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boost trade links
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RAM TEMPLE 'DWAJAROHAN'

Centuries-old pain put to rest: Modi

The ceremonial hoisting of saffron 'Dharma Dhawja' atop the Sri Ram Temple in Ayodhya marked its formal completion; PM Modi urges citizens to "awaken the Ram within" to realize India's 'super power' dream

AYODHYA
(UTTAR PRADESH)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said India and the world are immersed in Ram, as he described the installation of the Dharma Dhawja atop the newly-constructed Ram Temple as a moment that heals "wounds of centuries" and marks the fulfilment of a civilisational resolve kept alive for 500 years.

Modi along with RSS Sanghchalak Mohan Bhagwat ceremonially hoisted the saffron flag (Dharma Dhawja) on the Shikhar of the Ram Temple, which marked the ceremonial completion of its construction.

Addressing the gathering at the 'Dwajorohan' ceremony, the PM said, "The moment symbolised a cultural resurgence for the nation. There is extraordinary satisfaction in the heart of every Ram devotee. There is boundless gratitude. There is unfathomable supernatural bliss. The wounds of centuries are being healed. Centuries-old wounds are healing,

centuries-long pain is finding closure, as the resolve that burned for 500 years finally reached its fulfilment."

"Today, the energy of Lord Ram is established at the 'shikhar' of the Grand Ram Temple in the form of this Dharma Dhawja," he said. Terming the flag-hoisting "a unique and divine moment", the PM said the sacred flag atop the Ram temple would stand as a testimony to the fact that "truth ultimately triumphs over falsehood".

Elaborating on the symbolism of the flag, he noted that it reflects the rebirth of an ancient civilisation and embodies the ideals of Ram Rajya. "This Dharma Dhawja is not just a flag. It is the flag of the rejuvenation of Indian civilisation. The Saffron colour, Suryavansh's signia, the 'Om' word, and the Kovidara tree impregnate Ram Rajya's glory," he added.

DHARMA DHAWJA

The right-angled triangular flag, measuring 10 feet in height and 20 feet in length, bears the image of a radiant Sun symbolising the brilliance and valour of Bhagwan Shri Ram, with an 'Om' inscribed on it along with the image of the Kovidara tree.

In Ayodhya, Modi outlines roadmap for Viksit Bharat @ 2047

India must draw strength from its civilisational roots and break free from the British-era legacy of slave mentality to become a super power' Ayodhya (Uttar Pradesh): Prime Minister Narendra Modi described the raising of the Dharma Dhawja (flag) atop the Ram Janmabhoomi Temple as a "historic" moment, saying India must draw strength from its civilisational roots while shedding its "slave mentality" in order to become a super power by 2047. Addressing devotees, the PM invoked the ideals associated with Lord Ram to highlight his vision of a confident, future-oriented India. "Ram is not a person, He is a value. If we want to make India developed by 2047, we have to awaken Ram within ourselves. What day can be better than today for this resolution?" he asked. Reiterating that Lord Ram resonates with people through emotion, Modi noted that devotion, cooperation and shared cultural values form the foundation of Indian society. "India must look beyond the present and plan for future generations. Those who think only of today are unfair to the coming generations. The country existed when we were not here, and it will still remain when we won't be here. The journey to a developed India by 2047 requires awakening the Ram "within us as Ram is not a person but a value, a discipline and a direction," he said.



The centenary of India's
Independence in 2047 must mark
the realisation of the goal of a
'Viksit Bharat'

—Narendra Modi, PM

PM Modi remembers the sacrifice of Guru Teg Bahadur Ji

KURUKSHETRA: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday attended a special programme marking the 350th martyrdom anniversary of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur, the ninth Sikh Guru, in Kurukshetra. Addressing the gathering, the PM paid tributes to Guru Tegh Bahadur, calling him the repository of truth, justice and faith. He also released special coin and commemorative stamp to mark the anniversary of Guru. "Standing on this very land of Kurukshetra, Lord Krishna declared the protection of truth and justice as the greatest religion... Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji also considered the protection of truth, justice, and faith as his religion, he added.

Human talent irreplaceable by AI, robots: Shukla

BENGALURU

The talent of humans to correct things without delay and think about 10 things at a time cannot be done by robots and AI, said Gaganyatri Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla.

He was speaking at an 'Astronaut- Student Interaction Programme', organised by Bengaluru's Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium along with the Karnataka Science and Technology Promotion Society at the planetarium here on Tuesday.

To a question on whether ISRO's cost-effective image will hamper future space missions, he said: "I do not think being cost-effective is at the cost of safety of astronauts and the space mission. We are being cost-effective in terms of global standards and that will not hinder the future of missions."

To a question on 'why do we need spacecrafts, why can we not use robotics and AI?' he replied the challenge would be to see and preplan everything for robots.



Astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla being felicitated by CM Siddaramaiah at Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Tuesday

▸ CH Photo

IAS officer Bilagi killed in car accident

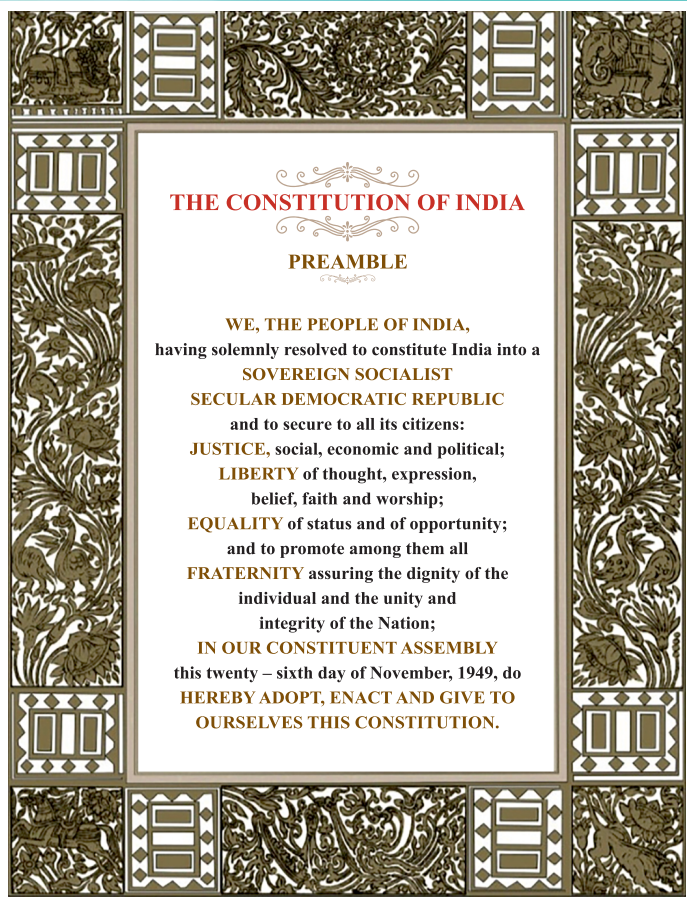
Kalaburagi: A tragic car accident near Gounalli Cross in Jewargi taluk in Kalaburagi district claimed the lives of senior Karnataka IAS officer Mahantesh Bilagi, who was serving as the Managing Director of the Karnataka State Minerals Corporation, along with two others. According to reports, Bilagi and his relatives were travelling from Ramdurg in Belagavi district to Kalaburagi to attend a family wedding. The car reportedly overturned after the driver lost control when a dog suddenly crossed the road. The accident resulted in the deaths of Mahantesh Bilagi, his brother Shankar Bilagi, and Eeranna Shirasangi.



"Education is the most important
weapon to raise the standard of
living of the people"

-Dr. B.R. Ambedkar

Constitution Day Celebration For Liberty, Equality, Fraternity



THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA

PREAMBLE

WE, THE PEOPLE OF INDIA,
having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a
SOVEREIGN SOCIALIST
SECULAR DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
and to secure to all its citizens:
JUSTICE, social, economic and political;
LIBERTY of thought, expression,
belief, faith and worship;
EQUALITY of status and of opportunity;
and to promote among them all
FRATERNITY assuring the dignity of the
individual and the unity and
integrity of the Nation;
IN OUR CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY
this twenty – sixth day of November, 1949, do
HEREBY ADOPT, ENACT AND GIVE TO
OURSELVES THIS CONSTITUTION.



Social Welfare Department



Sri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister



Sri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister

Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare
will Flag off the 'Walkathon Jatha' at 10.00 AM
from Grand Steps of Vidhana Soudha to
Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Bhavan.



Dr. H.C. Mahadevappa, Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare,
speaking on the democratic principles enshrined in
the Constitution of India.



As is enshrined in our Constitution, to value and preserve the rich heritage of
our composite culture is the fundamental duty of every citizen of the country.

All are cordially invited

Randeep D., IAS,
Secretary to Government

Dr. Rakesh Kumar K., IAS,
Commissioner

QUICK READ



Young Woman Ends Life Due to Health Struggles

PUTTUR

A 22-year-old woman, Neetha, took her own life at Keyyur village in Puttur, Dakshina Kannada district, reportedly due to prolonged health complications. Her sister Geetha found Neetha hanging from a window sill and filed a complaint with the Sullia Police Station. Neetha had been suffering from severe headaches and nerve-related issues since 2016 and had undergone treatment at various hospitals. Her sister believes the prolonged health issues led Neetha to despair. Police have registered a case and are investigating the incident.

DJ Blasts Music Without Permit in Bhandaribettu, Case Bantwal

A case has been registered at Bantwal Police Station against a DJ operator for using loud music without permission at a wedding function in Bhandaribettu on Saturday night. The police received a complaint about the loud music disturbing the peace and proceeded to the spot, where they found the DJ operating without a permit. The authorities have taken cognizance of the matter and a case has been filed against the operator for violating noise pollution norms.

Municipality Launches WhatsApp Number to Combat Public Littering

MOODABIDRI

The Moodabidri Municipality has launched a WhatsApp number (9632187159) for the public to report instances of littering in the town. The move aims to curb the menace of public littering and maintain cleanliness. Residents can send photos of littering to the WhatsApp number, and the municipality will take action against the offenders, imposing fines of up to ₹10,000. The municipality has already installed CCTV cameras in 15 public places to monitor littering and has imposed fines in five cases. The identity of informants will be kept confidential, and failure to pay fines will result in criminal proceedings.

Guarantee Scheme Awareness Program Held

BANTWAL

A cultural program was held in Bantwal on Monday to create awareness about the state government's 5 guarantee schemes. The program, part of a larger awareness campaign, featured a traditional puppet show (Togalu Gombi) that highlighted the importance of the schemes. Local officials, including Bantwal Taluk Panchayat President Jayanti and Tahsildar Manjunath, were present at the event. The program aimed to educate the public about the benefits of the guarantee schemes and encourage them to avail of the services.

MANGALURU-KASARAGOD ROUTE CRIES FOR ATTENTION

KASARAGOD

The daily grind for thousands of commuters between Mangaluru and Kasaragod has turned into a nightmare, thanks to the dearth of local trains. The limited number of passenger trains plying this route is leaving regular travelers high and dry, forcing them to rely on overcrowded buses and long-distance express trains that don't cater to their needs.

The long mid-day gap in services, with no local passenger train between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. from Mangaluru Central, has made life miserable for people accessing smaller stations and towns along the route. The only services during this window are long-distance express and superfast trains, most of which



don't stop at smaller stations, offering no respite to local commuters.

The situation is particularly dire for students and daily commuters from Kannada-speaking border regions who depend on Mangaluru for education, employment, and essential services. A season ticket costing around ₹100 allows a commuter to travel between Manjeshwar and

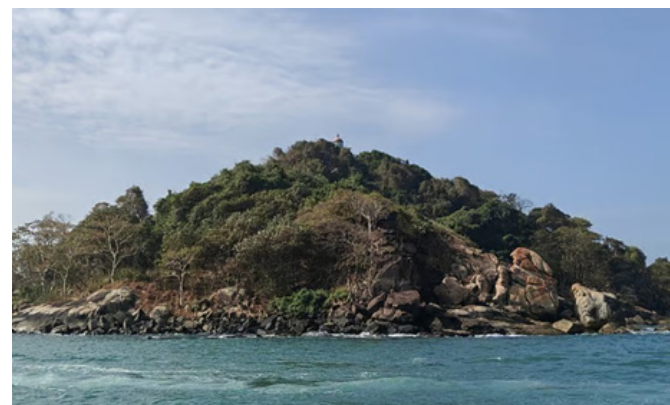
Mangaluru for an entire month, a far cry from the daily bus expense of around ₹100.

Activists are calling for a Mumbai-style local train system to ease crowding, especially during peak hours. "The number of local passenger trains is very low, and even the general coaches on express trains have been reduced. Railway usage has in-

creased significantly in recent years, and facilities for passengers must be improved," said Tulasidas Manjeshwar, divisional vice-president, Southern Railway Workers Union.

Social worker G.K. Bhat echoed similar sentiments, saying, "Students are among the worst affected. Most colleges in Mangaluru finish by 3.30 or 3.45 p.m. A train toward Kasaragod at that time would help them reach home before dark. With the current 5.05 p.m. train, they get home quite late after taking connecting buses."

As commuters continue to suffer, the demand for additional local trains grows louder, seeking a safer, more reliable, and affordable transport option between the two coastal districts.



‘Controversy Surrounds Karnataka’s New Tourism Policy’

KARWAR

The State Government's new tourism policy for 2024-29 has sparked controversy for the inclusion of restricted areas as tourist destinations in the revised list of tourist spots. The policy, aimed at boosting tourism in the state, has added 46 new locations, bringing the total number of tourist spots in the Karwar district to 86, ranking fourth in the state.

However, the inclusion of restricted areas such as Devgad Island (Lighthouse Island), Sadashivgad Fort, and Ambika Nagar's Sykes Point has raised eyebrows. Devgad Island is marked as a restricted area by the Directorate General of Lighthouses and Lightships, while Sadashivgad Fort is under the jurisdiction of Jungle Lodges and Resorts. Sykes Point is under the control of the Karnataka Power Corporation.

Tourism experts question the logic behind including these restricted areas in the tourist map, citing difficulties faced by tourists in visiting these places. "The government has put up warning signs at Devgad Island, indicating it's a

restricted area. Similarly, Jungle Lodges and Resorts has imposed restrictions on visiting Sadashivgad Fort, and Sykes Point is only accessible to influential individuals," said a tourism expert.

