CITY HILIGHTS

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GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT



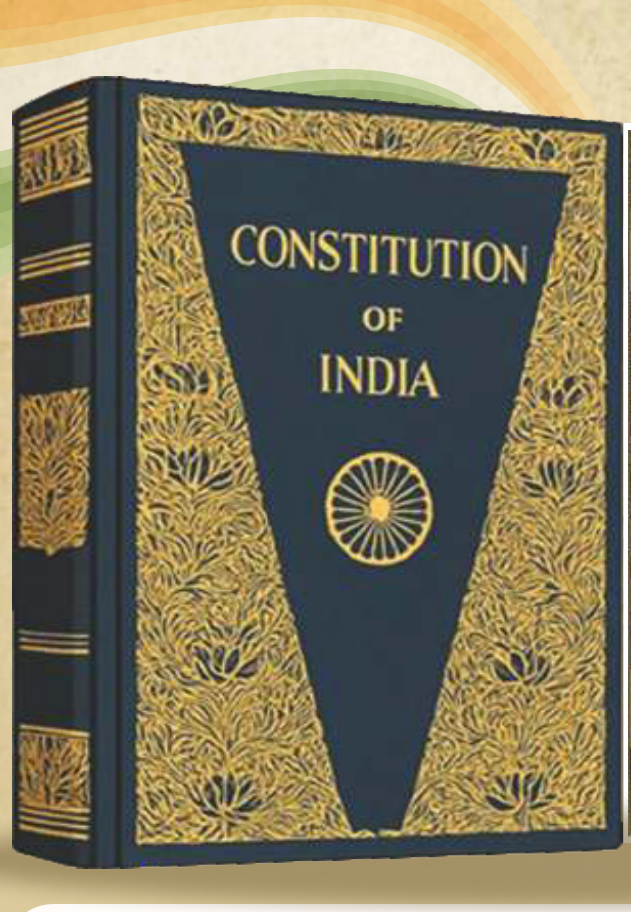
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Shri D. K. Shivakumar

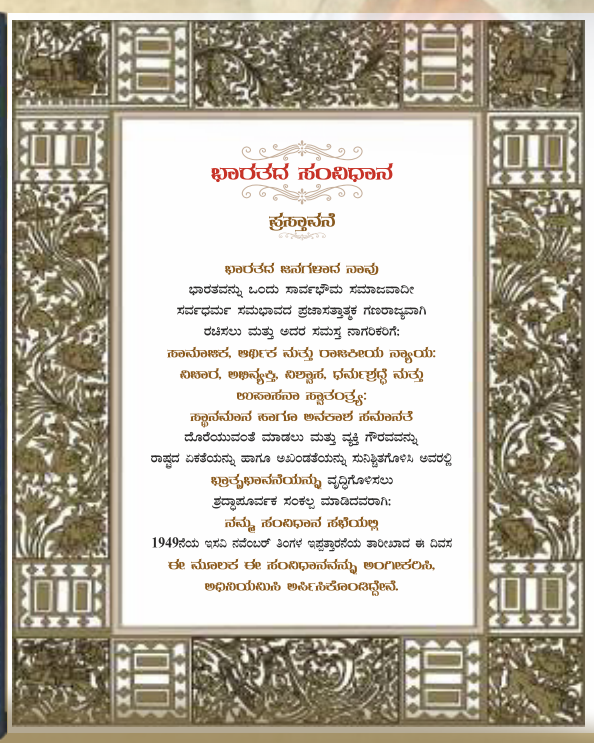


Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
Dr. G. Parameshwara

From Dr. Ambedkar's address
to the Constituent Assembly
on 4 November 1948

**"Constitutional morality
is not a natural sentiment.
It has to be cultivated"**





OUR CONSTITUTION
OUR STRENGTH
OUR FUTURE

CONSTITUTION DAY CELEBRATION

26th November, 2026

Venue: Maharaja's College Grounds, Mysuru
Time: 11:00 AM

The Constitution — The Bedrock of Citizens' Rights and the Lifeline of Democracy

Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri D. K. Shivakumar,
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Dr. G. Parameshwara,
Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare Shri K. H. Muniyappa and other dignitaries will garland the statue of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar in front of Vidhana Soudha at 9:00 AM

The Constitution drafted by **Bharat Ratna Dr. B. R. Ambedkar** guides our nation towards progress, unity and integrity.
Let us uphold and honour our Constitution and reaffirm our commitment to a stronger nation.

Let the spirit of our Constitution empower every citizen
Justice | Liberty | Equality | Fraternity



Hon'ble Chief Minister **Shri D.K. Shivakumar,**
Former Chief Minister **Shri Siddaramaiah** and
Minister for Social Welfare **Shri K.H. Muniyappa**
reading the Preamble to the Constitution at the event



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.

Commissioner
Social Welfare Department

Secretary to the Government
Social Welfare Department

@SWDGok karnataka information

Quick Read

Court rejects doctor plea over fake IDs

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The High Court has refused to drop a criminal case against a government doctor accused of approving fake address papers for 14 Bangladeshi nationals. Justice H.P. Sandesh dismissed the plea filed by Dr. Lokesh, who had asked the court to cancel the legal action against him. The judge noted that doctors are meant to protect public health, not sign off on unverified identity records without proof such as rent agreements. Signing for so many people looked like a pattern rather than a simple mistake. Meanwhile, the court dropped charges against another accused person due to missing evidence. The case involves illegal Aadhaar cards and passports.

Rain, thunderstorms head to southern Karnataka

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Residents across southern Karnataka should keep umbrellas handy as shifting weather patterns bring rain and thundershowers on November 25 and 26. The Meteorological Department forecasts light to moderate showers with lightning in Bengaluru Urban, Bengaluru Rural, Mysuru, Mandya, Hassan, Kodagu, and nearby districts. Coastal areas like Dakshina Kannada and Udupi will also see moderate rain, while northern districts such as Belagavi, Kalaburagi, and Dharwad stay mostly dry. Minimum temperatures across the state are expected to rise slightly. Meanwhile, commuters in Bengaluru may face minor evening traffic delays as clouds gather and showers continue over the next two days.

Two held with MDMA worth ₹5.72 crore

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Yelahanka New Town police have arrested two individuals for allegedly smuggling narcotics from Delhi to sell in the city. Officers detained Imran Pasha, 28, and Ayesha Siddiqui, 27, during a targeted raid on a vacant plot along the Kenchenahalli-Harohalli road on November 22. Police seized 5.72 kilograms of banned MDMA valued at roughly Rs 5.72 crore. Investigators revealed the duo sold drugs to students and residents to fund a lavish lifestyle. Officers are now tracing local buyers and checking for wider network links, as state officials continue a major crackdown on drug trafficking across Karnataka.

Day 9: ASHA stir intensifies as talks fail



ASHA workers raise their hands in protest at Freedom Park in Bengaluru.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The protest by ASHA workers at Freedom Park entered its ninth consecutive day, with demonstrators refusing to budge until the state government issues a formal written order. Standing firm on their core demand for a monthly honorarium of Rs 15,000, thousands of community health workers made it clear that mere verbal assurances will no longer persuade them to pack up and go home.

Women from every district across Karnataka, many holding their young children, are staging a round-the-clock sit-in under changing skies. Over the past nine days, protesters have endured sudden rain showers, chilly nights, and harsh daytime heat. Recent downpours turned the Freedom Park grounds muddy and unsanitary, forcing dozens of tired women to spread sheets and sleep along nearby roadsides beneath makeshift blue tarpaulin covers.

The prolonged exposure and poor living conditions have begun taking a heavy toll on protesters' health. So far, 15 to 20 demonstrators have fallen seriously ill and needed hospital admission, while union leaders report even higher numbers receiving care at the medical camp. Despite fever, exhaustion, and body aches, fellow workers continue caring for one another and their children rather than abandoning their collective fight.

Efforts to break the deadlock have repeatedly stalled. Two earlier rounds of talks involving Health Minister U.T. Khader and Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar ended without a firm settlement. Even a direct video call from the Chief Minister, who is currently on an official trip to Japan, failed to end the standoff. Although he urged the workers to trust his word and wait until the next Assembly session, protesters flatly rejected spoken promises.

Braving rain, illness, and muddy roadsides for nine straight days, Karnataka's ASHA workers reject verbal promises, demanding a written guarantee for fair pay.

Union representatives stressed that past verbal pledges went unfulfilled, leaving rural health workers struggling to pay rent and school fees. Until an official written commitment lands in their hands, the women vowed to hold their ground at Freedom Park.

Actors, writers join ASHA workers' stir

As Kannada cinema's finest rally at Freedom Park, Karnataka's relentless ASHA workers gain powerful voices demanding long-overdue justice.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Prominent faces from the Kannada film industry stepped forward to stand with protesting ASHA workers at Freedom Park. Veteran actresses Tara and Malavika Avinash, alongside senior actor Avinash, visited the demonstration site to voice their solidarity and urge the state government to resolve the ongoing crisis without delay.

The protest, organized by the Karnataka United ASHA Workers' Association, has now stretched into its ninth consecutive day. Despite harsh sun, rain, and cold weather, hundreds of women health workers continue their sit-in, demanding fair pay and official recognition.



A speaker addresses ASHA workers on the ninth day of their sit-in at Freedom Park.

Tara hits back

Addressing the gathering, actress Tara expressed deep disappointment over the government's silence. She emphasized that forcing essential health workers onto the streets does not reflect well on any administration. Tara demanded timely monthly wages, job security, and formal status as recognized laborers for the staff.

She also delivered a sharp response to Minister Narendraswamy's recent controversial remark, reminding him that elected leaders are not monarchs handing out royal favors, as it is the common people who vote them into power.

Malavika Avinash echoed these sentiments, calling the workers "great mothers" who selflessly care for the public's well-being. She urged the state to grant them a monthly honorarium of Rs 15,000 immediately and promised to raise their concerns with the Central Government. Actor Avinash also praised their tireless service, especially during the tough days of the COVID-19 pandemic, assuring them that standing by their side was a basic civic duty.

Meanwhile, the union's State Secretary D. Nagalakshmi strongly condemned Minister Narendraswamy for asking if the government could keep handing out favors every time workers made demands.

She clarified that the women were not seeking charity, only fair wages for their hard work and the fulfillment of past promises.

What they want

- **Pay:** a monthly honorarium of Rs 15,000
- **Wages:** paid on time every month
- **Security:** job security for the staff
- **Status:** recognition as labourers

Who stood with them

- Actors Tara, Malavika Avinash and Avinash
- Writers S.G. Siddaramaiah and Janagere Venkataramaiah
- Farmer and science groups

Writers join the chorus

Support also poured in from the literary and social sectors. Renowned writer Prof. S.G. Siddaramaiah called the nine-day standoff shameful for a democracy and urged the Chief Minister to visit the site immediately. Writer Janagere Venkataramaiah, Dr. Vasundhara Bhupathi, and several farmer and science group leaders also joined the chorus, demanding concrete action rather than empty words.

Midday meal cooks and educators rally against privatization of schools



Midday meal workers at the protest at Freedom Park.

60,000
of the state's 1.20 lakh midday meal staff risk losing their livelihoods, unions warn

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Demonstrations at Bengaluru's Freedom Park intensified as midday meal cooks and prominent education experts launched fresh agitations against state education policies, joining ASHA workers who have already been protesting at the venue for nine days. With thousands gathering across the protest zone and nearby Kalidasa Road, demonstrators voiced strong opposition to what they view as the gradual privatization of Karnataka's public school system.

Leading the first rally, midday meal workers demanded the immediate scrapping of the government's proposed 'Cluster Kitchen' scheme. Protesters expressed deep anger over plans to outsource school meal preparation to private organizations, noting that even school headmasters have written to officials raising concerns about the move. Out of roughly 1.20 lakh midday meal staff employed statewide, unions warn that nearly 60,000 women risk losing their livelihoods if centralized kitchens replace local school cooking. Speaking at the sit-in, CITU State Vice-President Hanumakka stressed that the policy threatens the basic survival of poor families and urged authorities to withdraw the order without delay. Police granted permission for the demonstrators to occupy adjacent Kalidasa Road, bringing traffic to a halt as workers staged a determined blockade.

Simultaneously, a coalition of writers, academics, and social activists began an indefinite 'Satyagraha' inside Freedom Park to oppose the state's 'School Adoption' and 'Mentor' initiatives. The group argued that inviting private entities to adopt or manage public institutions undermines equal access to learning and weakens state accountability. Insisting that educating children remains a core constitutional duty of the government rather than a matter of private charity, the protesters demanded a concrete three-month action plan to enforce the Right to Education Act.

Their charter of demands also calls for filling vacant teaching posts, upgrading basic classroom infrastructure, and ensuring transparent public funding. Education leaders declared that their sit-in will continue indefinitely until the Chief Minister personally visits the protest site and delivers a formal written commitment protecting government schools.

MLA Jnanendra slams elephant relocation, backs ASHA workers

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Senior legislator Araga Jnanendra has strongly criticized the state government's recent decision to relocate wild elephants from Hassan district to the Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary, warning that the move has brought severe danger to regions previously untouched by human-wildlife conflict. Speaking to reporters, the Thirthahalli MLA stressed that political blame games must stop while rural families face daily threats to their lives and livelihoods.

Jnanendra pointed out that residents in Thirthahalli had rarely seen wild elephants in the past, yet they now live in constant fear as the displaced animals raid farms and destroy crops ready for harvest. Challenging urban environmentalists, he suggested that critics preaching conservation from afar should spend time living in affected Malenadu villages to witness the ground reality. He urged officials to adopt scientific methods to keep elephants safely inside their native forest habitats rather than shifting the crisis to new neighborhoods.



Araga Jnanendra

Backing for ASHAs

Turning his attention to the ongoing protest by Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) workers, the former minister expressed deep sympathy for the healthcare staff braving rain and cold on the streets with their young children. He reminded the ruling Congress party of its unfulfilled election pledge to raise their monthly honorarium as a sixth guarantee. Questioning how families can survive on Rs 5,000-6,000 a month even three and a half years into the government's term, Jnanendra noted that these frontline workers risked their lives during the pandemic. Criticizing the Chief Minister for traveling abroad during the agitation, he demanded immediate talks and at least a partial pay hike if the full demand cannot be met right away.

"There should be no political attacks in the wake of elephant attacks. The government must sincerely resolve this issue, keeping in mind the lives of the people in the Malenadu region."
— Araga Jnanendra, Thirthahalli MLA

No to division

Finally, Jnanendra rejected recent remarks by fellow party legislator Balachandra Jarkiholi calling for a separate North Karnataka state. Calling such talk unbecoming of a former minister, he emphasized that Karnataka leads several other states in overall progress. Instead of dividing the state, he urged leaders across party lines to unite and pressure the government whenever any region lags behind in development.

Cold, hunger sicken 20 ASHA workers

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Two more protesting ASHA workers fell seriously ill and required hospital care as their indefinite sit-in at Freedom Park reached its ninth consecutive day. With the latest admissions, the total number of women hospitalized since the agitation began on November 17 has climbed to 20.

According to protest organizers, 36-year-old Zubeda Begum from Hagaribommanahalli in Vijayanagara district developed acute breathing trouble at the venue, while 50-year-old Lakshmamma from Doddaballapura complained of sudden chest pain. Fellow demonstrators alerted emergency responders, and both women were rushed in an ambulance to K.C. General Hospital, Malleswaram, for urgent medical treatment.

Health volunteers stationed at Freedom Park say harsh living conditions are steadily draining the protesters' strength. Thousands of community health workers from rural districts across Karnataka have been camping in the open through chilly November nights, unseasonal rain, and lack of regular meals. Shortages of clean drinking water and working toilets have worsened exhaustion, leading to repeated cases of high fever, respiratory congestion, infections, and fainting spells among the women.



A medical camp and an ambulance at the protest site.

Order in writing

Despite mounting health scares, the protesters have refused to vacate Freedom Park or call off their strike. At the center of the agitation is their demand for a fixed monthly honorarium of Rs 15,000, regular salary payments, and formal worker benefits. Many demonstrators point out that an earlier assurance made in January 2025 to raise their monthly pay to Rs 10,000 remains unfulfilled, leaving families unable to keep up with rising rents and household costs.

Previous discussions with Health Minister U.T. Khader and an appeal from Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar to pause the strike ahead of Cabinet talks failed to break the deadlock. Union leaders stressed that verbal assurances are no longer acceptable and insisted that the women will continue their peaceful sit-in until the state government issues a clear, official written order.

POULTRY DEBT TRAP

Poultry farmers rally, seek govt intervention

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Hundreds of poultry farmers gathered at Freedom Park to demand a mandatory minimum rearing charge of Rs 10 per kilogram of chicken and strict sector rules. Organized by the Karnataka State Poultry Farmers' Welfare Association and the All-Karnataka Poultry Farmers' Welfare Association, the protest highlighted growing financial distress across rural Karnataka.

Around 25,000 poultry growers, along with lakhs of farm laborers, shop owners, and company staff, rely on this industry for daily income. Despite generating thousands of crores in business, farmers say weak oversight leaves small growers open to unfair pressure from large integration firms. Protesters submitted an appeal to Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar seeking urgent government intervention.



Poultry farmers at the protest at Freedom Park.

Rearing charge per kg of chicken

SET IN 2021	AGREED LATER
₹6.20 by the Animal Husbandry Department	₹10 not enforced seven months on

Seven months on

In 2021, the Animal Husbandry Department set the rearing fee at Rs 6.20 per kilogram. After farmers protested rising electricity, labor, and maintenance expenses, officials held several rounds of talks with growers and contract companies and agreed to raise the rate to Rs 10 per kilogram. However, associations say seven months have passed without proper enforcement on the ground.

Honorary President Yashwanth urged authorities to issue firm instructions so growers actually receive the approved Rs 10 payment. General Secretary Sridhar Reddy warned that soaring input costs and poor regulation have pushed many families into heavy debt, leaving them unable to repay bank loans and facing bankruptcy.

Six demands

To rescue the sector, protesters placed six core demands before the state. First, they want the rearing charge raised by at least Rs 10 each year. Second, they urged lawmakers to pass the Karnataka Poultry Regulation and Development Bill during the winter session. Third, they sought an amendment to Section 95(1) of the Karnataka Land Revenue Act to grant poultry farming official agricultural status. Fourth, they proposed building a cooperative federation modeled on the Karnataka Milk Federation with subsidies and cheap loans. Fifth, they asked for strict checks on private firms supplying chicks, feed, and medicines. Finally, they demanded an immediate joint meeting of officials, farmers, and companies to enforce pending orders.

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P13 Iran says it can withstand US naval blockade



P14 Bumrah climbs to joint second in Test rankings

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K'taka rolls out red carpet for Japan

CM Shivakumar courts Japanese investment ahead of Global Investors Meet 2027



BENGALURU

Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Wednesday met Japan's State Minister for Foreign Affairs Yasutaka Nakasone in Tokyo and emphasised the need to strengthen economic cooperation and bilateral collaboration between Japan and Karnataka, officials said.

During the meeting, Shivakumar encouraged greater Japanese investment in Karnataka, they said. He invited a high-level Japanese government delegation to participate in Karnataka's Global Investors Meet 2027, along with a dedicated Japan Country Pavilion, the Chief Minister's office said in a statement.

The CM also expressed his gratitude for Japan's continued support for key infrastructure projects, including the Bengaluru Metro and Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board, and sought further collaboration on Karnataka's developmental priorities, it said.

Japan's State Minister for Foreign Affairs welcomed the delegation led by the chief minister and appreciated the strong and enduring India-Japan relationship, it said.

Nakasone also underscored Karnataka's importance as a key destination for Japanese investments and welcomed continued engagement between Japan and Karnataka.

CM meets JFE Steel, JSW, Panasonic Automotive teams

The CM, along with Minister MB Patil, also met the leadership team of Panasonic Automotive, led by its President and CEO, Mike Nagayasu.

Shivakumar wrote on X, "We discussed Karnataka's strengths in advanced manufacturing and its growing ecosystem of Global Capability Centres (GCCs), and explored opportunities for Panasonic Automotive to invest and expand its operations in the state. We assured the Panasonic leadership of our full support in facilitating their plans and building a strong partnership."

"I look forward to taking these discussions forward and welcome Panasonic Automotive to Global Investors Meet – Invest Karnataka 2027 in Bengaluru," he added.

Shivakumar and his state team also meet JFE Steel Corporation Executive Vice President Ogawa Hiroyuki along with senior representatives of JFE Steel and JSW Steel.

They discussed strengthening their longstanding partnership and exploring further opportunities in Karnataka.

"JFE Steel and JSW have built a strong partnership in India, and Karnataka continues to be an important part of their steel and manufacturing operations. We discussed opportunities to expand their activities in the state, particularly in advanced steel manufacturing and value-added products. We assured the companies of the government's full support in facilitating their existing and future investments," the CM wrote on X.

DKS meets Japanese minister in Tokyo

- Karnataka CM DK Shivakumar met Japan's State Minister for Foreign Affairs Yasutaka Nakasone in Tokyo.
- He called for stronger economic ties and bilateral cooperation between Japan and Karnataka.
- Shivakumar invited Japanese investors to explore opportunities in Karnataka.
- He invited a high-level Japanese delegation to the Global Investors Meet 2027, with a dedicated Japan Pavilion.
- He thanked Japan for supporting Bengaluru Metro & BWSSB projects.
- He sought further Japanese cooperation in Karnataka's infrastructure and development projects.
- Nakasone welcomed the delegation and reaffirmed Karnataka's importance as a key investment destination.

Enough of foreign trips, address ASHAs' issues first: Ashoka

BENGALURU: Leader of the Opposition in the Karnataka Assembly R Ashoka has urged Chief Minister DK Shivakumar to meet the Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs), protesting for an increase in their monthly honorarium and address their demands.

In a post on 'X' on Tuesday, Ashoka said the ASHAs had been protesting at Freedom Park in Bengaluru for seven days, while the Chief Minister was on a foreign visit, adding that the CM had time to seek women's votes but not to listen to their problems.

He said the government found it easy to promote its guarantees in the name of women but was not willing to provide fair pay for their work.

Ashoka said the women were continuing their protest despite the heat, hunger and health problems and that some women had fallen ill during the protest, but the government had not responded to their demands for an increase in honorarium and retirement benefits.

He added that the protesting ASHA workers were not seeking favours from the Chief Minister but were unhappy that the promised hike of Rs 2,500 had not been properly implemented.

The Leader of the Opposition also said that the workers were demanding fair compensation for their work in public health, and asked Shivakumar how longer the government would continue to ignore their protest.



Yogesh Gowda murder: SC sends Kulkarni back to jail

BENGALURU

The Supreme Court on Wednesday cancelled the bail granted to former Congress MLA Vinay Kulkarni in the 2016 murder of BJP worker and Dharwad zilla panchayat member Yogeshgouda Goudar, setting aside the Karnataka High Court's July 31, 2026 order that suspended his life sentence and stayed his conviction.

The apex court's decision withdraws the relief granted by the high court while Kulkarni's criminal appeal was pending. The high court had ordered his release on bail after suspending the life sentence imposed by a special court for elected representatives.

Kulkarni and 16 others were convicted of murder and criminal conspiracy in the case. The special court sentenced all 17 to life imprisonment after finding them guilty of plotting and executing Goudar's killing.

Goudar, a BJP zilla panchayat member, was hacked to death at a gym in Saptapur, Dharwad, on June 15, 2016. The local police initially investigated the case, which was transferred to the Central Bureau of Investigation in 2019 after allegations of political pressure and claims that Kulkarni, then a district incharge minister, had orchestrated the killing.

The CBI arrested Kulkarni on Nov 5, 2020, naming him the main conspirator.

The Supreme Court granted him conditional bail on Aug 11, 2021, with a restriction on entering Dharwad district. It cancelled that bail on June 7, 2025, after allegations of attempts to influence or tamper with witnesses.

