CITY HILIGHTS

Happy Dasara

The Truth Speaks

TUESDAY • OCTOBER 20, 2026 • VOL: 12 • ISSUE: 096 • PAGES 12 • ₹2.00 BENGALURU • HUBBALLI • MANGALURU • MYSURU • KALABURAGI



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



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



Shri Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar
Hon'ble Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha)
and Representative
of the Mysuru Royal Family

Special Guests



Shri V. D. Satheesan
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Government of Keralam



Shri A. Revanth Reddy
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Government of Telangana

Warm greetings to all on the auspicious occasion of

Ayudha Pooja and Vijayadashami

A grand celebration of Karnataka's rich culture and traditions

Date:
October 21
Wednesday

Time:
4 PM
onwards



World renowned Golden Howdah Procession

Come to Mysuru & witness the majestic procession of Goddess Sri Chamundeshwari
and celebrate Karnataka's rich heritage









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

CMofKarnataka | https://dipr.karnataka.gov.in/ | Karnataka Information

Quick Read



Frazer Town residents flag suspected school intrusions

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Residents of Frazer Town have raised security and sanitation concerns around the Government School on Mosque Road, urging police and civic authorities to intervene. The Frazer Town Residents Welfare Association (FTRWA), in a complaint, sought increased police patrolling, an inspection and measures to prevent unauthorised entry into the school premises. Umera, a resident living opposite the school, said she had seen people using stones piled near the compound wall to climb over it. She said the situation was worrying as students attend classes on the premises. Residents also flagged garbage accumulation, footpath encroachment by balloon vendors and open urination. The association has sought the removal of the stones and urgent action to improve security and sanitation.

Silk Board to get Bengaluru's first Metro travelator

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Switching between Metro lines at Central Silk Board is set to become easier, with BMRCL planning Bengaluru's first Metro travelator and a pedestrian walkway connecting the Yellow and Blue Line stations. The two elevated stations are about 250 metres apart, separated by the busy Outer Ring Road. The proposed travelator will allow commuters to move between stations without descending to road level and crossing traffic. A parallel walkway will cater to those who prefer walking. The facility will serve as a key interchange link once the Blue Line towards Kempegowda International Airport becomes operational. The Yellow Line between RV Road and Bommasandra is already running. BMRCL officials said the travelator's design would also enhance the junction's visual appeal. The facility is expected to improve transfers at one of Bengaluru's busiest traffic hubs.

Parameshwara opts for silence on sting, says government will act

Deputy CM G. Parameshwara says the government will handle the sting controversy legally, while urging restraint in public comments.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister G. Parameshwara said the government would handle the sting operation controversy through appropriate legal measures while avoiding excessive public discussion that could further escalate the issue. Parameshwara said the developments were not a welcome sign and urged the Union Minister concerned to reflect on his position and the impact of his actions.

"I would rather remain silent than comment extensively on the sting operation. If everyone keeps reacting, where will the issue lead us?" he asked, speaking to reporters at Sadashivanagar.

He said the government's priority was to protect its image and place the facts before the public. The Home Minister was capable of handling the matter and would take appropriate action within the legal framework, he added.

Responding to reports that former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah was unhappy with the government's handling of the controversy, Parameshwara asked whether the Congress leader had publicly expressed such dissatisfaction.



The government would discuss the matter and decide on its next course of action, he said.

On claims by B.S. Yediyurappa and H.D. Kumaraswamy that Karnataka could face mid-term elections in 2027, Parameshwara said there was no end to responding to every political statement. Replying to Kumaraswamy's remarks about 2028, he said voters would decide who came to power.

Drought situation

Parameshwara described the drought situation in Karnataka as serious, citing shortages of fodder, food and drinking water. Several areas were receiving water through tankers and private borewells, but drying water sources could worsen the crisis.

He said the State would seek Central assistance under the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF). A third memorandum was being prepared for submission within two days. The State was providing ₹2,500 in relief to farmers, costing ₹1,250 crore, while no Central funds had been received for drought-related works, he said.

STING CONTROVERSY

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE
Legal action to be handled by the Home Minister

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION
Protect the government's image and present facts

POLITICAL REACTIONS
Parameshwara says voters will decide the 2028 outcome

> **"I would rather remain silent than comment extensively on the sting operation. If everyone keeps reacting, where will the issue lead us?"**
> — **G. Parameshwara,** Deputy Chief Minister

Bengaluru advocate shot dead, tenants sought over rent dispute

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Manjunath, a 42-year-old advocate, was allegedly shot dead by two of his tenants at Pattandur Agrahara, within Whitefield police station limits, on Sunday night.

According to preliminary information shared by a senior police officer, an argument broke out between Manjunath and the tenants over non-payment of rent about an hour before the shooting. The officer said the two tenants hailed from Bihar.

The assailants allegedly opened fire, hitting Manjunath in the forehead, and fled the scene. Whitefield police are investigating the killing and trying to trace them.

A Forensic Science Laboratory team visited the spot and inspected the scene as part of the investigation.



An unpaid rent argument allegedly preceded the shooting of a lawyer at his property.

Manjunath's body was subsequently shifted for a post-mortem examination.

Two held at Bengaluru airport with ganja worth ₹9.67 crore

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Customs officials have seized 27.6 kg of hydroponic ganja worth ₹9.67 crore from two passengers arriving from Bangkok in separate cases at Kempegowda International Airport.

Both passengers have been arrested under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, officials said on Monday.

In the first case, Bengaluru Customs intercepted a passenger arriving from Bangkok, Thailand, and seized 15.5 kg of hydroponic ganja valued at ₹5.43 crore, according to information shared by the department on X.

In a separate case, officials recovered 12.1 kg of hydroponic ganja worth ₹4.24 crore from another passenger. The contraband was concealed in the passenger's baggage, officials said.

The combined seizure amounted to 27.6 kg, with an estimated market value of ₹9.67 crore.

The two cases were registered separately, and both passengers were arrested under the NDPS Act. Further details about the identities of the accused and the circumstances surrounding the alleged smuggling were not immediately available.

Hydroponic ganja is cannabis cultivated using a method that grows plants in a nutrient-rich water-based system rather than conventional soil. Customs authorities have been intercepting suspected narcotics consignments brought into the country through international airports.

The latest seizures highlight the use of passenger baggage to transport suspected narcotics across international routes. The investigation is expected to establish the source of the contraband and whether the passengers were linked to a wider smuggling network.

Airport drug seizure

15.5 kg	FIRST CASE, WORTH ₹5.43 CRORE
12.1 kg	SECOND CASE, WORTH ₹4.24 CRORE
27.6 kg	IN ALL, WORTH ₹9.67 CRORE

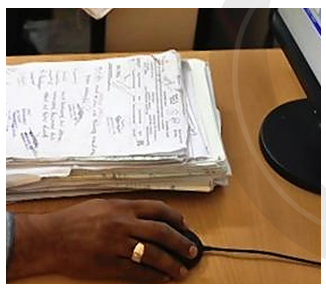
Karnataka revises penalties for officials, false complaints

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Karnataka government has revised penalties for officials delaying public services and citizens filing false complaints under the Karnataka Sakala Services (Amendment) Act, 2026.

Under the amended provisions, officials who fail to provide services or decide appeals within the prescribed timeframe will face financial penalties. The amount will be deducted directly from their salaries and paid as compensation to the affected applicant.

The penalty for delays starts at ₹20 per day for the first five days, subject to a maximum of ₹100. The amount



increases with the duration of the delay, reaching ₹100 per day for delays of 21 to 25 days. The maximum cumulative penalty is capped at ₹1,500.

Officials may also face a penalty of up to ₹1,500 for providing deficient services or rejecting applications without valid grounds, according to the government notification.

The amendment also seeks to prevent the misuse of the grievance redressal system by empowering authorities to penalise citizens who file false or malicious complaints against government personnel.

If an inquiry establishes that a complaint was filed with the intention of harassing or intimidating an official, the applicant will be fined ₹1,500 for each application.

Repeat offences will attract an additional fine of ₹1,500 for each instance. These penalties will be recovered as arrears of land revenue.

The revised provisions seek to enforce accountability in public service delivery while discouraging the filing of complaints with malicious intent. The changes cover both delays and deficiencies in government services and the misuse of the complaint mechanism.

The new penalties

DELAY, DAYS 1-5	DELAY, DAYS 21-25	MOST FOR A DELAY
₹20 a day	₹100 a day	₹1,500
DEFICIENT SERVICE	FALSE COMPLAINT	REPEAT OFFENCE
up to ₹1,500	₹1,500 each	+₹1,500 each

Work resumes on long-pending Kaniminike foot overbridge

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Construction of the long-pending foot overbridge (FOB) at Kaniminike on the Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway has resumed after months of delays, raising hopes of safer road crossings for pedestrians, students and local residents.

The bridge, proposed near Christ University's Kengeri campus on National Highway 275, remained incomplete despite repeated appeals to the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). Residents have flagged several accidents and deaths on the stretch, where people are forced to cross the busy expressway amid fast-moving traffic.

Shashank S, a resident who has repeatedly followed up with authorities, said the de-



lay had caused serious concern among the local community.

"I have followed up multiple times to get the FOB installed, but it was delayed for a very long time. Many accidents and deaths occurred at the stretch," he said, expressing hope that the work would be completed soon to improve pedestrian safety.

Residents had submitted representations to NHAI, highlighting the risks faced by people travelling between Kaniminike village and the university campus. The absence of a designated crossing has left pedestrians vulnerable, particularly during peak traffic hours and after dark.

In July, NHAI had indicated that the remaining work would be completed by August 2026. However, material shortages and supply-chain disruptions delayed progress, prompting residents to seek a firm completion deadline.

Residents have also pointed out that crossing through the toll plaza involves a considerable detour. Poor visibility and reportedly non-functional streetlights further increase the risks for pedestrians.

The resumption of construction has brought cautious optimism to the area. Residents hope the bridge will be completed and opened for public use without further delays, preventing more accidents on the high-speed expressway.

Yellow alert as thunderstorms, rain likely across Karnataka

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a yellow alert for several parts of Karnataka, forecasting rain accompanied by thunderstorms, lightning and gusty winds over the coming days.

The alert will remain in force in south interior Karnataka until October 24 and in coastal districts from October 20 to 22, according to the weather forecast.

Rainfall is expected to intensify in the coastal districts of Dakshina Kannada, Udupi and Uttara Kannada.

In south interior Karnataka, moderate rainfall accompanied by gusty winds of 30–40 kmph is forecast in Davanagere, Mysuru, Ramanagara, Shivamogga, Vijayanagara, Bengaluru Urban, Bengaluru Rural, Mandya, Chamarajanagar, Kolar and Chikkaballapur, among other districts. The yellow alert will continue in these areas until October 24.



The forecast indicates that several districts could experience unsettled weather, with thunderstorms and lightning accompanying the rain.

In north interior Karnataka, moderate rainfall is likely in Belagavi, Dharwad, Gadag and Haveri districts. Bagalkot and Koppal are expected to receive light rainfall during the forecast period.

However, dry weather is likely to continue in Bidar, Kalaburagi, Raichur, Vijayapura and Yadgir districts.

The weather department has advised residents to remain alert to changing weather conditions as thunderstorms and gusty winds are expected in several regions.

The forecast comes as the State prepares for another spell of rainfall across the southern interior and coastal belts. The yellow alert indicates the need for awareness of potentially adverse weather conditions, particularly in areas expected to experience thunderstorms, lightning and strong winds.

The IMD will continue to monitor weather conditions across the State.

POLICE RECRUITMENT

Transgender candidates challenge Karnataka police recruitment rules

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Seven transgender candidates have approached the Karnataka High Court challenging the lack of appropriate physical standards and relaxations in police recruitment tests, besides their alleged exclusion from recruitment to certain police forces.

The petitions, filed by J. Vikash and others against the State government and police recruitment authorities, are yet to be listed for hearing.

The applicants have questioned the implementation of the 1% horizontal reservation for transgender persons under Rule 9(1D) of the Karnataka Civil Services (General Recruitment) Rules, 1977, and the physical eligibility criteria prescribed for police recruitment.

One petition challenges the September 12, 2022, notification for armed police constable recruitment. The candidates allege that they were placed in a separate "male transgender" category and subjected to the same physical standards as male candidates. Although they cleared the written examination, they were disqualified in subsequent physical standard and endurance tests.

The petitioners have sought an "Other" category in recruitment applications to enable transgender candidates to avail themselves of horizontal reservation.

The Karnataka State Administrative Tribunal dismissed their applications on June 2, 2026, stating that transgender candidates could not be exempted from prescribed physical standards solely because of their gender identity.



Challenging the order, the petitioners argued that merely allowing transgender persons to apply does not fulfil the purpose of reservation if the eligibility criteria prevent them from benefiting from it.

The recruitment notification requires candidates to complete a 1,600-metre run within six minutes and 30 seconds, besides qualifying in long jump or high jump and shot put.

The petitioners have also challenged a government directive dated October 10, 2025, which allegedly excluded transgender persons from recruitment to four police forces, along with subsequent notifications issued in June and July 2026.

The petitioners contend that reservation becomes ineffective when physical eligibility requirements prevent transgender candidates from participating meaningfully in the selection process.

1,600 m
run within 6 min 30 s

1%
horizontal quota for transgender persons

June 2
tribunal dismissed the applications

CITY HILIGHTS

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The Truth Speaks

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City Hilights wishes readers and well-wishers a happy and prosperous Dasara.
Our offices will remain closed on Tuesday (Oct 20), hence there will be no edition on Oct 21.

Happy Dasara



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Help alleviate sugarcane growers' pain: CM to PM

Shivakumar writes to PM Modi, seeks resolution for sugarcane farmers' demands to end their ongoing strike in North Karnataka and facilitate start of crushing season.

BENGALURU

Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Monday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to address sugarcane farmers' demands urgently to end the ongoing agitation in North Karnataka and facilitate the start of the crushing season.

In a letter to Modi, he said the agitation had delayed the start of the crushing season in North Karnataka, leaving mature sugarcane in fields and exposing farmers to losses due to declining cane weight and sugar content.

The CM said farmers were protesting at various places and taking out padayatras towards Hubballi to gherao the residence of Union Minister for Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution Pralhad Joshi. Road blockades had been reported at several locations, while the High Court had issued directions restraining the protest at the minister's residence.

He said he had visited Kittur in Belagavi district on October 17 and appealed to the protesting farmers to call off their padayatra."The farmers stated that their principal demands concern matters within the purview of the Government of India and that they would not call off the agitation without an assurance from the Government of India," he said in the letter.

Describing the situation as grave, the CM said the continuing road blockades were disrupting public order and causing considerable hardship to the general public. He said the state government had taken measures within its jurisdiction to address farmers' concerns.



Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, along with his wife Usha, performs Ayudha Puja at Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Monday, offering prayers for the happiness, peace, and prosperity of everyone in the state.

REASONS FOR RAISING THE ISSUE

Growers across Belagavi, Vijayapura, and Bagalkote protested demanding ₹3,500 per ton instead of the ₹3,200 offered by mills. While the state offered minor relief, Shivakumar highlighted five core central policy changes needed to resolve the crisis:

CM's key demands to PM Modi

- **Revision of sugar MSP**: Raising the frozen ₹31/kg rate from 2019 to match rising FRP costs, to ensure mills can pay fair prices to farmers.
- **Dual pricing**: Establish separate MSPs for domestic and commercial bulk buyers to protect household consumers.
- **Review cane-based ethanol exclusion**: Reconsider the oil marketing companies' procurement tender for 2026–27 that excluded ethanol from sugarcane juice, syrup, and B-heavy molasses, which limit mill revenues.
- **Hike cane-based ethanol prices**: Raise procurement prices for ethanol produced from cane juice and B-heavy molasses, frozen since 2022–23 despite rising costs and grain-based ethanol revisions.
- **Restore FRP base recovery rate**: Restore the baseline recovery rate of Fair & Remunerative Price (FRP) to 9.50% from 10.25% to protect farmers in lower-recovery regions.

STATE GOVT ACTIONS & CONTEXT

Additional payout
Karnataka mandated an extra ₹100 per tonne (split between the state and mills) for a net price of ₹3,200–₹3,300 per tonne, while pushing for federal reforms.

All-party delegation
Shivakumar requested a meeting with PM Modi and invited opposition leaders to join a joint delegation.

Cane farmers suspend stir, set Nov 26 deadline to meet demands

Dharwad: Sugarcane growers in North Karnataka on Monday temporarily suspended their agitation demanding a fair price for sugarcane and an increase in the minimum selling price (MSP) of sugar, giving the Centre time until November 26 to address their demands.

The suspension follows after the Centre assured of forming a high-level committee to study the demands and give recommendations for implementation. The protest, which was spearheaded by farmer leader Chunappa Pujeri said the farmers would decide on their next course of action if the Union government failed to respond to their demands within the deadline.

The farmers have been protesting over the fixation of sugarcane prices, an increase in the minimum selling price of sugar and changes to the ethanol procurement policy and took out paadayatra from Belagavi district and the march reached Dharwad district on Sunday evening.

Seeks Rs 5,500 per tonne

The farmers are demanding a price of Rs 5,500 per tonne of sugarcane and an increase in the minimum selling price of sugar from the current Rs 31 per kg to Rs 60 per kg. They have also called for a review of the ethanol procurement policy for sugarcane-based ethanol, transparency in determining cane weight and sugar recovery rates, and timely payment to growers.

K'taka pens 3rd relief memo to Centre amid biting drought

- 82% food production loss across state due to drought.
- Third memorandum for NDRF relief within two days.
- State using own funds for tanker water and relief measures.

BENGALURU

Karnataka is facing a severe drought situation, with an estimated 92% loss in crop production, Deputy Chief Minister and Revenue Minister G Parameshwara said on Monday, adding that the state government was preparing its third memorandum seeking financial assistance from the Centre.

Speaking to reporters in Bengaluru, he said the drought had severely affected food production and fodder availability, while several parts of the state were also facing drinking water shortages.

"The situation is very serious. Although we have received some scattered rainfall recently, the impact of the drought in the state remains severe. There is an estimated 92% loss in production, which has a consequential impact on fodder availability for livestock. People are struggling to get food, and livestock are not getting fodder," he said.

He warned that the drinking water situation could worsen if existing sources dried up, noting that the government was already supplying water through tankers and private borewells in several places.

"If these sources themselves dry up, where will we get water from to supply through tankers? That is the situation we are facing. This is a very serious issue," he said.



