the incident affected multiple Microsoft 365 products connected to its Exchange Online and email infrastructure.

Users across Asia and the United States reported difficulties accessing the services, with the disruption also spilling over into organisations that rely on Microsoft's software for internal communication and customer support.



In its latest update, Microsoft said recovery efforts are ongoing across impacted infrastructure. "We are seeing early signs of stabilisation, but service capacity has not yet returned to normal levels and health remains variable as traffic is carefully reintroduced," the company said.

"Our primary mitigation path continues to focus on service stability and controlled recovery. Engineering teams are cycling affected infrastructure through traffic drain, restart, remediation, and staged return-to-service while monitoring closely. We are also evaluating additional mitigation options to improve recovery speed and consistency," it added.

Microsoft said network and traffic-management actions remain in progress and it continues to prioritise backlog and queue health to preserve delayed mail during recovery.

DETAILS OF MICROSOFT 365 OUTAGE

- **Affected services**: Outlook, Microsoft Teams, OneDrive and AI assistant Copilot, primarily linked to Exchange Online, were disrupted worldwide.
- **Scale**: Reports on Downdetector peaked at nearly 1,40,000 problem submissions globally, impacting users across at least 74 countries.
- **Root cause**: Microsoft confirmed that the outage was not caused by a cyberattack or malicious activity.

Major sectors affected

Airlines & transport: Flight delays and cancellations affected operators worldwide.

Govt & public services: Govt departments, courts, schools and hospitals experienced disruptions.

Businesses & banking: Banks, media organisations & corporate offices faced interruptions in daily communications.

AI companies: Third-party AI firms, including OpenAI and Anthropic, reported service disruptions due to their reliance on Microsoft's cloud infrastructure and connectors.

"As part of this effort, we are extending the email timeout window to 48 hours to help protect delayed messages while service recovery continues," the company said.

'Will end Modi's political career': RaGa dares PM for open debate

New Delhi: Insisting that a one-on-one debate with him "will end" Narendra Modi's political career, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Friday claimed he has "proof" that the BJP veteran is controlled by foreign powers on his mobile phone, which is "tapped by the Prime Minister". Gandhi made a series of remarks during an 'Ask Me' session on Instagram, as he upped the ante over his 'open debate' challenge to Modi. Answering queries on why he is insisting on a public debate even as the BJP has said it can take place inside Parliament, he said he had tried to debate in Parliament but his mic was switched off and was not allowed to talk on farm bills, 'vote chori', Special Intensive Revision, Chinese incursions, former Army chief Gen MM Naravane's memoirs and a minister's ties with Jeoffrey Epstein.

"I want that Narendra Modi makes allegations against me and I do the same to him. He can come. There will be a table, on one side there will be Modi-ji and on the other side, it will be me. I don't have a problem if the judge is (Adani Group Chairman Gautam) Adani or RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat," he added.

Quick Read

Secret video call conversation revealed in court

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

During a court video conference on November 13, actor Darshan and co-accused Pavithra Gowda briefly spoke after a technical glitch occurred in the Renukaswamy murder case proceedings. Attending separately from Parappana Agrahara Prison, Pavithra asked Darshan about his health and back pain, to which he replied that his backbone is fractured and physiotherapy is ongoing. Discussing bail, Darshan asked her to remain patient for another four months. Darshan also signaled her to stay strong through hand gestures. The conversation ended immediately once the video link was restored. The hearing was adjourned.

Rent dispute murder: Suspect arrested in Bihar

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Whitefield police arrested 25-year-old Amit Kumar Dubey in Bihar on November 13 for the October 19 murder of 43-year-old lawyer Manjunath in Pattandur Agrahara. Manjunath was shot in the forehead following a dispute over three months of unpaid rent for a property godown. Following the crime, Dubey fled Bengaluru on a motorcycle to evade police detection, traveling through multiple states with his mobile phone turned off. Police are actively searching for the prime suspect, Pawan Kumar Dubey. Interrogation is expected to uncover further details regarding the weapon and exact motive.

Dry weather and chilly nights grip state

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Karnataka experienced dry weather on November 13, with Davanagere recording the state plains' lowest minimum temperature at 10.3 degrees Celsius. The Meteorological Department forecasts that cold and dry conditions will persist across coastal, North Interior, and South Interior districts, including Bengaluru, through November 14. Other areas like Dharwad also experienced notable drops, hitting 12.2 degrees Celsius. While skies remain rainless, winter chill is visibly intensifying across the region. Authorities note that similar dry, cool weather patterns will continue across most districts over the coming days.

KPTCL's power electrified Western Ghats rail line

KPTCL established robust transmission infrastructure in the Western Ghats to power the new Vande Bharat train.

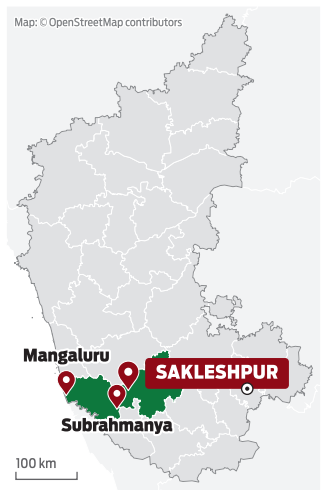
CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited (KPTCL) has successfully established robust transmission infrastructure to deliver reliable traction power for electric trains along the newly electrified Sakleshpur-Subrahmanya Road railway line in the Western Ghats, according to Energy Minister K.J. George.

The infrastructure rollout coincides with the launch of the Yesvantpur-Mangaluru-Madgaon Vande Bharat Express service, marking the first time a Vande Bharat electric train traverses the challenging mountain route. To ensure timely execution, Minister George conducted continuous review meetings, establishing rapid coordination mechanisms between KPTCL, Indian Railways, and regional authorities to strengthen transmission networks and substation capacities.

Steep hills, heavy rain

Constructing power infrastructure across the steep hills, sharp gradients, heavy rainfall, and complex topography of the Western Ghats presented severe technical hurdles. Despite these conditions, KPTCL engineers and field staff completed the required transmission links, grid reinforcements, and power supply systems. Reliable power has been arranged for 12 Railway Traction Substations (RTSS) along the route, sourced directly from twelve KPTCL substations.



The ghat line: Sakleshpur to Subrahmanya Road, on the Bengaluru-Mangaluru route.

Lines, cables and substations

Key technical contributions executed by KPTCL include the installation of new overhead lines, underground cables, Loop-In Loop-Out (LILO) connectivity, switching stations, and the augmentation of upstream transformer capacities. Notable works feature a 4.5-kilometer, 66 kV transmission line to Siddapura, 220 kV underground and overhead connectivity to the Sakaleshapura RTSS, a 2.760-kilometer, 66 kV/220 kV underground cable to Neralakatte, and 110 kV transmission and switching infrastructure for Jokatte, Mulki, Barkur, and Senapura. Furthermore, authorities augmented 220/66 kV transformer capacity at the Anchepalya and Yachenahalli substations, while providing grid support to RTSS facilities at Murudeshwara, Kumta, and Karwar.

> **"Providing continuous and reliable traction power in an extremely challenging region like the Western Ghats is a major technical responsibility, and the dedication of our KPTCL staff is commendable."**
> — **K.J. George,** Energy Minister

Minister George commended the dedication of KPTCL personnel, emphasizing that the new rail corridor will significantly smoothen travel between Bengaluru and coastal destinations like Mangaluru, Udupi, Murudeshwar, and Gokarna while boosting regional tourism and economic activity.

KPTCL Managing Director Dr. Ram Prasath Manohar noted that technical teams have been deployed for round-the-clock monitoring to ensure seamless operations during Vande Bharat runs.

HC rejects plea by firm linked to MLA Veerendra

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Karnataka High Court dismissed a petition seeking to release assets seized by the ED in an illegal betting case linked to MLA K.C. Veerendra.

The Karnataka High Court has officially dismissed a petition filed by a partnership firm and associates linked to Chitradurga MLA K.C. Veerendra, which sought the release of financial assets, bank accounts, and documents seized by the Enforcement Directorate (ED).


Chitradurga MLA K.C. Veerendra

A single-judge bench presided over by Justice M. Nagaprasanna delivered the ruling after hearing arguments involving 'Puppies Tours and Travels Limited' based in Challakere, along with co-petitioners including K.C. Nagaraja, Thippeswamy Kondlahalli Channapabasappa, R. Panduranga, D. Vijaya, ABH Infrastructures, and K. Sridhara. The legal challenge stemmed from four separate Enforcement Case Information Reports registered by the ED on July 22, 2025, concerning investigations into alleged illegal betting and gambling activities under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

Petitioners' legal counsel argued that the underlying predicate offenses and criminal cases against them had already concluded, rendering the ongoing federal financial investigation legally untenable. They also challenged the statutory validity of notices issued by a single member of the Adjudicating Authority, pointing out that the body is legally mandated to comprise three members, including a qualified legal expert. Consequently, they requested the court to set aside the searches, property seizures, and the freezing of bank accounts.

In response, lawyers representing the ED defended the agency's jurisdiction, maintaining that the PMLA functions as a self-contained code. The central agency argued that because the petitioners had already submitted formal responses and made appearances before the Adjudicating Authority, the writ petition was not maintainable at this stage.

The High Court's decision allows the federal financial probe to proceed as investigators examine records and frozen assets tied to the case. The ruling marks a significant setback for the petitioners in their ongoing legal battle against the central financial watchdog.

HC dismisses plea against tobacco advertisement

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Karnataka High Court has officially dismissed a writ petition filed by an outdoor advertising firm challenging circulars issued by the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) and the Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) that mandated the removal of tobacco product advertisements from public transport buses and bus stations.

A single-judge bench presided over by Justice C.M. Poonacha delivered the ruling following a legal challenge brought forward by 'M/s Sai Advertiser'. The petitioner firm had previously secured advertising rights through a competitive tender process, entering into formal agreements to display commercial products, including 'Vimal Elaichi', across transport corporation assets. However, early in the year, KSRTC on January 31 and BMTC on February 2 issued strict directives ordering the removal of all advertisement stickers and illuminated glow signs directly or indirectly promoting tobacco items.

> *"Since the case pertains to an agreement between the petitioner and the transport corporations, relief cannot be granted within the scope of a writ petition."*
> **JUSTICE C.M. POONACHA**
> High Court of Karnataka



A 'Vimal Elaichi' advertisement on a city bus.

Counsel for the petitioner argued that the advertised goods were natural items rather than prohibited tobacco products and maintained that the state transport bodies were legally bound to honor their valid contractual agreements. They further contended that no competent regulatory authority, including the Food Safety and Drug Administration, had flagged the advertisements for legal violations.

In contrast, government pleaders defended the removal directives by citing the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003 (COTPA). They argued that promoting such products remains unlawful and that failure to comply with statutory restrictions could expose the transport corporations themselves to severe legal liabilities and prosecution.

The High Court declined to grant relief under writ jurisdiction, observing that the dispute fundamentally concerns a commercial contract between the parties. The bench ruled that contractual grievances cannot be resolved through a writ petition, though it noted that the petitioner remains free to pursue alternative legal remedies outlined in the agreement or submit formal objections directly to the transport corporations for administrative review.

High Court lets defamation case against Yatnal proceed

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

In a notable legal development, the Karnataka High Court has delivered a major setback to Vijayapura City MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal by dismissing his petition seeking to quash ongoing criminal defamation proceedings initiated against him by former minister and MLA Shivanand S. Patil.

A single-judge bench presided over by Justice Anant Ramanath Hegde rejected the challenge, which had targeted earlier adverse rulings from both the Magistrate Court and the Sessions Court. The legal dispute stems from public statements made by Yatnal during an interview on a private YouTube channel on April 30, 2025, where he allegedly leveled derogatory and defamatory accusations against Shivanand Patil. Following the remarks, Patil filed a formal private criminal complaint before the 42nd Additional Magistrate Court in Bengaluru on July 18, 2025.

The Magistrate Court took cognizance of the offense under Section 356(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and issued summons to Yatnal on January 24, 2026. After the Sessions Court subsequently dismissed his revision plea on August 18, 2026, Yatnal elevated the matter to the High Court to have the judicial orders set aside.


Vijayapura City MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal

How the case moved

- **APR 30, 2025** — Remarks in a YouTube interview
- **JUL 18, 2025** — Shivanand Patil files a private complaint
- **JAN 24, 2026** — Magistrate summons Yatnal
- **AUG 18, 2026** — Sessions Court rejects his revision plea

No third party needed

During the High Court proceedings, Yatnal's legal counsel argued that under Explanation 4 to Section 356 of the BNS, a defamation charge cannot be legally sustained unless an independent third party steps forward to testify that their estimation of the complainant's reputation was personally harmed. The defense also contested the legality of taking cognizance based solely on statements from two supporting witnesses.

In contrast, counsel representing Shivanand Patil defended the lower courts' rulings, asserting that the remarks were prima facie defamatory and that judicial cognizance was properly established.

A matter for trial

Rejecting the petitioner's arguments, Justice Hegde clarified that at the initial stage of taking cognizance, it is not mandatory for a third-party witness to testify regarding actual reputational damage. The bench observed that if an accused person's statements prima facie appear to injure the morality, character, or standing of the complainant, the trial court is fully justified in proceeding on the basis of statements provided by the complainant and available witnesses. Whether the remarks actually diminished Patil's public standing remains a matter of evidentiary proof to be thoroughly tested during the full trial, allowing the defamation case to proceed.

Real estate businessman murdered in Yelahanka

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A real estate businessman was brutally murdered in broad daylight by a gang of armed assailants within the jurisdiction of the Yelahanka New Town police station, sending shockwaves through the local business community.

The victim has been identified as 35-year-old Charan Gowda, a prominent local real estate operator and proprietor of 'Dhani Properties,' who had been active in the Yelahanka and Yelahanka New Town sectors for roughly a decade. According to preliminary police investigations, the fatal incident occurred when Gowda and his wife were arriving at his office building by car. As he stepped out of the vehicle while his wife walked ahead toward their second-floor office, a group of about five masked assailants who had allegedly been lying in wait as part of a calculated conspiracy ambushed him with lethal weapons.



Gowda sustained critical injuries to his head and vital parts of his body, succumbing to his wounds at the scene in the presence of his grieving wife. The violent attack unfolded directly in front of the building, where a Punjab National Bank branch is situated on the ground floor.

Senior police officials rushed to the crime scene immediately following emergency calls, shifting the victim's mortal remains to the Yelahanka Government Hospital for post-mortem examinations. Investigators have launched an intensive manhunt, forming specialized police teams to track down the fleeing perpetrators. Authorities are currently reviewing high-resolution CCTV footage captured from surrounding commercial establishments and bank security cameras to identify the suspects and establish a precise motive. While financial and property-related disputes remain a primary suspicion guiding the early inquiry, law enforcement has pledged to apprehend all individuals involved in the daylight homicide.

The attack

VICTIM	Charan Gowda, 35, of Dhani Properties
WHEN	In broad daylight, as he arrived by car
WHERE	Outside his office, Yelahanka New Town
GANG	About five masked men
PROBE	Special police teams; CCTV footage under review

METRO FUNDING DEBATE

R. Ashoka praises Modi projects, predicts BJP victory

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Leader of the Opposition R. Ashoka has warmly welcomed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Karnataka, highlighting the inauguration of multi-crore development projects and expressing absolute confidence that the BJP will secure a decisive victory in the upcoming Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) elections.

Speaking to media representatives at the HAL Airport, Ashoka noted that citizens across the state are thrilled to have the Prime Minister personally inaugurate transformative infrastructure initiatives. He pointed to major central contributions, including the nation's first dome planetarium gifted to Mysuru, and emphasized that Karnataka has received substantially higher financial allocations under the NDA administration compared to previous UPA tenures. According to Ashoka, declining poverty rates, strong economic stability, and robust central support continue to attract major multinational investments to the state. He also credited the electorate's continued trust, reflected in the strong mandate given to the NDA during recent Lok Sabha polls, as momentum leading into the GBA electoral contests.


Leader of the Opposition R. Ashoka speaking to reporters at the HAL Airport.

Addressing political controversies surrounding stage protocols and speeches during the Prime Minister's visit, Ashoka dismissed concerns over opposition leaders missing speaker slots. He defended established protocol, remarking that Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar's address adequately represented state governance, and asserted that public airing of grievances by lesser ministers amounts to little more than political posturing. He advised state ministers to pursue formal administrative channels in New Delhi rather than staging public demonstrations.

Ashoka also weighed in on ongoing funding debates surrounding urban transit infrastructure, such as Namma Metro financing structures. He criticized state leaders for disputing funding formulas, clarifying that capital sharing and loan arrangements involve specific central and state equity proportions. He urged the ruling Congress administration to keep partisan politics separate from developmental matters and foster collaborative ties with the central government to maximize public grants.

"The state would benefit far more if politics were kept completely out of development matters," Ashoka said.

Furthermore, Ashoka launched a sharp counterattack against Minister Priyank Kharge regarding criticisms of the prime minister's leadership style. Dismissing remarks about Teleprompters, Ashoka contrasted Prime Minister Modi's grassroots political journey with dynastic succession, suggesting that critics should evaluate their own political standing before questioning national leadership.

Political posturing amid VVIP visit

As central and state leaders trade political barbs over project funding, protocol, and governance priorities, opposition figures continue to leverage the Prime Minister's visit to reinforce central contributions to urban infrastructure.

Quick Read

Man murders mother over money for alcohol

CH NEWS, DAVANAGERE

A 35-year-old man allegedly murdered his 70-year-old mother by beating her with a wooden club after she refused to give him money to buy alcohol in Doddagthatta village of Channagiri taluk. The victim, Bullamma, had moved to her daughter's house to escape harassment by her son, Hanumantappa. He tracked her down and attacked her, killing her on the spot. According to police, the accused had earlier served seven years in prison for murdering a friend over a money dispute and was released just two months ago. Basavapattana police arrested Hanumantappa and registered a case.

Minister Rayareddy to tour Gadag district from Nov 15

CH NEWS, GADAG

State Higher Education Minister and Gadag district in-charge Minister Basavaraj Rayareddy will tour the district from November 15 to 18, according to an official announcement. On November 15, he will leave Dharwad at 10 am and reach the Gadag Deputy Commissioner's office at 11 am. He will attend various wedding ceremonies before leaving for Yelburga at 12.30 pm to interact with members of the public. He is scheduled to return to Gadag at 7 pm. On November 16, Rayareddy will hold a meeting with district-level officials at 10.30 am to review administrative matters. He will stay in Gadag on November 16 and 17. On November 18, he will leave Gadag at 9.30 am and reach Yelburga at 10.30 am, the announcement stated.

Water supply to several Gadag areas today

CH NEWS, GADAG

The Gadag-Betageri City Municipal Council has announced water supply to several areas of the twin cities on Nov 14. The supply will cover S.M. Krishna Nagar, Auto Colony, Kesudasa Colony, Christian Colony, Ambedkar Nagar, Kumbara Oni, Nagalinga Nagar, Hubballi Layout, Gangimadi, Dodda Masuthi, Vaddarageri, HUDCO, Shivananda Garden and other localities across Wards 1, 3, 6, 16, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 30, 32, 34 and 35. The Municipal Commissioner has appealed to residents to cooperate in case of technical disruptions during water supply.

71 apply for Dheemantha Awards; Mayor vows fair selection

A designated committee will evaluate applicants' backgrounds and achievements to select two to three deserving recipients per category.



Corporation offices (file photo)

CH NEWS, HUBBALLI

The Hubballi-Dharwad Municipal Corporation (HDMC) has decided to confer its prestigious 'Dheemantha Awards' on achievers this year, with Mayor Durgamma Bijawad assuring that only genuinely deserving individuals will be selected.

