# CITY HILIGHTS

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The Truth Speaks

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P7 CRPF personnel deployed ahead of Karthigai Deepam

P9 India, Denmark seek stronger economic partnership





P10 Sai Pallavi Rejects ₹2 Crore Fairness Cream Advertisement



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# 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**

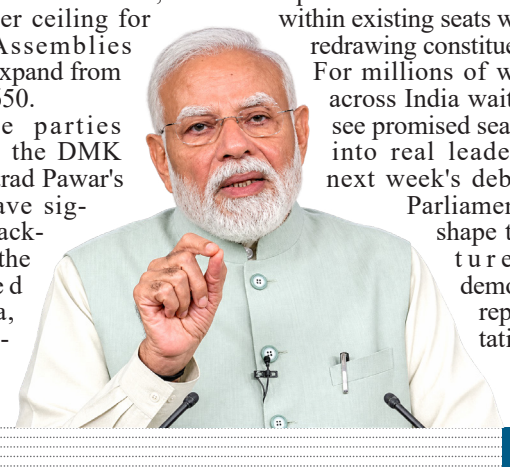
Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared that his government will remove every obstacle standing in the way of 33 percent reservation for women in Parliament and state legislative assemblies. Posting a pointed video message on X ahead of next week's special Parliament session, Modi said the struggle to 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.



# Kiran Bedi urges policy support, financial security for children with disabilities

## Former Puducherry Lieutenant Governor inaugurates the 32nd National Parents' Meet at AIISH, calls for care leave for parents

**CH NEWS,** MYSURU



Former Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry Dr Kiran Bedi inaugurating the two-day 32nd National Parents' Meet, organised by PARIVAAR, the National Confederation of Parent Organisations, in association with Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad, and the All India Institute of Speech and Hearing (AIISH), in Mysuru on Saturday.

Former Puducherry Lieutenant Governor and retired IPS officer Kiran Bedi urged the Union government to introduce a dedicated care leave provision for parents of children with disabilities, enabling them to balance professional commitments with the special care and attention their children require.

"Just as maternity and paternity leave are provided, the government should consider introducing care leave for parents of children with special abilities," she said while inaugurating the two-day 32nd National Parents' Meet, organised by PARIVAAR, the National Confederation of Parent Organisations, in association with Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad, and the All India Institute of Speech and Hearing (AIISH), at the AIISH premises here on Saturday.

**BEDI'S CALLS**

- **Care leave:** for parents of children with disabilities, as for maternity and paternity
- **Welfare trust:** fill its chairman's post and strengthen its corpus
- **Advocacy:** separate awareness, advocacy and activism groups of parents and professionals
- **Fathers:** share the caregiving with mothers

The meet focuses on 'From Care to Empowerment: Building Inclusive Communities Through Strong Families and Collective Action'.

Highlighting the need for long-term financial security for children with intellectual and developmental disabilities, Bedi expressed concern over the reported absence of a chairman for a welfare trust established for their benefit. The institute must immediately address the issue, strengthen the trust's corpus and ensure that it fulfilled its intended purpose of supporting children beyond their parents' lifetime.

The former governor said families must become active participants in shaping policies and securing the rights of persons with disabilities. Suggesting the formation of separate awareness, advocacy and activism groups, she called for mobilising parents, professionals, lawyers and corporate leaders to identify gaps in policy implementation and pursue collective action.

Bedi also stressed the need for measurable outcomes from such initiatives, urging families to move beyond discussions and demonstrate concrete progress. She called for greater involvement of fathers in caregiving, observing that the responsibility of raising children with disabilities should not fall entirely on mothers.

Advocating a change in societal attitudes, she said persons with disabilities must be treated with dignity and provided opportunities for independence, empowerment and inclusion.

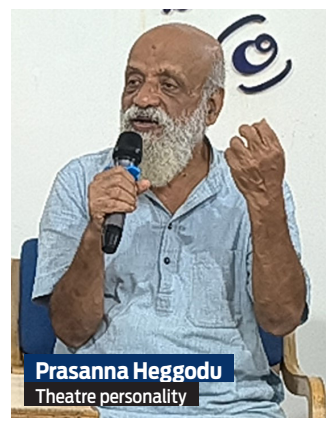
PARIVAAR President Dr Pankaj Maru said the organisation represented more than 300 parent and non-parent organisations across the country. AIISH Director Dr Pushpavathi highlighted the institute's contributions to rehabilitation and early intervention, while NIEPID Director B.V. Ramkumar emphasised the importance of family-centred rehabilitation.

