



India surpasses Japan to become 4th largest economy

India's real GDP grew 8.2% in the second quarter of 2025-26, up from 7.8% in the first quarter and 7.4% in the 4th quarter of the last fiscal

India GDP Growth Projections (2025-2027)

2026: 6.5%
World Bank

2026: 6.4%
Moody's

2027: 6.5%

2025: 6.6%
IMF

2026: 6.2%

2025: 6.7%
OECD

2026: 6.2%

NEW DELHI

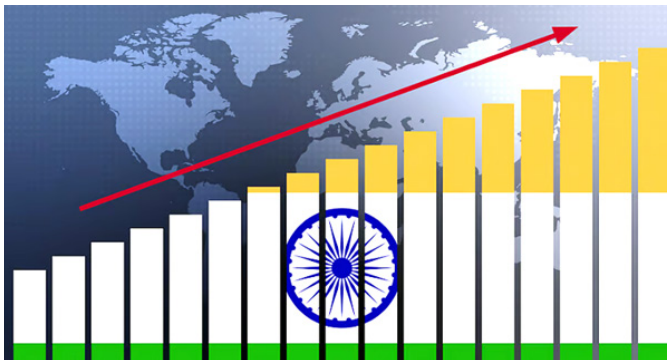
India has surpassed Japan to become the world's fourth-largest economy with a size of USD 4.18 trillion, and is poised to overtake Germany to become the third-largest by 2030, the government has said.

With continuing good growth numbers, India is also the world's fastest-growing major economy.

India's real GDP grew 8.2 per cent in the second quarter of 2025-26, up from 7.8 per cent in the first quarter and 7.4 per cent in the fourth quarter of the last fiscal.

"With GDP valued at USD 4.18 trillion, India has surpassed Japan to become the world's fourth-largest economy, and is poised to displace Germany from the third rank in the next 2.5 to 3 years with a projected GDP of USD 7.3 trillion by 2030," according to a government release.

The World Bank has pro-



jected a 6.5 per cent growth in 2026; Moody's expects India to remain the fastest-growing G20 economy with a growth of 6.4 per cent in 2026 and 6.5 per cent in 2027.

The IMF has raised its projections to 6.6 per cent for 2025 and 6.2 per cent for 2026; the OECD forecasts 6.7 per cent growth in 2025 and 6.2 per cent in 2026. Also, S&P anticipates a growth of 6.5 per cent in the current fiscal and 6.7 per cent in the next; the Asian Development Bank has lifted its 2025 fore-

cast to 7.2 per cent; and Fitch has raised its FY26 projection to 7.4 per cent on stronger consumer demand.

"India is among the world's fastest-growing major economies and is well-positioned to sustain this momentum. With the ambition of attaining high middle-income status by 2047- the centenary year of its independence, the country is building on strong foundations of economic growth, structural reforms, and social progress," the government said.

CM writes to PM, seeks suspension of G Ram G Act

BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Tuesday wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi urging him to suspend the implementation of the VB-G Ram G Act and initiate a process of consultation with the state governments to hear their views on the changes proposed. The CM highlighted several implementation challenges including a severe funds crunch.

Earlier, Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan also wrote to the PM highlighting the challenges and disapproving of the law.

According to Siddaramaiah, while the new law raises the promised guarantee from 100 to 125 days, the promise is not matched by planning or assured Central funding. The new Act caps the Union Government's financial responsibility to a "normative allocation" for a "notified" area of each State, with the Centre contributing only 60% of that allocation. As a result, the so-called legal guarantee of 125 days is not absolute, Siddaramaiah said, fearing that the new law may leave many Gram Panchayats without funds.



"The new Act shifts this to 60:40 for most States, converting a statutory guarantee into a run of the mill scheme and placing significant additional burden on State finances. This shift appears to have been introduced without meaningful consultation with State Governments."
—Siddaramaiah, K'taka CM

Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah urges PM Modi to halt VB-G Ram G Act, citing funding gaps and fears it weakens demand-driven MGN-REGA-style guarantees.

A demand-driven regime is being converted into a supply-driven, top-down system, contrary to the current participatory approach where labour budgets are prepared at the Gram Panchayat level and allocations follow demand generated from villages, the CM said.

"The Act also requires States to notify in advance an aggregate 60-day period during peak sowing and harvesting seasons when works under the Act shall not be undertaken. While agricultural activity may increase during that time, such a blanket restriction curtails the right of those who still need wage employment, particularly vulnerable groups, including tribal and marginalised communities, who may not find adequate farm work," Siddaramaiah said.

The new Act further states that any expenditure incurred by a State beyond its normative allocation shall be borne by the State Government as per procedures prescribed by the Centre. This could leave States facing 100% liability for demand beyond a centrally fixed limit, CM noted.

QUICK READ

WB CM Mamata calls SIR 'huge scam'

KOLKATA: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday vowed to gherao the Election Commission's office in Delhi if the name of a single legitimate voter is deleted from the final electoral roll after the completion of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise in the state. Addressing a rally in Bankura district, Banerjee targeted Union Home Minister Amit Shah and described the SIR as a huge "scam" being conducted with the help of artificial intelligence (AI). "SIR is being conducted using AI, it's a huge scam. Only you (Amit Shah) and your son will survive," she said. She stated that the poor people of West Bengal are being "tortured" in the name of SIR. **More on page 7**

'Battle of Galwan' faces criticism

NEW DELHI: Salman Khan's upcoming film Battle of Galwan, based on the 2020 India-China clash in the Galwan Valley, has drawn criticism from China's Global Times, which called it a cinematic exaggeration distorting facts. Directed by Apoorva Lakhia, the movie stars Salman as Bikkumalla Santosh Babu, who along with 19 soldiers, was martyred defending Indian territory. The 1:12-minute teaser, released on Salman's 60th birthday, has crossed 60 million views, featuring patriotic sequences and the song "Mera Bharat Desh Mahaan Hai." Government sources defended the film as artistic expression, citing India's history of war films. Produced by Salman and Salma Khan, the movie is set to release on April 17, 2026.

DCM defends decision to rehabilitate evicted people

BENGALURU

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Tuesday defended the state government's decision to provide alternate housing for "genuine" individuals whose illegally constructed houses were demolished in Kogilu during a recent demolition drive, while dismissing allegations of "appeasement politics". He emphasised that relief is a humanitarian measure only for eligible locals after thorough verification of documents.

Shivakumar was reacting to some BJP leaders and some

No Bangladeshi in Kogilu Layout: Min Zameer

Housing Minister Zameer Ahmed Khan clarified that, according to available information, there are no Bangladeshi nationals living in the Kogilu layout, and houses will be allotted only to those with valid documents.

sections questioning the government's quick relief to those whose houses were demolished by a government agency, terming them as "illegal encroachment". They have also accused the state government of engaging in "appeasement politics" as most of the demolished illegal houses reportedly belonged to Muslims.

"There is no question of any appeasement politics. No one should indulge in illegal encroachment, we are not ready to give any gifts to illegal encroachers. We will take legal action against those behind encroachment. People have given statements that money was collected from them," Shivakumar said in response to a question BJP alleging government of Muslim appeasement politics.

Providing houses to encroachers is ironic: Joshi

Union Minister Pralhad Joshi slammed the Karnataka government for allegedly rushing to provide relief to Bengaluru's Kogilu encroachers within two days, calling it "appeasement politics." He questioned why farmers, disaster victims, homeless citizens and guarantee scheme beneficiaries wait for years while encroachers receive houses and subsidies so quickly.

'What about genuine housing applicants?' asks Karandlaje

Union Minister Shobha Karandlaje questioned why Karnataka is prioritising alleged illegal migrants in the Kogilu case while ignoring genuine state applicants seeking housing. She demanded a high-level probe into illegal immigration and accused the state leadership of yielding to Delhi pressure while compromising Karnataka's interests.

Cong made state 'Udta K'taka', sacrificing Kannadigas: BYV

BELAGAVI

BJP state chief B Y Vijayendra on Tuesday alleged that the Congress government in Karnataka has turned the state into "Udta Karnataka", akin to "Udta Punjab", by failing to control drugs and prioritising the interests of outsiders over Kannadigas.

Speaking to reporters, Vijayendra accused Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy CMD K Shivakumar of yielding to pressure from Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan and AICC General Secretary K C Venugopal regarding housing allocations in Kogilu Layout, Yelahanka. He claimed that houses meant for local poor and scheduled caste beneficiaries were being



allotted to Kerala immigrants who had illegally encroached government land.

Vijayendra said, "After demolition of illegal encroachments, Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar performed a U-turn following Kerala leadership's interventions. To save their chairs, they are sacrificing Kannadigas' interests." He alleged guidelines for allocation were compromised, with houses built from taxpayers' money being handed over to outsiders, hurting the self-respect of locals.

The BJP leader further criticised the Congress government for neglecting local disaster victims. He said flood-affected Karnataka citizens were ignored while Kerala received aid and compensation.

Ex-B'desh PM Khaleda Zia passes away; EAM to attend funeral

DHAKA

Former Bangladesh Prime Minister and Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) Chairperson Khaleda Zia passed away on Tuesday at the age of 80 following prolonged health complications, including cirrhosis, diabetes, arthritis, and heart issues. The External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar will represent India at the funeral, highlighting the significance of bilateral ties. Prominent leaders, including PM Narendra Modi, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, and Rahul Gandhi, have expressed condolences. Global leaders from Pakistan and China have also mourned her passing. Khaleda Zia's funeral will be held today, with burial beside her late husband.

INDIGENOUS AVIATION BOOST

Next-Gen 'Dhruv NG' multi-role helicopter takes to skies in Bengaluru

BENGALURU

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited's (HAL) Dhruv NG multi-role helicopter successfully completed its maiden flight at the HAL Helicopter Division in Bengaluru on Tuesday.

It marked a significant milestone for India's indigenous civil aviation programme. Designed and manufactured by HAL, the Dhruv NG is a 5.5-tonne, light twin-engine helicopter developed to meet diverse civilian



and specialised operational requirements. HAL said the Dhruv NG has been engineered to master the

challenging conditions of Indian terrain while also catering to global civil aviation standards. The helicopter is

powered by twin Shakti IHIC engines that offer enhanced power ratings and the advantage of in-country maintenance support. It also features a civil-certified glass cockpit compliant with AS4 requirements, modern avionics for superior situational awareness, advanced vibration control systems and a proven twin-engine configuration for high redundancy.

Union Minister for Civil Aviation Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu witnessed the

maiden flight and lauded HAL's efforts in strengthening indigenous rotary-wing capabilities. HAL noted that the Dhruv NG's highly configurable 7.3 cubic metre cabin allows it to be deployed for VIP transport, passenger utility, air ambulance services, law enforcement and disaster relief operations, positioning it as a versatile platform for civilian use.

Dhruv NG Key Performance Highlights	Maximum Take-Off Weight	5,500 kg	Range	630 km (with reserve fuel)
	Top Speed	285 kmph	Endurance	3:40 min
	Payload Capacity (Internal)	1,000 kg	Service Ceiling Up to	6,000 metres

QUICK READ



Man kills friend in drunken brawl in Bengaluru

Bengaluru
A tragic incident occurred in Konanakunte when a drunken argument between friends turned fatal. Bhagirath Sagar, a young construction worker from West Bengal, was murdered by his friend Deepu Mandal over a trivial dispute during a party. The confrontation escalated violently, and Mandal struck Sagar on the head with a hammer, killing him. Both men worked together in Konanakunte. Following the incident, the Konanakunte police registered a case, and Deepu Mandal has been arrested. Authorities are investigating the circumstances surrounding the brawl and the motive behind the attack.

DCP inspects New Year security on MG Road, Church Street

Bengaluru
Ahead of New Year's Eve celebrations, the Deputy Commissioner of Police conducted a security inspection on MG Road and Church Street. Central Division DCP Akshay and West Division Traffic DCP Anoop Shetty reviewed arrangements, including CCTV installation, traffic diversions, and parking plans. Officials ensured that all measures were in place as per the security map. The police department has completed preparations for the countdown celebrations on Wednesday night, aiming to maintain public safety and smooth crowd management during the festivities. Authorities urged citizens to cooperate and follow traffic and safety instructions.

GBA Commissioner conducts tax collection drive at KR Puram

Bengaluru
Greater Bengaluru Authority's East Commissioner Ramesh, along with Joint Commissioner Dr. Sudha, led a tax collection drive at KR Puram, targeting shops with the highest property tax arrears. Officials seized several shops and stalls across areas including Horamavu and issued warnings to shopkeepers. The drive also addressed encroachments by squatters. Authorities emphasized that regular payment of property taxes is mandatory to avoid penalties and further action. The campaign aims to ensure compliance and improve revenue collection while maintaining orderly commercial spaces in Bengaluru East.

FIR filed against bank manager for allegedly defrauding ₹3.11 cr

BENGALURU
Malleshwara police have registered a case against a senior bank manager for allegedly defrauding 41 customers of Rs 3.11 crore by taking loans in their names without depositing gold. The FIR names N. Raghu, Senior Manager at Canara Bank, 15th Cross, Malleshwaram, as the accused. The complaint was filed on December 12 by the bank's AGM, Kabhinder Kumar. Police said Raghu is currently missing and an investigation is underway. Preliminary findings reveal that

DCM DK Shivakumar clarifies his remarks on Kerala Government

Shivakumar also confirmed that he would participate in Kerala election campaigns

BENGALURU

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar clarified that his recent comments were directed at the Kerala government's administrative interventions and not at the people of Kerala. Addressing the media at Vidhana Soudha on Tuesday, he accused BJP leader Rajeev Chandrasekhar of deliberately twisting his statements to mislead the public. Shivakumar emphasized the strong bond and mutual respect he shares with the people of Kerala, noting that Keralites hold him in high regard.

Shivakumar also confirmed that he would participate in Kerala election campaigns, asserting that BJP attempts to create confusion should not



distract their efforts. He added that party leaders have advised them, and they are following their guidance.

On development initiatives, the Deputy Chief Minister stated that Karnataka's Irrigation Corporation and Krishna Bhagya Jala Nigam are undertaking projects worth ₹5,000 crore. He highlighted the priority given to the UKP proj-

ect's land acquisition, requiring ₹70,000 crore, with other works scheduled for subsequent phases.

Responding to questions about the state's governance priorities in 2026, Shivakumar reiterated the government's focus on efficient administration, ensuring farmers benefit from filled reservoirs, and continuing the state's

guaranteed welfare schemes. He also mentioned the upcoming local body elections and expressed confidence that under Congress leadership, good governance would continue over the next seven years.

When asked about speculations regarding him becoming Chief Minister in the first week of January, Shivakumar advised the media to disregard such statements, reinforcing that his focus remains on development and public welfare rather than political rumors.

This statement comes amid heightened political activity in Karnataka and Kerala, with Shivakumar seeking to balance administrative transparency with active party engagement.



Allottees flag design gaps in Bengaluru's Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout

BENGALURU

Allottees in the III and IV Blocks of Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout (NPKL), situated between Mysuru Road and Magadi Road, have highlighted critical infrastructure gaps that could hinder habitation if not addressed promptly. While welcoming the accelerated pace of development under the current administration, residents said the layout remains far from liveable.

Among the major concerns, footpaths are missing across the layout, which could worsen traffic congestion and pollution. During a review meeting on December 24, allottees urged the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) to revisit the design and involve mobility experts to avoid repeating mistakes seen in other parts of the city. Key roads, including a 60-foot link from III Block A Sector to the 300-foot arterial road, remain incomplete. Another road near a stormwater drain has reportedly been encroached upon, disrupting construction activities.

Boundary demarcation errors were also highlighted, with misaligned markings

Residents raise concerns over infrastructure, walkability, and utility connections at NPKL.

causing structures to spill into neighbouring plots, potentially triggering future legal disputes. The absence of electricity, water, and sanitary connections has discouraged early settlement. Rising theft of electrical and construction materials has further underlined the need for streetlights and temporary police outposts.

BDA Chairman NA Haris stated that around 78 percent of development work at NPKL is complete, with the remaining 22 percent expected to be finished within five to six months. "There are a few minor technical issues, such as sanitary pipeline work, but overall, progress is smooth. Other issues raised by residents will also be addressed," he added.

Residents emphasized that addressing these gaps is crucial to making NPKL a truly habitable, well-planned layout, ensuring safety, mobility, and access to essential utilities for current and future occupants.

Evening outpatient department planned at Victoria Hospital

BENGALURU

The outpatient department (OPD) at Victoria Hospital plans to extend its consultation hours from the current 9 am-4 pm schedule to 8 pm, following a directive from the state government. On average, 650-750 patients visit the OPD daily across multiple specialties, including general medicine. The move aims to reduce overcrowding and improve access to healthcare.

Dr ST Kavya, Dean of Bengaluru Medical College and Research Institute (BMCRI), said, "Based on government instructions, we intend to run an evening OPD clinic from 4 pm to 8 pm. Currently, even after the OPD closes, patients are seen in the casualty room, but the evening clinic will al-



low systematic care for those visiting later in the day."

BMCRI is currently consulting heads of all departments to draft a formal proposal, which will then be submitted to the state government for approval. The extended OPD hours may also be implemented in other BMCRI-affiliated hospitals, such

as Vani Vilas Hospital, if the government decides to expand the initiative.

Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao recently noted in the Legislative Council that there is currently no waiting period for patients at Victoria Hospital. Apart from Karnataka residents, patients from neighbouring states like Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh also seek treatment at the hospital.

The introduction of evening OPD hours is expected to enhance patient convenience, reduce congestion during peak hours, and ensure timely medical attention for those unable to visit during standard operating hours, marking a significant step toward improving healthcare access in Bengaluru.

Man arrested for setting mother ablaze

BENGALURU

Basaveshwaranagar police have arrested Muthu Abhimanyu for allegedly dousing his mother Geetha with petrol and setting her on fire after she refused to agree to his demand regarding his daughter's marriage. The incident occurred at Bhovi Colony on December 23. Police said Geetha, who runs a grocery store in Bhovi Palya, sustained severe burn injuries and is undergoing treatment at Victoria Hospital. The accused, who owns a tea shop nearby and had recently started staying at Geetha's house, allegedly harassed her 19-year-old daughter over marriage. Following an argument at home, he reportedly attacked Geetha and fled.

