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# Union Minister for Railways Flags Off Bengaluru-Mumbai Vande Bharat Sleeper Express Train

BENGALURU – 2 Nov, 2026 Union Minister for Railways Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw today flagged off the SMVT Bengaluru-Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT), Mumbai Vande Bharat Sleeper Express in the presence of Union Minister Shri Pralhad Joshi, Union Minister Shri H. D. Kumaraswamy, Minister of State for Railways Shri V. Somanna, Minister of State Sushri Shobha Karandlaje and other dignitaries. The flag-off ceremony marks an important step towards strengthening modern overnight rail connectivity between two of India's leading metropolitan and economic centres.

Hon'ble Minister of Railways Shri @AshwiniVaishnaw, along with other dignitaries, flagged off the Bengaluru–Mumbai #VandeBharat_Sleeper train.



https://t.co/2Gro8cQO5B

The introduction of this next-generation sleeper train will provide passengers with an additional modern, comfortable and efficient travel option between Bengaluru and Mumbai. The service is expected to benefit professionals, entrepreneurs, business travellers, students, traders and tourists while strengthening connectivity across important regional centres in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra.

# EPFO's 74-Year Journey Built on Trust, Service and Commitment to Workers: Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya

NEW DELHI – 2 Nov, 2026 Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) celebrated its 74 th Foundation Day today at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi, marking its journey from a statutory provident fund organisation to one of India's foremost social security institutions, with a renewed commitment to technology-enabled service delivery, compassion in governance and the welfare of millions of workers and pensioners.

The celebration was presided over by Dr. Mansukh Mandviya, Union Minister for Labour & Employment and Youth & Sports




Affairs and Chairman, Central Board of Trustees (EPF). Shri Chandra Bhushan Kumar, Secretary, Ministry of Labour & Employment and Shri Ramesh Krishnamurthi, Central Provident Fund Commissioner, Members of the Central Board of Trustees, workers, employers and other stakeholders also graced the occasion.

# Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah addresses the 'Shatabdi Samaroh 2026' organised by the Akhil Vishwa Gayatri Pariwar in New Delhi

NEW DELHI – 2 Nov, 2026 Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah today addressed the 'Shatabdi Samaroh 2026' organised by the Akhil Vishwa Gayatri Pariwar in New Delhi. The 'Shatabdi Samaroh 2026' is being organised to mark the completion of 100 years of the birth of Param Vandaniya Mataji of Akhil Vishwa Gayatri Pariwar and manifestation of Akhand Jyoti. On this occasion, Union Minister Shri Durgadas Uikey, Dalnayak of Gayatri Pariwar Dr. Chinmay Pandya, and several other dignitaries were present.

Addressing the ceremony, Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah said that today is a day of faith, service and resolve. We have gathered here with reverence for Param Vandaniya Mata Bhagwati Devi Sharma, to serve in accordance with the core spirit of the Gayatri Pariwar, and with the resolve to build the India of the dreams of Maharshi Aurobindo and Swami Vivekananda. Shri Shah said that the 100 years of the manifestation of Akhand Jyoti, the 100 years of the birth of Vandaniya Mataji, and the 100 years of the sadhana of Pujya Gurudev Pandit Shriram Sharma Acharya — the confluence of these three sacred streams is taking place this year. He said that the number 100 is regarded as a symbol of completeness. This year is also, in a way, a year of completeness for Indian culture and the Indian spiritual journey.

Shri Amit Shah said that Pujya Mataji herself performed austerities and illuminated the path for others. The flame that was lit 100 years ago has today become a symbol of welfare for countless people across more than 100 countries and in over 15 crore families.

The Home Minister said that in the four-day conference held in Haridwar this January, the entire Gayatri Pariwar had united and identified itself with the resolve of this Jyoti. Today, in the next stage of the same journey, two important events are taking place. The first is the 'Deep Mahayajna', which symbolises sacrifice, cooperation and dedication. Every lamp that is lit is a resolve that we shall use our strength for society, spirituality and the nation.

