CITY HILIGHTS

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The Truth Speaks

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KARNATAKA PUMPS ₹16,000 CR INTO VILLAGES

From roads to homes, CM Shivakumar bets big on mega rural makeover; cautions officials against fund misuse.

BENGALURU

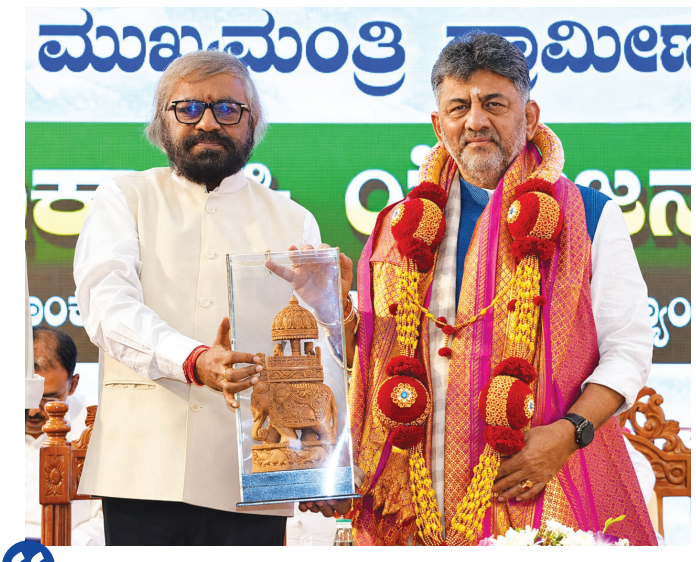
Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Friday announced a Rs 16,000-crore rural development programme to improve road connectivity and basic infrastructure in villages and reduce migration to urban areas.

Launching the 'Chief Minister's Rural Road Connectivity Scheme' and the 'Chief Minister's Rural Development Scheme', Shivakumar said Rs 10,000 crore would be spent on developing around 15,000 km of rural roads, while Rs 6,000 crore would be used for development works at the gram panchayat level.

"This huge allocation is not meant to enrich contractors or fill their pockets. It is intended to transform the lives of people in rural areas. Not even a single rupee of these funds should be misused. Transparency and quality in the execution of works are mandatory," he told officials.

Warning against corruption, he said the government would not tolerate any misuse of public money. "I have come across instances where money is spent again on roads that are already in good condition, bills are raised without executing works, and funds are misappropriated through collusion with officials. There will be no scope for such irregularities hereafter," he said, as per a CMO release.

He instructed officials to maintain photographic and video records of every project before and after its execution, besides making tender process mandatory.



> This huge allocation is not meant to enrich contractors or fill their pockets. It is intended to transform the lives of people in rural areas. Not even a single rupee of these funds should be misused.
> - DK Shivakumar, CM

He added that progress would be tracked through the CM's dashboard and officials would have to share project details through WhatsApp groups set up at district and panchayat levels. Under the Rural Road Connectivity Scheme, around 15,000 km of roads will be developed at an estimated cost of Rs 10,000 crore. The projects will include resurfacing roads, developing gravel roads and constructing drains. The cost will range from Rs 38 lakh to Rs 70 lakh per km, depending on the type of work. The government has also earmarked Rs 5,000 crore under the Pragathi Patha scheme, he said.

The remaining Rs 6,000 crore will be spent on panchayat-level infrastructure, including drainage, drinking water facilities and other essential amenities. Funds will be released after assessing the needs of each panchayat and securing approval from the respective deputy commissioners. "This is the first time such a substantial amount has been allocated to the Rural Development Department. It is a record allocation."

The government aims to distribute 15 lakh residential sites across Karnataka, with five lakh sites to be allotted in the first phase. Around 9,000 acres have already been identified for this purpose, he said.

He also announced that the Cabinet had decided to raise the minimum size of residential plots for poor families from 20x30 feet to 30x40 feet.

Emphasising the importance of village development for the state's overall progress, he said the government wanted to prevent people, particularly the young, from moving to cities in search of employment, education and better living conditions.

CM rolls out massive rural development programme

- ₹16,000 cr rural development package.
- ₹10,000 crore for developing 15,000 km rural roads.
- ₹6,000 crore for gram panchayat-level infrastructure and basic amenities.
- Strict monitoring of works through the CM's dashboard.
- Before-and-after photos and videos made mandatory.
- Warning against corruption, fund misuse & irregularities in project execution.
- 15 lakh residential sites planned across Karnataka; 5 lakh to be allotted in the first phase.
- Minimum plot size for poor families increased from 20x30 ft to 30x40 ft.
- Target to upgrade 3,000 govt schools, with 1,000 schools in the first phase through CSR support.
- Industries encouraged to set up units in rural areas to create employment.
- Defunct RO plants to be repaired & drinking water quality tested every month.
- Focus on improving rural infrastructure and preventing migration to urban areas.

SC turns down TN's bid for 11 TMC Cauvery water

NEW DELHI

In a setback to Tamil Nadu, the Supreme Court on Friday dismissed the state's applications seeking directions to Karnataka to release around 11,000 million cubic feet (11 TMC) of additional Cauvery water to make up for the shortfall this year.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Aparesh Singh pronounced the order in open court, rejecting two applications filed by Tamil Nadu. "There were two applications. Both the applications are dismissed" it said.

The court also took note of a third application filed by TN on the same day. "You have filed another application today. The state of Tamil Nadu has a lot of funds," Justice Nath observed in a lighter vein, before adjourning the third application.

On the joint request of counsel for both states, it was listed after one week.

Tamil Nadu had approached the apex court alleging that Karnataka had failed to release the water due to it, in violation of the Supreme Court's earlier judgement. The state pointed out that although the Cauvery Water Management Authority and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee meet every 15 days, they had not ordered the release of the outstanding quantity.

The state submitted that this had been a year of insufficient rainfall. It said Karnataka owed TN 11 TMC of water since July and urged that the deficit be made good by releasing an additional 1 TMC per day to protect standing crops.

Karnataka countered that several of its districts were facing drought and that irrigation allocations had already been cut.

Setback for TN, big relief for Karnataka



- SC dismisses Tamil Nadu's two applications seeking 11 TMC of additional Cauvery water from Karnataka.
- Bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Aparesh Singh pronounces the order.
- TN sought an additional release of 1 TMC per day to make up for the shortfall and protect standing crops.
- TN alleged Karnataka had failed to release its due share since July.
- Karnataka opposed the plea, citing drought conditions and reduced irrigation allocations.
- Karnataka argued that the CWMA and CWRC were regularly monitoring the water-sharing situation.
- SC adjourns Tamil Nadu's third application by one week.
- Karnataka's annual allocation to TN is 177 TMC in a normal rainfall year, subject to proportionate reduction during distress years.

We don't have water even for drinking: K'taka CM

BENGALURU: Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Friday said that the state would have supplied Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu if it had adequate reserves but was currently struggling to meet even its own drinking water requirements.

His remarks came after the Supreme Court dismissed two pleas filed by the Tamil Nadu seeking directions to Karnataka to release 11 TMC of Cauvery water.

"If we have water, we will certainly give water to Tamil Nadu. We do not have water even for drinking. I have to protect our state. I had cautioned our farmers earlier about water availability," he told reporters.

He said the dismissal of Tamil Nadu's petitions reflected the ground reality of water availability, which was known to both states. "Today, the petitions filed by Tamil Nadu have been dismissed. That is the reality. Tamil Nadu knows it, we know it, the world knows it. Everyone knows how much water is available where," he said.

He said the water situation was so difficult that he had not even performed the customary 'Bagina' offering to the Cauvery this year.

> If we have water, we will certainly give water to Tamil Nadu. We do not have water even for drinking. I have to protect our state.
> - DK Shivakumar, CM

Release 2,000 cusecs daily: CWRC tells K'taka

New Delhi: The Cauvery Water Regulation Committee (CWRC) on Friday directed Karnataka to release 2,000 cusecs of Cauvery water every day for the next 15 days, beginning 8 am on November 20, to ensure the stipulated flows reach Billigundlu. The committee, chaired by Vineet Gupta, reviewed the crop situation, rainfall patterns and reservoir storage across the Cauvery basin before issuing the order. Under the directive, Karnataka must release a total of 2.76 thousand million cubic feet (tmc ft) of water to Tamil Nadu during the period. Karnataka informed the committee that inflows into its four major Cauvery reservoirs were 53.88 per cent below the 30-year average. Drought conditions had affected 55 of the 56 taluks in the state's Cauvery basin, it said. The state also noted that rainfall below Mettur was 23 per cent above normal and that Tamil Nadu's Mettur, Bhavani and Amaravathy reservoirs together held 37.125 tmcft as on November 5.

'Regulate, don't ban': Supreme Court clears bike taxis in K'taka

Bike taxis, the court observed, already run in 25 states and offer an affordable, convenient option, particularly for women.

NEW DELHI

The apex court upheld the Karnataka High Court's January 23 order that set aside a single-judge directive effectively prohibiting the services.

The division bench had ruled that motorcycle owners could apply to register their vehicles as transport vehicles and seek permits to operate them as contract carriages.

It directed authorities to consider such applications and allowed aggregators to submit fresh proposals, which must be examined according to law. Regional transport authorities may impose conditions under Section 74(2) of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.

The dispute began in April 2025 when a single judge ordered the state to halt bike taxi operations within weeks, on the ground that services could not continue without notified guidelines under the Motor Vehicles Act.



Aggregators challenged the order, contending that a complete ban violated their right to trade when the law itself provided for registration and permits.

The state maintained that motorcycles could not be treated as transport vehicles for hire.

With the Supreme Court rejecting the state's special leave petition, the High Court's directions stand. Operators and aggregators can now approach the relevant authorities for vehicle registration and the necessary permissions to run bike taxi services in Karnataka.

Karnataka has approached the Supreme Court citing concerns over passenger safety, insurance coverage and the lack of adequate safeguards. Five auto and taxi driver associations have also challenged the High Court ruling, contending that permitting bike taxis without comparable regulatory obligations would adversely affect existing transport operators.

India rolls out indigenous H5N1 jab

New Delhi: India has developed its first indigenous vaccine against the highly pathogenic H5N1 bird flu virus, marking a significant development in the country's efforts to protect its poultry industry from the disease.

Developed by scientists at the ICAR-National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases (NIHSAD) in Bhopal, the vaccine specifically targets the H5N1 virus belonging to the 2.3.2.1a strain, which has posed a serious threat to poultry farms.

Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Friday dedicated to the nation the first indigenous H5N1 bird flu vaccine.

More on page 7

Yogi Adityanath's mother no more

DEHRADUN

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's mother, Savitri Devi, passed away at the age of 91 on Friday at her ancestral village of Panchur in Uttarakhand's Pauri Garhwal district.

She breathed her last at around 11 am, leaving the family in deep mourning. As per reports, her last rites will be performed in Haridwar on Saturday. The police and the district administration are in touch with the family members, said Pauri Garhwal SSP Sarvesh Panwar.

Yogi pays last respects to mother



Yogi Adityanath arrived at his ancestral village of Panchur in Pauri Garhwal on Friday and paid his last respects and floral tributes to his mother.

Yogi was born in 1972 in Panchur village of Pauri Garhwal district. He left home early in his life and later became a disciple of Mahant Avaidyanath, who was then the head of the Gorakhnath Math.

Condolences pour in

The news of her demise prompted condolences from several political leaders, who expressed grief over the loss and extended their sympathies to the bereaved family.

Earlier in the day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to CM Yogi and condoled the demise of his mother.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah also expressed grief over the demise of Savitri Devi.

QUICK READ

Cong bounces back in Raj panchayat polls

JAIPUR

The Congress made a strong comeback in the Rajasthan panchayat elections, dealing a massive mid-term setback to the BJP ahead of the 2028 Assembly elections. While final results are yet to be declared, the Congress is leading decisively in both zila parishad and panchayat samiti elections. The sweeping victory will give the Congress considerable ammo to amplify its claim that farmers and rural voters are dissatisfied with the Bhajan Lal Sharma government. Of the state's 37 zila parishads, the Congress has secured a decisive lead in 25, while the BJP is ahead in just eight. The Congress is also ahead in the panchayat samiti elections. Of the 419 panchayat samitis, Congress is leading in 213. The BJP, meanwhile, is ahead in 85, while independents are leading in 56 panchayat samitis. Smaller outfits, like Hanuman Beniwal's Rashtriya Loktantrik Party (RLP) and the Bharat Adivasi Party (BAP), also performed well.

SC allows Karthigai deepam at disputed hill

CHENNAI

The Supreme Court on Friday permitted the lighting of the Karthigai Deepam lamp at the disputed stone pillar atop Thiruparankundram hill in Madurai district, on November 24, but made it clear that the permission would be a one-time arrangement and would not establish any customary right. A bench of Justices Aravind Kumar and Vipul M Pancholi passed the interim order while hearing the Tamil Nadu government's appeal against the Madras High Court verdict allowing the lighting of the traditional lamp at the disputed location. The court also stayed certain observations made by the High Court regarding the nature of the pillar and the land on which it stands. It clarified that its interim arrangement should not be treated as a final determination of the nature of the pillar, ownership of the land or the existence of any established religious custom. The bench laid down a series of safeguards for the ritual, directing that only a restricted team authorised by the temple administration and government officials would be permitted to go to the spot to light the lamp.

AMID WAR AND UNREST

Cultural connect strongest guarantee for global peace: PM

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday inaugurated the three-day Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Civilisational Dialogue Forum at Purana Qila in New Delhi, stressing that civilisational ties and mutual harmony can provide the strongest foundation for global peace and well-being amid ongoing wars and conflicts.

Pakistan Federal Minister Musadik Masood Malik also attended the forum.

Addressing the gathering, Modi said that while empires had changed the world's maps, civilisational dialogues had transformed and enriched the world's ideas. He emphasised that the SCO Civilisational Dialogue Forum should not remain merely a ceremonial platform but could emerge as a forum capable of providing direction to the world.



"Empires may have changed the maps of the world, but civilisational dialogues have changed and enriched the world's ideas. That is why the SCO Civilisational Dialogue Forum is not merely a ceremonial platform. It can become a platform that provides direction to the world," Modi said.

Highlighting India's cultural philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, meaning the world is one family, the PM said Indian culture teaches people to view the entire world as one family. He said the desire for individual well-being remains deeply rooted in the broader aspiration for global welfare.

"We consider mutual harmony the foundation of global well-being," Modi said, underlining the importance of peaceful coexistence and cooperation among nations.

PM calls for cooperation to preserve shared heritage

Modi also highlighted the rich cultural heritage preserved in museums, libraries and archives across SCO member countries. He said these institutions safeguard thousands of years of valuable heritage, including ancient manuscripts, rare books, historical documents and artefacts that reveal different aspects of the countries' historical connections.

Highlights technology's role in cultural connectivity

He said technology has created significant opportunities to take this shared heritage to younger generations. SCO countries, he suggested, could collaborate on digitising and translating ancient texts and undertake joint research projects to uncover new aspects of their shared history.

'World is one family': Modi's speech highlights

- Civilisational dialogue & mutual harmony are the strongest foundations for global peace & well-being.
- SCO Civilisational Dialogue Forum should go beyond ceremonial engagements and become a platform that provides direction to the world.
- Emphasised India's philosophy of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' (The World Is One Family).
- Mutual harmony is essential for global welfare and peaceful coexistence.
- Called for cooperation among SCO nations to preserve, promote shared cultural heritage.
- Proposed digitisation & translation of ancient manuscripts and historical texts.
- Encouraged joint research to uncover shared historical and cultural connections.
- Stressed that technology can strengthen cultural connectivity and make heritage accessible to younger generations.
- Urged SCO countries to fully utilise digital platforms for knowledge-sharing and cultural exchange.

Quick Read

HC rejects Mattannavar plea in Dharmasthala probe

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The High Court dismissed Girish Mattannavar's plea challenging the Special Investigation Team probe into alleged mass burials at Dharmasthala. Justice V. Srishananda ruled against halting an ongoing investigation after Mattannavar previously sought a proper probe before later asking to quash it. Mattannavar's lawyer argued a non-official filed the complaint and claimed questioning caused harassment, while the state noted prior magistrate approval and evidence naming him an accused. Police earlier alleged a plot to tarnish Dharmasthala involving fabricated evidence and forged records by six people. The court stressed decisions rest strictly on legal records as the probe moves forward.

Seven cleared in Bannerghatta clash case

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Police filed a charge sheet clearing Inspector Kishore Kumar and six others in the October 4 Hommadevanahalli clash case near Bannerghatta. Officials found no link between them and the fight. Instead, CCTV clips reportedly showed members of the complaining families hitting youths with clubs and stones, leading to a case against the complainants. Family member Nagaveni alleged a political plot driven by envy of their success. Anil Kumar said they filed a defamation suit to protect their good name. Investigation continues as police review evidence and statements in court, bringing fresh scrutiny to the dispute near Bengaluru.

Cold set to deepen across Karnataka

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Dry weather continues across Karnataka as officials warn minimum temperatures will drop further over two days before stabilizing. Vijayapura posted the lowest plains temperature at 12.9°C as chilly conditions spread. Forecasters expect dry skies with no rain across coastal, North Interior, and South Interior districts. Meanwhile, Cyclone Akwan is moving north toward the Andhra Pradesh and Odisha coasts, bringing strong winds up to 110 kmph near Gopalpur. A separate circulation also lingers over the southeast Arabian Sea near southern Lakshadweep. Residents across Karnataka face crisp, dry days ahead as seasonal chill strengthens across every region.

Vijayendra questions ₹100 cr renovation without tender

Vijayendra gained fresh confidence after meeting Amit Shah, attacking Congress over KK Guest House costs and farmer relief.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Karnataka BJP chief B.Y. Vijayendra said that meeting Union Home Minister Amit Shah a day earlier gave him fresh confidence as the party weighs state leadership, alliance dynamics, and upcoming electoral battles.

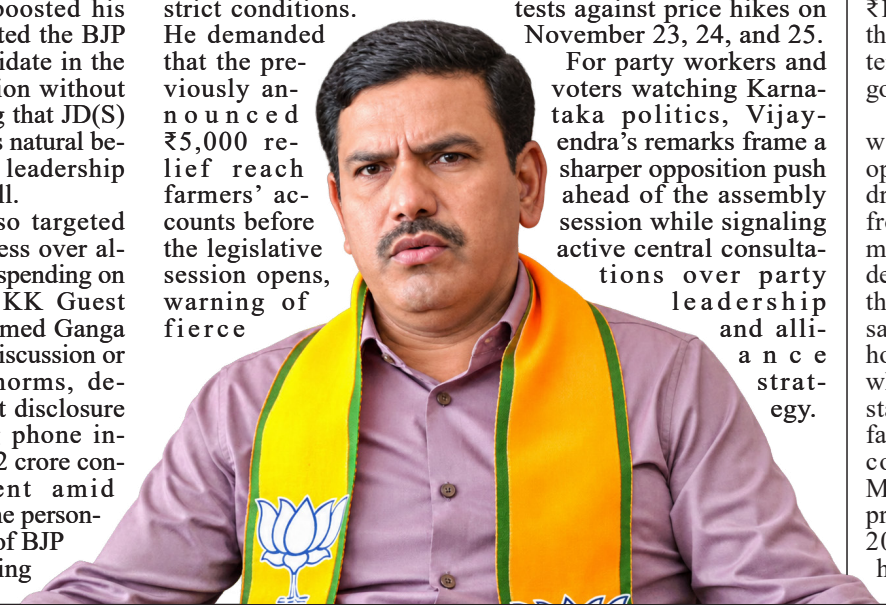
Addressing reporters at the BJP headquarters in Bengaluru, Vijayendra said his talks with Shah covered the state political situation, legislative council election outcomes, developments in Hiriyur, and the state president post. While declining to share private details, he stressed that the discussion boosted his morale and insisted the BJP will field a candidate in the Hiriyur by-election without confusion, noting that JD(S) seeking a ticket is natural before the central leadership takes the final call.

Vijayendra also targeted the ruling Congress over alleged ₹100 crore spending on renovating the KK Guest House, now renamed Ganga without cabinet discussion or proper tender norms, demanding full cost disclosure and questioning phone instructions for a ₹2 crore contractor payment amid drought. Saying he personally disapproves of BJP legislators attending its inauguration, he added that he would check who went and speak with them.

THE BILLS HE QUESTIONS

100 cr	KK GUEST HOUSE RENOVATION
2,300 cr	PROJECTS IN HIRIYUR
25,000 cr	EXPECTED GST SHORTFALL

Turning to agrarian distress and farmer suicides, including one in his own constituency, Vijayendra accused the government of insulting cultivators with paltry relief and strict conditions. He demanded that the previously announced ₹5,000 relief reach farmers' accounts before the legislative session opens, warning of fierce pushback if it is delayed.



Questioning how the state will fund coastal announcements, ₹2,300 crore projects in Hiriyur, and an expected ₹25,000 crore GST shortfall amid unpaid contractor bills and mounting debt, Vijayendra faulted the administration over the four-day ASHA workers' stir for ₹15,000 honorariums, delayed pensions, sugarcane aid, and poor housing. He also criticized funds directed toward Bharat Jodo youth groups while frontline health workers wait, and announced statewide BJP protests against price hikes on November 23, 24, and 25.

For party workers and voters watching Karnataka politics, Vijayendra's remarks frame a sharper opposition push ahead of the assembly session while signaling active central consultations over party leadership and alliance strategy.

ASHA workers' protest enters 4th day amid standoff

ASHA workers entered day four at Freedom Park seeking ₹15,000 fixed pay, while D.K. Shivakumar promised cabinet talks before the assembly session amid health scares.



ASHA workers at their sit-in at Freedom Park, Bengaluru.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

An indefinite sit-in by Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) workers at Freedom Park in Bengaluru entered its fourth day on Friday as thousands of frontline health activists pressed their demand for a fixed monthly honorarium of ₹15,000 and refused to call off their agitation without a written guarantee from the state government.

