CITY HILIGHTS

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SIR: 99.76L OUT OF K'TAKA VOTER ROLL

Final electorate falls to 4.54 crore from 5.5 crore; final list out amid intense protests by Oppn parties.

BENGALURU

Karnataka's final electoral roll after the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process was published on Tuesday, with the state losing about 99.76 lakh voters from its original electorate of 5,54,32,314 (5.5 crore), bringing the total electorate to 4,54,55,689 (4.54 crore).

About 86.56 lakh of these voters are in the 20-29 age group, while the number of new voters stands at 6.83 lakh.

The Special Intensive Revision (SIR) was carried out across all 224 Assembly constituencies in Karnataka. Enumeration forms were generated for the 5.54 crore electors whose names were on the rolls as of June 16, 2026. Of these, 4,46,35,975 electors, or 80.52%, submitted their forms to Booth Level Officers (BLOs).

The remaining 1,07,96,339 electors, whose enumeration forms were not submitted, were not included in the draft electoral roll, and electors were categorised under absent, permanently shifted, deceased and duplicate.

Of those not enumerated, 65,45,679 were categorised as permanently shifted, 19,00,926 as absent, 16,39,864 as deceased and 7,09,870 as already enrolled elsewhere or duplicate.

The Draft Electoral Rolls were published on August 24, 2026, with a total of 4,46,80,151 electors. During the claims and objections period, the election authorities recorded 10,08,038 additions, 1,88,324 deletions and 8,96,519 modifications or corrections. Of the 43,82,824 notices generated, 61,867 electors were marked ineligible for inclusion in the final roll.

Women account for 2,29,12,355 general electors, while men account for 2,25,40,493. There are 2,841 electors listed under the category of others. In the final list, about 86.56 lakh of these voters are in the 20-29 age group, while the number of new voters stands at 6.83 lakh.

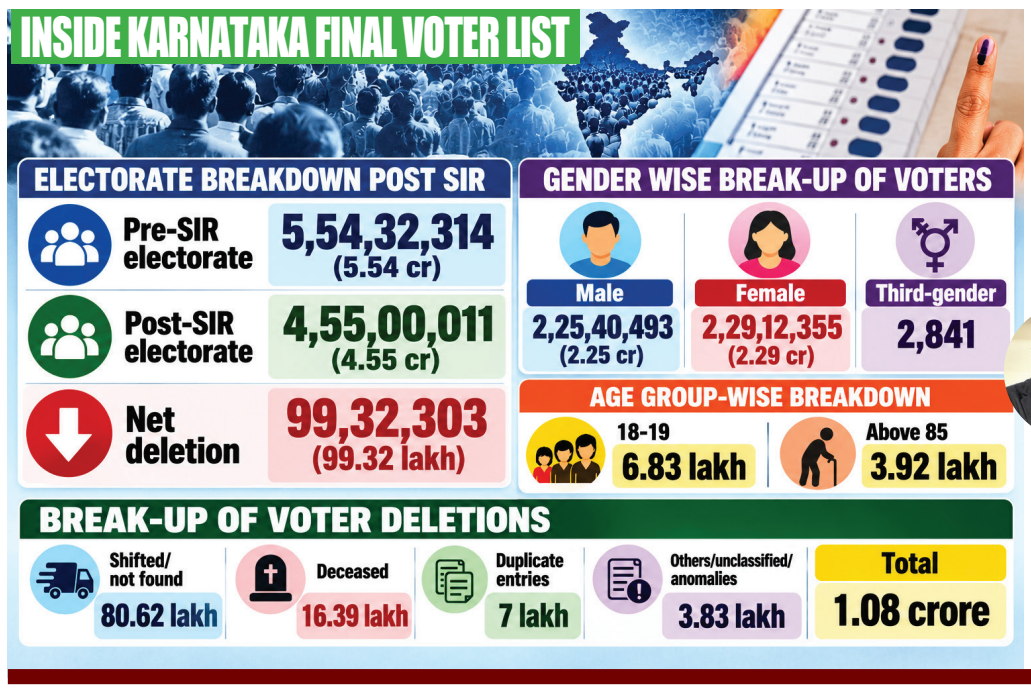
The number of young electors aged 18–19 increased from 3,70,341 in the draft roll to 6,83,364 in the final roll, an increase of 3,13,023. The final roll also includes 5,65,340 electors with disabilities and 3,92,134 electors aged 85 and above. The number of polling stations has increased from 59,050 to 60,923. They comprise 21,862 urban and 39,061 rural polling stations.

How to check name in list

Electors can check their names in the final roll through the Karnataka Chief Electoral Officer website, ceo.karnataka.gov.in, or download it from the Election Commission's voter services portal. Eligible citizens can apply for enrolment, corrections, changes of residence and other modifications through the prescribed forms or online portals.

SC defers hearing on pleas against CEO

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court, which is hearing multiple petitions against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and the decisions taken by the Election Commission of India during the ongoing SIR, has deferred the hearing by 10 days.



Those left out in final list can apply again: CEO

Bengaluru: Karnataka Chief Election Officer (CEO) V Anbukkumar on Tuesday said the final electoral roll reflected applications received, notices issued and hearings completed during the revision exercise. Addressing the media here on Tuesday, he said those not included in the list could continue to apply. "The electoral roll is on continuous updation; any eligible person can continue to apply using Form 6, 7, and 8. If you have been left out of the final roll, apply using Form 6."



Final list after 2 extensions

The enumeration phase began on June 30 and was granted two extensions. While it was originally scheduled to end on July 29, the CEO's office announced a 10-day extension to August 8 on July 15, owing to the large number of voters requiring ASDDO classification. The deadline was subsequently extended by another 10 days.

No eligible voter should be excluded from democratic process: CM

Belagavi: Reacting to the massive deletion of voters, Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Tuesday said no eligible voter should be excluded from the democratic process and urged people to check the final list and verify their names. He told reporters that the state government would examine possible action over the alleged misuse of Form 7 applications. "Whatever illegal activities have been carried out by opposition parties through Form 7 applications have to be made very clear," he said, adding that the government would examine the available options.



India should lead global innovation in emerging techs: PM

'Viksit Bharat to be built on strong foundations of scientific research and spirit of innovation'.

NEW DELHI

India is moving forward with a new mindset and newfound self-confidence in the field of science and technology, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday at the Emerging Science, Technology and Innovation Conclave (ESTIC)-2026.

Addressing the Emerging Science, Technology and Innovation Conclave 2026 in Delhi, the PM said the confidence and ambition of young Indian innovators reflected a change in the country's approach to science and technology.

"The scale at which the youth of India are thinking, and the confidence with which they are moving forward, is truly inspiring," PM Modi said, recalling his interaction with startup representatives before the event.

Modi said India had moved beyond an approach in which scientific and technological progress meant catching up with other countries. "Decades ago, there was a time when science and technology for India simply meant 'catch up'."

"When something was innovated in the world that technology would reach us several years later. We would adopt it, or make minor improvements to it and carry it forward."

"But today, 21st-century India is moving forward with a new mindset and renewed self-confidence," he said. "Now, our goal—for India, for the world, for today, and for tomorrow—is to create new technologies, define their direction, and build the capability to solve global challenges," he added.

Emphasising the need to develop rather than merely adopt new technologies, he said, "India must embrace the technologies of the future, innovate boldly, and lead the world in creating them."

The scale at which the youth of India are thinking, and the confidence with which they are moving forward, is truly inspiring.
Narendra Modi, Prime Minister



Modi's statement in short

Shift in mindset: India is moving from an era of merely adopting technology developed elsewhere to building original solutions for domestic and global challenges.

Focus sectors: Emphasis is placed on dedicated National Missions spanning semiconductors, quantum technologies, biotechnology, advanced materials, robotics, space, clean energy, and next-generation communications.

AI & security: Modi warned of AI-era cybersecurity threats to financial networks and national security, urging the creation of AI-based and quantum security solutions.

Viksit Bharat vision: Scientific research, discoveries, and bold innovation form the foundational pillars for achieving a developed nation.

CM BROKERS BREAKTHROUGH IN SUGARCANE PRICE DISPUTE

...Farmers to decide within two days.

BELAGAVI

Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Tuesday said the state government and sugarcane farmers had moved close to an agreement following extensive discussions involving farmer leaders, legislators, ministers, sugar factory representatives and government officials over the sugarcane pricing issue.

He told reporters here that the sugar factories had agreed to abide by the rate fixed following the discussions and make the subsequent payments to farmers accordingly. Emphasising the government's position, he said the welfare and survival of farmers remained its priority.

"Whatever rate is fixed, whatever is to be given after that fixation, our factories have agreed to it. For the government, farmers are more important than anyone; they must survive – that is the decision. So we all sat and discussed for two days. They have asked for two more days; they have come close to an agreement. Today we have come to a happy ending. In two more days they themselves will discuss and come to a decision," he said.

Shivakumar added that the discussions had brought the stakeholders close to a resolution, with farmers and sugar factory representatives expected to meet again within two days to reach a decision. He further stated that the next meeting could take place in Belagavi or Bengaluru, depending on their convenience and assured farmers of the government's continued support.



I will meet Pralhad Joshi and discuss with him. The Central Cabinet has to take this decision. I hope they will also understand the problem of the farmers and they will come out with a formula.
DK Shivakumar, Chief Minister

We have come very close to resolving this as soon as possible. In two more days, the factories and farmers will sit together and take a decision – whether in Belagavi or in Bengaluru, at their convenience. From our side, whatever encouragement has to be given to farmers, we will stand in support of them. I am committed to go and talk to the Central Government at any time if needed," he added.

On the ongoing sugarcane farmers' protest, the Chief Minister said the state government had already held discussions with sugar factories and would now consult its officials before taking further steps. He stressed that the Centre's involvement was necessary to resolve the pricing issue, as the factories would not agree to a floor price without the sugar price being fixed.

"We have discussed with the factories. Now we have to discuss with our officers. Now, without taking the Central Government into confidence, we cannot do anything," he said.

He further said the problems being faced by sugarcane growers have arisen because the Centre has not increased the MSP of sugar for the past 10 years.

Union Food and Civil Supplies Minister Pralhad Joshi also understands the difficulties being faced by farmers. "Joshi has assured us that the MSP will be increased and has constituted a committee. As promised to farmers, I came to Belagavi and held meetings over the last two days. Farmers agitation was now nearing an amicable resolution," he said.

"Farmers and the management of sugar factories will decide the price. It has been decided to enter into a tripartite agreement involving farmers, sugar factories and government. We thank farmers for withdrawing the call for a state bandh. We are confident that Union Minister Joshi will help safeguard the livelihoods of farmers in the state," he added.

DETAILS OF NEGOTIATIONS

Participants: Around 70 legislators (MLAs and MPs), 9 ministers, representatives of 79 sugar factories, finance officials, and farmer leaders from across Karnataka attended the talks at Suvarna Vidhana Soudha and the Circuit House.

Core agreement: Both sides reached an agreement in principle on a pricing mechanism tied to the Centre's decision on the Minimum Selling Price (MSP) of sugar.

Next steps: Farmer representatives and factory owners are taking two days to discuss the proposal internally before announcing their final decision.

Centre's involvement: Shivakumar plans to meet Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Pralhad Joshi to press for a revision of the sugar MSP and address broader pricing constraints.

Jan Suraaj Party functionary, missing from train, found dead

RANCHI

The Railway Police on Tuesday found the body of a functionary of the Prashant Kishor-led Jan Suraaj Party (JSP), who went missing while travelling on a train to Patna, was found near railway tracks in Ranchi.

His body was found near the railway tracks in Jarwadih village, close to pole number 379/18 on the Ranchi-Muri line, as per the police. Devpalik Gupta (31), a digital communications manager for the party, went missing from the Ranchi-Patna Janshatabdi Express on Monday, they said.

"Preliminary findings suggest that he died after accidentally falling from the moving train," police said.



Gupta's colleague Gautam Kumar told reporters that they had boarded the train at Ranchi railway station on Monday and it departed around 2.25 pm. About 10 minutes later, Gupta, an alumnus of the Indian Institute of Mass Communication, New Delhi, told his companions that he was going to the pantry car to get something to eat but did not return, Kumar said.

"We then left our berth and went to the pantry car next to our coach, but we did not find him. We checked every coach, but he was nowhere on the train," he said.

When the train stopped at Muri Junction, they lodged a complaint with the Government Railway Police, following which a search was started.

Bombay HC stays notice asking actor Imran to leave India

Mumbai: Bollywood actor Imran Khan got interim relief on Tuesday when the Bombay High Court stayed the notice directing him to leave India until the next hearing on November 2.

The matter is being heard by a division bench comprising Chief Justice Mahesh Chandra Tripathi and Justice Advait Sethna. Khan (43), the nephew of actor-filmmaker Aamir Khan, is a US citizen and holds an Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) card. On October 10, Khan and his girlfriend, Lekha Washington, joined protests at August Kranti Maidan near Nana Chowk in Mumbai's Grant Road area, demanding the removal of CEC Gyanesh Kumar over alleged irregularities in the SIR of the voter list. Subsequently, the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO) of the Mumbai police's Special Branch issued a Leave India Notice (LIN), directing Khan to leave India by October 28 for participating in the protests. Khan has challenged the notice in the Bombay High Court.

NEW FASTAG RULE

Live within 20 km of toll plaza? Here's a good news

...You can get concessional local pass from Nov 1

NEW DELHI

In a move to ease daily commuting costs for people living near national highway toll plazas, the Government of India has introduced a 'Concessional Local Pass' for eligible non-commercial vehicle owners residing within 20 km of a fee plaza. The new provision will come into effect from November 1, 2026.

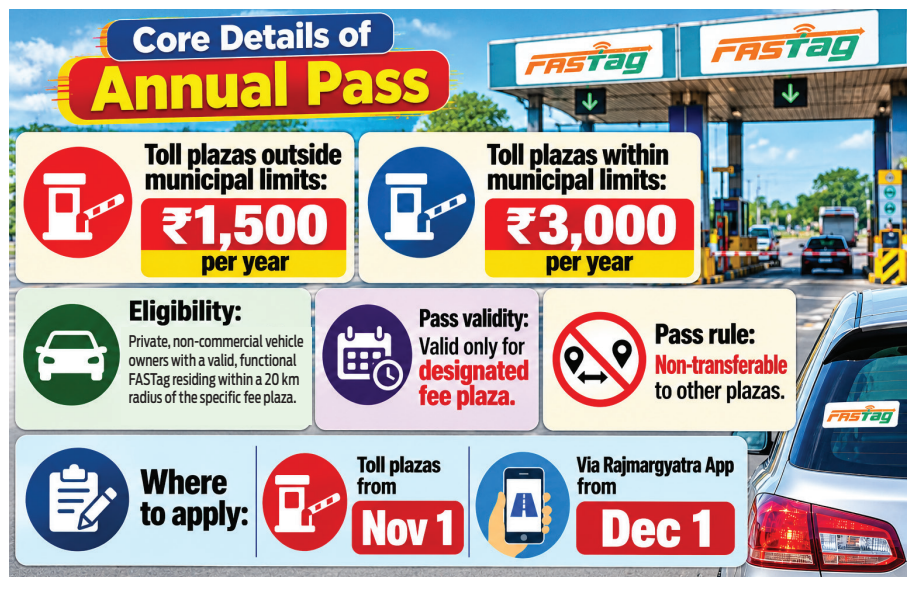
Under the scheme, eligible vehicle owners with a valid and functional FASTag can opt for the annual local pass instead of the existing monthly pass for travel through a specific toll plaza. The pass will be valid only at that particular plaza and cannot be transferred to any other location.

The annual fee has been fixed at Rs 1,500 for plazas located outside municipal or local town areas and Rs 3,000 for those situated within such limits. The rates may be revised by the Central government every year, with changes taking effect from April 1.

The concessional pass will not be available on national highways or expressways that operate under a closed user-fee collection system. It will also not be issued at plazas where a service road or alternative route is available for local commuters. The annual local pass will be available at eligible toll plazas from November 1, 2026, and through the Rajmargyatra App from December 1, 2026.

The amendment has been notified through the National Highways Fee (Determination of Rates and Collection) (Fifth Amendment) Rules, 2026, under the National Highways Act, 1956.

With more than 13 crore FASTags already issued across the country, the government said the new option aims to make travel more economical for local residents and enhance ease of commuting and 'Ease of Living' for citizens living near national highway fee plazas.

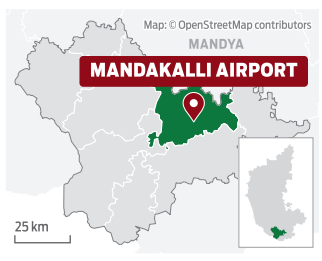


Tiger on the prowl? Paw marks spark panic in Marase village

CH NEWS, MYSURU

The suspected movement of a tiger near Marase village on the outskirts of Mysuru has triggered concern among residents after villagers spotted paw marks resembling those of the big cat in their agricultural fields on Tuesday.

According to sources, the pugmarks were noticed in the fields, raising fears that a tiger might have prowled through the area under the cover of darkness on Monday night in search of prey. The discovery has left villagers apprehensive, with many worried about the safety of people and livestock. The villagers alerted the Forest Department, whose personnel are keeping a close watch on the area to ascertain whether a tiger had indeed ventured into the fields. The latest development has once again drawn attention to the movement of big cats in the vicinity of Mysuru's Mandakalli Airport.



Mandakalli Airport: a tiger was detected inside its premises a few months ago

This is not the first reported instance of suspected tiger movement in the area. A few months ago, during a VVIP's visit, airport authorities reportedly detected a tiger inside the sprawling airport premises. Forest personnel subsequently combed the area to trace the animal but could not locate it. Since then, the Forest Department has remained on alert amid reports of big-cat movement in and around the airport.

While the pugmarks have heightened anxiety among villagers, confirmation of the animal's presence is awaited.


The paw marks spotted in a field near Marase village

Forest officials are maintaining surveillance to establish whether a tiger has entered the area and to prevent any possible human-wildlife conflict.

? NOT THE FIRST TIME

A few months ago, during a VVIP's visit, airport authorities reportedly detected a tiger inside the airport premises. Forest personnel combed the area but could not locate it

Harness senior citizens' wisdom for social development: VC

CH NEWS, MYSURU



Senior citizens should not be pushed to the margins of society; instead, their knowledge, wisdom and abilities must be utilised for social development, said University of Mysore Vice-Chancellor Prof. N.K. Lokanath.

Speaking after inaugurating the World Senior Citizens' Day celebrations and felicitation programme organised by the Senior Citizens' Council and the Senior Citizens' Trust here on Tuesday, the VC said elders are not merely older in age. They have witnessed numerous ups and downs in life and experienced hardships, losses, hard work, success, family responsibilities and social changes. Today's youth can access vast amounts of information through the internet, but experience is essential to transform information into knowledge. The life lessons imparted by senior citizens are invaluable treasures that are often unavailable in books, he added.

> **"This is not merely a relationship between two generations; it is a mutual exchange of knowledge and experience"**
>
> **— Prof. N.K. Lokanath,** Vice-Chancellor, University of Mysore

Prof. Lokanath said traditional agricultural practices, experiences of the monsoon, knowledge of the local environment, traditional knowledge of medicinal plants, folk arts, customs and methods of community living in rural society have been passed on to succeeding generations through senior citizens.

He emphasised that just as young people should have opportunities to learn from their elders, senior citizens should also be encouraged to understand new technologies and the changing world. "This is not merely a relationship between two generations; it is a mutual exchange of knowledge and experience," he said.

He said the experiences of senior citizens can teach younger generations how to resolve family problems, preserve relationships, manage life within financial limitations and remain courageous during difficult times. Their experience provides strength and wisdom to both families and society.

Later, retired IAS officer A.C. Lakshman was felicitated. Meritorious students Preethi, Nikhith Gowda, Tulasi, Yogindra, Harini and Raju were also presented with awards in recognition of their achievements and to encourage them.

Former director of the Kuvempu Institute of Kannada Studies at the University of Mysore, Prof. D.K. Rajendra; Senior Citizens' Trust chairman S.V. Gowdappa; Senior Citizens' Council President Dr. H.M. Nagaraju; secretary K.S. Krishna; Senior Citizens' Trust secretary Dr. N.K. Ramachandra Gowda and others were present.

CII Mysuru's SHE Leads 2026 reaches 10,162 young women in 19 colleges

CH NEWS, MYSURU



The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Mysuru Zone, through its HR/IR & DEI Panel, successfully concluded SHE Leads 2026: 10,000 Dreams. One Movement, a flagship initiative that reached 10,162 undergraduate women students across 19 colleges in one month, through 45 sessions led by 28 industry leaders and subject matter experts.

Designed to bridge the gap between academic learning and industry expectations, SHE Leads equipped young women with the knowledge, confidence and practical skills to navigate the evolving world of work.

Sessions covered leadership and career growth, AI and emerging technologies, corporate etiquette and workplace readiness, communication and soft skills, financial literacy, workplace safety and rights, health and wellbeing, POSH, entrepreneurship and job readiness. Students also gained practical insights into workplace expectations, careers and professional development through interactions with industry experts.

Commenting on the initiative, Preet Kushalappa Kodira, Convenor, HR/IR & DEI Panel, CII Mysuru, and AVP & Head – Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI), Infosys Ltd., said: "SHE Leads began with a simple ambition: to help young women step into the world of work with greater confidence, awareness and aspiration. Reaching over 10,000 students in just one month is a significant milestone, but the real impact lies in the possibilities we have helped open for them. This has truly been a collective movement, made possible by our educational institutions, industry leaders and speakers who came together to invest in the next generation of women professionals."

Building on this milestone, CII Mysuru aims to expand the initiative through continued collaboration with educational institutions and industry experts, reaching more young women with industry-relevant learning and exposure.

The initiative reinforces CII Mysuru's commitment to empowering young women, strengthening industry-academia partnerships and nurturing a confident, skilled and future-ready workforce.

10,162	19	45	28
women students	colleges	sessions	industry experts

VTU symposium on research and innovative trends in civil engineering on Oct 30

CH NEWS, MYSURU

The Department of Civil Engineering, Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU) Centre for PG Studies, Mysuru, will organise a One-Day National Symposium on "Research and Innovative Trends in Civil Engineering" on Friday, 30 October 2026, at the Seminar Hall, VTU CPGS, Sathagalli Layout, Mysuru.

Prof. Gali Madhavi Latha, Professor and Chair, Centre for Sustainable Technologies, Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, will inaugurate the symposium at 10 am and deliver the keynote address. Prof. S Vidyashankar, Vice-Chancellor, VTU, will preside over the inaugural function. Dr. Nagraj S Patil, Chairman, Department of Civil Engineering, VTU, Belagavi, will be the Special Invitee. The symposium is organised under the leadership of Dr. H M Nanjunda Swamy, Regional Director, VTU Regional Office and CPGS, Mysuru.

Prof. Madhavi Latha, the primary geotechnical consultant for the Chenab railway bridge – the highest railway bridge in the world – will speak on Research Opportunities in Civil Engineering. Dr. S Raghunath, Professor (Retired), BMSCE, Bengaluru, will present the Seismic Retrofitting of Victoria Public Hall, a Heritage Masonry Building in Chennai; Dr. K S Nanjunda Rao, Chief Research Scientist (Retired), IISc, Bengaluru, will speak on Emerging Materials in Civil Engineering; and Dr. G P Chandradhara, Structural Consultant and Professor (Retired), SJCE, Mysuru, will discuss Modelling Principles in RC Design.

The symposium addresses two pressing needs of the profession – infrastructure that is safer against hazards such as earthquakes, and construction with a smaller environmental footprint. It is open to faculty members, research scholars and students of civil engineering and to practising engineers from government departments and industry.

Symposium details

WHEN	Friday, October 30, from 10 am
WHERE	Seminar Hall, VTU CPGS, Sathagalli Layout, Mysuru
ENTRY	Free; registration at the venue from 9.30 am
CLOSE	Valedictory at 4.30 pm

The valedictory function will be held at 4.30 pm, with Dr. K Thippeswamy, Academic Senate Member, VTU, as Chief Guest and Dr. H M Nanjunda Swamy presiding. Participation is free. Registration will be held at the venue from 9.30 am.

The event is advised by Dr. S K Prasad, Professor, VVCE, Mysuru, and coordinated by Dr. Keerthi Gowda B S, Associate Professor, VTU CPGS, Mysuru.

Digital life certificates at pensioners' doorsteps

CH NEWS, MYSURU

The Department of Posts, through India Post Payments Bank (IPPB), is offering a doorstep service for submitting Digital Life Certificates to benefit crores of pensioners across Karnataka and the country.

Pensioners are required to submit a Life Certificate every year to ensure the uninterrupted disbursement of their pensions. To spare them the inconvenience of visiting offices in person, postal staff, including postmen and Gramin Dak Sevaks, will help them obtain Digital Life Certificates at their doorsteps within minutes using biometric authentication or the Face Authentication app.

The service is available to ordinary pensioners for a nominal fee of Rs 70. It is completely free for pensioners of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) and the Department of Telecommunications (DoT).

Special camps will be organised at all post offices from November 1 to facilitate the service. Eligible pensioners can contact their nearest postal staff with their Aadhaar number, mobile phone and PPO (Pension Payment Order) number to avail themselves of the facility, the Superintendent of Posts, Nanjangud Division, said in a press release.

Heritage walk pays tribute to veteran scribe Echanuru Kumar

CH NEWS, MYSURU

Mysuru's identity can be preserved only by remembering and protecting its heritage, said heritage expert Prof. N.S. Rangaraju.