Fatal gap: Vaccine alone insufficient for severe dog bites, doctors warn

BENGALURU

The tragic death of a 12-year-old girl from rabies, weeks after a dog bite, has highlighted a critical gap in post-exposure care: the absence of Rabies Immunoglobulin (RIG) administration for severe bites.

Despite receiving four doses of anti-rabies vaccine, the girl developed paralytic rabies and succumbed at a city hospital. She had sustained a category-3 bite, a deep puncture on her right leg, which mandates RIG to neutralise the virus at the wound site before it reaches the nervous system. Doctors at Indira Gandhi Institute of Child Health (IGICH) stressed that vaccination alone cannot prevent rabies in high-risk injuries. Complete post-exposure prophylaxis—proper wound washing, vaccine, and RIG—is essential.

The child's symptoms initially did not include classical signs such as hydrophobia, seizures, or altered behaviour, complicating diagnosis. She first experienced difficulty walking, sitting, and urinary retention. Physicians consid-



ered alternatives such as Acute Demyelinating Encephalomyelitis (ADEM), Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS), and Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP). By the ninth day, she developed altered sensorium, dystonic limb movements, and loss of brainstem reflexes, prompting saliva PCR tests that confirmed rabies encephalitis.

Paediatric neurologist Dr Vyunkta Raju Gowda noted that paralytic rabies can mimic other neurological disorders, making clinical suspicion critical, especially in children presenting with progressive lower limb weakness and neurogenic bladder.

"This case underscores the necessity of timely and complete post-exposure prophylaxis, including RIG, to prevent rare but fatal outcomes," Dr Gowda said.

Experts warn that gaps in awareness and administration of RIG in category-3 dog bites remain a persistent public health challenge, and immediate intervention at the wound site is crucial to prevent such tragedies.

This incident serves as a stark reminder that vaccines alone are insufficient for severe dog bites, and strict adherence to post-exposure protocols can be lifesaving.

Outcome irrelevant in bribery cases, says HC; rejects asst public prosecutor's plea

BENGALURU

The Karnataka High Court on Tuesday rejected a plea by assistant public prosecutor G. Poornima to quash proceedings against her in a bribery case registered by Lokayukta police, stating that the outcome of the work involved is irrelevant under anti-corruption laws.

Poornima, who served as an assistant public prosecutor at Tiptur Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC) Court, faced allegations arising from a complaint filed by R. Nagarajaiah, Range Forest Officer in Chikkanayakanahalli, Tumakuru district. Nagarajaiah had been acquitted in a criminal case, and the file later reached Poornima for her opinion. Although she advised the government to appeal against the acquittal, she allegedly demanded Rs 10,000 from each of the four accused, including Nagarajaiah, promising a favourable opinion.

According to the prosecution, Narasimha Murthy, allegedly acting on Poornima's behalf, was caught by Lokayukta police while Rs 20,000 of the bribe was being transferred to his bank account. Proceedings under



Section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, were initiated against Poornima, Murthy, and a typist.

Poornima argued that she had already given an adverse opinion, implying there was no "work" for which a bribe could be demanded, and therefore no offence was made out. However, Lokayukta police and the complainant contended that she intentionally concealed her adverse opinion and sought a bribe under the pretense of providing a favourable one.

Justice M.I. Arun clarified that under Section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, the act of demanding or accepting gratification constitutes an offence regardless of whether the work was executed or its outcome. The court emphasised that the law targets the obtaining, accepting, or attempting to obtain illegal gratification, and the result of the work is immaterial.

POWER SHARING ROW

High command should decide by Feb budget meeting: HM

BENGALURU

Home Minister G. Parameshwara on Tuesday hinted that the state's high command should resolve leadership and budget-related decisions ahead of the pre-budget meetings scheduled in February. Speaking near his Sadashivanagar residence, he said, "The high command should decide by then. No one else should present the budget."

Addressing the Kogilu Cross building clearance controversy, Parameshwara stated



that the Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister had met on Monday and decided to provide alternative housing

for residents who lost their homes during the demolitions. "This decision was made after weighing the pros and cons. Those affected will be given houses," he added. The Home Minister also questioned past relief efforts, citing tsunamis and the Maharashtra earthquake, to highlight the need for timely assistance.

On the presence of Rohingyas in the state, he said, "Let us investigate whether they exist or not. We will also inform the Centre. The Bengal-

uru in-charge Minister should be approached for details."

Regarding the recent Hunsur gold robbery, Parameshwara clarified that police action is underway. "Three or four people committed the robbery in five minutes. They will not be spared. I am confident the culprits will be caught," he asserted.

Commenting on New Year preparations, Parameshwara said he chaired an official meeting following instructions from the Chief Minister, emphasizing safety for wom-

en and children. "Accidents often increase during this time, especially on highways. We have instructed officials to pay special attention and ensure public safety during celebrations," he said.

The Minister's remarks underscore the administration's focus on resolving leadership and budget matters efficiently while simultaneously addressing citizen safety, housing rehabilitation, and law enforcement priorities ahead of the state's upcoming key events.

QUICK READ

Extension of the period for submitting applications for grants online

GADAG

The Department of Kan-nada and Culture has in- vited applications from December 1 to 30 online through Sevasindhu.kar- nataka.gov.in to provide financial assistance to registered associations and organizations under the General, Special Unit and Tribal Sub-Plan for the year 2025-26 and to provide assistance to art- ists for the purchase of musical instruments, cos- tumes and for the exhibi- tion of paintings/sculp- tures. The application pe- riod has been extended by 10 days and the appli- cation period has been extended till January 9, the Assistant Director of the Department of Kan- nada and Culture said in a statement.

Car Crashes into Roadside Divider After Driver Loses Control

HUBBALLI

A road accident was re- ported in Hubballi on Tuesday after a car crashed into a roadside divider when the driver al- legedly lost control of the vehicle. The incident oc- curred within city limits, causing brief traffic dis- ruption in the area. Ac- cording to preliminary in- formation, the car was travelling at a considera- ble speed when the driver lost control, resulting in the vehicle hitting the di- vider along the road. The impact caused damage to the front portion of the car, and debris was scat- tered across the road. Passersby and local resi- dents rushed to the spot immediately after the ac- cident and alerted the po- lice. Traffic police person- nel reached the scene and managed the flow of vehi- cles to avoid congestion.

Ruling Party and Opposition Clash at HDMC

HUBBALLI

Differences surfaced within the Hubballi-Dhar- wad Municipal Corpora- tion (HDMC) on Tuesday as elected members clashed over the issue of taking a joint delegation to the Chief Minister to seek the release of pend- ing government dues run- ning into hundreds of crores of rupees. Accord- ing to sources, the dispute arose when members de- bated whether a delega- tion comprising elected representatives of the Hubballi-Dharwad Muni- cipal Corporation should meet the Chief Minister to press for clearance of long-pending financial allocations. The issue triggered sharp exchanges between members of the ruling party and the opposition during discussions.

Public Objections Invited for Land Allocation to Social Welfare Buildings

Gadag municipal authorities have invited public objections regarding proposed land allocation for social welfare buildings within city limits

GADAG

The Assistant Director’s Of- fice of Information and Public Relations, District Adminis- trative Building, Hubballi, has issued a public notice inviting objections from citizens re- garding the proposed alloca- tion of municipal land in Gadag town for social welfare infrastructure. The notice, dated December 30, 2025, has been released in public inter- est to ensure transparency and citizen participation in admin- istrative decisions.

According to the official communication, specific mu- nicipal properties located in Gadag have been identified for allocation to the Social



Welfare Department. The lands include revenue survey numbers 4/4 and 4/5, along with Town Municipal Council (TMC) property numbers 5262/38/37, as well as reve- nue survey number 855/P and

TMC property number 4641/3. These properties are proposed to be utilised for the construction of two important public buildings — Dr. Babu Jagjivan Ram Bhavan and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Bhavan.

The proposed buildings are intended to serve as centres for social, cultural, and wel- fare-related activities, partic- ularly benefitting marginal- ised and underrepresented communities. Officials stated that the initiative aligns with the government’s broader ob- jective of strengthening social welfare infrastructure and providing accessible public spaces for community de- velopment.

However, as part of statuto- ry procedure, the Gadag Mu- nicipal Council has sought objections, if any, from the general public or concerned stakeholders. Citizens who may have reservations, claims, or concerns regarding

the proposed land allocation are required to submit their objections in writing within 15 days from the date of pub- lication of the notice. The ob- jections must be filed through proper channels and ad- dressed to the concerned mu- nicipal authorities.

The notice further clarifies that if no objections are re- ceived within the stipulated period of fifteen days, it will be presumed that there are no claims or disputes related to the said properties.

In such a case, the munici- pal council will proceed with the allocation and subsequent construction work as planned, following due administrative process.



Three Key Issues Being Widely Discussed Across Karnataka: B.Y. Vijayendra

BELAGAVI

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Karnataka state president B.Y. Vijayendra on Tuesday said that three important issues are being widely discussed across the state, reflecting growing public concern and political debate. Speaking to reporters in Belagavi, Vijayendra said the developments unfolding in Karnataka have attracted statewide attention and have become a major topic of dis- cussion among citizens, polit- ical circles, and civil society. He said the BJP has been closely observing the situa- tion and would respond ap- propriately in the interest of the people. Though he did not immediately elaborate on all the three issues in detail, Vi- jayendra indicated that they relate to governance, public administration, and the over- all direction of the state gov- ernment. He alleged that the current dispensation has failed to address people’s concerns effectively, resulting in widespread dissatisfaction.

The people of Karnataka are actively discussing these three matters across the state. This shows that the public is alert and concerned about the way the government is func- tioning, he said. Vijayendra added that the BJP would continue to highlight issues affecting farmers, youth, women, and the middle class.

The BJP state president also criticised the ruling Congress government, accusing it of focusing more on political survival than on development and governance. He said is- sues such as rising prices, law and order, and administrative failures were causing hard- ship to the common man.

Vijayendra stated that the opposition party would take these issues to the streets and the legislature, ensuring that the voice of the people is heard.

Excise Min R.B. Thimmappura Visits Inamveerapura

HUBBALLI

Karnataka Excise Minister R.B. Thimmappura on Tuesday visited Inamveer-apura village in the after- math of a reported honour killing case and held dis- cussions with the family members of the deceased, Vivekananda. The visit was aimed at understanding the circumstances surrounding the incident and extending support to the affected fam- ily. During his visit to Inam- veerapura, the minister in- teracted with the family members and gathered first-hand information about the sequence of events that led to the tragic incident. He also spoke to the young woman who re- portedly witnessed the in- cident and obtained details regarding what transpired on the day of the crime.

Following the interaction in the village, Thimmappu- ra visited a private hospital in Hubballi, where the eye- witness, Renavva, is under- going treatment in the In- tensive Care Unit (ICU). The minister enquired about her health condition and instructed hospital au- thorities to ensure that she receives the best possible



medical care. Doctors briefed him on her condi- tion and the treatment being provided.

Strongly condemning the incident, Thimmappura ex- pressed deep regret over the loss of life and described honour killing as an inhu- man act with no place in a civilised society. He as- sured the family that the government would take the matter seriously and that strict action would be taken against those responsible, in accordance with the law. He also stressed the need for social awareness to pre- vent such incidents in the future. Several senior offi- cials and community lead- ers accompanied the minis- ter during the visit. Among those present were Basa- vamurthy Madara Channa- iah Swamiji, Divya Prabhu, Gunjan Arya, along with other district-level officials.

Citizen Support Centres Launched, Dharwad Centres to Follow Soon

HUBBALLI

Support centres dedicated to serving citizens of the twin cities of Hubballi and Dhar- wad have now been made op- erational in Hubballi, with similar facilities set to be launched shortly in Dharwad, the Deputy Commissioner an- nounced on Tuesday. The ini- tiative is aimed at strength- ening citizen-centric govern- ance by providing accessi- ble, transparent, and time-bound public services under one roof. Speaking in Hubballi, the Deputy Commissioner said the newly established support centres would act as sin- gle-point facilitation hubs for residents seeking assistance related to various government departments. These centres are designed to reduce the need for citizens to visit mul- tiple offices, thereby saving

Support centres aimed at improving public service delivery have been launched in Hubballi and will soon open in Dharwad.

time and minimising proce- dural delays.

According to officials, the support centres will guide citi- zens on applications for gov- ernment schemes, documen- tation processes, grievance redressal, and follow-ups with concerned departments. Trained staff have been de- ployed to ensure that visitors receive accurate information and assistance in a systematic manner. The centres will also help senior citizens, women, and differently-abled persons who often face difficulties

navigating administrative pro- cedures. The Deputy Com- missioner stated that the ini- tiative is part of a broader ef- fort to modernise govern- ance in the twin cities and bring administration closer to the people. Our objective is to ensure that citizens receive timely services without un- necessary hurdles. The Hub- balli support centres have al- ready begun functioning, and based on the response, similar centres will be launched soon in Dharwad, the official said.

Authorities noted that the centres would also play a role in improving accountability by tracking service requests digitally and ensuring fol- low-up with departments until issues are resolved. Feedback mechanisms will be intro- duced so that citizens can share their experiences and suggest improvements.

Residents have welcomed the move, stating that such centres are especially useful in fast-growing urban areas like Hubballi-Dharwad, where demand for public ser- vices has increased signifi- cantly in recent years. Civic groups expressed hope that the centres would reduce de- pendence on intermediaries and make governance more transparent.



Hindus Facing Persecution in India and Bangladesh: Pramod Muthalik

DHARWAD

Sri Ram Sena chief Pramod Muthalik on Tuesday alleged that Hindus are facing per- secution in India just as they are in Bangladesh, and demanded decisive action from the central government to protect the community.

Addressing the media in Dharwad, Muthalik criticised the silence of the Union gov- ernment on what he described as atrocities against Hindus in Bangladesh. He said it was disappointing that the Centre had not taken a firm stand on the issue despite repeated in- cidents being reported from the neighbouring country.

Referring to Narendra Modi, Muthalik said the Prime Minister, who often speaks of strong leadership, should come forward to pro- tect Hindus and give a befit- ting reply to Bangladesh. This is Narendra Modi’s India, not the India of Mahatma Gandhi, not the India of Manmohan Singh, nor that of Sonia Gan- dhi or Rahul Gandhi. The Prime Minister should act de- cisively, he said.

He further claimed that nearly 100 crore Hindus across the country are de- manding firm action and al- leged that the government’s silence was indirectly encour- aging violence. By remaining



silent, you are responsible for the deaths of Hindus, Mutha- lik alleged, warning that such inaction could have serious consequences for social har- mony. The Sri Ram Sena chief also claimed that the situation was fuelling extremist ele- ments. He alleged that Islamic jihadist forces were gaining

encouragement and that their influence was being felt in India as well. In a small country like Bangladesh, where the population is around one and a half crore, Hindus are not being protected. Due to the influence of Bangladesh, in- cidents of vandalism are in- creasing in India too, he said. Muthalik demanded that the Union government respond immediately and take concrete steps at the diplomatic and ad- ministrative levels to ensure the safety of Hindus, both within the country and abroad. He also warned that continued silence could lead to wide- spread anger among the Hindu community.



Special One-Day Training Camp for PACS Presidents and CEOs

GADAG

As part of the observance of International Cooperative Year-2025, a one-day special training camp has been organ- ised for the Presidents and Chief Executive Officers of Primary Agricultural Credit Cooperative Societies (PACS) from Gadag and Nargund ta- luku. The programme will be held on December 31 at 10.30 a.m. near Gandhi Circle on the Pala-Badami Road in Gadag city. The training camp is be- ing jointly organised by the Karnataka State Cooperative Federation, the Gadag District Cooperative Union, the Karna- taka Central Cooperative Bank, and the Department of Cooperation. The initiative aims to strengthen the func- tioning of cooperative soci- eties by enhancing adminis- trative efficiency, financial disci- pline, and member-oriented services. The programme will be chaired by C.M. Patil, Pres- ident of the Gadag District

Cooperative Union. M.F. Ka- lagudi, Director of the Karna- taka Central Cooperative Bank, Dharwad, will inaugu- rate the training camp. On the occasion, M.S. Patil, Director of the KCC Bank, will offer floral tributes to the portrait of the Father of the Cooperative Movement.

Several dignitaries will participate as chief guests, in- cluding C.B. Doddagaudra, Direc- tor of the Karnataka Central Cooperative Bank, Dharwad; Y.F. Patil, Vice-President of the Gadag District Coopera- tive Union; S.S. Kabade, Dep- uty Registrar of Cooperative Societies; H. Manjappa, Direc- tor of the Cooperative Audit Department; Pushpa K. Kadi- val, Assistant Registrar of Co- operative Societies; Prakash Navalagund, Cooperative De- velopment Officer, Nargund; Shanta H.M., Cooperative De- velopment Officer; and S.M. Chikkamath, District Con- trolling Officer of the KCC Bank.

Father, Child Killed; Another Child Injured in accident



HUBBALLI

A tragic road accident oc- curred near Anchatgeri on the outskirts of Hubballi on Tues- day, resulting in the death of a father and his child, while an- other child sustained serious injuries and is undergoing treatment at a hospital.

According to police sources, the incident took place when a bus collided with a motorcycle near Anchatgeri village. The father was travelling on the two-wheeler along with his two children when the ac- cident occurred. The impact of the collision was severe, throwing the riders off the bike and causing critical in- juries. Locals who witnessed the

accident rushed to the spot and alerted emergency services. The father and one child suc- cumbed to their injuries on the spot, while the other child, who was critically injured, was immediately shifted to a nearby hospital for medical treatment. Doctors said the in- jured child is receiving inten- sive care, and further details about the condition are await- ed. The accident led to brief traffic disruption in the area as police and emergency person- nel carried out rescue opera- tions and cleared the road. The bodies of the deceased were later shifted for post-mortem examination. Officials from the traffic police reached the scene and initiated an investi-

gation to ascertain the exact cause of the accident. Prelim- inary information suggests that overspeeding or lack of visi- bility may have contributed to the collision, though officials said the exact circumstances would be known only after a detailed inquiry.

The incident has once again highlighted concerns over road safety on highways and con- necting roads around Hubballi, especially in areas with mixed traffic involving heavy vehi- cles and two-wheelers. Resi- dents of nearby villages have urged authorities to install proper signage, speed-control measures, and improved light- ing to prevent such accidents in the future.

