CITY HILIGHTS

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The Truth Speaks

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P11 Keralam bill proposes 3-year jail for children abandoning parents

P12 India takes skilling journey to global stage



P13 Israel says strike killed Hamas security chief

P14 Sooryavanshi scripts triple record triumph



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DKS EXPLORES JAPAN'S WASTE-TO-ENERGY MODEL

The visit is part of Karnataka's efforts to study and adopt internationally established models in urban planning, infrastructure and environmental management.

BENGALURU

Karnataka Chief Minister D K Shivakumar and his delegation visited the Maishima Incineration Plant in Japan's Osaka on Tuesday to study waste-to-energy technology and explore sustainable ways of managing urban waste, officials said.

Located on Maishima Island, the facility has been operational since 2001 and can process up to 900 tonnes of municipal solid waste daily through two incinerators.

The plant has an installed power generation capacity of 32 MW. It converts municipal waste into electricity, meets its own energy needs and supplies surplus power to the grid, according to a statement from the CMO. It uses advanced combustion control mechanisms, continuous emissions monitoring and pollution control systems to ensure efficient waste processing while minimising environmental impact, the statement said.

The facility is also known for its distinctive architecture, officials said. "Designed by renowned Austrian artist Friedensreich Hundertwasser, the facility features a colourful façade, unconventional architectural forms and extensive greenery. The design brings together art, ecology and industrial infrastructure, demonstrating how essential urban facilities can also serve as spaces for environmental awareness," the CMO said.

The visit is part of Karnataka's efforts to study and adopt internationally established models in urban planning, infrastructure and environmental management, officials said. The state government hopes to draw lessons from such facilities to strengthen urban infrastructure, promote scientific and efficient waste disposal, explore waste-to-energy solutions and develop cleaner, more sustainable and liveable cities, they added.



Chief Minister DK Shivalumar at the Maishima Incineration Plant in Osaka on Tuesday.

CM visits Osaka's Maishima Incineration Plant

- Shivakumar and his delegation visited Osaka's Maishima Incineration Plant to study waste-to-energy technology.
- The plant, operational since 2001, processes up to 900 tonnes of municipal waste daily.
- It has a 32 MW power generation capacity, meeting its own energy needs and supplying surplus electricity to the grid.
- Advanced combustion controls, emissions monitoring and pollution-control systems minimise environmental impact.
- Karnataka aims to adopt global best practices in scientific waste disposal, urban infrastructure and sustainable city development.
- Shivakumar also travelled from Nagoya to Osaka on Japan's Shinkansen bullet train to study its transport network and connectivity.
- He interacted with members of the Kannada community at the station.

> There are valuable lessons here for Karnataka as we explore better ways to manage urban waste, strengthen our infrastructure and build cleaner, more sustainable cities.
>
> DK Shivakumar, Chief Minister

'There is so much we can learn from Japan'

Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Tuesday praised Japan's Shinkansen bullet train network after riding it from Tokyo to Nagoya during an official visit aimed at attracting investments to Karnataka. "Japan's bullet trains have been an incredible experience. Their speed, punctuality and cleanliness are truly impressive. The trains run with remarkable precision, while the well-equipped railway stations reflect the highest standards of modern public transport. There is so much we can learn from Japan, and we must work towards bringing the best of these technologies and infrastructure to our state and our country," he wrote on his X.

CM urges ASHAs to call off stir from Japan, but workers reject appeal

Shivakumar, who is on a visit to Japan, spoke to leaders of the protesting Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) through a video call while travelling on a bullet train. In a post on X, he said, "Our government always stands with ASHA workers. Today, while on a visit to Japan, I spoke via video call with the office-bearers of the ASHA Workers' Association. I assured them that their demands would be discussed during the upcoming Legislative Assembly session and that, following consultations with officials from the Finance Department, an appropriate decision would be taken." He further said, "ASHA workers are like sisters to me; it is our responsibility to respond to their pain and hardships. Our government is always with them in their efforts to fulfil their legitimate demands." He urged them to call off their protest. However, the protesters rejected the Chief Minister's appeal, insisting that they would continue their agitation until he personally visited Freedom Park and issued an order addressing their demands.

BJP-SAD patch-up 6 years after breakup in poll-bound Punjab

The two parties ruled Punjab together for 15 years, from 1997 to 2002 and again from 2007 to 2017.

NEW DELHI

Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), one of the BJP's oldest allies, on Tuesday rejoined the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) ahead of the 2027 Punjab Assembly elections, six years after the two parties parted ways over the contentious farm laws.

'Big brother' Akali Dal will have CM post: Shah

Announcing BJP's alliance with Shiromani Akali Dal for the upcoming Assembly elections in Punjab, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday said the chief minister post will go to the SAD as it would be the "big brother" in the alliance. He said the two parties would contest all 117 seats in Punjab.

Addressing a joint presser in New Delhi, Shah welcomed the Sukhbir Singh Badal-led party back into the NDA and said Prime Minister Narendra Modi had described the development by saying that the "NDA is now complete".

Shah described the Akali Dal as the BJP's "oldest ally" and said the relationship between the two parties went back to the Atal Bihari Vajpayee-LK Advani era. "Our relationship with Akali Dal has always been strong, our ties go back to Vajpayee-Advani era," he said.



"From today onwards, the Akali Dal will work in politics as an officially recognised ally of the NDA. As the entire country is celebrating Guru Parv, it is a matter of great joy for all NDA alliance partners that the Akali Dal, one of the NDA's oldest allies, is returning to the NDA once again… Prime Minister also spoke to Sukhbir Ji and the President with great joy over the phone. He expressed the sentiment that the NDA is now complete," Shah said.

The reunion comes six years after the SAD walked out of the NDA in 2020 over the three farm laws introduced by the Centre, which had triggered widespread protests by farmers.

Tie with BJP goes beyond electoral politics: Badal

SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal, who spoke at the meeting with Shah and Nabin on Tuesday, described the tie with the BJP as one that goes beyond electoral politics. "This is not just a political alliance. There is an emotional bond. As my late father used to say, Akali Dal-BJP is an inseparable, deeply bonded relationship," he said.

BJP-SAD REUNITE FOR 2027 BATTLE

- **BJP-SAD reunion:** Shiromani Akali Dal rejoined the NDA after a six-year break.
- **Reason for split:** SAD quit the NDA in 2020 over the Centre's three farm laws.
- **2027 elections:** BJP-SAD will contest all 117 Punjab Assembly seats together.
- **CM post:** Amit Shah hinted that the Chief Minister's post would go to SAD, the alliance's "big brother".
- **Modi's reaction:** PM Narendra Modi welcomed the reunion, saying the "NDA is now complete".
- **Alliance priorities:** Eradicating drugs and corruption, and strengthening nationalist forces in state.
- **Drug-free Punjab target:** Amit Shah promised to make Punjab completely drug-free by December 31, 2029.
- **Badal's message:** Sukhbir Singh Badal said the BJP-SAD alliance was based on an emotional bond, not merely electoral considerations.
- **Gurpurab connection:** The reunion comes on Gurpurab, the same occasion on which Modi announced the repeal of the farm laws in 2021.

'Rajiv Gandhi's security was removed to 'get him killed'

NEW DELHI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday said the Special Protection Guards security cover of his father Rajiv Gandhi, a former Prime Minister, was removed "so that he got killed" and the decision was "not just an accident" but "done on purpose" to create an atmosphere for the assassination.

Rajiv was assassinated by an LTTE suicide bomber on May 21, 1991 in the midst of Lok Sabha election campaign, an incident which had highlighted the security lapses as well as the decision of the VP Singh government in 1989 to withdraw SPG cover for the Congress.

Rahul's remarks came in a conversation, whose video was uploaded on social media, with his mother and former Congress president Sonia Gandhi and sister and party General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra. The trio were discussing Sonia's memoir 'Belonging: A Journey of Love', which hit the stands on November 10.



During the conversation, Sonia recalls -- as in her memoir -- the campaign in Bihar in 1991 in which Rahul had also accompanied Rajiv. Back in Delhi, she says, Rahul told her, "if we don't do something about papa's security, I know I'm going to come back for his funeral very soon."

Sonia says if you are an opposition leader visiting a state ruled by your opponent, they are not going to give special attention to security. "It was quite a horrible tour. Rahul was with his father throughout and he witnessed the rocks throwing and all the shouting and screaming at his father," she says.

Rahul remembers that the Bihar trip was the "final straw" and he was airing the concerns before also.

4 students killed as speeding truck rams school bus

LUCKNOW: At least four children were killed and 32 others, including 24 students, sustained injuries after a speeding truck rammed into a stationary school bus on the Lucknow-Agra Expressway in Uttar Pradesh's Kannauj on Tuesday morning, police said.

The accident occurred around 6 am near the Thathia area when the bus belonging to Kaushambi-based Oriental Public School was parked on the shoulder of the expressway to allow the children to use the toilet, police said.

The bus was carrying 50 people, including students returning from an excursion to the Taj Mahal, SP Vinod Kumar said. The truck hit the bus from behind, damaging its rear portion. The injured included eight school staff members. "Police personnel, Uttar Pradesh Expressways Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA) staff and commuters passing by rescued the children from the damaged bus," he added.

7 AP fishermen go missing off Odisha coast, search on

KAKINADA

Seven fishermen from Uppada in Kakinada district have gone missing after the motorised fishing boat they were travelling in lost contact near Paradip Port in Odisha.

The fishermen had ventured into the sea on November 4, and there has been no communication from the boat since November 19.

Indian Navy, Coast Guard and other maritime agencies are undertaking extensive search operations to trace the fishermen, who went missing after venturing into the Bay of Bengal, officials said on Tuesday. Search operations were launched in coordination with Coast Guard officials in Kakinada, Chennai and Odisha, they added.

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu spoke with officials to inquire about the missing fishing boat and the measures being taken to trace it. He directed officials to intensify search operations and provide regular updates to the families of the missing fishermen. The Kakinada District Fisheries Department also wrote to the Indian Coast Guard seeking assistance in tracing the boat.

Officials said the mobile phones of the missing fishermen and the boat's transponder were switched off. Efforts to trace the vessel through GPS have also failed. The Indian Coast Guard is conducting search operations along the Paradip coast with the help of ships and a helicopter.

The boat departed from Subbam Peta in Uppada mandal on November 4.

TVK govt defies SC order; Karthigai Deepam not lit on Thirupparankundram stone pillar

Chennai: In a move that led to protests from opposition and devotees, the Vijay-led TVK government in Tamil Nadu defied the Supreme Court order as the annual traditional Karthigai Deepam was on Tuesday lit only at its customary Uchipillayar mandapam at Thirupparankundram, and not at the stone pillar on the hill as directed by the top court.

As the festival flame shone brightly only at the usual place around 6 pm, members of the BJP and Hindu groups gathered at Thirupparankundram, opposing not lighting the lamp at the court-directed spot.

A temple-authorised team, escorted by police, lit the lamp.

'AANEDHAMA COULD HELP ADDRESS HUMAN-ELEPHANT CONFLICT IN K'TAKA'

BENGALURU: Forest-fringe villages in Karnataka could benefit from the introduction of Aanedhama, an Elephant Soft Release Centre, to address the growing human-elephant conflict, Minister Eshwar B. Khandre has said.

He told reporters after launching 6,342 village libraries at Vikasa Soudha on Tuesday that he had proposed the project when he was previously the Forest Minister. However, the Central government had rejected it, stating that such a facility could not be allowed within a tiger reserve.

He said the problem had increased partly because some elephants were born and raised in plantations. Moving such elephants to Aanedhama and releasing them in a controlled environment could help reduce human-elephant conflict.

BASAVA BOOK ROW

K'taka orders forfeiture of controversial 'Basava Mantapa' book

The Home Dept order cited concerns over public order, communal harmony.

BENGALURU

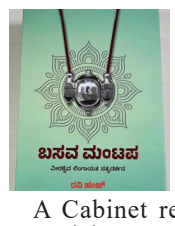
The Karnataka government has issued an order of forfeiture against the controversial book – 'Basava Mantapa' authored by NRI Ravi Hanj under section 98(1) of the Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Samhita.

The Home Department, in an order dated November 22, has ordered the seizure of both printed and digital copies of the book citing concerns over public order, communal harmony, and alleged derogatory remarks against 12th-century social reformer Basavanna.

The directive following the Cabinet decision on November 19, 2026, highlighted that the State police are directed to seize and forfeit both printed and digitalised copies of the book wherever found across India, and to prohibit its distribution.

The action was triggered by a series of developments following a police complaint filed by Aravind Jatti, president of Basava Samiti at the High Grounds police station, alleging the book and also the platform given to it by journalist Vishweshwar Bhat, were attempts to 'malign' Vishwaguru Basavanna, the Sharana tradition, and Lingayat identity. The representation alleged that the work portrays Basavanna as a thief and murderer, twisting historical accounts of Kalyana and the Kalyana Kranti.

The book - a compilation of the columns written by Ravi Hanj in 'Vishwavani' over the last two years, was launched on November 15. Following the complaint, an FIR was registered on November 19, 2026.





A Cabinet resolution was passed the same day and a subsequent letter from the DG & IGP (dated November 21) led to the conclusion that the publication risked hurting religious sentiments, misleading readers on historical facts, sparking protests, and disrupting public peace and harmony.

The controversy has drawn sharp reactions from community forums and political leaders. The Basava Samiti and the Akhila Bharatha Veerashaiva Lingayat Mahasabha—along with leaders across party lines, have condemned the book and staged protests in Bengaluru and other parts of Karnataka.

Hanj has maintained that his writing is grounded in historical sources and research, stating that critics reacted to short video clips rather than the full context, while also expressing regret if remarks caused hurt.

'Basava Mantapa' controversy – Key points

- Karnataka govt ordered seizure and forfeiture of Ravi Hanj's book Basava Mantapa.
- Action taken under Section 98(1) of BNSS.
- Book allegedly contains derogatory remarks about Basavanna.
- Complaint filed by Basava Samiti president Aravind Jatti.
- FIR registered on November 19, 2026.
- Govt cited threats to communal harmony and public order.
- Basava Samiti and Lingayat organisations staged protests.
- Author Ravi Hanj defended his writings as historically researched.
- Hanj approached Karnataka High Court seeking to quash the FIR.
- Controversy raises questions about freedom of expression and religious sentiments.

Court reserves order on Hanj's anticipatory bail plea

Bengaluru: The 56th City Civil and Sessions Court has reserved its order on writer Ravi Hanj's anticipatory bail plea in connection with the Basava Mantapa book controversy. Hanj approached the court on Tuesday seeking anticipatory bail after an FIR was registered over the book, raising the possibility of his arrest. After hearing arguments from both sides, the court reserved its order. Appearing for Hanj, advocate Arun Shyam argued that the articles included in the book had been published in a newspaper over a period of two years and no objections had been raised at the time.

Quick Read

Bomb threat targets Diljit concert in Bengaluru

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Bengaluru cybercrime police filed an FIR over a bomb threat email targeting singer Diljit Dosanjh's November 29 show at NICE grounds in Madavara. Sent on November 9 to the Hubballi-Dharwad civic commissioner, the email warned of a device blast at the venue and nearby Madavara Metro station, with a pro-Khalistan slogan at the end. It told visitors not to bring children, ride the metro, or touch left-behind phones. Bengaluru North CEN police registered the case under IT Act and BNS sections, while cyber teams trace the email account and IP address to find who sent it.

Court sets December hearing for bail

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The High Court will hear Pavitra Gowda's bail plea on December 4 in the Renukaswamy murder case after a trial court rejected her request. Her lawyer asked for urgent interim bail so she could attend her brother's wedding set for December 12 and 13. A bench led by Justice S. Vishwajith Shetty issued notice to Kamakshipalya police and put off the hearing. The case stems from a June 2024 murder in Bengaluru involving 17 accused, including actor Darshan, where earlier High Court bail was cancelled by the Supreme Court, leaving key accused back in custody.

Boyfriend held after woman falls from lodge

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Gangammanagudi police arrested Santhosh after 23-year-old Aishwarya died following a fall from a lodge window near Abbigere Circle on November 19. Initially treated as an unnatural death, the case became a murder probe after her father filed a complaint. Police said the two had been in a three-year relationship and argued over marriage delays and past threats involving private photos. After a fight on the third floor around 8 pm, Aishwarya fell onto an electric pole and later died in hospital despite treatment. Officers are investigating the exact events leading to the fatal fall.

BHADRA ELEPHANT ROW: Hariprasad urges patience

As elephant relocation sparks outrage, Mudigere MLA Nayana Motamma pauses her resignation pending high-level talks with Karnataka's leadership.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU



KPCC President B.K. Hariprasad speaks to reporters in Bengaluru.

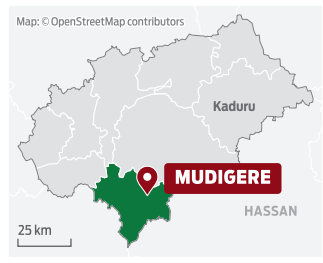
Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) President B.K. Hariprasad stated that resigning in haste is not the right approach to resolving the human-elephant conflict in Chikkamagaluru, confirming that Mudigere Congress MLA Nayana Motamma's resignation move has been put on hold pending high-level talks. Speaking to reporters in Bengaluru, Hariprasad assured that once Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar returns to the state capital, party leaders and ministers will hold a comprehensive meeting to forge a permanent solution to the crisis.

Hariprasad revealed that he had already discussed the volatile situation with Forest Minister Ramalinga Reddy and local legislators, while the Chief Minister had also personally spoken with Motamma. "I impressed upon them that instead of resigning in haste, we should all work together to resolve the issue. Consequently, the decision to resign has been set aside for now," the KPCC chief explained.

Lives lost in Malenadu

Defending Motamma's emotional outburst rather than treating it as mere political dissent, Hariprasad acknowledged that ground realities in the Malenadu region are genuinely alarming. Pointing out that nearly 20-22 residents in Chikkamagaluru district have lost their lives in wild elephant attacks, he noted that the Mudigere legislator was authentically voicing the pain, fear, and anger of her constituents. At the same time, he stressed that wildlife conservation must be balanced carefully with human safety, adding that concerned authorities have assured corrective measures so that matters do not escalate further.

The political turmoil erupted after the Forest Department initiated an operation to drive a herd of roughly 50-60 wild elephants from Belur taluk in neighboring Hassan district toward the Takkola Reserve Forest and Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary. Strongly objecting that the drive was launched unilaterally without consulting Chikkamagaluru MLAs, Motamma had visited the Vidhana Soudha on Monday carrying a detailed resignation letter addressed to Assembly Speaker G.S. Patil, returning only because the Speaker was unavailable. Following party intervention, the immediate crisis appears defused ahead of the Chief Minister's scheduled review.



Mudigere: Nayana Motamma's constituency in Chikkamagaluru district

> **"I impressed upon them that instead of resigning in haste, we should all work together to resolve the issue."**
>
> — **B.K. Hariprasad,** KPCC President

Plantation elephants need camps: Minister Khandre

CH NEWS, BENGALURU



Minister Eshwar B. Khandre

To tackle Karnataka's worsening human-elephant conflict, Minister Eshwar Khandre proposes dedicated elephant camps for plantation-born herds while awaiting the Chief Minister's high-level resolution meeting.

Karnataka Minister Eshwar B. Khandre stated that establishing dedicated 'Elephant Camps' or soft-release centers could serve as a viable long-term solution to the escalating human-elephant conflict affecting villages along the state's forest fringes. Addressing media representatives at Vikasa Soudha in Bengaluru, the Minister highlighted the urgent need to protect rural communities, coffee planters, and agricultural workers from recurring elephant intrusions across Malenadu and adjoining forest belts.

Recalling his earlier efforts to tackle the crisis, Khandre explained that he had originally conceived the proposal for a specialized elephant camp during his previous tenure as Forest Minister. However, the initiative hit a regulatory roadblock when the Central Government rejected the plan, citing statutory norms that prohibit setting up such facilities within the boundaries of a notified Tiger Reserve. Despite that earlier setback, he maintained that revisiting the concept outside restricted reserve zones remains crucial for sustainable wildlife management.

Analyzing why conflict incidents continue to intensify despite fencing and task forces, Khandre observed that the problem is significantly aggravated by a generation of wild elephants born and raised inside commercial coffee plantations rather than deep forests. Because these animals are accustomed to human settlements and plantation crops from birth, traditional scare tactics often fail to deter them. Relocating such plantation-habituated herds to structured elephant camps, he suggested, would safely remove them from human habitations while ensuring proper care and containment.

Responding to reporters' queries regarding the political controversy sparked by Mudigere MLA Nayana Motamma's resignation threat over elephant relocation disputes, Khandre struck a reassuring note. He stated that the Chief Minister is expected to return to the state capital shortly and has already indicated plans to convene a dedicated high-level meeting with legislators, forest officials, and stakeholders to hammer out a comprehensive, lasting resolution to the crisis.

JD(S) MLC Bhojegowda slams Motamma over resignation



S.L. Bhojegowda (left) and Nayana Motamma

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Janata Dal (Secular) MLC S.L. Bhojegowda launched a sharp attack on Mudigere Congress MLA Nayana Motamma over her resignation threat regarding the relocation of wild elephants to Chikkamagaluru's Bhadra forest region, accusing her of staging political theatrics instead of pressing her own party's government for concrete solutions. Speaking to reporters at the Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru, Bhojegowda questioned whether stepping down from office would bring any real relief to distressed farmers and villagers in Malenadu.

Mocking the ruling party legislator's stance, Bhojegowda pointed out that Motamma belongs to the party currently in power and holds direct access to the Chief Minister and the Forest Minister. "Your own party is in power, come forward, hold discussions, and speak up boldly about public issues. If you lack the strength to speak up, then go ahead and resign. But will the public good actually be served if you resign?" he asked sarcastically, urging lawmakers to stop staging dramas at the Speaker's office or attempting to frighten voters with empty threats.

Turning to the root causes of escalating human-wildlife conflict across the Western Ghats, the JD(S) leader urged the state government to adopt scientific, long-term habitat management rather than ad-hoc elephant drives. Explaining that intelligent herds enter human settlements primarily during dry months when food and water become scarce inside forests, he called for planting adequate fodder and bamboo inside reserve areas so elephants can live peacefully in their natural habitat.

BHOJEGOWDA'S PRESCRIPTION FOR MALENADU

- **Railway barricades:** Install them scientifically across vulnerable sanctuary boundaries, not haphazardly
- **Forest food security:** Ensure abundant fodder and water inside deep forest zones
- **Malenadu leadership:** A Forest Minister familiar with the region's hill ecology

He also demanded the comprehensive installation of sturdy railway barricades around sanctuary boundaries, insisting that forest officials properly plan and execute barrier alignments to prevent elephants from straying into villages.

Taking a swipe at the state leadership, Bhojegowda further criticized the appointment of a Forest Minister whom he claimed lacks ground-level familiarity with hilly forest regions, suggesting that someone well-versed in Malenadu's ecological realities should hold the portfolio to safeguard both residents and wildlife effectively.

Hospitality venues in Bengaluru face potential smoking ban

CH NEWS, BENGALURU



Health Minister U.T. Khader (left)

Karnataka's Health Department is actively considering a sweeping proposal to establish strict 'smoking-free zones' across Bengaluru, potentially prohibiting cigarette smoking inside hotels, pubs, bars, restaurants, and clubs. Modeled on stringent public health regulations enforced in global cities like London and New York, the recommendation has been formally submitted to the Health Department and the Chief Minister by an expert panel seeking to eliminate toxic second-hand smoke from shared hospitality spaces.

Addressing the proposal, Health Minister U.T. Khader stated that the government views protecting non-smokers from involuntary exposure to tobacco smoke as a pressing public health priority. He confirmed that a final policy decision will be taken shortly after holding detailed discussions with the Chief Minister.

