CITY HILIGHTS

IBC WORLD NEWS CH ABC Certified English Daily

The Truth Speaks

SUNDAY › NOVEMBER 29, 2026 › VOL: 12 › ISSUE: 134 › PAGES 12 › ₹2.00





P7 CRPF personnel deployed ahead of Karthigai Deepam

P9 India, Denmark seek stronger economic partnership



P10 Sai Pallavi Rejects ₹2 Crore Fairness Cream Advertisement

chstatenews@gmail.com BENGALURU › HUBBALLI › MANGALURU › MYSURU › KALABURAGI www.ibcworldnews.com

CM PITCHES JAPANESE URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE MODELS

Returning from Japan, Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar unveiled plans to overhaul Bengaluru transit and attract ₹800-crore investments.

BENGALURU

Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar announced that Karnataka is preparing to adopt Japan's advanced models for public transport, scientific waste disposal, urban redevelopment, and industrial growth. Briefing reporters at the Vidhana Soudha after returning from a three-day official visit to Japan, Shivakumar described the trip as eye-opening and regretted not making a similar visit during his earlier tenure as Urban Development Minister in S.M. Krishna's cabinet.

Admitting that Bengaluru's Metro network lacks comprehensive planning compared to Japan's world-class rail system, the Chief Minister praised Japanese stations for operating like bustling commercial hubs maintained cleaner than airports. He has directed urban development officials to integrate commercial spaces, pedestrian walkways, and transit-oriented redevelopment inspired by Tokyo's Azabudai Hills and Nagoya's Oasis 21, into future Metro projects, including the proposed Bengaluru-Tumakuru corridor. Authorities are also evaluating Osaka's Maishima waste-to-energy incineration model to modernize garbage management across Karnataka's growing cities.

On the industrial front, Shivakumar highlighted a fresh ₹800-crore agreement with Kawasaki Heavy Industries to expand its Harohalli facility over 10 years, creating roughly 600 jobs for local youth. He also invited Toyota to manufacture low-maintenance hybrid taxis modeled on Tokyo Olympics cabs in Karnataka, assuring local auto-rickshaw drivers that their livelihoods will remain protected. Emphasizing the state's push to expand manufacturing beyond Bengaluru, he confirmed discussions with Sumitomo on a dedicated Japanese Industrial Park and invited global firms to participate in Invest Karnataka 2027 next April.

Turning to pressing domestic issues, Shivakumar stated he is traveling to New Delhi to meet the Chief Ministers of Telangana and Kerala to oppose any constituency delimitation that undermines South India's political representation. Addressing protesting ASHA workers, he promised to honor state wage commitments while criticizing opposition leaders for ignoring the Centre's small funding share. Finally, the Chief Minister warned that if the Central Government fails to release pending drought relief funds before the upcoming legislature session, Karnataka will approach the Supreme Court and launch a 'Delhi Chalo' protest march.

> Compared to Japan, we are far behind. We failed to plan our Metro project properly. In Japan, railway stations look cleaner than airports, with one to three million square feet of commercial space built right above each station.
>
> - D.K. Shivakumar, CM

Delimitation plan hurts South India, warns CM

Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar accused the Centre of playing politics with the proposed delimitation bill, warning it unfairly weakens South India's voice in Parliament. Speaking in Bengaluru, he announced a Sunday meeting with fellow southern leaders, including Kerala's V.D. Satheesan and Telangana's Revanth Reddy, to build a united response before next week's special Parliament session. Shivakumar criticized the Union Cabinet for clearing the bill on Friday without consulting states or holding an all-party meeting. While supporting women's reservation, he opposed linking it to a 50 percent Lok Sabha seat expansion that boosts northern states like Uttar Pradesh while penalizing southern states for controlling population growth. He urged an immediate all-party dialogue to protect South India's fair representation.



Urban upgrades planned for Karnataka

Smarter Metro Hubs
Build basement shops, redevelop areas around stations, and improve pedestrian walkways and traffic flow at busy junctions.

Clean Waste-to-Energy
Inspired by Osaka's Maishima Incineration Plant, which burns 900 tons of garbage daily to generate electricity with strict pollution controls, Japanese experts have been invited to pilot similar plants in Karnataka's major cities.

Underground Tunnels
Officials will study the feasibility of adopting Japan's decades-old tunnel infrastructure model to ease urban congestion.

Kawasaki Deal
Signed a ₹800-cr agreement to expand Wipro Kawasaki Precision Machinery in Harohalli over 10 years, creating roughly 600 local jobs.

Denmark backs India for permanent UNSC seat

Denmark backed India's permanent UN Security Council bid and early EU trade pact, signing new green, defense, and tech agreements in New Delhi.

NEW DELHI

Denmark reiterated its firm support for India's permanent membership in a reformed United Nations Security Council (UNSC), while also backing the early conclusion of the India-European Union Free Trade Agreement (FTA). The diplomatic commitments were made during the 5th India-Denmark Joint Commission Meeting held in New Delhi, co-chaired by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and visiting Danish Foreign Minister Lars Løkke Rasmussen.

Reviewing the full breadth of bilateral ties under the India-Denmark Green Strategic Partnership, both ministers adopted a five-year Joint Action Plan to guide the next phase of cooperation. They also expressed readiness to elevate bilateral relations to a Comprehensive Green Strategic Partnership during the next Prime Ministerial-level engagement. During the meeting, officials exchanged three key agreements: a renewed Memorandum of Understanding on skill development, vocational education, and entrepreneurship, a refreshed Cultural Exchange Programme, and a regulatory partnership between India's International Financial Services Centres Authority and the Danish Financial Supervisory Authority.

Beyond green energy, water management, shipping, and clean technologies, both sides agreed to expand collaboration into defense and security. Welcoming their inaugural Maritime Security Dialogue held in June 2026, India and Denmark committed to deepening cooperation in defense manufacturing and counterterrorism. The ministers also agreed to launch dedicated dialogues on technology and climate, targeting joint research in artificial intelligence, quantum computing, cybersecurity, space exploration, and Arctic affairs.

Highlighting strong economic and people-to-people links, the two leaders reviewed the implementation of the 2024 Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreement and welcomed progress toward operationalizing a healthcare recruitment initiative between the Kerala government and Denmark's Ministry of Senior Citizens. Rasmussen, who also met Karnataka Minister Priyank Kharge in Bengaluru during his visit to discuss Global Capability Centres, underscored India's skilled workforce as a vital asset for Danish enterprises.



Why this matters?
Pairing European clean-tech expertise with Indian innovation and skilled talent strengthens global stability while creating fresh trade and job pathways for Indians.

Libya strike uncoordinated, admits Zelenskyy

KYIV

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy confirmed that Ukraine conducted its recent naval drone attack on Russian vessels in Libya without prior consultation with European partners. The admission followed a Friday phone call with Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, whose government warned against the five-year conflict expanding into the Mediterranean Sea.

Earlier this month, Ukrainian long-range drones sank the Russian warship Merkury in Benghazi and struck a weapons-carrying cargo vessel off the Libyan coast. While Kyiv stressed the operation targeted only Russian military assets, the geographic expansion sparked unease across European capitals.

To preserve allied trust and address Rome's concerns, Zelenskyy pledged concrete steps to prevent future communication gaps.

Modi vows to fulfil women quota promise

NEW DELHI

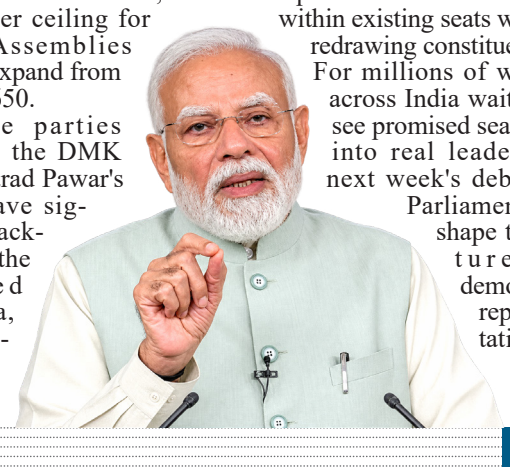
Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared that his government will remove every obstacle standing in the way of 33 percent reservation for women in Parliament and state legislative assemblies. Posting a pointed video message on X ahead of next week's special Parliament session, Modi said the struggle to secure women's rightful representation has lasted decades and affirmed his personal commitment to keeping the promise made to India's Nari Shakti.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah echoed the Prime Minister's resolve, noting that Friday's Union Cabinet approval of the Constitution (132nd Amendment) Bill, 2026 marks a historic milestone toward bringing the Nari Shakti Vandan Act into reality. Urging all political parties to set aside differences and support the legislation, Shah said stronger female participation is vital for nation-building.

The special parliamentary sitting opens on Monday, November 30, with the Rajya Sabha reconvening on December 2 and proceedings scheduled through December 3. To address regional concerns that sank an earlier delimitation bill in April, the revised 132nd Amendment Bill proposes a uniform 50 percent increase in Lok Sabha and state Assembly seats across every state and Union Territory, while freezing inter-state seat proportions and boundaries until 2051. Under the proposal, the Lok Sabha's maximum strength would rise to 850, including up to 815 members from states and 35 from Union Territories, while the upper ceiling for state Assemblies would expand from 500 to 650.

While parties such as the DMK and Sharad Pawar's NCP have signaled backing for the revised formula, opposition leaders including Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge have announced plans to resist the bill, arguing that the 33 percent women's quota should be implemented immediately within existing seats without redrawing constituencies. For millions of women across India waiting to see promised seats turn into real leadership, next week's debate in Parliament will shape the future of democratic representation.

> Those opposing women's reservation will never be able to stop it.
>
> - Narendra Modi, PM



Shifting political equations ahead of vote

Linking a 33 percent women's quota with a uniform 50 percent seat expansion aims to empower women leaders while soothing southern fears of losing parliamentary clout

Australian conservatives win Victoria poll

Sydney: Conservative forces scored a sweeping victory in Australia's Victoria state election, removing the long-standing Labor government and blocking a major surge by the anti-immigration One Nation party. Projections from the Australian Broadcasting Corp showed the centre-right Liberal-National coalition securing at least 49 of the 88 lower-house seats, bringing an end to twelve years of centre-left leadership in a traditional Labor stronghold.

At just 36 years old, Liberal state leader Jess Wilson is set to become Victoria's youngest and first elected female premier. Addressing supporters, Wilson stated that voters had delivered a firm demand for a fresh start and rejected the state's previous direction. Meanwhile, outgoing Premier Ben Carroll conceded defeat after losing his own seat, acknowledging that Victorians clearly wanted change following years of pandemic lockdown frustration and mounting state debt.

Karthigai Deepam lit at Thiruparankundram pillar

MADURAI

The ceremonial Karthigai Deepam was finally lit atop Thiruparankundram hill at the ancient Deepathoon stone pillar on Saturday, ending days of intense legal and religious dispute. The ritual took place under the direct watch of Supreme Court-appointed joint receivers, retired judges Justice S. Vaidyanathan and Justice V. Parthiban, who climbed the hill after visiting the Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple.

The dispute began on November 24 during the annual festival, when officials lit the Maha Deepam near the Uchi Pillaiyar Temple instead of the Deepathoon pillar, despite an interim Supreme Court order directing otherwise. Following that standoff, the apex court appointed the two retired judges to take charge of temple administration and ensure the court's orders were carried out smoothly.

Heavy security was arranged across the hill on Saturday to maintain peace and protect the sanctity of the site.



Authorities restricted general public entry, allowing only authorized individuals to climb up for the ceremony. Earlier in the day, groups of women devotees performed the traditional Paal Kudam ritual, carrying pots of milk as sacred offerings to the deity.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi also marked the occasion on social media platform X, offering prayers to Lord Murugan, the wielder of the sacred spear. Outside the temple, devotee Sharmila welcomed the court-monitored ritual while criticizing the Tamil Nadu government for ignoring earlier judicial directions. Thanking the Supreme Court and CRPF personnel, she said devotees felt relieved that constitutional order and religious tradition were finally upheld peacefully.

QUICK READ

Shah outlines UP delimitation gains

NEW DELHI

Uttar Pradesh is poised to significantly expand its State Assembly representation under the central government's upcoming delimitation reforms. Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced that the proposed constitutional amendment package—featuring the Delimitation Bill, 2026 and the Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026—will amend Article 170(1) to raise the maximum State Assembly cap from 500 to around 650 seats. Following the Union Cabinet's approval of updates to the 132nd Constitutional Amendment Bill, Parliament will debate the measures during a special session from November 30 to December 3. Shah noted that this expansion keeps Uttar Pradesh undivided while pairing the seat increase with one-third women's reservation, ensuring record female representation.

Blast near Afghan school kills 7 students

KUNAR

A massive morning explosion beside a middle school in Afghanistan's eastern Kunar province killed ten people and injured 110 others, mostly young students. The blast occurred around ten o'clock in Asadabad's Andar Ser area inside a neighboring home used by mining workers to store dynamite. Terrified neighbors rushed through thick dust to rescue trapped children from the collapsed bricks while ambulances transported the wounded to Kunar Provincial Hospital. Following the tragedy, officials blamed poor safety precautions and launched a full investigation. The incident has sparked urgent alarms regarding the severe dangers of storing volatile explosives directly next to classrooms.

BATTLE OVER BILL

Rahul rejects seat expansion, reassures alliance partners

NEW DELHI

Lok Sabha Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi stated that the standing of alliance partners within the INDIA bloc will remain unchanged even if they support the Centre's proposed delimitation legislation, downplaying questions over potential friction with allies such as Sharad Pawar's NCP (SP) and the DMK. Addressing reporters in New Delhi ahead of Monday's special Parliament session, Gandhi framed the debate over the Constitution (132nd Amendment) Bill, 2026 and the Delimitation (Second) Bill, 2026 as a wider battle to defend Indian democracy. While noting that aligned opposition partners stand united, Gandhi appealed directly to non-aligned leaders and National Democratic Alliance constituents naming Telugu Desam Party chief N. Chandrababu Naidu and YSRCP leader Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, to reflect on the country's democratic future. Accusing the ruling BJP of attempting to redraw the electoral map to its advantage, he warned that growing public anger would eventually defeat the government regardless of how constituency boundaries are reshaped.

Under the government's newly cleared legislative package, Lok Sabha and state Assembly seats across every state and Union Territory would rise by 50 percent lifting the Lok Sabha ceiling to 850 seats (815 from states and 35 from Union Territories), to roll out 33 percent reservation for women while freezing inter-state seat proportions until 2051. Rejecting the expansion outright, Gandhi argued that expanding the House to 850 is an unnecessary "blank cheque" that undermines social justice for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and OBCs.

Instead, Gandhi challenged the Centre to implement the already-passed women's quota immediately within the existing 543-seat Lok Sabha, conduct a nationwide caste census, and entrust any boundary review to an impartial bipartisan commission. He also praised India's Gen Z and young citizens for speaking out fearlessly against perceived threats to democracy. As Parliament prepares for a high-stakes showdown starting November 30, Gandhi's remarks signal that the Congress intends to fight the 850-seat blueprint head-on while keeping opposition ranks intact.

Takeaways from Rahul Gandhi's remarks

Alliance stability: Confirmed that NCP (SP) and DMK's positions inside the INDIA bloc will not change regardless of their vote on the bill.

Alternative roadmap: Proposed retaining 543 Lok Sabha seats, conducting a nationwide caste census, and forming a bipartisan commission instead of expanding to 850.

Broad political appeal: Urged NDA partners like Chandrababu Naidu's TDP & Andhra leaders such as Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy to protect democratic norms.



Quick Read

Private electric bus crashes into city divider

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Early morning commuters faced unexpected delays near the Corporation office after a private electric bus slammed into a road divider on Rajaram Mohan Roy Road. The crash happened around 5:10 in the morning when the driver suddenly lost control of the heavy vehicle. Thankfully, a major tragedy was avoided, though both the driver and the bus conductor suffered minor injuries in the impact. As the stranded bus blocked vehicles heading toward the Corporation junction, traffic quickly backed up. Traffic police soon arrived at the spot and brought in a crane to clear the damaged bus.

Trapped black hawk rescued from live powerline

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Rescuers saved a black hawk trapped for five days on a 400 kV high-tension wire near Bannerghatta without cutting electricity to the city. Stranded over 90 feet above farmland since Monday, the bird faced grave danger while turning off power would have blacked out ten neighborhoods. To avoid any delay, wildlife workers teamed up with BESCOM and KPTCL staff using a special Brazilian live-line vehicle. Crew members safely rode its insulated lift straight up to the energized cables and freed the exhausted hawk, proving modern grid tools can protect local wildlife alongside daily power supplies.

Police shoot suspect targeting women's PG accommodations

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Chikkajala police shot and captured a repeat offender accused of breaking into women's hostels to assault residents and steal phones. Released from jail just eight days ago, Betta Naresh resumed sneaking into unlocked paying guest accommodations at dawn. On Friday, one brave resident fought him off for 15 minutes, forcing him to flee. Anticipating another strike, officers increased morning patrols and spotted Naresh on Saturday. When he attacked two constables to escape arrest, an inspector shot his leg in self-defense. Facing fifteen local cases, the injured suspect is now hospitalized under strict police guard.

Talks succeed, ASHA workers end protest

Karnataka ASHA workers ended their 12-day Freedom Park protest after securing a Rs 2,000 monthly honorarium hike from the government.



ASHA workers at the Freedom Park protest site in Bengaluru.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Protesting Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) workers across Karnataka officially called off their 12-day round-the-clock agitation at Bengaluru's Freedom Park on Saturday evening following successful talks with Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and Health Minister U.T. Khader. The breakthrough came after the state government announced a monthly honorarium hike of Rs 2,000, scheduled to take effect from January 1, alongside assurances that their remaining demands will be addressed in the upcoming state Budget.

Thousands of frontline community health workers had staged a continuous sit-in protest, braving winter cold and rain while demanding a fixed monthly honorarium of Rs 15,000.

Following extensive discussions earlier in the day led by Minister Khader and finalized during a meeting with the Chief Minister, the administration acknowledged that ASHA workers had not received a pay revision over the past three years.

State steps forward

Addressing the gathering after the agreement, Chief Minister Shivakumar praised the sincerity of the workers and called them the state's greatest asset in public healthcare. While noting that the Central Government had not raised its Rs 2,000 contribution share, he affirmed that Karnataka was stepping forward to honor its commitment. Shivakumar also apologized if the workers endured any hardship during their prolonged protest, remarking that despite attempts by certain elements to politicize the agitation, the workers refused to fall prey to divisive tactics. He urged them to return to their duties and work alongside the government for the welfare of citizens.

₹2,000 more a month for ASHA workers from January 1, after 12 days at Freedom Park

Outcomes of the talks

Immediate pay hike
Monthly honorarium up by Rs 2,000, from January 1

Budget assurance
Khader promised to address the remaining union demands in the state Budget

Apology for hardship
Shivakumar apologized for any difficulties during the 12-day sit-in

Welcoming the decision, Karnataka State United ASHA Workers' Association Secretary D. Nagalakshmi thanked the Chief Minister for approving the Rs 2,000 monthly raise. She noted that while past experiences had prompted workers to sustain their protest for twelve days, Minister Khader's assurance to incorporate their pending welfare and incentive demands into the upcoming Budget gave them confidence to withdraw the strike.