# projects of Chandigarh Administration worth ₹258 crore

CHANDIGARH – 2 Nov, 2026 Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah today inaugurated various projects and laid the foundation stones for several others, worth ₹258 crore, of the Chandigarh Administration. On this occasion, Punjab Governor and Administrator of Chandigarh Shri Gulab Chand Kataria, along with several other dignitaries were present.

Addressing the gathering on the occasion, Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah said that Chandigarh was established on this day in 1966, Haryana was formed, and the Chandigarh Police came into existence. On this very day, the Chandigarh Police was also awarded the President's Colour. He said that over the 60-year journey from 1966 to 2026, Chandigarh has earned recognition across the country for its urban planning and development. In a way, Chandigarh has become an integral part of the identity of the entire North India. Today, development projects worth ₹258 crore are being inaugurated and their foundation stones laid here.

Shri Amit Shah said that development works worth ₹258 crore, covering education, healthcare, justice, administration, research and innovation, are being inaugurated and their foundation stones laid today. He said that the City-UT Bus Depot, built at a cost of ₹68 crore, is being inaugurated. Type-3 residential quarters, constructed at a cost of ₹68 crore, have also been built to provide accommodation to police personnel. He expressed confidence that, before 2029, Chandigarh Police would rank first in the country in terms of residential satisfaction among police personnel.

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah said that the Opposition has been losing elections for the past 15 years and has now found a new way in the form of a mock Parliament. He said that if their approach continues to be characterised by spreading falsehoods, creating disorder and negativity, disrupting the functioning of Parliament, and taking parliamentary issues to the streets to create a ruckus, they will once again have to sit in the Opposition for the next five years.

Shri Amit Shah said that, on the one hand, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is steering the country towards rapid progress and development. Article 370 has been abrogated, Naxalism has been eliminated, and Triple Talaq has been abolished. He said that by December 31, 2029, the entire country, including Punjab, will be made drug-free.

# PRESIDENT OF INDIA GRACES THE 'HIRAK JAYANTI' CELEBRATION ON THE 60TH YEAR OF FORMATION OF THE STATE OF HARYANA AT KURUKSHETRA

CHENNAI – 2 Nov, 2026 The President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu graced the 'Hirak Jayanti' celebration on the 60th year of the formation of the state of Haryana at Kurukshetra, Haryana today (November 1, 2026).

Addressing the gathering, the President congratulated the people of Haryana for making significant contributions to various facets of India's journey of progress. She said that this land, which spread the eternal message of Bhagwan Krishna's selfless action across the world, has also established numerous milestones of human achievement in the modern era. The people of Haryana have made meaningful contributions in diverse fields, ranging from the freedom struggle to social change, democracy, literature, and science.



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# Megastar Chiranjeevi Claps- Mega Power Star Ram Charan, Master Storyteller Sukumar, Mythri Movie Makers,

CHENNAI – 2 Nov, 2026 Megastar Chiranjeevi Claps- Mega Power Star Ram Charan, Master Storyteller Sukumar, Mythri Movie Makers, Sukumar Writings, T Series, #RC17 # RC2Sukku Launched Splendidly With Muhurtham Ceremony The much-awaited collaboration between Mega Power Star Ram Charan and Master Storyteller Sukumar has officially begun in grand style. The prestigious Pan-India project, produced by Mythri Movie Makers and Sukumar Writings in association with T-Series, was launched today with an auspicious pooja muhurtham ceremony in Hyderabad, attended by several prominent guests. Megastar Chiranjeevi graced the occasion as the chief guest, sounding the clapboard for the muhurtham shot and handing over the script along with Dil Raju. Bhushan Kumar of T-Series switched on the camera, while the first shot was directed by the directors present at the ceremony. The launch marks the beginning of an exciting new chapter in the successful association between Ram Charan and Sukumar. Their previous collaboration, Rangasthalam, remains a landmark in Telugu cinema, earning widespread acclaim for its storytelling, performances, and technical brilliance. Expectations are now soaring as the duo reunites for another ambitious venture. Ram Charan is undergoing a complete transformation for his role, with Sukumar set to present the actor in a strikingly different avatar. Mounted on a lavish scale by producers Naveen Yerneni, Y Ravi Shankar, Vijaya Prasad Bandreddi, and Bhushan Kumar, the