A heritage walk was organised in memory of veteran journalist and heritage expert Echanuru Kumar, in collaboration with the Department of Archaeology, Museums and Heritage, Government of Karnataka.

Speaking during the walk, Prof. Rangaraju said Echanuru Kumar had helped people understand Mysuru's heritage in simple terms by drawing on historical records and documents. He had studied and interpreted thousands of documents preserved by the Karnataka Government at the Department of Archives in Mysuru and explained their significance to the public through his articles. He had also popularised the city's heritage by providing informative commentary during heritage walks, Rangaraju recalled.

Kumar, who was also a member of the Heritage Committee, had taken a firm stand in support of conserving Mysuru's iconic heritage structures, including the Lansdowne Bazaar building and Devaraja Market. He had emerged as a strong voice for their preservation, Rangaraju said.

Dr. Gavisiddaiah, retired director of the Department of Archives, said Kumar had set a benchmark in studying original archival documents. Driven by his passion as a journalist, Kumar focused his writing and public addresses on information drawn from historical records, he noted.

During the heritage walk, Prof. Rangaraju and Dr. Gavisiddaiah explained the historical significance and architectural features of several landmarks, beginning at the Town Hall and proceeding to the Silver Jubilee Clock Tower, Freemasons' Club, Ashoka Road, the circle featuring the statue of Chamarajendra Wadiyar X, and the Amba Vilas Palace.

They also answered questions from participants, providing information supported by historical documents.

Journalists, history enthusiasts and members of Echanuru Kumar's family, including Akshara M.K., Kiran N., Nachiketa K. and Ajith M.K., along with Seetharam, Guruprasad Tumbasoge, Rangaswamy Madapur, Sagar Jevoor, Shailajesh, Swarna Kittur, Mahesh Hiremath and Anikshita, participated in the heritage walk.



Sene seeks 60 pc job quota for Kannadigas in IT-BT sector

CH NEWS, MYSURU

Members of the Kannada Sene held a protest in front of the Old Deputy Commissioner's Office here on Tuesday, condemning IT and BT companies in Bengaluru for allegedly denying employment opportunities to local Kannadigas.

The protesters expressed anguish over a young woman's video in which she alleged that IT companies in Bengaluru were recruiting people from other States at lower salaries while neglecting local Kannadigas and those whose mother tongue is Kannada.

They welcomed the Chief Minister's warning that the government had taken the issue of injustice to Kannadigas in employment seriously and would take stringent action if any private company was found deliberately discriminating against them. "It is shameful that IT and BT companies operating in Karnataka, despite receiving land and electricity at concessional rates from the government and using the State's water and resources, are failing to provide employment opportunities to local Kannadigas," the protesters said.

They urged the State Government to make 60% reservation for Kannadigas in employment in IT-BT companies and the private sector mandatory.

The protesters also demanded that the government issue a white paper on employment opportunities for Kannadigas and promulgate an ordinance to enforce the proposed reservation.

The protest was led by district president Tejesh Lokesh Gowda. Prabhushankar, Vijayendra, Sindhuvalli Shivakumar, Hanumanthaiah, Bogadi Siddegowda, Honnegowda, Kumar Gowda, Krishnegowda, Shivaram, Girish, Ganesh Prasad, Darshan Gowda, Radhakrishna, Madhu Kumar, Mani, Shivaraj Nagendra, Prakash, Praveen B.M., Prabhakara and others were present.

Mini job fair in Mysuru on Oct 30

CH NEWS, MYSURU

The District Employment Exchange, Mysuru, will organise a mini job fair on October 30 to facilitate recruitment and expand employment opportunities.

The fair will begin at 10 a.m. at the District Employment Exchange office, No. 323, Sanmarga, 10th Main, Siddhartha Nagar, Mysuru.

Candidates can directly attend interviews for various vacant positions at two reputed organisations in Mysuru — Palace Soda and HDFC Life. Interested candidates may visit the District Employment Exchange at Siddhartha Nagar with the necessary documents to participate in the recruitment process.

For further information, candidates can contact the District Employment Exchange at 0821-2489972, said the Assistant Director of the District Employment Exchange in a press release.

Public struggle for Aadhaar services

CH NEWS, MYSURU



The Prajnavantha Nagarika Vedike (Forum of Concerned Citizens) has urged the district administration to take immediate steps to improve Aadhaar enrolment and correction services, citing the difficulties faced by the public due to inadequate facilities and delays.

Members of the forum visited the Deputy Commissioner's office and submitted a memorandum to Tahsildar Rekha, urging the authorities to ensure that Aadhaar-related services are provided promptly and efficiently.

Speaking on the occasion, forum president Kadakola Jagadish said the public was facing considerable hardship in accessing services such as new Aadhaar enrolment, correction of errors in existing cards and linking mobile numbers with Aadhaar.

The heavy rush at Aadhaar service centres has forced people to wait in long queues for extended periods. Senior citizens, persons with disabilities and specially abled people are among those facing greater difficulties, he said, urging the authorities to give them priority.

He called for the appointment of additional staff in proportion to public demand and the establishment of special Aadhaar service units to reduce overcrowding and delays.

Jagadish also stressed the need to organise special Aadhaar enrolment and correction camps at the gram panchayat and hobli levels. Such camps would help rural residents avoid repeated trips to urban centres even for minor corrections, saving them considerable time and money.

He urged the district administration and the officials concerned to work in coordination to ensure that essential Aadhaar services are accessible to everyone without unnecessary delays. Immediate measures should be taken to address public grievances and improve the overall delivery of Aadhaar services, he added.

Forum president Kadakola Jagadish, Doora Rajanna, Jayasimha Sridhar, Gagan Gowda, Dayananda Nayak, Srikantha Kaushik, Prajwal Pemmaiah, Srikanth Kashyap, Jatti Prasad, retired teacher Mahadevaswamy and others were present.

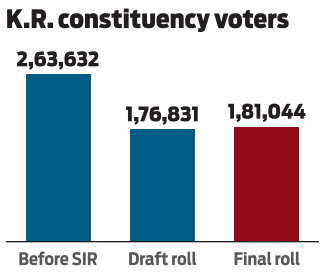
K.R. constituency records 1.81 lakh voters after SIR

CH NEWS, MYSURU

The Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) of the Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) convened a meeting with leaders and representatives of all political parties in the 216-Krishnaraja Assembly constituency to share details of the final electoral roll prepared under the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process.



K.R. constituency voters



During the meeting, detailed information was provided on the number of voters before the SIR exercise, at the time of publication of the draft electoral roll and in the final electoral roll.

According to the figures shared at the meeting, the constituency had 2,63,632 voters before the SIR exercise. The draft electoral roll contained 1,76,831 voters, while the final electoral roll recorded a total of 1,81,044 voters.

The final roll thus registered an increase of 4,213 voters compared with the draft roll. However, compared with the pre-SIR electoral roll, the final list showed a net reduction of 82,588 voters.

The final roll has 85,865 male, 95,162 female and 17 third-gender voters.

Final roll by gender	
85,865	MALE VOTERS
95,162	FEMALE VOTERS
17	THIRD-GENDER VOTERS

The political party representatives were briefed on the electoral roll statistics, with emphasis on transparency and coordination in the electoral process.

The ERO also thanked the Booth Level Officers (BLOs) of all political parties for their cooperation in the SIR exercise.

Narasimharaja constituency's final roll lists 2.36 lakh voters

CH NEWS, MYSURU

Members of the public have been urged to verify their names and other particulars in the electoral roll

The final electoral roll for the 218-Narasimharaja Assembly constituency in Mysuru was published on Tuesday, following the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls undertaken as per the directions of the Election Commission of India and under the guidance of the Deputy Commissioner and the Commissioner of the Mysuru City Corporation (MCC).



The revision process involved verification of voter details, inclusion of eligible voters, changes of address, correction of particulars and scrutiny and disposal of cases relating to discrepancies in the electoral roll.

Officials from MCC Zones 7, 8 and 9, Assistant Electoral Registration Officers, Additional Assistant Electoral Registration Officers, Revenue Officers, Booth Level Officer (BLO) supervisors and BLOs worked in coordination to complete the exercise.

As part of the SIR process, a meeting of representatives of various political parties was held at the Council Secretary's office at the MCC headquarters. The final electoral roll and copies of the relevant CDs were distributed to the political party representatives. The final electoral roll contains a total of 2,36,025 voters.

Members of the public have been urged to verify their names and other particulars in the electoral roll. Those requiring inclusion of names, correction of details or changes of address may submit applications as per the prescribed rules through the office of the concerned Electoral Registration Officer or the official voter service system.

Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) Venkatesh C. expressed gratitude to political party representatives, officials, staff and members of the public for their cooperation in maintaining the accuracy, transparency and credibility of the electoral roll.

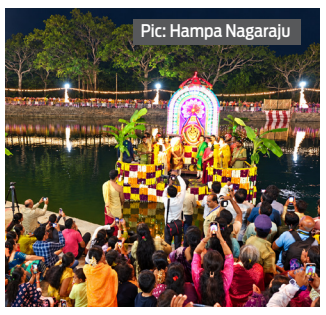
Devotion sets Chamundi Hill agleam as Teppotsava charms devotees

CH NEWS, MYSURU

The tranquil waters of Devi Kere atop Chamundi Hill turned into a shimmering canvas of devotion on Monday night as the annual Sri Chamundeshwari Teppotsava (float festival) unfolded amid religious fervour, colourful illumination and the chants of devotees.

The beautifully decorated float carrying the idol of Goddess Chamundeshwari glided across the sacred tank, creating a mesmerising spectacle. The reflection of the illuminated shrine on the waters, accompanied by devotional chants and the ringing of temple bells, lent an ethereal charm to the festivities.

Thousands of devotees gathered at the hilltop to witness the auspicious occasion and seek the blessings of the presiding deity of Mysuru. For





many, the festival was more than a religious ritual; it was an expression of their deep-rooted faith and an opportunity to reconnect with the spiritual and cultural traditions of the city.

Families, elderly devotees and youngsters waited patiently for a glimpse of the goddess, with many folding their hands in prayer and chanting her name. The devotion was palpable as the illuminated float moved slowly across the tank, with devotees offering prayers for the well-being of their families and the prosperity of the region.

"Witnessing the goddess on the illuminated float is a deeply moving experience. We feel blessed to be here and seek her grace for our families," said a devotee. Another devotee remarked, "The sight of the decorated float reflected in the water fills our hearts with peace and devotion. We look forward to this sacred occasion every year."

A tradition steeped in faith

The Teppotsava is an important religious event associated with the worship of Sri Chamundeshwari, the presiding deity of Mysuru. Chamundi Hill has remained a major centre of pilgrimage for generations, drawing devotees from Mysuru and neighbouring districts throughout the year.

The float festival brings together ritual, tradition and community devotion, with the decorated deity taken across the temple tank as devotees gather to witness the ceremony. The sight of the illuminated float against the night sky offers a memorable blend of spirituality and visual splendour.

For Mysuru, where the Chamundeshwari temple occupies a central place in the city's religious identity, the Teppotsava is a reminder of the enduring bond between the goddess and her devotees.

Sitar and vocal concert by Ustad Hafiz Bale Khan in Mysuru tomorrow

CH NEWS, MYSURU

Raasavrunda is organising a sitar and vocal recital by Ustad Hafiz Bale Khan, disciple and son of the legendary maestro Sitar Nawaz Ustad Bale Khan, on October 29 at 6 pm at Raasavrunda, 1095, Devaparthiva Road, Chamarajapuram, Mysuru.

He will be accompanied on the tabla by Pt. Mallesh Hugar and on the harmonium by Pt. Prabhu Sonna, with sitar support by Mohrataram Haris Khan.

Ustad Hafiz Bale Khan is a renowned Indian classical sitarist and vocalist from the Dharwad–Kirana Gharana. He carries forward a six-generation musical heritage in Hindustani classical music. He is the son and disciple of



the late Sitar Nawaz Ustad Bale Khan, grandson of Ustad Abdul Karim Khan, and great-grandson of the celebrated sitarist Sitar Ratna Rahimat Khan. He frequently performs and collaborates with his brother, Ustad Rais Bale Khan, forming a well-known musical duo.

Ustad Hafiz Bale Khan is known for his sitar playing featuring the Gayaki Ang style (imitating human vocal nuances), which includes elaborate alaaps, jod, and jhala. He is also accomplished in Hindustani vocal forms like Khayal, Thumri, and Ghazal. Fluent in Kannada and Marathi, he is widely recognized for rendering Kannada vachanas (such as those of Basavanna and Akka Mahadevi), Dasar padas, and Marathi devotional/abhang compositions. He is an A-grade artist with All India Radio and Doordarshan. He is a recipient of honors such as the Swarasamrat Pt. Basavaraj Rajguru Yuva Puraskar. Ustadji has performed across India and internationally in countries like the UK (London), the USA, Iran, Kuwait, Dubai, and Sharjah.



Quick Read



Supreme Court cancels 1988 land acquisition

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Supreme Court has cancelled the acquisition of nearly 60 acres of land in Nelakadirenahalli, Yelahanka taluk, which began back in 1988 for a housing society. A bench of Justices J.B. Pardiwala and K. Vinod Chandran called the process a fraud driven by an abuse of power, noting it lacked proper government approval. The court ordered that ownership be returned to original landowners, who must refund their compensation without interest. Properties with unpaid compensation will be auctioned, with proceeds helping victims. Furthermore, the court fined the cooperative society and awarded costs to petitioners.

Bengaluru air quality drops to poor levels

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Air quality across Karnataka worsened on Tuesday, with Bengaluru recording moderate to poor pollution levels. Heavy vehicular traffic and dust pushed the Air Quality Index between 140 and 160 in busy industrial and transit zones like Silk Board and Peenya. Meanwhile, residential areas like Jayanagar and BTM Layout experienced moderate air quality. Other cities fared better, as Mysuru and Mangaluru maintained healthy air conditions. Due to the rising pollution, health experts advise senior citizens and people with respiratory conditions to limit outdoor activities and wear protective masks during peak morning hours.

Drunk driver drags young cook to death

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A tragic road rage incident near Electronics City claimed the life of a 25-year-old cook named Ranjit Kumar Sahu. After a late-night argument over dangerous driving, the victim got trapped beneath a Maruti Swift Dzire. The terrified driver dragged him for about 150 metres before fleeing the scene. Police arrested three suspects, Ajay Rabidas, Sajal Namashudra and Bijon Roy, who confessed to driving under the influence of alcohol during the festival celebrations. Authorities tracked them down using local clues and technical support. A massive manhunt is currently underway to capture the absconding car owner.

R. Ashoka demands probe into waste transfer tenders

Leader of the Opposition R. Ashoka demanded a Lokayukta probe into alleged multi-crore waste transfer tender irregularities.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU



Political friction across Karnataka intensified significantly as Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly R. Ashoka dispatched a formal, high-level letter to Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, demanding a thorough and independent investigation by the Lokayukta into alleged multi-crore financial irregularities surrounding waste transfer station tenders within Bengaluru.

The controversy centers on a massive Rs 133 crore waste management tender package floated under the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) / Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML) framework. Ashoka charged the state administration with violating core statutory criteria, bypassing mandatory financial safety protocols, and favoring ineligible corporate entities. Highlighting documents previously released during an emergency press conference, the senior Bharatiya Janata Party leader pointed out that work orders and Letters of Acceptance (LoA) were issued to private contractors in explicit defiance of cautionary directives issued by the State Finance Department.

At the core of the opposition's corruption allegations is the inexplicable waiver and failure to collect mandatory additional security deposits. According to tender specifications, Package-2 carried an estimated cost of Rs 55.4 crore, requiring an additional security deposit of approximately Rs 6.79 crore, while Package-5 mandated an additional deposit of nearly Rs 5.99 crore.

Ashoka questioned how the administration bypassed collecting over Rs 12 crore in statutory security deposits from a firm whose prior annual turnovers were minimal. Furthermore, the opposition leader alleged that tenders encompassing 21 distinct packages were rushed through hurriedly without securing land clearances, technical feasibility reports, or conducting fair rate negotiations with other eligible bidders.

Demanding immediate administrative intervention, Ashoka has urged the Chief Minister to seize all files pertaining to the disputed packages, cancel the compromised tender agreements outright, and initiate criminal proceedings against officials and political actors found complicit. The escalating row over municipal waste handling adds mounting pressure to the state government as urban civic infrastructure projects face intense public and legislative scrutiny.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Financial lapses:** additional security deposits on Packages 2 and 5 were bypassed, defying caution notes from the State Finance Department
- **Eligibility:** the tender went to a firm whose prior annual turnover was minimal
- **Site planning:** tenders for 21 packages were floated before land parcels or feasibility were assessed

CCB faces obstacles over missing hardware

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The high-stakes Central Crime Branch (CCB) investigation into the explosive political "sting operation" targeting former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has hit a major roadblock, as investigating officers struggle to locate and recover two critical "mother devices" central to unravelling the conspiracy.

According to senior police sources, the primary hardware used to capture and disseminate the clandestine footage, specifically the original mobile phone and camera utilized to record the sting, alongside the handset used to upload the sensitive video files, remains untraced. Investigators revealed that an individual named Prashanth has been subjected to four separate rounds of intense interrogation by the CCB. However, he has consistently denied any personal involvement or knowledge regarding the recordings, persistently claiming he did not execute the operation. His evasive responses and uncooperative stance have severely hampered investigative momentum.

Simultaneously, journalists implicated in the wider controversy have been summoned and interrogated on six occasions. While technical specialists have successfully secured vital digital footprints, including the International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) numbers associated with the apparatus, senior officers stressed that recovering the physical hardware is legally and forensically essential. Without the original mother devices secured before the formal filing of the chargesheet in court, prosecutors fear facing severe evidentiary obstacles during trial proceedings.

The CCB's high-profile sting operation investigation faces roadblocks as officers struggle to locate crucial mother devices and phones, hampering crucial forensic evidence recovery.

The investigation previously led authorities to Delhi, where a second-hand mobile phone dealer named Ritesh Pandey was detained and questioned. Investigators discovered that Pandey had procured and handed over the used handset utilized by the accused individuals to execute the covert recording. Although Pandey was subsequently released on bail, ongoing inquiries are heavily reliant on leads extracted from his interrogation. As the CCB intensifies its citywide and interstate manhunt for the missing hardware, the failure to recover the primary recording devices continues to pose a formidable challenge to the high-profile state probe.

Pollution harming Bengaluru's frontline workers: Reports

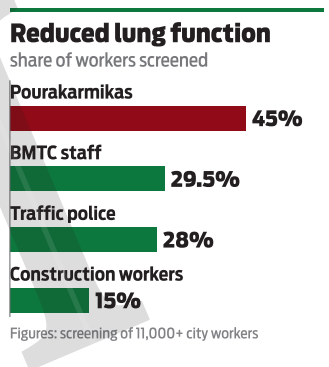
CH NEWS, BENGALURU



Alarming health findings released in Karnataka's capital have underscored the heavy toll that rising air pollution is exacting on Bengaluru's frontline workforce. Comprehensive medical screenings conducted across more than 11,000 city personnel revealed that an overwhelming 45% of civic workers (pourakarmikas) and 28% of traffic police officers are suffering from significantly reduced lung function and severe pulmonary impairments.

The critical data emerged during a high-level roundtable discussion hosted by the 'VAAYU' clinic, focusing intensely on occupational health hazards driven by vehicular exhaust and airborne dust. The screenings highlighted widespread respiratory distress across multiple exposed professions: in addition to civic workers, nearly 29.5% of Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) operational staff and 15% of construction laborers exhibited clear symptoms of lung-related decline. Medical specialists noted that constant exposure to dense traffic corridors, heavy particulate matter, and vehicular emissions is systematically eroding the respiratory health of workers stationed outdoors.

Reduced lung function
share of workers screened



Figures: screening of 11,000+ city workers

Beyond pulmonary damage, renowned cardiologists Dr. C.N. Manjunath and Dr. Vivek Jawali raised grave concerns regarding the systemic cardiovascular impacts of toxic air. They pointed out an alarming rise in heart attacks and strokes among younger demographics across the metropolis, directly linking chronic inhalation of polluted air to acute cardiac risks.

In response to these findings, health experts and medical professionals have urged the state government and municipal authorities to implement immediate protective interventions. Key recommendations include rescheduling the shift hours of pourakarmikas and traffic personnel to avoid high-pollution peak traffic windows, making the regular wearing of specialized anti-pollution masks strictly mandatory, and instituting routine, mandatory annual health check-ups for all outdoor frontline personnel.

Girder work disrupts trains to Bengaluru

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Rail commuters traveling across Karnataka face significant travel disruptions on October 27 and 28 as South Western Railway undertakes critical engineering works. Authorities have scheduled heavy composite girder installation at level crossing number 88 situated between Tiptur and Honnavalli Road stations in Tumakuru district.

The essential infrastructure upgrade requires total power block and track suspension, forcing railway officials to fully cancel several passenger services, divert major express routes, and reschedule departure timings for multiple trains connecting to Bengaluru.

Several daily passenger services have been completely pulled off the tracks. Trains fully cancelled on October 27 include the Arsikere to KSR Bengaluru Passenger, the KSR Bengaluru to Channapatna Passenger, the return Channapatna to KSR Bengaluru service, and the KSR Bengaluru to Arsikere Passenger. Additionally, MEMU services operating between Yelahanka and Arsikere are cancelled on October 28. Passengers relying on these local commuter links have been advised to seek alternative road transport.

Line block

- **4** passenger trains cancelled on Oct 27
- **140 min** Talaguppa-KSR Bengaluru Express delay, Oct 28
- **120 min** Vasco da Gama-Yesvantpur Express delay, Oct 27

Long-distance and intercity express routes face major diversions, bypassing key commercial hubs. The Shivamogga Town to KSR Bengaluru Jan Shatabdi Express is rerouted via Arsikere, Hassan, Nelamangala, and Yesvantpur, skipping scheduled stops at Tiptur and Tumakuru.

Similarly, the KSR Bengaluru to Hubballi Jan Shatabdi Express on October 28 will run through Nelamangala and Hassan. Other affected services, including the KSR Bengaluru to Hosapete Passenger and the Puducherry to Dadar Express, are diverted via alternative corridors, omitting multiple regular halts in Tumakuru district.

Furthermore, departure schedules for select outbound trains have been significantly delayed to absorb line congestion.

The Vasco da Gama to Yesvantpur Express leaving on October 27 is delayed by 120 minutes. On October 28, the Talaguppa to KSR Bengaluru Express will depart 140 minutes late, while the Chikkamagaluru to Yesvantpur Express is delayed by one hour.

Railway authorities have urged all passengers to double-check their train status and updated routing details before heading toward railway stations to avoid inconvenience.

KEA ends medical, dental allotment; 191 MBBS seats vacant

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

191	7	84
MBBS seats left vacant	rounds of seat allotment	medical seats filled on Oct 26

Marking the historic conclusion of an intensely protracted and complex admissions cycle, the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) officially released the final seat allotment results for the fourth stray vacancy round covering medical and dental undergraduate courses. Despite stretching the administrative machinery to unprecedented lengths by conducting two separate counseling rounds within a single day on October 26, officials confirmed that exactly 191 medical seats remain unallocated as the academic portal closes.

The marathon counseling session was necessitated by strict adherence to final admission deadlines mandated by the Medical Counselling Committee (MCC), alongside continuous appeals from anxious parents and aspiring students. Addressing the media, KEA Executive Director H. Prasanna noted that the current academic year established a rare administrative milestone, requiring an exhaustive seven rounds of seat allotment, the highest number recorded in recent history. To clear the remaining backlog, authorities opened a final option-entry window, executing two rapid-fire rounds. The morning session successfully distributed 62 medical and six dental seats, while the evening round accounted for an additional 22 medical and five dental allotments.

A notable silver lining in the final intake figures is the complete saturation of dental programs across the state. Executive Director Prasanna confirmed that all available dental seats have been successfully filled, leaving zero vacancies in BDS courses statewide. However, despite conducting multiple mop-up and stray vacancy phases, the final tally of vacant MBBS seats stands at 191.

KEA officials clarified that the entire state-level medical and dental admission process for the academic year 2026 is officially concluded. Nevertheless, authorities indicated that if the national Medical Counselling Committee grants a special extension or permits a further mop-up window to absorb leftover slots, the KEA remains fully prepared to conduct supplementary rounds to allocate the remaining medical seats to eligible candidates on the waiting list.

BJP LEADERSHIP DEBATE

Internal power struggles: K'taka BJP leadership debate

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Political corridors across Karnataka are abuzz with intense speculation as internal discussions regarding a comprehensive organizational overhaul gather momentum within the state unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). With critical urban local body elections and the high-stakes 2028 Legislative Assembly elections fast approaching, senior party factions are intensely debating whether to retain incumbent State President B.Y. Vijayendra or transition toward new leadership to revitalize the party's electoral machinery.

Internal friction and factional maneuvering have placed the state leadership at a strategic crossroads. While supporters credit Vijayendra with maintaining organizational outreach, mounting dissent among rival factions and concerns over cohesive electoral mobilization have prompted high-level deliberations. Party insiders indicate that the month of November will likely prove decisive, with the central high command expected to review organizational structures following upcoming legislative and local governance milestones.

Adding fuel to the ongoing speculation, state president Vijayendra recently engaged in a notable interaction with Basanagouda Patil Yatnal, the prominent and frequently critical MLA. The meeting between the two leaders instantly triggered immense curiosity and debate across party circles, especially given Yatnal's vocal stance regarding organizational restructuring.

