



Hidma carried a collective bounty of over ₹1 crore; others killed include Hidma's wife Rajakka, Chelluri Narayana, Suresh SZCM, and Tech Shankar

'Ghost of Bastar' Hidma among 6 gunned down in AP

MAREDEMILLI (AP)

In a major breakthrough in the ongoing anti-Naxal operations, six Maoists, including Madvi Hidma, who heads the People's Liberation Guerrilla Army (PLGA) Battalion 1 of the Maoists, were killed in a pre-dawn encounter with forces in Andhra Pradesh's Alluri Sitaramaju district on Tuesday, said a police official.

As per reports, the other Maoists killed in the encounter include Hidma's wife Madagam Rajee, Lakmal, Kamlu, Malla, and Deve. Officials have recovered firearms, including two AK-47, one pistol and a revolver. A native of South Bastar, Hidma carried a collective bounty of over Rs 1 crore from multiple states.

Alluri Sitarama Raju district SP Amit Bardar said the encounter broke out between 6.30 am and 7 am in the dense Pullagandi forests located at the tri-junction of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Telangana under Mareduhilli mandal. "A joint operation was carried out by various wings of the police depart-

FRESH BLOW TO MAOISTS



ment. Six Maoists have been killed in the encounter in Alluri district today (Tuesday)," he said.

A few maoists ran away during the encounter and the security forces are keeping a vigil on Vijayawada, NTR, Kakinada and other areas, said a police official. He further said the security forces have arrested 31 people, of which nine are security guards of central committee members and the remaining are from a battalion in South Bastar.

Hidma was accused of orchestrat-

ing major attacks, including the 2010 Dantewada massacre that killed 76 CRPF personnel, the 2013 Jhiram Ghati attack that claimed 27 lives including senior Congress leaders, and the 2021 Sukma-Bijapur ambush in which 22 security personnel died.

With the banned outfit already reeling under leadership crisis following continued actions by the CRPF's CoBRA commandos, and mass surrenders exceeding 1,300 in 2025 alone, Hidma's elimination signals the near-end of LWE armed resistance.

'Quick-footed guerrilla'

"Hidma was quick-footed, sharp, and absorbed guerrilla training with uncanny speed," according to former DVCMD Badarna, who recruited him. He learned to sing revolutionary songs, use traditional instruments, administer first aid and prepare herbal medicines. He was married even before joining the outfit, and after rising through its ranks, married again, his second wife, Rajakka, often accompanying him, he added.

A dozen attempts, over 100 martyrdoms

Security forces tried to corner Hidma at least half a dozen times and over 100 soldiers were mar-tyred in these attempts. Each time, he evaded arrest by disappearing into the jungle. With four to five layers of armed security circling him, he was almost impossible to trace.

Who was Hidma?

Madvi Hidma, known by aliases like Hidmalu and Santosh, was born at Purvati village in Sukma district of Chhattisgarh. He was one of the most wanted Maoist leaders linked to orchestrating some of the most deadliest insurgency attacks in the recent history. He rose through the Maoist ranks and became a prime member of the Bastar and Dantewada Dal. He joined the Maoist Central Committee at a young age and was known for his role as a key strategist in guerrilla warfare. He was made the commander of the People's Liberation Guerrilla Army and soon became a member of the Dandakaranya Special Zonal Committee.

Tips on Hidma's movements came from close aide

Hidma's close aide, Oyam Lakhmu, who was surrendered in October, had revealed that Hidma had crossed into Telangana with around 250 trusted cadres after evading a major operation earlier in the year. Lakhmu was Battalion No. 1 member of the People's Liberation Guerrilla Army (PLGA). Acting on this tip-off, the security made a coordinated effort and sealed Hidma's fate. During the operation, the panicked Hidma reportedly moved into a vulnerable spot along the Chhattisgarh border, where security forces gunned him down.

Hidma killed 12 days ahead of Amit Shah's deadline

At a security review meeting, Union Home Minister Amit Shah had earlier set a deadline of March 31, 2026, to eliminate Maoists in the country. Shah had also told the top security officials engaged in anti-Naxal operations to eliminate Hidma before November 30. But, the security forces eliminated him 12 days prior to set time.

ED raids gaming firms in B'luru, Delhi

NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate's Bengaluru Zonal office on Tuesday launched coordinated searches against two online gaming companies in connection with allegations of cheating, manipulation and possible money laundering.

Officials said a total of 11 locations are being searched, including five premises in Bengaluru, four in Delhi and two in Gurugram. The raids, being conducted under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), cover the companies' corporate offices as well as the residences of their key managerial personnel, including their CEOs, COOs and CFOs.

The action stems from FIRs filed by several victims who alleged that the platforms had manipulated their gaming algorithms to create an unfair disadvantage for players, enabling the companies to unlawfully profit. During the searches, officials said they have unearthed that "promoters are owning crypto wallets, indicating laundering through digital assets. The agency is examining financial records, technical data and crypto transactions to assess the extent of alleged illegal gains and the possible violation of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

Video justifies suicide attack as 'martyrdom op'

NEW DELHI

Jammu and Kashmir Police have recovered a mobile phone of the Red Fort suicide bomber, Dr Umar-un-Nabi, and the extracted data has provided chilling evidence to show that he had prepared a video justifying the suicide attack as a 'martyrdom operation'.

The critical evidence was unearthed after the detention and subsequent inter-

rogation of Zahoor Illahi, brother of Umar who was driving the explosive-laden car that blasted outside Red Fort on November 10 killing 15 people, officials said on Tuesday.

Illahi was picked up by a special team formed by Senior Superintendent of Police (Srinagar) G V Sundeeep Chakravarthy as the entire white-collar terror module conspiracy began to unravel.



DELHI BLAST

Wani remanded in 10-day NIA custody

NEW DELHI: Jasir Bilal Wani, key associate of the alleged suicide bomber Dr Umar un Nabi, in the Red Fort car blast that claimed 15 lives, was sent to 10 days' NIA custody. Principal District and Sessions Judge Anju Bajaj Chandna allowed the NIA's plea seeking custodial interrogation of the accused. The proceedings were 'in camera' as the mediapersons were barred from entering the court premises. Police and Rapid Action Force were deployed in the court premises, and several personnel were on standby in anti-riot gear. Kashmiri resident Wani was arrested in Srinagar on November 17. The investigations found that Jasir had allegedly provided technical support for carrying out attacks by modifying drones and attempting to make rockets ahead of the deadly car bomb blast.

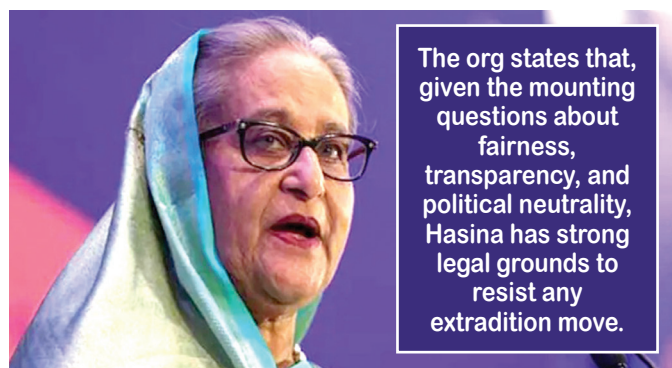
'DEEPLY FLAWED'

ICJ to move UN over Hasina's death sentence

NEW DELHI

The International Council of Jurists (ICJ) will approach the UN Human Rights Committee seeking urgent intervention to protect former Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's right to life and fair trial, amid widespread global concern over the death sentence issued against her by Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal.

In a strong statement, ICJ President Adish C Aggarwala condemned the verdict, calling the trial process deeply flawed, opaque, and inconsistent with international human rights standards. The ICJ confirmed that it will soon file an



The org states that, given the mounting questions about fairness, transparency, and political neutrality, Hasina has strong legal grounds to resist any extradition move.

urgent appeal before the UN body to safeguard Hasina's fundamental rights.

The ICJ, headquartered in London with offices in New Delhi, is an independent global legal body committed to strengthening democratic in-

stitutions and ensuring justice worldwide, and is entirely distinct from both the International Court of Justice and the International Commission of Jurists.

The organisation emphasised that, given the mounting

questions about fairness, transparency, and political neutrality, Sheikh Hasina has strong legal grounds to resist any extradition move.

According to Aggarwala, multiple reports indicate that Hasina was denied adequate legal representation, provided no meaningful opportunity to defend herself, and subjected to a process marred by speed, secrecy, and serious procedural irregularities. These defects, he said, undermine the legitimacy of the verdict and create the perception of a politically driven outcome. "A death sentence must be rooted in transparent proceedings and clear evidence," Aggarwala added.

BENGALURU TECH SUMMIT 2025



Karnataka most reliable investment destination: CM

BENGALURU

The state government's clear policies, easy permissions, skills, infrastructure and supportive environment have made Karnataka the most reliable investment destination in India, said Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

He was speaking at the inauguration of the 28th edition of the Bengaluru Tech Summit 2025, organised by the Department of Electronics, Information Technology and Biotechnology, Software Technology Parks of India, in the city on Tuesday.

'Formulation of key policies, a historic step'

The CM said in this summit, a historic step has been taken by formulating three key policies namely Karnataka Information Technology Policy 2025-2030, Space Technology Policy 2025-2030, and Startup Policy 2025-2030.

With the Technology Policy, which is data-driven and complementary to modern technology, the government aims to make the state a global hub for innovation and deep tech. The Space Technology Policy will contribute to our goal of transforming Karnataka into a leading

Siddaramaiah called upon investors to make use of the abundant tech investment opportunities that Karnataka, which leads global tech revolution, offer.

space technology hub of India by 2034. With the new startup policy, the government aims to help establish 25,000 start-ups in the next five years through measures such as capital assistance, market access, infrastructure, and skill development, he said.

'A platform for transformational change'

More than a conference, the Summit is a platform for new ideas, conversations, investment, innovation and transformational change, Siddaramaiah said and hoped that this three-day conference will write a new preface as a global platform for many great opportunities.

'Sustainable Development our motto'

'We reaffirm our belief that technology should enable social good, economic justice, sustainable development, and prosperity for all in society, as the slogan states. We stand in

a digital era, driven by artificial intelligence, quantum, biotech, space and green technologies.

The Bangalore Technology Summit-2025 is Karnataka's invitation to the entire world to co-create a bold, humane and transformative future," the Chief Minister said.

Siddaramaiah said, "For decades, Bengaluru has been known as the Silicon Valley of India. But today, it is proud to say that it has grown to become an even bigger, global hub at the forefront of innovation, talent, research and technological leadership. Karnataka's growth as a technology powerhouse is no accident; it is the result of visionary policies, deep institutional strength and an ecosystem that nurtures creativity and excellence at every level."

"I proudly say that Karnataka is the Gyankashi. Karnataka is home to 85 universities, 243 engineering colleges and around 1,800 ITIs. The state's unemployment rate is only 4.3%, which highlights the state's robust productivity and employment opportunities," he said. "Bengaluru is a magnet for entrepreneurial energy. I am proud to say that the state contributes about 47% to India's total startup fund." the CM added.

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Bus tragedy: Indian Mission sets up camp office in Medina

HYDERABAD

The Consulate General of India in Jeddah has set a camp office in Madina to aid the families of Indian Umrah pilgrims who were killed in a bus-fuel tanker collision in Saudi Arabia on Monday.

In a social media post, the Consulate confirmed that it has set up the camp office in the Indian Haj Pilgrims Office in Madina.

At least 45 Indians, including 20 women and 11 children, died in the deadly collision. The lone survivor, Shoaeb is under medical treatment. Shoaeb managed to escape by jumping out of the bus after breaking the



window, sustaining burns in his hands. The mission in a separate post stated that the Consul General Fahad Ahmed Khan Suri met Abdul Shoaeb Mohammed at Madina hospital.

"Concerned hospital authorities have informed that the best possible medical care is being provided to him. Consulate wishes him a speedy recovery," it said.

QUICK READ

Cong MP Tharoor's PM Modi praise sparks fresh row

NEW DELHI: Congress MP Shashi Tharoor sparked a fresh controversy on Tuesday by praising Prime Minister Narendra Modi again. In a post on X, Tharoor said he attended an event in Delhi where Modi spoke of India's "constructive impatience" for development and strongly pushed for a post-colonial mindset. Praising Modi's speech, Thiruvananthapuram MP said, "The PM's address served as both an economic outlook and a cultural call to action, urging the nation to be restless for progress. Glad to have been in the audience despite battling a bad cold and cough!" PM emphasised that India is no longer just an 'emerging market' but an 'emerging model' for the world, noting its economic resilience, he added.





QUICK READ



Light rain forecast in Southern Karnataka for five days

Bengaluru
The Karnataka Meteorological Department has forecast light rain in the southern interior districts over the next five days due to a depression near the Sri Lankan coast in the southwest Bay of Bengal. Districts likely to receive rain include Tumkur, Chikballapur, Bengaluru, Kolar, Ramanagara, Mandya, Mysore, Chamaraajanagar, Kodagu, and Hassan from November 18–22. The north interior and coastal districts will remain dry, with rising night temperatures. Bengaluru is expected to have generally cloudy skies with possible drizzle. Meanwhile, heatwave conditions persist in Bidar, Kalaburagi, Yadgiri, Raichur, Vijayapura, Bagalkot, Belgaum, Dharwad, and Gadag districts.

CISF stops knife attack at Bengaluru Airport

Bengaluru
CISF officers at Kempegowda International Airport prevented a possible tragedy on November 16 when a man ran at taxi drivers with a long knife. The attacker appeared suddenly near Terminal 1 arrivals, creating panic. ASI Sunil Kumar and his team quickly overpowered him and safely recovered the weapon. No one was injured. Police took the man and the taxi drivers for questioning. The incident reportedly stemmed from a previous argument. CCTV captured the tense moment, which soon went viral online. Officials praised the swift action, highlighting the airport's strong security measures and quick response.

City police promote KSP app for citizen safety

Bengaluru
Bengaluru police are urging citizens, especially women, to use the K.S.P. app to stay safe while traveling. The app offers quick access to police help, making it useful in isolated or risky areas. Alongside the emergency helpline 112, the app aims to strengthen public safety and provide peace of mind. Police officials emphasized that citizen security is their top priority and encouraged everyone to download and use the app regularly. By leveraging technology, the department hopes to ensure faster response times and safer journeys for all Bengaluru residents.

B'luru east civic body seals 14 PGs for flouting norms

‘These PGs were found running commercial activities in residential areas without meeting the standards required under the GBA Act, 2024’

BENGALURU

The Bengaluru East City Corporation (BECC) has taken strict action against paying guest (PG) accommodations that were running without proper permissions and ignoring safety rules.

Commissioner DS Ramesh said the Health Department has been instructed to act against PGs operating illegally without trade licenses. A special campaign has also been launched to enforce these rules.

Under the guidance of Additional Commissioner (Development) Lokhande Snehal Sudhakar, Health Officer Dr Savita and her team inspected several PGs. At least 14 of them, located in Mahadevapura and KR Puram assembly constituencies, were sealed.



These PGs were found running commercial activities in residential areas without meeting the standards required under the GBA Act, 2024.

In Mahadevapura, the sealed PGs include S.V.K. PG and Vamshi Krishna PG in

Pattandur Agrahara, Dwell Co-Living PG in Nagappa Reddy Layout, Royal Home Stays PG and Dream Land PG in Whitefield, Zolo Asmi Gents PG near Yashomati Hospital, and K.R. Gents PG in Marathahalli. In KR Puram, the sealed PGs include Sri S.G. Gents & Ladies PG in Horamavu, St. Maria La-

dies PG in Dooravaninagar, S.L.V. Comforts Gents PG in Sharavathi Layout, Sri Ganesh Gents PG in Basavanapura, S.S.V. Tower PG in Mahadevapura, Bliss Co-Living PG in Sri Krishna Garden Layout, and V.D.S. Luxury PG for Ladies in Sathya Badavane.

The corporation also held a special trade license drive from November 10 to 15 across all 17 ward offices. During this time, 466 business owners received licenses on the same day after paying ₹25,52,800 through the Single Window System.

Officials said medical officers and health staff are continuing enforcement to stop illegal PGs and ensure faster, transparent services.



B'luru MLA criticizes GBA commissioner over work delays

BENGALURU

MLA ST Somashekar has strongly criticized the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) Commissioner, saying he is not capable of managing the city's development and is being influenced by contractors.

Speaking at Kodipalya Junction on Uttarahalli Main Road in Hemmigeppura Ward of Yeshwanthpur Assembly Constituency, he launched the work for installing the Cauvery drinking water pipeline.

Somashekar said the development of his constituency is a top priority, as residents have long awaited proper roads and infrastructure. While some areas have seen completion of drainage and white topping work, roads in Mallasandra remain in poor condition despite being heavily used by pedestrians and apartment residents. He pointed out that the Bhoomi Pujya for the road was done more than a year ago, but contractor Idayat Ullah has not started the work. This delay has frustrated residents, who have written letters to various departments and even protested. The MLA criticized the

GBA Commissioner, Maheshwar Rao, for ignoring these complaints. “The Commissioner is only running after the Deputy Chief Minister and not doing his job,” Somashekar said. He urged Deputy Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar to ensure that officials focus on actual development instead of formalities and appearances.

Somashekar also warned that if the white topping work on Mallasandra Road does not start soon, he and other MLAs are prepared to hold a protest in front of the Commissioner's office. Local leaders present at the event included former BBMP member Arya Srinivas, former Zilla Panchayat member Shivamadaya, Kengeri Block Congress President Mylasandra Nagaraj, and Hemmigeppura Ward President Arun Kumar, among others. He concluded by emphasizing that Bengaluru residents deserve timely action, proper roads, and basic facilities. Prompt completion of infrastructure projects, he said, would restore people's trust and show that the city's development is being taken seriously.

KSPCB GOLDEN JUBILEE Major congestion expected around Palace Grounds today

BENGALURU

Bengaluru will face major traffic restrictions on November 19 in view of the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board's (KSPCB) golden jubilee celebrations at Palace Grounds. The event to be held at Krishna Vihara (Gate 1) from 7 am to 4 pm is expected to attract nearly 80,000 people. Officials have warned that the large crowd and around 2,300

vehicles may cause heavy congestion around key routes.

