



## IN BRIEF

## One fisherman dead, another missing as boat capsizes

**MURUDESHWAR :** A routine fishing expedition turned tragic on Thursday morning when a fishing boat capsized in rough seas near Murudeshwar in Uttara Kannada district, leaving one fisherman dead and another missing. According to police, four fishermen had ventured into the sea aboard a gillnet boat owned by Janardhan A. Harikanth. The boat is believed to have overturned due to high waves around Murudeshwar's fishing zone. Madhav Harikanth, 45, was pulled from the water and rushed to hospital but succumbed despite efforts to revive him. Another fisherman, 26-year-old Venkatesh Annappa Harikanth, remains missing. A search operation by the police, Coastal Security Force, local fishermen, and residents is underway. Two other fishermen — Anand Annappa Harikanth and another crewmember — managed to swim to safety and are reportedly unharmed.

## Advanced health platform to transform cardiac care

**BENGALURU:** Omron Healthcare, a global leader in innovative home health monitoring solutions, has expanded its collaboration with Tricog Health, an AI-driven cardiac care company, to launch KeeboHealth- an advanced connected health platform designed to transform remote cardiac care and accelerate progress toward OMRON's ambitious 'Going for Zero' vision - a world with zero cardiovascular events. KeeboHealth is a ground-breaking digital health ecosystem that leverages state-of-the-art AI technology, real-time data analytics, and home-based monitoring to empower healthcare providers and patients in managing heart conditions more effectively. The data flows in real-time to Tricog's AI engine, which continuously monitors heart health, flags early warning signs, and instantly alert medical teams when intervention is needed. This proactive system helps detect heart issues before a patient's condition deteriorates, significantly reducing the need for hospitalizations.

## Traffic cop held for accepting bribe

**Mangaluru:** A traffic constable from Kadri Traffic Police Station in Mangaluru has been arrested by Karnataka Lokayukta officials after he was caught red-handed accepting a ₹5,000 bribe from a complainant seeking the release of his vehicle. The complainant had approached the station after a vehicle registered in his father's name was involved in a minor accident near Nanthoor Junction. Constable Tasleem (badge no. CHC 322) allegedly demanded ₹50,000 to release the vehicle and later insisted on at least ₹5,000 to proceed. According to sources, the complainant was also asked to sign a declaration stating the vehicle had already been returned, even though it had not. When he refused and approached Lokayukta officers, a trap was laid. On July 10, Tasleem was apprehended while accepting the bribe.

## Man kills father, brother over property dispute

**Hassan:** A 47-year-old man was arrested on Thursday for allegedly killing his father and brother over a property dispute in Holenarasipura taluk of Hassan district, police said. The deceased, Deve Gowda (70), had recently sold his property. His son, Mohan Gowda, was reportedly upset that he had not received a share of the proceeds, police added. In the early hours of Thursday, Mohan returned home in an inebriated state and allegedly attacked his father and elder brother, Manjunath Gowda (50), with a sharp weapon, killing them both.

# 'Women entrepreneurs catalysts in India's \$5 trillion economy ambition'

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
BENGALURU

AS India intensifies efforts to become a \$5 trillion economy, women entrepreneurs are being recognised as key drivers of inclusive and sustainable economic growth. This was the central theme at a two-day national workshop inaugurated in Bengaluru on Thursday, jointly organised by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP) and the Ubuntu Consortium.

Former Chief Secretary and Ubuntu Founder-President K. Ratnaprabha recalled the programme's



launch during the COVID-19 lockdown, when hundreds of women entrepreneurs faced busi-

ness setbacks. "We offered digital training, and the results were transformational. Since 2022, over

3,300 women across India have been trained under the Ubuntu-UN ESCAP collaboration. Many have gone

on to build digitally enabled enterprises," she said. UN ESCAP South Asia head Mikiko Tanaka pointed out

that while women constitute nearly half of India's population, they account for only 14% of business ownership and 20% of the 58.5 million MSMEs. "Digital skills, access to finance, and visibility remain significant barriers," she said. "Without timely intervention, women risk being excluded from the digital transformation."

Highlighting grassroots efforts, former Bengaluru Deputy Mayor Hemalatha Gopalaiah cited the success of thousands of women in Mahalakshmi Layout constituency who have built businesses in catering, tailoring, and crafts.