Under existing tobacco control norms, larger eateries and bars are permitted to maintain enclosed Designated Smoking Areas (DSAs), while corporate campuses across the Information Technology and Biotechnology sectors also operate regulated smoking zones. However, public health advocates and oncologists argue that partial restrictions fail to prevent smoke from drifting into dining areas and endangering both patrons and hospitality staff. Prominent cancer specialist Dr. Vishal Rao, who has submitted technical recommendations supporting the ban, urged authorities to follow the London model by enforcing a complete prohibition inside public venues rather than allowing separate smoking rooms.

Smoking in hospitality venues

NOW	PROPOSED
Larger eateries and bars may keep enclosed smoking areas	A complete ban inside hotels, pubs, bars, restaurants and clubs

Medical experts highlight that passive smoking significantly elevates the risk of lung cancer, cardiovascular ailments, and respiratory illnesses among bystanders who never light a cigarette themselves. Alongside tighter enforcement of existing rules inside corporate tech parks, the proposed policy aims to prioritize collective community well-being over individual smoking habits in commercial establishments.

If approved by the state leadership, the measure would mark one of Bengaluru's strongest anti-tobacco interventions in recent years, reshaping nightlife and dining norms across Karnataka's capital. Hospitality owners, patrons, and public health groups now await the outcome of the upcoming deliberations between the Health Minister and the Chief Minister.

BARRICADES OVER RESIGNATIONS

Former MLA suggests barricades and sterilisation for elephants

CH NEWS, BENGALURU



M.P. Kumaraswamy

Former Mudigere MLA M.P. Kumaraswamy urged the Karnataka government to install sturdy railway barricades along forest fringes and relocate problematic wild elephants to the Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary to bring an end to the escalating human-elephant conflict in the Malenadu region. Addressing reporters at the Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru, the former legislator noted that residents and coffee growers across Malenadu have endured the threat of stray elephant herds for generations, with recent intrusions into estates causing severe crop destruction and widespread fear among farming families.

Outlining a comprehensive, multi-pronged action plan for permanent relief, Kumaraswamy recommended erecting physical railway-track barriers to block tuskers from entering villages and agricultural fields, alongside developing dedicated elephant corridors to allow safe wildlife movement. He also suggested scientifically controlling the growing elephant population through sterilization programs. Pointing out that the Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary spans thousands of acres of dense forest habitat, he backed shifting rogue herds there, rhetorically asking reporters whether it would ever be practical to release wild elephants in urban centers like Bengaluru or Kolar instead.

At the same time, Kumaraswamy cautioned forest officials that merely transporting animals into the sanctuary would not solve the crisis unless strong perimeter barricades are installed around Bhadra itself. Without proper fencing along the reserve's boundaries, he warned, relocated elephants could easily wander out into neighboring villages and cause fresh distress to local farmers.

Reacting to the ongoing political drama triggered by ruling Congress legislators threatening to resign over the elephant relocation controversy, Kumaraswamy remarked that such public dissent by party MLAs has caused deep embarrassment for the Chief Minister. However, echoing other political voices, he maintained that lawmakers stepping down from office will never solve complex ecological and administrative challenges, urging the state government to focus instead on executing durable, ground-level solutions to protect Malenadu's citizens and livelihoods.

Kumaraswamy's plan

- Railway-track barriers at forest fringes
- Dedicated elephant corridors
- Sterilization to control numbers
- Barricades around Bhadra itself

Beyond uniforms: Why every student needs NCC



CH NEWS, BENGALURU

As India celebrates the 79th Raising Day of the National Cadet Corps (NCC) on November 22, 2026, the occasion calls for looking beyond crisp uniforms and ceremonial parades. Founded in 1948, the NCC serves as a vital second line of defence, quietly molding young minds into confident, disciplined, and service-minded citizens. At a time when excessive screen time, violent online games, and social isolation challenge today's youth, structured cadet training offers a powerful, real-world alternative. Through physical drills, yoga, adventure camps, and community service, students gain teamwork, courage, and practical leadership that textbooks alone cannot teach. However, limited seats currently restrict this transformative experience to a lucky few. To build stronger human capital for a developed India, policymakers should introduce NCC as an optional, credit-based subject across schools and colleges, allowing many more young people to grow into capable, responsible citizens.

CH Observer

chstatenews@gmail.com

Across North and East Bengaluru, uncollected garbage and broken footpaths are turning busy commutes into hazardous obstacle courses. From overflowing waste spilling onto Oil Mill Road in Lingarajpuram and near Nagawara Metro Station in KG Halli, to banner-blocked bridges near Hennur Bande and open, trash-strewn pavements opposite Santhosh Hospital at Coles Park, civic neglect is compromising public hygiene and forcing pedestrians straight into oncoming traffic.

+91 80730 57594



KG Halli, Nagawara, near the metro station: garbage dumped right next to the main road. Clean-up efforts have failed in a few places in KG Halli, leaving the place with a very bad environment.



Lingarajpuram, oil mill road. Repeated cases of garbage dumping after cleanup has left the residents worried. Being in a place with a lot of people, such garbage issue has to be rectified. The worrying part is garbage being spilt all the way on to the road.



Hennur Bande, near Sparsh Hospital: what is supposed to be a footpath has become a spot to hoist banners, with the frames left behind. There is no proper footpath, and a lot of garbage is dumped on the bridge, leaving no place to walk and forcing pedestrians onto the road.



Coles Park, opposite Santhosh Hospital: the footpath is left broken, and debris mixed with garbage is left out in the open in a locality right next to a hospital, making the place very unhygienic. The shocking part is the footpath left open right next to the main road.

Mobile veterinary clinic treats 487 stray animals

Bringing free doorstep healthcare to street animals, East Bengaluru's mobile veterinary clinic treated 487 cases in five months.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Bengaluru East City Corporation's 'Mobile Veterinary Service' has received an overwhelming public response since its launch, delivering free doorstep medical care to 487 sick and injured community animals over a five-month period between July and November 22. Sharing monthly performance data, Municipal Commissioner D.S. Ramesh highlighted that the mobile veterinary ambulance unit has successfully bridged healthcare gaps by reaching stray and community animals directly in neighborhoods where fixed veterinary clinics are difficult to access.

What the clinic does

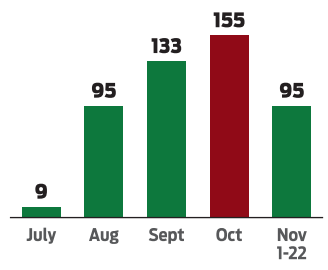
- Treats routine ailments and infections
- Dresses accident wounds and bite injuries
- Gives preventive vaccinations



A stray dog is treated on the street by the mobile veterinary team.

Designed to provide rapid, on-the-spot emergency assistance and routine treatment within municipal limits, the mobile clinic has witnessed steadily rising community participation month after month. According to official records, the unit attended to 9 cases in July during its initial rollout, surged to 95 cases in August, climbed to 133 in September, peaked at 155 cases in October, and recorded 95 cases during the first three weeks of November alone.

Cases treated each month



Figures: Bengaluru East City Corporation

Equipped to handle a wide spectrum of animal health needs, the mobile unit treats routine ailments, accident-related wounds, bite injuries, dermatological infections, and digestive or respiratory disorders. Veterinary teams aboard the ambulance also diagnose and manage complex conditions involving the nervous, musculoskeletal, cardiovascular, endocrine, urinary, and reproductive systems. Beyond curative treatments, the service administers preventive vaccinations and provides emergency ambulance transport for critically injured animals requiring specialized clinical intervention.

Residents and animal welfare volunteers across East Bengaluru have welcomed the initiative, noting that timely on-site treatment prevents minor injuries and infections from turning fatal on busy city streets. Reaffirming the civic body's commitment to animal welfare and public health, Commissioner D.S. Ramesh stated that the Bengaluru East City Corporation will continue expanding and strengthening its mobile veterinary infrastructure so that community animals receive compassionate, timely, and accessible healthcare throughout the year.

BWCC CHIEF ORDERS SANKEY TANK TASK FORCE



The inspection of Zone-2 in West Bengaluru.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Bengaluru West City Corporation Commissioner Shilpa Nag conducted an extensive division-wise inspection across the border areas of Zone-2, covering Vijayanagar, Govindarajanagar, and Malleshwara divisions to review civil infrastructure, solid waste management, and lake conservation efforts. Accompanied by Zone-2 Chief Engineer Jayashankar B.S. and divisional Executive Engineers, the Commissioner issued strict on-the-spot directives to resolve civic bottlenecks and improve public spaces.

In the Vijayanagar Division, Nag took serious note of untreated toilet wastewater (black water) being discharged into the stormwater drain (Rajakaluve) within Deepanjalinagar ward limits, ordering immediate enforcement action to stop the contamination. Later, visiting the giant national flagpole and children's play area at Chandra Layout, she instructed officials to organize evening community singing sessions of patriotic songs featuring local residents during the upcoming 'Bengaluru Jatre' festival.

Moving to the Govindarajanagar Division, the Commissioner expressed displeasure over accumulated waste outside the Magadi Road Metro Station and ordered teams to clear the garbage immediately and beautify the stretch. In the Malleshwara Division, she directed staff to maintain median greenery and repaint road dividers along C.V. Raman Road, while ordering ward marshals to intensify waste monitoring and eliminate garbage black spots. Reviewing pending infrastructure works at the Yeshvanthpur Railway Bridge and level crossing, she instructed civic engineers to coordinate closely with Railway Department officials to expedite land acquisition and boundary surveys.

Concluding her tour at Sankey Tank, Nag inspected the Ganesha idol immersion kalyani and held detailed consultations with an expert team from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) regarding water quality and lake health. After IISc scientists highlighted road damage along Sankey Bund Road caused by water seepage and invasive Paper Mulberry weeds, the Commissioner ordered the formation of a joint task force led by the Zone-2 Chief Engineer, alongside the Lakes Executive Engineer and Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture, to study the issue, clear the weeds, raise public awareness, and plant beneficial native trees.

Touring West Bengaluru's Zone-2, Commissioner Shilpa Nag ordered immediate sewage and garbage crackdowns, railway bridge coordination, and an IISc-backed task force for Sankey Tank

Namma Metro begins Blue Line trials

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Marking a major milestone toward easing chronic traffic gridlock along Bengaluru's Outer Ring Road (ORR), trial runs on Namma Metro's Blue Line commenced on Tuesday along the elevated stretch between Krishnarajapuram (KR Puram) and Doddanekkundi. Greater Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda formally flagged off and inspected the trial service at KR Puram, hailing the corridor as a lifeline for the ten to twelve lakh daily commuters and technology professionals who power Karnataka's IT exports and economy.

Tracing the project's trajectory, Byre Gowda noted that Phase 2A and Phase 2B linking Central Silk Board to KR Puram, Hebbal, and Kempegowda International Airport were conceptualized in 2016–17 and approved by the state cabinet in 2017, with civil construction beginning in 2020. Following initial trial movements between KR Puram and Mahadevapura late last month, testing has now expanded across four stations and will cover four additional stations next month. Signaling integration is slated for completion by January 2027, followed by statutory Commissioner of Metro Railway Safety (CMRS) inspections in February. Authorities aim to open the entire 19-kilometer, 13-station KR Puram–Central Silk Board corridor to the public within seven to eight months, targeting mid-2027.



Officials on the Blue Line's elevated stretch at the trial-run inspection.

Simultaneously, the minister directed Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) officials and contractors to accelerate ongoing work along the KR Puram-Hebbal stretch. Highlighting financial pressures caused by central approval delays over the past decade, he stressed that Namma Metro must strengthen operational self-sufficiency to remain sustainable as newer corridors launch.

Sharing updates on future expansion, Byre Gowda revealed that senior state officials recently held constructive talks in New Delhi seeking Prime Ministerial clearance for the proposed Red Line and an integrated double-decker flyover-cum-metro corridor from Sarjapur to Iblur Junction to tackle mounting traffic congestion within existing road widths. Separately, responding to criticism over the upcoming 'Bengaluru Jatre', the minister defended the cultural festival as an essential public initiative to preserve Bengaluru's art, heritage, and local traditions.

BDA Chief inspires rural students on visit



CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Proving that big dreams know no geographical boundaries, bright students from Saragur Taluk visited the Bangalore Development Authority headquarters for an unforgettable educational tour. More than just a sightseeing trip, the visit gave these young learners a rare, firsthand look at how public administration functions on the ground.

For most of the group, this marked their very first chance to interact closely with a senior IAS officer. Meeting BDA Commissioner Major P. Manivannan proved deeply inspiring, especially since the officer hails from a rural background himself. Seeing a leader who walked a path similar to theirs sparked fresh confidence and enthusiasm among the visiting students.

During a lively question-and-answer session, the children asked thoughtful questions about governance and daily administrative challenges. Major Manivannan urged them to grow into socially responsible citizens, noting that real leadership is built on empathy, compassion, and a sincere desire to serve others.

When a student asked how he handles pressure during tough situations, the Commissioner shared a simple three-step formula. First, stay calm and assess the situation clearly instead of panicking. Second, make timely, well-thought-out decisions. Third, avoid procrastination, as delaying choices only adds unnecessary stress. The enriching visit left the students inspired and ready to chase their own leadership dreams.

FINES FOR FILTH

BSCC PENALIZES WASTE AND PLASTIC VIOLATORS

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Cracking down on unscientific waste disposal and the use of banned single-use plastics, the Bengaluru South City Corporation imposed penalties totaling Rs 23,900 across multiple commercial establishments, street vendors, and individuals. Conducted under the leadership of Corporation Commissioner K.N. Ramesh as part of the ongoing 'Freedom from Waste' (Tyajyadinda Swatantrya) campaign initiated on the directions of Greater Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda, the enforcement drive targeted violations of source segregation and anti-littering norms across key southern neighborhoods.

During an inspection in the BTM division, health officials penalized 'Jolly Johnny Pub' on 80 Feet Road in Ejipura with a fine of Rs 10,000 after discovering that the establishment had failed to segregate its garbage into wet and dry categories. Following the penalty, inspectors educated the pub's management and staff on mandatory solid waste management protocols.

Simultaneously, civic teams organized a targeted awareness and enforcement drive along the footpaths of Sarjapur Main Road in Koramangala, falling under the BTM Assembly Constituency. Officials sensitized street vendors on maintaining cleanliness around their stalls, eliminating banned single-use plastic bags and cups, and placing three separate bins for wet, dry, and rejected waste. During the inspection, authorities booked 24 violation cases against non-compliant vendors and collected Rs 12,900 in spot fines. In a separate patrolling operation within Singasandra ward limits, officials penalized an individual Rs 1,000 for illegally dumping household garbage on the roadside near Naganathapura 1st Cross.

Supported by Junior Health Inspectors and municipal staff, the civic body reiterated strict guidelines requiring all residents, eateries, and vendors to segregate waste at the source and hand it over exclusively to designated collection vehicles. Commissioner K.N. Ramesh warned that zero-tolerance inspections will continue across Bengaluru South without leniency, adding that habitual offenders who compromise public sanitation will face hefty fines alongside strict legal action.

Rs 23,900 in fines

10,000	PUB, EJIPURA
12,900	24 VENDOR CASES
1,000	ROADSIDE DUMPING

Waste phone-in: BNCC resolves 70 of 74 complaints



The solid waste phone-in at the North City Corporation.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Bengaluru North City Corporation (BNCC) held its seventh dedicated phone-in programme focused exclusively on solid waste management, receiving seven calls from residents and registering four formal complaints for immediate field resolution. Conducted under the guidance of BNCC Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar, the interactive session aims to establish direct accountability between citizens and civic officials to eliminate garbage black spots and improve neighborhood sanitation across northern Bengaluru.

Of the four grievances logged during Tuesday's morning session, two pertained to illegal garbage dumping in public spaces, one involved waste disposal on a vacant plot, and one flagged the non-arrival of a scheduled garbage collection vehicle. All four cases were immediately assigned to concerned divisional engineers and health officers for prompt clearance and follow-up action.

According to official figures released by the civic body, the specialized solid waste phone-in initiative has recorded strong resolution rates since its launch on October 13. Across seven weekly sessions held so far, officials have received 81 citizen calls and formally registered 74 complaints, of which 70 have already been completely resolved. Only the four fresh complaints logged on Tuesday remain pending, with zero cases languishing in reopened or unresolved long-term categories.

The waste phone-in

WHEN	Every Tuesday, 7.30-9.30 am
REPORT	Missed vehicles, irregular sweeping, illegal dumping
SO FAR	81 calls, 74 complaints, 70 resolved
ALSO	General phone-in every Friday

To sustain cleaner streets beyond reactive grievance redressal, the Bengaluru North City Corporation is simultaneously rolling out block-wise micro-planning across all seven administrative divisions. This structured operational framework prioritizes daily door-to-door garbage collection, optimized route mapping for auto tippers, clear street assignments for pourakarmikas, and strict compliance monitoring of Bulk Waste Generators (BWGs).

The dedicated solid waste phone-in programme takes place every Tuesday between 7.30 am and 9.30 am, allowing residents to report missed collection vehicles, irregular sweeping, or illegal dumping directly to authorities. Additionally, Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar hosts a broader weekly phone-in every Friday to address general civic and infrastructure issues, with the Corporation urging residents to utilize both platforms actively to help keep Bengaluru clean.

Quick Read

Prison hospital stay ends for scam accused

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Basavaraj Kannale, a key figure in the KPSC job scam, is accused of running fresh tricks while behind bars. After telling a court about bad knee pain, he got a 48-hour care order and entered a hospital on that basis. Prison staff later gave wrong updates saying he was getting treated there. Once DGP Alok Kumar ordered his discharge, officials sent him back to jail.

Neighbor row sparks fresh case against YouTuber

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Another police case has been filed against YouTuber Amuku Dumuku Manja, also known as Manjunath, after a quarrel with his next-door neighbor in Bengaluru. Earlier tied to a pub row, Manjunath now faces a complaint from neighbor Vikram at the Yeshwantpur police station. Trouble started over someone named Sidda linked to Manjunath, turning harsh words between the two families into a physical fight. Manjunath has also filed a counter complaint against Vikram at the same station, leaving both sides named in cross cases as local police look into what happened.

Pollution rises across Karnataka cities: Report

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Air quality levels are shifting across Karnataka, with Bengaluru showing a reading of 117 in the poor range and pockets like Silk Board and BTM Layout seeing higher dust. Belagavi at 138, Ballari at 126, and Mangaluru at 124 are facing poor air, while Mysuru at 84 remains safer. Other hubs such as Hubballi, Udupi, Davanagere, Kalaburagi, and Shivamogga also report elevated readings. Children, older adults, and people with breathing trouble should limit heavy outdoor activity, wear an N95 mask when needed, and check daily air updates.

HC advises state to amend excise rules

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Karnataka High Court has urged the state government to clarify rules governing the transfer of liquor licenses to legal heirs following a holder's death. Justice Lalitha Kanneganti noted that current guidelines under Rule 17A lack clear provisions for handling competing family claims, especially when one side relies on a will and another claims standard succession. Because excise officers cannot verify disputed wills, families are routinely forced into lengthy civil battles. The court warned that under recent amendments allowing expired licenses to be auctioned, disputed permits could disappear before a civil court delivers its final verdict. Directing the Finance Department to review the rules, the court ruled on a Marathahalli license dispute between late licensee V. Premamma's nephew and her brother's family. Clarifying these rules will prevent unnecessary legal delays while protecting public revenue.

Notice refused, HDK takes issue to DGP

High drama erupted at Kumaraswamy's doorstep as he scolded cyber police, refusing their notice over leaked bribery chats.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

High drama unfolded outside Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy's residence when Hassan Cyber Crime Police arrived to serve an official notice in connection with the ongoing Hassan Deputy Commissioner's office bribery WhatsApp chat controversy. Instead of accepting the summons, the senior JD(S) leader severely reprimanded the visiting officers and sent them back empty-handed.

The notice, prepared by the Cyber Command Center seeking clarifications regarding the purported WhatsApp screenshots made public earlier this month, followed complaints lodged after Kumaraswamy accused the Hassan district administration of large-scale corruption. On November 8, Kumaraswamy had released alleged chat exchanges involving Deputy Commissioner K.S. Latha Kumari's office, demanding an impartial inquiry into claims of illegal payments. Both Latha Kumari and her personal assistant strongly rejected the messages as fabricated and AI-generated, prompting police action to trace the source of the viral screenshots.


Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy

What was HDK's allegation?

Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy has kicked up a political storm by accusing Hassan Deputy Commissioner K.S. Latha Kumari of serious corruption. Backing his claims with screenshots of WhatsApp chats linked to her personal assistant, Shashikiran, Kumaraswamy alleged that officials demanded Rs 60 lakh bribe to clear three stone crusher permits and land conversion files in Sakaleshapura. Based on the same messages, he further claimed that Rs 75 lakh was paid to District In-charge Minister Shivalinge Gowda to protect Latha Kumari from a transfer. Rejecting the accusations, the Deputy Commissioner has approached the cyber police seeking a formal probe into the leaked chats.

When Hassan Cyber Police personnel reached his doorstep on Tuesday afternoon to hand over the clarification notice, Kumaraswamy expressed sharp anger over the move. Questioning the police department's impartiality, he asked officers whether they had registered cases and issued notices against every political figure who has ever raised corruption allegations in public. Asserting that he had merely fulfilled his democratic duty by speaking out on public issues, he flatly declined to receive the document.

Immediately after turning the team away, Kumaraswamy telephoned State Director General of Police M.A. Saleem to register his strong objection over officers arriving at his home with a notice. While he did not issue a formal media statement in Bengaluru regarding the episode, Kumaraswamy subsequently departed for New Delhi to attend a Union Cabinet meeting. Political observers expect him to address the confrontation and respond to the cyber police move from the national capital, deepening an already heated clash between the Union Minister and the Karnataka administration.

CM's assurances rejected: ASHA protest intensifies


ASHA workers at their protest at Freedom Park in Bengaluru

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The round-the-clock indefinite protest by Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) workers at Bengaluru's Freedom Park entered its eighth consecutive day on Tuesday, with thousands of women from across Karnataka refusing to budge despite a fresh appeal from Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar. Spearheaded by the Karnataka State United ASHA Workers' Association, the agitation continues to gain momentum as demonstrators demand a fixed monthly honorarium of Rs 15,000, maternity leave, retirement benefits, and the release of pending incentives.

Rejecting Chief Minister Shivakumar's video appeal from Japan, protesting ASHA workers enter day eight at Freedom Park, demanding his physical presence and written orders.

Addressing union leaders via video call from Japan, where he is currently on an official visit, Chief Minister Shivakumar requested additional time to craft a permanent solution and assured them that their demands would be thoroughly discussed during the upcoming Belagavi legislative session. However, protesting leaders firmly rejected his plea, declaring they will not vacate the venue until the Chief Minister visits Freedom Park in person and issues a formal government order fulfilling their promises.

Solidarity for the agitating health volunteers swelled as several labor unions and political voices joined the protest site. Umamani, General Secretary of the Independent Association of Anganwadi Workers and Assistants, extended full backing, stating that ASHA workers, Anganwadi staff, and mid-day meal cooks belong to the same working-women community and cannot be divided by government tactics.

What the ASHAs want

- → A fixed honorarium of Rs 15,000 a month
- → Maternity leave
- → Retirement benefits
- → Release of pending incentives

Aam Aadmi Party State President Mukhyamantri Chandru also visited the venue and slammed the administration's spending priorities. Questioning why the state claims a fund crunch when it can allocate Rs 20 crore for the Bengaluru Habba festival, hundreds of crores for Guarantee Implementation Committees, and thousands of crores for buses and corporations, he reminded leaders of former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's earlier assurance of Rs 10,000 honorarium. Meanwhile, advocate Jagannatha Gowda of Kempegowda Yuvavahini Sangha and union leader Umesh Avargere recalled how ASHA workers risked their lives during the COVID-19 pandemic and urged authorities to resolve their hardships immediately on humanitarian grounds.

