CITY HILIGHTS

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The Truth Speaks

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K'TAKA PLANS TOUGH TRAFFIC OVERHAUL

Complete ban on half helmets statewide from New Year. | *Steep fines for footpath riding, vehicle seizure for repeat offenders.* | *Mandatory meters for all app-based taxis like Ola, Uber.*

BENGALURU

The Karnataka government is gearing up to roll out a strict set of traffic regulations starting this New Year, aiming to curb road accidents and enhance pedestrian safety across the state.

Transport Minister Byrathi Suresh on Monday said the legal framework for the new rules, which include a complete ban on half helmets, steep fines for riding on footpaths, and mandatory meters for app-based cabs, is nearing completion.



To ensure the safety of both two-wheeler riders and pillion passengers, the government has decided to impose a complete ban on half helmets across Karnataka.

The Minister said the legislative drafting process is nearly complete, and the ban will take effect from the New Year. The directive will also restrict the manufacture and sale of half helmets in the state.

The government has also decided to significantly increase traffic penalties, with the fine for the first offence rising fivefold from ₹1,000 to ₹5,000, ₹10,000 for the second offence, and seizure of the two-wheeler for a third offence.

Mandatory meter rule

In another significant move, the Karnataka government will make meters mandatory for all taxis operating in the state, including those operating through app-based aggregators such as Ola and Uber.

Suresh said cabs must install autorickshaw-style meters and strictly charge passengers according to government-fixed fare slabs, warning that vehicles found flouting state-prescribed pricing norms will face seizure.

The minister noted that the decision follows repeated appeals from local taxi owners and drivers alleging exploitation by aggregator platforms, adding that the upcoming legal framework seeks to safeguard the livelihoods of thousands of drivers.

Fresh registrations for Green SM taxis put on hold

Simultaneously, the state Transport Department has put a hold on fresh vehicle registrations for Green SM, a Vietnam-based taxi service. While roughly 100 Green SM cabs have already been registered in Karnataka, officials have been instructed to halt any further approvals until further notice.

Suresh clarified that a final call on allowing the foreign aggregator to expand its operations will be taken after discussions with Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, ensuring that the interests of local taxi operators remain protected.

Proposed rules in short

- **New traffic rules**: Karnataka plans to introduce stricter traffic regulations from the New Year.
- **Half helmets ban**: Complete ban on the manufacture, sale and use of half helmets.
- **Higher penalties**: Footpath riding fines to increase from ₹1,000 to ₹5,000 for the first offence, ₹10,000 for the second and vehicle seizure for a third offence.
- **App-based taxis**: Ola, Uber and other app-based cabs must install meters and follow government-fixed fares.
- **Green SM taxis**: Fresh registrations of Vietnam-based Green SM cabs put on hold.
- **Final decision**: Expansion of Green SM services to be decided after discussions with Chief Minister DK Shivakumar.
- **Objective**: Measures aimed at improving road safety and regulating traffic violations.

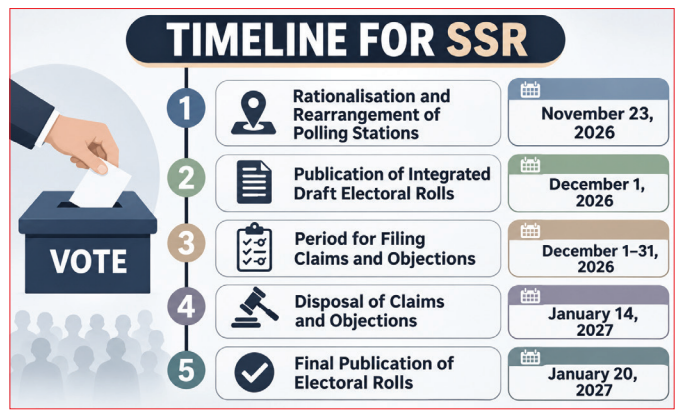
SSR: ECI sets Jan 20 deadline for final voter list

BENGALURU

The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Monday ordered a Special Summary Revision (SSR) of electoral rolls in Karnataka and Meghalaya, with January 1, 2027, as the qualifying date, to facilitate the enrolment of "left out", young and first-time voters.

The revision assumes significance as citizen rights groups and political parties have flagged a huge deletion of 1.08 crore voters during the just-concluded SIR.

In an official directive issued to the Chief Electoral Officer, Karnataka, (under Section 21 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950), the ECI stated that the revision aims to ensure the enrolment of left-out, young and first-time eligible voters. Besides voters who turn 18 on or before January 1, 2027, prospective electors who will attain eligibility on the three subsequent qualifying dates — April 1, July 1 and October 1, 2027 — can also submit advance applications during this drive.



It has directed Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) to ensure no eligible voter is left out and no ineligible voter is included or remains in the electoral roll. Citizens can apply for inclusion (Form 6), deletion/objection (Form 7), or shifting and corrections (Form 8) online via the Voter Service Portal (voters.eci.gov.in) or the ECINET mobile app.

To maintain the integrity of the rolls, the ECI has instituted stringent verification protocols. To prevent wrongful deletions, individual electors face strict limits on filing bulk Form-7 applications for name deletions. EROs will personally cross-verify cases where proposed deletions exceed 2% of a polling station's total electors or where a single objector flags more than five names.

Invoking Article 324 of the Constitution, the ECI has directed the Chief Secretary of Karnataka to ensure that no posts of District Election Officers (DEOs), EROs or AEROs remain vacant during the exercise. Additionally, a complete ban has been placed on transferring any official connected with the SSR from the publication of the draft roll on December 1 until the final roll is published on January 20, without the commission's prior approval.

No immediate fuel price cut as oil firms rack up losses: Gopi

CHENNAI

Union Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas Suresh Gopi on Monday said an immediate reduction in petrol and diesel prices was not technically possible, citing losses of Rs 42,000 crore incurred by oil companies and "chaos" in the supply of petroleum products.

He told reporters at Meenambakkam airport that individual states had the option of reducing taxes on petrol and added that the financial position of oil companies needed to be taken into consideration before any immediate reduction in fuel prices. "We may wish for prices to come down the next day. But technically it is not possible right away. Oil companies have already incurred losses of Rs 42,000 crore. All this needs to be compensated," he said, referring to the West Asia conflict.



He said even if a reduction was expected immediately, oil companies would first need to account for their accumulated losses. On fuel price rises in different states, he said prices had also increased in Keralam and Karnataka. "Prices have also increased in Keralam. I do not know how prices have increased in Tamil Nadu. They have also increased in Karnataka," he said.

"There is chaos in the supply of petroleum products. We are doing whatever needs to be done to fix it," he added.

Key takeaways from minister's statement

- Oil companies have incurred losses of ₹42,000 crore.
- Losses must be compensated before fuel prices can be reduced.
- West Asia conflict has disrupted petroleum supplies.
- States can consider reducing taxes on petrol to provide relief.
- Fuel prices have also increased in Keralam and Karnataka.
- Govt is working to address disruptions in petroleum product supplies.

CWP COMMONWEALTH WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS

KARNATAKA LEGISLATURE


Shri Saleem Ahmed
Hon'ble Chairman
Karnataka Legislative Council


Dr. D. Purandeswari
Hon'ble Chairman
Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians India Region


Shri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka


Shri Om Birla
Hon'ble Speaker
Lok Sabha


Shri Harivansh
Hon'ble Deputy Chairman
Rajya Sabha


Dr. G. Parameshwara
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka


Shri G. S. Patil
Hon'ble Speaker
Karnataka Legislative Assembly


Dr. Umashree
Hon'ble Deputy Chairman
Karnataka Legislative Council

CWP INDIA REGION
COMMONWEALTH WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS


Shri Mankal Vaidya
Hon'ble Deputy Speaker
Karnataka Legislative Assembly



FIRST COMMONWEALTH WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS (CWP) INDIA REGION CONFERENCE

Date
17 - 18
November 2026

Venue
Vidhana Soudha
Bengaluru

Women Leaders, United for Progress

The Parliament of India, in collaboration with the Karnataka Legislature, is organising the first Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) India Region Conference in Bengaluru, bringing together women parliamentarians and legislators from across the country.

The two-day conference will feature deliberations on cyber safety and mentorship pathways for new women legislators, with a focus on establishing safe and supportive foundations, strengthening women leadership, and empowering their voices for greater participation in parliamentary democracy.

"To protect and respect our vibrant culture and tradition," is a Fundamental Duty of every citizen. This is affirmed by our Constitution.

Agri Dept warns public against unauthorised pest control operators

CH NEWS, MYSURU

The Agriculture Department has warned the public against unauthorised pest control operators who are luring residents through social media advertisements promising "100% Eco-Friendly" services and "Certified Technicians" to control pests in residential and commercial establishments.

Such unauthorised services are reportedly being offered in Mysuru city, towns and residential localities, targeting houses, apartments, paying guest (PG) accommodations, hotels, offices and commercial establishments.

The department has received complaints that some operators are carrying out pest control activities without following prescribed safety precautions, using pesticides prohibited by the government and employing untrained and unqualified personnel. These reckless practices pose a serious threat to public health, with people reportedly suffering from breathing difficulties and other severe health complications following such treatments.

Urging citizens to exercise caution, the Agriculture Department advised the public not to be misled by attractive online advertisements or claims of eco-friendly and certified services without verifying the credentials and authorisation of the service providers.

The department has also made it clear that anyone intending to offer pest control services commercially must first submit details of their educational qualifications, training certificates and other necessary documents to the competent authority and the Agriculture Department.

They must obtain the mandatory licence in accordance with the prescribed rules before commencing operations.

The Agriculture Director has appealed to the public to remain vigilant and immediately inform the nearest Agriculture Department office about individuals or agencies providing pest control services without proper authorisation.



Representational image

These reckless practices pose a serious threat to public health

Before you hire

- Don't be misled by "100% Eco-Friendly" ads online
- Check the operator's credentials and authorisation
- Operators need the mandatory licence
- Report unauthorised operators to the nearest Agriculture Department office

Birsa Munda symbolises self-respect of India's tribal communities: Dr. Yathindra

CH NEWS, MYSURU

Birsa Munda was not merely a freedom fighter but also a symbol of the self-respect and dignity of India's tribal communities, said Urban Development and Mysuru District In Charge Minister Dr. Yathindra Siddaramaiah.

He was speaking after inaugurating the 151st birth anniversary celebrations of Bhagwan Birsa Munda, organised at the Convocation Hall of Karnataka State Open University (KSOU) here on Saturday, jointly by the Karnataka State Tribal Research Institute, the district administration, Zilla Panchayat and the Department of Scheduled Tribes Welfare.

The Minister said that Birsa Munda, born on November 15, 1875, in present-day Jharkhand, raised the banner of revolt against British colonial rule at a very young age. He mobilised people against British exploitation, the deprivation of traditional tribal land rights, social injustice and cultural oppression. His call to protect our land, culture, heritage and self-respect remains relevant even today. Though he sacrificed his life for the country at a young age, the spirit of his struggle and his ideals continue to inspire millions.

He stressed the need to establish a separate Tribal Development Corporation to ensure that government benefits reach the most disadvantaged members of tribal communities rather than remaining confined to influential sections. Members of tribal communities must provide quality higher education to their children. As Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the architect of the Indian Constitution, had emphasised, education must be given top priority for the progress of any community.

Chamaraja MLA K. Harish Gowda said the ideals of Birsa Munda, popularly known as 'Dharti Aaba', remained relevant even today. Despite living for just 25 years, Birsa Munda made an unwavering contribution to India's freedom struggle and the fight for tribal rights. History would never forget his efforts to unite tribal communities against British oppression and protect their land and culture. Tribal communities continue to live by the principles that forests are their home and nature is their lifeline. However, the responsibility of society and the administration is to ensure that these communities are not confined to the lap of nature but are brought into the mainstream of society.

H.D. Kote MLA Anil Chikkamadu said the birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda, the young freedom fighter who fought against British rule and defended the rights of forest-dwelling and tribal communities, should be officially celebrated by the State Government across Karnataka, on the lines of the birth anniversaries of other eminent personalities. The government should identify a suitable place and provide the necessary support for installing a statue of Birsa Munda in the coming days.

Vijay Kumar, Director of the Department of Scheduled Tribes Welfare and Karnataka State Tribal Research Institute Dr. Ashok D.R., Project Coordinator of the Integrated Tribal Development Project Bharathi C.R., and Deputy Director of the Karnataka State Tribal Research Institute Girijamba H.S. were among those present.



Tribal artistes at the 151st birth anniversary celebrations of Bhagwan Birsa Munda in Mysuru on Saturday

151st birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda, born on November 15, 1875

Calls at the celebration

- **Tribal corporation:** a separate one, so benefits reach the most disadvantaged
- **State celebration:** Birsa Munda's birth anniversary marked officially across Karnataka
- **Statue:** a suitable place and support for one

Majestic School celebrates Children's Day with great enthusiasm

CH NEWS, MYSURU

Majestic Primary and High School celebrated Children's Day with great enthusiasm, joy and excitement, creating a memorable occasion for the students.

The programme was graced by Dr. Shaheen Khan as the Chief Guest. The function was presided over by Mr. Arif A. Mekri, President of the institution. Prof. Nabi Jan, Secretary, Amanulla Khan, Joint Secretary, and Farzana Begum, Headmistress, were present on the occasion.

Today's children are tomorrow's responsible citizens and future leaders of our nation

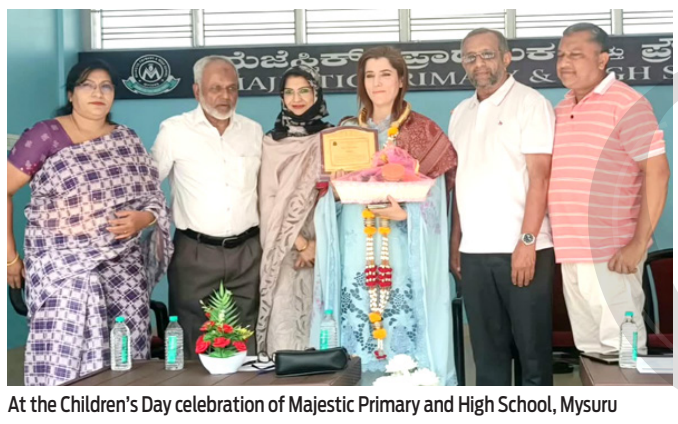
Addressing the gathering, Dr. Shaheen Khan highlighted the importance of Children's Day and emphasised that children are the future of the nation. She encouraged students to pursue their dreams, develop good values, maintain discipline and work hard to achieve success in life.

Amanulla Khan said that childhood is the most precious stage of life and every child should be given opportunities to learn, grow and discover their talents. Education should not be limited to academic achievements alone but should also focus on developing discipline, moral values, confidence, compassion and respect for others. Students must respect their parents and teachers, make good use of their time and work sincerely towards their goals. Today's children are tomorrow's responsible citizens and future leaders of our nation.

Arif A. Mekri appreciated the efforts of the teaching staff in nurturing young minds and providing quality education. The Secretary, Prof. Nabi Jan, also conveyed his best wishes to the students and encouraged them to make the best use of their school days.

The celebration featured various colourful cultural activities and entertaining performances by students, reflecting their talents, creativity and enthusiasm. The programme provided a wonderful opportunity for students to showcase their abilities and enjoy the true spirit of childhood.

The Headmistress, Mrs. Farzana Begum, along with the teaching and non-teaching staff were present.



At the Children's Day celebration of Majestic Primary and High School, Mysuru

Team Mysuru gives discarded god idols and pictures a respectful farewell

CH NEWS, MYSURU

In a thoughtful initiative to prevent old photographs and idols of Hindu deities from being abandoned at roadside platforms, public spaces and other places, Team Mysuru organised a special collection and dignified disposal programme at Akkamahadevi Park in JP Nagar on Sunday.

1,000+ damaged pictures of deities collected between 7.30 am and 10 am

The initiative received an overwhelming response from the public, with residents from different localities enthusiastically bringing old and damaged pictures of deities for proper disposal.

The collection drive was held between 7.30 am and 10 am, during which more than 1,000 damaged religious pictures were collected. The organisers carefully segregated reusable materials from the collected items and distributed them to those who could make use of them. In an environmentally conscious approach, the frames and other non-biodegradable materials were separated from the pictures. A pit was then dug, and prayers were offered for the pictures that could decompose naturally before they were respectfully buried in the earth. A sapling was planted over the spot, symbolising a meaningful blend of religious reverence and environmental protection.

The novel initiative was widely appreciated by residents, who praised Team Mysuru for addressing the growing problem of discarded religious photographs and idols being dumped carelessly in public places.

The programme was attended by Team Mysuru members Gokul Govardhan, Kiran Jayaram Gowda, Anil Jain, Trimurthy, Naveen, Yathish, Vasanth, Anand, Harish Shetty, Balakrishna, Manju Pharma, Basavaraj Ballari, Harish Gokulam, Harish Pharma, Tilak, Girish, Ravi, Sahanaa and Bharathi.

Children Advith and Ashwith, local residents Devarajegowda, Gejjagahalli Mahesh, Akshay and office-bearers of the Sharana Balaga also participated in the programme.



Team Mysuru volunteers sorting the collected pictures at Akkamahadevi Park in JP Nagar on Sunday

'Mudukara Madhuve' brings laughter to the audience

CH NEWS, MYSURU

Sutra Foundation (R.), Mysuru, organised a comedy theatre performance titled 'Mudukara Madhuve', written by renowned Kannada playwright Beluru Krishnamurthy and performed by the artists of Cross Light, at Kiru Rangamandira, Kalamandira premises, Mysuru on Sunday.

Directed by Raju KoteHundi, the play revolves around two elderly bachelors and the amusing incidents in their lives. The story unfolds through a series of hilarious situations involving employment, deception and disguise, keeping the audience entertained throughout.

Through humour and social satire, the play explores human nature, desires, greed, age and marriage. The lively dialogues, engaging performances, comic timing and unexpected twists added a special charm to the production and kept the audience laughing.

With the objective of promoting Kannada theatre and encouraging theatrical activities, Sutra Foundation organised this programme to bring quality theatre and entertainment closer to the audience.



A scene from 'Mudukara Madhuve' at Kiru Rangamandira, Mysuru

Cultural programmes mark National Library Week at People's Park library

CH NEWS, MYSURU

As part of National Library Week 2026, a cultural programme was organised at the People's Park Library in Mysuru on Sunday.

The programme began with a prayer rendered by Sunita of the District Central Library, Mysuru. Dr. Sudarshan, Assistant Director of the Department of Kannada and Culture, formally inaugurated the event by watering a sapling.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Sudarshan said it was a special occasion to have cultural programmes organised throughout the day at the library. He extended his best wishes and congratulations to the participating music and dance artists.

Expressing concern over the gradual decline in the habit of reading printed books in the modern era, he said that although books were now easily accessible through computers and electronic media, the intimate experience of holding a physical book and reading it was slowly diminishing. A book represents an entire chain of livelihoods involving authors, publishers, printers and booksellers. Therefore, equal importance must be given to reading printed books alongside electronic books, he said.

The pleasure and personal connection derived from holding and reading a printed book are unique. Every reader has a responsibility to preserve and promote the reading culture. The primary objective of National Library Week is to attract more people, particularly the younger generation, towards libraries, he added.

He further observed that a book was not merely a source of knowledge but also a valuable companion that establishes an emotional bond with its reader. National Library Week is being celebrated to bring readers back to printed books at a time when modern technology is increasingly drawing them away from traditional reading habits.

On the occasion, new members who enrolled as part of the membership drive were felicitated with mementoes.

The cultural programme featured a variety of performances. Vidushi Dimple, Director of Sri Krishna School, Mysuru, and her team presented a Bharatanatyam recital titled 'Nartana Anubhava'. Manjula, representing the Department of Kannada and Culture, rendered devotional and folk songs.

Students of Mysuru-based sitar maestro Ustad Dr. Mohsin Khan presented a sitar recital under the banner 'Sitar Sinchana'. Ranjini G. and her Nrityakalamani Classical Dance Group presented Bharatanatyam performances.

Staff members of the Library Department and their family members also showcased Bharatanatyam and other dance performances, while members of the reading public entertained the audience with folk songs and light music.

Deputy Director of the City Central Library B. Manjunath, Deputy Director of the District Central Library Suma Kodihalli, Balya Foundation founder Anil and Uma Anil, library staff, readers and students were present.

Kusuma M., a staff member of the City Central Library, compered the programme, while H.V. Ramesh proposed the vote of thanks.



A sitar recital at the library's National Library Week programme



A Bharatanatyam recital at the People's Park Library, Mysuru

On the stage

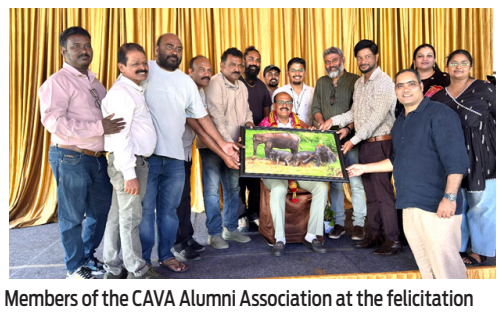
DANCE	'Nartana Anubhava', Vidushi Dimple and team
SITAR	'Sitar Sinchana', students of Ustad Dr. Mohsin Khan
SONGS	Devotional and folk songs by Manjula
DANCE	Ranjini G. and her Nrityakalamani group

CAVA Alumni Association felicitates Dean Devaraj

CH NEWS, MYSURU

The CAVA Alumni Association organised a felicitation and farewell programme for Devaraj, Dean of the Chamarajendra Academy of Visual Arts (CAVA), who has recently been transferred. The programme was held here where alumni members felicitated Devaraj and conveyed their best wishes for his future endeavours.