The revised list has also removed Anjadiv Island, a previously recognized tourist spot, due to zero tourist footfall. The inclusion of new spots, such as Bhimakol Lake and Nagaramadi Waterfall, is expected to boost tourism in the region.

The tourism department's decision to include restricted areas in the tourist map has sparked debate, with many questioning the feasibility and logic behind it. As the state government aims to attract 20 lakh foreign tourists and increase domestic footfalls to 48 crore, the inclusion of restricted areas may pose challenges.

Srinivasa Kalyana Utsava and Mass Marriage Ceremony on Nov 29, 30

PUTTUR

The Puttila Parivar Service Trust and Srinivasa Kalyana Utsava Committee are organizing a two-day Srinivasa Kalyana Utsava and Mass Marriage Ceremony on November 29 and 30 at the Mahalingeshwara Temple grounds in Puttur.

The event aims to promote Hindu values and traditions, and provide a platform for the community to come together. The mass marriage ceremony will see 16 couples tie the knot, with each couple receiving a wedding kit worth ₹75,000, including gold ornaments and traditional attire.

The event will feature vari-

ous cultural programs, including a procession, bhajans, and a fireworks display. Several prominent spiritual leaders, including representatives from the Pejavar Math, Gokarna Mandala, and Edaniru Math, have been invited to attend the ceremony.

The organizers have extended an invitation to all members of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh and its affiliated organizations, saying it is a community event that requires everyone's support. "This is a non-political event, and we expect the participation of all sections of society," said Arun Kumar Puttilla, Convener of the Srinivasa Kalyana Utsava Com-

Security Measures Reviewed for PM's visit to Udupi

UDUPI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to visit Udupi on the 28th, and district authorities are leaving no stone unturned to ensure his security. District Collector Swarupa T.K. has instructed officials to take all necessary measures to ensure the Prime Minister's safety during his visit.

Modi is expected to arrive at the Adhi Udupi helipad and proceed to the Sri Krishna Matha, where he will participate in the Laksha Kanta Geetotsava. The Collector has directed officials to ensure that all protocol is followed as per government rules and that



the security of central and state ministers is also prioritized.

The district police have been instructed to deploy personnel along the route and install barricades to control the crowd. The public has been asked to avoid carrying

bags, water bottles, and flags during the event. The Collector has also directed officials to ensure continuous electricity supply and cleanliness in the area.

MLA Yashpal Suvarna has requested that schools in the city be given a holiday on the

day of the Prime Minister's visit. He also suggested that passes be distributed to dignitaries and participants in the Laksha Kanta Geetotsava.

Preparations are underway across the city, with tents being set up in the parking area of Sri Krishna Matha. The helipad at Adhi Udupi is being readied, and roadwork is nearing completion. Barricades are being installed along the route, and flags are being tied to road dividers.

The district administration is working to ensure a smooth and secure visit by the Prime Minister, who is expected to bring attention to the region's development needs.

Women's Rights Groups Demand SIT Probe into D'sthala Case

BELTHANGADY

A women's rights group, "Kondavaru Yaru" (Who are the perpetrators), is calling for a thorough investigation into alleged atrocities against women in Dharmasthala. The group has organized a "Women's Justice Convention" in Belthangady on December 16 to raise awareness and demand justice.

The convention, coinciding with the anniversary of the Nirbhaya case in New Delhi, aims to bring attention to the need for a pressure-free investigation by the Special Investigation Team (SIT). Members of various women's organizations from across the state are expected to participate.

"We urge the authorities to ensure a fair and unbiased investigation, protecting witnesses and complainants from intimidation," said Jyothi, a member of the campaign. The group seeks to bring all cases of atrocities against women in Dharmasthala under the SIT's purview for thorough investigation.



Sports Foster Mental and Physical Well-being: DC Guru Datt Hegde

SHIVAMOGGA

Deputy Commissioner Dr. Guru Datt Hegde inaugurated the Police Annual Sports Meet at the DAR Drill Ground in Shivamogga, emphasizing the significance of sports in promoting mental and physical well-being. He stated that sports are instrumental in fostering a healthy lifestyle, citing their role in maintaining physical fitness and mental alertness.

Hegde praised the police department for organizing the annual sports event, which serves as a model for other departments. He encouraged the police personnel to leverage sports as a means to cope with the challenges of their daily duties and provide better services to the community.

The DC also lauded the police department's efforts in maintaining law and order in the district, controlling crimes, and preventing communal unrest. He expressed confidence that the police would continue to serve as a model for the state.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by District Police Superintendent G.K. Mithun Kumar, Additional District Security Officers A.G. Cariyappa and Ramesh Gowda, and police officials and athletes from across the district.

Women's Commission Chief Rebukes Officials Over Lapses in Dist Institutions

SHIVAMOGGA

Karnataka State Women's Commission Chairperson Dr. Nagalakshmi Chowdhary issued sharp criticism against various government departments after discovering serious administrative lapses in key public institutions across Shivamogga district. The findings followed a two-day inspection during which the Commission held direct interactions with students, women and families who had lodged complaints.

Dr. Chowdhary chaired a Women's Response and Progress Review Meeting at the Abdul Nazir Saab Hall, jointly organised by the Women's Commission, district administration, police department and the Department of Women and Child Development. She said that the condition of several facilities, including McGann District Hospital, the Women's Police Station, Morarji Desai Residential School at Gajanur, BCM Engineering Hostel and the Women's Sports Hostel, reflected "serious neglect requiring immediate intervention."



At the Women's Police Station, she noted that the environment was not welcoming for families arriving to resolve domestic disputes. She directed that all officers undergo compulsory gender-sensitisation training and maintain proof of completion.

McGann District Hospital drew strong remarks over inadequate facilities for pregnant women and new mothers, forcing patients to walk long distances for basic amenities. She also expressed shock that Class-D hospital workers had not received salaries for three months and lacked ESIC and PF benefits. She ordered reports from all taluk hospitals and PHCs to ensure timely rectification.

During a Monday evening inspection, Dr. Chowdhary

found the Women's Sports Hostel "in total darkness," prompting immediate orders for proper lighting, functional CCTV, clean bathrooms and availability of sanitary pads. DC Gurudatta Hegde assured compliance within 24 hours.

She also instructed swift action on complaints of emotional harassment by hostel wardens at Gajanur and the BCM Engineering Hostel, where students also reported poor food quality and lack of use of government-provided educational funds.

The district administration was further urged to organise the 'Koodi Baalona' programme, while the Commission pressed for intensified action to curb drug abuse, which she said was damaging rural households.

QUICK READ

Two-wheeler rider dies in accident

Mangaluru

A tragic road accident near Somanatha Katte on National Highway 75 claimed the life of a 42-year-old man on Monday afternoon. Iqbal, a resident of Adyar Kannur, was riding his two-wheeler from Valachil towards Somanatha Katte when another bike collided with his vehicle. He sustained severe injuries and was rushed to a private hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries. Iqbal, who worked at Kallapu Global Market, leaves behind a large family, including his wife, daughter, and two sons. The police are investigating the incident.



Abdul Rahiman selected for CBSE Under-19 Cricket team

Mangaluru
Abdul Rahiman, a student of Jain Heritage School, Hebbal, has been selected for the CBSE Under-19 cricket team for the upcoming National School Games (SGPI) tournament. The tournament is scheduled to take place in Chandigarh in December. Abdul Rahiman, a resident of Umarnagar, Govindapura, Bengaluru, is the son of Abdul Rauf and Reshma Banu.

Man attacked for recording video of men with swords

Mangaluru
A shocking incident occurred in Bajpe, near Mangaluru, where a person was attacked for recording a video of four individuals riding a bike while carrying swords. The victim, identified as Akhilesh, a resident of Poopadikallu, was assaulted by the accused, who were reportedly carrying swords. One of the accused, Sinan, has been arrested by the police, while the others are still at large. The incident was captured on CCTV, and the footage shows the accused attacking Akhilesh with swords. The victim is currently undergoing treatment at a hospital in Moodabidri. The police are investigating the matter.

‘Maadari Maduve’ Promotion Council launched in Mangaluru

Mangaluru
The Karnataka State Sunni Youth League has formed a Promotion Council to support the 'Maadari Maduve: Shatadina Abhiyaana' campaign, aimed at making marriages free from social evils and reducing the financial burden on families. Dr. Shekh Bava Haji has been appointed as the Chairman, Dr. Emmessam Zaini Kamil as the Convener, and Muhammad Ali Turkalike as the Coordinator. The council also includes Vice-Presidents Muhyiddin Skhafy Toke, Abdul Rahman Madani Jeppu, and Hanif Haji Ullal, among others. The council's objective is to promote the 'Model Marriage' concept, which aims to make marriages simple, economical, and free from unnecessary rituals and expenses.

Riverside Gem: Air Promenade Set to Wow City by Dec End

The Mangaluru Smart City Limited (MSCL) is working tirelessly to transform a 2.1 km stretch of the Netravathi riverbank in Boluru into a vibrant hub of activity

MANGALURU

The City is all set to get a stunning new recreational spot, as the city's riverfront air promenade nears completion. The Mangaluru Smart City Limited (MSCL) is working tirelessly to transform a 2.1 km stretch of the Netravathi riverbank in Boluru into a vibrant hub of activity, and the first phase is expected to open by December-end.

The eco-friendly project promises to offer residents and tourists alike a serene escape from the city's hustle and bustle. The riverfront will feature beautifully landscaped



gardens, cycling tracks, walking paths, food kiosks, and nature-friendly attractions. So far, about 400 metres of the riverfront has been completed in park-like style, with another 200 metres nearing completion. The completed stretch

boasts a range of amenities, including a walking path, bird-watching zone, tree-house, and a lighthouse-inspired water tank. Visitors can also enjoy outdoor art galleries, small performance stages, open-air gyms, children's play areas, and a food court. The next phase will add an indoor gym, library, and shops, making the riverfront an even more attractive destination.

The project has been undertaken at a cost of around ₹16 crore, and MSCL is hopeful of inaugurating the first phase by December-end. While no decision has been taken on entry fees, officials are keen to ensure that the space is

managed sustainably. "We want visitors to behave responsibly and avoid damaging public property," said Dr. Santosh Kumar M.D., MSCL.

The riverfront development is currently awaiting a verdict from the National Green Tribunal (NGT), but MSCL is optimistic that the project will be allowed to proceed. If all goes well, the entire 2.1 km stretch could be completed by December-end, making Mangaluru's riverfront air promenade a major attraction for locals and tourists alike. With its natural beauty, tranquil atmosphere, and modern amenities, this new leisure spot is sure to be a hit.

‘Truth Will Prevail’: UT Khader Rubbishes Corruption Allegations

MANGALURU

Speaker UT Khader has dismissed allegations of corruption against him, stating that the truth will ultimately prevail. Addressing a press conference at the Circuit House in Mangaluru, Khader said that the allegations were baseless and lacked written evidence.

Khader explained that the massage chairs in question were provided by a company free of cost, and were meant for the use of legislators during sessions. He added that the chairs could be purchased by the legislators if they wished to do so, and that it was his responsibility as Speaker to provide necessary facilities to them.

Regarding allegations of extravagant spending on a shawl, Khader said that it was



a silk shawl procured from the Karnataka State Silk Board and was given to a litterateur as a mark of respect. He emphasized that those making allegations should first study the facts and provide written complaints.

Khader also addressed questions on power-sharing in the state, saying that he could not comment on the matter as his political channel had been shut down after becoming Speaker. He stated that he

would allow discussions on the issue in the upcoming session in Belagavi, scheduled from December 8 to 19, if raised according to rules.

The session would also feature the inauguration of a beautiful garden at the Suvrma Soudha and the display of a massive national flag created by Vinod Kumar from Kalaburagi. Khader added that over six bills were ready for tabling in the session, and that necessary arrangements had been made for all participating legislators.

On the issue of stray dogs, Khader said that a report had been submitted to the government to provide suitable arrangements for the 53 stray dogs around the Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru, and that a policy would be implemented in the state to address the issue.

12 Bird Species at Pilikula Zoo Languish for Lack of Companionship

MANGALURU

Pilikula Biological Park, home to over 1,000 animals and birds, is facing a unique challenge - 12 bird species are currently without companions, sparking concerns among animal welfare activists and conservationists.

According to officials, the birds, including the White Bellied Sea Eagle, White Scavenger Vulture, and Malabar Grey Hornbill, among others, have been living alone for extended periods, with some showing signs of depression. "It's challenging to manage them, and their behavior is affected," said an activist.

The Central Zoo Authority (CZA) guidelines dictate that no animal or bird should be kept without a companion for



more than six months. Wildlife activist Dinesh Holla emphasized the need for urgent action, stating, "The authorities must take immediate steps to find companions for these birds."

Raju Kidur, a conservationist and bird expert, explained that some birds, like the White Bellied Sea Eagle and Malabar Grey Hornbill, are family-oriented and require companionship. "Without a partner, their natural behavior

is affected, and it can be fatal," he said.

Pilikula Development Authority Commissioner Dr. Arun Shetty assured that efforts are underway to find companions for the lone birds through the animal exchange program. "We've submitted a proposal to the CZA, and we're awaiting approval," he said, adding that some rescued birds cannot be released into the wild and require companions.

Mangaluru Gets Modern Wrestling Arenas Under Smart City Project

MANGALURU

India's wrestling hub - our very own City, is finally set to get its first dedicated wrestling arenas, with construction work commencing on two state-of-the-art facilities under the Smart City project. The project, estimated to cost Rs 1.5 crore, will provide wrestlers with world-class infrastructure, including two wrestling arenas, a gym, spectator gallery, and quality seating arrangements.

The facility, to be built near the State Bank bus stand, will also feature modern amenities such as drinking water facilities, restrooms, dressing rooms, and well-maintained toilets. The building is expected to be completed within a year, bringing relief to hundreds of wrestlers who have been training in gymnasiums with limited space and basic facilities.

For decades, Mangaluru's wrestlers have been crying out for a dedicated practice arena, and this development is a major boost to the sport in the city. Despite producing

The project, estimated to cost Rs 1.5 crore, will provide wrestlers with world-class infrastructure, including two wrestling arenas, a gym, spectator gallery, and quality seating arrangements

talented wrestlers who have gone on to achieve success at state and national levels, the city has lacked a suitable venue for training and competition.