The annual awards, presented as part of the Kannada Rajyotsava celebrations, recognise individuals and organisations for their outstanding contributions across 21 fields, including literature, art, sports, social service, medicine, journalism, theatre, music, yoga, agriculture and research.

The award ceremony, which is usually held on November 1, has been scheduled for November 18 this year. The date was finalised following consultations with Kannada organisations.

According to the Mayor, the selection process is currently under way, and the corporation has received 71 applications so far. The intention is to identify two to three deserving candidates from each category. A designated selection committee will examine the applications and assess the achievements, contributions and backgrounds of the applicants before finalising the recipients.

Dheemantha Awards

WHEN	November 18
FIELDS	21, from literature and art to sports and research
APPLIED	71 so far
PICKS	two to three per category

The selection process has attracted considerable public attention following allegations of irregularities in last year's awards. Objections were raised over the selection of more than 20 recipients from a single field. Questions were also raised about the eligibility of certain awardees in the social service category.

Responding to these concerns, Mayor Durgamma Bijawad said the corporation would take all necessary precautions to prevent a recurrence of last year's confusion and ensure that the awards retain their prestige and credibility.

She said the selection committee would conduct a thorough examination of all applications before announcing the final list of awardees.

The Mayor also said preparations were under way to organise the November 18 ceremony on a grand scale. The corporation intends to make this year's event meaningful by recognising individuals and organisations whose achievements have made a genuine contribution to society.

The Dheemantha Awards are among the civic body's important initiatives to recognise and encourage outstanding contributions in various fields.

Jain seer's Sallekhana protest over board



CH NEWS, HUBBALLI

Rashtrasant Gunadharanandi Maharaj has announced a unique protest through the observance of Sallekhana Vrat, demanding the establishment of a Jain Dharma Nigam Board by the Karnataka government.

The Maharaj expressed dissatisfaction over the government's response to the demand for setting up a separate board for the welfare and development of the Jain community. He said the community's demand had not received the necessary attention from the state government.

The proposed protest through Sallekhana Vrat has drawn attention to the community's demand and the ongoing discussions surrounding the establishment of the Jain Dharma Nigam Board.

Sallekhana is a traditional Jain religious practice involving a gradual renunciation of food and other worldly attachments, undertaken under specific spiritual circumstances. The announcement has raised concerns among followers and members of the Jain community.The Maharaj has reportedly decided to pursue this course as part of a public movement to press the government to act on the demand.

The community is seeking a dedicated institutional mechanism to address its welfare, educational, social and developmental needs.

Further details about the government's response, the proposed programme and the next course of action are awaited.

Belagavi district secures 31 posts in board appointments

CH NEWS, BELAGAVI

Belagavi district has secured 31 positions in the Karnataka government's latest appointments to various boards and corporations, bringing cheer to Congress workers who had been waiting for political recognition since the party came to power.

The state government issued an order on appointing 428 Congress workers as directors and members of various government boards and corporations. Belagavi, which has 18 Assembly constituencies, received 31 positions, with representation given to party workers from several taluks.

The appointments had been delayed repeatedly despite demands from party leaders and workers for suitable positions in government bodies. Several aspirants had approached ministers, MLAs and senior party leaders seeking recognition for their organisational work. The latest announcement has therefore generated considerable enthusiasm among Congress workers in the district.

The appointments cover several important institutions, including the Veerashaiva Lingayat Development Corporation, Maratha Development Corporation, Kittur Development Authority and Renuka Yellamma Temple Development Authority.

Who got what

Among those appointed to the Veerashaiva Lingayat Development Corporation are Sanganagouda Patil, Sidraya Eerappa Yaladagi and Basappa A. Kore. Raju Maruti Kadolkar, Subhash Babu Kasarkar and Dhanaji Anand Chavan have been appointed to the Maratha Development Corporation.

Other appointments include Ningappa Arakeri to the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Development Corporation, Vijaykumar Rathod to the Karnataka Tanda and Banjara Development Corporation, and Mallikarjuna Jyotigowda Patil to the Koodala Sangama Development Board.

Belagavi representatives have also secured positions in HESCOM, NWKRTC, Karnataka Power Corporation, Karnataka Biodiversity Board, Karnataka Silk Industries Corporation and several other institutions.

'A significant achievement'

Congress Belagavi Rural District President Basavaraja Shegavi said securing 31 positions for the district was a significant achievement, despite the delay. He congratulated the appointees and urged them to strengthen the party through their work.

He also expressed hope that Belagavi would receive greater representation in future appointments of chairpersons and vice-chairpersons. Shegavi advised disappointed party workers to remain patient, assuring them that dedicated service would receive recognition.

428	31	18
Congress workers appointed	posts for Belagavi	Assembly seats in the district

Safety drive at ports after toxic fish gases kill 5 fishermen

CH NEWS, KARWAR

The Uttara Kannada district administration has intensified safety measures at fishing ports following the deaths of five fishermen who inhaled toxic gases released by decomposing 'Chaman' fish.

Special awareness programmes have been organised at major fishing harbours, and strict safety guidelines have been issued to prevent further tragedies.

Officials from the Fisheries Department, Police Department and Coast Guard have conducted awareness meetings at Karwar, Baithkol, Kumta and Honnavar ports. Boat owners, fishermen and workers involved in handling fish have been instructed to follow the prescribed safety precautions.

The five deaths occurred in two separate incidents. Three fishermen died at Tadadi fishing port near Gokarna on Oct 27, while two others lost their lives at Muduga in Karwar on Oct 31. They reportedly inhaled toxic gases while removing fish from storage compartments on fishing boats.


Decomposing fish can release ammonia and hydrogen sulphide (file photo)

According to officials, decomposing Chaman fish can release dangerous gases, including ammonia and hydrogen sulphide. When these gases accumulate inside enclosed storage tanks, they can reduce oxygen levels and cause suffocation, potentially resulting in death.

Under the new safety instructions, fishermen have been advised to ensure that Chaman fish are properly refrigerated immediately after being caught and transported to ports without delay. Decomposed fish and fish waste should not be stored inside boats.

Officials have specifically warned fishermen against entering fish storage tanks without proper safety arrangements. Gas detectors must be used to check for the presence of toxic gases before anyone enters an enclosed compartment. Adequate ventilation must also be ensured.

The safety rules

- Refrigerate Chaman fish as soon as they are caught
- No decomposed fish or waste stored in boats
- Gas detectors before anyone enters a storage tank
- Ventilation and respiratory protective equipment

The administration has cautioned that the absence of a foul smell does not mean that a storage tank is safe. Fishermen must use appropriate respiratory protective equipment and follow prescribed safety procedures before entering such spaces.

The district administration has urged boat owners and fishing workers to strictly comply with the guidelines, stressing that negligence in handling decomposing fish and entering enclosed storage areas could prove fatal. The intensified safety drive aims to prevent further loss of lives in the fishing community.

Gadag hosts district-level Children's Science Congress

CH NEWS, GADAG

The district-level National Children's Science Congress (NCSC) was organised jointly by the Karnataka State Council for Science and Technology, Gadag Zilla Panchayat and the District Institute of Education and Training (DIET), Gadag, to encourage scientific thinking, creativity and innovation among students.

Inaugurating the programme, B.F. Aravatagi, senior lecturer at DIET, highlighted the importance of developing scientific curiosity and research-oriented thinking among children. He said the congress provided an opportunity to identify and encourage the hidden talents of young students.

M.H. Savadatti, science teacher and technical assistant at the Office of the Deputy Director, explained the objectives of the congress. Initiated in 1993 under the National Council for Science and Technology Communication, the programme provides a platform for children aged between 10 and 17 to explore local issues through scientific methods.

He said the initiative promotes experiential learning, scientific temper, equal opportunities and awareness about sustainable development.

DIET lecturer G.D. Dasara shared scientific information about the uses of different plants and the gases they release. He said such programmes help develop curiosity, creativity, questioning skills and innovative thinking among students.

Students representing various taluks of Gadag district presented their scientific projects, demonstrating their research skills and innovative ideas. The projects were evaluated by Mulki Gowdra of the Government Pre-University College and Mubashirin Dambala of the Morarji Residential Pre-University College.

Manjunath and Basavaraj from the Gadag Zilla Panchayat were present.

In the results, Nidhi A. and Harshitha V. Janmani of CDO English Medium High School, Gadag, secured first place. Malatesh Basavaraja Mallur and Mahantagowda Sanganagowda Patil of Bright Horizon English Medium High School, Kalasapura, Gadag Rural, won second place.

The programme began with a prayer by Kalavathi Hoolageri. Savadatti welcomed the gathering, compered the event and proposed the vote of thanks.

Gadag man sponsors free eye surgeries for six on 58th birthday

CH NEWS, GADAG

Turning a birthday celebration into an act of social service, Vishnu Aravatagi, a member of the Taruna Sangha of Betageri SSK Samaj, facilitated free eye surgeries for six needy people on the occasion of his 58th birthday.

18 years of service

The surgeries were performed at Chapekar Hospital in Gadag on November 5. With this initiative, Aravatagi has continued a humanitarian service that he has been pursuing for the past 18 years. So far, he has helped 114 people undergo free eye surgeries.

His initiative aims to support poor and middle-class families who struggle to afford treatment for eye-related ailments. Instead of spending on elaborate birthday celebrations, he has chosen to dedicate the occasion to helping people regain their eyesight.

Praise from the community

Betageri SSK Dasara Festival Committee Chairman Suresh Merawade appreciated Aravatagi's efforts, describing his service to underprivileged people as an exemplary initiative. He expressed hope that the humanitarian activity would continue in the coming years.

Ganesh Pawar, a member of the SSK Taruna Sangha, said Aravatagi was always willing to help people irrespective of their religion or financial background. He also appreciated the support extended by Aravatagi's wife, Rekha, children and other family members.

Sri Kalika Temple President Sridhar Konnur said the initiative, which has continued for nearly 18 years, was an inspiration to society. He described providing eyesight to needy people as a meaningful way of celebrating birthdays.

Several community members, including Hiralalasa Bakale, Bhimasenasa Rayabagi, Madhusa Merawade, Narsingasa Merawade, Raju Basava and others, were present.

Through his sustained efforts, Aravatagi has demonstrated how personal celebrations can become opportunities to serve society and bring hope into the lives of others.

? 114 PEOPLE HELPED

Aravatagi has helped 114 people undergo free eye surgeries in the 18 years of his birthday service.

CANAL WATER

Tungabhadra canal water release to continue until Nov 20

CH NEWS, KOPPAL

Water will continue to be released into the Tungabhadra canals until Nov 20 from Karnataka's allocated share of seven TMC feet, said Shivaraj Tangadagi, Minister for Backward Classes Welfare, Kannada and Culture and Koppal district in-charge Minister.

Speaking to reporters at the Koppal District Administrative Complex on Friday, the minister said the government was making efforts to extend the water release period until November 30, keeping the interests of farmers in mind.

Tangadagi said he had already discussed the matter with former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and sought his support for extending the water supply through the canals.

Talks with Andhra Pradesh

He also revealed that he had spoken to Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu regarding the issue. The discussions were aimed at finding a way to ensure that Karnataka's allocated share of water could be utilised effectively while addressing farmers' requirements.

The minister said efforts were under way to continue the release beyond November 20, subject to the outcome of discussions with the concerned authorities.

Relief for farmers

The announcement is expected to bring relief to farmers in the Tungabhadra command area, who depend on canal water for irrigation. The availability of water during the ongoing agricultural season is particularly important for protecting crops and supporting farming activities.

He said the government was aware of the difficulties faced by farmers and was taking steps to ensure that they received sufficient water for agricultural activities. Extending the release period would help farmers make better use of the available water, particularly for standing crops and irrigation requirements, he added.

Tangadagi reiterated that the government was making efforts to safeguard farmers' interests and ensure the effective utilisation of Karnataka's allocated water share.

Canal water

NOW	SOUGHT
Nov 20	Nov 30
release from the 7 TMC ft share	extension for standing crops

Quick Read

Walk-in interview scheduled for various job

CH NEWS, GADAG

The District Employment Exchange Office will conduct a walk-in interview on November 18 at 10 am near Utsava Bhavan, Hubballi Road, for recruitment by Marnakulam Kia. Candidates aged 18 to 45 with SSLC, PUC, ITI, Diploma or degree qualifications can apply for various posts, including technicians, sales executives, managers, painters and receptionists. Applicants must bring educational certificates, two copies of their resumes and an Aadhaar photocopy. Registration is compulsory. Yuvanidhi beneficiaries must also attend. For details, contact 8310111569, 8088562596 or 6363330688, said District Employment Officer Basavanta P.N.

Chitradurga District Youth Festival scheduled for Nov 20

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

The district-level Youth Festival for 2026-27 will be held on November 20 at 9.30 am at Kreeda Bhavana in the District Stadium premises. The event is organised by the District Administration, Zilla Panchayat and Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports. Young men and women aged 15 to 29 can participate. Registrations will be accepted from 9 am to 10.30 am, and the programme will begin at 10.30 am. Only district-level first-place winners will qualify for the state-level festival. Cash prizes will be awarded to winners. Competitions include folk dance, folk songs, painting on the theme 'Drug-Free Youth', street plays and poetry writing in Hindi, English or regional languages. For details, contact 08194-235635 or 9611673475.

Applications invited for Nomadic Community welfare schemes

CH NEWS, GADAG

The Karnataka Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Nomadic Development Corporation has invited applications from eligible beneficiaries for various welfare schemes for 2026-27. Applications can be submitted through the Seva Sindhu portal until November 30.Beneficiaries will be selected under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner. Applications submitted during 2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26 will also be considered. Those who have already applied need not submit fresh applications.For further details, applicants can contact the Social Welfare Department office in Shirahatti or call 08487-295097, according to the department's Assistant Director.

Poultry farmers plan Assembly protest on November 25

Poultry farmers face severe financial strain due to low returns of Rs 6.20 per kg amid soaring operational costs



CH NEWS, HUNSUR

Poultry farmers in Karnataka have announced a 'Vidhana Soudha Chalo' protest on November 25, demanding an increase in the poultry rearing charge to at least Rs 10 per kg. Gouripura Swaminayaka, district president of the Poultry Farmers' Association, said farmers would stop accepting new chicks and supplying grown chickens to companies from the evening of November 25.

Speaking at a press conference in Hunsur, Swaminayaka said repeated appeals to ministers, MLAs and Animal Husbandry Department officials over the past six months had failed to resolve their concerns.

He said farmers were still receiving Rs 6.20 per kg, despite a sharp rise in the costs of poultry feed, labour and other operational expenses. Farmers raising around 15,000 birds were also finding it difficult to earn a reasonable income and pay workers' wages.

Swaminayaka said the government had approved an interim rearing charge of Rs 10 per kg, but companies had not implemented it. He added that the association had approached Poultry Federation president Vijay several times, along with General Secretary Sridhar Reddy and other office-bearers, but had received no satisfactory response.

The farmers are demanding immediate implementation of the Rs 10 rate and a long-term increase to Rs 20 per kg to meet rising expenses.

He appealed to poultry farmers across Karnataka to join the November 25 protest and support the proposed suspension of chick acceptance and chicken supply.

District Coordinator Chandan, Secretary Srinivas and Director Lokesh attended the press conference.

Rearing charge, per kg

PAID NOW	DEMANDED
Rs 6.20	Rs 10
despite rising feed, labour costs	at once; Rs 20 in the long term

Neglect threatens bird haven at Magadi lake



Magadi Lake in Shirahatti taluk of Gadag district, a winter home for migratory birds

MALINGARAYA PUJAR, GADAG

Magadi Lake in Shirahatti taluk of Gadag district, known for attracting thousands of migratory birds every winter, is facing serious conservation concerns. The wetland, which welcomes birds travelling thousands of kilometres from regions such as Siberia, Mongolia and Central Asia, is an important winter habitat for several species.

The lake is particularly known for Bar-headed Geese, along with other waterbirds such as Brahminy Ducks, Pintails and ibises. Official records recognise Magadi Kere as a Ramsar wetland of international importance since February 2023. However, concerns have been raised over its changing condition and the need for better maintenance.

Weed growth a concern

The lake has reportedly been affected by low water levels and the spread of weeds and thorny bushes. The thick vegetation has reduced the open water space available for birds to land, rest and search for food. These conditions could affect the arrival and movement of migratory birds during the winter season.

The growth of water weeds has also been identified as a concern in reports on the lake's conservation. Environmentalists have stressed the need for regular maintenance to protect its natural habitat.

Water pollution

Water pollution is another major concern. Reports of bird deaths near the lake have raised questions about the quality of water and the safety of the surrounding environment.

Contaminated water and waste entering the lake could pose risks to its wildlife.

Open defecation adds to the problem

Despite efforts under the Swachh Bharat Mission to improve sanitation, concerns have been raised about open defecation around the lake. Human waste and other pollutants can enter the water through rainwater runoff, affecting the wetland's fragile ecosystem.

Call for action

The Forest Department and the local Gram Panchayat have an important role in protecting the lake.

Cooperative Week celebrations begin in Chitradurga today

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

The 73rd All India Cooperative Week celebrations will be inaugurated today (November 14) at 11 am at JM Comforts Hall in JSR Layout on Davanagere Road in Chitradurga.

The programme is being jointly organised by the Department of Cooperation, Karnataka State Cooperative Federation, District Cooperative Union, District Central Cooperative Bank and District Souharda Cooperative Federation, along with local cooperative societies and banks.

T. Raghumurthy, Minister for the Welfare of Scheduled Tribes and Chitradurga District In-charge Minister, will inaugurate the event. MP Govind M. Karjol will pay floral tributes to the pioneers of the cooperative movement. MLA K.C. Veerendra and MLCs K.S. Naveen and D.T. Srinivas will honour senior cooperators and outstanding cooperative societies.

H.N. Thippeswamy, president of the District Cooperative Union, will preside over the programme. Several cooperative sector representatives and officials from the district and Shivamogga will attend.

The event will focus on creating a supportive environment, adopting technology and providing skill-based professional services to strengthen cooperative institutions.

Retired Principal Dr C. Channakeshava will deliver a lecture on "The Role of Cooperative Institutions in Sustainable Development and Growth."

Co-op Week opens

WHEN	Today, 11 am
WHERE	JM Comforts Hall, JSR Layout, Davanagere Road
OPENS	Minister T. Raghumurthy
PRESIDES	H.N. Thippeswamy

ITC gives desks to Hunsur government school

CH NEWS, HUNSUR

Hunsur MLA G.D. Harish Gowda said ITC is supporting government schools by providing desks to improve students' learning environment.

Speaking at the Government Higher Primary School in Manchabayanahalli during the distribution of desks, he appreciated the company's contribution to education through its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives.

As part of its efforts, ITC donated 30 desks to the school to improve its infrastructure. The company had earlier supported the school by constructing a modern toilet facility and providing a water filter.

The MLA thanked ITC General Manager Venu Praveen Kumar, Marketing Manager Manoj and Field Assistant Chikka Malegowda for their support.

Social workers Harave Sridhar, Satish Papanna and Honnappa Rao Kalinge, Headmaster, teachers, SDMC President Krishna Naik, Siddaraju, Imtiaz Pasha, Ganapathi Mahadeva Naik and other villagers attended the programme.

30 desks for the Manchabayanahalli school, after a modern toilet and a water filter

Kuvempu University holds 71st Kannada Rajyotsava celebration

CH NEWS, SHANKARAGHATTA

Renowned film actor and Bharatanatyam artiste Dr. Sridhar has stressed the importance of preserving Kannada culture, language and traditions while embracing modernity.

He was speaking after inaugurating the 71st Kannada Rajyotsava celebrations organised by the Kannada Bharati department of Kuvempu University at Basava Sabhabhavana on Friday.