film is being envisioned as a major Pan-India entertainer. The announcement poster showcases a stunning peacock feather in vibrant shades of blue, green, and gold, with Ram Charan's face beautifully blended into the artwork. The creative brushstrokes give the design a unique appeal, while the plain white background makes the colourful artwork stand out. The statement "You Can Imagine", unveiled by the makers, aptly captures the immense anticipation surrounding this prestigious collaboration. With the grand reunion of Ram Charan and Sukumar, the project has already generated significant excitement. Further details about the cast and technical team will be announced in due course. CAST: Ram Charan TECHNICAL CREW Writer & Director: Sukumar Banners: Mythri Movie Makers, Sukumar Writings & T-Series Producers: Naveen Yerneni, Y Ravi Shankar, Vijaya Prasad Bandreddi, Bhushan Kumar PRO: Vamsi-Shekar, Maduri Madhu Marketing: First Show

# MSLC 63 Spreads Breast Cancer Awareness Among Young Students

CHENNAI – 2 Nov, 2026 Chennai, 31st Oct , 2026: As part of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Madras Ladies Circle 63 (MSLC 63) conducted two breast cancer awareness sessions at Rajalakshmi Nursing College and Rajalakshmi Institute of Technology, Thandalam. The initiative reached over 100 students across the two campuses and received an encouraging response from students and faculty members, highlighting the importance of health education and early detection among young people.

The sessions were led by Dr. Sathwika Ravishankar, an embryologist, sonologist and Lifestyle Medicine Consultant specialising in women's wellness. She shared valuable insights into breast cancer awareness, educating students on the signs and symptoms of the disease, the importance of early detection and the role of regular screening in improving health outcomes.

The sessions emphasised the need to break the stigma surrounding breast health and encourage open conversations about breast cancer. Students were sensitised to the importance of being aware of changes in their bodies, seeking timely medical advice and encouraging their mothers, sisters and other family members to




prioritise their health and undergo appropriate screening. By equipping young students with essential knowledge, the initiative sought to transform them into informed advocates who can carry the message of early detection into their homes and communities.

Dr. Sathwika Ravishankar also serves as the Area Chairperson of Area 2 of Ladies Circle India, a non-profit organisation that brings women together to support communities through social welfare, education, healthcare awareness and community development.

As a non-profit organisation, Ladies Circle India works through its local Circles to create a positive social impact through community-focused initiatives. MSLC 63 continues to uphold this commitment by promoting health awareness, supporting meaningful causes and encouraging active community participation.

# District Collector Inspects TNPSC Group II and IIA Examination Centres in Thoothukudi

CHENNAI – 2 Nov, 2026 10,393 Candidates Appear for Examination Across 47 Centres

Thoothukudi District Collector Vishu Mahajan, IAS, inspected the ongoing Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission (TNPSC) Combined Civil Services Group II and IIA examinations at Holy Cross Anglo-Indian Higher Secondary School in Thoothukudi on November 1, 2026.

The examinations were conducted across 47 centres in four taluks – Thoothukudi, Srivaikuntam, Tiruchendur and Kovilpatti. A total of 12,537 candidates had applied, of whom 10,393 appeared for the examination, while 2,204 candidates (17%) remained absent.

To ensure smooth conduct of the examinations, 12 mobile teams headed by Deputy Tahsildar-level officials, four



தூத்துக்குடி மாநகராட்சிக்குட்பட்ட ஹோலிகிராஸ் ஆங்கிலோ இந்தியன் மேல்நிலைப்பள்ளியில் இன்று (01.11.2026), தமிழ்நாடு அரசுப்பணியாளர் தேர்வாணையத்தின் ஒருங்கிணைந்த குடிமைப்பணிகள் தொகுதி II & IIA நடைபெற்றுவரும் தேர்வுகள் மையத்தினை மாவட்ட ஆட்சியர் திரு.விஷ மகாஜன், இ.ஆ.ப, அவர்கள் பார்வையிட்டு ஆய்வு மேற்கொண்டார்.

monitoring officers at the Deputy Collector level and five flying squads were deployed.