With the standoff resolved, thousands of health workers began dispersing from Freedom Park on Saturday night, preparing to resume vital maternal, child, and community healthcare services across Karnataka.

Minister Khader leads fresh talks to end ASHA stir



Talks went on as the sit-in at Freedom Park entered its 12th day.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

As the indefinite sit-in by Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) workers at Freedom Park entered its 12th consecutive day on Saturday, Health Minister U.T. Khader launched another round of talks to break the prolonged deadlock. Inviting union leaders to his residence for a crucial morning meeting, Khader met with ASHA Workers' Association President Somashekar, Secretary D. Nagalakshmi, and ten worker representatives in a renewed bid to bring the round-the-clock agitation to a peaceful close.

The fresh outreach followed days of rising tension after Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar ruled out issuing a written order or signing a formal agreement, remarking that their engagement is not a contract and that financial commitments must pass through the state Budget. While urging protesters to trust the government's word and accusing opposition leaders of instigating the stir, Shivakumar asked Khader to explain the administration's position directly to the union delegation.

As ASHA workers' Freedom Park protest hits day 12 amid harsh weather, Health Minister U.T. Khader leads fresh talks proposing a Rs 2,000 raise.

Later in the day, talks showed signs of a potential breakthrough after Khader announced that the Chief Minister had agreed to raise the workers' monthly remuneration by Rs 2,000, a step accepted by the delegation while discussions continued over an additional Rs 1,000 incentive. Khader expressed optimism that a final evening decision from the Chief Minister would allow the workers to end their protest.

For nearly two weeks, thousands of women, many accompanied by their young children, have slept outdoors at Freedom Park, braving cold nights, rain, and scarce drinking water and toilet facilities. The harsh conditions have left dozens unwell, sharpening public sympathy for the frontline caregivers who anchor rural and urban healthcare.

Prominent voices back ASHA strike



A speaker addresses the protesting ASHA workers at Freedom Park.

WHO SPOKE

ASHADEVI, WRITER
Don't abandon the fight midway

CHETAN AHIMSA, ACTOR
Calling the workers blackmailers is itself intimidation

CHANDRAKANT VADDU, JOURNALIST
A Rs 4.5 lakh crore Budget can afford fair honorariums

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The indefinite day-and-night protest by Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) workers at Bengaluru's Freedom Park entered its 12th consecutive day on Saturday, gaining fresh momentum as prominent writers, artists, and journalists arrived to stand in solidarity with the agitators. Demanding a fixed monthly honorarium of Rs 15,000 alongside an official written government order, the community health workers received strong moral backing from writer Ashadevi, actor Chetan Ahimsa, and journalist Chandrakant Vaddu.

Addressing the gathering, feminist thinker Ashadevi urged the women not to abandon their fight midway, assuring them that organized perseverance brings justice. Questioning the state government's financial priorities, she pointed out that funds are readily found for influential circles while authorities claim empty coffers when working-class women ask for basic wages. She reminded protesters how garment workers successfully forced the reversal of a central Provident Fund policy within two days through unified action.

Actor Chetan Ahimsa sharply criticized officials who dismissed the peaceful demonstration as political blackmail. Calling the state administration stubborn, he stated that labeling hardworking frontline health workers as blackmailers is itself an act of intimidation. Instead of shifting blame toward the Central Government, he urged state leaders to fulfill their own responsibilities toward women whose selfless healthcare service is routinely undervalued. Highlighting severe national wealth inequality, he also called for higher taxes on the ultra-rich to fund essential support for working families.

Journalist Chandrakant Vaddu echoed these concerns, expressing disappointment over recent remarks by former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah distancing himself from earlier wage promises. Vaddu argued that an administration presenting a Rs 4.5 lakh crore state budget can easily afford fair honorariums for ASHA workers simply by trimming wasteful spending. Having faced broken verbal assurances in the past, the protesters remain fully justified in refusing to vacate Freedom Park until the government issues a formal written order guaranteeing their rights.

NCB destroys ₹117-crore heroin

CH NEWS, BENGALURU



Seized heroin goes into the incinerator at Dabaspet.

In a decisive strike against illegal narcotics trafficking, the Bengaluru Zonal Unit of the Narcotics Control Bureau scientifically destroyed 58.8365 kilograms of seized heroin valued at roughly Rs 117 crore on the illicit market. The contraband, recovered across three separate trafficking cases whose court trials had formally concluded, was incinerated at the Karnataka Waste Management facility in Dabaspet, Nelamangala taluk, strictly following Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act rules and Supreme Court disposal guidelines.

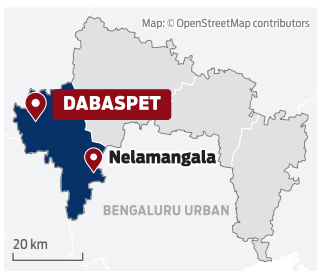
Supervised by NCB South-Western Zone Deputy Director General Vishal M., the destruction took place before a high-level Drug Disposal Committee chaired by IRS officer Sanap. Bengaluru Zonal Director Sachin Ghorpade and Bengaluru City Crime Branch-2 Deputy Commissioner of Police Raja Imam Kasim also attended to ensure complete transparency and safe environmental incineration.

2,086 kg this year

The Bengaluru Zonal Unit has wiped out a cumulative 2,086 kilograms of dangerous narcotics worth Rs 300 crore so far in 2026, following earlier disposal drives in February and April. Preventing seized drugs from ever leaking back onto city streets remains a top priority for enforcement teams protecting young people and families. Officials also urged citizens to report suspicious drug activity through the national helpline 1933, guaranteeing full confidentiality and suitable rewards for credible tips.

Expired beer destroyed

Meanwhile, in a separate enforcement drive in Haveri district last week, Excise Department officials destroyed expired liquor worth Rs 59,84,305 that had turned unfit for human consumption. Carried out at the Karnataka State Beverages Corporation Limited godown near Yattinahalli under the watch of Taluk Magistrate K. Sharanamma and Deputy Superintendent of Excise Honnappa Olekar, the operation disposed of 19,747 liters of unsold beer packed inside 2,092 boxes and 60 bottles.



Dabaspet, Nelamangala taluk: where the heroin was incinerated.

Together, both drives reflect sustained statewide vigilance to keep harmful substances and unsafe beverages away from the public.

LJP & Dalit Sena mark Foundation Day



At the Foundation Day of the LJP (Ram Vilas) and Dalit Sena (Ram Vilas) in Bengaluru.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Messages of social dignity, unity, and equal opportunity filled Sir M.V. Auditorium at the KEB Engineers Association on Saturday as the Karnataka units of the Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) and Dalit Sena (Ram Vilas) celebrated their 26th Foundation Day. Led by Karnataka State President M.S. Jagannath, the event gathered party members, elders, and residents to support Dalit communities and low-income families.

Former MLA and former NAR Association President K.N. Subbareddy inaugurated the programme, with key planning support from Media Advisor R. Shiva Kumar and Senior Advisor R. Nagaraj. Throughout the gathering, speakers honored Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's legacy, reminding everyone that real social growth needs mutual respect and fair chances for all citizens.

During his main speech, Subbareddy shared an inspiring story from Swami Vivekananda's journey in Rajasthan to show how kindness breaks caste walls. He told how Dalit villagers first asked Vivekananda to go away, yet he came back later to sit with them and share food. Connecting this memory to Dr. Ambedkar's vision, Subbareddy insisted that Dalit people are an essential part of society and must never feel left behind.

Subbareddy also applauded Jagannath for turning words into action by handing out schoolbooks to children and sarees to needy women. By mixing celebration with real help, the event offered struggling families meaningful support for education and everyday dignity.

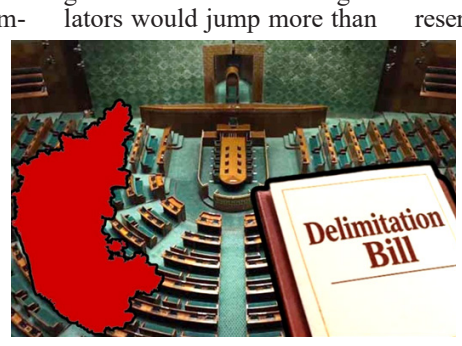
REDRAWING POWER LINES

Delimitation bill set to reshape Karnataka politics

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Union Cabinet's approval of the Women's Reservation and Delimitation Bill, slated for introduction during the special session of Parliament, has placed a politically sensitive debate squarely back in focus across Karnataka. The proposed legislation is set to reshape constituency boundaries, regional power balances, and candidate strategies across the state's major political parties — the Congress, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), and the Janata Dal (Secular).

Under the bill's framework proposing a 50 percent increase in parliamentary and state legislative seats, Karnataka's Legislative Assembly strength is projected to expand from 224 to 336 members, while its Lok Sabha representation rises from 28 to 42 seats. Implementing the 33 percent women's reservation quota within this expanded structure would reserve approximately 112 Assembly constituencies and 14 parliamentary seats exclusively for female candidates.



Such an expansion marks a dramatic turning point for women's political participation in Karnataka. During the 2023 State Assembly elections, only ten women were elected to the lower house. Under the proposed quota, the number of seats guaranteed for women legislators would jump more than elevenfold, creating unprecedented opportunities for female leaders at both grassroots and state levels.

At the same time, political observers note that the rotational system used to designate reserved constituencies will significantly disrupt long-held electoral strongholds. Incumbent male legislators across party lines face uncertainty over whether their traditional constituencies will be reserved in upcoming election cycles, forcing parties to rethink ticket distribution and succession plans.

The legislation has already sparked sharp political reactions within the state. While Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy and the JD(S) have welcomed the expansion as a boost to Karnataka's national voice, Congress leaders have questioned the timing and boundary-redrawing rules ahead of the 2027 Census. As Parliament prepares to debate the bill this week, Karnataka's political landscape stands on the verge of its biggest structural transformation in decades.

336	42	112	14
Assembly seats, was 224	Lok Sabha seats, was 28	Assembly seats for women	Lok Sabha seats for women



Have you built your home on BDA land?

If yes, this is the right time to regularise it.

You may have lived in your house for many years. You may even have a Khata and pay property tax. **But if the land was acquired by BDA, these alone do not make you the legal owner of the land.**

Now, under **Section 38(D) of the BDA Act**, the Government of Karnataka is giving eligible residents an opportunity to regularise their property - **at 50% lower rates.**

D. K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka

A one-time opportunity to save your home and the land beneath it.
Don't let it pass. Once the deadline is over, this opportunity will not be available.

LAST DATE
17 Dec 2026

Regularisation charges reduced by
50%
- Earlier rates have been cut by half for eligible homeowners.

Size of your site	Earlier	New rate (50% lower)
Up to 20 × 30 ft	10%	**5%**
Above 20 × 30 to 30 × 40 ft	25%	**12.5%**
Above 30 × 40 to 40 × 60 ft	40%	**20%**
Above 40 × 60 to 50 × 80 ft	50%	**25% + applicable penalty**

WHY YOU SHOULD APPLY
Your questions answered

1. **I already have an A-Khata and pay tax. Why should I regularise now?**
   A-Khata alone does not establish complete legal ownership of the land. Under Section 38(D), once your eligibility is verified, BDA re-allots the land to you and you can secure a **registered Absolute Sale Deed**.
2. **Will I have to pay the full guidance value?**
   No. You pay only a percentage of the guidance value, based on the size of your site — and the Government has now cut these rates by 50%.
3. **Which documents should I keep ready?**
   Sale Deed or other property documents · Encumbrance Certificate (EC) · Khata Certificate and Extract · latest property tax receipt · approved building plan, if any · water connection documents · prescribed self-declaration form.
4. **I bought the house from someone else. Can I still apply?**
   Yes. Original owners, purchasers and occupants who built houses on BDA-acquired land before the cut-off date, have lived there for a considerable period and meet the prescribed conditions may apply.
5. **Why should I apply now?**
   This is a one-time opportunity, and the charges have been halved. The last date to apply is **17 December 2026**.
6. **What happens if I don't apply?**
   As per Section 38(D)(3) of the 2026 Amendment Act, **unauthorised occupants who do not obtain re-allotment within two years of the Act coming into force are liable to be evicted by BDA**, in accordance with law.

What is Your Property Worth - Before v/s After Section 38(D)?

Take the **example** of a 30 × 40 ft residential site (1,200 sq. ft.)



Suppose you want to sell today	Worth after Section 38(D):	To Regularise Pay
₹0 (Zero)	**₹1.98 crore**	~~₹27.87~~ **Lakh** **₹14 Lakh**
Cannot be legally sold without regularisation	Estimated Market Value (Guidance Value: ₹1.11 Crore)	@ 50% Lower!

Pay ₹14 Lakh and get a property worth ₹1.98 Crore.

What are the benefits?

- Legal ownership document from BDA (registered Sale Deed)
- Easier to sell your property in future
- Helps in getting bank loans (subject to bank rules)
- Easier to transfer to children and legal heirs
- Live peacefully with legal security for your family

Eligibility, Exclusions & Financial Assistance

Who can apply?

- Residential houses built **before 10 July 2008**
- On **BDA-acquired land**
- Site **up to 4,000 sq. ft.**
- **One site** per family

Need financial assistance?

Bank loan facilities may be available. Contact your bank to understand the eligibility and loan options.



Dr. G. Parameshwara
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister

Apply today
38d.bdakarnataka.in

Applying is simple & free
No middlemen needed.

Important: Section 38(D) applies only to eligible properties meeting the prescribed construction date, possession and other statutory conditions. Existing Khata or tax records do not override BDA's title. Applications are subject to verification; submitting an application does not guarantee approval. For full details, visit 38d.bdakarnataka.in.



Shri N.A. Haris
Chairman, Bangalore Development Authority
& MLA, Shanthinagar Assembly Constituency

Bangalore Development Authority
T. Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru, 560020

24/7 Helpline / WhatsApp: 94831 66622
https://bdakarnataka.in / @BDAOfficialGoK

Quick Read

Drought forces Bengaluru washermen to ration water

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Severe water shortages have forced Bengaluru's century-old dhobi ghats to ration laundry work to alternate days as local borewells run dry. Across 31 historic washing sites, traditional washermen usually need up to one lakh litres daily, but failing rains have left them buying expensive water tankers. In Rajajinagar, all 17 borewells failed, forcing workers to spend Rs 8,000 a day on tankers. Similarly, Anjanapura and Ulsoor washermen now work in smaller batches or limit themselves to ironing clothes. Despite rising costs and dwindling groundwater, these families remain determined to protect their ancestral land and livelihoods.

Civil groups demand scrutiny over voter deletions

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Ahead of upcoming local body elections, members of the Anti-SIR Alliance have urged Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar to reject Karnataka's newly revised voter list. Civil society representatives handed over a memorandum warning that the final electoral roll contains widespread errors. They asked the state government to bring back the 2025 voter list, open it for public checking, and conduct a fair social audit to fix wrongly removed names. Criticizing ministers who downplayed the issue, the group stressed that protecting every citizen's basic voting rights matters far more than narrow political wins or losses.

Police use Google Maps to reunite lost child

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Quick thinking by J.C. Nagar police helped reunite a lone eight-year-old girl with her mother after she wandered miles from home late at night. Concerned locals spotted the child walking alone near Miller's Road and alerted emergency responders. At the station, officers comforted the anxious girl until she remembered her school's name. Using Google Maps, police showed her nearby streets until she recognized her neighborhood and a local shop. Calling the shop's listed phone number, officers reached her working single mother. When she arrived, the tearful child hugged her tightly, deeply moving everyone inside the station.

Kumaraswamy alleges nighttime 150-acre land inspection

Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy attacked Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar over alleged midnight land inspections, corruption, and losing Toyota's investment.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU


Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy

Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy launched a sharp political attack against Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, alleging that the Chief Minister recently traveled in a private vehicle at midnight to inspect roughly 150 acres of land near Sompura on the outskirts of Bengaluru. Speaking to reporters near a private hospital in Jayanagar, Kumaraswamy claimed local villagers grew suspicious of the late-night visit and chased the car away after mistaking the occupants for thieves, challenging Shivakumar to clarify whether the incident happened.

Taking a sarcastic swipe at the state leadership, the Union Minister remarked that while the Chief Minister has no time to tackle growing administrative corruption, he effortlessly finds time to hunt for vacant plots and government land. Dismissing the ruling party's claims of running a clean administration, Kumaraswamy likened the situation to a fence devouring the very crop it is meant to protect.

To back his corruption charges, Kumaraswamy cited the recent suspension of a Revenue Inspector caught accepting a ₹50,000 bribe over a 20-gunta land issue. Mocking a state minister's controversial remark describing payments to officials as an honorarium, he asked whether bribes caught red-handed across departments are now considered respectful fees. The Union Minister added that he possesses volumes of documentary evidence exposing widespread irregularities across government offices.

Kumaraswamy also targeted Shivakumar's recent official visit to Japan to woo industrial investments from Toyota. Recalling that former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda had worked tirelessly to bring Toyota's original manufacturing plant to Karnataka, he accused past Congress leaders of exploiting that project for profits on sand and bricks. Questioning why Toyota's fourth major project, worth an estimated ₹25,000 crore, shifted to Maharashtra instead of Karnataka, Kumaraswamy demanded accountability from the Chief Minister. He urged the state government to introspect over why major industrial investments are slipping away before boasting about economic development.

> **"While the Chief Minister has no time to stop corruption across the state, he finds time at midnight to hunt for vacant and government plots."**
> — **H.D. Kumaraswamy,** Union Minister

Sting trail: Kerala man evades summons



CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Investigators probing the alleged fake sting operation targeting former Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah have uncovered a fresh Kerala connection, widening the interstate trail in a case that has stirred state politics. Officials from the Bengaluru Central Cyber Police confirmed that a key suspect hailing from neighboring Kerala has repeatedly skipped questioning despite being served two formal notices to appear before the investigation team.

According to police sources, the Kerala-based individual, identified in the probe as advocate Balaraj from Kannur, maintained direct contact with expelled Congress leader Krupa Alva. Investigators found that the woman featured in the controversial hidden-camera recording had originally reached out to Alva through this very intermediary. Further inquiry revealed that the suspect had earlier worked as a translator at the Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights during the period when Alva served as its chairperson.

Detectives are now piecing together the exact sequence of events to verify how closely the Kerala man coordinated with the woman and whether he personally brought her to meet Alva before the video was recorded in 2023. During earlier questioning, the woman from Kerala told investigators that she had never actually met Siddaramaiah and made false claims solely at the prompting of others. Meanwhile, Alva, who was expelled from the Congress party in October over the episode, has already undergone multiple rounds of questioning by the Crime Branch.

> **Cyber police probing the alleged fake sting targeting Siddaramaiah have uncovered a fresh Kerala link as a key Kannur suspect skips police notices.**

The case stems from an October 6 defamation and blackmail complaint filed by Siddaramaiah after an allegedly fabricated video surfaced on social media in late September. With the Kerala suspect recently withdrawing his interim arrest-protection pleas in Bengaluru courts after ignoring notices issued on November 19 and November 23, police are intensifying efforts to bring him in for questioning. For citizens watching political rivalries play out online, the probe highlights how fabricated videos can be weaponized and how determined police work is steadily untangling the truth behind the screen.