Braving chilly overnight weather and sleeping in the open often with young children beside them, protesters from across Karnataka have maintained round-the-clock demonstrations since starting their stir on Tuesday. Unions say the current ₹5,000 fixed honorarium (roughly ₹8,000 when combined with routine state and central incentives) falls far short of daily living costs amid rising prices. Many activists also point to a prior assurance from January 2025 regarding a ₹10,000 honorarium that they say has not been fully delivered, leading to distrust of verbal promises alone.

Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar appealed to the protesters to end their demonstration and return home, citing fiscal pressures and the need to weigh financial implications alongside other competing demands. Shivakumar noted that the state contributes ₹5,000 in honorarium plus incentives while central contributions remain lower, and he pointed to welfare benefits such as Gruha Lakshmi, free bus travel, and free power extended to families. He assured activists that he would discuss their eight to nine demands with the Finance Department, concerned ministers, and the Cabinet ahead of the upcoming legislative session.

The pay gap

NOW	DEMAND
₹5,000 fixed honorarium; about ₹8,000 with incentives	₹15,000 fixed monthly honorarium

Alongside the pay hike, protesters are seeking arrears for facilitators, relief from uncompensated mobile-app reporting such as the Samasta app, medical support during serious illnesses, timely monthly payouts, and higher retirement benefits. Health concerns have surfaced during the multi-day camp, with some activists requiring hospital care, while union leaders warn of sharper protests including marching toward Vidhana Soudha if formal orders are not issued.

For residents and families relying on village and ward health outreach, prolonged disruptions at the grassroots level can slow routine maternal, child, and immunization follow-ups until an agreement restores normal field duties.

HDK: Hiriyur bypoll win first; mocks 'Ganga' rename

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy said that winning the Hiriyur by-election takes top priority for the National Democratic Alliance and insisted that which partner gets the ticket is not a question of ego or prestige.

Which partner gets the Hiriyur ticket is not a question of ego or prestige, says Kumaraswamy



Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy.

Speaking in Bengaluru after meeting Union Home Minister Amit Shah the previous day, Kumaraswamy said he shared a detailed ground assessment rather than bargaining over seats, noting that winning the contest matters more than personal standing. He added that he will talk with local BJP leaders and called opposition leader R. Ashoka a close friend, stressing that allies should settle candidate choices together in the name of an NDA nominee without rushing or airing differences in public.

Kumaraswamy said Shah is closely tracking Karnataka developments and encouraged the BJP and Janata Dal (Secular) to stay united, dismissing attempts by rivals to sow division within the coalition. Pointing out that he has spent two months pressing issues such as NICE, the KPSC controversy, sting operations, and Bidadi, he said his campaign aims to strengthen the alliance and unseat what he termed an anti-people and corrupt state government.

With the ruling Congress deploying ministers across community lines and leaning on administrative and financial muscle in Hiriyur, Kumaraswamy argued that alliance unity is essential to prevail. He also urged the state government to act promptly on demands raised by protesting ASHA workers.

Turning his fire on Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar over renaming Kumarakrupa guest house to Ganga, Kumaraswamy mocked name changes as meaningless without genuine sincerity, sanctity, and transparency in administration. Referring to Shivakumar's remarks at an urban development review warning of tough action against corruption, Kumaraswamy sarcastically wondered whether real action would follow.

Across Karnataka's political corridors, the exchange underscores how upcoming by-poll strategy, alliance coordination, governance debates, and protests over public welfare are colliding as parties jockey for advantage ahead of legislative and electoral battles.

Police zone rollout: Kharge meets commissioners

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Home Minister Priyank Kharge held his first review meeting with Bengaluru's newly appointed Chief Commissioner R. Hithendra and the five zonal police commissioners on Friday, focusing on staffing shortages, infrastructure needs, and smooth administrative rollout after restructuring city policing into five commissionerates.

During the two-hour session with senior Indian Police Service officers, Kharge addressed transition hurdles tied to creating Central, East, West, North, and South commissionerates, including opening or merging police stations, constructing or upgrading buildings, and building smarter policing systems. He told reporters afterward that the split aims to tighten public safety and make policing more accessible to residents. Officials have been directed to complete a scientific and geographical study on station boundaries and building upgrades and submit a proposal within fifteen days.



Home Minister Priyank Kharge speaks to reporters in Bengaluru.

Kharge said the Central Crime Branch will keep operating while adding specialized units such as an Anti-Social Wing, and noted that a dedicated commissioner leads the traffic division with traffic deputy commissioners reporting to that office.

Acknowledging teething troubles during reorganization, Kharge said Bengaluru currently faces a shortfall of 4,000 police personnel, with 800 candidates having already appeared for recruitment tests. He added that hiring drives are underway and more than 2,500 personnel are slated to join the city force.

Asked about the Enforcement Directorate filing a chargesheet in the veterinary officer recruitment exam scam, Kharge declined to comment directly on the federal agency's probe but insisted wrongdoers must face punishment. He said the inquiry picked up speed after a Special Investigation Team took over, blaming the opposition Bharatiya Janata Party for earlier delays and questioning lapses during the Criminal Investigation Department's earlier handling that he said wasted roughly a month and a half.

As new zonal boundaries and command lines settle in across Bengaluru, citizens and officers alike will be watching how quickly staffing reinforcements, station upgrades, and smart policing tools translate into everyday street safety and faster casework across the expanded metro.

MINISTER PROMISES YETTINAHOLE WATER IN TUMAKURU SOON

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Water Resources Minister N. Chaluvarayaswamy said that Yettinahole project water is set to reach Tumakuru within a week and Kolar by next June, answering critics who doubted the ambitious water transfer scheme.

Speaking at Vikasa Soudha, Chaluvarayaswamy said ₹19,000 crore has already been spent on the project, with 232 km completed out of 252.61 km across seven districts and 527 lakes slated to be filled. He noted water already reaches Hassan, Chikkamagaluru, and Kadur, works up to Tiptur and Gubbi are done, and a letter is going to the Centre seeking permission to lift water for a trial run to Tumakuru within a week, while seeking ₹2,000 crore from the chief minister by February and a Tunga river lift trial between December 15 and 25. Highlighting Bhadra water filling over 80 Chitradurga lakes within its 12 TMC limit and plans to lift up to 24 TMC from Hongadahalla between June and October for year-round storage, the minister said the project answers skeptics who dismissed it as impossible.



Water Resources Minister N. Chaluvarayaswamy.

Chaluvarayaswamy also praised Congress's five guarantee schemes launched in 2023 while criticizing Prime Minister Narendra Modi for adopting similar poll promises elsewhere. On inter-state water disputes, he welcomed the Supreme Court rejecting Tamil Nadu's plea for 11 TMC more water, noted a 2,000 cusecs release order from the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee, and pointed to talks between Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and neighboring states.

Taking sharp aim at Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy, Chaluvarayaswamy asked whether Kumaraswamy would fulfill an old pledge to shave his head now that Yettinahole is advancing, accused him of constantly fixating on Shivakumar since Shivakumar became chief minister, and said the ruling party is ready to contest the Hiriyur by-election regardless of the BJP and Janata Dal (Secular) alliance.

For parched tanks, farming families, and local residents across Tumakuru, Kolar, and neighboring districts, timely completion and steady funding remain key to turning canal progress into reliable water supply.

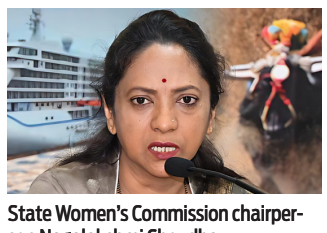
PROTESTERS DISPUTE CLAIM

Choudhary questioned by ASHA over toilet claim

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

State Women's Commission chairperson Nagalakshmi Choudhary ran into sharp pushback and tough media questioning at Freedom Park in Bengaluru after claiming 15 toilets had been arranged for protesting ASHA workers, leaving her flustered as demonstrators disputed the claim and shared their daily struggles.

Visiting the sit-in site where Accredited Social Health Activist workers are pressing for higher pay and welfare steps, Choudhary met emotional protesters. One worker broke down in tears and asked how she could survive alone without a husband or children on roughly ₹5,000, underscoring the strain of low monthly payouts against rising living costs.



State Women's Commission chairperson Nagalakshmi Choudhary.

Tensions flared when Choudhary said officials had arranged 15 toilets through the Greater Bengaluru Authority after she spoke with the deputy commissioner and commissioner upon hearing menstruating women needed restrooms. Protesting workers shot back that they had paid for toilet arrangements out of their own pockets, sparking heated exchanges at the venue.

Reporters pressed Choudhary on whether she had relied on unverified information from officials without checking conditions firsthand, and whether speaking without on-ground verification was appropriate. Workers and journalists also pushed back against her assertions on sanitary pads, health care, and toilet facilities, noting gaps over the prior three days and asking her to point out the claimed toilets right there. Caught in the crossfire of pointed questions, Choudhary appeared rattled and struggled to give a convincing answer before leaving the spot.

CLAIM AND COUNTER

THE CLAIM
Officials arranged 15 toilets through the GBA, says Choudhary

THE REPLY
Workers say they paid for the toilets out of their own pockets

Earlier from the stage, Choudhary said she stands with women without party bias and acts as a commission chief who presses the government rather than running it. She noted she had written repeatedly about an earlier ₹2,000 promise that remained unfulfilled, pledged to take concerns to the health department and chief secretary, and said she was seeking fair support for their work rather than charity.

For exhausted health workers camping out in harsh conditions, the clash exposed how quickly claims on basic amenities can deepen frustration when ground realities feel far removed from official assurances.

Kumaraswamy urges action for ASHA workers

BENGALURU: Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy urged the Karnataka government to quickly meet ASHA workers' demands in Bengaluru. Questioning how anyone can live on ₹8,000 today, he called their protest fair and criticized authorities for blaming the Centre instead of acting for local village workers. Kumaraswamy also attacked alleged fund waste on party efforts, saying genuine care and fair pay earn real support. While citing limits in his current role, he promised help if his party returns to power. Protesting ASHA workers await a clear state decision as pressure grows over low honorariums and tough working conditions across the state.

FUNDS FOR KALABURAGI WATER CRISIS: MLA PATIL

Kalaburagi South MLA Allamprabhu Patil has sought emergency funds and additional water from Maharashtra to address the city's worsening shortage.



The memorandum being handed over at the meeting in Bengaluru

CH NEWS, KALABURAGI

Kalaburagi South MLA Allamprabhu Patil has urged the State Government to provide an additional ₹5 crore in emergency funds to maintain drinking water supply in the city.

He submitted a memorandum to Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar during a meeting in Bengaluru, seeking urgent action on the worsening shortage.

Groundwater down

Patil said groundwater levels had fallen in nearly 80 per cent of Kalaburagi city. As a result, several borewells had dried up, making it difficult for residents to access drinking water. He warned that rising summer temperatures could worsen the situation and called for immediate steps to ensure regular supply.

The MLA also raised concerns over crop losses in the district. He urged the government to release interim crop insurance compensation to eligible farmers who had enrolled in the scheme and paid their premiums. He referred to the State Government's announcement of a minimum drought relief of ₹5,000. The first instalment of ₹2,500 is being transferred directly to farmers' bank accounts, he said, and asked officials to ensure that all eligible farmers receive it promptly. He also sought early release of the remaining amount.

Patil further said Karnataka had not received its allocated 15 TMC of water from Maharashtra's Ujani reservoir under the Bhima river water-sharing arrangement. He said about 60 TMC remained in the reservoir's dead storage and urged the State Government to hold talks with Maharashtra to secure at least 2 TMC for the Bhima River.

He said the release would help meet the drinking water needs of people and livestock in the basin, especially in Kalaburagi, Yadgir and Vijayapura districts. He appealed for priority action to ease the severe shortage.

Water and drought relief

₹5 cr	EMERGENCY FUNDS SOUGHT
2 TMC	SOUGHT FROM UJANI
₹5,000	MINIMUM DROUGHT RELIEF

Quick Read

Demand transparency in Kalaburagi development works

CH NEWS, KALABURAGI

Devendra Desai Kallur has urged District In-charge Minister Priyank Kharge and the Kalaburagi City Corporation to provide transparent details of development projects and their progress instead of merely announcing funds. He questioned how much of the announced grants had actually been released and how many projects had been completed. He sought details of road development, replacement of electricity poles, circle improvements and lake rejuvenation works. He also demanded ward-wise expenditure details for all 55 wards, including project quality and completion status. He said transparency and accountability in spending public money were essential to maintaining people's trust.

Bhimashankar Jamadar selected for Rajyotsava Shakti Award

CH NEWS, AFZALPUR

Bhimashankar N. Jamadar, a farmer activist and retired veterinary inspector from Badadal village in Afzalpur taluk, has been selected for the Rajyotsava Shakti Award. The award will be presented on November 29 during the inauguration of Nandhidham Goshala and Kannada Rajyotsava celebrations at Gobbur (B) village. Jamadar served as a veterinary inspector for 31 years before taking voluntary retirement. He later established a dairy enterprise and actively worked for farmers' welfare, animal protection and rural development. He has also guided unemployed youth in dairy farming and sheep rearing, helping them achieve self-employment.

DC urges property owners to obtain E-Khata



A ward-wise E-Khata campaign runs till December-end

CH NEWS, KALABURAGI

Deputy Commissioner Mohammed Ikramulla Shariff has appealed to property owners across Kalaburagi district to obtain E-Khata under the State Government's Bhu Guarantee scheme.

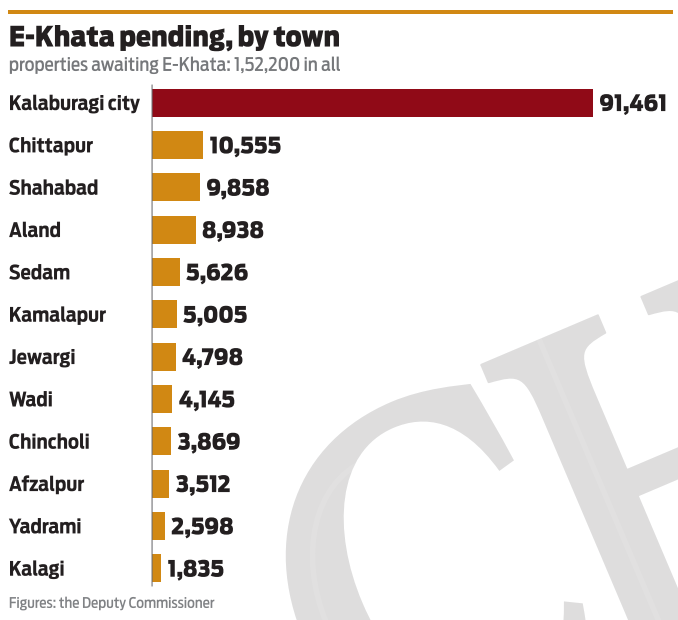
A special ward-wise campaign is being conducted to issue digital property records through the E-Aasthi software.

Draft E-Khata records of properties listed in ward-wise property tax registers have been published across urban local bodies. The administration aims to finalise these records and include properties missing from the tax database by December-end 2026.

According to the Deputy Commissioner, the district has 2,67,831 properties, including residential buildings, vacant sites, commercial and industrial properties. Of these, 2,20,153 are authorised and 47,678 are unauthorised. E-Khata issuance is pending for 1,52,200 properties, comprising 1,28,839 A-Khatas and 23,361 B-Khatas. He urged owners to use the scheme to obtain their digital property records.

E-Khata pending, by town

properties awaiting E-Khata: 1,52,200 in all



Figures: the Deputy Commissioner

Kalaburagi has highest pendency

Kalaburagi city accounts for the highest number of pending E-Khata records, with 91,461 properties awaiting registration. The pending figures in other areas include Shahabad (9,858), Sedam (5,626), Afzalpur (3,512), Aland (8,938), Chincholi (3,869), Chittapur (10,555), Jewargi (4,798), Wadi (4,145), Kamalapur (5,005), Kalagi (1,835) and Yadrami (2,598).

How to get E-Khata

APPLY	E-Aasthi online portal, or the urban local body office with the documents
UNTIL	December-end 2026
SCHEME	Bhu Guarantee

Campaign until December-end

The campaign covers the Kalaburagi City Corporation and other municipal councils and town panchayats across the district. Property owners can apply through the E-Aasthi online portal or visit their respective urban local body offices with the required documents. The campaign will continue until December-end 2026.

Mission 40+ workshop launched to improve results

CH NEWS, RAICHUR



Mission 40+ aims at better SSLC and PUC results

Education Minister S. Madhu Bangarappa on inaugurated the Kalaburagi division-level Mission 40+ workshop at the University of Agricultural Sciences auditorium in Raichur.

The workshop was organised for resource teachers from Raichur and Yadgir districts to improve student performance in the 2026-27 SSLC and PUC examinations.

He said fear of examinations was one of the major reasons for students failing. Some students even avoid writing examinations due to anxiety. The workshop aims to help teachers understand these difficulties and guide students to approach examinations with confidence.

Experts will train teachers on how to prepare students for examinations and explain subjects effectively. Separate discussions will also be held to address problems faced by students before and during examinations, he said.

Bangarappa said examination results had improved despite several challenges. The government was also providing additional support to strengthen the education system.

He added that Kalyana Karnataka Region Development Board (KKRDB) funds would be utilised in phases to improve educational facilities across the region. However, he noted that improvements in infrastructure and teaching quality would take time.

Regarding the recruitment of around 16,000 government teachers, the Minister said the government was preparing to announce the examination schedule and that the recruitment process was expected to begin soon.

Kauluru Gram Panchayat functions from cramped health centre

CH NEWS, YADGIR

Kauluru Gram Panchayat has been functioning from a small Primary Health Centre building for the past two years because its own office remains damaged.

The old office, built decades ago near the village veterinary hospital, was abandoned after its cement roof deteriorated. Concrete pieces fell from the ceiling, exposing rusted iron bars and raising fears of a collapse. Although the walls were found to be in good condition, the roof required major repairs. The panchayat shifted to the health centre on Munnoor Road as a temporary arrangement for the panchayat.

Work hit

The limited space has affected administration, including the maintenance of records, storage of files, public grievance hearings, document checks and panchayat meetings. Residents visit the office for residential and Khata certificates, property tax payments, building permissions and no-objection certificates. They also approach officials about drinking water, streetlights, drainage, roads, toilets, sanitation and waste management.

The panchayat also handles welfare programmes, including VB-G RAM G, housing assistance and pensions. Staff said the cramped premises affected routine work and the implementation of government schemes. The recent Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls also took place there, adding to the difficulties as many people visited the office.

₹10 lakh repair

Panchayat Development Officer Jayashree said PRE Department engineers inspected the damaged building and estimated repair costs at around ₹10 lakh. She said the walls were sound and the building had a hall, three rooms and a toilet. Several letters seeking repairs have since been sent.

PRE Assistant Executive Engineer M. Sharanappa said the work was first assigned to the department, but the work order was later transferred to Karnataka Rural Infrastructure Development Limited. The KRIDL Executive Engineer said the matter would be examined.

Legal action sought against Raichur BEO over salary irregularities

CH NEWS, RAICHUR

Kalyanraya Talwar, district secretary of the Right to Information and Social Activists' Forum, has demanded legal action against Raichur Block Education Officer (BEO) Eranna Kosagi over alleged irregularities in salary payments to deceased and retired teachers, causing financial loss to the government.

Addressing a press conference in Raichur, Talwar alleged that salaries had been paid even to teachers who had opted for voluntary retirement, resulting in an unnecessary financial burden on the government.

He said several written complaints highlighting the alleged irregularities had been submitted to the concerned authorities, but no concrete action had been taken so far. He warned that he would approach the court if the authorities failed to act immediately.



The forum wants the BEO suspended

150-page complaint

A legal battle would be initiated if the authorities continued to delay action

According to Talwar, a detailed 150-page complaint had been submitted, alleging violations of government rules and guidelines in teacher deployment, utilisation of funds without prior approval and recruitment of guest teachers.

Show-cause notice

He further alleged that a show-cause notice had been issued to the BEO in connection with the complaints, but no further action had followed. He questioned the delay in the disciplinary process despite three months having passed since the complaint was filed.

Suspension sought

Talwar demanded the immediate suspension of Eranna Kosagi and legal action over the alleged financial irregularities and violations of government rules and disciplinary procedures.

He warned that a legal battle would be initiated if the authorities continued to delay action. However, the allegations are yet to be independently established.

Radhadevi is the new Raichur BEO



The State Government issued an order on Thursday evening appointing Radhadevi as the new Block Education Officer (BEO) of Raichur.

Radhadevi previously served as the BEO of Devadurga taluk. She has now been transferred and appointed to the Raichur post, which became vacant following the transfer of Eranna Kosagi.

Kosagi has been transferred and appointed to a vacant lecturer post at the District Institute of Education and Training (DIET) in Yeramarus.

The appointment is part of the latest administrative changes in the Education Department.

Deputy Lokayukta orders bus stand improvements

CH NEWS, VIJAYAPURA

Deputy Lokayukta Justice K.N. Phaneendra has directed Kalyana Karnataka Road Transport Corporation (KKRTC) officials to improve cleanliness, toilet maintenance and basic passenger facilities at the Veera Rani Kittur Rani Chennamma Central Bus Stand in Vijayapura.

During his visit, Justice Phaneendra inspected the facilities and reviewed the maintenance of basic infrastructure. He instructed officials to ensure that all passenger amenities remained functional and received regular attention.

He particularly stressed the need to maintain clean public toilets and ensure uninterrupted availability of safe drinking water. Water coolers must function properly, and adequate seating arrangements should be provided for passengers. He also directed officials to keep the entire bus stand premises clean.

Regarding passenger safety, he instructed officials to ensure that all CCTV cameras remained operational and that footage was monitored regularly. Adequate staff must be deployed round the clock to maintain security and protect passengers.

