

Ramaphosa
Slams Trump's
Decision on G20
Invitation

P8

Centre clears
Tex-RAMPS
scheme for textile
innovation

P9

Gavaskar Defends
Gambhir amid
Criticism after Heavy
Test Series Defeat

India's Gen Z an inspiration for world youth: PM Modi

The PM says young innovators powering pace-tech boom; India's space sector is becoming an attractive destination for global investors

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday heaped immense praise on India's Gen-Z for its contributions to the space sector after the government opened the sector to private players.

Virtually unveiling the Indian space start-up Skyroot's Infinity Campus in Hyderabad and its first orbital rocket 'Vikram-I', with the capability to launch satellites into orbit, the PM described young professionals as the driving force behind the country's technological momentum.

Addressing the inauguration ceremony via video conferencing, the Prime Minister said more than 300 start-ups are functioning in India's space sector after the entry of the private players.

"India's youth puts the nation's interests first. They utilise every opportunity wisely. When the government opened the space sector, the country's youth, especially our Gen Z, leapt forward to take full advantage of it. Today, India's more than 300 space start-ups are giving new hope to India's space future," he said.

Further, he praised the Gen



India's Gen-Z engineers, designers, coders and scientists are driving breakthroughs in propulsion, composites, rocket stages and satellite tech.

—Narendra Modi, PM

POINTS to PONDER

- The country began with minimal resources but never lacked ambition
- India progressed from transporting rocket parts on a bicycle to developing one of the world's most reliable launch vehicles
- The country has built a reputation grounded in credibility, capacity and value, with ISRO playing a crucial role in propelling the nation's space achievements over the decades
- The private sector is taking great strides in India's space sector

Z for taking up roles in engineering, designing and coding, creating new technology. The PM noted that the Indian space sector is becoming an "attractive destination" for global players to invest in.

"Today, Gen Z engineers, Gen Z designers, Gen Z coders, and Gen Z scientists are creating new technologies, whether in propulsion systems, composite materials, rocket

stages, or satellite platforms. India's youth are working in fields that were unimaginable just a few years ago. India's private space talent is making its mark globally. India's space sector is becoming an attractive destination for global investors," PM Modi said.

He also said India will emerge as a global leader in the satellite launch ecosystem and praised the youth's

risk-taking ability and innovative thinking.

"The nation is witnessing an unprecedented opportunity in the space sector today. The private sector is taking great strides in India's space sector. Skyroot's Infinity Campus is a reflection of new thinking, innovation and youth power. Our youth's innovation, risk-taking ability, and entrepreneurship are touching new heights. Today's event shows that in future, India will emerge as a leader in the global satellite launch ecosystem," Modi said.

He noted that India had begun its space journey with limited resources, but its resolve made a mark on the global space sector, and also lauded the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) for giving a new flight to India's space journey for decades. It is pertinent to note that Skyroot was founded by former ISRO scientists.

Skyroot's Infinity Campus, a state-of-the-art facility, will have around 2,00,000 square feet of workspace for designing, developing, integrating and testing multiple launch vehicles, with a capacity to build one orbital rocket every month.

Mandate not for a moment, but for 5 years: Siddaramaiah

NEW DELHI

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah posted a reply to his deputy's "Word power is world power" comment this evening, escalating the budding row amid the raging tussle over the state's top post. "A Word is not power unless it betters the World for the people," Siddaramaiah wrote.

Then, to rub in the point, he added, "The mandate given by the people of Karnataka is not a moment, but a responsibility that lasts five full years. The Congress party, including me, is walking the talk for our people with compassion, consistency, and courage. Our Word to Karnataka is not a slogan, it means the World to us". The controversy over "word" apparently stems from the rotational Chief Ministership promise that Team Shivakumar claimed was made during the state govern-

ment formation in 2023.

They claimed that top leaders of the party had persuaded DK Shivakumar - then an aspirant for the top post -- to be deputy to Siddaramaiah with the promise of rotation.

Siddaramaiah had claimed that no such promise was made, while the Central leaders has maintained silence on the matter.



The mandate given by the people of Karnataka is not a moment, but a responsibility that lasts five full years. The Congress party, including me, is walking the talk.

—Siddaramaiah, Chief Minister on X

'Will go to Delhi if high command calls'

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Thursday said he will visit Delhi if the party high command calls him. This comes after Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge stated that a decision regarding the speculated tussle in the state will be made after a discussion among the high command, CM Siddaramaiah, and Deputy CM DK Shivakumar. "If the high command calls, I will go to Delhi", Siddaramaiah told reporters.

IF HIGH COMMAND ASKS ME, CM TO COME TO DELHI, WE WILL GO: DKS

Bengaluru: Amid speculation over a possible change in leadership in Karnataka, Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Thursday said he and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will travel to Delhi if the party's leadership asks them to do so. "If the high command asks me and the CM to come to Delhi, we will go", Shivakumar told reporters at Vidhana Soudha. He was replying to a question on Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge's remarks that the Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister may be called to Delhi for a discussion. Shivakumar earlier said he has not yet been called to Delhi by the party leadership.

'Keep one's word': DKS's X post sparks buzz

Bengaluru

The leadership tussle within Karnataka's Congress government is showing no signs of easing. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Thursday said he was ready to travel to Delhi "whenever the high command calls," while his deputy, DK Shivakumar, set political circles abuzz with a cryptic X post stating "Word power is world power", captioning it "Keeping your word is the greatest power in the world!" "Word power is world power. The biggest force in the world was to keep one's word. Be it a judge, president or anyone else, including myself. Everyone has to walk the talk," his posts reads, seemed pointing to Congress top brass. Adding to the buzz, his post came days after he claimed "there was a 'secret deal' among 'five to six of us' in the party and that he believes in his conscience."



ಶ್ರೀ ಸಿದ್ದರಾಮಯ್ಯ
ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು



ಮಹಿಳಾ ಮತ್ತು ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಹಾಗೂ ವಿಕಲಚೇತನರ ಮತ್ತು ಹಿರಿಯ ನಾಗರಿಕರ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

ವಿಶ್ವ ಹಿರಿಯ ನಾಗರಿಕರ ದಿನಾಚರಣೆ - 2025

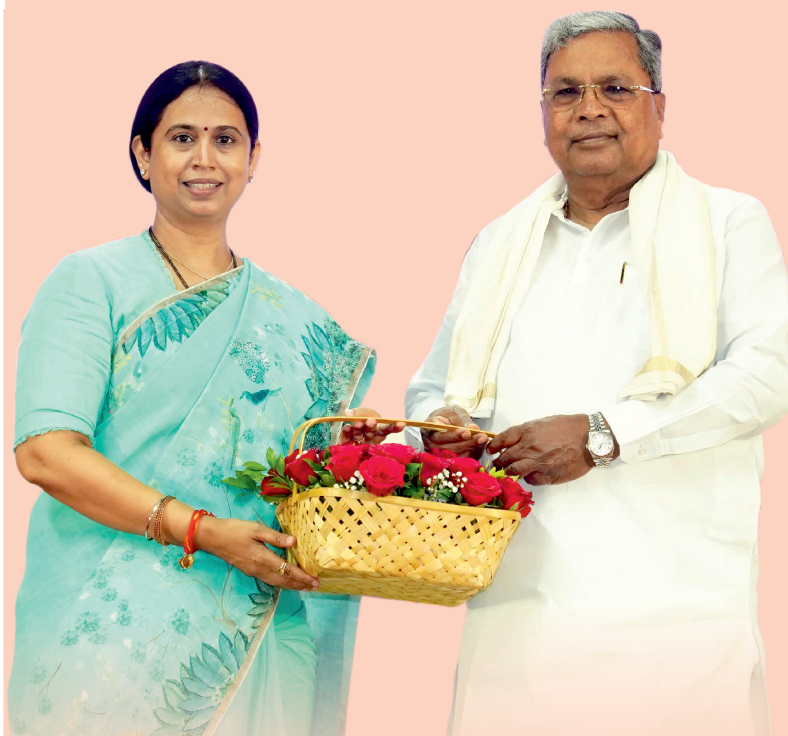
ದಿನಾಂಕ : 28.11.2025ನೇ ಶುಕ್ರವಾರ, ಸಮಯ : ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 10:30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ | ಸ್ಥಳ : ಗೇಟ್ ನಂ.1, ಕೃಷ್ಣ ವಿಹಾರ ಅರಮನೆ ಮೈದಾನ, ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.

ವಿಶ್ವಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ ಘೋಷವಾಕ್ಯ - 2025

"ಹಿರಿಯ ನಾಗರಿಕರು: ನಮ್ಮ ಅಶೋಕರಗಳು, ನಮ್ಮ ಯೋಗಕ್ಷೇಮ ಮತ್ತು ನಮ್ಮ ಹಕ್ಕುಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಮತ್ತು ಜಾಗತಿಕ ಮಟ್ಟಕ್ಕೆ ಕೊಂಡೊಯ್ಯಬಲ್ಲ ಸಶಕ್ತರು"

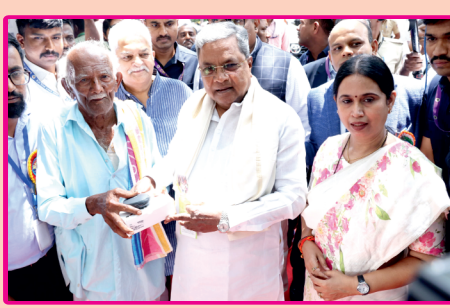


ಶ್ರೀ ಡಿ ಕೆ ಶಿವಕುಮಾರ್
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಉಪಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು



ಶ್ರೀ ಸಿದ್ದರಾಮಯ್ಯ, ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮಹಿಳಾ ಮತ್ತು ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ, ವಿಕಲಚೇತನರ ಹಾಗೂ ಹಿರಿಯ ನಾಗರಿಕರ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣ ಸಚಿವರಾದ **ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ಲಕ್ಷ್ಮೀ ಆರ್. ಹೆಬ್ಬಾಳಕರ್** ಅವರು ಇಲಾಖಾ ಸಮಾರಂಭದಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಿದ ಸುಸಂದರ್ಭ.

ನಮ್ಮ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ; ಗ್ಯಾರಂಟಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ





- ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ 2011ರ ಜನಗಣತಿಯಂತೆ 57.91 ಲಕ್ಷ ಹಿರಿಯ ನಾಗರಿಕರಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ.
- ಸೇವಾ ಸಿಂಧು ಪ್ರೋಟಾಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಸಕಾಲ ಸೇವೆಗೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟ ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಹಿರಿಯ ನಾಗರಿಕರಿಗೆ ಗುರುತಿನ ಜೀಜಿ ವಿತರಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ.
- ರಾಜ್ಯ ಅನುದಾನದಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ವಯಂ ಸೇವಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳ ಮೂಲಕ ರಾಜ್ಯದ 26 ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ 27 ಹಿರಿಯ ನಾಗರಿಕರ ಹಗಲು ಯೋಗಕ್ಷೇಮ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳನ್ನು ನಡೆಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ.
- ರಾಜ್ಯ ಅನುದಾನದಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ವಯಂ ಸೇವಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳ ಮೂಲಕ ರಾಜ್ಯದ 28 ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ 28 ಹಿರಿಯ ನಾಗರಿಕರ ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳು ಕಾರ್ಯ ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸುತ್ತಿವೆ.
- ಹಿರಿಯ ನಾಗರಿಕರ ತುರ್ತು ಸಂದರ್ಭಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಹಿರಿಯ ನಾಗರಿಕರ ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿ ಟೋಲ್ ಫ್ರೀ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 1090 ಹಾಗೂ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಹಿರಿಯ ನಾಗರಿಕರ ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 14567 ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಹಿಸುತ್ತಿವೆ.
- ನಿರ್ಗತಿಕ, ಬಡತನ ರೇಖೆಗಿಂತ ಕೆಳಗಿರುವ ಹಿರಿಯ ನಾಗರಿಕರಿಗಾಗಿ ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ 107 ವೃದ್ಧಾಶ್ರಮಗಳು ಸ್ವಯಂ ಸೇವಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳ ಮೂಲಕ ನಡೆಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. (ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ವೃದ್ಧಾಶ್ರಮಗಳು ಒಟ್ಟು 65 ಹಾಗೂ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ವೃದ್ಧಾಶ್ರಮಗಳು ಒಟ್ಟು : 42)

- **ಇಂದಿರಾಗಾಂಧಿ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ವೃದ್ಧಾಪ್ಯ ವೇತನ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ :**
 - 60 ರಿಂದ 64 ವರ್ಷ ವಯೋಮಾನದವರಿಗೆ ಮಾಸಿಕ ರೂ. 600/- ವೃದ್ಧಾಪ್ಯವೇತನ ನೀಡಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ.
 - 65 ವರ್ಷ ಮತ್ತು ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ವಯೋಮಾನದವರಿಗೆ ಮಾಸಿಕ ರೂ. 1200/- ವೃದ್ಧಾಪ್ಯವೇತನ ನೀಡಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ.
- ಸಂಧ್ಯಾ ಸುರಕ್ಷಾ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ 65 ವರ್ಷ ಮತ್ತು ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ವಯೋಮಾನದವರಿಗೆ ಮಾಸಿಕ ರೂ.1200/- ವೃದ್ಧಾಪ್ಯವೇತನ ನೀಡಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ.
- ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ವೃದ್ಧಾಪ್ಯ ವೇತನ ಪಡೆಯುತ್ತಿರುವ ಒಟ್ಟು ಫಲಾನುಭವಿಗಳ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 51,36,288
- ಪಾಲಕರ ಹಾಗೂ ಹಿರಿಯ ನಾಗರಿಕರ ಪಾಲನೆ ಪೋಷಣೆ ಮತ್ತು ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ-2007ರಡಿ ಉಪ ವಿಭಾಗಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷತೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಿರ್ವಹಣಾ ನ್ಯಾಯಮಂಡಳಿ ಮತ್ತು ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷತೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮೇಲ್ಮನವಿ ನ್ಯಾಯಮಂಡಳಿ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಹಿಸುತ್ತಿದೆ.
- ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಹಿರಿಯ ನಾಗರಿಕರ ಚಿಕಿತ್ಸೆಗಾಗಿ 10 ಹಾಸಿಗೆಗಳು ಮೀಸಲಿರಿಸಿರುವ ಜೀರಿಯಾಟ್ರಿಕ್ ವಾರ್ಡ್‌ಗಳು ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಹಿಸುತ್ತಿವೆ.



ರೂಪ. ಆರ್ ಕೆ.ಆರ್.ಸಿ.
ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ವಿಕಲಚೇತನರ ಹಾಗೂ ಹಿರಿಯ ನಾಗರಿಕರ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣ ನಿರ್ದೇಶನಾಲಯ

ದಾ. ಶಮ್ಸು ಇಕ್ಬಾಲ್ ಭಾ.ಆ.ಸಿ.
ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಗಳು, ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ಮತ್ತು ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ, ವಿಕಲಚೇತನರ ಹಾಗೂ ಹಿರಿಯ ನಾಗರಿಕರ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ

ವಿಕಲಚೇತನರ ಹಾಗೂ ಹಿರಿಯ ನಾಗರಿಕರ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣ ನಿರ್ದೇಶನಾಲಯ
6ನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, ಮುಖ್ಯ ಗೋಪುರ ಹಾಗೂ ನಲಮಹಡಿ, ಪೋರಿಯಂ ಬ್ಲಾಕ್, ವಿಕ್ಟೋರಿಯಾ ಗೋಪುರ, ಡಾ. ಅಂಬೇಡ್ಕರ್ ವೀದಿ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು - 560001

QUICK READ



Farmers oppose Bengaluru business corridor land take

BENGALURU

Over 1,000 farmers affected by the Peripheral Ring Road, now Bengaluru Business Corridor (BBC), have raised objections with the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA), calling the land acquisition “illegal” and demanding fair compensation. They argue the project, finalised in 2007, has lapsed under Section 27 of the BDA Act, 1976, as awards were not issued within five years. Farmers insist the BDA must follow the 2013 RFCTLARR Act, not the outdated 1894 law, as current compensation is nearly 60% lower than guideline values. They demand market-linked compensation, rehabilitation, and resettlement before any further work.

Welfare Party urges law repeal, Muslim reservation

BENGALURU

The Karnataka unit of the Welfare Party of India appealed to the Chief Minister to repeal “anti-people” laws and restore Muslim reservation in the state. The delegation submitted the appeal through the CM’s political secretary, citing the Karnataka Cattle Protection Act and the Protection of Religious Freedom Act as misused, causing harassment of families, attacks on cattle transporters, and economic hardships for farmers. They also criticized the anti-conversion law for targeting minorities. The party demanded reinstating the 4% Muslim reservation removed by the previous BJP government.

Convert expo flowers into useful protects: Dr Shalini

The festival aims to combine beauty, culture, and environmental awareness in one platform, giving a message of living in harmony

BENGALURU

Chief Secretary to Government of Karnataka Dr Shalini Rajneesh on Wednesday directed officials to recycle all flowers used in the city’s fruit and flower exhibition instead of throwing them away as waste.

She said the flowers should be dried or processed further and converted into useful products, setting an example of responsible and eco-friendly celebrations.

She was speaking after inaugurating the 11-day ‘Flower Festival-2025’, organised by



the Horticulture Department at Sri Chamarajendra (Cub-

bon) Park here on Thursday. Dr Shalini toured the fruit

It's important to teach young minds about nature, sustainability, and the value of greenery from an early age.
—Dr Shalini Rajneesh, CS to GoK

and flower exhibition and appreciated the creative displays made using different varieties of flowers and plants.

Addressing officials and visitors, she said waste management is an important part of any public event. “We enjoy the beauty of flowers for a few days, but we must also

think about what happens to them later. If recycled properly, they can be used for compost, natural colors, herbal products, or decorative items. Such steps will reduce pollution and support environmental protection,” she said.

Highlighting that a special section of the exhibition has been arranged for children, she said it’s important to teach young minds about nature, sustainability, and the value of greenery from an early age. According to her, events like this help children understand how living close to nature improves health and happiness.

She appealed to citizens to visit Cubbon Park and enjoy the flower festival while also helping to maintain its cleanliness and beauty. “Parks are the lungs of cities and should be protected by everyone. Visitors should avoid littering and follow eco-friendly practices in and around the park,” she said.

Officials from the Horticulture Department said thousands of visitors are expected over the 11 days. Several cultural programmes and educational activities are also planned along with the exhibition.

New Year to bring faster rides to Yellow Line Metro passengers

BENGALURU

Yellow Line Metro passengers are set to receive a welcome double gift in the new year as the Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRL) prepares to increase train frequency to every 8 to 10 minutes. This comes as major relief for the over one lakh commuters who rely on the route daily.

The Yellow Line, one of the most talked-about metro corridors in the city, has faced several obstacles since work began. Even after opening for public use, the line has continued to struggle due to a lack of enough trains. Currently, only five train sets operate on the route, forcing passengers to wait nearly 15 minutes between trains. A missed train often means

long delays, and overcrowding has become a common complaint.

Now, these issues are expected to ease soon. Six new trains have already departed from Titagarh in Kolkata and will reach Bengaluru next week. After necessary testing, they are expected to begin service by the end of December. Another train set will arrive in December, with the seventh likely to start running by the end of January.