The apex court granted Kulkarni bail again on Feb 27, 2026, after key witnesses had been examined and directed that the trial be concluded expeditiously. He was convicted along with the other accused on April 15, 2026, and all 17 were sentenced to life imprisonment on April 17.

With the Supreme Court now setting aside the high court's July 31 order, the suspension of Kulkarni's conviction and life sentence no longer holds. The conviction and sentence will continue to operate, subject to the outcome of his appeal.



SC cancels Vinay Kulkarni's bail

- Supreme Court cancelled former Congress MLA Vinay Kulkarni's bail in the 2016 Yogeshgouda murder case.
- It overturned the Karnataka High Court's July 31, 2026 order suspending his conviction and life sentence.
- BJP leader Yogeshgouda Goudar was hacked to death in Dharwad on June 15, 2016.
- The CBI took over the case in 2019 and arrested Kulkarni on Nov 5, 2020.
- The Supreme Court cancelled his earlier bail in June 2025 over alleged witness tampering.
- He was granted bail again on Feb 27, 2026.
- On April 15, 2026, Kulkarni and 16 others were convicted of murder and criminal conspiracy.
- All 17 were sentenced to life imprisonment on April 17, 2026.
- The Supreme Court's latest ruling restores the conviction and life sentence pending Kulkarni's appeal.

State delegation studies Tokyo urban development model

BENGALURU

Chief Minister DK Shivakumar-led delegation visited Tokyo Midtown Roppongi, a landmark mixed-use urban complex, developed in collaboration with Japan's leading architecture, engineering and urban planning firm Nikken Sekkei.

During the visit, the delegation, which included Minister for Large and Medium Industries and Infrastructure Development M B Patil, interacted with Wataru Tanaka, Senior Executive Officer and Head of the Global Business Department at Nikken Sekkei, who was closely associated with the project's master planning, the Chief Minister's Office said in a release on Wednesday.

> "Tokyo Midtown Roppongi offers an important lesson in how cities can grow vertically without losing their green spaces, pedestrian-friendly character and quality of life."
> -DK Shivakumar, Chief Minister

The delegation studied how the approximately 25-acre development transformed a former defence land parcel into an integrated urban district featuring office spaces, residential facilities, retail outlets, hospitality and cultural amenities, while retaining nearly 50% of the area as open and green spaces, the release added.

Discussions focused on integrated master planning, vertical development, optimal land utilisation, pedestrian-friendly public spaces, seamless public transport connectivity and quality urban infrastructure. Completed in approximately 2.5 to three years, the project offers valuable insights into developing sustainable, well-connected and livable urban spaces.

The delegation also explored the possibility of adapting Japan's urban development model to Bengaluru's strategic redevelopment initiatives and future infrastructure projects.

We're following Indian laws: Meta to Cong

NEW DELHI

Meta's policy team told Congress social media leaders that the company follows Indian law and that its policies are transparent, sources said.

It was the first meeting between the two sides since the Congress accused Meta of restricting posts and accounts linked to the party and its youth wing, the Indian Youth Congress (IYC).



The talks followed IYC protests outside Meta's offices in Hyderabad, Gurugram and Mumbai. At the meeting, the Congress delegation presented material that it said showed Meta was restricting posts mentioning Rahul Gandhi, the sources said.

At a protest outside Meta's Hyderabad office on November 20, Telangana Youth Congress president Jakkidi Shiva Charan Reddy alleged that Meta had suspended or restricted the Instagram accounts of IYC national president Uday Bhanu Chib and national in-charge Manish Sharma.

On November 21, the IYC warned on X that it would "storm Meta offices across the country and stage protests" unless Meta restored the Instagram accounts of its leaders. Further protests followed on November 22.

Restrictions under Indian law

The dispute comes amid tighter government oversight of social media platforms. In February, the Centre cut the deadline for platforms to remove unlawful content after receiving a notification from 36 hours to three hours.

TN apologises to SC over temple lamp row

CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu government on Wednesday apologised to the Supreme Court over the failure to light the ceremonial lamp at the disputed Deepathoon pillar on Thirupparankundram hill, blaming the Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy temple authorities for not authorising the team assigned to carry out the exercise.

The apology came amid demands for contempt proceedings against the state over alleged willful disobedience of the SC's November 20 order permitting the lamp to be lit at the pillar on November 24.

The top court, however, refused to initiate suo motu contempt proceedings, asking the petitioners to file a separate plea. A bench of Justices Aravind Kumar and Vipul M Pancholi said the registry would verify the applications filed and explore listing them on Thursday or Friday. Despite the SC's permission to light the lamp at the stone pillar on the hill, the annual Karthigai Deepam was lit only at its customary Uchipillayar mandapam at Thirupparankundram on Monday.

In an interim status report, Madurai District Collector Nishant Krishna said the administration had completed all arrangements to implement the court's order. However, the temple's Board of Trustees did not authorise the proposed 10-member team and instead decided to follow the customary practice of lighting the Karthigai Deepam at its traditional location. The collector maintained that he made every effort to ensure compliance with apex court's order and denied any willful disobedience, while expressing sincere regret over the lamp not being lit at Deepathoon.



Controversy's roots

The Karthigai Deepam controversy at the Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy temple in Madurai centres on a dispute over where and by whom the lamp should be lit on the Thiruparankundram hill. The latest developments follow the Supreme Court's November 20 order permitting the lighting of the lamp at Deepathoon, a stone pillar atop Thiruparankundram hill, on November 24 as a one-time measure. For decades, the lamp was lit at the Deepa Mandapam, near the Uchipillaiyar temple on the lower slopes. Hindu groups had sought nod to light the lamp at the Deepathoon located higher up the hill,abot 50 metres from the dargah. The dargah side had told the apex court that it is the owner of the whole of the top of the Thiruparankundram hill and opposed the demand by Hindu worshippers.

FSSAI launches pan-India drive to test packaged drinking water

New Delhi: The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is conducting a nationwide enforcement drive to test packaged drinking water, with laboratory results expected in one to two months, its CEO Rajit Punhani said on Wednesday.

The food regulator has begun collecting samples from across the country as part of its efforts to ensure food safety and protect consumer interests. "We are in the process. The process has started. We are doing all over the country," Punhani told reporters.

He said the drive was not prompted by any specific incident but was part of the regulator's ongoing efforts to scrutinise different food categories.

The nationwide exercise comes days after FSSAI sanctioned prosecution against Bisleri International over a sample of its packaged drinking water being declared unsafe.

6 KILLED AFTER FLOOD HITS GOLD MINE IN INDONESIA

Jakarta: Rescuers in Indonesia recovered three more bodies from an unauthorized gold mine Wednesday and searched for 20 other miners believed trapped inside by flooding, raising the confirmed number of deaths to six. The miners were digging for grains of gold late Monday when heavy rain caused the nearby Ciseureuh River to overflow into a mine shaft in the Bogor regency of West Java province.

NET WIDENS

KPSC scam: K'taka HC orders SIT probe into ED findings

BENGALURU

The Karnataka High Court has directed the Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the instances of irregularities and malpractices in KPSC recruitments detected by the Enforcement Directorate (ED).

On November 19, the ED shared the information with the SIT about discrepancies it found in the recruitment of Assistant Executive Engineers in Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation department, KAS Gazetted Officers exam - 2023, Motor Vehicle Inspectors recruitment examination of 2016 and Assistant Engineer recruitment exam of the BBMP.

The SIT is presently investigating the Veterinary Officers recruitment scam.

After perusing the status report submitted by the ED, Justice M Nagaprasanna said the revelations in the status report are shocking.

"If the revelations in the status report were to ultimately bear the imprimatur of truth, they would have a chilling effect on the credibility of the entire recruitment process undertaken by the KPSC," the court said, adding that this subsequent development, and the material surfaced in the ED investigation, cannot be viewed in isolation or through the narrow prism of the two crimes that initially occasioned the constitution of the SIT.

The court further said, "The nature of the allegations is such that it would shock not merely the conscience of this Court, but equally the conscience of every ordinary citizen who, with an abiding faith in the fairness of the system, participates in the recruitment processes conducted by the KPSC, year after year, across various disciplines.

The information so shared cannot be permitted to remain a mere exchange of correspondence between two investigating agencies. It must receive the requisite statutory response and be taken to its logical conclusion in accordance with law."

The court further extended the interim orders granted to the petitioners, who are successful candidates, observing that no coercive steps should be taken against them till the next date of hearing, subject to the petitioners extending their fullest cooperation with the investigation, either at the hands of the ED or the SIT.

The High Court further directed both the SIT and ED to submit their respective updated status reports while adjourning the hearing in the batch of petitions to January 8, 2027.

'Scan ED-flagged irregularities'

- Karnataka HC directed the SIT to probe KPSC recruitment irregularities flagged by the ED.
- Alleged malpractices involve four recruitment examinations, including KAS 2023 and MVI 2016.
- The ED shared its findings with the SIT on November 19.
- The court termed the revelations shocking, warning of damage to KPSC's credibility.
- SIT is already probing the Veterinary Officers recruitment scam.
- No coercive action against successful petitioners until the next hearing, subject to cooperation.
- SIT and ED directed to submit updated status reports.
- Next hearing on January 8, 2027.

Quick Read

Fresh rain clears Bengaluru air for residents

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Recent showers have brought welcome relief to several parts of Karnataka, clearing dust and improving air quality across Bengaluru. Neighborhoods like Hombegowda Nagar, Bapujinagar, and Jayanagar 5th Block recorded clean, healthy air, matching pristine levels seen in Hassan and Mysuru. However, heavy traffic and ongoing roadwork kept pollution higher in areas such as BTM Layout and RVCE Mylasandra. Meanwhile, Mangaluru and Kalaburagi experienced noticeably poorer air quality. Health experts advise children, seniors, and people with breathing conditions in polluted zones to limit outdoor time and avoid dusty roads while others enjoy the crisp weather.



Highway hit-and-run kills two young friends

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A joyful birthday celebration turned into tragedy when a speeding truck hit a motorcycle near Binnamangala in Nelamangala, killing two young friends. The victims, 20-year-old Dilip from Alur and 21-year-old Chetan from Harokyathanahalli, were riding together on the highway. Chetan had invited his friends out for a special biryani treat to celebrate his mother's birthday. While heading toward a local restaurant, an unidentified truck rammed their bike from behind and sped away. Chetan died instantly at the scene, while Dilip succumbed to injuries at the hospital. Nelamangala traffic police have registered a case and are searching for the driver.

Lawyer kills sister over house dispute

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A 39-year-old woman was brutally killed by her own brother in Junnasandra following a bitter family dispute over housing. The victim, Meenakshi, had recently separated from her husband and moved into a small home with her two children right opposite her brother Jayaram's residence. Jayaram, a lawyer, repeatedly argued with her to vacate the property. On Wednesday morning, a minor quarrel erupted between Jayaram's wife and Meenakshi. Upon hearing about the argument, an enraged Jayaram rushed over and struck Meenakshi fatally on the head with a bat. Bellandur police have registered a murder case and launched a manhunt.

Elephant row: Reddy offers resignation

Wild elephants, furious lawmakers, and a minister ready to walk-Karnataka's latest forest relocation plan has sparked a political stampede within the ruling Congress.


Forest Minister Ramalinga Reddy

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The political storm over moving wild elephants from Hassan district to the Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary took a sharp turn as Forest Minister Ramalinga Reddy offered to give up his post. His remarks came after fierce pushback from fellow Congress lawmakers in Chikkamagaluru forced officials to pause the relocation drive.

Earlier, Chikkamagaluru legislators Nayana Motamma, T.D. Rajegowda, and H.D. Thammaiah threatened to resign over fears that bringing outside elephants into Bhadra would put local residents and crops at serious risk. Although Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and KPCC President B.K. Hariprasad stepped in to calm the legislators and halt their resignations, Reddy expressed strong displeasure over comments made by his own party colleagues.

Speaking to reporters at Vidhana Soudha, Reddy hit back at MLA H.D. Thammaiah's claim that the minister lacks understanding of forest issues. Pointing out that he hails from Anekal near the Bannerghatta forest and owns a plantation frequently visited by wild elephants, Reddy said he has deep firsthand experience with wildlife conflict. He added that he is not clinging to power and will gladly step down and hand over the Forest portfolio to anyone truly born and raised in the woods.

Reddy also voiced annoyance that local MLAs went straight to the Speaker and Chief Minister instead of speaking with him first. Calling himself an eight-time legislator who takes every departmental decision independently without being misled by officials, he maintained that his morale remains completely unshaken.

> **"If there is anyone who was actually born and raised in the forest, I am willing to step down and hand over the ministerial post to them."**
> — **Ramalinga Reddy,** Forest Minister

Clarifying the ground status, the minister confirmed that the wild elephants remain where they are for now. He reminded critics that elephants roam freely across forest boundaries and do not belong strictly to Belur or Chikkamagaluru. Reddy noted that a crucial meeting chaired by the Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister on November 30 will decide the final plan, aiming to protect both human lives and wildlife across Belur, Sakaleshapura, and Sringeri.

Elephant shift stopped, MLAs hold resignation


Malenadu legislators at a press meet on the elephant relocation

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Forest Department has temporarily halted its drive to shift wild elephants from Hassan district to the Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary in Muthodi Forest following fierce protests from Malenadu legislators. After meeting the Legislative Assembly Speaker, Chikkamagaluru district MLAs T.D. Rajegowda, Nayana Motamma, and H.D. Thammaiah agreed to hold back their resignations and decide their next move after a crucial meeting chaired by the Chief Minister on November 30.

Under threat of mass resignations from Malenadu MLAs, Karnataka's Forest Department pauses its elephant relocation drive, awaiting crucial talks with the Chief Minister.

> *"Our region is already home to 400 elephants, and elephant attacks have resulted in significant loss of life and injuries."*
> **T.D. RAJEGOWDA** Sringeri MLA

56 elephants to be moved into Bhadra | **3** Chikkamagaluru MLAs hold back resignations | **Nov 30** CM's meeting to decide

Plan to move 56 elephants

Speaking to reporters outside Vidhana Soudha, Sringeri MLA T.D. Rajegowda said officials had planned to move 56 wild elephants into Bhadra Sanctuary. He pointed out that Chikkamagaluru already houses around 400 elephants, and frequent attacks have caused deaths and serious injuries across local villages. Urging authorities not to dump outside herds into Muthodi forest, Rajegowda noted that the Speaker summoned forest officials because the Chief Minister is currently away, and a formal request has also been submitted to the Forest Minister ahead of the November 30 talks.

Speaker steps in

Mudigere MLA Nayana Motamma stressed that protecting citizens matters far more than holding office. She explained that the relocation drive began secretly without informing local lawmakers or villagers, prompting her to submit her resignation, which the Speaker declined to accept. Following the Speaker's intervention, officials agreed to pause the operation and issue a formal announcement soon, while the legislators await the November 30 meeting before choosing their next step.

Ramesh alleges ₹660-crore BSWML fraud

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

BJP leader N.R. Ramesh has lodged formal complaints with the Enforcement Directorate and the Karnataka Lokayukta, alleging massive financial wrongdoing worth ₹660 crore in Bengaluru's solid waste management contracts. Submitting bundles of supporting records, Ramesh accused senior officials at Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited of bending rules across 33 waste packages covering five civic bodies under the Greater Bengaluru Authority.

In his filing, Ramesh named BSWML Chief Executive Officer Karigowda, Chief General Manager S.V. Rajesh, and Deputy General Manager Chandrashekhar as key figures behind the alleged fraud. He claimed contracts were handed even to firms with pending Employees' Provident Fund defaults. According to the complaint, commissioners of five municipal corporations have already appealed these irregularities, which allegedly caused a direct loss of nearly ₹90 crore to local civic bodies.


BJP leader N.R. Ramesh

Ramesh also cited a report from an expert committee formed on June 4, 2026, under senior official Anjum Parwez. That panel had warned the state government in writing that granting an unlawful 14% extra payment to contractors would place an unfair extra burden of around ₹350 crore on Bengaluru taxpayers.

Looking closely at tender figures over the seven-year contract period, Ramesh alleged that bidders originally quoted ₹3,844.19 crore. However, after an irregular order cleared by BSWML, total payouts jumped to ₹4,504.32 crore. Out of that jump, an extra ₹659.36 crore is allegedly being paid to contractors across just 22 packages through hidden terms added after bidding.

The dispute has also reached the Karnataka High Court. Two rival bidders, Satish Kumar and Chaluvaraju, filed writ petitions alleging unfair treatment. They told the court they quoted lower rates online after CEO Karigowda urged them to keep bids down, only to watch other contractors receive an extra 14% payout. Ramesh further alleged that Karigowda personally summoned winners of 22 packages to fix specific rates. Calling the process biased and opaque, Ramesh demanded a thorough probe and strict legal action against guilty officials.

Seven-year waste contracts

BIDS QUOTED	PAYOUTS NOW
₹3,844.19 cr	₹4,504.32 cr
what bidders originally quoted	after the BSWML order, Ramesh alleges

Sting probe: Krupa Alva's phone and voice sample sent to forensic lab

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Cyber Crime police investigating the high-profile sting operation involving former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah have stepped up their probe by sending key evidence for forensic analysis. Following strict warnings from investigators, expelled Congress leader Krupa Alva finally surrendered her mobile phone to investigating officer ACP Ravi. Police have also collected her voice sample, dispatching both items to the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) to uncover crucial technical details behind the viral footage.

The sting case

- **FEB 2023** — Video allegedly filmed
- **SEP 2026** — Clip uploaded to YouTube
- **THEN** — Congress expels Alva for six years
- **NOW** — Her phone and voice sample go to the FSL


Siddaramaiah (left) and Krupa Alva

Investigators believe the seized handset was used when the controversial video was originally recorded. During three earlier rounds of questioning, Alva had repeatedly hesitated to hand over the device, prompting police to issue stern directives demanding compliance. Now that the phone is in custody, detectives suspect that important digital files, chats, or video clips may have been erased before submission. FSL specialists will attempt to recover any deleted data while simultaneously comparing Alva's recorded voice sample with the audio heard in the sting clip to verify her identity beyond doubt.

The controversy centers on a video allegedly filmed back in February 2023 and uploaded to YouTube in September 2026. The footage shows Alva alongside the Managing Director of a private television channel, triggering widespread allegations that the two worked together to orchestrate the covert recording. Once the clip surfaced publicly and sparked a political storm, the Congress party swiftly expelled Alva for six years over anti-party activities.

Throughout her appearances before the Cyber Crime unit, Alva has firmly denied orchestrating the plot. In her official statements to police, she claimed that Rakesh Shetty had approached her regarding the sting video, attempting to distance herself from the planning behind the recording. With the handset and audio samples now under scientific examination, police expect the upcoming forensic report to clarify who filmed, edited, and circulated the controversial clip.

'Women's safety is our top priority'

CH NEWS, BENGALURU



Bengaluru has ranked first across India for the highest number of tickets booked by women for late-night movies, concerts, and entertainment events. Newly appointed Chief Commissioner of Police R. Hithendra shared the finding, citing recent booking figures from travel platform MakeMyTrip as encouraging proof that women feel secure stepping out after dark.

Hithendra, who took charge on November 18, spoke about the city's nightlife trends during an interview. He said strong ticket numbers show that women move freely around Bengaluru and enjoy evening cultural events with confidence. While welcoming the trend, the top officer stressed that protecting women remains his department's foremost duty rather than a goal already finished.

Alongside safer streets at night, Hithendra outlined clear priorities for his leadership: firm law and order, faster cybercrime action, and a tough crackdown on illegal drugs. To fight narcotics effectively, city police will partner closely with specialized enforcement agencies. He added that the force is fully aligned with the state government's mission to make Karnataka completely drug-free by the year 2028.

Women's safety first | **Firm law and order** | **Faster cybercrime action** | **Drug-free state by 2028**

The police chief also explained how splitting the Bengaluru City Police structure into five separate commissionerates helps everyday citizens. Under the new setup, residents no longer have to travel all the way to the central headquarters to raise complaints. Instead, people can walk directly into the office of their local zonal commissioner for quicker help and local accountability.

Hithendra noted that Bengaluru aims to thrive not only as India's technology hub, but also as a vibrant cultural capital hosting major concerts and shows safely. With tighter patrols, decentralized policing, and focused action against online fraud and drugs, police leaders hope women and families continue enjoying the city's nightlife without fear.

UNFULFILLED CURD PROMISE

Nearly three weeks on, Nandini curd price unchanged despite CM's order

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

More than 20 days after Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar instructed dairy officials to slash Nandini curd prices by at least ₹2, consumers across Karnataka are still waiting for relief at retail counters. The Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF) has yet to roll out the promised discount, sparking widespread frustration among households already struggling with rising kitchen expenses.



Nandini dairy products in crates

The controversy began after KMF recently introduced steep rate hikes across its popular dairy lineup. Depending on fat content, milk prices jumped by ₹8 to ₹14 per litre, while curd became costlier by ₹14 per litre and ₹6 per half-litre. Facing intense public backlash over the sudden surge in essential food costs, the Chief Minister stepped in and directed the federation to ease the burden on families by lowering curd rates. However, nearly three weeks later, store shelves continue to reflect the higher prices, leaving shoppers questioning why state departments are ignoring executive orders.

THE PRICE TRAIL

- **MILK** — Up Rs 8 to Rs 14 a litre, by fat content
- **CURD** — Up Rs 14 a litre, Rs 6 a half-litre
- **CM'S ORDER** — Cut curd by at least Rs 2
- **KMF** — Still in talks with district milk unions

Kitchen budgets strained

Across Bengaluru and other districts, homemakers say the prolonged delay feels unfair because milk and curd are non-negotiable staples for family nutrition. Many residents pointed out that uneven price increases across different packets have strained monthly household budgets even further. Frustrated shoppers voiced concern that authorities might be stalling intentionally, assuming citizens will eventually accept the steeper rates and stop complaining. Since families must buy dairy products every single day regardless of cost, the extra expense continues to pinch ordinary earners.

When questioned about the hold-up, KMF Administrator M.V. Venkatesh explained that consultations with various district milk unions are still underway. He noted that officials have not yet reached a common agreement on how to absorb the price adjustment, adding that a final announcement will only follow once all unions conclude their talks. Until then, Karnataka's consumers remain stuck paying premium rates for an everyday necessity.

CH Observer

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From busy arterial roads to quiet school zones, Bengaluru's persistent garbage crisis continues to choke public spaces. On Tannery Road, mounds of waste spill onto the main carriageway and swallow half the footpath, turning a routine walk into an unhygienic ordeal. Meanwhile, at the junction of Queens Road, Chikka Bazar Road, and Connaught Road, half-hearted cleanups have failed to erase a stubborn black spot, leaving students, worshippers, and residents demanding permanent relief from recurring filth.

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Tannery Road: garbage dumped right on the main road. Half of the footpath is also covered with garbage, making the place very unhygienic to walk around.



Queens Road, at the junction of Chikka Bazar Road and Connaught Road: this is not the first time the issue has been raised. Earlier clean-ups failed, and a half-hearted clean-up by the authorities has let the garbage come back to this black spot. In a place surrounded by schools, prayer halls and more, residents deserve a proper end to the garbage black spot.

FEBRUARY DEADLINE SET FOR BENGALURU ROAD PROJECTS

Tired of bumpy rides? Bengaluru's civic agencies are racing toward a strict February deadline, fast-tracking massive road upgrades and drain revamps under digital watch.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda has ordered civic officials to complete most road development and stormwater drain works across Greater Bengaluru by February. Chairing a high-level review meeting with commissioners of the five City Corporations and the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, the minister stressed that public funds must deliver last-mile relief to daily commuters frustrated by damaged streets.



At the review meeting on road and drain works.

The works in numbers

of road works taken up
2,875 km
already asphalted
553 km

Monsoon rains and higher bitumen prices caused by Middle East tensions had slowed construction earlier. With dry weather now back and contractor payments settled on a schedule-of-rates basis, Gowda instructed engineers to deploy extra workers and speed up execution immediately. Across major city programs including CMIDP, SIP, special grants, VDP, and corporation funds, authorities have taken up nearly 2,875 kilometers of road works, with 553 kilometers already asphalted and tenders for another 100 to 200 kilometers nearing finalization.