Karnataka ZP, TP polls in January: Khandre

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Eshwar B. Khandre on Tuesday announced that the Karnataka government has officially published the final reservation notification for 4,681 rural local body constituencies, paving the way for Zilla Panchayat (ZP) and Taluk Panchayat (TP) elections to be held in January. Addressing media representatives in Bengaluru, Khandre stated that the final gazette notification was issued on Monday after officials carefully examined and disposed of more than 2,900 public objections in accordance with statutory rules. The finalized reservation roster covers 1,101 Zilla Panchayat constituencies spread across Karnataka's 30 districts and 3,580 member seats across 234 Taluk Panchayats.


Minister Eshwar B. Khandre (centre)

Explaining the prolonged delay in holding grassroots polls since the previous elected terms expired back in 2022, the Minister pointed to both earlier inaction by the previous administration and mandatory administrative restructuring. He noted that several Gram Panchayats were upgraded, while numerous rural pockets were merged into the jurisdiction of Town Municipal Councils, City Municipal Councils, and Municipal Corporations. Consequently, a thorough delimitation and redrawing of constituency boundaries became inevitable before reservations could be fixed.

Confirming that all final reservation lists have been uploaded for public access on the state's official e-Rajyapatra portal (erajyapatra.karnataka.gov.in), Khandre emphasized that the state government has fulfilled its constitutional and administrative obligations. The ball is now in the court of the Karnataka State Election Commission to announce the formal polling schedule and conduct the elections, which are widely expected to take place in January.

Asserting that the ruling Congress party is fully prepared at the grassroots level to contest the rural local body polls, the Minister expressed confidence in strong public support. With the reservation hurdle finally cleared after four years of administrative rule, political parties across Karnataka are expected to accelerate candidate selection and village-level campaigning immediately.

4,681	1,101	3,580
rural constituencies	Zilla Panchayat seats	Taluk Panchayat seats

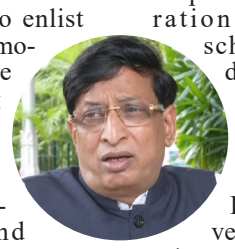
Bhojegowda accuses state of politicizing teachers

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Janata Dal (Secular) MLC S.L. Bhojegowda launched a sharp attack on the Karnataka government, alleging that school teachers across the state are being improperly deployed for organizational and crowd-mobilization work linked to the 'Bharat Jodo' initiative. Addressing media representatives at the Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru, the legislator, who represents the South-West Teachers' Constituency, claimed that the administration has earmarked Rs 1,000 crore for the Bharat Jodo organization without clarifying the source of those funds, while diverting educators away from classrooms to advance what he described as a Congress party recruitment drive.

Public funds and government personnel must never be blurred with partisan political mobilization, Bhojegowda insisted

Questioning the ethics and legality of assigning non-academic political tasks to government educators, Bhojegowda asked why teachers were being used to enlist party workers and mobilize crowds. He warned that pulling teachers away from their primary instructional duties undermines academic standards and threatens to push Karnataka's public education system into steady decline. Demanding immediate corrective action, he urged all Deputy Commissioners (DCs) across districts who have issued official orders deploying teachers for Bharat Jodo activities to revoke those directives without delay.



The allegation adds to long-standing friction between teachers' unions, opposition lawmakers, and the state administration over assigning non-teaching administrative or survey duties to school staff. Educators' representatives have repeatedly argued that frequent extracurricular deployments disrupt syllabus completion and exam preparation in government schools, particularly during crucial academic months.

Calling upon the Chief Minister and the School Education Department to intervene immediately, Bhojegowda insisted that public funds and government personnel must never be blurred with partisan political mobilization. He warned that if district authorities fail to withdraw the deployment orders promptly, teachers' representatives and opposition legislators would escalate the matter both inside the Legislature and through statewide protests to safeguard the dignity of the teaching profession and the future of schoolchildren.

'Green bioenergy in thermal plants'

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Karnataka State Bioenergy Development Board is accelerating efforts to reduce coal use and protect the environment by blending biomass pellets into coal-based thermal power plants. Board Chairman S.E. Sudheendra recently met Union Minister for Coal and Mines G. Kishan Reddy to discuss Karnataka's vast potential in supporting this national green initiative.

Under a Ministry of Power policy, thermal plants outside the National Capital Region must blend at least five percent biomass pellets, including charcoal made from municipal waste. Sudheendra emphasized that merging agriculture with energy production will curb pollution, lower greenhouse gas emissions, and boost national energy security while offering scientific ways to manage crop waste.

With roughly 1.5 crore metric tonnes of biomass available annually, Karnataka is well-positioned to lead the country in bio-pellet and briquette manufacturing. The board plans to build an integrated supply chain linking local farmers, entrepreneurs, researchers, and power producers.

Beyond cleaner power, this initiative promises fresh rural employment, extra income for farmers, and new investments in local pellet manufacturing units. By turning agricultural waste into valuable fuel, Karnataka aims to drive rural industrial growth and champion India's transition toward sustainable, clean energy.

Green energy ties link Karnataka, Mauritius

Karnataka and Mauritius are joining forces to spread awareness about green energy. Karnataka State Bioenergy Development Board Chairman S.E. Sudheendra met Mauritius Education Minister Dr. Mahendh Gungah Parsad at Kempegowda International Airport to discuss joint educational and awareness programmes on bioenergy and biofuels. Sudheendra highlighted the board's ongoing training camps, demonstration centers, and campaigns around biogas, biodiesel, and pellets. Both leaders explored sharing study materials and hosting joint workshops to educate students, farmers, and young people on fighting climate change through sustainable fuel alternatives. This partnership aims to build stronger institutional ties and encourage wider community participation in adopting clean, renewable energy solutions across both regions.

NUTRITION GETS AUDITED

Ensure equality in school food, says School Education Minister Bangarappa

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Karnataka's Department of School Education and Literacy is considering introducing a dedicated special audit system to monitor the nutritional value, hygiene, and overall quality of midday meals served across government schools. Backed by substantial public expenditure alongside Rs 1,591-crore contribution from the Azim Premji Foundation, the proposed mechanism aims to move beyond simply tracking meal quantities toward ensuring strict food safety standards and equitable distribution for millions of schoolchildren.

Under the proposed framework, continuous oversight will cover every stage of meal preparation, ingredient sourcing, nutritional compliance, and classroom distribution. Officials emphasized that equity remains central to the program, ensuring that vegetarian students or those who do not eat eggs receive nutritious alternatives such as bananas without discrimination.

Alongside tighter quality checks, the Education Department is also evaluating expert recommendations to refresh the weekly school menu by incorporating traditional regional staples tailored to local dietary preferences. Currently, students receive vegetable sambar from Monday through Thursday, Bisi Bele Bath on Fridays, and items such as Uppittu, wheat Pongal, Vangi Bath, chapati, or puri-sagu on Saturdays. This core menu is supplemented by 150 milliliters of milk five days a week, ragi (finger millet) malt on designated days, and either an egg or a banana six days a week. Under the planned revision, nutritious regional dishes like ragi mudde (finger millet balls) and jolada rotti (sorghum flatbread) are expected to be introduced across districts where they form part of everyday family diets. Speaking on the initiative, School Education Minister Madhu Bangarappa stressed that uncompromising quality standards must be maintained throughout the midday meal program. He remarked that providing equitable, wholesome nutrition is just as essential as delivering equal educational opportunities, adding that continuous monitoring will help safeguard children's health and strengthen public trust in Karnataka's school welfare initiatives.


Children at a midday meal in a government school

On the plate now

MON-THU	FRIDAY
Vegetable sambar	Bisi Bele Bath
SATURDAY	MILK
Uppittu, wheat Pongal, Vangi Bath, chapati or puri-sagu	150 ml, five days a week
EGG OR BANANA	RAGI MALT
Six days a week	On designated days

Minister orders faster development works across Mandya district

The Minister ordered uninterrupted drinking water for people and livestock, identification of low-water lakes and shortage-hit villages, and twice-daily reviews



CH NEWS, MANDYA

Mandya District In-charge Minister N. Cheluvarayaswamy has directed officials to speed up development projects and complete pending works by December. He stressed the need for coordination among departments to address public concerns related to drinking water, agriculture, healthcare, education and infrastructure.

He was speaking at the second quarterly Karnataka Development Programme (KDP) review meeting for 2026–27, held at Kaveri Hall in the Zilla Panchayat office on Tuesday.

Drinking water and crop compensation

The Minister directed officials to ensure an uninterrupted drinking water supply to people and livestock. Villages facing shortages and lakes with less than 25 per cent water storage must be identified. The Deputy Commissioner and Zilla Panchayat CEO were asked to review the situation twice daily.

A committee headed by the Deputy Commissioner will examine a permanent water supply solution for Maddur town using Cauvery water through the Jaladhare project.

He also directed officials to expedite pending crop compensation for around 16,000 farmers. CHESCOM officials were asked to survey sugarcane fields damaged by power lines and submit a report within two days.

Housing and infrastructure projects

Officials were instructed to identify government land for providing 30x40 housing sites to landless families and speed up pending Revenue Department files. Development works undertaken by various departments must be completed by December.

The Minister also directed the Deputy Commissioner to prepare a list of projects awaiting Central Government approval, including entry and exit facilities on the Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway.

A proposal to develop a modern township on 12 acres in Mandya was discussed. Healthcare improvements, including filling vacancies and providing medical equipment, were also reviewed. Preparations were ordered for launching Jayadeva hospital OPD services and inaugurating the cancer hospital in December.

The Deputy Commissioner informed the meeting that 100 acres had been identified for industrial development. The Minister said steps would be taken to allocate the land after Cabinet approval. He also announced that ₹336 crore had been approved for student hostels, residential schools and welfare schemes.

A presentation on the Smart Mandya project proposed commercial complexes, apartments and recreational facilities. MLAs, elected representatives and senior district officials attended the meeting.

Students urged to give sport equal importance

CH NEWS, MANDYA: District In-charge Minister N. Cheluvarayaswamy urged students to participate in sports without worrying about winning or losing. He was speaking after inaugurating a state-level basketball tournament at the District Stadium in Mandya. He said sports develop discipline, confidence and good values alongside education. He also announced plans to develop an international-standard indoor stadium within a year.MLA P. Ravikumar said ₹3.50 crore had been released for stadium development and construction work was expected to begin the following week. MUDA Chairman B.P. Prakash, Deputy Commissioner Dr. Kumara, education officials and students attended.

MLA Promises Phased Development Across Villages

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

Chitradurga MLA K.C. Veerendra Puppy said development works would be taken up in every village of the constituency in phases, with special focus on improving rural infrastructure. He assured residents that government grants would be properly utilised to address local needs.

Speaking after performing ground-breaking ceremonies for development works in Lakshmisagara, Bommenahalli and Hosuru villages on Tuesday, he said rural development was essential for the overall progress of the constituency.

The MLA said priority would be given to basic facilities such as good roads, drainage systems and drinking water. He added that public complaints and village-level requirements would be addressed systematically. He also instructed officials to maintain quality standards and complete the projects within the stipulated time.

He stressed that public funds must be used responsibly and that both urban and rural areas would receive equal attention.

Congress leader Coconut Basavaraj said Hosuru village, near Hireguntanuru, had lacked development for many years. He appreciated the infrastructure works taken up in the village, including concrete roads, high-mast lights and drinking water facilities.



The ground-breaking ceremony for development works in Chitradurga constituency on Tuesday.

WORKS LAUNCHED

₹80 LAKH
Concrete road linking Lakshmisagara to the National Highway

₹40 LAKH
Development of Hosuru Hatti

BOMMENAHALLI
A high-tech bus stand

The projects for which ground-breaking ceremonies were held include the development of Hosuru Hatti at an estimated cost of ₹40 lakh, a concrete road connecting Lakshmisagara to the National Highway at a cost of ₹80 lakh, and a high-tech bus stand near Bommenahalli.

Tahsildar Fatima, Taluk Executive Officer Pramod, engineer Sharath and several community leaders attended the programme.

‘Ensure timely compensation for victims of atrocities’

CH NEWS, KARWAR

Dr. Nagalakshmi Chowdary, Chairperson of the Karnataka State Commission for Women, has directed officials to ensure timely disbursement of compensation and government benefits to women who have suffered sexual assault and children who are victims of offences under the POCSO Act.

She issued the directive while presiding over a Mahila Spandana and progress review meeting at the Zilla Panchayat Hall in Karwar. Expressing concern over 33 cases of sexual assault against women and 161 cases of child abuse reported in Uttara Kannada district over the past three years, she sought detailed reports on compensation awarded and pending payments. She stressed that victims must receive financial assistance, free legal aid and all eligible government benefits without delay.

The Chairperson also called for increased awareness programmes to prevent violence against women and children, particularly among economically weaker sections.

Reviewing facilities at KSRTC bus stations, she directed officials to improve drinking water facilities, CCTV surveillance, women’s restrooms and sanitation. She also sought GPS-tagged photographs confirming the availability of essential amenities and proper payment of wages to sanitation workers.

At KRIMS Hospital, she instructed officials to provide hot water facilities for new mothers, ensure proper wages and leave benefits for outsourced employees, improve mammography services and introduce ambulance facilities for infants. She also stressed effective utilization of CSR funds and provision of sanitary pads and toilet kits to female students in sports hostels.

During the meeting, over 200 women submitted grievances. Officials were directed to address complaints concerning an electrical accident victim, employment for a pregnant woman with a disability, domestic harassment, maintenance disputes and alleged irregularities in teachers’ salaries.

Dr. Chowdary instructed all concerned departments to investigate the complaints and submit action-taken reports to the Commission.

Deputy Commissioner Harshal Boyer, Zilla Panchayat CEO Dr. Dileesh Shashi, Additional SP Krishnamurthy, DySP Lokapura, Commission Secretary Roopa R. and other officials attended the meeting.



The Mahila Spandana and progress review meeting at the Zilla Panchayat Hall in Karwar.

Separate helpline and call centre proposed for women

CH NEWS, KARWAR: Karnataka State Commission for Women Chairperson Dr. Nagalakshmi Chowdary said a proposal has been submitted to the government to establish a dedicated helpline and call centre to ensure prompt assistance to women and children facing atrocities. Speaking at a press conference in Karwar, she said the facility would be launched once government funding is approved.

She also assured efforts to secure approval for a working women’s hostel in Karwar. The Fisheries Department was directed to conduct awareness campaigns on welfare schemes and interest-free loans for fisherwomen. The City Municipal Commissioner was instructed to improve fish market facilities. Workplaces employing women were also directed to establish Internal Complaints Committees (ICCs).

Youth asked to respect rights and duties

CH NEWS, CHIKKABALLAPURA

Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat), Chikkaballapura unit, organised a ‘Youth Dialogue – Constitution Day’ programme at the Government ITI College in Chikkaballapura on Tuesday. The event aimed to create awareness among young people about the importance of the Indian Constitution, their constitutional rights and their duties as citizens.

The programme began with dignitaries offering floral tributes to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, chairman of the Constitution’s Drafting Committee.

Speaking at the event, A. Mahender Reddy, District Youth Officer of MY Bharat, said every citizen should understand and respect the Constitution of India. He stressed that people must be aware of their duties along with the rights guaranteed by the Constitution. He also said citizens should respect one another’s rights and uphold the values of equality and mutual respect.

Government ITI College Principal Muniswamy said Dr. B.R. Ambedkar had made significant efforts in drafting the Constitution. He urged everyone to understand and follow its ideals, which form the foundation of India’s democracy, equality and justice.



The Youth Dialogue – Constitution Day programme at the Government ITI College in Chikkaballapura.

Venkataraju said young people have an important role in shaping the country’s future. He encouraged students to learn about the Constitution, understand its values and provisions, and become responsible citizens.

Students, along with teaching and non-teaching staff members of the college, attended the programme.

Gadag residents demand opening of long-delayed rail overpass

CH NEWS, GADAG

Residents of Janata Colony have demanded the immediate opening of the railway overpass at Gate No. 32, alleging that the structure has remained unused for nearly a decade despite being built with public funds.

Krishna H. Hadapad, president of the Hombala Naka, Janata Colony Development and Service Association, expressed concern over the delay. He said the area beneath the overpass had turned into a garbage dumping spot and was being used for illegal activities, raising concerns about public safety.

On Tuesday, association members and residents submitted a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner, Railway Manager and Gadag-Betageri City Municipal Council Commissioner, seeking immediate action.



Janata Colony residents submit their memorandum in Gadag on Tuesday.

What residents want

1. Open the overpass at Gate No. 32 to the public
2. Clear the garbage and build a park, walking track, gym and library under it
3. A permanent police outpost
4. Service roads, trees and streetlights on both sides

Their demands include opening the overpass for public use, clearing garbage from the area and developing the space beneath it into a park, walking track, open-air gym, library and sports training centre for youth. They also sought a permanent police outpost to prevent theft and other illegal activities.

The residents further demanded proper service roads on both sides of the overpass, tree planting and streetlights. They said the poor road conditions were causing inconvenience and health concerns among residents.

The association urged the Deputy Commissioner to coordinate with the Railway, Municipal, Public Works and Police departments and inspect the site. Members said they would submit another memorandum to the local MLA and MP.

Hadapad warned that residents would launch a protest if the authorities failed to respond.

Association office-bearers, youth leaders and hundreds of local residents participated in the memorandum submission.

Quick Read

Gadag minister to visit district on Nov 27

CH NEWS, GADAG

Higher Education Minister and Gadag District In-charge Minister Basavaraj Rayareddy will tour Gadag district on November 27 and 28.On November 27, he will leave Dharwad at 10 am and reach Gadag at 11 am. He will attend Kanakadasa Jayanti celebrations at Hatalageri Naka at 11.30 am and chair the district-level quarterly KDP review meeting at the Zilla Panchayat hall at 3 pm.On November 28, he will attend the 14th Yelburga Taluk Kannada Sahitya Sammelana at Tondihala at 11 am. At 3 pm, he will attend the Kannada Rajyotsava Award presentation ceremony atAnnadaneeshwara College, Mundaragi.

Free coaching offered for government exam aspirants

CH NEWS, CHIKKABALLAPURA

The District Employment Exchange will provide free preparatory training to candidates preparing for various government competitive examinations during the 2026–27 academic year.The training will cover KPSC, KEA, UPSC, SSC, banking, railway and police recruitment examinations. Experienced instructors will conduct the classes. Interested candidates can register through the online application form. For details, candidates can visit the District Employment Exchange at the District Administration Building (Zilla Adalitha Bhavana), Chikkaballapura, or call 9611880265 or 7760921872.District Employment Officer M. Prasad announced the programme.

MLA warns NHAI over delayed footpath work in Mandya

CH NEWS, MANDYA

MLA P. Ravikumar Ganiga criticised the delay and poor quality of footpath construction along the National Highway in Mandya during a KDP meeting. He directed NHAI officials to ensure completion of the work and warned against releasing payment before quality checks.

CHANGE OF NAME

I Phaniraj S/o D S Raghavendra Rao R/o 410, Sri Sai Acropolis, Hosa Road, Naganathapura, Bangalore 560100 Changed my name as Phaniraj SR for all future purposes

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

RURAL TALENT RISING

‘Youth festival provides platform for emerging talent’

CH NEWS, GADAG

Youth should excel in art, literature, music, dance, culture and sports to bring recognition to the district and state, said Legislative Council Member S.V. Sankanur.

He was speaking after inaugurating the Gadag District-Level Youth Festival 2026 at Suvarna Mahotsava Bhavana, Adarsha Shikshana Samiti, Gadag-Betageri, on Tuesday.

Sankanur said young people should focus not only on academics but also on cultural activities. Such competitions help develop confidence, creativity and leadership skills. He encouraged rural youth to make use of these platforms and showcase their talents at state and national levels.



Guests light the lamp to open the Gadag District-Level Youth Festival 2026 in Gadag-Betageri.

Youth festivals help identify and encourage emerging talent

He stressed that participants should accept both victory and defeat positively and continue improving their abilities. Preserving art, literature and cultural heritage while embracing modern technology is equally important, he added.

Referring to the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047, Sankanur said young people have a major role in building a developed and self-reliant India through education, innovation, skills and social responsibility.

Ravikanta Angadi, district president of the Karnataka State Youth Associations Federation, said youth festivals help identify and encourage emerging talent. He urged youth organisations to support talented individuals from rural areas and promote discipline, leadership and social service.

On the occasion, folk artist and Karnataka Rajyotsava Award recipient Pandappa Devalappa Lamani was felicitated.

Young participants from different taluks of Gadag district presented their talents in various competitions. Folk artists served as judges.

Dr. Venkatesh Alkoda and his team presented the Naadageethe. Dr. Sharanu Gogeri, Assistant Director of the Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports, welcomed the gathering, while Prof. Bahubali Jain compered the programme and proposed the vote of thanks.

Quick Read

Chitradurga invites applications for Mental Health Programme posts

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

The District Health and Family Welfare Society has invited applications for four vacant posts under the Taluk Mental Health Programme on a contractual basis.

The recruitment, funded by the Karnataka Mining Environment Restoration Corporation (KMRC), includes two Psychiatrist and two Psychologist posts for a one-year term. Selection will be based on merit and the roster system.Eligible candidates must submit applications in person, along with attested educational certificates, by 4.30 pm on December 5, 2026. Details are available at nhm.karnataka.gov.in.

For enquiries, contact 8971552887 or 9611783297 during office hours.

Gadag to get ₹3 crore swimming pool at Mulgund

CH NEWS, GADAG

A swimming pool will be constructed at Mulgund Town Sports Ground in Gadag taluk at an estimated cost of ₹3 crore. The foundation stone-laying ceremony will be held on Wednesday, November 25, at 4.30 pm. The project is being jointly undertaken by the district administration, Zilla Panchayat and Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports.Deputy Chief Minister G. Parameshwara, Legislative Council Chairman Saleem Ahmed and Assembly Speaker G.S. Patil will attend. Higher Education Minister and Gadag District In-charge Minister Basavaraj Rayareddy will inaugurate the programme, while MLA Dr. H.K. Patil will preside over the event.

Free health camp raises awareness about fluorosis

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

The Department of Health and Family Welfare organised a free health check-up and awareness camp in Kasavaratti and Topuramalige villages of Chitradurga taluk and Sanikere village of Challakere taluk under the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Fluorosis (NPPCF).The camp aimed to create awareness about the causes, symptoms and effects of fluorosis and explain preventive measures. Villagers underwent examinations of their teeth, bones and joints. Drinking water samples were also collected to test fluoride levels.A total of 96 villagers and 28 schoolchildren underwent health check-ups. Of them, 29 children showed suspected signs of skeletal fluorosis, while 20 schoolchildren showed suspected dental fluorosis. Those identified were given initial treatment and advised to undergo further medical examinations.Health officials advised villagers to use safe drinking water and consume calcium- and vitamin C-rich foods to help prevent fluorosis.

BJP protests Cong govt over farmers' issues

BELDALE STATED SUGARCANE GROWERS STRUGGLE FOR FAIR PRICES DESPITE HARD WORK, URGING THE GOVERNMENT TO SERIOUSLY ADDRESS DEMANDS AND ANNOUNCE SUITABLE RATES.

CH NEWS, MANNAEKHELLI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) organised a protest in Mannaekhelli village in Bidar South Assembly constituency, criticising the Congress-led Karnataka government over farmers' problems, delays in addressing sugarcane growers' demands and other public issues.

Addressing the protesters, Dr. Shailendra Beldale, BJP MLA from Bidar South, accused the state government of failing to fulfil its promises and neglecting the difficulties faced by farmers, labourers, poor families and the general public.

Beldale said sugarcane growers were struggling to secure fair prices for their produce despite investing considerable time and effort in cultivation. He urged the government to take their demands seriously and announce a suitable price for sugarcane.

He also called for measures to ensure fair prices for agricultural produce, provide essential farming facilities, maintain an adequate power supply and extend compensation to farmers who have suffered crop losses.

The MLA further raised concerns about rising prices of essential commodities and the financial burden on ordinary families. He said rural areas continued to face several basic problems that required the government's attention.