The case so far

- **2023** — The video is recorded
- **LATE SEPTEMBER** — It surfaces on social media
- **OCTOBER 6** — Siddaramaiah files his complaint
- **NOV 19 AND 23** — Notices to the Kannur suspect go unanswered

10 parks across 1,300 acres planned: Reddy


At the inauguration of the new traffic signals at Chandapura Circle

CH NEWS, ANEKAL

Karnataka Forest Minister Ramalinga Reddy announced that the Forest Department plans to develop 10 major parks across 1,300 acres of department land in and around Bengaluru to expand urban green spaces and combat worsening air pollution. Speaking while inaugurating new traffic signals at Chandapura Circle, installed with Corporate Social Responsibility support from Mahindra Homes led by B.T. Nagaraj Reddy, the Minister explained that the project aims to safeguard public health amid rapid urban expansion.

Comparing the upcoming green initiative with existing city landmarks, Reddy noted that Jarakabande Kaval currently spans 380 acres, Lalbagh covers 250 acres, and Cubbon Park measures 150 acres, while most neighborhood parks range between eight and 25 acres. By establishing 10 expansive parks over 1,300 acres, the government intends to break previous records and provide fresh breathing spaces for Bengaluru's 1.4 crore residents.

Highlighting the city's severe traffic challenges, the Minister pointed out that Bengaluru's roads carry roughly 1.3 crore vehicles, including 20 percent two-wheelers and 80 percent cars and heavy vehicles, placing immense strain on traffic police. He praised private partnerships for installing signals at Attibele, Dommasandra, and Chandapura, and urged similar corporate support for Sarjapura and Anekal. Alongside MLA B. Shivanna, Rajya Sabha MP Kupendra Reddy, and Anekal Development Authority Chairman Harish, Reddy also noted that B.T. Nagaraj Reddy has agreed to help develop an eco-friendly park on 90 acres near Kalkere without using cement or artificial materials.

Meanwhile, B.T. Nagaraj Reddy expressed satisfaction over completing the five-year Chandapura Circle upgrade alongside police and municipal officials, adding that pending road tarring near the bus stand requires a formal request from the MLA for National Highways Authority clearance.

Addressing the ongoing strike by Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) workers, Ramalinga Reddy stated that the government is ready to resolve seven to eight genuine demands through dialogue. While confirming that official written guarantees cannot be issued, he urged protesters to trust the Chief Minister's assurances and return to discussions.

HDK hails Balagangadharanatha Swamiji legacy at BGS

CH NEWS, BENGALURU


At the 18th BGS Founder's Day and BGS Utsav in Bengaluru

Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy paid rich tributes to the late Sri Balagangadharanatha Swamiji, praising his transformative and enduring contributions to the field of education. Speaking on the second day of the 18th BGS Founder's Day and BGS Utsav celebrations at the BGS Health and Education City grounds along the Kengeri-Uttarahalli main road, Kumaraswamy remarked that the BGS group of institutions has set unmatched standards in learning both across India and internationally. Expressing deep personal gratitude, the Union Minister credited the late pontiff's blessings for enabling him to serve the public as an MLA, state minister, and Chief Minister of Karnataka.

Addressing the gathering, Sri Dr. Nirmalanandanatha Swamiji, the 72nd pontiff of the Sri Adichunchanagiri Mahasamsthana Math, observed that the concept of education is evolving rapidly in the modern era. He noted that the BGS educational network has grown into a massive, flourishing institution much like a giant banyan tree, owing to the visionary foresight of Sri Balagangadharanatha Swamiji, who prioritized accessible, world-class education to empower future generations.

Leader of the Opposition R. Ashoka commended Dr. Prakashanatha Swamiji for building upon the strong foundation laid by his predecessor and elevating BGS institutions to the top rank not only in Bengaluru but across the entire state. Encouraging students to cultivate a healthy spirit of sportsmanship alongside academic excellence, Ashoka emphasized that true personal fulfillment and lasting success come only when young minds integrate strong moral values and cultural heritage into their formal education.

The grand event brought together prominent spiritual, political, and cultural figures, including BGS and SJB Group of Institutions Managing Director Dr. Prakashanatha Swamiji, Avadhoota Sri Vinay Guruji of Gaurigadde, former Member of Parliament C.S. Puttaraju, veteran Kannada actress Tara, and popular actor Vasishta Simha. Together, the speakers reaffirmed the institution's commitment to blending modern knowledge with spiritual values to nurture responsible citizens.

> **The BGS network has grown like a giant banyan tree, says the Adichunchanagiri seer**

Striding together: About 10,000 join Bengaluru Walkathon

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

More than 10,000 people gathered at the Kittur Rani Chennamma Stadium in Jayanagar on Saturday morning to participate in the 20th edition of the Bengaluru Walkathon, championing public health awareness, disability inclusion, and social equality. Jointly organized by the Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled and title partner OpenText under the theme "Health for All," the four-kilometer community walk brought together persons with disabilities, senior citizens, students, corporate representatives, volunteers, and local civic associations in a vibrant display of solidarity.

Held ahead of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities observed annually on December 3, the event underscored the urgent need to make healthcare and overall well-being accessible to every citizen. Organizers emphasized that genuine inclusion extends far beyond basic medical care, demanding barrier-free public spaces, equal economic and educational opportunities, and unwavering respect for individual dignity.

Speaking at the gathering, Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled founder and managing trustee Dr. Mahantesh G. Kivadasannavar described the milestone twentieth edition as a significant step forward in the organization's ongoing mission to build an equal and accessible society. He stressed that true healthcare must encompass dignity and inclusion for everyone, while thanking corporate partners, sponsors, supporters, and volunteers for sustaining the movement over two decades.

Chief guest Julie Millard, Vice-President of Corporate Citizenship at OpenText, highlighted how thoughtful technology and accessible design can empower individuals of all abilities to participate fully and contribute meaningfully. She noted that inclusion must be woven into opportunities right from the initial planning stage rather than treated as an afterthought, praising Samarthanam's sustained grassroots impact.

Several public representatives, diplomats, and cultural figures lent their support to the initiative, including Jayanagar MLA C.K. Ramamurthy, Guarantee Schemes Implementation Committee Chairman N. Nagaraju, and Australian High Commission Acting Consul General Steven Connolly. Kannada actor and writer Sumukha, actress Esha Lankesh, and filmmaker Preetham Gubbi also joined the participants, celebrating 20 years of community action dedicated to health, equality, and shared civic participation.

10,000+ walkers

4 km community walk

Dec 3 Day of Persons with Disabilities

RECLAIMING PUBLIC SPACE

Around 100 held seeking 'Freedom from Freedom Park'

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Around 100 to 120 civil society activists and citizens were taken into preventive custody by Bengaluru police during demonstrations demanding the right to hold peaceful protests in public spaces across the city. Marching under the banner "Freedom from Freedom Park," members of the Campaign for the Right to Protest gathered at Maurya Circle, the Gandhi Statue, and near the Ambedkar Statue close to Vidhana Soudha after the state government missed a November 26 Constitution Day deadline to lift venue curbs.



Campaigners for the right to protest at their demonstration in Bengaluru

Most detentions occurred at Maurya Circle, where demonstrators planned to march toward the Ambedkar Statue. Advocate-activist Vinay Sreenivas noted that police had served a notice the previous day and immediately told the gathering to relocate to Freedom Park, the very restriction the citizens had assembled to challenge.

Protesters pointed to sharp double standards by the state government, observing that while cabinet ministers are permitted to stage protests right outside the Karnataka Chief Electoral Officer's doors, ordinary citizens are boxed into a single designated park. The coalition demanded the immediate withdrawal of the Bengaluru City Police Commissioner's 2021 Licensing and Regulation of Protests, Demonstrations and Protest Marches Order, along with dropping past cases filed against peaceful demonstrators outside Freedom Park.

Questioning police reliance on judicial guidelines, activist T. Narasimha Murthy asked whether any court order stands above the Constitution of India, which guarantees citizens the fundamental right to free speech and peaceful assembly. Representatives from AICCTU, AIDWA, AISA, the Revolutionary Youth Association, Slum Janara Sanghatane, and the My Vote, My Right campaign joined the civil disobedience action.

A senior police officer stated that talks over the campaign's demands are still underway and cannot be settled in a single meeting, warning that anyone protesting outside Freedom Park will continue to be detained until a formal resolution is reached. For everyday residents seeking to be heard by authorities, Saturday's standoff underscored an ongoing struggle over public voice and democratic space in Bengaluru.

What they want

- → Withdraw the City Police Commissioner's 2021 order on licensing protests
- → Drop past cases against peaceful demonstrators outside Freedom Park
- → The right to protest peacefully in public spaces across the city

Quick Read



PUC student dies of electric shock in Ramanagara

CH NEWS, RAMANAGARA

A 17-year-old second-year Pre-University Course (PUC) student died of electrocution while attempting to switch off an electric motor after washing a cow at Gadagayyanadoddi village in Ramanagara taluk. The deceased was identified as Tarun, a resident of the village. According to reports, he had switched on the motor to wash a cow. After completing the task, he attempted to switch it off when he suffered an electric shock and died on the spot. The incident has left Tarun's family devastated, while grief has spread across the village. Ramanagara Rural Police have registered a case and initiated an investigation into the incident.

Kanaka Jayanti celebrated at Hunsur Congress Office

CH NEWS, HUNSUR

The 539th Kanaka Jayanti was celebrated with enthusiasm at the Congress party office in Hunsur. Former MLA H.P. Manjunath paid floral tributes to the portrait of saint Kanakadasa. On the occasion, Manjunath felicitated M.S. Muthuraju, State President of the Karnataka Savita Samaja Development Corporation, during his visit to the party office. Congress Working President Devaraj, Block Presidents Ravi Prasanna, Premakumar and Balasundar, Guarantee Implementation Committee President Kalkunike Raghu, Urban Planning Authority members Afroz Ahmed, Neralakuppe Mahadeva and Faisal, along with party workers and women members, attended.

Kolar CMC faces allegations over fake death certificates

Kolar MLA Kothur Manjunath questioned CMC officials before the Municipal Administration Minister, slamming investigative delays and ongoing irregularities despite earlier warnings.



A file picture from Kolar city.

CH NEWS, KOLAR

Serious allegations of irregularities in the issuance of birth and death certificates have surfaced at the Kolar City Municipal Council (CMC), with claims that death certificates were issued to people who are still alive.

According to complaints, officials in the CMC's Birth and Death Registration Section allegedly issued certificates between 2004 and 2026 without proper documents or mandatory verification. It is also alleged that records were manipulated and official documentation was not properly maintained.

Kolar MLA Kothur Manjunath reportedly questioned CMC officials in the presence of the Municipal Administration Minister, expressing displeasure over the delay in investigating the complaints. He said that despite earlier instructions, the alleged irregularities continued.

Health Inspector Mohammed Nawaz, who handles the Birth and Death Certificate Section, has been named in the allegations. Social activist Suresh has reportedly submitted several complaints seeking action against those responsible.

One alleged case involves two individuals named Narayanaswamy. When M. Narayanaswamy of Srinivaspura taluk died, his records were allegedly used to issue a death certificate for another Narayanaswamy from Bhatrahalli village in Kolar taluk.

As a result of such alleged errors, affected individuals reportedly lost access to pension benefits and ration supplies. Complaints supported by documents have been submitted, but social activists claim that no effective action has followed.

Social activists have demanded a comprehensive investigation into the alleged misuse of official records, identification of everyone involved and strict action against those found responsible.

Allegations & impact

- → **Identity Mix-Up:** Death records of M. Narayanaswamy (Srinivaspura) were allegedly misused to declare a living namesake from Bhatrahalli village dead.
- → **Welfare Deprivation:** Erroneous death declarations stripped living beneficiaries of essential social security pensions and public ration supplies.

Malagi Dam pipeline work halted amid fears of water diversion

CH NEWS, HANGAL

Residents of Hangal taluk in Haveri district have raised concerns over the possibility of water from the Yamagolli (Malagi) Dam being diverted to another taluk or district. Opposing the ongoing pipeline work, locals temporarily stopped construction on the main road in Hangal town.

The pipeline work is being carried out under the AMRUT 2.0 project along State Highway 1 (Shivamogga–Hubballi road). According to information provided by the contractors, two major pipelines are being installed. One is intended to supply drinking water to Hangal, while the other is reportedly connected to the Singatalur project in Gadag district.

The proposed pipeline work has raised concerns among residents, who consider Malagi Dam an important source of drinking water for Hangal taluk.

Prakash Sindhur, a member of the Sindhur family, recalled the contribution of former MLA Sindhoor Siddappa, who played an important role in the construction of Malagi Dam in 1952. Former MLAs C.M. Udasi and Manohar Tahsildar also contributed to the development of drinking water facilities in the region.

JDS Taluk President Ramanagouda Patil and other residents demanded that the district administration and Irrigation Department clarify the purpose of the pipeline project.

They sought answers on where the pipelines would connect, whether water would be supplied to the Singatalur project, which departments had granted permission and how much water would remain available for Hangal.

Residents urged the Deputy Commissioner, Tahsildar and Irrigation Department officials to visit the site and address their concerns before the work proceeds.

At a glance

DAM	PROJECT
Yamagolli (Malagi), built 1952	**AMRUT 2.0, along State Highway 1**
LINE 1	**LINE 2**
Drinking water for Hangal	**Reportedly to Singatalur project, Gadag**

'Kanakadasa's ideals can build a harmonious society'

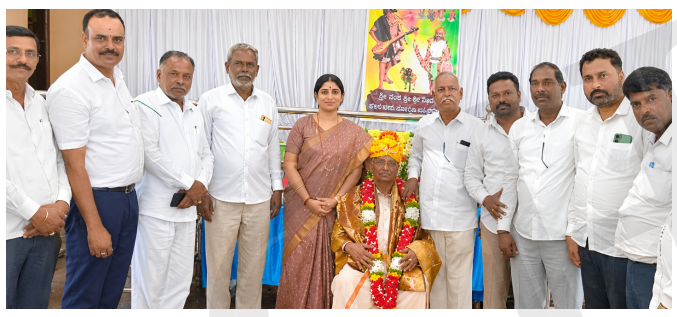
CH NEWS, HUNSUR

Taluk Kuruba Development Committee President D.K. Kunnegowda called upon people to build a better society by eliminating hatred, jealousy and feelings of superiority and inferiority. He urged everyone to follow the ideals of Kanakadasa and promote equality, unity and social harmony.

He was speaking while presiding over the 539th Kanaka Jayanti celebrations organised by the Hunsur Taluk Kuruba Development Committee.

Kunnegowda said Kanakadasa used his devotional songs and literary works to oppose caste discrimination, social inequality and superstitions. His message of equality and unity continues to guide society. He stressed that people must rise above caste, religion and class differences and practise Kanakadasa's teachings in their daily lives.

He also urged Kuruba community youth to focus on education, unity and social development.



The 539th Kanaka Jayanti celebrations organised by the Hunsur Taluk Kuruba Development Committee.

Triveni, president of the Madilu service organisation, highlighted the contributions of Ahilyabai Holkar towards women's empowerment and social welfare. She encouraged women to pursue education and actively participate in social and organisational activities.

Dr. Lohith, Director of Kaveri Hospital, said education and healthcare were essential for social progress. He advised youngsters to give importance to education and health.

A.P. Swami, former Director of the Sheep and Wool Corporation, also spoke.

During the programme, District Rajyotsava Award recipient Mallinathapura Swami Gowda was felicitated.

Basavarajegowda, Kuppuswamy, Narasimha, Ganeshakumaraswamy, Kenchegowda, Ramegowda, Vasegowda, Jayaram, Chandregowda, Prabhakar Hegde, Jattigowda, Ashok Rajalingaiah, Neralakuppe Mahadev and several community leaders attended the celebrations.

PDO suspended over sites on land reserved for a park

CH NEWS, CHIKKABALLAPURA

A Panchayat Development Officer (PDO) has been suspended following allegations of creating private sites on land reserved for a park and civic amenities and issuing property registration documents to private individuals.

The suspended officer, A. Bhagyalakshmi, was serving at Ghantamvaripalli Gram Panchayat. The action followed an investigation by the Zilla Panchayat based on a complaint filed by Bagepalli advocate N. Nagabhushan.

Six extra sites on park land

According to the investigation, the approved layout plan permitted 17 sites. However, six additional sites were allegedly created on land reserved for a park, and e-Swathu documents were issued for them.

THE ACTION

Suspended pending a departmental inquiry

- Ordered by Zilla Panchayat CEO Dr. Y. Naveen Bhat
- Her lien moved to Billuru Gram Panchayat, Bagepalli taluk

17	6	14
sites in the approved layout	extra sites on park land	properties mutated

The inquiry also found irregularities in the mutation of around 14 properties without proper verification of documents. Further, e-Swathu documents were allegedly issued without the required land conversion order or approved layout plan.

The authorities had issued a notice seeking an explanation from Bhagyalakshmi. However, her reply was reportedly found unsatisfactory.

Following the findings, Chikkaballapura Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer Dr. Y. Naveen Bhat ordered her suspension pending a departmental inquiry.

During the suspension period, her lien has been transferred to Billuru Gram Panchayat in Bagepalli taluk.

Anti-corruption force opposes shops on graveyard land

CH NEWS, YADGIR

Members of the Anti-Corruption Force have opposed the alleged unauthorised construction of commercial shops on Muslim graveyard land along Kembhavi Road in Hunasagi town and demanded immediate action from the authorities. A delegation led by Anti-Corruption Force district unit president Kashinath Hadimani submitted a representation to Hunasagi Town Panchayat Chief Officer Arun Chavan, seeking an inquiry into the matter. The delegation alleged that several commercial shops were being constructed on land belonging to a Muslim graveyard in Survey No. 457, within Hunasagi Town Panchayat limits. The members said they had earlier requested copies of permissions and building licences issued for the construction. However, they alleged that the Town Panchayat had failed to provide proper documents confirming the legality of the work. They demanded an immediate investigation and urged officials to take appropriate action if the construction was found to be unauthorised. They also warned of launching a protest if the authorities failed to respond.

Harish Gowda highlights cooperatives' role in dairy development

CH NEWS, HUNSUR

Dairy farming has become an important source of income for thousands of rural families in Hunsur. MLA Harish Gowda said Bulk Milk Cooler (BMC) centres would help improve milk quality and strengthen the economic condition of dairy farmers.

He was speaking after inaugurating a newly constructed BMC centre at Vaddambalu village. He said proper infrastructure was essential to encourage dairy farming and improve milk collection facilities in rural areas.

He explained that the new centre would allow farmers to collect and cool milk locally, helping preserve its quality and ensuring better services for milk producers.

Harish Gowda advised farmers to take up dairy farming alongside agriculture to improve their family income. He also urged milk producers' cooperative societies to function transparently and protect farmers' interests.

He stressed that cooperation between milk producers and the managing committees was essential for the growth of dairy cooperatives. Improved facilities in villages would also encourage youngsters to take up dairy farming as an additional source of income.

