



CM stands firm amid leadership change speculation

CM Siddaramaiah stated all party leaders, ministers, and MLAs must follow high command decisions

MYSURU

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said he is not wrong in his word and has fulfilled all promises made to the people. He was speaking to the media at Mysuru airport while responding to former MP D.K. Suresh, who had said Siddaramaiah always keeps his word.

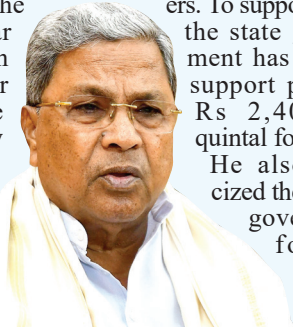
The Chief Minister repeated that he will present the state's next budget himself and continue as the CM. He made it clear that any decision on leadership change or cabinet reshuffle will be taken only by the party high command. He said all party leaders, ministers, and MLAs must follow whatever

decision the high command takes. He also said he will meet party president Mallikarjun Kharge, who is coming to Bengaluru today.

Speaking about farmers, Siddaramaiah said maize production has increased in the state. This year, about 55 lakh metric tonnes of maize is expected to be produced. Because of the high production, maize prices have fallen sharply, which has caused problems for farmers. To support them, the state government has fixed a support price of Rs 2,400 per quintal for maize. He also criticized the central government for importing around

70 lakh metric tonnes of maize even when production has increased in the country. He said he will write a letter to the Centre asking them to stop the import of maize, as it is hurting Indian farmers.

The Chief Minister said distilleries have already purchased maize at lower prices. He has instructed officials to hold discussions with distillery owners so that more maize is purchased from farmers according to the rules. He also announced that the state government will set up procurement centres to buy about 10 lakh metric tonnes of maize directly from farmers. Finally, he said he has requested the Centre to give compensation for crop damage caused by heavy rains, which affected more than 15.5 lakh hectares of land.



A 5.7-magnitude quake struck Bangladesh, killing six and triggering widespread panic

Six killed as strong quake jolts Bangladesh, tremors rattle Kolkata

DHAKA

A powerful 5.7-magnitude earthquake shook central Bangladesh on Friday morning, leaving at least six people dead and injuring dozens across Dhaka and surrounding districts. The tremor, which struck at 10.38 am local time, sent shockwaves across the region, with strong vibrations felt in Kolkata, parts of West Bengal, and northeastern India.

According to the US Geological Survey, the quake's epicentre was located near Ghorashal in Narsingdi district, approximately 25 km from Dhaka, at a shallow depth of 10 km — a factor that intensified the shaking. Local media reported that buildings swayed sharply, leading to chaos as residents rushed out of homes, offices, and high-rise complexes.

Police initially confirmed three deaths, but Dhaka-based televisions later reported six fatalities. These included three individuals who died when sections of a building's roof and wall collapsed, and three pedestrians struck by falling metal railings. Authorities said dozens more were injured in stampedes and panic-driven incidents, with



CASUALTIES & DAMAGE
DEATHS: 6
INJURED: Dozens

Major incidents:
■ Building roof and wall collapse
■ Falling railings injuring pedestrians
■ Panic-related injuries across Dhaka

Epicentre Snapshot
■ **Location:** Ghorashal, Narsingdi district
■ **Magnitude:** 5.7
■ **Depth:** 10 km
■ **Time:** 10.38 am (local time)

Tremors in Kolkata and Northeast India

Kolkata residents described the shaking as brief but unsettling. People rushed out of apartments and markets, with many reporting swaying ceiling fans and rattling windows. In Assam's Guwahati, office workers evacuated buildings as a precaution.

several victims treated for fractures and head injuries.

Bangladesh sits near the active boundary of the India and Eurasia tectonic plates, making the northern and southeastern belts prone to seismic activity. However, Friday's tremor struck the relatively calmer central region, raising fresh concerns among geologists.

No division within Congress, says DCM

BENGALURU

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar has strongly denied rumors of internal groupism and leadership fights within the Congress party. He said all 140 MLAs of the party belong to him and there is no division among them. His statement comes amid growing talk about a possible change in the chief minister and cabinet reshuffle in the state.

Speaking to reporters, Shivakumar said forming groups is not in his nature. He added that all MLAs are equal and have full rights to meet party

leaders in Delhi or Bengaluru. He explained that some leaders meeting the high command is normal during reshuffle discussions and should not be misunderstood. He also said that he has not called anyone or encouraged such meetings.

Shivakumar further clarified that every MLA is eligible to become a minister, deputy chief minister, or even chief minister. He openly stated that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has said he will complete his full five-year term. He wished him

well and said the entire party will work together under his leadership for the state's development.

Reacting to these developments, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said that cabinet reshuffling is not decided by individuals. He stressed that such decisions are taken only by the party's high command. He also confirmed that he will present the next state budget and will continue as chief minister unless the central leadership decides otherwise. He added that both he and Shivakumar



Shivakumar clarified every MLA can become minister or CM, affirmed Siddaramaiah will serve full term, and expressed party unity for the state's development under his leadership

will accept whatever decision the high command makes.

Shivakumar also spoke about rumors related to his position as KPCC president. He reassured party workers that even if he steps down, he will continue guiding them and working closely with the leadership.



IAF Tejas Jet Crashes at Dubai Air Show, Pilot Killed

the LCA Tejas is a 4.5-generation, multi-role combat aircraft designed for air superiority, offensive support, close combat, and ground attack missions. It is also equipped for maritime operations, making it one of the most versatile platforms in the IAF's modern fleet.

The Dubai Air Show, one of the world's largest aviation events, had already drawn significant attention due to a major India-Germany defence collaboration revealed earlier this week. On November 19, HAL and German state-backed HENSOLDT signed a landmark agreement to jointly develop a LiDAR-based Obstacle Avoidance System (OAS) for Indian military helicopters, reviving high-technology co-operation between the nations after nearly three decades. The IAF and HAL are expected to issue detailed findings once the inquiry progresses.

A Tejas fighter jet crashed at Dubai Air Show, killing its IAF pilot

DUBAI

An Indian Air Force (IAF) Tejas fighter jet crashed during a high-speed demonstration at the Dubai Air Show on Friday, resulting in the tragic death of the pilot. The accident occurred mid-display at the biennial aviation showcase, prompting shock across the global aerospace community and leading to the suspension of further demonstration flights by India.

The IAF confirmed the incident on X, saying, "An IAF Tejas aircraft met with an accident during an aerial display at Dubai Air Show. The pilot sustained fatal injuries in the acci-

dent. IAF deeply regrets the loss of life and stands firmly with the bereaved family in this time of grief." The force also announced that a court of inquiry has been initiated to determine the cause of the crash.

This marks the second crash involving a Tejas aircraft. The first occurred in March 2024 near Rajasthan's Jaisalmer, when a fighter went down during a training sortie. In that incident—the first in Tejas's 23-year operational history—the pilot ejected safely. Developed by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL),

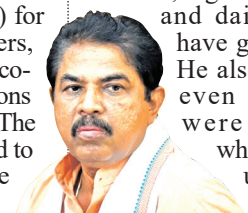
Ashok attacks Congress over 'failures and prices'

BENGALURU

Leader of Opposition in the Karnataka Legislative Assembly, R. Ashok, strongly criticised the Congress government, calling it a total failure for the people and farmers of the state. He spoke to the media after releasing a video titled "Two and a Half Years of Heavy Burden on Kannadigas" and another video on "Congress Wrongsdoings" at the BJP state office in Malleshwaram. A protest poster against the state government was also launched.

Ashok said the Congress government has brought only suffering to the people through rising prices, increasing loans, and poor administration. He claimed there is confusion within the ruling party, as Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar has fallen ill and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has warned party MLAs not to travel to Delhi. According to him, this shows internal fear and struggle for power.

He accused the government of burdening the public with high prices. He said the prices of electricity, milk, petrol, diesel, registration charges, and daily use items have gone up badly. He also alleged that even ghee prices were increased, which he said was unfair to poor families.



QUICK READ

800 cybercrime accused rounded up in operation

NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has arrested or bound down over 800 accused linked to various cybercrime modules in a 48-hour operation named 'CyHawk', an official said on Friday. The police have arrested or bound down 877 people, while 509 individuals have been sent notices in connection with cybercrimes in the 48-hour operation till 9 am on Friday. Joint Commissioner of Police (Intelligence Fusion and Strategic Operations) Rajneesh Gupta said while addressing a press conference.

TMC slams Shah over remarks on SIR

KOLKATA

The Trinamool Congress on Friday hit out at Union Home Minister Amit Shah over his remarks on Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, accusing him of using the "infiltrator rhetoric" to target West Bengal and alleging that the Centre had failed on national security. The party also demanded that Shah step down from his post. Senior minister Shashi Panja said Shah went to Gujarat and spoke about infiltrators, democracy and national security, but "the reality is a deep sense of insecurity across the country."

CISF named new security regulator for seaports

NEW DELHI

The Union government has appointed the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) as the safety regulator for over 250 major and minor seaports across India. The move aims to strengthen port security, modernize operations, and standardize safety measures nationwide. CISF will conduct security assessments, prepare security plans, and perform core security duties. Officials also plan to introduce hybrid security models, advanced screening systems, and specialized training centres for port personnel. Previously, port security was overseen by DG Shipping. With CISF now recognised as a security regulator.

Three, including cop, nabbed in ₹7.11-crore B'loru heist

BENGALURU

Police have made a major breakthrough in the sensational ₹7.11-crore daylight heist in Bengaluru, arresting three people — including a serving police constable — who allegedly played a central role in planning and executing the robbery. Constable Annappa Naik, attached to the Govindapura police station, is believed to be the mastermind. Preliminary investigations suggest he recruited and trained a gang from Kammanahalli and Kalyanahalli, instructing them on police pro-



cedures, how to intercept the cash vehicle, and how to es-

cape. The robbery occurred when the gang, posing as RBI

officials, stopped a CMS cash-transport vehicle near South End Circle on Wednesday afternoon and fled with the money. Police suspect that former CMS employees were also involved and helped hide the stolen cash somewhere in Bengaluru before escaping. Following Home Minister Dr. G. Parameshwara's directive to crack the case within 24 hours, the police intensified the probe and released suspect photos soon after gathering clues. In a parallel operation, two more accused were arrested in Tirupati by a CCB team with help from Chittoor

police. The duo reportedly provided key information about the remaining absconding gang members. The Innova car used in the robbery was later found abandoned near Tirupati and has been seized. Search teams from Bengaluru and Tirupati are combing hotels, lodges, and temple areas to track the remaining suspects. Over 20 people, including HDFC Bank staff and CMS employees, have been questioned. Multiple special teams continue to work round the clock to recover the cash and arrest all those involved.

QUICK READ

Drunk man plunges into canal, escapes after rescue**Bengaluru**

A 35-year-old Nepali man, Ram Bahadur, fell into the Silk Board storm water canal on Friday morning while reportedly intoxicated. Police and nearby construction workers quickly mounted a rescue using a crane to lift him from the deep, murky water. The swift action saved his life, but the drama didn't end there. As authorities prepared to take him to a hospital for a check-up, Ram Bahadur suddenly walked away, leaving rescuers stunned. Officials confirmed no injuries were reported, but police are trying to locate him to ensure his safety and provide medical attention.

**Bangalore North University announces new jobs****Bengaluru**

Bangalore North University has opened applications for Assistant Librarian and Physical Director positions for 2025. Candidates with qualifications ranging from graduation, MPED/PG, M.L.I.S.C. to PhD are eligible. Five posts are available across Kolar, Chikkaballapur, and Bengaluru, with monthly salaries between Rs. 30,000 and 41,000. Interested applicants must apply offline by November 30. Application fees vary: Rs. 500 for general, Rs. 250 for BC, and Rs. 100 for SC/ST candidates. Applicants should carefully fill the form, pay the fee, and send it to the specified address via registered post or courier. This is a key opportunity for government job seekers.

Karnataka opens doors for women-led business ventures**Bengaluru**

The Karnataka State Women Development Corporation has invited online applications from unemployed women in Bengaluru who wish to start their own business under the Employment, Chetana, Gender Minority Rehabilitation, and Dhanashree Schemes for 2025-26. Interested candidates can submit applications at Bapuji Seva Kendra, Grama One, Bangalore One, and Karnataka One centres by 5:30 pm on December 15, 2025. For guidance and further details, applicants can contact the Deputy Director of Women and Child Development, Development Inspectors, or Child Development Scheme Officers in their respective taluks. The initiative aims to empower women through self-employment and skill development.

BGS Founder's Day highlights education, spirituality, culture

H.D. Kumaraswamy praised BGS and others for running educational centers and fostering arts, literature & sports

BENGALURU

Adi Chunchanagiri Peethadhipati Sri Dr. Nirmalananda Nath Swamiji emphasized the responsible use of power during the inauguration of the 17th BGS Founder's Day and BGS Utsav-2025 at the BGS grounds on Kengeri-Uttarahalli main road. He said power, if misused, leads to degradation, but when used positively, it can transform society. Swamiji highlighted the role of BGS Educational Institution in integrating spirituality with modern education, helping children develop both morally and intellectually.

He added that society should honor those who work for its welfare while they are alive, noting that the ideals of Bal Gangadhar Swamiji should inspire everyone. Even those with personal ambitions should serve society sincerely.



Union Minister for Steel and Heavy Industries H.D. Kumaraswamy praised BGS and other religious institutions for successfully running hundreds of educational centers despite the closure of government schools and other institutions. He appreciated BGS's focus on nurturing talent in arts, literature, and sports alongside education.

Jagadguru Shivaratri Deshi Kendra Swamiji urged students and society to be grateful to BGS for providing Akshara Dasoha to over 1,30,000

students, acknowledging the legacy of Balagangadharanath Swamiji. Public TV Ranganath noted that monasteries have played a greater role than the government in promoting education and health.

The event was attended by Managing Director of BGS and SJB Group of Institutions Dr. Prakash Nath Swamiji, Union Minister Shobha Karandlaje, actresses Malashree and Aradhana, IAS officer Rakesh Singh, and other dignitaries.

Raghu emphasized sanitation workers' importance, urged timely wage payments, protection of rights, and respectful treatment by all officials

Chairman warns against delaying sanitation workers' salaries

BENGALURU

The Karnataka State Safai Karmachari Commission Chairman P. Raghu issued a strong warning that delay in paying salaries to sanitation workers will not be tolerated in any case. He said strict action will be taken against officers responsible for such delays.

He was speaking during a live interaction program with civic workers, auto tipper drivers, cleaners, and helpers working under Bengaluru West Nagar Palika. The program was held at Gyan Soudha Auditorium in Govindaranagar on Thursday.

Raghu said sanitation work-

ers play a key role in keeping the city clean and healthy, and their rights must be protected. He stressed that their wages must be paid on time without excuses. He also asked officials to behave respectfully with all workers.

During the interaction, civic worker Anjinamma raised issues regarding mistakes in official records. She said there were wrong entries in dates of birth, places of birth, and problems in appointment letters given to workers.

The Corporation Commissioner assured that a special correction camp will be conducted soon with support from the Revenue and Social Welfare Departments.



Through this camp, errors in documents, including date of birth, will be corrected.

The Commission was also informed that civic workers are being forced to sort garbage illegally and are threatened with job loss if they refuse. On this issue, the Commissioner warned supervisors to stop such practices immediately.

Some workers also reported cases of physical attack and harassment by the public during duty. Chairman Raghu instructed senior officials to provide timely support and ensure full safety and protection for all civic workers.

The interaction program was attended by Additional Commissioner Digvijay Bodke, Commission Secretary Sumaya Roohi, Joint Commissioner Aarti Anand, and other senior officials. Many sanitation workers, drivers, helpers, loaders, and laborers from the municipal area also took part and shared their concerns.

The Chairman said such programs will continue to understand workers' problems and ensure fair treatment across the city.

Shukla humorously compares city traffic to space travel

BENGALURU

The Bengaluru Tech Summit 2025 ended with a light moment that spoke about a serious daily problem — traffic. Astronaut and Indian Air Force Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla made everyone laugh when he said reaching the venue for Marathahalli was harder than coming back from space.

He shared that he spent al-

most three times the duration of his speech just travelling to the Bangalore International Exhibition Centre (BIEC). His joke quickly caught attention and became a talking point across the event halls.

Later, Karnataka IT Minister Priyank Kharge also mentioned this incident while speaking at the Future Makers Conclave. He said that if space travel feels



easier than driving through Bengaluru roads, then traffic needs urgent attention. He assured that the government is working on improving mobility and reducing such situations in the future.

The three-day Bengaluru Tech Summit saw massive participation from across the world. Around 20,680 delegates from 57 countries attended the event.



Experts Warn Bike Taxis Are Unsafe, Illegal, Traffic Hazard

BENGALURU

A Karnataka government expert committee has clearly said that bike taxis should remain banned in the state. The panel called them unsafe, illegal, and unsuitable for the city's traffic system. The committee was formed after a directive from the Karnataka High Court and is chaired by Transport Secretary N.V. Prasad.

The report explained that private motorcycles with white number plates cannot legally carry passengers for money. Under the Motor Vehicles Act, such services must have commercial registration, permits, insurance, and aggregator licences, which bike taxis do not follow. The committee also said there is no approved insurance policy for private bikes carrying paid passengers, which puts both riders and customers at risk during accidents.

However, the panel allowed app-based delivery riders to continue their work. It made a clear legal difference between carrying people and carrying goods. According to the committee, delivering items through apps like Swiggy, Zomato,

The report stated private motorcycles with white number plates cannot carry paid passengers, as bike taxis lack commercial registration, permits, insurance, and approved policies, risking riders and customers.

Zepto, and BigBasket is legal because they transport goods, not people. Goods can be delivered using bicycles, private two-wheelers, or even by walking.