He also asked officials to inspect the clocks installed on the premises and immediately repair those that were not functioning, ensuring passengers had access to accurate time information.

One-month deadline

Taking note of the shortcomings in cleanliness, toilets, drinking water, CCTV surveillance and other facilities, the Deputy Lokayukta directed KKRTC officials to rectify all identified issues within one month. He also instructed them to submit a compliance report detailing the corrective measures taken.



During the inspection of the central bus stand in Vijayapura

He observed that central bus stands play an important role in public transportation and said passengers must be provided with a clean, safe and convenient environment. He stressed the need for regular monitoring and warned against negligence in maintaining public facilities.

Senior Civil Judge Aravind Hagaragi, Lokayukta Superintendent of Police Nandgavi, Additional Deputy Commissioner Dr. Audram, City Corporation Commissioner Vijay Mekkalaki, KKRTC Divisional Controller Devanand Biradar and other officials were present.

MEDICAL SUPPLY LAPSE

Government medicines found dumped in Kagina riverbed

CH NEWS, KALABURAGI

A large quantity of government-supplied medicines meant for free distribution to poor and needy patients has been found dumped in the Kagina riverbed, raising serious concerns over the handling and disposal of medical supplies.

The medicines were discovered beneath the Kagina River bridge on National Highway 150, along the Shahabad–Chittapur stretch.

The discarded stock reportedly includes Metformin Hydrochloride 500 mg and Telmisartan 40 mg tablets, along with syrup bottles meant to address malnutrition among children. The discovery has triggered public concern, as these medicines are purchased with public money and supplied free of cost to patients, particularly those from economically weaker sections.

The incident has raised questions about how the medicines reached the riverbed and whether they were expired or still fit for consumption. It is also unclear which government hospital or primary health centre supplied the stock and who authorised its disposal.

As per prescribed procedures, expired medicines must be disposed of through authorised scientific methods. Dumping pharmaceutical waste in a riverbed could cause environmental contamination and pose risks to public health.

Residents have expressed concern over the wastage of medicines, pointing out that many poor patients depend on government hospitals for essential treatment and free medication. They have demanded a detailed investigation by the Health Department to identify the source of the discarded stock and determine how it was disposed of.



Medicine strips dumped under the Kagina river bridge on NH 150

They have also sought strict legal action against those responsible and measures to prevent similar incidents. Authorities have been urged to establish whether the medicines were expired stock awaiting disposal or usable supplies discarded without justification.

Questions demanding answers

1. Were the medicines expired or still usable?
2. Which hospital or health centre did they come from?
3. Who authorised their disposal?

Quick Read

Gadag-Betageri announces water supply schedule

CH NEWS, GADAG

Water supply will be provided to several areas of Gadag-Betageri twin city on Saturday, November 21, according to a release issued by the city municipal council.

The areas include Shivajinagar, Amareshwar Temple surroundings, Shikkalagara Oni, Bhajantri Oni and Khaji's Oni in Ward 7; Manjunath Nagar, Kanvi Plot, 35 House, 200 House and Vambe Colony in Ward 4.

Water will also be supplied to areas behind the BSNL office, Ajay's House Line, Kanvi's House Line and remaining parts of Rajiv Gandhi Nagar in Ward 29.

Other areas covered include Marigaudra Line, Koppal Davakhane Hatti in Wards 21 and 22, Vijayanagar School surroundings in Ward 35, Neelamma Tai Math, Adarsh Nagar, Devaraja Hostel Line, School No. 20 surroundings and Pattara Sir Line.

Residents have been advised to store sufficient water during the scheduled supply hours. The authorities have also requested public cooperation in case of technical disruptions.

Two men drown after fishing raft capsizes

CH NEWS, HASSAN

Two men drowned after a raft carrying them capsized in the Hemavati backwaters near Chowdalli village in Arkalgud taluk on Friday.

The deceased were identified as Paramesha (42), a resident of Chowdalli, and Puttaraju (45), from Hiruganahalli village.

According to reports, the two men had ventured into the backwaters on a raft to fish when it accidentally overturned, throwing them into the water. Both reportedly drowned after failing to return to the surface.

Fire and emergency services personnel rushed to the spot after receiving information and recovered the bodies.

Gorur police visited the site and initiated further investigation into the incident.

Chitradurga Medical College to host white coat ceremony

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

Chitradurga Medical College and Research Institute (CMCRI) will organise a white coat ceremony for its newly admitted first-year MBBS students for the 2026–27 academic year on November 21 at 11 am at Tarasu Theatre.

Dean and Director Dr. Yuvraj B.Y. will lead the programme. Cardiologist and former Jayadeva Heart Institute Director K.S. Ravindranath will attend as the chief guest.

CMCRI Chief Administrative Officer-in-charge and Financial Adviser S.V. Vishwasi, Academic Registrar Dr. Chandrika N. and Medical Superintendent Dr. G.H. Megha will participate.

Faculty members, students, governing body members and non-teaching staff will attend the event, according to an official release.

Boost government school admissions, minister directs officials

Concerned over nearly 6,000 fewer Class 1 admissions, the minister cited the free provisions and urged boosting 203 LKG and UKG classes.



At the district-level education review meeting in Koppal on Friday.

6,000	1,631	98.19%
drop in Class 1 admissions (nearly)	SSLC registrants absent	SSLC pass rate

CH NEWS, KOPPAL

Karnataka School Education and Literacy Minister S. Madhu Bangarappa has directed officials to treat the strengthening of government schools and increasing student admissions as a movement and work towards achieving the targets.

He was speaking at the 2026–27 district-level education department review meeting held at the J.H. Patel Hall of the Zilla Panchayat on Friday.

Expressing concern over a decline of nearly 6,000 admissions due to changes in the age eligibility criteria for Class 1, the minister said the government was providing free textbooks, uniforms, shoes, socks, electricity and guest teachers. He directed officials to increase admissions to the 203 LKG and UKG classes functioning in the district.

Focus on SSLC and PUC results

The minister expressed concern that 1,631 students who had registered for SSLC examinations had remained absent. He instructed teachers and officials to visit their homes, convince parents and encourage the students to appear for examinations. He also directed colleges to conduct special classes under Mission 60 for second-year PUC students and give importance to moral education and parent-teacher meetings.

Free buses and notebooks

Bangarappa announced that dedicated free bus services would be provided to Karnataka Public School (KPS) students from June 2027. He also announced free notebooks for government school and college students from Classes 1 to 12 from the next academic year. Textbook Parts 1 and 2 would be distributed together.

Deputy Director of School Education Shekharappa Horapete said the district had 1,660 schools, including 1,143 government schools, with 1,67,628 students enrolled in government institutions. The district recorded a 98.19 per cent SSLC pass rate, including supplementary examinations.

PU Education Deputy Director Rajshekhar Patil said enrolment in PU colleges had increased by 5,048 to 34,846 students. The district secured first place in the Kalyana Karnataka region with an 86.80 per cent pass rate in the previous year's second-year PUC examinations.

District officials, education officers and college principals attended the meeting.

Coming up

- Free KPS buses from June 2027
- Free notebooks, Classes 1 to 12, next academic year
- Textbook Parts 1 and 2 handed out together

Identify youth, provide job-oriented skill training: Sushma



The meeting on jobs for young people at the Zilla Panchayat Hall in Karwar.

CH NEWS, KARWAR

Zilla Panchayat Administrator and District In-charge Secretary Sushma Godabole has directed government departments to work together to identify unemployed youth and provide them with job-oriented skill training to improve their employment opportunities.

She was speaking at a meeting held at the Zilla Panchayat Hall on Friday to discuss measures for creating employment opportunities for young people in the district.

Godabole instructed officials to identify students who had failed SSLC examinations or secured low marks in PUC and degree courses, as well as those who had discontinued their education for various reasons. She asked departments to collect their details and connect them with suitable skill development and employment programmes.

She suggested preparing a directory of available skill training programmes across government departments. Brochures, booklets and pamphlets containing details of courses should be distributed to schools, colleges and libraries. Soft copies should also be uploaded to departmental websites to make information easily accessible.

The Library Department was asked to create awareness about employment-oriented training programmes among library visitors. She also directed officials to coordinate with the Employment Exchange to conduct awareness programmes on job registration and the Job Bridge initiative.

The Skill Development Department should introduce more training programmes based on local employment opportunities and industry requirements, she said.

Officials from Agriculture, Horticulture, Industries, ITIs, GTTCs and Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETIs) were instructed to share details of their ongoing courses with educational institutions. Students should also be informed about employment and self-employment opportunities available after completing training.

Godabole stressed the need for coordination among departments to ensure that eligible youth receive timely guidance and support. She also called for skill training opportunities for adult learners and people interested in handicrafts.

Zilla Panchayat Chief Planning Officer Somasekhara Mesta, Project Director Karim Asadi, district-level officers and principals of technical training and employment institutions attended the meeting.

Youth skill drive

Find them
Trace dropouts and low scorers in SSLC, PUC and degree courses

Course directory
Brochures for schools, colleges, libraries; soft copies online

Job Bridge
Libraries and the Employment Exchange to spread the word

National symposium to discuss agribusiness legal challenges

CH NEWS, GADAG

A one-day national symposium on 'Legal System of Agribusiness and Food Processing: Perspectives and Challenges' will be held on Saturday, November 21, at Mahatma Gandhi Rural Development and Panchayat Raj University, Gadag.

The symposium is being jointly organised by the university and the Karnataka Institute of Law and Parliamentary Reform (KILPAR), Bengaluru. The programme will take place at the Skill Development Bhavan on the university campus from 10.30 am to 5 pm.

Symposium details

WHEN	Saturday, Nov 21, 10.30 am to 5 pm
WHERE	Skill Development Bhavan, RDPR University, Gadag
OPENS	Minister Eshwar Khandre
HOW	In person or online, advance registration

Karnataka Minister for Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Eshwar Khandre, who is also the university's Pro-Chancellor, will inaugurate the event. Gadag MLA and former Minister H.K. Patil will attend as chief guest, while Randeep D., Secretary to the Government's Panchayat Raj Department, will be a guest of honour.

Ashok Dalwai, Chairman of the Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bengaluru, will deliver the keynote address. Deputy Commissioner C.N. Sreedhara, Zilla Panchayat CEO Mukul Jain and KILPAR Director Prof. C.S. Patil will attend. Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. Suresh V. Nadagoudar will preside.

Technical sessions will cover sustainable agribusiness, legal challenges in food processing and intellectual property rights. Experts from agriculture, law, food technology and related fields will share their knowledge.

Academicians, researchers, students and professionals can participate in person or online through advance registration. Registered participants will receive e-certificates.

For registration, contact Dr. Deepa Patil at 7892382484 or Dr. Neelamma R.K. at 7259937474.

EO takes E-Swathu campaign door to door

CH NEWS, NARAGUND

Taluk Panchayat Executive Officer Sreedhara Chingundi has launched a door-to-door campaign in Bairanahatti village to distribute e-Swathu property application forms 11A and 11B and help eligible property owners regularise their records.

Accompanied by Gram Panchayat officials, Chingundi visited houses along important roads, including Navagrama Plot and Hale Janata Plot. He appealed to residents to make use of the special campaign and obtain proper property records.

He explained that the e-Swathu initiative aims to maintain accurate property records in rural areas. Eligible properties will be issued Form 11A or 11B according to government rules. Conversion of eligible Form 11B properties to Form 11A will also be taken up as per the prescribed procedures.

Chingundi advised residents to approach the Gram Panchayat office directly instead of depending on middlemen for property-related services. People facing difficulties with applications, documents or other procedures can seek assistance from the Panchayat office. If officials fail to respond properly, complaints can be submitted to the Taluk Panchayat office.



Officials hand out e-Swathu forms in Bairanahatti.

He also held a meeting with Gram One staff and provided instructions to ensure that citizens receive proper guidance while applying through the citizen login facility.

Bairanahatti Panchayat Development Officer Savitri Gaikwad, Secretary B.S. Menasagi, Bill Collector Rudrappa Ainapura, Computer Operator Subhash Kale and other Gram Panchayat staff members were present.

'Cooperatives must promote farmers' growth and sustainability'

CH NEWS, GADAG

The 73rd Cooperative Week celebrations concluded in Mundaragi on Friday with a call to strengthen cooperative institutions through technology, transparency, environmental protection and professional management.

The programme was jointly organised by the Cooperation Department, Karnataka State Cooperative Federation, Gadag District Cooperative Union, Dharwad Milk Union, KCC Bank Ltd., Mundaragi, and other cooperative institutions. Dharwad Milk Union Director Lingaraja Gowda H. Patil inaugurated the programme.

Addressing the gathering, Patil said cooperative institutions played an important role in the economic and social development of society. Recalling the establishment of the first cooperative society at Kanaginahal in Gadag district on July 8, 1905, he said the district had a proud place in India's cooperative movement. He cited Amul and Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF) as successful cooperative models.



The 73rd Cooperative Week valedictory in Mundaragi on Friday.

He said milk procurement in the Gadag and Lakshmeshwar regions had increased from around 1.20 lakh litres to 2.80 lakh litres daily. He stressed the need for unity among management boards, employees and members to strengthen cooperative institutions.

Patil urged farmers to use cooperative banks for agricultural loans and banking services. He also highlighted the role of women's milk producers' societies in promoting rural employment and financial independence. He said modern equipment, computerisation and transparent payment systems would improve milk collection.

Assistant Manager and Gadag Sub-Division Chief Dr. Prasanna S. said more than 200 milk producers' societies were functioning in Gadag district. He highlighted government support for dairy farmers and the need to encourage women and youth to join dairy cooperatives.

Gadag District Cooperative Union Director Shiddanagowda B. Patil said cooperatives contributed to social equality, environmental protection and economic development.

PCARD Bank Chairman Halappa R. Kabberahalli stressed tree planting, water conservation and sustainable farming.

The programme also featured talks on environmental protection, gender equality, world peace, heart attack first aid and healthy lifestyles. Several cooperative officials and representatives attended.

DID YOU KNOW?
The first cooperative society at Kanaginahal in Gadag district was set up on July 8, 1905.

Milk procured daily, Gadag and Lakshmeshwar

EARLIER	NOW
1.20 lakh litres a day (around)	2.80 lakh litres a day

FAIR COOPERATIVE VOICE

Ganesh seeks greater AHINDA representation in cooperatives

CH NEWS, KOLAR

K.S. Ganesh, president of the Kolar and Chikkaballapur Working Journalists' Multipurpose Cooperative Society, has urged cooperative sector leaders to ensure greater representation and equal opportunities for AHINDA communities, including minorities, backward classes and Dalits.

He was speaking at the valedictory function of the 73rd Cooperative Week celebrations held at Journalists' Bhavan in Kolar on Friday. The programme was jointly organised by various cooperative bodies and the Department of Cooperation.

Ganesh said that discussions on women's, youth and weaker sections' participation in cooperatives should also address the representation of AHINDA communities. He suggested that the Kolar District Cooperative Union should lead by example by providing them opportunities in its governing body.

Expressing concern over alleged corruption and financial losses in the District Central Cooperative (DCC) Bank, he questioned the lack of accountability. He urged its president, MLA Kothur Manjunath, and his team to focus on the bank's development and seek additional government assistance.



At the valedictory of the 73rd Cooperative Week in Kolar on Friday.

Greater representation and equal opportunities for AHINDA communities in cooperatives

Former District Working Journalists' Association president B.V. Gopinath criticised the declining importance of Cooperative Week celebrations and expressed concern over the court stay on elections to the Cooperative Union's president and vice-president posts.

V. Muniraju stressed the need for administration free from political interference. Senior cooperative leader Abbani Shankar sought amendments to membership rules requiring land records, saying they restricted access for landless communities.

Cooperative Union director V. Muralidhar called for representation proportional to population, while presiding officer Kalvamanjali T.K. Byregowda highlighted the importance of technology, skill development and professional management.

Jammunahalli Krishna attended the programme. K.M. Bharathi compered the event.

Quick Read

Missing hostel students traced safely in Koppal

CH NEWS, RAMANAGARA

The Ijoor police have traced four students of Morarji Desai Residential School in Ramanagara, who went missing after allegedly being scolded by their teachers. The students were found in Koppal within a day of their disappearance.

According to reports, the four students left the hostel during the night by climbing over the compound wall without informing anyone. After noticing their absence, the school principal lodged a complaint at the Ijoor Police Station.

The police registered a case and launched an investigation. During the search, they found that the students had travelled to Koppal by train.

The police safely traced all four students and began bringing them back to Ramanagara. Their safe recovery within a day brought relief to the school authorities and families.

Farmers' leaders call for sugarcane protest in Nanjangud

CH NEWS, NANJANGUD

The Mysuru Zilla Raitha Sangha has appealed to all district office-bearers, taluk presidents, general secretaries and workers to mobilise sugarcane growers for a protest scheduled on November 21.

The protest will be held at 10.30 am near Bannari Amman Sugar Factory in Nanjangud taluk, following a call by the Sugarcane Coordination Committee to raise issues concerning sugarcane growers.

District President Hosur Kumar and District General Secretary P. Marankaiah urged representatives to contact farmers in their respective taluks and ensure maximum participation to make the protest successful.

Minister condemns alleged insults to Basavanna

The minister praised Basavanna's Anubhava Mantapa as an early model of democracy and free expression where diverse people shared views openly.

CH NEWS, HASSAN

Excise Minister and Hassan District In-charge Minister K.M. Sivalingegowda has strongly condemned the alleged derogatory references to social reformer and philosopher Basavanna in author Ravi Hanj's book Basava Mantapa.

In a media statement, Sivalingegowda said the remarks had hurt the sentiments of Basavanna's followers and those who respect his teachings. He said Basavanna had fought against caste discrimination, social inequality and exploitation and promoted equality, brotherhood and harmony through the Vachana movement.

The minister highlighted the importance of Anubhava Mantapa, established by Basavanna, where people from different castes, religions and backgrounds were given an opportunity to express their views. He described it as an early example of democratic values and freedom of expression.

He also explained the principles of Kayaka and Dasoha, which emphasise the dignity of labour and sharing one's earnings for the welfare of society. He alleged that the book misrepresented these principles and distorted Basavanna's teachings.


Seers and guests light the lamp at the opening of the Jenukal Hospital building in Arsikere

BASAVANNA'S IDEALS

ANUBHAVA MANTAPA
An early model of democracy and free expression, open to all castes and faiths

KAYAKA
The dignity of labour

DASOHA
Sharing one's earnings for the welfare of society

Sivalingegowda said Basavanna belonged to all humanity and was not limited to any particular caste, religion or community. He added that insulting such a historical figure amounted to disrespecting Karnataka's cultural heritage and values of social justice.

The minister said the Karnataka Cabinet had discussed the controversy and approved the confiscation of the book and legal action. An FIR has also been registered against author Ravi Hanj and publisher Vishweshwar Bhat at Bengaluru's High Grounds Police Station over alleged derogatory remarks.

He said freedom of expression should not be used to spread hatred or disturb social harmony. The government, he added, was committed to protecting the values of equality and humanity advocated by Basavanna.

New mother and child hospital building opened in Arsikere

CH NEWS, ARSIKERE: Excise Minister and Hassan District In-charge Minister K.M. Sivalingegowda inaugurated the new building of Jenukal Hospital in Arsikere on Friday.

Speaking on the occasion, he said the region needed a well-equipped mother and child hospital to provide better healthcare facilities for pregnant women, mothers and children.

Sri Shivamurthy Shivacharya Mahaswamiji of Taralabalu Brihanmath, Sirigere, Jnana Prabhu Siddarama Desikendra Mahaswamiji of Yalanadu Mahasansthan Math, other religious leaders and local representatives attended the inauguration.

Food commission finds lapses at Gadag school


Food Commission members check records at the Gangimadi school in Gadag

MALINGARAYA PUJAR, GADAG

Serious irregularities in the management of the midday meal programme have come to light at Government Senior Urdu Primary School No. 7 in Gangimadi, Gadag city, following a surprise inspection by the Karnataka State Food Commission on November 19.

Karnataka State Food Commission Chairman Dr H. Krishna, accompanied by commission members, Gadag Assistant Commissioner Gangappa and officials from various departments, inspected the school to assess the quality of meals, food stocks and purchase records.

During the inspection, officials found several irregularities in bills and receipts related to the purchase of eggs, bananas and vegetables. Some receipts reportedly lacked basic details, including the quantity of items purchased and the names of suppliers. The serial numbers on certain egg purchase bills also raised questions about their authenticity.

The commission chairman expressed concern over payments made through cheques against receipts that did not contain complete information. Officials also found that the school's cash book had not been properly maintained for around one and a half months. Records related to food purchases and student attendance were also found to be inadequate.

The inspection further revealed poor sanitation and maintenance at the school. Toilets were found in an unhygienic condition, while the drinking water unit installed for students was not functioning properly.

Expressing concern over the findings, Dr H. Krishna questioned the lack of accountability in providing nutritious meals to children. He stressed that negligence in matters affecting students' health and welfare would not be tolerated.

The commission directed the authorities to issue a notice to the school's headmistress over the alleged lapses. It also raised concerns about the monitoring responsibilities of education department officials and sought accountability for failures in supervision.

The inspection has highlighted the need for proper financial records, regular monitoring and better facilities to ensure that government welfare benefits reach schoolchildren.

Papu seeks action against Srirangapatna officials

CH NEWS, MANDYA

Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha leader Mohankumar, popularly known as Kirangooru Papu, has urged the Mandya Deputy Commissioner to recommend disciplinary action against Srirangapatna Tahsildar Chetana Yadav and Sriranganathaswamy Temple Executive Officer M. Uma over alleged negligence in their duties.

CEO inspects rural employment works in Holalkere

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer Dr S. Akash inspected development works under the VB-G RAM G scheme in Holalkere taluk on Thursday. He visited Nulenur, Gunderi and other villages under Nulenur Gram Panchayat and reviewed the progress and quality of individual works.