With the addition of these trains, passengers can expect smoother travel and shorter waiting times. The reduced interval of 8 to 10 minutes is likely to make daily commutes more comfortable, especially during busy hours. For many Bengalureans, this upgrade marks a hopeful start to the new year.



Traffic alert: ICDS Golden Jubilee may cause chaos

BENGALURU

Bengaluru is set for major traffic disruptions on Friday as the ICDS Golden Jubilee event draws large crowds to Palace Grounds.

Organized by the Karnataka State Women and Child Development Department, the function will be held at Krishna Vihara (Gate No. 1) and is expected to attract around 40,000 people along with nearly 1,000 vehicles. The city traffic police have issued advisories and set up diversions to keep vehicles moving smoothly. Congestion is expected near Krishna Vihara Gate, Bellary Road, C.V. Raman Road, and Jayamahal Road. Parking will be banned on Palace Road, Nandidurga Road, Ballari Road, C.V. Raman Road, Jayamahal Road, and Gut-tahalli Road.

Special routes are suggested for travelers. Vehicles heading to the airport are advised to use Old High Grounds Junction and Nagavara, while city-bound traffic from the airport can follow Bamboo Bazaar and Queen’s Road or Hebbal Ring Road. From Yeshwantpur, drivers are asked to take Dr. Rajkumar Road or BEL Roundabout routes. Heavy vehicles from Hebbal and Yeshwantpur will face diversions or restrictions.

Continue bringing laurels to country, state: CM



BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah congratulated Karnataka’s own Dhanalakshmi and Lakshya Rajesh for their outstanding achievements in international sports arena.

Dhanalakshmi was part of the Indian women’s team that won the Kabaddi World Cup in Dhaka, Bangladesh, while Lakshya Rajesh won the silver medal at the Junior Asian Badminton Singles Championship in China.

The athletes were received at the Chief Minister’s office, led by Karnataka Olympic Association President Govindaraju.

CM Siddaramaiah felicitated both players and an-

nounced a cash incentive of ₹5 lakh each to honor their hard work and dedication. He also encouraged them to continue bringing pride to the state and country through their sporting achievements.

The Additional Chief Secretary will distribute the cheques, while officials including CM’s Media Advisor K.V. Prabhakar, Badminton Association Secretary Rajesh, and coach BN Sudhakar were present.

The triumph

In the Kabaddi World Cup final held on November 24, India defeated Chinese Taipei 35–28, securing its second consecutive World Cup title. The team had shown excellent

form throughout, winning all group stage matches and defeating Iran 33–21 in the semifinals. Sanju Devi was named the Most Valuable Player of the tournament, with Ai Min Lin from Chinese Taipei recognized as best raider and Bangladesh’s Sreeti Akhtar as best defender.

The week-long tournament, held at Shaheed Suhrawardy Indoor Stadium in Mirpur from November 17–24, featured 11 countries including India, Bangladesh, Germany, Kenya, Nepal, Poland, Thailand, Uganda, and Zanzibar. The event showcased remarkable talent and competitive spirit, with Karnataka athletes playing a key role in India’s success.

Sanitation workers seek rest rooms, other amenities

BENGALURU

The Chairperson of the Karnataka Safai Karmachari Commission, P Raghu, has asked officials to provide clean and well-equipped Suvidha rest rooms for poura-karmikas and sanitation workers across Bengaluru North City Corporation limits.

He was speaking at a “Direct Interaction Programme” held at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Bhavan in Yelahanka. Around 300 sanitation workers, including pourakarmikas, loaders, cleaners and auto-tipper drivers from seven Assembly constituencies, attended the programme and shared their problems and needs.

Raghu said many mastering points still do not have proper rest rooms. He directed officials to build new facilities where they are missing and improve the existing 27 Suvidha rest rooms. He also asked them to request the Greater Bengaluru Authority

to allow sanitation workers to use toilets in all hotels within the corporation area.

After the interaction, he held a review meeting and ordered quick action on several issues. These include regular health check-ups, timely salary payment, refund of children’s education fees, permanent appointment orders, housing support, and educational help for workers’ children in Morarji Desai and other residential schools. He also stressed the need for toilet facilities in Kogilu Bande, where over 250 sanitation workers live, and compensation for families of workers who died during service.

Bengaluru North City Corporation Commissioner Pom-mala Sunil Kumar told workers to stay confident and fearless while doing their duty. He said no one should stop them from using public or hotel toilets, and strict action will be taken against those who trouble them.

Stronger footpaths, wider roads get priority

BENGALURU

The Bengaluru East Municipal Corporation has begun major steps to improve roads and footpaths for safer and easier movement of people. Commissioner D.S. Ramesh inspected key development works today, including ITPL Road widening and Hope Farm underpass works.

On ITPL Main Road, the widening work from 80 feet to 150 feet is being carried out as per RMP-2015. The road stretch is about 11 kilometers long. The Commissioner directed officials to take early possession of lands where owners have already signed relinquishment deeds. He also instructed them to remove all footpath encroachments without delay.

At Hope Farm Kelasetuve Road, officers were asked to speed up the ongoing work so that traffic problems in the area can be reduced soon.

The Commissioner said brushed concrete footpaths



are being built on major roads to give pedestrians strong, safe and long-lasting walkways. This type of footpath is designed to stay durable and easy to walk on even during heavy rains.

Brushed concrete footpaths are being built on three main roads. On Graphite India Road, work is going on from Kundahalli Junction to ITPL Road for 1.5 kilometers. On Channasandra Main Road, it runs from Hope Farm Junction to Purva Nagar Palike Border for 2 kilometers. On Dinnuru Main Road, work covers a 1-kilometer stretch

from Kadugodi Tree Park near Sumadhura Apartment to Wipro GE Healthcare.

Meanwhile, a large encroachment clearance drive was carried out in the EPIP area of Doddanekundi. Around 500 meters of blocked footpath was cleared on Road Number 3. Over 25 food carts and permanent stalls were removed using cranes and tractors. Cleaning and beautification have already started at the cleared place. Officials said the next clearance drive will take place at First A Cross Road in the same area.

Newspapers’ Assn celebrates 70th Kannada Rajyotsava

BENGALURU

The 70th Kannada Rajyotsava was celebrated in grand style by the Newspapers’ Association of Karnataka at Puttanna Chettipura Bhavan, highlighting the pride and cultural heritage of the state.

A special feature of the event was the beautifully decorated elephants reflecting the spirit and glory of Kannada Rajyotsava, drawing widespread attention from attendees.

Dr MS Rajendra Kumar, President of the Karnataka State Cooperative Federation, was honored with the World Global Influencer Award for his remarkable contributions. During his speech, Dr. Rajendra Kumar

praised the organizers, noting that the event is conducted meticulously every year. He also highlighted the significance of promoting Kannada culture and described pulling the Kannada Thera during festivities as a pious act.

The Rajyotsava Awards for 2025 were presented to achievers across various fields including medicine, social service, education, and the public sector. The awards were handed out by dignitaries such as Dr. S. Chandrashekhara Shetty and Dr. S. Sachchidananda, both retired Vice Chancellors of Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, along with Air Vice Marshal B.K. Murali and other notable personalities.



CM to inaugurate Anganwadi scheme golden jubilee gala today

BENGALURU

After five decades of service to mothers and children, the Anganwadi scheme will celebrate its golden jubilee at Palace Grounds on Nov 28 with cultural shows and major public welfare announcements.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will open the event at 11 am, along with Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge and Deputy CM D K Shivakumar, in the presence of

many ministers and leaders.

Women and Child Development Minister Lakshmi Hebbalkar will lead the program, where more than thirty thousand Anganwadi workers and helpers from across Karnataka are expected to take part.

On this day, Children’s Day and World Senior Citizens Day will be marked with respect, awards, and stage programs for kids, elders, institutions, and hardworking Anganwadi staff.

GBA launches citywide head count of street dogs

BENGALURU

The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has started a citywide drive to collect clear data on stray dogs across all its five municipal corporations. This step follows fresh directions from the Supreme Court, which has asked the corporations to submit a compliance report within eight weeks.

Notices have been sent to government and private schools, colleges, universities, hospitals, health centres, bus stands, depots, railway sta-



tions, sports complexes and other institutions. They must report the number of stray dogs seen on their premises through an official Google Form and also take steps to

manage the problem.

Institutions have been told to fence their compounds to stop dogs from re-entering, appoint a responsible nodal officer, and display the offi-

cer’s name and phone number clearly. Sports complexes and stadiums must also deploy round the clock security to prevent stray dogs from entering. The nodal officer will work with corporation staff to ensure cleanliness, waste management and proper coordination.

The Animal Husbandry Department will soon mark safe and fixed feeding places for stray dogs across the city. Feeding dogs outside these marked zones will be treated as a violation of the Supreme Court order and may lead to

action. Officials said people should contact the municipal helpline 1533 or the rabies helpline 6364893322 for complaints like dog bites, unsafe feeding or cruelty.

The government urged people to adopt stray dogs. Animal welfare groups running shelters will get support, and officers will guide citizens through adoption.

Authorities said this drive is not only about control, but also about creating a safer and more caring environment for both people and animals in the growing city.

QUICK READ

National Lok Adalat on December 13

Gadag

A National Lok Adalat has been organized in the district on December 13, where the public and parties can resolve their disputes quickly by conciliating each other. In order to avoid the financial burden and wastage of time by participating in conciliation, the Principal District and Sessions Judge and Director of District Legal Services Authority, Nagaveni Patrika, said in a press release.

Applications invited for apprenticeship training

Gadag

Applications are invited from eligible candidates for one year apprenticeship training in the professions of Fitter, Electrician, Mechanic (Diesel) in the divisional workshop under the jurisdiction of Gadag division and Gadag, Rona, Lakshmehwara, Naragunda, Mundargi, Betageri, Gajendragad, Shirahatti units of the North West Karnataka Road Transport Corporation. Interested candidates can register at www.apprenticeshipindia.gov.in and apply online by December 5.

Kannada department invites art festival entries

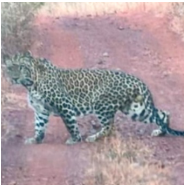
Gadag

The Kannada and Culture Department has invited applications to organize an art festival program to recognize and encourage the artistic talent of children and youth and encourage them to improve their artistic skills. Interested parties can submit their applications by December 1, said Dr Basavaraj V Bellary, Assistant Director of the Kannada and Culture Department.

Leopard sighted again, farmers worried

Haveri

The leopard menace has increased again in Rattihalli taluk of the district. A leopard has been spotted again in a farmer's field.



A leopard has been spotted in Kadur village of Rattihalli taluk of district, raising concerns. The leopard was spotted in the garden of village farmer Shankaragowda Shiragambi, and a CCTV camera captured the leopard running around.

This is the third time a leopard has been seen in Shankaragowda's garden. Last year, a leopard was also seen in the garden. This is the second time this year it has appeared in front of farmer Shankaragowda's garden house, creating panic.

The sighting of a leopard in the same garden for the third time has created concern among the farming family and villagers, and the farmers have expressed their anger against the Forest Department for not capturing the leopard.

Shivashankarappa Recovering; Son Slams Rumours

Davanagere

Senior MLA and national president of the Akhil Bharatiya Lingayat Mahasabha, Shamanur Shivashankarappa, continues to receive treatment and is recovering steadily, even as his family has condemned the false rumours circulating on social media about his health. The Shamanur family has expressed strong displeasure after miscreants shared a photo of the 92-year-old leader with the caption “Om Shanti”, falsely implying his death.

His son S.S. Ganesh addressed the media to clarify the situation and urged the public not to be misled. “Appaji is healthy. He will be coming to Davanagere in a few days. He was admitted due to breathing issues, but he is recovering well. All the rumours are completely false,” he said. Ganesh added that several political leaders, religious heads, and well-wishers had visited the hospital to enquire about the veteran leader's health.

He further stated that the family is deeply upset by the irresponsible circulation of misinformation. “Please do not believe such lies. It is not good for anyone to spread false news without knowing the facts. We are fed up with these rumours. Appaji will need around 10 to 15 days for full recovery, and once the doctors permit, we will bring him back to Davanagere,” he said.

Ganesh emphasized that Shivashankarappa remains mentally strong and determined, and that after recovering, he is expected to resume public life with full vigour. “He will return as healthy as he can and is prepared to contest another election when the time comes,” he assured.

62 Puducherry-registered vehicles seized, ₹8 cr collected

Vehicles, especially cars registered out of state have to re-register to avoid penalties

DHARWAD

Vehicle owners who obtained registrations from Puducherry and other states in order to save motor vehicle tax are now facing serious trouble. Transport department officials are conducting checks and imposing fines on such vehicles. Transport Department Additional Commissioner KT Halaswamy addressing a press conference informed that Puducherry and other state-registered vehicles that have not paid Karnataka State tax are being seized in Hubballi-Dharwad and other areas. During inspections carried out in Belagavi and Kalaburagi divisions, 162 such vehicles were seized and a total penalty of Rs 8 crore has been collected from vehicle owners, he said. 12 vehicles in Hubballi-Dharwad. In a special operation held in the twin cities, 12 vehicles with Puducherry registration were seized, and Rs 1.50 crore penalty was collected. Since tax rates are lower in the union



territory of Puducherry, some Karnataka residents register high-value vehicles there, and use them in Karnataka. This is an offence, and strict action is being taken against such vehicle owners, he stated.

From January to October, 3,902 cases were registered against school vehicles for carrying students beyond the

permitted limit. Warning that school vehicles must not be operated illegally, he added that the transport department is providing reflective-cloth banners free of cost to tractor-trailers coming for registration. Sugarcane and agricultural tractor-trailers usually do not have any kind of reflectors at the rear, resulting

The state government has issued a notification offering 50 percent discount on penalties imposed for various traffic-rule violation cases registered between 1991-92 and 2019-20. Vehicle owners must make use of this opportunity by paying 50 percent of the fine between November 21 and December 12. There are 3,051 pending cases in Hubballi-Dharwad, 11,557 in Belagavi division, and 7,473 in Kalaburagi division, totalling 18,000 cases, said KT Halaswamy, Additional Commissioner, Transport department.

in accidents. Hence, this measure is being implemented, he said. Senior motor vehicle inspector Mathapati, and First Division Assistant TV Dinamani were present.

Poor Transport Leaves Students Struggling

DHARWAD

There are many schools and colleges in Dharwad city. Thousands of students come here for their studies. However, children in rural areas of Dharwad are still not getting proper bus services.

Yes! Students who commute to schools and colleges in Dharwad every day are forced to miss their classes as they do not receive buses on time. There have been instances of students protesting against the bus system in Tegur in Dharwad taluk, Dumawada in Kalaghatgi taluk, Shiroom in Navalgund taluk, Uppina Betageri in Dharwad taluk and Kallur village. However, the bus is not coming on time. So the students are struggling.

On the other hand, no matter how many buses are left, they are falling short. As the number of students is increasing every year, the transport department is not able to provide bus facilities accordingly.

When asked to arrange a bus for the MLA in Dharwad district, he said that the bus was not coming on time due to the damaged road.

District administration takes control of Kannada Bhavan

BELAGAVI

The district administration decided to take over the management of Kannada Bhavan, located in the heart of the city, which was until now, under private control. The move, initiated by Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Roshan, was a welcome move supported by several Kannada organisations. Deputy Commissioner Roshan directed the Deputy Commissioner (Revenue) of the Belagavi City Corporation (BCC) to form a sub-committee headed by the Deputy Director of Kannada and Culture department to oversee the building's operations and maintenance. The Deputy Commissioner mandated that henceforth, permission from the Kannada and culture department would be required for conducting any event at the Kannada Bhavan. The sub-committee was also instructed to reassess the construction cost of the building, and fix the rent accordingly. Crucially, the Deputy Commissioner ordered freezing of an account opened at Rani Channamma Mahila Cooperative Bank in the name of the deputy director, Kannada and Culture, and directed that no future transactions be permitted through it. Kannada Bhavan at Nehru Nagar was built with a grant of Rs 3.2-crore from the Karnataka Border Area Development Authority and Rs 2.9 crore from Kannada and culture department.



The building must to be used for promoting the language as well as activities encouraging youth to develop love towards the language

At a meeting on border-area issues held on May 29, District Minister Satish Jarkiholi recommended forming a committee under to manage the Bhavan. With the latest order, the Kannada Bhavan will now formally be managed by the government.

It was inaugurated in December 2022 by the then Chief Minister, Basavaraj Bommai. Since its inauguration, the facility was under private management. About five months ago, senior Kannada activist Ashok Chandragi raised concerns that the Bhavan, constructed with government funds, was being used for commercial activities by private entities. He demanded a dedicated committee for its management.

‘Leaders should be able to face tough challenges’

DHARWAD

Leadership that can face global uncertainties and challenges is the need of the hour, said Lord Karan Bilimoria, a fellow of Sidney Sussex College, University of Cambridge.

He was speaking on the topic of ‘Leadership in Times of Crisis’ at a special foundational lecture organised by the Karnatak University DC Pavate Memorial Foundation at the Senate Hall of Karnatak University.

He said that those who lead a country must possess the ability to confront terrorist attacks, economic crises, climate change and global health emergencies. Many great leaders across the world have shown exemplary leadership during difficult

times. He noted that great leaders such as Nelson Mandela of South Africa led their nation to freedom during such crises.

Bilimoria said students must lead purposeful lives with clear goals. To develop leadership in entrepreneurship, they must cultivate professionalism through logical thinking, he added. A good teacher has the power to transform a student's life. Encouraging creativity among students is a necessity today. Globalization has brought complexities into all sectors, he added. Presiding over the programme, Karnatak University Vice-Chancellor Prof AM Khan said that there is a need to equip the youth so they can meet the demands of the new job market.



personnel has begun. We promised to fill these posts as part of our election manifesto, he further said. For the first phase, the state finance department has approved recruitment for 3,600 posts. Considering the long wait by aspiring candidates, the government has also relaxed the age limit by two years, he added. Parameshwar criticised the previous BJP-led

government for failing to fill these vacancies and alleged that there were irregularities in PSI recruitment.

We have already recruited 545 sub-inspectors, who are now undergoing training. The process will be completed in the next 2-3 months. Recruitment for 402 more sub-inspectors is under way, he said, adding that another 600 vacant posts would also be filled in soon.

Responding to a query on growing instances of cybercrime, the minister clarified that victims could file complaints at any police station in the state. The complaint would eventually be moved to the CEN police station for investigation, he added.

Swamiji Links District Delay to Statehood Push

BELAGAVI

Sri Sampadana Mahaswamiji has warned that a massive agitation will be launched from December 8 demanding the creation of a separate Chikkodi district.

Speaking on the occasion, he said, all the MLAs of Chikkodi district should urge the government in the session. Otherwise, the demand for a separate Kittur Kamataka state will be put forward, he said.

Decades of demand and ministerial support

Addressing a press conference at Pravasi Mandir in Chikkodi town, Sampadana Mahaswamiji said that the struggle for Chikkodi district has been going on for the last many decades.

Ministers Satish Jarkiholi and Lakshmi Hebbalkar have

also demanded that Chikkodi be declared as a district. He demanded that an announcement be made in the current session itself. He opined that the formation of the district would benefit the people of the border areas, including Athani. All the Swamijis of Chikkodi district and the District Struggle Committee will meet Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on this demand.