According to Dilraj Alva, president of the District Amateur Wrestling Association, the Smart City authorities have approved the project based on the association's blueprint, and work is underway with minor modifications. "The construction is expected to be completed within six months to a year," Alva said. With around 25 gymnasiums in Dakshina Kannada district offering training to nearly 500 men and women, the new arenas are expected to revolutionize wrestling in Mangaluru.

Cancel Ineligible Ration Cards: Bharat Mundodi



MANGALURU

District-level Guarantee Scheme Implementation Committee Chairman Bharat Mundodi has directed officials to conduct a survey and cancel ineligible ration cards.

Presiding over a review meeting on the implementation of guarantee schemes at the District Panchayat office, Mundodi emphasized the need for officials to ensure that benefits reach the genuinely deserving. He pointed out that ineligible beneficiaries are availing free rice under the Anna Bhagya scheme, depriving the needy.

Mundodi instructed the Food, Civil Supplies, and Consumer Affairs Department to identify and cancel the cards of ineligible beneficiaries, including those with higher incomes. He also urged the department to conduct a

thorough survey of undivided families and take necessary action.

According to officials, 92 new beneficiaries have registered under the Gruhalakshmi scheme in the past month. The KSRTC has submitted a proposal to the government to start a new unit in Mudipu, Mangaluru, with 130 schedules per unit.

The meeting was informed that 6,776 individuals have registered under the Youth Fund scheme, with 5,828 beneficiaries receiving DBT payments. Officials also reported that vehicles have been arranged at 24x7 service centers in every sub-division of MESCOM.

The meeting was attended by District Panchayat CEO Narwade Vinayak Karbari, Planning, Estimation, and Evaluation Officer Suma K.S., and other officials.

Father Muller Achieves Mangaluru’s First Regeneten Bio-Inductive Implant Surgery

MANGALURU

The surgery was expertly executed by a dedicated team led by Dr. Prashant Acharya, Professor & Unit Head, Department of Orthopaedics, supported by Dr. George Joseph, Assistant Professor, and Dr. Tanya Mohanraj, Postgraduate Resident. Anaesthesia care was provided under the leadership of Dr. S. A. Ribeiro Karl Nicholas, Professor, Department of Anaesthesiology.

The Regeneten bio-inductive implant is an innovative treatment that stimulates the body's natural healing mechanisms. By promoting new tissue growth over the injured tendon, it enhances repair, reduces pain, and supports a quicker recovery—offering patients a minimally invasive alternative to traditional shoulder surgery.

The patient, who had been



experiencing persistent shoulder pain and functional limitation, is now recovering remarkably well. According to the surgical team, this successful intervention paves the way for more advanced shoulder repair options for patients across the region.

Reflecting on the achievement, Dr. Prashant Acharya noted that the successful execution of this complex sur-

gery underscores the hospital's commitment to delivering world-class orthopaedic care in Mangaluru.

Rev. Fr George Jeevan Sequeira, Administrator, FM-MCH, and Dr Uday Kumar, Medical Superintendent, FM-MCH, commended the team for their dedication and exemplary efforts in ensuring the highest standard of patient care.

KCO’s Pearl Jubilee Celebrations ‘Dabazo’ to Rock Mangaluru on Dec 7

MANGALURU

The Konkani Cultural Organization Trust (KCO) is all set to host its Pearl Jubilee Celebrations "Dabazo" with a bang! The event, featuring the talented Nihal Tauro, will take place on Sunday, December 7, 2025, at Kulashekar Church grounds in Mangaluru.

Nihal Tauro, a Sony TV Indian Idol 12 finalist, will be accompanied by his music troupe from Mumbai, promising an unforgettable evening of music and entertainment. The event will also feature performances by Lavita Lobo, Robin Sequeira, and live bands, with Leslie Rego as the master of ceremony.

The chief guest for the event will be Dr. Gerald Isaac Lobo, Bishop of Udupi diocese, while Dr. Aloysius Paul D'Souza, Bishop Emeritus, Mangaluru diocese; Ivan D'Souza, MLC, Government of Karnataka; and J R Lobo, former MLA, Mangaluru South constituency, will be the guests of honour.

KCO is a renowned organisation working for the betterment of society, supporting underprivileged students and patients, and partnering with NGOs to assist marginalized communities. The organisation has also undertaken initiatives to construct and donate houses for disadvantaged families in Mangaluru.

The event promises to be a spectacular celebration of music, culture, and community spirit, and is expected to draw a large crowd of music lovers and well-wishers. Don't miss this opportunity to be a part of the Pearl Jubilee Celebrations "Dabazo"!

Sushil Kumar Singh Gets Additional Charge of NMPA chief

MANGALURU

The Central Government has assigned additional charge of the Chairperson of the New Mangalore Port Authority (NMPA) to Sushil Kumar Singh, who is currently serving as the Chairperson of Deendayal Port Authority in Gujarat.

Singh will assume the new role on December 1, 2025, and will hold the position for a period of six months or until a new Chairperson is appointed, whichever is earlier.

The decision to entrust Singh with the additional responsibility was taken with the approval of the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet and has been concurred by the Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.



Vande Bharat Thanisandra Depot Tender Deadline Extended

Railways extend bid deadline for Thanisandra depot crucial for sleepers

BENGALURU

The South Western Railway has extended the bid submission deadline for constructing a dedicated depot to maintain Vande Bharat sleeper trains in Thanisandra, a facility that is expected to play a key role in enhancing Bengaluru’s railway infrastructure. Tenders were originally invited in July under the Engineering, Construction and Procurement (ECP) model, with the deadline set for November 21. This has now been extended to December 12, allowing more time for bidders to participate.

The decision to build the depot comes as the Railways prepares to roll out its next major upgrade—Vande Bharat Sleeper trains—following the success of the seater versions. Sleeper train production is currently progressing at full speed, and the Railway Board has identified five locations across the country to host specialised depots.



The construction of the Thanisandra Vande Bharat maintenance depot is a welcome move. However, delays in the tendering process must be minimised to prevent future slowdowns, said K.N. Krishna Prasad of the Karnataka Railway Forum.

Thanisandra, located between Channasandra and Yelahanka railway stations and adjacent to the now-defunct Thanisandra station, has been selected as one of these sites. The planned facility, capable of handling 16 coaches, carries

an estimated project cost of ₹227.94 crore.

This development complements ongoing capacity expansion across Bengaluru’s rail network. At the Banaswadi MEMU shed, an additional ₹50 crore is being invested to enhance maintenance capabilities for Vande Bharat seater trains. Similarly, the Sir M. Visvesvaraya Terminal in

Byappanahalli is set to receive a fourth pit line at a cost of ₹123 crore, strengthening overall operational efficiency.

Railway officials confirmed that two prototype Vande Bharat sleeper trains have already been manufactured at BEML’s Chennai Integral Coach Factory (ICF) but are yet to be released due to technical reasons.

Karnataka State to Abolish Outsourced Recruitment by 2028

BENGALURU

The Karnataka government is preparing to completely abolish outsourced recruitment in all government departments by 2028, a major administrative shift aimed at curbing exploitation and ensuring transparency in public-sector employment. As part of this initiative, the government is also planning to introduce a Ban on Private Outsourcing in Government Institutions Bill during the Belagavi winter session beginning December 8. The decision follows widespread complaints that private outsourcing agencies have been exploiting employees through delayed salaries, non-payment of Provident Fund (PF) and Employee State Insurance (ESI), and payment of wages below mandated levels. There has also been growing pressure to fill the large number of vacant government posts rather than relying on outsourced labour. A senior Labour Department official said the government intends to dis-



mantle the outsourced recruitment system altogether, both to eliminate corruption and to protect workers from harassment by intermediary agencies.

According to the 2022–23 Budget Estimates, Karnataka has 7,69,982 sanctioned posts across 43 departments, of which 2,58,709 remain vacant. Despite these vacancies, departments have collectively hired more than three lakh outsourced employees—far exceeding the number of sanctioned empty posts.

To ensure a smooth transition, the government will phase out all contracts with private outsourcing firms by March 31,

State government moves to end outsourced hiring and introduce stricter employment regulation

2028. In the interim, it plans to implement the Bidar model statewide for responsible management of outsourced labour.

Under the Bidar model, salaries and benefits are disbursed directly to contract employees through a cooperative society headed by the District Magistrate, thereby removing private agencies from the process. After departments forward the names of recruited personnel, the cooperative registers them and ensures on-time payment of wages, PF and ESI, explained Arjun Seethalagere, secretary of the Bidar District Labour Services Multipurpose Cooperative Association.

This system shields outsourced employees from exploitation by agencies, which are often accused of paying below minimum wage and delaying PF and ESI contributions, Arjun said.

QUICK READ

Thieves Strike Yeshwanthpur Shop, Caught on CCTV

Bengaluru

A theft was reported at Brahmashree Condiments in Yeshwanthpur early Tuesday, with miscreants escaping with cash and cigarette packs. The incident occurred around 3 a.m., and the thieves’ movements were captured on CCTV cameras installed inside the shop. The footage shows the burglars breaking in and quickly taking valuables before fleeing the scene. The shop owner has approached the police to file a formal complaint, and an investigation is underway to identify and trace the culprits. Police are examining the CCTV footage for leads and have intensified patrolling in the area following the latest theft.



Autorickshaw Driver Dies of Cardiac Arrest in Domlur

Bengaluru

An autorickshaw driver died of a sudden cardiac arrest while sitting down for breakfast near the EGL area in Domlur on Tuesday. According to police, the driver collapsed and died on the spot before any help could arrive. Efforts are underway to establish his identity, and the body has been shifted for postmortem examination. Police have begun an investigation and are checking with local auto stands and residents to trace the victim’s details and family.

Woman Found at Youth’s House; Man Beaten to Death

BENGALURU

A 32-year-old man was beaten to death in Mutyalamma Nagar, Yeswanthpur, after the family of a married woman allegedly found her at his house and attacked him in a fit of rage. The deceased has been identified as Narasimharaju. Police said the woman, who is married, frequently visited Narasimharaju’s residence, and the two were suspected to be in a relationship. On Saturday (Nov. 22), the woman was reportedly inside his house when her family learned of her whereabouts. Enraged, four to five of her relatives rushed to the spot. They allegedly dragged

Narasimharaju out of his house and brutally assaulted him on the road. His mother, who tried to intervene and save her son, was also attacked and sustained injuries. Locals alerted authorities, and the injured youth was immediately shifted to K.C. General Hospital. However, doctors declared him dead shortly after admission.

A case has been registered at the Yeswanthpur Police Station. The victim’s family has expressed anger and frustration, alleging that the accused are yet to be arrested despite clear involvement. Police say efforts are underway to identify and apprehend all suspects involved.

Dowry Harassment Alleged as GBA Marshal’s Wife Dies by Suicide

BENGALURU

A 28-year-old woman died by suicide in Govindarajanagar amid allegations from her family that she had been subjected to dowry harassment and domestic violence by her husband. The deceased has been identified as Rekha, a native of Gokak in Belagavi district.

Rekha’s parents have alleged that her husband, Mayappa — a GBA marshal — had been assaulting her regularly, especially when drunk, and was persistently harassing her for dowry. They further claimed that Rekha’s death may not be suicide, but a pos-

sible murder disguised as one. Police, however, have registered a case of unnatural death and taken Mayappa into custody for questioning.

Rekha and Mayappa, both from Gokak, had met when she was a college student and he was working as a clerk in the same institution. Their relationship turned into a love marriage six years ago, and the couple later moved to Bengaluru. They were living in a rented house in Govindarajanagar with their two young children — a four-year-old daughter and a two-year-old son — both now left orphaned by the tragedy.

According to her parents,

Rekha had frequently complained that her husband would beat her after drinking and demand additional dowry despite already having taken gold and silver at the time of marriage. “My daughter was a good person. His torture never stopped. He has killed her. Who will look after these two small children now? We want justice,” her father said.

Police officials said the exact cause of Rekha’s death will be determined after a thorough investigation. The Govindarajanagar Police are awaiting forensic reports and statements from neighbours and family members as part of the probe.

Team Formed to Probe Jayanagar Complex Fire

BENGALURU

A fire broke out on the first and second floors of a commercial complex in Jayanagar 4th Block on Monday, prompting a swift response from the South Municipal Corporation and Fire and Emergency Services. Officials rushed to the spot after receiving information and began rescue operations immediately, following the disconnection of power supply to the multi-storey structure.

During the evacuation, firefighters rescued Krishnegowda, who was trapped inside the building’s lift. Another individual.

Raid on Gaming Apps: ED Seizes Bank Accounts, Bonds and Mutual Funds

BENGALURU

In a major crackdown on financial fraud in the online gaming sector, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has seized bank accounts, bonds, and mutual funds amounting to more than ₹527 crore during raids conducted under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

The ED carried out searches at offices linked to the gaming app Winjo in Bengaluru and Gurgaon, seizing deposits, bonds, and mutual fund holdings worth about ₹505 crore. According to officials, the investigation revealed that Winjo Games Private Limited had been systematically cheating customers by manipulating game outcomes using hidden algorithms and software.

The probe also uncovered that the company had creat-



ed a shell entity, Winjo US Inc., through which about \$55 million (approximately ₹489.9 crore) was illegally transferred from India to the U.S. and Singapore. Furthermore, authorities found that Winjo withheld ₹43 crore that should have been refunded to users even after the Central government banned real-money gaming.

In parallel action, ED officials conducted raids on two other gaming companies — Pocket-52 (Nirdesa Networks Pvt. Ltd.) and Ga-

mescraft Technologies — following allegations of similar fraudulent practices. Investigators found that Pocket-52 allegedly predetermined game results and introduced artificial technical glitches to ensure user losses. One user reportedly lost ₹3 crore due to such systematic manipulation.

Despite the Central government enforcing the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025, which bans real-money gaming, these companies continued to retain over ₹30 crore in customer escrow accounts instead of returning the funds.

The ED has seized mobile phones and laptops of the companies’ directors and attached eight bank accounts containing around ₹18.57 crore. Investigations into the widespread fraud and money laundering network are ongoing.

