CITY HILIGHTS

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The Truth Speaks

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19 Seasons, 5 Titles: Dhoni bids farewell to IPL

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KARNATAKA EYES GLOBAL AI, CHIP, DEEP-TECH LEADERSHIP

CM says Bengaluru ranks eighth among the world's startup ecosystems and second in Asia for AI-native startups...

...highlights startup grants, semiconductor investments, and innovation initiatives.

BENGALURU

Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Tuesday said the state was positioning itself as a global hub for artificial intelligence, deep technology, semiconductor manufacturing and biotechnology, backed by progressive policies, research institutions, a thriving startup ecosystem and skilled human resources.

Speaking after inaugurating the 29th edition of the Bengaluru Tech Summit, themed 'AI and Beyond', he said Karnataka had consistently been at the forefront of technological advancement and was preparing to lead the next phase of global innovation.

Highlighting the southern state's contribution to the country's technology economy, he said, "Karnataka laid the foundations of modern industry and technology through institutions of learning and research, strong public sector enterprises and the trust of global companies. Some of India's most ambitious scientific and engineering projects have found a home here."

Shivakumar said Karnataka accounted for two out of every five dollars earned by India through software and services exports, amounting to approximately $173 billion last year.

He said Karnataka had received $9.4 billion in FDI equity inflows in the first half of financial year 2025-26, accounting for 26.7% of India's total inflows during that period. The state government's own data also places Karnataka among India's largest FDI destinations.

More than 1,000 Global Capability Centres (GCCs) or about half of India's total, are based in Bengaluru, he said, adding that over 30 new GCCs brought investments exceeding $1 billion into the state in 2025 alone.

"All global companies have trusted us and the most ambitious scientific and engineering projects have found home here. We will bring the talent, the policies and the partnership. You bring your ambition. What lies beyond AI, we want to build here, with you," he said.

On semiconductors, Shivakumar said Karnataka is home to more than 100 fabless chip companies, while three out of every five engineers working in India's semiconductor capability centres are based in Bengaluru. He said the state accounts for about one-fifth of India's electronics exports and is now seeking to move from semiconductor design into manufacturing.

Global companies are investing more than Rs 23,000 crore in semiconductor research and manufacturing facilities in Bengaluru and Mysuru, he said.

Karnataka has already been positioning Bengaluru as a global deep-tech centre, with the government highlighting the city's strengths in AI, nanotechnology, electronics and research.

He also announced that the government's deep-tech accelerator 'Innoverse' would support 35 growth-stage ventures over the next five years.

Under the 'Government First' initiative, the state will also become the first customer for selected startups, with a dedicated allocation of Rs 25 crore to procure innovative solutions developed by them, he added.

6 key innovation initiatives showcased by K'taka



Karnataka AI Hub: Established at IIIT-Bangalore as the first step towards the proposed AI University, focusing on AI research, skilling, innovation and entrepreneurship.

BRAINZ: A proposed nine-acre robotics and AI innovation hub at IISc, B'luru, aiming to catalyse investments of ₹1,000 cr over 5 years.

2D Innovation Hub: A proposed national-level semiconductor R&D facility at IISc, featuring a 100,000 sq. ft. technology building, 15,000 sq. ft. cleanroom and 80–90 specialised tools.

INFIfab: A 96,284 sq. ft. semiconductor innovation facility at IISc, including a 20,000 sq. ft. cleanroom, focusing on advanced manufacturing, packaging, photonics & quantum technologies.

K-HEAL: A Centre of Excellence to strengthen Karnataka's HealthTech, MedTech and Assistive Technology ecosystem through research, innovation and healthcare solutions.

Innoverse: An ecosystem to support deeptech startups in scaling proven technologies, particularly in autonomous systems and underwater-to-space applications.

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Om Birla bats for women's rise from panchayats to Parliament

BENGALURU

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Tuesday stressed the need to increase women's role in policymaking and governance, calling for elected women representatives to be trained in artificial intelligence and digital technologies to help strengthen democratic institutions.

Opening the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) India Region Conference at Vidhana Soudha here, he also proposed an institutional mechanism to build the capabilities of women representatives at all levels, from panchayats to Parliament, so they can promote transparency and accountability in administration.

"Women are no longer merely participants; today, they are leaders in every field. Their participation in democratic institutions, policymaking, lawmaking and deliberations on important issues will certainly help build a stronger democracy," Birla said.



Women should not be limited to occupying seats in legislatures: DKS

Chief Minister DK Shivakumar said women's reservation and their greater involvement in decision-making were necessary for a stronger democracy. He stressed that women should not be limited to occupying seats in legislatures. "Women must not only occupy the seats. They must influence decisions, shape legislation and determine the direction of governance," he said. Welcoming delegates from different parts of India and the Commonwealth, he described Bengaluru as more than just a city, calling it a "city of talent". He invited them to visit the Bengaluru Tech Summit to see India's strengths in technology and AI. Pointing to Bengaluru's technology workforce, he said the city had 2.6 million IT professionals, compared with 1.3 million in California. Women make up around 42 per cent of Bengaluru's IT workforce, he said. Karnataka produces about 13,940 doctors every year, of whom 42% are women. Women also account for nearly 80% of the state's more than 1.2 lakh paramedical workers. The CM recalled the role played by successive governments and leaders in expanding women's participation in politics, particularly through the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments, which provided for reservation in local bodies. He urged elected representatives to support women who had entered panchayat politics and encourage them to continue in public life instead of allowing male family members to take their place. "Democracy without a woman is like a bird without a wing. It may flap, but it cannot rise to the true heights," he added.

Cooperation, not competition, must shape future: PM

Manila: India believes in a free, inclusive and rules-based Indo-Pacific and its future depends on "cooperation, and not competition", Prime Minister Narendra Modi told leaders of the 11-nation grouping ASEAN on Tuesday against the backdrop of growing concerns over China's military muscle-flexing in the region.



At the annual ASEAN-India summit, Modi proposed nine initiatives, including a long-term maritime plan to boost connectivity and ensure seafarers' security, free e-visas for tourists from the bloc's member nations, cooperation on mining and critical minerals, and a framework for technical exchanges in the civil nuclear energy sector.

BUILDING A BETTER BENGALURU

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA | Greater Bengaluru Authority

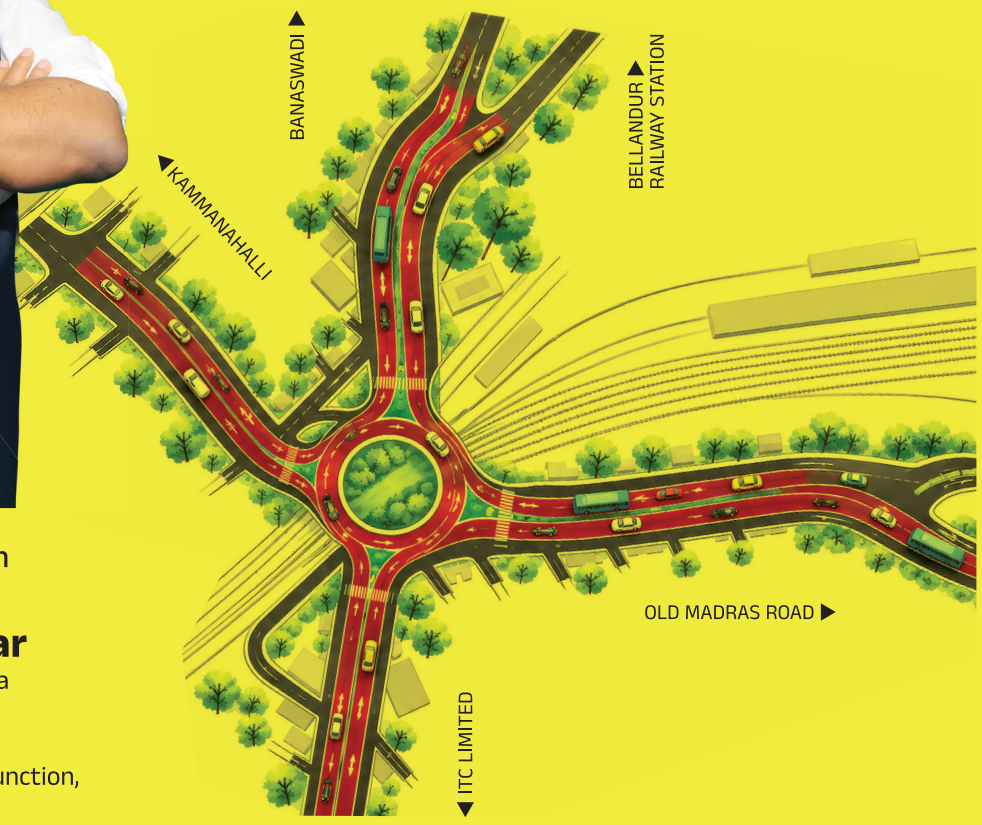


Dr. G Parameshwara
Hon'ble Dy. Chief Minister



₹522.23 Cr

Major infrastructure investment to address critical bottlenecks.



Inauguration and Foundation Stone Laying Ceremony

Shri. D. K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka
18 November 2026, 12:00 PM
Maruthi Sevanagar Main Road,
BWSSB (Majalabettu) Ward Tank Junction,
Sarvagnanagar, Bengaluru.

Major effort to tackle chronic bottlenecks that affect daily lives of Bengalureans - easing perpetual traffic jams at IOC junction, flyover at railway crossing, solving age-old flooding problem. Few of the many infrastructure problems being tackled in a focused drive.

4-Lane Elevated Rotary Flyover at IOC Junction plus Additional Railway Overbridge at Baiyappanahalli worth ₹436.45 crore. To ease traffic and provide smoother connectivity to Hennur, Banaswadi, Kammanahalli, Old Madras Road, Maruthi Sevanagar, Sir M. Visvesvaraya Railway Terminal and surrounding areas.





443m 4 lane Jakkur Railway Overbridge worth ₹69.66 crore. To directly connect Jakkur, Yelahanka and surrounding areas, reducing travel time and distance.

Geddalahalli Stormwater Drain Vents Adding two additional vents to increase volume and speed of rainwater flow, to solve flooding at this chronic flood point with an investment of **₹16.12 crore.**

Bengaluru 500 | Building a Better Bengaluru, Every Day.
Bengaluru Integrated Growth project to make bold investments to build better infrastructure across Flyovers, Roads, Metro, Suburban Rail, Buses, Water, sewage systems, healthcare facilities, public spaces and cultural domain. Everyday push for better quality of life and for future readiness. Getting better everyday.

Quick Read

Karnataka air quality dips as winter sets in

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Karnataka's latest air quality report reveals rising pollution levels across major urban centers, with Bengaluru, Bidar, and Karwar recording 'poor' Air Quality Index readings ranging from 110 to 156. Experts attribute the spike in harmful PM2.5 and PM10 particulate matter to winter weather combinations with dust and early-morning fog. Consequently, health authorities have advised individuals with respiratory issues or asthma to exercise caution during outdoor morning routines. Meanwhile, southern districts and Malenadu regions continue to enjoy significantly cleaner, satisfactory air quality compared to the state's major cities.

Engineering students killed in tragic highway crashes

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Two female engineering students tragically died on the spot during separate morning road accidents while traveling toward Uttari Betta in Kunigal for project work. The first fatal incident occurred along the Bengaluru-Hassan National Highway near Gudemaranahalli Handpost in Magadi taluk, when a car carrying six second-year students from Saptagiri Engineering College suffered a sudden tire burst and crashed into a roadside tree. Meanwhile, a separate transport bus collision near a road divider in Chitradurga narrowly averted a major disaster. Local police are investigating the tragic highway accidents as grief grips the families.

Nelamangala youth sets himself on fire

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A 28-year-old man, Pavan Kumar from Andhra Pradesh, died by suicide after dousing himself in petrol near Hanumantha Sagara in Bengaluru North Taluk. Pavan had been living with a woman named Nagamani after she left her husband two years ago. Following a recent argument, Nagamani moved to a relative's house, sparking a heated phone altercation when Pavan demanded her return. During the call, he poured petrol on himself and set himself on fire. Locals rushed him to Victoria Hospital, where treatment failed. Madanayakanahalli police have registered a case and are currently investigating the incident.

'Private hospitals must display treatment price lists'

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Karnataka's health department has made it mandatory for all private hospitals to prominently display price lists for major treatments and procedures. District Health Officers are now conducting strict inspections to ensure full compliance across the state. Although hospital associations noted that showing thousands of procedures is tough, officials agreed that major rates must be shown publicly while detailed booklets remain available on request. Authorities have warned that strict legal action will follow for any non-compliance. This step aims to bring transparency, protecting patients from unexpected medical bills.

Celebrities' tobacco portrayals draw Khader's ire



At the launch of the Tobacco-Free Youth Campaign 4.0 at Arogya Soudha.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

State health authorities have launched an aggressive public awareness push to shield adolescents from the glamorization of substance abuse. While inaugurating the 'Tobacco-Free Youth Campaign 4.0' at Arogya Soudha, Health Minister U.T. Khader voiced strong displeasure regarding the depiction of smoking by film actors, warning that cinematic glamorization routinely misguides impressionable young audiences into adopting fatal habits.

Addressing students and community members gathered at the event, the minister pointedly noted that actors who pose with cigarettes on screen are merely performing roles, often receiving commercial compensation while bearing none of the health consequences. He cautioned youth against treating celebrities as role models for lifestyle choices, warning that imitating on-screen smoking habits can severely damage personal health and ultimately lead to intensive care hospitalization, leaving grieving families to face the consequences alone. Later clarifying his remarks to media personnel, Khader explained that his critique was not targeted at any specific regional actors, but rather addressed a broader media trend across Indian and international cinema where tobacco usage is styled as a fashionable or rebellious trait.

The state-level campaign launch also served as a platform to address broader regulatory enforcement challenges concerning tobacco control within corporate and public transit spaces. Responding to queries regarding designated smoking zones within major IT and BT corporate parks, Khader acknowledged that while total bans are difficult to implement overnight in workplaces employing hundreds of thousands of people, authorities have received specific proposals to restrict or downsize these zones and are actively reviewing the matter.

Furthermore, the health minister addressed the ongoing black-market circulation of e-cigarettes despite existing legislative prohibitions. Emphasizing that eliminating any banned substance entirely is a gradual administrative process rather than an overnight transition, he issued a stern warning that law enforcement will enact strict legal penalties against any commercial entities or individuals caught selling electronic nicotine delivery systems surreptitiously. Officials also confirmed that scrutiny will be extended to address recurring concerns regarding indirect tobacco or gutkha brand advertisements appearing on public transport networks like Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation buses, reaffirming the state's commitment to rigorous public health compliance.

Health Minister U.T. Khader slammed cinematic smoking glamorization at the Tobacco-Free Youth Campaign 4.0, warning teens against imitating celebrity habits.

₹2,186 crore withheld panchayat grants: Karnataka to move SC

Karnataka targets federal authorities, preparing a high-stakes Supreme Court legal battle over withheld rural development funds.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Karnataka is escalating its ongoing financial disputes with federal authorities, setting the stage for a high-stakes legal showdown in the nation's highest court. State officials have confirmed that preparations are officially underway to file a Special Leave Petition in the Supreme Court against the central administration. The planned litigation stems from the federal government's refusal to release ₹2,186 crore in vital grants owed to local Gram Panchayats.

Minister for Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, Eshwar B. Khandre, issued direct instructions to Advocate General Shashikiran Shetty during a high-level consultation held at Vidhana Soudha. The withheld funds, totaling ₹2,186.20 crore for the 2025-26 fiscal year, were originally allocated under the formal recommendations of the 15th Finance Commission. According to state leadership, federal authorities have delayed disbursement citing trivial administrative excuses, despite the state government fulfilling all required documentation and procedural conditions.



The State is preparing a petition in the SC over the withheld panchayat grants.

Minister Khandre stressed that taking legal recourse has become an absolute necessity.

> **"It is unjust for the Central Government to withhold funds that are rightfully due to the state."**
>
> — **Eshwar B. Khandre,** Minister for Rural Development and Panchayat Raj

The state is currently grappling with severe agricultural distress and drought-like conditions exacerbated by rainfall deficits linked to the El Niño climate phenomenon. With local treasuries severely depleted, grassroots administrative bodies lack the basic financial resources required to execute routine maintenance, infrastructural repairs, and essential community services. State officials argue that withholding constitutionally mandated grants unjustly penalizes rural citizens.

Advocate General Shashikiran Shetty reviewed the legal merits of the case during the conference, which included departmental leaders such as Principal Secretary Pankaj Kumar Pandey and Law Department officials. The Advocate General confirmed that robust constitutional grounds exist for the petition, drawing parallels to previous successful legal challenges where the state compelled federal disbursement of overdue funds. In addition to the withheld grants, legal teams are reviewing pending departmental litigation concerning Panchayat Development Officer seniority lists across higher judicial forums.

The legal move

- **Withheld funds:** ₹2,186.20 crore for 2025-26, held back over "trivial reasons", the State says
- **Grounds:** panchayats are left without money for repairs amid drought
- **Legal stance:** strong grounds for the petition, says the Advocate General

'Friends offstage, divided over Cauvery'

CH NEWS, NEW DELHI

Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar recently stated that his state will continue to honor its legal obligations to release Cauvery river water to Tamil Nadu as mandated by the Supreme Court, while strongly questioning neighboring political parties over their persistent opposition to the proposed Mekedatu balancing reservoir project.

Speaking to reporters following a high-profile meeting with Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay during the memoir launch of senior Congress leader Sonia Gandhi in New Delhi, Shivakumar remarked on their personal rapport while firmly defending Karnataka's regional interests. "Of course, we are friends. They have their own political problems," Shivakumar noted.



Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay at the memoir launch in New Delhi.

He challenged regional parties across the border by highlighting judicial directives, asking whether critics had reviewed the Supreme Court orders that outline water-sharing frameworks and revision petitions.

The encounter highlights ongoing geopolitical friction between the neighboring states regarding the contested Mekedatu project. Karnataka consistently maintains that the 67.15 tmc ft storage reservoir is fully within its legal rights to construct, arguing that it will effectively regulate water flow during distress years. Conversely, Tamil Nadu fiercely opposes the initiative, contending that the dam could severely restrict its entitled share of Cauvery waters and impact downstream agricultural communities in the delta region.

This inter-state dispute has also created intra-party friction. Tamil Nadu Congress President Manickam Tagore recently voiced sharp opposition to Shivakumar's continued push for Mekedatu, warning that the dam could dry out parts of the Cauvery delta.

Citing the 2018 Supreme Court verdict and the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal award, Tagore stressed that Tamil Nadu is guaranteed 177.25 tmc ft annually including unregulated catchment flows and urged legal escalation to block construction. Despite these political divisions, Shivakumar maintains that Karnataka can successfully build the reservoir while ensuring downstream releases comply with all judicial mandates.

Hydroponics farming draws visitors at GKVK Krishi Mela

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Modern soilless cultivation techniques have emerged as a primary attraction at the ongoing Krishi Mela 2026 hosted at the Gandhi Krishi Vignana Kendra (GKVK) campus in Bengaluru, drawing enthusiastic crowds of agriculturalists exploring resilient solutions to climate unpredictability and water scarcity.

As Karnataka grapples with severe agricultural deficits and drought conditions across multiple districts, the exhibition of hydroponics technology has provided visiting farmers with a compelling vision of alternative crop production. Organized under the auspices of the University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS), the three-day agricultural exposition is heavily spotlighting sustainable, resource-efficient methodologies designed to maximize output while minimizing environmental footprints.

Hydroponics eliminates traditional soil dependencies entirely, relying instead on precision-engineered nutrient solutions delivered directly to plant roots via specialized pipe networks and controlled irrigation systems. Agricultural experts at the mela demonstrated how leafy greens and high-value vegetables such as lettuce, spinach, coriander, cabbage, and mint can be successfully cultivated using minimal water volume.



Hydroponic racks of leafy greens on show at the Krishi Mela at GKVK.

By precisely regulating nutrient delivery and hydration levels, the technique optimizes growth rates and enables continuous, year-round harvesting. Furthermore, because plants are raised in controlled environments devoid of native soil pathogens, cultivators experience drastically reduced weed management challenges and lower vulnerability to soil-borne crop diseases.

A major advantage highlighted during the demonstrations is the spatial flexibility of hydroponic systems. The technology allows urban residents and small-scale growers to produce fresh vegetables in restricted spaces, transforming residential rooftops, balconies, and compact backyards into productive micro-farms.

Farming delegates attending the exhibition expressed strong optimism regarding its economic viability. Thimmesha, a progressive farmer from Turuvekere, noted that adopting such technology during acute dry spells or drought conditions offers a reliable pathway toward enhanced profitability with minimal initial capital investment.

As agricultural scientists continue to promote climate-smart innovations throughout the GKVK event, the widespread interest in hydroponics signals a growing paradigm shift toward water-conscious, technology-driven farming practices across the region.

HC MANDATES MAGISTRATE'S PERMISSION FOR NCR PROBES

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

In a significant legal ruling reinforcing procedural safeguards under criminal jurisprudence, the Karnataka High Court has clarified that law enforcement agencies must obtain explicit prior permission from a Magistrate's Court before initiating investigations into non-cognizable (non-serious) offenses.

A single-judge bench presided over by Justice Suraj Govindaraj delivered the ruling while allowing a criminal petition filed by Akhil Achyuth and two other co-accused individuals, who sought the complete quashing of a First Information Report (FIR) registered against them by the Chitradurga Rural Police.

A receiving stamp from the magistrate does not satisfy Section 174(2) of the BNSS, the court ruled

The underlying dispute arose from a criminal complaint alleging cheating and inducing the dishonest delivery of property, offenses categorized under Section 318(4) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) as non-cognizable. Court records revealed that local police registered the formal FIR at 7:30 PM on the day of the complaint, while the paperwork was only forwarded to the jurisdictional Magistrate's Court shortly afterward at 8:05 PM.

Crucially, investigators failed to secure any judicial order or prior authorization from the Magistrate empowering them to probe the allegations, merely obtaining an administrative acknowledgment of receipt.

The High Court firmly ruled that simply dispatching a complaint to a magistrate and securing a receiving stamp does not satisfy the statutory mandate stipulated under Section 174(2) of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS). The bench observed that the law requires a substantive judicial order granting permission to investigate, rather than a passive notification. Allowing an investigation to proceed under such flawed circumstances, the court noted, would permit executive authorities to bypass fundamental legislative safeguards.

Consequently, the bench declared the contested FIR and all subsequent investigative proceedings legally void, ordering them quashed. However, the court clarified that this judgment does not bar law enforcement authorities from approaching the concerned Magistrate's Court to seek proper statutory authorization. If the magistrate subsequently grants formal permission in accordance with the law, police remain at liberty to recommence lawful inquiry procedures.

Legal experts have welcomed the judgment as a vital check against arbitrary police actions, ensuring that mandatory procedural checks governing non-cognizable criminal complaints are strictly maintained across all judicial districts in the state.

TRANSIT BEATS TRAFFIC

Pink Line sees high response, relieves Bannerghatta traffic

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Bengaluru's newly inaugurated Namma Metro Pink Line recorded an enthusiastic response on its first working day, drawing heavy commuter footfall and visibly easing vehicular traffic congestion along the vital Bannerghatta Road corridor.

33,400+
riders in the first weekend; weekday numbers expected to scale toward 100,000

Following its formal launch by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the initial 7.5-kilometer elevated operational stretch spanning from Kalena Agrahara to Suddagunte Palya (S.G. Palya) across six new stations witnessed a massive influx of residents abandoning personal automobiles in favor of rapid transit. Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) officials reported that heavy commuter preference for the new route has created a multiplier effect across connecting corridors, triggering sharp spikes in passenger volume and interchange activity on the Yellow, Green, and Purple Lines.

QUICK ROUTE MAP & CONNECTIONS

- **Jayadeva** — Pink and Yellow Lines: change for Bommasandra
- **R.V. Road** — Yellow and Green Lines: on to Silk Institute, Madavara and Nagasandra
- **Kempegowda** — Majestic hub: Purple Line to Whitefield and Challaghatta

The multi-level interchange facility at Jayadeva Hospital station which bridges the Pink Line with the Yellow Line, alongside the R.V. Road station connecting toward the Green Line, experienced intense passenger traffic throughout morning and evening peak hours. Commuters traveling from southern residential layouts such as Hulimavu, IIM Bangalore, and JP Nagar 4th Phase utilized the seamless connectivity to bypass traditional bottleneck zones, routing directly toward major commercial hubs like MG Road, Whitefield, and Challaghatta.