Parameshwara said the government would declare drought-affected areas in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Centre and assess the extent of losses before seeking financial assistance under the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) guidelines.

"The Centre should release the funds. At least then, we will be able to provide assistance to our farmers and others who are facing difficulties," he said.

The state government is preparing its third memorandum, which is expected to be ready within a day or two. Chief Minister DK Shivakumar and Parameshwara will visit the Centre as part of a delegation to seek relief, with the details of the visit being finalised.

He said the Centre had suggested sending an all-party delegation, but the Opposition had expressed unwillingness to participate. The government would discuss how to proceed in view of the Opposition's stand.

Meanwhile, the state government has released funds to address drinking water shortages, with Deputy Commissioners and Chief Executive Officers overseeing relief measures in their respective jurisdictions.

Crisis through DyCM's words

Severity and extent: Parameshwara terms the state's drought conditions as "extremely serious," noting that despite scattered recent rains, the underlying severity has not abated in large parts of Karnataka.

Crop and food losses: The state is facing up to a 92% loss in overall crop production, severely impacting food output and agricultural livelihoods.

Fodder & water shortages: The crisis has triggered a sharp decline in livestock fodder availability, alongside worsening drinking water crisis.

Prior relief demand & action

Karnataka previously sought ₹7,142.64 crore central aid for Kharif drought mitigation covering 177 affected taluks (an initial request of ₹3,705.30 crore for 101 taluks, followed by a supplementary request of ₹3,437.34 crore for another 76 taluks).

An inter-ministerial central team (IMCT) previously visited the state to evaluate ground conditions.

State's response

The state government is actively undertaking relief operations using its own resources while finalizing the third memorandum, which is expected to be submitted to the Centre within two days.

Tiger firing: 'Injured bystander hemodynamically stable'

MUMBAI

A bystander identified as Umesh Chauhan, who sustained a bullet injury when assailants opened fire at actor Tiger Shroff's car in Mumbai, is currently "hemodynamically stable" and under close medical observation, KEM Hospital authorities said on Monday.

Chauhan was present outside Pushpa Park in Juhu on Sunday night when shots were fired at the actor's car, a police official said. He received initial treatment and stabilisation at Cooper Hospital in Juhu before being transferred to the civic-run KEM Hospital around midnight for specialist care and further evaluation, the official added.

According to a medical bulletin released by the hospital, the bullet injury has not affected his heart or lungs. "He is currently hemodynamically stable and is receiving treatment in the Emergency ICU under the Department of General Surgery, with consultation from the Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery team."

Hemodynamically stable means a patient has a steady, normal blood flow and consistent vital signs—specifically a stable heart rate and blood pressure—that adequately supply oxygen and nutrients to the body's vital organs.

In view of his stable vital parameters, doctors are managing his condition conservatively under close clinical monitoring.

3 accused nabbed in Kota



Mumbai: Bollywood actor Tiger Shroff escaped unharmed after five to six rounds were fired at his car in Mumbai's Juhu area on October 18. Mumbai Police have arrested three accused in connection with the incident, with the Crime Branch saying none of them is a minor. The actor's driver and an autorickshaw driver were reportedly injured. According to Mumbai police, two of the three accused fired at Shroff's car before fleeing on a motorcycle. The Crime Branch traced their escape route from Andheri to Borivali, then to Surat and finally to Kota, Rajasthan, where they were detained with the help of local police. The motorcycle allegedly used in the firing was found in Mumbai's Andheri area, while no weapons have been recovered from the accused so far.

4 killed in Manipur violence, locals take bodies to CM's house

Imphal: Three people collecting firewood in a forest were killed allegedly by militants in Manipur on Monday, triggering protests by locals who placed two bodies outside the Chief Minister's residence.

Three people were also injured as militants opened fire on a group of firewood collectors on the border of Imphal East and Kangpokpi districts, officials said, adding that three more have gone missing.

While Arubam Ronil (35) and Lairenlakpam Inaobi (51) died on the spot, Kshetrimayum Sushil (32) succumbed to injuries at a private hospital, an official said. The injured — N Suraj (19), Meisnam Somendro (53) and K Bosan (45) — were undergoing treatment.

They were among 16 people who had gone to the hills near their village around 7 am to collect firewood when they were ambushed, officials said.

Following the demonstration outside his residence, CM Y Khemchand Singh visited the injured undergoing treatment at a private hospital, but did not respond to any media queries. Angry locals brought the bodies to the State capital to protest the violence that has plagued the State since May 2023. They placed the bodies outside the main gate of the CM's residence at Babupara. It was not immediately known whether the CM was at the residence during the protest.

The police fired several rounds of tear gas shells to disperse the protesters, following which the bodies were taken to the Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Medical Sciences.

30 Yemeni fighters killed as Houthis strike military camp in Yemen

Shabwa: Over 30 fighters of the Saudi-led coalition were reportedly killed on Monday after the Houthis fired several ballistic missiles on the Yemeni government military training camp in Shabwa province.

The rebels fired at least three ballistic missiles on the al-Alam military camp in the southern province, as per agency reports. The attack also wounded around 70 fighters, with many wounded eventually dying.

The attack was among the deadliest in a recent escalation of fighting that began months ago amid rising tensions in the wider Iran-US conflict.

'ANARCHIC STIR UNCALLED FOR'

Spare India from Anarchy: Diaspora

PARIS

More than 400 Indian-origin students, researchers, academics and alumni associated with universities across 27 countries have signed a statement titled 'Spare India from Anarchy', expressing concern over what they describe as attempts to undermine public confidence in India's constitutional institutions and democratic processes.

The statement, which lists signatories from institutions across four continents, condemns the use of what it calls "anarchic street protests" to delegitimise democratic processes. It argues that constitutional democracy should not be undermined in the name of defending it.

The signatories include individuals affiliated with institutions such as the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the universities of Oxford and Cambridge, Princeton University, Harvard University, Yale University, Stanford University, Columbia University, the London School of Economics and Political Science, the National University of Singapore, Seoul National University, the Technical University of Munich and the University of Toronto.



According to the statement, the signatories are currently based in or have studied in countries including the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, Germany, France, the Netherlands, Ireland, Italy, Spain, Sweden, Norway, Poland, Ukraine, Russia, South Korea, Japan, Singapore, Malaysia, Israel, the United Arab Emirates, Kazakhstan, Georgia and the Philippines.

Statement raises concerns over democratic institutions

Highlights of the statement

Target of criticism: The diaspora statement explicitly condemns the ongoing street protests organised by opposition parties against the Election Commission of India (ECI).
Core argument: Signatories argue that these actions represent an "unconscionable and devious plan of sowing seeds of doubt in Indian democracy" by weaponizing matters that are sub judice and amplifying them through anarchist street forces.
Defense of institutions: The group warned against subverting constitutional democracy under the pretext of trying to "save" it.
Proven resilience: They reaffirmed that Indian democracy has repeatedly proven its resilience and that its constitutional bodies function with adequate checks and balances.
Call to action: The signatories urged all factions to resolve political or systemic differences through peaceful debate, dialogue, and dissent within authorized constitutional forums rather than through volatile public disruptions.

The statement argues that Indian democracy has demonstrated resilience since Independence, with constitutional institutions functioning alongside checks and balances and peaceful transfers of power.



Quick Read

Mini e-bikes pose threat to Bengaluru pedestrians

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Mini electric bikes in Bengaluru are raising concerns over pedestrian safety, with riders allegedly jumping signals, using footpaths, entering no-entry zones and riding without helmets. Vehicles with power output below 250 watts and speeds under 25 kmph are exempt from certain provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act, making enforcement difficult. Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic) Karthik Reddy said police could only create awareness among riders as existing provisions did not permit cases to be registered against such vehicles. Public concerns have also grown over accidents involving pedestrians. Residents have urged the government to introduce suitable traffic regulations and stricter legal provisions to prevent unsafe riding and protect pedestrians.

Governor Sudha Yadav offers prayers for Karnataka's well-being

Governor Dr Sudha Yadav marked the festive occasion at Lok Bhavan with prayers for public welfare, social harmony and the State's progress.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Governor Dr Sudha Yadav offered special prayers at Lok Bhavan on Monday on the occasion of Ayudha Puja and Vijaya Dashami, seeking peace, prosperity and the well-being of the people of Karnataka.

The Governor performed Ayudha Puja at her office before participating in a special Durga Devi Puja at the Banquet Hall. She prayed for the State's progress and the welfare of its people.

Extending festive greetings to the people of Karnataka, Yadav highlighted the cultural significance of Ayudha Puja, describing it as a tradition that honours the tools and equipment that support livelihoods.

"Ayudha Puja is a unique Indian tradition that expresses our respect for the tools, instruments and equipment that support our livelihoods. May this occasion inspire us to perform every responsibility with sincerity, dedication and a strong sense of duty," she said.



Ayudha Puja at Lok Bhavan in Bengaluru on Monday

Referring to Vijaya Dashami, the Governor said the festival reminded people to follow truth and righteousness, overcome negative thoughts and embrace peace and mutual respect.

She expressed hope that Karnataka's diverse cultural traditions would continue to strengthen unity and harmony in society. She also called upon people to contribute to the State's development and work collectively towards building a peaceful and prosperous Karnataka.

The Governor also shared the festive spirit with Lok Bhavan officers and staff and extended her greetings to them on the occasion.

> **"May this Vijaya Dashami bring happiness, good health and peace to every household. May everyone move forward with renewed hope, aspirations and confidence."**
>
> **— Dr Sudha Yadav,** Governor

? SIGNIFICANCE OF AYUDHA PUJA

Ayudha Puja is traditionally observed to honour tools, instruments, machinery and equipment used in work and daily life. The practice reflects respect for the means through which people earn their livelihoods and fulfil their responsibilities. Vijaya Dashami, celebrated alongside the festive season, symbolises the triumph of good over evil and encourages people to uphold truth and righteousness. Both occasions are associated with prayers for prosperity, harmony and new beginnings.

Gas cylinder blast injures six workers in Anekal; two critical

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Six construction workers sustained serious injuries in a gas cylinder explosion at Sri Sai Layout in Anekal, on the outskirts of Bengaluru, early on Monday. Two of the injured are in critical condition.

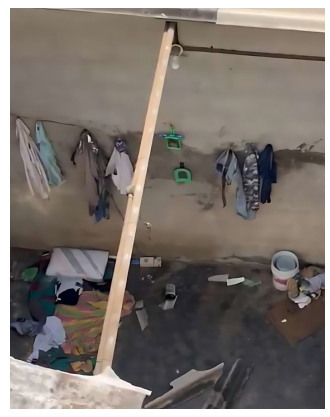
The workers were admitted to Victoria Hospital, where they are undergoing treatment. A case has been registered at Anekal police station.

The injured include Dheeru, Vijay and Kobin from Madhya Pradesh, and Sanjay and Boro from West Bengal. All six were working as construction labourers and staying in a rented house owned by a man identified as Manjunath.

The incident occurred around 3 am after gas reportedly leaked inside the house throughout the night. The workers had allegedly left the gas stove switched on after cooking and gone to sleep without opening the doors or windows.

As gas accumulated inside the house, one of the workers reportedly struck a matchstick to light a beedi, triggering the explosion.

The blast shattered the cement sheets on the roof and set clothes and other belongings inside the house on fire. The injured workers cried out for help, prompting neighbours to rush to the spot and rescue them.



The house at Sri Sai Layout in Anekal after the blast

Fire and emergency services personnel arrived soon after and brought the blaze under control. The injured were subsequently shifted to Victoria Hospital for treatment.

The condition of two workers remains critical, while the others are also receiving medical care. The explosion caused extensive damage to the house, with the force of the blast scattering roofing material and burning belongings. Police have registered a case at Anekal police station and are investigating the circumstances surrounding the incident.

Farmers, Dalit groups call for statewide protests against SIR on October 23

Actor Prakash Raj and farmer leader Badagalapura Nagendra announced coordinated protests across Karnataka, citing concerns over electoral roll revisions.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Farmers' and Dalit organisations in Karnataka have called for statewide protests against the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, announcing a Janata Rally on October 23 to "save democracy". The organisations announced the decision at a press conference in Bengaluru on Monday, saying demonstrations would be held at district headquarters across the state, modelled on protests at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi.

Actor Prakash Raj, who addressed the press conference, announced the support of farmers' and Dalit organisations for the campaign against SIR. He condemned the alleged restrictions on protests in Delhi, accusing the authorities of turning the capital into a "police city".



Leaders of farmers' and Dalit organisations at the press conference in Bengaluru on Monday

> *"Your misrule has left people frustrated. Farmers will return."*
>
> **PRAKASH RAJ** Actor

Youth on the streets

Raj said young people were taking to the streets against the education system and the SIR process, with farmers and Dalit organisations joining the movement. He alleged that protesters, including young people and women journalists, had faced police excesses. He also claimed that restrictions were imposed on demonstrations at Jantar Mantar and that protesters were prevented from taking out marches with the national flag.

Recalling earlier farmers' agitations, Raj alleged that force and tear gas had been used against protesters before the government withdrew several bills following their movement. He warned that public anger against the government was growing.

Farmer leader Badagalapura Nagendra demanded the immediate cancellation of SIR and called for a transparent, impartial process for appointing the Chief Election Commissioner. He demanded the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, alleging political influence in the appointment.

Nagendra questioned why protesters were being denied permission to demonstrate at Jantar Mantar. He said farmers and progressive organisations would unite to oppose the Centre's policies through protests across Karnataka, including village-level demonstrations modelled on Jantar Mantar.

The campaign comes amid opposition allegations of irregularities in electoral roll revision. The Election Commission has also ordered a Special Summary Revision (SSR) of electoral rolls in 17 states and Union Territories.

KPSC recruitment scam: Question papers allegedly sold to over 10 people

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Fresh details have emerged in the investigation into the Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) recruitment scam, with the prime accused, Basavaraj Kannale, allegedly selling question papers to more than 10 people despite claiming that he would supply them to only one or two candidates.

According to details emerging from the investigation, Gyanendra Kumar received ₹1.3 crore in cash from Kannale. He allegedly purchased gold jewellery worth ₹23 lakh and transferred ₹25 lakh to two members of his family.

Investigators have also uncovered details of how the question paper and answer key were allegedly copied and transferred before the examination.

Gyanendra Kumar reportedly recorded the question paper and answer key on a tablet at his office. On January 7, a day before the examination, he copied the material onto an HP pen drive and handed it over to Kannale.

The tablet was later allegedly broken and discarded to destroy evidence, according to information that emerged during the probe.



Investigators are examining the alleged movement of the question paper, the financial transactions and the steps taken to conceal evidence. The finding that the papers may have reached more than 10 people has raised further questions about the possible scale of the alleged leak.

THE MONEY TRAIL

₹1.3 crore	CASH RECEIVED
₹23 lakh	GOLD JEWELLERY
₹25 lakh	SENT TO FAMILY

The investigation is continuing to establish the roles of those involved and trace the money linked to the alleged sale of question papers.

JDS targets Priyank Kharge over reservation and KPSC recruitment row

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Janata Dal (Secular) has criticised Karnataka Minister Priyank Kharge over reservation, Dalit political representation and alleged irregularities in Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) recruitment, questioning his claims of social justice.

In a post on X, the JDS accused the minister of serving family interests while speaking about the Constitution and social justice. "Is the reservation system meant only for the upliftment of your 'Kharge Private Limited'?" the party asked.

The party questioned Kharge's decision to contest from Chittapur rather than Gurmitkal, which it described as a general constituency, alleging that another Dalit leader's political opportunity had been denied. It asked what kind of social justice the minister was advocating.

KPSC recruitment allegations

The JDS also raised the alleged KPSC recruitment scam involving Assistant Executive Engineer posts in the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department. It accused the government of betraying talented candidates from Dalit and backward communities.

"Is altering OMR sheets and selling the future of candidates who studied day and night your style of governance?" the party asked in its social media post.

It further alleged that candidates facing allegations had received conditional appointments and criticised Kharge over his purported denial of knowledge of the irregularities.

Questions over representation

The JDS accused the minister of using the cause of Dalits for political advantage and questioned what it described as family-centric reservation and selective accountability.

The party also referred to the political representation of marginalised communities, alleging that their opportunities had been curtailed for decades. It said people across Karnataka were watching the minister's actions.



The attack follows Kharge's recent remarks questioning why a Dalit person should not aspire to become prosperous, referring to industrialist ambitions and political power.

SSLC REGISTRATION

APAAR ID not mandatory for Karnataka SSLC registration; PEN alone will do

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Students registering for the Karnataka SSLC examinations must enter their 11-digit Permanent Education Number (PEN), while the 12-digit APAAR ID is optional, the Education Department has clarified.

The online registration process for the examinations is underway. Students who have not received their APAAR IDs can complete registration using their PEN numbers, without facing any hurdles.

SSLC nodal officer Lakshminarayan said the absence of an APAAR ID would not prevent students from registering for the examination.

"Even if students do not have an APAAR ID, they can register for the examination by entering their PEN number alone. The absence of the ID will not prevent registration," he clarified.



SSLC students (representative image)

PEN is a permanent 11-digit number used to identify students and maintain their academic records. It is essential for school admissions, record management and transfers between schools. Students must enter this number during SSLC registration.

APAAR, or Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry, is part of the Centre's "One Nation, One Student ID" initiative. It is designed to link students' marksheets and academic records to a single digital identity.

Some students have faced difficulties generating APAAR IDs because of discrepancies in names or dates of birth in their Aadhaar and school records. The clarification is expected to ease concerns among students and parents ahead of the examinations.

The APAAR ID and photograph are expected to help students access digital marksheets through DigiLocker in the future. However, students who do not provide an APAAR ID will continue to receive physical marksheets.

PEN and APAAR

- **PEN:** 11-digit permanent education number; mandatory
- **APAAR ID:** 12-digit digital student identity; optional
- **Digital records:** through DigiLocker in the future
- **Marksheets:** physical ones even without an APAAR ID

MIA to host Udaan-2026 convention to promote minority entrepreneurship

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Muslim Industrialists Association (MIA) will organise 'Udaan-2026: Elevation of Minority Entrepreneurship' in Bengaluru on October 31 to promote businesses, address industrial challenges and seek policy support for startups.

The convention will begin at 9.30 am at Bearys Souharda Bhavana in HBR Layout. MIA president Abdul Rasheed B.J. announced the event at a press conference at the city's Press Club on Monday.