The panel also warned that allowing bike taxis would increase traffic congestion in Bengaluru. It stated that the number of two-wheelers has almost doubled from 2015 to 2025, while BMTC buses increased by only 14 percent. The report said buses are more useful because they carry many people using less road space. It also noted that bike taxis are not cheap as claimed. A short ride costs nearly ₹50, while a BMTC ticket starts at ₹6. The report raised social concerns, saying many riders are college students using family vehicles, affecting their studies.

Commissioner's phone-in brings fast action

BENGALURU

Bengaluru North City Corporation Commissioner Pomma Sunil Kumar held an early morning Phone-In Programme at 7 a.m. on Friday from the Byatarayanapura Control Room on Amruthahalli Main Road to hear public complaints directly. Citizens from different areas called in and shared their problems related to roads, waste, and public safety.

Many residents thanked the Commissioner for taking time to listen in person. Sadashiva Kore from MCHS Layout was among those who called to appreciate the efforts and on-going development works in the city limits. People said the programme made them feel heard and respected.



The Phone-In Programme began on September 26. In the last eight weeks, 431 complaints were received from the public.

Out of these, 279 issues have been solved. Around 25 complaints were not under the North Corporation's control, so they were sent to other departments. For the remaining 117 complaints, the Commissioner has ordered

quick action.

During today's programme alone, 44 people called and 58 complaints were registered. Out of these, 21 complaints were about road maintenance and potholes. The Commissioner said pothole filling work is already going on day and night. Officers were told to speed up the work and make sure roads are safe and smooth for traffic.

Indira Nagar commercial properties face huge revenue demand

BENGALURU

The Bengaluru Central Municipal Corporation has issued demand notices to several commercial properties on Indira Nagar's 100-foot road after a recent revenue review and revision survey. Commissioner Rajendra Cholan said the survey identified a total demand of over Rs. 7.21 crore.

The review, conducted on November 14, 2025, covered 197 properties across the Jeevan Bhimanagar and Domlur revenue divisions. Out of these, 147 properties were found to have correct revenue payments, while 49 buildings showed discrepancies. Notices have been issued to these 49 properties for recovery of the pending amounts.

In Jeevan Bhimanagar's Ward 80, ten properties owe nearly Rs. 1.98 crore, and in Ward 88, 16 properties owe about Rs. 3.89 crore. In Domlur, Ward 89 saw notices issued for two properties



totaling Rs. 45 lakh, and Ward 112 had eight properties with dues amounting to nearly Rs. 89 lakh.

Commercial property owners have 15 days to submit counter-claims after receiving the show-cause notices. If no objections are raised, the Corporation will recover the dues according to rules. Commissioner Cholan added that the phased review and revision surveys will continue across the Central City Corporation's jurisdiction. The Corporation will take action against property owners who underreport taxes through self-declared applications.

This move is part of the city's ongoing efforts to ensure transparency in property tax collection and to prevent revenue leakage from incorrect declarations.

CUBBON FLOWER FIESTA

Cubbon Park to host first-ever 11-day flower show

BENGALURU

Cubbon Park will host a colorful 11-day flower show starting from November 27 and running till December 7. This is the first time the Horticulture Department is organizing such a large event at Cubbon Park. Earlier, only smaller programs were held here along with other departments.

Visitors will get to see more than 100 varieties of flowers and plants. Special Japanese Ikenbana flower arrangements will also be displayed. Over

100 stalls will be set up across the park, selling nursery plants, gardening tools, home-made products, and food items. The department has spent around ₹40 lakh to make the event grand and enjoyable for all age groups.

The exhibition area will extend from the Fountain Circle near the bandstand to the Bal Bhavan gate. One special attraction will be an art exhibition featuring paintings by well-known artists, including Karnataka artist Rumale Chennabasaviah. Cultural



programs, competitions, and live activities will also take place during the event, making it different from the regular Lalbagh flower show.

Several groups like Cubbon Park Walkers' Association,

Rumale Art House, and Indo American Hybrid Seeds have supported the preparations. According to Deputy Director G. Kusuma, the aim is to create a lively and refreshing atmosphere for daily walkers and

QUICK READ

Applications Invited for Women & Gender Minority Schemes

Gadag

The Karnataka State Women Development Corporation has officially opened the window for online applications for several welfare schemes aimed at empowering women, former Devadasis, and gender minorities for the year 2025-26. According to a press release issued from Gadag, residents can now avail themselves of these opportunities through designated government service centres. The schemes include the Rehabilitation Scheme for Former Devadasi Women, Ujjaini Scheme, Chetana Scheme, Dhanashree Scheme, and the Rehabilitation Scheme for Gender Minorities. Applications can be submitted through Grama One, Karnataka One, Bapuji Seva Kendra and Bangalore One centres across the district.

'MSME Sector Emerging as India's Second-Largest Job Creator'

Koppal

The Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector has emerged as the second-largest generator of industries in the country after agriculture, said Mansoor, Joint Director of the District Industrial Centre, Koppal. He was speaking at a one-day awareness workshop on the Incubation Scheme under the RAMP (Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance) initiative, held at Talakal Government Engineering College. The program was organized jointly by the Karnataka Government, Department of Industries and Commerce, KCTU, KSMC Bengaluru, Koppal District Industrial Centre, and Talakal Government Engineering College.

Farmers Urge Scientific Pricing for Maize, Paddy and Sugarcane

Ranebennur

In a strong show of unity, the Karnataka State Farmers' Association staged a massive protest at Makanur Cross in Ranebennur taluk, demanding scientific and fair pricing for maize, paddy and sugarcane crops. The agitation began with the farmers and leaders garlanding the Valmiki statue near Valmiki Circle in Kodiyal Hospet, symbolising their commitment to continue the struggle for their rights. Farmers, accompanied by various religious leaders and community representatives, marched for nearly 2 km from Kodiyal Hospet to Makanur Cross. Throughout the slog, protesters raised slogans condemning the government's alleged failure to ensure proper support.

Applications Invited from ST Fish Sellers for Subsidised Vehicles

Haveri

The Haveri district administration has invited applications from eligible members of the Scheduled Tribes for subsidies to purchase two- or three-wheeler vehicles meant for transporting and selling fish. The initiative is being rolled out under the current year's Special Dharti Abha Yojana, which aims to improve economic opportunities for traditional fish sellers. According to officials, the scheme is open only to registered fish sellers who are active members of the district's fisheries cooperative societies. The subsidy is expected to significantly ease the burden on fisher families who often struggle with transportation challenges while selling fish in rural and semi-urban markets. Eligible applicants can be from several notified villages across Haveri district. These include Shidlapura in Shiggavi taluk; Badamagatti in Hanagal taluk; Gourapura M. Adoor and Teradahalli in Haveri taluk; Dummihala and Arabagonda in Byadgi taluk; Aaladakatti in Hirekerur taluk; and Yakalapur, Nalavagala, Nagenahalli, and Fatehpur in Ranebennur taluk.

Maize Price Crash Triggers Concern in Karnataka

Experts highlighted key reasons behind Karnataka's sudden maize price crash as government explores urgent support measures for farmers

GADAG

A high-level meeting convened by the Karnataka government has revealed several critical factors contributing to the sudden drop in maize prices across the state. Officials, ministers, and agricultural experts discussed the worsening crisis faced by maize growers and outlined potential interventions to stabilise the market and protect farmer interests. According to the discussions, the increase in maize production both within Karnataka and across the country has added pressure on market prices. However, a more significant blow to farmers came from the Centre's decision to import 70 lakh metric tonnes of maize, despite domestic production being abundant. This massive import, officials noted, has severely affected the income of local maize growers by flooding the market with cheaper stock. Another major issue raised was the limited ethanol production quota allotted to Karnataka by the Central government. Because the quota remains low, distilleries in the state have reduced their maize purchases, further weakening demand. Officials also pointed out that central nodal agencies such as NAFED and NCCF, which were instructed by the Union Food and Public Distribution Department to procure maize under MSP and facilitate ethanol use, have not yet initiated the purchase process, worsening the crisis. Additionally, distilleries were criticised for having purchased maize in bulk earlier when prices were low, storing stock, and now refusing to procure fresh produce — a clear violation of procurement norms. The meeting suggested that the state strongly urge the Centre to impose immediate restrictions on maize imports to stabilise prices. It was recommended that central agencies be pressured to procure at least 8 lakh tonnes of maize immediately. Agriculture Minister Cheluvarayaswamy briefed the gathering, stating that the issue has been raised with the Union Agriculture Minister and assistance has been sought. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah assured that the government would extend every possible support to distressed maize farmers. He directed officials to convene meetings with distilleries and the poultry sector — both major consumers of maize — to initiate immediate procurement and restore price stability.



SP Dr. Ram L. Arasiddi stressed coordinated departmental efforts to ensure smooth conduct of the upcoming Hanumamala programme

SP Dr. Ram L. Arasiddi Urges Depts to Work in Coordination

KOPPAL

District Superintendent of Police Dr. Ram L. Arasiddi has called for seamless coordination among various government departments to ensure the successful organization of the Hanumamala Sankirtana Yatra and the Pavamana Homa Yaga scheduled to be held on December 2 and 3 at Anjanadri Betta in Koppal. He was addressing a preparatory meeting held at the District SP Office Hall. Highlighting the importance of inter-departmental cooperation, Dr. Arasiddi stated that the roles of the Regional Transport Department, Forest Department, JESCOM, Health Department, Fire and Emergency Services, and Public Works Department will be crucial. If even one department fails to perform its duty properly, the responsibility ultimately falls on the police department. Therefore, everyone must work with diligence and accountability, he stressed. He instructed transport authorities to ensure that buses operate only on designated routes to prevent traffic congestion. He also directed the Public Works Department to set up barricades at parking areas, watchtowers, and dining zones, while also repairing road potholes in the vicinity. The Fire Department was asked to position firefighting vehicles at parking and cooking zones and deploy personnel with equipment atop the hill to respond promptly in emergencies. The Regional Transport Office was told to handle traffic regulation efficiently. Since a large number of police personnel will be deployed for the Hanumamala event, Dr. Arasiddi directed officials to arrange accommodation for them in Social Welfare Department hostels and other facilities. He also instructed the Excise Department to enforce a liquor ban on December 2 and 3 to maintain order during the event. The meeting was attended by Additional SP R. Hemant Kumar, Assistant Commissioner Mahesh Malagitti, Gangavati DySP J. S. Nyamagowdar, Koppal Transport Department DCTO G. Shivayya, Gangavati KSRTC Unit Manager Rajashekar, ACF Mulla A. H., RTO P. S. Hiremath, and officials from various departments.



Koppal Rescues 40 Child and Adolescent Labourers in Two Years, Strengthens Rehabilitation Measures

KOPPAL

Koppal district has reported significant progress in its fight against child labour, successfully rescuing and rehabilitating 40 child and adolescent labourers over the last two years. According to the District Child Labour Project Society, special drives conducted during 2024-25 and 2025-26 led to the identification of minors employed illegally across various establishments. During the 2024-25 financial year, joint task forces comprising officials from multiple departments carried out extensive inspections at district and taluk levels. These operations resulted in rescuing six child labourers and 21 adolescent labourers, totalling 27 minors. All rescued children were produced before the District Child Welfare Committee and rehabilitated as per protocol. Five employers from Koppal town were booked for illegally employing children, and one case resulted in the collection of a ₹20,000 corpus fund as penalty. In 2025-26, the district identified 13 more minors — three child labourers and ten adolescent labourers — working in automobile workshops, service centres, bakeries, and industrial units. Eight cases were registered against employers under the Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act. Authorities also collected ₹1.20 lakh as corpus fund in two cases. The rescued minors were referred to the Child Welfare Committee and rehabilitated. Officials distributed bank deposit bonds worth ₹35,000 to seven rescued children, comprising ₹20,000 collected from employers and ₹15,000 government contribution. The district administration emphasised that employing children under 14 years in any occupation, and adolescents under 18 years in hazardous industries, is a punishable offence with imprisonment and fines. Authorities urged the public, NGOs, and parents to report child labour cases through the District Child Labour Project Society, labour inspectors, or child helpline numbers 1098 and 112.



Lakkundi to Host 4-Day Art Workshop

LAKKUNDI

As part of the 2025 World Heritage Week, the Department of Archaeology, Museums and Heritage — along with the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), Dharwad Circle, and Lakkundi Heritage Area Development Authority — will organise a four-day art workshop in Lakkundi, Gadag district, from November 22 to November 25. The event aims to foster awareness, creativity, and cultural appreciation among school and college students. According to a press release issued by Dr. Smita, Director of the Department of Archaeology, Museums and Heritage, the programme will commence on November 22 at 10.30 am at Mahatma Gandhi Rural Development and Panchayat Raj University, Naganavalli, Gadag. The inaugural ceremony will be followed by a special lecture on heritage and art. From 1.30 pm on November 22 until 6 pm on November 24, participating students will engage in field visits and on-location sketching activities at various historical monuments in Lakkundi. The initiative is designed to help young participants observe architectural details, understand heritage conservation, and express their interpretations through visual art. The artworks created during the workshop will be showcased on November 25 during the state-level 'Prachya Prajñe' programme conducted by the State Archaeology Department. To encourage active participation, the organisers will select the three best artworks, which will be honoured with awards. The department has invited interested students, faculty members, and art enthusiasts to take part in the event. For further information, participants may contact 9945421305 or 9538003455. The World Heritage Week celebrations in Lakkundi, known for its rich Chalukyan-era monuments, are expected to draw significant interest and contribute to raising heritage awareness among the youth.

Extensive Preparations Underway for Hanumamala Immersion Event

GANGAVATHI

The Koppal district administration has initiated large-scale preparations for the Hanumamala immersion ceremony scheduled to be held on December 2 and 3 at the Sri Anjaneyaswamy Temple on Anjanadri Hill near Chikkarampur in Gangavathi taluk. With lakhs of devotees expected from various parts of the country, Deputy Commissioner Dr. Suresh B. Itnal has formed more than 12 committees, assigning each specific responsibilities to ensure the smooth conduct of the event. Instructions have been issued to officials to ensure essential facilities including accommodation, food, health services, transportation, security, sanitation, and crowd management during the two-day event. The basic amenities committee has been entrusted with arranging pandals, LED screens, public address systems, and setting up help desks for devotees. The food committee has been tasked with providing meals and clean drinking water at Veda Pathashala and other designated resting areas. The road maintenance committee is responsible for filling potholes and repairing connecting routes from Koppal, Gangavathi, and Hosapete to Anjanadri. The health committee will manage activities such as disinfectant spraying, establishing temporary emergency health centres, arranging ambulances, and monitoring the quality of food served. The sanitation committee will undertake large-scale cleaning operations, fogging, and ensuring water availability along the pilgrim routes, resting points, and temple premises. The transport committee will run additional bus services to Anjanadri Hill, while the security committee will handle crowd control, CCTV installation, and the deployment of police personnel. The excise committee has announced a liquor ban within a 10-kilometre radius from December 1 to 3. The Deputy Commissioner has instructed all committees to work in close coordination, warning that any negligence will invite strict action.



SCSP TSP COMPLIANCE

DC Orders Strict Compliance to Targets Under Schemes

GADAG

Deputy Commissioner C. N. Sridhar has issued firm instructions to ensure that both the financial and physical targets of projects implemented under the Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan (SCSP) and Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) are completed within the stipulated timeframe. He was speaking after presiding over the progress review meeting of various departments on Friday at the District Administration Building, Gadag. Stress was laid on ensuring quality in all development works being taken up in SC and ST colonies. The Deputy Commissioner reminded officials that attendance in review meetings is mandatory and emphasised that any delay in completing sanctioned works would not be tolerated. He also made it clear that funds allocated for the respective financial year must be utilised fully and should not lapse under any circumstances. Sridhar warned that any misuse, underutilisation, or diversion of SCSP/TSP funds would attract strict disciplinary action, including the possibility of filing criminal cases against erring officials. He reiterated that every department must take responsibility for safeguarding the purpose and integrity of the scheme. Speaking on the occasion, Additional Deputy Commissioner Dr. Duragesh K. R. echoed similar concerns. He stressed that funds under SCSP and TSP should reach eligible beneficiaries on time and must be used exclusively for approved purposes. He urged departments to follow guidelines meticulously and ensure timely implementation. Nanda Hanabaratti, Deputy



Director of the Social Welfare Department, presented a detailed progress report outlining achievements and pending works across departments. The meeting was attended by GP Deputy Secretary C. R. Mundaragi, Urban Development Cell Project Director Basanagowda Kotura, Health Officer Dr. S. S. Neelgund, Municipal Commissioner Rajaram Pawar, PU Department Deputy Director S. B. Masanayaka, Women and Child Development Deputy Director Smt. Padmavati, Tourism Department Assistant Director Kotresh Vibhuti, and several other officials.

QUICK READ

**Monthly Vaccination Essential to Protect Infants: Dr. Shashikant Koppal**

Vaccinating newborns every month to protect them from 12 life-threatening diseases is crucial, said Dr. Shashikant, Head of the Pediatrics Department at Koppal Mother and Child Hospital. He was speaking on Friday after inaugurating the National Newborn Week program at the hospital's auditorium. The initiative was jointly organized by the District Administration, Zilla Panchayat, Koppal Institute of Medical Sciences, District Health and Family Welfare Department, and the Mother and Child Hospital. Observed every year from November 15 to 21 with the theme Safety of Newborns – At Every Touch, Every Moment, For Every Baby, the program aims to raise awareness among mothers.