The MLA said addressing farmers' concerns and providing basic facilities for rural development remained important priorities. On the occasion, he announced a grant of more than ₹8 lakh for the Milk Producers' Cooperative Society.



The new BMC centre being inaugurated at Vaddambalu village.

KMF Director Kumar Shivagami and other dignitaries were present at the programme.

UNITY OVER CASTE

Rajesh urges people to maintain peace and harmony

CH NEWS, SIRUGUPPA

Ballari Sub-Divisional Officer H.D. Rajesh urged people to give up caste-based hatred and maintain peace, unity and harmony in society.

He was speaking at a peace meeting organised at the Siruguppa Police Station on Friday following a recent murder in Tekkalakote town of the taluk.

"There is no place for caste-based discrimination in society. When the blood donated by people has no caste, there should be no hatred among communities," Rajesh said, appealing to residents to live together like brothers.



The peace meeting at the Siruguppa police station on Friday.

He warned that nobody was above the law and said strict action would be taken against those involved in the murder, irrespective of their influence. He added that legal proceedings had already begun and cautioned people against taking the law into their own hands.

Community leader Yajamana Mareppa described the incident as unfortunate and demanded punishment for those responsible. He also urged the administration to help innocent families who had left the village out of fear return safely and resume their normal lives.

Chidanandappa, Deputy Director of the Social Welfare Department, assured that necessary steps would be taken to provide quality education to children from the affected families.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Director of the Scheduled Tribes Welfare Department Shashu, Tahsildar Gausia Begum, CPI Chandan Gopal, Taluk Social Welfare Officer Madderu Siddaiah, Scheduled Tribes Welfare Officer Raghavendra, PSI Revanasiddappa and Revenue Inspector Ganesha.

Community leaders B.M. Satish, M.S. Siddaiah, Narendra Simha, H.K. Thimmappa and Kodle Mallikarjuna, along with representatives of both communities, participated in the meeting.

> **"There is no place for caste-based discrimination in society. When the blood donated by people has no caste, there should be no hatred among communities."**
>
> — **H.D. Rajesh,** Ballari Sub-Divisional Officer

Document Lost

This is to inform to General public that my client Smt. V C Jahanavi W/o Venkatesha H.T, Residing at Nitrahalli Vilage, Puravara Hobali, Madhugiri Taluk, tumakuru district, I am the Owner of the Below said Property, while Sale Deeds for taken Digital copy ,have lost following Documents of property pertating to below Mentioned property Situated at Gangadharappa and Hanumantharayappa Layout, Madanahalli, Gowribidanuru Town and Taluk, Chikkaballapura District, had published the factum of lost of his Original Sale Deed, Dated;-25-07-2011, Regd Sale deed Executed by Smt. Sharadhamma W/o Late. Gangadharappa and others In Favour of Sri. Babajan S/o Hasen Sab In regd as Book No.1,Volume No.GBD-1-01304-2011-12,CD No.GBDD53,In regd before of the SRO Gowribidanuru , Original Sale Deed, Dated; 28-11-2011, Regd Sale deed Executed by Sri. Babajan S/o Hasen Sab In Favour of Sri.Y Hanumantharayappa S/o Late. Yallappa In regd as Book No.1,Volume No.GBD-1-03086-2011-12,CD No.GBDD57,In regd before of the SRO Gowribidanuru, Original Mortgage Deed, Dated;27-02-2012, Regd Mortgage deed Executed by Sri. Y Hanumantharayappa S/o Late. Yallappa In Favour of Sri.D J Ramanathayya S/o D Jayaramayya In regd as Book No.1,Volume No.GBD-1-04427-2011-12,CD No.GBDD59,In regd before of the SRO Gowribidanuru, and Original Discharge Deed, Dated; 10-10-2014, Regd Discharge deed Executed by Sri. D J Ramanathayya S/o D Jayaramayya In Favour of Sri.Y Hanumantharayappa S/o Late.Yallappa In regd as Book No.1,Volume No.GBD-1-04713-2014-15,CD No.GBDD95,In regd before of the SRO Gowribidanuru, Original Sale Deed, Dated; 06-10-2018, Regd Sale deed Executed by Sri. Y Hanumantharayappa S/o Late. Yallappa In Favour of Smt. Radhamma W/o Narasimhappa In regd as Book No.1,Volume No.GBD-1-03419-2018-19,CD No.GBDD154,In regd before of the SRO Gowribidanuru , police complaint have been filed with regards to loss of the above said Document vide complaint in NCR NO. Lost Report no.2555027/2026, DATED;-25-11-2026, and complaint dated;-25-11-2026, by respective person, if anybody finds these Document please inform within 7 Days in Below mentioned Address.

PLACE;-CHINTHAMANI,
DATE;-25-11-2026 K.S.HARISH KUMAR

ADVOCATE
OFFICE: NEAR KISHORE SCHOOL,
ABOVE APPOLO PHARMACY,
BESIDE SANTHOSHI MATHA
TEMPLE, BANGALORE MAIN ROAD
CHINTHAMANI.M;-9980110692

AFFIDAVIT

VRUSHALI DAMODHAR KULKARNI, D/o.Damodhar Kulkarni, Aged about 37 Years Residing at No.122, Mahaveer Lakes Apartment,Sunnakalpalya, Uttarahalli Kengeri Link Road, Near Sawan Durbar Ashram, Kengeri, Bangalore South, Bangalore-560060, I, hereby declare that, my name is VRUSHALI DAMODHAR KULKARNI, which is mentioned In my Aadhaar Card No: 2291 0196 1204 and VRUSHALI KULKARNI, which is mentioned in my Passport No: M0321154 But VRUSHALI DAMODHAR KULKARNI and VRUSHALI KULKARNI all two names belongs to me itself only.
I, declare that my Correct name is VRUSHALI DAMODHAR KULKARNI
I swear this affidavit to produce the same before the concerned necessary authorities and for future records.
Place : Bangalore
Date : 23/11/2026

CHANGE OF NAME

I, MOHIT SEHGAL S/o ASHOK KUMAR R/o 2185, Ground Floor, 3rd Cross, BM Kaval, New Thippasandra, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560075, have changed the name of my minor daughter JENISHA SEHGAL aged 11 years and she shall hereafter be known as SIDDHI SEHGAL.

BEFORE THE HON'BLE I ADDITIONAL FAMILY COURT AT CHENNAI H.M.O.P. No. 1923 of 2026

K. Priyanka, D/o Penchala Reddy ...Petitioner
-Versus-
Pradyumna Kumar, S/o Manthu Yuva Kumar ...Respondent

NOTICE THROUGH PAPER PUBLICATION

To,
Mr. Pradyumna Kumar,
Aged 38 years,
S/o Manthu Yuva Kumar,
No.10, 5th Street, Jogupalya,
Uloor, Bangalore - 560 008.
Presently residing at, 88046,
Friedrichshafen Ravensburger Strasse – 42 Germany. Email id: Pradyumna.uva@gmail.com ...Respondent

Notice is hereby given that the above Original Petition filed under section 13(1)(ia) of Hindu Marriage Act 1955 in H.M.O.P.No. 1923 of 2026 is pending before the Hon'ble I Additional Family Court, Chennai. When the above referred case was listed for hearing on 21.11.2026, the Hon'ble Court was pleased to order substituted service of notice through paper publication and returnable by 30.12.2026. You are hereby directed to appear before the Hon'ble Court on 30.12.2026 at 10.30 am either in person or through your counsel, and submit your objections, if any, failing which the matter will be heard and decided in your absence.

Dated at Chennai on this the 29th day of November, 2026.

K.PRIYANKA
PARTY IN PERSON
Nagarjun S Advocate
New No.257, Old No. 125,
5th Floor, Canara Bank Building,
Angappa Naicken Street,
Chennai – 600 001

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

Quick Read

Youths rescue injured deer in Hassan village

CH NEWS, HASSAN

Youths from Buvanahalli and Shettihalli villages rescued an injured deer at Kiragadalu village in Belur taluk after noticing that it was unable to move due to a leg injury. They safely brought the deer to the village and arranged medical treatment with the help of a veterinarian from Chikanahalli. Later, the youths handed over the deer to Forest Department officials. Their timely action and concern for wildlife were appreciated by local residents.

Cultural events help students build confidence, says BEO

CH NEWS, HUNSUR

Block Education Officer Kala Nayak said cultural competitions help students develop self-confidence, creativity, artistic interests and a competitive spirit. He was speaking after inaugurating the high school-level 'Pratibha Karanji' programme organised by SNG Educational Institution at Karanakuppe village in Hangodu Hobli. He stressed that students should receive equal encouragement in academics and co-curricular activities. Every child has unique talents, which teachers and parents must identify and nurture. He added that platforms like Pratibha Karanji provide rural students opportunities to showcase their artistic skills, creativity and self-expression.

Alur labourer dies by suicide

CH NEWS, HASSAN

A 38-year-old man died by suicide after jumping into a lake at Dyavanakatte village, near Palya in Alur taluk. The deceased was identified as Ravi, a daily wage labourer. According to reports, he had been struggling with alcohol addiction and had recently stopped attending work regularly. His parents had reportedly advised him several times to give up drinking. Police are investigating the circumstances that led to the incident. Alur police visited the spot, conducted an inspection and registered a case at Alur Police Station.

Somanna urges youth to uphold constitutional values

Highlighting India's diverse communities, Somanna emphasised that the Constitution ensures equality, justice, and unity, guaranteeing equal opportunities for underprivileged citizens.

CH NEWS, TUMAKURU

Union Minister of State for Railways and Jal Shakti V. Somanna urged people, particularly the youth, to understand the importance of the Indian Constitution and work together to build a strong and developed nation.

He was speaking at a Constitution Day programme organised by the Tumakuru District BJP at the auditorium of Shridevi College in Tumakuru on Saturday. He highlighted the contribution of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in framing the Constitution and stressed the need to protect its values.

Somanna said India was home to hundreds of communities and several languages, with people facing different social and economic challenges. The Constitution provides a strong foundation for equality, justice and unity among citizens. He said every section of society, including the poor and underprivileged, must receive equal opportunities and respect.

He urged young people to understand their constitutional rights and responsibilities and contribute to the country's development. He also called for collective efforts to achieve the vision of a developed India by 2047.

BJP Karnataka State Secretary Ambika Hulinaykar said November 26 was an important day in India's history. She noted that the Government of India officially began observing Constitution Day in 2015 to promote awareness of constitutional values.



The Constitution Day programme of the Tumakuru District BJP

2015 the year the Government of India began observing Constitution Day

She also criticised the Congress for accusing the BJP of attempting to change the Constitution. She said the BJP respected the Constitution and rejected the allegations. Referring to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, she said his conduct during a previous discussion had drawn attention.

Senior advocate and BJP legal leader D.C. Himanand urged citizens to read the Constitution, understand its importance and follow its principles. He said constitutional awareness would strengthen patriotism and help people feel secure.

MLA G.B. Jyotiganesh, MLA B. Suresh Gowda and District BJP President H.S. Ravi Shankar Hebbaka attended the programme.

Students spoke about the importance and values of the Constitution. Somanna also honoured students who had excelled in academics and sports.

Tumakuru event snapshot

- **Vision:** Youth urged to know their rights and duties and help build a developed India by 2047
- **Equality:** Equal opportunities and respect for the poor and underprivileged
- **Politics:** BJP leaders rejected the Congress charge that the party wants to change the Constitution
- **Students:** Students spoke on constitutional values; achievers in academics and sports honoured

Farmers fear poachers as deer hunting continues in Gadag

MALINGARAYA PUJAR, LAKSHMESHWAR

Farmers in the rural areas of Lakshmeshwar taluk are living in fear as groups of suspected poachers are allegedly hunting deer in agricultural fields during late-night hours. The illegal activity, reportedly continuing for the past month, has raised concerns among villagers and farmers.

The incidents have been reported in agricultural fields around Ramgeri, Basapura and Dharmapura villages. According to residents, groups of around 15 to 20 people arrive on motorcycles after midnight and hunt deer using weapons and powerful torches.

Bloodstains in the fields

Farmers visiting their fields in the morning have reportedly found bloodstains and remains of hunted animals. The incidents have also created fear among those who stay overnight to protect their crops.

Somanna Betageri, a farmer from Ramgeri, said the sound of several motorcycles could be heard in the fields at night. He said farmers were afraid to confront the suspected hunters as they carried weapons. He added that the groups used bright lights to prevent farmers from identifying or approaching them before leaving the area.

Suspected organised network behind hunting

Villagers suspect that an organised network may be involved, as several people reportedly arrive together on motorcycles. They fear that the hunted animals are being killed for their meat and skin, allegedly to meet illegal market demand. However, these suspicions are yet to be established through an investigation.

Farmers have urged the Forest Department and police to increase night patrols and take action against those involved. They have also demanded protection for both wildlife and farmers working in isolated agricultural fields.

Responding to the allegations, Range Forest Officer (RFO) Renukamma A. said the department had not received information about deer hunting in these villages. She assured that officials would inspect the areas and take legal action if illegal hunting was confirmed.

Under Section 9 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, hunting protected wild animals is prohibited, subject to specified legal exceptions.

Farmers Somanna Betageri, Sahadevappa Hunasimarada and Buddesaba Thegginamani have demanded immediate intervention to stop the alleged hunting activities and ensure safety in the villages.

WHAT FARMERS WANT

- More night patrols by the Forest Department and police
- Action against those involved
- Protection for wildlife and for farmers in isolated fields

Shivalinge Gowda seeks drought relief, elephant solution


Minister K.M. Shivalinge Gowda at the Praja Seva Andolana in Channarayapatna

CH NEWS, CHANNARAYAPATNA

Excise Minister and Hassan District In-charge Minister K.M. Shivalinge Gowda inaugurated the taluk-level 'Praja Seva Andolana' (Public Service Campaign) at the Mini Vidhana Soudha premises in Channarayapatna on Saturday.

Karnataka pays ₹4.75 lakh crore in taxes but gets little help in hard times, says the minister

MLA C.N. Balakrishna, Deputy Commissioner Lata Kumari, Superintendent of Police Shubhanvitha and other officials attended the programme. The minister listened to public grievances and interacted with concerned officials to ensure that issues were addressed.

Speaking to the media, Shivalinge Gowda expressed dissatisfaction over the Centre's response to Karnataka's demand for drought relief. He said Karnataka contributes approximately Rs. 4.75 lakh crore in taxes to the Centre and questioned why the state was not receiving adequate assistance during difficult times.

He said the Centre should provide immediate financial support to drought-hit farmers instead of merely sending assessment teams. Recalling the previous drought, he said Karnataka had to approach the Supreme Court before receiving Rs. 3,500 crore in assistance.

The minister said the state government was providing Rs. 5,000 in assistance to farmers and urged the Centre to release additional funds. He also called upon political leaders to rise above party differences and fight collectively for the state's interests.

Meeting on human-elephant conflict on November 30

Addressing the growing human-elephant conflict, Shivalinge Gowda announced that a meeting of public representatives would be held on November 30 under the leadership of Forest Minister Ramalinga Reddy to find a permanent solution.

He said the issue would be discussed in detail and that he would present suggestions at the meeting. Responding to objections raised by local representatives over the relocation of elephants, he said their concerns reflected the sentiments of residents.

He also pointed out that a wildlife sanctuary was available in the region and stressed the need to find a solution that addressed both public safety and wildlife protection.

Admitting that he lacked direct experience in elephant management, he said the government would study elephant management practices in sanctuaries in Kerala and other places before taking a decision.

Tumakuru needs a permanent art gallery, says Nataraj

CH NEWS, TUMAKURU

Senior writer and thinker S. Nataraj Budal has stressed the need for a permanent art gallery in Tumakuru to provide local artists with a platform to exhibit their works and organise artistic activities.

He was speaking at the release of Kala Nakshatragalu (Art Stars), the first book in a series introducing visual artists. The programme was organised by Cultural Valley Trust (Regd.) and Valaji Prakashana on Friday at the Press Club in Banyan Tree Park, Government Junior College premises.

Nataraj Budal appreciated authors Kote Kumar and Sihijeevi Venkateshwara for documenting the lives and achievements of senior and contemporary artists. He observed that books on art theory were rare in Kannada but said this did not reflect a lack of artistic interest among Kannadigas. He added that defining art was difficult, which could explain the limited availability of such literature.

Presiding over the programme, artist and book editor Kote Kumar thanked the artists, writers and well-wishers who supported the publication. Sihijeevi Venkateshwara introduced the book.

Artists Ashok, K.N. Manu Chakravarthy, Narasimha Murthy, Prabhu Harasur, K.C.S. Prasanna, Renuka Kesaramadu and M.S. Shivarudrayya, featured in the book, attended the event.

Kyathsandra High School Headmistress N.L. Saraswathi, teachers and other guests were also present.

Members of Karnataka Vikasa Ranga presented a musical programme. Artist Narasimha Murthy welcomed the gathering, while Prabhu Harasur proposed the vote of thanks.

Monkey menace leaves Mandya residents in fear

CH NEWS, MANDYA

Residents of Wards 15 and 17 in Mandya city are facing increasing trouble due to monkeys entering houses and roaming across rooftops.

The monkeys damage water tanks, pluck coconuts and destroy papaya plants. Women are reportedly facing sudden attacks when they visit terraces to dry clothes. Residents of houses with sheet roofs are also disturbed by monkeys running across rooftops at night.

People have expressed concern over the frequent movement and attacks by groups of monkeys, saying they no longer feel safe even inside their homes.


A monkey on a terrace wall in Mandya

Complaints unanswered

Residents said they had submitted complaints to the City Municipal Council (CMC) and other concerned departments seeking action, but no steps had been taken so far.

Monkeys damage water tanks, pluck coconuts and destroy papaya plants, residents say

Honnappa, Nagaraju, Chandrashekhar, Rajesh, Rajanna, Sunitha, Pushpa, Sahana and Channamma have appealed to the Deputy Commissioner to intervene immediately and take necessary measures to control the monkey menace.

Two from Kerala killed as Thar rams tipper on highway

CH NEWS, MANDYA

Two people from Kerala were killed and another was critically injured after a Mahindra Thar rammed into the rear of a gravel-loaded tipper truck near Induvalu village on the Bengaluru-Mysuru Highway.

The deceased were identified as Lifail and a young woman. The injured person, identified as Basil, is undergoing treatment at Mandya Institute of Medical Sciences (MIMS) Hospital.

The three were travelling from Mysuru towards Bengaluru when their vehicle crashed into the tipper, which had reportedly stopped on the highway. Two occupants died on the spot.

Traffic held up

The accident occurred under the jurisdiction of Mandya Rural Police Station. Police inspected the scene and cleared the vehicles. The incident also caused traffic congestion for some time.

RTO role questioned

Questions have been raised over the alleged role of Regional Transport Office (RTO) officials in the accident. According to eyewitness accounts, officials were inspecting vehicles near Induvalu and reportedly chased an overloaded tipper that failed to stop. Allegations suggest that an RTO vehicle moved in front of the tipper, forcing its driver to brake suddenly. The Thar, approaching from behind, reportedly could not stop in time.

Case registered

However, these allegations have not been independently established. Police have registered a case and initiated an investigation to determine the circumstances leading to the accident and establish responsibility.

