CITY HILIGHTS

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Woman's entry into Karnataka Cabinet awaits Cong top brass nod!

CM PROPOSES INDUCTING WOMAN INTO ALL-MALE CABINET

The move responds to mounting pressure before the legislature's Winter Session.

BENGALURU

Karnataka Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Sunday said he had placed a proposal for inducting a woman member into the state Cabinet before the Congress leadership in Delhi and would discuss the matter when summoned by the party high command.

He said he would travel to Delhi on Monday to attend the release of Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson Sonia Gandhi's autobiography and would return to Bengaluru the same night. "I don't know whether it will be possible to discuss tomorrow, but I have already placed the proposal before the leadership in Delhi. They said they would call me. There is a need, I will do it. I will discuss it at the appropriate time," he said in response to a query about whether he would discuss the issue with the high command during tomorrow's visit.

Last week, Shivakumar said a woman minister would be inducted into the state Cabinet before the next session of the state legislature.

When asked about arrangements at the Suvarna Vidhana Soudha in Belagavi ahead of the forthcoming legislature session and reported management problems, the CM said Speaker GS Patil would look into the matter. "The Speaker will take care of it. I will ask the DC (Deputy Commissioner) to look into -- what the problems are," he said.

Raised Mekedatu issue with Centre, PM Modi

Regarding the Mekedatu project and opposition to Karnataka's position from Tamil Nadu, including from that state's Congress president B Manickam Tagore, the CM said he had already raised the Mekedatu issue with the Centre and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"We have to respect the law of this country. Whatever the court says, we have to implement it. Politically, they (Tamil Nadu) may oppose it, and they are free to express their views. Tamil Nadu has a big legal team and let them understand the legal position. We are not going to stop anyone from voicing their opposition, but we have to do our job."

Believes in maintaining dignity of constitutional positions

Asked about his interactions with the Prime Minister and whether the bonding had become a source of discomfort within the state BJP, Shivakumar said he believed in maintaining the dignity of constitutional positions and working with the Centre on development. "I have to give the PM respect for his position, just as he has to respect the CM. I had said earlier too that we could fight politically during elections but should work together on development. We will continue to do that," he said.

Hiriyur bypoll

On the pending announcement of Hiriyur assembly bypoll, he said the wait was on for the Election Commission's announcement, while continuing its preparations. He said he would personally participate in the 'Praja Seva' programme at Hiriyur on November 21 and had directed officials to make the necessary arrangements. "I was expecting the elections to be announced, but it has not happened yet. We have got time. I will go and listen to people's grievances."

Winter session & women representation vacuum

The Winter Session of the Karnataka Legislature will be held from December 2 to December 11 at the Suvarna Vidhana Soudha in Belagavi. Pressure is mounting on the CM to fill one of the two vacant berths with a woman minister. Two months after assuming charge as the CM, Shivakumar expanded his Cabinet on August 3, by inducting 19 ministers, bringing the total strength to 33 against the Cabinet size of 34. However, two berths are currently vacant in the Cabinet following the resignation of B Nagendra, who was facing corruption charges.



CM's statement in a nutshell

- **Cabinet reshuffle**: CM DK Shivakumar says proposal to induct a woman minister has been placed before the Congress leadership.
- **Delhi visit**: Shivakumar will visit Delhi on Monday to attend the release of Sonia Gandhi's autobiography.
- **High command meeting**: He will discuss the proposal when summoned by the party leadership.
- **Winter session**: Karnataka Legislature's Winter Session will be held from December 2 to 11 at Suvarna Vidhana Soudha, Belagavi.
- **Timeline**: Last week, Shivakumar said a woman minister would be inducted before the next Assembly session.
- **Hiriyur bypoll**: Shivakumar to attend the Praja Seva programme in Hiriyur on November 21 and hear public grievances.
- **Vacancies**: Two Cabinet berths are vacant in Karnataka, which has a sanctioned strength of 34 ministers.
- **Mekedatu project**: Shivakumar said Karnataka would continue its efforts on the project while respecting the legal process.

CM moots resident data collection to ensure safety

BENGALURU

Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Sunday said maintaining law and order in Bengaluru is a top priority, noting that the Home Department has been directed to set up a dedicated wing to crack down on crime, rowdyism, and drugs. He framed the proposed door-to-door household data collection as a measure for police to maintain accurate residency records and improve public safety. "To ensure the safety of residents, there is a pressing need to collect household-level data across the city. It has also come to our notice that Bengaluru's electoral roll has shrunk from 51 lakh to 45 lakh voters. Given this, instructions will be issued to ensure the police department maintains accurate records of who resides where in the city," he said while addressing a public event here.

No one can drive us out of Ramanagara: HDK

RAMANAGARA

Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy on Sunday lashed out at the Congress, saying while some people have vowed to oust the JD(S) and its family from the Ramanagara district, such a feat is beyond anyone's capability.

Speaking in Hunsanahalli village, he strongly criticised the state's Congress government over the recent incident in Doddakurubarahalli, where Nikhil Kumaraswamy was denied entry to a temple, as well as its style of governance.

He described the denial of Nikhil's entry to the Doddakurubarahalli temple as "petty politics."

He recalled a similar incident in Hosuru village in 2004, before he became an MLA, when a temple was locked to prevent him from entering.

At the time, his party workers broke the lock. This time, however, Nikhil has urged his supporters to remain calm and avoid a confrontation. "Congress leaders should understand this," he said.



Assurance to party workers

"From now on, I will personally spend two days each month touring all four assembly constituencies in Ramanagara district with Nikhil. I have taken note of the injustices being meted out by the government. I intend to protect our youth and party workers and strengthen their morale," he promised.

He further alleged, "Some people talk about a 'monument of evidence' (*sakshigudde*) in the taluk. But has Ramanagara seen any real change over the past three-and-a-half years? This government's record amounts to nothing more than a 'monument' of empty announcements."

He also alleged that stone had been extracted in Kanakapura, leaving villages deserted, before being shipped abroad.

> From now on, I will personally spend two days each month touring all four assembly constituencies in Ramanagara district with Nikhil.
> - HD Kumaraswamy, Union Minister

Context of the statement

- **Temple incident**: Nikhil Kumaraswamy was allegedly denied entry into the newly constructed Maramma temple at Doddakurubarahalli village in Harohalli taluk on Friday evening.
- **Reason**: Local Congress workers reportedly locked the temple gates, claiming they had contributed more funds towards its construction.
- **Kumaraswamy's reaction**: Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy termed the incident "high-handed behaviour" and accused the Congress government of encouraging intimidation of JD(S) workers.
- **Political stronghold**: He said Doddakurubarahalli had traditionally supported his family and asserted that Ramanagara voters would respond to Congress democratically.
- **Protests and complaint**: JD(S) workers staged protests following the incident and lodged a complaint against the Congress workers at Harohalli police station.

India secured preferential US market access: Goyal

NEW DELHI

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Sunday said India has secured an agreement with the United States to receive preferential market access for its goods, with lower import duties than competing countries.

Goyal said the understanding was reached between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump when the two countries announced a broad framework for their bilateral trade agreement (BTA). Negotiations are currently underway to finalise the first phase of the deal.

"This was already agreed between the leaders - President (Donald) Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi when they announced that we have both come to a broad framework agreement a few months ago and it has been acknowledged that India will get preferential trade access in the US with lower duties than our competitor countries," he told reporters in Cairo.

The minister is on a two-day visit to Egypt to discuss ways to strengthen trade and investment ties between the two countries.



Stop foreign tours, visit villages: Shah slams Rahul for 'defaming' India

NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday accused Congress leader Rahul Gandhi of maligning India and Prime Minister Narendra Modi before an international audience, telling the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha to stop travelling abroad and visit villages if he wanted his party to return to power.

His comments came a day after Gandhi told the Bharat Summit in Hyderabad that defeating PM Modi was a "done deal". Gandhi said he was confident the Opposition would remove Modi from power and claimed there was growing fear within the ruling establishment.

"Defaming India at international platforms will not help him come to power," Shah said after laying the foundation stone for the National Heavy Engineering Cooperative in Pune.

"If he aspires to return to power, he should stop travelling abroad and start visiting villages across India. Then, perhaps, he may have a chance."

CRPF withdraws anti-Naxal battalion from Chhattisgarh

RAIPUR

The Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) has withdrawn a battalion comprising more than 1,000 personnel from the anti-Maoist operations theatre in Chhattisgarh and moved it to Manipur to strengthen security deployment amid continuing ethnic violence in the state.

The move marks the first such de-induction of any Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) unit from the anti-Naxal zone since the Centre declared the end of armed Maoism in the country in March.

The battalion was stationed in Sukma district, part of the south Bastar region that was once a major Maoist stronghold. It had been involved in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) operations for several years and was subsequently engaged in de-mining and defusing improvised explosive devices (IEDs) after March, as per reports.

For the past few years, it had been undertaking LWE operations, followed by de-mining and defusing IEDs post-March.

"The CRPF headquarters has ordered the de-induction of a general duty battalion from Chhattisgarh and directed it to move to Manipur, where ethnic violence has been simmering for more than three years now.

"This is the first full withdrawal of any paramilitary unit from the anti-Naxal operations theatre following the declaration that armed Maoism in the country ended in March," a senior security officer based in Delhi said.



Bastar loses CRPF battalion as forces shift to Manipur

- CRPF withdraws an anti-Maoist battalion of over 1,000 personnel from Sukma in Chhattisgarh.
- Personnel to be redeployed to Manipur amid continuing ethnic tensions.
- Neighbouring CRPF units and Chhattisgarh police to take over its duties.
- Proposal to withdraw three more paramilitary battalions from Chhattisgarh and Odisha.
- Move raises concerns over a possible security vacuum in anti-Maoist operations in Bastar.

SABARIMALA TEMPLE OPENS FOR MANDALA-MAKARAVILAKKU SEASON

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: The Sabarimala Ayyappa temple in Keralam will open on Monday evening for the annual pilgrimage of around two months.

The Mandala pooja pilgrimage will be till December 27 and the Makaravilaku pilgrimage will be from December 30. Makaravilakku will be on January 14.

The Travancore Devaswom Board as well as the Congress government has introduced a slew of reforms like an insurance coverage for pilgrims to free sanitation facilities.

The life insurance scheme that provides for compensation of up to Rs 2 lakh to pilgrims in case of death could be availed by those booking on virtual queue system free of cost.

QUICK READ

Ashoka accuses Cong of 'double standards' on Mekedatu project

BENGALURU

Senior BJP leader R Ashoka on Sunday accused the Congress of adopting "double standards" on the Mekedatu project over the Cauvery River, saying while the party championed Karnataka's water rights in the state, its leaders in Tamil Nadu were opposing the project. The LoP in the Legislative Assembly said the Congress had used the sentiments of Kannadigas for political gains through its Mekedatu padayatra under the slogan 'Our water, our right', but had now remained silent in the face of opposition from its own leaders in TN. "This silence itself is proof of the Congress's real concern for Karnataka," he alleged in an X post. He said that TN Congress Committee president B Manickam Tagore had described the Mekedatu project as illegal and urged Chief Minister Vijay to take legal steps to prevent its implementation. TN Congress MP Jothimani had also opposed the project, he said.

3 of Pune family killed in car-truck collision in Belagavi

BELAGAVI

Three members of a family from Pune were killed and three others travelling with them in the same car were seriously injured when their car collided with a lorry near Maladinni Cross in Gokak taluk on Sunday. The deceased have been identified as Omkar Chandrashekhar Mandre (26), Reshma Mandre (32) and four-year-old Devansh Mandre. According to police, the family was travelling from Pune in Maharashtra to Savadatti Yellamma Temple when their car collided head-on with a lorry coming from Yaragatti towards Gokak. The three injured have been identified as Shrikant Mandre, Vandana Mandre and Harshada Mandre. They were taken to a nearby hospital and are undergoing treatment. Gokak Rural police visited the spot and managed traffic. A case has been registered and an investigation is underway.

SAFETY OVERSIGHT CHECK

India's aviation rulebook set to get a close-up review

NEW DELHI

The US Federal Aviation Administration will review India's aviation safety oversight framework from November 16-20, with the five-day assessment focusing on aircraft operations, airworthiness and personnel licensing

The audit assumes significance as India seeks to retain its top-tier safety rating under the FAA's International Aviation Safety Assessment programme, even as its rapidly expanding aviation industry places greater demands on regulatory oversight.

Under the IASA framework, the FAA examines whether a country's aviation regulator has the institutional capacity to enforce international safety norms for airlines operating to the US or partnering with American carriers through codeshare agreements. The evaluation measures compliance with safety standards prescribed by the International Civil Aviation Organization, with the upcoming review assessing the Directorate General of Civil Aviation's regulatory effectiveness and its ability to maintain those standards.

India currently holds Category 1 status, the highest rating under the FAA assessment framework. Air India is presently the only Indian airline operating direct flights to US cities.

India's last IASA review began with an FAA inspection of the DGCA in October 2021, followed by consultations in April 2022 and further assessments in July and September. The findings were made public in April 2023, when the US regulator confirmed that India had retained its Category 1 classification.

The latest assessment assumes significance amid heightened attention on aviation safety following a series of aircraft-related incidents. Last year, an Air India Boeing 787-8 aircraft bound for London Gatwick crashed shortly after taking off from Ahmedabad, killing 260 people. Several helicopter accidents and other aviation-related incidents have also been reported this year.

India's Category 1 status was restored in 2015 after the FAA downgraded the country to Category 2 in January 2014 over concerns about the DGCA's safety oversight capabilities. The concerns followed an ICAO audit in December 2012, which identified two Significant Safety Concerns in the areas of aircraft operations and airworthiness. Despite ICAO confirming that the deficiencies had been addressed in August 2013, the FAA carried out a separate evaluation and subsequently placed India in Category 2. India regained the highest safety classification in 2015 after the DGCA implemented the corrective measures required by the US regulator.

FAA audit of India's aviation safety standards – Key points

- **Audit dates**: November 16–20, 2026 (five-day assessment).
- **Conducting agency**: US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).
- **Regulator under review**: Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).
- **Key areas of assessment**: Aircraft operations. Airworthiness of aircraft. Personnel licensing and qualifications.
- **Objective**: Assess India's compliance with international aviation safety standards prescribed by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).
- **Previous audit**: FAA's last assessment was conducted in October 2021. India retained Category 1 status in April 2023.
- **Current status**: India holds Category 1 status, the highest rating under the FAA's International Aviation Safety Assessment (IASA) programme.
- **Historical background**: India was downgraded to Category 2 in January 2014 over deficiencies in aviation safety oversight but regained Category 1 in 2015.
- **Significance**: ICategory 1 status allows Indian airlines to operate and expand flights to the US and enter codeshare arrangements with American carriers.
- **Current context**: The audit comes amid heightened scrutiny following the Ahmedabad Air India crash in June 2025, which killed 260 people.

Quick Read

Anna Bhagya rice worth ₹8.8 crore seized; 266 arrested

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Karnataka Food Department has seized 32,384 quintals of Anna Bhagya rice, worth ₹8.80 crore, during raids across several districts in the state over the past month. The rice was allegedly being illegally sold in the black market. According to officials, the total value of seized goods, including rice, LPG cylinders and fuel, is around ₹15 crore. A total of 266 people have been arrested in connection with the cases. Apart from the rice, authorities seized 220 vehicles worth ₹6.17 crore, 1,817 LPG cylinders and 14,258 litres of petrol and diesel allegedly linked to illegal trade. Kolar district recorded the highest seizure of Anna Bhagya rice, valued at ₹3.81 crore. Belagavi followed with ₹1.57 crore, Kalaburagi with ₹1.49 crore, Vijayapura with ₹1.02 crore and Bagalkote with ₹91.62 lakh. Officials said raids were conducted across multiple districts as part of efforts to prevent the illegal diversion and sale of essential commodities meant for beneficiaries of the public distribution system.

Nine-year-old girl seriously injured in Hesaraghatta accident

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A nine-year-old girl suffered a serious head injury after a motorcycle hit her while she was crossing the road near Hesaraghatta on Sunday morning.The victim, Madhumitha, a Class 4 student, had left home around 8 am to buy milk. She was returning from a nearby shop when a speeding motorcycle allegedly struck her while she was crossing the road.

The impact threw the girl onto the road, leaving her seriously injured. The incident was captured on CCTV cameras.

Three arrested after Bengaluru driver assault

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Three people, including a water tanker owner, have been arrested for allegedly attacking a driver who demanded seven months of unpaid wages in Bengaluru's Jeevan Bima Nagar.The victim, identified as Mohan (30), had worked for owner Srinivas for nearly two-and-a-half years. According to the complaint, around ₹2 lakh in salary remained unpaid. Mohan quit the job two months ago and repeatedly demanded his pending wages.The incident reportedly took place on November 5, when Srinivas and three others allegedly attacked Mohan near his house. The accused allegedly hit him on the head with an iron rod before forcibly taking him away in a car. According to the complaint, Mohan was assaulted again at another location and abandoned after the accused allegedly believed he was dead. After regaining consciousness, Mohan managed to reach a hospital and receive treatment. He later approached the Jeevan Bima Nagar police and filed a complaint. Police registered a case and arrested three accused, including Srinivas. The investigation is continuing, and efforts are underway to trace the remaining suspect.

Siddaramaiah calls for equality through sorghum story

Comparing the work to Kanakadasa's Ramadhanya Charite, Siddaramaiah praised Badawadagi for honouring jola, the vital staple of working-class families

CH NEWS, BENGALURU



Former Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has praised author Sangamesha Badawadagi for highlighting social and regional inequalities through his book Jolarajana Kathe (The Story of the Sorghum King). He said literature plays an important role in creating an equal society.

Speaking at the book release in Bengaluru, Siddaramaiah compared the work with poet Kanakadasa's Ramadhanya Charite. While Kanakadasa highlighted the importance of ragi, Badawadagi has brought attention to jola (sorghum), a staple food of poor and working-class families.

Sharing his childhood memories, Siddaramaiah recalled that ragi and jola were everyday foods in poor households, while rice was mainly prepared during festivals and special occasions. He said these experiences influenced his decision to introduce the Anna Bhagya scheme during his tenure as Chief Minister to improve food security among poor families.

He also highlighted the historical backwardness of the Kalyana Karnataka region and stressed the importance of Article 371(J) in providing better opportunities in education, employment and development. He said the constitutional provision had helped young people from the region pursue careers in medicine, engineering and teaching.

Casteism and superstitions continue to exist even among educated people, he said

Siddaramaiah also expressed concern over recurring droughts and their impact on farmers and rural families. He urged governments to provide timely assistance to people facing water shortages and agricultural losses.

Speaking about social inequality, he recalled the teachings of Basavanna, Dr B.R. Ambedkar and Mahatma Gandhi, who advocated equality and a society free from caste discrimination. He said casteism and superstitions continued to exist even among educated people and called for scientific thinking and rational attitudes.

Congratulating Badawadagi, Siddaramaiah said the book highlighted the food culture, lives and struggles of people in Kalyana Karnataka. He called for a prosperous Karnataka where social and regional inequalities are removed and everyone enjoys equal opportunities.

? RAGI AND JOLA

Poet Kanakadasa's Ramadhanya Charite highlighted ragi. Badawadagi's Jolarajana Kathe (The Story of the Sorghum King) turns to jola, a staple food of poor and working-class families.

Ramana Rao's rural healthcare earns global recognition



The Guinness World Records certificate for Dr. B. Ramana Rao's free Sunday clinic being presented at T. Begur.

CH NEWS, NELAMANGALA

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister Dr. G. Parameshwara has praised Dr. B. Ramana Rao for his decades of free medical service to rural communities, describing his dedication as an inspiration to doctors across the world.

He was speaking at a function held at Dr. Ramana Rao's Village Clinic in T. Begur, Nelamangala taluk, to celebrate the doctor's Guinness World Records recognition.

Dr. Parameshwara said treating more than 33 lakh patients over 2,777 consecutive Sundays was an extraordinary achievement. He praised Dr. Rao for continuing his medical service in a rural village and providing healthcare to people from different parts of Karnataka.

Dr. Rao, who received the Padma Shri in 2010 for his contribution to medicine, began his Sunday clinic in 1973. His continued commitment to providing free treatment has brought recognition to rural healthcare.

The Deputy Chief Minister expressed concern over the growing commercialisation of healthcare and said medical professionals should give importance to service rather than financial gain. He added that if more doctors followed Dr. Rao's example, healthcare services could reach millions of people.

Dr. Parameshwara also shared that he personally received treatment from Dr. Rao and appreciated the doctor's kindness and respectful approach towards patients.

He congratulated Dr. Rao and wished him good health and a long life, expressing hope that his service would continue for many more years.