Chikkodi District Horata Samiti President Sanju Badigera said that despite the struggle for the last 30 years, the government was not responding. He alleged that the government would give assurances only when elections were held, adding that a fierce struggle would be launched in the wake of the session.

Centre's deadline for creation of new districts

UPGRADED FACILITY

Blood bank to be started at Chitaguppi Hospital soon

HUBBALLI

Chitaguppi Hospital, under the Hubballi-Dharwad Municipal Corporation, is moving towards strengthening its health services. A new blood bank will begin operations soon, boosting the hospital's capacity. After KMC-RI, this hospital emerged as a lifeline for the poor, with its 100-bed facility and a daily outpatient footfall exceeding 1,000. An average of 1,500 normal deliveries takes place in the hospital every year. A total of 100 surgeries are performed each month, including obstetric surgeries and various diseases.



Patients who come here suffer a lot due to the lack of an immediate blood supply. Otherwise, they have to be admitted to a private hospital or KM-CRI during delivery. Since it is a sensitive time, there is no blood bank in the

hospital, but in the background of easy access to blood for pregnant women and patients, a blood bank is being started in collaboration with the Lions Club. After Covid-19, the hospital became a place for treating patients

in line with private hospitals in health services. Currently, hundreds of people, including pregnant women, are admitted to the hospital for various types of surgeries. Dr Sridhar Dandappanavar, health officer at HDMC, said that in order to overcome the shortage of blood, the hospital made an agreement in collaboration with the Lions Club to start a blood bank, and an MoU is being signed. Therefore, the blood bank will soon be started and will be available for the service of the public. Various units in hospital With the help of donors, C-Arm technology has been

installed at a cost of Rs 20 lakh. With this, 52 people have been treated for kidney-related diseases. NICU has been installed by Inna Wheel Club, and a laparoscopy unit has been installed by Majethia Foundation. Various machines have been installed at a total cost of Rs 2 crore. Around 140-150 deliveries and 40 to 50 cesarean section deliveries are being performed per month. More than 100 general surgeries are being performed. Surgery of women's uterus, lumps, and tumours are also being performed. A diabetic centre has also been started.



ing the mortal remains of the martyred soldier entered the village boundary, tears welled up in the eyes of thousands of people gathered in the village.

The body was kept at the primary school premises in Suttatti village for the last rites. The cries of the

family members reached the sky. Later, he was cremated with full military and state honours. The army officers fired three rounds to pay their respects. Several dignitaries including local politicians, bureaucrats were present

on the occasion and paid their last respects.

Cardiac Arrest Claims Soldier; Village Plunged Into Mourning

BELAGAVI

Chandru Shetteppa Kashida (39), who was serving the country in the Army, died of cardiac arrest in Punjab in the early hours of Tuesday. The entire village fell silent in mourning the loss of a beloved son, brother and a proud soldier of the village.

As the army vehicle carry-

QUICK READ

Assistance Available
for Engineering &
Medical Students

Gadag

Students pursuing B.E. Engineering and MBBS courses can avail financial assistance under the 24.10 percent scheme for Scheduled Tribes and the 5 percent scheme for physically challenged and handi-capped beneficiaries for the year 2025-26. The support is provided through SFC and Municipal grants. Interested candidates must submit their applications by December 5 to be considered for the assistance. This initiative aims to support higher education among disadvantaged and differently-abled students, helping them pursue professional courses without financial constraints.

Stronger Account
Audits Urged for
Cooperatives

Gadag

Cooperative societies in the district are required to complete audits of their accounts promptly after finalizing financial statements and submit reports to the competent authorities. However, 467 societies have not undergone audits for several years. The list of these societies has been displayed at the offices of the Deputy Registrar and Deputy Director of Audit of Cooperative Societies. The Deputy Director of Audit has urged all cooperative societies to conduct audits without delay and submit their reports urgently, emphasizing the importance of transparency, accountability, and proper financial management within the cooperative sector.

Youth Must Uphold
Constitution: Justice
Chandrashekhar

Constitution Day event stresses duty, rights and constitutional values for India's youth

KOPPAL

Principal District and Sessions Judge and Chairman of the District Legal Services Authority C. Chandrashekhar emphasised that the Constitution forms the bedrock of justice, liberty and equality for all sections of society, including women, children and workers. Addressing the Constitution Day celebration at Koppal University, he said it is essential for the younger generation to understand, respect and follow the Constitution to strengthen democracy.

Calling the Constitution a "great scripture" that upholds unity and integrity, Justice Chandrashekhar reminded students that rights and duties are inseparable. "Everyone must uphold the fundamental values of the Constitution while fulfilling their responsibilities," he said.

Prof. V. Sudesh, Dean of the Law Faculty, Bangalore University, said India's stability and global progress were rooted in its strong constitutional framework. The country's peaceful coexistence, he noted, was possible only be-



cause of the guiding principles laid out by the Constitution.

Presiding over the event, Koppal University Vice-Chancellor Prof. B.K. Ravi said the Constitution has served as a powerful voice for the underprivileged. "Ambedkar's Constitution has given every citizen the freedom of expression. An equal society can be built only by understanding and practising its aspirations," he said, urging students and youth to study the Constitution deeply.

Assistant Professor Dr. Gopala Anjanappa of Kolar Law College also addressed the gathering.

The programme included the reading of the Preamble, an oath-taking ceremony, and floral tributes to Dr. B.R.

Senior Civil Judge and Secretary of the District Legal Services Authority, Mahantesh S. Dargada, said respecting the law of the land is the duty of every citizen. "The Constitution and its observance are more important than religion," he noted.

Ambedkar. Students from the Performing Arts Department presented patriotic songs and prayer renditions. University Administrator Prof. Thimmareddy Meti delivered the introductory remarks and welcomed the guests, while Prof. Dr. Sudhakar, Dr. Basavaraj Gadada and others participated.

Make DK Shivakumar CM or
Govt Will Fall, Warns Swamiji

BELAGAVI

Veereshwara Swamiji of Degulahalli Madivalleshwara Mutt in Kittur taluk warned that the Congress government in Karnataka could collapse if Chief Minister Siddaramaiah does not hand over the CM post to DK Shivakumar. The Swamiji noted that DK Shivakumar had supported Siddaramaiah during his first term as CM and urged that he be given the chief ministership for the second term. He added that if Siddaramaiah fails to honor this, people will remember it as a broken promise, and the CM should relinquish his stubbornness to maintain political stability.

Boy Commits
Suicide after
Parents Urge
Him to Work

DAVANAGERE

A 16-year-old boy, Tarun from Chikkanahalli, tragically ended his life by jumping in front of a train near the railway bridge close to the Mar-ket area in Davanagere.

According to family sources, Tarun had been staying at home idle, prompting his parents to urge him to start working. Feeling heartbroken and unable to cope with the pressure, he left home late at night. His family searched for him overnight.

Tragically, Tarun's body was discovered on the railway tracks the next morning, with fatal injuries. Authorities have registered a case at the Davanagere Railway Police Station, and investigations are underway to ascertain the circumstances leading to this incident.

The incident has left the local community in shock, highlighting the pressures faced by adolescents and the importance of mental health awareness.

Target is to win the elections in
2028: Minister Satish Jarkiholi

HAVERI

Minister Satish Jarkiholi on Thursday called for patience within the party ranks, stressing that many workers who contributed significantly to the formation of the government are still awaiting recognition. "Many people have worked for the party. Not all of them have received their due. This government is the result of the efforts of thousands. Some get their wages early, some later — we must wait for our turn," he told reporters.

Responding to a question on whether he aspired to become Chief Minister, Jarkiholi dismissed the speculation, saying, "We are still in 2025. Let's think about such matters only after we win the elections in 2028."

Asked about Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar's recent post stating that "a man who keeps his word is powerful," Jarkiholi remarked that any answers to leadership questions would be found "in Delhi, not Haveri."

He clarified that neither he nor other leaders had violated party discipline. "The high command has not instructed us to stay silent. We have never spoken against the party



— only in its favour. So the question of being warned does not arise," he said.

On whether he supports D.K. Shivakumar for the Chief Minister's post, the Minister maintained that internal discussions take place only on party platforms. "Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, DCM Shivakumar and all of us belong to the same party. There is no question of supporting one leader over another. Shivakumar had spoken about giving us the KPCC president's post, but there has been no discussion on helping him become Chief Minister," he asserted.

Jarkiholi also defended community-based demands raised by some Ministers, saying such conversations were "not new" and reflected their constituents' expectations.

Even as he spoke to the me-

The government has come about due to the hard work of thousands of people, says Jarkiholi

If the BJP brings a no-confidence motion during the Belagavi winter session, "let it happen," Jarkiholi said. "They have tried many times, and it has never succeeded. Instead, they should allow issues of North Karnataka to be discussed meaningfully in the legislature," he added.

dia, a supporter interrupted, shouting that Jarkiholi would be the next Chief Minister — drawing smiles from those present.

MP Inaugurates KOF
Warehouse, Boosts
Farmer Initiatives

DAVANAGERE

MP Dr Prabha Mallikarjun inaugurated the newly constructed warehouse and Sarex machine at Davanagere under a Central Government grant, facilitated by Karnataka Cooperative Oilseed Growers' Federation Limited (KOF).

Speaking at the event, she highlighted that KOF, registered on October 26, 1984, under the Karnataka Cooperative Societies Act, 1959, was established with guidance from the National Dairy Development Board and has been serving farmers for over four decades. The organization produces and supplies high-quality edible oils and sowing seeds under the brand name 'Safal' and has been successfully selling agricultural products for the last five years.

Dr Mallikarjun noted that KOF's outlets in Bengaluru

ensure affordable access to quality oils and agricultural products. "KOF is a trust-worthy organization contributing significantly to public health by supplying unadulterated products. Its adherence to modern technologies and strict hygiene standards has earned customer confidence," she said.

She further emphasized KOF's role in strengthening the rural economy, promoting social and economic empowerment, and providing employment opportunities to women farmers and self-help groups.

Former Minister and KOF President Venkatarao Nadagouda, Vice President S Suganagouda, Managing Director GC Reddy, and other officials were present on the occasion, celebrating the expansion of infrastructure and the continued support for farmer welfare.

Arjunasa Nakoda
Mahotsav Kicks
Off November 29

HUBBALLI

Music enthusiasts are in for a treat as the Arjunasa Nakoda Music Festival-2025 begins on November 29 at Sawai Gandharva Kala Mandir, Deshpande Nagar.

Organised in collaboration with the Gana Gandharva Pt. Arjuna Sa Nakoda National Memorial Trust, Samata Seva Sanstha, and the Department of Kannada and Culture, Dharwad, the festival will feature live musical performances from 4:00 pm to 9:00 pm.

The event will be inaugurated by Union Minister Pralhad Joshi. Chief guests include MLA Mahesh Tengenakai, Govind Joshi of Samata Seva Sanstha, Dr VSV Prasad of Swarna Group, ABSSK Samaja President Srinivas L Khode, SSK Samaj President Satish Meherwade, art patron Meera Srikanth Meherwade, and PNG Saraf and Jewellers Director Siddharth Gadgil.

Draft Voter List Published for
North-East Teachers' Constituency

KOPPAL

The draft voter list for the North-East Karnataka Legislative Council Teachers' Constituency has been published, with objections and additions allowed until December 10, said Dr Suresh B Itnal, Assistant Voter Registrar and Deputy Commissioner.

Following directions from the Election Commission of

India, the draft voter list was made available on November 25 at the District Commissioner's Office and all Tahsildar offices. Eligible members can also access the list online at <https://koppal.nic.in/en/election>.

Dr Itnal said that members wishing to raise objections or request additions must submit documents through Form-19 to the Assistant Voter Regis-

tration Officers by December 10. All objections and new applications will be processed by December 25. The final voter list is scheduled to be published on December 30.

The revision process aims to ensure that all eligible teachers in the constituency are included and that the electoral records are accurate, transparent, and up to date ahead of upcoming elections.

PLAN FOR DEVELOPMENT

Include All Works in NREGA Action Plan: Kandakur

GADAG

Taluk Panchayat Executive Officer Chandrashekar B. Kandakur on Thursday instructed officials and villagers to ensure that all individual, community, and school-related works are compulsorily included in the 2026-27 NREGA action plan. He was speaking at the gram sabha held in Benachamatti village under the Kuntaji Gram Panchayat of Gajendragad taluk.

Kandakur said labourers holding job cards are eligible for lifetime personal benefits of up to ₹5 lakh under NREGA. These benefits cover a wide range of works, including agricultural pits, earthworm units, future pipe refill units, goat sheds, cattle sheds, and horticulture-based peren-



nial crops such as mango, curry leaves, custard apple, coconut, seebhe, nugar, and others — excluding papaya and banana. All such activities can be incorporated into the action plan, he said, urging interested farmers to register their names before commencing work.

He added that essential community development works such as CC roads, drainage systems, lake devel-

opment, cemetery improvement, rainwater harvesting structures, and NRLM-linked works can also be included under NREGA. "Each village must identify its priority needs and list only those works that are necessary and beneficial," he advised.

Emphasising school infrastructure as a top priority in the upcoming plan, Kandakur said toilets, kitchens, com-

pound walls, and playgrounds must be mandatorily assessed in every school. "Inspect each school and list the facilities required. These should be added to the action plan without fail," he instructed.

Gram Panchayat President Poonabai Rathod, members Limbanna Gadada, Doddamma Agasimani, Lakshmaya Kaudaki, Shekhappa Poojar, Duragappa Kotabala, Parappa Tondihai, and Sangappa Poojar were present. Officials from the Sericulture and Horticulture Departments — including Suresh Danaka and Mahantesh Antin — along with Panchayat Development Officer Manjunath Meti, NREGA staff, Panchayat personnel, Anganwadi workers, and villagers also attended the meeting.

(CH) CLASSIFIEDS

To place a classified ad contact: 080-41209042

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SEEMA ASHOK PAWAR
(Old name) address:
GARDEN TOWN
HOSUR HUBLI.
Has changed my name:
SEEMA DASHARATH
BARAD (New name)
for all purposes.
Vide Affidavit dated:
19/11/2025 before
notary public Hubli.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, AYAAN (Old name)
address: BAZAR RD
AT POST SHIRAHATTI.
Has changed my name:
AYAAN
ASHRAFJAAN PATHAN
(New name)
for all purposes.
Vide Affidavit dated:
24/11/2025 before
notary public Hubli.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SAIYAD LIMBUWALE
(Old name)
address:
ISLAMPUR ROAD OLD
HUBLI HUBLI.
Has changed my name:
SAYED LIMBUWALE
(New name)
for all purposes.
Vide Affidavit dated:
24/11/2025
before notary public Hubli.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, HEENAKOUSAR
HAJARESAB
LIMBUWALE (Old name)
address: ISLAMPUR
ROAD OLDHUBLI HUBLI.
Has changed my
name: HEENAKOUSAR
LIMBUWALE (New name)
for all purposes. Vide
Affidavit dated: 24/11/2025
before notary public Hubli.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, DEEPAK DAYANNAVAR
(Old name) address:
GOKUL ROAD HUBLI.
Has changed my name:
DEEPAK KALLAPPA
DAYANNAVAR
(new name)
for all purposes..
Vide Affidavit dated:
24/11/2025 before
notary public Hubli.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, MAHIRA FIRDIOUS
(old name) address:
H No C/182 Near
Madani Masjid,
Tabib Land, Hubballi-580020.
Has changed my name:
MAHIRA FIRDIOUS
MAHFOOZ AHMED GUDGERI
(new name) for all purposes.
Vide Affidavit dated:
25/11/2025 before
notary public Hubli.

QUICK READ

District hospital urges relatives to follow visiting hours

CHITRADURGA

District Surgeon Dr. S.P. Ravindra has urged relatives of patients to visit the district hospital only during designated interview hours: 6–7:30 am, 12–2 pm, and 5–8 pm. Patients must bring Aadhar and ration card copies and register in the AB-ARK room when admitted. Free tests, scans, medicines, and implants are available for AB-ARK beneficiaries, while others must pay fees and get receipts. Dr. Ravindra warned against visiting private hospitals first, asking relatives to report any staff demanding money via 9448943163. Following these guidelines ensures smooth treatment and protects patients' rights under AB-ARK.

Gram Sabha to identify homeless in mine areas

CHITRADURGA

Gram Panchayats in Holalkere Taluk will hold village meetings from December 3 to 12 to select homeless and landless people living within 5 km of mine-affected areas. Villages involved include Adanur, B. Durga, Chikkajujaru, Chitrahalli, Gunjiganur, H.D. Pura, Muthugadur, Sivaganga, T. Nulnur, Thalya, Tekalavatti, and Upparigenahalli. The Zilla Panchayat CEO has directed urgent identification and submission of eligible beneficiaries. Residents without homes or land are encouraged to attend the Gram Sabhas and register for benefits. For more information, villagers can contact their local Gram Panchayat PDOs, officials said, stressing timely participation to secure housing support.

Monsoon crop compensation process launched for farmers

Under the scheme, farmers receive compensation from the Central Fund and Rs. 8,500 per hectare from Karnataka

CHITRADURGA

The process of giving compensation to farmers who suffered crop damage during the monsoon has officially started in the district. District Collector T. Venkatesh said a total of Rs. 109.93 lakh will be distributed to 769 farmers whose crops were destroyed by heavy rains.

He shared this update after attending a video conference meeting with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. During the meeting, the Chief Minister explained the special support being given to farmers affected by excessive rainfall this season.

Under the scheme, the Central Government is providing



compensation through the Natural Disaster Relief Fund. Along with this, the Karnataka Government has added an extra input subsidy of Rs. 8,500 per hectare for this monsoon season. Because of this, farmers will receive more financial help to recover from their losses. A joint survey

was carried out by officials from the Revenue, Agriculture and Horticulture Departments. They visited the affected areas and assessed the damage to crops. The survey report showed that 467.16 hectares of agricultural and horticultural land were damaged due to heavy rains. Based

on this report, Rs. 70.05 lakh will be given as central compensation, while an additional Rs. 39.88 lakh will be paid as input subsidy from the state government. This brings the total compensation amount to Rs. 109.93 lakh.

The state has also increased subsidy rates. For rainfed crops, it is now Rs. 17,000 per hectare. For irrigated crops, it is raised to Rs. 25,500 per hectare. For perennial crops, it is increased to Rs. 31,000 per hectare.

Collector Venkatesh instructed officials to ensure that the money reaches farmers without delay. He said timely support will help farmers restart cultivation and regain confidence.



Tungabhadra water project promises safe drinking soon

CHITRADURGA

Clean drinking water will reach every village in Chitradurga district within the next two months, said Small Industries Development Corporation President and Challakere MLA T. Raghuramurthy. He spoke during a progress review meeting of the Bahuneeru multi village drinking water project at the Zilla Panchayat hall.

Raghuramurthy explained that water from the Tungabhadra reservoir is now being supplied on an experimental basis to several villages in Tumakuru, Chitradurga and Vijayanagar districts. He said officials must inspect all pipelines and tanks carefully and fix even small problems, so that regular water supply can begin without delay.