The programme will be attended by the Chief Minister, senior ministers, officials, and thousands of students. Police have urged the public to plan travel early and avoid roads surrounding Palace Grounds. Areas such as Ballari Road, CV Raman Road, Jayamahal Road, and the Palace Grounds gate are expected to see slow movement throughout the day.

To ease traffic towards the Kempegowda International Airport, travellers are advised to skip Ballari Road. Instead, they can use Old High Grounds Junction, Kalpana Junction, Old Udaya TV Junction, Cantonment Railway Station, Tannery Road, and Nagawara to reach the airport. For those arriving from the airport, two alternate routes have been announced through Hebbal, Nagawara, Bamboo Bazaar,

Queens Road, or via the Ring Road and Gorgunte Palya Junction.

Commuters from Yeshwanthpur heading to the airport should move through Mathikere Road and BEL Circle. Those entering the city from Yeshwanthpur can take Dr. Rajkumar Road. Heavy vehicles will face restrictions at Hebbal Junction, Old High Grounds Police Station Junction, and Yeshwanthpur.



Reuse, recycling must become habits to protect natural resources: Min

BENGALURU

Forest, Biology and Environment Minister Eshwar B Khandre stressed that reuse and recycling must become daily habits to protect natural resources.

He spoke on Tuesday while inaugurating the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board's Golden Jubilee celebrations and a special conference on the “Economics and Sustainability of Sustainable Resource Utilization.”

Khandre said that the government firmly believes development should go hand in hand with protecting nature. He reminded the audience that sustainability means meeting today's needs without harming the needs of future generations. This idea, he said, was clearly explained in the 1987 World Bank report that shaped global thinking on sustainable development.

The minister noted that the world is already feeling the effects of climate change and global warming. Rising temperatures, unpredictable weather, and loss of biodiversity show why society must

act more responsibly. He urged people, industries, and institutions to adopt modern technology, eco-friendly methods, and innovative ideas that support long-term environmental health.

Khandre explained that a circular economy—one that focuses on repairing, recycling, and reusing—can help save resources and reduce waste. He said this approach is not only good for the environment but also practical and economically beneficial. By using resources wisely, he added, Karnataka can build a future that supports both growth and environmental care.

He also emphasized that protecting the planet is a shared duty. Today's actions, he said, shape the world future generations will inherit. The minister called on everyone to choose habits that reduce waste and support sustainability. Senior government leaders, including Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh; Board president PM Narendra Swamy, member Sharan Kumar Modi and general Secretary Nivasulu were present.

Tumakuru Metro Project to cut down traffic, population pressure on B'luru: Home Minister

BENGALURU

Karnataka Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara on Tuesday said the Bengaluru-Tumakuru Metro Project could significantly reduce traffic and population pressure on Bengaluru.

Speaking to the media, he highlighted that thousands of people travel daily from Tumkur, Nelamangala, Dabaspeta, and Katsandra to Bengaluru for work and industry-related purposes.



Dr. Parameshwar noted that these areas are growing rapidly, and residents face issues like water shortages and traffic congestion in the city. “If we develop road, rail, and metro connectivity to Tumkur, Ramanagara, and Kolar, the pressure on Bengaluru will decrease,” he said.

The minister emphasized Tumkur's industrial growth, mentioning Asia's largest industrial area has been built on 20,000 acres, hosting 200 industries, a food park, a Japanese Timex factory, and a township. He questioned why there would be any opposition to improving connectivity to such a fast-growing region.

Two years ago, Dr. Parameshwar proposed extending a metro to Tumkur. A feasibility study, conducted as announced in the 2024

state budget, gave a positive report, and the government has now cleared the way for the Detailed Project Report (DPR). Several companies, including a Qatar-based investor, have expressed interest in participating under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model.

Responding to criticism from MP Tejaswi Surya, the minister said the remarks were made without proper knowledge of the project.

He stressed that state development should come first, beyond political differences. “Karnataka is a progressive state. We must focus on growth, not negativity,” he said, citing examples of modern transport systems in Tokyo and Kuala Lumpur.

Dr. Parameshwar also addressed cybercrime, mentioning a case of large-scale digital fraud where 187 transactions were made from a woman's bank account. Authorities have identified the accused, operating from Bangalore and the U.S., and are investigating the case.

He concluded by emphasizing the importance of planning and connectivity to support Karnataka's industrial, educational, and population growth while ensuring the safety and development of its citizens.

Metro project a waste of money: Tejasvi

BENGALURU

A political clash has erupted in Karnataka after BJP MP Tejaswi Surya sharply criticised the proposed Bengaluru-Tumakuru Metro line. He termed the project ‘absurd’, ‘illogical’, and an ‘urban nightmare’, claiming it will be a waste public money without solving real travel needs. Surya argued that Tumakuru does need strong, fast links to Bengaluru, but said a Metro line is the wrong idea for such a long distance. In a post on X, Surya said Metro trains in Bengaluru run at an average speed of about 34 kmph, which is almost the same as city buses. He said this slow speed makes the Metro unfit for inter-city travel. He also stressed that suburban trains already exist for such routes and should be improved in -



stead of spending nearly ₹20,896 crore on a new line. According to him, the government keeps repeating poor planning decisions, from tunnel road ideas to new Metro corridors, while people still struggle with daily civic issues. His remarks came soon after BM-RCL invited tenders to prepare a Detailed Project Report for a 59.6-km Metro stretch between Madavara and Tumakuru. Surya claimed the Metro plan will take years to complete and will not reduce congestion in any meaningful way. Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy strongly defended the project. WHe said Bengaluru needs four times more Metro connectivity to tackle growing traffic. According to Reddy, the government wants to bring the Metro to more areas, increase the number of coaches, and run trains more often to support rising ridership.

He dismissed the criticism as unnecessary politics and said the proposal aims to improve mobility for everyone in the region.

ECO-FRIENDLY EFFORT BMSCE volunteers make 50K eco bags for groundnut fair

BENGALURU

In a remarkable eco-friendly effort, the NSS Unit of BMS College of Engineering (BMSCE), Basavanagudi, produced 50,000 handmade paper bags for this year's Kadlekai Parishe, Bengaluru's historic groundnut fair.

The bags, crafted entirely from recycled newspapers, were handed out to vendors during the fair's inauguration.

Over the past few weeks, college volunteers collected



old newspapers and carefully assembled the bags on campus. Their goal was to reduce plastic use during the five-day festival, one of Bengaluru's largest cultural events.

Vendors and local residents appreciated the initiative, praising the students for promoting sustainability and environmental awareness.

In addition to the paper-bag drive, more than 100 NSS volunteers helped during the inauguration, assisting organizers, managing the crowd, and supporting dignitaries. Their active participation ensured the opening ceremony ran smoothly and added a sense of community support to the festival.

College authorities lauded the students for their dedication and sense of social responsibility, noting that the initiative reflects BMSCE's

ongoing commitment to community service and environmental stewardship. The NSS Unit encouraged more students to participate in similar public welfare activities, highlighting the impact of small but meaningful actions on society and the environment.

The project demonstrates how student-led efforts can make a real difference, inspiring citizens and visitors to adopt eco-friendly practices during festivals and daily life.

MoES merges 5 earth science institutes to ensure efficiency

BENGALURU

In a bid to improve coordination and tackle urgent environmental challenges, the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) has merged five autonomous institutes under a single umbrella called the Earth System Sciences Council.

The ministry said the move will allow the institutes to “talk” to one another, share research, and collectively respond to pressing issues such as climate change, erratic monsoons, and melting polar ice. Previously, each institute

operated independently, which sometimes led to duplication of work and slower response to environmental crises.

Under the new system, all five institutes will function through a unified governance mechanism to enhance decision-making, streamline research efforts, and promote better collaboration among scientists. Officials said the restructuring will also improve the institutes' ability to address humanitarian problems caused by extreme weather events and environmental hazards.

QUICK READ

Bengaluru man loses ₹42.62 lakh in crypto scam

Bengaluru
A Bengaluru resident, Shakthivel E, lost 42.62 lakh in a cryptocurrency scam after joining a Telegram trading group he discovered on Instagram. Fraudsters promised high returns through a one-week program on Ethereum and USD pairs. Initial small payouts convinced him to invest more, including loans from friends and digital lenders. When he tried to withdraw, the operators demanded extra payments citing fictitious taxes and penalties. The police complaint filed on November 14 led to an investigation, with authorities now verifying crypto wallet details, phone numbers, and the fake trading website to track the culprits.

B'luru woman alleges dowry harassment, probe on

Bengaluru
A Bengaluru woman, Sangeeta (name changed), has filed a police complaint accusing her husband, Dr. Govardhan, of dowry harassment and her father-in-law, Professor Nagaraju, of sexual misconduct. Married in November 2023, Sangeeta alleges her husband pressured her for property and rental income, mistreated her, and refused to eat her food. She claims her father-in-law made inappropriate comments, touched her inappropriately, and urged revealing clothing. When she raised concerns, her husband and mother-in-law allegedly dismissed them. Distressed by the ongoing harassment, Sangeeta approached police. Authorities have registered an FIR, and the investigation into the allegations is currently underway.

BJP targets Cong over Cabinet reshuffle confusion

BENGALURU
BJP leaders have criticised the Congress government in Karnataka over the ongoing confusion regarding cabinet restructuring and power sharing. Speaking in Bengaluru, Legislative Council member CT Ravi said the ruling party still seems unsure about how to decide positions within the government. He joked that the Congress has not yet figured out "which is the payment seat and which is the merit seat," suggesting this confusion is delaying the reshuffle. Ravi questioned why Chief Minister Siddaramaiah needs to visit.

TECH TRIUMPH

Bengaluru Tech Summit signals bold global future

'The new IT policy will help state become global hub for deep-tech sectors'

Continued from page 1

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah launched the 28th Bangalore Technology Summit (BTS) on Tuesday, unveiling a low-cost computer 'Kio', a new IT policy, and a space technology policy that will guide the state until 2030.

The three-day event being held at the Bangalore International Exhibition Center, will continue through Thursday. Addressing the gathering, Siddaramaiah highlighted that the conference brings together nine leading global technology and modern industry sectors. "Karnataka is entering the second phase of the digital revolution, focusing on artificial intelligence, quantum computing, biotechnology, space, and green technologies. Bengaluru is now a global hub for innovation, talent, research, and technology leadership," he said. The Chief Minister noted that Karnataka's industrial growth has been steady, with productivity rising and unemployment at just 4.3%.



The state has emerged as a center for aerospace, defense, animation, gaming, and deep-tech industries. He emphasized that the new IT policy and startup initiatives will help Karnataka become a global hub for innovation and deep-tech sectors.

A major highlight of the summit is the state's goal to set up 25,000 startups in the next five years. The CM said the government will provide

capital, infrastructure, market access, and skilled human resources to achieve this target. Karnataka also aims to capture 50% of India's space market and 5 percent of the global market by 2034. Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar pledged Rs 1.45 lakh crore for Bengaluru's infrastructure development, assuring entrepreneurs that the government will respond quickly to their needs.

State launches AI-powered 'Keo'

The Karnataka government has launched 'Keo', an AI-powered personal computer priced at Rs 18,999, aiming to boost digital access across the state. Unveiled by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah at the Bangalore Tech Summit, Keo is compact, cost-effective, and built entirely in Karnataka in collaboration with Kionix. It features an open-source RISC-V processor, Linux OS, 4G Wi-Fi, USB and HDMI ports, and an on-device AI core named Buddha (GUDDH) trained on the Karnataka DSERT curriculum. Keo will benefit students, small businesses, and government offices, supporting learning, entrepreneurship, and decentralized technology growth statewide. Pre-orders at www.koonest.in.

KARNATAKA TO DEVELOP 200-ACRE SEMICONDUCTOR PARK: PATIL

The Karnataka government will set up a 200-acre semiconductor park with world-class facilities for tech companies, aiming to make the state a hub for innovation, said Industries Minister MB Patil at the Technology Summit. He highlighted the government's support for investments in AI, ML, semiconductors, drones, solar energy, and Industry 5.0 technologies. "Karnataka hosts over 800 R&D centers, 100+ chip design firms, and 18,300 startups working in AI, deep tech, quantum computing, and space tech. The state has allocated Rs 600 crore to support advanced industries and will collaborate with global tech leaders for growth," he said. The summit drew national and international attention with participants from across the globe, including Kris Gopalakrishna, Kiran Mazumdar Shah, Melbourne Mayor Nicholas Rees, and representatives from Poland, Germany, and Norway. The event also showcased centers of excellence in AI, cybersecurity, data science, animation, and robotics.

Pinkathon returns to Bengaluru with strong breast cancer message

BENGALURU

Pinkathon, known as India's biggest women's running event, will return to Bengaluru for its 7th edition on January 25, 2026, at Sree Kanteerava Stadium. The event is held to spread breast cancer awareness and to inspire women to stay active and confident.

This year, more than 7,000 women are expected to take part in the Bengaluru run.

Pinkathon began in 2012 in Mumbai and was created by fitness advocate Milind Soman. Since then, it has grown into a national movement that encourages women to take care of their health. It has reached lakhs of women, offered free breast screenings, and raised funds for cancer patients. For the 2025-26 season, Pinkathon will be held in several major cities, including Bengaluru, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Chennai, and Delhi.

The Bengaluru edition will feature many race categories. Women can choose from the 3 km walk, Lifelong 5 km, 10 km, 50 km, 75 km, and even a 100 km ultramarathon. These categories



welcome new runners as well as experienced athletes. At the launch event, Milind Soman said Pinkathon is more than a running event. He said it helps women focus on their mental and physical well-being, and that the support from Zydu Life Sciences will help spread awareness about the importance of early breast cancer detection.

Pinkathon also introduced its mascots for this year.

Each mascot represents a race category and symbolises strength. This time, Bengaluru will also host Invincible Women, a group that motivates women to try long-distance runs and test their limits. Founder Ankita Konwar said that every woman

who joins the run sends a message that her health is important.

Doctors also reminded participants that breast cancer is common, but early detection saves lives. Zydu is encouraging women to do a simple three-minute monthly self-exam for safety.

As in previous years, Pinkathon will include activities like the Saree Run, Babywearing Mothers Walk, and Grandmothers 10K to bring more women into the community.

Pinkathon 2025-26 is supported by Zydu Life Sciences and several partner organisations that help promote fitness, women's health, and breast cancer awareness.

Man held after email threat targets Metro station



BENGALURU

Bengaluru police on Tuesday arrested a 62-year-old man for sending an email threatening to blow up a Metro station in the city. The arrested man, BS Rajiv, is originally from Ballari but had been living in a rented house in Belthur near Kadugodi. Police commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh confirmed the arrest and said the threat was found to be a hoax. The police said Rajiv appeared mentally unstable and had been under treatment at NIMHANS for several years. He was separated from his wife 15 years ago and lived alone. His sister supported him by helping with his daily needs. According to police, Rajiv had run a printing press earlier, but it shut down after suffering losses.

The threat email was sent to the official address of the Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRL) late on November 13. In the message, Rajiv warned that a Metro station would be "blasted" if he believed staff were mistreating his former wife. However, police confirmed that his ex-wife did not work for BMRL and his statements did not match facts. He was later referred to NIMHANS for further evaluation. BMRL's cybersecurity officer lodged a complaint on November 14, after which a non-cognizable report was filed.

Bengaluru police bust drugs worth ₹ 7.7 crore

BENGALURU

In a major drug crackdown, the Central Crime Branch (CCB) of Bengaluru Police arrested 19 people, including 14 foreign nationals, and seized narcotics worth Rs 7.7 crore across multiple operations in the city. Police recovered 2.804 kg of MDMA crystals and 2.1 kg of hydroponic ganja from various locations. In SG Palya, a Nigerian woman peddling drugs was caught with 60 grams of MDMA crystals, valued at Rs 1.52 crore. She did not have valid documents and was allegedly involved in drug distribution. In Mahadevapura's B Narayanapura area, five local drug peddlers were arrested, with 600 grams of hydro-ganja worth Rs 60 lakh seized. Officials also confiscated five mobile phones to track the larger drug network, while the main supplier remains at large.

In another operation, a Kenyan woman working at a salon was arrested with 2.044 kg of MDMA, worth Rs 4.08 crore. Police said she sourced drugs from two absconding suspects in Tanzania and Nigeria. Additionally, 1.5 kg of hydroponic ganja was seized from parcels at the Foreign Post Office, sent from Thailand and France. A separate operation detained 11 foreign nationals staying illegally in the city, and cases were filed against homeowners renting without verification.

LOVE FOR STRAYS...



Animal lovers and volunteers stage a protest at Freedom Park in Bengaluru on Tuesday against the Supreme Court order to remove stray dogs from certain public spaces. CH Photo

Political prestige over Mekedatu will harm Karnataka: Bommai

BENGALURU

Former Chief Minister and MP Basavaraj Bommai said the State Government must seek approval for the Mekedatu project from the Central Government with trust and cooperation.

He warned that turning the project into a political issue or a matter of prestige would hurt Karnataka's interests. Speaking to reporters in Bengaluru, he explained that the Mekedatu project has been a long-standing dream. It started in 1996 as a power project. When he served as Irrigation Minister, it became clear that several areas would be submerged, so the plan was changed and a revised DPR was prepared. Bommai said that if the Congress had not held a padyatra, the project would have progressed. Because of the march, Tamil Nadu filed a case, and he believes Tamil Nadu will not withdraw it. He said the State must act very carefully. Any mistake may give Tamil Nadu another chance to approach the court.

GANDHI SHILP BAZAAR

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QUICK READ

Bus accident in Uttara Kannada leaves 25 injured**Karwar**

Over 25 passengers were injured when a NWKRTC bus lost control and plunged into a roadside depression near Sulemuri Cross in Gerusoppa, Uttara Kannada, along National Highway 69. The incident occurred around 8 a.m. when the bus, travelling from Hangal to Honnavara via Siddapura, skidded on a sharp downhill curve and struck a tree after falling into the depression. Among the injured were the bus driver and conductor, all of whom were immediately admitted to Honnavara Government Hospital for treatment. The Honnavara police have registered a case against the driver for negligent driving, and an investigation into the accident is currently underway. Authorities are examining the circumstances to determine the cause of the crash.