Additional special buses were operated by the Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation to facilitate candidates travelling to examination centres. Necessary basic facilities were also provided at all examination venues, the District Collector said.

Thoothukudi Tahsildar Thirumani Stalin accompanied the Collector during the inspection.

# PV Sindhu and Lakshya Sen triumph at Hylo Open, making it a rare Indian badminton double

CHENNAI – 2 Nov, 2026 The air inside the 5,500-capacity Saarlandhalle in Saarbrucken crackled as the 39th edition of the $500,000 Hylo Open reached a cinematic climax. For Indian badminton enthusiasts, the last time an Indian won this Super 500 tournament was when Lakshya Sen clinched the title, then called the SaarLorLux Open, in 2019 by defeating China's Weng Hongyang. On Sunday, Indian badminton history echoed through the hall once more as two of India's finest – Sen and PV Sindhu – stepped onto the bright blue courts chasing glory, painting a masterclass of pure dominance across an evening to remember.

For Sindhu, Sunday felt like the culmination of a mission. Reaching a final for the second successive week, the second-seeded former world champion walked onto the court as a strong favourite, riding the momentum of a brilliant run that had taken her to the French Open final in Paris just a week earlier, losing to defending champion An Se Young.

# CM Vijay to honour top students on Nov 4

CHENNAI – 2 Nov, 2026 Chief Minister and Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) President C. Joseph Vijay will distribute educational awards, cash incen- tives and certificates to Class 10 and 12 students who secured the top three ranks at the district level in the 2025-26 public examina- tions at a function in Chennai on November 4.

The event, organised by TVK, will be held at the R.K. Conven- tion Centre in Neelankarai, where preparations are underway to re- ceive students and their parents.

In the first phase, students from five districts Ariyalur, Cuddalore, Kallakurichi, Villupuram and Tiru- vannamalai will be honoured for their academic achievements.

The initiative aims to recognise academic excellence and encourage students to pursue higher education by providing financial assistance and certificates of appreciation.

As part of the arrangements, TVK Functionaries from the five districts met Minister N. Anand and collected entry passes for students and their parents attending the ceremony.

Party Functionaries from other districts are expected to visit the TVK Headquarters at Panaiyur to collect passes for subsequent events.

The educational awards pro- gramme, launched by Vijay in 2023, has been held annually to recognise students who excel in public examinations and support their academic aspirations.

TVK Functionaries are coordi- nating arrangements for the event, which will see the Chief Minister personally presenting awards and incentives to the selected students.

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Editor: R.SATHYANARAYANAN

# Grand Audio and Trailer Launch of Suriya's 'Scene'!

CHENNAI – 2 Nov, 2026 The audio and trailer launch of actor Suriya's upcoming film 'Scene' was held in a grand manner in Chennai. Directed by Jithu Madhavan, the film is scheduled for a worldwide theatrical release on November 6, coinciding with the Deepavali season.

The film features Suriya, Nazriya Nazim, Naslen, Anandaraj, Lal, Raj Priyan and others. Vineeth Augustine handles cinematography, while Sushin Shyam composes the music. The film is jointly produced by Suriya and Jyotika under 2D Entertainment and Zhagaram Studios.

Actors Sivakumar and Karthi attended the event along with the cast and crew. Karthi praised Suriya's versatility and the director's distinctive filmmaking style. Nazriya expressed her happiness about returning to Tamil cinema after 12



years, while Naslen makes his Tamil debut with this film.

Speaking at the event, Suriya thanked his fans for their continued love and support. He expressed confidence in director Jithu Madhavan's unique storytelling and encouraged audiences to watch the film with an open mind and enjoy the entertainment.

Promising a blend of comedy, action, thriller and entertainment, 'Scene' is set for a worldwide theatrical release on November 6.