Having debuted over the weekend with an initial weekend ridership exceeding 33,400 passengers, transit authorities anticipated weekday figures to scale toward 100,000 users. To accommodate the surge, BMRCL operated train fleets at a high-frequency interval of every 8 minutes during peak hours and every 10 minutes during non-peak windows.

The immediate shift toward public transport brought noticeable relief to motorists navigating Bannerghatta Road. Traffic police and urban planners observed a measurable reduction in vehicular density, validating long-term infrastructure projections that mass transit integration can successfully alleviate chronic surface congestion on south Bengaluru's primary arteries.

CH Observer

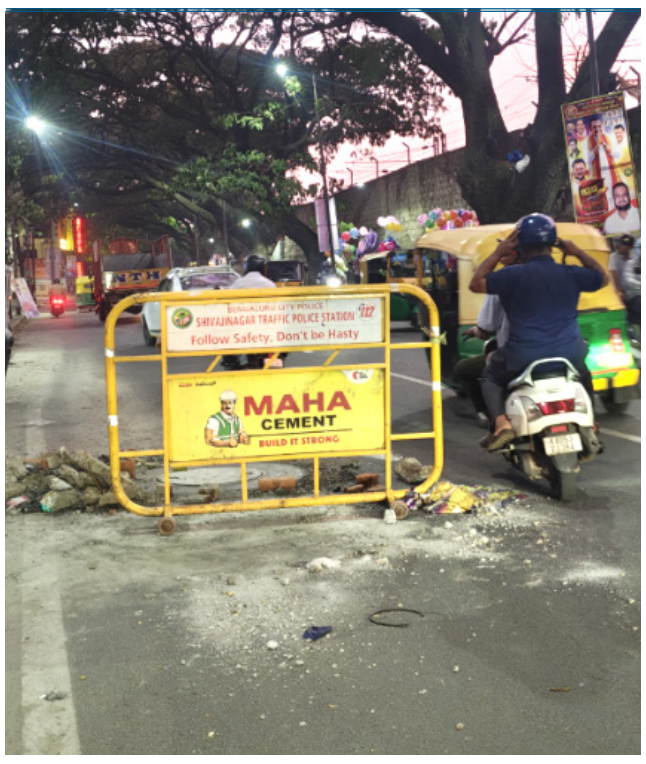
chstatenews@gmail.com

Overflowing garbage blocking footpaths near New Bamboo Bazar Road and scattered debris around a newly fixed drain on CSI Road have turned local streets into unhygienic hazards. Commuters and residents are frustrated by the civic neglect and are demanding immediate clean-up efforts to restore safe walkways.

+91 80730 57594



Garbage dumped near New Bamboo Bazar road, half of the garbage is all over the road making the place very unhygienic. The entire footpath is blocked with garbage and no place to walk.



A drain hole cover that was fixed, but look at the way it has been fixed. There is loose construction debris all over the road, the dug up rocks are left behind. The drainage cover is fixed but for how many days will the construction debris be left behind is what residents and commuters and talking about. Located on CSI road.

Waste management complaints pour in at Bengaluru North

Bengaluru North City Corporation launched a weekly phone-in program, addressing mounting resident grievances over illegal garbage dumping.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Civic administration efforts in the state capital faced intense public scrutiny this week as the Bengaluru North City Corporation launched its dedicated weekly phone-in program focusing strictly on solid waste management and sanitation challenges across local municipal divisions.

Led under the active administrative guidance of Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar, the specialized grievance redressal initiative drew a flurry of calls from residents frustrated by local sanitation bottlenecks. According to official municipal press statements released by the corporation, a total of 12 incoming calls were logged during the special session, resulting in 10 formal grievances being registered for official tracking. While municipal response teams managed to swiftly resolve a single complaint during the operating window, the remaining 9 cases have been officially forwarded to concerned departmental officers for necessary follow-up action. An analysis of the registered complaints revealed that unauthorized waste disposal remains a persistent headache for neighborhood communities. Half of all reported grievances, accounting for 5 separate calls, centered on illegal garbage dumping in public thoroughfares and open spaces. Additionally, residents flagged 2 distinct complaints regarding waste dumping in vacant private or public land plots, 2 reports concerning the irregular or non-arrival of scheduled door-to-door garbage collection vehicles, and 1 specific grievance regarding the complete failure of assigned pourakarmikas to carry out routine street sweeping activities.

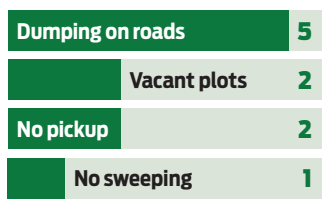


The solid waste management phone-in session at the corporation.

To combat these recurring sanitation failures, municipal authorities highlighted that block-wise micro-planning is currently being rolled out across all seven administrative divisions within the Bengaluru North jurisdiction. This strategic overhaul aims to optimize daily operations by enforcing strict door-to-door collection schedules, mapping precise auto tipper transit routes, delineating exact street-sweeping assignments for sanitation workers, and tightening regulatory oversight on Bulk Waste Generators (BWGs).

City officials announced that the dedicated phone-in sessions for solid waste management will continue to operate every Tuesday morning from 7:30 AM to 9:30 AM, offering residents a direct line to report collection delays and disposal violations. Meanwhile, the Commissioner's general phone-in program for broader civic grievances is held weekly on Fridays. The corporation has strongly urged urban residents to utilize these interactive platforms and cooperate fully with municipal workers to keep neighborhood streets clean and hygienic.

What the 10 complaints were about



Figures: Bengaluru North City Corporation



Christ University hosts 11th ICSD Biennial conference

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Addressing urgent regional challenges such as climate change, inadequate healthcare access, and unsafe working conditions, global experts gathered for the 11th ICSD Asia-Pacific Biennial Conference 2026, hosted at CHRIST (Deemed to be University) in Bengaluru.

Running from November 15 to 17, the major academic summit operates under the theme "Innovations in Sustainable Social Development: Perspectives & Practices." The event is jointly organized by the Department of Social Work at CHRIST University, the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) Mumbai, and the International Consortium for Social Development (ICSD) Asia-Pacific Branch, drawing over one hundred participants from India, the United States, Thailand, Indonesia, Israel, and Sri Lanka.

Discussions emphasize that modern growth must remain people-centered, fair, and ecologically sound, particularly with only four years remaining to meet the United Nations' 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. Plenary sessions have focused heavily on public health, community wellbeing, and occupational health hazards in mining and extractive industries. Researchers also presented papers covering gender equity, climate justice, aging demographics, indigenous knowledge systems, sustainable urban planning, and technology-driven social welfare.

Inaugurating the conference on November 16, Karnataka's Minister of Forest, Ecology, and Environment, Ramalinga Reddy, stressed that environmental protection and social progress must advance together, noting that forests remain vital to planetary health. CHRIST University Vice Chancellor Col. Dr. Fr. Joseph C.C. underscored the ongoing global challenge of food security, while TISS Vice Chancellor Prof. Badri Narayan Tiwari highlighted that true innovation requires balancing economic advancement with societal reflection. During the proceedings, Prof. Manohar Pawar and Dr. N.V. Vasudeva Sharma were honored with the ICSD Distinguished Academician and Practitioner awards, respectively.

Convened by Prof. Bipin Jojo of TISS Mumbai and Dr. Bharathi of CHRIST University, the three-day conference concludes with a valedictory address delivered by C.K. Baba (IPS), Deputy Inspector General of Police for the Karnataka State Reserve Police.

BSCC Commissioner inspects Kasavanahalli Main Road

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

In a decisive move to tackle chronic traffic congestion, Bengaluru South City Corporation Commissioner K.N. Ramesh led an extensive field inspection along Kasavanahalli Main Road, the vital corridor connecting Sarjapur Road to Choodasandra Circle.

Responding directly to local resident appeals for a dedicated "Free Left" turning provision to ease peak-hour gridlock, the Commissioner instructed engineering officials to evaluate and execute necessary private property acquisitions in accordance with municipal guidelines for road widening. He emphasized that all illegal encroachments along roadways and pedestrian footpaths must be ruthlessly cleared to restore smooth vehicular flow.



The inspection of drainage work on Kasavanahalli Main Road.

During the site tour, the Commissioner cracked down on illegal commercial operations, noting that formal notices had already been served to 21 retail shops unlawfully running businesses inside building basements. He issued strict orders to dismantle the Y.M. Stationery shop, citing direct encroachment onto the public right-of-way. Furthermore, municipal teams were directed to identify remaining roadside bottlenecks, remove an obstructive small tree near D.K. Hotel, and serve an immediate demolition notice for an unauthorized structure adjacent to the Kasavanahalli Someshwara Swamy Temple.

Addressing civic maintenance, Commissioner Ramesh inspected ongoing drainage improvements near B.R.S. Global School, instructing workers to adjust road kerbs to ensure proper rainwater runoff. He also ordered the immediate removal of unauthorized banners tied to electric poles and hazardous dangling cables to preserve urban aesthetics.

Taking a hands-on approach to local sanitation, the Commissioner expressed sharp displeasure after discovering that Mataji Fast Food had dumped garbage onto the public footpath. He personally compelled the establishment owner to clear the waste on the spot, while reiterating a mandatory city-wide rule requiring all traders to maintain visible dustbins in front of their shops. Executive Engineer Janardhan and AEE Ramu accompanied the Commissioner during the inspection.

Orders on the spot

- **21 shops:** notices for running businesses in basements
- **Y.M. Stationery:** to be dismantled for encroachment
- **Near the temple:** demolition notice for an unauthorized structure
- **Mataji Fast Food:** made to clear its garbage from the footpath

GBA delivers free e-Khatas via WhatsApp

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

In a major administrative push toward digital governance, the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has announced a revolutionary initiative to deliver e-Khata certificates directly to citizens' mobile phones. Spearheaded under the state government's newly introduced sixth guarantee scheme, titled "Bhu-Guarantee – My Khata, My Right," the project aims to benefit approximately 24 lakh property owners across all five municipal corporations under the GBA jurisdiction.

According to Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao, official e-Khata certificates will be dispatched in a convenient PDF format, entirely free of cost, straight to the registered WhatsApp numbers of eligible property holders. This streamlined digital rollout is being executed under the direct vision of Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and the guidance of Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda. Residents will receive their official document alongside a unique ePID number, allowing them to download, view, and securely preserve their property records digitally without needing to visit local government offices or deal with middlemen.

Furthermore, the automated WhatsApp messages will include a direct web link to the official GBA e-Aasthi portal at https://GBAeAasthi.karnataka.gov.in. Property owners utilizing this portal can easily enter their ePID to submit online applications for necessary document corrections, updates, or property mutations from the comfort of their homes.

Municipal authorities emphasized that this citizen-friendly service delivery model is designed to completely eliminate bureaucratic delays, curb corruption, and make essential government documentation transparent and accessible. All property owners across Bengaluru have been strongly encouraged to monitor their messaging apps for the incoming PDF document, ensuring their property credentials remain secure and updated.

How it works

- e-Khata as a free PDF on WhatsApp
- **24 lakh** property owners
- Corrections via the ePID on e-Aasthi

TAX ARREARS DRIVE

BCCC Commissioner orders strict property tax collection

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Municipal administration in the state capital witnessed a major push for financial accountability this week as Bengaluru Central City Corporation Commissioner Jagadeesha G. spearheaded a high-level revenue review meeting at the Canopy Hall in the PUB Building on M.G. Road. Amid mounting fiscal targets, the Commissioner issued stringent directives to revenue officials, demanding the immediate issuance of demand notices and aggressive recovery actions against all property owners with outstanding tax arrears within a strict one-week timeframe.

During the comprehensive administrative evaluation, Commissioner Jagadeesha noted that approximately 80 percent of formal demand notices have already been dispatched across municipal zones. However, expressing impatience with pending collections, he ordered tax officials to saturate the remaining properties immediately. To expedite revenue generation, the Commissioner instructed field staff to conduct house-to-house visits based on localized defaulter lists, personally engaging property owners to raise awareness and encourage prompt tax settlements.

Furthermore, the municipal chief targeted commercial zoning violations and assessment discrepancies. He mandated comprehensive ward-wise physical inspections to identify properties officially registered for residential use but illegally operating commercial businesses. Officials were directed to reclassify such properties under appropriate commercial brackets and levy applicable dues, alongside submitting exhaustive compliance reports. The review also covered complex administrative files, including multiple property assessments, clubbing applications, merger requests, and cancellation procedures, with strict instructions to process all files expeditiously under established municipal codes.

In addition to tax collection, the Commissioner scrutinized digital service delivery under the e-Aasthi software platform, directing revenue teams to clear backlogs for critical citizen services such as converting B-Khatas to A-Khatas, single-plot Khata processing, e-Khata amendments, and property mutations within statutory deadlines. Addressing internal governance, Commissioner Jagadeesha issued a zero-tolerance warning against administrative corruption, declaring that sudden unannounced inspections of revenue offices will be conducted. He strictly prohibited the interference of middlemen and warned that any official or staff member found creating fraudulent user accounts or engaging in systemic irregularities under outside pressure will face immediate, severe disciplinary measures and criminal legal prosecution.



At the revenue review meeting.

80% of demand notices have already gone out across the zones

BDA hosts 'Tree Doctor' for environmental workshop

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) headquarters transformed into an unusual classroom as India's renowned 'Tree Doctor', Vijay Nishanth, led a specialized training session for municipal engineers and senior officials focused on urban tree conservation and environmental protection amid rapid city expansion.

Organized under the administrative guidance of BDA Commissioner Major P. Manivannan, the interactive workshop was designed to sensitize key planning and engineering staff to the ecological impacts of infrastructural development. During the session, Vijay Nishanth, who serves as the Founder and President of the Project Vruksha Foundation, shared extensive practical insights into diagnosing, treating, and reviving damaged or stressed urban trees.

He detailed how heavy construction activities, improper pruning methods, and neglect severely undermine tree health, while demonstrating how modern scientific interventions can successfully preserve mature flora.

The comprehensive curriculum also covered essential urban forestry practices, the strategic selection of native tree species, digital tree-mapping techniques, biodiversity preservation, and critical maintenance protocols to ensure high survival rates for newly planted saplings. BDA leadership noted that as Bengaluru continues to experience rapid infrastructural growth, integrating ecological conservation directly into urban planning and civil execution has become a top priority.

This latest educational initiative builds upon a series of recent environmental drives spearheaded by BDA Chairman N. A. Haris and Commissioner Major P. Manivannan. Earlier this year, on June 27, the authority executed a massive green initiative by planting roughly 15 lakh native saplings across various residential layouts. Officials emphasized that fostering a sustainable, greener capital requires a dual commitment: aggressively planting new greenery while actively protecting and nurturing established legacy trees currently standing in the path of urbanization.

? DID YOU KNOW?

On June 27 this year, the BDA planted roughly 15 lakh native saplings across its residential layouts.

Quick Read

KPSC member Geetha denied interim protection from arrest

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A special court in Bengaluru denied interim protection from arrest to Karnataka Public Service Commission member B.V. Geetha amid an ongoing SIT recruitment fraud probe. Geetha, recently released from judicial custody in a separate money laundering case, sought anticipatory bail on medical grounds after receiving an SIT summons. However, the court rejected her plea due to insufficient medical evidence and posted the hearing for regular anticipatory bail for Tuesday.

The High Court-constituted SIT is investigating alleged exam irregularities and bribery involving dozens of veterinary doctor vacancies across the state.

Dry spell to break with rain on Nov 20

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Current dry and chilly weather will continue across Karnataka over coming days, with Davanagere recording a low of 13.8 degrees Celsius. However, the Meteorological Department forecasts light rain on November 20 for isolated areas in coastal Udupi and Dakshina Kannada districts. Similar scattered showers are likely across select North Interior regions like Gadag and Koppal, alongside southern Malenadu districts including Hassan and Kodagu. State minimum temperatures are expected to drop by about two degrees Celsius soon, bringing increased nighttime chill as winter conditions gradually intensify throughout the region.

Charan ignored warning of supari plot before murder

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Shocking details have emerged in the murder of Bengaluru real estate businessman Charan Gowda in Yelahanka. Months before he was brutally hacked to death in front of his wife on November 13, associates had warned Charan that his friend Kiran had allegedly paid a ₹30 lakh contract fee for his assassination. Trusting their bond, Charan dismissed the warning, refusing to believe his friend capable of such betrayal. Following the fatal attack by motorcycle assailants, the prime suspects reportedly felt remorse and fled to Dharmasthala, where Yelahanka police eventually arrested five individuals.

Unfulfilled promises: ASHA workers' statewide protest

Tens of thousands of Karnataka ASHA workers launched an indefinite Freedom Park strike demanding higher wages.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Healthcare mobilization across Karnataka has reached a critical juncture as tens of thousands of Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) initiate an indefinite, round-the-clock agitation at Freedom Park. Spearheaded by employee unions, the massive demonstration brings together more than 40,000 grassroots health workers demanding a revised, fixed monthly honorarium of ₹15,000, alongside comprehensive welfare protections and resolution of administrative grievances.

The core grievance centers on long-standing financial stagnation and unfulfilled administrative promises. Protesters highlight that despite bearing the brunt of public health delivery at the community level, including maternal care, immunization drives, and disease surveillance, their current monthly compensation remains fixed at ₹8,000. This total package comprises a ₹3,000 central contribution supplemented by a ₹5,000 state component. Union representatives point out that over the past decade, cumulative remuneration increases have barely kept pace with economic realities, leaving frontline workers struggling against soaring living costs.



ASHA workers at the protest in Bengaluru.

Furthermore, agitation leaders have reminded authorities of previous commitments made during earlier negotiations, noting that high-level assurances to raise baseline support to ₹10,000 remain unimplemented. Protesters contrast Karnataka's current compensation structure with neighboring states like Kerala, where remuneration models exceed ₹12,000 per month, arguing that Karnataka's economic standing easily affords better financial recognition for its health workforce. Beyond monetary demands, the protesting workers have voiced severe frustration over technological hurdles, citing excessive burdens imposed by mandatory digital reporting apps like Samastha and Nikshay without adequate device provisions or technical backing.

With thousands of workers rotating through the campsite in shifts from districts across the state, the Karnataka Rajya Samyukta ASHA Karyakarteyara Sangha has affirmed that the round-the-clock dharna will continue indefinitely. Participants remain firm in their resolve, declaring that they will not vacate the grounds or halt their strike until the state government issues formal written orders satisfying their demands.

Impact on rural healthcare

With thousands of workers streaming into Bengaluru by district-wise rotation and completely withdrawing from routine grassroots duties, rural public health services across several districts have experienced disruptions. The union leadership has affirmed that the agitating health workers will remain firm in their resolve, maintaining their indefinite round-the-clock occupation at Freedom Park until the state government issues formal written orders addressing all pending demands.

Protest demands

- → Immediate clearance of pending dues, including the unpaid additional monthly incentive of ₹1,500 for the 2024–25 fiscal year.
- → Provision of quality smartphones alongside dedicated monthly internet data recharge allowances to support mandatory health application tracking.
- → Six months of paid maternity leave to ensure social and medical security for female health workers.
- → An immediate halt to non-health department duties being unilaterally assigned to ASHA workers.
- → Reinstatement of community facilitators whose services were abruptly terminated, accompanied by appropriate remuneration.

ED probes Minister Kharge over RDPR recruitment scam

CH NEWS, BENGALURU


Priyank Kharge (left) and H.D. Kumaraswamy.

The Enforcement Directorate intensified its recruitment scam probe targeting former RDPR minister Priyank Kharge, sparking high-stakes political friction and denial across Karnataka.

The Enforcement Directorate (ED), expanding its sweeping financial and forensic investigation into recruitment irregularities across Karnataka, has intensified its probe into allegations surrounding the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (RDPR) department examinations. The inquiry focuses closely on past recruitment processes overseen during the tenure of former RDPR Minister Priyank Kharge, following sharp political allegations brought forward by Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy.

As part of the ongoing money-laundering and malpractice probe stemming from state recruitment examinations, federal investigators probed key individuals connected to the administrative apparatus, including Shivashankarappa Sahukar, Gyanendra, and Geetha. According to official prosecution filings and court reports submitted by the agency, the queried individuals offered evasive responses during questioning, maintaining limited awareness regarding procedural manipulation while acknowledging that systemic irregularities had occurred.

The central scrutiny centers on allegations of optical mark recognition (OMR) sheet tampering and backdoor manipulations during selection processes for Assistant Executive Engineers (AEE) and allied posts managed under the department. Investigators are attempting to trace whether financial kickbacks or systematic leak networks compromised examination sanctity prior to final candidate appointments.

The widening federal probe has triggered intense political friction across the state. Union Minister Kumaraswamy previously alleged administrative complicity and lapses during Kharge's tenure overseeing the RDPR portfolio.

In response, Minister Priyank Kharge strongly denied any personal wrongdoing or administrative complicity, dismissing the allegations as politically motivated maneuvers. Kharge asserted that federal investigative agencies are being leveraged to politically pressure administrative figures and implicate ruling party leaders. Stressing transparency, Kharge maintained that the state administration welcomes an uncompromised, thorough inquiry into any systemic flaws, emphasizing that accountability must be enforced strictly within the framework of law.

As the ED continues compiling forensic trails, asset attachments, and witness depositions related to multiple state recruitment boards, the legal and political fallout surrounding exam irregularities remains a central flashpoint in Karnataka's political landscape.

Bagalur car death: Police probe suspected shooting

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A grim discovery in a deserted layout near the city's outskirts has triggered a high-level police investigation, leaving local law enforcement exploring conflicting theories of targeted homicide versus suicide. The body of a thirty-something businessman was found lifeless inside a stationary vehicle in Manchappanahalli, bearing a severe head injury consistent with firearm discharge.

According to senior police officials, local residents alerted the Bagalur police station after noticing a suspicious car parked indefinitely in an isolated area within Manchappanahalli near Bagalur. Upon arriving at the scene, law enforcement officers inspected the vehicle and discovered a man deceased in the front seat. The victim was subsequently identified as Imran Pasha, a resident hailing from Bannerghatta Road who operated within the local scrap trading sector.

Joint Commissioner of Police Ramesh Banoth briefed media personnel at the site, noting that preliminary inspections revealed a suspected bullet entry wound on the right side of the victim's head. Furthermore, forensic teams recovered an empty cartridge casing near the vehicle, prompting a rigorous sweep of the interior and surrounding terrain. An elite Forensic Science Laboratory team was deployed immediately to examine trajectory angles, recover latent fingerprints, and verify whether a licensed or illicit firearm remains secured inside the automobile.

Investigators have broadened their inquiries to determine the exact sequence of events leading up to the tragedy. Police are actively interviewing grieving family members, business associates, and acquaintances to uncover potential financial disputes, personal conflicts, or underlying pressures that might point toward suicide. Simultaneously, cyber and intelligence units are tracking recent communications and travel timelines of the deceased to ascertain if he was lured to the isolated location or accompanied by unidentified individuals. As forensic reports and ballistic analyses are awaited, authorities emphasize that every possible angle is being rigorously evaluated to establish whether the incident represents a calculated execution or a self-inflicted fatality.



Manchappanahalli: where the car was found, near Bagalur

Prakruthi hospital accused of seizing phone over ₹5,000

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Denouncing aggressive commercial practices within the healthcare sector, Karnataka health authorities have launched an immediate inquiry into a private medical facility in North Bengaluru after management allegedly detained a patient's mobile phone as collateral over a minor billing shortfall of ₹5,000.



The controversial incident unfolded at a private multi-specialty hospital located in the Thanisandra locality. According to distressed family members, administrative personnel refused to discharge or proceed with essential post-procedural protocols after patient care costs exceeded initial estimates by a small margin. Lacking immediate cash liquidity to clear the residual balance on the spot, a patient relative was reportedly coerced into surrendering their personal mobile phone as a security guarantee until the remainder was settled.