Potential successors

- **V. Somanna** — Union Minister and veteran leader with administrative experience and influence across regional ommunities
- **Arvind Bellad** — Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly, with an articulate legislative presence and organizational backing
- **Murugesh R. Nirani** — Former minister and industrialist with strong support among Lingayats in northern Karnataka

Should the central leadership decide to usher in a fresh face to replace Vijayendra, several prominent names have emerged as frontrunners within internal party discussions. Key prospective candidates being widely cited by political analysts include Union Minister V. Somanna, a seasoned leader with extensive administrative experience; Arvind Bellad, the combative Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly; and former Minister Murugesh R. Nirani. As lobbying intensifies in Bengaluru and New Delhi, all eyes remain fixed on the central high command's impending decisions to balance regional equations and unify the cadre ahead of the 2028 electoral battle.

Quick Read

Over 100 JJM water tap meters stolen in Davanagere

CH NEWS, DAVANAGERE

More than 100 meters installed on taps under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) have reportedly been stolen from several villages in Channagiri taluk of Davanagere district over the past four to five days. The thefts have caused concern among villagers, as the meters are part of the system supplying drinking water to rural households. According to reports, unidentified thieves have been targeting JJM tap meters across the taluk. The continuous incidents have raised concerns among residents about the safety of public water infrastructure. Villagers have urged the concerned department and police to take immediate action, identify those responsible and prevent further thefts. The extent of the damage and whether any investigation has been initiated were not immediately known.

Shivamogga boy dies of electric shock while ironing

CH NEWS, SHIVAMOGGA

A 14-year-old Class 9 student died after suffering an electric shock while ironing clothes at his home in Wadi-e-Hudha Layout in Shivamogga city. The deceased was identified as Umar Farooq. He reportedly received an electric shock while ironing and fell unconscious. Family members and local residents rushed to help him and attempted to take him to a hospital. However, he died on the way. The incident has left his family members grief-stricken, while teachers and classmates have expressed condolences over his untimely death. Tunganagar police, under whose jurisdiction the incident occurred, visited the spot and conducted an investigation. The boy's body was shifted to the mortuary at Meggan District Hospital in Shivamogga for further procedures.

Folk artist Vishwanath Thotnalli to receive honorary doctorate

CH NEWS, KALABURAGI

Folk artist Vishwanath Thotnalli will receive an honorary doctorate from American Wisdom Peace University, Bengaluru, on October 31, in recognition of his contributions to traditional folk arts. Born to Mallamma and Chandrappa in Thotnalli village of Sedam taluk, Thotnalli is a Fine Arts graduate who has spent three decades promoting folk traditions across Karnataka. His artistic performances include Halige playing, Potharaju Kunitha, Shehnai playing and Jogathi dance. Through the Department of Kannada and Culture, he has participated in numerous cultural programmes, including folk fairs, Kannada Rajyotsava celebrations, Republic Day events, Kalyana Karnataka Utsava and Mysuru Dasara. Samagra Abhivruddi Samsthe Secretary Nagaraj Biradar announced the recognition in a press release. Religious leader Dr. Trimurthi Shivacharya and residents of Thotnalli and Kusanoor villages expressed happiness over the honour, describing it as a proud moment for the region's folk art community.

CM seeks ₹4,000 per tonne for sugarcane

THE MEETING SOUGHT A PERMANENT RESOLUTION TO RECURRING SUGARCANE PRICE DISPUTES TO PREVENT ANNUAL PROTESTS.

CH NEWS, BELAGAVI

Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar has urged sugar factory owners to pay sugarcane farmers ₹4,000 per tonne, considering the prevailing sugar prices of around ₹48 per kg, Cooperation Minister Laxman Savadi said on Tuesday. Factory owners have sought two days to consider the proposal.

Speaking to reporters at the Inspection Bungalow in Belagavi, Savadi said a meeting between sugarcane farmers and factory owners was held on Monday as the Chief Minister had promised after the Dasara festival. The meeting aimed to find a permanent solution to the recurring disputes over sugarcane prices and prevent annual protests.

The minister said drought conditions had worsened across the state, with falling river levels and drying wells and borewells threatening sugarcane cultivation. He expressed concern that water shortages could become severe by February next year.

Savadi, who said he himself grows between 18,000 and 20,000 tonnes of sugarcane, acknowledged the difficulties faced by farmers and said their current returns did not adequately reflect their efforts. He added that discussions would also be held to ensure transparent weighing practices and fair payments.

He said the government would persuade farmers, particularly those in Athani taluk, not to transport their sugarcane to Maharashtra by assuring them of fair prices and transparent weighing in Karnataka.

Savadi also proposed a dual-pricing system for sugar, similar to the LPG pricing model, with separate rates for domestic and commercial consumers. He said higher sugar prices could help improve returns for sugarcane growers.





Athani taluk (green), Belagavi district

Savadi said factory owners had indicated their willingness to pay ₹4,000 per tonne if the minimum selling price (MSP) of sugar was increased by ₹50. However, they said implementing the proposal could take about a month. The Chief Minister has urged farmers to cooperate with factories so that crushing operations can begin without delay.

The minister expressed confidence that discussions between the government, farmers and factory owners would help resolve the issue within two days.

Eshwarappa leads protest over Ashraya delay



CH NEWS, SHIVAMOGGA

Former Deputy Chief Minister K.S. Eshwarappa led a protest demanding the immediate allotment of houses under the Ashraya housing scheme for the urban poor in Govindapura and Gopishettikoppa on the outskirts of Shivamogga city.

Police arrested Eshwarappa, his son K.E. Kantesh and several activists after protesters attempted to lay siege to the City Corporation office.

Around 3,000 houses were planned for beneficiaries in the two villages, but construction and allotment remain incomplete. According to the protesters, more than 1,500 houses have been constructed, while work on the remaining units is pending. They alleged that the contractor abandoned the project because the state government failed to release ₹12 crore in pending payments.

The delay has caused hardship for families who reportedly paid ₹80,000 each to the City Corporation after borrowing money and selling their gold jewellery. Despite making the payments nearly nine years ago, many beneficiaries are still waiting for their houses.

Police barricaded the corporation office and closed its main gate to prevent protesters from entering. Although the Municipal Commissioner attempted to pacify them, some demonstrators tried to move towards the building. Police subsequently detained Eshwarappa, Kantesh and other activists and transported them to the District Armed Reserve (DAR) grounds.

Addressing the gathering, Eshwarappa questioned why beneficiaries were unable to secure bank loans despite claims that 1,200 houses had been allotted. He criticised the government for failing to release the promised funds and demanded accountability from Housing Minister B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan.Eshwarappa said only 345 house keys had been handed over against the target of 3,000 units. He vowed to continue the agitation until the beneficiaries received their homes and urged the Municipal Commissioner to provide a written statement on the allotment process.

He also invited women who had contributed money towards the houses to meet him at his residence on November 15. Eshwarappa said the protesters would consider legal action if the issue remained unresolved.

Ensure proper implementation of 5 guarantee schemes

CH NEWS, UDUPI

Ashok Kumar Kodavoor, chairman of the Udupi District Guarantee Schemes Implementation Committee, has directed officials to implement the Karnataka government's Five Guarantee schemes effectively and ensure that no eligible beneficiary is left out.

He was speaking while chairing a review meeting of the district-level committee at Dr. V.S. Acharya Hall in the Zilla Panchayat office at Rajatadri, Manipal. He said the schemes were introduced to improve the living standards of ordinary people and had provided financial support to thousands of families.

Kodavoor stressed the need to ensure that eligible women receive benefits under the Shakti scheme. He raised concerns over the non-operation of buses on the Padubidri-Nitte and Palli-Belve routes despite earlier instructions to adjust timings. He asked Regional Transport Office and Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation officials to resolve the issue.



In the Byndoor area, some KSRTC buses were reportedly stopping along the national highway instead of entering designated bus stands. He directed officials to ensure that buses enter the stands, pick up passengers and proceed according to schedule. Drivers and conductors were also advised to provide accurate information about the guarantee schemes.

Review of scheme implementation

Under Anna Bhagya, around 84 per cent of ration-card e-KYC work has been completed. Officials were asked to achieve 100 per cent completion, with beneficiaries encouraged to use the Anna Seve mobile application.

A total of 3,32,021 families have registered under Gruha Jyothi, while surveys remain pending for 10,667 families. Officials were directed to complete the pending surveys by October 31. The Skill Development Department was asked to publicise the Yuva Nidhi scheme widely.

THE MEETING REVIEWED

SHAKTI
47.4 lakh women passengers up to September; Rs 194.32 crore spent

GRUHA LAKSHMI
2,13,236 women get Rs 2,000 a month; Rs 1,451.36 crore transferred

GRUHA JYOTHI
3,32,021 families registered; Rs 788.02 crore spent

ANNA BHAGYA
Rs 427.36 crore paid in lieu of food grains to Antyodaya and priority card holders

YUVA NIDHI
5,401 registered; Rs 13.67 crore to 5,016 beneficiaries by DBT

ROTARY SAKHI PROJECT EMPOWERS WOMEN WITH PINK E-AUTOS

CH NEWS, DAKSHINA KANNADA

Rotary International District 3181 is promoting women's economic independence through its Sakhi initiative, which provides financial assistance, driving training and licence support to women operating pink electric autorickshaws in Dakshina Kannada district.

The initiative aims to create self-employment opportunities for women while providing a safer and environmentally friendly transport option for women commuters and students. The pink electric autorickshaws are currently operating in Sullia and Bantwal.

Under the project, the Sullia City Rotary Club has extended financial assistance to Geetha K.R., a resident of Jayanagar in Sullia, and handed over a pink autorickshaw to her.

Rotary clubs provide financial assistance of up to ₹90,000 as an advance towards purchasing an autorickshaw. Beneficiaries are expected to repay the remaining amount in instalments using their daily earnings.

The model is designed to help women from economically weaker backgrounds establish independent livelihoods and support their families.

Women who do not know how to drive receive training through a collaboration involving the Mysuru-based Thaliru Foundation and TVS Motor Company. The initiative also offers technical and legal assistance to help beneficiaries obtain driving licences and operate their vehicles independently.

According to project organisers, 12 pink autorickshaws have been distributed to women so far.

MLA consoles family of Bidar electrical accident victim

CH NEWS, BIDAR

Bidar South MLA Dr. Shailendra Beldale visited the family of Balraj Dasura, who died in an electrical accident at a petrol pump in Nirna village, and offered his condolences.

During the visit, the MLA expressed grief over the tragedy and extended personal financial assistance to the bereaved family.

He assured the family members of his continued support during this difficult period.

Dr. Beldale also promised to take the necessary steps to help the family receive appropriate compensation from the government. He offered words of comfort and encouraged the family to remain strong while coping with the loss.

The MLA prayed for peace for the departed soul and expressed hope that the family would find the strength to overcome the tragedy.

Several local leaders and well-wishers accompanied him during the visit.

Those present included Srinivas Paddara, Manikappa Khashempura, Channabasava Bulla, Dr. Ravi Swami, Jagannath Majage, Shivakumar Mailura, Shankar Udagire, Shivarajappa Bashetti, Guru Chidri, Raju Belure, Veerabasappa, Dilip Pasara, Ramesh Dhula, Hamid and Kupendra, among others.

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IN THE COURT OF THE HONBLE ADDL. CIVIL JUDGE (JR. DIVN.) & J.M.F.C AT DODDABALLAPURA.
C. Mis. No. : 536/2026.

Petitioners 1) Sri. GOVINDARAJU .M, Aged 54 Years S/o. Late Sri. Mudlappa and Late Smt. Nagamma. R/o. Karadipalya Village, Koligere Post, Doddabelavangala Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk-561204 Bangalore Rural Dist. **2.) Smt. Hanumakka,** Aged 62 Years D/o. Late Sri. Mudlappa and Late Smt. Nagamma. R/o. Chikkamankanala Village, Koligere Post, Doddabelavangala Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk-561204 Bangalore Rural District.
V/s
Respondent: The THASHILDHAR Doddaballapura Taluk Bangalore Rural District

PUBLIC NOTICE

It brought to the Notice of the General Public that above mentioned Petitioners have filed a petition before this Hon'ble court requesting the Hon'ble court to issue directions to THE THASHILDHAR, Doddaballapura Taluk, to Record the Date of Death of their Mother Late Smt. NAGAMMA, W/o. Late Sri. Mudlappa, the Petitioners further state that Smt. Nagamma W/o. Moodlappa Died on 05/05/1973, at Karadipalya Village, Koligere Post, Doddabelavangala Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bangalore Rural District. If any person / s from General Public have any kind objections to the Hon'ble court issuing Directions to THE THASHILDHAR, Doddaballapura Taluk, to Record the Date of Death of their Mother Late Smt. NAGAMMA, W/o. Late Sri. Moodlappa, as prayed for in the Petition filed by the Petitioners they can present such objections before this Hon'ble court on 26-11-2026 at 11:00 A. M. and place their objections before this Hon'ble court. Otherwise the Petition will be disposed ex-parte as prayed for the Petitioners.

This Public Notice has been issued on 27-10-26 by the Hon'ble Court's.

By Order of the Court
Chief Ministerial Officer Prl. Civil Judge & JMFC Doddaballapura

Muralidhara .T .N Advocate for the Petitioners, Doddaballapura

IN THE COURT OF THE ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DODDABALLAPURA
CMis.No.342/2026

Petitioners: Sri.Y.G.Muniraju S/o Late H.Gopalaiah, Aged about 70 years, R/ at Ekashipura Village, Aralumallige Post, Kasaba Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District and others.
V/s
Respondent: Registrar of Birth and death, The Tahshildar, Doddaballapura Taluk. Doddaballapura.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the Petitioner has filed the above petition under Section 13 (3) And 14 Of Registration Of Births And Deaths Act, 1969 for seeking the death certificate of the mother of petitioners by name LATE LAKSHMAMMA W/O LATE H.GOPALAIAH who died on 18.01.2023 at Ekashipura Village, Kasaba Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.

In this regard it is hereby notice that whoever has interested in the said matter may appear in person or through an advocate duly authorized before the above said court on 09-12-2026. In default this matter will be heard and disposed off an ex-parte order.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on the 27th day of OCTOBER 2026.

By order of the Court
Chief Ministerial Officer, Prl Civil Judge & JMFC, Doddaballapura

Advocate: **Munigangaiah**, Opposite to Court Complex, Rojipura, Doddaballapur Town
Date: 27/10/2026

IN THE COURT OF THE FAMILY JUDGE, NAMAKKAL, TAMIL NADU
IA 2/2026; FCOP. No. 340 / 2024

J. Geetha D/o Jayaraj,
Residing at Door No: 3/356, Bharathiyar Nagar,
Namakkal Town & District, Tamil Nadu - 637002 ...Petitioner

Vs

B. Ranjithkumar S/o Balasubramaniyan
Residing at Door No: 1095/1, Ittigegudu,
S. K. Street, Mysore East, Mysore City,
Nazarbad Division, Karnataka - 570010 ...Respondent

NOTICE

The Petitioner herein filed the above Main Petition seeking a declaration for the marriage registered with the Respondent is Null and Void. The said petition was dismissed on 22.01.2026 for non-payment of batta, and the Petitioner has filed above restore petition IA No. 2/2026, which is posted for hearing on 06.11.2026. In this Hon'ble Court, if he has any objection, The Respondent, can appear before the Hon'ble court in person or through a counsel, on 06.11.2026 at 10.30 a.m. failing which the petition shall be decided Ex parte in favors of the Petitioner. Take notice accordingly.

By order of the Hon'ble Court

K.K. PALANISAAMI, B.A., B.L.,
Roll No.816/1995, CIS No : 232,
Advocate & Commissioner of Oaths,
No.112, Co-Op.Colony, Near Ayyappan Temple,
Mohanur Road, Namakkal - 637 001.
Cell : 94432 66789.

NAME CHANGE

I, **ALTAF PASHA,** S/o Abdul Azeez, residing at No.40/2, 1st Cross, Venkateshwara Layout, Madivala, Bengaluru-560068, have changed my name to **ALTAF**, Vide Affidavit Dated: 27.10.2026 before notary FAHIM UNNISA, Bengaluru

NAME CHANGE

I, **MOHAMMED TOUSIF PALLIKONDA**, S/o Yunus Ahmed Pallikonda, Resident of No. 8, 2nd Cross Hidayath Street, Opp Arabic College Post, Nagavara Main Road, Arabic College, Bengaluru -560045, Karnataka, Have Changed My Name to **TOUSIF P K**, Vide Affidavit Dated: 27.10.2026 before Notary G. DAYANANDA, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Yagnesh Ramalingam S/o Ramalingam Periasamy R/o Flat 2A, Sahajanya Apartments Plot No 309, 310 TV Near Durga Parameshwari Temple BEL Layout, 6th Block, Bangalore North, Vidyaranyapura Bangalore North Bangalore, Karnataka-560097 have changed my name to Yagnesh Periaswamy

IN THE COURT OF HON'BLE DISTRICT MUNSIF CUM JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE AT SHOZHINGANALLUR
M.C. No. 31 of 2024

1) Mrs. Uma mageswari, W/o. Girish,
2) Baby. G. Akshara, D/o. S. Girish,
3) Baby. G. Ananya, D/o. S. Girish,
... Petitioner 1, 2 & 3
-Versus-
Mr. S. Girish,
S/o. Somanatha sharma,
... Respondent

To,
Mr. S. Girish,
S/o. Somanatha Sharma,
DSR Ultima Appartments,
Flat no – AG 02, Harlur Main Road,
Benguluru – 560102.

Sir,

Kindly take notice that the plaintiff above named filed the Maintenance complaint as against you, the Petition is stand posted for your appearance. Hence be present on 05.11.2026 at 10.30 am before the above Court either in person or through your advocate, failing which the matter will be decide exparte.

V. Vimalkumar, Advocate,
15, Market complex, Nedunchezhian street, Shozhinganallur, Chennai - 600 119.
Mobile: 99404 30567

ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಸಮಸ್ತ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರಿಗೆ ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ತಿಳಿಯಪಡಿಸುವುದೇನೆಂದರೆ ನಮ್ಮ ಕಕ್ಷಿದಾರರಾದ ಶ್ರೀ ಎಚ್. ಆರ್.ರಾಮಚಂದ್ರ ಬಿನ್ ಲೇ॥ ರಾಮಯ್ಯ ರವರು ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಸಿಟಿ, ಮೈಸೂರು ರೋಡ್, ನಂ. 66 ಸಿ, 1ನೇ ಮುಖ್ಯರಸ್ತೆ ಹೊಸಗುಡ್ಡದಹಳ್ಳಿ ಗ್ರಾಮದಲ್ಲಿ ವಾಸಿ, ಇವರು ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಹಾರೋಹಳ್ಳಿ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಹಾರೋಹಳ್ಳಿ ಹೋಬಳಿ, ಹಾರೋಹಳ್ಳಿ ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಗೆ ಸೇರಿದ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಗಣಕೀಕೃತ ಸ್ವತ್ತಿನ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 15290203701401652 ಖಾನೇಷುಮಾರಿ ನಂ. 648/665 ರಲ್ಲಿರುವ ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣ ಪೂರ್ವ–ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ 18.29 ಮೀಟರ್, ಉತ್ತರ–ದಕ್ಷಿಣ 27.43 ಮೀಟರ್, (60*90 ಅಡಿಗಳು) ಒಟ್ಟು 501.68 ಚದರ ಮೀಟರ್‌ಗಳುಳ್ಳ ನಿವೇಶನ ಹಾಗೂ ನಿವೇಶನದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಟ್ಟಿರತಕ್ಕ 581.68 ಚದರ ಮೀಟರ್‌ಗಳುಳ್ಳ ಮನೆಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಮೂಲ ಪತ್ರವು ದಿನಾಂಕ 30/11/2025 ರಂದು ಸಮಯ 11 ಗಂಟೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾರೋಹಳ್ಳಿ ಬಸ್ ನಿಲ್ದಾಣದ ಹತ್ತಿರ ಆಕಸ್ಮಿಕವಾಗಿ ಕಳೆದು ಹೋಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಈ ಕುರಿತು ಹಾರೋಹಳ್ಳಿ ಪೊಲೀಸ್ ಠಾಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನಾಂಕ 05/01/2026 ರಂದು ದೂರು ಸಹ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಸದರಿ ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ಸ್ವತ್ತಿನ ಮೂಲ ಪತ್ರವು ಯಾರಿಗಾದರೂ ಸಿಕ್ಕ ಪಕ್ಷದಲ್ಲಿ ಅದನ್ನು ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ಶ್ರೀ ಎಚ್.ಆರ್.ರಾಮಚಂದ್ರ ಬಿನ್ ಲೇ॥ ರಾಮಯ್ಯ ರವರಿಗೆ ತಲುಪಿಸಬೇಕೆಂದು ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ತಮ್ಮಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಾರ್ಥಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತೇನೆ.

ಹೆಡ್ಡೂಲ್ ಸೊಪ್ಪಿನ ವಿವರ

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಹಾರೋಹಳ್ಳಿ ತಾಲೂಕು ಹಾರೋಹಳ್ಳಿ ಹೋಬಳಿ ಹಾರೋಹಳ್ಳಿ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿಗೆ ಸೇರಿದ ಗಣಕೀಕೃತ ಸ್ವತ್ತಿನ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 15290203701401652 ಖಾನೇಷುಮಾರಿ ನಂ. 648/665 ರಲ್ಲಿರುವ ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣ ಪೂರ್ವ–ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ 18.29 ಮೀಟರ್, ಉತ್ತರ–ದಕ್ಷಿಣ 27.43 ಮೀಟರ್, (60ಠ90 ಅಡಿಗಳು) ಒಟ್ಟು 501.68 ಚದರ ಮೀಟರ್‌ಗಳುಳ್ಳ ನಿವೇಶನ

ಪೂರ್ವಕ್ಕೆ: ಮುನಿಯಮ್ಮ ರವರ ಸ್ವತ್ತು, ಪಶ್ಚಿಮಕ್ಕೆ: ರಾಧಮ್ಮ ರವರ ಸ್ವತ್ತು, ಉತ್ತರಕ್ಕೆ: ಚಿಕ್ಕ ಮಾದಯ್ಯ ರವರ ಸ್ವತ್ತು, ದಕ್ಷಿಣ–ಕ್ಕೆ: ರಸ್ತೆ ಈ ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ಇರುವ ಸ್ವತ್ತು ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಗೆ ಒಳಪಡುತ್ತದೆ.

ಶ್ರೀ ಎಚ್.ಆರ್.ರಾಮಚಂದ್ರ ಬಿನ್ ಲೇ॥ ರಾಮಯ್ಯ
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಸಿಟಿ ಮೈಸೂರು ಮುಖ್ಯ ರಸ್ತೆ
ನಂಬರ್ 66 ಸಿ, 1ನೇ ಮುಖ್ಯರಸ್ತೆ ಹೊಸಗುಡ್ಡದಹಳ್ಳಿ ಗ್ರಾಮ
ಮೊಬೈಲ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : 9611854974

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are informed that my client Mr. Yalakkigowda S/o late Venkategowda residing at No. 92, Gijagana dasanadoddi Village, Neralur Post, Virupakshipura Hobli, Channapatna Taluk, Bangalore South District–562138.

Our client has lost previous Sale deed in Channapatna Bus Stand the Original Registered Sale Deed dated 14-10-1980 Book 1, Volume: 2789, Page: 37-38, bearing registration No. 2714/80-81 registered in the Office of the Sub-Registrar, Channapatna executed by Sri. Thammaiah S/o Mullappa Kalaiah in favour of Sri. B. Kempaiah S/o Hucchegowda in respect of the All that piece and parcel of the Survey No. 112/1, measuring East to West: 40 feet, North to South: 64 feet, Situated at: Lalaghatta Village, Kasaba Hobli, Channapatna Taluk, Bangalore South District, bounded on: East by: Site No. 9, sold to K. B. Beeraiah, West by: Site No.11 sold to Chaluvegowda, North by: 18 Feet Road, South by: Site No.17.

The said property is in possession of Mr. Yalakkigowda since from 24-03-2016, he is the absolute owner and is absolutely free from any encumbrance whatsoever.

My Client had lost the above mentioned & Inspite of several efforts the Original deeds not found and he has lodged the police complaint through online dated 26-10-2026, Lost Report No. 2500679/2026.

If any person found or anyone having any claim or interest over the said property, he/she is requested to forward their claims along with the relevant documents to us within 07 days of this public notice. If we do not receive any claim from any person within 07 days, it will be strictly presumed that this property is absolutely free from any claim or encumbrance and no one has any claim over this property and if any One found the above deed kindly contact below mentioned.

Contact Adress:
Shivaswamy S., Advocates, Mahadevappa Building, 1st Floor, 1st Room, Opp. A.B.R. Tower, B.M. Road, Ramanagara-562159.

JD(S) candidate A.P. Ranganath wins Bengaluru Teachers' Constituency

ON OCTOBER 23, 81.98% OF VOTERS (8,360 MEN AND 14,108 WOMEN) VOTED IN THE ELECTION OVERSEEN BY AMLAN ADITYA BISWAS.

CH NEWS, Bengaluru



NDA candidate A.P. Ranganath has won the Karnataka Legislative Council election from the Bengaluru Teachers' Constituency, defeating Congress candidate Puttanna by 908 votes.