He also informed that 59 villages of Turuvanur hobli in Challakere constituency have been newly added to this project. Water tanks have been built in villages according to their population, and new tanks have been constructed wherever old ones were weak or unsafe. The main aim is to provide clean and safe drinking water to protect people's health. Raghuramurthy directed the engineers to check both main pipelines and local distribution pipelines completely. He said there should be no

Raghuramurthy stated Tungabhadra reservoir water is being experimentally supplied to villages in Tumakuru, Chitradurga, and Vijayanagar, urging officials to inspect pipelines and tanks for uninterrupted supply.

technical issues when water is released to village tanks. He stressed that reliable water supply is a basic need and should not face interruptions after the project starts.

Officials from the Zilla Panchayat, rural water supply department and private contracting agencies attended the meeting. They assured that the work is moving steadily and most of the remaining tasks will be completed soon. Engineers also shared updates on quality checks and water testing methods to ensure safety.

People in drought-prone villages have welcomed this project with hope. Many families have been struggling for years due to shortage of drinking water. With this project, villagers are expecting relief and a better quality of life. The administration has promised regular monitoring even after water supply begins to ensure smooth and uninterrupted service for all.

BALAKRISHNA RECALLED THE BAGUR-NAVILE WATER STRUGGLE AND EXPRESSED PRIDE IMPLEMENTING IRRIGATION PROJECTS NOW AS AN MLA

Hema water fills Tagadur lakes after long struggle

CHANNARAYAPATNA

After decades of hope and struggle, Hema water has finally flowed into the Tagadur and Lakkarasanahalli lakes in Channarayapatna taluk. Both the small and big lakes overflowed, bringing joy to tunnel-affected villages in the area. MLA C.N. Balakrishna and Karnataka Working Journalists Association State President Shivananda Tagadur, along with villagers, offered traditional prayers and bagina to the filled lakes.

Speaking at the event, Balakrishna said the fight for water began during his time as a Zilla Panchayat member. He recalled the Bagur-Navile struggle led by Shivananda Tagadur, which helped shape irrigation projects for the region. He said he now feels proud to implement those plans and release water as an MLA.

He also explained that there were many technical and land issues while bringing water through the Navile lift irrigation system. All problems were cleared after constant efforts and coordination with officials. He praised Shivananda Tagadur for supporting

development works and helping get special grants for the Kalleshwara Temple Road.

Balakrishna promised that road works from Tagadur Gate to Heggadigere Gate and another route passing behind the lake to connect Vaddarahatti will be completed soon for villagers' benefit. He also said that Shivananda Tagadur being elected unopposed for the third time as State President of the Journalists Association is a matter of pride for the taluk and district. A public felicitation will be organized soon.

Shivananda Tagadur said he is happy to see water finally reaching the lakes after the long struggle of the 1990s. He thanked the MLA and officials for their support and dedication. Villagers honored both leaders during the program. A special Rudrabhishekam was performed at Kalleshwara Swamy Temple. People from Tagadur, Lakkarasanahalli and nearby villages attended and shared their happiness. This moment has given new hope for farmers and revived faith in community efforts for water security in the coming years.



‘Workplaces should respect women and support empowerment’

CHIKKABALLAPURA

Everyone must stand together to support women's empowerment by respecting women at workplaces and offices, said Principal District and Sessions Judge T. P. Ramalingegowda.

He was speaking at an awareness workshop on the Prevention of Sexual Harassment Act held at Sir M. Visvesvaraya Hall in the District Administration Bhavan.

The programme was jointly organised by the District Administration, Zilla Panchayat, District Legal Services Authority, Police Department, Bar Association, Women and Child Development Department and other partner departments.

Justice Ramalingegowda said that before the 2013 Act, cases of sexual harassment were handled based on the Supreme Court's Visakh judgment. The 2013

law was later formed using the same guidelines. He said incidents of harassment still happen daily across society, the country and the world.

However, the work of competent authorities has created a better and safer environment for women. He stressed that this environment must continue, and for that, everyone should clearly understand the 2013 Act. Victims should come forward and file complaints without fear. He added that such workshops help officers and staff implement the law properly.

District Collector P. N. Ravindra said that offices or workplaces with more than 10 women employees must create an internal complaint committee. If there are less than 10 employees, complaints can be submitted to district or taluk level committees or nodal officers.



Devotees gather for Champashashti at Ghati Subrahmanya

DODDABALLAPUR

Thousands of devotees visited the Sri Ghati Subrahmanya Kshetra to take part in the sacred Champashashti celebrations. The temple was beautifully decorated, and special rituals were held with great devotion for Lord Subrahmanyaswami.

The day started early with abhishekam and mahamangalarathi at 5 a.m. Priests later conducted the Subrahmanya Swamy Prakarotsava around the temple. Devotees also prayed at the nagarakallu and sacred huts, as this place is well known for Sagra worship. Long queues of people were seen, but all arrangements were made smoothly. Prasada was distributed to all visitors.

Temple authorities announced that the grand Brahma Rathotsava will be held on December 25. On that day, the temple will be decorated with special flowers and lamps. Extra facilities like drinking water, proper queue lines, and temporary toilets will be provided for the comfort of devotees. Elderly people, differently-abled persons, and pregnant and lactating women will be allowed direct darshan. Also, no entry fee will be charged for cattle and vehicles during the fair.

Another important event, the Rasugala fair, will be held from December 10 to 18. Special arrangements will be made for farmers bringing cattle, including clean drinking water and veterinary care to prevent the spread of diseases. The temple will also provide food and snacks for farmers, said Muzrai Minister Ramalinga Reddy. Champashashti celebrations were also held in Mandya with equal devotion. At the Subrahmanya temple near the Deputy Commissioner's office, a grand 17th-year celebration took place. Special homas and poojas were conducted, and the temple was decorated with a sugarcane pavilion.

Police Sports Meet boosts morale and unity

CHITRADURGA

Despite heavy work pressure, police officers and staff must always keep a spirit of sportsmanship, said Principal District and Sessions Judge Ron Vasudev while inaugurating the Chitradurga District Police Annual Sports Meet at the Police Parade Ground on Thursday.

Speaking at the event, the judge said sports help people reduce stress, stay active, and think positively even during tough duties. He praised the discipline of the police department and said the annual sports meet shows how officers can balance hard work with healthy activities. He urged police personnel to actively take part in sports and also involve their family members, as family support gives them more strength and motivation.

He also expressed pride that more than 15 police personnel from Chitradurga district are participating in



state and national level sports competitions. Many of them have already brought fame to the district through their achievements, he added.

District Superintendent of Police Ranjith Kumar Bandaru said police duties become more stressful during festivals, as officers cannot freely celebrate with their families. Therefore, the annual sports meet is celebrated like a festival for them. He encouraged officers to follow sports throughout the year to keep their

health and energy strong.

Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer Dr. S. Akash asked police personnel to forget their duty pressure for a while and enjoy the games with a true sportsman spirit. He wished them success and asked them to spread the message of fitness and unity.

Several sports events were held, including running, shot put, javelin throw, kabaddi, volleyball, and tug-of-war. The ground was filled with excitement and team spirit.

NAME CHANGE
I. ISMAIL KHAN JAVED, residing at No. 20, 'A' Street, Bharathinagar, Bengaluru-560001, Have changed my name to **ISMAIL KHAN**, vide affidavit dated: 15.11.2025, before Notary N. NAGAPPA, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
I S SHIVALINGA NAYAK S/O SIDDHA RAJU NAYAK, R / O No. 30, Veerabhadranagar, Hosakerehalli, BSK 3rd Stage, Bangalore South, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560085, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as **PUNITH NAIKS**.

CHANGE OF NAME
I GOVIND S/O PARMONO KUMAR R/O C-604, DSR Spring Beauty Apartments, ITPL Main Road, Brookfield, Marathahalli, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560037, have changed the name of my minor son **ANANT MEHRA** aged 5 years and he shall hereafter be known as **ANANT MEHRA SINGH**.

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To place a classified ad contact: 080-41209042

NAME CHANGE
I. KIRANBALA LALITKUMAR AADESARA, W/o G. Lalith Kumar, resident of No 4, Natesha Penta, Flat No 9, 3rd Floor, Infantry Road, Shivajinagar, Bengaluru - 560051, Have changed my name to **L KIRAN**, vide affidavit dated: 25.11.2025, before Notary MEER HASSAN, Bangalore

NAME CHANGE
I. NOOR ZOHRA SHARIF, W/o Mohammed Nabeel, resident of No. 2, 1st Cross, 9th A Main, BTM Layout, 1st Stage, Taverekere Post, Bengaluru - 560029, Have changed my name to **NOOR ZOHRA**, vide affidavit dated: 25.11.2025, before Notary MEER HASSAN, Bangalore

NAME CHANGE
I. NASIR AHMED JAMIL AHMED, S/o Jamil Ahmad Shaikh, resident of No. 35/4/1, 3rd Cross, Someshwara Nagar, Yeshwanthpur, Bengaluru-560022, Have changed my name to **NASIR JAMIL SHAIKH**, vide affidavit dated: 25.11.2025, before Notary MEER HASSAN, Bangalore

NAME CHANGE
I. LALITKUMAR GOVIND JI BHAI AADESARA, S/o Govindjee Morarjee, resident of No 4, Natesha Penta, Flat No 9, 3rd Floor, Infantry Road, Shivajinagar, Bengaluru - 560051, Have changed my name to **GOVINDJEE LALITH KUMAR**, vide affidavit dated: 25.11.2025, before Notary MEER HASSAN, Bangalore

NAME CHANGE
I. SAHUL HAMEED AHAMED JALALUDEEN, S/o Ahmed Jalaludeen, resident of Apartment No. 18, A Block, Housing Board, Lingarajapuram, St. Thomas Town Post, Bengaluru-560084, Have changed my name to **A SHAHUL HAMEED**, vide affidavit dated: 27.11.2025, before Notary G. DAYANANDA, Bangalore

NAME CHANGE
I. AZAR ALI, S/o Ahmed Jalaludeen, residing at DS MAX SPLENDOR, House No. 303, 3rd Floor, Doddabidara Kallu, Kereguddahalli, Chikbanavara, Someshweththalli, Bengaluru-560090, Have changed my name to **AZHAR ALI**, vide affidavit dated: 11.11.2025, before Notary N. NAGAPPA, Bangalore

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
M.I & G.W.D.D. DIVISION, VIJAYAPUR
No.EE/MID/VJP/AE-1,4/4702/TND/2025-26/3148 Date: 25.11.2025
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
The Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department, Division Vijaypur invites work tenders through "E-Procurement" from eligible contractor on item rate Tender for following works as per KTPP Act-2000 and latest amendments.
4702 Major Works :- Total 2 Consultancy Works, Amount put to Tender **Rs.4.00 Lakhs, Tender Period for the above works are One(1) Month including monsoon.**
4702-SCP Works :- Total 9 Works/Package Works, Amount put to Tender **Rs.108.05 Lakhs, Tender Period for the above works are Three(3) Months to Six(6) Months including monsoon.**
4702-TSP Works:- Total 8 Works/Package Works, Amount put to Tender **Rs.59.48 Lakhs, Tender Period for the above works are Three(3) Months including monsoon.**
Tender documents may be downloaded from Government of Karnataka E-Procurement website <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home> under login for Contractors from **26.11.2025**. Tenders may be submitted on electronically in E-Procurement portal up to **17-30 hrs. on 03.12.2025**. Interested contractors information regarding works may be obtained from this office or e-Procurement helpdesk (Ph.No.080-25501216 & 080-25501227) upto **17-30 hrs. on 02.12.2025**. Tenders shall be quoted without adding GST and other details can be seen in the tender documents.
Sd/- Executive Engineer, MI & GWDD Division, Vijayapur
ಪಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/498/ಕೆಎಸ್ ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025-26

QUICK READ

Bungalow allotted to Rabri Devi spacious, not adequate for family

PATNA

The Nitish government has allotted a new official residence to Rabri Devi, the Leader of the Opposition in the Bihar Legislative Council, but it is not as spacious as the 10 Circular Road bungalow. RJD leaders argue it is not adequate for the entire family, which includes nine children and RJD chief Lalu Prasad Yadav. After the Bihar government sent an order to Rabri Devi to vacate the bungalow she had been residing in for a long time, a row erupted over the development, with the RJD calling it an act of political vendetta. However, the JD(U) termed it as per norms.

Judiciary has no 'magic wand' to fix pollution problem: CJ Kant

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday remarked that the judiciary cannot be expected to deliver miraculous solutions to Delhi-NCR's hazardous air quality. After senior advocate Aparajita Singh, the amicus curiae assisting the top court, mentioned the Public Interest Litigation (PIL) concerning air-pollution control in the national Capital, Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant remarked: What magic wand can a judicial forum exercise? I know this is hazardous for Delhi-NCR. Tell me, what can we direct so that there is clean air immediately? Even as the CJI cautioned against the belief that the top court's directions alone could clean the air immediately, he agreed to list the long-pending MC Mehta matter on December 1.

Surveillance beefed up at Indo-Pak border in Barmer

JAIPUR

Security agencies have intensified surveillance along vulnerable stretches of the Indo-Pak border in Rajasthan's Barmer after a Pakistani youth was apprehended hiding in a cowshed, officials said on Thursday. The youth had crossed the Indo-Pak border under the cover of darkness and was detained by Border Security Force personnel after villagers spotted him hiding in a cowshed in Barmer district. Barmer SP Narendra Singh Meena said the intruder identified himself as Hindal (24), son of Barsa, a resident of Nayatala village in Chhachro tehsil of Mithi district, Pakistan. He was found hiding in a cowshed at Jat Ke Bera, barely 200 metres from the international border.

Udhayanidhi Stalin turns 48; leaders hail TN Deputy CM as 'Hero of Hope'

CHENNAI : Tamil Nadu Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin received warm wishes from political leaders, party cadres, and supporters as he turned 48 on Thursday. Political leaders took to social media to greet the DMK youth wing secretary, praising his leadership, commitment and appeal among the state's younger generation. State Finance Minister Thangam Thennarasu described Udhayanidhi as a hero of hope, reflecting the expectations the party places on the young leader. The DMK youth wing also celebrated the occasion by posting videos and photographs on social media, calling him a leader who stands as a pillar of the Dravidian model government led by Chief Minister M.K. Stalin. Several DMK district units organised simple events across Tamil Nadu, though most avoided grand celebrations in keeping with Udhayanidhi's personal request. Born on November 27, 1977, Udhayanidhi was elevated to the post of Deputy Chief Minister on September 28, 2024. Ahead of his birthday, he urged cadres not to indulge in lavish festivities and instead prioritise relief activities in the rain-affected districts of south Tamil Nadu. While a birthday brings happiness in everyone's life, I am not keen on extravagant celebrations, he had said in a statement issued. Udhayanidhi is the third person to hold the office of Deputy Chief Minister in Tamil Nadu.

Sharad Pawar Slams MahaYuti's Money-Driven Campaigning

Sharad Pawar accused MahaYuti leaders of soliciting votes through money promises, sparking intense controversy in Maharashtra's local elections

MUMBAI

Nationalist Congress Party (Sharad Pawar) president Sharad Pawar on Thursday issued a strong rebuke to the ruling MahaYuti coalition, alleging that its leaders were engaging in money-driven campaigning during the ongoing local body elections. Pawar criticised the alliance partners for seeking votes with promises of development funds rather than showcasing genuine performance or governance achievements.

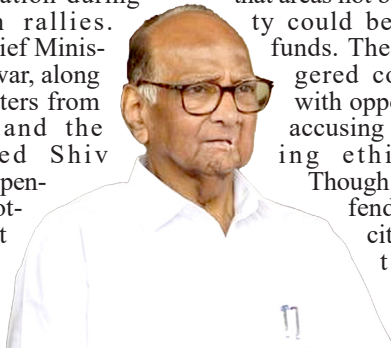
There is now a competition over who can offer more money, Pawar remarked, expressing concern over the emergence of informal poll fronts or groups across multi-

ple districts. He warned that soliciting votes based on monetary assurances was not a good sign, adding that such tactics undermined the integrity of the electoral process.

His comments follow repeated controversies involving senior MahaYuti leaders—particularly references to fund allocation during campaign rallies. Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar, along with ministers from the BJP and the Shinde-led Shiv Sena, has openly urged voters to elect their candidates if they want

access to development funds. These statements have drawn widespread criticism from opposition parties.

A recent flashpoint occurred in Malegaon Nagar Panchayat, where Ajit Pawar promised substantial financial support for the town if NCP candidates won—warning that areas not backing the party could be deprived of funds. The remarks triggered condemnation, with opposition leaders accusing him of violating ethical norms. Though Ajit Pawar defended himself by citing respect for the Model Code of Conduct, he con-



Andhra Pradesh CM N. Chandrababu Naidu performs 'boomipujan', initiating two-phase Rs 260-crore temple development project

CM Naidu Lays Foundation for ₹260-Cr Venkateswara Temple Expansion

AMARAVATI

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Thursday laid the foundation stone for the expansion and development of the Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple at Venkateswaram in the Amaravati capital region. The Rs 260-crore project will be executed in two phases, aiming to establish the temple as a major spiritual and architectural landmark in the state.

Terming Amaravati as the capital of gods, CM Naidu expressed gratitude to the farmers who voluntarily contributed 33,000 acres through land pooling for the state capital. He recalled that he had resolved in 2019 to construct the temple on 25 acres along the Krishna River. Highlighting his devotion, he mentioned his long-standing association with Tirumala temple rituals and vowed to protect the sanctity of Lord Venkateswara Swamy.

The project's first phase,



costing Rs 140 crore, will include the construction of the temple prakaram, a seven-storey Raja Gopuram, Arjitha Seva Mandapam, Mirror Hall, Vahana and Ratha Mandapams, Anjaneya Swamy Temple, Pushkarini, and cut-stone flooring. The second phase, with an estimated cost of Rs 120 crore, will focus on Mada streets, approach roads, an Annadanam complex, pilgrim rest houses, residential quarters, an administrative building, meditation hall, and parking facilities.

CM Naidu criticized the previous YSR Congress government, alleging it had hin-

dered the project despite farmers' good intentions. He urged Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD) to complete the temple within two and a half years. The ceremony was attended by Endowment Minister Anam Rama Narayana Reddy, Minister Narayana, Union Minister Pemmasani Chandrasekhar, TTD Chairman BR Naidu, MLA Tenali Shrawan Kumar, other MLAs, and TTD board members.

This development marks a significant step in reviving the temple project and reinforcing Amaravati's spiritual and cultural significance in Andhra Pradesh.



Nomination process for first phase of Gram Panchayat elections begins

HYDERABAD

The nomination process for Gram Panchayat elections in Telangana began on Thursday. Filing of nominations for the first phase of elections in 4,326 villages and 37,459 wards began across the state.

Candidates can file nominations till November 29, while the last date for withdrawal of nominations is December 3. Officials said nominations would be accepted between 10.30 a.m. and 5 p.m. The first phase of elections will be held on December 11. Polling will be held from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m., while counting of votes will be done the same day from 2 p.m. As per the notification issued by the Telangana State Election Commission on Tuesday, elections will be held on December 11, 14 and 17 for 12,728 posts of sarpanchs and 1,12,242 wards. State Election Commissioner I. Rani Kumudini has announced that the model code of conduct came into immediate effect across the state. A total of 1.66 crore votes in rural areas are eligible to cast their votes in these elections. For the second phase, nominations will be accepted from November 30, while the last date for withdrawal of candidatures will be December 6. Nominations for the final phase of elections can be filed from December 3, while December 9 will be the last date for withdrawal of nominations. The Telangana Cabinet on November 17 decided to conduct only Gram Panchayat elections in December as the Rs 3000 crore grant, which should come from the Centre, will lapse by March 31, 2026.