The incident triggered widespread public outrage after details surfaced across regional media channels. Taking serious cognisance of the matter, Health Minister U.T. Khader intervened directly, denouncing the practice as inhumane and legally indefensible.

The minister dispatched specialized inspection teams from the Karnataka Private Medical Establishments (KPME) to execute surprise audits at the Thanisandra facility. Investigators are reviewing billing logs, admission ledgers, and CCTV footage to verify the coercion allegations. Under the provisions of the KPME Act and prevailing state clinical guidelines, medical establishments are strictly prohibited from retaining personal valuables, withholding medical records, or delaying emergency discharges over financial disputes.

The Thanisandra episode highlights friction points between state regulators and private healthcare providers regarding transparent pricing and patient rights. The state health department recently instituted aggressive oversight frameworks, requiring private hospitals to prominently display standard procedure rates at reception desks and prohibiting predatory financial exploitation.

Health department officials confirmed that if preliminary findings substantiate the allegations, strict penal action ranging from heavy financial penalties to the suspension of operating licenses under the KPME framework will be initiated against the management. Furthermore, the administration reiterated warnings that any hospital found withholding patients, remains, or personal belongings over unpaid bills will face swift punitive prosecution.

Karnataka halts registration of new Green SM cabs

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Transport authorities in Karnataka have temporarily halted the registration of new electric cabs operated by Vietnam-based Green SM following intense protests and formal representations from local taxi driver unions. Transport Minister Byrathi Suresh announced that he has instructed departmental officials to freeze further vehicle registrations for the company until comprehensive policy reviews and ministerial discussions are concluded.

Green SM, an electric vehicle taxi operator that already provides services in the Delhi-NCR and Hyderabad markets, recently obtained an aggregator licence under the Karnataka On-Demand Transportation Technology Rules, 2016, successfully registering its initial fleet of 100 cabs in Bengaluru. However, industry pushback intensified after reports revealed plans to introduce promotional services priced at approximately ₹8 per kilometer, significantly lower than standard government-regulated aggregator fares. Well-placed sources indicated that the company intended to scale up operations by registering at least 500 additional vehicles across the city.

Local driver and union associations strongly opposed the entry, arguing that predatory pricing structures would severely undercut traditional cab operators and independent drivers struggling with operational expenses. Minister Suresh stated that a final policy decision regarding the expansion of such low-cost EV taxi fleets will be determined only after formal consultations with the Chief Minister.

> **"I have directed officials not to register any new cabs operated by Vietnam-based Green SM until further orders."**
> — **Byrathi Suresh,** Transport Minister

In a separate announcement addressing road safety, Minister Suresh revealed that the state government is finalizing legislation to ban half-helmets across Karnataka, with implementation likely by the New Year. Furthermore, penalties for driving two-wheelers on pedestrian footpaths have been heavily increased: violators will face a ₹5,000 fine for a first offense, a ₹10,000 fine for a second infraction, and vehicle confiscation upon any subsequent violation.

WATER GRID CLASH

Bedti-Varada link: Minister orders DPR hastened

CH NEWS, BENGALURU


The review meeting on the Bedti-Varada project.

₹9,652.73 cr estimated cost | **18.5 TMC** surplus water diverted | **70,053 ha** to be irrigated | **20.21 lakh** residents to benefit

Advancing a major inter-basin water infrastructure initiative, Karnataka Water Resources Minister N. Chaluvarayaswamy has directed senior officials to expedite the finalization of the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the contentious Bedti-Varada river-linking undertaking.

The administrative directives were issued during a high-level progress review meeting convened at the Krishna Bhagya Jala Nigama head office. Minister Chaluvarayaswamy emphasized the necessity of seamless inter-governmental coordination between state and central bodies to ensure the technical blueprints are completed within strict timeframes, noting that topographical and geological field surveys are already progressing.

Estimated at an overall cost of ₹9,652.73 crore, the Bedti-Varada project is engineered to divert 18.5 TMC of surplus water from the west-flowing Bedti River toward the Tungabhadra sub-basin via an extensive network of pipelines and lift-irrigation systems. According to departmental briefs presented during the review, the project aims to stabilize irrigation across 70,053 hectares and benefit approximately 20.21 lakh residents across the drought-prone districts of Uttara Kannada, Dharwad, Gadag, Haveri, and Koppal. Allocations from the diverted quantum include 77 million cubic meters designated for drinking water supplies, 131 million cubic meters for industrial requirements, and 316 million cubic meters for agricultural irrigation. Furthermore, officials confirmed that the scheme has been formally integrated into the broader Godavari-Cauvery river-linking grid, which is projected to secure an additional 15.89 TMC of water for Karnataka via the Almatti reservoir.

During the meeting, the Minister instructed engineering teams to pinpoint a strategic site within Haveri district for a major water storage facility, clearly delineate irrigation command boundaries, and secure pending regulatory clearances from the Forest Department for ongoing investigative surveys.

Despite its anticipated agricultural benefits, the project continues to face fierce resistance from environmentalists, local residents, and political leaders in Uttara Kannada district, including local Member of Parliament and former Speaker Vishweshwara Hegde Kageri.

Critics argue that diverting water from the Bedti River will devastate the fragile ecology of the Western Ghats, endanger native biodiversity, disrupt wildlife corridors, and alter natural hydrological flows. Coastal and riparian communities have also voiced grave apprehensions that reduced river discharge will compromise local drinking water security, harm indigenous fisheries, and livelihood dependencies. Environmental groups continue to demand transparent, comprehensive environmental impact assessments and inclusive public consultations before any physical execution begins.

Ecological concerns

Potential submergence and clearing of hundreds of acres of pristine forest tracts within a designated global biodiversity hotspot, threatening rare flora and vital wildlife migration corridors. Reduced downstream flows during non-monsoon months, which threaten to disrupt local agricultural irrigation, deplete groundwater tables, and jeopardize coastal estuarine fisheries and livelihoods dependent on the Bedti river basin.

Quick Read

Bus crashes into complex, damages eight motorcycles

CH NEWS, BALLARI

A bus went out of control and crashed into a roadside commercial complex near the city bus stand on Tuesday after its driver reportedly suffered a sudden dizzy spell.The bus rammed into eight parked motorcycles, damaging them completely, before coming to a halt. The two-wheelers prevented it from crashing directly into the shops, averting a major accident. No injuries were reported.The driver was admitted to a nearby hospital for treatment. Traffic police rushed to the spot, cleared the damaged vehicles and restored traffic movement. The incident caused a temporary traffic jam in the area.

Gadag University selected for National Geospatial Awards

CH NEWS, GADAG

Mahatma Gandhi Rural Development and Panchayati Raj University (MGRDPRU), Gadag, has been selected for the Best University – National (Jury) Award at the National Geospatial Awards 2026, organised by IIT Bombay.Suresh Lamani, coordinator of the university's M. Sc. Geoinformatics programme, has also been selected for the National Geospatial Emerging Faculty Fellow Award for his contributions to geospatial education and public awareness.Both awards will be presented on December 1, 2026, at IIT Bombay during the National Conference on Open-Source Space and Geospatial Science and Technology.University Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. Suresh V. Nadagoudar congratulated the institution and said the recognition reflected its commitment to academic excellence, research and innovation.

Savadi to attend Uttara Kannada district meetings

CH NEWS, KARWAR

Karnataka Cooperation Minister and Uttara Kannada District In-charge Minister Laxman Savadi will visit the district on November 19 and 21. According to a statement issued by his private secretary, Savadi will attend the district-level quarterly Karnataka Development Programme (KDP) review meeting at the Zilla Panchayat Hall on November 19 at 10 am.He will also participate in the Praja Seva Andolana meeting scheduled to be held in Yellapur on November 21.

Aurad bandh demands permanent drinking water solution

Residents protested the administration's failure to address worsening water shortages, urgently demanding a reliable and regular supply.

CH NEWS, AURAD

The bandh called in Aurad on Tuesday demanding a permanent solution to the town's drinking water crisis received strong public support. Shops, business establishments, schools and colleges remained closed as residents joined the protest.

Traders voluntarily shut their establishments from Tuesday morning. Women participated in the protest carrying empty water pots, while students from schools and colleges also extended their support.

Bus services were disrupted due to the bandh, causing inconvenience to passengers at the bus stand. Protesters gathered near Basaveshwara Circle and raised slogans demanding a permanent drinking water supply.

Residents expressed their anger over the failure of the administration and elected representatives to resolve the worsening water crisis. They demanded immediate steps to ensure a regular and reliable water supply to the town.



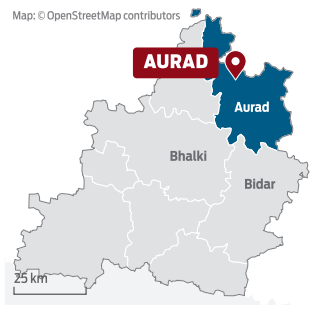
Residents, women carrying empty water pots and students at the bandh in Aurad on Tuesday.

Bidar Assistant Commissioner Abhinav Jain visited the protest site and heard the grievances of the residents. He received a memorandum from the protesters and assured them that the drinking water problem would be resolved within a week.

Following the assurance, the protesters called off their agitation. They had earlier planned to continue the protest with an overnight sit-in.

Dr. Dhanraj Raga, president of the Citizens' Conflict Committee, former MLA Gundappa Vakil and committee members Basavaraj Shetkar, Kallappa Deshmukh, Anil Jeerobe, Rahul Khandare, Ratnadeep Kasture, Santosh Suryavanshi, Lakshman Devakatte and others participated in the protest.

More than 15 organisations, including the Bar Association, extended their support to the bandh and the demand for a permanent solution to the drinking water crisis.



Aurad: the taluk town at the northern tip of Bidar district

Kerosene allocated to rural ration cardholders

348 kl	3 litres	2 litres	₹35
for November	card without LPG	card with LPG	a litre at most

CH NEWS, KARWAR

A total of 348 kilolitres of kerosene has been allocated to Uttara Kannada district for November 2026 under the Public Distribution System (PDS), according to the Department of Food and Civil Supplies.

Under the allocation, eligible rural ration cardholders without LPG connections will receive three litres each, while those with LPG connections will receive two litres each.

Accordingly, 442 ration cards without LPG connections and 1,70,601 LPG-connected ration cards have been identified for distribution. Eligible beneficiaries have been advised to collect their allotted quantity.

The Deputy Director of the Food and Civil Supplies Department has warned fair price shop operators against supplying less than the allotted quantity or charging more than ₹35 per litre.

Ration cardholders can report complaints by calling the department's toll-free helpline at 1967. They can also contact the Food Sheristedar or Food Inspector of their respective taluk, or the Deputy Director's office in Karwar.

Mannalli college opens lab and gym facilities



The new BCA computer laboratory at the college in Mannalli.

CH NEWS, MANNALLI

Government First Grade College in Mannalli village has received development facilities worth ₹45 lakh, including a new computer laboratory for BCA students and modern gym equipment. The facilities were inaugurated by Dr. Shailendra Beldale, MLA of Bidar South.

The inauguration was held alongside the launch of the 2026-27 men's volleyball tournament, jointly organised by Bidar University and the college.

The new BCA laboratory, built at a cost of ₹20 lakh, is equipped with modern computer systems. It is expected to help students improve their technical knowledge, practical skills and computer education, preparing them for employment opportunities in the digital sector.

Gym equipment worth ₹25 lakh has also been provided to promote physical fitness, good health and sports among students. Beldale urged students to make proper use of the facilities and focus on both education and physical development.

> *Rural students have considerable talent and can achieve success if provided with proper infrastructure and opportunities, Beldale said*

Speaking at the event, he said rural students had considerable talent and could achieve success if provided with proper infrastructure and opportunities. He added that sports played an important role in developing discipline, confidence, leadership and teamwork. He encouraged young people to participate in sports and aim for achievements at university, state and national levels.

The MLA also stressed the importance of identifying and encouraging students' hidden talents. He advised participants to accept both victory and defeat in the true spirit of sportsmanship and work hard to reach higher levels of competition.

College Principal Professor Sharanappa S. Malagonda, Dr. Navaranga Manikarava, Dr. Rajkumar T., Dr. Jaishila, Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Appe and Dr. Shantakumar Patil were among those present. Physical education directors from around 11 colleges, guest speakers and volleyball players also attended. The programme was conducted by the college representatives.

Where the ₹45 lakh went

56%	44%
Gym equipment ₹25 lakh	BCA laboratory ₹20 lakh

Mandya officials told to complete development works

CH NEWS, MANDYA

District In-charge Secretary Manoj Kumar Meena has directed officials to take personal responsibility for completing all development works in Mandya district within the stipulated time. He warned that delays caused by poor planning or technical reasons would not be accepted.

Addressing a general meeting at the Kaveri Hall of the Zilla Panchayat office, Meena instructed officials to visit project sites regularly and monitor the progress of works. He said site inspections, technical approvals and land acquisition must be completed early, followed by the tender process.

Expressing concern over projects that had not started between August and November, he asked officials to avoid unnecessary delays. He directed departments to prepare estimates and complete preliminary work by January. Priorities should be decided at the beginning, as frequent changes create confusion. Tender procedures and material procurement should also be completed by the end of January.

Meena said government and Zilla Panchayat funds must be used properly instead of being spent in a hurry at the end of the financial year. He stressed that development should be measured by the quality of work and benefits to the public, not merely by the amount of money spent.



At the general meeting at the Zilla Panchayat office in Mandya.

He also instructed officials to use funds allocated for hostel repairs and infrastructure on time. Primary Health Centres and Community Health Centres must provide quality healthcare and necessary facilities. All departments should work together to ensure better results.

Priority on proper use of funds

Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer K.R. Nandini said public needs were being given priority while implementing development works and government schemes. She said officials had been instructed to conduct joint inspections to check the need, availability of land and technical feasibility of proposed projects. Funds from different sources would not be spent twice on the same work.

She said proposals had been sent to the Finance Department for additional funds to meet committed expenses, including salaries, pensions, gratuity and outsourced staff payments. Procurement and construction works would follow the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements (KTPP) Act and its rules.

Block Education Officers must submit reports on school equipment purchases, fund utilisation and ongoing works. Proposals for incomplete projects requiring additional funds would be sent to the state government for consideration in the next budget.

Most infrastructure work for the district's milk bank has been completed. However, three essential equipment items, including an autoclave and a deep freezer, are yet to be provided. A request has been sent to the concerned department's secretary. The facility will be ready for public use once the equipment arrives.

Zilla Panchayat Planning Cell officer Dhanush and Deputy Secretary (Grade-I) Shivalingaiah attended the meeting, along with other district officials.

Young artists showcase talent at district art festival in Bidar



At the Kala Pratibhotsava in Bidar.

Kala Pratibhotsava

WHAT	Two-day district-level festival, 2026-27
BY	Department of Kannada and Culture
WHERE	Poojya Channabasava Pattaddevaru District Auditorium, Bidar
EVENTS	Classical dance, Sugama Sangeetha, painting, folk songs, drama, elocution

CH NEWS, BIDAR

Children and young people should receive encouragement in art, music and other cultural activities alongside formal education, as these activities help develop their talents and preserve the region's culture and traditions, said Vinodkumar Vaijinath Appe, Chairman of the Bidar Urban Development Authority.

He was speaking after inaugurating the two-day district-level Kala Pratibhotsava 2026-27, organised by the Department of Kannada and Culture at the Poojya Channabasava Pattaddevaru District Auditorium on Tuesday.

Appe said the festival aimed to identify hidden talents among children and provide them with opportunities to showcase their abilities. He urged parents and teachers to recognise children's interests and encourage them to participate in cultural activities.

Balavantarao Patil, retired Joint Director of the Department of Kannada and Culture, Kalaburagi Division, spoke about Karnataka's Hindustani and Carnatic classical music traditions. He said young artists could achieve success with proper guidance and opportunities.

Vijaykumar Sonare, a member of the Karnataka Janapada Academy, said talent, determination and hard work were important for success. He encouraged participants to make full use of the festival.

Other dignitaries present included Dr. Sanjeevkumar Atiwale of the Karnataka Border Area Development Authority and S. B. Kuchabal. Artists and representatives from cultural organisations also attended.

The festival featured competitions in classical dance, Sugama Sangeetha, painting, folk songs, Hindustani and Carnatic classical music, instrumental music, drama, elocution and solo performances.

Children, teenagers and young adults from across Bidar district participated enthusiastically. Their performances in music, dance and other art forms impressed the audience. The participants displayed confidence, creativity and a strong interest in preserving traditional art forms.

Assistant Director of the Department of Kannada and Culture Sidrama Shinde welcomed the gathering and introduced the programme. Devidas Joshi hosted the event, while Clementina proposed the vote of thanks.

Several artists, parents and members of the public attended the two-day festival.

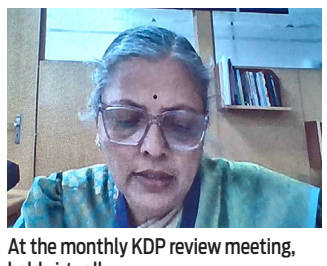
Officials asked to train Yuvanidhi scheme beneficiaries

CH NEWS, KARWAR

Sushma Godbole has directed officials to organise skill development and self-employment training for youth registered under the Karnataka government's Yuvanidhi scheme to help them become financially independent.

She issued the directions while chairing the monthly Karnataka Development Programme (KDP) review meeting held virtually at the Zilla Panchayat office on Tuesday.

Godbole said 10,280 candidates had registered under the scheme in Uttara Kannada district. She instructed departments to work together and prepare a plan to provide skill training through institutions in agriculture, horticulture, banking and other sectors.



At the monthly KDP review meeting, held virtually.

She also directed officials to ensure that funds allocated under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Sub-Plans (SCSP/TSP) were fully and transparently utilised for the intended beneficiaries. Departments were asked to complete KDP works within the stipulated period and achieve their financial and physical targets.

She instructed district-level officers and representatives of various corporations to attend the quarterly KDP review meeting scheduled for November 19 under the chairmanship of the District In-charge Minister. They were asked to bring detailed progress reports of their respective departments.

WHAT NEXT

- Skill training through institutions in agriculture, horticulture, banking and other sectors
- Quarterly KDP review on November 19, chaired by the District In-charge Minister

Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer Dr. Dileesh Shashi also issued directions to various departments. He asked the Education Department to take steps to improve SSLC results and give special attention to students with poor attendance.

He also instructed officials to provide school mid-day meal staff with essential safety and hygiene materials. The Health Department was asked to organise health camps across the district.

Dr. Shashi further sought details of the books required for residential hostels and school libraries. He said steps would be taken to provide the required books through the Department of Public Libraries.

Deputy Secretaries M.S. Allabaksh and Prakash Halammanavar, Chief Accounts Officer Anandasab Habib, Chief Planning Officer Somashekhar Mesta and other district-level officials attended the meeting.

Rahim Khan: clear pending land grants

CH NEWS, BIDAR

Bidar MLA Rahim Khan has directed officials to give priority to pending land grant applications and ensure that eligible beneficiaries receive their land rights without unnecessary delays.

He issued the instructions during a meeting held at the Tahsildar's office in Bidar on Monday. The Tahsildar and members of the Land Grant Committee attended the meeting.

Khan stressed the need to provide land to poor and landless families eligible under government rules. He instructed officials to verify applications, complete the required documentation and speed up the process while maintaining transparency. He also said that no eligible beneficiary should suffer due to administrative delays.



At the meeting at the Tahsildar's office in Bidar.

No eligible beneficiary should suffer due to administrative delays

During the meeting, the MLA reviewed the status of pending applications for old-age pensions, widow pensions and other social security benefits. He directed officials to take steps to ensure that eligible applicants receive their benefits without delay.

He also expressed concern over delays in issuing caste and income certificates, which are essential for accessing various government services and benefits. Officials were instructed to speed up the processing of pending applications and issue certificates to eligible applicants promptly.

The meeting also reviewed pending land grant applications, details of eligible beneficiaries, verification of land records and progress in the distribution of land rights.

The Tahsildar, Land Grant Committee members and concerned officials were present at the meeting.

Quick Read

Two killed as speeding car hits auto-rickshaw

CH NEWS, KOLAR

Two passengers were killed after a speeding car rammed into an auto-rickshaw near Thupalli village in Srinivasapura taluk.

The deceased were identified as Yasmeen (35), a resident of Lakshmipura village, and Shabbir Basha (40), from Haralakunte village. Both died at the scene due to severe injuries sustained in the collision.

According to reports, the car hit the passenger auto-rickshaw from behind, leaving the vehicle badly damaged.

Royalpadu police visited the spot and began an investigation. The bodies were sent for post-mortem examinations. A case has been registered at Royalpadu Police Station.

Harish Gowda flags fund shortage for rural road development

CH NEWS, HUNSUR

MLA G.D. Harish Gowda said poor road conditions in rural areas had become a major concern, while a shortage of funds was making development works difficult. He added that only small projects were being taken up with the limited funds available.

Speaking after performing the groundbreaking ceremony for ₹33 lakh asphalt-laying work on the road connecting Kalegowdanakoppal and Hagaranahalli Mantikoppal, the MLA said the state's financial condition had worsened due to expenditure on various guarantee schemes.

He alleged that insufficient funds were being released for infrastructure and development projects. However, he said he was continuously approaching officials to secure funds for essential works, including road repairs and school improvements.

Chitradurga schedules Kanaka Jayanti preparatory meeting

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

A preparatory meeting to discuss arrangements for the district-level Kanaka Jayanti celebrations will be held on November 18 at 11 am at the Deputy Commissioner's office in Chitradurga.

The celebrations are scheduled to take place on November 27 at the district headquarters.

Deputy Commissioner S. Ramya will chair the meeting. Dr. B.M. Gurunath, Assistant Director of the Department of Kannada and Culture, has requested community leaders and concerned officials to attend the meeting and share their suggestions for organising the celebrations.

Chitradurga orders all departments to register construction workers

Commissioner Kumaraswamy urged local bodies to enforce mandatory worker registration and labour law compliance in all development tenders.

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

Additional Deputy Commissioner B.T. Kumaraswamy has directed all government departments and local bodies to ensure that construction workers employed in their projects are registered with the Karnataka Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Board.

He issued the direction while chairing a District-Level Cess Monitoring Committee meeting at the Deputy Commissioner's office on Tuesday. The meeting reviewed the collection and transfer of construction cess to the Welfare Board.

Kumaraswamy said mandatory worker registration and compliance with labour laws were already included in the tender conditions for development projects. Engineering departments, City Municipal Councils, Town Municipal Councils and Gram Panchayats must ensure that all workers engaged in their projects are registered.

He warned that contractors failing to follow these conditions would be violating the tender rules. He directed the concerned departments to monitor registration and take the necessary action.



The District-Level Cess Monitoring Committee meeting at the Deputy Commissioner's office, Chitradurga

Departments were also instructed to submit details of building construction permissions and cess collections in the prescribed format.

Labour Officer Anil Bagati informed the meeting that a letter had been issued seeking corrections in discrepancies relating to payments made through cheques and Demand Drafts.

Bagati also said that if departments submitted lists of workers employed at construction sites, Labour Department officials would visit the locations and issue identity cards free of cost.

He explained that these identity cards were necessary for workers to access Welfare Board benefits, including accident compensation, educational assistance for children and marriage grants. He urged all departments to cooperate in ensuring that eligible workers received these benefits.

Labour Inspectors Allabakshi, Rajanna and Kusuma, District Child Labour Project Society Project Director P. Satish Kumar, Welfare Board Executive S.V. Prasad, Field Inspector Malappa, Subject Manager Latha and Rajiv Hiremath of the Karnataka State Unorganised Workers' Social Security Board attended the meeting.