Leopard falls into a cage set for tiger's capture**Chamarajanagar**

A leopard was accidentally trapped in a cage that had been set up to capture a tiger in the Bandipur National Park and Tiger Reserve, near Berambadi village. In recent weeks, tiger activity had increased around Berambadi and surrounding villages in Gundlupet taluk, causing fear among residents and farmers. Responding to repeated appeals, Bandipur forest officials placed a cage with a live goat inside as bait to trap the tiger responsible for the disturbances. However, instead of the tiger, a leopard entered the cage. Forest personnel later relocated the leopard to another suitable location. The same cage continues to be used in hopes of capturing the tiger, though the goat kept inside had died during the incident.

Laptop scheme opens for safai karmachari students**Mandya**

The Karnataka State Safai Karmachari Development Corporation has invited applications for its 2025–26 laptop scheme. Safai Karmacharis, manual scavengers, and their dependent students pursuing higher education such as B.Com, B.Sc, BBM, BE, MBBS, M.Com, MA, M.Sc, M.Tech, MBA, and other degree courses are eligible to apply. Applicants can submit their forms between November 19 and December 6 to the address: No. 2103, 1st Cross, Bandigowda Layout, Mandya. To qualify, the student must belong to a Safai Karmachari/manual scavenger family and possess a valid identity card, along with study certificates and admission receipts.

MLA urges strong measures to improve SSLC results

Mandya MLA P. Ravikumar urged officials to improve SSLC results and strengthen essential services across the taluk

MANDYA

Mandya MLA P. Ravikumar has instructed officials to take all necessary steps to improve the SSLC results of students studying across Mandya taluk. Chairing the KDP quarterly progress review meeting at the Zilla Panchayat's Kaveri Hall on Monday, he said complaints have been received about doctors not being present at some hospitals during night hours. He directed that doctors must be available in all hospitals at night, and where this is not possible, alternative arrangements should be ensured. Proposals must also be sent to the government to appoint doctors to required health centres.

He asked officials to verify whether all schools have adequate basic infrastructure and



to prepare a list of buildings requiring repairs. Programmes to reduce students' mental stress and regular counselling should be introduced to support their academic and emotional development.

Ravikumar said that registration has begun at paddy and ragi procurement centres and purchases will start soon. Agriculture schemes must be

widely publicised through group calls, posters and Raiha Samparka Kendras. In Mandya taluk, 15 farmers have received subsidies for micro-irrigation and 11 for onion storage units. Officials were asked to use social media to raise awareness about various schemes.

He also expressed concern about adulteration in animal feed, which is affecting live-

stock health, and directed officials to conduct checks. With sericulture expanding in the taluk, he noted that Mandya jaggery, once famous for its quality, is now receiving complaints. Food safety officers were told to form special teams to inspect jaggery units.

The MLA said that 1,667 ineligible BPL users have been removed from the list but stressed that cards must not be cancelled without assessing a family's economic condition. He reviewed progress under the Yuva Nidhi scheme and hostel facilities, and warned banks against forcing farmers into loan repayment. He also instructed officials to act against illegal late-night liquor sales and to address rising leopard sightings by installing traps where necessary.



Lokayukta raids six locations in Kolar and Ch'ballapur

KOLAR

In a major anti-corruption operation, Lokayukta officials conducted coordinated raids at six locations across Kolar and Chikkaballapur districts. The action targeted government officers and intermediaries allegedly involved in the illegal issuance and misuse of bonafide certificates meant for tax exemptions on tractor purchases. Reports indicated that these certificates, which allow buyers to obtain tax-free tractors and other concessions, were being exploited unlawfully, depriving the government of revenue.

The raids covered five sites within Kolar district and one location in Chintamani, Chikkaballapur. Officials searched the residences and offices of several individuals, including retired Narasapur Deputy Tahsildar S. Narayanaswamy, district office computer operator Ambuja, RTO intermediary Manjunath, Ashwath Narayan, and tractor dealership personnel such as Gokul and M.D. Anjaneya Reddy. Investigators seized documents, computer records, and other evidence to verify the alleged irregularities.

Preliminary investigations

Lokayukta raids six sites in Kolar and Chikkaballapur targeting officials, intermediaries for illegal bonafide certificates used in tractor tax evasion

suggest that intermediaries and officials had used fraudulent means, including land documents linked to Revenue Minister Krishna Byregowda, to acquire bonafide certificates. These certificates, intended to facilitate legitimate tax-free tractor purchases, were reportedly exploited to obtain unauthorized financial benefits.

The Lokayukta's action underscores the ongoing crackdown on corruption and malpractice in government incentive programs, particularly in the agricultural sector. Authorities are continuing to examine records and documents to ascertain the full extent of the scheme and identify all individuals involved. Based on the evidence collected, further legal proceedings and departmental actions are expected, reinforcing the government's commitment to transparency and accountability in public service.

Hindu Jagarana Vedike leader arrested for provocative speech

UDUPI

Police have arrested a leader of the Hindu Jagarana Vedike for allegedly delivering a provocative speech during a protest gathering. The accused has been identified as 49-year-old Ratnakar Ameen, a resident of Ajekaru Marne Nadibettu.

On November 15, the Udupi unit of Hindu Jagarana Vedike had organized a protest near the Jatka Stand in Udupi city condemning the recent bomb blasts in Delhi. During the protest, Ratnakar Ameen allegedly made an inflammatory speech that, according to police, promoted hostility and hatred between religious communities. Following the inci-

dent, a case was registered against him at the Udupi City Police Station under charges relating to incitement and provocative public speech.

A special investigation team led by Udupi City Police Inspector Manjunath V. Badiger launched a search based on credible information. On November 18, early in the morning, the team tracked down Ratnakar Ameen at Mangaluru Central Railway Station. He was taken into custody and subsequently produced before the court.

Police officials stated that such provocative speeches have the potential to disturb

social harmony and law and order. The arrest is part of ongoing efforts to curb communal tensions and ensure accountability for speeches that may incite violence or hatred.

Further investigation is underway to examine the full context of Ameen's speech, the circumstances of the protest, and whether additional persons

were involved. Authorities have emphasized that while protests and public expression are permitted, spreading animosity between communities will not be tolerated. The legal process will continue as the case proceeds in court.



MP stresses skill and dedication at FPC leadership workshop

SHIVAMOGGA

Dedication must be accompanied by skill for any task to yield results, said MP B.Y. Raghavendra. He emphasized that commitment alone is not enough, and true success comes when work is performed with competence and focus.

He was speaking after inaugurating a two-day workshop on "Champions of Change – Leadership for Empowered Farmer Producer Companies", organized jointly by the Sahodaya Federation of Farmer Producer Companies, NABARD, and Chaitanya Rural Development Society at the society's auditorium today.

Raghavendra drew parallels from the Bhagavad Gita, recalling Lord Krishna's teaching to Arjuna—"Yoga is excellence in action". He explained that skill is essential in every task, and performing one's duty with sincerity, concentration, dedication, and without obsessing over the outcome enhances both the quality of work and one's inner peace. Such an approach, he said, leads to true results and personal growth.



He praised the organizers for conducting the workshop to strengthen members of Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs) through proper training. Training, especially skills-based training, is vital for achieving efficiency, he noted.

Chaitanya Rural Development Society CEO Badrish B.T. delivered the introductory address.

Among those present were Sahodaya Federation President Anoop, Horticulture Department Joint Director M.B. Sanjay, Federation Vice President Satish H.R., Lead Academy Managing Director Prof. J.C. William D'Souza, FPO Manager Peter, Event Manager Ajay, and Chaitanya Rural Development Society District Manager Jadhav.

Gas tanker overturns on NH-52, traffic blocked in Ankola

KARWAR

Traffic on the Ankola–Yellapur National Highway came to a complete halt after a gas tanker overturned near Kanchina Bagilu on NH-52 in Ankola taluk of Uttara Kannada district. The accident occurred when the driver lost control of the vehicle, causing the tanker to flip and resulting in a significant gas leak.

The tanker, which was transporting gas from Gujarat to Udupi, reportedly overturned after the driver failed to maintain control on the highway. Following the accident, gas began leaking from the vehicle, creating a potentially dangerous situation in the area. The injured driver, identified as 57-year-old Arun Sheikh, suffered serious injuries and has been shifted to a hospital in Udupi for further treatment.

Due to the leakage of ethanol from the tanker, authorities immediately shut down traffic on the affected stretch of National Highway 52. Vehicles were diverted through the Ankola–Madanagiri route as a precautionary measure.

Man killed by wild elephant

CHAMARAJANAGAR

A 70-year-old man, Ketegowda, tragically died after being attacked by a wild elephant in Nilkatri village, within the Bili-giri Ranganathswamy Tiger Reserve, Hanur taluk. Ketegowda, a resident of Gombe-gallu village (P.G. Palya Gram Panchayat), was traveling on his two-wheeler to Odeyarpalya for work when the elephant attacked him, resulting in his death on the spot.

Community launches 700-km padayatra to push 26-point demand list

SHIVAMOGGA

In Shivamogga, Dr. Pranavananda Swamiji, the head of the Brahmarshree Narayana Guru Shakti Peetha in Karadalli, Chittapur taluk of Kalaburagi district, announced a major padayatra to press for the long-pending demands of 26 communities, including Ediga, Billava, Namadhari, Dheevara and Thiya.

Speaking at a press conference, he said the 700-km march will begin on January 6 and continue for 41 days, covering about 20 km per day before reaching Freedom Park in Bengaluru on February 12, where an indefinite dharna will be launched.

He urged the government to immediately release ₹500



crore to the newly formed Brahmarshree Narayana Guru Development Corporation. He also demanded that the state recommend the inclusion of these communities in the ST reservation category, the installation of Narayana Guru's statue in front of the Vidhana Soudha, and 50% reservation for all 26 sub-communities in liquor retail contracts.

Further demands included allocating ₹100 crore annually for the development of Koti-Chennayya's birthplace, withdrawing cases filed against the Sigandur Chowdeshwari Temple, providing land and security for the temple, granting houses and land to flood-affected families in Shivamogga dis-

trict, and instituting a state-level Narayana Guru award carrying ₹5 lakh. He also sought the restoration of Hosanagar as a separate Assembly constituency and the sanction of a medical college for a community trust.

Swamiji noted that although a similar 700-km padayatra was held in 2023, and the government then announced the development corporation and sanctioned ₹25 lakh for community research, many key demands remain unfulfilled.

He also urged the Centre to allow unhindered access for monks at Indian airports, condemned the recent terror attack near Delhi's Red Fort, and criticized the BJP in Shivamogga for excluding members of his community from leadership roles.

KDSS protests 'Bhagavad Gita–Crime Control' seminar

SHIVAMOGGA

A protest broke out in Shivamogga on Tuesday as members of the Karnataka Dalit Sangharsha Samiti (KDSS) staged a drum demonstration in front of Kuvempu University. The agitation was held against a seminar titled "Bhagavad Gita and Crime Control", organised by the university along with the Swarna Rashmi Trust and the Shri Bhagavad Gita Abhiyana District Committee.

Speaking at the protest,

KDSS State Convenor M. Gurumurthy said the seminar promotes a right-wing ideological agenda. He argued that such an event goes against the values of national poet Kuvempu and contradicts the spirit of the Constitution drafted by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

Gurumurthy urged prominent Kannada thinker Prof. Baraguru Ramachandrappa to boycott the upcoming Kannada Rajyotsava programme scheduled to be held on the university campus. He alleged

that the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Sharath Ananthamurthy, is encouraging fundamentalism, and said it would be inappropriate for a progressive scholar like Ramachandrappa, known for decades of work in nation-building, to share the stage with him.

The protesters also questioned why a seminar related to religious scripture was being held in a university named after Kuvempu, who famously asserted that "my religion is humanity."

Cluster-level Pratibha Karanji held at govt school

HARAPANAHALLI

The cluster-level Pratibha Karanji programme for the academic year 2025–26 was held on Tuesday at the premises of the Government Higher Primary School in Arasikere. The event was jointly organised by the Block Education Office, the Block Resource Centre and the Cluster Resource Centres, providing a platform for students to showcase their diverse talents. Children enthusiastically

participated in various competitions such as fancy dress, clay modelling, extempore speaking, recitation, devotional chanting, light music, storytelling, drawing, colouring, and singing events including acting and devotional songs. Inaugurating the event, Taluk Physical Education Inspector Shanmukhappa said that programmes like Pratibha Karanji and Kalotsava play a vital role in identifying children's talents.

HASSAN

A tragic incident unfolded near Ramanathapura in Arakalgud taluk of Hassan district, where a 29-year-old housewife, Mahadevi, allegedly jumped into a river with her infant child, ending her life. Mahadevi, originally from Karpuravalli village in Saligrama, had divorced her first husband and three years ago remarried Kumar from Seebihalli village in Arakal-



gud. During her second marriage, her family had given 100 grams of gold as part of the traditional dowry.

According to reports, Kumar had recently begun sus-

pecting Mahadevi and subjecting her to verbal abuse and harassment. Unable to bear the continuous mental torment, Mahadevi had returned to her parental home 16 days ago. Despite this, Kumar continued sending obscene messages and harassing her. On a Thursday, Mahadevi encountered Kumar at the Hassan bus station, which led her to lodge a complaint at the Hassan Women's Police Station.

Before taking her life, Mahadevi reportedly recorded a video and left a note stating that she could no longer endure her husband's harassment. She expressed that her continued existence only brought suffering to herself and her family. She mentioned that Kumar had threatened her and her relatives repeatedly over the past three years, and that she feared for both her and her child's well-being.

Family members conducted an extensive search for Mahadevi. On Monday, her body was recovered near Bettasoge in Arakalgud taluk. The incident took place in the Konanuru police station jurisdiction, and authorities confirmed that Mahadevi had jumped into the Cauvery River along with her one-and-a-half-year-old child. The child's body has not yet been recovered. Police visited the site to carry out a detailed investigation.

QUICK READ

5th anniversary of drug-free India campaign

Chitradurga

The 5th anniversary of the Drug-Free India Campaign was celebrated at the District Panchayat NIC Center in Chitradurga with a pledge-taking ceremony against substance abuse. The event coincided with a national-level program in Amritsar, Punjab, and similar activities were conducted across all district NIC centers. Launched in August 2020 under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, the campaign initially covered six districts in Karnataka and expanded to 25 districts by 2024–25. To mark the anniversary, awareness activities, including pledge ceremonies, rangoli and poster competitions, were organized in schools, colleges, ITIs, nursing institutes, and women's groups. The event was attended by district officials.

Science and art workshop for students

Chikkaballapur

The Karnataka Science and Technology Academy is organizing a workshop titled "Science and Technology for Sustainable Development" for students interested in science and visual arts. The event, combining scientific learning and creative expression, will be held at the Academy premises on November 26. The workshop is open to school and undergraduate students passionate about science. Interested participants must register online by November 25 via <https://forms.gle/jS3x-5LAf94ihh7956>. For more details, students can contact Science Officer V.K. Shirinwanshu at 9620767819 or Umive Ghatge at 9743084194.

POCSO case: Summons issued to BSY and 3 others

Ex-CM Yediyurappa and three others have been summoned by a fast-track court in a serious POCSO case

BENGALURU

A major development has taken place in the POCSO case filed against former Karnataka Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa. The 1st Fast-Track Special Court has issued summons to Yediyurappa and three other accused, directing them to appear before the court on December 2 for the framing of charges. This comes soon after the High Court granted permission for the trial to proceed, dismissing Yediyurappa's plea challenging earlier summons. Earlier, a lower court had issued summons for charge framing, which Yediyurappa had contested in the High Court. However, after reviewing the case, the High Court rejected his petition, clearing the way for the trial under the POCSO Act. Following this order, the Fast-Track Court has now formally summoned all four accused.



Background of the Case

The case dates back to a complaint filed in March 2024, alleging that Yediyurappa sexually assaulted a 17-year-old girl at his residence in Dollars Colony, Bengaluru. The girl's mother had approached him seeking help, during which the alleged incident occurred. Based on the complaint, the Sadashivanagar Police registered a case under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. Considering the seriousness of the allegations, the

government transferred the investigation to the CID. After months of inquiry, the CID submitted a detailed 750-page chargesheet in June 2024 against Yediyurappa and three associates. The chargesheet includes allegations of not only sexual assault but also attempts to destroy evidence and suppress the complaint. Both the survivor and her mother had recorded their statements before a magistrate as part of the investigation process. In a tragic turn, the girl's mother passed away on May 26, 2024. With the Fast-Track Court issuing fresh summons, the case is now moving toward the trial phase. The upcoming court appearance on December 2 will mark a critical step in determining how the proceedings unfold against the former Chief Minister and the other accused.

1-day chess and mind-sports competition held in Chikkaballapur

CHIKKABALLAPUR

A one-day chess and mind-sports competition was organized for school children at Gandhi Bhavan, Chikkaballapur, under the joint efforts of the District Panchayat, Taluk Panchayat, and local schools. The event aimed to enhance students' cognitive skills, concentration, and strategic thinking, as chess is recognized as a game that sharpens the mind and promotes logical reasoning. District Panchayat Deputy Director Atik Pahisha highlighted the importance of

chess in developing mental acuity and problem-solving abilities. Taluk Panchayat officials coordinated the event, ensuring participation from selected winners of local school-level competitions. These winners were later qualified for district-level tournaments, creating a pathway for talented students to advance in competitive chess. Taluk Panchayat Education Officer G.R. Manjunath emphasized that sports contribute to both physical and mental development, and early engagement helps cultivate discipline, focus, and overall

well-being among youth. While physical fitness is essential, mental sports like chess provide an equally strong foundation for intellectual growth. Winners of the chess competition included Tejas (1st place), Palan Kumar (2nd place), and Vikas K.M. (3rd place). In the carrom category, the first prize went to Karthik, the second to Vishu, and the third to Keshav. Prizes such as certificates, trophies, and books were distributed to all participating students to encourage continued participation and skill development.