Durable white-topping remains a top priority, covering 88 roads spanning 130 kilometers at an estimated cost of Rs 2,321 crore. While work is underway on roughly 120 kilometers, stretches covering 20 to 25 kilometers await traffic police clearances. Gowda directed teams to finish available white-topping stretches and the citywide Ward One pothole repair campaign by December, while completing non-asphalt concrete roads within three months. Officials must also coordinate closely with BWSSB to stop newly paved roads from being dug up again, alongside executing a separate Rs 487-crore upgrade for the Outer Ring Road.

To curb delays and corruption, the minister ordered strict digital oversight. All five corporations must feed live project updates into the Road Infrastructure Management System and a unified public dashboard. Engineers will link project data with Geographic Information System maps, automate contractor billing through upgraded financial software, and use dash-cam footage to spot road damage accurately.

Alongside road repairs, workers are upgrading 200 kilometers of stormwater drains, especially in outer zones, after clearing encroachments across nearly 20 acres. The government has also set aside Rs 200 crore to build new buffer roads beside drains using Transferable Development Rights, aiming to ease traffic congestion and give Bengalureans smoother, safer journeys.

The deadlines

- **BY DECEMBER** — Available white-topping stretches; the Ward One pothole campaign
- **BY FEBRUARY** — Most road and stormwater drain works
- **IN THREE MONTHS** — Non-asphalt concrete roads

Lalbagh dropped from tunnel road route

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Bowing to sustained pressure from environmental groups, walkers, and local residents, the Karnataka government has scrapped plans to build a tunnel road through Bengaluru's historic Lalbagh Botanical Garden. Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda confirmed that the garden has been completely removed from the project alignment, bringing widespread relief to nature lovers across the city.

The ambitious 16.75-kilometer underground corridor, designed to link Esteem Mall in Hebbal with the Central Silk Board junction, had earlier proposed boring beneath Lalbagh's ancient rock formations and placing an exit ramp inside the park. Conservationists, heritage activists, and citizens mounted fierce campaigns warning that heavy tunnel-boring vibrations could crack the three-billion-year-old Peninsular Gneiss rock hill, disturb natural underground water tables, and threaten the iconic Kempegowda watchtower.

Addressing reporters, Minister Krishna Byre Gowda stated that the government honors public sentiment and will protect Lalbagh from any construction. Engineers are now surveying two alternative routes outside the botanical garden to keep the north-south corridor viable. Officials have inspected potential exit locations near the Lalbagh-Siddapura stretch and the Wilson Garden area, with a final decision expected after weighing technical and traffic impacts.

Changing the alignment outside the park will raise overall construction expenses. Gowda noted that while daily toll rates for commuters will not be raised, the government may extend the toll collection period to cover higher project costs. To keep spending under check, a high-level committee headed by the Chief Secretary has been tasked with negotiating costs directly with the contractor.

For Bengalureans who spent months rallying to defend their cherished green lung, the announcement marks a major civic victory, showing that major infrastructure plans can still be reshaped to safeguard heritage and urban ecology.



At the review of hospital and waste works in the Yediyur division.

Ashoka, BWCC chief review hospital works

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Leader of the Opposition in the Karnataka Legislative Assembly and Padmanabhanagar MLA R. Ashoka joined Bengaluru West City Corporation Commissioner Shilpa Nag to review public health projects and waste management across the Yediyur division. Meeting senior civic officers, both leaders stressed smooth coordination among all municipal wings so residents across Padmanabhanagar receive faster, hassle-free essential services.

Healthcare infrastructure topped the agenda during the review. Officials discussed operations at the Banashankari Second Stage Referral Hospital, Karisandra Multi-Specialty Hospital, and Hosakerehalli Referral Hospital. At Banashankari Referral Hospital, where doctors handle over 100 childbirths every month, a new adjacent block with a 100-bed capacity has been built. Leaders directed engineers to finish remaining interior works rapidly and open medical wards to ease crowding and serve families sooner.

Attention also turned to the newly constructed 50-bed Karisandra Multi-Specialty Hospital. Because the physical building is already complete, authorities were instructed to initiate a Public-Private Partnership arrangement so the facility can launch full-scale clinical services, including dedicated yoga and physiotherapy units for neighborhood patients.

Solid waste management across Padmanabhanagar formed the second key focus of the meeting. Commissioner Shilpa Nag directed the Deputy General Manager of Solid Waste Management to enforce disciplined street patrols by civic marshals and tighten daily field supervision by Junior Health Inspectors to keep neighborhoods clean.

Zone-1 Joint Commissioner M.S.N. Babu, Zonal Deputy Commissioner Shankareppa Vanikyala, department heads, and engineering staff attended the review. Following the discussions, Ashoka and Shilpa Nag visited the Banashankari Referral Hospital campus to inspect the new 100-bed building firsthand. Checking construction quality and progress on site, they instructed contractors to meet strict completion deadlines and ordered staff to remove a dry tree standing near the hospital block for public safety.

On the agenda

- **Banashankari:** a new 100-bed block
- **Karisandra:** 50 beds, to open under PPP

COSTLY CONCRETE ROADS

White-topping cost jumps 48%



Concrete road work under way in Bengaluru.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

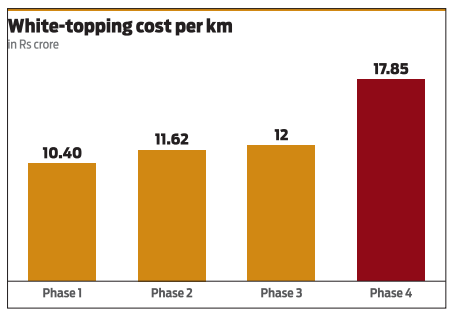
The cost of white-topping a single kilometer of road in Bengaluru has climbed by 48 percent to nearly Rs 17.85 crore in the newly approved fourth phase. Compared with the Rs 12-crore per-kilometer benchmark set during Phase 3 in April 2024, the sharp jump reflects a broader shift toward full corridor upgrades modeled on TenderSURE standards rather than simple concrete paving.

Last week, the Karnataka Cabinet cleared a budget of Rs 2,321.17 crore for Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited to white-top 88 roads spanning 130.85 kilometers across 12 execution packages. Civic expenses for concrete roads have climbed steadily over the past decade, rising from Rs 10.40 crore per kilometer in Phase 1 and Rs 11.62 crore in Phase 2 to Rs 12 crore in Phase 3.

Officials explained that B-SMILE will now directly fund underground water supply and sewerage upgrades alongside shifting BESCOM and KPTCL power cables. Stripping out utility shifting charges leaves the core cost of concrete paving, walkable footpaths, and rainwater drains at Rs 14.21 crore per kilometer.

Engineers surveyed 500 kilometers of streets across Bengaluru's five city corporations before picking 88 stretches. Of these, 71 segments measure under two kilometers, while 59 are at least 18 meters wide. B-SMILE Technical Director B.S. Prahallad noted that many shorter links inside the Central Business District will stitch existing concrete roads into a seamless network, while longer corridors include Bannerghatta Road, Andrahalli Main Road, Medahalli Main Road, Old Madras Road, Dr. Rajkumar Road, Hennur-Bagalur Road, and Alur Venkata Rao Road.

Greater Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda stated that the program will deliver pothole-free surfaces, pedestrian-friendly footpaths, improved junctions, and modern streetlights. Still, daily commuters remain skeptical after sluggish construction in earlier phases dragged on for years, leaving timely execution and utility coordination under close public watch.



Crack down on dangerous overhead cables

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Bengaluru is launching a major drive to clear tangled overhead wires and protect newly paved streets. Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda has directed civic officials to introduce a one-time regularisation scheme for unauthorized optical fibre cables across the city. Chairing a review meeting at the Greater Bengaluru Authority headquarters, the minister expressed serious concern over nearly five lakh illegal overhead wires and 12,000 kilometers of unauthorized underground lines threatening public safety. Noting that around thirty unused cables hang from individual trees in several areas, Gowda instructed officials to open a fixed online window after consulting contractors. Telecom providers can declare existing unauthorized lines and legalize them by paying a prescribed fee. Once the deadline passes, city corporations will immediately cut and remove all remaining unregistered or hazardous cables. To protect fresh infrastructure, digging up newly built roads is strictly banned. Operators must use existing underground ducts along white-topped and TenderSURE roads, and mount junction boxes along property edges at least seven feet high. Additionally, the meeting focused on redeveloping 75 major traffic junctions with clear lane markings, zebra crossings, signboards, and free-left turns in coordination with traffic police to ensure safer commutes.

Bengaluru moves to clear dangerous overhead cables

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

- Providers declare unauthorized cables in an online window and pay a one-time fee
- After the deadline, corporations cut and remove the rest

In a major push to clear tangled overhead wires and safeguard newly paved streets, Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda has directed civic officials to introduce a one-time regularisation scheme for unauthorized optical fibre cables (OFC) across the city. Chairing a high-level review meeting on cable management at the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) headquarters, the minister expressed serious concern over nearly five lakh illegal overhead wires and roughly 12,000 kilometers of unauthorized underground lines criss-crossing neighborhoods and threatening public safety.

Highlighting the scale of the mess, Gowda noted that around 30 unused cables hang from individual trees in several parts of Bengaluru. To clean up the skyline without disrupting essential internet and telecom connectivity, he instructed municipal officials to consult contractors and open a fixed online window. During this period, service providers can voluntarily declare existing unauthorized lines and legalize them by paying a prescribed one-time fee. However, once the deadline expires, respective city corporations must immediately cut and remove all remaining unregistered or hazardous cables.

To prevent newly built infrastructure from being ruined, Gowda banned digging up fresh roads under any circumstances. Instead, telecom operators must route their lines through dedicated underground ducts already constructed along white-topped and TenderSURE stretches. Additionally, cable junction boxes must be neatly mounted along property edges at a minimum height of seven feet, with city corporations advised to amend existing rules or draft separate bylaws for strict, uniform enforcement.

The review meeting also focused on improving commuter safety through the scientific redevelopment of 75 major traffic junctions. Gowda instructed engineers to finish Good for Construction (GFC) drawings before starting work and ensure clear lane markings, directional signboards, zebra crossings, smooth resurfacing, free-left turns, reflectors, and road studs in coordination with traffic police.

Gowda banned digging up fresh roads under any circumstances

Quick Read

Karkala temple festival prompts traffic diversions for 3 days

CH NEWS, UDUPI

In view of the Laksha Deepotsava celebrations at Sri Venkataramana Temple in Karkala, Deputy Commissioner and District Magistrate Swaroopa T.K. has announced alternative traffic arrangements from November 27 to 29 between Mooru Maarga and State Bank Junction. On November 27, heavy vehicles will be diverted through Pulkeri and Banglegudde from 6 pm to 11 pm. Buses will use the Kallotte-Market-Taluk Junction route, while two-wheelers and light vehicles will travel through Gandhi Maidan towards Kamadhenu Hotel Junction.On November 28 and 29, similar diversions will apply during the Laksha Deepotsava, Vanabhojana, Okuli and Pallakki celebrations. The restrictions will remain in force during the specified festival hours.The order has been issued under Section 115 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.

Magadi launches special drive to restore old-age pensions

CAMPS WILL BE HELD ACROSS THE TALUK AT MAGADI, KUDURU, THIPPASANDRA AND NEAR AGALAKOTE FROM NOVEMBER 26 TO 29.

CH NEWS, MAGADI

A special drive has been launched jointly by the taluk administration and the Health Department to restore old-age pensions stopped due to technical problems or missing documents, Block Congress President K. Krishnamurthy said.

Speaking at a medical examination and certification camp at Veeregowdanadoddi village on Wednesday, Krishnamurthy said around 500 to 600 senior citizens registered and received services on the first day.

He said elderly people often face difficulties visiting different government offices to obtain medical certificates and complete pension-related procedures. The camps bring medical specialists, including radiologists and dentists, along with Revenue Department officials, under one roof.

The initiative was taken following directions from Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and Magadi MLA H.C. Balakrishna, he said.



The camps will be held at different locations across the taluk. On November 26, a camp will be organised in front of the Magadi Taluk Office for residents of six gram panchayats. On November 27, Kuduru will host a camp covering six gram panchayats. Another camp will be held at Thippasandra on November 28 for five gram panchayats.

On November 29, a camp will be organised at CNS School near Agalakote Hand Post for residents of four gram panchayats. The process has already been completed in the Bidadi and Kootagallu hoblis. Officials aim to complete the remaining work by November 29.

Former District DISHA Committee member J.P. Chandregowda said the initiative followed complaints from elderly residents during the MLA's village visits. Medical staff, Anganwadi and ASHA workers, and Revenue officials are working together to issue age certificates and upload them to the department's portal.

The camps will cover Thaggikuppe, Netenahalli, Kaly, Kalari Kaval, Belagumba and Bachenahatti on November 26; Kuduru, Narasandra, Hulikallu, Adarangi, Shrigiripura and Madigondanahalli on November 27; and five gram panchayats on November 28. The November 29 camp will cover Agalakote, Mattikere, Seegekuppe and Sathanuru.

Officials have also arranged transport, refreshments and meals for senior citizens. Documents will be collected from eligible beneficiaries, and pension approval letters will be delivered to their homes.

Chandregowda rejected opposition allegations that pension beneficiaries were being removed to fund the government's guarantee schemes. He questioned why the government would organise special camps and arrange transport if it intended to deny pensions.

PENSION CAMPS

- **Nov 26** — Magadi Taluk Office: six gram panchayats
- **Nov 27** — Kuduru: six gram panchayats
- **Nov 28** — Thippasandra: five gram panchayats
- **Nov 29** — CNS School, Agalakote Hand Post: four gram panchayats

Hunsur lake revived after years of water shortage

CH NEWS, HUNSUR

Somanahalli Lake in Hunsur taluk, which had remained dry for several years, has been filled with water following the efforts of local MLA G.D. Harish Gowda. The development has brought happiness to farmers and residents of the village.

Village leader Shivakumar said the lake had remained dry despite several earlier attempts to restore it. He credited the MLA's continued efforts and personal interest for making the revival possible.

He said filling the lake during a period of drought had brought considerable relief and happiness to the farming community and local residents.

To mark the occasion, villagers and civic workers performed a puja and offered bagina, a traditional ritual offering, to the lake. They expressed their gratitude to the MLA for his initiative.

However, some villagers expressed displeasure over individuals allegedly attempting to take political credit for the lake's revival.

Call for Political Harmony

Residents also appreciated the atmosphere of peace and cooperation in the constituency since G.D. Harish Gowda became MLA. They cited former MLA H.P. Manjunath's participation in offering bagina to the lake as an example of political harmony and democratic values.

They said the participation of leaders across political lines reflected the importance of working together for public welfare rather than engaging in political differences.

Village leaders and residents, including Kubera, SMS Shivakumar, Ganesh, Rani Perumal, Somashekhar, Ramesh, Manju, Naveen, Chandra, Nataraj, Shivakumar, Suma, Prema, Poornima and Nagamma, were present.

The villagers expressed hope that the restored lake would benefit agriculture and improve water availability in the surrounding areas.

GADAG DROUGHT IMPACTS ICONIC BAR-HEADED GEESE ARRIVALS

MALINGARAYA PUJAR, GADAG

Magadi Lake in Shirahatti taluk, Gadag district, is witnessing a decline in migratory bird numbers this winter as drought and falling water levels affect the wetland. Bar-headed geese, which travel thousands of kilometres from Central Asia and Mongolia to escape the harsh winter, are among the birds affected.

The lake, spread across nearly 134 acres, is an important wintering ground for these migratory birds. However, poor rainfall during the 2026 monsoon season has reduced the water supply to the lake, leaving only limited water in parts of the wetland. The weak monsoon and drought conditions have affected several parts of North Karnataka.

Bird numbers witness a sharp decline

According to local sources, Magadi Lake and neighbouring Shettikeri Lake previously attracted around 12,000 to 13,000 bar-headed geese. This year, their number has reportedly fallen to around 2,500. Birdwatchers fear that the remaining birds may also leave if water levels continue to fall.

The decline in water availability and food resources is affecting the habitat of these migratory visitors. Poor crop growth in surrounding agricultural fields has also reduced the availability of food.

Impact on tourism and biodiversity

Magadi Lake attracts birdwatchers, wildlife photographers, students and tourists from Karnataka and neighbouring states. The decline in bird numbers has disappointed visitors who travel long distances to witness the seasonal migration.

The wetland also supports local biodiversity and agriculture. Migratory birds feed on insects and leftover grains in nearby fields, contributing to the local ecological cycle. Reduced water availability and changes in agricultural activity could further affect this habitat.



Bar-headed geese at Magadi Lake in Shirahatti taluk

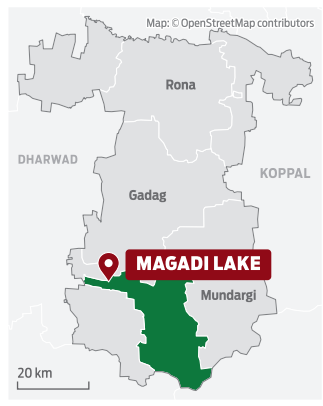
Bar-headed geese at Magadi and Shettikeri

EARLIER	THIS WINTER
12,000-13,000 birds a winter	2,500 birds, say local sources

Residents seek permanent water supply

Magadi Lake is recognised as a Ramsar wetland and an Important Bird Area (IBA). Residents and environmentalists have urged the government and elected representatives to take steps to ensure a regular water supply to the lake through the Tungabhadra River or nearby irrigation canals.

They have called for a long-term conservation plan to protect the wetland, support migratory birds and preserve its ecological importance.



Magadi Lake: Shirahatti taluk, Gadag district

'Debate must before bills become laws'

CH NEWS, KOLAR

K.S. Narendrababu, Kolar district president of the All India Advocates Association, submitted a memorandum to the President of India and the Governor of Karnataka on Wednesday, seeking an end to the passage of Bills in legislatures without proper debate and scrutiny.

The memorandum was submitted through Subramani, Shirastedar at the Kolar Taluk Office. It called for mandatory discussions, committee reviews and recorded voting on important Bills.

Speaking on the occasion, Narendrababu said that passing Bills without giving elected representatives an opportunity to express their views weakened democratic values. He said that legislative debates were essential to protect public interests and uphold the Constitution.



He pointed out that several Bills had been passed with little or no discussion in Parliament. According to PRS Legislative Research, 58% of the Bills passed during the 17th Lok Sabha were cleared within two weeks of their introduction. Only 16% were referred to committees for detailed examination.

He also referred to the 2026 Monsoon Session, during which 11 Bills were passed in the Lok Sabha without discussion on nine of them. PRS data showed that several Bills received only a few minutes of consideration.

Bills without debate

- **58%** of Bills in the 17th Lok Sabha passed within two weeks
- **16%** sent to committees
- **9 of 11** Lok Sabha Bills in the 2026 Monsoon Session passed without discussion

ZP CEO urges banks to fund micro food processing units

CH NEWS, UDUPI

Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer Prateek Bayal has urged banks to provide financial assistance to entrepreneurs to establish micro-food processing units in Udupi district and encourage more people to enter the sector.

He was speaking at a meeting of the District Consultative Committee and District Level Review Committee, organised by the District Lead Bank at Dr. V.S. Acharya Hall in the Zilla Panchayat office at Rajatadri, Manipal.

Highlighting the benefits of the Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PM-FME) scheme, Bayal said eligible entrepreneurs could receive government support with a 50 per cent subsidy component. He urged officials to create awareness and ensure that more beneficiaries take advantage of the scheme.

He also directed banks to process public applications without unnecessary delays and give priority to government-sponsored schemes.

Banks in the district recorded total business of Rs. 78,101.82 crore. The credit-deposit ratio increased from 48.62 per cent in September last year to 49.32 per cent. Bayal urged banks to improve the ratio in accordance with RBI guidelines.

Canara Bank Divisional Manager Archana N. said the district had set an annual credit target of Rs. 18,532.26 crore for 2026-27. By the end of September 2026, banks had achieved Rs. 11,565.64 crore, accounting for 62.41 per cent of the target.

Agriculture recorded an achievement of 55.08 per cent, while MSMEs achieved 76.35 per cent.

NABARD DDM Sangeetha Kartha, Lead Bank Manager Harish G., RUDSET Institute Director Dr. Bommayya, bank officials and district officers attended the meeting.

MLA hails newly elected Dharmapura society directors

CH NEWS, HUNSUR

MLA G.D. Harish Gowda congratulated the newly elected directors of the JDS-backed Dharmapura Cooperative Society and urged them to work for the benefit of all members.Speaking on the occasion, he said cooperative societies played an important role in the economic development of farmers, small traders and rural communities. He advised the directors to rise above party differences, earn members' trust and provide necessary facilities to farmers.

Advocate urges debate before bills become laws

CH NEWS, KOLAR

K.S. Narendrababu, Kolar district president of the All India Advocates Association, submitted a memorandum to the President of India and the Governor of Karnataka on Wednesday, seeking an end to the passage of Bills in legislatures without proper debate and scrutiny.

The memorandum was submitted through Subramani, Shirastedar at the Kolar Taluk Office. It called for mandatory discussions, committee reviews and recorded voting on important Bills.

Speaking on the occasion, Narendrababu said that passing Bills without giving elected representatives an opportunity to express their views weakened democratic values. He said that legislative debates were essential to protect public interests and uphold the Constitution.

He pointed out that several Bills had been passed with little or no discussion in Parliament. According to PRS Legislative Research, 58% of the Bills passed during the 17th Lok Sabha were cleared within two weeks of their introduction. Only 16% were referred to committees for detailed examination.

He also referred to the 2026 Monsoon Session, during which 11 Bills were passed in the Lok Sabha without discussion on nine of them. PRS data showed that several Bills received only a few minutes of consideration.

Narendrababu said the concern was not directed at any particular political party but at a practice that affected parliamentary functioning under different governments.

ಕಳೆದಿದೆ

ಮಂಡ್ಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಕೆ.ಆರ್. ಪೇಟೆ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಬಸರಾಳು ಹೋಬಳಿ, ಹಲ್ಲಗೆರೆ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಜೆ.ಕೆ. ಮಂಜುಳ ರವರಿಗೆ ಸೇರಿದ ಸ್ವತ್ತಿನ ವಿಭಾಗ ಪತ್ರ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : MYD-1-07817-2014-15 ಕಳೆದು ಹೋಗಿದ್ದು, ಯಾರಿಗಾದರೂ ಸಿಕ್ಕಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಿ :
9972068365

ಕಳೆದಿದೆ

ಮಂಡ್ಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಮದ್ದೂರು ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಕೊಪ್ಪ ಹೋಬಳಿ, ಬೆಸಗರಹಳ್ಳಿ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಮನೆಯ ದಾನಪತ್ರ ಹಾಗೂ ಖಾತಾ ಪತ್ರ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ = ಧಾನ ಪತ್ರ = DOC NO = MRD 1-04064-2022-23 CD No. MDRD 1078 And Khata Patra No. 152100203000601731 ಕಳೆದು ಹೋಗಿದ್ದು, ಯಾರಿಗಾದರೂ ಸಿಕ್ಕಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಿ : ಗೀತಾ ಕೆ.ವಿ.
ಮೊ: 9980109113

CHANGE OF NAME

I, NAVEEN H R S/o RAJAPPA R/o No. 09, 1st Cross, Near Maha Pratyangiri Temple, Hill View Garden, Thurahalli, Subramanyapura, Bangalore South, Bengaluru, Karnataka- 560061, have changed the name of my minor daughter RAAGAVI SMRITIKA aged 5 years and she shall hereafter be known as ANVITHA NAVEEN.