Dr. Sridhar said adopting modern lifestyles should not mean forgetting one's cultural roots, heritage and values. He urged people to protect and promote Kannada language, literature and traditions. He added that literature and art provide students with knowledge, happiness and valuable life experiences. He also stressed the importance of understanding India's intellectual heritage through Kannada literature.

Expressing concern over the growing influence of Western lifestyles, food habits, clothing and customs, he encouraged people to value indigenous knowledge and traditions.



Guests at the 71st Kannada Rajyotsava celebrations of Kuvempu University's Kannada Bharati department

Kannada at home

Vice-Chancellor Prof. Sharath Ananthamurthy said some people in cities such as Bengaluru consider speaking Kannada a sign of inferiority. He stressed that economic strength among Kannadigas is important for the growth and preservation of the language.

Writer Savita Nagabhushan urged parents to encourage children to learn Kannada at home and develop an understanding of Karnataka's language and culture.

Registrar (Evaluation) Prof. R. Thimmarayappa, Kannada Bharati Director Dr. Nellikatte S. Siddesh, Yugadharma Ramanna, Deans Prof. Chandrashekhar, Prof. S.K. Narasimhamurthy and Prof. Gajanan Prabhu B., USMR College Principal Prof. S.M. Muthayya, faculty members, staff and students attended the programme.

Economic strength among Kannadigas is important for the growth of the language, says the Vice-Chancellor

Magadi committee plans multi-location free health camps

CH NEWS, MAGADI

The Kempegowda Development Committee will organise its 517th Kempegowda Jayanthi celebrations, along with its 13th mega free health check-up and surgical camp and voluntary blood donation drive, at five locations in Magadi taluk from November 15.

Announcing the programme at the committee's central office in Hosapete, State President H.M. Krishnamurthy said the initiative aims to ensure that people do not suffer due to a lack of medical treatment. He said more than 4,000 people had undergone surgeries through the committee's previous camps and urged the public to make use of the facilities.

The camps will be held on November 15 at Kuduru, November 22 at Thippasandra, November 29 at G.K.B.M.S. School in Magadi, December 6 at Gejjagaruguppe and December 13 at Kootagal.

Medical services will include women's health check-ups, heart screenings, eye examinations, ENT consultations and tests for diabetes and blood pressure. Free surgeries will be provided for eligible patients requiring treatment for piles, hernia, appendicitis, gallbladder stones and urinary bladder stones.

Participants have been asked to bring previous medical records and BPL, Yashaswini or Ayushman cards. Food, transport, drinking water and restroom facilities will be arranged for around 2,000 people.

Former Taluk Panchayat member C. Jayaramu said Krishnamurthy had been organising social welfare activities, including health camps and mass weddings, for 27 years. He added that a mobile medical unit worth Rs 3.50 crore would be available at Kuduru for diagnosis and treatment.

Mahantaswamiji of Gadduge Matha, Siddaraju Swamiji and Shivananda Swamiji are expected to attend. Several local leaders were also present when the invitation was released.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, RIMAZ KAUSER (old name), a resident of Flat NO 249 G, 4th Cross, Ilyas Nagar - Bengaluru - 560078, Karnataka, INDIA, have changed my name to RIMAZ KAUSAR (NEW Name) vide affidavit dated 09-11-2026, sworn advocate and notary Mohammed Hussain K.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Aishwarya Mohan Raj D/o Mohan Raj Othayoth Kokaripan R/o C /1006, Purva Westend, Kudlu Gate, Bangalore -560068. Changed my name as Aishwarya Mohan for all future purposes

CHANGE OF NAME

I, YASMEEN TAJ (old name), a resident of Flat NO 249 G, 4th Cross, Ilyas Nagar - Bengaluru - 560078, Karnataka, INDIA, have changed my name to YASMIN TAJ (NEW Name) vide affidavit dated 09-11-2026, sworn advocate and notary Mohammed Hussain K.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, FRAHAT UR RAHMAN (old name), a resident of Flat NO 249 G, 4th Cross, Ilyas Nagar - Bengaluru - 560078, Karnataka, INDIA, have changed my name to FARHAT UR RAHMAN (NEW Name) vide affidavit dated 09-11-2026, sworn advocate and notary Mohammed Hussain K.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, JHANSI KAVERAPPA W/o KAVERAPPA M, R/o 947-F-1, HMT Layout, 4th Block, Ganesh Enclave, Vidyaranyapura, Bangalore North, Bangalore, Karnataka-560097, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as DIVYA JHAANSI.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, KRUTHIKA SURESH BHOOMARADDI (old name), a resident of CVC FARMHOUSE, KUSHTAGI ROAD, BHARAT GAS, KOPPAL - 583231, Karnataka, INDIA, have changed my name to KRUTHIKA BASAVARAJ (NEW Name) vide affidavit dated 13-11-2026, sworn advocate and notary Mohammed Hussain K.

NAME CHANGE

I, **SABU SAB SYED**, S/o Late Chote Sab, resident of Old No 55, New No 7/8, L. Cross, 3 Main Road, Bismillah Nagar, Bengaluru-560029, have changed my name to **SYED SABU**, Vide Affidavit Dated: 12.11.2026 before notary R. BASAVARAJA, Bengaluru

NAME CHANGE

I, **MOIN KHAN AFZAL KHAN, S/o Afzal Khan**, resident of No 80, 8 Cross, Mangamanapalya Main Road, Madina Nagar, Bengaluru-560068, have changed my name to **MOIN KHAN**, Vide Affidavit Dated: 12.11.2026 before notary R. BASAVARAJA, Bengaluru

NAME CHANGE

I, **MUYEZ UR REHMAN MUNAVER HUSSAIN**, S/o Munaver Hussain Mohammed Ismail, resident of No 86, Bengali Street, Virajpet Town & Post, Kodagu - 571218 , have changed my name to **MUYEZ UR REHMAN**, Vide Affidavit Dated: 13.11.2026 before notary MEER HASSAN, Bengaluru

IN THE COURT OF HON'BLE PRL. CIVIL JUDGE & J.M.F.C. AT K.G.F.
C.M.C. No. 499 / 2026

PETITIONERS: 1.Sri. Subramani S/o. Late. Munivenkatappa & Late. Smt. Devamma, Aged about 58 years,R/at: No.11, Kuppam Road, Kallikothuru Village, Andersonpet Post, Robertsonpet Hobli, K.G.F. Taluk, Kolar District – 563113.
Aadhaar No. 2226 0745 5774.
2. Smt. Jayalakshmamma W/o. Shankarappa, D/o. Late. Munivenkatappa & Late. Smt. Devamma, Aged about 48 years,R/at: Oorkunte Mittur Village, Mulbagal Taluk, Kolar District – 563127.
Aadhaar No. 4489 9177 8616.

V/s

RESPONDENT: The Tahsildar K.G.F. Taluk, Robertsonpet, K.G.F.

PUBLIC NOTICE

WHEREAS, the petitioners are filed a petition under Section 13 (3) of Registration of Birth & Death Act 1969, for obtaining the Death Certificate of petitioners No.1 & 2 Grandfather **PILLAPPA, S/o. Late. Muniyappa & Late. Smt. Gangojamma, H/o. Late. Smt. Muniyamma @ Gendamma,** who was died on 05/06/1962, at Home: Kallikothuru Village, Robertsonpet Hobli, K.G.F. Taluk, Kolar District.
The hearing date of the case is posted on 15/12/2026. If any person having any claim or objection has to appear before this Hon'ble Court in person or by pleader in the above said hearing date at about 11.00 a.m. to answer the same, failing which the petition will be disposed off as ex-parte.
Given under my hand and seal of this Court on this 13/11/2026.

BY THE ORDER OF THE COURT
CHIEF MINISTERIAL OFFICER, PRL. CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC COURT, KOLAR GOLD FIELDS

Advocate For Petitioners :
S. SATEESH KUMAR, B.A.L.L.B., Advocate, K.G.F. Mobile: 9483694409

IN THE COURT OF THE HON'BLE ADDITIONAL DISTRICT JUDGE AT, HOSUR

Aswathamma and another ...Plaintiffs

Versus

Chinniah and others ...Defendants

Notice to Defendants:

D-20, Mrs.Lavanya, D/o. Late. Krishnappa, W/o. Manjunatha, Residing at D.No.23, Kadujakkanahalli village, Indlavadi post, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District 562 106, Karnataka state

D-24, Mrs.Lakshmamma, W/o. Nagaraj @ Muniraju, Residing at D.No.59, Near Anjaneya Temple, Dasanapura Village, Mayasandra post, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District 562 106, Karnataka state.

D-27, Mr.Devanna, S/o. Late. Marappa and Late. Chinnamma, Residing at Dhasanapura village, Mayasandra post, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District 562 107, Karnataka state

D-28, Mrs. Padma, D/o. Late. Marappa, and Late. Chinnamma, Residing at Queens valley Layout, TVS Road, Ballur Village, Mayasandra Post, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District - 562 107, Karnataka state.

COURT NOTICE

Please take notice that the above case O S. No. 04 of 2026 came up for hearing before the Hon'ble Additional District Judge, Hosur on 24-09-2026, the Hon'ble court ordered to effect substituted service to Defendants named above and stands posted to 20-11-2026, you should appear before the Hon'ble Court on 20-11-2026 at 10.00 A.M. onwards in person or through a counsel and submit your objections, failing which the court may proceed to pass further order.

/ By order of the Court /

Advocate, Hosur

K.M. BABU, B.A.L., LL.B.,
#MIG-4, 1st Floor
Sri Kashi Vishwanathar Aalayam Road Opp.
Uzhavar Sanahai, Hosur-635 109
Mob: 86084 59401, 63800 35259

Quick Read

Public service campaign scheduled in Madinooru today

CH NEWS, KOPPAL

A 'Praja Seva Andolana' (Public Service Campaign) meeting will be held on November 14 (Saturday) from 10 am to 2.30 pm at the Madinooru Gram Panchayat premises in Koppal taluk. Residents of Koppal Hobli can submit petitions regarding their grievances and seek solutions to their problems. The Koppal Tahsildar has appealed to the public to participate in large numbers and make use of the opportunity.

Power supply to face seven-hour outage in Chikkaballapura

CH NEWS, CHIKKABALLAPURA

Power supply will be disrupted in several areas of Chikkaballapura district on November 15 from 10 am to 5 pm due to maintenance work by Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited (KPTCL). In Gauribidanur division, the outage will affect Gauribidanur, Gudibande, Manchenahalli, Tondebhavi, Allipura, Ramapura, Vidurashwatha and surrounding villages. In Chikkaballapura, maintenance of two 100 MVA transformers at the Industrial Area receiving station will affect the city, industrial area, Nandi Hills, Muddenahalli, Sultanpete, Kandavara and several surrounding villages. BESCOM Executive Engineer P.G. Ramesh Kumar has requested consumers to cooperate during the maintenance work.

Farmers urged to register for rabi crop insurance

CH NEWS, KOPPAL

The Agriculture Department has urged farmers to enrol for crop insurance under the Karnataka Raitha Suraksha Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana for the 2026-27 Rabi (Hingaru) and summer seasons.

The registration deadlines vary according to the crops. Farmers growing rain-fed horse gram (Huruli) must register by November 16. The deadline for safflower, rain-fed sorghum (Jowar), maize, and irrigated and rain-fed sunflower is November 30. Farmers growing irrigated or rain-fed wheat can register until December 15, while the deadline for rain-fed chickpea (gram) is December 31.

Farmers must have a Farmer Identification (FID) number to enrol. They should register only the crops actually cultivated and submit photocopies of their land records (Pahani), Aadhaar card and bank passbook.

For further details and assistance with registration, farmers can contact their nearest Raitha Samparka Kendra (Farmers' Contact Centre) or the Agriculture Department, according to an official announcement by the Assistant Director of Agriculture, Yelburga.

Byrathi Suresh orders steps for uninterrupted water supply

Expressing concern over weekly water shortages in Bagepalli, he directed officials to resolve the issue and prevent future deficits.



At the quarterly Karnataka Development Programme review meeting at the Zilla Panchayat office in Chikkaballapura.

CH NEWS, CHIKKABALLAPURA

District In-charge Minister Byrathi Suresh has directed officials to take precautionary measures to ensure an uninterrupted drinking water supply in rural and urban areas of the district. He said providing adequate drinking water remains a priority for the government.

He was speaking at the quarterly Karnataka Development Programme (KDP) review meeting held at Sir M. Visvesvaraya Hall in the Zilla Panchayat office, where he reviewed the progress of various departments.

Expressing concern over reports that some wards in Bagepalli town receive water only once a week, he directed officials to resolve the issue immediately and prepare plans to prevent future shortages.

Reviewing the H.N. Valley project, the Minister instructed officials to distribute water fairly among lakes according to the allocations for each Assembly constituency. He directed them to ensure that water reaches the lakes by December. Tahsildars were asked to inspect the lakes and submit ground-level reports. Officials were also told to take action against illegal pumping of water from lakes and supply canals.

During the electricity review, officials informed the meeting that around 250 transformers require repairs every month. A stock of 500 transformers is maintained to ensure quick replacement. Under the PM-KUSUM-C scheme, electricity connections have been provided to 24,000 farmers, with 100 MW of power being generated. Another 100 MW is expected in the coming months.

The meeting was also informed that 13,000 pregnant and lactating women receive nutritious food under the Matrupoorna scheme. LKG and UKG classes have also started in 100 Anganwadis.

Action against overloaded vehicles

The Minister directed the Transport Department and Mines and Geology Department to jointly monitor vehicles carrying M-sand, crushed stone and other mining materials. He warned that overloading would not be tolerated and instructed officials to prevent revenue losses from unpaid royalties and taxes. Disciplinary action would be taken against those responsible.

The review in numbers

transformers need repairs every month
250
transformers kept in stock
500
farmers connected under PM-KUSUM-C
24,000
women fed under the Matrupoorna scheme
13,000

MRI facility to open soon

The Minister announced that the MRI scanning facility at the district hospital, being built at an estimated cost of ₹16 crore, would be opened to the public within 15 days. Construction work is in its final stages.

MLAs S.N. Subba Reddy, B.N. Ravikumar and D.T. Srinivas, Deputy Commissioner G. Prabhu, Zilla Panchayat CEO Dr. Y. Naveen Bhat, District Forest Officer Girish, N. Ramesh, Additional Deputy Commissioner Dr. N. Bhaskar, Sub-Divisional Officer Shobhita and other officials attended the meeting.

Suresh launches portal for government hospital doctors

District In-charge Minister Byrathi Suresh on Friday launched a bilingual portal, www.chikballapurdoctorsinfo.com, to help people check doctors' availability at government hospitals. Launched during the 2026-27 Karnataka Development Programme review meeting, the mobile-friendly portal provides doctors' duty hours, break timings and hospital-wise rosters in Kannada and English. It is free to access and requires no registration or app download. The Minister said Primary Health Centre details would be added soon. He urged officials to promote the portal and citizens to report discrepancies. Developed with KEONICS support, the initiative aims to reduce unnecessary hospital visits, particularly for rural patients.

Justice Gowda calls for stronger child protection awareness



At the national seminar on the POCSO Act at Kannada Bhavana in Chikkaballapura.

CH NEWS, CHIKKABALLAPURA

Retired Supreme Court judge Justice Gopala Gowda stressed the need to create widespread awareness about the POCSO Act to protect children from abuse and exploitation. He said safeguarding children, ensuring women's dignity and promoting social equality are essential to the Constitution's vision.

He was speaking after inaugurating a national seminar on the POCSO Act organised by the District Legal Services Authority at Kannada Bhavana in Chikkaballapura to mark National Legal Services Day.

Justice Gowda expressed concern over the registration of 753 POCSO cases in the district. He said protecting children's rights was everyone's responsibility and called for ensuring their education, safety and well-being. He added that victims must receive justice and offenders must be punished according to law.

He said the Legal Services Authority played an important role in securing justice for women, children, Dalits and disadvantaged communities. Despite the Constitution guaranteeing equality, caste discrimination, untouchability and exploitation continued in society. He called for equal educational opportunities and greater public awareness of legal rights.

He also praised the district authority for resolving 26,667 cases through four Lok Adalats and helping 35 couples reconcile. Its efforts to prevent child marriage, address public grievances and plant five lakh saplings were also appreciated.

Addressing the gathering, Adichunchanagiri Matha's local branch head Sri Mangalanatha Swamiji praised Justice Gowda's speech and said society needed stronger moral values and proper guidance. He urged parents to raise children with love and good values and called on people to question injustice rather than remain silent.

Sri Veerabhadra Channamalla Swamiji of Nidumamidi Matha praised Justice Gowda for standing up for the poor and oppressed. He called for an end to untouchability and discrimination and urged young people to uphold equality and constitutional values.

Presiding over the programme, Principal District and Sessions Judge T.P. Ramalinge Gowda said the authority was working to ensure equal justice under Article 39A of the Constitution. He expressed concern over the district's high number of POCSO cases and called for collective efforts to prevent child abuse.

Senior Civil Judge and DLSA Member-Secretary B. Shilpa, DySP Prakash, Bar Association President Abhilash, advocates, students and government officials attended the programme.

Rotary Club distributes free cows under Kamadhenu scheme



At the cow distribution under the Kamadhenu scheme in front of Someshwara Temple, Magadi.

CH NEWS, MAGADI

Rotary members visit the Channarayapatna cattle market every Thursday with vets to pick healthy cows

The Rotary Club of Magadi is distributing cows free of cost to women in distress to help them achieve financial independence and promote dairy farming in rural areas, said club president Jayashankar.

Speaking at a cow distribution programme held in front of Someshwara Temple under the Kamadhenu scheme, he said the club had been carrying out various social welfare activities for the past 12 years. He noted that dairy farming provides farmers with an additional source of income alongside agriculture and urged beneficiaries to use the opportunity to improve their financial condition.

Jayashankar said Rotary members personally visit the Channarayapatna cattle market every Thursday, accompanied by veterinarians Dr. Nagabhushan and Dr. Ajay, to select healthy, high-quality cows with good milk-producing capacity. Special care is taken to select cows expected to give birth within 15 days to one month.

Former Rotary president Prabhakar said the initiative was launched with a target of distributing 300 cows to rural families. He expressed satisfaction that the cows distributed so far had remained healthy and given birth to calves, helping beneficiaries strengthen their livelihoods.

The programme was attended by PDG B.R. Sridhar, Balaji, Krishna of Girinagar Club, former president Dr. Manjunath, Vinod, Secretary Prasad, Ganesh, Srikanth, Renuka Prasad, K.P. Rangaswamy, Ramesh, Sultan Babu, Kannadaka Raju, Lokesh and Harinath of Samarpan Club, among others.

Koppal organises children's parliament to promote rights

CH NEWS, KOPPAL



At the Children's Parliament-2026 programme in Koppal on Friday.

A 'Children's Parliament-2026' programme was organised at the Agricultural Extension Education Centre on Friday to encourage children's participation in decision-making and promote awareness of their rights.

The programme was jointly organised by the District Administration, Zilla Panchayat, District Legal Services Authority, District Child Protection Unit, Centre for Child Rights, Bengaluru, and various non-governmental organisations.

Inaugurating the programme, Senior Civil Judge and District Legal Services Authority Member Secretary Mahantesh Dargad said India signed the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child on December 11, 1992, and was committed to protecting children's rights.

He said children below 18 years constitute a significant share of the country's population. Initiatives such as Children's Gram Sabhas and Ward Sabhas provide opportunities for them to express their concerns and participate in decision-making.

He appreciated the initiative, stating that the Children's Parliament was not a replica of the Legislative Assembly or Legislative Council. Instead, it provides a platform for children to identify important issues affecting them and present their demands to the government. A Children's House Committee would also help bring their concerns to the attention of the authorities.

Deputy Director of the Women and Child Development Department Amaresh Havina said a state-level Children's Parliament programme was proposed in Bengaluru on November 20 in the presence of the Chief Minister. Two or three children from Koppal district would be selected to participate.