> **"Just as maternity and paternity leave are provided, the government should consider introducing care leave for parents of children with special abilities."**
>
> — **Kiran Bedi,** Former Puducherry Lieutenant Governor

Dr D.K. Menon and B. Elangovan, Deputy Director, Technical Education, JSS, were present.

# 'See the damage yourself': Prasanna asks CM Shivakumar to visit Heggodu

**CH NEWS,** MYSURU


Prasanna Heggodu
Theatre personality

Renowned theatre personality and khadi movement crusader Prasanna Heggodu has renewed his protest against the alleged neglect of Gram Panchayats, handloom and khadi industries, accusing the government of undermining Mahatma Gandhi's vision of Gram Swarajya.

In a fresh letter to Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, Prasanna expressed disappointment that his resignation from the post of Chairman of the Mahatma Gandhi Vastrodyyama Kosha on November 12 had failed to elicit any meaningful response from the government. The issues that prompted his resignation remained unaddressed even after a fortnight, forcing him to write again.

Focusing on what he described as the alarming state of the Gram Panchayat system, Prasanna questioned the demolition undertaken at Virupaksha Jaddu Lake in Heggodu village in the name of clearing encroachments. He alleged that the hurried operation, carried out under the direction of the Panchayat Raj Minister, had damaged the lake's upper embankment, a hillock nearly 20 feet above the waterbody, creating the danger of its collapse into the lake and destruction of vegetable gardens along the upper bank.

According to Prasanna, the operation also resulted in the demolition of a sacred earthen mound associated with Gangamma, where local MLA Belur Gopalakrishna had worshipped the Ganges while dedicating the lake to the public. He questioned how the mound could have been mistaken for an encroachment, allegedly on the basis of an unclear satellite image.

### Real encroachers

Prasanna accused certain individuals of misleading the Minister through false complaints and said the present controversy ignored the history of the lake's restoration. He credited senior socialist leader Kagodu Thimmappa with having facilitated the removal of encroachments nearly two decades ago and said the Gandhian organisation Charaka had subsequently undertaken the painstaking restoration of the waterbody.

The restoration, he said, was carried out based on a blueprint prepared by the Zilla Panchayat engineer under the guidance of then Deputy Commissioner Dayanand. Former Panchayat Raj Secretary Raghunandan had visited the site and offered suggestions to develop the lake into a biodiversity hotspot, while another Secretary, Ateeq, had sanctioned funds under the MGNREGA scheme.

He recalled that the initiative had received cooperation across political lines, from the Siddaramaiah government to the Yediyurappa government, and from former MLA Hartalu Halappa to the present MLA Belur Gopalakrishna. Attempts were now being made to declare the existing lake restoration committee unauthorised, constitute a new committee and hand over control to former encroachers. But the villagers had boycotted a proposed fresh Gram Sabha over the issue.

### Calls for Gandhi Mission

Inviting Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar to visit Heggodu, Prasanna urged him to inspect Charaka, the restored lake and its damaged upper embankment personally. He said he would extend full cooperation if Minister Eshwar Khandre worked within the rules and respected the autonomy of Gram Panchayats.

Rejecting Savarkarism, Prasanna reminded Congress leaders of their ideological roots in Gandhi's principles and urged the government to implement the recommendations of a report prepared by him, Jayadev and Shivraj. He called for the establishment of a 'Gandhi Mission' to revive Gram Panchayats, village lakes, handlooms and khadi, and undertake rural reconstruction with renewed commitment.

Questioning the government's claim of clearing encroachments from 11,000 lakes in three months, Prasanna warned that hurried administrative action would neither fulfil Gandhi's dream nor make Karnataka prosperous. He stressed that genuine village development required community participation, respect for local institutions and protection of ecological and cultural heritage.

# 592 engineering, 7 architecture students receive degrees at GSSSIETW


Topper B.C. Bhuvana being felicitated at the graduation day of GSSSIETW in Mysuru on Saturday.


Students all set to receive their degrees in the engineering and architecture streams at GSSSIETW.

**CH NEWS,** MYSURU

The Graduation Day ceremony for the 2026 batch of B.E. students of GSSS Institute of Engineering and Technology for Women (GSSSIETW) and B. Arch. students of GSSS School of Architecture for Women was held on the college campus here on Saturday. Dr. P.B. Kotur, Global Head, Global Engineering Academy, L&T Technology Services, who was the chief guest, acknowledged the contributions of parents, teachers, former soldiers and taxpayers in supporting education and urged the graduates to become spiritually and culturally enlightened engineers.

