CITY HILIGHTS

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Karnataka Sets Regional Urbanization Goals for 2047

Shivakumar announced a roadmap centered on seven pillars to manage Karnataka's urban population surge to 70% by 2047

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Friday released the 'Karnataka State Regional Urbanization Plan-2047' at the Vidhana Soudha, asserting that strengthening the state's regional cities is essential to driving rural prosperity.

Addressing a workshop at the Banquet Hall, Shivakumar noted that Karnataka's urban population is projected to surge from 46% to 70% by 2047, while the total population expands from 6.9 crore to nearly 7.8 crore. To manage this demographic shift, the government has devised a long-term roadmap centered on seven key pillars: Udyama (Industry), Seva Unnati (Service), Sanchara (Connectivity), Parisara (Environment), Pratibha (Talent), Samruddhi (Prosperity), and Digital Karnataka.

"Economic strength generated in urban centers must be channeled toward rural welfare," Shivakumar said, emphasizing the need to create local jobs across districts to prevent distress migration into Bengaluru. He acknowledged the assistance of MLC Dr. Yathindra Siddaramaiah in formulating the blueprint.

Highlighting regional infrastructural strain, the Chief Minister pointed out that Bengaluru's population has reached 1.4 crore with 1.35 crore vehicles, yet overall state road coverage remains at just 8%, against an ideal benchmark of 18%. To streamline vehicular flow and spur economic decentralization, ring roads have been proposed for all peripheral towns and tier-II urban centers.

Regional industrial corridors will be tailored to local advantages, including electric vehicle production in Hubballi-Dharwad, steel in Ballari, and tech expansion under the 'Beyond Bengaluru' framework. To remedy acute institutional gaps in municipal administration, the government plans to establish a dedicated State Town Planning College, drawing inspiration from Mysuru's heritage urban planning.

Anticipating peak electricity demand to hit 50,000 MW by 2047, tenders have been invited for grid-scale battery systems to store daytime solar energy, expanding upon the Pavagada solar model. Furthermore, property records across urban local bodies are undergoing systematic digitization under the 'Bhu Suraksha' framework to safeguard landowners' rights. Shivakumar urged bureaucrats to eliminate administrative delays and maintain transparency.

Separately, Shivakumar announced that party workers and block presidents would represent the state unit at an upcoming protest in New Delhi, confirming he will remain in Bengaluru due to Karnataka Rajyotsava celebrations.

> My tenure doesn't matter only enduring developmental foundations and a visionary master plan for Karnataka's future do
>
> - D.K. Shivakumar, CM of Karnataka

Rs 7 from milk price hike to reach farmers: Shivakumar

Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar announced on Friday that ₹7 of the recent ₹8 milk price increase will go directly to dairy farmers, while ₹1 will cover union expenses. Speaking at Vidhana Soudha, the Chief Minister confirmed that neither he nor his cabinet colleagues would attend the November 1 protest in New Delhi due to Karnataka Rajyotsava celebrations. Instead, district and block Congress presidents will represent the party. District in-charge ministers will hoist the national flag locally, with Minister Krishna Byre Gowda stepping in for Deputy Chief Minister G. Parameshwara, who is recovering from ill health. On the Rajyotsava Awards, Shivakumar noted that activist Vatal Nagaraj declined the honor. Addressing rural distress, he assured sugarcane cultivators and drought-hit farmers that the state is actively exploring relief measures and fair-price solutions, urging them to remain patient.

THE SEVEN PILLARS OF THE 2047 PLAN

Udyama — Industry
Regional growth and local jobs in every district

Seva Unnati — Service
Quality infrastructure, civic services and public amenities

Sanchara — Connectivity
Road, rail and transport, with ring roads for all towns

Parisara — Environment
Green spaces, parks and lakes protected during expansion

Digital Karnataka — Governance
Technology-driven services; urban property records digitised

Samruddhi — Prosperity
Balanced growth across rural and urban regions

Pratibha — Talent
Education and skills aligned with market demands

Will serve India till last breath: Narendra Modi

BHILDI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday declared he would serve the people of India until his last breath, hitting back at Opposition parties for spreading panic over supplies of fertilisers and cooking gas amid global conflict in West Asia.

Addressing a large gathering seated on traditional cots (charpais) in Bhildi, Banaskantha district, Modi inaugurated the Bharat Bovine Breeding and Research Centre (BBBRC) and launched development projects worth ₹14,000 crore. He also released the 24th instalment of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN), transferring over ₹18,000 crore directly into the bank accounts of nearly 10 crore farmers.

Without directly naming Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge who recently sparked controversy with a personal swipe at a party event in Patna Modi accused political rivals of deriving satisfaction from national hardships. He dismissed claims of impending fertiliser and LPG deficits, asserting that the Union government absorbed steep international price spikes to insulate domestic consumers.

> *"There are those who delight in our nation's struggles and find joy whenever the country faces a crisis"*
>
> **NARENDRA MODI**
> PM of India

"Globally, a bag of urea costs nearly ₹3,000, yet Indian farmers receive it for under ₹300," Modi stated, adding that DAP fertiliser remains capped at ₹1,350 despite international prices topping ₹5,000. He highlighted that central agrarian welfare schemes have delivered or saved over ₹50 lakh crore for farmers, spanning ₹4.5 lakh crore under PM-KISAN, ₹24 lakh crore in Minimum Support Price (MSP) procurements, ₹2 lakh crore in crop insurance settlements, and substantial diesel savings via solar pumps under PM-KUSUM.

Speaking earlier, Gujarat Deputy Chief Minister Harsh Sanghavi asserted that public trust across the country remained unshakeable against Opposition barbs. Modi concluded by affirming that modern agricultural technology and strong dairy infrastructure would ensure sustainable rural self-reliance.

Agricultural and economic support insights

- **Fertilizer Price Subsidies**: Despite global conflicts driving urea costs up to ₹3,000 per bag, Indian farmers receive it for under ₹300, with the government absorbing the difference.
- **PM-Kisan Fund Transfer**: The 24th installment distributed over ₹18,000 crore to approximately 10 crore eligible farmer bank accounts.
- **Comprehensive Financial Shield**: Over the past few years, various welfare schemes have provided or saved Indian farmers an estimated ₹50 lakh crore.
- **Solar Irrigation Promotion**: The PM-KUSUM scheme successfully installed nearly 12 lakh solar-powered water pumps, cutting down diesel expenses and boosting generation.

Six killed in Uttarakhand helicopter hillside crash

CH NEWS, DEHRADUN

All six people aboard a private helicopter including five passengers from Karnataka and the pilot were killed on Friday when the aircraft crashed into a hillside near Joshimath in Uttarakhand's Chamoli district amid inclement weather.

The Trans Bharat Aviation Pvt. Ltd. chopper (call sign VT-HCX) had taken off from Badrinath at 1:15 p.m. bound for the Sahastradhara helipad in Dehradun. It lost contact with air traffic control around 2:20 p.m. while navigating the Joshimath valley, ultimately crashing near the JP Power House close to Marwari Bridge.

Chamoli District Magistrate Gaurav Kumar and an Indian Army unit confirmed the fatalities at the crash site. The deceased were identified as pilot Captain Himanshu and passengers Prathapa, Arun, Shankar Gowda, Sudheer K., and H.S. Natraja. Among the victims were Bengaluru Central Crime Branch Inspector Arun Salunke and Sakaleshpur businessman-contractor Pratap Gowda Bachihalli.

Joint disaster response teams from the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), Indian Army, Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), and local police reached the difficult terrain to recover the victims. Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami expressed deep grief over the tragedy, confirming that he is closely monitoring the response operations. The Uttarakhand Civil Aviation Development Authority (UCADA) announced the immediate grounding of Trans Bharat Aviation's entire helicopter fleet pending a safety review.

Reacting to the incident, Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister and Revenue Minister Dr. G. Parameshwara expressed grave concern over the loss of lives from the state, confirming that he had contacted the Chamoli district administration to oversee coordination and arrangements.

India announces official Census 2027 schedule

NEW DELHI

Population enumeration for Census 2027 will be conducted across most parts of India from January 25 to February 28, 2027, according to the schedule announced by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

The self-enumeration facility will be available from January 10 to January 24. A five-day revision exercise will follow from March 1 to March 5 to identify missing entries and correct errors.

Separate schedules have been announced for different regions. Snow-bound areas of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand were scheduled for enumeration from September 1 to September 30, 2026.

Goa, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and non-snow-bound areas of Uttarakhand will undergo enumeration between December 1, 2026, and January 4, 2027.

The reference date for the main Census exercise will be midnight on March 1, 2027.

The government has notified 40 questions covering caste, religion, nationality, education, employment, disability, migration and digital literacy. Information regarding COVID-19 vaccination locations and bank accounts will also be collected.

Identification details, including Aadhaar, voter ID and passport numbers, may be collected wherever available.

Meanwhile, Congress leader Jairam Ramesh criticised the exercise, alleging that the government was attempting to use the Census to determine citizenship. He termed the alleged move illegal.

History made as pope submits mail-in ballot

VATICAN CITY

Pope Leo XIV has become the first pontiff in history to vote in a United States election, casting a mail-in ballot ahead of the November 3 midterm polls.

The Vatican confirmed on Friday that the Chicago-born pope, formerly Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost, submitted his ballot in Illinois.

The Holy See Press Office said the pontiff has consistently exercised his voting rights whenever eligible, including during his years in Peru.

The Pope emphasised that participating in democratic processes is both a right and a civic duty.

The upcoming elections will decide all 435 House of Representatives seats, 35 Senate seats and 36 governorships. American citizens residing overseas are legally permitted to vote through absentee ballots.

Ashoka slams Cong over strict relief terms

BENGALURU

Leader of the Opposition in the Karnataka Legislative Assembly R. Ashoka on Friday accused the Congress government of abandoning drought-hit farmers, alleging that imposing 17 restrictive conditions to disburse a meager ₹2,500 relief per household was an insult to the agrarian community.

Addressing a press conference, the BJP leader criticized the administration for withholding relief despite convening a multi-crore special session. "Farmers' records and land details already exist within the Revenue Department and the FRUITS database," Ashoka said, demanding an immediate lump-sum transfer of ₹1,250 crore via Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), similar to the PM-KISAN model. He noted that conditions disqualifying holdings above two hectares, rain-fed lands, and joint accounts unjustly exclude distressed North Karnataka growers.

Ashoka also attacked the recent ₹8 per litre hike in milk prices, terming it a betrayal of election promises to raise farmer milk incentives from ₹5 to ₹7. He asserted that the hike places a severe cost-of-living burden on low- and middle-income families, contrasting Karnataka's policy with Tamil Nadu's farmer-support framework. Highlighting internal rifts within the ruling party over the Election Commission's Special Intensive Revision (SIR), Ashoka questioned why Congress leaders plan to protest in New Delhi when Public Works Minister Satish Jarkiholi has defended the revision drive. He dared the Congress high command to test its ballot-paper demands by dissolving assemblies in states it governs.

Ashoka concluded by demanding an independent inquiry into the alleged poisoning conspiracy involving former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, while pressing the government to immediately drop registered police cases against protesting sugarcane farmers.

STORM DISRUPTS ALLIANCE

Rain forces opposition to reschedule CEC impeachment

NEW DELHI

Heavy rainfall in the national capital forced the opposition INDIA bloc on Friday to postpone its planned symbolic "public impeachment" of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar to Saturday, October 31.

The decision was taken following consultations among opposition leaders at Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge's residence. The programme was originally scheduled for Friday afternoon.

Addressing reporters, Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi said the decision was unanimous, considering the inconvenience senior leaders would face during the rainfall. Gandhi confirmed that the programme would be held on Saturday without any changes to its format.

The opposition alliance has accused the Election Commission of failing to address alleged electoral irregularities, particularly concerns surrounding the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

The symbolic proceedings are part of a broader opposition campaign against alleged voter-list manipulation and the functioning of the Election Commission.

Former Lok Sabha Speaker Meira Kumar is expected to preside over the proceedings, while Kharge will move a symbolic motion.

Gandhi also announced that opposition parties would organise a massive 'Chalo Dilli' rally at Ramlila Maidan on Sunday, November 1.

He accused Union Home Minister Amit Shah of attempting to prevent people from entering Delhi to participate in the demonstration. The Congress leader maintained that the opposition parties were united in their efforts to protect constitutional values and voting rights.

Leaders from the Trinamool Congress, Samajwadi Party and other alliance partners reaffirmed their support for the campaign, demanding accountability from the Election Commission over the alleged irregularities.

PROTEST EVENT OVERVIEW

Original Schedule	October 30, 2026 at 3:30 PM
Rescheduled Date	October 31, 2026
Key Venue	New Delhi (Leading to Ramlila Maidan)
Key Target	Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar

Quick Read

IMD predicts mixed weather, light rains

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast mixed weather conditions across Karnataka for October 30 and 31. While coastal areas experience predominantly dry spells initially, light to moderate rain is expected to hit isolated pockets of Dakshina Kannada, Udupi, and parts of North and South Interior Karnataka. Meanwhile, chilly conditions continue to prevail in other regions, with several interior districts recording stable low temperatures. The Meteorological Department has confirmed that no heavy rainfall warnings are currently in place for the state.

Dating app trap leads to gold robbery in Bengaluru

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Chandra Layout police have arrested two transgender individuals, Nazia and Syed Moushin, for robbing a Nagarbhavi home of 226 grams of gold jewelry worth Rs 20 lakh. The incident occurred after a young man invited a date he met on an online app to his friend's rented home. Instead of the expected woman, masked transgender individuals arrived, brandished a knife, threatened the occupants into silence, looted the cupboard, and fled. Following a formal complaint, local police tracked down and apprehended the suspects, who remain in custody for interrogation.

Dropped token disrupts Namma Metro services

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Train services across Namma Metro's Purple and Green lines faced brief disruptions on October 30 after a commuter jumped onto the tracks at Indiranagar station. The incident occurred around 9:22 AM when a travel token accidentally fell. Prompt action by security personnel who activated the Emergency Trip System and Emergency Stop Button prevented a tragedy, safely rescuing the passenger. The stunt caused a 10-minute delay on the Purple Line and a rush at Majestic Interchange, temporarily impacting the Green Line. Normal operations resumed by 9:40 AM.

Health department investigates unsafe water units

Karnataka health authorities inspected packaged water plants, seizing defective stocks and shutting down a non-compliant unit.

Officials at a packaged drinking water plant.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The state government has launched a massive safety crackdown. Authorities have started rigorous statewide inspections targeting packaged drinking water plants to protect public health and ensure strict food safety compliance.

State Health Minister U.T. Khader announced that food safety officials recently inspected 45 packaged drinking water production units. During these surprise checks, inspectors collected 32 water samples and sent them directly to authorized government food testing laboratories for detailed chemical and biological analysis.

Officials uncovered severe violations regarding hygiene and legal documentation. Common infractions included filthy working conditions, expired licenses, missing pest control clearance certificates, and a complete lack of mandatory medical fitness certificates for workers. Furthermore, inspectors found serious errors on product labels. Defective bottled water stocks were immediately seized from manufacturing units located in Mysuru and Davanagere. In an even stricter move, authorities completely shut down a non-compliant production unit in Mulbagal town of Kolar district due to appalling sanitary standards.

The government is currently awaiting final laboratory reports on the collected water samples. Minister Khader warned that severe legal action will follow immediately once these test reports arrive. He stressed that the administration maintains zero tolerance for compromised water quality, noting that regular, unannounced checks will continue across all districts.

To empower citizens, the minister urged everyone to carefully examine product labels before buying packaged water. Consumers should always check for valid ISI marks, official Food Safety and Standards Authority of India license numbers, proper manufacturing dates, and unbroken bottle seals. If anyone suspects foul play or unhygienic bottling practices, they can instantly file a formal complaint by scanning a special QR code issued by the department. Officials believe these strict measures will drastically improve industry standards and safeguard community well-being.

Water unit crackdown

Notices and seizures
Out of 45 inspected plants, 24 units received notices; misbranded stocks were seized in Mysuru and Davanagere

Plant closure
A unit in Mulbagal, Kolar district, was ordered to shut down over severe unhygienic conditions

Consumer guidance
Verify FSSAI numbers, ISI marks, manufacturing dates and seals; report irregularities by QR code

No prohibited items found: DGP Alok Kumar

DGP (Prisons) Alok Kumar.

Prisons DGP Alok Kumar led a surprise late-night inspection at Parappana Agrahara Central Prison with 150 personnel, finding no banned items during the sweep.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The security forces carried out a surprise late-night inspection at the well-known Central Prison located in Parappana Agrahara. Law enforcement officers thoroughly checked every corner of the facility to ensure rules are strictly followed behind bars. After hours of checking, the top prison boss confirmed that absolutely no illegal goods or banned items were discovered during the operation.

Alok Kumar, the Director General of Police for the Prisons Department, shared details about the late-night sweep with the public. The massive operation took place late Thursday night, catching everyone off guard. More than 150 police personnel took part in the sudden check, working under the direct leadership of the Deputy Commissioner of Police for Electronic City.

Prisons officials explained that keeping the facility secure remains a constant challenge. People on the outside frequently try to throw prohibited objects and banned materials over the tall outer boundary walls into the prison yard. Because of these recurring security threats, prison authorities have ramped up their vigilance and implemented much stricter security measures.

DGP Alok Kumar praised the hard work of Jail Superintendent Anshu Kumar and his dedicated team for maintaining tight control. He made it clear that these surprise checks and tough security efforts will continue without stopping to keep the prison clean and safe.

This strict raid comes after previous security breaches at the same facility. Earlier, on August 11, a special team from the Central Crime Branch conducted a sudden check in the high-security barracks. During that search, officers found a mobile phone inside the barracks where former Member of Parliament Prajwal Revanna was staying. Investigators checked the device and found popular apps like Facebook, WhatsApp, Instagram, and Netflix installed on it. Police found that the phone was used to talk with family members and legal counsel. A formal case was registered at the local police station regarding that security failure, prompting officials to increase security checks across the jail.

High Court demands clear law enforcement dates

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The High Court has issued a strict directive to the government. Whenever new laws are introduced or existing acts are amended, authorities must clearly mention the exact date they will come into effect.

A bench led by Justice Anantharamanatha Hegde gave this crucial ruling while hearing a petition filed by Assistant Executive Engineer Veeresh Savadi and others. The petitioners had challenged a corruption case registered by the Lokayukta police regarding alleged financial irregularities worth Rs 1.5 crore at the Ballari City Corporation between 2012 and 2017.

Massive confusion

The court pointed out that failing to state implementation dates clearly creates massive confusion. This oversight frequently forces people to drag petty legal battles all the way up to high courts and the Supreme Court. The bench suggested that law commissions, bar councils, and legal experts must sit together to solve this recurring problem.

High Court ruling

- **Section 17A:** Prior approval is mandatory, even for acts before 2018, if the FIR came after July 26, 2018
- **FIR quashed:** The direct FIR against officials including AEE Veeresh Savadi lacked prior sanction
- **Probe continues:** Investigators may seek Section 17A sanction and resume

Prior approval

Addressing the core issue, the court noted that under a 2018 amendment to the Prevention of Corruption Act, getting prior approval from competent authorities is compulsory before investigating public servants. Even if alleged offenses happened before 2018, police need official sanction if the First Information Report is filed after July 26, 2018. Because the Lokayukta police bypassed this rule and registered an FIR directly in late 2024 without proper permission, the court quashed the current FIR as legally invalid.

Probe can resume

However, the court made it clear that corruption charges involving public funds cannot simply be thrown away due to procedural delays or technical errors spanning 8-10 years. The investigating team has been granted permission to submit relevant documents immediately to secure proper legal sanction and restart the probe lawfully.

Authorities must decide on sanction requests within a fixed timeframe. Officials hope this balanced judgment will streamline future corruption investigations while forcing lawmakers to draft much clearer legislation to avoid unnecessary courtroom drama across the state.

IFHE Bengaluru hosts AIMA–ICRC case league

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The ICFAI Foundation for Higher Education in Bengaluru recently served as the proud host for the South Zone Regional Round of the prestigious All India Management Association and India Case Research Centre India Case League. The competitive academic event is designed to evaluate, test, and sharpen the critical-thinking, analytical, problem-solving, and overall managerial competencies of aspiring management students across the region.

The high-energy event drew enthusiastic participation from over 180 students representing premier management institutions across southern India. The regional round provided an immersive platform for brilliant student teams to showcase their strategic decision-making acumen and business intelligence while tackling complex, contemporary corporate scenarios. Participants translated theoretical classroom concepts into practical business solutions, presenting their strategic recommendations before an expert evaluation panel comprising distinguished academicians and seasoned industry leaders.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Muddu Vinay, Pro-Vice-Chancellor of IFHE Bengaluru, stressed the critical importance of experiential learning in nurturing competent managers capable of navigating modern corporate complexities. He noted that bridging academic knowledge with practical application through competitive collaboration remains vital. Echoing these sentiments, Prof. Sanjeeb Dutta from the IBS Case Research Centre in Hyderabad highlighted how case-based learning cultivates effective decision-making abilities. Dr. Anuja Pandey, Head of the AIMA India Case Research Centre, praised the initiative for fostering a robust analytical culture among business schools.