BJP workers and office-bearers march in Mannaekhelli during the protest against the state government

Beldale said the BJP would continue to raise public and farmers' issues both inside and outside the Legislative Assembly. He warned that the party would intensify its agitation if the government failed to address the concerns of farmers and the public.

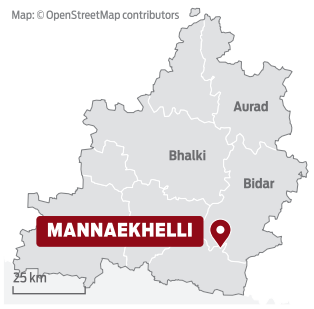
The protest was organised to draw the state government's attention to these issues. BJP office-bearers, including the party president and general secretaries, leaders from various party wings, workers and members of the public participated in the demonstration. Protesters raised slogans against the state government.

What the BJP wants

Cane price
A suitable price for sugarcane, announced without delay

Farm support
Fair prices for produce, farming facilities and adequate power supply

Relief
Compensation for farmers who suffered crop losses



Mannaekhelli: Bidar South constituency, Bidar district

Two crop failures push Mundaragi farmers into debt

MALINGARAYA PUJAR, MUNDARAGI

Farmers in Mundaragi taluk of Gadag district are facing severe financial difficulties following two consecutive crop failures.

With little or no rainfall during the monsoon and subsequent cropping season, many families have lost their investments and are struggling to repay loans and meet their daily needs.

During the previous monsoon season, crops such as groundnut, sunflower, cowpea, cotton and other crops were damaged due to insufficient rainfall. Hoping to recover their losses, farmers cultivated maize, chickpea, wheat, sunflower, buckwheat, red chillies and onions in the next season.

However, their hopes were shattered as the crops failed to receive sufficient rainfall after sowing. Due to a lack of soil moisture, many seeds failed to germinate and rotted in the ground. The few plants that emerged also dried up in the intense heat. Farmers said their hard work and investment had brought them almost no returns.

Costs mount

Rising agricultural input costs have added to their difficulties. Farmers reportedly spent between ₹3,000 and ₹4,000 on seed packets and up to ₹2,500 per bag on fertilisers. With limited savings, many borrowed money from banks and private lenders, while some mortgaged their belongings to continue farming.

Unable to repay their loans and support their families, several farming households have reportedly migrated to cities in search of work.

The drought has also affected livestock, with shortages of drinking water and fodder. Despite their own losses, some farmers have allowed sheep and goats to graze freely in their fields rather than leave the remaining crops unused.


A farmer in a dried-up field in Mundaragi taluk

Farmers have urged the government and district administration to take immediate action. They have called for scientific crop damage assessments by Agriculture and Revenue Department officials and timely compensation directly into farmers' bank accounts. They have also sought the opening of cattle shelters and fodder banks to protect livestock.

The affected families say urgent government support is essential to prevent their financial difficulties from becoming worse.

Two seasons, no harvest

MONSOON
Groundnut, sunflower, cowpea and cotton damaged by scanty rain

▶

NEXT SEASON
Maize, chickpea, wheat, chillies and onions dried up after sowing

Babbur Farm TrainsParticipants From 21 Different Districts

CH NEWS, HIRIYUR

Farmers, women and rural youth from 21 districts of Karnataka received training in oilseed and coconut processing, product development and marketing during a 10-day programme held at the District Agricultural Training Centre, Babbur Farm, in Chitradurga district from November 12 to 21.

The programme combined classroom sessions with practical demonstrations at farms, processing units and research institutions.

It was organised by the Commissionerate of Agriculture under a State sector initiative announced in the 2026–27 Budget to develop Babbur Farm as a State-level agricultural entrepreneurship training centre.

At the valedictory programme, Rajanikantha R., Assistant Director of Agriculture, said participants gained practical knowledge from scientists and entrepreneurs.

Experts explained oil extraction, machinery selection, licensing, quality control, packaging, branding and marketing. Training also covered processing groundnut, coconut, safflower and sunflower products, along with ways to add value to by-products.



Sessions focused on government support schemes, including the PM Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME), PMEGP, MUDRA and the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund. Participants also learnt about bank loans, solar-powered processing, artificial intelligence in marketing, online sales, exports and food safety regulations.

Practical demonstrations included the preparation of groundnut chikki, laddus and peanut butter. Participants also visited coconut and oil-processing units, the Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI) in Mysuru and farms to understand traditional and modern processing methods.

Experts demonstrated edible oil extraction, adulteration detection, virgin coconut oil production and the use of traditional bullock-driven wooden presses.

Dr. Dhananjay, Associate Director of Research at the Zonal Agricultural and Horticultural Research Station, distributed certificates and appreciated the centre's efforts to promote quality food processing.

Umesh, Deputy Director of Agriculture, Challakere, encouraged participants to use their newly acquired skills to establish small-scale food processing enterprises.

Manjunath offers Bagina to newly filled Somanahalli Lake

CH NEWS, HUNSUR

Former Hunsur MLA H.P. Manjunath offered a traditional 'Bagina' to Somanahalli Lake after water was supplied through a new pipeline constructed at a cost of ₹3 crore under a lift irrigation project from the Lakshmanatirtha River.

Responding to an invitation from villagers, Manjunath visited the village and was welcomed with traditional music, ceremonial pots and flowers. Villagers also carried him in a procession to the lake, where special prayers and Ganga Pooja were performed before the offering.

Addressing a gathering later, Manjunath criticised MLA G.D. Harish Gowda over the development of the constituency. He urged him to address problems in the cooperative sector and ensure that farmers who had repaid their loans could access fresh credit.

Manjunath alleged that irregularities had occurred in the Hangodu Cooperative Society and other societies and called for corrective action. He also rejected allegations that he was obstructing development works, saying elected representatives should focus on securing funds and using them effectively.


Water from the new pipeline flows into Somanahalli Lake

A long wait for water

- **2008** — Foundation stone laid by then MP C.H. Vijayashankar
- **LATER** — ₹1.49 crore sanctioned; pipeline issues delay the work
- **NOW** — A new ₹3 crore pipeline from the Lakshmanatirtha fills the lake

He claimed that of the ₹25 crore released during the previous Siddaramaiah government, only ₹6.5 crore had been utilised. He also referred to a proposed allocation of another ₹50 crore under the present government and urged authorities to ensure that the funds were used for development.

A project from 2008

Manjunath said the lake project was first initiated in 2008, when its foundation stone was laid by then MP C.H. Vijayashankar. Later, ₹1.49 crore was sanctioned, but work was delayed due to pipeline-related issues. Following villagers' demands, a new pipeline was installed with ₹3 crore in funding.

He also expressed hope that the project could eventually supply water to Uyigowdanahalli Lake and nearby water bodies.

Several local Congress leaders, cooperative society representatives and villagers attended the programme.

Bilikere police arrest five suspects in four theft cases


The arrested suspects with Bilikere police and the seized vehicles

THE HAUL

5	SUSPECTS ARRESTED
4	THEFT CASES SOLVED
3	VEHICLES SEIZED

CH NEWS, HUNSUR

Bilikere police have arrested five people in connection with four theft cases reported in Mysuru district and seized three vehicles, two mobile phones and cash worth approximately ₹10 lakh.

The case began on the night of October 7, 2026, when unidentified persons allegedly broke into a coconut oil factory godown belonging to Rajesh at Kuttavadi village in Hunsur taluk and stole coconuts worth around ₹1.45 lakh. Following a complaint, Bilikere police registered a case and launched an investigation.

Acting on the directions of Mysuru District Superintendent of Police Mallikarjuna Baladandi, IPS, and under the guidance of Additional Superintendents of Police C. Mallik and Nagesh L., along with Hunsur Sub-Division Deputy Superintendent of Police Ravi, a police team led by Bilikere Police Inspector Puneeth T.M. conducted the operation.

On November 23, police arrested five suspects: Viveka of K. Belthoru village in Saragur taluk; Rakshith alias Sharath of Harogowdanahalli in Holenarasipura taluk, Hassan district; Prasanna alias Ramu of Kurubarahalli, Mysuru; Akash of Hulkere village, Pandavapura taluk, Mandya district; and Mahesh of Siddarthanagar, Mysuru.

During the investigation, police linked the accused to four theft cases registered at Bilikere, Hunsur Rural, H.D. Kote and Alanahalli police stations in Mysuru City. An Eicher truck, an Ashok Leyland Dost vehicle, a Hero motorcycle, two mobile phones and cash, collectively valued at approximately ₹10 lakh, were seized.

The accused have been remanded to judicial custody.

PSI Naveen G. and crime detection personnel Ravi, Beeregowda, Satheesh, Pratap, Anantharamu and Prasad Dharmapura assisted in the operation. Senior police officers appreciated the team for its work.

Chitradurga hosts inclusive sports and cultural competitions

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) is committed to protecting the rights of persons with disabilities and ensuring that they receive government benefits, said Shameer Peersab Nandyal, Senior Civil Judge and Member Secretary of the Chitradurga DLSA.

He was speaking after inaugurating sports and cultural competitions for persons with disabilities at Onake Obavva District Stadium in Chitradurga. The event was organised jointly by the DLSA, district administration, Zilla Panchayat, various government departments and non-governmental organisations as part of the observance of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities 2026.


Officials and participants at the inauguration of the competitions in Chitradurga

Nandyal said persons with disabilities who face difficulties in accessing government benefits could approach the DLSA for assistance. Eligible persons can also receive free legal aid under the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA). The public can seek legal assistance through the toll-free helpline 15100.

Help at hand

- Free legal aid under NALSA
- **15100** toll-free legal helpline
- Surakshita Bachpan on child rights
- Assistive devices for pupils

He also highlighted the 'Surakshita Bachpan' campaign, which creates awareness about child rights, the POCSO Act, child marriage and the harmful effects of excessive mobile phone use. He said designated teachers in schools could help students report violations of their rights.

C.S. Venkateshappa, District Sub-Project Coordinator of Samagra Shikshana Karnataka, said the Education Department provides assistive devices to children with disabilities from pre-primary to pre-university levels. Medical camps and support for surgeries are also being provided.

District Welfare Officer for Persons with Disabilities J. Vaishali appreciated the achievements of local para-athletes, including Radha Venkatesh, Pallavi, R. Nataraj and Varsha Umapathi, in national and international sporting events.

She said the district-level competitions provide children with disabilities an opportunity to showcase their talents and receive encouragement.

The programme was attended by Deputy Director of Women and Child Development K.H. Vijayakumar, District Child Protection Officer A.M. Veena, teachers, rehabilitation workers and students.

Nandyal called upon everyone to work together to protect the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities.

DC calls for joint action to protect children's rights

Citing Odisha's success, the Deputy Commissioner urged officials to end child marriage in Koppal, punish child harassment and stop illegal liquor sales.



At the child protection programme in Koppal on Tuesday

CH NEWS, KOPPAL

Deputy Commissioner Dr. Suresh B. Itnal has stressed the need for coordination among all government departments to protect children's rights and prevent abuse, harassment and child marriage.

He was speaking after inaugurating a capacity-building programme on child protection, inter-departmental coordination and inclusion at J.H. Patel Hall in the Zilla Panchayat office on Tuesday. The programme was organised under Mission Vatsalya (CRCC) jointly by the district administration, Zilla Panchayat, district police, Department of Women and Child Development, UNICEF and the District Child Protection Unit.

Dr. Itnal said child protection could not be left to one department alone. Issues such as child abuse, malnutrition, child marriage and adolescent welfare required joint efforts. He urged officials to stop shifting responsibilities between departments and work together to address these challenges.

Citing Ganjam and Gajapati districts in Odisha as examples of child marriage-free districts, he urged officials to work towards eliminating child marriage in Koppal. He also called for strict action against those harassing children in public places and on public transport. Such incidents should be reported to the police or the Akka Pade team. He directed the Excise Department to prevent illegal liquor sales near schools and hospitals.

Report abuse, do not hide it

Additional Superintendent of Police R. Hemanth Kumar said teachers must immediately report cases of child abuse to the police instead of concealing them. He warned that negligence in reporting such incidents could invite legal action. He also stressed the need to monitor frequent school absenteeism to identify children at risk of child marriage and other offences. The public can report harassment and illegal liquor sales by calling 112.

Deputy Director of Women and Child Development Amaresha Havina warned school principals and hostel wardens against concealing cases of sexual abuse involving children. He called for greater awareness of child protection laws.

UNICEF Child Protection Project representative Harisha Jogi said 500 children had raised concerns about alcohol abuse at home, inadequate bus services and harassment during the Makkala Maathu campaign. He urged departments to work together to make Koppal a child-safe district.

Officials from 32 departments attended the programme, including representatives from education, health, police, transport, labour and social welfare departments.

Quick Read

Koppal to honour ex-servicemen and farmers

CH NEWS, KOPPAL

The Suvarna Karnataka Rakshana Sainya will organise a felicitation ceremony for ex-servicemen and farmers on the occasion of the 71st Kannada Rajyotsava on Sunday, November 29, at 11.15 am at the Taluk Panchayat Hall.Organisation State President R. Tikya Naik announced this at a press conference. Sri Gavisiddeshwara Mahaswamiji of Gavimatha will bless the gathering. Entrepreneurs Venkatesh Barker and Mahantesh Hangal will inaugurate the programme.A procession featuring the portrait of Goddess Bhuvaneshwari will begin at Gavimatha and pass through Basaveshwara Circle before reaching the venue.Naik invited Kannada organisations and the public to participate.

Haveri to organise disability sports events on Dec 2

CH NEWS, HAVERI

The Department for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities and Senior Citizens will organise sports and cultural competitions for persons with disabilities on December 2 at 9 am at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Bhavan in Haveri.The World Day of Persons with Disabilities will be observed on December 3 at 10 am at the same venue.A rally involving around 1,000 persons with disabilities will begin at 8 am from Sri Veerabhadreshwara Temple. The rally will pass through Hosamani Siddappa Circle and the LIC office before concluding at Sri Valmiki Circle. The District Welfare Officer announced the programme in a press release.

DC orders tobacco-free govt offices across Chitradurga

CH NEWS,
CHITRADURGA

Deputy Commissioner S. Ramya has directed all government offices in Chitradurga district to curb tobacco consumption during working hours and appoint a nodal officer to monitor compliance.She was speaking at the quarterly review meeting of the District Tobacco Control Cell, organised jointly by the district administration and the Health and Family Welfare Department at the Deputy Commissioner's office on Tuesday.

Ramya said temples and tourist destinations across the district had been declared tobacco-free zones. She stressed that government employees must set an example by avoiding tobacco consumption.

Every government office must appoint a nodal officer and submit confirmation of the appointment.She also directed officials to strictly enforce the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA) at the taluk level. Tahsildars were asked to conduct regular committee meetings, set targets for enforcement drives and organise frequent inspections of shops selling tobacco products. Legal action must be taken against violators.

Local bodies, including town panchayats and municipal councils, were instructed to impose restrictions on tobacco sales near educational institutions while issuing trade licences.

Harish Gowda launches ₹22 crore Ambedkar School project



CH NEWS, HUNSUR

MLA G.D. Harish Gowda performed the groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of a Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Residential School at Shettahalli tribal hamlet under Neralakuppe Gram Panchayat in Hanagodu hobli of Hunsur taluk. The project has an estimated cost of ₹22 crore.

Speaking to reporters, Harish Gowda said the Ambedkar Residential School initiative aims to provide quality education to children from backward communities and help them become responsible members of society. He expressed satisfaction over the establishment of the school in the taluk.

He said the existing residential school was facing difficulties due to the lack of a permanent building. The proposed facility will accommodate 250 students and come up on five acres of land at Shettahalli. He directed officials to complete the construction within 11 months.

The school will have facilities for education, sports and yoga to support the overall development of students.

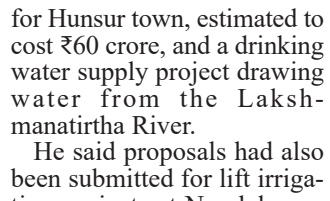
The MLA also highlighted other proposed development projects in the constituency. These include a modern underground drainage system for Hunsur town, estimated to cost ₹60 crore, and a drinking water supply project drawing water from the Lakshmanatirtha River.

He said proposals had also been submitted for lift irrigation projects at Neralakuppe and Kallurappana Betta using Lakshmanatirtha River water, a ₹30 crore project at Gavadagere using Cauvery water and a ₹70 crore project at Manuganahalli.

Harish Gowda thanked Dr. H.C. Mahadevappa, who was a minister when efforts were made to establish the residential school in the taluk.

Kirangur Basavaraj, Ganapathi, Satish Papanna, Surendra, Madhu, Uday Kumar, Dara Mahesh, Prabhakar Hegde, Subhash and Suresh, along with government officials and members of the public, attended the ceremony.

Works on the MLA's list
School launched; rest proposed



Figures: G.D. Harish Gowda

Gadag ZP reservation gives women 13 of 25 seats

MALINGARAYA PUJAR, GADAG

The Karnataka government has announced the final reservation of 25 constituencies in the Gadag Zilla Panchayat, setting the stage for upcoming rural local body elections. The reservation list has triggered political activity across the district's seven taluks, with aspirants beginning preparations for the polls.

The final notification follows the draft notification issued on October 9, 2026. Objections and suggestions were invited before the government finalised the reservations under the Karnataka Gram Swaraj and Panchayat Raj (Reservation of Seats in Taluk Panchayat and Zilla Panchayat by Rotation) Rules, 2023.

Of the 25 constituencies, 13 have been reserved for women under different categories. This includes six general seats, three Scheduled Caste seats, one Scheduled Tribe seat, two Backward Class-A seats and one Backward Class-B seat.

The announcement has intensified competition among political aspirants, particularly in general-category constituencies.

The 25 seats

GENERAL **Hulakoti, Kurtakoti, Lakkundi, Soodi, Nidagundi, Abbigeri, Chikkanargund**	GENERAL WOMEN **Yelavathi, Shigli, Hebbal, Hammigi, Holealur, Konnur**
SC **Suranagi, Kalakeri**	SC WOMEN **Soratur, Magadi, Dambala**
ST **Bellatti**	ST WOMEN **Hombala**
BC-A **Kotumachagi, Hirehala**	BC-A WOMEN **Hirevaddati, Belavanaki**

Journalists must uphold truth and ethics, says Tagaduru

CH NEWS, HUNSUR

Journalists play an important role in society and strengthening democracy. They must uphold truth, integrity and social responsibility while performing their duties, said Shivananda Tagaduru, State President of the Karnataka Working Journalists Association.

He was speaking after inaugurating a workshop organised by the Hunsur Taluk Journalists Association at Veeranahosahalli in the Nagarahole forest area.

Tagaduru said journalism was not limited to reporting events but also involved highlighting public issues, keeping the administration accountable and creating social awareness. He stressed the need to verify information before publication and give priority to accuracy, impartiality and professional ethics, particularly amid the growing influence of social media.

He said rural journalists faced several challenges and noted that the state association had been working to address their concerns. Initiatives such as bus passes and health insurance had helped meet some long-standing demands. He urged journalists to remain united to protect their rights and the dignity of the profession.



Association president H.R. Krishnakumar said journalists needed continuous learning to improve their skills and maintain the relevance of print media. He stressed the importance of conducting regular workshops to help journalists adapt to changes in the media industry.

Tejaswi Navilooru of the Karnataka State Open University's Department of Journalism spoke on the shift of readers from print to social media. He discussed changing readership patterns, digital platforms and the growing demand for instant news. He urged journalists to prioritise credibility over speed and avoid spreading misinformation.

State association executive committee member Raghavendra, Veeranahosahalli Range Forest Officer Vinod Gowda, Mysuru Journalists' Association Vice-President Venkatappa, Secretary Da. Ra. Mahesh and other journalists attended the programme.

Karnataka Forest Department
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS TERRITORIAL SUB DIVISION CHINCHOLI
E-mail ID Address : acftchincholi@gmail.com

IFT No.: ACFT/Chincholi/E-Tender/Zipline/CR-2026-27 Date : 23-11-2026

:: SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE ::

(THROUGH KPPP SECOND EDITION PORTAL) IS INVITED

This is to inform the public that tenders are invited Development Adventure Tourism (ZipLine) as Chandrampalli at Chincholi Wildlife Range during-2026-27 on the portal (website link http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) in the second version of the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal from 23-11-2026 to 07-12-2026 till 04:00 PM. Technical bids will be opened on 08-12-2026 after 04:30 PM. Financial bids of successful tenders in the technical bid will be opened on 09-12-2026 after 11:30 PM

For more details : You can call or visit the office during office hours on Weekday. Phone : 08472-256601

Sd/- Assistant Conservator of Forests
Territorial Sub Division Chincholi

DIPR/Kalaburagi/720/KSMC&A/2026-27

Office of the Deputy Conservator of Forests
Bangalore Urban Division, Jarakabande Kaval, Kammagondanahalli, Jalahalli West, Bangalore-560015.
Ph: 080 23343464. E-mail: dcfurban82yahoo.co.in

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಎ9/ಮರಕತ್ತಾವಣೆ/ಬಿಆರ್-84/2026-27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 17-11-2026

Public Notice

This is to bring to the notice of all citizens of Bengaluru that Director (Admin & HR), Aeronautical Development Agency, Manduru has requested for removal of 1688 different types of trees grown in Aeronautical Development Agency, Manduru Property Survey No. 155. The details are as follow.

Name of the project: **Production and testing of medium combat aircraft.** Name of the Agency: **Aeronautical Development Agency.** Purpose for removal of trees: **Production and testing of medium combat aircraft.** Description of the area with clear demarcation of boundaries or with GPS readings: **GPS details- N-13082401°, E-77.726896°.** Enumeration of trees: Total no. of trees standing in the project area. **1688 (Annexure-1).** Total no. of trees proposed to be removed. **1688 (Annexure-1). Description of Trees, Species, Location, Area, Map etc., are uploaded in the website of Karnataka Forest Department for information of all (www.aranya.gov.in).** Mode of communication of comments (Public can send their comments either by E-mail/Post/Hand): **Address: The Deputy Commissioner of Forests, Bangalore Urban Division, Jarakabande Forest Campus, Kammagondanahalli, Jalahalli West, Bangalore-560015. E-mail: dcfurban82@yahoo.co.in**

Deadline for filling objections: Ten days from the date of Publication of this notification. ***Comments should be relevant and specific to the project.**

In this background suggestions and objections invited from all citizens in terms of section 8(3) (vii) of The Karnataka Preservation of Tree Act 1976.

Sd/-
Deputy Conservator of Forests,
Bangalore Urban Division, Bangalore.

DIPR/CP/DISHA/3895/2026-27

BENGALURU-MYSURU INFRASTRUCTURE CORRIDOR AREA PLANNING AUTHORITY
No. 5, Second Floor, Looplane, Race Course Road, Bengaluru - 560009.
Phone: 080-22341230/35 E-mail: bmicapa@gmail.com

No:BMICAPA/CLU-02/78/2026-27/1292 Date: 20-11-2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

(UNDER SEC 14(A) OF KTCP ACT, 1961)

Sri Shabarish Kumar S/o P.Nagaraju. Sri Ramesh Kumar S/o P.Nagaraju. Smt Lakshmidevi W/o Krishna and Smt Suvarna W/o Ramesh have applied to this Authority seeking Change of land use from **"Agriculture"** Zone to **"Industrial"** use pertaining to Sy.No:41/9 measuring an extent of 01Acre-02Guntas. of Avaragere Village. Bidadi Hobli. Ramanagara Taluk, Bengaluru South District, under Section 14(A) of KTCP Act. 1961. The aforesaid land is reserved for **Agriculture zone** in approved Master plan. The Applicant has stated that the change of land use sought is in the interest of public, citing the following reasons:

1) If these lands are developed, job opportunities will become available to laborers.
2) If these lands are developed across various sectors, the surrounding area will also get developed.
3) If these lands are developed, the Government will Receive tax in various forms.