Highlighting the growing importance of Artificial Intelligence (AI), he advised students to consider AI as an assistant rather than a boss. He stressed the need to master emerging technologies, develop relevant skills and use AI thoughtfully. "Copy AI, but don't paste it," he remarked.

He emphasised the importance of independent thinking and responsible use of technology. He described a degree as a passport and skills as the visa to professional success, urging students to continuously upgrade their knowledge to meet industry expectations. He also acknowledged the influence of women, particularly his mother, wife and daughter, in shaping his values.

During the ceremony, Bhuvana B.C. of the CSE (AI & ML) department was felicitated for securing the seventh rank in Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU), in the presence of her parents.

Degree certificates were distributed to 592 students who had completed the B.E. course, and seven Bachelor of Architecture students also graduated on the occasion. Gururaj K.S., Professor and Head of the Department of Information Science and Engineering, administered the graduation oath.

Anupama B. Pandit, Secretary, GSSS (R), urged the graduates to uphold Indian values, respect their parents and teachers, and become responsible citizens. She emphasised the importance of raising emotionally strong sons who respect and support women's achievements. Reminding students of the sacrifices made by their parents, she advised them to stay away from negative influences and remain rooted in Indian culture and traditions.

> *"Copy AI, but don't paste it."*
>
> **DR. P.B. KOTUR** Global Head, Global Engineering Academy, L&T Technology Services

Dr. M. Shivakumar, Principal, GSSSIETW, Dr. Roopashree H.R., Professor and Head of the Department of Artificial Intelligence and Data Science, Dr. Raviraj P., Professor and Head of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering were also present.

| 592 | 7 | 7th |
|---|---|---|
| B.E. graduates | B. Arch. graduates | topper's VTU rank |

# Kabbinale's 'Sri Vaijayanti Katha' to premiere on Dec 19

**CH NEWS,** MYSURU



Another distinctive Yaksh Nritya Roopaka (Yakshagana dance-drama) is set to emerge from the creative literary imagination of Dr. Kabbinale Vasantha Bharadwaj, an accomplished Ashtavadhani, Gamaki exponent and scholar known for his multifaceted contributions to Kannada literature.

His latest creation, Sri Vaijayanti Katha, will have its maiden performance on December 19 at the 'Nammane Habba' festival to be held at Bettakoppa, near Sirsi in Uttara Kannada district.

Known for his profound understanding of classical literature, nuanced interpretation of Puranas and epics, command over languages and poetic expression, Kabbinale has earned recognition for his creative efforts to adapt traditional narratives to contemporary artistic presentations. His literary ability to introduce fresh storylines without compromising the traditional essence of Yakshagana will be reflected in Sri Vaijayanti Katha as well. Centred around the Vaijayanti garland that adorns the neck of Lord Krishna, the dance-drama brings together a distinctive storyline, mythological background and the traditional dance expression of Yakshagana.

Presented by young and acclaimed Yaksh Nritya artiste Tulasi Hegde as part of her series of productions promoting the message of world peace, this is the 12th production in the series.

Earlier, Dr. Kabbinale Vasantha Bharadwaj had contributed two works to the same series — Vishwabhigamanam and Vande Govindam. Both productions were staged at various places across Karnataka and received appreciation. His latest work, Sri Vaijayanti Katha, is now ready for its debut. The premiere will be presented by Tulasi Hegde at 6.05 pm on December 19.

The musical ensemble will feature Rajyotsava Awardee Keshava Hegde Kolagi as Bhagavata (lead vocalist), Shankara Bhagavath of Nadashankara, Yellapur, on the maddale, and Vigneshwara Gowda on the chande. Venkatesh Bogrimakki will handle the makeup.

Veteran Yakshagana artiste Vinayaka Hegde Kalagadde has choreographed the production, while Ramesh Hegde Halekanagodu has provided the original concept.

Dr. Shripada Bhat has contributed voice support, Dr. G.S. Panchalinga has handled tala practice, and Uday Poojari is responsible for sound recording.

# VVS Pandit Nehru School students qualify for State-level science meet

**CH NEWS,** MYSURU


The two young scientists of VVS Pandit Nehru High School.

Students of VVS Pandit Nehru High School have brought laurels to their institution by qualifying for the State-level competition of the National Children's Science Congress (NCSC) 2026, held at St. Joseph's Central School, Bannimantap in Mysuru last week.