Furthermore, Dr. Vinay Joshi, Dean of Academics, emphasized that national-level contests elevate management education by promoting industry-oriented skill sets. Dr. Shweta Singh, Coordinator and Head of the Bengaluru Case Research Centre, concluded that such initiatives successfully prepare students to meet evolving corporate expectations.

KEA announces drive for 5,431 government posts

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Government of Karnataka has announced a massive recruitment drive, offering a golden opportunity for thousands of unemployed youth across the state. Officials have officially released an extensive notification aimed at filling 5,431 vacant positions for First Division Assistants and Second Division Assistants spread across 33 diverse government departments.

The responsibility of managing this statewide recruitment process has been officially handed over to the Karnataka Examinations Authority. KEA will oversee everything from candidate registration to conducting the rigorous competitive examinations to ensure absolute transparency and fairness throughout the hiring procedure.

5,431	33	Nov 25
FDA and SDA posts	departments	last date to apply

According to the official schedule released by the authorities, the online application window will open shortly. Eligible candidates who possess the required educational qualifications must submit their applications online through the official KEA web portal by November 25. Furthermore, candidates have been given an extra day to complete their fee transactions, with the absolute deadline for application fee payment set for November 26.

Exam dates

To select the most qualified applicants, the recruitment board has announced strict dates for the competitive written examinations. The exams are scheduled to take place across multiple dates early next year: January 8, 9, 10, 16 and 17. Aspirants are strongly advised to check the official KEA website regularly for comprehensive guidelines regarding eligibility criteria, age limits, syllabus details, and fee structures.

Employment experts have highlighted that this massive recruitment initiative represents a vital step toward filling administrative gaps within state departments while providing stable career opportunities for young job seekers. Candidates are encouraged to prepare thoroughly and complete their registrations well ahead of the deadlines to avoid last-minute technical glitches.

JARKIHOLI DEFENDS STANCE

Minister Jarkiholi clarifies remarks on voter list revision

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Minister Satish Jarkiholi has issued a strong clarification regarding his recent statements on the Special Intensive Revision process, maintaining that his words were widely misinterpreted by various media networks.

The controversy erupted after initial reports suggested the minister had praised the execution of the electoral roll revision within the state, putting the ruling party in an awkward spot. Taking to social media and addressing reporters, Jarkiholi explicitly stated that he never intended to validate or endorse the correctness of the overall process itself. Instead, his remarks were meant to emphasize how local party units successfully blocked malicious attempts by opponents to manipulate voter data.

According to the minister, opposition forces had allegedly plotted to delete the names of loyal party supporters from voter lists using Form-7 applications. He credited the active resistance and alertness of party workers led nationally by senior leader Rahul Gandhi and locally guided by Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar for stopping these illegal maneuvers. Highlighting his home region, Jarkiholi noted that the pushback against questionable deletions effectively began right from Belagavi district.

Cabinet colleagues had earlier raised eyebrows over the initial remarks, pointing to localized discrepancies where voters were wrongfully marked as deceased or targeted for mass removal. Clarifying this context, Jarkiholi explained that his evaluation was strictly restricted to localized administrative corrections in his area, such as removing duplicate entries or deceased individuals, rather than a blanket approval of disputed procedures seen elsewhere.

Reiterating his unwavering commitment to electoral integrity, Jarkiholi stressed that he stands firmly alongside party leadership to protect democratic rights and prevent any unlawful disenfranchisement of eligible citizens. He appealed to the public and media outlets to understand the true spirit of his comments rather than creating unnecessary confusion.

Minister Satish Jarkiholi.

"My remarks were meant to emphasize that any conspiracy to remove Congress-supporting voters through Form-7 was successfully thwarted, rather than validating the SIR process itself."
— **Satish Jarkiholi,** PWD Minister

Quick Read

Applications invited for devt corporation loan schemes

CH NEWS, VIJAYAPURA

Applications have been invited from eligible beneficiaries for loans and subsidies under various schemes implemented by five Karnataka development corporations. The schemes include self-employment loans, entrepreneurship development, Swavalambi Sarathi, fast food truck trailers, dairy farming, Ganga Kalyana and land ownership assistance. Eligible applicants can submit their applications through Karnataka One, Grama One and Bengaluru One centres by November 30. Those who applied under these schemes during 2023-24 and 2024-25 need not apply again. For further information, applicants can contact the District Manager's Office of the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Development Corporation, according to an official release.

1 critical, 13 injured in Sindhanur accident

CH NEWS, RAICHUR

One person was critically injured and 13 others sustained minor injuries after a Tempo Traveller (TT) collided with a stationary truck near Araginamar in Sindhanur taluk on Friday morning. The passengers, residents of Kumbara in Raichur, were travelling to Hassan via Sindhanur when the accident occurred. The TT vehicle reportedly developed a technical problem, causing the driver to lose control and crash into the parked truck. Naveen Kumar sustained serious injuries, while 13 others suffered minor injuries. They were shifted to hospitals in Sindhanur for treatment. Traffic police inspected the spot and registered a case.

VTU Kalaburagi 5G Lab named Karnataka's best performer

The DoT's Karnataka LSA placed the laboratory among the top performers of the 100 5G labs across the country.

CH NEWS, KALABURAGI

The 5G Use Case Lab at the Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU) Centre for Post Graduate Studies in Kalaburagi has been recognised as the best-performing 5G laboratory in Karnataka among eight such facilities established in the state.

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Karnataka Licensed Service Area (LSA), has also placed the laboratory among the top-performing facilities out of 100 5G laboratories established across the country.

According to a letter dated October 23, 2026, issued by Shreenivas S. Galgali, Deputy Director General (Technology), DoT Karnataka LSA, the VTU Kalaburagi laboratory secured an 'Excellent' grade with 143 points. The assessment was conducted under the Monthly 5G Lab Gradation Framework up to September 2026.

The other institutions in Karnataka hosting 5G laboratories are the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru; National Institute of Technology Karnataka (NITK), Surathkal; IIIT Dharwad; Siddaganga Institute of Technology, Tumakuru; BMS College of Engineering; M.S. Ramaiah Institute of Technology; and Manipal Institute of Technology.

The laboratories were evaluated on several parameters, including research contributions to international journals and standardisation bodies, development of functional 5G products and applications, and participation of students and faculty members in academic and research activities.

The VTU laboratory was among 100 premier institutions selected by the DoT to establish specialised 5G facilities. Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated it on Oct 27, 2023.

VTU Vice-Chancellor Prof. S. Vidyashankar congratulated the team and said the recognition reflected the university's commitment to advanced research, innovation and industry-academia collaboration. He particularly appreciated the efforts of Dr. Shubhangi, Regional Director and Nodal Officer of the 5G Lab, and her project team.

VTU aims to use the facility to promote patent development, technology commercialisation and indigenous 5G solutions, contributing to India's technological advancement.

The 5G Lab at VTU's CPGS and Regional Office, Kusnoor Road, Kalaburagi

143	8	100
points, 'Excellent' grade	5G labs in Karnataka	5G labs across the country

Kalaburagi RTO building still incomplete after 4 years

The unfinished RTO complex in Kalaburagi

The delay forces transport officials and motorists to struggle with inadequate facilities at temporary premises.

CH NEWS, KALABURAGI

A ₹9-crore project to construct a modern office complex for the Joint Commissioner of Transport and Regional Transport Office (RTO) in Kalaburagi remains incomplete more than four years after its foundation stone was laid.

The delay has left transport officials and motorists struggling with inadequate facilities at temporary premises.

The project was launched on July 19, 2022, by then Transport Minister B. Sriramulu during the BJP government. The old RTO building had been declared dilapidated and demolished to make way for the new complex.

The construction responsibility was entrusted to the Engineering Division of the Kalyana Karnataka Road Transport Corporation (KKRTC).

The building was expected to be completed within 18 months and become operational by April 2024. However, the deadline passed more than two years ago, and the facility is still not ready. The delay has reportedly been attributed to the non-release of funds on time.

Meanwhile, the offices of the Joint Commissioner of Transport and Regional Transport Officer have been shifted to an old Public Works Department building behind Veerashaiva Kalyana Mantapa, near Public Garden.

The temporary premises are too small to accommodate the large number of people visiting the offices daily. Services related to vehicle inspections, fitness certificates, registration and renewal, driving licences, fine payments and other transport-related work have been affected by the lack of adequate space.

Transport department officials have reportedly urged the KKRTC Engineering Division to speed up the remaining work. The issue was also discussed at a recent meeting chaired by the Additional Deputy Commissioner.

A transport department employee said officials had expected the building to be handed over within the stipulated period. Instead, they continue to work in cramped conditions, while visitors struggle to find even a place to sit.

Four years on

- **JULY 19, 2022** — Project launched by then Transport Minister B. Sriramulu
- **APRIL 2024** — Date the building was expected to be operational

Demand for early completion

Lakshmikant Malipatil, president of the Kalyana Karnataka Auto Drivers' Association, questioned the authorities over the prolonged delay. He demanded immediate completion of the project and the establishment of a help desk to assist visitors.

With the project still unfinished, motorists and officials are demanding a clear deadline for its completion and opening.

Teachers' welfare is his top priority: MLC Namoshi

CH NEWS, KALABURAGI

MLC Shashil G. Namoshi has said that addressing the grievances of teachers and ensuring the fulfilment of their legitimate demands will be his top priority, describing his recent victory as a collective achievement of teachers across the Kalyana Karnataka region.

"The trust reposed in me by teachers is the strength behind my victory. This is not my personal victory but a victory for all teachers of Kalyana Karnataka. Addressing their problems and raising my voice for their legitimate demands will be my first priority," he said.

He was speaking at a felicitation programme organised by the Hyderabad Karnataka Education Society (HKES) at the SAC auditorium of PDA College of Engineering in Kalaburagi.

He recalled his efforts to secure government grants for unaided educational institutions, ensure job security for JOC staff, resolve teachers' promotion issues and address the demands of Hindi language teachers.

He said he had also brought the promotion issue to the attention of the Education Minister and worked towards forming a committee to examine it.

Expressing gratitude to HKES teachers, Namoshi said their participation in the election, with a reported 97 percent voter turnout, had contributed significantly to his victory. He said he would continue to represent teachers from government, aided and unaided institutions across all districts of Kalyana Karnataka.

He became emotional while thanking teachers for supporting him for the fifth time, saying their appreciation for his efforts was a great recognition.

HKES Vice-President Raja B. Bhimalli, PDA College professor Dr. Sanjay Makal, Dr. Arundhati Patil and Dr. Mahesh Gamhvar spoke about Namoshi's contributions.

HKES governing council members, college heads and staff attended the programme. Society Secretary Udaykumar Chincholi delivered the introductory remarks, while Uma Revur compered the event.

He said teachers across the region were facing several challenges and assured them that he would take their grievances to the concerned officials and ministers. He said concrete action to resolve their problems was more important than making promises.

The felicitation programme organised by HKES in Kalaburagi

> **"The trust reposed in me by teachers is the strength behind my victory."**
> — Shashil G. Namoshi, MLC

Bidar reports no acid attack cases, says judge

CH NEWS, BIDAR

No acid attack cases have been reported in Bidar district, said S.B. Rehman, President of the Bidar District Legal Services Authority and Principal District and Sessions Judge.

He warned that even an unsuccessful attempt to carry out an acid attack attracts severe punishment under the law.

"The pain and suffering experienced by a woman or any other person subjected to an acid attack cannot even be imagined. Such crimes must be dealt with strictly, and those who attempt to commit them cannot escape punishment merely because their attempt fails," he said.

He was speaking at a one-day training programme organised at the District Resource Centre jointly by the district administration, Zilla Panchayat, District Legal Services Authority, Women and Child Development Department, Police Department, and District Health and Family Welfare Department.

The programme focused on preventing acid attacks, responding to such incidents, providing support to survivors and creating awareness about relevant laws. Anganwadi workers, ASHA workers and police personnel participated.

Justice Rehman said the Indian Penal Code, which earlier dealt with criminal offences, had been replaced by the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. He highlighted the importance of strict legal provisions to punish those responsible for acid attacks.

He also stressed the need to provide immediate first aid to victims and said that stronger legal measures to protect women were a positive development.

Raghavendra Upadhya, Member Secretary of the District Legal Services Authority and Senior Civil Judge, also said that no acid attack cases had been reported in the district. He stressed that awareness programmes were essential to prevent such crimes and educate people about their legal consequences.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Surekha said the Karnataka State Women's Development Corporation provides financial assistance to acid attack survivors to help them take up self-employment.

Eligible women receive an interest-free loan of ₹2.50 lakh and a subsidy of ₹2.50 lakh under the scheme. She also appreciated the work of the Akkapade team.

Dr. Kiran Patil, District Leprosy Control Officer, highlighted the importance of counselling for survivors and their families. He said a team of specialist doctors would provide treatment to survivors.

Several district officials, advocates and representatives of various departments attended the programme.

₹2.50 lakh	₹2.50 lakh
interest-free loan for survivors	subsidy under the scheme

Veteran folk artist Suresh Joshi honoured for cultural contributions

CH NEWS, VIJAYAPURA

Veteran folk artist Suresh Ramachandra Joshi, a native of Nidoni village in Babaleshwar taluk of Vijayapura district, has been recognised for his more than five decades of contribution to Karnataka's folk art and cultural heritage.

Known for his performances of traditional Dollu folk songs, he has dedicated his life to preserving and promoting the state's rich folk traditions.

Born on July 22, 1947, to Ramachandra Mudagallabhat Joshi and Janakibai Ramachandra Joshi, Joshi began his artistic journey in 1973 at the age of 26. Over the past 50 years, he has performed at numerous cultural programmes, folk festivals and literary events across Karnataka and neighbouring Maharashtra.

His performances have taken him to Vijayapura, Bagalkot and Belagavi districts in Karnataka, as well as Sangli and Solapur districts in Maharashtra. Through his dedication, he has helped keep traditional folk music and cultural practices alive for successive generations.

Joshi has received several awards and honours in recognition of his contribution to folk art. In 1983, he received a certificate of appreciation from the Lions Club, Vijayapura, and an award at the District Folk Art Festival. During 1983–84, he was also honoured at taluk- and district-level Youth Festivals organised by the Youth Services and Sports Department.

Decades of honours

In 1993, he received recognition at a folk art festival organised jointly by the Karnataka Janapada and Yakshagana Academy and Adishakti Kala Sangha. In 1999, he was honoured during the Parijata Mahotsava in Jamkhandi.

His subsequent recognitions include awards at the District Folk Art Festival in 2001, the Folk Music and Theatre Festival in 2003, and the National Integration Camp organised by Nehru Yuva Kendra in 2005.

In 2006, the Vijayapura district administration honoured him during Navarasapura Utsav and the 350th anniversary celebrations of Gol Gumbaz. He also received recognition at several cultural and literary events between 2007 and 2013.

Rajyotsava Award

In 2017, he received the Siddheshwara Ratna award and recognition from the State Janapada Parishat. In 2019, he received the Karnataka Rajyotsava Award from the Vijayapura district administration and the Department of Kannada and Culture. He was also honoured by the Chamarajanagar district administration and Karnataka Janapada Academy in 2021.

Joshi's journey reflects the dedication of traditional artists who have devoted their lives to safeguarding Karnataka's folk heritage.

DISTRICT-LEVEL MEETING

DC directs officials to ensure timely birth, death registration

CH NEWS, VIJAYAPURA

Deputy Commissioner Dr. Anand K. has directed officials to maintain accurate birth and death records and ensure that all registrations are completed within the stipulated 21-day period.

He was chairing a district-level coordination committee meeting on birth and death registration at the Deputy Commissioner's office in Vijayapura.

Dr. Anand said that 763 birth and death registration units were functioning across rural and urban areas of the district. He instructed all these units to maintain proper records and register every birth and death occurring within their jurisdiction within 21 days.

He directed local bodies, government hospitals and Gram Panchayats to complete the registration process within the prescribed timeframe. He also called for regular meetings and training programmes to improve the knowledge of officers and staff about registration procedures, record maintenance and relevant guidelines. Taluk-level coordination committee meetings should be held regularly to review progress.

The DC instructed Health Department and Gram Panchayat staff to fill Birth Form No. 1 and Death Form No. 2 carefully. The forms must contain the informant's name and signature, date of birth, parents' names and address. Special care should be taken to ensure that the deceased person's name is correctly mentioned in death certificates.

He directed officials to obtain photocopies of at least one valid identity document, such as Aadhaar, ration card, voter ID, PAN card or driving licence, to verify names. For death registration, only identity documents belonging to the deceased should be considered.

Dr. Anand cautioned that incorrect entries could create serious difficulties for citizens in the future. He also ordered the installation of mandatory signboards at all registration and sub-registration units and directed officials to deposit collected fees into the government account regularly.

He said statistical and legal reports must carry the signatures of the Registrar and Sub-Registrar, along with the informant's details, registration number and date. Delayed registrations must follow prescribed rules and require written permission from the competent authority.

He directed officials to rectify lapses immediately and ensure that citizens do not face unnecessary inconvenience.

Vijayapura Sub-Divisional Officer Jufishan Haq and several district-level officials attended the meeting.

The district-level coordination committee meeting in Vijayapura

The rules

UNITS IN THE DISTRICT
763

TIME TO REGISTER
21 days

BIRTH
Form No. 1

DEATH
Form No. 2

Quick Read

Private hospitals challenge base price disclosure circular

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Private hospitals and medical associations have approached the Karnataka High Court to challenge a state circular mandating the disclosure of base prices for medicines and equipment on patient bills starting November 1. Justice C.M. Poonacha presided over the initial hearing. The petition argues that the Food Safety and Drug Administration lacks statutory authority, citing that Karnataka has not adopted the central Clinical Establishments Act. Furthermore, hospitals claim the rule violates trade rights and privacy by exposing confidential supplier procurement costs. The government requested time to review the circular, and the court adjourned proceedings.

Parents protest alleged hospital medical negligence

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Grief and tension erupted at Cloudnine Hospital in Nagarbhavi after a one-year-old toddler, Shayan, slipped into a coma following a minor ear injury procedure three months ago. The parents allege that the child lapsed into a comatose state due to an unauthorized anesthesia overdose administered without specialists present. Protesting outside the facility, the family also claimed hospital staff harassed them and locked them indoors. A preliminary medical assessment indicated negligence, prompting health officials to order free treatment and submit a report to the Deputy Commissioner.

Karnataka announces 2026 Rajyotsava awards for 71 achievers

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Department of Kannada and Culture has officially announced the prestigious Karnataka Rajyotsava Awards for 2026, honoring 71 distinguished individuals from diverse fields. Unveiling the list following rigorous committee reviews, Minister Shivaraj Tangadagi noted that the selection features 12 women achievers. Prominent names on this year's list include veteran leader Kagodu Thimmappa, legal luminary B.V. Acharya, and actor Ashok. Each award includes a 25-gram gold medal and a cash prize of ₹5 lakh. Additionally, the government announced that the 'Karnataka Ratna' awards will be conferred on November 19.

Minister Lad reaffirms job reservation commitment

Labor Minister Santosh Lad announced the Karnataka government's renewed commitment to enacting private sector job reservation legislation for locals.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Karnataka government has reignited discussions regarding job security for local residents. Amid growing public concerns and allegations that native Kannadigas are being sidelined by private corporations, Labor Minister Santosh Lad announced that the administration remains fully committed to enacting legislation ensuring private sector job reservations.

Speaking to reporters at the Vidhana Soudha, Minister Lad addressed the long-pending policy proposal, which has been under active administrative review for the past three years. He emphasized that the government faces no direct internal opposition to the proposed law. However, before taking final executive steps, officials must conduct comprehensive inter-departmental consultations to iron out technical details. He specifically noted that the Information Technology and Biotechnology departments have raised no objections to the core framework.

Labor Minister Santosh Lad.

"The proposed private sector job reservation law has not been abandoned, the government remains fully committed to implementing it at the appropriate time following inter-departmental consultations."

— **Santosh Lad,** Labor Minister

This renewed push brings the controversial legislation back into the spotlight more than two years after the State Cabinet initially greenlit the ambitious 'Karnataka State Industries, Factories, and Other Establishments (Employment of Local Candidates) Bill, 2024.' The original draft framework generated widespread national debate by proposing mandatory local quotas: 50% reservation for managerial roles and an expansive 70-75% quota for non-managerial positions within private establishments. Furthermore, the draft outlined specific reservation provisions for Group C and D roles across various private industries, with some discussions even exploring comprehensive local employment targets.

Labor leaders and activists have frequently criticized the prolonged delay in passing the formal bill, warning that local youth continue to miss out on employment opportunities within the state's booming corporate sectors. Industry associations have expressed varied opinions on how rigid quotas might impact corporate growth and ease of doing business in Bengaluru's major technology hubs.

In response, Minister Lad reassured the public that the legislative proposal has not been shelved or abandoned. He assured citizens that the administration is carefully calibrating the policy and will officially roll out the law at the most appropriate time. The government maintains that striking a healthy balance between industrial growth and regional employment rights remains its top priority as consultations continue across various state ministries.