Udaan-2026

WHEN	October 31, 9.30 am
WHERE	Bearys Souharda Bhavana, HBR Layout
BY	Muslim Industrialists Association
AWARDS	30 startups and entrepreneurs

The programme will bring together ministers, elected representatives, government officials, industrialists, entrepreneurs, investors, startup founders and trade organisation representatives. Those expected to attend include Minister U.T. Khader, Rizwan Arshad, Legislative Council Chairman Saleem Ahmed, Chief Minister's Economic Adviser L.K. Atheeq and Rajya Sabha member Mansoor Ali Khan.

Rasheed said the convention aims to highlight challenges faced by entrepreneurs from minority communities and seek government support for business growth. A memorandum outlining recommendations will be submitted to the concerned ministers. The demands will cover equitable distribution of industrial subsidies, easier access to government grants and policies to create a supportive business environment.

MIA secretary Meer Abdul Hafeez said the association seeks to encourage dialogue between the government and the business community and strengthen Karnataka's startup ecosystem. He said startups play an important role in employment generation and economic development.

MIA joint secretary Muhammad Azmatulla said 30 promising startups and entrepreneurs from minority communities had been identified for recognition at the event. Selected participants will present their business ideas, products and services to investors and industry representatives, creating opportunities for investment, market expansion and business partnerships.

The convention will also encourage collaboration between emerging enterprises and established industries, enabling knowledge-sharing and exploration of investment opportunities.

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Bengaluru residents lose ₹306 crore to scams

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Digital arrest scams have declined in Bengaluru following police awareness campaigns and quicker reporting by victims. However, cybercriminals have caused losses of ₹306 crore across 1,222 cases reported between 2024 and September 2026, highlighting the continuing threat to residents.

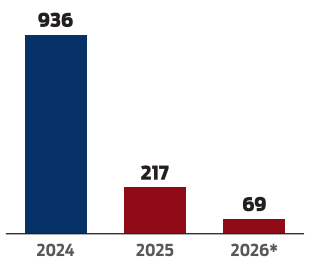
According to police data, Bengaluru recorded 936 cases in 2024, with losses of ₹132 crore. The number fell to 217 cases in 2025, although victims still lost ₹111 crore. Until September 2026, 69 cases were reported, involving losses of ₹61 crore.

Police have arrested 58 accused persons and frozen ₹97.75 crore in bank accounts linked to the fraud. Cybercrime teams have also seized ₹21.33 crore and returned ₹12.44 crore to victims. Authorities attribute the reduction in cases partly to sustained public awareness campaigns and faster reporting by affected people.

Digital arrest scams usually begin with phone or video calls from fraudsters impersonating officials of agencies such as the Enforcement Directorate, Central Bureau of Investigation, police, Income Tax Department or Narcotics Control Bureau. They falsely claim that a victim's Aadhaar details, bank account or identity is linked to criminal activity. In some cases, they allege that illegal drugs have been found in a parcel booked in the victim's name.

The fraudsters threaten victims with arrest and pressure them into transferring money to accounts they claim are connected to government agencies or investigations. Senior citizens, professionals and other residents remain vulnerable to these tactics. Police urge people to remain cautious, avoid transferring money under threats and report suspicious calls immediately. Genuine law enforcement agencies do not conduct investigations by demanding money transfers to prove innocence.

Digital arrest cases
Bengaluru, by year



*Until September. Figures: police data

Losses: ₹132 crore in 2024, ₹111 crore in 2025 and ₹61 crore until September 2026

Lokpal directs CBI to register FIR against Customs official

CH NEWS, BENGALURU



The Lokpal has directed the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to register an FIR against Anthony Raj, a former Customs Superintendent at Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru, over allegations of illegally using passengers' passports to purchase duty-free liquor and evade taxes.

According to the complaint, Anthony Raj allegedly obtained international passengers' passports and used them to purchase various brands of liquor from a duty-free shop. He reportedly paid for the purchases using his personal debit or credit cards. The complaint further alleges that he offered gifts to passengers who cooperated with him in the transactions.

The complainant claimed that the alleged activities resulted in tax evasion and caused losses amounting to lakhs of rupees to the government exchequer. The allegations have also raised concerns about the alleged misuse of official position for personal benefit. The complaint stated that the conduct could attract provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988. However, the allegations are yet to be established through a formal investigation.

On February 13, 2026, a Lokpal bench directed the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) to conduct a preliminary inquiry and submit its findings within four weeks. The CVC subsequently submitted its preliminary inquiry report to the Lokpal on July 28, 2026.

After considering the report and the allegations, the Lokpal ordered the CBI to register an FIR against the former Customs Superintendent. The directive marks the next stage in examining the alleged irregularities involving duty-free liquor purchases at the airport.

Anthony Raj had served at Kempegowda International Airport and the Air Cargo Complex. The CBI is expected to investigate the allegations, examine the transactions and establish whether any offences were committed. The alleged financial loss and the circumstances surrounding the use of passengers' passports will be subject to further investigation. No conclusion regarding the accused's guilt has been established at this stage.

The case so far

- **FEB 13, 2026** — Lokpal bench orders a CVC preliminary inquiry, findings in four weeks
- **JULY 28, 2026** — CVC submits its report to the Lokpal
- **NOW** — Lokpal orders the CBI to register an FIR

KPSC launches new website for public access

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) has introduced a new official website address to help candidates and the public access information conveniently. The previous website, https://kpsc.kar.nic.in, has been replaced by https://kpsc.karnataka.gov.in for administrative reasons. KPSC Secretary Jyothi K. announced that all official communications, recruitment notifications and candidate-related information should henceforth be accessed through the new portal. Candidates have been advised to use the updated website for the latest announcements and official updates from the commission.

'Stop Indiscriminate Waste Dumping This Dasara Season'

CIVIC AUTHORITIES HAVE STEPPED UP SANITATION MEASURES ACROSS MAJOR MARKETS, URGING TRADERS AND RESIDENTS TO DISPOSE FESTIVAL WASTE RESPONSIBLY.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Bengaluru Central City Corporation Commissioner Jagadish G. has urged traders and citizens not to dump festival waste on streets, footpaths, or public grounds during the ongoing Dasara celebrations.

During the festive period, hundreds of farmers and vendors sell puja items—including banana stems, ash gourds, flowers, mango leaves, and fruits—across key commercial hubs like KR Market, Gandhi Bazaar, local playgrounds, and roadside lanes.

While affirming that the civic body supports festival commerce and will not disrupt vendor operations, the Commissioner expressed concern over leftover organic debris being discarded directly onto streets.Unchecked waste accumulation creates severe roadblocks for pedestrians and motorists while producing foul stenches that harm public hygiene. Sudden rains exacerbate the hazard by washing organic waste into roadside drains, choking rainwater flow and causing localized waterlogging. Moreover, cleaning scattered debris creates excessive physical strain for sanitation workers (pourakarmikas), who must clear massive refuse mounds manually.The Commissioner strongly appealed to all festival merchants to collect their post-business waste responsibly and discard it exclusively at designated civic collection points.

Citizens were also advised against turning public spaces into garbage black spots. Households must segregate festival leftovers at the source and hand them over directly to auto tippers and sanitation workers during routine door-to-door morning collection rounds. Maintaining urban cleanliness, aesthetic beauty, and public health requires active public cooperation alongside municipal efforts.



To prevent neighborhood overflow, the Corporation has deployed extra sanitation personnel and tipper vehicles across major markets and high-generation festival corridors. Civic authorities will maintain continuous monitoring throughout the week to ensure prompt collection and scientific disposal of festive debris.

FESTIVAL WASTE: DO'S AND DON'TS

The Bengaluru Central City Corporation has issued guidelines to keep public spaces clean during Dasara celebrations.

For traders

- Collect leftover flowers, banana stems, mango leaves, fruits and other puja materials after business hours.
- Dispose of waste only at designated civic collection points.
- Avoid dumping organic debris on roads, footpaths and public grounds.

For residents

- Segregate festival waste at source.
- Hand over household waste and festival leftovers directly to auto tippers or sanitation workers during routine morning collection rounds.
- Do not leave garbage in public spaces or create neighbourhood dumping spots.

Why proper disposal matters

- Accumulated waste obstructs pedestrians and motorists.
- Rotting organic matter causes foul smells and affects public hygiene.
- Rain can wash waste into drains, obstructing water flow and causing localised waterlogging.
- Scattered refuse increases the physical burden on pourakarmikas, who often have to clear it manually.

Civic measures

The Corporation has deployed additional sanitation personnel and tipper vehicles across major markets and areas generating large quantities of festival waste. Monitoring and collection drives will continue throughout the week.

Karnataka High Court rules on recruitment changes

CH NEWS, BENGALURU



The Karnataka High Court has ruled that the State Government cannot change recruitment rules after a selection process has begun. The court quashed a government circular dated February 1, 2023, which changed the reservation procedure for candidates from the Kalyana Karnataka region under Article 371J of the Constitution.

A division bench comprising Justice D.K. Singh and Justice H. Shanthi Bhushan delivered the ruling while hearing petitions filed by candidates, including Ravindra B. Manavi. They had challenged a Karnataka Administrative Tribunal (KAT) order that dismissed their pleas against the government circular.

The bench observed that administrative instructions cannot be used to alter the fundamental rules of an ongoing recruitment process. Referring to Supreme Court judgments, it reiterated that the rules governing selection cannot be changed midway. Such changes, particularly when they deprive eligible candidates of selection opportunities, may violate Articles 14 and 16 of the Constitution, which guarantee equality before the law and equal opportunity in public employment. The court directed the authorities to complete the recruitment process under the original rules.

The case concerns recruitment notifications issued in 2021 and 2022 for Assistant Engineers, Police Sub-Inspectors, Graduate Primary Teachers and Assistant Professors. Initially, candidates from the Kalyana Karnataka region could choose between the Local Cadre and the Residual Parent Cadre under General Merit.

However, in February 2023, after examinations were completed and document verification was underway, the government directed that these candidates must first be considered for General Merit posts. They could be considered for Local Cadre vacancies only if they were not selected under General Merit. This change reportedly excluded some candidates who had earlier figured in selection lists.

After the KAT rejected their challenges, the candidates approached the High Court. The bench emphasized that recruitment decisions involving Article 371J reservations must follow applicable rules and constitutional principles. It clarified that government policy-making powers cannot override legal protections or undermine equal opportunities in public employment.

THE RULING

Rules cannot be changed midway

- Government circular of February 1, 2023 quashed
- Recruitment to be completed under the original rules
- Articles 14 and 16 guard equal opportunity

Bengaluru police seize fake cigarettes worth ₹30 lakh

CH NEWS, BENGALURU



Police have seized counterfeit cigarettes worth ₹30 lakh and arrested three accused in two separate operations conducted by the Central Crime Branch (CCB) and Upparpet police.

The raids followed credible information about an illegal cigarette supply network.

According to police, the information was provided by Anvesh IPR, a firm acting on behalf of ITC, which reported the suspected circulation of counterfeit cigarette products. Acting on the information, the police launched separate operations to prevent the illegal distribution of the cigarettes and identify those involved in the network.

In the first case, CCB personnel raided a location where counterfeit cigarettes were allegedly being prepared for illegal transportation to Kerala. The cigarettes had reportedly been packed into two trolley bags for shipment. Police arrested two accused, Mahamad Riyaz and Kumaran, and seized counterfeit cigarette products valued at ₹20 lakh during the operation.

In a separate operation, Upparpet police arrested another accused, Mahamad Gulzar, and recovered counterfeit cigarettes worth ₹10 lakh from his possession. The seizure formed the second part of the crackdown on the suspected illegal trade.

The two operations resulted in the arrest of three accused and the recovery of counterfeit cigarettes worth a combined ₹30 lakh. Police have initiated legal proceedings against those arrested and are continuing their investigation to establish the source of the counterfeit products and identify other people who may be connected to the supply network.

Authorities are examining the suspected distribution channels to determine how the fake cigarettes entered circulation and whether additional individuals or locations were involved. Further details are expected as the investigation progresses. Police have not disclosed additional information about the origin of the seized products or the wider network. The cases highlight continuing efforts to curb the sale and transportation of counterfeit goods in Bengaluru.

Seized	
₹20 lakh	CCB RAID: TWO ARRESTED
₹10 lakh	UPPARPET POLICE: ONE ARRESTED
2	TROLLEY BAGS BOUND FOR KERALA

GBA plans new system to restore Bengaluru's green cover

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) is planning a new system to ensure that agencies cutting trees for development projects fulfil their responsibility to replace them.

Under the proposed plan, organizations that fail to plant replacement trees as required will have to pay the GBA, which will undertake the planting work.

Several trees are being removed across Bengaluru for infrastructure projects, including metro rail construction, road widening and power line installation. Agencies such as Namma Metro, K-RIDE and KPTCL undertake projects that may require tree removal after obtaining the necessary permissions. These permissions generally include conditions requiring alternative trees to be planted to compensate for the loss of green cover.

However, some agencies reportedly fail to meet these conditions, affecting the city's greenery. To address this issue, GBA Special Commissioner Shilpa Nag said the authority was considering taking responsibility for planting replacement trees and recovering the related expenses from the agencies concerned.

The proposed system is expected to serve two main purposes. First, it would help restore greenery lost during infrastructure development.

> *Organizations that fail to plant replacement trees as required will have to pay the GBA, which will undertake the planting work*

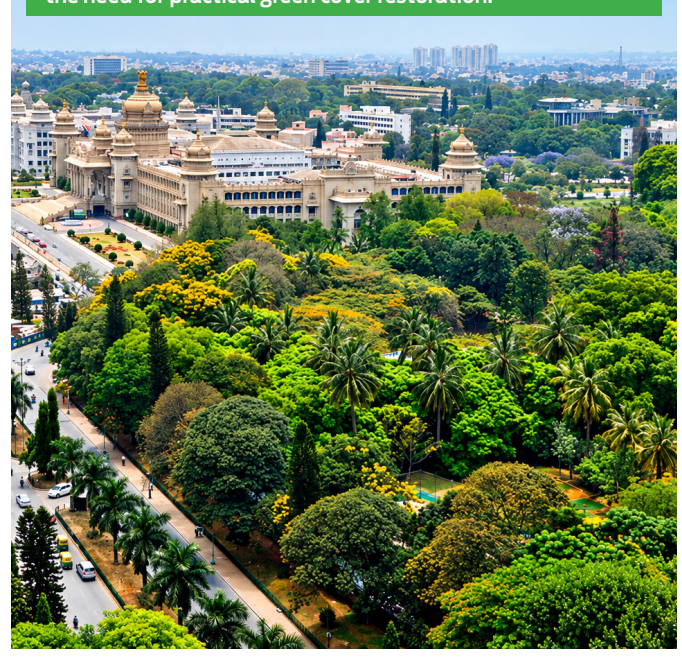
Second, the money collected from agencies that do not fulfil their planting obligations could support further environmental improvement initiatives across the city. The plan seeks to ensure that tree replacement requirements are implemented in practice rather than remaining conditions on paper. While infrastructure development is necessary for Bengaluru's growing population, officials recognize that environmental protection must remain an important part of urban planning.

If implemented effectively, the proposal could increase the financial accountability of agencies that remove trees and strengthen efforts to protect the city's green cover. However, its success will depend on proper implementation, regular monitoring and long-term maintenance of newly planted saplings.

The GBA will need to ensure that replacement trees survive and grow, rather than simply meeting numerical planting targets. Clear accountability, suitable planting locations and continued maintenance will be essential to making the initiative effective and preserving Bengaluru's urban environment.

AT A GLANCE

- **Proposed Initiative**: GBA takes over compensatory tree planting and recovers costs from defaulting agencies.
- **Target Agencies**: Infrastructure developers such as Namma Metro, K-RIDE, and KPTCL.
- **Core Objective**: Enforce real environmental compensation for trees removed during metro, road, and power projects.
- **Key Official**: Special Commissioner Shilpa Nag highlights the need for practical green cover restoration.



Quick Read



Police seek public help to trace missing youth

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

Chitradurga City Police have registered a missing person case involving 21-year-old Mohammad Azeez, son of Bhashasab, who resides in Eidgah Mohalla on Medehalli Road in Chitradurga city. Azeez is approximately 5.5 feet tall, has a round face and a medium build. He also has an old scar on his nose and can speak Kannada, Hindi and Urdu. At the time of his disappearance, he was wearing a yellow jacket and blue jeans. The police have appealed to the public to share any information about his whereabouts by contacting the District Control Room at 08194-222782.

Special leave for graduate and teacher voters on October 23

CH NEWS, CHIKKABALLAPURA

A one-day special casual leave has been granted on October 23, 2026, for eligible graduate and teacher voters in the Bangalore Teachers' Constituency and Karnataka South-East Graduates' Constituency. The decision follows the Election Commission of India's announcement regarding the biennial Karnataka Legislative Council elections and the state government's notification dated October 17, 2026. Eligible voters can avail themselves of the leave to cast their votes, subject to obtaining prior permission from the authorities authorised to sanction it. The information was issued by the Returning Officer for the constituencies, who is also the Regional Commissioner of the Bangalore Division.

Police Commemoration Day on October 21

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

The Chitradurga District Police Department has organized the observance of 'Police Commemoration Day' on October 21 at 8 am. The event will take place on the premises of the District Armed Reserve (DAR) Police grounds in the city. District Superintendent of Police Kushal Chouksey stated that Principal District and Sessions Judge G.D. Mahavarkar, Deputy Commissioner S. Ramya, and Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer Dr. S. Akash will participate as chief guests.

Joshi seeks time to address Karnataka sugarcane farmers' demands

Farmers suspend their protest till November 26 after Joshi promises a committee within three days to examine their demands

CH NEWS, HUBBALLI

Union Minister Pralhad Joshi has assured Karnataka's protesting sugarcane farmers that the Centre will consider their demands positively. The assurance came during a late-night meeting with farmers' leaders at the Government Guest House in Hubballi on October 18. Discussions continued until 3 a.m. on Monday.

Farmers' representatives pressed for a remunerative sugarcane price, complete procurement of ethanol produced in Karnataka and separate pricing for sugar used commercially and domestically, with higher rates for commercial use. Farmer leader Chunappa Pujeri presented these demands during the meeting.



Union Minister Pralhad Joshi

Joshi said the Centre would make efforts to address the issues by placing them before a committee expected to begin functioning within three days. He urged farmers to cooperate with the process and allow time for their demands to be examined. However, no final decision on their demands was announced during the meeting.