A total of 90 teams, each comprising two young scientists, participated in the competition. Of these, 40 teams competed in the senior category, in which the VVS Pandit Nehru High School students participated. Their scientific knowledge, creativity and innovative approach helped them secure a place in the State-level competition.

The successful young scientists are Naya Batni of Class 10 and Samanvitha S. Chiramshi of Class 9. The focal theme of this year's competition was 'Science and Innovation for Sustainability'. Under the sub-theme 'RS for Waste Management', the students presented an innovative project titled 'Bract 2 Back'.

Guided by their teacher, Anupama Padaki, the students explored an eco-friendly solution to the waste generated from the sale and consumption of roasted corn. Their project focused on converting discarded corn bracts (the leafy coverings of corn cobs) into biodegradable drinking cups. By processing corn bracts into pulp and mixing it with suitable binders, they developed cups capable of holding water. The innovation offers a sustainable alternative to conventional disposable cups while providing a useful way to manage agricultural and food-related waste.

**From bract to cup**

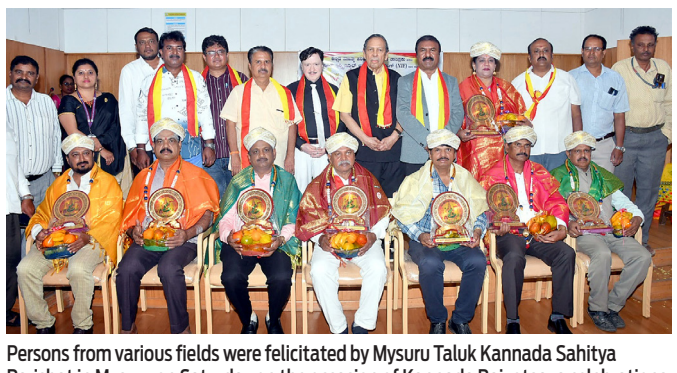
1. **Waste:** discarded corn bracts, the leafy coverings of roasted corn cobs
2. **Pulp:** the bracts are processed into pulp
3. **Binder:** the pulp is mixed with suitable binders
4. **Cup:** biodegradable drinking cups that hold water
5. **Use:** a sustainable alternative to conventional disposable cups

The project demonstrated how everyday waste materials can be transformed into useful products through scientific thinking and innovation, highlighting the students' commitment to environmental sustainability.

KANNADA RAJYOTSAVA

# *Contentment and humanity essential for a peaceful society: Justice Santosh Hegde*

**CH NEWS,** MYSURU


Persons from various fields were felicitated by Mysuru Taluk Kannada Sahitya Parishat in Mysuru on Saturday on the occasion of Kannada Rajyotsava celebrations.

Contentment and human values are essential for a healthy society, said retired Lokayukta Justice Santosh Hegde.

Speaking after inaugurating the Kannada Rajyotsava celebrations and awards presentation ceremony organised by the Mysuru Taluk Kannada Sahitya Parishat at the National Institute of Engineering (NIE) here on Saturday, he emphasised the need to restore social values, and said that greed was less prevalent in earlier times, when children were taught moral values from a young age. Today, however, moral education has gradually disappeared from society. "Social values must be given importance. A person who is content with what he has will not indulge in wrongdoing. Similarly, where humanity prevails, peace and harmony will flourish in society," he said.

Recalling the values upheld in earlier generations, he said good people were recognised and honoured, while those who committed wrongdoings faced punishment and social disapproval.

In the past, when an individual committed a mistake, even members of their family faced social isolation, sending a strong message against wrongdoing. Today, however, people tend to honour those who wield power and possess wealth. "This is not the fault of individuals but of society as a whole. There is a need for a change in society's mindset and attitude," he observed.

Vijayalakshmi Narasimha Iyengar, District Kannada Sahitya Parishat organising secretary Rafiullah Khan, Saragur Taluk Kannada Sahitya Parishat president Kendagannaswamy and district vice-president T. Thyagaraju were among those present.

### Award recipients

The awards were presented to distinguished personalities for their contributions in various fields. The recipients included former Mysuru Mayor Purushotham, senior journalist Amshi Prasannakumar, writer Hanur Channappa, Nanjangud Srikanteshwara Temple Executive Officer C.G. Krishna, CFTRI scientist Shivaswamy, educationist Mohankumar Shastry, entrepreneur M.C. Sadanand, Sanjeevini Women and Child Welfare Organisation founder-president Latha Ranganath, social worker Nandini, integrated farming practitioner Anitha Narayan, writer M. Ramanujappa and government employee Girish.