Presiding over the programme, District Child Protection Officer Sindhu Angadi said the initiative aimed to develop democratic values among children and encourage their participation. She added that the District Child Protection Unit had been organising the programme with NGOs since 2018.

District Child Welfare Committee Chairperson Prakash Kadagad and UNICEF Child Protection Project Manager Harish Jogi participated.

Ravikumar Pawar compered the programme, while Manjula Karadad proposed the vote of thanks. Children and representatives of KHPT, Spandana, REEDS, Calvary Chapel, the Boys' Home and the Girls' Home attended.

Chitradurga prepares for district-level Youth Parliament



At the organising committee meeting for the Youth Parliament in Chitradurga.

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

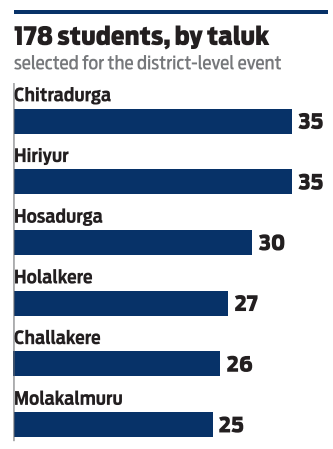
Preparations are underway for a district-level Youth Parliament next week to familiarise students with legislative proceedings. A large pandal resembling the Karnataka Legislative Assembly will be set up at Murugharajendra Stadium to conduct mock sessions.

Social Welfare Department Deputy Director Mallikarjun announced this during a district-level organising committee meeting held at his office on Friday.

He said the sessions would cover important issues, including drought, irrigation projects, education and social development. Students from schools and colleges, including residential institutions, will get an opportunity to understand parliamentary procedures by taking part in mock legislative debates over three to four days.

Taluk-level Youth Parliament competitions have already been completed. A total of 178 students have been selected for the district-level event, including 35 from Chitradurga, 27 from Holalkere, 26 from Challakere, 25 from Molakalmuru, 35 from Hiriyur and 30 from Hosadurga.

178 students, by taluk
selected for the district-level event



Assistant Director Parameshwarappa said law, B.Ed., undergraduate, pre-university and high school students could participate in the mock sessions.

Mallikarjun also said the state-level Youth Parliament was scheduled to be held in Mysuru on November 26. One student from each Assembly constituency would be selected for the state-level programme, where participants would discuss issues concerning governance, development and legislation. DIET Principal Nagabhushan, Saraswathi Law College Principal M. Sudhadevi and other officials attended the meeting.

SHAPING YOUNG LEADERS

Students showcase democratic values through Youth Parliament

CH NEWS, KOPPAL

A district-level Youth Parliament was organised at Madhushree Garden on Hosapete Road in Koppal on Friday, bringing students together to learn about democracy and legislative proceedings.

The programme was jointly organised by the Koppal district administration, Zilla Panchayat and the Departments of Social Welfare, School Education and Literacy, Higher Education, and Law, Justice and Human Rights.



Students take part in the district-level Youth Parliament at Madhushree Garden in Koppal on Friday.

Deputy Commissioner Dr. Suresh B. Itnal inaugurated the programme. Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer Varnit Negi, Superintendent of Police Sahil Bagla and Social Welfare Department Deputy Director Ajjappa Sogalada were among those present. Teachers, department officials and staff members also attended the event.

Students from schools and colleges across the district participated enthusiastically. The mock Winter Session began with the singing of the Karnataka state song, Naadageethe, followed by the reading of the Preamble to the Constitution.

Modelled on the proceedings of the Karnataka Legislative Assembly, the competition gave students an opportunity to take on roles such as Speaker, Chief Minister, Deputy Chief Minister, ministers, Leader of the Opposition and legislators from both ruling and opposition parties.

Drought takes centre stage

During Question Hour, Zero Hour and the Calling Attention segment, opposition members raised questions about the drought situation in the state. Students playing the roles of the Chief Minister and ministers explained the relief measures taken by the government. The Speaker conducted the proceedings in an orderly manner.

The afternoon session featured the introduction, discussion and passage of legislative bills, giving participants practical experience of the law-making process.

Senior judge appreciates students' efforts

Senior Civil Judge and District Legal Services Authority Member-Secretary Mahantesh Sangappa Dargad visited the venue and appreciated the students' performances. He said such programmes help students understand democratic values and the working of parliamentary institutions and should be organised regularly.

Quick Read

Postal insurance services to remain suspended temporarily

CH NEWS, UDUPI

Transactions related to Postal Life Insurance (PLI) and Rural Postal Life Insurance (RPLI) will remain suspended at post offices from November 16 to 24 due to the migration of existing software to a new system.All services are scheduled to resume on November 25. The Superintendent of Post Offices, Udupi Division, has requested customers to cooperate during the transition period.



Tobacco-free youth campaign seeks public participation

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

The District Health Department has appealed to students, government employees and the general public to participate in the 'Tobacco-Free Youth Campaign 4.0' under the National Tobacco Control Programme by taking an online anti-tobacco pledge and downloading their certificates. District Health and Family Welfare Officer Dr. M.C. Sunil Kumar and District Tobacco Control Officer Dr. Girish have urged educational institutions, teaching and non-teaching staff, students and employees of all government departments at district, taluk and rural levels to actively participate. Interested people can visit pledge.mygov.in/say-no-to-tobacco-2026 to take the pledge, download their certificates and upload them to support the campaign's success.

₹5 cr roadwork launched in Bidar South

Dr. Beldale prioritized rural infrastructure development, launching phased road improvements across constituency villages to ensure widespread growth.



The launch of the ₹5 crore road asphalting work in Bidar South constituency

CH NEWS, BIDAR

Bidar South MLA Dr. Shailendra Beldale has launched a road asphalting project worth ₹5 crore, connecting Sadughata through Nagoora to the Mannalli main road. The project aims to improve rural connectivity and provide better transport facilities to residents of the constituency.

The improved road is expected to benefit farmers, students, traders and other commuters by making daily travel easier and providing better access to Bidar town and nearby areas.

Speaking after launching the work, Dr. Beldale said the development of basic infrastructure in rural areas was among his priorities. He said road improvement works were being taken up in different villages in phases to ensure that development reached every part of the constituency.

He instructed the concerned officials and contractors to maintain construction quality and follow prescribed technical standards. He also directed them to complete the work within the stipulated deadline and ensure that the road was made available for public use without unnecessary delay. He warned against substandard construction.

The MLA further said that development should not remain limited to urban areas. Equal importance was being given to essential facilities such as roads, drinking water, electricity, education and healthcare in rural villages. He added that infrastructure projects were being planned according to public needs.

Villager Virashetti welcomed the project and said residents had been waiting for better road connectivity for a long time. He thanked the MLA for taking up the work, stating that the improved road would make transportation easier for farmers, students and the general public.

Several local leaders and villagers attended the programme, including Suresh Mashetti, Sanjukumar Tharathare, Sanjukumar Koli, Santhosh Reddy, Penta Reddy, Rajareddy, Venkatareddy, Anand, Sangamesha, Tukka Reddy, Srikanth Reddy, Rajkumar Upara, Ganesh, Rahul, Razak, Ismail, Vishal Athivala, Sangamesha Swami, Amara and Akash Reddy.

THE NEW ROAD

- **Sadughata** where the asphalted road begins
- **Nagoora** the village it runs through
- **Mannalli main road** the link towards Bidar town

Farmers | Students | Traders | Commuters

Village Legal Aid centre opens in Kootagal



Officials at the inauguration of the Village Legal Aid Centre at Kootagal

CH NEWS, RAMANAGARA

Principal District and Sessions Judge and District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Chairman M.H. Annayyanavara said free legal assistance must reach every section of society, particularly economically weaker and vulnerable people.

He was speaking after inaugurating a Village Legal Aid Centre at Kootagal on Friday as part of National Legal Services Day celebrations. The programme was jointly organised by the District Legal Services Authority, District Bar Association, Zilla Panchayat and Kootagal Gram Panchayat.

Annayyanavara said villagers facing property disputes, fraud and violations of their rights need not travel long distances seeking legal assistance. The centre will provide free legal advice and help eligible people access lawyers. The Legal Services Authority will bear the expenses of legal assistance for eligible beneficiaries.

He said judges, advocates, Gram Panchayat officials and village representatives would create awareness by visiting households, listening to grievances and helping people understand their legal rights. The initiative also aims to encourage peaceful settlement of disputes.

He added that awareness programmes were being conducted in schools, colleges and hostels about child protection laws, including the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

District Bar Association President Kempayya said the village legal aid centre would help resolve property, land and neighbourhood disputes through peaceful settlements, reducing the need for court proceedings.

Additional Superintendent of Police Rajendra also spoke.

DLSA Member Secretary Savitha P.R., Deputy Superintendent of Police B.N. Srinivas, PDO Somashekhar K.S., Circle Inspector Murali, Bar Association Vice-President V.N. Jayaram, Channapatna Bar Association President Girish, advocates and village leaders attended the programme.

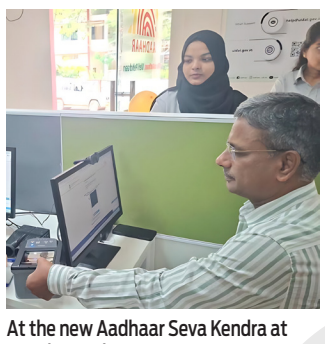
Karwar opens Aadhaar Seva Kendra for residents

CH NEWS, KARWAR

A new Aadhaar Seva Kendra has been inaugurated at Konekarwada in Karwar to provide various Aadhaar-related services under one roof. Additional Deputy Commissioner Sajid Mulla said the centre would make enrolment, corrections and updates easier for residents of Uttara Kannada district.

He was speaking after inaugurating the centre, established by the Bengaluru Regional Office of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), on the ground floor of Virat Apartments at Konekarwada on Friday.

Earlier, residents depended on Gram One centres, Karnataka One centres, banks and post offices for Aadhaar services. The new centre is expected to reduce delays and help people resolve issues that could not be addressed at other facilities.



At the new Aadhaar Seva Kendra at Konekarwada in Karwar

The centre will provide new Aadhaar enrolment, demographic corrections, biometric updates, photograph changes and grievance redressal services. Complaints requiring further attention will be forwarded to the UIDAI Regional Office in Bengaluru.

The centre has four enrolment kits and will function from 9 am to 5.30 pm, seven days a week. It also has wheelchair-accessible entry, accessible restrooms and facilities for handling public grievances.

Speaking on the occasion, Sajid Mulla instructed the staff to address public queries patiently and provide services in accordance with UIDAI regulations. He also directed them to remain vigilant against any misuse of Aadhaar services.

The facility is expected to benefit employees of NPCIL Kaiga, Seabird, Grasim Industries and West Coast Paper Mills, besides the general public. Residents have been encouraged to make use of the services.

UIDAI Director Manoj Kumar, Bengaluru Regional Office Manager Mohammad Musab, Centre Manager Raghavendra K., District Aadhaar Consultant Mahabaleshwar Desai, BLS International Regional Head Naresh Thumma, Operations Manager Anvay Naik and other staff members attended the inauguration.

Koppal cooperative leader selected for Sahakara Ratna

CH NEWS, KOPPAL

Senior theatre artist and cooperative leader Halayya Hudejali of Koppal district has been selected for the state-level 'Sahakara Ratna' award presented by the Karnataka State Cooperative Federation Ltd.

According to the Federation's Managing Director, the award will be presented by Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar at a ceremony in Bengaluru on Saturday, November 14. Cooperation Minister Lakshman Savadi will also attend the programme.

Leaders back Bangaremma Dodamani for ZP polls

CH NEWS, HUNASHALA

Maiboob Mujawar, a leader from the Hunashala Zilla Panchayat constituency, said Bangaremma Dodamani's work for farmers and economically weaker sections of rural society had earned her public support.

In a press release, Mujawar said Dodamani had been inspired by the teachings of the Basavadi Sharanas and Sufi saints. Since becoming Hunashala Gram Panchayat president in 2021, she had worked on improving healthcare facilities, controlling dengue, ensuring drinking water supply to remote villages, developing Hunashala lake and helping farmers access seeds and fertilisers on time.

Ahead of the proposed 2026 Zilla Panchayat elections, her priorities include desilting lakes, streams and canals, providing cold storage facilities, establishing Raitha Samparka Bhavanas and improving roads leading to agricultural fields.

She is also expected to focus on employment opportunities for agricultural labourers, veterinary clinics, cattle watering facilities and the protection of grazing lands.

Mujawar, along with Mallanagowda Patil, Sanjayya Hiremath, Mahesh Pattar, Prakash Vaddar and Prashanth Kumar, expressed support for Dodamani. They said they would work for her victory irrespective of which political party gives her a ticket.

They described her as a leader committed to serving people across communities.

Gadag holds rally to promote legal child adoption

CH NEWS, GADAG

Deputy Commissioner C.N. Sreedhara said the main objective of Adoption Awareness Month is to provide orphaned, abandoned and surrendered children with a safe and permanent family environment.

He was speaking after flagging off a district-level awareness rally at the District Administration Complex on Friday. The programme was jointly organised by the District Administration, Zilla Panchayat, Directorate of Child Protection, District Legal Services Authority, Women and Child Development Department, District Police and District Child Protection Unit.

The rally carried the message, "Follow the legal adoption process instead of seeking alternative methods." The Deputy Commissioner said growing up in a family environment was important for children's overall development. Legal adoption provides children with family care and gives prospective parents an opportunity to welcome a child into their family.

Government of Karnataka
Public Works Department
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Mysuru Division, Mysuru.
www:eepwdmys21@gmail.com Ph/Fax: 0821-2420810
IFT No.15/2026-27 **Dt.06.11.2026**

ITEM WISE TENDER NOTIFICATION

On behalf of the Governor of Karnataka, Executive Engineer, Public Works Department has published item wise Tender notification for a work approved under H/A: 4059-80-051-0-60-423 -Scheduled Tribe Sub Plan i.e **Construction of Valmiki Bhavana Balance work in T Narasipura town in T Narasipura Taluk** under T Narasipura Subdivision with KW-4 Regulations with Two cover systems. For this work **Amount Put to Tender is Rs.155.17 Lakhs and the EMD amount is Rs.2.33 Lakhs.** Pre bid Meeting will be held in the undersigned office at **11.00 A.M on 16.11.2026**. For this work Tender shall be Submitted in KPP-Portal **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) from 07.11.2026 to 23.11.2026 within 17.00 PM.** KPWD Class-III & above Contractor Registered in KPP-Portal are eligible. More details can be obtained from the office of the under Signed during office hours. Any amendments or modifications in tender notification will be published in KPP-Portal Only.

Sd/- Executive Engineer

DIPR/DDMYS/938/KSMCA/558/2026-27

Government Cocoon Market
B.M. Road, Ramangara, Bangalore South District.

No. SD/2026-27/SE0357 **Date :** 13.11.2026

Tender Notification

(Through Government e-Procurement Portal)

Tenders have been invited through the e-Procurement Portal on **12.11.2026** from agencies **providing a group of 36 cocoon tester and 1 supervision services required to Services for Sampaling, Quality checking and Grading of cocoons** at the Government Cocoon Market, Ramanagara, for a period of one year (12 months). The last date for submitting the tender is **26.11.2026**. An EMD fee of 1.5% must be submitted along with the tender. For further details, interested parties are advised to contact the office during office hours. Details can be obtained on the website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Deputy Director of Sericulture
Government Cocoon Market, Ramanagara.

DIPR/BSD/390/SA/2026-27

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Shivaji Nagar Division, Thimmaiah Road, Queens Road, Bengaluru.
Tender No: EE/SJN/E-PROC/33/2026-27 Date: 12-11-2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER
(Only through E-Procurement)
Single Cover Tender

The Executive Engineer (Shivaji Nagar Division), BCCC, Bangalore invites tenders from eligible Contractors registered in CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Government Organizations for the construction of work detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Works
1	Installation of road humps in Jayamahal 1st Main Road and Other works in Ward No.02 Jayamahal. **Approx. value of work (Rs in Lakhs):** 4.99. **EMD:** Rs. 12475/-. **Category:** General Category.
2	Improvements to roads and drain and grattings Jayamahal under bridge in Ward No.02 Jayamahal. **Approx. value of work (Rs in Lakhs):** 4.99. **EMD:** Rs. 12475/-. **Category:** General Category.
3	Improvements of roads and drain in Jayamahal under bridge in Ward No.02 Jayamahal. **Approx. value of work (Rs in Lakhs):** 4.99. **EMD:** Rs. 12475/-. **Category:** General Category.

For above 3 works: Tender processing Fee (in Rs): As per E-proc portal. **Eligibility of Contractor:** Class **III** and Above.

Calendar of Events: 1) Pre bid meeting will be held on **25/11/2026 at 15.00** in the office of the **Executive Engineer, Shivaji Nagar Division, Thimmaiah Road, Queens Road, Bengaluru** to clarify the issue and to answer questions on any matter that may be raised at that stage as stated in "Instructions to Bidders" of the bidding document. **2)** Last Date for uploading the Filled Tender Document is **26-11-2026 up to 16.00pm. 3)** Date of Financial bid opening of Tenders is on **30-11-2026 by 11.30 am.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Shivaji Nagar Division,
Bengaluru Central City Corporation

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(A Govt. of Karnataka Enterprises)
Executive Engineer, KNNL,
U.T.P. Division, Ranebennur

No: EE/ KNNL/UTP /DIV/RNR/GMLIS/ PB-2/2026-27/1887
Date : 12-11-2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP-portal system) Two cover system

Percentage tenders are invited by the undersigned on behalf of the Managing Director, KNNL, Bangalore, from eligible bidders who satisfies through GO KPPP platform https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. The Filling of MI/ZP tanks in Byadagi taluka by utilising and rejuvenating existing infrastructure of Guddadamallapura Lift Irrigation Scheme in Byadagi taluk of Haveri district Tank Filling Project under No.04 Byadgi sub division with amount put to tender of Rs: **107.16** Crore (including GST) and EMD amount of Rs: **91.00** Lakhs under UTP Division Ranebennur under the Head of account 4701-GMLIS for the year 2026-27.

Tender processing fee as per KPPP portal system is non-refundable. The electronic tender documents can be obtained through website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. and can be submitted through KPPP portal. (1) The contractor can have access to e-tender documents from **13-11-2026** to **30-11-2026** up to 4.00 PM (2)The Pre-bid meeting to be scheduled on **23-11-2026** up to 11.00 AM at O/o Managing Director, Karnataka Neeravari Nigam Ltd, 4th floor, Coffee Board, No 1 Dr B.R Ambedkar veedhi, Bangalore (3)The Last Date and time for tender queries before **25-11-2026** up to 5.30 PM. (4) Last date of bid submission of completed e-tendering documents on **30-11-2026** up to 4.00 PM (5) Technical Bid will be opened on **01-12-2026** at 4.30 PM at the office of the Executive Engineer, KNNL, UTP Division, Ranebennur. Any changes made in the said Notification Corrected /Corrigendum's will be uploaded in the KPPP portal.

For details visit our website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in or contact the undersigned in all working days during the office hours. Phone No. (08373) – 297332 Conditional tenders are liable to be rejected. The officer competent to accept the tender reserves the right of cancelling/rejecting all or any of the tenders without assigning any reasons what so ever.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
KNNL, U.T.P. Division, Ranebennur.