During the visit, he inspected agricultural pits, soak pits and a tubewell water recharge unit in Nulenur village. He also examined agricultural pits in Gunderi and the quality of soak pit construction works. Interacting with women from self-help groups, he encouraged them to construct soak pits near their houses and maintain cleanliness in their villages.

Dr Akash personally checked workers' attendance through the National Mobile Monitoring System (NMMS) mobile application at the worksite. He also verified their job cards and bank passbooks and enquired whether wages were being credited regularly. He instructed officials to ensure timely payment of wages.

Addressing workers, he explained the employment benefits available under the scheme and encouraged rural families to make use of local employment opportunities instead of migrating to cities in search of work.

He also urged small and marginal farmers to take advantage of individual work opportunities. Referring to borewells provided under the Ganga Kalyana scheme, he said farmers could construct water recharge units on their agricultural land.

He said the scheme guarantees 125 days of wage employment to every eligible rural household in a financial year. In Karnataka, workers are paid ₹382 per day, irrespective of gender. He urged villagers to make use of the employment opportunities available locally.


Officials inspect rural employment works in Holalkere taluk

E-asset target by November 30

Reviewing the progress of the 'Land Guarantee' scheme, Dr Akash instructed Gram Panchayat officials to visit every household and collect applications from families that do not have e-asset certificates. He directed each Gram Panchayat to distribute at least 10 e-asset certificates every day and complete the target by November 30.

He asked Panchayat Development Officers (PDOs) and staff to treat the exercise as a priority campaign. He also instructed engineers from the drinking water and sanitation department to respond quickly to complaints and resolve drinking water problems in villages.

Taluk Panchayat Executive Officer Shivaprakash, VBGra Assistant Director Nataraj, GPM ADPC Mohan Kumar, District IEC Coordinator Rabindranath, Drinking Water and Sanitation Department Assistant Executive Engineer Shivamurthy, Taluk Technical Coordinator Pratap, PDOs, technical assistants, BFTs and Kayakamitras were present.

125 days of work a year for each household

₹382 daily wage, the same for all

10 e-asset certificates a day per panchayat

ELECTORAL ROLL REVISION

Chitradurga proposes six new polling booths

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

Deputy Commissioner S. Ramya chaired a meeting with representatives of various political parties on Friday at the Deputy Commissioner's office to discuss the Special Summary Revision (SSR) of electoral rolls for 2027. The meeting discussed a proposal to create six new polling stations across the district.

During the meeting, officials explained the Election Commission of India's guidelines for rationalising polling stations. The process considers factors such as damaged or unsuitable buildings, an increase in voter numbers, natural barriers and the distance voters must travel to reach polling stations.

Chitradurga district currently has 1,764 polling stations. If the proposed six new stations receive approval, the total will increase to 1,770. No changes have been proposed to the names or locations of existing polling stations.

In Molakalmuru Assembly constituency, a new polling station numbered 154A is proposed by dividing station 154 at Mallurahalli. The total will increase from 311 to 312.



In Challakere constituency, station 3A is proposed by dividing station 3 at Bogalerahatti, taking the total from 278 to 279.

In Chitradurga constituency, station 102A is proposed by dividing station 102 at Kakkihatti (H) Manangi.

The total will rise from 302 to 303.

Hiriyur constituency has three proposed additions. These include station 103A at Badarahalli, 258A at Vasantnagar, which is more than three kilometres from Uduvalli station, and a new station at Katrikenahalli, which is far from Paramenahalli station 260. The constituency's total will increase from 300 to 303.

No new polling stations have been proposed in Hosadurga and Holalkere constituencies, which have 258 and 315 stations respectively.

After discussions with political party representatives, the meeting decided to forward the proposals to the Election Commission for approval.

Voter list revision schedule

The integrated draft electoral roll will be published on December 1, 2026. Voters can submit claims and objections from December 1 to 31. The authorities will complete the disposal of objections by January 14, 2027, and publish the final voter list on January 20, 2027.

Form 6 can be submitted to include new voters' names, Form 7 for objections or deletion of names, and Form 8 for address changes and corrections.

Deputy Commissioner S. Ramya urged political party representatives to cooperate in identifying eligible voters and facilitating their enrolment through Booth Level Agents (BLAs).

Additional Deputy Commissioner B.T. Kumaraswamy, Election Tahsildar Bibi Fatima, District Press Secretary M. Junjanna and representatives of the Congress, JD(S), BJP, BSP and CPI(M) attended the meeting.

Roll revision 2027

- **DECEMBER 1, 2026** — Integrated draft roll published
- **DECEMBER 31, 2026** — Claims and objections close
- **JANUARY 14, 2027** — Objections disposed of
- **JANUARY 20, 2027** — Final voter list

Polling stations in the district

NOW **1,764** stations ▸ PROPOSED **1,770** with six new ones

IN THE COURT OF THE PRINCIPAL CIVIL JUDGE AND J.M.F.C., AT GUBBI.
Crl. Mis. No. 328 / 2026.

Petitioner: Sri Krishnajiravo S/o Late Nagendrarao, Aged about 48 years R/at: Bennuru Village, Kadaba Hobli, Gubbi Taluk, Tumkur District – 572219 V/s

Respondent: Chief Registrar of Birth & Death / The Tahsildar, Gubbi Taluk, Tumkur District

PAPER PUBLICATION

The petitioner has filed this petition under section 13(3) of the Birth and Death Registration Act 1969 before the Hon'ble JMFC., at Gubbi to get the Death Certificate of the grandfather of the petitioner by name JYOTHIRAO S/o Late Nanjundarao who died on 10/01/1980 at Bennuru Village, Kadaba Hobli, Gubbi Taluk, Tumkur District.for whih anybody having any objection may file their objections before the Hon'ble court on 7/1/2027 personally or through Advocate. If nobody files any objection, the matter will be heard and the certificate will be issued to the petitioner. Given under my seal and signature on this day of 06th November 2026

By order of the court
Shirasthedar, Hon'ble Prl. Civil Judge & J.M.F.C. Court, Gubbi.

Advocate for the petitioner: **Sri Muruli S,** Apurva Agencies 93, 1st floor, 3rd Main, 7th Cross Road, Chamrajpet, Bangalore – 560018

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PAPER PUBLICATION

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NAME CHANGE

I **MOHAMMED SIRAJUDDIN** S/o, Mohammed Amiruddin, resident of No 598, 8th Cross 2nd Stage Rajiv Nagar Mysuru Dist, 570019, Have Changed My Name From MOHAMED SIRAJUDDIN To **MOHAMMED SIRAJUDDIN** ,vide affidavit Sworn before Notary H S SAKLESH ARADHYA, Bengaluru Dated: 20.11.2026.

NAME CHANGE

I, **HALEEMA KHATOON QUTUBUDDIN KHAN**, W/o Omer Farooque, Residing at No.38/1-1, Royal Regency, Coles Road, Frazer Town, Bengaluru-560 005, have changed my name to **HALEEMA KHATOON**, vide affidavit dated: 07.11.2026, before Notary V. RAJASHEKHARA, Bengaluru

NAME CHANGE

I **NAGMA TAJ** D/o, Mohammed Naseer Khan, resident of No B - 54,1st Cross Mysore Road Near Govt SchoolOld Guddadahalli Mominpura Bengaluru Dist, 560026, Have Changed My Name From **NAGMA NASEER** To **NAGMA TAJ** ,vide affidavit Sworn before Notary H S SAKLESH ARADHYA, Bengaluru Dated: 20.11.2026.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to public at large **Mr. Mahadeva Swamy M and Mrs. Shwetha M,** Both are Residing at No.38, 3rd Cross, 2nd Main, Avalahalli, Girinagar, Bangalore - 560026. They both lost the Sale Deed of Document No.LAG-1-00281-2012-13, dated on 11-04-2012, They were lost at Near Avalahalli bus stop, Accordingly They were lodged the complainant on Bengaluru City Police with E-Lost dated: 19/11/2026 Report No.2545425/2026.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY: All the piece and parcel property bearing of Site No.51 Northern Portion, Assessment No.51, Khatha No.714, E-PID No.5815998448, Property No.714 28/51, Municipal No.28, BBMP Ward No.71, Situated at Hegganahalli Village, Yeshwanthapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Measuring East to West: 40 Feet's, and North to South: 15 Feet's, Totally measuring 600 sq. feet's bounded on **East by :** 20 Feet Road, **West by :** Site No.36, **North by :** Site No.27, **South by :** Property No.28 Southern Portion, If anyone finding the aforesaid document is hereby requested to hand over the same to our office at the address mentioned hereunder.

HARISHA .S, Advocate
#1479. DRLS PLAZA, Union Bank Building, T Dasarahalli, Bengaluru-560 057.
Mobile No. 90609 50265.

NAME CHANGE

I, **SHAHEEN**, W/o Amjad Pasha, resident of No 1520, 5th Cross, Corporation Colony, Vijayanagar, Bengaluru-560079, have changed my name to **SHAHEEN** TAJ, vide affidavit dated: 20.11.2026, before Notary MEER HASSAN, Bengaluru

NAME CHANGE

I, **ADIL AHMED ABDUL JABBAR**, S/o Abdul Jabbar, resident of No: 39/18, 4th Cross, BTM Layout, 1ST Stage, Dharmaram College Post, Bangalore – 560029. have changed my name to **ADIL AHMED**, vide affidavit dated: 20.11.2026, before Notary R Basavaraja, Bengaluru.

NAME CHANGE

I, **KARUNAKAR KARUMANCHI**, resident of No.C-4/5, State Bank Of India, Officers Flats, Binnyston Gardens, Magadi Road, Bengaluru-560 023, have changed my Minor daughte's name from **JOYCE K** to **JOYCE KARUMANCHI**, vide affidavit dated: 19.11.2026, before Notary FAHIM UNNISA, Bengaluru.

NAME CHANGE

I, **ALUMELAMMA R**. W/O C. Rajendran, Bheemanahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, years, residing at Heggadadevanakote Taluk, Mysore District, Karnataka State, in my Passport No: M5210330 it is mentioned Alumelu, but my correct name is **ALUMELAMMA R**, I declare that both names refer to me and belong solely to me. I affirm that the facts stated above are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, vide affidavit dated: 17.11.2026, before Notary VEERESH RAO BOBADE, Hunsur.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that my client **Mr. C.Vinayagam, S/o.Chinnaswamy A.K,** residing at #529, 11 M B Staff Qtrs., Bangalore South, Bilekahalli, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560076. My client have owned the property by through Registered Sale Deed Document No.25636/02/03, dated: 10-02-2003, now my Client availing loan from Piramal Finance Ltd, if any person/persons objecting for the proposed purchase or having any rights, title and interest over the schedule property may forward their objections or claims to the undersigned in writing with supporting documents within seven (07) days from the date of this publication. if there were to be no response to this notice within the time stipulated, my client will proceed with the Loan. Any response after the expiry of the stipulated time, the same will be ignored.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY: All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing House No.20A, Assessment No.96/1, Katha No.216,E-PID No. 4261729877, Property No. 96/1/216/20A, situated at Hennuru Village, Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Measuring East to West: 30 Feet, North to South : 29 Feet, in all Measuring 870 Sq. Feet, and bounded on the **East By :** Road, **West By :** Others Property, **North By:** Property No.20, sold to Mrs.Kanakamma, **South by :** Property No.19.

HARISHA .S, Advocate
#1479. DRLS PLAZA, Union Bank Building, T Dasarahalli, Bengaluru-560 057.
Mobile No. 90609 50265.

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

Quick Read

Udupi invites proposals for MSME interest subsidy

CH NEWS, UDUPI

The District Industries Centre has invited proposals from eligible new micro and small manufacturing units for interest subsidy under a World Bank-supported programme. Units that commenced commercial production on or after September 4, 2024, are eligible. The scheme offers a 6 per cent interest subsidy for up to 12 months on term loans of up to Rs. 1 crore, subject to a maximum benefit of Rs. 6 lakh. Trading and service businesses are excluded. Interested entrepreneurs can submit proposals through their respective bank branches to the District Industries Centre, Manipal.

For details, contact 0820-2575650 or 0820-2575655.

Power supply to be disrupted in two areas

CH NEWS, CHIKKABALLAPURA

Power supply will be disrupted in parts of Chikkaballapura district on November 22 due to scheduled maintenance work at two power receiving stations.

At the Mittemari 220/66/11 kV power receiving station, maintenance work will be carried out from 10 am to 5 pm. Power supply will be affected in Peresandra, Mandikal, Somenahalli, Bagepally, Sadali, Mittemari, Thimmampalli, Somanathapura, Chelur, Patapallya, Chakavelu, Gulur, Julapallya, Vatadahosahalli and surrounding villages.

Similarly, maintenance work at the Chintamani 220/66 kV station will disrupt supply from 9 am to 5 pm in Chintamani, Mastenahalli, Shidlaghatta, Melur, Jangamkote and other surrounding areas.

Executive Engineers P.G. Ramesh Kumar and K. Sreenath requested consumers to cooperate.

Youth dies after falling into open manhole

CH NEWS, HOLENARASIPURA

A 30-year-old man died after falling into an open manhole while attempting to rescue a goat in a private layout near Mallappahalli village in Holenarasipura taluk.

The deceased was identified as Girish. The nearly 30-foot-deep manhole was reportedly left uncovered. While grazing his goats, Girish noticed one had fallen into it and attempted to rescue the animal. However, he lost his balance and fell inside.

The manhole was filled with sewage water, making the rescue operation difficult. Fire department personnel rushed to the spot to recover his body, but heavy sewage flow hampered the operation.Girish's family blamed the layout owners for leaving the manhole uncovered and demanded accountability.

'Teachers play key role in protecting children's rights'

Nagaveni urged teaching children safety, boundaries and abuse awareness, while teachers foster environments where they can openly share problems.



CH NEWS, GADAG

Teachers have an important responsibility in ensuring children's safety and protecting their rights, Principal District and Sessions Judge and District Legal Services Authority Chairperson Nagaveni said.

She was speaking after inaugurating a teacher training programme organised under Phase II of the 'Safe Childhood Campaign' on November 20 at the Gadag District Court premises. The programme was jointly organised by the District Legal Services Authority, district administration, Zilla Panchayat, lawyers' association, police, education department and Women and Child Development Department.

Nagaveni said children must be taught to recognise potential dangers from strangers as well as familiar people. She stressed the importance of creating awareness about personal safety, bodily boundaries and protection from abuse. Teachers should also build a friendly atmosphere where children can share their problems without fear, she said.

District Government Lawyers' Association vice-president M.A. Sanganala presided over the programme. He said teachers and society had a shared responsibility to protect children and help them become responsible citizens.

Deputy Director of School Education K.D. Badiger said child safety must be given priority in schools. He urged teachers to identify cases of violence, harassment and abuse and take appropriate action.

189 schools in Gadag district sent two teachers each for the training

District Legal Services Authority Member-Secretary C.S. Shivana Gowdra said two teachers from each of 189 schools in Gadag district had been selected for the training. He explained the POCSO Act, child rights, prevention of child marriage and free legal aid services.

Deputy Superintendent of Police Mahantesh Sajjana spoke about child protection, cybercrime, internet safety, mobile phone use and legal procedures for reporting offences.

Child Welfare Committee Chairperson Jayadevi Kavalur spoke about child protection laws, the Juvenile Justice Act, adoption procedures and helplines 1098, 15100 and 112.

Chief Legal Aid Advocate S.V. Grampurohit was present. Basavaraj Kukanur coordinated the programme, while Gururaj Gowri welcomed the gathering.

Advice to teachers

Judge Nagaveni
Teach children to spot danger from strangers and familiar people alike

K.D. Badiger
Make child safety a priority; identify violence, harassment and abuse

C.S. Shivana Gowdra
The POCSO Act, child rights, child marriage and free legal aid

DySP Mahantesh Sajjana
Cybercrime, internet safety, mobile phones and reporting offences

Jayadevi Kavalur
Juvenile Justice Act, adoption and helplines 1098, 15100 and 112

Hostel students protest over poor facilities in Lakshmeshwara



The Minority Welfare Department's post-matric boys' hostel in Lakshmeshwara

MALINGARAYA PUJAR, LAKSHMESHWARA

Students of the Minority Welfare Department's post-matric boys' hostel in Lakshmeshwara staged a protest on Friday, alleging poor food quality, unhygienic conditions and lack of basic facilities. The students expressed their anger by bringing the warden's chair outside the hostel and demanding action.

The students alleged that the hostel premises were filled with garbage and that discarded beds had not been cleared. They also complained that wheat stored for cooking was infested with worms and that unhygienic food was being prepared using the ration. According to them, the meals were of poor quality, and snacks had not been provided for nearly a year. Some students said they had stopped eating food since Thursday in protest.

They further alleged that the hostel's water tank was dirty and emitted a foul smell, causing skin irritation. The drinking water unit was reportedly damaged and rusty. The washing machine was also not functioning.

Students Irfan Machenahalli and Dadapeer Walikara alleged that personal hygiene kits, including coconut oil and soap, were not distributed regularly. They also pointed out the absence of computers, delays in newspaper delivery and restricted access to library books.

Warden accused of threatening language

The students accused the warden of ignoring their complaints and using threatening language when they raised concerns about food and facilities. They also claimed that several students had left the hostel due to the poor conditions.Students Hanumantha Hurali, Abdul Nadaf, Ajmeer Shirahatti, Vinod Mailari, Mahantesh Badni, Hasanasab Nadaf, Mahantesh Kuri and Pirsaba Nadaf participated in the protest.

Where is the ration going?

LAKSHMESHWARA: When journalists questioned Warden Raju Talawara about the serious allegations of the students, he hesitated to answer. Though 40 students were enrolled in the hostel, only 15 to 20 were present. When asked, "Where are the remaining students?", the warden said, "They are on leave," and hesitated to show the information of those who have taken leave or the attendance register. "I will give it only to the taluk officials," he replied curtly. Where is the ration released in the names of the absent students going? Even when asked to provide the daily biometric attendance list, the warden did not have an answer. It is being said that all this chaos is because departmental superiors visit when the students are absent.

Skill training can help women become self-reliant

CH NEWS, HUNSUR

Skill-based training is essential for women to become economically independent, said B.M. Tajuddin, Sub-Inspector of Nagar Police Station.

He was speaking at a certificate distribution and new training batch inauguration programme organised by Viveka Gramin Livelihood Centre, an initiative of Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement, at the Nagar Taluk Panchayat auditorium.

Certificates were distributed to candidates who successfully completed three-month beautician and fashion designing courses. A new batch of trainees was also inaugurated during the programme.

Addressing the gathering, Tajuddin encouraged the trainees to make effective use of the knowledge and skills gained through the courses to build independent livelihoods.

Self-reliance

Rotary Club president Dharmapura Shamanna said skill development programmes provide women with better opportunities to achieve financial independence and improve their living conditions.

Certificates for three-month beautician and fashion designing courses

Taluk Journalists' Association president H.R. Krishnakumar said women should not be considered dependent on others. He encouraged them to utilise available opportunities, develop their abilities and start their own businesses to become self-reliant.

Viveka Gramin Livelihood Centre Senior Manager P.D. Nayak said skill-based training plays an important role in improving women's economic conditions. He urged trainees to use their newly acquired skills through employment and self-employment and contribute to their families' financial well-being.

Later, certificates were distributed to all candidates who had successfully completed the training. The newly enrolled trainees were also welcomed and wished success in their learning journey.

Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement Assistant Manager Raju K., Training Coordinator Chandresh and staff members Madanayaka, Umashankar, Pradeep, Shivakumar, Pallavi and Geeta were present.

Yakshagana belongs to everyone, says Prof Samaga

CH NEWS, UDUPI

Yakshagana has gained recognition as a disciplined folk art of coastal Karnataka, former Karnataka Yakshagana Academy president Prof. M.L. Samaga said.

Speaking at an interaction with students at Sharada Residential School, Kunjibettu, he said every region of Karnataka had contributed to the state's cultural identity. He added that Yakshagana belonged to everyone and was not limited to men. Artists should gain wider experience, develop curiosity and continue learning throughout their lives, he said.

Recalling his 60-year journey in Yakshagana, Samaga said performing on stage helped artists overcome personal difficulties.

Joint Director of the Department of Kannada and Culture, Mysuru Division, Nirmala Mathapathy, said cultural traditions were valuable assets that must be preserved and passed on to future generations.

Vidwantha Acharya inaugurated the interaction programme. Assistant Director Purnima welcomed the gathering, while Akshay Hegde proposed the vote of thanks.

YOUTH DIES AFTER FALLING INTO OPEN MANHOLE

CH NEWS, HOLENARASIPURA

A 30-year-old man died after falling into an open manhole while attempting to rescue a goat in a private layout near Mallappahalli village in Holenarasipura taluk.

The deceased was identified as Girish. The nearly 30-foot-deep manhole was reportedly left uncovered. While grazing his goats, Girish noticed one had fallen into it and attempted to rescue the animal. However, he lost his balance and fell inside.

The manhole was filled with sewage water, making the rescue operation difficult. Fire department personnel rushed to the spot to recover.

Mangaluru court sentences murder accused to life imprisonment

CH NEWS, MANGALURU

The Second Additional District and Sessions Court in Mangaluru has sentenced Santu alias Santosh to life imprisonment in a murder case dating back to November 2020. The court also acquitted the second accused, Siddappa, due to insufficient evidence.

According to the case details, Santosh had previously worked at the house of Surendran in Malli Layout, Gandhinagar, under Kavoor police station limits. On November 3, 2020, Santosh and his friend Siddappa approached Surendran demanding payment for their earlier work. An argument reportedly broke out during the discussion.

Attacked with a blade

During the confrontation, Santosh attacked Surendran with a paper-cutting blade, injuring his neck, face and head. He also allegedly hit him with an exercise rod, causing his death. Kavoor police registered a case and began an investigation.