# 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**

# Organisations must work for society's development: G.T. Devegowda

**CH NEWS,** MYSURU



Chamundeshwari Assembly MLA G.T. Devegowda speaking after inaugurating various activities organised by Kannadambe Rakshana Vedike in Mysuru on Saturday.

Organisations should actively work towards the welfare and development of society, and the social initiatives undertaken by the Kannadambe Rakshana Vedike in protecting the interests of Kannada language, land, water and Kannadigas serve as an inspiration for youth organisations, said Chamundeshwari Assembly MLA G.T. Devegowda.

Speaking after inaugurating the two-day Kannada festival organised by the Kannadambe Rakshana Vedike at J.K. Grounds here on Saturday, he lauded the efforts of the organisation's State president Rajshekar, and said that his commitment to education, healthcare and women's empowerment over the past several years was reflected in the numerous welfare activities undertaken by the organisation. The Vedike has been providing healthcare services to government schoolchildren, distributing educational materials, organising sports events for youth, and offering sewing machines free of cost to economically disadvantaged women. It has also extended assistance to old-age homes by supplying groceries and other essential items.

Through such initiatives, the organisation has demonstrated how a social group can actively contribute to community welfare.

Describing the festival, organised through collective leadership, as commendable, the MLA promised that he would extend his full support to all the social welfare initiatives undertaken by Rajshekar and the organisation.

Chamaraja Assembly MLA K. Harish Gowda distributed school bags and educational materials free of cost to government schoolchildren and appreciated the social service activities of the Vedike. Sri Immadi Guruling Swamiji, who inaugurated the programme, said the Vedike had carved out a distinct identity in society through its public welfare activities over the past seven years.

Srinivas Guruji, Administrative Officer of Sri Yoganarasimha Temple, inaugurated the health check-up camp and appreciated Rajshekar's sustained efforts towards social welfare.

He observed that sports foster friendship, harmony and affection among people. Through sports activities, Rajshekar was making valuable efforts to bring society together, he said, wishing the programme success.

On the occasion, MLA G.T. Devegowda formally inaugurated the cricket tournament by tossing the coin and wielding the bat.

Kannadambe Rakshana Vedike State Treasurer Nanjunda, Women's Wing president Tara, Joint Secretary Chennanaik, Labour Wing District president Shashikala, Kikkeri Kiran and other office-bearers were present.

# Kannada Vedike stages dharna in support of striking ASHA workers

**CH NEWS,** MYSURU



Members of the Mysuru Kannada Vedike holding a protest in front of the old DC office in Mysuru on Saturday in support of the ASHA workers.

Extending its support to the ongoing protest by ASHA (Accredited Social Health Activist) workers at Freedom Park in Bengaluru, the Mysuru Kannada Vedike staged a demonstration in front of the old Deputy Commissioner's office in Mysuru on Saturday.

The protest, led by Vedike president S. Balakrishna, saw members raising slogans against the government and demanding the immediate fulfilment of the legitimate demands of ASHA workers.

The protesters pointed out that ASHA workers had been tirelessly serving communities since the COVID-19 pandemic, visiting villages and looking after the health and well-being of pregnant women, new mothers, children and senior citizens.

They have been at the forefront of vaccination drives, health check-ups and public awareness campaigns. Despite risking their lives and working tirelessly for public welfare, they continue to be denied adequate honorarium and basic facilities, the protesters alleged.

With the prices of essential commodities rising steadily, it has become increasingly difficult for ASHA workers to run their families on the meagre honorarium they receive, they said. "Elected representatives should not restrict themselves to sitting in offices and posing for photographs. They must respond to people's problems. The ASHA workers' agitation is justified, and all public representatives should extend their support and raise the issue in the Legislative Assembly," he demanded.

Gurubasappa, Bogadi Siddegowda, Palace Babu, LIC Siddappa, Govindaraju, Beeda Babu, Honakere Swamy, Kaveramma, Malini, Ramesh, Gopi, Chinnappa, Shivegowda, Harish, Shivakumar Swamy, Sai Chamaraju, Mahadev, Sunil, Swamy Guide and Harish Kumar were among those who participated in the protest.