Objections, if any, are invited from the public. Any person may submit revenue their objection to the Member Secretary, B.M.I.C.A.P.A., Bengaluru in writing to the address of this Authority within **15 days from the date of this notice.** Any objections received after the stipulated time will not be considered.

Sd/- Member Secretary (I/c),
B.M.I.C.A.P.A., Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/3904/NR/2026-27

Government of Karnataka Zilla Panchayath, Chitradurga
Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, Chitradurga-577501
Email : zped.cta@gmail.com Office phone no: 08194-222372

No:EE/PRED/CTA/TEND/TECH//2026-27/1931 Date:24.11.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Executive Engineer, Pachayath Raj Engineering Division, chitradurga has invites works tender under Standard tender document under KMERC heads of account grant for 1 (Indent No: 28754/Call-2) work for the Estimated Cost Minimum Rs.213.72 Lakhs Maximum 213.72 lakhs for Total Rs: 213.72 Lakhs. Further information obtained from the office during the office hours or any quarries contact (support@eprochelpdesk.com) or KPPP Helpdesk Phone No: tel: 09240214000, or 09240214000 this office Telephone no. 08194-222372 at office of the Executive Engineer, P.R.E. Division,Chitradurga as dates below:- **(1)** Pre Bid meeting date and time Date : 26.11.2026ರ : ಸಮಯ: 11.00 **(2)** Last Date for information any quarries Date : 04.12.2026ರ : ಸಮಯ: 11.00 **(3)** Last Date for Submitting the tender Date : 05.12.2026ರ : ಸಮಯ 16.00 **(4)** Last Date of Opening the Technical Bid Date : 07.12.2026ರ : ಸಮಯ 16.01 **(5)** Last Date of Opening the Financial Bid (As possible) Date : 10.12.2026ರ : ಸಮಯ 16.02 Further any quarries for tender contact (support@eprochelpdesk.com) or KPPP Helpdesk Phone No: tel: 09240214000, or 09240214000 or this Phone no.08194-222372 or Executive Engineer, P.R.E.Division, Chitradurga in office hours.

RO.No.435:DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/2026-27

Sd/- Executive Engineer
P.R.E. Division, Chitradurga

BENGALURU WEST CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer
Special Division Zone-2, 19th Main Road, 2nd Block, Rajajinagara, Bengaluru - 560 010

No: EE/SD/TEND/19/2026-27 Date: 24-11-2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (IFT) (TWO COVER SYSTEM)

(Through **GOK** KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only)
The Executive Engineer- Special Division, Zone-2 invites tenders on behalf of the Commissioner, Bengaluru West City Corporation (BWCC), Bengaluru from eligible Tenderers for the work detailed in the table below.

Sl No.	Name of the works
1.	Selection of Agency for Operating, Supervision and Maintainance of Skating Rink at CT Bed Ground, Ward No. 199 (164) in Basavanagudi Division. **Three Years Base Rent: ₹.78,00,000/- EMD Amount : ₹.1,56,000/-**
2.	Selection of Agency for Operating,Supervision and Maintainance of Badminton court in 3rd Floor, N R Colony Ward No.198 (154) in Basavanagudi Division. **Three Years Base Rent: ₹.42,00,000/- EMD Amount : ₹.84,000/-**
3.	Selection of Agency for Operating, Supervision and Maintainance of Dr. C. Ashwath Kala Bhavana Auditorium at N R Colony in Ward No.198 (154) in Basavanagudi. **Three Years Base Rent: ₹.53,55,000/- EMD Amount : ₹.1,07,100/-**

Calendar of Events : (1) Tenders must be submitted online through KPP portal on or before **15-12-2026** on **4:00** pm. (2) Date and Time of Pre-bid Meeting on **04-12-2026** at **3:00** pm. (3) Last Date and Time for uploading tenders in kpp Portal on **15-12-2026** up to **4:00** pm. (4) Date and Time of Opening Technical Bid On **16-12-2026** at **4:30** pm. (5) Date and Time of Opening of Financial Bid: Will be intimated.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Special Division Zone-2, BWCC

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

WILD JUMBOS CAUGHT IN POLITICAL CROSSFIRE

When elephants become pawns in a political game



SHYAM SUNDAR VATTAM

Perhaps the wild elephants of Karnataka never imagined that their movements would trigger such a political storm, with elected representatives even threatening to quit their positions in the name of protecting people's interests.

The pachyderms, which have long been at the centre of human-elephant conflict, have now become the unlikely protagonists in a political battle within the ruling Congress party.

What began as an attempt to tackle the elephant menace in Hassan district has snowballed into a confrontation between Congress legislators, with the Forest Department caught in the crossfire.

The controversy erupted after an order was issued by the Arsikere Congress MLA and Hassan district in-charge minister, Shivalingegowda, directing forest officials to drive a herd of elephants, which had reportedly killed two people in Belur taluk, towards the Bhadra forest. The objective was to put an end to the recurring elephant attacks and provide relief to people living in the affected areas.

The proposal, however, was not received well by legislators from Chikkamagaluru district. The plan was to move all 32 elephants in the herd through Chikkamagaluru to the Bhadra forest. But the district itself has been grappling with frequent elephant incursions and human casualties. The legislators feared that shifting the herd would merely transfer the problem from Hassan to Chikkamagaluru rather than offer a lasting solution.

Mudigere MLA Nayana Motamma, Rajegowda and another legislator strongly objected to the government's move, questioning the wisdom of driving a large herd into an already conflict-prone region. Their opposition soon developed into an open political confrontation. Nayana Motamma even submitted her resignation to an official in the Speaker's office as a mark of protest.

> **"Perhaps, the wild jumbos are having the last laugh at the expense of their political protectors!"**
> — Shyam Sundar Vattam

However, a resignation submitted through an official cannot automatically be treated as valid. Under the prescribed procedure, an MLA is required to personally meet the Speaker and submit the resignation in the proper format for it to be considered.

While the Hassan leadership wants the elephants moved out to prevent further human casualties, Chikkamagaluru legislators are equally determined not to allow their constituency to become the next casualty of an administrative decision. Thus, a problem that demands scientific intervention and coordinated action has turned into a political tug-of-war.

The Forest Department, meanwhile, has its own set of concerns. Officials have revealed that the original herd has split into three groups, making the operation considerably more complicated. Moving a large number of elephants into unfamiliar territory is not as simple as driving cattle from one pasture to another.



Senior forest officials have also cautioned that relocating all 32 elephants to Bhadra could trigger territorial conflicts with elephants already inhabiting the forest. Such encounters could result in injuries, deaths and further disruption of the local elephant population. More importantly, there is no guarantee that the relocated elephants will remain in their new habitat. Elephants are known for their remarkable memory and ability to navigate familiar landscapes. They may eventually return to their original habitats, rendering the entire exercise futile.

The female leader of an elephant herd, in particular, plays a crucial role in guiding the group. Her experience and inherited knowledge of traditional routes, water sources and feeding grounds are vital to the herd's survival. Disrupting these social and ecological relationships through hurried relocation could create more complications than solutions.

The larger question, therefore, is whether shifting elephants from one forest division to another can ever be considered a permanent answer to the growing human-elephant conflict.

Karnataka's elephant population has reportedly crossed 7,000 and continues to grow. Culling is not a legally permissible option under India's wildlife protection framework, while transferring wild elephants to other States is neither a simple nor a practical solution. Under these circumstances, protecting and restoring elephant corridors, preventing human encroachment into traditional habitats and ensuring the availability of food and water within forests assume critical importance.

Forest Minister R. Ramalinga Reddy has openly challenged the legislators concerned to come forward with a permanent solution, assuring that his department would implement a practical proposal without delay. His statement places the responsibility squarely on the elected representatives to move beyond political posturing and work towards a sustainable solution.

Ultimately, neither Hassan nor Chikkamagaluru can claim exclusive ownership of the elephant problem. Human-elephant conflict is a larger ecological challenge that requires scientific planning, inter-district coordination and long-term habitat management.

The irony is that the elephants, which have no understanding of political boundaries or constituency limits, are now at the centre of a battle over territorial boundaries drawn by humans. While legislators argue over where the jumbos should go, the elephants may well be wondering why humans are fighting over the very forests that once belonged to them.

MAWAN-DHIYAN DI HATTI: GIVING WINGS TO THE DREAMS OF RURAL GIRLS



DR. VIJAY GARG

The real progress of society is possible only when daughters are provided with opportunities not only for education but also for becoming self-reliant. Even today, many girls in rural areas possess talent, dedication and a desire to achieve something meaningful. However, their dreams often remain unfulfilled due to a lack of proper guidance, training and resources. In such circumstances, an initiative that provides them with opportunities to learn skills and become financially independent becomes more than a source of employment; it becomes an inspiring story of social transformation.

> *When daughters have skills in their hands, dreams in their eyes and confidence in their hearts, no limitation can prevent them from shaping their future.*

Mawan-Dhiyan Di Hatti represents such a meaningful vision, where efforts are being made to shape the future of rural girls through a mother's affection, guidance and skills. The objective is not merely to train girls in particular activities but also to develop their confidence, self-reliance and ability to make independent decisions in life.

In Indian villages, many women possess traditional skills and household expertise. Their talents are reflected in stitching, embroidery, weaving, handicrafts, designing and other creative activities. If these skills are supported by organised training and connected with markets, they can become valuable sources of livelihood. This can help women improve their family's financial condition while establishing their own identity.

One of the most important aspects of such an initiative is that girls can learn and progress without having to leave their villages and families. In rural communities, financial limitations and social circumstances sometimes make it difficult for girls to travel elsewhere for vocational training. Having a skill-development centre within the village can therefore provide them with a valuable opportunity.



The relationship between a mother and daughter is built on love, trust and values. When a mother guides her daughters, teaches them useful skills and encourages them to become independent, this relationship becomes a powerful instrument of social change. Such initiatives convey an important message: daughters are not meant only to fulfil family responsibilities; they are equally capable of achieving their dreams and contributing meaningfully to society.

Today, self-reliance does not simply mean getting a job. Starting a small business based on one's skills, working from home, selling products online and creating employment opportunities for others are also important forms of economic independence. Digital technology has opened new doors for rural women and girls. If they receive training in digital marketing, financial literacy and entrepreneurship along with practical skills, their opportunities can expand significantly.

The government, social organisations and local communities should also encourage such initiatives. Providing market access after training, ensuring fair prices for products and recognising successful women as role models are equally important. Merely teaching a skill is not enough; opportunities must also be created to convert that skill into a respectable source of income.

Indeed, initiatives like Mawan-Dhiyan Di Hatti create hope for positive transformation in rural society. They have the potential to promote confidence along with skills, self-respect along with training, and dignity along with employment.

When daughters have skills in their hands, dreams in their eyes and confidence in their hearts, no limitation can prevent them from shaping their future. When a mother's love is combined with skills and proper guidance, daughters not only transform their own lives but also acquire the strength to change the face of society.

BIRSA MUNDA: A LIVING LEGACY AND A LEGEND WHO FOUGHT FOR LAND, IDENTITY & SELF-RULE

LALIT GARG



A great personality is not judged merely by the popularity he enjoys in his lifetime, but by how deeply he understands the pain of his people, how fearlessly he stands against injustice, and what kind of consciousness he leaves behind for generations to come. By this measure, Birsa Munda stands among the most remarkable heroes of Indian history. His life was brief, but his struggle was monumental. At barely 25 years of age, he challenged British imperialism, the exploitative zamindari and moneylending systems, social evils and cultural subjugation, awakening a powerful consciousness that elevated him beyond the status of an Adivasi leader and placed him among the foremost popular heroes of India's freedom struggle.

Birsa Munda's movement represented the assertion of tribal identity, freedom, Jal, Jungle and Zameen (water, forests and land) and spiritual faith. His struggle and his call for freedom through the Ulgulan, meaning the Great Tumult or Great Rebellion, contributed significantly to the awakening of India's freedom consciousness. He is revered as Dharti Aaba, the Father of the Earth, and Birsa Bhagwan, Birsa the Divine. His struggle was not merely a battle against the British; it was a great crusade for dignity, self-respect, identity and self-rule.

Born on 15 November 1875 in Ulihatu, Jharkhand, Birsa Munda's life reflected the story of an India that the colonial rulers viewed largely through the prism of revenue and natural resources. For an Adivasi, a forest was not merely a forest, land was not merely land, and a river was not merely a source of water. They were the foundation of his way of life, culture, faith and very existence. When British rule and the zamindari-moneylending system began undermining this way of life, rebellion was born within Birsa. This brings us to a deeper understanding of Birsa Munda's struggle. His movement was not simply a political campaign to drive the British out of India. It was much broader and more profound. It raised fundamental questions: Whose forests? Whose land? Whose rule? Whose culture? And whose rights? These questions became the very soul of his historic Ulgulan.

Birsa realised that a society can be enslaved not only by an external power but also weakened by its own internal shortcomings. Therefore, before taking up the weapon of resistance, he chose character, reform and consciousness as his first weapons. He raised his voice against superstition, addiction, social evils and regressive practices prevalent in tribal society. He encouraged people to remain conscious of their faith, culture and traditions. He inspired them to stay away from violence and intoxication, lead an ethical life and preserve their collective unity. In this sense, Birsa was not merely a revolutionary; he was also a social reformer who sought to transform society from within. He understood that a society whose self-confidence has been crushed cannot sustain resistance against external exploitation for long. Therefore, he first awakened self-respect within the tribal community and then mobilised it against colonial power.

His struggle was fundamentally about protecting the rights of farmers and tribal communities whose traditional rights had gradually been taken away by the colonial system. Moneylenders offered loans and eventually took control of land. The zamindari system institutionalised exploitation. Colonial laws were alien to the traditional tribal way of life. Birsa challenged this entire structure. For him, Swaraj did not simply mean a change of rulers. Swaraj meant the right to one's own land, the right to one's own culture, and the right to determine one's own destiny. This is precisely why Birsa's Ulgulan became such an extraordinary chapter in Indian history. Between 1895 and 1900, his influence grew rapidly. The British administration regarded his movement as a serious threat. Arrests, repression and firing followed, but the consciousness he had awakened could not be imprisoned.

The incident at Dombari Hill in January 1900 intensified the conflict. Eventually, Birsa Munda was arrested on 3 February 1900, and he died in Ranchi Jail on 9 June 1900. His death ended his physical existence, but the British failed in their attempt to erase him from history. He continued to live through folk songs, oral traditions, collective memories and the consciousness of tribal communities. That is the true victory of a great leader: the person departs, but his ideas become part of the collective consciousness of society.

And here emerges perhaps the most extraordinary dimension of Birsa Munda's personality: he did not remain merely a hero of the tribal people; he became a figure of divine reverence, 'Birsa Bhagwan'. In Jharkhand and adjoining regions, he is revered as Birsa Bhagwan and Dharti Aaba. This is not merely a matter of religious faith. It represents the profound gratitude of a community that saw in Birsa a saviour who fought for its land, culture, dignity and rights. The man who sacrificed his life to protect their identity and existence became a divine figure in their collective imagination.

The role of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in giving Birsa Munda a prominent place in India's national memory deserves special mention. Prime Minister Modi has presented Birsa not merely as a tribal hero but as a national hero of India's freedom struggle and national identity. The declaration in 2021 of 15 November as 'Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas', Tribal Pride Day, was an important milestone in this national remembrance. The nationwide programmes organised during 2024–25 to commemorate Birsa Munda's 150th birth anniversary further strengthened this process of remembrance. In 2024, the Prime Minister unveiled a commemorative coin and postage stamp at Jamui in Bihar and launched several initiatives connected with the development of tribal regions. In 2025, on the occasion of Birsa Munda's 150th birth anniversary, the Prime Minister once again paid national tribute to him at Dediapada in Gujarat, highlighting the pioneering role of tribal communities in protecting India's freedom, honour and self-respect.

The significance of bringing Birsa Munda to the centre of the national discourse goes beyond merely due recognition to a great tribal hero. It has also broadened the way Indian history is understood.



The story of India's freedom struggle can no longer be viewed merely through the lens of Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata or other major political centres. It must also include the innumerable struggles that emerged from forests, hills and tribal regions and challenged British power. Various initiatives have also been undertaken to preserve the history and culture of tribal freedom fighters, including the establishment of museums and other institutions dedicated to tribal heritage. Birsa Munda's relevance becomes even greater today because the question of water, forests and land has once again emerged at the centre of debates on development and the environment. Birsa reminds us that development cannot mean uprooting a community from its cultural and ecological foundations. If tribal communities are to be brought into the mainstream of development, their culture, traditions, community life and traditional relationship with natural resources must also be respected. Development must not become an instrument of displacement; it must become a means of empowerment, dignity and inclusion.

Remembering Birsa Munda today does not merely mean placing flowers before his statue. It means defending the dignity of the deprived, respecting nature, raising our voice against exploitation and ensuring that those heroes who were pushed to the margins of history receive their rightful place in the national narrative. The life of Birsa Munda also teaches us that great revolutions do not always emerge from magnificent palaces or centres of power. Sometimes they rise from the narrow trails of forests, take shape in the voice of an ordinary young man, and eventually shake the foundations of an empire.

Birsa Munda's life may have been short, but his struggle became immortal. His body perished within the walls of a prison, but his idea remains free. He became Birsa Bhagwan for the tribal community because he awakened within them a power that was almost divine: the power of self-respect, dignity and freedom. Therefore, the true tribute to Birsa Munda lies not merely in remembering him as a character from the pages of history, but in understanding him as a guardian of justice, dignity, nature and human freedom. The call of Dharti Aaba still resonates today: Stay rooted in your heritage. Recognise your rights. Stand with dignity. And never bow before injustice.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Save urban lakes from encroachment

Bengaluru's remaining water bodies face severe threats from untreated sewage, garbage dumping, and buffer-zone encroachment. When drainage channels are blocked and lakebeds shrink, seasonal rains quickly trigger localized flooding while groundwater recharge drops. Protecting these ecosystems requires strict enforcement of environmental rules, timely clearance of illegal structures, and coordinated action across civic agencies. Every neighbourhood depends on healthy lakes to moderate temperatures and absorb excess runoff. Authorities must prioritize regular desilting, decentralized sewage treatment, and transparent monitoring so our water bodies can sustain future generations.

– **Yash**

Reclaim footpaths for safe daily walking

Walkable streets are essential for safe daily commuting, yet parked vehicles, construction debris, and commercial encroachments frequently block pedestrian paths across the city. Forced onto busy carriageways, pedestrians, children, and elderly residents face constant traffic hazards. Fragmented oversight and repeated utility digging often leave pavements broken or uneven long after repairs begin. Dedicated walking space encourages shorter trips on foot and reduces reliance on private vehicles. Civic authorities should clear obstructions, enforce uniform footpath standards, and coordinate utility works before laying fresh surfaces. – **Ujwala**

THE SILENT BIOGRAPHERS BENEATH OUR EVERYDAY STRIDE

Before a single word is exchanged in a boardroom, a railway compartment, or a crowded café, our shoes have already introduced us. They sit quietly at the threshold of every home — scuffed, polished, battered, or pristine — holding the unspoken record of where we have been and the pace at which we move through the world. Yet, in an era obsessed with fast fashion and fleeting digital trends, we rarely pause to consider footwear as anything more than an accessory or a utilitarian necessity.

In truth, shoes are one of humanity's most intimate pieces of architecture. Designed to bear the full weight of our ambitions while shielding us from uneven pavements, monsoon puddles, and scorching asphalt, a well-crafted pair bridges the gap between vulnerability and resilience. Think of the weathered Kolhapuri chappal that softens over summers until it mirrors the exact contour of its wearer's arch, or the dependable canvas sneaker that carries a college student across campuses, late-night bus stops, and uncertain beginnings. Unlike garments that hang loosely on the body, shoes demand a truce with anatomy. They must yield without collapsing, protect without imprisoning.

Over the past decade, however, our relationship with what we wear on our feet has undergone a quiet cultural shift. The rigid hierarchy that once separated formal leather brogues from weekend athletic trainers has largely dissolved. Walk into any modern workspace today and you will find tailored trousers paired effortlessly with minimalist sneakers, signaling a generation that refuses to trade



physical comfort for perceived authority. Wellness, ergonomics, and practicality have rightfully claimed center stage. We no longer accept blistered heels as the inevitable price of looking sharp.

At the same time, this democratization of footwear has come with an environmental and ethical cost. The rise of ultra-cheap, glued-together synthetic shoes — engineered to last a single season before landing in overflowing landfills — has stripped footwear of its longevity. Traditional cobblers, once fixtures on every street corner who could resole a beloved boot and extend its life by years, are increasingly sidelined by a throwaway economy. True sustainability in fashion does not begin with flashy marketing labels; it begins with repairability, honest materials, and the discipline to buy fewer, better-made pairs.

There is also a deeply personal poetry in how shoes age. A crease across the vamp tells of hurried commutes; a worn-down outer heel reveals a characteristic gait; a faint stain recalls an unexpected downpour. No two people wear down the same pair identically. In this sense, breaking in a new shoe is a collaborative act: the object shapes our posture, while our habits slowly sculpt the object.

Perhaps it is time we restored a measure of reverence to the things that carry us forward. Choosing a pair of shoes should not be an impulse driven by seasonal algorithms, nor merely a status signal stamped with a recognizable logo. Whether it is hand-stitched leather, breathable woven fabric, or cushioned running foam, the right pair grounds us — literally and metaphorically — for the miles ahead. After all, life rarely unfolds on smooth, predictable paths, and the quiet companions beneath our feet deserve far more gratitude than we give them.

— FELIX HENRY

THE QUIET ALCHEMY OF DAILY SELF-EXPRESSION

Long before a wardrobe is chosen or a greeting is spoken, the quiet ritual of applying cosmetics sets the tone for how we meet the world. Sitting neatly on bathroom shelves, tucked inside cluttered handbags, or arranged with precision on dressing tables, jars of cream, tubes of pigment, and vials of serum are often dismissed as instruments of vanity. Yet, across centuries and continents, cosmetics have functioned as something far deeper: an intimate language of identity, agency, and quiet resilience.

> *"Cosmetics are no longer confined to narrow definitions of gender, age, or occasion."*
> **ANNA B.**

From the kohl-lined eyes of ancient civilizations — worn as much to shield against the harsh glare of the sun as to accentuate the gaze — to the crushed hibiscus petals and turmeric pastes of traditional Indian households, humanity has always turned to the earth to adorn and protect the skin. Cosmetics were never merely about concealment. At their core, they represent one of our earliest intersections of science, art, and self-care. A sweep of kajal or a dab of vermilion carries centuries of cultural memory, bridging generational habits with modern interpretations of beauty.

Over the past decade, however, the philosophy behind what we put on our faces has undergone a profound transformation. The heavy, mask-like perfection once dictated by glossy magazine covers and rigid beauty standards has steadily given way to an era of intentionality. Today's consumer is less interested in erasing their features and far more invested in understanding them. Skincare has merged seamlessly with colour cosmetics: hyaluronic acid lives inside lip tints, sunscreens double as luminous primers, and breathable skin tints celebrate freckles, fine lines, and natural texture rather than hiding them beneath opaque layers.

This shift also reflects a broader democratization of beauty. Cosmetics are no longer confined to narrow definitions of gender, age, or occasion. A bold crimson lipstick can serve as quiet armour before a high-stakes presentation; a tinted moisturiser can offer a five-minute sense of normalcy on an exhausting morning; a touch of highlighter can simply be an act of playfulness on an ordinary Tuesday. In a fast-paced, unpredictable world, the five or ten minutes spent in front of a mirror often serve as a rare pocket of mindfulness — a moment where we are in complete control of the canvas.Still, the modern beauty landscape is not without its contradictions. The relentless churn of viral social media trends has fuelled overconsumption, encouraging overflowing vanities and plastic-heavy packaging that strain both wallets and the environment. True sophistication in cosmetics today lies in discernment: choosing multipurpose formulations, supporting transparent ingredient sourcing, and resisting the pressure to buy every fleeting shade promoted online. Ultimately, cosmetics derive their power not from the pigments themselves, but from the intention behind the hand that applies them.