Lorry Plunges into Lake While Avoiding Pothole; Driver Missing

BENGALURU

A 12-wheeler lorry carrying gravel plunged into Bidaraguppe Lake on the Attibele-Sarjapur Road in Anekal taluk late Monday night after the driver attempted to avoid a deep pothole. The incident occurred around 11.30 p.m., and the driver, Mahesh (37) from Kalaburagi, is feared to have drowned. According to preliminary reports, the lorry was travelling from Attibele towards Sarjapur when the driver lost control on a narrow stretch of road running directly above the lake. The road, part of the state highway, has been in poor condition for months, with potholes and chaotic traffic posing serious risks.

Although RNS Contractors was awarded the tender to upgrade the road, the lakeside stretch has not yet been widened, leading to frequent accidents.



International Flower Market Plan at GKVK Shelved Amid Tree-Felling Concerns

BENGALURU

A plan to establish an international flower market at the Gandhi Krishi Vigyan Kendra (GKVK) campus in north Bengaluru has effectively been shelved following intense public opposition over the proposed felling of nearly 900 trees. Although a review meeting held on November 12 did not arrive at a final decision, official records show that the government is seriously exploring alternative locations, placing the GKVK proposal in cold storage.

The initial proposal sparked widespread mobilisation under the Save GKVK campaign, uniting environmental activists, students, neighbourhood groups, and farmer organisations. Their primary concern was the ecological impact, as the project required either cutting or translocating a large number of mature trees.

During the November 12 meeting, officials from the horticulture and agricultural marketing departments, the University of Horticultural Sciences, and the International Flower Auction Bengaluru reassessed the plan. According to the minutes, significant reservations were expressed about situating the market inside the GKVK campus. A senior university official noted that GKVK needs 150 acres to maintain its Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)

At least four potential sites are now under consideration:

- 30 acres in Byatarayanapura (currently under arbitration as per a High Court order)
- Land near Electronic City, with scope to relocate KR Market flower traders
- Upgradation of the Binnypet APMC flower market
- Implementation of the long-pending Binnypet DPR

accreditation but currently has only 125 acres.

In response, the horticulture secretary directed officials to review land-ownership documents and confirm that no legal issues obstruct the institution’s boundaries.

Meanwhile, discussions on alternative sites revealed complexities. Agricultural Marketing Joint Director V. Rajanna highlighted that the Byatarayanapura land remains stuck in arbitration, while land near Electronic City could offer logistical advantages. Officials also revisited the proposal to upgrade the Binnypet APMC market — a project with a Detailed Project Report prepared nearly five years ago but yet to be implemented.

The government is expected to continue evaluating feasible options before finalising a location for the international flower market.

AVOIDING TRAFFIC CONGESTION

Complete Hebbal Loop in 15 Days: Chief Commissioner

BENGALURU

Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao has directed Bengaluru Development Authority (BDA) officials to complete construction of the new loop at the Hebbal flyover within 15 days and open it to traffic, stressing the need to ease heavy congestion at one of the city’s busiest junctions.

Rao issued the instructions during an inspection of several locations under the Bengaluru North City Corporation limits. He noted that the flyover bringing vehicles into the city from the KR Puram side has already been completed and opened. With this in place, the connecting loop between the new and existing



flyovers must now be finished without delay, he said.

The first girder for the new Hebbal loop has been installed, and concrete work is underway. Rao instructed officials to install the remaining

two girders and finish the pending work at the earliest.

BDA officials informed him that discussions are in progress with various departments regarding a proposed 1.4 km flyover from Esteem Mall on

Ballari Road to Manyata Tech Park. Steps will be taken to implement the project soon, they added.

During the inspection, Rao pointed out that the footpath alongside Hebbal Lake had been damaged in several stretches. He directed officials to repair the walkway, clear roadside garbage, and remove an obstructing pole to maintain cleanliness and improve pedestrian safety.

A section of the Hebbal flyover has already undergone milling and asphaltting. Rao instructed the engineering teams to mill the remaining sections and complete the asphaltting work immediately to ensure smooth movement of vehicles.

Age Group	Don't know	Not a fan	Dislike	Like	Love
18-24	10%	5%	15%	40%	30%
25-34	10%	5%	15%	40%	30%
35-44	10%	5%	15%	40%	30%
45-54	10%	5%	15%	40%	30%
55+	10%	5%	15%	40%	30%

QUICK READ



Leopard Near Airport Prompts Safety Measures

Pune

A leopard was seen near Pune International Airport on November 19, creating concern in the high-security area. Union Minister Murlidhar Mohol has asked officials to increase search and rescue efforts to ensure public safety. He also directed the use of advanced technology to track and capture the animal quickly. Forest department teams and Indian Air Force personnel are already searching in the airport surroundings. Authorities have urged people nearby to stay alert and avoid isolated areas until the animal is found.

Assam Tables Report On 1983 Poll Violence

Guwahati

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Tuesday placed the Mehta Commission report in the Assembly. The report looks into the violence during the 1983 state elections. The commission, led by Justice (retd) T.U. Mehta, was set up by an organisation and activists of the Assam Movement. The agitation, held from 1979 to 1985 against illegal migration, saw serious clashes. Over 2,100 people were killed in the tragic Nellie massacre. No discussion was held after the report was laid.

Man Arrested For Harassing Woman News Anchor

New Delhi

Delhi Police have arrested a 40-year-old man from Mumbai for allegedly harassing a woman news anchor online. Officials said the accused, Chet Kamal Prakash from Jammu, created several fake social media accounts using the anchor's photos. He then posted defamatory and threatening content to trouble her. The woman filed a complaint after noticing the fake profiles and harmful posts. Police tracked the accused to Mumbai and arrested him. An investigation into his activities is still ongoing.

Supreme Court Upholds Army Officer's Dismissal

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday strongly criticized the conduct of former Army officer Samuel Kamalesan, describing his refusal to enter a temple during regimental activities as the "grossest kind of indiscipline." The court dismissed his plea challenging termination from service, upholding the Army's decision.

A bench led by Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi refused to interfere with the Delhi High Court's ruling that had earlier supported the Army's action. The judges said Kamalesan's behavior was incompatible with military discipline and undermined the unity expected from officers.

"What kind of message has he been sending? He should have been thrown out for this only," remarked the Chief Justice. The bench stressed



The Supreme Court dismissed a Christian Army officer's plea against dismissal, calling his refusal to enter a temple "gross indiscipline" and stressing the importance of unity in the armed forces

that leaders must set examples for their troops and cannot follow personal interpretations of religion while in uniform.

Kamalesan's lawyer, senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan, argued that his client

was dismissed for a single act of refusal, which he believed violated his Christian faith. He added that the officer had otherwise participated respectfully in multi-faith events.

The court, however, noted that the regiment also maintained a gurdwara for Sikh soldiers, emphasizing that such spaces are secular and meant to unify personnel. Justice Bagchi questioned whether Christian faith explicitly barred entry into temples, pointing out that even a local pastor had advised Kamalesan that entering a "sarva dharma sthal" would not violate his beliefs.

Commissioned in 2017 into the 3rd Cavalry Regiment, Kamalesan served as troop leader of the 'B' Squadron, comprising Sikh soldiers. The Army said he repeatedly refused to attend mandatory parades despite counseling, weakening unit cohesion.

Supreme Court Seeks EC Stand On Tamil Nadu Roll Revision

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked the Election Commission of India (EC) to respond to a petition filed by MDMK founder and former Rajya Sabha member Vaiko. He has challenged the EC's decision to conduct a Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Tamil Nadu. A bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi listed the matter for hearing on December 2.

Vaiko argued that the revision process violates fundamental rights, including the right to equality. He also said it goes against provisions under the Representation of the People Act and the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960. According to him, the notifi-

cation was brought without proper justification and may affect fair elections in the state.

Several other parties and leaders have also opposed the move. The DMK, CPI(M), TVK, and actor Vijay have already filed petitions challenging the same revision. They fear that sudden and large-scale changes in voter lists could lead to irregularities or voter exclusions.

Earlier on November 11, the Supreme Court had also asked the EC to reply to similar petitions from leaders in West Bengal, including those from DMK, CPI(M), Congress, and Trinamool Congress. The court additionally directed the Madras High Court and Calcutta High Court to pause any hearings



on related cases until the top court examines the issue.

Meanwhile, the AIADMK has supported the special revision in Tamil Nadu and filed an intervention plea. The Supreme Court has allowed it to be heard when the case takes place. The matter remains significant as both states are heading toward important elections in the coming years, making the accuracy of voter rolls crucial for ensuring transparency and trust in the democratic process.

Pressure on candidates raises concern in Maharashtra elections

PUNE

NCP (Sharad Pawar) national working president Supriya Sule has written to the Maharashtra State Election Commissioner, claiming that candidates in the upcoming local body elections are being pressured to withdraw. She alleged that "vested interests" are trying to secure unopposed victories by using threats and force. Sule expressed concern over what she called a rising and "worrying trend" of unopposed wins happening even before polling begins.

Her letter comes days after Maharashtra BJP chief Ravindra Chavan said that 100 ruling party councillors had already been elected unopposed in municipal councils and nagar panchayats. Opposition parties have alleged that the BJP is pushing dynastic poli-



NCP (SP) claims candidates are facing threats to quit polls

tics to grassroots levels and using police pressure to favour relatives of influential leaders.

Local body elections for 246 municipal councils and 42 nagar panchayats are scheduled for December 2. Civic corporation elections are likely in January 2026. Sule, daughter of NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar, said the Election Commission must ensure that democratic values are protected and the process

Mamata Warns Matuas Of Delisting Under CAA Move

BONGAON

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday strongly criticised the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, claiming that Matua voters could lose their names from the voter list if they declare themselves foreigners under the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA). Addressing an anti-SIR rally in Bongaon, a Matua-dominated region, she alleged that the exercise was a plan to deprive people of their rights.

Banerjee said the Election Commission was "no longer impartial" and accused it of working in favour of the BJP. She claimed the Commission had turned into a "BJP Commission", and warned that if she was forced into a confrontation, she would "shake the BJP's foundation" across India. The chief minister asserted that the saffron party had

repeatedly failed to defeat her politically, despite trying "umpteenth times".

Questioning the government's claims, Banerjee asked why the SIR was also being held in BJP-ruled states if the objective was to identify "illegal Bangladeshis". She alleged that the BJP was indirectly admitting the presence of "ghuspathiyyas" in states governed by its own party. Banerjee said the draft electoral roll would expose the "disastrous situation" created by the SIR process.

She also linked the Bihar election result to the revision exercise, saying the Opposition there could not understand what the BJP was doing. Banerjee added that if the revision process was carried out slowly over two to three years, the Trinamool Congress would provide full co-operation, but warned that a rushed exercise would not be accepted.



Madras HC Rejects Plea On Brand Hashtag Use

CHENNAI

The Madras High Court on Tuesday declined to issue an interim injunction against costume designer Joy Crizilda, who was accused of damaging the reputation of catering brand 'Madhampatty Pakashala' through her social media posts.

Justice N. Senthilkumar dismissed the plea filed by Madhampatty Thangavelu Hospitality Private Limited, which alleged that Crizilda's posts had led to the cancellation of catering contracts worth several crores. The company claimed she was using the brand name to pursue a personal dispute, asserting a marital relationship with one of its directors, T. Rangaraj.

The petition sought to restrain Crizilda from tagging or hashtagging the company's brand names and from posting any allegedly defamatory content, including photos, captions, videos or reels. It also asked the court to direct her to delete existing posts.

Appearing for Crizilda, senior counsel S. Prabhakaran opposed the injunction and filed a counter affidavit denying the allegations. The catering company, represented by senior counsel P.S. Raman and advocate Vijayan Subramaniam, argued that Madhampatty Thangavelu Hospitality, incorporated in 2010, had built its reputation through quality service, brand promotion, and investments. The brand, they said, had earned recognition across Tamil Nadu, serving celebrities, corporates, politicians, and government institutions.

The company alleged that Crizilda's posts since July 2025 were defamatory and motivated by malice, claiming they could cause serious reputational and commercial harm. However, the court refused to grant interim relief, stating the matter would be decided during the full trial.

With the injunction plea dismissed, the civil suit will now proceed on its merits.

Congress Criticises Tree Cutting For Adani Coal Mining Project

NEW DELHI

The Congress party on Tuesday accused the Adani Group of cutting trees on a large scale in the Dhirauli area of Madhya Pradesh for a coal mining project. It called the reported tree felling an "environmental tragedy" and a "social and economic disaster" for local Adivasi communities who depend on forests for their livelihood. Congress leader Jairam Ramesh alleged



that the project is moving forward by ignoring legal procedures.

Ramesh said heavy police forces have been deployed at

the forest site. Villagers have been stopped from entering the area and outsiders denied access. He also claimed that Madhya Pradesh Adivasi Congress President Ramu Tekam was arrested for raising the issue. Congress stated that the government and company are using threats and force to continue the work.

In September, the Congress had earlier accused the Adani Group of violating the Forest Rights Act by cutting trees

without proper approval. It claimed the central government pushed the project in 2019 and is now rushing construction in 2025. The party said the land falls under the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution, which provides special protection to Adivasi regions.

The Madhya Pradesh government rejected the charges, saying all rules were followed. It said the Union Environment Ministry has al-

ready given final environmental clearance to the project. The Environment Ministry also denied Congress' claims last week, calling them misleading.

Ramesh insisted that "blatant irregularities" continue and said the government's reply in Parliament proves the area is protected. He urged authorities to stop the destruction of forests and protect Adivasi rights before any further action is taken.

Hindu Group Protests Muslim Admissions, Omar Defends Merit

JAMMU

A fresh controversy broke out in Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday over admissions to the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Institute of Medical Excellence (SMVDIME). A right-wing Hindu group opposed the selection of 42 Muslim students for MBBS seats, sparking sharp reactions from Chief Minister Omar Abdullah.

The Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Sangarsh Samiti, led by retired Colonel Sukhbir Singh Mankotia, announced plans to launch an agitation. Mankotia claimed it was unjust that most of the 50 MBBS seats had gone to Muslim students. He argued that since the college is funded by Hindu devotees, admitting Muslims was against Islamic principles, calling it "Haram."