HN Valley Project: 24 Bagepalli lakes receive water

CHIKKABALLAPUR

Minor Irrigation & Science-Technology Minister N.S. Bosaraju inaugurated the second phase of the H.N. Valley Irrigation Project by releasing treated wastewater from Bengaluru to fill 24 lakes in Bagepalli taluk on Tuesday. Speaking at Achepalli lake premises, he said the initiative of treating Bengaluru's sewage through Hebbur-Nagawara Valley & Koramangala-Chelghat Valley projects and using it to recharge groundwater in surrounding districts is the best in Asia and has earned top recognition. In the first phase, 65 lakes across Bengaluru Urban, Bengaluru Rural & Chikkaballapura districts are being filled. The second phase, launched today, covers 24 lakes in Bagepalli, bringing great joy. The project will make available 19.5 TMC of water solely for groundwater recharge. The Minister urged farmers not to use this water directly for irrigation, cattle or drinking. So far, 143 lakes have been



Bagepalli's 24 lakes receive water under HN Valley Irrigation Project, boosting groundwater, supporting farmers, and expanding sustainable irrigation in Chikkaballapur district

filled via K.C. Valley and 65 via H.N. Valley, raising groundwater levels dramatically — from over 1,200 feet earlier to around 300 feet now. The Cabinet has approved ₹650 crore for the third phase under Vrishabhavathi Valley to fill more lakes in Tumakuru, Bengaluru Rural & Chikka-

ballapura districts within two years. District In-charge Minister Dr. M.C. Sudhakar praised the continuous efforts to fill all lakes in the rain-deficient Chikkaballapura & Kolar regions and credited Revenue Minister Krishna Byregowda's vision for the success of KC & HN Valley projects. Bagepalli MLA S.N. Subba Reddy called it a joyous moment and assured permanent water in these 24 lakes, efforts to extend HN Valley water to Chelur taluk lakes, and foundation stone-laying soon for the ₹200-crore Gantala Mallamma dam to make the region green.

‘Traditional sports losing ground in the era of modernity’

CHITRADURGA

In Chitradurga, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) B.T. Kumaraswamy expressed concern that traditional Indian sports are gradually disappearing amidst the rapid rise of modernity. He was speaking after inaugurating the Davanagere University Inter-Collegiate Netball Tournament and selection trials held on Tuesday at the Government Arts College grounds. The event was jointly organised by Davanagere University and the University Physical Education Directors' Association. He noted that people of all ages, especially the youth, are increasingly drawn to modern lifestyles, causing native games once rooted in rural culture to fade away. Traditional recreational activities that once brought communities together are no longer visible.

Newborn dies after pregnant woman trips in the hospital

HAVERI

A tragic incident occurred at the Women and Children's Hospital in Haveri district on Tuesday when a pregnant woman slipped while walking towards the restroom, causing her newborn to fall and sustain fatal head injuries. The child died on the spot. Family members have blamed doctors and nurses for negligence, citing lack of proper care as the primary reason for the tragedy. The victim, Rupa Girish Karabanna (30) from Kalkoli village in Ranebennur taluk, had been admitted to

the hospital due to severe labor pains. The labor ward was overcrowded, and no bed was available for her, forcing Rupa to sit on the floor. While experiencing extreme pain, she was not provided assistance. As she attempted to reach the restroom, she tripped on the way, and the newborn fell with severe impact on the head. Family members alleged that medical staff failed to respond despite her cries for help. Many nurses were reportedly distracted, talking on mobile phones instead of attending to patients.

Suspect held in hotel guard murder case

RAMANAGARA

The Bidadi police have arrested a 35-year-old man, Swami, in connection with the murder of 25-year-old security guard Nishant at Kadamba Hotel in Bidadi. Swami, a resident of Channapatna, was employed at the same hotel where the crime occurred. According to family members, the incident took place after midnight. Police investigations revealed that Swami attempted to steal money from the ho-

tel cash counter. Nishant, on duty as the security guard, confronted him, prompting Swami to allegedly stab him to death in panic. Swami then fled the scene, taking the hotel's CCTV digital video recorder (DVR) in an effort to destroy evidence. Authorities quickly tracked and apprehended Swami, who has been presented before a magistrate. Police confirmed that Swami was solely responsible for the attack and had intentionally tried to conceal his crime by removing the DVR.

Davanagere University inter-college netball tournament concludes

CHITRADURGA

The Davangere University Inter-College Netball Tournament concluded at the Government Arts College ground in Chitradurga on Tuesday, showcasing competitive matches in both men's and women's divisions. In an impressive performance, Sri Mrityunjaya Shivacharya (SMS) First Grade College, Honnali, emerged champions in both categories. In the men's division, Davangere GMS Academy secured second place, Chitradurga Government Science College finished third, and Nyamati Government First Grade College claimed fourth place. In the women's division, Chitradurga Government Science College was the runner-up, followed by Davangere GMS Academy in third place and Nyamati Government First Grade College in fourth. The winning teams were awarded prizes by Arun, owner of Aghal TVS Showroom, recognizing their efforts and sporting excellence. Outstanding teams from the university-level tournament will be selected for state-level competitions, providing them an opportunity to showcase their skills further. The event was attended by several dignitaries, including Dr. J. Kariyappa, Principal of Government Arts College, Dr. P.S. Meghana, Joint Secretary of the College Teachers' Association, Dr. D.R. Prasanna Kumar, Director of Physical Education, Bhanuprakash, Professor of Economics, Martin Samuel W., Administrative Officer, and Dr. Tippeswami, Librarian.

CHANGE OF NAME

I V K MAHANTESH GOWDA

S/O V VENKATESH, R/O No. 05, Flat No. 102, 1st Floor, Central Park, Neharunagar, Seshadripuram, Bangalore North, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560020, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as MOHAN V.

CHANGE OF NAME

I KHAJIMIYA S/O MOINUDDIN SAB, R/O Jayanagara 6th Cross, Shikaripur, Shivamogga, Karnataka - 577427, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as KHAJAMIYA.

CHANGE OF NAME

I BASAVARAJ S/O VEERASHATTY, R/O Basavakalyan, Muchlam, Bidar, Karnataka - 585327, have changed the name of my minor daughter AMBIKA aged 17 years and she shall hereafter be known as RAKSHITA.

MANAPPURAM HOME FINANCE LIMITED

FORMERLY MANAPPURAM HOME FINANCE PVT LTD

Read Office: 10/470A (OLD) W/638A (NEW) Manappuram House Valapad Thiruvur, Kerala 680657

Corp Office: Manappuram Home Finance Limited, Third Floor, Unit No. 301 to 315, A Wing, Kunkka Wall Street, Andheri-Kurla Road, Andheri East, Mumbai-400059, Maharashtra

Phone No.: 022-66211000 Website: www.manappuramhomefin.com

POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the authorised officer of Manappuram Home Finance Ltd ("MAHOFIN") under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest ("SARFESI") Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 9 of the security interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice calling upon the borrowers and co-borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the notice and interest thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Actual possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said "Act" read with rule 9 of the said rules. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Manappuram Home Finance Ltd as mentioned below for each of the respective properties:

Sl. No.	Name of Borrower and Co-Borrower (Last Name)	Description of Secured Asset in Respect of Which Interest Has Been Created	Date of Demand Notice/Issued	Date of Actual Possession
1	Shivamurthy D. Hilla and Rajna Naik (H/L00510032496 & H/L00510032494/ Shimoga)	Property No. 15240040060220140, Property No. 31, Measuring 78.97 Sq Mtr, Grama Nallankoppa, Gramapanchayath Gugga Shikaripura 1q Shimoga Dist. Near Main Road, Shimoga, P.O. Neelavagalli, Shimoga, Karnataka, Pin: 577427	16-12-2024 & Rs. 2,04,116/-	13-11-2025
2	Rathnamma B & Basavaraj A (H/L0051002619/ Shimoga)	All That Piece or Parcel Being Property No. 88, E Property No. 152400501700300153, Ratte Halli Village, Malipura Village Panchayat, Shimoga, P.O. Saulanga, Dist: Shimoga, Karnataka, Pin: 577225	11-01-2025 & Rs. 3,53,122/-	13-11-2025

Date: 19th November 2025 | Place: SHIMOGA | Sd/- Authorised Officer Manappuram Home Finance Ltd

CHANGE OF NAME

I DEEPAK BHANDARI S/O GOPICHAND R/O Flat no. 101, First Floor, Sai Krishna Springs, K R Road, Opposite Basavanagudi, Bangalore South, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560004, have changed the name of my minor son MUKESH BHANDARI aged 16 years and he shall hereafter be known as MEETH D BHANDARI.

NAME CHANGE

I, MOHAMMED SABIR ALI BAGBAN, S/o Mohammed Ismail Saheb Bagban, resident of H NO 6-289/C, Khunialawa, Mominpura, Gulbarga- 585104, Dist Gulbarga. Have changed my name to **SABIR ALI**, vide affidavit dated: 18.11.2025, before Notary RAJASHEKHAR . S. PATIL, Kalaburagi.

PUBLIC NOTICE

From: PRUTHVI DEVELOPERS #542 court road, vinayaka nagara Doddaballapur Bangalore rural - 561203 Ph: 080-26388219

Prop: Narasimha Murthy N

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the land owners as mentioned underneath have represented that they are the owners of the properties to the extent as mentioned. It is brought to the Notice of general public that my clients have negotiated and agreed to purchase the schedule properties from the said land owners. All person/ persons claiming or having any claim against or to the schedule properties or any part thereof of way of inheritance, mortgage, sale, conveyance, MCO, agreement to sell, transfer, lease deed, tenancy, license, lien, charge, trust, maintenance, easement, gift, exchange, possession, adverse possession or otherwise howsoever are hereby required to submit the same in writing along with documentary proof to the undersigned within 10 days from the date of publication hereof failing which my clients shall proceed to register the sale deeds without any reference to such claim and the same, if any, will be considered as waived.

Sl. No.	Village	Name of land owners	Survey number	Extent
1	Shetterhalli	B.M. Paramesh s/o B.K.Munihannangowda	5/1 5/4	2A:15G 1A:15G
2	Shetterhalli	K.V. Shivakumar	141	2A:19G
3	Shetterhalli	Narayanswamy	113/1	0A:28G
		Manjula	113/2	2A:39G
		Nagesh	113/3	0A:29SG
		Muniraju	113/4	0A:29G
		Venkatesh	113/5	0A:31SG
4	Shetterhalli	Umesh Kumar S. R	119	3A:18G
5	Shetterhalli	Umesh Kumar S. R	122/1	2A:36G
6	Shetterhalli	P. Krishnamurthy	153, 154, 155, 156, 157	2A:05G

Dated this 14th November 2025

Address for correspondence: BAKKESH.S.GUDIYAL, B.Com., L.L.B. (Special) No.1, Second floor w.o.c. basaveshwaranagara, Bangalore-10

CLASSIFIEDS

To place a classified ad contact: 080-41209042

City Municipal Council, Chikkamagaluru

Office: 08262- 230420 Fax: 08262-232272 Commissioner: 08262-232272 Helpline: 08262-232222

E-Mail ID: comm_ckg@yahoo.co.in Website: www.chickmagalur.gov.in

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಸಿಎಂಸಿ/ಸಿಕ್ಎಂಇ/ಜಿ.ಒ/ಸಿ.ಆರ್/01/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 14.11.2025.

e-Procurement Tender Notice

Tender is invited subject to conditions through e-procurement from Authorised Sellers/ Distributors/Suppliers for supply of the detailed materials as mentioned below related to underground Drain Water Management under Amruth Scheme . Those interested can submit the Tender subject to conditions.

Sl No.	Details of work	Approx. Amount (Rs. in lakhs)	E.M.D. (in Rs.)
1	DMA/2025-26/IND 5383	100.00	1,02,716/-

Cost of Tender Form – As per e-procurement. Time Period: 06 Months

1. Last date for submission of Tender in e-procurement portal: 02.12.2025 up to 17.30 Hrs.

2. Date of opening Technical Bid: 04.12.2025 at 11.00 Hrs.

3. Date of opening Technical Bid: 05.12.2025 at 11.00 Hrs.

Further details can be obtained during working hours of this office and from <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> Due to any reason, if there are any changes, they will be published only in e-procurement and will not be published in newspapers. Contractors can view in KPP Portal.

Sd/- (Smt. B. Sheela Dinesh) President City Municipal Council, Chikkamagaluru.

Sd/- (Smt. Lalitha Ravinaik) Vice President City Municipal Council, Chikkamagaluru.

Sd/- (Sri B.C. Basavaraju, K.M.A.S.) Municipal Commissioner, City Municipal Council, Chikkamagaluru

DIPR/ckm/No.103/ksmc/25-26/1243

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ವಿಧ್ಯುತ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.

ಸಂ.ಕಾ.ಇಂ(ಎ)/ಲೋ.ಇ/ವಿಧ್ಯುತ್/2025-26/2105 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 17.11.2025

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಬೆಂಚರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ವಿಧ್ಯುತ್), ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ವಿಧ್ಯುತ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಇವರ ವತಿಯಿಂದ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು **KW-2 STD** ಪರಿಷ್ಕರಣಾಕ್ರಮದಲ್ಲಿ ಬೆಂಚರ್ನ ಮೇರದಲನೆ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಬೆಂಚರ್ ಕರೆಯನ್ನು, ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಮೂಲಕ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿವೆ.

Sl. No.	Work Indents	Work Value (Rs. in Lakhs)
1	PWD/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT29218	42.29 Lakhs
2	PWD/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT29219	21.25 Lakhs

ಮೇಲಿನ ಬೆಂಚರ್‌ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಇಚ್ಛಿಸುವವರು ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> ನಲ್ಲಿ ಬೆಂಚರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ದಿನಾಂಕ: 15.11.2025 ರಿಂದ 24.11.2025, 12:00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಬೆಂಚರ್ ಹಿಂತಿರುಗಿಸುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 24.11.2025 ರಿಂದ 12:00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಬೆಂಚರ್ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು **Karnataka Public Procurement Portal** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಲಸದ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು(ಎ). ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಲುನಿ-ಸಿ,ಬಿ/3865/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಎ/2025-26

CAUVERY NEERAVARI NIGAMA NIYAMITA (Government of Karnataka)

Office of the Executive Engineer, No.1, HLBC Division, Channarayapatna-573116 Hassan District.

Tele Phone No. : 08176-252204 Fax No. : 08176-256650 E-Mail : eehlbcrp@gmail.com

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION NO : 08/2025-26 DATED : 17.11.2025. Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Two cover System

On behalf of the Managing Director Cauvery Neeravari Nigama Limited, Electronic tenders on ITEMWISE TENDERS on Karnataka public procurement portal are invited by the Executive Engineer, No1, HLBC, Division, Channarayapatna in Karnataka from eligible KPWD/ CPWD/ Registered public organization contractors for the works mentioned here under. Total No of works 6 works Types of works BNT approach LIS, Nugehallay DWS, Hirisave-Shravanabelagola DWS and Distributory No.35 & 36 canal improvements works Estimated Amount Rs. 75.45 Lakhs to Rs. 421.81 Lakhs E.M.D. Details Rs. 151000/- to Rs. 633000/- The contractor can obtain the documents and can access KPPP. For Two cover system works Contractors can download the documents from 17.11.2025 to 29.11.2025 upto 4.00 PM will be the last date for submission of application through KPPP. Prebid Meeting 24.11.2025 Date of Opening of Technical bid will be on 01.12.2025 at 11.30 AM, and financial bid will be opened soon after the approval of technical bid. If any variation found in amount put to tender and E.M.D, amount mentioned in the bid document will be consider as final. Note: Further details can be obtained from the above office or Karnataka Public Procurement Portal website (<https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>).

Sd/- Executive Engineer, No.1, HLBC Division, Channarayapatna, Hassan District.

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಲುನಿ/ಹಾಸನ/779/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಎ/2025-26

QUICK READ



Election Commission summons Punjab DGP to Delhi

New Delhi

The Election Commission has called Punjab DGP Gaurav Yadav to Delhi on November 25. This follows complaints against Tarn Taran SSP Ravjot Kaur Grewal during a recent bypoll. Opposition leader Sukhbir Singh Badal claimed police unfairly targeted his party workers. As a result, the EC suspended Grewal. Officials said the matter is being taken seriously to ensure fair elections and proper conduct by police during voting. The investigation will continue after the DGP's meeting.

SC rejects advocate band disposal plea

New Delhi

The Supreme Court has dismissed a plea asking for a green way to dispose of used advocate bands in courts. The bands, made of cotton, are worn by lawyers instead of ties. The petition was filed by Sakshi Vijay, a law professor, who wanted a uniform system across India. A bench led by Chief Justice B R Gavai and Justice K Vinod Chandran rejected the request, saying no such rule was needed at this time.

BJP picks observer to elect legislature party leader

New Delhi

The BJP has chosen Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya as the main observer for electing the legislature party leader in Bihar. Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal and former Union Minister Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti will assist him as co-observers. The party's Parliamentary Board made the announcement through a statement by national general secretary Arun Singh. This move comes ahead of key decisions in Bihar's political leadership following recent developments.

Prez Murmu pushes for circular water economy

She called upon farmers and entrepreneurs to use innovative ways that save water and increase productivity

NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday called for a nationwide move toward a circular water economy, stressing that India must use its water resources more efficiently and sustainably.

She made this appeal while presenting the sixth National Water Awards and the Jal Sanchay-Jan Bhagidari Awards at a ceremony in the capital.

The President noted that several industries have already reached zero-liquid-discharge standards by treating and reusing wastewater. Such systems, she said, prove that modern water practices can greatly improve conservation and strengthen long-term national water security. She encouraged more industries and institutions to adopt similar methods.

In her address, President Murmu reflected on the deep cultural value of water in India. She reminded the audience that the national song begins with the word "Sujalam," meaning rich in water, showing how strongly the country has respected water



for generations.

She said water protection demands constant effort from every level of government, including central and state authorities, district officials, panchayats, and municipal bodies. Along with them, she praised the growing role of schools, colleges, NGOs, and citizen groups in improving water awareness.

The President urged farmers and entrepreneurs to use innovative ways that save water and increase productivity. She added that responsible citizens who support conservation form an important link in the country's "water-pros-

perity value chain."

President Murmu stressed that every drop of water must be treated as precious. She pointed to tribal communities, who traditionally view all natural resources with deep respect, saying their approach can inspire the whole nation.

She concluded that meaningful water conservation is possible only through joint action by people and the government. The National Water Awards and the Jal Sanchay-Jan Bhagidari initiative aim to spread awareness and support community-based models for groundwater recharge and smart water use.

UP does not tolerate crime, no escape for criminals: Yogi

GORAKHPUR

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday said the "new Uttar Pradesh" does not tolerate crime.

Speaking at the opening of the upgraded Regional Forensic Science Laboratory (RFSL) in Gorakhpur, he said criminals will no longer escape justice.