V.M. Sudheeran's Surprise Return Sparks Fresh Leadership Churn

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM



Even as Karnataka's ruling Congress continues grappling with an internal tussle for the Chief Minister's seat, the party's Kerala unit is showing early signs of slipping into a similar leadership churn months before the April-May 2025 Assembly polls. What was once understood as a three-way contest for the top post has now taken an unexpected turn with the re-emergence of veteran leader V.M. Sudheeran, whose quiet return to active politics is generating speculation across party ranks.

The 77-year-old former KPCC president, widely respected for his clean public image, long legislative career and moral authority within the organisation, has recently been seen spearheading grassroots-level campaigning in the run-up to the local body polls. His presence, particularly in and around the politically significant Kazhakkootam Assembly segment, has sparked renewed debate within the state unit.

Sudheeran's political journey is substantial — a four-term MP, three-time MLA between 1980 and 1996, former Speaker, Minister, and

state Congress president until 2017. Since his unexpected defeat in the 2004 Lok Sabha elections, he has stayed away from contesting polls, making his current re-engagement all the more intriguing.

Kerala Congress faces renewed leadership churn as veteran V.M. Sudheeran's return reshapes equations ahead of 2025 Assembly elections.

Kazhakkootam, a constituency rich in Congress legacy, adds further weight to his renewed activity. It was here that A.K. Antony contested a bye-election after becoming Chief Minister in 1977. Once a party stronghold, it has drifted away from the Congress in recent years, with the last major victory coming through M.A. Wahed's hat-trick win in 2011. Sudheeran's renewed outreach is being seen by many as more than symbolic — potentially a strategic move signalling readiness for a larger role if the Congress returns to power.



Rise in temperature in south Bengal predicted as fresh Bay depression intensifies

KOLKATA

The Met office on Thursday said temperatures across south Bengal are likely to rise over the next few days due to a fresh depression over the Bay of Bengal, which is expected to intensify into a cyclonic storm.

The development will temporarily stall the winter chill that had begun to settle over Kolkata and its neighbouring districts.

According to the Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC) in Alipore, a deep depression over the southwest Bay of Bengal is likely to strengthen into a cyclonic storm within the next 12 hours. Once it intensifies further, it will be named Cyclone Ditwah, a name given by Yemen.

According to the Met Office, the weather system originated as a well-marked low-pressure area over the southwest Bay of Bengal and nearby regions of

southeast Sri Lanka and the equatorial Indian Ocean. It intensified into a depression late on Wednesday at 11.30 p.m. Moving north-northwest at around 8 kmph, it strengthened further into a deep depression by 5.30 a.m. on Thursday.

Although the system will not have any direct impact on the weather system of West Bengal, the change in weather conditions over the Bay of Bengal will, however, make an indirect impact.

As a result, the temperature may shoot up 2 to 3 degrees Celsius across South Bengal.

The winter chill, which began to set in, will be obstructed as the temperature goes up. However, once the system clears, there will be a sharp dip in the temperature in South Bengal.

The weather will change after December 1 as the full impact of winter will be felt across Bengal, said a met department official.

TERROR NETWORK RAIDS

Police Launch Widespread Raids to Crack Down on Terror

JAMMU

The Jammu and Kashmir Police on Thursday carried out an extensive series of coordinated raids across multiple districts of the Valley targeting individuals suspected of terror links and those associated with the banned Jamaat-e-Islami (JeI) organisation. Officials confirmed operations in Shopian, Pulwama, Srinagar, Baramulla and Kulgam, marking one of the most expansive crackdowns in recent months.

In Shopian, the raids were specifically concentrated on individuals linked to Jamaat-e-Islami as well as prop-



erties owned by the organisation and its affiliates. Authorities said the operation is part of a broader campaign aimed at dismantling the ecosystem that supports terrorism in the region. These raids are part of the wider operation to identify,

isolate and disable the financial and logistical support system of terrorism, officials noted.

Security agencies are also focusing on preventing the regrouping of Over Ground Workers (OGWs) and sym-

pathisers who play a key role in providing shelter, transport and intelligence to active terrorists. The crackdown aligns with intensified efforts by J&K Police and security forces to target not just militants but also drug smugglers, hawala operators and others involved in unlawful financial activities believed to fund terrorism in the Union Territory.

The geographical complexity of J&K's security landscape further underscores the importance of these operations. The region includes a 740-km Line of Control (LoC) and a 240-km International Border (IB), guarded

by the Indian Army and the Border Security Force (BSF) respectively. These forward areas frequently witness infiltration attempts, trans-border smuggling and drone-based activities, making vigilance critical.

Within the hinterland, anti-terror operations are jointly handled by local police and various security agencies. The recent actions also follow a high-level security review meeting chaired by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, attended by senior officials from the Army, police, paramilitary forces, intelligence agencies and civil administration.

QUICK READ



Leopard spotted in Jaipur's Shastri Nagar

JAIPUR

A day after a leopard was spotted in Jaipur's Vidhyadhar Nagar, a big cat was seen in the residential area of the Pink City on Thursday, triggering panic. CCTV cameras captured the leopard roaming near Sikar House in Shastri Nagar, where it was seen crossing a road in Kalyan Colony and walking on the rooftop of a house. Acting on CCTV footage, Forest Department teams launched a search operation around a plot in C-Block, Sikar House, but were unable to trace the leopard. Officials said the search continued for over five hours. Residents said, There is an atmosphere of fear and anxiety across the area after the leopard's movement.

Hemant Soren government marks first anniversary

RANCHI

As Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren completes one year of his second term on November 28, the state government will distribute appointment letters to around 10,000 youth at a grand event at Ranchi's Morabadi Ground on Friday. Chief Secretary Avinash Kumar met Soren on Thursday and formally invited him to the ceremony. Sharing a message on social media, Soren said the government was implementing a planned strategy focused on securing the future of the state's youth. On November 28, we are going to provide jobs to approximately 10,000 young people. Our resolve is to create employment and expand avenues for self-employment.

UP CM Yogi Highlights Rs 1,300 Cr Relief Fund Boost for Healthcare

CM Yogi emphasizes quality healthcare, releasing Rs 1,300 crore for needy citizens in one year

LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Thursday highlighted the state government's commitment to quality healthcare for its poorest citizens. Speaking at the launch of a private super-specialty hospital, the Chief Minister noted that Rs 1,300 crore had been released from the CM's Relief Fund in the past year to support empanelled hospitals and ensure citizens receive the best treatment whenever required. CM Adityanath said

that around 10 crore people in Uttar Pradesh are currently benefitting from healthcare schemes such as Ayushman Mantri Jan Yojana and the UP Mukhya-mantri Jan Arogya Yojana. Following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision for healthcare, the state government is also guaranteeing quality medical services, making people realise they deserve the best treatment, he said.

The Chief Minister highlighted the progress made in the health sector over the last eight years, recalling that the state has moved from a one district, one mafia approach to one district, one medical college. He said that each district now has a medical college and that policies have been revised to encourage the establishment of good-quality hospitals.

To facilitate healthcare expansion, the government has relaxed building regulations, reducing the minimum road width requirement for hospitals from 18 metres to seven

metres. CM Adityanath assured prospective investors and hospital operators that the government would provide necessary connectivity and support to encourage healthcare infrastructure development across the state. The Chief Minister concluded by inviting private players to open hospitals in Uttar Pradesh, underlining that the state aims to combine policy support with financial incentives to ensure accessible, quality healthcare reaches every citizen.



Sangma Calls for 'One North East' Unity to Safeguard Rights

AGARTALA

Meghalaya Chief Minister and National People's Party (NPP) supremo Conrad K. Sangma on Thursday called for unity among Northeastern states under the banner of 'One North East' to safeguard the land rights, customs, languages, and culture of the region's indigenous people. Speaking at a rally organised by the Tipra Motha Party (TMP), an ally of the ruling BJP in Tripura, Sangma emphasised that collective strength and solidarity are crucial for the region's development and the welfare of its people.

Sangma said, We have to protect our land, customs, languages, and culture, and for that we are now united with 'One North East.'

He recalled that predecessors in the Northeast fought tirelessly for regional development, but internal divisions have weakened the collective voice. We are divided into different communities, and our voices and strength have weakened. We have to remain



Meghalaya CM Conrad K. Sangma urges Northeastern states to unite, protecting land, culture, languages, and indigenous rights.

united and move forward together to achieve our goals. Whatever challenges we face, we must fight collectively, he added, appreciating TMP supremo Pradyot Bikram Manikya Debbarma's efforts for indigenous causes.

Addressing the rally, TMP founder Debbarma alleged that objections are raised whenever TMP organises public meetings, whereas rallies by CPI(M) or Congress face no opposition. Criticising national parties, he claimed

they have weakened regional political forces in states such as Assam, Maharashtra, Odisha, and Punjab, asserting that people in Delhi do not like the people of the Northeast.

Reiterating TMP's long-standing demand for 'Tipraland,' Debbarma said, One day we will definitely achieve Tipraland.

We must fight jointly with all regional parties to achieve our demands and protect our rights.

The rally highlighted the growing momentum among regional leaders in the Northeast to consolidate their political and cultural influence, stressing the importance of unity in addressing both historical and contemporary challenges.

Police arrest man for raping minor after luring her with chocolate

KOLKATA

A man has been arrested on charges of raping a minor after luring her with chocolate, the police said on Thursday.

A case has started against the accused under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

The incident took place in Serampore of Hooghly district. Following the incident, tension flared up in the area. The victim's family yesterday staged a protest demanding strict punishment for the accused.

According to police sources, the mother of the minor girl works as a maid in various households.

The woman has to leave early in the morning. As a result, the 11-year-old minor girl stays alone at home.

The family alleged that a young man from the neighbourhood took advantage of the empty house and lured

the minor to his house by offering her chocolates.

It has been alleged that the accused youth did the same thing not just for a day but for the last three to four days to gain the trust of the minor.

It is alleged that she was raped in his house. The family further said the girl was threatened to not tell anyone about the incident.

However, the victim narrated the entire incident to her family. After that, the family filed a written complaint against the accused neighbour youth at the Serampore police station.

Based on the complaint, the police arrested the accused on Thursday. The arrested person was presented at a Serampore court on Thursday.

The court ordered judicial custody for the accused. Based on the complaint, the accused has been arrested. A case under POCSO act has been registered.



US Embassy in India lauds CBI after dismantling illegal call centre targeting American citizens, arresting key operative.

US Embassy Thanks CBI for Busting Illegal Call Centre Targeting Americans

NEW DELHI

The US Embassy in India on Thursday expressed gratitude to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for dismantling an illegal call centre targeting US nationals and arresting a key operative involved in a transnational cybercrime network. In a post on X, the Embassy said that coordinated efforts between Indian and US agencies are crucial to dismantle international networks, prevent future scams, and protect citizens.

The CBI earlier confirmed the arrest of Vikas Kumar Nimar, a key absconding accused allegedly running a sprawling network of illegal

call centres targeting foreign nationals, particularly Americans. Nimar was apprehended from his residence in Lucknow on November 20, 2025, following a warrant issued by the Court of the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Pune.

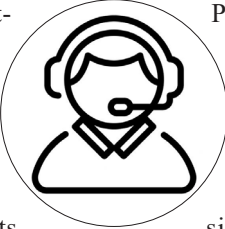
The investigation into the illegal operations began on September 24, 2024, when the CBI registered the case and launched extensive search operations across multiple states. The crackdown involved meticulous intelligence gathering and coordinated action by law enforcement to identify and neutralize the cybercrime network.

The US Embassy highlighted the importance of such collaborations, noting

that joint efforts help ensure citizens' safety and prevent similar scams in the future. The post also thanked the CBI for its continued support and decisive action in tackling transnational criminal activities.

The arrest of Nimar marks a significant step in curbing cybercrime operations targeting foreign nationals from India. Authorities continue to investigate the network to identify other operatives and ensure that such illegal call centres are dismantled effectively.

This development underlines the growing importance of international cooperation between law enforcement agencies to combat cybercrime, safeguard citizens, and maintain trust in global digital and financial networks.



Ex-TTD Chairman asks TDP to stop defaming Tirumala temple

AMARAVATI

YSRCP Parliamentary Party leader and former TTD Chairman Y.V. Subba Reddy, on Thursday, condemned what he called Telugu Desam Party's (TDP) ongoing political campaign against the sacred Tirumala Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple. The former Chairman of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD) said that the holy shrine is being intentionally dragged into politics through a sustained misinformation drive targeting the Laddu prasadam, even as the SIT investigation is still underway. False leaks and fabricated narratives, he said, are being pushed to damage the temple's global reputation.

Minor boy found dead inside police station in Nawada

PATNA

A minor boy lost his life while in police custody at a police station in Bihar's Nawada district on Thursday, triggering widespread unrest in the area. The incident took place at the Kashichak police station, where Sunny Kumar, a 16-year-old resident of Bauri village and son of Ashok Pandit, was found dead inside the police station lock-up during custody.

Following the news, villagers gathered at Bauri Hospital, where the body was taken for a post-mortem, and launched a strong protest. They seized two police vehicles and created a massive uproar, alleging that Sunny lost his life due to police torture in custody. Family members of the victim claimed that Sunny had an affair with the sister of a police constable, which al-



legedly led to his detention.

They further accused police officials of torturing him, resulting in his death. The family has demanded a thorough investigation and strict action against the police personnel involved.

DSP Rakesh Kumar Bhaskar stated that the minor had been arrested on Wednesday evening in connection with a love affair case and brought to the police station. On Thursday, the police received information that he had become unconscious inside the lock-up. When the police person-

nel checked him, he was found dead.

Any allegations made by the family will be investigated impartially, and appropriate action will be taken. CCTV footage installed at the police station will be thoroughly examined, and legal action will follow based on the findings, Bhaskar said.

He added that strict action would be taken against anyone found guilty. Meanwhile, the victim's family is mourning the incident and continues to demand justice.

EASY PROPERTY REGISTRATION Mann Launches Registry to Simplify Property Registration

CHANDIGARH

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Thursday launched the Easy Registry initiative, aimed at simplifying property registration across the state. Addressing the public, Mann noted that for decades, property registration has been a complicated, time-consuming process, requiring multiple visits to Sub-Registrar offices and often leading to delays and corruption.

Under the new system, citizens no longer need to visit



the Sub-Registrar office corresponding to the property's location. Any Sub-Registrar office within a district can now register properties located anywhere in that district. Mann said the initiative rep-

resents a major step toward transparency and efficiency, marking the first time any state in India has introduced such a streamlined system.

As part of Easy Registry, citizens can draft sale deeds

online or through Sewa Kendras by paying a nominal fee of Rs 500. Additionally, under the Sarkar Tuhade Dwaar scheme, people can avail of the service by calling 1076. Complete submission of documents will now be possible within just 48 hours. Mann emphasized that tehsildars will no longer be able to raise unnecessary objections, and any dispute will be referred to the Deputy Commissioner for verification.

Applicants will receive updates on each stage of their registration via WhatsApp.

Mann also assured that complaints about bribery or harassment can be lodged directly through WhatsApp.

Highlighting the transformative impact of the initiative, the Chief Minister stated that property registration in Punjab has entered a new era of simplicity, speed, and accountability. The Easy Registry system promises to significantly reduce citizen inconvenience, prevent corruption, and provide a model for other states to follow in modernizing property registration procedures.

Deora urges BMC to take immediate steps to address Mumbai's air pollution

MUMBAI

Amid deteriorating air quality and alarming pollution in Mumbai, the Shiv Sena MP Milind Deora on Thursday urged the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) Commissioner Bhushan Gagarin to take immediate & extraordinary action, including a temporary halt on all digging and construction work until air quality improves. He claimed that Mumbai is confronting a severe air pollution crisis, terming it a public-health emergency, demanding extraordinary measures to address the

city's deteriorating air quality.

He has argued that alarming pollution levels pose serious health risks to millions of residents. In his two-page letter, Deora said, Mumbai's air-pollution crisis is no longer a seasonal issue — it is a public-health emergency. India needs a nationwide war & a national consensus against air pollution. Mumbai is gasping for clean air. As a Mumbaikar & a public representative, I believe we deserve better. It is my duty as your MP to stand with you on this growing concern. Let's come together & build a public-awareness movement for clean air.

QUICK READ



Test Train Crash Kills Workers in Kunming

Kunming

At least 11 railway workers were killed on Thursday when a test train hit them on the tracks at Louyangzhen station in Kunming, Yunnan province. Two others were injured and taken to the hospital. Railway officials said the accident happened early in the morning, and the cause is now under investigation. Emergency teams reached the spot quickly and began rescue work. The incident occurred a day after a major fire in Hong Kong that killed 55 people and injured several others.

Mild Earthquake Shakes Tibet Region

Tibet

A mild earthquake of magnitude 3.3 struck Tibet on Thursday, the National Center for Seismology (NCS) reported. The quake occurred at a shallow depth of 10 km, which can increase the chances of aftershocks. The NCS shared the details on X, noting the exact time and coordinates. A stronger 4.2-magnitude quake had hit the region earlier on November 18 at the same depth. Tibet often experiences earthquakes because it lies on a major fault line where tectonic plates collide.

Heavy Rains and Landslides Kill 31 in Sri Lanka

Colombo

Torrential rains, floods, and landslides have killed 31 people in Sri Lanka over the past 11 days, affecting nearly 4,000 residents. The Disaster Management Centre said 18 deaths occurred in the central hill districts due to landslides. In Kumbukana, a passenger bus was caught in rising floodwaters, but emergency teams rescued all 23 passengers safely. Around 10 people were injured and 14 remain missing. President Anura Kumara Dissanayake has held a crisis meeting as a depression near Batticaloa threatens more heavy rain.

SU DO KU

Brain-Bender: Can You Solve It?

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



Ramaphosa Slams Trump's Decision on G20 Invitation

JOHANNESBURG

South Africa has strongly criticized US President Donald Trump's refusal to invite it to the 2026 G20 Summit in Miami. President Cyril Ramaphosa described the statement as "regrettable" and emphasized that South Africa is a G20 member "in its own name and right," supported by all other members.

Ramaphosa highlighted that the 2025 G20 Summit hosted in Johannesburg was widely praised for its success and multilateral achievements. He clarified that the United States, which did not attend last year, received the G20 presidency handover through a US Embassy official, and South Africa remains committed to constructive participation in all G20 activities.

The South African govern-



ment reiterated that it will continue to engage fully with the G20 and called on all members to operate on equal footing, upholding the spirit of multilateralism. "South Africa is a sovereign democratic nation and will not accept insults regarding its role in global forums," the statement said.

Trump announced on social media that South Africa would not receive an invitation to the 2026 G20 Summit and that all US aid would be immediately stopped. He ac-

cused South Africa of failing to hand over the G20 presidency to a senior US diplomat and repeated claims about alleged attacks on white farmers, which Pretoria rejects.