Addressing a press conference, Mankotia said district-level committees were being formed to begin protests. He also accused Omar Abdullah of not understanding Islam.

Responding strongly, the Chief Minister defended the



admissions, stressing that they were based purely on merit through NEET exams, not religion. "If you don't want Muslims to study here, change the statute of the university," Omar said. He added that one Sikh student was also among those admitted.

Omar warned that denying admissions on religious grounds could push Muslim students toward minority institutions, leading to marginalisation and even radicalisation. He reminded that when the Assembly passed the bill to establish SMVDIME, it was meant to be an institution of excellence, not a minority college.

"Be warned, by isolating Muslims you are pushing them to the wall. If they get radicalised tomorrow, who will you blame?" Omar cautioned.

Odisha Targets \$500-Billion Economy By 2036

BHUBANESWAR

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Tuesday said Odisha must grow nearly fivefold in the next decade to achieve its ambitious target of becoming a \$500-billion economy by 2036. Speaking at the inauguration of the two-day 'Samruddha Odisha 2036' Conclave organised by the Utkal Chamber of Commerce & Industry Limited (UCCIL), Majhi noted that the state's current economy stands at around \$120 billion.

"To reach \$500 billion, we need strong growth in infrastructure, industry, and skill

development," Majhi said. He highlighted that projects worth Rs 2 lakh crore have already been invested, leading to 84 new industries and creating 1.64 lakh jobs.

The Chief Minister announced that Bhubaneswar is being developed into a mega tech city, with fintech and insurtech firms, major IT companies, and two semiconductor industries being set up. The Capital Region Ring Road project will also boost expansion of the Cuttack-Bhubaneswar twin city.

Majhi said the conclave aligns with the state's development roadmap, including



Utkarsh Odisha, Make in Odisha, and Vision 2025. He stressed equal support for both large industries and MSMEs, offering policy incentives and smooth facilitation.

Listing upcoming investments, Majhi pointed to Indira Oil Corporation's Rs 80,000-crore petrochemical project and the Union government's Rs 50,000-crore ship-

building approval. He added that Odisha is advancing in port-based industries, green energy, textiles, IT, chemicals, and petrochemicals.

"The state is creating the right ecosystem for advanced technologies. Odisha will soon emerge as a hub for study, innovation, and industry in eastern India," Majhi concluded.

DEVELOPMENT ISSUES PERSIST

Delhi Still Lacks Basic Civic Infrastructure Services

NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Tuesday criticised previous governments for failing to deliver essential civic services in the national capital. She said that even today, many areas still do not have proper water and sewer lines. Water tankers remain the only main source in several colonies. She stated that after 15 years of Congress and 11

years of AAP rule, basic needs remain unmet for half of the population.

Gupta said that pipeline repair and desilting work have started after 27 years to tackle long pending water issues. She added that Delhi still depends on the 1973 master plan, and no updated system has been created in 50 years.

The Chief Minister also blamed legislators for not focusing on core needs. She



said funds were often shown

only on documents and not used properly. She insisted that proper planning would ensure enough funds for development works.

Gupta announced beautification work on stretches, including the Ghanta Ghar-Azadpur corridor. The project will include better footpaths, roofing and improved roads. She also said old colonies would be upgraded.

Criticising the previous

government's Mohalla Clinics, Gupta called them more of an advertisement model lacking facilities. She said the newly launched Ayushman Mandirs provide diagnostics, medicines and healthcare under one roof. Over 1,200 such centres have been set up. She also highlighted Jan Aushadhi Kendras that offer medicines at cheaper rates. Gupta promised no shortage of funds for civic improvement.

QUICK READ



RailTel Begins 10 MW Data Centre Project

New Delhi

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has praised RailTel Corporation of India for starting work on a 10 MW data centre in Noida. The project is being developed in partnership with Techno Electric & Engineering Company Limited. The minister said the centre will support India's data localisation goals and improve national data security. RailTel stated that the upcoming Silver Jubilee Data Centre will spread over 17,000 sq metres in Noida Phase 2, a fast-growing digital and industrial area in Uttar Pradesh.

Farmers Protest Urea Shortage, Traffic Hit Hard

Ujjain

Farmers in Ujjain held a major protest on Tuesday over the shortage and delay in urea fertiliser supply. The protest took place on the Ujjain-Agar (Malwa) highway, blocking traffic for several hours. Farmers locked the Ujjain mandi gate and sat on a dharna, saying fair price centres were not giving enough fertiliser. They claimed tokens were issued to 300 farmers daily, but only 70 to 80 received urea. Police and officials assured proper supply, after which farmers ended the protest and traffic resumed.

SC Directs Petitioners To Child Rights Panels

New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked petitioners alleging sexual abuse in ISKCON-run schools to approach child rights authorities. A bench of Justices B.V. Nagarathna and R. Mahadevan said the petitioners can give their complaints to the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights. It added that state child rights commissions in Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal should also consider the issue quickly if approached. The court disposed of the petition while giving liberty to file fresh representations before the concerned commissions.

Ethiopian Volcanic Ash Disrupts Flights Across Indian Skies

NEW DELHI

Air travel across India faced major disruption on Tuesday as volcanic ash from Ethiopia drifted into Indian airspace, forcing airlines to cancel and delay several international flights.

Between 1 am and 6 pm, seven international flights were cancelled and twelve others delayed as carriers adjusted schedules to ensure passenger safety. Both incoming and outgoing services were affected, with airlines revising operations based on meteorological warnings.

According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), ash clouds from Ethiopia's Hayli Gubbi volcano are expected to clear Indian skies by 7:30 pm. The eruption, the first major activity in nearly 10,000 years, sent ash columns rising up to 14 km. The plume entered Gujarat on Monday, spreading overnight across Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Delhi-NCR, Haryana, and Punjab before shifting to-

PM Modi to Launch Safran Facility, Skyroot Rocket

Government reforms, including GST changes in 2024, MRO Guidelines 2021, and the National Civil Aviation Policy 2016, have simplified operations

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will showcase India's growing strength in aviation and space this week by inaugurating Safran Aircraft Engine Services India (SAESI) facility and unveiling Skyroot's first orbital rocket.

On November 26, PM Modi will inaugurate the SAESI facility, Safran's dedicated Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) center for LEAP engines that power Airbus A320neo and Boeing 737 MAX aircraft. The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) de-



scribed it as a major step toward Aatmanirbharta in aviation.

Spread across 45,000 square meters in GMR Aerospace and Industrial Park-SEZ, the Rs 1,300 crore facil-

ity is designed to service up to 300 engines annually. By 2035, it will employ over 1,000 skilled Indian technicians and engineers. The PMO said the facility will reduce foreign exchange outflows, create high-value jobs, and position India as a global aviation hub.

Government reforms, including GST changes in 2024, MRO Guidelines 2021, and the National Civil Aviation Policy 2016, have simplified operations for MRO providers, boosting sector growth.

On November 27, PM Modi will also unveil Sky-

root's first orbital rocket, Vikram-1, and inaugurate its Infinity Campus via video conferencing. The campus, spread over 200,000 square feet, will design, develop, and test launch vehicles, with capacity to build one orbital rocket every month.

Skyroot, founded by IIT alumni and former ISRO scientists Pawan Chandana and Bharath Dhaka, earlier launched Vikram-S in 2022. The PMO said the rise of private space enterprises reflects India's success in reforms and its growing role as a global space power.

Indian, Moroccan Navies Strengthen Maritime Security Cooperation

NEW DELHI

The Indian Navy and the Royal Moroccan Navy held detailed discussions in New Delhi on Tuesday to strengthen their naval partnership. Both sides focused on structured training exchanges, improving information-sharing, and expanding cooperation in maritime security.

Rear Admiral Mohamed Tahin, Inspector of the Royal Moroccan Navy, is on an official visit to India. He was welcomed with a ceremonial Guard of Honour at South Block Lawns by Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, Chief of the Naval Staff. The two officers later held talks on enhancing defence cooperation, which has steadily grown between the two nations.

This visit follows Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's trip to Morocco in September,



highlighting continued high-level engagement. During his visit, Singh inaugurated Tata Advanced Systems Maroc's new manufacturing facility in Berrechid, calling it a milestone in global defence collaboration. He emphasized India's vision of "Make in India, Make with Friends, and Make for the World," showcasing India's readiness to partner with trusted allies in advanced defence technologies.

Singh also met Morocco's Defence Minister Abdelatif Loudiyi, where both leaders

signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on defence cooperation. The MoU provides a strong framework for collaboration in defence industry, joint exercises, military training, and capacity building.

The roadmap agreed upon includes cooperation in counter-terrorism, maritime security, cyber defence, peacekeeping, military medicine, and expert exchanges. Singh announced the opening of a new Defence Wing at the Indian Embassy in Rabat to give momentum to these initiatives.

Highlighting India's defence capabilities, Singh assured Morocco that Indian companies are well-positioned to meet its defence needs. The meeting marked a significant milestone, reflecting the growing convergence of strategic interests between India and Morocco.

WHO Warns of Rising Technology-Facilitated Gender Violence

NEW DELHI

The World Health Organization (WHO) has raised concern over the growing pace of technology-facilitated violence against women and girls. Latest estimates show that lifetime intimate partner violence (IPV) in the South-East Asia Region is 31.5%, among the highest across WHO regions. Digital violence, including cyberstalking, image-based abuse, trolling, doxing, and online harassment, is increasing sharply. UN Women reports that between 16% and 58% of women globally have faced

some form of online violence. Data from India, Sri Lanka, and Malaysia revealed a 168% rise in misogynistic online posts during COVID-19 lockdowns. A survey by UN Women and the Inter-Parliamentary Union found that 60% of women parliamentarians in Asia-Pacific have experienced online gender-based violence.

Catharina Boehme, Officer-in-Charge, WHO South-East Asia, said the health impacts are severe, including anxiety, depression, sleep disorders, post-traumatic stress, and harm to sexual and reproductive health. She

stressed that these harms are real, preventable, and unacceptable. This year's 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence carries the theme "End Digital Violence against Women and Girls: Safe Spaces for All." WHO emphasized that online violence is real violence and that safety and dignity must extend to digital spaces.

WHO's 14th General Programme of Work (2025-2028) prioritizes addressing inequity and gender inequalities. The "RESPECT Women" framework offers policymakers a roadmap to prevent violence.

India, Afghanistan Strengthen Trade Ties During Minister's Visit

NEW DELHI

Afghan Minister of Industry and Commerce, Alhaj Nooruddin Azizi, visited India from November 19 to 25 with a trade delegation, according to the Ministry of External Affairs. The visit focused on boosting trade, connectivity, and economic cooperation between the two countries.

During his stay, Azizi met External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar. Both leaders discussed bilateral ties, connectivity projects, and people-to-people exchanges. Azizi also held delegation-level talks with Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal. The discussions covered trade facilitation, market access, and capacity-building. A key outcome was the announcement of an Air Freight Corridor connecting Kabul with Delhi and Amritsar, aimed at improving trade flows.

Both Ministers welcomed the reactivation of the Joint Working Group on Trade, Commerce, and Investment. They agreed to explore collaboration in mining and other high-value sectors. India and Afghanistan will also appoint Commercial Representatives at their embassies and establish a Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry to institutionalize cooperation.

Azizi met Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Jitin Prasada and visited the



Afghan Commerce Minister's India visit highlights trade, connectivity, and stronger bilateral cooperation

India International Trade Fair (IITF 2025), where Afghan traders showcased products. He interacted with exhibitors and toured cultural displays at the fair.

The Afghan delegation also held meetings with several Indian trade and export councils, including APEDA, TEXPROCIL, CCI, AEPC, MATEXIL, PHDCCI, ASSOCHAM, and PHARMEXCIL. Discussions focused on long-term supply of agricultural goods, medicines, and essential commodities to Afghanistan.

The visit reflects the commitment of both nations to deepen economic ties. India reaffirmed its readiness to work closely with Afghanistan to advance trade and investment partnerships that bring sustainable benefits to the people of both countries.

PIB Warns Against Fake Defence Minister Letter Circulation

NEW DELHI

The Press Information Bureau's (PIB) Fact Check Unit has exposed a fake letter circulating widely on social media, falsely attributed to Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. The document, addressed to Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh, claimed the Defence Minister had expressed concern over the public disclosure of a sensitive Indian Air Force (IAF) assessment.

Issuing an alert on its official social media handle, PIB Fact Check stated, "A letter is circulating on social media, allegedly issued by Union Defence Minister rajnathsingh to Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh, concerning the public disclosure of a sensitive IAF assessment. Beware! This letter is fake!"

The PIB urged citizens not to share unverified documents, stressing that misinformation related to national security can have serious consequences. It advised the public to rely only on official Government of India sources for accurate updates and to forward suspi-

cious documents to PIBFact-Check for verification.

The fake letter, dated November 22 and marked "Personal Confidential," appeared designed to create false impressions of discord within the defence establishment. Officials emphasized that such fabricated communications are dangerous, particularly when they involve the armed forces.

The government has repeatedly warned about rising misinformation campaigns targeting defence institutions. Earlier, PIB Fact Check flagged a viral AI-generated video of Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi. The manipulated clip falsely claimed that 50% of non-caste Hindu soldiers would be removed from the Army by 2028. PIB clarified that the video originated from Pakistani propaganda accounts aiming to mislead citizens and erode trust in the armed forces.

Authorities reiterated their commitment to combating fake news through statutory and institutional mechanisms, urging citizens to remain vigilant and responsible online.

NCB Busts Marijuana Supply Chain in Jammu and Kashmir

SRINAGAR

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) has dismantled a marijuana supply module in Jammu and Kashmir, arresting three people and seizing 2.730 kilograms of charas.

According to an official statement, the operation was carried out by the NCB Srinagar Zone in the Baramulla-Pulwama belt. Acting on specific intelligence, a team intercepted Bashir Ahmad Malla of Dhoobiwan, Baramulla, on November 20 and recovered the contraband from his possession. Following interrogation and with the support of Baramulla Police, the NCB arrested his associate, Mansoor Ahmad Wani, also from Dhoobiwan. Both were found to be actively involved in the supply chain. Based on their disclosures and further intelligence, the main supplier, Abdul Rashid

Dar, was later apprehended from Pulwama, exposing the entire trafficking network. The statement noted that all three accused have previous criminal records under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act. With their arrest, the module responsible for procurement, transportation, and distribution of charas has been dismantled. The NCB praised the timely cooperation of Baramulla Police, which played a crucial role in the success of the operation and strengthened inter-agency coordination in the region. Investigations are ongoing to trace financial trails, backward and forward linkages, and possible inter-state connections. The establishment of the NCB office in Srinagar is part of the Government of India's broader strategy to enhance narcotics enforcement in Jammu and Kashmir.

