CITY HILIGHTS

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DKS WOOS TOYOTA IN JAPAN
BATS FOR AFFORDABLE HYBRID TAXIS

Assures support for Toyota's expansion to one-million capacity; invites its leadership for Global Investors Meet and explore further investment opportunities in Karnataka.

TOKYO

Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Monday assured Toyota Motor Corporation of the State government's support for expanding its manufacturing operations in Karnataka as the Japanese automaker looks to scale vehicle production capacity to one million.

Shivakumar, along with Industries Minister MB Patil, met Toyota's senior leadership at its Motomachi plant in Japan as part of Karnataka's investment outreach.

The meeting focused on strengthening Toyota's manufacturing presence in Karnataka, expanding production and exploring new mobility solutions.

The Toyota delegation was led by Masakazu Yoshimura, Chairman, Managing Director and CEO of Toyota Motor Corporation.

According to a statement from the Chief Minister's Office, the company highlighted Karnataka's importance as a key manufacturing destination and export hub, while outlining its existing operations in the state.

Shivakumar assured Toyota that the Karnataka government would extend all necessary support to facilitate its expansion plans. He also encouraged the company to scale up its operations, reiterating the state's commitment to providing a favourable environment for investments and manufacturing growth.

CM Shivakumar pitches affordable hybrid taxis

During the discussions, Shivakumar encouraged Toyota to consider introducing its Japan taxi model in Karnataka. The affordable hybrid-electric vehicle, designed for taxi operations, could help make taxi services more economical and accessible to commuters across the state.

The meeting also discussed the possibility of introducing flex-fuel vehicles and their potential benefits in promoting alternative fuels and sustainable mobility solutions.

The CM and Patil also invited Toyota's leadership to participate in the upcoming Global Investors Meet and explore further investment opportunities in Karnataka.



CM DK Shivakumar, along with Minister MB Patil, with Toyota Motor Corporation CEO Masakazu Yoshimura & senior leadership at the Motomachi Plant in Japan on Monday.

K'taka seeks fresh investments in Japan

- **Toyota expansion**: Shivakumar assured full Karnataka government support for Toyota's manufacturing expansion, as the company targets a production capacity of one million vehicles.
- **Key meeting**: Shivakumar and Industries Minister MB Patil met Toyota Chairman, MD and CEO Masakazu Yoshimura at its Motomachi plant in Japan.
- **Investment push**: Discussions covered expanding manufacturing, increasing production, new mobility solutions and strengthening Karnataka as an automotive export hub.
- **Hybrid taxis**: Shivakumar urged Toyota to introduce its affordable Japan taxi hybrid-electric model in Karnataka.
- **Flex-fuel technology**: Both sides discussed introducing flex-fuel vehicles to promote alternative fuels and sustainable mobility.
- **Global Investors Meet**: K'taka invited Toyota to participate in the upcoming summit & explore further investments.
- **Motomachi plant visit**: The delegation toured Toyota's 1959-established facility, which manufactures hybrid, battery-electric and fuel-cell vehicles.
- **Skill development**: Shivakumar interacted with over 20 Karnataka ITI graduates receiving specialised training in Japan under Toyota's Global Skill-up programme.
- **Japan's infrastructure**: Shivakumar highlighted the Shinkansen bullet train as an example of technology-driven infrastructure and innovation.
- **Overall objective**: Strengthen Japan-Karnataka industrial ties, attract investments, promote technology transfer, develop skills and generate employment.

K'taka delegation visits Toyota's Motomachi plant

Following the meeting, Shivakumar and the Industries Minister visited Toyota's Motomachi plant, the company's first flagship passenger car manufacturing facility in Asia, established in 1959.

The facility assembles multiple vehicle models powered by different technologies, including hybrid-electric, battery-electric and fuel-cell vehicles. The delegation was briefed on its manufacturing capabilities, production processes and technological advancements.

> Japan's high-speed rail is a remarkable example of how innovation, technology and infrastructure can transform the way people live, work and travel.
> - DK Shivakumar, CM

During the visit, the Chief Minister and the minister also interacted with more than 20 members of Toyota's Global Skill-up training programme from Karnataka. The trainees, who are graduates of Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) in the state, are currently undergoing specialised training in Japan.

Shivakumar enquired about their training experience and encouraged them to make the most of the international exposure and technical expertise they were gaining.

The delegation also visited the Toyota Kaikan Museum, which showcases the company's manufacturing philosophy, technological innovations and vision for the future of mobility.

Earlier, Shivakumar and Patil travelled by the Shinkansen bullet train from Tokyo to Nagoya as part of their Japan visit. Sharing a video of the journey on X, the Chief Minister described Japan's high-speed rail network as an example of how innovation, technology and infrastructure can transform the way people live, work and travel.

He said the state government's focus was on strengthening industrial partnerships, attracting investments and creating new opportunities for Karnataka.

India-Nepal friendship will soar higher: PM Modi

INDIA-NEPAL STAND AS FIRM AS HIMALAYAS: SHAH

India-Nepal sign 8 MoUs ◆ India announces NPR 24000 cr package for Nepal ◆ Flags off new Ayodhya-Janakpur train

NEW DELHI

India and Nepal in their first bilateral meet in New Delhi signed a string of memorandums of understanding (MoUs), launched various projects, and flagged off Janakpur-Ayodhya train on Monday as both the prime ministers hailed the relations as "solid and dependable".

Nepal PM Balendra Shah began his two-day state visit to India on Sunday at the invitation of Modi.

The visit aimed at giving fresh momentum to bilateral relations, which faced some strain in May after his remarks seeking the involvement of China and the United Kingdom in resolving the long-standing border dispute between India and Nepal.

It is his first bilateral foreign visit since assuming office in March. The talks resulted in several key outcomes aimed at strengthening bilateral ties.

The two leaders virtually laid the foundation stones of several India-assisted projects in Nepal and and flagged off a cross-border passenger train service connecting Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh with Janakpur Dham in Nepal.

Modi-Shah flag off Janakpur-Ayodhya Express

Modi and Shah jointly inaugurated a motorable bridge connecting Darchula in Nepal with Dharchula in India and also launched the second phase of the Motihari-Amlekhgunj petroleum pipeline project.

They further laid foundation stones for other three projects: an integrated check post at Banbasa in Uttarakhand, a greenfield petroleum storage terminal in Jhapa and the 669-megawatt Lower Arun Hydropower Project.



The relationship between India and Nepal is not merely that of neighbours, but it is about kinship and unbreakable trust.
- Narendra Modi, Indian PM

As a dependable and trusted neighbour, India consistently stood as the first responder in times of natural disasters and difficult times in Nepal.
- Balendra Shah, Nepal PM

India-Nepal sign 8 MoUs

- **Satellite communication:** ISRO & Nepal's Ministry of Information & Communication will set up a satellite communication network using the South Asia Satellite.
- **Forensic science (police):** The National Forensic Sciences University in Gandhinagar & Nepal Police's Crime Investigation Department will collaborate on academics & research.
- **Police training:** India's Rashtriya Raksha University and Nepal's National Police Academy will cooperate on training.
- **Civil service training:** India's National Centre for Good Governance & Nepal's Administrative Staff College will run training programmes for Nepalese civil servants.
- **Healthcare:** India's Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Nepal's Ministry of Health and Food Safety will expand cooperation in health and medicine.
- **Traditional medicine:** A government-to-government agreement covers Ayurveda and other traditional systems.
- **Sustainable urban development:** The two countries will deepen technical cooperation on infrastructure planning, urban services and resilient cities.
- **Livestock and fisheries:** The agreement covers agriculture and allied sectors.

The leaders also flagged off the Saryu-Kamala Express, a new passenger train service connecting Janakpur Dham in Nepal with Ayodhya Cantonment in Uttar Pradesh.

PM announces NPR 24k cr package for Nepal

Modi also announced 24,000 crore Nepalese rupees for Nepal's reconstruction and long-term development.

Avoid official or sensitive work on WhatsApp web: Govt

NEW DELHI

The Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C), under the Ministry of Home Affairs, has issued a strong advisory cautioning WhatsApp users about the potential misuse of authenticated web sessions that could allow cybercriminals to gain unauthorised access to their accounts.

According to the National Cybercrime Threat Analytics Unit (NCTAU) of I4C, a WhatsApp Web session left active on a public computer or shared device can become a gateway for attackers. Once inside, malicious actors can read private messages, send communications while impersonating the account holder, access contact lists and group conversations, and exploit the user's trusted identity to carry out fraud, phishing and social-engineering attacks.

'Closing the browser tab is not enough'

The I4C specifically stressed that simply closing a browser window or tab does not end a WhatsApp Web session. Users must manually log out every time they finish using the platform on a computer.

"Users are therefore advised to exercise caution while using WhatsApp Web, particularly on office computers, shared systems, public computers or devices that may be accessible to other persons," the advisory stated, further warning, "Avoid official or sensitive work on WhatsApp Web. Government, organisational, financial, confidential or other sensitive information should preferably not be exchanged through WhatsApp Web sessions on computers."

> Users are therefore advised to exercise caution while using WhatsApp Web, particularly on office computers, shared systems, public computers or devices that may be accessible to other persons.
> - Ministry of Home Affairs advisory

KEY SAFETY TIPS FROM ADVISORY

- Avoid logging into WhatsApp Web on cyber cafe computers, public kiosks, hotel business centers, borrowed laptops or other unknown and public devices.
- If logging in on a shared system is unavoidable, use the browser's incognito or private browsing mode but remember to log out manually afterward.
- Pay close attention to unusual account behaviour, such as unexpected messages sent from your number, strange replies from contacts or any unexplained activity.
- Keep your devices, operating systems, browsers and security software updated, and steer clear of suspicious downloads, unknown files and cracked software.

Pak operatives infiltrate defence WhatsApp groups; audit ordered

NEW DELHI

Security agencies flagged a "targeted" cyber espionage attempt against some defence, paramilitary and defence-civilian officials after detecting certain Pakistani operatives secretly infiltrating about a dozen private WhatsApp groups used by them, officials said on Monday.

The agencies directed a "comprehensive audit" and cleaning of the social communication platforms used by these personnel including the identified groups. A general advisory asked all forces and defence civilian organisations to sanitise their platforms and directed that no official or classified information and data be shared over social media platforms, they said.

Security and intelligence agencies found that some Pakistan-based Intelligence Operatives (PIOs) "infiltrated" about 13-14 private WhatsApp groups used by defence, paramilitary (Central Armed Police Forces), and defence-civilian officials, according to officials.

The officials said the threat has been categorised as a "targeted" cyber espionage campaign against these personnel who are rendering sensitive security duties.

The officials said the PIOs likely sneaked into these groups using a spoofed or compromised Indian cellphone number. These numbers belonging to the PIOs were "silent members" in the groups, observing the chats and documents being shared, they added.

Apart from the identified WhatsApp groups, a general advisory directed all forces and defence civilian organisations to audit and sanitise their platforms and remove unidentified members. "The stipulated cyber hygiene guidelines have been reiterated and it has been directed that no official or classified information and data be shared over social media platforms in the wake of this incident," a senior officer said.

Minister Gopi questions K'taka's E20 testing method

PALAKKAD

Union Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas Suresh Gopi on Monday questioned the testing methods adopted by the Karnataka government to detect higher-than-prescribed ethanol content in petrol and dismissed concerns over E20 fuel.



On queries about tests conducted by the Karnataka government that reportedly found ethanol content exceeding the prescribed level, Gopi said the reported levels of 27 and 28% were "unacceptable" and questioned whether the samples had been collected directly from refineries.

He said fuel passed through several stages, including transportation and storage in underground tanks at retail outlets, before reaching consumers.

"We are not rejecting the possibility of checking other systems. Fuel is transported and stored in underground tanks at retail outlets. We have not installed cameras there or sealed those facilities." He said oil companies were responsible for complying with the regulations and policies of the Centre and that periodic checks were conducted to ensure adherence to prescribed standards.

STATE AWAITS CENTRE'S RESPONSE

K'taka to weigh legal steps over Centre's silence on drought aid: GP

BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister G Parameshwara on Monday said Karnataka is considering approaching the Supreme Court over the Centre's delay in responding to its demand for drought relief. The state would take a decision after further discussions in the Cabinet.

The state has sought Rs 22,000 crore in financial assistance from the Centre through three memorandums submitted to the Prime Minister, Union Home Minister and Union Agriculture Minister. However, there has been no response to its requests, even after central teams visited the state and submitted their assessment reports, he said.

"We will wait for some more time, after which we will take our own decision," he told reporters.

He said Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, himself and other Cabinet colleagues would discuss the matter before deciding on the next course of action.

He recalled that Karnataka had faced a similar situation during the previous drought, when it sought Rs 18,000 crore from the Centre but received only around Rs 3,500 crore after approaching the Supreme Court.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS



Relief demand & next steps
Karnataka is awaiting a response regarding its ₹22,000 crore drought relief memorandum and will discuss potential legal action in the state Cabinet, following a similar path to its previous ₹18,000 crore relief plea that required Supreme Court intervention.

State support & political response
While independently distributing ₹5,000 in immediate aid to farmers (totaling ₹2,500 crore), Deputy CM G Parameshwara urged Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy to help coordinate meetings with central authorities and asked that the crisis not be politicised.

"We have to receive at least some financial assistance. As you know, last time the SC intervened and directed the Centre to provide around Rs 3,500 crore," he said.

Arguing that the state needed financial support to deal with the drought, Parameshwara said the situation should not be turned into a political dispute between the Centre and the state.

"Nobody invited or asked for a drought; it has occurred. At this time, shouldn't the Centre stand with us? It does not look appropriate for me to blame them or for them to blame us over this issue," he said, urging that the drought situation should not be politicised.

Quick Read

Chilly nights stay across Karnataka this week

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Cold weather is set to stay put across Karnataka over the next five days, with no big shifts in night temperatures expected. Among flat areas in the state, Belagavi airport saw the lowest mark at 11.4 degrees Celsius. Most parts of coastal and north interior Karnataka will stay dry today. Around Bengaluru and nearby south interior districts, light rain may pop up in a few spots. On November 24 and 25, scattered light rain or thunder with lightning is likely in parts of south interior Karnataka and a couple of coastal spots. Pack a light jacket for cool mornings ahead.

Free cancer drugs sold for big profits

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Delhi police took Prashant Babu into custody on a court warrant for questioning in a two crore rupee medicine fraud case. Earlier held by Karnataka investigators, he faces claims of selling free cancer injections to sick people. Drug makers gave one free dose when buyers bought two injections worth around five lakh rupees, yet he hid the offer and charged patients anyway. Unused doses from patients who died were allegedly taken back and sold again. Investigators say the ring reached over fifteen thousand patients across six states, including Karnataka, through many private hospitals and shops as police trace the full network.

Rajanna targets Balakrishna, denies party switch

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Former minister K.N. Rajanna hit back sharply at minister H.C. Balakrishna in Bengaluru, calling him just Bala and refusing to answer his remarks. Rajanna also brushed off talk that his son, Congress MLC Rajendra, might join the JD(S). He explained that Rajendra meets Union Minister Amit Shah as a KRIBHCO board director representing Karnataka on fertilizer and cooperative matters. Asked about former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and sting operations, Rajanna said he had already raised them in the assembly and claimed 25-30 more recordings could come out gradually whenever needed to suit political timing across the state.

H.D. Kumaraswamy mocks CM over ASHA workers' plight

As freezing nights test protesting ASHA workers, Kumaraswamy aims fiery sarcasm at Karnataka's absent Chief Minister.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy took a sharp, sarcastic swipe at the Karnataka Chief Minister over the week-long protest by Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) workers, remarking that a leader with a heart "as delicate as a flower" should have melted by now at the sight of women sleeping in the freezing cold. Speaking to reporters at the Janata Dal (Secular) headquarters, J.P. Bhavan, he expressed hope that the Chief Minister might finally address their suffering once he returns from his ongoing official tour of Japan.



Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy speaks to reporters in Bengaluru.

Kumaraswamy's political volley

ASHA pay
Urged an immediate hike, recalling pre-poll manifesto pledges

Drought jibe
Asked if Congress will run to a London court

Kodagu model
His government built flood homes and paid ₹10,000 rent aid

Session prep
JD(S)-BJP coordination ahead of the winter session

Honorarium and party committees

Pointing out that the Chief Minister also holds the Finance portfolio, Kumaraswamy argued there is zero financial hurdle to hiking the workers' monthly honorarium. He accused the Congress government of prioritizing political loyalty over frontline healthcare staff, alleging that Rs 1,000 crore is being distributed to party workers through 'Bharat Jodo' committees while ASHA workers struggle to survive rising living costs despite explicit pre-election manifesto promises.

Drought relief jibe

Turning to the state government's threat to move the court against New Delhi over pending drought relief, the former Chief Minister mocked Congress leaders by recalling their handling of the NICE road dispute. He quipped that instead of the High Court or Supreme Court, the state might head to a court in London as Congress leaders had once insisted. Maintaining that cordial rapport with the Prime Minister and Union Home Minister eliminates any need for legal battles, Kumaraswamy recalled that during the devastating Kodagu floods, his own government built houses and paid Rs 10,000 monthly rent to displaced families without waiting for central funds.

On upcoming political developments, Kumaraswamy stated he is in no hurry regarding the Hiriyur by-election ticket, prioritizing a strong alliance candidate while teasing the Chief Minister's frequent visits to the constituency.

He added that the JD(S) legislature party will meet ahead of the winter session and coordinate with the BJP if needed, while confirming upcoming discussions with Pramod Muthalik regarding the anti-conversion and anti-cow slaughter laws.

Political takeaways

The NDA alliance will pick a strong candidate for Hiriyur, Kumaraswamy said, teasing the Chief Minister for visiting the seat as if adopting another Kanakapura. He confirmed upcoming talks with Pramod Muthalik on demands to review the anti-conversion and anti-cow slaughter laws.

Day 7: ASHA workers form unity chain



ASHA workers at Freedom Park in Bengaluru on the seventh day of their protest.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Braving chilly weather and personal struggles, thousands of ASHA health workers across Karnataka pushed their indefinite protest into its seventh day on Monday. To show their anger against the state government, the protesters joined hands to form a massive human chain around Freedom Park in the heart of Bengaluru.

Organizers called this powerful display the "ASHA Chain." Workers from many different districts traveled to the city to join the demonstration, which is being led by the All India United Trade Union Centre (AIUTUC). Holding hands tightly around the park, the women shouted loud slogans against the authorities, showing deep unity and strong determination to fight for their rights.

The protesters say they feel let down because the government has failed to keep its earlier promises. For the past week, they have been sitting at the park, demanding fair pay and better financial security for their hard work in rural and urban communities.

Their main demand is a fixed monthly pay of 15,000 rupees. Along with regular wages, the workers are asking for a one-time retirement payment of 5 lakh rupees so that older workers can live with dignity after years of service. Many of these frontline workers handle vital health tasks in villages, yet they struggle to support their own families on low and irregular pay.

Several senior leaders stood with the workers during the protest. K. Somashekhar Yadagiri, who serves as the State President of the Karnataka State United ASHA Workers' Association, and State Secretary D. Nagalakshmi joined the demonstration along with other union members.

The protesting workers expressed deep unhappiness over the government's silence and lack of proper action so far. They made it very clear that they will not back down or go home empty-handed.

Parameshwara urges protesting ASHA workers to trust CM

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister G. Parameshwara appealed to protesting ASHA workers to place their trust in the Chief Minister's word and show patience as the government works toward a fair resolution. Speaking to reporters near his Sadashivanagar residence, he noted that the Chief Minister has already met union representatives and personally promised to address their concerns.

Addressing the protesters' insistence on a written promise, Parameshwara said such demands are common during agitations, though solving the real problem matters far more than paperwork. He confirmed that the Chief Minister will meet the workers on the evening of November 25 for detailed talks before taking an appropriate decision. Without mutual trust, he asked, how can any dispute be settled smoothly?



G. Parameshwara

UPDATES FROM THE DCM

ASHA TALKS
CM meets the workers on the evening of November 25

DROUGHT RELIEF
₹22,000 crore sought; no reply from the Centre in two months

FARMER AID
₹5,000 to each eligible farmer before the session

BOOK ROW
Seizure followed objections from several communities

Drought funds from the Centre

Shifting to the state's severe drought crisis, the Deputy Chief Minister criticized the Central Government for failing to respond over the past two months despite three formal requests for ₹22,000 crore in relief funds. Even after central teams visited Karnataka and filed assessment reports, no money has been released. Letters have also been sent to the Prime Minister, Home Minister, and Agriculture Minister seeking appointments to present the state's plight directly.

Parameshwara stressed that drought strikes without warning and urged leaders not to play politics while farmers suffer. While recalling that Karnataka previously had to approach the Supreme Court to secure ₹3,500 crore in relief, he expressed hope that the Centre would act soon. Meanwhile, the state has begun distributing ₹5,000 compensation to eligible farmers across districts ahead of the upcoming legislative session.

On the controversial seizure of a book authored by Ravi Hanj, Parameshwara defended the Cabinet's move, noting that several communities raised strong objections after reviewing its passages.

He warned that anyone living abroad for years must remember that the rule of law applies firmly in India, adding that informing the US Embassy during an arrest is routine for individuals holding American citizenship or a Green Card.

Cold takes toll: 17 ASHA workers hospitalized during stir



ASHA workers at the sit-in at Freedom Park in Bengaluru.

17
workers taken to K.C. General Hospital after six nights in the cold

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The indefinite day-and-night sit-in by Karnataka's Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) workers entered its seventh consecutive day at Freedom Park, even as harsh living conditions took a severe toll on the demonstrators. Seventeen women have fallen seriously ill and been hospitalized over the past week after spending freezing nights in the open.

Despite personal appeals from top state leaders, the protesters remain unmoved, insisting they will not leave the venue until the government hands over a formal written order guaranteeing their demands.

Launched on November 17 by thousands of community health workers from across the state, the agitation has grown steadily in intensity. Living outdoors round-the-clock without proper shelter, clean drinking water, toilets, or resting areas has severely weakened many participants. Following six days of continuous exposure to cold weather, 17 workers developed acute health complications including high fever, asthma attacks, and severe nausea and had to be rushed to Bengaluru's K.C. General Hospital for medical care.

To break the deadlock, Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar met with union representatives and urged them to call off their strike, promising that their demands for a fixed monthly honorarium of Rs 15,000 and pending incentives would be taken up in the Cabinet and the upcoming Belagavi legislative session. Health Minister U.T. Khader also assured the gathering that the administration would resolve their grievances right after the assembly session concludes.

However, unconvinced by verbal promises that have failed to materialize in the past, the workers refused to budge. Union leaders made it clear that verbal assurances will no longer satisfy frontline health staff who form the backbone of rural medical care.

Warning that their agitation will only grow stronger if officials continue to delay concrete action, thousands of workers remain firmly camped at Freedom Park, leaving the state government under mounting pressure to end the standoff.

IGNORING GROUND REALITY

Government blind to public distress, says Vijayendra

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

BJP State President B.Y. Vijayendra launched a sharp attack on the Congress administration, accusing top leaders and officers of ignoring public suffering while chasing comfort and publicity. In a strongly worded post on X, Vijayendra mocked the Chief Minister's ongoing Japan tour with a large team, questioning how much real investment would ever reach the state despite bold claims.

Pointing to everyday hardships across rural and urban districts, the BJP leader said officials appear unchecked and indifferent to ordinary citizens. He criticized the Gadag Deputy Commissioner for allegedly dancing and celebrating at an event while farmers watch their crops dry up without water. At the same time,



B.Y. Vijayendra

Vijayendra highlighted the plight of ASHA workers sitting outdoors in biting cold with small children, leaving homes behind for months to seek fair pay.

Turning to the farm crisis, Vijayendra alleged that distressed growers have yet to receive meaningful drought relief while the government stays deaf to their appeals. Calling the administration a blind regime, he warned that the frustration of struggling women, farmers, and poor families would soon bring political consequences if leaders fail to wake up and act immediately.

WARNING OF PUBLIC BACKLASH

Voters are ready to deliver a firm lesson, says Vijayendra

- Frustration of women, farmers and the poor will bring the government down
- Council poll results a "slap in the face"; Hiriyur next

Council poll results cited

Earlier, while addressing party workers in Shivamogga, Vijayendra kept up the pressure by citing recent Legislative Council poll results as a clear voter rejection of the ruling party. He predicted a similar outcome in the upcoming Hiriyur by-election, arguing that citizens are tired of grand announcements made without ground-level delivery.

According to Vijayendra, the Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister continue rolling out headline-grabbing schemes even as basic civic needs remain neglected. Over the past three years, he claimed, the government has struggled even to fill potholes on damaged roads or release funds for constituency development. Accusing ministers of governing mainly through flashy advertisements rather than real work, he insisted that voters across Karnataka are ready to deliver a firm lesson at the ballot box.