Following the talks, the farmers suspended their agitation and gave the government until November 26. Pujeri said they would resume it on November 27 if their demands remained unfulfilled. The protest had resumed on October 12 after earlier discussions failed to resolve the dispute.

Former Chief Minister and MP Jagadish Shettar, MLAs C.C. Patil, M.R. Patil and Maheshesh Tenginkai, and senior district officials attended the meeting. Representatives of farmers' organisations also participated in the discussions.

Farmers' demands

- → A remunerative price for sugarcane
- → Complete procurement of the ethanol produced in Karnataka
- → Separate prices for sugar used commercially and domestically, higher for commercial use

The farmers have been demanding a fair share of sugar and ethanol revenues. Their agitation has included protests and a 'Hubballi Chalo' march. The farmers say the suspension is temporary.

Siddaramaiah accepts honorary doctorate after reluctance

CH NEWS, KOLAR

Former Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah accepted an honorary doctorate from Devaraj Urs Medical College during the foundation day celebrations of R.L. Jalappa Hospital on Monday, after previously declining similar honours from several institutions.

The doctorate had been announced for Siddaramaiah during the college's convocation a year ago, but he had refused to accept it. However, when he attended Monday's event, his name was announced, and the dignitaries present reportedly urged him to accept the honour. He eventually agreed to receive it.

After accepting the doctorate, Siddaramaiah thanked the institution but requested that people continue addressing him simply as Siddaramaiah rather than Dr. Siddaramaiah. He said he had earlier made it clear that he did not want the honorary title and had been uncertain about accepting it.



Siddaramaiah accepts the honorary doctorate at the R.L. Jalappa Hospital foundation day in Kolar on Monday

Siddaramaiah had previously declined honorary doctorates proposed by Bangalore University and the University of Mysore, as well as an honour announced by the Sri Devaraj Urs Academy of Higher Education and Research. The latest recognition was reportedly linked to his public service and the implementation of five guarantee schemes aimed at supporting poor and middle-class families in Karnataka.

Siddaramaiah has served as Karnataka Chief Minister twice and is known for presenting a high number of state budgets during his political career. His acceptance of the doctorate comes amid heightened political tensions in the state following allegations and counter-allegations involving a reported sting operation.

The event at R.L. Jalappa Hospital brought renewed attention to the former Chief Minister's position on honorary academic titles and recognition for his public service.

Rachana Vedike to expand across Karnataka

CH NEWS, KOLAR

The Karnataka Rachana Vedike, which has worked for the Kannada cause for 25 years, will expand its organisation across the State, district president Medihala Raghavendra said.

Speaking at a meeting of district and taluk-level office-bearers at the Scouts and Guides Bhavan, Raghavendra recalled his participation in several protests for Kannada language, farmers and local issues. He said agitations in Bengaluru, Ramanagara, Channapatna and Belagavi strengthened his commitment to the Kannada cause.

He recalled a road blockade organised against the arrival of milk from Andhra Pradesh, which had affected the sale of Nandini milk and created difficulties for dairy farmers. He also mentioned protests concerning the Cauvery and Mahadayi river disputes, opposition to non-Kannada films in Kolar, the demand for a university in North Karnataka, campaigns against single-number lotteries and demands for local employment in industries.

Raghavendra said he and 26 associates were jailed for four days in Kolar sub-jail in 2017 after gheraoing the then district in-charge minister on January 26 during a protest seeking permanent irrigation facilities. He said the struggle contributed to KC Valley water reaching the district. He also recalled efforts that helped retain the Women's College in Kolar under Bangalore University instead of transferring it to Bijapur, after which the legal case was dismissed.

He called for public cooperation in strengthening the organisation and said there would be no compromise on Karnataka's land, language, culture, territory or water resources. District general secretary V. Muniraju, Narasapura Shekhar, Naveen, KGF Nanjundappa, Rajashekhar, Bangarapet Manjunatha, Prabhakar Gowda, Manjunath and others attended the meeting. Several office-bearers and members were also present.



Karnataka Rachana Vedike office-bearers at the meeting in Kolar

SP praises activists for fighting illegal lottery racket

KOLAR: Karnataka Rachana Vedike district president Medihala Raghavendra recalled how District Superintendent of Police Srinivas appreciated their campaign against single-number lotteries in Kolar. Raghavendra said he and his friends conducted simultaneous raids on four single-number lottery outlets, causing losses worth lakhs of rupees to the operators. They later surrendered at Kolar City Police Station. The then Sub-Inspector, Gudegowda, offered them coffee, but the lottery operators did not arrive to file complaints despite a long wait. When the group met SP Srinivas, he warmly welcomed them and acknowledged the damage caused by single-number lotteries to police personnel and their families. He explained that legal limitations had made it difficult to shut down the racket despite complaints. Raghavendra said the SP praised their efforts to protect the public and police families. He expressed gratitude for the support and encouragement shown by the officials.

Chitradurga to keep Valmiki Jayanti simple

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

Deputy Commissioner S. Ramya has instructed officials to organise this year's Sri Maharshi Valmiki Jayanti celebrations in a simple and meaningful manner, following the Election Model Code of Conduct currently in force in the district.

She was speaking while chairing a preparatory meeting at the Deputy Commissioner's office hall in Chitradurga on Monday. The birth anniversary of Sri Maharshi Valmiki will be observed on October 26 at 11 am at the same venue. She directed officials to make all necessary arrangements while strictly following the election guidelines issued by the authorities.

Ramya stressed that the programme must be conducted without violating any rules under the Model Code of Conduct. She asked officials to ensure that the celebrations remain dignified and meaningful while complying with the district administration's instructions.

H. Diwakar, District Scheduled Tribes Welfare Officer, said permission for the programme had been granted subject to Election Commission guidelines.

BJP and Congress adopt different strategies for graduate polls

MALINGARAYA PUJAR, GADAG

Political activity has intensified in the Karnataka West Graduates' Constituency election, with the BJP and Congress adopting different strategies to attract voters across Gadag, Haveri, Dharwad and Uttara Kannada districts.

The election is crucial for sitting BJP MLC S.V. Sankanur, who is seeking a third consecutive term. As Gadag is his home district, the BJP has stepped up its campaign to increase his victory margin. Union Minister Pralhad Joshi, former Chief Minister and MP Basavaraj Bommai, Anil Menasinakai and Ravi Dandina have participated in meetings across Mundargi, Lakshmeshwar, Shirahatti and Gadag. Local MLAs C.C. Patil and Dr. Chandru Lamani are also mobilising party workers.

The Congress, meanwhile, is focusing on direct voter contact rather than large public meetings. Its candidate, Mohan Limbikai, is being supported through grassroots campaigning. Minister Satish Jarkiholi has visited households, including in Shigli village of Lakshmeshwar taluk. KPCC president B.K. Hariprasad has also urged party leaders to work together for victory. Former minister and MLA H.K. Patil, former MLA D.R. Patil and other local leaders are overseeing the campaign in Gadag.

The constituency has 97,398 registered voters across four districts, including 21,594 in Gadag alone. Their support could significantly influence the overall result. Both parties are seeking to strengthen their positions ahead of polling.

Issues such as unemployment, concerns in the education sector and possible anti-incumbency sentiments may influence graduate voters. While the BJP is relying on its established leadership and large-scale campaign, the Congress hopes its door-to-door outreach will prove effective.



West Graduates' seat: Gadag, Haveri, Dharwad and Uttara Kannada

97,398
registered graduate voters in four districts, 21,594 of them in Gadag

CHANGE OF NAME

I, JYOTHI E A W/o ANAND E P, R/o 9, 5th Cross, A T Extension, Ramakrishnapuram, K. G. Road, Bangalore North, Bangalore, Karnataka-560009, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SARIKA INDU ELLOR.

NAME CHANGE

I, **VICTHOR MARIA SELVAM**, S/o. Dhana Selvam, Resident of No. 24, 10th A Street, 1st Block Prakruthi Township, Babusapalya, Horamavu Agara Main Road, Bengaluru -560043, Karnataka, have changed my name to **VICTHOR MARIA SELVAM** .D, vide affidavit dated: 19.10.2026 before notary R. BASAVARAJA, Bengaluru.

PUBLIC NOTICE

**I, Asif Pasha S/o Mohammed Wajid Pasha, Aadhaar No.: 4413 9998 8661, residing at: No. 3860, Ward No. 19, Near Royal School, Mahbub Nagar, Ramanagara Town-562159, Bangalore South District,
I am residing at the above address. Accordingly, a deed of gift was registered in my name in the office of the Deputy Registrar, Ramanagara on 27-03-2014 in the document 1 of the book RMN-1-11396-2013-14, CD No. RMND216 and I have obtained the original deed of gift from the said register. The said deed of gift is in Municipal Census No. belonging to Ramanagara Town, Mahbub Nagar. 604/1722/93/1, two Site have come in my name through donation. The original donation deed belonging to me was kept in the cupboard of the house, and while cleaning the house, the said original donation deed was accidentally lost on date: 20-09-2026. In this regard, a cyber complaint was filed on date: 08-10-2026, and the record report number is: 2471526.
I request through this public notice that if anyone finds the said original registration donation deed, please deliver it to the following address.
Contact address:
Asif Pasha S/o Mohammad Wajid Pasha, No. 3860, Ward No. 19, Near Royal School, Mahbub Nagar, Ramanagara Town-562159, Bangalore South District,
Place: Ramanagara.
Date: 19-10-2026**

NAME CHANGE

I, **YESMINA MOHAMMED AYOUB AHA**, W/o Mohammed Ayub Aha, resident of No.227, Umar Nagar, Opp Muzamil Masjid Gate, Govindpur, Bengaluru – 560045, have changed my name to **YESMINA**, Vide Affidavit Dated: 19.10.2026 before notary B.S.PADMAPRASAD, Bengaluru

CHANGE OF NAME

I, NETRA SUNIL KARMARKAR D/o MALLAPPA, W/o SUNIL KARMARKAR, R/o G S T Road, Ganesh Nagar, Muddebihal, Muddebiahl, Vijayapura, Karnataka-586212, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as NAGAMMA.

NAME CHANGE

I, **MOHAMMED AJAZ SHERIEFF**, S/o. Abdul Subhan, Resident of No. 09, Aga Abdulla Street, Johnson Market Richmond Town, Bengaluru -560025, Karnataka, have changed my name to **MOHAMMED AJAZ SHARIFF**, vide affidavit dated: 19.10.2026 before notary R. BASAVARAJA, Bengaluru.

PUBLIC NOTICE

**I, Mohammad Khan S/o Ismail Khan, Aadhaar No.(3823 4518 0951), residing at: # 3540, Ward No. 20, 2nd Cross, Near Holly Circle, Troop Line, Ramanagara, 562159, Bangalore South District,
I am a resident of the above address, Bangalore South District, Ramanagara Taluk, Ward No. 20, Nagarashabhe Kaneshumari No. -2-515-58A, in which the area of East-West 9.144018 meters and North to South 4.876810 meters the total area of the site is 44.593440 square meters, the house built on it is registered to me on 26-07-1999 in Book No. 1 of the Ramanagara Sub-Registration Office vide Registration Purchase Deed No. 967/1999-2000. The said original Registration Purchase Deed dated 01-05-2025 has been lost between 17-10-2026, In this regard, I have also filed a complaint with the Ramanagara Police Station on 17-10-2026, seeking the tracing of my lost original purchase deed dated: 17-10-2026, and accordingly, the said Station Officer has also filed a lost record report vide No. 2487249/2026.
The said original purchase Deed has not been found despite searching everywhere. If anyone finds the said original purchase Deed, please deliver it to the following address.
Contact Address:
Mohammad Khan S/o Ismail Khan, # 3540, Ward No. 20, 2nd Cross, Near Holly Circle, Troop Line, Ramanagara, 562159, Bangalore South District,
Place: Ramanagara.
Date: 19-10-2026**

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

PRESERVING TRADITIONAL ARTS

Janapada Academy selects 32 folk artists and scholars for awards

CH NEWS, MANDYA

The Karnataka Janapada Academy has selected 30 senior folk artists from across the state for its 2026 Annual Honorary Awards and two folk scholars for the Expert Awards. The announcement was made at a press conference held at Journalists' Bhavan in Mandya on October 19, 2026.

Academy president Dr. Gollahalli Shivaprasad chaired the press conference. Academy members Dr. Kempamma, Manjesh Chennapura and Kenkere Mallikarjun were also present. The awards recognise individuals who have dedicated their lives to preserving and promoting Karnataka's folk arts and traditions.



Janapada Academy members at the press conference in Mandya

Established in 1980, the Academy has awarded 1,251 honorary awards between 1980 and 2025, recognising 1,134 folk artists and 117 scholars. For 2026–27, the annual awards will honour 30 senior artists representing the state's districts, while two experts will receive special recognition for their contributions to folklore studies.

Each selected folk artist will receive a cash prize of Rs 25,000. The two experts will receive Rs 50,000 each. Awardees will also be presented with a memento, shawl, garland and phalatambula, a traditional offering of fruits and betel leaves.

The selections were finalised at the Academy's general body meeting held in Bengaluru on October 14, 2026. The announced list includes artists representing diverse traditions such as folk singing, Pooja Kunita, Burrakatha, Viragase, women's Dollu, Kolata, devotional performance and folk dance.

The awards aim to recognise the valuable contributions of traditional performers and scholars while encouraging the preservation of Karnataka's rich cultural heritage for future generations. The Academy continues to support folk traditions by honouring experienced artists and experts who keep these cultural practices alive.

Quick Read

Farmers can get PVC pipes at 50% subsidy in Koppal

CH NEWS, KOPPAL

The Agriculture Department is distributing PVC pipes to farmers at a 50% subsidy under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana to promote efficient water use amid drought conditions in Koppal district. The Joint Director of Agriculture urged farmers to use the facility to prevent water wastage and improve irrigation efficiency. Interested farmers can apply through their local Raitha Samparka Kendra by submitting the required documents, including their Farmer Identification Number (FID). Eligible farmers will receive the subsidy according to departmental rules. The department has appealed to farmers to utilise the scheme and conserve available water resources.

Graduate voters receive special leave on Oct 23

CH NEWS, HAVERI

Deputy Commissioner Dr. Vijayamahantesh Danammanavar, Assistant Returning Officer for the Karnataka West Graduates' Constituency election, announced that polling will be held on October 23, 2026. Eligible graduate voters in Haveri district will be granted special casual leave on Friday to exercise their voting rights. However, they must obtain prior permission to avail themselves of the leave. The facility is exclusively for eligible graduate voters participating in the Karnataka West Graduates' Constituency election. The order aims to help eligible voters cast their votes without workplace commitments preventing them from participating in the electoral process.

Public hearing on draft power rules on Oct 22

CH NEWS, KOPPAL

The Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC) has invited suggestions, opinions and objections from the public regarding its draft Electricity Supply Regulations (ESR) 2026. For Koppal district, which falls under the GESCOM jurisdiction, a public hearing will be held on October 22 at 11 am at HSK Polytechnic Hall, first floor, RYMEC campus, Rao Bahadur Y. Mahabaleswarappa Engineering College, Cantonment, Ballari. The Superintending Engineer of GESCOM's Koppal Circle has urged electricity consumers and interested members of the public to attend and present their views directly before the Commission.

'Vokkaliga leaders must unite to protect community dignity'

Ramakrishnayya urges the seers to help resolve the political differences and asks Kumaraswamy to reciprocate Shivakumar's past support

CH NEWS, MAGADI

Taluk Vokkaligara Sangha president KEB Ramakrishnayya has appealed to Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy to set aside their personal differences and work towards protecting the dignity and unity of the Vokkaliga community.

Speaking at a press conference at the Sangha office in NES Layout, Magadi, he said the dispute between the two leaders was not merely a personal matter but one that could affect the community's unity and future. He recalled the contributions of leaders such as Kengal Hanumanthaiah, S.M. Krishna, H.D. Deve Gowda, Sadananda Gowda and H.D. Kumaraswamy to Karnataka and the country.

Ramakrishnayya urged Adichunchanagiri Math seer Sri Nirmalanandanatha Swamiji and Nanjavadhuta Swamiji to intervene and help resolve the political differences. He said the Sangha would request the seers to guide both leaders towards reconciliation. He also pointed out that Shivakumar had earlier supported Kumaraswamy's efforts to become Chief Minister and urged Kumaraswamy to reciprocate that support.



Taluk Vokkaligara Sangha members at the press conference in Magadi

He expressed concern that the continuing allegations and the reported sting operation could damage the community's reputation and affect the political future of second-rung leaders, including N. Chaluvarayaswamy, H.C. Balakrishna and Krishna Byre Gowda. He appealed to both leaders to stop targeting each other and resolve their differences through dialogue.

Sangha director D.C. Shivanna also criticised Kumaraswamy, alleging that he was focusing more on accusations against Shivakumar than on public issues. Shivanna questioned his contribution to industrial development in Karnataka and urged him to support sugarcane farmers who are protesting for their demands. He also alleged that opposition to the township project was linked to protecting personal land interests.

> *The dispute between the two leaders is not merely a personal matter but one that could affect the community's unity and future*

The press conference was attended by vice-president H.R. Ramesh, treasurer A.L. Narasimha Murthy, A.R. Manjunath, Kiran, Anand, Hanumanthaiah, Siddaraju, Renukappa and other Sangha members.

Haveri students explore democracy through Youth Parliament



Officials inaugurate the taluk-level Youth Parliament in Haveri

CH NEWS, HAVERI

A taluk-level Youth Parliament for school students was held at District Guru Bhavan in Haveri city on Monday.

The programme was organised jointly by the Departments of School Education and Literacy, Higher Education, Taluk Social Welfare, Haveri Taluk Panchayat and Legal Services to promote democratic values and leadership among young people.

Inaugurating the event, Tahsildar Sharanamma said students had many opportunities to become responsible citizens and future leaders. She expressed hope that the programme would guide them in their future endeavours. Dr. Parameshappah Hubballi, Executive Officer of the Taluk Panchayat, highlighted the importance of the Constitution drafted under the leadership of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. Block Education Officer Srinivas B. delivered the introductory remarks.

The House in session

SPEAKER
Kallanagowda M. Doddagowda

DEPUTY SPEAKER
Nagaraja B.N.