Ranganath secured 10,810 votes, while Puttanna received 9,902 votes. The counting of votes began at 8 am on Monday at Government Arts College on Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Veedhi in Bengaluru.

In the first round, Puttanna took an initial lead of 176 votes. However, Ranganath gained ground in the subsequent rounds and eventually secured victory with a margin of 908 votes in the final round.

According to Returning Officer Amlan Aditya Biswas, 22,468 of the 27,405 registered voters exercised their franchise in the election held on October 23. The voter turnout stood at 81.98%. Of those who voted, 8,360 were men and 14,108 were women.

Among the other candidates, Karnataka Rashtra Samithi candidate Dr. G.R. Hebburu received 94 votes, independent candidate Umesh Babu Pillegowda secured 215 votes, B.S. Nagaraju received 11 votes, and Dr. N. Lakshmana Swamy obtained 24 votes.

The Returning Officer said 20,616 votes were valid, while 1,857 votes were rejected. The counting process concluded peacefully.

Following his victory, Ranganath thanked NDA workers and voters. He described the result as a victory for alliance workers and said it would serve as a response to criticism directed at him. Party workers celebrated the win, while Ranganath's family members expressed joy at the result.

ELECTION OUTCOME

- **Winner**: A.P. Ranganath (NDA / JD(S)-BJP alliance candidate)
- **Runner-up**: Puttanna (Congress candidate)
- **Margin of Victory**: 908 votes
- **A.P. Ranganath**: 10,810 votes
- **Puttanna**: 9,902 votes

• OTHER CANDIDATES:

- o **Umesh Babu Pillegowda (Independent)**: 215 votes
- o **Dr. G.R. Hebburu (Karnataka Rashtra Samithi)**: 94 votes
- o **Dr. N. Lakshmana Swamy**: 24 votes
- o **B.S. Nagaraju**: 11 votes

VOTER STATISTICS

- **Total Registered Voters**: 27,405
- **Total Votes Cast**: 22,468
- **Voter Turnout**: 81.98%
- **Gender Turnout**: 8,360 men and 14,108 women

Chikkaballapur final voter list records 9.53 lakh electors

CH NEWS, Chikkaballapur

The final electoral roll under the Special Summary Revision (SIR-2026) has been published in Chikkaballapur district, taking the total number of registered voters to 9,53,372, Additional Deputy Commissioner Dr. N. Bhaskar announced on Tuesday.

Addressing a press conference at the District Administration Building, Bhaskar said the revision process had been completed in accordance with the schedule and guidelines issued by the Election Commission of India.

He explained that the exercise included door-to-door verification, checking voter details, publishing the draft electoral roll, and receiving and resolving claims and objections. Necessary corrections were made after verification, following the prescribed rules.

According to Bhaskar, the draft electoral roll contained 9,44,623 voters. The final list, published on October 27, includes 8,749 more voters than the draft list.

Chintamani has the highest number of registered voters among the five constituencies, while Bagepalli has the lowest, according to the published figures.

Bhaskar said the verification process covered names, addresses and other voter details to identify discrepancies and make corrections wherever necessary. Follow-up action was taken in accordance with the applicable electoral rules.

He stressed that an accurate electoral roll was essential to the democratic process, as it helps ensure that all eligible citizens can exercise their voting rights. He added that the revision had been completed in line with the Election Commission's instructions.

With the publication of the final list, an important stage of the SIR-2026 electoral roll revision process has been completed in the district.

M.R. Manjunatha, Assistant Director of the Department of Information and Public Relations, was present at the press conference.

Quick Read

Kannada Akshara Jathre invites poems, award nominations

CH NEWS, Mandya

The 19th All-Karnataka Kannada Akshara Jathre will be held on November 22 at Gandhi Bhavan in Mandya to celebrate Kannada Rajyotsava. Organisers have invited poems and nominations for various awards, with November 5 as the deadline. Poets must submit two original poems of up to 25 lines each, along with their profile, photograph and contact details. Selected poems will be published in a book, and poets will participate in a Kavigoshti.

The Kavya Shri award will recognise ten outstanding poems, while ten achievers will receive the Kannada Ratna and Samaja Seva Ratna awards. Entries may be sent to S. Krishnasvarnachandra, Kavimitra, No. 767, Swarnachandra, Mandya-2. For registration and details, contact WhatsApp number 9448424380.

Aakash launches INVICTUS 2.0 for JEE preparation



Hubballi

Aakash Educational Services Limited (AESL) has launched Aakash INVICTUS-Engineering 2.0 nationwide to strengthen preparation for JEE Main, JEE Advanced, BITSAT and State CETs.

The programme offers experienced faculty, updated study materials, regular tests, performance analysis and personalised mentorship. Four specialised batches—Ace, Achiever, Accelerator and Apex—cater to different learning needs. AESL MD and CEO Chandra Sekhar Reddy Garisa said the initiative was expanding to all Aakash branches following encouraging results in its JEE 2026 pilot phase.

For details, students and parents can call 7303759494 or email support.invictus@aesl.in.

Indriya unveils sustainable Jewellery Rangavalli



Mangaluru

Indriya, the jewellery brand of the Aditya Birla Group, has unveiled a large sustainable Jewellery Rangavalli in Bengaluru to celebrate India's cultural heritage and festive traditions.

Created by artist Shikha Sharma, popularly known as the "3D Rangoli Queen," the installations were displayed at Orion Mall across 400 square feet and Shri Sathya Ganapathi Shirdi Saibaba Temple across 1,600 square feet. The designs used rice, millets and seeds and drew inspiration from Indriya's Padmika necklace.

Following Vijayadashami, the materials are being reused for animal and bird feeding in partnership with Akhil Karnataka Prani Daya Sangh Gaushala.

Indriya has also launched a nationwide Rangavalli contest, offering 100 winners a 200 mg, 22-karat gold coin each.

Safe childhood is society's responsibility, says Judge



CH NEWS, Chikkaballapura

Ensuring that every child grows up in a safe, fear-free and exploitation-free environment is the responsibility of the entire society, said Principal District and Sessions Judge T.P. Ramalingegowda.

Speaking after inaugurating the 'Safe Childhood Campaign' and a legal awareness programme on the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act at BGS School in Agalagurki, he said children were not only the future of the nation but also its valuable asset today.

The programme was jointly organised by the District Legal Services Authority, district police, District Child Protection Unit, Bar Association, Education Department, Child Welfare Committee and BGS School.

Ramalingegowda said every child had the right to love, respect, education, healthcare and protection. Children should attend school happily and learn through curiosity rather than fear. Physical or mental harassment at home, in educational institutions or in public places must not be tolerated.

He warned that body shaming, verbal abuse and other forms of mental harassment could leave lasting psychological scars. Children should report inappropriate behaviour, including unwanted touching, to trusted parents, teachers or the appropriate authorities. Open discussion and timely reporting were essential to ensure justice for victims and punishment for offenders.

The judge stressed that providing compulsory education to children aged six to 14 was a shared responsibility of the government and society. Children must also be protected from child labour, trafficking and child marriage.

He explained that the POCSO Act, 2012, protects both boys and girls from sexual offences. Under the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, the minimum legal marriage age is 18 for women and 21 for men.

Highlighting online risks, he cautioned children and parents about cyber fraud, online gaming-related problems and digital arrest scams.

Adichunchanagiri Matha's Chikkaballapura branch secretary, Mangalanatha Swamiji, advised children facing danger or harassment to seek immediate help by calling Child Helpline 1098 or emergency number 112.

During the programme, the judge administered a pledge on personal safety, self-respect and respect for other children's rights.

District Superintendent of Police Padmini Sahoo, Additional District Judge Sharada V., District Legal Services Authority Member Secretary Shilpa and several education and child protection officials attended the event.

Maharshi Valmiki's teachings promote humanity: Speaker

CH NEWS, Magadi

Maharshi Valmiki was a great saint who conveyed the values of humanity and showed society the path of righteousness, a speaker said at a Valmiki Jayanti programme held at the taluk office premises in Magadi.

Speaking after inaugurating the programme, the speaker said Maharshi Valmiki made a significant contribution to Hindu religious and literary traditions through his composition of the Ramayana. His teachings and ideals continue to inspire people across communities and generations.

Maharshi Valmiki is widely respected for presenting timeless messages through the epic. His work highlights values such as truth, justice, compassion, devotion and the importance of leading a principled life.The speaker said the Ramayana has had a lasting influence on Indian culture and literature. Its stories and characters continue to guide people in understanding moral responsibilities and the importance of good conduct.

The programme highlighted the relevance of Valmiki's ideals in contemporary society and called upon people to follow his teachings in their everyday lives. The speakers stressed that the values of great saints should be understood beyond community boundaries and embraced for the welfare of society.

Several local representatives and participants attended the programme, including T.H.O. Ramachandra and other dignitaries whose names were not fully legible in the supplied text.The event was organised to commemorate Maharshi Valmiki and recall his contribution to Indian literature, culture and society.

Youth must uphold democratic values, says Chaluvarayaswamy

CH NEWS, Mandya



Karnataka Agriculture Minister and Mandya District Incharge Minister N. Chaluvarayaswamy has urged young people to understand democratic principles and constitutional values and become responsible citizens who contribute to the nation's development.

Speaking after inaugurating a Youth Parliament programme at Kaveri Hall in Mandya on Tuesday, he said democracy gives citizens both rights and responsibilities. He stressed that criticism, discussion and questioning are essential to a healthy democracy, but they must be based on issues and public interest rather than personal attacks.

One Vote Can Shape the Nation's Future

Chaluvarayaswamy said citizens have the power to elect their representatives, including the Prime Minister and Chief Ministers. Therefore, voters should carefully assess candidates' abilities, public service and commitment to development before casting their votes.

He urged people not to remain indifferent to elections and to exercise their voting rights responsibly. He recalled the sacrifices of freedom fighters and the contributions of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in shaping India's constitutional framework.

The minister also stressed the importance of discussing the Constitution, Parliament and administration in schools and colleges. Such discussions, he said, would help students develop political awareness, leadership skills and a sense of social responsibility.

Referring to India's cultural and intellectual heritage, he said the Ramayana, Mahabharata, and the teachings of Swami Vivekananda and Kuvempu offered valuable lessons for younger generations. He called upon youth to protect the country's dignity and uphold constitutional principles.

He appreciated the Youth Parliament initiative, which allows students selected at the taluk level to assume the roles of the Chief Minister, ministers and elected representatives. He expressed confidence that students representing Mandya at the state-level competition would perform well.

Opposition Plays Vital Role in Democracy

Presiding over the programme, Mandya MLA P. Ravikumar said the opposition was as important as the ruling party in a democratic system. He noted that questioning government decisions and examining their merits and shortcomings strengthened transparency and accountability.

He urged voters to evaluate representatives based on their performance in areas such as roads, drinking water, education, infrastructure, university development and law and order.

Deputy Commissioner Dr. Kumar led the recitation of the Constitution's Preamble.

Several district officials and public representatives attended the programme, including Zilla Panchayat CEO K.R. Nandini, Superintendent of Police Dr. V.J. Shobharani and Additional Deputy Commissioner B.C. Shivanandamurthy.

BJP's Shashil Namoshi Wins Fifth MLC Term

CH NEWS, GADAG

BJP-JD(S) alliance candidate Shashil G. Namoshi secured a decisive victory in the North-East Teachers' Constituency election, defeating Congress candidate Sharanappa Mattur by over 3,500 votes. With this victory, Namoshi entered the Karnataka Legislative Council for the fifth time.

Counting of votes polled on October 23 was held at Gulbarga University on Tuesday under tight security. Namoshi maintained a steady lead throughout the counting process.



The victory is significant as Congress holds 26 of the 41 Assembly seats in the Kalyana Karnataka region, while BJP has 11 and JD(S) four.

Speaking after his victory, Namoshi thanked teachers for their continued support and promised to address issues concerning salaries, allowances and job security.

He described the result as an indication of political trends ahead of the 2028 Assembly elections.

BJP and JD(S) workers celebrated the victory, with several senior leaders congratulating Namoshi on his achievement.

K.M. Suresh Wins South-East Graduates' MLC Seat

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

BJP candidate K.M. Suresh secured a decisive victory in the South-East Graduates' Constituency election, defeating his opponents by a substantial margin. His victory has brought celebrations among party workers and supporters across the region.

Suresh maintained a steady lead from the beginning of vote counting and eventually emerged victorious. Political leaders, educationists and supporters congratulated him on his achievement and expressed confidence in his leadership.



Speaking after his victory, Suresh thanked graduates and party workers for their continued support. He dedicated the win to voters who placed their trust in him.

He assured that creating employment opportunities for graduates, improving educational facilities and promoting regional development would remain his top priorities.

Senior leaders expressed hope that Suresh would effectively represent graduates' concerns in the Legislative Council.

Supporters celebrated the victory in Bengaluru, Chitradurga and other parts of the constituency, describing the outcome as a significant achievement for the BJP.

DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

CM to launch 57 development projects in Mandya

CH NEWS, Mandya

Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar will inaugurate and lay the foundation stones for 57 development projects worth ₹1,793.74 crore in Mandya district on Oct 31.

The programme, organised by the district administration and Zilla Panchayat, will also include the distribution of benefits to eligible beneficiaries.

The event will be held at 10 am on the premises of Mandya University in the city. The projects are aimed at accelerating infrastructure development and improving public services across the district.

Of the 57 projects, foundation stones will be laid for 40 projects estimated to cost ₹1,643.79 crore. The remaining 17 projects, completed at a total cost of ₹149.95 crore, will be inaugurated.

Union Minister for Steel and Heavy Industries H.D. Kumaraswamy and Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar are among the prominent leaders associated with the programme. Mandya District In-charge Minister N. Chaluvarayaswamy and Agriculture Minister P.M. Narendraswamy will also participate. Mandya MLA P. Ravikumar will preside over the event.

Several Karnataka ministers, legislators, members of the Legislative Council, heads of government corporations and senior officials have been invited to attend. Those expected include Energy and Tourism Minister K.J. George, Social Welfare Minister K.H. Muniyappa, Public Works Minister Satish Jarkiholi, Higher Education Minister Basavaraj Rayareddy and Health Minister U.T. Khader.

Representatives from various departments and public sector organisations will also participate in the programme. Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh, senior departmental secretaries, Mysuru Divisional Commissioner Nitesh Patil and other officials have been invited.

Mandya Deputy Commissioner Dr. Kumar, Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer K.R. Nandini, Superintendent of Police Dr. V.J. Shobharani and Additional Deputy Commissioner B.C. Shivanandamurthy will attend.

Quick Read

Fire destroys hut, couple loses Rs 2 lakh

CH NEWS, RAMANAGARA

A poor couple lost their hut and belongings in an accidental fire at Menasiganahalli village in Channapatna taluk. Fortunately, Sakamma and Mariyanna escaped unharmed. The couple had reportedly sold their cow and saved Rs 2 lakh in cash to build their own house. However, the fire broke out in the early hours and destroyed the cash, land documents and household belongings stored inside the hut. Fire department personnel rushed to the spot and extinguished the blaze. The couple has been left homeless and financially distressed. Local residents have appealed to the authorities to provide.

Walk-in interview for technicians, field officers on Oct 29

CH NEWS, MANDYA

The Mandya District Employment Exchange, in association with Palace Toyota and Swatantra Micro Finance, will organise a walk-in interview on Oct 29 at 10 am at the District Employment Exchange office in Mandya. Recruitment will be conducted for Technician and Field Officer positions. Candidates aged between 18 and 35 who have completed SSLC, PUC, ITI, a diploma or any degree are eligible to attend. The job locations include Mandya, Malavalli, Srirangapatna, K.R. Pet, Nagamangala, Maddur, Pandavapura and Mysuru. Interested candidates should bring their resumes or biodata to the interview. For further details, candidates can contact 9164642684, 9113500761, 8970646629, 7483630318, 9964113232

Chitradurga final voter list records 13.17 lakh electors

Kumaraswamy stated that the final electoral roll is available for public inspection at tahsildar offices across all taluks and on the Election Commission's website.

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

The final electoral roll prepared under the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of Electoral Rolls-2026 has been published in Chitradurga district, with a total of 13,17,025 registered voters.

Additional Deputy Commissioner and Additional District Election Officer B.T. Kumaraswamy announced the details at a press conference held at the Deputy Commissioner's office on Tuesday.

Kumaraswamy said the final electoral roll is available for public inspection at the offices of tahsildars, who serve as Assistant Electoral Registration Officers, in all taluks. It can also be accessed through the Election Commission's official website.

According to the revision data, the electoral roll published on June 16 contained 14,40,534 voters. Booth Level Officers completed the mapping of 14,04,219 voters, achieving 97.48 per cent coverage. Enumeration forms were digitised for 12,97,789 voters.

A total of 1,42,745 entries were identified under the ASDD category, covering absent, shifted, deceased, duplicate and other cases. These included 30,854 deceased voters, 70,525 permanent migrants, 21,537 duplicate entries, 18,837 absent voters and 992 cases under other reasons.

When the draft electoral roll was published on August 24, the district had 12,97,789 voters. During the claims and objections period, 22,751 eligible voters were added, while 3,515 names were deleted through Form 7 due to reasons including death, migration and duplicate entries.

The final list comprises 6,55,220 male voters, 6,61,737 female voters and 68 voters categorised as others. Women outnumber men, with 1,010 female voters for every 1,000 male voters.

The district's estimated population is 18,71,543, of whom 70.37 per cent are registered voters.

The roll includes 26,228 voters aged 18–19, 11,394 aged 85 and above, 23,774 voters with disabilities, 360 service voters and nine overseas Indian voters.



B.T. Kumaraswamy

Political party representatives appreciated the district administration's handling of the revision process. Some suggested linking Aadhaar numbers and fingerprints with electoral records to prevent bogus voting.

Kumaraswamy said voter registration remains open throughout the year.

Eligible people can apply using Form 6 to register, correct details or seek changes to their polling station, subject to applicable rules. Applications can be submitted at polling stations, taluk offices or the Electoral Registration Officer's office.

Election Tahsildar Bibi Fathima and representatives of the Congress, BJP, JD(S), BSP, CPI(M) and AAP attended the meeting, along with Assistant Electoral Registration Officers.

Removed from the roll

70,525	PERMANENT MIGRANTS
30,854	DECEASED VOTERS
21,537	DUPLICATE ENTRIES
18,837	ABSENT VOTERS
992	OTHER REASONS



Haveri final electoral roll lists 12.33 lakh voters

CH NEWS, HAVERI

The final electoral roll prepared under the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of Electoral Rolls-2026 has been published in Haveri district, with a total of 12,33,294 voters across six Assembly constituencies.

The final list has been released in accordance with the directions of the Election Commission of India. Voters can check their names and registration details through the offices of the concerned election officials and the official website of the Chief Electoral Officer of Karnataka.

The six Assembly constituencies covered in the district are Hangal, Shiggaon, Haveri, Byadgi, Hirekerur and Ranebennur.

According to the figures available in the report, Hangal constituency has 2,04,335 voters, while Shiggaon has 2,21,027 voters. Haveri constituency has 2,16,286 voters, and Byadgi has 1,99,108 voters.

Hirekerur constituency has 1,77,263 voters, while Ranebennur has 2,15,275 voters. Together, the six constituencies account for the district's total electorate of 12,33,294.

The Special Intensive Revision was undertaken to update electoral records, verify voter information and improve the accuracy of the electoral roll. The exercise included the identification of deceased voters, people who had permanently shifted residence, duplicate entries and other cases requiring verification.

The publication of the final electoral roll marks the completion of this stage of the revision process in the district. Voters have been advised to verify their names and personal details in the published list.

Eligible residents whose names are missing can approach the concerned election authorities and submit the prescribed application with the necessary documents for inclusion, subject to verification and eligibility requirements.

The final list was released following the directions of the Election Commission of India.

Voters by constituency

Shiggaon	2,21,027
Haveri	2,16,286
Ranebennur	2,15,275
Hangal	2,04,335
Byadgi	1,99,108
Hirekerur	1,77,263

Koppal publishes final electoral rolls under SIR 2026

CH NEWS, KOPPAL

The final electoral rolls under the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) 2026 have been published for all five Assembly constituencies in Koppal district, Additional Deputy Commissioner Sidrameshwara announced on Tuesday.

Addressing representatives of recognised and registered political parties at a meeting held at the Deputy Commissioner's office, he explained the schedule and progress of the revision process. Booth Level Officers (BLOs) conducted door-to-door visits from June 30 to August 17, 2026, to verify voter details and update electoral records.

The draft electoral rolls were published on August 24, and voters were given an opportunity to submit claims and objections until September 23. The process of issuing notices and deciding claims and objections continued until October 22. The final rolls were published on October 27.

Sidrameshwara thanked officials, BLOs, political party representatives and members of the public for their cooperation in completing the exercise.

He said eligible citizens whose names are missing from the final list can apply for inclusion using Form 6. Form 7 can be used to request deletion of a name, while Form 8 is meant for corrections and changes, including a change of residence, replacement of an Elector Photo Identity Card (EPIC) and updating disability status.Political party representatives appreciated the district administration's efforts, describing the revision process as systematic and impartial. They also commended BLOs for visiting households and collecting voter information.



Sidrameshwara

The meeting was attended by District Election Officer and Deputy Commissioner Dr. Suresh B.

Protect children's rights and ensure safe childhood: Judge

CH NEWS, VIJAYAPURA

Protecting children's rights and preventing child marriage and violence against children must be a shared responsibility, Principal District and Sessions Judge and District Legal Services Authority Chairman Harish A. said on Tuesday.

He was speaking after inaugurating the 'Safe Childhood Campaign – My Childhood, My Right' programme at Shivasharan Hemareddy Mallamma Government High School in Vivekanagar, Vijayapura. The programme was organised jointly by the Karnataka State Legal Services Authority, District Legal Services Authority, Education Department and the school.Judge Harish A. stressed that children must be provided with a safe and supportive environment to ensure their overall development. He called for greater public awareness to prevent child marriage, protect children from violence and safeguard their legal rights.

Kalaprathibhotsava-2026 celebrates young talent in Karwar

CH NEWS, KARWAR

Kalaprathibhotsava-2026, a cultural programme aimed at showcasing the talents of children, adolescents and youth, was organised by the Department of Kannada and Culture at the Karnataka State Government Employees' Bhavan in Karwar.

Manjunatha G. Navi, Deputy Conservator of Forests of the Social Forestry Sub-division, inaugurated the programme. The event was organised to encourage young people to explore their creative abilities and provide them with a platform to express their talents through cultural activities.

The programme brought together officials, literary figures and representatives of government employees' organisations. Their participation highlighted the importance of supporting cultural initiatives that encourage the younger generation to take an active interest in art, literature and traditional practices.

Rama Naik, president of the Kannada Sahitya Parishat, attended the event. Sanjeevkumar S. Naik, District AYUSH Officer and district president of the Karnataka State Government Employees' Association, was also present.



Dignitaries light the lamp at Kalaprathibhotsava-2026 in Karwar

Mangala Ven. Naik, Assistant Director of the Department of Kannada and Culture, participated in the programme along with other dignitaries and guests.

Kalaprathibhotsava aims to provide opportunities for children and young people to demonstrate their abilities and gain encouragement through participation in cultural programmes. Such initiatives can help nurture confidence, creativity and an appreciation of Karnataka's rich cultural heritage among the younger generation.

The involvement of the Department of Kannada and Culture also reflects the importance of creating platforms where emerging talent can be recognised and encouraged. Cultural programmes offer young participants opportunities to develop their interests, interact with others and gain experience in presenting their skills before an audience.

The gathering at the Karnataka State Government Employees' Bhavan added to the cultural activities being organised in the district.

Kannada mother tongue rejection sparks outrage

CH NEWS, Kalaburagi

Vijayakumar Ankalagi, Kalaburagi taluk president of the Karnataka Rakshana Vedike's Praveen Shetty faction, has condemned an alleged incident in which a job application was reportedly rejected because the applicant had listed Kannada as their mother tongue.

In a press statement, Ankalagi urged information technology and biotechnology companies operating in Karnataka to respect the state's language, culture, land and resources. He said companies benefiting from facilities and concessions provided by the state government must also recognise their responsibilities towards local people.

Referring to a media report published on October 25, Ankalagi expressed shock over the alleged rejection of the job application.

He said that discriminating against a candidate on the basis of their mother tongue was unacceptable and called on the government to investigate the matter.

Ankalagi urged the state government to take strict action against companies found violating applicable laws or engaging in discriminatory recruitment practices. He demanded that the government consider withdrawing concessions and cancelling licences wherever legally justified.

He also called for measures to protect the employment rights and job security of Kannadiga employees working in IT and BT companies across the state.

Kannada signage added at Vijayapura hotel after forum's request

VIJAYAPURA

The management of Niyaz Hotel on Station Road in Vijayapura has added Kannada text to a signboard advertising a Maharashtrian food festival following a request from the North Karnataka Comprehensive Development Forum.

BANGALORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
T.Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bangalore-560 020.

No: BDA/EE(East)/TEN/725/2026-27 Dated: 27.10.2026

NOTICE OF INVITATION FOR TENDERS (IFT) (TWO COVER SYSTEM)
(Through GOK e - Procurement Platform http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in)

Bangalore Development Authority has proposed for stadium at Konadasapura Ground tenders are invited through electronic tendering system (e-procurement) for the said work.