The Chief Minister said the state has built a strong system using scientific investigation and modern forensic tools. "We have created a setup where criminals cannot get away. Victims now get fast and fair justice," he said.

The new six-storey RFSL building, upgraded from

B-class to A-class, cost ₹72.78 crore. Yogi congratulated the people of eastern UP for getting access to advanced forensic services.

Before 2017, UP had only four forensic labs. Now, there are 12, with six more being built. Each district also has two mobile forensic vans to collect evidence quickly after a crime.

Under new laws from July, forensic tests are now required for serious crimes. Yogi said UP had already started improving its forensic system before these laws began.

He also highlighted job opportunities in forensic science. The UP State Institute

of Forensic Science in Lucknow offers training and degrees. It has DNA labs, AI tools, drones, and robots.

To fight cybercrime, the state is working to build world-class cyber forensic systems.

Yogi said 2.19 lakh police officers have been hired in eight years, including over 60,000 recently. Training capacity has grown from 6,000 to over 60,000.

He added that three women's PAC battalions have been formed, and more are being set up. Thanks to better safety, women's workforce participation has risen from under 13% to over 35% since 2017.



'AAP failed to stop killings'

CHANDIGARH

Punjab BJP President Sunil Jakhar on Tuesday accused the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government of failing to stop targeted killings that threaten the state's communal harmony. He made the remarks in Ferozepur while visiting the family of Naveen Arora, son of RSS leader Baldev Raj Arora, who was recently shot dead.

Jakhar said such killings are part of a pattern aimed at disturbing peace in Punjab. He linked the murder to earlier killings of RSS leaders Jagdish Gagneja and Vikas Bagga, calling it a larger conspiracy against Punjabis. "No Punjabi will tolerate this," he said.

He criticised the state gov-

ernment for remaining silent and not reacting officially to the incident. Jakhar said the killings are especially shameful as the state marks the 350th martyrdom anniversary of Guru Tegh Bahadur, who stood for religious freedom.

Calling the violence a result of a "dirty mindset" trying to divide society, Jakhar demanded strict action against those responsible. He urged Punjabis to stay united and not fall into the trap of hate.

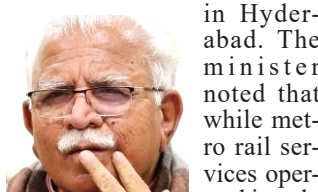
Jakhar also reminded the media of AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal's promise on November 6 to eliminate gangsters from Punjab within seven days. "More than a week has passed, and nothing has changed," he said, calling the promise an election gimmick.

India to overtake US metro network: Min

HYDERABAD

Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs Manohar Lal on Tuesday said India will surpass the United States in total metro rail length within the next two to three years.

He made this statement during the Regional Meeting of Urban Development Ministers of South-West states held



in Hyderabad. The minister noted that while metro rail services operated in only five Indian cities in 2004-05, they now run in 24 cities. India's metro network has reached 1,100 km, compared to the US's 1,400 km. "We are very close to the US. In just two to three years, we will cross them," he said. He added that urbanisation is growing fast and by 2050, cities and towns are expected to contribute 80% of India's GDP. The Centre will continue supporting urban development projects in Telangana.

Stalin wants Centre to come to the rescue of TN farmers

CHENNAI

Ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Coimbatore on November 19, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin has raised three urgent demands to support farmers during the ongoing kharif procurement season.

In a letter to the Prime Minister, which he also shared on social media, Stalin said Tamil Nadu has seen a bumper harvest this year. The Northeast monsoon has further boosted procurement, and quick action is needed to protect farmers' interests.

His first demand is to raise the rice procurement target from 16 lakh metric tonnes (MT) to 20 lakh MT. The state has already produced 14.11 lakh MT of paddy as of November 16, a big jump from 4.81 lakh MT last year. The Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corpo-

ration (TNCS) has procured all of it from 1.86 lakh farmers through 1,932 centres, paying ₹3,559 crore.

Stalin's second request is to relax the moisture content rule for paddy. Currently, the limit is 17%, but he wants it raised to 22% to avoid rejecting paddy harvested during rains.

His third demand is to increase the packing size of fortified rice kernels from 25 kg to 50 kg and raise the sample lot size from 10 MT to 25 MT. This would help speed up quality checks and procurement.

Stalin said these steps are vital as procurement has already matched last year's total. He urged the Centre to act quickly to avoid distress among farmers. The Prime Minister is expected to review agricultural and development projects during his visit.



Gujarat CM backs youth-led governance shift

AHMEDABAD

Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel said the state government is focused on meaningful transformation that improves people's lives, not just running systems. He was speaking at a one-day workshop for the Chief Minister's Fellowship cohort in Gandhinagar.

Patel highlighted the importance of combining the experience of senior officials with the fresh ideas of young professionals. He said this synergy can boost public welfare and make governance more efficient and citizen-friendly.

The Chief Minister praised the Chief Minister's Fellowship Programme, launched in 2009 by then CM Narendra Modi, as a model for innovation in administration. He said the programme helps make governance more technology-driven and responsive to people's needs.

Quoting PM Modi, Patel said, "We work not just to run a government but to bring change in the country."

CAQM denies GRAP-IV in Delhi-NCR

NEW DELHI

The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) has clarified that Delhi-NCR is currently under Stage-III of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), not Stage-IV as some reports claimed. On Tuesday, CAQM urged the public to ignore false news being spread by certain media channels and online platforms.

In its official statement, CAQM said Stage-III remains in force and asked people to

rely only on verified updates. Stage-III is applied when the Air Quality Index (AQI) reaches the 'severe' category, which ranges from 401 to 500. The AQI scale also includes 'good' (0-50), 'satisfactory' (51-100), 'moderate' (101-200), 'poor' (201-300), and 'very poor' (301-400).

Measures under Stage-III include stopping non-essential construction and demolition, limiting diesel generator use, increasing pollution checks in industries, and boosting road cleaning and water-sprinkling



efforts. Authorities may also tighten traffic rules and restrict certain polluting industries to prevent worsening air conditions.

Stage-IV, the highest alert

level, has not been activated. If imposed, it would lead to a complete ban on construction, stop polluting trucks from entering Delhi, close schools and non-essential businesses.

NDA debates Bihar cabinet, speaker

PATNA

Intense talks are underway among NDA partners in Bihar to decide cabinet positions and the Assembly Speaker post ahead of the swearing-in ceremony on November 20.

Both BJP and JD(U) are pushing for the Speaker's role, which was previously held by BJP's Nand Kishore Yadav, while JD(U)'s Narendra Narayan Yadav served as Deputy Speaker.

Meetings are being held in New Delhi to resolve the issue,

with JD(U)'s Vijay Choudhary and BJP's Prem Kumar emerg-

ing as top contenders. The new cabinet is expected to include five to six fresh faces from BJP and JD(U). JD(U)'s Umesh Singh Kushwaha, who won from Mahnar, is likely to be inducted.

Nitish Kumar will resign as Chief Minister on November 19 and take oath for a record 10th term the next day. Both JD(U)

and BJP will elect their Legis-

lature party leaders on November 19. The NDA won 202 out of 243 seats, with BJP securing 89, JD(U) 85, LJP(RV) 19, HAM 5, and RLM 4.

JD(U) plans to retain its current ministers, while BJP may introduce new ones. Smaller allies will also join the cabinet: LJP(RV) may get three berths, HAM-S and RLM one each.



Kolkata cops reshuffled before elections

KOLKATA

Just five months before the Bengal Assembly polls, Kolkata Police underwent a major reshuffle on Tuesday, transferring 21 Inspector-rank officers.

Though officials called it routine, the timing—during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls—adds political weight to the move.

Several officers-in-charge (OCs) were reassigned. Bireswar Roy moved from Maniktala to Taltala, Manish Majumdar from Sinter to Ultadanga, and Rajib Chatterjee was promoted within Tollygunge. Bipul Biswas shifted

from Bansdroni to Tangra, while Ashish Basu took charge of North Port.

Additional OCs also saw changes. Rajib Sarkar moved to Muchipara, Prashant Kumar Das to Parnashree, and Deepak Mandal joined Bansdroni. Others like Prashant Kumar Ghosh, Sagar Mukherjee, Mrinmoy Majumdar, Subir Saha, Prosenjit Dhar, and Partha Pratim Chakraborty received new postings across Tangra, Tollygunge, Ultadanga, Sinter, Maniktala, and Pragati Maidan stations. This reshuffle is seen as a strategic step to ensure tighter law and order ahead of the elections

Centre adds new crop loss coverage for farmers

NEW DELHI

The Centre has announced new insurance coverage for farmers under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY).

Starting from Kharif 2026, crop losses caused by wild animal attacks and paddy inundation in flood-prone areas will be covered.

Wild animal damage is now the fifth add-on under the 'Localised Risk' category. States will list animals like elephants, wild boars, nilgai, deer, and monkeys that cause

crop damage and identify vulnerable districts. Farmers must report losses within 72 hours using the Crop Insurance App with geotagged photos.

This move responds to long-standing demands from states and aims to protect farmers from sudden and severe local damage. Until now, such losses were not covered, leaving many farmers without compensation.

Paddy inundation, removed from coverage in 2018 due to assessment challenges, has now been reinstated. This will



help farmers in coastal and flood-prone areas where heavy rains often submerge crops.

The Ministry of Agriculture formed an expert committee

to study these issues. Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan approved the recommendations, ensuring a scientific and transparent rollout.

QUICK READ



SIR work boycott begins across TN

Chennai
Members of the Federation of Revenue Associations of Tamil Nadu began boycotting SIR work on Tuesday, saying they face too much workload, limited staff, strict deadlines, and poor training. On Monday evening, they submitted petitions to collectors in 32 districts and held protests in taluk and district centres. Leaders said only SIR duties are stopped, not regular work. They demanded proper training, more officers, and enough BLO staff, opposing long review meetings and frequent video conferences.

Bus fire: Kin of victims leave for Saudi cremation

Hyderabad
Around 50 family members of pilgrims who died in the Saudi bus accident are set to leave Hyderabad for the funeral, expected on Thursday. A Telangana team led by Minister Mohammad Azharuddin is already in Saudi Arabia to coordinate arrangements. Officials said DNA tests will be done to identify the bodies before issuing death certificates. The Saudi and Telangana governments may offer compensation. The accident claimed 42 to 45 lives, mostly from Telangana.

Ambulance fire kills infant, doc, two others

Modasa
A newborn, a doctor, and two others died after an ambulance caught fire near Modasa in Gujarat's Arvali district early Tuesday. The vehicle was taking the one-day-old baby to Ahmedabad for treatment when the blaze erupted. The infant, his father Jignesh Mochi, doctor Shantilal Rentia, and nurse Bhuriben Manat were trapped inside. Three others, including the driver, suffered burns. Police called forensic experts to find the cause of the sudden fire.

Modi to release 21st PM Kisan instalment on Nov 19

He will speak to farmers across the country through a virtual link and interact with beneficiaries to understand how the scheme is helping them

AHMEDABAD

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will release the 21st instalment of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme on November 19 during a national event in Coimbatore of Tamil Nadu.
The Prime Minister will speak to farmers across the country through a virtual link and interact with beneficiaries to understand how the scheme is helping them. This instalment continues the government's effort to give steady

financial help to farmers for their basic and farming needs. Along with the national event, Gujarat will host a state-level programme in Gandhinagar under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel. Deputy Chief Minister Harsh Sanghavi, Agriculture Minister Jitu Vaghani and Minister of State for Agriculture Ramesh Katara will also take part in the programme. During the event, the Chief Minister will hand over assistance and ap-

proval letters to farmers under PM-KISAN and other agriculture and horticulture schemes. These steps aim to support farmers and encourage them to use modern farming methods. Agriculture Minister Jitu Vaghani said that over 9 crore farmers across India will receive more than ₹18,000 crore through this instalment. In Gujarat alone, more than 49.31 lakh farmer families will get over ₹986 crore directly in their bank accounts.



This direct benefit transfer ensures transparency and quick support to farmers who depend on timely funds, especially before key farming seasons.
ICAR institutes, universities and Krishi Vigyan Kendras will host local events and screen the Prime Minister's address, with farmers and officials attending. Since 2019, PM-KISAN has supported over 11 crore farmers with ₹3.91 lakh crore, including ₹21,000 crore for Gujarat, easing financial pressure on small and marginal farmers.



Gandhis place nation, secular values above politics: Robert Vadra

NEW DELHI

Businessman Robert Vadra on Tuesday strongly defended Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi, saying both leaders place the nation and its secular values above political wins or losses.
Speaking to reporters, he said the siblings are committed to public service and remain focused on India's welfare rather than personal or party gains.
Vadra made these remarks amid rising debate after the Bihar Assembly election results. The Congress-led Mahagathbandhan had campaigned intensively, raising questions about alleged voter manipulation. These claims were firmly rejected by both the BJP and the Election Commission of India. In the end, the NDA won over 200 seats, while the grand alliance failed to cross even 35 seats in the 243-member House.
Talking about the Gandhis' approach to politics, Vadra said they have learned from their family's long political legacy. He added that both Rahul and Priyanka have seen victories and defeats over the

Robert Vadra praised Rahul and Priyanka Gandhi, saying they care more about the nation and secular values than election wins, as he defended them after the Bihar poll setback.

years and do not allow election results to shape their identity or purpose. According to him, their main concern continues to be India's unity, progress, and secular values.
Responding to critics who often question Rahul Gandhi's leadership abilities, Vadra said such criticism is unfair and politically motivated. He remarked that if the Congress had won in Bihar, the same critics would have hailed Rahul Gandhi as a strong national leader and even projected him as a future Prime Minister.
Vadra hinted that Bihar's results might have changed with ballot papers instead of EVMs, though he offered no evidence. His remarks underline the Gandhis' focus on service and national interest, despite the Bihar defeat raising new questions about Congress's election strategy.

Educate senior citizens about rights'

NEW DELHI

Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Virendra Kumar on Tuesday emphasized the need to educate senior citizens about their legal rights to maintenance under the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007.
Speaking at a special session held at Ambedkar International Centre, he said the Ministry is working on three pillars—Empowerment, Sensitivity, and Participation.
The session, organized with the National Legal Service Authority (NALSA), aimed to raise awareness about the legal protections and welfare schemes available to the elderly. Kumar highlighted that over 7 lakh senior citizens have benefited from aids and assistive devices under the Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana. He also



mentioned Elderline, a toll-free helpline (14567), and the ₹5 lakh health insurance coverage for citizens aged 70 and above.
Justice Surya Kant, Supreme Court Judge and NALSA Executive Chairman, said the MWPSA Act is not just a welfare measure but a binding societal duty. He noted that technological changes have led to declining attention and respect for the elderly, and stressed the importance of using existing legal frameworks to protect

their rights.
Social Justice Secretary Amit Yadav projected that India's senior citizen population will rise from 10.38 crore in 2011 to 34 crore by 2050. He said this shift demands stronger efforts to ensure dignity, safety, and inclusion for the elderly. Yadav also urged the younger generation and communities to support seniors facing digital and financial challenges. The session called for collective responsibility to uphold elderly rights and ensure their well-being.

Security upped after clash over statue installation

JAIPUR

Tension broke out in Jodhiasi village of Nagaur district on Tuesday over a long-running dispute regarding the installation of a statue of Maharaja Surajmal at a public square. Trouble began around 1:30 pm when one group attempted to put up a tent at the disputed spot, leading to a clash with the opposing side. Despite police presence, both groups threw stones, forcing officers to disperse the crowd and restore order. Police teams from nine stations, along with RAC and Quick Response Team units, were deployed at the busy bus stand intersection where the incident took place. The dispute has continued for nearly a year, as three statues — of Lord Parshuram, Maharana Pratap, and Maharaja Surajmal — were planned for installation in the village.

'Modi fan': Actor Urmila Unni joins BJP

KOCHI

Malayalam film and television actor Urmila Unni has joined the BJP, giving the party a notable boost in its cultural outreach in Kerala. She was formally inducted at a ceremony in Kochi, where she received her membership in the presence of senior BJP leaders and several well-known film industry personalities. Prominent producer G. Suresh Kumar also attended the event, reflecting the growing political interest among members of the Malayalam film fraternity.

Nawab Malik faces charges in PMLA case

MUMBAI

A Special PMLA Court in Mumbai on Tuesday formally framed charges against former Maharashtra Minister and NCP leader Nawab Malik in a money laundering case linked to underworld figure Dawood Ibrahim's network. Malik, currently out on bail, pleaded not guilty, but the court found enough evidence to proceed with trial.
The case involves the alleged illegal acquisition of three acres of land in Kurla's Goawala Compound, originally owned by Munira Plumber. Malik, Dawood's sister Haseena Parkar, her aide Salim Patel, and 1993 blasts accused Sardar Khan



are accused of conspiring to grab the land and launder the proceeds, valued at ₹16 crore.
Earlier, Malik's firm, Malik Infrastructure, filed a discharge plea claiming the company didn't exist during the alleged transactions and that the ED's case was speculative. The court rejected the plea, citing sufficient prima facie evidence and links to the D-Company.

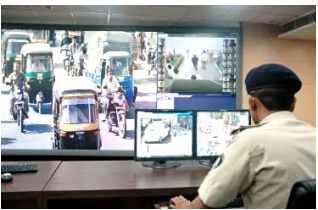
Malik also requested a six-week delay in framing charges, citing a pending Bombay High Court petition and missing ED documents. His lawyer argued that full disclosure might negate the need for charges. However, Special Public Prosecutor Sunil Gonsalves pointed out there was no stay from the High Court. The court agreed and cited Supreme Court and High Court directives to fast-track cases involving public representatives.
Malik was arrested in February 2022 for allegedly using forged documents and threats to acquire the property. With charges now framed, the trial is set to begin, marking a key step in the high-profile case.

State told to install CCTV camera in all police stations

RANCHI

The Jharkhand High Court has firmly directed the state government to install CCTV cameras in all 334 police stations by January 5, 2026. The court said that many police stations still do not have proper surveillance systems, which affects law-and-order monitoring and also violates the basic rights of citizens.