**? ASHA WORKERS**

**Since the COVID-19 pandemic, ASHA workers have visited villages to look after pregnant women, new mothers, children and senior citizens, and have been at the forefront of vaccination drives, health check-ups and public awareness campaigns.**

# Students rally behind striking ASHA workers

**CH NEWS,** MYSURU



Members of AIDSO staging a protest in Mysuru on Saturday in support of the striking ASHA workers in Bengaluru.

A protest was held at Ramaswamy Circle in Mysuru on Saturday under the leadership of AIDSO, demanding the fulfilment of the justifiable demands of ASHA workers.

Addressing the protest, AIDSO State Treasurer Subhash Bettadakoppa said for the past 12 days, undeterred by rain, cold and sun, ASHA workers have been staging a relentless struggle at Bengaluru's Freedom Park. This is an inspiration to students. On the occasion of the death anniversary of Mahatma Jyotiba Phule, who worked for the upliftment of women and backward communities, AIDSO completely supports the struggle of ASHA mothers who are conducting an indefinite strike along with their children.

The government, which has a budget of Rs 4.5 lakh crore, is not fixing the minimum wage of Rs 15,000 demanded by ASHA workers. Instead of fulfilling the demands of ASHA workers, ministers, including the Chief Minister, are making irresponsible statements. The government that says 'Save the Constitution' is showing an anti-constitutional stance.

Noted writer N. Divakar said calling it blackmail when the working class fights for their wages is an extremely irresponsible statement, and it is an insult to the ASHA workers who go door-to-door for 8 to 10 hours rendering humanitarian service. A scientific monthly wage must be implemented immediately.

### A wage that matches the work

Prof Kalachannegowda, retired principal of Maharaja's College said ASHA workers did not launch a strike suddenly; they have appealed peacefully several times. The government has not kept the word it gave last time. The government is reaping many benefits from ASHA workers. The government does not have a mother's heart. A wage commensurate with their hard work must be fixed immediately.

Dr E. Rathi Rao from Forum Against Atrocities on Women said during the COVID period, they went from street to street and saved many lives. They fully support their struggle. The Rs 15,000 that ASHA workers are asking for is too little; a wage of Rs 40,000 should be fixed for their hard work.

Dr Hemalatha H.M., retired Professor of Women's Studies, Akkamahadevi Women's University, said receiving a wage commensurate with one's labour is a fundamental right. By not fulfilling the minimum demand of ASHA workers, the government is showing its negligent attitude.

The protest was presided over by AIDSO District Secretary Nithin.

On this occasion, retired professors of Maharaja's College Latha Biddappa, Sridevi, retired principal of Sarada Vilas B.Ed College Roopa Rao, theatre director Sumathi K.R., social activist Nanda Halemane, AIDSO State Secretariat members Thulajaram, Preethi, and office-bearers Swathi, Hemalatha, Chandrika, Anjali, Nandish, Deeksha, Jnanesh, and college students participated.

| 12 | 15,000 | 40,000 |
|---|---|---|
| days of the ASHA strike at Freedom Park | rupees: the minimum wage ASHAs demand | rupees: the wage Dr Rathi Rao seeks |

# Put health information in simple words: Dr Anjanappa

**CH NEWS,** MYSURU



Noted gastroenterologist Dr T.H. Anjanappa addressing the regional conference of the Association of Alliance Clubs International in Mysuru on Saturday.

Health-related information should be communicated in simple language so that ordinary people can easily understand and benefit from it, said renowned gastroenterologist Dr T.H. Anjanappa.

He was delivering the keynote address after inaugurating the regional conference of the Association of Alliance Clubs International, organised under the theme 'Health is Wealth' at the Sir M.V. Auditorium of the Institution of Engineers on JLB Road here on Saturday.

Dr Anjanappa pointed out that several scientific and medical terms were difficult for the common people to understand. He cited the recent release of a book on Kannada medical terminology by Dr Bhagavan, Vice-Chancellor of Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, as a good initiative to make healthcare-related information more accessible to the public. Such efforts would help bridge the communication gap between medical professionals and the general public.

Alliance International Secretary Nagaraja V. Bairi welcomed the gathering and delivered the introductory address.

District Governor Mahabaleshwara Bairi, former Governor Siri Balu, Deputy Governors N. Gangadharappa and Shalini Bairi, District Cabinet Secretary C.B. Srisaila, Treasurer K. Raghuram Vajpayee, Public Relations Officer Krishnoji Rao, Ambassador Shobha Siribalu, Regional Presidents K.B. Lingaraju, Saraswathi and Mahadevu, and Regional Conference Secretary Dr Y.D. Rajanna were among those present.