QUICK READ



Police Seek Public Help to Trace Missing Driver

GADAG

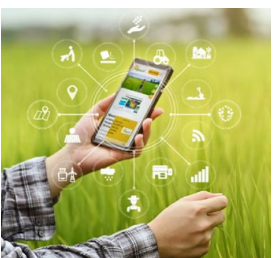
The Betageri Police Station in Gadag district has registered a missing person case and sought public cooperation to trace a man who has been unaccounted for over several months. According to official records, the case has been registered under Crime No. 68/2025, dated December 26, 2025. The missing person has been identified as Prasad, son of Devendrappa Kinnal, aged 31 years, a driver by profession and a resident of Betageri Rajaput Galli in Gadag taluk and district. The complaint was lodged by his mother, Lalita Konn Devendrappa Kinnal, aged 64 years, also a resident of the same locality.



Sri Gavisiddheshwara Jatra Mahotsava; Assigned Duties

KOPPAL

As part of the preparations for the Sri Gavisiddheshwara Jatra Mahotsava to be held in Koppal from January 1 to January 7, 2026, Deputy Commissioner Dr. Suresh B. Itnal has issued orders assigning officers from various departments, clearly distributing responsibilities, and directing them to discharge their duties efficiently. The annual religious fair will be organised at the historic Gavisiddheshwara Sansthan and Sri Gavi Matha, where a series of spiritual and cultural programmes will take place throughout the seven-day event. A key highlight of the Mahotsava, the grand Maha Rathotsava, is scheduled to be held on Monday, January 5, 2026.



Farmers Asked to Record Crop Details Through Mobile Application

KOPPAL

As part of the ongoing Rabi (Hingaru) crop survey, farmers in Koppal district have been advised to record details of crops cultivated in their fields using a mobile-based software application. The appeal was made by the Joint Director of Agriculture, Koppal, emphasising the importance of accurate and timely data submission by farmers themselves. The district has officially commenced the Rabi crop survey through a mobile application developed under the e-Governance initiative. The objective of this digital survey is to obtain precise information about crops grown by farmers across the district. Farmers can independently enter crop details directly through an Android mobile application.

UNNATI Training Programme Launched

District officials highlighted the importance of skill-based training as a 30-day UNNATI programme was inaugurated

GADAG

Gadag witnessed the launch of a significant skill development initiative aimed at empowering rural workers and improving their livelihood opportunities. Addressing the gathering, Zilla Panchayat Deputy Secretary C.R. Mundaragi stated that identifying rural skills and providing need-based training is crucial in today's times, calling the UNNATI scheme a landmark programme for sustainable development.

The 30-day residential training camp was inaugurated at the Hulakoti Krishi Vignyan Kendra in Gadag taluk. The programme has been jointly organised by the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department, the Department of Skill Development, Entrepreneurship and Livelihood, the Karnataka State Rural Livelihood Promotion Society, and SBI-ASF-RSETI Hulakoti. The training is specifically designed for beneficiaries who have completed more than 60 days of unskilled work under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS).



Speaking on the occasion, Mundaragi emphasised that in the present era, acquiring knowledge and enhancing skills are essential to progress both economically and socially. He noted that the UNNATI training programme, which offers free food, accommodation, and financial assistance, has emerged as a ray of hope for rural communities. By focusing on practical skills, the initiative aims to help participants transition from unskilled labour to sustainable livelihoods.

Zilla Panchayat Planning Director M.V. Chalageri said that the core objective of the UNNATI scheme is to upgrade the skill base of MGN-

REGS workers and improve their overall economic condition. He added that structured training can open new avenues of employment and self-reliance for rural families.

Lead Bank District Manager Santosh M.V. observed that the current job market no longer depends solely on academic marks. No work is small today. What matters is skill and efficiency, he said, adding that several organisations are ready to provide employment to skilled individuals. He further stated that banks are prepared to extend financial support to those with marketable skills and entrepreneurial ideas.



Doctors Stress Prevention Through ASHA Workers' Training

GADAG

Gadag witnessed an important public health awareness initiative as medical experts and health officials reiterated that all tobacco products are addictive and severely harmful to human health. Speaking at a one-day training workshop organised for ASHA workers, Taluk Health Education Officer Dr. Rajendra S. Gadag said tobacco consumption remains the single largest preventable cause of death and disease worldwide.

Addressing the participants, Dr. Gadag highlighted that more than eight million people across the globe die every year due to tobacco use and smoking-related illnesses. He stressed that chewing tobacco and smoking lead to serious health conditions such as throat cancer, oral cancer, mouth ulcers, dental decay, and other life-threatening diseases. Urging immediate action, he appealed to the public

Health officials in Gadag warned against tobacco consumption and trained ASHA workers to strengthen grassroots prevention efforts.

to quit tobacco consumption without delay and adopt healthier lifestyles.

The workshop was organised by the Gadag Taluk Health Office with the objective of strengthening the role of ASHA workers in preventing tobacco use at the community level. Dr. Gadag participated as the resource person and provided detailed guidance on how ASHA workers can educate families, identify early symptoms of tobacco-related diseases, and motivate individuals to give up the habit.

The training programme was formally inaugurated by Taluk Health Officer Dr. Preet Khona, who released informational posters explaining the

harmful effects of tobacco. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Khona said that making Gadag a tobacco-free district is a key goal of the health department, and achieving it requires collective efforts from healthcare workers, community volunteers, and the general public.

District Tobacco Control Cell consultant Gopal Surpur delivered a concise presentation on the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA), explaining various sections of the law and the legal measures in place to regulate tobacco products and protect public health.

Several health officials and trainers, including Basamma, Taluk LHV Saroja Kattimani, senior health inspectors Y.N. Kademani, and Taluk ASHA mentor Naveen Kumari, addressed the ASHA workers on different aspects of community health, awareness strategies, and counseling techniques.

VICE CHANCELLOR PROF. B.K. RAVI HIGHLIGHTED THE TIMELESS VALUE OF KUVEMPU'S LITERATURE DURING CELEBRATIONS AT KOPPAL UNIVERSITY

Studying Kuvempu Literature Ensures a Bright Future: Prof. B.K. Ravi

KOPPAL

The birth anniversary of Rashtrakavi Kuvempu was celebrated with great enthusiasm and reverence at Koppal University on December 30. The programme witnessed the participation of academicians, students, and staff, reflecting the enduring influence of Kuvempu's literary and philosophical legacy.

The celebrations were inaugurated by Vice Chancellor Prof. B.K. Ravi, who addressed the gathering and shared his personal association with several senior writers during his student life, including Kuvempu. Recalling those formative years, Prof. Ravi underlined the profound impact Kuvempu had on Kannada literature and

Indian thought. He elaborated on Kuvempu's monumental work Ramayana Darshanam, his significant contribution to Old Kannada literature, and his universal humanist philosophy.

Prof. Ravi stressed that Kuvempu's writings transcend time and social boundaries, offering guidance not only in literature but also in life. If students sincerely study Kuvempu's literature and imbibe his values, they will certainly build a good future, he said, adding that Kuvempu's ideas encourage critical thinking, compassion, and a broad worldview essential for modern society.

Another chief guest, Registrar Prof. S.V. Dani, urged everyone to propagate Kuvempu's universal human mes-



sage. He referred to Kuvempu's powerful words and ideals, stating that the vows and values articulated by the poet should become guiding paths for humanity. He emphasised that Kuvempu's philosophy of Vishwamanava (universal human) is highly relevant in today's world marked by divisions and challenges.

V.V. Administrator Prof. Thimmarreddy Meti was also present on the occasion. As part of the programme, Kuvem-

pu's portrait was ceremoniously worshipped and prayers were offered, reflecting deep respect for the Rashtrakavi. The event began on a cultural note with the singing of Kuvempu's lyrical songs by Ananthakumar Dore, Shankar Meti, and their team from the Department of Performing Arts. The programme was welcomed and compered by Dr. Veeresh Uthangi, while Dr. Basavaraj Gadaga proposed the vote of thanks.

Park Land Encroachment Cleared; Houses Demolished Using JCB

DAVANAGERE

In a significant action against illegal encroachments, civic authorities in Davanagere conducted a demolition drive to clear houses that had been constructed on reserved park land. The operation was carried out using heavy machinery, including JCB excavators, amid tight supervision by officials. According to officials, the land in question had been officially earmarked as public park, but over time, several houses had been illegally built by encroaching upon the area. Following complaints from local residents and after verifying land records, the city adminis-

tration decided to reclaim the public space. The demolition drive was executed with the support of the municipal corporation, revenue officials, and police personnel to maintain law and order. JCB machines were deployed to remove the illegal structures, and the encroached land was cleared systematically. Authorities stated that prior notices had been issued to the occupants, asking them to vacate the encroached land before the action was taken. Civic officials emphasised that public parks are meant for the benefit of citizens, especially children and senior citizens, and encroachments deprive residents of essential open spaces.

Rashtrakavi Kuvempu Jayanti Celebrated with Devotion

BAGALKOTE

The birth anniversary of Rashtrakavi Kuvempu was celebrated with great devotion and enthusiasm in Bagalkote on Tuesday. The programme witnessed participation from literary enthusiasts, students, teachers, and members of various cultural organisations, reflecting the enduring influence of Kuvempu's literary and philosophical legacy.

As part of the celebrations, Kuvempu's portrait was ceremoniously garlanded and floral tributes were offered by dignitaries and participants. Speakers recalled the immense contribution of Kuvempu to Kannada literature and high-



lighted his role in shaping modern Kannada thought through his powerful writings, poems, and philosophical works. His concept of Vishwamanava (Universal Humanism) was remembered as a guiding principle relevant even in contemporary society.

Several speakers emphasised that Kuvempu's works inspire values such as equality, human dignity, rational thinking, and harmony. They noted that his literary creations continue to motivate generations of readers and students, encouraging them to think be-

yond narrow boundaries and embrace universal human values. Cultural programmes formed a major attraction of the event, with students and artists presenting songs and recitations based on Kuvempu's poems. The performances were received with appreciation by the audience, adding a cultural charm to the celebrations. The event also served as a platform to encourage young minds to read, understand, and internalise Kuvempu's literature. Organisers stated that celebrating Kuvempu Jayanti is not merely a ceremonial event but an opportunity to revisit his ideals and spread his message of humanity and social harmony.

PANCHAMASALI JATRA MAHOTSAVA

Harihar Panchamasali Jatra Mahotsava to Be Held on January 15

HAVERI

The annual Jatra Mahotsava of the Veerashaiva Lingayat Panchamasali Peetha at Harihar will be held on January 15 with religious fervour and traditional grandeur, said Vachanananda Swamiji. Addressing the media during his visit to Haveri, the seer invited devotees from across the state to participate in the sacred event and seek divine blessings.

Vachanananda Swamiji stated that the Jatra Mahotsava at the historic Harihar

Veerashaiva Lingayat Panchamasali Peetha is a significant religious occasion that reflects the spiritual, social, and cultural traditions of the Panchamasali community. The event is expected to attract a large number of devotees from various districts of Karnataka.

According to the Swamiji, the Mahotsava will feature special religious rituals, abhisheka, discourses, and cultural programmes. A grand procession and other traditional ceremonies will also be



organised as part of the celebrations, highlighting the rich heritage and values of the Lingayat faith. He said such events strengthen spiritual

awareness and foster unity and harmony among people.

Vachanananda Swamiji emphasised that the Peetha has always worked towards social

reform, education, and spiritual upliftment. He noted that gatherings like the Jatra Mahotsava serve as platforms to spread the teachings of Basavanna and other great vachana philosophers, encouraging values such as equality, dignity of labour, and compassion.

The seer appealed to devotees and followers to participate in large numbers and make the Mahotsava a success through discipline and devotion. He also urged the youth to actively engage in spiritual and cultural activi-

ties, stating that they play a crucial role in preserving traditions while contributing to social progress.

Local organisers have begun preparations to ensure smooth conduct of the Jatra Mahotsava, including arrangements for devotees, safety measures, and coordination with authorities. The event is expected to be a major spiritual gathering, reinforcing the significance of the Harihar Panchamasali Peetha in the religious landscape of Karnataka.

QUICK READ

Applications for financial aid extended to January 9

CHITRADURGA

The Department of Kannada and Culture has extended the deadline for submitting applications for various financial aid schemes under the General, Scheduled Caste, and Scheduled Tribe sub-programmes to January 9, 2026. Applications must be submitted online only through the SevaSindhu portal (sevasindhu.karnataka.gov.in). The schemes aim to support registered cultural organizations and artists in promoting the state's language, arts, literature, music, folk traditions, and dance forms. Financial assistance includes funding for purchasing musical instruments, costumes, and organizing exhibitions of paintings, sculptures, and handicrafts.

Millet cooking competition held in Chikkaballapur

Millet's resilience and health benefits are highlighted as India leads global millet cultivation, encouraging women farmers in Chikkaballapur

CHIKKABALLAPUR

Millet is gaining global prominence, and India holds a leading position in cultivating diverse millet varieties, said Joint Agriculture Director S.S. Aabid in Chikkaballapur. Speaking at the launch of the district-level Millet Cooking Competition under the National Food and Nutritional Security Programme for 2025-26, he said millets are not just traditional crops but highly resilient and beneficial for both farmers and consumers. Unlike crops that demand fertile land, millets grow well even in thin-soil regions and rocky fields, making them a boon for farmers with challenging agricultural conditions.

He encouraged women



farmers to cultivate millets as they require lower investment, minimal use of chemical fertilizers and face very few pest issues. Beyond agriculture, millets are also powerful for public health, he said. In today's changing lifestyle, rising cases of heart disease, paralysis, hypertension, and diabetes

have weakened people's health. Millet-based foods, rich in essential nutrients like magnesium, copper, phosphorus and manganese, provide higher nutritional benefits than many commonly consumed foods. They are low in calories, help reduce body weight, control cholesterol levels and prevent

fat accumulation, making them vital for a healthy life.

During the cooking competition, 69 farmers and farm women from various taluks prepared a wide variety of millet dishes including laddus, payasa, biscuits, biryani, chakuli, jilebi, sajje preparations and several forgotten traditional recipes.

Food scientist Dr. Soumya highlighted that millets are gluten-free and protect the body from chronic illnesses while maintaining balanced health.

The programme was attended by agriculture officials, technical staff and farmers from across the district, who appreciated the nutritional and economic value of millet cultivation.

Fulfilling the aspirations of people is my responsibility: MLA

BIDAR

Dr. Shailendra Beldale, MLA of Bidar South constituency, chaired a village meeting in Udbal in the presence of active local residents to address issues related to infrastructure, drinking water, roads, electricity, sanitation, health, and education.

Speaking to the villagers, Dr. Beldale emphasized that fulfilling public aspirations and serving the people with honesty is his primary responsibility. Several minor issues raised during the meeting were resolved on the spot, while the remaining re-

quests were documented, with assurances of speedy redressal. He urged the community to actively participate in village development initiatives.

The MLA also visited government schools in the village to review ongoing construction work and interact with students to understand their educational needs.

In addition, Dr. Beldale inaugurated the construction of a ₹10 lakh community hall near the Shri Mallikarjuna temple, providing instructions to officials and contractors to ensure timely and quality completion.



Girijamma Guruvegowda elected as Deputy Mayor

RAMANAGARA

In a smooth and uncontested election held on Tuesday, Congress corporator Girijamma Guruvegowda from the 17th Ward was elected as the Deputy Mayor of Ramanagara City Municipal Council.

The election was necessitated following the resignation of Ayisha Banu fifteen days ago. The polling process began at 11:30 AM, and since Girijamma Guruvegowda was the sole candidate, Sub-Divisional Officer Binoy, overseeing the election, declared her elected unopposed.

Supporters celebrated her victory by bursting crackers

and distributing sweets. Addressing the gathering, Girijamma expressed gratitude to party leaders, including DCM D.K. Shivakumar, former MP and BMU president D.K. Suresh, former MLA C.M. Lingappa, MLA Iqbal Husain, and City Council Mayor K. Sheshadri, for their guidance and support.

She assured that, alongside the Mayor, she would focus on city development, prioritizing basic infrastructure while consulting all council members to ensure collaborative progress. Notably, most JD(S) members abstained from the Deputy Mayor election. With Congress holding a clear ma-

jority in the 31-member council, the result was largely anticipated. JD(S) members' absence had no impact on the outcome. Girijamma Guruvegowda was formally congratulated by Mayor K. Sheshadri, TP-CMS president Doddi Suresh, and other party leaders and workers. Present at the felicitation were City Standing Committee Chair Pairoj Pash, members Parvatamma, Ayisha Banu, Pavitra, Vijayakumari, Nizamuddin, Daulat Sharif, Aklin, Azmat, Mutturaju, Govindaraju, Narasimha, Samad, Annu, Bhairégowda, and several others, marking a festive and unified celebration within the council.

Job fair in Chitradurga scheduled on January 30

CHITRADURGA

A job fair will be held on January 30, 2026, at the Government Arts College (Autonomous), Chitradurga to provide employment opportunities for youth, said District Panchayat CEO Dr. S. Akash. Addressing a preparatory meeting at the District Panchayat Mini Hall, he stated that the fair is being organized with support from Sanjeevini-KSRLPS-DDU-GKY, the District Panchayat NRLM, and the District Skill Development Department. Sub-committees have been formed, and their heads have been instructed to begin necessary preparations immediately to ensure the fair's success.

Dr. Akash emphasized that colleges, vocational training institutes, and beneficiaries of the Yuva Nidhi scheme should be informed about the fair. A separate web link will be created for registration of employers and job seekers, along with extensive promotion to ensure wide partic-



ipation.

Officials present included District Panchayat Chief Project Officer C.S. Gayathri, Project Director K. Jayalakshmi, Chief Accounts Officer D.R. Madhu, District Skill Development Officer Vemanna, District Employment Officer Ravichandra, GTTC Principal Suhas, and representatives from degree, ITI, and engineering colleges, along with other departmental officials.

The CEO highlighted that thorough planning, active coordination, and awareness campaigns are crucial for the success of the employment fair, enabling youth to access diverse career opportunities.

SCP-TSP MEETING



SC/ST commission chairman emphasizes swift action against atrocities

CHIKKABALLAPUR

Dr. L. Murthy, Chairman of the Karnataka State Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Commission, presided over a progress review meeting for SC/ST welfare at the Sir M. Visvesvaraya Hall, organized in collaboration with the district administration. During the session, he received grievances from the public and community leaders, discussing several critical issues affecting SC/ST communities.