Guinness World Records representative Rishinath, Dr. Ramana Rao, Hema Ramana Rao, Dr. Sharith Bhogaraj, Dr. Shanthini, Dr. Abhijith Bhogaraj, Dr. Jahnavi and others attended the programme.

High Court calls for better police mental health support

CH NEWS, BENGALURU



The High Court of Karnataka in Bengaluru.

The Karnataka High Court has called on police and security departments to strengthen mental health support for their personnel, stressing that those who protect society also face personal problems, family difficulties and emotional stress.

The observation came while quashing criminal proceedings against a 37-year-old woman Sub-Inspector of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), who attempted suicide while on duty in Mangaluru in 2022.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj, in an order dated November 12, said personnel in uniform should not be expected to remain unaffected by personal struggles. He urged authorities to review existing policies, provide counselling and treatment without stigma, and ensure regular mental health assessments, particularly for personnel handling firearms.

WHAT THE COURT ASKED FOR

- **Review** existing policies
- **Counselling** and treatment without stigma
- **Regular** mental health assessments, particularly for personnel handling firearms

Attempt in 2022

The officer had attempted suicide using her service pistol on October 12, 2022, after facing severe emotional distress over her inability to conceive despite medical treatment. She suffered serious injuries and underwent major surgery.

A case was registered against her under Section 309 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). The Mangaluru court rejected her discharge application in December 2024, following which she approached the High Court.

Allowing her petition, the High Court held that Section 115 of the Mental Healthcare Act, 2017, presumes that a person attempting suicide is under severe stress unless proved otherwise. Such a person should receive care, treatment and rehabilitation rather than criminal punishment under the IPC, unless the presumption is rebutted.

The court also observed that the investigating officer and trial court should have considered this legal protection. It directed its Registrar to forward the order to the Directors General of the CISF and Karnataka Police.

The court emphasised the need for stronger welfare measures and responsible firearm management across security organisations.

Kannada literary conference in Vijayanagara celebrates language and culture

CH NEWS, BENGALURU



Swamijis and leaders at the Vijayanagara Kannada literary conference.

The Kannada Sahitya Parishat's Vijayanagara Assembly Constituency unit organised a Kannada literary conference, bringing together writers, poets, artists, cultural leaders and Kannada activists to celebrate the language and its rich heritage.

The event began at 7.30 am with the hoisting of the national, state and Kannada Sahitya Parishat flags. At 8.30 am, Jagadguru Sri Dr. Nirmalanandanatha Swamiji of Adichunchanagiri Mahasamsthana Math and Vijayanagara MLA M. Krishnappa flagged off a grand Kannada procession from the GBA Municipal Office premises in Hampinagara. Students, folk artists and members of various organisations participated.

The inaugural ceremony was held at Adichunchanagiri Community Hall under the presidency of Nadoja Hampa Nagarajaiah. Swamijis stressed the importance of protecting Kannada literature, culture and traditions and passing them on to future generations.

MLAs M. Krishnappa and Priyakrishna called for greater encouragement for Kannada writers, poets and artists. They also urged the younger generation to take an active interest in Kannada literature.

Former Border Area Development Authority chairman and retired IAS officer Somashekhar inaugurated the book stalls. Dr. G.Y. Padmanagaraj and Dr. Aarathi released four books, highlighting the importance of reading and literature in developing social awareness.

The conference featured seminars, poetry sessions, cultural programmes, discussions on Kannada-medium education and resolutions concerning the rights of Kannadigas. Achievers from different fields were also honoured.

Nadoja Shivude P. Krishna delivered the valedictory address, urging people to turn the ideas discussed at literary conferences into action. Retired IAS officer Jaya Vibhava Swamy called for greater use of Kannada in administration.

Conference president Umesh Chandra thanked the religious leaders, public representatives, writers, volunteers, sponsors and participants for their support. He said the event, which continued until 9 pm, was a collective effort to strengthen Kannada language and culture.

Karnataka offers subsidies for tribal food kiosks

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Karnataka government has announced financial assistance for unemployed Scheduled Tribe (ST) youth to establish fast-food truck trailers and mobile kitchen kiosks, creating opportunities for self-employment.

Under the Entrepreneurship Development Scheme implemented through corporations under the Scheduled Tribes Welfare Department, eligible beneficiaries will receive a subsidy of 75% of the unit cost or a maximum of ₹4 lakh.

The initiative was announced in the 2026–27 State Budget and is aimed at improving the economic condition of Scheduled Tribe communities by encouraging entrepreneurship.

In the 2026-27 Budget

Scheduled Tribes Welfare Minister T. Raghumurthy has taken steps towards implementing the initiative. He has held discussions with Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and departmental officials to advance the proposal.

75%

subsidy on the unit cost, up to ₹4 lakh, for ST youth setting up food trucks and mobile kitchens

Department Secretary M. Kanagavalli and Director Ashok D.R. said arrangements would be made to help eligible applicants obtain financial assistance through banks and other financial institutions, along with the government subsidy.

More than 50 communities, including several Adivasi groups, are recognised as Scheduled Tribes in Karnataka. The scheme will cover eligible unemployed youth belonging to all communities listed under the Scheduled Tribes category.

Speaking about the initiative, Minister T. Raghumurthy said the scheme would promote economic independence among tribal communities and create additional employment opportunities.

He added that mobile food kiosks and food trucks would provide beneficiaries with opportunities to establish organised food businesses. The government also aims to introduce similar initiatives to encourage self-employment among disadvantaged communities.

The minister expressed hope that the programme would benefit thousands of young people and enable them to generate further employment opportunities.

The initiative is expected to support entrepreneurship, improve livelihoods and strengthen the financial position of Scheduled Tribe families across Karnataka.

RAMOJI RAO LEGACY

Margadarsi staff hold rallies honouring Ramoji Rao

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Employees of Margadarsi Chit Funds organised bike rallies and foot marches across Karnataka on Sunday to mark the 90th birth anniversary of the organisation's founder, the late Ramoji Rao, which falls on November 16. The events also aimed to create awareness about savings and financial discipline.

In Bengaluru, employees from different branches, led by Karnataka Regional Director P. Lakshmana Rao, participated in the bike rally. Staff from the Basaveshwaranagar branch covered nearly six to seven kilometres, carrying placards highlighting the importance of savings and financial planning.

A separate rally organised by the Gandhinagar branch passed through Freedom Park, K.R. Circle and Vidhana Soudha. Branch Manager G. Govinda Rao said the initiative was organised to honour Ramoji Rao and educate the public about financial discipline.

In Hubballi, employees, agents and development and recovery staff participated in a bike rally from the Neeligin Road office between 7 am and 9 am. The rally covered Hosur Circle, Gokul Road, Akshaya Park, Tholanakere, Shirur Park and Vidyanagar before returning to the office.

Branch Manager V.G. Ravindra and Chief Manager G.D.R. Prasad said the programme aimed to introduce the organisation's services to the public and highlight the founder's contributions.

In Davanagere, hundreds of employees organised a foot march from the branch office on PB Road. Led by Manager Ravi, the participants passed through several important locations before returning to the office.



Margadarsi Chit Funds employees in front of Vidhana Soudha, Bengaluru.

In Raichur, employees paid floral tributes to Ramoji Rao before taking out a bike rally through the city's main roads. Branch Manager Sadashivayya recalled the founder's contributions to business, media and employment generation.

Ramoji Rao established Margadarsi Chit Fund in 1962. He also founded Eenadu newspaper and Ramoji Film City. He received the Padma Vibhushan in 2016 for his contribution to literature and education.

The programmes highlighted his legacy and encouraged the public to adopt regular savings habits and responsible financial planning.

Ramoji Rao

- **Founded:** Margadarsi Chit Fund in 1962
- **Also founded:** Eenadu newspaper and Ramoji Film City
- **Padma Vibhushan:** 2016, for literature and education

Rajashekhar Gowda is elected unopposed as society head



Members felicitate the new president of the Ramasandra Milk Producers' Co-operative Society.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Rajashekhar Gowda has been elected unopposed as the president of the Ramasandra Milk Producers' Cooperative Society in Bengaluru South taluk. The election was held on Sunday to fill the vacancy following the resignation of former president R. Mahendra.

As no other candidates filed nominations, Rajashekhar was declared elected unopposed. H.B. Lokesh, Inspector of Cooperative Societies and Returning Officer, officially announced the result. The society has 11 members.

Speaking after his election, Rajashekhar Gowda said he would work for the welfare of farmers and their families. He highlighted the important role played by cooperative societies in improving farmers' economic conditions.

He also promised to support the educational development of children belonging to the society's member families. He said efforts would be made to ensure that farmers receive government benefits and facilities. He added that his priority would be to improve their livelihoods and promote the overall development of the farming community.

Rajashekhar credited his unopposed election to the support and blessings of S.T. Somashekhar, MLA from the Yeshwanthpur constituency. He assured members that he would work sincerely for the growth of the society and the welfare of its members.

Former presidents Muddaiah and R. Mahendra, society members Muralidhar, Manjunath, Basavegowda and Basavaraj, BJP General Secretary Venkataramana, Ashok Ramasandra, Sudan, Siddaraju, leaders Mahima Rangayya and Puttappa Rangegowda, and other directors of the society attended the occasion.

Quick Read

Students display innovative models at State Science Fair

CH NEWS, VIJAYAPURA

Students from various schools showcased innovative scientific models and practical technological solutions at a state-level Science Fair organised to promote scientific temper and creative thinking. The exhibition featured electric tractors, solar-powered irrigation systems, fire-fighting robots, landslide warning devices, rainwater harvesting models and smart water-saving technologies. A soil moisture detection device developed by students of A.B. Jatti High School, Tikota, attracted attention for its potential to help farmers manage irrigation and conserve water. Other exhibits focused on healthcare, environmental protection, disaster preparedness and energy conservation. Students said the fair provided an opportunity to exchange knowledge and transform classroom learning into practical innovations.

DC inspects KPSC examination centres in Vijayapura

CH NEWS, VIJAYAPURA

Deputy Commissioner Dr. Anand K. inspected several examination centres in Vijayapura city on Sunday to review arrangements for the Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) Gazetted Probationers Group A and B preliminary examination.The DC visited Hemareddy Mallamma School and SIKAB Pre-University College and reviewed candidate attendance, frisking arrangements and facilities inside the examination halls.The examination was conducted at 20 centres across the district, with 8,117 candidates registered. According to Deputy Director of the School Education Department Manjunath Guledagudda, 5,118 candidates appeared for the morning session, while 2,999 remained absent. In the afternoon session, 5,088 candidates attended and 3,029 were absent.During the inspection, Dr. Anand reviewed the functioning of frisking facilities, facial recognition-based attendance verification, CCTV cameras and signal-jamming systems installed at the centres.He instructed the officials concerned to strictly adhere to examination guidelines and ensure that no lapses occurred during the process. He also emphasised the need for adequate supervision inside examination halls and effective coordination among officers and staff deployed for examination duty.The Deputy Commissioner directed the personnel to remain vigilant at every stage and discharge their responsibilities with discipline and transparency to ensure the smooth and fair conduct of the examination.Officials assigned to examination duties were present during the inspection.The examination arrangements were reviewed as part of the district administration's efforts to ensure compliance with KPSC guidelines and maintain transparency throughout the recruitment process.

Kalaburagi on high alert for KPSC examination

The Kalaburagi district administration put elaborate security arrangements in place for Sunday's KPSC Gazetted Probationers preliminary exam.



Candidates go through the checks at an examination centre

Exam day in Kalaburagi

- **11,745** candidates at 29 centres
- **240** at a separate centre for PwDs
- **2 papers** 10 am-12 noon, 2 pm-4 pm
- **200 m** prohibitory zone round each centre

CH NEWS, KALABURAGI

The district administration had put elaborate security arrangements in place for the Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) Gazetted Probationers preliminary examination, held across Kalaburagi district on Sunday.

A total of 11,745 candidates were expected to appear for the examination at 29 centres across the district. A separate centre was arranged for persons with disabilities, where 240 candidates were expected to take the examination.

Deputy Commissioner Mohammed Ikramulla Shariff had directed officials to remain vigilant and ensure that the examination was conducted peacefully, transparently and without malpractice. He warned that strict action would be taken against anyone attempting to violate examination rules.

The first paper was scheduled from 10 am to 12 noon, and the second from 2 pm to 4 pm.

Security arrangements were made on the lines of election-related measures. CCTV cameras and webcasting facilities were to be used to monitor the examination centres, and prohibitory orders were to be enforced within a 200-metre radius of each centre.

Mobile phones, Bluetooth devices, smartwatches and other electronic gadgets were prohibited inside examination premises. Candidates were to undergo metal detector screening, and facial recognition technology was to be used to verify their identities.

The administration had made special arrangements to prevent question paper leaks, impersonation and other examination-related irregularities.

Officials had been instructed to closely monitor all activities and ensure strict compliance with the examination guidelines.

Candidates had been advised to reach their respective centres at least one hour before the examination began, to complete identity verification and security procedures without any last-minute inconvenience.

Farmers' protest secures ₹3,600 sugarcane price agreement

CH NEWS, KALABURAGI

The prolonged agitation by sugarcane farmers in Kalaburagi district ended late at night after all five sugar factories agreed to pay ₹3,500 per tonne, along with an additional ₹100 linked to sugar prices.

The agreement was reached during the fifth round of negotiations held at the Deputy Commissioner's office under the leadership of the district administration. The meeting continued until 11.30 pm after several hours of discussions between farmers' representatives and sugar factory managements.

Earlier rounds of talks held in the morning and afternoon had failed to produce a settlement. Initially, the factories had offered ₹3,450 per tonne, along with an additional ₹150 under a profit-sharing arrangement if the market price of sugar crossed ₹50 per kg. However, farmers rejected the proposal and demanded a minimum price of ₹3,600 per tonne.

Hundreds of farmers, led by Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha and Hasiru Sene leaders Chunappa Pujeri and Shashikant Guruji, gathered at the Deputy Commissioner's office to press their demands. Farmers from Chowdapur village in Afzalpur taluk and other parts of the district arrived in tractors, SUVs and motorcycles to intensify the agitation.

After prolonged negotiations and heated discussions, representatives of all five sugar factories agreed to the revised payment structure of ₹3,500 per tonne as the basic price and an additional ₹100.

Following the agreement, the farmers called off their indefinite protest, which had continued for several hours.

The settlement has brought relief to sugarcane growers and farmers' organisations, who had been demanding better returns for their produce. The agreement marks the conclusion of the immediate agitation, following negotiations between the farmers, factory managements and district administration.



Sugarcane farmers wave green shawls at the protest in Kalaburagi

From offer to deal

FIRST OFFER	AGREED
₹3,450 a tonne, plus ₹150 if sugar crossed ₹50 a kg	₹3,500 a tonne basic price, plus ₹100

93 applications received, none disposed of at Hulasur grievance meet

The Praja Seva Movement in Togaloor village, Hulasur taluk, received 93 departmental applications, yet not a single grievance was resolved.

CH NEWS, BIDAR

The Praja Seva Movement held at Togaloor village in Hulasur taluk received 93 applications concerning various government departments, but not a single grievance was resolved during the programme.

Villagers submitted petitions seeking basic facilities, including burial land for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities and a permanent solution to drinking water problems.

Inaugurating the programme, Tahsildar Ghamavati Rathod said the State government had introduced the initiative at the gram panchayat level to help senior citizens, persons with disabilities and rural residents access government services without repeatedly visiting taluk offices.

Taluk Panchayat Executive Officer Mahadev Jammu explained housing and site-allotment schemes for eligible beneficiaries. Forest Department official Raghavendra spoke about sapling distribution, while an Agriculture Department official advised farmers to adopt multiple-cropping practices and complete e-KYC formalities to receive PM-Kisan benefits. Education Department coordinator Shivaraj Kanakatte explained children's rights and scholarship facilities.

93 pleas, by department

Revenue	63
Gram Panchayat	19
Taluk Panchayat	7
CDPO	2
GESCOM	2

Figures from the Praja Seva programme

Well used for irrigation

Residents of Halhalli alleged that a well constructed in 2016-17 at a cost of approximately ₹39 lakh under Togaloor Gram Panchayat was being used by nearby farmers for irrigation through pipelines instead of supplying drinking water to villagers. They demanded that the facility be restored for public use.

Residents also complained about the alleged non-availability and poor response of Village Accountant Umesh Pujari and sought his transfer.

Of the 93 applications, 63 concerned the Revenue Department, seven the Taluk Panchayat, 19 the Gram Panchayat, two the CDPO department and two GESCOM. The Tahsildar issued notices to officials of departments that remained absent.

Revenue Inspector Sharan Pavadashetti coordinated the programme. Local elected representatives and officials from various departments attended.

Chikkanagaon wants unsafe structures razed

Meanwhile, residents of Chikkanagaon in Basavakalyan taluk urged authorities to demolish a deteriorating historical structure known as a Hude and two unsafe classrooms at the government primary school.

At the Praja Seva Movement held on Saturday, villagers submitted a petition to Tahsildar Dattatreya J. Gada, warning that portions of the old structure had weakened and recently fallen onto a neighbouring house, damaging its roof. They feared further collapse could affect five to six nearby houses.

The two unsafe classrooms in the school's northern block are no longer used for teaching, but children reportedly play around them. Headmaster Jagannath and SDMC president Sidramappa Natikar sought their immediate demolition.

Villagers also raised concerns over damaged roads, drainage, ration cards, Aadhaar cards and pending wages under the VB-G RAM G scheme. Officials from various departments attended the programme and received the petitions.

Kaladhara festival opens at Ibrahim Roza in Vijayapura

CH NEWS, VIJAYAPURA

The second edition of the Kaladhara cultural festival, aimed at showcasing Vijayapura's rich art, architecture and cultural heritage to an international audience, began on Friday at the historic Ibrahim Roza premises.

Conceptualised by Rajya Sabha MP Dr. Sudha Murty, the festival was held at the Gol Gumbaz premises last year. This year, the celebrations have shifted to the iconic Ibrahim Roza.

District In-charge Minister Dr. M.B. Patil inaugurated the festival and said the government was taking steps to develop Vijayapura as a major international tourist destination.

Highlighting the district's architectural treasures, Patil said Gol Gumbaz, known for its engineering excellence, Ibrahim Roza, believed to have inspired the Taj Mahal, and Bara Kaman had immense potential to attract tourists from across the world.

"Necessary measures will be taken to showcase Vijayapura's historical monuments, architectural excellence and cultural heritage internationally and attract foreign tourists," he said.

Patil said the festival had revived memories of the erstwhile Navarasapura Utsav. He added that suggestions from the Kaladhara organising team would be considered. He also noted that literary works of the Adil Shahi rulers had been translated into Kannada, while efforts were underway to translate Persian literature of the period into Urdu to reach readers in North India.

250 monuments

Deputy Commissioner Dr. Anand K. said Vijayapura had more than 250 historical monuments, of which 82 were protected monuments. He stressed the importance of public participation in preserving and developing these heritage structures.

Padma Shri awardee and renowned historian Dr. K. Mohammad, former Director of the Archaeological Department, attended as chief guest. Several officials and cultural representatives were also present.

Ghatam and Kuchipudi

The festival featured a Ghatam recital by Vidushi Sukanya Ramgopal, accompanied by Vani Manjunath on flute, Ranjani Venkatesh on mridangam and Ratnashree Iyer on tabla. Dr. Sanjay Shantaram and his troupe later presented a Kuchipudi dance performance, captivating the audience.

Demand for an Indira Canteen at Sulepet bus stand

CH NEWS, KALABURAGI

Senior advocate Manikrao Gulgunji has urged the State government to establish an Indira Canteen at the Sulepet bus stand, operated by the Kalyana Karnataka Road Transport Corporation (KKRTC), to provide affordable meals to poor passengers and visitors from surrounding villages.

In a written representation submitted to Medical Education Minister Dr. Sharanprakash Patil, Gulgunji highlighted the need for the facility, stating that Sulepet has a population of around 15,000 and serves as a commercial and administrative centre for nearly 40 neighbouring villages.

People from these villages visit Sulepet daily to purchase essential commodities and attend to official work.

What passengers want

- → An Indira Canteen
- → Purified drinking water
- → Seats, fans, clean toilets

Many spend several hours at the bus stand, and economically weaker passengers often struggle to afford meals.

Gulgunji said an Indira Canteen would provide affordable food and benefit passengers and other people from disadvantaged backgrounds. The representation was signed by 15 people, including Amrutrao Pattedar, Pandit Hugar, Mohan Harihar, Gurunath Reddy Huvinabhavi, Revanasiddappa Dukan, Namdev Police Patil and Mallikarjun Malagi.

Meanwhile, social activist Chetan Anwar has drawn attention to the poor condition of basic facilities at the bus stand. He alleged that passengers were facing a shortage of drinking water and foul-smelling toilets.