Whether it is a minimalist swipe of lip balm or an intricate evening look, these small daily rituals remind us that taking care of our outward appearance is often a gentle way of honouring our inner selves, one brushstroke at a time.

— ANNA B.

THE QUIET CURRENCY HOLDING OUR SOCIETY TOGETHER

In an era defined by instantaneous digital transactions, algorithmic feeds, and rapid institutional shifts, one fundamental asset remains entirely immune to automation: trust. It does not appear on corporate balance sheets or national GDP reports, yet without it, every contract becomes unenforceable, every market seizes up, and every civic institution loses its legitimacy. Trust is the invisible infrastructure of human cooperation, operating quietly in the background until the precise moment it fractures.



At its core, trust is a willingness to accept vulnerability based on positive expectations of another's intentions or behaviour. When we step onto a morning train, transfer money via a mobile app, or rely on a colleague to meet a deadline, we are making a calculated leap of faith. In modern economies, this leap reduces friction. High-trust societies spend less time and capital on exhaustive verification, litigation, and surveillance, freeing up resources for innovation and growth. Conversely, when trust erodes, every interaction requires a hedge, turning routine collaboration into an exhausting exercise in risk management.

Today, however, that foundational currency is facing a quiet devaluation. Across public discourse, scepticism has increasingly replaced good faith as the default posture. Digital platforms, engineered to maximise engagement, often reward outrage and suspicion over nuance and consensus. High-profile corporate lapses, misinformation campaigns, and opaque decision-making have further trained citizens and consumers to scrutinise motives before accepting facts. While healthy scepticism protects against naivety, chronic cynicism is corrosive; it convinces people that integrity is merely a performance and that every institution is acting solely in self-interest.

Rebuilding this trust cannot be achieved through public relations campaigns or mission statements printed on office walls. Trust is strictly empirical: it is earned in drops through consistent, predictable actions and lost in buckets through a single breach of integrity. For leaders, institutions, and individuals alike, restoring credibility requires shifting from demanding trust to demonstrating trustworthiness.

This begins with radical transparency and accountability. People rarely expect perfection from leaders or organisations, but they do expect candour when things go wrong. Owning a mistake promptly, explaining the corrective steps without defensive jargon, and following through on commitments signal respect for the audience's intelligence. Consistency between private conduct and public values matters far more than polished rhetoric. When words and actions align over time, reliability ceases to be a gamble and becomes an established pattern.

Ultimately, trust is not a passive sentiment we wait to receive from others; it is a standard we set through our own conduct. Whether in boardrooms, classrooms, or neighbourhood communities, every promise kept and every honest conversation adds incremental value to our collective social capital. In a world increasingly fractured by doubt, choosing to be reliable, transparent, and fair remains the most practical investment we can make in our shared future.

— SANJANA SANTOSH

NAVIGATING THE CRUCIBLE: THE HIDDEN ASSET OF PRESSURE

In the modern lexicon, "pressure" is almost exclusively a pejorative term. It is the heavy weight that sits on our chest onW a Sunday evening, the relentless tapping clock during a deadline, or the impossible expectation that crushes creativity and fuels burnout. We design our lives to minimize stress, seeking comfort, balance, and an elusive state of perpetual ease. Yet, to view pressure only through the lens of damage is to misunderstand a fundamental law of both physics and human achievement. Pressure is not merely an obstacle; it is the indispensable agent of transformation.

Without pressure, nothing remarkable is ever created. It is the deep, crushing weight of the Earth's mantle that turns ordinary carbon into a diamond. It is the intense heat and compression that welds raw metal into a durable alloy. In the biological world, the struggle against gravity is what strengthens our bones; the demand for oxygen during exertion is what expands our lung capacity. The physical universe understands that without resistance, structures remain weak and forms remain amorphous.

Human psychology operates on a similar principle. While excessive, unrelenting trauma is destructive, the Goldilocks zone of moderate pressure is the catalyst for growth. Psychologists refer to this as the Yerkes-Dodson Law, which posits that performance increases with physiological or mental arousal, up to a point. When we are operating in our comfort zone, we may feel content, but we are rarely effective. We atrophy. We drift. It is only when a demand is placed upon us — a high-stakes project, an urgent crisis, or a daunting personal goal — that our focus sharpens, our dormant creativity ignites, and we are forced to access capabilities we did not know we possessed.

The primary problem lies not in the pressure itself, but in our interpretation of it. When we perceive a challenge as a threat, our bodies release cortisol, triggering the fight-or-flight response. This narrows our vision, induces anxiety, and impairs rational thought. Conversely, when we reframe that same challenge as an opportunity for growth or mastery, the physiological response shifts. It becomes a challenge response, releasing adrenaline that energizes rather than paralyzes. The heart beats faster, not from fear, but in preparation for action.

This shift in perspective is the critical skill for thriving in the 21st century. We cannot eliminate the demands of a rapidly changing world; the economy is volatile, information is relentless, and expectations are high. Attempting to retreat from these realities often leads to deeper isolation and fragility. Instead, we must learn to embrace the crucible. We must stop seeking an easy life and start developing the capacity for a strong one.

This does not mean glorifying burnout or dismissing the vital need for rest and recovery. Rest is the necessary counterpart to exertion, the moment when the diamond hardens and the muscle repairs. It means engaging with pressure intentionally, using it as a diagnostic tool to see where we need to improve, and trusting our capacity to adapt.

Ultimately, pressure is the fire that tempers the soul. By accepting its inevitability and reframing its purpose, we can transform it from a force that breaks us into the force that builds us.

— **SHIVA**

MORE THAN FIRE: THE LIGHTER AS A HUMBLE ICON



It sits quietly in a pocket, a glove compartment, or a junk drawer, often unnoticed until absolute necessity demands its service. It is rarely considered an object of significant design or cultural weight, yet the lighter is one of humanity's most profound technological achievements. Before the era of micro-processing and digital dependency, the ability to instantly conjure a controlled flame was nothing short of alchemy. The evolution of the lighter is a quiet mirror to our own progress, charting a path from primitive utility to sophisticated design and personal style.

In its most basic form, the lighter is a tool of liberation from the tyranny of friction. The struggle of ancient peoples laboriously rubbing sticks or striking flint against steel was a testament to the preciousness of fire for warmth, cooking, and safety. When the first practical, mass-produced lighters emerged in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, they didn't just provide a spark; they offered convenience and reliability that fundamentally altered daily life.

It was no longer necessary to carry sulfur-tipped matches that could be rendered useless by a sudden gust of wind or a drop of rain.

The 20th century, however, transformed the lighter from a mere utility into an emblem of personality and status. Think of the iconic click of a Zippo, a sound instantly recognizable across generations. It was not just a way to light a cigarette (a ubiquitous activity in its heyday); it was a prop in a film noir, a signifier of rugged American dependability, and often a personalized canvas. The lighter became jewelry, a corporate gift, and a travel souvenir. It was an artifact of an analog age that people carried close to their bodies.

Even as smoking rates have declined in many parts of the world, the lighter's relevance has persisted. Its function has broadened, becoming essential for lighting candles in moments of celebration or reflection, igniting pilot lights on stoves in older homes, or powering backpacking stoves that feed hikers on remote mountain trails. The design has evolved, too, moving from heavy, refillable metal cases to sleek, refillable butane torches and the omnipresent, brightly colored disposable plastic lighters that represent peak utilitarianism: ubiquitous, cheap, and undeniably effective.

Yet, this democratization also highlights a contemporary tension. While a high-end, windproof lighter is designed to last a lifetime, serving as a cherished object, the disposable lighter is a hallmark of our throwaway culture. Billions of these plastic lighters are manufactured and discarded annually, ending up in landfills or as environmental litter. This contrast between the enduring, valuable object and the cheap, disposable convenience speaks to a broader ethical conversation about consumption and sustainability.

Ultimately, the lighter remains a powerful symbol. It represents humanity's mastery over one of the fundamental forces of nature, condensed into a pocket-sized artifact. Whether it is an heirloom Zippo passed down through a family or a simple plastic Bic purchased at a gas station, every lighter holds a latent promise. In a world increasingly defined by digital abstraction and remote connection, the simple act of generating a real, tangible flame provides a primal and grounding link to our past, reminding us that sometimes, the most essential tool is the one that simply holds the power to spark.

— CHIRU

Quick Read

Assam Rifles seize 800 bottles of Eskuf syrup

KHOWAI

Assam Rifles, in coordination with Customs officials, seized 800 bottles of Eskuf syrup worth approximately ₹8 lakh during a joint operation in Tripura's Khowai district on November 23. Acting on specific intelligence inputs, the team intercepted a suspected vehicle in Mungiakami and recovered the consignment. A Bolero vehicle was also seized. The recovered items were handed over to Customs authorities for further investigation and legal proceedings. Assam Rifles said the operation was part of its efforts to disrupt illegal pharmaceutical trafficking networks in the Northeast.

Police arrest 3 in Rs 24 lakh cyber fraud

NEW DELHI

Delhi Police arrested three Punjab residents for their alleged involvement in a Rs 24 lakh online investment fraud operated through a WhatsApp group. The accused are Bagicha, 26, Dharminder Singh Brar, 37, and Parbodh Kumar, 59.The case began after Delhi resident Vikram Singh reported being cheated in September. He was promised high returns but was asked to deposit more money when attempting to withdraw his investment.Police found 18 complaints linked to the beneficiary bank account. Bagicha was arrested in Gurugram, Dharminder in Abohar and Parbodh on November 23. Four mobile phones were recovered. Investigators said the accused allegedly provided bank accounts to transfer fraud proceeds for commissions. Further investigation is underway.

UTTARAKHAND SCHEME TO EMPOWER 5.23 LAKH WOMEN

Uttarakhand will launch Baini-Bhuli Yojana in December, providing ₹20,000 each to 5.23 lakh eligible rural women, Chief Minister Dhami announced.



Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami

The scheme

- → **₹20,000** for each eligible woman, in two instalments
- → **5.23 lakh** rural women linked to Self-Help Groups
- → **₹10,000** first instalment, in December
- → **₹523 crore** allocated for the first instalment

DEHRADUN

The Uttarakhand government will launch the Baini-Bhuli Yojana in December, providing financial assistance of ₹20,000 each to 5.23 lakh eligible rural women associated with Self-Help Groups (SHGs), Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami announced.

Under the scheme, beneficiaries will receive the amount in two instalments. The first instalment of ₹10,000 will be transferred directly into their bank accounts in December, while the remaining amount will be released later. The government has allocated ₹523 crore from the state treasury for the first instalment.

Dhami said the initiative aims to strengthen women's financial independence and improve their opportunities for education, employment and progress. He emphasised that women's safety, dignity and self-reliance remain among the government's priorities.

Rural Development Minister Bharat Singh Chaudhary said the scheme would benefit women associated with Self-Help Groups, the Rural Livelihood Mission and various self-employment activities. He noted that women contribute significantly to the rural economy through agriculture, animal husbandry, handicrafts and local product manufacturing.

Chaudhary added that the government was implementing several initiatives to promote women entrepreneurs and help them become 'Lakhpati Didis'. These programmes also focus on branding and marketing locally produced goods to improve income opportunities.

He said the Baini-Bhuli Yojana would further support women's economic participation and strengthen ongoing welfare initiatives in the state. The government is also working across education, employment, healthcare and sports to improve opportunities for women.

Responding to a question about extending the scheme to urban women, Chaudhary said a separate initiative for them would be introduced soon.

Delhi to set up a skill development centre for youth, women



Delhi plans a skill development centre offering industry-focused training, employment opportunities and entrepreneurship support for youth and women.

Initiative in focus

8 acres	TOTAL AREA OF THE CENTRE
14	SPECIALISED LABORATORIES
250 seats	AUDITORIUM
2 acres	HORTICULTURE FIELD
50	CHILDREN IN TWO CRECHES

NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta announced plans to establish a Skill Development Centre in Shalimar Bagh to provide employment-oriented training for young people and women.

The project aims to connect trainees with jobs, self-employment and entrepreneurship through courses designed around technology and industry requirements.

The centre will be built by the Delhi Tourism and Transportation Development Corporation on approximately eight acres near DESU Colony. It will include smart classrooms, 14 specialised laboratories, a library, a learning resource centre and a 250-seat auditorium.

Facilities for conferences and placements are also planned, along with digital technology, fashion and textile, tailoring, beauty and wellness, bakery, food processing and healthcare labs.

Class 12 graduates will be offered technical courses modelled on Industrial Training Institutes. Women will have access to short-term programmes in tailoring, embroidery, fashion design, beauty services, hair styling, bakery, food processing and handicrafts. The centre is also expected to offer flexible schedules, weekend batches and online and offline classes to accommodate women with household responsibilities.

A horticulture training field spread across about two acres will provide practical instruction in plant care, plant health and landscaping. Plans also include hostels, sports facilities, two crèches with a capacity of 25 children each, and a medical sickbay.

The centre's academic and technical operations will be managed through Dr B R Ambedkar University's Skill Development Centre. Courses will follow National Skills Qualifications Framework standards and focus on digital services, artificial intelligence, IT support, retail and hospitality.

After training, participants will receive guidance for suitable jobs, apprenticeships or starting businesses. A proposed women's entrepreneurship and incubation facility will offer mentorship, market connections and information on financial assistance.

Government certificates are also planned to support trainees seeking employment.

Bihar sets 2027 deadline for university projects

PATNA

Bihar Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary has directed officials to complete ongoing infrastructure projects at Patliputra University, Purnea University and Patna University by March 2027. The instructions were issued during a high-level review meeting under the Bihar Gati initiative at the Sankalp auditorium in Patna on Tuesday.

The Chief Minister reviewed projects worth more than Rs 100 crore, focusing on higher education infrastructure and agricultural development. He asked officials to speed up construction and ensure that all projects meet the deadline.

At Patliputra University, the review covered the administrative and academic buildings, indoor stadium and connecting road from the National Highway. Infrastructure works at Purnea and Patna universities were also discussed. Choudhary directed officials to prepare a comprehensive master plan for Patna University in consultation with stakeholders. He also stressed that university hostel accommodation should be reserved exclusively for students and asked officials to facilitate the opening of degree colleges in B.Ed. colleges.

During the review of agricultural schemes, Agriculture Department Principal Secretary Narmadeshwar Lal briefed the Chief Minister on the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana. Choudhary called for district-wise action plans to promote cash crops and identify priorities in the state's agricultural sector, with a focus on improving farmers' incomes.


Officials were told to finish the works by March 2027

THE DEADLINES

MARCH 2027
Patliputra, Purnea and Patna university works

BY 2030
Transport and logistics for farm produce

RS 100 CRORE+
Worth of the projects reviewed

He also emphasised the need to strengthen the branding and market availability of Bihar's agricultural produce. Officials were directed to develop transportation and logistics facilities by 2030 to help farmers access national and international markets.

The Chief Minister said stronger higher education infrastructure and agricultural development were essential for the state's progress. He called for coordination among departments to ensure timely implementation of schemes and direct benefits for students and farmers.

SP to unveil manifesto on Constitution Day

LUCKNOW

The Samajwadi Party (SP) will release its PDA manifesto for the 2027 Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections on November 26, marking Constitution Day. Party president Akhilesh Yadav will unveil the document, titled Manifesto of the People (Jan-Man ka Manifesto), with the slogan, "A Pledge for '27: The PDA Commitment".

Prepared under the supervision of former Chief Secretary Alok Ranjan, the manifesto places the protection of the Constitution, democracy and reservation at the centre of the party's campaign. It will outline commitments on employment, education and social justice, focusing on women, youth and marginalised communities. The party also plans to release separate region-specific manifestos for different divisions and districts.

Detailed policy proposals are expected to be presented during the November 26 launch. Congress president and Rajya Sabha Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge is expected to attend the event at the party office, followed by a Constitution March.


SP president Akhilesh Yadav

> *"This time, the people of Uttar Pradesh are coming together to strengthen brotherhood, foster a sense of belonging, and bolster the PDA..."*
> **AKHILESH YADAV** SP president

Meanwhile, Yadav has said discussions on possible alliance arrangements are continuing, with the party's primary objective being to defeat the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). He also announced plans to submit a formal complaint to the Election Commission, alleging that some officials have been functioning as agents of the ruling party.

Leaders demand action in TVK MLA harassment case

CHENNAI

Political leaders in Tamil Nadu have demanded action over allegations that a TVK MLA sent inappropriate WhatsApp messages to a woman district collector. DMK MP Kanimozhi Karunanidhi questioned the state government's response, asking why Chief Minister Joseph Vijay and his ministers had remained silent until the National Commission for Women (NCW) and the court intervened.

Kanimozhi alleged that authorities had failed to act despite the issue being raised earlier. She questioned how a woman district collector could face difficulties in registering a complaint and called for the court to monitor the investigation. "Justice has to be done, and the court should monitor this," she said. She also said the matter would be raised in Parliament.

AIADMK General Secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami demanded the immediate arrest of the Kallakurichi TVK MLA, Arul Vignesh, and sought a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe. He alleged that attempts had been made to suppress the complaint and criticised the government's handling of the issue.


Political leaders have sought action over the allegations

The NCW has sought an Action Taken Report from the Tamil Nadu DGP within seven days

Palaniswami said the Madras High Court had directed the government to obtain an affidavit from the collector. He claimed that the formal complaint emerged following judicial intervention. He also questioned the government's commitment to women's safety and demanded action against those allegedly involved in concealing the matter.

The NCW took suo motu cognisance of the allegations on Sunday. Its chairperson, Vijaya Rahatkar, wrote to the Tamil Nadu Director General of Police seeking a fair and impartial inquiry and requested an Action Taken Report within seven days.

Meanwhile, TVK MLA Arul Vignesh has denied sending inappropriate WhatsApp messages to the collector, dismissing the allegations as rumours. Tamil Nadu Minister CTR Nirmal Kumar had earlier described the claims as false social media reports.

Maharashtra to open nine Additional Tehsildar offices

MUMBAI

The Maharashtra government has decided to establish new Additional Tehsildar offices at nine locations across the state to improve rural administration and speed up public services. Revenue Minister Chandrashekhar Bawankule took the decision, and the Revenue Department has issued a Government Resolution formalising the move.

According to the department, the offices will be established in six districts across the Nagpur and Nashik divisions. The locations include Chincholi-Khaparkheda, Ghot, Sinnar, Shirpur city, Shahada, Jalgaon city, Chalisgaon and Pahur.

The new offices are intended to strengthen rural administrative facilities and make revenue-related services more accessible. The move is expected to support faster handling of local administrative work. The offices are expected to bring revenue administration closer to residents and reduce travel for routine official work in villages.


Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis met Nandan Nilekani, chairman of a high-powered task force formed to strengthen security, introduce reforms and improve transparency in examinations. Former ISRO chairman S Somanath and senior officials also attended, according to the Maharashtra Chief Minister's Office.

The task force was constituted in July following concerns and protests over alleged irregularities in the NEET-UG 2026 examination and paper leaks. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had said it would recommend measures to make examinations more reliable and transparent, with greater use of technology.

SINGLE BATCH DISPUTE

Bisleri welcomes FSSAI clarification on Goa water sample

NEW DELHI

Bisleri International on Tuesday welcomed the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India's (FSSAI) clarification that the sale prohibition on its packaged drinking water applies only to a single batch manufactured at its Goa plant on September 27, 2025.



Bisleri packaged drinking water

The batch, identified as GO 270, was the subject of a sample collected from the company's facility in Verna, South Goa. Bisleri said the regulator clarified on November 23 that bromates were found below the permissible limit during the re-testing of the sample. The company added that no stocks from the particular batch were currently available in the market.

> **"The FSSAI has categorically and conclusively clarified on 23rd November 2026 that bromates were found below the permissible limit on re-testing of the above batch sample."**
> — Bisleri International

Bisleri stated that it produces more than 50,000 batches annually and that all its 143 plants remain operational and comply with FSSAI regulations. It also said the Goa facility had not received any direction to suspend operations and that samples from subsequent production met the prescribed standards.

Explaining the testing process, the company said six samples from the same water source were initially collected, and all cleared the prescribed parameters. However, during subsequent testing, one sample from batch GO 270 reported polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) at 0.144 micrograms per litre, while another sample from the same batch cleared all parameters. Bisleri said it had raised concerns over the discrepancies and requested a re-test in February 2026.

The FSSAI clarified that only one sample from one batch was found non-compliant and issued a sale prohibition order under Section 36(3) of the Food Safety and Standards Act. The regulator also directed the company to conduct a root cause analysis.

Quick Read

CISF jawan dies in motorcycle collision

JUNAGADH

A 23-year-old Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) jawan, Digvijaysinh Sisodiya, died after his motorcycle collided with another two-wheeler in Maliya Hatina town of Gujarat's Junagadh district on Monday night, police said.Sisodiya was posted with the CISF at the Delhi Metro and was visiting his hometown on a 10-day leave. He had travelled to attend a wedding function when the accident occurred near a petrol pump.Two men travelling on the other motorcycle sustained serious injuries and were taken for treatment. Police registered a case against the second motorcycle's rider, Rajveer Balgariya, under relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and the Motor Vehicles Act.

3 sanitation workers die while cleaning septic tank

HYDERABAD

Three sanitation workers died of suspected suffocation while cleaning a septic tank at Dinesh Auric Apartments in Bachupally, on the outskirts of Hyderabad, on Tuesday. The workers were identified as Suman (24), Suresh (25) and Pawan (25), all employed by a private cleaning agency.Police said the workers entered the underground tank but failed to return. Preliminary suspicion is that they died after inhaling poisonous gases accumulated inside. Following information from residents, police reached the spot and launched rescue operations to retrieve the bodies.The bodies were shifted to Gandhi Hospital in Secunderabad for post-mortem examination. Police registered a case of accidental death and initiated an investigation into the incident. Authorities are examining whether the workers were provided with adequate safety equipment and protective measures before entering the tank.

UP raids adulterated paneer unit

LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh Food Safety and Drug Administration (FSDA) raided an alleged adulterated paneer manufacturing unit in Raebareli on Monday night, destroying over three quintals of paneer and 1,500 litres of milk.

Officials found Ranipal optical whitener, refined palmolein oil, citric acid and caustic soda allegedly being used to manufacture paneer under unhygienic conditions. The raid took place in Aghaura village under Bachhrawan police station limits.An FIR was registered against unit owner Dhirendra Paswan and six workers under Sections 264 and 265 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. Samples of the chemicals, milk and paneer were collected for laboratory testing.FSDA Assistant Commissioner Vineet Kumar Pandey said the operation followed increased paneer demand during the wedding season.

Keralam bill proposes 3-year jail for children abandoning parents

Keralam Assembly passes legislation proposing three-year imprisonment for children who abandon or abuse parents after acquiring their property, Chief Minister V D Satheesan announced.



Keralam Chief Minister V D Satheesan.

KOLLAM

The Keralam Assembly has passed legislation proposing a three-year prison term for children who neglect or abuse their parents after acquiring their property. Chief Minister V D Satheesan announced the provision, stating that the law aims to protect senior citizens from abandonment and ensure their well-being.

The legislation, passed in October, will come into force after receiving the Governor's assent. Speaking after inaugurating a ₹20-crore residential facility for elderly men, named Pithrumandiram, at Gandhi Bhavan in Pathanapuram, Satheesan said the provision was deliberately included to discourage children from abandoning their parents after taking possession of their property.

> **"My biggest dream is that no elderly person in Keralam should be isolated."**
> — **V D Satheesan,** Chief Minister, Keralam

"You all should not be worried. I have deliberately added a provision in the legislation which mandates a three-year jail term for those children who neglect their parents after acquiring all their property," the Chief Minister said.

He added that children found neglecting their parents after acquiring their property would face imprisonment once the legislation receives the Governor's approval.

Satheesan said the government's first decision after coming to power was to establish a separate department for senior citizens, which he described as the first of its kind in the country.