IN THE COURT OF 2nd ADDL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DODDABALLAPUR
CMiS. No. 785 /2026
PETITIONER: Sri. G.M. Narasimhamurthy S/o. mutthaiah aged about 66 years, R/at Doddagundappanayaknahalli village, Sasalu Hobli. Doddaballapur Taluk V/s
DEFENDANTS: Registrar of Birth and Death, The commissioner, thasildar Doddaballapura
PUBLIC NOTICE
Whereas the Petitioner has filed the above petitioner under Section 13(3) and 14 of Registratiton of Birth And Deaths act, 1969 for seeking the death certificate of his Grand mother by name late. Nagamma W/o. late Rajappa who died on 05.02.1980 at Doddagundappanayakanahalli village, Sasalu Hobli, Doddaballapura talluku.
In this regard it is hereby notice to general public whoever has interested in the said matter may appear in person or through an advocate duly authorized before the above said court on 28.12.2026 in default this matter will be heard and disposed off an ex-parte order.
Give under my hand and seal of the court on the 23rd day of November 2026.
By Order of the Court
Chief Ministerial Officer, Prl Civil Judge & JMFC Doddaballapura
Advocate : Nagesha, Doddaballapur

THE COURT OF THE 2ND ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE & J.M.F.C AT DODDABALLAPUR
CRL.MISC :NO: 497/2026
Petitioners; Smt, Parvathamma D/o late Nanjudappa Aged about 70 years, R/at Kolala Village and Hobli, Koratagere Taluk, Tumakur District, and others V/s
Respondent; The Tahasildhar Doddaballapura Taluk Doddaballapur
PUBLIC NOTICE
Wherefore the Petitioner has filed the above petition under section 13 (3) and 14 of Registration of Birth and Deaths Act 1969 for seeking the death certificate of her sister of petitioners by name SMT, SUSHELAMMA W/O ERAPPA who died 21-11-1988 at Hosahalli village, Saslu hobli, Doddaballapur taluk Bangalore Rural District,
In this regard it is hereby noticed thet whoever has interested in this said matter may Apper in person or through advocate duly authorized before court 23/12/2026 at 11 AM in default this will be heard and disposed off Ex-parte order.
Given under my hand seal the court on the 08th day oct 2026
By order of the court
Chief Ministerial Officer Prl. Civil Judge & JMFC Doddaballapura
Sri, Nataraju B L, Advocate Doddaballapur-561203

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is here by given to the public that my client Sri. D.T.Prakash S/o Late Thirumala Rao, residing at # 01, Manasara Road, Indiranagara, Mysuru, is intending to purchase schedule property from Sri. Vishwanath.D.V, residing at Salagame Road, Vidyuth Nagara, Hassan-573201 and Sri. Kumar.M.S., residing at # 292, Opp MCE, Vidyuth Nagara, Hassan -573201 If anybody has any claim over the schedule property, they shall lodge their claim along with relevant documents within 07 days from the date of this notice to the under signed, failing which it will be considered that there will be no claim and our client will proceed to complete the transaction. Any objection received subsequent to the above date will not be entertained.
SCHEDULE
All that piece and parcel of Land Property bearing Sy. No. 5/1, 5/2, 5/3, 6/2, 6/3, 6/4, 7/2, 7/3, 7/4 & 59/1, measuring 13 acres 25 guntas formed in converted to sites "Nisarga Layout" out of total sites 224, 85 Sites No. 12, 31, 41, 43, 54, 58, 80, 89, 90, 94, 105, 106, 107, 138, 153, 154, 156, 158, 160, 162, 164, 165, 167, 169, 191, 193, 195, 199, 201, 203, 205, 207, 211, 214, 216, 218, 209, 172, 109, 110, 52, 15, 30, 32, 36, 42, 44, 51, 53, 91, 92, 93, 102, 103, 104, 112, 114, 127, 147, 150, 155, 157, 161, 166, 168, 170, 188, 189, 192, 194, 196, 200, 202, 206, 208, 212, 213, 215, 217, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224 situated at Managahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Gundlupete Taluk.
LOHITH N, Adovocate
"SRI SAI LAW ASSOCIATES"
#2967/2, 14th main, 2nd Cross, Saraswathipuram, Mysore-570009
Mobile: 9611113323
Date: 25.11.2026
Place: Mysuru

IN THE COURT OF 2nd ADDL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DODDABALLAPUR
CMiS. No. 786 /2026
PETITIONER: Sri. G.M. Narasimhamurthy S/o. mutthaiah aged about 66 years, R/at Doddagundappanayaknahalli village, Sasalu Hobli. Doddaballapur Taluk V/s
DEFENDANTS: Registrar of Birth and Death, The commissioner, thasildar Doddaballapura
PUBLIC NOTICE
Whereas the Petitioner has filed the above petitioner under Section 13(3) and 14 of Registratiton of Birth And Deaths act, 1969 for seeking the death certificate of his Grand mother by name late. Narasamma W/o late Narasimhaiah who died on 18.11.1950 at Doddagundappanayakanahalli village, Sasalu Hobli, Doddaballapura talluku.
In this regard it is hereby notice to general public whoever has interested in the said matter may appear in person or through an advocate duly authorized before the above said court on 28.12.2026 in default this matter will be heard and disposed off an ex-parte order.
Give under my hand and seal of the court on the 23rd day of November 2026.
By Order of the Court
Chief Ministerial Officer, Prl Civil Judge & JMFC Doddaballapura
Advocate : Nagesha, Doddaballapur

IN THE COURT OF 2nd ADDL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DODDABALLAPUR
CMiS. No. 784 /2026
PETITIONER: Sri. G.M. Narasimhamurthy S/o. mutthaiah aged about 66 years, R/at Doddagundappanayaknahalli village, Sasalu Hobli. Doddaballapur Taluk V/s
DEFENDANTS: Registrar of Birth and Death, The commissioner, thasildar Doddaballapura
PUBLIC NOTICE
Whereas the Petitioner has filed the above petitioner under Section 13(3) and 14 of Registratiton of Birth And Deaths act, 1969 for seeking the death certificate of his Grand father by name late. Narasimhaiah S/o. late Nanjappa who died on 07.09.1935 at Doddagundappanayakanahalli village, Sasalu Hobli, Doddaballapura talluku.
In this regard it is hereby notice to general public whoever has interested in the said matter may appear in person or through an advocate duly authorized before the above said court on 28.12.2026 in default this matter will be heard and disposed off an ex-parte order.
Give under my hand and seal of the court on the 23rd day of November 2026.
By Order of the Court
Chief Ministerial Officer, Prl Civil Judge & JMFC Doddaballapura
Advocate : Nagesha, Doddaballapur

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

Minister orders faster relief for drought-hit farmers

The Minister criticised payment delays to private tanker operators, questioning how regular water supply to 43 Hiriyur villages remains sustainable.

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

Scheduled Tribes Welfare Minister and Chitradurga District In-charge Minister T. Raghumurthy has directed officials to expedite compensation for crop losses and crop insurance payments to farmers affected by drought in the district.

He was chairing the quarterly Karnataka Development Programme (KDP) and District Natural Disaster Management review meeting at the Zilla Panchayat Hall on Wednesday.

Officials informed the meeting that agricultural and horticultural crop losses in the district were estimated at ₹1,923 crore. Of this amount, ₹457 crore was pending release, including ₹230 crore under crop insurance and ₹227 crore from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF).

Holalkere MLA Dr. M. Chandrappa urged officials to assess damage to arecanut and coconut plantations based on the number of dried-up trees rather than crop yield alone and submit a report to the government.

Drinking water and pending bills

The Minister expressed displeasure over delays in payments to private tanker operators supplying drinking water. He questioned how water could be supplied regularly to 43 villages in Hiriyur taluk through 119 tanker trips when operators had not received their payments.

He directed the Deputy Commissioner and Zilla Panchayat CEO to ensure uninterrupted water supply wherever required and clear pending tanker bills immediately. He also instructed officials to complete the Hosadurga multi-village drinking water project by January 31, 2027, and the Chitradurga and Hiriyur projects by June 2027.

Non-functional drinking water purification units must also be repaired immediately.

MLA K.C. Veerendra 'Puppy' called for borewells in water-scarce villages, including Obenahalli and Uppanayakanahalli, and their connection to the Nirantara Jyothi power supply scheme. He stressed coordination between BESCOM and the drinking water department.

Other development works

MLC K.S. Naveen said drinking water helpline numbers should be displayed prominently outside Gram Panchayat offices so residents can easily register complaints.

The Minister directed officials to establish cattle shelters (Goshalas) in the remaining 12 of the district's 22 hoblis. He also instructed them to ensure an uninterrupted fodder supply. Dr. Chandrappa urged the government to consider fodder arrangements for sheep and goats affected by drought.

Raghumurthy warned that all potholes on district roads must be filled by December 15. He said only 700 km of the district's 2,300 km road network had been covered despite earlier instructions and warned of disciplinary action against officials for further delays.

Kannada Development Authority member Prof. A.B. Ramachandrappa urged departments to submit progress reports entirely in Kannada at future meetings.

MLAs B.G. Govindappa, N.Y. Gopalakrishna, Dr. M. Chandrappa and K.C. Veerendra 'Puppy', Deputy Commissioner S. Ramya, Zilla Panchayat CEO Dr. S. Akash and other officials attended.



Review in a nutshell

- → Chitradurga crop losses estimated at ₹1,923 crore.
- → ₹457 crore pending across insurance, NDRF funds.
- → Minister orders immediate clearance of tanker bills.
- → Multi-village water projects get strict 2027 deadlines.
- → Goshalas ordered in remaining 12 district hoblis.
- → All road potholes must close by December 15.

₹457 cr
of the ₹1,923 crore crop losses still to be released

Quick Read

Mangaluru to host divisional mega job fair

CH NEWS, MANGALURU

A divisional-level mega job fair organised by the Karnataka Skill Development Corporation will be held on November 30, 2026, from 9 am to 5 pm at St. Aloysius (Deemed to be University) in Mangaluru.

Employers from Udupi district and job seekers of all educational backgrounds can participate. Registration is available through the Yuva Udyoga Sethu portal.For details, applicants may contact 9606494308, according to a press release from the District Skill Development Officer's office.

Gadag invites applications for mental health counselors

CH NEWS, GADAG

The Department of School Education, under Samagra Shikshana Karnataka, has invited applications for temporary appointments of mental health counselors at Taluk Block Resource Centre (BRC) offices for the 2026-27 academic year.Applicants must hold an MA or MSc degree in Psychology, Clinical Psychology, Counselling Psychology or a related subject. Candidates must be aged between 26 and 50 years.Application forms are available at the Deputy Director's office in Gadag. Completed applications can be submitted from November 25 to December 1, between 10 am and 5.30 pm. Late applications will not be accepted.
For details, contact 9448999396.

Chitradurga to celebrate Kanaka Dasa Jayanti on Nov 27

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

The birth anniversary of saint Bhakta Kanaka Dasa will be celebrated on November 27 at 11 am at the Deputy Commissioner's office hall. The event is organised by the district administration and other government departments.Minister T. Raghumurthy will inaugurate the programme, while MLA K.C. Veerendra 'Puppy' will preside. MP Govind M. Karjol and other elected representatives will attend.Ranganayak will deliver a special lecture, while artist Gangadhar and his team will present Kanaka Dasa's devotional compositions.

Shirahatti BJP marches against Congress over graft and prices



BJP leaders and workers on the protest march in Shirahatti taluk on Wednesday

CH NEWS, GADAG

The Shirahatti BJP Mandal organised a protest march on Wednesday, accusing the Congress government of corruption, rising prices of essential commodities and discrimination in allocating development funds to the constituency.

The march began at 11 am with special prayers at Horadurgamma Temple in Chhabbi village of Shirahatti taluk. BJP leaders and workers marched nearly eight kilometres before reaching Nehru Circle, where they submitted a petition to the Governor through Assistant Commissioner Gangappa. Participants raised slogans against the state government and displayed placards. An ox-cart was also part of the protest.

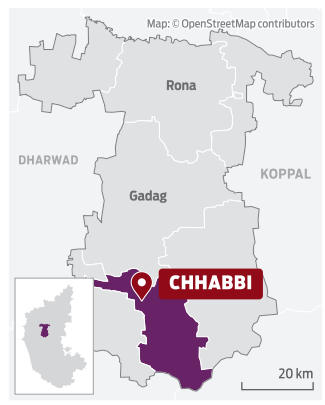
Addressing the gathering, Shirahatti MLA Dr. Chandru Lamani alleged that people were facing several difficulties under the Congress government.

He criticised the government for failing to provide drinking water support to drought-hit areas.

Lamani alleged that the ₹130-crore project to fill 20 lakes in the constituency had not been properly implemented. He questioned the reported expenditure of ₹112 crore, claiming that the work remained incomplete despite bills being paid.

He also criticised the government for delaying development grants and said the ₹10-crore allocation announced under the 50:54 scheme had not reached the tender stage.

Another march, from Hole Itagi to the DC's office, if lake work does not begin before the session ends



Shirahatti taluk: the march set out from Chhabbi

Min visits tribal rehab centre

CH NEWS, HUNSUR

Minister for Scheduled Tribes Welfare T. Raghumurthy visited the Nagapura Tribal Rehabilitation Centre in Hanagodu hobli of Hunsur taluk, accompanied by former MLA H.P. Manjunath. He interacted with tribal families and listened to their concerns regarding basic facilities and living conditions.

During the visit, the Minister gathered information about the residents' livelihoods, housing, drinking water supply, road connectivity, education and other infrastructure needs. He discussed the difficulties faced by the families and the measures required to address them.

Raghumurthy later visited the Valmiki Tribal Ashram School in Nagapura and reviewed its academic activities, students' progress, teachers' performance and available facilities.

He interacted with the children, enquired about their studies and interests, and encouraged them to pursue education to build a better future.

The Minister also shared a meal with the tribal students, encouraging them to study well and achieve their ambitions.He also inspected Birsa Munda Bhavan in Hunsur town, named after tribal leader and freedom fighter Birsa Munda. The building was constructed during the tenure of former MLA H.P. Manjunath.The visit was attended by former MLA H.P. Manjunath, Ramappa Bovi, Chairman of the Bovi Development Corporation; Ashok, Director of the Scheduled Tribes Welfare Department; Srinivas, Deputy Director; Rajkumar, Joint Director; Bharati, District Coordination Officer; and Gangadhar, Taluk Officer for Scheduled Tribes.Community representatives S.C. Basavaraj, Annayya Nayaka and Devaraj, along with tribal leaders J.T. Rajappa, Shivanna, Chandru, Prakash and Mani, also participated.



Workers must record attendance through NMMS software

CH NEWS, GADAG

Unskilled rural workers can earn a daily wage of ₹382 under the Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G) scheme, said Kumar Pujara, Assistant Director (Rural Development), Taluk Panchayat.

He was speaking during an inspection of community development works under the scheme at Anthur village in Gadag taluk.

Pujara said recording attendance through the National Mobile Monitoring System (NMMS) mobile application was mandatory. Attendance must be recorded twice daily. He urged workers and Kayaka Bandhus (work facilitators) to reach worksites on time.He clarified that workers would receive the full daily wage of ₹382 only if their work met the prescribed measurement standards.He said the scheme provides 125 days of guaranteed employment annually to each eligible rural household holding a job card, with equal wages for men and women.

Udupi opens Tourism Experience Centre and launches tourism website

CH NEWS, UDUPI

Udupi district aims to become a model for tourism development in the country, with a new Tourism Experience Centre established to help visitors explore its religious, historical and natural attractions.

The centre was inaugurated at Dr. V.S. Acharya State Transport Bus Stand in Bannanje. A tourism website and a coffee table book highlighting the district's attractions were also launched on the occasion.

The centre will provide information about tourist destinations, transport facilities and accommodation. It will also use Augmented Reality (AR) technology to offer visitors a better understanding of selected attractions.

A technology-based website will bring information about tourist places, activities, accommodation and travel planning together on one platform. It will also be developed as a mobile-friendly web application.

The event also highlighted a special tourism policy aimed at improving the economies of the coastal and Malenadu regions.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ವಿಭಾಗ ಕಾರವಾರ
ಸಂ:ಕಾ.ನಿ.ಇಂ./ಲೋ.ಇ.ವಿ,ಕಾ/ಪಿ.ಬಿ-1/ಟೆಂಡರ್-29 / 2026-27/ 3735 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 24-11-2026

ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಹ್ವಾನ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಇ-ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್)

ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ವಿವರಿಸಿರುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜನೀಯರರು, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕಾರವಾರ ಇವರಿಂದ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಕೆಳಗೆ ಕೊಟ್ಟಿರುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆಯನ್ನು ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವದು. ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆಯನ್ನು ವಹಿಸಲು ಅರ್ಹರಾಗಬೇಕಾದಲ್ಲಿ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು (ಕೆಡಬ್ಲೂ-4) ರಲ್ಲಿ ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿರುವ ಷರತ್ತುಗಳನ್ನು ಗಮನಿಸುವದು.
(1) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ವಿಚಾರಣೆಗೆ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿ: 09-12-2026 16.30 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ
(2) ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿ: 10-12-2026 16.30 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ
(3) ಟೆಂಡರನ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿ: 11-12-2026 17.00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ
(4) ಟೆಂಡರನ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿ: 14-12-2026 17.00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ
ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಹೆಸರು: H/Ac 5054-MDR Bridges Improvements During 2025-26 ವರ್ಕ್ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್: (1) PWD/2026-27/BG/WORK_INDENT45759
* (ಕೆಡಬ್ಲೂ-4) ರಲ್ಲಿನ ನಿಭಂದನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಮುಂದಿನ ದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ e-proc ನಲ್ಲಿ ಸೂಚಿಸಲಾದ ನಿಭಂದನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಇಲಾಖಾ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅಂದರೆ "https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in" ನೋಡಬಹುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ help desk Bangalore (Phone No. 918025501216 & 918025501227) ಇವರನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು. * ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಷರತ್ತುಗಳು ಡಿ.ಟಿ.ಎಸ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಡಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

DIPR/KWR/KSMCA/612/26-27 dt. 24.11.2026
ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕಾರವಾರ

HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA
BENGALURU - 560001
No. HCRB/CJR-9/2026 Date: 23 /11/2026
SUPPLEMENTARY NOTIFICATION
The Notification No. HCRB/CJR 9/2026 dated 16th April, 2026 inviting applications through online from the eligible candidates to fill up 90 posts of Civil Judges is revised in view of the Government of Karnataka Order No. SWD 515 PKV 2026 dated 08.05.2026 and DPAR 2 SeHeMa 2026 dated 13.05.2026.
Further, Supplementary Notification No. HCRB/CJR 9/2026 dated 23.11.2026 is issued inviting online applications for filling up of 91 posts of Civil Judges (including 75 backlog posts) in the official website of High Court of Karnataka at http://judiciary.karnataka.gov.in. Pay scale for the said post is Rs. 77,840 - 1,36,520/-. The last date fixed for submission of online application is 25.12.2026 upto 11.59 p.m and payment of fee is 26.12.2026 upto 11.59 pm.
Supplementary Notification and other details are available in the above mentioned portal and in the Karnataka E-Gazette.
Note: The candidates who have submitted application through online in pursuance to the Notification No. HCRB/CJR-9/2026 dated 16th April, 2026 need not submit application or pay application fee afresh.
Sd/-
(M.Chandrashekar Reddy)
Registrar General and Secretary
Civil Judges Recruitment Committee,
High Court of Karnataka Bengaluru
DIPR/CP/3911/Zen/2026-27

AGRICULTURE PRODUCE MARKET COMMITTEE
VIJAYAPUR
No:Amd:APMC(V)/Dev/1020/2026-27 Date:21.11.2026
TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through the KPP PORTAL)
WORK NAME :- CONSTRUCTION OF COMPOUND WALL AROUND THE NEWLY HANDED OVER SITE AT UPPALDINNI SUB MARKET YARD OF APMC VIJAYAPURA, (UNDER THE ANNUAL ACTION PLAN FOR THE YEAR 2026-27) INDENT NO:-APMC/2026-27/OW/WORK_ INDENT1131, AMOUNT PUT TO TENDER RS. 1,26,55,908=00 (EXCLUDING GST) E.M.D. AMOUNT RS. 1,89,850=00 CONTRACTOR ELIGIBILITY: CIVIL CONTRACTORS REGISTERED WITH THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT QUALIFIED/ELIGIBLE AS PER STANDARD TENDER DOCUMENT KW-4.
TENDER HAS BEEN CALLED THROUGH KPP PORTAL TO EXECUTE THE ABOVE WORK. PRE-BID MEETING AND TENDER DISPUTE RESOLUTION DATE:15-12-2026 AT 11.30 AM VENUE: ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE MAIN MARKET YARD, INDI ROAD, APMC VIJAYAPUR, LAST DATE & TIME FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDER IS 30-12-2026 UP TO 5.30 PM, FOR FURTHER DETAILS CONTACT DURING OFFICE HOURS AND VISIT THE WEBSITE https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in
Sd/- Secretary Sd/- Administrator
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/424/ಕೆಎಸ್ ಎಂಸಿಎ/2026-27

BENGALURU EAST CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Whitefield Division,
Beside Govt. Polytechnic College, Immadihalli, Bengaluru-560066.
No. BECC/EE/WF/TN/04/2026-27 Date: 24.11.2026
INVITATION FOR TENDERS (SHORT TERM)
(Only through KPP Portal)
Executive Engineer, Whitefield Division invites Item Rate tenders from eligible tenderers for the work details in the table given below. The Bidders shall be a registered in CPWD/KPWD/Railways/MES/any State or Central Govt. organization. Tender documents may be downloaded from GoK e-Procurement website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/eporta/index. seam under login for Contractors.
Cost of Tender form is as per KPP Portal

Sl. No.	Name of the Work / Estimate amount / EMD
1	Filling of Pot Holes in Ward No. 33, 38, 39, 50 & 40 in Whitefield Division. Estimate amount: Rs.75.00 Lakhs. EMD: Rs.1,50,000/-.

Calendar of events as follows: 1) Last date for submission of queries: 15.12.2026 within 3.00 P.M. 2) Date & time for Pre-Bid Meeting: 15.12.2026 at 4.00 P.M. 3) Last Date & Time for receipt of tenders: 16.12.2026 up to 4.00 P.M. 4) Date & Time for opening of Technical Bid: 17.12.2026 at 4.30 P.M. 5) Date & Time for opening of Financial Bid: 18.12.2026 at 4.00 P.M. 6) Validity of tenders: 180 days.
Bid documents may be referred for other terms and conditions, and any Corrigendum/Addendum will be published and notified only through https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in or contact the KPP portal.
Sd/-
Executive Engineer, Whitefield Division.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
RURAL DRINKING WATER & SANITATION DEPARMENT Office of The Executive Engineer, R.D.W & S, Division, Haveri
Sl.No.RDW&SD/Haveri/PB-2/Tender:18/2026-27/1827 Date : 24-11-2026.
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(1) Last Date for Tender queries/ Clarifications : 30-11-2026 at 11:00 hours (2) Last Date for Submission of Technical & Financial Bid through e-procurement : 04-12-2026 at 17:00 hours (3) Date of Bid Opening (If possible) : 05-12-2026 at 17:00 hours
Inviting tenders of Water Supply works of Hangal Taluk. Indent No :- (1) RWSSD/2026-27/WS/WORK_INDENT11381) (2) RWSSD/2026-27/WS/WORK_INDENT11382 (CAT-2A)
The blank tender documents can be downloaded through website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from the date of hosting the tender.
DIPR/HVR/441/KSMCA/2026-27
Sd/- Executive Engineer, R.D.W&S Division, Haveri

CHAMUNDESHWARI ELECTRICITY SUPPLY CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Corporate Office, procurement Section, CESC, Mysuru-570017.
Ph: 9448994705, Email ID: gmpurc@cescmysore.org Website: www.cescmysore.org
CESC/GM(P)/DGM(P)/AGM(P-2)/M(P-1)/2026-27/26377 Date: 25.11.2026
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (E-Procurement Portal Only)
CESC, Mysore invites Short Term Tenders from eligible bidders for Supply of Materials as mentioned below:

Sl.No	Tender Name	Tender No
1	Supply of 11kV Ceramic Shell Insulators to CESC jurisdiction	CESCOM/2026-27/IND0289

The details regarding participation in the tender can be obtained through e-procurement portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after 30.11.2026 For clarification contact help desk 080-46010000/22631200/68948777 or e-mail address support@eprochelpdesk.com.
For Electricity related complaints Call: 1912
Sd/-
DIPR/MYSORE/1001/SHIRDI SAI/2026-27
General Manager (Procurement),CESC, Mysuru.