As the borewell water was reportedly declared unfit for drinking, he demanded the immediate installation of a purified drinking water facility. He also sought the replacement of broken seats, installation of fans and steps to address the unpleasant smell from the toilets.

Anwar urged KKRTC engineers to improve passenger amenities and provide a comfortable waiting environment.

Responding to the drinking water concern, KKRTC Chincholi Depot Manager Suresh Tegalatippi said the materials required for the purification unit were yet to be installed. He assured that purified drinking water would be made available to passengers within 24 hours.

YADGIR PHC UNUSED

₹6 crore PHC building remains unused a year after completion in Yadgir

CH NEWS, YADGIR

A modern Primary Health Centre (PHC), constructed at a cost of ₹6 crore at Koulur village in Yadgir taluk, has remained unused for nearly a year despite the completion of construction work. Delays in completing the handover process have deprived residents of 13 surrounding villages of access to improved healthcare facilities.

While the spacious, 12-bed model PHC stands ready, patients continue to depend on the old and cramped health centre, which lacks adequate infrastructure and space.

The new facility was built to serve Koulur, Killanakera, Jinakera, Gowdagera, Munnur, Jinakera Tanda and other nearby villages. However, it is yet to be commissioned due to pending formalities and outstanding construction bills.



More than 40 outpatients visit the existing health centre every day. The number reportedly rises to nearly 70 on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, putting additional pressure on its limited facilities. Patients are treated in small rooms, causing considerable inconvenience.

The new campus, located along Munnur Road, has separate residential quarters for medical officers, trainee medical officers, nursing staff and Group-D employees. The facility is expected to improve healthcare delivery by providing more beds and better infrastructure.

According to local residents, construction was initially delayed due to a shortage of funds. Although the main building has been completed, the handover process, staff deployment and supply of medical equipment remain pending.

Residents also said windowpanes damaged by miscreants were subsequently replaced. A site engineer said electrical connections, lighting and fans had been installed. The premises would be cleaned and levelled with murrum before being handed over.Medical Officer Dr Yashwant said the existing building was inadequate for the growing number of patients. The construction agency had earlier promised to hand over the new facility during Dasara or Deepavali, but failed to meet the deadline.

"We are also waiting for the handover of the new building. We have now been assured that the remaining work will be completed this month," he said.Sambashiva, project manager of the Health Department's building project, said construction began three years ago and was completed about a year ago. However, bills amounting to approximately ₹1 crore remain unpaid due to delays in the release of funds."This has delayed the handover process. The remaining work will be completed, and the building will be handed over by the end of this month," he said.

Koulur PHC

- **Cost:** ₹6 crore
- **Beds:** 12
- **Serves:** 13 villages
- **Outpatients:** 40+ a day; nearly 70 on Mon-Wed
- **Bills unpaid:** about ₹1 crore

District Health Officer Dr Sanjeevkumar Raichurkar said he would obtain details, inspect the facility and initiate necessary action.

The prolonged delay has raised questions about administrative coordination and accountability, as residents continue to rely on an ageing health centre despite the investment in a modern facility.

Quick Read

Skeletal remains found near Bajpe Airport, UP worker feared killed

CH NEWS, MANGALURU

Skeletal remains discovered near Mangaluru International Airport at Bajpe have raised suspicions of the murder of a missing migrant worker from Uttar Pradesh. Investigators are examining financial transactions linked to the case, including amounts reportedly transferred from Rajan's bank account to Shravan's account. The transactions have become part of the investigation into the worker's disappearance and suspected murder. Police are investigating the circumstances surrounding the discovery of the remains and examining the financial links to establish what happened.

Father kills 16-year-old son amid marital dispute

CH NEWS, TUMAKURU

A 16-year-old boy was allegedly murdered by his father following a dispute between the husband and wife in Kunigal taluk of Tumakuru district. The deceased has been identified as Sunil (16). The father allegedly attacked his son with a crowbar, resulting in his death. The incident reportedly stemmed from ongoing differences between the couple, with the teenager becoming a victim of the family dispute. The incident has shocked residents of the area. Further details regarding the circumstances of the crime and police investigation are awaited.

Student killed by Shatabdi Express train in Mandya

CH NEWS, MANDYA

A student was killed after being struck by the Shatabdi Express train in Mandya district. The tragedy occurred when the student reportedly attempted to get a closer look at the approaching train. The incident has caused concern among local residents. The circumstances surrounding the accident are yet to be fully established. Further details about the deceased student and the incident were not immediately available.

Shivamogga teacher accused of insulting underprivileged students

A Shivamogga government Urdu teacher allegedly humiliated disadvantaged students with derogatory remarks about their families' occupations and backgrounds.



The Government Urdu-English Upgraded Higher Primary School at Tipu Nagar in Shivamogga.

CH NEWS, SHIVAMOGGA

Serious allegations have emerged against a teacher at a government Urdu school in Shivamogga, accusing her of humiliating underprivileged students by making derogatory remarks about their families' occupations and economic backgrounds.

Parents have lodged a complaint with the Block Education Officer (BEO), demanding the immediate transfer of Rafia Ghazali, a teacher at the Government Urdu School on 6th Cross, Tipu Nagar, and disciplinary action against her.

According to the complaint, the teacher allegedly made insulting remarks about students from economically weaker families instead of encouraging and supporting them in their education.

What she allegedly said

Parents alleged that she told students that children of poor auto-rickshaw drivers would grow up to become auto-rickshaw drivers themselves, while children of scrap dealers would continue in the same occupation. She also allegedly made disparaging comments about the future of girls, saying they would marry men engaged in tile-laying work.

Parents demand action over teacher's remarks

Outraged parents sought a government school teacher's immediate transfer after she allegedly mocked poor students' family livelihoods, claiming they would inherit menial jobs. The remarks humiliated children, making them reluctant to attend school, prompting calls for Department of School Education intervention.

The remarks reportedly caused considerable distress among students, who felt humiliated by comments targeting their families' livelihoods. Parents claimed that some children had become reluctant to attend school because of the teacher's alleged behaviour.

Angered by the allegations, parents approached the BEO's office and sought the teacher's immediate transfer and appropriate disciplinary action.

Call for an encouraging classroom

They said government schools should provide children from economically weaker sections with an encouraging learning environment and opportunities to improve their lives. They expressed concern that humiliating students over their family backgrounds could affect their confidence, education and future prospects.

The incident has also triggered demands for intervention by the Department of School Education. Members of the public have urged education officials to examine the complaint, speak to the students and parents, and take appropriate action based on the findings.

Government schools serve children from diverse economic backgrounds, making a respectful and supportive classroom environment essential. Parents have called for steps to ensure that students are treated with dignity and are not discouraged from pursuing their education because of their families' occupations or financial circumstances.

The allegations against the teacher are yet to be established.

KPSC exam for 319 KAS posts ends smoothly in Karwar

1,970	990	984
candidates registered	wrote the morning session	wrote the afternoon session

The KPSC preliminary exam for 319 Gazetted Probationers (KAS) posts concluded smoothly across four centres in Uttara Kannada district on Sunday.

CH NEWS, KARWAR

The Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) preliminary examination for the recruitment of 319 Gazetted Probationers (KAS) posts concluded smoothly across four examination centres in Uttara Kannada district on Sunday.

A total of 1,970 candidates had registered for the examination, which was conducted at Government Pre-University College, Government Arts and Science College (Autonomous), Government Polytechnic College and Government Engineering College in Majali.

The examination was held in two sessions. In the first session, conducted from 10 am to noon, 990 candidates appeared while 980 remained absent. In the second session, held from 2 pm to 4 pm, 984 candidates appeared and 986 were absent.

The district administration made extensive security arrangements to ensure transparency and prevent examination malpractice. Two invigilators were appointed for each examination hall. CCTV surveillance, webcasting, mobile signal jammers and candidate screening procedures were also implemented.

Deputy Commissioner Harshal Bhoyar visited the Government Pre-University College and Government Engineering College in Majali to inspect the examination arrangements.

He also inspected the webcasting control centre established at the Deputy Commissioner's office, where CCTV footage from the examination centres was monitored.

Officials said the examination was conducted in accordance with the prescribed guidelines, without any untoward incidents or disruptions.

ITI Principal Gavi Shankar wins State-Level Best Principal Award

CH NEWS, KOPPAL

Gavi Shankar, principal of the Government Industrial Training Institute (ITI) in Koppal, has received the 'Best Principal' award at the state-level Kaushalya Karnataka Summit 2026 in recognition of his contributions to technical education and skill development.

The award ceremony, organised by the Karnataka Department of Skill Development, Entrepreneurship and Livelihood, was held at The Lalit Ashok hotel in Bengaluru. Minister for Skill Development, Entrepreneurship and Livelihood and Medical Education Dr. Sharanprakash Patil presented the award.

Technology in the classroom

Gavi Shankar was recognised for introducing innovative training methods by integrating modern technology, digital tools and practical learning into technical education. He has also worked towards improving students' employment opportunities by establishing direct connections with industries and effectively implementing government schemes.



Koppal ITI principal Gavi Shankar received the 'Best Principal' award from Minister Dr. Sharanprakash Patil at Bengaluru's Kaushalya Karnataka Summit.

His initiatives include encouraging women, particularly those from rural backgrounds, to acquire technical skills and achieve economic independence. He has also motivated students to participate in national and international skill competitions.

In addition to managing the Koppal ITI, he has taken responsibility for three other government ITIs, contributing to their institutional development and the improvement of training facilities.

His efforts to maintain a supportive relationship with staff and provide quality technical education have also been recognised.

Faculty members and students of the institute expressed happiness over the achievement and congratulated Gavi Shankar on receiving the prestigious state-level recognition.

Documentary on Siddharoodha Swamiji's life and teachings unveiled in Hubballi

CH NEWS, HUBBALLI

A documentary titled Shiva Ansh – A Documentary Film on Siddharoodha Swamiji was unveiled at a special screening ceremony held at Sri Siddharoodha Math in Hubballi.

The 15-minute film aims to introduce the life, teachings and spiritual legacy of Sri Siddharoodha Swamiji to a wider audience through visual media.

Thousands at the screening

The documentary highlights the Swamiji's teachings of Advaita philosophy, spiritual wisdom, sacrifice, detachment and human welfare. Thousands of devotees gathered in front of Kailasa Mantapa to watch the screening, which received an enthusiastic response. A Hindi devotional song featured in the film was particularly appreciated by the audience and dignitaries.

The documentary was conceptualised and produced by brothers Vijay Kiran Bakale and Vinayak Kiran Bakale. It was jointly unveiled by the creators, their father Kiran (Krishna) Bakale and other dignitaries.



At the screening of the documentary at Sri Siddharoodha Math in Hubballi.

The event was attended by Sri Siddharoodha Math Chairman Sri Balu Magajikondi, Honorary Secretary Vinayak Ghodake and trustees Shamananda Pujeri, Basavaraj Kalyanashettar, Channaveer Mungaravadi and Siddanagouda Patil.

Legislative Council member Lingaraj Patil, Police Commissioner Borase Bhushan Gulabrao, former MLA Ashok Katwe, former Minister A.M. Hindasageri and other prominent personalities were present. They also unveiled a special poster titled The Untold Adhyaya.

The dignitaries appreciated the initiative to present the Swamiji's teachings in Kannada and Hindi, expressing hope that the documentary would reach audiences across the country and inspire future generations.

Another documentary, Ek Camera Ek Kahani – Kiran Bakale, tracing Kiran Bakale's nearly four-decade journey in photography and journalism, was also screened along with a song dedicated to his career.

Kiran Bakale thanked his sons for the initiative and expressed gratitude to the dignitaries, Math authorities, devotees and media representatives. Dr B.S. Malawada compered the programme, which concluded with a vote of thanks.

The documentary

FILM	Shiva Ansh
LENGTH	15 minutes
MADE BY	Vijay Kiran and Vinayak Kiran Bakale
IN	Kannada and Hindi

Dhruvatare felicitates environmental activists at event

CH NEWS, HUBBALLI

The Dhruvatare organisation organised a felicitation programme to honour two distinguished personalities on the occasion of the inauguration of 'Dhruva Events', a new venture launched by Bhimasi Kurdikeri and Shivaprasad Melinamani at Gokula village.

Prof. S.M. Satmar, president of the Rani Channamma Environment Service Committee, litterateur and retired principal, and Dr. Suresh D. Horakeri, secretary of the same committee, were felicitated in recognition of their contributions to environmental conservation, education, literature and social service.

Dr. Horakeri holds several important positions in social, educational and literary organisations. He serves as secretary of the Basava Environment Conservation Committee, vice-president of the Dharwad district unit of the Karnataka Jnana Vijnana Samiti and working president of the district unit of the Karnataka Vachana Sahitya Parishat. He is also a trustee of the Horakeri Master Education Foundation and works as a librarian.

The programme was organised as part of the celebrations marking the launch of Dhruva Events. The organisers said the felicitation was an opportunity to recognise and appreciate the sustained contributions of individuals working for environmental awareness, education, literature and public welfare.

The gathering also highlighted the importance of encouraging people who dedicate their time and efforts to social and cultural activities. The presence of members of the Dhruvatare organisation, family members and well-wishers added to the significance of the occasion.

NAME CHANGE

I , **SRIKANTH R CHAWAN S/o Raghunath Rao**, aged about 39 years , Residing at No.106, Amrutha Lake Woods, Royal Enclave, Rachenahalli, Jakkur Post, Bangalore -560 064, Aadhar No.5885 0353 4612 have Changed my Name from **Raghunath Rao Srikanth to Srikanth R Chawan** Vide affidavit date 2-11-2026 before Notary Leela Bengaluru.

Tiger kills cow, triggers fear among Kodagu villagers

CH NEWS, MADIKERI

Fear of tiger attacks has resurfaced in Kodagu district after a tiger killed a cow and consumed part of its carcass at Nariyandada village near Cheyyandane.

The cow belonged to Jaishankar, a resident of Nariyandada. According to villagers, the tiger attacked the animal, killed it and ate approximately half of the carcass before leaving the spot.

Tiger pugmarks were reportedly found near the site, indicating the presence of the big cat in the area. The incident has caused concern among residents of Nariyandada and neighbouring villages, particularly those who depend on cattle for their livelihood.

Villagers seek capture

Following the incident, villagers urged the Forest Department to take immediate steps to capture the tiger and prevent further attacks on livestock.

Residents expressed concern over the safety of their cattle and demanded increased monitoring in the affected areas. They said timely intervention by forest officials was necessary to prevent similar incidents and reassure villagers.

The incident has once again brought attention to human-wildlife conflict in the district, with residents seeking effective measures to protect livestock and ensure public safety.



Nariyandada, near Cheyyandane in Kodagu, where the tiger killed the cow.

RANEBENNUR FARMERS PROTEST

Over 40 farmers allege ₹1.30 crore paddy payment fraud



Farmers protesting outside the rice mill in Davanagere.

CH NEWS, DAVANAGERE

More than 40 farmers from Ranebennur taluk have accused the owners of Dandothi Rice Mill in Davanagere of failing to pay ₹1.30 crore for paddy purchased from them.

Alleging that the mill management has been evading payment and threatening those demanding their dues, the farmers have launched an indefinite day-and-night protest in front of the mill.

The farmers from Eeladalli, Uddaghatta and Belur villages reportedly sold their paddy to the mill, owned by Srinivas, through an intermediary named Siddappa.

According to the farmers, the mill management initially offered prices higher than the prevailing market rate and assured them that payments would be made in cash. However, after receiving the paddy consignments, the owners allegedly changed their stand and began delaying payments, citing RTGS bank transfers as the mode of settlement.

The farmers claim that an outstanding amount of approximately ₹1.30 crore remains unpaid.

The farmers further alleged that Srinivas and his associates threatened them when they approached the mill seeking payment. Frustrated by repeated delays, more than 40 farmers gathered outside the premises and began their protest. They also alleged that the owner left the premises as the protesters assembled.

> "Pay us for our paddy or return the paddy itself"
>
> — The protesting farmers, Ranebennur taluk

"This is the fruit of our hard work, not anybody's personal property. Pay us for our paddy or return the paddy itself," the protesting farmers demanded.

Farmer Shanthamma Barki broke down during the protest, expressing concern over the financial difficulties faced by farming families who had borrowed money to cultivate their crops.

Farmers, along with intermediary Siddappa and farmer leader Maganahalli Manjunath, urged the authorities to intervene and ensure that their dues were recovered.

The protesters have demanded immediate payment of the outstanding amount and said they would continue their agitation until their grievances were addressed.

Quick Read

2 youths killed as KSRTC bus hits bike

CH NEWS, TUMAKURU

Two youths were killed on the spot after a KSRTC bus collided with their motorcycle near Madihalli on the Tiptur–Arasikere road in Tumakuru district. The victims, identified as Sanju (23), son of Dinesh from Geddalehalli, and Harsha (23), son of Anand Kumar from Bairanayakanahalli, were returning from a relative's wedding. According to sources, the accident occurred when they were attempting a U-turn and a bus travelling from Arasikere towards Tiptur struck their motorcycle. Tiptur Town police visited the spot and initiated an investigation into the incident.

Governor interacts with tribal families, seeks action on grievances

GOVERNOR DR. SUDHA YADAV HONOURED BHAGWAN BIRSA MUNDA AND DIRECTED LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO PRIORITISE TRIBAL GRIEVANCES DURING HER MOLAKALMURU VISIT.

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

Governor Dr. Sudha Yadav interacted with tribal families during her visit to Muttigarahalli in Molakalmuru taluk on November 15 and directed the district administration to give priority to resolving their grievances.

The Governor began her visit by paying floral tributes to Bhagwan Birsa Munda, recalling his courage, sacrifices and struggle for the rights and dignity of tribal communities.

She later held a discussion with tribal families, listening to their concerns, aspirations and everyday challenges. Emphasising that the benefits of development must reach all sections of society, she enquired about their living conditions and the availability of basic amenities.



Tribal families greet the Governor at Muttigarahalli in Molakalmuru taluk

The interaction covered education, school infrastructure, drinking water supply, ration distribution and Anganwadi services. She also discussed challenges affecting girls' education and enquired about the functioning, membership and activities of women's self-help groups.

Villagers placed several demands before the Governor, including the supply of fodder for sheep, goats and cattle, a reliable drinking water system and a dedicated building for the Anganwadi centre.

The Governor heard their grievances and directed officials to examine the demands and take appropriate action. She instructed the district administration to ensure that eligible beneficiaries receive the benefits of government welfare schemes and to coordinate with elected representatives to address issues affecting the tribal community.

She also stressed the need to ensure sustainable water availability through rainwater harvesting and conservation measures.

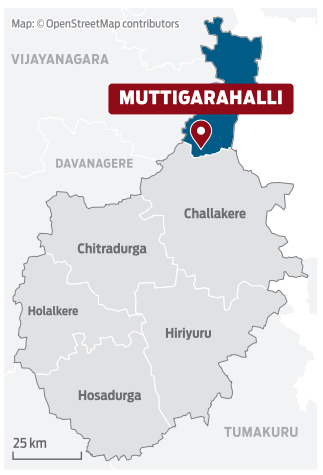
Observing that direct interaction with people was essential to understanding their actual needs, she called for administrative measures to improve their living conditions.

The Governor emphasised holistic and inclusive development, with particular attention to education, basic infrastructure, women's empowerment and the welfare of tribal families.

Deputy Commissioner Ramya, Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer Akash and other district-level officials and dignitaries were present.

At Muttigarahalli

- **Reviewed:** education, water supply and Anganwadi services
- **Villagers asked for:** livestock fodder, reliable water and an Anganwadi building
- **Directed:** officials to address the grievances, ensure welfare schemes reach people and promote rainwater harvesting



Muttigarahalli: Molakalmuru taluk, Chitradurga district

Rayareddy's KDP review puts Gadag officials on alert

MALINGARAYA PUJAR, GADAG

District-level officials are preparing for a rigorous review as State Higher Education Minister and Gadag District In-charge Minister Basavaraj Rayareddy is set to chair the two-day Quarterly Progress Review (KDP) meeting today and tomorrow (November 16 and 17) at the Zilla Panchayat Hall.

The meeting will be Rayareddy's first comprehensive KDP review in Gadag district since assuming ministerial responsibilities. His reputation for a strict administrative approach has reportedly put officials on alert, with departments working to ensure that their records and progress reports are up to date.

The Deputy Commissioner's office has issued a notice directing officials from all district-level departments to reach the meeting hall at least 30 minutes before their allotted time. Department heads have also been instructed to attend personally with complete and accurate information about their respective departments. They have been told not to send subordinate officials in their place.



District administrative complex, Gadag

Department heads have been told to attend personally and not to send subordinate officials in their place

Notice to all departments

Preparations have reportedly intensified across government offices, with officials reviewing pending files, compiling statistics and collecting details of incomplete development works.