The investigation was conducted by then-Kavoor Police Inspector Raghav Padil, who arrested the accused and filed a chargesheet before the court. Judge Jagadish V.N. heard the case and delivered the verdict.

Sentences and fines

The court sentenced Santosh to life imprisonment under Section 302 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), along with a fine of Rs. 25,000. Failure to pay the fine will attract an additional year's imprisonment. Under Section 392, he was sentenced to two years' imprisonment and fined Rs. 5,000. Under Section 201, he received six months' imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 2,000. Additional jail terms were prescribed for non-payment of these fines.Of the total fine of Rs. 32,000, Rs. 25,000 will be paid to Surendran's wife as compensation, while Rs. 7,000 will go to the government. Public Prosecutor Jyothi Pramod Nayak represented the government.

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕೆ.ಆರ್. ವೃತ್ತ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ವಿದ್ಯುತ್), ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಇವರ ವತಿಯಿಂದ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ KW-1 STD ಷರತ್ತಿಗೊಳಪಟ್ಟಂತೆ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಮೂಲಕ ಮೊದಲನೇ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿವೆ.

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ.	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಹೆಸರು	ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಮೀಸಲಾತಿ ವರ್ಗ
1	PWD/2026-27/EL/WORK_INDENT45604	ರೂ.5.08	ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ವರ್ಗ
2	PWD/2026-27/EL/WORK_INDENT45465	ರೂ.5.08	ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ವರ್ಗ
3	PWD/2026-27/EL/WORK_INDENT45460	ರೂ.5.51	ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ವರ್ಗ
4	PWD/2026-27/EL/WORK_INDENT45464	ರೂ.5.08	ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ 2ಎ ವರ್ಗ
5	PWD/2026-27/EL/WORK_INDENT45601	ರೂ.7.63	ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ–1
6	PWD/2026-27/EL/WORK_INDENT45602	ರೂ.6.78	ಎಸ್.ಟಿ. ವರ್ಗ
7	PWD/2026-27/EL/WORK_INDENT45468	ರೂ.6.36	ಎಸ್.ಸಿ. ವರ್ಗ

ಮೇಲಿನ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಇಚ್ಛಿಸುವವರು ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು **ದಿನಾಂಕ:16.11.2026** ರಿಂದ **30.11.2026, 16.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ** ಹಾಗೂ ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಹಿಂತಿರುಗಿಸಲು **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 30.11.2026 ರಂದು 16.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ** ಕಾಲಾವಕಾಶ ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿಯನ್ನು ಕೆಲಸದ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು(ವಿ)
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಉನಿ–ಸಿ.ಪಿ/3812/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2026–27

MAHANAGARA PALIKE, KALABURAGI
Fax No.08472/260776, Phone: 08472/ 278675, Email Id: itstaff_ulb_gulbarga@yahoo.com

No: KMP/EE/TS-02/15th FC NMPC/NCAP 2025-26/2026-27 Date: 19.11.2026

KARNATAKA PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PORTAL
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION NO: 11/2025-26

1) Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike, Kalaburagi invites 8 tender works as per KTPP Act, 1999 and Rules, 2000 through KPPP Portal 2.0 for works in KW- 1,2,3&4 Tender bid documents 15th FC 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24 Savings, 2024-25 SFC Untied TSP/C.O.W, 2026-27 SFC UNTIED (CAPITAL ASSET, SCSP/TSP), 15th FC 2023-24 & 2024-25 NMPC Grant & NCAP 2025-26 Grant for 7 Days Short Term Tender.

The bid documents can download from KPPP Portal website and any information related to these tenders will be updated on **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

2) Estimate Sanction cost: lowest amount Rs. 15.00 lakhs & Highest amount **Rs. 415.00 lakhs.** 3) EMD Value: Lowest Rs. 31,300.00 & Highest Rs. 5,17,500.00, 4) Pre Bid Meeting date: **26.11.2026 upto 11-00 am.**4) Last date of Bid Submission: **30.11.2026 upto 4-30 pm.** 5) Technical Bid Opening date: **01.12.2026 upto 4-35 pm.** 6) Financial Bid Opening date: **02.12.2026 after 11:30 am.** 7) Office Address : Executive Engineer, Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike, Kalaburagi. 8) For more details visit Office Website **http://www.kalaburagicity.mrc.gov.in/**

Note: All subsequent corrigendum/amendment shall be published only on website and not in press. Hence, tenderers are advoised to always be in touch with our said website until the tender is finally opened.

DIPR/Kalaburagi/696/KSMC&A/2026-27

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike, Kalaburagi.

BJP leaders seek arrest over Basavanna remarks

CH NEWS, BIDAR

BJP leaders in Bidar have demanded the immediate arrest of NRI writer Ravi Hanj over his alleged derogatory remarks about social reformer Mahatma Basavanna in his book 'Basava Mantapa', which they claim mocks Basavanna's philosophy.

Bidar South MLA and BJP State Secretary Dr. Shailendra Beldale and district BJP president Somnath Patil issued a statement demanding strict legal action against the writer.

They alleged that Hanj's statements were baseless and had hurt the sentiments of Basavanna's followers in Karnataka and across the world. They also welcomed the reported government decision to confiscate the controversial book but insisted that the writer should be arrested immediately.

The leaders described Basavanna as a great humanist who worked towards building an equal society without discrimination based on caste, colour or gender.

They said his teachings and principles promoted equality and were relevant to all sections of society.

They further stated that Basavanna's philosophy was not restricted to any particular caste or community but aimed at the welfare of humanity. According to them, criticism that misrepresents the social reformer's contributions cannot be accepted.

The BJP leaders warned that insulting the contributions and philosophy of great saints, sharanas and social reformers would not be tolerated. They said their party would continue to defend Basavanna's legacy and ideology.

They also warned that the party would launch a protest if the government failed to arrest Ravi Hanj and take strict legal action against him.

The statement was issued by Nagesh Sidda, assistant media coordinator to Bidar South MLA Dr. Shailendra Beldale.

Quick Read

FIIs pump record Rs 1.01 lakh cr into Indian equities in Nov

NEW DELHI

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) have pumped a record Rs 1.01 lakh crore into Indian equities so far in November, which is the highest-ever monthly inflow that ended a 16-month-long selling streak, according to a report. The November inflows have surpassed the previous monthly record of Rs 70,896 crore recorded in November 2020, it added. The turnaround comes after foreign investors remained net sellers for 16 consecutive months between July 2025 and October 2026 and withdrew a cumulative Rs 6.32 lakh crore from Indian equities.

Q2 profits grow at fastest pace since December 2023

NEW DELHI

Corporate India delivered a broad-based earnings recovery in the second quarter of FY27, with profits growing at the fastest pace since December 2023 and beating market expectations, a report said on Friday. According to the earnings review, 67 per cent of companies either met or exceeded expectations during the quarter. Excluding commodity firms, sales rose 17 per cent year-on-year (YoY), while net income increased 19 per cent, marking the strongest quarterly performance in nearly three years. The earnings rebound was led by mid- and small-cap companies, which reported profit growth of 30 per cent and 32 per cent, respectively.



India's water demand could exceed supply by 54 bcm by 2050

NEW DELHI

India's water constraints are emerging as a site-specific operating, regulatory and financial risk for businesses, requiring companies to integrate local water exposure into operational planning, capital allocation and business continuity, a report said on Friday.

The report from CareEdge Ratings said India's water demand could reach 1,180 billion cubic metres (bcm) by 2050 under a high-demand scenario, exceeding the country's utilisable water resources of 1,126 bcm.



Jefferies' Wood raises India equity allocation to 15%

NEW DELHI

Jefferies' Global Head of Equity Strategy Christopher Wood has increased exposure to Indian equities for the second time in his Asia-Pacific ex-Japan relative-return portfolio, citing growing concerns over valuations in global technology and artificial intelligence (AI)-linked stocks.

The latest portfolio adjustment raised India's allocation to 15% while reducing Taiwan's weighting by an equivalent amount, the second increase in India's exposure within less than a month.

'Modi echoing Cong on jobs, wages'

Jairam Ramesh accuses Modi of repeating the Opposition's concerns over stagnant wages, weak investment and inadequate job creation.

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's remarks on employment and stagnant wages at a FICCI event have drawn a sharp response from Congress leader Jairam Ramesh, who said the Prime Minister had echoed concerns repeatedly raised by the Opposition but had failed to acknowledge the government's responsibility for the economic difficulties.

Addressing the FICCI Annual General Meeting and Annual Convention, Modi questioned Indian businesses over whether they had generated more employment opportunities and increased employee incomes after benefiting from corporate tax reductions and other economic reforms introduced by the government.

Reacting to the remarks on Friday, Congress MP Jairam



Ramesh said leading industrialists attending the event might have been surprised to hear the Prime Minister acknowledge issues that the Congress had highlighted for years.

In a post on X, Ramesh said Modi had repeated concerns raised by the Congress, including in its manifesto for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. He said the Opposition's warnings had previously been dismissed as being disconnected from reality.

However, the Congress leader argued that Modi had not presented the complete picture. He blamed the BJP-led government's economic policies for the difficulties facing the Indian economy.

Ramesh also alleged that the Centre had encouraged an unprecedented concentration of economic power across industries and created an atmosphere of fear and intimidation that had weakened investor confidence.

Questioning the government's approach, he asked how businesses could be expected to invest when they lacked confidence in government policies and actions.

Three concerns

- Stagnant wages
- Limited investment growth despite tax cuts
- Too little growth in jobs

The FICCI remarks

- → Modi questions India Inc. over employment and salary growth
- → Congress says the Prime Minister echoed its longstanding concerns
- → Opposition blames government policies for economic difficulties
- → Congress alleges declining investor confidence and concentrated economic power

Gujarat invites Assam industries to invest



Gujarat's share

of India's manufacturing output **17%**

of India's merchandise exports **25%**

GANDHINAGAR

The Gujarat government has invited industries and entrepreneurs from Assam to explore investment and collaboration opportunities in sectors including semiconductors, renewable energy, oil and gas, and advanced manufacturing ahead of the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit (VGGS) 2027.

The invitation was extended at a roadshow held in Guwahati, bringing together industrialists and government representatives from both states to identify potential areas of cooperation and to strengthen business partnerships.

Gujarat Tribal Development, Khadi, Cottage and Rural Industries Minister Naresh Patel led the state delegation and highlighted the complementary industrial strengths of Gujarat and Assam. He said closer cooperation between the two states could create opportunities for innovation, employment and economic growth.

Patel pointed out that Assam has developed strong capabilities in oil and gas and services, while Gujarat has established industrial infrastructure, ports, semiconductor capabilities, renewable energy and global connectivity.

According to details shared at the roadshow, Gujarat accounts for 17 per cent of India's manufacturing output and 25 per cent of its merchandise exports.

Before the event, Patel, Gujarat Energy Limited Managing Director Avantika Singh and other delegation members interacted with industrial representatives from Guwahati and other parts of Assam to explore potential business partnerships.

India highlights digital accessibility initiatives



NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has highlighted India's efforts to promote digital accessibility and inclusion for persons with disabilities during discussions with United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Heba Hagrass.

According to an official statement issued on Friday, the discussions took place during Hagrass's official visit to India from November 16 to 25, 2026.

During the interaction, MeitY presented several initiatives aimed at making digital platforms, government websites and information and communication technology services more accessible.

These included the Guidelines for Indian Government Websites and Apps (GIGW) 3.0, aligned with Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1 Level AA, and Indian Standard IS 17802 for accessibility of ICT products and services.

The ministry also highlighted accessibility certification through STQC, which has certified websites and applications belonging to 73 ministries and departments. Digital testing tools such as SugamyaWeb and SATYA were also showcased.

Other initiatives included UX4G, which has provided user experience audit and design support to more than 400 government websites and applications. Its accessibility widget is currently used by over 1,800 websites.

MeitY also presented inclusive digital services such as Bhashini, UMANG, Namaste Bharat AI citizen guide and Divyang Sarthi, which provides virtual reality-based learning content for persons with intellectual disabilities.

Accessibility drive

- **73 ministries and departments:** websites and apps certified through STQC
- **400-plus platforms:** UX4G audit and design support
- **1,800-plus websites:** using the UX4G accessibility widget
- **UMANG:** citizen services in 23 languages
- **Divyang Sarthi:** virtual reality-based learning for persons with intellectual disabilities

Quality healthcare must reach remote areas: Murmu

NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu on Friday urged young medical professionals to work towards making quality healthcare accessible to all sections of society, particularly people living in remote and underserved areas, while addressing the 12th Convocation Ceremony of the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Medical Sciences (ABVIMS) and Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital in the national capital.

The convocation ceremony, held at Vigyan Bhawan, was attended by Union Health and Family Welfare Minister J.P. Nadda and marked an important milestone for graduating medical students.

Congratulating the graduates, the President lauded the significant representation of women among the outgoing batch and said their achievements reflected the growing participation of women in medical education and the healthcare sector.



She also highlighted the role of Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital in providing extensive clinical exposure to students, noting that more than 19 lakh patients availed outpatient services at the hospital in 2025, enabling students to gain practical experience and strengthen their clinical skills.

Reflecting on the progress made in the healthcare sector over the past decade, Murmu said sustained government initiatives had strengthened the delivery of healthcare from primary care to tertiary services.

She said around 1.75 lakh Ayushman Arogya Mandirs are operational across the country, expanding access to primary healthcare.

The President also highlighted efforts to expand advanced healthcare and medical education beyond metropolitan cities into Tier-2 and Tier-3 centres, helping people access specialised treatment closer to their homes.

The President also underlined the importance of financial protection in healthcare, highlighting the contribution of the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, which provides health coverage of up to Rs 5 lakh per family annually.

She said the scheme has helped reduce the burden of hospitalisation expenses and improved access to quality healthcare for economically weaker sections. On healthcare innovation, Murmu stressed the need to integrate traditional systems of medicine with modern medical practices.

FM holds 8th pre-Budget meet with labour sector

NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday chaired the eighth pre-Budget consultation with the stakeholders from employment and labour sectors in connection with the upcoming Union Budget 2027-28.

The meeting was also attended by Anuradha Thakur, Secretary of the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), Ministry of Finance, and senior officials from the Labour Ministry, according to an official statement.

FM Sitharaman earlier chaired the pre-Budget consultation with the experts from the infrastructure, energy, and sustainability sectors.

She also held meetings with experts and stakeholders from the Information Technology sector in connection with the



Strengthen PLI schemes to raise manufacturing's share of GDP to 25%: Assocham

Union Budget 2027-28, stakeholders from the capital markets, banking, financial services and insurance sector, and stakeholders from the MSMEs sector and startup ecosystem.

According to the industry, the government should focus on advanced manufacturing, MSME competitiveness and energy security along with a dedicated production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for robotics and the restoration of enhanced tax incentives for research and development.

Meanwhile, FICCI said the government should restore the long-term capital gains (LTCG) tax exemption on listed securities and implement a calibrated increase in securities transaction tax (STT) on delivery-based transactions to protect government revenues.

The FICCI also called for the establishment of a dedicated development finance framework for manufacturing in the Budget. The industry body proposed a graded LTCG tax structure, with lower tax rates for longer holding periods and complete exemption for investments held beyond three years.

India's agri exports surge in April-Sept

NEW DELHI

India's agricultural exports recorded strong growth during the April-September period in the current financial year, led by Basmati rice, processed frozen potatoes and yellow dent corn, according to an official statement issued on Friday.

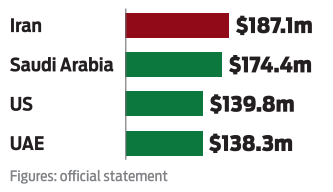
Basmati rice exports increased 25.4% to $1.6 billion, while processed potato exports rose 20.8% to cross $179 million. Yellow dent corn exports surged around 12-fold. Strong growth in exports across West Asia, East and Southeast Asia, and other international markets reflects the widening geographical reach of India's agricultural and processed food exports, the statement said.

The surge in Basmati rice exports was recorded across several important markets in West Asia, North America, and other regions. Iran emerged as the largest destination for India's Basmati exports, with the value of shipments increasing by 44.1%, from $129.8 million to $187.1 million. Saudi Arabia recorded a growth of 7.9%, with exports rising to $174.4 million, while the United States registered an increase of 27.7%, with shipments climbing to $139.8 million.



Basmati's top buyers

Exports, April-September, in $ million



Figures: official statement

India's exports of frozen potatoes increased 20.8%, from $148.5 million to $179.4 million during April–September in FY 2026–27. Growth was recorded across several markets, particularly in East and Southeast Asia.

The Philippines remained the leading export destination, with shipments reaching $36.7 million, followed by Saudi Arabia at $24.3 million. Indonesia registered strong growth of 75%, with exports rising to $13.3 million. Exports to Japan more than doubled to $13.2 million.

SELF-RELIANCE IN ANIMAL HEALTHCARE

PM hails indigenous vaccines for livestock, poultry

NEW DELHI

India is strengthening its veterinary healthcare capabilities with the development of indigenous vaccines to protect livestock and poultry from infectious diseases, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighting the progress made over the past 12 years.

In a statement on Friday, the Prime Minister said several significant initiatives had been undertaken to improve farmers' prosperity and empower rural India. He noted



that indigenous vaccine development had helped safeguard animal health, minimise disease-related losses, improve farmers' incomes and enhance the quality of life of farming communities.

Modi also highlighted the growing capabilities of India in veterinary healthcare, describing the development of domestic vaccines as an important step towards building a resilient and self-reliant agricultural ecosystem. He referred to an article by Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, which explained how indigenous vaccines were helping protect livestock and poultry against infectious diseases.

> **"Indigenous vaccine development is helping protect livestock and poultry, reduce disease-related losses and improve farmers' incomes."**
>
> — **Narendra Modi,** Prime Minister

Meanwhile, Chouhan was scheduled to dedicate India's first indigenous vaccine against the H5N1 strain of highly pathogenic avian influenza, commonly known as bird flu, to the nation.

Developed by the Bhopal-based ICAR-National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases (ICAR-NIHSAD), the vaccine marks an important development in strengthening the country's poultry disease-control infrastructure.

Bird flu outbreaks can cause significant economic disruption through mass culling, trade restrictions and declining poultry product prices, resulting in substantial financial losses for farmers.

Since India reported its first case in 2006, the country has witnessed more than 500 outbreaks involving the H5N1 and H5N8 subtypes.

Official estimates suggest a major outbreak could reduce India's GDP growth by 1.5% and put more than 20% of the country's poultry population at risk.

THE BRICS PARLIAMENTARY FORUM: A COMMITMENT TO PEACE AND A JUST WORLD ORDER



LALIT GARG

At a time when the world is grappling with grave challenges such as wars, regional conflicts, economic instability, terrorism, trade tensions and climate change, the true value of international cooperation lies not merely in diplomatic declarations, but in its ability to bring about positive and tangible changes in the lives of ordinary people. Against this backdrop, the 12th BRICS Parliamentary Forum, held on October 26–27, 2026, at Samvidhan Sadan in New Delhi, emerged as a significant opportunity to strengthen global democratic dialogue, people-centric development and multilateral cooperation. Convened under India's chairmanship, the forum reinforces the conviction that lasting solutions to the world's problems lie not in confrontation, domination or narrow national interests, but in dialogue, consensus and shared responsibility. The forum's most important message is that the true purpose of development extends beyond economic prosperity; it is to ensure dignity, security, opportunity and well-being for every individual. Growth in gross domestic product, technological advancement, expanding trade and infrastructure development acquire real meaning only when their benefits reach the most disadvantaged sections of society. If poverty, hunger, unemployment, inequality and social deprivation persist amid the glitter of progress, claims of development remain incomplete. People-centric development must, therefore, become an indispensable benchmark for global policymaking.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla's emphasis on parliamentary dialogue, democratic values and the primacy of public welfare assumes particular significance in this context. Parliament is the soul of democracy. It is not merely a lawmaking institution; it represents the aspirations, grievances, rights and expectations of the people. The responsibility of parliamentarians is not confined to endorsing government decisions. It also requires them to scrutinise policies, raise issues of public concern and hold those in power accountable. When elected representatives from different countries come together on a common platform to exchange experiences and ideas, the strength of parliamentary democracy can transcend national boundaries and become an instrument of global welfare. The relevance of this forum is further heightened by the contradictions confronting the contemporary world. On the one hand, advances in science, communication and artificial intelligence have endowed humanity with unprecedented capabilities; on the other, wars, mistrust, arms races and economic inequalities have cast uncertainty over the future of humankind. In such circumstances, parliamentarians share the responsibility of aligning their respective national policies with the broader objectives of human welfare, peace and justice. Dialogue among legislatures enriches executive diplomacy with the insights and experiences of elected representatives while promoting transparency and democratic accountability in international decision-making.

The four major pillars of the BRICS Parliamentary Forum—institutional resilience, innovation, cooperation and sustainable development—are of exceptional significance for the future of global politics. Institutional resilience is essential to ensure that democratic institutions remain capable, effective and accountable even in times of crisis. The use of artificial intelligence and digital technologies must be guided by ethical principles, transparency and the protection of human interests, ensuring that technology becomes an instrument of empowerment rather than a source of inequality and control. Similarly, sustainable development entails striking a balance between



economic progress and environmental protection. No country can confront the climate crisis in isolation; a fair sharing of resources, knowledge and responsibilities is indispensable.

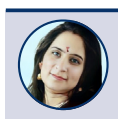
Another significant dimension of the forum is its potential to amplify the voice of the Global South, particularly developing countries, in international decision-making. A substantial proportion of the world's population lives in these countries, yet their aspirations and concerns have not always received adequate representation in the global financial system, international trade rules and multilateral institutions. Challenges such as food security, access to fertilisers, affordable energy, mounting debt burdens and inadequate financial resources for development affect the lives of millions of people. In this context, parliamentarians from BRICS countries must strive to ensure that global policies do not remain confined to the interests of powerful nations, but also reflect the genuine needs and priorities of developing societies.