MODI'S DIPLOMATIC VISION: INDIA'S GROWING STRATEGIC INFLUENCE IN ASEAN



LALIT GARG

A country's global influence is determined not merely by its economic strength, military capabilities or population, but also by how seriously the major powers of the world listen to its voice. India today is passing through precisely such a transformative phase. Although India is not a member of ASEAN, the 11-nation association of Southeast Asian countries, the respect and expectations with which India is welcomed at its highest-level summits reflect the country's evolving role in global affairs. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's active participation in the recently held 23rd India-ASEAN Summit and the 21st East Asia Summit in Manila, the capital of the Philippines, has further brought this changing reality into focus.

It is significant that although India is not an ASEAN member, it is becoming increasingly difficult to envision the future of the region without taking India's role into account. This is one of the most notable achievements of India's diplomatic journey. The journey that began with the 'Look East' Policy in 1991 evolved into the 'Act East' Policy in 2014 and has now expanded into a broader Indo-Pacific vision. Prime Minister Modi himself has described ASEAN as being at the heart of India's Act East Policy and its Indo-Pacific outlook. ASEAN is much more than a geographical grouping. It is a significant centre of economic power, maritime trade routes, global supply chains and the strategic politics of the Indo-Pacific region. Countries such as Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, the Philippines, Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Timor-Leste are extremely important to India in terms of trade, investment, maritime security, technology and cultural engagement.

At Manila, Prime Minister Modi emphasised that India and ASEAN should build an environment of peace, stability and development through cooperation rather than competition. He reiterated India's commitment to a free, open, inclusive and rules-based Indo-Pacific and underlined the importance of ASEAN's unity and centrality for India. This is not merely diplomatic rhetoric; it reflects India's long-term strategic vision. India seeks an Indo-Pacific in which no single power exercises dominance, smaller countries retain the freedom to pursue independent foreign policies, and maritime routes remain open and accessible. A distinctive feature of Prime Minister Modi's foreign policy is that, rather than presenting India merely as a 'large market' or an 'emerging economy', he has sought to establish it as a reliable strategic partner. This was evident in several bilateral meetings held on the sidelines of the Manila summit.

> **"India's voice is no longer merely being heard; it is increasingly receiving serious attention and consideration."**
> — Lalit Garg

During his meeting with Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., Modi discussed progress in cooperation in defence, space, railways, financial technology, trade and investment. His discussions with Singapore's Prime Minister Lawrence Wong covered digital technology, skill development, connectivity, healthcare, defence and security, and economic cooperation. With Thailand's Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul, he explored ways to strengthen trade, investment, defence, security, connectivity, digital technology and cultural relations. The message of Modi's foreign policy is clear: India does not wish to remain a passive observer of international relationships; it aspires to become an active architect of their evolving framework. The role of External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar in this entire diplomatic journey cannot be overlooked. He has played an important role in translating the Prime Minister's political vision into substantive global diplomatic engagement. He is not merely an administrator heading the Ministry of External Affairs, but has emerged as an influential face of India's foreign policy and a strategic thinker who understands the complexities of the changing world order.



Today, India's foreign policy demonstrates the ability to maintain balanced relationships simultaneously with the United States, Russia, Europe, West Asia, Japan, Australia and ASEAN countries. This balance reflects a policy of shaping international relationships according to India's national interests rather than aligning exclusively with any particular bloc. The central message of Jaishankar's diplomacy has also been that India will engage with the world on the basis of its own interests and civilisational outlook, without succumbing to pressure from any power. The combination of the Prime Minister's political engagement and the External Affairs Minister's strategic diplomacy is adding greater depth and effectiveness to India's foreign policy.

The presence of US President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Modi at the Manila summit also gave this diplomatic engagement special significance. On November 17, a summit-level dialogue among Quad leaders took place in Manila, with Modi, Trump, Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi and Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese participating. The significance of this development extends far beyond the immediate event. While India is strengthening its engagement with ASEAN, it is simultaneously reinforcing the strategic architecture of the Indo-Pacific through the Quad partnership with the United States, Japan and Australia. This does not imply the formation of a front against any particular country. Rather, it represents an effort to strengthen cooperation in regional stability, supply chains, critical minerals, maritime security and technological collaboration. Here, a new dimension of Modi's foreign policy becomes visible: India no longer wishes to remain a passive participant in the balance of power; it aspires to become a pivotal force capable of shaping that balance.

For ASEAN countries, China is a major economic partner, but it is also associated with maritime and strategic disputes. Amid tensions in the South China Sea, economic dependencies and competition for regional influence, ASEAN countries do not wish to become excessively dependent on any single power. This presents a significant opportunity for India. Instead of rushing to position itself as an alternative to China, India must work towards becoming a credible and dependable partner. To achieve this, India needs to reduce its trade deficit, improve the quality of Indian products, increase its participation in global supply chains, encourage investment and accelerate India-ASEAN connectivity projects. Initiatives announced in Manila, including a maritime cooperation plan, cybersecurity training, space cooperation, collaboration in critical minerals and nuclear energy, partnerships involving youth and start-ups, and scholarships for students from ASEAN countries at Nalanda University, point towards this emerging direction.

One of the biggest challenges in India-ASEAN relations is the trade imbalance. Merely increasing imports or opening markets will not be sufficient. Indian industry must establish a stronger, more proactive, high-quality and competitive presence in ASEAN markets. A review of the Free Trade Agreement is equally important from this perspective. India's strength lies not only in its economy but also in its culture. From the traditions of the Ramayana and Buddhist philosophy to Indian languages, yoga, Ayurveda and ancient memories of maritime trade, India and Southeast Asia share centuries-old civilisational connections. The need of the hour is to connect this civilisational heritage with modern economic and technological partnerships.

The most important lesson of the Manila summit is that India must not view ASEAN merely as another component of its foreign policy. It should regard the region as a gateway to India's renewed economic, strategic and civilisational engagement with Southeast Asia. If India successfully integrates culture, education and youth engagement with trade, technology, maritime security and connectivity, ASEAN will cease to be merely a market for India and emerge as a natural partner in shaping India's Indo-Pacific future. The confidence with which Prime Minister Modi presents India's position on global platforms today is backed by years of diplomatic efforts, institutional preparedness and the sustained engagement of the Ministry of External Affairs. India's growing acceptance within ASEAN demonstrates that India's voice is no longer merely being heard; it is increasingly receiving serious attention and consideration.

The next objective of India's foreign policy should not be limited to establishing the country's presence on the global stage. The real objective should be to ensure that India plays a decisive role in shaping the institutions and frameworks that govern the world. The Manila platform of ASEAN presents a compelling picture of this changing India. India is no longer a country merely knocking at the doors of the world; it is emerging as a power with which the international community wishes to deliberate while shaping its future strategies. This is one of the defining achievements of the foreign policy pursued during the Modi era and one of the greatest possibilities for India's future.

THE RISKS OF SEEKING TRUTH: WHY HAS JOURNALISM BECOME SO CHALLENGING?



DR. VIJAY GARG

Journalism is considered the fourth pillar of democracy. Its primary purpose is to inform society about the truth, question those in power and provide a platform for the voices of ordinary citizens. However, in many countries around the world, journalism is increasingly becoming a risky profession. Journalists who attempt to expose the truth face threats, physical attacks, legal pressure, censorship and, in some cases, even death.

The greatest responsibility of journalism is to question those in power and present facts before society. When journalists investigate corruption, crime, human rights violations, wars and political irregularities, influential individuals sometimes perceive them as obstacles to their interests. As a result, pressure is exerted on journalists, and attempts are made to restrict their freedom.

Working in conflict zones is particularly dangerous for journalists. They risk their lives to bring the realities of violence, conflict and humanitarian crises to the attention of the world. Many journalists are killed, injured or go missing while reporting. Similarly, investigative journalists often receive serious threats from individuals and groups associated with organised crime, corruption and political interests.

The digital age has created new challenges for journalism. On social media, journalists face trolling, online harassment, character assassination and false allegations. Women journalists are particularly targeted with abusive comments and online threats. Moreover, fake news, misinformation and artificially generated content have made it increasingly difficult to maintain public trust in journalism.



However, external threats are not the only challenges facing journalism. Media organisations are also under growing pressure from commercial interests, advertisers and political influences. In the race for TRPs and online clicks, sensational presentation sometimes replaces factual reporting. Maintaining impartiality, independence and journalistic ethics has therefore become increasingly difficult.

It is equally important that rumours, bias and unsubstantiated allegations are not promoted in the name of journalism. Freedom must go hand in hand with responsibility. Journalists must verify facts and maintain fairness, accuracy and social sensitivity in their reporting.

Independent and safe journalism is essential for a strong democracy. Governments must ensure the safety of journalists, conduct impartial investigations into attacks and hold those responsible accountable. Media organisations must also protect the rights, professional independence and freedom of their journalists.

True journalism is not merely about publishing news; it is about remaining committed to the truth. The safety of journalists is not just an issue concerning the media industry. It is directly connected with society's right to information and the future of democracy.

When people who write and speak the truth begin to live in fear, the voice of democracy gradually becomes weaker. Making journalism a profession associated not with danger but with dignity, freedom and security is one of the greatest needs of our time.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Importance of Youth Leadership in Nation-Building

Through the columns of your esteemed newspaper, I wish to highlight the importance of youth leadership in shaping the future of our country. Young people possess fresh perspectives, creativity and the energy to bring meaningful change to society. Their participation in politics, education, social work and community development can strengthen democratic values and encourage innovation. However, young voices are often overlooked in decision-making processes. Youth leadership should be encouraged through opportunities, mentorship and platforms that allow young people to express their ideas and take responsibility. Educational institutions must also promote leadership skills, critical thinking and social awareness. I strongly believe that young people should not merely be considered future leaders; they must be given opportunities to lead today. Investing in youth leadership is essential for building an inclusive, progressive and responsible nation.

– Hepsiba S.

AN AI SYLLABUS FOR ANALOGUE CLASSROOMS

ABRAHAM

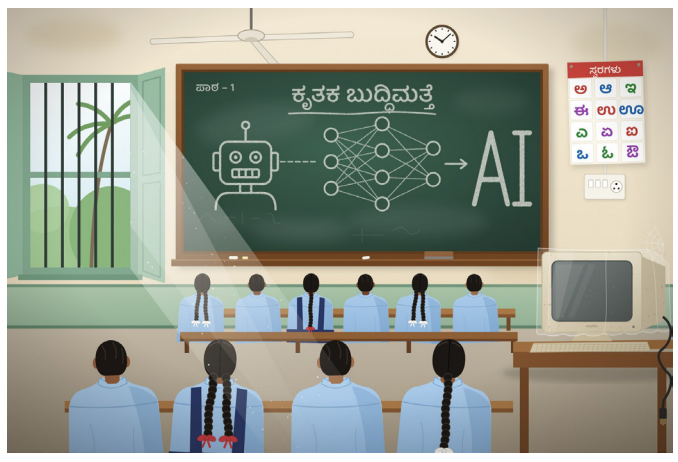
THIS MONTH, Karnataka's School Education Department announced that Class 9 students in 1,800 government high schools will study artificial intelligence this academic year — AI fundamentals, Python programming, computer vision, natural language processing and even generative AI. For a State whose capital likes to call itself India's AI capital, it sounds like a natural leap. In the classroom, it raises two awkward questions: who will teach it, and on what?

> *Karnataka's rush to teach artificial intelligence must not outrun its teachers, its computers and the basics*

The announcement caps a busy few months. In his maiden Independence Day speech as Chief Minister, D.K. Shivakumar unveiled the 'AI Akshara Abhiyana and Coding Gurukula', promising AI education from Class 6 in all schools and India's first government-owned AI University in Bengaluru, with certificate courses to begin by January 2027. In October, he asked officials to work out how AI training could reach Class 6 in government schools; Google has expressed interest in helping. The State Budget presented in March had already promised AI-powered personal tutors for more than 12 lakh students. Nationally, the CBSE has introduced a Computational Thinking and AI curriculum for Classes 3 to 8 from this academic year.

None of this is wrong in intent. Children who will enter a workforce reshaped by AI must understand how these systems work, where they fail and how they can be misused. Leaving government school students out of that conversation would be an injustice of its own. But a syllabus is not a classroom, and the numbers from Karnataka's government schools should give the State pause.

Start with the machines. According to UDISE+ 2025-26 data analysed by ThePrint, only 37.8 per cent of Karnataka's 48,527 government schools have functional computers for teaching, against 59.4 per cent of government schools nationally and 84.3 per cent of private schools in the State. That places Karnataka among the bottom ten States. Officials say the picture may improve once data entry is complete, but a gap this wide is no clerical error. Tellingly, Kalika Deepa — the State's own AI-based programme to help children learn Kannada, English and early mathematics, run free of cost by the EkStep Foundation — can be implemented only in schools that already have computers.



Then the teachers. The education minister has acknowledged a shortage of 45,590 teachers in government primary schools, and the State has approved 51,000 guest teachers for this academic year simply to keep classes running. The AI programme leans on the same crutch: each participating high school is to engage one AI guest teacher on an honorarium of ₹20,000 a month, for one academic year. Of the 15,000 permanent teachers the State is recruiting this year, only 500 are computer science teachers. The most future-facing subject on the timetable thus rests on its most precarious job.

Most important are the basics. The Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2024 found that only 15.4 per cent of Class 3 children in Karnataka's rural government schools could read a Class 2 text — double the 2022 figure, yet still dismal. Among Class 5 children in government schools, only 32 per cent could. A child who cannot read a paragraph fluently will struggle to question a chatbot's confident answer, let alone write code. As education commentator Niranjan Aaradhya told ThePrint, technology "has to be supplementary after the basics have been provided."

There are also questions the announcements have not answered. AI tutors for 12 lakh children will generate enormous amounts of data on how those children learn, err and behave. India's Digital Personal Data Protection Rules, whose core obligations take effect in May 2027, require verifiable parental consent before a child's data is processed, with narrow exemptions for education. The State has already had to drop a facial-recognition attendance plan for schools after a privacy row. UNESCO has urged governments to consider an age limit of 13 for classroom use of generative AI tools, a reminder that taking such tools to younger classes needs care. And partnerships with technology companies, however generous, must come with transparent terms, open standards and no lock-in.

What, then, should Karnataka do? Not slow down, but sequence better.

First, teach the teacher.
Make AI literacy part of in-service training for every high school teacher — the CBSE has made computational thinking and AI its teacher-training theme for this year — and create permanent posts for the subject rather than one-year contracts.

Second, fix the hardware before the hype.
Publish a school-by-school audit of computers, electricity and internet connectivity, and make a working lab and a working connection a precondition for offering the course.

Third, start unplugged.
Computational thinking — breaking a problem into steps, spotting patterns, testing a hunch — can be taught with chalk, cards and games, in Kannada, long before a child touches a screen.

Fourth, evaluate before scaling.
Put pilots such as Kalika Deepa through independent assessment, and publish the results, before AI tutors are extended to 12 lakh children.

Finally, write the guardrails now.
Rules on children's data, age-appropriate use, procurement and ethics should be in place before the rollout, not drafted after the first scandal.

> *"The most future-facing subject on the timetable rests on its most precarious job."*
> ABRAHAM

Today is Constitution Day. The Preamble promises every citizen equality of status and of opportunity, and Article 21A makes education a fundamental right for every child between six and fourteen. In the age of AI, that promise faces a very concrete test: will a girl in Kalaburagi learn about the technology shaping her future as well as a girl in Koramangala? If government schools receive an AI syllabus without teachers, laboratories or the basics, the answer will be no — and AI will become one more line dividing India's classroom. Karnataka has the talent, the industry and the ambition to get this right. It must begin where every good lesson begins: with a teacher, a working classroom and a child who can read.

ELEPHANT MANAGEMENT IS TRICKY WHEN HABITATS ARE FRAGMENTED

Two people were killed by wild elephants on consecutive days in Hassan district, where a herd of more than 50 has been moving through coffee estates in Sakleshpur and Belur. Their deaths demand an urgent response.

They also raise a question that Karnataka has faced before. What happens after the elephants are captured? The Forest Department's plan to move several animals to Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary has drawn opposition in Chikkamagaluru. Three legislators offered to resign over the proposed move before the chief minister intervened. Residents in both districts have reason to be concerned about their safety. During my tenure as Karnataka's Chief Wildlife Warden, we captured two or three elephants from Hassan's coffee estates every three to six months. We moved them to distant forests, including the Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary near Kollegal, Bandipur, Nagarahole and the Biligiri Rangaswamy Temple Wildlife Sanctuary.

We tracked their movements with radio collars and camera traps. In every case, the elephants returned to the areas where we had caught



them. In 2012, after the conflict drew the attention of the Karnataka High Court and the Union government, a decision was taken to capture all 25 elephants then moving through Hassan and keep them in captivity.

The operation lasted nearly six months. The animals were scattered across estates, the terrain made access difficult, and teams could catch only one or two at a time. Sometimes it took weeks to find a herd. Other elephants moved in from the forests of Kodagu and Nagarahole. The estates and farms still offered the food that had drawn the earlier herds, including paddy, sugarcane, bananas, areca nuts and coconuts.

Much of the landscape between the estates has little forest cover. Smaller herds inhabit the forests near Yeslur and Sakleshpur, but the larger herds spend much of their time on estates and often enter forest areas only when driven there by staff. Over time, roads, development projects and the occupation of forest land have broken up habitats and narrowed the routes elephants use to move between them. Invasive plants such as lantana have spread across the forest floor, while plants that elephants eat are struggling to regenerate.

These changes help explain why a capture operation can bring temporary relief to an estate without making the landscape safer in the long run. Karnataka is also considering contraception for wild elephants. I doubt whether it can be applied to herds that range across forests and private land, and it offers little immediate relief to families living alongside them.

The state can act on decisions within its control. It should stop diverting forest land in elephant habitats and corridors, avoid unnecessary widening of roads through forests and recover forest land that has been unlawfully occupied. It should consider how crop choices along forest edges affect the risk to farmers and estate workers.

Elected leaders should answer for the land use decisions that have made this conflict harder to manage. Forest staff can respond when a herd enters an estate, but the decisions that determine whether elephants have safe routes between forests are made well before staff are called. Hassan's experience shows what happens when those decisions are put off. Years after an operation to remove an entire group of elephants, new herds are using the same land, and people are paying with their lives.

— B.K. SINGH
Retired Head of Forest Force, Karnataka

REFORM OR PERSISTENCE OF OPPRESSION?

Patriarchal structures are inherently unjust, sustaining a hierarchy that privileges one group while placing disproportionate restrictions upon another. The rise of the feminist movement has resulted in a lot of progress; however, when one looks at the bigger picture, much remains the same. Awareness of social conditions has revealed many veiled conditions placed upon women. At the crux of it, it boils down to this — freedom is palatable only in its most diluted and docile form. Which, ironically, is not freedom at all; it is decorated dependence.

The manifestation of patriarchy varies depending on the region and socio-cultural environment. Even within one region, in this case India, the experiences are starkly different depending upon the class a woman belongs to. The difficulties of a Dalit woman will not coincide with that of an upper-class woman. For the purpose of this editorial, however, the focus will remain on the lives of middle-class or upper-middle-class women, particularly young adults, and the impact of societal norms including their possible causes.

The 2023 Gender Social Norms Index (GSNI) report, released by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on June 12, highlights that nearly nine out of ten men and women worldwide hold biases against women. The report reveals a shocking stagnation in the GSNI score over the past decade, despite numerous movements advocating for gender empowerment and representation. In other words, while conversations around equality have grown louder and more visible, the attitudes that govern everyday behaviour have remained largely unchanged.

This lack of progress in addressing ingrained biases raises concerns about what it means for India — a developing country burdened by caste, entrenched biases against women, and deeply rooted stereotypical cultural beliefs that often go unchallenged. The part that is especially worrying is that such biases are more often than not accepted at face value. They are treated as natural truths rather than inherited social conventions. "What will happen to you when you get married?", "A woman should not acquire too much attention, boys will be boys", "Your safety is in your behaviour, be careful". The pattern always revolves around deflection and a particular tolerance for men which does not extend to women.

The patriarchal history of India is age-old; certain traditions trace their roots all the way back to 1000 BCE through what is often referred to as Brahmanical patriarchy. When a system persists for centuries, it begins to appear natural and eternal and therefore remains unquestioned for the most part.

Don't be a 'pick-me', but don't be a 'man-hater' either; be presentable but not vulgar; pursue your education, but not at the cost of a family — the list goes on and on. What is immediately apparent is the impossible nature of these 'rules'. There is no winning. No matter what a woman chooses to do, criticism inevitably follows.

Familial conditions play a key role in determining a girl child's life in Indian society.



Due to the nature of this tradition, these ideological values are often passed down generationally, sometimes unconsciously. The technical term often used to describe this pattern is generational trauma, where beliefs, behaviours, and fears inherited from previous generations continue to influence the present.

The peculiar thing about such a society is that the conflict it produces often remains internal while the hierarchy itself remains intact. Dissatisfaction is redirected sideways towards individuals rather than upwards towards the structure that produces it. The aim of the feminist movement was never pitting women against men; it was a rebellion against systemic discrimination and the rigid roles imposed upon both genders.

Unless the system itself is questioned and dismantled, the rebellion will not yield its fruit. Progress cannot simply exist in language, representation, or symbolic gestures while the underlying expectations remain untouched.

— HUZAIFA RIYAZ

THE ART OF BEING UNAVAILABLE

There was a time when you could leave the house, spend an afternoon alone and come back without explaining where you had been.

Today, a message left unanswered for a few hours can prompt a second message asking whether something is wrong. A missed call can seem rude, and a colleague who waits until morning to reply may be judged less committed than the one who answered at midnight. Smartphones make it easy to reach people.

Somewhere along the way, we began to treat that convenience as a claim on their time. The sign of how deeply we have absorbed this expectation is how quickly we apologise for things. We say sorry because we were cooking dinner, taking a walk or too tired to hold a conversation. Sometimes we offer an excuse because wanting an hour to ourselves feels like a weak defence. Even when nobody has asked for an immediate reply, we may spend that hour wondering how our silence will be read.

At home, the pressure can turn affection into a test that nobody agreed to take. Someone who sends a message sees the time passing and starts to wonder whether they matter. The person receiving it might be putting a child to bed or gathering the energy to give a difficult conversation the attention it deserves.

Most of us have been on both sides of that exchange. When we assume the worst about a delay, we can create the very tension we were afraid of. A friend who feels free to answer tomorrow may give us a more thoughtful reply than one who feels obliged to send a hurried reassurance tonight. At work, the costs are harder to see because an evening reply takes only a moment. Yet it can keep the workday going in someone's head long after they have closed their laptop. A manager may send a message at ten because that happens to be a convenient time, while an employee reads it as an instruction to act. Managers can ease that pressure by making clear when they expect a reply and by sending routine requests during working hours.

Teams that need someone on call can agree who will respond and what counts as urgent. The same clarity can help outside work. A friend can say they will be offline for the evening, and a family can agree to call if something needs a quick answer. These habits leave room for responsibilities, including the times when someone is relying on us and we have promised to be there. They also allow for hours of solitude without turning every quiet spell into an incident.