Key highlights

Background
The policy resurfaces more than two years after the Cabinet approved the 2024 draft bill

Proposed quotas
50% in managerial roles and 70% to 75% in non-managerial posts

No opposition
IT/BT departments have raised no direct objections, Minister Lad noted

Karnataka restricts new PU college approvals

The Department of School Education (Pre-University) building.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The state government has taken a decisive step to overhaul the higher secondary education landscape. Authorities have announced a comprehensive three-year hiatus on approving any new private Pre-University colleges, sending ripples across the academic sector.

The Department of School Education and Literacy officially published a draft notification confirming that permissions for opening fresh private PU institutions will be completely halted. This strict policy freeze will remain operational across three consecutive academic sessions, spanning from the 2027-28 term through the 2029-30 academic year.

This major policy shift comes through a proposed legal amendment to the existing Karnataka Department of School Education Rules, 2024. The move directly addresses long-standing concerns raised by educators and institutional bodies, most notably the Karnataka State Pre-University College Lecturers' Association. Representatives had repeatedly petitioned the administration over chronic structural imbalances caused by overexpansion.

Statistical reviews indicate that the state currently hosts more than six thousand operational PU colleges. However, a massive number of seats remain perpetually vacant year after year in numerous existing institutions across various districts. Officials noted that allowing unchecked growth under such conditions creates severe financial and administrative strain on established campuses while diluting academic focus. By pausing new approvals, the government aims to optimize resource utilization and stabilize enrollment figures across current facilities.

Karnataka announced a three-year freeze on new private Pre-University colleges starting in 2027 to address chronic seat vacancies and optimize existing educational resources.

The education department has opened a 15-day window inviting official feedback, objections, and constructive suggestions from stakeholders, educationists, and the public before finalizing the amendment. Educational experts believe this strategic intermission will encourage existing institutions to upgrade infrastructure and elevate teaching standards rather than competing for dwindling student pools in an oversaturated market.

BESCOM ANNOUNCES POWER CUTS IN 50+ AREAS

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Residents across various neighborhoods in the garden city must brace for planned disruptions in electrical services. The Bangalore Electricity Supply Company has officially announced scheduled power cuts impacting more than 50 localities across the metropolitan region, as critical infrastructural maintenance and engineering upgrade works are undertaken at major power distribution hubs.

Power utility engineers confirmed that the temporary outages are necessitated by urgent, periodic maintenance routines scheduled for Saturday, October 31. These engineering works will focus primarily on two key electrical installations: the Banashankari substation and the Subramanyapura substation. To ensure the safety of field technicians and prevent unexpected technical failures during peak operational hours, electricity supply will be suspended across two distinct, staggered time windows.

Power utility workers at a transformer.

Morning outages

In areas falling under the jurisdiction of the Banashankari electrical substation, residents, shop owners, and commercial establishments will experience a three-hour power outage starting in the morning hours from ten o'clock until one o'clock in the afternoon. The affected zones in this sector include Katriguppe, Katriguppe Water Tank, Seetha Circle, Bank Colony, Balaji Layout, IT Layout, Dwaraka Nagar, Veerabhadra Nagar, Girinagar, VHBC Layout in Girinagar, Katriguppe Main Road, and the vicinity surrounding the Uttarahalli bus stand.

Furthermore, morning outages will extend to Church Road, the area near Shantiniketan School, Hemavathi Water Supply Road, Gundu Muneshwara Temple Road, Raja Gardenia, Paduka Mandira Road, JHBC Layout, M.S. Krishna Mill, Nagappa Layout, Mole Factory Road, Hindustan Granite Road, Agarbatti Factory Road, Krishnappa Layout, Maruti Layout, Vittal Nagar, and Samruddhi Layout.

10 am-1 pm
Banashankari substation

2 pm-5 pm
Subramanyapura substation

Afternoon outages

Following the morning maintenance window, repair teams will shift focus to the Subramanyapura substation sector. Power supply will be shut down in the afternoon session from two o'clock until five o'clock. Neighborhoods impacted during this afternoon slot include Kumaraswamy Layout, Yadla Nagar, Vasanthapura Slum, Kanaka Layout, Marasandra, Ramachandrappa Layout, Bhuvaneshwari Nagar covering KSDP Quarters, Gubbalala, Spring Layout, Swami Palya Road, Uttarahalli, and the surroundings of the Prathyangira Temple.

Additional afternoon outages will affect BHCS Layout, Manjunatha Nagar, Canara Bank Colony, Saptagiri Layout, and the area near BIPS School, Gowdanapalya, and the sprawling Prestige Lake Ridge apartment complexes.

HC reserves order on SIT officers

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Karnataka High Court has reserved its order for November 2 on the reconstitution and appointment of officers to the Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing alleged irregularities in the recruitment of Veterinary Officers by the Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC).

Justice M. Nagaprasanna heard arguments concerning the proposed investigation team. Advocate Girish Bharadwaj, representing the petitioners, raised objections to certain officers suggested by the state government.

Advocate General Shashikiran Shetty informed the court that the SIT had been granted police station status, enabling it to exercise investigative powers. He said Karnataka currently has 16 Additional Directors General of Police. Following Supreme Court directions, the government submitted four senior officers' names, of whom the petitioners accepted two. The Supreme Court had earlier modified the High Court's direction appointing senior IPS officer Alok Kumar to lead the investigation, allowing changes to the team. The recruitment controversy involves allegations of OMR sheet manipulation, bribery and financial irregularities. The High Court's November 2 decision is expected to determine the SIT's final composition and guide further investigation.

Govt sets time limits for bursting firecrackers

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Karnataka state government has issued a firm and comprehensive warning regarding environmental safety and noise control as the festival of lights approaches. Authorities have officially established strict time restrictions for bursting firecrackers across all districts to combat the severe spikes in air and noise pollution that typically plague urban and rural centers during the festive season. State Environment Minister Ramalinga Reddy addressed the press in Bengaluru, outlining the strict regulatory framework put in place for the upcoming Diwali celebrations. In strict adherence to binding directives previously issued by both the Supreme Court of India and the High Court, citizens will only be permitted to burst firecrackers within a tightly controlled two-hour window, specifically restricted from eight o'clock in the evening until ten o'clock at night.

Minister Reddy emphasized that the government will maintain a policy of zero tolerance for any violations of these judicial and administrative mandates. Clear instructions have already been dispatched directly to all district Deputy Commissioners, Superintendents of Police, and senior leaders of local governing bodies. These officials are tasked with enforcing the time limits rigorously and ensuring public awareness across every neighborhood.

Firecracker regulations

- **Time window:** 8 PM to 10 PM only, as the courts directed
- **Enforcement:** DCs, SPs and local heads to monitor compliance and inspect warehouses
- **Warning:** Legal action for flouting hours or safety rules

Furthermore, as a vital precautionary measure aimed at preventing catastrophic fire accidents and illegal stockpiling, the minister has issued explicit orders for district administrations to conduct immediate, thorough inspections of all registered and temporary firecracker warehouses and storage facilities throughout the state. Authorities want to guarantee that safety protocols are strictly followed at every level of the supply chain.

The government has urged all citizens to cooperate fully with local law enforcement and environmental agencies, celebrating the festival responsibly while respecting public health and safety guidelines.

KHARGE ADDRESSES PROBE

Kharge responds on HDK's Delhi residence inquiry

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The political atmosphere in the state has intensified following inquiries into whether investigators executed a formal spot inspection, commonly known as a mahajar or panchnama, at Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy's official residence in New Delhi. This line of questioning stems directly from the ongoing high-stakes police investigation surrounding the controversial sting operation targeting senior political figures, whose video the CCB has declared fabricated.

Karnataka Home Minister Priyank Kharge addressed reporters in the capital city, facing direct questions from media personnel regarding the alleged search operations conducted outside the state. Choosing his words carefully, Kharge refrained from confirming or denying specific operational tactics, stating instead that the comprehensive police inquiry is still actively moving forward. He assured the public that pertinent information regarding investigative milestones will be shared transparently as soon as the circumstances permit.

Home Minister Priyank Kharge.

"We shared specific details with the public yesterday regarding our initial findings," Home Minister Kharge remarked during his interaction with the press. "However, to protect the integrity and absolute confidentiality of an ongoing criminal investigation, we have deliberately refrained from disclosing the identities of certain individuals who are currently under the scanner.

All necessary details, including procedural actions, will naturally emerge when the right time arrives."

"All necessary details, including procedural actions, will naturally emerge when the right time arrives."

PRIYANK KHARGE Home Minister

The controversy revolves around an elaborate political sting operation and the rapid circulation of video materials, declared fabricated by the Central Crime Branch, intended to defame veteran leadership.

Law enforcement agencies, led by specialized crime branches, have been tracking digital trails, mobile communications, and physical movements across multiple states, leading investigators toward connections in New Delhi. While opposition leaders have raised questions over the nature of these interstate police actions, the state administration maintains that the probe is being executed strictly by the book.

Political analysts note that the unfolding investigation has exposed deep divisions and fierce rivalries between regional parties and state authorities.

As police teams continue gathering digital forensics and questioning key suspects, officials have reiterated that no individual, regardless of political standing, will be shielded if found complicit in manufacturing or disseminating engineered media designed to subvert public trust. Further official disclosures are anticipated as the state crime branch progresses through the next phases of its comprehensive multi-state inquiry.

Quick Read

MY Bharat invites applications for accounts assistant post

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

The Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat) office in Chitradurga has invited applications for a contractual Accounts Assistant/Programme Assistant post. Candidates with B. Com, M. Com, BSW or MSW qualifications will be given preference. Interested applicants can email their updated bio-data to mybchitradurga@gmail.com, mentioning the prescribed post name in the subject line. For details, contact the district office at 08194-222008 or 9421915066.

Municipal School students excel in district sports meet

CH NEWS, HAVERI

Students of Haveri Municipal High School have excelled in the district-level Under-17 sports meet organised by the Department of School Education, securing selection for the state-level competition. In the girls' category, ninth-grade student Vaidevi Kodaga won three gold medals by securing first place in the 100m, 200m and 400m hurdle events. In the boys' category, Prithvi Kumar M., Vishwajith Mali, Mahalinga Pisothre, Pradeep Tangodi, Vikas Jangawada, Samarth Kambali, Abdul Mujahid Sanni, Pramod Kabbur and Prithvi Vaddar also won prizes in various events. The state-level competition is scheduled for November 1 at Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru. City Municipal Commissioner H. Kantaraj and staff congratulated the winners and wished them success. Physical Education teacher Girish M. was appreciated for his guidance. The headmaster, teachers, students and people of Haveri also extended their congratulations.

Textile Export promotion workshop to be held in Udupi

CH NEWS, UDUPI

The Department of Handlooms and Textiles, in association with the Udupi Zilla Panchayat, will organise a one-day export promotion workshop for textile exporters today (October 31) at 10.30 am. The workshop will be held at the District Resource Centre of the Zilla Panchayat in Manipal. A.B. Basavaraju, Commissioner for Textile Development and Director of the Department of Handlooms and Textiles, Bengaluru, will inaugurate the programme. Deputy Commissioner Swaroopa T.K. will preside over the event. Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer Prateek Bayal, Additional Director of the Department of Handlooms and Textiles C.S. Yogesh, Joint Director Sumalatha D. and District Joint Director of Industries and Commerce Vaman Naik will also participate. Resource persons include Abdul Rehman Tajuddin of VTPC, Lokeshwari Gowda of the Directorate General of Foreign Trade, Dr. Viraj Som Kumar of the Udupi Head Post Office, Lead Bank Manager Harish and Apparel Export Promotion Council Deputy Director Dorebabu. They will provide guidance on various aspects of textile exports and related opportunities.

Basadi worship dispute: Upadhye trustees seek evidence

Disputes between Subhas Upadhye and the community have reportedly disrupted traditional Basadi worship, normally rotated annually among family members

CH NEWS, LAKSHMESHWAR

Hereditary trustees of the historic 1008 Anantanathaswami Basadi in Lakshmeshwar have submitted a memorandum to the Tahsildar, denying allegations made by certain Jain community leaders regarding the temple's administration and worship rights.

The trustees, members of the Upadhye family, including Subhas M. Upadhye, Nagaraj Manikappa Upadhye, Manjunath Manikappa Upadhye, Aravind Manikappa Upadhye and Vidyadhar Chandappa Upadhye, submitted their clarification and requested an inquiry into the dispute.

According to the memorandum, daily worship and cleaning of the Basadi have traditionally been performed by family members on a rotational basis, with each member taking responsibility for one year. This year, the responsibility falls on Subhas Upadhye, who has reportedly been living away from Lakshmeshwar for nearly 30 years. Local Jain community members had been performing the rituals on his behalf. However, disagreements between him and community members have reportedly disrupted the worship this year.

The trustees denied claims that salaried priests had been appointed to perform regular rituals for the past 70 to 80 years. They stated that the hereditary family tradition involves performing Jalabhisheka and cleaning the Basadi. They also clarified that priests engaged by community members for special poojas, havanas and ceremonies have no connection with the trustees.

> **"If there is any credible evidence to support these allegations, it should be submitted to the Tahsildar within seven days. Failing this, legal action will be initiated against those making such allegations."**
>
> **– Amit Upadhye**

They further stated that they had continued their traditional responsibilities despite the government order providing monthly payments of ₹6,000 for priests and ₹5,000 for assistant priests.

The family alleged that statements made against them in the media had damaged their reputation. They challenged those making the allegations to submit supporting evidence to the Tahsildar within seven days.

The trustees also requested an official inspection of the Basadi to establish the facts and resolve the dispute.

Ensure safe traffic movement on National Highways: MP

The review meeting on National Highway 66 at the Deputy Commissioner's office in Manipal.

CH NEWS, UDUPI

Udupi-Chikkamagaluru MP Kota Srinivas Poojary has directed National Highways officials and contractors to ensure proper road maintenance and complete construction works scientifically to provide safe and smooth traffic movement.

He was speaking at a review meeting held at the Deputy Commissioner's office in Rajatadri, Manipal, to discuss the increasing number of accidents on National Highway 66, particularly at Kota, Padubidri and Tekkatte.

Poojary said collecting tolls should not be the only responsibility of contractors. They must also maintain roads according to government guidelines and take measures to prevent accidents. He warned that legal action would be taken against officials and contractors if accidents occurred due to negligence in road maintenance.

Safety directives

- **Black spots:** 22 to get streetlights, signboards, barricades and warning blinkers
- **Service roads:** Ambagilu-LVT, Nittur, Tekkatte and Kumbashi to be finished on time
- **Underpass:** MESCOM and NHAI to light Kalyanpura-Santekatte through the night
- **FASTags:** concessional local tags within 20 km of toll plazas from November 1
- **Skywalk:** Ambagilu and Mahesh Hospital, Brahmavar, suggested instead of Tenka Ermal

He directed officials to improve safety at 22 identified accident-prone black spots and major junctions by installing streetlights, signboards, barricades and warning blinkers.

Reviewing service road projects, he instructed officials to complete the Ambagilu-LVT service road work quickly. Similar projects at Nittur, Tekkatte and Kumbashi should also be completed on time and opened to the public.

He expressed concern over non-functioning streetlights at the Kalyanpura-Santekatte underpass and directed MESCOM and NHAI officials to coordinate to ensure proper lighting throughout the night.

He also asked NHAI and toll contractors to provide concessional local FASTags to residents living within a 20-km radius of toll plazas from November 1.

Concerns over the proposed skywalk at Tenka Ermal were discussed, with suggestions to consider alternative locations such as Ambagilu and Mahesh Hospital in Brahmavar. A detailed project report is also being prepared for an accident-free road between Kundapura and Talapady.

MLAs Gurme Suresh Shetty and Yashpal A. Suvarna highlighted road safety concerns and sought improvements at Padubidri and Balaipade-Korangrapadi.

Superintendent of Police Hariram Shankar, DFO Ruthran P., Additional Deputy Commissioner Abid Gadyal, NHAI Project Director Abdul Javed Azmi and other officials attended.

Gramanubhava programme takes urban students to farms

CH NEWS, KARWAR

The Department of School Education has introduced the 'Gramanubhava' (Rural Experience) programme under Samagra Shikshana Karnataka and PM SHRI schemes to connect classroom education with practical rural experiences.

The initiative aims to help urban students understand agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, farming practices, rural livelihoods, soil and water conservation, food security, art and culture. It also seeks to create awareness about entrepreneurship, local resources and skill-based career opportunities.

The programme covers students of Classes 8, 9 and 11 in urban PM SHRI schools, Classes 9 and 11 in urban Karnataka Public Schools, and Classes 9 and 11 in government schools and PU colleges with more than 800 students.

As part of the initiative, students will visit progressive farms, Farmer Producer Organisations, agricultural and horticultural demonstration units, Krishi Vigyan Kendras and other learning centres. The sites will be selected in consultation with the Agriculture Department and inspected by education officials to ensure student safety.

Each visit will include six to eight hours of practical learning and interaction with farmers. Groups will be limited to 50 students and five teachers. Transport will be arranged exclusively through State Transport Corporation vehicles.

Parental consent will be obtained, and school and college heads will be responsible for student safety.

Departments including Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries, Forestry and Rural Development will support the programme. Students will record their experiences in field notebooks and participate in group presentations.

In the Karwar educational district, field visits have been planned for November 1 to farms in Kumta and Honnavar taluks. Fifteen teams comprising 646 students from the Government PU College in Karwar and two teams comprising 82 students from PM SHRI Karnataka Public School, Habbuwada, will participate.

'Honest public service essential for national development'

CH NEWS, HAVERI

National development and prosperity are possible only when public servants perform their duties with honesty and integrity, said Principal District and Sessions Judge and District Legal Services Authority Chairman Devendrappa N. Biradar.

He was speaking after inaugurating Vigilance Awareness Week, organised jointly by the District Administration, District Legal Services Authority and Karnataka Lokayukta at the Zilla Panchayat Hall on Friday. The theme of the programme was 'Prosperity Through Honesty'.

Biradar said anti-corruption awareness programmes must lead to practical action. Delays in government offices, lack of awareness about procedures and difficulties faced by the public often encourage bribery. He stressed the need for transparency, accountability and timely disposal of files. He also urged officials to give priority to senior citizens, persons with disabilities, women, children and members of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes as provided under the law.

He said corruption cases required proper investigation and sufficient evidence to secure convictions. Government employees must understand their responsibilities and discharge their duties honestly.

Karnataka Lokayukta Superintendent of Police Antony John K. said government employees were paid through public funds and had a responsibility to serve citizens respectfully. He criticised unnecessary delays, harassment of applicants and preferential treatment for applications submitted through middlemen. He called for regular inspections by senior officials and proper grievance redressal.

Special Public Prosecutor R.K. Kalal explained anti-corruption laws and urged everyone to work towards eliminating corruption.

Presiding over the programme, Additional Deputy Commissioner Dr. Nagaraja L. advised officials to treat visitors courteously, avoid unnecessary delays and follow departmental rules while implementing government schemes. He warned that corruption allegations could affect employees and their families.

Senior Civil Judge Shrishailaja H.V., District Superintendent of Police Yashodha Vantagodi, Lokayukta SP Madhusudhan C., Zilla Panchayat Project Director Rekha Dollinavar and other officials attended.

IN THE COURT OF THE ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AT DODDABALLAPURA
C. MISC. No. 703/2026

PETITIONERS : Sri. VENKATALAKSHMAMMA, aged about 59 years, D/o Late Thimmarayappa, residing at: Majarahosahalli Village, Tubagere hobli, Doddaballapura taluk, Bangalore rural district.
AND RESPONDENT: THE TAHASILDAR, Registrar of Births & Deaths, Doddaballapura Taluk, Doddaballapura

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the Petitioner has filed the above petition under Section 13 (3) And 14 of Registration Of Births And Deaths Act, 1969 for seeking the death certificate of the Grandfather of petitioner by name LATE THIMMAPPA S/O LATE MUTTARAYAPPA who died on 13-10-1996 at Majarahosahalli Village, Tubagere Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.
In this regard it is hereby notice that whoever has interested in the said matter may appear in person or through an advocate duly authorized before the above said court on 11-12-2024, in default this matter will be heard and disposed off an ex-parte order.
Given under my hand and seal of the court on the 29th day of October 2026.

By order of the court
Chief Ministerial Officer, Prl. Civil Judge & JMFC, Doddaballapura.
Advocate: **Pranav Samrudh**, Opposite to Court Complex, 1st Ward, Rojipura, Doddaballapura Town.