Congress betrayed ASHA workers: Ashoka

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Karnataka Leader of the Opposition R. Ashoka launched a sharp attack on the ruling Congress government, accusing it of betraying Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) workers by failing to honor its pre-election promise to raise their monthly honorarium. Addressing a press conference at the Vidhana Soudha, the senior BJP leader criticized Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar for remaining unresponsive while thousands of women and their young children endure freezing nights at Bengaluru's Freedom Park.

Ashoka highlighted the severe lack of basic facilities at the protest site, pointing out that only eight toilets have been arranged for nearly 10,000 protesting women, with no dedicated spaces for nursing mothers or adequate drinking water. Warning that the administration would be held directly responsible if any worker suffers serious health harm due to the harsh weather, he questioned why



At the media briefing

Only eight toilets for nearly 10,000 protesting women, says Ashoka

mobile medical clinics had not been deployed while hospitalized protesters continue to rise. He contrasted this neglect with what he described as lavish government spending on the Bengaluru Habba festival, Dasara celebrations, and official residences during a severe drought.

Recalling the 2023 election campaign, Ashoka alleged that Congress leaders, including Priyanka Gandhi, had personally appealed to ASHA workers for votes with assurances of higher wages, yet no budgetary funds have been allocated despite expensive publicity campaigns. He also accused the government of diverting public tax money to party workers through 'Bharat Jodo' committees and Guarantee Implementation Panels, while restricting the Gruha Lakshmi scheme to Below Poverty Line families and delivering only a fraction of the promised financial support.

Widening his critique, Ashoka refused to join a state delegation to New Delhi over drought relief, arguing that the Congress government routinely shifts blame onto the Centre instead of directly compensating distressed farmers. He further vowed that the opposition will strongly resist any attempt in the upcoming legislative session to repeal the anti-conversion and anti-cow slaughter laws, demanded a CBI probe into the KPSC recruitment scam, and blamed the government's poor forest management for the ongoing wild elephant relocation row. He announced that a BJP-JD(S) coordination meeting will be held in Bengaluru on November 26 to finalize their joint strategy against the government.

CH Observer

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In prominent Bengaluru neighborhoods like Vasanth Nagar and near Connaught Road, daily walks have turned into dangerous obstacle courses, especially for hundreds of students. Broken, blocked pavements on 11th Main Road near RR Chambers, alongside discarded electrical poles and tangled cables outside SKEI Kamalabai Educational Institution and Manipal Vistas, have swallowed up pedestrian space, forcing residents and schoolchildren straight into oncoming traffic.

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Left: A blocked, broken footpath in a reputed part of the city, where a lot of students live: such negligence forces pedestrians onto the main road. 11th Main Road, Millers Road, Vasanth Nagar, right next to RR Chambers. **Right:** Electric and lighting poles left on the footpath, with their cables on the road, leave no room for a safe walk. Connaught Road, near Manipal Vistas Apartments, by the back gate of SKEI Kamalabai Educational Institution.

BNCC Seals 11 Illegal Businesses Operating in Residential Zones

CRACKING DOWN ON ILLEGAL COMMERCIALIZATION, BENGALURU CIVIC OFFICIALS SEALED ELEVEN UNAUTHORIZED BUSINESSES INSIDE RMV II STAGE RESIDENTIAL ZONES.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Bengaluru North City Corporation (BNCC) cracked down on unauthorized businesses operating inside residential zones in RMV II Stage, sealing eleven commercial establishments during a joint inter-departmental enforcement drive. Carried out under the directions of BNCC Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar, the operation follows a pending Lokayukta complaint and enforces compliance with Karnataka High Court directions issued in Public Interest Litigation W.P. No. 20029/2015, which strictly prohibits unauthorized commercial activity in residentially designated buildings.

Civic teams had earlier surveyed the layout and identified a total of twenty-one commercial ventures operating in residential properties without obtaining requisite statutory permissions or land-use approvals. Moving decisively against the violators on Monday, enforcement officers locked and sealed eleven of those premises. Among the sealed establishments are Venista Salon, Om Sri Guru Anjaneya Swamy Astro Centre, Nirvana Aquarium, Build A Home, All Paws Veterinary Clinic, Lotus Spa and Salon, an information technology firm, a real estate agency, and Multi Builders, along with other commercial outlets.

Officials from multiple wings of the Bengaluru North City Corporation participated jointly in the operation to ensure smooth execution and strict adherence to municipal regulations. Civic authorities confirmed that Monday's action represents only the first phase of the drive, warning that sealing procedures against the remaining ten identified establishments in RMV II Stage will continue over the coming days without leniency.

Reiterating its commitment to preserving the peaceful character of residential neighborhoods and preventing parking congestion and civic strain caused by illegal commercialization, the Corporation stated that joint inspections will be intensified across its jurisdiction. Property owners and tenants running businesses in residential buildings without valid municipal licenses have been cautioned to cease operations voluntarily or face immediate sealing and legal consequences in accordance with court mandates and civic bylaws.



Officials of Bengaluru North City Corporation at the sealing drive in RMV II Stage.

21	11	10
businesses found in homes	sealed on Monday	to be sealed next

Behind the sealing

Court order
High Court directions in PIL W.P. No. 20029/2015 bar unauthorized commercial activity in residential buildings

Complaint
The drive follows a complaint pending before the Lokayukta

Next phase
The remaining ten establishments will be sealed over the coming days

Bengaluru bans meat sale on November 25

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has announced a complete one-day ban on animal slaughter and the sale of meat across its jurisdiction on Wednesday, November 25, in observance of Sadhu Vaswani Jayanti. Issuing an official media release, the Deputy Director of the Animal Husbandry Department confirmed that all municipal and private slaughterhouses, along with retail and wholesale meat stalls within GBA limits, must remain strictly closed throughout the day.

Civic authorities have directed all concerned commercial establishments, vendors, and stakeholders to adhere rigorously to the prohibition, warning that inspection teams will monitor compliance across city zones to prevent unauthorized slaughter or sales. Similar to restrictions enforced on Gandhi Jayanti, Mahaveer Jayanti, and Buddha Poornima, the annual directive aims to maintain public order and honor the peaceful observance of the occasion across Karnataka's capital.

Observed globally as International Meatless Day and International Vegetarian Day, November 25 marks the birth anniversary of Sadhu Thanwardas Lilaram Vaswani. Born in 1879 in Hyderabad, Sindh, Sadhu Vaswani was a renowned Indian educationist, spiritual leader, and founder of the Mira Movement in Education who dedicated his life to promoting compassion toward all living beings, non-violence, and vegetarianism. After relocating to Pune in 1949, his teachings inspired the Sadhu Vaswani Mission, which continues to champion mindful, cruelty-free living around the world.

With the temporary suspension coming into effect from Wednesday morning, daily meat buyers, local eateries, and hospitality businesses across Bengaluru are advised to plan their procurement in advance. Civic officials emphasized that the restriction is strictly a single-day measure and normal commercial operations at slaughterhouses and meat shops will resume on Thursday morning without disruption.

? WHY NOVEMBER 25?

It is the birth anniversary of Sadhu T.L. Vaswani (born 1879, Hyderabad, Sindh), founder of the Mira Movement in Education, observed as International Meatless Day.

BNCC chief reviews Jatre walkathon routes

Barrier-free footpaths, walkable routes and round-the-clock road cleanliness across North Bengaluru, ahead of next month's Bengaluru Jatre

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

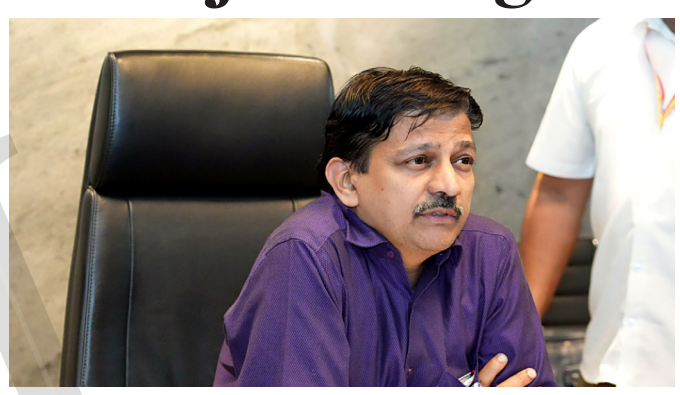
Bengaluru North City Corporation (BNCC) Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar directed engineering and civic officials to develop connected, pedestrian-friendly walkable routes and sustain round-the-clock cleanliness across major roads ahead of next month's 'Bengaluru Jatre' celebrations. Chairing a comprehensive review meeting with senior administrators and civic volunteers, the Commissioner assessed progress on the 'Ward One' intensive sanitation drive, arterial road maintenance, footpath upgrades along GKVK Double Road, and logistical arrangements for the upcoming Walk Fest.

To ensure a safe and comfortable experience for participants during the Bengaluru Jatre Walk Fest, Kumar instructed Executive Engineers to prepare smooth, connected walking stretches around Science Gallery, Hegde Nagar, Uttam Sagar, Banaswadi, and Yelahanka. Reviewing wider festival preparations which will feature more than twenty cultural programs across 14 local stages, he ordered officials to promptly update artist rosters, vendor lists, and venue schedules on the official event portal while coordinating closely with local stakeholders.

Emphasizing that civic hygiene cannot rely on occasional cleanup drives, the Commissioner mandated continuous sweeping and maintenance of all arterial and sub-arterial roads under BNCC limits. Expressing serious concern over poor sanitation along stretches managed by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) despite repeated reminders, he directed officials to send a formal letter urging NHAI to clean and maintain its corridors immediately. Additionally, he reviewed infrastructure projects funded under the Rs 2,000-crore development grant, instructing officers to speed up ongoing works and launch pending projects without delay.

Inspecting pedestrian upgrades along GKVK Double Road, Kumar told engineers to prioritize safe, barrier-free footpaths for daily commuters. The review session brought together Additional Commissioners Mona Roat and Sathees Kumar, Joint Commissioners Pallavi and Mohammad Naeem Momin, Chief Engineers Dr. Raghavendra Prasad and Yamuna, health and forest officers, and Arun Pai of civic volunteer group The Ugly Indian, signaling a united push to make North Bengaluru cleaner, safer, and festival-ready.

Ramesh urges citizens, RWAs to join Bengaluru Jatre



At the consultative meeting with residents' welfare associations.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Bengaluru South City Corporation Commissioner K.N. Ramesh appealed to Residents' Welfare Associations (RWAs) and citizens to actively join hands to make the upcoming 'Bengaluru Jatre' a vibrant public celebration, while simultaneously promising on-the-spot solutions to pressing neighborhood civic problems. Chairing a consultative meeting with RWA office-bearers across multiple layouts, he announced that the festival scheduled from December 4 to 13 will be decentralized this year across 15 to 20 parks, lake premises, and public spaces in Bommanahalli and Jayanagar zones instead of remaining confined around Vidhana Soudha. Encouraging wards to showcase local artists, children, and senior citizens rather than hiring outside troupes, he also revealed that work orders have been issued to launch on-street smart parking in Koramangala, BTM Layout, and Jayanagar within two months, alongside strict fines for commercial buildings misusing basement parking and drives to clear footpath encroachments.

During the interactive session, resident groups flagged a wide range of urgent infrastructure grievances. Koramangala and HSR Layout representatives highlighted stalled desilting of the K-100 stormwater drain near Sony World Junction, severe traffic jams caused by auto and taxi queues at a CNG station near Sarjapur Main Road, dangerous protruding sewage chambers on the Somasundarapalya-Kudlu stretch, garbage and liquor bottle dumping in local playgrounds, and the long-delayed installation of a lift at the HSR Layout 5th Sector skywalk. Residents from Jayanagar, Banashankari, and surrounding areas also demanded immediate road repairs following BWSSB digging near Sarakki Lake, removal of dried dangerous trees across several layouts, clearance of showroom and shop encroachments on footpaths, weed removal at Subramanyapura Lake, crackdowns on illegal seven-storey PGs in BTM Layout, and action against open garbage burning and poor waste collection in Padmanabhanagar, Yelachenahalli, Byrasandra, and Gurappanapalya.

Responding positively, Commissioner Ramesh instructed RWAs to submit written lists of ward-level complaints ten days in advance so he can conduct personal ward inspections with department officials to resolve problems on priority. He further announced the appointment of officially recognized 'Ward Volunteers' in every locality to strengthen coordination between citizens and the civic body.



Smart parking: work orders issued for on-street parking in Koramangala, BTM Layout and Jayanagar, due within two months

BENGALURU'S GRAND JATRE

Bengaluru Jatre is people's festival: Gowda

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) will transform Karnataka's capital into a sprawling, decentralized cultural hub from December 4 to 13 through 'Bengaluru Jatre,' a ten-day public festival celebrating the city's rich heritage, diverse communities, and modern identity. Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda stated that the Rs 20-crore celebration aims to treat the rapidly expanding metropolis as one cohesive village, bringing art, music, literature, and history directly to neighborhoods across all five municipal corporations rather than restricting events to a single central venue.

Conceived in 2023 and aligned with Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar's vision, the festival will feature over 200 cultural programs across parks, college grounds, malls, technology parks, Metro stations, and Majestic Bus Station. The festivities will kick off at 4 pm on December 4 along MG Road and Brigade Road, where the Chief Minister will flag off a grand procession featuring 500 folk artistes from 20 troupes across Karnataka, followed by live musical performances from 6 pm.

To connect younger residents with Bengaluru's 500-year journey, Fort High School grounds will host an exhibition recreating Kempegowda's original vision while linking historic trades with contemporary gig, restaurant, and service workers. Youths can also join an online 'Bengaluru Treasure Hunt' spanning ancient temples, churches, mosques, and the historic Kadlekai Parishe. Meanwhile, special events near Russell Market will spotlight Bengaluru's linguistic and community diversity, alongside nine days of performances at Ravindra Kalakshetra and neighborhood stages at Freedom Park, Shalini Grounds, Ram Mandir Grounds, and ITI Grounds. Under the 'Unboxing Bengaluru' initiative, short cultural shows will pop up in roughly 50 local parks, while the beloved Bengaluru Book Fair returns from December 11 to 13.

The ten-day celebration will culminate on December 13 with a free-entry grand finale at Manekshaw Parade Ground headlined by singers Sanjith Hegde and Sunidhi Chauhan, where visitors must complete advance registration for mandatory QR-code entry. Urging families and institutions to participate wholeheartedly, Gowda directed citizens to check updated schedules on the official portal, www.bengalurujatre.in.



At a meeting on the Bengaluru Jatre.

Jatre: the key dates

- **DEC 4, 4 PM** — Procession of 500 folk artistes on MG Road and Brigade Road
- **DEC 4-13** — Over 200 cultural programmes across the city
- **DEC 11-13** — Bengaluru Book Fair
- **DEC 13** — Free finale at Manekshaw Parade Ground; QR-code entry

BSCC chief clears encroachments at Jayanagar complex

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Bengaluru South City Corporation Commissioner K.N. Ramesh personally supervised a major eviction drive to clear unauthorized encroachments inside the iconic Jayanagar Shopping Complex and its surrounding roads. Accompanied by Executive Engineer Hariprasad, Assistant General Manager Shwetha, Market Division Assistant Revenue Officer Radha, and civic marshals, the Commissioner inspected congested walkways and warned traders against blocking public movement.

Pointing to the boundary already painted in front of commercial stalls, Ramesh issued strict instructions that shopkeepers must never cross the 'Yellow Line' to display merchandise, emphasizing that the markings must remain clearly visible across the complex at all times. He ordered the immediate removal of goods stacked near entry gates and common corridors that inconvenience shoppers and pedestrians.

Officials noted that for the past ten to fifteen days, the civic body had conducted continuous awareness drives using auto-rickshaw loudspeakers and microphone announcements, giving encroachers ample time to voluntarily clear out. Because several traders ignored these repeated warnings, the Commissioner directed that dedicated civic marshals be deployed across the shopping complex premises starting Tuesday to patrol the area and enforce discipline.

Taking a tough stand against roadside congestion, Ramesh instructed enforcement teams to mercilessly impose penalties and confiscate merchandise from vendors operating outside spaces officially allotted by the Corporation, including street hawkers spilling onto adjacent public roads beyond the complex compound.

During his thorough inspection of the facility, the Commissioner also uncovered instances of individuals running unauthorized businesses under fake signboards without formal shop allotments, as well as allotted retail units that had been illegally converted into storage godowns. He directed officials to immediately vacate and seal such misused spaces, signaling a sustained push to restore order, safety, and smooth pedestrian access at one of South Bengaluru's busiest retail hubs.



The inspection of the Jayanagar Shopping Complex.

Quick Read

Darshan seeks private hospital care as hearing waits

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Actor Darshan, held in jail over the Renukaswamy murder case, has asked a court for permission to get medical care at a private hospital with special facilities. His lawyer said jail care falls short and three physiotherapy sessions have not eased his pain, seeking an urgent hearing. Special public prosecutor Prasannakumar asked for time until Wednesday to file objections. Following arguments from both sides, the judge put off the hearing to Wednesday, asked jail officials for a report, and ordered senior doctors to check Darshan while awaiting the prosecution response on his medical plea.

Bidari slams Patil over community divide claims

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Lingayat leader Shankar Bidari hit back at minister M.B. Patil over the Basava Mantapa book row, saying Patil aimed to split the community for power and the top post. Bidari rejected name-calling, noting he has served Basavanna for 72 years and called Basavanna relevant to everyone. He said Veerashaiva and Lingayat are one, pointing to a November 15 book launch and past remarks by Shivakumara Swamiji. Bidari added that a criminal case was filed against Ravi Hanj over claims tied to a document, urged focus on poverty and education instead of division, and left judgment to people.

Hallmarked gold can still hide fake metal

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Gold buyers should stay careful because even hallmarked jewelry can be mixed with fake metal. Fraudsters are blending rhenium and tungsten powders into gold, and because those heavy metals share nearly the same density as gold, routine hallmark checks often miss them. Buyers can lose more than Rs 14,000 for every ten to eleven grams. Spotting the trick takes melting tests or advanced XRF scanners, which Bengaluru jewelers recently started using. Always ask for a GST bill showing the HUID code, net weight, and carat, check the six-digit HUID on the BIS CARE app, and shop only from trusted sellers.

Gowda Defends Plan to Relocate Bhadra Elephants

As wild tuskers spark political resignations, Hassan's minister sidesteps blame, backing elephant relocation to protect devastated local farms.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Hassan District In-charge Minister K.M. Shivalinge Gowda distanced himself from the raging controversy over wild elephant relocation, clarifying that district authorities are merely carrying out direct orders issued by the Forest Minister. Addressing a press conference at Vikasa Soudha, he stressed that neither he nor local officials played any independent role in deciding to shift elephants from Hassan toward Chikkamagaluru, urging leaders not to turn a serious wildlife management issue into a political battle.

Responding to Mudigere Congress MLA Nayana Motamma submitting her resignation in protest against the operation, Gowda described her



Hassan district in-charge Minister K.M. Shivalinge Gowda (right)

move as a purely personal decision driven by her own sentiments. He noted that the legislator had not named him in her statements and revealed that he had personally spoken with her on Sunday night to explain the ground reality and request her help in calming local tensions. However, he added that whether she chooses to accept his perspective or stick to her stand is entirely



Belur taluk, Hassan: the herds were to be moved from here to the Bhadra sanctuary

up to her.

Defending the necessity of moving the wild tuskers out of Hassan, the Minister pointed out that the region lacks dense forest cover, yet stray elephants have entered farmlands and started destroying standing crops. Questioning whether authorities could simply stand by and watch wild animals trample agricultural fields, he explained that shifting them into a protected habitat was the only practical solution to safeguard farmers' livelihoods.

Gowda confirmed that official orders direct the Forest Department to transport the elephants via the Chikkamagaluru route and release them safely inside the Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary, which spans nearly one lakh hectares of protected forest. Addressing fears among Chikkamagaluru residents that the relocated animals might stray into their villages and plantations, the Minister sought to allay their anxiety, stating that any temporary adjustment issues would likely last only about 15 days before the herds settle naturally into the vast reserve.

Mudigere MLA submits resignation over elephant row

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Mudigere Congress MLA Nayana Motamma created a stir in Karnataka's political circles on Monday by submitting her resignation letter at the Vidhana Soudha in protest against the Forest Department's decision to relocate wild elephants from Hassan district to the Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary. True to a promise she made at a press conference on Sunday, the ruling party legislator walked into the Assembly Speaker's office to step down after authorities failed to send the relocated herds back to their original habitat.

The controversy stems from an ongoing Forest Department operation aimed at shifting dozens of wild elephants from Belur in Hassan district toward the Bhadra reserve in Chikkamagaluru. Fearing that bringing more tuskers and herds into the region will trigger severe crop damage and threaten human lives, residents living along the forest fringes of Chikkamagaluru have staged fierce street protests. Joining their constituents, three local Congress legislators – Nayana Motamma, Sringeri MLA T.D. Rajegowda and Chikkamagaluru MLA H.D. Thammaiah – have openly criticized their own government's handling of the drive.

During her press meet, Motamma accused forest officials of secretly driving the animals into her constituency without consulting local elected representatives. She had issued a clear ultimatum demanding an immediate halt to the relocation and the return of elephants already moved overnight, warning that she would resign if her demand went unheeded.

Arriving at the Speaker's office on Monday, Motamma found that the Assembly Speaker was away. Determined to keep her word, she



Mudigere MLA Nayana Motamma

handed the resignation letter over to Ashok Mirji, the Speaker's Personal Secretary, before leaving the premises without speaking to waiting reporters. However, Mirji clarified that he is not legally authorized to formally accept a legislator's resignation. He confirmed that he has informed the Speaker over the telephone regarding Motamma's visit and the letter, leaving the political fate of the Mudigere legislator hanging in the balance until the Speaker returns to take a final call.

? WHO CAN ACCEPT IT?

The Speaker takes the final call. His Personal Secretary, Ashok Mirji, said he is not legally authorized to formally accept a legislator's resignation, and informed the Speaker of the letter by phone.

Resignation is not the solution, says Ponnanna

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Chief Minister's Political Secretary and Virajpet MLA A.S. Ponnanna expressed empathy for Mudigere Congress legislator Nayana Motamma's frustration over the wild elephant relocation row, but maintained that stepping down from office will not resolve the crisis. Speaking to reporters in Bengaluru, Ponnanna noted that as a fellow legislator from the Malnad region, he fully understands the daily fear residents face from wild elephants, tigers, and bears straying into coffee plantations and villages.

Following Motamma's dramatic move to submit her resignation letter at the Assembly Speaker's office earlier in the day, Ponnanna revealed that he had personally spoken with her to calm tensions. He also held urgent telephone discussions with both the Chief Minister and the Forest Minister to find an immediate way out of the standoff. Sharing an encouraging update, Ponnanna assured that forest



A.S. Ponnanna (left) and Mudigere MLA Nayana Motamma

authorities would safely guide the relocated elephants back into the forest on Monday night without causing harm to either local villagers or the animals. He added that the Chief Minister shares the firm view that an elected representative resigning is never the right answer to administrative hurdles.

Pointing directly to the root cause of the unrest, Ponnanna acknowledged serious lapses by Forest Department officials in managing human-wildlife conflict and failing to respect public sentiment. While admitting that completely eliminating wildlife encounters in forest-fringe districts may not be realistic, he stressed that smart, timely action can solve 80 to 90 per cent of the trouble. Echoing Motamma's stern warning to the bureaucracy, he reminded officials that they must fulfill their duty to protect citizens or step aside for more capable officers.

When reporters asked whether Motamma's resignation letter met technical rules, Ponnanna brushed the query aside with humor. Laughing, he quipped that as a trained lawyer who attended Law College, she would know the legal rules well, whereas he had simply studied in a government school.

Rajanna wants Siddaramaiah to stay in the fray

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Former Karnataka Minister K.N. Rajanna has voiced serious concern over senior Congress leader and former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's recent remarks ruling out contesting future elections. Speaking to reporters in Bengaluru, Rajanna warned that stepping away from the electoral battlefield would deal a heavy blow not only to the ruling Congress party, but also to the unity and strength of the 'AHINDA' movement, a powerful social coalition representing minorities, backward classes, and Dalits across Karnataka.

According to Rajanna, Siddaramaiah's public declaration that he will stay out of future polls risks weakening the party's traditional support base among these marginalized communities. Having recognized the political fallout of such statements early on, Rajanna revealed that he had personally met the veteran leader to urge him against making announcements about



Former Minister K.N. Rajanna (centre)

retiring from electoral politics. In the broader interest of keeping both the Congress organization and backward-class mobilization strong, Rajanna stressed that Siddaramaiah's remarks were neither timely nor helpful for the party's future prospects.