Dr. Murthy emphasized that any act of oppression, violence, or exploitation against individuals or communities from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes will be met with immediate legal action. Citizens can directly approach the Commission to lodge complaints, and the Commission actively works to safeguard their rights.

Key concerns raised during the meeting included land records, tenancy, cremation grounds, deemed forest areas, community halls, SC/ST development programs (SCP and

TSP), and illegal liquor sales. The Chairman instructed authorities to promptly address these complaints and ensure quick resolution.

Following the public grievance session, a detailed review of fund allocations to various areas of the district was conducted. Officials were urged to prioritize the protection of SC/ST civil rights, provide quality education, and ensure the social empowerment of these communities.

The meeting was attended by District Commissioner Ravindra P.N., Commission members M. Kumbayya, Secretary Dr. H.S. Shivaram, District Panchayat CEO Dr. Naveen Bhat, Deputy Superintendent of Police Kushal Chaukse, sub-divisional officers, tehsildars, Assistant Director Srinivas from the Commission, and Deputy Directors from the Department of Social Welfare.

The gathering underscored the Commission's commitment to ensuring justice, equality, and empowerment for SC/ST communities in Karnataka.

NAME CHANGE

I, SYED ASIF PASHA, S/o, Syed Siddiq Sahib, Resident of No.4212/1, Near Madina Masjid Extension Mohalla Ramanagaram Dist, 562159, have changed my name to SYED ASIF, vide affidavit dated: 30.12.2025 before notary B.A. LAKSHMINARAYANA RAO, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, DILIP S/o K B RAJ, R/o No 2, Sair Elite 401, 4th Floor, Edward Road, Bangalore North, Bangalore G.P.O., Bengaluru, Karnataka-560001, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as DILIP KUMAR.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, ELAVEGOWDA S/o MUDLIGIRIGOWDA, R/o Hallimysore Hobli, Holenarasipura Taluku, Doddahalli, Hassan, Karnataka-573210, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as RANGEGOWDA.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, UMESH V M S/o V K MANJUNATHA R/o B H Road, Rural Police Station, Opposite Holenarsipur, Hassan, Karnataka-573211, have changed the name of my minor daughter MONISHA aged 13 years and she shall hereafter be known as MANASVI U GOWDA.

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION

Office of the Executive Engineer, C.V. Ramannagara Division, 8th Cross, 12th A Main Road, HAL 2nd Stage, Indiranagara, Bengaluru - 560038.

No:EE/CVR/TEND-03/CORRIGENDUM-1/2025-26 Date: 30-12-2025

CORRIGENDUM-01

Sub: Regarding the Notification of Postponed Dates for the Tender Process.

Ref.: 1) Tender Notification No: EE/CVR/TEND/03/2025-26, Dated: 16-12-2025. 2) Reference (1) Tenders have been invited through e-Procurement for the work of Demolition of Unauthorized Building Parts of C.V. Ramannagara Division, but the said Tender dates have been Postponed Due to Technical Issues.

Revised Calendar of Events: 1) Tender Documents Submission of through e-Procurement Website on 08-01-2026 before 4.00 PM. 2) Date of Opening of Technical Tender: 09-01-2026 at 4.30 PM. Further details can be obtained from the above office during working hours and can also be obtained from the Website: <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>

Sd/- Executive Engineer, C.V. Ramannagara Division, BCCC.

KARNATAKA URBAN WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE BOARD

O/o The Chief Engineer, KUWS&D Board, Mysuru zonal office, "Jalabhavan", # P-4, 10th Main, 3rd Cross, 3rd Floor, Saraswathipuram Mysuru-570 009. Ph no: 0821-2545894. Email: kwbcmys2014@gmail.com

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (Call-2)

Tender for the work of Providing UGD facilities to ward No. 11 & 17 of Pandavapura Town under SCP grants of Pandavapura town for the year 2025-26 (Lumpsum Tender - No Variation) is invited vide indent No: KUWSDB/2025-26/WS/WORK_INDENT460/Call-2 For details: <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> Sd/- CHIEF ENGINEER K.U.W.S & D BOARD, MYSURU

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

NAME CHANGE

I, AKHILA SANDEEP, W/o. Sandeep Reganti Venkatachalapathy, Resident of No. 1, 9th Cross, 11th Main Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru -560052, Karnataka, have changed my name to AKHILA K N, vide affidavit dated: 29.12.2025 before notary MEER HASSAN, Bengaluru.

NAME CHANGE

I, MADHAVA VEERABHADRAPPA HADIMANE, S/o. Veerabhadrappa, Resident of Purva Highland Kanakapura Road, Near Nice Road, Konanakunte, Mallasandra, Konanakunte Post, Bengaluru -560062, Karnataka, have changed my name to MADAV H V, vide affidavit dated: 29.12.2025 before notary MEER HASSAN, Bengaluru.

NAME CHANGE

I, MOHAMED ANVER, Resident of No.10/1, Lal Masjid A Street Shivajinagar Bengaluru-560051, have changed my name to MOHAMMED ANWER, vide affidavit dated: 30.12.2025 before notary R. BASAVARAJA, Bengaluru.

NAME CHANGE

I, JAYASREE SAMPATH SHETTY CHITHAPORAM, W/o. Pandu Rangiah Shetty, Resident of Balaji Nivas, Vasavi Dharmashala Street, N R Extension, Chintamani, Chikballapur -531225, Karnataka, have changed my name to JAYASREE TALANKI PANDURANGIAHSHETTY, vide affidavit dated: 30.12.2025 before notary MEER HASSAN, Bengaluru.

DIRECTORATE OF MINORITIES

Maulana Azad Bhavan, No.16C, Miller Tank Bund Road, Vasanthnagar, Bengaluru - 560 052.

No.: DOM/DEVP/Residential/CR-118/2025-26 Date: 29.12.2025

Invitation for Expression of Interest

Subject: Invitation for Expression of Interest (EOI) for the Installation of Smart Pay Phone Communication Systems in Minority Residential Schools and Colleges.

The Directorate of Minorities, Government of Karnataka, manages 169 Residential Schools and 13 Residential Colleges. These institutions currently house over 52,000 students. To facilitate seamless and secure communication between students and their parents, the Department proposes the installation of a Smart Pay Phone Communication System across all 182 locations.

Interested and eligible organizations/Service providers are invited to submit their proposals/Expression of Interest (EOI) to the Directorate of Minorities for installing a Smart Pay Phone Communication System at 182 Residential schools/colleges without expecting any government fund. A proposals/ Expression of Interest (EOI) should include necessary documents in the format provided on the department website <https://dom.karnataka.gov.in>. Interested parties are invited to submit their proposals/EOI in the prescribed format.

Official Website: <https://dom.karnataka.gov.in>

Submission Address: Directorate of Minorities, 16C, Millers Tank Bed Road, Vasanthnagar, Bengaluru-560052

Last Date for Submission: 16.01.2026, 5:00 PM.

Sd/- Director Directorate of Minorities, Bengaluru

DIPR/CPI/4714/Maa/25-26

ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಬಾಶೆಟ್ಟಹಳ್ಳಿ

ವಾಶೆಟ್ಟಹಳ್ಳಿ, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ, ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ
istaff@ulb.basheethalli@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಬಾ.ಪಂ/ತಾ.ರಾ/ಸ.ಆ/07/08/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 14.11.2025

ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರೆಮೆಂಟ್ ಅನ್ವಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಮರು ಬೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹ ದರ್ಜೆಯ ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ದ್ವಿ-ಲೋಕೇಷನ್ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪರಿಶೀಲನೆಗೊಳಪಟ್ಟು ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರೆಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಅನ್ವಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಮರು ಬೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ವಿವರ	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. (ರೂ.ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)
01	DMA/2025-26/ BD/ WORK_INDENT 50267/CALL-2	90.00	1.52,400/-
02	DMA/2025-26/ OW/WORK_INDENT 50083/CALL-2	202.30	2.50,000/-

ಬೆಂಡರ್ ಫಾರಂ ಬೆಲೆ- ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರೆಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ (1) ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರೆಮೆಂಟ್ ಪ್ರೋಟೋಕಾಲ್ ನಲ್ಲಿ ಬೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: (A) ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 01 ರ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 21.11.2025 17.00 (B) ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 02 ರ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 29.11.2025 17.00 (2) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: (A) ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 01 ರ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 24.11.2025 ರ 17.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ (B) ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 02 ರ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 01.12.2025 ರ 17.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಕಾರಣಾಂತರಗಳಿಂದ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳಾದಲ್ಲಿ ಇ-ಪ್ರೋಟೋಕಾಲ್ ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. ದಿನಪತ್ರಿಕೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ, ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಸಿ ಪ್ರೋಟೋಕಾಲ್ ನಲ್ಲಿ ಗಮನಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸ್ಥ/:- ವಿಭಾಗೀಯ ಅಧೀಕ್ಷಕರ ಸಹಚೀಫ್‌ರಾದ ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ಹಾಗೂ ಶ್ರೀ ನರಸಿಂಹಮೂರ್ತಿ. ಪಿ ಕೆ.ಎಂ.ಎಸ್. ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಮುಖ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿ ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ, ಬಾಶೆಟ್ಟಹಳ್ಳಿ ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ ಬಾಶೆಟ್ಟಹಳ್ಳಿ
ವಾಸಾಂಶ/ವಾ.ಪಂ/3817/ಸಬಿ/ಸಬಿ/2024-25

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

ಸಮಗ್ರ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಕೆ.ಆರ್.ರಸ್ತೆ, ಸುಭಾಷ್ ನಗರ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ, ದೂರ: 08232-297199,

ಇ-ಮೇಲ್:- sskmandya@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಸಶಿ/ಸಿ/2/ಜೆಬಿಎ ಬೈ-1& ಬೈ-4 ವಸತಿ ಶಾಲೆ/ನಿಲಯ

ಅನ್ವಯ ಬೆಂಡರ್/08ಎ/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ:19.12.2025

ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

2025-26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಶೈಕ್ಷಣಿಕ ವರ್ಷಕ್ಕೆ ಅನ್ವಯವಾಗುವಂತೆ ಸಮಗ್ರ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿಲ್ಲಿ ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗುವ ಬೆಂಡರ್ ವಿವರ.

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ. : 01. ಬೆಂಡರ್ ವಿವರ : ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಮತ್ತು ಬ್ಲಾಕ್ ಹಂತಕ್ಕೆ ಒಟ್ಟು 35 ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲಾಗಿ ಮಾನವ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಸೇವೆಯನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಲು. ಬೆಂಡರ್ ರಿಫರನ್ಸ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : DPI/2025/SE0416. ಬೆಂಡರ್ ಇಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ) : 90,93,312=00. ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ. : 02. ಬೆಂಡರ್ ವಿವರ : ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಕೆ.ಜಿ.ಬಿ ಬೈಟ್-1 ಎರಡು (02) ವಸತಿ ಶಾಲೆಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಕೆ.ಜಿ.ಬಿ.ವಿ ಬೈಟ್-4 ಎರಡು (02) ವಸತಿ ನಿಲಯಗಳಿಗೆ ಒಟ್ಟು 18 ಅರೆಕಾಲಿಕ ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿ ಸೇವೆ. ಬೆಂಡರ್ ರಿಫರನ್ಸ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : DPI/2025/SE0417. ಬೆಂಡರ್ ಇಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ) : 32,43,000=00 ಅನ್ವಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಇ-ಬೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಆಸಕ್ತಿವುಳ್ಳ ಬೆಂಡರ್‌ದಾರರು <http://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in> ನಲ್ಲಿ ಬೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್‌ನ್ನು ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು ನಿಗದಿತ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ನೋಡಲ್ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಯರ ಮೊಬೈಲ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 9448739714.

ಸ್ಥ/:-ಉಪನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು (ಆಡಳಿತ) ಹಾಗೂ ಪದನಿಮಿತ್ತ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಯೋಜನಾ ಸಮನ್ವಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಸಮಗ್ರ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ, ತಾಲಾ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ
ವಾಸಾಂಶ/ನಿರ್ದಿ-ಮಂ/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/677/2025-26

QUICK READ



Telangana Records Slight Drop in Crime Rate

Hyderabad

Telangana saw a small fall in crime in 2025, with total cases at 2.29 lakh, down 2.33% from 2.34 lakh last year, DGP B Shivadhar Reddy said. Over 500 CPI (Maoist) members, including central and state leaders, surrendered during the year. BNS cases fell 1.45% to 1.67 lakh. Kidnap cases dropped nearly 25% to 1,145, and rape cases fell over 13% to 2,549. Cyber-crime also declined by 3%, while national cyber-crime rose 41%, the DGP added.

Six Hospitalised After Kerala Music Festival Rush

Kasaragod

Six people were hospitalised for breathing problems after a large crowd surge at a beach music festival in Bekal on December 29, police said. The situation was quickly controlled, and all affected were discharged from the hospital the same night. Police clarified that reports of multiple injuries were false and urged the public not to believe rumours. Authorities assured that no one was seriously hurt and the festival area remained safe after timely intervention.

Air India Express pilot arrested for assault at IGI Airport

New Delhi

Delhi Police arrested an off-duty Air India Express pilot, Captain Virendra Sejwal, for allegedly assaulting a passenger at IGI Airport on December 19. The police collected CCTV footage and recorded statements during the investigation before making the arrest. Sejwal had earlier joined the probe and was questioned. He has been booked under Sections 115 (voluntarily causing hurt), 126 (wrongful restraint), and 351 (criminal intimidation) of the BNS for the incident near Terminal 1's security checkpoint.

PM Modi Urges Diplomacy after Reported Putin Residence Attack

Ukrainian President Zelenskyy called Russia's attack claims false, stressing diplomacy while Trump hosts ongoing peace talks

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed concern over reports of an attack on Russian President Vladimir Putin's residence, calling for focused diplomatic efforts.

PM Modi, in a post on X, highlighted the need for all parties to avoid actions that could derail ongoing peace talks between Russia and Ukraine. "Deeply concerned by reports of the targeting of the President of the Russian Federation's residence. Ongoing diplomatic efforts offer the most viable path toward ending hostilities and achieving peace," he wrote.

The remarks follow Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov's announcement that



Ukraine carried out a drone attack on Putin's Novgorod residence on December 29, deploying 91 UAVs. Lavrov claimed all drones were intercepted without causing damage or casualties, warning that Russia would respond and

that retaliatory measures had been planned. Despite the incident, he confirmed that Russia would continue negotiations but would review its stance.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy dismissed

Lavrov's claims as "fabrications" and insisted Ukraine would not undermine diplomacy. He said the alleged attack report aimed to justify further Russian attacks, including on Kyiv, and to distract from Moscow's failure to end the war.

The situation comes amid ongoing peace talks hosted by former US President Donald Trump at Mar-a-Lago, where he met Zelenskyy to continue efforts toward ending the four-year conflict.

PM Modi's call reinforces the importance of diplomatic solutions, urging restraint and collaboration to achieve lasting peace and prevent escalation, amid heightened tensions between Russia and Ukraine.

President Returns Tamil Nadu University Bill

CHENNAI

President Droupadi Murmu has returned the Tamil Nadu University of Madras Amendment Bill, which aimed to give the state government the power to appoint its vice chancellor, officials said on Tuesday. The bill, passed by the Tamil Nadu Assembly in April 2022, was sent for presidential assent to allow the state to take control of the 168-year-old university, which has been without a vice chancellor for over two years.

The proposed amendment sought to change the University of Madras Act by replacing the word "chancellor" with "government," transferring the authority to appoint and remove the vice chancellor from the governor, who currently serves as ex-officio chancellor, to the state government. The President returned the bill for reconsideration, citing concerns over potential conflict with University Grants Commission (UGC) regulations and established norms for appointing vice chancellors.

Earlier, Governor R N Ravi had reserved the bill for presidential consideration, pointing out similar concerns. Following its return, the assembly must now review and reconsider the legislation before moving forward.

Currently, about 14 of the 22 universities in Tamil Nadu, including the University of Madras, are being managed by convener committees due to the absence of regular vice chancellors. The state government had intended the amendment to streamline appointments, but the presidential decision marks a significant setback for the Stalin administration, requiring careful reassessment of the proposed changes.



Trinamool Congress slammed Amit Shah's "two-thirds majority" claim, asserting BJP will not cross 50 seats in West Bengal elections

Trinamool Congress Hits Back at Amit Shah's Election Claims

KOLKATA

The Trinamool Congress (TMC) strongly rebutted Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday, calling his statements about the 2026 West Bengal Assembly elections baseless. Senior TMC leader and state education minister Bratya Basu told reporters that Shah's claim of a two-thirds majority was hollow and that BJP would fail to cross the 50-seat mark. "Shah will keep coming and going like a tourist. Such visits will serve no purpose," Basu said.

Shah had claimed the BJP would form the next government in Bengal after April 15, 2026, adding that infiltrators would be identified and removed. He also criticised the TMC government over wom-



en's safety, saying women should be able to step out freely without fear, and described the state's condition as unacceptable.

Responding, TMC minister Sashi Panja urged Shah to witness Bengal during festive seasons when women move about freely. She accused him and the BJP of shielding accused criminals and obstructing the Aparajita Bill, which aimed for stricter punishment

for rapists. Panja also rejected Shah's claims about industrial decline, stating that Bengal received Rs 13.8 lakh-crore in investment since 2011 and ranks second in the MSME sector.

TMC spokesperson Jay Prakash Majumdar dismissed Shah's claim that BJP does not indulge in temple-based politics, citing their campaigns in 2019 and 2024. Majumdar added that such politics would again be rejected by Bengal's electorate.

The TMC's response highlights its firm stance against BJP's assertions, reiterating confidence in its governance record, women's safety measures, and industrial growth, while calling Shah's statements exaggerated and misleading.

Sri Lankan Envoy Praises India's Support during Cyclone

NEW DELHI

Sri Lanka's High Commissioner to India, Mahishini Colonne, on Tuesday lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his leadership and India's swift assistance during Cyclone Dityah. She described him as "an important voice of the Global South" and a "highly respected leader," noting his consistent support to Sri Lanka in times of crisis.