# District Collector Participates in Local Government Day Gram Sabha Meeting at Srivaikundam

CHENNAI – 2 Nov, 2026 Public Grievances to Be Addressed Within One Month: Collector Vishu Mahajan

Thoothukudi District Collector Vishu Mahajan, IAS, participated as a special observer in the Local Government Day Gram Sabha meeting held at Nattathi Panchayat in Srivaikundam Union on November 1, 2026.

The meeting discussed village administration, public fund expenditure, rainwater harvesting, dengue prevention, monsoon preparedness, child labour prevention, biodiversity conservation, animal vaccination and other local development issues.

Addressing the gathering, the Collector urged residents to actively participate in Gram Sabha meetings and raise demands concerning basic amenities and village development. He stressed the importance of children's higher education, preventing school dropouts and encouraging reading habits instead of excessive mobile phone use.

He also advised the public to take preventive measures against dengue and ensure HPV vaccination for eligible children. He announced that 400 women self-help groups would be selected for special training to improve their livelihood activities.

The Collector assured residents that eligible public grievances would be addressed within one month, in accordance with government rules. He also said steps would be taken regarding patta-related requests and the demand for a




தூத்துக்குடி மாவட்டம் திருவைகுண்டம் ஊராட்சி ஒன்றியத்திற்குட்பட்ட நட்டாத்தி ஊராட்சியில் இன்று (01.11.2026), உள்ளாட்சி தினத்தை முன்னிட்டு நடைபெற்ற கிராமசபை கூட்டத்தில் மாவட்ட ஆட்சியர் திரு.விஷ்ணு மகாஜன், இ.ஆ.ப., அவர்கள் சிறப்பு பார்வையாளராக கலந்து கொண்டு கருத்துரை வழங்கினார். உடன் திருச்செந்தூர் வருவாய் கோட்டாட்சியர் திரு.கௌதம் அவர்கள் உள்ளார்.

ration shop building.

During the event, sanitation workers were honoured for their service, and prizes were distributed to residents who had paid their property taxes in full for 2026–27.

The Collector also distributed ₹2.20 lakh in bank loan assistance to seven women self-help groups, paddy seeds and bio-fertilisers to two farmers, and coconut saplings and fruit plant kits to beneficiaries.

Officials from various departments, local body representatives and members of the public participated in the meeting.

# PRESIDENT OF INDIA GRACES THE BALIDAN SHATABDI SAMAROH OF SWAMI SHRADDHANAND JI AT KURUKSHETRA

CHENNAI – 2 Nov, 2026 The President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu graced Balidan Shatabdi Samaroh of Swami Shraddhanand Ji at Gurukul, Kurukshetra, Haryana today (November 1, 2026).

Speaking on the occasion, the President paid her tribute to Swami Shraddhanand Ji on the 100th anniversary of his martyrdom. She said that his life journey from Munshiram to Mahatma Munshiram and eventually to Swami Shraddhanand is deeply inspiring.

The President said that Swami Shraddhanand Ji had dedicated his life to the service of the Vedas and the upliftment of society.



His life journey and sacrifice are a source of inspiration for all of us.

The President said that Swami Shraddhanand Ji was a strong advocate of social unity. In an address delivered from the platform of the Jama Masjid in Delhi, he conveyed a message of mutual goodwill and national unity.

# National Zoological Park marks 67th Foundation Day with Creative Outreach Activity and Bird Walk

NEW DELHI – 2 Nov, 2026 The National Zoological Park (NZP), New Delhi, celebrated its 67 th Foundation Day on 01.11.2026 with an engaging doodle activity for visitors, reaffirming its commitment to wildlife conservation, biodiversity awareness and environmental education. The activity received an enthusiastic response, with approximately 1,500 visitors appreciating and participating in the initiative. It provided an interactive and




creative platform, particularly for children and families, to express their ideas and connect with the importance of protecting wildlife and nature.