Rayareddy's earlier review meeting on the district's drought situation is still remembered by officials. During that meeting, he reportedly reprimanded officers who failed to provide satisfactory answers or presented inconsistent statistics. Show-cause notices were also issued to some officials over alleged negligence and inadequate preparation.

Drought review recalled

The upcoming KDP meeting is expected to focus on the progress of development programmes and the performance of various departments. Public concerns have been raised over delays in projects related to drinking water, roads, agriculture, healthcare and education.

Residents are hoping that the minister's review will help address administrative shortcomings and accelerate pending development works.

The two-day meeting is expected to test the preparedness and accountability of district officials. It remains to be seen whether departments will present satisfactory progress reports or face action over delays, incomplete information and alleged negligence.

VH Foundation adopts govt school in Hunsur on Children's Day

CH NEWS, HUNSUR

The VH Foundation has adopted the Government Upgraded School at Kebbe Koppalu village in Hunsur taluk, Mysuru district, on the occasion of Children's Day, taking a step towards improving educational facilities in rural areas.

The foundation was established by Varsha Harish Gowda, wife of Hunsur MLA G.D. Harish Gowda. Speaking at the event, she said the decision to adopt the school was taken after witnessing the poor condition of classrooms and infrastructure in rural government schools.

On Children's Day, the VH Foundation adopted the Government Upgraded School in Kebbe Koppalu village, Hunsur taluk, Mysuru district, to improve rural educational facilities.

Why the school

She said villagers had specifically requested school development when asked about their priorities, and she was happy to fulfil their demand. Emphasising that children are the future of the country, she said every rural child deserves quality education and a safe learning environment.

She added that the foundation aims to support parents by improving school facilities and helping children pursue higher education and better employment opportunities.

Temples of learning

MLA G.D. Harish Gowda urged villagers to treat government schools as temples of learning and contribute towards their maintenance, just as they support temple construction.Block Education Officer Kalanayaka, Education Department Field Coordinator Hemalatha, Cluster Resource Person Jayaram, Dr. Lohith, School Development Committee president Chikkegowda, village leaders, parents and students attended the programme.

As part of the Children's Day celebrations, Varsha Gowda joined the children in cutting a cake and shared a meal with them.

Governor Appreciates Chitradurga District Achievers



CHITRADURGA

Karnataka Governor Dr. Sudha Yadav appreciated the achievements of Chitradurga district farmers and entrepreneurs in agricultural value addition, organic farming, millet processing and dairy farming. She urged people to prioritize rainwater harvesting, water conservation and rural development.

During her journey to Ballari, the Governor interacted with achievers from various fields at the Circuit House in Hiriyur on Sunday over lunch. She discussed their accomplishments, experiences and contributions to society.

Emphasizing the importance of conserving water for future generations, she called upon achievers to create public awareness about rainwater harvesting and encourage community participation. She also advised youngsters to stay away from drugs and other harmful habits and contribute towards building a healthy society.

Girish of Srirampura Durga Siri-dhanya Farmer Producer Company explained that the company procures millets from farmers at support prices, processes them at a facility established at a cost of around Rs. 1 crore and markets products under the brand name 'Hosasiri' in Bengaluru.

Progressive farmer Konareddy shared his experience of practising chemical-free organic farming since 2010 using jeevamrutha, cow dung, cow urine and herbal preparations. He said organic farming had become profitable after initial challenges.

Sridevi explained how her Self-Help Group provides employment to more than 25 women through millet-based products and plans to expand under the PMFME scheme.

Woman killed in elephant attack; villagers demand permanent solution

CH NEWS, HASSAN

A 45-year-old woman was killed in a wild elephant attack while grazing goats near Kushavara village in Belur taluk of Hassan district. Following the incident, villagers launched a protest, refusing to allow the body to be moved for funeral rites until the authorities provide a permanent solution to the recurring human-elephant conflict.

When local MLA H.K. Suresh and MP Shreyas Patel reached the spot to pacify the protesters, villagers questioned them over the continued elephant menace and demanded concrete action. The protesters remained firm despite appeals from the elected representatives.

Call to the Chief Minister

During the protest, MP Shreyas Patel contacted Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and explained the villagers' demands. The Chief Minister reportedly assured him that immediate instructions would be issued to install railway barricades to prevent elephants from entering human settlements. He also asked the MP to bring a delegation to Bengaluru for discussions.

The Chief Minister assured that a meeting would be convened soon with the concerned ministers and officials to discuss a permanent solution. He also offered to attend the meeting on a date decided by the delegation.

Protest goes on

However, the villagers continued their protest, insisting that the wild elephants be relocated and demanding that the Forest Minister visit the spot.

Chief Conservator of Forests Yedukundalu and Divisional Forest Officer Harish were present at the location. Deputy Commissioner K.S. Latha Kumari also arrived to assess the situation and address the protesters' concerns.

Tension briefly escalated when a man identified as Seshadri attempted to move the woman's body. Protesters confronted him, questioning his presence and asking him not to interfere. A commotion followed, but police personnel intervened and brought the situation under control.

The villagers maintained that they would not proceed with the funeral until the government gives a clear assurance and takes concrete steps to prevent further elephant attacks in the area.

What was sought

Villagers
a permanent solution, the elephants relocated and the Forest Minister at the spot

The CM's word
railway barricades to keep elephants out, and a meeting with ministers and officials

Satyappa seeks funds for canal concrete lining

CH NEWS, HUNSUR

Satyappa, president of the Satya MAS Foundation, has urged the government to release funds immediately for concrete lining of the Shiriyuru and Husenapura canals originating from the Shiriyuru Dam in Hunsur taluk, stating that the necessary cost estimates have already been prepared and submitted.

He said the Shiriyuru canal, extending 16 km and serving around 1,600 acres, and the 16.5-km Husenapura canal are important for irrigating agricultural lands in the region. Concrete lining of both canals would ensure smoother water flow and reduce wastage, benefiting farmers.

Satyappa alleged that earlier works on the two canals, carried out at a cost of approximately ₹2 crore, were of poor quality, resulting in the waste of public funds. He said the present shortage of rainfall makes it particularly important to prevent water loss and ensure efficient irrigation.

He recalled that representations seeking concrete lining of the canals were submitted during the Praja Seva Ahavalu programmes held on September 5, 2026, in the presence of District In-charge Minister Yathindra Siddaramaiah, September 12 at Gavadagere and September 19 at Hangodu village.

A memorandum was also submitted to Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on October 3 during a public grievance redressal meeting in Piriyapatna, reiterating the demand for the project.

Satyappa appealed to officials of the Minor Irrigation Department to take immediate steps to release the required funds and begin the work without further delay.

He said the project would help conserve water, improve irrigation facilities and provide relief to farmers dependent on the canals. He also warned that the Satya MAS Foundation would continue its agitation until concrete lining of both canals was completed.

The two canals

Shiriyuru canal
16 km
served by it
1,600 acres
Husenapura canal
16.5 km

GUNDLUPET TEMPLE DESECRATED

Meat dumped at Gundlupet Hanuman temple, police complaint filed

CH NEWS, CHAMARAJANAGAR

An incident involving the alleged dumping of beef at an Anjaneya (Hanuman) temple in Gundlupet town, Chamarajanagar district, came to light on November 15, triggering anger and condemnation among local residents.

The incident was discovered when the temple priest arrived at the shrine to perform the morning prayers. He reportedly found meat dumped on the temple premises and brought the matter to the attention of others.

News of the incident spread quickly through the town, leading to resentment among residents and devotees. Several people expressed outrage over what they described as a deliberate act of disrespect towards the place of worship. Residents strongly condemned the incident and demanded that those responsible be identified and brought to justice.

Following the discovery, a complaint was lodged at the Gundlupet Police Station, urging the police to investigate the matter and arrest the persons involved. Residents also called for appropriate legal action against those found responsible.

The incident has raised concerns among local people, who have sought prompt intervention by the police to establish the circumstances under which the meat was dumped at the temple.

Residents urged the authorities to examine the complaint, identify those involved and take necessary steps to prevent similar incidents in the future. They also appealed to people to maintain peace and avoid actions that could disturb communal harmony in the town.

The police are expected to investigate the complaint and ascertain the facts surrounding the incident. The identity and motive of those responsible have not been established.

The incident has once again highlighted the importance of maintaining security at places of worship and ensuring that any act that could disturb public peace is addressed through a proper investigation and lawful action.

POISON IN THE AIR, POLITICS IN THE WAY: THE PUBLIC PAYS THE PRICE



LALIT GARGG



Festivals are meant to spread happiness, not poison the very air we breathe. Diwali, the festival of lights, symbolises illumination, joy, celebration and goodwill. But when the brilliance of festivities fills the skies with toxic smoke, when children and the elderly struggle to breathe, and when ordinary citizens are forced to yearn for clean air, it becomes imperative to reflect seriously on our festive traditions and collective social responsibilities. The irony is that even an issue as critical to human survival as pollution has become entangled in the smoke of political controversy. When people's very lives are at stake, viewing such a problem through the narrow lenses of religion, caste or political ideology is not merely unfortunate; it reflects a disturbing lack of social sensitivity.

Actress and environmental activist Dia Mirza recently raised awareness about the air and noise pollution caused by firecrackers. As part of its environment-friendly Diwali campaign, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) released her video message. However, following political controversy, the video was taken down. This naturally raises an important question: How can speaking against pollution become a matter of controversy? How can an artist's appeal for environmental protection be interpreted as opposition to a religion or a festival? The Bombay High Court's direction to restore the video sends a powerful message that voices advocating public welfare must not be silenced under political pressure. Environmental protection is neither the exclusive domain of any individual, political party nor religion; it is a shared responsibility of the entire society.

The example of Mumbai further exposes the gravity of the situation. Traditionally, Mumbai has enjoyed relatively better air circulation than Delhi because of its coastal location and sea breezes. Yet, the city is now increasingly grappling with a serious pollution crisis. According to the BMC's Environment Status Report 2025–26, 13 out of Mumbai's 14 air-quality monitoring stations recorded annual average PM10 levels exceeding the national permissible limit of 60 micrograms per cubic metre. In Chembur and the Bandra-Kurla Complex, the level reached as high as 125 micrograms per cubic metre. These figures are not merely statistics; they raise serious questions about an urban development model in which buildings continue to grow taller while the share of clean air available to citizens keeps shrinking.

> *"Let us celebrate the festival of light, not turn it into a festival of pollution. This is the call of the hour and the true, enlightened meaning of a celebration rooted in wisdom, compassion and collective responsibility."*
> LALIT GARGG

It is essential to understand that neither Mumbai nor Delhi can absolve itself of responsibility by placing the entire blame for pollution on Diwali firecrackers. Dust generated at construction sites, accumulated road dust, vehicular emissions, industrial pollution, open burning of garbage and inadequate urban planning are among the major contributors. Firecrackers aggravate the pollution crisis during festive periods, but the sources of pollution remain active throughout the year. Therefore, imposing restrictions only around Diwali and turning a blind eye to the problem during the rest of the year is not a solution; it is merely an exhibition of seasonal activism. The fact that 13 monitoring stations in Mumbai have recorded pollution levels above the national standard makes it clear that environmental protection cannot be left to the mercy of sea breezes.

The situation in Delhi and the National Capital Region is even more alarming. With the onset of winter, falling temperatures, slower wind speeds and the accumulation of pollutants in the atmosphere cause air quality to deteriorate rapidly. Residents of Delhi, Ghaziabad, Noida, Gurugram and Faridabad are compelled to confront this toxic environment year after year. Morning walks, once regarded as a means of maintaining good health, increasingly become a potential health hazard. Children suffer from coughing and respiratory irritation, elderly people experience breathing difficulties, and those with pre-existing health conditions are forced to make repeated visits to hospitals. When the air that should carry the music of life becomes saturated with poison, all claims of development begin to sound hollow.

In this context, the intervention of the Supreme Court is significant. The Court granted temporary permission in Delhi-NCR for the limited sale and use of certified green firecrackers during Diwali, subject to prescribed timings. For November 7 and 8, the permitted hours were 6 a.m. to 7 a.m. and 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. Thereafter, a complete ban came into effect again from November 9. The Court has also emphasised strict monitoring to prevent violations and to ensure that conventional firecrackers are not illegally marketed under the label of green firecrackers.

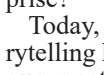
But the fundamental question remains: Why do strict judicial orders on paper so often prove ineffective on the ground? The sale of conventional firecrackers disguised as green alternatives, fireworks beyond the permitted hours and the open trade in prohibited materials expose serious weaknesses in the administrative machinery. Merely framing laws is not enough; their impartial and stringent enforcement is equally essential. If violators continue to enjoy political patronage or benefit from administrative indifference, even the directives of constitutional courts will simply disappear into the haze of pollution.

Diwali can be celebrated with equal enthusiasm through limited use of firecrackers, community celebrations and environmentally responsible alternatives. The true spirit of a festival lies not in the intensity of noise, but in the happiness of hearts and the harmony of society. This is not an interference with anyone's religious freedom; rather, it is an expression of respect for the fundamental right of others to life and good health. The greatest irony is that when an actress like Dia Mirza uses her public platform to promote environmental protection, her message is dragged into a political controversy. On November 3, the Bombay High Court directed the BMC to re-upload her withdrawn video and observed that giving a political or communal colour to an environmental issue was inappropriate. This observation should serve as a wake-up call to our democratic conscience.

What we need today is a collective commitment involving governments, the judiciary, municipal authorities, political parties, the industrial sector, social organisations and ordinary citizens. Dust-control measures must be strictly implemented at construction sites; vehicular emissions must be closely monitored; public transport must be strengthened; the burning of garbage must be prohibited; and industries responsible for pollution must be held accountable. Citizens, too, must act responsibly by avoiding unnecessary use of firecrackers, refraining from burning waste and reducing excessive dependence on private vehicles.

Ultimately, the question is not simply whether firecrackers should be burst during Diwali. The real question is whether we will be able to provide future generations with clean air and a safe environment in which to live. Politics has its own place, just as religion and traditions have their own significance. But no celebration is greater than life, and no tradition can be more important than health. We must remember that pollution does not distinguish between caste, religion, language or political ideology before entering our lungs. The air belongs to everyone, and the crisis threatening it is a shared crisis for all. Let the lamps of Diwali illuminate our homes and courtyards. Let happiness spread and celebrations flourish, but let no one's breath be plunged into darkness.

THE MARKET FOR STORYTELLERS AND THE BUSINESS OF FAITH



DR. SATYAWAN SAURABH

When religion moves from being a spiritual practice to a medium of display, propaganda and fundraising, society should introspect.

For centuries, India has been recognized as a land of spirituality, religious tolerance, and moral values. Here, religion means not only worship, rituals, and temple visits, but also the embodiment of truth, compassion, service, sacrifice, and humanity. Saints, sages, and wise men have used religion as a means to awaken the inner consciousness of humanity. The stories of the Ramayana, Mahabharata, Shrimad Bhagavad Gita, and the Puranas have taught generations the art of living. But today, amid the growing splendor of religious events and stories, a serious question arises: Is religion truly a means of public welfare or is it gradually transforming into a massive commercial enterprise?

Today, a vast world of storytelling has emerged in various parts of the country. Large pandals, grand stages, impressive decorations, expensive sound equipment, special guests, publicity vehicles, and extensive publicity on social media are becoming hallmarks of religious events. The popularity of storytellers is now measured not only by their knowledge and ideas, but also by the number of their followers, the grandeur of the events, and their fame. The crowds that gather at some storytellers' events resemble a major entertainment event. Along with religious discourse, fame, publicity, and displays of financial strength are also becoming visible.

Storytelling is a respectable and important tradition in itself. Storytellers explain the essence of religious texts to society, impart moral teachings, and connect people to their cultural roots. Many saints and scholars have been working for years to spread spiritual awareness in society without any pretense. The problem lies not in the tradition of storytelling, but in its commercialization. When the cost of the storyteller becomes more important than the quality of the story, when the number of devotees and the amount of offerings become the measure of an event's success, and when economic power begins to be displayed in the name of religion, introspection becomes necessary.



Today, many religious events involve huge expenditures on the arrival of storytellers, stage arrangements, accommodation, security, and other amenities. A competition for prestige is also evident among organizers and devotees. Discussions about who can organize the largest event, who drew the largest crowd, and which prominent figure graced which storyteller's stage begin to overshadow the core message of the story. In some places, financial transactions and expensive arrangements are even publicly discussed in the name of storytelling. While it is not appropriate to view all storytellers or events with the same prism, it is society's responsibility to question this changing trend.

The most worrying situation arises when religious sentiments are used as a means of financial gain. Devotees donate out of their faith. Some dedicate a portion of their earnings, while others contribute their life savings to religious events. This is their personal devotion and should be respected. However, transparency in donations, their use, and the accountability of religious institutions are equally important. If funds collected in the name of religion are used for personal luxury and publicity rather than public service, the faith weakens.

Ironically, while offerings of gold and silver jewelry and precious items to temples are increasing, many children in society are still forced to sleep hungry. Many families, due to financial constraints, are unable to provide for their children's education, treatment, and food. Poor patients wait for help in hospitals, while schools remain resource-poor. In such a situation, it naturally begs the question: should the primary purpose of religious faith be lavish offerings and grand celebrations? Shouldn't the prosperity of temples also enrich the lives of the poor in the surrounding areas?

The true beauty of religion is revealed only when it wipes the tears of the oppressed, feeds the hungry, educates the uneducated, and offers hope to the hopeless. Lord Rama's ideals embody dignity and public welfare; Shri Krishna's message emphasizes action and duty; and Buddha's teachings embody compassion and nonviolence. Simply reciting these great traditions from the pulpit is not enough. Putting them into practice is true righteousness.

Social media also plays a significant role in the popularity of storytellers. Sermons of a few minutes, attractive costumes, emotional presentations, and impressive dialogue spread rapidly. This has led to the spread of religious ideas, but it has also increased the competition for showmanship and popularity. Serious religious topics are often presented in an entertaining manner. There is also a tendency to influence devotees through emotional statements and claims of miracles. In such situations, listeners should exercise discretion. A person's popularity is not automatically proof of their knowledge, character, or morality.

Society must also understand that not every storyteller is a businessman, and not every large-scale event is inappropriate. Expenses for organizing religious events are natural. Many storytellers serve selflessly and bring positive change to people's lives through their sermons. Therefore, criticism should not be directed at individuals, but at trends that link religion to wealth, prestige, and personal gain.

The government and social organizations also have a responsibility to encourage financial transparency in religious institutions. Devotees should be informed about the use of donations. Religious platforms should not be used to spread superstition, discrimination, and social animosity. Along with Katha events, programs such as blood donation, health camps, education for underprivileged children, cow service, and assistance to the needy should also be prioritized.

The need today is not to discontinue the Katha, but to revive its original purpose. Katha narrators should use their popularity to promote morality, harmony, and a spirit of service in society. Devotees should also understand the true message of the Katha, rather than being influenced only by miracles and sentimentality. Religion is not the property of any individual, but the common heritage of humanity.

Ultimately, the question isn't how big the Katha became, how grand the pandal was, or how much offerings were collected. The real question is how many people felt compassion after listening to the Katha, how many of the needy received help, and how many people adopted morality in their behavior. The day the success of religious events is measured by service, education, compassion, and human welfare, that day religion will be revealed in its true form. Protecting faith from becoming a commodity is not just the responsibility of storytellers, but of every devotee and the entire society.

> **"Religion became earning, the whole era changed. Protect your faith, wake up, devotees."**
> — Dr. Satyawan Saurabh

STROKE ISN'T ONLY A GRANDPARENT'S PROBLEM



DR. MAQSOOD AHMED A. R.

Stroke is often perceived as a health crisis affecting the elderly. Rarely do people associate it with adults in their mid-30s or early-40s. However, available medical data across Indian hospitals contradicts this perception. In fact, recent studies on stroke reveal that young adults accounted for nearly 16.7 percent of all stroke patients, a deeply concerning statistic for individuals in their 30s or 40s. The root cause is increasingly pointing towards a mix of genetics and everyday lifestyle choices. Among the risk factors, high blood pressure tops the list, closely followed by abnormal cholesterol or dyslipidaemia. The combination of the two in any individual would only mean heightened danger. Adding to this danger is the concerning fact that many young people do not regularly check their numbers, which may lead to hypertension going undetected for years. Add a family history of heart disease or stroke, and the risk climbs even higher. Diabetes is the third major risk factor, alongside smoking and chewing tobacco. The condition causes gradual damage to blood vessels over time, and smoking and chewing tobacco narrow the arteries. Add to it lifestyle factors such as chronic stress, poor sleep, long desk hours, and minimal exercise, and your body ends up taking a heavy toll. Researchers link the global rise in strokes among young adults directly to these growing daily habits.