Sharing details of their conversation, Rajanna clarified that Siddaramaiah's decision was not born out of any personal dissatisfaction or internal rift within the Congress leadership. Instead, the former Chief Minister had explained that his statement was prompted by supporters in Chikkamagaluru pressing him to contest from their region. Wishing to remain completely honest and avoid giving false hope to local voters, Siddaramaiah had stated he would not enter the race, citing his advancing age, having recently turned 80 and the physical demands of campaigning.

Rajanna emphasized that stepping back from elections has been Siddaramaiah's consistent, long-standing personal stance rather than a reaction to any political grievance. Nonetheless, he maintained that as the tallest mass leader of the AHINDA communities, Siddaramaiah's active presence in the electoral arena remains vital to keeping grassroots workers energized and safeguarding the Congress party's social coalition ahead of upcoming political battles.

Why Rajanna wants a rethink

- **Party momentum:** Keeping a towering mass leader in the electoral fray energises party workers across every district.
- **Social unity:** Strong 'AHINDA' solidarity remains vital for the Congress's long-term stability in Karnataka.

Reddy turns to MLAs on jumbo dilemma



Forest Minister Ramalinga Reddy

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Forest Minister Ramalinga Reddy responded sharply to strong objections raised by legislators from Chikkamagaluru over the relocation of wild elephants from Hassan district, inviting local lawmakers to suggest practical solutions while promising to consult the Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister before taking a final call. Addressing mounting political tension across the Malnad region, the Minister stated that the government is ready to carry out elephant-driving operations strictly according to the advice given by elected representatives, provided it protects residents in both Belur and Chikkamagaluru without causing fresh unrest.

Explaining the urgency behind the Forest Department's recent actions, Reddy noted that Belur taluk currently has only 13,917 acres of fragmented forest patch scattered amid coffee estates and villages, yet its wild elephant population has surged from just seven in 2019 to around 55 today. Because shrinking habitats and food shortages force these herds into human settlements, crops are being destroyed and innocent lives are being lost. He pointed out that Karnataka loses 40 to 45 people every year to attacks by elephants, tigers, and leopards, making timely intervention unavoidable.

To ease the crisis in Hassan, officials had proposed shifting the herds into the vast Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary, which spans 1.41 lakh acres of core forest and 2.62 lakh acres including its buffer zone. However, Chikkamagaluru MLAs including Mudigere legislator Nayana Motamma, who tendered her resignation in protest, have strongly opposed the move, warning that relocated elephants could stray back into populated areas of Chikkamagaluru and Shivamogga.

Meanwhile, responding to fierce street protests, the Forest Department has temporarily suspended the operation to drive elephants from Hassan toward the Bhadra reserve until further notice. Chikkamagaluru Division Deputy Conservator of Forests Boraiah confirmed that no further driving attempts will take place for now, while advising residents near the 38 forest patches in Mudigere taluk to remain alert and exercise caution.

Belur taluk's elephants

2019	TODAY
7 elephants	55 elephants (around)

As elephant relocation sparks protests and resignations across Malnad, Karnataka halts the Bhadra drive while the Forest Minister invites local lawmakers to suggest solutions.

BACKING SCHOOL COOKS

No cluster kitchen plan, clarifies Minister Bangarappa

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

School Education and Literacy Minister Madhu Bangarappa put to rest growing fears among mid-day meal workers across Karnataka, categorically clarifying that the state government has no plans to introduce centralized "cluster kitchens" for preparing meals for students from Classes 1 to 10. Urging thousands of kitchen staff not to fall prey to rumors about job losses or privatization, the Minister assured them that the existing school-level cooking arrangement under the Akshara Dasoha scheme remains completely safe.



School Education and Literacy Minister Madhu Bangarappa

The assurance came during a detailed meeting with a delegation from the State Akshara Dasoha Mid-Day Meal Workers' Union, led by Honorary President S. Balan, along with State Committee President Honnappa Maremmanavara, General Secretary Kalpana V.G., and Treasurer Pushpalatha. Union leaders placed a charter of key demands before the Minister, foremost among them a monthly wage of Rs 12,000 on par with neighboring Kerala, a post-retirement monthly pension of Rs 5,000, an enhanced lump-sum retirement benefit of at least Rs 1 lakh, and joint bank accounts managed by school headmasters and head cooks for transparent fund handling.

Responding sympathetically to their financial struggles, Bangarappa promised to place the demand for a salary hike directly before the Chief Minister and push for the maximum possible increase within the state's budget. Reminding the representatives that his administration had already raised their terminal lump-sum payout to Rs 40,000, he emphasized the government's genuine commitment to worker welfare. At the same time, he pointed out that because the mid-day meal scheme receives substantial funding from New Delhi, workers' unions should also pressure the Central Government to step up its financial share.

THE WORKERS' DEMANDS

WAGE
Rs 12,000 a month, on par with Kerala

PENSION
Rs 5,000 a month after retirement

RETIREMENT
A lump sum of at least Rs 1 lakh (now Rs 40,000)

ACCOUNTS
Joint bank accounts run by headmasters and head cooks

Taking serious note of complaints regarding substandard food grains reaching certain schools, the Minister warned that compromising children's nutrition will never be tolerated. He urged union members to share specific details of such lapses so officials can initiate immediate disciplinary action against erring suppliers. While acknowledging their democratic right to agitate, Bangarappa appealed to the workers to call off their planned protest, assuring them that the government stands firmly behind them.

Quick Read

Deadline extended for disability welfare scheme applications

CH NEWS, MANDYA

The deadline to apply for various welfare schemes for persons with disabilities for 2026-27 has been extended to November 30, the District Welfare Officer has announced.

The schemes include financial assistance, unemployment allowance, medical relief, scholarships, childcare support, motorised tricycles, sewing machines, talking laptops and assistive devices.

Eligible applicants can submit applications through Bengaluru-One, Grama-One, Karnataka-One centres or the Seva Sindhu portal at sevaone.karnataka.gov.in.

For assistance, applicants can contact rehabilitation workers at their respective taluk, gram panchayat and municipal offices. For further information, call 08232-239234.

Hubballi employment exchange to hold mini job fair

CH NEWS, HUBBALLI

The District Employment Exchange in Navanagar will organise a mini job fair on November 25 from 10 am to 2 pm.Around 8 to 10 private companies will participate and conduct interviews for various vacancies. Candidates aged 18 to 27 with SSLC, PUC, B. Com, BA, BBA, BCA, B. Sc, MBA or other degree qualifications are eligible.Participation is compulsory for Yuva Nidhi scheme beneficiaries. Candidates must attend at their own expense with their Aadhaar card and resume.
For details, contact 0836-2225288, 6362923462 or 8453208555.

PhD fellowship applications open for backward classes

CH NEWS, MANDYA

Applications are invited from eligible Backward Class students pursuing first-year full-time PhD courses for the 2026-27 academic year to receive a monthly fellowship.

Students belonging to Categories I, II(A), III(A) and III(B), whose PhD programmes commenced on or after January 9, 2026, can apply. Applicants must be studying at recognised universities in Karnataka or their affiliated institutions.

The last date to apply online is December 17. For details, visit bcwd.karnataka.gov.in or call 8050770004, the Backward Classes Welfare Department has announced.

Karnataka uses AI, black-spot fixes to strengthen road safety

AI cameras installed at 27 of 87 locations have issued around 6,500 e-challans, while the remaining installations and black-spot upgrades continue



The 24th Karnataka State Road Safety Authority meeting in progress in Bengaluru on Monday.

Safer roads plan

AI cameras
At 27 of 87 identified spots; 20 issue e-challans

Cashless care
Up to ₹1.5 lakh for seven days under PM-RAHAT

Ambulances
100 new BLS units; 108 and 102 linked with 112

Licence tests
Safety videos before the driving test

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Karnataka Chief Secretary Dr. Shalini Rajneesh said the state would strengthen road safety through artificial intelligence (AI), improvements to accident-prone areas and better emergency medical services.

She was speaking after chairing the 24th Karnataka State Road Safety Authority meeting on Monday. She stressed that road safety required coordinated efforts from the Police, Transport, Health, Public Works and Urban Development departments.

27% fewer accidents per 10,000 vehicles, 2018-2025

21% fall in the fatality rate

37,443 accidents, Jan-Oct 2026

Figures presented at the meeting showed that accidents per 10,000 vehicles declined by 27 per cent between 2018 and 2025, while the fatality rate fell by 21 per cent. From January to October 2026, the state recorded 37,443 accidents, with 220 fewer deaths than during the corresponding period last year.

AI-based cameras have been installed at 27 of 87 identified locations, with 20 operating under the e-challan system. Around 6,500 challans have been issued. Work is continuing at the remaining locations, along with improvements to accident-prone black spots.

The Transport Department has been directed to show road safety awareness videos to candidates before driving licence tests. The videos will cover helmets, seat belts, speed limits and the dangers of drunk driving and mobile phone use.

Under PM-RAHAT, eligible accident victims can receive cashless treatment of up to ₹1.5 lakh for seven days. Karnataka has also approved additional assistance of up to ₹1 lakh for specified critical-care cases under its state support scheme. The meeting reported 3,445 registered hospitals.

The state has completed procurement of 100 new basic life support ambulances. The 108 and 102 services are also being linked with the 112 helpline.

A road safety action plan worth ₹322 crore has been prepared for 2026-27. Of this, ₹233.11 crore is allocated for ongoing works and ₹88.89 crore for new projects.

Officials from various departments attended the meeting.

'Five guarantees must reach eligible Hubballi beneficiaries'



The guarantee schemes review at the Hubballi-Dharwad Municipal Corporation office.

Scheme by scheme

43,177 women	GRUHA LAKSHMI
45,165 homes	GRUHA JYOTHI
Rs 13.34 crore	YUVA NIDHI

CH NEWS, HUBBALLI

Officials must take necessary steps to ensure that all eligible people receive benefits under the Karnataka government's five guarantee schemes, said Rajata Ullagaddimatha, Chairman of the Guarantee Schemes Implementation Committee for Hubballi Central Assembly Constituency.

He was speaking at a review meeting held at the Hubballi-Dharwad Municipal Corporation office to assess the progress of the schemes.

Figures presented at the meeting showed that 43,177 of the 43,732 eligible beneficiaries in the constituency are receiving benefits under the Gruha Lakshmi scheme. Payments covering 36 instalments have been credited to beneficiaries' accounts. Officials were instructed to ensure that no eligible woman is left out.

Under the Gruha Jyothi scheme, 45,165 households have registered. Officials were asked to identify and register other eligible households.

Regarding the Anna Bhagya scheme, Ullagaddimatha stressed the need for proper foodgrain distribution and action against illegal rice transportation. He also directed officials to identify ineligible ration cardholders.

Under the Yuva Nidhi scheme, ₹13.34 crore has been disbursed so far. Officials were instructed to ensure that eligible unemployed youth register for the scheme.

He also called for adequate bus services under the Shakti scheme, particularly to Ishwara Nagar in Bhairidevarakoppa and Gopanakoppa. Following complaints about alleged fake ticket issuance to women passengers, officials were directed to investigate and take appropriate action.

Sangamesha Gourakkanavara, Premanatha Chikkatumbala, Zonal Commissioner Chandrashekhara Malipatil, committee members and officials from various departments attended the meeting. Representatives from Women and Child Development, NWKRTC, Food and Civil Supplies, HESCOM, Employment Department and Hubballi-Dharwad Municipal Corporation were also present.

Senior Congress leaders call on Hindasageri in Hubballi

CH NEWS, HUBBALLI

Several senior Congress leaders visited the residence of former minister and Anjuman-e-Islam president A.M. Hindasageri in Hubballi and held an informal discussion with him.

The leaders included former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Congress leader B.K. Hariprasad, Dharwad District In-charge Minister Santosh Lad, Hubballi-Dharwad East MLA Prasad Abbayya and former minister H.K. Patil.

MLAs N.H. Konareddy and Basavaraj Shivannavar, along with MLCs Abdul Jabbar, Naseer Ahmed, D.R. Patil, Sadanand Danganavar and Hallur Juttal, were also present.



Congress leaders at A.M. Hindasageri's residence in Hubballi.

Hindasageri warmly welcomed the visitors. The leaders exchanged pleasantries and discussed various matters during the meeting.

The visit was described as a cordial interaction. Other Congress leaders and dignitaries also attended the meeting.

Shivapura memorial to become major tourist destination

CH NEWS, MANDYA

Maddur MLA K.M. Udaya said the Shivapura Dhwaja Satyagraha Soudha would be developed into an attractive tourist destination to preserve the history of the freedom struggle and inspire patriotism among younger generations.

He was speaking at a meeting held at the memorial in Maddur taluk to discuss its overall development and the formation of the Shivapura Dhwaja Satyagraha Soudha Foundation.

Udaya said the memorial should become a knowledge centre that helps students and young people understand the sacrifices of freedom fighters. He stressed the need to use available funds effectively and provide better facilities, including cleanliness, proper infrastructure and visitor amenities.

He also suggested organising educational and recreational activities for children and youth. Historical events and the contributions of freedom fighters should be presented through visual media and other engaging activities rather than being taught only through textbooks. He added that plans would be made to establish a modern canteen and dining facility for visitors.

Deputy Commissioner Dr. Kumar said a comprehensive development plan had been prepared to preserve the historical importance of the memorial. The Public Works Department has provided a grant of ₹2 crore for the works.

He said renovation, conservation, lighting, cleanliness and improvements to the surroundings would receive priority without affecting the original character of the structure. A projector costing around ₹20 lakh has also been installed to screen documentaries and visuals about freedom fighters and important events. The work is expected to be completed within a month, he added.

Two separate incidents claim lives in Karnataka

CH NEWS, CHIKKABALLAPURA

A 21-year-old engineering student was found dead at his rented house on Mushtur Road near the depot garage in Chikkaballapura on Monday.

The deceased, identified as Mithun, was pursuing an engineering degree at a college in the city. He was the son of Srinivas and Kusuma, residents of G. Battalahalli in Chintamani taluk. Reports said he had left a message apologising to his parents. The exact circumstances behind his death remain unclear.

Chikkaballapura City Police visited the spot, registered a case and initiated an investigation.

Worker electrocuted in Vijayanagara

A 38-year-old worker died after suffering an electric shock while clearing vegetation near an electricity transformer at Belligatta village in Kudligi taluk.

The deceased, Borayya, belonged to Gudekote village.



Where: Chikkaballapura and Kudligi taluk, Vijayanagara

He was carrying out the work on land belonging to Thippeswamy, along with lineman Iqbal Ahmed. During the work, he came into contact with an electrical wire and suffered a fatal shock.

According to his father's complaint, Borayya sustained injuries and died at the spot. Gudekote Police have registered a case in connection with the incident.

Chikkaballapura to hold blood camps at 12 locations



The District Blood Safety Task Force meeting at the Zilla Panchayat office.

CH NEWS, CHIKKABALLAPURA

Blood donation camps will be organised at the District Administration Building and 11 other locations across Chikkaballapura district on November 25. Deputy Commissioner G. Prabhu has appealed to government employees and the public to participate.

He made the appeal while chairing a District Blood Safety Task Force meeting at the Zilla Panchayat office on Monday.

The camps will be organised jointly by the District Administration, Zilla Panchayat, Health and Family Welfare Department and Red Cross Society.

The Deputy Commissioner instructed health officials to prepare an annual calendar for monthly blood donation camps. He also called for an assessment of the district's monthly blood requirements and donation targets. Departments, including Education, Health, Revenue, Police and Rural Development, were asked to encourage their staff to donate blood.He stressed that blood donation activities should continue throughout the year rather than remain limited to special occasions.

Health officials told to prepare an annual calendar for monthly blood donation camps

During the meeting, prizes and certificates were presented to students who won quiz and marathon competitions organised by the District AIDS Prevention and Control Unit.

Zilla Panchayat CEO Dr. Y. Naveen Bhat, District Health Officer Dr. Chetan, Dr. Uma, Red Cross representative Ravikumar and other officials attended.

WOMEN'S COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON INSPECTS KARWAR FACILITIES

CH NEWS, KARWAR

Karnataka State Commission for Women Chairperson Dr. Nagalakshmi Chowdary inspected the fish market, Women's Police Station and several hostels in Karwar during her visit on Monday.

At the fish market, she interacted with fisherwomen and heard their grievances. She directed the Municipal Commissioner to improve cleanliness, install CCTV cameras for women's safety, expand the market and provide suitable facilities for dried-fish vendors.

She also encouraged fisherwomen to educate their children and urged Fisheries Department officials to organise awareness programmes about government schemes and benefits available to them.

Municipal Commissioner Jagadish Hulagajji and Fisheries Department officials were present.

During her visit to the Women's Police Station, Chowdary reviewed case records and spoke with a complainant. After hearing her concerns, she directed police officials to take appropriate action. She also instructed staff to provide information about compensation available to victims under the POCSO Act and ensure proper support through concerned departments.She stressed the need for patient complaint handling, counselling for women in distress and appropriate mediation in family disputes.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, NAYAZ PASHA S/o ALLA BAKASH R/o 504, 11th Cross, Kondappa Layout, Yelahanka, Bangalore North, Bangalore, Karnataka-560064, have changed the name of my minor daughter LIDA HARMAIN aged 10 years and she shall hereafter be known as HANIYA HARMAIN.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, VINODA D/o YADAVA POOJARY, R/o G-1-9, Narahari Nagara House, Kalladka, Golthamajal, Bantwal, Dakshina Kannada, Karnataka-574222, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as YASHASWINI.

DIRECT RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATION - December 2026

Applications are invited from eligible candidates for following positions in Dakshina Kannada Growers Organic Collective Farmer Producer Company Limited (Non-Banking Financial Institution), company registered under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India, for its newly opening branches at Mangalore, Surathkal, Moodbidri, Madanthyar, BC Road, Nelyadi, Subramanya, Bellare, Byndoor, Shirva, Kinnigoli,Thokkot, Ujire, Henri, Kapu, Kaikamba, Sullia & Kundapura.
Positions : Manager, Assistant Manager, Cash Officer, Loan Officer, Customer Service Officer, Field Collection Officer
Vacancies: 60+
Salary : ₹22,500 -₹65,000/month (based on qualification and experience)
Benefits : ESI PF
Eligibility : Candidates from Dakshina Kannada & Udupi District Eligible to apply.
Last Date to Apply:31-12-2026
Submit Your Resume To:
dkgroupofcompanieskadabahr01@gmail.com
dkgroupofcompanieskadabahr02@gmail.com
Contact : +91 9980496533 +91 9448627226 +919731592777 +919731135477

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public are hereby notified that my clients Smt.K.M.Ashwini W/o Nagaraju, R/at Maddur Town Kengal Hanumanthaiah Nagara 3, Narayan Rao, Kmosaciah Factory Near 5th Cross Town, 1st Main Road, Siddeshwara Nilaya, Maddur, Mandya District-571428 has lost the original Gift Deed, Document No. MDY-1-02868-2004-05, dated: 17/07/2004 and Original Sale Deed Document No. MDY-1-08756-2004-2005 Dated 11/02/2005 Lost on 22/11/2026 in this regard the Police Complaint was lodged on 23/11/2026. Police Complaint No. 2552020/2026 and 2551964/2026 At Madduru. If any person's finds the said Gift deed and Sale Deed please inform me or contact to the address mentioned below within 07 (Seven) days from the date of this Public notice. If any person/s misuses the said Sale deed and Gift deed, the same is not binding on my client and they shall do so at their own risk.
LOHITH N, Adovacate
"SRI SAI LAW ASSOCIATES"
#2967/2, 14th main, 2nd Cross, Saraswathipuram, Mysore-570009
Mobile: 9611113323
Date: 23-11-2026
Place: Mysore

CH CLASSIFED
To Place Classifed ad Contact : 080-41209042

NAME CHANGE

I, **ABDUL QUDDUS KAREEM**, Resident at No.3/1, 2nd Main Road, 5th Floor, S K Garden, Benson Town, Bengaluru-560046, have changed my minor son's name from **MUHAMMAD RUHAIM** to RUHAIM QUDDUS, Vide Affidavit Dated: 23.11.2026 before notary G. DAYANANDA, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, K SARITHA OR SARITHA KAWARLAL OR SARITHA BAFNA (old name), a resident of No 11, 6th Cross, 5th main, Chamrajpet, Bangalore - 560018, Karnataka, INDIA, have changed my name to SARITHA SUJAY BAFNA (NEW Name) vide affidavit dated 23-11-2026, sworn advocate and notary Mohammed Hussain K.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, NITYA K C alias VENKATALAKSHMI D/o CHALUVARAJU, W/O MANJUNATH K V, R/o No. 60, Near Water Tank, Koduru, Peresandra, Chikballapur, Chikkaballapur, Karnataka-562104, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as NAVYA K C.

THE COURT OF THE ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DODDABALLAPURACRL.
MISC.NO 663 /2026
1. Smt Ratnamma W/o late Nagaraju Aged about 50 Years , R/at ChikkaMaluru , Kodigenahalli Hobli Madhugiri Taluk Tumkur Dist. **2. Smt, Manjula** W/o PuttaNarashimaiah D/o Late Nagaraju Aged about 30 years R/at 5th Block, A K Colony Kodhigenahalli Village Kodigenahalli Hobli Madhugiri Taluk Tumkur Dist. **3. Sri, Nagendra G.N** S/o Late Nagaraju Aged about 28 years R/at ChikkaMaluru, Kodigenahalli Hobli Madhugiri Taluk Tumkur Dist. ...Petitioner
Vs
The Register of birth and death Rep by the Tahsildar Doddaballapura Taluk. ...Resopndent
PUBLIC NOTICE
Whereas, the petitioners named above have filed the above Petition for seeking a direction to the birth and death Register Tahsildar Doddaballapura.Taluk to register the death of the Father of Petitioner 2 and 3and Husband of Petitioner No 1 i.e, the deceased Nagaraju S/o Late Narashimappa who was died on 07-08-2025, at Makali Village. Thubugere Hobli , Doddaballapura Taluk.
On the above petition is posted on 14 /12/2026 at 11.00 A.M. for appearance of interested parties shall appear before the Court on the above said date and time in personally/ their Advocates and file their objections filing which the matter will be disposed of ex-parte.
Given under my hand and seal of the Hon'ble Court on the 30th day of 10, 2026, at Doddaballapura
By order of the Court : Chief Ministerial Officer
Prl. Civil Judge & JMFC Doddaballapura
Advocate for petitioner : Vijaya Kunar, K.N., Advocate, Doddaballapur.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Manjula, MY Original registered sale deed dated 01-07-2006 in respect of the property bearing Sy No.26/7 measuring 0.1 guntas the said property situated at Kakaramanahalli Village, Bidadi Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk, as document No.RMN-1-02458-2006-07, CD No.RMND36, was lost on dated 24-07-2026 in Bidadi KSRTC bus travelling time in this connection filed the complaint before the consent Police Station in this connection endorsement issued on 29-08-2026 if any one trace please intimates me or said Police within 7 days.
M.Guruprasad
Advocate and Notary
No.2, M.Lingaiah Building, V.V.Road, Mandya-571401.
Mob:9242221603.

Quick Read

Mini job fair to be held in Chitradurga on Nov 26

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

A mini job fair will be held at the District Employment Exchange in Chitradurga on November 26, from 10 am to 3 pm.More than eight private companies will participate and select eligible male and female candidates through direct interviews.Candidates aged 18 to 30 with SSLC, PUC, ITI, diploma or degree qualifications can attend the fair. The venue is near Stadium Turn and the old Vaishali Gate.Applicants must bring five copies of their biodata, educational certificates and three photographs.For details, contact the Employment Exchange or call 7022459064, 8105619020, 9945587060, 9964528212 or 7019755147.

Minority nursing students invited to apply for incentives

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

Online applications have been invited from minority students pursuing B. Sc. Nursing and GNM courses in Karnataka for financial incentives for the 2026-27 academic year. The last date to apply is December 31.Muslim, Christian, Jain, Buddhist, Sikh and Parsi students who are Karnataka residents are eligible. Applicants must have completed their course and have an annual family income below Rs. 2.50 lakh. Selection will be based on merit and fund availability. Applicants must have Aadhaar-linked bank accounts with active NPCI mapping. The benefit is available only once during the course. Applications can be submitted through the Seva Sindhu portal.

Drought drives Gadag families out seeking work

Severe drought has dried up district crops, causing heavy financial losses for farmers and leaving agricultural labourers without regular income.

MALINGARAYA PUJAR, GADAG

Severe drought and the failure of crops have pushed farmers and agricultural labourers in Gadag district into distress. With little work available in their villages and mounting debts, many families are leaving their homes in search of jobs to support their children.

"There is no work in the village and nothing has grown in our fields. With creditors pressuring us, we have no choice but to leave and earn money to feed our children," said a distressed worker.

The lack of rainfall has badly affected agriculture across the district. Crops have dried up, leaving farmers with heavy losses. Agricultural labourers who depend on farm work have also lost their regular source of income.