# LOK SABHA SPEAKER TO INAUGURATE CONFERENCE OF CHAIRPERSONS OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEES OF PARLIAMENT OF INDIA AND STATE/UT LEGISLATURES IN THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM – 2 Nov, 2026 Lok Sabha Speaker Shri Om Birla will inaugurate the Conference of Chairpersons of Public Accounts Committees (PACs) of Parliament of India and State/UT Legislatures at Thiruvananthapuram, Keralam, on Tuesday, 3 November 2026.

The inaugural session will be graced by the Chief Minister of Keralam, Shri V. D. Satheesan; Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Harivansh; Speaker, Keralam Legislative Assembly, Shri Thiruvanchoor Radhakrishnan; and Chairperson, Public Accounts Committee of the Keralam Legislative Assembly, Shri K. N. Balagopal, who will also address the gathering.

Chairperson, Public Accounts Committee of Parliament, Shri K.



C. Venugopal, will deliver the Welcome Address, while Deputy Speaker, Keralam Legislative Assembly, Smt. Shanimol Usman, will propose the Vote of Thanks.

Chairpersons and Members of Public Accounts Committees of Parliament and State/UT Legislatures, along with other distinguished dignitaries, will participate in the Conference.

# Shri Dinesh V. Ganvir Takes Charge as Director General of GSI; Reaffirms Focus on Mineral Security, Scientific Excellence and Technological Advancement

CHENNAI – 2 Nov, 2026 Shri Dinesh Vitthalrao Ganvir has assumed the charge as the 55th Director General of the Geological Survey of India (GSI), an attached office of the Ministry of Mines, Government of India. With more than three decades of experience spanning geological investigations, mineral exploration, engineering geology and institutional leadership, Shri Dinesh V. Ganvir brings to the office extensive scientific, technical and administrative experience.

Shri Dinesh V. Ganvir joined the Geological Survey of India on 1 st July 1994, following the completion of his Master's degree in Geology from RTMNU University, Nagpur. Over a career spanning more than 32 years, he has served in a



range of scientific, technical and administrative positions across GSI's Central Region, North-Eastern Region and Northern Region. Immediately prior to assuming the charge of Director General, he was serving as Additional Director General and Head of Department, Central Region, Nagpur, while also holding the additional charge of National Mission Head-II.

## AIR CHIEF MARSHAL ASHUTOSH DIXIT ASSUMES CHARGE AS THE 29TH CHIEF OF THE AIR STAFF; UNVEILS 'VAYU' AS GUIDING VISION FOR THE INDIAN AIR FORCE



CHENNAI – 2 Nov, 2026 Air Chief Marshal Ashutosh Dixit PVSM AVSM VM VSM, as the 29th Chief of the Air Staff of the Indian Air Force, on 01 November 2026, commenced his tenure by paying homage at the National War Memorial to the bravehearts who made the supreme sacrifice in service of the Nation. This was followed by a ceremonial Guard of Honour at Air Force Station New Delhi.

An Experimental Test Pilot and Qualified Flying Instructor, Air Chief Marshal Dixit has over 3,500 hours of flying experience. He has held several key operational and strategic appointments, including Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to the Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee (CISC), HQ IDS, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Central Air Command, and Vice Chief of the Air Staff.

Chief in his opening address, outlined his vision and priorities for the Indian Air Force, the Chief of the Air Staff coined the guiding theme 'VAYU', articulating four distinct pillars that will shape the IAF's future trajectory.

V - Vigilance, Victory and Readiness: Maintaining the highest state of operational preparedness across all formations, while restoring combat strength to sanctioned levels.

A - Aatmanirbharta: Accelerating indigenous capabilities across platforms, sensors weapons and technologies, with a focus on operational self-reliance and sustained combat capability.

Y - Yukti: Harnessing ingenuity and innovation in doctrine, technology and operational procedures, including AI-enabled command and control, counter- drone capabilities, resilience and emerging operational domains.

U - Unity of Effort: Strengthening jointness with the Army, Navy and national agencies, in consonance with the national vision of JAI - Jointness, Aatmanirbharta and Innovation.