Sl. No.	Name of work	Approx cost put to tender (Rs. In Lakhs)	EMD amount in Rs.	Tender Processing Fee in Rs.	Time of Completion
1	Proposed Stadium Konadasapura Ground	Rs. 820.00 LAKHS	8,50,000/-	As per KPPP procurement portal	11 (Eleven) months. (Including Monsoon)

Tender document can be downloaded from **28.10.2026** onwards from the Government of Karnataka e-Procurement Website **http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** under login for Contractors/ Vendors. For Additional information Registration and e-payment, visit GoK e-Procurement helpdesk contact no. +91 80 46010000, +91 80 68948777 and e-Procurement Cell contact no. 080-22230960, 080-22234115. Helpline/Whatsapp: 9483166622 (24x7) @BDAOfficialGok

Sd/- Executive Engineer, East Division, BDA, Bangalore.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನೀರಾವರಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಒಂದು ಉದ್ಯಮ)
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್ ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ವಾರಾಹಿ ಯೋಜನಾ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಸಿದ್ಧಾಪುರ, ಉಡುಪಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ–576229. e mail: eevpzone@gmail.com
ಕಛೇರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಕಾಇಂ/ಕನೀನಿನಿ/ವಾಯೋವಿ/ಪಿಬಿ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/ 09&10/2026–27/990&991 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 23/10/2026

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

(ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ವೇದಿಕೆ) **(Two Tender Document System)**
ವಾರಾಹಿ ಯೋಜನಾ ವಿಭಾಗದ ಕಾರ್ಯ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಡಿ ಬರುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ವೇದಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಬಂಧಪಟ್ಟ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು ವಿವರಗಳು ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿರುತ್ತದೆ.
(1) ಟೆಂಡರಿಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 417.24 & 41.52 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು (2) ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ವೇದಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದಾದ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 28/10/2026. (3) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟೀಕರಣ/ಪೂರ್ವಭಾವಿ ಸಭೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 31/10/2026 (4) ಟೆಂಡರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 04/11/2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ (5) ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 05/11/2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.15 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. (6) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ, ಮಾರ್ಪಾಡು ಅಥವಾ ಇತರ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ, **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಚುರಪಡಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ವಾಸಾಇ/ಸನಿಳು/ಕೆಬಿಎಂಐಎ/451/26–27 ದಿ: 27–10–26

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ಕನೀನಿನಿ, ವಾರಾಹಿ ಯೋಜನಾ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಸಿದ್ಧಾಪುರ, ಉಡುಪಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಮಾರೇನಹಳ್ಳಿ ಗ್ರಾಮ ಪಂಚಾಯತಿ
ಜಾಲ ಹೋಬಳಿ, ಯಲಹಂಕ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಮಾರೇನಹಳ್ಳಿ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ–562149

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಮಾಗ್ರಾಪಂ/ಐರೀದಿ/ಇ–ಟಿ–1/2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ:27.10.2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: (1) RDPR/2026-27/IND15280, (2) RDPR/2026 -27/IND15281, (3) RDPR/2026-27/IND15283, (4)RDPR/2026-27/IND15284 (**kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ**)
ಮಾರೇನಹಳ್ಳಿ ಗ್ರಾಮ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಗತ್ಯ ಸಾಮಗ್ರಿಗಳ ಸರಬರಾಜು ಮತ್ತು ಸ್ಥಾಪನೆಗಾಗಿ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಾಗಿ ಆಸಕ್ತ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳು/ಏಜೆನ್ಸಿಗಳಿಂದ **kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಆಸಕ್ತ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳು/ಏಜೆನ್ಸಿಗಳು ಮೇಲಿನ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯನ್ನು ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು **ದಿನಾಂಕ 04.11.2026 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 5:00** ರೊಳಗೆ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ, ಮೇಲಿನ ಕಚೇರಿ ವಿಳಾಸವನ್ನು ಕಚೇರಿ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು.

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಾಪ್ರ/3355/ಶಿರಡಿ ಸಾಯಿ/2026–27

ಸಹಿ/
ಪಂಚಾಯತಿ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ,
ಮಾರೇನಹಳ್ಳಿ ಗ್ರಾಮ ಪಂಚಾಯತಿ.

GREATER BENGALURU AUTHORITY
Office of the Joint Commissioner,
IT Section, Annex-2 Building, GBA Head Office,
N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560002.

No: GBA/2026-27/IND0010/CALL-2 Date: 27-10-2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Joint Commissioner, IT Section, GBA, Bengaluru invites Tenders through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal from eligible bidders for the following.
Name of the Work: **Supply and Installation of 100 Nos. Desktop Computers and 50 Nos. Laptops to GBA-IT.**
Tender Reference No: **GBA/2026-27/IND0010/CALL-2**
Calendar of Events: 1) Date of Commencement of Download of Document from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 27-10-2026. 2)** Tender Inviting Authority: **Joint Commissioner - IT, GBA. 3)** Tender Accepting Authority: **Chief Commissioner - GBA. 4)** Last Date for Submitting Clarifications if any: **02-11-2026 upto 1.00 PM. 5)** Date of Pre Bid Meeting on **02-11-2026 at 4.00 PM in the Office of the Joint Commissioner, IT Section, GBA Head Office, behind Glass House, 1st Floor, N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560002. 6)** Last Date and Time for Uploading of Tender in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal: **13-11-2026 upto 5.00 PM. 7)** Date and Time of Opening of Tenders (Pre Qualification and Technical Bid and Technical Evaluation): **16-11-2026 at 11.00 AM. 8)** Date and Time of Opening of Tenders - Commercial Bid (Tentative): **As per KPP Portal. 9)** Address for Communication: **Office of the Joint Commissioner, IT Section, GBA Head Office, behind Glass House, 1st Floor, N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560002. Phone: +91 94482 59312. 10)** Place of Opening of Tenders: **KPP Portal (Online).** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Joint Commissioner
IT Section, GBA.

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

THE SOLUTION HIDDEN IN OUR LIFESTYLE



Dr. Vijay Garg

Modern life has given us remarkable comfort, convenience and technology. Yet, alongside these advantages, many people face stress, inactivity,



unhealthy eating habits, poor sleep and increasing dependence on digital devices. We often search for complicated solutions to problems that may have simple answers hidden within our everyday lifestyle. Our lifestyle is not merely a pattern of living; it is a powerful influence on our physical health, mental well-being, relationships and overall quality of life. Small daily choices, repeated consistently, can sometimes make a greater difference than occasional efforts.

The Power of Simple Habits

A healthy lifestyle does not necessarily require expensive equipment, complicated diets or dramatic changes. Regular physical activity, balanced food, adequate sleep and sufficient water are basic habits with significant benefits. Walking, stretching, cycling, gardening or participating in household activities can help reduce sedentary behaviour. The important thing is consistency rather than perfection.

Food as a Daily Choice

Food is one of the most visible expressions of lifestyle. Modern diets often contain excessive processed foods, sugar, salt and unhealthy fats. At the same time, traditional diets based on seasonal and locally available foods may offer useful lessons in balance and variety. Eating mindfully, choosing nutritious foods and avoiding unnecessary overeating can become an important part of preventive health.

Sleep: The Forgotten Medicine

In the race to achieve more, sleep is often sacrificed. Late-night screen use, irregular schedules and excessive work can interfere with healthy sleep patterns. Adequate and regular sleep supports concentration, mood, learning and daily functioning. Treating sleep as a necessity rather than a luxury is an important lifestyle change.

Movement in a Sedentary World

Technology has reduced the amount of physical effort required in everyday life. We sit in offices, travel in vehicles and spend long hours looking at screens. Introducing movement into the day can make a difference. Taking short walking breaks, using stairs when appropriate and spending time outdoors are simple ways to reduce prolonged sitting.

Mental Well-Being through Balance

A healthy lifestyle also includes mental balance. Constant notifications, social media comparisons and information overload can leave the mind exhausted. Spending time with family, reading, pursuing hobbies, enjoying nature and maintaining meaningful social connections can provide valuable mental space. Learning to disconnect from technology for certain periods can also help restore attention.

When small healthy habits become part of our routine, lifestyle itself can become one of our most valuable resources for a healthier, happier and more balanced life.

Relationships Are Part of Health

Human beings need meaningful relationships. A lifestyle focused entirely on competition, productivity and material success can leave little time for family and friends. A conversation with a loved one, a shared meal or helping someone in need may appear insignificant, but such moments can strengthen emotional bonds and provide a sense of belonging.

Nature as a Teacher

Nature offers another simple lifestyle lesson. Walking among trees, spending time in sunlight, observing the changing seasons or simply sitting in a quiet outdoor environment can encourage reflection and calm. Modern life often separates people from nature. Reconnecting with it can remind us of the value of simplicity, patience and balance.

Prevention Begins with Everyday Choices

Many health problems are influenced by multiple factors, including genetics, environment and lifestyle. This does not mean that lifestyle alone can prevent or cure every disease. However, healthier habits can form an important part of preventive well-being. The solution therefore may not always lie in searching for something new. Sometimes it lies in improving what we already do every day.

From Awareness to Action

Knowing what is healthy is not enough. The real challenge is turning knowledge into behaviour. Instead of making unrealistic resolutions, people can begin with small and practical changes: walking regularly, eating more mindfully, sleeping on time, limiting unnecessary screen use and making space for relationships and recreation. Small changes become powerful when they are repeated.

A Sustainable Way of Living

A healthy lifestyle should also be sustainable. Extreme restrictions are difficult to maintain. A balanced approach that allows enjoyment while encouraging moderation is more realistic for long-term well-being. The goal should not be perfection but consistency, awareness and balance.

The Solution May Be Closer Than We Think

We often look outside ourselves for solutions in new technologies, expensive treatments, complicated programmes or quick fixes. Yet some answers may already exist in the way we live. A more active day, nutritious food, adequate sleep, meaningful relationships, time in nature and a balanced use of technology can collectively transform everyday life. The solution hidden in our lifestyle is not a magic formula. It is a simple reminder: better living often begins with better daily choices.

SAUDI-HOUTHI CONFLICT IN YEMEN



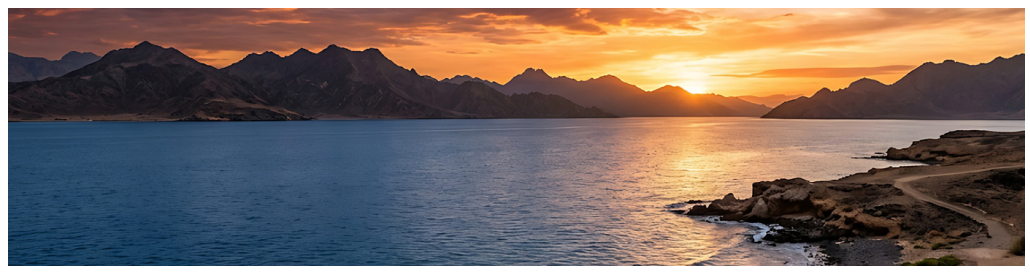
DR. PRIYANKA SAURABH

The conflict between Saudi Arabia and Houthi rebels is one of West Asia's most serious security challenges. The conflict is a result of Yemen's long-running civil war, political instability, regional power struggles, and international strategic interests. The conflict escalated after Houthi rebels seized the Yemeni capital, Sana'a, in 2014. The intervention of a Saudi-led military coalition in March 2015 transformed the conflict from a domestic political crisis to a regional security challenge. Although diplomatic efforts have attempted to de-escalate tensions, the conflict remains a serious threat to humanitarian security, maritime trade, and regional stability.

The primary cause of this conflict is Yemen's political instability and weak governance. Widespread protests during the 2011 Arab Spring forced President Ali Abdullah Saleh to step down. His successor, Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi, failed to establish an effective and inclusive regime. Corruption, unemployment, economic inequality, and weak government institutions weakened the political system. As a result, competition increased among various armed groups and political forces, creating favorable conditions for the expansion of the Houthi movement.

The second major reason is the Houthi movement's political and social grievances. The Houthi movement, also known as Ansar Allah, emerged from the Zaidi Shia community in northern Yemen. Its supporters protested political neglect, economic underdevelopment, and religious-cultural marginalization. Over time, the movement evolved into a powerful armed organization. Although its roots lie in Yemen's domestic environment, its military expansion and conflict with rival political groups further exacerbated the country's instability.

The Houthis' capture of the capital, Sana'a, in 2014 marked a turning point in the conflict. They subsequently expanded their influence in several other areas of the country, weakening the internationally recognized Yemeni government and disrupting the political transition process. Saudi Arabia viewed this development as a serious security challenge near its southern border. Sharing a long border with Yemen, Saudi Arabia feared that the Houthi expansion could impact its regional security and strategic interests.



Saudi Arabia's security concerns are another significant factor in the conflict. The Houthis' missile and drone attacks on Saudi territory, targeting military installations and critical infrastructure, have escalated tensions between the two sides. In March 2015, Saudi Arabia intervened militarily to curb the Houthis' growing power and support the recognized Yemeni government. While the stated objective of this intervention was to restore the Yemeni government, the prolonged military campaign further complicated the resolution of the conflict.

A broader geopolitical factor in this conflict is regional competition between Iran and Saudi Arabia. Iran has provided various levels of political, technical, and military support to the Houthi movement. Saudi Arabia views this as a threat to growing Iranian influence near its southern border. Although the Houthi movement has its own domestic roots and independent political priorities, the Iran-Saudi rivalry has given the conflict a broader regional dimension. Thus, Yemen has become a major center of internal political conflict as well as power competition in West Asia.

The conflict has had serious consequences for regional peace and security. Its most visible impact is the humanitarian crisis. The prolonged war has displaced large numbers of people and exacerbated problems such as food insecurity, malnutrition, and lack of health services. Hospitals, schools, water supply systems, and other public facilities have been damaged. Weak governance and economic crisis have made life more difficult for ordinary citizens. Such circumstances can also create opportunities for the expansion of militant organizations and illicit activities.

Another major impact has been on maritime security. Yemen's geographical location is highly strategic, being near the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait. This strait connects the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden and provides a vital route for trade between Asia and Europe via the Suez Canal. The Houthis' targeting of commercial vessels and maritime traffic has impacted the security of international shipping. Increasing attacks in the Red Sea, particularly since late 2023, have prompted many shipping companies to seek alternative routes. Travel time, fuel costs, and transportation costs have increased as ships circumvent the southern tip of Africa.

The third impact has been on energy security. West Asia is a major hub for global oil supplies, and security incidents there can impact international energy markets. The attacks on Saudi Arabia's Abqaiq and Khurais oil installations in 2019 exposed the vulnerabilities of critical energy infrastructure. It would be unfair to attribute these attacks solely to the Saudi-Houthi conflict, but they did highlight the broader risks associated with regional instability. The threat of attacks on energy installations increases oil price uncertainty, increases insurance costs, and increases the risk of disruptions to global supply.

Fourth, the impact has been on the regional balance of power and international relations. The conflict has deepened distrust between Iran and Saudi Arabia and increased the role of outside powers in West Asia. The increased use of missiles, drones, and other advanced weapons has intensified military competition. This has forced regional countries to devote greater resources to their defense systems, intelligence capabilities, and maritime security. Furthermore, the conflict's expansion could lead to broader regional tensions, impacting counterterrorism cooperation and other diplomatic efforts.

Its impact on global trade is also significant. The Red Sea and Suez Canal routes are vital to international supply chains. Insecurity in the region could increase the cost of transporting goods, delay supplies, and put additional pressure on import-dependent economies. Rising transportation costs for food, fuel, and industrial goods could exacerbate economic challenges, particularly for developing countries.

A lasting solution to this conflict lies in an inclusive political process and regional diplomacy, rather than military action. It is essential to advance meaningful dialogue between the Houthi movement, the recognized Yemeni government, and other relevant parties, under UN mediation. Issues related to political representation, power-sharing, security arrangements, and the equitable distribution of national resources must be resolved. Furthermore, dialogue and confidence-building measures between Saudi Arabia and Iran must be strengthened. Progress toward improving relations between the two countries can be leveraged to establish peace in Yemen.

Additionally, it is essential to ensure an effective ceasefire, the uninterrupted supply of humanitarian aid, and the protection of civilians. The international community must cooperate, in accordance with international law, to maintain the security of sea lanes and freedom of navigation. Creating employment opportunities, rebuilding the economy, and strengthening accountable governance institutions are equally important for long-term peace in Yemen.

In conclusion, the Saudi-Houthi conflict demonstrates how domestic political instability, regional rivalries, and external interference can transform a local crisis into a broader international security challenge. Its consequences extend beyond Yemen's borders, affecting humanitarian well-being, maritime trade, energy security, and the stability of West Asia. Lasting peace requires an inclusive political solution, Saudi-Iranian dialogue, respect for international law, and continued cooperation for Yemen's reconstruction.

"A peaceful, stable, and sovereign Yemen is not only in the interest of its citizens, but also essential for the security of the entire region and the world."

— Dr. Priyanka Saurabh

THE CASE FOR BEING UNREACHABLE

DR. THEJAS GIGY THOMAS

Somewhere in the last decade, availability quietly became a virtue. To reply within minutes is to be responsive, and to leave a message unread is to be rude, or worse, uncommitted. We have built a working culture in which the person who answers fastest is assumed to care most. This is a mistake, and an expensive one.

"Being a little harder to reach is, more often than we admit, how that time gets made."

— Dr. Thejas Gigy Thomas

Consider what an always-on posture does to the quality of thought. Deep work, the kind that produces a solid analysis, a well-designed system, or a paragraph worth reading twice, depends on sustained, uninterrupted attention. Researchers who study interruption have long observed that returning to a task after a distraction takes far longer than the distraction itself. A thirty-second glance at a message can cost many minutes of recovered focus. Multiply that by a day of pings and the arithmetic is grim: people are present for everything and fully engaged in nothing.

The deeper problem is that responsiveness is easy to measure and depth is not. A reply time is visible to everyone. The quality of an idea that didn't get dismantled by a dozen interruptions is invisible. Organizations, like individuals, tend to optimize what they can see. So we reward the quick answer over the considered one, and then wonder why decisions feel shallow and burnout feels routine.

None of this is an argument against collaboration or against urgency. Some situations demand an immediate response, and a team that cannot reach its members in an emergency has a real problem. But most of what lands in our inboxes and chat channels is not an emergency. It is a question that could wait an hour, a status update that could be a paragraph at day's end, an "FYI" that informs no one. Treating all of it with the same urgency teaches everyone to treat none of it carefully.



What would a healthier norm look like? It would begin with leaders, because norms flow downward. A manager who sends messages at midnight and expects nothing back until morning sets a different tone from one who sends the same message and quietly signals that a reply is due immediately. Teams can agree on what counts as urgent and how to flag it. They can protect blocks of the day for focused work, and default to asynchronous communication, written clearly enough that the reader does not need to ask a follow-up.

Individuals can do their part too. Silencing notifications, batching email, and saying "I'll get back to you by tomorrow" are small acts, but they accumulate. They also model something worth modeling: that a person can be committed and reliable without being perpetually on call.

There is a quieter benefit as well. Time spent unreachable is time for the thoughts that only arrive when nothing is demanding our attention: the connection between two unrelated problems, the realization that a plan is flawed, the sentence that finally comes out right. These are not luxuries. They are much of what we are paid to produce.

We should stop mistaking speed for dedication. The most valuable thing a colleague can offer is not an instant reply but a good one, and good ones take time to think through.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Urban Infrastructure in Crisis

Through the columns of your esteemed newspaper, I wish to express deep concern regarding the recurring urban flooding across major metro cities during heavy monsoons. Year after year, short spells of intense rainfall submerge key commercial and residential areas, collapsing civic life and exposing severe infrastructural deficits.

The primary culprits remain unmanaged concrete coverage, neglected storm-drainage networks, and indiscriminate encroachment upon natural water bodies. Patchwork repairs prior to every monsoon season fail to resolve these structural issues. Urban development authorities must urgently transition toward sustainable planning—incorporating permeable pavements, restoring natural wetlands, and enforcing strict drainage maintenance. Sustainable city design is no longer a luxury, but an absolute necessity for economic survival.

– Oman

Regulating Global AI

I am writing to highlight the urgent imperative for an international regulatory framework governing Artificial Intelligence. As frontier AI models proliferate globally across defense, finance, and deepfake creation, national borders offer virtually no protection against algorithm-driven disinformation, cyber vulnerabilities, or systemic bias. While individual nations have introduced domestic policies, fragmented governance leaves dangerous loopholes for unchecked technological abuse. The international community must collaborate through multilateral forums like the United Nations to establish global safety benchmarks, ethical constraints, and transparent auditing protocols. Without binding international standards, autonomous technologies could undermine democracy, job markets, and international security. Global technological advancement must be matched by unified global responsibility before critical boundaries are crossed.

– Rohan Verma

Combating the Plastic Plague

I request space in your columns to draw public and official attention to the growing environmental threat posed by single-use plastics and microplastic contamination. Despite legal prohibitions on single-use plastics, weak enforcement allows non-biodegradable waste to clog rivers, destroy marine ecosystems, and leak toxic chemicals into municipal food chains. Relying solely on consumer awareness is insufficient. Municipal corporations and state governments must enforce strict accountability on plastic manufacturers through Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) mandates. Simultaneously, investments must be scaled up toward affordable, biodegradable packaging alternatives and decentralized waste segregation facilities. Protecting our public health and ecological heritage requires decisive regulatory action and rigorous ground-level execution without further delay.

– Priya Mukherjee

Bridging the Youth Skill Gap

Through your columns, I wish to highlight the pressing issue of youth unemployment and the growing skill mismatch in our national labor market.

Despite a rising number of university graduates, modern industries consistently report a critical shortage of candidates equipped with practical, technology-driven skills. Degree programs remain overly focused on theoretical learning, leaving students unprepared for rapidly evolving sector demands such as automation, digital marketing, and modern engineering. To solve this crisis, educational institutions must overhaul curriculums in partnership with industry leaders. Integrating mandatory apprenticeships, vocational training, and technical certifications into higher education will empower youth and secure sustainable economic growth. Action must be taken before our demographic dividend becomes a lost opportunity.

– Vinisha

Securing Global Digital Infrastructure

I am writing to draw attention to the severe global threat posed by state-sponsored cyberattacks on critical infrastructure. Recent incidents across power grids, banking systems, and healthcare networks demonstrate how international conflict has expanded into digital warfare, threatening the daily lives of millions worldwide.

As supply chains and public utilities become deeply interconnected across borders, isolated national cybersecurity measures are no longer sufficient. International bodies must draft binding treaties similar to nuclear non-proliferation agreements that define strict boundaries against targeting civilian digital networks. Global stability now depends on strong cyber defense standards, international intelligence sharing, and enforceable rules of engagement. Nations must unite to safeguard the shared digital backbone that sustains modern civilization.

– Arjun Mehta

HONEY, NATURE'S GOLDEN GIFT TO HUMAN HEALTH

Honey has been valued for centuries as a natural sweetener, traditional remedy and symbol of nourishment. Produced by honeybees from the nectar of flowers, this golden liquid occupies a special place in Indian households, traditional medicine, religious practices and culinary traditions. Even today, despite the widespread availability of refined sugar and artificial sweeteners, honey continues to offer several practical uses and potential health benefits.



One of honey's greatest advantages is its versatility. It can be added to warm beverages, breakfast cereals, fruits, yoghurt and homemade desserts. It is also widely used in baking and cooking, providing a distinctive flavour and aroma. In many households, honey is preferred as an alternative to refined sugar. However, it is important to remember that honey is still a concentrated source of sugar and should be consumed in moderation.

Honey contains small quantities of antioxidants and other naturally occurring compounds. These substances may help protect the body against oxidative stress. Although honey is not a miracle food, replacing some refined sugar with a modest amount of honey may offer a more natural approach to sweetening food. Its nutritional value, however, varies according to the flowers from which bees collect nectar and the methods used to process it.

Honey also has a recognised role in soothing coughs associated with common upper respiratory infections. A small amount may help relieve throat irritation, particularly before bedtime. Nevertheless, it should not be regarded as a substitute for medical treatment when symptoms are severe, persistent or accompanied by other warning signs. Honey must never be given to children below one year of age because of the risk of infant botulism.

Beyond its culinary and traditional uses, honey supports livelihoods and rural economies. Beekeeping provides opportunities for farmers, small entrepreneurs and rural communities to earn additional income. Honeybees also play a crucial role in pollinating many agricultural crops and wild plants. Their activity contributes to biodiversity, agricultural productivity and the maintenance of healthy ecosystems. Thus, protecting bee populations is essential not only for honey production but also for food security.

However, consumers must be cautious about adulteration and misleading claims. Pure honey does not automatically cure diabetes, eliminate infections or guarantee immunity against disease. People with diabetes should account for its sugar content when planning their diets. Purchasing honey from reliable producers and checking product labels can help consumers make informed choices. Raw, filtered and processed honey may differ in appearance and composition, but colour or crystallisation alone cannot establish purity.

The future of honey depends on responsible production and environmental protection. Farmers and policymakers should encourage sustainable beekeeping, reduce unnecessary pesticide exposure and protect flowering plants and natural habitats. Consumers, too, can contribute by supporting trustworthy local beekeepers and avoiding wasteful consumption.

Honey is more than a sweet ingredient; it represents the remarkable relationship between nature, agriculture and human well-being. Used wisely, it can enrich our diets, support traditional practices and strengthen rural livelihoods. Its greatest value lies not in exaggerated health promises but in its genuine usefulness, natural origins and the essential work of the bees that produce it.

Protecting these tiny pollinators will help ensure that nature's golden gift remains available for generations to come.