CHIEF MINISTER
Nagayyaswamy Hiremath

DEPUTY CM
Chaitra Halemani

OPPOSITION LEADER
Usha S.G.

The Youth Parliament aimed to familiarise students with parliamentary procedures, democracy, constitutional ideals, fundamental rights and duties. It also sought to improve their leadership, public speaking and debating skills while encouraging discussions on local and national issues. Students moving from high school to higher education would be selected through a Taluk Selection Committee headed by the Tahsildar.

During the mock parliamentary session, students raised concerns about school development, shortages of teachers, government school facilities and the mid-day meal scheme. They also discussed the sale of narcotic substances near educational institutions, youth empowerment, sports facilities, cancer treatment and the need to create an addiction-free society. During Zero Hour, students highlighted urgent concerns related to education, children's welfare, health, the environment and public amenities.

Kallanagowda M. Doddagowda served as Speaker, Nagaraja B.N. as Deputy Speaker, Nagayyaswamy Hiremath as Chief Minister, Chaitra Halemani as Deputy Chief Minister and Usha S.G. as Leader of the Opposition. ECO B.K. Hanumagowda and assistant teacher Govindaswamy guided the mock session. Dr. Nadaf Y.F., Principal Suryanarayana and other officials attended. S.R. Hiremath welcomed the gathering, while Hanumagowda moderated the programme and delivered the vote of thanks.

Kannada Bhoomi backs farmers' protest for fair prices

CH NEWS, KALABURAGI

The Kannada Bhoomi Jagruti Samiti has extended its support to the ongoing farmers' protest in Kalaburagi, demanding fair crop prices and water for irrigation.

Samiti president Lingaraja Siragapura said the organisation would participate in the dharna until the farmers' demands were fulfilled.

Farmers have been staging a sit-in protest for six days, seeking a support price of ₹5,500 per tonne for sugarcane, ₹15,000 per quintal for pigeon peas and the release of 15 TMC of water into the Bhima River. In a press statement, Siragapura said inadequate rainfall had caused drought conditions, leaving sugarcane fields dry and farmers struggling to protect their crops.

He criticised the Central and State governments for failing to respond to farmers' concerns. He also urged sugar factory owners, many of whom are reportedly politicians, to address the demands. According to Siragapura, factories could still earn profits from sugar production and its by-products even if sugarcane farmers received ₹5,500 per tonne. He expressed disappointment that elected representatives had not visited the protest site to hear farmers' grievances.

Siragapura said farmers across Kalaburagi district were facing severe financial hardship. Delayed or failed sowing of green gram, black gram, sesame and pigeon peas had caused heavy losses. Many farmers had purchased seeds and fertilisers on credit, increasing their financial burden. Sugarcane and banana crops had also suffered due to insufficient rainfall. Despite the drought declaration covering 195 taluks, including those in Kalaburagi district, farmers were still awaiting relief funds, he said.

The farmers' demands

a tonne for sugarcane
₹5,500
a quintal for pigeon peas
₹15,000
of water into the Bhima
15 TMC



The Samiti urged District In-charge Minister Priyank Kharge to press Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar to ensure immediate action on the farmers' demands. Siragapura called for urgent measures to provide relief, protect livelihoods and address the continuing agricultural crisis in the district.

Sanjeevini Market supports rural women entrepreneurs in Gudibande

CH NEWS, CHIKKABALLAPURA

The Sanjeevini Monthly Market was organised at Somanahalli Gram Panchayat premises in Gudibande taluk on Sunday and Monday to promote products made by women from Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and support their economic independence.

Gudibande Taluk Panchayat Executive Officer M. Nagamani said arrangements had been made to bring products prepared by women from SHGs across various gram panchayats under one roof. Items required for Ayudha Puja and Vijayadashami celebrations were also made available to customers.

The market was organised jointly by the Taluk Panchayat, the Department of Skill Development, Entrepreneurship and Livelihood, and the Sanjeevini Karnataka State Rural Livelihood Promotion Society. It offered a platform for rural women entrepreneurs to display and sell their products directly to consumers.

The stalls featured puja materials, handicrafts, food products, household goods and other locally made items.



The initiative aims to provide women with better market access, increase sales and improve their household incomes. By connecting producers directly with customers, the market also seeks to reduce dependence on middlemen and ensure women receive better returns for their efforts.

The monthly market gives rural women an opportunity to showcase their skills, promote locally produced goods and develop their entrepreneurial abilities. Such initiatives can strengthen self-help groups and encourage women to become financially independent through small businesses.

Officials said the programme would help create greater awareness about products made by SHG members while encouraging consumers to support local enterprises. Sanjeevini DAY-NRLM and Taluk Panchayat staff members were present during the event.

The initiative reflects ongoing efforts to strengthen rural livelihoods by creating direct marketing opportunities for women-led enterprises and helping them achieve sustainable economic growth.

Veerashaiva Mahasabha promotes education and unity

CH NEWS, Kushtagi

The Koppal and Kushtagi units of the Akhila Bharata Veerashaiva Lingayat Mahasabha organized a district-level merit award ceremony and membership drive at NCH Mangala Bhavana in Kushtagi.

The programme aimed to encourage academic excellence and strengthen community unity.

Murugesh Nirani, State Vice-President of the Mahasabha and former Minister, inaugurated the event and said Veerashaivas follow Basavanna's teachings. He stressed the need for community members to unite, pursue education and become economically and socially stronger. Paranna Munavalli, State Vice-President and former MLA, said membership registration remained low despite the community's estimated population of 1.5 crore in Karnataka. He urged members to participate in the drive and work together for community development.

Amaregouda Bayyapura, State Vice-President and former Minister, announced the initiative to honour Veerashaiva Lingayat students who excelled in SSLC and second PUC examinations through the 'Pratibha Puraskara' awards.

Prohibitory orders in Chikkaballapura ahead of Council polls

CH NEWS, CHIKKABALLAPURA

Deputy Commissioner and District Magistrate G. Prabhu has imposed prohibitory orders across Chikkaballapura district ahead of the Karnataka South-East Graduates' Constituency election scheduled for October 23, 2026.

The restrictions will remain in force from 4 pm on October 21 until 6 pm on October 23 under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023.

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND VETERINARY SERVICES CHIKKAMAGALURU

Email:ddahvsckm@gmail.com Phone: 08262 232392

Tender Ref No: DD/AHVS/CKM//Scarcity-CKM/Dry/e-Tender/2026-27/01 Date: 19/10/2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

Deputy director Department of Animal husbandry and veterinary services of Chikkmagaluru District, Karnataka, hereby invites short term e-tender in Two-Cover System through KPPP- procurement portal for purchase of "DRY FODDER" to supply to the draught affected Taluks in Chikkmagaluru district during 2026-27 through KPPP-procurement website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. The Tender Accepting Authority is Deputy Commissioner, Chikkmagaluru (Here after called as the Competent Authority).

Calendar of Events Calendar of Events of this tender process is as follows:- **1**. Amount put to Tender: 100.00 lakhs **2.** EMD Amount: 2.00 lakhs **3**. Tender Notification Date: 19.10.2026 **4.** Last date for Clarification of tender enquiries: 26.10.2026 by 5.00 PM O/o The Deputy Director, Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services Chikkmagaluru **5.** Last date for uploaded of Bids: 27-10-2026 by 5.30PM KPPP procurement portal, Government of Karnataka **6.** Opening of technical Bid (through online): 29-10-2026 by 11.00 AM O/o The Deputy Director, Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services Chikkmagaluru **7.** Opening of Commercial bid/Financial Bid:02.11.2026 by 11.00 AM O/o The Deputy Director, Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services Chikkmagaluru **8.**Tender accepting authority:Deputy Commissioner, Chikkamagaluru Dist.

Sd/- Department of Animal Husbandry And Veterinary Services Chikkmagaluru District

DIPR/CKM/ksmca/26-27/10/1001

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation & Ground Water Development Division,Hassan

IFT No.14/2026.27, Dated: 14.10.2026

Tenders are invited from eligible Agencies in one and two cover systems through KPPP portal of GOK (website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) for Hassan and Chikkamagaluru Districts works as per KW-1,2,3&4 Tender amount Last date for submission of tenders for the works costing more than Rs.200.00 lakhs is 16-11-2026 and last date for submission of tenders for works works costing less than Rs.200.00 lakhs is 03-11-2026 upto 5.00 PM. Further detail can be obtained from KPP-portal and the above office during office working hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, MI & GWD Division, Hassan.

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಹಿಸನಿ/ಹಾಸನ/626/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2026–27

Government of Karnataka
The Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Hassan Division, Hassan.

No: EE/PWD/HSN/AE-1/2026-27/ DATED: 17.10.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION NO: 40/2026-27, Dated: 17.10.2026

Tender is invited by the Public Works Department on behalf of the Governor of Karnataka, as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000, Standard Tender Document KW-3 & KW-4 from the eligible registered Contractors of Karnataka PWD and the contractors belonging to Category-2(A) shall be domicile of the State of Karnataka for more than 10 years. Tenders Invited through E-Procurement for total Number of 04 Works Second call under PWD, Holenarasipura, Hassan Special and Arasikere Sub Division. In that 01 work is reserved for category-2(A) contractors. The minimum amount put to tender is Rs.60.49 Lakhs and maximum amount put to tender is Rs.100.73 Lakhs. Last date & time for receipt of tender is on 06.11.2026 @ 16.00 hours. For more details visit https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in or contact this office through Phone No. 08172-268437 or in person during office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD, Hassan Division, Hassan.

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಹಿಸನಿ/ಹಾಸನ/637/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2026–27

FIGHTING PLASTIC POLLUTION

'Reduce plastic use to protect our environment'

CH NEWS, RAMANAGARA

Everyone must work together to protect the environment by reducing plastic use and keeping public places clean, said Prakash M.H., president of Rotary Ramagad Rockers. He stressed that environmental protection is a shared responsibility and requires active participation from every citizen.

He was speaking while distributing paper bags to traders in various market areas of Ramanagara city as part of an environmental awareness initiative organised by Rotary Ramagad Rockers. He explained that the excessive use of plastic bags causes serious environmental problems because plastic waste does not decompose easily and remains in the soil for long periods.

Prakash said plastic waste damages soil quality, affects the cleanliness of water sources and poses risks to animals. He urged people to avoid unnecessary plastic bags and adopt eco-friendly alternatives such as paper and cloth bags. He also appealed to traders to encourage customers to carry reusable bags while shopping.

He added that even small changes in daily habits could make a significant difference in environmental conservation. If every individual takes responsibility for reducing plastic consumption, the community can move towards a cleaner and greener future. Public awareness and cooperation are essential to make such efforts successful, he noted.

With the aim of promoting an eco-friendly society, members of Rotary Ramagad Rockers visited several markets and distributed paper bags to local traders. During the campaign, they explained the harmful effects of plastic pollution and urged traders and residents to support sustainable practices.

Quick Read

2 arrested over ₹29 lakh digital arrest fraud

HYDERABAD

Hyderabad Cyber Crime Police have arrested two men for allegedly defrauding a 63-year-old retired employee and his daughter of ₹29.17 lakh through a digital arrest scam.

The accused, Mohd Ashfaq Hussain and Ahmed Najeeb Uddin, both 27 and residents of Ameerpet, allegedly worked with a Bengaluru-based associate, Sachin, who remains absconding. Police said the fraudsters impersonated officials from Delhi Police, the CBI and the Enforcement Directorate, threatening the victims with arrest in a fictitious money-laundering case. They coerced them into transferring their savings under the pretext of financial verification. Investigators said the stolen money was routed through mule bank accounts and converted into cryptocurrency. Police seized two iPhones and linked the network to at least 16 cyber fraud cases nationwide.

Chargesheet filed against 7 in mob lynching case

NEW DELHI

Delhi Police have filed a chargesheet against seven people in Saket court over the alleged mob lynching of 54-year-old Manipuri musician and music teacher Chongtham Vikram Singh in southeast Delhi's Kilokari village.

Singh was allegedly beaten to death on September 6 after objecting to noise outside his house. Police named Bharat Kumar, Pramod, Ramzan Khan, Deepanshu, Mohan Vishwakarma, Vijay and Mannu as accused. A juvenile was also apprehended.

According to police, the group chased Singh from the ground floor to the third floor of his building and assaulted him in front of his son.

The postmortem found that he died from haemorrhagic shock caused by blunt-force injuries to his chest and abdomen, with multiple rib fractures and a ruptured spleen.

The chargesheet includes charges of murder, criminal conspiracy, mob lynching and house-trespass. Police are also examining a possible racial motive behind the killing.

Police book X user over investors' summit posts

DEHRADUN

Dehradun Police have registered an FIR against an X user, Kamran (@CitizenKamran), and others for allegedly spreading misinformation about Uttarakhand's 2023 Global Investors Summit.

The FIR was registered on October 17 at Rajpur police station under Sections 66C and 66D of the Information Technology Act, following a complaint by Additional Director of Industries Mritunjay Singh.

The complaint alleged that misleading social media posts could damage investor confidence and the state's investment climate.

The action follows Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's criticism of Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami's government over the implementation of investment proposals announced at the summit. Gandhi questioned claims involving ₹3.56 lakh crore in proposed investments.

Kolkata stampede exposes serious crowd management failures

The fatal Kolkata pandal stampede has triggered scrutiny of safety arrangements, police deployment and evacuation planning as former officers question preparedness for massive festive crowds.

KOLKATA

The deaths of 19 people in a stampede at the Chorbagan Durga Puja pandal have raised concerns over inadequate crowd management, restricted entry and exit routes, and a possible shortage of police personnel, former Kolkata Police officers said on Sunday.

A former police commissioner, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the incident highlighted shortcomings in planning and crowd control. Kolkata Police traditionally classified community pujas as large, medium or small to prepare crowd and traffic management plans in advance. The Chorbagan puja, which reportedly attracted huge crowds this year, had been categorised as a small event a decade ago.

The former officer said reports indicated that the exit point, estimated to be 11 to 11.5 feet wide, was inadequate for evacuating a large crowd during an emergency. Stalls allegedly placed outside the exit further narrowed the available space.

A retired Indian Police Service officer also pointed to social media videos in which people reportedly complained about the absence of police personnel inside and outside the pandal. The officer alleged that a separate guarded route for VIPs reduced the general entry passage to approximately 7.5 to eight feet.

West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari on Sunday formed an expert team to inspect the site and investigate the incident. The team includes disaster management



secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh, fire services director general Anuj Sharma and Special Task Force additional director general Javed Shamim, along with three other IPS officers.

The team has also been tasked with auditing safety arrangements at major Durga Puja pandals across the state.

However, Sushanta Shibani Pal, the artist who designed the Chorbagan mandap, said the tragedy could not be attributed to a single factor. He maintained that both entry and exit points were 11.5 feet wide and had accommodated crowds for three days before the incident.

Pal said people had taken shelter from rain under covered pathways before attempting to flee following rumours that the pandal was collapsing. The resulting panic, he said, contributed to the tragedy.

What the officers flagged

- **Small event:** the Chorbagan puja was categorised as small a decade ago
- **Narrow exit:** about 11 to 11.5 feet wide, with stalls outside it
- **VIP route:** the general passage cut to about 7.5 to 8 feet
- **Police:** videos of people complaining of no personnel at the pandal

Yogi highlights women's empowerment, growth in UP



LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Monday highlighted women's empowerment, economic growth, employment generation and infrastructure development, claiming that the state had undergone significant transformation since 2017 under the BJP-led government.

In a post on X during Navratri, Adityanath said women were playing a decisive role in the state's progress through their capabilities, determination and self-confidence. He emphasised that respecting women was essential for prosperity and well-being.

The Chief Minister contrasted the state's situation before 2017 with the current administration, asserting that the government had adopted a zero-tolerance policy towards crime and criminals to strengthen law and order and improve women's safety.

Adityanath claimed that Uttar Pradesh's gross state domestic product, per-capita income, budget and female labour force participation had tripled over the past nine and a half years. He also said the state had received investment proposals worth more than ₹50 lakh crore.

According to the Chief Minister, the number of large factories in the state had increased from 14,000 to 35,000, while investments had helped generate employment for more than 65 lakh young people. He added that the government had provided 9.5 lakh jobs through recruitment processes and that the number of startups had risen from 120 to more than 24,000.

Highlighting infrastructure development, Adityanath said Uttar Pradesh accounted for 60% of India's expressway network. He also claimed that the state's agricultural growth rate had increased from 8% to 18%.

Reaffirming the government's development agenda, the Chief Minister said the administration was working towards the vision of "Empowered Women, Prosperous Uttar Pradesh" while contributing to the broader goal of a developed India.

The CM's figures

investment proposals received
₹50 lakh cr+
large factories, up from 14,000
35,000
government jobs through recruitment
9.5 lakh
startups, up from 120
24,000+

Three held in Kota over firing at Tiger Shroff's car

MUMBAI

Three suspects have been arrested in Rajasthan's Kota in connection with the firing at Bollywood actor Tiger Shroff's car in Mumbai, with the accused allegedly receiving ₹50,000 collectively to carry out the attack, police said on Monday.

The suspects were detained at Kota railway station while travelling on the Pune-Jaipur Express. According to Kota Superintendent of Police Tejaswani Gautam, they were allegedly planning to reach Delhi before fleeing to Nepal.

The accused have been identified as Rehan alias Sukka, from Sonipat in Haryana; Hritik Kurmi alias Roshan, originally from Bihar and residing in Mumbai; and a minor from Haryana. They will be handed over to Mumbai Police for further investigation.

"Acting on this information, our team, within just 15 minutes, set a trap and thoroughly searched the entire train," Gautam said.

Preliminary questioning indicated that Rehan had been in contact with Anil Pandit, who is allegedly linked to the Lawrence Bishnoi gang.

Police detained the suspects aboard a train in Kota as investigators probe the alleged gang links, escape plan and motive behind the Mumbai shooting.

The incident occurred around 7 pm on Sunday when Shroff was leaving Pushpa Park in Mumbai's Juhu area. Three assailants allegedly fired five rounds at his car while he was seated in the front passenger seat. The actor escaped serious injury, but his driver and an autorickshaw driver sustained gunshot injuries.



Mumbai Police have recovered the two-wheeler allegedly used in the attack near Andheri railway station.

The Lawrence Bishnoi gang has reportedly claimed responsibility for the shooting through social media posts attributed to alleged operatives Anil Pandit and Harman Sandhu.