Colonne recalled PM Modi's visit to Sri Lanka after the 2019 Easter Sunday attacks, which helped restore tourism and strengthen the economy. Highlighting India's role during Cyclone Dityah, she said helicopters, relief supplies, doctors, and medical aid



were deployed within hours, demonstrating India's multidimensional support. Operation Sagar Bandhu, she noted, began while the cyclone was still active, and India continues to assist in rebuilding infrastructure and providing relief to affected communities.

"The cyclone has passed, basic services and connectivity have been restored, and India's assistance has been significant in all phases of recovery," Colonne said. She emphasised India's long-standing partnership, describing the country as a trusted and consistent partner for Sri Lanka.

Raihan Vadra to Get Engaged in Pvt Ceremony

NEW DELHI

Preparations are quietly underway for the engagement of Raihan Vadra, son of Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and businessman Robert Vadra, to his longtime partner Aviva Baig. Sources close to the family said the ceremony will be a private, low-key affair in Rajasthan, likely in early January 2026, lasting two to three days and coordinated to suit family schedules.



Congress leaders Rahul

Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Robert Vadra, and other family members have already reached Sawai Madhopur, staying at Hotel Sher Bagh near Ranthambore National Park. The family plans to combine the engagement celebrations with New Year festivities, keeping the event intimate and away from public attention.

Four Dead, Dozen Injured in Maihar Road Accident

MAIHAR

A severe road accident on National Highway-30 in Maihar, Madhya Pradesh, claimed four lives and left at least 12 people injured, officials said. The crash occurred near Tiloura village under Nadan police station when a passenger vehicle carrying members of the Patel family from Padariya village in Katni district rammed into the rear of a container truck at high speed.

The front of the vehicle was completely crushed. Three passengers died on the spot, while a fourth succumbed to injuries later in hospital. The deceased have been identified as Chhonga Patel (60), Jitendra Payasi (24), Santal Patel, and another yet-to-be-identified passenger. At least five of the injured, including Jagdish Patel, Ram Sahay Patel, and Mangi Bai Patel, are in critical condition.

The family was travelling to Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, to immerse the ashes of a deceased relative, making the accident particularly tragic for the extended Patel family. A police team, with help from local residents, rescued those trapped in the mangled vehicle. The injured were initially



The family was travelling to Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, to immerse the ashes of a deceased relative, making the accident particularly tragic for the extended Patel family.

taken to Maihar Civil Hospital, with critically injured patients referred to Satna and others shifted to Katni for specialised treatment.

Police have registered a case under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code and the Motor Vehicles Act. Preliminary investigation indicates that overspeeding may have been a major factor, while officials are also examining visibility conditions and possible mechanical issues. The tragedy has left the local community grieving and raised concerns about road safety on the busy highway.

Shah Promises End to Fear and Misgovernance

KOLKATA

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday urged the people of West Bengal to give the BJP a chance to govern, promising to replace "fear, corruption, and misgovernance" with good governance. Speaking in Kolkata, Shah positioned the BJP as a strong alternative to the ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC)



and other past governments.

Shah accused TMC chief Mamata Banerjee of allowing infiltration of Bangladeshis for electoral gains. He said the BJP would identify and remove infiltrators once in power. He also criticised the state government for delaying border fencing, claiming West Bengal was not providing the required

land. On economic issues, Shah alleged that misgovernance had

led to industrial decline in the state. He further accused the TMC of spreading fear and violence, stating that over 300 BJP workers had been killed and more than 3,000 remained unable to return to their homes due to political pressure.

Highlighting corruption, Shah said several senior TMC leaders had faced jail for swindling public funds, claiming that even the machinery used to count seized cash reportedly malfunctioned from overheating.



SOCIAL COVERAGE

India Achieves Major Social Protection Milestone

NEW DELHI

India's social protection coverage has jumped to 64.3 per cent in 2025 from 19 per cent in 2015, placing the country second globally after China. This growth comes after the expansion of welfare schemes and recent labour reforms aimed at enhancing workers' security.

India received the International Social Security Association (ISSA) Award 2025 for 'Outstanding Achievement in Social Security' in Malaysia. Prime Minister Narendra



Modi launched the Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana (PMVBRY) on August 15, 2025, with a Rs 99,446 crore outlay, aiming to create over 3.5 crore jobs in

two years, including 1.92 crore first-time workers. Over 2.35 lakh establishments have registered on the PMVBRY portal, benefitting more than 20.7 lakh first-time

employees. The government consolidated 29 labour laws into four Labour Codes covering wages, industrial relations, social security, and occupational safety. These reforms simplify compliance, extend social protection to unorganized, gig, and platform workers, and strengthen workplace safety, especially for women and migrants.

Social security enhancements include digital systems for EPFO claims up to Rs 5 lakh, a centralised pension system, and easier UAN activation. ESIC has expanded to 713 districts with 87,715 hospital beds, and launched SPREE 2025 for new registrations without retrospective penalties.

The PMVBRY scheme provides first-time employees one month's wage up to Rs 15,000, while employers receive incentives for creating additional jobs, especially in manufacturing. These initiatives aim to boost employment, income security, and social protection, reinforcing India's position as a global leader in welfare coverage.

QUICK READ



Seven Dead, Eleven Injured in Uttarakhand Bus Crash

Dehradun
Seven people died and 11 were injured when a passenger bus from Dwarahat to Ramnagar fell into a steep ravine in Almora district on Tuesday morning. The 19-passenger bus lost control near Salapani, Bhikiyainsain area, shortly after Vinayak. Locals described the fall as sudden and terrifying. Rescue teams, with villagers' help, saved survivors and took the injured to Bhikiyainsain Hospital. Officials are investigating the cause, which may involve driver error or a technical fault. CM Dhama expressed condolences.

Dense Fog Forces Flight Disruptions at Delhi Airport

New Delhi
Dense fog on Tuesday disrupted operations at Indira Gandhi International Airport, cancelling 118 flights and diverting 16 others. Over 130 flights faced delays, with an average departure hold of 28 minutes. Poor visibility affected 60 arrivals and 58 departures. Flights without CAT III technology could not land safely. Diverted flights were sent to nearby airports, while authorities instructed airlines to assist passengers during the weather. Airport operations continued amid efforts to manage the chaos.

NIA Charges Five for Supplying Explosives to Naxals

New Delhi
The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Tuesday filed charges against five people, including four absconders, in a 2024 case of supplying explosives to the banned CPI (Maoist) group in Chhattisgarh. Manish Sodhi, arrested in July, and fugitives Sodhi Kesa, Manila, Madkam Kesa, and Sodhi Lakhma, all from Sukma district, were named in the chargesheet. So far, the NIA has chargesheeted seven individuals in connection with the case, which involves illegal procurement and distribution of explosives to Naxals.



Delhi Police Tightens Security Ahead Of New Year Celebrations

NEW DELHI
Delhi Police have intensified security around Connaught Place and India Gate ahead of New Year 2026 celebrations. A mock drill was conducted to test emergency preparedness, and strict timings for December 31 have been issued. The drill focused on Connaught Place's Inner Circle and Rajiv Chowk Metro Station, simulating a suspicious bag scenario. Teams from Delhi Police, dog squad, and bomb disposal squad responded swiftly, cordoning off the area and restricting public movement. The bag was later found safe. DCP New Delhi Devesh Mehla said the exercise aimed to evaluate police readiness and

Jal Minister Launches Digital Tool for Village Water Services

With numerous Gram Panchayats achieving Har Ghar Jal, the mission now provides reliable daily water via community oversight

NEW DELHI

Union Jal Shakti Minister C. R. Patil on Tuesday launched a new digital tool, Jal Seva Aankalan, to help Gram Panchayats assess drinking water services. The initiative aims to strengthen service delivery and encourage community ownership under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM). Addressing the gathering, Patil emphasized that JJM is not just about creating water infrastructure but ensuring reliable drinking water for every rural household. He highlighted four key pillars of the Mission: Political Will, People's Participation, Stakeholder Collaboration, and Optimal Resource Use, with Jan Bhagidari (public participa-



tion) being the most crucial for sustainability. Jal Seva Aankalan empowers Gram Panchayats to manage their own water systems and enhances democratic decision-making through Gram Sabhas. The tool helps identify gaps in service delivery early, allowing timely corrective action, and shifts focus from mere infrastructure creation to consistent, quality

water services. With many Gram Panchayats having achieved Har Ghar Jal status, the mission now prioritizes translating tap connections into safe, dependable daily water supply. The community-owned self-assessment model reduces reliance on costly third-party surveys and enables villages to collectively monitor and improve water service systems.

West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee firmly disputed Amit Shah's infiltration and Central project claims, defending her government

Mamata Banerjee Slams BJP over Infiltration, Projects Claims

KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday hit back at Union Home Minister Amit Shah's claims about infiltration, asking how attacks like the Pahalgar strike and the Delhi car blast occurred if infiltrators were allegedly entering only through West Bengal. Speaking at a public meeting in Barjora, Bankura district, Banerjee described Shah as "Dushasana," accusing him of visiting the state with harmful intentions and aiming to destabilize Bengal. Refuting claims that her



government protected infiltrators, Banerjee said, "If infiltrators only enter from West Bengal, who carried out Pahalgar attack? Who was behind Delhi incident?" She dismissed allegations that her administration denied land for Central projects, citing examples in Bongaon's Petrapole, Andal airport, and Eastern Coalfield Limited, calling the accusations false. Banerjee also criticized Shah's repeated assertions that BJP would form the next state government. She accused the party of manipulating voter lists through Special Intensive

Revision, noting at least 58 people have already lost their lives in related incidents. She condemned efforts to remove names from electoral rolls targeting Matua, minority, and Hindu communities. Highlighting her roots, Banerjee emphasized she was born in Birbhum and rejected attempts to label her as Bangladeshi. She stressed that her government prioritizes the welfare of Bengal's people, while BJP's actions focus on political gains and creating fear. Banerjee's remarks reflect her firm stance against what she termed misleading narratives, defending her administration's track record in governance, land allotments, and public safety.

8 Police Officials Granted Bail in Kupwara Case

SRINAGAR

The principal district and sessions judge of Kupwara on Tuesday granted bail to eight police personnel accused in a high-profile custodial torture case, investigated by the CBI on Supreme Court directions. The accused include Deputy SP Aijaz Ahmad, Sub-Inspector Riyaz Ahmad Mir, SPO Jahangeer Ahmad Beigh, Head Constables Mohammad Younis Khan and Tanveer Ahmad Malla, Selection Grade Constables Shakir Hussain Khoja and Altaf Hussain Bhat, and Constable Shahnawaz Ahmad. All were



arrested by the CBI in August and lodged in central jail. The court directed each accused to submit personal and surety bonds of Rs 1 lakh and imposed strict conditions. They cannot leave the court's territorial jurisdiction without permission, must surrender any passports, avoid influencing witnesses or tampering

with evidence, and attend all trial proceedings unless exempted. Any violation may lead to bail cancellation. The case involves the alleged illegal detention and custodial torture of police constable Khurshaed Ahmad Chohan at the Joint Interrogation Centre in Kupwara. The Supreme Court transferred the probe to the CBI, terming it a grave example of abuse of power. It also directed the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir to pay Rs 50 lakh as compensation to the victim, recoverable from guilty officers after departmental proceedings.

MP Water Award Faces Controversy over AI Images Allegation

BHOPAL

A political dispute has emerged in Madhya Pradesh after Congress accused the BJP-led state government of using AI-generated images to win a national water conservation award for Khandwa district. The district administration denied the allegations, calling them "baseless and misleading." Khandwa secured first place nationally under the

Centre's Jal Sanchay, Jan Bhagidari campaign, receiving a Rs 2 crore cash prize at the sixth National Water Awards in New Delhi. Kaveshwar gram panchayat also won second prize in the best gram panchayat category. Madhya Pradesh Congress president Jitu Patwari alleged that AI-generated images were submitted to falsely show development works, claiming shallow pits were portrayed as wells.

Procurement Period Extended for Moong, Udd Crops

NEW DELHI

The central government has approved an extension of the procurement period for moong (green gram) grown in Karnataka during the 2025-26 Kharif season under the Price Support Scheme (PSS). The extension now also applies to other crops, including soybean, groundnut, Udd bean, and sunflower.

This move ensures farmers receive fair support prices and provides them additional time to sell their produce. Union Agriculture Minister Shriraj Singh Chauhan informed Minister Prahlad Joshi about the extension through an official letter. Earlier, Prahlad Joshi had requested the Union Agriculture Minister to extend the procurement period for moong, Udd, and other crops under the support price scheme. The central government accepted the request and issued the formal order extending the Price Support Scheme period.

Expressing his gratitude, Prahlad Joshi thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Agriculture Minister Shriraj Singh Chauhan for approving

Farmers in Karnataka get more time to sell moong, Udd, soybean, groundnut, and sunflower at support prices under extended procurement period.

the extension. Officials said this step would greatly benefit farmers by allowing them more flexibility in marketing their crops while ensuring minimum support prices are maintained.



With this extension, farmers across Karnataka can now plan the sale of their moong, Udd, soybean, groundnut, and sunflower crops without the pressure of deadlines, strengthening income security and stabilizing market access. The government continues to encourage timely procurement to support agricultural sustainability and protect farmers' interests.

The extension highlights the government's ongoing commitment to ensuring farmers get the benefits of the Price Support Scheme while promoting balanced crop marketing and price stability during the Kharif season.



ED Attaches Rs 68 Crore Assets in Chhattisgarh Liquor Scam

NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has attached properties worth Rs 68.16 crore of three major Chhattisgarh-based distilleries in connection with the state liquor scam. The move targets Chhattisgarh Distilleries Ltd (CDL), Bhatia Wine Merchants Pvt Ltd (BWMPL), and Welcome Distilleries Pvt Ltd (WDPL), bringing the total attachment against the three companies to Rs 96.55 crore. The action was taken under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, by the ED's Raipur zonal office.

ED's investigation revealed that the distilleries were central to a three-part corruption model. Part A involved inflating government procurement prices, with distillers paying illegal commissions of Rs 75-125 per case. Part B saw production of unaccounted liquor using fake holograms and illicit bottles, bypassing taxes and official warehouses. Part C involved annual bribes to maintain monopoly and fixed market shares. Between April 2019 and June 2022, the distilleries supplied over 60 lakh cases of such liquor to the syndicate.

The investigation, based on FIRs registered by Raipur Anti-Corruption Branch and Economic Offences Wing, found the scam caused massive losses to the state exchequer. Key figures included ex-IAS officer Anil Tuteja, Anwar Dhebar, Arun Pati Tripathi, and former Excise Minister Kawsari Lakhma. The scam reportedly generated over Rs 2,800 crore of illicit proceeds. So far, the ED has attached assets worth more than Rs 380 crore and arrested several accused, including politicians, bureaucrats, and relatives of prominent leaders, highlighting the extensive scale of the corruption network.

Athawale Meets Darekar Over BMC Seat Dispute

MUMBAI

Union Minister and RPI (Athawale) chief Ramdas Athawale on Tuesday met BJP MLC Pravin Darekar at his Bandra residence amid growing discontent over seat-sharing in the Mahayuti alliance for the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) elections. Earlier, Athawale had expressed displeasure at the allocation of only six seats to his party.

After the meeting, Athawale said Darekar conveyed a message from Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, who had called him earlier. He added that the 39 candidates submitted by RPI (A) had already completed their nomination forms. Athawale requested Darekar to arrange a meeting with the Chief Minister on Wednesday to discuss fair seat allocation.

He also indicated willingness to negotiate with Deputy CM Eknath Shinde to secure additional seats from Shiv Sena's quota if possible. Athawale said the party will decide its future course only after talks with the CM, signaling that the issue remains unresolved.

Athawale criticized BJP for sidelining RPI in the seat-sharing process. He said the alliance of BJP and Shiv Sena had affected his party's chances, with the RPI not even consulted during discussions.

Athawale criticized BJP for sidelining RPI in the seat-sharing process. He said the alliance of BJP and Shiv Sena had affected his party's chances, with the RPI not even consulted during discussions. "If we had been called for discussions, more seats could have been allocated. Last night at 2 am, we were informed about six seats," he said.

The Mahayuti had recently finalised its seat-sharing formula, with BJP contesting 137 seats and Shiv Sena 90. The Maharashtra State Election Commission announced elections for 29 municipal corporations, including Mumbai, Pune, and Pimpri-Chinchwad. Polling in Mumbai's 227 wards is scheduled for January 15, with counting on January 16.



DOG MANAGEMENT ROW

Kejriwal Slams BJP over Teachers' New Order

NEW DELHI

AAP National Convenor and former Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday criticised the BJP-led Delhi government over an alleged order asking schools, colleges, and stadiums to appoint Nodal Officers for stray dog management. Kejriwal claimed the directive insulted teachers and distracted them from educating children, saying, "AAP respected teachers, while BJP is bent on

destroying everything." The controversy arose after AAP Delhi President Saurabh Bharadwaj shared the order, stating schools must submit Nodal Officer details, including name, designation, contact number, and email. The notice reportedly covered government, aided, and unaided recognised schools, as well as sports complexes. Kejriwal accused the BJP



of prioritising absurd tasks over education and glorified AAP's past tenure in Delhi, highlighting teacher training, school improvements, and focus on children's education. He said the order reflects BJP's disregard for educational institutions. However, Delhi government officials quickly dismissed the reports as "fake news," clarifying that no edu-

cational institution was asked to conduct a stray dog census. The notice, issued by the Caretaking Branch of the Delhi Directorate of Education, referred to the Supreme Court's November 7, 2025 order and a follow-up November 20 meeting focused on public safety measures. Schools and other institutions were only required to provide relevant data by November 26, 2025, for compliance with the SC directions, not to mon-

itor stray dogs. The government emphasised that the directive aimed at public safety and top-priority compliance with court instructions, and any claims linking it to counting stray dogs were misleading. Officials noted the clarification was issued to remove confusion caused by misinterpretation of the circular, ensuring accurate understanding among the public and institutions.

QUICK READ

BLF Claims Killing Soldiers In Balochistan Attacks

Balochistan
The Balochistan Liberation Front on Monday claimed that its fighters killed ten Pakistani soldiers in a series of attacks across the province. In a statement, the group said an army convoy was ambushed in Awaran district on December 28, killing eight personnel. It also reported attacks on military camps in Barkhan, Tump and Turbat using grenades and heavy weapons. Pakistani authorities have not confirmed the claims. The group said the actions were part of its ongoing armed campaign.