CAVA Alumni Association president Manju Prasad, vice-president Madhusudhan S.R., secretary Surya (Vairamudi), treasurer Harish Hegde, directors Syed Muzaid, Insha Ummehani, Pavan P. Srinivas and Nithya Kalyani, along with CAVA alumni Vichara B.N., Manjunath and Anil Bhogashetty and other alumni members were also present.



Members of the CAVA Alumni Association at the felicitation programme in Mysuru

High Court closes CET religious symbol row

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The legal and political controversy surrounding the removal of the janivara (sacred thread) from students appearing for the Karnataka Common Entrance Test (KCET) has reached a formal conclusion. The Karnataka High Court officially disposed of the Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed by the Akhila Karnataka Brahmana Mahasabha after reviewing the formal submissions and clarifications provided by the state authorities and the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA).

The incident that triggered the legal battle occurred during the KCET examinations at Krupanidhi Pre-University College in Koramangala, Bengaluru. Students arriving for their physics paper were allegedly compelled to remove their sacred threads before entering the examination halls. The event immediately sparked intense public backlash, political debates, and widespread media coverage across the state. Following parental complaints, an FIR was registered at the Madiwala Police Station, and swift administrative measures led to the suspension of three college staff members who were temporarily detained before eventually securing court bail. Similar isolated grievances had also been reported during prior examination cycles in districts like Bidar and Shivamogga, prompting deeper systemic concerns regarding religious freedoms, cultural sensitivity, and standardization at examination venues.

29th Bengaluru Tech Summit focuses on AI

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The highly anticipated 29th edition of the Bengaluru Tech Summit is scheduled to begin today (November 17th) at the Bangalore International Exhibition Centre, running for three intensive days through November 19. Organized by the state's Department of Electronics, IT, and Biotechnology alongside the Software Technology Parks of India, this year's conference centers entirely around the transformative theme, "Artificial Intelligence and Beyond."

State leadership announced that the multi-day convention will be formally opened by Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar. The massive global technology gathering is projected to attract tens of thousands of professional visitors, alongside delegates, speakers, and enterprise exhibitors representing more than 65 countries worldwide. Major international partners, including Sweden as the official partner nation alongside supporting delegations from Australia, Poland, and Italy, will contribute to cross-border dialogue and strategic technological collaborations.





Parks in Mysuru cry for care as cash-strapped MCC seeks CSR lifeline

SHYAM SUNDAR VATTAM, MYSURU

Once celebrated for its well-maintained gardens, tree-lined avenues and beautiful public spaces, Mysuru is now looking towards corporate houses and private organisations to help preserve and maintain its public parks.

Grappling with financial constraints and struggling to meet its growing civic responsibilities, the Mysore City Corporation (MCC) has turned to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds to give a fresh lease of life to the city's neglected green spaces.

Under the slogan 'Our Mysore – Our Contribution', the corporation has launched an appeal inviting companies, institutions and other organisations to join hands in developing, beautifying and maintaining public parks across the city. The initiative, though laudable in its intent, also brings into focus a persistent civic concern: the corporation's inability to adequately maintain several public parks with its own financial and administrative resources. Parks that should serve as green lungs, recreational spaces and neighbourhood gathering points have, in many areas, been struggling for want of regular maintenance, adequate facilities and proper upkeep.

Adopt a park

SCHEME	'Our Mysore – Our Contribution'
WHO	Companies, institutions and other organisations
IN RETURN	Nameplate at the park entrance
CONTACT	MCC Horticulture Department, 9480391234



For representation: a littered corner of a park



For representation: broken play equipment in a park

With mounting financial commitments and limited resources, maintaining hundreds of parks has become an uphill task for the civic body. Instead of relying entirely on municipal funds, the corporation is now hoping that corporate organisations will step in and share the responsibility of protecting the city's green heritage.

Adopt parks

Through the CSR partnership programme, organisations can adopt selected parks and undertake their comprehensive maintenance and beautification. The corporation has identified several areas where corporate participation can make a visible difference.

These include planting native tree species, flowering plants and developing green lawns to improve the city's ecological balance. Organisations can also take up complete park adoption, ensuring regular maintenance, landscaping and beautification. The programme also encourages the installation of drip irrigation systems and rainwater harvesting units to promote water conservation. Eco-friendly benches, walking tracks and children's play equipment can be provided to make parks more accessible and attractive to residents. Solar-powered lighting systems are another important component, aimed at improving illumination while promoting sustainable energy use.

As an incentive for participation, organisations contributing towards park development will be permitted to display their nameplates at the entrances of the parks they support.

> *Keeping its parks alive remains a civic responsibility that cannot be outsourced*

The MCC believes the partnership will provide companies with an opportunity to demonstrate their commitment to environmental protection and social responsibility while contributing directly to the development of Mysuru. However, the success of the initiative will depend on transparent implementation, proper monitoring and sustained maintenance. Corporate adoption should supplement, rather than completely replace, the corporation's fundamental responsibility to maintain public infrastructure and protect public spaces.

The initiative raises a larger question about urban governance. A city aspiring to retain its cultural identity, cleanliness and green character cannot afford to allow its public parks to deteriorate because of financial difficulties. While corporate participation can certainly bring additional resources, expertise and innovative solutions, the corporation must also ensure that adopted parks remain accessible to the public and that maintenance standards are consistently monitored.

Adopters can take up

- Native trees, flowering plants and green lawns
- Drip irrigation and rainwater harvesting
- Eco-friendly benches, walking tracks and play equipment
- Solar-powered lighting

Inviting citizens and organisations to contribute is a welcome step. But the real challenge before the corporation is to ensure that Mysuru's parks do not remain dependent on private generosity for their survival.

The MCC Commissioner has appealed to organisations to join the initiative and become partners in building a cleaner and greener Mysuru. For details, interested organisations can contact the Horticulture Department of the Mysore City Corporation at 9480391234. A greener Mysuru needs collective commitment. But keeping its parks alive remains a civic responsibility that cannot be outsourced.

Cage lock gives way, leopard escapes

CH NEWS, MYSURU

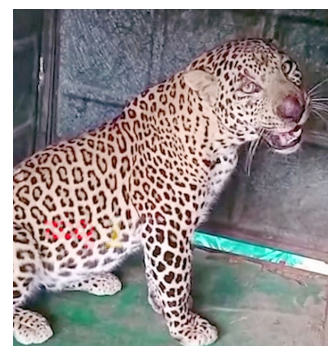
Panic continues to grip residents of Marase and Makanahundi villages in Varuna Assembly constituency of Mysuru taluk following the movement of big cats in the surrounding areas.

A leopard that had been trapped in a cage set up by the Forest Department escaped after the cage lock reportedly opened, leaving villagers worried about the presence of three to four more leopards or tigers in the area.

Following reports in the media about the movement of a large tiger-like animal around Marase and Makanahundi, Forest Department officials had placed a cage in the agricultural land belonging to Siddegowda, near Marase village. Last week, a leopard, instead of a tiger, was trapped in the cage, bringing some relief to the frightened villagers. However, residents maintained that three to four more big cats were still roaming in the area.

Their movement had reportedly been captured on mobile phone cameras near the main road connecting Marase and Makanahundi and close to the government school in Marase village.

In an incident on Sunday morning, another leopard entered the cage, which had been baited with a calf, in Siddegowda's coconut plantation. However, the large-sized leopard repeatedly jumped and thrashed about inside the cage, causing its locking mechanism to open. When Forest Department personnel approached the cage to secure it, the leopard reportedly jumped past them and escaped.



A leopard in a Forest Department cage

The incident has further heightened fear among residents of Marase and Makanahundi and neighbouring villages, including Mandakalli, Gudumadanahalli and Koodanahalli, as well as areas surrounding the airport. Although one leopard had been trapped earlier, the escape of another has renewed concerns about the safety of villagers and the public.

Former Gram Panchayat member Siddanayaka, along with village youth and residents, has appealed to Forest Department officials to intensify their efforts to capture the escaped leopard and other wild animals roaming in the area.

They urged the department to take immediate measures to ensure that villagers can move around fearlessly and visit their agricultural fields without apprehension.

National Children's Theatre Festival gets a colorful launch

Theatre as a guiding light for children's personality development

CH NEWS, MYSURU

The 'National Children's Theatre Festival-2026', organized with the noble objective of expanding the latent talent, creativity, and thinking ability in children, was launched in a unique and meaningful manner on Sunday.

This theatre festival has been organized under the joint auspices of the Indian Institute of Educational Theatre (IIET) and the Jagannath Centre for Arts and Culture (JCAC). During the inaugural ceremony held at the IIET auditorium on the Hardwicke School campus in the city, a young boy named Siyan caught everyone's attention by inaugurating the festival through a playful whistle to the dignitaries on stage with a clap plate. A special feature of this festival is the staging of plays for children by adult troupes, with performances scheduled to take place across various venues in the city from November 16 to 22.

Speaking after inaugurating the festival, renowned Pandavani artist from Kolkata, Seema Ghosh, eloquently explained the significance of theatre. "Theatre provides an excellent platform for children to further expand their talent, thoughts, and artistic expression. It helps them bring out their inner creativity," she opined.



A young participant with a clap plate at the inauguration on Sunday

Continuing her address, she stated, "A play can be performed in any language. Even if the audience does not understand that language, they can easily grasp the core intent and essence of the play through the expressions and gestures of the artists. Theatre has no language barriers."

JCAC representative and retired Rangayana playwright S. Ramanath, who was present at the event, emphasized the necessity of theatre activities in the education system. "Holistic development of children is possible when theatre activities are integrated with education. However, awareness about this is still low in our society. Theatre possesses the wonderful power to develop children's personalities. Therefore, theatre activities in schools and colleges should not be merely occasional, but a continuous process," he said. Furthermore, he advised, "Although numerous theatre festivals take place throughout the year in the cultural city of Mysuru, the number of plays dedicated to children is very low. In this regard, such festivals are indispensable. Primarily, parents must cultivate the habit of watching children's plays first."

Delivering the introductory remarks, IIET Director Chaluvaraju explained the background and objectives of the festival. "Theatre plays a vital role in instilling social responsibility and fostering creativity among children. With this aspiration, this National Children's Theatre Festival has been continuously organized since 2023. This year's festival has been expanded further; arrangements have been made to stage plays not only at the IIET and JCAC auditoriums, but also across various schools in the city. Experienced theatre troupes from different parts of the country, including Mumbai, Tamil Nadu, and Bengaluru, will arrive in Mysuru to present special performances for children," he informed.

Following the inaugural ceremony, a meaningful interaction was held regarding the book 'Pandavani: Kathe Heluva Kale' (Pandavani: The Art of Storytelling), centered on artist Seema Ghosh. Later, Seema Ghosh captivated the audience with her splendid Pandavani performance. Mysuru IIET Office Education Coordinator Y.N. Rajesh, senior theatre director Prasanna, Hardwicke PU College Principal Sundaresh Devapriyam, along with several dignitaries, theatre enthusiasts, and students, were present on the occasion.

> **"Theatre provides an excellent platform for children to further expand their talent, thoughts, and artistic expression."**
>
> — **Seema Ghosh,** Pandavani artist

Special panel to be formed to address SC/ST students' issues at UoM: Dr Murthy

CH NEWS, MYSURU

Karnataka State Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Chairman Dr. L. Murthy visited the University of Mysore and held a meeting with the Vice-Chancellor, Registrar and the Commission's Secretary to review issues faced by students and teaching staff.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Murthy said a special committee would be constituted under the leadership of the University of Mysore authorities and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Zilla Panchayat. The committee would meet once every three months and submit reports on students' problems to the Vice-Chancellor and the Commission. The meeting discussed several issues, including inadequate infrastructure, maintenance of hostels, delays in releasing fellowship grants to Ph.D. scholars, distribution of laptops and skill development training programmes.

Murthy said the shortage of basic amenities and inadequate hostel accommodation for Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) students at the university were serious concerns. During the academic year 2026-27, 1,888 SC students, 497 ST students and 812 students belonging to the general category were availing themselves of hostel facilities. Another major concern was the large number of vacant teaching posts and the failure to recruit faculty members to the required extent, he said.

The Commission has so far registered 4,850 cases following visits to around 20 districts across the State. Cases relating to land disputes, atrocities and issues concerning students in government service are being taken up through court proceedings every Thursday and Friday, he said.



The SC/ST Commission's meeting at the University of Mysore

Dr. Murthy pointed out that the lack of infrastructure and delays in recruiting teaching and non-teaching staff were adversely affecting students' education and overall development. Recruitment to backlog vacancies and appointments required under government orders were being delayed. This had resulted in increased dependence on outsourced staff, which, he said, was reducing accountability.

He also said that the full amount of funds meant for the development of SCs and STs was not being released by the government. In particular, approximately Rs. 5.27 crore under the EBL component was yet to be released in full.

Scholarships

Regarding scholarships, he said the scholarship amount was being directly credited to students' bank accounts, but this arrangement was creating difficulties for them in paying examination and admission fees on time. Although the fee structure was the same as that applicable to general-category students, SC/ST students were facing difficulties as they had to depend on scholarship funds to meet these expenses.

He expressed serious concern over reports of caste discrimination and atrocities in women's hostels and various other parts of the university. At the Manasagangothri campus, 10 to 12 students were reportedly sharing a single hostel room, resulting in inadequate living conditions and a shortage of basic amenities. Instead of merely repairing old buildings, the university required approximately Rs. 100 crore to construct new hostel buildings. A proposal in this regard would be submitted to the State Government, he said.

Describing the delay in disbursal of scholarships to SC/ST students as a serious issue, Dr. Murthy said he would write to the Minister for Social Welfare seeking immediate action to ensure the timely release of funds. A detailed discussion had been held with the Vice-Chancellor, Registrar and students on all these issues. The Commission would submit a comprehensive report to the government and recommend appropriate action.

State to submit report on excess ethanol blending to Centre today: Rizwan Arshad

CH NEWS, MYSURU

Excessive ethanol blending in petrol is causing problems not only for motorists and the general public but also for petrol pump operators. The practice amounts to betraying public trust, and the State Government has taken the issue seriously and will submit a report to the Centre today (Tuesday), said Food, Consumer Affairs and Civil Supplies Minister Rizwan Arshad.

Reacting to the issue of ethanol blending at petroleum terminals in Mysuru on Monday, the Minister said that petrol supplied through six petroleum terminals across Karnataka was being blended with ethanol in excess of the prescribed proportion.



At the APMC market in Bandipalya

He clarified that petrol pump owners were not responsible for the problem, as ethanol blending could not be carried out at retail fuel outlets. The issue originated at the petroleum terminals, where petrol was allegedly being mixed with ethanol beyond the stipulated limits.

An official report, incorporating technical assessments and laboratory findings, would be submitted to the Central Government today. The Centre must take immediate action based on the technical and laboratory reports. If the Centre failed to act, the State Government would initiate stringent measures within its jurisdiction.

Rejecting attempts to link the issue with the recent hike in milk and bus fares, Arshad said it was inappropriate to connect the two matters. All relevant reports on ethanol blending had been obtained a month before the fare revisions. The issue was made public only after the authenticity of the reports had been verified, he clarified.

Raids on APMCs; 60 cases booked

For the first time since assuming charge as Food and Civil Supplies Minister, Rizwan Arshad said that officials of the department had conducted inspections and raids across all Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) markets in Karnataka.

As part of the drive, the Minister visited the APMC market at Bandipalya in Mysuru and personally inspected the weighing and measuring instruments used by traders in their shops.

Going around the market, he checked the accuracy of weighing machines and instructed officials concerned to ensure that farmers and consumers were not cheated through inaccurate measurements or short delivery of goods.

APMC raids in Mysuru

180	SHOPS INSPECTED IN A DAY
60	CASES REGISTERED
2.41 lakh	RUPEES IN FINES

In Mysuru, an official team inspected 180 shops in a single day, registered 60 cases and imposed fines totalling Rs. 2.41 lakh. The violations included the use of faulty or non-standard weighing machines, supplying goods in quantities lower than those specified, discrepancies in the net weight printed on rice packets and failure to comply with mandatory declaration requirements for packaged commodities.

The Minister directed officials to intensify inspections and ensure strict compliance with weighing, measurement and packaged commodity regulations to protect the interests of farmers and consumers.

Quick Read

Free sewing machines, tools offered to eligible applicants

CH NEWS, CHIKKABALLAPURA

The District Department of Industries and Commerce has invited online applications from eligible beneficiaries for free electric sewing machines and advanced work tools. Working women residing within Gram Panchayat limits can apply for sewing machines. Artisans, including carpenters, masons, washermen, barbers, blacksmiths and stone workers, can apply for trade-related equipment. Applicants must visit the district website, chikkaballapur.nic.in, and submit their applications with required documents by November 20.

For details, contact the Deputy Director's office at the District Panchayat or the respective Taluk Industrial Extension Officers.Chintamani and Shidlaghatta: 9972095093Bagepalli, Gauribidanur, Chikkaballapura and Gudibande: 9741234125

Children's Festival offers platform to showcase talent

CH NEWS, KARWAR

City Municipal Commissioner Jagadish Hulagajji said the district-level Children's Festival (Makkala Habba) was organised to encourage children to showcase their talents on Children's Day.

He was speaking after inaugurating the festival at Kajubag Mahasati Kalyana Mantapa. The event was jointly organised by the District Administration and the Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports.

He said the festival aimed to identify children's abilities, encourage their talents and help them grow into responsible future leaders.

Assistant Director of Youth Empowerment and Sports Ravi Naik, competition judges Deepak Chhatrapati Naik and Darshan, children, parents and others attended.

DISHA meeting scheduled in Chikkaballapura Nov 18

CH NEWS, CHIKKABALLAPURA

The District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee (DISHA) meeting will be held on November 18 at 10.30 am at the District Panchayat Hall. District Panchayat CEO Dr. Y. Naveen Bhat said the meeting would be chaired by Chikkaballapura MP Dr. K. Sudhakar.Meanwhile, revised property guideline values for 2026–27 have been published in Gudibande and Chintamani taluks. The public can inspect the revised lists at the respective Sub-Registrar's offices. Residents can submit written objections along with supporting documents to the respective Sub-Registrar's offices by December 3, 2026.

Deve Gowda seeks Cauvery water policy review

Deve Gowda urged the Union Jal Shakti Ministry to review the CWMA's powers regarding reservoir management and water releases

CH NEWS, MANDYA

Former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, seeking the Centre's intervention in Karnataka's Cauvery water crisis.

He has called for a review of the Cauvery Water Management Authority's (CWMA) powers, early approval of the Mekedatu project and a fairer share of water for Karnataka under the proposed river-linking project.

In his letter, Deve Gowda said Karnataka received only around 60 per cent of its normal rainfall this year, leaving major reservoirs at just 50–55 per cent of their storage capacity. He questioned the CWMA's directions to release water to Tamil Nadu despite the state's limited water availability.

He said drinking water requirements in Bengaluru and surrounding districts must receive priority, particularly as Tamil Nadu seeks water mainly for agricultural purposes. He also referred to the National Water Policy, which gives priority to drinking water needs.

Deve Gowda urged the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti to review the CWMA's powers in accordance with the Supreme Court's directions. He sought changes to its functioning, particularly regarding



reservoir management and water releases.

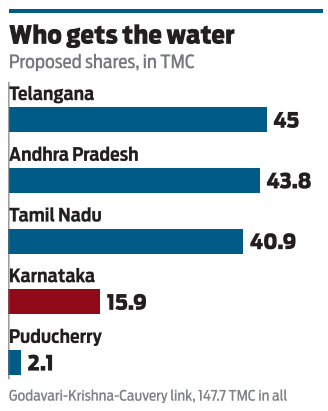
He also requested the Central Water Commission (CWC) to expedite approval of the Mekedatu balancing reservoir and drinking water project, which is proposed to meet Bengaluru's growing water needs. Karnataka submitted its revised detailed project report on August 13, 2026, and it is awaiting further appraisal.

Calling for a review of the Cauvery Tribunal's award, Deve Gowda said it was based on older water availability and climate data. He argued that changing rainfall patterns and global warming made a fresh assessment necessary.

He also raised concerns over the proposed Godavari-Krishna-Cauvery river-linking project, which envisages transferring 147.7 TMC of water. The proposed allocation includes 45 TMC for Telangana, 43.8 TMC for Andhra Pradesh, 40.9 TMC for Tamil Nadu, 15.9 TMC for Karnataka and 2.1 TMC for Puducherry. He sought an increase in Karnataka's share.

He urged the Centre to address the state's concerns and protect the drinking water and livelihood needs of people in the Cauvery basin.

Who gets the water
Proposed shares, in TMC



Godavari-Krishna-Cauvery link, 147.7 TMC in all

What Gowda wants

CWMA
a review of its powers over reservoirs and water releases

Mekedatu
early approval of the balancing reservoir project

Tribunal award
a fresh look in the light of changing rainfall

River-linking
more than the 15.9 TMC proposed for Karnataka

The Cauvery River is a major source of drinking water and irrigation for Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. Originating at Talakaveri in Karnataka's Kodagu district, it flows through Tamil Nadu before reaching the Bay of Bengal. The dispute over sharing its water has continued for decades, particularly during years of poor monsoon rainfall. The Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal was established in 1990 and announced its final award in 2007. In February 2018, the Supreme Court modified the water-sharing arrangement, allocating 284.75 TMC to Karnataka and 404.25 TMC to Tamil Nadu in a normal water year. The Cauvery Water Management Authority was subsequently established to monitor implementation of the verdict and regulate water releases. The Mekedatu project, proposed by Karnataka to improve Bengaluru's drinking water supply, remains a major point of disagreement between the two states.

Governor urges students to become job creators



Governor Dr. Sudha Yadav at the VSKU convocation in Ballari.