DIPR/Haveri/412/KSMCA/2026-2027

GULBARGA ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly owned government of Karnataka undertaking)
CIN Number: U04010KA2002SGC030436

No. GESCOM/SEE (Procurement)/EE(El)/AEE-2(El)/AE-2(El)/2026-27/66209-214
Date: 13.11.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION (KPP portal mode only)

PC-1523: Manufacture and supply of EHV Grade Transformer Oil as per technical specification **(Tender Amount: Rs. 896.88 Lakhs)**
Dates: Bid documents available at KPP Portal: on or after **16.11.2026,** Last Date for Bid submission, Opening of Technical Bid and opening of price Bid: As per KPP Portal.
Bidder Qualifying Requirements: As per tender documents (IFB): For additional information Contact: Superintending Engineer El., Procurement, Corporate Office, GESCOM, Kalaburagi-585102. Mobile: 94484 99997. Web Site Address: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** For information about the KPP portal, contact the helpline at +91 – 8046010000/8068948777/ 9240214000/ 9240214001or e-mail address:support@eprochelpdesk.com

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Procurement),
GESCOM, Corporate Office, Kalaburagi

DIPR/Kalaburagi/679/KSMC&A/2026-27

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Quick Read

Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles swings to loss in Q2

MUMBAI

Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles on Friday reported a consolidated loss for the second quarter (Q2 FY27), reversing a profit recorded in the same period last financial year (Q2 FY26), as the company grappled with exceptional charges and ongoing challenges at its luxury Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) division. The automaker posted a consolidated net loss of Rs 5,531 crore for the quarter ending September, compared to a profit of Rs 76,170 crore in the year-ago quarter, according to its stock exchange filing. The loss was largely attributed to a one-time exceptional charge amounting to Rs 6,738 crore, it added in its filing.

Pak losing edge in Afghan trade

LAHORE

Pakistan is facing more than a temporary trade disruption with Afghanistan; it is facing a structural shift in regional commerce, according to a report. A report by The Friday Times warned that traders who have found new routes may not return even after borders reopen, saying that the core problem is not distance but predictability. Pakistan remains geographically closest to landlocked Afghanistan with Karachi and Port Qasim offering the shortest sea access, it added. Yet repeated closures at Torkham and Chaman have made that advantage less valuable for importers who need certainty on cost, time and delivery.



Strict vigil on prices of 137 cancer drugs

NEW DELHI

The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), under the Department of Pharmaceuticals, has directed strict monitoring of the implementation of Trade Margin Rationalisation (TMR) on 137 non-scheduled anti-cancer drugs, for which the reduced prices came into effect from November 9, an official statement said on Friday. The latest revised price lists, based on submissions received from companies up to November 11, 2026, are available on the NPPA website and Pharma Sahi Daam app/portal. All manufacturers, retailers, dealers, stockists, hospitals and medical institutions have been directed to comply with the revised prices and prominently display the updated price lists at their premises and websites. State Drug Controllers (SDCs) have been directed to strictly monitor compliance by manufacturers, dealers, hospitals and medical institutions to ensure that the benefits of the lower MRPs are passed on to patients. Complaints regarding overcharging, shortage or non-availability of medicines can be reported through the Pharma Sahi Daam app/portal, NPPA helpline or email. State Drug Controllers have been asked to submit their Action Taken Reports to NPPA by November 16, 2026, the statement added.

India and Italy deepen their scientific research ties

The two countries chalk out plans for a 2027 joint research initiative covering AI, clean energy, biotechnology and other emerging technology sectors.

NEW DELHI

India and Italy have agreed to strengthen their longstanding scientific partnership and expand cooperation in research and innovation, following a bilateral meeting between Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology Dr. Jitendra Singh and Italy's Minister of University and Research, Anna Maria Bernini.

The discussions focused on translating the India-Italy Strategic Partnership into practical scientific collaboration, strengthening institutional mechanisms and identifying opportunities for joint research in emerging and priority technology sectors.

Both countries are also working towards launching a new joint research call in 2027 under their existing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The proposed collaboration will cover several key areas, including artificial intelligence, high-performance computing, big data, clean technologies, hydrogen, renewable energy and the global energy transition.

Advanced biotechnology and biomedical research will also receive attention, especially in gene therapy, mRNA technologies and biomanufacturing.

Dr. Singh expressed hope that both countries would continue working closely to promote practical cooperation by leveraging their respective science, technology and innovation ecosystems. He also assured full cooperation from the Indian side.

The scientific partnership between the two countries dates back to 1978, when their first Inter-governmental Agreement on Science and Technology was signed. The agreement was subsequently renewed on November 28, 2003.

India and Italy elevated their bilateral relationship to a Strategic Partnership in 2023. In November 2024, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni announced the Joint Strategic Action Plan for 2025-2029.

Under the Indo-Italian Executive Programme of Cooperation, more than 150 joint projects have already been implemented. The current programme for 2025-27 supports researcher mobility and significant research proposals, further strengthening bilateral scientific engagement.

Science ties

- **1978** First S&T agreement
- **2003** Agreement renewed
- **2023** Strategic Partnership
- **2027** New joint research call



India-EU FTA may boost startup ties



European representatives at Kerala's Huddle Global 2026 highlighted opportunities for Indian startups through trade agreements, innovation and cross-border partnerships.

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The proposed free trade agreement (FTA) between India and the European Union could create significant opportunities for Indian startups seeking to expand into European markets, representatives of four European countries said at Huddle Global 2026 in Kerala on Friday.

Representatives from Italy, Finland, Switzerland and Wales highlighted opportunities for partnerships with Indian companies across technology, research, innovation and medical technology during the Kerala government's flagship startup festival, organised by the Kerala Startup Mission.

Walter Ferrera, Consul General of Italy, said Indian startups could benefit considerably once the India-EU FTA is signed. He expected the agreement to be concluded in the coming days and encouraged Indian technology companies to explore partnerships with Italian businesses. Such collaborations, he noted, could also provide access to the wider European market.

Petra Theman, Consul General of Finland, expressed her country's interest in working with Indian enterprises, particularly in technology and innovation. Referring to Nokia's growth into a global technology company, she highlighted Finland's strong connection between technological progress and quality of life.

Dr Angela Honegger, Consul General of Switzerland, highlighted existing academic and research connections between India and Switzerland. Although Switzerland is not an EU member, it already has a separate free trade agreement with India.

Representing Wales, Eoghan O'Regan highlighted medical technology as a major strength of the Welsh economy.

RBI consolidates money transfer rules

NEW DELHI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has consolidated its regulations governing domestic money transfers, allowing individuals to deposit up to Rs 50,000 in cash at a bank branch for transferring money to another person's bank account through the National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT) system without maintaining an account with the bank.

The revised framework establishes transaction limits, monthly ceilings and additional safeguards to prevent fraud and misuse of cash-based transfers.

Under the rules, the maximum amount that can be received is Rs 10,000 per transaction, subject to a monthly limit of Rs 25,000 per beneficiary. For cash transfers via business correspondents, ATMs and other permitted channels, the limit is Rs 5,000 per transaction, with a monthly ceiling of Rs 25,000 per remitter.



The framework largely consolidates existing instructions rather than introducing significant changes to transaction limits. It is expected to benefit migrant workers, daily wage earners and individuals who need to send money to family members in different parts of the country.

Customers using these facilities must register with a verified mobile number and submit a self-certified officially valid document in accordance with the RBI's Know Your Customer (KYC) requirements. Every transaction must also undergo an additional factor of authentication.

The framework also allows beneficiaries without bank accounts to receive money transferred from another person's account and withdraw it in cash through ATMs, business correspondents or other authorised payment channels. Additionally, banks and non-bank entities have been directed to establish monitoring mechanisms to identify suspicious transactions.

The limits

- **Cash at a branch:** up to Rs 50,000 by NEFT
- **Received:** Rs 10,000 a time, Rs 25,000 a month
- **BCs, ATMs:** Rs 5,000 a time, Rs 25,000 a month

Google meets S. Korea's map security rules

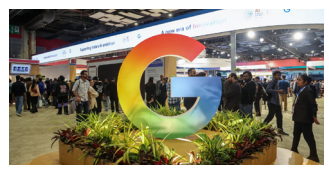
SEOUL

South Korea's government said on Friday that Google has complied with security requirements imposed as a condition for allowing the transfer of high-precision map data overseas. The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport said a government-led consultation body reviewed Google's implementation of security measures following its conditional approval in February to export 1:5,000-scale digital map data.

The review found that the global tech giant had implemented measures to prevent the exposure of geographic coordinates, as well as sensitive military and security facilities, on its global Google Maps and Google Earth services, including web and mobile platforms.

To meet the requirements, Google developed a dedicated control system for South Korea and introduced safeguards to block app updates if they risk exposing restricted geographic coordinates.

In August, Google also signed an agreement to obtain satellite imagery processed for security purposes by the National Geographic Information Institute (NGII) through a local partner.

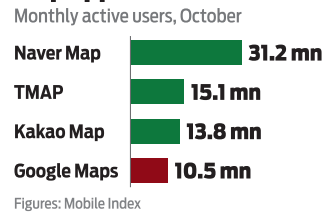


Google is said to have chosen the local navigation company, TMAP Mobility, to process base map data, according to industry sources.

Under the agreement, Google must replace existing imagery on its map services as soon as it receives the security-processed images, without making any modifications, said the report.

Friday's review results are expected to heat up competition in the local map app market.

Map apps in South Korea
Monthly active users, October



Figures: Mobile Index

Currently, Naver Map, operated by the local portal giant Naver Corp., is the most widely used service in the country, with monthly active users of 31.2 million in October, according to data from market tracker Mobile Index.

TMAP came next with 15.1 million monthly active users, followed by Kakao Map with 13.8 million users and Google Maps with 10.5 million users locally.

GOVT SEEKS VIEWS ON MEASURING KNOWLEDGE

NEW DELHI

The government on Friday invited suggestions, by December 12, on a report submitted by the Committee on Knowledge Systems, which establishes the rationale for systematically measuring productive knowledge as a driver of economic growth, productivity, competitiveness and strategic capabilities. It outlines the Knowledge Ecosystem with eight interrelated components: knowledge, capabilities and assets, enabling infrastructure, knowledge creation activities, knowledge products, knowledge-embedded products, knowledge-intensive entrepreneurship and knowledge application.

Suggestions on the Committee on Knowledge Systems report are invited till December 12

The paper also proposes boundary conditions for identifying knowledge products: knowledge as input, knowledge content, identifiability, codification and economic value. "It has been also stated that these boundaries only serve as broad guiding principles rather than rigid criteria, while leaving sufficient flexibility to accommodate the diversity and evolving nature of such products," said the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

The development of a systematic framework to measure the contribution of knowledge and knowledge products to the Indian economy assumes significance in the context of the growing role of knowledge in driving economic activity, productivity and value creation.

Towards this, a series of deliberations were initiated with a meeting chaired by Prof.

Subsequently, the ministry constituted a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) in May 2025 under the chairmanship of Dr R Balasubramaniam, the then Member, Capacity Building Commission, to guide the development of a measurement framework.

Centre fixes sugar sale quota at 13 lakh tonnes

NEW DELHI

The Centre's Department of Food and Public Distribution has fixed the fortnightly domestic sugar quota for the second fortnight of November at 13 lakh metric tonnes, according to an official statement issued on Friday.

In addition, sugar mills are permitted to sell, during this month, the sugar produced up to November 30, over and above their allocated sales quota for the second fortnight of November. This applies to mills that start crushing in November or had already started crushing in October, the statement said.

The government has replaced the old monthly quota system with a fortnightly allocation system starting September 2026 to curb artificial price swings, short-selling and hoarding at the end of the month.



Further, the government stipulated that every mill will have to sell at least 40 per cent of the fortnightly allocation in the first week and the remaining quantity in the following week.

This forms part of its initiatives to tame soaring sugar prices, which had topped Rs 70 a kg in retail outlets across the country at one point. Retail sugar prices across major Indian cities now range from Rs 61 to Rs 66 per kg (as of November 12), with an all-India average retail price of Rs 60.53 per kg.

Earlier, the government also extended the deadline for duty-free imports of 1 million tonnes of raw sugar under the Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ) by two months to December 31 to ensure adequate supplies are available during the festive season at reasonable prices.

The Finance Ministry had, on August 20, allowed duty-free imports of 1 million tonnes of raw sugar until October 31. In the last week of October, it issued a fresh notification to extend the last date for duty-free imports to December 31, 2026.

EXPORT MILESTONE

India records highest-ever monthly merchandise exports

NEW DELHI

India's merchandise exports reached a record $49.47 billion in October 2026, registering an 11.4 per cent increase over the $44.40 billion recorded in September, despite continuing uncertainties in global markets, according to official figures released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on Friday.

Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal confirmed the record while announcing the latest trade figures, calling October a historic month for India's merchandise exports.



The gems and jewellery sector emerged as a major contributor, recording a 34 per cent increase in exports to $2.92 billion, supported by strong international demand.

$49.47 bn	11.4%	$89.99 bn	$20.09 bn
merchandise exports, October	up on September	goods and services exports	overall trade deficit

India's overall exports, including merchandise and services, also witnessed substantial growth, rising nearly 30 per cent year-on-year to $89.99 billion in October. Merchandise exports accounted for $49.47 billion, while services exports contributed $40.51 billion.

The country's combined exports stood at $69.27 billion during October 2025. Meanwhile, the overall trade deficit narrowed to $20.09 billion from $25.15 billion in the corresponding month last year.

However, the merchandise trade deficit widened to $39.88 billion in October, compared with $30.21 billion in September and $33 billion in October 2025. The increase was primarily driven by a higher import bill resulting from rising crude oil prices amid the ongoing Middle East conflict.

India, the world's third-largest oil consumer, imports more than 85 per cent of its crude oil requirements.

Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has expressed confidence that India remains on track to achieve its ambitious $1 trillion export target this year.

THE QUIET COST OF NEVER BEING BORED

DR. THEJAS GIGY THOMAS

There was a time when a waiting room meant waiting. People stared at the ceiling, watched strangers, or let their minds drift wherever they pleased. Today the wait is filled before it begins. A phone appears, a feed refreshes, and the gap closes. We rarely notice what we have given up, because the loss is the absence of something we never knew we needed.

Boredom has a bad reputation. We treat it as a problem to be solved, a defect in the day. But it has long served a useful purpose. Boredom is the mind's signal that the present moment is not enough, and what follows is often the most valuable thinking we do. Ideas connect while we are not demanding them. Worries get sorted. Plans take shape in the shower, on a walk, in the stretch between one task and the next. Many people have noticed that their best thoughts arrive precisely when they are not trying to have any.

The modern information environment is built to prevent exactly this. Apps compete for our attention, and they are very good at it. Every pause is an opportunity for someone else's content, and every moment of stillness is a market. None of this requires villainy. It is simply what happens when attention is treated as a resource to be harvested. The result is a population that is rarely idle and, paradoxically, often restless.

> *Boredom is uncomfortable, and that is its point. It is the cost of admission to reflection, imagination and rest.*



It would be easy to turn this into a lament about technology, and that would be a mistake. The tools we carry connect us to friends, to knowledge, to opportunity. No one should romanticise a past of dull commutes and limited choices. The problem is not that we have access to endless stimulation. It is that we have lost the habit of choosing when to be without it.

That habit matters for more than creativity. Sustained attention is what allows us to read a difficult book, listen to someone who disagrees with us, or stay with a problem long enough to solve it. These are skills, and skills weaken without practice. A mind accustomed to constant novelty may find depth uncomfortable, not because it lacks ability, but because it lacks exercise.

There is also a social dimension. Conversations that once drifted into unexpected places now stall when a screen offers an easy exit. Children learn how to be alone with their thoughts by watching adults do it, and many are now watching adults who never do. A culture that cannot tolerate empty time may also struggle to tolerate silence, uncertainty and slow answers.

The remedy is modest, and it starts with individuals rather than regulators. Leave the phone in a pocket on the next walk. Let a queue be a queue. Protect an hour in the evening with nothing scheduled and nothing streaming. Schools and workplaces can help by treating uninterrupted time as something to defend, not something to fill. Designers and companies can help by building tools that respect a person's time instead of competing to consume it.

None of this means rejecting the modern world. It means remembering that attention is finite and that how we spend it shapes who we become. We would never hand our money to everyone who asked for it, yet we hand over our attention thousands of times a day without a second thought.

Boredom is uncomfortable, and that is its point. It is the cost of admission to reflection, imagination and rest. A society that has engineered it away should ask what it is getting in exchange, and whether the trade was worth it.

POLITICAL PROMISES ALONE CANNOT SECURE CHILDREN'S FUTURE



MANJUNATH G.Y.

Every November 14, politicians celebrate Children's Day by handing out flowers and sweets and offering their best wishes. When will they take seriously their responsibility for the education, health, nutrition, and safety of the country's millions of children? When will children's future become the government's first priority instead of a decorative item in a political manifesto? November 14 is the birthday of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first prime minister. In recognition of his deep affection for children, the day is celebrated across the country as Children's Day. Schools hold celebrations, give children sweets and gifts, and organize cultural programs. Political leaders shower children with greetings. Amid these festivities, who stops to ask whether every child in the country has access to education, healthcare, and a safe childhood? It is easy to say that children are the future of the nation. Taking responsibility for shaping that future is harder. Have the politicians who give speeches on Children's Day inspected the government schools in their constituencies? How many children are out of school? How many lack nutritious food? How many are trapped in child labour? These questions need answers.



> **"Children need leaders who will go beyond speeches and answer for the conditions in which they live."**
>
> **— Manjunath G.Y.**

The Right to Education Exists. Where Is the Quality?

Education is a fundamental right of every child in the country. The Right to Education Act of 2009 guarantees free and compulsory education for children aged 6 to 14. Governments have introduced and implemented several education schemes, providing benefits such as hot midday meals, scholarships, free textbooks, and uniforms. What matters is how much these schemes have changed children's lives. Government schools continue to face teacher shortages, inadequate infrastructure, limited digital access, and concerns about the quality of learning. High private school fees strain the finances of ordinary families. Education should offer opportunity to all children. For too many poor families, it becomes another struggle. According to the central government's Children in India 2025 report, the secondary school dropout rate fell from 13.8% in 2022–23 to 8.2% in 2024–25. This is a welcome development. Still, every child who leaves school may have a family facing financial hardship or may have been failed by the system.

Poverty Is Stealing Childhoods

Even as speeches about children's rights are delivered at Children's Day events, children continue to work in eateries, garages, factories, and construction sites. Hands that should be carrying schoolbags are bearing the burden of work. At an age when they should be playing, these children are supporting their families. Their situation reflects poverty and failures in society and governance. How effectively are child labour laws enforced? Do children rescued from labour receive adequate rehabilitation and education? How well do programs bring children from poor families back to school? Governments must answer these questions.

When Will We Tackle Hunger and Malnutrition?

Any discussion about children's future must address nutrition. According to the fifth National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5, 2019–21), 35.5% of children under five were too short for their age (stunting), 19.3% weighed too little for their height (wasting), and 32.1% weighed too little for their age (underweight). These figures point to serious problems that affect children's physical development, ability to learn, and long-term health. The persistence of these rates despite Anganwadi centres, nutrition programs, and health schemes shows the need for stronger implementation and oversight. Children's health requires coordination among the departments responsible for health, education, women and child development, food, and rural development.

Child Safety Laws Exist. Has Fear Diminished?

Figures on crimes against children are even more troubling. According to the National Crime Records Bureau's (NCRB) 2023 report, approximately 177,335 cases of crimes against children were registered nationwide. In 2022, the figure was 162,449, an increase of about 9.2% in a single year. Of the cases registered in 2023, 79,884 involved kidnapping and abduction, and 67,694 were registered under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. These figures cover registered cases. The increase may reflect more crimes, more complaints being filed and recorded, or a combination of both. Either way, children's safety demands attention. The POCSO Act, the Juvenile Justice Act, and other laws protect children's rights. Their effectiveness depends on how well they are enforced. The government is responsible for putting safeguards in place at schools, giving children ways to report abuse, investigating cases promptly, and providing psychological and legal support to children who have suffered harm.