Madras HC Told Muzzles Not Mandatory for Pet Dogs

CHENNAI

The Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) informed the Madras High Court on Tuesday that pet owners are not required to muzzle their dogs in public spaces. The civic body clarified that its earlier communication on muzzling was only advisory and not enforceable.

Appearing before Justice V. Lakshminarayanan, GCC counsel A. Arun Babu said no fines would be imposed on pet parents for not using muzzles. The clarification came during a petition filed by the NGO People for Cattle in India, which highlighted that certain breeds, like Bulldogs, cannot wear muzzles due to their facial structure.

The GCC stressed that leashing dogs in public remains mandatory for safety. Pet owners who allow dogs to roam without a leash will face a Rs 500 penalty. Updating



the court on the city's pet licensing drive, the civic body said it had received 82,000 online applications, with 35,348 dogs vaccinated and certified. The deadline for licences has been extended to December 7, with flexibility for applicants.

On microchipping, GCC clarified it is a one-time requirement for identification, not an annual process. NGOs and animal welfare groups can register rescued animals and later transfer registrations

to adoptive owners without extra charges.

The civic body assured there is no limit on the number of pets an individual may own. A recent portal glitch restricting users to four applications has been fixed. GCC also promised to correct the omission of Indian mongrels from the registration list.

After recording these submissions, the High Court closed the petition, noting the concerns had been addressed.

QUICK READ

663 rape cases in 9 months: B'desh sees alarming spike

Dhaka

As the world observes the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women on Tuesday, fresh figures highlight a troubling reality in Bangladesh, where 663 women were raped in the first nine months of 2025, local media reported. The United Nations General Assembly designated November 25 as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women in the year 2000, to raise awareness about all forms of violence against women. The data, released by the Dhaka-based Human Rights Support Society (HRSS), underscored what rights activists warn is a growing crisis driven by impunity, deteriorating law and order.

Jaffar Express attacked again in Balochistan's Bolan Pass

Quetta

The Jaffar Express has once again been attacked in the Bolan Pass area of Pakistan's Balochistan, the local media reported on Tuesday. The train was reportedly attacked for the sixth time between Quetta and Sibi during the past one and a half months, Pakistan's leading daily Dawn reported. Railway officials said the Jaffar Express was travelling from Quetta to Peshawar on Monday when the armed men targetted the train. According to railway officials, armed men opened fire at the train when it reached near Aab-i-Gum. Security personnel, including Railway police travelling on the train, retaliated.

Soldier injured after gunmen target security forces

Islamabad

A soldier was injured after armed gunmen targeted Pakistani security forces vehicle on a link road in Domel town of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Bannu district, local media reported on Tuesday. A police personnel stated that the injured soldier was rushed to hospital in Bannu cantonment. He said that security forces and police started a joint search operation in the entire area and killed and injured several terrorists, Pakistan's leading daily Dawn reported. He stated that security personnel besieged the area to arrest the fleeing attackers.

India, Afghan boost trade links with new air freight corridors

India and Afghanistan have launched two new Kabul air corridors to revive trade ties and strengthen bilateral economic cooperation

KABUL

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Tuesday announced the launch of two dedicated air freight corridors connecting Kabul with Delhi and Amritsar, marking a significant step toward enhancing trade connectivity between India and Afghanistan. The initiative aims to revive long-standing commercial ties disrupted in recent years and offer Afghan exporters a reliable alternative to land routes that have faced frequent logistical challenges.

According to the MEA, both nations have also agreed to appoint Commercial Representatives in their respective embassies, a move expected to streamline communication and improve trade facilitation. Additionally, India and Af-



ghanistan will establish a Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry to further support business collaborations and resolve bottlenecks in bilateral trade.

The announcement follows a series of discussions between India's Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and Afghanistan's Minister of Industry and Commerce Alhaj Nooruddin Azizi,

who visited India from November 19 to 25. The talks focused on boosting agricultural and pharmaceutical trade, expanding market access, and exploring new opportunities in mining and other high-value sectors. The ministers also welcomed the revival of the Joint Working Group on Trade, Commerce and Investment, underlining their commitment to deepening cooperation.

ing cooperation.

During his visit, Azizi also met External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar to discuss connectivity, trade expansion, and stronger people-to-people engagement. The MEA said the visit reflects the commitment of both countries to build sustainable economic linkages that benefit their citizens.

Azizi's delegation participated in the India International Trade Fair, where Afghan traders showcased a variety of products. The team also interacted with major Indian industry bodies, including APE-DA, TEXPROCIL, the Cotton Corporation of India, AEPC, and the Manmade and Technical Textiles Export Promotion Council, signaling renewed enthusiasm for bilateral commercial partnerships.

Dozens of Afghan migrants and activists were forcibly detained during late-night police raids in Islamabad's Argentina Park

Afghan migrants detained in late-night police raids

ISLAMABAD

Several Afghan migrants, including women activists, were beaten and detained after Islamabad police carried out sudden late-night raids at Argentina Park, Afghan media reported on Tuesday. The operation, conducted without prior notice, sparked widespread concern among rights groups who fear escalating pressure on vulnerable Afghan families residing in Pakistan.

Reportedly, police surrounded the park at around 1:30 am, where nearly 200 Afghan families and activists had been camping for the past four months. Eyewitnesses told the outlet that officers used physical force to dismantle tents and load people—many of them women and children—into police vehicles. A video shared by migrants showed distressed families being taken away in the dark.

They came, gathered everyone, dismantled all tents and loaded us into vehicles. Some children are injured. We don't know where they're taking us,



one migrant said in a recorded message. Another activist, with visible injuries on her eye and forehead, said she was beaten while trying to defend the rights of Afghan women. I am here for the rights of women, for human rights. Because I am Afghan. Because I am a woman, she said.

Reports indicate that police warned of forcibly relocating nearly 400 vulnerable Afghan families back to Afghanistan, raising alarm among humanitarian organisations. Activists fear these actions violate international norms on refugee protection, especially for women and children fleeing

Taliban repression.

Rights advocates have urgently appealed to international organisations and global media to intervene, stressing that ignoring the situation means abandoning people whose only weapon is the cry for justice.

This incident follows growing complaints from Afghan refugees about intimidation by local authorities. Migrants have reported frequent searches, arbitrary arrests, and exploitation by police officers who, according to victims, take advantage of their precarious legal status for monetary gain.

Kabul condemns Pakistani airstrikes as sovereignty violation

KABUL

Kabul on Tuesday strongly condemned the Pakistani air strikes in the Afghan provinces of Paktika, Khost and Kunar, describing them as an infringement of the country's sovereignty and a violation of all internationally recognised norms. According to the Afghan government, at least ten civilians, including nine children, were killed after Pakistani forces struck a residential area in Khost, while separate air strikes in Kunar and Paktika injured

four civilians. Zabihullah Mujahid, spokesman for the caretaker Afghan government, took to his social media platform, stressing that a necessary response would be taken at a proper time.

The airstrikes carried out last night by Pakistani forces in Afghanistan's Paktika, Khost, and Kunar provinces constitute a direct assault on Afghanistan's sovereignty and a clear breach of internationally recognised norms and principles by the Pakistani authorities, Mujahid posted on X.

SAMARKAND

In a historic first for the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (CITES CoP20), known as the World Wildlife Conference, officially opened in Uzbekistan, transforming the ancient Central Asian city into a centre of global conservation diplomacy. Hosted by the National Committee on Ecology and

CPN-UML moves to SC challenging House dissolution

KATHMANDU

The Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist), or CPN-UML, has filed a writ petition in the Supreme Court demanding reinstatement of the dissolved House of Representatives, even as it formally registered with the Election Commission for the upcoming parliamentary polls. The dual move reflects the party's strategy of legally challenging the government while simultaneously preparing for elections scheduled for March 5 next year.

Since being removed from power following the Gen-Z movement in early September, the party led by former Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli has repeatedly claimed that the dissolution of the Lower House was unconstitutional. On Tuesday, the party escalated its objections by moving the Supreme Court, arguing that both the House dissolution and the appointment of Prime Minister Karki violate constitutional provisions.

The writ petition, signed by former Chief Whip Mahesh Bartaula and whip Sunita

Nepal's CPN-UML has petitioned the Supreme Court to restore the dissolved House while preparing for upcoming elections



Baral, contends that Prime Minister Karki's appointment is unconstitutional because she is neither a member of the House of Representatives nor eligible to hold executive office after previously serving as Chief Justice. According to the petitioners, this contradicts Articles 76 and 132(2) of Nepal's Constitution, rendering the dissolution of the House under her leadership invalid.

The petition also seeks to nullify President Ram Chandra Paudel's September 12 decision to dissolve the Lower House, urging the court to declare the period since September 9 void and restore the House to its previous status. This comes even as major political parties, including the Nepali Congress and the reconstituted Nepal Communist Party led by Pushpa Kamal Dahal, have accepted the electoral roadmap.

Pak strikes in Afghanistan condemned by ex-US envoy

WASHINGTON

Former US Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation Zalmay Khalilzad on Tuesday condemned the Pakistani attacks on Afghan territory, which killed 10 civilians, including nine children, and injured four others. His remarks came after the Afghan government confirmed that Pakistani forces on Tuesday midnight had struck a residential area in Khost province, killing 10 civilians, while separate air strikes in Kunar and Paktika provinces left four more injured. Taking to X, Khalilzad said, I condemn these attacks. My condolences to those who lost loved ones. The killing of civilians and risking a broader war is not the answer to the problems between Afghanistan and Pakistan. Patient and realistic diplomacy is a much better option. Citing reports, the former US envoy stated that a se-



nior Turkish delegation is expected to visit Islamabad and possibly Kabul soon to facilitate an agreement between Afghanistan and Pakistan to prevent their territories from being used by groups or individuals to threaten the security of each other. The agreement could include the establishment of an operation or monitoring office, perhaps based in Ankara and staffed by officials from Turkey, Qatar, Afghanistan and Pakistan. This centre could not only monitor but also problem-solve when allegations or reports of violations are received. I applaud this initiative and call on both Afghanistan and Pakistan to cooperate with this initiative, he added.

Delegates to decide on global wildlife trade rules: CITES

Climate Change of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the opening ceremony featured vibrant traditional Uzbek music and dance performances. The segment underscored its pride in hosting this landmark event, bringing to life the official slogan of the meeting, CITES at 50 in Samarkand: Bridging Nature and People.

In his opening remarks, Aziz Abdulkhakimov, Advisor to the President of Uzbekistan, Chair of the National Committee on Ecology and Climate Change

and CITES CoP20 President, emphasized Uzbekistan's prioritization of the sustainable use of wildlife resources, stating: The declaration of 2025 as the 'Year of Environmental Protection and the Green Economy in Uzbekistan' reflects our strategic commitment to environmental sustainability and to transitioning to a green, resource-efficient development model... Uzbekistan is confidently emerging as one of the leading countries in the region and globally.

INDIA, CYPRUS TIES

India and Cyprus enhance collaboration in education

NICOSIA

India's High Commissioner to Cyprus, Manish, met Tonia Galati, Head of Business Development and Innovation at The Grammar School in Nicosia on Tuesday to discuss preparations for the High Commission's participation in the upcoming Grammar School Christmas Bazaar on December 7. The meeting also focused on exploring broader areas of collaboration between the High Commission and the school community.

According to a post shared by the High Commission of India in Cyprus on X, the two



sides held detailed discussions on potential partnerships in innovation and technology in education, health awareness programmes, tourism promotion, cultural initiatives, and wellness-focused activities. These collaborative

avenues, officials said, hold strong potential to deepen engagement with the Grammar School community. The High Commissioner appreciated the school's progressive outlook and expressed India's readiness to enhance cooperation

in these fields.

Meanwhile, earlier in the day in New Delhi, Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan met a visiting parliamentary delegation from Cyprus led by House of Representatives President Annita Demetriou. The meeting underscored the importance of strengthening parliamentary exchanges to enhance bilateral ties.

In a statement posted on X, the Vice President's Office noted that discussions highlighted the long-standing relationship between India and Cyprus and the shared commitment to further deepening the partnership through continued dialogue. The high-level

el interaction is part of a series of diplomatic engagements between the two nations.

On October 30, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar held talks with his Cypriot counterpart Constantinos Kombo in New Delhi, where the two reviewed the India-Cyprus Joint Action Plan 2025–2029. Their discussions also covered regional developments, the global geopolitical situation, and cooperation in multilateral forums. Jaishankar expressed confidence that India-EU relations would strengthen further as Cyprus prepares to assume the European Union Presidency in 2026.

SU DO KU

Brain-Bender: Can You Solve It?

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

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

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

Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle

Sushmita Bhat Joins Karavali Film With Strong New Role

The upcoming Kannada movie Karavali continues to attract attention with exciting new updates. After the recent announcement of actor Raj B. Shetty playing the lead role of Mahaveera, the film team has now welcomed rising actress Sushmita Bhat. She has already acted in two films, and Karavali will be her third big-screen project. Known for her active presence on social media through stylish photoshoots, Sushmita is now ready to impress audiences with her acting skills.

The makers have released the poster introducing her character. In the movie, Sushmita will be seen as a typical Mangaluru girl in a special role. When the team approached her, she accepted happily without hesitation.

Speaking about joining the film, Sushmita said that Raj B. Shetty was the main reason she said yes. There is so much to learn from him. Even though my shooting days were few, I learned a lot. He is always full of energy and active on the set. Working with him was a wonderful experience, she shared.

Karavali features a strong star cast including Prajwal Devaraj, Sampada, Raj B. Shetty, Mitra, Ramesh Indira, and Sridhar in powerful roles. The film is directed by Gurudatha Ganiga and produced under VK Film Association in association with Ganiga Films.