Through the 'VAYU' vision, the Chief of the Air Staff has articulated a clear direction for an operationally ready, technologically advanced, self-reliant and seamlessly integrated Indian Air Force, committed to safeguarding the nation's interests and deterring conflict through credible air power.

## Phone linked to Siddaramaiah 'sting' video taken to Kumaraswamy's Delhi residence: Police

NEW DELHI – 2 Nov, 2026 The phone is suspected to have been used to upload a video targeting former Karnataka chief minister Siddaramaiah.

A mobile phone allegedly bought on the instructions of a Janata Dal (Secular) social media operative was taken to Union minister HD Kumaraswamy's official residence in New Delhi and handed to another aide, Bengaluru police commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh said on Sunday. The phone is suspected to have been used to upload a video targeting former Karnataka chief minister Siddaramaiah. Police are examining the account of an arrested accused, Ritesh Pandey, to establish who arranged the purchase and how the device was used to circulate the footage.

Pandey, a Delhi-based freelance social media content creator, was arrested on October 24 and subsequently granted conditional bail by a Bengaluru court.

Singh said Pandey had told investigators that he and another associate, Vinod Sharma, bought the handset from a mobile phone shop in Delhi's Karol Bagh area on the instructions of Prajwal Prasad, a media consultant associated with Kumaraswamy's office. The two then went to the minister's residence on Kushak Road and handed the phone to Prasad, who was present there, he said.

"Ritesh disclosed in his statement that, on the instructions of Prajwal Prasad, he accompanied another associate, Vinod Sharma, to a mobile shop in Delhi's Karol Bagh area and purchased a handset," Singh said.

The commissioner said all three were associated with the social media team operating from the minister's office. Police are examining CCTV footage from the shop, financial transactions between Pandey and Prasad, and other digital records to verify the account.

Singh said Pandey had repeatedly named Prasad when asked who had instructed him to buy the phone. Investigators, however, were yet to independently establish the claims. "We are currently verifying all the statements and technical facts. The veracity of these claims will be confirmed once the remaining accused are apprehended and interrogated," he said.

Police have issued notices to Prasad and Sharma. Singh said neither had responded to the latest notices and that investigators had information they had sought anticipatory bail. "They have not replied to our notices, and according to our information, they have moved for anticipatory bail," Singh said. "Crucial progress in this investigation can only take place once both individuals are secured and interrogated."

Police trace video's movement from pen drive to YouTube

The investigation is seeking to establish how the video moved from its original source to the people who uploaded and circulated it. Police have identified a mobile phone associated with the video's upload to YouTube. Investigators said the footage was first transferred to Pandey on a pen drive and then moved to a handset for uploading.

The phone allegedly used to record the original footage is a separate device. Police have recovered it and sent it for forensic examination.

Investigators have said Pandey told them that he uploaded the video on the instructions of a person associated with the JD(S) social media team.

The video appeared on a social media account named Karnataka Honey Trap on September 27. It was later circulated on YouTube and X, and carried by some Kannada television channels.

Siddaramaiah filed a police complaint on October 6 over its circulation.

The Central Crime Branch is investigating the recording, its transfer and its publication online. Police have questioned Power TV managing director Rakesh Shetty and Congress leader Kripa Alva in connection with the video's origins. Prasad is among those being investigated.

Kumaraswamy said that Karnataka Police has not searched or inspected his official residence in Delhi or prepared a mahazar there as part of the investigation. He accused the state government of allowing misinformation to circulate to divert public attention from the sting video and use the media for political point scoring.

Kumaraswamy demanded accountability if any department, investigative agency or minister had supplied false information to the press.

"The Karnataka State Government must take full accountability for the spread of this misinformation. If any department, investigative agency, or minister has leaked such false information to the press, those responsible must be exposed and held accountable," he said.

## Shri Kiren Rijiju, Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Minority Affairs, attends the raising of 108 Stupas in Bhutan

CHENNAI – 2 Nov, 2026 Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and Minority Affairs, Shri Kiren Rijiju represented Government of India at the ceremony for raising and consecration of 108 Stupas in Gelephu Mindfulness City, Bhutan, led by His Majesty The King of Bhutan on 01 November 2026. Shri Rijiju's presence at the 108 Stupas event is an expression of shared spiritual and cultural ties, and the close friendship between the peoples of India and Bhutan.