IN THE COURT OF THE ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AT DODDABALLAPURA
C. MISC. No. 700/2026

PETITIONERS : Sri. VENKATALAKSHMAMMA, aged about 59 years, D/o Late Thimmarayappa, residing at: Majarahosahalli Village, Tubagere hobli, Doddaballapura taluk, Bangalore rural district.
AND RESPONDENT: THE TAHASILDAR, Registrar of Births & Deaths, Doddaballapura Taluk, Doddaballapura

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the Petitioner has filed the above petition under Section 13 (3) And 14 of Registration Of Births And Deaths Act, 1969 for seeking the death certificate of the Grandfather of petitioner by name LATE KONDAPPA S/O LATE MUTTARAYAPPA who died on 25-03-1966 at Majarahosahalli Village, Tubagere Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.
In this regard it is hereby notice that whoever has interested in the said matter may appear in person or through an advocate duly authorized before the above said court on 11-12-2024, in default this matter will be heard and disposed off an ex-parte order.
Given under my hand and seal of the court on the 29th day of October 2026.

By order of the court
Chief Ministerial Officer, Prl. Civil Judge & JMFC, Doddaballapura.
Advocate: **Pranav Samrudh**, Opposite to Court Complex, 1st Ward, Rojipura, Doddaballapura Town.

IN THE COURT OF THE ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AT DODDABALLAPURA
C. MISC. No. 699/2026

PETITIONERS : Sri. VENKATALAKSHMAMMA, aged about 59 years, D/o Late Thimmarayappa, residing at: Majarahosahalli Village, Tubagere hobli, Doddaballapura taluk, Bangalore rural district.
AND RESPONDENT: THE TAHASILDAR, Registrar of Births & Deaths, Doddaballapura Taluk, Doddaballapura

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the Petitioner has filed the above petition under Section 13 (3) And 14 of Registration Of Births And Deaths Act, 1969 for seeking the death certificate of the Grandfather of petitioner by name LATE MUTTAPPA S/O LATE MUTTARAYAPPA who died on 07-07-1961 at Majarahosahalli Village, Tubagere Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.
In this regard it is hereby notice that whoever has interested in the said matter may appear in person or through an advocate duly authorized before the above said court on 11-12-2024, in default this matter will be heard and disposed off an ex-parte order.
Given under my hand and seal of the court on the 29th day of October 2026.

By order of the court
Chief Ministerial Officer, Prl. Civil Judge & JMFC, Doddaballapura.
Advocate: **Pranav Samrudh**, Opposite to Court Complex, 1st Ward, Rojipura, Doddaballapura Town.

IN THE COURT OF THE 2nd ADDL, CHIEF JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE AT BENGALURU RURAL
C.Mis.NO: 1586/2026

BETWEEN- 1. THIMMAKKA W/O Late Munianjinappa, Aged about 81 Years, R/at Byatha village, Bangalore North Taluk Bengalore-560089 **2. LAKSHMINARAYANA.B.M** S/O Late,Munianjinappa Aged about 50 years, R/at No.08,Sri Sapthagiri Nilaya Kumbarahalli Main Road, G.Bylappa Layout, Tharabanahalli Chikkabanavara Bangalore North Bengalore-560090 **3. LALITHAMMA** W/o Muniraju, D/o Late Munianjinappa Aged about 53 years R/ at No,17/436 1st main Road Near Bhuvan ITI Collage,Venkatalas Udayanagara, Yelahanka Bangalore north Bengalore-560064 **4. MARIYA PREMA** W/o Shantha kumar.A D/o Late Munianjinappa Aged about 51 years R/at Doddabalakere Hesaraghatta Hobli, Yelahanka Taloku Bengalore-560089 **5. RAMESH.B,M** S/o Late Munianjinappa Aged about 48 years R/at No.07 Near Anjanaya swamy Temple Byatha (v)&(P) Hesaraghatta,Hobli Bangalore North talouk Bengalore-560089 ....PETITIONERS
AND: THE THASILDHAR, BIRTH AND DEATHS, YELAHANKA TALUK ....RESPONDENTS

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas,the petitioners named above have filed the above petition seeking direction to the Thasildhar Registrar of Birth and Death, at Bengaluru to Register the date of death of the Husbund of the Petitioners No,1 and Father of the Petitioners No,2 to 5, by the decesed named MUNICANJINAPPA S/o Late Gurappa, as he was died on 24/01/1991, at Byatha village Hesaraghatta, Hobl, Yelahanka, Bangalore North Bengaluru.
Any person intrested and having any objection in this matter, may appear before the Hon'ble 2nd Addl Chief Judicial Magistrate Court at Bengaluru at 11,00 AM on 21.11.2026 to which date the case is posted for hearing
Given under my hand and seal the court this 29th day October 2026.

By order of the Court
Senior Sheristedar, Cort of the 2nd Addl. Chief Judicial Magistrate, Bangalore Rural District, Bangalore
Advocate of Petitioners: **Harish K.**

IN THE COURT OF THE ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AT DODDABALLAPURA
C. MISC. No. 704/2026

PETITIONERS : Sri. VENKATALAKSHMAMMA, aged about 59 years, D/o Late Thimmarayappa, residing at: Majarahosahalli Village, Tubagere hobli, Doddaballapura taluk, Bangalore rural district.
AND RESPONDENT: THE TAHASILDAR, Registrar of Births & Deaths, Doddaballapura Taluk, Doddaballapura

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the Petitioner has filed the above petition under Section 13 (3) And 14 of Registration Of Births And Deaths Act, 1969 for seeking the death certificate of the Grandfather of petitioner by name LATE ANJINAPPA S/O LATE MUTTARAYAPPA who died on 17-02-1971 at Majarahosahalli Village, Tubagere Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.
In this regard it is hereby notice that whoever has interested in the said matter may appear in person or through an advocate duly authorized before the above said court on 11-12-2024, in default this matter will be heard and disposed off an ex-parte order.
Given under my hand and seal of the court on the 29th day of October 2026.

By order of the court
Chief Ministerial Officer, Prl. Civil Judge & JMFC, Doddaballapura.
Advocate: **Pranav Samrudh**, Opposite to Court Complex, 1st Ward, Rojipura, Doddaballapura Town.

IN THE COURT OF THE ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DODDABALLAPURA
C. Misc. No. 745/2026

Petitioner: Sri. Chikkappaiah S/o Late Chikkachannarayappa Aged about 57 years, R/at Linganahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk and another, Bengaluru Rural District V/s
Respondent: Registrar of Birth and Death The Tahsildar Doddaballapura Taluk, Doddaballapura.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the Petitioners have filed the above petition under Section 13 (3) and 14 of Registration Of Births And Deaths Act, 1969 for seeking the death certificate of their father by name LATE CHIKKA CHANNARAYAPPA S/O LATE CHIKKAHANUMAIAH who died on 01.05.1993 at Linganahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.
In this regard it is hereby notice that whoever has interested in the said matter may appear in person or through an advocate duly authorized before the above said court on 10-12-2026. In default this matter will be heard and disposed off an ex-parte order.
Given under my hand and seal of the court on the 29th day of October, 2026.

By order of the court,
Chief Ministerial Officer / Additional Civil Judge & JMFC, Doddaballapura.
Advocate: Anjanegowda. V,
No. 1, 1st Floor, Government Employees Association Building, Next PLD Bank, Near Taluk Office Circle, Doddaballapur Town.

IN THE COURT OF THE ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DODDABALLAPURA
C. Misc. No. 747/2026

Petitioner: Sri. Chikkappaiah S/o Late Chikkachannarayappa Aged about 57 years, R/at Linganahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk and another, Bengaluru Rural District V/s
Respondent: Registrar of Birth and Death The Tahsildar Doddaballapura Taluk, Doddaballapura.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the Petitioners have filed the above petition under Section 13 (3) and 14 of Registration Of Births And Deaths Act, 1969 for seeking the death certificate of their mother by name LATE VENKATALAKSHMAMMA W/o LATE CHIKKA CHANNARAYAPPA who died on 07.08.1987 at Linganahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.
In this regard it is hereby notice that whoever has interested in the said matter may appear in person or through an advocate duly authorized before the above said court on 10-12-2026. In default this matter will be heard and disposed off an ex-parte order.
Given under my hand and seal of the court on the 29th day of October, 2026.

By order of the court,
Chief Ministerial Officer / Additional Civil Judge & JMFC, Doddaballapura.
Advocate: Anjanegowda. V,
No. 1, 1st Floor, Government Employees Association Building, Next PLD Bank, Near Taluk Office Circle, Doddaballapur Town.

IN THE COURT OF THE ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DODDABALLAPURA
C. Misc. No. 749/2026

Petitioner: Sri. Chikkappaiah S/o Late Chikkachannarayappa Aged about 57 years, R/at Linganahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk and another, Bengaluru Rural District V/s
Respondent: Registrar of Birth and Death The Tahsildar Doddaballapura Taluk, Doddaballapura.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the Petitioners have filed the above petition under Section 13 (3) and 14 of Registration Of Births And Deaths Act, 1969 for seeking the death certificate of their Grand mother by name LATE NARASAMMA W/o LATE CHIKKA HANUMAIAH who died on 12.06.1968 at Linganahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.
In this regard it is hereby notice that whoever has interested in the said matter may appear in person or through an advocate duly authorized before the above said court on 10-12-2026. In default this matter will be heard and disposed off an ex-parte order.
Given under my hand and seal of the court on the 29th day of October, 2026.

By order of the court,
Chief Ministerial Officer / Additional Civil Judge & JMFC, Doddaballapura.
Advocate: Anjanegowda. V,
No. 1, 1st Floor, Government Employees Association Building, Next PLD Bank, Near Taluk Office Circle, Doddaballapur Town.

IN THE COURT OF THE ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DODDABALLAPURA
C. Misc. No. 750/2026

Petitioner: Sri. Chikkappaiah S/o Late Chikkachannarayappa Aged about 57 years, R/at Linganahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk and another, Bengaluru Rural District V/s
Respondent: Registrar of Birth and Death The Tahsildar Doddaballapura Taluk, Doddaballapura.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the Petitioners have filed the above petition under Section 13 (3) and 14 of Registration Of Births And Deaths Act, 1969 for seeking the death certificate of their Grand father by name LATE CHIKKA HANUMAIAH S/o JULONU who died on 24.11.1964 at Linganahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.
In this regard it is hereby notice that whoever has interested in the said matter may appear in person or through an advocate duly authorized before the above said court on 10-12-2026. In default this matter will be heard and disposed off an ex-parte order.
Given under my hand and seal of the court on the 29th day of October, 2026.

By order of the court,
Chief Ministerial Officer / Additional Civil Judge & JMFC, Doddaballapura.
Advocate: Anjanegowda. V,
No. 1, 1st Floor, Government Employees Association Building, Next PLD Bank, Near Taluk Office Circle, Doddaballapur Town.

IN THE COURT OF THE ADDL., CIVIL JUDGE AT DODDABALLAPUR
Crim.Misc. No. 535/2026

Petitioner's: Sri. Bairappa & others S/o Bairappa, Aged about 6 years, R/at Nagasandra Village, Kodigehalli Post, Kasaba Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluku, Bengaluru Rural District. V/s
Respondent: The Thasildar, Doddaballapura Taluku, Doddaballapura.

DRAFT PAPER PUBLICATION

Whereas, the above petitioners have filed above said petition against respondents for Birth and death on Bengaluru Rural District, Doddaballapura Taluku, Kasaba Hobli Nagasandra Village Petitioner wife Jayamma death on Dated: 14/02/2022 on the file of this Hon'ble court,
Therefore, you are hereby directed to appear before this Hon'ble court by yourself or through your advocate on 03-12-2026 at 11:00 AM, failing which you are determined as ex-parte.
Given under my hand seal of the court on the 29th day October 2026 of Doddaballapura.

By Order of the Court
Chief Ministerial Officer, Prl. Civil Judge & JMFC, Doddaballapura
Advocate for Petitioners: **Rajani K.R.**
Advocate, Doddaballapura

NAME CHANGE

I, **KHALEEL UR RAHMAN A**, S/o Allabakash, resident of No 379, 4th Cross, Lakshmi Layout, Arekere, Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru-560076, have changed my name to **KHALEEL UR RAHMAN**, Vide Affidavit Dated: 30.10.2026 before notary PRAKASHA.C, Bengaluru

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NAME CHANGE

I, **CHETANA**, D/o Nagesh Naik, W/o Raghavendra Krishna Naik, residing at No. 193, 4th Main, 4th Cross, Kithaganur Main Road, Srinivas Layout, Kithaganur, Bengaluru-560036,, have changed my name to **CHETANA NAIK**, Vide Affidavit Dated: 30.10.2026 before notary V.RAJASHEKHARA, Bengaluru

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to public at large **Mr.B C Venkatesh, S/O B N Chikkashivalappa,** Residing at #82, 1st Cross, Doddaiah Layout, Babusapalya,Bangaloe North, Bangalore, Karnataka -560043. he had lost the Registered Original Gift Deed Of Doc No.KRI-1-25368-2004-05 dated on 15-12-2004 and Registered Original Sale Deed of Doc No. 17072-2002-03 dated on 01-02-2003 he had lost at Near Babusapalya bus stop, bus stop Accordingly he had lodged the complainant on Bengaluru City Police with E-Lost dated 29/10/2026 Reports Nos.2507979/2026 and 2507982/2026.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY : All the piece and parcel property bearing Site No.82, Katha No.284,Property No.57, Katha No. 224/284/82, BBMP Ward No.25, Situated at Babusabarapalya Village, Chelakere Dhakale, K. R. Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, measuring East to West : 40 Feets, and North to south :30 Feets, Totally measuring 1200 sq feets bounded on East by : Site bearing No.73, West by : Road, North by: Site bearing No.81, South by : Site No.83,If anyone finding the aforesaid document is hereby requested to handover the same to our office at the address mentioned hereunder.

HARISHA .S, Advocate
#1479. DRLS PLAZA, Union Bank Building,
T Dasarahalli, Bengaluru-560 057.
Mobile No. 90609 50265.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Spandana S Nadageri D/o Siddaram Nadageri R/o H No. 5-251 Afazalpur Road Opp Ambedikar Bhavan Ambedikar Nagar Sirasgi Kalaburagi Karnataka-585103 have changed my name to Spandana

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that my client **Sri.Nandish Kupendra S/O Nanjundappa Kupendra,** residing at No.71, Pillamma Road, Kacharkanahally Thomas Town, Behind Jal Vayu Vihak, Bangalore North, Karnataka-560084, My client are willing to purchase the property by availing a loan with Piramal Finance limited by the present property owner Sri.Bollampalli Naga Venkata Sandeep S/O B Venkata Rao, Registered Sale Deed Document No.GNR-1-05091-2023-24 dated: 12-10-2023, my client further states that any disputes his ownership or possession of the schedule property member of the public are hereby notified that if anyone having any adverse claim in respect of the said property hereby advised to place their claim with appropriate written evidence. please note that claims received without written evidence within 7 Days from the date of publication of this notice there after will not be entertained.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY : Item No.1 : All that piece and parcel of the Immovable Residential Vacant Property bearing No.24/6/216, Assessment No.24/6, BBMP Ward No.23, Situated Nagavara Village, Kasaba Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, Measuring East to West: 50 Feet and North to South: 30 Feet Totally measuring 1500 Sq.Feet and bounded on the :East by: Site No.193, Remaining Portion of Sy No.24/6,West by: Road, North by: Site No.217, Remaining Portion of Sy No.24/6,South by: Site No.215, Sy No.24/5.
Item No.2 : All that piece and parcel of the Immovable Residential Vacant Property bearing No.24/6/217, Assessment No.24/6, BBMP Ward No.23, Situated Nagavara Village, Kasaba Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, Measuring East to West: 50 Feet and North to South: 30 Feet Totally measuring 1500 Sq.Feet and bounded on the :East by: Site No.192, Remaining Portion of Sy No.24/6,West by: Road,North by: Site No.217A, Remaining Portion of Sy No.24/6,South by: Site No.216, Remaining Portion of Sy No.24/6,
Item No.3 : All that piece and parcel of the Immovable Residential Vacant Property bearing No.24/6/217A, Assessment No.24/6, BBMP Ward No.23, Situated Nagavara Village, Kasaba Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, Measuring East to West: 50 Feet and North to South: 30 Feet Totally measuring 1500 Sq.Feet and bounded on the :East by: Site No.192, Remaining Portion of Sy No.24/6,West by: Road,North by: Assessment No.78/7South by: Site No.217, Remaining Portion of Sy No.24/6,

HARISHA .S, Advocate
#1479. DRLS PLAZA, Union Bank Building,
T Dasarahalli, Bengaluru-560 057.
Mobile No. 90609 50265.

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Quick Read

Chitradurga hosts Youth Parliament on November 3

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

The Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament will be held on November 3 at Don Bosco Degree College in Chitradurga under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports through MY Bharat.

The programme aims to develop leadership, public speaking and democratic awareness among young people. This year's district-level theme is 'One Nation, One Election'. Each participant will get three minutes to express their views.

Eligible youth can register through the MY Bharat portal. For details, contact Dr. D. Nakoti at 9880079013.

New dairy cooperative building supports rural women

CH NEWS, KENGERI

Paramapujya Sri Dr. Nanjavadutha Swamiji said kind-hearted individuals play an important role in improving the lives of disadvantaged communities. He was speaking at the inauguration of a three-storey building housing the Madapattana Women's Milk Producers' Cooperative Society and Sri Krishnananda Pyramid Meditation Centre at Ankayyanapalya. D. Anandaswamy said the ₹1 crore project aimed to promote women's financial independence and rural development. Former Vokkaligara Sangha president D. Hanumanthaiah praised the initiative. Sri Nishchalanandanatha Swamiji urged people to drink milk and avoid alcohol. Anandaswamy was honoured with the title 'Ksheera Nakshatra'.

Mandya college students confront lecturer over alleged harassment

CH NEWS, MANDYA

Female students at a degree college in Nagamangala, Mandya district, allegedly confronted and assaulted a lecturer after he repeatedly sent them unwanted personal messages.

The lecturer allegedly obtained the mobile numbers of female students and sent messages such as "I love you" and "I like you". Upset by his alleged behaviour, the students decided to confront him.

The students reportedly entered his office and questioned him about the messages. The confrontation turned violent, with some students allegedly beating him despite his pleas. When he noticed that students were recording the incident on their mobile phones, he reportedly covered his face with a mask and hid beside a cupboard. A case has reportedly been registered at Nagamangala Rural Police Station in connection with the incident.

Leaders call for Backward Classes political representation

Puttasiddashetty urged political reservations for Backward Classes in governance, noting they remain voters without adequate power since Independence

CH NEWS, MANDYA

Former Legislative Council member Puttasiddashetty said Backward Classes could secure political reservation in the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies through a united and sustained struggle.

He was speaking after inaugurating a discussion organised by the D. Devaraj Urs Backward Classes Forum at Ambedkar Bhavan in Mandya. The discussion focused on the need for political reservation for Backward Classes in Parliament and State Assemblies.

Puttasiddashetty said political reservation, similar to provisions in local governing bodies, was necessary to improve the representation of Backward Classes. He said communities that form a significant section of the population had largely remained voters without gaining adequate political power since Independence.

At the discussion on political reservation for Backward Classes at Ambedkar Bhavan in Mandya.

He urged community organisations to unite and work towards better political representation. Referring to former Chief Minister D. Devaraj Urs, he called upon elected representatives to identify disadvantaged communities and introduce measures for their social, educational and economic development.

Forum president L. Sandesh, who presided over the programme, said the demand could be achieved through a united movement cutting across political parties. He urged political parties to demonstrate genuine commitment to Backward Classes.

75

Assembly constituencies the forum wants parties to allot to Backward Classes in the 2028 elections

Sandesh also demanded that major political parties allocate at least 75 Assembly constituencies to Backward Classes and provide suitable opportunities to their candidates in the 2028 Karnataka Assembly elections.

Former Zilla Panchayat president B. Lingaiah, farmer leader Doddayya and several community leaders, including M. Krishna, Nagarathna, H.P. Satish, Mallaraje Urs, Amjad Pasha and Y.C. Pradeep, attended the programme along with other participants.

Door-to-door active TB detection campaign under way in Chitradurga

Health workers during the campaign.

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

There is no need to fear tuberculosis (TB), as the disease can be cured with proper treatment, said Taluk Health Officer Dr. B.V. Girish.

He made the statement during a door-to-door awareness campaign in Bachaboranahatti village, which comes under the Belagatta Primary Health Centre in Chitradurga taluk. He accompanied health workers during the Active Tuberculosis Case-Finding Campaign.

Dr. Girish said TB testing and treatment are available free of cost at government health facilities. The campaign, which began on October 27, will continue until December 8.

Taluk Health Education Officer B. Moogappa said health workers were visiting homes to identify people from vulnerable communities who might have TB. The campaign aims to identify high-risk areas, screen suspected patients and ensure early diagnosis and treatment instead of waiting for them to visit hospitals.

He also advised people to maintain hygiene, avoid spitting in public places and cover their mouths while coughing or sneezing.

Senior Treatment Supervisor S.P. Mahendra said common symptoms of TB include a persistent cough lasting more than two weeks, chest pain, breathing difficulties, night sweats, fatigue, loss of appetite and weight loss. People experiencing these symptoms should visit the nearest government hospital for testing. Sputum tests and other investigations will be conducted as required, and confirmed patients will receive free treatment.

He urged residents to cooperate with ASHA workers and health department staff during their visits and support efforts to make the district TB-free.