The story of Karavali focuses on the conflict between humans and animals and is set in a complete village background. Sachin Basur has composed the music while Abhimanyu Sadanandan manages the cinematography. The team believes the film will offer a strong message along with entertainment.



Parasakthi countdown begins, Sivakarthikeyan readies political drama



The countdown has officially begun for Sivakarthikeyan's landmark 25th film, Parasakthi. Dawn Pictures announced that the much-awaited political action-drama will release worldwide on January 14, 2026, setting the stage for one of the biggest Tamil cinema events of the year.

Directed by Sudha Kongara, Parasakthi marks her second collaboration with Sivakarthikeyan after the acclaimed Saripatla Parambarai in 2021. The film's newly released poster has already created a buzz, showcasing Sivakarthikeyan, Ravi Mohan, Atharvaa, and newcomer Sreeleela in striking revolutionary attire. The visuals highlight the film's themes of protest, resistance, and social

struggle, rooted in the historic 1965 Anti-Hindi agitations in Tamil Nadu.

Music by GV Prakash is expected to add emotional depth and intensity to the film's narrative. Produced by Aakash Bhaskaran under Dawn Pictures, Parasakthi also features a strong supporting cast including Dev Ramnath, Prithvi Rajan, Guru Somasundaram,

Basil Joseph, Papri Ghosh, and Rana Daggubati. Together, the ensemble promises to deliver a gripping story that blends political history with personal drama.

The film is being positioned as more than just entertainment—it aims to capture the spirit of Tamil Nadu's cultural memory while offering audiences a mix of action, emotion, and historical relevance. With Sudha Kongara's proven storytelling and Sivakarthikeyan's growing stature as a versatile actor, expectations are soaring. As the 50-day countdown begins, fans are eagerly waiting to witness a cinematic spectacle that combines powerful performances, historical accuracy, and socially charged themes. Parasakthi is already shaping up to be one of the most anticipated Tamil releases of 2026.

Scarlett Johansson joins Mike Flanagan's new Exorcist film



Hollywood star Scarlett Johansson is set to headline the next chapter of The Exorcist franchise, with writer-director Mike Flanagan confirming her casting. The announcement has sparked excitement among fans of the iconic horror series, which first terrified audiences in 1973.

Speaking about Johansson's involvement, Flanagan said, Scarlett is a brilliant actress whose captivating performances always feel grounded and real, from genre films to summer blockbusters, and I couldn't be happier to have her join this Exorcist film. The project is being produced by Blumhouse Atomic Monster, Morgan Creek Entertainment, and Red Room Pictures.

Keerthy Suresh, one of the brightest stars in Indian cinema, has spoken about a surprising pause in her career after the huge success of Mahanati. The biopic, directed by Nag Ashwin, won her a National Award and praise from critics and audiences alike. Yet, despite the film's triumph, Keerthy revealed that she did not receive any new offers for nearly six months. Speaking at a recent press meet, she said, Would you believe me if I say that after Mahanati, I didn't get any films for almost six months? No one even came to narrate a script to me. The actress explained that she did not feel upset by the silence. Instead, she chose to see it as a positive break. I wasn't disappointed because I knew I hadn't done anything wrong. I thought people were taking time to create a strong role for me. I used that gap to work on a makeover, she added.

In Mahanati, Keerthy played the legendary actress Savitri, a role that cemented her place as one of the most promising talents in the industry. The film also featured Dulquer Salmaan, Samantha, and Vijay Deverakonda in key roles.

Now, Keerthy is preparing for her next big release, Revolver Rita, which will hit theatres this weekend.



Nadubettu Appanna Gains Praise At Prestigious Film Festivals

The semi-Tulu film Nadubettu Appanna, produced by Bhavishya Cinemas, is getting ready for release. Even before reaching theatres, the movie has received appreciation. It was screened for two days at the Kolkata International Film Festival and also at the Mysuru Dasara Film Festival, where viewers praised its message.

The film is directed by singer Anupama Sharadhi. With this movie, she joins the list of women directors in the Kannada film industry. She has earlier worked on government documentaries.

The story is written by Kumar Eshwar, while Anupama has written the screenplay and dialogues along with directing and producing the film.

Nadubettu Appanna tells the story of Appanna, a miserly man living in a remote village called Dabbadka. The villagers often face elephant attacks on their farms and houses. The village does not have basic facilities like roads, hospitals, or schools. To reach the nearest town, they must travel on a raft, which has caused many deaths.

Appanna does not care about others, not even his own family. But when an elephant destroys his farm, he loses his wife and son. This tragedy changes him. He understands that saving money is useless if his home and farmland are unsafe. Regretting his selfish life, he donates his property to the government through a trust for the welfare of the village.

Nataraj Honnavalli plays the lead role. Sumathi, Nishanth, Jagannath, and others are in the cast. Cinematography is by Abhishek Anagalli and Dhanush Mysuru, and music is by Kumar Eshwar.

Rakul Preet Singh warns fans of fake WhatsApp impersonator



Actress Rakul Preet Singh has issued a strong warning to her fans after discovering that an imposter is misusing her name and images on WhatsApp to deceive people. The actress revealed that the fake account has been contacting individuals using the number 8111067586, pretending to be her and engaging in misleading conversations.

On November 24, Rakul took to her verified X (formerly Twitter) account to alert her followers. Sharing a screenshot, she wrote, Hi guys... it's come to my notice that someone is impersonating on WhatsApp as me and chatting with people. Please notice this isn't my number and do not engage in any random conversations. Kindly block. She emphasized that interacting with such accounts could put fans at risk, especially if they are pressured to share personal or financial details.

Her quick response aims to stop the scam from spreading further and to protect her loyal fan base from exploitation. By posting through her official profile, Rakul demonstrated proactive steps to safeguard her community against identity theft.

Reports highlight that impersonation scams targeting celebrities have become increasingly common. Actresses Aditi Rao Hydari and Shriya Saran have previously faced similar situations, urging their fans to remain cautious when receiving unexpected messages.

Rakul, who continues to shine in Indian cinema with recent roles including De De Pyaar De 2, reminded her supporters of the importance of vigilance in today's digital age. She expressed gratitude to her fans and reinforced the need to stay alert to prevent online fraud and protect personal safety.

Be Dune Teen trailer highlights love, chaos, and parenting journey



The trailer of the upcoming Marathi original series Be Dune Teen has been released on social media, giving audiences a heartfelt look into the highs and lows of partnership and parenting. The show stars Kshitish Date, Pushkaraj Chirputkar, and Shivani Rangole in lead roles, and follows the story of Abhay and Neha, a young couple whose lives change dramatically when they discover they are expecting not one baby, but triplets.

The promo captures the emotional journey of the couple as they navigate love, responsibility, and the chaos of parenthood. Hema V.R., Business Head of Marathi ZEE5, said, At Marathi ZEE5 we take pride in creating stories that reflect the emotional heartbeat of Maharashtrian households. Be Dune Teen is a beautiful extension of that vision, showing how joy and chaos coexist in real-life relationships.

Directors Atharva Soundankar and Himanshu Pile explained that the series aims to feel both intimate and cinematic. Abhay and Neha's relationship is beautifully flawed. They argue, they make mistakes, but they love deeply and grow together. Told across multiple timelines, the story explores laughter, heartbreak, and reunion, while capturing humor in ordinary moments and tenderness in everyday chaos, they shared.

Kshitish Date, who plays Abhay, described the role as deeply relatable. Abhay is trying to balance love, fear, and excitement while suddenly becoming father to three babies. It creates chaos but also vulnerability. I believe every couple and family will see themselves in this journey, he said.

IND vs SA, 2nd Test: India Reel at 27/2 Chasing 549 on Day 4

India face an uphill battle after losing two early wickets chasing 549

GUWAHATI

India ended Day 4 of the second Test in deep trouble at 27 for 2, staring at a massive target of 549 runs set by South Africa, who are eyeing a clean sweep in the two-match series. Openers Yashasvi Jaiswal (13) and KL Rahul (6) fell cheaply, leaving the hosts in disarray on a difficult surface. Jaiswal was dismissed in the seventh over by pacer Marco Jansen, while Rahul succumbed to off-spinner Simon Harmer in the 10th. At stumps, Sai Sudharsan (2 off 25) and night-watchman Kuldeep Yadav (4 off 22) were holding fort, with India still needing 522 runs to level the series. Earlier in the day, South Africa strengthened their grip through a composed batting display led by Tristan Stubbs, who missed a century by six runs, scoring a gritty 94 off 180 balls. Tony de Zorzi contributed 49, and the pair added 101



runs for the fourth wicket, blunting India's spin challenge. Stubbs also forged an 82-run stand with Wiaan Mulder (35) before the Proteas declared at 260/5. For India, Ravindra Jadeja impressed with figures of 4/62, while Washington Sundar claimed 1/67, but the hosts were left with a mountain to climb. With only one day remaining, South Africa remain firm favourites to clinch the series 2-0 while India's hopes now rest on a miracle.

Match Situation	
■ Target for India:	549
■ India at Stumps:	27/2 (15.5 overs)
■ Required to win:	522 runs
Key Indian Wickets Lost	
■ Yashasvi Jaiswal – 13 (b Jansen)	
■ KL Rahul – 6 (b Harmer)	
Top SA Performers	
■ Tristan Stubbs – 94	
■ Tony de Zorzi – 49	
■ SA Declared:	260/5
Top Indian Bowlers	
■ Ravindra Jadeja – 4/62	
■ Washington Sundar – 1/67	

India-Pakistan T20 World Cup Clash Set for Feb 15 in Colombo

MUMBAI

India and Pakistan will meet in a blockbuster ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 clash on February 15 in Colombo, according to the schedule released in Mumbai on Tuesday. The contest at the R Premadasa Stadium will be India's third group-stage match and marks the teams' first encounter since India swept their high-voltage Asia Cup trilogy earlier this year.

The 2026 edition, jointly hosted by India and Sri Lanka, will run from February

7 to March 8. India begin their title defence against the USA on the opening day in Mumbai, followed by a February 12

fixture against Namibia in Delhi. Their final group match will be against the Netherlands at Ahmedabad's Narendra Modi Stadium. India, Pakistan, the USA, Namibia, and the Netherlands

will be played each day during the group phase. As per the logistical arrangement between hosts, Pakistan will play all group-stage matches only in Colombo or Kandy. The tournament retains the 20-team structure introduced

in 2024. The top two teams from each of the four groups will qualify for the Super Eight stage, where they will be divided into two groups of four. India's Super Eight fixtures, if they qualify, are slated for Ahmedabad, Chennai and Kolk-

Group C- India's Group

- India
- Pakistan
- USA
- Namibia
- Netherlands

India's Group-Stage Fixtures

- Feb 7: vs USA (Mumbai)
- Feb 12: vs Namibia (Delhi)
- Feb 15: vs Pakistan (Colombo)
- Feb 20: vs Netherlands (Ahmedabad)

Tournament Timeline

- Feb 7–20: Group Stage
- Feb 22–29: Super Eight
- March 4 & 5: Semifinals
- March 8: Final (Ahmedabad)

*May shift to Colombo if Pakistan qualify.



Rohit Sharma Named Ambassador as Excitement Builds for 2026 T20 WC

NEW DELHI

In a significant announcement ahead of the 2026 ICC Men's T20 World Cup, former India captain Rohit Sharma has been appointed the official ambassador for the tournament.

Rohit, widely regarded as one of the finest T20I batters of his generation, retired from the format after guiding India to the 2024 World Cup title in the Americas, a victory that ended the team's 11-year drought for an ICC trophy.

Over the course of his illustrious T20I career, Rohit ac-



cumulated 4,231 runs, averaging 32.01 with an impressive strike rate of 140.89, cementing his status among cricket's elite. His association with the upcoming edition is expected to boost fan engagement and global interest. Adding to the

buzz, the ICC confirmed that traditional rivals India and Pakistan will face off once again, having been drawn together in Group A.

They are joined by USA, Netherlands and Namibia, making it one of the most closely watched groups of the tournament.

With venues across India and Sri Lanka gearing up to host matches, the release of the full schedule has already ignited excitement among cricket enthusiasts, who eagerly await another thrilling chapter in the sport's shortest format.

World Athletics Continental Silver Level meet in 2026

KOLKATA

The Athletics Federation of India (AFI) on Tuesday unveiled a packed domestic calendar for 2026, highlighted by the World Athletics Continental Tour Silver Level meet, upgraded from the Bronze Level, and the inaugural National Indoor Championships.

The National Indoor Championships are scheduled for March 24 and 25, marking a significant step in expanding India's indoor athletics ecosystem. Later in the year, the upgraded Continental Tour Silver meet will be held in August at Bhubaneswar's Kalinga Stadium, a venue that continues to strengthen its reputation as a premier athlet-

ics hub.

Kalinga Stadium will also host the first-ever Indoor Open Combined Events and Pole Vault competition in May, providing more competitive opportunities for specialised athletes.

In a major developmental push, AFI announced a 16-part Indian Athletics Series, to be conducted from April to September, aimed at encouraging wider regional participation and spotting emerging talent.

Overall, the 2026 domestic athletics season will feature 40 competitions, designed to help Indian athletes refine their skills and build momentum ahead of the 2026 Asian Games.



Raina Defends Gambhir, Says Batters Must Take Responsibility for Losses

NEW DELHI

Former India batter Suresh Raina has thrown his weight behind head coach Gautam Gambhir amid mounting criticism over the team's poor performances in the ongoing Test series against South Africa. With India staring at a rare home series defeat, Raina insisted that the responsibility lies squarely with the batters, not the coach.

Gambhir has been under scrutiny since India's 30-run loss in the first Test at Eden Gardens, and pressure intensified after South Africa took firm control of the second Test in Guwahati. The visitors' dominance has placed India on the brink of their first home Test series defeat to the Proteas since 1999–2000.

Raina, speaking to jour-

nalist Abhishek Tripathi, defended Gambhir's methods. "A coach can only guide. The batsman has to score runs on the field. No fault of the coach," he said, stressing that international cricket demands tougher preparation from players. His comments came as India's batting lineup continued to falter, collapsing for 201 in their first innings while South Africa posted a commanding 489. Gambhir's tenure has been marked by mixed results. After a strong start with a 2–0 win over Bangladesh at home, India were swept 0–3 in New Zealand, then suffered a 1–3 defeat in Australia. Under new captain Shubman Gill, the team managed a 2–2 draw in England and a 2–0 home win against the West Indies.