CH NEWS, BALLARI

Karnataka Governor Dr. Sudha Yadav has urged students to move beyond seeking jobs and become job creators by developing startups, encouraging innovation and using their skills to create employment opportunities.

She was speaking at the 14th annual convocation of Vijayanagara Sri Krishnadevaraya University (VSKU), held at its open-air theatre in Ballari on Monday. The convocation was for the 2024–25 academic year.

The Governor called upon students to contribute towards building a developed India by 2047, when the country will celebrate 100 years of independence. She encouraged them to support the vision of a drug-free India, continue learning in the age of Artificial Intelligence (AI), protect the environment and maintain cleanliness.

She appreciated the university's efforts to expand digital facilities with a grant of ₹42 crore from the Kalyana Karnataka Region Development Board (KKRDB). She also appreciated its initiatives to provide free education and scholarships to transgender students and children of pourakarmikas.

Retired High Court judge Dr. Krishna S. Dixit expressed concern over the migration of nearly six lakh talented people abroad every year. He urged students to contribute to the nation's development. He said AI should benefit humanity and stressed that education must develop wisdom and encourage service to society.

In his introductory address, Vice-Chancellor Prof. M. Muniraju said the university had secured more than 30 patents and adopted 22 villages for development. He also highlighted its recognition with the Global Green University Award 2026.

The university conferred honorary doctorates on three distinguished personalities: Dr. Henry D'Souza, Bishop of the Ballari Diocese, for his contributions to education and social service; Channabasavanna C., popularly known as Lohia Channabasavanna, for his work in literature and environmental protection; and Geeta Nagpal, co-founder of Krupanidhi Educational Institutions, for her contributions to education, arts and social service.

During the ceremony, 52 research scholars received Ph.D. degrees. Rank certificates were awarded to 137 students, including 66 undergraduate and 71 postgraduate students. A total of 50 gold medals were awarded to 42 students.

Registrar Prof. V. Lokesh, Registrar (Evaluation) Prof. P. Kannan, faculty deans, college principals, teaching staff and non-teaching staff attended the convocation.

Chikkaballapura to introduce new digital fertilizer booking

CH NEWS, CHIKKABALLAPURA

Deputy Commissioner G. Prabhu has announced that a new digital system for purchasing fertilizers will be introduced across all taluks of the district from December 1, 2026. The initiative aims to improve transparency, prevent misuse of subsidies and ensure timely availability of fertilizers to farmers.

Under the new system, farmers can book fertilizers through the Central Government's Framework for Fertilizer Sale (FFS) mobile application. The system connects farmers' identification, land records and crop details to help determine their fertilizer requirements.

Farmers can book fertilizers according to their land area and crops grown. After successful booking, a QR code will be generated. Farmers can present this code at their selected authorised fertilizer outlet to collect the booked quantity.

The system will also be linked to the Integrated Fertilizer Management System (iFMS), which monitors fertilizer stocks, transportation, distribution and supply. The initiative is intended to ensure that subsidised fertilizers reach eligible farmers and prevent unauthorised sales.

How farmers can purchase fertilizers

Farmers must download the FFS application on their Android mobile phones and complete the registration process. They must provide the required identification, land and crop details for verification. Following successful booking, they will receive a QR code for collecting fertilizers from the selected outlet.

Farmers who face difficulties using the application can seek assistance from Common Service Centres (CSCs), Primary Agricultural Credit Cooperative Societies (PACS), cooperative societies and authorised fertilizer retailers.



The Central Government's official guidelines also provide for QR-based booking and verification at fertilizer outlets.

Deputy Commissioner G. Prabhu appealed to farmers to contact Agriculture Department officials for further information and make use of the new facility.

Chikkaballapura launches special child safety campaign

CHIKKABALLAPURA: Deputy Commissioner G. Prabhu has launched a special awareness campaign to protect children's rights and prevent child abuse, child marriage and exploitation.

Speaking at a district-level child protection review meeting, he said 101 POCSO cases and two child marriages had been reported in the district over the past seven months. He directed officials to strengthen preventive measures and ensure child protection committees are formed in all schools and colleges within a week. He also instructed officials to hold committee meetings within 15 days and submit GPS-tagged photographs. Action was sought against those involved in child-related offences. The administration has also launched an awareness drive under International Adoption Month. The Child Helpline 1098 provides round-the-clock assistance to children in distress under Mission Vatsalya. Prabhu appealed to the public to join the campaign and help create a safe environment for children.

Senior Civil Judge B. Shilpa, SP Padmini Sahoo, Zilla Panchayat Deputy Secretary Atiq Pasha and other officials attended.

'FFS app to ensure transparent fertilizer distribution'

CH NEWS, MANDYA

Deputy Commissioner Dr. Kumara has directed officials to create widespread awareness among farmers about the Framework for Fertilizer Sale (FFS) mobile application, which will be introduced in Mandya district from December 1, 2026.

He was speaking at a training programme held at the Zilla Panchayat mini-hall. He said the application aims to make fertilizer distribution transparent, prevent overcharging and ensure farmers receive fertilizers at government-fixed prices.

The system integrates farmer information from the Central Government's AgriStack and Karnataka's FRUITS database with the Integrated Fertilizer Management System (iFMS). Officials, fertilizer distributors and other stakeholders have been instructed to undergo training before implementation.

Through the application, farmers can reserve fertilizers according to their requirements. Retailers will keep reserved fertilizers for up to three days, while the generated QR code will remain valid for two days. Fertilizers will be sold at the prescribed maximum retail price (MRP).

Farmers will be able to book fertilizers based on their



At the training programme on the FFS app in Mandya.



From December 1: the FFS app in Mandya and Chikkaballapura districts

landholdings and crop requirements. The system is designed to prevent overpricing and stop retailers from forcing farmers to purchase other agricultural inputs along with fertilizers.

Farmers who cannot operate the application can seek assistance from Common Service Centres (CSCs), Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), cooperative societies, authorised fertilizer retailers and Agriculture Department staff.

Elderly farmers and persons with disabilities can also authorise representatives to collect fertilizers on their behalf.

Dr. Kumara instructed officials to conduct awareness programmes in villages with the support of elected representatives, farmer leaders and farmers' organisations. He also stressed the need to organise training camps and establish a helpline and grievance redressal system to address farmers' complaints.

Joint Director of Agriculture Jayaswamy, Deputy Director Malathi and other Agriculture Department officials attended the programme.

The FFS rules

BOOKED STOCK HELD
Up to 3 days

QR CODE VALID
2 days

PRICE
MRP

HELP AT
CSCs, PACS, cooperative societies and retailers

FISH FARMING BONUS

'Farm ponds help farmers fight drought, boost income'

CH NEWS, UTTARA KANNADA

Farm ponds are helping farmers overcome water shortages, protect crops and earn additional income through activities such as fish farming amid uncertain rainfall.

With irregular monsoons and changing weather patterns affecting agriculture, farm ponds have become an important source of water for rain-dependent farmers. Under the Krishi Bhagya scheme, the Agriculture Department encourages farmers to collect and store rainwater for use during dry periods.

In Uttara Kannada district, 228 farm ponds were completed in 2025–26 and 132 have been completed in the current year, according to department figures. Work on another 26 ponds is under way.

Farm ponds are generally constructed at suitable locations on agricultural land to collect rainwater. Their size depends on the land, soil conditions and water storage requirements. Plastic lining is provided where necessary to prevent seepage. Stored water can be pumped to fields for irrigation. The scheme also provides financial assistance for pond construction and safety fencing.

Farmer earns additional income through fish farming



A lined farm pond, covered with a net.

Arun Naik, a farmer from Naruru village in Sirsi taluk, constructed a farm pond two years ago. He said the stored water helped maintain his plantation until March and encouraged him to expand it by two acres.

He also started fish farming in the pond. By selling two quintals of fish, he earned ₹60,000 and expects another harvest of six to seven quintals. He received ₹1.14 lakh as a subsidy and a pump-set facility from the Agriculture Department.

By selling two quintals of fish, Arun Naik earned ₹60,000

Naik said the pond had also helped recharge groundwater as it was built without plastic lining. He added that the strong local demand for fish had made marketing easier.

Farm ponds support several agricultural activities, including growing vegetables, fruits and horticultural crops. They also provide water for livestock and create opportunities for fish farming. By storing rainwater, they help farmers reduce crop losses during summer.

Joint Director of Agriculture Shivaprasad Gaonkar said farm ponds play an important role in conserving rainwater and improving groundwater levels. He added that the department was encouraging farmers to adopt water conservation measures through the Krishi Bhagya scheme.

Karnataka had declared 226 taluks drought-affected by October 2026, highlighting the need for better water conservation.

Farm ponds are therefore helping farmers strengthen water security, protect crops and diversify their income.

Quick Read

Maramma Devi temple to be inaugurated on December 3-4

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

The newly constructed Maramma Devi temple at Chikkakabbigere village in Turuvanuru Hobli will be inaugurated on December 3 and 4. The temple has been built by the Chalavadi community. Various religious rituals will begin at 4 pm on December 3. The idol installation ceremony will be held on December 4 between 4.30 am and 6 am. The temple tower's sacred Kalasha installation is scheduled from 9.32 am to 10.20 am.A community feast (Anna Santarpane) will be organised at noon on December 4. Temple committee members, village leaders and hereditary worship custodians have invited devotees to participate in the ceremonies and seek the blessings of Maramma Devi.

Tailors' Association provides ₹10,000 aid to cancer patient

CH NEWS, HUNSUR

The Tegada Naadu Tailors Welfare Association has provided financial assistance of ₹10,000 to its member Mahesh, who is undergoing cancer treatment. Mahesh, an employee at Sneha Tailors, owned by Ganapathi, received the assistance on November 15 to help meet his medical expenses. Association office-bearers, including Honorary President Chandranna, President Nagaraj, Vice-President Mohan Chari, General Secretary Shivanna G. and Treasurer Rajashekhar H.K., were present.

Minister seeks more cooperative funding for farmers

Excise Minister K.M. Shivalinge Gowda stressed agriculture and dairy farming's role in rural incomes, urging bipartisan cooperation to address inadequate funding.

CH NEWS, ARSIKERE



Karnataka Excise Minister and Hassan district in-charge Minister K.M. Shivalinge Gowda stressed the need to strengthen cooperative institutions by providing them with additional funds to improve farmers' financial condition.

He called for a non-partisan movement to protect the interests of farmers and dairy producers and expand interest-free loan facilities.

He was speaking at the 73rd Cooperative Week celebrations held at Valmiki Community Hall in Arsikere. The event was organised under the theme of creating a favourable environment through technology, skills and professional services for the growth of cooperative institutions.

The Minister said agriculture and dairy farming were important sources of income for rural families. However, inadequate financial support was preventing many farmers from expanding their activities. He urged political leaders to set aside party differences and work together to improve farmers' livelihoods.

Interest-free loans for dairy farmers

Gowda said farmers rearing two or three cows alongside agriculture needed better access to financial assistance. He observed that producing 20 to 30 litres of milk daily could provide farming families with a steady additional income.

He said he had raised the issue at a Cabinet meeting, stressing the need to strengthen cooperative institutions that provide loans to farmers. He pointed out that commercial bank loans carrying interest rates of 8% to 10% could increase farmers' financial burden and affect the profitability of dairy farming.

8-10%

interest on commercial bank loans, which the Minister said could add to farmers' burden

Hassan Dairy supports thousands of families

The Minister praised Hassan Dairy for supporting thousands of families through dairy farming. He said the milk union had played an important role in providing livelihoods and strengthening the district's rural economy.

He also highlighted the demand for Karnataka's milk, particularly Hassan-produced milk, across the country. He said the demand for Hassan milk among consumers, including defence personnel, reflected its popularity.

At a glance

- Minister urges more funding for cooperatives
- A non-partisan movement needed for farmers
- Expand interest-free loan facilities
- Commercial bank loans add to farmers' burden
- Dairy farming provides a steady rural income
- Nandini products find buyers abroad

Nandini products find overseas markets

Gowda recalled spotting a shop displaying a 'Nandini Products' signboard during his visit to a European country. He said he was told that demand for the products was strong.

He added that dairy farming was no longer limited to selling raw milk. Value-added dairy products were opening new markets and creating better income opportunities for farmers and milk producers.



Arsikere, Hassan district

The Minister said agriculture, dairy farming and cooperative institutions were closely connected. Strengthening these sectors through better financial support and resources was essential to reducing farmers' debt burden and achieving rural economic development.

Rare Spotted Flycatcher recorded for first time in North Karnataka



A Spotted Flycatcher

MALINGARAYA PUJAR, GADAG

Gadag district has recorded a rare migratory bird, the Spotted Flycatcher (Muscicapa striata), in the Nagavi-Beldhadi hill region. The sighting, reportedly the first documented record of the species in North Karnataka, has attracted the attention of birdwatchers and wildlife researchers.

Kiran Kammar, an ornithologist and wildlife researcher from Gadag, identified and recorded the bird on October 8. The species breeds in parts of Europe and Siberia and migrates to Africa during winter.

Recalling the sighting, Kammar said: "In early October, I was returning from birdwatching in the Nagavi-Beladhadi hills. Then, a small bird caught my attention, catching small insects on the ground and flying back to the branch of an acacia (jali) tree. When I carefully observed its upright sitting posture, the shape of its beak, and the stripes on its chest, I was certain that it was the extremely rare Spotted Flycatcher. It is a matter of pride that the scrub forests of our district provide shelter to such international migratory birds."

A rare passage migrant

Unlike many migratory birds that spend several months in India, the Spotted Flycatcher is known as a passage migrant. It travels through northwestern and western India, particularly Gujarat and Rajasthan, on its journey towards Africa. During its return migration, it generally follows a route through the Arabian Peninsula, bypassing India. Its sighting in Gadag, away from its commonly recorded Indian migration areas, makes the observation noteworthy.

> *"It is a matter of pride that the scrub forests of our district provide shelter to such international migratory birds."*
>
> **KIRAN KAMMAR** Ornithologist and wildlife researcher, Gadag

Small bird with distinct features

The Spotted Flycatcher measures around 14 to 15 centimetres and weighs approximately 14 to 20 grams. It has greyish-brown upperparts, a pale underside and fine streaks on its head and breast. Young birds have more noticeable spots.

The bird usually sits upright on an exposed branch, watches for flying insects and catches them in quick movements before returning to its perch.

Conservation status and habitat protection

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has classified the species as 'Least Concern'. However, its global population trend is reported to be decreasing. Habitat loss remains an important conservation concern.

The sighting has also highlighted the ecological importance of Gadag's hills and scrub forests. The district has recorded more than 250 bird species, with Magadi Lake and Kappatagudda among its important biodiversity areas.

Wildlife enthusiasts have stressed the need to protect natural habitats around Nagavi and Beldhadi by preventing illegal mining, encroachment and excessive pesticide use.

They have also called for further bird surveys to document migratory species and understand their movement patterns.

Kolar advocate seeks press rights for YouTubers

CH NEWS, KOLAR

Advocate K.S. Narendra Babu, Kolar district president of the All India Lawyers' Union, has urged the Centre to extend press rights and safeguards to YouTube news providers.

He submitted a memorandum to Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw through Ramesh, the Hakku Shirastedar at Kolar Taluk Office, on National Press Day.

Babu, who runs the YouTube channels Astro Justice 23 and Front Voice 24x7, said digital platforms had changed how people share news and raise concerns. The memorandum argued that independent news providers should receive protections similar to those available to accredited journalists.



The memorandum being handed over in Kolar on National Press Day

It cited an Oxford Economics study commissioned by YouTube, which estimated that its creative ecosystem contributed over ₹18,000 crore to India's GDP in 2025 and supported 9.6 lakh full-time-equivalent jobs. It referred to India's 157th position in the 2026 World Press Freedom Index.

The memorandum sought changes to laws and rules governing the press, digital media and broadcasting. It called for protection of news sources, safeguards against arbitrary arrest and intimidation, and notice and a hearing before a channel is blocked. It opposed broad social media bans and classification of news providers solely by district, regional or state labels.

Babu said those who spread false information, manipulate news using artificial intelligence or engage in blackmail should face action after due inquiry. However, he said the YouTube news community should not be branded fake.

After submitting the memorandum, he urged YouTubers and independent journalists to unite to protect news reporting. Social worker Madhusudan, Ditta Kannadigara Rakshana Vedike state president Changalarayashetty, district president Saksharata Venkatesh, Supriya, Subramani and Gaganashree were present.

THE MEMORANDUM

Press rights for YouTube news providers

- Protection of news sources
- A hearing before a channel is blocked
- Safeguards against arbitrary arrest and intimidation

Gadag hosts district-level Kalashree contest for children

CH NEWS, GADAG

The District Bal Bhavan organised a district-level Kalashree competition to mark Children's Day, providing children with an opportunity to showcase their talents.

The competition was organised jointly by the State Bal Bhavan Society, Bengaluru, the Zilla Panchayat, the Department of Women and Child Development and the District Bal Bhavan, Gadag.

Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer Mukul Jain inaugurated the programme. Speaking on the occasion, he appreciated Bal Bhavan for providing a platform for children to develop their talents.

Dr. Rajendra S. Gadad, president of the District Children's Literature Council, Gadag, attended as a chief guest.

HIRIYUR CAMPAIGN PUSH

CM D.K. Shivakumar to lead public service campaign in Hiriyur on November 21

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

A Praja Seva Andolana will be held in Hiriyur on November 21 under Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar's leadership. District In-charge Minister T. Raghumurthy has directed officials to distribute application forms and process submissions without delay.

He issued the instructions at a meeting with district-level officials at the Deputy Commissioner's office in Chitradurga on Monday.

Raghumurthy asked officials to publicise the campaign across Hiriyur taluk, including through village announcements. Applications were collected during the campaign held on September 5. He sought a report on how many applications had been addressed, how many remained pending and the reasons for delays.



The meeting with district officials in Chitradurga on Monday

He directed officials to act promptly on grievances received through the Integrated Public Grievance Redressal System (IPGRS). Complaints that can be resolved at taluk or district level should be handled without delay.

Officials were instructed to visit homes in villages and urban areas, distribute application forms and collect completed forms. The minister also called for proper arrangements at the venue, including shade, seating and separate counters for departments.

With drought conditions raising concerns over drinking water, he asked departments to be ready to address related complaints. Revenue matters are also expected to feature, and officials were told to provide immediate assistance.

The minister said the campaign should help people access government services and resolve grievances. He directed departments to coordinate and follow up on applications received.

Deputy Commissioner S. Ramya, Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer Dr. Akash, Additional Deputy Commissioner B.T. Kumaraswamy, Sub-Divisional Officer Dr. K.J. Kantharaj, Zilla Panchayat Deputy Secretary Babu, CPO Gayathri, Social Welfare Department Deputy Director Mallikarjun and Hiriyur Tahsildar attended.

Praja Seva Andolana

WHEN	November 21
WHERE	Hiriyur
LED BY	Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar
FORMS	Taken to homes in villages and towns

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client **Late. B. Rudrappa's children K.R. Basappa, K.R. Prabhu & K.R. Rajanna, all are R/at. Kuduvathi Village, Nandi Hobli, Chickballapur Taluk.**

01. The property bearing Sy. No. 17/1 measuring 1 acres 12 guntas, standing in the name of K.R. Rajanna son of B. Rudrappa.
02. The property bearing Sy. No. 17/2 measuring 1 acres 12 guntas, standing in the name of K.R. Prabhu son of B. Rudrappa.
03. The property bearing Sy. No. 17/3 measuring 1 acres 13 guntas and karab of 01 guntas, standing in the name of K.R. Basappa son of B. Rudrappa.

The above properties are situated at Kuduvathi village Nandi hobli, Chickballapur taluk.

Therefore they lodged the complaint before the Chickballapur Police Unit. Therefore the said authority issued separate NCR's stated below:

Deeds and NCR copies of Survey numbers

Sl. No.	Deed No.	Sy. No.	Names	NCR No.
01	74/1946-47	17	K.R. Basappa	2539020/2026
02	2170/1946-47	17	K.R. Prabhu	2539035/2026
03	2188/1947-48	17	K.R. Rajanna	2539096/2026

The above said original sale deeds are lost at Kuduvathi Village. If any person/s, firm, company, institution or organization has any claim or holding the afore mentioned document, they may contact the undersigned in writing within 7 days from the date of this notice failing which it will be presumed that there are no claims.

Name and address:
K.R. Basappa – Mob: 8861520504, K.R. Prabhu – Mob: 9611669519 & K.R. Rajanna – Mob: 9481780836, all are R/at. Kuduvathi Village, Nandi Hobli, Chickballapur Taluk.