During the first two days of the campaign, sputum samples were collected from eight people with suspected symptoms and sent to the District Hospital for testing.

Community Health Officer K.R. Manjushree, ASHA workers K.N. Boramma and S. Umakshi, and several local residents were present.

Challakere health centre launches active TB detection campaign

CHALLAKERE: Every citizen should take precautions to prevent tuberculosis (TB) and build a healthy society, said Dr. B.E. Aishwarya, Medical Officer at Meerasabihalli Primary Health Centre. She was speaking after inaugurating an active TB detection and treatment campaign under the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme at the health centre in Challakere taluk. The campaign will run across Karnataka from October 27 to December 8. People experiencing a persistent cough, blood in sputum, weight loss, night sweats, evening fever or loss of appetite should visit their nearest Primary Health Centre for testing. Dr. Aishwarya said TB is curable with proper treatment, which is available free of cost. She urged people to cooperate with health workers and support the campaign. Health Inspector Naveen Kumar, Community Health Officer Shabina and other health staff, ASHA worker Radhamma and villagers attended.

Gadag onion prices fall; farmers demand support

Sacks of onions at a market yard.

MALINGARAYA PUJAR

Onion farmers in Gadag district are facing heavy losses after a sudden fall in market prices, despite investing large amounts in cultivation. Farmers who had hoped to recover their expenses through better prices are now struggling to make ends meet.

Onion prices in the Gadag Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) yard have fallen sharply. Prices that stood between Rs. 5,000 and Rs. 6,000 per quintal a few days ago have reportedly dropped to around Rs. 2,500 to Rs. 3,500 per quintal.

The situation has become more difficult because of poor rainfall. Farmers said onion production had declined considerably, with some harvesting only three to four bags per acre. They estimated that cultivating one acre costs between Rs. 25,000 and Rs. 30,000. Fertiliser prices have also increased, with a bag reportedly costing more than Rs. 2,200.

Farmers alleged that traders and middlemen were manipulating prices in the market. According to them, traders initially offer higher prices for a few bags to create the impression of good market rates. However, when farmers bring larger quantities of onions of similar quality, the prices are reduced considerably.

> **"Buyers are offering higher prices for just a couple of bags of onions, falsely claiming that 'prices have increased'. But when farmers bring dozens of bags, they are cheating them by lowering the prices for the same quality onions."**
>
> **— Ashwini Bidnal (Gowda),** Farmer leader

Farmers demand government intervention

Farmers said they were being forced to sell their produce at whatever prices traders offered, leaving them unable to recover even their cultivation expenses. Many fear falling deeper into debt after borrowing money to grow crops despite drought conditions.

They have urged the government to announce a suitable support price for onions and establish direct procurement centres to protect growers from distress sales.

Farmer organisations have also warned of protests if the government fails to address their demands. They said immediate intervention was necessary to protect farmers' livelihoods and ensure fair returns for their hard work.

Onion prices, Gadag APMC yard

A FEW DAYS AGO	NOW
5,000-6,000 rupees a quintal	2,500-3,500 rupees a quintal

Former Karnataka Minister Shivanand Koujalagi passes away at 87

BELAGAVI

Senior Congress leader, former Karnataka cabinet minister, and ex-Belagavi MP Shivanand Koujalagi passed away at his residence in Bailhongal on Friday following age-related complications.

He was 87.

Koujalagi represented the Bailhongal Assembly constituency three times and served as a Member of Parliament for Belagavi in the 11th Lok Sabha. He held the Public Works portfolio in the H.D. Deve Gowda ministry in 1994 and formerly chaired the prestigious Karnataka Lingayat Education (KLE) Society.

He was the son of late parliamentarian Hemanand (Hemappa) Koujalagi, and his son, Mahantesh Koujalagi, currently serves as the Congress legislator from Bailhongal.

Condoling his demise, Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar stated that Koujalagi's contributions to public service, education, and the cooperative sector were indelible, terming his passing an irreplaceable loss to the state. Former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah remembered him as a principled, socially committed statesman who maintained an enduring grassroots connection throughout his life, extending heartfelt sympathies to MLA Mahantesh Koujalagi and the bereaved family.

His funeral will be held at 11 am on Saturday at the cremation ground on Anigol Road in Bailhongal. Political leaders, religious heads and members of the public have been visiting his residence to pay their final respects.

'Honouring artists helps strengthen Karnataka's art sector'

CH NEWS, GADAG

Recognising and honouring artists for their talent and achievements encourages the growth of the art sector, said senior artist Ashok T. Akki.

He was speaking after inaugurating the 53rd Annual Art Exhibition, jointly organised by the Department of Kannada and Culture and the Karnataka Lalithakala Academy, at Samskruthi Conventions in Gadag on Friday.

Akki said art reflects the culture, heritage and experiences of society. He stressed that artists should focus not only on creating artworks but also on preserving, exhibiting and promoting them.

Referring to the growing international art market, he said several rare artworks were being sold at auctions for crores of rupees, showing the increasing recognition of artistic talent across the world.

He emphasised the need to protect traditional art while encouraging modern experiments. He also highlighted the contribution of institutions such as Madras Art School and the National Gallery of Modern Art in promoting artists and their work.

Akki urged senior artists to guide young talent and provide opportunities for emerging artists to showcase their creativity. Such encouragement, he said, would help young artists gain recognition and achieve success.

Karnataka Lalithakala Academy President P.S. Kumar, Registrar N. Namratha, senior artist R.D. Kadlikoppa and Department of Kannada and Culture Assistant Director Dr. Basavaraja Ballari attended the programme, along with academy staff members.

53rd Annual Art Exhibition

OPENED BY	Senior artist Ashok T. Akki
WHERE	Samskruthi Conventions, Gadag
BY	Department of Kannada and Culture, Karnataka Lalithakala Academy

SWIFT STROKE CARE

World Stroke Day observed with health awareness programme

CH NEWS, GADAG

The District Health and Family Welfare Department, in association with the Karnataka Brain Health Initiative, observed World Stroke Day at the auditorium of K.H. Patil Institute of Medical Sciences in Gadag on October 30.

Speaking at the programme, Dr. G.S. Palled, District Leprosy Eradication Officer and Nodal Officer, stressed the importance of identifying stroke symptoms early and providing immediate medical treatment. He said that stroke was increasingly affecting younger people, although it was traditionally more common among older individuals.

At the World Stroke Day programme in Gadag.

Warning signs

- **Balance:** loss of balance
- **Face:** facial drooping
- **Speech:** slurred speech
- **Swallowing:** difficulty swallowing
- **Limbs:** numbness in the arms or legs

He explained that a stroke occurs when blood supply to the brain is blocked or a blood vessel ruptures. Even a few minutes without adequate blood supply can damage brain cells and affect different body functions.

Common warning signs include loss of balance, facial drooping, slurred speech, difficulty swallowing and numbness in the arms or legs. He urged people to seek medical attention immediately if such symptoms appeared.

District Surgeon Dr. B.C. Karigoudra explained the symptoms of stroke and highlighted the importance of timely treatment. Dr. Sangamesha Asuti, Head of the General Medicine Department, spoke about preventive measures, particularly controlling blood pressure and diabetes. He also advised people to maintain a healthy lifestyle to reduce the risk of stroke.

S.D. Bennur, Deputy District Health Education Officer, and Praveen Ronada, District NCD Programme Coordinator, also addressed the gathering. Pamphlets highlighting stroke symptoms and prevention methods were released during the event.

Medical Superintendent Dr. Vinayaka Panchagara, Orthopaedics Department Head Dr. Mahantesha Patil, Pulmonary Department's Dr. Irfana, General Medicine physician Dr. Vinayakumar S.M., programme coordinator Vishwanatha, health officials, hospital staff, nursing students and members of the public attended.

Nursing student Yallamma offered the invocation. Physiotherapist Dr. Ashwini Kuriyavara welcomed the gathering, while Deputy District Health Education Officer Sahadevappa Hanakanahalli proposed the vote of thanks.

Quick Read

Textile sector offers wide employment opportunities

CH NEWS, KARWAR

The textile sector offers significant employment opportunities, and entrepreneurs should make use of its export potential, said Shivaraja Kulkarni, Joint Director of the Department of Handlooms and Textiles, Belagavi Division.

He was speaking at a one-day export promotion programme held at Canara Bank Rural Self-Employment Training Institute (RSETI) in Kumta on Friday. He said textile exports could increase weavers' income and improve their living standards.

Assistant Director Ashoka Surapura said the textile industry was skill-based, diverse and closely connected with people's livelihoods. He urged entrepreneurs to take an active interest in exports.

Resource persons Dr. Satyanarayana Sheshagiri, Satish Kota and Chandrashekhar V. Patagara participated. Handloom and powerloom weavers, textile entrepreneurs, cooperative society representatives and Postal Department Superintendent Hoovappa attended. Sahana offered the prayer, while Shashikala Nayak hosted the programme.

Traffic diversion extended on Haliyal-Dandeli road

CH NEWS, KARWAR

Vehicular movement between Karka Cross in Haliyal and Barchi Cross in Dandeli has been restricted until February 28, 2027, due to railway gate construction at Level Crossing No. 11 on the Alnavar-Ambewadi railway section.

District Collector and Magistrate K. Lakshmipriya issued an order extending the restriction and announcing alternative routes.

Vehicles travelling from Haliyal to Ramanagara must take the Haliyal-Dandeli-Barchi Cross route. Those travelling from Ramanagara to Haliyal must use the Ramanagara-Barchi Cross-Dandeli route.

Four Raichur officials transferred

CH NEWS, RAICHUR

The Karnataka Government has transferred four officials serving in Raichur district and assigned them new responsibilities in different districts and departments.

Raichur Additional Deputy Commissioner Shivappa Bhajantri has been transferred and posted as Chief Administrative Officer at the head office of Karnataka Neeravari Nigam Limited (KNNL) in Dharwad.

Santosh Rani, who was serving as Tahsildar of the Raichur City Corporation, has been transferred to Kalaburagi and appointed Assistant Secretary of the Kalaburagi Zilla Panchayat.

Suresh Verma, Grade-I Tahsildar of Raichur taluk, has been appointed Special Land Acquisition Officer for the Upper Krishna Project at Devadurga. He will handle responsibilities related to land acquisition for the irrigation project.

Nagamma, Grade-I Tahsildar of Devadurga, has been transferred and appointed Secretary of the Koppal Zilla Panchayat.

CEO directs colleges to ensure APAAR registration

Dr. Bhat mandated 100% APAAR ID registration by Nov 15 for government colleges and Nov 30 for private colleges, using Nirantara app attendance

At the review meeting at the Zilla Panchayat office.

14,843	2,365	75%
I PUC admissions in the district	in government PU colleges, up from 1,282	pass percentage, down from 82%

CH NEWS, CHIKKABALLAPURA

Chief Executive Officer of the Zilla Panchayat Dr. Y. Naveen Bhat has directed officials to ensure that no student is denied Pre-University (PU) education due to financial difficulties.

He instructed government colleges to admit all eligible students who have passed SSLC.

He was speaking at a review meeting on PU college admissions and academic progress held at the Zilla Panchayat office.

Dr. Bhat stressed 100% APAAR ID registration across PU colleges. Government colleges must complete registration by November 15, while private colleges have been given until November 30. He directed officials to organise special registration camps at six colleges and make student attendance mandatory through the Nirantara mobile app.

The district has recorded 14,843 I PUC admissions. Officials were instructed to identify dropouts at every stage, visit their homes and encourage them to continue their education. The target is to ensure 100% transition from SSLC to PUC.

Admissions in government PU colleges have increased from 1,282 to 2,365. However, the district's pass percentage declined from 82% to 75%. Officials were also asked to monitor educational standards in private colleges, where around 75–80% of students study.

Regarding pending APAAR registrations, the CEO directed colleges to resolve Aadhaar-related errors without unnecessarily changing school records. Pending cases must be classified and special camps organised with the cooperation of the Tahsildar, Postal Department and Common Service Centres.

He also instructed colleges to register students on Nirantara and record daily attendance through facial recognition. The app allows attendance monitoring and early identification of frequently absent students.

Emphasising quality education, Dr. Bhat advised students to develop reading and writing habits and limit screen time. He also called for competitive examination coaching for IIT, NEET, BITS Pilani and NITK aspirants within the district.

Deputy Director of Pre-University Education Pandarinatha and principals of government, aided and private PU colleges attended.

Safe childhood campaign promotes children's rights and safety

CH NEWS, HANGAL

A programme under the 'Surakshit Bachpan Abhiyan' (Safe Childhood Campaign) was organised at Oxford School in Hangal to promote children's overall development, protection and awareness of their legal rights.

Inaugurating the programme, Civil Judge and Member Secretary of the Hangal Taluk Legal Services Committee, Aishwarya Chidananda Pattanashetti, urged students to make proper use of the initiative. She stressed that protecting children and safeguarding their rights was a shared responsibility of society.

She said teachers must have proper knowledge of child protection laws, particularly the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. She also highlighted children's rights, personal safety and online security, urging students to remain alert and seek help whenever necessary.

At the programme at Oxford School in Hangal.

Protecting children and safeguarding their rights is a shared responsibility of society

Hangal Police Sub-Inspector Ramesh P.S., who attended as a resource person, explained the provisions of the POCSO Act. He used real-life examples to help students understand the importance of child protection and awareness.

Hangal Bar Association president M.C. Mahantinmath spoke about recent incidents involving the POCSO Act and stressed the importance of education and academic achievement.

B.S. Akkivalli, senior advocate and president of the Hangal Souharda Cooperative Society, presided over the programme. In his address, he spoke about the importance of personal safety and awareness among women and girls.

S.G. Tilavalli, secretary of the Advocates' Association, Headmistress Rekha Angadi, Santosh Malagi, Eeranna Tigari and Iliaz were among those present. Teachers and students of Oxford School also participated.

The programme aimed to educate children about their rights, encourage safe behaviour and strengthen awareness about legal protection against abuse.

Farmers threaten massive national highway blockade

BELAGAVI

Sugarcane cultivators agitating for fair pricing in Belagavi district issued a direct ultimatum to the Karnataka government on Friday, threatening to mobilize 50 lakh people to completely block the Pune–Bengaluru National Highway-48 and shut down the Hattaragi Toll Plaza on Saturday (today).

Addressing reporters at the ongoing demonstration in Gurlapura village of Mudalagi taluk, where the strike entered its sixth day, farmer leader Chunappa Pujari stated that growers have exhausted their patience after six weeks of sustained protests.

Pujari accused the state government of apathy amid severe drought conditions, noting that marathon conciliation talks led by Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on October 26 at Suvarna Vidhana Soudha failed to deliver an immediate financial package.

Pujari alleged widespread exploitation by private mill operators, pointing out that factories sell refined sugar at ₹50 per kilogram while farmers face weight manipulation at weighbridges and unviable procurement rates. Demanding a state incentive of ₹500 per tonne modeled on Uttar Pradesh's support policy, he questioned why the administration hesitates to allocate ₹5,000 crore for agricultural relief from state tax revenues.

Setting a strict deadline for the government to announce relief disbursement, the leadership warned that protesters would not yield to police crackdowns or lathi charges. Pujari appealed to pro-Kannada groups, Dalit organizations, legal associations, trade bodies, and mutt seers to join Saturday's border-corridor shutdown.

CM urges Centre to revise sugarcane pricing

Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar has written to Union Minister Pralhad Joshi, demanding immediate Central intervention to revise sugarcane pricing and break the ongoing farmers' deadlock.

Highlighting grower demands for 5,500 per tonne under the Swaminathan Commission's C2+50% formula, Shivakumar urged the Centre to lower the Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) base recovery rate to 9.5% and raise the sugar Minimum Selling Price (MSP) from 31 to 41.50 per kg. He also sought higher ethanol allocations and revised procurement rates.

Rejecting the Centre's suggestion to introduce a State Advised Price (SAP), Shivakumar stated that adopting a Tamil Nadu-style model would impose an unfeasible annual burden of 4,090 crore on the state exchequer.

Following stakeholder consultations in Belagavi, he noted that mills have agreed to pass on sugar MSP hikes to growers, urging the Centre to act swiftly to ensure crushing operations resume.

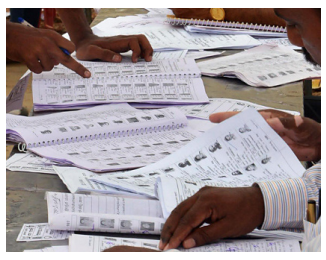
Belagavi voter roll sees major post-SIR decline

CH NEWS, BELAGAVI

Belagavi district has recorded a significant reduction in its voter numbers following the Election Commission of India's (ECI) Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

According to the latest final electoral figures, around 4.71 lakh names were removed, leaving 36,35,860 electors across the district's 18 Assembly constituencies.

Belagavi Uttar, represented by Congress MLA Asif (Raju) Sait, reportedly recorded


Electoral roll pages.

84,483 deletions. Allegations were also raised over the use of Form 7 applications seeking deletion of voters' names. Complaints were reportedly submitted to the Election Commission over alleged irregularities and pressure on election officials.

Belagavi Dakshin recorded another significant reduction, with BJP MLA Abhay Patil's constituency witnessing a large number of deletions. Allegations concerning third-party objections were also reported, while the leaders concerned denied violating election rules.

Other constituencies, including Belagavi Rural, Gokak, Arabhavi and Kudachi, also recorded substantial reductions. Yamakanamardi, represented by Congress leader Satish Jarkiholi, reported fewer deletions compared with several other constituencies.

Meanwhile, Kittur, Saundatti and Kagwad recorded comparatively lower numbers of deletions.

Following the publication of the final electoral rolls, election officials have decided to conduct special verification drives in areas where voter numbers have fallen sharply. The exercise will include checking records with ground-level information and identifying eligible voters who may have been left out.

Senior citizens' rights highlighted at legal awareness event

At the programme in Chabbi.

CH NEWS, HUBBALLI

A Legal Awareness and Assistance Programme was organised at the Government Senior Primary School auditorium in Chabbi to educate senior citizens about their legal rights, welfare schemes and available support services.

The programme was conducted jointly by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, the Karnataka Government, Dharwad Zilla Panchayat, Hubballi Taluk Panchayat, Taluk Legal Services Authority and the Department for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities and Senior Citizens, Dharwad. Officials from various departments, NGOs and legal professionals participated.

Addressing the gathering, advocate Eerappa S. Tigadi, representing the District Legal Services Authority, stressed the need to create awareness about legal rights and prevent injustice against children and senior citizens. He explained the legal remedies available when children neglect their elderly parents and called for a society that respects every individual.

District Welfare Officer Savita Kale explained the facilities provided to senior citizens by her department. Community Health Officer Mahalingamma highlighted healthcare services and the importance of maintaining good health. Women and Child Welfare Department supervisor Shailaja Talawar and Education Department representative A.F. Ankalagi explained their respective departmental facilities and schemes.

HELPLINE 1090
Elderly people can seek free assistance through the Senior Citizens' Helpline.

Rekha Kalayannamath, president of Samruddhi Foundation, spoke about the old-age home in Chabbi village. Senior Citizens' Helpline District Coordinator Prakash Morabada explained how elderly people could seek free assistance through helpline 1090.

Gram Panchayat Development Officer Chandrashekhara Pujari outlined welfare facilities available through the Gram Panchayat. Advocate Mayura Natekar explained constitutional and legal protections, including provisions against neglect and mistreatment of elderly parents.

The Taluk Panchayat Executive Officer presided over the programme and explained the benefits available through the Panchayat Raj Department.

Officials, Gram Panchayat staff and senior citizens attended. Vishwanath Ragi hosted the programme, Mahantesh Kurtakoti welcomed the gathering, and S.G. Hadapad proposed the vote of thanks.

Stroke awareness programme held at Betageri PHC

CH NEWS, KOPPAL

World Stroke Day was observed at Betageri Primary Health Centre (PHC) under the Karnataka Brain Health Initiative (KaBHI), with the aim of creating awareness about stroke symptoms, early diagnosis and timely treatment.

The programme was jointly organised by the District Administration, Zilla Panchayat, District Health and Family Welfare Office, District Leprosy Control Office and District Teaching Hospital. The campaign highlighted the message, 'Every Minute Counts – Recognise a Stroke, Act Immediately, Save Lives.'

Dr. Irfana Anjum, Medical Officer at Betageri PHC, explained the causes, warning signs and symptoms of stroke. She stressed that early identification and immediate medical attention were essential. She also informed ASHA workers that physiotherapy services were available for stroke patients under KaBHI and advised them to refer such patients to the District Hospital.

Deputy District Health Education Officer Devamma spoke about various health department programmes and explained how early signs of neurological disorders could be identified. She also highlighted the importance of a healthy lifestyle in reducing the risk of brain-related illnesses.

What KaBHI covers
- **Conditions:** headaches, epilepsy, dementia, stroke
- **Help:** physiotherapy; tele-neurology through NIMHANS

Chaitra Sarode, physiotherapist under the KaBHI programme, explained the BE FAST method of identifying stroke symptoms. She stressed the need for immediate emergency treatment and explained the importance of physiotherapy in helping patients recover after a stroke.