Torkham Border Closure Hits Workers' Livelihood Hard



Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
The continued closure of the Torkham border has pushed daily-wage workers and porters into serious financial trouble. Many have lost their part-time jobs and are struggling to meet basic needs. Some workers are migrating to Punjab and Sindh in search of work, while others are borrowing money from relatives. Several families have stopped sending children to school. A few jobless workers are reportedly turning to drugs to deal with stress. One young porter said poverty forced him to quit studies and face sleepless nights.

HRCP Raises Alarm Over Baloch Women Disappearances

QUETTA

The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) on Tuesday expressed serious concern over the increasing arbitrary detentions and enforced disappearances of Baloch women and girls. The rights body highlighted cases showing how due process is routinely bypassed, causing distress to affected families.

HRCP reported that University of Peshawar students Habib Wazir and Adnan Wazir went missing on November 12 after attending a government-convened jirga. Former lawmaker Nisar Panhwar and his son Mohsin Panhwar were allegedly taken by plainclothes men in Karachi on December 22. The commission also noted a rise in disappearances involving women, minors, and activists such as

South Korean President Lee Plans State Visit To China

Talks will stress economic cooperation, regional stability, North Korea dialogue, events in Shanghai, business meetings, and new agreements

SEOUL

South Korea prepares for a key diplomatic visit aimed at strengthening ties and easing regional challenges.

South Korean President Lee Jae Myung will make a state visit to China early next week for summit talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping, officials said on Tuesday. Lee will leave for Beijing on Sunday and hold talks with Xi, before travelling to Shanghai on Tuesday and returning home on Wednesday. This will be Lee's first visit to China since taking office in June and the first such state visit by a South Korean president since 2017.



The meeting will be the second between the two leaders in two months, following their first talks held on the sidelines of the APEC summit in Gyeongju on November 1. The talks are expected to help fully restore the strategic cooperative partnership between



Seoul and Beijing. Officials said the leaders will focus on steps that bring clear benefits to people in both countries. These include cooperation on supply chains, investment, the digital economy and joint responses to cross border crime. The visit

also comes as Seoul seeks stable relations with China, its biggest trading partner and a key supporter of North Korea.

South Korea has asked China to play a constructive role in creating conditions for renewed dialogue with Pyongyang. Beijing has repeated its support for peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula.

While in Shanghai, Lee will attend events marking the 150th birth anniversary of independence leader Kim Gu and the 100th anniversary of the Provisional Government of Korea, formed during Japanese rule. Lee will attend business meetings, and cooperation agreements are expected during the visit.

Quad envoys met in Beijing to stress unity as tensions rose amid major Chinese military drills

Quad Envoys Reaffirm Indo Pacific Unity Amid China Drills

BEIJING

US Ambassador to China David Perdue on Tuesday reaffirmed the Quad's role in keeping the Indo Pacific free and open during talks with fellow Quad ambassadors. He said the United States Australia India Japan partnership remained strong and committed to regional stability and security. Perdue described the grouping as a force for good working to uphold a rules based regional order.

The remarks came as China began large joint military exercises around Taiwan and parts of the South China Sea. Chinese media said the drills

involved ground air naval and missile units under the Eastern Theatre Command. The exercise includes patrols simulated strikes port blockades and deterrence operations to test joint combat ability. China says the move defends its sovereignty while critics see it as pressure on Taiwan.

The drills follow recent United States approval of major arms sales to Taiwan valued at about eleven billion dollars.

Taiwan strongly condemned the exercises calling them irrational provocations that threaten regional peace. Its defence ministry said forces were placed on high alert

and rapid response drills were launched. Senior officers said clear rules of engagement were in place to manage any escalation responsibly.

Taiwan later reported increased Chinese aircraft and vessels operating near the island during the exercise period. Officials said dozens of sorties crossed the median line as monitoring and joint sea air patrols continued. Quad diplomats said dialogue cooperation and restraint remain vital to prevent conflict and keep the wider Indo Pacific stable amid growing rivalry and uncertainty across the region in coming months.

World Leaders Mourn Former Bangladesh PM Khaleda Zia

DHAKA

Global leaders on Tuesday expressed grief over the death of former Bangladesh Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, remembering her as a major democratic figure who shaped national politics for decades.

Condolences poured in from across South Asia and beyond, highlighting her role as the country's first woman prime minister and longtime chairperson of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party.

Nepal interim prime minister Sushila Karki said she was deeply saddened and conveyed sympathy to Zia's family and the people of Bangladesh. She praised Zia's lifelong public service and called her a close friend of Nepal who helped strengthen bilateral ties.

Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu also offered condolences, saying Bangladesh had lost a historic leader during a moment of immense sorrow. He wished strength and patience for Zia's family and supporters.

Khaleda Zia died early Tuesday at age eighty while receiving treatment at a private hospital in Dhaka. The



BNP said she passed away around six am after morning prayers. She had been admitted with a lung infection and suffered for years from heart disease, diabetes, arthritis, liver illness and kidney problems.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said he was deeply saddened and extended condolences to the people of Bangladesh.

Bangladeshi leaders said her death was a major loss to democratic forces, adding that her long struggle against hardship would inspire future generations to continue the fight for democracy and accountable governance nationwide. Her legacy remains central to Bangladesh's political history, shaping debates on democracy, leadership, resilience, rights, opposition, reform, elections, pluralism, and freedom.

CIA Conducts Drone Strike On Venezuelan Dock Facility

WASHINGTON

The CIA carried out a drone strike earlier this month on a dock along Venezuela's coast, targeting a facility allegedly used by drug traffickers, US media reported Monday. The operation marked the first known land strike inside Venezuela under the Trump administration.

The dock was used by Venezuelan gangs to store drugs and load them onto boats for shipment. At the time of the strike, no one was at the site, and there were no casualties.

President Donald Trump confirmed the strike, describing it as a "major explosion" at the dock area. He said the site was critical for drug operations and claimed it had been effectively disabled. Trump did not specify whether the Pentagon or another US agency carried out the strike. Venezuela's government has yet to comment.

The strike follows months of increased US military activity near Venezuela in the Caribbean, as part of an anti-narcotics campaign.



Ukraine Rejects Russia Claim Of Putin Attack

KYIV

Ukraine's Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha on Tuesday rejected Russia's claim of a drone attack on President Vladimir Putin's residence, calling the allegation false and unsupported by evidence. Writing on X, he said nearly a day had passed since the accusation, yet Moscow had offered no proof and would not be able to do so. Sybiha said Russia often spreads disinformation and reminded the world that similar denials were made before the 2022 invasion of Ukraine. He criticised countries that voiced concern over the alleged attack, including Pakistan, noting they stayed silent when a Russian missile hit a Ukrainian government building on September 7, 2025. According to Sybiha, reacting to unverified claims only strengthens Russian propaganda and encourages further aggression.

He urged the international community to act responsibly and avoid responding to baseless accusations, saying such reactions harm recent diplomatic efforts. His comments followed Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov's statement that Ukraine launched drones at Putin's

Ukraine dismisses Russia's alleged drone attack claim, warning that unverified accusations risk fueling propaganda and damaging fragile diplomatic efforts toward peace

Novgorod residence on December 29. Russia claimed 91 drones were intercepted with no casualties or damage reported. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy also dismissed the allegation, calling it a fabrication aimed at justifying more Russian strikes. He said Ukraine would not undermine diplomacy and accused Moscow of using false claims to block peace. The remarks came shortly after US President Donald Trump hosted Zelenskyy in Florida to continue talks to end the long running war. Kyiv said responsible behaviour and careful verification remain essential as diplomatic efforts show cautious progress despite continued fighting and political tensions across the region and beyond. Officials warned misinformation could derail talks if left unchecked by global partners and allies worldwide.

Zelenskyy Awards Housing To Heroes And Families Ukraine



KYIV

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Tuesday presented housing certificates to members of the country's Security and Defense Forces who were awarded the title "Hero of Ukraine," as well as to the families of fallen heroes, in recognition of their service and sacrifices.

In a post on X, Zelenskyy said Ukraine's strength comes from the courage of its people, who have endured hardship, preserved their identity, and defended their homeland against foreign aggressors. He emphasized that providing homes to heroes and their families is a small but important gesture of gratitude for their dedication.

"The Ukrainian home will always remain on the political map of the world. Every Ukrainian hero deserves a home of their own," Zelenskyy said. "This is the very least the state can do to say thank you for your service, for your loved ones, and for

choosing Ukraine."

The ceremony comes amid heightened tensions with Russia. Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov claimed that Kyiv launched a drone attack on President Putin's residence in Novgorod on December 29. According to Lavrov, all 91 drones were intercepted without casualties or damage, and Moscow has decided on retaliatory measures.

Zelenskyy strongly rejected the claim, calling it a fabrication intended to undermine diplomacy. He stressed that Ukraine remains committed to peace talks and is working with the United States to continue diplomatic efforts, following a meeting between Zelenskyy and US President Donald Trump at Mar-a-Lago.

By awarding housing certificates, Zelenskyy highlighted the state's support for its defenders, reaffirming the commitment to recognize the bravery and sacrifices of Ukraine's military personnel and their families during ongoing conflict.

SU DO KU

Brain-Bender: Can You Solve It?

2	4		1		5	7
	3		4		8	2
	7	8	5	2		9
3	7		8	9		5
	8		7	5	1	3
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	2		7	9	8	
	6		4		5	1
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4	8	1	9	2	3	6	5	7
9	2	7	8	5	6	1	3	4
5	3	6	1	4	7	8	2	9
1	9	3	5	6	8	4	7	2
8	5	6	7	1	2	3	9	6
7	6	2	3	9	4	5	8	1
6	1	8	2	3	9	7	4	5
2	7	5	4	8	1	9	6	3
3	4	9	6	7	5	2	1	8

Fill a 9x9 grid with numbers so that each row, column and 3x3 section contain all of the digits between 1 and 9.



ASEAN STABILITY

ASEAN Strengthened Regional Stability Despite 2025 Challenges

KUALA LUMPUR

Regional stability in Southeast Asia was strengthened in 2025, despite serious challenges, Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim said on Monday. He said the Association of Southeast Asian Nations continued to unite members and partners, bridge differences, and keep dialogue alive during a year marked by global anxiety and uncertainty.

Malaysia took over the

ASEAN chairmanship at a difficult time, Anwar said, adding that the bloc stayed committed to togetherness, mutual respect, and peaceful discussion. He noted that ASEAN remained an important platform for cooperation and consensus building. Malaysia formally handed over the chair to the Philippines for 2026, marking the fifth time Malaysia led the grouping since ASEAN was formed in 1967.

Anwar also referred to a



special meeting of ASEAN foreign ministers held in Kuala Lumpur on December 22. The meeting focused on

renewed tensions between Cambodia and Thailand. Ministers urged both sides to show restraint and stop all hostilities. They expressed concern over civilian deaths, damage to homes, and the displacement of people along the border.

ASEAN members called on both countries to allow civilians to return safely to their homes and livelihoods. They urged dialogue, trust building, and de escalation, including humanitarian coop-

eration and respect for international law. Malaysia briefed members on efforts made by Anwar to encourage peace, while Cambodia and Thailand shared their positions. ASEAN reaffirmed unity, centrality, and its role in maintaining regional peace, security, stability, and shared prosperity for Southeast Asia through continued diplomacy, patience, cooperation, dialogue, engagement, restraint, understanding, trust, balance, respect.

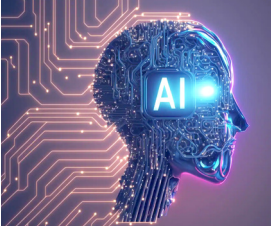
QUICK READ

Meta snaps up Singapore startup Manus

Chennai

Meta Platforms has acquired Singapore-based artificial intelligence startup Manus, reinforcing its aggressive push to expand capabilities in general-purpose AI systems amid rising global competition. While financial details were not disclosed, the deal is expected to bolster Meta's expertise in autonomous AI agents that can reason, plan and execute complex tasks across applications. Manus is known for building versatile AI agents with broad enterprise and consumer use cases. The acquisition aligns with CEO Mark Zuckerberg's strategy of making AI a core driver of long-term growth, alongside heavy investments in large language models, data centres and custom AI chips.

Govt releases white paper on democratising access to AI infrastructure



New Delhi

The Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) to the Government on Tuesday released a white paper on democratising access to Artificial Intelligence (AI) infrastructure. The white paper defines democratising access to AI infrastructure as making the AI infrastructure - compute, datasets, and model ecosystem available and affordable, such that it reaches a wide set of users. It refers to empowering a wide set of users to engage with and benefit from AI capabilities. When compute, datasets, and model tooling are broadly available, individuals and institutions expand what they can do, like aiming to design local language tools and adapt assistive technologies.

Mukesh Ambani unveils AI manifesto, aims 10x boost

NEW DELHI

Reliance Industries chairman Mukesh Ambani on Tuesday unveiled a draft Reliance AI Manifesto, outlining plans to transform the conglomerate into an AI-native deep-tech enterprise. The initiative aims to achieve a 10-fold productivity increase for over 6 lakh employees and a similar impact on India's economy and society.

Ambani described AI as "the most consequential technological development in human history" and said Reliance seeks to deliver 'Affordable AI for every Indian', embedding AI across its businesses while ensuring safety, trust, and accountability. The manifesto emphasises workflow transfor-

India's Russian crude imports dip in Dec, trade remains structurally intact

NEW DELHI

India's imports of Russian crude oil are set to fall to around 1.2 million barrels per day (bpd) in December, down from 1.84 million bpd in November, according to real-time data from Kpler. Analysts say the decline is due to US sanctions on Rosneft and Lukoil and temporary supply disruptions, rather than a structural shift in sourcing. Indian refiners continue to buy from non-sanctioned Russian entities, rerouting shipments through intermediaries to maintain supplies. While Rus-



Reforms 2025 Mark Shift to Outcome-Based Governance

Sweeping economic reforms in 2025 signal outcome-focused governance, easing compliance, empowering taxpayers, and strengthening India

NEW DELHI

The economic reforms undertaken by the government in 2025 represent a decisive move towards outcome-based governance, aimed at reducing friction for citizens and businesses while improving transparency, efficiency, and accountability. According to an official statement issued on Tuesday, these measures are designed to lay a strong foundation for sustained and inclusive economic growth, positioning India as a resilient and globally competitive economy.

A central pillar of the reform agenda is the simplification of taxation, particularly

direct taxes. In a major relief for Indian families and individual taxpayers, the Union Budget 2025-26 introduced significant changes to the income-tax structure. Under the new tax regime, annual income up to ₹12 lakh has been exempted from income tax, while salaried taxpayers effectively enjoy an exemption up to ₹12.75 lakh due to the standard deduction. This landmark decision has reaffirmed the government's commitment to the middle class, leaving millions of households with higher disposable incomes. The increased financial headroom is expected to boost consumption, encour-

age savings, and stimulate investment across sectors.

Further strengthening the tax framework, the government announced a comprehensive overhaul of the Income-tax Act, 1961 in July 2024, culminating in the New Income Tax Act, 2025. This reform seeks to simplify legal language, remove outdated provisions, and consolidate and restructure the law to make compliance easier and more transparent. The new Act promotes a digital-first enforcement system and expands faceless tax administration, reducing personal interface and discretion. It also consolidates compliance-re-

lated provisions such as Tax Deducted at Source under a single section, empowers the government to roll out technology-enabled schemes, and enhances dispute-resolution mechanisms to ensure quicker and fairer outcomes.

Beyond taxation, labour reforms form another cornerstone of the 2025 economic agenda. In a landmark move, 29 existing labour laws have been consolidated into four comprehensive Labour Codes: the Code on Wages, the Industrial Relations Code, the Code on Social Security, and the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code.

India's real estate sector saw robust investor confidence as capital market deals surged in the first nine months

Indian Real Estate Raises ₹17,867 Crore in FY26 So Far

MUMBAI

The Indian real estate sector has recorded a strong surge in capital market activity during the first nine months of FY26, with 11 deals raising a total of ₹17,867 crore, according to a report released on Tuesday by Equirus Capital. The report highlights that the number of deals already matches the total transactions completed during the entire FY25, indicating sustained investor confidence and a potentially record-breaking year for the sector.

With three months still remaining in the financial year, both the total amount raised and the number of deals are expected to surpass previous highs, making FY26 the most active year for real estate capital market transactions in the last six years. Since FY18, the

sector has cumulatively raised ₹72,331 crore through capital markets, underscoring the growing depth and maturity of India's real estate investment landscape.

Among various segments, Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) have emerged as the largest beneficiaries, accounting for ₹31,241 crore of total fund-raising since FY18. Large-cap real estate companies followed with ₹20,437 crore, while mid-cap firms raised ₹12,496 crore and small-cap companies garnered ₹8,156 crore. This diversified fund flow reflects broad-based confidence across the real estate value chain, from institutional-grade commercial assets to residential developers.

The report noted that India's real estate growth story remains firmly supported by

strong macroeconomic fundamentals, rising consumption, and sustained urban development. Recent trends suggest that the current up-cycle in real estate is likely to continue in the near to medium term, driven by improved affordability, stable interest rates, and rising investment interest.

Home loan rates and rental yields have remained largely steady since the post-COVID period beginning FY21, offering relief to both homebuyers and investors. According to the report, the gap between home loan interest rates and rental yields is expected to narrow to below 500 basis points in FY26, improving the attractiveness of residential investments. Housing affordability has also improved significantly across India over the past three decades.

About 50 pc of 2025 listings below issue price

MUMBAI

After a year packed with non-stop IPO launches and record-breaking fundraising, India's primary market is now showing signs of a reality check. While 2025 will go down as one of the most active years for initial public offerings, the performance of many newly listed stocks has failed to live up to the excitement seen on listing day.

Data shows that nearly half of the companies that went public this year are now trading below their issue prices.

This sharp contrast between strong listing-day gains and

weak long-term performance has raised fresh questions over IPO valuations and investor expectations.

Over the past 12 months, as many as 344 companies entered the stock market and together raised more than Rs 1.75 lakh crore. Out of 103 companies that debuted on the exchanges in 2025, a majority of 69 stocks listed above their IPO prices, while 33 opened below their issue levels.