Advocate
M.V. Srinivasa Char, M.Com., LL.B.
Opp. S.B.I. Bank, M.G. Road,
Chickballapur – 562101
E-mail: srinivasa.char80@gmail.com

NAME CHANGE

I, **NAYEEMA BEGUM**, W/o. Moghul Mahaboob Ali Baig, Resident of No:11, 6th Main, D Cross, Bismilllah Nagar, Bangalore South, Bangalore – 560029. have changed my name to **M NAYEEMA BEGUM,** vide affidavit dated:16.11.2026, before Notary R Basavaraja, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I hitherto known as **GOWRI H M ALIAS T M LATHA** D/O SASHIDHARA H M W/o T M RAJA SHEKAR, residing at S-6 PRABHAVATHI LOTUS-2 2ND FLOOR, KODICHIKKANAHALLI LAKE CITY, NEAR APOLO PHARMACY, BOMMANAHALLI, BANGALORE SOUTH, BANNERGHATTA ROAD, BENGALURU, KARNATAKA, 560076, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as **T M LATHA.**

CHANGE OF NAME

I hitherto known as **T M RAJASEKAR** alias **T M RAJA SHEKAR** alias **T M RAJA SHEKHER** S/o T M ESWARAIAH, residing at S-6 PRABHAVATHI LOTUS-2 2ND FLOOR, KODICHIKKANAHALLI LAKE CITY, NEAR APOLO PHARMACY, BOMMANAHALLI, BANGALORE SOUTH, BANNERGHATTA ROAD, BENGALURU, KARNATAKA, 560076, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as **T M RAJA SHEKAR.**

DOCUMENT LOST

This is to inform to General public that my client Sri, Manjunatha .E s/o Erappa, Residing at Jedamakalahalli Vilage, Puluguru Kote Village Pancahayth, Srinivasapura taluk, Kolar District, I am the Owner of the Below said Property,while Sale Deed for taken Digital copy ,have lost following Documents of property pertating to below Mentioned property Situated at Jedamakalahalli Vilage, Puluguru Kote Village Pancahayth, Srinivasapura taluk, Kolar District, had published the factum of lost of his Original Sale Deed, Dated;-20-12-2013, Regd Sale deed, Executed by Sri, N.V.Ramachandrappa and Others, in favour of Sri,Manjunatha .E s/o Erappa, In regd as Book No.1,Volume No.KLR-1-00561/2021-22, IN CDNO.KLRD 804, IN SRO KOLAR , police complaint have been filed with regards to loss of the above said Document vide complaint in NCR NO. Lost Report no.2539549/2026, DATED;-16-11-2026, and complaint dated;-16-11-2026, by respective person,if anybody finds these Document please inform within 7 Days in Below mentioned Address.

Place- Chinthamani
Date- 16-11-2026

K.S.HARISH KUMAR
ADVOCATE
Office: NEAR KISHORE SCHOOL, ABOVE APPOLO PHARMACY, BESIDE SANTHOSHI MATHA TEMPLE, BANGALORE MAIN ROAD CHINTHAMANI.
MOBILE NO:9980110692

Quick Read

Manjunath honours farmer for giving land for pipeline

CH NEWS, HUNSUR

Former MLA H.P. Manjunath intervened to resolve a land-related issue that had delayed pipeline work for filling the lake at Challahalli village in Bilikere Hobli.The project aims to provide drinking water for cattle by filling the village lake through the Maraduru Lift Irrigation Project. However, the pipeline work had been delayed as its proposed route passed through land belonging to Thayappachar. Following a request from villagers, Manjunath spoke to Thayappachar in their presence and persuaded him to allow the pipeline to pass through his land. Appreciating his cooperation, Manjunath honoured Thayappachar for supporting the project, which is expected to benefit local livestock. Villagers Narasimha, Kumaregowda, Shekharachari, Shivakumar and Kariyanna were present on the occasion.

BHEL invites applications for various vacant posts

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL), a Central Government undertaking, has invited applications for various vacant posts at its Bengaluru office. Candidates who have passed SSLC and hold an ITI certificate in the relevant trade are eligible to apply. Applications must be submitted through careers.bhel.in by November 18.Applicants must upload their SSLC marks card, ITI certificate, caste and disability certificates (if applicable), Aadhaar and PAN cards, four photographs and NCVT MIS registration details.For further information, visit www.bhel.com or contact the Chitradurga District Employment Exchange at 9945587060, 7022459064 or 7019755147.

Minister Rayareddi asks officials to improve performance

The minister instructed officials to share comprehensive departmental data and ensure responsible fund utilisation and proper scheme implementation.



The district-level review meeting of departments at the Zilla Panchayat office in Gadag

CH NEWS, GADAG

District In-charge Minister Basavaraj Rayareddi has directed officials to improve the implementation of government schemes and achieve departmental targets with greater commitment and responsibility.

He was speaking at a district-level review meeting held at the Zilla Panchayat office on Monday. The two-day meeting reviewed the progress of the Agriculture, Horticulture, Sericulture, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries and Karnataka Seeds Corporation departments.

The Minister instructed officials to provide complete information about sanctioned posts, vacancies, staff strength, funds, scheme implementation and departmental achievements. He stressed that officials must understand their responsibilities and ensure the proper utilisation of government funds.

₹23.29 Crore for Agriculture

Officials informed the meeting that ₹23.29 crore had been allocated for agricultural schemes. The Minister directed them to achieve the prescribed targets and submit a detailed report on the availability and demand for seeds and fertilisers for the next agricultural season.

Drought Situation Reviewed

The district received 38 per cent less rainfall than the seasonal average. Against the planned sowing area of 7.19 lakh acres, crops had been sown on 7.01 lakh acres. Estimated drought-related losses stood at ₹262 crore.

The meeting discussed compensation for affected farmers, including the additional ₹3,500 per hectare beyond the ₹5,000 announced by the State Government. The Minister also sought a progress report on the Horticulture College at Dambal.

Officials Warned Over Poor Performance

The Minister expressed dissatisfaction with the Sericulture Department, where 41 of 49 sanctioned posts were vacant. He instructed Zilla Panchayat CEO Mukul Jain to issue a warning notice to the concerned officials.

In the Animal Husbandry Department, 278 of 384 posts were vacant. The Minister directed that a warning notice be issued to the Deputy Director for failing to provide adequate information.

Focus on Fisheries and Irrigation

Rayareddi directed officials to establish a fisheries farm at Hammigi Reservoir to improve employment opportunities for fishermen. He also instructed the Minor Irrigation Department to prepare a plan for constructing check dams to conserve rainwater and improve groundwater levels.

Reviewing the Singatalur Lift Irrigation Project, officials reported that ₹419.26 crore had been spent out of the sanctioned ₹462.35 crore. The Minister sought details of the irrigation coverage and benefits to farmers.

Deputy Commissioner C.N. Sreedhara, CEO Mukul Jain, Superintendent of Police Mithun H.N., Additional Deputy Commissioner Dr. Durgesh K.R. and other departmental officials attended the meeting.

The minister's orders

Warnings
Notices over 41 vacant Sericulture posts and to the Animal Husbandry Deputy Director

Fisheries
A fisheries farm at Hammigi Reservoir

Check dams
A plan to conserve rainwater

Seeds
A report on seed and fertiliser demand

Gadag at the review

₹23.29 cr for agricultural schemes	38% less rain than the seasonal average
7.01 lakh acres sown, of 7.19 lakh planned	₹262 cr estimated drought losses

Jobs within 15 days of application, says Nargund EO

CH NEWS, NARGUND

The second phase of the Form-6 campaign under the Viksit Bharat–G RAM G (VB-G RAM G) scheme has been launched across 13 Gram Panchayats in Nargund taluk to provide employment opportunities to rural families within their villages.

Sridhar Chinagundi, Executive Officer of the Taluk Panchayat, said work demand applications were being collected from labourers through the campaign. He stated that eligible applicants would be provided employment within 15 days of submitting their applications.

In a press release, Chinagundi said the government had instructed officials to increase employment opportunities for rural workers at the Gram Panchayat level. Accordingly, Gram Panchayat officials and VB-G RAM G staff had been directed to collect applications through Form-6 and make necessary arrangements to provide work.

He instructed officials to verify job card details, issue new cards to eligible families, renew existing cards and complete e-KYC formalities. They must also collect work demand applications and provide acknowledgement receipts to every applicant as per the rules.

Officials have also been directed to conduct door-to-door visits across all 13 Gram Panchayats to create awareness about the scheme and encourage labourers to submit applications.

Gram Sabha meetings and awareness programmes must be organised regularly. Posters and banners should also be displayed to publicise the scheme and reach more rural families.

Chinagundi urged officials to ensure effective implementation of the campaign and help eligible families access employment opportunities.

Unemployment allowance for workers denied jobs within 15 days

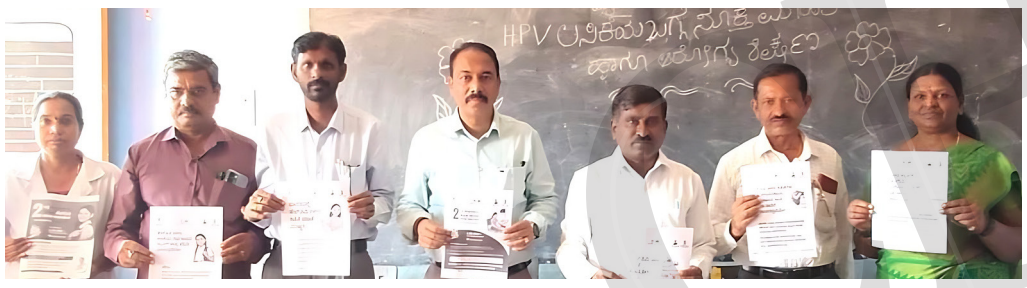
NARGUND: Steps will be taken to provide employment within 15 days to labourers who submit work demand applications under the VB-G RAM G scheme, said Taluk Panchayat Executive Officer Sridhar Chinagundi.

He said poor rainfall had reduced agricultural work opportunities, forcing labourers to seek jobs outside their villages. The scheme aims to provide employment locally and prevent migration.

If work is not provided within 15 days, action will be recommended against negligent officials. Eligible workers will also be recommended for unemployment allowance.

Labourers across all 13 Gram Panchayats have been urged to submit Form-6 applications and cooperate with its implementation.

Health officials urge girls to take HPV vaccine



Health officials with HPV vaccination awareness leaflets at the programme in Bharamasagara

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

Taluk Health Officer Dr. B.V. Girish has urged eligible girls to receive the HPV vaccine to reduce the risk of cervical cancer.

He was speaking at an awareness programme on HPV vaccination organised by the Office of the Taluk Health Officer and Bharamasagara Community Health Centre at UMGHP School in Bharamasagara, Chitradurga taluk, on Monday.

Dr. Girish highlighted the importance of HPV vaccination and advised girls aged 14 to 15 to take the vaccine as recommended by health authorities.

District Health Education Officer T. Krishna Nayak said cervical cancer was a major health concern among women in India and stressed that vaccination plays an important role in its prevention.

Deputy District Health Education Officer Govindareddy Konnuru advised adolescent girls to maintain personal hygiene during menstruation and use sanitary pads to reduce the risk of infections.

Taluk Health Education Officer B. Moogappa said the HPV vaccine was available free of cost at government health institutions. He urged eligible girls and their parents not to believe rumours about vaccination and to make use of the facility.

He also explained that physical, mental and social changes are natural during adolescence, between the ages of 10 and 19. He advised students to avoid child marriage, focus on education and make responsible decisions for a better future.

School Headmaster H. Anandappa appreciated the Health Department for creating awareness about government health programmes. He encouraged students to share the information with their parents and follow health advice.

Senior Primary Health Safety Officer G.M. Katyayanamma, PHCO V. Lakshmi, CHO Prathibha, ASHA worker Gangambika, students and others attended the programme.

Ensure drinking water for people and livestock: DC

CH NEWS, KOPPAL

Deputy Commissioner and District Disaster Management Authority Chairperson Dr. Suresh B. Itnal has directed officials to ensure an uninterrupted supply of drinking water to people and livestock in both rural and urban areas.

He was speaking while chairing a meeting of the District Disaster Management Authority at the Deputy Commissioner's office on Monday.

Dr. Itnal said poor rainfall and drought conditions had led to a decline in groundwater levels across the district. He cautioned that drilling new borewells might not guarantee the availability of water. Therefore, officials must make proper use of existing water resources and prevent drinking water shortages.

He also stressed the need to provide water for wild animals and birds in forest areas. Officials were instructed to fill water storage facilities using tankers and other available sources wherever necessary.

Tahsildars, Taluk Panchayat Executive Officers, Panchayat Development Officers and Village Accountants were directed to take responsibility for ensuring water supply in their respective areas. He also asked officials to create awareness among the public about drought conditions and the importance of conserving water.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed that water supplied to the public and stored in lakes and other sources must remain clean.

Officials told

- Drinking water for people and livestock
- Tankers to fill forest water storage
- Quality tests before water is supplied
- Fodder plan until the next monsoon

TOWN MUNICIPALITY GUNDLUPET
CHAMARAJANAGARA DISTRICT – 571111
Office: 08229-222226 Fax: 08229-222226
Helpline: 08229-223377 E-mail: tmc_gundlupet@yahoo.com
Website: www.gundlupettown.gov.in

No: GPET / JE /01/15 th FIn (2024-25 GBG)/2025-26 Date: 07.11.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION (E-PORTAL)

Online Tenders are invited through E-Procurement by the undersigned from the Contractors for the following work.Last Date of Tender: 24.11.2026 5.00 PM.Technical Bid Opening: 26.11.2026
NAME OF WORK: Construction Leachate Collection Tank and SLF at **New SWM Land Fill site DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT-45863.** (Call-3)**EST. AMNT.: Rs. 53.20 Lakh. EMD: Rs. 89900/-.**

Contractors class: Class III Above. For More Details, Please visit www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in

S/D
S. Saravana, (KMAS)
Chief Officer
TMC Gundlupet

No: DIPR: CHAMNAGAR: 450: 2026-27

Journalists' Association to hold social media workshop

CH NEWS, HUNSUR

The Hunsur Taluk Journalists' Association will organise a special workshop on Wednesday, November 18, at 10 am at the auditorium in Nagarahole Sanctuary.

The workshop will focus on the topic, "Social Media and the Social Commitment of Young and Independent Journalists."

Shivananda Tagaduru, State President of the Karnataka Working Journalists' Association, will inaugurate the programme. Prof. Tejaswi Naviluru from the Department of Journalism, University of Mysore, will participate as a resource person and deliver a lecture.

H.R. Krishnakumar, president of the Hunsur Taluk Journalists' Association, will preside over the programme. Deepak, president of the Mysore District Journalists' Association, will deliver the introductory address.

Dharmapura Narayan, General Secretary of the District Journalists' Association, H.S. Venkatappa, Vice-President, and District Secretary Da. Ra. will also participate.

Other guests include Mahesh, Executive Committee member Hanagodu Nataraj, State Executive Committee member Raghavendra, Nagarahole ACF Lakshmikanth and Range Forest Officers Dilip Kumar, Subrahmanya, Vinod Gowda and Manju. Chaluvaraj, Vice-President of the Taluk Journalists' Association, will also attend.

Neralakuppe Mahadev, General Secretary of the Hunsur Taluk Journalists' Association, will deliver the welcome address.

The association has invited journalists and interested participants to attend the workshop and benefit from the discussions.

The workshop

WHEN	Wednesday, Nov 18, 10 am
WHERE	Auditorium, Nagarahole Sanctuary
OPENS	Shivananda Tagaduru, KWJA
TALK	Prof. Tejaswi Naviluru, University of Mysore

Ensure timely guarantee benefits: Mandali

CH NEWS, GADAG

Ashok Mandali, Chairman of the Gadag Taluk Panchayat-level Guarantee Schemes Implementation Authority, has urged officials to work closely with ward- and village-level committee members to ensure that all eligible beneficiaries receive the benefits of Karnataka's five guarantee schemes without delay.

He was speaking at a taluk-level progress review meeting held at the Zilla Panchayat video conference hall in Gadag on Monday.

Mandali said officials must ensure timely delivery of benefits to poor and eligible families. He also called for better facilities at bus stands in Kotumachagi, Hombala and Betageri, including drinking water, seating for women and senior citizens, and toilets. He directed officials to take steps to shift the transformer at Betageri bus stand.

Reviewing the Gruha Lakshmi scheme, he stressed that no eligible woman should be left out. He called for household surveys and measures to prevent misuse of funds. Under Anna Bhagya, he directed officials to prevent the illegal sale of rice and conduct surprise inspections of fair price shops. He also asked officials to create greater awareness about the Yuva Nidhi scheme.

According to officials, 3,593 candidates had registered under Yuva Nidhi in Gadag taluk by August 2026. Of them, 3,157 eligible candidates had received financial assistance through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).



Under Gruha Lakshmi, 84,218 applications were registered by July 2026, and 78,484 beneficiaries received payments.

Under Gruha Jyothi, 46,310 of 46,608 eligible urban electricity connections were registered, achieving 99.36 per cent progress. In rural Gadag, 53,134 of 53,339 eligible connections were registered, reaching 99.62 per cent.

Officials also presented Shakti scheme revenue figures and Anna Bhagya rice allocation details during the meeting.

Neelamma Bolannavar, Vice-Chairperson of the District Guarantee Schemes Implementation Authority, taluk committee members, Taluk Panchayat Executive Officer Dr H.S. Jinaga and other officials attended the meeting.

3,157 of 3,593 Yuva Nidhi candidates paid	78,484 Gruha Lakshmi beneficiaries paid	99.62% Gruha Jyothi registration, rural Gadag

KRISHNA BHAGYA JALA NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL, Dam Safety Unit-2, Almatti- 586201.
E-mail:dam_division@rediffmail.com

No: KBJNL/DDA/PB-1&2/2026-27/1496 Dated:04.11.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP Portal Only)

On behalf of the Managing Director, KBJNL, Bangalore the undersigned invites tender on Item Rate & Percentage basis from the eligible contractors for the work indents of **Two Cover** – (1) I .No.3777– 67.71 Lakhs (Others) (2) I.No.3778– 211.79 Lakhs (Others) (3) I.No.3746– 56.31 Lakhs (SC–Category) **The contractor can have access and submit e-tender from 05/11/2026 to 19/11/2026 up to 5-00 PM. (Technical) Bid will be opened on 21/11/2026 at 11-00AM and Financial Bid Opened on Dt: 25/11/2026.**
Pre-bid (For I.No.3778—211.79 Lakhs) meeting on Dt: 12/11/2026 at 11.00 am in the office of Executive Engineer, KBJNL Dam Safety Unit-2 Almatti,
Single Cover (1) I. No. 3747—15.25 Lakhs (Others) (2) I.No.3833—Rs.32.15 Lakhs, (Others) **The contractor can have access and submit e-tender from 05/11/2026 to 19/11/2026 up to 5-00 PM. Single Cover (Technical & Financial) Bid will be opened on 21/11/2026 at 11-00AM** at the Office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL, Dam Safety Unit-2, Almatti. For clarifications office of the undersigned may be contacted during office hours (Phone No. 08426-281027). Further information about electronic tendering can be had from kppp.karnataka.gov.in.

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/400/ಕೆಸ್ ಎಂಸಿಎ/2026–27

Sd/- Executive Engineer, KBJNL, Dam Safety Unit-2, Almatti

CHHATH PUJA IN BENGALURU: 10-MINUTE DELIVERY APPS COURTING A GROWING NORTH INDIAN FESTIVAL MARKET

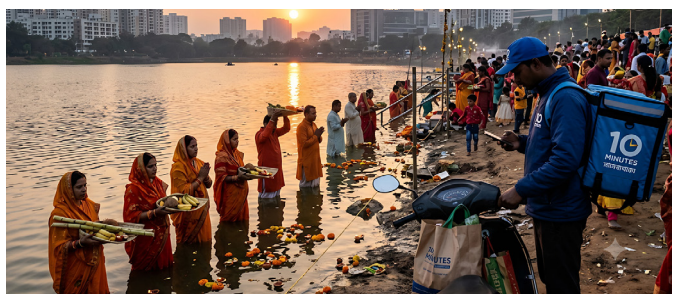


DR. JAI KISHON GOSWAMI

As families from Bihar, Jharkhand and eastern Uttar Pradesh gather at temporary ghats and community water bodies across Bengaluru, Chhath Puja is becoming more than a festival observed away from home. It is also emerging as a test of how India's 10-minute delivery platforms can serve regional traditions without reducing them to a sales promotion.

Chhath Puja, dedicated to the Sun God (Surya) and Chhathi Maiya, is among the most significant festivals in Bihar, Jharkhand and eastern UP. This year, the four-day festival was observed from November 13 to 16. Nahay Khay began the observance, followed by Kharna. Devotees offered Sandhya Arghya to the setting sun on Sunday, November 15, and Usha Arghya to the rising sun on Monday morning. The festival involves Nahay Khay, Kharna, Sandhya Arghya and Usha Arghya. Devotees observe rigorous fasting, maintain dietary restrictions and offer prayers to the setting and rising sun. It is a festival of faith and sun worship dedicated to Surya Dev and Chhathi Maiya, marked by devotion, discipline and gratitude to nature. It is closely associated with cleanliness, discipline, nature and water bodies.

The growing popularity of Chhath celebrations in Bengaluru shows how regional festivals travel beyond their places of origin. Community organisations, residential associations and cultural groups facilitate celebrations by arranging spaces near water bodies and organising collective prayers. These arrangements enable families who cannot travel to their hometowns to participate in the festival. For migrants living in Bengaluru, these rituals provide a cultural link to home. Families who have moved from Bihar and neighbouring regions for work, education or business are sustaining Chhath in cities far from their



hometowns. Thekua, bamboo baskets, folk songs and offerings at the water's edge help recreate a familiar social world for families who cannot make the journey home every year. The festival's southward spread also places it in conversation with Bengaluru's strong traditions of temple worship, community volunteering and respect for lakes and tanks. That shared civic space gives local residents an opportunity to understand a North Indian festival without treating it as an outsider's event.

Bengaluru's celebrations reflect this adaptation. Community groups and residential associations are organising observances at local ponds, lakes and temporary ghats. Announced or community-linked locations include Guru Paduka Vanam at the Art of Living International Centre, the Mithila Chhath Puja Talaab near Electronic City, Sadaramangala in East Bengaluru, and smaller gatherings in areas such as Rayasandra and JP Nagar. Organisers advised devotees to verify locations, registration requirements, access routes and water-safety arrangements before travelling.