Who Will Protect Children in the Digital World?

Children today are growing up with mobile phones and social media. Technology has opened up new opportunities to learn, while online fraud, cyberbullying, sexually explicit content, and digital addiction are growing concerns. Alongside digital education, children need to learn how to stay safe online. Parents, teachers, and the government share that responsibility.

Political Parties Must Take Responsibility for Children's Future

During elections, political parties make promises about young people, jobs, education, and development. Children's education and health need a long-term policy that has support across party lines. In Karnataka, priorities should include improving the quality of government schools, recruiting teachers, strengthening Anganwadi centres, improving child nutrition, and ensuring equal opportunities for rural students. On Children's Day each year, governments should publish a public progress report on child development alongside their greetings. They should disclose how many children have dropped out of school, how well children are learning, and what the figures show about malnutrition, child labour, and abuse. Elected representatives should inspect schools and Anganwadi centres in their constituencies.

Children's Day Should Be a Day of Reflection for Politicians

Handing children flowers and posing for photographs does little to build their future. Children should have books in their hands, nutritious food in their stomachs, dreams in their minds, and security in their lives. Remembering Nehru as "Chacha," or "Uncle," should go hand in hand with putting his ideals into practice by fostering a scientific outlook, expanding education, and helping children thrive. Politicians may compete fiercely for power. When it comes to children's education, health, and future, let them compete to make the most progress. When children's future is compromised, the consequences reach far beyond their families. It is a failure of society and government, and it puts the future of the country at risk. Children's Day should carry meaning beyond a single day of celebration. We need a system of government that respects children's rights every day. That is the real gift we can give them.

WHY IS DISCONTENT GROWING AMONG YOUTH AROUND THE WORLD?

MAHENDRA TIWARI



The world is changing rapidly. Unprecedented progress is being made in science, technology, education, and communication. Large industries are being established, and claims of economic growth are being made. Despite this, the young generation in many countries around the world is worried about their future. Lack of employment, inflation, expensive housing, rising education costs, and economic insecurity pose serious challenges for young people. This is why their concerns are no longer limited to personal problems but are becoming an international issue.



Recent youth-led protests in several European countries, including Germany and France, have brought this problem to global attention. In these movements, young people have demanded better education, employment opportunities, affordable housing, and relief from the rising cost of living. These events clearly demonstrate that economic growth statistics and the actual living conditions of ordinary citizens do not always align.

According to a report published by the International Labour Organization in August 2026, the global youth unemployment rate rose to 12.4 percent in 2025. Approximately 67 million young people were unemployed. The report also indicates that finding employment has become more difficult for young people in developed economies. In North America, the youth unemployment rate increased from 8.3 percent in 2023 to 9.8 percent in 2025. In Northern, Southern, and Western Europe, the rate was around 15 percent.

These statistics don't just mean that young people are struggling to find jobs. A major problem is the quality of employment. Many young people struggle to find work commensurate with their qualifications. Some find temporary employment, while others are forced to work for low wages. Even after finding a job, there's no certainty that their income will be regular and their future secure.

When achieving economic independence even after completing an education becomes difficult, it's natural for young people to become frustrated.

Another major cause of youth economic concerns is the rising cost of living. Expenses for food, transportation, electricity, healthcare, and housing constantly strain their budgets. High rent rates, especially in large cities, are making it increasingly difficult for low-income youth to live independently.

Housing and inflation were prominent issues during recent protests in Europe. When a large portion of a young person's income is spent solely on rent and essential goods, it becomes difficult to save, start a family, or invest for their future.

This problem is not limited to Europe. In large cities across many developing countries, including India, young people struggle to balance education, employment, and housing. The dream of economic independence remains unfulfilled when meeting basic needs becomes a challenge despite a regular income.

On October 31, 2026, youth-led protests took place in 34 cities across Germany. Protesters demanded increased investment in education and healthcare, lowering the cost of living, and opposing compulsory military service. Most demonstrations were peaceful, although incidents of violence and vandalism occurred at some locations.

In France, youth and other social groups also protested against problems in the education system, public services, inflation, and employment. These movements reflected a common sentiment. Young people felt their concerns were not being taken seriously enough and that their needs were not given due consideration when formulating policies.

These incidents should not be viewed solely as law and order issues. Peaceful protests are a means of expressing one's voice in a democracy. Governments should consider the economic and social causes of discontent while preventing violence.

Artificial intelligence and automation have created new opportunities in the employment world, but they are also changing the nature of some traditional jobs. According to a report by the International Labour Organization, approximately 6.1 percent of jobs held by youth aged 15 to 29 are in sectors most likely to be impacted by changes related to artificial intelligence.

This does not mean that all these jobs will disappear. Rather, the nature of many jobs may change, increasing the need for new skills. Problems arise when the education and training system fails to adapt to this change in a timely manner.

Therefore, instead of simply providing certificates, emphasis should be placed on developing practical knowledge, technical proficiency, creative thinking, and problem-solving abilities. Furthermore, working people should also be provided with opportunities to learn new skills.

India's youth population represents one of the country's greatest potentials. But to transform this potential into real strength, it is essential to provide adequate and respectable employment. The aspirations of educated youth are rising. They seek economic independence, a secure future, and opportunities to advance according to their abilities.

> **"If quality jobs don't increase alongside economic growth, the gap between youth expectations and actual opportunities could persist. Lack of employment opportunities in rural areas, limited availability of work for women, and inconsistent employment opportunities are some of the reasons behind this."**
>
> **– Mahendra Tiwari**

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Prepare now for extreme heat

As world leaders discuss climate action this week, local authorities should prepare for the next heat wave. A shaded bus stop can make a long wait safer. Public libraries and community halls can extend their hours during heat alerts so people have somewhere cool to go. Employers should provide drinking water, shade and regular breaks for outdoor workers. Heat warnings should reach people through radio and text messages as well as social media. Officials should publish their plans before temperatures rise, so residents know where to find help and workers know what protections they can expect on the hottest days. **– Vidhyashree J.**

Keep good food from landfills

Food waste deserves the attention it is getting at this week's climate talks. When edible food goes into the bin, we also waste the water, energy and labour that brought it to the table. Supermarkets can mark down food while it is still safe to eat and arrange collections of surplus stock for community kitchens. Restaurants can offer smaller portions and make it easy for diners to take leftovers home. Households can check cupboards before shopping and plan meals around what needs using first. Local authorities can help by collecting unavoidable scraps separately and turning them into compost for gardens. **– Anna B.**

Call back before sending money

A caller who sounds like a relative may be using a voice generated by artificial intelligence. When someone calls asking for emergency money, hang up and call the person back on a number you already know. If they do not answer, check with another family member before sending anything. Banks can reinforce this habit by showing a warning before customers make a first transfer to a new recipient. Families can also discuss how they would ask for help in a real emergency. Having that conversation now makes it easier to pause and check when a convincing caller demands immediate action. **– Marian Jones**

Quick Read



Satheesan urges church unity, assures government support

KOCHI

Chief Minister V D Satheesan urged churches in Keralam to unite, assuring them that the state government would support reconciliation efforts.

He was speaking at the 150th anniversary celebrations of the Synod of Mulanthuruthy, organised by the Jacobite Syrian Church at Puthencruz.

Satheesan's appeal comes amid a dispute between the Jacobite Syrian Church and the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church over the ownership and administration of several churches across the state.

4 Naga men killed in ambush in Manipur

UKHRUL

Four members of the Naga community were killed after armed men ambushed two vehicles travelling towards Imphal along National Highway 202 in Manipur's Ukhrul district on Friday.

The deceased were identified as Kapangkhui RS, Haoleila RS, August Ngalung and Khanmila Keishing. The attack occurred near New Heaven village.

Police said the attackers were suspected to be Kuki militants, but their identities have not been confirmed. A search operation has been launched in the surrounding areas.

IIT Roorkee student found dead inside hostel

ROORKEE

A second-year IIT Roorkee student, identified as Ayush Rajoria, was found dead in his hostel room on Thursday night, police confirmed Friday.

Rajoria was pursuing a BS-MS degree in Mathematics and Computing. Haridwar Senior Superintendent of Police Navneet Singh Bhullar said officers discovered the room locked from inside. "A detailed suicide note was discovered on the student's computer," Bhullar said, adding that police would examine its contents.

The body was sent to Roorkee Civil Hospital for post-mortem examination.

Mumbai woman cheated of ₹90L in job scam

MUMBAI

A woman from Bhandup allegedly lost ₹90.79 lakh after online fraudsters lured her with a fake data-entry job and blackmailed her using morphed photographs.

The scam began in 2023 when she responded to an online job advertisement. The fraudsters demanded registration fees and GST payments, later threatening her with police complaints and misuse of her photographs.

After informing her father, the victim approached the police. The East Region Cyber Police registered an extortion case against five unidentified persons and are tracing financial transactions to identify them.

India reports 38% decline in TB mortality

India reports a 38% decline in TB mortality since 2015, surpassing global progress and strengthening its commitment towards a TB-free nation.

NEW DELHI

India has recorded a 38 per cent decline in tuberculosis (TB) mortality since 2015, surpassing the global reduction of 35 per cent, according to the World Health Organization's (WHO) Global Tuberculosis Report 2026. Union Health Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda on Friday welcomed the findings and reiterated the government's commitment to achieving a TB-Mukt Bharat.

The report also recorded a 94 per cent treatment success rate among patients with drug-susceptible TB. India's TB mortality rate declined from 28 deaths per lakh population in 2015 to 18 deaths per lakh in 2025. The WHO South-East Asia Regional Office acknowledged India's contribution to reducing TB deaths across the region.

Nadda said the country's fight against tuberculosis had developed into a nationwide public movement supported by technology, community participation and patient-centred healthcare.



Union Health Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda

Under the TB Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan, more than 25 crore people have been covered through intensified screening. The campaign has included over 11 crore chest X-rays and three crore molecular tests, leading to the detection of 48.64 lakh TB cases.

The government has introduced technology-based measures, including artificial intelligence-enabled portable chest X-rays and rapid molecular diagnostic tools. The Ni-kshay digital platform supports treatment monitoring, while the Ni-kshay Poshan Yojana provides nutritional assistance.

Community involvement has expanded, with 67,933 panchayats declared TB-free in 2025.

The government said 96 per cent of the funding required for the TB programme was being met through domestic resources.

TB-free India

decline in TB mortality since 2015
38%
treatment success, drug-susceptible TB
94%
deaths per lakh, 2015 to 2025
28 → 18
people covered by intensified screening
25 crore

> *"India is making a significant contribution to the progress in reducing tuberculosis mortality in the WHO South-East Asia Region."*
>
> **WHO** South-East Asia Regional Office

Punjab announces ₹518-crore relief on electricity bills

Punjab announces Rs 518-crore electricity bill relief, waiving penalties and interest for over 24 lakh domestic consumer families.



Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann

CHANDIGARH

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Friday announced a One-Time Settlement (OTS) scheme to provide relief to domestic electricity consumers, benefiting more than 24 lakh families. The scheme will waive all penalties and interest on outstanding electricity bills up to March 31, 2026, offering financial relief estimated at Rs 518 crore.

Announcing the decision at a press conference, Mann said beneficiaries would only have to pay the principal amount of their pending electricity bills. Consumers can pay 25 per cent of the outstanding principal immediately, while the remaining 75 per cent can be cleared in two instalments over one year.

The Chief Minister also announced that electricity connections disconnected due to unpaid bills would be restored under the scheme.

Meanwhile, former Punjab BJP president Sunil Jakhar criticised the state government's handling of law and order, alleging that criminal networks and various mafias were operating with political protection.

Jakhar said he would seek answers from AAP national convenor Arvind Kejriwal and senior party leader Manish Sisodia over the situation in Punjab.

Meanwhile, the BJP is preparing a Scheduled Caste outreach campaign ahead of the 2027 Punjab Assembly elections. The proposed Samrasta Sankalp Yatra will begin in Jalandhar on November 18, with BJP national president Nitin Nabin scheduled to flag it off. The campaign will conclude in Varanasi on December 3.

Sawant predicts BJP will secure 30 seats in Goa



Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant

PANAJI

Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant has expressed confidence that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) will win 30 of the 40 seats in the next Assembly elections, while indicating that independent candidates would be welcome to join the government after the polls.

Speaking at the India Today Viksit Goa Summit in Panaji on Friday, Sawant reiterated the party's target of securing 30 seats.

"We speak only about ourselves, not others. That is why I say the Bharatiya Janata Party will win 30 seats this time," Sawant said.

> **"We speak only about ourselves, not others. That is why I say the Bharatiya Janata Party will win 30 seats this time."**
>
> — **Pramod Sawant,** Goa Chief Minister

'Why should we say no?'

When asked about the remaining 10 seats, the Chief Minister said the BJP would welcome anyone willing to join the party. He also suggested that three or four independent candidates could emerge victorious in the elections.

"If someone says they want to be part of development, why should we say no?" he said.

The Chief Minister also attributed the BJP's appeal among legislators from other parties to its leadership and development agenda. Referring to previous political developments, he noted that several Congress MLAs had joined the BJP after the 2017 and 2022 Assembly elections.

"They do not have confidence in their leadership there. When there is a trustworthy leader on this side, anyone will definitely come and join the Bharatiya Janata Party," he said.

On his role in the upcoming election campaign, Sawant expressed confidence that he would lead the party's campaign. Asked whether the elections would be fought under his leadership, he replied, "100 per cent."

Man dies after explosive hidden inside rasgulla

DINDORI

A 35-year-old man died in Madhya Pradesh's Dindori district after a crude explosive concealed inside a sweet resembling a rasgulla detonated when he bit into it. The incident took place on Tuesday, leaving him with severe injuries to his mouth and jaw.

The deceased was identified as Rajendra Barautiya. According to police, he was sitting with his family around a bonfire when a fellow villager, identified as Ramabhagat Barautiya, allegedly offered him the sweet. The explosive device reportedly detonated as soon as Rajendra took a bite.

He was rushed to a hospital for treatment but succumbed to his injuries a few hours later. Police said the device was believed to have been prepared for hunting wild boars, a practice reported in some rural areas.

Such homemade devices are reportedly made using gunpowder packed inside dough balls, making them resemble traditional round sweets.

Two men have been arrested in connection with the incident and charged with culpable homicide not amounting to murder. The case has been registered under Section 105 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and Sections 3 and 4 of the Explosive Substances Act.

Police officer Rekha Singh said the motive remained unclear, adding that investigators were examining whether the incident was intended to cause harm or was an act of mischief.

Delhi HC imposes Rs 1 lakh cost on government over plot delay

NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has imposed a cost of Rs 1 lakh on the Delhi government over prolonged inaction in resolving an industrial unit's claim for an alternative plot. The court also directed the government to recover the amount from the salaries of the officers responsible for the delay.

Justice Amit Mahajan observed that the petitioner, Central Footwear Co., had been forced to approach the court repeatedly over several years because authorities failed to comply with earlier judicial directions. The court described the handling of the matter as "deplorable" and noted that the repeated litigation had unnecessarily consumed valuable judicial time.

The 1996 Relocation Scheme

The company had sought an alternative industrial plot under the 1996 Relocation Scheme after its unit in Swarn Park, Mundka, was identified as being located in a non-conforming area. In March 2009, the High Court had set aside the rejection of its claim and directed authorities to process the application within two months.

However, the application remained unresolved, forcing the company to approach the court again in 2015. Despite further directions, its claim was rejected through a communication dated August 20, 2024, leading to another round of litigation.

The case so far

- **1996** Relocation Scheme for units in non-conforming areas
- **MARCH 2009** High Court sets aside the rejection, orders a decision in two months
- **2015** The company returns to court
- **AUG 20, 2024** The claim is rejected again
- **FEB 9, 2027** Next hearing

Order attained finality

The court noted that the earlier 2009 order had attained finality and had never been challenged. Authorities later claimed that an incorrect statement had been made during the earlier proceedings but failed to produce original records or supporting documents to establish their contention.

Observing that the prolonged dispute could have been avoided through timely compliance with its orders, the High Court directed the Delhi government to deposit Rs 1 lakh with the Delhi High Court Legal Services Committee within six weeks. The amount must be recovered from the salaries of the responsible officers.

The matter has been listed for further hearing on February 9, 2027.

CCPA fines Ola ₹10 lakh, orders it to drop pre-ride tip feature

NEW DELHI

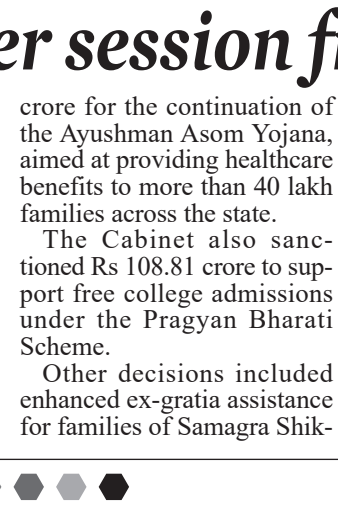
The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) has imposed a ₹10 lakh penalty on ANI Technologies, which operates Ola, for soliciting additional payments from passengers before their rides. The authority termed the practice an unfair trade practice and a dark pattern under consumer protection regulations.

The CCPA has also directed Ola to immediately discontinue its pre-ride 'tip' or 'add-on' feature, which suggested that passengers could improve their chances of securing a ride faster by paying extra. The company had renamed the feature from 'tip' to 'add-on', but the authority found that its purpose and functioning remained unchanged.

Messages displayed while the app searched for drivers included, "Adding a tip might help increase the chances of getting a ride faster" and "Tip now to boost the chances of getting a ride sooner." The authority said these prompts could mislead passengers into believing that additional payments would influence ride allocation.

Rides accepted

With or without add-on, June 1-15



Figures: Ola's booking data, cited by the CCPA

Ola's booking data for June 1-15, 2026, showed that requests with add-ons were accepted less frequently than those without them. In Delhi, the acceptance rate was 38 per cent for requests carrying an add-on, compared with 62 per cent for those without one. In Bengaluru, the figures were 40 and 68 per cent, while Mumbai recorded 39 and 68 per cent, respectively.

The CCPA observed that the app's messages contradicted the company's position that additional payments did not affect driver allocation.

The authority said collecting tips before completing a service converted voluntary gratuities into pre-service payments. It noted that Clause 14.15 of the Motor Vehicles Aggregators Guidelines, 2025, permits tipping only after a journey is completed.

The CCPA further classified the prompts as 'confirm shaming' under the Dark Patterns Guidelines, 2023. It flagged pre-set payment amounts, the absence of an option to close the prompt and messages such as "Generous Add On!" as features encouraging passengers to pay extra.

ASSAM ASSEMBLY SESSION

Assam Governor summons Assembly's winter session from Dec 14

GUWAHATI

Assam Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya has summoned the Winter Session of the 16th Assam Legislative Assembly, scheduled to begin on December 14 at 9.30 am at the Assembly Chamber in Dispur.

Under Article 174(1)

According to a notification issued by the Assam Legislative Assembly Secretariat, the Governor exercised his powers under Article 174(1) of the Constitution of India to convene the session. The upcoming sitting will be the third session of the 16th Legislative Assembly.

The Supplementary Budget for the financial year 2026–27 is expected to be presented during the session. Several important Bills are also likely to be introduced, although details of the proposed legislative business have not yet been announced.

Cabinet decisions

The session comes amid a series of recent decisions taken by the Assam Cabinet under Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma. At its meeting earlier this week, the Cabinet approved an allocation of Rs 200 crore for the continuation of the Ayushman Asom Yojana, aimed at providing healthcare benefits to more than 40 lakh families across the state.

Winter Session

WHEN	December 14, 9.30 am
WHERE	Assembly Chamber, Dispur
SITTING	Third session of the 16th Assembly
BUDGET	Supplementary Budget for 2026–27

The Cabinet also sanctioned Rs 108.81 crore to support free college admissions under the Pragyan Bharati Scheme.