Yalburga TP spells out rules for statues and road names

CH NEWS, YALBURGA

Town Panchayat Chief Officer Nagesh has instructed residents and organisations to strictly follow government guidelines while installing statues or naming and renaming roads, circles, crossroads and localities within the town.

In an official statement, Nagesh clarified that government rules restrict the installation of statues in public places and on government-owned land.

Organisations and associations wishing to install statues must use their own private property and take full responsibility for their safety, security and maintenance.

He also explained the procedure for naming or renaming roads, circles and other public places. A resolution must first be passed at a Town Panchayat Council meeting before the proposal can be considered.

The proposed names must be announced to the public through local newspapers and notice boards at government offices. Residents must be given 30 days to submit their suggestions and objections regarding the proposed changes.

After the submission period, the Town Panchayat will examine the suggestions and objections received before proceeding further. Nagesh also clarified that prior approval from the government is mandatory for changing existing names or introducing new ones.

Naming a road: the steps

- Resolution at a Town Panchayat Council meeting
- Names announced in local papers and on notice boards
- 30 days for suggestions and objections
- The government's prior approval

He urged the public, organisations and other concerned groups to follow the prescribed procedures and cooperate with the Town Panchayat while submitting proposals for installing statues or naming public places.

He stressed that following government guidelines would help ensure transparency and prevent disputes over such decisions.

Jyothi Gondabala questions delimitation move



CH NEWS, KOPPAL

Koppal District Women's Congress President Jyothi M. Gondabala has alleged that the BJP-led Central Government's proposed delimitation exercise could affect the political interests of South Indian states. In a press statement, she said the Women's Reservation Act was passed in 2023, providing for 33 per cent reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies. She alleged that the BJP was using women's reservation as a reason to push forward changes in constituency boundaries that could benefit the party politically.

Jyothi expressed concern over the possible impact of delimitation on the political representation of southern states. She claimed that changes in the number and distribution of constituencies could affect the relative political strength of South India in Parliament.

She also raised concerns over the distribution of financial resources, alleging that non-Hindi-speaking states could face injustice. She said the people of South India were aware of their rights and would not accept any move that affected their interests.

She further stated that regional and language-based political parties played an important role in representing the interests and concerns of people in southern states. She urged people to remain alert and raise their voices against any decision that could affect their state's representation.

Quick Read

Man killed after cylinder thrown from building

NEW DELHI

A 28-year-old man, Sahil, was killed in southwest Delhi's Bindapur Extension on Friday evening after a gas cylinder allegedly thrown from the third floor of a residential building struck him. The incident occurred around 7.15 pm following an argument between the accused, Shivam Sharma (24), and another resident in the parking area. Police said Shivam had allegedly been consuming alcohol since morning before throwing the cylinder in anger. Sahil, who worked at a weekly market, was declared dead at the hospital.

SSC aspirant stabbed to death in suspected road rage

NEW DELHI

A 28-year-old Staff Selection Commission (SSC) aspirant, identified as Yogesh, was allegedly stabbed to death in a suspected road rage incident in northwest Delhi's Shakurpur JJ Colony in the early hours of Friday. Police have arrested six people in connection with the case. Yogesh, a resident of Shakurpur JJ Colony, worked as a driver ferrying schoolchildren to support his studies. The incident occurred when he was standing with friends on G-Block Road and allegedly questioned a car driver for driving recklessly on the wrong side of the road. According to his brother, Shiva, the occupants initially left but later returned after taking a U-turn. An argument followed, during which one of them allegedly stabbed Yogesh in the neck. He was rushed to a nearby hospital, where doctors declared him dead.

Four men get 10 years for attempted murder

NUH

A court in Nuh has sentenced four men to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment each for attempting to murder a father and son nearly 11 years ago. Additional Sessions Judge Sandeep Chauhan also imposed a fine of Rs 25,000 on each convict. The convicts, Naseem, Sameem, Irfan and Hanif, allegedly attacked Fakruddin and his son Denu over an old family rivalry linked to the murder of Irfan's brother. The assailants reportedly used illegal firearms, and Fakruddin was shot but survived.

Woman allegedly lured Sunny into hotel murder plot

ROHTAK

A woman identified as Jhanvi Chaudhary from Shamli, Uttar Pradesh, allegedly posed as Sunny Ritolia's girlfriend to help the Himanshu Bhau gang plan a murder attack at Milan Hotel on November 25. The shooting left four men dead, while Sunny survived. According to sources, Jhanvi befriended Sunny through Instagram and brought him to the hotel after persuading him to leave his bulletproof vehicle. She allegedly shared the hotel's location with five armed attackers, who opened fire. She reportedly left for Delhi airport after the shooting and travelled to Bangkok. However, police have not officially confirmed her alleged involvement.

CRPF PERSONNEL DEPLOYED AHEAD OF KARTHIGAI DEEPAM

Central Reserve Police Force personnel arrived in Thiruparankundram ahead of the Karthigai Deepam festival amid security arrangements for the annual lamp-lighting ceremony.

MADURAI

Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel reached Thiruparankundram in Tamil Nadu on Saturday ahead of the Karthigai Deepam lamp-lighting ceremony. Their arrival came amid heightened security arrangements in the area following tensions surrounding the traditional festival celebrations.

Security personnel were deployed to maintain law and order and ensure the smooth conduct of the religious event. The annual Karthigai Deepam festival attracts devotees who gather to witness the lighting of the traditional sacred lamp.

Thiruparankundram, an important religious site near Madurai, has witnessed discussions and disputes concerning the location and conduct of the lamp-lighting ceremony. The issue has drawn attention from religious groups, local authorities and political representatives.

The deployment of additional security forces comes as authorities prepare to manage the gathering of devotees and prevent any untoward incidents.

The Karthigai Deepam festival is celebrated in Tamil Nadu and other parts of South India. Devotees light oil lamps in their homes and temples as a symbol of light overcoming darkness. At Thiruparankundram, the traditional lighting ceremony holds particular religious significance.



CRPF personnel. File photo

ABOUT KARTHIGAI DEEPAM

Karthigai Deepam is a traditional Tamil festival celebrated during the Tamil month of Karthigai. Devotees light rows of oil lamps in homes and temples. The festival symbolises the victory of light over darkness and is observed with special prayers and religious ceremonies across Tamil Nadu.

New bill proposes seat hike, delimitation freeze until 2051


A meeting of party leaders. File photo

Key provisions

- **Seats:** a 50 per cent rise in Lok Sabha seats
- **Delimitation:** the freeze extended until 2051
- **Women's quota:** implementation in Parliament
- **April bill:** left seat expansion and the freeze open

NEW DELHI

The Constitution Bill, 2026, which is expected to be introduced in Parliament next week, proposes a 50 per cent increase in the number of Lok Sabha seats and a freeze on delimitation until 2051. The proposed changes aim to make the implementation of women's reservation possible.

The new legislation marks a major change from the Constitution Bill introduced in April this year. The earlier bill had also aimed to facilitate women's reservation in Parliament but did not include any proposal to increase the number of Lok Sabha seats.

It also did not provide for extending the freeze on delimitation. The latest proposal introduces both measures, bringing changes to the framework planned for implementing the women's quota.

Under the new proposal, the strength of the Lok Sabha would increase by 50 per cent, allowing additional seats to be created. The delimitation process, which involves redrawing constituency boundaries and determining the distribution of seats, would remain frozen until 2051.

The proposed changes are expected to influence the future structure of parliamentary representation and the implementation of women's reservation.

Tamilisai criticises TVK govt over controversies

CHENNAI

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Tamilisai Soundararajan on Saturday criticised the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) government, claiming that it had become surrounded by controversies within six months of assuming power in Tamil Nadu.

Speaking to reporters, Soundararajan raised concerns over the functioning of the government and questioned its handling of various issues. She alleged that several controversies had emerged during its short period in office and expressed concern over the developments in the State.


BJP leader Tamilisai Soundararajan

BJP leader Tamilisai Soundararajan criticised the TVK government, alleging that it has faced several controversies within six months of taking office.

Her remarks come amid political discussions over the administration's decisions and the challenges faced by the newly formed government.

Tamilisai's comments reflect the growing political exchanges between opposition leaders and the ruling party in Tamil Nadu. The TVK, led by actor-turned-politician Vijay, entered electoral politics with promises of political change and public welfare.

The party's rise has brought a new political development to the State, where established parties have traditionally played a major role in government formation. Its administration is now facing scrutiny from opposition parties over governance, public commitments and policy decisions.

Stalin says DMK support protects TN's representation

CHENNAI

The DMK has decided to support the revised proposal on Lok Sabha seats. The decision followed a meeting of DMK MPs chaired by Stalin in Chennai on Saturday. The DMK said the revised draft addressed concerns over Tamil Nadu's share of Lok Sabha seats and representation among states.

The party had demanded that Tamil Nadu's existing 7.18 per cent share of Lok Sabha seats should not decrease, even if the total number increased. It also sought to retain the proportion of representation among states, based on the 1971 Census, for another 25 years.

For the next 25 years

Stalin said the party had protected Tamil Nadu's parliamentary representation for the next 25 years. He called the inclusion of its demands a result of sustained efforts.

The revised proposal reportedly provides for a uniform 50 per cent increase in seats in the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies, while maintaining states' existing share of representation. The changes are linked to the proposed 33 per cent reservation for women.


DMK chief MK Stalin

Concerns remain

DMK MP A Raja said the party supported the proposal because its main demands had been accepted. However, he said concerns remained over how the delimitation commission might redraw constituencies.

7.18%
Tamil Nadu's share of Lok Sabha seats, which the DMK wanted protected

The party has asked its MPs to explain its position during Parliament's special session. The legislation is expected to be taken up from November 30.

Kashi Tamil Sangamam Celebrates India's Cultural Unity

VARANASI

India is a nation of cultural, economic and spiritual greatness, with its rich heritage and diversity serving as the foundation of national unity, Union Minister Pralhad Joshi said on Saturday.

Addressing the fifth edition of Kashi Tamil Sangamam in Varanasi, he said initiatives that bring different languages, cultures, traditions and spiritual philosophies together strengthen the country's unity in diversity. Vice-President C.P. Radhakrishnan inaugurated the event in the presence of Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and other dignitaries.

Joshi highlighted the historical and spiritual connections between Kashi and Tamil Nadu, pointing out that the tradition of visiting Kashi and subsequently undertaking a pilgrimage to Rameswaram reflected centuries-old cultural bonds.

Launched in 2022 under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision, Kashi Tamil Sangamam aims to strengthen cultural relations between North and South India. The fifth edition focuses on introducing young people to the teachings and values of the Tamil literary classic Thirukkural, written by Thiruvalluvar. Its 1,330 couplets highlight humanity, love, ethics, governance and social responsibility.



Joshi also highlighted a special study programme on Thirukkural involving 1,380 higher educational institutions, offering selected students an opportunity to participate in a month-long programme with financial assistance. He said India had made significant progress in cultural, spiritual and economic fields and described it as one of the world's fastest-growing economies. He also credited the Prime Minister's leadership for the country's development.

The minister said programmes in Varanasi, Prayagraj and Ayodhya were helping introduce India's ancient spiritual and cultural heritage to younger generations. He appreciated Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's efforts towards cultural revival.

AI technology attracts attention

Artificial Intelligence emerged as a major attraction at the event. Anuvadini AI, developed by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), translated speeches by dignitaries into different regional languages, displaying them on digital screens and helping audiences follow the proceedings in their preferred languages.

Thousands of students, scholars and cultural representatives attended the programme.

IAM hosts 65th annual aerospace medicine conference

BENGALURU

The Institute of Aerospace Medicine (IAM), Bengaluru, hosted the 65th Annual Conference of the Indian Society of Aerospace Medicine (ISAM) on November 26 and 27. It brought together defence personnel, Indian Air Force aircrew and experts from ISRO, DRDO, HAL and aviation sectors. Air Chief Marshal Ashutosh Dixit, Chief of the Air Staff, inaugurated the event. Its theme, "One Airspace – One Mission: Aeromedical Support from Runway to Orbit", focused on medical support for military aviation, civil aviation and human spaceflight.

Air Marshal Vivek Hande, Director General of Medical Services (Air), delivered the presidential address. He highlighted the role of aerospace medicine in improving aircrew efficiency and supporting human life in orbit.

The programme featured memorial lectures by APVS Prasad, Chief Executive of the Centre for Military Airworthiness and Certification, and retired Air Vice Marshal Anupam Agarwal. The Cosmonaut Rakesh Sharma Lecture Series included a keynote address by Pawan Chandana, Co-founder and CEO of Skyroot Aerospace.

Gujarat plans ₹900-crore state history museum



AHMEDABAD

The Gujarat government plans to build a ₹900-crore museum at Ekta Nagar in Narmada district to showcase the state's history, cultural heritage and contribution to India's freedom struggle.

Inside the museum

- Seven galleries on the state's history
- Freedom struggle and the Mahagujarat Movement
- Cultural traditions
- Holograms, virtual reality and interactive displays

Named the Gujarat Vandana Museum, the project will feature seven galleries covering different aspects of Gujarat's identity and development. According to a state government press release issued on Saturday, the museum will present the state's journey from its historical roots to its present achievements and future vision. The galleries will highlight stories of bravery, important historical events, the freedom movement and the Mahagujarat Movement. The museum will also focus on Gujarat's cultural traditions and its role in shaping the country's history.

Holograms and VR

To make the experience more engaging, the museum will use modern technologies such as holograms, virtual reality and interactive displays. These features are expected to help visitors understand historical events and important personalities through visual and digital presentations. The museum at Ekta Nagar is expected to become an important destination for people interested in history, culture and education.

Through this initiative, the state government seeks to preserve Gujarat's heritage while presenting its historical journey using modern technology.

J&K DEVELOPMENT PUSH

'J&K witnessing rapid development under Modi government'

JAMMU

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday described Jammu and Kashmir as the "crown jewel of India", stating that the Union Territory has been witnessing rapid development under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership.

Addressing a public gathering at Parade Chowk in Jammu during the BJP's 'Loktantra Bachao, Arajakta Hatao Mahapadyatra', Singh highlighted the progress made in the region, particularly in infrastructure, healthcare and tourism.


Defence Minister Rajnath Singh

He stated that Jammu and Kashmir was finally receiving its rightful share of development since the Modi government came to power. Referring to the improvements in healthcare facilities, he highlighted the commissioning of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in the region.

Tourist visits to J&K

THREE YEARS AGO	NOW
4.76 crore visits	7.8 crore visits

The Defence Minister also pointed to the significant rise in tourist visits, stating that the number of visits had increased from 4.76 crore to 7.8 crore over the past three years. He said the growing tourist numbers reflected the region's progress and increasing popularity as a travel destination.

Emphasising the historical importance of Jammu and Kashmir, Singh recalled the contributions of leaders such as Prem Nath Dogra and Syama Prasad Mookerjee towards the integration of the region with India.

He further stated that Jammu and Kashmir's accession to India represented a commitment to preserving the country's unity and integrity.

Singh also criticised the Congress party over its allegations of electoral irregularities and questioned its claims against the BJP-led government.

Quick Read

Delhi police bust e-cigarette network, arrest three

DELHI

Delhi Police have busted an alleged interstate network involved in the transportation of prohibited e-cigarettes and arrested three people in connection with the case. The operation was carried out by the Anti-Narcotics Squad of Outer North District near Sanjay Gandhi Transport Nagar towards Singhu Border. The arrested accused have been identified as Mohd. Azhar Khan, Sujeet Jaiswal and Sagar.

During the operation, police seized 300 ELFBAR RAYA SOBO 40000 e-cigarettes in 10 different flavours, along with a loading three-wheeler allegedly used for transportation.

A case has been registered at Samaypur Badli police station under Sections 4 and 7 of the Prohibition of Electronic Cigarettes Act, 2019.

Kharge flags census, SC-ST concerns in delimitation

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge questioned the Centre's proposed delimitation exercise, citing concerns over census data and reserved representation.

NEW DELHI

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge questioned the Delimitation Bill, alleging that it could affect democratic representation and SC/ST interests.

Speaking after an INDIA bloc floor leaders' meeting, Kharge asked why the government had not clarified how census figures would guide delimitation. He said the ongoing census was expected to provide population data.

Referring to Article 330 of the Constitution, which provides for SC and ST reservation in the Lok Sabha, Kharge argued that reserved seats should increase in proportion to these communities' population. He alleged that the bill lacked a provision to ensure this.



The INDIA bloc met ahead of Parliament's special session beginning November 30.

Kharge also questioned the Election Commission of India's role, raising concerns about its handling of electoral rolls.

The INDIA bloc discussed its response ahead of Parliament's special session, beginning November 30. It demanded that the Lok Sabha's strength be retained, women's reservation be implemented within the existing strength, and each state's seat share be protected for 25 years.

The government's package proposes a 50 per cent increase in seats and aims to facilitate 33 per cent reservation for women. It proposes using the 2011 Census for delimitation while retaining the 1971 basis for state-wise seat allocation until 2051.

The INDIA bloc's three demands

1. Retain the Lok Sabha's present strength
2. Implement women's reservation within the existing number of seats
3. Protect each state's current share of seats for 25 years

Karti Chidambaram defends religious freedom in TN

CHENNAI

Congress MP Karti Chidambaram has rejected claims of religious restrictions in Tamil Nadu, saying traditional festivals and rituals continue without interference.

Congress MP Karti Chidambaram on Saturday stated that Tamil Nadu enjoys complete religious freedom and that traditional customs and religious practices are followed across the State without restrictions.

In a post on social media platform X, he described claims suggesting that Tamil Nadu lacks religious freedom, particularly those circulated in North India, as incorrect. He also alleged that certain media organisations had increased the spread of this narrative.

Chidambaram highlighted several festivals dedicated to Lord Muruga, including Karthigai Deepam, Thai Poosam, Shashti, Panguni Uthiram and Vaikasi Visakam. He said these festivals are celebrated widely across Tamil Nadu without hindrance or interference.

Referring specifically to the Karthigai Deepam festival, the Congress MP stated that traditional lamps were lit in temples where the practice is followed and in millions of households, including his own.

His remarks come amid developments surrounding the ceremonial lighting of Karthigai Deepam at Thiruparankundram Hill in Madurai. The issue has attracted public attention following directions from the Supreme Court regarding the lighting of the traditional lamp.

Punjab ETT teachers protest outside Sisodia residence

CHANDIGARH

Punjab Elementary Teacher Training (ETT) teachers staged a protest near Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Manish Sisodia's residence in Chandigarh on Saturday, seeking action on their long-pending demands. Heavy police deployment was seen at the protest site.

The protesting teachers alleged that the Punjab government had failed to address their concerns despite repeated assurances over the past five years. They said their case involved 180 teachers whose recruitment-related issues remained unresolved.

One protester said Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema had earlier promised that the matter would be settled on priority after the AAP came to power. However, the teachers claimed that no action had been taken despite the passage of five years.

The protesters also raised concerns over alleged irregularities by a clerk in the Education Department. They demanded the suspension of the official, accusing the department of failing to take appropriate action.



Police at the protest site in Chandigarh.

180

ETT teachers whose recruitment-related issues remain unresolved after five years

Another teacher said the group had planned a peaceful demonstration but was stopped by police from moving closer to Sisodia's residence.