She also provided information about treatment facilities available at the District Hospital for conditions such as headaches, stroke, epilepsy and dementia. Participants were informed about tele-neurology services provided through NIMHANS, Bengaluru, and encouraged to make use of them.

District KaBHI Coordinator Tejaswini explained the initiative's objectives and services, covering four major neurological conditions: headaches, epilepsy, dementia and stroke.

BANGALORE URBAN ZILLA PANCHAYATH
Office of the Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, First Floor, Zilla Panchayat Building, S. Kariyappa Road, Banashankari, Bengaluru - 560070.

No.EE/PRED/BNG(U)/TND/AE/39/2026-27 Dated:30.10.2026.

KPP PORTAL SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Single Cover System)

Tenders are invited through KPP Portal by the Executive Engineer, P.R.E.D. Bangalore Urban, For PAB Grants & 4202 Grants Works. The work details can obtained from the KPP Portal WebSite The Tender Documents can be obtained and submitted on or before **07.11.2026 upto 4.00 pm.** Further details can be obtained from web site at **https://www.KPPP.karnataka.gov.in** or contact this office during office working hours.

Work Details:

Sl.No.	Indent Number
1	RDPR/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT30105
2	RDPR/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT30106
3	RDPR/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT30109

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Panchayath Raj Engineering Division,
Bangalore Urban Dist, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/3425/Adverto/2026-27

Modi to sign India-EU trade deal

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Brussels in December to sign the India-EU free trade agreement, creating fresh opportunities for businesses across two major global economies.

Antonio Costa, Narendra Modi and Ursula von der Leyen

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Brussels in December to formally sign the India-European Union Free Trade Agreement (FTA), marking a significant step towards strengthening economic and trade relations between the two sides.

European Council President Antonio Costa announced the planned visit while addressing an event organised by the Montreal Council on Foreign Relations in Canada.

"Prime Minister Modi will come in December to sign the deal," Costa said.

The visit is expected to take place shortly before a meeting of European leaders scheduled to begin in Brussels on December 17.

India and the European Union concluded negotiations on the landmark trade agreement earlier this year. The proposed pact is expected to create a combined market of more than two billion people, accounting for approximately one-fourth of the global economy.

Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said last week that the agreement could become operational within four to five months after its formal signing.

Modi and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen had jointly announced the conclusion of negotiations during the European leadership's visit to India.

The EU remains one of India's largest trading partners. During 2024-25, bilateral trade in goods stood at Rs 11.5 lakh crore ($136.54 billion), with Indian exports accounting for Rs 6.4 lakh crore and imports reaching Rs 5.1 lakh crore. Trade in services stood at Rs 7.2 lakh crore in 2024.

The FTA in brief

- Combined market of over two billion people
- India-EU goods trade reached $136.54 billion in 2024-25
- Pact could become operational within four to five months after signing

> **"Prime Minister Modi will come in December to sign the deal."**
> — **Antonio Costa,** European Council President

Quick Read

India's H1 fiscal deficit at 42.1 pc of FY27 target

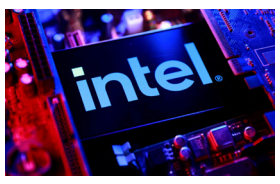
NEW DELHI

India's fiscal deficit for the first six months (April-September) of the current financial year touched the Rs 7.14 lakh crore mark, which constitutes 42.1 per cent of the budget estimate for the full year, official figures released showed on Friday. The Centre has budgeted a fiscal deficit of Rs 16.96 lakh crore for the financial year 2026-27. Revenue receipts stood at Rs 17.57 lakh crore, which constitutes 49.7 per cent of the budget estimate. Of this, the net tax revenue was Rs 12.76 lakh crore, while non-tax revenue was Rs 4.81 lakh crore. Net tax revenue rose to 44.5 per cent of the full-year estimate.

Tech innovation drives post-2015 farm growth

NEW DELHI

India's agriculture sector has undergone a structural transformation since 2015 with farm growth accelerating and increasing emphasis on technology, sustainability, nutrition security and global competitiveness, a report has said. Highlighting Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision for a Viksit Bharat, a report by Good Morning Kashmir said agriculture and farmer welfare have remained central to the country's development agenda, evolving from a focus on boosting production and incomes to creating a productive, resilient and technology-driven farm economy.



Intel warning sparks chip rout as PC weakness clouds turnaround

NEW YORK

Shares of Intel plunged 25 per cent in premarket trading on Friday after the US chipmaker issued a disappointing fourth-quarter forecast and warned that weakness in the personal computer (PC) market could continue through at least the first half of 2027. The outlook triggered a broader selloff in global semiconductor stocks. The decline put Intel on track to lose more than $123 billion in market capitalisation if the losses continued during the regular trading session. The company's shares were also set to open at their lowest level in approximately six months.

Intel forecast fourth-quarter revenue between $15 billion and $16 billion, significantly below analysts' average estimate of $17.07 billion, according to data compiled by LSEG. The company's finance chief, David Zinsner, also said Intel did not expect to generate positive cash flow this year.

The weakness also affected other semiconductor companies. Europe's STOXX 600 Technology Index declined 2.1 per cent, while sector heavyweight ASML fell 5.2 per cent. PC chips contributed approximately half of Intel's third-quarter revenue. The company expects sales from the segment to decline by more than 20 per cent sequentially in the current quarter, following a 5 per cent fall during the September quarter.

India, Belgium, Luxembourg deepen economic ties

NEW DELHI

India, Belgium and Luxembourg have agreed to strengthen economic cooperation and explore fresh opportunities across aerospace, research, innovation and higher education, according to a Commerce Ministry statement issued on Friday.

The discussions took place during the 19th session of the India-Belgium-Luxembourg Economic Union (BLEU) Joint Economic Commission (JEC), held in Luxembourg. The meeting reviewed bilateral trade and investment relations and identified areas for expanding cooperation among the three countries.

The session was co-chaired by Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal, Filip Vanden Bulcke, Director-General for Geo-Economy and Economic Diplomacy at Belgium's Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation, and Henri Schumacher, Secretary General of Luxembourg's Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Defence, Development Cooperation and Foreign Trade.

The meeting also focused on facilitating market access and identifying opportunities to strengthen business engagement and investment partnerships.

Following the JEC session, Agrawal interacted with CEOs of Luxembourg-based companies. He highlighted India's economic growth and investment potential, identifying opportunities in financial services, advanced manufacturing, logistics, clean energy, digital technologies, healthcare and research.

Key areas of cooperation

- **Aerospace:** research and innovation
- **Education:** higher education, skills
- **Energy:** renewables, clean technology
- **Finance:** financial services, FinTech
- **Transport:** logistics, air links, ports

PM-KISAN payouts cross Rs 4.64 lakh crore

NEW DELHI

More than Rs 4.64 lakh crore has been disbursed to farmers across India through 24 instalments of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme, according to a government factsheet issued on Friday.

Launched on February 24, 2019, the centrally sponsored scheme provides eligible landholding farmer families with annual financial assistance of Rs 6,000 in three equal instalments. The amount is transferred directly into beneficiaries' bank accounts through the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mechanism.

To receive the benefits, farmers must ensure their land records are seeded on the PM-KISAN portal, link their bank accounts with Aadhaar and complete electronic Know Your Customer (e-KYC) verification.

The Union Budget 2026-27 has allocated Rs 60,000 crore for the scheme, reflecting the government's continued focus on providing income support to farmers.

In July 2026, the Union Cabinet approved the continuation of PM-KISAN from 2026-27 to 2030-31, with a total outlay of Rs 3.15 lakh crore.

The government said the assistance enables farmers to make timely investments in seeds, fertilisers, irrigation facilities, agricultural machinery and other farming requirements. It also helps improve productive capacity, reduce dependence on informal credit and strengthen the financial stability of rural households.

The process involves farmer registration through the portal, mobile application or Common Service Centres.

PM-KISAN in numbers

disbursed through 24 instalments
Rs 4.64 lakh cr
approved till 2030-31
Rs 3.15 lakh cr

Tesla rolls out Halloween Mode in India

NEW DELHI

Tesla India on Friday said it launched a new software update for Model Y and Model Y L vehicles that adds a range of Halloween-themed features, highlighting the company's over-the-air (OTA) software update capabilities.

According to the Elon Musk-led firm, the update allows Tesla vehicles to receive new features and improvements remotely without requiring a visit to a service centre. Halloween Mode includes a ghost-themed vehicle avatar, Halloween sound effects, special lighting sequences, seasonal vehicle wraps and a themed lock sound, it said.

The update also introduces a 'Trick or Treat Mode' which activates sound and lighting effects when visitors approach the vehicle.

Other features include a photobooth function and a voice messaging feature that allows users to speak through the Tesla app and have the vehicle relay messages, the company said. Tesla said customers can experience the new features at its Experience Centres across India.

The company currently operates those centres in Noida, Delhi, Gurugram, Chennai, Hyderabad, Bengaluru and Mumbai and has approved collision centres in Pune and Ahmedabad.

Earlier in October, Tesla CEO Elon Musk showcased a new version of the Roadster sports car with a prototype briefly lifting off the ground during a demonstration at a SpaceX facility in Texas.

A post on X shared by Musk showed the vehicle navigating an elevated curved track before becoming airborne for a short distance and landing safely, drawing comparisons to a flying car.

The test prompted enthusiastic reactions from company executives, who described it as evidence that flying-car technology is moving closer to reality. Tesla, however, did not provide a timeline for commercial deployment.

India's PE and VC investments surge 46 pc to $17.1 billion in Q3

NEW DELHI

Private equity and venture capital (PE/VC) investments in India rose 46 per cent year-on-year to $17.1 billion across 348 deals in Q3 2026, driven by a surge in infrastructure and health care transactions, a report said on Friday.

The report from EY-IVCA said investment value rose 124 per cent from the previous quarter's $7.6 billion, although deal volume was 9 per cent lower than the 384 deals recorded a year earlier.

However, the deal volume was 44 per cent higher quarter-on-quarter, the report added. Meanwhile, September emerged as the strongest month of 2026 so far, attracting $7 billion of investments and marking the highest monthly investment value since May 2024.

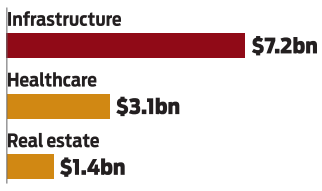
Infrastructure emerged as the top sector, attracting $7.2 billion, followed by healthcare at $3.1 billion and real estate at $1.4 billion.

Buyout investments accounted for the largest share of PE/VC activity in the quarter by deal type, with $5.1 billion deployed, a 419 per cent increase in value compared to Q3 2025.

In addition, start-up investments ranked second with an investment of $4.8 billion, an increase of 55 per cent from $3.1 billion in Q3 2025.

The Indian PE/VC-backed IPO market has undergone significant evolution over the past decade. A total of 290 PE/VC-backed IPOs have been recorded since 2016, with nearly 75 per cent of these listings (217 IPOs) occurring in the last five years alone.

Top sectors, Q3



Figures: EY-IVCA

US labour costs rise moderately in third quarter

WASHINGTON

Labour costs in the United States increased at a moderate pace in the third quarter, indicating that wage-related inflationary pressures remain relatively subdued and providing a potentially positive signal for policymakers monitoring the country's economic outlook.

The Employment Cost Index (ECI), considered the broadest measure of labour costs in the US economy, rose 0.8 per cent in the July-September quarter, following a 0.9 per cent increase in the April-June period, according to data released by the Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics on Friday.

On an annual basis, labour costs advanced 3.4 per cent in the 12 months through September, matching the increase recorded in the year through June. The figures suggest that compensation growth has remained relatively stable, without showing a significant acceleration that could intensify concerns about inflation.

The Employment Cost Index is closely monitored by policymakers and economists because it provides a comprehensive picture of changes in wages, salaries and employee benefits. Unlike some other wage indicators, the index adjusts for changes in workforce composition and job quality, making it a more reliable measure of underlying labour cost pressures.

The indicator also offers insights into the balance between labour demand and supply. A moderation in compensation growth can suggest that employers are facing less pressure to increase wages to attract and retain workers.

For the Federal Reserve, the latest figures could provide useful information while assessing the relationship between labour market conditions and inflation.

However, the third-quarter data does not indicate a sharp decline in labour costs either.

Hackers steal $6.3 bn from Binance

SINGAPORE

Hackers stole $6.3 billion from Binance, the world's biggest cryptocurrency exchange, in a theft that analysts blamed on North Korea and said could be the largest financial heist of all time.

Cryptocurrency prices fell on the news, while Binance halted withdrawals and said it would use company funds to cover the losses. Stablecoin issuers including El Salvador-based Tether and the Trump-backed World Liberty Financial froze about half of the stolen assets.

Binance is working with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the United States Secret Service (USSS), a person familiar with the situation said. "This was a complex attack, and we are doing all we can in coordination with law enforcement to resolve it," Binance said in a post on X.

The exchange said customer funds were safe and it was working with partners to freeze some of the affected assets, with about $3 billion located so far. It said earlier on Friday it expected to resume withdrawal services in the next 48 hours. It did not mention the status of the remaining $3.3 billion.

Binance said the company had set aside around $6.34 billion of company funds internally to cover the losses, without giving details about where the funds had come from.

The bulk of the heist unfolded in around 20 minutes and bore similarities to previous large attacks blamed on North Korea, according to US blockchain analysis firms TRM Labs and Chainalysis.

TRM said the attackers were able to order Binance wallets to empty into hacker-controlled wallets, mirroring a 2025 heist at crypto exchange Bybit, which the FBI attributed to North Korea.

> **A theft analysts blamed on North Korea and said could be the largest financial heist of all time**

BANKING REFORMS

Sitharaman defends IDBI Bank stake sale

NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday defended the government's decision to divest a majority stake in public sector IDBI Bank, accusing previous Congress-led governments of political interference in banking operations that contributed to the accumulation of non-performing assets (NPAs).

Responding to criticism from Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi over the proposed stake sale, Sitharaman alleged that Congress governments had treated banks and financial institutions as personal entities and pressured employees to extend loans without following prudent lending practices.

In a post on X, the Finance Minister cited historical instances of alleged political interference, including the removal of former State Bank of India Chairman R.K. Talwar in 1976 after he reportedly refused pressure to relax lending conditions for a company linked to Sanjay Gandhi's circle. She also referred to alleged pressure on Central Bank of India regarding loans to Maruti.

Sitharaman claimed IDBI Bank had been left in poor financial condition, citing loans extended to large business groups, including Videocon, Winsome, ABG Shipyard and Kingfisher, which subsequently turned into bad loans.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman

She said the Narendra Modi-led NDA government had revived the lender through professional management, prudent practices and recapitalisation exceeding Rs 25,000 crore.

> **"Congress-era banking had a phonebook for the powerful and a rulebook for the common citizens."**
> — **Nirmala Sitharaman** Union Finance Minister

She also maintained that all due procedures had been followed in the proposed strategic restructuring of the bank, adding that the government had already clarified its position.

Defending the broader banking reforms, Sitharaman said ordinary citizens now had easier access to credit and bank employees were no longer under political pressure to sanction loans through influential connections.

Quick Read

Father, son die plucking flowers on 23rd-floor balcony

GREATER NOIDA

A 40-year-old man and his 11-year-old son died after falling from the balcony of their 23rd-floor apartment at Mahagun Mywoods Society in Greater Noida's Bisrakh area early Friday. The deceased were identified as Randeep Patra and his son, Aarav. According to Deputy Commissioner of Police Praveen Ranjan Singh, police received an emergency alert through the 112 helpline around 4.20 am. Both victims were rushed to a nearby hospital, where doctors declared them dead. During preliminary questioning, Patra's wife told investigators that the father and son had stepped onto the balcony to pluck flowers for morning worship. They reportedly slipped while using a step or ladder and fell from the high-rise.

Woman delivers healthy baby girl aboard night bus

DIBRUGARH

A woman travelling on a night bus from Guwahati to Dibrugarh delivered a healthy baby girl near Kaziranga in Assam after suddenly going into labour. Bus driver Babul Barpatra stopped the vehicle by the roadside and arranged blankets and clothes to assist with the delivery. Bus staff and passengers helped manage the emergency until medical assistance arrived. Barpatra said seven members of the woman's family were travelling with her and were initially unsure how to respond. An ambulance arrived shortly after the birth, and the mother and newborn were taken to a hospital.

2 killed, 2 injured as crane collapses at Nagpur site

NAGPUR

Two people were killed and two others injured after a crane collapsed during dismantling at an under-construction Maharashtra Housing and Area Development Authority (MHADA) building site in Nagpur on Friday. Deputy Commissioner of Police Rahul Madne said the incident occurred around 10.30 am while the crane operator and three labourers were working. The deceased were identified as Vishwanath Kathane from Maharashtra's Bhandara district and Mukesh Nishad from Uttar Pradesh. Police have registered an accidental death case and are investigating possible mechanical failure, human error and compliance with safety protocols.

Vande Bharat sleeper for Varanasi-Delhi today

NEW DELHI

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw will flag off a new Vande Bharat Sleeper Express connecting Varanasi and New Delhi on Saturday, expanding India's modern overnight rail services. The train will depart Varanasi at 8.50 pm and arrive in New Delhi at 6.10 am the following morning.

Bhutan glacial lake outburst triggers flood fears in India

Authorities are monitoring river levels and urging residents to remain alert as the potential cross-border flood threat raises safety concerns in downstream communities.

NEW DELHI

A reported glacial lake outburst in Bhutan's Gasa district has raised flood concerns in parts of West Bengal and Assam, prompting warnings and precautionary evacuations along the Sankosh River.

A glacial lake and a damaged mountain road

The reported Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) occurred in the Shintaphu glacier region of northwestern Bhutan. The sudden release of water could increase levels in the Sankosh River and its tributaries, threatening vulnerable settlements downstream. Residents in at-risk riverside areas have been advised to move to safer locations, with reports indicating that thousands have been evacuated.

Floodwaters have reportedly washed away facilities in Bhutan's Gasa Tshachu area. However, the area had been evacuated beforehand, and initial reports indicated no casualties.

In West Bengal, Kumargram in Alipurduar district and settlements along the Sankosh River are among the areas of concern. In Assam, low-lying riverside areas in Dhubri district have been placed under alert. Residents in North Bengal, including parts of Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri, have also been advised to remain vigilant and follow official safety instructions.

West Bengal Forest Minister Manoj Kumar Oraon has appealed to people living along the Sankosh River to relocate to safer places. Authorities are monitoring river levels and preparing to evacuate additional residents if necessary. Road traffic in affected parts of Bhutan has reportedly been suspended following flood-related damage.

In 2023, an outburst from South Lhonak Lake in Sikkim caused extensive destruction along the Teesta River valley.

? WHAT IS A GLOF?

Water stored in a glacier-fed lake is suddenly released, often after a natural dam of ice, rocks or loose soil collapses.

Germany needs over 90,000 Indian workers annually: Goyal

NEW DELHI

Germany needs more than 90,000 Indian workers annually, Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said, recalling a conversation with the German foreign minister, who indicated that the country's demand was significantly higher.

> *"When Indians used to go abroad, our passport had little value. They used to look down on us. Now there's been a 360-degree change."*
>
> **PIYUSH GOYAL** Minister of Commerce and Industry

Speaking at the fourth national conference organised by ISID-IDRA in New Delhi, Goyal highlighted the changing global perception of Indians and their growing professional opportunities abroad. He said India's international standing had improved considerably over the years.

Recalling his conversation with the German foreign minister, Goyal said he had mentioned Germany's annual requirement of 90,000 Indian workers. The minister reportedly responded that the country needed far more workers, highlighting the demand for Indian talent in the German labour market.

Germany has also emerged as a major destination for Indian students. Enrolment increased by 17.5 per cent to 69,816 in the winter semester of 2025-26, making Indians the largest international student group in the country. The figures reflect strengthening educational and scientific ties between India and Germany.

Germany's relatively affordable education system has contributed to its popularity among Indian students. Most public universities do not charge tuition fees, although students generally pay semester contributions and some institutions or programmes impose separate fees.

In separate remarks in Berlin, Goyal also highlighted sectors that could remain comparatively resilient to artificial intelligence. He identified handicrafts, handlooms, culinary skills and tourism as areas with potential to withstand technological disruption.

The commerce ministry has begun identifying professions that could be less vulnerable to artificial intelligence, Goyal said, emphasising the importance of preparing India's young workforce for technological changes and emerging employment opportunities.

In focus

Indian workers Germany needs annually
90,000+
Indian students in Germany, winter semester 2025-26
69,816
rise in Indian student enrolment
17.5%

BJP's Diwali meet for diplomats from 50 countries

NEW DELHI

BJP National President Nitin Nabin was scheduled to host a Diwali get-together for more than 90 diplomatic representatives from around 50 countries at the party headquarters in New Delhi on Friday.

The gathering was expected to bring together heads of mission, deputy chiefs of mission and senior diplomats, along with Union ministers and senior BJP leaders. The programme was to provide an opportunity for Nabin to interact with diplomatic representatives and showcase India's cultural traditions and festive spirit.