Other decisions included enhanced ex-gratia assistance for families of Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan employees, improvements in the procurement system for teaching and learning materials in schools, and measures to strengthen Sanskrit studies.

The Winter Session is expected to provide an opportunity for legislators to discuss financial requirements, government policies and key development issues concerning the state.

Quick Read

7 arrested after food bill dispute triggers violence

MUMBAI

Seven people have been arrested following a dispute over an unpaid food bill at a Chinese restaurant in Govandi, Mumbai, which allegedly escalated into vehicle vandalism, robbery and assault. The incident occurred on November 11 at Star Chinese Hotel, involving two groups of youths from Ashok Nagar and Anand Nagar.The dispute later triggered two retaliatory incidents between 4 am and 5 am within the Govandi police station limits.In the first incident, members of one group allegedly vandalised several vehicles in Ashok Nagar, assaulted a young man and robbed him. In retaliation, members of the rival group allegedly tied the youth to a pole and severely assaulted him.A senior police officer said cases had been registered against nine people, of whom seven had been taken into custody.

Man arrested for killing father, two brothers in Assam

SILCHAR

A man allegedly killed his father and two minor brothers and critically injured his mother and another brother following a family dispute in Assam's Sribhumi district on Thursday night. The accused, identified as Faruk Ahmed, has been arrested.According to police, Ahmed allegedly attacked five members of his family following an altercation. His younger brothers, Jahangir Hussain, eight, and Alam Uddin, seven, died at the spot.Their father, Khalil Uddin, sustained serious injuries and was taken to Silchar Medical College and Hospital (SMCH), where he died on Friday, taking the death toll to three.Ahmed's mother, Alia Begum, and another brother, Altaf Hussain, were also critically injured. Both are receiving treatment at SMCH, and their condition remains critical. Preliminary information suggests that a long-standing family dispute may have triggered the attack.

Justice Karnan episode puts judicial misconduct under scrutiny

NEW DELHI

The controversy surrounding former Calcutta High Court judge Justice C.S. Karnan brought the issue of judicial misconduct into the national spotlight, triggering wider discussions on accountability within the judiciary and the procedures governing the appointment and removal of judges.

Justice Karnan, who died on November 13, 2026, remains associated.

India seeks Pakistan's help to bring back six stranded sailors

NEW DELHI

India has approached Pakistan for consular assistance to facilitate the return of six Indian seafarers stranded aboard a vessel at Karachi Port for nearly seven months. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said it was coordinating with the crew,

AP builds integrated ecosystem to boost space economy

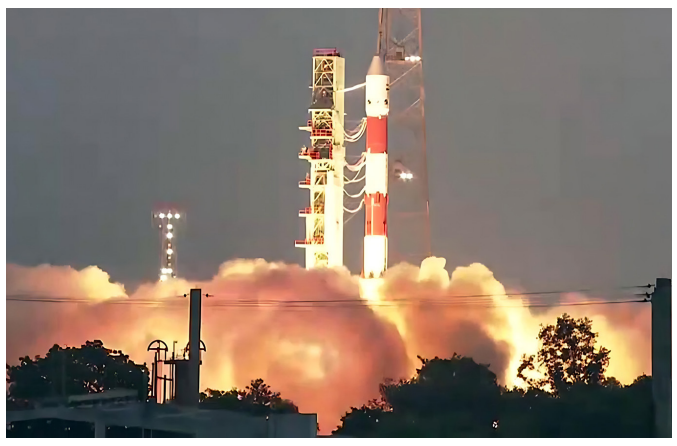
Andhra Pradesh is building a space economy by attracting investments, strengthening supply chains and linking industries with academic institutions to drive innovation and growth.

VISAKHAPATNAM

Andhra Pradesh is working towards establishing a comprehensive ecosystem for India's emerging space economy, with a focus on attracting investments, strengthening supply chains and encouraging collaboration between industries and academic institutions, Information Technology Minister Nara Lokesh said on Friday.

Speaking at a session on India's New Space Economy during the second day of the CII Partnership Summit 2026 in Visakhapatnam, Lokesh said the space sector was entering an important phase, offering significant opportunities for startups, entrepreneurs and research institutions.

He said the state was following a systematic approach to developing sector-specific ecosystems by identifying key industries, mapping stakeholders and attracting companies and investments. He emphasised the importance of both vertical and horizontal integration to build a strong industrial network.



Explaining vertical integration, Lokesh said the government was looking to attract manufacturers of sub-components, suppliers and vendors that support major space companies such as Skyroot in rocket development and launches. He highlighted the contribution of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) to the supply chain, citing an exhibitor who had developed a rocket shield.

On horizontal integration, he stressed the need to connect academic institutions with industries through updated curricula, research opportunities and improved testing and certification facilities. He also highlighted collaboration with IIT Tirupati to establish a Centre of Excellence in the energy sector, particularly to support the growing manufacturing cluster in the region.

Lokesh called for a dedicated national policy to develop an integrated space industry ecosystem.

He said state governments should proactively identify companies across the entire value chain and encourage them to establish operations within common industrial clusters.

Reaffirming the government's commitment, Lokesh expressed confidence that Andhra Pradesh would translate its development vision into reality under Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's leadership.

AP'S SPACE PLAN

- **Vertical:** draw sub-component makers, suppliers and vendors that serve firms such as Skyroot
- **Horizontal:** link colleges and industry through curricula, research and testing
- **Clusters:** bring firms across the value chain into common industrial clusters

Calculator allowed in JEE Advanced 2027 on May 23

NEW DELHI

The Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) Advanced 2027 will be conducted on May 23, 2027, with candidates being allowed to use an on-screen basic calculator for the first time, the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi announced on Friday.

IIT Delhi, which will organise the examination, has launched the official JEE Advanced 2027 website, providing important information for candidates preparing to appear for the entrance test.

In a significant change to the examination process, candidates will be provided with an on-screen basic, non-scientific calculator featuring a 10–12-digit display. The facility will be available during the computer-based examination.

The introduction of the calculator is expected to provide candidates with basic calculation support during the test. However, the facility will be limited to a non-scientific calculator, and candidates should check the official examination guidelines for further instructions.

JEE Advanced is the entrance examination for admission to undergraduate programmes at the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs). Candidates who qualify in JEE Main and meet the prescribed eligibility requirements can appear for the examination.

JEE Advanced 2027 is scheduled for May 23, with candidates permitted to use an on-screen basic calculator for the first time.

JEE Advanced 2027

WHEN	May 23, 2027
BY	IIT Delhi
NEW	On-screen basic calculator, 10-12-digit display
WHO	JEE Main qualifiers who meet the eligibility rules

Naidu defends SIR, backs Modi's leadership for India

VISAKHAPATNAM

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Friday defended the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, stating that criticism of the exercise stemmed from misconceptions. He also described Prime Minister Narendra Modi as the right leader for the country at the present juncture.

Speaking during a fireside chat on the concluding day of the CII Partnership Summit, Naidu said electoral rolls should undergo comprehensive verification and revision every 20 to 25 years. He dismissed allegations of large-scale voter deletions, stating that no such complaints had been received in Andhra Pradesh.

He said political parties could use their extensive village-level networks to ensure that every eligible voter remained on the electoral rolls. "Doing politics based on misconceptions is not right," he said.



Naidu described the next two decades as crucial for India's development and said the country should make full use of the opportunities ahead. He maintained that Modi's leadership was necessary to advance national development.

Discussing political ideologies, Naidu said the traditional distinction between left-wing and right-wing politics had become less significant since the 1991 economic reforms. He noted that public welfare and national development had increasingly become central to political agendas.

Reflecting on his political experience, Naidu admitted that prioritising administration over political engagement during his earlier tenure had affected his party's electoral performance. He said the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) had since learned to balance governance and political activities. He also highlighted coordination with alliance partners Jana Sena and the BJP.

> **"Doing politics based on misconceptions is not right"**
> — N. Chandrababu Naidu, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister

On demographic changes, Naidu said his views on family size had evolved after observing declining youth populations in several countries. He now favours families having two or more children, although he acknowledged the challenges of implementing such an approach.

TN launches statewide Children's Day distribution drive

CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay on Friday, November 13, launched a first-of-its-kind initiative to distribute cakes, greeting cards and sweet pongal to children across the State as part of the Children's Day celebrations. The programme was organised a day ahead of Children's Day, observed annually on November 14.

The initiative covered students studying in government and government-aided schools, as well as children attending anganwadi centres. It was introduced to extend the celebrations to children across different levels of education and early childhood care institutions.

According to official figures, a total of 61,84,566 beneficiaries received cakes under the programme. The beneficiaries included students, teachers and non-teaching staff from government and government-aided primary, middle, high and higher secondary schools across Tamil Nadu. The cake distribution was carried out at a total cost of ₹9.27 crore.

Alongside the school-based distribution, the government also arranged sweet pongal for young children enrolled in anganwadi centres. As many as 11,11,022 children between the ages of two and six, who receive pre-school education at these centres, were covered under the initiative.

Children's Day treat

received cakes
61,84,566
anganwadi children got sweet pongal
11,11,022
cost of the cakes
₹9.27 crore

India seeks constructive ties with Bangladesh amid diplomatic strain

NEW DELHI

India has reiterated its desire to maintain a positive and forward-looking relationship with Bangladesh, amid continuing diplomatic tensions between the two neighbouring countries and the postponement of their scheduled consular dialogue.

Addressing a media briefing on Friday, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said India remained committed to engaging with Bangladesh through established bilateral mechanisms. The next round of the consular dialogue, originally scheduled for next week, has been postponed and will take place on a mutually convenient date.

He added that both countries had continued engagement through structured mechanisms covering areas such as trade, railways, water resources and border management. The upcoming consular dialogue is also expected to address matters related to the revised travel arrangement between the two countries.



> *"India desires a positive, constructive and forward-looking relationship with Bangladesh"*
> **RANDHIR JAISWAL** MEA spokesperson

"India remains ready to discuss all bilateral issues with Bangladesh through these existing mechanisms, including at the technical level," the spokesperson said.

Relations between New Delhi and Dhaka have faced renewed strain following a virtual media interaction by former Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina from New Delhi on August 5. The development prompted fresh diplomatic exchanges between the two governments.

Following the interaction, Dhaka reiterated its demand for Hasina's extradition to Bangladesh. India, however, clarified that it had neither played a role in organising the interaction nor endorsed her remarks.

Hasina, 79, has been living in Delhi since leaving Bangladesh in August 2024, following the collapse of her government amid widespread anti-government protests.

The postponement of the consular dialogue comes at a time when both countries are seeking to address several bilateral concerns. India has indicated that discussions on these matters will continue through existing diplomatic channels.

HC sends Udhayanidhi poll petition to trial

CHENNAI

The Madras High Court on Friday declined to dismiss an election petition challenging the victory of Leader of the Opposition Udhayanidhi Stalin from the Chepauk-Thiruvallikeni Assembly constituency in the 2026 Tamil Nadu Assembly elections. The court decided to proceed with the trial after rejecting two applications filed by him.

Justice G. Arul Murugan dismissed the applications seeking rejection of the election petition and removal of substantial pleadings made by the petitioner. The judge directed Udhayanidhi to submit his reply statement by December 11, 2026.

The election petition was filed by P. Milany, a resident of Theni district, who challenged Udhayanidhi's victory in the constituency. The petition seeks judicial examination of the circumstances surrounding his election to the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly.



Udhayanidhi had approached the High Court seeking to prevent the petition from proceeding further. One application requested the court to reject the entire election petition, while the other sought to strike off substantial pleadings made by Milany.

However, the court declined both requests, allowing the proceedings to continue. The dismissal of the applications means that the election challenge will now move forward to the trial stage, where the allegations and submissions made by both sides will be examined.

The direction to file a reply statement by December 11 gives Udhayanidhi an opportunity to formally respond to the claims raised in the petition. The subsequent proceedings will determine how the case progresses and whether further examination of the allegations is required.

The court's decision does not amount to a finding against Udhayanidhi or establish that the election was invalid. It only allows the petition to proceed for judicial consideration.

Election petitions are legal proceedings through which candidates or other eligible individuals can challenge the validity of an election before a competent court. Such cases may involve allegations concerning electoral procedures, compliance with election laws or other grounds recognised under the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

RAHUL GANDHI DEFAMATION CASE

Rahul Gandhi files reply in Hathras defamation case

HATHRAS

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has filed his reply in a revision petition challenging the dismissal of a defamation complaint linked to his remarks during a visit to a village in Uttar Pradesh's Hathras district. The next hearing has been scheduled for December 7.

The petition challenges a May 13 order passed by an MP/MLA court dismissing the complaint. The matter is currently being heard by Additional District Judge Vijay Kumar Dwivedi (II) at the MP/MLA Court No. 5.



1.5 crore rupees in damages the three men sought from Gandhi in a legal notice, ₹50 lakh each

The case relates to the 2020 Hathras incident, in which three men — Ravi, Ram Kumar alias Ramu and Luvkush — were arrested on rape charges but later acquitted. Advocate Munna Singh Pundir, representing the three men, said separate complaints had been filed against Gandhi on their behalf.

According to Pundir, Gandhi visited the village on December 12, 2024, after the accused were acquitted. He allegedly remarked that the accused were moving freely while the victim's family remained confined to their home. The lawyer claimed the remarks were insulting to the three men.

Following the visit, the complainants reportedly sent Gandhi a legal notice demanding ₹1.5 crore in damages, amounting to ₹50 lakh each. After Gandhi allegedly failed to respond to the notice, a defamation complaint was filed before the Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate's court.

Gandhi's counsel submitted the reply on Friday. However, the presiding judge was on leave, leading to the matter being postponed until December 7.

Quick Read

Gimenez urges Tesla's move to Florida

FLORIDA

Florida Republican Congressman Carlos Gimenez has urged Elon Musk to move Tesla's headquarters from Texas to Florida. In a letter to Musk, Gimenez pointed to Florida's tax policies, skilled workforce and access to Latin American and Caribbean markets.

India, Armenia seek closer parliamentary ties

YEREVAN

India and Armenia discussed closer ties between their parliaments on Friday. Indian Ambassador Armstrong Changsan met Hayk Konjoryan, Armenia's deputy parliament speaker, and members of the Armenia–India Parliamentary Friendship Group.

EU leaders discuss AI, Ukraine

DUBLIN

European Union leaders met Friday to discuss how Europe can compete in artificial intelligence and help advance peace talks on Ukraine. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said the EU was preparing new sanctions against Russia and a proposal to help cover Ukraine's financial needs in 2027.

Lahore police arrest two after fatal mauling

LAHORE

Police arrested two men on Thursday after a pet lioness fatally injured a 19-year-old employee at a farmhouse in Lahore's Kahna area. The worker, Talha, was taken to a private hospital in critical condition and died during treatment. A police spokesperson identified the men as Fayyaz, the owner of the farmhouse, and Nauman, a TikTok creator.

Ukraine and Russia plan record prisoner swap

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Russia agreed to the exchange during peace talks, and European representatives will join the next round.

DUBLIN

Ukraine and Russia are preparing for what Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy says will be their largest exchange of prisoners of war. Zelenskyy said on Thursday that Russia had agreed to the swap and called it a concrete result of the ongoing diplomatic talks aimed at ending the war.

He spoke to reporters in Dublin after meeting Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner, two envoys for US President Donald Trump. The meeting followed US-mediated peace talks in Abu Dhabi, the capital of the United Arab Emirates. Zelenskyy said the progress there gave him hope that the war could end.



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy (file picture)

Europe at the table

The Ukrainian president said he expected more meetings and wanted each round of talks to produce results that would bring the two sides closer to peace. He also said European representatives would join the negotiating team for the next round and have a voice in the discussions.

Zelenskyy said Europe's role mattered because the war is being fought on European soil and Ukraine hopes to join the European Union. He also said European involvement would be important in talks about Ukraine's future prosperity and the security guarantees it would need.

WHAT NEXT

- More meetings, each round meant to bring the sides closer to peace
- European representatives join the negotiating team for the next round
- The largest exchange of prisoners of war, which Russia has agreed to

Witkoff and Kushner also met Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow on Thursday. That meeting took place a day after the latest round of talks in Abu Dhabi ended. The US envoys have been involved in discussions with both sides as Washington tries to move the peace process forward.

The proposed exchange is one of the results Zelenskyy pointed to as he described what the talks had achieved so far. He said the next meetings should build on that progress.

Baloch group urges consent for resource deals

WASHINGTON

The Baloch American Congress has asked foreign investors to stay away from deals with Pakistan to develop Balochistan's natural resources unless the Baloch people agree to them. The group made its appeal in a formal letter to investors, world leaders and the United Nations.

Tara Chand Baloch, the group's president, said Balochistan has gold, copper, other valuable minerals and a coastline that gives the region economic importance. He said many people there still struggle to find work or get clean drinking water. Schools and hospitals are also hard to reach for some communities, he said.

The letter pointed to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor as a warning for companies looking to invest. Baloch argued that projects went ahead without enough local involvement and said this had led to opposition and setbacks. He directed his appeal to investors in the United States, Canada, Saudi Arabia, China and Europe, as well as those elsewhere.

Baloch also urged governments and the United Nations to support the rights of the

Balochistan's riches

Gold, copper, other valuable minerals and an important coastline

Baloch people and their ability to decide their own future peacefully. He asked them to recognise that some Baloch people seek independence.

The group said it would welcome responsible foreign investment that creates jobs and helps people get an education and receive medical care. It argued that local communities should take part in decisions about how the region's resources are used and who benefits from them.

Baloch said the region could become an economic partner for other countries if its people were free to make those choices. For investors considering a deal, the group's request was to secure the agreement of the people whose land and resources the project would use.

China warns surrogacy organisers they could face severe penalties

BEIJING

China bans all forms of surrogacy, a National Health Commission spokesperson said Friday. Yang Jinrui warned that anyone who organises surrogacy could face severe legal penalties. He said arranging the practice was a criminal offence and violated ethical standards.

Surrogacy is an arrangement in which someone carries a pregnancy for another person or family. Yang said Chinese law does not protect agreements made for that purpose. He added that people involved in such arrangements could be held legally responsible.

? WHAT IS SURROGACY?

Surrogacy is an arrangement in which someone carries a pregnancy for another person or family. Yang said Chinese law does not protect agreements made for that purpose.

Raids in Changsha

The remarks came after reports of surrogacy cases and suspected misuse of assisted reproductive technology in several parts of China. Assisted reproductive services are medical procedures that help people have children. One case reported by state broadcaster CCTV News involved two facilities in Changsha, the capital of Hunan province in central China.

Health officials and police raided the two sites on Oct. 29 in the city's Yuelu district. CCTV News reported that the facilities had been providing assisted reproductive services illegally. Authorities seized drugs and medical equipment during the raids and detained 21 people suspected of involvement in illegal surrogacy.

No legal protection

The Changsha case concerns both the services the facilities allegedly offered and the suspected involvement of those detained. Yang's warning addressed a wider issue. He said the ban applies to every form of surrogacy and that an agreement between the people involved gives them no legal protection. His remarks put the focus on those who arrange surrogacy, whom he said could face severe penalties under Chinese law.

Nepal's President appoints four Supreme Court justices



The four newly appointed Supreme Court justices

KATHMANDU

President Ramchandra Paudel has appointed four justices to Nepal's Supreme Court. Ratna Bahadur Bagchand, Chandra Bahadur Saru, Janak Pandey and Gokarna Dangi are due to begin work on Monday.

The Judicial Council recommended all four candidates. The Parliamentary Hearing Committee then reviewed the nominations at hearings and approved them. Paudel made the appointments under Article 129(2) of Nepal's Constitution, which gives the president the power to appoint Supreme Court judges on the council's recommendation.