Getting an ID card

1. **List:** departments submit lists of workers at their construction sites
2. **Visit:** Labour Department officials visit the locations
3. **ID card:** workers get identity cards free of cost
4. **Benefits:** the cards open Welfare Board benefits

Welfare Board benefits

- Accident compensation
- Educational assistance for children
- Marriage grants

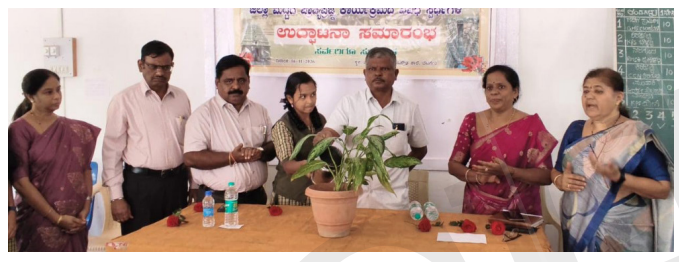
Gadag heritage programme urges students to explore monuments

CH NEWS, GADAG

A district-level heritage awareness programme, 'Prachya Prajne', was inaugurated at Basel Mission Agricultural High School in Betegeri, Gadag, to encourage students to learn about and preserve the region's historical heritage.

The programme was jointly organised by the District Administration, Zilla Panchayat, Department of Archaeology, Museums and Heritage, Mysuru, and the Deputy Director's Office of School Education, Gadag.

Speaking at the inauguration, Deputy Director K.D. Badigera said ancient monuments, architecture, paintings, art and culture were valuable parts of the country's history. He stressed the need to familiarise students with their importance.



The inauguration of the 'Prachya Prajne' heritage programme at Betegeri, Gadag

Competitions for students

He said essay writing, speech, drawing and quiz competitions were being organised to develop students' interest in history and heritage. He also suggested taking students on educational visits to historical monuments in their respective areas so they could understand their importance. He said the initiative should go beyond competitions and develop into regular heritage visits.

In her introductory address, DIET lecturer Sudha Bannikalla explained the objectives of the programme and the importance of introducing heritage education to children at an early age.

Chief guest S.N. Ravi Prakash (DYPC) said the Department of Archaeology, Museums and Heritage had introduced the initiative to connect students with ancient monuments and historical sites. Education Officer M.P. Gotur stressed the importance of learning about the historical places in Gadag district.

Nodal Officer Geetha Kulkarni said the programme aimed to create awareness about history, inscriptions, art and architecture while encouraging students to protect these treasures.

> **The initiative should go beyond competitions and develop into regular heritage visits**

Students from different taluks participated in essay, speech, drawing and quiz competitions. Winners were presented with certificates. Judges included M.A. Yaragudi, Shantakumar Bhajantri and other invited members.

Tanushree Badi and her team presented the prayer. R.G. Kavalageri welcomed the gathering, Nadaf compered the programme and M.H. Savadatti delivered the vote of thanks. Headmistress Jessica D'Cruz and the school staff supported the event.

Mysuru toddler Sharav receives international talent recognition

CH NEWS, MYSURU

Sharav S., a one-year-and-seven-month-old toddler from Mysuru, has received international recognition for his early learning abilities.

The International Book of Records has honoured him with the title of "Super Talented Kid", describing him as "one in a million".

At such a young age, Sharav can identify and name toys, songs, rhymes, colours and numbers. He can also recognise the English alphabet and climb stairs, showcasing his learning and physical abilities.

Sharav is the son of Santhosh Kumar and Bhumika K. Murthy. His grandparents, Vidya K. Murthy and T. Krishnamurthy, are from Shivamogga.



Sharav S. with his International Book of Records certificate

Hunsur workshop promotes low-cost biogas production

CH NEWS, HUNSUR

The Karnataka State President of the Gopals team, Sandeep Manjunath, said the organisation had been promoting an eco-friendly lifestyle for the past 12 years by encouraging indigenous cattle rearing and the use of cow dung and other organic waste.As part of this initiative, weekly workshops called 'Go Sunday' are organised to create awareness about producing biogas from organic waste.

Crumbling classrooms at Shirola school raise safety fears



The Government Higher Primary School at Shirola, Mundargi

MALINGARAYA PUJAR, MUNDARGI

The poor condition of the Government Higher Primary School at Shirola, within Mundargi municipal limits, has raised concerns among parents and residents, who say the building needs urgent repairs.

The school caters to children from farming and daily-wage families who cannot afford private education. According to information provided by the school community, 122 students from Classes 1 to 7 are enrolled. Parents fear that the damaged building could put children and teachers at risk.

Of the school's six rooms, four are reportedly in a dilapidated condition. One of the other rooms is used as the head teacher's office, while the remaining room stores old materials. As a result, classes are being conducted in the four damaged rooms, residents said.

The roof concrete has reportedly fallen away in several places, exposing steel reinforcement bars. Cracks are visible on the walls, and rainwater seepage has further weakened parts of the structure. Parents and teachers are concerned that pieces of the ceiling could fall during lessons.

The school also faces a shortage of teachers. The community says only five teachers are available for the 122 students, with no dedicated teachers for mathematics and science. This, they say, is affecting the quality of education.

Basic facilities are also lacking. Students reportedly have no desks and sit on the floor during lessons. The school lacks a supply of clean drinking water, and its toilets are said to be unusable. There is also no playground for students.

Villagers and School Development and Monitoring Committee (SDMC) members say they have repeatedly raised the issues with officials. They submitted a written request to the Block Education Officer on June 29, 2024, seeking repairs, and also approached Shirahatti MLA Dr Chandru Lamani.

Residents allege that no effective action has followed. They have appealed to Primary and Secondary Education Minister Madhu Bangarappa and the education department to arrange an immediate safety inspection, repair or replace the unsafe classrooms, restore basic facilities and fill vacant teaching posts. They warned of further protests if their demands remain unaddressed.

Devappa Itagi, a resident of Mundargi, said: "How much do Education Minister Madhu Bangarappa and the department officials care about government schools? The department should wake up before a major disaster occurs. If a building collapses and children suffer, the education department officials will be directly responsible."

Shirola school

122	STUDENTS, CLASSES 1 TO 7
4 of 6	ROOMS DILAPIDATED
5	TEACHERS

> **"The department should wake up before a major disaster occurs."**
> — **Devappa Itagi,** Resident, Mundargi

SAVE ANTI-CONVERSION LAW

VHP, Bajrang Dal warn govt against repealing laws

CH NEWS, CHIKKABALLAPURA

The Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) and Bajrang Dal have urged the Karnataka government not to repeal or weaken the state's anti-conversion and cattle protection laws during the upcoming Belagavi legislative session. They have also demanded the cancellation of a tender issued for separate military-style training for minority students.

A delegation from the Chikkaballapura units of the organisations submitted a memorandum addressed to the Governor, Chief Minister and Chief Secretary through the Deputy Commissioner.

Bajrang Dal district coordinator Vinod said the organisations opposed demands made by minority groups at a protest held at Freedom Park in Bengaluru seeking the repeal of the two laws. He criticised statements by KPCC president B.K. Hariprasad supporting changes to the anti-conversion law.

Vinod argued that the Karnataka Protection of Right to Freedom of Religion Act, 2022, was intended to prevent conversions through force, fraud, inducement or misrepresentation. He also referred to the Supreme Court's 1977 judgment in the Rev. Stanislaus case.

Religious leader Siddalingayya defended the Karnataka Prevention of Slaughter and Preservation of Cattle Act, 2020, saying it protected farmers' interests and livestock. He warned that weakening the law could create social tensions.

Bajrang Dal leader Deepak also opposed a reported tender by the Directorate of Minorities for 60 days of military-style training for minority students during 2026–27. He questioned the use of public funds for training restricted to one community and raised concerns about equality under Articles 14 and 15 of the Constitution.

The delegation also questioned the involvement of private organisations in conducting such training without direct Army supervision.

VHP and Bajrang Dal leaders warned of a statewide protest if the government decided to withdraw the laws. Gangadhar, Munindra, Naveen, Nagesh and other religious leaders attended the programme.

CHANGE OF NAME

I,Veekshitha V Poojary (New name), aged about 20 years, D/o Vijaya Residing at Door No. 9-85-75, Ekkur Gudde, Indria Pura, Mangalore- 575002 have changed my name from **VIKSHITHA** to **VEEKSHITHA V POOJARY** for all future correspondence and purposes vide Affidavit dated 16/11/2026 sworn before Notary Umesh Shetty, Notarial Registration No.754/2026

CHANGE OF NAME

I, MOHAMED K R, age 39, residing at #1288, 1st main ,3rd cross Dargah shahi mohalla, near clock tower, Kolar Taluk & District - 563101 hereby declare that my daughter's name, previously known as **ANUM FARIA**, has been changed to **ANAM FARIA**. Henceforth, she shall be known as ANAM FARIA for all purposes.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, YALLAVVA HUSENAPPA KODAPALLI alias YALLAMMA KODAPALLI W/o HUSENAPPA KONDAPALLI, R/o Kudri Moti, Kudromoti, Yelburga, Koppal, Karnataka-583237, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as YALLAMMA.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SHIVAKUMAR S/o BALARAJAGOUDA T R/o 1st Ward, Mylapur, Mailapur, Gangavathi, Koppal, Karnataka-583229, have changed the name of my minor son SHREYAS aged 15 years and he shall hereafter be known as ROHAN.

IN THE COURT OF THE I ADDL. CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DODDABALLAPURA
C.MISC. NO. 13/2026

PETITIONER: **Sri. Nagesh Murthy.M,** S/o Late Muttharayappa, Aged about 63 years, R/at. No. 175/1, Basaveshwara Road, 1st Main, 5th Cross, Mallasandra, T.Dasarahalli, Bengaluru V/S
RESPONDENT: The Tahasildar, Doddaballapura Taluk, Doddaballapura.

PAPER PUBLICATION

The petitioners have filed this petition for grant of death certificate of father of the petitioners by name Sri. Muttharayappa S/o late ERANAGAIAH, who died on 25.07.1994, at Thaneeranahalli Village, Doddabelavangala Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bangalore Rural District.
Whom so ever if any person who are related or interested or dispute date of death of Sri. Mutthahanumaiah may hereby appear in the above said court in person or through pleader duly instructed and able to answer all material question raising in the petition on the day of 30.12.2026 at 11 AM in said mentioned, it will be heard and determined ex-parte court. Take notice that in default of your appearance on the date before mentioned.
Given under my hand and seal of the court on this the 16th day of 11 .2026.
Advocate for petitioner: **Sri. Suresh Kumar.N** and **H.C. Manjunatha** Advocates Prakruthi Law Associates Near Puttaspatre, Opp. Court Complex, Doddaballapura 561 203
By order of the Court
Chief Ministerial Officer, Additional Civil Judge and JMFC at Doddaballapura

IN THE COURT OF THE ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AT DODDABALLAPUR
C.MISC. NO: 322 / 2026

BETWEEN: 1. Sri. Manjunatha, S/o Late Hanume Gowda, Aged about 29 years, Residing at Honnaghatta Village, Kasaba Hobli, Doddaballapur Taluk-561203. **2. Sri. Pavan Kumar** S/o Late Hanume Gowda, Aged about 20 years, Residing at Honnaghatta Village, Kasaba Hobli, Doddaballapur Taluk-561203.
PETITIONERS
AND: The Tahasildhar, Doddaballapur, Doddaballapur Taluk. **RESPONDENT**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas, the petitioners have filed the above petition for seeking of death certificate of Sri. HanumeGowda, S/o Late Hanumanharayappa from the respondent authority and the said Sri. Hanume Gowda was died on 29-09-2016 at Honnaghatta Village, Kasaba Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.
Whereas, any person/s interested to prosecute the aforesaid petition and file their objection in this petition, may appear on 19-12-2026, at 11.00AM by either person or through pleader/advocate to answer all the issues involved in the above petition, before the Hon'ble Additional Civil Judge at Doddaballapura.
Given under my hand and seal of the court on this 17 day of November 2026.
BY ORDER OF THE COURT
Chief Ministerial Officer, Prl Civil Judge & JMFC, Doddaballapura
Advocate for Petitioners: **Praveen Kumar Gupta. B,** Advocate, #347, 1st Floor, Beside TVS Show Room, Doddaballapur-561203.

IN THE COURT OF THE ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AT DODDABALLAPUR
C.MISC. NO: 321 / 2026

BETWEEN: 1. Sri. Manjunatha, S/o Late Hanume Gowda, Aged about 29 years, Residing at Honnaghatta Village, Kasaba Hobli, Doddaballapur Taluk-561203. **2. Sri. Pavan Kumar** S/o Late Hanume Gowda, Aged about 20 years, Residing at Honnaghatta Village, Kasaba Hobli, Doddaballapur Taluk-561203.
PETITIONERS
AND: The Tahasildhar, Doddaballapur, Doddaballapur Taluk. **RESPONDENT**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas, the petitioners have filed the above petition for seeking of death certificate of Smt. Bhagyamma W/o Late HanumeGowda, S/o Late Hanumanharayappa from the respondent authority and the said Smt. Bhagyamma was died on 23-02-2009 at Honnaghatta Village, Kasaba Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.
Whereas, any person/s interested to prosecute the aforesaid petition and file their objection in this petition, may appear on 19-12-2026, at 11.00AM by either person or through pleader/advocate to answer all the issues involved in the above petition, before the Hon'ble Additional Civil Judge at Doddaballapura.
Given under my hand and seal of the court on this 17 day of November 2026.
BY ORDER OF THE COURT
Chief Ministerial Officer, Prl Civil Judge & JMFC, Doddaballapura
Advocate for Petitioners: **Praveen Kumar Gupta. B,** Advocate, #347, 1st Floor, Beside TVS Show Room, Doddaballapur-561203.

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

Quick Read

Chintamani hostel seeks suitable building for rent

CH NEWS, CHIKKABALLAPURA

The Department of Backward Classes Welfare has invited applications from building owners to provide a suitable rented building for its pre-matric boys' hostel in Chilakalanerpu village, Chintamani taluk. The hostel, functioning since 1994–95, currently accommodates 75 students. As the existing building is in a dilapidated condition, a new building with adequate rooms, kitchen, dining hall, borewell, eight toilets and eight bathrooms is required. Interested owners must submit the building layout, property valuation certificate, consent letter and rental agreement documents by November 26 to the D. Devaraj Urs Bhavan, Kagathi, Chintamani. For details, contact 08154-251500, the department stated.

Free Solar PV training offered to tribal youth

CH NEWS, Chitradurga

Applications are invited from Scheduled Tribe (ST) and Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) youth in rural areas for free Solar PV training under the PM-JANMAN and DA-JGUA schemes of the Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

Madhu Bangarappa targets BJP leaders over Yediyurappa

Minister Bangarappa blamed Raghavendra for an arecanut farmer's destroyed plantation, alleging his associates' involvement and previous government title delays

CH NEWS, SHIVAMOGGA

Karnataka School Education Minister Madhu Bangarappa launched a sharp attack on BJP state president B.Y. Vijayendra, MP B.Y. Raghavendra and former MLA Haratalu Halappa, challenging the two BJP leaders to explain their father B.S. Yediyurappa's imprisonment.

Speaking at a press conference in Shivamogga, Bangarappa questioned Vijayendra's remarks against Congress leaders, including calling them "sons of thieves" at religious programmes. He alleged that such statements reflected the BJP's political approach and would continue until the elections.

Referring to the destruction of an arecanut plantation belonging to farmer Devaraj in Soraba, Bangarappa questioned Raghavendra's response to the incident. He alleged that the previous Basavaraj Bommai-led government had withdrawn the process of issuing land title deeds to the farmer. He also questioned the MP's visit to the plantation and alleged that people associated with him could have been involved in the damage. These allegations were made by the minister and were not independently established.

Bangarappa criticised Raghavendra, saying that as a four-time MP, he should speak responsibly. He also referred to the firing on farmers in Haveri during Yediyurappa's tenure as Chief Minister, when they were demanding fertiliser.

The minister further accused Vijayendra and Raghavendra of being uncomfortable with his political activities in Shikaripura. He referred to Vijayendra's remarks in the Legislative Assembly about political activities in the constituency.



Targeting former MLA Haratalu Halappa, Bangarappa described him as a political leader who frequently changed his position according to convenience. He also recalled his family's earlier association with Halappa and criticised him for removing a photograph of former Chief Minister S. Bangarappa from his residence.

The minister said supporters of his father would respond to the matter.

Shivamogga District Congress Committee president H.C. Yogesh, former president R. Prasannakumar, Vijayakumar (Dani), Shweta Bandi, G.D. Manjunath and several other party leaders and representatives of various boards and corporations attended the press conference.

Shivamogga Press Conference Overview

- Political Attacks: Minister Madhu Bangarappa confronts prominent BJP leaders.
- Plantation Incident: Questioning handling of farmer Devaraj's damaged property.
- Historical References: Highlighting past governance events during Yediyurappa's tenure.
- Constituency Friction: Addressing political turf tensions in Shikaripura.

Odisha woman gets ₹7 lakh compensation for abuse



CH NEWS, CHIKKABALLAPURA

A woman from Odisha who was subjected to bonded labour, human trafficking and sexual abuse at a brick kiln near Chikkaballapura has been granted ₹7 lakh in compensation by the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) under the Karnataka Victim Compensation Scheme.

The compensation was sanctioned during a one-day awareness workshop on the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, jointly organised by the Chikkaballapura DLSA and Bengaluru-based NGO Mukti.

The programme was inaugurated by Principal District and Sessions Judge and DLSA Chairman T.P. Ramalingegowda. Speaking on the occasion, he described bonded labour as an inhuman social practice and called for collective efforts to eradicate it. He stressed the need to identify victims, protect their rights and provide them with legal assistance, compensation and rehabilitation.

According to the information shared at the programme, the woman, a native of Balangir district in Odisha, was brought to a brick kiln near Chikkaballapura in 2009 after being promised employment. She was allegedly forced to work for around 18 months under exploitative and inhuman conditions. During this period, she was also sexually assaulted by the kiln owner and an associate.

She was rescued on March 3, 2011, following the intervention of local authorities and police.

The DLSA sanctioned ₹7 lakh in compensation under the Karnataka Victim Compensation Scheme. The criminal trial in the case is still pending. The financial assistance is intended to support the survivor's rehabilitation and help her rebuild her life.

The workshop covered the provisions of the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, identification of victims, legal rights, protection, compensation and rehabilitation.

Senior Civil Judge and DLSA Member Secretary B. Shilpa, Sub-Divisional Officer Shobhita, Bar Association President Abhilash, representatives of Mukti and officials from various departments attended the programme.

DC orders strict action against overloading, illegal mining

CH NEWS, CHIKKABALLAPUR

Deputy Commissioner G. Prabhu has directed officials to take strict action against vehicle overloading, speeding, illegal mining and unauthorised transportation of minerals in the district.

He issued the instructions while chairing a meeting at the Deputy Commissioner's office on Tuesday. He directed the concerned departments to conduct regular inspections, seize vehicles violating regulations and impose penalties.

Prabhu expressed concern over increasing road accidents caused by vehicles transporting sand, crushed stone and other minerals without following safety rules. He instructed the Transport, Mines and Geology, Revenue, Environment and Police departments to conduct joint operations. Two special teams have been formed to prevent overloading and illegal mining, and they have been asked to begin inspections immediately.The teams must regularly inspect mining areas and major mineral transportation routes.

Government platforms help students showcase artistic talent

CH NEWS, RAMANAGARA

Greater Bengaluru Development Authority Chairman L. Chandrashekhar has urged students to make effective use of government platforms to identify and develop their artistic talents.

He was speaking after inaugurating the district-level 'Kala Pratibhotsava' (Art Talent Festival), organised on Tuesday by the District Administration, Zilla Panchayat and Department of Kannada and Culture.

Chandrashekhar said that artists earlier had limited opportunities to showcase their talents, but the government was now taking steps to identify and encourage talented individuals. He expressed happiness over the initiative and entertained students by singing a few songs.

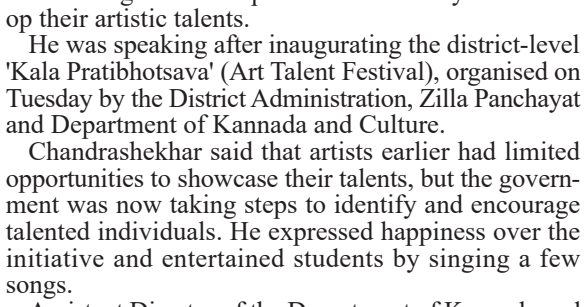
Assistant Director of the Department of Kannada and Culture K. Satish said the festival aimed to bring out the hidden talents of school and college students. Participants were given opportunities to showcase their skills in Bharatanatyam, painting, dance, folk singing and drama.

He said winners at the district level would get opportunities to participate in divisional and state-level competitions. At the state level, cash prizes of ₹50,000, ₹40,000 and ₹30,000 would be awarded to the first, second and third-place winners, respectively.

The programme is open to students from government and private schools. The department is also planning to introduce more art forms in future editions.

Bharatanatyam artist C. Rohini secured first place in the Young Talent category.

Artist Srinivas compered the programme. Dance instructor Renuka Prasad, cultural organiser Kalayya, artist Puttaraju, singer Challamuthu, departmental officials and students attended the event.



GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
BANGALORE URBAN ZILLA PANCHAYATH
O/o Executive Engineer
Panchayath Raj Engineering Division,
First Floor, Zilla Panchayat Buidling S.Kariyappa Road,
Banashankari (Near Banashankari Temple) Bangalore-560070.