Man Missing in Tungabhadra Canal: Police Seek Public Help

Gangavathi
Authorities from the Gangavathi Rural Police Station have appealed to the public to help trace a 34-year-old man who went missing from the Tungabhadra Left Bank Canal near Dasanal village in Gangavathi taluk. The missing individual has been identified as Manjunath, son of Devappa Palled, a resident of Mittikeri Oni in Koppal city. According to the complaint filed, Manjunath had gone to the canal near the Dasanal village bridge on November 8 at around 2 pm to swim. He reportedly jumped into the water but did not resurface. Alarmed by his disappearance, his companions immediately informed the authorities, following which a missing person case was registered at Gangavathi Rural Police Station under Crime No. 304/2025, Section: Man Missing.

Bagalkot to Celebrate Srimad Bhagavad Gita Jayanti with Devotional Fervour on Dec 1**BAGALKOT**

The city of Bagalkot is gearing up for a grand celebration of Srimad Bhagavad Gita Jayanti on December 1, with the district committee of the Srimad Bhagavad Gita Abhiyana planning a series of devotional and community-centric activities. Addressing a press conference, Dr. Girish Masoorakar, a prominent leader of the district committee, announced that preparations are well underway to commemorate the sacred occasion with reverence.

The main event will be held at the Sri Sringeri Shankar Mutt in Vinayak Nagar, where devotees, spiritual leaders, and residents are expected to gather in large numbers. Dr. Masoorakar emphasised that the Jayanti is not merely a ritualistic celebration but an opportunity to revisit the timeless teachings of the Bhagavad Gita, which continue to guide society towards righteousness, balance, and inner strength.

One of the key attractions of this year's celebration is the Bhagavad Gita Quiz, organised exclusively for attendees. The interactive session aims to engage participants in understanding the scripture's profound philoso-

ACCIDENT MANAGEMENT TRAINING WORKSHOP HELD

A special accident-management training workshop was held in Dharwad, stressing prevention, documentation, and coordinated departmental action

DHARWAD

A special training workshop on comprehensive accident management and digital reporting of accident cases was conducted on November 20, 2025, at the Dharwad Zilla Panchayat Hall under the chairmanship of Managing Director Priyanga M., IAS. The programme aimed to strengthen the technical and procedural capabilities of officials involved in road-accident prevention and documentation.

In her inaugural address, Managing Director Priyanga M. stressed the need for continuous awareness among driving staff at the unit level to prevent accidents. She directed officers to collect accident-related records and key evidence promptly and systematically, ensuring proper documentation in the desig-



nated software. All officers must work collectively to prevent and control accidents, which will also help us reduce the corporation's expenditure, she said.

Chief Traffic Manager Vivekananda Vishwajna presented detailed accident data and highlighted essential preventive measures.

Deputy Chief Mechanical Engineer Shashidhar Maridevarmath explained the complete structure and objectives of the accident-management

training module.

As part of the occasion, departments and divisions that achieved their October 2025 revenue targets were felicitated. Gadag, Haveri, Bagalkote, Chikkodi, and Dharwad divisions received awards for achieving transport-revenue goals, while Bagalkote and Gadag divisions were honoured for excelling in non-transport revenue.

In collaboration with PhonePe, a special UPI-ticketing campaign was conducted for

the September quarter. Chikkodi division secured the first position for the highest UPI transactions. In units with more than 100 schedules, Belagavi Division-1 won first place, followed by Hubballi (Rural) Division-2. Jamkhandi unit secured the first place in units with fewer than 100 schedules. Managing Director Priyanga presented appreciation certificates to all winners.

Top-performing officers across divisions were recognised for outstanding UPI-based ticketing.

Many officials, including divisional controllers, traffic officers, technical staff, safety officers, legal officers, and unit managers, participated in the workshop. Naveenkumar Tippa welcomed the gathering, Sunil Patri compered the programme, and Nithin Hegde proposed the vote of thanks.

Centre Clarifies DMF Fund Transfer to Vijayanagara District is Valid**BELLARY**

The Union Ministry of Mines has clarified that the transfer of funds from the Bellary District Mineral Foundation Trust (DMF) to Vijayanagara district carved out of Bellary district, is fully in accordance with existing government rules. The clarification comes amid allegations

that the funds were being shifted illegally. The Ministry said the transfer has been carried out as per the guidelines of the Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana (PMKKKY), which governs the utilisation of DMF funds for mining-affected regions. Officials reaffirmed that the process adheres to statutory norms.

K'taka's new IT-BT Policy offers generous benefits to shift startups beyond B'luru

Karnataka Unveils Major Incentives to Pull Startups

HUBBALLI

Karnataka is taking a decisive step to rebalance its tech ecosystem with a new IT-BT Policy (2025–2030) designed to push startups out of Bengaluru's saturated, high-cost environment and into emerging Tier-2 and Tier-3 hubs. The policy's aggressive incentive structure effectively pays companies to relocate operations to cities such as Mysuru, Mangaluru, Hubballi-Dharwad, Shivamogga and Kalaburagi.

Aiming to nurture 30,000 startups by 2030 — including at least 5,000 from smaller cities — the government has earmarked nearly ₹960 crore to build innovation clusters, startup zones and sector-focused tech hubs across the state.

The incentives are substantial: a 50% office rent reim-



bursement (up to ₹2 crore), 30% property tax relief for three years and up to ₹50,000 per employee as 'talent relocation reimbursement'. Startups moving out of Bengaluru will also receive a five-year electricity duty waiver and a 25% rebate on telecom and internet bills, capped at ₹12 lakh. Firms investing heavily in innovation can avail 40% reimbursement on R&D spending up to ₹50 crore, with extra support for work in AI, ML, quantum computing and blockchain.

Applications open mid-December, with each incentive limited to 100 beneficiaries — creating a first-come, first-served rush among founders.

The policy has triggered vibrant debate online. Many praised it as a long-needed push toward decentralised growth, while others warned against over-urbanising cities like Mysuru and Mangaluru. Still, the consensus among entrepreneurs is clear: the incentives are too significant to ignore.

BRAIN HEALTH AWARENESS

National Epilepsy Day Marked in Koppal with Call for Greater Brain Health Awareness

KOPPAL

National Epilepsy Day was observed in Koppal with a strong emphasis on raising awareness about brain health, epilepsy symptoms, and available treatments. The programme was held under the joint auspices of the District Administration, Zilla Panchayat, and the District Health and Family Welfare Office at the District Superintendent of Police's Office Hall.

Additional District Superintendent of Police Hemanth Kumar, speaking at the Karnataka Brain Health Initiative (KBHI) event, highlighted the importance of educating the public about brain-related disorders and the facilities available at government hospitals. He noted that the district hospital provides essential treatments for epilepsy and other neurological conditions, along with vaccinations for snake



bites. He urged the Health Department to conduct special awareness drives to ensure communities fully benefit from these services.

Dr. Vijay Singh, MD Physician from Koppal Medical Teaching Hospital and the resource person for the event, explained that National Epilepsy Day is observed annually on November 17 to spread information about the condition. He detailed the symptoms, causes, and methods to identify epilepsy, emphasising the need to dispel myths sur-

rounding the disorder. He also demonstrated how first aid should be administered during an epileptic seizure and discussed the importance of timely and regular medication. Dr. Singh provided a comprehensive overview of the KBHI programme's initiatives.

District Health Education Officer Shivanand V.H.P. spoke about national health priorities, stressing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of making India tuberculosis-free by 2025. He ap-

pealed to the public to support efforts to eliminate TB in the district. He also expressed concern over Koppal ranking second in Karnataka for child marriage cases and called for collective action to eradicate the practice.

The event was compered by Tejaswini, district coordinator of the KBHI programme. Members of the KBHI team, along with staff of the Police Department and the Superintendent of Police's office, participated in the awareness programme.



Registration Begins for District-Level Sports Meet for Disabled

KOPPAL

The Department of Empowerment of the Disabled and Senior Citizens has announced the commencement of registrations for the district-level sports meet for disabled persons, organised to mark the World Day of Disabled Persons for the year 2025–26. The initiative aims to promote participation, sportsmanship, and inclusivity among differently abled individuals across Koppal district.

According to an official press release issued, the sports events will begin on November 24 at 10 am at the Koppal Taluk Stadium. Participants from all seven taluks of the district are eligible to take part in the competitions. A variety of sports tailored for disabled participants will be conducted, ensuring maximum engagement at the taluk-level event.

In addition to the initial competitions, a district-level sitting cricket tournament for disabled sportspersons has been scheduled for November 27. The match will be held at 10 am at the Taluk Stadium located within the APMC Ground in Gangavathi. Officials stated that this event is expected to see enthusiastic

Registration has started in Koppal for the upcoming district-level sports meet for disabled persons scheduled this month

participation from disabled athletes eager to showcase their talent and competitive spirit.

The Koppal District Disabled Welfare Officer has urged all interested participants to complete their registration at the earliest. Those willing to take part must register their names by November 25. Registrations can be completed by contacting the Sports Committee through the phone numbers 7353402122 or 9035859684.

Authorities emphasised that the annual sports meet not only provides a platform for disabled individuals to display their abilities but also reinforces the government's commitment to fostering an inclusive environment that encourages physical activity and community involvement.

Participants and their families have been encouraged to make use of this opportunity and ensure active involvement in the upcoming events.

Joint Drive Clears Encroachments to Improve Traffic

VIJAYNAGAR

A joint anti-encroachment drive was carried out in Vijayanagar on Friday by the police and municipal authorities to ease traffic congestion in busy commercial areas.

The operation continued till 4 pm and focused on removing illegal extensions, roadside displays and unauthorised structures that were narrowing roads.

Two commercial establishments were issued notices for violating traffic norms, while goods placed on public pathways were seized. Officials warned of strict action against repeat offenders.

Police said encroachments disrupt traffic and endanger pedestrians. The municipal team said the drive will continue in phases across other congested areas. Residents welcomed the move for smoother traffic flow.

Minister Reddy denies rumors of Karnataka govt instability

In Ramanagara, Reddy told media he is unaware of MLAs' Delhi visit or any state government leadership changes

RAMANAGARA

Minister Ramalinga Reddy said there is no November revolution, no illusion and no instability in the Karnataka government. He said everything is peaceful and normal, and people should not believe in unnecessary rumors or political stories.

Speaking to the media in Ramanagara, Reddy reacted to questions about the recent Delhi visit of some MLAs linked to Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar. He said he does not know who went to Delhi or why they

went. He clearly said he has no information about any leadership change in the state government.

He also laughed off reports about Dalit ministers holding secret meetings. He said if four people meet for dinner, it does not mean they are planning politics. He added that he is not part of any separate group and joked that nobody even invites him to such dinners. He said he belongs only to the Congress and there are no

internal groups creating trouble. Reddy compared his party with the opposition and said the Congress does not have many factions like the BJP. According to him, BJP has several internal groups fighting, but Congress leaders are united under one leadership. He said the Congress government is stable and strong. He also spoke about the government completing two and a half years in office. He said this is not like two innings in a cricket match. For them, the

full five-year term is one complete innings. He promised that the government will continue to focus on development work for the full term.

He said the Congress government has already fulfilled many promises made to the people during elections. There is no confusion inside the party. Everything will be decided only by the high command, and no local leader can change anything alone.

Reddy urged people not to fall for false news and trust the government for stability and development across the state.

Jalige Panchayat stresses basics at first Gram Sabha

DEVANAHALLI

The first phase Gram Sabha for the year 2025-26 was held at Singrahalli Temple under Jalige Gram Panchayat. Villagers, officials, students and elected members gathered to discuss village needs and review development plans.

Panchayat President Anand Kumar S.M. said the panchayat gives top priority to basic services like drinking water, health, sanitation, roads and safety. He urged people to attend ward meetings and gram sabhas regularly. He said prob-

lems should be shared openly so they can be solved in time. He also highlighted that CCTV cameras have been installed for village safety, health programs have been improved, and children are getting education incentives.

Panchayat member Mahesh Kumar B.R. said the panchayat's duty is to provide protection and good facilities. He told villagers not to only look at faults, but also compare their panchayat with others and support good work. He said encouragement helps leaders work harder for development.

Panchayat Development Officer Prakash H. presented details of income, spending and completed works. He explained how funds were used for roads, drainage, sanitation and public services. During the program, the panchayat honored milk producers for their contribution. Sewing machines were distributed to trained women to support their self-employment. Scholarships and incentives were given to special children and to students studying PUC, degree and undergraduate courses. Nodal Officer Dhananjaya L.P., Vice

President Bhavya K. Prashanth, and several panchayat members were present. Officials from different departments also attended and spoke with villagers. School children and local residents actively participated in the meeting.

The program ended with a call for unity and regular public participation. Leaders said development is only possible when people and panchayat work together. Villagers were encouraged to continue sharing ideas, raising issues, and supporting local progress in every possible way.

Chitradurga District Treasury holds training workshop

CHITRADURGA

The District Treasury organized a workshop on HRMS-2 and Khajane-2 software for all Distribution Officers (DDOs) and Panchayat Development Officers of Chitradurga Taluk on Friday at the Zilla Panchayat Hall in Chitradurga City.

The workshop was inaugurated by District Treasury Deputy Director H.T. Ashoka, who began the event by watering a sapling. He briefed participants on the rules for creating and submitting bills in Treasury-2 and emphasized the importance of maintaining a monthly expenditure schedule, GST reconciliation, and timely reconciliation of Zilla Panchayat and Taluk Panchayat accounts.

As the financial year-end approaches, Ashoka also explained processes for DSC renewal, travel allowance bills, GPF bills, HRMS-2, NPS, and the creation of online office orders. The session aimed to strengthen officials' understanding of treasury procedures and ensure accurate and timely financial reporting.

Veeresh, Resource Person from the Davangere e-Procurement Cell, provided hands-on training on work bill creation using the e-Procurement portal, helping officers gain practical knowledge for smooth implementation in their offices.

Other officials present at the workshop included Assistant Director N. Boraiah, Assistant Treasury Officer B. Veerbhadrappa, Executive Engineer H.P. Amarnath Jain, and Forest Department ACF M.S. Nyamathi.

Preparations complete for Chief Minister's Chikkaballapura visit

CHIKKABALLAPURA

All arrangements have been completed for the visit of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to the district on November 24. He will come to Hanumanthapur village in Shidlaghatta taluk to inaugurate a high-tech silk market, open new industries, lay foundation stones for projects and distribute

benefits to people. District Collector P.N. Ravindra said a huge stage has been built and all basic facilities are ready. He inspected the venue and reviewed the final preparations. He said the Chief Minister will launch development works worth around Rs 2,000 crore. These works include industrial projects, infrastructure development and public welfare schemes that will help the district grow faster. Thousands of people are expected to attend the event from different

parts of Chikkaballapura district. The district administration has made detailed arrangements to handle the large crowd. Clean drinking water points, proper seating, fans for air circulation, bright lighting and big LED screens have been set up so people can clearly see and hear the program. Food arrangements and medical support have also been planned for the visitors.

The Collector said officers from various departments are working together to ensure smooth management. He added that traffic control, security, parking and emergency services have also been arranged to avoid any inconvenience to the public. During the program, beneficiaries from different government schemes will receive their benefits on stage. This includes support related to housing, farming, self-employment.



QUICK READ

Farmers urged to submit employment plan soon

CHITRADURGA

Farmers in Chitradurga district can now enroll in the 2026-27 action plan under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. The plan covers the development of new plantations for perennial fruit crops, garden crops, and flowers. Interested participants are advised to approach the Assistant Horticulture Officers at Farmers Contact Centers or their Gram Panchayats to register. Zilla Panchayat CEO S. Akash urged farmers to act promptly, as village assemblies will approve the plans only until November 30. Early submission ensures inclusion, allowing farmers to benefit from the government-supported employment and horticulture initiatives.

Missing boy sparks urgent search in Chitradurga

CHITRADURGA

Thirteen-year-old Abhishek Thamanna from M.R. Nagar, Chitradurga, has been reported missing since November 16. The boy, studying in class 8, reportedly left home after an argument about going to Hassan around 4 pm. Abhishek is 4.3 feet tall, has a swarthy face, olive skin, black hair about three inches long, and a normal build. He has tattoos on his left hand and forearm and was last seen wearing an almond-colored shirt and black pants. He speaks Kannada and Telugu. Anyone with information is urged to call Chitradurga Control Room at 08194-222782.

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

DOCUMENT LOST
I, ASHA ANAND R/o H.No.123, 1st Main, 5th Cross, Kempegowda Nagar, VN Post, Bangalore - 560091 do hereby state that the Original Gift Deed bearing No. NGB-1-08969-2019-20 relating to site No. 19, which stands in my name and belongs to me, has been lost in Kempegowda Nagar, Magadi Main Road, Bangalore during transit. If anyone happens to find the said document. Kindly return them to the above address.
Sd/- Asha Anand M : 7760854266

CHANGE OF NAME
I, GURUSHIDDAPPA SHIVAPUTRAPPA SHETTAR (Old name) address: BAZAR ROAD MUNOLI MUNAVALLI. Has changed my name: GURUSIDDAPPA SHIVAPUTRAPPA SHETTAR (New name) for all purposes. Vide Affidavit dated: 19/11/2025 before notary public Hubli.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, AJIT KAKKALI (Old name) address: AT POST DEVARSHINGIHALLI DIST BELGAUM. Has changed my name: AJITA KAKKALI (Now name) for all purposes. Vide Affidavit dated: 21/11/2025 before notary public Hubli.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, AJEY DAYANANDAGOUDA UDIKERI (Old name) address: PLOT NO 2 VIJAYNAGAR DHARWAD. Has changed my name: AJEY UDIKERI (new name) for all purposes. Vide Affidavit dated: 19/11/2025 before notary public Hubli.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, UDAYKUMAR DESAI (Old name) address: RADHAKRIESHNA COLONY DHARWAD. Has changed my name: UDAYKUMAR VASANTRAO DESAI (New name) for all purposes. Vide Affidavit dated: 21/11/2025 before notary public Hubli.