India's role in this regard is particularly noteworthy. Through its democratic traditions, diverse social fabric, development experience and commitment to international cooperation, India can serve as a bridge between nations and facilitate meaningful dialogue. India's strength lies not merely in its economic capabilities or population, but also in its democratic capacity to embrace diversity and build consensus amid differences. Hosting this forum in New Delhi lends fresh momentum to India's parliamentary diplomacy. India must ensure that BRICS cooperation does not become an instrument of dominance by any single country, but remains a platform for advancing the shared interests of all member and partner countries. In his inaugural address, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla emphasised that the true success of BRICS would be measured by its ability to translate dialogue into concrete outcomes. He also underscored the need to connect the aspirations of young people with meaningful opportunities and to make development and environmental protection mutually reinforcing rather than competing priorities. These ideas offer important direction for the future.

Providing the world's young population with quality education, skills, employment and opportunities for innovation is not merely the responsibility of individual national governments; it is also an essential component of global cooperation. If the energy and aspirations of young people are not channelled constructively, frustration and inequality may fuel social instability. Similarly, a coordinated strategy against terrorism, respect for international law and reforms in global institutions such as the United Nations have become indispensable imperatives of our time. India has highlighted cooperation against terrorism and the need for a more representative global governance system as important subjects for parliamentary dialogue. International institutions will gain credibility only when they treat all countries fairly and play an effective role in resolving global crises. Peace does not simply mean the absence of war; it also implies a life free from fear, equitable opportunities and the protection of human dignity.

Ultimately, the true significance of the 12th BRICS Parliamentary Forum lies in reminding parliamentarians across the world of their fundamental responsibility: they are not merely representatives of people within their respective national boundaries, but also partners in shaping a shared human future. The message emerging from Samvidhan Sadan is unequivocal: democracy derives its true meaning from public trust, accountable institutions and policies that produce humane and tangible outcomes. This forum will prove historic only when its deliberations translate into concrete policies, effective legislation and visible improvements in people's lives. Today, the world needs not merely powerful nations, but sensitive leadership, responsible legislatures and policies inspired by a deeply humanistic vision. Under India's chairmanship, the BRICS Parliamentary Forum offers hope that dialogue can reduce conflict, cooperation can narrow inequalities, and democracy can make development more humane and inclusive. That is the message of this forum, the source of its relevance and the foremost requirement for building a peaceful, inclusive and just world order.

CHILDREN'S INTERNET RIGHTS: WE NEED A SECURE DIGITAL WORLD, NOT RESTRICTIONS



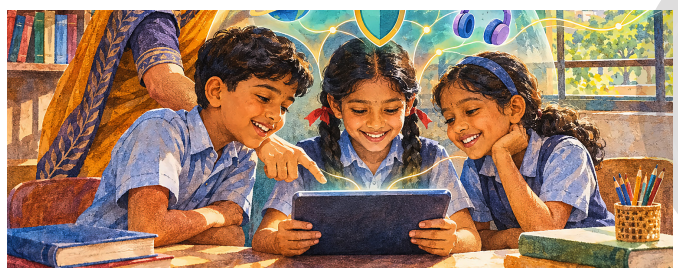
DR. PRIYANKA SAURABH

Keeping children away from the internet in the digital age limits their rights to education, expression, and information. What is needed is not blanket bans, but responsible use, effective monitoring, and a safe digital environment.

In the twenty-first century, the internet is no longer just a medium of entertainment or communication, but has become a vital source of education, information, expression, and social participation. For children in particular, the digital world opens new doors of knowledge. At such a time, completely depriving children of internet access is tantamount to limiting their opportunities for development. The Supreme Court, in its approach to children's right to internet access, has clarified that blanket restrictions in the name of security are not an appropriate solution. The importance of digital access is also reflected in the broad interpretation of the right to freedom of expression under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution and the right to life and personal liberty under Article 21. However, this right does not mean that children should be given free rein to the internet without any safeguards.

The internet plays a crucial role in children's educational development. Today, digital libraries, online classrooms, educational videos, virtual laboratories, and various learning platforms have complemented traditional education. Initiatives like the central government's DIKSHA platform and PM e-Vidya have contributed to the widespread adoption of digital education. For children living in rural areas, the internet can provide access to quality study materials. In schools that lack adequate teachers, libraries, or other resources, digital media can significantly fill the gaps in education.

The internet does not limit children to the curriculum; it also encourages their creativity and independent thinking. They can access information of interest on topics such as science, literature, history, the environment, art, and technology. They can share their poems, stories, drawings, and ideas. This develops their self-confidence and communication skills. The right to



information also becomes more effective through the internet. Children can understand the social, economic, and environmental problems around them and move towards becoming informed citizens.

Digital access is also essential for inclusive education. Screen readers, audiobooks, sign language-based materials, and other assistive technologies make education more accessible for children with disabilities. Children living in remote areas also have the opportunity to connect with educational resources from across the country and the world. The internet develops digital literacy, which has become an essential skill for future employment and entrepreneurship. In today's era of artificial intelligence, online research, digital communication, and technological innovation, keeping children away from the digital world can undermine their future prospects.

However, the benefits of the internet also come with serious challenges. Online child safety poses a significant responsibility for parents, teachers, the government, and digital platforms. Incidents such as online sexual exploitation, luring children into inappropriate activities, cyberbullying, pornography, fake identities, and digital fraud pose serious threats to children's safety. Children often come into contact with strangers and share personal information, photos, or location details. Misuse of this information can have a profound impact on their mental and social lives.

Cyberbullying is also a serious problem. Abusive comments, threats, mockery, and misuse of personal photos on social media can impact children's self-confidence and mental health. Furthermore, the excessive collection of children's behavior, preferences, and personal information by digital platforms poses a challenge to their right to privacy. Algorithm-driven content tends to keep children constantly glued to screens, which can adversely affect their studies, sleep, physical activity, and social relationships.

Therefore, the solution lies not in a complete ban on the internet, but in creating a safe and responsible digital environment. The fundamental message of the Supreme Court's rights-based approach is that measures adopted to protect children must be reasonable, proportionate, and relevant to the purpose. It is not appropriate to remove all children's internet access in the name of addressing a specific threat. Instead of restrictions, safety measures should be appropriate based on risk.

First, digital platforms must be made child-friendly. Children's accounts should have built-in privacy protections. They should limit messages from strangers, inappropriate contacts, and access to sensitive content. Unnecessary collection and commercial use of children's personal data should be prevented. Effective technical systems should be developed to provide age-appropriate content and identify harmful content.

Second, the role of parents is crucial. Instead of simply monitoring children, we must develop a relationship of trust and communication with them. They must understand that not everyone on the internet is trustworthy and that sharing personal information can be risky. Parental consent, age-appropriate controls, and periodic communication can help children learn responsible digital behavior. It is essential to provide guidance while respecting children's privacy and independence.

Third, digital safety should be integrated into the school curriculum. Awareness programs on cybersecurity, digital etiquette, online fraud, privacy, and information integrity can be conducted through the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) and State Councils of Educational Research and Training (SCERT). Children should also be taught that not all information available on the internet is accurate. They should be encouraged to report any suspicious activity or inappropriate contact to parents and teachers without fear.

Fourth, it is essential to ensure accountability of digital platforms. Effective mechanisms should be in place to identify, remove, and report child sexual abuse content to relevant agencies. The process for reporting cybercrimes should be simplified and child-friendly. Children and parents should be made aware of systems like the Child Helpline 1098 and the National Cybercrime Reporting Portal. Better coordination between the police, schools, and child protection agencies is also essential.

Ultimately, keeping children away from the internet isn't a permanent solution to securing their future. True child protection lies in enabling them to navigate the digital world safely. Rights and safety should complement each other, not contradict each other. Just as road safety doesn't require a blanket ban on traffic, but rather rules, signals, and precautions, balanced safety measures are essential in the digital world.

> **"The need of the hour is to give children digital discretion, rather than taking the internet away from them. Restrictions can create fear, but education, awareness, and accountability can build a safer future."**
>
> — Dr. Priyanka Saurabh

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Fix potholes before accidents

Potholes on busy roads put two-wheeler riders at risk, especially after dark or when rain hides damaged stretches. Civic authorities should mark dangerous spots immediately, prioritise repairs near schools and hospitals, and publish deadlines for each reported hazard. Contractors should be required to fix defects that reappear after repairs. A complaint should be closed only after someone inspects the work.

– Divya Lakshmi

Make Waste Collection Reliable

When household waste goes uncollected, rubbish piles up on street corners, attracts pests and can block drains. Civic authorities should publish collection schedules and arrange backup crews when regular pickups are missed. Residents should separate wet and dry waste, and collection crews should keep them separate. A simple reporting system would help officials spot repeat failures and restore service promptly.

– Samra Aiman

MEDICINES WITHIN THE HUMAN BODY

DR. VIJAY GARG

The human body is not merely a collection of organs, tissues and cells. It is also home to trillions of microorganisms that live on our skin and inside our digestive system, particularly the intestines. These microscopic organisms, including bacteria, fungi and viruses, form a complex community known as the human microbiome. Although some microorganisms cause diseases, many others perform essential functions that support our health. Scientists are now exploring an exciting possibility: these tiny inhabitants may also help us discover new medicines.

The hidden world within us

The human intestine contains an enormous variety of microorganisms. Collectively, they are known as the gut microbiome. These organisms help digest certain food components, produce useful substances, support the immune system and protect against harmful microbes. One of the most fascinating features of these microorganisms is their ability to produce a wide range of chemical compounds. Some of these substances help them communicate with one another, compete for nutrients or defend their living space against rival organisms. Scientists believe that this chemical diversity may provide valuable clues for developing new medicines. Compounds produced by intestinal microorganisms could potentially inspire treatments for infections and other diseases.

Nature's microscopic chemical factories

Microorganisms have been producing biologically active compounds for millions of years. In nature, these substances often help microbes survive, compete and adapt to changing environments. The discovery of antibiotics illustrates the importance of this microscopic chemical world. Penicillin, discovered by Alexander Fleming in 1928, originated from a mould rather than bacteria. Many other antibiotics have also been obtained from microorganisms found in soil and other natural environments. Research into the human microbiome extends this search to the microorganisms living within us. Scientists are investigating whether gut bacteria produce previously unknown compounds that can inhibit harmful pathogens or influence biological processes in the human body. For example, some intestinal bacteria produce bacteriocins, which are antimicrobial substances that can inhibit particular bacteria. Other microbes generate short-chain fatty acids, such as butyrate, which help support the health of intestinal cells and influence immune functions. Although these substances are not all medicines, they demonstrate the remarkable chemical capabilities of our microbial partners.

The search for new antibiotics

Antimicrobial resistance is one of the most serious challenges facing modern medicine. Some disease-causing bacteria have developed resistance to existing antibiotics, making infections increasingly difficult to treat. Researchers are therefore searching for new antimicrobial compounds from diverse sources, including the human microbiome. Certain gut bacteria naturally produce substances that suppress competing microbes. Understanding how these substances work may help scientists develop new approaches to preventing or treating infections. However, finding a promising compound is only the beginning. Scientists must identify its chemical structure, determine how it works, evaluate its effectiveness and investigate possible toxicity. Extensive laboratory studies and clinical trials are necessary before a candidate can become an approved medicine.

Microorganisms and personalised medicine

The gut microbiome differs from one person to another. Diet, age, environment, medications and lifestyle can all influence its composition. These differences may help explain why people sometimes respond differently to the same treatment. Researchers are studying how intestinal microorganisms influence the breakdown and activity of certain medicines, including whether microbial enzymes can activate, inactivate or alter particular drugs. In the future, analysing an individual's microbiome may help doctors make better-informed treatment decisions. Scientists are also exploring microbiome-based therapies, including carefully selected beneficial bacteria and faecal microbiota transplantation for certain conditions, such as recurrent Clostridioides difficile infection. Nevertheless, microbiome research is still developing. Personalised treatment based on routine microbiome testing is not yet established for most diseases.

From discovery to medicine

Turning a microbial chemical compound into a useful medicine requires a systematic scientific process. First, researchers collect and study microorganisms using modern laboratory techniques and genetic analysis. They then identify potentially useful compounds and test their biological activity. Promising candidates undergo further investigations to establish their safety, dosage, effectiveness and possible side effects. Modern technologies, including genome sequencing, artificial intelligence and advanced chemical analysis, are helping scientists identify microbial compounds more efficiently. Genetic information can reveal the potential of microorganisms to produce substances that have not yet been discovered or studied. Yet many challenges remain. Some microorganisms are difficult to grow in laboratories, some compounds are produced only under particular conditions, and a substance that works in a laboratory may not be effective or safe in humans.

Protecting our microbial partners

The possibility of discovering medicines within the human microbiome also highlights the importance of maintaining a healthy relationship with our microorganisms. A balanced diet rich in dietary fibre, adequate sleep, physical activity and appropriate medical care can support general health and the normal functioning of the gut microbiome. Antibiotics should be used responsibly and only when medically indicated, because unnecessary use can disrupt microbial communities and contribute to antimicrobial resistance. People should not attempt to treat diseases with unverified microbial products or take antibiotics without professional guidance. The presence of beneficial bacteria does not mean that every microorganism or microbial supplement is safe.

The human body contains a fascinating microscopic world whose chemical potential is only beginning to be understood. Intestinal microorganisms do much more than assist digestion: they produce biologically active substances, interact with our immune system and influence our responses to certain medicines. As microbiology, biotechnology and artificial intelligence advance, these tiny organisms may help scientists identify new antimicrobial agents and develop innovative treatments. However, every promising discovery must pass rigorous scientific testing before it can be used safely in patients. The future of medicine may depend not only on searching forests, oceans and laboratories for new drugs, but also on understanding the extraordinary chemistry of the microorganisms that live within us.

Quick Read



Delhi court issues notice to Mary Kom in defamation case

NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Friday issued a pre-cognisance notice to boxing champion Mary Kom following a defamation complaint filed by her former husband, Karong Onkholer. He alleged that Kom made false and damaging statements about him during a television interview aired on January 11, 2026. Judicial Magistrate Shivam Gupta issued the notice after recording statements from the complainant and three witnesses. The complaint claims the remarks harmed his reputation and portrayed him negatively as a spouse and parent. The matter has been listed for December 21 for Kom's response.

8 die after suspected spurious liquor consumption

IMPHAL

At least eight people have died within three days following suspected consumption of spurious liquor in Manipur's Chandel district, police said on Friday. The suspected methanol poisoning cases were reported in Chakpikarong subdivision and nearby areas. According to police, five people died on November 18, one on Thursday and two on Friday. Shija Hospital received 140 patients suspected of methanol poisoning. One died after being brought to the hospital, while three others remain critical and are undergoing haemodialysis. The exact cause of the deaths has not been medically confirmed and remains under investigation.

NIA records 93% conviction rate in 2026

NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has achieved a 93 per cent conviction rate in 2026, with 123 accused convicted in 27 of the 29 cases decided by courts this year. Among those convicted, 10 received the death penalty and 14 were sentenced to life imprisonment. NIA Director General Rakesh Aggarwal announced the figures at the agency's sixth Anti-Terror Conference in New Delhi. The agency registered 82 cases this year and trained 5,800 police personnel through 53 programmes. It also established Technical Support Units across all 21 state units and operates 25 exclusive NIA courts, with 14 more planned.



Dhami seeks Centre's support for development projects

NEW DELHI

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on Friday, seeking Central assistance and approvals for key development projects across the state. Their discussions covered infrastructure, road and rail connectivity, tourism, healthcare, education and energy. Dhami highlighted Uttarakhand's strategic and spiritual importance, stating that the state's difficult geographical terrain and limited financial resources made continued Central support essential for its development.

During the meeting, Dhami requested an exemption from External Aided Projects capping for Uttarakhand. He also sought financial and technical assistance to modernise the Chinyalisaur airstrip for civil and military use, approval for the Delhi-Haldwani Expressway and support for a road-cum-rail tunnel. He further requested a final location survey and approval for an additional alignment on the Tanakpur-Bageshwar railway line.

The Chief Minister thanked Modi for approving Rs 500 crore for the organisation of Kumbh-2027, around Rs 9,500 crore under the Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment scheme and Rs 3,436.08 crore under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme. He also acknowledged support for the Champawat Bypass, Dehradun Ring Road, Char Dham destinations' air traffic control facilities and studies for the Dehradun-Mussoorie Ropeway and extension of the Regional Rapid Transit System towards Haridwar.

Dhami also outlined initiatives to promote tourism and local livelihoods. Ramnagar, Dehradun, Rishikesh and Triyuginarayan are being developed as wedding destinations. The state has identified three Spiritual Economic Zones and introduced winter pilgrimage initiatives.

PM Modi to launch Bihar projects worth ₹ 34,470 crore

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate development projects worth Rs 34,470 crore in Bihar, including the Nitish Setu bridge across the Ganga.

PATNA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Bihar on November 21 to inaugurate, dedicate and lay the foundation stones for development projects worth approximately Rs 34,470 crore in Vaishali district. The projects cover road connectivity, energy, urban infrastructure, water resources, education, healthcare and transport, aiming to strengthen public services and infrastructure across the state.

During the visit, Modi will dedicate the Nitish Setu, a six-lane extradosed cable-stayed bridge across the Ganga, to the nation. Built at a cost of around Rs 4,280 crore, the 19.7-km project connects Kachhi Dargah in Patna district with Bidupur in Vaishali district. It comprises a 9.7-km main bridge and 10 km of approach roads. The bridge is expected to ease traffic congestion on the existing Mahatma Gandhi Setu and JP Setu while improving connectivity between North and South Bihar. It will particularly benefit residents of Raghopur Diara by improving access to healthcare, education and markets.



The Prime Minister will inaugurate infrastructure and development projects worth more than Rs 15,600 crore. Major road works include the six-laning of the Aurangabad-Chordaha section of NH-19, along with improvements to other national highway stretches. In the energy sector, he will inaugurate Unit 2 of the Buxar Thermal Power Project, with a capacity of 660 MW, and electricity transmission and distribution projects worth over Rs 1,130 crore under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme.

Other inauguration projects include canal and embankment restoration, a floating solar project at Phulwaria Dam in Nawada and sewerage infrastructure at Kahalgaon. Facilities for educational institutions, residential schools, healthcare, agriculture, sports and public administration will also be inaugurated.

Modi will lay foundation stones for projects worth around Rs 14,450 crore. These include the four-laning of the Sahebganj-Areraj-Bettiah section of NH-139W, costing over Rs 3,800 crore, and a power evacuation project for the 2,400-MW Pirpainti Super Thermal Power Project, estimated at Rs 3,350 crore.

On the list

- **Nitish Setu:** six-lane Ganga bridge, about Rs 4,280 crore
- **NH-19:** six-laning of the Aurangabad-Chordaha section
- **Buxar:** Unit 2 of the thermal power project, 660 MW
- **NH-139W:** four-laning, Sahebganj-Areraj-Bettiah
- **PMAY (Urban):** Griha Pravesh for 26,900+ beneficiaries

What the projects cover

- Roads and bridges
- Energy
- Water supply, sewerage
- Education
- Healthcare
- 100 PM-eBuses

Goyal urges DU graduates to help build developed India

NEW DELHI

Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Friday urged University of Delhi graduates to pursue their ambitions and contribute to India's development goal of becoming a developed nation by 2047. Addressing the university's 103rd annual convocation, he highlighted the country's economic progress, noting that around 50 crore people had moved out of extreme poverty over the past decade.

Goyal said India had become the world's third-largest startup ecosystem, with approximately 2.5 lakh startups and more than 130 unicorns. He observed that young people were increasingly becoming job creators rather than job seekers, driven by their willingness to experiment, learn from failure and take on challenges. He encouraged graduates to use their opportunities to support marginalised communities and improve the lives of those with fewer resources.



> **"Your time is limited, so don't waste it living someone else's life. Have courage to follow your heart and intuition."**
> — **Steve Jobs,** quoted by Goyal

Congratulating students and their parents, Goyal said only a small proportion of the 2.5 crore young Indians who reach college age annually get the opportunity to study at prestigious institutions. He also highlighted the university's growth to 90 colleges and more than six lakh students.

Sharing six lessons for success, the minister advised graduates to think big, remain positive, maintain focus, continue learning, prioritise health and trust their struggles. Referring to emerging technologies and artificial intelligence, he stressed the importance of lifelong learning and critical thinking.

Goyal outlined five national commitments, or Pran, announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi: building a developed India, freeing the country from a colonial mindset, taking pride in its heritage, strengthening national unity and fulfilling civic duties.

The convocation saw the awarding of more than 400 doctoral degrees, over 1.7 lakh undergraduate and postgraduate degrees, and more than 160 gold medals.

Tourism ministry holds consultation to boost MICE and wedding trips

NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Tourism organised a stakeholder consultation on Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions (MICE) and wedding tourism in New Delhi on Thursday, bringing together industry representatives to discuss strategies for strengthening India's position as a global destination for business events and weddings.

The meeting was chaired by Bhuvnesh Kumar, Secretary of the Ministry of Tourism, and included representatives from leading industry associations, convention centres and exhibition organisations.

During the consultation, Kumar highlighted the potential of the MICE sector and called for a structured approach, stronger coordination and regular engagement between the government and industry stakeholders. Suman Billa, Additional Secretary and Director General of Tourism, emphasised the role of sectoral organisations in developing the MICE and wedding tourism ecosystem.



Discussions focused on improving the overall tourism framework, recognising professional service providers, strengthening sector-specific data and promoting Indian destinations in partnership with states and Union Territories.

India's MICE market was valued at USD 49.4 billion in 2024 and is projected to reach USD 103.7 billion by 2030. The Ministry is promoting the country through the 'Meet in India' sub-brand under its 'Incredible India' campaign.