Benzema Brace Not Enough as Al-Ittihad Fall 4–2 to Al-Duhail

DOHA

Karim Benzema scored a late brace, but Al-Ittihad's struggles in the Asian Champions League Elite continued as the Saudi Pro League champions fell 4–2 to Qatar's Al-Duhail. The defeat marked Ittihad's third loss in five group-stage matches, further jeopardising their hopes of securing a place in the knockout round.

The revamped continental competition features 12 teams in the western zone, with only the top eight advancing. Al-Ittihad, twice champions of Asia, now face a steep climb after being overwhelmed for most of the match in Doha.

Algerian forward Adil Boulbina was the star for Al-Duhail, completing a commanding hat-trick



that put his side firmly in control. He struck twice before halftime, capitalising on defensive lapses, and added his third just seven minutes into the second half. Polish striker Krzysztof Piątek deepened Ittihad's misery, making it 4–0 with a precise finish in the 74th minute.

Only then did Ittihad find momentum. Benzema, who has endured a mixed spell in Saudi Arabia, scored twice in the closing stages to give his side faint hope, but the deficit proved too large to overturn. The late rally was not enough to salvage points or mask the broader issues plaguing the Jeddah giants in continental

competition. Elsewhere, Ittihad's city rivals Al-Ahli suffered a 1–0 defeat at home to the United Arab Emirates' Al-Sharjah. Ousmane Camara scored in the 81st minute, and although Al-Ahli believed they had equalised in stoppage time, Ziyad Al-Johani's effort was ruled out for offside.

Earlier in the day, Iran's Tractor strengthened their campaign with a 1–0 win over Nasaf Qarshi in Uzbekistan to climb to second in the group behind Al-Hilal. Al-Ahli Dubai also impressed, securing a 2–0 victory over Qatar's Al-Gharafa to keep their qualification hopes alive.

Hardik Pandya Cleared for SMAT Return as Baroda Coach Confirms Availability

VADODARA

Indian all-rounder Hardik Pandya is poised to make his full return to competitive cricket in the upcoming Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy (SMAT) after an extended injury lay-off. The Baroda star, sidelined since sustaining a quadriceps injury during the Asia Cup 2025, has now been cleared to participate in most of Baroda's group-stage matches, according to head coach

Mukund Parmar. Hardik's injury, suffered during India's final Super 4 match of the Asia Cup, kept him out of the final against Pakistan, the Australia tour, and the ongoing home series against South Africa. His rehabilitation at the BCCI Centre of Excellence saw a brief setback with a re-injury scare, but the 32-year-old has reportedly regained full fitness and is eager to return. Baroda will open their SMAT 2025 campaign against Bengal on November 26, marking Hardik's first appearance in the tournament since 2024, when he played under brother Krunal Pandya's leadership. Parmar confirmed that the team management is confident of his readiness and expects him to feature prominently in the early fixtures. Hardik's return is also seen as a crucial step toward reclaiming his spot in India's T20I squad for the upcoming South Africa series, beginning December 9. Selectors are expected to monitor his domestic performances closely, and reports suggest that he will be considered for national selection only after proving match fitness. He has already been rested from the ODI leg of the series as part of a cautious workload plan. Baroda's squad includes experienced names such as Krunal Pandya, Jitesh Sharma, and Vishnu Solanki, alongside rising talents like Shivalik Sharma and Raj Limbani, giving the team a balanced look for the T20 competition. As India prepares for a demanding cricket calendar, Hardik's successful return could provide the side with much-needed depth in the all-rounder department.



Srikanth Slams Gambhir over 'Chop-and-Change' Selection

GUWAHATI

Former India captain and ex-BCCI chief selector Krishnamachari Srikanth launched a scathing attack on head coach Gautam Gambhir over team selection after South Africa dominated the second Test in Guwahati. Srikanth accused Gambhir of a "chop-and-change" approach, questioning the omission of consistent performers like Axar Patel.

Srikanth said India might draw but must fix selection issues and consistency

"Why isn't Axar Patel playing? Was he unfit? Every al-

ternate match someone is making a debut. They can call it trial and error. Gautam Gambhir can say whatever he wants — I don't care. I have been a former captain and former chairman of selectors. I know what I'm talking about," Srikanth said.

This latest outburst follows previous criticism of Gambhir's selection of pacer Harshit Rana, which Gambhir dismissed as "shameful." Srikanth also condemned India's overall performance, highlighting poor handling of South Africa's spin and pace. "Kuldeep Yadav said nothing was happening on the pitch. Then we see Indians edging to slips against Harmer and Maharaj, and getting out to bouncers from Jansen — five wickets to short balls on a supposed 'road,'" he said. Srikanth praised Simon

Harmer's classical spin, contrasting it with India's spinners who "fire it flat," and criticised captain Rishabh Pant's reckless shot selection. "They will say it's his natural game, but he is the captain. Shouldn't he see the match situation?" While acknowledging India could still fight for a draw, Srikanth stressed that the team must address "wrong selection policies" and establish consistency. His remarks come as South Africa holds a 1-0 lead in the two-match series, leaving India under mounting pressure and keeping Gambhir firmly in the spotlight. Srikanth's unapologetic stance underscores his belief that India's cricketing fortunes hinge on stronger decision-making and a stable lineup, rather than continual experimentation at the top level.



India Set to Host 2030 Commonwealth Games in Ahmedabad

NEW DELHI

India is all set to formally receive the hosting rights for the 2030 Commonwealth Games at the Commonwealth Sport's General Assembly in Glasgow today. While the bid was largely assured over a month ago, the Assembly will officially confirm the decision, marking a milestone in India's ambition to become a global multi-sport hub. India last hosted the Games in 2010 in Delhi, but the 2030 edition will be staged in Ahmedabad, a city that has upgraded its sporting infrastructure at war footing over the last decade. Key venues include the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Sports Enclave, which will feature an aquatics centre, football stadium, indoor arenas, and an athletes' village for 3,000 participants. The Narendra Modi Cricket Stadium, with a capacity of over one lakh, will also host events.

Ahmedabad has already showcased its organisational capabilities by hosting the Commonwealth Weightlifting

Championships, Asian Aquatics Championships, AFC Under-17 Asian Cup Qualifiers, and will host the Asian Weightlifting Championship and Asia Para-Archery Cup next year. The city is also set to co-host the 2029 World Police and Fire Games alongside Gandhinagar and Ekta Nagar.

India's proposal highlights its commitment to a full medal programme, including wrestling, shooting, archery, kabaddi, and kho-kho, in contrast to the scaled-down 2026 Glasgow Games. Indian Olympic Association officials, including IOA President P. T. Usha and Joint Secretary Kunal, will represent the country during the formal announcement. Interim Commonwealth Sport President Dr. Donald Rukare described Ahmedabad's bid as "inspiring," while the global body praised India's sporting legacy and capacity to host a Games reflecting scale, diversity, and the Commonwealth values. The official announcement is expected around 6:30 p.m. IST.

Ahmedabad prepares for grand Commonwealth Games 2030 after major sports infrastructure upgrades

India Preparing in Full Swing to Host 2036 Olympics: Mandaviya

JAIPUR

Union Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Manukh Mandaviya said India is steadily advancing towards its vision of becoming a developed nation and is preparing comprehensively to host the Olympic Games in 2036. Speaking at the opening ceremony of the fifth Khelo India University Games at the Sawai Man Singh Stadium, he emphasised that a strong sports ecosystem has been built under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Mandaviya said flagship initiatives such as the Khelo India School Games, Youth Games and University Games are designed to identify promising talent at the grassroots level. Selected athletes, he noted, are being trained at specialised sports schools and Centres of Excellence, helping create a pipeline of world-class competitors capable of representing India at the highest levels. Hosting the 2036 Olympics, he added, would propel Indian sports to new heights and further strengthen the nation's global sporting presence. Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel said the University Games are being conducted across seven divisions of the State, bringing together thousands of talented young athletes from across the country. He described the event not merely as a competition but as the starting point of many athletes' journey toward larger dreams, including participation in the Olympics. Highlighting the transformative power of sports, Sharma said it fosters discipline, perseverance and the courage to face challenges. Quoting Swami Vivekananda, he urged the youth to "arise, awake and move forward to conquer new heights." He affirmed that both the Centre and the State governments are committed to promoting sports and providing athletes with the necessary infrastructure and opportunities to excel.



Medvedev, Bopanna Lead India's World Tennis League Debut

BENGALURU

India is set to make a grand entry into the World Tennis League (WTL) as Bengaluru gears up to host the exhibition tournament from December 17-20, featuring some of the world's top tennis stars. The League unveiled the team compositions, highlighting a star-studded lineup including Daniil Medvedev, Rohan Bopanna, Denis Shapovalov, Elina Svitolina, Nick Kyrgios, and Paula Badosa. World No. 13 US Open champion Daniil Medvedev line the Game Changers Falcons alongside ace Rohan Bopanna, Magda Polak, and young Indian talent Samalappalli. Bopanna's inclusion is expected to boost local interest and provide a boost to the event. Other teams include the VB Realty Hawks with Can-Sapovalov, India's Yuki Ukraine's Svitolina, and hwaran Revathi; the icks Kites featuring Dhakshinashwar Kostyuk, and In-and the AOS Gael Monfils, Badosa, and Shrivalli Bhamidipaty.

Notably, 2022 Wimbledon champion Elina Rybakina, who recently won the WTA Finals in Riyadh, will not feature in the tournament, leaving Svitolina as Ukraine's representative.

The WTL aims to blend global tennis stars with emerging local talent, providing fans a unique competitive and entertaining format. Bengaluru's hosting of the event is part of India's increasing push to bring international tennis exhibitions to the country, while also offering Indian players the chance to test themselves against world-class opponents.

With top-ranked players in action and India's doubles specialists like Bopanna featuring prominently, the inaugural WTL event promises to be a spectacle that could mark a significant milestone in India's tennis calendar.

Fans can look forward to four days of high-octane tennis and international sporting flair in the city.



10-Man Everton Stuns Manchester United 1-0 at Old Trafford

MANCHESTER

Everton produced a remarkable victory over Manchester United, winning 1-0 at Old Trafford despite being reduced to 10 men early in Premier League clash. The game will be remembered for Everton midfielder Idrissa Gueye's red card after striking teammate Michael Keane in the 13th minute, an incident confirmed by VAR as violent conduct.

The only goal of the match came in the 29th minute when Kiernan Dewsbury-Hall unleashed a superb 18-meter strike, giving the visitors an advantage that they would defend with grit and determination for the remainder of the game. Despite United's dominance in the second half, firing 25 shots at Jordan Pickford's goal, Ever-

ton's defence held firm, with the goalkeeper producing several crucial saves. United coach Ruben Amorim admitted that his side failed to match Everton's intensity. "They were the better team, with 11 players or 10," he said. The defeat marked United's first since losing 3-1 to Brentford almost two months ago and ended a 47-game unbeaten run at Old Trafford against visiting teams with fewer than 11 players. Dewsbury-Hall downplayed the Gueye incident, calling it "a moment of madness" and praised his team's response. "We could easily have crumbled, but it made us grow as a team," he said. Gueye publicly apologized to Keane, teammates, staff, and fans, taking full responsibility for his actions and vowing it would not happen again.

Mick Schumacher Joins IndyCar with Rahal Letterman Lanigan

BENGALURU

Mick Schumacher, son of seven-time Formula One champion Michael Schumacher, is set to race in the U.S. next year after signing with Rahal Letterman Lanigan Racing (RLL) for the 2026 IndyCar season. The 26-year-old German, who has spent the last two years competing with Alpine in the World Endurance Championship (WEC), will now tackle America's iconic ovals and road courses, including the Indianapolis 500.

Schumacher lost his F1 seat with Haas at the end of 2022 and has since built experience in endurance racing, giving him a diverse motorsport background. With six of IndyCar's 17 races held on ovals or super-speedways, RLL has already planned an oval test to help Schumacher adapt to



the high-speed, banked circuits that are a hallmark of American open-wheel racing.

"Having both an F1 and endurance background, and having competed in various racing series over the years, I have insights and knowledge that I am sure will contribute to a great partnership," Schumacher said. "I was also immediately excited about the car and the American way of motorsport, which is more about pure and direct racing, and it is precisely this aspect

that I am very much looking forward to."

RLL co-owner Bobby Rahal praised Schumacher's performance during a test on the Indianapolis road course. "He impressed every single team member. Everyone walked away from that event determined to do what we could to bring Mick into our program," Rahal said, highlighting Schumacher's adaptability and potential to make an impact in IndyCar.

The 2026 IndyCar season is scheduled to start on March 1, marking Schumacher's first full season in American open-wheel racing. His move adds a high-profile name to the series and brings added global attention to IndyCar, while also offering the German driver a new challenge in a competitive and fast-paced racing environment.

ARPORA, (GOA)

Olympic gold medallist Abhinav Bindra believes India is on a steady path to becoming a global sports hub and that the next decade will witness unprecedented growth in the sector. Speaking at the Chess World Cup in Arpora, Bindra said the country's ambition to host the 2036 Olympics is both timely and essential for long-term development.

"I think there is no doubt about it that the Olympic Games will come to India. It is only a matter of time," he said, stressing the importance of the current bid for the 2036 Games. Bindra noted that while multiple countries are vying to host the Olympics, India's effort is part of a broader journey to strengthen sports culture nationally.

The former shooter high-



lighted recent initiatives, including the sports governance bill, as signs of a more organised approach towards developing sports. "Even if we don't win the bid, sport must win and move forward," he said, emphasising that the bid itself should catalyse positive change.

Bindra is optimistic about India's youth and sees grow-

ing engagement in sports both as participants and spectators. He believes school-level opportunities are critical for nurturing talent and promoting healthy lifestyles. "When children get more chances to play, not just to become champions but to experience sport, values and healthier habits are instilled," he said.

According to Bindra, ex-

panding access to sports at the grassroots will naturally increase participation at elite levels, ensuring a stronger pipeline of future athletes.

He concluded that with structured planning, increased investment, and a focus on broad-based participation, India's next decade can indeed be a transformative era for sports.