When the Heart is the Source

Sometimes a stroke is actually created in the heart and a clot travels directly to the brain. A big one: rheumatic heart disease, which is shockingly common in India. Another is a patent foramen ovale (PFO), a small hole in the wall between the upper chambers of the heart, which can let a rogue clot slip through.

Undisclosed and Uncommon Triggers

- Tears in the neck artery (dissections) caused by a sudden neck jerk, trauma, or injury.
- Blood clotting disorders causing blood to clot easily.
- A specific type of clot in the brain's veins called Cerebral Venous Thrombosis (CVT), one of the leading causes of stroke in young Indians.
- Tuberculous meningitis infection causing swelling in the brain's vital blood vessels.
- Certain systemic triggers such as severe migraines, and hormonal changes related to oral contraceptive use, pregnancy and the postpartum period, as well as recreational drug use.

What can young adults do?

Don't wait for a wake-up call. Get your blood pressure, blood sugar, and cholesterol checked once a year, even if you feel completely healthy. Ditch tobacco, keep your body moving, and take any prescribed medications consistently. Above all, never dismiss sudden symptoms assuming you're "too young" for a stroke.

Remember BE FAST: sudden loss of balance (B), eye symptoms like double vision or blurred vision (E), a drooping face (F), a weak arm (A) and slurred speech (S) need an urgent (T, time) visit to a hospital with brain imaging facilities, a stroke-ready hospital. Recognise BE FAST and act fast. Call 108 and note the time symptoms began.

If you spot these signs, rush to a stroke-ready hospital without delay. Note the exact time symptoms started and call emergency services (108) immediately. Youth might feel like a shield, but age offers no real immunity here. Early check-ups and fast action are what truly save lives.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Make Pavements Safe Again

A short walk can become an obstacle course when pavements are broken, blocked by parked vehicles, or missing altogether. Children, older people, and wheelchair users often have to move into traffic simply to get past. Local authorities should repair damaged surfaces, keep crossings clear, and install ramps where pavements meet the road. They should also make it easy to report obstructions and publish a schedule for repairs so residents can see when problems will be addressed. Drivers can help by leaving pavements clear, even during brief stops. Walking should be a safe option for anyone going to school, catching a bus, or buying groceries. A continuous, accessible pavement can make these everyday journeys safer and easier for the whole community. **– Shobi**

Extend Public Library Hours

Public libraries give people a place to read, study, and use the internet without having to buy anything. Yet limited opening hours can put these services out of reach for students, workers, and parents. Library managers could survey readers and try opening on one evening or weekend morning each week. They could then use attendance figures and reader feedback to decide whether to keep the extra hours. Any trial should account for staffing costs and give employees predictable schedules. A change in opening times could give students somewhere quiet to finish assignments and job seekers time to complete applications. It could also give families a chance to browse the shelves and choose books together at the end of the week. **– Prabu**

Quick Read

Air India restores non-stop flights to New York

NEW DELHI

Air India on Sunday announced that it has resumed non-stop operations on all its flights connecting Delhi and Mumbai with New York, following the reopening of airspace that had previously forced the airline to introduce technical halts on some services due to operational constraints.

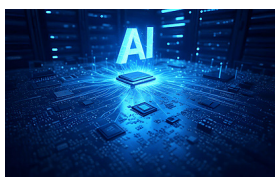
"Air India has restored non-stop operations on all its flights connecting Delhi and Mumbai with New York, following the reopening of previously restricted airspace that had necessitated technical stops on select services," the airline stated. The restoration of direct services is expected to reduce travel time by up to five hours on affected routes.

IndiGo flight returns safely to Pune after landing gear snag

PUNE

An IndiGo flight bound for Guwahati returned safely to Pune airport on Sunday morning after experiencing a technical issue involving its landing gear shortly after takeoff, prompting the Indian Air Force to declare a full emergency as a precautionary measure. The aircraft, operating as flight 6E 0623 (VT-IZE), had departed from Pune for Guwahati when the crew detected that the landing gear had failed to retract and remained extended.

The pilot immediately informed Air Traffic Control (ATC), following which airport authorities coordinated with IndiGo and other relevant agencies to manage the situation.



Tax accountant top scorer admits AI fraud in exams

SEOUL

The top scorer in this year's certified tax accountant exam admitted on Sunday to cheating in both rounds of the test using a miniature camera, a smartphone and generative artificial intelligence (AI) and said he had turned himself in to police.

The case is the latest in a series of AI-assisted cheating incidents in South Korea, where test-takers have recently been caught using AI glasses in university entrance exams and middle and high school tests.

The man, whose name has not been disclosed, made the admission on a lawyer's YouTube channel after the unusually high scores he revealed in a recent media interview sparked suspicions of cheating in online communities. He also said he had used the same method to cheat on a certified public accountant exam.

"I cheated by taking pictures of the questions with a miniature camera, sending them to AI, and checking the answers on a smartphone," the man said on the YouTube channel. "I wrote down everything I did in a statement of voluntary surrender and submitted it to the Seoul Metropolitan Police Agency."

The Ministry of Finance and Economy said it plans to move quickly to suspend the validity of his certificate confirming that he passed the exam.

Rajnath Singh calls for defence self-reliance

'India should strengthen indigenous inspection technologies and its Non-Destructive Testing ecosystem to improve preparedness and secure critical supply chains'.

HYDERABAD

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday stressed that self-reliance in the defence sector is a strategic necessity for India, calling for the country to emerge not just as a user of advanced technologies but also as a developer, innovator and global leader in critical technological domains.

Virtually addressing the 36th Annual Conference on Non-Destructive Evaluation and Enabling Technologies and the 15th International Symposium on Non-Destructive Testing in Aerospace in Hyderabad, Singh highlighted the importance of strengthening India's Non-Destructive Testing (NDT) ecosystem to improve defence preparedness and technological independence.

He emphasised the need to develop indigenous capabilities in advanced inspection technologies, specialised sensors, evaluation equipment and associated software. According to him, building domestic expertise in these areas would reduce technological dependencies and help secure critical defence supply chains.



Singh also called for consistent quality assurance practices across the defence industrial ecosystem, stressing that the accuracy and reliability of testing results must remain uncompromised, particularly in strategic applications.

He underlined the significant role of Public Sector Undertakings, private manufacturers, start-ups and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises in strengthening the country's NDT capabilities. He said inspection results must be accurate, reliable and traceable, supported by robust procedures, appropriate standards and assessments conducted by qualified professionals.

Explaining the importance of NDT technologies, Singh said they help examine the integrity of materials, components and structures without causing damage. Comparing the process with ultrasound and X-rays used in medical examinations, he highlighted their ability to detect internal defects without dismantling critical components.

Singh highlights India's vision

- Defence self-reliance is a strategic necessity
- India to become a developer and innovator of advanced technologies
- Strengthen indigenous Non-Destructive Testing capabilities
- Greater role for PSUs, private manufacturers, start-ups and MSMEs
- Testing accuracy and reliability essential in strategic applications

'India to outpace China with 7.2% growth in 2027'

NEW DELHI

The global economy is projected to grow 2.8% in 2027, marginally higher than the estimated 2.7% expansion in 2026, as easing energy prices and sustained investment in artificial intelligence (AI) are expected to offset tighter financial conditions, according to a Goldman Sachs Research report.

Goldman Sachs Chief Economist and Head of Research Jan Hatzius said the global economic outlook reflected changing growth drivers, particularly energy costs, technology investments and fiscal policy.

"We expect another year of solid but unremarkable GDP growth in 2027," Hatzius said.

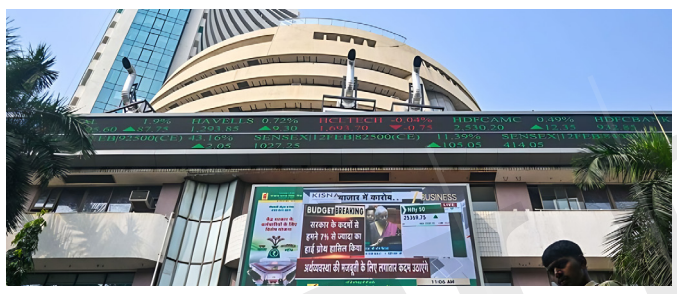
Among major emerging economies, India is projected to remain one of the fastest-growing, with its economy expected to expand by 7.2% in 2027, compared with 7.9% estimated for 2026.

The forecast is higher than the consensus growth estimate of 6.8%.

China's economy is projected to grow 4.5% in 2027, marginally above the consensus estimate of 4.4%. Exports are expected to support growth despite subdued domestic consumption and persistent challenges in the property sector.

The investment bank expects the United States, Japan and the United Kingdom to record growth above market consensus estimates. South Korea and Taiwan are also expected to benefit from sustained global demand for AI-related exports.

MARKETS BRACE FOR A VOLATILE WEEK



MUMBAI

Indian equities may witness volatility this week as investors monitor foreign inflows, crude prices, inflation concerns and Nvidia's earnings.

Indian equity markets are expected to remain volatile this week as investors closely monitor foreign institutional investor (FII) flows, crude oil prices, Nvidia's quarterly earnings and changing interest rate expectations.

The domestic benchmark indices witnessed profit booking towards the end of last week after recording a strong rally that had pushed the Sensex and Nifty higher. Despite the correction, sustained foreign inflows and resilient corporate earnings helped the markets retain their weekly gains.

On Friday, November 13, the BSE Sensex declined 319 points to close at 81,592, while the Nifty 50 dropped more than 155 points to settle at 25,144. The decline ended the Nifty's three-session winning streak.

Market sentiment was affected by concerns surrounding global artificial intelligence-related trade, rising crude oil prices and expectations that monetary policy will tighten after domestic inflation rose more sharply than expected.

Foreign investor activity will remain a major factor in determining market direction. FIIs continued their buying activity for the tenth consecutive session on Friday, purchasing Indian equities worth Rs 5,736.55 crore, according to provisional NSE data.

Crude oil prices will also remain in focus as geopolitical developments in the Middle East create uncertainty over global energy supplies. Brent crude is currently hovering near $96 per barrel.

Meanwhile, global technology stocks will attract attention ahead of Nvidia's quarterly earnings announcement scheduled for Tuesday, November 17.

The company's financial performance and management commentary could influence sentiment surrounding the global artificial intelligence industry.

81,592	25,144	$96
Sensex close, Friday	Nifty 50 close, Friday	Brent crude, a barrel

CTI seeks GST cut on air purifiers amid demand surge in Delhi

NEW DELHI

Rising air pollution levels across the Delhi-NCR region have triggered a surge in health concerns, prompting an increasing number of people to install air purifiers in their homes and offices to protect themselves from polluted air.

Brijesh Goyal, Chairman of the Chamber of Trade and Industry (CTI), an organisation representing traders and entrepreneurs in Delhi and across the country, said demand for air purifiers has increased nearly fivefold over the past few days as pollution levels in the national capital have worsened.

"Previously, an average of four air purifiers were sold daily per shop; now, that figure has risen to approximately 20 units per day, with some companies even running out of stock," the CTI said.

CTI Chairman Brijesh Goyal and General Secretary Gurmeet Arora pointed out that air purifiers and HEPA (High-Efficiency Particulate Air) filters currently attract 18% Goods and Services Tax (GST), which they described as excessively high.

Goyal said the CTI has written to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, urging the government to reduce the GST rate on air purifiers and HEPA filters from the existing 18% to 5%.

The organisation argued that while the government continues to grapple with the pollution crisis, the high tax burden on air purifiers.

NITI Aayog plans 5 governance workshops



NEW DELHI

NITI Aayog will launch a series of five national workshops beginning Tuesday to document and examine lessons from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 25 years as Head of Government, with the aim of preserving the experiences as part of India's shared institutional knowledge.

According to an official statement issued on Sunday, the initiative will bring together individuals who have been part of this governance journey and document their first-hand experiences. The findings will be developed into case studies, research papers and teaching materials for civil servants, training institutions, universities, students and the wider public.

Modi assumed office as Gujarat Chief Minister on October 7, 2001, and served in the position for more than 12 years before becoming Prime Minister in May 2014. He is currently serving his third successive term. With the completion of 25 years on October 7, 2026, he became the longest-serving head of an elected government in India in terms of continuous tenure, according to the statement.

The initiative will examine governance principles including Pradhan Sevak, Antyodaya, Jan Bhagidari and Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas. It will also explore how these approaches have shaped public administration and development.

The five workshops will cover Leadership as Mission in November 2026, Governance as Delivery in January 2027, Development as Inclusion in April 2027, Civilisational Identity in July 2027 and India as a Global Force in September 2027.

The first workshop, titled Leadership as Mission, will take place at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi on November 17. It will examine how leadership decisions translate into tangible outcomes for citizens.

Workshop details

- **NOVEMBER 17** — Leadership as Mission, Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi
- **JANUARY 2027** — Governance as Delivery
- **APRIL 2027** — Development as Inclusion
- **JULY 2027** — Civilisational Identity
- **SEPTEMBER 2027** — India as a Global Force

National conference on cyber security from today



NEW DELHI

The National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology (NIELIT), under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), will organise the third National Conference on Cyber Security, Digital Forensics and Intelligence (NCCDFI 2026) in the national capital on November 16-17, it was announced on Sunday.

The two-day conference will be held at the Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, Janpath, under the theme 'Cyber Secure Bharat: Fortifying India's Digital Future'.

The conference comes at a time when growing dependence on digital technologies, increasingly sophisticated cyber threats and the changing nature of cybercrime have made cybersecurity and digital investigations critical areas of national importance.

NCCDFI aims to bring together stakeholders from government departments, law enforcement agencies, defence establishments, the judiciary, industry, academia and the technology sector to deliberate on emerging cyber threats and challenges in digital investigations.

It will also aim to strengthen coordination between agencies, enhance capabilities in cybersecurity and digital forensics, and explore emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, blockchain security and cyber intelligence.

The conference, which began in 2024 with its inaugural edition in Kohima, Nagaland, was subsequently held at Gauhati University in Guwahati, Assam, in 2025.

The third edition seeks to expand the national platform through greater participation, technology demonstrations, knowledge exchange and collaboration among key stakeholders.

NCCDFI 2026 will feature 10 thematic tracks covering cybersecurity, digital forensics, AI security, critical infrastructure, threat intelligence, blockchain and cryptocurrency, drone and IoT forensics, digital evidence, cyber law and cloud security.

The two-day event will include an inaugural session, technical and business sessions, panel discussions, an industry exhibition and Cyber Kushti 2026, a cybersecurity and AI hackathon.

NCCDFI 2026

WHEN	November 16-17
WHERE	Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, Janpath, New Delhi
THEME	'Cyber Secure Bharat: Fortifying India's Digital Future'
TRACKS	10, from AI security to cloud security
HACKATHON	Cyber Kushti 2026

DID YOU KNOW?

The conference began in 2024 with its inaugural edition in Kohima, Nagaland, and was held at Gauhati University in Guwahati, Assam, in 2025.

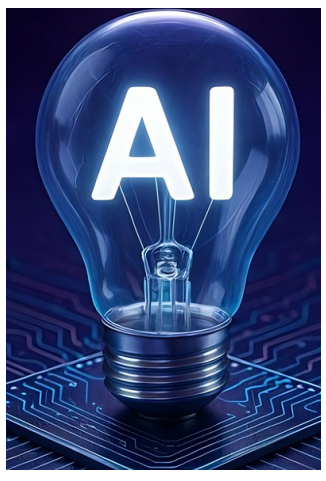
TRIBAL LANGUAGES

AI-powered 'Adi Vaani' bridges tribal digital divide

NEW DELHI

Adi Vaani, an AI-powered translation and language platform, aims to bridge the digital divide for tribal communities. Starting with Santali, Bhili, Mundari and Gondi, Adi Vaani has expanded to offer text translation in nine tribal languages, a government factsheet said on Sunday.

Launched by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs on September 1, 2025, it was developed by a national consortium led by IIT Delhi, along with BITS Pilani, IIIT Hyderabad, IIIT Nava Raipur and the Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs) of Jharkhand, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Meghalaya.



Over time, several other state Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs) also joined the initiative, further expanding its collaborative reach across the country.

35,000+ Android downloads

6,500 monthly users, around

9 tribal languages for text translation

13.9 lakh text sentences from State TRIs

It also provides speech translation, Optical Character Recognition (OCR), video subtitling, and access to more than 300 language primers. Primers are basic language learning resources designed to help new learners understand and practice tribal languages easily.

The platform has recorded over 35,000 Android downloads and around 6,500 monthly users, indicating its growing digital reach, said the factsheet.

"What makes Adi Vaani different is its community-based approach. Native speakers contribute words, sentences, and voice recordings through TRIs and AdiKosh. These are checked by language experts before being used to train AI models. The project aims to collect around 1,00,000 sentence pairs and 100 hours of speech recordings per language," said the factsheet.

As on October 15, 2026, State TRIs contributed approximately 13.9 lakh text sentences across ten languages and around 300 hours of speech data.

This approach combines modern technology with community knowledge to support the preservation, learning and everyday use of tribal languages. Each language passes through five phases, from data collection to integration on the platform, and the models are retrained as the community contributes more data.

According to Census 2011, India has about 10.45 crore Scheduled Tribe people, accounting for about 8.6% of the country's population. Adi Vaani works with a total of 13 tribal languages across different regions of India.

Quick Read

3 held in ₹71 lakh digital arrest fraud

NEW DELHI

Delhi Police arrested three people for allegedly facilitating a ₹71 lakh digital arrest fraud in which a woman was cheated by a fraudster impersonating an IPS officer. The victim received a WhatsApp video call from someone posing as a Mumbai-based police officer, who falsely accused her of involvement in a ₹6.5 crore money-laundering case. Threatened with arrest, she transferred ₹71 lakh through two transactions.Investigators traced the money through multiple mule bank accounts and arrested Priyanka Prajapati, 31, Aman Soni, 28, and Pinky Soni, 30, in Bhopal. Police said around ₹15 lakh was withdrawn and distributed among the accused and associates. Three mobile phones allegedly purchased using the stolen money were recovered.

Building collapses in Paharganj

NEW DELHI

An under-construction building collapsed in Delhi's Paharganj area on Sunday, prompting an emergency response from the Delhi Fire Service.Officials said the fire department received a call about the collapse and immediately dispatched three fire tenders to the location.Fire personnel reached the spot and initiated response operations. However, details regarding casualties, injuries or the extent of damage were not immediately available.

Woman found murdered in clothing store

NEW DELHI

Delhi Police have arrested a man in connection with the murder of a woman whose body was found inside a clothing store in Moti Nagar. The victim was identified as Shabnam. Police received a call about blood at the shop around 8.51 pm on Saturday. Officers reached the location and found the woman's body in the changing room, with a knife lying nearby.Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police Saurabh Chandra said CCTV footage helped identify the accused. Eight to 10 police teams were formed, leading to his arrest.Preliminary inquiries revealed that the two families had existing ties, as the victim's sisters were married to the accused's brothers. Police are interrogating the suspect to establish the motive behind the murder.

Haryana unveils ₹44.83 crore projects across Kurukshetra

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini launched infrastructure projects worth ₹44.83 crore to strengthen electricity, healthcare, sanitation and urban connectivity.

KURUKSHETRA

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Sunday inaugurated and launched infrastructure projects worth ₹44.83 crore across Pipli, Ladwa and Thanesar in Kurukshetra district. The initiatives focus on improving electricity supply, primary healthcare, sanitation and urban infrastructure.

During his visit to Pipli, Saini inaugurated four completed projects worth ₹13.36 crore and laid foundation stones for two additional projects costing ₹31.47 crore. The completed works include 33 KV electrical substations in Sector 28, Kurukshetra, and Jogna Khera. These facilities are expected to reduce power fluctuations and improve electricity supply in surrounding areas.

The Chief Minister also inaugurated two sub-health facilities in Mirzapur and Dayalpur villages. Each centre was constructed at a cost of ₹55.50 lakh to improve access to primary healthcare services for residents in nearby rural communities.



Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini

Among the newly launched projects is a sewerage network supported by a 6.50 million litres per day (MLD) intermediate pumping station. The ₹31.47 crore development package also includes improvements to drainage and wastewater management in Pipli, Beed Pipli and neighbouring residential colonies along the Pipli-Ladwa corridor.

Another major project involves the renovation, structural improvement and beautification of KDB Road in Thanesar. The work will cover the stretch from the GT Road intersection near the Sector 2/3 dividing line to Udham Singh Chowk. The project is expected to ease traffic congestion and improve urban connectivity.

Earlier, Saini visited Neeldhari Gurudwara Pipli Sahib and offered prayers for peace, prosperity and social harmony in the state. He said he prayed for the well-being of all residents.