India has also improved its position in the international association meetings segment. According to the International Congress and Convention Association (ICCA), the country's global ranking rose from 37th in 2022 to 26th in 2025. It ranked sixth in the Asia-Pacific region.

Among Indian cities, New Delhi secured the highest position in 2025, while Bengaluru and Mumbai jointly followed.

DID YOU KNOW?
India's global ranking in international association meetings rose from 37th in 2022 to 26th in 2025, says the ICCA. It ranked sixth in Asia-Pacific.

Delhi Police ban laser lights near IGI airport over pilot safety

NEW DELHI

Delhi Police has prohibited the use of laser beams during weddings, parties and other celebrations in areas under the Palam subdivision near Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport for 60 days, citing concerns over pilot safety.

The order, issued by Assistant Commissioner of Police Pradeep Kumar Meena under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023, came into effect on November 18 and will remain in force until January 16, 2027. The restriction aims to prevent bright laser beams from distracting pilots, particularly during aircraft landings.

According to the order, the Air Traffic Control (ATC) at IGI Airport had reported several incidents in which pilots experienced visual distractions caused by laser beams. Such incidents could endanger passengers, crew members and aircraft. Police noted that several farmhouses, banquet halls, hotels and restaurants in and around the airport frequently use bright lights and laser beams during weddings and other celebrations.

The order

WHERE	Palam subdivision, near IGI Airport
WHEN	Nov 18, 2026 to Jan 16, 2027
WHY	Lasers distract pilots landing
IF BROKEN	Action under Section 223, BNS

The order stated that laser beams used in open spaces at night could directly affect the vision of pilots operating aircraft. It emphasised the need for immediate measures to regulate their use and prevent potential danger to human life and aviation safety.

The prohibition applies to individuals, groups, event organisers, owners, occupiers and employees of banquet halls, hotels, restaurants, buildings and other properties within the Palam subdivision. Anyone violating the order will face legal action under Section 223 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), which deals with disobedience of orders issued by public servants.

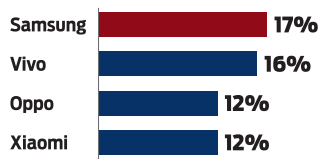
India's smartphone market shrinks as prices continue rising

NEW DELHI

India's smartphone market is facing a sharp slowdown as rising memory and component costs push device prices higher, forcing consumers to delay purchases. Despite the festive season, smartphone shipments recorded their steepest quarterly decline since the final quarter of 2022. Industry analysts expect the market to remain under pressure through 2027, with a possible recovery in 2028 if memory prices ease.

According to the International Data Corporation (IDC), smartphone shipments in India fell 23.3 per cent year-on-year to 36.8 million units in the third quarter of 2026. CyberMedia Research (CMR) reported a 20 per cent decline during the same period. IDC also recorded a 26.1 per cent increase in average selling prices to a record $371, while overall market value fell 3.3 per cent.

Who leads the market
share of shipments



The affordable segment experienced the biggest setback. Demand for smartphones priced below ₹7,000 dropped 94 per cent, while the ₹7,000–₹24,999 category declined 42 per cent. Higher production costs have made entry-level devices less affordable, particularly affecting consumers in smaller towns and cities.

In contrast, premium smartphones continued to attract customers. Shipments in the ₹25,000–₹49,999 category increased 38 per cent, while devices above ₹50,000 recorded 32 per cent growth. OnePlus reported a 27 per cent rise in shipments. Samsung led the overall market with a 17 per cent share, followed by Vivo at 16 per cent and Oppo and Xiaomi at 12 per cent each.

Apple also maintained demand in the premium segment, with the iPhone 17 series contributing 53 per cent of its shipments, according to CMR.

INDIGENOUS BIRD FLU VACCINE

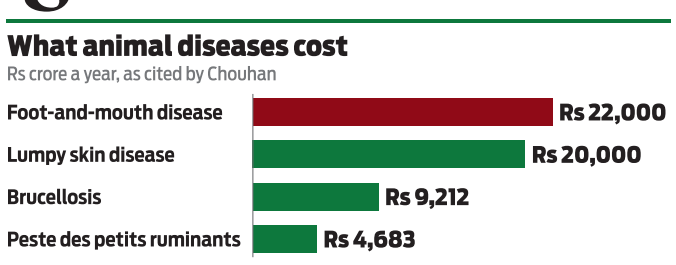
India unveils indigenous H5N1 bird flu vaccine for chickens

BHOPAL

India has unveiled its first indigenous vaccine against the H5N1 strain of bird flu in chickens, developed by scientists at the Indian Council of Agricultural Research's National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases (ICAR-NIHSAD). Priced at just Rs 1–2 per dose, the vaccine is expected to strengthen disease prevention in the poultry sector and protect farmers from financial losses caused by outbreaks.

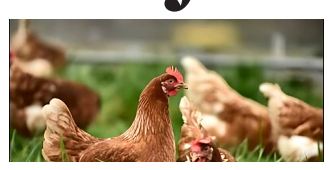
Union Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan unveiled the vaccine in Bhopal on Friday. He described animal husbandry and poultry farming as important pillars of the rural economy, providing farmers with regular income alongside agriculture. He referred to livestock as "moving ATMs" for farmers and highlighted the economic impact of animal diseases.

What animal diseases cost
Rs crore a year, as cited by Chouhan



Chouhan said animal husbandry contributes 14 per cent to India's GDP, while the poultry sector accounts for another one per cent. He cited annual losses of Rs 22,000 crore from foot-and-mouth disease, Rs 20,000 crore from lumpy skin disease, Rs 9,212 crore from brucellosis and Rs 4,683 crore from peste des petits ruminants. Together, these diseases cause losses of approximately Rs 56,000 crore.

A scientist at NIHSAD said the vaccine was the world's first against this particular bird flu variant. It is expected to protect poultry farmers' livelihoods and reduce the economic burden of animal diseases. The research team included Dr S Nagarajan, Dr Manoj Kumar, Dr C Tosh, Dr H V Murugkar, Dr Aniket Sanyal, Dr Senthil Kumar D, Dr Naveen Kumar and Dr Yogisharadhya R.



The research was conducted under strict biosafety protocols.

India reported its first bird flu outbreak in Navapur, Maharashtra, in 2006, resulting in nearly one million chicken deaths. Since then, the country has recorded more than 500 outbreaks. Around nine lakh chickens died in 2021, while another two lakh birds have died this year.

Quick Read

D-Company operative killed in UP police encounter

LUCKNOW

Naseem alias Durrani, 37, an alleged D-Company operative wanted in two Delhi murder cases, was killed in an encounter with the Uttar Pradesh Special Task Force and Delhi Police near Bulandshahr on Friday. The encounter took place around 12.25 am near Sukh Lalpur village. Police said Durrani opened fire when officers attempted to stop his scooter. He was injured in the retaliatory firing and later declared dead at a hospital. Durrani carried a reward of Rs 50,000 and was wanted in the November 16 murder of Sameer alias Bhoora and the May killing of Raja Mewati. Police recovered two pistols, ammunition, a scooter and other belongings. The STF also alleged links between Durrani and underworld operative Chhota Shakeel.

ED raids former Telangana MLA in ₹ 40.96 cr paddy case

HYDERABAD

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday searched two premises in Telangana, including the residence of former Khanapur MLA Ajmera Rekha, in connection with the alleged misappropriation of government paddy worth Rs 40.96 crore. Searches were conducted at her residence and ARS Industries in Nirmal district, of which she is the proprietor. Officials said the agency recovered unaccounted cash of Rs 30 lakh and incriminating documents. The operation was continuing. The case originates from an FIR registered at Khanapur Police Station on August 19, 2026, alleging cheating and misappropriation of government paddy worth Rs 40,96,96,834. The allegations concern failure to deliver custom-milled rice as agreed, resulting in losses to the government. The ED registered a money-laundering case based on the FIR under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

Farmers demand electric fencing against wild boars

KANCHIPURAM

Farmers in Tamil Nadu's Kanchipuram district have urged authorities to install electric fencing around agricultural fields to prevent wild boars from damaging crops. They said preventive measures were more important than providing compensation after agricultural losses had already occurred. The demand was raised during a monthly farmers' grievance redressal meeting chaired by District Collector Sneha on Friday at the District Collectorate. The District Forest Officer informed the meeting that the department had provided Rs 2.45 lakh in compensation last month for crop damage caused by wild boars.

Delhi CM welcomes new members of five language academies

Delhi CM Rekha Gupta welcomed newly nominated language academy members, urging them to preserve and promote the capital's linguistic and cultural heritage.

NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Friday welcomed newly nominated vice-chairpersons and members of five language academies, urging them to promote the capital's linguistic and cultural heritage. The felicitation ceremony was held at the Delhi Secretariat in the presence of Art, Culture and Language Minister Kapil Mishra and other invited officials.

Gupta said reconstitution of the academies' governing councils had been pending, as suitable candidates had to be identified and various aspects considered. She expressed confidence that the new members would strengthen recognition of Delhi's languages, literature, art and cultural traditions.

The Chief Minister said the government was following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of "Development as well as Heritage". She said development work had accelerated over the past two years alongside efforts to preserve traditions and linguistic diversity. Gupta said Delhi's strength lay in its diverse communities and shared sense of belonging.

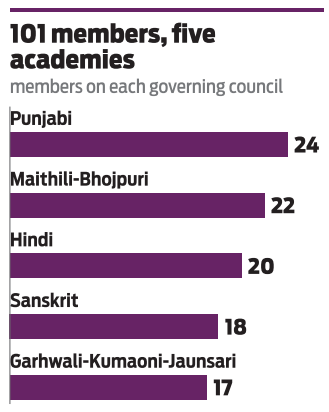

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta (file photo)

She said cultural programmes should build mutual respect and unity among people from different states and communities. The government wanted every language and community to have a platform to present its identity. Gupta called for Delhi to become a cultural destination, not merely a transit city.

Mishra urged the academies to work impartially, meet their objectives and encourage young people to connect with their heritage. He called for promoting local languages and dialects and cautioned against literary politics.

The Department of Art, Culture and Language has reconstituted the Hindi, Sanskrit, Garhwali-Kumaoni-Jaunsari, Maithili-Bhojpuri and Punjabi academies, nominating 101 members. Mishra will chair all five councils. Nominated members, excluding ex-officio members, will serve two-year terms. The councils have 20 members in Hindi, 18 in Sanskrit, 17 in Garhwali-Kumaoni-Jaunsari, 22 in Maithili-Bhojpuri and 24 in Punjabi.

101 members, five academies
members on each governing council



Delhi fire service handles 1,098 emergency calls during festive season

NEW DELHI

The Delhi Fire Service (DFS) responded to 1,098 emergency calls during seven major festive days, including Dussehra, Diwali and Chhath Puja, Delhi Home Minister Ashish Sood said on Friday. He praised firefighters for their round-the-clock service and commitment during the celebrations while addressing a ceremony held on November 19 to honour 47 newly promoted Sub-Officers.

Sood said firefighters cancelled their leave and weekly offs to remain on duty at crowded markets, Ramlila grounds and Yamuna ghats. During the festive period, 218 special standby units and 730 firefighters were deployed at sensitive locations, while all fire stations remained on 24-hour alert. The force attended 722 fire-related calls and carried out 376 rescue operations.

The minister congratulated 47 personnel promoted from Leading Fireman to Sub-Officer. He said the promotions brought greater responsibility and urged the newly appointed officers to guide junior staff and demonstrate leadership during emergencies. He also recognised the contribution of firefighters' families, who face uncertainty whenever personnel enter dangerous situations.

> **"Where ordinary citizens run away from danger to save their lives, our firefighters step inside, risking their own. That is the true pride of this uniform."**
> — **Ashish Sood,** Delhi Home Minister

Referring to the department's motto, "Trānāya Sevāmahe", meaning "We serve for protection", Sood said the government was working to strengthen the force through modern technology and advanced training. He highlighted the importance of prevention, preparedness, response and recovery in improving emergency management. He assured firefighters that the Delhi Government would provide resources to help them perform their duties safely and effectively.

Congress wins 14 of 22 Jaipur panchayat samitis


Congress flags

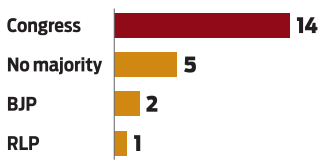
JAIPUR

The Congress won 14 of the 22 Panchayat Samitis in Jaipur district in the Rajasthan Panchayati Raj elections, while the BJP secured majorities in two, according to results declared on Friday. The Rashtriya Loktantrik Party (RLP) won Sanganer, while no party secured a majority in five other Panchayat Samitis.

Former Rajasthan Chief Minister and Congress leader Ashok Gehlot welcomed the party's performance, saying the outcome reflected dissatisfaction with the BJP government among rural voters. He claimed farmers, workers and women were frustrated by what he described as the government's neglect of rural concerns and unfulfilled promises.

"By handing the Congress Party a sweeping victory in the Panchayat Raj elections, voters in the state's rural areas have sent the BJP government a clear message that its time is now up," Gehlot said. He also alleged that the BJP had used intimidation to influence the mandate in municipal corporation elections.

Jaipur's 22 panchayat samitis



Gehlot said voters continued to remember welfare initiatives introduced during the previous Congress government, including the Chiranjeevi scheme, along with measures related to social security, farmer support and women's welfare. He said these initiatives had brought relief to ordinary people and remained significant in rural areas.

The Congress leader credited party president Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi for the performance. He congratulated party workers, leaders and office-bearers, and thanked voters who supported Congress. Gehlot described the result as an endorsement of the party's policies and credited the outcome to the efforts of its workers and the trust of rural voters.

The results cover all 22 Panchayat Samitis in Jaipur district. The BJP secured majorities in Chomu and Sambhar, while the RLP won Sanganer. Five bodies remained without a clear majority.


The design of India's indigenous bullet train

India's first indigenous bullet train set for 2027 launch

NEW DELHI

India's first indigenous bullet train is expected to begin track trials by mid-2027, with its first passenger service scheduled for the final quarter of the year. Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said the initial service would operate between Surat and Vapi, with the remaining Mumbai-Ahmedabad corridor becoming operational in phases.

> **India's indigenous bullet train targets mid-2027 trials and late-year passenger services, initially connecting Surat and Vapi at high speed.**

The B28 trainset is being manufactured jointly by Integral Coach Factory (ICF) and Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML). Designed for a maximum test speed of 280 kmph, the train's first body frame has been completed and is undergoing structural testing. A faster B35 model, designed for 350 kmph, is planned as the next development.

The Mumbai-Ahmedabad journey is expected to take one hour and 58 minutes, compared with eight to nine hours by road. The 508-km high-speed rail corridor has faced delays due to land acquisition issues, state permissions and the COVID-19 pandemic. Full-scale construction began in 2021.

The eight-coach train will be approximately 202 metres long and accommodate 557 passengers. It will include four motor cars and four trailer cars, with seven standard-class coaches and one executive-class coach. Two designated spaces will be available for persons with disabilities and reduced mobility.

Key details

- **Launch:** Trials by mid-2027; first service late 2027
- **Speed:** B28 – 280 kmph; B35 – 350 kmph
- **Journey time:** Mumbai-Ahmedabad in 1 hour 58 minutes
- **Capacity:** 557 passengers across eight coaches
- **Facilities:** Charging points, LED lights, bio-toilets and wheelchair spaces

Designed for Indian conditions, the train will feature ergonomic seating, LED lighting, luggage racks, charging points, bio-digester toilets and wide windows. Driver cabins at both ends will have intelligent onboard control systems to support operations. Two trainsets can also be connected to form a 16-coach configuration to meet future passenger requirements.

GUJARAT CM HOLDS TRADITIONAL KHATLA BAITHAK WITH TRIBAL FAMILIES

GANDHINAGAR

Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel held a traditional 'Khatla Baithak' with tribal families at Bhabor Faliya in Chandawada village on Friday during the third day of his visit to Dahod district. The meeting provided an opportunity for the Chief Minister to interact directly with residents and understand their lifestyle, traditions and local concerns.

According to the Chief Minister's Office, villagers welcomed Patel with a traditional tribal folk dance. Dineshbhai Chauhan, a differently-abled resident, joined the former District Panchayat president and the village sarpanch in welcoming the Chief Minister with a lotus flower.


Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel at the Khatla Baithak in Dahod district

A differently-abled woman from the local Sakhi Mandal also presented Patel with a traditional toran, a decorative hanging handcrafted from bamboo.

During the interaction, Patel gathered information about the villagers' daily lives, local customs and the availability of basic amenities. He also spoke with residents and children to understand their aspirations, experiences and expectations.

Earlier, the Chief Minister visited Thakkarbapa Lake at Patadungari in Garbada taluka. He reviewed details about the lake's geographical area, water storage capacity, available reserves and distribution arrangements.

As part of the visit, Patel planted a banyan sapling at Neer Vatika in Patadungari.

Points discussed

Tribal lifestyle
Daily lives, traditions and customs of tribal families

Basic amenities
Availability of essential facilities in the village

Water resources
Thakkarbapa Lake's storage capacity, water reserves and distribution arrangements

15 Die, 150 Hospitalised In Suspected Methanol Poisoning In Manipur

IMPHAL

At least 15 people have died and around 150 others have been hospitalised following suspected methanol poisoning linked to the consumption of locally made liquor in Chakpi Karong, Chandel district of Manipur. The incident reportedly unfolded over the past two to three days, with several affected residents requiring emergency medical treatment.

Most of the patients are from Chakpi Karong and neighbouring areas. They were admitted to Shija Hospitals and Research Institute in Imphal after showing symptoms consistent with methanol poisoning. Another bus carrying affected individuals was reportedly on its way to the hospital, raising concerns that the number of casualties could increase.

Shija Hospital Joint Managing Director Dr Chetan Hundongbam said the hospital had received 140 patients and identified methanol poisoning as the suspected cause. One patient was brought dead, while three others were in critical condition and undergoing haemodialysis. He said the hospital's prepared beds had been overwhelmed and assistance had been requested from the State Health Department, RIMS and GENIMS. Patients would also be referred to other medical facilities.

Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh visited Shija Hospital to assess the situation, meet patients and interact with medical teams. He assured those affected of assistance from the state government.

Sumil Langhu from the Chandel District Headquarters said 15 deaths had been reported by Friday evening. He also indicated that patients were receiving treatment at Babina Hospital, apart from Shija Hospital. The exact source of the liquor has not yet been established, and the incident has raised concerns over the safety of locally produced alcoholic beverages.

DEFENCE LAND MANAGEMENT

Om Birla calls for AI-based management of defence land

NEW DELHI

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Friday called for greater use of modern technology, digitisation and Artificial Intelligence (AI) to strengthen the management and protection of defence land. Addressing the centenary celebrations of the Defence Estates Organisation in New Delhi, he stressed the need to secure defence assets, prevent encroachments and ensure timely availability of land for the operational requirements of the Armed Forces.

Birla highlighted that the organisation manages and safeguards more than 1.7 million acres of defence land. He said accurate, secure and accessible land records were essential for effective administration.

The Speaker identified encroachment as a major concern and praised efforts to protect defence properties through surveys and accurate measurements. He stressed that such measures should be carried out without causing unnecessary disputes or difficulties for civilians. Timely access to land and suitable conditions for defence establishments, he added, were important for national security.

Birla also emphasised the need to preserve the historical and environmental character of military cantonments. He said their green spaces, forests and heritage should be protected while planning development in response to urban growth.

As the organisation enters its second century, Birla urged officers and employees to combine institutional experience with the technical knowledge of younger personnel. He expressed confidence that technological advancement and public service would strengthen the organisation's ability to protect defence land, support military preparedness and preserve cantonment heritage.

Quick Read

Lahore tops global pollution rankings again

LAHORE

Pakistan's Lahore has once again been ranked the world's most polluted city, recording an Air Quality Index (AQI) of 465 on Friday morning. Other Punjab cities, including Sargodha and Sialkot, also reported unhealthy pollution levels. Authorities have advised residents to avoid outdoor activities, wear masks and keep windows closed to reduce exposure.

India-Panama explore stronger bilateral cooperation

PANAMA CITY

India and Panama have discussed ways to strengthen their diplomatic relations and expand cooperation in areas of mutual interest. The discussions took place during a meeting between Indian Ambassador Pratibha Parkar and Panama's Foreign Minister Javier Martínez-Acha. Earlier, Panama officials attended a Diwali celebration hosted by the Indian Ambassador on November 13, highlighting cultural friendship between the two nations. India and Panama established diplomatic relations in 1962 and continue to maintain cordial ties.

Four killed as violence spreads across Bangladesh

DHAKA

At least four people were killed and several others injured in six days of violence across Bangladesh between November 14 and 19. Attacks involving arson, crude bombs, vandalism and road blockades were reported in at least 12 districts. Several houses belonging to Awami League leaders were attacked, looted and set on fire. Police stations, public offices, vehicles and educational institutions were also targeted. Police reported that 74 vehicles were set ablaze and crude bomb explosions occurred at 78 locations between November 7 and 18.

Russia presents new farming solutions at COP31

ANTALYA

Russia has presented technologies to help farmers deal with climate change at COP31 in Antalya, Türkiye. The display includes water-saving materials, drought-resistant fertilisers and food-preservation methods. Polymer company SIBUR showcased materials designed to reduce water loss and protect crops from harsh weather. Its representatives described trials of underground drip irrigation systems that could use 30 to 70 per cent less water than traditional sprinklers.

South Korea, US strengthen alliance for peace

SEOUL

South Korea's Unification Minister Chung Dong-young met US Ambassador to South Korea Michelle Steel on Friday to discuss regional security, North Korea and efforts to bring lasting peace to the Korean Peninsula. The meeting marked their first official discussion since Steel arrived in Seoul in July. Chung described the strong alliance between South Korea and the United States as an important foundation for peace and prosperity in the region.