TOWN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, SEDAM.
Near State Bank of India, Sedam-585222 Dist : Kalaburagi State : Karnataka
WebSite: www.sedamtown.mrc.gov.in Phone: 08441-277912-276932
NO:TMC-SEDAM/AMRUT2.0/2025-26 Date: 20.11.2025
:: TENDER NOTIFICATION ::
The Chief Officer TMC Sedam, Dist-Kalaburagi, Karnataka Invites Tenders Under AMRUT-2.0 (Green Space and Parks), Through <http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> KPP Portal as per the KPPP Act 2000 from Eligible Registered contractors
1) Works/Goods/Service Details: 1. **DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT47627/CALL-3- Others,** 2) Head of Account: **AMRUT-2.0 (Green Space and Parks),** 3) Works/Goods/Service Estimated Cost: **Rs. 105.18 Lakhs,** 4) Contractors/Agency/Suppliers Edibility: Eligible Registered contractors, 5) Works/Goods/Service Tender Cost: **Rs. 105.18 Lakhs** 6) Last date for applying the tender: **06.12.2025 Evening 17.00 Hours,** 7) Tenders Opening Date: **08.12.2025 Morning 11.00 Hours, (Financial Bid Opening As per kpp portal)** 8) Office Address and Contact Details: Town Municipal Council Sedam- 9611688976
Sd/- Chief Officer TMC Sedam
DIPR/Kalaburagi/760/KSMC&A/2025-26

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Public Works Department
Executive Engineer PWD Division Chikkodi
No/PWD/CKD DIV/AE-2/TENDER/2025-26/ 4871 Date: 18-11-2025
E-TENDER NOTIFICATION
Executive Engineer PWD Division Chikkodi has invited item wise e-Tenders from Eligible registered contractors for the works coming under the jurisdiction of Chikkodi PWD Division 2 works under head of account 4059-CMIDP. Amount put to tender is Rs. 80.00 Lakhs & Rs. 116.80 Lakhs respectively.
Calendar of events:

1)	Pre-bid meeting date: 03-12-2025 at 11.00 AM, at The O/o the undersigned.
2)	Last date for queries & clarifications: 04-12-2025 up to 5.30 PM
3)	Last Date of Receipt of Bids: 06-12-2025 up to 5.00 PM
4)	Date of opening of Technical bids (Two Cover System): 08-12-2025 at 4.30 PM
5)	Date of opening of Financial bids (Two Cover System): "after approval of Technical bids"
6)	If no bid received auto extension will be done by e-proc itself for 2 days.

For more information & forms of tender can be downloaded from kppp.karnataka.gov.in & departmental website www.kppwd.gov.in. Further details can be collected from O/o Executive Engineer Public Works Dept., Division Chikkodi during working hours.
SD Executive Engineer PWD Division Chikkodi.
DIPR/BGM/1364/2025-26

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Bangalore Division, 2nd Floor, PWD Annexure Building, K.R. Circle, Bengaluru-01. Phone: 080-22133370
No.: 37/2025-26 Date: 20.11.2025
TENDER NOTIFICATION
Item-rate tenders, for the work in PWD, Nelamangala, Devanahalli & South Sub Division under this office noted below, are invited by the undersigned on behalf of the Governor of Karnataka in accordance with Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Rules 2000 and as per Standard Tender Documents for procurement of works from the contractors registered in K.P.W.D. as per KPPP. Tender Notification are Published for **03 works (Rs. 8.92 Lakhs to Rs. 500.00 Lakhs)** Details of the tender works can be obtained from the above Office during office hours on working days. **EMD & Tender processing fees are mentioned in KPP portal. (<https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>)**
Sl. No. 1 to 3: (1) Tenders must be submitted online through KPP portal on or before **4.00 PM on 05.12.2025.** (2) The opening of tenders through KPP portal on **Dated: 06.12.2025 at 4.30 PM** or further date and time will be intimated.
Sl. No. 4 to 6: (1) Tenders must be submitted online through KPP portal on or before **4.00 PM on 28.11.2025.** (2) The opening of tenders through KPP portal on **Dated: 29.11.2025 at 4.30 PM** or further date and time will be intimated. **For more details contact this office.**
Sd/- Executive Engineer.
DIPR/DD-C.P/3958/KSMCA/2025-26

Minority Welfare Department kolar District
Phone : 08152-295257
Date: 20.11.2025
Tender Notification
The District Officer, Minority Welfare Department, Kolar, hereby invites Technical & Commercial Bids from eligible bidders for supply of perishable and non-perishable food materials etc., to the Pre-Metric, Post-Metric Hostels, Dr APJ Schools and MMDRS Schools/Colleges located in Kolar District, Karnataka, through Public Procurement Portal of Government of Karnataka (<https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>). Interested eligible Bidders can participate in the Tender through <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>. Approximate Amount put to tender: **Rs. 3,64,00,000 Lakh.** EMD Amount: **Rs. 3,74,250/-**. Start date for submission of tender application: **21.11.2025.** Last date to submit: **20.12.2025, 5.00 p.m.**
Sd/- District Officer, Minority welfare department, kolar District
DIPR/KOLAR/RO:364/KSMCA/2025-26

Bengaluru South Zilla Panchayat Office of the Executive Engineer PANCHAYATHRAJ ENGINEERING DIVISION
Ramanagara, Bangalore South Dist.
No.: EE/PRED/Rmg/J.E./TND-23/2025-26 Date: 19.11.2025
TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Only through E-PROCUREMENT system)
The Executive Engineer, Panchayathraj Engineering Division, Ramanagara, invites the Itemwise tender. Contractors registered in KPWD, enrolled in PRED/PWD Licence for the works. Head of Account, Kanakapura Yojana Pradikara. Tender amount **Rs.100.00 lakh.** Last Date for submission of Tender Dated: **04.12.2025 by 4:00 PM,** Opening of the Technical Tender Dated: **05.12.2025 at 4:30 PM,** Opening of the Financial Tender Dated: **04.01.2026 at 4:30 PM,** onwards. For details & further information visit the website www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in Or contact this office in office hours.
Sd/- Executive Engineer
Panchayathraj Engineering Division, Ramanagara
DIPR/BSD/460/SA/2025-26

Government of Karnataka DEPARTMENT OF HORTICULTURE
Joint Director of Horticulture (ZP) Bangalore urban District
E-mail: jdhbangurban@gmail.com Tel: 080-22860640
No:DDH/ZP/BU/ADH-1/NHM/CDP/2025-26 Dated: 19.11.2025
Notification
The National Horticulture Board's Cluster Development Programme for the year 2025-26 is baing implemented in Bangalore Urban District, Proposals are invited from prospective entrepreneurs/ implementing Agencies for establishment of projects under the Multi-Commodity High Value Cluster and Peri-Urban Vegetable Cluster programmes under the said scheme. Entrepreneurs/implementing Agencies who wish to avail the said programs of the year 2025-26 may contact the office of the Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture of the concerned taluks and office of the Joint Director of Horticulture, Bangalore Urban and It is hereby announced that the application should be submitted online (<https://www.nhb.gov.in/OnlineApplication/OnlineRegistrationIntermediatePage.aspx>) along with the prescribed documents as per the revised scheme guidelines available at <https://www.nhb.gov.in>

For More Information Contact:			
Bangalore South and Bangalore East Taluk Ph No: 080 28486144 9036043217	Anekal Taluk Ph No: 080 27840454 9845268382 7892818107	Bangalore East Taluk Ph No: 080 28566740 9538953949	Office of the Deputy Director of Horticulture, cubbon park, Bangalore Ph No: 080 22860640 9448999213

Sd/- Joint Director of Horticulture (ZP) Bangalore Urban
DIPR/CP/3974/2025-26

BEFORE THE HONBLE COURT DISTRICT COURT AT ARAKKONAM I.A.NO .2/2025 IN O.S.NO. 143 /2024
P.Subbulakshmi, W/O Perumal Naidu No:157, Road street, Perumpulipakkam,Avalur, vellore District 632531
..... petitioner/ proposed 5" defendant
VS
1.Lalitha Jayaraman, D/O Anumandh Naidu, No.10, venkateshwar Nagar Extention, Thiru Nagar, Vellore and 7 others
.....Respondents/ plaintiffs
TO,
Rani Gunasekaran, D/o Anu,mandh Naidu No: M/5, IVTH Cross Road,Nehru Road, Sty. Thomas town post, Kammanahalli, Bengaluru-560084
Sir,
Please take notice that my client Mrs. Subbulakshmi has filed impleading petition in I.A.2/2025 IN o.s.143/2024 before the Hon'ble Additional District Judge at Arakkonam. Notice was originally ordered in the petition on 06.10.2025 through court and private notice. The notice sent to your address was returned with postal endorsement "INSUFFICIENT ADDRESS". The Hon'ble Court was pleased to order substituted service through paper publication on 10.11.2025 further publication effect within 24.11.2025 and posted the case on 08.12.2025. Now the Impleading petition in I.A.NO2/2025 is posted for your appearance and hearing on 08.12.2025. If in case if you fail to appear on the said date, the petition will be decided in your absence.
R.RAYEESA FATHIMA B.A.B.L., ADVOCATE H.O.FS.2ND FLOOR, SINGAPORE PLAZA, NO.164, LINGI CHETTY STREET, CHENNAI -600 001, Ph:9500322303

BEFORE THE HONBLE COURT DISTRICT COURT AT ARAKKONAM I.A.NO /2025 IN O.S.NO. 143/2024
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.....Respondents/ plaintiffs
TO,
A.Sampath, s/o Anumandh Naidu, no:C-1-263, Nidhamanur, Nalakonda District, State of Talangana-508278.
Sir,
Please take notice that my client Mrs. Subbulakshmi has filed impleading petition in I.A.2/2025 IN O.S.143/2024 before the Hon'ble Additional District Judge at Arakkonam. Notice was originally ordered in the petition on 06.10.2025 through court and private notice. The notice sent to your address was returned with postal endorsement "NO SUCH PERSON". The Hon'ble Court was pleased to order substituted service through paper publication on 10.11.2025 further publication effect within 24.11.2025 and posted the case on 08.12.2025. Now the Impleading petition in I.A.NO2/2025 is posted for your appearance and hearing on 08.12.2025. If in case if you fail to appear on the said date, the petition will be decided in your absence.
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QUICK READ

**Stray Dog Found Roaming With Newborn's Body****Kanpur**

A stray dog was found carrying the mutilated body of a newborn baby, with its head and arms missing, at a park in Uttar Pradesh's Kanpur. The incident took place on Thursday, sparking panic among residents. A resident, Amit Trivedi, first spotted the stray dog running towards Friends Park carrying an object wrapped in cloth. Suspicious, he chased the dog, which dropped the body and ran away. When Trivedi, along with other locals, removed the cloth, they found the newborn's body without arms and hands, and its chest severely torn.

**Delhi High Court Cancels Case Against Gautam Gambhir****New Delhi**

The Delhi High Court on Friday quashed a criminal case against Indian cricket team head coach Gautam Gambhir, his foundation and others for allegedly illegally stocking and distributing COVID-19 drugs during the pandemic. Justice Neena Bansal Krishna pronounced the order, saying, "criminal complaint quashed". The high court passed the order on a plea challenging the summons issued by a trial court against Gambhir, his wife, mother and the foundation and seeking quashing of the criminal complaint. The Delhi government's Drug Control Department had filed a complaint against Gambhir, then MP from east Delhi, his foundation, its CEO Aprajita Singh, his mother and wife, Seema Gambhir and Natasha Gambhir, respectively.

**More Trouble For Arrested Piracy Kingpin****Hyderabad**

Immedi Ravi, the alleged mastermind of the massive iBomma film piracy network who was arrested earlier this week, faces more legal trouble as the Hyderabad Cyber Crime Police have added forgery-related sections to the case. This development brings the total number of charges against the accused to more than 13 under various acts. Also, the Enforcement Directorate has joined the investigation into the case. Police officials have submitted a memo in court to include three new sections focusing on forgery and identity fraud. Investigators found that Ravi allegedly obtained crucial documents, including a PAN card, a bike licence, and a vehicle Registration Certificate (RC).

Tamil Nadu CM MK Stalin Seeks Amendment to Article 200

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin urged amending Article 200 to ensure fixed timelines for Governors on clearing bills

CHENNAI

In a strong push for strengthening federal principles, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin on Friday called for amending Article 200 of the Constitution to introduce mandatory timelines for Governors to approve or return bills passed by state legislatures. Stalin said the lack of clear deadlines has enabled Governors to sit on bills indefinitely, undermining the mandate of elected governments.

The Chief Minister's statement came a day after the Supreme Court delivered

its opinion on the Presidential Reference concerning the powers of Governors in dealing with legislative bills. Stalin emphasised that the Supreme Court's view will not affect the landmark judgment delivered on April 8, 2025, which ruled that the ten bills withheld by Governor R N Ravi would be deemed to have received assent.

He said the court had already settled the matter in Tamil Nadu's favour, upholding the

primacy of elected governments. Stalin interpreted Thursday's Supreme Court opinion as a categorical rejection of what he described as Governor Ravi's "theory of pocket veto." He said the apex court had dismissed the notion that a Governor could kill or indefinitely bury legislation by withholding action.

Reiterating the DMK's commitment to safeguarding state autonomy, Stalin said the party's struggle for state rights and true



federalism would continue. "Through our legal battle, we have compelled Governors, including the Tamil Nadu Governor, who are at odds with the elected government across the country, to work in line with the elected government and be accountable for their deliberate inaction in response to the people's will through legislation," he said.

The Chief Minister added that the Supreme Court's observations have strengthened the democratic framework by ensuring that constitutional posts cannot be misused to stall governance.

Supreme Court Bans New Mining Leases in Aravalis, Accepts Centre's Definition

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court approved a uniform scientific definition of the Aravali Hills and Ranges and imposed a ban on granting fresh mining leases across the ecologically fragile landscape spanning Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan and Gujarat. The ruling, delivered by Chief Justice B.R. Gavai along with Justices K. Vinod Chandran and N.V. Anjaria, aims to strengthen conservation efforts for one of the world's oldest mountain systems. Accepting the Environment Ministry panel's recommendations, the court defined an Aravali Hill as any landform in designated districts rising at least 100 metres above local relief, while an

Aravali Range will consist of two or more such hills located within 500 metres of each other. The comprehensive definition also includes supporting slopes, hillocks and associated landforms enclosed by the lowest contour.

The judgment, part of long-running environmental proceedings under the T.N. Godavarman Thirumulpad case, mandates strict protection of core and inviolate zones. The Bench accepted expert recommendations on sustainable mining and directed authorities to demarcate ecologically sensitive, conservation-critical and restoration-priority regions where mining will be either prohibited or allowed only under exceptional.

Kerala Congress to Mark 100 Years of Vaikom Satyagraha

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) will on Sunday lead a major centenary commemoration at Vaikom in Kottayam, marking 100 years since the conclusion of the historic Vaikom Satyagraha.

The iconic struggle, which lasted 603 days, remains one of the most defining movements in Kerala's battle against caste-based discrimination and for equal access to public spaces.

Announcing the event, KPCC President and MLA Sunny Joseph said the celebration aims to honour the transformative spirit of the satyagraha, which played a crucial role in reshaping Kerala's socio-political fabric. He noted that the movement strengthened the larger push for justice, equality and civil rights, inspiring generations



KPCC will host a major centenary event honouring Kerala's historic Vaikom Satyagraha and its enduring legacy of social reform.

of reformers and citizens.

The centenary programme, he said, will be conducted in an inclusive and dignified manner, paying tribute to the leaders, activists and ordinary people who stood firm in demanding public access for all, regardless of caste.

The main commemorative meeting is scheduled at 2.30 p.m. at the Vaikom Satyagraha Memorial Hall.

The session will be chaired by KPCC Vice President and Chairman of the Centenary Celebration Committee, V.P. Sajeendran.

Opposition Leader V.D. Satheesan will inaugurate

the event, underscoring the political and historical significance of the satyagraha in Kerala's democratic evolution.

Members of the KPCC Political Affairs Committee, office bearers, MPs, MLAs and several senior leaders are expected to participate, reflecting the movement's lasting impact on Kerala's contemporary politics.

The event will also serve as a moment of reflection on the progress achieved since the satyagraha and the challenges that remain in ensuring equality and dignity for all citizens.

Home Minister Amit Shah said Bihar poll results show citizens reject parties allegedly protecting infiltrators in voter lists.

Amit Shah Says Bihar Verdict a Mandate Against Infiltrators, Backs SIR

BHUJ

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday asserted that the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance's (NDA) sweeping victory in the Bihar Assembly elections was a clear mandate against infiltrators, claiming that voters would never support parties that "secure the interests of illegal immigrants." Shah made the remarks while addressing the BSF Diamond Jubilee (61st Raising Day) celebrations in Bhuj, in Gujarat's Kutch district.

Shah accused several Opposition parties of resisting the Election Commission's



ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls because they allegedly want the names of infiltrators to remain on the lists. Describing the exercise as a necessary "purification" of the voter registry, he said the SIR is critical to protecting both national security and the integrity of India's democratic processes.

"Today, the BSF is engaged in preventing infiltration at all borders. Stopping infiltration is essential not only for national security but also to protect our democratic system from being polluted," he said. Shah added that infiltrators "do not have the

right to influence democratic decisions" in India.

He warned political parties opposed to the SIR, including those in West Bengal, where Assembly elections are due next year, saying the government was determined to deport every single infiltrator. The Opposition, including the Trinamool Congress, has criticised the SIR, saying it could disenfranchise lakhs of voters.

Reiterating his stance, Shah said, "The Bihar election was the mandate of the people of the country, and that mandate is against the presence of infiltrators."