Initiative in focus

- **Investment:** ₹44.83 crore
- **Completed works:** ₹13.36 crore
- **Power:** two 33 KV substations
- **Healthcare:** two rural health centres
- **Infrastructure:** ₹31.47 crore for sewerage, drainage and road upgrades



Kurukshetra: works in Pipli, Ladwa and Thanesar

Tribal regions see fresh momentum through development



DHARAMJAIGARH

Chhattisgarh's tribal regions are witnessing progress through sports, education and welfare initiatives, creating new opportunities for young people.

BJP national president Nitin Nabin on Sunday said tribal regions of Chhattisgarh were witnessing a new phase of development, with sports, education and welfare initiatives creating opportunities for young people. Addressing the state-level Tribal Pride Day celebrations virtually, he highlighted changes in Bastar, once associated with Naxalism and violence.

Nabin was scheduled to attend in person but could not reach Dharamjaigarh due to adverse weather. He said observing Bhagwan Birsa Munda's birth anniversary as Janjatiya Gaurav Divas had brought national recognition to tribal icons and their contributions.

Highlighting the Bastar Olympics, Nabin said more than 1.5 lakh people participated in 2024, while the number rose to nearly four lakh in 2025.

He also cited educational progress, noting that Chhattisgarh had 75 Eklavya Model Residential Schools. In 2025-26, 408 students from these institutions qualified in JEE and other competitive examinations, including 346 who cleared JEE Main.

Praising initiatives under Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai, Nabin referred to central schemes such as PM-JANMAN, the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan and Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana.

Nabin recalled Bhagwan Birsa Munda, Veer Narayan Singh, Veer Gundadhur and Shaheed Gend Singh. He stressed that preserving tribal culture and identity was as important as economic development.

Modi meets Revanth ahead of Khelo India Youth Games

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Sunday ahead of the Khelo India Youth Games 2026, which Telangana will host from December 11 to 22. Telangana ministers N. Uttam Kumar Reddy and Vakiti Srihari, along with Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, accompanied the Chief Minister.

Revanth Reddy was in the capital to attend the unveiling of the logo and mascot for the sporting event.

Telangana will host the Khelo India Youth Games for the first time. The 12-day competition is expected to bring together 6,000 athletes and 1,800 support staff. It will feature 27 competitive sports and one demonstration discipline.

Hyderabad will host 22 medal events at venues including the Lal Bahadur Shastri Stadium complex in Basheerbagh and the Gachibowli sports complex. Other competitions will take place across five cities. Khammam will host archery, Hanumakonda athletics, Karimnagar judo, Nizamabad table tennis and Mahabubnagar kabaddi.

Mandaviya said the Games would provide young athletes a platform to display their abilities and progress towards higher levels of competition. He expressed confidence in quality performances, with the Games coming after the Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya.


Prime Minister Narendra Modi with the Telangana delegation in New Delhi

The 2026 edition will introduce softball as a competitive discipline. Sailing will feature for the first time as a demonstration event.

The Games

WHEN	December 11 to 22
WHERE	Hyderabad and five other cities
ATHLETES	6,000, with 1,800 support staff
SPORTS	27, plus one demonstration event
NEW	Softball; sailing as a demonstration

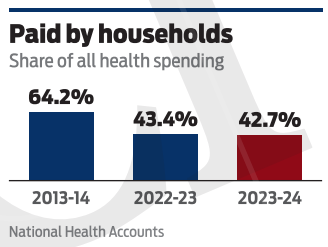
Govt health spend triples, households pay less

NEW DELHI

India's government health expenditure tripled over the decade to 2023-24, while the share of healthcare costs paid directly by households fell, according to the National Health Accounts estimates released by the Union Health Ministry. The figures point to a shift towards greater public financing of healthcare.

Government spending rose from ₹1.30 lakh crore in 2013-14 to ₹4.14 lakh crore in 2023-24. Meanwhile, out-of-pocket expenditure (OOPE) declined from 64.2 per cent to 42.7 per cent of total health expenditure, a fall of 21.5 percentage points. The household share edged down from 43.4 per cent in 2022-23.

The government's share of total health expenditure increased by 14.9 percentage points over the decade. Per capita government health spending climbed from ₹1,042 to ₹2,959. Public expenditure on primary healthcare reached ₹1.53 lakh crore, supporting services such as preventive care, disease screening, essential medicines and diagnostics through facilities including Ayushman Arogya Mandirs.



Insurance share grows

The estimates also recorded growth in social security spending on health, which rose from six per cent of total health expenditure in 2013-14 to 11 per cent in 2023-24. Private health insurance's share increased from 3.4 per cent to 10.2 per cent. The figures include contributions from government-funded and state insurance schemes, social health insurance and medical spending for government employees.

What drove the shift

The ministry attributed the changing financing pattern to measures including Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, free drugs and diagnostics initiatives, the National Dialysis Programme, Jan Aushadhi and AMRIT pharmacies.

Parliament winter session may see quota push

NEW DELHI

The winter session of Parliament is likely to begin in the first week of December, with the government prioritising a constitution amendment bill linking women's reservation to delimitation. The legislation seeks to increase the Lok Sabha's strength from 543 seats to a maximum of 850, paving the way for 33 per cent reservation for women in Parliament and state assemblies before the 2029 general elections.

The bill faces a significant numbers challenge. A Constitution amendment requires support from two-thirds of members present and voting. In the 543-member House, the threshold is 361 votes. The ruling National Democratic Alliance has 320 MPs and needs opposition support. Three vacancies have reduced the Lok Sabha's current strength to 540.


The Lok Sabha chamber (file picture)

The political atmosphere could complicate proceedings. Opposition parties have intensified protests over the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls and are demanding Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar's resignation. Their campaign could spill into Parliament, raising the possibility of disruptions. An NDA MP said voting on the bill would require the House to function smoothly. A senior government functionary expressed confidence that it could pass by 15 to 18 votes.

The government is reportedly considering increasing Lok Sabha seats by 50 per cent across states, addressing concerns that delimitation could disadvantage southern states. The proposal is also understood to retain the existing inter-state distribution of seats based on the 1971 Census, though no final decision has been made.

The Monsoon session was adjourned sine die on August 13 but has not been prorogued, fuelling speculation about the next sitting. The bill failed to secure the required numbers during a special sitting on April 17, making the winter session a crucial test for the ruling alliance.

IPL founder Lalit Modi becomes British citizen

LONDON

Indian Premier League (IPL) founder Lalit Modi has announced that he officially acquired British citizenship on September 15, 2026, describing the development as a proud personal milestone and the beginning of a new chapter in his life. He shared the announcement while addressing the Oxford Union on November 14.

Modi said he celebrated the citizenship ceremony with family and friends. He described the United Kingdom as his home for many years and expressed appreciation for its people, institutions, traditions and values. He added that becoming a British citizen brought both privilege and responsibility, which he accepted with gratitude and a sense of belonging.

Announced on the King's birthday

The announcement came on the occasion of King Charles III's birthday, which Modi described as a special time to share the news. He concluded his message with the words, "God Save the King!"

Modi left India in 2010 and has lived in the United Kingdom since then. He has faced investigations in India over alleged financial irregularities and money laundering. His acquisition of British citizenship comes more than a decade after his departure from the country.


Lalit Modi holds up a British passport

BJP appoints 6 leaders for UP voter enrolment

LUCKNOW

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has appointed six organisational leaders to oversee voter enrolment efforts across Uttar Pradesh following the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. The move comes after Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said more than 1.27 crore names were missing from the state's voter lists. The appointments were made on Saturday, according to party sources.

The leaders have been assigned to six regions to coordinate door-to-door campaigns and help residents check their details and enrol. Those appointed are Karamveer from Chhattisgarh, Chandrashekhar from Madhya Pradesh, Ajay Kumar from Rajasthan, N. Madhukar, who handles Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, Pawan Sai from Jharkhand, and Satish Dhond from Maharashtra.

The decision follows a meeting in Lucknow attended by Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya. Adityanath said thousands of voters were missing from electoral rolls in several Assembly constituencies where the BJP had won by narrow margins.

He said Form 6 would soon be made available at ration shops across the state. District presidents were assigned a target of enrolling 10,000 to 15,000 voters in each of Uttar Pradesh's 402 Assembly constituencies.

Adityanath criticised the SIR exercise on November 13, citing the reported deletion of more than 1.27 crore names. Uttar Pradesh sends 80 members to the Lok Sabha. In the 2024 general election, the BJP won 33 seats in the state, down from 62 in 2019.

ATF TAX RELIEF EXTENDED

Maharashtra extends 7% VAT relief on aviation fuel

MUMBAI

The Maharashtra government has extended the concessional seven per cent value-added tax (VAT) on aviation turbine fuel (ATF) until April 14, 2027, allowing airlines to continue benefiting from the reduced tax rate for another five months. The decision was announced through a Finance Department notification dated November 12.

The earlier concession, which was scheduled to expire on November 14, was introduced on May 14, when the state government reduced VAT on ATF from 18 per cent to seven per cent for six months, effective May 15. The lower rate applies to duty-paid aviation fuel.



The extension is expected to provide continued relief to airlines operating in the state, particularly at major airports in Mumbai, Navi Mumbai and Pune, where the earlier tax structure included an 18 per cent levy. Aviation turbine fuel is one of the biggest operating expenses for airlines, accounting for approximately 40 to 50 per cent of their total costs.

VAT on jet fuel

BEFORE MAY 15	TILL APRIL 14, 2027
18% the earlier rate	7% the concession, extended

The initial tax reduction came amid rising global crude oil prices and disruptions to airline operations caused by the conflict in West Asia. Higher fuel prices had increased financial pressure on carriers, prompting the state to introduce the temporary concession.

The extension is expected to help airlines manage fuel-related expenses and maintain operational costs. However, the overall financial benefit will depend on other factors, including fuel prices and additional operating expenditure.

Quick Read

BJP worker dies after alleged attack by party colleagues

KOLKATA

A BJP worker, Arup Saha, died after allegedly being assaulted by fellow party members during a confrontation in Panihati, West Bengal's North 24 Parganas district, on Saturday.The incident reportedly began when Saha's wife, Ruma Saha, a BJP functionary, objected to the alleged assault of a local businessman. She was subsequently verbally abused by party workers, prompting her husband to intervene. Saha sustained serious injuries and was taken to Sagar Dutta Medical College and Hospital, where he died on Sunday morning.Police are investigating the incident and examining the allegations.

SIT search at Veeramani's residence yields no remains

CHENNAI

A Special Investigation Team (SIT) search at the residence of Gem Group chairman R Veeramani in Chennai ended without recovering any remains, police said on Sunday. Officials excavated the garden on Saturday following information provided by a minor victim.The operation lasted over seven hours at the 84-year-old businessman's bungalow in Royapettah, with police, forensic officials and private contractors participating.Investigators were reportedly searching for the remains of a minor girl allegedly buried on the premises. A vehicle driver linked to the case was also questioned during the operation.On November 11, the SIT filed a 720-page charge sheet against Veeramani and two drivers in one of seven cases.

Kolkata man detained for allegedly killing partner's dogs

KOLKATA

A man was detained in Kolkata for allegedly killing his live-in partner's two dogs after she moved out of their shared flat in Bikramgarh, Jadavpur, police said.The accused, identified as Sanjib Bhattacharya, allegedly sent videos of the killings to the woman. According to police, she had left two dogs and several cats at the residence and reportedly owed him a few lakh rupees.Animal activist Debolina Dutta alleged that the man strangled one dog and smashed another puppy's head. Neighbours alerted police after the woman shared the videos. Officers reached the spot and detained Bhattacharya before he could allegedly harm a third pet. Investigation is underway.

PM Modi announces ₹3000 cr tribal development projects

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announces nearly ₹3,000 crore in tribal development projects, highlighting poverty reduction, welfare initiatives and improved security in tribal regions.

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi linked poverty reduction and improved security in tribal regions to government welfare initiatives, while announcing development projects worth nearly ₹3,000 crore. He addressed the Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas programme in Gadchiroli, Maharashtra, through video conferencing.

Modi said nearly 50 crore people had moved out of extreme poverty over the past 12 to 13 years, citing a World Bank report. He described this as a major achievement, saying it reflected collective efforts by citizens and society.

The Prime Minister said the Centre had allocated more than ₹1 lakh crore for the PM-JANMAN scheme and the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan to improve facilities in tribal areas. He cited housing, healthcare, electricity, sanitation and financial inclusion programmes as contributors.

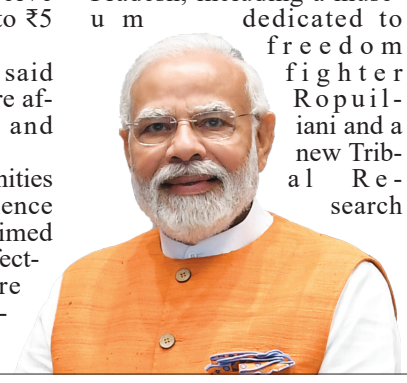
According to Modi, more than four crore permanent houses had been built for poor families, while electricity had reached 18,000 previously unelectrified villages. Under Ayushman Bharat, eligible families receive health coverage of up to ₹5 lakh.

On security, Modi said nearly 125 districts were affected by Naxalism and Maoism in 2014.

He said tribal communities had suffered from violence and restrictions, but claimed that areas previously affected by insurgency were now experiencing greater security.

The Prime Minister said more than 170 tribal development projects had been inaugurated across several States, with foundation stones laid for over 70 others. The projects cover education, healthcare, marketing facilities for tribal products and village infrastructure.

He highlighted initiatives in Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh, including a museum dedicated to freedom fighter Ropuiliani and a new Tribal Research Institute building. Modi paid tribute to tribal freedom fighters and urged people to make tribal development a time-bound national priority.



Key highlights

tribal development projects announced
Rs 3,000 cr
people out of extreme poverty in 12-13 years, Modi said
50 crore
for PM-JANMAN and the Dharti Aaba abhiyan
Rs 1 lakh cr+
projects inaugurated
170+
foundation stones laid
70+

UP CM distributes 50,000 tabs to empower students

50,000 tablets given out
18,000+ free courses via Infosys
96 lakh MSMEs at work, the CM said

LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday distributed 50,000 tablets to students under the Swami Vivekananda Yuva Sashaktikaran Yojana, aimed at improving digital access to education, skill development and employment opportunities. Addressing students in Lucknow, he said the distribution marked the second phase of the programme in the state capital.

Adityanath announced a partnership with Infosys to provide more than 18,000 free learning courses through the devices. The content covers subjects ranging from yoga to artificial intelligence and deep technology, along with academic support in areas such as mathematics, calculus and integration. He described the tablets as tools for learning and skill development.

The Chief Minister also highlighted the Yuva Sathi application, which will bring central and state government schemes onto a single digital platform. These include scholarships, the Mukhyamantri Kanya Sumangala Yojana, the PM Internship Scheme, the Chief Minister's Internship Scheme, the CM Yuva initiative and the PM Mudra Scheme.

During his address, Adityanath praised India's defence technology, referring to the BrahMos missile and the capabilities of Indian scientists. He also linked the state's security environment with its ability to attract investment. He claimed that investor summits had generated proposals worth ₹50 lakh crore and that industrial units had provided jobs to 65 lakh young people.

He further said 96 lakh micro, small and medium enterprises, including traditional businesses, were operational and providing employment to more than three crore people. The scheme, named after Swami Vivekananda, was launched on December 25, 2021, the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. It aims to equip students with digital resources for education, skills and future employment. The initiative seeks to bridge gaps in digital learning.

PALANISWAMI ASKS VIJAY TO OPPOSE MEKEDATU DAM

CHENNAI

AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami on Sunday urged Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay to raise Karnataka's proposed Mekedatu dam project with the Congress leadership during his likely visit to New Delhi on Monday.

He also asked Vijay to press for the implementation of Supreme Court orders on the Cauvery water dispute.

In a statement, Palaniswami criticised Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar for repeatedly claiming that constructing a dam at Mekedatu was Karnataka's right and did not require permission from anyone. He said such remarks could create divisions between the people of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

Palaniswami urged Vijay to use his proposed meeting with the Congress leadership to convey Tamil Nadu's concerns over the project.



He emphasised the need to protect the State's interests in the Cauvery water-sharing dispute and ensure that the Supreme Court's directions were implemented.

The proposed Mekedatu project has remained a contentious issue between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. Karnataka has maintained its position on constructing the dam, while Tamil Nadu has raised objections over its potential impact on the flow of Cauvery water to the State.

The issue has repeatedly triggered political disagreements between the neighbouring States, with water-sharing arrangements remaining a sensitive concern, particularly for farmers in the Cauvery delta region.

Palaniswami's appeal comes ahead of Vijay's expected Delhi visit, placing the Mekedatu dispute back in the political spotlight. He called for the State's concerns to be taken up with the Congress leadership, which has a political presence in Karnataka, to address the issue.

The Mekedatu row

- **Karnataka:** CM D.K. Shivakumar says the dam is its right and needs no one's permission
- **Tamil Nadu:** objects to its impact on the flow of Cauvery water to the State
- **The ask:** take it up with the Congress leadership; implement the SC's orders

Vande Bharat travels 463 km empty with faulty brakes

NEW DELHI

The South Eastern Railway (SER) zone has ordered an investigation after an empty Vande Bharat train travelled approximately 463 km with an ineffective braking system in October. The incident, which occurred during a journey from Hatia in Jharkhand to Jhansi in Uttar Pradesh, raised serious safety concerns.

The empty chair car rake was scheduled to be hauled by a goods locomotive on October 24. Its braking system was supposed to be integrated with that of the locomotive to ensure effective braking throughout the journey. However, railway staff allegedly failed to complete the integration properly.

According to an official order dated November 7, the locomotive pilot conducted a brake test after departing Hatia. During the test, he found that the train's braking power was extremely poor.

5 officials suspended over Periyar library book purchases



Periyar Arivulagam in Coimbatore

CHENNAI

Four librarians and a Chief Accounts Officer have been suspended over alleged irregularities in the purchase of books for Periyar Arivulagam in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu. The officials were members of the coordinating committee and price negotiating committee involved in the procurement process.

Those suspended include S. Kamatchi, Chief Librarian and Information Officer (in-charge) and Deputy Chief Librarian at Anna Centenary Library (ACL), Chennai.

The other officials are Dinesh Kumar, Chief Librarian and Information Officer (in-charge) at Kalaignar Centenary Library, Madurai; V. Santhanakrishnan, Librarian and Information Officer at the same library, who is also in charge of Periyar Library; and Santhana Karthikeyan, Librarian and Information Officer at Anna Centenary Library, Chennai.

J. Juliet, Chief Accounts Officer at the Directorate of Public Libraries, is the fifth official placed under suspension.

The action follows concerns over alleged irregularities in the procurement of books for the facility in Coimbatore. The suspended officials were associated with committees responsible for coordinating the purchase and negotiating prices.

BJP targets Rahul after Italian leader's slogan

HYDERABAD

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Sunday criticised Congress leader Rahul Gandhi after Italian politician Giacomo Filibeck raised the slogan "Vote Chor, Gaddi Chhod" at the Congress Bharat Summit 2026 in Hyderabad. The slogan referred to the controversy surrounding the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

Union Minister Kiren Rijiju took a swipe at Congress leaders in a post on X. "Have you ever seen anyone laughing when India is insulted by a foreigner? I'm not asking about which Indian goes abroad to insult India," he wrote. Gandhi and Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy were seen laughing and applauding as Filibeck raised the slogan.

Filibeck, Secretary General of the Party of European Socialists, had accused the Indian government of undermining democracy and expressed support for Gandhi and the Congress. Speaking at the summit, he said international gatherings were important to highlight challenges facing Indian democracy. "Democracy is under attack in India, and we need to defend it, and the best way to defend it is to stand by Rahul Gandhi and the Indian Congress Party," he said.



Foreign interference, says BJP

BJP spokesperson Pradeep Bhandari accused Gandhi of seeking foreign interference in India's domestic affairs. He alleged that the Congress leader was relying on foreign powers to destabilise the country and seek international support against the Narendra Modi-led government.

BJP leader Shahnawaz Hussain also objected to the slogan, saying foreigners had no right to interfere in India's internal matters. He criticised the Congress for allowing such remarks.

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut defended Filibeck, arguing that democracy and human rights were legitimate subjects of international discussion. He questioned the BJP's criticism, referring to Prime Minister Modi's friendly exchanges with Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni.

> "Have you ever seen anyone laughing when India is insulted by a foreigner?"
> — Kiren Rijiju, Union Minister

Satheesan calls for strict traffic rule enforcement



KOCHI

Keralam Chief Minister V.D. Satheesan on Sunday called for strict enforcement of traffic rules over the next six months to reduce road accidents. He said road safety required collective efforts and urged citizens to act responsibly.

Speaking after inaugurating the Transport Department's 'Jeeva Suyathra Mission' at Ernakulam Town Hall, Satheesan described the situation in the State as alarming. He said children, youngsters and family breadwinners were losing their lives in accidents every day. Others were seriously injured.