That preparation is where quick-commerce companies see an opportunity. Blinkit, Zepto, Swiggy's Instamart, Amazon Now and Flipkart's Minutes have moved beyond emergency grocery deliveries, increasingly serving as discovery and distribution channels for consumer brands. App search, homepage visibility, sponsored listings and impulse purchasing are helping food, beverage and wellness brands reach urban consumers faster than traditional retail alone. However, a Chhath campaign in Bengaluru cannot simply copy Diwali playbooks. The most credible strategy started with dedicated "Chhath Essentials – Everything for the ghat", "Celebrate Chhath Puja" and "Chhath Puja Special" tabs and pages, rather than a generic festive sale. Platforms added verified Puja essentials, including bananas, coconuts, sugarcane, seasonal fruit, jaggery, wheat flour, ghee, earthen lamps, and ingredients used in thekua. Bamboo soop and daura were listed through local sellers, where supply and quality can be reliably checked.

The campaign is also timed to the festival's calendar. A first wave before Nahay Khay focused on planning and household preparation. A second wave before Kharna highlighted ingredients and cooking staples. On the days of Sandhya and Usha Arghya, the apps shifted from aggressive offers to practical information: nearby community arrangements, order cut-offs, traffic advisories, and environmentally responsible disposal guidance. Bengaluru's Chhath market remains community-led, but its growth signals a wider change in urban India. As regional festivals travel with migrant households, quick-commerce apps are learning that convenience is only one part of the proposition. The stronger opportunity is to become a respectful logistical partner, helping families prepare for a sacred homecoming without claiming ownership of the tradition.

Chhath Puja has given quick-commerce platforms an opportunity to move beyond conventional metropolitan consumer marketing and engage with India's diverse regional cultures. As Bengaluru continues to evolve as a destination for people from across the country, festivals such as Chhath highlight the importance of culturally responsive retail strategies. For digital commerce companies, the long-term opportunity lies in building relationships with regional consumer communities through relevant product availability, authentic communication and partnerships with local businesses. Rather than viewing Chhath Puja as a short-term sales opportunity, platforms can use the festival to demonstrate how technology and commerce can accommodate India's cultural diversity. The future of quick commerce may depend not only on how quickly products reach consumers, but also on how effectively companies understand the people, traditions and communities they serve.

THE OPPOSITION'S ROAR MUST SERVE PUBLIC WELFARE, NOT POLITICAL POWER



LALIT GARGG

Democracy is not merely a mechanism for changing governments; it is a living system founded on public aspirations, citizens' rights, accountability and meaningful political dialogue. Its strength is determined not only by the performance of the ruling party but equally by the responsibility, ideological maturity and commitment to public welfare demonstrated by the opposition. However, when the focus of opposition politics shifts from the fundamental concerns of the people to opposing the government, launching personal attacks on its leadership and repeatedly making political allegations, questions about the true strength and purpose of democracy inevitably arise. The gathering of nearly twenty opposition parties under the leadership of the Congress at Delhi's Ramlila Maidan, raising a united voice over the issue of alleged 'vote theft', calls for a serious political assessment. The question is not whether the opposition has the right to organise a rally, but what such gatherings ultimately contribute to democracy and the welfare of ordinary citizens.

Historically, Ramlila Maidan has been a witness to mass movements, political awakening and democratic resistance. A gathering here cannot be viewed merely as a demonstration of political strength; its message and underlying purpose also deserve careful evaluation. By bringing its alliance partners onto a common platform, the Congress sought to project political unity. A target of mobilising ten lakh people was reportedly announced, but according to available accounts, the actual turnout was considerably lower than the claim. Nevertheless, the significance of such an event should not be judged solely by the size of the crowd, but by the substance of its political message. Unfortunately, the rally once again appeared dominated by familiar allegations, repetitive political speeches and the same anti-government rhetoric that has characterised opposition politics for a considerable period.

The opposition has raised serious concerns regarding alleged vote theft and the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. Questioning the fairness of the electoral process is not only a legitimate right of the opposition in a democratic system but also an important part of its responsibility. Every eligible voter's name must be protected on the electoral rolls, and no qualified citizen should be deprived of the right to vote. However, safeguarding democratic rights requires not merely allegations but also credible evidence and factual substantiation. Among the names reportedly removed from electoral rolls are those of deceased persons, individuals who have permanently shifted elsewhere and voters registered at more than one location. The Election Commission has also maintained that decisions relating to the SIR process were taken with the concurrence of all three Election Commissioners. Judicial scrutiny and directions concerning this process have also come into consideration. Therefore, any final conclusion on the matter must be based on verifiable facts, credible evidence and judicial examination. It is the responsibility of the opposition to demand transparency from the Election Commission, expose discrepancies in electoral rolls and make concrete efforts to protect the rights of eligible voters. However, merely raising the slogan of 'vote theft' cannot strengthen public confidence in democratic institutions. If the opposition is genuinely committed to protecting voting rights, it must strengthen its organisational machinery by appointing Booth Level Agents (BLAs) at every polling station, scrutinising electoral rolls, collecting evidence of genuine irregularities and ensuring justice for affected citizens. Democracy is protected less by slogans and more by sustained action on the ground.



There is another important dimension to this rally. What is the ideological foundation of the political unity displayed by the Congress and its alliance partners? Is this unity based on a shared vision of the economy, employment policies, agricultural reforms, quality education, healthcare, inflation control, corruption-free governance, women's safety, the future of young people and social justice? Or is its principal objective simply to oppose the Narendra Modi government and create a political atmosphere against those in power? When opposition to a particular leader or government becomes the strongest binding force of an alliance, questions about its ideological coherence, political stability and future direction are inevitable. Opposition to the ruling establishment, by itself, cannot constitute a political philosophy. In a democracy, the opposition is not merely a critic; it is also expected to formulate credible alternatives. Serious parliamentary debates on legislation, factual scrutiny of government policies, alternative proposals on economic and social challenges, and effective representation of people's concerns before institutional forums constitute its fundamental responsibilities. However, when political discourse becomes confined to allegations, personal jibes and protest demonstrations, the genuine concerns of the people gradually recede into the background. The opposition must understand that criticising the Prime Minister and demonstrating its own capability as a credible alternative to his leadership are two entirely different propositions. The former represents political opposition; the latter is the real test of democratic leadership.

Today, India is confronted with several fundamental challenges. Quality employment opportunities for young people, farmers' incomes and agricultural productivity, the economic security of small traders, expansion of educational and healthcare facilities, environmental protection, urban mismanagement, widening economic inequalities and women's safety are not the concerns of any single political party; they are national concerns demanding collective attention. Did the rally at Ramlila Maidan succeed in presenting a concrete alternative programme on these issues? Did the opposition explain what policies it would adopt to address these challenges? Did it place before the nation a common vision of development? The answers to these questions will determine the real political significance of the rally. It is equally important to recognise that mobilising crowds and winning public confidence are two entirely different things in a democracy. Crowds can assemble in response to momentary political excitement, organisational strength or a sentiment of protest. However, lasting public trust is earned through ideas, policies, conduct and tangible results. Political parties must not labour under the illusion that impressive platforms, forceful speeches and demonstrations of unity will automatically secure the confidence of the people. Today's voter is considerably more aware and discerning. People no longer want to hear only what the government has done wrong; they also want to know what the opposition intends to do to correct the situation.

For the Congress, this should be an occasion for serious introspection. As the country's oldest political party, it is expected to do much more than pursue a politics of opposition. The party is also expected to provide ideological leadership and play the role of a constructive opposition. Rahul Gandhi and other opposition leaders should channel their political energies towards issues that affect broad sections of society. Opposition unity will acquire genuine meaning only when it is founded on a shared positive agenda rather than a common sense of political negativity. It is essential for different political parties to rise above leadership rivalries and individual political ambitions and develop a consensus on issues of national interest. Ultimately, the vitality of democracy cannot be sustained merely through elections, rallies, slogans and political declarations of strength. It requires impartial institutions, protection of citizens' rights, accountability of political parties, freedom of thought and a governance system that remains sensitive to public welfare. The ruling establishment, too, must demonstrate the courage to listen to criticism and correct its shortcomings, while the opposition must fulfil its responsibility by raising questions supported by evidence and presenting practical solutions.

Democracy is not the exclusive property of any one political party; it is the shared heritage of the entire nation. The rally at Ramlila Maidan should not remain merely an occasion for the opposition to demonstrate its political strength. Rather, it should become an opportunity for introspection and a renewed commitment to public welfare. The real question is not how frequently the opposition can unite against the Modi government, but how effectively and consistently it can present a credible alternative for the country's future. Opposing those in power may be necessary to strengthen democracy, but supporting public welfare is far more important. Democracy is strengthened not by political roars but by ideas, not by crowds but by public trust, and not merely by criticising those in power but by demonstrating a concrete commitment to the welfare of the people. This should be the most significant message emerging from the political resonance of Ramlila Maidan.

SHOPS SELLING LOCAL PRODUCTS ALONG THE HIGHWAY

DR. SATYAVAN SAURABH



The untold story of hard work, tradition and rural self-reliance

The relationship between nature and humans in the rural areas of Rajasthan is centuries old. The soil, climate, vegetation, and traditional lifestyle have developed a rich food culture that is still recognized in every corner of the country. A vivid glimpse of this culture is seen when we pass through a Rajasthan highway and see rural men and women sitting on sacks on the roadside, displaying kair (fruits), ber (berry), kachri (fruit), sangri, and many other indigenous products. At first glance, this may seem like a simple rural market, but behind it lies a profound story of hard work, struggle, self-reliance, and responsibility to family.

These people spend two to three days toiling to gather seasonal produce from forests, fields, and surrounding natural areas. After cleaning them, they head to the highway to sell them. They don't have large shops, flashy signs, or modern merchandising. A single sack serves as their shop, and a small roadside space serves as their market.

Such a shop doesn't just sell Kair, but also showcases the entire treasure trove of Rajasthan's traditional food culture. Plums, Kachri, Matire seeds, tumba seeds, green and dried cluster beans, dried Kachar, dried Kair, Sangri, and many other seasonal products are available. These are items that have special significance in Rajasthan's traditional cuisine. Vegetables like Kair and Sangri, in particular, have become a hallmark of Rajasthan and are popular both domestically and abroad.

The work style of these rural vendors is fascinating. They spread their goods on sacks on the roadside. Passersby stop, inspect the products, inquire about their quality, and then the bargaining begins. The vendors quote the value of their labor, and the customers attempt to negotiate a price that suits them. Often, a deal is finalized after a short conversation. The satisfaction that appears on the vendor's face after their goods are sold is no less important than any significant business profit.

Sitting on the roadside all day waiting for customers isn't easy. These people sell their products amid heat, dust, harsh sunlight, cold, and changing weather. Sometimes sales are good, and sometimes, despite waiting all day, very few items are sold. Yet, they return the next day with renewed hope, ready to set up their small shop.

It's said that many of these people earn around 500 to 700 rupees after a full day of hard work. This amount may seem small in the marketplace of a big city, but for these families, this income provides the basis for household groceries, children's education, medicines, and other daily needs. This meager income involves many days of hard work, learning about natural resources, and the struggle to reach the market.

An important point to understand here is that these people aren't just small vendors selling goods, but also the bearers of our traditional food culture. In a time of rapid market demand for packaged and processed foods, these rural vendors remind us of traditional products rooted in nature. The kachri, kair, sangri, and other seasonal items they offer have been a part of our ancient kitchens and rural lifestyles.

Rural families in Rajasthan, faced with limited resources and a harsh climate, have developed culinary traditions that utilize locally available foods. Kair-Sangri, Kachri ki Sabzi, and dried indigenous products are a result of this experience and tradition. Their flavors are not just a taste of food, but a part of our cultural heritage.

Unfortunately, we often shop at large showrooms, malls, and online marketplaces, but we don't pay attention to these small roadside vendors. Often, we bargain too hard on their prices, forgetting that even a few rupees difference can be significant for them.

We must also understand that buying local products isn't just about getting goods at a lower price. It's about respecting local labor, contributing to the income of rural families, and strengthening traditional small-scale economies.

If we see such vendors while traveling on the highway, we should take some time to stop by. Inquire about the products, purchase what you need, and pay a fair price. If possible, encourage others around us to shop from such vendors. Our small gesture can be a great relief for these families.

However, it's also important to consider hygiene and quality when purchasing. Products should be purchased based on their freshness, cleanliness, and proper storage. It's in the consumer's best interest to ensure the actual quality of a product rather than assuming it's 100% pure without testing.

> **"Remember, our small purchase can help keep a family's hearth burning. Shopping local isn't just about business, it's also about social responsibility. Embrace local products, honor rural laborers, and keep your traditional food culture alive."**
>
> — Dr. Satyavan Saurabh

The government and local administration also have a responsibility to provide safe and organized spaces for these small vendors. They should be protected from unnecessary hassles and efforts should be made to provide a wider market for their traditional products. Possibilities for increasing their income can also be developed through self-help groups, rural markets, and local product fairs.

Today, discussions about a self-reliant India and promoting local products are taking place at every level. In such a context, this small vendor sitting on the side of the highway is a powerful example of self-reliance. Instead of relying on others, he earns a living through his hard work. He doesn't have a lot of capital or modern resources, but he certainly has the courage to work hard and the determination to support his family.

Ultimately, the question isn't just where we should buy kair, kachri, or sangri. It's also whether we are willing to respect the hard work of the working man, who is fighting for his life with limited capital and limited resources.

Whenever we see such rural vendors on the highway, let's stop by their shops. Buy what you need, pay a fair price, and respect their hard work.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Urgent Need for Traffic Discipline

Reckless driving and blatant disregard for traffic signals are endangering daily commuters. Over-speeding and lane-cutting have become routine, causing frequent accidents and severe congestion during peak hours. Traffic authorities must deploy stricter surveillance, enforce heavy penalties on violators, and launch road-safety awareness drives. Immediate action is essential to restore order and protect innocent lives on our roads.

– Monu

Curb Rising Plastic Pollution

Single-use plastics continue to choke our drainage systems, pollute water bodies, and harm stray animals. Despite existing bans, unregulated distribution of non-biodegradable bags remains widespread across local markets. Civic authorities must strictly penalize offenders while encouraging citizens to adopt reusable cloth alternatives. Collective accountability and stringent enforcement are vital to safeguard our environment for future generations.

– Sanju

THE BUS THAT COMES AT 5 AM



The bus comes at five in the morning. It is always on time, even when the weather is bad. It is an old bus, with faded paint and hard seats. But for more than fifty people, it is the most important bus in the world.

Most of the passengers are daily wage workers. They are masons, painters, helpers, cleaners, loaders. They live in small settlements on the edge of the city where rent is low. Work is in the center of the city where buildings are high. Without this early bus, they would lose half a day's wage just on travel.

The driver of this bus knows every passenger by face. He knows who gets down where, who has a bad leg and needs extra time, who carries heavy tools. He waits an extra minute if someone is running from a distance, even though waiting is against the rules. He says, one minute late is better than one family hungry.

One winter morning, the bus broke down in the middle of the road. The driver could have waited for another bus or called the depot and gone home. But he knew that if these workers did not reach on time, the contractor would replace them with others waiting at the work site. So he stopped three other buses and requested them to take his passengers free of cost. He stood in the cold till the last passenger was gone.

A young man who travels by that bus every day said, this bus taught me what public service means. It is not about big speeches. It is about coming on time every day, without fail, for people who have no other option.

The importance of public transport is often discussed in terms of traffic and pollution. But its real importance is social. It gives equal mobility to the poor and the rich. A bus ticket costs the same for everyone, and in that small space, equality exists. When public transport is cheap, regular and respectful, it reduces poverty more than many schemes.

The local authorities once planned to cancel this early trip because it was not profitable. Fewer people travel so early. But when workers submitted a joint letter, written by a school student who also uses the bus, the trip was continued. The letter said, please do not see our bus as profit and loss. See it as a bridge between our homes and our food.

Today the bus still comes at five. Its horn is an alarm clock for the whole settlement. When people hear it, they run, carrying lunch boxes wrapped in cloth. The bus takes them to work, and brings them back at night, tired but earning.

In a world obsessed with fast cars and private vehicles, this slow, crowded, early morning bus reminds us that development is not about how fast the rich can move, but whether the poor can move at all.

— R. SOLOMON PRASHANTH

THE LIBRARY MADE OF WASTE

In a narrow lane where garbage used to pile up, there is now a small library. It has no big building, no air conditioning, no computers. Its walls are made of old plastic bottles, its shelves are made of discarded wooden crates, its books are donated by people who no longer need them.

It was started by a group of young people who lived in that neighbourhood. They were tired of seeing children spend all evening watching mobile phones or roaming aimlessly because there was no safe place to play or study. The local school had a library, but it remained locked after school hours. The children needed a space that was theirs.

They first cleaned the garbage dump themselves. It took them eight days. People laughed and said, you are wasting time, garbage will come back. But they did not stop. They painted the walls with bright colours using leftover paint from a construction site. They collected books from door to door. One book from each house, they asked. In a month, they had more than four hundred books.

The library opens at four in the evening. Any child can come, sit on a mat made of old jute bags, and read. There is no fee, no membership card. An older student helps younger ones with homework. Sometimes a retired teacher comes and tells stories.

What is remarkable is how the library changed behaviour. Children who earlier fought over small issues now discuss books. The lane that was once dirty is now cleaned daily by the children themselves because they feel it is their library.

Parents who earlier did not allow daughters to go far now allow them to come to the library because it is in their own lane and safe.

The library also became a center for public awareness. When there was a problem with water supply, people met at the library to discuss. When there was a need to teach segregation of waste, the young people used the library walls to paint instructions. The library proved that a small public space can solve many social problems if people own it.

Officials from the civic body once visited and offered to build a concrete structure. The young people politely refused. They said, concrete will make it official and then rules will come, locks will come, permission will be needed. Let it remain as it is, made by waste, for those who are often treated as waste by society.

This small library made of waste teaches a big lesson. Development does not always need crores of money. It needs care, imagination and community ownership.

A library is not just a collection of books; it is a collection of hopes. And when hope is built from waste, it becomes the most sustainable development.

— DEEPAK R.

THE WELL THAT SAVED A VILLAGE

For many years, the village faced acute water shortage. Rainfall had reduced, borewells had failed, and the young people had started migrating to cities in search of work. The fields were dry, cracked, and covered with dust. Old people remembered a time when there was a large traditional well in the center that never dried, but it had been abandoned and filled with garbage over time.

One summer, when the situation became desperate, a group of women decided to revive the well. They were the ones who suffered most, walking long distances to fetch water, carrying pots on their heads. They went to the village council and asked for permission and help. The council said there was no money.

The women decided to do it themselves. Every morning, before cooking and after sending children to school, they went to the well and started removing garbage with their hands. They used baskets, ropes, and whatever tools they had at home. Men initially laughed, but when they saw the dedication, some joined. Slowly, the whole village joined.

It took forty days to clean the well. At twenty feet, they found wet mud. At thirty feet,



water started seeping. At thirty-five feet, the well had water, clear and cool. The village celebrated as if it was a festival. They built a small wall around it to prevent garbage dumping again and made rules for its use.

But cleaning was only half the work. The women knew that if they only took water and did not recharge it, it would dry again. So they started work to revive small channels that brought rainwater to the well. They planted trees around it. They made pits near houses to collect rainwater and let it seep into the ground.

Next rainy season, the well filled to the top. The water level in nearby fields also rose. Some farmers who had left came back and started farming again. Children who had migrated returned for holidays and saw water in their village after many years.

This story is not just about water; it is about community power and women's leadership. Often, public problems like water, waste, and health are seen as government's job. People wait for government to come and solve. But when community takes ownership, solutions become sustainable. Traditional knowledge, like open wells and rain channels, is often better than deep borewells that deplete groundwater.

The well also brought social change. Women who led the work now have a voice in village meetings. They proved that they can lead development, not just suffer from its absence. The well that was once full of garbage is now full of water, and the village that was once divided is now united around its protection.

Water is a public good. When people protect it together, it protects them in return.

— JANCY DEEPAK

THE CLASSROOM WITHOUT WALLS

A teacher was transferred to a school that had no proper building. There were only two rooms with leaking roofs for more than a hundred students. Most children came from families of daily wage workers and often missed school to work in fields.

Instead of complaining about lack of infrastructure, the teacher decided to make the lack itself a method. She started taking classes outside, under a large tree. She called it a classroom without walls.

Under the tree, children learned mathematics by counting leaves and stones. They learned science by observing insects, birds and weather. They learned language by writing stories about what they saw. They learned history by talking to old people in the neighbourhood who remembered old times. The classroom had no walls, but it had the whole world.

Parents who earlier thought education was useless started getting interested. When children came home and explained why it rains, or how to measure a field without a tape, parents felt proud. Attendance improved. Dropout reduced.

The teacher also changed the timing. Instead of rigid morning hours, she adjusted classes to suit farming seasons. During harvest time, classes started early and ended early so children could help parents without missing school. During heavy work days, she gave work that children could do while helping, like interviewing parents about crops.

The biggest change was in confidence. Children who were shy inside four walls became confident outside. A girl who never spoke in class gave a brilliant talk about medicinal plants she learned from her grandmother. A boy who failed in written exams made a working model of a water pump using waste materials.

Education officials came to inspect and were surprised to see children learning without blackboard, benches or even books. They asked, where is your syllabus? The teacher showed them notebooks where every lesson from the textbook was covered, but through real life.

> **"A classroom without walls taught that the best walls are not made of bricks, but of care, creativity and respect for the child's own world. When education respects the child's life, the child respects education."**
>
> **— SANJANA SURESH**

This story questions our idea of development in education. We think good education means big buildings, smart boards, expensive labs. But good education actually means a good teacher who can connect learning to life. Infrastructure is important, but imagination is more important.

Society often measures a school by its building, not by its learning. We need to change that.