— KEVEN STEPHEN

THE QUIET STRENGTH OF SILENCE

In today's fast-paced world, where conversations, notifications, traffic, and digital distractions compete constantly for our attention, silence has become a rare and valuable experience. People are surrounded by noise from morning until night, leaving little time to listen to their own thoughts. In such circumstances, silence is not merely the absence of sound; it is an opportunity for reflection, emotional balance, personal growth, and a deeper understanding of life.

One of the greatest benefits of silence is its ability to calm the mind. Modern life places enormous pressure on individuals through work, education, family responsibilities, financial concerns, and social expectations. Continuous exposure to noise and information can leave people mentally exhausted. Spending a few minutes in silence can provide relief from this pressure. Whether through quiet meditation, a peaceful walk, or simply sitting alone without a mobile phone, silence allows the mind to rest and regain its clarity.

> *"In a noisy world, the ability to remain peacefully silent may be one of the most valuable strengths a person can cultivate."*
>
> **RICKY LESLEY WILFRED**

Silence also encourages self-reflection. In the rush to meet daily responsibilities, people often overlook their own feelings, mistakes, ambitions, and values. Quiet moments provide an opportunity to examine our actions and understand what truly matters. By listening to our inner thoughts, we can make wiser decisions, recognise our weaknesses, and develop a stronger sense of purpose. Silence, therefore, can become an important teacher in the journey towards self-improvement.

Another significant value of



silence lies in human relationships. People frequently believe that expressing more words is the best way to communicate. However, genuine understanding sometimes begins when we stop speaking and start listening. Giving someone our undivided attention demonstrates respect, patience, and empathy. A silent presence beside a grieving friend, for instance, may offer greater comfort than a long speech. Similarly, remaining calm during an argument can prevent unnecessary words from damaging relationships. Silence can create space for understanding where anger and hurried responses might otherwise prevail.

Silence is also essential for creativity and concentration. Writers, artists, scientists, students, and professionals often need uninterrupted time to think deeply and develop new ideas. Constant notifications and background noise can weaken attention and reduce productivity. Creating quiet spaces at home, in schools, and in workplaces can help people focus better and approach problems with fresh perspectives. Even a short period away from digital devices can improve the quality of our thinking.

Nevertheless, silence should not be misunderstood as a solution to every problem. Remaining quiet in the face of injustice, abuse, discrimination, or wrongdoing can allow harmful behaviour to continue. There are moments when speaking clearly and courageously becomes a moral responsibility. The real wisdom lies in recognising when silence is appropriate and when our voices must be heard.

Unfortunately, society often celebrates those who speak loudly, respond quickly, and constantly express their opinions. Yet wisdom does not always demand immediate answers. Sometimes, thoughtful silence reveals greater maturity than unnecessary argument. Learning to pause before reacting can prevent misunderstandings and help us respond with dignity.

Ultimately, silence is a powerful resource that modern society must rediscover. We should create moments of quiet in our daily routines, encourage children to appreciate reflection, and make room for peaceful conversation without digital interruptions. Silence does not disconnect us from life; it helps us understand life more deeply.

— RICKY LESLEY WILFRED

WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS: BUILDING BUSINESSES, SHAPING FUTURES

Women play a vital role in the development of families, communities and nations. Yet, despite their talents, education and determination, many women remain economically dependent on others or struggle to find suitable employment. Encouraging women to start their own businesses is therefore not merely a matter of personal ambition; it is an important step towards economic independence, gender equality and national progress.

Entrepreneurship offers women the opportunity to transform their ideas, skills and interests into sustainable sources of income. Whether it is running a tailoring unit, opening a food business, establishing an online store, providing professional services or developing a technology-based enterprise, women can build businesses that reflect their abilities and aspirations. With determination and proper support, even a small initiative can grow into a successful enterprise.

One of the greatest advantages of starting a business is financial independence. Women who earn their own income gain greater control over financial decisions and become better equipped to support their families. Economic independence also strengthens self-confidence and helps women participate more actively in decisions concerning education, healthcare, property and their future. A financially independent woman is better positioned to face unexpected challenges and secure a more stable life.

Women's entrepreneurship also contributes significantly to employment generation and economic development. When women establish businesses, they create opportunities not only for themselves but also for others. A small enterprise may eventually employ local workers, support suppliers and contribute to the growth of the surrounding community. Women-led businesses can also introduce innovative products and services that respond to local needs, particularly in rural and underserved areas.

However, the journey towards entrepreneurship is not without obstacles. Many women face difficulties in obtaining loans, accessing markets, acquiring business skills and balancing professional responsibilities with household duties. Social expectations and a lack of family support can further discourage them from pursuing their ambitions. Women from economically weaker backgrounds often face additional barriers because they lack capital, networks and access to reliable information.



These challenges demand practical solutions. Governments, banks and financial institutions must make affordable credit and business support schemes more accessible to women. Training programmes should provide knowledge of accounting, digital marketing, customer relations and business management. Self-help groups, mentorship networks and women-led business associations can help aspiring entrepreneurs exchange experiences, build confidence and discover new opportunities.

Families and society also have an important role to play. Household responsibilities should not be considered the exclusive duty of women. Sharing domestic work and encouraging women to pursue their professional goals can create an environment in which entrepreneurship becomes achievable. Society must recognise women entrepreneurs for their competence, innovation and leadership rather than judging them through traditional gender stereotypes.

Women do not need to begin with large investments or ambitious enterprises. They can start small, identify genuine customer needs, manage expenses carefully and expand gradually. Access to digital platforms has made it easier for many aspiring entrepreneurs to promote products and reach customers beyond their immediate neighbourhoods.

Ultimately, empowering women to establish their own businesses is an investment in a stronger and more inclusive society. When women become entrepreneurs, they create wealth, generate employment and inspire future generations. The real objective should not simply be to encourage women to dream of independence, but to provide them with the resources and opportunities to achieve it.

A nation that supports women's entrepreneurship takes a decisive step towards shared prosperity and lasting progress.

— PREMILA BASILICA

MORE THAN A MACHINE: A MAN'S EVERYDAY COMPANION

A bike is much more than a means of transportation in a man's life. For many, it represents freedom, independence, responsibility, ambition and the joy of exploring the world. From travelling to work every morning to taking an unforgettable ride through the countryside, a motorcycle often becomes a trusted companion in life's everyday journey. Its importance goes beyond convenience, reflecting the practical needs and personal aspirations of millions of people.

One of the greatest advantages of owning a bike is independence. In a world where time is precious, a motorcycle allows a person to travel conveniently without depending entirely on public transportation or others. Whether commuting to the office, attending an important meeting, visiting family or responding to an emergency, a bike offers flexibility. It helps people manage their daily responsibilities more efficiently, particularly in crowded cities where traffic congestion frequently wastes valuable time.

For many working men, a bike is also an important economic asset. Compared with a car, it generally requires a smaller initial investment and less parking space. Fuel expenses can also be lower, depending on the model and riding conditions. For employees, small business owners, delivery workers and self-employed individuals, a motorcycle can support their livelihoods by making daily travel more affordable and practical. Thus, a bike is not merely a personal possession; it can also be a tool for economic progress.

Beyond practical benefits, a bike often carries emotional significance. The first motorcycle purchased with one's own earnings can become a



symbol of achievement and self-reliance. It may remind a person of years of hard work, sacrifices and the satisfaction of reaching a personal goal. Weekend rides, journeys with friends and visits to distant places create memories that remain meaningful long after the journey ends. For many enthusiasts, riding also provides an opportunity to relax, appreciate nature and temporarily escape the pressures of everyday life.

However, the importance of a bike must be accompanied by responsibility. The excitement of speed should never outweigh the value of human life. Reckless riding, dangerous overtaking, mobile-phone use while driving and ignoring traffic signals can turn a useful vehicle into a source of tragedy. Every rider must wear a properly fastened helmet, obey traffic regulations, maintain the motorcycle regularly and respect pedestrians and other road users. Responsible riding is not a sign of fear; it is evidence of maturity and concern for others.

Families, too, benefit when men use their bikes thoughtfully. A motorcycle can help a father reach work on time, take a family member to an appointment or complete essential errands. Yet riders must remember that their safety matters to the people who depend on them.

Ultimately, a bike is more than metal, wheels and an engine. It is a symbol of mobility, opportunity and personal freedom. When used wisely, it saves time, supports livelihoods and enriches everyday experiences. The true value of a motorcycle lies not in its price, brand or speed, but in how responsibly and purposefully its owner uses it.

A good rider understands that every journey is valuable, but returning home safely is the greatest achievement of all.

— FRANCIS JACOB

RAISING BOLD GIRLS BUILDS A STRONGER SOCIETY

A girl's childhood is not merely a preparation for adulthood; it is the foundation upon which her confidence, independence and identity are built. The courage she develops in her early years can influence the decisions she makes throughout her life. Therefore, encouraging girls to be bold from a young age is not simply a matter of personal development; it is an essential step towards building a more equal, confident and progressive society.

Being bold does not mean being rude, aggressive or disrespectful. It means having the courage to express opinions, ask questions, stand up against injustice and make decisions without constantly fearing criticism. A bold girl understands that her voice matters and that she deserves the same respect, opportunities and freedom as anyone else.

Unfortunately, many girls grow up hearing instructions that gradually weaken their confidence. They are often told to remain quiet, avoid arguments, behave modestly and think about what others might say. While good manners and respect are important, they should never become reasons to suppress a girl's individuality. When children are repeatedly discouraged from expressing themselves, they may begin to doubt their abilities and accept limitations that should never have been imposed upon them.

The family plays a decisive role in changing this situation. Parents must encourage their daughters to speak openly, ask



questions and participate in family decisions. When a girl expresses a different opinion, she should be heard rather than immediately silenced. Giving daughters responsibilities, allowing them to explore their interests and teaching them to solve problems independently can strengthen their self-belief.

Schools also have an important responsibility. Education should not merely prepare girls to pass examinations; it should equip them to face the world with confidence. Debates, sports, public speaking, leadership activities and creative pursuits provide opportunities for girls to discover their strengths. Teachers should ensure that girls are encouraged to participate equally and are never made to feel that certain subjects, professions or ambitions are beyond their capabilities.

Boldness is particularly important in helping girls recognise and respond to unsafe situations. From an early age, they must learn that their bodies, boundaries and personal choices deserve respect. They should feel comfortable saying no, seeking help from trusted adults and reporting inappropriate behaviour without shame or fear. Teaching these lessons is not about making girls suspicious of everyone; it is about equipping them with awareness and the confidence to protect themselves.

However, society must also understand that courage cannot be demanded from girls while the environment around them continues to discourage their independence. Families, educational institutions and communities must challenge gender stereotypes, reject victim-blaming and create spaces where girls can express themselves safely. Responsibility for preventing discrimination and harassment belongs to society, not to girls alone.

Equally important is teaching girls that boldness includes accepting mistakes, learning from failure and trying again. A confident girl does not need to be perfect. She needs to understand that setbacks are opportunities to grow, not reasons to abandon her ambitions.

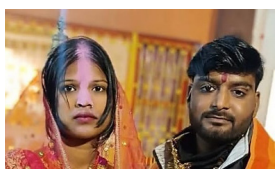
Ultimately, a girl's courage should be nurtured, not restricted. When girls learn to trust their abilities at a young age, they become better equipped to pursue education, build careers, establish healthy relationships and contribute meaningfully to society.

> **"A girl who learns to raise her voice with confidence today can become a woman who helps change the world tomorrow."**
>
> **— MARIA VALENTINA**

The future needs women who can lead, question, innovate and stand firm in their convictions. Such women are shaped, in part, by the encouragement they receive as children.

— MARIA VALENTINA

Quick Read



Bihar woman dies after husband allegedly sets her on fire

SUPAUL

A 21-year-old woman, Damini Kumari, died after her husband, Sanjeev Sah, allegedly poured petrol on her and set her on fire in Bihar's Supaul district, police said.Local residents rescued Damini and took her to a hospital, but she died.Police said the couple, who married nine months ago after meeting on Instagram, had marital differences. The alleged attack followed a dispute over divorce papers, which Damini reportedly refused to sign. Sanjeev has been arrested, and further investigation is underway.

FIR against four men on woman's sexual assault complaint

HYDERABAD

Police registered an FIR against four men after an 18-year-old woman from Bangladesh alleged that they sexually assaulted her at a rented house in Hyderabad.She alleged that she was confined inside the house and that the men threatened to kill her if she revealed the incidents.The case came to light on October 23. A complaint was filed on October 26, and police are investigating the allegations.

Baby elephant dies after falling from hill in Wayanad

WAYANAD

A baby elephant died after falling from a hill at a plantation in Muthumari near Kattikkulam in Kerala's Wayanad district, with CCTV footage capturing the incident.

The footage, which circulated on social media on Monday, showed the calf falling and its mother attempting to reach it.

The Rapid Action Team of the North Wayanad Forest Division reached the spot on Sunday but could not approach the calf as a herd surrounded it. The calf's death was confirmed, and its body was taken deeper into the forest.

Keralam private bus operators to strike from Nov 3

PALAKKAD

Private bus operators in Keralam have announced an indefinite strike from November 3, accusing the state government of failing to address mounting losses following the introduction of the Priyadarshini service by the Kerala State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC). The operators claimed that the Priyadarshini service, which provides free travel for women and transgender persons on ordinary KSRTC buses, had caused losses of Rs 12 crore to the private bus sector in four months.The operators warned that all private buses would remain off the roads unless the government acted on their demands.

India invites Pakistan minister to SCO civilisational dialogue

For the first time since 2023, India has invited a Pakistani minister to a major SCO cultural forum, bringing representatives from over 25 countries to Delhi in November.

NEW DELHI

India has invited Pakistan's Minister for National Heritage and Culture, Aurangzeb Khan Khichi, to the inaugural Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Civilisational Dialogue Forum, scheduled to be held in New Delhi from November 20 to 22.

The event marks the first such invitation to a Pakistani minister since 2023. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to inaugurate the forum, which will bring together representatives from more than 25 countries at the historic Purana Qila, a 16th-century fort in the national capital.

The dialogue is being organised jointly by the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of External Affairs. The initiative was proposed by Modi at the SCO leaders' summit in Tianjin last year and subsequently adopted by the SCO Council.

Culture ministers from all 10 SCO member states have been invited, including representatives from China, Russia, Iran, Belarus and Central Asian countries. Invitations have also been extended to representatives of 15 dialogue partners and observer countries.



The SCO is a regional grouping that includes India and Pakistan, alongside China, Russia, Iran, Belarus and Central Asian member states. The proposed forum aims to provide a platform for participating countries to engage on civilisational and cultural issues.

The invitation to Pakistan comes amid strained bilateral relations between New Delhi and Islamabad.

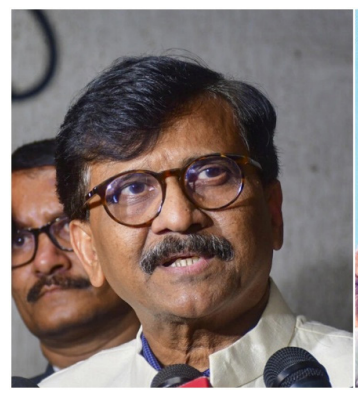
SCO meet: key details

WHEN	November 20-22, 2026
WHERE	Purana Qila, New Delhi
OPENING	PM Narendra Modi
GUESTS	Over 25 countries
FIRST	Pakistani minister invited, first since 2023

The three-day gathering is expected to bring together officials from across the SCO region and its partner countries, with the historic Purana Qila serving as the venue for the inaugural dialogue.

Sanjay Raut alleges 32,490 trees face axe ahead of Modi's visit

MUMBAI





Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut on Tuesday alleged that more than 32,000 trees near the eco-sensitive Bhimashankar Wildlife Sanctuary in Maharashtra are set to be felled ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's proposed visit for a hydropower project's ground-breaking ceremony on November 3.

Raut shared on X a letter purportedly issued by a forest official, stating that approval had been granted to divert 233 hectares of land for the Rs 13,505-crore Saidongar-I Karjat Pumped Storage Hydroelectric Project in Raigad district.

According to the letter, the project would involve clearing 197 hectares of reserved forest, 26 hectares of private forest and nine hectares of protected forest land in Karjat to establish a 3,000 MW facility.

The letter, reportedly issued by Karjat East Range Forest Officer Sameer Shinde, states that tree felling must be restricted to the 32,490 trees approved under the diversion proposal. It also reportedly calls for the affected trees to be removed immediately in view of the Prime Minister's proposed visit.

The Rs 13,505-crore pumped storage project in Raigad involves forest land diversion, raising concerns among Opposition leaders and environmental activists over potential ecological damage.

Torrent Power project

The project, being developed by Gujarat-based Torrent Power, has drawn criticism from Opposition leaders and environmental activists, who have raised concerns about its potential impact on forest cover and wildlife.

The proposed facility is located around 16 km from Bhimashankar Wildlife Sanctuary and 20 km from the Bhimashankar Temple. The project is expected to strengthen grid reliability and energy security in Maharashtra and other regions.

Raut also criticised BJP-nominated Rajya Sabha MP and senior lawyer Ujjwal Nikam for supporting the project, arguing that he should stand up for public interests rather than back a venture that critics say threatens green cover.

The allegations have intensified debate over the balance between energy infrastructure development and environmental protection. The claims regarding the tree-felling order are based on the letter shared by Raut.

Uttarakhand presents ₹7,844-crore supplementary budget



Budget in focus

total budget
₹1.19 lakh cr
supplementary allocation
₹7,844 cr
paddy and wheat procurement
₹1,100 cr
local bodies
₹721 cr
digital learning
₹200 cr

DEHRADUN

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami on Tuesday presented a supplementary budget of Rs 7,844.18 crore for the 2026-27 financial year at the Vidhan Sabha in Gairsain, increasing the state's total budget outlay to Rs 1,19,547.39 crore from Rs 1,11,703.21 crore.

The additional allocation prioritises infrastructure, agriculture, local bodies, healthcare, education and welfare schemes. Of the supplementary amount, Rs 4,164.32 crore has been earmarked for capital expenditure, while Rs 3,679.86 crore will go towards revenue expenditure.

The government has increased the share of state tax revenue allocated to rural and urban local bodies from 10.5% to 12.5%, following the recommendations of the Sixth State Finance Commission. A total of Rs 721 crore has been provided for local bodies, alongside Rs 500 crore under the Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment scheme.

Agriculture has received significant support, with Rs 1,100 crore allocated for procuring paddy and wheat from farmers. Other provisions include Rs 70 crore for climate-resilient rainfed agriculture, Rs 28 crore for trout promotion, Rs 9 crore for farmer pensions and Rs 1 crore for a new beekeeping policy.

The budget also provides Rs 48 crore for ground subsidence remediation in Joshimath and affected areas. Water supply projects have received allocations, including Rs 300 crore for contractor clearances under the Jal Jeevan Mission.

Healthcare provisions include Rs 100 crore for the Atal Ayushman Yojana, offering cashless medical coverage of up to Rs 5.5 lakh per family, and Rs 125 crore for government employees' medical benefits.

Education and sports initiatives include Rs 200 crore for digital learning, Rs 35 crore for a Sports University and Rs 10 crore for a women's sports college in Champawat. The budget comes ahead of the 2027 Assembly elections.

MRPL wins two national innovation awards at ETM 2026



The two awards

- **Best Indigenously Developed Technology:** KARVE IBB, a process for isobutyl benzene, a pharmaceutical intermediate
- **Best Innovation in Refinery:** REVEAL FCC, a closed-loop real-time optimiser

GOA

Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (MRPL), a subsidiary of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), has won two national awards for innovation and indigenous technology development at the 29th Energy Technology and Innovation Meet (ETM) 2026.

The awards, presented on October 27 at ATI–ONGC in Goa, were instituted by the Centre for High Technology under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the 2025–26 period.

MRPL secured the awards in the categories of "Best Indigenously Developed Technology" and "Best Innovation in Refinery". The recognition highlights the company's efforts to develop homegrown technologies and improve refinery operations.

The first award was presented for KARVE IBB, an indigenous process technology for manufacturing isobutyl benzene, a pharmaceutical intermediate. The second recognised REVEAL™ FCC, an indigenous closed-loop, real-time optimiser designed to improve refinery process performance.

A selection committee chaired by Dr G. D. Yadav, chairman of the Scientific Advisory Committee, evaluated the awardees.

The MRPL delegation receiving the awards was led by managing director Mundkur Shyamprasad Kamath and included director (refinery) Nanda Kumar Velayudhan Pillai, executive director N. Anandha Kumar and other senior officials.

The company said the recognition marked its fifth consecutive year of receiving national honours for innovation at major government platforms, including the Energy Technology Meet and India Energy Week.

The awards reinforce MRPL's focus on indigenous technology, operational excellence and innovation, aligning with the Government of India's Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative to strengthen domestic technological capabilities.

FARMER RELIEF FUND

Maharashtra to give ₹7,500 crore drought relief to 1.5 crore farmers

MUMBAI

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has directed officials to transfer Rs 5,000 each as advance drought relief to 1.5 crore farmers this week, with the government setting aside Rs 7,500 crore for the assistance ahead of Diwali.

The decision was taken at a Cabinet meeting. Fadnavis has also instructed banks not to deduct any amount from the relief payments, ensuring that eligible farmers receive the full sum.

Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde said the assistance would be provided in addition to the 12 benefits available to farmers following a drought declaration. These include fee waivers, water arrangements, loan restructuring and relief measures related to loan recovery.

"A provision of Rs 7,500 crore has been made; the money will be transferred to their accounts immediately," Shinde said, adding that the government would ensure farmers receive the money before Diwali.

The announcement comes amid concerns over drought-like conditions in parts of Maharashtra and their impact on the agricultural community. The government said the advance payment was intended to provide immediate financial support while further compensation would be paid later.

Speaking to reporters in Wardha on Sunday, Fadnavis described the measure as an unprecedented step, saying farmers had not previously received such assistance before December. He said eligible farmers would now receive at least Rs 5,000, compared with around Rs 1,000 previously received by farmers with small landholdings.



The advance

BEFORE	NOW
₹1,000	₹5,000
around this, for small landholders	at least, for every eligible farmer

Fadnavis acknowledged that Rs 5,000 would not fully compensate for farmers' losses but said it would offer some relief. He also contrasted Maharashtra's assistance with Karnataka's drought relief measures, claiming that Karnataka had provided Rs 2,500 despite facing severe drought.

"A provision of Rs 7,500 crore has been made; the money will be transferred to their accounts immediately."
EKNATH SHINDE Deputy Chief Minister

The government hopes the advance disbursement will ease financial pressure on farmers and help them prepare for the festive season.

Former TN minister remanded to judicial custody till Nov 6



CHENNAI

Former Tamil Nadu School Education Minister and DMK leader Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi was remanded to judicial custody till November 6 by a special court on Monday in connection with an alleged private school approval scam involving around Rs 100 crore.

Poyyamozhi was arrested after the Madras High Court rejected his anticipatory bail petition. Justice V. Lakshminarayanan observed that custodial interrogation was necessary to investigate allegations that money had been collected from private school managements in the name of a "party fund" and to trace where the funds ultimately went.

He was arrested at an apartment in Chennai's Aminjikarai and taken to the Greater Chennai Police Commissionerate for questioning.

Judge L.S. Sathiyamurthy remanded him to judicial custody following arguments by the defence and prosecution that lasted around two hours. He was subsequently taken to Puzhal Central Prison.

The case concerns allegations that money was collected from private school managements by promising government approvals, permanent recognition and permission to upgrade schools during the previous DMK regime, when Poyyamozhi served as School Education Minister.

Reacting to the remand, DMK spokesperson and advocate Saravanan Annadurai described the arrest as illegal and alleged that the case was politically motivated.

"We will appeal this order and prove to the court that this arrest and remand are illegal," Annadurai said.

"We will appeal this order and prove to the court that this arrest and remand are illegal."
— **Saravanan Annadurai,** DMK spokesperson

Quick Read

4 booked for alleged rape of teen refugee in Hyderabad

HYDERABAD

Police have booked four men for allegedly confining and repeatedly raping an 18-year-old refugee in Hyderabad over five months. A search is underway following her complaint. According to police, the main accused allegedly brought the teenager from Bangladesh in May, concealed his existing marriage and confined her in a rented house in Kanchanbagh. He allegedly allowed three friends to sexually assault her.

The case came to light on October 23 when the landlord, visiting to collect overdue rent, found the door bolted from outside and rescued the woman. Relatives later accompanied her to the police. Further investigation is underway.

3 businessmen found dead inside car pulled from UP pond

SITAPUR

Three businessmen were found dead inside a hatchback car pulled from a pond in Uttar Pradesh's Sitapur district late Monday night, police said.

The deceased were identified as Rakesh Chaurasia, 50, Satish Kumar, 40, and Ramendra, 62. They had travelled to Bahraich on Monday to visit Rakesh's injured son but went missing while returning home.

Villagers spotted the car's roof emerging from the pond around 1.30 am and alerted police. A crane was used to retrieve the vehicle, in which two bodies were found in the front seats and one in the rear. Police are examining CCTV footage. The cause of death will be confirmed after post-mortem reports.

3 arrested after teen, father allegedly paraded naked

KOLKATA

Kolkata Police have arrested three men accused of forcing an 18-year-old man, his father and his friend to walk naked along a public road in the Sarsuna area on Sunday night.

The incident allegedly occurred after the young man visited Basundhara Park during Lakshmi Puja to meet a 13-year-old girl whose family reportedly opposed their relationship.