Satheesan said road safety was not the responsibility of the Transport Department, Police or Motor Vehicles Department alone. Every citizen had a role in preventing accidents by following traffic rules and respecting other road users.

He called for action against violations without discrimination and said elected representatives should not interfere in legal proceedings through recommendations. Drunk driving, overspeeding, mobile phone use while driving and traffic signal violations must be strictly controlled. He said there should be no compromise in imposing fines or taking action, including cancellation of driving licences wherever necessary.

He stressed that pedestrians must be given priority while crossing roads. He said road safety efforts should include ensuring road quality alongside strict enforcement. He urged Malayalis to follow traffic discipline in Keralam with the same care they show while driving abroad. Inspections over six months, he said, could help build a stronger road safety culture within a year.

> "Every citizen has a role in preventing road accidents by following traffic rules and respecting other road users."
> — V.D. Satheesan Chief Minister, Keralam

Actor Mammootty, brand ambassador of the mission, urged youngsters not to perform stunts or race vehicles on public roads. He said such activities could endanger other road users.

Transport Minister C.P. John presided over the event. Higher Education Minister Roji M. John, Hibi Eden MP and MLA T.J. Vinod attended.

CONGRESS MARCH POSTPONED

Congress postpones 'Chalo Delhi', plans statewide march

NEW DELHI

The Congress has postponed its 'Chalo Delhi' programme, scheduled for November 25 and 26, and will instead organise a 'Samvidhan Raksha March' in the capitals of all states on November 26, party sources said on Sunday. The party said the Delhi programme would be held at a later date. The change comes ahead of Constitution Day, observed on November 26.

The decision follows the INDIA bloc's November 1 rally at Delhi's Ramlila Maidan, where opposition parties protested alleged irregularities in electoral rolls and the Election Commission's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise. The rally began near the Minto Road-Connaught Place junction and proceeded towards Ramlila Maidan. Opposition leaders from several parties joined the gathering.



The change of plan

WAS	NOW
Nov 25-26	Nov 26
'Chalo Delhi' in the capital	'Samvidhan Raksha March' in every state capital

Those present included Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, Lok Sabha Opposition leader Rahul Gandhi, Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee, Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav, National Conference president Farooq Abdullah and Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav. INDIA bloc representatives also attended, presenting a united opposition front.

Addressing the rally, Gandhi said the protest represented the voice of the country and was not linked to any one party or leader. He accused Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar of facilitating alleged vote theft and said the Opposition would continue its campaign to protect the Constitution through peaceful and democratic means.

"Gyanesh Kumar will be removed from the post of Chief Election Commissioner. Gyanesh Kumar will go to jail," Gandhi said, alleging that the poll chief's actions had helped Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah come to power. The Congress has not announced a new date for the postponed Delhi programme. The November 26 marches are expected to take place across state capitals.

Passing Ethanol Benefits to Sugarcane Farmers:
A Pathway to a Fairer FRP

BASANAGOUDA SUDI

India's rapid expansion of its ethanol-blending programme has opened a structural opportunity to improve the income security of nearly 5 crore sugarcane farmers. Ethanol blending has grown from 1.5% in 2013–14 to 12% in 2023–24, saving ₹24,300 crore in foreign exchange and reducing 120 lakh tonnes of CO_2 emissions last year alone. What began as an energy-security measure has now evolved into a stabiliser for the sugar economy.

India produces around 33 million tonnes of sugar annually, while domestic consumption is about 27 million tonnes, leaving a recurring surplus of 5–6 million tonnes. Diverting this surplus to ethanol helps mills avoid inventory pile-up, improves liquidity, and enables more timely payment of cane bills. The Centre has targeted diversion of 60 lakh tonnes of sugar into ethanol by 2025–26 — a shift with major implications for farmer incomes.

WHY ETHANOL MATTERS FOR FARMERS

Sugar mills earn significantly more when they divert cane juice or B-heavy molasses towards ethanol production. The Government has fixed ethanol procurement prices for 2024–25 at ₹49.41/litre for C-heavy molasses, ₹60.73 for B-heavy, and ₹65.60 for cane juice. As a result, mills earn 20–25% higher net realisations when they opt for ethanol routes. This improved liquidity has directly reduced farmer distress: national cane arrears fell from ₹10,000 crore (2018–19) to less than ₹3,000 crore (2023–24). States with high ethanol diversification demonstrate clear outcomes. In Maharashtra and Karnataka, cooperative mills that diverted 20–25% of cane juice to ethanol cleared 100% of their dues well before the off-season. In Uttar Pradesh, mills using the B-heavy route have paid farmers ₹330 per quintal, above the FRP of ₹315.





THIS SYSTEM HAS THREE MAJOR OUTCOMES:

- Zero cane arrears, even in low-price years
- Predictable incomes for both farmers and mills
- Long-term investment in cogeneration, biofuels, and circular-economy models (bagasse power, vinasse-based fertilisers)

The Brazilian Benchmark

Brazil offers a compelling model. Its sugar and ethanol sectors operate under a flexible production system that allows mills to switch between sugar and ethanol based on market conditions. More importantly, Brazil follows the CONSECANA revenue-sharing formula, which ensures growers receive a fixed share (around 60%) of the combined revenue from sugar and ethanol.





CAN INDIA ADOPT SUCH A MODEL?

India already has the foundation for a more integrated pricing system. The Rangarajan Committee recommended linking cane prices to sugar and by-product realisations, but its adoption has been uneven. With ethanol now forming a substantial share of mill revenue — over ₹25,000 crore in 2023–24 — the time is ripe to incorporate ethanol benefits into cane pricing. Several mechanisms can help ensure the gains of the ethanol programme flow directly to Frs.

Ethanol-linked FRP

FRP (Fair and Remunerative Price) can be calculated using a formula that averages sugar and ethanol realisations. Even a modest pass-through of ethanol profitability can raise cane prices by ₹10–₹15 per quintal without burdening mills.

A Fairer FRP for a New Sugar Economy

India's ethanol programme has matured into a pillar of both energy security and rural development. The next logical step is to institutionalise the sharing of ethanol gains with the growers who sustain the sector. Linking FRP with ethanol revenues, adopting flexible production systems, and ensuring transparent revenue-sharing can create a more resilient, equitable, and sustainable sugar economy.

If implemented well, India can replicate Brazil's achievement: stable prices, zero arrears, and rising farmer incomes — transforming sugarcane from a politically sensitive crop into a driver of green economic growth.

REVENUE-SHARING MODEL

- An adapted version of Brazil's CONSECANA can be implemented through State-level committees with farmer representation.
- Payment-linked ethanol financing
- Escrow mechanism for ethanol payments
- Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) may route ethanol revenues through escrow accounts ensuring that farmer dues are settled before mill operational costs.
- Incentives for cane varieties suited to ethanol
- Farmers growing high-sucrose or ethanol-friendly cane varieties can be offered bonuses funded by a share of ethanol profits.
- Economic and Environmental Gains.

Zoom Expands Partnership with DEF to Boost Digital Inclusion in Karnataka

BANGALORE

Zoom Communications, Inc. (NASDAQ: ZM) on Wednesday, announced the expansion of its collaboration with the Digital Empowerment Foundation (DEF) reinforcing Zoom's commitment to digital inclusion, economic opportunity, and human connection in India. The initiative will advance access to digital skills and tools across remote and underserved districts of Karnataka.

The initiative will support 55 community-led Digital Access Centers to help build skills, enable e-commerce, and inclusive digital participation.

Building on earlier collaborations in Telangana and Madhya Pradesh, this latest collaboration will support the establishment of 55 Digital Access Centers across Karnataka, designed as community-led hubs for digital connectivity, skills training, and inclusive economic participation. The centers are expected to train more than 16,500 micro-entrepreneurs and artisans and reach over 110,000 citizens, enabling them to participate more fully in the digital economy.

"Access to technology is the foundation for inclusive growth in an increasingly digital and AI-driven world, but it is human connection that turns access into opportunity," said Aparna Bawa, Chief Operating Officer, Zoom. "Through our continued collaboration with DEF, we're helping communities across India build the skills, confidence, and support they need to participate meaningfully and thrive in the digital economy, wherever they are.

Participants will use digital tools, including Zoom's AI-first open work platform, to connect with markets, access services, build digital storefronts, collaborate virtually, and grow their enterprises online.

A key focus of the Karnataka initiative is empowering artisans and micro-entrepreneurs working within Geographical Indication (GI)-tagged industries. Through hands-on training in digital marketing, storytelling, and virtual business collaboration, these centres will enable participants to use online tools to bring region-specific crafts and products to wider markets, preserving cultural heritage while creating new income opportunities.

Founded in 2002, DEF works to bridge India's digital divide through a community-driven, hyperlocal model led by women social entrepreneurs known as SoochnaPreneurs. Equipped with digital skills and infrastructure, SoochnaPreneurs support village-level communities in accessing healthcare, education, jobs, financial services, and livelihood opportunities. With a network that has reached more than 10,000 villages and served over 35 million people, DEF continues to lead efforts connecting remote communities and advancing digital literacy and livelihoods across India.

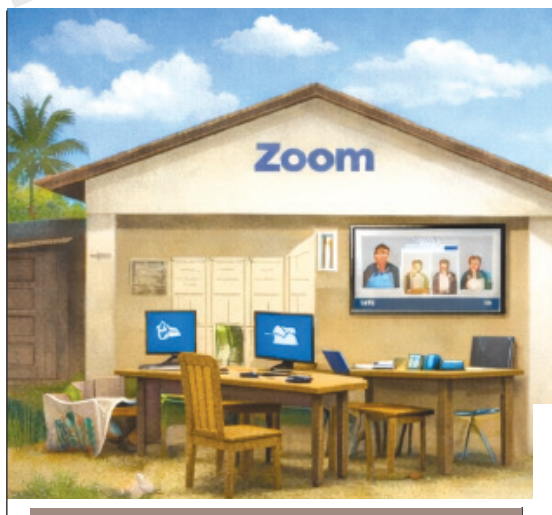
"Our continued collaboration with Zoom is helping to bridge India's digital divide from the ground up while building a digital dividend among the most marginalized communities," said Osama Manzar, Founder & Director, Digital Empowerment Foundation. "As technology rapidly evolves, we want to ensure that no one is left behind. By combining DEF's grassroots reach with Zoom's technology and resources, we're empowering communities to connect and build sustainable livelihoods."

This initiative builds on Zoom Cares's philanthropic efforts in India, which also include collaborations with Head Held High Foundation, CyberPeace Foundation, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Women's Collective, and Goonj. In late 2025, Zoom made a US$10 million three-year commitment to AI for Good to help build AI readiness and positive societal impact.

Together, Zoom and DEF are building inclusive, community-led pathways to digital opportunity where access to technology is paired with skills, support, and human connection. As India's digital economy continues to grow, this collaboration reflects our long-term commitment to ensuring that progress is shared and opportunity reaches those who need it.

ABOUT ZOOM

Zoom (NASDAQ:ZM) provides the AI-first, open work platform built for human connection and purposefully designed to move conversations to completion. From entrepreneurs to global enterprises, customers choose Zoom to seamlessly collaborate, communicate, and drive outcomes across meetings, chat, phone, contact center, events, and more — all with the built-in assistance of Zoom AI Companion. Founded in 2011, Zoom is headquartered in San Jose, CA. For more information, visit zoom.com.





KEY INITIATIVE DETAILS

- **Grassroots Impact: The partnership leverages DEF's extensive network—which includes over 2,400 community-based digital access centres—to bring Zoom's communication technology to remote areas.**
- **Focus on Livelihoods: Beyond basic connectivity, the program focuses on building "digital dividends" for underserved groups, helping them create sustainable income sources in an increasingly digital economy.**
- **Long-term Commitment: This move is part of Zoom's broader $10 million, three-year commitment to "AI for Good," which focuses on building AI readiness and positive societal impact.**
- **Regional Strategic Goals: By specifically targeting Karnataka, the initiative supports the state's vision of becoming a global hub for digital literacy and safe technology use.**

KEY ASPECTS OF THE EXPANDED PARTNERSHIP INCLUDE:

- Focus on Marginalized Communities: The initiative prioritizes providing digital skills and tools to underserved populations, following previous efforts that trained 10,000 women entrepreneurs across seven Indian states.
- "Digital Sarthaks" Program: The partnership leverages trained volunteers known as "Digital Sarthaks" to lead capacity-building activities and establish digital centers.
- Philanthropic Support: This partnership is part of a broader philanthropic effort by Zoom Cares, which in late 2025 committed US$10 million over three years to "AI for Good" to promote positive societal impact.
- Broadened Reach: In addition to DEF, Zoom Cares in India collaborates with organizations such as the Head Held High Foundation, CyberPeace Foundation, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Women's Collective, and Goonj.

Key Initiative Details

- Digital Access Centers (DACs): The partnership will establish 55 new Digital Access Centers across Karnataka. These hubs act as community-led centers for digital connectivity, skills training, and inclusive economic participation.
- Target Impact: The program aims to train more than 16,500 micro-entrepreneurs and artisans and reach over 110,000 citizens.
- Core Goal: To enable individuals in underserved areas to participate more fully in the digital economy by providing access to essential digital skills and tools.

Houthis take control of Bab el-Mandeb Strait

The government's retreat from Bab el-Mandeb area hands the Houthis greater leverage over the maritime chokepoint, creating a potent pressure point on global shipping.



The Bab el-Mandeb Strait (file picture)

Yemen forces withdraw from Bab el-Mandeb Strait area

- → Yemeni government forces announce withdrawal from Bab el-Mandeb area.
- → Houthis gain greater influence over strategic maritime chokepoint.
- → Southern forces redeploy towards Aden, the government base.
- → Withdrawal includes Dhubab Airport in western Taiz Governorate.
- → Developments raise concerns over global shipping and Gulf oil exports.

BAB EL-MANDEB

Yemeni forces fighting on behalf of the internationally recognised, Saudi-backed government announced on Sunday that they were withdrawing from an area overlooking the strategically important Bab el-Mandeb Strait, leaving Iran-aligned Houthi rebels in control of the territory.

The withdrawal gives the Houthis greater influence over one of the world's busiest maritime chokepoints, raising concerns about potential disruptions to international shipping and global trade.

The development comes as Iran continues to disrupt maritime traffic through the Strait of Hormuz, creating pressure on two critical shipping routes surrounding the Arabian Peninsula.

The Bab el-Mandeb Strait connects the Red Sea with the Gulf of Aden and serves as a vital passage for global shipments, particularly goods and commodities travelling between Asia and Europe through Egypt's Suez Canal. Any disruption to the route could have significant consequences for international trade and energy transportation.

The southern Yemeni forces said they were redeploying troops towards Aden, where the internationally recognised government is based. The move comes amid increasing Houthi pressure on southern territories that remain under government control.

In an official statement, the Southern Armed Forces confirmed that their redeployment involved withdrawing personnel from Dhubab Airport and the Bab el-Mandeb area in western Taiz Governorate.

The developments could further complicate the security situation in Yemen while increasing the strategic importance of the maritime corridor. With the Houthis gaining control near Bab el-Mandeb and tensions continuing around Hormuz, Gulf oil producers could face growing challenges in accessing their principal international shipping routes.

Quick Read



Kate joins Prince William on India visit

LONDON

Kate, Britain's Princess of Wales, will undertake her biggest foreign trip since having treatment for cancer when she joins her husband Prince William in India for his annual Earthshot Prize awards this week. Heir-to-the-throne William, 44, and Kate are flying out for a series of events across Mumbai during a three-day visit that includes Tuesday's awards ceremony.

Saudi-led coalition intercepts missiles towards Riyadh

RIYADH

The Saudi-led coalition fighting Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthis said on Sunday it had intercepted two Houthi ballistic missiles launched towards the Saudi capital Riyadh and three drones in the kingdom's oil-rich Eastern Province. The Houthis, who control most of the populous parts of Yemen, have intensified attacks on the Saudi capital in recent days. A Houthi attack last week damaged an administrative building of the state oil company Saudi Aramco in Riyadh's financial hub. The Eastern Province, the economic powerhouse of Saudi Arabia, has been subject to multiple attacks by Houthis in the past few weeks.

Guatemala decrees state of emergency

GUATEMALA CITY

Guatemalan authorities decreed a state of emergency in the eastern departments of Zacapa and Izabal, banning gatherings and boosting powers for security forces, a week after a lawmaker and three police officers were killed in an attack. The decree limits outdoor gatherings and allows security officials to disperse groups by force, as well as to make arrests and enter residences without a warrant. It is effective immediately and through the next 30 days. The announcement follows a series of armed attacks in Zacapa, including the shooting of lawmaker Julio Cesar Portillo in Rio Hondo on November 6.

Philippines, Australia deepen defence cooperation



Philippine and Australian officials at a signing ceremony

Both countries have signed a defence arrangement aimed at simplifying military coordination and strengthening their regional security partnership.

MANILA

The Philippines and Australia signed a new defence cooperation arrangement on Sunday, further strengthening their security partnership and simplifying procedures for joint military activities between the two countries.

Philippine Defence Secretary Gilberto Teodoro said the agreement would reduce bureaucratic hurdles and streamline the implementation of the bilateral Status of Visiting Forces Agreement (SOVFA). The arrangement is expected to make military coordination more efficient by reducing the number of administrative steps required to organise joint activities.

Describing the agreement as an anti-red tape measure, Teodoro said the new framework would significantly simplify existing procedures. He explained that activities which previously required numerous administrative steps could now be completed through a much shorter process.

The defence secretary said the arrangement would also create opportunities for closer cooperation between the countries' maritime, air and land forces. Additionally, it would strengthen collaboration in humanitarian assistance and disaster response operations.

"Rather than 100 steps to do a single thing, it will just now take 10."

— Gilberto Teodoro, Philippine Defence Secretary

Teodoro said the agreement would contribute to strengthening the Philippines' credible deterrence posture, particularly amid continuing tensions in the South China Sea. The strategically important waterway remains a contested region, with several countries maintaining overlapping maritime claims.

The Philippines has increasingly expanded its network of international security partnerships while maintaining its longstanding defence alliance with the United States. Manila has repeatedly expressed concerns over what it describes as China's aggressive behaviour in the disputed waters.

The latest arrangement reflects growing defence coordination between Manila and Canberra as both countries seek to strengthen regional security cooperation. China's defence and foreign ministries did not immediately respond to requests for comment on Sunday.

Canary Islands record 1,488 migrant arrivals in a day



A Spanish maritime rescue vessel beside a migrant boat (file picture)

Key figures	
1,488	PEOPLE RESCUED IN ONE DAY
14	BOATS
12	BOATS REACHED EL HIERRO
1,461	THE OLD RECORD, NOV 7, 2020

MADRID

Nearly 1,500 migrants arrived in Spain's Canary Islands, marking the highest number of people rescued in a single day since 2020, as arrivals from West African countries continued to increase.

A total of 1,488 people travelling in 14 boats were rescued by the Spanish coastguard, according to maritime rescue services. The arrivals continued a surge in migration towards the Spanish archipelago that has been underway since October.

The latest figure surpassed the previous single-day record of 1,461 people rescued in waters surrounding the Canary Islands on November 7, 2020, maritime rescue services said on Sunday.

Although overall migrant arrivals in the Canary Islands have declined so far this year compared with the same period last year, the sharp increase recorded last month has placed additional pressure on reception facilities and emergency services.

The situation has particularly affected smaller and less densely populated islands, where authorities face challenges in accommodating and assisting the growing number of arrivals.

Among the boats rescued was one carrying 240 people, including 12 women and 36 children. Authorities said the migrants were brought to El Hierro, one of the smallest islands in the Canary Islands archipelago.

Most of the rescued individuals were from Senegal, Gambia and Guinea Conakry, highlighting the continuing movement of migrants from West Africa towards Spain.

Of the 14 boats recorded, 12 arrived in El Hierro, while one reached Gran Canaria and another arrived in Tenerife.

The latest arrivals underline the continuing challenges faced by Spanish authorities in managing migration across the Atlantic route, particularly as increasing numbers of people reach the smaller islands.

ASEAN reaffirms engagement with Myanmar

MANILA

Southeast Asian leaders reaffirmed the need to keep engaging with Myanmar while sticking with a plan calling for an immediate end to violence in the war-torn country, Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr said on Sunday. Chairing the annual summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in Manila, Marcos said the 11-member bloc agreed to pursue "constructive and principled engagement" while adhering to its five-point peace plan, ASEAN's framework for responding to the crisis in Myanmar since a 2021 coup.

The summit has come under pressure to ease a five-year ban on Myanmar's military-backed leaders attending high-level meetings, after Thailand and several other members stepped up engagement despite Myanmar's civil war.