Tensions between the two nations have escalated since Trump returned to office in January. Measures such as freezing aid, expelling the South African ambassador, and boycotting the Johannesburg G20 summit have further strained relations. Ramaphosa has consistently rejected Trump's allegations, stressing South Africa's commitment to equality, democratic governance, and international cooperation.

This confrontation marks a significant diplomatic challenge as both countries navigate economic and political relations amidst ongoing G20 commitments.

HONG KONG

The death toll from a massive fire at Hong Kong's Wang Fuk Court has risen to 55, authorities said Thursday. At least 123 people, including eight firefighters, were injured. Of the deceased, 51 died at the scene, while four others succumbed to injuries in hospital. Many residents remain unaccounted for, with earlier reports noting 279 missing.

Wang Fuk Court housed a large elderly population, with about 36% aged 65 or older, much higher than Hong Kong's citywide elderly percentage of 19.6%. The median age of tenants was 56. The fire spread unusually fast, prompting a criminal investigation. Three men—two company directors and a consultant—were arrested on suspicion of man-

Hong Kong Fire Toll Rises to Fifty-Five



Hong Kong's apartment fire claims 55 lives, injures over 120, while authorities probe renovation safety and potential corruption

slaughter and gross negligence. Authorities are also examining whether building materials met fire safety standards.

The Independent Commission Against Corruption has launched a task force to investigate possible corruption

linked to building renovations. Security Secretary Chris Tang confirmed the investigation, noting strong public concern.

In response, several major Chinese corporations have contributed to relief efforts. Alibaba pledged 20 million Hong Kong dollars (USD 2.6 million) to aid rescue operations, provide temporary housing, essential supplies, and emotional support. Its logistics arm, Cainiao, is distributing emergency essentials like food and bedding to affected residents.

Officials continue search and rescue operations while probing the causes of the blaze. The tragedy has sparked concern over building safety and oversight in Hong Kong, particularly in housing estates with high elderly populations.

Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed appoints Hasan Al Nowais to key govt role

UAE President Appoints Hasan Al Nowais Undersecretary

ABU DHABI

UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan has issued a Federal Decree appointing Hasan Jasem Nasser Al Nowais as Undersecretary of the Ministry of Industry and Advanced Technology. Al Nowais brings extensive experience in leadership and strategic development across multiple sectors.

He previously served as Chairman of Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi and as Managing Director and Group CEO of M42. He also led Mubadala Health as CEO, contributing to major projects in healthcare, industrial development, real estate, and infrastructure. His work has focused on integrating advanced technology into productive sectors, enhancing industrial capabili-



ties, and supporting strategic investments in supply chains.

Al Nowais has played a central role in attracting leading global companies to the UAE while aligning national programs with the country's goals in advanced manufacturing, innovation, and the knowledge-based economy. His initiatives have strengthened the UAE's position in global industry and technology.

He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Finance from the American University in Washington, DC, and has completed executive education programs at Harvard University. Al Nowais began his professional career in the financial sector and worked at Ernst & Young, gaining expertise in finance and accounting.

With this appointment, the UAE signals its continued focus on innovation, industrial growth, and technological advancement, leveraging Al Nowais' experience to support national development strategies. His leadership is expected to enhance collaboration between government, industry, and international partners, contributing to the country's long-term economic and technological objectives.

South Korea President Urges Unity To Pass Budget

SEOUL

South Korean President Lee Jae Myung on Thursday urged lawmakers from all parties to cooperate and pass the 2026 budget plan before the legal deadline. He emphasized that timely approval is vital to strengthen the domestic economy and support national growth.

The National Assembly is finalizing the 728 trillion won (USD 498 billion) budget, which marks an 8.1 per cent increase from this year. While the legal deadline for passage is December 2, political disagreements in past years have often delayed approval.

"Passing the budget on time is crucial to boost economic recovery and support the nation's progress next year," Lee said during a meeting with senior aides. He called on lawmakers to adopt a flex-



ible approach and consider opposition proposals if they are reasonable and do not cause serious problems.

Lee also stressed the importance of bipartisan support in advancing his "pragmatic" foreign policy after returning from a four-nation trip to the Middle East and Africa.

"Many world leaders showed strong interest in our defence industry, including new weapons systems and expanded defence co-

operation," he said. The president highlighted that national strength relies on economic growth, military capacity, and defence capabilities. By encouraging cooperation among political parties, Lee aims to ensure smooth passage of the budget and strengthen South Korea's position amid shifting global dynamics and rising protectionism.

Paris Museum Faces Backlash Over Tibet Name Removal

PARIS

Members of France's Tibetan community held their 46th consecutive protest outside the Musee Guimet, condemning the museum's decision to remove the word "Tibet" from its exhibits. The demonstration, organized by Students for a Free Tibet (SFT) France and the Regional Tibetan Youth Congress, criticised what they call "cultural erasure" influenced by China.

The controversy began in early 2024 when the Musee Guimet, France's main museum of Asian arts, revamped its Tibetan section. The museum renamed its "Nepal-Tibet" gallery as "Himalayan World" and removed Tibet references

from artefact labels, sparking outrage among Tibetans in France and the global diaspora. They view the move as aligning with China's efforts to erase Tibet's distinct identity.

SFT France and allied groups launched weekly protests, which evolved into a sustained campaign. In March 2025, they issued a legal notice to the museum and France's Ministry of Culture demanding the reinstatement of "Tibet" in exhibition texts. In July, four Tibetan groups filed a lawsuit accusing the museum of echoing China's narrative that subsumes Tibet under vague regional labels.

Musee Guimet director Yannick Lintz defended the decision, calling it a "neutral



curatorial approach." Yet another Paris museum, Musee du Quai Branly, faced similar criticism and publicly restored "Tibet" after protests. The dispute has drawn international attention. The UN Special Rapporteur on Cultural Rights said removing "Tibet" undermines Tibetans' heritage and identity. Prominent scholars, includ-

ing Nicolas Tournadre and Fernand Meyer, criticised the museum's use of "Himalayan," arguing it merges distinct cultures under a Chinese-favoured term.

Tibetan activists vow to continue their campaign. SFT France said, "No matter the weather, we will not stop until Tibet is rightfully named again."

MARS SPARKS

NASA Rover Detects Mini-Lightning on Mars

WASHINGTON DC

NASA's Perseverance rover has detected electrical discharges—called "mini-lightning"—in Mars' atmosphere, scientists announced. The rover, exploring Jezero Crater since 2021, recorded these discharges using its SuperCam instrument in both audio and electromagnetic data. This marks the first direct evidence of electrical activity in the Red Planet's thin air.

The discharges often appear alongside dust devils, small whirlwinds that move across Mars' surface. Planetary scientist Baptiste Chide from the Institute for Research in Astrophysics and Planetology said these findings could significantly impact our understanding of Martian climate, atmospheric chemistry, and



habitability. The electrical charges may also influence how dust is transported on Mars, a key process that affects the planet's weather patterns.

Chide cautioned that these electrostatic discharges could pose risks to electronic equipment on robotic missions and

might be a hazard for future astronauts exploring Mars. The discovery shows that Mars, like Earth, Jupiter, and Saturn, has atmospheric electrical activity. Other planets and moons, such as Venus, Uranus, and Titan, could also feature similar phenomena, though they have not yet been

documented.

Researchers say this discovery opens new paths for studying Mars' climate and environment, improving preparation for human missions. Understanding electrical activity may help protect future explorers and instruments from potential damage while revealing more about the planet's dynamic and ever-changing atmosphere.

The study, led by Chide, was published on Wednesday in the journal Nature and highlights how Perseverance continues to provide groundbreaking insights into the Red Planet. These "mini-lightning" events show Mars' atmosphere is more active and complex than previously believed, with implications for both science and space exploration.

Multiple Earthquakes Strike Indian Ocean Region Thursday

INDIAN OCEAN

The Indian Ocean region experienced multiple earthquakes on Thursday, including a magnitude 5.3 tremor at a shallow depth of 10 km, according to the National Centre for Seismology (NCS). Shallow earthquakes are considered particularly dangerous as seismic waves reach the surface faster, causing stronger shaking and potentially greater damage.

Earlier in the day, a 6.4 magnitude earthquake struck the area at a depth of 10 km, followed by a 4.8 magnitude tremor in the early hours, also at 10 km depth. The NCS shared coordinates and timings for all events via social media, highlighting the ongoing seismic activity in the Indian Ocean region.

Experts warn that aftershocks often follow shallow earthquakes, making coastal areas vulnerable to further tremors. "The short distance of seismic waves from shallow quakes results in stronger ground movement," seismologists explained, urging monitoring for any potential hazards.

The Indian Ocean is historically prone to powerful undersea earthquakes. On December 26, 2004, a massive magnitude 9.2–9.3 quake struck off Aceh in northern Sumatra, Indonesia. The undersea megathrust caused the Boxing Day Tsunami, with waves reaching up to 30 meters, devastating coastal communities across 14 countries and killing an estimated 227,898 people, including large-scale casualties in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, and Thailand.



QUICK READ



‘New labour codes empower women with enhanced safety’

New Delhi
The recently launched labour codes aim to empower women with enhanced maternity support, equal pay, and flexibility in the workplace, said the government on Thursday. Earlier this month, the country witnessed a major shift in its labour regulation framework with the implementation of the four consolidated labour codes. The four labour codes include the Code on Wages, 2019, the Industrial Relations Code, 2020, the Code on Social Security, 2020, and the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020. The Codes modernise labour regulations and provide women with equality, maternity benefits, and workplace safety.

Sensex, Nifty end higher after hitting record levels

Mumbai
Indian benchmark indices closed on a positive note on Thursday after touching fresh record highs earlier in the day. The Sensex finished at 85,720.38, gaining 110.87 points or 0.13 per cent. The Nifty ended at 26,215.55, up 10.25 points or 0.04 per cent. During the intra-day session, Sensex hit record high at 86,055.86 and Nifty scaled new high at 26,310.45. From a technical perspective, 26,300 remains the key resistance and immediate breakout trigger. A decisive close above this level could open the door for fresh all-time highs in the 26,350–26,450 zone, market watchers said.

Institutional grade A+ office supply to surge in Noida

New Delhi
Noida is poised for a structural shift in its commercial real estate market by 2028 as institutional or developer owned Grade A+ projects are likely to outpace fragmented strata office supply, a report said on Thursday. Leasing momentum of the city’s office assets remains strong, with 3.3 million sq ft of gross leasing between January and September 2025 and projected to reach 4.7 million sq ft by end of the year, the report from Cushman & Wakefield said. While 2026 will see over 2.5 million sq ft of strata-led office completions, the trend reverses sharply by 2028, when institutional or developer-owned Grade A+ projects rise to nearly 2.9 MSF, far outpacing strata formats which fall to around 0.28 million sq ft, it added.

Centre clears Tex-RAMPS scheme for textile innovation

With a budget of ₹305 crore, the scheme will run from 2025-26 to 2030-31 and will be fully funded by the Ministry of Textiles

NEW DELHI

In a significant push to modernise India’s textile ecosystem, the Union Government on Thursday approved the Textiles Focused Research, Assessment, Monitoring, Planning and Start-Up (Tex-RAMPS) scheme. With a financial outlay of ₹305 crore, the scheme will be implemented from FY2025-26 to FY2030-31 as a fully funded Central Sector Scheme under the Ministry of Textiles. Officials stated that the initiative is designed to fortify India’s long-term capabilities in technology-led and sustainable textile production. Announcing the scheme, Union Textiles Minister Giriraj Singh said Tex-RAMPS aims to merge research, data systems and innovation to position India as a leading global hub for next-generation textiles. The initiative is designed to future-proof the textiles and apparel ecosystem by filling gaps in research, data systems, innovation support and capacity building, he noted, emphasising the need



for advanced technology adoption in the sector. A key component of Tex-RAMPS is the promotion of cutting-edge research in emerging areas such as smart textiles, sustainability, process efficiency, and advanced manufacturing technologies. The Ministry of Textiles said this focus will significantly expand India’s innovation capacity and help domestic industries compete globally. The scheme also aims to strengthen data and analytics infrastructure through initiatives like employment assessments, supply-chain mapping and the India-Size study, all intended to support evidence-based policymaking. A

major highlight is the creation of the Integrated Textiles Statistical System, a real-time data platform that will assist in structured monitoring and strategic decision-making across the textile value chain. Additionally, Tex-RAMPS will support state-level planning, capacity-building workshops and the dissemination of best practices. Start-ups in the textile sector are set to benefit from targeted support, including funding for incubators, hackathons and industry-academia collaborations. The government expects the scheme to significantly enhance India’s global competitiveness, boost employment generation, and strengthen the

CORE OBJECTIVES

- Merge research, data systems and innovation to position India as a leading global hub for next-generation textiles.
- Promot cutting-edge research in emerging areas such as smart textiles, sustainability, process efficiency, and advanced manufacturing technologies.
- Create Integrated Textiles Statistical System, a real-time data platform, that will assist in structured monitoring and strategic decision-making across the textile value chain.
- Help textile sector start-ups with targeted support, including funding for incubators, hackathons and industry-academia collaborations.

country’s research-driven approach to textile manufacturing, paving the way for a more sustainable and technologically advanced future.

CBDT flags 25,000 high-risk foreign asset cases

NEW DELHI

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) on Thursday said it is launching the second ‘NUDGE’ campaign, under which SMSs and emails will be sent to high-risk taxpayers, advising them to review and revise their income-tax returns on or before December 31, 2025 to avoid penal consequences. Analysis of the Automatic Exchange of Information (AEOI) for FY 2024-25 (CY 2024) by CBDT has identified high-risk cases where foreign assets appear to



exist but have not been reported in the ITRs filed for AY 2025-26. The campaign from November 28 aims to facilitate correct reporting in Schedule Foreign Assets (FA) and Foreign Source Income (FSI) in ITRs. The first NUDGE campaign, launched on November 17,

2024, targeted select taxpayers who had been reported by foreign jurisdictions under the AEOI framework as holding foreign assets that were not disclosed in their Income Tax Returns (ITRs) for AY 2024-25. The initiative yielded positive outcomes, with 24,678 taxpayers (including several not directly nudged) revisiting their returns and disclosing foreign assets amounting to Rs 29,208 crore, along with foreign-source income of Rs 1,089.88 crore. Accurate and complete disclosure of foreign assets and

income is a statutory requirement under the Income-tax Act, 1961, and the Black Money (Undisclosed Foreign Income and Assets) and Imposition of Tax Act, 2015, said Finance Ministry in a statement. CBDT utilises advanced data analytics to simplify compliance processes, reduce information asymmetry, and reinforce a transparent and trust-oriented interface with taxpayers. The initiative aligns with the vision of Viksit Bharat, fostering accountability, transparency and a culture of voluntary compliance.

PAKISTAN ENERGY CRISIS

IMF cites deep-rooted corruption main reason for Pak energy crisis

WASHINGTON

Pakistan’s persistent energy crisis has returned to the global spotlight after a stark assessment by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) revealed widespread corruption, political patronage and systemic regulatory failures at the heart of the country’s power and gas sectors. The Governance and Corruption Diagnostic Assessment: Pakistan (November 2025) offers a blunt account of how decades of poor governance have pushed the nation into an alarming debt spiral, undermining economic stability. The report centres on Pakistan’s ever-growing circular debt, describing it as a financial time bomb created not by unavoidable economic shocks but by flawed decisions made by successive governments. According to the IMF, the energy sector



today resembles a crime scene, where political connections overshadow competence, and regulatory bodies fail to act independently. Key institutions such as NEPRA (National Electric Power Regulatory Authority) and OGRA (Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority) have been weakened by appointments driven by loyalty rather than merit. The IMF notes repeated extensions of terms—particularly within OGRA—allowing the same officials to remain in power without accountability. In some troubling instances, a single official has held two top positions simultaneously, undermining oversight and crippling regulatory integrity.

The report also raises serious concerns over the government’s extensive use of supplementary grants—funds released outside the standard budgetary process. The IMF highlights that in 2023–24, every rupee of supplementary spending was diverted to the power and petroleum sectors. Similar patterns in previous years show how such off-budget expenditures bypass Parliament and erode fiscal discipline. Pakistan’s state-owned enterprises (SOEs), including electricity distribution companies (DISCOs) and major gas firms, continue to be major contributors to financial losses due to inefficiency, political interference and weak corporate governance. The IMF warns that without structural reforms and transparent management, Pakistan’s energy crisis will deepen, further straining its already fragile economy.

C-DOT sets up Centre of Excellence on IIT Roorkee campus

ROORKEE

The Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) on Thursday announced the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee (IITR) to establish a Centre of Excellence (CoE) on the institute’s campus. The initiative aims to dramatically boost India’s indigenous capabilities in advanced communication technologies through targeted research, innovation and skill development. The proposed CoE will prioritise high-impact research in wireless communication, quantum technologies, cybersecurity, and AI-powered applications, aligning with India’s push for technological self-reliance. According to the official statement, the centre is designed to create strong academia-industry collaboration by blending IIT Roorkee’s engineering expertise with C-DOT’s deep experience in indigenous telecom development.



Establishing the CoE will promote academia-industry synergy, leveraging IITR’s academic excellence and C-DOT’s industry leadership. It will empower students, researchers and start-ups to contribute to India’s innovation and self-reliance journey while strengthening India’s position in global telecom innovation, the statement noted. The centre will spearhead joint research, prototype development and innovation in cutting-edge areas including 5G and 6G, RF-sub-THz integrated circuits, smart sensors, millimetre-wave beamforming antennas, V2X (vehic-

cle-to-everything) communication, energy-efficient networks and data-driven wireless technologies. These domains are expected to form the backbone of future digital infrastructure. C-DOT CEO Rajkumar Upadhyay said the collaboration harnesses the strengths of two leading institutions to accelerate indigenous telecom breakthroughs. Together, IIT Roorkee and C-DOT will build technologies that reduce dependence on foreign systems and open new pathways for India to lead in advanced domains such as 5G, 6G, AI and secure communication systems, he added.

B’desh clocks highest inflation in South Asia at over 8%

DHAKA

Bangladesh’s economy has become stagnant due to a deep investment downturn” and no new employment is being created while the inflation rate is the highest in South Asia at over 8%, according to an article in the country’s Prothom Alo news outlet. According to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, the inflation rate in October was 8.17 per cent. In neighbouring India, the rate is 0.25 per cent. Bankruptcy-struck Sri Lanka



now has inflation at 2.1 per cent. In contrast, after the fall of the KP Sharma Oli government in Nepal due to Gen-Z protests, a new interim gov-

ernment took office on September 12. It has already announced an election date, March 5 next year, ending uncertainty. This has brought down the inflation rate to 1.47

per cent in the Himalayan country, the article points out. Pakistan is now the only South Asian country close to Bangladesh in inflation. Its inflation rate is 6.2 per cent. Bhutan and the Maldives have inflation rates of 3.93 per cent and 3.87 per cent, respectively. For the people of Bangladesh, this is unfortunate. Ordinary citizens have had to endure prolonged economic hardship as real income has fallen, and poverty has increased. Private surveys indicate the poverty rate is now around 28 per cent, whereas

government data put it at 18.7 per cent in 2022, according to the report. The article also highlights that large delegations are traveling abroad. Huge spending has gone into changing police uniforms. Meanwhile, people see their daily expenses rising steadily. Their incomes have not kept pace. The job market is shrinking. Many cannot withdraw deposits from banks. As a result, trust is falling. The government is not strict about law and order. Instability and uncertainty persist.