KPPP Tender Notice
TWO COVER SYSTEM

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION No. 44/2026-27
Dated:16.11.2026

Tenders are invited through KPPP Portal by the Executive Engineer, P.R.E.D. Bangalore Urban, For Under Deposit Grants/2026-27 Works. The work details can obtained from the KPPP Web Site The Tender Documents can be obtained and submitted on or before **Dated: 25.11.2026 upto 4.00 pm.** Further details can be obtained from web site at **http://www.KPPP.karnataka.gov.in** or contact this office during office working hours.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Panchayath Raj Engineering Division,
Bangalore Urban Dist, Bangalore

DIPR/DD-CP/3741/MCS/2026-27

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Shanthinagara Division, P.U. Building,
9th Floor, M G Road, Bengaluru - 560 001

No:EE/SN/TEND/18/2026-27 **Date: 17-11-2026**

INVITATION FOR TWO COVER TENDER(IFT)

(Two Cover Tender- KW 1,2&3)
(Through **GOK** KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only)

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

Sl No.	Name of the work / Category
1.	Improvement of roads and drains at Rose lane, Alferd road and surrounding area in Ward No-25, Ashoknagara (CAT-II(A). **Approximate value of work: ₹.40.00 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.40000/-**
2.	Improvement of roads and drains at Anglo-Indian Quarters Y.G.Palya and surrounding area in Ward No-25, Ashoknagara (Others). **Approximate value of work: ₹.40.00 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.80000/-**
3.	Improvement of roads and drains at P.K. Coloney, Victoria Layout and surrounding area in Ward No-25, Ashoknagara (Others). **Approximate value of work: ₹.40.00 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.80000/-**
4.	Improvement of roads and drains at Ashoknagara cross roads in Ward No-25, Ashoknagara (Others). **Approximate value of work: ₹.20.00 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.40000/-**
5.	Improvement of Culverts in Ward No-25 Ashoknagara (CAT-II(A). **Approximate value of work: ₹.10.00 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.10000/-**
6.	Improvement of roads and drains at Thimarayappa Garden Rose Garden and surrounding area in ward No-28, Neelasandra. (CAT-I). **Approximate value of work: ₹.45.00 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.45000/-**
7.	Improvement of roads and drains at R.K Garden M.G. Garden and surrounding area In ward No-28, Neelasandra.(SC). **Approximate value of work: ₹.45.00 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.45000/-**
8.	Construction of rain water harvesting pits in ward limits in ward No-28, Neelasandra. (Others). **Approximate value of work: ₹.15.00 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.37500/-**
9.	Improvement of Roads & Drain at East Street, Neelasanda cross roads and surrounding area in Ward No-28, Neelasandra. (Others). **Approximate value of work: ₹.45.00 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.90000/-**
10.	Improvement of roads and drains at Samathanagara and surrounding area in Ward No-27, Ambedkarnagara (SC). **Approximate value of work: ₹.49.00 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.49000/-**
11.	Improvement of roads and drains at Ambedkar nagara, Viveknagara Further Extention and surrounding area in ward No-27, Ambedkarnagara (Others). **Approximate value of work: ₹.49.00 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.98000/-**
12	Construction of rain water harvesting pits in ward limits in Ward No-27, Ambedkarnagara (CAT-II(A). **Approximate value of work: ₹.20.00 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.20000/-**
13	Improvements of culverts in Ward No-27 Ambedkarnagara (ST). **Approximate value of work: ₹.12.00 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.12000/-**
14	Renovation of ward office in Ward No-27 Ambedkarnagara (Others). **Approximate value of work: ₹.20.00 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.40000/-**
15	Improvement of drains and roads at Gajendra Nagara, Potalappa Garden and surrounding area in ward No-30, Vinayaknagara (SC). **Approximate value of work: ₹.40.00 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.40000/-**
16	Improvement of drains and roads at Subbana Garden and surrounding area in Ward No-30, Vinayaknagara (ST). **Approximate value of work: ₹.40.00 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.40000/-**
17	Construction of New Samudaya Bhavana at J.K. Pura in Ward No-30, Vinayaknagara (Others). **Approximate value of work: ₹.60.00 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.120000/-**
18	Improvement of Culverts in ward Limits in ward No-30, Vinayaknagara (CAT-II(A). **Approximate value of work: ₹.10.00 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.10000/-**
19	Construction of Building for Pk's Dressing room in ward No-31, Shanthinagara (CAT-II(A). **Approximate value of work: ₹.30.00 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.30000/-**
20	Improvement of roads and drains at A,B,C,D Street and surrounding area in Ward No-31,Shanthinagara (Others). **Approximate value of work: ₹.30.00 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.60000/-**
21	Improvement of roads and drains at Q,R,S, Street and surrounding area in Ward No-31, Shanthinagara (SC). **Approximate value of work: ₹.40.00 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.40000/-**
22	Improvement of roads and drains at Bethel layout cross roads in Ward No-31, Shanthinagara (CAT-II(A). **Approximate value of work: ₹.40.00 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.40000/-**
23	Improvement of Hindu Burial Ground in Ward No-31, Shanthinagara (Others). **Approximate value of work: ₹.10.00 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.25000/-**
24	Construction of New Anganwadi building Andhra Colony in Ward No-22 Domlur (SC) **Approximate value of work: ₹.40.00 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.40000/-**
25	Improvements to Roads, Drains, footpath and other works in domlur layout BDA Layout HAL 2nd Stage and surrounding area in Ward No-22 Domlur (Others) **Approximate value of work: ₹.40.00 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.80000/-**
26	Construction of rain water harvesting pits in ward limits in Ward No-22 Domlur (SC) **Approximate value of work: ₹.20.00 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.20000/-**
27	Improvements to Culvert in Ward No-22 Domlur (Others) **Approximate value of work: ₹.10.00 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.25000/-**
28	Upgradation of Gym near Sidharth Colony in Ward No-22 Domlur (Others) **Approximate value of work: ₹.20.00 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.40000/-**
29	Renovation Sub division Office building in Ward No-22 Domlur (Others) **Approximate value of work: ₹.20.00 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.40000/-**
30	Improvements to roads, drains, footpath and other works in Mottappanapalya, Appareddy Palya and from 13th main to 10th main in Ward No-23 Jogpalya. (SC) **Approximate value of work: ₹.40.00 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.40000/-**
31	Improvements to Roads, Drains, footpath and other works in Eshwar layout jogpalya and surrounding area in Ward No-23 Jogpalya. (Others) **Approximate value of work: ₹.50.00 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.100000/-**
32	Construction of rain water harvesting pits in Ward limits in Ward No-23 Jogpalya. (SC) **Approximate value of work: ₹.30.00 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.30000/-**
33	Improvements to Culvert in Ward No-23 Jogpalya. (Others) **Approximate value of work: ₹.10.00 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.25000/-**
34	De-silting of drains in mottappanapalya, appareddy palya Eshwar layout jogpalya and surrounding area in Ward No-23 Jogpalya (Others) **Approximate value of work: ₹.20.00 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.40000/-**
35	Improvements to roads, drains, footpath and other works in Goutampura, Sarswathipura, linghainpalya, G Street and surrounding area in Ward No-24 Agram. (SC) **Approximate value of work: ₹.80.00 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.80000/-**
36	Construction of rain water harvesting pits in ward limits in Ward No-24 Agram. (Others) **Approximate value of work: ₹.20.00 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.40000/-**
37	Improvements to Culvert in Ward No-24 Agram. (Others) **Approximate value of work: ₹.10.00 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.25000/-**
38	Constructing of CC Road in ward limit in Ward No-24 Agram (Others) **Approximate value of work: ₹.20.00 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.40000/-**
39	De-silting of drains in Goutampura, Sarswathipura, linghainpalya, G Street and surrounding area in Ward No-24 Agram (Others) **Approximate value of work: ₹.20.00 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.40000/-**
40	Improvements to roads, drains, footpath and other works in Viveknagar, furthur Extension, Rudrappa garden Bazzar Street and surrounding area in Ward No-26 Vannarpet. (Others) **Approximate value of work: ₹.60.00 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.120000/-**
41	Construction of new Anganwadi and Tailoring building in Andhra Colony in Ward No-26 Vannarpet. (Others) **Approximate value of work: ₹.40.00 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.80000/-**
42	Construction of rain water harvesting pits ward limits in Ward No-26 (CAT-II(A) **Approximate value of work: ₹.20.00 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.20000/-**
43	Improvements to Culvert in ward Limits in Ward No-26 Vannarpet (Others) **Approximate value of work: ₹.10.00 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.25000/-**
44	De-silting of drains in Viveknagar, furthur Extension, Rudrappa garden Bazzar Street and surrounding area in Ward No-26 Vannarpet (Others) **Approximate value of work: ₹.20.00 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.40000/-**
45	Improvements to roads, drains, footpath and other works in Austin town, BDA Layout, 1st Square to 6th square, 3rd Cross and surrounding area in Ward No-29 Austin Town (CAT-I) **Approximate value of work: ₹.70.00 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.70000/-**
46	Construction of New RCC Drain in Ward No-29 Austin Town. (Others) **Approximate value of work: ₹.20.00 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.40000/-**
47	Construction of rain water harvesting pits in ward limits in Ward No-29 Austin Town (Others) **Approximate value of work: ₹.10.00 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.25000/-**
48	Improvements to Culvert in ward Limits in Ward No- 29 Austin Town (CAT-II(A)) **Approximate value of work: ₹.10.00 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.10000/-**
49	De-silting of drains in 1st Square to 6th square and surrounding area in Ward No-29 Austin Town (Others) **Approximate value of work: ₹.20.00 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.40000/-**
50	Construction of New CC Road in ward limits in Ward No-29 Austin Town (ST) **Approximate value of work: ₹.20.00 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.20000/-**
51	Providing Chainlink Fencing to vacant Site, Playground and Parks in Shanthinagara Division (Others) **Approximate value of work: ₹.40.00 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.80000/-**

Calendar of Events : (1) Tender Documents may be downloaded in KPP portal from **21-11-2026.** (2) Pre bid meeting will be held on **30-11-2026** at **3:30** pm in the Office of the Executive Engineer East Zone, 9 Floor, Public uitility building, Bengaluru- 560 001. (3) Last date submission of tender documents on or before **10-12-2026** at **4:00** pm (4) Technical Bids will be opened on **11-12-2026** at **4:30** pm.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Shanthinagara Division, BCCC

RECLAIM ELEPHANT CORRIDORS, NOT RELOCATE ELEPHANTS

Translocation is only a temporary remedy; restoring traditional migration routes is the key to ending man-elephant conflict



SHYAM SUNDAR VATTAM

Man-elephant conflict in the southern districts of Karnataka is neither new nor an isolated phenomenon. For several years, villages bordering forests have been bearing the brunt of frequent elephant incursions, resulting in damage to crops, destruction of houses, loss of livelihoods and, tragically, human casualties. Despite repeated interventions by the Forest Department, the problem continues unabated. It is time the government recognised that the solution lies not in capturing and relocating elephants but in restoring their traditional corridors.

Whenever a wild elephant kills a person or goes on a rampage in a village, angry residents naturally demand that the offending animal be captured and shifted to another forest. Under pressure to pacify the affected villagers, the Forest Department swings into action, deploying trained kumki elephants to track, capture and drive the rogue pachyderms into distant forest areas. While such operations may temporarily ease tensions and restore a sense of security among villagers, they hardly offer a permanent solution.

Experience has repeatedly demonstrated that elephants relocated to distant forests often find their way back to their original habitats. Radio-collared elephants have returned to their familiar territories even after being shifted hundreds of kilometres away. This clearly establishes that relocation is, at best, a short-term intervention. It does not address the underlying reasons for elephants straying into human settlements.

Elephants are creatures of habit, with remarkably strong memories of their traditional movement routes. Their migration paths, feeding grounds and water sources are deeply embedded in their behavioural patterns. Relocating them without restoring these natural pathways merely displaces the problem from one location to another. Sooner or later, the animals attempt to return to their familiar terrain, often passing through villages, agricultural fields and expanding urban settlements.

The recent incident in which a wild elephant entered the outskirts of Bengaluru and killed a morning walker should serve as a serious warning. The issue is no longer confined to remote forest villages in districts such as Mysuru, Chamarajanagar, Hassan and Kodagu. The growing intrusion of human settlements into traditional elephant habitats is bringing the conflict dangerously close to major cities.

There was once a natural elephant corridor extending from the Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary towards Savandurga, passing through the Bannerghatta National Park region and the Bengaluru-Mysuru landscape. Over the years, however, encroachments, construction activities and expanding human settlements have fragmented these traditional movement routes. As their natural pathways have been obstructed, elephants are left with little choice but to enter human-dominated areas in search of food, water and passage.

The situation near Kumbalgodu on the outskirts of Bengaluru is a telling example. An ashram in the area has constructed a compound wall,



but elephants reportedly demolish it whenever they attempt to move through the stretch. The reason is not difficult to understand. The wall stands in the path of a traditional elephant corridor. To humans, it may be a boundary protecting private property; to elephants, it is an obstruction across a route they have followed for generations.

An elephant does not recognise the boundaries created by human beings. Nor does it readily abandon a familiar route simply because buildings, roads or compound walls have come up along the way. Its memory of the traditional corridor remains strong. Unless these pathways are restored or made accessible, attempts to keep elephants away from human settlements will continue to prove ineffective.

The foremost responsibility of the State Government, therefore, is to take a comprehensive policy decision to restore and protect elephant corridors. This requires identifying traditional migration routes, removing illegal encroachments wherever legally possible, securing critical stretches of forest land and ensuring that developmental projects do not further fragment wildlife habitats. Where the restoration of a corridor involves private or occupied land, the government must explore transparent mechanisms such as negotiated land acquisition, compensation and voluntary relocation.

It is understood that the Forest Department already has reports and recommendations highlighting the need to restore elephant corridors. Unfortunately, these proposals appear to have remained largely on paper, with successive governments failing to demonstrate the political will required to implement them. The scale of encroachment on forest land and the competing interests involved may make the exercise difficult, but administrative inconvenience cannot be an excuse for continued inaction.

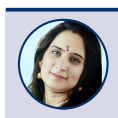
The government must also recognise that human safety and wildlife conservation are not competing objectives. Both can be achieved through scientific habitat management, restoration of corridors, early-warning systems, community participation, protection of vulnerable villages and effective compensation for crop and property losses. Relocation of individual elephants may still be necessary in exceptional circumstances, particularly when an animal poses an immediate and continuing threat to human life. But it cannot become the standard response to every conflict.

The Forest Department, too, must communicate the ground realities to the government without hesitation. Capturing elephants after every fatal incident may offer political and public relations relief, but it cannot substitute for a long-term conservation strategy. The department should place before the government a time-bound action plan backed by scientific studies, corridor mapping and clear priorities.

Ultimately, the question is not how many elephants can be captured and shifted from one forest to another, but how many traditional corridors can be reclaimed and protected. The government must stop treating the symptoms and start addressing the cause.

Reclaim the paths, not relocate the pachyderms. Until elephants are given the freedom to move through their traditional corridors without being forced into human settlements, man-elephant conflict will remain an unresolved and recurring tragedy.

THE MOBILE WORLD AND THE DETERIORATING BEHAVIOR OF CHILDHOOD



DR. PRIYANKA SAURABH

Before giving smartphones to children, it is important to instill values, communication and sensitivity.

The news of alleged brutality against a six-year-old girl by an eight-year-old Class 3 student at a Panchkula school has shocked society. The events revealed in the news and the details of the violence on school campuses have raised serious questions about the safety of children, their behavior, and our upbringing. How are such violent tendencies developing in childhood? Are children losing sensitivity and empathy? Are the mobile world, violent content available on the internet, and changing family environments having any impact on their behavior? These questions can no longer be evaded.

It would be unfair to conclude, based on a single incident, that mobile phones are the sole cause of increasing violence among children. Each incident can be influenced by numerous factors, including personal circumstances, family environment, peer influence, mental state, and social environment. Nevertheless, it is true that the digital world now at the disposal of children has increased the responsibilities of parents more than ever before. Monitoring children can no longer be limited to their behavior after returning from school. It is also essential to know what they watch on their mobile phones, who they interact with, what games they play, and what ideas they are absorbing from the internet.

Smartphones are becoming an integral part of children's lives today. Technology has opened up new learning opportunities through online learning, educational videos, and informative content. However, this same medium also provides easy access to violent images, abusive language, dangerous challenges, and harmful behavior. The problem lies not in the technology itself, but in its uncontrolled use, access to inappropriate content, and a lack of understanding of its effects. Children often view content in the name of entertainment, but are not mentally and emotionally mature enough to understand its consequences.

Childhood is a period of imitation. Children learn language, behavior, and reactions by observing those around them. They are influenced by their parents' conversations,



family members' behavior, friends' behavior, and activities seen on digital media. If a child is repeatedly exposed to scenes that normalize violence, humiliation, revenge, and aggression, it is likely to influence their behavior. While not every child becomes violent after viewing such content, it is crucial to select age-appropriate content and discuss its implications.

In this context, the role of parents is paramount. Often, busy schedules lead to children being given mobile phones to keep them quiet. From feeding to keeping them occupied, screens have become a convenient solution. Gradually, this habit becomes a part of children's daily lives, and parents lose sight of what their children are actually watching. A child sitting quietly with a mobile phone isn't a sign of their safety or healthy development. It's essential to stay informed about their activities in the digital world, set age-appropriate limits, and maintain regular communication with them.

Monitoring children doesn't mean constantly suspecting them or completely taking away their privacy. It means being vigilant about their safety and creating a trusting environment where they can talk openly about their problems, curiosities, and mistakes. Parents should ask children what games they play, what new things they see on the Internet, and what their understanding is of a video or event. If a child gets excited by watching a violent scene, talks about hurting someone, or has a sudden change in behavior, instead of simply scolding them to silence them, one should try to understand the reason.

Schools have no less a responsibility. The purpose of education is not simply to complete the curriculum and achieve good exam scores. Schools also serve as a means to develop children into sensitive, responsible, and socially aware citizens. Teachers should pay attention to unusual changes in student behavior. Schools should promote counseling, emotional well-being, peaceful conflict resolution, and respect for the dignity of others. Dismissing incidents of physical violence, threats, insults, or targeting of vulnerable students as simple pranks can lead to serious problems in the future.

Furthermore, while it is essential to hold a child accountable for their behavior when they commit a serious offense, it is equally important that investigations and actions are based on facts. Rushing to label children as criminals, publicly humiliating them, or exposing their identities on social media is not appropriate. The safety, dignity, and mental health of the victimized child must be a top priority. If a child's behavior shows signs of violence, unusual aggression, or emotional distress, parents and schools should not hesitate to seek the assistance of a qualified child psychologist or counselor.

The role of digital platforms and the government also needs to be considered. Continued efforts are needed to prevent children from accessing inappropriate content, simplify parental control tools, and ensure age-appropriate digital safety. Internet companies should also prioritize child safety. However, relying solely on a single technological feature will not be enough. Digital literacy means not just learning to use a mobile phone, but also understanding that not everything you see on the internet is accurate, safe, or worth emulating.

The most important thing is that children are taught not only by rules but also by examples. If, at home, abusive language is used in anger, disputes are resolved through violence, and disrespectful behavior toward others is considered normal, it will be difficult to expect children to behave in a completely different way. An environment of communication, patience, empathy, and respect must be fostered in the family. It is also important to spend time with children, providing them with opportunities for sports, reading, creative activities, and social interaction.

The questions raised by the Panchkula incident aren't limited to just one school or one family. They serve as a warning to society as a whole. Instead of keeping children away from technology, we must teach them how to use it safely and responsibly. Besides knowing what they're viewing on their mobile phones, we also need to understand what's going on in their minds. Are they struggling with loneliness, stress, neglect, or some other unspoken problem?

The need of the hour is to empower children with discretion before handing them mobile phones, to teach them responsibility before granting them freedom, and to provide affection along with discipline. The responsibility to ensure a safe childhood lies not only with parents or teachers, but with society as a whole. If we want our children to become sensitive and responsible citizens, we must pay attention to their digital activities as well as their emotional world. After all, children's futures are shaped not just by screens, but by the values they learn from their families and society.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Make Footpaths Safe Again

The ongoing civic drive offers a chance to make walking safer. Broken pavements and parked vehicles force pedestrians into traffic, putting children and older residents at particular risk. Municipal officials should repair damaged stretches, keep footpaths clear and install ramps at crossings. Weekly inspections after the drive ends would help keep these routes safe and accessible throughout the entire year. **– Velu**

Make Waste Collection Reliable

Clearing roadside garbage during the current civic drive is welcome, but waste will pile up again if collection remains irregular. Municipal authorities should publish collection schedules, provide separate pickup for wet and dry waste and give residents a simple way to report missed rounds. Households can help by sorting their waste and setting it out at the scheduled collection times. **– Muthu**

SHOULD CINEMA IMPROVE SOCIETY OR SPOIL ITS THINKING?

DR. SATYAVAN SAURABH



Indian cinema is not merely a source of entertainment, but a powerful cultural force that influences society's thinking, sensibilities, beliefs, and behavior. In a multilingual, multi-religious, and diverse country like India, cinema plays a vital role in building social consciousness, strengthening cultural identity, and shaping public opinion. The stories portrayed on screen sometimes challenge societal stereotypes, and sometimes inadvertently reinforce them. Therefore, cinema should be evaluated not solely on the basis of its popularity or commercial success, but on the basis of its broader impact on society.

The most positive role of cinema is to bring social issues into public discussion. Many problems exist in society that people perceive as personal experiences, but fail to understand their broader social implications. Films highlight these issues through human stories and inspire reflection. Aamir Khan's film Taare Zameen Par played a significant role in increasing sensitivity towards learning difficulties like dyslexia in children. It sent a message to the education system that every child has a unique ability and learning style. It is important to recognize children's unique talents rather than compare them. Similarly, Padman played a role in breaking the social silence and raising awareness on issues like menstrual hygiene.

Indian cinema has also made significant interventions in the areas of women's dignity, equality, and rights. The film Pink focused on the question of consent, making it clear that a woman's clothing, social behavior, or presence in a given space cannot substitute for her consent. Similarly, Thappad raised questions about domestic violence and the importance of respect in marital relationships. Such films challenge social notions that expect women to endure injustice in the name of family prestige. While films cannot bring about social change on their own, they can certainly lay the ideological groundwork for change.

Cinema also plays an important role in raising awareness against caste discrimination and social inequality. Anubhav Sinha's Article 15 effectively presented caste discrimination, social deprivation, and institutionalized inequalities. It allowed audiences to understand that despite constitutional equality, the challenges of discrimination in social behavior can persist. When films feature the struggles, aspirations, and experiences of marginalized communities, they also bring voices to a wider audience, often lacking adequate representation in mainstream discourse.



Cinema is also an effective medium for strengthening national unity and collective identity. Chak De! India conveyed the message of cooperation, discipline, and national pride through a team of women athletes from diverse regional and cultural backgrounds. Rang De Basanti inspired youth to reflect on issues such as civic responsibility, corruption, and democratic participation. Such stories demonstrate that patriotism need not be limited to slogans, but also manifest through raising voices against injustice and taking responsibility in public life.

Regional cinema is also important in this regard. Kantara brought coastal Karnataka's local traditions, folk beliefs, and cultural connections with nature to a wider audience. This could increase interest in regional languages and folk cultures.

But the other side of cinema is equally serious. In the pursuit of entertainment and commercial success, some films replicate social prejudices rather than challenge them. One-sided portrayals of caste, religion, region, and communities can reinforce misconceptions in the minds of viewers. Associating an entire community with crime, violence, or backwardness can increase social distrust. One-sided portrayals of particularly sensitive religious and political topics can fuel social polarization. While portraying controversial topics is not inherently inappropriate, ignoring historical facts, social context, and human complexities can become a serious problem.

The glorification of violence is also a concern. When films repeatedly portray revenge, the use of weapons, taking the law into one's own hands, and aggressive behavior as heroic, they risk desensitizing some viewers to violence. Teenage viewers, in particular, may try to imitate the characters or idealize their behavior. This does not mean that everyone who witnesses violent scenes becomes violent, but rather that repeated messages can influence social behavior and perceptions.

Objectification and stereotypical portrayals of women also weaken the social fabric. In many productions, female characters are reduced to instruments of success, attraction, or entertainment for the male protagonist, rather than independent individuals. Trends such as stalking, pressure despite repeated refusals, and presenting jealousy as proof of love can harm a healthy understanding of love and consent. Furthermore, portraying a luxurious lifestyle, expensive objects, and instant success as the ultimate achievement in life can foster consumerism and unrealistic expectations. This can lead to increased social comparison, financial pressure, and exhibitionism among young people.

The solution to this situation lies not in imposing unnecessary restrictions on cinema, but in striking a balance between creative freedom and social responsibility. Filmmakers should prioritize sensitivity and research when portraying diverse communities, women, rural society, and marginalized groups. It is also essential to develop media literacy among audiences so that they can distinguish between the story depicted on screen and real life. Films can be used in schools and colleges to foster dialogues on social issues. Furthermore, age-based categorization, transparent regulation, and respect for freedom of expression should be ensured. For positive change, stories that reflect India's diverse social realities, not just those confined to metropolitan areas and influential classes, should also be encouraged.

Ultimately, cinema cannot, on its own, redeem society or be held responsible for every social ill. Its impact can vary depending on the age, social background, education, and personal experiences of its audience. Nevertheless, it is undeniable that cinema has a remarkable ability to initiate social dialogue, cultivate sensitivity, and question established beliefs. What is needed is a cinema that values conscience alongside entertainment, responsibility alongside popularity, and human dignity alongside creative freedom.

"Only when screen stories unite society rather than divide, challenge discrimination rather than normalize it, and promote empathy rather than violence, will cinema truly play its role in transforming India's social fabric into a more inclusive, just, and sensitive one."

— Dr. Satyavan Saurabh

GOOD FASHION SENSE IS FOR EVERYONE



Fashion is often treated as a subject women are expected to care about and men are free to dismiss. That double standard does both a disservice. It places an unfair burden on women and leaves men with fewer opportunities to develop a skill they can use every day. Both men and women benefit from knowing what fits well, what suits their needs and what feels like their own. Getting dressed is already part of daily life. Knowing how to do it with confidence makes that part of life easier.

Good fashion sense begins with attention. Fit, proportion, colour and fabric all influence how comfortable we feel in our clothes and how easily we can get on with our day. These are practical considerations, and anyone can learn to judge them. With time, those judgments make shopping less uncertain and getting dressed less frustrating. They also give us a firmer basis for deciding which trends deserve our attention. A trend can be appealing in itself and still have little to offer the person considering it.

The social side of dress deserves a more honest discussion. People do notice how others present themselves, sometimes before they have heard a word from them. Their impressions can be hasty and unfair. Even so, understanding the expectations of a setting gives us some say in the impression we make. Dressing with care can express respect for an occasion and the people who share it. The same care should extend to how we judge others, whose clothing may reflect demands on their time, money or health that we know little about.

Women have particular reason to resist the idea that good dress requires constant effort. They are often expected to look polished and are then criticised for spending time or money on doing so. Men face a different pressure. Showing an interest in clothes can be taken as a sign of vanity, which discourages them from learning about fit and developing their own tastes. Both attitudes keep arbitrary expectations alive. The freedom to take an interest in clothes, and to decide how much of an interest to take, should belong equally to everyone.