The migration has left several villages deserted. Many couples are leaving their young children with elderly parents and travelling in groups in rented vehicles to find work. Elderly people are struggling to look after their grandchildren, while children face difficulties without their parents' support. Several houses remain locked, and village streets have become unusually quiet.

Employment guarantee fails to meet demand

Government employment programmes are intended to provide work to rural families and reduce migration.



Families leave in search of work

However, residents allege that employment opportunities are inadequate and wages are often delayed. They claim that the lack of regular local work has forced families to move elsewhere.

Workers are travelling to Mangaluru, Udupi, Karwar and Madikeri for construction, plastering, beach cleaning and other daily-wage jobs. Some have also moved to Goa, Kerala and Maharashtra. Others have gone to Belagavi and Vijayapura districts for sugarcane harvesting, where they reportedly spend months living in temporary shelters near fields.

Migration has reportedly increased in Gajendragad, Lakshmeshwar, Mundargi, Gadag, Shirahatti and Ron taluks. Residents of several villages and Lambani tandas, including Nagavi, Beladadi, Chhabbi, Akkigunda, Adarahalli, Haradagatti, Mahalingapura, Attikatti, Dindur and Kundralli, claim that more than 70 per cent of families in some settlements have left.

Children migrating with their parents risk missing school, while those staying with grandparents often lack proper guidance. Workers also face problems with accommodation, drinking water, healthcare and delayed wages. Some fear exploitation by contractors and middlemen.

Gadag's rural distress

Crops lost
Failed rains dried up fields, wiping out farm income for debt-ridden farmers and labourers.

Too little work
Rural employment programmes fall short of demand, and wages are often delayed.

Empty villages
Houses are locked as couples leave in rented vehicles, and grandparents raise the children.

Children at risk
Children who migrate miss school; those left behind lack guidance.



Where they go: the coast, Madikeri, and the cane fields of Belagavi and Vijayapura

PACS urged to join hands for DCC Bank



The PACS review meeting at the DCC Bank premises in Srinivaspur

CH NEWS, SRINIVASPUR

Nagartnamma, Director of the Kolar and Chikkaballapura District Cooperative Central Bank (DCC Bank), has urged officials and office-bearers of Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies (PACS) to work together to strengthen the bank and improve its services.

She was speaking while presiding over a review meeting of PACS in Srinivaspur taluk, held at the DCC Bank premises on Monday. The meeting was attended by the CEOs, presidents and vice presidents of the cooperative societies.

The meeting reviewed the financial performance, administration, activities and development plans of individual societies. Representatives also discussed their achievements and the challenges affecting their functioning.

Nagartnamma said the development of the bank was a shared responsibility and called for transparency, mutual trust and coordination among all cooperative societies. She urged office-bearers to maintain financial discipline, ensure accountability and actively support the bank's development programmes.

SHG loans to resume from January 27

In an important announcement, she said self-help groups (SHGs) that have cleared their outstanding loans would become eligible for fresh loans from January 27, 2027. She also announced that the bank would not collect processing fees on gold loans.

She further said the bank would strengthen digital banking services, including RTGS and mobile banking, to make transactions easier for customers.

Speaking at the meeting, Srinivaspur DCC Bank Manager Prathima said scanner-based payment and PhonePe facilities would be introduced within a few days. Arrangements would also be made to simplify the process of opening savings accounts.

She said the bank aimed to provide simple, accessible and efficient services to customers. The introduction of digital payment facilities would help make banking transactions more convenient, she added.

Nagartnamma further urged all PACS to improve their efficiency and contribute to the bank's overall growth. She said the progress of cooperative societies was closely linked to the development of the DCC Bank.

The meeting also discussed administrative improvements, operational difficulties, coordination between PACS and the bank, and future development plans. Representatives shared suggestions to improve the functioning of their respective societies.

DCC Bank Supervisor Venu, along with the CEOs, presidents and vice presidents of the primary agricultural cooperative societies in Srinivaspur taluk, attended the meeting.

WHAT CHANGES AT THE BANK

Credit relief: SHGs that cleared their dues get fresh loans from January 27; no processing fee on gold loans

Going digital: RTGS and mobile banking strengthened; scanner payments and PhonePe within days

Easier accounts: simpler steps to open a savings account

Jenu Kuruba leaders seek recovery of encroached land



Tribal leaders hand over their memorandum to officials

CH NEWS, HUNSUR

Tribal leaders have urged the district administration to recover 280 acres of land allegedly encroached upon in Dasanara village of Hangodu hobli in Hunsur taluk and hand it over to the Jenu Kuruba families to whom it was originally allotted.

According to Basavaraj, president of the Vijayagiri Landholders' Committee, the government sanctioned 280 acres in Survey Nos. 12 and 13 during 1994-95 for the benefit of 130 Jenu Kuruba community members. Each beneficiary was allotted two acres for cultivation. The land also included four acres for a school, eight acres for village settlement and separate four-acre allocations for women's associations.

However, Basavaraj alleged that plots allotted to 30 families were never identified or handed over to the beneficiaries.

Speaking to reporters, he said the committee had submitted a request to the authorities seeking the removal of encroachments and the transfer of possession to the original beneficiaries. He also demanded that the entire land be protected by constructing boundary bunds and clearing unauthorised occupations.

The leaders further opposed the practice of farmers taking tribal land on lease or mortgage for cultivation. They demanded that the beneficiaries themselves should cultivate the allotted land and that such leasing arrangements should be stopped.

A memorandum was also submitted to Sub-Divisional Officer Shekhar G.D., Tahsildar Rajashekaramurthy, Taluk Welfare Officer Gangadhar and MLA G.D. Harish Gowda, seeking action against the unauthorised leasing of tribal lands.

The leaders alleged that farmers continued to cultivate the land despite earlier warnings against leasing or renting out plots allotted to tribal families. They urged the Tahsildar to issue notices to the beneficiaries and take steps to remove unauthorised occupants.

They also expressed concern over reports that the Darkhastu Samiti (Land Grant Committee) was considering granting the occupied land to the farmers currently cultivating it. They demanded that the proposed process be stopped immediately and that the land be restored to its original beneficiaries.

280	130	30
acres sanctioned in 1994-95	Jenu Kuruba beneficiaries	families never got their plots

Chitradurga to hold seven blood donation camps

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

Seven blood donation camps will be organised across Chitradurga district on November 25 as part of efforts to encourage voluntary blood donation.

The camps will be held at Chitradurga Medical College and Research Centre (District Hospital), Rotary Seva Bhavana on Challakere Road in Chitradurga, National Academy School in Hiriyur, the Primary Health Centre in Shivapura of Holalkere taluk, public hospitals in Hosadurga and Challakere, and the Community Health Centre in Kondlahalli of Molakalmuru taluk.

According to the organisers, healthy men and women aged 18 to 45, weighing at least 45 kg and having a haemoglobin level of more than 12.5 g/dL, can donate blood, subject to medical screening. Men can donate once every three months and women once every four months.

The camp at National Academy School in Hiriyur will be inaugurated by T. Raghumurthy, Karnataka's Minister for Scheduled Tribes Welfare and Chitradurga district in-charge Minister.

Deputy Commissioner S. Ramya, Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer Dr. S. Akash and District Health Officer Dr. M.C. Sunil Kumar have appealed to the public, government staff, organisations and college students to take part in the camps and support the Health Department's efforts.

They urged eligible people to come forward and donate blood to help patients in need.

Donor checklist

18-45 years of age

45 kg minimum weight

Over 12.5 g/dL haemoglobin

Men every three months, women every four

Children urged to use rights and education opportunities

CH NEWS, KOONABEVU

Children should make use of the rights and facilities provided by the government to become responsible citizens, said Jayasimha, Assistant Director of the Chitradurga Taluk Panchayat.

He was speaking while presiding over a Children's Grama Sabha organised recently by the Koonabevu Gram Panchayat in Turuvanuru hobli of Chitradurga taluk.

He said the Indian Constitution guarantees various rights to children. Describing students as the future builders of the nation, he urged them to pursue quality education and work hard to achieve their goals.

Lessons in hygiene

Pramila, Taluk Coordinator of the Swachh Bharat Mission under the Zilla Panchayat, spoke about sanitation and hygiene. She said the government provides financial assistance to households for toilet construction and urged people to make use of the facility.



Koonabevu Children's Grama Sabha

She also stressed the importance of personal hygiene, washing hands before meals and separating household waste into wet and dry categories before handing it over to the Panchayat's collection vehicle.

Dhananjaya, Panchayat Development Officer (PDO) of Koonabevu, highlighted various government initiatives supporting children's education. These include free textbooks, the Ksheera scheme, the mid-day meal programme and scholarships.

He urged students to make proper use of these facilities to continue their education and achieve better results.

Students from primary and high schools in Koonabevu village participated in the programme.

C.C. Patil slams Gadag DC over farewell party

CH NEWS, GADAG

BJP MLA from Naragund and former Karnataka minister C.C. Patil has strongly criticised Gadag Deputy Commissioner C.N. Sreedhara over a farewell party organised ahead of his retirement, questioning the celebration at a time when farmers across the district are facing severe drought.

Speaking to reporters at Patrika Bhavan in Gadag, Patil said it was inappropriate for the district's senior official to celebrate while farmers were struggling to cope with drought conditions. He also questioned the official's understanding of the responsibilities of a District Magistrate.

Allegations of corruption

Making serious allegations against the Deputy Commissioner, Patil claimed that Sreedhara had come to Gadag to benefit from the district's resources. He alleged that corruption had taken place in the DC office and challenged the officer to publish details of the development works completed during his tenure.



BJP leaders at the press meet in Gadag

Patil also demanded details of land conversion approvals granted during the last two to three months. He questioned why some files were being cleared quickly while others remained pending. He further sought clarification about the source of funds for the farewell party and whether anyone else had contributed towards its expenses.

Questions H.K. Patil's response

Patil also expressed disappointment with Gadag MLA H.K. Patil over the incident. He said H.K. Patil could have advised the Deputy Commissioner against holding such celebrations during a drought.

Patil said it was inappropriate for the district's senior official to celebrate while farmers struggled with drought

He alleged that the MLA had failed to raise the issue appropriately.

Patil demanded strict government action against the officials involved in the celebrations, stating that the incident had brought disrepute to Gadag district.

The farewell gathering has triggered public criticism after videos showing the Deputy Commissioner and other officials dancing at the event circulated on social media. According to reports, the party was organised ahead of Sreedhara's retirement on November 30. District administration sources said the officer had personally borne the expenses.

BJP district president Raju Kurudagi, M.S. Karigoudra, Raghu Yelavathi, Lingaraj Patil and others were present during the press conference.

Dalita Sangharsha Samithi to hold Koppal meeting on Nov 30

CH NEWS, KOPPAL

The Karnataka Dalita Sangharsha Samithi, founded by Prof. B. Krishnappa, will organise a Constitution Day celebration and a meeting to select office-bearers for its Koppal district unit on November 30 at the Circuit House (Pravasi Mandira) in Koppal.

Hampesh G., State Convener of the organisation, announced this at a press conference held at the Press Club on Monday.



Samithi office-bearers release the programme pamphlet in Koppal

The programme will be inaugurated by D.R. Pandurangaa Swamy, State Organising Convener of the Samithi. D.N. Gangadharappa, State Convener for Chikkaballapura and Bengaluru, will preside over the event. Senior state leader Satya Bhadravathi will light the Horatada Kranti Jyothi (Revolutionary Flame of Struggle).

Shivappa Palakana Maradi, who oversees Raichur and Ballari districts, will deliver the welcome address.

State-level office-bearers from various districts will attend as chief guests. They include Shivananda M. Savalagi, H.V. Venkatesh, C.K. Vasanthakumara, S. Pakirappa Mundagodu, Vijaya Narasimha, Ramesha Madara, Gururaja Soraba, Maruti B. Hosamane, Nitturu Rangaswamy, Anjayya, Udachappa Malagi, Karisiddayya and Shivakumara.

Hampesh G. said senior leaders, district and taluk office-bearers, women's federation representatives and activists from Gangavathi, Karatagi, Kanakagiri, Koppal, Yelburga, Kukanoor and Kushtagi would participate.

For further information, interested persons can contact the organisers at 9901527136, 9901912681, 8660015017 or 8050365773.

District President Neelappa Hosalli, Taluk President Mohan Kandari, District Convener Yamanuru Huli Haidar, District Vice-President Govindappa Sangapura and District Treasurer R.K. Ramesh were among those present at the press conference. The organisers also released the programme pamphlet.

Quick Read

Dambala elected sheep society president again

CH NEWS, KOPPAL

Raghavendra Eerappa Dambala was unanimously elected president of the Sri Beeralingeshwara Sheep and Wool Producers' Cooperative Society in Kinnala village of Koppal taluk on Monday. This marks his third consecutive term.Adappa Basappa Lyavakki was unanimously elected vice-president. Election Officer Ibrahim announced the results and handed over election certificates to both winners.Board members Prasanna Gadad, Amaresh Upalapura, Mallappa Timlapura, Jagadish Kataraki, Muttanna Bachanakyara, Eerappa Morunne, Vijayakumar Valmiki, Shivaram Lyavakki, Thippesh Murunne, Geetha Ramappa Dambala and Hanumavva Hanumappa Hulli, along with Secretary Gyanappa Kolakar and staff, were present.

Chitradurga to host seminar on pomegranate exports

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

A seminar on pomegranate cultivation and export quality will be held on November 25 at 11 am at Tarasu Rangamandira in Chitradurga. The event will also see the launch of the 'Amipomo' app.The programme is being organised jointly by the district administration, Zilla Panchayat, Agriculture and Horticulture departments, KAPPEC and APEDA. It will focus on growing export-quality pomegranates without pesticide residues.Karnataka Minister for Scheduled Tribe Welfare T. Raghumurthy will inaugurate the event. Chitradurga MP Govind M. Karjol and Hosadurga MLA B.G. Govindappa will attend. Chitradurga MLA K.C. Veerendra Puppy will preside over the programme.Agriculture and horticulture experts will participate as resource persons and guide farmers on better cultivation practices.

Health officer leads Mundaragi blood donation drive

CH NEWS, MUNDARAGI

A voluntary blood donation camp was organised at Mundaragi Taluk Hospital on Monday, with 25 units of blood collected from donors.The camp was organised jointly by the Taluk Health Office, Karnataka State AIDS Prevention Society (KSAPS) and Ambika Blood Bank, Gadag. Taluk Health Officer Dr. Keerthi Haas H.P. inaugurated the camp by donating blood himself. Addressing the participants, he urged people to overcome misconceptions and fears about blood donation. He explained that donating blood in the prescribed quantity is safe for eligible donors following medical screening.He encouraged healthy individuals to donate blood regularly and contribute to saving lives. He also highlighted the importance of voluntary blood donation in meeting patients' medical needs.All hospital staff members participated enthusiastically in the initiative. Dr. Keerthi Haas thanked the staff and other participants for their support.

Rural development gets priority in Chitradurga: MLA

Veerendra Puppy urged timely, quality completion of development projects beyond mere ceremonies, asking officials to monitor work and villagers to cooperate.



At the groundbreaking ceremony for development works in Cholaghatta and Sasaluhatti villages on Monday

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

Politics should not be about gaining power but serving people and improving their lives through development, said Chitradurga MLA K.C. Veerendra Puppy.

Speaking after performing the groundbreaking ceremony for various development works in Cholaghatta and Sasaluhatti villages on Monday, he said he was committed to the overall development of rural areas.

The projects are being taken up under the Chief Minister's Infrastructure Development Scheme for 2025-26.

The MLA said rural development was essential for the progress of the entire constituency. Providing good roads, drainage facilities, drinking water and electricity to villages remained a priority, he added.

He said development works were being taken up in every village based on public needs and without discrimination based on caste, religion or political affiliation. He also stressed that elected representatives must respond to people's problems and improve their living conditions.

Veerendra Puppy said development projects should not remain limited to foundation stone-laying ceremonies or inaugurations. They must be completed within the stipulated time while maintaining quality. He urged officials to closely monitor the work and appealed to villagers to cooperate with the authorities.

Development works worth ₹3.90 crore were launched during the programme. These include a cement concrete road near Cholaghatta Gram Panchayat at a cost of ₹40 lakh and a road connecting Sasaluhatti village to DS Halli at an estimated cost of ₹3.50 crore.

Tahsildar Fatima, Public Works Department Assistant Executive Engineer Lal Saab, Assistant Engineer Pawan, Manjunath, engineer Sharath, KDP member Santhosh, Cholaghatta PDO Veeresh and former Gram Panchayat president Eshwarappa attended the event.

Community leaders Kuri Nagaraj, Kantharaj, Maruti Gowdru, Hanumantha, Veeresh and Santhosh, along with several villagers, were also present.

> **"The development of the constituency is the primary objective of my political career. In the days to come, I will continue to place a strong emphasis on development initiatives—not only to address the aspirations of the people but also to transform this constituency into a model constituency."**
>
> **— K.C. Veerendra Puppy,** Chitradurga MLA

Durga Shakti Satsang celebrated at Ramagiri with honours

CH NEWS, LAKSHMESHWARA

The 30th monthly Shri Durga Shakti Satsang was held with devotion on the occasion of Gauri Purnima at the Ramagiri Gram Panchayat Sabha Bhavan.

Seer from Sanshi blesses gathering

Sri Gurusiddheshwar Swami of Sri Brahmananda Ashram, Sanshi, attended the programme and blessed the gathering.

Jyoti Gaikwad, Cluster Resource Person (CRP) from Shigli, delivered a special lecture on the role of women in festivals. She said festivals play an important role in preserving Indian culture and traditions, adding that women make a valuable contribution to keeping these traditions alive.

The programme was organised by the Sneha Koota of the 1987-88 SSLC batch of Sri Uma Vidyalaya, Lakshmeshwara.

Achievers honoured

Several personalities who have contributed to different fields and received awards were honoured. They included former APMC president Basanna Betageri, Basavaraja Holalapura, Krishi Pandita awardee Eshwarappa V. Hanchinala, Karnataka Film Academy member Rudragowda Sh. Patil, Dr. Ashwini B. Beedanal, M.N. Bharamagoudara, Dr. Vinaya Nee. Kale and B.R.P. Basavaraja Yaraguppi.

Teachers Basavaraja Galaganatha, N.N. Savirukuri, K.P. Kambali, Siddu Sajjagara, Latha Kuri and K.R. Mudakannavara, along with villagers and women, participated in the programme.

AAP urges Governor to address ASHA workers' demands

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has urged the Governor to intervene in the ongoing protest by ASHA workers in Bengaluru and direct the state government to fulfil their demands. The party submitted a memorandum to the Governor on Monday, criticising the government's response to the agitation.

The memorandum was submitted by a party delegation led by AAP Working President Sitaram Gundappa.

Speaking to reporters, AAP Bengaluru City President Shashidhar Aradhya criticised the Congress government for failing to resolve the issues raised by the ASHA workers. He said the workers, who provide essential healthcare services in rural and urban areas, had been forced to protest because of the government's failure to take concrete decisions.

He alleged that repeated meetings between the government and the workers had not resulted in any solution. He also expressed concern over women continuing their protest despite cold and rain, with some single mothers bringing their children to the protest site.

No water, toilets or medical help at the protest site

Aradhya further criticised the alleged lack of basic facilities, including drinking water, toilets, resting areas and medical assistance. He said reports of protesters falling ill and being hospitalised raised serious concerns about their safety and dignity.

Magadi farmers demand compensation for power line land

CH NEWS, MAGADI

Taluk Farmers' Association president Hosapalya Lokesh has demanded compensation of Rs 25 lakh per gunta for agricultural land affected by the 66 kV high-tension power line running from Thippagondanahalli to Anchepalya. He also sought compensation for trees damaged by the power line and warned of protests if payments were not made before repair work began.

Speaking at a press conference near Someshwara Temple, Lokesh said the power line had been laid across farmers' lands 45 years ago, but compensation had not been paid.

He claimed that farmers were unable to cultivate crops beneath the power lines and criticised officials for failing to address their grievances despite several protests and road blockades.

> **45 years since the line was laid across their land, with no compensation, farmers say**

Compensation sought before repair work

Lokesh said the government was planning to repair the existing power line. He said representations had been submitted to the Executive Engineer, Assistant Executive Engineer and the central office at Anand Rao Circle in Bengaluru. The issue had also been brought to the attention of Energy Minister K.J. George.

DC orders 100% birth, death registration within 21 days

CH NEWS, KOPPAL

Deputy Commissioner Dr. Suresh B. Itnal has directed officials to ensure 100% registration of all births and deaths in the district within the prescribed 21-day period. He warned that delays and negligence would not be tolerated.

He was speaking while chairing a meeting of the District-Level Coordination Committee for the Civil Registration System at the Deputy Commissioner's office on Monday.

The Deputy Commissioner noted that birth and death registration had improved compared to previous meetings but stressed the need to achieve the 100% target.

He also instructed officials to ensure that people were not made to visit multiple offices to obtain certificates.

He directed medical officers to properly record the causes of death. Form 4 (Medical Certificate of Cause of Death) must be completed for deaths in medical institutions, while Form 4A must be used for deaths occurring at home.

He also instructed officials to follow legal procedures in cases involving poisoning, dog bites, unnatural deaths and medico-legal cases. Cases where patients are brought dead to hospitals must also be handled according to prescribed procedures.

Dr. Itnal warned registrars in Gram Panchayats and local bodies against registering births or deaths that occurred outside their respective jurisdictions. He said such registrations would violate the law and could lead to disciplinary action.

MLA inspects temple facilities, orders cleanliness measures



The inspection of facilities for devotees at Sri Changalera Veerabhadreshwara Temple, Bidar South

CH NEWS, BIDAR

MLA Dr. Shailendra Beldale inspected the arrangements made for devotees at Sri Changalera Veerabhadreshwara Temple in Bidar South constituency ahead of the Jatra Mahotsava, which began on the day of the inspection.

With a large number of devotees expected to visit the temple during the festival, special attention has been given to cleanliness, hygiene and basic facilities.

During the visit, the MLA inspected a newly installed high-tech toilet facility equipped with TECH Hygiene Washroom technology. He enquired about its cleanliness, water supply and maintenance arrangements. He also inspected the newly constructed bathing tank and instructed the authorities to ensure proper cleanliness and safety.

Beldale stressed the need to maintain cleanliness throughout the temple premises. He directed the concerned officials to prevent littering, ensure proper waste disposal and carry out regular cleaning activities.

He also called for a complete ban on smoking within the temple premises to protect the health of devotees and maintain the sanctity of the religious site. He instructed the authorities to install warning signs and strictly enforce the restriction.

Speaking during the inspection, the MLA said providing proper facilities and a clean environment for devotees should be a priority during the Jatra Mahotsava. He appealed to the public to cooperate with the temple management in maintaining hygiene and protecting the sanctity of the temple.

He also directed the temple management committee and concerned officials to coordinate their efforts and ensure the smooth conduct of the festival.

Shivakumar Swami, Vijayakumar Wali, Ramalu Mantri, Vijayakumar Karakampalli, Rakesh Patil, Rajashekhara, Nagaraja, Santhosha and Dhanraj were present.