First all-in-one Tesla Centre opens in Gurugram

CHANDIGARH

The country’s first all-in-one Tesla India Motors centre in Gurugram was inaugurated by Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Thursday. The new facility brings retail, after-sales service, delivery and charging together under one roof. Elon Musk-led EV maker’s centre is in Sector 48 at Orchid Business Park in Gurugram. The two centres opened earlier at Bandra Kurla Complex in Mumbai and Aerocity in Delhi only displayed vehicles, but this

centre will provide all major services. CM Saini expressed confidence that Tesla will establish its first electric vehicle manufacturing plant and other related Tesla units in the state. He added that AI hubs are being established in Gurugram and Panchkula to promote AI-based startups and research. Saini said that the Haryana Government is consistently working to reduce the cost of doing business for industries in the state. As part of these efforts, a special leasing policy has been introduced for industrial plots.

Gavaskar Defends Gambhir amid Criticism after Heavy TEST SERIES DEFEAT

Sunil Gavaskar says coaches can prepare teams but players must execute plans

NEW DELHI

Former India captain Sunil Gavaskar has strongly defended head coach Gautam Gambhir after India's crushing 408-run defeat to South Africa in the second Test in Guwahati, a result that handed the visitors a 2-0 sweep and triggered intense scrutiny of the coaching setup.

Gavaskar said criticism aimed at Gambhir was unfair, insisting that while a coach can guide and prepare a side, the responsibility to perform ultimately rests with the players on the field. India's latest loss marks their third Test series defeat under Gambhir, who has been at the helm for 16 months. During this period, India have also gone down 0-3 to New Zealand at home and 1-3 in Australia.

"He's a coach. The coach can prepare a team and share his experience, but it's out there in the mid-

dle that the players have to deliver," Gavaskar said, adding that Gambhir is the same coach who guided India to the Champions Trophy and Asia Cup titles. He questioned why those calling for his removal now did not demand a long-term contract when India was winning under him.

Gavaskar argued that accountability should be balanced, noting that teams often credit players for victories while blaming coaches for losses. He pointed to England's Brendon McCullum, who oversees all three formats, as evidence that multi-format coaching can be effective.

"If you're not prepared to give him credit for tournament wins, why blame him alone for defeats?" Gavaskar asked.

Former India off-spinner R. Ashwin also backed Gambhir, saying calls for his sacking were misplaced when players had not taken sufficient responsibility for recent performances.

India Drop to Fifth in WTC Rankings after Heavy Loss to SA

NEW DELHI

India's hopes of securing a place in the 2027 World Test Championship (WTC) final suffered a major setback as they slipped to fifth in the standings following a 0-2 home series defeat to South Africa. The drubbing in the second Test in Guwahati on November 26 — India's heaviest loss by runs in Test cricket — pushed their percentage points (PCT) down to 48.15.

India have now played nine Tests in the current WTC cycle, winning four, losing four, and drawing one. Earlier this year, they drew a high-profile home series against England, but the latest defeat has seen them fall below Pakistan in the rankings. With challenging away assignments ahead, including a two-match series in Sri Lanka in August 2026 and another against New Zealand in October-November, the road to the final has become increasingly difficult.

South Africa, meanwhile, secured their first Test series win in India in 25 years, a result that lifted them to second

ICC WORLD TEST CHAMPIONSHIP STANDINGS							
TEAM	P	W	L	D	DED	PTS	PCT
AUSTRALIA	4	4	0	0	0	48	100.00
SOUTH AFRICA	4	3	1	0	0	36	75.00
SRI LANKA	2	1	0	1	0	16	66.67
PAKISTAN	2	1	1	0	0	12	50.00
INDIA	9	4	4	1	0	52	48.15
ENGLAND	6	2	3	1	2	26	36.11
BANGLADESH	2	0	1	1	0	4	16.67
WEST INDIES	5	0	5	0	0	0	0.00
NEW ZEALAND	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00

India's heaviest Test defeat worsens World Test Championship prospects this cycle

place in the table. The defending WTC champions now have 36 points from four matches, with their PCT rising from 66.67 to 75. Only

Australia sit above them.

New Zealand, winners of the inaugural WTC edition, are yet to play a series in the ongoing cycle, while Sri Lanka and Pakistan have completed one each. With only the top two teams qualifying for the 2027 final, India's margin for error has diminished significantly as the race tightens.

Mohun Bagan Appoints Sergio Lobera as New Head Coach

KOLKATA

Mohun Bagan Super Giant (MBSG) confirmed the appointment of Spanish coach Sergio Lobera Rodríguez as the club's new head coach for the remainder of the ongoing Indian Super League (ISL) season. The announcement came shortly after Odisha FC officially declared Lobera's exit, clearing the path for his swift transition to the reigning ISL champion.

Lobera replaces Jose Molina, who parted ways with the club following a string of inconsistent performances. Known for his possession-based, attack-minded style of football, the 48-year-old brings a wealth of experience in Indian football, having previously led FC Goa and Mumbai City FC to multiple trophies, including league titles and domestic cup successes.

The club confirmed that Lobera will take charge of training from November 30, working closely with a star-studded squad that includes Australian striker Jamie Maclaren, Scottish forward Jason Cummings and Indian national team goalkeeper Vishal Kaith. His arrival is expected to provide renewed direction and tactical clarity as MBSG look to regain momentum in the second half of the season.

In his first statement after signing the contract, Lobera expressed gratitude and excitement at joining one of India's most storied football institutions. "Taking charge at Mohun Bagan Super Giant is a huge honour for me. This club has a lot of history, passion, and ambition," he said. "I am committed to building a team that will play with courage, a unique identity, and a winning mentality. We will

work together to make this chapter unforgettable."

Club officials expressed confidence that Lobera's familiarity with the ISL and his proven track record of delivering results will help stabilise the squad and strengthen their title defence. His debut on the touchline is expected to draw significant attention as Mohun Bagan enters a crucial phase of their campaign.



Jemimah to Miss Rest of WBBL Season to Support Mandhana

BRISBANE

India's World Cup-winning star Jemimah Rodrigues will miss the remainder of the Women's Big Bash League (WBBL) season after deciding to stay back in India to support teammate and close friend Smriti Mandhana, whose wedding was postponed following her father's sudden illness.

Rodrigues had flown home earlier this month after Brisbane Heat's match against the Hobart Hurricanes, as she was scheduled to attend Mandhana's wedding — a commitment agreed upon well in advance. She was expected to rejoin the Brisbane Heat squad for the final stretch

of the WBBL season. However, with Mandhana's father falling ill on the eve of the ceremony, Rodrigues opted to remain in India during what the club described as a difficult time.

"The Brisbane Heat have agreed to a request to release Jemimah Rodrigues from the remainder of the Women's Big Bash League," the club said in a statement. It added that the team fully understood her decision to prioritise supporting Mandhana and her family.

Rodrigues had been a marquee signing for the Heat, becoming their No. 1 pick in this year's International Player Draft. She has been a central figure in India's recent success, including scoring a match-winning unbeaten century in the Women's World Cup semifinal against Australia, helping the hosts chase down a daunting 300-plus target.

Teenage scorers, dramatic comebacks and Mbappé's blistering hat trick light up Europe

Kylian Mbappé Hits Four as Arsenal Top Bayern in UCL Thriller

PARIS

A dramatic Champions League night delivered goals, surprises and standout performances across Europe, headlined by Kylian Mbappé's four-goal masterclass and a reshuffled hierarchy at the top of the group standings. Arsenal surged to the summit by beating Bayern Munich 3-1. Paris Saint-Germain swept past Tottenham 5-3 thanks to a Vitinha hat trick, and Liverpool suffered another setback at Anfield with a 4-1 defeat to PSV Eindhoven.

Real Madrid's Mbappé stole the spotlight with a second-fastest-in-history Champions League hat trick, scoring three times between the 22nd and 29th minutes before adding a fourth on the hour mark in a thrilling 4-3 win over Olympiakos. His haul took him to nine goals this season, leading the scoring charts. Only Mohamed Salah's 2022 treble for Liverpool came faster.

Teenagers also shone brightly. At 17, Bayern's Lennart Karl equalised with a superb first-time strike, though Arsenal eventually handed Bayern their first loss of the season. Copenhagen's 17-year-old Viktor Dadason continued his meteoric rise, opening the scoring in a 3-2 win over Kairat Almaty, while 18-year-old Geovany Quenda's stylish opener helped Sporting beat Club Brugge 3-0. The promising wing-back will join Chelsea next season.

Atletico Madrid clinched a 2-1 win over Inter Milan with a stoppage-time header from captain José María Giménez, sealing the 42nd goal across nine matches. Meanwhile, veteran defender David Luiz, 38, scored for Pafos in a 2-2 draw with Monaco, becoming the Champions League's second-oldest scorer behind Pepe.

Atalanta delivered a five-minute blitz to beat Eintracht Frankfurt 3-0, sparked by Ademola Lookman in the 60th minute rounding off a night that showcased both rising talent and enduring excellence across Europe's elite competition.



Arsenal Beat Bayern Munich 3-1 to Claim Champions League Group Lead

LONDON

Arsenal delivered one of their most commanding European performances in recent years, defeating Bayern Munich 3-1 to secure top spot in their Champions League group and maintain a flawless record of five wins from five matches. The victory marked Arsenal's first triumph over Bayern in a decade and handed the German champions their first defeat of the season.

Mikel Arteta's side struck first in the 22nd minute

when Jurrien Timber rose to glance in a header from Bukayo Saka's corner, capping off a well-worked set piece. Bayern responded swiftly as 17-year-old Lennart Karl — one of Europe's most exciting emerging talents — finished a slick move with a composed volley across goal to level before halftime.

The second half, however, belonged to Arsenal. Demonstrating immense squad depth, Arteta introduced Noni Madueke and Gabriel Martinelli, both of whom made immediate impacts. Madueke restored the lead in the 69th minute by converting Riccardo Calafiori's driven cross, scoring his first goal for the club. Minutes later, a rare misjudgment from Manuel Neuer allowed Martinelli to slot into an empty net after the goalkeeper charged out and missed Eberechi Eze's through ball.

While Bayern began brightly, backed by a strong travelling support, their early confidence faded against Arsenal's relentless pressing and fluid attacking play. Karl impressed with his movement and could have added a second, but David Raya stood firm in goal.



Verstappen Targets Qatar Hat-Trick as Norris Edges Closer to First F1 Title

DOHA

Max Verstappen heads into this weekend's Qatar Grand Prix seeking a third consecutive victory at the Lusail circuit, but despite his recent surge in form, the four-time world champion knows overturning a 24-point deficit to McLaren's Lando Norris with only two races remaining remains a formidable challenge.

Norris, disqualified last week in Las Vegas along with teammate and title rival Oscar Piastri, still arrives in Qatar as the firm favourite to clinch his maiden Formula One crown and seal McLaren's first drivers' title since Mika Häkkinen in 1998. The 26-year-old Briton needs only to out-score his nearest rivals by two points to wrap up the championship on Sunday night.

Of the contenders, Norris is the only driver with a chance to win the title in Qatar. Yet Verstappen's wealth of championship experience, combined with his relentless

late-season charge — which has seen him close a 104-point gap behind Piastri since September — gives him a psychological edge. Meanwhile, Piastri's recent slump in form has left him clinging to increasingly faint hopes.

With a comfortable cushion, Norris has the simplest path forward and little incentive to take unnecessary risks in Saturday's sprint or Sunday's floodlit Grand Prix. Still, the title race remains far from settled, particularly as McLaren continue to let their drivers compete freely. Team principal Andrea Stella reaffirmed earlier this year that there would be no team orders unless the mathematics demanded it.

Stella has witnessed dramatic title swings before — including Kimi Räikkönen's 2007 comeback and Sebastian Vettel's last-race triumph in 2010 — and believes Piastri cannot be counted out, especially as the championship returns to circuits that may better suit him.

Dadason, 17, Scores as Teen Stars Light Up Champions League

COPENHAGEN

Teen talents continue to illuminate this season's Champions League, and in the Danish capital, 17-year-old Viktor Dadason added his name once more to the competition's growing list of youthful standouts. The Icelandic forward, already one of the tournament's youngest-ever scorers, struck again in FC Copenhagen's opening-phase clash against Kairat Almaty.

Dadason, a towering 6-foot-3 presence in the penalty area, reacted quickest to a loose, bouncing ball in the 26th minute, guiding a composed header into the net to give Copenhagen the lead. The goal came in his first Champions League start, further underlining his rapid rise through the club's system and the growing influence of teenage prodigies on elite European nights.

His breakthrough follows a historic moment earlier this season when he became the third-youngest scorer in Champions League history during Copenhagen's 4-2 defeat at Borussia Dortmund. Only Barcelona's famed youngsters Ansu Fati and Lamine Yamal found the net at a younger age.





Deepti Sharma

WPL 2026 Auction: Deepti Headlines Big Buys as Capitals Snap Up Sree Charani

WPL 2026 mega auction sees dramatic twists, big-money signings and several surprise unsold players

NEW DELHI

The WPL 2026 mega auction opened in New Delhi on Thursday with high anticipation, and it delivered drama right from the first set. All five franchises moved swiftly as they began rebuilding their squads for the upcoming season, with marquee stars attracting heavy bids while several established names shockingly went unsold.

The biggest headline of the day came when India all-rounder Deepti Sharma emerged as the costliest pick so far. UP Warriorz, entering the

auction with the highest purse, activated their Right to Match (RTM) card to reclaim Deepti for ₹3.20 crore, reaffirming her value as a premier all-rounder.

Alyssa Healy, one of the most recognisable faces in world cricket, endured a surprising fate as she went unsold in the marquee round, becoming the first major twist of the auction.

Mumbai Indians made a strong statement by securing New Zealand all-rounder Amelia Kerr—last season's joint-highest wicket-taker—for ₹3 crore, making her among the top buys of the day. Gujarat Giants, meanwhile, snapped up New Zealand star Sophie Devine for ₹2 crore, adding significant firepower to their lineup.

UP Warriorz remained the busiest franchise, returning to action

in the marquee set to purchase Meg Lanning for ₹1.90 crore after an intense bidding battle with Delhi Capitals. The team also used their RTM to bring back England spinner Sophie Ecclestone for ₹85 lakh, completing a fierce start to the auction.

Delhi Capitals strengthened their unit by acquiring South Africa opener Laura Wolvaardt for ₹1.10 crore, while Gujarat Giants added Indian pacer Renuka Singh for ₹60 lakh. DC further boosted their all-rounder depth by signing Sneha Rana for ₹50 lakh and making a high-value addition in Sree Charani, purchased for ₹1.30 crore.

After the marquee and capped sets concluded, the auction progressed into the uncapped categories, where the trend of mass-unsold players dominated

proceedings. A long list of uncapped spinners, pacers, wicket-keepers and batters—including Jagravi Pawar, Parunika Sisodia, Nandini Kashyap, Komalpreet Kaur, and Happy Kumari—failed to find takers.

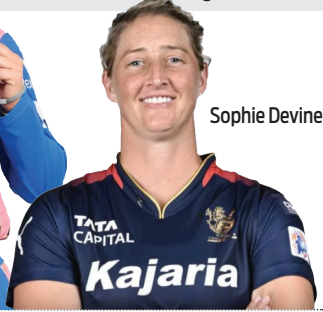
Notable sales during these rounds included Asha Sobhana joining UP Warriorz for ₹1.1 crore, Titas Sadhu to Gujarat Giants for ₹30 lakh, Linsey Smith to RCB for ₹30 lakh, and Sanskriti Gupta to Mumbai Indians for ₹20 lakh. RCB also activated an RTM card to secure Prema Rawat for ₹20 lakh.

• **Most expensive buy:** Deepti Sharma – ₹3.20 crore

• **Top overseas buys:** Amelia Kerr – ₹3 crore, Sophie Devine – ₹2 crore

• **Shock unsold names:** Alyssa Healy, Grace Harris, Alana King

Highest activity: UP Warriorz with multiple RTMs and premium signings



Sophie Devine

Rohit Sharma Reclaims ODI No. 1 Ranking Ahead of SA Series

NEW DELHI

Indian captain Rohit Sharma has reclaimed the No. 1 spot in the ICC ODI batting rankings, returning to the summit just days before India embark on a crucial three-match series against South Africa. The senior opener climbed back to the top after New Zealand's Daryl Mitchell dropped points due to missing the final two ODIs against the West Indies.

Rohit, who briefly lost the position earlier this month when Mitchell struck a match-winning century in the opening ODI of the WI series, now leads the table with 781 rating points.

Mitchell sits second with 766. Rohit's resurgence comes on the back of strong performances in Australia, highlighted by a century in the Sydney ODI where he and Virat Kohli led India to a memorable win.

India continue to dominate the upper tier of the rankings, with Shubman Gill at No. 4 and Kohli at No. 5. Afghanistan's Ibrahim Zadran holds the third spot. Further down, Shreyas Iyer has slipped to ninth as he recovers from a long-term spleen injury.

For the upcoming South Africa series, India will be without Gill and Iyer—Gill due to a persistent neck

spasm and Iyer owing to his lengthy rehabilitation. In their absence, KL Rahul has been appointed captain for the ODI leg, providing stability during a pivotal preparation phase ahead of the 2027 ODI World Cup cycle.

Gill is expected to return for the home series against New Zealand in January, offering India another boost as they navigate a packed cricketing calendar and aim to solidify their combinations early in the season.



Rohit Sharma regains top ODI batting ranking as India prepare for South Africa

Botham says England must abandon excuses after heavy Ashes defeat

Ian Botham Blasts England after Ashes Loss, Warns of 5-0 Rout

LONDON

England cricket legend Sir Ian Botham has delivered a scathing critique of the national team following its crushing loss to Australia in the opening Ashes Test in Perth, saying he is "fed up" with their approach and fears a potential 5-0 whitewash if drastic changes are not made.

Botham, one of the greatest all-rounders of all time, expressed deep frustration with England's persistence with the "Bazball" philosophy—a high-risk, high-tempo style associated

with coach Brendon "Baz" McCullum. While Bazball initially brought England success after its introduction in 2022, the team's recent performances have exposed growing flaws, including an inability to adapt to conditions or learn from past mistakes.

Describing the defeat in Perth as "horrendous," Botham said England's attitude was what troubled him most. "I'm fed up of hearing, 'this is the way we play.' If I hear it once more, I think I'll throw something at the television," he told PA News Agency. "If that's the way you play, you might as well go home now because it's going

to be 5-0."

The 70-year-old also urged England's senior players, particularly captain Ben Stokes and former skipper Joe Root, to lead by example. Stokes, who debuted in the Ashes with a memorable century in Australia 12 years ago, and Root, who is still seeking his first hundred on Australian soil, must step up if England are to stay competitive, Botham insisted. "They need to get their heads around it," he said. "I want more pride when I see people pulling that sweater on."

England trail 0-1 in the five-Test series, with growing pressure to respond before the gap becomes insurmountable.