The Chief Minister also appreciated LuLu Group chairman M A Yusuff Ali for financially supporting the construction of the residential facility. He praised the businessman for extending assistance to people in need.

Key bill provisions

- → Protects elderly parents from abandonment and neglect.
- → Prescribes a three-year jail term for eligible cases involving property acquisition.
- → Aims to strengthen the rights and welfare of senior citizens.
- → Seeks to encourage children to care for ageing parents.
- → Will come into force after the Governor's assent.

Wayanad to become India's first e-waste-free district



Homes among tea gardens in Keralam's hills.

Wayanad will become India's first e-waste-free district on November 27, following three months of coordinated waste collection and safe disposal efforts.

KALPETTA

Wayanad in Kerala is set to become India's first completely e-waste-free district on November 27, marking a major step towards sustainable waste management. Agriculture Minister T Siddique announced the development on Tuesday, stating that Chief Minister VD Satheesan would formally declare the district e-waste-free at a function in Kalpetta.

The declaration ceremony will take place at Chandragiri Auditorium in the presence of Local Self-Government Minister KM Shaji, elected representatives and government officials. The achievement follows three months of coordinated efforts to collect electronic waste from different parts of the district and ensure its safe disposal.

According to Siddique, the campaign covered households, government offices, educational institutions, tourist destinations and public establishments. Discarded electronic items were collected from these locations and sent for safe disposal as part of the district-wide initiative. The coordinated effort aimed to address the growing challenge of electronic waste and improve its management through organised collection and disposal.

Electronic waste, commonly known as e-waste, includes discarded electronic devices and equipment. Improper disposal of such waste can create environmental concerns, making systematic collection and safe processing important for communities. Wayanad's initiative focuses on ensuring that electronic waste generated across different establishments is handled responsibly.

Following the formal declaration, the district will begin a campaign to become plastic-free and more environment-friendly. Carbon neutrality has also been identified as the next major target.

EU seeks maritime security cooperation with India

NEW DELHI



The flags of the European Union and India.

The European Union (EU) has called for stronger regional cooperation with India and other Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) partners to protect sea lanes and tackle maritime crime. EU Ambassador Jean-Eric Paquet said the security of Indian Ocean shipping routes was a direct concern for Europe.

Speaking at the EU-IORA roundtable on maritime security, Paquet said both organisations had identified maritime security as a priority. He stressed the need for information-sharing and coordinated action against piracy and trafficking in drugs, arms and people.

The roundtable was organised by the EU with support from its ESIWA+ project, ahead of the IORA Committee of Senior Officials Meeting. Representatives from India, Australia, Sri Lanka, Kenya and Saudi Arabia attended.

Participants also received an update on EU Naval Force Operation Atalanta, which operates in the western Indian Ocean and Red Sea. Vice Admiral Ignacio Villanueva Serrano, its commander, outlined its role in deterring piracy, protecting World Food Programme vessels, safeguarding submarine infrastructure and monitoring the "shadow fleet". He said the visit marked progress in cooperation with the Indian Navy, with both sides set to sign a common operational framework.

The EU became an IORA dialogue partner in 2023. Maritime crime is one of four focus areas of IORA's maritime safety and security working group, chaired by Australia, with India as coordinating country.

India and the EU signed a Security and Defence Partnership in January covering maritime security, defence technology, cyber threats, space and counter-terrorism.

CJP questions Centre as co-convenor Saurav Das is stopped from flying to UK



Cockroach Janta Party leaders.

MUMBAI

Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) founder Abhijeet Dipke on Tuesday questioned the central government over co-convenor Saurav Das being stopped from travelling to the United Kingdom, alleging an attempt to silence voices of dissent. Das was reportedly prevented from boarding his flight to London despite invitations from Oxford University and the London School of Economics (LSE) to deliver lectures on the Cockroach Movement.

Das was stopped by airport security at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport on Monday after arriving on Sunday night for his scheduled journey. He was reportedly informed that he was not permitted to leave the country. Das later shared a video of the incident on social media.

Speaking to the media in Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, Dipke questioned the reasons behind the restriction and asked why an Indian citizen was being prevented from addressing international academic institutions. He said Das had been invited to explain how the movement gained recognition through peaceful protest.

The Cockroach Movement gained prominence after demanding the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan over alleged examination irregularities and the NEET-UG paper leak controversy. Pradhan resigned on July 25, stating that he wanted to prioritise students' futures and careers.

Drawing comparisons with businessmen Vijay Mallya, Nirav Modi and Mehul Choksi, Dipke questioned what he called the government's selective approach.

Manipur liquor tragedy death toll rises to 19

IMPHAL

The death toll from suspected spurious liquor consumption in Manipur rose to 19 on Tuesday after a 37-year-old man from Kakching died at a hospital in Imphal. Meanwhile, police have arrested nine people in connection with the incident, as authorities continue raids against the illegal liquor trade.

The deceased, Moirangthem Premjit, was admitted to hospital on Monday after experiencing nausea, blurred vision and abdominal pain. These symptoms were also reported by other victims of the liquor tragedy.

According to the state health department, 81 patients were undergoing treatment at four hospitals, including the Regional Institute of Medical Sciences. Of them, 70 were admitted to general wards, while 11 remained in intensive care units. The department said 813 patients had been discharged and 1,236 people screened. However, these figures may include repeated screenings and discharges of individuals across different hospitals.



The toll so far

19	DEAD
81	IN HOSPITAL
9	ARRESTED

The state excise department reported that approximately 5,000 litres of illicit liquor had been seized during raids conducted across the state. Officials said monitoring and enforcement measures were continuing to prevent further incidents and curb the illegal sale of locally manufactured liquor.Police have arrested nine accused in connection with the tragedy. Among those arrested were L Shanti Priya and Thoudam Kouba, who were taken into custody on Sunday, followed by Yumnam Sharat on Monday.

Centre updates 'Made in India' rules for IT hardware

NEW DELHI

8%	10%	6
of local content can come from in-house R&D in India	more for Indian design and IP	months before the rules take effect

The Centre has revised its 'Made in India' criteria for IT hardware products, giving greater importance to domestic research, design and semiconductor-level manufacturing rather than focusing mainly on final assembly.

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) issued the notification on November 20, covering desktops, all-in-one computers, laptops, thin clients, servers, computer monitors and interactive flat panel displays (IFPDs). The new framework will come into effect after six months and will apply to central government purchases as well as state and local body procurement under centrally funded schemes.

Under the revised rules, different manufacturing stages will receive specific weightage based on their contribution to a product's bill of materials. Certain activities, including motherboard assembly and final assembly and testing, must take place in India. Desktop monitor assembly and IFPD display glass assembly are also compulsory for eligibility in government contracts.

Credit for Indian design

The framework introduces incentives for research and intellectual property developed domestically. In-house research and development conducted in India can contribute 8 per cent of local content, while Indian-designed products and intellectual property can receive an additional 10 per cent.

Chips and storage

The government has also introduced incentives for semiconductor-related activities. Memory and solid-state storage assembled on circuit boards in India receive additional weightage, which increases when chips undergo assembly, testing and packaging domestically.

The revised methodology is aligned with the production-linked incentive scheme for IT hardware. The government said the changes aim to promote domestic manufacturing, strengthen indigenous capabilities and generate employment.

India, China hold second round of talks to ease Arunachal LAC tensions

NEW DELHI

India and China have concluded a second round of Corps Commander-level military talks aimed at easing tensions along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Arunachal Pradesh. The discussions, held over nearly 10 days from November 8, focused on preventing local confrontations from escalating into larger military standoffs ahead of winter.

The talks were described as cordial by defence sources. The Indian delegation was led by Lieutenant General Girish Kalia, General Officer Commanding of the Army's III Corps, also known as the Spear Corps.

Discussions covered troop engagement practices, maintaining communication channels and preventing misunderstandings between personnel deployed along the frontier.

The latest round follows senior military commander-level meetings held on September 6 at Wacha in India and September 7 at Damai in China. The meetings followed understandings reached between the two countries' Special Representatives in August 2025 and August 2026, alongside discussions under the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs.

Talking on the LAC

- **AUG 2025, AUG 2026** — Special Representatives reach understandings
- **SEPT 6-7** — Commanders meet at Wacha and Damai
- **SEPT 12** — Modi and Xi discuss border peace at the BRICS Summit
- **NOV 8** — Second round of Corps Commander talks opens
- **NOV 21** — Amit Shah reviews border security in Arunachal

The talks also come amid broader efforts to stabilise bilateral relations. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping discussed border peace during their September 12 meeting on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit in New Delhi.

Meanwhile, Union Home Minister Amit Shah reviewed border security and infrastructure in Arunachal Pradesh on November 21, focusing on road connectivity, border outposts, helipads and telecommunications.

DEEPATHOON LAMP CONTROVERSY

Protest erupts in TN over Karthigai Deepam dispute

THIRUPARANKUNDRAM

A scuffle broke out between police and protesters in Tamil Nadu's Thiruparankundram on Tuesday after the Karthigai Deepam ceremonial lamp was lit at the usual location instead of at the disputed Deepathoon stone pillar, where the Supreme Court had permitted it. Hindu organisations and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders staged protests, demanding implementation of the court's direction.

The lamp was lit atop the Arulmigu Uchipillayar Temple rather than at Deepathoon, located on Thiruparankundram hill. The Supreme Court had allowed the lamp to be lit at the stone pillar as a one-time arrangement last week. However, it clarified that the permission would not establish any customary right to conduct the ritual there in subsequent years.

The decision to light the lamp at the usual location triggered objections from Hindu organisations, which demanded that authorities follow the Supreme Court's direction.

Tamil Nadu BJP leader Vinoj P Selvam criticised the government led by Chief Minister Joseph Vijay, accusing it of failing to respect devotees' sentiments.

? THE COURT'S ORDER

The Supreme Court allowed the lamp at the Deepathoon as a one-time arrangement, with no customary right in later years.

Earlier on Tuesday, Tamil Nadu BJP president Nainar Nagendran was briefly detained while travelling to visit the Thiruparankundram Murugan Temple. He alleged that police prevented him from offering prayers despite the absence of a legally valid prohibitory order.

Quick Read

Auto industry gets relief as govt revises vehicle scrapping rules

NEW DELHI

The government has amended the country's vehicle scrapping regulations to clarify that automakers will not be required to account for future vehicle recycling obligations as current liabilities as long as they continue operating, providing relief to an industry that had flagged significant financial implications under the existing framework. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change notified amendments to the Environment Protection (End-of-Life Vehicles) Rules, 2025 on November 20, refining provisions related to manufacturers' responsibilities under the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) regime.

S. Korean shares rebound over 6% sparked by Jensen Huang's return

SEOUL

South Korean shares rebounded over 6 per cent on Tuesday, recovering from a two-day rout, as chipmakers rallied amid a global wave of optimism sparked by Jensen Huang's return to lead Nvidia. The Korean won was trading higher against the US dollar. The benchmark Korea Composite Stock Price Index (KOSPI) added 297.49 points, or 6.32 per cent, to end at 5,006.03 after reaching as high as 5,065.74. As the rally gathered momentum, the Korea Exchange activated a buy-side sidecar at 9.06 am, suspending buy orders in program trading for KOSPI-listed shares for five minutes. It marked the first activation of a buy-side sidecar on the KOSPI since November 10.



Delhi BS-VI vehicle rule: CTI flags impact on trade

NEW DELHI

The Chamber of Trade and Industry (CTI) on Tuesday expressed concern over the suggestion to allow only BS-VI compliant vehicles to enter Delhi and gradually ban the entry of commercial vehicles, warning that the move could severely affect the national Capital's trade and industrial sector as well as consumers.

CTI Chairman Brijesh Goyal said controlling pollution was essential, but implementing such restrictions without adequate preparations would directly affect more than 2 million traders, entrepreneurs, transporters and consumers in Delhi. Including their family members, the livelihoods of more than 5 million people could be impacted, he said.

"If commercial vehicles are not allowed into Delhi, the city's trade will come to a standstill," he said. Highlighting seven major concerns, CTI said transportation costs could increase two to three times if goods were required to be unloaded at border warehouses and subsequently transported into the city through smaller electric vehicles.

India takes skilling journey to global stage

India is preparing to host WorldSkills Asia 2027 as the government expands vocational training, upgrades ITIs and strengthens industry partnerships to equip young people for emerging employment opportunities.

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday highlighted India's growing focus on skill development, stressing the need to make skilling a preferred career pathway as the country prepares to host WorldSkills Asia 2027.

The Prime Minister's Office, in a post on X, said India was taking its skilling journey to the world stage. It referred to an article by Union Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Jayant Chaudhary, which highlighted preparations for the international competition, the PM-SETU initiative and efforts to strengthen industry-linked training.

The article noted that India had sent its first-ever contingent to WorldSkills Asia just a year ago. Now, hosting a WorldSkills event for the first time marks a significant development for the country's vocational training ecosystem.

Chaudhary highlighted that although Indian civilisation has traditionally celebrated skilled craftsmanship, vocational education continues to remain a secondary choice for many families, with conventional degree programmes often preferred over technical qualifications.

The growing adoption of artificial intelligence is also changing employment requirements. According to ADP's People at Work 2026 study, 80 per cent of employees in India use AI several times a week, while 41 per cent use it nearly every day.

The article also cited World Economic Forum projections that 170 million new jobs could be created and 92 million existing jobs displaced by 2030, with 59 out of every 100 workers requiring training.

To strengthen India's training infrastructure, the government launched PM-SETU with an outlay of Rs 60,000 crore to upgrade 1,000 Industrial Training Institutes. Investment plans for 15 clusters involving anchor industry partners have also been approved.

The initiative aims to connect training institutions with employers and prepare young people for emerging opportunities across industries, including those supporting AI infrastructure.



PM-SETU

- **Rs 60,000 crore** outlay
- **1,000** ITIs to be upgraded
- **15** industry-linked clusters with approved investment plans

DID YOU KNOW?

India sent its first-ever contingent to WorldSkills Asia just a year ago. WorldSkills Asia 2027 will be the first WorldSkills event it hosts.

DRDO showcases indigenous chip technologies

NEW DELHI

India is strengthening its semiconductor and advanced technology capabilities, with the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) showcasing indigenous innovations aimed at bringing research closer to industrial application and enhancing defence preparedness.

The initiative covers semiconductor development, artificial intelligence, quantum computing and advanced defence technologies, reflecting the growing importance of domestic technological capabilities for national security and self-reliance.

At the Emerging Science, Technology and Innovation Conclave (ESTIC) 2026, held at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi from October 27 to 29, DRDO led a dedicated session on semiconductors and next-generation chips.

Among the major technologies showcased were Gallium Arsenide (GaAs) and Gallium Nitride (GaN)-based Monolithic Microwave Integrated Circuits (MMICs), Multi-Chip Modules and Infrared Focal Plane Arrays (IRFPAs), developed by DRDO's Solid State Physics Laboratory in Delhi.

These components are designed for applications in advanced radar systems, electronic warfare and missile technology. MMICs are used in high-frequency and high-power electronic systems, while infrared focal plane arrays help tactical missiles detect and track targets during their terminal flight phase.

DRDO also displayed Short-Wave, Mid-Wave and Long-Wave Infrared technologies, demonstrating developments in domestic infrared sensing and defence electronics.

Advanced communication systems, quantum technology prototypes, energy management systems and protective equipment for military personnel were also showcased.

Private investment announcements surge 58.5%

NEW DELHI

Private sector project announcements in India surged 58.5 per cent during the first half of FY27, reaching Rs 26.6 lakh crore, according to the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

The industry body said sustained government efforts to improve the investment climate through policy reforms, infrastructure development and regulatory improvements have strengthened the foundation for private investment.

In a statement on Tuesday, CII highlighted the government's focus on macroeconomic stability, public capital expenditure, ease of doing business, digitalisation, manufacturing competitiveness and financial sector reforms as key factors supporting business confidence.

According to the second edition of CII's Private Investment Barometer, private sector project announcements during H1 FY27 were 4.4 times the average recorded during the first halves of FY17 to FY25. The private sector's share of total project announcements also increased to 86.2% from 74.2% a year earlier.

The report further indicated that gross capital formation by around 1,800 listed private companies reached Rs 12.4 lakh crore in FY26, equivalent to 3.6% of nominal GDP. On a comparable-firm basis, investment increased 8.7%.



> "The consistency and continuity of these government efforts, despite considerable global uncertainty, have strengthened business confidence and provided greater visibility for long-term investment decisions."
> — R. Mukundan, President, CII

Key investment indicators

- PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENTS, H1 FY27: **Rs 26.6 lakh crore**
- GROWTH ON A YEAR EARLIER: **58.5%**
- PRIVATE SHARE OF ANNOUNCEMENTS: **86.2%**
- GROSS CAPITAL FORMATION, FY26: **Rs 12.4 lakh crore**
- PROJECT COMPLETIONS, APR–SEP 2026: **Rs 1.8 lakh crore**

Real estate sentiment turns optimistic in July-Sep

MUMBAI

There has been a broad-based recovery in confidence across India's real estate sector, as the 'Current Sentiment Score' in the July-September period rebounded to 56 from 48 in the previous quarter, moving back into optimistic territory after two consecutive quarters below the neutral threshold, a report showed on Tuesday.

The 'Future Sentiment Score' also strengthened to 58 from 50, indicating that stakeholders are increasingly positive about the sector's prospects over the next six months, according to the 50th edition of the Knight Frank–NAREDCO Real Estate Sentiment Index for Q3 2026.

"Developer sentiment is back at year-ago levels, and the share of respondents expecting stronger residential launches has doubled to 42 per cent. With construction and borrowing costs rising, the industry's priority must be disciplined, demand-aligned supply, supported by timely approvals and sustained investment in infrastructure," said Parveen Jain, National President, NAREDCO.

The improvement reflects the resilience of India's domestic growth engine, stronger expectations across residential and office markets, and renewed confidence among both developers and non-developer stakeholders, said the report.

"India's strong domestic growth, improving expectations across real estate segments and sustained demand for quality office assets are supporting this renewed confidence. At the same time, higher energy prices, inflation and tighter monetary conditions warrant continued vigilance. The sector's ability to align supply with demand and maintain execution discipline will be critical to sustaining this momentum," added Shishir Baijal, International Partner, Chairman and Managing Director, Knight Frank India.

Developer sentiment rose to 59 in Q3 2026 from 51 in Q2 2026, returning to the level recorded a year earlier. Non-developer sentiment, which includes banks, financial institutions, private equity funds and other industry stakeholders, also improved to 58 from 53 in the previous quarter.



Current Sentiment Score

- APR–JUN: **48** below the neutral threshold
- JUL–SEP: **56** back in optimistic territory

Hyundai to raise prices by up to Rs 8,000 from Dec 1

NEW DELHI

Hyundai Motor India Limited on Tuesday announced a price increase of up to Rs 8,000 across select models and variants in its vehicle portfolio, effective December 1, 2026, citing rising input costs. The company said the extent of the increase will vary depending on the model and trim, with the maximum hike capped at Rs 8,000.

The decision comes as the automaker faces a sharp rise in input costs, which has put pressure on its operating expenses.

"The company has planned a minor price increase effective December 1, 2026 across select models and trims of its vehicle lineup," it said.

"The extent of the price increase will vary depending on the model and trim and shall be up to a maximum of INR 8,000," it added.

In a regulatory filing, Hyundai Motor India said it had been absorbing a significant portion of the increased costs through various internal efficiency measures and cost optimisation initiatives.

However, the company noted that it has now become necessary to pass on a part of the cost burden to customers.

"The decision has been necessitated primarily on account of the steep increase in input costs," the carmaker noted.

"While the company has consistently absorbed a substantial part of the rising costs through internal efficiencies and cost optimisation measures, it has become necessary to pass on a limited portion of the increased costs to customers," it added.

The revised prices will take effect from December 1, 2026. Hyundai joins a growing list of automobile manufacturers that have raised vehicle prices in response to higher commodity and input costs.



Google Cloud denies large-scale layoffs in India

NEW DELHI

Google Cloud, the US-based cloud computing division of Alphabet, on Tuesday denied reports of large-scale layoffs in its business in India, saying recent workforce changes were limited to a small organisational restructuring that affected around 30 roles.

In a statement posted on social media platform X, Google Cloud India described reports of widespread job cuts as totally inaccurate and said the company had only undertaken a limited realignment of work priorities.

"These rumours are totally inaccurate. Last week, Google Cloud made a small organisational change in India, and approximately 30 roles were eliminated as part of a re-prioritisation of work," Google Cloud India said.

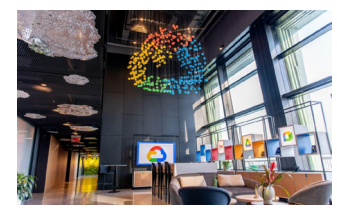
The clarification came after speculation emerged on social media and online forums suggesting that a significant portion of Google's India-based cloud workforce had been impacted by layoffs.

The discussion was reportedly triggered by posts on a professional networking platform, where an individual claiming to be a Bengaluru-based employee alleged that staff were being asked to resign or risk termination.

The posts also referred to alleged restrictions on internal transfers and the possibility of further workforce reductions.

Google's statement sought to counter those claims, emphasising that the changes were limited in scale and part of a routine business reorganisation.

Separately, reports claimed Qualcomm started laying off employees in India as part of a broader global workforce restructuring programme earlier in November. This was expected to affect around 1,000 employees, or up to 6 per cent of the company's workforce in the country, the reports said.



INDIA-EU ECONOMIC TIES

India-EU trade deal expected by year-end

NEW DELHI

The proposed India-European Union (EU) Free Trade Agreement (FTA) is likely to be concluded by the end of this year, with expectations of strengthening commercial relations and opening new investment opportunities, Lower Saxony Minister-President Olaf Lies said.

Speaking to IANS, Lies expressed confidence that the agreement would provide fresh momentum to India-EU economic cooperation and strengthen business connections between Indian companies and those in Lower Saxony, a German state.

He said the agreement would make direct engagement between companies from India and Lower Saxony increasingly important, particularly in areas involving investments, free trade and the exchange of components.

Highlighting renewable energy cooperation, the minister-president described India as an important partner for Germany in the sector.

Lies also pointed to growing interest among businesses on both sides, indicating scope for deeper economic engagement and mutually beneficial investments.



The trade negotiations are part of broader efforts to strengthen the India-EU strategic partnership. Earlier in November, India and the European Union held the seventh India-EU Strategic Partnership Review Meeting in New Delhi.

> "On the commercial front, I see companies from Germany looking to invest in India, as well as Indian companies interested in investing in Lower Saxony."
> — Olaf Lies, Minister-President of Lower Saxony

The meeting reviewed various aspects of bilateral cooperation, including trade and investment under the proposed FTA.

According to the Ministry of External Affairs, Secretary (West) Sibi George co-chaired the meeting with Matti Maasikas, Deputy Secretary-General for Geoeconomics and Interinstitutional Issues of the European Union.

The two sides also reviewed progress in implementing the Joint Comprehensive Strategic Agenda, adopted at the India-EU Summit in January this year.

Quick Read

Trump backs Huang's return to Nvidia

SANTA CLARA

US President Donald Trump said publicity surrounding Jensen Huang's return as Nvidia chief executive could benefit the chipmaker. Speaking to CNBC, Trump said the coverage drew attention to Nvidia's technology and remarked that "sex sells." Nvidia announced on Monday that its board had voted unanimously to restore Huang as president, chief executive and director, 11 days after his resignation was announced. The company said independent directors would continue looking into reports that a foreign intelligence effort had targeted Huang. Huang pledged cooperation.

Earthquake strikes near Nepal's Tibet border

KATHMANDU

A magnitude 5.6 earthquake struck near Olangchung Gola in eastern Nepal's Taplejung district at 7:17 am local time on Tuesday, Nepal's National Earthquake Monitoring and Research Centre said. Tremors were reported in Kathmandu, several eastern districts and parts of India, including Sikkim and northern West Bengal. The US Geological Survey measured the quake at magnitude 5.3 and placed its epicentre about 67 kilometres west-northwest of Mangan, Sikkim, at a depth of 10 kilometres. Nepalese authorities began checking for reports of damage and casualties.