And those hours have value even when we do nothing impressive with them. A walk can be just a walk. An evening on the sofa can end without a sense that we have fallen behind.

We spend enough of the day answering questions, making decisions and attending to other people's needs. There should be some part of it we can spend without checking whether anybody is waiting. The next time a reply takes longer than we expected, we can give the other person some room before drawing a conclusion. We can grant ourselves the same courtesy when the phone lights up halfway through dinner. The conversation will be there when we return.

— SUHANA SHIPRA

THE ACCUSED IS ALSO ENTITLED TO JUSTICE: UNDERSTANDING FAIR TRIAL UNDER POCSO

The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, was enacted to protect children from sexual abuse, exploitation and harassment. It provides a specialised legal framework for reporting, investigating and trying offences against children. While



protecting children must remain a priority, the administration of justice must also ensure that the rights of an accused person are protected. A fair trial is not a privilege; it is a fundamental requirement of the Indian justice system.

Article 21 of the Constitution of India guarantees the right to life and personal liberty. The Supreme Court has consistently recognised that this protection includes the right to a fair and reasonable trial. Therefore, even in cases involving serious allegations under POCSO, an accused person is entitled to a lawful investigation, an impartial hearing and an opportunity to defend themselves.

The POCSO Act contains special provisions designed to protect child victims during judicial proceedings. Section 33 provides for the powers and procedures of Special Courts, including measures to prevent the accused from directly confronting the child during examination. Section 36 further provides that the child should not be exposed to the accused while giving evidence. These safeguards are essential to prevent intimidation and secondary trauma. However, they must operate alongside the accused person's right to participate in the proceedings through legal representation and an effective opportunity to challenge the evidence.

An important aspect of the Act is the statutory presumption under Section 29, which applies to the commission of certain offences once the statutory conditions are met. Section 30 also provides for a presumption regarding culpable mental state. These provisions place particular legal responsibilities on the accused during trial. Nevertheless, they do not eliminate the requirement for the prosecution to establish the foundational facts of its case. The court must examine the evidence, apply the law and determine whether the statutory presumptions have been properly attracted and whether they have been rebutted.

The role of defence counsel is equally important in this process. A defence lawyer is responsible for ensuring that the investigation and trial comply with legal requirements, examining the reliability of evidence and bringing relevant legal arguments before the court. Cross-examination, when conducted within the limits prescribed by law and with sensitivity towards the child, is an important component of testing evidence. Defending an accused person does not mean supporting an offence; it means ensuring that justice is delivered according to law.

> *"A fair trial is not a privilege; it is a fundamental requirement of the Indian justice system."*
> **J. MARION JONES**

It is equally important to recognise that an allegation is not the same as a judicial finding of guilt. Public discussion and media reporting should not turn an accused person's identity into a declaration of guilt before the court reaches its decision. At the same time, the privacy and dignity of the child must be protected, particularly in view of the confidentiality requirements under Section 23 of the POCSO Act.

Ultimately, the objective of criminal justice is not merely to secure convictions but to establish truth through a lawful process. Protecting children and safeguarding the constitutional rights of the accused are not opposing responsibilities. Both are essential to the rule of law. A justice system earns public confidence when it protects the vulnerable, investigates impartially and ensures that no person is deprived of liberty without a fair legal process.

— J. MARION JONES

DEGREES ARE INCREASING, BUT ARE WE BECOMING MORE EMPLOYABLE?

Education has long been considered the strongest foundation for a successful future. Every year, thousands of students graduate from colleges and universities, carrying certificates, academic achievements and hopes of securing a good job. Yet, despite the growing number of degree holders, employers continue to express concerns about the lack of job-ready candidates. This raises an important question: Are our educational institutions preparing students for employment, or are they simply preparing them to pass examinations? India has made considerable progress in expanding access to higher education. More students, including those from rural backgrounds and economically weaker sections, are entering colleges and universities. Professional courses in engineering, management, law, commerce and other fields have become increasingly popular. However, obtaining a degree does not automatically guarantee employment. Many graduates struggle to find jobs that match their qualifications, while others accept positions that have little connection with what they studied.

> **"The dignity of work should never depend on the title attached to a qualification."**
> **— CEDRIC PAUL**

One of the major reasons behind this gap is the difference between academic knowledge and practical skills. Students spend years studying theories, definitions and textbooks, but often receive limited exposure to real working environments. A student may score excellent marks in examinations but struggle to communicate effectively, solve workplace problems, work in a team or make decisions under pressure. These abilities are increasingly important in today's competitive employment market.

Another concern is that the education system often encourages students to focus more on marks than on understanding. From school onwards, success is frequently measured through examination results, ranks and certificates. As a result, creativity, critical thinking, communication and independent decision-making may receive less attention. Education should not merely train students to reproduce information; it should teach them how to analyse situations, question ideas and find solutions.

The responsibility, however, cannot be placed entirely on educational institutions. Students must also recognise that learning does not end with graduation. The employment market is constantly changing due to technology, artificial intelligence and new business requirements. Skills that were valuable a decade ago may no longer be sufficient today. Graduates must be willing to improve their knowledge, learn new technologies, gain practical experience and adapt to changing professional demands. Internships, apprenticeships, industry visits and skill-based training can help bridge the gap between classrooms and workplaces. Educational institutions should establish stronger connections with industries and introduce more practical learning opportunities. Employers, too, should contribute by offering meaningful training programmes rather than expecting every graduate to possess years of experience immediately after completing their education.

There is also a need to change society's understanding of success. A university degree is valuable, but it should not be treated as the only measure of a person's ability. Vocational education, technical training, entrepreneurship and specialised skills deserve equal respect. A skilled electrician, designer, mechanic or technician may possess valuable expertise that is essential to the economy. The dignity of work should never depend on the title attached to a qualification.

At the same time, unemployment should not always be viewed as an individual failure. Limited job opportunities, unequal access to quality education, economic conditions and regional disparities also influence employment outcomes. Addressing these challenges requires cooperation between governments, educational institutions, industries and young people.

Ultimately, the purpose of education must extend beyond earning a certificate or securing a position. It should develop capable, responsible and independent individuals who can contribute meaningfully to society. Degrees may open doors, but knowledge, practical ability, discipline and the willingness to learn determine how successfully a person walks through them.

The real achievement of an education system should not be measured by how many graduates it produces every year, but by how well those graduates are prepared to face the world. India does not simply need more degree holders; it needs more capable, confident and employable individuals.

— CEDRIC PAUL

Quick Read

3 arrested in alleged gang rape case

NEW DELHI

Delhi Police have arrested three people in connection with the alleged gang rape of a 22-year-old woman in Delhi, while a search is underway for the remaining suspects. Police said eight people had accessed a cafe after its official closing time of 11.30 pm using a key held by one of the group members. They allegedly consumed alcohol and partied inside the premises before leaving around 3.30 am. The alleged assault took place shortly after the group left the cafe. The survivor was acquainted with the accused and had reportedly attended the party with them.

RAF, CRPF deployed at Jama Masjid police station

NEW DELHI

Rapid Action Force (RAF) and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel were deployed at Jama Masjid police station on Wednesday following a knife attack that injured five Delhi Police personnel on Monday. The accused, identified as Nabeel, was summoned for counselling after complaints from his mother and sister. He allegedly attacked police personnel with a knife, injuring five officers, before fleeing and reportedly stealing a scooter. The accused is undergoing interrogation, with intelligence agencies also scheduled to question him.

4 arrested in fake currency scam

ADILABAD

Adilabad Police have busted a gang accused of cheating people with fake currency notes printed as 'Children Bank of India'. Four people were arrested, and 99 bundles of counterfeit notes worth over ₹40 lakh, 100 fake gold coins and three mobile phones were seized. Police said the gang lured victims with promises of doubling money through pujas and black magic. The accused reportedly placed genuine notes on the top and bottom of bundles, hiding fake notes and white papers inside.

CJP announces 'Save Democracy, Save Constitution' rally

CJP has announced a Constitution Day rally in Nagpur, raising concerns over electoral transparency, the SIR process and alleged restrictions on activists.

NAGPUR

The Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) will organise a 'Save Democracy, Save Constitution' rally in Nagpur on November 26, Constitution Day, to protest against the Election Commission of India (ECI) and the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

CJP activist Abhijeet Dipke announced the rally on Tuesday, demanding transparency and accountability from the ECI. He cited alleged irregularities in Maharashtra, claiming that 89,000 votes were updated during the final hour in one constituency during Eknath Shinde's election.



What the CJP wants polls to be about

- Education
- Healthcare
- Unemployment
- Technology, semiconductors
- Renewable energy
- Transport

No contest in coming polls

Dipke clarified that the party would neither contest the upcoming elections in Uttar Pradesh and five other states nor support any political party. Instead, it would advocate for elections centred on issues such as education, healthcare, unemployment, technology, renewable energy, semiconductors and transport, rather than religious polarisation.

Activists targeted, says Dipke

Recalling his own detention following the October 10 Tiranga unfurling programme, Dipke alleged that authorities had targeted activists raising public concerns. He also highlighted issues involving fake teacher recruitment in Beed, student welfare, unemployment and inflation.

Referring to CJP's recent 'Kya Bolti Public' event in Goa, Dipke said the organisation would campaign to scrap Section 39A to prevent illegal land acquisition. He thanked supporters who stood with the movement at Jantar Mantar and asserted that the organisation would continue its efforts to defend democracy and the Constitution.

Delhi to open two new hospitals in 2027

NEW DELHI



Chief Minister Rekha Gupta

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Wednesday announced that two new hospitals will open in the national capital in 2027, as the government steps up efforts to strengthen healthcare infrastructure. The announcement was made during a review meeting with Health Department officials at the Delhi Secretariat.

Gupta directed officials to ensure that all ongoing healthcare infrastructure projects are completed within their stipulated timelines while maintaining quality standards. She also reviewed the progress of Ayushman Arogya Mandirs, which aim to improve access to healthcare services across the city. More than 415 Ayushman Arogya Mandirs are currently operational in Delhi, with the government targeting a total of 1,100 centres. According to the Chief Minister's Office, officials have been instructed to begin inaugurating additional centres from next month. Another 40 Ayushman Arogya Mandirs are expected to become operational during December.

The expansion is intended to bring quality healthcare services closer to residents and strengthen access to primary healthcare facilities. Cabinet Minister Pankaj Kumar Singh and senior government officials attended the review meeting.

Key announcements

new hospitals, opening in 2027
2
Ayushman Arogya Mandirs running now
415+
centres targeted across Delhi
1,100
more centres due in December
40

MP holds health screening camps outside liquor shops



Health workers at a screening camp in Sagar district

SAGAR

Health officials in Madhya Pradesh's Sagar district have launched awareness and medical screening camps outside liquor shops following reports of deaths linked to alcohol consumption among people with existing health conditions.

The campaign is being conducted across all tehsils in the district in coordination with Block Medical Officers and doctors. Teams are screening people who consume alcohol excessively, have underlying medical conditions or are suspected of alcohol dependence.

Sub-Inspector Rajendra Bilwar said the initiative was launched on the instructions of the District Collector after some people with serious health conditions died following alcohol consumption. He said camps were being organised at nearly all liquor shops in the city.

Chief Medical and Health Officer Dr Rishi Kesharwani said people were coming forward for screenings. No serious health complications had been detected among those examined so far, including individuals who reportedly consumed alcohol throughout the day.

Kesharwani said the government had issued guidelines advising people not to consume alcohol from bottles that had already been opened and to avoid drinking on an empty stomach.

Officials have advised anyone experiencing symptoms such as vomiting or other health concerns after consuming alcohol to visit the nearest hospital for medical examination.

Cabinet approves ₹1,141 cr for postal operations

NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved continuation of the Central Sector Scheme for Postal Operations with an outlay of ₹1,141 crore for five years, from 2026-27 to 2030-31. The decision, taken at a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, aims to modernise India Post amid growing demand from logistics, e-commerce and digital delivery.

India Post operates 1.65 lakh post offices, including 1.5 lakh in rural areas.

The Postal Operations scheme has six components. Mail Network Optimisation receives ₹575 crore for upgraded sorting and delivery systems, mechanisation, technology and transport networks. Parcel Network Optimisation gets ₹278 crore for parcel hubs and packaging units, while Rural Business and Access to Postal Network receives ₹120 crore to improve rural post offices and last-mile services.



The Cabinet cleared two postal schemes on Wednesday

The remaining allocations are ₹100 crore for marketing and service quality, ₹60 crore for philately and ₹8 crore for international mail infrastructure.

The Cabinet also approved the Estates Management Scheme, with an outlay of ₹1,491 crore for the same five-year period. It will fund 190 new postal buildings, reconstruction of 50 dilapidated structures and renovation of 2,550 departmental sub-post offices. Upgrades are planned for 2,500 rented post offices, 150 residential colonies and 20 heritage buildings.

The scheme provides ₹100 crore for sustainable and accessible facilities, including solar power, rainwater harvesting, ramps and Braille signage. Another ₹100 crore will establish an Integrated Technology Centre in Bengaluru to support Advanced Postal Technology and indigenous software.

Where the ₹1,141 crore goes

Mail network	575
Parcels	278
Rural access	120
Marketing, quality	100
Philately	60
Intl mail	8

₹ crore, 2026-27 to 2030-31

Tiruvannamalai station handles 46,000 festival pilgrims

TIRUVANNAMALAI

Southern Railway deployed additional crowd-control measures and special train services at Tiruvannamalai railway station after around 46,000 pilgrims arrived for the annual Karthigai Deepam festival on Tuesday.

Tiruchchirappalli Divisional Railway Manager Balak Ram Negi said passenger numbers rose sharply on the main festival day, prompting authorities to introduce arrangements to manage the rush. "There was also a sudden surge in the crowd," Negi said.

Holding areas, special trains

Railway officials established holding areas outside the main concourse to prevent congestion on platforms and ensure the smooth movement of passengers. Around 37 pairs of special trains were operated daily during the festival in coordination with local law enforcement. Surveillance was also carried out with the assistance of state police.

Two more platforms

Negi said the station currently has three platforms, while construction is under way to add two more platforms ahead of next year's festival. A six-metre-wide foot overbridge is also planned to improve passenger movement and accommodate rising pilgrim numbers.

The main festival at Tiruvannamalai was observed on November 24 this year, drawing a large number of devotees to the temple town.

Madurai lamp row

The festival was also marked by a dispute in Madurai over the lighting of the ceremonial lamp at the Deepathoon stone pillar on Thiruparankundram hill. The lamp was instead lit at the Uchi Pillayar temple, amid heavy security.

Madurai Police said on Wednesday cases had been registered against around 300 members of the BJP and Hindu organisations following protests over the issue.

? KARTHIGAI DEEPAM

Karthigai Deepam, a traditional festival of lights celebrated in Tamil Nadu, falls during the Tamil month of Karthigai, usually in November or December.

Reddy pushes Telangana urban development projects



Chief Minister Revanth Reddy

HYDERABAD

Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has directed officials to accelerate urban development projects, focusing on the Musi River Rejuvenation project, radial roads and lake restoration. He reviewed projects under the Municipal Administration and Urban Development Department at a high-level meeting.

Officials informed the Chief Minister that Phase One of the Musi project would cover two stretches: 9.20 kilometres from Himayat Sagar to Gandhi Sarovar, designated Zone 1A, and 11.8 kilometres from Osman Sagar to Gandhi Sarovar, designated Zone 1B. Preparations are under way to begin work in January 2027, and the tendering process has started.

Reddy also reviewed development work at Mir Alam Tank, expected to be completed by January 2028. The project includes removing accumulated silt from the lake. He instructed authorities to speed up radial road construction and land acquisition. A modern goshala, or cow shelter, at Gandipet is scheduled for completion by March 2027.

The meeting examined proposals for a Personal Rapid Transit System in Hyderabad. Officials presented possible routes from Kukatpally through Raidurg to Biodiversity, and from Begumpet Metro Station through the Secretariat and Basheerbagh to Ranigunj.

HYDRAA officials briefed the meeting on lake restoration, sewage treatment plants and the revival of stepwells. Reddy stressed that projects must progress quickly without compromising quality and improve services for residents.

In focus

- **JANUARY 2027** — Work on the 21-km Musi Phase One to begin
- **MARCH 2027** — Gandipet cow shelter to be completed
- **JANUARY 2028** — Mir Alam Tank restoration due

Tripura BJP releases manifesto ahead of Nov 27 polls

AGARTALA

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Tripura on Tuesday released its manifesto, titled 'Sankalp Patra', ahead of the November 27 urban body elections, outlining plans to improve civic infrastructure, generate employment and expand digital municipal services.

The document was unveiled at the party's state office in Agartala by state president Abhisekh Debroy. He said it was prepared after collecting suggestions from different sections of society.

Making traffic-free cities its priority, the BJP has proposed organised parking facilities, bypass roads and flyovers in major towns, including Agartala and Udaipur. The party also promised to strengthen drainage networks and improve door-to-door waste collection and scientific disposal. It plans to expand transfer stations after new municipal boards are formed.

The manifesto focuses on public safety, with plans to extend CCTV surveillance to towns such as Dharmanagar and Udaipur. Measures to address waterlogging in low-lying areas, improve road connectivity and restore abandoned ponds and water bodies have also been included.

On housing and basic amenities, the party pledged homes for poor and homeless families, renovation of older housing facilities and completion of pending household drinking water connections. It also plans to accelerate piped natural gas connections in urban areas. For employment generation, the BJP proposed setting up an IT Park in Agartala and a convention centre with seating for around 5,000 people. It also promised support for street vendors, parks, open gyms and improved riverfront facilities.

The manifesto further proposes digital platforms for property tax and utility payments, stronger municipal task forces, and measures to prevent child labour and support homeless people.

Debroy said the party aimed to ensure transparent and efficient civic services. The urban body elections are scheduled for November 27.



STATE SWAGAT

Gujarat CM to hear public grievances on Thursday

GANDHINAGAR

Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel will hear citizens' grievances during the monthly State SWAGAT programme on Thursday, November 26, in Gandhinagar. The session will allow residents to bring their concerns directly to the Chief Minister.

According to the Chief Minister's Office, citizens can submit representations in person at the Chief Minister's Public Relations Unit at Swarnim Sankul-2, Gandhinagar, between 8 am and 11 am. Patel will remain present during the afternoon session to hear the submissions.



State SWAGAT, short for Statewide Attention on Grievances by Application of Technology, is a monthly public grievance redressal programme conducted in the presence of the Chief Minister.

The programme enables citizens to raise complaints and unresolved issues before the state government.

Earlier on Tuesday, Patel attended the closing ceremony of the third All India Police Badminton Cluster 2026-27 at the Veer Savarkar Sports Complex in Naranpura, Ahmedabad. He congratulated the winners and praised police personnel for participating in sporting competitions alongside their law-and-order responsibilities.

At the event, Patel highlighted Gujarat's Khel Mahakumbh initiative and sports infrastructure. He said Gujarat was preparing to host the Commonwealth Games in 2030 and the World Police and Fire Games in 2029. He also referred to the Fit India campaign and its role in promoting fitness.

State SWAGAT

WHEN	Thursday, November 26
WHERE	CM's Public Relations Unit, Swarnim Sankul-2, Gandhinagar
SUBMIT	8 am to 11 am, in person
HEARING	Afternoon session, with the CM

Quick Read

2 accused injured in police firing

DIBRUGARH

Two accused in the Duliajan triple murder case, Raju Das and Amir Das, sustained bullet injuries after allegedly overpowering police personnel and attempting to escape during a weapon recovery operation at Balijan Tea Estate late Tuesday. Two police personnel were also injured.Police said four rounds were fired to prevent the accused from fleeing. Both men were initially taken to Tengakhat Civil Hospital before being shifted to Assam Medical College and Hospital. The injured policemen were admitted to Oil India Limited Hospital.The case relates to the November 16 murder of three members of the Bhuyan family in Duliajan. The victims, retired Oil India Limited employee Chandrakanta Bhuyan, his wife Eliza and daughter Niharika, were allegedly killed with a hammer before valuables were stolen. Investigators said Raju, who had lost nearly ₹4 lakh through online gaming, allegedly conspired with Amir to rob the family. Both were arrested at Simaluguri Railway Station while reportedly attempting to flee to Bengaluru via Guwahati.

Attack outside Pune court leaves 2 injured

PUNE

Two people were injured after six armed men allegedly attacked them with sickles outside Pune's Shivajinagar District Court on Wednesday afternoon. One victim, Mandar Kiwale, is in critical condition.The attack occurred around 1 pm near Gate No. 4, opposite the Family Court. One victim's left hand was allegedly severed at the wrist. Both were taken to Sassoon General Hospital.Kiwale is an accused in the murder of Shubham Chavan. Police suspect previous enmity behind the assault. Two pistols, a magazine and spent cartridges were recovered. Police are investigating the attackers and whether gunshots were fired.

10 arrested over alleged religious conversions

LUCKNOW

Amethi police arrested 10 people, including four women, for allegedly inducing Scheduled Caste families to convert to Christianity by promising financial aid, medical treatment and educational support. Police said prayer meetings were organised at Raj Kumar's residence in Sindurwa village, where 20-25 people gathered. Four books related to religious conversion were recovered.Investigators said the group allegedly influenced nearly 240 people over six years and held meetings across several states. Police are examining suspected foreign funding, tax evasion and links to churches in Maharashtra. A case was registered under the Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Act.

MAHA CLEARS ₹5,548 CR NARMADA-TAPI PROJECT

Maharashtra Cabinet approves 14 decisions, including farmer relief, school reforms and major irrigation funding, amid widespread drought across the state.

MUMBAI

The Maharashtra Cabinet on Wednesday approved free foodgrains for 42.30 lakh farmers, ₹5,548 crore for the Narmada-Tapi Valley Diversion Project and a draft bill to regulate private aided schools among 14 key decisions.

Under the foodgrain scheme, 42,30,783 farmers across 33 districts will receive five kilograms of free foodgrains per person for three months. The allocation includes three kilograms of rice and two kilograms of wheat. The benefit covers Below Poverty Line farmers under the National Food Security Scheme who are excluded from the Direct Benefit Transfer scheme.


The Maharashtra Cabinet cleared 14 decisions on Wednesday.

The Cabinet sanctioned ₹5,548 crore for the Narmada-Tapi project in Nandurbar district. It includes six diversion weirs, aims to provide irrigation to 26,526 hectares and is expected to generate 11.50 MW of electricity.

Another major decision was approval of the draft Maharashtra Private Aided Schools (Regulation) Bill, 2026. School Education Minister Dada Bhuse said the proposed legislation would provide a separate legal framework for privately aided schools, currently governed by the 1977 Act.

He said the legislation would establish rules to improve educational quality, ensure adequate staff, promote transparent admissions and regulate employee-related decisions.

The Cabinet also approved a separate tribunal for cases under the Maharashtra Protection of Interest of Depositors Act, with a 90-day deadline for disposal. Amendments will facilitate faster attachment of properties linked to financial fraud.

The decisions come as 310 of the state's 358 talukas have been declared drought-affected following a deficient monsoon, highlighting the need for agricultural and water-related support.

42.30 lakh farmers get free foodgrains

33 districts covered

₹5,548 cr for the Narmada-Tapi project

26,526 ha to get irrigation

Bhopal records up to 30% rise in TB cases

Bhopal records a 20–30 per cent rise in TB cases, prompting intensified screening, contact tracing and preventive measures across identified hotspots.

BHOPAL

Bhopal has reported a 20 to 30 per cent rise in tuberculosis cases this year, prompting the Madhya Pradesh health department to intensify screening, contact tracing and preventive measures.

Chief Medical and Health Officer Manish Sharma said around 12,000 to 13,000 cases had been recorded this year, compared with nearly 10,000 last year. The department plans to focus on identified hotspots and strengthen interventions under the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme.

"We are continuously taking measures to address the issue under the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP). We are regularly organising camps and carrying out activities as per the instructions received from the higher authorities," Sharma said. He added that intensive campaigns, contact tracing, TB Preventive Treatment and BCG vaccination would be strengthened for people who come into contact with patients.