The 108 Stupas project was conceived by His Majesty The King of Bhutan who also steered its implementation. In a single day, thousands of volunteers erected 108 Stupas, each 15 metres tall and separated by 108 metres on an 11.7 kilometre stretch along the Aie (Mau) River within Gelephu Mindfulness City near the border with Assam. The project aims to showcase Gelephu Mindfulness City as a prominent center of Vajrayana Buddhism, while simultaneously representing the values and culture of the Bhutanese people.

# Coal India Marks 51 Glorious Years with Record-Breaking Performance in October 2026

CHENNAI – 2 Nov, 2026 Coal India Limited (CIL) under the Ministry of Coal, the country's leading coal producer, marked its 51st Foundation Day on 1st November 2026 on a remarkable note, registering a series of record-breaking achievements during October 2026. The company recorded its highest-ever monthly coal production and total coal supply , while also achieving the highest-ever monthly supply to the power sector.

During October 2026, CIL achieved a highest-ever total coal supply of 70.3 Million Tonnes (MT) in any month, surpassing the previous record of 69.4 MT achieved in March 2026. This represents a year-on-year growth of 19% .

Coal supply to the power sector also reached a new milestone, with CIL recording its highest-ever monthly supply of 57.1 MT to the power sector. The previous record stood at 56.5 MT, achieved in May 2024. The supply to the power sector registered a year-on-year growth of 19% .

The company also achieved a significant milestone in coal production, recording its highest-ever production of 67.2 MT during the month of October . This surpassed the previous record of 62.47 MT achieved in October 2024 and represents a year-on-year growth of 19% .

In another major achievement, railway coal evacuation witnessed record performance, with daily rake loading for the power sector reaching 310 rakes , the highest-ever achieved in any month. This surpassed the previous record of 302.8 rakes per day achieved in March 2025.

These remarkable achievements assume special significance as Coal India celebrates 51 glorious years of its existence and embarks on its 52nd year of service to the nation . Established on 1st November 1975 , Coal India has witnessed several transformations and overcome numerous challenges over the past five decades, moving forward with unity, determination and collective resolve.

From an annual coal production of 79 MT in its first year of operations , Coal India has recorded sustained growth over the decades, increasing its production to 768 MT in FY 2025–26 — representing an almost tenfold increase over the past five decades. The production target for FY 2026–27 has been fixed at 815 MT .

The record performance during October 2026 reflects Coal India's continued focus on enhancing production, strengthening coal evacuation and ensuring adequate and reliable coal supplies to meet the country's growing energy requirements.

## AIR MARSHAL MEHTAB SINGH DESWAL AVSM, VM TAKES OVER AS AIR OFFICER COMMANDING-IN-CHIEF EASTERN AIR COMMAND

CHENNAI – 2 Nov, 2026 Air Marshal Mehtab Singh Deswal, AVSM VM assumed the appointment of Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Air Command, IAF on 01 Nov 26.

Air Marshal Deswal was commissioned in the flying branch of IAF as a fighter pilot on 14 Jun 1989. He has a flying experience of over 3200 hrs on a number of fighter aircraft He is a specialist in strike aircraft and Air Defence roles and a qualified Pilot Attack Instructor. The Air Officer is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy (NDA), and National Defence College.

During his career, he has held several field and staff appointments which includes Air Officer Commanding of two flying bases and Commanding Officer of a fighter squadron. He was posted at the Embassy of India in Pakistan as the Air Attaché. The Air Officer has also served as Director General (Weapon Systems) at Air HQs. Prior to taking over as AOC in-C, EAC, the air officer held the appointment of Senior Air Staff Officer (SASO) at HO SWAC.




In recognition of his distinguished service, Air Marshal Deswal has been awarded with Ati Vishisht Seva Medal and Vayu Sena Medal.