All four appointees come from Nepal's high courts. The Office of the President said each had served as either a chief judge or a judge at that level. Their appointments bring experience from those courts to the Supreme Court, the highest court in Nepal.

Chief Justice Manoj Kumar Sharma will administer the oath of office to the four judges. He will decide which cases they will hear when they take up their new duties. The oath and the assignment of cases are the next steps following the president's decision.

With the appointments made, the four judges are scheduled to take up their duties at the Supreme Court on Monday.

Sri Lanka's elephants suffer for years after surviving gunfire

COLOMBO

Wild elephants in Sri Lanka can live for years with metal lodged inside their bodies after being shot. Even when their wounds close, the fragments can cause lasting pain, repeated infections and trouble walking.

Environmental activist Nayanaka Ranwella told the Daily Mirror that Agbo, one of Sri Lanka's best-known wild elephants, is believed to carry at least 75 kilograms of lead from gunfire. He said more than 25 kilograms of metal remained inside the blind Galgamuwa tusker. Ranwella said some of Agbo's wounds had healed, while others were still open.

Hard to remove

A veterinary association official told the newspaper that removing the fragments can be difficult when they lie deep in the body or near vital organs. Some elephants need long periods of veterinary treatment, and others suffer permanent damage.

Sri Lanka's Department of Wildlife Conservation recorded 289 elephant deaths from Jan. 1 to Oct. 23 this year. Gunshot wounds accounted for 42 of those deaths, while the cause remained unknown in 95 cases. The department recorded 5,397 elephant deaths from 2010 through Oct. 23, 2026.

Elephant Force

Ranwella said he had raised concerns about elephant killings for nearly 15 years and called for stronger action against poaching. On Nov. 2, the government launched Hasthi Sena, or Elephant Force, an islandwide effort to protect wild elephants. Environment Minister Dhammika Patabendi said the programme would initially focus on 17 elephants facing threats. For animals like Agbo that have already survived gunfire, the injuries can still cause pain years after the shooting.

In focus

- Elephants that survive gunfire can suffer years of pain, repeated infections and difficulty walking.
- An activist estimates that Agbo carries at least 75 kg of lead and the blind Galgamuwa tusker carries more than 25 kg of metal fragments.
- Vets may be unable to remove fragments lodged deep in the body or near vital organs.
- The government launched Hasthi Sena, or Elephant Force, on Nov. 2 to protect wild elephants, initially focusing on 17 at-risk animals.

289	42	95
elephant deaths, Jan 1-Oct 23	from gunshot wounds	cause unknown

Airbus expands as Asian aircraft demand rises

3,420 new wide-body planes the region will need by 2045

0.6 trips a year per person in India by 2045, from 0.1 in 2025

KUALA LUMPUR

Airbus is expanding its presence in the market for wide-body aircraft in the Asia Pacific region. The aircraft maker expects the region to need 3,420 new wide-body planes by 2045, about 42 percent of global demand for this type of aircraft over the next 20 years.

Anand Stanley, president of Airbus Asia Pacific, said the company now accounts for about half of the region's outstanding orders for wide-body planes, up from 40 percent in 2023. He spoke on Friday during a gathering of the Association of Asia Pacific Airlines in Kuala Lumpur.

Stanley said more airlines in the region were choosing the Airbus A350, a wide-body jet that comes in two versions, the A350-900 and the A350-1000. Air India is among the aircraft's customers.

Airbus expects the average number of trips per person across the region to more than double by 2045. In India, the average is projected to rise from 0.1 trips a year in 2025 to 0.6 in 2045. In Australia, the figure is expected to rise from 2.8 to 4.8 over the same period.

Stanley pointed to economic growth, population and trade as the main reasons for rising demand. He said the region could have three billion middle-income residents by 2045, about half of the world's middle-income population.

Bangladesh offers cheaper rice to garment workers

DHAKA

Bangladesh launched a programme on Friday to sell rice to garment workers at Tk 30 a kilogram, aiming to lower their food bills. Each worker can buy up to 10 kilograms a month through the government's Open Market Sale programme, which sells essential goods below market prices.

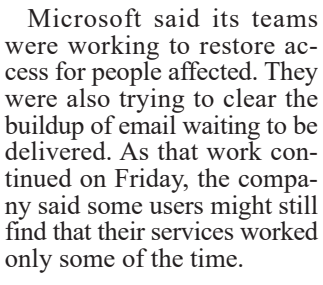
The Ministry of Food said 66 trucks would sell rice in Dhaka city, Savar, Dhamrai, Gazipur, Narayanganj and parts of Chattogram district. Each truck will carry five tonnes for sale every Friday, bringing the weekly supply to 330 tonnes.

Workers must show their factory identity cards and sign a register to buy rice. Friday sales will run from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and from 2:30 p.m. to 5 p.m., while stocks last.

The ministry linked the plan to a pledge by the Bangladesh Nationalist Party to expand support for people on low incomes and improve access to basic foods.

Rice for garment workers

Tonnes sold from trucks each Friday



Figures: Ministry of Food

The launch comes amid protests in garment factory areas over pay. The Minimum Wage Board, formed earlier this month, has met twice. At its meeting on Monday, the workers' representative proposed raising the minimum wage for garment workers to Tk 32,000.

MICROSOFT OUTAGE RECOVERY

Microsoft makes progress restoring Outlook and Teams

WASHINGTON

THE OUTAGE

- **74 countries** hit within an hour
- **No breach,** Microsoft says; the cause not yet given
- **Bail in person** in Arapahoe County, Colorado
- **UK prescriptions** could be delayed

Microsoft said Friday that it was making progress in restoring Outlook, Teams and other services after a global outage disrupted work for businesses, government offices and pharmacies. Some users could still have trouble connecting as repairs continued, the company said.

Microsoft said the outage began at 11:17 a.m. Eastern time on Thursday. Downdetector, which tracks online service problems, recorded reports of email trouble starting around 12:21 p.m. Its data showed that the outage affected 74 countries within an hour. Microsoft ruled out a security breach and had yet to say what caused the disruption.

In the United States, the outage disrupted congressional offices and local governments. Austin, Texas, said Thursday evening that city employees could neither send nor receive email. It advised residents to call city offices if they needed help and to dial 911 in an emergency.

In Colorado, the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office said the Outlook outage affected the system people use to pay bail online. Anyone posting bail to secure someone's immediate release had to go to the jail in person until Outlook was restored, the office said.

The disruption also slowed communication between pharmacies and doctors in the United Kingdom. The National Pharmacy Association warned on Friday that patients might face longer waits and that some prescriptions could be delayed. It asked patients to give pharmacy staff extra time while email problems continued.

Microsoft said its teams were working to restore access for people affected. They were also trying to clear the buildup of email waiting to be delivered. As that work continued on Friday, the company said some users might still find that their services worked only some of the time.

CITY HILIGHTS
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India seeks redemption in U19 Asia final

AL ALMETA



India eye record 9TH title with revenge against arch-rival Pakistan

- India face Pakistan in the Under-19 Asia Cup final on Saturday.
- India are targeting their ninth tournament title.
- Aaryavir Sehwag leads the tournament with 303 runs.
- Ishan Sood has claimed 11 wickets.
- Pakistan defeated India by 151 runs in last year's final.
- Hamza Zahoor and Rizwanullah remain key threats for Pakistan.

India will be aiming to avenge their crushing 151-run defeat against Pakistan in last year's final when the arch-rivals meet in the Under-19 Asia Cup title clash on Saturday at the Amerat Cricket Ground (Ministry Turf 2) in Al Amerat. The defending champions stand between India and a record-extending ninth title in the tournament.

Pakistan, who secured their second Under-19 Asia Cup crown last year, will be determined to defend their title, while India will look to reclaim the trophy and reassert their dominance in the competition.

India's campaign has largely revolved around two standout performers, Aaryavir Sehwag and Ishan Sood. Aaryavir has been the tournament's leading run-scorer, accumulating 303 runs in four matches at an impressive average of 101, including a century and two half-centuries. Meanwhile, Sood has spearheaded India's bowling attack, claiming 11 wickets in four outings.

However, India will need greater contributions from the remaining batting and bowling departments to overcome a formidable Pakistan side. Captain Lakshya Raichandani, wicketkeeper-batter Anvay Dravid and middle-order batters Arjun Rajput and VK Vinneeth will have important roles in the final. Raichandani's 93 helped India secure a comfortable semifinal victory over Afghanistan, while Vinneeth also contributed a valuable half-century.

Rajput, meanwhile, has demonstrated his ability with a brisk century against Pakistan in the group stage.

In the bowling department, spinners Rajput and Manal Chauhan, who have taken five wickets each, will be expected to provide stronger support to Sood.

Pakistan will rely on Usman Khan's 238 runs, Rizwanullah's 11 wickets and Hamza Zahoor, who scored a century against India earlier in the tournament.

India will seek revenge against defending champions Pakistan in Saturday's Under-19 Asia Cup final, hoping to reclaim the trophy and extend their record to nine titles.

HARRY KANE breaks England appearance record

Harry Kane becomes England's most-capped player with 126 appearances, celebrating the milestone with a historic gift from Luka Modric.



LONDON

England captain Harry Kane became the country's most-capped footballer after making his 126th international appearance in a 2-1 victory over Croatia in the UEFA Nations League at Wembley Stadium on Friday. The striker surpassed former goalkeeper Peter Shilton's record and received a special gift from Croatian captain Luka Modric to mark the achievement.

Kane celebrated the milestone by helping England secure a place in the quarter-finals. Reflecting on the achievement, he expressed pride in representing his country and thanked his family, teammates, coaches and support staff who had contributed to his journey.

In a message posted on X, Kane said, "It's hard to put into words what it means to become England's all-time appearance holder.

When I was a kid I always dreamed about representing my nation."

He added that captaining England, playing at World Cups and becoming the country's most-capped player were achievements he would remain proud of forever.

Modric presented Kane with a historic football as a special gesture. According to the Croatian Football Federation, the ball commemorates the introduction of football to the Croatian town of Zupanja by English industrialists in 1880. The federation described the replica as a symbol of the longstanding connection between English and Croatian football.

England took the lead in the 24th minute through Morgan Rogers, who scored following an assist from Jude Bellingham.

Croatia equalised shortly after the hour mark through Petar Sucic, who capitalised on a defensive error. Kane then restored England's advantage by converting a penalty five minutes later after Ivan Smolcic fouled Jarell Quansah.

Speaking after the match, Kane said, "It was an incredible gesture and reception at the start of the game, but once it starts, it is just about getting the three points." He described the victory as important preparation for England's upcoming encounter against Spain.

England's Most-Capped Footballer

Harry Kane's milestone is based on the number of senior international appearances made for England, not goals scored or trophies won. Every official appearance for the senior national team counts. Kane reached 126 caps, surpassing goalkeeper Peter Shilton's previous record. A cap represents one international appearance.

Barcelona finalise ₹300 million bond issue

BARCELONA

Barcelona announced on Friday that they had finalised a €300 million ($331.77 million) bond issue to finance the ongoing renovation of their iconic Camp Nou stadium, as the Spanish club continues efforts to complete the ambitious redevelopment project amid rising construction costs and delays.

The transaction was handled by Goldman Sachs, which acted as Barcelona's sole placement agent. The bond issue has also received approval from Spain's National Securities Market Commission, marking an important step in securing additional funding for the stadium project.

The latest financing arrangement comes as Barcelona look to address the growing financial requirements associated with the redevelopment. The club has already secured €210 million ($232.24 million) in senior debt to support the construction work. However, increasing costs and changes to the project's financial requirements have created additional pressure on the club's budget.

The newly finalised bond issue is expected to help cover potential cash flow shortfalls arising from the rising expenses of construction. Barcelona have been exploring different financing options to ensure that the renovation work progresses without further financial disruptions. The redevelopment of Camp Nou is one of the most significant infrastructure projects in Barcelona's recent history. The stadium, which has been the club's home since 1957, is undergoing extensive modernisation to improve its facilities, increase its commercial potential and provide supporters with an upgraded matchday experience.

Deepti Sharma wins ICC player award

NEW DELHI

India's experienced all-rounder Deepti Sharma has been named the ICC Women's Player of the Month for October 2026 following her outstanding performances across formats during India's home series against Zimbabwe.

The 29-year-old beat Bangladesh's Sobhana Mostary and Australia's Annabel Sutherland to claim the monthly honour, adding another significant individual achievement to her international cricket career.

Deepti played a crucial role in India's dominant campaign against Zimbabwe, contributing consistently with both bat and ball as the hosts remained unbeaten across all six international matches in the T20I and ODI series.

She began the tour with an impressive batting performance in the opening T20I in Raipur, scoring a quickfire 49 after India found themselves struggling at 19/4. Her innings helped the hosts recover and secure victory. Deepti also picked up two wickets during the T20I series as India completed a clean sweep.

The all-rounder continued her impressive form in the ODI leg, taking two wickets in the opening match before delivering a match-winning performance in the second encounter. She scored her second ODI century and claimed three wickets, helping India establish an unassailable 2-0 lead in the series.



Deepti Sharma's October Numbers

- **Runs scored**: 155
- **Wickets taken**: 7
- **Formats**: T20Is & ODIs
- **Special achievement**: Second ODI century
- **Award competition**: Beat Sobhana Mostary and Annabel Sutherland.

Across the two formats, Deepti accumulated 155 runs and seven wickets, underlining her importance to the Indian team. Reacting to the recognition, Deepti expressed happiness over winning the award and credited her teammates, coaches and support staff for their contributions to the team's success. She particularly highlighted her century against Zimbabwe, describing it as a special moment because it came in a winning cause.

Iyer Blames Pitch Shift for Defeat

QUEENSTOWN

India stand-in captain Shreyas Iyer on Friday attributed the team's massive 244-run defeat against New Zealand in the fourth One-Day International to a significant change in pitch conditions between the two innings. He described the surface as batting-friendly initially but said it later began assisting seam bowlers, making India's chase extremely difficult.

New Zealand posted a formidable 333 after being asked to bat first at Bay Oval in Mount Maunganui. However, India suffered a dramatic batting collapse, managing just 89 runs in 26.4 overs. The hosts secured a comprehensive victory, with Indian batters struggling to handle the movement generated by the New Zealand pace attack.

Pacer Matt Henry led the bowling attack, producing career-best ODI figures of 6/27. His disciplined line and length, combined with the assistance available from the surface, proved decisive in dismantling India's batting order. Speaking during the post-match presentation, Iyer acknowledged the difference in conditions and credited Henry for exploiting them effectively.

MP PLANS SPORTS STADIUMS IN EVERY CONSTITUENCY

BHOPAL

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav on Friday said his government is working to establish a sports stadium in every Assembly constituency, with special facilities for para sports, as he inaugurated the 26th National Para Swimming Championship here.

The championship, being held at Prakash Tarun Pushkar in Tulsi Nagar, has attracted more than 400 para swimmers from 26 states, including 100 women athletes. Addressing the inaugural ceremony, CM Yadav said the state government is making sustained efforts to strengthen sports infrastructure and provide better facilities to athletes.

"Our target is to have a sports stadium in every Assembly constituency. Similarly, modern sports complexes will be developed at the district level so that players can get better facilities for practice and training," he said. Highlighting India's performance in para sports, the Chief Minister said the country's medal tally at the Paralympic Games had increased from four at the 2016 Rio Games to 19 at the Tokyo Games and 29 at the 2024 Paris Paralympics.



He also referred to India's performance at the 2026 Asian Games, where the country won 114 medals, including 11 in swimming -- eight gold and three silver. CM Yadav said 32 athletes from Madhya Pradesh had represented India at the 2026 Asian Games and won 12 medals, bringing laurels to the state.

He said Bhopal is emerging as an important centre for water sports, with facilities and competitions in kayaking, canoeing, rowing and sailing strengthening its identity in the sporting arena.

The Chief Minister also referred to the Asian Women's Hockey Championship, scheduled to begin on November 19 at the newly developed international sports complex in Barkheda Nathu near Bhopal. He said the state government was working to attract more international sporting events and strengthen infrastructure to establish Madhya Pradesh as a prominent sporting destination.

He also expressed confidence that investment in sports infrastructure and encouragement to athletes would help the state achieve greater recognition in the national and international sporting arena.

India finishes youth Olympics with 10 medals



NEW DELHI

India signed off from the 2026 Summer Youth Olympic Games in Dakar with 10 medals, including two gold, three silver and five bronze, marking the country's second-best performance in the history of the competition.

India's medal-winning campaign spanned seven disciplines, with five Khelo India Athletes among the medallists.

They included Tanvi Patri (Badminton), Khushbu Rajakbhai Darjada (Judo), Shourya Ambure (Athletics), Gunjan (Boxing) and Tirthank Pegu (Swimming).

Nine of India's 17 athletes returned with medals, while swimmer Dhinidhi Desinghu created history by becoming the first Indian athlete to win two medals in a single edition of the Youth Olympic Games. India's 10-medal tally was surpassed only by its 13-medal performance at the 2018 Youth Olympics.

Boxing emerged as India's biggest success story, with Lairenlakpam Ambekar Meetei winning gold in the boys' 50kg category and Gunjan claiming the top podium finish in the girls' 48kg category.

The two victories gave India its first-ever gold medals in boxing at the Youth Olympic Games and marked the country's first boxing gold double at the competition.

With two gold medals, India also recorded its second-highest gold medal tally in a single edition of the Youth Olympic Games.

The campaign also witnessed several historic achievements across other disciplines. Shourya Ambure became the first Indian athlete to win an athletics medal at the Youth Olympic Games, claiming bronze in the girls' 100m hurdles. Taniya secured silver in girls' freestyle 75kg beach wrestling, giving India its first-ever medal in the discipline at the competition.

India also registered its first medals in swimming and Wushu at the Youth Olympics.

Swimming was the country's most productive sport at the Games, contributing three medals.

Dhinidhi Desinghu won bronze medals in the girls' 100m and 200m freestyle events, becoming the first Indian athlete to win two medals in a single edition of the competition. Tirthank Pegu added another bronze in the boys' 200m butterfly event.

President Murmu presents national sports awards to coaches

NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu presented the National Sports Awards 2025 at Rashtrapati Bhavan on Friday, honouring coaches and athletes for their contributions to Indian sports. Five coaches received the Dronacharya Award, while sportspersons were recognised with the Arjuna Award.

Athletics coach Parveer Singh, boxing coach Chhote Lal Yadav and shooting coach Neha Nandkumar Chavan received the Dronacharya Award in the regular category. Wrestling coach Virender Kumar and boxing coach Dharmendra Singh Yadav were honoured in the lifetime category. Parveer Singh has trained shot putter Tajinderpal Singh Toor and javelin thrower Annu Rani, who won medals at the 2022 Asian Games and Commonwealth Games. Chhote Lal Yadav has coached boxers M.C. Mary Kom, Jaismine and Sakshi, who secured medals at the 2022 Commonwealth Games and 2021 Asian Championships.

Neha Nandkumar Chavan has guided shooters Elavenil Valarivan, Ramita, Maddineni Uma Mahesh and Dhanush Srikanth at international competitions. Virender Kumar was recognised for mentoring wrestlers Sushil Kumar, Ravi Kumar, Amit Kumar and Deepak Punia. Dharmendra Singh Yadav has coached boxers Mohammad Ali Qamar, Vikas Krishna and Manish Kaushik.

Arjuna Award recipients included athletes Tejaswin Shankar, Muhammad Ajmal Variyathodi and Priyanka Goswami, along with shooter Akhil Sheoran. A total of 17 sportspersons were selected, including badminton players Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand, chess players Vidit Santosh Gujarathi and Divya Jitendra Deshmukh, hockey players Lalremsiami and Rajkumar Pal, and shooter Dhanush Srikanth.



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