— SANJANA SURESH

THE SECOND CHANCE FOR THE OLD CLOTHES

In almost every house, there are clothes that are not used. Some are too small, some are out of fashion, some are kept for sentimental reasons but never worn. On the other hand, in the same city, there are people who do not have enough clothes to wear with dignity, especially in winter.

A small group of college students noticed this gap and started a simple initiative. They called it Second Chance.

They put a box in their college and requested students to drop clothes that were clean and usable but not needed. In the beginning, only a few clothes came. But when they washed, ironed and packed them neatly with respect, and showed photos of distribution, more people started giving.

The important part was how they distributed. They did not throw clothes in a heap and ask people to grab. They set up a small shop-like space on a footpath once a month, where clothes were hung on hangers according to size and type. People could come, choose what they liked, try and take. It looked like a real shop, except there was no money involved.



This dignity-based approach changed everything. A woman who took a saree said, for the first time I felt like a customer, not a beggar. A young man who took a shirt for a job interview said, wearing this, I felt confident.

The students also started repairing clothes. They learned basic stitching and mending. Torn clothes were not thrown but repaired. Old jeans were converted into bags. This reduced waste and taught sustainable living.

Soon, the idea spread to other colleges and offices. People started holding Second Chance days in their own neighbourhoods. Tailors offered free repair hours. Washing shops offered free washing of donated clothes.

The initiative also raised questions about consumption. Why do we buy so many clothes? Why do we throw away clothes that can be used for years? In a world facing climate change and waste crisis, reusing clothes is not charity, it is environmental responsibility.

> *"Everything and everyone deserves a second chance."*
>
> **RASHID P.K.**

More importantly, it built a bridge between different classes. Students who had never spoken to street vendors or domestic workers now knew their names and stories. They understood that poverty is not lack of character but lack of opportunity. And people who received clothes felt that someone cared.

Second Chance is not about old clothes. It is about the idea that nothing and no one should be discarded as waste. Everything and everyone deserves a second chance. In a society that quickly throws away both things and people, this small shop on a footpath reminds us that dignity can be stitched, washed, ironed and shared, and that true development is when everyone has enough to wear with pride.

— RASHID P.K.

Quick Read

Man held for trade fair ticket fraud

NEW DELHI

Delhi Police have arrested a 38-year-old man for allegedly cheating visitors by promising tickets to the India International Trade Fair (IITF). The accused, identified as Md. Faisal, was arrested near Gate 4 of the fair venue on November 15.

According to police, he approached a woman trying to buy an online ticket and offered to arrange one for Rs 400. However, she scanned his QR code and transferred Rs 1,200. Her iPhone then became inaccessible, and she noticed the money had been deducted from her payment account.

Police said the accused worked as a scrap dealer and had previously been involved in a similar case.

Two dead in Kanpur apartment fire

KANPUR

A woman and a 15-year-old child died after a fire broke out in the parking area of Radhika Apartments in Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh. Eight residents were rescued by firefighters from the smoke-filled building.

The fire started on the ground floor, where two-wheelers were parked. Thick smoke quickly spread through the stairwell, trapping residents on the upper floors.Four people were taken to hospital. Two died during treatment, while two others remain under medical care.

14 detained over Jammu exam racket

JAMMU

Jammu Police have busted an alleged cheating racket during the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) Finance Assistant Examination held on November 15. Fourteen suspects were apprehended near various examination centres, and wireless radio sets and other electronic devices were seized.

Police said the suspects allegedly planned to help selected candidates cheat by transmitting answers through electronic communication devices.

Three First Information Reports (FIRs) have been registered, and a Special Investigation Team (SIT) has been formed to investigate the case and identify others involved.

SC halts shifting of old library's books

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday directed the Centre not to shift books belonging to the 135-year-old Central Secretariat Library (CSL) until November 20, expressing concern over their preservation and the government's handling of the historic collection.

The bench stressed the historical importance of the books, remarking, "Show some respect to these books, two lakh books thrown to the wind."

Fadnavis elected Bharat Scouts and Guides national president

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has been elected unopposed as National President of the Bharat Scouts and Guides at its annual meeting.

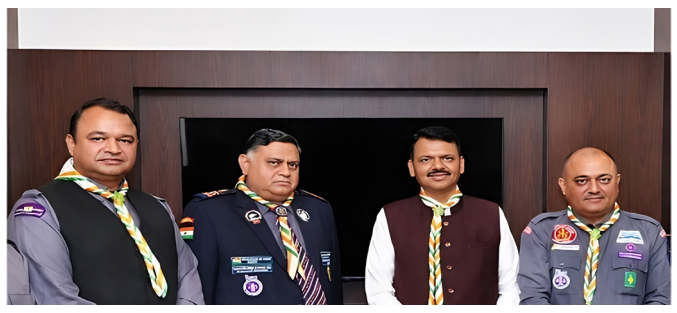
NEW DELHI

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has been elected as the National President of the Bharat Scouts and Guides (BSG). Retired IAS officer K K Khandelwal has been elected as the organisation's Chief National Commissioner. The elections took place during the 76th Annual General Meeting of the National Council held at its headquarters in New Delhi on November 15.

The election process was conducted through an authorised Electoral College. All candidates for the posts of President, Vice-Presidents and Chief National Commissioner were elected without opposition. Senior office-bearers, National Council members and delegates from different states attended the meeting.

The newly elected Chief National Commissioner, Khandelwal, said the organisation played an important role in developing young people's character and personality. He highlighted the values of discipline, responsibility, leadership and service taught through scouting and guiding activities. He said the new leadership would focus on strengthening the organisation nationwide, reaching more children and encouraging greater youth participation.

Pradeep Kaushik, State Commissioner of the Bharat Scouts and Guides in Haryana, described the elections as an important development. He said the leadership of Fadnavis and Khandelwal would bring fresh direction to the organisation.



Members of the Bharat Scouts and Guides

THE NEW LEADERSHIP

NATIONAL PRESIDENT
Devendra Fadnavis, Maharashtra Chief Minister

CHIEF NATIONAL COMMISSIONER
K K Khandelwal, retired IAS officer

ELECTED AT
76th AGM of the National Council, New Delhi

VOTING
None needed: every post was unopposed

Kanpur gets first Delhi-originating train after 16 years



The garlanded locomotive

Kanpur launches its first Delhi-originating train in 16 years, improving connectivity through a daily eight-hour service.

KANPUR

Kanpur in Uttar Pradesh has received its first originating train service to Delhi in 16 years, marking a new development in railway connectivity between the industrial city and the national capital. Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw virtually flagged off the new daily express train on Monday. The service will operate under train numbers 14153 and 14154 and will be managed by North Central Railway (NCR).

Third train from Kanpur

According to Dr Shivam Sharma, Chief Public Relations Officer of North Central Railway, this is the third train to originate from Kanpur for Delhi. The Shram Shakti Express was introduced in 2002 by the then Railway Minister Nitish Kumar and Kanpur MP Prakash Jaiswal. Later, the Shatabdi Express service between Kanpur and New Delhi began in February 2010.

The new train will operate between Kanpur Central and Anand Vihar Terminal in Delhi, covering a distance of approximately 428 kilometres in around eight hours. It will stop at eight stations during its journey. These include Phaphund, Etawah, Tundla, Hathras, Aligarh, Khurja, Dadri and Ghaziabad.

More than 20 trains

Currently, more than 20 regular trains connect Kanpur with Delhi. These include Rajdhani Express, Poorva Express, Vande Bharat, Shatabdi Express, Jammu Mail and several other long-distance services. However, most of these trains originate from other stations and pass through Kanpur.

The new service will provide passengers with another direct travel option and improve convenience for people travelling between the two cities. It is also expected to support business travel, tourism and regular commuting.

After a long gap

The introduction of the train comes after a long gap in originating services from Kanpur to Delhi. The new connection is expected to strengthen railway access to the national capital and offer passengers greater flexibility in planning their journeys.

The new service

TRAINS	14153 and 14154, daily
ROUTE	Kanpur Central to Anand Vihar Terminal
DISTANCE	About 428 km in about eight hours
STOPS	Phaphund, Etawah, Tundla, Hathras, Aligarh, Khurja, Dadri, Ghaziabad
RUN BY	North Central Railway

Mohan Yadav unveils 82 projects worth ₹357.71 crore

SHAHDOL

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav on Monday announced plans to establish a new industrial park, a modern auditorium and a digital library in Shahdol district. He also inaugurated and laid the foundation stones for 82 development projects worth Rs 357.71 crore during a state-level programme organised as part of Janjatiya Gaurav Saptah (Tribal Pride Week).

The programme also featured the unveiling of a statue of tribal freedom fighter Birsa Munda. Of the 82 development works, 10 projects worth Rs 8.64 crore were inaugurated, while foundation stones were laid for 72 projects estimated at Rs 349.07 crore.

Addressing the gathering, Yadav recalled Birsa Munda's contribution to India's freedom struggle and his fight to protect tribal rights and resources. He said, "Birsa Munda challenged the British Empire at the age of 25 and earned widespread respect for his struggle to protect Jal, Jungle and Zameen (water, forests and land)."

The Chief Minister also announced several infrastructure initiatives for the district. These include a four-lane road connecting Katni and Singrauli and an 18-kilometre main road in the Beohari Assembly constituency, estimated to cost Rs 10 crore.

Yadav said the bhoomi pujan for the proposed industrial park would be conducted soon and that the project would create employment opportunities for local youth. He stated that the state government had recruited 85,000 people so far and planned to fill another two lakh posts in the future.



At the Janjatiya Gaurav Saptah programme

82 projects

10	INAUGURATED, ₹8.64 CRORE
72	FOUNDATION STONES, ₹349.07 CRORE

Citizens demand urgent action on Delhi's air pollution



Students protest over Delhi's air quality

NEW DELHI

A citizens' delegation on Monday visited the office of Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav in Jor Bagh, New Delhi, seeking an urgent meeting to discuss the city's worsening air pollution. The group demanded an opportunity to meet authorised officials and discuss measures to protect public health and ensure citizens' right to breathe clean air.

The delegation included All India Students' Association (AISA) president Neha Bora, along with environment and student activists Bhavreen Kandhari, Urvashi Prasad and Ashish Jacob. They had written to the environment minister on November 12, requesting an appointment to discuss the growing pollution crisis.

The delegation raised concerns over the lack of urgent action to address the city's polluted air. It also questioned the government's response to the situation and called for immediate steps to protect residents from harmful air quality.

The group pointed out that Bhupender Yadav was leading India's delegation at the COP31 climate conference. It questioned who was taking responsibility for tackling air pollution within the country while the minister was representing India at the international climate meeting.

Odisha begins early evacuation as cyclone threatens coast

BHUBANESWAR

The Odisha government has directed district administrations in the southern region to begin evacuating people from vulnerable areas as a deep depression over the Bay of Bengal continues to intensify. The move aims to protect residents and reduce the risk of casualties as the weather system develops into a powerful cyclone.

Officials said the weather system is likely to strengthen into a very severe cyclonic storm before reaching the Andhra Pradesh coast around the night of November 19. Authorities are taking precautionary steps to ensure that people living in low-lying and coastal areas can move to safer locations before the storm approaches.

District administrations have been instructed to identify vulnerable areas and begin preparations for evacuation. The early response is intended to prevent last-minute difficulties and ensure that residents receive timely assistance during the approaching weather emergency.



A woman is helped through floodwater (file picture)



Odisha: districts in the south begin evacuating

The cyclone threat has raised concerns in Odisha, particularly in southern districts that could face heavy rainfall, strong winds and possible flooding.

Kerala to buy 24 vehicles for ₹9.6 crore

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala government has approved the purchase of 24 new vehicles for ministers, the Chief Secretary and official protocol purposes at an estimated cost of Rs 9.60 crore. The decision has attracted criticism and raised questions about government spending, particularly as the state has been facing financial difficulties.

The purchase has also brought attention to Chief Minister V.D. Satheesan's earlier remarks against buying new vehicles. He had stated that there was no need to purchase a fresh vehicle and suggested choosing one from the existing government fleet. He had also said avoiding unnecessary purchases would send a positive message to the public.

Satheesan had warned against displaying luxury through positions of power, arguing that such practices could increase the distance between the government and ordinary people. His earlier comments are now being recalled by critics questioning the latest decision.

The government, however, has justified the purchase by pointing to the ageing condition of existing vehicles. Officials have cited frequent repair and maintenance expenses as reasons for replacing them. The proposed vehicles are intended to meet the official transportation requirements of ministers and senior government officials.

The decision has sparked a debate over whether the expenditure is necessary at a time when the state is managing financial pressures. Critics have questioned the government's spending priorities and asked whether the existing vehicles could have been used for a longer period.

His earlier advice

No need for a fresh vehicle: choose one from the existing government fleet. Avoiding unnecessary purchases would send a positive message to the public.

UP dustbin scam: 12 named in ₹27.36 lakh case



Waste bins (representational picture)

MAHARAJGANJ

A case has been registered against 12 people over alleged financial irregularities in the purchase of dustbins worth Rs 27.36 lakh by the Ghughli Nagar Panchayat in Uttar Pradesh's Maharajganj district. Those named include current and former Nagar Panchayat chairpersons, government officials and contractors.

The case concerns the purchase of 200 dustbins in 2018. An investigation found alleged violations in the tender process and questioned the prices paid by the civic body. According to the findings, each dustbin was purchased for approximately Rs 14,000, while its estimated market price was around Rs 3,400.

The investigation also raised concerns about the bidding procedure. According to the FIR, the tender was issued in 2018, but the process allegedly failed to follow prescribed government rules and regulations. Only four days were reportedly provided for interested parties to submit their bids, raising questions about transparency and fair competition.

Investigators suspect that the purchase involved inflated prices, causing financial losses to the public exchequer.

The FIR names 12 individuals, including people associated with the civic body's administration and those involved in supplying the dustbins. The allegations cover possible irregularities in purchasing decisions, tender procedures and the use of public funds.

Price per dustbin

MARKET PRICE	PAID IN 2018
₹3,400 estimated	₹14,000 approximately

RURAL SURVEILLANCE DRIVE

Udhampur installs solar CCTV lights to curb rural crime

UDHAMPUR

The Udhampur district administration in Jammu and Kashmir has launched a major rural surveillance initiative by installing solar-powered street lights fitted with high-definition CCTV cameras across all 236 panchayats. The project, introduced under the Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyan, aims to prevent drug abuse, theft and other illegal activities in rural areas, particularly after dark.

Assistant Commissioner (Development) Om Prakash said the main objective was to strengthen security and address the growing problem of drug abuse. He added that installation work had already been completed in five to six blocks, while work was continuing in the remaining five blocks. The administration expects the entire project to be completed by next month.

According to officials, the police will have primary access to the CCTV footage from all 236 panchayats. This will help officers monitor suspicious activities, identify individuals involved in illegal operations and respond quickly to incidents. The administration expects the surveillance network to improve public safety and discourage criminal activities in rural communities.



A solar-powered street light

Quick Read

2 arrested in Panchkula shooting probe

PANCHKULA

The Haryana Anti-Terrorist Squad arrested two more wanted suspects in Punjab on Monday, police said. The arrests are linked to an international drug and terror network that police say they uncovered while investigating the Panchkula club shooting. Superintendent Kuldeep Singh told reporters that the Ambala Special Operations Group made the arrests. A court granted police five days of custody for the two suspects. Nine suspects have now been arrested in the case.

Sule seeks higher quota for women

PUNE

MP Supriya Sule on Monday called for a 50 per cent quota for women and said it should take effect when constituency boundaries are redrawn. The Nationalist Congress Party (Sharadchandra Pawar) working president said she had discussed the demand with Union ministers Amit Shah and Kiren Rijiju. She urged the Centre to apply the same formula for redrawing constituencies across all states and sought a written assurance from it. The opposition INDIA bloc has called for immediate implementation of the 33 per cent women's quota in the existing Lok Sabha.

2 arrested in gaming fraud probe

GWALIOR

Gwalior police arrested two men over an alleged online gaming fraud in Transport Nagar and seized 27 mobile phones and two laptops, an officer said on Monday. Deputy Superintendent of Police Manish Yadav said officers raided the site after receiving a tip and arrested Ajay Kushwaha of Gwalior and Guddu of Madhubani, Bihar. Police estimated that the operation handled transactions worth Rs 4 lakh to Rs 6 lakh a day.

Delhi Police install 6,000 cameras across public parks

Delhi Police have installed more than 6,000 CCTV cameras in public parks to improve safety for women across the capital.

NEW DELHI



Police also identified 19,822 dark spots for surveillance under a three-month plan drawn up after Union Home Minister Amit Shah issued directions on October 24. The plan focuses on women's safety, public security, support for victims and effective prosecution.

Police completed safety checks in 1,635 public parks and are improving lighting, fencing and boundary walls. They aim to finish work on fencing and walls in all parks by January 26, 2027. All 503 large parks now have gates and regular patrols.

The response time for the 112 emergency service fell from 11 minutes and 53 seconds to 8 minutes and 2 seconds. Police have deployed 35 vans staffed entirely by women and use 178 pink scooties for patrols. Women make up 17.3 per cent of the force, with a target of 25 per cent by 2030.

Police outreach programmes reached about 15.9 lakh people, while about 5.7 lakh people took part in self-defence programmes. The outreach included visits to girls' schools and hostels, colleges and hostels for working women, where police raised awareness about available help.

About 308 people visit 125 pink booths daily to lodge complaints. Women's help desks operate around the clock at airport, railway and metro police stations. Each police district also has an anti-trafficking unit. Twenty-five special courts are hearing cases involving crimes against women, and 37 more are being set up to speed up trials.

Safety plan in focus

- **CCTV:** Over 6,000 cameras installed in public parks
- **Safety checks:** 1,635 parks checked and 19,822 dark spots identified
- **Emergency response:** 112 response time fell from 11 min 53 sec to 8 min 2 sec
- **Patrols:** 178 pink scooters and 35 vans staffed entirely by women
- **Pink booths:** 125 booths receive about 308 visitors daily

DMK chief Stalin calls CM Vijay a 'villain in governance'



DMK president MK Stalin criticised Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay over law and order, citing two recent controversies.

CHENNAI

Speaking at a wedding in former minister KN Nehru's family ahead of the Tiruchirappalli East by-election, Stalin called the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam government directionless and ineffective. He also said TVK had promised to bring change. He said Vijay, who had played a hero in films, was now behaving like a villain in government.

Stalin claimed crimes were being reported across the state and that members of the ruling party had been named as accused in several cases. He accused Vijay of remaining silent over allegations involving a party legislator and the deputy speaker.

In one case, DMK MP Kanimozhi alleged that TVK legislator Arul Vignesh sent an inappropriate WhatsApp message to the Kallakurichi district collector. Vignesh denied the allegation, called it a rumour and accused Kanimozhi of playing politics.

The other case concerns Karthik Kumar, a TVK member from Thuraiyur who had sought basic facilities for his ward. Kumar said he had approached the legislator's office several times and that his complaints had gone unanswered.

Kumar reportedly met Deputy Speaker Ravi Shankar on November 8 in Manachanallur to submit a petition. Shankar allegedly refused to accept it, verbally abused Kumar and assaulted him. A video said to show the incident circulated online. In a later video, Kumar denied any assault, prompting allegations that he had been pressured to record the statement. Kumar was admitted to Tiruchirappalli Government Hospital for treatment.

'Navy ready for today's wars': Navy chief

NEW DELHI

> **"We are prepared for today's wars and we are preparing for future wars."**
>
> **— Admiral Krishna Swaminathan,** Navy chief

Navy Chief Admiral Krishna Swaminathan said on Monday that the Indian Navy was ready for today's wars and was preparing for future conflicts. Speaking at the ANI National Security Summit 3.0 in New Delhi, he said the Navy had made major gains in the four decades he had served.

Swaminathan said shifts in global politics over the past four or five years and rapid advances in technology had changed the way wars are fought. He said global trade and closer links between countries had made powerful and affordable technology widely available to governments and groups outside them. The spread of such tools and weapons, he said, had brought more groups into conflicts and made warfare more complex.

Wars are faster and more complex

He said modern conflicts now extend beyond land, sea and air to cyberspace, space and the struggle to shape what people think. As more technology has become available around the world, he said, conflicts have also become faster. He pointed to the growing number of satellites used to observe Earth, saying they had made it much easier to see what was happening in areas where militaries operate.

Ships built differently

Looking back on his career, Swaminathan compared the ships he served on when he joined the Navy with those it now deploys in the Indian Ocean Region. He said today's ships are built differently, are harder to detect and can observe larger areas and strike at greater distances. He added that similar advances could be seen across the Indian armed forces over the past four decades.

Himachal pensioners threaten Assembly protest over 'dues'

SHIMLA

The pensioners are holding sit-ins at district headquarters from November 12 to 17. Organisers hope about 25,000 retired employees will gather on November 19 at Tapovan in Dharamshala, where the Assembly holds its winter session.

Mohan Thakur, who leads the pensioners' Joint Action Committee in Shimla district, said retirees who had served the government for nearly 40 years were taking to the streets to seek their dues. He said pensioners were waiting for gratuity, payments for unused leave and benefits linked to revised pay scales dating back to January 2016. Retirees from the state electricity board, the road transport corporation and other public bodies have joined the protests.

Ganga Ram Sharma, a senior office bearer of the Himachal Pradesh Pensioners Welfare Association, said representatives gave the government two and a half years to clear the dues before submitting 17 demands. He alleged the government had promised to release 45 per cent of the money owed by July 31, 2026, but had missed that deadline.



Pensioners at a sit-in

The dues	
1.90 lakh	PENSIONERS AFFECTED
13 %	DA STILL UNPAID

Sharma said about 1.90 lakh pensioners were affected. He said another 13 per cent in dearness allowance remained unpaid after the government released a five per cent instalment. He also said families of nearly 7,000 pensioners who died between January 2016 and 2022 were still waiting for benefits owed to them.