What the MLA checked

- **New toilets:** cleanliness, water supply, upkeep
- **Bathing tank:** cleanliness and safety
- **Premises:** no littering, regular cleaning
- **Smoking:** a complete ban, with warning signs

ZILLA PANCHAYATH
Department of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services
office of The Deputy Director (Admin.), Caltex Circle,
Kunigal Road, Tumakuru-572101. Phone No.: **0816-2278616**
Email: **tmkddahvs@gmail.com**
No: DDT/A2/CEPMIZ/2025-26 Date: 20.11.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION (KPP portal mode Only)

A short-term tender has been invited via the KPP Portal for the procurement of disease diagnostic equipment and accessories (Total 17 items) for the Specialty Veterinary Hospital at Sira Gate, Tumakuru, in accordance with the DPR approved under the CEPMIZ scheme. The estimated value for this tender is Rs. 75.00 lakhs.
Complete tender documents can be viewed by visiting website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** portal from **Dt: 20.11.2026** and tenderers can upload all the necessary documents through KPP portal from **20.11.2026 to 27.11.2026 till 17.30 hours.**
Further information can be obtained from KPP Portal and this office during office hours.
Sd/- Deputy Director (Admin.),Department Of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services, Tumakuru– 572101.
DIPR/Tumakuru/351/KSMCA/2026-27

BENGALURU SOUTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, CMC & Lakes,
4th floor, 4th block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru-5600011.
No: EE/BSCC/Lakes/TEND/01/2026-27 Date: 23.11.2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER
(Through GOK KPPP only)
website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

For the Annual Maintenance Lakes, The Executive Engineer, CMC & Lakes, BSCC Bengaluru, Zone-2, invites tenders. The tenderers may submit tenders for the service given in the table below through KPP Portal.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work/Category
1.	Annual Maintenance of Mangammanapalya Lake and Haralukunte (Somasundarapalya Lake) **(ST). Estimated Cost : (₹ in Lakhs) 30.00, EMD (in ₹): 30,000/-.**
2.	Annual Maintenance of Puttenahalli Lake and Sarakki Lake **(Others). Estimated Cost : (₹ in Lakhs) 45.00, EMD (in ₹): 90,000/-.**
3.	Annual Maintenance of Venkogiroa/Agara Lake. **(Others). Estimated Cost : (₹ in Lakhs) 45.00, EMD (in ₹): 90,000/-.**
4.	Annual Maintenance of Ibbluru Lake & Kaigondanahalli Lake. **(CAT-II(A)). Estimated Cost: (₹ in Lakhs) 43.00, EMD (in ₹): 43,000/-**
5.	Annual Maintenance of Arekere Lake and Hulimavu Lake. **(Others), Estimated Cost : (₹ in Lakhs) 60.00, EMD (in ₹): 1,20,000/-.**
6.	Annual Maintenance of Singasandra lake and Kodige Singasandra Lake. **(Others) Estimated Cost : (₹ in Lakhs) 30.00, EMD (in ₹): 60,000/-.**
7.	Annual Maintenance of Mestripalya lake. **(SC), Estimated Cost : (₹ in Lakhs) 14.00, EMD (in ₹): 17,500/-.**
8.	Annual Maintenance of Madiwala lake. **(Others), Estimated Cost : (₹ in Lakhs) 45.00, EMD (in ₹): 90,000/-.**
9.	Annual Maintenance of Ambalipura Kelagina Kere and Ambalipura Melina kere. **(CAT-1), Estimated Cost (₹ in Lakhs) : 18.00, EMD (in ₹): 22,500/-.**
10.	Annual Maintenance of Haraluru lake and Kasavanahalli Lake. **(Others) Estimated Cost : (₹ in Lakhs) 40.00, EMD (in ₹): 80,000/-.**
11.	Annual Maintenance of Kudlu Chikkere lake and Kudlu Doddakere lake. **(Others), Estimated Cost : (₹ in Lakhs) 30.00, EMD (in ₹): 60,000/-.**

Calendar of Events: (1) Availability of Tender Document in KPP Portal : **24.11.2026 onwards. (2)** Last Date & Time for Queries : **30.11.2026 upto 4:00 p.m. (3)** Last Date & Time for receipt of Tenders : **08.12.2026 upto 4:00 p.m. (4)** Opening of Technical Bid : **09.12.2026 at 4:30 p.m. (5)** Opening of Financial Bid (if possible) : **After the approval of Technical Evaluation**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, CMC & Lakes, BSCC.

ಶ್ರೀ ಚಾಮುಂಡೇಶ್ವರಿ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ
ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಗಳ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಚಾಮುಂಡಿಬೆಟ್ಟ, ಮೈಸೂರು–570010
ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : 0821–2590027, ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: eochamunditemple@gmail.com
ಪತ್ರ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಶ್ರೀಚಾಕ್ಷೇಅಪ್ರಾ(5)ಸಿಆರ್:/2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 22.11.2026

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (CALL-2)
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ

ಮೈಸೂರು ಚಾಮುಂಡಿಬೆಟ್ಟ ಶ್ರೀ ಚಾಮುಂಡೇಶ್ವರಿ ದೇವಸ್ಥಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಸೂಚಿತ ಅವಧಿಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಆಸಕ್ತರು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** ಮೂಲಕ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ತಿಳಿಸಿರುವಂತೆ(Technical qualification criteria)ದ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಅಗತ್ಯ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವುದು. ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತೆ ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿದ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ.ಯನ್ನು ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನಮೂದಿಸಿದ ಯಾವುದಾದರು ಒಂದು ರೀತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು. ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ.ಯು ಟೆಂಡರಿನ ನ್ಯಾಯ ಸಮ್ಮತಾ ಮಾನ್ಯತಾ ಅವಧಿಗಿಂತ (Validity period) 45 ದಿನಗಳ ನಂತರದ ವರೆಗೆ ಮಾನ್ಯತೆ ಇರತಕ್ಕದ್ದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿವರ	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಇಎಂಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)
1	ಚಾಮುಂಡಿಬೆಟ್ಟ ಶ್ರೀ ಚಾಮುಂಡೇಶ್ವರಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಉತ್ತನಹಳ್ಳಿ ದೇವಸ್ಥಾನದ ದಾಸೋಹ ಭವನದಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಸಾದ ತಯಾರಿಸಿ, ಬಡಿಸಿ, ಸ್ವಚ್ಛತೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಡಲು ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಜನ ಅಡುಗೆ ಕೆಲಸಗಾರರನ್ನು 12 ತಿಂಗಳ ಅವಧಿಗೆ ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಒದಗಿಸುವ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಹಕ್ಕು ಮುಖ್ಯ ಅಡುಗೆಯವರು–3, ಅಡುಗೆ ಸಹಾಯಕರು–3, ತರಕಾರಿ ಕತ್ತರಿಸುವವರು–16, ಸ್ವಚ್ಛತೆ ಮಾಡುವವರು–16, ಒಟ್ಟು 38 ಜನ	90,20,000	1,80,400

ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆಯಡಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಷೆಡ್ಯೂಲ್ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳು ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿದೆ

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ	ವಿವರ	ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳು	ಸಮಯ
1	ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳು ಚಾಲ್ತಿಗೆ ಬರುವುದು	ದಿ: **22.11.2026**	ರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆ ನಂತರ
2	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಲು ಮತ್ತು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ	ದಿ: **30.11.2026**	ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆ ವರೆಗೆ
3	ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ	ದಿ: **2.12.2026**	ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆ ನಂತರ
4	ಹಣಕಾಸಿನ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ	ದಿ: **4.12.2026**	ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆ ನಂತರ

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ
ಶ್ರೀ ಚಾಮುಂಡೇಶ್ವರಿ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ
ಚಾಮುಂಡಿಬೆಟ್ಟ

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಮೈಸೂರು/991/ಶಿರಡಿ ಸಾಯಿ/2026–27

BHAJAN CLUBBING: A NEW WAVE OF DEVOTION IN THE CULTURE OF CLUBS



LALIT GARG

Spirituality is no longer seen merely as something reserved for the twilight years of life. It is increasingly finding a place in the heartbeat of the younger generation. In an age marked by digital frenzy, loneliness, stress, and constant screen exposure, young people are searching for forms of devotion that resonate with the pace of their lives and the way they express themselves. It is against this changing social backdrop that "Bhajan Clubbing" has emerged as an intriguing new cultural trend. Bhajan clubbing essentially means taking devotional songs, bhajans and kirtans beyond the conventional boundaries of religious gatherings and presenting them in an atmosphere where young people sing, sway, dance and immerse themselves in the rhythm of devotion. The ambience may carry the energy of contemporary music, but devotion remains at its core. In a sense, it can be described as a confluence of the energy of a club and the intimacy of a satsang.

This transformation is significant because, for a long time, there has been a widespread perception that religion and spirituality are subjects primarily associated with the older generation. As the younger generation has moved forward with modernity, rational thinking and technology, it has often appeared increasingly distant from traditional religious rituals. Yet the emergence of bhajan clubbing seems to challenge this assumption. Young people are saying that they want spirituality, but its expression can also be aligned with their language, lifestyle and contemporary sensibilities.

In India, club culture developed largely as a medium of entertainment, music, dance and social interaction. Late-night gatherings have traditionally been associated with loud music, dazzling lights and a modern lifestyle. The entry of devotion into this very social framework is, therefore, an interesting sign of cultural change. In bhajan clubbing, alcohol, smoking and intoxicants are generally replaced by devotional music, collective singing and positive energy. This distinction is important. If young people are going out at night in search of entertainment, offering them an alternative where joy is accompanied by spiritual connection is certainly worth considering.

Another important dimension is collective togetherness. Social media has connected people virtually, yet real-life loneliness has increased. Despite having thousands of digital friends, a person can often feel profoundly alone. At a bhajan club, even strangers come together and sing in one voice. For a while, the mobile phone recedes into the background and human beings come closer to one another. Such an experience can also provide psychological relief and a sense of belonging. Today's youth do not merely want to listen to sermons; they want to experience something. They do not accept an idea simply because tradition says so. They want to know: What does this offer me? Bhajan clubbing appears to provide a practical response to that question.



Music has a direct influence on human emotions. Through collective singing, an individual rises above personal boundaries and becomes part of something larger. When hundreds of people simultaneously invoke the names of Rama, Mahavira, Shiva, Krishna or any other revered deity, a powerful collective energy can emerge. From the Jain perspective, however, the fundamental purpose of devotion is not merely external celebration or emotional excitement; it is an inward journey towards the soul. If the Navkar Mantra, devotional hymns, Bhaktamar Stotra, Mangal Path or hymns in praise of the Tirthankaras reach young minds through music, such experimentation can certainly be welcomed, provided that devotion does not dissolve into mere entertainment. This is the greatest test of the entire phenomenon.

In India's public life too, spiritual and cultural consciousness has become increasingly visible in recent years. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, along with several national leaders and public personalities, has been actively associated with programmes connected with Indian traditions, yoga, meditation, temples, pilgrimage and cultural heritage. This has helped convey to the younger generation that modernity and spirituality are not mutually exclusive. At the same time, it must be understood that the presence of any political or popular personality cannot, by itself, be regarded as the ultimate validation of a spiritual trend. The real strength of any movement lies in its ability to contribute to character-building and social transformation. If bhajan clubbing helps young people stay away from addiction, reduce mental stress, reconnect with their families, develop a spirit of service and cultivate self-discipline, only then will its deeper significance truly be established.

Every emerging popular trend also carries certain risks. The greatest danger is that devotion may gradually turn into nothing more than a fashionable event. If the objective becomes loud music, dazzling lights, dancing and entertainment rather than inner peace, the distinction between bhajan clubbing and conventional club culture may gradually disappear. The second danger is commercialisation. If expensive tickets, sponsorships, branding and a culture of display begin to dominate in the name of devotion, spirituality could itself become a marketable commodity.

The third concern is blind imitation of a particular individual, group or style. Building a community is a positive thing, but if community begins to replace reflection and encourages unquestioning surrender, it can no longer be regarded as healthy spirituality. The fourth issue concerns the intensity of music. Spirituality does not necessarily require soft or slow music, nor is loud music inherently opposed to spirituality. India's devotional traditions have always had a place for dance, kirtan, celebration and ecstatic expression. However, if the sound becomes so intense that the mind is driven towards overstimulation rather than inwardness, the original purpose may be weakened.

The most important point in this entire debate is that spirituality is a journey beyond external expression. Swaying for two hours at a bhajan club may provide a deeply uplifting experience, but its real value will be determined by what happens in life the following day. The questions that matter are these: Has the young person become more disciplined? Has compassion increased? Has respect for parents grown stronger? Has he or she moved away from intoxicants? Has a spirit of service emerged? Has anger diminished? Has sensitivity towards nature and society increased? If the answers to these questions are yes, bhajan clubbing can become much more than entertainment. It can evolve into a powerful instrument of spiritual and social transformation.

In the coming years, bhajan clubbing may undoubtedly develop in newer forms. Temples, spiritual institutions, universities and youth organisations can create innovative programmes combining music, meditation, yoga, dialogue and service. But one guiding principle must remain clear: "Let the presentation be modern, but never compromise the spiritual values at its core." It is necessary to make the expression of devotion youthful, but there is no need to make the soul of devotion youthful. That soul is eternal. It is timeless, universal and beyond geographical boundaries. What needs to change is only its language, presentation and accessibility so that it can meaningfully reach the present generation.

Bhajan clubbing, therefore, represents both an opportunity and a challenge. The opportunity lies in opening a new door through which modern youth can reconnect with religion and spirituality. The challenge lies in ensuring that this door does not become an entry point for commercialism, superficiality, cultural distortion and excessive entertainment.

> *"Let the presentation be modern, but never compromise the spiritual values at its core."*
> **LALIT GARG**

Ultimately, the success of bhajan clubbing will not be measured by how many young people danced to the music, but by how many began to look within themselves. If the energy of the club leads to inner peace, if music purifies the mind, and if devotion inspires people to live better lives, then bhajan clubbing will not merely be a new fashion among the younger generation. It will represent a new doorway through which spirituality is entering the modern age. And when devotion moves beyond the stage and begins to manifest itself in everyday conduct, it will truly be possible to say: The music in the club has changed, but far more importantly, the music of life has begun to change.

DECLINING FERTILITY RATES AND CHANGING POPULATION POLICY



DR. SATYAVAN SAURABH

India's population has long been a major topic of public policy, political discourse, and economic planning. Calls for population control have periodically arisen, citing the growing population as a source of pressure on resources, unemployment, poverty, and environmental crises. However, today, India is undergoing a demographic transition, where, instead of a growing population, declining fertility rates, an aging population, and regional disparities are emerging as new challenges. Therefore, it is time to reconsider the need for population control laws.

India's total fertility rate (TFR) has reached approximately 1.9, which is below the stable population replacement level of 2.1. This means that on average, a woman is not giving birth to enough children in her lifetime to provide for natural replacement of the population in the next generation. Although India's total population is currently growing, this is driven by a large youth population and structural population dynamics. A continued decline in the fertility rate in the future could slow population growth and ultimately lead to a stabilization or decline in the population.

The decline in fertility rates is not a sudden phenomenon. Expansion of education, improved social status of women, availability of contraceptives, urbanization, rising marriageable age, and changing preferences regarding family size are the main reasons for this. Today, most families place greater importance on children's education, health, and quality of life rather than the number of children. Economic uncertainty, rising housing costs, and the expense of raising children are also reinforcing the trend toward smaller families.

Another significant change in India's population is the aging trend. The proportion of citizens aged 60 and above is expected to increase rapidly in the coming years. Various population studies estimate that the elderly population will reach approximately 15 percent by 2036. This change will have a profound impact on health services, pension systems, social security, and family care policies. In a society where a large youth population was once considered an economic force, ensuring the care and dignified lives of the elderly will become a significant public responsibility in the future.



The need of the hour is not population control, but human development and preparation for the future.

Another important aspect of population change is regional disparities. Many states in South India have reached fertility rates well below replacement levels, while some states in North India experience relatively higher fertility rates. Differences in education, health services, women's employment participation, and socio-economic development are the main reasons for these variations. Therefore, implementing a uniform population policy for the entire country would be unreasonable. States with a larger youth population will have greater needs for employment, education, and skill development, while states with lower fertility rates will face challenges related to the welfare of the elderly and the future workforce.

In such circumstances, laws that limit the number of children to two, and measures that exclude individuals with more than two children from local body elections or government benefits, require serious reconsideration. Population policies must be consistent with citizens' rights, especially women's reproductive rights and personal liberty. Attempts to control family size through punitive laws, when families are naturally shrinking, may have consequences contrary to social justice and democratic values. This also risks placing disproportionate pressure on poor families, women, and disadvantaged communities.

The real challenge facing India is not population control, but rather the formulation of public policies in line with the changing demographic structure. A comprehensive pension system, affordable and accessible healthcare, geriatric care centers, and the expansion of social security for the elderly are essential. Furthermore, special attention must be paid to quality education, vocational training, skill development, and employment generation to make the working-age population productive. The demographic dividend can only be translated into real economic benefits when youth have access to employment and dignified life opportunities.

Women's economic participation is also central to this transformation. Providing women with access to education, employment, equal pay, maternity benefits, and freedom in reproductive decisions should be the cornerstone of any effective population policy. The aim of family planning should not be to control women, but to enable them to make informed and independent decisions. Similarly, denying political rights or public opportunities based on the number of children can undermine the broader objective of democratic representation.

India should move beyond the outdated concept of population control and adopt a comprehensive policy of population management and human development. This should prioritize planning based on regional demographic needs, expanding reproductive health services, elderly welfare, labor market preparation, and social security. Population policies should be evaluated not solely on birth rate figures, but on the basis of citizens' quality of life, health, education, and social equality.

Ultimately, a nation's population is not just a number, but a reflection of its human potential and social structure. India's declining fertility rate provides us with an opportunity to move from punitive control to rights-based, scientific, and sensitive policies. The India of the future will be empowered only when its youth are educated and employed, women are independent, and the elderly can live with dignity and security. The need now is not population control, but the development of human potential and nation-building in accordance with changing demographics.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Improve Roads for Safer Daily Commuting

Bangalore's deteriorating roads and potholes cause inconvenience, traffic congestion, and accidents. Authorities must prioritise timely repairs, proper drainage, and regular inspections. Citizens deserve safe and smooth journeys. Better coordination among departments and responsible use of public funds can significantly improve road conditions and ensure safer commuting for everyone.

– Shiva

Address Waste Management Through Public Participation

Bangalore faces growing challenges in waste management, affecting public health and cleanliness. Residents must segregate waste, avoid littering, and cooperate with collection services. Authorities should strengthen monitoring, improve disposal facilities, and ensure regular collection. A cleaner city requires shared responsibility, consistent enforcement, and active participation from every citizen. **– Dennis**

THE FUTURE OF COASTAL INDIA UNDER THE SHADOW OF CYCLONES

DR. PRIYANKA SAURABH



As life-giving as the ocean is, its fury can be equally destructive. India's nearly 7,500-kilometer coastline is crucial to the country's economy, trade, fisheries, and tourism. However, these same coastal areas face the threat of cyclones, storm surges, floods, and coastal erosion every year. Cyclone Arnab has once again raised questions about coastal India's vulnerability and disaster management preparedness. The question is not only when and where a cyclone will strike, but also how strong our preparedness is to deal with it. In this era of changing climate, we must now develop strategies to mitigate damage in advance, rather than providing relief after a disaster strikes.

The biggest challenge in dealing with cyclones is predicting their changing nature and intensity. Despite modern technology and improvements in weather forecasting, cyclones often become more powerful in a short period of time, leaving authorities with little time to evacuate people and mobilize relief supplies. Heavy rains, accompanied by strong winds, high sea waves, and flooding rivers can wreak havoc. Climate change and rising sea temperatures have exacerbated this challenge.

Poor infrastructure in coastal areas is also a major problem. During cyclones, power poles collapse, roads become submerged, and communication services are disrupted. This hampers relief and rescue operations. In many coastal cities, unplanned construction, poor drainage systems, and the expansion of settlements in low-lying areas increase the risk. This makes it a major challenge to not only rescue people during a disaster but also to quickly restore essential services like electricity, water, health, and transportation.

The India Meteorological Department's early warning system has improved, but the challenge remains ensuring that warnings reach everyone in a timely manner. Disseminating information to fishermen at sea, people living in remote villages and small islands is not easy. People often don't take warnings seriously or delay moving to safer locations due to fear of abandoning their homes and livelihoods. Therefore, simply issuing warnings is not enough; it's also crucial to educate people about the dangers and how to avoid them.



Cyclones don't affect everyone equally. Poor families, women, children, the elderly, and the disabled are most affected. Families whose livelihoods depend on farming, fishing, or daily wage labor find it difficult to leave their homes and move to safety. They worry about their property, livestock, and jobs. Following a cyclone, fishing ceases, fields become inundated with saltwater, and small businesses come to a halt. This leaves affected families with long-term economic hardship.

The weakening of natural protective shields is also a matter of concern. Deforestation of mangrove forests, destruction of wetlands, and increasing construction on beaches increase the risk of cyclones. Mangrove forests play a vital role in reducing the force of sea waves and protecting coastal areas. Despite this, natural resources are being damaged in the name of development. Development in coastal areas is necessary, but development at the expense of the environment can become a major threat for the future.

To address these challenges, the first step is to strengthen the early warning system. Along with enhancing the technical capabilities of the Meteorological Department, it is essential to expand satellites, Doppler radar, and marine monitoring systems. Warnings should not be limited to mobile messages. Information should also be disseminated to the public through sirens, community radio, local administration, and panchayats. Warnings should be in the local language and clearly state what to do and where to go.

Additionally, robust infrastructure must be developed in coastal areas. There is a need to increase the number of cyclone shelters, establish safe evacuation routes, and strengthen hospitals, power plants, and drinking water systems for disaster preparedness. Special attention should be paid to the needs of women, children, the elderly, and the disabled in shelters. Regular mock drills can help train people on the right steps to take during a disaster.

The participation of local communities is also essential in disaster management. Panchayats, NGOs, fishermen's associations, and youth should be involved in disaster management plans. Disaster awareness and first aid training should be provided in schools. Local people have better knowledge of the risks in their areas. Therefore, their participation can make relief and rescue operations more effective.

Damage can also be minimized by working in harmony with nature. Mangrove forests, wetlands, and coastal vegetation should be protected. Uncontrolled construction in sensitive areas should be prohibited, and coastal regulations should be strictly enforced. Furthermore, insurance, financial assistance, and livelihood rehabilitation are essential for fishermen, farmers, and small businesses, so they can recover after a disaster.

Cyclone Arnab has provided an opportunity to understand that while it's impossible to completely avoid natural disasters, their damage can certainly be mitigated through better preparedness. India has made significant progress in weather forecasting and evacuation, but much remains to be done in coastal areas. The need now is not to limit ourselves to relief and rescue, but to create systems that can mitigate damage before a disaster strikes. After all, safe coasts are built not just by strong buildings, but by aware citizens, accountable administration, and a protected environment.

SONGS AND MUSIC ENRICH THE HUMAN SPIRIT

Music is an inseparable part of human life. It is more than a source of entertainment; it is a powerful expression of emotions, a means of communication, and a force that brings people together. From soothing melodies to energetic rhythms, songs and music influence our thoughts, feelings, behaviour and outlook on life. Their importance in society deserves greater recognition.

One of the greatest qualities of music is its ability to express emotions that words often fail to convey. Happiness, sorrow, hope, love and longing can all find expression through melodies and lyrics. Music offers comfort during difficult moments and adds joy to pleasant experiences. When people feel lonely, anxious or overwhelmed, listening to music can provide emotional relief and a sense of peace. In this way, music becomes a silent companion that helps individuals understand and manage their feelings.

Music also plays an important role in maintaining mental and emotional well-being. Gentle melodies can promote relaxation, reduce stress and create a peaceful atmosphere. Rhythmic and lively songs can improve one's mood, increase motivation and encourage physical activity. Singing can release tension and provide an enjoyable outlet for self-expression. Although music cannot solve every problem, it can help people face challenges with a calmer mind and a more positive attitude.

Another significant contribution of music is its role in education and intellectual development. Songs can make learning enjoyable, improve memory and strengthen concentration. Rhythm and repetition help learners remember information more easily, while musical activities encourage creativity, listening skills and discipline. Learning music also develops patience and perseverance, as progress



requires regular practice and dedication. Therefore, music education should be valued as an essential part of the overall development of children and young people.

Furthermore, songs and music have the power to unite people beyond differences in language, culture, age and social background. A shared appreciation of melody and rhythm can create a sense of belonging and mutual understanding. Group singing and musical performances encourage cooperation, teamwork and respect for others. Music can communicate feelings and ideas across linguistic barriers, reminding humanity of its shared emotions and common aspirations. In a world often divided by disagreements, this unifying quality is particularly valuable.

Music also preserves cultural traditions and collective memories. Traditional songs carry the values, beliefs, experiences and artistic expressions of communities from one generation to another. At the same time, changing musical forms reflect the evolving attitudes and creativity of society. Music provides a connection between the past and the present, helping people appreciate their cultural heritage while remaining open to new ideas. It is, therefore, both a record of human experience and a constantly developing art form.

However, the influence of music depends partly on how it is created, presented and consumed. Songs that promote kindness, dignity, equality and responsibility can inspire positive attitudes. In contrast, music that glorifies hatred, violence or harmful behaviour may encourage undesirable values, particularly among impressionable listeners. People should therefore develop the ability to appreciate music thoughtfully and distinguish artistic freedom from content that promotes harm. Artists and listeners alike share a responsibility to support a healthy musical environment.

In conclusion, songs and music are essential to human development because they nurture emotions, support learning, preserve culture and strengthen social bonds. They bring beauty to ordinary life and offer comfort when words are insufficient. Music should not be treated merely as background entertainment but recognised as a valuable part of human well-being and cultural progress. By encouraging meaningful musical experiences and making music accessible to all, society can create a more compassionate, creative and harmonious world.

— SHARON FAUSTINA J.

BREAKING FREE FROM ENDLESS CONSUMERISM TRAPS

> **"Flash sales, algorithmic recommendations, and frictionless one-click checkouts are carefully engineered to bypass rational thought and trigger immediate emotional gratification."**
>
> **— MARY VANAJA R.**

Walk through any bustling commercial district or scroll through a glowing phone screen, and a singular message echoes endlessly: buy more to be more. Over the past decade, retail has quietly transformed from a practical necessity into a dominant recreational pastime. What once served as an occasional errand to replace worn-out goods has morphed into a relentless cycle of impulse clicks, seasonal hauls, and constant upgrades. To preserve both our personal well-being and our shared environment, society urgently needs to curb this escalating shopping craze.