India Edge Malaysia 4-3 in Thrilling Sultan Azlan Shah Cup Clash

IPOH, MALAYSIA

India secured a pulsating 4-3 victory over Malaysia in their Sultan Azlan Shah Cup encounter in Ipoh, overcoming multiple fightbacks from the hosts to claim three crucial points. Goals from Selvam Karthi, Sukhjeet Singh, Amit Rohidas and captain Sanjay ensured India stayed ahead in a contest filled with momentum swings and end-to-end action.

India began with early dominance, pinning Malaysia deep in their own half and earning a penalty corner within the opening minutes. Their pressure paid off in the seventh minute when Sukhjeet Singh's sharp play created a simple tap-in for Karthi. However, a green card to Yashdeep Siwach allowed Malaysia to strike back through Faizal Saari's penalty-corner conversion, ending the first quarter at 1-1.

The visitors reasserted control in the second quarter, and Sukhjeet restored India's lead after Abhishek's shot deflect-



Four different scorers fire India to a hard-fought win over hosts Malaysia

ed into his path.

Though India carved out more opportunities, they went into the break with a narrow 2-1 advantage.

Malaysia struck early in the third quarter when Fitri Saari equalised during a phase in which they enjoyed a numerical advantage. India responded almost immediately, with Amit Rohidas converting a penalty corner to make it 3-2. But the drama continued as Marhan Jalil levelled the match at 3-3 just before the quarter ended.

The final quarter saw both teams pushing hard, with In-

dia surviving a scare thanks to Pawan's spectacular save. The decisive moment arrived when captain Sanjay calmly converted a penalty stroke to give India a 4-3 lead. The men in blue defended resolutely against late Malaysian penalty cornerers to secure the win.

Liverpool Struggles Not a 'Crisis,' Says Gerrard, But Answers Needed

LIVERPOOL

Former Liverpool captain Steven Gerrard has urged patience but stressed the urgent need for solutions after Liverpool suffered a 4-1 thrashing at the hands of PSV Eindhoven in the Champions League. The defeat marked the third consecutive game in which the Merseyside club lost by three goals and was their ninth loss in the last 12 matches across all competitions—their worst run since the 1953-54 season.

Manager Arne Slot, who guided Liverpool to a Premier League title in his debut season, now faces mounting pressure as the team struggles domestically and in Europe, sit-

ting 12th in the Premier League and 13th in the Champions League. Gerrard dismissed claims of a crisis, saying, "Crisis is a strong word, and disrespectful to some of the players that have delivered for this club, and for the manager that's delivered three months ago."

However, Gerrard acknowledged the severity of the current form slump, noting the team is "struggling massively, confidence is at an all-time low and they just keep bleeding."

Unless the manager can find answers and stability in the team, it's going to continue," Gerrard's former teammate Steve McManaman also defended Slot, saying that speculation about the manager's future is premature.

Newey to Become Aston Martin Team Principal for 2026 F1 Season

LONDON

Aston Martin has announced that legendary Formula 1 designer Adrian Newey will become the team's new principal from next season, taking charge of trackside operations from current boss and CEO Andy Cowell. The decision follows a difficult campaign for the British outfit and internal differences over the team's long-term direction.

Newey, 66, joined Aston Martin in September 2024 after leaving Red Bull Racing, where he played a key role in delivering multiple championship-winning cars. Widely regarded as one of the greatest technical minds in Formula 1 history, he brings expe-

rience of 13 drivers' titles and 12 constructors' championships. However, this will be his first full-time role as a team principal.

Cowell will move into a newly-created position as chief strategy officer. Speaking about his new responsibility, Newey said he was excited to contribute beyond design, focusing on preparing Aston Martin for the major regulation changes in 2026, when the team becomes a works outfit.

Aston Martin currently sits eighth in the constructors' standings with two races left. Newey's appointment underlines the team's ambition to become a genuine title contender in the new F1 era.



Sindarov Becomes Youngest FIDE WC Winner, Beats Wei Yi

GOA

Uzbekistan's 19-year-old Grandmaster Javokhir Sindarov created history, becoming the youngest-ever winner of the FIDE World Cup—known this year as the Viswanathan Anand Cup—after defeating China's Wei Yi 1.5-0.5 in a dramatic final tie-break in Goa. Sindarov, who pocketed a career-best USD 120,000, continued the trend of prodigies rising to the top of world chess. The sport has seen a youth-driven surge in recent years, with 18-year-old Dommaraju Gukesh winning the World Championship last year and Divya Deshmukh, at 19, lifting the Women's World Cup this season.

With their top-three finish—Sindarov first, Yi second and Andrey Esipenko third—all three players qualified for next year's elite eight-player Candidates Tournament in Cyprus. The winner of the Candidates will challenge Gukesh for the World Championship title. Despite a strong

Indian contingent of 24 players in the 206-player field, none progressed to qualification. However, Praggnanandhaa remains well placed through his FIDE circuit points.

The 2025 edition of the World Cup was marked by upsets, with no top-15 player reaching the title. Seventh-ranked Wei Yi entered the final as favourite, but Sindarov, seeded 16th, outplayed him under intense time pressure. In the first rapid game, Sindarov missed a winning continuation on move 30 in a Queen's Gambit Declined but settled for a draw.



Teenage champion Sindarov edges Wei Yi in tense tie-break to claim title

Lauren Price Eyes Dream Stadium Showdown after World Title Triumph

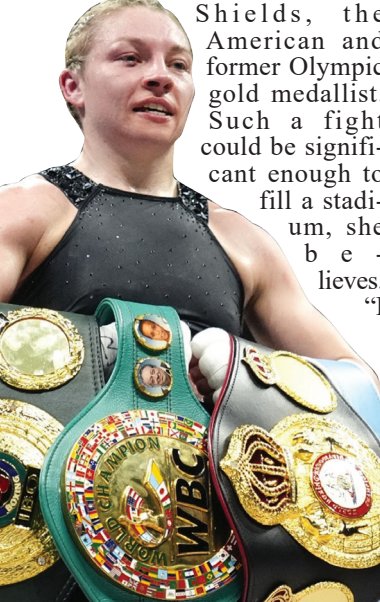
CARDIFF

Olympic gold medallist and unified welterweight world champion Lauren Price feels her dream of fighting at Wales' Principality Stadium could soon become reality. The Welsh boxer took to the field ahead of the national rugby team's match against New Zealand last weekend, soaking in the roar of 70,000 fans—a moment that left a lasting impression.

"I can't really put it into words," Price told. "The support overwhelmed me a little bit. It weren't about walking out to the ring and fighting, it was a different kind of feeling. I'd love to box here one day."

Price, who recently unified three world championship belts with

a win over Natasha Jonas, is steadily building a devoted fanbase. She now eyes a high-profile undisputed title bout against Mikaela Mayer as a stepping stone toward an eventual clash with Claressa Shields, the American and former Olympic gold medallist. Such a fight could be significant enough to fill a stadium, she believes.



actually think now it's possible as well," Price said. "Rob [McCracken, her trainer] always says to me think big, and that's me thinking big. Some people might think I'm off my head. I believe that we'll get there."

Price highlighted the commercial potential of a stadium fight in Wales, noting that a major showdown would secure financial stability and further elevate women's boxing in the country. While Shields would need to move down in weight and Price up, a clash with Mayer next year is a more immediate goal. "I don't shy away from any fight, and that's the fight I want," Price added. "It's a fight I believe I come through on top, and I think it's a great fight, not just for women's boxing but for boxing in general. Opportunities like this don't come around often."

With ambition, talent, and a growing profile, Price is positioning herself to make history in Welsh boxing.

Vijay Sethupathi Rumoured To Join Rajinikanth's 'Jailer 2' Cast



Reports in the Tamil film industry have created excitement as rumours suggest that actor Vijay Sethupathi has joined the cast of Rajinikanth's much-awaited sequel Jailer 2. Sethupathi has already taken part in a shooting schedule held in Goa. However, there is still no official confirmation from the actor or the film team. Even so, the buzz has thrilled fans, as this would mark his second collaboration with Rajinikanth after Petta. The shooting of Jailer 2, directed by Nelson Dilipkumar, began in Chennai and is now progressing quickly in Kerala, Goa and Mysuru. Rajinikanth returns as 'Tiger' Muthuvel Pandian, the character that played a major role in making Jailer a global hit in 2023. Ramya Krishnan, who acted as his wife in the first film, is confirmed to return, along with Kannada star Sivarajkumar. There is no clarity yet on whether Mohanlal or Jackie Shroff will appear again. There are also strong talks that stars like Nandamuri Balakrishna, Vidya Balan, Mithun Chakraborty, Suraj Venjaramoodu and others may join the cast. The rumour of Vijay Sethupathi's addition has only increased expectations, especially because fans still remember his powerful villain role 'Jithu' in Petta. Many are wondering if he will again play a memorable negative character in the sequel.

Dhanush Revisits Kundan As Tere Ishq Mein Shoot Begins



Dhanush has stepped back into the emotional world of Raanjhanaa as he begins shooting for Tere Ishq Mein, his new film with director Anand L. Rai. The actor said the character Kundan still lives within him, even a decade later. Sharing photos from Banaras, he wrote that when someone calls out Kundan on the city's narrow streets, he still smiles, proving how deeply the role has stayed with him. In his Instagram post, Dhanush also talked about reuniting with Anand L. Rai, calling it a full-circle moment. He said it felt surreal to sit at the same tea stall and walk along the same Ganga ghats where Raanjhanaa began. The two are teaming up again with A.R. Rahman for Tere Ishq Mein, a spiritual sequel to the 2013 film. The new movie is

set for a November 2025 release. Kriti Sanon, who plays the female lead, said she has always wanted to act in an Anand L. Rai love story and finally got her chance. Her casting has added more excitement to the project, especially among fans who loved the emotional depth of Raanjhanaa. At a recent event, she said it was on her wish list for years to work with Rai. The film's team is currently in Banaras for promotions, and a video of Dhanush, Kriti, and Rai performing Ganga Aarti has gone viral. Dhanush joked that Anand L. Rai can never make a film without Banaras, adding that the city is part of their storytelling. His bond with the place where Kundan's story began makes this new journey especially emotional for him.

Rishab Shetty Meets Goa CM, Discusses Culture And Cinema

Actor and filmmaker Rishab Shetty recently met Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant in Panjim, where the two spoke about cinema, local culture, and the state's ongoing development work. The meeting took place at Mahalaxmi, Altinho, and Rishab later shared photos on Instagram. The pictures showed him with his wife Pragathi, along with the Chief Minister, during what appeared to be a warm and friendly interaction. Rishab said he was im-

pressed by the Chief Minister's views on Goa's growing creative environment. He noted that their conversation also touched upon the state's rich cultural identity and its efforts to support art and cinema. In his caption, he wrote that the discussion on Goa, cinema, development, and culture was insightful and enjoyable. Rishab's latest film, Kantara: A Legend - Chapter 1, has become a major hit. The movie features Jayaram, Rukmini Vasanth, and Gulshan

Devaiah in key roles. The film is a prequel to the 2022 blockbuster Kantara and explores the origins of the traditional practices and ancestral conflicts introduced in the first part. Set in pre-colonial coastal Karnataka, it highlights the deep cultural roots of the Bhuta Kola ritual. Like the original film, the prequel blends folklore, spirituality, and action to show the bond between humans, nature, and the divine. The first Kantara followed a Kambala



champion caught in a conflict with a forest officer over sacred land. Rishab began his acting career in 2012 with Tuglak and

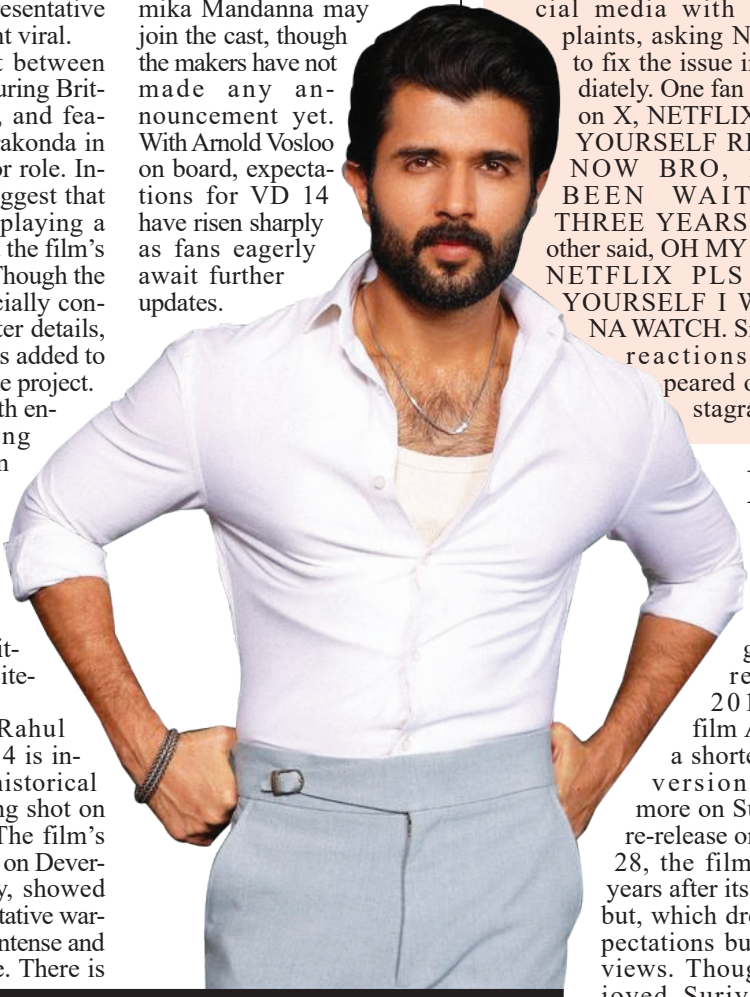
later directed successful films like Ricky and Kirik Party. Today, he is known for his strong storytelling style and deep connection to regional culture.

Hollywood Star Arnold Vosloo Joins Vijay Deverakonda's 'VD 14' Cast

Hollywood actor Arnold Vosloo, famous for playing the deadly Imhotep in The Mummy franchise, has joined Vijay Deverakonda's upcoming period drama, tentatively titled VD 14. The news created a wave of excitement among fans after a behind-the-scenes photo of Vosloo from the film's shooting location surfaced online. The picture, shared by a film PR representative on X, quickly went viral. The film is set between 1854 and 1878, during British colonial rule, and features Vijay Deverakonda in a powerful warrior role. Industry sources suggest that Vosloo is likely playing a British officer and the film's main antagonist. Though the team has not officially confirmed his character details, the speculation has added to the buzz around the project.



Fans reacted with enthusiasm, calling Vosloo's inclusion a major step for Telugu cinema. Many commented using references to his iconic villainous role, with one user writing Imotap in excitement. Directed by Rahul Sankrityan, VD 14 is inspired by real historical events and is being shot on large-scale sets. The film's first look, released on Deverakonda's birthday, showed the actor as a meditative warrior, hinting at an intense and dramatic narrative. There is



also speculation that Rashmika Mandanna may join the cast, though the makers have not made any announcement yet. With Arnold Vosloo on board, expectations for VD 14 have risen sharply as fans eagerly await further updates. Many users flooded social media with complaints, asking Netflix to fix the issue immediately. One fan wrote on X, NETFLIX FIX YOURSELF RIGHT NOW BRO, I'VE BEEN WAITING THREE YEARS. Another said, OH MY GOD NETFLIX PLS FIX YOURSELF I WANNA WATCH. Similar reactions appeared on Instagram as

Netflix Outage Hits As Fans Rush For Stranger Things Premiere

Netflix faced a brief outage on Wednesday evening after thousands of excited fans logged in to watch Volume 1 of Stranger Things Season 5. The service temporarily went down shortly after the premiere at 5 p.m. PT, causing frustration among viewers who had been waiting for years for the new season.



More users tried to access the episodes. Netflix later confirmed that some members faced problems streaming on TV devices but said the issue was resolved within five minutes. Co-creator Ross Duffer had earlier mentioned that Netflix increased its bandwidth by 30 percent to handle high traffic but the surge was still overwhelming. Season 5, set in the fall

of 1987, follows the Hawkins group as they prepare for their final fight against Vecna. With the town now under military quarantine, their mission becomes more difficult as they search for Eleven and plan their next move. Volume 1 is now available for streaming, while Volume 2 will be released on December 25. The grand series finale is scheduled to hit theaters on December 31.

The season features a strong cast, including Winona Ryder, David Harbour, Millie Bobby Brown, Finn Wolfhard, Gaten Matarazzo, Caleb McLaughlin, Noah Schnapp, Sadie Sink, Natalia Dyer, Charlie Heaton, Joe Keery, Maya Hawke, and Linda Hamilton. Critics say the new season keeps the show's nostalgic charm while building toward an emotional final chapter.

Lingusamy Defends Anjaan Re-Release, Says Trolls Cannot Stop Cinema

Director Lingusamy has revived his 2014 action film Anjaan with a shorter, re-edited version focusing more on Suriya. Set to re-release on November 28, the film returns 11 years after its original debut, which drew high expectations but mixed reviews. Though fans enjoyed Suriya's stylish

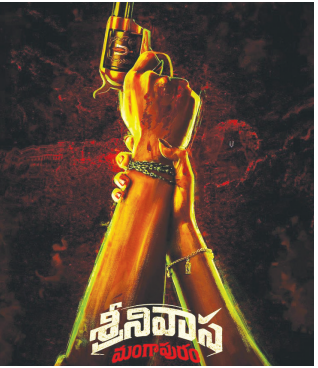


look, Yuvan Shankar Raja's music, and the Mum-

bai underworld backdrop, many scenes became memes online. Lingusamy admitted that pressure during the first release led to mistakes, prompting him to trim nearly 30 minutes and remove Soori's comedy portions to create a tighter, two-hour cut. He said Suriya's parents praised the new version. The re-release has also revived speculation about Anjaan 2, though no sequel has been confirmed.

Mahesh Babu's Nephew Debuts in Ajay Bhupathi's New Film

Director Ajay Bhupathi's next film, Srinivasa Mangapuram, marks the acting debut of Jaya Krishna Ghattamaneni, nephew of Mahesh Babu, and introduces Rasha Thadani, daughter of Raveena Tandon, to Telugu cinema. The title was announced with a striking poster featuring the lead pair holding a revolver, hinting at an emotional, action-driven love story. Bhupathi, known for RX 100 and Mangalavaram, said the film is crafted to leave a lasting impact. Shooting is underway in rugged hill locations, with the first-look poster set to release soon.



Amir Khan-backed Mere Raho, starring Junaid Khan and Sai Pallavi, may not release on December 12, 2025, as planned. Although the film created strong early buzz — especially after its Japan shoot went viral — the makers have released no promotional material so far. With just weeks left for the announced date, the silence has raised doubts within the industry. Mere Raho, directed by Sunil Pandey, marks the reunion of Aamir Khan and his cousin Mansoor Khan after

Jaane Tu... Ya Jaane Na, which launched Imran Khan. In September, trade analyst Taran Adarsh confirmed that the film, earlier titled Ek Din, had been renamed Mere Raho and its release shifted from November 7 to December 12, 2025.

However, the lack of teasers, trailers, posters, or songs suggests a delay might be likely. This contrasts sharply with Kapil Sharma's Kis Kis Ko Pyaar Karoon 2, set for the same date and already deep into its promotional campaign.

Uncertainty Grows Over Mere Raho Release Scheduled For Dec