The judges stated that the delay in completing this work is a serious matter, and any further negligence will not be accepted.
This order was passed during the hearing of a public interest litigation before a division bench led by Chief Justice Tarlok Singh Chauhan. Following the court's earlier instructions, the Chief Secretary, Home Secretary, Direc-



tor General of Police, and IT Department Secretary appeared personally before the bench.
The court has directed the

state to finish the Detailed Project Report and the tender process for the CCTV installation by December 31. After this, work must start immediately in all police stations. The judges warned that if the installation is not completed by the January 5 deadline, the matter will be treated as contempt of court.
The PIL was filed by Shoubhik Banerjee from West

Bengal. He said he was illegally kept for two days at the Bank Mor police station in Dhanbad when he had travelled there to seek bail in a cheque bounce case.
Banerjee told the court that CCTV footage could have shown what happened, but the police said they had only two days of video backup and important clips were missing.

CM Sukhu lays foundation stone for Palampur heliport

PALAMPUR

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Tuesday laid the foundation stone for a new heliport in Palampur, Kangra district. The project, costing ₹19.77 crore, will include a passenger terminal, fire station, utility building, and other essential facilities for travellers. Speaking at the event, the Chief Minister said the heliport would be completed by April next year, after which helicopter services to Chandigarh and Shimla would begin at af-

fordable rates.
He said the state government is preparing several development plans for Kangra district. One such proposal aims to create a tourism village in Palampur. However, he noted that a few individuals influenced by the BJP had approached the court, resulting in a stay order. He added that efforts were ongoing to resolve the matter and move the project forward. The CM reiterated his government's commitment to promote Kangra as the state's tourism capital, opening new income opportunities for residents.

NEW DELHI

A new report has said that the Animal Birth Control (ABC) programme cannot succeed in Delhi-NCR without a clear count of stray dogs.
The study explains that authorities cannot plan shelters, sterilisation, or vaccination drives unless they know the exact number of free-ranging dogs. The ABC programme, guided by the Animal Birth Control Rules, 2023, aims to manage stray dog populations humanely and reduce human-animal conflicts through ster-



ilisation and vaccination. Experts from the Esha Centre, a

FOR EFFECTIVE ABC

Report stresses census for effective dog control

126 rabies deaths nationwide between 2022 and 2025, with none in Delhi. However, they said these numbers need more clarity because rabies can also spread through other animals such as cows and monkeys.
The report highlighted the confusion surrounding the number of free-ranging dogs in Delhi-NCR, with estimates ranging from 300,000 to one million. It stressed that only a proper census can guide effective planning. On November 7, the Supreme Court ordered that stray dogs be moved to designated shelters

following rising bite cases in schools, hospitals, and other institutions. The court also directed various authorities, including the NHAI, to keep highways clear of stray dogs and cattle.
Report author Meghna Bal said community dog feeders can assist in counting dogs, and surveys show most are willing to help. Many people find neighbourhood dogs friendly and protective, but the report stressed the need for clearer dog-bite data as incidents continue across states.



QUICK READ

Australia launches campaign to raise visa scam awareness

New Delhi

The Australian High Commission in India, in partnership with international counterparts, is raising awareness about visa scams and fraudulent migration practices as part of the ongoing November 16–22 International Fraud Awareness Week – a global event encouraging governments, businesses, and community organisations to work together to reduce the impact of fraud through education and awareness. Visa fraud is a growing global issue, with criminals deceiving individuals through false visa guarantees, fake visa documents, and claims of being legitimate migration agents. These scams can result in significant financial loss, emotional distress.

12 Baloch civilians forcibly disappear at the hands of Pak forces

Quetta

At least twelve Baloch civilians, including four women and an elderly man, were forcibly disappeared by Pakistani security forces in Balochistan, amid a growing wave of enforced disappearance, a leading human rights organisation said on Tuesday. The latest incident comes against the backdrop of a continuing cycle of persecution marked by a surge in enforced disappearances, extrajudicial killings, and torture across the province. Expressing concern, human rights organisation Baloch Voice for Justice (BVJ) stated that the twelve individuals were reportedly taken into custody by Pakistani security forces in Kech district.

HRW flags concerns over fmr B'desh PM Sheikh Hasina's verdict

NEW YORK

Human Rights Watch (HRW), a US-based advocacy group, has raised serious human rights concerns over death sentences issued against former Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and former Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, noting that both were prosecuted in absentia and denied representation by counsel of their choosing. The statement came after Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) pronounced a death sentence for the former Prime Minister after finding her guilty on the charges of crimes against humanity related to the demonstrations in July 2024.

The ICT also convicted two of Hasina's top aides, sentencing former Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal to death and former Inspector General of Police Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun, who turned state witness, to five years' imprisonment.

There is enduring anger and anguish in Bangladesh over Hasina's repressive rule, but all criminal proceedings need to meet international fair trial standards.

Those responsible for horrific abuses under the Hasina administration should be held to account after impartial investigations and credible trials, said Meenakshi Ganguly, Deputy Asia Director at HRW.

SU DO KU

Brain-Bender: Can You Solve It?

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



Ukrainian Prez Volodymyr Zelenskyy Heads to Turkiye to Revive Peace Talks

Zelenskyy visits Turkiye aiming to revive stalled peace talks and secure renewed US support amid ongoing Russian invasion

ANKARA

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy signalled fresh diplomatic momentum on Tuesday as he prepared to travel to Turkiye in a bid to reignite negotiations aimed at ending the war triggered by Russia's full-scale invasion nearly two years ago. The visit comes as part of a brief tour of European allies, as Kyiv works to secure stronger political and military backing amid renewed geopolitical uncertainty.

In a post on social media, Zelenskyy confirmed that Ukraine is preparing to rein-

vigorate negotiations, adding that Kyiv has developed solutions it intends to present to international partners. Although he did not reveal specific details of the trip, reports indicate that Zelenskyy is expected to meet United States special envoy Steve Witkoff and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Ankara.

Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said Moscow would not participate in the upcoming talks scheduled for November 19. However, he noted that Russian President Vladimir Putin remains open to discussions with the U.S. and Turkiye after the talks



conclude. For now, these contacts are taking place without Russian participation. We will await information on what would actually be discussed in Istanbul, Peskov told reporters. A senior Ukrainian

official told AFP that Zelenskyy's primary objective is to re-engage the Americans in peace negotiations, highlighting Kyiv's concerns that shifting positions in Washington could undermine efforts to

secure a viable diplomatic solution. Former U.S. President Donald Trump has previously claimed he could quickly end the war, but his unpredictable approach has raised concerns in Kyiv. Ukraine has intensified its diplomatic efforts in recent weeks to avoid any scenario in which U.S. involvement wanes or the pressure for a rushed ceasefire increases.

The visit to Turkiye highlights Ukraine's ongoing strategy of broadening international support as the conflict nears the two-year mark, with no clear resolution in sight.



Australian teenage girl killed in hit-and-run in northern Brisbane

SYDNEY

A teenage girl died after being struck by a vehicle that fled the scene in northern Brisbane in the Australian state of Queensland. The Queensland Police Service (QPS) said on Tuesday that emergency services were called to reports that a vehicle had struck a pedestrian in the suburb of Margate, 25 kilometres north of central Brisbane, around 11:27 pm local time.

Officers arrived to find a 17-year-old girl with life-threatening injuries and commenced CPR, but she was declared deceased at the scene a short time later. The QPS said that the vehicle fled the scene following the crash.

According to official data, 273 people had died in road crashes in Queensland in 2025, up from 265 at the same point in 2024 and 243 in 2023.

The QPS issued a warning to motorists to drive safely and adhere to the road rules. On November 11, an adult and two children died after their car was crushed in a collision with a truck in southeastern Australia.

A police statement said that emergency services were called to the collision in the small town of Stoneleigh, about 150 km west of Melbourne in the state of Victoria, shortly after 9:30 a.m. local time, and found that the car had rolled and been crushed.

Three occupants of the car, an adult and two children, died at the scene. A second adult who was also in the car was trapped and was expected to be airlifted to the hospital with life-threatening injuries.

The driver of the truck sustained minor injuries. Victoria Police said that detectives from the major collision investigation unit will investigate the circumstances surrounding the incident.

S Jaishankar urged global zero tolerance on terrorism at SCO meeting in Moscow

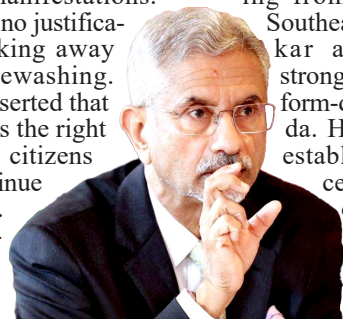
Jaishankar Calls for Zero Tolerance on Terrorism

MOSCOW

External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar reiterated India's uncompromising stance against terrorism while addressing the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Council of Heads of Government meeting in Moscow on Tuesday. Emphasising that terrorism remains one of the gravest threats to global peace, he called on member nations to uphold zero tolerance toward all forms of terror without exception.

We must never forget that the SCO was founded to combat the three evils of terrorism, separatism and extremism, Jaishankar reminded the gathering. These threats have become even more serious in the years that have passed. It is imperative that the world display zero tolerance towards terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. There can be no justification, no looking away and no whitewashing. He further asserted that India reserves the right to protect its citizens and will continue to exercise it.

The meeting of the SCO Council



of Heads of Government — the organisation's second-highest decision-making body — focused on trade, economic cooperation and budgetary matters. The previous session was held in Pakistan in October 2024. Highlighting India's civilisational values, Jaishankar said people-to-people engagement remains central to meaningful diplomacy. Facilitating greater interaction between our intellectuals, artists, sportspeople and cultural icons will pave the way for deeper understanding across the SCO, he said. He noted that India has successfully carried out cultural collaborations, including the exhibition of sacred Buddhist relics across several member nations. Extending India's cultural expertise, he offered support in heritage conservation, particularly in Central Asia, drawing from experience in Southeast Asia. Jaishankar also expressed strong support for a reform-driven SCO agenda. He welcomed the establishment of new centres addressing organised crime, drug trafficking and cyber security.

Iran offers condolences on death of Indian pilgrims in Saudi Arabia accident

TEHRAN

Expressing solidarity with the people of India, Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei on Tuesday offered condolences to the families of the victims of bus accident in Saudi Arabia. Baghaei also prayed for the swift recovery of Indian nationals injured in the accident. Sharing Baghaei's statement on X, Iran's Embassy in India stated, The Spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran expressed condolences to the families of the Indian nationals who lost their lives in the

road accident in Saudi Arabia. Following the death of several Indian Umrah pilgrims from the city of Hyderabad in a bus accident near the city of Medina, Ismail Baghai, Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, conveyed his condolences to the families of the victims and expressed solidarity with the people and the Government of India. The Spokesperson of Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs prayed to Almighty God for divine mercy and forgiveness for the deceased, and for a swift recovery for those injured in the incident.

As many as 45 Umrah pilgrims from Hyderabad died

when a bus carrying them caught fire after a collision with an oil tanker near Medina in Saudi Arabia. Hyderabad Police Commissioner V C Sajjanar told media persons that, as per the information received, one pilgrim, Mohammed Abdul Shoaib, survived and was undergoing treatment at a hospital. He said a group of 54 pilgrims from Hyderabad had left for Jeddah on November 9 and were scheduled to return on November 23. After performing 'Umrah' (mini pilgrimage) in Mecca, the pilgrims left for Medina. When the bus was about 25 km away from Medina.

FM SLAMS PAKISTAN

Taliban FM Condemns Inhumane Treatment of Refugees

KABUL

Taliban Foreign Minister Maulvi Amir Khan Muttaqi on Tuesday sharply criticised what he described as the inhumane treatment of Afghan refugees, indirectly accusing Pakistan of forcibly expelling thousands in violation of international law. Speaking at the Fifth Coordination Meeting between Afghanistan and United Nations agencies in Kabul, Muttaqi called on the global community to intervene urgently.

Without naming Pakistan

directly, the Taliban minister condemned some countries for using Afghan refugees as political leverage, subjecting them to harsh evictions and denying them safe passage. In this harsh winter, they are being forcibly evicted from their homes and then denied entry at crossing points. Is this not a blatant violation of international refugee principles? Is this not a grave injustice against women, children and elderly? he asked.

Relations between Kabul and Islamabad have deteriorated sharply in recent



months, particularly after Pakistan began deporting undocumented Afghan refugees in large numbers. The UN reports that Iran and Pakistan host the majority of Afghan

refugees—approximately 3.5 million in Iran and 1.6 million in Pakistan. However, Pakistan's recent crackdown has triggered a mass return movement.

According to UN data, an estimated 126,800 Afghan refugees and those in refugee-like situations have returned from Pakistan in the past year alone.

Muttaqi urged international agencies to protect vulnerable families who face freezing temperatures, displacement and uncertainty upon return. He stressed that

humanitarian concerns should not be overshadowed by regional politics.

The Taliban government, which remains internationally unrecognised, has repeatedly sought foreign support to manage refugee returns amid Afghanistan's ongoing economic and humanitarian crises.

The minister's remarks reflect growing frustration as thousands of deported Afghans continue to cross back into a country struggling with limited resources, unemployment and food insecurity.



QUICK READ



Profit-booking pulls markets down after 6-day rally

Mumbai
Indian stock indices closed lower on Tuesday, snapping the sixth session's winning streak amid profit booking. Sensex closed at 84,673.02, down 27793 points or 0.33 per cent. The 30-share index started the session flat at 85,042.37 against last session's closing of 84,950.95. Later, the index dragged into negative territory as selling pressure gripped the market sentiment. The domestic equity market edged lower as investors booked profits after the recent rebound, mirroring weak global sentiment. Expectations of a U.S. Fed rate cut in December have diminished, weighing on sentiment.

C-DOT to participate in Amaravati Quantum Valley

New Delhi
The Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) on Tuesday said it has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Andhra Pradesh government to participate in the Amaravati Quantum Valley (AQV) initiative. Andhra Pradesh has taken a giant step in shaping India's quantum future with the initiative of setting up AQV. The project involves state-level partnerships, infrastructure, and training programmes, aiming to create an integrated quantum ecosystem uniting hardware manufacturing, software development, talent nurturing, and research excellence. Through this partnership, C-DOT proposes to set up a centre of excellence (CoE) in quantum communication and security solutions.

India's services exports outpace goods exports by 11%

New Delhi
India's services exports (\$38.5 billion) outpaced goods exports (\$34.4 billion) by 11 per cent in October, bouncing back after a few months of weakness, a report said on Tuesday. The export of the service sector gained an average of \$37.5 billion in the September-October period against \$33 billion in the first eight months of the year. At the same time, services trade surplus was at an all-time high of \$20 billion during the month, HSBC Global Investment Research said in its report.

India's IT spending to grow 10.6 pc to reach \$176.3 bn in 2026

NEW DELHI
India's IT spending is expected to reach \$176.3 billion in 2026, up 10.6 per cent on-year, driven by accelerating adoption of cloud and digital technologies, a report said on Tuesday. The data centre systems segment is projected to record the highest annual growth rate, rising 20.5 per cent in 2026 to \$9,385 million. Evolving data privacy and sovereign cloud requirements are expected to drive growth in this segment through 2026, the report from Gartner said. Data centre systems spending is primarily driven by substantial AI infrastructure investments and multiple govern-

ment programs aimed at strengthening the local AI ecosystem, said Naresh Singh, Senior Director Analyst at Gartner. As the uncertainty pause that began earlier this year eases, rising demand for AI infrastructure will fuel new investment in data centres in India, said DD Mishra, VP Analyst at Gartner. Mishra said that local CIOs will continue to prioritise investments in cybersecurity, AI/ML and data analytics. Their ongoing commitment to modernising applications, strengthening connectivity, implementing hyper-automation, enhancing customer experience, and operational efficiency will propel IT spending growth, he said.

FM holds key pre-budget talks with start-up leaders

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman met startup stakeholders in New Delhi for pre-budget consultations focused on innovation and growth

NEW DELHI

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday chaired the fifth round of pre-Budget consultations, this time engaging directly with stakeholders from India's rapidly expanding startup ecosystem. The meeting, held in New Delhi, is part of a continued series of discussions the Finance Ministry is undertaking ahead of the Union Budget 2026-27. These consultations aim to gather crucial industry feedback, assess current challenges and frame policies that support innovation and economic growth.

According to an update shared by the Ministry of Finance on X, the session centred around key issues impacting startups, including access to capital, regulatory hurdles, and support for deep-



tech and emerging sectors. Participants presented detailed proposals to enhance financing mechanisms, streamline compliance processes, and create a more enabling environment for entrepreneurs.

Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman chairs the fifth Pre-Budget Consultation with the stakeholders from the startups ecosystem in connec-

tion with the forthcoming Union Budget 2026-27, in New Delhi, the ministry posted, highlighting the significance of the engagement.

Also present were Union Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary, senior officials from the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), the Department of Economic Affairs and the Chief Economic Adviser. Their presence sig-

nalled a coordinated, multi-departmental approach to shaping the upcoming Budget. This round of discussions followed Sitharaman's earlier meetings with representatives from capital markets, where concerns over investor confidence, regulatory stability and market dynamics were addressed. Last week, she also interacted with leading economists and key representatives from the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) sector.

The Finance Ministry has scheduled an intensive week-long consultation exercise, which began on November 18. Talks with the manufacturing sector are planned later today, followed by meetings with stakeholders from banking, financial services, insurance (BFSI) and information technology on November 19.

Centre approves 17 new applicants under PLI scheme

NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Textiles has approved 17 new applicants under the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Textiles in the third round of selection. This significant step is set to further accelerate investment, boost domestic manufacturing, and enhance India's global competitiveness in the man-made fibre (MMF) apparel, MMF fabrics, and technical textiles sectors, according to an official statement issued on Tuesday. The newly approved applicants have committed a total investment of Rs 2,374 crore. The proposed projects are expected to achieve projected sales of over Rs 12,893 crore and generate employment for about 22,646 persons in the coming years, the statement said. The PLI scheme for textiles was notified on September 24, 2021, with an approved outlay of Rs 10,683 crore to promote the production of MMF apparel and fabrics, and products of technical textiles.

Revanth Reddy urged Union Government support to fast-track major infrastructure projects and boost Telangana's journey to global growth

Revanth Reddy seeks Centre's support for devpt of Hyderabad

HYDERABAD

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Tuesday sought the Union Government's full support to accelerate several ambitious infrastructure projects aimed at transforming Hyderabad into one of the world's most dynamic global cities. Speaking at a regional meeting chaired by Union Minister for Housing and Urban Development Manohar Lal Khattar in Hyderabad, the Chief Minister made a strong pitch for central assistance to complete critical development initia-

tives currently awaiting approval.