A special musical presentation titled "Tradition and Innovation" was to be a key attraction. The performance was to combine classical and contemporary musical elements, featuring violinist Nandini Shankar and musician Mahesh Raghvan, who were to perform using an iPad.

According to Dr Vijay Chauthaiwale, in-charge of the BJP's Foreign Affairs Department, the event aims to highlight India's cultural heritage while strengthening goodwill, friendship and people-to-people ties with countries worldwide.

The gathering comes a day after the first National Executive meeting of the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) concluded at the BJP headquarters extension on Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg in New Delhi.

Addressing the gathering, Nabin congratulated the newly constituted BJYM team and spoke about the BJP's ideological journey over the past four to five decades.

Shah promises uniform civil code in UP if BJP returns to power

LUCKNOW

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday promised to implement the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in Uttar Pradesh if the Bharatiya Janata Party returns to power following next year's Assembly elections.

Attack on SP

Addressing the BJP state working committee meeting in Lucknow, Shah expressed confidence in the party's electoral prospects and launched a sharp attack on the Samajwadi Party. He predicted that the party, led by Akhilesh Yadav, would remain out of power in the state for the next three decades.

"Akhilesh Babu, mark my words, your party will not form the government in Uttar Pradesh for the next 30 years. The people will not forgive even your third generation," Shah said.

> **"Akhilesh Babu, mark my words, your party will not form the government in Uttar Pradesh for the next 30 years."**
>
> — **Amit Shah,** Union Home Minister

Promise on UCC

Shah also reiterated the BJP's commitment to implementing the UCC in Uttar Pradesh if it forms the government again. He noted that the uniform legal framework had already been implemented in several states, presenting it as a key promise ahead of the Assembly elections.

The day-long meeting was held at the Dr Ram Manohar Lohia National Law University auditorium. Shah inaugurated the proceedings, while BJP state president and Union Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary chaired the meeting.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Deputy Chief Ministers Keshav Prasad Maurya and Brajesh Pathak, state in-charge Vinod Tawde and national general secretary Smriti Irani were among the leaders present. Shah also targeted the Samajwadi Party over allegations of vote theft, as the BJP began preparations for the crucial state elections.

Breakup alone cannot make consensual sex rape, says Supreme Court

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday observed that physical intimacy during a consensual relationship cannot retrospectively be treated as rape merely because the relationship later deteriorates or ends. The court expressed concern over cases in which failed relationships lead to criminal proceedings.

A bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and R Mahadevan made the observations while discharging a Kerala resident from charges of rape and cheating. It emphasised the need to distinguish between consent obtained through deliberate deception or fraud and regret over consensual intimacy following the breakdown of a relationship.

The bench said that physical intimacy during a functioning relationship could not automatically be classified as rape simply because the relationship no longer existed. It cautioned that treating every failed relationship as a criminal offence could undermine an individual's freedom to withdraw from a relationship and unfairly affect the accused person's liberty and reputation.

The court stressed that rape is a serious offence and that the charge must be reserved for cases involving sexual violence, coercion or manipulation of consent. It warned that indiscriminately converting failed relationships into rape allegations could dilute the gravity of the offence.

The case

The case arose from allegations that the accused concealed his earlier marriage before marrying the woman while his first marriage was still subsisting. The woman alleged that she consented to sexual relations believing she was entering a lawful marriage. She accused him of rape, cheating and breach of trust.

The accused approached the Supreme Court after the Kerala High Court rejected his discharge petition and plea to quash the proceedings.

UDF plans balanced new liquor policy for Kerala's tourism sector

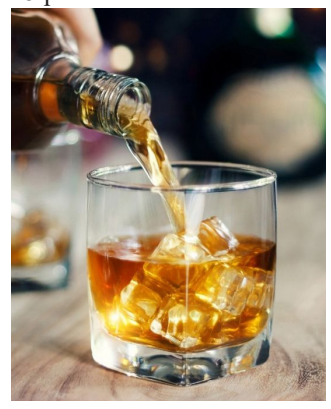
THRISSUR

The United Democratic Front (UDF) government in Kerala is preparing a new liquor policy that aims to promote responsible drinking while balancing social responsibility with the interests of the tourism sector, Excise Minister M Liju said on Friday.

Liju said the proposed policy would differ from the previous Left Democratic Front (LDF) government's approach and would not simply continue its existing framework. The government intends to reduce alcohol consumption without adversely affecting tourism, which supports employment and livelihoods across the state.

The minister said the first round of discussions on the policy had concluded in October. The government plans to announce the new policy in November, as previously communicated to the Kerala High Court.

Addressing the issue of Horti Wines, Liju said the previous government had amended rules to permit the sale of the beverages through bakeries. The present government cancelled a licence granted for such sales, arguing that beverages containing 15 per cent alcohol should not be distributed through these outlets.



Although the Horti Wines initiative could benefit farmers, Liju stressed that its distribution must consider wider social consequences. He said permitting the sale of alcoholic beverages through bakeries merely because existing rules allowed it was not necessarily beneficial to society.

The Excise Department is also examining whether officials, including deputy excise commissioners, granted certain licences using provisions amended during the previous government's tenure in ways that conflict with the current administration's policy approach.

Liju said the government would take strict action if investigations established that licences had been issued in violation of its policy objectives.

NAVY GETS CORVETTES

Cabinet clears ₹40,000 crore deal for 8 navy corvettes

NEW DELHI

The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved a project worth over ₹40,000 crore to build eight next-generation corvettes for the Indian Navy, strengthening maritime capabilities and domestic defence manufacturing.

The decision was taken at a CCS meeting on Wednesday, with contracts expected to be signed in the coming days with Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata, and Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL), Goa, according to government officials.

A warship at sea

The warships will be approximately 2,000-tonne high-speed surface combatants, featuring an indigenous stealth design developed by the Indian Navy. Each vessel is expected to achieve speeds of around 30 knots, with advanced shipbuilding technologies incorporated into their construction. The first corvette is targeted for delivery by 2030, while efforts are underway to accelerate the construction schedule.

According to the Ministry of Defence, the next-generation corvettes will serve as adaptable, multi-role platforms capable of undertaking a range of maritime security missions across the Indian Ocean Region. Their addition is expected to enhance the Navy's operational readiness and strengthen its ability to respond to evolving maritime challenges.

The project also supports the Centre's push for indigenous defence production under the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative. Constructing all eight vessels within the country is expected to strengthen domestic shipbuilding capabilities and reinforce the participation of Indian defence industries in advanced naval manufacturing.

8	2,000	30	2030
corvettes	tonnes each, approx.	knots, approx.	first delivery target

Quick Read

12-year-old girl allegedly kills four-year-old over chocolate dispute

MANDSAUR

A 12-year-old girl allegedly killed a four-year-old boy in Madhya Pradesh's Mandsaur district after a dispute over chocolate, with police suspecting revenge as the motive.

The incident occurred on October 24 in Shamgarh, where the girl and the child lived in the same neighbourhood, Superintendent of Police Vinod Meena said.

According to police, the girl allegedly became enraged after the boy's mother scolded her during a quarrel over chocolate. She reportedly pushed the child into a water tank on the rooftop and covered it with a stone slab, resulting in his death.

The girl allegedly admitted to the crime and was subsequently produced before a court, which sent her to a juvenile home.

Police said further investigation was underway to establish the circumstances surrounding the incident.

Retired officer loses ₹78 lakh in digital arrest scam

GONDA

A retired accounts officer in Uttar Pradesh's Gonda district allegedly lost ₹78 lakh to cyber fraudsters who kept him under "digital arrest" threats for nearly a month.

Raj Kumar Srivastava received a WhatsApp call on September 22 from a person posing as a CBI officer. Another caller allegedly claimed to be an Intelligence Bureau official and accused him of sharing confidential information with Pakistani military officials.

Threatened with arrest and money laundering charges, Srivastava transferred ₹68 lakh from two bank accounts and arranged another ₹10 lakh by selling property.

An FIR has been registered, and two police teams are investigating.

Railway pass holders allowed premium train class upgrades

NEW DELHI

The Railway Board has clarified that railway employees, retirees and other pass holders can travel in a higher class on Rajdhani, Duronto and Shatabdi Express trains by paying the applicable fare difference.

The decision covers Privilege Pass (PP), Post-Retirement Complimentary Pass (PRCP) and Widow Pass (WP) holders, resolving ambiguity under the Railway Servants (Pass) Rules, 1986.

The board said the clarification supersedes previous instructions regarding travel entitlements on passes and privilege ticket orders. It has directed the Centre for Railway Information Systems to update the Passenger Reservation System and the e-Pass module of the Human Resource Management System immediately, enabling eligible passengers to book higher-class tickets by paying the fare difference.

Tamil Nadu CM raises upper age limit for government jobs by 5 yrs

TAMIL NADU HAS EXPANDED AGE ELIGIBILITY FOR GOVERNMENT RECRUITMENT, GIVING ASPIRANTS MORE TIME TO APPLY FOR PUBLIC SERVICE POSITIONS ACROSS CATEGORIES.

CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay on Friday announced a five-year increase in the upper age limit for direct recruitment to government services, offering relief to thousands of aspirants who were nearing or had crossed the existing age limit.

According to an official press release, the revised limits will apply in addition to existing age relaxations available to candidates from reserved categories, including Backward Classes, Most Backward Classes, Denotified Communities, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and destitute widows. The changes will remain in force for five years from October 30, 2026.

For Group-I posts, the upper age limit for general category candidates has increased from 32 to 37 years, while that for reserved category candidates has risen from 37 to 42 years. For persons with disabilities (PwD), the limits have been raised from 42 to 47 years for the general category and from 47 to 52 years for reserved categories.

For Group-II and Group-II-A posts, the upper age limit for general category candidates has increased from 30 to 35 years. Reserved category candidates will have no upper age limit. For PwD candidates in the general category, the limit has increased from 40 to 45 years, while reserved category candidates will continue to have no upper age limit.

For Group-IV posts, candidates with higher educational qualifications will have no upper age limit. For other candidates, the limit has increased from 30 to 35 years for the general category and from 32 to 37 years for BC, BC(M), MBC and DNC categories.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay

Initiative at a glance

- **5-year extension:** effective October 30, 2026
- **Group-I (general):** 32 to 37 years
- **Group-I (reserved):** 37 to 42 years
- **Group-II/II-A:** 30 to 35 years for general category
- **Group-IV:** general limit raised to 35 years

Among Group-IV candidates, the limit for general category PwD candidates has risen from 40 to 45 years. For reserved category PwD candidates, it has increased from 42 to 47 years. For SC, ST and destitute widow candidates, the limit has increased from 35 to 40 years, while the corresponding limit for PwD candidates in these categories has risen from 45 to 50 years.

The government said the decision responded to requests from job aspirants and would benefit tens of thousands of candidates across Tamil Nadu by giving them additional time to compete for government positions.

ECI revises SIR deadlines in five States and Delhi

NEW DELHI

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has revised the deadline for filing claims and objections under the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in five States and the Union Territory of Delhi.

The decision extends the deadline in Delhi, while the window for submitting claims and objections has been reopened in Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Telangana and Nagaland.

The Commission communicated the revised timelines separately to the five States and Delhi. The changes provide additional opportunities for eligible voters to raise concerns regarding electoral roll entries and seek necessary corrections through the prescribed procedures.

The Special Intensive Revision is an exercise to review electoral rolls and ensure that voter records are updated.

Delhi's deadline is extended; the window reopens in Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Telangana and Nagaland

During the process, claims and objections allow eligible individuals to seek inclusion, correction or removal of entries, subject to applicable rules.

The revised schedule affects the five States and the national capital, where electoral roll revision activities are underway.

Kerala panel probes alleged newborn baby sale racket

ALAPPUZHA

The Kerala State Commission for Protection of Child Rights has registered a case following reports that a group is allegedly approaching unmarried mothers in Alappuzha to buy their newborn babies.

In a statement issued on Thursday, the commission said the group's activities were reportedly centred around Alappuzha Medical College Hospital. Commission member T.C. Jalajamol registered the case based on media reports highlighting the alleged racket.

According to the statement, the secretary of the District Child Welfare Committee had reported that members of the group approached unmarried mothers seeking to purchase their children. They allegedly also contacted the committee to enquire whether any children were available for sale.

A committee office-bearer reportedly alleged that the group purchased newborn babies for more than ₹25,000 and subsequently sold them for lakhs of rupees.

Alappuzha, Kerala

The commission has sought explanations from the Alappuzha district police chief, the District Child Welfare Committee chairperson and the superintendent of Alappuzha Medical College Hospital regarding the allegations.

Centre constitutes board to protect gig workers

Platform workers are among those the new board will cover.

NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Labour and Employment has notified the constitution of the National Social Security Board for Unorganised Workers and Gig and Platform Workers, marking a significant step towards extending social protection to India's informal workforce.

Established under the Code on Social Security, the board will recommend, design and monitor welfare schemes for unorganised workers, including those employed through digital platforms. The initiative aims to address gaps in social security for workers outside conventional employer-employee relationships.

The board will be chaired by the Union Minister for Labour and Employment. Its members will include representatives from the central and state governments, aggregator companies, employers' organisations, civil society groups, workers' unions, and associations representing gig and platform workers. The board must meet at least three times a year and follow procedures prescribed by the central government.

Its key responsibilities include recommending suitable welfare schemes for different categories of workers and advising the government on matters related to the implementation of the Code on Social Security. It will also monitor central welfare schemes, review state-level record-keeping and expenditure from relevant funds, and undertake additional functions assigned by the central government.

Student leader backs INDIA bloc rally against CEC

AISA president Neha Bora

NEW DELHI

All India Students' Association (AISA) president Neha Bora has extended support to the INDIA bloc's November 1 protest against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and alleged irregularities in the electoral roll revision process.

The rally, scheduled at Ramlila Maidan in Delhi, aims to raise concerns over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. Bora urged citizens to participate to protect their voting rights and uphold democracy.

In a video address, Bora demanded Kumar's resignation, a complete halt to the SIR exercise and the withdrawal of the 2023 law. She said the demands would form the basis of a movement at Ramlila Maidan on November 1.

The INDIA bloc has described the event as a "mega rally" against alleged vote theft. The protest is expected to bring together opposition leaders, party workers, activists and citizens from across the country.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has also urged people, including students from different political backgrounds, to join the march. He said the protest would seek to protect the Constitution, defend democracy and oppose alleged electoral irregularities. The march is scheduled to begin at noon from the Minto Road–Connaught Place junction and culminate at Ramlila Maidan.

The rally

WHEN	November 1, noon
MARCH	Minto Road-Connaught Place junction to Ramlila Maidan

Meanwhile, the INDIA bloc's planned public impeachment protest against Kumar, originally scheduled for October 30, was postponed because of continuous rain. Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh announced that it would be held today (October 31) at 2.30 pm, ahead of the November 1 rally.

MP seeks legal framework to regulate medical AI

Rajya Sabha MP Ajeet Gopchade

Responsibility cannot be shifted between hospitals, developers and technology providers, says Gopchade

NEW DELHI

Rajya Sabha MP Ajeet Gopchade has urged the government to consider the Artificial Intelligence (Human Health and Medical Education) Regulation Bill, 2026, seeking a legal framework to ensure the safe, ethical and accountable use of artificial intelligence in healthcare, clinical research and medical education.

The proposed private member's Bill aims to protect patient safety, informed consent and data privacy while ensuring that AI systems remain under meaningful human control. It also seeks to provide legal clarity and encourage responsible innovation in areas where errors can have serious consequences for human life.

The Bill proposes an independent regulator, the National Authority for Artificial Intelligence in Human Health and Medical Education. The authority would register, scrutinise and approve AI systems, classify risks, establish standards, monitor performance and take enforcement action against violations.

It would also identify high-risk AI systems based on their potential to cause harm, complexity, autonomy and impact on human safety, ethics and rights. Systems capable of causing death, serious bodily injury, psychological harm or unethical experimentation would face stricter regulatory scrutiny.

The proposed legislation requires AI systems covered by the Bill to undergo scientific validation in Indian clinical, research or educational settings. Continuous monitoring after deployment, bias assessment and performance reviews would also be mandatory.

Gopchade said clear accountability was essential when AI systems cause harm, ensuring responsibility cannot be shifted between hospitals, developers and technology providers. He emphasised the need for regulatory oversight covering approvals, audits, liability and appropriate compensation.

Existing measures include ethical guidelines issued by the Indian Council of Medical Research and the Medical Devices Rules, 2017, which cover certain AI-enabled medical software. However, the proposed Bill seeks to establish a more comprehensive statutory framework for regulating AI applications in these critical sectors.

SIMULTANEOUS ELECTION BILLS

Panel reviews long-term impact of one nation one election

NEW DELHI

A Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) on Friday reviewed two proposed bills concerning simultaneous elections, examining their potential long-term socio-economic impact with inputs from experts.

The committee discussed the Constitution (129th Amendment) Bill, 2024, and the Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024, which seek to facilitate synchronised elections across the country. Experts argued that staggered elections lead to repeated expenditure, disrupt administration, discourage private investment and create prolonged election campaigns.

S Mahendra Dev, Chairman of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister, highlighted the financial implications of holding separate elections. Election data from five major jurisdictions showed that Assembly elections held after the 2014 Lok Sabha polls cost ₹811.1 crore, compared with ₹838.7 crore spent on parliamentary elections in the same areas, indicating substantial duplication of expenditure.

Experts said synchronising elections could reduce logistical demands and manpower requirements. Estimates presented to the committee suggested a 28 per cent reduction in polling staff requirements, saving approximately 1.04 crore public-sector person-days over a five-year cycle.

The proposed system could also allow central and state armed police forces to focus more on internal security instead of repeated election deployments. Businesses could benefit from fewer election-related paid holidays, while administrative continuity could improve.

Dev also highlighted concerns about policy decisions made before elections. Studies cited during the meeting suggested that governments sometimes reduce certain taxes, divert electricity supplies or announce farm loan waivers to attract voters. Infrastructure projects may also experience delays following changes in government.

The committee is examining whether synchronised elections could reduce these disruptions and improve governance, while assessing their broader economic and administrative implications.

₹811.1 cr	₹838.7 cr	28%	1.04 cr
Assembly polls, five jurisdictions	Lok Sabha polls, same areas	fewer polling staff (estimate)	person-days saved in five years

Quick Read

Air India suspends Saudi flights till Nov 14

INDIA

Air India has suspended all flights to and from Jeddah, Riyadh and Dammam until November 14, 2026, citing the prevailing security situation in the region. Passengers with confirmed bookings issued on or before October 30 for travel during the affected period can opt for a full refund or one-time complimentary rescheduling, subject to availability, until November 29. The airline has also deployed customer support teams to assist affected travellers with cancellations and rebooking through its contact centres and booking offices.

North Korea threatens force over US-South Korea drills

SOUTH KOREA

North Korea has criticised the ongoing joint air exercises between South Korea and the United States, warning that it would respond with force. The two allies began their two-week Freedom Flag exercise on October 26. Pyongyang claimed the drills involved large air forces, attack drones and other military equipment, calling them a threat to its security. However, Washington and Seoul maintain that the exercises are defensive. The warning comes after North Korea fired around 10 short-range ballistic missiles towards the East Sea on Thursday. South Korea, the US and Japan have held discussions to coordinate their response to the latest missile launches.

US agencies suspect businesswoman of Chinese espionage

NEW YORK

US intelligence agencies reportedly suspect Chinese businesswoman Alice Huang, who is closely connected to Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang, of sharing information with Beijing. A New York Times report said she may have helped China bypass US restrictions on advanced AI chips. Alice Huang, a senior executive at Singapore-based Megaspeed, has also come under investigation over suspected illegal chip transfers to China. China has rejected the allegations, calling the report a smear. Nvidia said its interactions with Alice Huang were normal business meetings and denied sharing sensitive information. Megaspeed has also said it welcomes an evidence-based investigation.

Canada introduces tough fines for immigration advisers

OTTAWA

Canada has introduced new penalties of up to C$1.5 million for immigration and citizenship representatives who break the rules while providing paid services. The new measures came into effect on October 28, as the government aims to protect applicants from fraud and misleading advice. According to Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), people who provide paid immigration advice without proper authorisation can face a fine of C$5,000.

Iran claims submarine destroyed near Hormuz Strait

THE REPORTED ATTACK HAS RAISED FRESH CONCERNS OVER MARITIME SECURITY, OIL SHIPMENTS AND GROWING MILITARY TENSIONS AROUND THE STRATEGICALLY IMPORTANT GULF REGION.

IRAN

The Iranian Navy has claimed that a submarine was destroyed near the Strait of Hormuz and that oil tankers were damaged in a reported attack.

The Strait of Hormuz is one of the world's most important shipping routes, connecting the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea. A large share of the world's oil supplies passes through this narrow waterway, making it important for international energy trade.

Any military activity in the area could create concerns for commercial ships, oil companies and countries that depend on energy supplies from the Gulf region. The latest announcement has also raised questions about the safety of vessels travelling through these waters.