The army-backed government wants to normalise ties with ASEAN after its leaders were barred from summits in 2021 for not de-escalating conflict in the wake of the military coup that brought them to power.



Leaders at the 49th ASEAN Summit

Civil war

Myanmar has been in turmoil since the military ousted Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi's elected government, triggering the civil war that the UN estimates has killed 100,000 people and displaced more than 3.5 million.

Coup leader-turned-president Min Aung Hlaing's military has received support from China, India and Russia. His administration has gained increasing international recognition in recent months, including secret talks with US officials as the Trump administration reverses years of isolation.

"No easing"

Marcos, expressing hope that ASEAN could advance the implementation of the peace plan, said leaders should ask "what more can we do for Myanmar" as the crisis continued to displace families, disrupt communities and affect the country's youth.

In addition to seeking an end to the fighting, ASEAN's Myanmar framework calls for constructive dialogue among all parties and offers the bloc's mediation and humanitarian assistance.

ASEAN's special envoy on Myanmar, Philippine Foreign Affairs Secretary Theresa Lazaro, said there would be "no easing" of ASEAN's approach toward Myanmar, although a review of the five-point plan and various proposals concerning Myanmar's participation remained under discussion and would ultimately be decided by leaders.

Cape Verde votes for president with emigration in focus

PRAIA

Cape Verde votes for president on Sunday, with incumbent José Maria Neves facing off against the West African island nation's first female candidate, a former justice minister, in a campaign focused on the need to create more jobs for young people.

Situated more than 600 km (373 miles) west of mainland Africa, the former Portuguese colony is home to only around 500,000 people, with a larger number of Cape Verdeans living overseas, mainly in the United States and Portugal.

Neves, who was prime minister for 15 years and became president in 2021, is from Cape Verde's oldest political party, the African Party for the Independence of Cape Verde (PAICV), which won 37 out of 72 seats in legislative elections in May, allowing Francisco Carvalho to become prime minister.

Analysts have tipped Neves to perform best out of the six candidates, including his main challenger Joana Rosa of the Movement for Democracy party, which had governed for 10 years prior to the legislative vote.

Under a hybrid parliamentary-presidential model, the president has veto authority and a mediating role in Cape Verde.

The archipelago, a tourism destination which hit the headlines this year when its men's soccer team reached the World Cup knockout stage and when a cruise ship off its coast was struck by hantavirus, has lost many of its young people to jobs abroad.

Neves has vowed to organise a youth summit in his second term, while Rosa has said the government should make it possible for young people to "build their futures here at home and prevent the continued exodus of young Cape Verdeans abroad".



Election posters in Cape Verde ahead of the presidential vote

The vote

CANDIDATES	POLLS
Six	8 am-6 pm
RESULTS	**RUNOFF**
In 2-3 days	Nov 29

Polls were set to open at 8 am (0900 GMT) and close at 6 pm (1900 GMT), with official provisional results expected in two or three days.

If no candidate receives more than 50% of the vote, the two top candidates will compete in a runoff on November 29.

AVIATION DISRUPTION

US flights face delays as recovery continues

WASHINGTON

Air travel across the United States is expected to take until late Sunday to return to normal schedules following a nationwide flight shutdown that disrupted thousands of journeys, the head of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) said.

FAA Administrator Bryan Bedford said airline operations were gradually recovering and expressed confidence that schedules would largely return to normal by late Sunday. He also apologised for the widespread disruption, assuring travellers that the aviation system remained stable.

According to FlightAware, airlines cancelled more than 6,400 flights and delayed over 8,000. The disruption followed an even more difficult Friday, when approximately 9,200 flights were cancelled and 7,500 delayed.



A traveller checks a flight information board (file picture)

9,200	6,400+	875
flights cancelled on Friday	cancelled the next day	Sunday flights already cancelled

Nationwide ground stop

The FAA had ordered a nationwide ground stop on Friday, halting nearly all departing flights for almost five hours because of disruptions to air traffic communications. The shutdown marked the longest nationwide halt to US air travel since the September 11, 2001 attacks and became one of the country's worst travel days.

The incident prompted an emergency meeting at the White House Situation Room, while federal agencies initially investigated whether a cyberattack was responsible.

"The problem was traced to the installation of at least one new router at a remote facility."

SEAN DUFFY US Transportation Secretary

However, Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy said the problem was traced to the installation of at least one new router by FAA contractor L3Harris at a remote facility. Officials described the disruption as a technical issue linked to routine maintenance.

The impact continued into Sunday, with FlightAware reporting that 875 flights scheduled for the day had already been cancelled. The aviation sector now faces the challenge of restoring normal operations and clearing the accumulated passenger backlog.

CITY HILIGHTS
SPORTS
MONDAY ▸ NOVEMBER 16, 2026 IBCWORLDNEWS.COM



India claims historic series win with dominant bowling

India secured a historic 3-1 ODI series victory in New Zealand, powered by disciplined bowling and crucial contributions from the middle order.

CH NEWS, MOUNT MAUNGANUI

India defeated New Zealand by 22 runs in the fifth and final ODI at Bay Oval on Sunday, securing a 3-1 series victory. The win marked India's third ODI series triumph on New Zealand soil, following their successes in 2009 and the 2018-19 season. The Indian bowlers delivered an impressive performance to defend a modest target of 210 runs.

Batting first, India struggled to build partnerships after losing Rohit Sharma for seven, Virat Kohli for five and Ruturaj Gaikwad for 18. The early dismissals left the visitors under pressure at 34 for three. Captain Shreyas Iyer scored 22, while Ishan Kishan and Axar Patel contributed 46 runs each. Naman Dhir added 31, helping India recover before New Zealand's bowlers struck again. Arshdeep Singh scored a quick 14, including two sixes, while Mohammed Siraj remained unbeaten on 14. India was eventually bowled out for 209 in 42.1 overs. Jacob Duffy and Mitchell Santner took three wickets each, while Matthew Fisher claimed two.



Chasing 210, New Zealand lost Tim Seifert for 14, while Will Young managed 22. Nick Kelly and Dean Foxcroft tried to rebuild the innings, scoring 22 and 31 respectively. However, Arshdeep Singh struck regularly, taking three wickets, including those of Kelly, Finn Allen and Kristian Clarke. Auqib Nabi and Yash Thakur also contributed with important breakthroughs, reducing New Zealand to 119 for six.

Captain Santner scored 24, while Clarke added 16, attempting to keep the chase alive. Naman Dhir dismissed Santner, while Arshdeep removed Clarke to increase the pressure. Axar Patel then dismissed Jacob Duffy and Blair Tickner, ending New Zealand's innings at 187 in 48.1 overs. Arshdeep finished with three wickets for 30 runs, while Axar and Siraj claimed two each. The victory highlighted India's bowling strength and secured another memorable ODI series success away from home.

SERIES AT A GLANCE

3-1

SERIES RESULT: INDIA WON

Final ODI: India won by 22 runs.

India's score: 209 all out in 42.1 overs.

New Zealand's score: 187 all out in 48.1 overs.

Top performers: Arshdeep Singh took 3/30. Axar Patel and Mohammed Siraj claimed two wickets each.

PORTUGAL FALLS 1-4 in first post-Ronaldo match

CH NEWS, BRAGA

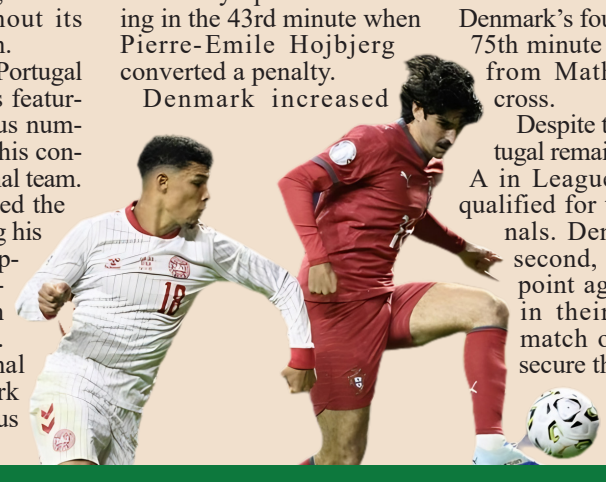
Portugal suffered a 1-4 defeat against Denmark in their UEFA Nations League encounter at Estadio Municipal on Saturday, marking their first match following Cristiano Ronaldo's international retirement. Denmark forward Rasmus Hojlund scored twice, overshadowing the emotional tribute paid to Portugal's former captain. The defeat marked a difficult beginning for the national team without its iconic number seven.

Before the match, Portugal players wore jerseys featuring Ronaldo's famous number seven to honour his contribution to the national team. Supporters also joined the celebrations, chanting his name as his image appeared on the stadium's big screen in the seventh minute. Despite the emotional atmosphere, Denmark maintained their focus and gradually took control of the contest.

Portugal started strongly, creating several opportunities through Vitinha and Pedro Neto. However, Danish goalkeeper Mads Hermansen made important saves to keep the hosts from scoring. Denmark initially thought they had taken the lead through Hojlund in the 38th minute, but the goal was disallowed following a foul in the build-up. The visitors eventually opened the scoring in the 43rd minute when Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg converted a penalty.

Denmark increased their advantage after the break, with Hojlund scoring a brilliant volley in the 50th minute following a pass from Mikkel Damsgaard. Seven minutes later, he found the net again to complete his brace. Portugal coach Jorge Jesus made three substitutions in the 63rd minute, introducing Carlos Forbs, Francisco Trincao and Joao Palhinha. However, the changes failed to turn the match around. Joachim Andersen added Denmark's fourth goal in the 75th minute with a header from Mathias Jensen's cross.

Despite the defeat, Portugal remain top of Group A in League A and have qualified for the quarter-finals. Denmark, sitting second, need just one point against Norway in their final group match on Tuesday to secure their place.



Denmark dominated the contest through Rasmus Hojlund's brace, handing Portugal a disappointing defeat as the national side began life without Ronaldo.

Khelo India Youth Games 2026 logo, mascot unveiled

CH NEWS, HYDERABAD

Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya and Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy unveiled the official logo and mascot for the eighth edition of the Khelo India Youth Games 2026 on Sunday. The event will take place across Telangana from December 11 to 22, bringing together young athletes from different parts of the country. Around 8,000 athletes and participants are expected to attend the competition.

Speaking at the launch, Mandaviya said the Union Government was committed to encouraging young people to participate in sports. He highlighted Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of making sports an important part of national development. "The Union Government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is committed to promoting sports," Mandaviya said. He also noted that initiatives such as the Khelo India Youth Games, Beach Games, Winter Games and Tribal Games were helping expand sporting opportunities.

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy said sporting events could help young people stay away from substance abuse and other social challenges. He connected the initiative with the vision of a drug-free youth for a developed India. The Games will be conducted across six cities: Hyderabad, Khammam, Karimnagar, Hanumakonda, Mahabubnagar and Nizamabad.

The competition will feature 29 disciplines, including 27 competitive sports and two demonstration events. Archery, athletics, badminton, basketball, boxing, football, hockey, kabaddi, swimming, wrestling and weightlifting are among the competitive events. Softball will be introduced as a competitive sport for the first time, while sailing and Karra Samu will feature as demonstration events.

The mascot, named Neelamani, represents energy, courage, agility and pride. The logo combines Telangana's cultural heritage with sporting symbols, including the Kakatiya Kala Thoranam, Buddha statue and Tangedu flower. Its tagline, "Khel Ka Junoon, Telangana Ki Jaan Aur Pehchaan", highlights the state's passion for sports. The organisers aim to use the event to encourage young talent and strengthen India's sporting culture.

Close finishes mark national racing championship opener



0.032 sec
Augustine Boby's winning margin in the F1300 Novice Cup

CH NEWS, COIMBATORE

The opening day of the second round of the FMSCI Indian National Car Racing Championship 2026 delivered exciting finishes, close battles and remarkable comebacks at Kari Motor Speedway on Saturday. Augustine Boby secured a narrow victory over Shatveer Shetty by just 0.032 seconds in the F1300 Novice Cup, while Mehul Agarwal and Deepak Ravikumar won their respective races through late overtakes.

In the LGB Formula 4 category, Dark Don Racing's Mehul Agarwal defeated teammate Arya Singh by 0.237 seconds after a dramatic final-lap battle. Agarwal made his decisive move with two laps remaining in the 15-lap race. Dhruvh Goswami finished third, while rookie Aditya Patnaik secured fifth place overall and topped the rookie category. Agarwal also recorded the fastest lap of 1:16.944.

The Royal Enfield Continental GT Cup Amateur race witnessed two red-flag interruptions and a thrilling finish. Kabir Sahoch defeated Saurav Sanjay Dey by 0.979 seconds, while Brandon Dsouza recovered from ninth on the starting grid to finish third. In the Pro category, Bengaluru's Anish Shetty secured a comfortable victory ahead of Senthil Kumar and Navaneeth Kumar. Meanwhile, Mumbai's Pratik Sonawane dominated both races in the Gentleman category of the JK Tyre Levitas Cup, completing a double victory.

In the Super Saloon categories, Arjun Narendran won the Indian Super Touring Cars race by 7.288 seconds, while Balaprasath A finished first in Indian Touring Cars. The Indian Junior Touring Cars category produced another exciting contest, with Deepak Ravikumar recovering from 15th position to win the second race by 0.308 seconds after a last-lap overtake against Srinivas Teja. Diljith T S also secured two victories in Super Stock.

LAKSHYA SEN leads India to historic badminton season

CH NEWS, KUMAMOTO

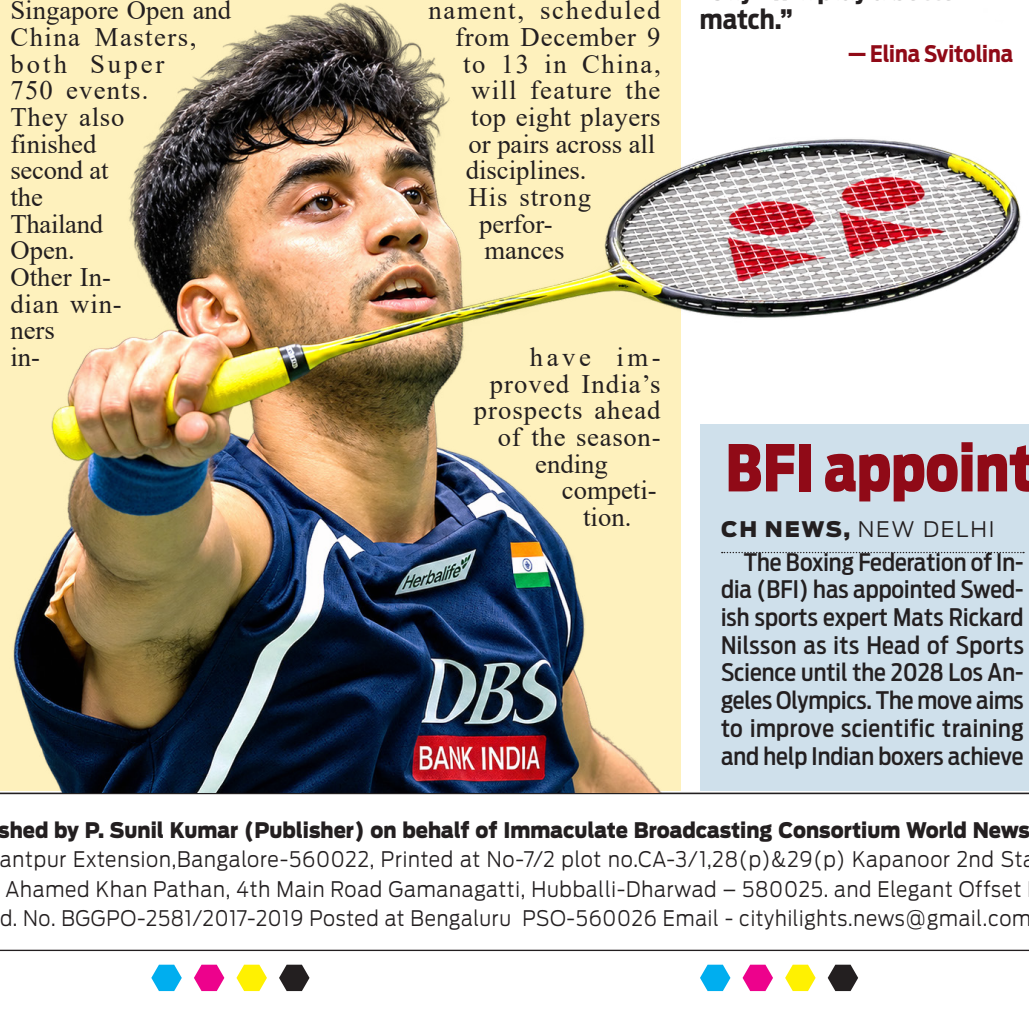
Indian badminton achieved its best-ever season on the BWF World Tour after Lakshya Sen won the Japan Masters title in Kumamoto on Sunday. According to the Badminton Association of India (BAI), Indian players have secured nine titles and four runner-up finishes in Super 300 and higher-level tournaments held outside the country this year. The achievement surpasses India's previous record of six titles and three runner-up finishes in 2023.

Lakshya defeated Japan's Koki Watanabe 13-21, 21-18, 21-14 in a 64-minute final. Despite losing the opening game, the eighth-seeded Indian recovered strongly to win the next two games and claim the championship. The victory followed his recent success at the Hylo Open, where he defeated Indonesia's Jonatan Christie 21-17, 21-10 in the final. These back-to-back titles have strengthened his position in the race for the BWF World Tour Finals.

Two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu also contributed significantly to India's successful season by winning the Japan Open Super 750 title in July and the Hylo Open Super 500 title in November. She also finished runner-up at the French Open in October. Lakshya secured another runner-up finish at the All England Open earlier this year.

The men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty won the Singapore Open and China Masters, both Super 750 events. They also finished second at the Thailand Open. Other Indian winners included Devika Sihag at the Thailand Masters, Tanvi Sharma at the Taipei Open and Ashmita Chaliha at the Korea Open. Women's singles contributed five titles, including two from Sindhu.

Lakshya has climbed eight places to 10th in the World Tour Finals race after his recent victories. The tournament, scheduled from December 9 to 13 in China, will feature the top eight players or pairs across all disciplines. His strong performances have improved India's prospects ahead of the season-ending competition.



SVITOLINA REACHES WTA FINALS CLASH AGAINST ANDREEVA

CH NEWS, CALIFORNIA

Elina Svitolina secured her place in the WTA Finals championship match after defeating Linda Noskova in the semi-finals on Saturday. The Ukrainian tennis star produced an impressive performance, winning 6-2, 6-1 in just 65 minutes. She will now face 19-year-old French Open champion Mirra Andreeva for the title in California.

"Tomorrow I will have to do some homework and try to execute better, try to find the keys for the match, and hopefully I will play a better match."

— Elina Svitolina



Svitolina dominated the contest from the beginning, controlling the rallies and preventing Noskova from building momentum. The victory marked her second win against the Czech player in their five career meetings. It also earned her a place in her third career final at the year-ending tournament. At 32, she became the oldest player to reach the WTA Finals final since Venus Williams achieved the feat in 2017.

Andreeva booked her place in the final after defeating Jessica Pegula 6-3, 6-4. The 19-year-old, who won the 2026 French Open, continued her impressive run to set up an exciting contest against Svitolina. The two players had already met earlier in the tournament, with Andreeva winning their previous encounter.

Speaking about the upcoming final, Svitolina acknowledged her opponent's performance and said she would work on improving her approach. "She played really well. All the credit to her in that match," she said. She added, "Tomorrow I will have to do some homework and try to execute better, try to find the keys for the match, and hopefully I will play a better match."

The semi-final victory also marked Svitolina's 11th win against a top-10 player this season, matching her career-best record from 2017.

She is among 14 players to reach at least three WTA Finals title matches. Svitolina said she values the tournament because it brings together the world's best players. The final now offers her an opportunity to finish the season with a major championship.

BFI appoints Nilsson to strengthen boxing science

CH NEWS, NEW DELHI

The Boxing Federation of India (BFI) has appointed Swedish sports expert Mats Rickard Nilsson as its Head of Sports Science until the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics. The move aims to improve scientific training and help Indian boxers achieve international success.

Nilsson, who has worked with the Swedish Olympic contingent, brings over 30 years of experience in strength and conditioning. He previously worked with Indian boxers in 2019.

BFI president Ajay Singh said the appointment would strengthen the federation's sports science system through an evidence-based approach to athlete preparation.

Nilsson will spend 75 days annually with the Indian boxing team and provide remote support during the remaining period. His responsibilities include monitoring performance, reviewing data and preparing scientific training plans.

Nilsson said he was delighted to join the programme and would focus on physical preparation, recovery and managing training loads to improve athletes' performance.

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