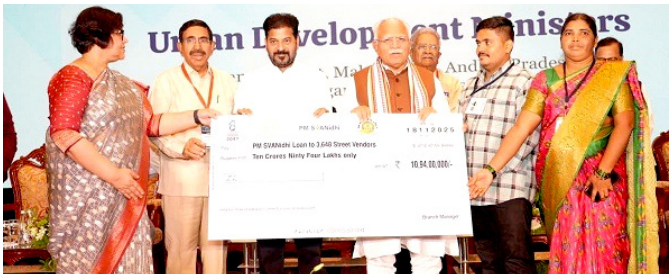
Among the key projects highlighted were the Musi River Rejuvenation plan, Hyderabad Metro Rail Phase-II expansion, Godavari water diversion scheme and the Regional Ring Road. Revanth Reddy stressed that these initiatives are essential to boosting the state's economic prospects and raising Hyderabad's global standing. Many important projects are pending. We request immediate permissions and full support from the Centre, he said.

He emphasized that Telan-

gana's ambitions extend beyond national benchmarks. We are not competing with other states. Our competition is with Singapore, Tokyo and New York. That requires strong cooperation from the Central government, the Chief Minister remarked.

Revanth Reddy also outlined the state's sustainability-focused vision, noting ongoing efforts to promote zero-carbon growth through the adoption of electric vehicles. As part of this plan, 3,000 electric buses will be deployed in Hyderabad next year.

The meeting also covered the Future City project, the establishment of a dry port and major global investment initiatives aimed at driving economic growth. The Chief Minister announced that the Telangana Rising Vision Document 2047 will be unveiled on December 9, detailing long-term development goals.



Industries must mentor next-gen leaders: Piyush Goyal

NEW DELHI

Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal on Tuesday, urged industry leaders to adopt a more ambitious and proactive approach to help drive India's growth.

While speaking at FICCI's 98th Annual General Meeting and Annual Convention, he outlined five key expectations from the industry and encouraged them to set bold, future-focused targets. Goyal first appealed to industry bodies to closely audit the results of their advocacy efforts. He said industry associations often push ideas and recommen-

dations, but they rarely evaluate which of them were accepted and which were forgotten.

This exercise, he noted, would help them understand their true impact and strengthen their role in the decades ahead. Set bold targets.

We can't be satisfied with incremental growth; we need to venture out of the ordinary.

We need domestic capital, Indian money in startups and R&D. It can't always be foreign investment; at initial stages, it should have do-

mestic money.

Be bold in outlook, Goyal mentioned.

He then emphasised the need for bolder goals, stressing that India cannot afford to be satisfied with slow or incremental progress.

Goyal called for stronger domestic investment, particularly in startups and research and development, saying that early-stage ventures should not depend solely on foreign capital. The minister also urged Indian industry to learn from global examples, particularly coun-



tries like Korea and Sweden, which have strong models for industrial growth and business facilitation. Speaking about leadership, Goyal expressed concern over the limited involvement of the next generation in policy and industry forums.

In his final point, Goyal asked FICCI to expand its presence beyond major cities and reach India's remote regions.

He said industry bodies should not remain confined to elite business circles but must widen their engagement to support growth across the country.



Inflation may nudge bond yields lower

MUMBAI

India's benchmark 10-year government bond yield is expected to inch lower in November and remain stable in the coming months, according to a new report released by Crisil Intelligence on Tuesday. The downward trend is expected to be supported by cooling inflation, easing crude oil prices and the possibility of further monetary easing by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) during the current fiscal year.

Crisil forecasts the benchmark 10-year government security (G-Sec) yield to trade between 6.43% and 6.53% by January 31, 2026. State development loan (SDL) yields are also projected to ease from the present 7.15% level to a range of 7.00%-7.10%. Similarly, 10-year corporate bond yields may soften from 7.14% to between 7.05% and 7.15% by the end of January.

We expect the RBI to cut the policy rate further this fiscal on account of gross domestic product (GDP) growth projections and inflation data, the report stated, indicating

Bond yields may decline in coming months as inflation softens, oil prices fall and RBI prepares monetary easing.

confidence in India's macroeconomic fundamentals.

Crisil expects India's GDP to grow at 6.5% in FY26, driven by domestic consumption, steady inflation levels, GST rationalisation and income tax relief measures. The report also predicts consumer price index (CPI) inflation to average 2.5% this fiscal, supported by strong agriculture output that is likely to keep food inflation under control.

Lower global commodity prices and soft crude oil rates are expected to help contain non-food inflation as well. However, Crisil noted several factors that could affect yields over the next three months, including market liquidity, US tariff negotiations, rupee movement, FPI flows, decisions by the US Federal Reserve, geopolitical uncertainties and upcoming government borrowing plans.

GSI's global seminar to kick off in Jaipur

NEW DELHI

The Geological Survey of India (GSI) is organising an international seminar on 'Unearthing the Past, Shaping the Future: 175 Years of GSI' this week at the Rajasthan International Centre in Jaipur as part of its year-long commemoration of 175 years of service to the nation, according to an official statement issued on Tuesday. The international seminar on November 20-21 will bring together experts from India and abroad to deliberate on emerging challenges, technological advancements, and the future trajectory of geosciences.

The two-day technical programme features nine plenary lectures, 19 special lectures, and over 300 scientific and poster presentations across 11 thematic areas. Eminent scientists from the British Geological Survey (BGS), United States Geological Survey (USGS), Geoscience Australia, and leading universities such as Lancaster University (UK), University of Michigan (USA), University of Texas (USA), and the Italian National Research Council will take part in the seminar, the statement said.

An exhibition showcasing cutting-edge technologies, geospatial tools, and innovative solutions by premier institutions and industries will be held alongside the



seminar. The event will also include the signing of MoUs with IIT Bombay and IIT Kharagpur, strengthening collaboration in frontier geoscience research and capacity building.

The event will be inaugurated by G. Kishan Reddy, Union Minister of Coal and Mines. Piyush Goyal, Secretary, Union Ministry of Mines, and T. Ravikanth, Principal Secretary, Mines and Petroleum, will be among the top officials at the ceremony, according to the statement.

The seminar will be led by Asit Saha, Director General, GSI and Vijay V. Mugal, Additional Director General and head of department, Western Region and chairman of the seminar, along with senior officials, eminent geoscientists, and delegates from across India and abroad.

Established in 1851, GSI has played a foundational role in geological mapping, mineral exploration, identification of critical and strategic minerals, geohazard studies, and advancing geoscientific research for national development.

INDIA-JAPAN SHIPBUILDING PUSH

Puri seeks Japan collaboration to boost India's shipbuilding

NEW DELHI

Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri on Tuesday held key discussions with senior executives of Japan's leading shipping companies, seeking deeper collaboration in shipbuilding as part of India's push to become a global maritime hub. The minister, currently on an official visit to Japan, highlighted India's growing capabilities and ongoing reforms aimed at boosting shipbuilding, vessel operations and maritime infrastructure. Puri met Yukikazu Myochin, Chairman of 'K' Line, where he underscored



the government's vision to transform India into a major shipping hub under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He noted that with K Line's extensive expertise in shipbuilding monitoring, delivery and chartering, along with its long-stand-

ing partnerships in India, the company is well-positioned to contribute to our 'Make in India for the World' shipbuilding mission.

He also held strategic discussions with Nobuhiro Kashima, Senior Managing Executive Officer of NYK

Line Japan, to review ongoing shipping operations involving Indian public sector oil companies. The conversation included future collaboration opportunities in manufacturing, technology transfer, knowledge sharing and joint shipbuilding projects.

Indian companies are eager to explore areas such as technology transfer, shipbuilding monitoring, knowledge sharing and ship operations with NYK, Puri wrote in a post on X, signalling a growing synergy between the two nations in maritime development. During the meetings, Puri highlighted major policy interventions aimed at creating

a strong shipbuilding ecosystem in India. These include the Shipbuilding Financial Assistance Scheme (SBFAS) and the Maritime Development Fund (MDF), together backed by more than \$6 billion. Both initiatives are designed to lower borrowing costs and enhance project viability. Puri emphasized that India's rapidly expanding energy sector demands larger and more advanced vessels. With \$5-8 billion spent annually on freight charges, he stressed the need to manufacture vessels domestically, reinforcing the government's commitment to Make in India for the World.



The Science Behind Staying Warm

At its core, the purpose of winter clothing is insulation — trapping body heat to prevent it from escaping into cold air. The human body constantly loses heat through radiation, convection, and evaporation. In low temperatures, retaining that heat becomes critical.

The best winter garments use two scientific principles:

1. Layering for insulation - Air trapped between layers acts as an excellent insulator. Each layer serves a purpose — moisture-wicking base layers keep skin dry, insulating mid-layers retain warmth, and outer layers block wind and water.

2. Material selection - Natural fibers like wool and down provide warmth through air pockets within their structure, while synthetic fibers such as polyester and nylon excel at moisture management and durability.

By layering effectively, a person can adapt to fluctuating temperatures indoors and outdoors without discomfort. This principle forms the foundation of modern winter dressing across climates.



Winter brings with it a distinct challenge — to stay warm, comfortable, and stylish while braving crisp air and shorter days. Winter clothing, therefore, is much more than a seasonal necessity. It is an evolving expression of how humans have learned to harmonize practicality with identity, technology, and environmental awareness. From ancient wool cloaks to modern thermal wear and performance fabrics, winter garments tell the story of both survival and sophistication.

Function, Fashion, and Evolution

Long before the advent of fabricated textiles, humans adapted animal hides, furs, and plant fibers to survive harsh winters. Archaeological evidence shows that early civilizations in colder regions, such as the Inuits and Mongols, relied heavily on fur-lined garments for warmth and protection against wind.



Evolution of Winter Wear Through History

ANCIENT TIMES: Wool, one of the earliest spun fibers, was a game-changer. Civilizations from Mesopotamia to the Roman Empire valued wool for its ability to insulate even when damp. Cloaks, shawls, and tunics were worn in layers to resist cold.

MEDIEVAL EUROPE: Layers of wool, linen, and fur became symbols of both function and status. Nobility often wore velvet and ermine, while peasants relied on coarser wool and leather.

19TH CENTURY: The industrial revolution revolutionized textile manufacturing. Machines allowed mass production of wool coats, scarves, and gloves, making warm clothing more accessible.

20TH CENTURY ONWARDS: Introduction of synthetic fibers like polyester, nylon, and fleece in the 20th century made winter wear lighter, more weather-resistant, and affordable. Fashion began merging with function, resulting in modern styles such as parkas, padded jackets, and waterproof boots.

Today, winter clothing stands at the confluence of centuries-old craftsmanship and high-performance technology.



THE ESSENTIAL Winter Wardrobe



1. Base Layers

The layer closest to the skin is often overlooked but vital. Its main role is to wick moisture away to prevent dampness and chills.

Thermals: Usually made of merino wool, silk, or synthetic blends designed for breathability and warmth.

Undershirts and leggings serve as basic insulation and can be adjusted depending on how cold it is.



A well-prepared winter wardrobe is an investment in comfort, health, and aesthetics. Every piece serves a role, and choosing the right materials and combinations can make all the difference.

Merino wool base layers, in particular, have become popular among trekkers and athletes for their balance of warmth and odor resistance



2. Mid Layers

This is the insulating layer that traps heat. Depending on activity level and temperature, it can vary from lightweight fleece to heavy wool sweaters.

SWEATERS & HOODIES: Offer warmth and style versatility.

FLEECE JACKETS: Provide high warmth-to-weight ratio, ideal for outdoor use.

DOWN VESTS: Add insulation without restricting movement, common in mountain and urban wear alike.



Winter Food In India

Winter food in India is a vibrant tapestry of tradition, nutrition, and culinary ingenuity. It reflects the country's diverse geography, regional customs, and seasonal wisdom, making every winter meal not just a source of warmth but also of wellness and emotional comfort. From the misty Himalayas to the balmy Deccan plateau, Indian kitchens are at their creative best as temperatures dip, weaving together ancient ingredients, forgotten grains, and locally grown vegetables for the season.

The Cultural Essence of Winter Cuisine

The arrival of winter in India is more than just a change in weather—it's a call to adapt eating habits and embrace seasonal bounty. Traditionally, Indian households prepare foods that supply warmth, boost immunity, and replenish energy. Many winter staples are rooted in Ayurveda, which prescribes consuming virya or warming foods to balance the cold, dry nature of the season. These customs echo in community festivals, family gatherings, and celebrations. Winter harvests bring fresh greens, root vegetables, and fruits to local markets. In Punjab, the buzz is around mustard greens and radish; in Gujarat, fresh fenugreek and tender ponkh are hot commodities; while northern kitchens bristle with an array of grains and warming spices.



1. Gajar Ka Halwa

The legendary carrot pudding, Gajar ka Halwa, epitomizes North Indian winter treats. Made with juicy winter carrots, ghee, milk, sugar, and cardamom, and crowned with nuts, it's not just a dessert but an emotion celebrated in every household.

2. Sarson Da Saag & Makki Ki Roti

A definitive Punjabi classic, Sarson Da Saag is crafted from fresh mustard greens, spinach, and bathua, slow-cooked with spices and topped with white butter. It's traditionally paired with Makki (corn) ki roti and jaggery (gud), symbolizing the regional winter bounty.

3. Bajra Khichdi and Ragi Dishes

In Rajasthan and Gujarat, bajra (pearl millet) khichdi is a winter staple packed with fibre, iron, and warming properties. Ragi

(finger millet), rich in calcium and vitamins, is widely enjoyed as rotis, porridge or multi-grain mixes.

4. Undhiyu

Gujarat celebrates the cold with Undhiyu—an elaborate medley of seasonal vegetables, fenugreek dumplings (muthia), and a blend of spices slow-cooked to perfection. It's a cultural centerpiece for winter festivities.

5. Thukpa

In the Himalayan belt, Thukpa—a clear noodle soup loaded with veggies, chicken, or lamb—serves as a warming, nutritious meal. Its simplicity belies an ability to nourish and comfort against biting cold.



Iconic Winter Foods Across India

India's winter cuisine is shaped by regional preferences and climatic conditions. Here's a look at some iconic dishes and ingredients:

6. Gond ke Ladoo & Panjiri

No winter menu is complete without Gond ke Ladoo—sweet, energy-packed balls made from edible gum resin, wheat flour, nuts, and ghee. Panjiri, a wholesome mix of roasted flours, seeds, dry fruits, and ghee, is favoured for stamina and immunity.

7. Til (Sesame) Recipes

Sesame seeds (til) are prized in the winter for their warming effects, high calcium, iron, and healthy fats. Til ke ladoo, til chikki, and til wali khichdi are just a few beloved recipes.

8. Root Vegetable De-

lights

Root vegetables—beetroot, radish, sweet potato, yam—feature abundantly in winter cooking. Beetroot thoran from Kerala, Sakarkand rabdi from UP, and yam curries are highly nutritious and rich in antioxidants.

9. Seasonal Fruits

Winter fruits like oranges, guavas, and pomegranates are enjoyed raw, in salads or as part of desserts. Their vitamins, especially vitamin C, help fight infections and stave off seasonal fatigue.

10. Leafy Greens

Greens like spinach, fenugreek (methi), mustard, and bathua are winter superfoods. Rich in fibre, iron, and vitamins, they power recipes from palak paneer to methi parathas.

Trump launches fast-track visas for WC ticket holders ahead of 2026 tournament

US to offer expedited visa appointments for World Cup ticket holders worldwide

WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump announced a new fast-track visa programme for international fans holding tickets to the 2026 FIFA World Cup, promising quicker processing but stressing that the scheme does not guarantee entry into the United States. The announcement, made in the Oval Office alongside FIFA president Gianni Infantino, comes amid concerns that Trump's intensified border enforcement could complicate travel for fans attending the tournament.

Promoted as the "FIFA Pass," the initiative offers ticket holders a priority appointment for their US visa interview. Trump urged fans to apply immediately, emphasising Washington's commitment to delivering a smooth tournament experience. Infantino hailed the programme as a "very important announcement," noting that between five and ten million visitors are expected to travel to the US for next year's event.



ant announcement," noting that between five and ten million visitors are expected to travel to the US for next year's event.

The FIFA Pass aims to ensure genuine football fans can enter the country efficiently. However, US Secretary of

State Marco Rubio clarified that while the system accelerates the process, it does not alter security protocols. "Your

ticket is not a visa," Rubio said. "It guarantees an expedited appointment, but all applicants will still undergo the same vetting." He added that interviews should be available within six to eight weeks, urging applicants not to delay.

The World Cup has become a centrepiece of Trump's second term and is expected to feature prominently in celebrations marking the 250th anniversary of US independence in 2026. But the event has also become entangled in political tensions. Trump has suggested relocating matches from certain host cities, citing concerns about crime and migration in Democratic-led regions.

The tournament draw is scheduled for December 5 in Washington, where FIFA plans to unveil a new peace prize. There is widespread speculation that Trump may be its first recipient.

World Tennis League to debut with star-studded B'loru edition

BENGALURU

The World Tennis League (WTL), after three successful seasons in the UAE, is set to make its much-anticipated India debut from December 17 to 20 in Bengaluru. Licensed and managed by Iconik Sports and Events Ltd., the fourth edition of the league will be staged at the SM Krishna Tennis Stadium, operated by the Karnataka State Lawn Tennis Association.

The tournament will bring together an impressive roster of tennis talent, headlined by Daniil Medvedev, Nick Kyrgios, Elena Rybakina, Paula Badosa, Gael Monfils and Arthur Fils. Indian representation will be equally strong, with Rohan Bopanna, Sumit Nagal, Yuki Bhambhani, Ankita Raina, Shrivalli Bhamidipaty, Maaya Revathi, Dhakshinewar Suresh and Shivika Burman all set to compete. The inclusion of emerging Indian players underscores WTL's commitment to boosting the sport's growth in the country.

With its dynamic team format and high-intensity matches, the WTL has quickly established itself as a unique fixture on the global tennis calendar, drawing interest from fans and players alike. World No. 5 Elena Rybakina, excited for her first outing in India, said she was eager to embrace the country's tennis



Top global and Indian tennis stars gear up for WTL's landmark Bengaluru debut.

culture and enjoy the league's vibrant format.