Fashion sense can also make us more deliberate consumers. When we understand what works for us, we are better equipped to pause before a purchase and consider how often we will use it. The cost of clothing matters, as do the time and attention required to care for it. A garment earns its place in a wardrobe through the use and enjoyment it provides. That principle holds at every budget and gives us a reason to value what we already own.

There is pleasure, too, in developing a sense of style. Clothes can express something about our temperament and tastes, and those tastes can change as we do. A person should be able to enjoy that process at any age and with any body shape. Too much fashion advice assumes the purpose of dressing well is to correct the body or draw attention away from it. A better starting point is to ask how we want to feel in the clothes we put on. Comfort and ease are worth taking seriously.

The case for good fashion sense is ultimately a case for giving people more freedom in an ordinary part of life. Men should feel free to take clothes seriously. Women should feel free to give them as much attention as they choose. Both should be able to develop their taste without treating every decision as a test of their worth. When that freedom of dressing is shared, getting dressed can become a small but genuine source of confidence.

— SHARON FAUSTINA J.

TAKING CARE OF TEETH DESERVES PRIORITY

Teeth are easy to overlook when they are doing their work well. We eat, speak and smile without giving them much thought. That ease is worth preserving. Yet dental care often slips down the list of priorities until discomfort forces it back up. We should give our teeth the same steady attention we give to other parts of our health. Their importance is best judged by how much they allow us to do each day.

There is a quiet loss of freedom when eating becomes uncomfortable. Choices that once depended on appetite can come to depend on what feels manageable. Speaking and smiling can also feel more self-conscious when we are worried about our mouths. Public discussion tends to dwell on how teeth look, perhaps because appearance is the easiest thing for others to see. But the strongest argument for taking care of our teeth is the comfort and independence that come from being able to use them with ease.

Daily care asks for a modest amount of attention at times when attention is often in short supply. The temptation to hurry through it is understandable. What makes a routine valuable is that it carries us through the days when we are tired or distracted. That is worth remembering when we talk to children about their teeth. The habits they learn are more likely to feel natural if the adults around them make time for their own care and explain why it matters.

Preventive care has a harder case to make than urgent care because its benefits are often invisible. When we feel fine, a dental visit is easy to postpone. Pain, by contrast, can dictate the terms of an entire day. Giving ourselves a chance to discuss concerns before they become urgent can make decisions feel less hurried. It also makes room for a conversation about what we can reasonably do to look after our teeth over time.

Of course, people have very different opportunities to act on that advice. Cost, working hours and the availability of appointments all shape when someone can seek care. Fear can be a barrier too, particularly when a person expects to be judged for the condition of their teeth or for the time since their last visit. A serious discussion about dental health has to recognise those realities. It should be easier to ask for help, and people should be able to do so with dignity.

This is where personal habits and public priorities meet. We can take responsibility for the care within our reach while expecting health services to take dental access seriously. Affordable care and appointments people can realistically attend matter to any effort to encourage prevention. Advice carries more weight when people have a fair chance to follow it. If getting help requires taking on costs or losing time at work that someone cannot afford, postponement can be a practical decision even when the person understands the consequences.

The reasons to care for our teeth change in emphasis over a lifetime. Early on, we are learning habits that will eventually become our own responsibility. Later, keeping the ability to eat comfortably can become an important part of maintaining independence. At any age, it helps to think of dental care as an ordinary part of looking after ourselves. It deserves a place in our routines and in conversations about health, even during stretches when our mouths give us little reason to think about them.

— A. JAIKUMAR

"The case for taking better care of our teeth comes down to the quality of ordinary days. Eating without hesitation, speaking comfortably and smiling freely are pleasures we can easily take for granted. They deserve our attention while we can still enjoy them."

— A. JAIKUMAR

THE VALUE OF ONE LIFELONG FRIEND



School gives friendship something adult life rarely offers so freely: time together without much planning. In those years, when belonging can feel especially uncertain, one loyal friend can make it easier to be yourself. Over a lifetime, the same friendship can serve a quieter purpose. It gives you someone with whom you can speak plainly about who you have become, because you share a memory of who you were before you had much say in the matter.

Being known over time has a particular value. In much of adult life, people encounter us through the roles we occupy. They may know our abilities, our obligations or our views, and their knowledge of us may be genuine. An old friend carries a longer account. That friend remembers the uncertainties that preceded our convictions and the effort behind accomplishments that may now look inevitable. With such a person, there is less need to explain why something matters before we can talk about it.

Loyalty is often understood as taking a friend's side. Its deeper value lies in caring enough to speak honestly, even when agreement would be easier. A true friend can take our feelings seriously while questioning our judgment. Hearing an unwelcome opinion from someone who has shown goodwill over many years can make it easier to consider. That kind of candour requires restraint as well as courage. A friend who knows where we are most vulnerable has a responsibility to handle that knowledge with care.

An old friendship can also hold a part of our history that is hard to recover alone. We all revise the stories we tell about ourselves as our circumstances change. Someone who knew us at school may remember ambitions we have forgotten or qualities we have come to undervalue. Their recollections can widen our understanding of our own lives. In return, we hold some of that history for them. The value of shared memory lies partly in this exchange.

The difficulty is that the conditions that helped the friendship take root eventually disappear. Adult commitments make time together harder to arrange, and two lives that once followed a similar rhythm can move at different speeds. A friendship can accommodate long intervals between conversations if both people keep making room for each other. The effort need not always be equal. It does need to be mutual over time. When one person is always responsible for keeping in touch, even genuine affection can begin to feel like an obligation.

Long friendship also asks us to grant each other the right to change. There is affection in remembering someone as they were at school, but there can be a small cruelty in insisting they remain that person. A friend deserves to be heard afresh, especially when their choices unsettle our picture of them. Curiosity matters here as much as memory. The relationship has a future when each person takes an interest in the life the other is living now.

There is no reason to measure our friendships by their age alone. Trust can begin at any stage of life, and the fact that two people went to school together gives neither an automatic claim on the other. The case for taking care of a good school friendship is that its history took years to make. When affection and honesty have survived that long, they deserve some of the time we are so ready to give to more urgent demands.

One lifelong friend cannot meet every need, and it would be unfair to expect it. What one person can offer is the reassurance of being known through change and still being worth knowing. That reassurance is easy to take for granted while it is quietly there. Giving it back may be the most enduring promise two friends make.

— VIDHYASHREE J.

ONLINE SCAMS ARE EVERYONE'S BUSINESS NOW

An online scam can cost someone money in a matter of minutes. The loss of confidence can last much longer. A person may begin to doubt their judgment, hesitate to use services they depend on, or keep what happened to themselves for fear of being blamed. That private aftermath deserves more attention. When we treat fraud as a simple failure of common sense, we make it harder for people to ask for help and easier for the conditions that enable it to persist.

Much of daily life now depends on making decisions through a screen. We are expected to respond promptly, manage our affairs remotely and trust that routine instructions are genuine. Most of the time, getting on with the task is the sensible thing to do. Fraud takes advantage of that ordinary willingness to cooperate. It can also take advantage of fatigue, distraction or the desire to resolve a problem quickly. None of those states is unusual. A sensible public response starts by accepting that anyone's attention can fail under pressure.

Individuals still have an important part to play. Taking a moment to verify an unexpected request through a channel we already trust can give us time to think. The same goes for talking openly about uncertainty. People should feel able to ask someone to look at a message with them without worrying that the question will sound foolish. That willingness to ask is a habit worth encouraging at home, at work and wherever people learn to manage their affairs online.

The organisations through which we conduct our daily business have responsibilities of their own. They decide how their communications look, how easy it is to verify a request and how quickly a customer can reach someone when something feels wrong. Those choices affect how much work an individual must do to stay safe. A clear route to assistance is especially important when someone is distressed. At that moment, making help easy to find is part of providing a service people can trust.

Public education would also benefit from a change in tone. Warnings that tell people to be vigilant can be difficult to act on when they offer little sense of what to do with a doubt. It is more useful to give people permission to pause and to make verification straightforward. That message should be repeated in plain language. Familiarity with digital services varies widely, and asking for help should feel as ordinary online as it does in any other part of life.

We should pay particular attention to what happens after someone realises they may have been deceived. Shame can make a person put off reporting what happened, even though they may urgently need support. The first response they receive matters. A patient hearing and clear information about the next steps can help someone act when they are still trying to understand what took place. Reporting should be simple enough to use under stress, with a clear explanation of what will happen next.

There is a broader question of trust at stake. If using ordinary services demands constant suspicion, people with the least time, support or confidence bear a disproportionate share of the burden. The organisations that benefit from moving their services online should make those services easier to verify and safer to use. That work deserves the same attention as making a transaction faster or an interface more convenient.

We will always need to exercise judgment online. We can make that judgment easier by allowing people time to check, offering help they can reach and responding with respect when they come forward. The way we treat someone who reports a scam will shape whether the next person feels able to speak up.

— NAVEEN KHANNA

STREET FOOD BELONGS IN PUBLIC LIFE

Street food is often praised for what it brings to the palate. It deserves equal attention for what it brings to public life. It makes a prepared meal available to people who may have little time or money to spare, and it gives vendors a way to earn a living through their own work. Yet when decisions are made about who may use public space and on what terms, these contributions can be overlooked. Street food should have a secure place in those decisions.

Affordability is part of its public value. A meal bought on the street can fit into a tight budget and an irregular day. The convenience matters because people have different amounts of control over when they can stop to eat. That flexibility is easy to take for granted when it is available. Any discussion about the future of street vending should account for what customers would lose if convenient, affordable food became harder to find.

For vendors, the work calls for judgment that customers rarely see. Income depends on balancing the cost of ingredients against what people can afford, anticipating demand and making good use of limited space. There is skill in earning the trust of regular customers while keeping a business viable. Vendors deserve a voice in decisions affecting their livelihoods because they understand how those decisions will play out during an ordinary working day.



Food safety is central to that trust. Customers should be able to expect care in the preparation, storage and handling of what they buy. Vendors, in turn, should have access to the conditions that make those expectations possible. Clean water and dependable waste collection are part of the basic infrastructure of a well-managed street. When these services are inadequate, telling vendors to raise their standards addresses only part of the problem. Public authorities have a role in making safe practices practical.

The use of shared space requires care as well. People need to move along streets easily, and those who live or work nearby have a legitimate interest in how the area is maintained. Vendors have an equally legitimate interest in being able to reach customers. These needs have to be considered together. Rules are more likely to work when they are clear, consistently applied and informed by the people who use the street. A workable arrangement should give vendors enough certainty to plan their working lives.

Street food also helps keep culinary knowledge in everyday use. The skills involved are refined through repetition, judgment and the response of the people who eat the food. Over time, this exchange allows traditions to adapt to changing tastes and circumstances. There is something worth protecting in the fact that such knowledge remains part of daily commerce. People can participate in a shared food culture simply by buying a meal they can afford and want to eat.

There is a danger in celebrating street food while taking the people who sell it for granted. Public enthusiasm can make vending more visible, yet visibility alone does little for someone who cannot be sure of a place to work. If we value what vendors contribute, that regard should carry through to the practical terms on which they operate. This means giving their experience due weight when setting fees, deciding where vending is permitted and planning the services that keep streets usable.

The future of street food should be judged by whether customers can buy a meal with confidence, vendors can earn a living with dignity and the street works for everyone who uses it. Each of those aims depends on the others. The decisions that shape them deserve the same public attention as the food itself.

— VELUMUTHU K.

Quick Read



Two held for gang-rape of deaf, mute woman

RANGAREDDY

Two men have been arrested for allegedly gang-raping a deaf and mute woman in Telangana's Rangareddy district, police said on Tuesday.

The accused, identified as Syed Javeed, 37, and Arpula Venkatesh, 30, allegedly offered to drop the woman at her residence in an auto. However, they reportedly sexually assaulted her before leaving her at her home.

The woman later informed her family, following which police registered a case on November 16. Both accused were arrested and are being produced before a court for judicial custody.

Udaipur man held for molesting tourist

UDAIPUR

Udaipur Police have arrested a man identified as Aftab for allegedly molesting a foreign woman tourist in Rajasthan. A case was registered at Surajpol Police Station, and further legal proceedings are underway.

In a statement on X, police said prompt action had been taken and warned that strict legal measures would follow against anyone compromising tourists' safety, respect and dignity.

The accused also issued an apology in a video shared by police, expressing shame over his actions. He said, "Guests coming from outside and women should be respected. I will not make this mistake again."

GRAP Stage 3 curbs lifted in Delhi-NCR

NEW DELHI

The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) on Tuesday revoked Stage 3 restrictions under the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) in Delhi-NCR following an improvement in air quality. However, restrictions under Stages 1 and 2 will continue to remain in force.

According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Delhi recorded an Air Quality Index (AQI) of 200 on Tuesday, placing it in the moderate category. The decision was taken by the CAQM's GRAP sub-committee after reviewing the improved conditions.

GRAP is a four-stage emergency framework designed to control air pollution. Stage 3 restrictions include vehicle curbs, construction bans and hybrid learning arrangements for primary schools.

Nitin Gadkari approves road projects worth ₹1,483 crore

Road infrastructure upgrades are expected to ease congestion, improve connectivity and strengthen transport links across Delhi, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh.

NEW DELHI

Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari has approved infrastructure projects worth Rs 1,123.56 crore along the Delhi-Agra corridor and another project costing Rs 359.63 crore in West Delhi. The announcements were made on Tuesday through posts on social media.

The Delhi-Agra corridor project will cover parts of Haryana's Faridabad and Palwal districts and Uttar Pradesh's Mathura and Agra districts. It includes three road over bridges, four flyovers and four vehicle underpasses along National Highways 44 and 19. The corridor handles around 68,000 passenger car units every day, including freight, industrial, commuter and tourist traffic.

Gadkari said the proposed railway over bridges would remove delays caused by railway crossings and address congestion and safety concerns near existing bridges and road-level intersections.



Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari

Separately, Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta thanked Gadkari for approving a Rs 359.63-crore road development project in West Delhi. The work will cover a 12.4-kilometre stretch between Industry Nagar Metro Station and Tikri Border. Gupta said the project would improve connectivity around Peeragarhi, Nangloi Chowk, Mundka and Ghevra Chowk, while helping commuters travelling between Delhi and Bahadurgarh.

The West Delhi project will include a concrete road, upgraded service roads and improved junctions. According to Gupta, these works are expected to ease congestion, strengthen road safety and support trade between Delhi and Haryana.

The projects in focus

- **Total:** ₹1,483.19 crore
- **Delhi-Agra corridor:** ₹1,123.56 crore
- **West Delhi project:** ₹359.63 crore
- **Delhi-Agra works:** 3 ROBs, 4 flyovers and 4 vehicle underpasses
- **West Delhi stretch:** 12.4 km, Industry Nagar Metro Station to Tikri Border

Rahul Gandhi hits back at BJP-RSS over trolling


Rahul Gandhi

Rahul Gandhi accused the BJP and RSS of promoting hatred, saying anger prevents their supporters from understanding and expressing love.

NEW DELHI

Congress MP and Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday criticised the BJP and RSS following online trolling over his remarks about the affectionate relationship between his parents, former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi. His comments came after he spoke at the launch of his mother's memoir, Belonging: A Journey of Love, in New Delhi.

In a post on X, Rahul Gandhi said anger and hatred prevented supporters of the two organisations from experiencing and expressing love. "Fear, anger and hatred have woven a web in the hearts of BJP and RSS supporters that stops them from experiencing and expressing love," he wrote.

He further said, "As a true Hindu, it is my duty to free them from this web, so that they too can start to experience the breathtaking beauty and joy of love and belonging in their lives. Satyam Shivam Sundaram."

At the memoir launch, Rahul recalled the deep bond between his parents and how Rajiv Gandhi's assassination in 1991 changed his mother's life. He said his mother could not remember the events surrounding his father's death, and that parts of the account in the book had been reconstructed with the help of his sister.

Recalling his childhood, Rahul said his parents shared an unusual closeness, often sitting together during meals.

Cybercrime portal receives 10,000 complaints daily

NEW DELHI

India's National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal (NCRP) receives around 10,000 complaints every day, highlighting the growing threat of online fraud. The Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C), under the Union Home Ministry, has urged citizens to remain cautious while handling suspicious messages, calls and links.

"Cyber fraud often starts with a seemingly ordinary message. So don't click on any unknown message or link without thinking it through," the I4C warned. It advised victims to immediately call the helpline 1930 or register complaints through the official website, cybercrime.gov.in.

What can be reported

The portal allows citizens to report different cyber offences, including financial scams, identity theft, hacking and online harassment. Complainants must provide details such as the date, time and description of the incident, along with valid identity proof. Financial fraud complaints also require transaction details, bank information and the amount lost.

Probes by the States

The I4C clarified that complaints are investigated by police and law enforcement agencies in the respective States and Union Territories. The centre manages the portal's technical infrastructure but does not have investigative powers.

Bank accounts misused

The centre also warned about the misuse of bank accounts, UPI platforms and digital payment services for fraud and money laundering.

Hit by cyber fraud?

1. **Call 1930,** the helpline, at once
2. **Register** the complaint at cybercrime.gov.in
3. **Give** the date, time and details, with valid ID proof
4. **For money lost,** add the transaction and bank details and the amount

Madurai police recover all stolen Tanishq jewellery


Two of the three people arrested in the case

MADURAI

Police in Madurai have recovered jewellery worth Rs 15 crore stolen from a Tanishq showroom and arrested three people, City Police Commissioner S Rajendiran said. The burglary took place between midnight on November 11 and the early hours of November 12.

"Between midnight on November 11 and the early morning of November 12, a grave burglary took place at a Tanishq jewellery showroom. We formed various special teams, conducted an investigation, and arrested three accused. In this case, properties worth Rs 15 crores—weighing about 11.843 kilograms of diamond and gold jewellery—were stolen. The entire stolen property has been recovered," he said.

Leads from the staff

"We followed all the available CCTV footage along with other clues. We also interrogated the employees of the shop, who provided some crucial leads, and based on that, we arrested them," Rajendiran added.

Gold found on a hill

The key accused, Nishanth, was arrested on Monday night by Adhiyaman Kottai police in Dharmapuri while travelling on a private bus from Bengaluru to Salem. A Madurai police team brought him to the city. During questioning, he reportedly disclosed that some valuables were hidden on a hill near Kapaleeswari Amman Temple in Madakulam. Police searched the spot and recovered around 6.4 kilograms of gold and diamond ornaments. Nishanth was remanded to judicial custody until December 1 and taken to Government Rajaji Hospital for a medical examination before being produced before a magistrate.

Bihar launches campaign to boost sugarcane farming

PATNA

Bihar Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary on Tuesday launched the Ganna Vikas Rath-2026 campaign to strengthen sugarcane farming and the state's sugar industry. He flagged off development vehicles for all districts at the Chief Minister's Secretariat in Patna. The initiative is organised by the Sugarcane Industries Department.

Choudhary said Bihar has 10 operational sugar mills, while five more are expected to begin operations soon. He said the government's priorities include improving farmers' prosperity, increasing sugarcane production and strengthening the sugar industry.

The Chief Minister said sugarcane cultivation could raise farm incomes, strengthen the rural economy and generate employment. He added that the government plans to establish new mills and revive closed units.

Farmers will also receive details about machinery subsidies under the Sugarcane Mechanisation Scheme and certified seeds through the Chief Minister's Sugarcane Development Programme. Digital services are being promoted through Ganna ID and Ganna Sathi, an artificial intelligence chatbot intended to make assistance more accessible.

The programme will include agricultural workshops and street plays to encourage awareness and participation through sustained outreach across all districts statewide. Deputy Chief Ministers Vijay Kumar Chaudhary and Bijendra Prasad Yadav, Sugar Industry Minister Sanjay Kumar, Chief Secretary Pratyaya Amrit and senior officials attended the launch.

What the raths carry

- Improved sugarcane varieties
- Scientific cultivation
- Organic fertilisers
- Ganna Sathi, an AI chatbot

Telangana seeks Chhattisgarh nod for Sammakka Sagar project


Revanth Reddy (right) with Vishnu Deo Sai in Raipur

RAIPUR

Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Tuesday sought Chhattisgarh's No Objection Certificate (NOC) for the Sammakka Sagar project on the Godavari River during a meeting with counterpart Vishnu Deo Sai in Raipur. Accompanied by Irrigation Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy, he requested permission to store water in the barrage and cooperation in securing statutory clearances.

According to the Telangana Chief Minister's Office, Sai assured the delegation that the NOC process would be completed at the earliest.

The barrage was shifted to Tupakulagudem in Mulugu district. An IIT Kharagpur study estimated that about 33 acres in Chhattisgarh would be submerged at the Full Reservoir Level.

Revanth Reddy said construction had been completed. The barrage can store 6.94 thousand million cubic feet at a Full Reservoir Level of 83 metres. The project aims to provide irrigation and drinking water to drought-prone, backward and tribal regions of Telangana.

A Chhattisgarh government officer said the state would survey four affected villages in Bijapur district before issuing the NOC. "We will conduct a survey of four villages in Bijapur district that will be affected by the project. The compensation amount will be assessed thereafter and taken up at the appropriate platform. The NOC will be issued subsequently," the officer said.



Raipur: where the two Chief Ministers met

UP draft roll adds 18.8 lakh voters

LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh released its draft electoral roll on Tuesday under the Special Summary Revision (SSR), recording nearly 13.59 crore voters ahead of the Assembly elections scheduled for early 2027. Chief Electoral Officer Navdeep Rinwa said the list contains 135,868,905 electors: 7.38 crore men, 6.20 crore women and 4,042 third-gender voters.

The draft adds 18.8 lakh voters since the previous final roll was published on April 10, including nearly 11 lakh women. It also includes 11.83 lakh electors aged between 18 and 19, Rinwa said.

Below the SIR count

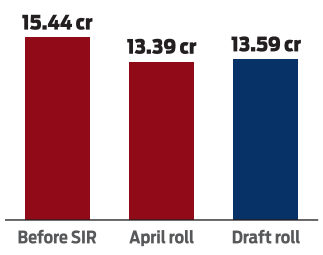
Despite the increase, the electorate remains around 1.85 crore below the 15.44 crore voters recorded before the Election Commission of India conducted the Special Intensive Revision (SIR). That exercise reduced the roll to 13.39 crore in April and triggered disputes over deleted names. Rinwa said the draft covers about 84 to 85 per cent of the state's projected adult population.

Claims till December 16

The claims and objections period will run from November 17 to December 16. Eligible citizens can seek inclusion through Form 6, object to an entry through Form 7, or request corrections using Form 8. Rinwa said, "The claims and objections period will remain open from November 17 to December 16." Unlike SIR, SSR does not verify every existing voter; only applications for changes are examined.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had claimed that 1.27 crore Hindu voters' names were missing and Muslim voter numbers had increased. Rinwa declined to comment, saying the commission does not track voters by religion or caste. He said the state's projected adult population is 16.16 crore, leaving around 2.58 crore people yet to be enrolled.

UP voters, in crore



Figures from the report

TN FAKE BOOKS SCAM

'We will not leave even one': TN minister on books scam

CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu School Education Minister Rajmohan has alleged that a major fake books scam has been uncovered in state libraries, describing it as the "world's first AI books scam". He said 523 fake books had been seized from the historic Connemara Library in Chennai and that the Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption (DVAC) had registered a case.

523	₹1.74 cr	5
fake books seized at Connemara Library	books bought from two publishers in 3 years	officials suspended

The purchases included Tamil books, while an inquiry into English titles is continuing.

"This is the world's first AI books scam. In the last three years alone, books worth around Rs 1.74 crore were purchased from Agalvilakku Pathippagam and Phoenix Pathippagam. DVAC has registered an FIR and the owner of Agalvilakku Pathippagam was arrested yesterday," Rajmohan said. He alleged that the seized books carried the names of well-known authors, actors and sportspersons.

The minister said five officials had been suspended and others transferred. Departmental and DVAC investigations are being conducted simultaneously. "Whoever was responsible, whoever the politician is, we will not leave even one," he said, promising action against everyone found involved, regardless of political connections.

Rajmohan said instructions had been issued to inspect libraries across Tamil Nadu, identify fake books, separate them and seal them as evidence. He said they would be kept away from students during the ongoing investigation. "These fake books should not reach any student. We have ordered to identify them everywhere, separate them, put them in boxes, seal them and keep them as evidence," he said.