The accused allegedly threatened the trio at gunpoint, assaulted them and forced them to strip.

Police took the three accused to the location on Tuesday to reconstruct the incident and verify their statements. Their bare-chested appearance during the exercise drew criticism from political leaders, including Trinamool Congress legislator Kunal Ghosh and CPI(M) state secretary Md Salim, who questioned the practice.

Police said the suspects were taken to the spot to establish the sequence of events and claimed that keeping them without shirts was a precaution against escape in the crowded locality.

The victim's father alleged that the accused threatened him and forced the three to walk along a busy main road after he refused to harm his son.

The accused face charges including criminal intimidation, kidnapping and unlawful confinement. Further investigation is underway.

Modi inaugurates three-day science and technology conclave

India is bringing together leading experts and innovators to strengthen scientific research, advance emerging technologies and turn discoveries into practical solutions for society.

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday inaugurated the Emerging Science, Technology and Innovation Conclave (ESTIC) 2026 at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi, bringing together scientists, researchers, policymakers and industry leaders to discuss India's scientific priorities and emerging technologies.

According to an official release, the three-day conclave, scheduled from October 27 to 29, will focus on strengthening India's capabilities in science, technology and innovation. Participants will deliberate on research priorities and ways to translate scientific advancements into practical applications.

Discussions will cover 12 thematic areas, including artificial intelligence, biotechnology, advanced materials, manufacturing, healthcare, energy, climate science and ocean sciences. The sessions are expected to explore technological developments and their potential applications across different sectors.



The conclave will also feature a technology and innovation exhibition showcasing indigenous scientific achievements and emerging technologies developed in India. Around 150 deep-tech startup stalls will present innovations and demonstrate their potential uses.

Organisers have planned several interactive features to make scientific developments accessible to participants. These include thematic videos, technology demonstrations, documentaries, informational kiosks and augmented and virtual reality experiences highlighting real-world applications of emerging technologies.

A key feature of the event will be the Global Connect Networking Event, which will bring together more than 300 invited participants from academic institutions, research organisations and industry in India and abroad.

The networking initiative aims to encourage international research partnerships, strengthen collaboration between industry and academia, and identify pathways to move innovations from laboratories to markets.

> **India must embrace the technologies of the future, innovate boldly, and lead the world in creating them."**
>
> **- Narendra Modi, Prime Minister**

The conclave comes as India seeks to strengthen its scientific research ecosystem and expand its role in developing technologies for emerging global challenges. By bringing together experts from research, industry, government and startups, the event provides a platform to discuss opportunities for collaboration and innovation.

The three-day gathering is expected to facilitate discussions on national science and technology priorities while highlighting indigenous research, startup-led innovation and the practical applications of scientific advancements across sectors.

Australia expands biometric requirements for Indian visa applicants

NEW DELHI

Australia has expanded its biometric collection programme to visa applicants in India from October 26, introducing additional identity verification requirements as part of efforts to strengthen the security and integrity of its migration system.

According to a statement issued by the Australian High Commission in New Delhi, applicants submitting new visa applications on or after October 26 may be required to provide biometric information, including fingerprints and a facial image. The requirements will not affect visas already granted or applications submitted before the effective date.

The Department of Home Affairs, which manages Australia's visa processes, will notify applicants if biometric collection is necessary and provide instructions on completing the process. Notifications will typically be sent to applicants or their authorised agents by email.

Depending on individual circumstances, applicants may be asked to visit one of 16 Australian Biometrics Collection Centres across India, managed by VFS Global. Eligible applicants may also be able to use the Australian Immi App, offering a digital alternative for submitting biometric information.



Australia's new rules require some Indian visa applicants to submit fingerprints and facial images, while existing visas and earlier applications remain unaffected.

Australia Visa Biometrics

- Effective date: October 26, 2026
- Coverage: New visa applicants in India
- Biometric details: Fingerprints and facial images
- Collection centres: 16 centres across India
- Digital option: Australian Immi App for eligible applicants

Maharashtra deploys 8 machines to detect counterfeit medicines

MUMBAI

The Maharashtra government has procured eight advanced counterfeit-drug detection machines, each costing ₹1.2 crore, to strengthen medicine quality checks across government hospitals and healthcare facilities in the state.

The handheld devices can reportedly identify suspected counterfeit or substandard tablets, syrups and injections within minutes by comparing samples against reference drug constituents stored in their systems.

Health Minister Prakash Abitkar said the initiative would help prevent spurious medicines from reaching patients and strengthen monitoring of the state's medicine procurement and distribution network.

"Quality control of medicines is just as critical as the availability of doctors, infrastructure, and the supply of drugs for quality healthcare for citizens," Abitkar said.

The state has established eight flying squads, with each team equipped with one machine. Every squad will comprise a qualified pharmacist and a trained government official. The teams will conduct random monthly inspections at government healthcare facilities, including district hospitals, women's hospitals and clinics.

The inspections will cover medicines procured through the Haffkine Bio-Pharmaceutical Corporation, district-level procurement systems and local purchases.

Officials clarified that the machines would be used for preliminary testing. Any regulatory action against drug manufacturers or government officials would follow verification of suspected medicines at one of the state's 12 National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL)-recognised testing facilities.



Although pharmaceutical regulatory enforcement falls under the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the health department will identify suspicious medicines and forward samples to the relevant authorities for further action.

Vaibhav Dhasal, managing director of Dawall Life Science Pvt Ltd, said Maharashtra was the first state to introduce the technology with eight devices.

He added that Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir were also considering procurement.

The initiative aims to improve transparency, accountability and regular monitoring of medicine quality across Maharashtra's public healthcare system.

SC slams centre over skyrocketing medicine prices

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday questioned the Centre over the huge difference between the maximum retail price (MRP) of medicines and their purchase price for retailers, raising concerns about affordability and inadequate price regulation.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta criticised the government's approach, questioning why pharmaceutical manufacturers appeared to benefit at the expense of patients.

The bench also questioned the effectiveness of the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA).

The court cited examples of steep price differences, including a drip line purchased by retailers for Rs 15 but sold for Rs 250. It also questioned how a price increase from Rs 11,000 to Rs 1.3 lakh could be justified.

Rejecting hospitals' arguments about operational expenses, the bench said healthcare institutions could not justify excessive medicine markups. It observed that hospitals could not survive through "dacoity" and questioned why medicines were being sold at prices several times higher than their purchase costs.

The Centre argued that India had comparatively low medicine prices globally and said the government was reviewing its policies. However, the court stressed that affordability must be considered alongside the country's low per capita income.

The Supreme Court was hearing petitions seeking regulation of initial prices of non-scheduled medicines, mandatory generic prescriptions and price caps on medical devices. Petitioner Kishan Chand Jain claimed that around 82 per cent of medicines fall outside the scheduled category under the Drug Price Control Order, 2013.

Gujarat court sentences three to life in cow slaughter case

KALOL

A sessions court in Gujarat's Kalol has sentenced three men to rigorous life imprisonment in a cow slaughter case, citing the cultural and religious significance of cows. The court also imposed a fine of ₹3 lakh on each convict.

The convicts, Wasim Qureshi, Mahmad Rafiq Qureshi and Asfaq Bahelim, were found guilty under the Gujarat Animal Preservation (Amendment) Act and the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act.

The case dates back to August 22, 2024, when police raided a house in Jamla village in Gandhinagar district and seized 277 kg of beef valued at ₹55,000. Authorities also recovered weapons allegedly used for slaughtering cows and a vehicle intended for transporting the meat.

During the sentencing, Additional Sessions Judge B.R. Rajput referred to the Vedas and ancient Sanskrit texts, emphasising the importance of cow protection.

Udhayanidhi slams Anbil Mahesh arrest as Vendetta

CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin on Tuesday condemned the arrest of former School Education Minister and Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) leader Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi in an alleged ₹100-crore private school approval scam, accusing the state government of political vendetta.

In a post on X, Udhayanidhi described Anbil Mahesh as his brother and alleged that the arrest was intended to divert public attention from the government's alleged failures, including law and order concerns, rising prices and misconduct by members of the Tamizhaga Vetri Kazhagam (TVK).

"I strongly condemn the 'circus' administration for arresting former Minister—and my brother—@Anbil_Mahesh, an act clearly driven by political vendetta," Udhayanidhi wrote.

He expressed confidence that Anbil Mahesh would challenge the case through legal channels and emerge victorious. He also asserted that arrests and lawsuits would not suppress DMK party workers.

Earlier, DMK president and former Chief Minister MK Stalin had also criticised the arrest, alleging that the ruling government was using the case to divert attention from law-and-order issues and administrative corruption.

Anbil Mahesh was arrested by Chennai police in connection with allegations that money was collected from private school managements in the name of party funds in exchange for government approvals, permanent recognition and permission to upgrade schools.

BRICS forum condemns Pahalgam attack, Seeks UN reforms

NEW DELHI

The 12th BRICS Parliamentary Forum on Tuesday adopted a joint declaration condemning the 2025 Pahalgam terror attack and calling for comprehensive reforms of the United Nations, including its Security Council.

The two-day forum, held in New Delhi, brought together parliamentary leaders and representatives from BRICS member countries and other participating nations. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla announced the joint declaration, which reaffirmed the commitment to combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

The declaration strongly condemned the Pahalgam attack and other acts of terrorism. It also emphasised the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of sovereign countries, highlighting the importance of respecting national sovereignty.

The parliamentary forum supported comprehensive reform of the United Nations, including the Security Council, to strengthen the international organisation and address concerns surrounding its functioning and representation.

The declaration also criticised unilateral economic and secondary sanctions, stating that such coercive measures could have far-reaching negative consequences for human rights.

These consequences, it noted, could affect people's right to development, healthcare and food security.

The discussions took place against the backdrop of continuing international debates over global governance, security cooperation and economic restrictions.

Anti-Dam protests turn violent, 2 security personnel injured

ITANAGAR

Anti-dam protests in Arunachal Pradesh turned violent on Monday, with demonstrators damaging vehicles and hydropower equipment and injuring two security personnel during a 12-hour bandh in Upper Subansiri district.The bandh, called by the All Tagin Students' Union and other organisations, opposed the proposed Menga dam, part of the 1,605-megawatt Subansiri Upper Hydroelectric Project.

FARMERS DEMAND RELIEF

12,000 Maharashtra farmers march to Mumbai demanding relief

MUMBAI

Around 12,000 farmers from 20 districts of Maharashtra are marching towards Mumbai, demanding drought relief, crop insurance compensation and loan waivers. Organised by the All-India Kisan Sabha (AIKS), the protest includes approximately 1,000 vehicles and began in Akole taluk of Ahilyanagar district.

The vehicle march has halted at Shahapur in Thane district. An AIKS state delegation is travelling to the state government's Sahyadri Guest House at Malabar Hill in Mumbai following an invitation from the Chief Minister for discussions.



The protest is being led by AIKS president Ashok Dhawale, general secretary Vijoo Krishnan, joint secretary Ajit Nawale, state president Yashwant Zade, state secretary Umesh Deshmukh and state vice-president and MLA Vinod Nikole, among others.

The farmers have submitted a series of demands, including adequate financial assistance for those affected by drought and the immediate disbursement of pending crop insurance compensation. They are also seeking a ₹2 lakh loan waiver for farmers who have regularly repaid their loans.

Another key demand concerns land rights. The protesters are seeking land titles for people cultivating forest, pasture, temple trust and homestead lands.

The march has also highlighted the concerns of rural workers and scheme workers, with demands for fair wages and social security benefits. The AIKS has further called for the resumption of financial assistance under the Namo Shetkari Mahasanman Nidhi Yojana and the Lakdi Behan Yojana.

The organisation said the march aims to press the state government to address the financial difficulties faced by farmers and rural workers.

The protest comes amid concerns over drought-related agricultural losses and delayed insurance payments. The delegation's proposed meeting with the Chief Minister is expected to provide an opportunity to discuss the demands.

The outcome of the discussions and the government's response to the farmers' demands

Quick Read

PNB customers allege multi-crore fraud at Greater Noida branch

NEW DELHI

Several customers of Punjab National Bank (PNB) have alleged that large sums of money were withdrawn from their accounts without authorisation at the bank's Pi-1 branch in Greater Noida, prompting complaints to the police and raising concerns over alleged irregularities at the branch. According to the customers, funds worth crores of rupees have allegedly gone missing from their accounts. They further claimed that after the issue came to light, the bank replaced the entire staff at the branch and assured affected customers that efforts were underway to resolve the matter. One account holder, Sonu, said nearly Rs 90 lakh was missing from his account.

Adani Group's ACC reports resilient Q2 performance

AHMEDABAD

Adani Group-owned ACC Limited on Tuesday reported a resilient operational performance for the second quarter of FY27, supported by an improving sales mix, higher premium product volumes and a growing trade business, even as the cement industry navigated monsoon-related disruptions and elevated energy costs. The company reported revenue from operations of Rs 5,689 crore during the quarter ended September 30 (Q2 FY27), according to its stock exchange filing. Operating EBITDA stood at Rs 401 crore, translating into a margin of 7 per cent, while EBITDA per tonne came in at Rs 414.



India's realty sector sees $2.1 bn institutional inflows in Q3

NEW DELHI

Institutional investment activity in India's real estate sector remained strong in Q3 2026, with investments rising 20 per cent year-on-year (YoY) and 12 per cent quarter-on-quarter (QoQ) to $2.1 billion, a report said on Tuesday. The report from Cushman & Wakefield said foreign investors led investment activity, deploying $1.4 billion, accounting for 68 per cent of total investments, while domestic institutions contributed $0.7 billion, representing the remaining 32 per cent. The quarter marked a reversal after four consecutive quarters of domestic-led investment activity, with foreign investments rising 64 per cent QoQ and 134 per cent YoY. Domestic investments, meanwhile, moderated by 34 per cent QoQ and 39 per cent YoY, following a high base of domestic capital deployment over comparable periods. Institutional investments totalled $5.5 billion year-to-date (YTD), up 11 per cent YoY. The data centre sector emerged as the largest recipient of institutional capital in Q3 2026, attracting 52 per cent of total investments and moving up from second position in the previous quarter.

'PM Modi's support crucial for India's science-tech push'

The PM's backing will be crucial for advancing India's science and technology ambitions, with ESTIC 2026 bringing stakeholders together to strengthen innovation and realise Viksit Bharat.

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's support is essential for advancing science and technology and achieving the vision of Viksit Bharat, Principal Scientific Adviser to the government Professor Ajay Kumar Sood said on Tuesday, highlighting the significance of the Emerging Science, Technology and Innovation Conclave (ESTIC) 2026.

Sood said the Prime Minister's scheduled inauguration of the conclave reflects the government's commitment to science and technology-led development.

"The Prime Minister's inauguration of this event reflects his commitment and priority for science and technology in making India a Viksit Bharat. His support is absolutely essential, and we have been inspired by his vision and guided by it," Sood said.

He noted that ESTIC 2026 would build on the success of the previous edition and provide fresh momentum to India's science and technology ecosystem by bringing together key stakeholders.



The conclave will feature 12 contemporary themes covering various aspects of science and technology. Representatives from academia, industry, national laboratories and policymaking institutions are expected to participate in discussions on emerging technological opportunities and challenges.

Sood said the gathering would encourage collaboration among stakeholders and help India identify ways to take the lead in emerging technologies.

"This gives a new impetus to our ecosystem to see how India can take the lead in all these technologies," he said.

Emphasising the importance of scientific advancement for national development, Sood said science and technology remained central to India's ambition of becoming self-reliant.

> **"His support is absolutely essential, and we have been inspired by his vision and guided by it."**
> — Ajay Kumar Sood, Principal Scientific Adviser

3-day ESTIC conclave details

WHEN	October 27 to 29
WHERE	Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi
THEMES	12 contemporary themes in science and technology
WHO	Academia, industry, national laboratories and policymakers

India, Mexico launch trade pact talks

NEW DELHI



India and Mexico can unlock new avenues for economic growth, strengthen supply chains and contribute to a more dynamic global trading order, Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal said on Tuesday as the two countries prepared to launch negotiations for a Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA).

Agrawal arrived in Mexico City for a two-day official visit aimed at advancing bilateral trade and economic cooperation. The visit includes the signing of the Terms of Reference (ToR), formally launching negotiations for the proposed agreement.

The Embassy of India in Mexico, in partnership with the Indmex Council, also brought together Indian and Mexican businesses ahead of the launch of negotiations.

Addressing business representatives, Agrawal highlighted the complementary strengths of the two economies, India's economic growth of around 7 per cent and the significant untapped potential for trade, investment and commercial partnerships.

The proposed agreement comes as Indian exporters face tariffs of as much as 50 per cent on several products under Mexico's recently introduced tariff regime. Officials said the negotiations aim to address trade concerns and protect Indian exports in the Mexican market.

Key Indian export sectors expected to be covered include automobiles, textiles, footwear, plastics, steel, chemicals and toys.

Official trade data showed that India's merchandise exports to Mexico stood at $5.73 billion in 2025-26.

Key trade figures

$5.73 bn	EXPORTS TO MEXICO, 2025-26
$1.92 bn	AUTOMOBILE EXPORTS
50 %	TOP TARIFF ON SEVERAL PRODUCTS

Bihar Gramin Bank settles employee disputes



Two Bihar Gramin Bank settlements will provide Rs 77.69 crore in financial benefits to more than 10,900 employees.

NEW DELHI

The government on Tuesday announced the settlement of two industrial disputes involving Bihar Gramin Bank management and employee organisations, extending financial benefits worth approximately Rs 77.69 crore to more than 10,900 employees.

The disputes were resolved through conciliation efforts led by the Assistant Labour Commissioner (Central), Patna, under the Office of the Chief Labour Commissioner (Central), Ministry of Labour and Employment.

According to the ministry, the first settlement between Bihar Gramin Bank Adhikari Sangh, Patna, and the bank management is expected to benefit around 8,400 employees. The settlement involves financial benefits amounting to approximately Rs 67.17 crore.

The second settlement, reached between Bihar Gramin Bank Workers Organisation (BGBWO) and the bank management, is expected to benefit approximately 2,500 employees. It involves financial benefits worth around Rs 10.52 crore, including recurring annual benefits of approximately Rs 9.02 crore.

The agreement addresses demands concerning the implementation of the 12th Bipartite Settlement, enhancement of House Rent Allowance (HRA), increased transport allowance for employees with disabilities, overtime payments, transparency in promotion processes and the formation of a Negotiating Council.

The Labour Ministry said the settlements were achieved through constructive dialogue and cooperation between the bank management and employee organisations.

Paytm's merchant-led model proves resilient

NEW DELHI

Paytm's continued expansion in merchant payments is easing concerns over rising competition in India's digital payments market, according to global brokerage Bernstein, which has maintained its 'Outperform' rating on the fintech company with a target price of Rs 2,200.

In its latest report on Paytm's Q2 FY27 results, Bernstein highlighted the addition of approximately 7 lakh merchant devices during the September quarter, consistent with the company's recent quarterly run rate. The brokerage noted that sustained device additions were alleviating concerns around rising competitive intensity.

Paytm's merchant device network expanded to 1.64 crore, reflecting its growing reach among businesses. The company also reported improving consumer engagement, with monthly transacting users increasing by 50 lakh sequentially and 1 crore year-on-year to reach 8.5 crore.



2,648	270	8.5 cr
Rs crore revenue, up 28% YoY	Rs crore EBITDA, up 90%	monthly transacting users

The brokerage flagged rising operating expenses, but Paytm's financial performance reflected improving operating leverage. Revenue increased 28 per cent year-on-year to Rs 2,648 crore, while EBITDA rose 90 per cent to Rs 270 crore. Indirect expenses, despite increasing in absolute terms, declined as a proportion of revenue to approximately 46 per cent from 52 per cent a year earlier.

Bernstein also noted an improvement in Paytm's payments monetisation, with net payment margins expanding from 8.5 basis points to 9.1 basis points. Net payment revenue increased 7 per cent sequentially despite payment GMV remaining flat quarter-on-quarter, indicating improved monetisation of existing transaction volumes.

Financial services emerged as another growth driver, with revenue rising 49 per cent year-on-year and 12 per cent sequentially. Meanwhile, marketing services revenue grew 26 per cent year-on-year and 20 per cent quarter-on-quarter, marking a recovery after several quarters of stagnation.

Delhi traders urge Congress to defer Nov 1 rally

NEW DELHI

Traders and sweet shop owners in Delhi on Tuesday urged the Congress party and other INDIA bloc leaders to postpone their November 1 rally until after Diwali, expressing concerns that the event could disrupt business during the crucial festive season.

They said the rally would be the fifth such event in four months, adding that repeated demonstrations had affected commercial activities and caused financial losses to traders. Mukesh Gupta, President of the Bengali Market Traders Association, said the repeated rallies had severely affected the business of shopkeepers and traders, leaving many struggling to support their families.

"Rallies are not being held for the first time on November 1. This is the fifth rally in the last four months. This has completely ruined the businesses of shopkeepers and traders. Business owners are unable to support even their wives and children. There is hardly any purchasing, shopping or business activity. Shops often have to be closed, and there is also a fear of vandalism. Why are these rallies being held, and for what purpose? I do not know why these people do this," he said.



> *"If they hold the rally after Diwali, nobody will suffer losses or face inconvenience."*
> **MUKESH GUPTA** President, Bengali Market Traders Association

"They should sit together and resolve their issues. Ideally, there should be no rallies. If they are held, they should take place at locations where they do not affect anyone. We have also been asking them not to hold this rally, and traders and others are making the same request. Even people in the government are saying that this rally should not take place," he said. Gupta added that traders had made repeated appeals to Congress leaders, including party president Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi, to reconsider the date.

Bangladesh faces growth, trade and banking crises: Report

DHAKA

Bangladesh's economy is confronting three interconnected crises, namely slowing growth, a widening trade deficit and severe banking-sector weaknesses, a new report has said. These risks make economic stability difficult and create pressure for urgent reforms, the report from Bangladesh-based publication The Asian Age said.

Citing data from the World Bank, the report said that Bangladesh's economic growth slowed to 3.4 per cent in fiscal year 2025-26 and is expected to remain flat in FY27, well below the government's 6.5 per cent target.

The IMF projected growth of 3.2 per cent for FY27 and average inflation of 10.9 per cent, highlighting concern over weakening real incomes and rising poverty risks, the report noted.



Though remittances have so far kept the country's external accounts out of crisis, the report said exports and foreign investment must increase to avoid an enormous trade deficit and prevent an economic collapse.

According to Bangladesh Bank data, imports rose 8.6 per cent year-on-year to $6.44 billion in July FY27, while exports reached $4.35 billion, widening the trade deficit to $2.09 billion.

"The banking sector presents the most acute of the three crises. According to Bangladesh Bank's latest Financial Stability Report, the banking sector's capital adequacy ratio (CRAR) had turned negative by the end of 2025," the report noted.

Restructuring the banking sector will require nearly 10 per cent of GDP, while the FY2026-27 budget reportedly allocated only Tk 40,000 crore to support weak banks and financial institutions, far less than the estimated requirement of Tk 6 lakh crore.

"When banks weaken, credit flows contract. In January 2026, private-sector credit growth fell to 6.03 per cent, one of the lowest levels in the past decade. A contraction in credit restricts investment and employment, further undermining economic growth," the report explained.

CLEAN ENERGY TRANSITION

CCUS offers path to industrial decarbonisation

NEW DELHI

Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage (CCUS) can help India reduce emissions from hard-to-abate industries while supporting its Net Zero target for 2070, according to an official statement issued on Tuesday.

The technology is considered an important pathway for reducing industrial emissions, particularly in sectors where switching to renewable energy or electrification alone may not be sufficient. Certain industrial processes require extremely high temperatures or rely on carbon-based inputs, making complete decarbonisation more challenging.



CCUS involves capturing carbon dioxide from industrial sources before it enters the atmosphere. The captured carbon dioxide can subsequently be used in productive applications or stored securely underground, helping limit emissions while allowing essential industrial activities to continue.

NITI Aayog has identified the technology as important for decarbonising hard-to-abate sectors, including steel, cement, oil and gas, petrochemicals, chemicals and fertilisers. These industries account for significant industrial emissions and face technological challenges in achieving deep emission reductions.

The government is working to develop an ecosystem involving research institutions, public sector enterprises and private industry. According to the statement, initiatives across several states include operational projects, projects under execution and proposals at different stages of development.

These efforts are expected to strengthen indigenous capabilities in carbon capture, utilisation technologies and secure storage infrastructure.

The initiative is being highlighted at the second edition of the Emerging Science, Technology and Innovation Conclave (ESTIC-2026), taking place from October 27 to 29 at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.

HOW CCUS WORKS

Capture	Use	Store
carbon dioxide from industrial sources	in productive applications	securely underground

Quick Read



King Charles heads to Caribbean amid reparations calls

LONDON

King Charles travels to the Caribbean this week for a tour that comes as the region presses ever more loudly for Britain to pay reparations for its part in the slave trade. The tour runs from October 27 to November 4. Buckingham Palace has said the King would not shy away from Britain's role in the transatlantic slave trade during the tour, but he will not formally apologise for it as some have demanded, in line with British government policy, which also rules out financial reparations.

Poland and UK support strong transatlantic alliance

WARSAW

Poland and Britain both back a stronger transatlantic alliance because there is no alternative to working with the United States, Polish Defence Minister Wladyslaw Kosiniak-Kamysz said on Tuesday. "We share a similar view of the alliance with the United States. Both Poland and the United Kingdom support strengthening this alliance," he told a joint press conference with British Defence Minister Wes Streeting. He said the two countries supported moves to build up Europe's defence capabilities and strategic autonomy, but not at the cost of relations with Washington.