In the recent Bihar polls, the NDA decimated the Mahagathbandhan, winning over 200 of the 243 seats.

Kishor Calls Nitish Cabinet 'Full of Corrupt, Criminal Leaders'

BETTIAH

Jan Suraj Party leader Prashant Kishor on Friday launched a scathing attack on Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's newly sworn-in cabinet, alleging that it is dominated by corrupt and criminal leaders. Addressing reporters after completing a day-long silent fast at the Gandhi Ashram in West Champaran, Kishor said the council of ministers "is a slap in the face of the people of Bihar".

Kishor, who recently faced a setback in the Assembly elections, claimed the inclusion of several tainted leaders reflects that Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Nitish Kumar "are least concerned about Bihar's welfare". He further alleged the NDA "purchased votes" by transferring ₹10,000 to over one crore women before the polls, adding that government funds, including those from the World Bank and the

State contingency fund, were diverted for the scheme.

Announcing his next political move, Kishor said the Jan Suraj Party will begin the Bihar Navnirman Sankalp Yatra from January 15. The outreach programme will cover every household in the State over the next 15-18 months, aiming to strengthen the party's grassroots network and highlight what he called the government's "misdeeds".

Kishor also declared that he will donate 90% of his income for the next five years to support the campaign and contribute most of his personal assets, except his Delhi home. Urging public participation, he appealed to every supporter to contribute ₹1,000 annually to the party. "We will change this government. They tried to break our morale, but we will fight and win," Kishor said, reaffirming his commitment to Gandhian principles of patience and perseverance.



Delhi Minister Seeks Schools' Compliance Report

NEW DELHI

In the wake of a tragic suicide by a Class 10 student allegedly due to sustained mental harassment, Delhi Education Minister Ashish Sood on Friday announced that he will seek detailed compliance reports from every school in the capital regarding the implementation of CBSE's psychological well-being guidelines. Calling the incident deeply distressing, Sood said he was approaching the issue "as a serious, worried parent."

Sood said the Delhi government has already formed a committee to investigate the case, and the school concerned has initiated disciplinary measures. "I will write to all schools asking whether the CBSE directives on mental health and well-being of students are being followed. If any school is facing difficulty, the state government will handhold them. I want the next generation to know that we are serious about their mental

health," he said. The incident occurred on Wednesday afternoon when the 16-year-old boy jumped from the platform at Rajendra Place Metro Station around 2:30 pm. He was rushed to BLK Super Speciality Hospital but was declared dead on arrival. On Thursday, the Delhi education department set up an inquiry committee, while the school administration suspended four staff members — the headmistress, coordinator and two teachers — pending investigation. According to the police, the student left a note naming several teachers and alleging mental harassment. The note also requested that his organs be donated. The tragedy has renewed focus on mental health support mechanisms within schools, especially at a time when students are increasingly reporting stress and anxiety linked to academic pressure.

Sood emphasised that schools must strictly adhere to CBSE norms, including counselling services.

Protest outside Delhi school after Class 10 student's suicide

Families and friends of a Class 10 student who died by suicide staged a protest outside St Columba's School on Friday, accusing some teachers of mentally harassing him and demanding strict action from the authorities. The protesters asserted that the school must be held accountable and urged the government to strengthen mental health safeguards for students. A family friend of the deceased student's parent, Archana, said that the protesters were seeking more than just suspension, emphasising that strong action should be taken against both the teachers and the school management.

Naqvi Says Delhi Blast Shows Rise Of 'Intellectual Terrorism'

NEW DELHI

After Dr Umar Muhammad was found to be the bomber in the November 10 Delhi car blast and several doctors arrested, BJP national spokesperson Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi on Friday said he was "compelled to say with great regret" that a new phase of "intellectual terrorism" has begun.

Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi said, "I am compelled to say with great regret that a new phase of 'intellectual terrorism' has begun. This new wave of educated explosives that has started is not in the interest of the country. People must unite to stop this. Any country that promotes or protects such elements cannot claim to be a well-wisher of humanity or Islam. These terrorists who claim to speak for 'Islamabad' are actually enemies of its existence, and of Islam and humanity."

Delhi: BJP national spokesperson Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi says, "I am compelled to say with great regret that a new phase of 'intellectual terrorism' has begun. This new wave of educated explosives that has started is not in the interest of the country. He also reacted to the controversy surrounding the postponement of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Kerala ahead of the upcoming Local Self-Government Institutions (LSGI) elections.

"A criminal reaction to a constitutional process is not in the country's interest," Naqvi said. "Some people complain even before the exam that the paper is out of the course. I have heard of BCA and other courses, but now Rahul Gandhi and others will roam around with the tag of 'Baccalaureate of Defeat'.

WHO Report Flags High Rates of Violence Against Women

NEW DELHI

More than one-fifth of Indian women aged 15-49 experienced intimate partner violence in 2023, while nearly 30 per cent faced such abuse at some point in their lives, according to a new global assessment released by the World Health Organisation (WHO). The report, published ahead of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls on November 25, paints a grim picture of persisting gender-based violence worldwide. Globally, the WHO es-



timates that nearly one in three women—about 840 million—have suffered intimate partner or sexual violence during their lifetime, a figure that has remained largely unchanged since 2000. The stag-

nation, the authors warn, indicates that international efforts and policy reforms have not translated into meaningful reductions in violence.

The report highlights that around 8.4 per cent of women

aged 15-49 worldwide have endured sexual violence from non-partners. In India, the number stands at approximately four per cent for women aged 15 and above, underscoring the pervasive risks women face both inside and outside the home. WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus called the findings a stark reminder of the urgent need for systemic change. "No society can call itself fair, safe or healthy while half its population lives in fear. Ending this violence is not only a matter of policy; it is a matter of dignity, equality

and human rights," he said. He added that empowering women and girls "is not optional — it is a prerequisite for peace, development and health." The report's authors cautioned that progress remains painfully slow, making the Sustainable Development Goal of eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls by 2030 increasingly "elusive." They stressed that the persistence of such violence across countries and regions demands stronger political will, better prevention strategies and sustained public awareness.

QUICK READ

Doctor Dancing With 'Fiancee' Inside Duty Room Surfaces Online

Shamli

A doctor working at a government hospital in Uttar Pradesh's Shamli found himself embroiled in controversy after a purported video of him dancing inside a duty room surfaced online. In the video, a woman can also be seen dancing along with the doctor, identified as Afqar Siddique. Reports claimed that the woman in the video was his fiancée. In the clip, the couple can be seen dancing to the song Dum Dum Mast Hai... from the Anushka Sharma and Ranveer Singh starrer Bollywood movie Band Baaja Baraat.

BJP slams Congress for giving peace prize to ex-UN body chief

New Delhi

The BJP on Friday launched a scathing attack on the Congress, calling it an army of traitors days after its Parliamentary Party chairperson Sonia Gandhi presented the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament, and Development to Michelle Bachelet, former president of Chile and ex-chief of UN Human Rights. BJP national spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia also slammed the Congress before the presence of Jagdish Tytler at the event and asked Sonia Gandhi if she doesn't feel the pain of the victims of the 1984 anti-Sikh riots. The BJP's objection to the awardee stems from her remarks expressing concern over the lockdown.

Maha Yuti is a gang of triple engine gov't: MPCC President

Mumbai

Mounting a major offensive against the BJP-led Maha Yuti dispensation led by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis, the Congress described it as the gang of triple engine government and said that it was not formed based on ideology, development. The comments of Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee (MPCC) President, Harshavardhan Sapkal came in the wake of unease among the two Deputy Chief Ministers Eknath Shinde and Ajit Pawar, who are Shiv Sena chief leader and NCP president, respectively.

Haryana conducts 10,450 paperless property registrations in first 21 days of launch

CHANDIGARH

In an achievement that signals a new era of transparent and citizen-centric governance, Haryana has crossed 10,450 paperless property registrations in the first 21 days of its launch. The state's digital land-registry system also set a new single-day record on Friday, processing 1,659 registrations without the need for a single sheet of paper. Calling it a transformation, not merely digitisation, Financial Commissioner (Revenue) Sumita Misra said the system has been significantly strengthened through upgraded software, improved workflows. From November 1 to 21, residents booked 9,365 online appointments for property registration, taking the cumulative total to 10,450 appointments since the paperless system was introduced. Of these, 8,338 deeds have been approved during the three-week period, bringing the total number of approved deeds to 9,260. The system is currently processing an average of nearly 1,500 deeds per day, while the

Delhi Blast Probe Reveals Accused Used Flour Mill to Prepare Explosives

Investigators uncover how accused used flour mill for chemical processing as Delhi blast case reveals deeper terror links

NEW DELHI

Security agencies probing the Delhi car blast have uncovered disturbing details about how one of the accused, Dr. Muzammil Shakeel, allegedly prepared explosive materials using a flour mill installed at his rented accommodation in Faridabad. Investigators say Shakeel used the machine to grind bomb-making chemicals, including urea, for months without attracting suspicion. Shakeel and the suicide bomber involved in the Delhi car blast, Dr. Muhammad Umar Nabi, were both associated with Al-Falah, raising concerns about coordinated planning and radicalisation



within the network. According to reports, the flour mill setup allowed Shakeel to process chemicals discreetly, enabling him to prepare components for improvised explo-

sive devices (IEDs).

A day before the attack, a joint operation by Delhi Police and Jammu & Kashmir Police resulted in the seizure of an unprecedented 2,900 kg of explosive materials, including 360 kg of ammonium nitrate and other components commonly used in IED manufacturing. Officials believe this massive stockpile points to a larger conspiracy with potentially devastating plans.

Adding to the gravity of the investigation, an NDTV report earlier in the day claimed that a handler of Pakistan-based terror outfit Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) had sent bomb-making videos to Shakeel. The handler, using the

alias Hanzulla, is suspected to be the same figure referenced in Jaish posters that appeared last October in Srinagar's Nowgam area, which mentioned Commander Hanzulla Bhai.

The revelations suggest a well-structured terror module operating across states and receiving direct virtual guidance from across the border. Agencies are now examining digital communications, financial trails and travel histories to map the wider network behind the blast. With the probe intensifying, officials say more arrests and recoveries are likely as they work to dismantle the terror infrastructure linked to the attack.



Malegaon Erupts in Anger as Protesters Storm Court

MALEGAON

Public outrage reached a flashpoint in Malegaon tehsil after thousands of residents from Dongrale village held a massive protest march demanding the death penalty for the youth accused of raping and brutally murdering a three-year-old girl. The march began at Ram Setu and remained peaceful initially, but tension escalated sharply as the crowd approached the court premises.

According to police, the protesters forced their way into the compound, hurling stones and footwear at the court gate and attempting to break it open. Videos widely shared on social media showed hundreds of agitated residents shouting slogans and calling for the immediate execution of the accused. As the situation began to slip out of control, police resorted to a mild lathi-charge to disperse the mob and restore order.

The heinous crime — in

which the minor was allegedly raped and then bludgeoned to death with a stone — has shocked the region and fuelled days of unrest. One suspect has been arrested, and locals have been staging continuous demonstrations, blocking roads and demanding swift justice.

Tensions had intensified earlier when the accused was produced before the Malegaon court. A large group of local women gathered outside, demanding that police hand the youth over to them. The confrontation triggered chaos, prompting authorities to deploy heavy security both inside and outside the court to ensure law and order.

Police officials have appealed for calm, assuring residents that the investigation will be expedited and that the strictest possible action will be taken based on the evidence. Security has been reinforced across the tehsil as the probe continues.

'Don't wish to come across as greedy by demanding DCM's post'

PATNA

Union minister Chirag Paswan on Friday asserted that he did not wish to come across as greedy by demanding the deputy chief minister's post, as he thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for allocating two berths to his Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) in the new Bihar cabinet. Addressing a press conference here, Paswan also said he wished to expand the party's footprints beyond Bihar as an



NDA partner in states like West Bengal, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh. I don't wish to be seen as greedy by demanding the deputy CM's post, the Hajipur MP said. On the party's expansion plans, Paswan said, After winning 19 seats in the recently concluded assembly polls in Bihar, we are now seriously preparing to expand the party's base in West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and Punjab. We will contest the upcoming assembly elections there as part of the NDA.

Srinagar Police have launched sweeping inspections across key sectors to strengthen security following recent white-collar terror arrests

Police Intensify Drives Amid Ongoing Crackdown on White-Collar Terror Network

SRINAGAR

In a major security-boosting exercise, the Srinagar Police have launched a series of coordinated inspection drives across medical institutions, chemical and fertiliser shops, and car dealerships over the past two days. The extensive checks, conducted under the supervision of SSP Srinagar G V Sundeeep Chakravarthy, aim to ensure strict compliance with regulatory norms and prevent any potential misuse of sensitive materials or facilities. An official spokesperson confirmed on Friday that multiple specialised teams have been constituted to carry out these operations with precision.

The multi-sector inspections come at a time when Jammu and Kashmir Police, working in close coordination with law enforcement agencies in Uttar Pradesh and Haryana, recently dismantled a sophisticated white collar terror module. The crackdown led to the arrest of several in-



dividuals, including three medical professionals, who were allegedly involved in facilitating terror-linked activities under the guise of professional operations. The module's exposure has heightened concerns about unconventional methods adopted by terror networks, prompting authorities to increase vigilance across sectors that could be exploited for illegal activities.

During the ongoing inspections in Srinagar, police teams are reportedly verifying documentation, reviewing inventory management systems, and assessing adherence to safety and regulatory standards. Medical establishments are being scrutinized for po-

tential lapses in prescription drug handling, while chemical and fertiliser stores are being checked for improper stocking or suspicious transactions. Car dealerships, too, are under watch to ensure no vehicles are procured or sold without proper verification.

Officials emphasized that the operations are preventive in nature and form part of a broader strategy to disrupt any possible support structures used by anti-national elements. The Srinagar Police have urged business owners to cooperate fully, assuring them that the drives are intended to enhance public safety and maintain transparency in high-risk sectors.

Container catches fire after crash on Delhi-Mumbai Expressway; driver burnt alive

JAIPUR

A horrific accident occurred on the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway in Rajasthan on Friday when a moving container exploded and caught fire after hitting an LED pole, leaving the driver burnt alive inside the cabin. Police said the container lost control and rammed into the pole with tremendous force, triggering an explosion within seconds. The incident took place about one km before the Dungarpur interchange in the Rahuvas police station limits of Dausa district.

The vehicle was reportedly travelling from Uttar

Pradesh to Maharashtra when the driver is suspected to have fallen asleep at the wheel, causing the container to swerve sharply and crash into the pole. Officials added that the container was air-conditioned, which accelerated the spread of the fire after the impact. The driver was trapped inside the cabin and died on the spot before help could reach. A fire brigade from Lalsot arrived promptly but the blaze was so intense that it took nearly one and a half hours to fully contain it. By the time the flames were doused, the container had been reduced to a charred shell.

'Injustice to democracy': Prashant Kishor on Bihar poll results

PATNA

Jan Suraj Party Chief Prashant Kishor, on Friday, criticised the Bihar government over the Assembly election results, calling them an injustice to the people and alleging large-scale voter bribery. He claimed that thousands of poor families were given Rs 10,000 each in exchange for votes -- an act he described as a violation of democratic values and the Constitutional spirit laid down by B.R. Ambedkar.

Reacting to the Bihar Assembly poll results, Kishor said, These outcomes are an injustice to democracy. A large



number of poor families were bribed with Rs 10,000 each. This is a blatant violation of democracy and the fundamental spirit of the Constitution established by B.R. Ambedkar. He added that such results were difficult to accept and

asserted that Jan Suraj would continue to fight strongly to protect the expectations and rights of the people.

In protest against the election results, Kishor observed a day-long silent fast at the Bhitiharwa Gandhi Ashram in West Champaran on November 20. He ended the fast at 11:15 a.m. on Friday, with schoolgirls offering him juice to break his silence. Afterwards, he ad-

ressed the media. Drawing inspiration from Gandhian principles, Kishor announced that he will relaunch a large-scale public outreach campaign.

Beginning January 15, he plans to visit all 1.18 lakh wards in Bihar, directly engaging with citizens under the Bihar Navnirman Sankalp Abhiyan.

The initiative, Kishor said, aims to hold the state government accountable for its promises and intensify grassroots communication. Making what he called a moral and social commitment, Kishor declared that he will donate 90 per cent of his income for the next five years to Jan Suraj and keep only one house from his assets accumulated over the last 20 years.

SPY NETWORK BUSTED

Two UP Men Held for Leaking Navy Vessel Data to Pak

UDUPI

Malpe Police have arrested two men from Uttar Pradesh for allegedly leaking classified information related to Indian Navy vessels to Pakistan, in what investigators describe as a serious threat to national security. The arrests followed a complaint filed by the CEO of Udupi Cochin Shipyard, a unit under the Union Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.

According to police, the prime accused, Rohit (29), employed as an insulator through subcontractor M/S Shushma Marine Pvt Ltd,



had earlier worked at Cochin Shipyard Limited in Kochi, Kerala, where Indian naval ships are constructed. During his stint there, he allegedly

shared a confidential list containing identification numbers of Navy-linked vessels and other sensitive details via WhatsApp. Officials said he

may have obtained "illegal benefits" for sharing the information.

Udupi Superintendent of Police Hariram Shankar said that even after Rohit was posted to Malpe, he continued sourcing classified details from a contact in Kochi and forwarding them to an unauthorised individual. The act, police noted, violated strict security protocols and had the potential to compromise India's sovereignty and maritime defence preparedness.

Based on the complaint, Malpe Police registered a case under Section 152 of the

Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and Sections 3 and 5 of the Official Secrets Act, 1923.

A team led by Assistant Superintendent of Police Harsha Priyamvada, along with PSI Anil Kumar D, ASI Harish and PC Ravi Jadhav, arrested Rohit and Santri (37), both natives of Sultanpur district in Uttar Pradesh.