MP CM reviews Simhastha 2028 preparations in Ujjain



UJJAIN

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav on Monday reviewed preparations and ongoing development projects for Simhastha 2028 in Ujjain, directing officials to ensure adequate facilities for pilgrims and complete all works within the stipulated deadlines.

During the meeting, Yadav assessed construction progress and stressed efficient planning to manage the large crowds expected for the religious gathering. He said the government was preparing to accommodate an estimated 30 crore to 40 crore pilgrims.

"Simhastha is not just the biggest fair in the country but in the world," Yadav said, adding that arrangements would enable devotees to take a holy dip and participate in religious activities without difficulty.

The Chief Minister said the government was prioritising permanent infrastructure so that development projects would benefit Ujjain, the surrounding division and Madhya Pradesh beyond the event.

He also highlighted the growth of religious tourism in the state, stating that pilgrim numbers at religious destinations had increased nearly 16 times over the past three years. The development of Mahakal Lok in 2022 had significantly increased visitor numbers in Ujjain, he added.

30-40 cr
pilgrims the government is preparing for at Simhastha 2028

The review covered transportation facilities, educational institutions, airport infrastructure and other projects needed to meet future requirements.

He announced that preparations for Simhastha 2028 would now be reviewed every month to monitor progress and ensure timely execution.

Keralam revokes horti-wine licence, moves officer

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Keralam government has revoked a licence granted to a bakery in Thrissur to sell horti-wine, an alcoholic beverage made from locally grown fruits, and transferred the excise officer who issued the order.

Excise Minister M Liju said on Sunday that although the licence was permitted under rules introduced by the previous Left Democratic Front (LDF) government, it should not have been granted while the current United Democratic Front (UDF) government was finalising its liquor policy.

Horti-wine contains 15.5% alcohol and was developed primarily to improve the income of fruit farmers, particularly those cultivating pineapple, mango, banana and jackfruit. The Kerala Small Scale Winery Rules were introduced in 2022 to encourage wine production using ingredients other than food grains, especially fruits.

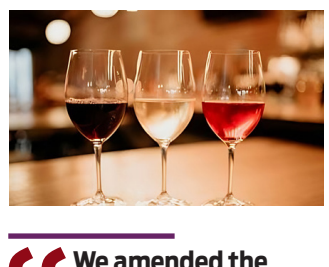
The rules were subsequently amended to allow horti-wine to be supplied through outlets other than the state-run Kerala State Beverages (M&M) Corporation Limited, commonly known as BEVCO. The provision enabled bakeries to purchase the beverage from BEVCO warehouses and sell it during periods of high demand, particularly the Christmas and New Year season.

Liju said the order was issued two days after the excise commissioner assumed office. Although the order did not technically require the minister's approval, he said he should have been informed.

"The order doesn't technically need to be sanctioned by the minister, I should have been informed," Liju told reporters.

The officer who issued the licence, C K Anil Kumar, has been transferred and placed on compulsory wait.

Former excise minister and CPI(M) leader M B Rajesh defended the earlier amendments, saying they were intended to support fruit farmers. He warned that farmers could react if the current government decided to withdraw the provision.



"We amended the rules for horti-wine to help our farmers."
— **M B Rajesh,** CPI(M) leader and former excise minister

Manipur protesters leave body outside CM's residence

IMPHAL

Security personnel fired tear gas shells after protesters placed a body outside Manipur Chief Minister Y. Khemchand Singh's residence in Imphal on Monday, following the alleged killing of two Meitei men by Kuki militants, officials said.

The deceased, identified as Arubam Ronil, 35, and Lairenlakpam Inaobi, 51, were reportedly collecting firewood in a forest when they were attacked. Four other people were injured in the alleged firing.

According to officials, a group of 16 people had gone to the hills near their village around 7 am to collect firewood when they were ambushed. The incident occurred at Khongbal Sunurok Uyok in Kangpokpi district, near Nongshum village in Imphal East district.

The killings triggered protests, with locals bringing the bodies to the Chief Minister's residence. Security personnel responded by firing several rounds of tear gas shells to disperse the protesters. The bodies were subsequently taken to the Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Medical Sciences (JNIMS) for further procedures.

It was not immediately known whether Chief Minister Singh was present at his residence during the protest.





Imphal: the protest outside the Chief Minister's residence

The fresh violence comes amid continuing tensions in Manipur. On Saturday, a 36-year-old man was killed and four others injured in a gunfight involving armed groups belonging to the Kuki and Naga communities in Chassad village in Kamjong district.

The injured in that incident were rescued by Assam Rifles personnel and taken to a paramilitary-run hospital in Chassad. One of them, Seikhohou Haokip, later succumbed to his injuries.

Haryana releases ₹104 crore for Manesar civic body HQ land

MANESAR

The Haryana government has released ₹104 crore for the purchase of land for the Municipal Corporation of Manesar's (MCM) permanent headquarters in Sector 2, paving the way for the civic body to move out of rented premises.

The funds will be transferred by the municipal corporation to the Haryana State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (HSIIDC), which will transfer a 2.99-acre plot near IMT Chowk and the Delhi-Jaipur highway service road to the civic body.



The new headquarters

FUNDS RELEASED **₹104 crore**	PLOT **2.99 acres, Sector 2**
RENT NOW **About ₹25 lakh a month**	IN RENTED OFFICES **Nearly six years**

The corporation has been operating from rented buildings for nearly six years, spending around ₹25 lakh every month on rent. Acquiring its own land is expected to reduce recurring expenditure and establish a permanent administrative centre for the rapidly expanding urban area.

Mandeep Ghanghas, executive engineer of the Municipal Corporation of Manesar, said the funds would be transferred to HSIIDC this month. Following the formal transfer of the land, the corporation's engineering wing will prepare the building plan and appoint a consultant to oversee the project's planning.

The construction cost of the proposed building will be met from the corporation's own revenue. The timeline for construction has not yet been announced.

The new office is expected to improve access to civic and administrative services. Several government offices, including HSIIDC, the pollution control board, Manesar tehsil, the electricity department and the sub-divisional officer's office, are already located in Sector 2.

The co-location of the municipal corporation with these offices could reduce the need for residents to travel across the city to access different services. It is also expected to streamline grievance redressal and make civic administration more convenient.

Quick Read

CISF apprehends passenger after suspicious object found

NEW DELHI

Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) personnel apprehended a passenger at Delhi's Jama Masjid Metro Station on Monday after he allegedly attempted to flee following the detection of a suspicious object during baggage screening.

According to the CISF, a dense object appeared on the X-ray baggage inspection system (XBIS) screen, prompting security personnel to intervene. The passenger was caught near the station's exit gate after attempting to escape via an escalator. Further examination of his belongings reportedly revealed an unidentified semi-solid substance concealed inside a stitched portion of his undergarment.

The passenger claimed to be a non-resident Indian (NRI) residing in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. He and his belongings were subsequently handed over to the police for further investigation. The CISF shared details of the incident on social media, highlighting the alertness and swift coordination of its personnel.

SC grants anticipatory bail to woman in cheating case

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has granted anticipatory bail to Nidhi Nehra Sharma, an accused in a cheating case, observing that the material against her was insufficient to deny relief and that she was cooperating with the investigation.

A bench comprising Justices J B Pardiwala and K Vinod Chandran passed the order in a case registered at Vasant Kunj North police station under Sections 420, 468, 471 and 34 of the Indian Penal Code.

Sharma is accused of inducing a man to transfer ₹1.30 crore under the pretext of settling company liabilities and allegedly diverting the funds for personal benefit.

The court directed Sharma to surrender her passport to the police and appear before the jurisdictional court after securing bail.

4 killed as truck rams into Scorpio in Varanasi

VARANASI

Four people were killed and four others seriously injured after a speeding truck rammed into a stationary Scorpio SUV on the Rupapur overbridge in Varanasi at around 6 am on Monday, police said.

The eight occupants were returning to Varanasi after visiting Vindhyachal when they stopped on the overbridge to take selfies. Some passengers had stepped outside the vehicle when the truck, approaching from Prayagraj, crashed into its rear.

Four people died on the spot, while the injured were rushed by ambulance to a trauma centre. One of them was reported to be in critical condition.

Mirzamurad police reached the scene and, with assistance from local residents, rescued those trapped inside the SUV. Police have seized the truck and launched an investigation into the accident.

BIRC 2026 rice conference draws buyers from over 150 countries

The 3-day event will bring global stakeholders together to strengthen trade ties, explore export opportunities and expand India's presence in international rice markets.

NEW DELHI

The Bharat International Rice Conference (BIRC) 2026 has attracted buyers from more than 150 countries, with 4,649 registrations and 2,038 business-to-business meetings scheduled ahead of its opening on October 23 in New Delhi.

Organised by the Indian Rice Exporters' Federation (IREF), the three-day conference will be held at Bharat Mandapam from October 23 to 25.

More than 180 companies are expected to participate, while exhibition space has been fully booked for the second consecutive year, reflecting strong interest in India's rice export sector.

BIRC

33,453

₹ crore in business commitments reported at the first BIRC in 2025, for about 8.63 million tonnes of rice

The conference aims to strengthen India's position in the international rice market by connecting exporters with overseas buyers and providing opportunities to explore new business partnerships. Discussions will focus on global rice prices, export opportunities, shipping costs, quality standards and market prospects for 2027.

Industry experts and stakeholders are expected to examine changing international demand, payment-related risks and emerging destinations for Indian basmati and non-basmati rice. These discussions are intended to help exporters understand market challenges, improve trade strategies and identify opportunities amid changing global conditions.

India is a major participant in the international rice trade, supplying different varieties to markets across the world.

The inaugural edition of BIRC, held in 2025, reportedly generated business commitments worth ₹33,453 crore, covering approximately 8.63 million tonnes of rice. The outcome established the event as an important platform for bringing together international buyers and Indian exporters.

Organisers expect the 2026 edition to build on this momentum by expanding business connections and facilitating new trade agreements.

With participation from buyers across more than 150 countries, the conference is expected to offer Indian rice exporters opportunities to strengthen existing relationships, explore new markets and support the country's position in the global rice industry.

150+ countries

4,649 registrations

2,038 B2B meetings scheduled

180+ companies expected

Naidu slams Jagan for reversing stand on CEC selection

AMARAVATI

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Monday accused YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) president YS Jagan Mohan Reddy of reversing his position on the selection process for the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC), alleging that his opposition stemmed from dissatisfaction with the Election Commission's functioning.

The remarks came a day after Reddy expressed regret over supporting the 2023 legislation governing the appointment of the CEC when his party was in power in Andhra Pradesh.

Addressing a press conference at his residence in Undavalli, Naidu questioned the change in Reddy's position, claiming that he had supported the appointment procedure earlier but was now opposing it because the Election Commission was not acting according to his expectations.

Naidu also criticised Reddy's recent remarks that the arrest of leaders of the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) would not resolve the underlying issues and that public trust in the electoral process needed to be restored. The Chief Minister questioned the reasoning behind the former Chief Minister's comments.





The CEC row

- **2023** — Jagan's YSRCP, then in power in Andhra Pradesh, backs the law on appointing the CEC
- **SUNDAY** — Jagan says he regrets supporting it
- **MONDAY** — Naidu accuses him of reversing his stand

The political exchange has intensified the debate over electoral credibility and the appointment of the country's top election official. Reddy had earlier said he regretted backing the legislation introduced in 2023, renewing questions about the process used to select the CEC.

Naidu also levelled allegations against the YSRCP over its approach towards individuals accused of criminal activities. He claimed that the party encouraged people to commit crimes, helped secure their release and enabled them to engage in more serious offences.

The Chief Minister alleged that such actions could contribute to the growth of criminal networks.

The latest exchange highlights continuing tensions between the Telugu Desam Party (TDP)-led government and the YSRCP in Andhra Pradesh, with both sides engaging in criticism over electoral institutions, political accountability and law and order.

Northeast monsoon rains lift Chennai reservoir storage levels

CHENNAI

The first spells of the northeast monsoon have improved water storage levels in Chennai's reservoirs, raising their combined storage to 37 per cent of capacity.

The rainfall has provided relief to the city's water supply system as the northeast monsoon brings seasonal precipitation to Tamil Nadu. The increase in reservoir levels is expected to support drinking water requirements in Chennai and surrounding areas.

The northeast monsoon, which typically sets in during October, is a crucial source of rainfall for Tamil Nadu. Its performance significantly influences the state's water availability, agricultural activities and overall reservoir storage.

Although the initial rainfall has improved storage, continued and well-distributed showers will be important to sustain water reserves in the coming months. Authorities will continue monitoring rainfall and reservoir levels to manage supplies and meet the city's growing water demand.



Scrap disposal earned govt nearly ₹6,000 cr in 5 years: Jitendra

India's cleanliness drive has combined public participation with resource recovery, turning discarded materials into substantial revenue for the government over five years.



NEW DELHI

The government has generated nearly ₹6,000 crore or more in revenue through scrap disposal over the past five years under its cleanliness initiatives, Union Minister Jitendra Singh said on Monday, highlighting the financial benefits of effective waste management.

Speaking to the media during Special Campaign 6.0, Singh said the initiative had evolved into a mass movement since Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the cleanliness drive in 2014.

"Over the past five years, through the collection of scrap, we have managed to contribute nearly Rs 6,000 crore or even more to the government exchequer," Singh said.

He explained that the government had developed systems to manage discarded materials efficiently and sell them in the market instead of allowing them to go to waste.

"We have learned how to manage this waste effectively, ensuring it does not go to waste but is instead converted into revenue by bringing it to the market," the minister said.

Singh noted that a dedicated month-long cleanliness campaign was introduced around six years ago. It is observed annually from October 2, Gandhi Jayanti, to October 31, the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. The current edition, Special Campaign 6.0, focuses on improving cleanliness, managing waste and strengthening administrative efficiency across government institutions. Previous campaigns have also helped authorities identify areas for improvement and introduce new measures.

"We have learned how to manage this waste effectively, ensuring it does not go to waste but is instead converted into revenue by bringing it to the market."
— **Jitendra Singh,** Union Minister

As part of the ongoing Special Campaign 6.0 for Institutionalising Swachhata and Minimising Pendency, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj organised a cleanliness and pending-work disposal drive on October 14.

The campaign aims to improve workplace hygiene, optimise office space and expedite the resolution of pending matters. Government divisions and sections participated in the drive, while Panchayati Raj Institutions and rural local bodies were encouraged to undertake similar activities.

The initiative combines cleanliness with efficient resource utilisation, demonstrating how discarded government materials can be converted into revenue while improving public administration.

Centre urges Meta to curb algorithms fueling social unrest

NEW DELHI

The Centre has raised concerns over social media algorithms that could amplify content capable of triggering unrest and has asked Meta to take steps to address the issue.

The government's intervention focuses on how platform algorithms recommend and circulate content, potentially increasing the reach of inflammatory material and intensifying tensions.

Meta, which operates Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp, faces growing scrutiny over the responsibility of digital platforms in preventing the spread of harmful content.

The move highlights the government's broader efforts to ensure that social media companies comply with Indian laws and strengthen content moderation mechanisms.

However, regulating online content also raises concerns about freedom of expression, transparency and the possibility of excessive censorship.

Balancing public safety with users' constitutional rights remains a key challenge as authorities and technology companies navigate the responsibilities of managing India's expanding digital space.

DMK questions TN govt over 137-kg meth seizure

CHENNAI

The Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) on Monday questioned the Tamil Nadu government's response to the seizure of 137 kg of methamphetamine in a case involving the arrest of Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) functionaries. Separately, Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (MDMK) general secretary Vaiko criticised Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar over alleged deletions from electoral rolls.

DMK Advocate Wing Deputy Secretary I Paranthamen said the State government and police had not issued a statement on the drug seizure, questioning their response to the incident.

He asked whether the police were taking action or remaining inactive.

Paranthamen also sought transparency regarding the Anti-Drug Task Force, claiming that more than 64 teams had been appointed and ₹264 crore allocated to tackle narcotics. He urged the government to disclose the expenditure incurred and the performance of the teams.

The controversy follows the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence's (DRI) arrest of N Boopalan, a 42-year-old advocate and TVK Nagapattinam district executive committee member, along with another person.





Nagapattinam: the DRI's methamphetamine seizure; investigators suspect the drugs were meant for Sri Lanka

The arrests were made in connection with a methamphetamine seizure in Nagapattinam on Friday. Investigators suspect the drugs were intended to be smuggled to Sri Lanka and distributed through a network of associates.

Earlier, DMK president and former Chief Minister M K Stalin criticised the TVK, describing it as a "Breaking Bad party" following the arrest.

Meanwhile, Vaiko supported protests by the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) and students against alleged voter deletions. He claimed that more than 13 crore voters had been removed from electoral rolls and accused Kumar of undermining democracy.

Vaiko further alleged that the two other Election Commissioners had objected to the Chief Election Commissioner's decisions on 14 occasions, but their concerns were ignored. He also accused Kumar of acting in favour of the ruling government.

The allegations concerning electoral rolls and the drug seizure have intensified political exchanges in Tamil Nadu.

Navy eyes multi-domain force, from air and sea to AI and quantum

NEW DELHI

The Indian Navy is pursuing development across multiple domains, ranging from air and underwater operations to artificial intelligence (AI) and quantum technology, to evolve into a multi-domain network force, Vice-Chief of Naval Staff Vice Admiral Ajay Kochhar said on Monday.

Addressing a press conference in New Delhi on October 19, Kochhar said the Navy was working not only to adopt emerging technologies but also to strengthen its operational capabilities. The initiative aims to improve the Navy's preparedness to address evolving security challenges and operate effectively across different domains.

The Vice-Chief emphasised the importance of integrating advanced technologies into naval operations, reflecting the growing role of digital capabilities and technological innovation in modern warfare.



AI and quantum technology are among the areas being explored as the Navy works towards strengthening its future capabilities.

Kochhar also referred to Operation Urja Suraksha, a naval initiative that has helped safely escort several ships to Indian shores amid attacks in strategically important sea lanes. The operation highlights the Navy's role in protecting maritime movement and supporting the safe passage of vessels during periods of heightened security concerns.

OPERATION URJA SURAKSHA

A naval initiative that has helped safely escort several ships to Indian shores amid attacks in strategically important sea lanes.

Attacks in critical shipping routes have underlined the importance of maritime security and the need to safeguard commercial vessels and vital supply chains.

The Navy's focus on multi-domain development comes as modern military forces increasingly rely on advanced surveillance, communications and data-driven systems alongside conventional operational capabilities.