Modern commerce thrives on manufactured urgency. Flash sales, algorithmic recommendations, and frictionless one-click checkouts are carefully engineered to bypass rational thought and trigger immediate emotional gratification. When stress, boredom, or loneliness strikes, acquiring a new item offers a fleeting burst of dopamine. Yet that rush evaporates almost as quickly as the cardboard packaging hits the recycling bin. Soon after, the novelty fades, leaving behind buyer's remorse, shrinking savings, and cluttered living spaces that demand even more time and energy to manage.

Beyond the toll on individual wallets and mental clarity, unchecked consumption carries an unsustainable ecological cost. Every garment, gadget, and household trinket requires raw materials, water, energy, and global shipping networks to reach the consumer. Fast-paced production cycles prioritize cheap, disposable goods over durability, ensuring that items break or fall out of fashion within months. Landfills overflow with perfectly usable objects discarded simply because a newer version arrived on the market. Reducing our collective appetite for constant acquisition is not merely a matter of personal frugality; it is an environmental imperative.

Critics of mindful consumption often argue that curbing retail enthusiasm threatens economic vitality. However, an economy built on disposable excess and household debt is inherently fragile. Redirecting spending away from transient material clutter and toward experiences, skill-building, local services, and durable craftsmanship creates healthier, more resilient communities. Supporting repair shops, local artisans, and sustainable producers keeps resources circulating meaningfully rather than funneling wealth into mass-produced waste.

Breaking free from the shopping craze does not require extreme asceticism or joyless deprivation. Instead, it calls for intentionality. Simple habits can disrupt the impulse loop: waiting forty-eight hours before completing non-essential purchases, unsubscribing from promotional alerts, and auditing existing possessions before buying duplicates. Borrowing tools, swapping books, and repairing broken items restore a sense of resourcefulness that passive buying has steadily eroded.

Ultimately, a fulfilling life is measured by relationships, curiosity, and purpose — not by the volume of packages arriving at the front door. Stepping off the treadmill of endless accumulation frees up money, time, and attention for pursuits that genuinely enrich human experience.

By choosing enough over always more, individuals can reclaim their autonomy from relentless marketing and build a calmer, cleaner, and far more rewarding future.

— MARY VANAJA R.

THE QUIET POWER OF DAILY GRATITUDE

In an era defined by constant noise, rapid change, and relentless ambition, human attention is perpetually pulled toward what is missing. Modern culture thrives on comparison and perpetual dissatisfaction, conditioning individuals to measure their lives against an ever-receding horizon of future achievements. Amid this endless pursuit of more, a fundamental psychological and social anchor is frequently overlooked: the deliberate practice of gratitude. Often dismissed as a passive sentiment or a polite social reflex, genuine appreciation is, in reality, a disciplined habit that sharpens perspective, strengthens human connection, and fortifies resilience.

At its core, gratitude is an act of conscious recognition. It requires pausing the forward momentum of daily life to acknowledge value in the present moment. Neurologically and psychologically, the human mind is wired with a negativity bias — an evolutionary mechanism designed to scan for threats, flaws, and scarcities. While useful for physical survival, this default setting leaves modern individuals chronically anxious and perpetually unfulfilled. Practicing gratitude acts as a deliberate counterweight to this bias. By intentionally cataloging what is stable, functional, and supportive in one's life, the mind recalibrates its baseline, shifting focus from perceived deficits to existing abundance.

Crucially, gratitude is not a denial of hardship or a demand for superficial optimism. Acknowledging what is good does not erase what is broken; rather, it provides the emotional steadiness required to endure difficulty without despair. When adversity



strikes, individuals who cultivate appreciation possess a broader mental frame. They are able to hold grief, frustration, or uncertainty alongside an awareness of enduring support systems, personal strengths, and quiet moments of grace. In this way, gratitude functions less as a shield against pain and more as a stabilizing force that prevents hardship from monopolizing the entirety of human experience.

Beyond its internal benefits, gratitude is the invisible architecture of healthy communities. Every functioning society relies on countless unseen contributions — from the labor that sustains daily infrastructure to the small, unrecorded kindnesses exchanged between strangers. When appreciation remains unspoken, the social fabric frays into transactional indifference. Expressing genuine thanks validates the dignity and effort of others, transforming routine interactions into moments of mutual recognition. In families, workplaces, and neighborhoods alike, a culture of appreciation fosters trust, lowers defensiveness, and encourages generosity to circulate freely.

Yet, despite its profound impact, gratitude remains surprisingly rare in practice because it demands humility. To be truly grateful is to admit that no one is entirely self-made, that every success, comfort, and milestone rests upon a foundation laid by others, by circumstance, and by shared human effort. In societies that glorify radical self-reliance, acknowledging dependence can feel uncomfortable. Embracing gratitude means trading the illusion of total control for a more honest, interconnected understanding of existence.

Cultivating this mindset does not require grand gestures or dramatic life changes. It begins in the margins of ordinary days: in the willingness to notice the warmth of a shared meal, the reliability of a quiet morning, or the patience of a listener. When practiced consistently, appreciation ceases to be an occasional emotion and becomes a lens through which the world is interpreted.

Ultimately, the measure of a fulfilling life is rarely found in the accumulation of possessions or accolades, which quickly lose their novelty. Meaning resides in the capacity to recognize and cherish what is already present. By reclaiming gratitude from the realm of mere etiquette and treating it as an essential daily discipline, individuals can build calmer minds, deeper relationships, and a more compassionate world.

— STEPHEN JOSHUA J.

DAILY PRAYER AND ITS QUIET POWER

In an era defined by constant connectivity and relentless urgency, the human mind is rarely granted a moment of true stillness. From the instant we wake until the moment we finally close our eyes, our attention is fractured by screens, schedules, and the quiet anxiety of an unfinished list. Amid this perpetual motion, the ancient practice of daily prayer is often dismissed as a relic of a slower age, something reserved for moments of acute crisis, grief, or formal obligation. Yet, cultivating the habit of praying every day is neither an escape from reality nor a passive ritual; rather, it is a profound discipline that anchors the spirit, sharpens moral clarity, and restores perspective in a fragmented world.



At its core, daily prayer is an exercise in intentionality. When practiced consistently, it carves out a deliberate boundary between the demands of the external world and the integrity of our inner lives. Unlike sporadic appeals made only when circumstances grow dire, a daily rhythm transforms prayer from a transactional plea into an ongoing conversation. It requires us to pause, step back from the noise, and examine our intentions, gratitudes, and shortcomings with honesty. In that quiet space, the clamor of daily pressures loses its tyranny, replaced by a steadier awareness of what genuinely matters.

Beyond its spiritual resonance, the habit of daily prayer offers measurable psychological and emotional ballast. Modern life encourages us to believe that every outcome rests entirely upon our own shoulders — a mindset that breeds chronic stress and exhaustion. Stepping aside each day to acknowledge a presence greater than oneself gently dismantles the illusion of total control.

By articulating fears, expressing gratitude for ordinary blessings, and surrendering anxieties that cannot be resolved through sheer willpower, an individual experiences a tangible release of mental tension. Over time, this daily practice builds emotional resilience, enabling us to meet adversity not with panic, but with composure.

Equally significant is the way regular prayer shapes our character and outward conduct. Habits, by definition, quietly sculpt who we become. When we commit a portion of every day to reflection, humility, and seeking wisdom, those qualities inevitably spill over into our interactions with others. It becomes far more difficult to harbor bitterness, act out of impulse, or treat neighbors with indifference when one begins or ends the day in earnest contemplation. Prayer softens the edges of the ego, reminding us of our shared vulnerability and deepening our capacity for empathy, patience, and forgiveness.

Establishing such a habit does not demand grand gestures, eloquent phrasing, or hours of uninterrupted solitude. Like any meaningful discipline, its strength lies in simplicity and consistency rather than intensity.

A few quiet minutes before the household stirs, a brief pause during a midday transition, or a moment of reflection before sleep is sufficient to begin. What matters most is showing up regularly, even on days when focus feels elusive or words seem inadequate. In fact, persisting through distraction is precisely what deepens the practice, teaching patience and steadfastness.

Ultimately, the value of daily prayer reveals itself not in dramatic overnight transformations, but in the gradual steadying of a life. Just as physical exercise strengthens the body incrementally through repetition, daily prayer fortifies the inner self against the erosion of cynicism and haste. In choosing to dedicate a small fraction of each day to stillness and reverence, we reclaim our attention, nurture our deepest values, and discover an enduring source of peace that no external circumstance can easily disturb.

— SUZI RAJAN

WHEN DIGITAL ESCAPES QUIETLY BECOME CAPTIVITY

It rarely begins with a crisis. For most people, video gaming enters daily life as a harmless reward: a quick distraction during a commute, a way to unwind after a demanding shift, or a bright screen that keeps a restless child occupied while dinner is prepared. Yet across households of every demographic, that innocent pastime is increasingly crossing an invisible threshold. What starts as leisure is quietly hardening into compulsion, trapping children, working adults, and retirees alike in a cycle that mimics chemical dependency.

To understand how a hobby transforms into an addiction, one must look at how modern games are engineered. Unlike the static board games or finite arcade challenges of previous decades, contemporary digital worlds are built around behavioral psychology. Developers employ variable reward schedules — the same unpredictable bursts of gratification that make slot machines so compelling. Every flashing badge, leveled-up character, and unlocked chest triggers a small surge of dopamine in the brain. Over time, the mind adapts to this constant stimulation, making ordinary offline activities like reading a book, holding a quiet conversation, or simply sitting with one's own thoughts feel unbearably slow and unrewarding.

For younger players, the vulnerability is developmental. Children and adolescents are still building the neural pathways responsible for impulse control and emotional regulation. When virtual worlds offer instant status, clear rules, and immediate validation, the messy unpredictability of the real world begins to lose its appeal. A teenager struggling with academic pressure or social anxiety quickly discovers that a glowing screen offers a reliable refuge where failure can simply be restarted. Gradually, outdoor play, face-to-face friendships, and sleep are sacrificed to maintain that digital sanctuary.

The misconception, however, is that this crisis belongs solely to the young. Working adults are falling into the exact same trap, albeit under the guise of stress relief. Exhausted by financial pressures, workplace demands, and household responsibilities, many adults turn to late-night gaming sessions to reclaim a sense of agency. Because the activity takes place quietly inside the home, it rarely raises the immediate alarm bells associated with substance abuse. Hours slip away unnoticed until chronic fatigue sets in, patience with family members wears thin, and professional performance begins to erode.

Even older adults are not immune. Following retirement or the loss of social circles, the isolation of aging leaves a painful void. Interactive games provide structure, routine, and the illusion of companionship. While gentle cognitive stimulation can be healthy, the line blurs when screen time replaces physical movement, community engagement, and genuine human connection.

Recognizing this silent epidemic requires shifting how society views digital entertainment. Gaming addiction does not always look like dramatic tantrums or complete withdrawal from life; more often, it looks like irritability when interrupted, a declining interest in former hobbies, and an inability to stop playing despite genuine intentions to log off.

Technology itself is not the villain, nor is moderation impossible. However, until families, educators, and individuals acknowledge that modern games are intentionally designed to capture and hold human attention at all costs, the line between recreation and dependency will continue to vanish.

True rest restores the mind and connects us to the world around us; when a pastime leaves us exhausted, isolated, and restless, it is no longer a game — it is a habit that demands to be broken.

— RICKY

Quick Read

TVK faces questions over Madurai murder

MADURAI

The alleged hacking death of Santhosh in Madurai has sparked criticism of the TVK government over law and order. A group of assailants reportedly broke into his house and killed him. A political leader questioned the government's response to violence, alleging that murders were repeatedly being dismissed as personal disputes. The criticism follows the November 8 killing of two minor boys, Veera Rahul and Vishal, near Samayapuram in Tiruchirappalli district. Police have arrested six suspects and are investigating a possible personal-enmity motive. During weapon recovery, one accused allegedly attacked police personnel and was shot in the knee. Further investigation continues.

5 cops injured in Delhi knife attack

NEW DELHI

Five police personnel were injured after a man allegedly attacked them with a knife inside Jama Masjid police station in Delhi on Monday. The accused, identified as Nabeel, had been summoned over a family dispute involving his mother and sister.Police said he attacked officers around 2.30 pm before fleeing and allegedly hijacking a two-wheeler. A team tracked him to Chitli Qabar, where he allegedly attacked personnel again. Police opened fire to bring him under control and arrested him.The injured officers were first taken to Sanjeevan Hospital and later referred to Sir Ganga Ram Hospital for further medical treatment.

Man hacked to death by 4 assailants in Telangana

PEDDAPALLI

A 30-year-old company employee was brutally hacked to death by four unidentified assailants in Godavarikhani, Peddapalli district, Telangana, in the early hours of Monday. The victim, identified as Atla Rajasekhar, was attacked around 2 am after receiving a phone call that allegedly lured him out of his house.According to the available information, the attackers stabbed him multiple times, leaving him dead at the scene. The incident was captured on CCTV cameras, which may assist investigators in identifying those involved.Police have registered a case and launched an investigation into the murder. Officials are working to establish the motive behind the attack and trace the four suspects. Further details are awaited as the investigation continues.

Modi hails 1 crore HPV vaccine milestone

India's HPV vaccination campaign has crossed one crore doses in under nine months, expanding protection against cervical cancer among girls.



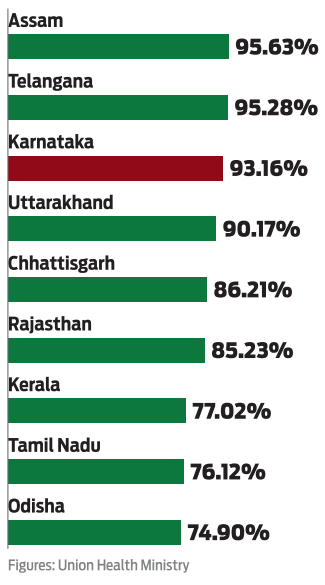
Prime Minister Narendra Modi

> *"Every dose is a step towards protecting girls from cervical cancer and ensuring a healthier future for them."*
>
> **NARENDRA MODI** Prime Minister

In focus

- → **1 crore+** HPV vaccine doses given
- → **87%** of the national target covered
- → **6 States** at 100% coverage
- → **Uttar Pradesh** leads with 29.33 lakh+ girls vaccinated

HPV vaccine coverage
States below 100 per cent of their target



Figures: Union Health Ministry

NEW DELHI

India has administered more than one crore doses under its National Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccination Campaign in less than nine months, marking a major milestone in the country's preventive healthcare efforts. Prime Minister Narendra Modi welcomed the achievement on Monday, highlighting the campaign's role in protecting adolescent girls against cervical cancer. In a post on X, he said, "Every dose is a step towards protecting girls from cervical cancer and ensuring a healthier future for them." He also appreciated the efforts of stakeholders involved in implementing the programme.

Launched in February 2026, the nationwide campaign provides free, safe and voluntary single-dose HPV vaccination to 14-year-old girls at government health facilities. Vaccination is administered with parental consent and aims to prevent HPV infections that can lead to cervical cancer. According to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the campaign has achieved nearly 87 per cent coverage of its identified annual target of approximately 1.2 crore girls, based on 2021 population estimates.

Union Health Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda also welcomed the milestone, crediting States, healthcare professionals, frontline workers and parents for the progress. He said the achievement reflected collective efforts to protect girls from cervical cancer. Six States — Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Mizoram, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar — have achieved 100 per cent coverage of their identified target populations. Twelve States have crossed 80 per cent coverage.

Assam recorded 95.63 per cent coverage, followed by Telangana at 95.28 per cent, Karnataka at 93.16 per cent and Uttarakhand at 90.17 per cent. Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan reported 86.21 per cent and 85.23 per cent, respectively. Kerala recorded 77.02 per cent, Tamil Nadu 76.12 per cent and Odisha 74.90 per cent.

In terms of the number of beneficiaries, Uttar Pradesh leads with more than 29.33 lakh girls vaccinated, followed by Bihar with over 13.70 lakh and Gujarat with more than 7.75 lakh. The ministry said the campaign's progress across States with different geographical and socioeconomic conditions demonstrated the reach of the vaccination initiative.

NCERT warns printers over poor textbook quality



Representational image

NCERT is examining textbook printing complaints and has promised strict action against printers responsible for producing poor-quality educational materials.

NEW DELHI

The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has taken serious note of concerns over the print quality of its textbooks and said the matter is being examined on priority. The council has assured strict action against printers found responsible for producing poor-quality textbooks.

In a statement, NCERT said, "Strict action will be initiated against any printer found responsible." It reiterated its commitment to providing clear, readable and student-friendly textbooks to students across the country.

The development comes amid wider concerns over educational standards and examination practices. Earlier, on November 4, the Delhi High Court sought responses from the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), NCERT and the Union government on a petition seeking permission for Class XII students to use calculators during board examinations.

A Division Bench comprising Acting Chief Justice Nitin Wasudeo Sambre and Justice Sanjay Sharma issued notices to the authorities and granted them six weeks to submit their responses. The petition was filed by Vishal Dua, a Pitampura resident, on behalf of himself and 10 other parents, through advocate Nitin Mangla.

The petition seeks permission for students to use basic, non-programmable calculators in the Class XII Accountancy examination. It also requests that the use of calculators in Mathematics examinations be examined by an expert body. The parents argued that lengthy manual calculations consume considerable examination time, leaving students with less time to demonstrate their understanding of concepts.

Thiruparankundram Hill declared drone red zone

MADURAI

Madurai City Police have declared Thiruparankundram Hill and its surrounding areas a red zone, prohibiting the operation of drones and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) on November 23 and 24 ahead of the Karthigai Deepam festival. The restriction has been imposed as part of security arrangements for the traditional lamp-lighting ceremony scheduled to take place atop the hill on November 24.

Madurai City Police Commissioner Rajendran issued the order under Rule 24 of the Drone Rules, 2016. The restricted zone covers the entire Thiruparankundram Hill, including its summit, the Girivalam pathways and the stretch between the hill's entrance arch and the 16-Pillar Mandapam. Areas between the Girivalam route and the foothills have also been included.



The Thiruparankundram temple

Police said drone operations would not be permitted in the designated areas without prior authorisation during the two-day period. Individuals requiring drone services for unavoidable reasons must obtain approval from the concerned authorities. The police have warned that violations of the restriction will invite legal action. The measures are intended to maintain law and order and regulate public movement during the festival.

The red zone

WHEN	Nov 23 and 24
WHERE	The hill, its summit and Girivalam pathways
BANNED	Drones and UAVs without prior authorisation
ORDER	Rule 24, Drone Rules, 2016

Supreme Court arrangement

The restrictions come amid an ongoing legal dispute over the lighting of the Karthigai Deepam at the Deepathoon, a stone pillar on Thiruparankundram Hill. The Supreme Court had earlier permitted a one-time arrangement for the ritual on November 24, subject to specified safeguards. The decision followed proceedings concerning the Madras High Court's directions on the issue.

Meanwhile, the Tamil Nadu government's Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department filed a petition before the Supreme Court seeking a review of the interim arrangement. A bench of Justices Aravind Kumar and Vipul M Pancholi clarified that the temporary permission did not amount to an endorsement of the Madras High Court's judgment. It said the validity of the January 6 judgment would be examined independently when the matter is heard in the second week of January 2027.

TN arranges special buses for Karthigai Deepam devotees

TIRUVANNAMALAI

The Tamil Nadu Transport Department has made special travel arrangements for devotees visiting Tiruvannamalai for the annual Karthigai Deepam festival, with more than 50 lakh people expected to attend the celebrations on Tuesday. Transport Minister Vijay Thamizhan Parthiban inspected the arrangements at the New Bus Stand on Monday to review passenger facilities and ensure smooth travel.

Following the inspection, the Minister said the department had made arrangements to provide safe and convenient transportation for devotees arriving from different districts of Tamil Nadu and neighbouring states. Special personnel wearing red caps will be stationed at the bus stand to guide passengers and assist them with travel-related queries.

Devotees and other passengers can approach these personnel for information about bus services and directions to their destinations. The Minister assured that sufficient arrangements had been made to manage passenger movement and prevent inconvenience during the festival. The department is focusing on facilitating the arrival and departure of the large number of visitors expected in the temple town.

Meanwhile, security arrangements have also been strengthened in Madurai ahead of the Karthigai Deepam ceremony at Thiruparankundram Hill. Madurai City Police Commissioner Rajendran has prohibited drone and unmanned aerial vehicle operations over the hill and surrounding areas on November 23 and 24.

Haryana CM orders timely completion of pending projects

CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini has directed officials to complete all pending development projects within the stipulated timeframe, while warning against negligence and irregularities in their execution. He issued the directions during a meeting of the Public Grievance Committee in Chandigarh on Sunday, where he reviewed the progress of various development works.

According to the Chief Minister's Office, Saini took a strict view of alleged irregularities and delays and instructed officials to ensure that incomplete projects were completed within the prescribed deadlines.



Haryana CM Nayab Singh Saini

Earlier in the day, Saini flagged off the Kalanwali Youth Marathon in Sirsa as part of the state government's 'Drugs-free Haryana' campaign. The event aimed to raise awareness, particularly among young people, about the harmful effects of substance abuse.

More than 1.4 lakh participants registered for the Kalanwali Youth Marathon

Addressing participants, Saini expressed confidence in the youth's ability to channel their energy towards positive goals. He reiterated that the government would work to prevent young people from falling into substance abuse. More than 1.4 lakh participants had registered for the marathon, including people below 18, those aged 18 to 45 and individuals above 60.

DELHI TRAFFIC ADVISORY: 7,000 WEDDING GUESTS, 3,500 VEHICLES

NEW DELHI

The Delhi Traffic Police has issued a traffic advisory for Monday, warning commuters of possible congestion across several major roads in South Delhi due to more than 19 scheduled wedding functions. Over 7,000 guests and approximately 3,500 additional vehicles are expected to attend the events, prompting authorities to deploy additional personnel to manage traffic movement.

According to the advisory, the wedding functions will take place along SSN Marg, also known as Bhati Mines Road, Bandh Road, Mandi Road and MG Road. These areas are expected to experience increased traffic throughout the day as guests and vehicles arrive at the venues. Police have identified several roads where congestion is likely and urged motorists to plan their journeys accordingly.



Representational image

The routes likely to be affected include SSN Marg, 100 Foota Road, Anuvrat Marg, Aurobindo Marg, Mandi Road, Jonapur Road, Mehrauli-Gurugram Road and Mehrauli-Mahipalpur Road. The traffic police have advised commuters to avoid these stretches wherever possible and follow instructions issued by traffic personnel.

Authorities have encouraged people to use public transport, particularly the Delhi Metro, to reduce travel delays and fuel consumption. Commuters have also been advised to plan their journeys in advance and keep additional travel time to avoid inconvenience. Wedding guests have been asked to park their vehicles only in designated parking areas and refrain from parking along roadsides.

GOVERNMENT WELFARE PLANS

West Bengal to introduce monthly electricity bills from 2027



West Bengal CM Suvendu Adhikari

> **"Every consumer should receive an electricity bill every month instead of once every three months."**
>
> **– Suvendu Adhikari** West Bengal CM

KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari on Monday announced that the state would introduce monthly electricity billing from January 2027, replacing the existing quarterly system. He also outlined plans for employment generation and the implementation of the Bharosa scheme, saying the government was working towards providing one lakh jobs and expanding financial assistance to eligible young people.

Addressing a press conference, Adhikari said applications for the Bharosa scheme would be accepted through the 'Aapnar Sarkar, Aapnar Pashe' initiative. Eligible young men and women who are not receiving any other allowance and meet the prescribed age and other conditions can apply. He clarified that applications would be forwarded to the Youth Welfare Department for verification and processing before being sent to the Finance Department for the release of funds.

The chief minister said the beneficiary list would be reviewed every month. Applicants who cross the age limit of 45 years or secure employment would be removed from the list, making room for other eligible candidates. The scheme is intended to provide financial assistance to young people who meet the government's conditions.

On employment, Adhikari said appointment letters had already been distributed to around 11,000 candidates in the police and cooperative sectors. The government is targeting one lakh jobs, with recruitment planned across different departments. He also announced that teacher recruitment for Classes 9 to 12 would include both fresh candidates and those who had previously worked as teachers.

The recruitment process for 1,331 Sub-Inspectors in the state police was nearing completion, he said. Additionally, 4,000 Kolkata Police constables are expected to receive appointment letters in January. Those securing jobs would also be removed from the Bharosa beneficiary list.

Regarding electricity consumers, Adhikari said the West Bengal State Electricity Distribution Company Limited (WBSEDCL) would conduct monthly meter readings and issue bills every month instead of once every three months. He said the decision addressed a demand raised by residents during the election campaign. The company's board had approved the proposal at a meeting held two days earlier. WBSEDCL would meet the additional expenses from its own funds without seeking extra financial assistance from the state government.