Mahesh Bhupathi, 12-time Grand Slam champion and WTL co-founder, said the league's arrival would deepen India's long-standing connection with tennis. He emphasised that the event aims to inspire young players by bringing international stars and top Indian talent onto the same stage.

Krishnan Kannan, Managing Director of Iconik Sports and Events Ltd., described the Bengaluru edition as a milestone for India's sporting ecosystem, highlighting its potential to showcase India's capability in hosting world-class events while providing home-grown athletes invaluable exposure.

AI SCORING PUSH World Boxing Explores AI to Reform Scoring System



GREATER NOIDA

World Boxing is examining the use of Artificial Intelligence to review bouts and address long-standing issues in the sport's scoring system, outgoing president Boris van der Vorst has said. The move comes as the organisation works to secure full recognition from the International Olympic Committee (IOC) before overseeing boxing at the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

Scoring has been a persistent concern for the sport, with controversies affecting both the now-excluded International Boxing Association (IBA) and the current governing body. Van der Vorst admitted that resolving these issues remains one of World Boxing's biggest "pain points," stressing that restoring trust among athletes, coaches and national federations is essential.

AI-based tools are being explored as a potential solution to improve accuracy and transparency in judging, particularly in closely contested bouts where human error or subjective interpretation often leads to disputes. According to officials, early discussions include using AI to analyse punch accuracy, impact and defensive actions, offering an additional review mechanism for referees and technical delegates.

The push for reform comes at a time when World Boxing is expanding its global footprint. The ongoing World Boxing Cup Final in Greater Noida, where India's Jadumani Singh defeated Kazakhstan's Nurzat Ongarov, has highlighted the sport's growing competitiveness and the need for robust officiating standards.

Van der Vorst said the organisation is committed to modernising the sport: "We must embrace technology to ensure fairness. Athletes deserve a system they can trust." Further trials and consultations are expected before a formal proposal is presented to the IOC.

KSCA elections deferred again, prompting sharp criticism from former cricketer Venkatesh Prasad Ex-cricketer Venkatesh Prasad slams KSCA for second poll postponement

BENGALURU

The Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) managing committee elections have been postponed for the second time, triggering strong reactions from former India pacer Venkatesh Prasad, who is contesting for the president's post. Earlier scheduled for September 30 and then moved to November 30, the polls were deferred again after a court took up issues related to the eligibility of certain candidates.

Expressing his "shock" over the development, Prasad said cricket had once again slipped down the KSCA's priority list. Backed by his panel, Team Game Changers, he stressed that the focus should be solely on reviving Karnataka cricket. "The priority has



to be cricket, not politics. We are here for one reason: to bring international cricket back to M Chinnaswamy Stadium, including the IPL. We hear the Bengaluru franchise might play outside the city; why should that happen? To bring those matches back, elections must be conducted," he said.

Supporting Prasad's stand, Vinay Mruthyunjaya, the secretary candidate from his team, alleged that the elector-

al officer attempted to contact the current managing committee through letters on November 14 and 15, but received no response. "We understand the electoral officer cited confusion among members as the reason for postponement. We fail to understand what this confusion is. The committee is entirely responsible for this delay," he said, adding that the team would consult its lawyers to decide the next steps.

Prasad also criticised the decision to field a non-cricketer from Brijesh Patel's camp against him, claiming it jeopardised the long-standing tradition of former cricketers leading the association. He reiterated that cricket in Karnataka had been neglected for far too long and must be restored to the forefront.

FIDE WC: Erigaisi holds Wei Yi, sets up tense rematch

GOA

Arjun Erigaisi produced a composed and controlled performance to hold China's Wei Yi to a smooth draw in the first game of their FIDE World Cup 2025 quarterfinal clash, setting the stage for a high-stakes rematch in the second classical game. With the tournament now trimmed to just eight players, the 22-year-old Indian No. 2 once again showcased his maturity and depth of preparation.

Playing with Black, Arjun avoided unnecessary complications and steered the game into familiar territory, choosing the classical Ruy Lopez — one of

chess's oldest and most deeply analysed openings. The encounter unfolded as a theoretical duel between two of the sport's brightest talents. Wei Yi, who became the youngest player to cross Elo 2700 at age 15, showed little urgency to press with White, while Arjun, the second Indian in history to breach the 2800 rating mark, calmly stuck to his preparation. A flurry of exchanges followed as both players traded pieces at remarkable speed. By move 31, the game had simplified into a symmetrical rook-and-three-pawns endgame, leaving neither side with realistic winning prospects.

Ramiz praises Babar for calm response to personal criticism, urges patience

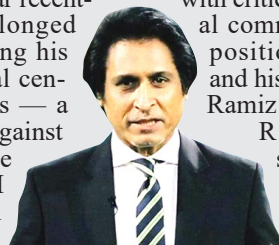
KARACHI

Former Pakistan captain Ramiz Raja has hailed star batter Babar Azam for maintaining "restraint" and composure despite facing sustained criticism over his form and place in the national team. Babar recently ended a prolonged lean spell, scoring his first international century in 807 days — a fluent hundred against Sri Lanka in the Rawalpindi ODI — breaking a run

of 83 innings without reaching three figures.

Speaking on his YouTube channel, Ramiz revealed that Babar had privately shared his frustration during a recent meeting. "I met him in a café, and he expressed how difficult it was to deal with criticism and personal comments about his position in the team and his performances," Ramiz said.

Ramiz, who served as PCB chairman when Babar was ap-



pointed captain across all formats in 2021, said he advised the 30-year-old batting star to stay focused on his game. "I told him to continue doing what he has always done — be patient, show restraint and ignore outside noise. As a player, your duty is to perform on the field," he said.

Expressing delight at Babar's return to form, Ramiz said the century against Sri Lanka was a timely reminder of his class. He also commended Babar for refusing to react publicly to criticism.

HONG KONG

Japan Can Win 2026 World Cup, Says Keisuke Honda



Former Japan star Keisuke Honda believes the national team has the talent and depth to contend for the 2026 FIFA World Cup in North America. Speaking at the AVCJ Private Equity Forum, the 39-year-old said Japan could reach the semifinals — or even win the title — if they build on recent progress. Honda

pointed to Japan's 2022 World Cup upsets over Spain and Germany as proof of their potential. The former AC Milan midfielder, now a venture capitalist with firms X&KSK and Dreamers VC, said he still dreams of becoming a World Cup-winning coach and hopes to lead Japan someday.

LAS VEGAS

Prescott Fires Four TDs as Cowboys Crush Raiders



Dak Prescott delivered a dominant performance, throwing four touchdown passes as the Dallas Cowboys defeated the Las Vegas Raiders 33-16. Returning to action 11 days after the death of defensive end Marshawn Kneeland, the Cowboys produced a composed, clinical display to improve to 4-5-1.

Prescott completed 25 of 33 passes for 268 yards, spreading his four touchdowns among four different receivers. Three of those came during a decisive 21-3 second-quarter surge. George Pickens led the offense with nine receptions, 144 yards and a touchdown, while Javonte Williams added 93 rushing yards.

NEW ORLEANS

Thunder Extend Winning Streak, Deepen Pelicans' Troubles



Chet Holmgren and Shai Gilgeous-Alexander powered the Oklahoma City Thunder to a commanding 126-109 victory over the New Orleans Pelicans, handing interim coach James Borrego his second straight defeat. Holmgren scored 26 points and grabbed nine rebounds, while Gilgeous-Alexander added 23 points, eight assists and three steals.

Isaiah Hartenstein delivered a standout all-around performance with 16 points, seven rebounds, six assists and four steals as the Thunder secured their sixth consecutive win — all by double digits — and their 14th in 15 games this season. The defending champions erupted for 49 first-quarter points and never trailed, outscoring New Orleans 51-36 from beyond the arc.

WPL 2026 Venues, Fixtures Set for Final Approval on Nov 26

WPL scheduling talks gain urgency ahead of international and domestic calendar

MUMBAI

The venues and fixtures for the 2026 edition of the Women's Premier League are likely to be finalised on November 26, a day before the mega auction in New Delhi. The WPL governing council is expected to convene to approve the schedule and match locations, an official confirmed on Monday.

The upcoming season is set for an earlier start than usual, with India co-hosting the men's T20 World Cup with Sri Lanka in 2026, followed immediately by the two-month-long Indian Premier League. According to early discussions reported by Cricbuzz, WPL 2026 could be staged across two venues —



Navi Mumbai's DY Patil Stadium and Vadodara's Kotambi Stadium — with a tentative window from January 7 to February 3.

Two-time champions Mumbai Indians will enter the new season as defending titlehold-

ers, having beaten Delhi Capitals in the 2025 final. Notably, MI had also defeated DC in the inaugural edition in 2023. Royal Challengers Bengaluru clinched the trophy in 2024, with Delhi finishing runners-up.

The auction dynamics promise intrigue. UP Warriorz head into the November 27 auction with the largest purse at ₹14.5 crore, followed by Gujarat Giants with ₹9 crore. RCB have ₹6.15 crore remaining, MI ₹5.75 crore, and Delhi Capitals — who released long-time captain Meg Lanning after three consecutive finals — will operate with ₹5.7 crore.

Several marquee names, including Deepti Sharma — Player of the Tournament at the recent Women's ODI World Cup — Alyssa Healy, Amelia Kerr and Lanning, are expected to attract strong bidding interest.

The November 26 meeting will finalise logistics, paving the way for the league's most competitive auction yet.

Satwik-Chirag Lead India's Charge at Australian Open

SYDNEY

With India's singles contingent still striving for consistency, the spotlight will once again be firmly on Satwik-sairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty as the world No. 3 pair begins its quest for a maiden season title at the Australian Open Super 500. The top-seeded duo, India's standout performers in what has otherwise been a challenging year, enters the tournament buoyed by a World Championships bronze and consecutive runner-up finishes at the Hong Kong Super 500 and China Masters Super 750.

Shubman Gill Doubtful for Guwahati Clash

NEW DELHI

India captain Shubman Gill remains doubtful for the second and decisive Test against South Africa in Guwahati starting November 22, with the selectors unlikely to name an additional batter despite the uncertainty surrounding his fitness.

Gill sustained a neck injury during the opening Test in Kolkata, where he retired hurt after just three deliveries in the first innings and did not bat in the second. His absence proved destabilising for India's top order, contributing to a third-day defeat that handed South Africa a 1-0 lead in the two-match series. Though discharged from a Kolkata hospital, Gill's recovery timeline



remains unclear, and his role as both leader and premier batter makes his availability critical.

Given the nature of neck injuries and the packed calendar leading into the 2026 T20 World Cup, the think tank is unwilling to risk aggravating

the issue. A definitive update on Gill's fitness is expected by Thursday.

India's squad already includes ample batting cover, with B. Sai Sudharsan and Devdutt Padikkal named among the reserves for the first Test. All-rounder Nitish Kumar Reddy is also set to rejoin the squad in Guwahati after completing duties with India A.

The decision reflects confidence in the existing depth, but also puts pressure on the management to identify a stronger, more balanced combination for the must-win fixture. India must improve swiftly to stay alive in the series and maintain their push for a berth in the World Test Championship final.



Germany, Netherlands Seal World Cup Berths with Dominant Wins

PARIS

Germany and the Netherlands booked their tickets to the 2026 FIFA World Cup in emphatic style, producing high-scoring wins in their final European qualifiers despite needing only draws to progress. Their attacking intent underscored the confidence and depth both teams will carry into the global showpiece in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

In Leipzig, Germany delivered a ruthless 6-0 victory over Slovakia to top Group A. Nick Woltemade opened the scoring in the 18th minute, and once Serge Gnabry doubled the lead soon after, Julian Nagelsmann's side assumed complete control. Le-

EURO QUALIFIERS SURGE

roy Sané struck twice before the interval, while second-half goals from Ridle Baku and Assan Ouedraogo capped a commanding performance. Slovakia, despite threatening early, finished second and secured a play-off berth.

Nagelsmann praised his team's intensity, saying they "showed incredible team spirit from the very beginning." Woltemade echoed the sentiment, calling qualification "a great moment" as he eyes a first World Cup appearance.

In Amsterdam, a vibrant Dutch side overwhelmed Lithuania 4-0 after a flurry of second-half goals. Tijani Reijnders put the hosts ahead early, but an inspired perfor-

mance from Lithuania's goalkeeper Edvinas Gertmonas delayed the flood. Cody Gakpo converted a penalty in the 58th minute before Xavi Simons and Donyell Malen struck in quick succession, allowing Ronald Koeman to rotate his squad freely. Reijnders expressed excitement at reaching his first World Cup after missing Qatar 2022.

Elsewhere, Poland survived a test in Malta, winning 3-2 but remaining second in Group G. Northern Ireland secured a play-off spot through Nations League ranking despite finishing third, while Croatia defeated Montenegro 3-2 after a late comeback in Group L, and the Czech Republic thrashed Gibraltar 6-0.

Babar Azam Fined for Striking Stumps after ODI Dismissal

DUBAI

Pakistan star batter Babar Azam has been fined 10 per cent of his match fee and handed one demerit point for hitting the stumps with his bat after his dismissal in the third ODI against Sri Lanka in Rawalpindi. The sanction, confirmed by the ICC on Tuesday, marks Babar's first disciplinary offence in a 24-month period.

The incident took place in the 21st over of Pakistan's innings, when the 31-year-old struck the stumps before leaving the crease. Match officials — on-field umpires Alex Wharf and Rashid Riaz, third umpire Sharfuddoula Ibne Shahid and fourth umpire Faisal Afridi — reported the breach, while referee Ali Naqvi

proposed the penalty.

Babar admitted the offence under Article 2.2 of the ICC Code of Conduct, which deals with the abuse of equipment or fixtures during an international match, thereby avoiding a formal hearing. Level 1 offences carry penalties ranging from an official reprimand to a 50 per cent match-fee deduction, along with one or two demerit points.

Despite the disciplinary setback, Babar enjoyed an excellent series, finishing as the highest run-scorer with 165 runs, including his 20th ODI century, as Pakistan completed a 3-0 sweep over Sri Lanka.

Cummins to Lead SRH for 3rd IPL Season

HYDERABAD

Australia's premier fast bowler Pat Cummins will continue as captain of Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) for the third consecutive IPL season, the franchise confirmed via its official handle on X. While SRH did not provide further details, the announcement reinforces the team's faith in Cummins' leadership and long-term impact.

Cummins, who has been ruled out of the first Ashes Test in Perth due to a back injury, is expected to return for the second Test in Brisbane beginning December 4. In his absence, Steven Smith will lead Australia in the opening Test against England starting November 21.

The 31-year-old speedster took charge of SRH in 2024 after being bought for a staggering ₹20.50 crore at the IPL players auction — a move that followed his successful run as Australia's captain, guiding the team to the World Test Championship title and the 2023 ODI World Cup triumph. Under Cummins, SRH underwent a noticeable shift in approach, focusing on aggressive, data-driven strategies and improved on-field intent. His leadership, experience in high-pressure situations, and ability to inspire younger talent have been key reasons behind the franchise's decision to retain him as skipper.



Mbappé and PSG traded staggering financial claims in a heated labour court showdown.

Mbappé-PSG Legal Battle Escalates with Massive Financial Claims

PARIS

The long-running rift between Kylian Mbappé and Paris Saint-Germain intensified as their multi-million-euro dispute landed before the French labour court. In a dramatic hearing, the France captain demanded €263 million, while his former club countered with a staggering €440 million claim, underscoring how deeply fractured the relationship has become.

The legal showdown stems from Mbappé's departure to Real Madrid on a free transfer in 2024 after refusing a record-breaking €300 million move to Saudi club Al Hilal the previous year. PSG contends the failed transfer cost them enormous revenue and alleges that Mbappé violated an internal agreement reached after he rejected the Saudi offer. The club's lawyers said their claim includes lost transfer income, damage to PSG's rep-

utation, and compensation for what they consider a breach of commitments by the player.

Mbappé, represented in court by four lawyers, insists no such agreement existed. His complaint, originally filed in June, alleges mistreatment by PSG during the 2023-24 season, when he was reportedly excluded from first-team activities and made to train with players earmarked for departure. His omission from PSG's pre-season tour of Asia and absence from the opening game of that season form part of his grievance, though he was later reinstated following discussions.

The striker is also disputing the legal classification applied to his contract by the club. Despite scoring 256 goals in 308 matches over seven seasons, he left PSG last year before they secured their first-ever Champions League title.

The court is expected to deliver its decision on December 16.

BOLOGNA

Alcaraz ruled out of Davis Cup Finals with hamstring injury



World No. 1 Carlos Alcaraz has withdrawn from this week's Davis Cup Final 8 in Italy due to a swollen right hamstring, the Spanish star announced on X on Tuesday. Alcaraz said medical advice prevented him from competing, adding that representing Spain "is the greatest thing there is." The two-time Wimbledon champion had been eager to help his

team challenge for the trophy. His pullout comes just two days after losing the ATP Finals title match to Italy's Jannik Sinner, who has also opted out of the Davis Cup. Italy's Lorenzo Musetti is another notable absentee. Austria, France, Belgium, Czech Republic, Argentina and Germany will join hosts Italy in the battle for the title in Bologna.

GOA

Dutch GM hits out at Nepomniachtchi's remarks



The Chess World Cup 2025 controversy deepened after Dutch Grandmaster Loek van Wely criticised Ian Nepomniachtchi's comments on tournament conditions in Goa. Nepomniachtchi, who exited in the second round after losing to Diptayan Ghosh, complained about hotel changes, food issues and poor internet. Van Wely, in a

podcast, called the remarks "a loser talking", arguing that the Russian arrived with a negative mindset and that minor inconveniences were exaggerated. He stressed that players were there to compete, not seek luxury. Van Wely added that weak internet may have affected preparation reliant on cloud engines.

LORIENT

Lorient chief plans full integration into BKFC group



Lorient president Loïc Féry has announced plans to fold his ownership stake into the Black Knight Football Club (BKFC) group, which would make the consortium the sole shareholder of the Ligue 1 club. In an interview on the club's website, Féry said BKFC — led by American businessman Bill Foley — is set to take on a larger role as part of its expand-

ing multi-club strategy. BKFC already owns AFC Bournemouth, Moreirense FC and Auckland FC, and acquired a minority stake in Lorient in January 2023. Féry said integrating Lorient into a group with over \$500 million in equity would strengthen the club amid falling TV revenues and support projects such as the renovation of Le Moustoir stadium.