The duo was produced before a local court and remanded in judicial custody till December 3. Police said further investigation is ongoing to determine the extent of the data breach and possible foreign links.

QUICK READ



Afghanistan Hit by Moderate Earthquake Again
Kabul

Afghanistan experienced a magnitude 4.3 earthquake on Friday, the National Center for Seismology (NCS) reported. The tremor struck at a depth of 170 km near coordinates 36.40 N and 70.52 E. This follows a 4.4-magnitude quake on November 8 and a deadly 6.3-magnitude earthquake earlier this month that killed 27 people and injured over 950. Afghanistan lies on active fault lines in the Hindu Kush region, making it prone to frequent earthquakes, landslides, and flooding, according to UNOCHA.



Theyab Bin Zayed launches UAE-Indonesia Cardiac Hospital

Jakarta
Theyab bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan attended the opening of the UAE-Indonesia Hospital for Cardiac Diseases on behalf of President Mohamed bin Zayed. The event was also attended by Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto. Theyab toured the hospital, highlighting its sustainable design, solar energy use, and eco-friendly features. This hospital is the first of ten planned under the UAE Global Hospitals Programme, part of the Zayed Humanitarian Legacy Initiative promoting global health and international cooperation.

Seven Killed in Northwest Pakistan Militant Attack

Peshawar
At least seven members of a local peace committee were killed and several injured when unidentified militants attacked their office in Bannu district, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, police said. The gunmen stormed the Dara Dariz area office late Thursday, targeting Peace Committee chief Qari Jaleel's headquarters. One person was injured in the attack. Authorities are investigating the incident, which underscores ongoing security challenges in northwest Pakistan.

MEA Secy Sibi George Attends EU Indo-Pacific Forum

George and EEAS Secretary discussed India-EU partnership and strategic agenda

BRUSSELS

Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) Secretary (West) Sibi George attended the inaugural session of the 4th European Union (EU) Indo-Pacific Ministerial Forum in Brussels on Friday. The forum, held from November 20-21, brought together the EU, its member states, and partners from the East coast of Africa to the Pacific islands.

During the event, George held discussions with world leaders, including EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Kaja Kallas, and the Foreign Ministers of Cyprus, Maldives, Somalia, and Tuvalu. The discussions focused on building a resilient, prosperous, and secure future while supporting the rules-based international order, free trade, and the principles of the United Nations Charter.



The MEA highlighted the importance of the forum as a platform to strengthen partnerships, deepen ties, and enhance cooperation between the EU and Indo-Pacific nations since the launch of the EU Indo-Pacific Strategy in 2021.

George also met Belen Martinez Carbonell, Secretary-General of the European External Action Service (EEAS), at the EU headquarters. Both sides

discussed the robust momentum in the India-EU strategic partnership and reviewed progress on the Joint India-EU Comprehensive Strategic Agenda ahead of the upcoming India-EU Summit.

The MEA noted that George briefed Carbonell on extensive consultations regarding foreign policy, security, and the strategic partnership review, emphasizing the growing collaboration between India and the EU.

The 4th EU Indo-Pacific Ministerial Forum reflects ongoing efforts by the EU and its partners to engage constructively with Indo-Pacific nations and promote cooperation on trade, security, and sustainable development in the region.

South Korea's Ex-President Yoon Faces New Charges

SEOUL

Seoul – Former South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol and 11 other senior officials have been indicted by a special counsel for allegedly interfering in a military investigation into a Marine's death in 2023. The indictment, announced Friday, accuses Yoon of exerting undue pressure on the defence ministry and presidential office to change initial investigation findings.

The Marine, Cpl. Chae Sungun, died on July 19, 2023, after being swept away by a swollen stream during a heavy rain rescue mission. He was reportedly not wearing a life vest or other safety gear. A military investigation later found eight individuals, including former Marine commander Lim Seong-geun, suspected of occupational negligence resulting in death.

According to the special counsel, Yoon allegedly ordered the reversal of the investigation report to relieve a Marine commander of responsibility. Former Defence Minister Lee Jong-sup, former spy chief Cho Tae-yong, and other officials are also accused of following Yoon's instructions in the case. Col.



Former South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol and 11 officials indicted for allegedly interfering in 2023 Marine death investigation.

Park Jung-hoon, who led the investigation, was dismissed after refusing to comply with orders to halt the report from reaching police authorities.

The indictment comes in addition to previous charges against Yoon over his brief imposition of martial law on December 3, 2023. He faces trial for abuse of power and tampering with official documents. Yoon has already been arrested on martial law-related charges but is not physically detained over this new indictment.

The special counsel said Yoon exceeded his presidential authority, stating that while the president can oversee investigations through ministry heads, issuing specific orders for a particular case violates due process and undermines investigation fairness. Lee's later appointment as ambassador to Australia raised further concerns about shielding officials from accountability. Yoon has denied all allegations.

Five Teenagers Charged After Sydney Convenience Store Stabbing

SYDNEY

Five teenagers have been charged for allegedly stabbing a convenience store worker in western Sydney, police in New South Wales (NSW) said early Friday. The 28-year-old male worker was injured around 2:20 a.m. Thursday while trying to stop the teenagers from allegedly stealing items from a store in Burwood, 10 km west of central Sydney.

Ambulance paramedics treated the worker at the scene before

he was taken to hospital. As of Friday, he remained in critical but stable condition, authorities said. All five teenagers were arrested, refused bail, and are expected to make an initial appearance before a children's court on Friday. The incident follows other violent events in Australia this month. On Tuesday, police in Queensland fatally shot a man who had stabbed another man and threatened a woman in Caboolture, 40 km north of Brisbane.

Foreign ministry forms task force to investigate 2024 martial law crisis

South Korea Sets Task Forces over Martial Law

SEOUL

South Korea's defence and foreign ministries have set up separate task forces to investigate the role of military and government officials in former President Yoon Suk Yeol's martial law attempt in December 2024. The move follows the Prime Minister's office launching an interagency task force this week to check whether officials in 49 central government agencies were involved in illegal activities or misconduct linked to Yoon's martial law bid.

The defence ministry said its task force, led by Defence Minister Ahn Gyu-back, will

have around 50 members, including inspection bureau staff and external experts. It will also open a hotline and an email channel for the public to submit information or tips. The ministry added that the results of an independent



investigation on military units mobilised for the martial law operation since August will be released soon. Meanwhile, the foreign ministry announced its own task force, headed by Foreign Minister Cho Hyun, which will operate from Monday until January 30. The ministry said it will conduct the investigation transparently and diligently within legal limits and will

accept complaints related to the probe until December 12.

The 2024 martial law crisis shook South Korea when President Yoon declared martial law on December 3, 2024, during a televised address. Although it was lifted a day later, public outrage and mass protests quickly led to his impeachment. On January 15, 2025, Yoon was arrested following his removal from office.

These investigations aim to hold accountable those involved in the crisis and restore public trust in South Korea's institutions, with multiple ministries and agencies undergoing detailed inspections as the country reviews the events surrounding the martial law declaration.

Curfew Lifted In Bara Dist After Clashes Subside

KATHMANDU

Curfew was lifted on Friday in parts of Bara district in southern Nepal, bordering India, as normalcy returned after violent clashes between Gen Z youths and members of the ousted Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli's party. Markets reopened, schools resumed, and transportation services restarted across the district. Chief District Officer Dharmendra Kumar Mishra told that the situation had returned to normal, allowing authorities to lift the two-day curfew. Tensions erupted on Wednesday when three CPN-UML cadres allegedly assaulted Gen Z youths staging a peaceful protest at Simara Airport.

EU Rejects US Plan Pressuring Ukraine on Peace

BRUSSELS

The European Union has voiced strong objections to a new US-drafted proposal aimed at ending the conflict in Ukraine, insisting that any settlement must reflect the positions of both Brussels and Kiev, not just a Washington-Moscow agreement. The 28-point framework, prepared by the US in consultation with Russia, reportedly asks Ukraine to withdraw from Russian-held areas in Donbass, halve its military strength, surrender certain weapons systems, and abandon its NATO membership ambitions.



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky confirmed that Kiev received the proposal and hopes to discuss it with US President Donald Trump soon. EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas said the American draft offered "no concessions" from Moscow and emphasized that a peace deal must consider both the EU's and

Ukraine's perspectives. French Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot warned that any settlement must not resemble a "capitulation."

The EU's response has added tension with Moscow, which has accused Brussels of obstructing Washington-Moscow negotiations and prolonging the war by supplying Ukraine with weapons, equipment, and political support. According to Germany's Kiel Institute, EU member states have committed more than €65 billion to Ukraine since 2022, with total pledges approaching €98 billion.

Russia claims it is open to talks but says Ukraine refuses engagement, emboldened by European backing. The US framework, approved by President Trump, represents Washington's latest effort to revive peace talks after nearly three years of conflict. Certain provisions, including territorial concessions in areas not fully under Russian control, have already been rejected by Kiev.

Gas Explosion Kills Fifteen People At Faisalabad Factory

ISLAMABAD

At least 15 people were killed and several others injured after a gas explosion at a factory near the Malikpur area in Faisalabad, Pakistan, on Friday. Rescue authorities initially said a boiler blast caused the building and nearby structures to collapse early in the morning. Later, they confirmed the explosion was due to a gas leak, as stated by the Faisalabad Commissioner's office.

The office clarified that no boiler existed in the factory and that four factories were operating in the Malikpur area. According to the statement, a fire broke out in one factory due to a gas leak and spread to nearby factories, damaging them as well. Seven houses in the area were also affected, with roofs collapsing following the blast.

Rescue teams recovered 15 bodies from the rubble.



Ten injured people were taken to the hospital for treatment, while three received first aid and were discharged. A five-member team has been formed to investigate the incident.

The explosion occurred at a glue factory, with over 20 ambulances and fire tenders deployed for rescue operations. Faisalabad Control Room received the first call about the incident at 5:28 am local time.

This tragedy follows another gas explosion in Punjab

on November 10, when three people died and seven were injured after a house in Harbancepura locality exploded. Authorities launched a large-scale emergency response, including specialized urban search and rescue teams, for that incident.

The Faisalabad explosion highlights ongoing safety concerns regarding industrial gas usage and the urgent need for strict preventive measures to avoid similar disasters.

SU DO KU

Brain-Bender: Can You Solve It?

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Fill a 9x9 grid with numbers so that each row, column and 3x3 section contain all of the digits between 1 and 9.

1	5	7	9	2	4	8	3	6
3	2	4	1	6	8	9	7	5
8	6	9	3	5	7	2	4	1
2	9	3	4	7	1	6	5	8
5	4	1	6	8	9	7	2	3
6	7	8	2	3	5	1	9	4
7	8	2	5	4	6	3	1	9
9	3	5	8	1	2	4	6	7
4	1	6	7	9	3	5	8	3

Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle

WFP HUNGER WARNING

WFP Warns Millions Afghan Children Face Starvation

KABUL

The World Food Programme (WFP) has warned that 3.5 million children in Afghanistan are facing severe malnutrition amid shrinking aid operations and worsening humanitarian conditions. The agency said millions of children remain at risk of hunger, particularly as winter approaches.

In a statement shared on social media platform X, WFP said it continues to provide food assistance to Afghan children despite operational challenges. The agency high-



lighted school meal programs aimed at improving children's growth and encouraging vulnerable students to stay in classrooms. Nutritional support is also being offered at

health centres, focusing on young children and pregnant or breastfeeding mothers to reduce malnutrition.

WFP reminded that Afghan women have previously lost

children due to lack of food and expressed concern that the onset of winter would further limit access to meals. Many international organizations have reduced or stopped operations in the country because of interference from authorities and restrictions on women's participation in development activities.

Earlier this month, UNICEF reported that one in five Afghan children is involved in child labour. UNICEF spokesperson Omidurrahman Fazel said the agency remains committed to ending all forms of child la-

bour, emphasizing family-based solutions.

Children like Suhel and Ali Dad shared how poverty forces them to work instead of attending school. Suhel said some days there is no work, and he must choose between missing school or working, while Ali Dad expressed his desire to study but could not because of his family's financial struggles.

WFP and UNICEF continue their efforts to provide nutrition and education support, urging global attention to Afghanistan's growing humanitarian crisis.

QUICK READ



IRF India, Education Ministry Launch School Safety

New Delhi

The India chapter of the International Road Federation (IRF) has joined hands with the Union Education Ministry to start the National Road Safety Mission for Schools (NRSMS). Speaking at the launch, Anu Jain, a ministry director, highlighted rising accidents involving children near schools. She said road safety is now a major public concern, with nearly 12,000 children dying annually in school zones across India. The mission aims to create awareness and promote safe practices among students.

Canara HSBC, Canara Bank Promote Community Marathon

Bangalore

Canara HSBC Life Insurance has teamed up with Canara Bank as the official insurance partner for the 'Come Run Together' marathon. The event is set for November 23, 2025, at Sree Kanteerava Stadium, Bangalore. The partnership highlights both organizations' commitment to promoting fitness, wellness, and community unity. The marathon aims to encourage active living while bringing people together, fostering a sense of social bonding through sport and healthy lifestyle activities.

Redrob Secures \$10 Million Funding Led Korea

New Delhi

AI startup Redrob has raised USD 10 million in a Series A funding round led by Korea Investment Partners. This takes the company's total funding to USD 14 million, including a USD 4 million seed round in 2023. Other investors in the round included KB Investment, Kiwoom Investment, Korea Development Bank Capital, Daekyo Investment, and DS & Partners. The new funds will help Redrob expand its AI research and strengthen its position in the technology sector.



EaseMyTrip Enters Forbes Top Ten Global Growth List

NEW DELHI

EaseMyTrip has been named among the Top 10 of "Forbes India presents DGEMS 2025 – The Select 200," recognising companies with strong global business potential. The honour highlights EaseMyTrip's steady rise in the travel-tech industry and its focus on building a future-ready business across both domestic and international markets, according to a company statement. DGEMS celebrates organisations and founders looking beyond borders. This year's theme, "Founders Helping Founders," emphasises collaboration and shared learning. EaseMyTrip's inclusion reflects its growth in India while expanding its presence globally in one of the world's fastest-growing travel sectors. The company has ex-

FM Holds Pre-Budget Talks With Infrastructure, Energy Experts

Finance Minister chairs pre-budget discussion with key sector experts

NEW DELHI

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday chaired the 11th Pre-Budget Consultation in New Delhi, focusing on infrastructure and energy sectors as part of the preparation for the Union Budget 2026-27. The meeting brought together senior officials and experts to discuss challenges, opportunities, and recommendations ahead of the budget.

The consultation was attended by Secretaries from the Ministries of Power, Ports, Shipping and Waterways, and Road Transport and Highways. The Chairman of the Railway Board and the Chief Economic Adviser also participated, alongside Union Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary and senior



officials from the Department of Economic Affairs. This 11th round follows ten previous rounds of consultations held over recent days, covering sectors such as agriculture, MSMEs, capital markets, manufacturing, services, technology, tourism, and hospitality. Each session aimed to

gather insights from experts and representatives to guide policy-making for the upcoming fiscal year. Experts discussed a wide range of topics, including economic growth, job creation, investment climate, technological progress, industrial competitiveness, financial sector

stability, labour welfare, and sustainable development. The sessions allowed stakeholders to present sector-specific recommendations and highlight challenges that need government attention.

The Ministry of Finance said such consultations are a regular practice to ensure inclusive and collaborative policy-making. Sitharaman's engagement with diverse stakeholders reflects the government's focus on developing a budget that addresses both economic priorities and societal needs.

The series of meetings underscores the Finance Ministry's commitment to building a participatory approach for budget planning, ensuring that feedback from key sectors is incorporated into policy decisions.

Australian envoy praises Reliance decision to supply oil free of Russia

Australian Envoy Hails Reliance Move to Supply Russian-Free Oil

NEW DELHI

Australian High Commissioner to India Philip Green on Friday welcomed Reliance Industries' decision to supply Australia with oil that does not contain Russian crude. He said the move was important, given Australia's total sanctions on Russian oil following the invasion of Ukraine.

Green highlighted India's long-standing role as a petroleum supplier to Australia. He said, "India has been supplying petroleum products to Australia for quite some time. The issue of Russian oil has become crucial for us due to Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine. We are very pleased that Reliance will supply oil free of Russian content from its SEZ refinery starting next month. This is a positive



step forward." The envoy also noted the rapidly growing cooperation between India and Australia in areas such as sports, regional security, and critical minerals. He described the bilateral relationship as being at its "highest order," citing the Foreign Ministers' Framework Dialogue as the most significant annual meeting between the two governments.

Green emphasized the close working relationship between the foreign ministers, mentioning that Dr. S. Jaishankar

and his Australian counterpart have met 26 times, including their latest meeting this week. A major focus of discussions was collaboration on critical minerals, particularly lithium, which Australia produces in large quantities. Green noted ongoing partnerships between Australia's Critical Minerals Office and India's Khanij Bidesh India Ltd. (KABIL) to support India's battery and electric vehicle industry.

Reaffirming Australia's commitment to the Quad, Green said the group remains vital for maintaining a stable and prosperous Indo-Pacific region. He confirmed Australia's interest in participating in the next Quad Summit in India and said Prime Minister Anthony Albanese is keen to attend when it is scheduled.

IndiGo Approves 820 Million Dollars Aviation Asset Purchase

NEW DELHI

IndiGo, one of India's largest airlines, has approved a capital investment of USD 820 million (Rs 72,940 million) in its fully owned subsidiary, InterGlobe Aviation Financial Services IFSC Private Limited (IndiGo IFSC). The investment will be made through a combination of equity shares and 0.01 percent Non-Cumulative Optionally Convertible Redeemable Preference Shares (OC-RPS), in one or more phases, the airline said in a statement.