US blacklists Alibaba's Singapore unit Apex

WASHINGTON

The US Commerce Department added Apex Enterprise Solutions, a Singapore subsidiary of Alibaba, to its trade blacklist. The department cited a significant risk that Apex and other listed companies could divert advanced computing products to unauthorised users or uses. The move also covers Megaspeed International in Singapore and five other companies. Suppliers will need US licences to send Apex AI chips and other goods covered by US export rules. The department said it would generally deny applications for those licences.

Israel says strike killed Hamas security chief

Israel's military and domestic security agency said an airstrike in Gaza killed the head of Hamas's internal security apparatus.

TEL AVIV

The Israel Defense Forces and the Israel Security Agency said in a joint statement on Tuesday that the strike killed Naim Muhammad Ashour Abu Nahal. They described him as a senior Hamas official who had served as deputy head of its internal security apparatus and led its Northern District.

The agencies said Abu Nahal took charge of the apparatus about two months ago, after Israeli forces captured his predecessor. Israeli caretaker Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu confirmed the strike in a post on X and praised the military and the security agency, also known as Shin Bet. Netanyahu said the predecessor had been captured three months ago. He said the strike was part of his government's policy.

The agencies accused Abu Nahal of helping plan attacks against Israeli troops and civilians during the war and working to rebuild the capabilities of armed groups in Gaza. They also alleged that he repeatedly violated the ceasefire. They said the strike was intended to remove what they described as a threat.



The agencies said Israeli troops remained deployed in the area under the ceasefire agreement and would continue to act against what they considered immediate threats.

The target

- **Role:** Deputy head of Hamas's internal security apparatus
- **Region:** Led its Northern District
- **Took charge:** About two months ago, after his predecessor was captured
- **Accused of:** Helping plan attacks and rebuild armed groups in Gaza

Israeli agencies' account

The agencies said they took steps to reduce harm to civilians, including aerial surveillance and the use of precision munitions. They described Abu Nahal's death as a blow to Hamas's ability to manage its operations. They said the strike followed other Israeli operations targeting senior officials in Hamas's security bodies, including its General Security Service and police.

Leak details Russian war deaths, suicides



A soldier walks along a road (file photo)

Leaked Russian records link more than 460,000 deaths to the Ukraine war and document over 1,000 suicides among Russian troops.

MOSCOW

The Guardian identified more than 460,000 deaths linked to Russia's war in Ukraine from the start of the full-scale invasion in February 2022 through September 2026. Its analysis drew on leaked records compiled by Rosstat, Russia's state statistics agency, from civil registry offices across the country.

A separate Guardian report based on the records found that more than 1,000 Russian soldiers were recorded as having died by suicide. The newspaper found cases that did not appear in the suicide tally, including one in which officials had told a soldier's family he had died by suicide.

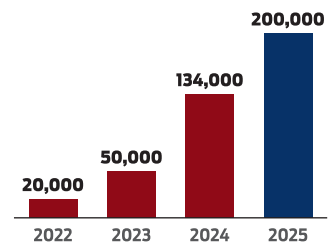
Russia last reported an official military death toll in September 2022, when it said 5,937 servicemen had been killed. The leaked records cover a much longer period. The Guardian said the records also leave out some deaths that were never registered and soldiers who remain missing.

A separate analysis by Meduza and Mediazona estimated that more than 700,000 Russian troops had died by the end of September 2026.

Russia has offered cash bonuses to attract recruits, according to the reporting. It has also recruited among migrant workers in Russia and sought recruits abroad by offering citizenship or civilian jobs.

How the death toll rose

Recorded each year (approx.)



Figures: the leaked records

2026: about one in five Russian soldiers recorded as killed through September was older than 50.

US Patriot missile transfer to Ukraine awaits approval

WASHINGTON

The report cited people familiar with the matter and said US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth had not given approval. The weapons include PAC-3 and PAC-2 interceptors. Some are held in European stockpiles and are being paid for by Ukraine's Western partners.

The pending allocation includes PAC-3 missiles scheduled for delivery between September and December. However, none of these shipments has received clearance, the newspaper reported. Around 20 older PAC-2 interceptors have also been allocated to Ukraine but are awaiting approval.

Ukraine has appealed for more air defence missiles as Russia continues missile and drone attacks. Patriot systems use these interceptors to destroy incoming threats and protect locations.

The Financial Times also reported that a plan to allow Ukraine to manufacture its Patriot interceptors has been delayed at the Pentagon.

A Pentagon spokesperson said there had been no change in Washington's policy on support for Ukraine but declined to comment on the transfers. An official said the department was continuing efforts to expand cooperation with European partners and Ukraine on the Patriot system.

Reuters said it could not verify the report, and the Pentagon did not respond to its request for comment.

Last month, the United States approved a sale of 500 PAC-3 missiles to Ukraine, worth about 2.1 billion US dollars.



Pete Hegseth, US Defence Secretary (file photo)

Around 60 Patriot air defence missiles promised to Ukraine remain awaiting approval from US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth, according to a report.

Indo-Canadians prepare for Modi's proposed Toronto visit

TORONTO

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to visit Canada on December 11 and 12. The proposed trip would be Modi's second visit to Toronto and comes as India and Canada work to rebuild ties after several years of diplomatic tensions.

Modi last visited Toronto in April 2015, when Stephen Harper was Canada's prime minister. Modi returned to Canada in June 2025 to attend the G7 summit in Alberta.

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney visited India in February 2026. According to the report, ministers from both countries had held more than a dozen visits and meetings since Carney took office in March 2025. The proposed December trip could build on those contacts and give both governments a chance to discuss trade, investment and other shared priorities.

Canada is home to more than 1.7 million people of Indian origin, according to the report. Community members hoped the visit would help restore trust and create opportunities for businesses, students and families in both countries, the report said.



Trade and investment

The proposed Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement aims to double trade between India and Canada by 2030, the report said. It identified energy, agriculture, education and technology as areas for closer cooperation. India could benefit from Canadian investment and resources, while Canada could gain greater access to India's market as it seeks to diversify its trade.

Bangladesh says Hasina must return in handcuffs

DHAKA

Bangladesh State Minister for Foreign Affairs Humaiun Kobir has said former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina can return only through extradition, in handcuffs and under strict surveillance. His remarks followed an announcement by Hasina's spokesperson that she planned to return from India on December 16, the country's Victory Day.

Speaking to reporters, Kobir said there was a difference between what Hasina wanted and what could happen. He rejected the idea that she could travel as an ordinary passenger and said the government would follow the extradition process.

Hasina's spokesperson, Syed Mozammel Ali, said she wanted the Bangladesh government to arrange a flight from Delhi to Dhaka on national carrier Biman Bangladesh Airlines. He argued that the government should help her return because she had been flown to India on a Bangladesh aircraft on August 5, 2024.Hasina fled to India after a student-led uprising ended her 15-year rule in August 2024. Bangladesh has since sought her extradition. New Delhi has said the request is being examined through channels.

In November 2025, Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal sentenced Hasina to death in absentia over crimes against humanity linked to the crackdown on protesters. She has denied the charges.

The tribunal's chief prosecutor, Md Aminul Islam, criticised her request for a government-arranged aircraft.

Kobir accused supporters of Hasina's Awami League of carrying out sporadic attacks to frighten people. He said the government was confident it could manage the situation and keep citizens informed.

Her proposed return has added to tensions between Dhaka and New Delhi.



Sheikh Hasina
FORMER PRIME MINISTER OF BANGLADESH

Fled to India: August 2024
Sentenced: To death in absentia, November 2025
Planned return: December 16, Victory Day
Spokesperson: Syed Mozammel Ali
Prosecutor: Md Aminul Islam, International Crimes Tribunal

2 arrested after reported royal home break-in

NORFOLK

British police arrested two men after a reported break-in at the country home of Prince William and Catherine, Princess of Wales.

Norfolk Police said officers were called shortly before 6 pm on Monday after a report of suspicious activity at a property on the royal family's Sandringham estate in eastern England. Officers searched the area with police dogs, drones and a helicopter before arresting two men on suspicion of burglary and trespassing.

Police said the property was unoccupied when the incident took place. Both men remained in custody on Tuesday and had not been charged.

The family's Norfolk retreat

Anmer Hall is a country house with 10 bedrooms on the Sandringham estate. The late Queen Elizabeth II gave it to William and Catherine as a wedding gift. The couple use it as a country retreat. They often stay there on weekends. They spend most of their time with their three children at Forest Lodge in Windsor, west of London.



William and Catherine (file photo)

The police statement referred to a property on the Sandringham estate. The Sun identified it as Anmer Hall, the Norfolk country home of the Prince and Princess of Wales.

The Sun reported that masked men had entered the house on Monday night while William, Catherine and their family were away. Kensington Palace declined to comment on matters relating to security.

Qatar, US seek to ease tensions

WASHINGTON

Qatari Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani and US Secretary of State Marco Rubio co-chaired talks between the two countries. Qatar's Foreign Ministry said officials and experts met in four working sessions to discuss steps to strengthen peace, security and economic cooperation.

The ministry said both countries continue to coordinate on the Gaza Peace Roadmap, including through talks with the Board of Peace. Rubio reaffirmed the US commitment to Qatar's security. Both sides pledged to protect freedom of navigation through the Strait of Hormuz, citing the waterway's importance for regional security, energy supplies and the global economy.

The two governments are also looking at ways to share more information, improve customs and border security, and expand training for law enforcement officers. Qatari and US agencies are working together to counter terrorism, terrorist financing and organised crime, the ministry said. The ministry said a joint military commission had met in September to discuss closer defence cooperation.

Al Thani praised US diplomatic efforts to resolve regional conflicts. A joint statement said discussions on defence, security, law enforcement and cultural ties were expected to continue into early 2027.



Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani (left) and Marco Rubio (file photo)

UN FEMICIDE REPORT

UN reports 47,000 killed by partners, relatives

VIENNA

About 47,000 women and girls worldwide were killed by intimate partners or family members in 2025, a UN report found.

UN Women and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime released their findings on Tuesday ahead of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. The agencies estimated that about 78,000 women and girls were intentionally killed worldwide in 2025. Intimate partners or family members were responsible for about 60 per cent of those deaths.

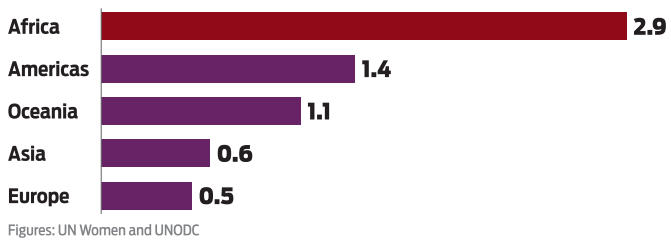
The figure for killings by partners or relatives works out to about 129 victims a day, or roughly five every hour. Annual estimates have ranged from 45,000 to 51,000 over recent years. The agencies said the pattern had changed little and that killings by partners or relatives remained a major share of intentional deaths among women and girls.

The report uses the term femicide for killings of women and girls linked to their gender. It said information on such killings outside the home or family setting remains limited. Those gaps make it difficult to measure the overall scale of femicide across regions or worldwide.

The findings show that the risk of being killed by a partner or relative varies substantially across regions. Africa had the highest estimated rate, while Europe had the lowest. Homicide rates have fallen faster, the agencies said.

Regional rates in 2025

Per 100,000 women and girls



Figures: UN Women and UNODC



Representational image

India A thrash UAE to seal Rising Stars semi-final spot



DOHA

India A stormed into the semi-finals of the ACC Men's Asia Cup Rising Stars tournament after defeating the United Arab Emirates in Doha on Tuesday, completing a chase of 250 in just 14.2 overs. The seven-wicket victory secured the team a place among the tournament's final four.

The UAE, batting first, recovered from a setback to post 249/8 in 50 overs. Harpreet Singh Bhatia anchored the innings with 130 from 144 deliveries, striking 12 fours and four sixes. He received support from Muhammad Shahdad, who scored 28, and Ethan D'Souza, who contributed 25. Captain Basil Hameed remained unbeaten on 36 from 36 balls to help the UAE reach that total.

India A's bowlers made an impact, reducing the UAE to 20/2 inside six overs. Arshad Khan was the leading wicket-taker, finishing with four for 43, while Harsh Dubey, Shahbaz Ahmed and Suryansh Shedge claimed one wicket each.

Harpreet's partnerships helped the UAE recover and set India A a target of 250.

India A's reply began with wickets, but the side took control through an aggressive batting display. Vaibhav Sooryavanshi produced an innings of 204 from 53 balls with seven fours and 28 sixes. He reached his century in 28 deliveries and his double century in 52 balls, setting List A records. His innings kept the chase on track.

The team completed the chase with more than 35 overs remaining, underlining its dominance. Rinku Singh finished the match by hitting a six over deep mid-wicket. Captain Tilak Varma praised Sooryavanshi's acceleration after his century and said the team was looking forward to the semi-final. The victory sends India A into the last four.

It also strengthened hopes of winning the title.

Sooryavanshi scripts triple record triumph

With a fastest 50, 100 and double century



DOHA

India's teenage batter Vaibhav Sooryavanshi created history by scoring the fastest century in List A cricket, reaching the milestone in just 28 balls against the United Arab Emirates in the ACC Men's Asia Cup Rising Stars tournament in Doha.

Sooryavanshi surpassed Australia's Jake Fraser-McGurk, who had scored a century in 29 deliveries for South Australia in the 2023-24 Marsh Cup. He was on 103 from 28 balls at that stage, with 14 sixes and four boundaries. His explosive start took India A to 122/2 in 6.3 overs while chasing 250.

> **"What can I say about that innings? It was one for the ages."**
> — **Tilak Varma,** India A captain

Earlier, the UAE posted 249/8 in 50 overs after recovering from an early collapse. Harpreet Singh Bhatia top-scored with 130 off 144 balls, including 12 fours and four sixes. He built important partnerships with Muhammad Shahdad and Ethan D'Souza. Arshad Khan led India A's bowling attack with four wickets for 43 runs, while three other bowlers claimed one wicket each.

THE 53 BALLS OF HIS 204 — 28 SIXES 7 FOURS 18 OTHERS

Real Madrid near Bellingham contract extension



MADRID

Real Madrid is closing in on a new contract agreement with England midfielder Jude Bellingham, with the Spanish giants planning to extend his stay at the club until 2031.

The proposed deal is expected to significantly increase the 23-year-old's salary, potentially placing him among the highest-paid footballers in Europe. His wages could approach those of Brazilian forward Vinicius Junior, although French superstar Kylian Mbappe is expected to remain the club's highest earner.

Negotiations between Real Madrid and Bellingham have reportedly reached an advanced stage. The club began working on revised contract terms in September, despite his existing agreement running until June 2029.

Madrid are keen to reward the midfielder for his performances and contributions since arriving at the Santiago Bernabeu.

Bellingham currently earns approximately 15 million euros annually after tax. Under the proposed agreement, his earnings are expected to rise considerably, bringing him closer to Vinicius, who reportedly receives around 600,000 euros per week after tax.

The England international has made an impressive start to the ongoing season, scoring six goals and establishing himself as an important member of the starting line-up under head coach Jose Mourinho.

His influence has also earned praise from teammate Thibaut Courtois. The Belgian goalkeeper highlighted Bellingham's competitive mentality, leadership and determination, describing him as someone who constantly pushes himself and his teammates to win.

"Jude is someone who really wants to win. He's really a winner, and when he's not happy, he will make it known. He's also a leader on the field. He's a great player, a great mentality," Courtois said.

Courtois also praised his physical strength and work ethic, adding that Bellingham's presence improves the team's overall performance.

THE BELLINGHAM DEAL

- Real Madrid target contract extension until 2031
- Bellingham's existing deal expires in June 2029
- Proposed salary could approach Vinicius Junior's earnings
- Kylian Mbappe expected to remain the club's highest-paid player
- Thibaut Courtois praises Bellingham's winning mentality and leadership

LAS VEGAS RACING THRILLER

Las Vegas Grand Prix delivers record overtaking

352 overtakes | **35** changes of lead | **0.639** sec winning margin

LAS VEGAS

Formula One's Las Vegas Grand Prix emerged as a sold-out success, with record overtaking numbers and intense wheel-to-wheel battles helping attract fans despite concerns over ticket demand ahead of the race.

Red Bull's Max Verstappen secured victory in a thrilling 50-lap contest, holding off McLaren's Lando Norris by just 0.639 seconds. Oscar Piastri completed the podium for McLaren, making it a closely contested race along the famous Las Vegas Strip.

According to Formula One, the race witnessed 352 overtakes and 35 changes of lead, with energy deployment, overtaking modes and long straights contributing to the action throughout the field.

Norris, who briefly took the lead after recovering from outside the points, described the contest as potentially the best Formula One race ever from a spectator's perspective. However, he questioned whether some overtakes were genuine racing manoeuvres because of the influence of battery deployment.

"From a racing point of view, from the outside, I'm sure it probably was the best race ever in Formula One," Norris said.

He acknowledged that the use of boost sometimes made overtaking easier but maintained that the overall competition remained entertaining.

The event had faced uncertainty over ticket sales, with unusually cool weather and already-decided championship battles expected to affect attendance. Kimi Antonelli had secured the drivers' championship, while Mercedes had clinched the constructors' title before arriving in Las Vegas.

Although rain disrupted Thursday's practice, clear conditions on Friday and Saturday helped fans fill the grandstands.

Norris also suggested that racing could improve further under the proposed 2030 engine regulations.

The FIA has announced an agreed framework for a lighter, simpler 2.1-litre turbocharged V8 engine, sustainable fuels and limited hybridisation.



Real Kashmir secure first win of season

SRINAGAR

Real Kashmir FC registered their first victory of the Indian Football League 2026–27 season with a convincing 3-1 win over Dempo SC at the TRC Stadium in Srinagar on Monday. Goals from Rohen Singh, Alain Eyenga and Marcus Joseph secured all three points for the Snow Leopards, while Rowllin Borges scored for the visitors.

The result lifted Real Kashmir to seventh place in the standings with five points. Real Kashmir goalkeeper Susnata Malik was named Player of the Match for saves that helped the hosts protect their advantage.

Real Kashmir started strongly and took the lead in the 19th minute. Lalawmpuia Sailo drove into the penalty area, beat his marker and set up Rohen Singh, who finished with his left foot past Dempo goalkeeper Subhajit Bhattacharjee. The hosts continued to press, and Marcus Joseph came close to adding another in the 23rd minute, but Subhajit made a save.

The home side doubled its lead in the 33rd minute after a short corner. Dempo failed to clear the ball, which reached Alain Eyenga, and the forward guided it into the net to make it 2-0. Dempo responded two minutes later. Laximanrao Rane sent in a cross from the left, and after Malik got a hand to the delivery, Rowllin Borges converted from close range.

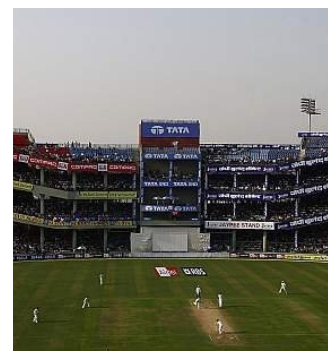
Dempo carried that momentum into the second half and enjoyed possession. Borges tested Malik with a free-kick in the 54th minute before the goalkeeper produced another diving save to deny his header four minutes later. The visitors continued to search for an equaliser through Rane, captain Richmond Owusu and Arnold Oliveira, but Real Kashmir remained organised at the back. Eyenga also made an important block to stop Oliveira in the 70th minute.

Real Kashmir threatened on the counter, with Subhajit denying Sailo and Joseph in the 80th minute. The hosts settled the contest in the 87th minute. Thabiso Brown collected a diagonal pass and laid the ball off for substitute Lalrokima, who moved into the box and squared it across goal. Joseph finished the move to make it 3-1.

Dempo continued to push forward, but Real Kashmir held firm until the final whistle to claim their first win of the season. Malik's performance proved crucial as the Snow Leopards turned a strong start into a team victory.



DDCA announces Delhi U-16 squad



NEW DELHI

Parth Dabas will lead the Delhi U16 squad in the upcoming Vijay Merchant Trophy 2026–27 match against Mumbai, the Delhi & District Cricket Association (DDCA) said on Tuesday as it announced the 16-member team.

The upcoming match is scheduled to be played in Gwalior from November 25. The league-phase matches, which commenced on November 14, are being held in Gwalior. The squad was finalised by the Junior Men's Selection Committee at a meeting held on November 23 at the DDCA premises.

While Dabas has been named captain, Yuvish Singh will serve as vice-captain and wicketkeeper. Rivaan Veer Bhayana has also been named as a wicketkeeper in the squad.

The selection committee meeting was attended by Mayank Sidana (Chairperson), Abhishek Sharma (Selector), Yogesh Nagar (Selector), Robin Singh Jr. (Member, CAC-DDCA), Raju Sharma (Chief Coach) and Ashok Sharma (Secretary).

The Vijay Merchant Trophy is a domestic age-group cricket tournament organised by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

A total of 36 teams from different States will take part. The teams have been divided into six groups of six each, and the Group C matches will be played in Shivamogga.

DELHI U-16

The 16 for the Mumbai match

1 Parth Dabas (captain)
2 Yuvish Singh (vice-captain and wicketkeeper)
3 Saksham Yadav
4 Shivansh Singh
5 Aarush Yadav
6 Arnav Sharma
7 Rivaan Veer Bhayana (wicketkeeper)
8 Kshitij Sehra
9 Veddant Gupta
10 Shaurya Chandna
11 Manan Mathur
12 Pranay Sharma
13 Aahan Garg
14 Geetank Lakhera
15 Yash Maheshwari
16 Naitik Singh

Kathryn Bryce makes strides in ICC rankings

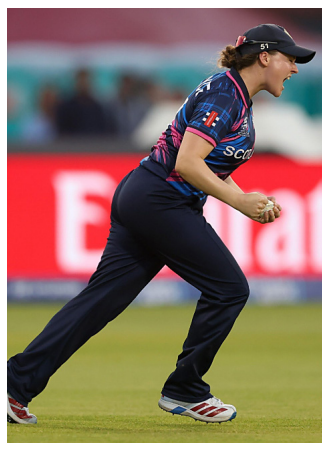
DUBAI

Scotland captain Kathryn Bryce made strong gains in the ICC rankings after capping off strong performances in the ICC Women's Emerging Nations Trophy.

Bryce jumped four spots to move third in the T20I rankings for all-rounders after completing the tournament with 232 runs and eight wickets. Scotland narrowly missed out on a place in the final.

Bryce was in stellar touch during Scotland's last match in the tournament against Zimbabwe as she made a 48-ball 69 and took two wickets to star in a 74-run win.

This saw her gain four places in the T20I rankings, the highest she has ever been in any rankings category, along with her third place in the T20I all-rounders' rankings five years back in May 2021.



She now stands only behind West Indies captain Hayley Matthews (first) and New Zealand skipper Melie Kerr (second) as Bryce aims to become the first Scottish player to be ranked No.1 in any rankings category.

Her strong outing with the bat also saw Bryce jump 27 places in the T20I rankings for the batters as she moved to equal 18th. Ireland skipper Gaby Lewis also gained two spots to move to 11th in the batting chart.

Meanwhile, Australia's veteran Beth Mooney stays on top of the batting list as she has a narrow advantage over South Africa's Laura Wolvaardt. UAE skipper Esha Oza moved up eight slots to equal 29th, while Ireland opener Amy Hunter jumped six places to equal 29th. Sri Lankan batter Vishmi Gunaratne also made significant strides as she moved 10 places to reach 51st.

Meanwhile, there was more joy for Scotland in the rankings as bowlers also reaped rewards. Left-arm spinner Kirstie Gordon moved 23 places up to reach 10th after taking 12 wickets at the Emerging Nations Trophy event.

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