Kochhar's remarks indicate that the Navy intends to combine technological advancement with operational readiness as it prepares to address emerging challenges across air, sea, underwater and digital environments.

Quick Read

SUVs account for nearly 70% of passenger vehicle sales

NEW DELHI

Utility vehicles, including SUVs, accounted for nearly 68% of passenger vehicle sales in India during April-September 2026, driving growth in the automobile market, according to a JM Financial report.

Passenger vehicle sales rose 22% year-on-year in September, while growth during the first half of FY2026-27 reached 28%. Year to date, utility vehicle volumes are up 31%, against a 23% rise for cars. In September, utility vehicles recorded 26% growth, against 14% for cars, increasing their market share to around 69%.

The report also highlighted strong demand for scooters and commercial vehicles. However, rising input costs linked to renewed conflict in West Asia could pressure automakers' profit margins. JM Financial sees demand staying firm through the second half of the financial year, though the pace of growth could ease.



Crude oil futures fall 0.55% to ₹9,342 per barrel

NEW DELHI

Crude oil futures prices declined by 0.55% to ₹9,342 per barrel on Monday as investors booked profits and reduced their holdings in the futures market.

November-delivery crude oil contracts on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) lost ₹52, or 0.55%, to ₹9,342 a barrel, with a business turnover of 11,389 lots.

Global benchmarks were also weaker.

Rupee falls 3 paise to close at 94.92 against US dollar

MUMBAI

The rupee slipped three paise to settle at 94.92 (provisional) against the US dollar on Monday, ending a six-session run of gains as domestic equities fell and worries over crude oil prices returned. In interbank foreign exchange trade, the currency opened at 94.90 and moved between a high of 94.75 and a low of 94.97 during the day. The currency faced pressure from foreign institutional investor (FII) outflows and elevated oil prices. On Friday, it had closed 10 paise higher at 94.89, supported by measures taken by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to curb dollar demand. The rupee had appreciated nearly 2 per cent during the week ended October 16. However, analysts cautioned that a sustained recovery would depend on softer crude prices, stronger foreign capital inflows and easing external pressures.

Meanwhile, the dollar index rose 0.09 per cent to 101.93, while Brent crude futures traded 1.17 per cent lower at $108.58 a barrel. Domestic equity markets weakened sharply, with the Sensex falling 876.37 points to 73,852.90 and the Nifty declining 257.20 points to 22,888.95. Separately, India's foreign exchange reserves declined by $8.578 billion to $726.027 billion in the week ended October 9, according to RBI data.

US, Uzbekistan strengthen ties over critical minerals

Washington and Tashkent are exploring expanded strategic cooperation as Uzbekistan prepares to significantly increase mineral production and develop key industries by 2030.

SAMARKAND

The United States and Uzbekistan have discussed strengthening cooperation in critical minerals, infrastructure and space as the Central Asian country plans a major expansion of its mineral production by 2030.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio met Uzbekistan's Foreign Minister, Bakhtiyor Saidov, on Monday to discuss deepening the strategic partnership between the two countries, including collaboration through the C5+1 diplomatic platform.

In a social media post, Rubio said the discussions focused on advancing prosperity for both countries and the wider region through cooperation in key sectors.

The talks come as Uzbekistan seeks to strengthen its position in the global critical-minerals market. The country has reserves of copper, uranium, lithium, tungsten, graphite and molybdenum, resources that are important for energy, manufacturing and advanced technologies.



> **"Together, we are working together to advance prosperity of both our countries and the region."**
> — **Marco Rubio,** US Secretary of State

According to data cited by the International Trade Administration, Uzbekistan produced 150,000 tonnes of copper and 3,800 tonnes of uranium in 2024. It aims to raise its annual copper production to 500,000 tonnes, and its uranium output to 10,000 tonnes, by 2030.

Uzbekistan is also working to develop its domestic critical-minerals value chain, covering extraction, processing and downstream manufacturing. It established the Uzbekistan Technological Metals Complex (UzTMC) in 2024 as part of these efforts.

Following his engagements in Uzbekistan, Rubio is scheduled to travel to India for meetings with senior officials and business leaders in Mumbai and Jamnagar. Discussions are expected to focus on strengthening the US-India strategic partnership, energy cooperation and commercial investment.

Uzbekistan's minerals push

COPPER, 2024: 150,000 tonnes	COPPER GOAL, 2030: 500,000 tonnes
URANIUM OUTPUT: 3,800 tonnes	URANIUM GOAL, 2030: 10,000 tonnes
GOLD GOAL, 2030: 155 tonnes a year	SILVER GOAL, 2030: 500 tonnes a year

Tata Sons reviews governance rules ahead of possible IPO

MUMBAI

Tata Sons has begun reviewing its Articles of Association (AoA) ahead of a potential stock market listing, a move that could reshape Tata Trusts' special governance rights while preserving its majority shareholding in the holding company of the Tata group.

According to a report by The Economic Times, the review aims to align the company's internal rules with Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) requirements for listed entities.

The proposed changes could affect the appointment of directors, independent representation on the board, voting rights and restrictions on share transfers. These provisions are significant because they influence how the company is governed and how decisions are made at the group's holding company.

Tata Trusts, which holds a majority stake in Tata Sons, has special rights under the company's existing governance framework. Any revision to the Articles of Association could therefore affect the way these rights operate, even if the trusts retain their majority ownership.

The move comes after the Reserve Bank of India turned down Tata Sons' request to give up its registration as a core investment company, the report said.

A stock market listing could bring changes to Tata Sons' governance and disclosure obligations. However, the review of its Articles of Association does not, by itself, confirm that an initial public offering (IPO) will take place.

The proposed changes could also expose differences within the Tata group over the listing, particularly regarding the balance between Tata Trusts' influence and the governance requirements applicable to a publicly listed company.

At a glance

- **Aim:** align the rules with SEBI requirements for listed firms
- **Directors:** how they are appointed
- **Board:** independent representation
- **Shares:** voting rights and transfer limits
- **Trusts:** keep their majority stake
- **RBI:** turned down Tata Sons' request to give up its core investment company registration

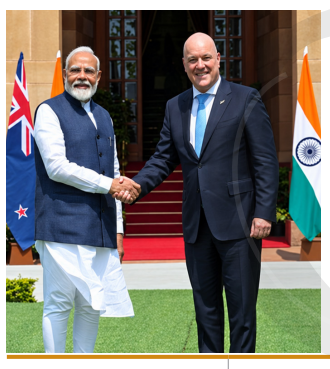
India-NZ FTA kicks in on Oct 20

NEW DELHI

Indian goods will enter the New Zealand market duty-free from October 20, when the India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (FTA) takes effect, giving exporters fresh opportunities, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry said.

Textiles, apparel, leather, footwear and other labour-intensive sectors stand to gain as tariffs of up to 10% are removed from the first day of the agreement. Better market access is also expected for engineering goods, pharmaceuticals, machinery, chemicals and farm products.

India has kept 30% of its tariff lines out of the deal, which covers the other 70%. Duties on 30% of the tariff lines covered for New Zealand go at once; the rest will be cut in phases over up to 10 years or be subject to tariff reductions and tariff-rate quotas.



Indian exporters across textiles, pharmaceuticals and engineering could gain a competitive edge as New Zealand removes tariffs under the landmark trade agreement

70%	NZD 7bn	USD 20bn
of tariff lines covered	bilateral trade goal by 2030	investment commitment from New Zealand

Trade between the two now totals USD 2.4 billion. India's services exports to New Zealand rose 13% to USD 634 million from USD 561 million, and its goods exports reached USD 566.5 million in 2025-26, up 16% over four years.

Customs procedures are to be simplified under the FTA: cargo is to be cleared within 48 hours, and express and perishable shipments within 24 hours.

The pact also carries a USD 20 billion investment commitment from New Zealand, along with provisions for cooperation in pharmaceuticals, medical devices and services.

Delhi CM opens 200 TPD biogas plant, announces 6 more

NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Monday opened a biogas plant with a capacity of 200 tonnes per day (TPD) at Goyla Dairy under the Seva Sankalp Abhiyan, and said six more such facilities would be set up to turn cow dung into green energy.

The inauguration took place in the presence of Delhi Minister Ashish Sood. Gupta said the project had been approved in 2018 but remained incomplete until 2026, blaming the previous Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government for failing to advance it.

"Because at that time, the BJP was in power in the MCD. They thought that if they did it, another achievement would be credited to the Municipal Corporation's name. They (AAP) didn't care that there wasn't a single biogas plant in Delhi," Gupta said.



The Chief Minister said three biogas plants, each with a capacity of 200 tonnes per day, had been initiated over the past one-and-a-half years. The government plans to establish six more facilities, including one in Ghazipur and five at other locations, to manage the approximately 1,500 tonnes of cow dung Delhi generates daily.

Gupta cited the biogas plant at Nangli, established in September 2025, as an example of the initiative's potential. According to her, the facility processed around 55,000 tonnes of cow dung in a year to produce gas and fertiliser.

Minister Ashish Sood said the inauguration marked progress on a project for which funds had been allocated in 2018. He accused the previous government of prioritising political interests and publicity over public welfare.

Sood said the plant would also help the drive to clean up the Yamuna, by handling cow dung waste and adding to renewable energy output.

Delhi's biogas plan

- **200 TPD** new plant at Goyla Dairy
- **6** more plants planned
- **1,500 tonnes** of cow dung a day in Delhi

US 'very close' to finalising India trade pact: Rubio

NEW DELHI

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said on Monday that the United States is "very close" to finalising a trade agreement with India, a sign that negotiations between the two countries are making progress.

He made the remarks before meeting External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar in Mumbai on October 20, ANI and Reuters reported.

The US Secretary of State also discussed Washington's decisions regarding sanctions on Russian oil and gas, highlighting the need to consider their potential impact on global energy supplies and prices.



The issue of Russian energy imports has remained significant in discussions involving India and the United States.

Rubio's comments suggest that trade remains a key area of engagement between New Delhi and Washington.

The upcoming meeting between Rubio and Jaishankar is expected to provide an opportunity for discussions on bilateral relations, trade and broader strategic concerns.

Sugar stocks fall up to 6% as ethanol diversion is halted

NEW DELHI

Shares of Indian sugar companies fell between 2 per cent and 6 per cent in early trade on Monday, after the government asked oil marketing companies to cut the use of sugar for ethanol production to nil in the 2026/27 supply year.

The latest ethanol tender excludes supplies produced from sugarcane juice, sugar syrup and B-heavy molasses, removing an important revenue source for sugar mills that use these materials to produce ethanol.

Balrampur Chini Mills, Bajaj Hindusthan Sugar, Dhampur Sugar, EID Parry, Shree Renuka Sugars and Triveni Engineering and Industries were among the companies whose shares fell in morning trade on October 19.



The government's directive is expected to affect sugar producers that rely on ethanol as a higher-margin alternative to selling sugar in the open market.

The exclusion of these supplies from the latest tender could force mills to reassess how they allocate sugarcane-derived products between sugar production and other uses. The stock market reaction reflected investor concerns over the potential impact on earnings and profitability.

ECONOMIC GROWTH

China's economy grows 4.5% in Q3, beating forecasts

BEIJING

China's economy expanded 4.5 per cent year-on-year in the July-September quarter of 2026, supported by strong exports and industrial production, even as weak domestic demand and falling investment continued to weigh on growth, official data showed on Monday.

According to the National Bureau of Statistics of China, gross domestic product grew 5 per cent in the first quarter and 4.3 per cent in the second quarter. For the first nine months of 2026, the economy expanded 4.6 per cent year-on-year, reaching 107.1071 trillion yuan.

China's foreign trade remained a key growth driver. Total imports and exports of goods rose 18.8 per cent year-on-year to 39.9339 trillion yuan during the January-September period. Exports increased 16.4 per cent, while imports climbed 22.3 per cent. Trade with countries participating in the Belt and Road Initiative grew 17.1 per cent.

Industrial activity also remained resilient. Industrial output increased 5.3 per cent during the first nine months, while manufacturing grew 5.7 per cent. Equipment manufacturing expanded 10.2 per cent and high-tech manufacturing rose 14.3 per cent. Production of 3D printing devices, lithium-ion batteries and industrial robots increased 62.5 per cent, 39.5 per cent and 29.1 per cent, respectively.

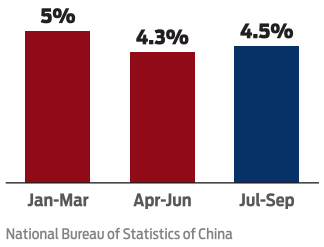
However, investment remained a major concern. Fixed-asset investment, excluding rural households, declined 7.2 per cent year-on-year. Infrastructure investment fell 4.2 per cent, while real estate development investment plunged 20.6 per cent.

Consumer spending showed limited momentum, with retail sales rising 2.6 per cent and online retail sales of goods and services increasing 4.4 per cent.



The statistics bureau said China's economy remained resilient but acknowledged a complex international environment and the need to strengthen domestic demand. Future priorities include boosting consumption, improving public well-being and supporting innovation-led development.

China's GDP growth, 2026
year-on-year, by quarter



National Bureau of Statistics of China

Quick Read

Uyghur Congress highlights rights concerns

WASHINGTON

The World Uyghur Congress has raised concerns over alleged forced labour, cultural assimilation and transnational repression affecting Uyghurs, according to its weekly brief published on October 19, 2026. The organisation has continued to highlight issues surrounding the rights, identity and freedoms of the Uyghur community, particularly in relation to developments in China and the treatment of Uyghurs living abroad. The brief also highlighted concerns about seafood supply chains, environmental damage and China's Ethnic Unity Law, which critics fear could intensify assimilation. WUC representatives have urged stronger international cooperation to protect Uyghur rights and counter alleged abuses.

Taiwan reports 458 missing or held in China

TAIPEI

Taiwan has reported 458 cases involving people missing, detained or facing movement restrictions in China, according to Taiwan's Mainland Affairs Council. The reported cases include 175 missing people, 41 detained for questioning and 242 held by Chinese authorities. The figures have raised concerns among Taiwanese officials about the safety of citizens travelling to mainland China. Separately, four Taiwanese members of the I-Kuan Tao religious group were reportedly detained between April and July. Taiwan's Straits Exchange Foundation has urged I-Kuan Tao followers in China to return to Taiwan for their safety.

Sanghavi courts Japanese investors in Osaka

OSAKA

Gujarat Deputy Chief Minister Harsh Sanghavi led an "Invest in Gujarat" roundtable with top Japanese industrialists and investors in Osaka on Monday, seeking fresh investment and closer economic links between the state and Japan.

The meeting was organised as part of the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit initiative.

Welcoming the industry representatives on Gujarat's behalf, Sanghavi spoke of the long ties between India and Japan. Calling Japan the "Land of the Rising Sun" and Gujarat the "Land of Emerging Opportunities", he said the partnership rested on mutual trust and respect, shared values and cultural links.

Sanghavi also outlined Gujarat's economic and industrial strengths. He said the state accounts for more than eight per cent of India's gross domestic product despite having around five per cent of the country's population. Gujarat contributes approximately 18 per cent of India's industrial production and nearly one-third of its total exports, according to the figures presented at the meeting.

The state's ports also handle a significant share of the country's cargo.

Sanghavi referred to existing links between Japan and Gujarat, including Suzuki's operations, the Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train project and Japanese industrial parks.

He invited Japanese investors to participate in the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit and explore opportunities to establish businesses and expand their operations in the state.

Rubio meets Central Asian ministers to boost ties

Rubio says regional cooperation in key sectors can boost economies, generate jobs and enhance security

SAMARKAND

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio met foreign ministers from five Central Asian countries in Uzbekistan on Monday, highlighting the importance of stronger economic cooperation, regional stability and security under the C5+1 diplomatic framework.

Rubio held discussions with representatives from Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan during the C5+1 Ministerial meeting in Samarkand. He said cooperation across key sectors could create jobs, strengthen economies and improve security throughout the region.

In a post on social media platform X, Rubio said the United States was working with its Central Asian partners to expand commercial opportunities and strengthen regional security. He identified critical minerals, energy, transportation and technology as the priority areas for cooperation.



Rubio also met Kazakhstan's Foreign Minister Mukhtar Tileuberdi and reaffirmed Washington's commitment to expanding economic and security ties with the country. He thanked Kazakhstan for supporting US President Donald Trump's peace initiatives, including the Abraham Accords.

During his visit, Rubio held discussions with Uzbekistan Foreign Minister Bakhtiyor Saidov on strengthening the strategic partnership between Washington and Tashkent. Their talks covered cooperation in infrastructure, space, critical minerals and other areas of mutual interest.

US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor also highlighted the growing economic partnership between Washington and Central Asia. He said more than 300 business leaders were participating in efforts to deepen commercial engagement and explore investment opportunities across the region.

The visit reflects Washington's efforts to strengthen its presence in Central Asia, a strategically important region situated between Russia and China and rich in natural resources. The United States is seeking to expand trade, investment and cooperation in critical minerals while supporting regional stability.

The C5+1 framework brings together the United States and the five Central Asian republics to discuss shared economic, diplomatic and security priorities.

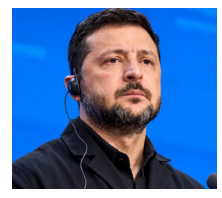
Following his engagements in Uzbekistan, Rubio is scheduled to travel to India for meetings with government officials and business leaders in Mumbai and Jamnagar.

C5+1 in Samarkand

- **Partners:** Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan
- **Priorities:** Critical minerals, energy, transportation and technology
- **Business:** More than 300 business leaders taking part
- **Next stop:** India: Mumbai and Jamnagar

Zelensky ready to contest wartime presidential polls

KYIV



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky says he will stand for president if an election is held before the war with Russia is over, Ukraine's Ukrinform news agency reported.

He indicated that Ukraine could explore arrangements for holding elections during the conflict if Russia agreed to a 60-day ceasefire.

Ukraine last held presidential elections in 2019.

His comments come as questions persist over the course of the war and over international backing for Kyiv. He said the United States had paused vital intelligence sharing with Ukraine for three days, during which Ukrainian forces received no American warnings of Russian ballistic missile attacks.

He said the interruption affected access to information that only the United States could provide, particularly advance warnings of ballistic missile strikes. Zelensky also stated that restrictions on satellite communications used by Ukrainian forces had not been fully lifted.