However, this early enthusiasm did not last for many stocks. At present, only 54 IPO stocks are trading above their issue prices, while 47 have slipped below, showing

how uneven post-listing performance has been despite a blockbuster year for fundraising.

The worst-performing IPOs of the year were mostly from smaller issues, particularly those with issue sizes below Rs 1,000 crore.

Shares of Glottis have fallen 52 per cent from their issue price of Rs 129. Gem Aromatics is down 48 per cent, while VMS TMT has declined 46 per cent from its IPO level.

BMW Ventures has strengthened the country's position in the global Intellectual Property (IP) landscape, promoting innovation-led growth that benefits not just

INDIAAI MISSION GROWTH

IndiaAI Mission Positions India at the Forefront

NEW DELHI

India is poised at the threshold of a new technological era powered by Artificial Intelligence (AI), with the government committing more than ₹10,300 crore over five years under the ambitious IndiaAI Mission. Announced on Tuesday, the mission includes the deployment of nearly 38,000 Graphics Processing Units (GPUs), significantly strengthening the country's computing infrastructure and reinforcing India's ambition to emerge as a global AI powerhouse.

According to an official statement, the IndiaAI Mission is designed to create a



comprehensive and inclusive AI ecosystem by expanding high-performance computing capacity, fostering the development of homegrown foundational AI models, and supporting startups and entrepreneurs. The initiative aims to ensure that AI-driven innovation directly benefits citizens

while accelerating research, skill development, and enterprise growth across sectors.

AI applications are already making a tangible impact in critical areas such as agriculture, healthcare, education, and governance. From precision farming and disease diagnosis to adaptive learning platforms

TN Emerges as Best-Performing State: Dy CM

CHENNAI

Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin on Tuesday said that Tamil Nadu has emerged as the best-performing state in the country, registering an impressive economic growth rate of 11.19 per cent. He attributed this achievement to the inclusive and people-centric Dravidian model of governance, which, he said, has placed social justice, welfare, and balanced development at the core of policymaking.

Speaking after inaugurating a state-of-the-art hockey stadium constructed at a cost of ₹9.67 crore in Coimbatore, Udhayanidhi Stalin noted that Tamil Nadu's growth story has drawn national attention. He emphasised that the economic progress achieved by the state was not incidental, but the result of sustained policy initiatives and governance practices that focus on inclusivity and long-term development. According to him, the Dravidian model ensures that economic expansion goes hand in hand with social equity.



Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin said Tamil Nadu leads national growth charts, crediting inclusive, people-centric Dravidian governance

During the visit, the Deputy Chief Minister also inaugurated an elephant camp and unveiled a series of modernisation initiatives for the Forest Department, aimed at strengthening wildlife conservation, improving animal welfare, and enhancing infrastructure for frontline forest staff. He further laid foundation stones for several new development projects, inaugurated completed works, and distributed welfare assistance to beneficiaries, underlining the government's commitment to holistic development.

Recalling the legacy of former Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi, Udhayanidhi Stalin said that both he and Chief Minister M. K. Stalin have always accorded special

importance to the development of Coimbatore. He quoted the Chief Minister as insisting that government schemes must reach every section of society, irrespective of political affiliations. Our governance model is designed not only to benefit those who voted for us, but to ensure that even those who did not support us experience the impact of inclusive development, he said.

Highlighting the government's focus on women's empowerment, the Deputy Chief Minister referred to flagship initiatives such as the Vidiyal Payanam scheme providing free bus travel for women, the Pudhumai Penn scheme encouraging girls' education, and the Kalaaignar Magalir Urimai Thogai scheme offering monthly financial assistance to women heads of families. These initiatives, he said, have strengthened women's participation in education, employment, and public life. He also announced that the government would soon distribute 10 lakh laptops to college students across Tamil Nadu, reinforcing its commitment to education, digital empowerment, and skill development.

‘Over 5.5 lakh trade marks registered in India in 2024-25’

NEW DELHI

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Tuesday that a record number of over 5.5 lakh domestic filings for trade marks were made in India during 2024-25, reflecting the strength of the country's institutions in safeguarding the interests of innovators and creators who play an important role in boosting economic growth.

Citing PM Modi's mantra of Ideate in India, Innovate in India, Make in India & Make for the World, the minister highlighted that the Trade Marks Act, 1999, has been a key pillar in protecting the interests of innovators for the last 26 years.

Along with that, the Narendra Modi Government's sincere efforts to foster the innovation ecosystem have strengthened the country's position in the global Intellectual Property (IP) landscape, promoting innovation-led growth that benefits not just

India, but the world, he observed.

Goyal further stated that the highest number of trade marks registered were in pharmaceuticals, veterinary, and sanitary preparations.

Policy reform, digitisation, and initiatives contributing to India's growing global standing in the IP ecosystem

The Trade Marks Act is a piece of legislation that safeguards the intellectual properties of businesses against infringement. It enables businesses to protect their brand while at the same time allowing and promoting fair competition in the market. The Act has been reviewed several times to take into account various changes in the global business ecosystem and the demands of modern businesses.

As businesses expand globally, the protection of trade marks becomes more significant, and the Act adequately takes into account this aspect of trade marks as well to ensure fair protection to firms.

Year End Review – 2025

Major Achievements of Karnataka's Congress Government in 2025



The year 2025 has been a landmark period for the Congress-led Karnataka government under Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar. From strengthening welfare programs to driving massive industrial investments and implementing groundbreaking governance reforms, the state has witnessed transformative progress across multiple sectors. This comprehensive review examines the major milestones achieved by the Karnataka government throughout 2025.

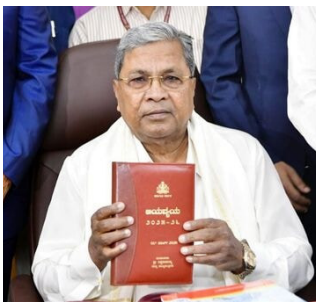
Budget 2025-26: A Record ₹4.09 Lakh Crore Outlay

The Karnataka government presented an ambitious budget for fiscal year 2025-26 with a total estimated receipt of ₹4,08,647 crore, marking a significant increase from the previous year's ₹3,58,657 crore. This budget reflects the state's commitment to balanced development across six key dimensions: welfare programs, agriculture and rural development, urban development, investment and job creation, and governance reforms. The state's economy has demonstrated remarkable resilience and growth, with Karnataka contributing 8.4 percent to India's GDP. The state economy is projected to grow at 7.4 percent in 2024-25, surpassing the national growth rate of 6.4 percent. This strong economic performance has enabled the government to maintain fiscal discipline while pursuing ambitious development programs.

Five Guarantee Schemes: Continuing the Social Revolution

Record Allocation and Impact

One of the most significant achievements of 2025 has been the successful continuation and expansion of the Five Guarantee Schemes, with a record allocation of ₹51,034 crore in the 2025-26 budget. As of August 2025, the government had disbursed a staggering ₹95,450 crore across all five schemes, directly benefiting millions of Karnataka residents.



The allocation of ₹233 crore per assembly constituency under these schemes has strengthened public trust in the administration. The government has maintained fiscal discipline by adhering to the fiscal deficit norm of 3 percent of GSDP and maintaining a debt-to-GSDP ratio of 25 percent over the past two budgets.

SHAKTI SCHEME: Empowering Women's Mobility

The Shakti scheme, offering free bus travel to women across Karnataka in non-AC, non-premium buses, has been a transformative success. In the 2024-25 fiscal year, 226.53 crore women passengers benefited from this scheme, with the government spending ₹5,015 crore. For 2025-26, the allocation has been increased to ₹5,300 crore.

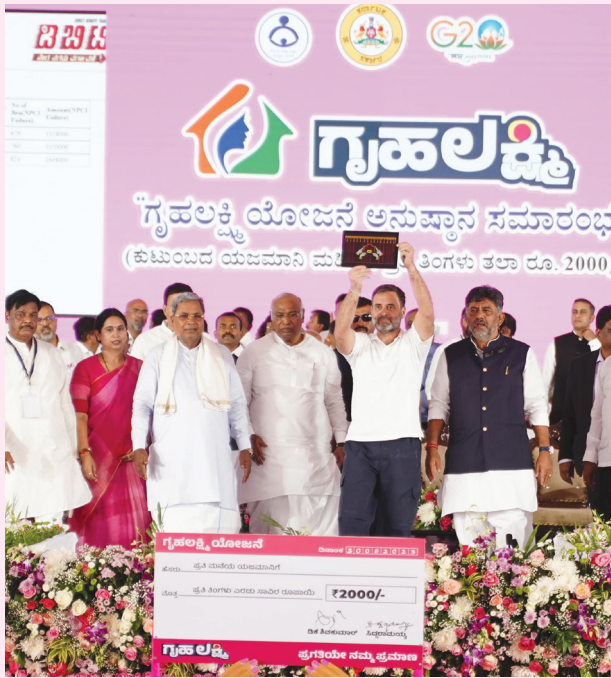


According to an independent study released in October 2025, the Shakti scheme has charted a new course for women's empowerment. Nineteen percent of women beneficiaries in the state have either secured better-paying jobs or found new employment opportunities thanks to free bus travel. The scheme has significantly increased women's mobility and participation in the workforce.

Gruha Lakshmi: Financial Independence for Women

The Gruha Lakshmi scheme provides ₹2,000 per month to women heads of households, aimed at enhancing financial independence. In 2024-25, 1.22 crore women received financial assistance under this scheme at a cost of ₹28,608 crore to the exchequer. By August 2025, the

government had disbursed ₹49,080 crore under this scheme alone. The government has announced initiatives to integrate these beneficiaries into self-help groups under the Akka Cooperative Society, improving their access to financial resources and entrepreneurship opportunities.



Gruha Jyoti: Powering Homes for Free

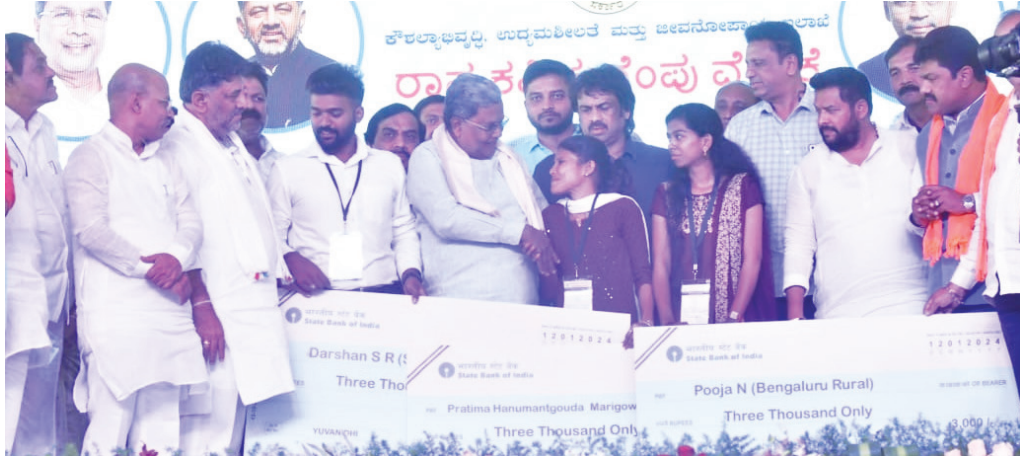
The Gruha Jyoti scheme provides free electricity up to 200 units to eligible households, alleviating financial pressure on low-income families. As of August 2025, the government had spent ₹21,213 crore on this scheme. The independent study revealed that 72 percent of women beneficiaries' households have increased electricity usage, with 43 percent of families purchasing new household appliances, thereby raising their standard of living.



Yuva Nidhi: Supporting Unemployed Youth

The Yuva Nidhi scheme provides unemployment allowances to graduates (₹3,000 per month) and diploma holders (₹1,500 per month). In 2024-25, 2.58 lakh youths registered for the scheme, receiving a total of ₹286 crore through Direct Benefit Transfer. By August 2025, ₹520 crore had been disbursed under this scheme. As of January 2025, there were over

1.74 lakh beneficiaries. Beyond financial assistance, the government has linked the scheme with the Industry Linkage Cell to provide skill training, enhancing job prospects for Karnataka's youth. According to the independent study, 42 percent of beneficiaries reported using the allowance for skill development and job searches, helping them move towards self-reliance.



ANNA BHAGYA: Ensuring Food Security

Under the Anna Bhagya scheme, the government provides 10 kg of free rice per person per month to beneficiaries holding Antyodaya or Priority Household ration cards. The scheme currently benefits 4.21 crore people. By August 2025, ₹14,655 crore had been disbursed under this program.

The government has implemented advanced technology-driven measures including CCTV surveillance in warehouses, GPS-based vehicle tracking, and a Command Control Centre to ensure efficient distribution and reduce fraud. According to the October 2025 study, 91 percent of families have been able to save on foodgrain expenses and redirect that money towards purchasing more nutritious items such as vegetables and milk.



Transparent Implementation

The government has demonstrated its commitment to transparency and efficiency through technology-driven governance measures. Over ₹1 lakh crore has already been directly transferred to beneficiaries' bank accounts, eliminating intermediaries and ensuring that benefits reach the intended recipients without leakage.

Historic Supreme Court Victory on Mokedatu Project

One of the most significant achievements of 2025 was the Supreme Court victory regarding the Mokedatu Balancing Reservoir project. In November 2025, the Supreme Court dismissed Tamil Nadu's plea against the construction of the Mokedatu dam on the Cauvery River, terming it premature.

THE VERDICT

A bench comprising Chief Justice of India BR Gavai, Justices K Vinod Chandran, and Justice NV Anjaria ruled that the preparation of the Detailed Project Report (DPR) could proceed after considering Tamil Nadu's objections and the opinions of expert bodies including the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee (CWRC) and the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA).



The court emphasized that Karnataka is bound to release the stipulated 177 TMC water to Tamil Nadu annually and that failure to comply would constitute contempt of court. However, the court also held that no state has the right to interfere with another state's decision regarding the management and use of water allotted to it unless such action reduces the water allocated to that state.

Project Acceleration

Following the Supreme Court's decision, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar announced immediate steps to accelerate the project.

The Karnataka government formed a team led by KERS Director K.G. Mahesh to expedite construction. A project office has been established in Harobe, with additional offices set to open in Ramanagara. The Mokedatu project aims to address Bengaluru's critical drinking water needs and generate hydroelectric power. Shivakumar described the verdict as a victory for all Cauvery riparian states, emphasizing that the project would benefit Tamil Nadu and Puducherry as much as Karnataka by ensuring reliable water release even during years of inadequate rainfall.

Greater Bengaluru Governance Act: Revolutionary Urban Reform

IMPLEMENTATION OF GBGA

May 2025 marked a watershed moment in Bengaluru's urban governance with the implementation of the Greater Bengaluru Governance Act (GBGA) on May 14, 2025. This landmark legislation replaced the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Act of 2020 and introduced the most radical change in the state capital's governance structure.

RESTRUCTURING THE MEGACITY

The GBGA divides the Greater Bengaluru Area into a maximum of seven city corporations, each with a minimum population of 10 lakh, population density of 5,000 persons per square kilometer, and minimum revenue generation capacity of ₹300 crore per annum. This

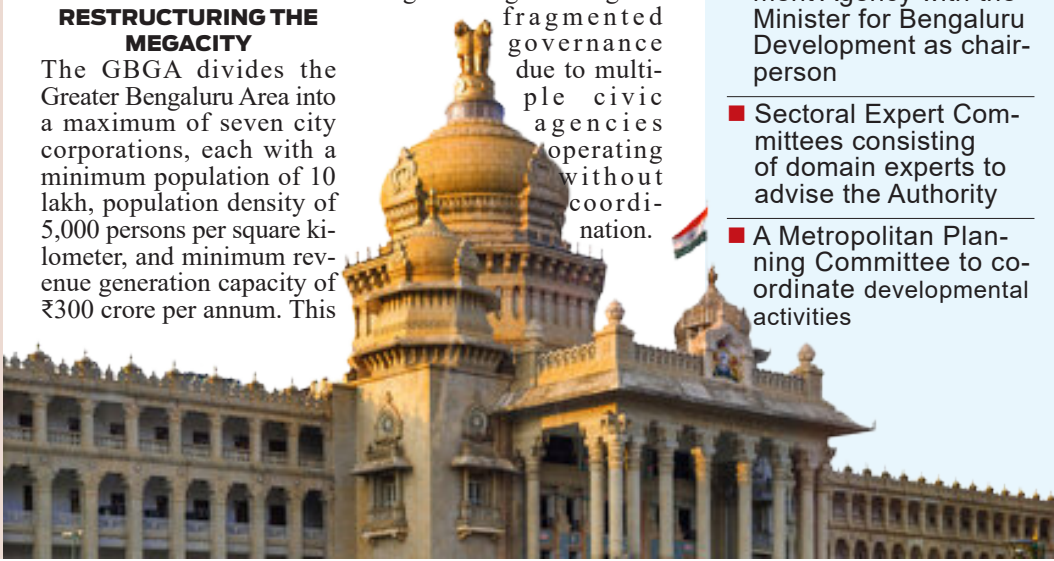
decentralization aims to improve service delivery, enhance efficiency, and ensure responsive governance closer to citizens.

The Act establishes the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) as the apex body, chaired by the Chief Minister, with the Chief Commissioner serving as member secretary. The GBA coordinates among various civic agencies and city corporations, addressing the long-standing challenge of fragmented governance due to multiple agencies operating without coordination.

Specialized Bodies

The GBGA establishes several specialized bodies including:

- A Climate Action Cell headed by the Special Commissioner (Forest, Environment and Climate Change) to implement the Bengaluru Climate Action and Resilience Plan
- An Economic Development Agency with the Minister for Bengaluru Development as chairperson
- Sectoral Expert Committees consisting of domain experts to advise the Authority
- A Metropolitan Planning Committee to coordinate developmental activities





India's Historic Achievements in 2025

As 2025 draws to a close, India stands at a remarkable juncture in its journey as a rising global power. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his final Mann Ki Baat address of the year, described 2025 as a year marked by proud milestones across sectors, from national security and sports to scientific progress and economic resilience. The year witnessed India asserting itself on multiple fronts: executing bold military operations, clinching historic sports victories, achieving technological breakthroughs in space exploration, and maintaining its position as the world's fastest-growing major economy. This comprehensive review captures the defining achievements that made 2025 a watershed year for the nation, alongside significant global milestones that shaped the world.