**Health information should be put in simple language so that ordinary people can benefit**

Alliance Club presidents N. Bettegowda (Nalwadi), K.K. Jayaram (J.P. Nagar), Umrana Ismail (Rajiv Nagar), P.V. Srinivas Ramesh (Krishnadevaraya), A.R. Nandeesh (Hebbal Friends), Sameera Sultana (Imperial), Dr H.S. Niranjan Babu (Yuvaraja), T. Thyagaraju (Karunadu), Jyothi Nagaraju (Bannur) and M.S. Sowmya Gurukar (Genius), along with Jayalakshmi Lingaraju, also participated.

Shashidhar Eechagere, K.T. Hanumanthu, K. Chandrashekar, Edayur Sameeulla, Mahalingegowda and members of all the ten participating clubs were present.

Sameera Sultana administered the Alliance pledge.

# Hathkargha Utsav handloom expo in Mysuru from Dec 1 to 14

**CH NEWS,** MYSURU



Handloom products on sale at a stall (file photo)

**Hathkargha Utsav**

| | |
|---|---|
| WHEN | December 1 to 14 |
| WHERE | JSS Mysore Urban Haat, Hebbal |
| WHO | 60+ weavers from across India |
| ON SALE | Molakalmuru and Ilkal sarees, bedsheets |

Sponsored by the Office of the Development Commissioner (Handlooms), Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, New Delhi, and organised by JSS Mysore Urban Haat-JSS Mahavidyapeetha, the State Handloom Expo – "Hathkargha Utsav – My Handloom, My Pride" will be held for 14 days, from December 1 to 14, 2026, at JSS Mysore Urban Haat, Hebbal Industrial Area, Ring Road, Mysuru.

The primary objective of this exhibition is to provide a direct marketing platform for traditional and diverse handloom products manufactured by handloom weavers and weavers' cooperative societies, promote and preserve India's rich handloom traditions, and strengthen the economic empowerment and livelihood opportunities of the weaving community.

More than 60 handloom weavers and representatives of weavers' cooperative societies from various states across India are expected to participate in the expo. They will directly showcase and market their exclusively handwoven, authentic and quality products to customers, offering visitors an opportunity to interact with the weavers and understand the craftsmanship behind each creation. The exhibition will showcase an extensive range of India's renowned handloom products, offering something special for every handloom enthusiast. From Karnataka, the famous Molakalmuru sarees, Ilkal sarees, silk sarees, cotton sarees, embroidered sarees, bedsheets and other products will be on sale.

# NIE holds 'Run for Healthy Lungs' marathon

**CH NEWS,** MYSURU



At the inauguration of the 5-km marathon organised by NIE in Mysuru on Saturday.

**The run**

| DISTANCE | VENUE |
|---|---|
| 5 km | NIE North Campus |
| TITLE SPONSOR | HOSPITAL PARTNER |
| Tribal Brew Daily | Narayana Health |

The National Institute of Engineering (NIE), Mysuru, in association with Youth for Seva, successfully organised the 5-km marathon 'Run for Healthy Lungs' at NIE North Campus in Mysuru on Saturday.

The event was organised with a strong commitment to promoting public health, raising awareness about the importance of healthy lungs and encouraging the community to adopt healthier lifestyles.

Organised as part of CSE-LESTRA, the departmental festival of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) at NIE, the marathon brought together students, fitness enthusiasts and members of the community for a meaningful social cause. The initiative highlighted the importance of physical activity, preventive healthcare and collective responsibility in building a healthier society.

The marathon aimed to spread awareness about the need to prioritise health and well-being in everyday life. Through the 5-km run, participants conveyed the message that maintaining good health is not merely an individual responsibility but also a shared commitment towards the welfare of society. The event encouraged people to make fitness a regular part of their lives and inspired the younger generation to take an active role in promoting community health.

The successful completion of the marathon reflected the spirit of unity, service and social responsibility demonstrated by the organisers, volunteers and participants. The initiative also highlighted the role of educational institutions in going beyond academics to address important social issues and create meaningful awareness among the public.

The event was supported by Tribal Brew Daily as the Title Sponsor, Narayana Health as the Hospital Partner and Arnold Fitness as the Fitness Partner. Tribal Coffee also extended its support to the initiative.

# *MP Yaduveer opens ITC Hospitality Centre of Excellence in Mysuru*

**CH NEWS,** MYSURU



Mysuru-Kodagu MP Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar inaugurating the ITC Hospitality Centre of Excellence in Mysuru.