Bus driver's alert leads police to suspect in Madurai jewellery heist

MADURAI

A bus driver's recognition of a passenger on television helped police arrest Nishanth, the suspect in the November 12 burglary at a Tanishq showroom in Madurai.

The 25-year-old YouTuber was travelling from Bengaluru to Salem when the driver identified him. He contacted a police constable in Dharmapuri, who alerted officers and coordinated an interception at Seshampetti.

A dash for the rear window

Police surrounded the bus after it stopped. Nishanth allegedly noticed the officers and tried to escape through a rear window, but was caught. He was brought to Madurai on Monday. Police said he was carrying part of the stolen jewellery and was questioned about the remaining ornaments.

His arrest followed those of his father, Suresh, and close friend Meenakshi Nachiyar, an Instagram influencer. Police said information from Meenakshi helped recover five kilograms of gold. Investigators allege Nishanth used her two-wheeler during the burglary and told her where some jewellery was hidden.

Police suspect Suresh helped transport the ornaments in his autorickshaw to family farmland, where they were buried. Investigators are examining CCTV footage and tracing the accused's movements.

The burglary was discovered on November 12 at the showroom on Madurai's Bypass Road. Police said the intruder entered through the lift shaft after climbing scaffolding.

How he was caught

1. **On TV:** the bus driver recognises the passenger
2. **The alert:** a constable in Dharmapuri tells officers
3. **Seshampetti:** police surround the stopped bus
4. **Caught:** he tries to flee through a rear window

Tribunal orders probe into 'unsafe' Punjab dump

NEW DELHI

40+ complaints filed on Punjab's online services portal, Bansal said

The tribunal acted on a letter from Chandni Bansal, who said the dump was opposite a residential colony and just 12 to 15 feet from occupied homes. She alleged that fires had broken out there three or four times, requiring firefighters to respond.

The committee will include representatives from Punjab's housing and local government departments, the Jalandhar district administration (including its magistrate and development officer) and the state pollution control board. The tribunal directed it to visit the site with Bansal and representatives of the projects concerned. If it finds environmental violations, it must take steps to correct them after hearing those likely to be affected.

Bansal said she had filed more than 40 complaints through Punjab's online services portal and repeatedly approached district and state officials without seeing meaningful action. She also alleged that a waste management project approved by the village council in April 2025 had yet to be carried out.

Bansal said a high-pressure gas distribution box stood at a corner of the dump, with an active gas pipeline running underground. She said the box carried a warning against smoking and open flames. Her complaint cited a fire on March 30, 2026, that allegedly spread near the gas equipment and raised fears of an explosion.

Manipur families seek 'justice' after receiving remains

KANGPOKPI

The men were identified as Rev. Manu Thiumai, Pastor Kenpibou Chawang, Kaliwangbou Abonmai, Dilip Thiumai, Phenrilung Chawang and Phenrongwi Thiumai. All six lived in Konsakhul. They were reported missing on May 13 after suspected armed Kuki militants allegedly abducted them from Leilon Vaiphei village.

Security forces recovered their remains on June 10 from an area between Leilon Vaiphei and Kharam Vaiphei villages. The remains were kept at the Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Medical Sciences mortuary in Imphal until the handover.

Relatives, volunteers and community representatives were present when the families received the remains.



The memorial at the funeral of the six men

About 500 villagers attended the funeral, along with state lawmakers and representatives of groups from Manipur's hill and valley regions. The families said they would continue to seek justice.

KC Savio, who took part in the Guwahati talks, said the Joint Tribe Council had submitted demands focused on the welfare of the families.

The funeral followed an agreement reached in Guwahati on September 26 involving the United Naga Council, the Manipur government and the Union Home Ministry. The council called for those responsible to be prosecuted without delay and for the National Investigation Agency to continue its investigation. Joint Tribe Council representative Savio said the state government had agreed to compensate the families.

YAMUNA POLLUTION

SC orders Yamuna water tests at every state border



WHAT THE COURT ORDERED

- **Water tests:** where the river and drains enter and leave each state
- **Smart meters:** tamper-proof, at treatment plants within a month
- **Inspections:** surprise checks every quarter
- **Zone O:** protected as a green zone

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court said pollution in the Yamuna had worsened despite heavy spending on cleaning the river. In a November 4 order, Justices Manoj Misra and Manmohan said the river's condition reflected failures in civic administration along its banks. The court noted that 520 drains discharge wastewater into the river.

The court directed the Central Pollution Control Board to test water where the Yamuna and major drains enter and leave each state, Union Territory and district. Authorities will face penalties if water quality worsens within their areas. The board must work out how to calculate environmental compensation.

The judges said authorities must tackle industrial pollution and untreated sewage at the source. They said building more treatment plants alone would not solve the problem and noted that none of Delhi's 37 existing sewage treatment plants met all required standards.

The court said states sharing the Yamuna must treat it as one ecosystem. Each state's share of the work should reflect how much pollution it contributes and how much it can do to address the problem.

The court gave sewage and industrial wastewater treatment plants and government-commissioned biogas plants a month to install smart meters that resist tampering. The facilities must also post live data on operations and the quality of their discharge. The board must conduct surprise inspections every quarter, and compensation can be recovered for every day a facility fails to comply.

The court also ordered Delhi to protect Zone O as a green zone and rehabilitate eligible occupants there.

Quick Read

India-Philippines direct flights to boost trade

NEW DELHI

Industry leaders on Monday said the expansion of direct flight connectivity between India and the Philippines is expected to strengthen people-to-people ties and provide a significant boost to bilateral trade, as both countries seek to deepen their economic engagement. Dileep Tiwari, President of the India Business Forum Philippines, said enhanced air connectivity would play a crucial role in fostering closer relations and facilitating business exchanges between the two nations. "India and the Philippines have already signed an Air Services Agreement. After the Air Services Agreement was signed and implemented, the first direct flight between India and the Philippines was started by Air India," he stated.

TDB, NeoSeekermetals join hands to scale critical minerals

NEW DELHI

The Technology Development Board (TDB) under the Department of Science and Technology has signed an agreement with Hyderabad-based NeoSeekermetals Pvt. Ltd. to support the development and commercialisation of an indigenous technology for extracting critical minerals from e-waste and lithium-ion battery waste, an official statement said. The project has a total cost of Rs 20 crore, of which Rs 10 crore has been approved under the government's Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) Fund. The financial support will be extended through Optionally Convertible Debt (OCD).



Software flaw, heavy load caused Microsoft outage

NEW DELHI

The recent major global outage of Microsoft 365 services was caused by a hidden software flaw, an unusually high volume of traffic and a reduction in server capacity, the company said on Monday. The company said the code change linked to the flaw was first rolled out in July and had been running across the world for more than three months without causing any trouble.



'Decision on LTCG tax changes unlikely before Budget'

NEW DELHI

The government is unlikely to take a decision on proposed changes to the long-term capital gains (LTCG) tax regime before the upcoming Union Budget, Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) Chairman Ravi Agrawal said on Monday. Speaking at the inauguration of the Taxpayers' Lounge at the India International Trade Fair, Agrawal said discussions on various proposals related to LTCG taxation are ongoing and no decision is expected before the Budget.

'Journalism must balance freedom of expression with responsibility'

Vaishnaw urges journalists to embrace technological changes, strengthen responsible reporting and address digital challenges, highlighting the media's crucial role in safeguarding democratic values and empowering citizens.

NEW DELHI

Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Ashwini Vaishnaw on Monday called upon media professionals to adapt to the rapidly changing media landscape and technological advancements, emphasising the crucial role of journalism in strengthening democracy.

Addressing the National Press Day celebrations organised by the Press Council of India (PCI), Vaishnaw stressed the importance of responsible journalism and the media's accountability towards society.

Encouraging young journalists to embrace emerging technologies, the minister urged them to continuously upgrade their skills and remain prepared for the evolving demands of the profession.

Vaishnaw also raised concerns over the growing influence of digital platforms and questioned whether existing community guidelines were sufficient to tackle challenges such as misinformation, deepfakes, misleading advertisements, digital arrests and harmful content affecting children.



He emphasised the need for wider deliberations on regulating the changing media environment while ensuring that citizens remain empowered and protected against emerging digital threats.

Chanchal Kumar, Secretary in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, highlighted the importance of maintaining a balance between public engagement and journalistic credibility. He cautioned against allowing popularity and virality to overshadow truth and verification.

Seasoned journalist Rajat Sharma highlighted the thin line between sensationalism and responsible reporting, while PCI Chairperson Justice (Retd.) Ranjana Prakash Desai reaffirmed the Council's commitment to protecting press freedom and improving journalistic standards.

Min calls for responsible journalism

- → Next five years may bring more change than the previous two decades
- → Concern over misinformation, deepfakes and harmful digital content
- → Young journalists urged to upgrade their skills
- → Credibility must outweigh popularity and virality: Chanchal Kumar
- → PCI committed to press freedom and journalistic standards

Niveshak Shivir to help investors recover unclaimed shares

MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA



NEW DELHI

The Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA) will organise a day-long 'Niveshak Shivir' in New Delhi on November 17 to help investors recover unclaimed dividends, reclaim shares transferred to the Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF) and resolve pending grievances.

According to the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, the investor outreach programme is being organised in collaboration with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and Market Infrastructure Institutions (MIIs).

The initiative aims to provide direct assistance to investors whose dividends and shares have remained unclaimed with companies for six to seven years. The camp will also facilitate Know Your Customer (KYC) updation, nomination services and resolution of pending IEPFA claim-related issues.

Dedicated service desks will be established at the venue, allowing investors to interact directly with companies and their respective Registrars and Transfer Agents (RTAs).

In a first for the programme, companies holding significant unclaimed dividend accounts will participate directly in the camp. This will enable eligible investors to approach company representatives for guidance and assistance in recovering their investments.

Minister of State for Road Transport and Highways and Corporate Affairs Harsh Malhotra and Corporate Affairs Secretary Pallavi Jain Govil have also been invited to attend the event.

Niveshak Shivir

WHEN	November 17, New Delhi
BY	IEPFA, with SEBI and Market Infrastructure Institutions
A FIRST	Companies with large unclaimed dividend accounts take part

Trump held up to $62 million in Nvidia stock



WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump held between $13 million and $62 million worth of Nvidia shares as of the end of August, according to a report published on Monday, citing a review of his financial disclosures.

However, the financial filings do not include transactions made during the previous two months because of reporting delays, leaving the full extent of Trump's recent investment activity unclear.

The disclosure comes amid growing scrutiny of Nvidia's relationship with the Trump administration and the company's expanding influence in the artificial intelligence industry.

Nvidia has also faced attention following developments surrounding its leadership.

Meanwhile, the Trump administration is reportedly considering designating Nvidia and more than two dozen other artificial intelligence companies as "national champions", according to a separate media report.

The proposed designation could highlight the administration's efforts to strengthen the position of American artificial intelligence companies and support their role in the global technology sector.

Trump's Nvidia stock

END OF 2024	END OF AUGUST
$1.3m at most; at least $615,000	$62m at most; at least $13 million

Trump's reported investment in Nvidia has drawn attention because of the company's close connections with the administration and its strategic importance to the United States' artificial intelligence ambitions.

The latest disclosure adds another dimension to discussions surrounding potential conflicts of interest, financial transparency and the relationship between government policymaking and major technology companies.

While the reported figures provide an indication of Trump's Nvidia exposure, the absence of more recent transactions means his current holdings remain uncertain.

NCDRC upholds ₹20L CCPA penalty on ExportersIndia

NEW DELHI

A total penalty of Rs 20 lakh imposed by the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) on Weblink.In Private Limited, which operates ExportersIndia.com, for listing and facilitating the sale of regulated and hazardous explosive substances on its online platform will stand, the government said on Monday. The National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC) has dismissed two appeals filed by the company, upholding the regulator's penalties and directions.

In two separate orders dated November 12, 2026, the NCDRC upheld the CCPA's final orders imposing a penalty of Rs 10 lakh each for the online listing of Ammonium Nitrate, Pentaerythritol Tetranitrate (PETN) and Picric Acid. The commission found no infirmity or error of law in the CCPA's decisions.

"The National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC), New Delhi, through two orders dated 12 November 2026, has dismissed the appeals filed by Weblink.In Private Limited, operator of ExportersIndia.com, against two final orders of the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA)," the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution said.

CCPA
CENTRAL CONSUMER PROTECTION AUTHORITY

NCDRC RULING

Penalties upheld in full

- Rs 10 lakh each in two CCPA orders
- Listings of Ammonium Nitrate, PETN and Picric Acid
- Orders dated November 12, 2026

"The NCDRC has thereby upheld in full the penalties and directions issued by the CCPA for the online listing, hosting, advertising and facilitation of sale of regulated and hazardous explosive substances on the platform," the ministry added.

The review covered substances such as Ammonium Nitrate, Gun Powder, Picric Acid and PETN, which are regulated or restricted under the Explosives Act, 1884, and the rules framed under it.

The regulator found that several online platforms were allowing these substances to be listed and advertised without adequate safeguards, including verification of sellers' valid licences issued by the Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO), verification of buyers' identities and legal eligibility, and mechanisms to ensure traceability of transactions.

EU urged to deny Pakistan GSP+ renewal

NEW DELHI

The European Union should withhold renewal of Pakistan's preferential trade access under the Generalised Scheme of Preferences Plus (GSP+) scheme citing Islamabad's failure to implement key rights and governance reforms amid worsening human rights conditions, a new report has said.

The report from the European Times said that Pakistan has failed to make adequate progress on commitments linked to the GSP+ which grants duty-free access to the EU market in return for implementing 27 international conventions covering human rights, labour standards, environmental protection and governance.

During the monitoring period, Pakistan also passed laws that went in the opposite direction of these reforms.



> "Continuing to reward duty-free access to Pakistan would not be generosity but the abandonment of the only leverage the EU holds."
> — European Times report

Citing the European Commission's latest monitoring assessment covering 2023 to 2025, the report said Pakistan had "regressed in a number of areas while positive change was limited" and that any progress is "of legislative and administrative nature" without consequence on the ground. It highlighted concerns over enforced disappearances, deterioration of media freedom, judicial independence and accountability mechanisms. The European Commission said that laws on blasphemy, cybercrime, defamation, counterterrorism and sedition in Pakistan should be amended or repealed, and warned against what it calls the prevailing sense of impunity.

The Commission of Inquiry on Enforced Disappearances (CoIED) has closed over 9,000 cases but did not find evidence of state involvement in any of them, a finding the report called implausible.

Unemployment rate eases to 4.9% in October

NEW DELHI

India's unemployment rate declined marginally to 4.9% in October from 5% in September, as female labour force participation and workforce participation improved, particularly in rural areas, according to government data released on Monday.

The overall unemployment rate for people aged 15 years and above was also 0.3 percentage points lower than the 5.2% recorded in October 2025, the latest Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) bulletin released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation showed.

The improvement was accompanied by an increase in the female Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR), which rose to 35% in October from 34.6% in September and 34.2% a year earlier, reaching its highest level since February 2026.

The overall LFPR, which measures the proportion of the population that is either working or seeking or available for work, increased to 55.7% in October from 55.5% in September. The Worker Population Ratio (WPR), which measures the proportion of the population that is employed, also improved to 53% from 52.7% over the same period.

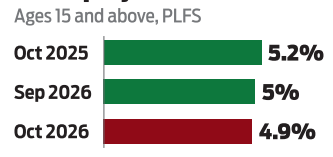
Female unemployment declined to 5% in October from 5.2% in September, while male unemployment remained unchanged at 4.9%. Urban female unemployment fell to 8.7% from 9.2% over the month, while in rural areas it eased to 3.8% from 3.9%, its lowest level recorded during 2026.

The PLFS, conducted by the National Statistics Office under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, is India's principal source of data on employment, unemployment and labour force participation.



Unemployment rate

Ages 15 and above, PLFS



Figures: MoSPI

BUDGET 2027-28

FM begins pre-Budget consultations with economists

NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday chaired the first pre-Budget consultation with leading economists as preparations began for the Union Budget 2027-28, according to an official statement.

The meeting, held in New Delhi, was attended by Anuradha Thakur, Secretary of the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), Chief Economic Advisor V Anantha Nageswaran and senior officials from the department.

The consultation marks the beginning of discussions with experts and stakeholders on economic priorities and policy measures that could shape the upcoming Budget. Sitharaman has also been holding meetings with representatives from various industry sectors to gather recommendations and understand their expectations.



In a recent consultation, the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) proposed a series of customs duty reforms aimed at improving India's position as a globally competitive manufacturing hub.

> *"Customs duties on key raw materials and intermediate goods can significantly influence production costs, investment decisions and the overall competitiveness of downstream industries."*
> PHD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

During discussions organised by the Tax Research Unit of the Revenue Department under the Ministry of Finance, the industry body called for rationalising duties on essential industrial raw materials and energy inputs. It said such measures could reduce manufacturing expenses, strengthen domestic value chains, improve energy security and enhance India's competitiveness.

Among its key recommendations, PHDCCI proposed reducing the basic customs duty on liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), heavy petroleum feedstocks and naphtha to zero from the existing 2.5%.

The chamber also sought rationalisation of customs duties on petroleum coke used in industrial manufacturing and continuation of the existing basic customs duty structure on steel scrap beyond March 2028.

SOUTH AFRICA MASS SHOOTINGS LEAVE 17 DEAD

Two deadly attacks in separate locations have renewed concerns over rising gun violence, public safety, and South Africa's persistent struggle with violent crime.



Soldiers on patrol in a South African township (file picture)

The toll

9	SHOT DEAD IN A SHACK IN ATTERIDGEVILLE
8	MEN SHOT DEAD IN A VEHICLE IN SWEETWATERS
5,427	MURDERS ACROSS THE COUNTRY, APRIL-JUNE

JOHANNESBURG

At least 17 people were killed in two separate mass shootings in South Africa on Sunday night, police said on Monday. The incidents took place in Atteridgeville, near Pretoria, and Sweetwaters in KwaZulu-Natal province, raising fresh concerns about the country's ongoing gun violence.

In the first incident, nine people, including six men and three women, were shot dead inside a shack at the Jeffsville informal settlement in Atteridgeville, west of Pretoria. Police said the identities of the attackers and the reason behind the shooting were not yet known.

In a separate incident, eight men were shot dead inside a vehicle in Sweetwaters, KwaZulu-Natal, according to a report by Xinhua News Agency. Police have started investigations into both cases and are working to identify the victims and establish the circumstances surrounding the attacks.

A September attack

A similar incident occurred on September 22 in KwaMakhutha, also in KwaZulu-Natal, where 11 people were killed and three others injured in a shooting. According to the South African Police Service, attackers opened fire on a group of people gathered inside a house in the township's Ziko area.

Official crime figures released by the South African Police Service in August showed that 5,427 people were murdered across the country between April and June. This amounted to an average of about 60 killings a day. Although the figure was 5.9 per cent lower than the same period a year earlier, violent crime remained a serious concern.

A study published in the South African Medical Journal in 2026 also found that the share of murders involving firearms increased from 31 per cent in 2020 to 44 per cent in 2025.

Quick Read

Netanyahu renews call for Israeli unity government

JERUSALEM

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has renewed his call for a unity government, saying it is the only government capable of addressing the country's major challenges. His remarks came as former military chief Gadi Eisenkot held talks with political parties to explore possible cooperation. Netanyahu stressed the need for political unity amid Israel's security and political challenges. Meanwhile, Eisenkot's discussions with different parties could influence future political arrangements. The developments highlight ongoing efforts to build broader political support in Israel as leaders consider ways to address national concerns and strengthen the country's leadership.

PM Modi attends Manila gala dinner

MANILA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Manila on Monday for a two-day visit to attend the 23rd ASEAN-India Summit and the 21st East Asia Summit, hosted by the Philippines as the 2026 ASEAN Chair. Wearing a traditional Barong Tagalog, Modi was warmly welcomed by Philippine President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. and First Lady Louise Araneta-Marcos at a gala dinner in Pasay City. Earlier, the Indian diaspora greeted him with cultural performances. The summits will review the ASEAN-India Plan of Action 2026–2030, celebrate the ASEAN-India Year of Maritime Cooperation, and advance regional peace, trade, and Indo-Pacific stability.

Russian scientists develop new hybrid wind turbines

MOSCOW

Russian scientists are developing a new type of hybrid wind turbine that combines wind and solar power to produce electricity. The technology is being developed at Patrice Lumumba Peoples' Friendship University of Russia (RUDN) and could support energy needs in homes, industries, cities and transport systems. According to the researchers, the new turbines use a vertical-axis design that allows them to capture wind from different directions. Unlike traditional wind turbines, they do not need to turn towards the wind to operate. Another key feature is the combination of wind and solar power in one system. By using both sources of renewable energy, the technology aims to provide a more stable electricity supply. The compact design could also help save space by allowing both energy systems to operate together.

Li Qiang backs early South China Sea agreement



Leaders join hands at the 29th ASEAN-China Summit in Manila on Monday

MANILA

Chinese Premier Li Qiang has pledged support for an early agreement on the South China Sea Code of Conduct during the 29th ASEAN-China Summit in Manila, as China and Southeast Asian nations continue efforts to resolve differences over the disputed waters.

Li said China hoped to conclude the agreement soon, adding that it would help maintain peace and stability in the region. The proposed code aims to provide guidelines for countries to manage disputes and avoid actions that could increase tensions.

The summit brought together China and members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to discuss regional security, trade and cooperation. The South China Sea remained one of the key issues during the discussions, as several countries have competing claims over parts of the waterway.

Philippine Foreign Secretary Ma. Theresa Lazaro said China had committed to supporting an effective and meaningful agreement. She added that negotiations had made progress, with about 80 per cent of the draft text provisionally agreed upon.