The teachers said they would continue seeking justice until their demands were addressed.

NIA opens fresh probe into Myanmar-based terror networks

NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has registered a new case under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act to investigate alleged links between ethnic armed organisations based in Myanmar and insurgent groups operating in India.

Officials said the investigation would examine whether these organisations supplied weapons, ammunition, explosives and funds to banned outfits and other insurgent groups in the country. The alleged support is suspected of contributing to terrorist activities in Manipur.

The case was registered following directions from the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, which cited information about prohibited organisations allegedly operating from Myanmar. These include the People's Liberation Army, the People's Revolutionary Party of Kangleipak and its progressive faction.

According to the agency, the groups are suspected of arranging financial support through illegal channels and supplying materials intended for terrorist attacks. The alleged conspiracy also involves targeted killings of civilians, attacks on security personnel and attempts to increase tensions between communities in the region.

The NIA has registered the case against unidentified persons under provisions of the Arms Act, the Explosive Substances Act and the UAPA.

The fresh investigation comes days after the agency filed a chargesheet against seven foreign nationals, including a United States citizen and six Ukrainians, in a separate case involving alleged training of Myanmar-based ethnic armed groups.

Under investigation

- **Outfits:** People's Liberation Army, People's Revolutionary Party of Kangleipak and PREPAK (Progressive)
- **Suspected:** arms, explosives and funds from Myanmar
- **Laws:** UAPA, Arms Act, Explosive Substances Act

Gujarat ATS searches Assam man over suspected JeM links

SILCHAR

Gujarat Anti-Terrorism Squad searched a young man's residence in Assam over suspected links with Pakistan-based terror organisation Jaish-e-Mohammed.

A three-member team of the Gujarat Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS), accompanied by Assam Police personnel, searched the residence of a 22-year-old man in Sribhumi district for more than eight hours on Friday. The search was conducted over his alleged links with Pakistan-based terror organisation Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), officials confirmed on Saturday.

The operation took place in the Ramkrishnanagar area of Assam. According to officials, the investigation is connected to a suspected terror-related plot in Vadodara, Gujarat.

During the search, investigators examined electronic devices and other materials recovered from the residence. The ATS also claimed that photographs and videos of an Air Force station and other sensitive installations were found on the man's mobile phones.



Police personnel during the operation.

Devices examined

Ramkrishnanagar Circle Deputy Superintendent of Police Anshul Sharma said the Gujarat ATS team was examining and documenting the materials seized during the operation. He confirmed that the search continued for several hours as officials collected relevant information.

The investigation is aimed at establishing whether the man had any direct or indirect association with JeM and whether the material found on his devices was connected to any security-related activities.

Officials have not disclosed further details about the alleged Vadodara plot or the nature of the suspected links. The investigation is continuing, and the allegations against the individual have not yet been established.

KEY FINDINGS

- Search ran for more than eight hours
- ATS claims phones held images of an Air Force station
- Probe linked to a suspected plot in Vadodara

Uttarakhand Gorge Accident Claims Seven Lives

PAURI

A tragic road accident in Uttarakhand's Pauri district claimed seven lives and left five others injured after a vehicle plunged into a deep gorge.

The accident has raised concerns about road safety in the hilly region. Rescue teams rushed to the spot and carried out operations to retrieve the victims and assist the injured.

The injured were shifted to nearby hospitals for medical treatment. Authorities are expected to investigate the circumstances leading to the accident.

The incident highlights the dangers of travelling on mountainous roads, where sharp turns and difficult terrain often pose serious risks to motorists.

SC ruling puts Bilkis Bano convicts' remission in focus

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has recognised crime victims' right to be heard before remission, raising questions over the release of Bilkis Bano convicts.

The Supreme Court has ruled that crime victims or their legal representatives must receive a reasonable opportunity to present their views before the government decides whether to grant remission or premature release to a convicted person.

The November 26 ruling came in the case involving former Bihar politician Anand Mohan and has highlighted the importance of victims' participation in decisions concerning the early release of convicts.

The court observed that a victim's right to participate in the criminal justice process does not end with the conclusion of a trial or the announcement of a sentence. It said victims must also be heard when authorities consider reducing a convict's sentence through remission.

The Bilkis Bano case

The ruling has drawn attention to the release of 11 convicts in the 2002 Bilkis Bano gang rape and murder case. The Gujarat government had granted them remission in August 2022, allowing their release after serving more than 14 years in prison.

However, in January 2024, the Supreme Court quashed the remission orders, holding that the Gujarat government was not the appropriate authority to grant relief. The convicts were directed to return to prison.

Safeguards

The latest ruling has raised questions about the legal safeguards and procedures followed when remission decisions are taken.

VAIKO ACCUSES CENTRE OF BACKING KARNATAKA'S MEKEDATU DAM PROJECT

TIRUCHIRAPPALLI

MDMK General Secretary Vaiko on Saturday accused the BJP-led Central government of indirectly encouraging Karnataka's proposed Mekedatu dam project and alleged that the move could threaten Tamil Nadu's share of Cauvery water. He urged people across Tamil Nadu to unite and protest against the project.

Speaking to reporters at Tiruchirappalli Airport, Vaiko said no state had the legal authority to obstruct the flow of water to downstream states. He referred to the final verdict of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal, which he said had also been endorsed by the Supreme Court.

Allegations against the Centre

Vaiko alleged that Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar's remarks opposing Tamil Nadu's intervention in the Mekedatu issue were influenced by the BJP-led government's support for the project.

He further claimed that a meeting was held in 2014 at the residence of former BJP minister Ananth Kumar, attended by several political leaders and then Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar. According to Vaiko, discussions reportedly involved preparations for the dam project despite the possibility of protests from Tamil Nadu.



MDMK leaders speak to reporters at Tiruchirappalli Airport.



Mekedatu: the proposed dam site on the Cauvery in Karnataka

Questions over project expenditure

Vaiko claimed that iron materials and equipment were imported following the discussions. He alleged that an initial amount of Rs 5,900 crore was spent on the project, while the allocation had subsequently increased to Rs 9,000 crore.

Call for statewide protests

Warning of serious consequences for Tamil Nadu's agricultural sector, Vaiko said the state's rice-producing regions could face severe water shortages if the project proceeded.

BISLERI FSSAI REVIEW

Bisleri seeks FSSAI review over West Bengal water test

NEW DELHI

Packaged drinking water company Bisleri International on Saturday sought a review by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) over differences in laboratory findings concerning a water sample collected in West Bengal.

The company said independent tests conducted by two accredited laboratories found the sample compliant with prescribed quality standards. It requested the food safety regulator to examine the reasons behind the difference between the test results.

Bisleri said the findings from the two laboratories supported its position that the sample met the required standards. The company also stressed the importance of following consistent testing procedures while assessing the quality of packaged drinking water.

The company urged FSSAI to ensure that the matter was examined fairly and transparently.

It said it expected the issue to be assessed using the same standards applied across the packaged drinking water industry.

The development comes amid increasing attention to food safety and quality standards in India's packaged drinking water sector. Laboratory testing plays an important role in checking whether products meet prescribed safety requirements before reaching consumers.

Bisleri's request places the focus on the need for clarity in testing procedures and the evaluation of conflicting laboratory reports. The regulator's examination is expected to help establish the reasons behind the differing findings.

The company maintained that the independent reports supported its compliance with quality standards and sought a proper assessment of the matter.

Quick Read

Mutual funds turn net sellers after 3-year buying streak

NEW DELHI

Indian mutual funds have sold equities worth Rs 32,740 crore so far in November, putting the industry on course for its first month of net equity selling in nearly three and a half years, a report said on Saturday. The report cited data from SEBI, saying that the last month in which mutual funds were net sellers was April 2023. Since May 2023, they have consistently remained net buyers in the secondary market, even purchasing over Rs 50,000 crore in certain months this year. November marked a sharp reversal of that trend. The final figure may still change, but current selling has already exceeded the scale of many recent monthly buying periods.

AI best suited for routine court work, not deciding cases

NEW DELHI

Former Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud on Saturday backed the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in the judiciary for administrative and routine functions, but cautioned that judicial decision-making must remain firmly in human hands. Speaking at an event on "AI for All: AI Governance and Trust, the Case for Judicial Access and an Empowered India", he said technology could significantly improve court efficiency by handling time-consuming tasks such as transcription, translation, case listing and scrutiny of procedural defects. "The tragedy of the Indian judicial system is that judges spend their time doing work which should least occupy their time. Their focus should be on real-time decision-making," he said.



Govt and NHAI hold talks on rolling out Labour Codes

NEW DELHI

The Office of the Chief Labour Commissioner under the Ministry of Labour & Employment convened a meeting with senior officers of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) here to discuss effective implementation of the Labour Codes, 2020, and strengthen coordination and stakeholder consultation, an official statement said on Saturday. The meeting — chaired by Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) Sonal Mishra — was part of a series of one-to-one interactions with ministries, departments and central public sector entities to facilitate effective implementation of the Labour Codes, promote compliance and strengthen institutional coordination, the statement from the Ministry of Labour & Employment said. Discussions focused on conducting an on-the-spot registration and licensing drive for contractors and sub-contractors to facilitate statutory compliance under the Labour Codes. Emphasis was also laid on immediate reporting of accidents in accordance with Section 10 of the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020.

India, Denmark seek stronger economic partnership

India and Denmark have discussed expanding bilateral trade, business engagement and green technology cooperation, reaffirming their commitment to strengthening economic ties and exploring new investment opportunities across sectors.

NEW DELHI

India and Denmark have reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening bilateral trade and economic cooperation, with both countries exploring new opportunities to expand business engagement and deepen their economic partnership.

Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Saturday said he held discussions with Danish Foreign Minister Lars Løkke Rasmussen on enhancing economic ties, strengthening business relations and identifying new areas of mutual cooperation.

Sharing details of the meeting on social media platform X, Goyal said the discussions focused on taking the India-Denmark partnership to the next level through greater commercial engagement and collaboration.

"Delighted to meet Lars Løkke Rasmussen, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Denmark. We discussed strengthening bilateral trade and economic cooperation, enhancing business ties and exploring new avenues of collaboration in areas of mutual interest," Goyal wrote.



The latest engagement comes amid increasing cooperation between the two countries in renewable energy, green technologies, maritime services and infrastructure investments.

Earlier this month, Union Minister Pralhad Joshi held discussions with Denmark's Minister for Business and Competitiveness Martin Lidegaard on the sidelines of the Bharat Renewable Energy Summit 2026.

The meeting focused on expanding cooperation in offshore wind energy, green hydrogen, battery storage and renewable energy integration. Both sides also reiterated their commitment to the India-Denmark Green Strategic Partnership.

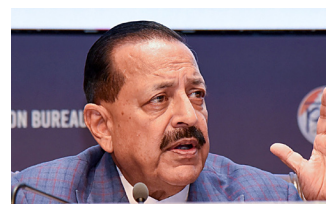
During his India visit, Lidegaard highlighted the complementary strengths of the two economies and said commercial opportunities could expand further with the proposed India-European Union Free Trade Agreement.

Denmark remains an important investment partner, with more than 60 Danish companies operating in Maharashtra alone. Shipping and logistics major Maersk is also expanding its presence in India's maritime sector.

India-Denmark ties

- **Talks:** Piyush Goyal meets Danish Foreign Minister Lars Løkke Rasmussen
- **Green tech:** renewable energy and green technologies
- **Earlier talks:** offshore wind, green hydrogen and battery storage
- **Investment:** more than 60 Danish companies in Maharashtra
- **Next:** the proposed India-EU FTA to open further opportunities

India emerging as global healthcare powerhouse



NEW DELHI

India is witnessing a major transformation in healthcare, driven by indigenous research, medical innovation and the development of affordable advanced treatments, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Dr Jitendra Singh said on Saturday.

Addressing the Global Healthcare Conclave 2026, organised by the Global Association of Indian Medical Students (GAIMS), Singh highlighted India's growing capabilities in medical science and its potential to emerge as a global healthcare powerhouse.

He said India, which earlier depended considerably on foreign medical technologies and advanced treatment facilities, was increasingly developing indigenous solutions in vaccines, antibiotics, gene therapy and cancer treatment.

Discussing the role of technology in modern medicine, Singh said artificial intelligence, quantum technologies and advanced diagnostic tools were transforming healthcare delivery. However, he cautioned that technological advancements could not replace the fundamental clinical understanding required of medical professionals.

He stressed that medical education must continue to prioritise bedside learning, direct patient interaction, clinical examination and practical experience.

Singh said India's unique genomic diversity and progress in precision medicine offered significant opportunities to contribute to global healthcare. He added that future doctors must develop a combination of technological knowledge and strong clinical skills to address emerging medical challenges.

He also highlighted significant progress in therapeutics and disease management, reflecting the changing landscape of modern medicine.

Key areas of growth

- **Indigenous** vaccines and antibiotics
- **Gene therapy** and cancer treatment
- **AI** and quantum technologies
- **Precision medicine** and genomic research
- **Diagnostics** such as CT scans and MRI

RBI likely to maintain tight liquidity conditions

NEW DELHI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is likely to maintain relatively tight liquidity conditions in the banking system through the remainder of the year, with foreign exchange swaps emerging as a more probable instrument for liquidity management than open market bond purchases, according to a report released by Axis Bank Economic Research on Saturday.

The report said durable liquidity in the banking system, including government balances, had declined sharply from a peak of 5 per cent of net demand and time liabilities (NDTL) to 2.2 per cent. The decline was attributed to unusually high government balances maintained with the RBI, continued foreign exchange market intervention and festival-related currency leakages. Although Variable Rate Repo (VRR) operations have helped prevent sharp overnight interest rate increases, banking system liquidity is expected to remain slightly below neutral levels through the rest of the year.

Durable liquidity, % of NDTL

PEAK	NOW
5% including government balances	2.2% after a sharp decline

The report also highlighted a widening gap between bank credit and deposit growth. While non-food credit expansion remains strong, deposit mobilisation has slowed after previously receiving support from Foreign Currency Non-Resident (FCNR) inflows. As a result, banks have increased their reliance on Certificate of Deposit (CD) issuances to meet funding requirements. This has also contributed to widening spreads between CD rates and Overnight Index Swap rates.

Meanwhile, strong foreign portfolio investor inflows into India have created comfortable dollar liquidity alongside tighter rupee liquidity. This imbalance has pushed forward premiums and domestic interest rates higher. In a separate assessment earlier this week, Axis Bank Economic Research said India needed to rebuild its foreign exchange reserves to ease elevated rupee forward premiums and strengthen external sector resilience.

India emerges as SIAC's third-largest foreign user

NEW DELHI



India has emerged as the third-largest foreign user jurisdiction of the Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC) with 178 Indian parties participating in arbitrations during the last year, Singapore's Minister for Law and Second Minister for Home Affairs Edwin Tong said, according to an announcement on Saturday.

He noted that India has consistently remained one of SIAC's most important foreign user jurisdictions, with Indian lawyers and arbitrators also playing a prominent role in proceedings that do not involve Indian parties.

Tong said the rapid expansion of international trade and investment has increased the importance of efficient and predictable dispute-resolution mechanisms.

"Investors need confidence that disputes arising from their investments will be resolved fairly, transparently and predictably," he said.

Highlighting challenges posed by increasingly complex cross-border transactions, Tong said arbitration institutions and legal professionals must innovate to deal with disputes involving multiple contracts and interconnected parties while preserving the core principle of party consent.

Meanwhile, Chief Justice of India Surya Kant called for deeper collaboration between the two countries in areas such as institutional design, professional standards, legal training, mediation and technology.

> **"India and Singapore should aspire not merely to succeed in international arbitration, but to make international arbitration better."**
>
> — **Edwin Tong,** Singapore's Minister for Law

He said predictability in dispute resolution is essential for economic growth and investor confidence.

The Chief Justice also highlighted the growing economic relationship between the two countries and noted that bilateral trade rose from about $6.7 billion in 2004-05 to $34.3 billion in 2024-25.

DGGI busts ₹88 cr cigarette GST refund fraud

NEW DELHI

The Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI) has uncovered a major tax fraud linked to the tobacco sector, exposing a syndicate that allegedly claimed more than Rs 88 crore in fraudulent GST refunds, an official statement said on Saturday.

According to the Finance Ministry, the operation was unearthed by the Patna Zonal Unit of the DGGI as part of its continuing crackdown on tax evasion in the cigarette industry.



Investigators found that the syndicate was operating through a network of shell entities that allegedly obtained invoices from dealers of branded cigarettes without receiving the actual goods, the ministry added.

These invoices were then used to fraudulently avail input tax credit in violation of GST provisions.

The probe further revealed that the group sourced substandard cigarettes of unknown origin and supplied them to the Falta Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in West Bengal under the Letter of Undertaking (LUT) route.

Moreover, during searches and inspections, authorities identified around 8.76 crore sticks of suspected counterfeit and substandard cigarettes, packed under the names of well-known brands, at Falta SEZ.

The cigarettes — valued at more than Rs 150 crore on the basis of their aggregate maximum retail price (MRP) — have been placed under prohibition.

In September and October alone, DGGI busted two illegal cigarette manufacturing units and seized around 25 lakh cigarette sticks along with cigarette-making and packaging machinery.

How the refund racket worked

1. **Invoices:** shell entities got invoices from branded-cigarette dealers without the goods
2. **Credit:** the invoices were used to avail input tax credit
3. **SEZ supply:** substandard cigarettes went to the Falta SEZ under the LUT route
4. **Refunds:** over Rs 88 crore claimed in two years against the credit

India's data centre pipeline shifts towards larger facilities

NEW DELHI

India's data centre development pipeline is pivoting towards larger facilities in the nine months to Q3 2026, with projects above 50 MW accounting for 55 per cent of planned capacity across key markets, a report said on Saturday.

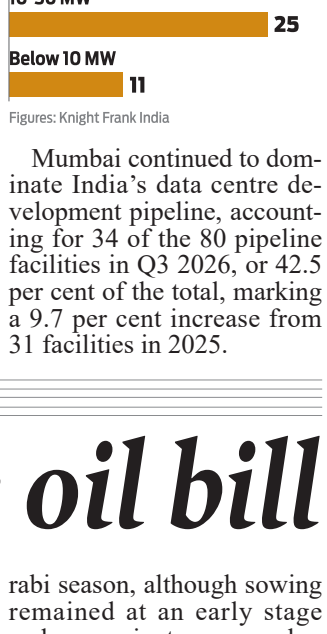
The report from Knight Frank India said the country's development pipeline currently comprises 80 data centre facilities across seven major markets as of the third quarter of 2026. Facilities above 50 MW accounted for a larger share of the pipeline in Q3 2026, up from 44.3 per cent in 2025.

The strongest growth was recorded in the above-100-MW category, where the number of planned facilities rose 80 per cent to 27 from 15 in 2025. Its share of the total pipeline consequently rose from 21.4 per cent in 2025 to 33.8 per cent in Q3 2026, making it the largest category within the development pipeline.

The 50-100 MW segment also expanded, with facilities increasing to 17 from 16, representing growth of 6.3 per cent.