The funds raised by IndiGo IFSC will mainly be used to acquire aviation assets, enabling the airline to own aircraft directly. Traditionally, IndiGo's fleet relied heavily on operating leases. However, the company has recently focused on a more balanced ownership approach and diversified financing methods to strengthen its business model.

This move reflects Indi-

Go's aim for careful capital allocation and sustainable growth for stakeholders. The airline operates over 400 aircraft and runs about 2,300 daily flights, connecting more than 90 domestic and 40 international destinations. In 2024, IndiGo inducted 58 new aircraft and served over 118 million passengers in the financial year 2025.

IndiGo's efforts to expand and modernize its fleet have earned recognition as the 'Best Airline in India and South Asia' at the Skytrax World Airline Awards 2025. Analysts say the investment is expected to enhance IndiGo's operational flexibility, reduce dependence on leased aircraft, and support its long-term growth strategy. The airline continues to be one of the fastest-growing carriers in the world, combining fleet expansion, customer service improvements, and strategic investments to maintain its leading position in India and international markets.

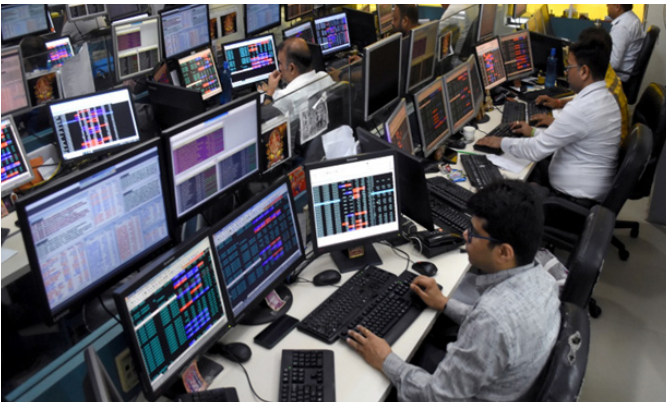
HSBC Flash PMI Shows Slowest Growth In Six Months

NEW DELHI

India's HSBC Flash Composite Output Index, tracking manufacturing and services, fell to 59.9 in November from 60.4 in October, marking a six-month low, according to S&P Global data. Despite the drop, the index remained well above the neutral 50.0 mark, indicating continued overall business growth.

The index measures month-to-month changes in combined manufacturing and services output. The report showed that while both new orders and business activity expanded, the pace slowed to its weakest since May. Analysts cited weaker demand for some firms and heavy rainfall in parts of the country as factors affecting growth. Exports continued to rise but at a slower pace, with global competition and cheaper alternatives abroad weighing on international sales.

Pranjul Bhandari, Chief India Economist at HSBC, said,



"Manufacturing PMI eased, though operating conditions remain healthy. New export orders were stable, but overall demand softened, suggesting the GST boost may have peaked. Costs and prices also eased."

The HSBC Manufacturing PMI dropped to 57.4 from 59.2, reflecting the slowest growth in nine months. Manufacturers reported lower output and new orders, while services activity saw modest improvement. Outstanding business volumes fell for the

second month, leading to slower job creation. Employment rose for the 42nd month but at the weakest pace in over 18 months.

Input cost inflation eased to its lowest in nearly five-and-a-half years, and output price growth cooled to an eight-month low. Companies remained optimistic about future output, driven by pricing, marketing, and capacity expansion, though overall business confidence fell to its lowest since July 2022.

TV GROWTH INDIA



India's Television Viewership Surges Across Nation

NEW DELHI

The Media and Entertainment sector contributed Rs 2.5 lakh crore to India's economy in 2024, with projections exceeding Rs 3 lakh crore by 2027. The television and broadcasting segment alone earned nearly Rs 680 billion in 2024. Expansion is driven by Smart TVs, 4K and high-definition broadcasting, 5G, and OTT platforms serving over 600 million users.

World Television Day, observed globally on November 21, recognises television as a key medium for information, education, and global understanding. In India, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and Prasar Bharati oversee programmes highlighting TV's role in public service, development messaging, and national integration.

Television in India has evolved since its launch in 1959, from experimental broadcasts to one of the world's largest networks. Key milestones include the introduction of colour TV in 1982 and expansion of DD Free Dish from 59 channels in 2014 to 482 channels in 2025,

enhancing access to regional, national, and educational content. Modern developments like AI-enabled tools, multilingual content, and interactive programming ensure TV remains inclusive, bridging cultural, linguistic, and digital divides. Supported by government initiatives, television continues to inform, connect, and empower citizens, reinforcing its role as a cornerstone of national communication.

Terror and Resilience

On November 10, 2025, a horrific terrorist attack shook the heart of India's capital, leaving deep scars on the city's psyche and raising urgent questions about national security. A Hyundai i20, packed with improvised explosive devices, detonated near the historic Red Fort, killing 14 people and injuring dozens more in what has been recognized as the deadliest terror attack in Delhi in over a decade. This article unravels the sequence of events, the investigation, the perpetrators, and the broader implications of this grave assault on India's sovereignty and its citizens' safety.

The Incident: A Moment of Terror near the Red Fort

The explosion occurred during the evening rush hour near the 17th-century Red Fort, a symbol of India's independence and national pride. Eyewitnesses reported a slow-moving Hyundai i20 halt at a red traffic light near the fort's entrance before a massive blast erupted, engulfing the area in flames, thick black smoke, and chaos. Victims were scattered on the road, some trapped in burning vehicles. Emergency responders rushed to the scene, transporting the critically injured to hospitals while firefighters battled the flames. The attack's timing was calculated to cause maximum casualties and psychological impact, targeting a densely populated public space with immense symbolic significance. The blast not only claimed innocent lives but also shattered the sense of security in the national capital.



The Investigation: Uncovering a White-collar Terror Module

Initial police investigations revealed the blast was likely a suicide attack carried out with the vehicle laden with ammonium nitrate fuel oil explosive. The accused suicide bomber, identified as a resident of Pulwama district in Jammu and Kashmir, was killed in the explosion. The probe has since exposed a chilling terrorist module involving highly educated individuals, including professionals and doctors connected to Al Falah University in Faridabad, near Delhi. Intelligence agencies have described this as a white-collar terror network that meticulously planned and executed the attack. Several arrests have been made, with six prime accused currently in NIA custody, including doctors who allegedly played roles in logistics, planning, and bomb assembly. The university's founder has also been detained under investigation for terror financing and money laundering links. The investigation further revealed that the terror cell operated for months, amassing a huge cache of explosives weighing nearly 2,900 kilograms, including chemicals and detonators, highlighting the high degree of sophistication involved.



Security Implications and Lessons

This attack exposed vulnerabilities even in highly guarded spaces like the Red Fort precinct. Terrorists leveraged knowledge of traffic patterns, peak hours, and security gaps to maximize impact. The incident has become a wake-up call for Indian security agencies and organizations to bolster proactive threat detection, conduct comprehensive risk assessments, and maintain mission-ready response protocols. Intelligence-driven surveillance and early warning systems are now prioritized to detect suspicious activities and preempt threats. There is also a renewed focus on auditing supply chain vulnerabilities and personnel vetting to prevent the acquisition and movement of explosive materials. The government reaffirmed its zero-tolerance policy toward terrorism, vowing to dismantle terror networks comprehensively and bring perpetrators to justice without delay.



Immediate Aftermath and Government Response

The Union Cabinet swiftly condemned the attack as a cowardly terrorist act perpetrated by anti-national forces. Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed deep grief and assured citizens that those behind the bombing will not be spared. A two-minute silence was observed nationwide to honor the victims. Enhanced security measures were immediately implemented across Delhi, and the area around the Red Fort was cordoned off to facilitate forensic investigation. The National Security Guard and specialized forensic units collected evidence meticulously from the blast site. The Ministry of Home Affairs handed over the investigation to the National Investigation Agency (NIA), signaling the gravity and scope of the probe required for such a sophisticated terror act.



Public and Social Impact

The psychological impact of such a high-profile attack is profound. Citizens' trust in security mechanisms has been challenged, prompting demands for greater transparency and effectiveness in counter-terrorism measures. Community outreach and awareness programs have intensified to counter radicalization and foster resilience against extremist ideologies spreading through professional and educational networks. The Red Fort car bomb explosion on November 10, 2025, stands as a grim reminder of the evolving nature of terrorism, blending stealth, sophistication, and the exploitation of trusted societal sectors. India faces the dual challenge of fortifying physical security and unraveling complex terror conspiracies that threaten its democratic fabric. The government, security agencies, and citizens must collectively rise to meet this threat, bolstering vigilance, intelligence, and unity. While grief over the lives lost lingers, hope resides in the resilience of the nation that remains steadfast against the shadows of terror and committed to peace and security for all. The Red Fort car blast has become a litmus test for India's evolving counter-terrorism doctrine, especially after the Union government stated earlier in 2025 that any major terror strike would be treated as an act of war. Analysts point out that while such declarations project resolve, the response to a complex urban attack in the national capital is constrained by the need to avoid escalation, ensure due process, and maintain social cohesion. Public debate now centres on whether declaratory doctrines are matched by investments in intelligence, urban security infrastructure, and institutional capacity to prevent such attacks rather than only retaliate after the fact. Security experts argue that the Red Fort blast underscores the limits of a primarily deterrence-based posture when faced with decentralised, white-collar cells that blend into professional and educational ecosystems. These networks operate below the traditional radar of counter-terror agencies, using encrypted communication, digital anonymity, and small, compartmentalised teams to plan attacks. There is growing recognition that doctrine must be backed by granular, ground-level capabilities: sophisticated data analytics, inter-agency coordination, and the integration of cyber, financial, and human intelligence to map such dispersed cells before they strike.



Geopolitical Dimensions

The attack has strained ongoing tensions with Pakistan, as some Pakistani politicians have openly claimed involvement of groups based in Pakistan-administered territories. India's authorities continue to assert that transnational terror outfits and their sponsors are behind the blast, underscoring the persistent challenge of cross-border terrorism. Diplomatic channels remain engaged with allies worldwide to garner support against terrorism and enhance counter-terrorism cooperation in intelligence sharing and enforcement.



A New Profile of Terror: Educated, Networked, and Embedded

Historically, many terror plots exposed in India involved individuals with overt militant profiles, training camp histories, or direct organisational affiliation. In contrast, the Red Fort module is characterised by professionally qualified individuals—particularly doctors and university-linked staff—who leveraged their social respectability, financial literacy, and mobility to mask illicit activities. Agencies have reportedly described this as a white-collar or medics-led network, capable of raising funds, procuring chemicals under legal covers, and moving large quantities of precursor materials without immediate suspicion. Analysts caution that this shift complicates both detection and de-radicalisation. Recruitment may happen in student circles, hostel environments, or professional associations, where ideological grooming can be subtle and stretched over years. Instead of visible militancy, radicalisation may present as intense online engagement with extremist narratives, travel under academic pretexts, and clandestine financial flows. Policymakers therefore face the challenge of enhancing scrutiny in sensitive sectors—such as private universities, healthcare networks, and research labs—without stigmatising entire professions or fuelling alienation.



India-Pakistan Tensions: Familiar Risks, New Constraints

The suspected links between the module's Kashmiri operatives and Pakistan-based groups have inevitably spilled into the already fraught India-Pakistan relationship. Some strategic commentators have suggested that outfits historically based across the Line of Control, including factions of Jaish-e-Mohammed, may have played a role, although the Indian government has so far been cautious in naming a specific organisation. Reports indicate that Indian intelligence believes the Red Fort blast was one element of a larger plot involving planned attacks in multiple Indian cities on sensitive dates, including the anniversary of the Babri Masjid demolition. At the diplomatic level, this incident adds pressure on New Delhi to demonstrate resolve without automatically escalating to overt military retaliation, especially given the recent history of cross-border strikes and the delicate regional situation. Foreign policy analysts argue that India's response will likely combine intensified covert and diplomatic pressure.

WPL Mega Auction to Feature 277 Players in Expanded 2026 Pool

This marks an expansion from last year’s pool of 120 players

NEW DELHI

The Women’s Premier League (WPL) is set for its biggest-ever player auction, with 277 cricketers shortlisted for the 2026 mega event to be held in Delhi on November 27. This marks a dramatic expansion from last year’s pool of 120 players, underlining the league’s rapid rise and growing global interest.

In what will be the first mega auction since the WPL’s inception in 2023, five franchises will compete for a maximum of 73 available slots. The eight-player Marquee list features some of the sport’s most celebrated names, including Women’s World Cup 2025 Player of the Tournament Deepthi Sharma, Australia captain Alyssa Healy, and South Africa’s Laura Wolvaardt. India pacer Renuka Singh — who represented Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) for the first three seasons — is the only other Indian in the elite group.

Joining them are New Zealand veteran Sophie Devine, England spinner Sophie Ecclestone, Kiwi all-rounder Amelia Kerr and Australian legend Meg Lanning. While Renuka has a base price of ₹40 lakh and Wolvaardt ₹30 lakh, the rest in the marquee set enter the auction with the highest base bracket of ₹50 lakh.

Overall, 19 players have listed themselves at the top ₹50-lakh tier, including Phoebe Litchfield, Harleen Deol, Pooja Vas-trakar and Georgia Wareham. The pool also includes 11 players in the ₹40-lakh category and a substantial 88 names in the ₹30-lakh bracket.

Wolvaardt. India pacer Renuka Singh — who represented Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) for the first three seasons — is the only other Indian in the elite group. Joining them are New Zealand veteran Sophie Devine, England spinner Sophie Ecclestone, Kiwi all-rounder Amelia Kerr and Australian legend Meg Lanning. While Renuka has a base price of ₹40 lakh and Wolvaardt ₹30 lakh, the rest in the marquee set enter the auction with the highest base bracket of ₹50 lakh. Overall, 19 players have listed themselves at the top ₹50-lakh tier, including Phoebe Litchfield, Harleen Deol, Pooja Vas-trakar and Georgia Wareham. The pool also includes 11 players in the ₹40-lakh category and a substantial 88 names in the ₹30-lakh bracket.



India to Face Pak on February 15 in T20 World Cup 2026

MUMBAI

India and Pakistan have been placed in the same group for the 2026 T20 World Cup and will meet in Colombo on February 15. India opens its campaign against the USA in Ahmedabad on February 8, followed by games against Namibia and the Netherlands. Super 8 matches are scheduled in Ahmedabad, Chennai and Kolkata. If India reaches the semifinals, it will play at Mumbai’s Wankhede Stadium, while Colombo will host the first semifinal. The final is set for March 8 in Ahmedabad.

Paramount Stuns Market with Champions League Rights Triumph

LONDON

Paramount Skydance Corp. has secured a surprise victory in the bidding war for UEFA Champions League broadcasting rights in the United Kingdom and Germany, marking the company’s most significant international sports acquisition to date. A person familiar with the matter confirmed the deal, noting that auctions for other major European markets are still under-way.

UEFA had hoped to reshape its broadcast tender process by enhancing its appeal to global streaming giants. Early discussions explored the potential for worldwide rights packages, but bidders ultimately favoured regional deals, prompting UEFA to recalibrate its approach. Paramount’s success grants the company entry into two of UEFA’s most valuable territories, where rights are currently shared by Amazon and TNT Sports.

The US media group, which merged with David Ellison’s Skydance Media ear-

WPL 2026 Mega Auction at a Glance

- Total players shortlisted: 277
- Indian players: 194 (52 capped, 142 uncapped)
- Overseas players: 83
- Total slots available: 73
- Marquee players: 8
- Highest base price bracket: ₹50 lakh (19 players)
- Franchise purses:
 - UP Warriorz — ₹14.5 crore
 - Gujarat Giants — ₹9 crore
 - RCB — ₹6.15 crore
 - Mumbai Indians — ₹5.75 crore
 - Delhi Capitals — ₹5.70 crore
- RTM cards available: 8 (Warriorz hold 4)



Real Madrid appear set to secure Celta Vigo’s brightest young midfield prospect

Ryan Williams Cleared by FIFA, Eligible to Represent India

NEW DELHI

India’s national football team has received a significant boost with forward Ryan Williams officially cleared by FIFA to represent the country. The 32-year-old Bengaluru FC attacker, born in Perth, has now completed his change of association after relinquishing his Australian citizenship and acquiring an Indian passport.

The All India Football Federation (AIFF) announced that FIFA’s Players’ Status Chamber issued its final approval, confirming Williams’ eligibility. “With the ruling now in effect, Ryan Williams is officially eligible for selection to the Indian national team,” the AIFF said, adding that the process adhered fully to all regulatory requirements. FIFA reviewed the application under the Regulations Governing the Application of the Statutes (RGAS), verifying that all conditions for nationality and representation were satisfied. Williams qualifies through his Indian heritage—his mother was born in Mumbai—while his father hails from Kent, England.

Williams previously represented Australia at the U-20 and U-23 levels and made a senior appearance in a 2019 friendly against South Korea. His club career has taken him through stints at Fulham and Portsmouth before he joined Bengaluru FC in 2023, where his high work rate and versatility have made him a key presence in attack.

Real Madrid Win Race for Celta Prodigy Mateo Quintana

MADRID

Real Madrid’s long-term recruitment strategy has once again taken centre stage as the club moves closer to securing one of Spain’s most promising young footballers. According to a report, Los Blancos are on the brink of signing 13-year-old midfielder Mateo Quintana from Celta Vigo, beating both Barcelona and Atletico Madrid to his signature.

The information, first detailed by journalist Alberto Bravo, suggests that the operation has been advancing steadily despite Celta’s determined efforts to keep the youngster in Galicia. Bravo noted that negotiations are “practically sealed,” with only final agreements pending.