School Education Minister Rajmohan

Quick Read

6 killed, 20 injured as bus plunges into ravine

TEHRI GARHWAL

Six people were killed and around 20 injured after a bus carrying 30 to 35 passengers fell into a ravine nearly 100 metres below a bridge near Gular Bazar in Uttarakhand's Tehri Garhwal district on Tuesday morning.

Teams from the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) rushed to the spot and launched rescue operations. Around 20 injured passengers were rescued and shifted to hospitals. District Magistrate Nitika Khandelwal and Senior Superintendent of Police Shweta Choubey also proceeded to the accident site.

Bolero plunges into gorge in Rudraprayag

RUDRAPRAYAG

Several people were killed and others were injured after a Bolero vehicle plunged into a deep gorge near Bhatwari-Kandara on the Banswada-Mohankhal road in Uttarakhand's Rudraprayag district on Monday night.The vehicle was travelling from Pokhari towards Ransi when the driver reportedly lost control. Police received information through Dial 112 around 10 pm.Teams from police, SDRF, DDRF and ambulance services launched an overnight rescue operation.

Farmers oppose draft Bhopal Master Plan 2047

BHOPAL

Farmers and BJP workers from 78 villages surrounding Bhopal's Upper Lake staged a protest at the Huzur Tehsil office on Tuesday, opposing the draft Bhopal Master Plan 2047. They alleged that the proposed expansion of catchment areas would affect agricultural land and threaten the livelihoods and future of nearly five lakh people.Jain said farmers had submitted around 7,000 to 8,000 objections, but their concerns remained unresolved. He warned that the organisation could march towards Bhopal with 1,000 tractor-trolleys if the objections were ignored.

SC agrees to hear INDIA bloc's 48 questions to EC on SIR

The INDIA bloc has challenged the Election Commission's claims on electoral roll revisions, prompting the Supreme Court to examine the matter.

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday agreed to hear an application filed by Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and other INDIA bloc leaders, who have submitted 48 "interrogatories" to Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi, and senior Election Commission officials. The questions concern the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and seek explanations from the poll body on its claims about the exercise.

The application challenges what the leaders described as "bare assertions" in an institutional affidavit filed by the Election Commission of India on October 26. The interrogatories are directed at the senior officials and seek to examine the basis of the Commission's statements regarding the nationwide revision.

One key issue concerns the Election Commission's assertion that the decision to conduct a nationwide SIR was unanimous. The applicants have questioned this claim and sought responses from the Chief Election Commissioner and other officials.

The controversy centres on the scale of the electoral roll revision. According to the report, approximately 13 crore voters were excluded during the SIR exercise. The INDIA bloc leaders have raised questions about the process and the statements made by the poll body in its affidavit. Their application places the Commission's explanation under scrutiny and asks the senior officials to respond to the 48 questions.



WHAT THE BLOC ASKS

UNANIMOUS?
Was the nationwide SIR really a unanimous decision of the Commission

THE AFFIDAVIT
The basis of the 'bare assertions' in the EC's affidavit of October 26

13 CRORE
Voters excluded during the SIR exercise

Controversy Moves From Polls To Courts

The Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls began in Bihar in June 2025, when the Election Commission launched a house-to-house exercise to verify voter details and remove duplicate, deceased and ineligible entries. It was later expanded nationwide. The process became contentious as opposition parties and civil society groups raised concerns about large-scale deletions, documentation requirements and short deadlines. They argued that poor, migrant, elderly and marginalised voters could struggle to establish eligibility. The Election Commission maintains that the revision aims to improve voter-list accuracy, and that many names marked for removal belong to people who had died, shifted or appeared more than once.

Chouhan announces Rs 254 crore farmers' aid



Chouhan announced Rs 254 crore in farmer assistance, while highlighting crop diversification, green ammonia, stubble management and agricultural innovation.

CHANDIGARH

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Tuesday announced that approval letters for Rs 254 crore allocated under various schemes would be presented to farmers in Punjab. He said he would hold discussions with the farming community on crop diversification, stubble management and measures to improve agricultural income.

Chouhan said he had come to serve farmers and would attend an event in Badarpur, where demonstrations would showcase agricultural innovations, including green ammonia as an alternative to urea. He said the substance could be produced using solar energy and could benefit crops. "If green ammonia is used for crops instead of urea, it proves to be more beneficial; and the best part is that green ammonia can be produced using energy from the sun," he said.

The minister said discussions would also focus on the 'Khet Bachao' campaign and integrated farming. He stressed the need to diversify crops, manage stubble more effectively and identify ways to raise farmers' earnings. Punjab Agriculture Minister Gurmeet Singh Khudian is accompanying him.

The union minister will visit Abohar and Fazilka, where farmers have reported damage to kinnow orchards and other crops due to rising groundwater levels. He said he would meet affected farmers and discuss their difficulties.

Kerala plans Tirupati-style upgrade for Sabarimala pilgrims

KOCHI

Kerala Chief Minister VD Satheesan on Tuesday announced plans to develop Sabarimala into a modern pilgrimage centre on the lines of Tirupati. Work on the project will begin immediately after the current pilgrimage season, with a substantial portion expected to be completed before the next season.

The plan will focus on improving infrastructure at the temple and along pilgrimage routes, providing professionally managed facilities and smoother access to darshan. Satheesan said the improvements could increase the number of pilgrims by up to 50 per cent. The government is also considering a connected pilgrimage tourism initiative encouraging visitors to explore other temples across the state.

The Sabarimala plan

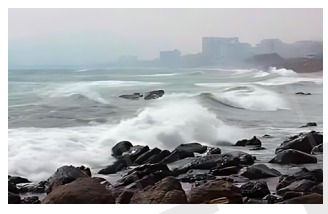
- **When:** work starts right after this pilgrimage season
- **Aim:** up to 50 per cent more pilgrims
- **Airport:** a facilitation centre at Cochin International Airport
- **Funds:** Rs 3.36 crore to local bodies

Rest stop at the airport

Satheesan made the announcement after inaugurating a 3,000-square-foot Sabarimala facilitation centre at Cochin International Airport. The air-conditioned facility, with a hall occupying 80 per cent of its area, will provide resting space for devotees arriving from other states and abroad. Better airport connectivity is also being considered.

Devaswom Minister K Muraleedharan said Rs 3.36 crore had been allocated to local bodies for pilgrimage-related arrangements. He said trained nursing assistants would be deployed and officials had been instructed to ensure proper waste removal, describing the allocation as "a very good sign." Home Minister Ramesh Chennithala said, "All arrangements have been completed" for the pilgrimage. ADGP Vijayan has been appointed nodal officer to coordinate security arrangements.

Cyclone Akvan likely to turn severe, heads for Andhra Pradesh coast





Akvan is headed for the coast between Nellore and Tuni

NEW DELHI

Cyclone Akvan over the Bay of Bengal is expected to intensify into a severe cyclonic storm by Tuesday evening and may become a very severe cyclonic storm by the morning of November 19, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD). The system is moving north-northwestwards towards the Andhra Pradesh coast.

The deep depression over the southeast and southwest Bay of Bengal intensified into Cyclone Akvan on Monday evening, November 16. It was centred over the central parts of the south and west-central Bay of Bengal. It lay about 610 km east of Chennai, 660 km southeast of Machilipatnam and 670 km south-southeast of Visakhapatnam.

The IMD has forecast rainfall across several States as the system advances. Heavy to extremely heavy rainfall is expected over parts of Tamil Nadu on November 17 and 18. Coastal Andhra Pradesh is likely to experience moderate to heavy rainfall on November 19 and 20, while Odisha may receive heavy rainfall on November 21.

Andhra Pradesh Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha has placed coastal districts on high alert and warned fishermen. Officials have been directed to take precautionary measures to prevent loss of life and property ahead of the system's expected approach to the coast between Nellore and Tuni.

The Odisha government has begun preparations, deployed 74 rescue teams and is arranging early evacuation of vulnerable people in southern districts.

India invites investors for shipbuilding push

NEW DELHI

Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal on Monday invited global shipbuilders, shipping companies and financiers to invest in India's maritime sector, highlighting an estimated $10 billion opportunity across five proposed greenfield coastal shipbuilding clusters. Speaking at the India Shipbuilding Investment Conclave 2026 in New Delhi, he said India aims to become one of the world's top 10 shipbuilding nations by 2030 and among the top five by 2047.

Five coastal clusters

The clusters are proposed at Dugarajapatnam in Andhra Pradesh, Kuchhadi in Gujarat, Dighi in Maharashtra, Kendrapada in Odisha and Thoothukudi in Tamil Nadu. Sonowal said they would create opportunities in manufacturing, technology, employment and exports. Domestic demand covers more than 400 vessels, representing an investment opportunity of nearly $24 billion. The order pipeline includes over 150 vessels valued at more than $1.7 billion, with exports accounting for over 80 per cent of its value.

"India is ready to build the ships of the world," Sonowal said. "Build in India, for India and for the world." The conclave builds on the government's $8 billion shipbuilding financial package approved last year. Damen Shipyards and Cochin Shipyard signed a memorandum of understanding to collaborate on future projects.

A one-stop portal

Sonowal launched Naukosh, a digital portal developed by the Directorate General of Maritime Administration. It brings policies, approvals and investment opportunities onto one platform, alongside industry directories, shipyard data, financing information, training and regulatory guidance. Sonowal said the five coastal states would work with the Centre to provide investors land, approvals and policy support.

$10 bn
opportunity in five greenfield clusters

$24 bn
domestic demand, 400+ vessels

JD(U) reshuffles organisation, assigns state in-charges

NEW DELHI

The Janata Dal (United) on Tuesday announced an organisational reshuffle, assigning responsibilities to 24 leaders across different states and party wings. The appointments form part of the party's organisational exercise aimed at distributing responsibilities among senior leaders and strengthening its activities across the country, according to a party release.

States and in-charges

JD(U) general secretary Afaque Ahmad Khan has been assigned responsibility for the party headquarters, northeastern states and Jammu and Kashmir. MLA Shyam Rajak will oversee Maharashtra, while MLA Ramsewak Singh has been given charge of Jharkhand. Former MLA Ramesh Singh Kushwaha has been appointed co-in-charge of Uttar Pradesh as part of the changes.

24
leaders given charge of states and party wings

The party has also made appointments to oversee its various organisational wings. Former MP Chandeshwar Prasad Chandravanshi has been appointed vice president and given responsibility for the Extremely Backward Classes (EBC) Wing. Former MP Kahkeshan Parveen will head the Women's Wing, while former MLA Sunil Kumar, also known as Engineer, has been assigned responsibility for Delhi.

The reshuffle covers state-level responsibilities as well as positions within the party's organisational structure. The appointments involve leaders with experience in parliamentary and legislative politics, along with those assigned to specific social and organisational wings.

The party announced the changes through an official release on Tuesday. The latest changes are expected to help coordinate the party's activities across different regions and strengthen its organisational network.

Murmu calls for stronger efforts to eliminate malaria

NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday inaugurated the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Indian Council of Medical Research–National Institute of Malaria Research (ICMR-NIMR), marking 50 years of the institute's contribution to malaria research and public health. She congratulated scientists, researchers and healthcare workers associated with the organisation and highlighted India's progress in controlling the disease.

Murmu recalled how malaria had affected rural and tribal communities, damaging livelihoods, education and people's futures. Drawing from her experiences of witnessing the disease in villages, she stressed public awareness and urged patients to complete prescribed medication to ensure effective treatment and prevent recurrence.

Cases down nearly 80 per cent

The President noted that malaria cases and deaths in India declined by nearly 80 per cent between 2015 and 2025. The number of high-burden districts also fell from 155 to 33, while 160 districts reported zero indigenous malaria cases between 2022 and 2025. She appreciated India's exit from the World Health Organization's High Burden to High Impact group in 2024.



Murmu called for stronger diagnosis, treatment, surveillance, mosquito control and research into new medicines and vaccines. She also highlighted challenges arising from climate change, unplanned urbanisation and insecticide resistance, stressing the need to eliminate mosquito breeding sites and improve environmental management.

Elimination by 2030

Union Health Minister J P Nadda congratulated the institute and expressed confidence in achieving malaria elimination by 2030. "We will eliminate malaria by 2030 by bringing about the necessary changes in our strategies and policies," he said, urging ICMR-NIMR to continue its efforts.

ICMR Director General Dr Rajiv Bahl highlighted the institute's research contributions since 1977 and stressed the goals of zero indigenous malaria cases by 2027 and elimination by 2030.

RATION CARD EXPANSION

Punjab announces 10 lakh new smart ration cards

CHANDIGARH

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Tuesday announced that 10 lakh new smart ration cards would be issued to needy families, expanding access to food security benefits across the state. The new beneficiaries will receive five kilograms of free wheat every month, along with Meri Rasoi ration kits containing essential food items.



Mann said the smart ration cards would be delivered directly to beneficiaries' homes. The doorstep distribution, he said, was intended to ensure that welfare assistance reached deserving households without making people face difficulties in obtaining their entitlements. He reiterated the state government's commitment to ensuring that no family goes hungry and that governance improves people's lives.

10 lakh
new smart ration cards, delivered home

5 kg
free wheat a month

In a statement, the Chief Minister said obtaining ration cards had earlier become difficult for ordinary people and that several genuine beneficiaries had lost their cards. He referred to the allocation of 1.48 crore ration cards to Punjab by the Central government and said around 10 lakh cards had been deleted.

The announcement is aimed at bringing additional needy households under the state's food assistance system. Under the plan, eligible families receiving the new cards will be entitled to a monthly supply of wheat and Meri Rasoi kits. The government said home delivery of the cards would make access to the scheme easier.

The announcement places food security and welfare delivery at the centre of the state government's latest initiative.

Quick Read



Rupee strengthens 31 paise against US dollar

Mumbai

The rupee strengthened by 31 paise to 93.63 against the US dollar in early trade on Tuesday, supported by falling crude oil prices, strong foreign fund inflows and gains in domestic stock markets. Forex traders said lower Brent crude prices eased concerns over India's import bill. Foreign institutional investors have invested more than $8 billion in Indian equities this month. The rupee had closed at 93.94 against the dollar on Monday, gaining 25 paise.

IIM Mumbai, Maharashtra govt sign policy MoU

Mumbai

IIM Mumbai has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Maharashtra government to strengthen public policy research, governance and evidence-based decision-making. The agreement covers 25 government policies and 26 schemes, aiming to improve cooperation between academic researchers and government officials. It will help strengthen the implementation and evaluation of public schemes and policies. The MoU was signed during a two-day orientation programme organised by the Maharashtra Technical Assistance Cell, IIM Mumbai said in a statement on Tuesday.

Mahindra expects strong farm equipment demand

New Delhi

Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd expects strong demand for farm equipment during the remaining months of the current financial year ending in March, a senior company official said on Tuesday. The world's largest tractor manufacturer by volume has recorded growth of over 30 per cent in its farm machinery business during the first seven months. The company also launched the Mahindra Harvest Yuva, a compact harvester designed for farmers with small and marginal landholdings, amid rising demand for farm mechanisation.

FM holds pre-Budget talks with MSMEs, startups

The consultations aimed to gather recommendations and set priorities for the Union Budget 2027-28, slated to be tabled on February 1.

NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday held consultations with representatives of MSMEs and startups to gather suggestions for the Union Budget 2027-28, scheduled to be presented next year.

The meeting was the fourth round of pre-Budget consultations organised by the Finance Ministry. It was attended by senior officials, including the Secretaries of the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) and Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, along with the Chief Economic Adviser.

The discussions provided an opportunity for representatives of small businesses and startups to share their expectations, concerns and recommendations for the upcoming Budget. The government conducts these consultations every year to understand the needs of different sectors and identify measures to support economic growth.



Pre-Budget consultations in a nutshell

> Nirmala Sitharaman held the fourth round of pre-Budget consultations with MSME and startup representatives.

> Discussions focused on expectations, concerns and suggestions for Budget 2027-28.

> Senior officials from the Finance Ministry, DPIIT and MSME Ministry attended.

> Earlier consultations covered manufacturing, industry and economic experts.

>Budget consultations aim to gather sectoral inputs and identify economic priorities.

>Union Budget 2027-28 is expected on February 1, 2027.

>Economic Survey likely on January 29 or 31, 2027.

Earlier, Sitharaman also chaired consultations with experts and industry representatives from the manufacturing sector. The meeting was attended by senior officials from the Department of Economic Affairs, DPIIT, Ministry of Mines and Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

On Monday, the Finance Minister chaired another round of discussions with economic experts and senior government officials as part of the Budget preparation process.

The annual consultations help the government collect suggestions from businesses, industry groups and experts before finalising its financial priorities and policy proposals.

The Union Budget 2027-28 is expected to be presented in Parliament on February 1, 2027. The Economic Survey, which reviews the country's economic performance and future outlook, is likely to be presented on January 29 or 31, 2027.

India's draft SAF policy expected within 2 weeks

NEW DELHI

India's draft Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) policy is expected to be released for public consultation within one to two weeks, Union Civil Aviation Minister K Rammohan Naidu said.

The draft has been shared with the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MOPNG) for its comments.

Speaking at the India Sustainable Aviation Fuel Summit, Naidu said the policy would encourage domestic production, improve coordination and promote public-private partnerships. It also proposes setting up a National Council on Sustainable Aviation Fuel to monitor and coordinate activities in the sector.

The Minister said India had the resources to develop different methods of producing SAF. The country has an estimated potential of 3.4 million metric tonnes of used cooking oil, annual ethanol production capacity of more than 1,800 crore litres and around 680 million metric tonnes of agricultural residue.

He said SAF could reduce



India plans to promote sustainable aviation fuel production, reduce aircraft emissions and strengthen its position in the global clean aviation fuel market

carbon emissions by up to 80 per cent compared with conventional jet fuel. It can also be used as an alternative to traditional aviation fuel, helping airlines reduce their environmental impact.Naidu said the policy would focus on improving the collection of raw materials, encouraging local production and creating reliable supply arrangements involving airlines, airports and oil marketing companies.

He described SAF as an economic opportunity for India to become a global producer, innovator and supplier.

Amazon plans $7 billion renewable energy investment

NEW DELHI

Amazon on Tuesday announced plans to invest an additional USD 7 billion in renewable energy projects in India by 2030, strengthening its commitment to clean energy and sustainability.

The investment will be in addition to the USD 4 billion already committed to renewable energy projects in the country, the company said.

Amazon also announced four new wind and solar projects with a combined capacity of 934 megawatts across Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. These include a 234 MW wind project and a 200 MW combined wind and solar project in Karnataka, a 300 MW solar project in



Madhya Pradesh and a 200 MW solar project in Rajasthan.

The projects have been secured through power purchase agreements and form part of the company's existing USD 4 billion investment portfolio. Once operational, Amazon's contracted renewable energy projects in India will have a combined capacity of more than 2 gigawatts, generating electricity equivalent to the annual needs of over 3.5 million households.

Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy Pralhad Joshi welcomed the investment, saying it would support India's clean energy goals, strengthen energy security and promote economic growth.

Amazon Chief Sustainability Officer Kara Hurst said the additional investment reflected the company's long-term commitment to expanding wind and solar power in India.

The company currently operates 14 large-scale wind and solar projects and 43 rooftop solar installations in India. It also plans to achieve net-zero carbon emissions across its global operations by 2040.

Bird flu scare hits Namakkal egg exports, prices

COIMBATORE

Egg exports from Namakkal have fallen sharply following a bird flu outbreak in Cuddalore, leading to order cancellations and a steep decline in procurement prices. Poultry farmers are now selling eggs below production costs, industry representatives said.

Importers in the UAE, Oman and South Africa have reportedly cancelled orders over concerns about the outbreak, although Namakkal's poultry farms remain unaffected. Higher freight charges and transport disruptions have added to the industry's difficulties.

According to the Tamil Nadu Egg Poultry Farmers Marketing Society, Namakkal was exporting around 25 crore eggs every month six months ago. Exports later declined to 15 crore eggs and have now dropped by another 50 per cent.

The National Egg Coordination Committee has reduced the procurement price to Rs 6 per egg from Rs 6.70. Farmers estimate the production cost at around Rs 6.50 per egg, resulting in losses.

Namakkal has more than 1,000 layer farms and produces approximately six crore eggs daily. Industry representatives said there was no accumulation of unsold eggs at farms so far.

The committee also attributed weaker domestic demand to Sashti fasting and the Sabarimala pilgrimage season. Meanwhile, farmers have increased biosecurity measures, including regular disinfection of poultry sheds, restrictions on visitors and sanitisation of vehicles entering farms.

Farmers said the affected birds in Cuddalore were broiler chickens, while Namakkal mainly raises layer birds for egg production. They expressed confidence that strict hygiene measures would help protect the region's poultry farms.

Sensex, Nifty extend gains as banking stocks rally

MUMBAI

Indian stock markets extended their gains on Tuesday, supported by strong foreign investor inflows and buying in banking shares. The Bank Nifty touched a fresh 52-week high during the session.

The Nifty 50 closed 96.30 points, or 0.38 per cent, higher at 25,387.40. The BSE Sensex gained 427.40 points, or 0.52 per cent, to settle at 82,532.19.

Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Investments, said Indian shares gained despite weakness in global markets, supported by foreign fund inflows and softer crude oil prices. Banking stocks led the rally, while automobile and public sector bank shares also recorded gains. Information technology stocks remained under pressure.

The Nifty 100 rose 0.44 per cent, while the Nifty Midcap 100 gained 0.24 per cent. However, the Nifty Smallcap 100 declined 0.19 per cent.

NVIDIA forms panel to oversee export controls

NEW DELHI

US chipmaker NVIDIA has formed a new board committee to strengthen oversight of national security policies, export controls and global trade risks amid growing restrictions on advanced artificial intelligence chips.

The company said its Board of Directors had established the National Security and Export Control Oversight Committee as a permanent body. NVIDIA's National Security and Global Trade Compliance teams will report directly to the committee and Interim CEO Colette Kress.The committee will be chaired by board director Suzanne Nora Johnson, with Stephen C. Neal and John O. Dabiri as members.

India's GDP growth may reach 7.7% next quarter

NEW DELHI

India's economy is expected to grow by 7.3% in FY2026-27, with growth likely to accelerate further next quarter, according to EAC-PM Chairman S Mahendra Dev.

Speaking to source on the sidelines of the JRD Tata Awards 2026 on Tuesday, Dev expressed confidence in the country's economic outlook. He said strong exports, wider export markets and improving foreign investment inflows would support economic growth.

Dev projected that India's GDP would expand by around 7.7% in the next quarter. He said the country's export performance was expected to remain strong throughout the financial year, supported by efforts to reach new international markets.

India has set a target of achieving USD 1 trillion in exports during FY2026-27. Dev said the positive export performance recorded between April and September, as well as in October, was expected to continue in November and the following months.

He also said foreign direct investment (FDI) was returning to India, while foreign portfolio investment (FPI) was witnessing fresh inflows. According to him, foreign investment would complement domestic investment and help increase the country's export capacity.

Dev highlighted the importance of grassroots entrepreneurship in strengthening the economy.

Telangana Invites Gujarat Investors for Growth Partnership

AHMEDABAD

Telangana has invited Gujarat-based businesses to invest in the state, offering opportunities across industries as it works towards becoming a USD 3-trillion economy by 2047.

IT, Electronics and Communications, and Industries and Commerce Minister D. Sridhar Babu made the appeal while addressing industry leaders at the Invest Telangana Global Summit 2026 roadshow in Ahmedabad on Monday. The event was organised by the Telangana government in association with FICCI.

Under its Telangana Rising 2047 vision, the state aims to become a USD 1-trillion economy by 2034 and a USD 3-trillion economy by 2047. Sridhar Babu invited Gujarat entrepreneurs to explore investment opportunities and participate in the global summit scheduled from December 7 to 9 at Bharat Future City.

He said Gujarat's entrepreneurs had established strong industrial businesses, many of which were already operating in Telangana. He assured investors of opportunities to expand their businesses in the state.