"The growing representation of larger-format facilities in the development pipeline points towards a changing development landscape, with Mumbai continuing to anchor the market and Hyderabad strengthening its position in the large-facility segment," said Joseph Thilak, Executive Director, Occupier Strategy & Solutions, Head of Data Center Business (India), Knight Frank India.

Pipeline by size, Q3 2026
Planned data centre facilities



Figures: Knight Frank India

Mumbai continued to dominate India's data centre development pipeline, accounting for 34 of the 80 pipeline facilities in Q3 2026, or 42.5 per cent of the total, marking a 9.7 per cent increase from 31 facilities in 2025.

OIL IMPORT VOLATILITY

Middle East conflict threatens India's oil bill

NEW DELHI

Continued conflict in the Middle East and potential risks to the Strait of Hormuz could keep India's oil import bills and maritime freight rates volatile, the Finance Ministry said on Saturday, warning that supply-side disruptions may increase inflationary pressures in the coming months.

According to the Ministry's Monthly Economic Review for November, geopolitical uncertainties pose risks to global energy supplies and shipping costs, potentially affecting India's wholesale and retail price indices.



However, the ministry noted that recent moderation in international crude oil prices and the strengthening of the rupee could offer some relief. Global crude benchmarks fell below $100 per barrel in early November, while robust capital inflows supported the domestic currency.

Despite external uncertainties, India's domestic economic activity is expected to maintain momentum during the third quarter of FY27. High-frequency indicators point to continued expansion in goods movement, tax collections, energy consumption and freight activity.

Business activity is also expected to remain firm, supported by improving new orders and easing input cost pressures.

The ministry said comfortable fertiliser availability was favourable for the ongoing rabi season, although sowing remained at an early stage and reservoir storage was below the level recorded last year.

Industrial activity continued to expand, despite moderation in industrial production growth in September and a slowdown in manufacturing PMI during October. The purchasing managers' index, however, remained in expansionary territory.

Sudeep And Prem Reveal DADA On Holiday

Abhinaya Chakravarthy Kichcha Sudeep and director Prem are coming together once again for an interesting action-comedy titled DADA On Holiday. The film marks the reunion of the actor-director duo and promises a combination of underworld action, humour, emotions and family entertainment. The makers recently officially announced the title and released a teaser, putting an end to speculation about their upcoming collaboration.

Jointly produced by Aarudra Cinemas and Prem Phoenix Studios, the film is being presented as a family entertainer. According to the production team, the story will move beyond conventional commercial cinema and explore family relationships, affection and domestic values while retaining elements of action and comedy.

The teaser opens inside a busy police station, where officers are investigating the disappearance of the city's entire stock of gangland weapons. As the police struggle to identify the person responsible, an unexpected explanation changes the mood of the investigation.

Director Prem appears and calmly tells the officers that he is taking the weapons to Kempambudhi Lake for disposal.

He further announces that rowdyism has officially gone on holiday. This dialogue provides the teaser's main comic highlight and hints at the film's unusual treatment of underworld activities.

The teaser suggests that the film will use humour to present familiar gangster-related themes in a different way. Rather than focusing entirely on violence and action, the makers appear to have chosen a lighter narrative with entertaining situations and emotional moments.

Producer Rakshitha Prem and music director Arjun Janya also make brief appearances in the teaser. Their presence offers a glimpse of the important members associated with the project.

The reunion of Sudeep and Prem has raised expectations among Kannada film audiences, as their earlier collaborations have attracted considerable attention. Their latest project is expected to bring together the strengths of both personalities in a different entertainment format.

Although the title and teaser have been officially unveiled, the makers are yet to announce the complete cast, technical details and theatrical release date. Further updates are expected in the coming days.

DADA On Holiday Promises Family Entertainment

DADA On Holiday is being promoted as an underworld action-comedy with a family-oriented storyline. Its teaser features a humorous scene involving gangland weapons and director Prem's decision to dispose of them at Kempambudhi Lake. Producer Rakshitha Prem and music director Arjun Janya also appear briefly, offering audiences a glimpse of the film's creative team and entertainment style.



Kannada star Kichcha Sudeep and filmmaker Prem have announced DADA On Holiday as their upcoming film, creating excitement among fans.

Arjun Sarja To Direct And Star In Patriotic Pan-India Film

Action King Arjun Sarja is preparing to direct and star in a grand pan-India patriotic film, with its launch planned in Ayodhya.

The yet-to-be-titled film will be the third project of a popular production house. It is expected to bring together well-known actors and technicians from Bollywood and other regional film industries.

According to Filmibeat, the makers are planning a special launch ceremony at the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Temple in Ayodhya. Several film personalities and prominent guests from different fields are expected to attend the event. The film's official title will also be announced during the ceremony.

Arjun Sarja will handle both direction and the lead role. The script has been written by retired Army officer Major Vijay Bhargav, bringing a patriotic theme to the project.

The makers are planning to assemble a talented cast and crew from across India. Further details about the cast, production schedule and release date are yet to be announced.



Summer Holidays To Premiere On SonyLIV In Five Languages

The Telugu children's film Summer Holidays is set for its digital premiere, bringing its heartwarming story of friendship to viewers.

Starring Arun Dev and Rohan Roy, the film will begin streaming on SonyLIV from December 4, 2026. Originally released in theatres on November 6, 2026, the movie will be available in five languages: Telugu, Tamil, Hindi, Kannada and Malayalam.



Directed by Srikar Nayan, the film is set in an Andhra Pradesh village in 2001. It follows Ravuri Venkatesh, known as RV, played by Arun Dev, who visits his grandmother's home during the summer holidays. There, he meets Kasi Venkateswarlu, or KV, portrayed by Rohan Roy, a village boy who looks after mango trees in an orchard.

KV hopes to earn money by taking care of the trees so that he can buy a sari for his mother. Although the boys come from different backgrounds, they develop a close friendship during the summer. Their experiences highlight the differences between childhood and the responsibilities faced by children. The supporting cast includes Jayasudha, Rajeev Kanakala, Harshavardhan, Vasuki, Baby Kushi and others. The film gave three out of five stars, appreciating the performances of Arun Dev and Rohan Roy.

Bollywood actor Tej Sapru joining Ajith Kumar's Daredevil?

Bollywood actor Tej Sapru has sparked speculation about his possible association with Ajith Kumar's Daredevil, after behind-the-scenes pictures featuring the actor began circulating in social media.



The photographs, reportedly taken during the film's shoot, have prompted discussions among fans about whether the veteran actor has joined the cast of the highly anticipated film. However, there has been no official confirmation regarding his involvement in the film.

Known for his performances in several Bollywood films, Tej Sapru has appeared in a variety of roles since the 80's. The actor has appeared in films across different genres, often portraying antagonists and supporting characters. His potential association with the upcoming film has now become a talking point among movie buffs. While the pictures have fuelled speculation, details about the nature of his involvement in the film remains unknown.

Ajith Kumar, meanwhile, has been keeping audiences curious with his upcoming projects. The actors's next film has already generated considerable anticipation, with fans closely following updates about its production and cast details.

Neither Ajith Kumar nor the makers have officially announced the Bollywood actor's inclusion in the film. Details about film's storyline and the other members of the ensemble are also awaited.

The upcoming film reunites Ajith with director Adhik Ravichandran, after Good Bad Ugly (2025). Adhik has also written the script for the upcoming film, which is the maiden feature film production for Ajith's wife, Shalini Ajithkumar. She backs Daredevil under the Bravehearts Production banner.

Kate Middleton Shares Cancer Journey In Documentary

Kate Middleton has spoken about the difficult and sometimes lonely experience of dealing with cancer in a new documentary titled Heal. The film, produced by the BBC and Universal, is scheduled to premiere in the United Kingdom on November 29, 2026.

In a newly released clip, the Princess of Wales is seen attending a cancer support group organised by Shine Cancer Support.



During the discussion, she reflects on sharing her experience with people outside her family. She says she has not previously explored this part of her life beyond her family circle.

According to reports, the documentary will provide a closer look at her cancer journey, recovery and personal reflections.

Sai Pallavi Rejects ₹2 Crore Fairness Cream Advertisement

Actress Sai Pallavi reportedly rejected a fairness cream endorsement contract worth Rs 2 crore because she did not support the idea behind the product. The actress believed that promoting fairness creams could make people feel less beautiful or confident about their natural skin colour. She chose not to associate herself with a product that went against her personal values.

During a conversation with journalist Barkha Dutt at the We The Women event, Sai Pallavi explained the reason behind her decision. She said that people should ensure their actions reflect their beliefs. According to her, refusing the advertisement was a small step towards standing up for something she strongly believed in.

The actress also spoke about her childhood insecurities, including concerns about her skin colour and pimples. She recalled feeling uncomfortable about her appearance when she was younger. However, with time, she realised that audiences could connect more easily with characters who looked natural and realistic.

Sai Pallavi said she prefers portraying ordinary women in relatable situations. She believes excessive makeup can sometimes make a character look artificial. However, she clarified that she does not expect everyone to avoid makeup, as personal comfort and individual choices matter. She also recalled being worried about body hair during childhood.

On the professional front, Sai Pallavi plays Maa Sita in Nitesh Tiwari's upcoming film Ramayana. She has also been associated with Dhanush's project O.M. Known for performances in Premam, Fidaa and Gargi, she continues to choose roles that focus on acting rather than glamour.



XOXO HOSTEL, GOA:

REDEFINING HOSPITALITY FOR A GENERATION THAT VALUES EXPERIENCES OVER POSSESSIONS

Not just a stay, but a lifestyle – XOXO Hostel is embracing Goa's growing backpacker culture with the spirit of friendship, adventure, positivity and unforgettable experiences.



Adam Maniyar

GOA: Goa has always been synonymous with beaches, nightlife, music and freedom. But a new generation of travellers is changing the way people experience India's favourite coastal destination. Moving beyond conventional hotels and resorts, Gen Z and young explorers are increasingly choosing hostels that offer something money cannot always buy – connections, experiences and memories.

Among the names capturing this new-age hostel culture is XOXO Hostel, Goa, a concept that reflects the energy, openness and adventurous spirit of today's young travellers.

Where Strangers Become Friends

For solo travellers, backpackers and groups of young explorers, the beauty of hostel life lies in its social atmosphere. A casual conversation can turn into a friendship, a shared travel plan can become an adventure, and an ordinary evening can turn into a memorable night.

XOXO Hostel represents this culture of togetherness, where travellers from different cities, backgrounds and countries come together under one roof.

Goa's Youth Travel Culture Gets a New Vibe

Today's young travellers are looking beyond expensive accommodation. They want affordability, comfort, a welcoming environment and opportunities to connect with like-minded people.

Hostel culture perfectly complements Goa's laid-back lifestyle, where beach hopping, discovering hidden cafés, exploring local markets and experiencing nightlife are all part of the journey.





More Than Four Walls and a Bed

The real identity of a great hostel is not simply its accommodation but the experiences it creates. The people, conversations, shared adventures and spontaneous moments are what make a traveller want to return.

XOXO Hostel reflects the growing demand for experience-driven hospitality in Goa, particularly among Gen Z, digital nomads, solo travellers and international backpackers.

An Entrepreneurial Vision Beyond Revenue

Sharing the philosophy behind XOXO Hostel, Mohak Bajaj highlights the importance of guest satisfaction, affordability and building lasting relationships in the hospitality industry.

> *"Value for money is our USP, and money is merely a by-product of delivering exceptional experiences. At XOXO, we don't measure success by what a guest spends during their stay, but by their willingness to return. The first check-in earns us revenue; the re-check-in earns us trust. And that is our real profit."*
>
> — **Mohak Bajaj**, *XOXO Hostel (owner)*



The New Face of Goa Tourism

As Goa continues to attract travellers from across India and around the world, modern hostels are becoming an important part of its evolving tourism landscape. They represent a shift towards community-driven, affordable and experience-oriented travel.

XOXO Hostel is all about embracing the journey, celebrating friendships and discovering Goa beyond the usual tourist checklist.

Because the best travel stories often begin with a simple hello!



XOXO HOSTEL, GOA – CHECK IN AS STRANGERS, CHECK OUT AS FRIENDS!

Quick Read

IndiGo restores Jeddah, Madinah flight services

RIYADH

IndiGo has resumed flight services to Jeddah and Madinah in Saudi Arabia, while flights to and from Riyadh and Dammam will remain suspended until December 7. In a statement on X, the airline said selected services had been restored. Passengers have been advised to check flight schedules through its website or mobile application before travelling to airports. The airline said passenger and crew safety remained its top priority and thanked customers for their patience. The disruptions followed security concerns over a suspected Houthi drone threat targeting Mecca, Jeddah and Taif on September 16. Saudi authorities issued an emergency alert, prompting temporary suspension of operations at Madinah airport. Indian airlines also suspended services as a precaution.

Houthi attacks kill 3 civilians in Yemen

SANAA

At least three civilians, including a 10-year-old boy and his father, were killed and three others injured in attacks by Yemen's Houthi rebels in Taiz province. The attacks involved drones, rocket fire and sniper operations targeting residential areas. Among the injured was an 18-month-old girl who sustained wounds during shelling in the Sabir al-Mawadim district. A woman was also injured while fleeing sniper fire as she collected water from a well. The latest violence comes amid escalating clashes between Houthi rebels and Yemen's government forces. Around a month ago, five people were killed and 16 injured in an attack on the al-Maashiq Presidential Palace in Aden. Meanwhile, government forces claimed to have carried out 1,250 attacks against Houthi positions within 24 hours under their 'Dawn of Yemen' military campaign. The operations reportedly destroyed 150 Houthi vehicles. Separately, authorities in Marib reported that the Houthis fired nine ballistic missiles and seven other projectiles towards the city. The continuing violence has intensified concerns over civilian safety and Yemen's worsening humanitarian crisis. The conflict has continued since the Houthis seized the capital, Sanaa, in 2014, followed by a Saudi-led military intervention in 2015.

Russia's nuclear submarine Perm to join Pacific Fleet

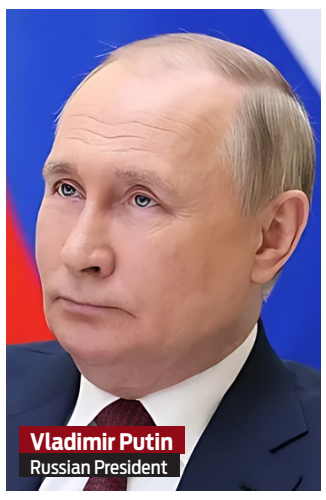
Vladimir Putin announced the new nuclear submarine Perm will soon join Russia's Pacific Fleet for combat duty, boosting regional power.

MOSCOW

Russian President Vladimir Putin has announced that the newly commissioned nuclear-powered submarine Perm will join Russia's Pacific Fleet and undertake combat duty in the near future, strengthening the country's naval capabilities and strategic presence in the Pacific region.

Putin made the announcement during a ceremony to raise the Russian naval flag aboard the submarine at the Sevmash shipyard in Severodvinsk, a major shipbuilding centre in northwestern Russia. The Kremlin confirmed the development in an official statement.

According to Putin, the Perm is the fifth Yasen-M-class nuclear-powered submarine delivered to the Russian Navy over the past six years. He described the submarine as an advanced weapons system of global strategic importance and said Russia was among the few countries capable of manufacturing such sophisticated nuclear-powered vessels.


Vladimir Putin
Russian President

The Kremlin stated that the Perm is a fourth-generation, multipurpose nuclear-powered submarine. It is also the first submarine in the Russian Navy to be equipped with Zircon hypersonic cruise missiles as standard armament, marking a significant advancement in Russia's naval weapons technology.

Yasen-M-class submarines are designed to operate across different parts of the world's oceans while maintaining a high level of stealth. Their advanced capabilities enable them to carry out various naval operations while remaining difficult to detect.

The Sevmash shipyard is currently building several types of nuclear-powered submarines. According to Putin, five missile-carrying submarines are scheduled for delivery to the Russian Navy by 2030, including three Yasen-M-class vessels.

He added that expanding serial ship production and modernizing weapons systems would support the shipbuilding and defence industries, encourage advanced technological development and strengthen Russia's defence capabilities and technological independence.

The Perm at a glance

CLASS **Yasen-M, the fifth delivered in six years**	TYPE **Fourth-generation, multipurpose, nuclear-powered**
WEAPONS **Zircon hypersonic cruise missiles as standard**	POSTING **Pacific Fleet, combat duty**
BUILT AT **Sevmash shipyard, Severodvinsk**	BY 2030 **Five missile submarines, three of them Yasen-M**

Netherlands Opposes US Semiconductor Export Controls

THE HAGUE

The Netherlands has strongly opposed a proposed United States semiconductor export control bill, warning that Washington's efforts to extend its restrictions to allied countries could threaten Dutch economic interests, national sovereignty and security.

The disagreement centres on the Multilateral Alignment of Technology Controls on Hardware Act, commonly known as the MATCH Act. The proposed legislation seeks to bring semiconductor export controls among the United States and its allies under a common framework. However, the Dutch government has raised concerns over Washington's attempt to influence the export policies of other countries.

Dutch Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation Sjoerd Sjoerdsma told parliament on Thursday that the Netherlands would not allow its policies to be dictated by another country. He described the government's opposition to the legislation as a matter of national interest.

Under the proposed bill, the US government would have 150 days to assess whether allied countries had introduced comparable restrictions on exports and servicing of semiconductor manufacturing equipment. If countries failed to meet the requirements, the US Department of Commerce could extend American export controls unilaterally to equipment supplied by those countries.

The legislation has raised particular concern in the Netherlands because of its potential impact on ASML, the Dutch company that dominates the global market for advanced lithography systems used in semiconductor manufacturing. The government opposes extraterritorial measures that could undermine national sovereignty, particularly on security-related matters.

The Netherlands has intensified diplomatic efforts to prevent the MATCH Act from being included in the US annual defence authorisation bill.

Seoul keeps watch on possible Kim Jong-un visit to China



North Korean leader Kim Jong-un and Chinese President Xi Jinping (file photo)

SEOUL

South Korea's National Intelligence Service (NIS) is closely monitoring developments amid speculation that North Korean leader Kim Jong-un may visit China in the coming days, following increased diplomatic exchanges between the two neighbouring countries.

"We are monitoring various developments," the NIS said on Saturday in response to a Yonhap News Agency inquiry about media reports suggesting that Kim's visit to China could be imminent.

Speculation gained momentum after Chinese President Xi Jinping briefed South Korean President Lee Jae-myung on developments in North Korea-China relations during their meeting in Shenzhen last week, on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit. However, South Korea's presidential office, Cheong Wa Dae, said that Xi had not specifically mentioned a possible visit by Kim, contrary to media reports.

The presidential office said Seoul was closely monitoring relations between Pyongyang and Beijing and hoped their exchanges would contribute to peaceful coexistence on the Korean Peninsula. It also stressed the importance of maintaining communication with China.

Kim made a surprise one-day visit to the Chinese border city of Dandong last month, where he met China's top political adviser Wang Huning and discussed strengthening bilateral relations. Earlier this month, Kim Song-nam, a senior official of North Korea's ruling Workers' Party, also visited China and held meetings with senior Chinese leaders.