Mysuru-Kodagu MP Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar inaugurated the 'ITC Centre of Excellence – Hospitality', a professional training centre located on Kalidasa Road in the city, along with Praveen Kumar, General Manager of ITC Limited's Mysuru division.

The centre has been established under ITC's 'Aashirvaad Bhavishya Jyothi' programme in partnership with the Pratham Education Foundation. It aims to equip young people in Mysuru district with industry-relevant skills and meet the growing demand for trained professionals in the hospitality sector.

Speaking after the inauguration, Yaduveer said skill development would play a crucial role in realising the vision of 'Viksit Bharat 2047'. He emphasised that academic learning must be complemented by practical, industry-oriented training to prepare young people for emerging employment opportunities.

Mysuru, a prominent historical and cultural destination attracting tourists from across India and abroad, offers immense potential for growth in the hospitality and tourism sectors, he said. A skilled workforce is essential to support this growth and enhance the overall experience of visitors to the city.

Calling upon young people to explore career opportunities in emerging sectors such as hospitality and construction instead of limiting themselves to traditional government jobs, Yaduveer appreciated ITC's commitment to youth empowerment, professional training and employment generation in Mysuru district.

Around 300 youngsters participated in the programme. A job fair organised on the occasion saw the participation of around eight employers from the hospitality and financial sectors, who shortlisted eligible candidates for employment.

ITC Limited representatives Harish Babu, Channaveeresh and Manoj M., Pratham Education Foundation representatives Hemani, Shashidhar and Vishweshwarayya, Venkatesh Murthy, Principal of Vishweshwarayya ITI College, Suraj, Principal of Gokulam BSS ITI, and Shivakumar, Principal of Mysuru Rural ITI College, were among those present.

**300**

**is roughly how many youngsters took part; around eight employers shortlisted candidates at the job fair**

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'

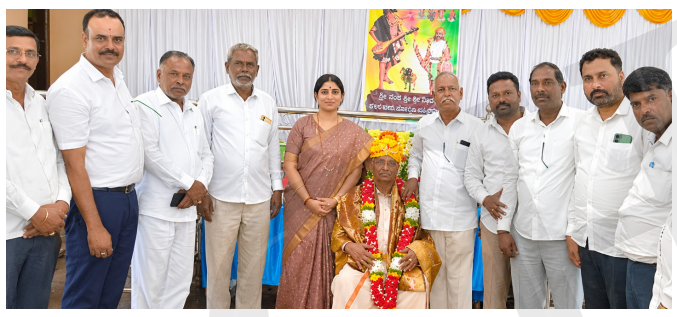
**CH NEWS,** HUNSUR

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

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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

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

### 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.

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.

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.

**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

# 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 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

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.

# 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.

**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

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.

# 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.



MDMK leaders speak to reporters at Tiruchirappalli Airport.




**Mekedatu:** the proposed dam site on the Cauvery in Karnataka

**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.

**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.

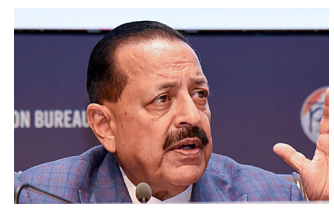
During his India visit, Lidegaard highlighted the complementary strengths of the two economies and said commercial opportunities could expand further with the proposed India-European Union Free Trade Agreement.

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)*



Mohak Bajaj

### 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

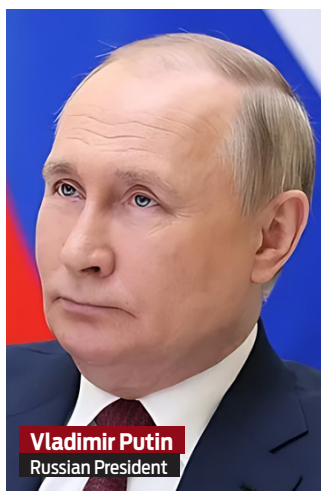
Vladimir Putin announced the new nuclear submarine Perm will soon join Russia's Pacific Fleet for combat duty, boosting regional power.

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<br>**Yasen-M, the fifth delivered in six years** | TYPE<br>**Fourth-generation, multipurpose, nuclear-powered** |
| WEAPONS<br>**Zircon hypersonic cruise missiles as standard** | POSTING<br>**Pacific Fleet, combat duty** |
| BUILT AT<br>**Sevmash shipyard, Severodvinsk** | BY 2030<br>**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

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