House panel seeks curbs on aerospace exports

American lawmakers warned Western aircraft deals bolster China's military, urging allies to tighten export controls and investment restrictions.

WASHINGTON

A U.S. House committee has called for tighter limits on aerospace exports and investment in China after finding that deals to build civilian aircraft helped strengthen the Chinese military.

The House Select Committee on China released its findings on Thursday after a year of investigation. It said American and European companies passed on advanced technology and taught Chinese firms how to design and build aircraft through joint projects and other legal business deals.

The panel said China's policy of drawing on civilian industry for military needs made it hard for Western companies to control where their technology ended up. It found that Honeywell, GE Aerospace and Collins obtained U.S. licenses for some transfers tied to civilian aircraft programs that involved Chinese military users or firms with military links.

Committee Chairman John Moolenaar urged the United States and its allies to tighten export rules together. The panel said that if Washington acted alone, suppliers in allied countries could step in to fill orders left by American companies. That could cost U.S. firms business while allowing China to keep buying similar technology.

The report called on the Treasury Department to limit U.S. investment in China's aerospace industry. It also urged the Federal Aviation Administration to withhold certification from aircraft made in China and asked Congress to require U.S. defense contractors in the aerospace industry to disclose ties to companies Washington has identified as linked to China's military.

WHAT THE PANEL WANTS

- **Treasury:** limit US investment in China's aerospace industry
- **FAA:** withhold certification from aircraft made in China
- **Exports:** stronger penalties for breaking the rules

Pashtun activists urge UK to scrutinise mining deals

LONDON

The United Kingdom chapter of the Pashtun Tahafuz Movement plans to petition the British prime minister over mining deals in Pashtunkhwa. The group wants the government to examine the role of British companies and investors and raise the issue with Pakistan.

The campaign follows the Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum, held in Islamabad on Nov. 12 and 13. Pakistani organisations and foreign partners signed agreements and other documents at the event. In an online petition, the movement named the British Geological Survey and several international companies among the organisations involved. The petition lists several Pakistani public bodies and companies among the signatories.

The movement says local residents and landowners should be able to see what was agreed and decide whether projects should go ahead on their land. It argues that deals made without their approval risk leaving communities with little control over resources such as copper, gold and gemstones.

The movement says local families should see the mining agreements and decide whether companies can extract minerals from their land.

Right to decide

The UK chapter says it will ask the British government to press for more openness about the deals and ensure British companies stay out of projects it considers exploitative. The group also wants London to defend the right of Pashtun communities to manage their resources and share in the proceeds.

Baloch leader urges West to rethink Pak policy

HANNOVER

The chairman of the Baloch National Movement has urged Western governments to review their ties with Pakistan and consider what Baloch independence could mean for neighbouring countries.

Naseem Baloch spoke at a conference in Hannover marking Baloch Martyrs' Day. In an account of the speech published by his movement on Thursday, he said generations of Baloch people had been denied a say in how they are governed. He traced the demand for independence through the spread of empires in the nineteenth century and the end of colonial rule in the twentieth.

Baloch pointed to the region's natural resources and its location between South Asia, Central Asia and the Middle East. He argued that both had drawn the attention of world powers while the political rights of the people who live there had received little attention.

He also criticised Western backing for Pakistan during the Cold War. He said later support for armed religious groups, following the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, had effects far beyond that country. He urged Western governments to engage with his movement as a political organisation when deciding how to deal with Pakistan.



Delegates at a conference session

An independent state with elected leaders and a government separate from religion, the movement says

Baloch said his movement wants an independent state with elected leaders, a government separate from religion and protections for human rights.

Trump delays decision on new Iran strikes



Donald Trump and Benjamin Netanyahu (file photo)

WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump said he would wait until after Jan. 1 to decide his next move in the war with Iran. Speaking to Axios on Thursday, he said he was in no rush to make a decision, even as Israel pressed the United States to join another round of airstrikes.

Trump had said the previous week that a major new round of strikes was unlikely. Axios reported that a joint attack with Israel was still under consideration. His latest comments set out when he expected to decide, leaving open what action Washington might take.

Netanyahu sent Roman Gofman, the head of Israel's Mossad intelligence agency, to Washington last week to make the case for renewed military action, Axios reported. The visit came as negotiations aimed at ending the conflict remained stalled.

Allies step in

Officials from countries allied with Washington in the Middle East told The Associated Press that their governments had stepped up efforts to prevent a return to full-scale war.

Iran warns US to accept its conditions or face action

TEHRAN

Iran has warned the United States that it must accept Tehran's conditions to settle the ongoing conflict or face further military action. The warning comes amid rising tensions between the two countries and uncertainty over future peace efforts.

Brigadier General Hossein Mohebbi, spokesperson for Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), said on Thursday that Iran would not accept a prolonged conflict or a situation where neither peace nor war was clearly established.

He stressed that Iran was prepared to face different military situations and was closely monitoring American military movements. He also claimed that the country's defence capabilities had improved significantly following the earlier 12-day conflict.

New air defences

Mohebbi said Iran had developed at least three new air defence systems through domestic efforts. According to him, these systems had strengthened the country's ability to protect its airspace and reduced its dependence on foreign equipment.

He also warned that any fresh military attack by the United States would invite a strong response from Tehran. He claimed that Iran had increased its ability to target enemy military infrastructure and was prepared to defend its national interests.

Talks stalled

The tensions follow earlier military strikes involving the United States and Israel against Iran, which led to retaliatory attacks by Tehran. Although a ceasefire came into effect in April, efforts to reach a lasting agreement have made little progress.

Iran and the United States had planned further discussions on nuclear issues and sanctions, but negotiations failed to produce a final agreement.

Prince William announces cover for India's rangers

LONDON

Britain's Prince William has announced a five-year accident insurance programme for 10,000 temporary wildlife rangers in India. The Royal Foundation said the cover would begin in December. The announcement came as William and Catherine, Princess of Wales, ended their visit to India.

The programme covers rangers in Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Assam, Uttarakhand, Maharashtra, Kerala and Rajasthan. It provides financial protection in case of death or serious injury from accidents, including snakebites, attacks by wild animals, floods and road accidents.

Many temporary rangers work for a daily wage. Their duties include patrolling forests to stop poaching, keeping track of animals and helping when wildlife enters areas where people live. Government insurance covers permanent staff. Temporary workers lack that cover, and an injury or death on duty can leave a family without income or compensation.



Prince William

The Royal Foundation's United for Wildlife programme is working with the Wildlife Trust of India, WWF-India and ValuEarth Conservation to put the scheme into practice.

10,000	5 years	7
temporary rangers	of accident cover	states

Nepal PM Balen Shah set for key India visit

KATHMANDU

Nepal Prime Minister Balendra Shah, widely known as Balen Shah, will visit India on November 22 and 23 at the invitation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Nepal's Foreign Secretary Amrit Bahadur Rai announced the visit on Friday.

Shah will travel to New Delhi with a 34-member government team. The visit will give both neighbouring countries an opportunity to review their relations and discuss ways to improve cooperation on important issues of mutual concern.

The two prime ministers are scheduled to hold talks on November 23. Their discussions are expected to cover areas of shared interest, including trade, energy, transport, investment and development. They will jointly open energy-related projects. Agreements on areas of cooperation are expected to be signed and exchanged during the visit.

After the talks, Shah and Modi will address a joint press conference. Modi will host a lunch in honour of the Nepali leader.

During his stay in the capital, Shah is scheduled to meet President Droupadi Murmu. He will also visit Rajghat to pay tribute to Mahatma Gandhi. Another event on his schedule is the Nepal-India Business Forum, which aims to build links between business communities and encourage trade and investment.

In focus

- Visit on November 22-23
- 34-member government team
- Talks with Modi on November 23
- Energy projects to open jointly

Bangladesh minister blames Awami League for arson

DHAKA

Bangladesh's state minister for foreign affairs, Humaiun Kobir, accused Awami League activists on Friday of carrying out arson and petrol bomb attacks. Speaking to reporters at the Foreign Ministry, he described the party as a terrorist group and said some attackers shouted "Joy Bangla" as they fled.

Kobir made the remarks after a reporter asked whether the recent violence was hurting Bangladesh's image abroad. He said the chant, long associated with the Awami League, had become a slogan for people running from the scene. He vowed that those responsible would be held to account.

The remarks followed a fire outside Kobir's home in Sylhet late Thursday. Residents said a petrol bomb had been thrown. Police said an object made of cloth or paper had been set alight. Kobir said law enforcement agencies were investigating the incident.

WHAT NEXT

- Police to identify those behind the attacks and bring them to trial
- Any return of Sheikh Hasina to be handled under the extradition treaty with India

Ban on Awami League

Awami League activities are banned in Bangladesh. Its leader, former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, has lived in India since a student uprising toppled her government in 2024. Kobir accused party leaders abroad of encouraging violence, echoing a warning from Prime Minister Tarique Rahman about the unrest.

Asked about Hasina's return, Kobir said it would have to be handled under the extradition treaty with India. He said police would work to identify those behind the attacks and bring them to trial.

CZECH BRIGADE VISIT

Indian Army chief visits Czech deployment brigade

PRAGUE

Indian Army chief General Dhiraj Seth visited the Czech Land Forces' Fourth Rapid Deployment Brigade, where he learned how the unit is organised and what duties it carries out. Czech personnel also briefed him on how the brigade prepares for its missions.

The Indian Army said the stop gave Seth a chance to speak with Czech service members and hear about their training and how they stay ready for duty. The brigade visit was part of a wider trip to build closer ties between the two armies.

India's Defence Ministry had announced a programme from Nov. 16 to 19. The schedule included talks in Prague with Lieutenant General Petr Čepelka, the first deputy chief of the Czech General Staff, and meetings with senior defence officials. Training, plans to update military equipment and emerging security concerns were among the topics listed for discussion.

Seth also met Czech Deputy Foreign Minister Marie Chatardová. Raveesh Kumar, India's ambassador to the Czech Republic, joined him for that meeting. The official programme also included a wreath ceremony in Prague to honour fallen soldiers and a visit to the Defence University in Brno.



Army personnel at the Czech Fourth Rapid Deployment Brigade during the visit

"Jaiswal-Rahul's aggression puts India in control": akash deep

India pacer Akash Deep praised Yashasvi Jaiswal and KL Rahul for giving their side a start against New Zealand on the second day of the opening Test at Basin Reserve on Friday.

WELLINGTON

Jaiswal struck 85 from 89 balls, while Rahul stayed unbeaten on 52 as India finished at 159 for one in 39 overs, replying to New Zealand's 368. Devdutt Padikkal was alongside Rahul on 16 at stumps.

The openers added 130 runs, putting the home bowlers under pressure and giving India a base. Akash said the willingness to score quickly was encouraging, particularly when a team was looking to force a result.

He explained that attacking batting can push bowlers into defensive plans. India's scoring pace, he felt, had helped the visitors make progress before the close.



Akash, who took three wickets, also said the pitch appeared to be getting easier for batting. With less help available for fast bowlers, he believed India needed to build a strong first innings total and remain patient afterwards.

Jaiswal led the charge with 16 boundaries before Matt Henry dismissed him in the 28th over. The partnership was India's first century opening stand in 17 Tests. Their previous one also came through Jaiswal and Rahul, who shared 201 against Australia in Perth in November 2024.

Playing his first Test in New Zealand, Rahul reached his 22nd Test fifty and gave India stability.

Earlier, New Zealand resumed on 243 for five. Henry Nicholls remained unbeaten on 175, while Glenn Phillips made 118 before Akash bowled him.

India will now look to turn their start into a bigger score as the match moves into its third day, with Rahul at the crease.

Grid penalties shake up Las Vegas showdown

Newly crowned Formula 1 world champion Kimi Antonelli faces a tougher start in Las Vegas after receiving a five-place grid penalty for exceeding his engine allowance.

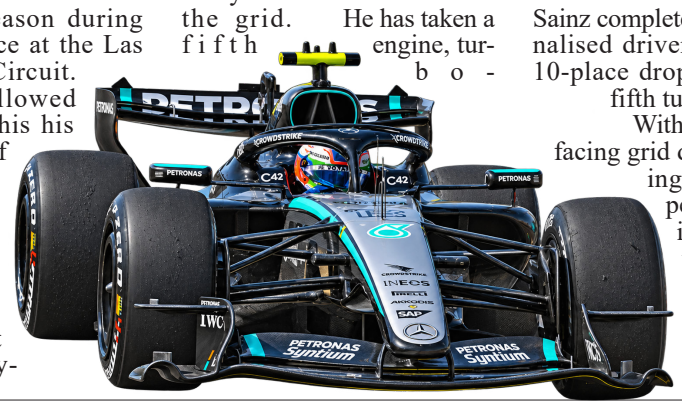
LAS VEGAS

The Mercedes driver used his sixth internal combustion engine of the season during opening practice at the Las Vegas Street Circuit. Drivers are allowed four, making this his second breach of that limit.

The penalty means Antonelli can start no higher than sixth, even if he sets the fastest time in qualifying. However, the Italian has already shown he can recover from a difficult starting position. At his home race in Italy, penalties for several power unit changes pushed him to 19th on the grid, but he fought back to win.

Antonelli also received an upgraded turbocharger in Las Vegas. That change carries no further penalty because he remains within the permitted allocation.

Ollie Bearman faces a bigger setback and will start Saturday's race from the back of the grid. He has taken a fifth engine, turbocharger, exhaust and motor generator unit-kinetic, exceeding the allowance for each. His car also has a new power unit ancillary component. Aston Martin driver Lance Stroll has received a 10-place penalty after taking his ninth energy store and eighth control electronics unit. The permitted allocation is three for each component.



McLaren's Oscar Piastri will also drop 10 places after switching to his fifth engine, one above the season limit.

William's driver Carlos Sainz completes the list of penalised drivers, receiving a 10-place drop for using his fifth turbocharger.

With several drivers facing grid drops, the starting order will depend on qualifying results and the penalties applied before the race gets underway in Las Vegas.

India eye Asian berth, Wadoo demands victory



NEW DELHI

India needs just a draw against hosts Malaysia on Friday to secure their 11th appearance at the AFC U17 Asian Cup, but coach Mehrajuddin Wadoo wants his players to chase victory.

The final Group E match at Kuala Lumpur Football Stadium begins at 6.30 pm IST. India led the standings with nine points after three wins, while Malaysia and Palestine have six each.

The Blue Colts have scored 20 goals and conceded three, beating Singapore 4-2, Guam 12-0 and Palestine 4-1.

Only the group winners will reach the finals in Uzbekistan, scheduled for May 13 to 29, 2027. Qualification would give India consecutive appearances after reaching the 2026 tournament in Saudi Arabia.

India could also qualify with a defeat by two goals if Palestine beat Singapore earlier on Friday, thanks to their better goal difference in matches involving the three contenders.

Wadoo praised his team's attacking strength, with nine players scoring during the campaign. He said sharing the goals had reduced the burden on any single player. The coach also welcomed India's growing ability to handle difficult periods, pointing to their response against Palestine.

India was level at halftime after conceding a penalty. Heavy rain then delayed the second half by more than two hours. During the break, coaches reviewed footage with the players and worked on defensive positioning and pressing.

India returned to score three goals and win comfortably.

Malaysia, meanwhile, have recovered from an opening defeat against Palestine by beating Singapore 2-1 and Guam 10-0.

Wadoo expects a tough test against the home side. Despite needing only one point, he believes playing for a draw could invite trouble and has urged India to attack.

Shelton survives Jodar test to reach semi-finals

TURIN

Ben Shelton booked his place in the Nitto ATP Finals semi-finals after beating Spain's Rafael Jodar 7-6(8), 7-5 in a tense group match on Thursday.

The American finished the round-robin stage with two wins and one defeat. His progress was confirmed later when Alexander Zverev took the opening set against Arthur Fils in the evening session.

Shelton finished second behind Zverev in the John McEnroe Group, while tournament newcomer Jodar bowed out after losing all three matches. At 24, Shelton became the youngest American to reach the tournament's semi-finals since Andy Roddick, who was 22 when he achieved the feat in 2004.

Shelton had opened his campaign with victory over Fils before losing to Zverev. Against Jodar, he needed patience and strong serving to get through several difficult moments.

The opening set stayed tight, with Shelton saving two set points in the tie-break. He finally took it on his second opportunity when Jodar hit a forehand long. Shelton moved 4-2 ahead in the second set, but Jodar refused to fade and fought back to 5-5.

The American then raised his level in a hard-fought 11th game, moving his opponent across the court before securing the decisive break. He served out the match to seal victory in two hours and seven minutes. Afterwards, Shelton praised Jodar's attacking options and competitive spirit. He said he was pleased with how he had battled through pressure and recovered after losing his second-set advantage. Despite the defeat, Jodar ended a memorable breakthrough season. The 20-year-old climbed from 168th in January into the world's top 10, won his first title in Marrakech, reached the Cincinnati final and made the quarter-finals at Roland Garros.



Kolar shooter Divya wins gold at international IISF games

KOLAR

A young shooter from Karnataka's Kolar district has brought recognition to India by winning a gold medal at the 2026 International IISF Games in Doha, Qatar. Divya, a native of Tadigol village in Srinivaspura taluk, secured the top honour in the shooting competition, marking a significant achievement on the international stage.

Divya is the daughter of Tadigol Subbaraju and has established herself as a shooter through her participation in the sport. Her victory at the international competition has brought pride to her hometown and district. The achievement has also drawn attention to the growing participation of young athletes from smaller towns and villages in international sporting events.

Following the announcement of her victory, congratulatory messages poured in from residents and well-wishers in Kolar. Several prominent personalities from the district also took to social media to acknowledge her performance and celebrate her success.

Her gold medal has placed Tadigol village in the spotlight, with people expressing pride in her achievement. Divya's success at the Doha competition marks an important moment for the district and adds to India's representation in international shooting events.



Punjab Hockey league begins with 3 matches in Mohali

MOHALI

The third edition of the Punjab Hockey League (PHL), regarded as the country's biggest junior-level hockey tournament, began at the Olympian Balbir Singh Sr. International Hockey Stadium in Mohali on Thursday. The opening day witnessed enthusiastic participation, with Indian men's hockey team vice-captain and tournament ambassador Hardik Singh attending the ceremony alongside several prominent figures from the sport.

The event was attended by Dronacharya Award recipient and Roundglass founding director Sarpal Singh, Tokyo 2020 Olympic bronze medallist Dilpreet Singh, former India captain Rajpal Singh and Moscow 1980 Olympic gold medallist Rajinder Singh Sr. The opening day's main attraction was the hosts' match against Republican Sports Club of Mumbai, which Roundglass Hockey Academy won 3-0.

Varinder Singh opened the scoring in the 11th minute with a field goal. Sanmukh Singh doubled the lead by converting a penalty corner in the 30th minute. After a goalless third quarter, captain Arshpreet Singh scored another penalty corner in the 49th minute to complete the victory. The Roundglass defence maintained a clean sheet throughout the match.

Earlier, Ghumanhera Risers Academy of New Delhi began its campaign with a convincing 7-2 victory over the Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu. Murugeshwaran gave SDAT an early lead in the eighth minute, but Tashu equalised in the ninth. Ghumanhera took control with four goals in the second quarter through Abhay, Tashu, Nishant and Abhay again.

Mandaviya urges industry to strengthen India's sports economy

NEW DELHI

Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Friday urged industry leaders, investors and international sporting bodies to help develop India's sports economy. He spoke at the opening of FICCI's 16th Global Summit on Business of Sports in New Delhi. He said Khelo India, Fit India and the Target Olympic Podium Scheme had widened participation and created opportunities for athletes. The Cabinet approved Rs 36,441 crore over five years for Khelo India to improve facilities and identify talent.

The government also approved Rs 1,856.67 crore to boost domestic sports goods manufacturing and encourage innovation among manufacturers. Mandaviya said private investment could support infrastructure, academies, sports science and technology.

India will host the 2030 Commonwealth Games in Ahmedabad and is seeking to host the 2036 Olympics. Mandaviya said India had hosted 40 international sporting events across 18 cities in the past 18 months.

INDIAN FOOTBALL RECOGNITION

AIFF wins first gold distinction at AFC Awards

NEW DELHI

The All-India Football Federation (AIFF) received the gold distinction in the AFC Member Association of the Year category at the AFC Awards Bangkok 2026, held in Thailand on Thursday. The award marks a major recognition of Indian football's progress in regional competitions, domestic tournaments and social responsibility initiatives.

The ceremony took place at the Aksra Theatre King Power in Bangkok. This is AIFF's first gold distinction and its second AFC Member Association of the Year award. The federation had earlier received the award in the Developing category in 2016. The latest honour reflects its efforts to strengthen football development across the country.

AIFF's achievements during the year included five championship titles and three runner-up finishes in regional competitions. Four of the five titles were secured by Indian teams in regional women's tournaments. The senior women's team won the SAFF Women's Championship, while the Under-19 women's team claimed the SAFF U19 Women's Championship. These results highlighted the growing competitiveness of India's women's football teams.

Indian teams also made progress at the continental level. The senior women's team, known as the Blue Tigresses, qualified for the AFC Women's Asian Cup for the first time through the qualifiers route. The Under-17 women's team reached the quarter-finals of the AFC U17 Women's Asian Cup for the first time. Meanwhile, the Under-20 women's team secured qualification for the AFC U20 Women's Asian Cup after a gap of two decades.



"This recognition from the AFC reflects the collective efforts being made across the country to strengthen the game, from our national teams and domestic competitions to grassroots development."

Kalyan Chaubey, President of AIFF

AIFF President Kalyan Chaubey said the recognition reflected collective efforts to strengthen football through national teams, domestic competitions and grassroots development. He particularly highlighted the achievements of women's teams, stating that they demonstrated progress in creating more opportunities for women and girls. AIFF Deputy Secretary General M Satyanarayan also acknowledged the contribution of players, coaches, member associations and the federation's executive committee to Indian football's development.

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