A diplomatic source said Kim could travel to China at any time, adding that such a visit would not be unexpected. Although reports indicated heightened security readiness in Dandong, sources said no unusual activity had been visibly detected.

Pakistan's water crisis rooted in poor infrastructure: report

BRUSSELS

Pakistan's worsening water crisis is largely the result of poor infrastructure, mismanagement and long-standing governance failures, despite the country having access to the extensive Indus River system, according to a report published by European Times.

The report highlighted Pakistan's inability to manage its water resources effectively, provide sufficient water to farmers, protect agricultural land from floods and salinity, and safeguard its long-term agricultural future. It argued that the country's water vulnerabilities existed long before the recent diplomatic tensions with India over the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT).

India placed the treaty in abeyance following the April 2025 Pahalgam terror attack, which was carried out by Pakistan-backed terrorists. Pakistan has repeatedly raised concerns over the issue internationally. However, the report said Islamabad should address its domestic shortcomings instead of blaming India for its growing water insecurity.

What the report says

30 days of water needs in storage	**<1,000** cubic metres of fresh water a head, from 5,260 in 1951
47% have safe drinking water	**53,000** children killed by waterborne disease a year

It pointed out that Pakistan has storage capacity equivalent to only around 30 days of water requirements, loses nearly a quarter of its canal water through leakage and extracts more groundwater than it can naturally replenish. These problems reflect decades of inadequate planning and investment in water management.

The report also criticised Pakistan's failure to strengthen its reservoirs, canal networks and water storage infrastructure. Instead, it alleged, the government has focused on internationalising the Indus Waters Treaty dispute to divert public attention from domestic challenges.

According to the report, India's position is that the treaty will remain in abeyance until Pakistan ends its support for cross-border terrorism. Pakistan raised the issue again at the United Nations in November. However, the report argued that the country's immediate water difficulties cannot be explained solely by the diplomatic dispute.

Highlighting the seriousness of the crisis, the report stated that per capita freshwater availability in Pakistan had declined from 5,260 cubic metres in 1951 to below 1,000 cubic metres today, placing it in the water-scarce category.

Iran warns US of more surprises if attacks resume

TEHRAN

Iran has warned the United States that it has "more surprises" in store if Washington resumes large-scale military attacks against the country. Iranian Ambassador to Pakistan Reza Amiri Moghadam issued the warning amid continuing tensions and a slowdown in indirect diplomatic discussions between the two nations.

Moghadam said exchanges of messages between Tehran and Washington through Pakistan and Qatar were continuing, although the pace had slowed compared with previous rounds. He said the United States had presented proposals that Iran was currently examining.

"We have not been idle over the past year," the ambassador said, warning that Iran was prepared for further escalation if large-scale military action resumed.

Meanwhile, the Iranian Army has claimed that its Navy maintains control over strategically important waters stretching from the eastern Strait of Hormuz to the northern Indian Ocean. Army spokesman Brigadier General Mohammad Akraminia said the Navy was conducting surveillance and protecting the maritime region.

THE BLOCKADE, PER CENTCOM

158	COMMERCIAL VESSELS REDIRECTED
6	OTHERS DISABLED

Iranian Navy Commander Admiral Shahram Irani also dismissed the US naval blockade, describing it as a sign of Washington's failure. He claimed that efforts to overcome the blockade were underway and that Iranian ports remained operational.

The maritime confrontation has intensified with competing claims from both countries. On Friday, US Central Command (CENTCOM) said its forces had disabled the Palau-flagged commercial vessel M/V Pacific Archer after its crew allegedly attempted to breach the blockade despite repeated warnings. Precision munitions struck the vessel's stern, disabling its propulsion system. The civilian crew was reported safe.

Two American Airlines Jets Clip Wings While Taxiing at Airport

WASHINGTON

Two American Airlines passenger aircraft clipped each other's wings while taxiing for departure at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport.

No injuries were reported, but both aircraft were withdrawn from service for inspection following the incident.

According to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), American Airlines Flight 638 made contact with the wing of Flight 2152. Both aircraft were preparing for departure when the incident occurred.

Following the collision, the aircraft returned to their respective gates. American Airlines confirmed that its maintenance team would inspect both planes before they could resume operations. The airline also stated that no passengers or crew members were injured.

The Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority said its fire and rescue personnel responded to both aircraft following the incident. However, the airport confirmed that the incident did not disrupt other flight operations.

Flight 638 was scheduled to travel to Dallas, while Flight 2152 was bound for Chicago. American Airlines said passengers on both flights would be accommodated on replacement aircraft and would continue their journeys later that evening.

The FAA is expected to investigate the incident to determine the circumstances surrounding the wing contact.

The incident comes amid several aviation disruptions at major US airports during the busy Thanksgiving holiday travel period. On November 26, the FAA had issued a ground stop at Miami International Airport after a FedEx cargo aircraft overran the runway while landing.

The incident involved FedEx Flight 910, a McDonnell Douglas MD-11 cargo aircraft that had departed from Memphis. The aircraft overran Runway 26R, prompting authorities to close multiple runways and deploy Miami-Dade Fire Rescue personnel.

These incidents have renewed attention on aviation safety and airport operations in the United States.

MACHADO GATHERS IDEAS

Machado seeks public ideas for Venezuela reform

CARACAS

Cheers and emotional scenes marked a public meeting organised by Nobel Peace Prize-winning Venezuelan opposition leader Maria Corina Machado, who has begun gathering public suggestions on restoring democracy and rebuilding the country.

Residents of a large working-class neighbourhood near Caracas welcomed Machado during a town hall meeting. Supporters cheered and called for elections, repeatedly shouting "tomorrow, tomorrow" when asked when they wanted the country to hold its next vote.

Machado's initiative aims to collect proposals from people across Venezuela and members of the country's diaspora. The consultations are intended to develop ideas for democratic reform and address the challenges facing the nation.

The outreach comes 11 months after the United States ousted President Nicolas Maduro, according to the report.

Venezuela has experienced years of political uncertainty, economic difficulties and disputes over democratic institutions, prompting opposition groups to demand political change.

Machado has emerged as a prominent opposition figure and has continued to call for a democratic transition. Through the public meetings, she is seeking to involve ordinary citizens in discussions about the country's future rather than limiting the reform process to political leaders and organisations.

The consultations are expected to provide an opportunity for people from different regions and backgrounds to share their concerns and suggest changes in governance, public institutions and democratic processes.

Venezuelans living abroad are also being invited to contribute their views.

The strong response from residents at the Caracas meeting reflected the demand among sections of the public for an opportunity to choose their leaders through elections.

Their calls also highlighted expectations for political change after a prolonged period of instability.

KEY POINTS

- Machado's initiative collects national reform proposals
- Outreach follows Maduro's ouster by the US
- Consultations include ordinary citizens and the diaspora
- Strong turnout reflects demand for elections

Bhavika Ahire to captain India in U-19 Asia Cup

Bhavika Ahire will lead India's 15-member squad at the upcoming Under-19 Women's Asia Cup in the UAE, with Anaadi Tagde appointed vice-captain as the defending champions prepare for the tournament.

NEW DELHI

Wicketkeeper-batter Bhavika Ahire has been appointed captain of the Indian Under-19 women's cricket team for the upcoming ACC Under-19 Women's Asia Cup, scheduled to be held in the United Arab Emirates next month. Anaadi Tagde will serve as vice-captain of the 15-member squad.

The squad announcement was made through a media advisory issued by Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) secretary Devajit Saikia on Saturday. Shreya S Chavan has been named as the second specialist wicketkeeper, providing the team with an additional option behind the stumps.

The squad also features promising players, including Deeya Yadav, Ira Jadhav, Ishwari Awasare, Samaira Raghav and Uma Kashvi. Bhavika brings valuable leadership experience, having previously guided India to white-ball series victories against Sri Lanka in Chennai and Puducherry earlier this year.



She is currently leading India in the ongoing T20 series against England. India registered an emphatic 106-run victory in the second match at the BCA Stadium in Vadodara. The hosts scored 230/6, powered by Deeya Yadav's 87 off 49 deliveries and Achsah Parmar's 81 off 41 balls.

India's bowlers subsequently restricted England to 124 in 15.3 overs. Purva Siwach, Maitri Maniar and Kashvi claimed two wickets each.

India enter the continental tournament as defending champions, having won the inaugural edition in Malaysia in 2024. The competition will also provide crucial preparation ahead of the ICC Under-19 Women's T20 World Cup scheduled for January-February 2027.

INDIA AT THE U-19 WOMEN'S ASIA CUP

1. Bhavika Ahire appointed India captain; Anaadi Tagde named vice-captain.
2. BCCI announces a 15-member squad for the continental tournament.
3. India enter as defending champions after winning the inaugural 2024 edition.
4. Tournament will serve as preparation for the 2027 ICC Under-19 Women's T20 World Cup.
5. India recently defeated England by 106 runs in the ongoing T20 series.
6. Next three matches against England scheduled for December 1, 3 and 6 in Surat.

Dani Pedrosa to exit KTM testing role in 2027

NEW DELHI

MotoGP Hall of Famer Dani Pedrosa will leave his position as KTM's test rider from 2027, bringing an end to an eight-year association with the Austrian manufacturer. Pedrosa joined KTM following his retirement from professional racing in 2018 and played a significant role in developing the team's RC16 MotoGP motorcycle.

During his tenure, the Spanish rider tested several versions of the RC16, which secured its maiden MotoGP victory in 2020 and went on to claim five more race wins. His technical expertise and understanding of motorcycle performance were considered important contributions to KTM's progress in the premier class.

Pedrosa also made four Grand Prix wildcard appearances for KTM, beginning in 2021, followed by two outings in 2023 and another in 2024. One of his standout performances came at Misano in 2023, where he secured an impressive fourth-place finish.



Dani Pedrosa will end his eight-year KTM testing association in 2027, having played a crucial role in developing its MotoGP motorcycle.

KTM Motorsport Director Pit Beirer praised Pedrosa's contribution, highlighting his experience, technical knowledge and ability to help the team make significant improvements. He also acknowledged Pedrosa's collaboration with fellow riders Mika and Pol, along with the wider testing department.

Pedrosa, a winner of 31 premier-class Grands Prix and three-time MotoGP championship runner-up, described his KTM journey as challenging and rewarding. He said his primary objective had been to help build a motorcycle capable of winning races, adding that the team had made considerable progress.

With MotoGP preparing to introduce new 850cc regulations in 2027, Pedrosa's departure marks the beginning of a new chapter in his career. However, he has not disclosed his future plans.

DANI PEDROSA'S KTM JOURNEY

- Joined KTM in 2018 after retirement
- Helped develop the RC16
- Made four Grand Prix wildcard appearances
- Secured fourth place at Misano in 2023
- Won 31 premier-class Grands Prix

Mohun Bagan's five-match winning streak meets defending champions

EAST BENGAL FC 14 goals, the league's most | **MOHUN BAGAN SG** five wins in a row, league leaders

KOLKATA

The Indian Super League (ISL 2026-27) gears up for one of Asian football's most iconic fixtures as East Bengal FC (EBFC) take on Mohun Bagan Super Giant (MBSG) in the first Kolkata Derby of the season on Sunday at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan (Salt Lake Stadium) in Kolkata.

Few rivalries in world football can match the passion, history and emotion of the Kolkata Derby. With more than a century of heritage behind it, the clash transcends football, dividing the City of Joy into red-and-gold and green-and-maroon. The rivalry even extends beyond the pitch, into a battle of fishes, with East Bengal supporters traditionally associated with ilish (hilsa) and Mohun Bagan fans favouring chingri (prawns), a culinary divide that adds to the derby's unique cultural identity and gives supporters another reason to celebrate.



This year's contest arrives with plenty at stake. MBSG head into the derby in scintillating form with five consecutive wins, chasing a sixth consecutive ISL victory and sitting atop the league standings. EBFC, meanwhile, boast the league's most potent attack with 14 goals scored (highest so far) and will be eager to reignite their campaign after dropping points in recent outings. The clash promises a fascinating battle between the competition's most prolific attack and one of its most consistent teams.

With a packed Salt Lake Stadium expected to provide a thunderous atmosphere, fans can look forward to an evening of fierce tackles, tactical battles, moments of brilliance and the unmatched spectacle that only the Kolkata Derby can deliver.

The highly anticipated Kolkata Derby between East Bengal FC and Mohun Bagan Super Giant will take place on Sunday in the Indian Super League (ISL) 2026-27 season. The match is scheduled to kick off at 7.30 pm IST at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan, popularly known as Salt Lake Stadium, in Kolkata.

Rinku Singh likely to be named KKR captain for IPL 2027, says Irfan Pathan

NEW DELHI

Former India left-arm fast bowler Irfan Pathan believes Rinku Singh is set to be named the new captain of Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) for IPL 2027, adding that the three-time champions have just a few other leadership options in their squad.

KKR have a captaincy vacancy to fill after Ajinkya Rahane retired from all forms of the game. Pathan also mentioned West Indies skipper Shai Hope as a possible captain KKR could buy at the auction, to be held in Goa on December 16.

"There is a lot of chatter going on about making Rinku Singh the captain of Kolkata Knight Riders, and right now, they do not have many options in their squad in terms of leadership. Rinku looks like the best option.

"They might even consider buying a captain from the auction, and if that is the case, then only one player comes to mind, Shai Hope, who just played a series in India and did a very good job.

"So, they can definitely explore that option too if they want, but knowing how their team management operates, I feel Rinku Singh is going to become Kolkata Knight Riders' new skipper," said Pathan to JioStar.



He also felt KKR's list of released players held no real surprises, while adding that Rahane's exit could allow Angkrish Raghuvanshi to move up and open the batting. "There are no major surprises in terms of the releases they have made. Ajinkya Rahane not being there will allow Angkrish Raghuvanshi to open the innings if they want him to play that role, so a lot of things will fall nicely into place for them.

"With Harshit Rana regaining fitness for bowling after missing out last year, you will see strength there as well. So, if Kolkata have a good leader, their upcoming season will be much better compared to the last one."

Former India opener Aakash Chopra also backed Rinku for the captaincy job, pointing out that he was KKR's vice-captain last season. Chopra, though, felt that veteran off-spinner Sunil Narine can also be a stop-gap leadership option. "There is only one option for the captaincy role at Kolkata Knight Riders, and that is Rinku Singh, if they want to go towards him," he said.

INDIA TEAM SELECTION

Coney questions Siraj's continued absence from XI

CHRISTCHURCH

Former New Zealand captain Jeremy Coney has expressed surprise over Mohammed Siraj's continued absence from India's playing XI for the second Test against New Zealand in Christchurch, questioning the decision to leave out the experienced fast bowler despite his impressive record and recent performances.



Siraj was also left out of the playing XI for the opening Test of the series, which ended in a draw. His omission from the second match has prompted questions from former cricketers and experts regarding India's bowling combination and selection strategy.

Speaking on the sidelines of the second Test on Saturday, Coney said Siraj's experience and ability to consistently take wickets made his exclusion unexpected. He pointed out that the Indian pacer had been an important member of the bowling attack during previous international assignments.

"Bit of a surprise that he's only had one ODI here in the New Zealand tour. Experienced player, gets about four wickets a Test. That's quite reasonable. I don't quite know why he's not there," Coney said.

The former New Zealand skipper also highlighted Siraj's contribution during India's previous five-match Test series in England, where the visitors managed to secure a 2-2 draw. He specifically recalled the pacer's performance at The Oval, where Siraj played an important role in India's victory.

"That's a surprise to me. I watched him play at the Oval too in the last Test match and how he was able to bowl India to a victory in that and draw that series 2-2," he added.

Meanwhile, Coney praised India's pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah, describing him as a unique and deceptive bowler who remains difficult for batters to handle. His comments have brought renewed attention to India's team selection and the absence of an experienced campaigner like Siraj.

Dropped catches have dug India into a hole, WTC final hopes almost gone: Karthik



SECOND TEST
Day two, stumps
NEW ZEALAND
356
INDIA
116/6
India trail by 240

NEW DELHI

Former India wicketkeeper-batter Dinesh Karthik on Saturday blamed India's poor catching for leaving them in trouble in the ongoing Test against New Zealand, adding that the team's chances of reaching the World Test Championship (WTC) final are slipping out of reach.

India closed day two's play at the Hagley Oval on 116/6 in reply to New Zealand's first-innings score of 356. The visitors are still 240 runs behind, with Dhruv Jurel unbeaten on seven at stumps. Washington Sundar's dismissal for 10 ended day two's play, with Akash Deep to join Jurel on day three.

"What is happening with India's catching? Out of the 12 Test playing nations, India is 8th right now. We are harbouring ambitions of going to the World Test Championship final. But if you're 8th, then you've dropped a lot of catches, you've let go of a lot of crucial moments and that basically means your chances of getting to that final is going to be next to impossible," Karthik said in a video on his Instagram account on Saturday.

The fielding lapses cost India heavily on day two. A chance of New Zealand captain Tom Latham was put down on 29 on day one, and he went on to make 59. Wicketkeeper-batter Tom Blundell also got a life on 49 when he was dropped in the gully.

Blundell went on to top-score for New Zealand with 89. Fast bowler Akash Deep suffered most from the drops – three catches went down off his bowling before he completed his five-wicket haul by having Matt Henry caught out.

"In general, one of the reasons why most Test teams do well is because their close-in catchers are solid. They convert half chances and create more opportunities than what is available. Now India have gone the other way round. They're dropping sitters and that's come back to bite them," added Karthik.

He also felt India are facing the real risk of having to follow on in the match. "Eventually, India is so far behind in this Test match, 240 runs to go, just four wickets in hand in the first innings. We're looking at basically New Zealand putting us in and taking a follow on.

"We've got ourselves into a hole. India need to bat out that first session, try and reduce the deficit to 150. If that doesn't happen, India are going to find it really hard to come back in this Test match," said Karthik.

WHAT THE DROPS COST

- **Tom Latham:** dropped on 29, made 59
- **Tom Blundell:** dropped on 49 in the gully, top-scored with 89
- **Akash Deep:** three catches went down off his bowling
- **Eighth:** India's catching rank among the 12 Test nations, says Karthik

City Hilights (English Daily) published by P. Sunil Kumar (Publisher) on behalf of Immaculate Broadcasting Consortium World News (P) Ltd., No. 18, JRV Court, Queens's Road, Bengaluru – 560001 and printed at Vihaan Media #85/J, Industrial suburb 2nd stage, Yeshwantpur Extension,Bangalore-560022, Printed at No-7/2 plot no.CA-3/1,28(p)&29(p) Kapanoor 2nd Stage Industrial Area Kapnoor Village Kalaburagi -585104. Printed at S. J. R. V. Printers, No. 208 Plot No. B-019 KSSIDC Industrial Area, Irfan Ahamed Khan Pathan, 4th Main Road Gamanagatti, Hubballi-Dharwad – 580025. and Elegant Offset Printers Pvt. Ltd. No. 5-61/1, Shed No. M-6, Yeyyadi Industrial Estate, Yeyyadi, Mangalore - 575 008. (RNI No: KARENG / 2015 / 63243), Regd. No. BGGPO-2581/2017-2019 Posted at Bengaluru PSO-560026 Email - cityhilights.news@gmail.com Phone: 080-41209042. Copyright. All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is prohibited.