During the visit, the Minister held individual meetings with representatives of Gujarat-based companies in energy, pharmaceuticals, textiles, chemicals, food processing and technology. Discussions focused on new investments and expanding existing business partnerships.The state is developing three economic zones to promote balanced growth: CURE (Core Urban Region Economy), PURE (Peri-Urban Region Economy) and RARE (Rural and Agri Region Economy).

DAIRY MARGIN OUTLOOK

Dairy margins set for improvement in H2FY27

NEW DELHI

Profit margins of Indian dairy companies are expected to improve in the second half of FY27 as milk procurement cost increases appear to have peaked and price hikes support earnings, according to a Yes Securities report.

The report said the second quarter of FY27 marked the start of recovery for dairy companies. Revenue growth remained strong, while operating margins were stable or improved from the previous quarter, despite higher procurement costs.



Several companies increased selling prices. Dodla Dairy raised prices by Rs 2.50 per litre, while Milky Mist introduced hikes of around 10 per cent. However, only 1.5 to 2 per cent of the increase was reflected in Milky Mist's second-quarter earnings, the report said.

Cooperative dairies raised prices. Aavin increased the price paid to farmers by about Rs 6 per litre in August. The Karnataka Milk Federation raised consumer prices by Rs 8 per litre from November 1. Amul increased milk prices by Rs 2 to Rs 4 per litre from November 12.

Yes Securities said procurement prices were stabilising rather than falling. This is expected to help companies reflect the impact of selling price increases in the coming quarters, making H2FY27 an important period for margin recovery.

The report pointed to opportunities for organised dairy businesses. Most of India's dairy market remains unorganised, leaving room for growth in branded and packaged products and cold-chain services.

Festive demand for ghee and milk fats could provide support, while improved supply during the flush season may offer additional benefits.

Remal strengthens specialised aluminium billet manufacturing capabilities

MUMBAI

Remal Alcast is expanding its specialised aluminium billet manufacturing capabilities to support India's growing demand from aerospace, defence, automotive, renewable energy and construction industries.

The company began billet production in 2025 at its integrated manufacturing facility in Vile Bhagad, Maharashtra. The plant operates under AS9100D, ISO 45001, ISO 14001 and ISO 9001:2015 certifications. It produces aluminium billets across the 1xxx, 2xxx, 3xxx, 4xxx, 5xxx, 6xxx and 7xxx alloy series.

Instead of focusing on ordinary aluminium products, Remal is developing specialised alloys with specific strength, performance and quality requirements. Ram Sandipam Adhikary, Vice President – Business Development and Technical, said the company aims to improve product consistency, processing efficiency and performance under high temperatures.

The company's AS9100D certification supports its plans to serve the aerospace and defence sectors. India continues to depend on imports for a significant share of aerospace-grade aluminium alloys.

Quick Read

Taliban leader makes rare Kabul visit

KABUL

Taliban supreme leader Hibatullah Akhundzada visited Kabul on Tuesday to address a university conference on the impact of his orders. He rarely travels to the capital and has ruled Afghanistan by decree from Kandahar for more than five years. Speaking at Kabul University, he urged people to learn how the Taliban government works. Local authorities set up checkpoints around the campus, and AFP journalists saw snipers on nearby rooftops. Staff and students said the university had been closed since Sunday, while nearby residents reported searches of their homes.

Treasury yields steady before retail report

NEW YORK

The 10-year US Treasury yield held near 5.1% on Tuesday as investors awaited October retail sales figures. Economists cited by CNBC expected sales to rise 0.6%, down from 0.8% in September. Stronger sales could make a December interest rate increase more likely. Traders were pricing in a 95% chance of a quarter-point increase, according to CME Group's FedWatch tool. Investors were also watching for public comments from Federal Reserve officials on Tuesday and minutes due Wednesday from the October meeting, when the central bank kept interest rates unchanged.

Nvidia warns buyers over China access

WASHINGTON

Nvidia has warned chip buyers that a proposed US law could expose them and the company to legal action over Chinese firms' remote access to its AI chips, CNBC reported Tuesday. The Remote Access Security Act would let the Commerce Department restrict Chinese firms from renting computing power at overseas data centres. CNBC said Nvidia would pause sales to customers that rent more than half their graphics processors to Chinese firms.

London clash injures 5 after Bangladeshi reception

LONDON

At least five people were injured in east London on Monday night after a reception for Nahid Islam, a leader of Bangladesh's National Citizen Party. The clashes broke out outside Mayfair Hall in Romford as people were leaving the event. IANS reported that police used batons several times to break up the crowd and that five injured people were receiving treatment at King's College Hospital. On Tuesday, Islam blamed Awami League activists for the attack in a social media post.

Fighter jet crash kills pilot near Belgrade

BELGRADE

A Serbian military pilot died on Tuesday when his MiG-29 fighter jet crashed into a field northwest of Belgrade, Serbia's defence ministry said. The ministry identified him as Maj. Goran Bulajić, 53, who joined the armed forces in 1996. The jet went down at about 8:45 a.m. local time near Stara Pazova. It formed a special commission to investigate the crash.

Zurutuza warns of risks for Balochistan reporters

Spanish journalist Karlos Zurutuza told a conference in Germany that threats against journalists help keep Balochistan out of international news.



Protesters raise chained hands at a demonstration (file picture)

GERMANY

Spanish journalist Karlos Zurutuza told a conference in Germany that Balochistan rarely makes international news and that reporting on the region can put journalists and their families in danger.

Speaking at an event held by the Baloch National Movement to mark Baloch Martyrs' Day, Zurutuza said he can no longer visit Balochistan and rarely has a chance to meet Baloch people in Spain. He plans to keep covering the region through phone interviews and meetings at conferences. He said international news outlets often cover armed groups active in the area, while the experiences of Baloch communities in the region receive little attention.

He told the audience that if he were able to return, he would still have to weigh the risks to the people helping him. Because he does not speak Balochi, Urdu or Farsi, he would need local guides and interpreters. He said they could face harassment or jail for helping a foreign reporter.

An attack in Quetta

In a 2023 report for Inter Press Service, Zurutuza described the assault of New York Times correspondent Carlotta Gall in Quetta in 2006. He reported that the men who attacked her claimed they were police officers and accused her of being in the city without permission.

At the conference, Zurutuza cited figures from Freedom Network that put the number of journalists killed in Balochistan over the past two decades at 40 or more. He said reporters have faced threats against their families and that pressure on editors can lead journalists to leave sensitive details out of their stories.

Zurutuza urged journalists to help local reporters protect their messages and find editors willing to publish their work. He said those connections could give stories from Balochistan a better chance of reaching readers abroad.

40+

journalists killed in Balochistan over the past two decades, Freedom Network figures show

Shafi Burfat calls for Sindh to secede



Burfat said Pakistan's policies threaten Sindhi identity and urged residents to unite over control of their land, water and resources.

GERMANY

Shafi Burfat, chairman of Jeay Sindh Muttahida Mahaz (JSMM), has called for Sindh to break away from Pakistan and become an independent state called Sindhudesh.

In a statement on X, he argued that staying within Pakistan threatened the Sindhi people's identity and the unity of their homeland.

Burfat traced his grievances to 1947, when British rule ended and Sindh became part of Pakistan. He pointed to the One Unit scheme, which grouped the provinces of West Pakistan into a single administrative unit, and the changes that followed.

He argued that government policies over the years had weakened Sindh's ability to govern itself and protect its language and culture.

He also accused authorities of making decisions about the Indus River, the province's coastline and islands, and the Karoonjhar mountains without the consent of people in Sindh. He said disputes over how water is shared and who controls farmland and other resources were among the reasons he was pressing for independence.

Burfat claimed that settlement from outside Sindh had been used to weaken the political influence of Sindhis in the province. He warned against any move to divide Sindh into separate administrative units and dismissed promises of greater provincial control.

Invoking the ideas of Sindhi nationalist leader GM Syed, Burfat urged people across the province to organise around the demand for independence. He said his movement's vision for Sindhudesh included rights and security for all communities living in Sindh. He ended by calling on supporters, including young people, to take part in a political campaign that he said would protect the province's unity, preserve its culture and give residents control over their own land and water.

Quad leaders return to talks in Manila

MANILA

Leaders from India, Australia, Japan and the United States were due to meet in Manila on Tuesday for their first Quad summit since Donald Trump returned to the White House. The four countries last held an in-person summit in September 2024 in Wilmington, Delaware, when Joe Biden was US president.

The White House scheduled the talks for 6:30 p.m. local time at Solaire Resort, or 4 p.m. in India. The leaders were due to greet one another and pose for photographs ten minutes before the meeting. The White House schedule gave no details about what they would discuss.

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese confirmed the meeting and said Australia wanted to see fewer conflicts around the world. He pointed to the economic strain that the war in Iran had placed on countries across the region.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi planned to attend the ASEAN-India Summit and the East Asia Summit in Manila. Before leaving for the Philippines, he said India's ties with Southeast Asian countries were central to its Act East Policy. He highlighted trade, transport links, maritime security and technology as areas where they could work together.

The four countries' foreign ministers had set out plans for closer cooperation at an October 31 meeting in Atlanta. They proposed more than $85 million in funding and technical help to expand access to trusted artificial intelligence in the Indo-Pacific. They welcomed a $10 million US pledge to help India and Southeast Asian countries recover critical minerals from waste.

The road to Manila

- **SEPT 2024** — Last in-person summit, in Wilmington, Delaware
- **OCT 31** — Foreign ministers meet in Atlanta
- **TUESDAY** — Leaders meet in Manila

Rights group demands answers in girl's death

ISLAMABAD

A rights group has called for a prompt, independent inquiry after a 13-year-old girl died at an official residence in Islamabad's Police Lines in Sector H-11. The Human Rights Council of Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir said investigators should examine allegations that she was subjected to violence and made to do housework.

In a statement on X, the council said the girl's father filed a complaint and that officers at Shams Colony Police Station registered a case. The council said the police report recorded signs of violence on her body. It urged investigators to review the autopsy findings and medical records to determine how she died and whether any injuries contributed to her death.

The council asked Pakistan's Interior Ministry to appoint investigators with no personal or professional ties to the officials involved. It also urged them to examine claims that the girl's family was pressured to drop the case in exchange for money.

The group called on authorities to keep evidence safe, protect the family and witnesses from threats, and tell the family how the investigation is progressing. It said anyone found responsible should face legal action, regardless of their position.

The council also asked the federal government to strengthen oversight of domestic work involving children and make sure complaints are handled quickly. It said children should be able to live safely and go to school, and urged authorities to act on complaints before more children are harmed.

What the council wants

1. Investigators with no ties to the officials involved
2. A review of the autopsy and medical records
3. Protection for the family and witnesses

China seeks equal footing with US in Shenzhen talks



Donald Trump and Xi Jinping (file picture)

HONG KONG

Beijing wants to be seen as Washington's equal

Chinese President Xi Jinping is preparing to host US President Donald Trump in Shenzhen this week, with Beijing keen to be seen as Washington's equal in talks on trade and global security.

Trump is due to arrive on Wednesday for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit and is expected to meet Xi and Russian President Vladimir Putin together.

Tariffs, access to advanced computer chips and efforts to curb the spread of nuclear weapons are among the issues facing the leaders. In September, China's Foreign Ministry said Beijing and Washington had agreed to seek a more stable relationship based on respect, fairness and a willingness to respond in kind.

Fu Xiaoqiang, head of the China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations, argued in an October article that the approach could set limits on competition while protecting China's main interests and leaving room for cooperation. Analysts J. Michael Dahm and M Reece Breaux wrote that Beijing sees Washington's apparent acceptance of that approach as a diplomatic gain.

The planned meeting with Putin would also give Xi a chance to discuss security with both leaders at the same table.

Dhaka garment workers rally for higher pay



Garment workers protest for higher pay

DHAKA

Garment workers in Dhaka's Mirpur area protested to demand a minimum wage of 30,000 taka a month, more than twice the current rate of 12,500 taka.

Police stopped demonstrators from blocking roads in Mirpur as workers in other industrial areas also pressed for higher pay.

In Hemayetpur, in the nearby industrial area of Savar, a group of workers gathered at Padmar Mor at about 3 pm on Monday, according to reports. Police asked the workers to leave the road, and the group dispersed without further incident.

Industrial police said about 40 factories in Savar and Ashulia were closed on Monday. Of those, 27 were shut under a provision of Bangladesh's labour law, nine were closed with no reopening date, and the rest were observing general holidays.

The protests are part of a wider wage dispute in the garment industry. Workers have repeatedly raised concerns about both pay and working conditions. The Minimum Wage Board has postponed its meeting to Nov. 23, leaving workers waiting for further talks on the proposed increase.

MINIMUM WAGE NOW	▸	WORKERS DEMAND
12,500 taka a month		30,000 taka a month

Manila Sikhs welcome Modi's support for rebuilding gurdwara

MANILA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for the rebuilding of Manila's Gurdwara Khalsa Diwan on Tuesday. The head of the Sikh place of worship's committee welcomed the visit and said it showed Modi's support for the Sikh community in the Philippines. Modi met members of Manila's Sikh community there.

Manjinder James Kumar, the committee head, told ANI that Modi asked how long the work would take and whether the committee needed help. Kumar said he expected the new building to take two years to complete. He also thanked the Indian Embassy for helping the committee.

Oldest in the Philippines

India's Ministry of External Affairs said the institution dates to 1901 and is the oldest gurdwara in the Philippines. It was officially registered as Khalsa Diwan in 1924. The gurdwara has served as a place for worship, cultural activities and charitable work in Manila.

The committee plans to replace the current building with a five-storey complex. The plans include parking, a hall for community events and space for the langar, a kitchen that serves free meals. The main prayer hall will be on the top floor.

Demolition and construction are expected to cost about 305 million Philippine pesos. The committee expects donations from Sikh and Indian communities to cover most of the cost. When the work is finished, the new building will give worshippers a dedicated prayer space and provide rooms for the meals and gatherings that bring people together.

DID YOU KNOW?

Founded in 1901 and registered in 1924, Manila's Khalsa Diwan is the oldest gurdwara in the Philippines.

ASEAN AI DECLARATION

ASEAN backs affordable AI for small businesses

MANILA

Southeast Asian leaders have agreed to help smaller businesses use artificial intelligence by making tools more affordable and giving owners and workers a chance to learn how to use them. Leaders adopted the declaration on Nov. 15 at the 49th summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in Manila.

The Philippines led the effort, which covers micro, small and medium enterprises. The declaration asks member countries to work with technology firms, startups and universities to offer lower cost AI tools, online computing services and training in digital skills. It also calls for better internet access in places where weak connections make it harder for businesses to use online services.

For a shop owner, AI could help track stock or answer common customer questions. An online seller could use it to reach more buyers. But many smaller firms lack the money or technical skills to get started. The declaration gives special attention to businesses run by women and those in rural areas and other communities with limited access to digital services.

Leaders also called for safeguards as more firms use the technology. They urged businesses to protect personal information, keep their systems safe and be clear about how they use AI. The declaration stresses that people should still oversee the tools and the decisions they help make.

The Philippines will work with other member countries and the ASEAN Secretariat to report on progress under a related action plan.

Lower-cost AI tools | **Better internet access** | **Women-led firms first**



BYE... MAHI

19 SEASONS, 5 TITLES: Dhoni bids farewell to IPL

MS Dhoni retires after 19 IPL seasons, leaving behind five titles and a lasting legacy, while taking up CSK's mentoring role.



NEW DELHI

Former India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni has announced his retirement from the Indian Premier League (IPL) after 19 seasons, bringing an end to an extraordinary playing career. Chennai Super Kings (CSK) confirmed on Tuesday that the 45-year-old will take up the role of Team Mentor ahead of the 2027 season. Dhoni began his IPL journey in 2008 and became one of the tournament's most influential players.

CSK owner N Srinivasan praised Dhoni's contribution to the franchise, saying, "There is no CSK without MS Dhoni." He recalled insisting on signing Dhoni during the inaugural auction in 2008 and described it as one of his best decisions. Under Dhoni's captaincy, CSK won five IPL titles in 2010, 2011, 2018, 2021 and 2023, along with two Champions League T20 trophies.

During his IPL career, Dhoni played 278 matches, scoring 5,439 runs at an average of 38.30 and a strike rate of 137.45. His record includes 24 half-centuries and 264 sixes. He also played two seasons for Rising Pune Supergiant in 2016 and 2017, when CSK was suspended. He returned in 2018 and led the team to another title.

Dhoni handed over the captaincy to Ruturaj Gaikwad before the 2024 season but continued playing. His last IPL appearance came against Gujarat Titans in 2025. A calf injury kept him out of the 2026 season. His new role will see him guide young players and support CSK's coaching team led by Zaheer Khan.

Beyond the IPL, Dhoni led India to three major ICC titles: the 2007 T20 World Cup, 2011 ODI World Cup and 2013 Champions Trophy. Though his playing career has ended, his journey with Chennai Super Kings will continue in a new role.



Dhoni takes over as CSK mentor

Former Chennai Super Kings captain MS Dhoni will begin a new chapter with the franchise as its mentor from IPL 2027, following his decision to retire from professional cricket. He will work alongside newly appointed head coach Zaheer Khan to help the five-time champions regain their winning form.Dhoni's departure as a player follows three disappointing seasons for CSK. He stepped down as captain before the 2024 edition but continued playing in subsequent seasons. Speculation about his retirement had continued since Chennai secured their fifth IPL title in 2023. His experience and leadership will now be crucial in rebuilding the team.



IPL PLAYERS SWITCH

Shami Joins Rajasthan, Curran Moves to Lucknow

Indian pacer Mohammed Shami has been traded from Lucknow Super Giants to Rajasthan Royals for Rs 8 crore ahead of IPL 2027. Left-arm spinner M Siddharth also joins Rajasthan for Rs 75 lakh, while England all-rounder Sam Curran moves to Lucknow Super Giants for Rs 2.4 crore.

11 academy players earn India U17 Call-Ups

NEW DELHI



Eleven players from the AIFF-FIFA-Odisha Talent Academy in Bhubaneswar have earned places in India's squad for the AFC U17 Asian Cup 2027 Qualifiers, highlighting the academy's growing role in developing young footballers. The Blue Colts have made a start to the campaign, winning both their opening matches and scoring 16 goals, according to the All-India Football Federation.

The selected players are goalkeepers Maroof Shafi and Newtan Irengbam; defenders Jinesh Thoudam, Lawmsangzuala, Leo Thongbam, Maldino Singh Yumnam and Malsawmtluanga; midfielders Henthoiba Keisam and R Lawmsangzuala; and forwards Kamgouhao Doungel and Felix Meitei Saikhom. Their selection reflects the academy's progress over the past two seasons. Three academy players represented India at the FIFA U15 World Cup and Festival in Azerbaijan in 2026. Six featured in the SAFF U17 Championship in Sri Lanka last season, while four later played at the AFC U17 Asian Cup in Saudi Arabia.

The academy operates through a partnership between the AIFF and the Odisha Government under FIFA's Talent Development Scheme. After an initial two-year agreement, the partners renewed their collaboration for another five years. The programme combines football coaching with residential and educational support, access to natural grass pitches and sports science services at the Abhinav Bindra Targeting Performance Centre. Competitions such as the Kalinga Arrows Cup and the state government's CM Trophy also help identify promising players and provide match experience.

Bhupendra Singh Poonia, Commissioner-cum-Secretary of Odisha's Department of Sports and Youth Services, said the players' progress showed the value of sustained government support and institutional cooperation. AIFF Deputy Secretary General M Satyanarayan also thanked the state government, saying such partnerships were essential to building a strong pathway for the next generation of Indian footballers.

Alonso Returns To Dakar With Aston Martin

NEW DELHI

Fernando Alonso will return to the Dakar Rally in January 2027 with Aston Martin. The two-time Formula One champion will drive the Aston Martin Dreadnought, making his first appearance in the rally since his 2020 debut. The event runs from January 9 to 23, starting in Portugal before crossing Morocco and the Sahara Desert. The rally is among motorsport's toughest off-road tests worldwide.

Alonso will compete alongside nine-time World Rally Champion Sebastien Loeb and reigning World Rally Raid Champion Lucas Moraes. Marc Coma, a five-time Dakar motorcycle category winner, will again serve as his co-driver. Coma partnered Alonso during his first Dakar appearance, when the Spaniard finished 13th overall.

Alonso said he considered the challenge after deciding to continue in Formula One with Aston Martin. "In the end, the decision became simple. I wanted to embrace the challenge completely and take on both Formula 1 and the Dakar Rally in the same year," he said. He described his 2020 participation as one of the most challenging and enjoyable experiences of his career and praised its highly experienced specialists.

The Spaniard said having Coma alongside him again was important and praised the team assembled by Aston Martin, Prodrive, Loeb and Moraes. He also said Formula One would remain his priority. Alonso will return to preparations for the 2027 F1 campaign after the rally, with pre-season testing scheduled for February and the season beginning in March.

Alonso competed in the Dakar during his two-year break from Formula One between 2019 and 2020. During that period, he also took part in the Indianapolis 500 and won the World Endurance Championship. His return will see him balance two racing programmes in the same year.





Sachin Tendulkar donates 25 iconic bats to museum

MUMBAI

Cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar has donated 25 of his iconic cricket bats to the MCA Sharad Pawar Cricket Museum at Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai. The collection, presented on Monday in the presence of Mumbai Cricket Association president Ajinkya Naik, traces important moments from his 24-year international career. The bats include one he received as an unexpected gift during childhood, a brand-new bat he used to score a double century in Gwalior and the one from his final Test innings against the West Indies at Wankhede Stadium in 2013.

Calling the bat an extension of his body, Tendulkar said, "I've said that it (the cricket bat) is an extension of my body. So, I'm giving you a part of my body. Please take care of it." The display, titled Bharat Ratna: A Batography, preserves the memories and stories behind his treasured cricket equipment.



Manu Bhaker Elected To ISSF Athletes Committee

NEW DELHI

Double Olympic medallist Manu Bhaker has been elected to the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Athletes Committee for the 2026–2030 term, giving India representation in the global shooting body's athlete leadership. The National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) confirmed her election after receiving an official communication from the ISSF. The election followed online voting among active international shooters during two major competitions: the ISSF World Championship 300m Rifle in Cairo, Egypt, and the World Championship for Rifle, Pistol and Shotgun in Doha, Qatar. Bhaker was among six athletes selected from 22 candidates representing 20 national federations. Two representatives were elected from each of the three disciplines: rifle, pistol and shotgun. The ISSF Executive Committee will nominate the remaining members to complete the committee.

Bhaker expressed gratitude to fellow shooters for placing their trust in her. She said her experience as an athlete had helped her understand the challenges faced by competitors, including the need for clear rules, proper schedules and stronger support systems.

"With this new responsibility, I'm committed to ensuring the voices of all athletes are heard, grooming talent at the grassroots level, and working together to take our entire shooting fraternity to greater heights," she said.

The NRAI welcomed her appointment, stating that it would strengthen India's voice in international shooting and athlete representation.

Alcaraz Opens ATP finals with dominant victory



TURIN

Spanish tennis star Carlos Alcaraz began his ATP Finals campaign with a commanding 6-2, 6-2 victory over American Frances Tiafoe in their opening round-robin match in Turin on Monday. The second-seeded player needed just 69 minutes to secure the win and take an early lead in the Ivan Lendl Group.

Alcaraz started strongly, racing to a 4-0 advantage in the opening set. He maintained his momentum in the second, saving three break points at 3-2 before closing the match comfortably on serve. The victory extended his head-to-head advantage over Tiafoe to 3-1.

Speaking after the match, Alcaraz said he was feeling better than ever at this stage of the season. "I would say this is the best I have felt so far in my career at this part of the season," he said. He added that time away from competition had helped him return with renewed energy and ambition.

The 23-year-old is making his fourth appearance at the year-end championship. His best result came last year, when he finished runner-up to Jannik Sinner. Alcaraz entered this year's tournament after winning consecutive titles in Paris and Vienna. He is now chasing his 30th career tour-level title and sixth championship of the season.

After missing four months due to a wrist injury, Alcaraz returned at the US Open in August and has won 20 of his 22 matches since then. He will next face Daniil Medvedev and Flavio Cobolli in the group stage. Meanwhile, Tiafoe is making his debut at the ATP Finals after a strong season that included a title at Halle.

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