Iraqi court sentences six French men to life in prison

BAGHDAD

An Iraqi court on Tuesday handed life sentences to six French nationals and a 15-year term to a seventh after finding them guilty of belonging to Islamic State, according to a witness in the courtroom. The men were among 47 French Islamic State suspects moved last year from detention sites in northeast Syria to Iraq under a wider relocation arrangement coordinated by US forces and Iraqi authorities. The presiding judge said the sentences were passed under Iraq's counterterrorism law for joining Islamic State and spreading fear. He said the court had chosen life imprisonment over the death penalty because the defendants were young.

Israelis vote amid wartime reckoning on Netanyahu

Israelis voted in a pivotal election shaped by wartime losses, security failures and political divisions, as the fastest early turnout in 45 years intensified scrutiny of Benjamin Netanyahu's leadership and legacy.

JERUSALEM

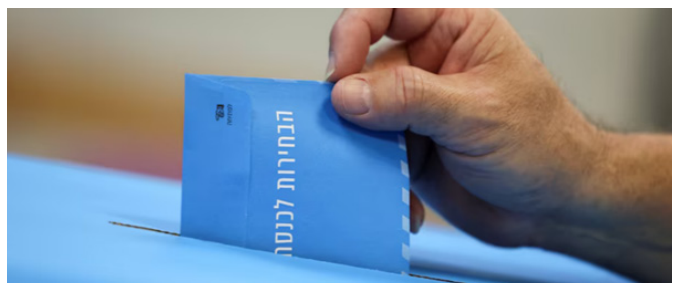
Israelis turned out to vote at the fastest rate in 45 years on Tuesday, as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu faced a crucial electoral test over his wartime leadership and the country's political future.

The election was Israel's first since the Hamas-led attacks of October 7, 2023, which triggered the deadliest day in the country's history and were followed by wars in Gaza, Lebanon and Iran. Voters were deeply divided over the government's handling of the attacks, the ensuing conflicts and Israel's international standing.

Netanyahu, the country's longest-serving leader with 19 years in office, defended his record, portraying himself as the leader best equipped to confront Israel's adversaries. His right-wing coalition, however, has faced criticism at home and abroad over its policies and resistance to demands for an inquiry into the security failures surrounding the October 7 attacks.

His main challenger, Gadi Eisenkot, a former military chief of staff, sought to unseat him with support from centrist and right-wing parties. Eisenkot promised a new direction and greater accountability for the failures that preceded the attacks.

The Central Elections Committee reported that 16.7% of eligible voters had cast ballots within the first three hours after polling stations opened at 7 a.m. The figure marked the fastest early turnout since 1981. Netanyahu also campaigned on his relationship with US President Donald Trump, who has backed him during the conflict with Iran.



16.7% voted in the first three hours, the fastest early turnout since 1981

Fastest turnout in 45 years

- Early voter turnout reached 16.7% within three hours, the fastest since 1981.
- The election was Israel's first since the October 7, 2023, Hamas-led attacks.
- Benjamin Netanyahu defended his wartime leadership and relationship with Donald Trump.
- Opposition leader Gadi Eisenkot called for political change and accountability.
- Coalition negotiations could determine whether Netanyahu remains in power.

Russia, Ukraine begin local ceasefire

OLESHKY

Russia and Ukraine began a regional ceasefire on Tuesday to facilitate a humanitarian operation in the Russian-occupied town of Oleshky in southern Ukraine, with plans to deliver essential supplies and evacuate civilians facing severe shortages of food and medicine.

Both sides confirmed the halt in fighting around the frontline town, which lies on the eastern bank of the Dnipro River in the Kherson region, opposite the Ukrainian-held city of Kherson. The arrangement is intended to create conditions for humanitarian assistance in an area affected by the ongoing war.

> **"As head of the Ukrainian negotiating team, I confirm that the Ukrainian side is honouring its commitments."**
> — **Dmytro Lubinets,** Ukraine's human rights commissioner

Dmytro Lubinets, Ukraine's parliamentary commissioner for human rights and head of the country's negotiating team, confirmed that Kyiv was observing the agreement. He said the Ukrainian side was meeting its commitments under the arrangement.



Russia's Defence Ministry said it had halted shelling towards Kherson from 4 a.m. Moscow time, describing the move as preparation for the humanitarian effort in Oleshky. Lubinets said the agreement had been reached in coordination with US First Lady Melania Trump and Russia's human rights commissioner, Yana Lantratova.

Despite the localized ceasefire, hostilities continued elsewhere. Fresh strikes hit Kyiv on Tuesday, targeting the Southern Bridge and subway infrastructure, city officials said.

At least 60 Christians killed in Ethiopia attacks

NAIROBI

At least 60 people were killed in two separate attacks in Ethiopia's conflict-hit Oromiya region over the past week, according to the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church, which said all the victims were Christians.

In a statement, the church's Holy Synod said 14 believers were killed in Merti Woreda on October 20, while another 46 died in Sherka Woreda on October 24. The statement added that more than 20 homes were burned and over 20 people were hospitalised with severe injuries.

The circumstances surrounding the attacks and the identities of those responsible remained unclear. The regional government and a source linked to an armed rebel alliance traded accusations over the killings.

Oromiya's regional government accused the rebel alliance of launching the attacks to provoke religious conflict, but did not provide evidence to support its allegation. A source linked to the alliance blamed the regional government, citing conversations with two local residents.

The OLA is among seven armed groups that announced the formation of an alliance last month, declaring their intention to overthrow the government of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed.

Ethiopia's Orthodox Church reported 60 deaths in two attacks in Oromiya, as regional authorities and rebels exchanged accusations over responsibility.

Church's count	
14	KILLED IN MERTI WOREDA, OCT 20
46	KILLED IN SHERKA WOREDA, OCT 24
20+	HOMES BURNED
20+	HOSPITALISED

France unveils concessions to end student protests

PARIS

French teachers said on Tuesday that education reforms meant to end weeks of protests fell short and would not calm students' anger. To ease public anger, the government announced a series of proposals, among them a cap of 28 on some class sizes, billions of euros in loans to renovate buildings and an overhaul of the university admissions system.

Sophie Venetitay, secretary general of the teachers' union SNES-FSU, told reporters the measures were not enough. The size of more classes should be capped, she said, and more staff should be hired to improve students' learning conditions.



"Today, what the ministry has said is only the beginning of a response," she said. "It will not be enough to extinguish the anger."

The protests began with high school students blockading their schools over inadequate staffing and resources. The movement has since widened to take in general trade unions and the so-called "Yellow Vests", who are voicing anger over weakening public services and the rising cost of living.

Under pressure from bond markets to cut its debt, the French government has little money to spare for the protesters' demands.

Budget Minister David Amiel told TF1 the measures were expected to cost €5 billion ($5.6 billion), to be offset by spending cuts elsewhere.

Student leaders called the concessions a good first step but said demonstrations would go on, on Saturday and on November 5.

Interior Minister Laurent Nunez told RTL there would be a heavy security presence on Saturday.

NORWAY, FINLAND LEADERS HOLD 'FRANK' PHONE CALLS WITH PUTIN

HELSINKI

Finnish President Alexander Stubb and Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Stoere spoke by phone on Tuesday with Russian President Vladimir Putin, and then with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy.

Stubb's office said the call with Putin concerned upcoming meetings in Abu Dhabi. On Friday, Zelenskiy said negotiators from Ukraine, Russia and the United States had agreed to hold technical-level meetings there in early November.

> *"The outcome of this war will have a direct impact on our and broader European security. Ending the war requires direct discussions."*
> **ALEXANDER STUBB** Finnish President

Most Western European leaders have avoided contact with Putin since Russia began its full-scale war in Ukraine in February 2022. Moscow has often accused European governments of fuelling the war by arming Ukraine and refusing direct talks.

In a statement on his conversation with Putin, Stubb said: "The discussion was frank and substantive. We are neighbouring countries to Russia. The outcome of this war will have a direct impact on our and broader European security. Ending the war requires direct discussions." An aide to Zelenskiy told reporters in a WhatsApp chat that the president had spoken with Stubb and Stoere afterwards.

Stubb and Stoere said they took part in the calls as leaders of their own countries, not on behalf of Europe as a whole, and that the two Nordic nations would keep up their long-standing support for Ukraine.



Greece rallies 3 Arab states against Turkey-Libya sea deal

ATHENS

Egypt, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates joined Greece in condemning a Turkey-Libya maritime accord as a threat to regional security and to the international legal order, in a long-running dispute over sea borders in the eastern Mediterranean.

Last week Libya's eastern parliament approved a maritime boundaries deal with Turkey, first agreed in 2019. Greece and Cyprus quickly condemned it, saying it encroaches on their own maritime claims.

In a joint statement read by Greek Foreign Minister George Gerapetritis at the United Nations in New York, Greece and the three Arab states said the accord raised "serious concerns for regional security and stability" and could set a bad precedent by letting "arbitrary bilateral arrangements" undermine established rules of international law.



Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan said reactions from the European Union and others to the deal's approval had no legitimate basis, and defended Ankara's policy in the eastern Mediterranean.

Since the 2019 Libya-Turkey deal, Greece has granted a Chevron-led consortium a licence to search for gas off the island of Crete, and has sought its own agreement with Libya to mark out their maritime zones.

Gerapetritis said Athens was ready to carry on the effort, and urged Libya to build good relations with its neighbours in line with maritime rules as part of a political transition.

The accord was agreed by Libya's internationally recognised government in Tripoli, in the west, but the rival eastern administration under military commander Khalifa Haftar had held back its approval for years.

Who says what

- **Greece, Egypt, Bahrain, UAE:** a threat to regional security and the international legal order
- **Greece, Cyprus:** it encroaches on their maritime claims
- **Erdogan:** reactions to the deal have no legitimate basis

S. Africa deploys troops in restive province before polls

JOHANNESBURG

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa has ordered the deployment of 510 soldiers to the coastal province of KwaZulu-Natal to support police efforts to contain anti-migrant protests, his office said on Tuesday, amid growing concerns over violence targeting foreign nationals.

The deployment, which runs from October 9 to November 30, is expected to cost 34.1 million rand ($2.05 million). It comes ahead of local government elections scheduled for November 4 and follows calls by anti-migrant groups for nationwide demonstrations.

South Africa has witnessed months of anti-migrant marches this year, drawing international criticism over hostility towards foreign nationals and the impact on migrant communities. Several demonstrations have reportedly turned violent, while thousands of African foreign nationals have fled the country amid fears for their safety.



Ramaphosa's office said the military deployment followed recent violence linked to misinformation surrounding a Constitutional Court ruling on asylum seekers. The ruling, delivered in July, stated that asylum seekers could not be denied access to South Africa's asylum system solely on procedural grounds.

Earlier this month, anti-migrant protests in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal's largest city, and Johannesburg's Soweto township turned violent. Vehicles were set on fire and shops were looted during the unrest, highlighting the growing security challenges facing authorities.

The violence has also included the reported killing of a foreign national in Durban last week. South African police said they were investigating after the man was allegedly beaten to death by a crowd.

NORTH-SOUTH RIVALS

North Korean guns at border unsettle visitors in South

GIMPO

Visitors to a South Korean observatory overlooking North Korea expressed concern on Tuesday after several artillery pieces were seen positioned along the border with their barrels pointing south, amid rising tensions between the two countries.

The weapons were spotted near the Demilitarised Zone (DMZ), which separates the two Koreas. Relations have deteriorated since September, when a mine blast in the area wounded three South Korean soldiers. Seoul has demanded an apology from Pyongyang, which has accused South Korea of fabricating the incident.



Tensions escalated further last week when Kim Yo Jong, the influential sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, said Pyongyang would place loudspeakers capable of broadcasting anti-South Korean propaganda on standby along the entire border. She also announced that unspecified new countermeasures had been placed on alert.

At the Aegibong observatory in Gimpo, approximately 1.4 kilometres from North Korea's Kaephung county, visitors said the deployment made the security threat feel immediate.

"I'd only seen on TV that North Korea had deployed 122-mm artillery, but seeing the area in person makes me realise just how real the danger is," said Jang Gil-seong, an 83-year-old veteran who fought in the Vietnam War.

CITY HILIGHTS
SPORTS
WEDNESDAY ▸ OCTOBER 28, 2026 IBCWORLDNEWS.COM



India Thrash New Zealand to Seal T20I Series 3-0

AUCKLAND

India defeated New Zealand by six wickets in the third T20 International on Tuesday, taking an unassailable 3-0 lead in the five-match series after a spectacular century from Abhishek Sharma powered a commanding run chase.

After winning the toss, Indian captain Shreyas Iyer elected to bowl first. New Zealand managed 198 for three in their 20 overs, with Daryl Mitchell leading the scoring with an unbeaten 89. Finn Allen contributed 40 runs, helping the hosts build a competitive total.

India responded with an explosive batting display, reaching 199 for four in just 13.2 overs. The visitors completed the chase with 40 balls remaining, underlining their dominance in the contest.

Abhishek Sharma delivered



the standout performance, smashing 113 off just 38 deliveries. He reached his century in 35 balls, combining aggressive stroke play with excellent timing to put New Zealand's bowlers under sustained pressure.

Young opener Vaibhav Sooryavanshi provided equally valuable support, scoring 45 off 19 balls. The pair added 133 runs for the first wicket in just 7.1 overs, giving India a flying start and putting the required run rate well within reach.

New Zealand struggled to contain the opening partnership, conceding heavily during the Powerplay. Although the hosts managed to take wickets later in the innings, India had already established a decisive advantage.

Abhishek was named Player of the Match for his match-winning innings. Indian captain Shreyas Iyer praised the openers' fearless approach and highlighted their contribution to the team's success.

The victory followed India's four-wicket win in the second T20I at Christchurch, where Tilak Varma scored an unbeaten 51. India have now secured the series with two matches remaining.

The fourth T20I is scheduled for October 30 at Eden Park in Auckland. New Zealand will aim to bounce back, while India will look to extend their winning run and complete a series clean sweep.

Harry Kane Becomes First English Ballon d'Or Winner Since 2001

LONDON

Harry Kane became the first English footballer in 25 years to win the men's Ballon d'Or, receiving the prestigious award at a ceremony in London on Monday.

The 33-year-old Bayern Munich striker is the fifth Englishman to win the honour, following Stanley Matthews, Bobby Charlton, Kevin Keegan and Michael Owen, who was the last English winner in 2001. Real Madrid's Kylian Mbappe finished second, while Barcelona's Lamine Yamal secured third place.

Kane scored 61 goals in 51 club appearances during the 2025-26 season, setting a new single-season scoring record for Bayern Munich. Including his England appearances, he registered 73 goals and eight assists in 65 matches.

2025–26 Season Statistics
- 51 club appearances | 61 club goals
- 65 total appearances | 73 total goals
- 8 assists across club and country

His individual success came despite Bayern and England falling short of major titles, with both teams eliminated in the semi-finals of their respective competitions.

Kane became the first Bayern player to win the Ballon d'Or since Karl-Heinz Rummenigge in 1981. To celebrate his achievement, Wembley Stadium's arches were illuminated in gold.

Reflecting on his journey, Kane told DAZN: "Not many people would have thought it, and maybe even I wouldn't have thought I'd be this far."

He credited hard work, self-belief and determination for helping him reach the highest level. England manager Thomas Tuchel welcomed the victory, calling it a "huge honour", while Prince William praised Kane as a "brilliant captain" and "remarkable player". His triumph ends England's quarter-century wait for football's top individual honour.



Poovamma chosen for Rotary Vandana Award 2026–27

MANGALURU

Indian athlete Mrs. Poovamma, a member of the Indian women's 4x400-metre relay contingent that won gold at the 2026 Asian Games, has been selected for the State-level Rotary Vandana Award for 2026–27 in recognition of her contributions to sports.



Based in Dakshina Kannada district, Poovamma has distinguished herself in athletics at major international competitions, including the Asian Games and the Olympics. She is also a recipient of the Arjuna Award.

The award is jointly instituted by the Rotary Club of Mangalore Central and the Rotaract Club of Mangalore City. It comprises a citation, plaque and memento.

The award will be presented on Friday, October 30, at 7.30 pm at Hotel Sea View in Mangaluru. Former Indian Olympian and Arjuna Award recipient Vandana Shanbhag (Pai Maroor) will attend as chief guest and felicitate Poovamma.Rotary Club of Mangalore Central president B.N. Ravindra will preside over the function. Assistant Governor Praveen Chandra Sharma and Zonal Lieutenant Rajesh Shetty will attend as guests of honour.

Announcing the selection, Vandana Awards Committee chairman B. Devdas Rai said the annual award recognises exemplary achievers across fields, including sports, literature, industry, medicine, arts and community service, as part of the organisations' vocational service initiatives.

Gukesh Looks Beyond Chess Ahead of World Championship

BENGALURU

With less than a month remaining before the World Chess Championship, Indian world champion D. Gukesh appears to be seeking a balance between preparation and relaxation ahead of his title defence against Uzbekistan's Javokhir Sindarov.

The 20-year-old recently shared a social media post showing him riding a horse, jokingly captioned, "They said work on your knight play… instructions unclear." He was also spotted watching a Rajinikanth film with fellow Indian chess players R. Praggnanandhaa and R. Vaishali.

Stepping away from chess is not unusual among elite players preparing for major championships.

Former champions have adopted different routines, from physical training to outdoor activities.

Bobby Fischer incorporated swimming, tennis and weightlifting into his preparation for the 1972 championship, while Magnus Carlsen played outdoor games and swam before facing Viswanathan Anand in 2013.

ISSO National Archery Championship Concludes in Ahmedabad

AHMEDABAD

The eighth International Schools Sports Organisation (ISSO) National Archery Championship 2026–27 concluded in Ahmedabad on October 25, bringing together young archers from 56 schools across India.

Held on October 24 and 25 at Vijayi Bharat Sports Academy in Sanskardham, the two-day championship was organised in collaboration with Adani International School. Competitions were conducted in the Under-14, Under-17 and Under-19 boys' and girls' categories across the Indian, Recurve and Compound rounds.

International archer Tamnna Deshwal, a Youth World Championship gold medallist in 2021 and an Asian University Championship bronze medallist in 2024, attended as chief guest.

She encouraged participants to develop their skills through dedication, discipline and perseverance.

"It is wonderful to see so many young archers compete at a national level, showcasing their talent and determination," Deshwal said, highlighting the role of championships in building confidence and focus among young athletes.



The competition recognised winners across 18 categories. In the Indian Round, Aditya Nimmagadda and Nani Betsy M won the Under-14 boys' and girls' titles, respectively. Niyan Porwal and Aadhya Shreekant Totagi claimed the Under-17 titles, while Veer Shitalkumar Kadam and Haria Bhakti Grinij topped the Under-19 categories.

In the Recurve Round, P. Tarun Praneeth and Tiya Venkatesh won the Under-14 titles. Ashutosh Arun Patil and Daniella J secured the Under-17 honours, while Arnav Abhijeet Nilkanth and Meesala Rigdha emerged as Under-19 champions.

In the Compound Round, Kowshik Veeran M K and Nandavaram Lashirah won the Under-14 titles. Vihaan Shah and Manasvi Morde claimed the Under-17 honours, while Nikhil Raj Sakthivel and Charvi Chawak won the Under-19 categories.

ISSO Director Aakanksha Thapak said participation from 56 schools reflected growing interest in archery and the importance of nurturing sporting talent early.

The event concluded with a medal ceremony, where winners received medals, merit certificates and trophies. ISSO said its championships aim to provide students with competitive experience and opportunities to develop their sporting potential.

Mirabai Chanu to Lead India at World Weightlifting Championships

NEW DELHI

Olympic medallist Mirabai Chanu will lead India's campaign at the 2026 World Weightlifting Championships, scheduled to be held at the Ningbo Olympic Sports Centre in China from October 27 to November 8.

The championship is the first of 10 qualifying events for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics. More than 500 athletes are expected to compete in the tournament.

Chanu, who won silver in the women's 49kg category at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics, will compete in the 53kg category as part of the new Olympic qualification cycle. The 49kg division has been dropped from the weightlifting programme for the Los Angeles Games.

The qualification process will determine Olympic quota places through the Olympic Qualification Ranking (OQR). Athletes must record three total results during the first qualification period and two during the second, all within the same Olympic weight category.

Abhishek Sharma Breaks Virat Kohli's T20 Century Record

WELLINGTON

India's Abhishek Sharma has overtaken Virat Kohli to become the Indian batter with the most centuries in T20 cricket, reaching the milestone with a stunning 38-ball 113 against New Zealand in the third T20I.

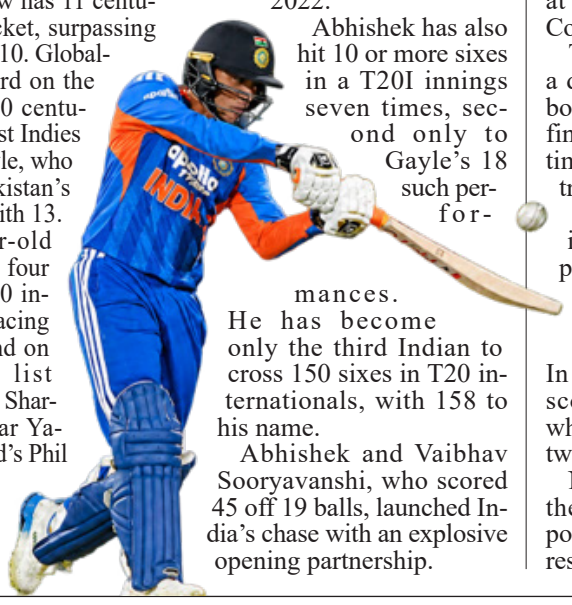
The left-handed opener struck nine fours and 11 sixes at a remarkable strike rate of 297.37, powering India to an eight-wicket victory with 40 balls to spare. The win also sealed a 3-0 series sweep for India.

Abhishek now has 11 centuries in T20 cricket, surpassing Kohli's tally of 10. Globally, he ranks third on the list of most T20 centuries, behind West Indies great Chris Gayle, who has 22, and Pakistan's Babar Azam, with 13.

The 24-year-old has also scored four centuries in T20 internationals, placing him joint second on the all-time list alongside Rohit Sharma, Suryakumar Yadav and England's Phil Salt. Australia's Glenn Maxwell leads the chart with five T20I centuries.

Abhishek has accumulated 2,240 runs in 70 T20 internationals, maintaining a strike rate of 196.83. His record includes four centuries, 14 half-centuries and a highest score of 135.

His performance this year has been equally impressive. In 37 T20Is, he has scored 1,125 runs at a strike rate of 206.42, including two centuries and eight half-centuries. He is just 40 runs short of breaking Suryakumar Yadav's record for the most T20I runs by an Indian in a calendar year — 1,164, scored in 2022.



Abhishek has also hit 10 or more sixes in a T20I innings seven times, second only to Gayle's 18 such performances.

He has become only the third Indian to cross 150 sixes in T20 internationals, with 158 to his name.

Abhishek and Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, who scored 45 off 19 balls, launched India's chase with an explosive opening partnership.

India Men, Women Storm Into commonwealth Kabaddi Semifinals

AHMEDABAD

India's men's and women's teams registered convincing victories over Nigeria at the inaugural Commonwealth Kabaddi Championship 2026 on Monday, extending their winning runs to four matches at the Veer Savarkar Sports Complex in Ahmedabad.

The women's team secured a dominant 38-10 victory to book their place in the semifinals. India led 24-6 at half-time before maintaining control in the second half.

Anu emerged as the leading raider, collecting 11 raid points from 17 raids. Sakshi contributed four raid points, while captain Nidhi Sharma added two. In defence, Sabhai Gadhavi scored three tackle points, while Priya and Ritu secured two each.

Nigeria's Robert Moses led their raiding effort with six points, but the Indian defence restricted their scoring opportunities.



The men's team completed a double for India with a 50-23 win over Nigeria. They established a commanding 25-7 lead at half-time and maintained their advantage throughout the contest.

Sachin led India's raiders with 12 points, followed by Aditya Shinde with 11. Pankaj Mohite contributed eight raid points and two tackle points, while Surjeet Narwal recorded four tackle points in defence.

Nigeria improved after the break but could not overcome India's substantial lead.

India's women will face the second-placed team from Group B in the semifinals on Friday, October 30. The men's team are scheduled to face Tanzania on Tuesday, October 27, as both sides continue their campaign in the championship.

Alexia Putellas Wins Record-Equalling Third Ballon d'Or

LONDON

Spain midfielder Alexia Putellas won the Ballon d'Or Féminin for a record-equalling third time on Monday, extending Spain's dominance of the award to six consecutive years.

The 32-year-old captained Barcelona to a quadruple-winning campaign in 2025-26 before joining Women's Super League club London City Lionesses in July.

She shares the record of three titles with former Barcelona teammate Aitana Bonmatí.



Barcelona forward Ewa Pajor finished second in the voting, while Manchester City striker Khadija Shaw secured third place.

Putellas scored 21 goals and provided 13 assists across all competitions last season, helping Barcelona win the Champions League and their seventh consecutive Liga F title.

Her achievement marks a remarkable comeback after an anterior cruciate ligament injury in 2022 threatened her career.

During 14 years at Barcelona, she won 38 trophies before moving to England for a fresh challenge.

Encouraging young players, Putellas said: "Believe in yourself."

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