11,000	1 lakh	1,331
appointment letters given	jobs targeted	Sub-Inspectors being recruited

Quick Read



Police uncover liquor hidden beneath handpump

JHANSI

Police discovered an unusual method of selling illicit country liquor during a joint raid by the excise department and Sakrar police in Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh. A handpump at Badoura Chauraha dera was found connected to liquor barrels buried underground, allowing customers to draw alcohol by operating it.The excavation uncovered large quantities of liquor and illegal brewing units. Officials seized 340 litres of illicit liquor and destroyed 4,300 kg of lahan, used in alcohol production. Four cases were registered under the Excise Act, and a woman accused in the operation was arrested and sent to jail.

Teen suffers kidney damage after using skin cream

KOZHIKODE

A 17-year-old girl from Kerala reportedly developed kidney damage after using a skin-lightening cream allegedly containing excessive mercury. Police registered a complaint after laboratory tests reportedly found mercury levels of 1.25 per cent in the product, nearly 12,000 times the permissible limit.The girl had purchased the cream, marketed as F Tune, after seeing its promotion on Instagram. Mercury can damage the kidneys and nervous system and cause other serious health problems. Under India's Cosmetics Rules 2020, mercury in cosmetics other than eye products must not exceed one part per million when present unintentionally.

Cop suspended over alleged ₹13 lakh dowry demand

NEW DELHI

Delhi Police suspended Constable Kuldeep after his bride's family accused him of demanding a ₹13 lakh Maruti Brezza as dowry and calling off their wedding in Sonipat, Haryana. The wedding was scheduled to take place at Mamchand Vatika.Kuldeep, posted in the Outer North district, was suspended with immediate effect pending departmental proceedings. Police said they had taken serious note of the allegations and initiated action under prescribed rules. However, the constable denied making any dowry demand or cancelling the wedding.

West Bengal to be renamed 'Paschim Banga': CM

WEST BENGAL PLANS TO RENAME ITSELF PASCHIM BANGA, WITH ASSEMBLY APPROVAL SOUGHT ON DECEMBER 9.



West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari.

KOLKATA

The West Bengal government will introduce a proposal to rename the State as 'Paschim Banga' in the Legislative Assembly on December 9, Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari announced on Monday. The proposal seeks to ensure that the State is known by the same name in English as it is in Bengali. At present, 'Paschim Banga' is used in Bengali, while 'West Bengal' is the official English name. The proposed change would standardise the name across languages.

> **"The formation of West Bengal has a history dating back to June 20, 1947, and that history must be recognised."**
>
> — **Suvendu Adhikari,** Chief Minister, West Bengal

Speaking after a Cabinet meeting at the State Secretariat in Kolkata, Adhikari said the resolution would be placed before the Assembly for consideration. If passed, it will be forwarded to the Union Government for the required parliamentary and legal procedures. The Chief Minister said the name should be written exactly as 'Paschim Banga' in English as well.

"The formation of West Bengal has a history dating back to June 20, 1947, and that history must be recognised. Instead of 'West Bengal', the name will be 'Paschim Banga'," Adhikari said, explaining the rationale behind the proposed change.

The proposal marks another attempt to change the State's name. The issue has been discussed for several years, with the argument that 'West Bengal' does not reflect its Bengali name. However, the current government's proposal will have to move through the prescribed constitutional process before any official change can take effect.

CMC Vellore opens India's first human metabolic chamber

VELLORE

Christian Medical College (CMC), Vellore, has established India's first Human Metabolic Chamber in collaboration with the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research's (TIFR) ARUMDA programme. The facility aims to advance research into metabolism and its links with nutrition, diabetes, obesity and other health conditions. It was inaugurated on Monday by Punya Salila Srivastava, Secretary of the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

The airtight laboratory resembles a hotel room, equipped with a bed, desk and toilet. Volunteers will stay inside for 24 hours while researchers monitor their daily activities, including eating, sleeping, working and resting. Meals will be delivered through an airlock to maintain controlled conditions during experiments.

The chamber, also known as a whole-room indirect calorimeter, measures oxygen consumption and carbon dioxide output to calculate the energy used by the body during different activities. It will help scientists understand how the body switches between burning fat and carbohydrates during meals, exercise and sleep. Unlike conventional metabolic tests that generally last 20 to 30 minutes, the facility records changes throughout an entire day.

"This lets it detect small but important differences between individuals that shorter tests miss," said Dr Nihal Thomas, senior professor in CMC's Department of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism.

Researchers said the facility would generate India-specific evidence on metabolism, considering the country's diverse populations, diets and lifestyles. Indian populations remain under-represented in global metabolic research, making the facility significant for understanding local health challenges.

The chamber will support studies on obesity, diabetes, ageing, malnutrition and cancer care. It will also contribute to long-term research, including CMC's Vellore birth cohort study, which has followed children since 2010–12. A 2026 study found overweight and obesity nearly tripled among participants between seven and nine years of age.

The facility received funding from the Department of Atomic Energy and corporate social responsibility support from Hindustan Unilever Limited.



The Human Metabolic Chamber at CMC Vellore.

India's Human Metabolic Chamber at CMC Vellore will help scientists study energy use and its links to diabetes and obesity.

Punjab BJP forms poll committee for 2027

CHANDIGARH

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Punjab has constituted a state election committee to strengthen its preparations for the 2027 Assembly elections. State party chief Kewal Singh Dhillon announced the committee on Monday, saying it would help accelerate organisational activities and shape the party's strategy ahead of the polls.

The committee includes Dhillon, BJP national vice-president Manpreet Singh Badal, Rajya Sabha MP Tarun Chugh and several former state unit presidents. Those named include Ashwani Sharma, Sunil Jakhar, Avinash Rai Khanna, Manoranjan Kalia, Shwait Malik and Vijay Sampla. State general secretary (organisation) Manthri Srinivasulu has also been included, along with former Union ministers Preneet Kaur and Ravneet Singh Bittu.

Other members are state secretary Manjit Singh Manna, former minister Rana Gurmit Singh Sodhi, MLA Jangi Lal Mahajan and former MLA Dinesh Babbu. The party has also included Satish Poonia, its Punjab in-charge and a Member of Parliament, as a special invitee. State co-in-charges Virendra Sachdeva and Alka Gurjar have also been named special invitees to the committee.

Dhillon said the committee would play an important role in strengthening the BJP's election strategy, preparations and organisational work in the state. Its formation comes as political parties begin preparations for the next Assembly election, scheduled for 2027. The panel brings together elected representatives and leaders who have previously held positions in the state unit and the Union government.

The committee

- **Headed by:** state BJP chief Kewal Singh Dhillon
- **Former Union ministers:** Preneet Kaur, Ravneet Singh Bittu
- **Special invitees:** Satish Poonia, Virendra Sachdeva, Alka Gurjar
- **Target:** the 2027 Assembly elections

Andhra seeks stronger maritime ties with ASEAN nations



The ASEAN-India Maritime Conclave in Visakhapatnam on Monday.

VISAKHAPATNAM

Andhra Pradesh is seeking stronger maritime partnerships with Southeast Asian countries to expand cooperation in port connectivity, technology, clean energy and skill development, state minister Nara Lokesh said on Monday. Speaking at the inauguration of the ASEAN-India Maritime Conclave in Visakhapatnam, he said the state was ready to collaborate with ASEAN nations in smart ports, artificial intelligence, digital logistics, green shipping and maritime education.

Lokesh highlighted the historical links between India and Southeast Asia, noting that traders and scholars had exchanged goods, knowledge and culture through coastal routes for centuries. He referred to ancient ports such as Kalingapatnam and Machilipatnam, which played an important role in regional maritime trade.

Referring to national initiatives such as Sagarmala, Maritime India Vision 2030 and Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047, Lokesh said investments were being made to improve ports, shipbuilding, transportation and cargo-handling infrastructure.

He also highlighted the Union Cabinet's approval of a package worth approximately ₹70,000 crore to strengthen India's shipbuilding and maritime sectors. The package includes a ₹25,000 crore Maritime Development Fund. Lokesh noted that nearly 95 per cent of India's trade by volume moves through sea routes, making efficient ports and shipping infrastructure important for economic growth.

The minister said Andhra Pradesh's Maritime Policy aims to train 5,000 maritime professionals by 2028. The state plans to prepare industrial training institutes, Andhra University and other educational institutions to equip young people with skills in shipbuilding, marine engineering, logistics and maritime technology.

Vijay calls meeting of alliance MLAs on development

CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay was scheduled to meet legislators from his party and alliance partners on Monday in Chennai, in a consultative meeting expected to discuss development priorities across the state. The meeting was to include lawmakers from parties extending support to the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) government, including the Left parties, which have offered unconditional support.

The Left parties, despite offering unconditional support, were to join Congress and other allies in the consultation with the Chief Minister directly.

Sources said discussions were likely to focus on infrastructure projects and welfare measures in all Assembly constituencies. Each legislator had been asked to submit a memorandum to the Chief Minister outlining issues and requirements related to their respective constituencies. The submissions were expected to help the government review local needs and consider development measures.

Congress, Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK), Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (MDMK) and Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) legislators were also expected to participate. The participation of alliance partners made the consultation significant, as the government sought inputs from representatives across supporting parties.

The meeting comes days after the Tamil Nadu Assembly Secretariat declared the Kolathur constituency vacant following the death of sitting TVK MLA V S Babu on November 19. The development has brought the constituency into focus ahead of the next steps concerning its representation in the Assembly.



Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay.

Meeting in focus

- → Vijay's meeting with TVK and alliance MLAs
- → Focus on infrastructure development
- → Discussion on welfare schemes
- → MLAs submit constituency memorandums
- → Congress, Left and other allies take part

AAP questions Delhi govt's claim of 60% Yamuna cleanup

60%	18	2029-30
of the Yamuna clean, says Sirsa	months, AAP says, for that 60%	deadline for the whole river

NEW DELHI

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Delhi unit president Saurabh Bharadwaj on Monday questioned the state government's claim that 60 per cent of the Yamuna had been cleaned, challenging the proposed deadline of 2029 or 2030 for completing the work. He alleged that the timeline was intended to avoid accountability before the next Delhi Assembly elections.

Delhi Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa had claimed that 60 per cent of the river was clean and encouraged people to visit and witness the improvement. He also said the entire river would be cleaned by 2029 or 2030. Speaking at the launch of Uber's 'One Less Car' report in Delhi, Sirsa credited Chief Minister Rekha Gupta and support from the Centre over the past two years for the progress.

Responding to the minister, Bharadwaj questioned why the government needed several more years to complete the work. He argued that if 60 per cent of the river could be cleaned in 18 months, the remaining portion should be addressed within the next 12 months.

Sirsa said the cleaning operation had begun at one end of the river and was gradually progressing towards the other, explaining that the entire stretch could not be covered at once. He acknowledged that sewage entering the Yamuna through drains remained a major challenge.

Madhya Pradesh opens its first luminescence dating lab

BHOPAL

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav on Monday inaugurated the state's first Luminescence Dating Laboratory at Vigyan Bhawan in Bhopal. Named after renowned archaeologist and historian Dr Vishnu Shridhar Wakankar, the facility will help determine the age of archaeological materials dating back up to 10 lakh years.

The Chief Minister also inaugurated the Dr Vishnu Shridhar Wakankar Gallery and explored its exhibits. During the event, he released a coffee-table book titled Mahakal: The Master of Time. A Memorandum of Understanding was also signed between the Madhya Pradesh Council of Science and Technology and Dhanush Quantum Private Limited.

Explaining the laboratory's functioning, Yadav said it would use sunlight-based scientific techniques to estimate the age of archaeological materials that had not previously been exposed to light. He said the method would help researchers examine ancient materials with greater precision. According to the Chief Minister, the facility is the third of its kind in the country and marks an important development in advanced scientific testing.

> *"Even materials dating back 10 lakh years can be examined with considerable ease and precision to determine their age."*
>
> **MOHAN YADAV** Chief Minister, Madhya Pradesh

Yadav also highlighted the state's plans to establish a 100-acre Deep-Tech Research Park. He said concrete steps had been taken towards developing the facility, with the Science and Technology Department working to promote research and innovation.

RIVER CONSERVATION

Sabarimala bans dumping waste in Pamba river, fines of up to ₹5,000

SABARIMALA

The Sabarimala administration has imposed a strict ban on dumping used clothes, plastic and other waste in the Pamba River and its bathing ghats during the annual Mandala-Makaravilakku pilgrimage season. Violators will face on-the-spot fines of up to ₹5,000 under the new restrictions.

Additional District Magistrate Dileep K Kainikkara issued the prohibitory order on November 22 to prevent pollution of the river and surrounding bathing areas. Pilgrims are prohibited from discarding used clothes, textiles and personal belongings in the river, its tributaries or bathing ghats. Dumping solid and biodegradable waste along the riverbanks and in public places has also been prohibited.

The penalties will be imposed under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and the Kerala Panchayat Raj Act. Those who fail to pay the fine within 15 days may face further legal action, including prosecution.

The administration said the restrictions were necessary because the Pamba River serves as an important source of drinking water for lakhs of pilgrims and residents in Pamba, Nilakkal and Sannidhanam.

The order

₹5,000	ON-THE-SPOT FINE, AT MOST
15 days	TO PAY THE FINE
2 months	IN FORCE FROM NOV 22



Pilgrims at a bathing ghat on the Pamba river.

The Pamba Duty Magistrate, Pamba Police Special Officer and Secretary of the Ranni-Perunad Grama Panchayat have been authorised to enforce the order.

The panchayat secretary has been directed to deposit the collected fines into the local body's fund. The entire amount must be used exclusively for cleaning, waste management and river conservation activities in Sabarimala and Pamba. The prohibitory order will remain in force for two months from November 22.

Quick Read

Fertiliser subsidy may rise to Rs 2.5 lakh crore

NEW DELHI

India's fertiliser subsidy bill could climb to around Rs 2.5 lakh crore in 2026-27, significantly higher than the budgeted Rs 1.71 lakh crore as elevated global prices of raw materials and finished nutrients increase government support requirements, industry body Fertiliser Association of India (FAI) said on Monday. Addressing a press conference, FAI Chairman S. Sankarasubramanian said the subsidy outgo is likely to be about 46 per cent higher than the allocation provided in the Union Budget for the current fiscal year.

Sensex, Nifty tumble nearly 2% amid profit booking

MUMBAI

Indian equity benchmarks snapped a two-session winning streak on Monday, with the Sensex and Nifty posting sharp losses as heavy selling in metal, banking and financial stocks weighed on investor sentiment. The Sensex plunged 1,483.72 points, or 1.77 per cent, to close at 82,435.99, while the Nifty dropped 450.95 points, or 1.75 per cent, to settle at 25,349.65. The decline was led by metal and financial counters, with Tata Steel, Axis Bank and HDFC Bank emerging among the top laggards on the Nifty index. Selling pressure was also visible across the broader market. The Nifty MidCap 100 index fell 1.01 per cent, while the Nifty SmallCap 100 index declined 0.66 per cent.



Bangladesh's garment industry loses over $400 M

NEW DELHI

Bangladesh's garment industry has lost an estimated $428 million due to large-scale protests by workers demanding higher wages, the country's main manufacturers' association said. Nationwide protests since October have disrupted production at several of the more than 4,000 factories in the South Asian country, which is also the world's second-biggest garment exporter after China, said the report in Khaleej Times.
The intensity of the protests has forced the government-appointed wage board to announce a new minimum wage, which is expected next month, giving some respite to the beleaguered garments sector. Workers say their wages have failed to keep pace with rising costs of food, housing, transport and healthcare, demanding a minimum monthly wage of 30,000 taka ($240), which is more than twice the 12,500 taka that they currently get, the report states. Strikes, which in some cases have seen workers clash with police, have hit production, delayed shipments and undermined confidence among international buyers, the association said in a statement. "Actual losses could be much higher," it added, saying only 317 out of 600 factories impacted by unrest had been able to send data in time.

MODI SPOTLIGHTS INDIA'S CHANGING POVERTY LANDSCAPE

The PM shared FM Nirmala Sitharaman's article citing World Bank figures showing millions moving above poverty thresholds between 2011 and 2023.

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday highlighted India's efforts to reduce poverty, sharing an article by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman that outlined the country's progress over the past decade and its impact on millions of households.

In a post on X, Modi referred to Sitharaman's article, which examines how India's poverty reduction strategy has evolved from providing temporary relief to addressing structural barriers that contribute to deprivation.

"Through access to housing, healthcare, clean water, banking and entrepreneurship, she traces the progress made by crores of households and the growing economic participation of rural women," the Prime Minister said.

He also said India's fight against poverty was changing lives across the country, highlighting the importance of basic necessities and expanding livelihood opportunities.



POVERTY IN INDIA

57.7% below $4.20 a day, 2011	**16.1%** below $4.20 a day, 2023
27.1% extreme poverty, 2011	**2.6%** extreme poverty, 2023

In an essay titled "The Decade India Turned the Tide on Poverty", published on LinkedIn, Sitharaman referred to the World Bank's October 2026 Poverty and Equity Brief on India to support her assessment of the country's progress.

According to the figures cited in the article, nearly 50 crore Indians moved above poverty thresholds between 2011 and 2023.

The World Bank brief, using 2021 purchasing power parity, showed that the proportion of Indians living below the $4.20-a-day lower-middle-income poverty line declined from 57.7% to 16.1% during the period.

Extreme poverty, measured against the $3-a-day threshold, also declined from 27.1% to 2.6%.

The figures indicate a substantial decline in both poverty categories over the 12-year period, with the World Bank estimating that 496 million people moved above the lower-middle-income poverty line. The article also draws attention to the role of essential services, financial access and opportunities for entrepreneurship in improving household conditions.

THROUGH ACCESS TO

- housing
- healthcare
- clean water
- banking
- entrepreneurship

States shift to new GSDP base year

MUMBAI



The government is working to strengthen regional economic accounts by aligning state-level economic data with the revised national accounts framework, with most states having already adopted 2022-23 as the new base year for Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) estimates.

Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) Secretary Saurabh Garg announced the development on Monday while speaking at the Data Users Conference on the New Series of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Consumer Price Index (CPI) and Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

Garg said discussions were underway with state governments to ensure that all states transition to the revised base year over the coming months.

"Our focus in the coming period will be on regional accounts. We are working closely with state governments to shift the base year for GSDP to 2022-23.

Many states have already implemented it, while the remaining states will adopt it over the next few months," Garg said.

He also highlighted the complexity of revising the national accounts base year from 2011-12 to 2022-23, describing it as an exercise that took nearly two years to complete. Garg further noted that the first-quarter GDP estimates for FY27 had already been released under the new series.

Key updates

- **Old base year:** 2011-12 (national accounts)
- **New base year:** 2022-23
- **Q1 FY27:** GDP estimates released
- **Q2 FY27:** GDP data expected by the end of next month
- **CPI, IIP:** monthly releases continue under the new framework

India's new GDP series expected to reduce data discrepancies

MUMBAI

The revised Gross Domestic Product (GDP) series has significantly narrowed the gap between estimates calculated from the demand and supply sides of the economy, improving the reliability of economic data for policymaking, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Deputy Governor Poonam Gupta said on Monday.

Under the earlier GDP series, estimates derived from the demand and supply sides did not always match, resulting in a separate discrepancy component that could sometimes become large and volatile.

"In the earlier series, GDP estimates from the demand and supply sides did not always align. The resulting gap was reported separately as a discrepancy, and it could at times be large and volatile," Gupta said.



She explained that the revised framework introduces a supply-use table approach, enabling estimates from both sides of the economy to align more closely.

"The new series brings the two sides together through the supply-use table framework. As a result, nominal GDP estimates from both sides align much more closely," she added.

The revised series also incorporates a wider range of surveys and administrative datasets. It introduces double deflation for manufacturing and agriculture, a methodology widely recognised as an international best practice.

On the expenditure side, private consumption estimates now incorporate the latest Household Consumption Expenditure Survey.

> *"The improvements in the new series are expected to make estimates more stable across successive vintages, with smaller revisions. This, in turn, will support better-calibrated and more stable policy, particularly monetary policy."*
>
> **POONAM GUPTA**
> Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India

FSSAI suspends licences of five nutraceutical firms

NEW DELHI

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) on Monday said that it suspended the licences of five nutraceutical and health product manufacturers with immediate effect after uncovering serious food safety, hygiene and regulatory violations during inspections.

The food regulator has named Vedant Remedies, Lucid Healthcare, Ambico Ayurvedic Healthcare, Vitamedic Health Nutraceuticals and Adorreal Healthcare, against which action has been taken.

According to the regulator, inspections at Vedant Remedies revealed poor hygiene and pest-control practices, expired flavouring substances, and inadequate segregation of AYUSH-licensed and FSSAI-licensed ingredients, creating a risk of cross-contamination.

The regulator also found products being manufactured without a valid food licence. The unit secured a compliance score of just 12%.

At Lucid Healthcare, FSSAI reported deficiencies including poor hygiene conditions, ineffective pest control measures and inadequate separation between Ayurvedic and nutraceutical manufacturing activities.

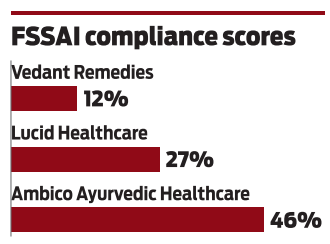
Food handlers were also found to lack mandatory hygiene training.

Ambico Ayurvedic Healthcare operated from unsanitary premises and stored expired materials, while mandatory food safety and testing records were absent, the regulator said. The company received a compliance score of 46%.

In the cases of Vitamedic Health Nutraceuticals and Adorreal Healthcare, FSSAI said the licensed premises were found to be non-operational.

Vitamedic was allegedly operating from a shifted location that was not reflected in its licence, while Adorreal's licensed premises were under construction and the current occupants denied any association with the company.

FSSAI compliance scores



Figures: FSSAI

India likely to see 1.38 cr white-collar jobs in 2027

NEW DELHI

India's white-collar hiring market recorded 3.30% year-on-year growth in 2026, with 1.38 crore jobs projected for 2027 and hiring expected to grow 8.16 per cent, a report said on Monday.

The report from the jobs platform foundit said hiring growth in 2026 was led by non-profit organisations, real estate, travel and tourism, and healthcare and pharmaceuticals, while IT roles recorded the strongest occupational growth at 20.28%.

Non-profit organisations posted the highest growth at 19.44%, followed by real estate at 16.09% and travel and tourism at 13.76%. In contrast, hiring declined in banking, financial services and insurance (BFSI) and logistics and transportation.



"Employers expanded their teams thoughtfully and placed a premium on experienced professionals. The strong demand for tech roles outside the IT sector shows how widely these skills are now needed. As hiring picks up in 2027, we expect growth to extend to more cities, more sectors and early-career professionals, who are set to see stronger opportunities," said Tarun Sinha, CEO, foundit.

The 2027 outlook points to stronger demand in consumer electronics (14.25%), retail (13.99%) and manufacturing (12.02%).

City-wise, Hyderabad led hiring growth at 8.51%, followed by Bengaluru, Mumbai and Kochi at 6.71%, 6.51% and 5.57%, respectively.

Moreover, Coimbatore is projected to lead hiring growth in 2027 at 12.52%, reversing its 1.86% decline in 2026, followed by Bengaluru (11.29%) and Hyderabad (10.33%).

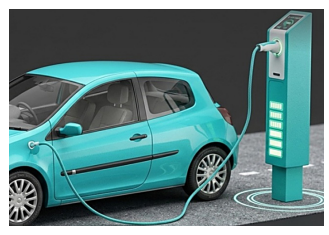
India EV sales surge, set for strong growth by 2040

NEW DELHI

India's passenger electric vehicle (EV) sales are projected to rise to nearly 620,800 vehicles and 10.2% of the total vehicle sales by 2030, according to a new report on Monday.

EV adoption will accelerate after that, with annual sales reaching nearly 5.2 million by 2040 under the BloombergNEF's 'Economic Transition Scenario', which models a transition led by market forces rather than policy interventions.

India's annual passenger EV sales are on track to surpass 305,000 units this year, up 42% from 2025, according to the report. Rapidly expanding model availability is boosting adoption in the segment, with EVs now accounting for 6.7% of all vehicles sold. Private purchases dominate passenger EV sales.



India's electric vehicle market is expanding rapidly owing to rising model choice and a supportive policy environment.

Annual sales in 2025 grew 17% to surpass 2.4 million units and have already reached 2.9 million in the first 10 months of 2026.

Electric two-wheeler sales received a boost following increases in fossil fuel prices implemented after the outbreak of the Iran war.

In the short term, favourable operating costs, cheaper new models, and public charging access will support adoption.

In the longer term, falling battery costs are set to drive mass-market EV uptake after 2030, but stronger, concerted policy efforts and greater investment will be needed for the road transport fleet to be aligned with a net-zero pathway by mid-century, said the report.