Strategic Significance and Outcomes

Operation Sindoor represented a paradigm shift in several ways. It established India's willingness to conduct punitive strikes below the nuclear threshold, challenging Pakistan's long-held assumption that its nuclear weapons provided immunity for cross-border terrorism. The operation demonstrated India's technological superiority, with indigenous assets like Cartosat-2C providing precise high-resolution targeting and RISAT enabling all-weather surveillance.

The conflict concluded on May 10, 2025, with a stoppage of firing agreement, but the operation's impact extended far beyond the immediate



military objectives. It showcased the success of India's defense indigenization policies—from air defense systems to drones and count-

er-unmanned aerial systems capabilities. Indigenous technology delivered when it mattered most, validating decades of investment in self-reliance.

OPERATION
SINDOOR

Operation Sindoor: Redefining India's National Security Doctrine

The Genesis: Pahalgam Terror Attack



The year 2025 will be forever etched in India's military history as the year of Operation Sindoor—a military campaign that fundamentally altered the country's counter-terrorism doctrine. The operation was a response to the devastating Pahalgam terror attack on April 22, 2025, in which 26 civilians, including 25 tourists, were brutally killed by

terrorists linked to Pakistan-based militant groups. The attack specifically targeted Hindu men, leaving many widows behind, a fact that resonated deeply with the nation and gave the operation its name. Sindoor refers to the vermilion mark worn by married Hindu women, symbolizing the widows created by this horrific attack.

The Military Response



On May 7, 2025, India launched Operation Sindoor with precision missile and air strikes targeting nine sites across Pakistan-administered Azad Kashmir and Pakistan's Punjab province. The 25-minute precision strike utilized advanced drones and air-launched weapons to target 24 terror launchpads and training camps belonging to Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammed, and Hizbul Mujahideen. What distinguished this operation from previous strikes was its scale, technological sophistication, and strategic messaging. Indian forces executed what became known as the subcontinent's first non-contact war—a technology-driven kinetic opera-

tion involving missiles and drones where neither side physically crossed territorial boundaries.

The operation witnessed the largest aerial engagement in recent times, with more than 125 fighter jets from both sides present at standoff ranges. India's indigenous defense capabilities proved their worth as the operation successfully neutralized immediate threats while demonstrating the country's evolving military doctrine. The strikes also targeted, for the first time, the headquarters of terrorist organizations at Muridke and Bahawalpur deep inside Pakistan—locations previously considered off-limits.



Sports Glory: Historic Triumphs Across Disciplines

Women's Cricket World Cup: Breaking the Final Frontier

If Operation Sindoor defined India's military resolve, the Women's Cricket World Cup victory defined its sporting excellence. On November 2, 2025, the Indian women's cricket team scripted history by winning the ICC Women's ODI World Cup for the first time, defeating South Africa by 52 runs in the final at



Navi Mumbai's DY Patil Stadium. After heartbreaks in 2005 and 2017, Harmanpreet Kaur's side delivered a complete performance that made India the first women's team from Asia to win a global title across formats.

Shafali Verma, who was called back into the squad as injury cover, scored a career-best 87 off 78 balls, while Deepti Sharma's all-round brilliance—scoring 58 runs and claiming 5 wickets for 39 runs—proved decisive. The victory was particularly sweet considering India's precarious position after three consecutive defeats in the league stage against South Africa, Australia, and England. Smriti Mandhana topped the tournament with 434 runs, the most by an Indian batter in a single Women's ODI World Cup.



Men's Cricket: Dual Trophy Success

The men's team complemented the women's historic achievement with their own stellar performances. India won the ICC Champions Trophy in March 2025, remaining undefeated throughout the

tournament in Dubai to secure their third Champions Trophy title. Under Rohit Sharma's captaincy, the team reaffirmed their dominance in white-ball cricket. Later in the year, India also clinched the Asia Cup

T20 title, defeating Pakistan in the final by five wickets their third victory over Pakistan in the tournament, which was marked by political tensions following Operation Sindoor.

Beyond Cricket: Athletic Excellence

India's sporting achievements extended well beyond the cricket field. Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra achieved a landmark feat at the Doha Diamond League by breaching the 90-meter mark with a throw of 90.23 meters, a psychological and physical barrier that had eluded him.

This achievement solidified his status as one of the world's premier javelin throwers. He later hosted the successful Neeraj Chopra Classic in Bengaluru, drawing over 14,000 spectators and demonstrating India's growing capability to host world-class athletic events.

Beyond Cricket: Athletic Excellence

Chess, Shooting, and Paralympic Success



The year saw remarkable achievements across other disciplines. Nineteen-year-old Divya Deshmukh captured the FIDE Women's World Cup title, defeating veteran Koneru Humpy in an all-Indian final—India's first-ever triumph in the tournament. The victory earned her the Grandmaster norm and added another chapter to India's flourishing chess success story. Indian shooters delivered outstanding performances, with Samrat Rana becoming World Champion in men's 10m air pistol at the 2025 World Championships, also contributing to team gold and mixed team silver. He became only the third Indian pistol shooter to achieve this feat.

Para-athletes scripted their own history by clinching 22 medals at the World Para Athletics Championships—India's best-ever medal haul at the event. Indian archers achieved historic results, with Prathamesh Fuge being part of the men's compound team that won India's first-ever gold in the compound category at World Archery Championships. Additional sporting milestones included India's clean sweep at the inaugural Kho Kho World Cup, with both men's and women's teams winning titles, and the women's blind cricket team winning the Women's Blind T20 World Cup—demonstrating the breadth of India's sporting excellence.



Global Context: Major World Events in 2025

Geopolitical Developments



While India achieved remarkable progress, the global landscape remained turbulent. The Ukraine-Russia conflict entered its fourth year with Russia making meager territorial gains despite suffering approximately 1,000 casualties daily. In July, Cambodia and Thailand engaged in their worst border conflict in decades, demonstrating that regional tensions remained high globally. The Middle East saw continued instability, though an Israel-Hamas ceasefire brought temporary relief in January, allowing humanitarian aid into Gaza. However, the situation remained fragile, serving as a reminder of the region's persistent challenges.

Catholic Church Leadership

In a historic development, the Roman Catholic Church selected Cardinal Robert Prevost as Pope Leo XIV in May 2025—the first American pope in the church's 267-pope history. Born and raised in Chicago, his selection marked a significant shift in Catholic leadership.



Shafali, Renuka rise; Deepti stays at No.1 spot in ICC Women's T20I rankings

Indian stars surge upward in latest ICC update after dominant Sri Lanka series show

DUBAI

India opener Shafali Verma and pacer Renuka Singh Thakur made significant gains in the latest ICC Women's T20I Player Rankings, while seasoned all-rounder Deepti Sharma continued her reign at the top of the bowling chart following India's commanding performance against Sri Lanka.

Swashbuckling batter Shafali climbed four places to sixth position after a series of impactful knocks in the ongoing five-match T20I series. The 21-year-old, who was once the world's top-ranked batter in the format, returned to prime form with scores of

69 not out off 34 balls in the second T20I, followed by consecutive unbeaten 79s in the third and fourth matches in Thiruvananthapuram. Her fearless stroke-play at the top has been a key factor in India racing to a 4-0 lead in the series.

Vice-captain Smriti Mandhana retained her third position among batters after ending a brief lean patch with a fluent 80 in the fourth

T20I. Jemimah Rodrigues, however, slipped one place to 10th despite consistent contributions through the series.

In the bowling rankings, Deepti Sharma continued to hold firm at the No.1 spot, underlining her consistency and value as a front-line spinner. She was joined in the top 10 by Renuka Singh Thakur, who jumped eight places to joint sixth. Renuka's rise came on the back of a match-winning spell of four for 21 in the third

T20I, which sealed the series for India.

India's spin depth was further reflected in the rise of left-arm spinners Shree Charani and Vaishnavi Sharma. Charani moved up 17 places to 52nd, while Vaishnavi made a remarkable leap of 390 places to 124th in her debut international series.

For Sri Lanka, opener Hasini Perera advanced 114 places to 71st among batters, while all-rounder Kavisha Dilhari climbed three spots to 79th. The rankings gains come as teams fine-tune combinations ahead of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026 in England and Wales.

Arjun Erigaisi shocks Carlsen as Indians deliver mixed results in Doha



World Blitz: Erigaisi stuns Carlsen to emerge joint leader on day one

DOHA

Indian Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi produced a sensational performance to stun world No.1 Magnus Carlsen and finish day one of the World Blitz Championships as joint leader, while Indian women players Koneru Humpy and Divya Deshmukh slipped down the standings in the blitz section.

Erigaisi showcased nerves of steel and fine endgame technique to outlast Carlsen in a dramatic Round 9 encounter. The Indian prevailed in a tense finish with just nine seconds on his clock against Carlsen's three, triggering visible frustration from the Norwegian, who slammed the table after losing on time. At one point, Carlsen even fumbled his queen as it slipped off the board, costing him precious seconds and the game.

Riding on that morale-boosting victory, Erigaisi

went on to defeat Uzbek Grandmaster Nodirbek Abdusattorov and drew three other games to end the day on 10 points from 13 rounds. He was tied at the top with France's Maxime Vachier-Lagrave and American Fabiano Caruana, emerging as one of the strongest contenders for the title.

The leaders were closely followed by six players on 9.5 points, while reigning co-champions Carlsen and Ian Nepomniachtchi finished the day with 9/13. Carlsen, chasing a ninth World Blitz title after winning his sixth Rapid crown on Sunday, also suffered a second setback against Caruana after overlooking a rook. Dutchman Jorden van Foreest briefly surged ahead as sole leader midway through the day after beating elite players including Erigaisi, handing the Indian his only loss. However, van Foreest faltered later and ended on 8/13.

IOA to Host National Athletes' Forum in Ahmedabad on January 10



NEW DELHI

The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) will organise the country's first-ever National Athletes' Forum in Ahmedabad on January 10, marking a major step towards athlete-led governance in Indian sport. The forum will bring together current and former athletes, athlete representatives and key stakeholders for focused discussions on strengthening accountability and transparency.

According to the IOA, the forum will address crucial issues such as athlete rights and responsibilities, ethical governance, safe sport and integrity, mental health and well-being,

anti-doping education, grievance redressal mechanisms and structured career transition pathways. The aim is to convert athlete feedback into concrete and actionable reforms.

IOA president P.T. Usha said the initiative signals a decisive shift towards athlete-centred decision-making, emphasising that athlete voices can no longer remain peripheral. Athletes' Commission chair M.C. Mary Kom said the forum provides a credible platform for athletes to directly influence governance and reform. The IOA will also hold its Annual General Meeting in Ahmedabad on January 9.

T20 WC: Archer named in England's provisional squad despite nursing injury

LONDON

Injury-prone fast bowler Jofra Archer was on Tuesday named in England's provisional 15-member squad for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup, to be held in India and Sri Lanka in February, despite continuing his recovery from a left side strain sustained during the third Ashes Test in Adelaide earlier this month.

The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) confirmed that Archer will miss England's white-ball tour of Sri Lanka beginning January 22, which includes three ODIs and three T20Is, as he continues rehabilitation under medical supervision. The injury had already ruled him out of the fourth Ashes Test in Melbourne, which England won inside two days.

"Archer is included in the provisional T20 World Cup squad but will miss the tour of Sri Lanka as he continues his rehabilitation," the ECB said in a statement. England will be hoping the express pacer regains full fitness in time for the global event, given his proven impact in major tournaments.

England's squad will be captained by Harry Brook, with another pace option in Joshua Tongue earning a spot despite being uncapped in limited-overs internationals. Tongue, who has featured in just two Ashes Tests so far, impressed with 12 wickets at 18.58 and was the leading wicket-taker in this year's Men's Hundred with 14 scalps.

Archer was among England's standout performers in the Ashes before injury struck. He claimed nine wickets at an average of 27.11, including a five-wicket haul in Adelaide, and also registered his maiden Test half-century in the same match.

England will open their T20 World Cup campaign against Nepal in Mumbai on February 8, followed by fixtures against the West Indies (February 11, Mumbai), Bangladesh (February 14, Kolkata) and Italy (February 16, Kolkata).

Batting all-rounder Will Jacks returned to both squads after missing the New Zealand white-ball tour, while seamer Brydon Carse and batter Zak Crawley were recalled

for the Sri Lanka tour. However, Jamie Smith, Jordan Cox and Saqib Mahmood were omitted from the provisional World Cup squad.

The provisional selection underlines England's intent to balance experience with emerging talent as they build toward the T20 showcase.



AFCON: Host Morocco and SA join Egypt in knockout stage as Salah gets a rest

RABAT

Host nation Morocco and South Africa sealed their places in the Africa Cup of Nations knockout stage, while Egypt rested star forward Mohamed Salah with qualification already secured.

Morocco confirmed progression with an emphatic 3-0 victory over Zambia to top Group A, keeping alive hopes of playing all their knockout matches in Rabat's Prince Moulay Abdellah Stadium, which will also host the final on January 18. Ayoub El Kaabi was once again the hero,

scoring a spectacular bicycle kick shortly after halftime. The goal, initially ruled out for offside, was awarded following a VAR check, triggering jubilant celebrations across the stadium and city streets.

Results elsewhere also sparked celebrations beyond Rabat. In Group A, Comoros finished third with two points, while Angola did likewise in Group B. Under tournament rules, the four best third-placed teams from six groups advance, meaning teams already assured of at least third place with more than two

points booked their spots in the last 16. As a result, Senegal, Congo and Benin progressed from Group D, while defending champions Ivory Coast, five-time winners Cameroon and Mozambique qualified from Group F. Burkina Faso and Sudan also advanced from Group E alongside Algeria.

Mali edged through from Group A after a goalless draw with Comoros, finishing second with three draws. However, coach Tom Saintfiet expressed concern over his side's form after Amadou Haidara was sent off late.

Bradman's baggy green from India series up for auction

SYDNEY

A rare Baggy Green cap worn by legendary Australian batter Sir Donald Bradman during the historic 1947/48 home series against India will go under the hammer next month, offering collectors a unique slice of cricketing heritage.

The cap was gifted by Bradman to Indian all-rounder Sriranga Wasudev Sohoni during the series, which was particularly significant as it marked India's first international cricket tour after Independence. The gesture reflected the mutual respect between players in an era remembered for sportsmanship as much as for Bradman's extraordinary feats with the bat.

Unlike most surviving Baggy Green caps from Bradman's era — many of which are preserved in museums or locked away in tightly held private collections — this cap has never been publicly displayed or previously offered for sale.

According to the Australian Associated Press (AAP), it has remained in uninterrupted family ownership for more than 75 years, adding greatly to its historical and sentimental value.

"This is a genuine piece of cricket history that Sir Donald Bradman personally gifted," said Lee Hames of Lloyds Auctions. "Its uninterrupted family ownership for 75 years and its direct link to 'The Don' make it one of the most im-



Rare Don Bradman Baggy Green from landmark India series heads to auction

portant Bradman-related pieces to come to auction."

During Bradman's playing days, Test cricketers wore a different Baggy Green cap for each series, making surviving examples from specific tours especially rare. The 1947/48 series against India was one of Bradman's most dominant, as he amassed 715 runs in six innings at a staggering average of 178.75. His haul included three centuries and a memorable double hundred as Australia swept the series 4-0.

Widely regarded as the greatest batter the game has known, Bradman finished his career with an almost mythical Test average of 99.94. He passed away in 2001 at the age of 92.

The bidding for the cap at Lloyds Auctions will open at one Australian dollar and close on January 26, drawing interest from collectors, museums, institutions and cricket fans worldwide. A Baggy Green from the same India series fetched Rs 2.63 crore last year, underlining the enduring allure of Bradman memorabilia.

Infantino defends 2026 WC ticket prices, cites 'crazy' demand

DUBAI

FIFA president Gianni Infantino has defended the much-criticised ticket prices for the 2026 World Cup, insisting that unprecedented global demand justified the pricing structure and stressing that all revenues would be reinvested into football worldwide.

Infantino revealed that organisers had received a staggering 150 million ticket requests in just the first two weeks of sales for the tournament, which will be jointly hosted by the United States, Mexico and Canada. The figures, he said, highlighted the unmatched appeal of football's flagship event.

"In the last few days, there has been a lot of debate about ticketing and ticket prices," Infantino said. "We have six to seven million tickets on sale, and in 15 days we received 150 million requests. This shows how powerful the World Cup is."

Infantino's remarks were his first public response since a ticketing backlash erupted earlier this month, with fan organisations branding prices as "extortionate" and "astronomical". In response to the criticism, FIFA announced that a limited number of tickets would be made available at a lower price point of \$60.

According to Infantino, the majority of ticket requests have come from the United States, followed by Germany and Britain. He compared the surge in demand with historical figures, noting that FIFA had sold 44 million World Cup tickets over the past century.

"In 100 years of World Cup history, FIFA sold 44 million tickets in total," he said. "In just two weeks for the next World Cup, we could have filled 300 years of World Cups. This is absolutely crazy."

The FIFA chief emphasised that the revenue generated would not be profit-driven but reinvested into developing the game globally. "The revenues generated go back to football all over the world," he said, adding that FIFA supports football operations in around 150 countries.



Alcaraz's Andy Murray coaching plan derailed by Djokovic: Report

MADRID

Carlos Alcaraz had explored a dramatic coaching change involving former world No.1 Andy Murray as early as the end of 2024, but the move never materialised after Murray joined Novak Djokovic's coaching team, according to a media report.

Earlier this month, Alcaraz parted ways with long-time coach Juan Carlos Ferrero, a decision that surprised the



tennis world. However, the report suggests the split in December 2025 was the result

of internal discussions that had begun nearly a year earlier, when the Spaniard started

reassessing his long-term direction.

Alcaraz began working with Ferrero at the age of 15 and enjoyed a remarkable seven-year partnership. During that period, he won six Grand Slam titles — two each at the French Open, Wimbledon and the US Open — along with 24 tour-level trophies, including eight Masters 1000 titles. He also reached the world No.1 ranking, cementing his status as

one of the leading players of his generation.

Despite the success, the report claims Alcaraz became increasingly uneasy with Ferrero's methods towards the end of 2024. Murray, a three-time Grand Slam champion admired for his tactical insight, was identified as a potential successor. Those plans were shelved once Murray committed to Djokovic's camp ahead of the 2025 season.