Ships at sea (representative picture)

Iran has repeatedly warned against the use of shipping routes that it considers unauthorised. Its military has also increased warnings to vessels operating near the strait amid ongoing regional tensions.

The reported incident could further increase concerns among shipping companies, as damage to oil tankers and threats to naval vessels may affect the movement of goods and energy supplies.

However, the claims made by the Iranian Navy have not been independently verified. There has been no confirmed information about the identity of the alleged submarine or the condition of the damaged tankers.

The situation remains under attention as tensions continue in the region, with the safety of commercial shipping and the movement of oil through the Strait of Hormuz remaining major concerns.

? STRAIT OF HORMUZ

Connects the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea. A large share of the world's oil supplies passes through it.

Ukraine strikes Russian oil refinery after two-week pause

Firefighters at a blaze (representative picture)

8.8 million tonnes of crude a year: the refinery's capacity

RUSSIA

Ukraine has reportedly carried out a drone strike on a Russian oil refinery in the Samara region, ending a two-week pause in attacks on Russia's oil-processing facilities. The incident marks a fresh development in the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict.

According to reports, the attack took place early Friday and targeted the Novokuybyshevsk Oil Refinery. A fire broke out at the facility following the suspected drone strike. Images and videos shared on social media reportedly showed thick smoke rising from the refinery.

The attack comes after an unofficial pause in Ukrainian strikes on Russian oil facilities that began in mid-October. According to The Wall Street Journal, Ukrainian military units had temporarily stopped targeting oil refineries following pressure from the US administration under President Donald Trump.

Reports also suggested that the pause was expected to continue until after the US midterm elections in November. However, the latest incident indicates that attacks on Russian oil infrastructure have resumed.

The Novokuybyshevsk refinery is owned by Russian state-controlled oil company Rosneft. It has an annual processing capacity of around 8.8 million tonnes of crude oil and produces several petroleum products, including petrol, diesel, aviation fuel and lubricants.

South Africa faces rising tensions before local elections

SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa is preparing for its local elections scheduled for November 4, amid growing social tensions and concerns over public safety. Recent demonstrations and anti-immigrant protests have raised fears of further unrest in several parts of the country.

Violence was reported earlier this month in Johannesburg's Soweto township and Durban, following protests against illegal immigration. The incidents have brought attention to long-standing problems such as unemployment, poverty and the management of immigration.

Police have arrested dozens of people over allegations of public violence, damage to property and unlawful gatherings. KwaZulu-Natal province has remained a major area of concern, with fears of possible attacks on foreign nationals and businesses.

To control the situation, President Cyril Ramaphosa approved the deployment of 510 soldiers from the South African National Defence Force to KwaZulu-Natal. The deployment began on October 9 and will continue until November 30, with soldiers assisting police operations.

Unemployment, crime and immigration have also become important issues in election campaigns. Some anti-immigrant groups claim that undocumented migrants increase competition for jobs and put pressure on public services. However, political leaders face the challenge of addressing these concerns without encouraging hostility towards foreign communities.

Roots of the anger

Despite the unrest, the Independent Electoral Commission has continued its preparations for the November 4 elections.

According to the commission, 136,790 candidates have been approved to contest 10,526 council seats across the country's metropolitan, district and local municipalities.

136,790	10,526	510
candidates	council seats	soldiers in KwaZulu-Natal

5 killed, 20 injured in Afghanistan highway crash

An injured person is moved to an ambulance in Afghanistan (representative picture)

Recent crashes

- **OCT 24** Badakhshan: at least 4 killed, 8 injured
- **SEPT 23** Takhar: 8 killed, 4 injured
- **SEPT 22** Laghman: 1 killed, 9 injured

AFGHANISTAN

Five people were killed and 20 others injured after a passenger bus collided head-on with an oil tanker on the Salang Highway in Afghanistan's northern Baghlan province on Friday morning. Some of the injured are reported to be in critical condition.

According to Afghanistan's official Bakhtar News Agency, the accident was caused by driver negligence. The injured passengers were immediately taken to nearby health centres for medical treatment. However, the agency did not provide further details about the victims or the vehicles involved.

Authorities have started an investigation to find out more about the incident.

Road accidents have been reported in several parts of Afghanistan in recent months, raising concerns about road safety and transport conditions.

On October 24, at least four people were killed and eight others injured after a passenger vehicle overturned in Badakhshan province. The accident took place while the vehicle was travelling between Kofab and Yaftal districts. The injured were taken to a provincial hospital.

Earlier, on September 23, eight people lost their lives and four others were injured after a vehicle went off the road and overturned in the Gazestan region of Takhar province.

Another accident was reported on September 22 in Laghman province, where a minibus plunged into a ravine, killing one person and injuring nine others.

Afghanistan's mountainous landscape, difficult roads and limited transport infrastructure make travel challenging in several regions. The latest accident has once again raised concerns about road safety and the need for greater care while travelling on highways.

Houthis deny drone attack near Saudi Arabia's Mecca

YEMEN

Yemen's Houthi group has denied launching a drone towards Saudi Arabia after the Saudi-led coalition announced that it had intercepted and destroyed an unmanned aircraft over the Mecca region on Friday.

Houthi military spokesperson Yahya Sarea rejected the Saudi claim in a statement shared on social media platform X. He described the report as false and said the group had carried out no operations against Saudi territory that day.

Earlier, Saudi-led coalition spokesperson Turki Al-Maliki said that Saudi air defence forces had intercepted and destroyed a drone launched by the Houthis over the Mecca region. The area is home to Islam's holiest city and attracts millions of pilgrims every year.

The Saudi-led coalition says it destroyed a Houthi drone; the Houthis call the report false

The latest exchange of claims comes amid rising tensions between Saudi Arabia and the Houthi group. In recent weeks, Saudi strikes have targeted Houthi-controlled areas in Yemen, while the group has reportedly launched missiles and drones towards Saudi territory.

Yemen has been facing a civil war since 2014, when the Houthis took control of Sanaa and several northern areas. In 2015, a Saudi-led coalition intervened in support of Yemen's internationally recognised government.

The dispute over alleged attacks near Mecca has also continued in recent months. In September, Houthi leader Abdul-Malik al-Houthi rejected similar accusations, calling them false and accusing Saudi Arabia of using them to justify military action against Yemen.

Trump says Iran war could end soon amid tensions

WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump has said that the ongoing conflict with Iran could come to an end soon, but stressed that Tehran must guarantee it will never develop nuclear weapons. He made the remarks during an interview with Kansas City's KCMO Talk Radio on Friday.

Trump did not explain how the conflict would end or provide details about a possible peace agreement. His comments come as uncertainty continues over Washington's next move against Tehran.

The conflict began on February 28, when the United States and Israel launched joint strikes on Iran. The fighting disrupted regional security, affected global energy supplies and brought shipping through the Strait of Hormuz close to a standstill.

Tehran must guarantee it will never develop nuclear weapons, Trump stressed

Although a two-week ceasefire was announced in April, followed by a 14-point agreement in June, efforts to reach a lasting peace deal have remained unsuccessful.

Trump had earlier said that the US would not launch attacks on Iran before the November 3 midterm elections. However, a CNN report on October 26 said American forces in the Middle East were prepared for possible fresh military operations if ordered.

Meanwhile, a Qatari delegation arrived in Tehran on Friday to hold talks with senior Iranian officials as part of efforts to reduce tensions between Washington and Tehran.

Iran's Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei has maintained that ending the US naval blockade and lifting sanctions are necessary conditions for peace negotiations.

With the US midterm elections approaching, Trump's latest remarks have added to uncertainty over the future of the conflict. Diplomatic efforts are continuing, but a clear agreement between the two countries remains out of reach.

PAKISTAN-TAIWAN AIRSPACE

Pakistan reverses airspace bans on Taiwanese airlines

PAKISTAN

Pakistan's decision to briefly restrict Taiwanese airlines from using its airspace and then restore their flight permissions has drawn attention to the country's aviation policy and its relations with China and Taiwan.

In focus

- **2 airlines:** China Airlines, EVA Airways
- **Oct 25-28:** flights avoided Pakistani airspace
- **Oct 28:** access restored
- **March 27, 2027:** permission valid until

Earlier this week, Pakistan reportedly stopped two Taiwanese airlines, China Airlines and EVA Airways, from flying through its airspace. The move was said to be linked to Beijing's 'One China' policy. However, the restriction was lifted soon after it was reported, allowing the airlines to resume their usual routes.

According to reports, Pakistan became the first country to impose such restrictions on the two Taiwanese carriers before reversing its decision. The short-lived move also raised questions about the role of diplomatic relations in international air travel.

Taiwan expressed concern over the decision and suggested that China may have influenced Pakistan's action. Taiwan's Deputy Foreign Minister Chen Ming-chi said the move could send a dangerous message to the international community. However, he did not provide evidence of China's involvement.

Taiwan's Cabinet also criticised Pakistan's decision. Executive Yuan spokeswoman Michelle Lee said the government deeply regretted the temporary restrictions, arguing that political matters should not affect aviation safety and international rules.

Meanwhile, Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Asif told Bloomberg News that Islamabad had allowed only Chinese airlines to use its airspace, citing the country's 'One China' policy.

Flight-tracking information showed that Taiwanese airlines had changed their routes and avoided Pakistani airspace between October 25 and 28.

However, Pakistan has now restored permission for China Airlines and EVA Airways. The airlines have reportedly been allowed to use the country's airspace from October 28, 2026, until March 27, 2027.

The development highlights how diplomatic decisions can affect international flight routes and the movement of passengers between regions.

Phillips' Century Powers New Zealand to Big Win

Glenn Phillips smashed a stunning century as New Zealand defeated India by 87 runs in the fourth T20I, with Jacob Duffy's four-wicket haul dismantling the visitors' batting lineup.

AUCKLAND

New Zealand produced a commanding performance to defeat India by 87 runs in the fourth T20I of the five-match series on Friday, with Glenn Phillips' explosive century and Jacob Duffy's four-wicket haul proving decisive.

Batting first, New Zealand posted a mammoth 259/7 in 20 overs, registering the highest T20I total against India by any team. Phillips led the charge with a sensational 107 off just 49 deliveries, delivering an innings packed with aggressive strokeplay and power-hitting.

His remarkable knock put the Indian bowling attack under tremendous pressure and helped the hosts establish a formidable target. For India, Mayank Yadav was the standout bowler, claiming three wickets for 48 runs. Arshdeep Singh, Prince Yadav, Axar Patel and Nitish Kumar Reddy picked up one wicket each.

However, India's response suffered an immediate setback as New Zealand pacer Jacob Duffy dismantled the top order in the opening over. Duffy dismissed Sanju Samson for four before sending Ishan Kishan back to the pavilion without scoring, leaving India struggling early in the chase.

India attempted to recover through the middle overs, with Naman Dhir contributing 28 runs. However, Duffy returned to break the brief resistance, dismissing Dhir and Arshdeep Singh off successive deliveries. His four-wicket haul of 4/23 effectively ended India's hopes of chasing the massive target. New Zealand eventually secured an emphatic 87-run victory, handing India a comprehensive defeat.

Despite the setback, India continue to lead the five-match series 3-1, having already secured an unassailable advantage in the contest.

NZ Script Record And Outclass India:

- Glenn Phillips smashed **107 off 49 balls** to power New Zealand to **259/7.**
- New Zealand registered the **highest T20I total** against India.
- Jacob Duffy claimed **four wickets** for **23 runs.**
- Mayank Yadav was India's leading bowler with **three wickets.**
- India suffered an **87-run defeat** but retain a **3-1 series lead.**

Arshdeep Singh becomes first Indian to complete 150 T20I wickets

India fast bowler Arshdeep Singh etched his name into the history books as he completed 150 wickets in T20I cricket during the fourth match against New Zealand at Eden Park here on Friday to become the first Indian to achieve the feat. Arshdeep achieved the milestone when he dismissed New Zealand captain Mitchell Santner in the 19th over of the first innings. He bowled one fuller outside off as the Blackcaps skipper smashed one straight to sweeper cover to fall for just five. With this, Arshdeep also became only the ninth player overall to get to 150 wickets in the shortest international format. Arshdeep has become the quickest bowler to achieve the feat in terms of days from debut.

Padikkal, Siraj in focus against New Zealand

Devdutt Padikkal's batting brilliance and Mohammed Siraj's inclusion headline India's preparations for the second unofficial Test against New Zealand A.

NEW DELHI

Devdutt Padikkal's outstanding batting form and Mohammed Siraj's return to the India A setup will be major talking points as the hosts prepare to face New Zealand A in the second unofficial four-day Test beginning Saturday. The match offers India's players an important opportunity to strengthen their red-ball preparations ahead of the two-Test series against New Zealand, scheduled to begin on November 19.

Padikkal has emerged as India's biggest positive from the opening match. After India A were dismissed for just 113 in their first innings, the left-hander produced a magnificent 199 to help his team reach 516 in the second innings. He also picked up two wickets, contributing with the ball.

Yash Rathod impressed with scores of 44 and 66, while Sai Sudharsan recovered from a first-innings duck to score 91. Washington Sundar also contributed a valuable half-century. However, India's top-order struggles remain a concern. Yashasvi Jaiswal managed only 17 and five, while KL Rahul scored zero and four before joining the ODI squad.

His replacement, 21-year-old Shikhar Mohan, will look to make an impression after scoring 613 runs, including a double century, in the 2025-26 Ranji Trophy season.

India A will also rely on a stronger bowling performance. Auqib Nabi has taken six wickets, while Anshul Kamboj and Akash Deep have also made important contributions.

Siraj's inclusion adds experience and firepower to the pace attack as he looks to build match rhythm ahead of India's upcoming World Test Championship assignments.

India A narrowly missed victory in the opening encounter after bad light and determined batting from New Zealand A prevented a final breakthrough. The second match will provide another opportunity to address those shortcomings.

Key Performers to Watch:

1. **Devdutt Padikkal:** 199 runs and two wickets in the opening match.
2. **Auqib Nabi:** Six wickets across two innings.
3. **Yash Rathod:** Scores of 44 and 66.
4. **Shikhar Mohan:** 613 Ranji Trophy runs in 2025-26.
5. **Mohammed Siraj:** Expected to strengthen India's pace attack ahead of the Test series.

Punjab FC look to maintain unbeaten run as they face heavyweights Mohun Bagan

KOLKATA

Punjab FC will strive to maintain their unbeaten run and continue the upward momentum as they face heavyweights Mohun Bagan Super Giant in their fourth match of the Indian Super League 2026-27 season at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan here on Saturday.

Punjab are currently in second place in the table with seven points from three matches, while Mohun Bagan is fifth with six points from the same number of matches.

Punjab will be riding high on confidence from their thrilling 3-2 win against Churchill Brothers SC in their last fixture in Goa, with Sanathoi Singh finding the winner in the 95th minute of the game, while Mohun Bagan scraped out a 1-0 victory over Chennaiyin FC in Kolkata with Manvir Singh scoring the winner in the 85th minute.

Pavlos Dermitzakis has used his squad efficiently this season, making tactical substitutions at the right moments of the game which has ensured Punjab stretch oppositions in the final minutes.

All three matches of The Shers have been decided in the final minutes of the game with Raphael Messi Bouli scoring the winner against Odisha in the first match, Gurkirat Singh scoring the equaliser against Mumbai and Sanathoi scoring the winner against Churchill Brothers.

On facing Mohun Bagan, Head Coach Dermitzakis said, "We know that tomorrow's game is a difficult and demanding one against a strong team and one of the biggest clubs in the country. We have prepared in the best way possible, and like all our games, we are going to compete for a positive result and continue our good start to the season."

The Greek tactician will be up against his fellow countryman and former Punjab FC Head Coach Panagiotis Dilimperis, who led the team for two seasons. While asked about facing Panos, Dermitzakis said, "Panos is a coach who did great work over the last two seasons in Punjab, and I am sure he is going to do the same at Mohun Bagan.

Delhi HC directs WFI to decide Vinesh Phogat's show-cause notices within two weeks

NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has directed the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) to take a decision, within two weeks, on the show-cause notices issued to wrestler Vinesh Phogat, observing that the uncertainty surrounding the disciplinary proceedings could affect the three-time Olympian's preparations and performance in upcoming competitions.

A single-judge Bench of Justice Amit Mahajan, while hearing Phogat's plea challenging the show-cause notices issued on May 9 and June 17, observed that a sportsperson needed to be in a fit and relaxed state of mind to participate in competitive events and directed the WFI to conclude the proceedings within the stipulated period.

"The predicament expressed by the petitioner appears to be genuine. A sportsperson has to be in a fit and relaxed state of mind to participate in any competitive event of such nature as indicated so that their performance is not compromised in any way," Justice Mahajan said.

The High Court further directed that if the WFI takes a decision on the show-cause notices after two weeks, the same will be kept in abeyance till the next date of hearing.

Neeraj Chopra says injury 'much better'

NEW DELHI

Double Olympic medallist Neeraj Chopra has provided a positive update on his recovery from an ankle injury, saying his condition has improved significantly and he is expected to resume training and rehabilitation in the next couple of weeks.

The star Indian javelin thrower, who was ruled out of the remainder of the 2026 season following a ligament tear in his ankle during training in August, said he had initially faced some difficulties but was now making good progress after following the medical team's advice to rest.

"My injury is much better now. I faced some issues initially in the first month and a half, but it has improved significantly. I consulted Dr Dinshaw Pardiwala, and he has advised that I can now resume training and begin proper rehabilitation. My plan is to start both in the next couple of weeks," Chopra said in an interaction with the Sports Authority of India (SAI) media team.

The injury had forced Chopra to miss the Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, besides the Diamond League Finals in Brussels and the inaugural World Athletics Ultimate Championships. His setback came shortly after he had shown signs of regaining his rhythm with a season-best throw of 88.05m at the Lausanne Diamond League.

The 28-year-old, who had also been dealing with a lower back injury earlier in the season, clarified that he had followed the doctors' advice and opted for complete rest to recover from the latest setback.

"For my injury, the doctors had advised rest, and that is precisely what I followed. With regard to competitions, TOPS (Target Olympic Podium Scheme) and SAI have been supporting me for years.

ARCH-RIVALS CLASH

Pakistan thrash India in Hong Kong Sixes

HONG KONG

Pakistan produced a sensational batting performance to defeat arch-rivals India by four wickets in the Hong Kong Sixes 2026 on Friday, chasing down a target of 89 in just 3.5 overs in a high-scoring encounter.

After winning the toss and opting to bowl, Pakistan restricted India to 88/5 in six overs. Shashank Singh was India's standout performer, smashing 40 off just 11 deliveries to keep his side competitive despite regular wickets.

Rahul Tripathi contributed nine runs before Muhammad Shahzad dismissed him in the second over. Shashank then counterattacked aggressively, striking boundaries and sixes to accelerate India's scoring rate. Nitish Rana managed 19 off 14 balls before being retired out.

Pakistan seized control through Abdul Samad, who dismissed Rahul Tewatia and captain Krunal Pandya on consecutive deliveries, leaving India struggling at 78/4. Ahmed Daniyal subsequently removed Shashank in the final over as India finished at 88/5.

Pakistan's response was nothing short of extraordinary. Captain Abbas Afridi smashed five consecutive sixes against Krunal Pandya in the opening over, helping Pakistan collect 31 runs. The onslaught continued as Pakistan added another 28 runs in the second over against T Natarajan.

Although Shashank dismissed Abbas for a blistering 35 off eight balls, Khawaja Nafay continued the assault. Nafay remained unbeaten on 41 off just 12 deliveries, striking five sixes and two boundaries.

Irfan Khan hit the winning runs as Pakistan reached 91/2 in just 3.5 overs. Abbas was named Player of the Match.

The victory marked Pakistan's first win of the tournament and intensified the Group C qualification battle. India will face the UAE on Saturday, with the result potentially shaping the group's final standings.

'She has been outstanding': Nayar hails Neetu David's influence on UPW recruitment

NEW DELHI

UP Warriorz head coach Abhishek Nayar has credited former India chief selector Neetu David for bringing invaluable domestic cricket knowledge to the franchise's recruitment process ahead of the Women's Premier League (WPL) 2027 season, describing her as a key support system in identifying players and strengthening the team's auction strategy.

David, who has joined the Warriorz support staff as Head of Scouting, played an important role in helping the franchise assess domestic talent during the auction. Nayar believes her extensive understanding of the Indian cricket circuit gave the management greater clarity while making recruitment decisions, particularly when balancing overseas acquisitions with Indian players.

Speaking about her contribution, Nayar revealed that David's involvement extended beyond her scouting responsibilities, with her inputs proving particularly useful during the auction proceedings.

"Neetu David is unbelievable. I was discussing this with our owner, Jinisha, about this. She has been a solid support system, especially with domestic players. When you enquire about them, she is aware of most of them. So, at the time of the auction, knowledge about domestic players makes it easy for us to pick foreign players," Nayar told JioStar.

The UP Warriorz coach also disclosed that getting David involved at the auction table was not straightforward, as the former India cricketer was initially hesitant about appearing in front of the cameras.

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