Sharma said people with poor nutritional status and those from lower socioeconomic groups were more vulnerable to the disease.

He stressed the importance of hygiene and proper nutrition in preventing tuberculosis. According to Sharma, completing treatment does not guarantee that a person will never contract the disease again, as TB can recur when nutrition declines and immunity weakens.

The health department is conducting regular screening at Sanjeevani Clinics and organising camps in institutions, including jails.

TVK MLA summoned over harassment complaint

CHENNAI

Kallakurichi police have summoned Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) MLA C Arul Vignesh for questioning over a sexual harassment complaint filed by a district collector. The summons was served at his residence on Wednesday, following a Madras High Court direction to constitute a special team to investigate the allegations.

A team comprising a senior officer from the Kallakurichi All Women Police Station and a constable visited Vignesh's residence in T Ramaswamy Nagar on Wednesday morning. After informing his family members, the officers handed him the summons and asked him to appear for questioning, police sources said.

The Kallakurichi All Women Police Station had registered a first information report under various provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita after the collector lodged a formal complaint. The complaint alleges that the legislator sent her obscene messages.

On November 24, Madras High Court judge V Lakshminarayanan directed the Tamil Nadu government to form a team to probe the allegations. Tiruppur Superintendent of Police Srishti Singh has been assigned to lead the investigation under the supervision of Inspector General of Police (Administration) Kamini.

The court also directed the state government to constitute an Internal Complaints Committee with independent members to examine the matter.

Vignesh has rejected the allegations, describing them as "fake news" and calling them baseless. State Minister for Energy Resources and Law C T R Nirmal Kumar termed the issue a "narrative" allegedly being promoted by the opposition Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam and its MP Kanimozhi Karunanidhi.

Meanwhile, several political parties, including the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam and the Bharatiya Janata Party, have demanded the legislator's arrest.

Imphal records highest earthquake ground-shaking risk

GUWAHATI

imphal has recorded the highest estimated ground-shaking intensity among eight cities in Northeast India, according to an IIT Guwahati study examining nearly 6,000 earthquakes across the seismically active region.

The research team, led by Abhishek Kumar, professor in the Department of Civil Engineering, compiled earthquake records spanning 1,200 years to develop a catalogue of nearly 6,000 earthquakes. The researchers generated 200 synthetic earthquake catalogues by varying locations and magnitudes within specified uncertainty ranges using Latin Hypercube Sampling.The team combined these estimates with mathematical models to assess potential ground shaking in Guwahati, Agartala, Imphal, Shillong, Aizawl, Kohima, Gangtok and Itanagar.

53 hospitalised after eating shawarma in Bhiwandi

BHIWANDI

In hospital	
53	PEOPLE IN ALL
25	WOMEN
17	CHILDREN

At least 53 people, including 25 women and 17 children, were hospitalised following suspected food poisoning after consuming shawarma from a roadside eatery in Maharashtra's Bhiwandi. The affected individuals are undergoing treatment at the state-run Indira Gandhi Memorial (IGM) Hospital in Thane district.

The patients reportedly consumed shawarma at an eatery in the Vanzarpatti Naka area on Monday night. They subsequently developed symptoms including vomiting, loose motions and abdominal pain. Initially, 11 people were hospitalised on Tuesday, but the number later increased to 53.

Municipal Corporation Medical Officer of Health Dr Sandeep Gadekar said all patients were currently stable. Hospital Medical Superintendent Madhavi Pandhare confirmed that samples had been collected for chemical analysis to identify possible microorganisms responsible for the illness. One of the affected patients is a pregnant woman.

Pandhare said all affected families reported consuming shawarma from the same outlet. The hospital informed police on Tuesday and requested action to shut the eatery to prevent further cases.

A case has been registered against the eatery owner under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and Food and Drug Administration regulations at Nizampura police station. The owner is currently absconding, Gadekar said.

FDA Assistant Commissioner Santosh Shisodia raised concerns over the scattered locations of street food vendors in Bhiwandi. He said the department had urged the municipal corporation to designate specific vending areas to improve monitoring and food safety.

AIADMK requires approval for media statements

CHENNAI

The All-India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) on Wednesday directed office-bearers across all levels to obtain approval from the party leadership before giving media interviews or issuing public statements on its behalf.

According to a headquarters announcement issued with the approval of General Secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami, the directive applies to headquarters secretaries, district secretaries, spokespersons and other party functionaries.

The announcement stated that members must secure prior clearance before expressing views on the party's position through newspapers, television channels or other media platforms. They must also obtain permission before releasing statements or making public comments representing the organisation.

The party urged all office-bearers involved in its growth and activities to follow the instructions fully. The directive aims to ensure that public communication reflects the leadership's position and maintains consistency in the party's messaging.


AIADMK General Secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami.

The announcement also emphasised the AIADMK's identity as a disciplined political movement, stating that the party had been "marching forward as a disciplined movement" with the blessings of its founder, MG Ramachandran, and former General Secretary J Jayalalithaa.

The latest directive comes amid political developments within the party and preparations for the upcoming Tamil Nadu Assembly elections.

Cabinet approves ₹2,014 crore Silchar airport project

NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the construction of a new greenfield airport at Doloo in Silchar, Assam, at an estimated cost of ₹2,014 crore, aiming to strengthen aviation infrastructure in the region.

The existing Silchar airport is jointly associated with the Indian Air Force and the Airports Authority of India (AAI). It currently operates a civil enclave spread across 70 acres.

The proposed airport at Doloo is expected to provide a new aviation facility for Silchar and surrounding areas.

The Cabinet's approval marks a significant step towards developing airport infrastructure in Assam.

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw presented details of the proposed project during a Cabinet briefing at the National Media Centre in New Delhi on Wednesday. He also displayed a map indicating the location of the planned greenfield airport.

The new airport	
WHERE	Doloo, Silchar, Assam
COST	₹2,014 crore
TODAY	A civil enclave on 70 acres

The project comes as part of efforts to expand aviation connectivity and improve infrastructure across the country.

The new facility is expected to address the limitations of the existing airport, which operates within a restricted civil enclave.

The approval provides the financial clearance required for the proposed development, with the project estimated to cost ₹2,014 crore.

Further details regarding the construction timeline, passenger capacity and other technical features were not specified in the announcement.

Jharkhand Assembly takes up resolution against SIR

RANCHI

A two-day special session of the Jharkhand Assembly began on Wednesday, with Finance Minister Radha Krishna Kishore moving a resolution opposing the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and seeking its immediate suspension.

The special session will focus on two major issues: the SIR exercise and the amended mines law passed by Parliament in August. Legislators are expected to deliberate on the implications of both developments during the proceedings.

Kishore introduced the resolution against the electoral roll revision, calling for the exercise to be halted immediately. The resolution places the state's concerns over the ongoing revision before the Assembly for discussion.


The two-day special session opened on Wednesday.

A resolution opposing the ongoing SIR of electoral rolls and seeking its immediate suspension

The session, which began on November 25, is scheduled to continue for two days. The discussions are expected to cover the electoral revision process and the changes introduced through the amended mines legislation.

FOOD SAFETY INSPECTION

MLAs will decide UP CM says Maurya

LUCKNOW

A political disagreement between Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya surfaced again on Wednesday after Maurya said the party's elected legislators would decide the next chief minister following the Assembly elections.

Speaking to reporters in Jaunpur, Maurya said the BJP's election symbol, the lotus, was the party's face during the polls. He added that, after the results, elected MLAs would meet in the presence of central observers and unanimously choose their leader.



"Currently, Yogi Adityanath is our chief minister. I cannot decide whether the next chief minister will be Adityanath or someone else," Maurya said.

Adityanath later appeared to respond to the remarks, saying that everyone knew who the BJP's chief ministerial face was. Speaking to a television channel, he said the lotus represented the party and that every BJP candidate, including him, would contest the election on that symbol.

The exchange has renewed attention on differences between the two leaders ahead of the next Assembly polls. Their differences first became visible after the BJP's performance in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, when its tally in Uttar Pradesh fell to 33 seats from 62 in 2019.

Maurya had then criticised Adityanath, blaming the poor electoral performance on the alleged sidelining of ordinary party workers.

BJP Leadership Tensions Surface After 2024 Poll Setback

The BJP has faced internal differences in Uttar Pradesh since its setback in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. The party won 33 seats, down from 62 in 2019. The results triggered criticism over organisational functioning, with Maurya raising concerns about the treatment of grassroots workers and the party leadership in the state.

Quick Read

Fitch warns of riskier Indian lending

NEW DELHI

Rising foreign investment could strengthen Indian finance companies but also push them to lend faster and ease loan approval standards as investors seek higher returns, Fitch Ratings said. The agency kept its 2027 outlook for Indian finance companies neutral, citing strong domestic growth that should support loan demand. Fitch expects gross loan growth at 19 large lenders to slow from an estimated 18 per cent to 17 per cent in the financial year starting April 2027. It expects bad loans to remain broadly steady at 2.3 per cent in 2027.

Sensex jumps asNifty tops 25,800

MUMBAI

Indian stocks jumped on Wednesday as foreign investors continued to put money into the market, buyers returned to shares of large companies and crude oil prices fell. The Sensex rose 1,502.29 points, or 1.82 per cent, to close at 83,938.28. The Nifty gained 469.60 points, or 1.85 per cent, to finish at 25,819.25. Consumer goods stocks led the gains, rising more than 3 per cent, while metal and telecom stocks fell. Shrikant Chouhan of Kotak Neo said the Nifty could trade between 25,000 and 26,300 in the very short term.

AI needs nearly $3 trillion annually

NEW DELHI

The global artificial intelligence industry will need nearly $3 trillion in yearly spending from businesses, consumers and governments to justify investment in data centres expected by 2029, JP Morgan Wealth Management said. Its 2027 outlook estimated that data centres alone would need about $1.5 trillion in annual revenue to cover costs. Annual AI revenue could reach nearly $3.6 trillion by the early 2030s, with businesses providing the largest share. The firm said reaching that level would depend on companies outside the technology sector using AI beyond small trials.

PHDCCI seeks lower tax for new manufacturers

NEW DELHI

The PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry has asked the government to bring back a 15 per cent corporate tax rate for new manufacturing companies in the Union Budget for 2027–28. The chamber said the lower rate could encourage private investment and support manufacturing in India. Ranjeet Mehta, the chamber's chief executive and secretary general, said increasing private investment in manufacturing should be a budget priority. He said the chamber had recommended the rate for companies entering manufacturing for the first time. Mehta said many businesses may have missed the chance to use the earlier tax break because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The chamber asked for interest support on export loans taken before and after goods are shipped. It said the measure would help lower financing costs for exporters.

India's infra spending reaches Rs 17.87 lakh crore

INDIA HAS SPENT RS 17.87 LAKH CRORE ON 1,862 ONGOING CENTRAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS, NEARLY HALF THEIR REVISED COST.

NEW DELHI

The Centre had spent 46.88% of the Rs 38.11 lakh crore revised cost of its ongoing infrastructure projects by October 2026, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation said in its monthly infrastructure monitoring report.

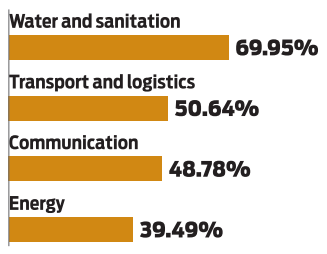
The ministry tracks 1,862 projects across 17 central ministries and departments. Of these, 790 are mega projects costing Rs 1,000 crore or more each. The remaining 1,072 are major projects costing less than Rs 1,000 crore each.

Work was more than 80% complete on 649 projects, or about 35% of those tracked. On 326 projects, or about 18% of the total, spending had crossed 80% of project costs.

Transport and logistics had the most projects, with 1,324 worth Rs 20.37 lakh crore.



Spent so far, share of cost



Figures: MoSPI, October 2026

Energy followed with 229 projects worth Rs 11.31 lakh crore. Together, the two sectors accounted for more than 83% of the projects and more than 83 per cent of the overall revised cost.

972 road projects, Rs 9.55 lakh crore

288 railway projects, Rs 7.38 lakh crore

108 power projects, Rs 6.55 lakh crore

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways had 972 projects, or about 52% of the total, at a revised cost of Rs 9.55 lakh crore. The Ministry of Railways had 288 projects worth Rs 7.38 lakh crore, while the Ministry of Power had 108 worth Rs 6.55 lakh crore.

Spending on water and sanitation reached 69.95% of project costs, the highest share recorded. Transport and logistics recorded 50.64%, followed by communication at 48.78 per cent.

The ministry began tracking 38 more projects in October through its PAIMANA platform. Of these, 23 came from the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

Added and completed in October

- **New:** Highway linking Vadhavan Port to NH-48, Rs 4,464 crore
- **New:** Highway in Madhya Pradesh, Rs 3,842.41 crore
- **New:** Ahmedabad Metro Rail Phase 2A, Rs 2,169.04 crore
- **In service:** Karnataka renewable energy transmission scheme, Rs 4,445 crore
- **In service:** Rebuilt coke oven batteries, Bhilai Steel Plant, Rs 884.1 crore

Rice export curbs unlikely as prices rise

NEW DELHI



India is unlikely to restrict exports of non-basmati rice over the next month, the Indian Rice Exporters' Federation said. The group said reports of curbs within days appeared premature and that exporters could continue shipping rice under the current rules. The federation said its view was based on the information it had and offered no official assurance about future government policy.

Domestic non-basmati rice prices have risen over the past month, according to market information received by the federation. IR-64 white rice with 25 per cent broken grains rose from Rs 28.25 per kg to about Rs 33 per kg, an increase of nearly 17 per cent. The rise has drawn closer attention to rice exports as the government watches domestic prices and supplies.

India's large rice stocks help keep supplies steady.

The federation said a further sharp rise in rice prices could prompt the Committee of Ministers to review export policy. That review could lead to consideration of export duties or other measures to protect domestic supply and keep prices stable.

For now, the federation advised exporters to watch for official notices and stay in touch with overseas buyers. It urged them to match stocks to confirmed orders and realistic shipping schedules, and to avoid taking on commitments that leave them exposed to policy changes.

It also advised particular care with long-term contracts that set a fixed price, especially when the terms provide little protection against government action that could raise costs or disrupt shipments.

PhonePe prepares to revive paused IPO plans

NEW DELHI

Digital payments company PhonePe is preparing to resume work on its initial public offering, according to banking sources familiar with the plans.

The Walmart-backed company put the proposed listing on hold last year when broader economic conditions were weak. A banking source said an improvement in those conditions had prompted PhonePe to revive the plan.

Foreign institutional investors have returned to Indian shares, the source said. November has seen the strongest inflows from these investors so far this year, according to the source. The renewed foreign buying is one sign of the change in market conditions since PhonePe paused its plans.

The source said PhonePe was expected to seek a valuation of Rs 1.2 lakh crore to Rs 1.5 lakh crore when it lists. That range refers to the expected value of the company at listing. The timetable and other details of the offering are still being worked out and could change. PhonePe has yet to comment publicly on the plans.

HOW AN IPO WORKS

An initial public offering, or IPO, allows a company to offer shares to public investors for the first time. It can include new shares issued by the company, shares sold by existing owners, or both.

The company's growth has also picked up after a slow year, the source said. PhonePe is now growing at about 40% compared with a year earlier when merchant discount rates and digital incentives are left out of the calculation. The merchant discount rate is a fee that merchants pay to accept certain digital payments.

The group also posted a profit after tax in the first half of the year, with employee stock option costs included, the source said. Its lending distribution business, which helps connect borrowers with lenders, roughly doubled from a year earlier. Employee stock options give staff the right to buy company shares at a set price, and firms record a cost for granting them.

Duty-free raw sugar import window extended

NEW DELHI

The Centre on Wednesday gave eligible importers three more months to bring raw sugar into India without paying customs duty. The deadline moved from December 31, 2026, to March 31, 2027. The extension covers up to 10 lakh metric tonnes of raw sugar under the existing tariff rate quota.

Importers also have until September 30, 2027, to turn the raw sugar into white or refined sugar and sell it in the Indian market. The Directorate General of Foreign Trade set the new import deadline in Notification No. 51/2026-27 and announced the processing and sales deadline in a separate public notice.

The notification keeps raw sugar in the import policy's free category, subject to the quota and existing conditions.



The Centre extended the import period while keeping the total quantity eligible for duty relief at 10 lakh metric tonnes. The other terms in the August 20 notification and public notice, including later amendments, continue to apply.

The original rules also allowed a one-time switch from the Advance Authorisation Scheme to the Tariff Rate Quota Scheme. Importers using that option must meet the eligibility and operating conditions set out under the policy.

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade, which comes under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, issued both documents on Wednesday. Director General of Foreign Trade Lav Agarwal signed both. The notification extending the import deadline was issued with the approval of the Union Minister of Commerce and Industry. The separate public notice sets the deadline for both refining the sugar and selling it in India.

How the import window changed

- **AUG 20, 2026** Duty-free quota opens, deadline October 31
- **OCT 19** Deadline moved to December 31
- **NOV 25** Deadline moved to March 31, 2027
- **SEP 30, 2027** Last date to refine and sell the sugar

Musk meets reinstated Nvidia chief Huang

SANTA CLARA

SpaceX chief executive Elon Musk met Nvidia chief executive Jensen Huang after the chipmaker's board restored Huang to its top job. Musk, who had publicly backed Huang's return, brought two of his children to the meeting. Ben Pouladian, a longtime Nvidia shareholder and founder of BEP Research, shared photos from the meeting alongside older pictures of the two executives.

Musk welcomed Huang's reinstatement in a post on X on Monday, saying, "The mistake has been corrected." He had backed Huang during his time away from the company. Pouladian also supported Huang's return, promoted a petition calling for his reinstatement and contacted members of Nvidia's board directly.

Nvidia announced that Huang had returned as chief executive, president and a member of its board. He had stepped down earlier in November after reports of an affair with Alice Huang, a former executive at data centre company Megaspeed. Nvidia's board said it believed bringing him back was in the best interests of shareholders, employees, partners and customers.



US President Donald Trump also welcomed the board's decision in a post on Truth Social. He said Huang's leadership mattered to Nvidia and the US economy. Trump said the government had no reason to believe Huang's return posed a national security risk. He added that the attorney general had told him the government had no evidence of unlawful conduct by Huang.

Huang is scheduled to appear before three House committees on December 1 in a private hearing that will be transcribed. He is also due to appear before the Senate Banking Committee in a public hearing on December 3. The hearings are scheduled for the week after the board announced his return.

TVS plans Rs 2,000 cr Tamil Nadu investment

NEW DELHI

TVS Motor Company said on Wednesday that it plans to invest Rs 2,000 crore in Tamil Nadu over four years. The maker of two-wheelers and three-wheelers expects the investment to create 1,000 jobs in the state. It disclosed the proposal to stock exchanges after signing a memorandum of understanding with the Tamil Nadu government.

The agreement is non-binding and sets out the proposed investment and the state's role in supporting it. Tamil Nadu will work through Guidance, its investment promotion agency, to provide infrastructure support and help the company with regulatory processes. The company said this support would be subject to applicable laws.

The filing gave the total amount the company plans to invest and the period over which it expects to spend it. It did not specify the project sites, the products the investment would cover or how much the company would spend in each of the four years.

TVS Motor already makes vehicles at Hosur in Tamil Nadu. The company also lists manufacturing facilities in Mysuru in Karnataka, Nalagarh in Himachal Pradesh and Karawang in Indonesia. Its earlier disclosures identify Hosur as one of its three manufacturing locations in India.

The proposal was among a broader set of investment plans announced at a conclave in Chennai. Tamil Nadu signed 78 agreements covering proposed investments worth Rs 58,214 crore. The state estimated that the projects covered by those agreements could create 65,786 jobs. The proposals included investments in renewable energy and logistics, along with expansion plans from companies that supply vehicle parts. Two suppliers to Hyundai outlined expansion plans worth Rs 1,370 crore in total, according to details released by the state government.

The agreements announced in Chennai brought Tamil Nadu's total to 190 investment agreements in the first 200 days of the state government, according to an official release. Together, those agreements covered proposed investments of more than Rs 1.73 lakh crore. The state estimated that the projects could create jobs for 1,98,557 people.

Tamil Nadu's investment push	
Rs 2,000 cr	TVS PLANS OVER FOUR YEARS
1,000	JOBS IT EXPECTS TO CREATE
78	DEALS SIGNED IN CHENNAI
Rs 58,214 cr	PROPOSED UNDER THEM
65,786	JOBS THEY COULD CREATE
190	DEALS IN THE FIRST 200 DAYS

INVEST SMART, STAY SAFE

SEBI eases investor checks, record transfers

NEW DELHI

The Securities and Exchange Board of India announced changes on Wednesday to simplify Know Your Client checks, which firms use to confirm an investor's identity and address. The revised rules will take effect on December 24, 2026, unless otherwise specified. They are designed to make it easier for investors to open accounts and use their records with different firms.

KYC Registration Agencies will keep information used by several firms in one place. This includes an investor's income range, occupation, tax compliance details and whether the investor is a politically exposed person. This should reduce repeat paperwork when investors move to another market firm. Firms must also upload the investor's Central Know Your Customer Identifier and Digital Postal Index Number when available, along with expiry dates for official documents where required.



SEBI has eased identity checks for investors who open accounts or use their existing records with another financial firm.

A firm can skip a fresh mobile number check if the registration agency's database shows that the number has already been verified and is linked to Aadhaar. Investors changing their names can skip submitting separate proof if their updated names already appear in both their PAN and Aadhaar records.

Overseas Citizen of India cardholders and foreign nationals living in India can skip providing proof of an overseas address if the firm verifies proof of their Indian residential address. To help investors use their records with another firm, either their current or permanent address can be checked against its source, provided the other required checks are met.

SEBI said several revised rules would also apply to individuals living outside India in countries that comply with Financial Action Task Force standards. The regulator directed KYC Registration Agencies to issue instructions on how to implement the changes within 30 days of the circular.

SEBI will limit access to KYC information for firms that no longer have an account relationship with a client. Firms other than mutual funds must notify KYC Registration Agencies within five working days of an account closure. Mutual funds or their registrars must report clients whose balances across all their fund accounts have stayed at zero for six months.

Quick Read

Two men charged after break-in at royal estate

LONDON

Two men have been charged with burglary and trespassing following a break-in at the country residence of Britain's Prince William and his wife, Kate, police said on Wednesday.Norfolk Constabulary identified the accused as Mirgen Doku, 34, and Arilen Ndoci, 32. They face charges of entering a dwelling with intent to steal and trespassing on a protected site. They are due to appear before Norwich Magistrates' Court.Police were called on Monday night after reports of suspicious activity at a property on the royal family's Sandringham estate in Norfolk, eastern England. The Sun newspaper reported that the incident involved Anmer Hall, a 10-bedroom country house gifted to William and Kate by the late Queen Elizabeth II as a wedding present in 2011.

The property was unoccupied at the time. William and Kate use it for holidays and short breaks, while their main residence is on the Windsor Castle estate.

Uyghur Congress seeks probe into Urumchi fire

MUNICH

The World Uyghur Congress (WUC) has marked four years since the deadly November 24, 2022, fire in Urumchi, China, demanding an independent investigation and accountability for the deaths.The fire broke out in a predominantly Uyghur residential building during strict COVID-19 lockdowns. Chinese authorities reported 10 deaths and nine injuries, while Radio Free Asia cited sources claiming the death toll could be as high as 44.WUC President Turgunjan Alawdun urged Chinese authorities to publish investigation findings, provide answers to affected families and protect witnesses from retaliation.The organisation said lockdown restrictions may have delayed evacuations and rescue efforts, allegations disputed by local authorities.