> **"If it takes place during the war, of course, it is my duty, because I must defend my country from the beginning until the end of the war."**
>
> **— Volodymyr Zelensky,** Ukrainian President

Ukraine still received intelligence from European and other international partners, but Zelensky said they could not fully make up for American systems.

The Ukrainian government faces the challenge of balancing democratic processes with security requirements during the ongoing conflict. Any decision to hold elections would require suitable legal provisions and security arrangements, while the proposed ceasefire remains a key condition in Zelensky's remarks.

Border dispute remains a key hurdle in India-China ties

BEIJING

India and China have stepped up diplomatic contact, but their unsettled border dispute is still the biggest barrier to better relations, and ties have not recovered to where they stood before 2020, according to a report.

The report said that preventing another violent border confrontation remained a priority for both countries, as another such incident could have serious domestic and diplomatic consequences.

Sana Hashmi, a fellow at the Taiwan-Asia Exchange Foundation, said India had continued engaging with China even after the Galwan clashes. She argued that the resumption of high-level meetings and direct connectivity reflected an effort to manage tensions rather than a change in India's position on outstanding issues.

The report also highlighted China's reported position on the Union Territory of Ladakh as evidence of continuing disagreements over territorial issues. Other contentious matters include China's close relationship with Pakistan and the persistent trade imbalance between the two countries.



Preventing another violent border clash remains a priority for both nations to avoid severe domestic and diplomatic fallout.

The Galwan clashes, the analysis said, altered the way India views China and cast doubt on whether the existing arrangements for keeping peace along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) still work.

Hashmi noted that talks between leaders could not, on their own, settle the deeper differences. She said India was unlikely to go back to its earlier stance on the One China policy unless Beijing gave a matching assurance on a One India policy.

During their meeting on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit in New Delhi on September 12, Modi told Xi that both countries should respect each other's core concerns and be guided by mutual respect, mutual sensitivity and mutual interest.

According to India's Ministry of External Affairs, both leaders welcomed progress in bilateral relations since their previous meeting in Tianjin in August 2025. They also agreed that differences should not turn into disputes.

The report concluded that continued dialogue could help prevent further deterioration in relations, but a lasting reset would require progress on the fundamental issues separating the two countries.

Lee pushes for early transfer of wartime control from US

SEOUL

South Korean President Lee Jae Myung has again called for an early handover to Seoul of wartime operational control (OPCON) of the country's armed forces, now held by the United States, saying South Korea is militarily capable of taking on the role.

Speaking to reporters at a meeting marking his 500th day in office, Lee said relying on another country for wartime operational control could not continue indefinitely.

Seoul and Washington differ on when and under what conditions the transfer should happen, Yonhap News Agency reported. Lee's administration wants wartime operational control back before its term ends in 2030, and possibly sooner.

Last week, US Forces Korea Commander General Xavier Brunson said conditions had changed, pointing to North Korea's recent missile launches. He indicated that these developments required new standards for assessing the transfer of operational control.



South Korea's Defence Ministry responded that the transfer target could become difficult to achieve if the conditions continued to change.

South Korea handed over operational control to the US-led United Nations Command during the 1950–53 Korean War. Control was transferred to the South Korea-US Combined Forces Command when it was established in 1978. Seoul regained peacetime operational control in 1994, while wartime control remains with the combined command under US leadership.

Wartime control

- **1950–53** Handed to the US-led UN Command during the Korean War
- **1978** Moved to the new South Korea-US Combined Forces Command
- **1994** Seoul regains peacetime control; wartime control stays with the US-led command

Lee acknowledged Washington's position that South Korea's ability to defend itself must be confirmed before the transfer takes place. However, he said the country should take greater responsibility for its own national defence.

Kim Yo-jong warns of unstable Korean border situation

SEOUL

Kim Yo-jong, sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, has called the situation on the border with South Korea "very unstable", saying Pyongyang is weighing a return to loudspeaker broadcasts and the deployment of additional tactical strike capabilities.

Kim blamed the South Korean military for increasing tensions through what she described as reckless actions along the border.

Her comments came after a landmine blast last month left two South Korean soldiers badly hurt. Pyongyang has repeatedly denied any role and rejected Seoul's conclusion that mines laid on purpose by North Korea set off the explosion.

Kim accused the South Korean military of threatening North Korean soldiers and said its actions had crossed a red line. She dismissed South Korea's account of the explosion as a fabricated incident.

Kim claimed that between August 1 and October 17 the South had carried out 2,870 rounds of loudspeaker broadcasts and fired 201 warning shots, Yonhap News Agency reported.

Kim said the North Korean military was reviewing measures to respond to the situation, including the possible deployment of additional tactical strike capabilities along the border and the resumption of loudspeaker broadcasts.

South Korea stopped its border loudspeaker broadcasts last year as part of President Lee's drive to rebuild trust between the two countries. The North then stopped its own broadcasts in response.



Kim's claim, Aug 1–Oct 17

- **2,870** rounds of South Korean loudspeaker broadcasts
- **201** warning shots fired by the South

Kim's latest statement raises fresh concerns about a possible resumption of psychological warfare and further escalation along the heavily militarised border.

Marseille bans all public rallies after violent protests

PARIS

Marseille, in southern France, barred all public gatherings and demonstrations between noon and 8 p.m. local time on Monday after protests over the rising cost of living and strained public services turned violent across the country.

About 550,000 people joined demonstrations around France, Xinhua News Agency reported.

Across the country, 2,397 people were arrested and 997 police officers and gendarmes were hurt, seven of them seriously, according to the French Interior Ministry.

Macron condemned the violence, saying there was no place for such acts in France. He warned that those involved in destroying property, attacking government offices and businesses, and looting town halls would face prosecution and punishment.

550,000	997	2,397
people at demonstrations	police and gendarmes injured	people arrested

The unrest was part of a wider wave of demonstrations across Europe over the rising cost of living, housing shortages and pressure on public services.

In Italy, cost-of-living protests turned into clashes in Milan, where protesters hurled firecrackers and bottles at police near Piazza del Duomo.

In Brussels, Belgium, students and their supporters clashed with police during demonstrations against education reforms and rising expenses.

In Portugal, tens of thousands marched in Lisbon, Porto, Coimbra and other cities, calling for affordable homes and steps to rein in living costs.

Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni condemned the violence, stating that peaceful demonstrations were a right but setting cities ablaze was unacceptable.

The developments have highlighted growing public frustration over economic pressures and housing affordability across several European countries.

RIOTING AND LOOTING

Ultra-left seeking deep unrest before poll: French PM

PARIS

French Prime Minister Sébastien Lecornu has warned that extreme-left groups could attempt to create widespread disorder and disrupt the timetable for the 2027 presidential election, citing information received from intelligence agencies.

Speaking after an interministerial crisis meeting on Monday, Lecornu said intelligence services had alerted the government to the possibility that groups could mobilise to challenge the schedule and even the holding of the presidential election.

The warning follows a weekend of demonstrations across France over the rising cost of living, fuel prices and pressure on public services. While many people participated in peaceful rallies, some protests escalated into clashes, looting and attacks on public buildings and businesses.

Lecornu said the government would not allow violence to determine the country's political agenda. He stressed that peaceful demonstrations were legitimate in a democracy, but acts of arson, destruction and attacks on people had no place in public life.

The prime minister also called for stronger security measures in areas affected by unrest. The government has discussed localised and limited curfews in some cities to prevent further violence and protect residents, businesses and public property.

The allegations against extreme-left groups have added to political tensions ahead of the 2027 presidential election. The government's accusations have been contested by opposition figures, who have criticised its handling of the protests and questioned its response to public grievances.

France is preparing for an election amid concerns about economic pressures, public dissatisfaction and political divisions.



CITY HILIGHTS
SPORTS
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MONA WINS GOLD, AVANI TAKES SILVER

CH NEWS, TOYOTA

Indian shooters Mona Agarwal and Avani Lekhara won gold and silver medals respectively in the women's 10m air rifle standing SH1 event at the Asian Para Games on Monday, giving India its first medals at the ongoing competition.

Mona delivered an outstanding performance at the Aichi Prefecture General Shooting Gallery, scoring 250 points in the final to claim gold and establish a new Asian Para Games record. Avani secured silver with 249.6 points, while South Korea's Yunri Lee won bronze with 227.9 points.

Mona produced an impressive comeback after finding herself in fifth place during the final. She steadily climbed the standings before taking the lead and holding off her rivals to secure the gold medal.

Her winning score surpassed the previous Asian Para Games record of 249.6 points set by Avani at the 2023 Hangzhou Games. However, Mona narrowly missed the world record of 252 points held by Ukraine's Iryna Shchetnik.

Both Indian shooters had dominated the qualification round earlier in the day. Mona topped the standings with 629.1 points across six series, setting a new Asian Para Games qualification record and surpassing the previous mark held by China's Zhang Cuiping. She narrowly missed the world record of 629.4 points, jointly held by Avani and Slovakia's Veronika Vadovicova.

Avani finished second in qualification with 626.4 points, ensuring a strong one-two position for India heading into the final.

The result also strengthened India's preparations for the 2028 Los Angeles Paralympic Games. Avani secured a quota place through her performance, while Mona had already earned India's first quota place in the event at the World Shooting Para Sport Championships in Changwon last month.

Mona, a bronze medallist at the 2024 Paris Paralympics, continued her impressive international form. Avani, meanwhile, added another achievement to her decorated career. She won gold in the 10m air rifle SH1 event at both the Tokyo 2020 and Paris 2024 Paralympic Games, along with a bronze in the 50m rifle three positions SH1 event in Tokyo.

The Indian duo's medal-winning performance highlighted the country's growing strength in para shooting on the international stage.

Mona's rise

- **PARIS 2024** Paralympic bronze in the 10m air rifle SH1
- **LAST MONTH, CHANGWON** India's first LA 2028 quota place in the event
- **MONDAY, TOYOTA** Gold with 250.0, an Asian Para Games record



Avani Lekhara
SILVER, 249.6

Tokyo 2020: gold, 10m air rifle SH1; bronze, 50m rifle three positions SH1

Paris 2024: gold, 10m air rifle SH1

Monday: silver, and a quota place for LA 2028

File picture: Mona Agarwal (left) and Avani Lekhara with their medals from the Paris 2024 Paralympics, where Avani won gold and Mona bronze

Davidovich Fokina reaches career-high as Djokovic exits top 10

CH NEWS, NEW DELHI

Alejandro Davidovich Fokina has climbed to a career-best World No. 13 in the latest ATP rankings released on Monday after winning his maiden ATP Masters 1000 title at the Shanghai Masters.

The Spaniard defeated Rafael Jodar in Sunday's final to claim the prestigious title. His impressive performance earned him a 13-place jump from No. 26 to No. 13, marking the highest ranking of his professional career.

Meanwhile, Serbian tennis great Novak Djokovic has dropped out of the top 10 for the first time in the latest rankings update, falling four places from No. 8 to No. 12. Djokovic suffered an early exit in Shanghai after losing to Hubert Hurkacz in the round of 64.

The top 10 was reshuffled as well. Russia's Daniil Medvedev moved up one place to World No. 5 following his semifinal appearance in Shanghai. Italy's Flavio Cobolli also gained one position to reach No. 6, while Canada's Felix Auger-Aliassime dropped two places to No. 7.

Following Djokovic's slide, Alex de Minaur climbed to No. 8, Frances Tiafoe moved to No. 9, and Arthur Fils advanced to No. 10. Jodar also benefited from the reshuffle, rising to No. 11.

France's Arthur Gea achieved a career-high ranking of No. 44 after a 12-place climb on the back of his run to the Shanghai quarterfinals. Meanwhile, Portugal's Jaime Faria rose four places to a personal-best No. 56. France's Arthur Rinderknech dropped 28 positions to No. 61 after missing the tournament due to injury.

Alexander Zverev strengthened his position in the race for the top ranking after reaching the Shanghai semifinals. He gained 400 points to reach 10,070, narrowing the gap with World No. 1 Jannik Sinner, who has 10,950 points.

Zverev has secured the year-end No. 1 ranking and could take the top spot in Vienna if he reaches the semifinals. A knee injury has ended Sinner's season.

The new order

- **No. 5:** Daniil Medvedev, up one
- **No. 6:** Flavio Cobolli, up one
- **No. 7:** Felix Auger-Aliassime, down two
- **No. 8:** Alex de Minaur
- **No. 9:** Frances Tiafoe
- **No. 10:** Arthur Fils
- **No. 11:** Rafael Jodar
- **No. 12:** Novak Djokovic, down four
- **No. 13:** Alejandro Davidovich Fokina, up 13

? DID YOU KNOW?

Djokovic's early exit in Shanghai came against Hubert Hurkacz, in the round of 64. It took him out of the top 10 for the first time in the latest update.



WOMEN'S 10M AIR RIFLE STANDING SH1, FINAL
G MONA AGARWAL 250.0 Games record
S AVANI LEKHARA 249.6 India
B YUNRI LEE 227.9 South Korea
ATP RANKINGS: A CAREER HIGH No. 26 to No. 13 Davidovich Fokina

Sheetal Devi, Toman Kumar break mixed world record

CH NEWS, OKAZAKI

Indian para archers Sheetal Devi and Toman Kumar created history on Monday by breaking the world record in the compound mixed team event at the Asian Para Games with an outstanding performance in the ranking round.

1,402 points: the new compound mixed team world record (the old mark: 1,400)

The Indian duo scored a combined 1,402 points at the Okazaki Chuo Sogo Park Multipurpose Square in Okazaki, surpassing the previous world record of 1,400 points. Sheetal and Rakesh Kumar had established the earlier record at the World Archery Para Series in Ahmedabad earlier this year.

Their performance also set a new Asian Para Games record, comfortably surpassing the previous mark of 1,382 points achieved by China at the 2023 Hangzhou Games.

Toman scored 698 out of a possible 720 points in the men's compound ranking round, while Sheetal registered an impressive 704 points in the women's qualification event.

Sheetal's individual score of 704 points also equalled the world record and established a new Asian record, further strengthening her reputation as one of India's leading para archers.

She topped the women's individual qualification standings, finishing well ahead of Singapore's Nur Syahidah Alim, who scored 683 points. China's Xueqing Xu secured third place with 680 points.

In the men's compound individual qualification, Toman finished third with a personal-best score of 698 points. China's Yicheng Zhang topped the standings with 708 points, setting a new Asian record, while compatriot Xinliang Ai finished second with 704 points.

The Indian pair will now enter the medal contest among the leading contenders for the gold medal following their record-breaking performance.

Sheetal previously won gold in the women's compound individual event at the 2023 Asian Para Games in Hangzhou. She later secured a bronze medal at the 2024 Paris Paralympics and has also earned world champion status. Toman, for his part, is the men's compound individual world champion and is ranked world No. 1 in his classification.

SHAFALI VERMA BOUNCES BACK WITH HALF-CENTURY

CH NEWS, RAIPUR

55 runs off 24 balls in the second T20I, with a 96-run opening stand alongside captain Smriti Mandhana

India vice-captain Shafali Verma revealed that her dismissal in the opening match against Zimbabwe left her unable to sleep, prompting her to analyse videos of her previous performances before bouncing back with a match-winning knock in the second T20I.

Shafali struck 55 off only 24 balls and put on 96 for the first wicket with captain Smriti Mandhana as India won comfortably at the Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Cricket Stadium. The win gave India an unassailable lead in the three-match series with one game remaining.

Speaking in a video shared by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on Monday, Shafali said she was disappointed not only with the manner of her dismissal in the first match but also with her body language.

She watched two or three videos of her earlier performances and worked on improving her technique, particularly adjusting to the low bounce of the wicket.

Shafali said she tried to focus on each delivery and remain at the crease until the end. Although she was dismissed with only seven runs needed for victory, Mandhana stayed on to complete the chase.

The Indian vice-captain dedicated the series victory to the team's young players, saying she was delighted with their contributions. She also praised Niki Prasad, her teammate at Delhi Capitals in the Women's Premier League, for making an impact with the ball, bat and in the field.

Shafali said mental strength and proper preparation were central to her aggressive approach. he explained that she had learned to move on quickly from both good and bad performances rather than dwelling on previous matches.

After being dropped from the team in 2025, she returned during the England series and later won the Player of the Match award in the 2025 Women's ODI World Cup final.

Shafali also expressed her enjoyment of the vice-captaincy role, saying she and Mandhana were working to support younger players and maintain a positive team environment both on and off the field.



Where it began

Shafali made her T20I debut against South Africa in Surat in September 2019, aged 15. Two months later, her 73 off 49 balls against West Indies in St Lucia made her, at 15 years and 285 days, the youngest Indian to score an international fifty, beating Sachin Tendulkar's 30-year-old record.

Sonay Kartal rises 121 places, becomes British No. 1

CH NEWS, NEW DELHI

Wuhan Open champion Maja Chwalinska soared 11 spots to a career-best No. 11 after capturing her first WTA 1000 title.

Sonay Kartal has climbed 121 places in the latest Women's Tennis Association (WTA) rankings to become Britain's highest-ranked women's singles player following her impressive run to the final of the Wuhan Open.

Kartal, who entered the WTA Masters 1000 tournament ranked World No. 170, has risen to No. 49 in the rankings released on Monday. She has overtaken compatriot Katie Boulter, who slipped to No. 59.

Meanwhile, Wuhan Open champion Maja Chwalinska has climbed 11 places to achieve a career-high ranking of No. 11 after winning her maiden WTA 1000 title.

There has been no change in the top 10 of the women's rankings, with Elena Rybakina continuing to hold the No. 1 position. Former world No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka remains second.

Latvia's Jelena Ostapenko has gained 10 places to reach No. 24 following her semifinal appearance in Wuhan. American player Ann Li has risen six places to a career-best No. 25, while Ukraine's Daria Snigur has climbed two places to reach her highest-ever ranking of No. 40.

Two former US Open champions, Bianca Andreescu and Sloane Stephens, are edging back towards the WTA top 100 after both won titles over the weekend.

Andreescu has jumped 36 places to No. 132 after winning the Rovereto Open Citta della Pace, a WTA 125 tournament in Italy. Her latest ranking is her highest since reaching No. 127 in April. Stephens, the 2017 US Open champion, has climbed 15 places to No. 118 after winning the ITF W100 Edmond title. In the Wuhan final, Chwalinska defeated Kartal 2-6, 6-4, 6-2 to secure the title. The Polish player recovered from losing the first set and falling behind in the second to force a deciding set.



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