However, the countries have not yet reached a final agreement. Important issues remain unresolved, including the geographical area covered by the code, the meaning of certain terms and whether the agreement will be legally binding.

Negotiations over the code have continued for more than two decades. The Philippines had hoped to complete the process by the end of 2026 during its ASEAN chairmanship, but the remaining differences have delayed the target.

Imran Khan seeks urgent medical care for wife

ISLAMABAD

Former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan has appealed to the country's top judges to ensure proper medical treatment for himself and his wife, Bushra Bibi, warning that his health has seriously worsened during his time in prison.

In an open letter dated November 16, Khan urged the chief justices of the Supreme Court, Federal Constitutional Court and Islamabad High Court to ensure that earlier court orders regarding medical treatment and prison conditions were followed.

The letter was shared on social media platform X by his lawyer, Barrister Salman Safdar, who met Khan at Adiala Jail on November 11.

Khan claimed that his blood pressure had reached dangerous levels, rising to 192 and 193 on November 10. He said doctors had warned him about the risk of a brain haemorrhage and cardiac arrest. He also claimed that he had lost 85 per cent of the vision in his right eye.

Behind the appeal

- **APRIL** — Bushra Bibi suffers a retinal detachment
- **AUG 18** — Supreme Court orders his transfer to Shifa International Hospital
- **NOV 10** — His blood pressure reaches 192 and 193, he says
- **NOV 11** — Lawyer Salman Safdar meets him at Adiala Jail
- **NOV 16** — Open letter to the chief justices

Khan also raised concerns about Bushra Bibi's eyesight. He said she had undergone complicated eye surgery after suffering a retinal detachment in April. He warned that without further surgery and proper medical care, she could lose her eyesight permanently.

He further alleged that authorities had not followed an August 18 Supreme Court order directing his transfer to Shifa International Hospital in Islamabad for treatment. The order also called for a medical board to examine his condition.

The former prime minister ended his appeal by asking the judges to act before it was too late. His allegations about prison conditions and medical care could not be verified independently, and there was no immediate response from the government to his letter.

Yadav holds key climate talks in Antalya

ANTALYA

Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav met United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Executive Secretary Simon Stiell and Australia's Climate Change and Energy Minister Chris Bowen on Monday during the ongoing COP31 climate summit in Antalya, Türkiye. The meetings focused on climate negotiations, financial support, and ways to address the effects of climate change.

During his meeting with Stiell, Yadav discussed ways to make climate negotiations simpler and more effective. The talks covered climate finance, adaptation, the shift towards cleaner and fairer energy systems, and the steps needed to turn climate promises into action.

In a post on social media platform X, Yadav said India remained committed to working closely with the UNFCCC and supporting efforts to achieve positive results. He stressed the importance of constructive discussions and practical solutions.

Talks with Bowen

Yadav also held detailed talks with Bowen, who serves as the president of negotiations for COP31. Their discussion focused on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, helping countries prepare for the effects of climate change, and ensuring adequate financial support for climate action.

Following the meeting, Yadav said India would continue to play a constructive role in the negotiations and support the presidency in finding solutions to key issues.

India has placed climate finance among its main priorities at the summit. The country has called for reliable financial support for developing nations, along with access to technology and assistance in adapting to changing weather conditions.

India has also stressed the need for a fair transition towards cleaner energy while protecting the development needs of poorer countries. The government believes that climate action should take into account the different challenges faced by nations.

COP31 is being held in Antalya from November 9 to 20, bringing countries together to discuss global climate challenges and possible solutions.

Yadav's meetings reflect India's efforts to work with international partners and encourage cooperation.

In focus

- Simpler, more effective climate negotiations
- Cutting emissions and preparing for climate impacts
- Reliable finance, technology and adaptation support
- An equitable shift to cleaner energy

Iran accuses Israel of spreading false claims to stoke fear in West

TEHRAN

Iran has accused Israel of spreading false information to increase public fear in Western countries, rejecting allegations linking Tehran to cyberattacks on French supermarket refrigerators and alleged plots to assassinate US officials.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei made the accusations in a statement shared on social media platform X on Monday. He described the reports as part of a planned campaign aimed at turning people in the United States and Europe against Iran.

Baghaei claimed that the allegations were intended to create fear among ordinary citizens and increase support for possible military action against Iran. He said the claims could make people view the country as a threat not only to governments but also to their daily lives.

The dispute follows accusations by French authorities that a cyber unit linked to Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps was responsible for attacks on refrigeration systems at around 700 retail locations in France in October. The incidents reportedly caused food losses and fires.

He described the reports as part of a planned campaign aimed at turning people in the United States and Europe against Iran.

French officials have said the attacks affected supermarket refrigeration controls, leading to damaged equipment and spoiled food.

Iran has rejected the accusations. Its officials have described the claims as unfounded and accused Western governments of using them to justify pressure against Tehran.

Baghaei also dismissed allegations that Iran was planning to assassinate US officials. He argued that such reports were being used to make the conflict more personal and encourage public support for stronger action against Iran.

Nepal weighs opening airspace for Bagdogra flights



An airport in a Nepal valley (file picture)

KATHMANDU

Nepal is reviewing a new proposal from India to allow international flights to use eastern Nepali airspace when flying to and from Bagdogra airport in West Bengal. This development comes just ahead of Nepali Prime Minister Balendra Shah's expected visit to India next week.

The offer emerged last week during a high-level aviation meeting in New Delhi. A Nepali team led by Civil Aviation Authority Director General Mukesh Dangol visited India to request long-awaited air routes. For over a decade, Nepal has asked India for permission to use airspace near Gorakhpur to help international planes reach its new airports in Bhairahawa and Pokhara.

WHY BAGDOGRA MATTERS

Bagdogra airport sits in the strategic Siliguri Corridor, a narrow strip of land connecting mainland India to its northeastern states. Because it serves both civilian travellers and military needs, smoother air routes are vital for the region.

According to senior officials in Kathmandu, India agreed to open the Bhairahawa route, provided both nations sign a combined package deal. In return, New Delhi requested access to eastern Nepali airspace for Bagdogra, as well as airspace near Raxaul.

Italian senator slams colleague over India remarks

ROME

Italian Senator Giulio Terzi strongly criticised fellow Italian politician Giacomo Filibeck on Monday for making negative comments about Indian democracy. Terzi, who heads the India-Italy parliamentary friendship group, backed another Italian leader, Deborah Bergamini, in condemning Filibeck's recent speech.

The row started on November 14 at the Bharat Summit 2026 in Hyderabad. While sharing a stage with Indian opposition leader Rahul Gandhi, Filibeck claimed that Indian democracy was under attack and echoed a local political slogan accusing the ruling party of stealing votes.

Posting on social media platform X, Terzi stated that such remarks fail to promote the open, civil, and respectful dialogue needed in international politics. He fully supported Bergamini's earlier statement, which called it wrong for European politicians to interfere in the internal affairs of a friendly nation like India.



At a Gandhi Jayanti event (file picture)

Bergamini had pointed out that Italy shares a special strategic partnership with India. She noted that Europeans should not lecture a massive democracy of 970 million voters on how to run its system.

Both leaders stressed that India has strong political institutions and an independent court system. They concluded that any disputes over voter lists or elections must be settled inside India, following its own well-established democratic laws and traditions.

BALOCH FAMILY MEMBERS MISSING

Four Baloch relatives missing after reported detentions

BALOCHISTAN

Four members of a Baloch family remain missing following reported detentions in Winder and Khuzdar, while six other family members have returned home.

The incident has raised concerns about the whereabouts of the four missing individuals and the circumstances surrounding the reported detentions. The return of six family members has brought some relief, but questions remain about those who have yet to return.

Winder and Khuzdar are located in Pakistan's Balochistan province, a region that has witnessed repeated reports of people going missing. Such incidents have drawn attention from local communities and rights groups, which have called for greater transparency and accountability.

The latest case has again focused attention on the situation of Baloch families whose relatives are reportedly detained or remain unaccounted for. Families in such cases often face uncertainty while trying to learn where their loved ones are being held and when they might return.

4	6
family members still missing	have returned home

The immediate priority remains finding the four missing family members and clarifying what happened during the reported incidents in Winder and Khuzdar.

Auqib Nabi shines, claims impact player series honour

Auqib Nabi received the Impact Player of the Series award after India's 3-1 ODI triumph over New Zealand, finishing with five wickets and earning praise for his disciplined performances.

NEW DELHI

India fast bowler Auqib Nabi was named the winner of the Impact Player of the Series award following India's 3-1 ODI series victory over New Zealand at Bay Oval. The right-arm pacer received the medal from Indian team physiotherapist Thulasi Ram Yuvaraj during a presentation ceremony inside the dressing room.

Thulasi presented the award and praised Nabi for his dedication, commitment and meticulous preparation. Speaking in a video shared on the BCCI



website on Monday, the physiotherapist highlighted the bowler's quiet personality and ability to deliver on the field.

"Congrats everyone. It was an exciting match and what an amazing series we have witnessed. I am very sure it is very difficult for whoever has made this decision because each and everyone in the team has outperformed in various aspects of this game," Thulasi said.

Praising Nabi's work ethic, Thulasi added, "He is a hard-working, committed, very meticulous in his preparations. He speaks very less. He makes sure his ball speaks in the field. So, it is none other than Auqib."

Impact Player of the Series in focus

- → Auqib Nabi named Impact Player of the Series.
- → India defeated New Zealand 3-1 in the ODI series.
- → Nabi claimed five wickets in 31 overs.
- → Recorded best figures of 2-31 in Wellington.
- → Will remain in New Zealand for Test preparations alongside Arshdeep Singh.

Nabi finished the series with five wickets from 31 overs at an average of 32 and an economy rate of 5.16. His best bowling figures were 2-31 at Henry Stadium in Wellington.

Expressing gratitude after receiving the medal, Nabi said, "Thank you for this. I am very grateful for this. I am very happy that we have won the series and I have made a contribution in it. Thank you."

The pacer will remain in New Zealand alongside Arshdeep Singh to assist India's preparations for the upcoming two-match Test series, beginning November 19 in Wellington.



India secures three Olympic quotas at Doha championships

NEW DELHI

India has achieved its strongest opening performance in Olympic shooting qualification in at least five Olympic cycles, securing three quota places for the Los Angeles 2028 Games at the ISSF World Championships in Doha, Qatar.

India secured three LA28 Olympic quotas in Doha, marking its strongest opening qualification performance in five Olympic cycles.

The three quotas came through podium finishes across all shooting disciplines. Jaypal Malviya won silver in the men's 10m air pistol, Niraj Kumar claimed bronze in the men's 50m rifle 3 positions, and Vivaan Kapoor secured silver in the men's trap event. This marks the first time since the London 2012 cycle that India has earned three quotas at the first qualification event.

National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) president Kalikesh Narayan Singh Deo described the achievement as a major boost for the team. He said, "Starting an Olympic cycle with three quotas right at the first World Championship is a huge boost for everyone involved." He also noted that success across rifle, pistol and shotgun would help coaches plan preparations for Los Angeles.

NRAI secretary general Pawankumar Singh praised the shooters for maintaining composure under pressure. He said winning a World Championship quota was difficult because the world's leading shooters compete at the event. He credited the athletes, coaches and high-performance team for their preparation.

India's performance in Doha also surpassed its opening qualification results from previous cycles. The country had secured two quotas before London 2012, one before Rio 2016 and two each before Tokyo 2020 and Paris 2024.

India finished second in the overall medal standings with 13 medals, including two gold, seven silver and four bronze, making the championship a strong start to its LA28 campaign.

ROMELU LUKAKU ANNOUNCES INTERNATIONAL RETIREMENT

NEW DELHI

Belgium forward Romelu Lukaku has announced his international retirement, drawing the curtains on a 16-year career with Belgium. Lukaku is the leading goal-scorer for Belgium and made the last of his 135 appearances for the Red Devils against France in October during a 4-1 loss. He is by far the highest scorer from his nation, having netted 94 goals, with Kevin De Bruyne a distant second with 41 goals.

Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo (146), Argentina's Lionel Messi (126), Iran's Ali Daei (108) and India's Sunil Chhetri (95) have netted more goals than him.

Lukaku, who plays for the Turkish club Fenerbahce, announced his retirement through a social media post. "These 16 years I gave all I had for the national team... I went through every emotion possible... I played with amazing teammates that I will always be grateful for. I want to thank them all. I want to thank all the coaches as well for pushing and trusting me to help the team. It was a nice ride, and I enjoyed every single moment," Lukaku wrote.

"To the Belgium fans thank you for the support you gave our team. I am proud to have represented my country in four World Cups and three European Championships.

"I will never forget those moments. I'm at peace with my decision to stop here. It was amazing, it was enjoyable, I'm grateful. Thank you," he added.

Only four have more goals

Cristiano Ronaldo	146
Lionel Messi	126
Ali Daei	108
Sunil Chhetri	95
Romelu Lukaku	94



Meanwhile, the Belgian football association also paid its tribute to Lukaku. "Through his personality, leadership, dedication and strong connection to the national team, he has earned a special place in the history of the Belgian Red Devils.

"His journey, from making his debut at just 16 years old to competing on the biggest international stages, remains a tremendous source of inspiration for countless young footballers and children who dream of one day wearing the Belgium shirt themselves," the association wrote.

Lukaku was recently an unused substitute during the Red Devils' 4-1 win over Italy in the Nations League. Along with Kevin De Bruyne, Thibaut Courtois and Eden Hazard, he was part of Belgium's golden football generation.

Haas confirm Rafael Camara for Las Vegas GP

NEW DELHI

Haas have confirmed that Brazilian youngster Rafael Camara will return to the Formula One grid for the upcoming Las Vegas Grand Prix, following his impressive debut at his home race in Sao Paulo. Camara will partner Ollie Bearman for the race weekend, while reserve driver Ryo Hirakawa will take part in the opening practice session in place of Bearman.

The announcement marks Camara's second race appearance for Haas after making his Formula One debut at the Brazilian Grand Prix at Interlagos. The youngster started 11th on the grid and successfully brought the car home despite challenging weather conditions.

Haas had earlier confirmed that Esteban Ocon would not race for the team again during the 2026 season following a reported disagreement with team principal Ayao Komatsu. Ocon was also dropped from the team's 2027 line-up, with Camara named as his replacement.

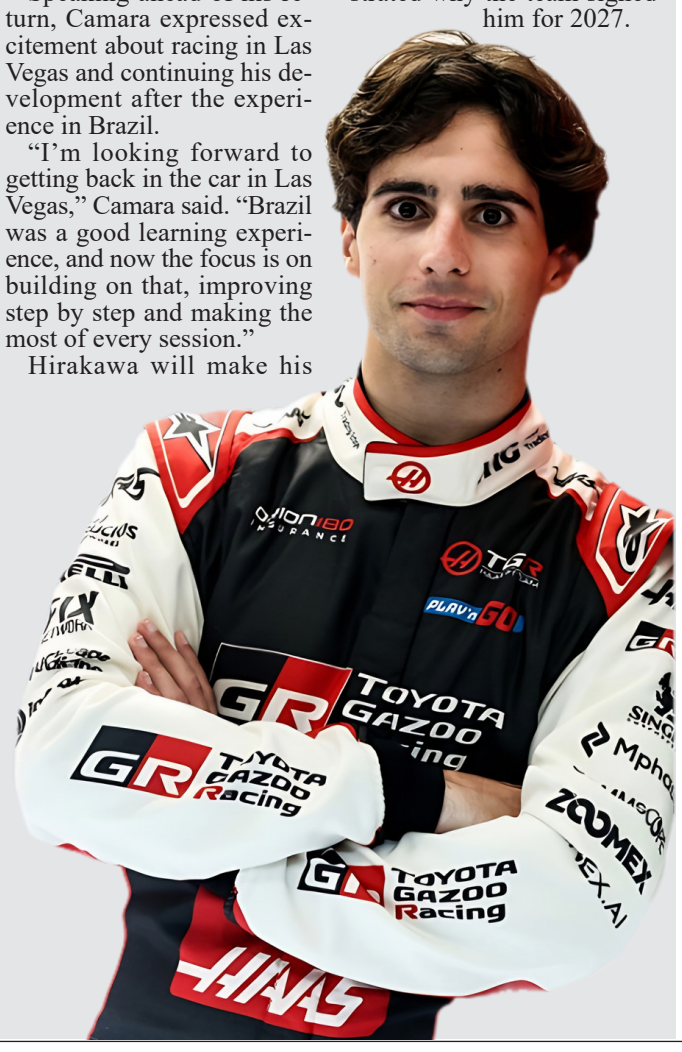
The situation developed during the Mexico Grand Prix in early November, when Ocon was dropped following his reported disagreement with Komatsu. Hirakawa made his debut during that weekend and secured a notable 10th-place finish.

Speaking ahead of his return, Camara expressed excitement about racing in Las Vegas and continuing his development after the experience in Brazil.

"I'm looking forward to getting back in the car in Las Vegas," Camara said. "Brazil was a good learning experience, and now the focus is on building on that, improving step by step and making the most of every session."

Hirakawa will make his fourth FP1 appearance during the weekend. The Japanese driver recently won the 2026 World Endurance Championship with Toyota Racing.

Haas team principal Komatsu said the team were looking forward to beginning the final triple-header of the season at the famous Las Vegas street circuit. He also praised Camara's debut, saying the Brazilian had demonstrated why the team signed him for 2027.



At a glance

RACE
Las Vegas Grand Prix

TEAM
Haas

DRIVERS
Rafael Camara and Ollie Bearman

FP1
Ryo Hirakawa replaces Bearman

CAMARA'S DEBUT
Brazilian Grand Prix at Interlagos

2027 LINE-UP
Camara replaces Esteban Ocon

ATHLETICS COACHING RESHUFFLE

Parveer Singh appointed India's chief athletics coach

NEW DELHI

Experienced throwing coach Parveer Singh has been appointed the Chief National Coach of Indian athletics, while sprint coach Raj Mohan will take charge of the country's junior development programme, the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) announced on Monday.

Parveer, a Dronacharya Award recipient, succeeds Radhakrishnan Nair, who served as the chief national coach for six years between 2020 and 2026. With more than three decades of coaching experience at the Sports Authority of India (SAI), Parveer brings extensive expertise to the role. He had been serving as deputy chief coach since 2021.

"I would like to strengthen the event group coaching system to ensure each individual athlete receives the best support required to achieve peak performance at the LA Olympic Games in 2028."
– Parveer Singh Chief National Coach, Indian Athletics

He is widely recognised for developing some of India's leading throwing athletes, including Seema Punia, Krishna Punia, Tajinderpal Singh Toor and Annu Rani. He also worked at the National Institute of Sports (NIS) in Patiala, a major training centre for elite throwers that has also trained Olympic and World champion Neeraj Chopra.



"It is a privilege to head Indian track and field," Parveer said.

He added that strengthening the event group coaching system would be a priority to ensure athletes receive the support required to achieve peak performance at the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics. He also identified the 2027 World Athletics Championships as an important opportunity to assess the national team's progress.

Meanwhile, Raj Mohan, who has overseen India's national 400m team since 2017, will lead the junior development programme. Currently based at the National Centre of Excellence in Trivandrum, Kerala, he previously worked as an assistant coach under Jason Dawson.

Raj Mohan was also associated with the Indian men's 4x400m relay team during its historic performance at the 2023 World Athletics Championships.

"The main priority will be to further strengthen the grassroots development programme to ensure a good number of junior athletes graduate to the senior level in the future," Raj Mohan said.

Jay Shah secures second consecutive term as ICC chairman

DUBAI

The International Cricket Council (ICC) Board has reappointed Jay Shah as its chairman for a second consecutive term. The decision was taken unopposed during Board meetings in Bali, following a proposal from ICC directors. The move reflects confidence in Shah's leadership and provides continuity as international cricket enters an important phase. The reappointment was announced on Monday.

Cricket is preparing to return to the Olympic Games at Los Angeles 2028. The ICC is focusing on global expansion, fan engagement and commercial development. Its priorities include growing women's cricket, creating opportunities for Associate Members and protecting the game's integrity.

Shah said, "I am deeply honoured by the confidence the ICC Board has placed in me." He described the chairmanship as a privilege and responsibility, pledging to work with member nations to advance cricket worldwide. He said the Los Angeles Olympics offered an opportunity to introduce the sport to new audiences and inspire future players and fans. He added that the ICC must build a sustainable future for fans, athletes, commercial partners and other stakeholders.



England and Wales Cricket Board chair Richard Thompson congratulated Shah, stressing the need to strengthen the international calendar and protect bilateral cricket. ICC Independent Director Ros Rivaz highlighted women's cricket. Deputy Chair Tavengwa Mukuhlani pointed to the 2027 Men's Cricket World Cup in Africa as an opportunity to grow the game. New Zealand Cricket director Roger Twose and Associate Member chair Gurumurthy Palani also backed Shah, calling for wider access to competition and stronger development pathways.

ISPL season four auction crosses ₹ 10.4 cr

MUMBAI: The Indian Street Premier League (ISPL) completed its Season 4 auction, with eight franchises assembling squads worth over Rs 10.40 crore for 144 players. Majhi Mumbai's retained all-rounder Abhishek Dalhor topped the overall player-value chart at Rs 34.65 lakh. Ahmedabad Lions' Saroj Paramanik was the highest-priced fresh acquisition at Rs 28.55 lakh. Falcon Risers Hyderabad signed Anurag Sarshar for Rs 22 lakh. Under-19 player Ankit Yadav attracted a bid of Rs 7.50 lakh from Srinagar Ke Veer. Sachin Tendulkar said the league aims to provide talented grassroots players with fair opportunities through a transparent, performance-based selection process.

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