South Korea plans tougher laws against domestic violence

SEOUL

South Korean President Lee Jae Myung on Wednesday announced plans to revise laws to ensure domestic violence offenders can be punished even when victims refuse to file complaints or seek prosecution. Marking the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, Lee said protecting women from violence was the government's responsibility. He said authorities would soon announce additional measures.Under existing laws, offenders can avoid punishment if victims oppose prosecution, raising concerns that victims may face pressure from abusers.The announcement follows a police review of 44,540 cases involving domestic violence, stalking and relationship-related crimes. Police identified 5,068 cases as high-risk and secured 80 arrest warrants.Lee said the government must prevent further violence and protect victims despite warning signs and requests for help.

Merz says Russia wants more than Ukraine

Merz said supporting Ukraine also protects Germany, adding that Germany is learning from Ukraine's civilian and defence technology experience.

BERLIN

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz on Wednesday warned that Russia posed an increasing threat to European security, defending Germany's continued military and financial support for Ukraine during a debate on the country's 2027 budget.

Addressing the Bundestag, Germany's lower house of parliament, Merz said Russia's actions extended beyond Ukraine and were creating security concerns across Europe.

"Russia knows exactly what it wants. And Russia wants more than Ukraine," he said, accusing Moscow of increasing tensions in the Baltic region, Poland and the Black Sea, as well as in cyberspace and within Germany.

Russia has repeatedly denied seeking military confrontation with NATO countries. Moscow says its actions in Ukraine are aimed at protecting its national security.

Merz said supporting Ukraine was also necessary to protect Germany. He added that Germany was learning from Ukraine's experience in civilian and defence technology.Germany has been Europe's largest military supporter of Ukraine since Russia launched its full-scale invasion in February 2022.



200bn

euros by 2030: Germany's planned defence spending, 3.7% of national output

> **"Russia knows exactly what it wants. And Russia wants more than Ukraine."**
>
> — **Friedrich Merz,** German Chancellor

Berlin's Defence & Budget Strategy

- Escalating Regional Threats: Addressing the Bundestag during the 2027 budget debate, Chancellor Friedrich Merz accused Moscow of stoking tensions in the Baltic region, Poland, the Black Sea, cyberspace, and inside Germany.
- Strategic Ukraine Aid: Merz defended continued military and financial backing for Kyiv—despite opposition from parties like AfD and Die Linke—arguing it protects Germany while providing vital civilian and defence tech insights.
- Domestic Public Divide: As Europe's largest military supporter of Ukraine since February 2022, Berlin faces waning public backing amid high living costs, with a recent poll showing a narrow majority against further military aid.
- Long-Term Rearmament: Germany plans to raise defence spending above €200 billion (3.7% of GDP) by 2030 to meet NATO goals, while urging EU leaders to prioritize security and competitiveness in the 2028–2034 EU budget.

Bangladesh wage hike fails to end garment workers' protests

DHAKA

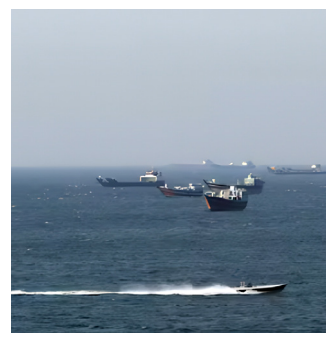
Bangladesh has approved a 36% increase in the minimum monthly wage for garment workers, raising it from 12,500 taka to 17,000 taka (around $138). However, the decision has failed to satisfy workers, triggering fresh protests and clashes with police near the capital, Dhaka.

The government-appointed six-member wage board approved the revised pay structure through a 4-2 vote after nearly 12 hours of negotiations. Workers had initially demanded 32,000 taka before reducing their demand to 18,000 taka. Factory owners, meanwhile, increased their offer from 15,000 taka to 17,000 taka.

Under the new four-grade structure, monthly wages will range from 17,000 taka for Grade 4 workers to 21,500 taka for Grade 1 workers. The revised wages will take effect from December 1, with workers expected to receive their increased salaries from January. Despite the announcement, workers blocked a major highway in Gazipur, a garment manufacturing hub, prompting police to use tear gas and sound grenades to disperse protesters.

The Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) reported that 397 factories could not operate on Tuesday, while another 84 remained closed.

Iran says it can withstand US naval blockade



Vessels at sea (file photo)

DUBAI

Iran's government has said it is prepared to deal with a US naval blockade, claiming that increased trade through its other borders will help maintain supplies. The government is also taking steps to control rising prices as the country faces a sharp increase in inflation.

Iran's First Vice President, Mohammad Reza Aref, said on Wednesday that the country was not worried about the US blockade because the movement of goods through non-southern borders had increased.

He said the country's reserves of essential goods were strong and supplies were sufficient. However, he did not provide figures to support the claim.

The United States reimposed its naval blockade on Iranian ports in July. Earlier in November, it also announced Task Force Iron Gate to restrict the movement of weapons and sanctioned materials across Iran's land borders and the Caspian Sea.

Iran has been facing severe inflation amid the nearly nine-month-long war. Food prices have recorded a particularly sharp increase, adding to the financial difficulties faced by ordinary people.

Aref said the government was working to prevent further increases in the prices of essential goods for at least three months.

In a separate meeting, President Masoud Pezeshkian said the government planned to allocate more funds and use savings from energy consumption to improve living conditions in poorer communities.

Official figures from Iran's Statistical Centre showed that consumer prices in October were 88.7% higher than the same month last year. The annual average inflation rate reached 76.8%, while food and beverage prices increased by 112.6%.

The figures highlight the pressure on Iranian households as the government attempts to manage rising living costs while dealing with the effects of the war and US restrictions.

Iran's inflation

Food, drinks	112.6%
October	88.7%
Annual avg	76.8%

Figures: Statistical Centre of Iran

Ramaphosa wins court relief in cash theft case

JOHANNESBURG

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa won a major legal reprieve on Wednesday after the Western Cape High Court overturned a parliamentary panel report that had raised the possibility of impeachment proceedings against him over the 2020 theft of $580,000 from his farm.

The court ruled that the panel's 2022 findings were unlawful, stating that it had exceeded its authority and made serious legal errors. Judge Nolwazi Mabindla-Boqwana said the panel had misunderstood its responsibilities and considered matters beyond its legal powers.

The case, known as the 'Farmgate' scandal, began after $580,000 was stolen from a sofa at Ramaphosa's ranch. The President has maintained that the money came from the sale of buffaloes and has denied any wrongdoing.

The parliamentary panel had accused him of failing to report the theft properly, violating constitutional provisions relating to paid work at his farm and involving presidential security personnel in police-related duties.

The ruling removes the 2022 report that had formed the basis for possible impeachment proceedings, giving Ramaphosa relief from the allegations.

The controversy had become a political challenge for Ramaphosa, who came to power in 2018 promising to fight corruption and improve the image of the African National Congress (ANC).



Cyril Ramaphosa (file photo)

THE RULING

Panel's 2022 report unlawful

- It exceeded its authority and made serious legal errors
- Impeachment committee puts its work on hold

The court's decision comes after the Constitutional Court revived the impeachment process in May 2026, following a ruling that invalidated an earlier parliamentary vote to stop the proceedings. The Western Cape High Court had temporarily halted the inquiry in July while considering Ramaphosa's legal challenge.

The parliamentary impeachment committee has now put its work on hold while awaiting legal advice on the impact of the latest judgment.

Ramaphosa, who has been President since 2018, has denied wrongdoing throughout the controversy. He is serving his second term, which is due to end in 2029.

Colombian forces rescue hostages after supermarket siege

BOGOTA

Colombian security forces rescued all hostages held by armed men at an Exito supermarket in Cartagena early Wednesday, ending a day-long siege. One of the captors was killed during the operation, government officials said.

Around 30 people were initially taken hostage after an unsuccessful attempt by armed men to hijack an armoured vehicle carrying cash from a shopping mall. Ten hostages were released on Tuesday before security forces launched the final rescue operation.

President Abelardo de la Espriella announced that the National Police and military forces had jointly rescued all remaining hostages. He said one of the captors was killed after refusing an opportunity to surrender. The identities of the attackers and hostages were not immediately disclosed.

The incident took place at an Exito supermarket in the La Castellana neighbourhood of Cartagena. The store's management said the safety of its employees and customers remained its priority.



Police outside an Exito supermarket (file photo)

Meanwhile, Cartagena's Rafael Nunez Airport briefly suspended aircraft landings for around 45 minutes as security forces used one of its runways during the operation.

In a separate incident, a car bomb exploded near government offices in Villavicencio, injuring 22 people and damaging around 500 properties, including homes and businesses. Mayor Alexander Baquero Sanabria said most injuries were minor, while one person was recovering after surgery.

The government blamed the bombing on dissidents of the former Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) who rejected the 2016 peace agreement.

President de la Espriella warned those responsible that they would face consequences.

Two attacks

- **Cartagena:** About 30 taken hostage; all freed, one captor killed
- **Villavicencio:** Car bomb injures 22, damages about 500 properties

Eisenkot bloc targets new Israeli government by next week

JERUSALEM

An opposition bloc led by Gadi Eisenkot is aiming to form a new government in Israel and complete its swearing-in by the end of next week, according to media reports. Israel's Channel 12 reported that Wednesday would be the final possible day for the ceremony.

A source within the bloc said the leaders were determined to complete the process without using the full waiting period allowed by law. The swearing-in could reportedly take place within 24 hours of announcing the formation of the government.

48 Eisenkot's bloc

53 Netanyahu's alliance

19 Arab-led parties

Yisrael Beytenu leader Avigdor Liberman also expressed confidence that Eisenkot would form a coalition with a clear Jewish majority by the end of next week.

He said negotiations with the ultra-Orthodox United Torah Judaism (UTJ) party were progressing well.

The developments follow a coalition agreement signed between Eisenkot's Yashar party and Liberman's Yisrael Beytenu. Liberman said details of the agreement would be released after a legal review.

Eisenkot is also seeking agreements with Naftali Bennett's B'Yachad party and Yair Golan's Democrats.

Coalition hurdles

However, efforts to form a coalition have faced difficulties over whether to include Netanyahu's Likud party, ultra-Orthodox groups or Arab-led parties. The Democrats suspended negotiations with Eisenkot on Tuesday, citing his continued discussions with Likud and a lack of progress towards an alternative government.

Democrats leader Yair Golan urged opposition parties to set aside their differences and form a government without Netanyahu. He said the Prime Minister could be replaced immediately if opposition leaders showed political flexibility.

Deadline December 6

Eisenkot's bloc currently has 48 seats in the 120-member Knesset, while Netanyahu's alliance holds 53.

29 miners feared trapped after Indonesia mine flooding

BOGOR

At least 29 miners are feared trapped underground after heavy rainfall flooded an unauthorised gold mine in Indonesia's West Java province, rescue officials said on Wednesday.

The miners were searching for gold in a mining area in Bogor regency when the Ciseureuh River overflowed on Monday, sending water into the mine shaft. Authorities have not confirmed whether anyone managed to escape or provided information about the miners' condition.

The mine shaft is estimated to be around 100 metres deep and is located in a mountainous area south of the capital, Jakarta.

Rescue teams have deployed water pumps to drain the flooded shaft and are attempting to block openings through which groundwater continues to enter the mine.

Desiana Kartika Bahari, chief of the Jakarta Search and Rescue Agency, said the water level had not yet decreased and draining the shaft could take considerable time.

She said the depth of the shaft, narrow access and poor lighting were creating difficulties for rescue teams. Officials are assessing the safest approach to reach the trapped miners.

Illegal and informal mining activities are common in Indonesia, where thousands depend on them for their livelihood despite dangerous working conditions. Miners face risks from flooding, landslides and tunnel collapses.

SWISS ENVOY OUSTED

North Korea expels Swiss envoy over sanctions dispute

SEOUL

North Korea has ordered the head of Switzerland's diplomatic office in Pyongyang, Sylvain Astier, to leave the country within 48 hours following a dispute over sanctions imposed on a North Korean children's camp.

North Korea's Foreign Ministry announced the decision on Wednesday, describing Switzerland's sanctions against the Songdowon International Children's Camp as a hostile act. The ministry summoned Astier and handed him a notice asking him to close the diplomatic office, according to the state-run Korean Central News Agency (KCNA).

The expulsion comes less than a month after Switzerland reopened its diplomatic office in Pyongyang following a visit by Swiss Foreign Minister Ignazio Cassis.

Open, then shut

- **2020** Swiss office in Pyongyang closes (COVID-19)
- **OCTOBER 30** Cassis reopens it on a visit to Pyongyang
- **WEDNESDAY** Astier given 48 hours to leave

The dispute began after Switzerland added the children's camp to its sanctions list. Western allegations link the camp to the transfer of children from Russian-occupied areas of Ukraine. North Korea rejected the sanctions, with Kim Yo Jong, the sister of leader Kim Jong Un, accusing Switzerland of violating the country's sovereignty.



A North Korean flag (file photo)

North Korea said the sanctions interfered with its responsibility to provide children with cultural and recreational opportunities.

The Swiss government said its decision to impose sanctions was separate from the reopening of its diplomatic office. Switzerland said the office was reopened to maintain communication with countries, even when disagreements existed over certain issues.

Swiss Foreign Minister Ignazio Cassis officially reopened the office during his visit to Pyongyang on October 30. The office had remained closed since 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

South Korean professor Lim Eul-chul said North Korea's decision sent a warning to countries, including the United States, that were seeking to restore diplomatic contacts. He said Pyongyang appeared unwilling to improve relations while sanctions remained in place.

Meanwhile, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un recently received the credentials of new ambassadors from 10 countries, including Russia and Sweden. He said North Korea wanted to expand relations with countries that respected its sovereignty.

India women's hockey rises to record fifth in the world

India's women's hockey team rose to fifth after beating China 6-2 at the Asian Champions Trophy in Bhopal



THE CLIMB India's best FIH world rankings

9th 2018 | **8th** 2021 | **6th** 2022, 2023 | **5th** 2026

CH NEWS, BHOPAL

The Indian women's hockey team has reached fifth place in the latest International Hockey Federation (FIH) World Rankings, setting a new record. The achievement followed a 6-2 victory over China in the Madhya Pradesh Women's Asian Champions Trophy Bhopal 2026.

The FIH rankings were introduced in October 2003. India's previous best was sixth, achieved in May-June 2022 after a strong FIH Pro League campaign and reached again in 2023. The team had earlier risen to eighth after finishing fourth at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. Before that, its high was ninth in 2018, following a quarter-final appearance at the Women's Hockey World Cup.

The milestone caps a successful year for the team, coached by Sjoerd Marijne. India qualified for the FIH Women's World Cup and won the FIH Nations Cup. It then finished fifth at the Women's Hockey World Cup, its best result since 1974.

India also ended a 44-year wait by winning the Asian Games gold medal and secured direct qualification for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics. These achievements strengthened the country's standing among the leading sides in international women's hockey.

Hockey India President Dilip Tirkey congratulated the players and support staff, calling the fifth-place ranking a proud moment. He credited their hard work, commitment and belief for the achievement.

Hockey India Secretary-General Bhola Nath Singh praised the team's determination throughout the year. He said the Nations Cup victory, Asian Games gold and World Cup performance had given supporters reasons to celebrate. Singh called the ranking an important step and expressed confidence that the team could achieve more milestones.

Ronaldo nets 987th career goal for Al Nassr



987 CAREER GOALS | 13 SHORT OF 1,000

CH NEWS, RIYADH

Portuguese football superstar Cristiano Ronaldo continued his pursuit of the historic 1,000-goal milestone by scoring his 987th professional goal in Al Nassr's 2-1 victory over Al Sadd in the AFC Champions League Elite.

The match was played at Al Awwal Park in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Ronaldo opened the scoring for Al Nassr in the 13th minute by converting a penalty. He had won the spot-kick after being fouled inside the penalty area.

Al Sadd responded quickly, with Mohammed Waad scoring the equaliser in the 22nd minute following a corner. The match remained level at 1-1 until half-time.

Ronaldo appeared to score again in the 35th minute, but his effort was ruled out following a video assistant referee (VAR) review because of an offside position.

Al Sadd suffered another setback when Mohammed Waad received a red card during first-half stoppage time, leaving the visiting team with ten players for the remainder of the match.

17 AFC Champions League Elite goals, a club record

Al Nassr took advantage of their numerical superiority after the break. Ronaldo's former Portugal teammate João Félix scored the winning goal in the 52nd minute with an impressive strike, securing all three points for the Saudi Arabian club.

The victory was particularly important for Ronaldo, who had missed a penalty in Al Nassr's previous 3-1 defeat against Al Ahli in the Saudi Pro League.

With this latest goal, Ronaldo moved to 987 career goals, leaving him just 13 goals short of the remarkable 1,000-goal milestone.

Al Nassr secured their third win in four matches in the competition, collecting nine points in the league stage.

Juventus and AC Milan target BRUNO FERNANDES



CH NEWS, MANCHESTER

Italian football giants Juventus and AC Milan are reportedly interested in signing Manchester United captain and Portugal midfielder Bruno Fernandes, whose current contract with the English club expires in June 2027.

Juventus have expressed interest in bringing the experienced midfielder to Italy. The report, originally published by Italian newspaper Tuttosport, suggests that the club is monitoring his contract situation closely.

AC Milan are also said to be interested in Fernandes if he becomes available as a free agent at the end of the season. Milan manager Ruben Amorim, who previously worked with Fernandes at Manchester United, could play a role in attracting the Portuguese international. Both are also represented by the same agency.

Fernandes recently confirmed that Manchester United had offered him a new contract. However, discussions have been put on hold as the club focuses on improving its performances. He said that the present priority is winning matches rather than discussing his future.

Manchester United also have the option to extend his existing contract by another year, which could keep him at Old Trafford until June 2028.

The 32-year-old joined Manchester United from Sporting Lisbon in January 2020 for around £65 million. Since arriving, he has made 342 appearances, scoring 113 goals and providing 111 assists across competitions.

Fernandes has previously played for Italian clubs Novara, Udinese and Sampdoria, making a possible return to Italy an interesting prospect.

Sporting Lisbon could also be an option, as Fernandes has previously expressed his willingness to return to his former club. However, no official agreement with any interested club has been announced.

LINKED WITH HIS FUTURE

- **JUVENTUS** Monitoring his contract situation closely
- **AC MILAN** Interested if he becomes a free agent
- **SPORTING LISBON** He has expressed willingness to return

Bumrah climbs to joint second in Test rankings

India's Jasprit Bumrah climbed to joint second among Test bowlers, while South Africa captain Temba Bavuma moved to third among batters.



CH NEWS, DUBAI

Indian fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah has moved up three places to joint second in the latest ICC Men's Test Player Rankings following his impressive performance against New Zealand in the first Test. South Africa captain Temba Bavuma has also improved his position, reaching third in the Test batting rankings.

Bumrah claimed five wickets in the first Test against New Zealand, which ended in a draw. His performance helped him share second place with England fast bowler Ollie Robinson. Australia's Mitchell Starc continues to lead the bowling rankings, holding a 25-point advantage over the two bowlers.

South Africa's Kagiso Rabada also improved his position, climbing two places to sixth among Test bowlers after taking eight wickets in the first Test against Bangladesh. Pakistan's Mohammad Abbas moved up two places to 12th following his performance against Sri Lanka in Rawalpindi.

In the batting rankings, Bavuma gained one place to reach third after scoring an unbeaten 68 against Bangladesh. England's Harry Brook and Joe Root continue to occupy the first and second positions respectively.

India's batters also made progress in the latest update. Rishabh Pant moved up one place to sixth, captain Shubman Gill climbed three places to seventh, and Yashasvi Jaiswal gained five places to reach ninth. All three Indian players are now among the top ten Test batters.

New Zealand's Glenn Phillips rose 13 places to a career-best 17th, while South Africa's Ryan Rickelton reached joint 15th. Sri Lanka's Sonal Dinusha moved up four places to 19th. These changes reflect strong performances in recent Test matches.

In ODI rankings, England's Ben Duckett climbed to fourth after scoring a century against Australia, while Will Jacks, Gus Atkinson and Liam Dawson advanced too.

IN FOCUS

South Africa's Kagiso Rabada and New Zealand's Glenn Phillips also improved their positions in the Test all-rounders' rankings, reaching 10th and 12th respectively. England's Ben Duckett climbed to fourth among ODI batters after scoring a century against Australia. Several England players also gained positions in the latest ODI and T20I rankings.

TEST RANKINGS who moved this week

BOWLERS			BATTERS		
1	Mitchell Starc (AUS)		1	Harry Brook (ENG)	
2=	**Jasprit Bumrah (IND)**	▲3	2	Joe Root (ENG)	
2=	Ollie Robinson (ENG)		3	Temba Bavuma (SA)	▲1
6	Kagiso Rabada (SA)	▲2	6	**Rishabh Pant (IND)**	▲1
12	Mohammad Abbas (PAK)	▲2	7	**Shubman Gill (IND)**	▲3
			9	**Yashasvi Jaiswal (IND)**	▲5
			17	Glenn Phillips (NZ)	▲13

Starc leads by 25 points
▲ places gained in the latest update

Qatar sets 27-lap limit for F1 tyres

LAPS 1–27 FIRST SET | **LAPS 28–54 SECOND SET** | 55–57

Pirelli has capped tyre sets at 27 laps for Qatar's 2026 Grand Prix, making at least two pit stops mandatory.

CH NEWS, LUSAIL

Formula 1 tyre supplier Pirelli has introduced a maximum of 27 laps for every tyre set at the 2026 Qatar Grand Prix, requiring drivers to make at least two pit stops during the 57-lap race at Lusail International Circuit.

The restriction is a precaution linked to the circuit's demanding layout. Lusail features 16 corners, including fast turns that place lateral loads on the tyres. High temperatures and the track's characteristics also contribute to tread wear and thermal stress, particularly on the front-left tyre.

Pirelli said the decision was taken jointly with the FIA and Formula 1. The limit applies to each set across the race weekend, not only to laps completed during Sunday's Grand Prix. Mileage accumulated in practice and qualifying therefore counts if that set is used again.

Laps completed under the Safety Car or Virtual Safety Car also count. During the race, every lap from the start signal to the chequered flag is included. Reconnaissance laps, formation laps and laps completed after the race are excluded. In other sessions, a lap started but not completed is counted as a full lap.



The 27-lap allowance is two laps higher than the 25-lap limit imposed in 2025. Pirelli attributed the increase to stronger tyre construction and lower aerodynamic loads generated by the 2026 cars.

The company has selected its hardest compounds: C1 hard, C2 medium and C3 soft. The restriction means teams cannot complete the 57-lap distance using only two sets, making at least two tyre changes compulsory.

The rule is designed to prevent tyres from being used beyond their intended life and reduce stress on their structure. Teams must monitor each set's accumulated mileage while planning their race strategies.

Indian bodybuilder wins silver at natural Olympia



CH NEWS, LAS VEGAS

Indian natural bodybuilder Shodhan Rai won a silver medal at Natural Olympia 2026 in Las Vegas, adding another international achievement to his career spanning more than three decades.

The Bengaluru-based athlete has represented India in 39 international competitions and secured several podium finishes at events including the World Cup, Universe, International Pacific Rim and Asia Pacific championships. Rai is a second-generation bodybuilder with an extensive record in natural bodybuilding.

Earlier this month, Rai won two gold medals at the Iron Man World Natural Bodybuilding World Cup. He finished first in both the Junior Masters and Masters categories, strengthening his preparation for Natural Olympia. He had previously won eight medals at the competition, comprising two silver and six bronze medals.

Speaking after his latest achievement, Rai said winning another medal was a special moment after more than 30 years of competing. He added that representing India on the international stage remained a matter of pride, although he had aimed to win gold this year.

An INBA Hall of Fame inductee, Rai is also an Ekalavya Award recipient from the Karnataka government. He has worked as a fitness professional and consultant to several personalities, including Zerodha co-founder Nikhil Kamath.

Rai hopes to promote natural bodybuilding in India through greater institutional support and encourage young people to embrace fitness and clean sport.

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