Barring unexpected complications, Quintana is expected to join La Fábrica at Valdebebas.

Born in 2012, Quintana has already made a strong impression within Celta’s academy setup. His remarkable tally of seven goals in seven matches in the Galician Division of Honour led the club to promote him to the Cadete B category ahead of schedule—an uncommon step for someone his age and a testament to his exceptional maturity on the pitch.

Celta Vigo reportedly made significant attempts to convince both the player and his family to continue his development in familiar surroundings. However, Real Madrid’s elite training environment, combined with the club’s

proven record of nurturing young talent, ultimately tipped the scales.

For Real Madrid, Quintana’s potential made the pursuit a priority. The club’s youth scouts consider him a rare talent with the ability to excel in a more demanding competitive structure. Winning the battle against Barcelona and Atletico only underscores how sought-after the young midfielder has become within Spanish football.

Sources close to Madrid’s academy say Quintana is excited about the move and eager to take the next step in his development. Inside Valdebebas, expectations are already high that he could become one of the standout products of the next generation.

Holy Spirit School & St. Arnold PU College Sports Meet

BENGALURU

At the sports meet organized by Holy Spirit School and St. Arnold PU College located on Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru, prizes were distributed to the winners. The sports meet was inaugurated by Sr. Saritha, Sr. Treasa Rebello — Head of Holy Spirit Educational Institutions, and Ms. Limna Justine, Principal of Holy Spirit School and PU College.

Actor and producer Dr. Gandasi Sadananda Swamy, along with other dignitaries, presented awards to the winners. The event was held in memory of Arnold Jannesson, who symbolizes sportsmanship, leadership, humility, and perseverance. Along with volleyball matches, cultural programs such as solo and group dance performances were also organized.



Diksha Dagar Defends Deaflympics Gold with Dominant 14-Stroke Win

TOKYO

Indian golfer Diksha Dagar delivered a sensational performance at the Deaflympics, firing a stunning 11-under in the final round to comfortably defend her gold medal in the women’s individual stroke-play event at the Wakasu Golf Links.

Diksha, a former silver medalist in 2017 and gold winner in 2021, produced rounds of 68, 65 and 72 for a three-day total of 11-under 205. Her clinical consistency and attacking approach propelled her to a commanding 14-shot victory over France’s Margaux Rezo, who finished with a total of three-over 219. Canada’s Erica Dawn Rivard took bronze at five-over 221.



The 24-year-old began strongly with a four-under 68 — the only sub-par score in the 21-player field on the opening day. But it was her blistering second round, an extraordinary 11-under, that catapulted her beyond reach.

With her putter running hot, Diksha dismantled the course, leaving her rivals scrambling for positions rather than the podium’s top step.

Diksha’s triumph adds to her impressive resume. In 2019, she became only the second Indian woman after Aditi Ashok to win a title on the Ladies European Tour. She also made history as the only hearing-impaired golfer globally to have represented her country at both the Deaflympics and the Olympic Games — having competed in Tokyo 2020 and Paris 2024.

Among the other Indian golfers in the field, Harsh Singh finished 12th with a total of 22-over 238, while Vibhu Tyagi ended tied-14th at 24-over 240.



Camp Nou Catalyst: Barca Target Revival

BARCELONA

Barcelona finally return to Camp Nou after two-and-a-half years, with Hansi Flick hoping the occasion jump-starts their La Liga title defence against Athletic Bilbao. Trailing Real Madrid by three points, Barça have struggled with defensive fragility and inconsistent attacking displays this season.

The 4-2 victory over Celta Vigo before the break offered encouragement, especially after a calm second half. Flick believes playing at Camp Nou will restore belief and rhythm. A timely boost comes from the potential return of goalkeeper Joan Garcia, whose absence saw Barça fail to keep a clean sheet in nine matches.

However, injuries persist. Lamine Yamal remains doubtful, Frenkie de Jong is suspended and Pedri is sidelined, leaving Marc Casado and Dani Olmo to step into key midfield roles.

Italy Face Tricky Road Back to World Cup



ZURICH

Italy’s hopes of returning to the FIFA World Cup rest on a challenging playoff pathway that begins with a must-win home clash against Northern Ireland on March 26. After missing the last two editions in 2018 and 2022, the four-time champions now confront another nerve-testing route to reclaim their place on football’s biggest stage.

Italy, eliminated previously by Sweden and North Macedonia, find themselves back in the playoffs for a third straight cycle. The latest draw means that even if they defeat Northern Ireland in the single-elimination semifinal,

they must travel away to face either Wales or Bosnia-Herzegovina for a spot in the expanded 48-team tournament to be hosted by the United States, Canada and Mexico.

Northern Ireland, known for their stubborn defensive structure, pose a challenge similar to North Macedonia, who stunned Italy in Palermo with a stoppage-time winner in 2022. “There will be immense pressure on Italy... we have everything to gain,” Northern Ireland coach Michael O’Neill said.

Italy coach Gennaro Gattuso, whose side fell 4-1 to group winner Norway on Sunday, declined to comment. Across the other European

playoff brackets, Ukraine will host Sweden, with the winner then at home to Poland or Albania. Kosovo, aiming for a historic first World Cup appearance, face Slovakia before a potential showdown with Turkey or Romania. Ireland, buoyed by back-to-back wins over Portugal and Hungary, travel to the Czech Republic for their semifinal.

FIFA also confirmed draws for the intercontinental playoffs, with Iraq set to face either Bolivia or Suriname, while Congo await the winner of New Caledonia vs Jamaica. The six playoff matches will take place in Mexico from March 23–31.

Italy’s Playoff Path

- Semifinal: vs Northern Ireland (Home)
- Final: vs Wales/Bosnia (Away)
- Format: Single-elimination

European Playoff Brackets

- Bracket 1: Ukraine vs Sweden → winner vs Poland/Albania
- Bracket 1: Ukraine vs Sweden → winner vs Poland/Albania
- Bracket 2: Kosovo vs Slovakia → winner vs Turkey/Romania
- Bracket 3: Czech Republic vs Ireland → winner vs Denmark/North Macedonia

Intercontinental Playoffs

- Iraq vs Bolivia/Suriname
- Congo vs New Caledonia/Jamaica
- Venue: Mexico (March 23–31)

Key Date:

- World Cup Draw: December 5, Washington, D.C.

Results

Group A: France bt India B 3-1 — Bazin lost to Haria 0-134 (93); Mortreux bt Hussain 71-10; Bazin/Mortreux bt Haria/Hussain 60-56; Mortreux bt Haria 79-49.

Group F: India A bt Oman A 3-0 — Advani bt Sultan 80-4; Mehta bt Alkhusaibi 73 (53)-1; Advani/Damani bt Alkhusaibi/Sultan 62-20.



GUWAHATI

South Africa have been dealt a significant blow ahead of the second and final Test against India in Guwahati, with premier fast bowler Kagiso Rabada ruled out after failing to recover from a rib bone stress injury. Rabada, who also missed the first Test in Kolkata, has been advised a four-week rehabilitation programme and will sit out not only the Test but also the upcoming ODI and T20I series.

His absence was anticipated, with the visitors calling up seamer Lungi Ngidi earlier this week as cover. Ngidi is now in contention for the playing XI, though captain Temba Bavuma said the final team combination would be confirmed only after assessing the pitch on Saturday morning.

“We will finalise the starting when we have had a look at the wicket,” Bavuma said on Friday. “It looks a little bit fresher than Kolkata with a bit more grass, so that suggests it will play a bit better. It will be more of a traditional sub-continent wicket — good

GUWAHATI

India’s hopes of squaring the two-match Test series against South Africa took a significant hit on Friday after captain Shubman Gill was officially ruled out of the second Test in Guwahati, starting today. Gill, who struggled with a persistent neck spasm during the opening Test in Kolkata, was released from the squad following medical assessment, with wicket-keeper-bat-

ter Rishabh Pant appointed stand-in captain.

The 26-year-old had missed most of the first Test due to the injury and travelled with the side to Assam in the hope of recovery. However, team management decided against risking further aggravation, especially with an ODI series approaching. “We don’t want a recurrence of spasm during the game,” batting coach Sitanshu Kotak had cautioned earlier.

In an official statement, the BCCI confirmed Gill’s

unavailability and Pant’s elevation to captaincy. The Board also noted that Gill’s participation in the upcoming ODIs remains uncertain.

The Barsapara Cricket Stadium, hosting its first international Test, is expected to witness early start times due to winter conditions in the North East. With Gill sidelined, India are weighing two likely replacements for the playing XI — stylish left-hander Sai Sudharsan or promising all-rounder Nitish Kumar Reddy.

South Africa, buoyed by their memorable win at Eden Gardens, enter the match with a 1-0 lead and an opportunity to clinch a rare away series triumph. For India, the challenge intensifies not just due to Gill’s absence but also the pressure to avoid a home series defeat.

Despite the initial belief that Gill might recover in time, sources indicate he has already left Guwahati to rest and continue treatment, ending any lingering hopes of his participation in the decisive Test.



Experts warn India to trust curators as pitch controversies cloud Test series

Pitch Controversy Reignites amid India-SA Test Series

GUWAHATI

The pitch debate resurfaced with intensity during the India-South Africa Test series after Cricket Association of Bengal president Sourav Ganguly revealed that the Eden Gardens surface for the opening Test had been left unwatered for four days. The absence of moisture accelerated the pitch’s deterioration, resulting in unpredictable bounce, inconsistent pace, and excessive turn — conditions that rattled both sides but ultimately helped South Africa secure a memorable win.

With the series now shifting to Guwahati, a more reassuring sight emerged as ground staff watered the centre square at the Assam Cricket Association Stadium nearly 48 hours before the second Test. While that provided some comfort, curators themselves admit that pitch preparation is a nuanced craft influenced by weather, soil composition and local geography — variables no amount of planning can fully control.

Tailoring pitches to suit home strengths is common worldwide, but the fine line between strategic preparation and

over-manipulation remains contentious. India have learnt this the hard way. Despite pitches expected to favour their spinners, visiting sides have occasionally turned the tables, as South Africa did in the first Test.

This has prompted uncomfortable questions: Is India’s historic advantage in spin slipping? Have IPL-era batting habits diluted traditional methods of playing spin? And are Indian spinners becoming too defensive on turning tracks?

Batting coach Sitanshu Kotak acknowledged that modern batters rarely use their feet against spin the way previous generations did, while spinners too rely on flatter trajectories shaped by white-ball cricket demands. Yet, India’s strength at home remains spin — albeit not in isolation. Their 4-1 win over England last year on balanced pitches, where spinners and pacers both thrived, is proof.

The message, then, is clear: trust curators. Gentle guidance is acceptable, but excessive intervention risks producing unstable surfaces like the one in Kolkata. Curators understand their soil, weather and conditions better than anyone. Teams must allow them the freedom to prepare pitches that uphold both contest and quality.

RABADA RULED OUT AS SA FACE INDIA IN DECISIVE TEST

for batting in the first few days before spinners come into play.”

Bavuma stressed the importance of the first innings, noting that batting early on such surfaces often determines the course of the Test. Winning the toss, he added, would be a major advantage.

Despite holding a 1-0 lead, the South African skipper dismissed any notion of playing cautiously. “Any Test you play, you want to win. We want to play from the front and not try protecting the lead we have,” he said.

STARC MAKES HISTORY

Starc Reaches 100 Ashes Wickets in Dominant Perth Spell

PERTH

Australia’s pace spearhead Mitchell Starc etched his name deeper into Ashes history on Friday, becoming the 21st bowler — and the 13th Australian — to claim 100 wickets in the iconic Test rivalry. The landmark came during a devastating early burst in the first Ashes Test at Perth, where Starc dismissed three key England batters, including Joe Root.

Starc reached the milestone in his 23rd Ashes Test, underlining his long-standing dominance against England. His fiery spell not only rocked the visitors but also propelled him into elite company. In the process, the left-arm quick equalled West Indies legend Curtly Ambrose’s career tally of 405 Test wickets, a mark that has long symbolised sustained excellence at the highest level.

Now playing his 100th Test, Starc also stands on the brink of surpassing Pakistani great Wasim Akram’s record for the most wickets by a left-arm fast bowler in Test cricket. Akram retired with

414 wickets from 104 matches, a benchmark Starc is well within reach of surpassing given his current form and longevity.

Beyond his bowling achievements, Starc has contributed significantly with the bat. The left-hander has amassed 2,322 Test runs, including 11 half-centuries, with a highest score of 99. His all-round value has been pivotal for Australia across formats, especially in marquee contests like the Ashes.

At Perth, Starc’s early strikes have given Australia the perfect start to the series. His combination of pace, swing and experience continues to trouble England’s top order, reinforcing why he remains one of the most influential bowlers in contemporary Test cricket.

As the match unfolds, Starc’s twin milestones — his 100th Test and 100 Ashes wickets — set the tone for what promises to be a gripping Ashes opener.



Lakshya Sen Advances to Australian Open Semifinals; Satwik-Chirag Bow Out

SYDNEY

Lakshya Sen produced a composed and disciplined performance to beat fellow Indian Ayush Shetty and seal his place in the men’s singles semifinals of the Australian Open Super 500 in Sydney on Friday. The seventh seed prevailed 23-21, 21-11 in 53 minutes, maintaining his upper hand over the 20-year-old Shetty, whom he had also defeated at the same stage in the Hong Kong Open earlier this year.

The opening game was a tense affair, with Lakshya trailing 6-9 before clawing his way back to an 11-10 lead at the mid-game interval. The exchanges remained tight, and although Ayush was the first to earn a game point, Lak-



shya’s experience and shot control helped him turn the tables and take the opener 23-21. The second game was a stark contrast, with Lakshya racing ahead 6-1 and later 15-7 as Shetty’s resistance faded.

Lakshya, a 2021 World Championship bronze medalist, will now face second seed Chou Tien Chen of Chinese Taipei in the semifinals. Chou, ranked World No. 9

and a 2018 Asian Games silver medalist, survived a grueling 1 hour, 23-minute battle to beat Farhan Alwi 13-21, 23-21, 21-16.

Meanwhile, it was a disappointing day for India in men’s doubles as top seeds Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty exited the competition. The world-class pair, who recently reached the finals of the Hong Kong Open and China Masters, lost 21-19, 21-15 to Indonesia’s fifth-seeded duo Fajar Alfian and Muhammad Shohibul Fikri.

With senior shuttlers H.S. Prannoy and Kidambi Srikanth already out, Lakshya remains India’s sole representative in the men’s singles draw as the tournament heads toward its final stages.

NEW DELHI

The Centre on Tuesday told the Supreme Court that it has taken full cognisance of the crisis within the All India Football Federation (AIFF) following the delay of the Indian Super League (ISL) season and is committed to ensuring the tournament proceeds without harming players or clubs.

Appearing for the Centre, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta informed a bench of Justice Pamidighantam Sri Narasimha and Justice Joymala Bagchi that the Union Minister concerned is “fully aware” of the situation and has clearly stated that “the ISL must be held.” He said the government is willing to address financial, ownership and oper-

ational challenges, while remaining mindful of FIFA regulations. “We will ensure that players are not put to any disadvantage due to lack of sponsors or lack of club owners,” Mehta said.

The Bench, however, cautioned against any perception of government overreach. “We don’t want the impression that the government is interfering again. It is only to tide over the situation,” the judges observed, adding that Justice Rao’s earlier recommendations would serve as guiding principles for stakeholder discussions.

The crisis has deepened amid reports of resistance from sections of the AIFF to adopting the revised constitu-

tion. The AIFF told the court that the Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) scheduled to approve the document has been postponed to November 24. While advocate Rahul Mehra argued that the constitution “must be adopted,” the court declined to make observations on the issue.

Senior advocate and amicus curiae Gopal Sankaranarayanan urged the Centre to consult clubs and stakeholders, noting that the ISL’s six-to-seven-month season supports hundreds of players and employees. He warned that delayed payments have raised serious concerns and reminded the court of earlier FIFA interventions linked to unpaid international players.



China Sees Grassroots Football Boom despite Missing 2026 World Cup

BEIJING

China’s national men’s football team may once again be missing from the FIFA World Cup, but the sport is experiencing an unexpected and vibrant resurgence across the country. While top-tier clubs continue to struggle financially and lag behind Asia’s best, grassroots football is witnessing an unprecedented revival, offering hope for the long-term future of the game in the world’s most populous nation.

The 2025 Chinese Super League (CSL) season, which concludes on Saturday, has been one of the most engag-

ing in recent years. Shanghai Port, coached by former Australian international Kevin Muscat, needs just a draw in Dalian to retain its title. A slip, however, could open the door for city rivals Shanghai Shenhua, who trail by only two points. Attendance has been a standout feature this season, averaging about 26,000 — the highest among Asian leagues and significantly more than a decade ago, when Chinese clubs splurged on global stars like Carlos Tevez, Hulk, Oscar and marquee coaches such as Marcello Lippi and Sven-Göran Eriksson.



While today’s CSL features no international superstars and clubs are far from continental dominance, fan passion has endured. “The hardcore of football fans still exists in China,” noted Simon Chadwick, professor of AfroEurasian Sport at Emlyon Business School. “It is becoming increasingly apparent that the seeds of a new football age in China are beginning to sprout.”

This revival is most visible at the amateur level. Regional leagues have flourished, led by the Jiangsu Football City League — launched in 2025 following the collapse of Ji-

angsu FC. With 13 community-based teams, attendance averaged nearly 30,000 per match. The November 1 final in Nanjing drew a staggering 62,000 fans, with over 2 million ticket applications online.

Inspired by Jiangsu’s success, multiple provinces have launched their own leagues, signalling a shift toward organic, community-driven football development rather than top-down state initiatives. With growing participation, swelling crowds and renewed local pride, China’s football revival may well be underway — even without a World Cup appearance.