FESTIVE AUTO BOOM

INDIA'S FESTIVE AUTO SALES HIT RECORD HIGH

NEW DELHI

India's automobile retail market recorded its highest-ever sales during the 42-day festive period of 2026, driven by strong demand for two-wheelers, commercial vehicles and electric vehicles, according to data released by the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) on Monday.

Total vehicle retail sales increased 2.21 per cent year-on-year to 55,25,490 units, surpassing the previous festive season record. Compared with the 2024 festive period, overall sales registered a significant growth of 23.95%, indicating sustained consumer demand following the implementation of GST 2.0 reforms.



FADA President Sai Giridhar described the performance as a milestone for the automobile retail industry.

Two-wheelers, which account for the largest share of India's automobile market, recorded sales of 43.13 lakh units, registering growth of 3.67%. Commercial vehicle retail sales increased 7.13% to 1.56 lakh units.

> **"The 42-day festive season of 2026 will be remembered as the year Indian auto retail set a record on top of a record."**
>
> — **Sai Giridhar,** President, FADA

Three-wheeler sales grew 5.32 per cent, while tractor sales increased 2.24%. Construction equipment registrations witnessed a particularly sharp rise of 26.06%.

However, passenger vehicle retail sales declined 7.16% year-on-year to 7.49 lakh units. Despite the fall, the segment remained 16.43 per cent above its festive 2024 performance.

FADA noted that the festive season initially witnessed subdued demand during Navratri. However, sales momentum improved significantly during Dhanteras and Diwali, helping the market recover and close the period in positive territory.

Electric vehicles emerged as one of the strongest-performing segments.

Electric two-wheeler sales increased 61.1%, while electric passenger vehicle sales rose 72.9%. Electric commercial vehicle sales more than doubled, registering growth of 154.6%.

Festive auto retail

TOTAL RETAIL SALES	55,25,490 units
YEAR-ON-YEAR GROWTH	2.21%
TWO-WHEELERS	43.13 lakh units
PASSENGER VEHICLES	7.49 lakh units
EV SALES	5,09,667 units
EV RETAIL GROWTH	52.62%

Quick Read



China calls on Switzerland to help resolve EU trade rift

BEIJING

China has urged Switzerland to oppose Taiwan independence through concrete actions and play a constructive role in resolving economic and trade differences between Beijing and the European Union. Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi conveyed the message during a meeting with his Swiss counterpart on Monday, according to a statement released by China's foreign ministry. During the discussions, Wang called on Switzerland to maintain its position on the Taiwan issue and take practical steps opposing what Beijing describes as Taiwan independence. China considers Taiwan part of its territory and has consistently opposed moves that it views as supporting the island's separate political status.

Court halves jail term of lawmaker convicted of royal insult

BANGKOK

Thailand's Appeals Court on Monday halved a six-year jail sentence imposed on an opposition lawmaker over a social media post deemed to have insulted the country's powerful monarchy. Thailand has among the strictest lese majeste laws in the world, with jail terms of up to 15 years for each case of defaming, insulting or threatening the king, queen, heir apparent or regent. People's Party lawmaker Rukchanok Srinork, a former activist known locally as "Ice", was sentenced by a lower court in 2023 to six years in prison over an X post she made in 2021 and another that she shared, in violation of lese majeste and computer crimes laws.

South Korea president nominates new foreign minister

SEOUL

South Korea's president unveiled a surprise cabinet reshuffle on Monday, changing three key national security posts, as he nominated a new spy chief and foreign and unification ministers amid calls to better manage the alliance with Washington. Lee Jae Myung nominated former Justice Minister Kang Kum-sil as the new director of the National Intelligence Service (NIS), lining her up to be the country's first female spy chief. He named a career diplomat and current deputy national security adviser, Lim Woong-soon, to be the new foreign minister and former member of parliament Hong Ik-pyo as unification minister to lead Seoul's ties with North Korea.

Ukraine sinks Russian corvette in Libya

Ukraine says seven naval drones sank a Russian corvette in Benghazi, destroying a combat helicopter, as Kyiv intensifies attacks against Russian military-linked vessels operating beyond the battlefield.

KYIV

Ukraine has claimed responsibility for sinking a Russian naval corvette at a port in eastern Libya using seven naval drones, marking a significant escalation in its operations against Russian military assets beyond the immediate battlefield.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy confirmed the attack on Monday, saying the Russian corvette Mercury was destroyed during Sunday's operation. He added that a Russian Ka-27 combat helicopter was also eliminated in the strike.

"Despite all the enemy's attempts to counter the attack, the Russian corvette 'Mercury' was sunk," Zelenskiy said in a statement posted on Telegram. He added that Ukraine would continue operations in designated waters.



A satellite image of a port

The attack reportedly took place while the vessel was docked at the Benghazi naval base. Libya's eastern-based government confirmed that the corvette had been struck at the facility.

According to the Institute for the Study of War, the Russian vessel had remained in the area for several days under a cooperation agreement. It was reportedly refuelling and resupplying while escorting Russian cargo ships capable of transporting military supplies.

The development comes a day after Ukraine also targeted the Russian dry cargo ship MV Angara in the Gulf of Finland. Zelenskiy alleged that Russia had used the vessel to transport weapons.

Meanwhile, eastern Libya's Prime Minister Osama Hamad requested a United Nations investigation into suspicions that the boats involved in the attack had been launched from western Libya.

The attack and aftereffects

- → Ukraine claims it sank the Russian corvette Mercury in eastern Libya.
- → Seven naval drones were reportedly used in Sunday's operation.
- → A Russian Ka-27 combat helicopter was also destroyed, Zelenskiy says.
- → The vessel was docked at the Benghazi naval base.
- → Ukraine also targeted the Russian cargo ship MV Angara in the Gulf of Finland.
- → Eastern Libya's government seeks a UN investigation into alleged involvement of western Libya.

COP31 collapse triggers political blame game



A COP31 news conference in Antalya, Turkey

COP31 ended without a final agreement, triggering political criticism in Australia and disappointment among vulnerable Pacific island nations.

SYDNEY

The collapse of the COP31 climate negotiations in Turkey has triggered a political blame game, with Australian opposition leaders demanding the resignation of Energy Minister Chris Bowen, who chaired the negotiations.

Meanwhile, vulnerable Pacific island nations have expressed deep disappointment over the failure of countries to reach a collective agreement on tackling global warming.

For the first time since the 2009 Copenhagen climate summit, the United Nations climate conference ended without a final agreement. The breakdown followed objections from the European Union and other participants to a proposed deal that did not mention the role of fossil fuels in driving global warming. Saudi Arabia and other oil-producing nations reportedly opposed including such references.

Australian opposition leader Angus Taylor held Bowen responsible for the outcome, questioning his leadership despite the country's significant investment in hosting the summit.

"This energy minister's got to go because he's a complete and utter failure," Taylor told reporters on Monday. He also said Bowen should step down because he was responsible for the unsuccessful negotiations.

Bowen defended the outcome, attributing the failure to the strong and conflicting positions maintained by participating countries.

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese faced questions in parliament over whether he would dismiss Bowen following the summit's collapse. Australia had spent A$150 million on COP31, raising further questions from opposition members about the outcome.

Bangladesh vows arrest if Hasina returns



Sheikh Hasina

DHAKA

Bangladesh has warned that former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will be arrested and jailed if she returns from India, escalating political tensions ahead of her proposed return in December. The government is also seeking her extradition from New Delhi, insisting that India honour the existing extradition treaty between the two countries.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam said Hasina would face immediate arrest upon entering Bangladesh. Speaking in an interview, Obaed said the government expected India to hand her over as a convicted person so that the country's legal process could proceed.

"We would like India to honour the extradition treaty and return her as a convict, and the law will take its course," Obaed said. India's Ministry of External Affairs did not immediately respond to a request for comment. In April, India had said it was examining Bangladesh's extradition request.

Hasina has been living in India since August 2024, when she fled Bangladesh following widespread protests that ended her 15-year rule. She faces a death sentence in Bangladesh, while her Awami League party has been banned following the uprising. The United Nations has estimated that up to 1,400 people were killed during the unrest.

Her reported plans to return in December have further intensified the political situation. Hasina has sought a new passport and identity card ahead of her proposed return, but the Bangladeshi government has rejected her requests.

Texas Democrats move fast after poll win

TEXAS

After nearly three decades of electoral setbacks, Texas Democrats are preparing to push forward with an ambitious legislative agenda following their historic victories in the November 3 midterm elections. The party has won every statewide office for the first time since 1994 and secured control of the state House, although Republicans retained their majority in the Senate.

Governor-elect Gina Hinojosa, who is scheduled to take office in January, now faces the challenge of translating campaign promises into legislation. Her allies have warned Republican lawmakers against obstructing the incoming administration's economic proposals, arguing that voters have given Democrats a mandate for change.

State Democratic Senator Roland Gutierrez has already introduced legislation seeking to distribute $1,500 to every Texas household through an emergency fund. The proposal reflects one of Hinojosa's prominent campaign commitments. Gutierrez warned Republicans that blocking the measure could carry political consequences.

"They can do whatever they want," Gutierrez said, adding that Republicans would proceed at their own peril if they attempted to obstruct the agenda.

Even before the new Democratic majority officially takes effect, lawmakers have introduced more than 1,000 bills covering several policy areas. These include repealing the private school voucher programme, expanding Medicaid coverage, increasing the minimum wage and eliminating tax incentives for data centres.



A celebratory toast

However, the party's control of the House does not guarantee that its proposals will become law. Republicans continue to control the state Senate, creating a significant legislative hurdle for measures involving public spending, healthcare expansion and taxation.

$1,500 proposed for every Texas household

1,000+ bills introduced

Armenia proposes new constitution for peace

TBILISI

Armenia has published a draft proposal for a new constitution, marking a significant step towards securing a formal peace agreement with neighbouring Azerbaijan after decades of conflict between the two South Caucasus nations.

The draft, unveiled on Monday, seeks to address a major obstacle in the peace negotiations by rewriting the constitution's preamble and removing a reference that Azerbaijan has repeatedly opposed.

The development places fresh pressure on Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan to deliver a lasting peace agreement with Baku. Pashinyan secured another term in June following an election widely viewed as a referendum on his handling of the peace process.

Addressing the nation shortly after the draft was published, Pashinyan expressed confidence that the constitutional changes would pave the way for a permanent settlement.

"I stake my entire political, human and moral credibility on this issue and say that after the adoption of the new Constitution, we will not only sign and ratify a peace agreement with Azerbaijan, but will also have institutional, lasting and irreversible peace," he said.

Armenia and Azerbaijan have experienced intermittent conflict since the late 1980s, primarily over Nagorno-Karabakh, a mountainous region that remained under ethnic Armenian control for decades. Azerbaijan recaptured the territory through a military offensive in 2023.



A military vehicle passes a historic mosque

Armenia's proposed constitutional changes seek to remove a major obstacle to a formal peace agreement with Azerbaijan after decades of conflict.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

MONDAY
Armenia publishes its draft new constitution

THE PREAMBLE
Nagorno-Karabakh references removed

AZERBAIJAN
Had called the reference a major obstacle to a formal peace deal

LAST AUGUST
Both signed a US-backed peace declaration

NATO intelligence warns of Russian nuke satellite

FRANKFURT

NATO member states' intelligence agencies believe Russia is planning to launch a satellite carrying a nuclear weapon into space this year, raising fresh concerns over the militarisation of space and the security of global satellite networks. The assessment was reported on Monday by German media outlets, citing intelligence shared among Western countries.

According to broadcasters NDR and WDR and newspaper Sueddeutsche Zeitung, Western intelligence services, including Germany's foreign intelligence agency BND and its armed forces, have exchanged information about a Russian satellite named Sputnik-S. The satellite was reportedly assembled several years ago and is currently stationed in the Moscow region.



A spacecraft in orbit

The reports suggest that the satellite could form part of Russia's efforts to develop space-based nuclear capabilities. However, the specific operational details and intended deployment of the alleged weapon have not been independently confirmed.

Russia's embassy in Germany, the BND and NATO headquarters in Brussels did not immediately respond to requests for comment on the reported intelligence assessment.

Concerns about Russia's space weapons programme have been growing for several years. In 2024, Moscow rejected allegations by US officials that it was developing an anti-satellite weapon capable of triggering a nuclear explosion in space. Washington had raised concerns that such a system could threaten satellites operated by other countries.

US officials have also alleged that Russia has been developing a nuclear weapon designed to destroy large networks of satellites. One potential target identified in previous assessments was SpaceX's Starlink network, which has played an important role in providing internet connectivity to Ukrainian forces during the ongoing war with Russia.

IRAN-US TENSIONS

Iran vows to confront US naval blockade

DUBAI

Iran has warned that it will use all available means to confront the United States naval blockade on its oil exports, describing Washington's restrictions as military aggression and asserting its right to defend its economic interests.



Esmaeil Baghaei, the Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson, issued the warning during a weekly news conference on Monday, reiterating Tehran's opposition to the blockade imposed on Iranian oil shipments.

> **"We will definitely not tolerate it (the blockade) and we will use all our tools to confront this US aggression."**
> — **Esmaeil Baghaei,** Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson

The United States initially introduced the blockade on April 13 before lifting it in June following a draft understanding with Tehran. However, Washington restored the restrictions on July 14 after negotiations collapsed, further straining relations between the two countries.

Baghaei insisted that Iran would not accept the restrictions and maintained that the country had the right to respond using available measures.

The blockade has severely disrupted Iranian crude exports, with visible shipments declining to nearly zero in recent months.

However, maritime monitoring organisation TankerTrackers.com reported last week that a tanker was loading Iranian crude in the Gulf through a ship-to-ship transfer. The vessel could potentially become the first to successfully export Iranian oil since the blockade was reinstated.

Baghaei dismissed reports concerning Iranian ships loading oil as speculation.

Meanwhile, Tehran has maintained its position regarding the strategically important Strait of Hormuz, a crucial maritime passage for international energy shipments.

India clinch hockey series after unbeaten tour 1-0

India claimed the 2026 series in New Zealand, finishing unbeaten with one victory and two draws against the hosts.

CH NEWS, AUCKLAND

India clinched the 2026 India-New Zealand Century of Sporting Unity Series 1-0 after drawing 2-2 with the hosts in the final match at Lloyd Elsmore Hockey Stadium in Auckland on Sunday.

The Indian men's team completed its three-match tour unbeaten, recording one win and two draws. India began with a 3-2 victory on November 19, before the next two matches ended in 2-2 draws on November 21 and 22.

Captain Sanjay was India's leading scorer, finding the net in all three matches and finishing with three goals.

New Zealand took an early lead when Dylan Thomas scored in the ninth minute. India responded through Sanjay, who converted a penalty corner in the 16th minute.



WON 3-2 NOV 19

DREW 2-2 NOV 21

DREW 2-2 NOV 22

Karthi Selvam then scored a field goal two minutes later, putting India ahead 2-1.

The hosts fought back and levelled the score in the 55th minute through Benji Culhane. Neither team scored again, and the match ended 2-2, confirming India's series win.

In the opening match, Jonty Elmes put New Zealand ahead in the 25th minute. Uttam Singh equalised in the same minute. Shardanand Tiwari scored in the 38th minute and Sanjay added another in the 43rd to give India a 3-1 lead. Sam Hiha reduced the gap in the 55th minute.

The second match also finished 2-2. Angad Bir Singh scored for India in the 35th minute and Sanjay in the 57th. Dylan Thomas and Sam Hiha scored for New Zealand in the 25th and 56th minutes respectively.

The series marked 100 years of sporting ties between India and New Zealand, dating to 1926. An Indian Army hockey team featuring Major Dhyan Chand was the first Indian team to tour New Zealand on that historic tour.

1926–2026

A CENTURY OF SPORTING TIES

India and New Zealand marked 100 years of sporting relations in 2026. The connection dates back to 1926, when an Indian Army hockey team toured New Zealand. The team included legendary hockey player Major Dhyan Chand. The series celebrated this historic sporting relationship while giving both teams an opportunity to compete in international matches.

Perez gets Qatar penalty after Vegas collision



CH NEWS, LAS VEGAS

Sergio Perez's Las Vegas Grand Prix ended early after his Cadillac collided with Rafael Camara's Haas, sending both cars into the barriers.

The incident occurred near the halfway point of the race when Perez attempted to overtake Camara while approaching Turn 14. Perez made contact with the rear-left tyre of Camara's car, causing both drivers to crash into the barriers.

Camara managed to rejoin the race and finish, while Perez was forced to retire. The Safety Car was deployed following the collision.

Sergio Perez was handed a five-place grid penalty for Qatar after colliding with Rafael Camara during the Las Vegas Grand Prix.

After investigating the incident, the race stewards held Perez responsible and handed him a five-place grid penalty for the next event he participates in, the Qatar Grand Prix.

Speaking after the race, Perez said he had discussed the incident with Camara, who reportedly told him that he had not seen the Cadillac approaching.

Perez explained that he had moved alongside Camara on the straight after exiting Turn 12. He said that when Camara turned into the corner without appearing to notice his car, he tried to avoid contact, but it was too late.

Barcelona stage comeback to beat Villarreal 3-2

CH NEWS, BARCELONA

Barcelona produced an impressive second-half comeback to defeat Villarreal 3-2 in La Liga on Sunday, restoring their three-point lead at the top of the standings.

Villarreal made a strong start, scoring twice within the opening seven minutes. Tajon Buchanan opened the scoring in the fifth minute after capitalising on a misplaced pass by Fermín López. Two minutes later, Tani Oluwaseyi doubled the visitors' lead with a finish from close range.

Barcelona had an opportunity to reduce the deficit when Lamine Yamal won a penalty following a VAR review. However, his spot-kick struck the post and went wide.

The hosts returned with greater determination after the break and began their comeback in the 57th minute. Gerard Martín headed home from a cross by Pedri to make it 2-1.

Four minutes later, Fermín López equalised with a left-footed finish after receiving the ball from Yamal. Barcelona completed the turnaround in the 67th minute when Villarreal defender Pau Navarro accidentally turned Eric García's cross into his own net.

Villarreal tried to find an equaliser but could not break through Barcelona's defence. Their task became more difficult when Navarro received a second yellow card in stoppage time and was sent off.

HOW THE SCORE CHANGED

5'	Buchanan	0-1
7'	Oluwaseyi	0-2
57'	Gerard Martín	1-2
61'	Fermín López	2-2
67'	Navarro (own goal)	3-2

The victory gave Barcelona 36 points, keeping them three points ahead of Real Madrid in the league standings. The result also extended their winning run across all competitions to four matches.



Prasad slams selection after Wellington Test draw

BENGALURU

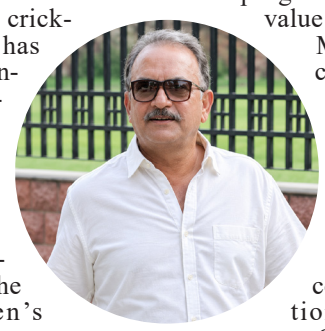
Former India pacer Venkatesh Prasad faulted team selection and a cautious approach after India drew the opening Wellington Test against New Zealand, warning it could hurt World Test Championship final hopes. Despite declaring at seven hundred twenty for nine and leaving New Zealand at one hundred nineteen for two entering day five, Shubman Gill's side could not bowl out the hosts, who ended on two hundred thirty nine for five.

India picked four fast bowlers while leaving out Ravindra Jadeja and Mohammad Siraj. Prasad compared the stalemate to a missed win against Sri Lanka earlier this year, blaming choices meant to take twenty wickets. Both teams next play in Christchurch starting November 27.

Madan Lal urges India to include Rishabh Pant in 2027 World Cup

CH NEWS, NEW DELHI

Former Indian cricketer Madan Lal has advised the national selection committee not to make the mistake of leaving wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant out of India's squad for the 2027 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup.



Madan Lal believes Pant deserves serious consideration for the upcoming tournament. He has urged the selectors to recognise the player's value and avoid overlooking him while planning India's team for the major international competition.

Pant is known for his attacking style of batting and ability to change the direction of a match. His aggressive approach and confidence at the crease make him an important option in the limited-overs format. His wicket-keeping skills also add value to the team.

Madan Lal's comments come as discussions continue over India's possible squad combination for the next ODI World Cup. With the tournament scheduled for 2027, the team management and selectors will have to assess players based on their performances, fitness and consistency.

Pant's place in the national side will depend on his performances and the selectors' plans in the coming months. However, Madan Lal's statement highlights the importance of giving the wicketkeeper-batter an opportunity to remain in contention.

India will aim to build a strong and balanced squad before the tournament. The selection process is expected to involve careful assessment of experienced players and emerging talent.



India held to draw after Mitchell, Phillips fightback

CH NEWS, WELLINGTON

India and New Zealand drew the opening Test at Wellington's Basin Reserve on Monday after Daryl Mitchell and Glenn Phillips resisted the visitors' bowling attack. New Zealand finished at 239/5 after 120 overs, with less than an hour remaining when the captains agreed to end the contest.

Mitchell remained unbeaten on 49 from 186 deliveries, while Phillips made 26 not out off 126 balls. Their partnership denied India the five wickets needed for victory. The visitors had reduced New Zealand to 119/2 at the start of the day and later dismissed Devon Conway for 65, Rachin Ravindra for 37 and Tom Blundell for 15.

India had declared their first innings at 720/9, led by KL Rahul's 136, Rishabh Pant's 128 and Shubman Gill's 98. Yashasvi Jaiswal scored 85, while Devdutt Padikkal and Dhruv Jurel contributed 80 and 78.

New Zealand were bowled out for 368, with Henry Nicholls scoring an unbeaten 175 and Phillips making 118. The pair added 216 runs for the sixth wicket after the hosts slipped to 70/5.

Jasprit Bumrah claimed four wickets for India, while Akash Deep took three. Anshul Kamboj picked up two and Prasidh Krishna one. India earned four points from the draw, missing the chance to collect a result in the World Test Championship race.

The result was only the second draw in 15 Tests at the Basin Reserve since 2015. India have now drawn two successive Tests, following their stalemate in Sri Lanka in August.

The teams meet in the second and final Test at Hagley Oval in Christchurch from November 27. India, who won the T20I series 3-2 and ODI series 3-1, will aim to end their tour with a Test victory.

FIRST TEST, WELLINGTON

India 720/9 declared
Rahul 136, Pant 128, Gill 98

New Zealand 368
Nicholls 175 not out, Phillips 118

New Zealand 239/5
Conway 65, Mitchell 49 not out

MATCH DRAWN



Arvind Menon raises concerns over Indian football's condition

CH NEWS, NEW DELHI

Uttar Pradesh Football Sangh president Arvind Menon has raised concerns about the present condition of Indian football, saying the sport is not in a good position and needs serious attention.

Menon, who has entered the race for the All India Football Federation (AIFF) president's post, believes Indian football requires better planning, stronger administration and greater focus on development.

He has stressed the need to improve football from the grassroots level and create better opportunities for young players. According to him, identifying and supporting talent at an early age is important for building a stronger national team.

Menon's concerns come at a time when Indian football is facing several challenges, including its performance at the international level and the need to strengthen domestic competitions.

He has also highlighted the importance of improving the country's football structure and providing proper support to players, coaches and clubs. Better training facilities, organised competitions and long-term development plans are necessary to improve the standard of the game.

With the AIFF presidential elections approaching, the future direction of Indian football has become an important topic of discussion. Several stakeholders have called for changes to improve the sport's administration and performance.

Menon's entry into the presidential race has added another voice to the discussions on the future of Indian football. His remarks underline the need for collective efforts to address existing problems and rebuild the sport.

Indian football requires better planning, stronger administration and greater focus on development

Chitradurga to host sports, cultural events for disabled

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

Sports and cultural competitions for persons with disabilities will be held at 10 am on November 24 at the Onake Obavva District Stadium in Chitradurga as part of the observance of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities 2026.

The event is being jointly organised by the District Legal Services Authority, District Administration, Zilla Panchayat, Department of Women and Child Development, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities and Senior Citizens, Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports, and various non-governmental organisations working in the field of disability.

Shameer P. Nandyal, Senior Civil Judge and Member Secretary of the District Legal Services Authority, will inaugurate the programme.

District Welfare Officer for Persons with Disabilities J. Vaishali said K.H. Vijayakumar, Deputy Director of the Department of Women and Child Development, would preside over the event.

The chief guests will include Sucheta M. Nelavagi, Assistant Director of the Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports; J.R. Dinesh, District Nodal Officer of the Department of Women and Child Development; C.S. Venkateshappa, District Sub-Project Coordinator of Samagra Shikshana Karnataka under the Department of School Education; and A.M. Veena, District Child Protection Officer.

The programme aims to provide persons with disabilities an opportunity to participate in sports and cultural activities.



THE EVENT

WHEN 10 am, November 24

WHERE Onake Obavva District Stadium, Chitradurga

OCCASION International Day of Persons with Disabilities 2026

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