"They are now mentoring others, creating a ripple ef-

fect," she said. Industry experts including LEXSHIP founder Padmanabhan Babu called for greater female participation in exports and the digital economy.

"Women lead only 8% of export businesses in India, compared to 40% in some countries. We must close this gap," he said. The workshop offers hands-on training in digital tools, marketing, and e-commerce.

Officials from DGFT, the Department of Industries and Commerce, and UN ESCAP participated, stressing that empowering women is essential to realising India's economic aspirations.

# CM's son asserts his father will complete 5 yrs as CM

MYSURU/BENGALURU

CONGRESS MLC and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's son Yathindra on Thursday asserted that his father will complete a full five-year term in office. He said any decision on the leadership change has to be made by the Congress high command and MLAs. AICC General Secretary in-charge of Karnataka Randeep Singh Surjewala has clarified that no such issue is before the party leadership for consideration.

"AICC General Secretary has said that the CM change issue is not before the high command, so why discuss it? The BJP has been saying since the time our government came to power that the government will collapse and the chief minister will be changed. If you believe what they say, nothing will happen," Yathindra said in response to a question.

Speaking to reporters in Mysuru, he said as the government will complete 2.5 years in office in November,



some chief ministerial aspirants who are there in the Congress party may seek the position. There is nothing wrong in it. "But, ultimately, the high command and MLAs will have to decide... according to me he (Siddaramaiah) will be there for five years. I'm answering this question since the government came to power. Such discussions (about CM) have been going on since then, but did the change happen? No..." he added.

Interestingly, his statement came on a day when Siddaramaiah, while speaking to reporters in New Delhi on Thursday, said there was "no

vacancy" for the CM's post as he was very much in the chair, debunking talks of a possible change of leadership in the state. Siddaramaiah claimed that he would complete his five-year tenure as chief minister and brushed aside talk of him paving the way for his Deputy D K Shivakumar to take over later this year.

There has been speculation within political circles, especially within the ruling Congress, for some time now about the Chief Minister change later this year, citing power-sharing agreement involving Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar. PWD

Minister Satish Jarkiholi, reacting to the CM statement in Bengaluru said there is nothing new in it, as he had reiterated what he said recently here, and the media has to now put an end to speculations about the chief minister change.

Only ten per cent of legislators in the party may be discussing leadership change, Jarkiholi, who is considered close to Siddaramaiah said.

The CM's reiteration about completing a full five years term is a clear message for them. "Match close..." he added. Responding to a question about Siddaramaiah's reported statement that Shivakumar has the support of fewer MLAs, he said, "There was voting done (at the legislature party meeting) while choosing CM after 2023 assembly polls, and as Siddaramaiah got majority votes (of MLAs), he was made the chief minister.

On the basis of that, he might have said that he has the support of more MLAs."

## Rising heart attacks in Hassan

# Obesity, alcohol and lifestyle cited as key factors

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
BENGALURU

WITH concerns mounting over a spate of heart attack cases in Hassan district, a technical committee has submitted a detailed study report to Karnataka Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao. The report, which was handed over after an in-depth analysis of recent deaths, attributes the alarming trend mainly to diabetes, alcohol consumption and family health history.

Speaking to reporters after chairing a meeting with the committee members, Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao said, "The technical committee's study on the 24 deaths reported in May and June shows that four deaths were not due to cardiac arrest. Among the remaining 20, 10 people died due to heart-related complications while the other 10 died specifically of heart attacks. Worryingly, 15 of these 20 victims were below the age of 45."

The report comes amid growing public anxiety that



heart attacks are on the rise in Hassan. The minister clarified that while 24 people died due to heart attacks in 2024, this year's toll so far stands at 20, which does not indicate a surge but highlights a worrying trend of younger people falling victim.

"Post-mortem reports confirm that excessive obesity was a major factor behind heart attacks among young victims," he said.

The minister highlighted that auto and cab drivers are more prone to heart-related health risks due to lifestyle factors. "We will focus on screening auto and cab drivers separately. Discussions will be held with driver associations to organise health check-ups and ECG screenings," he added.

He also noted that a majority of the deceased had a history of smoking and alcohol consumption. To improve early detection and care, ECG facilities will be made available at community health centres, and special screening for children will be initiated based on expert advice. Clearing doubts circulating in parts of the district, Minister Gundu Rao said, "There is no link between these heart attacks and Covid or Covid vaccination. Experts have confirmed this."

The health department is also considering expanding the 'Hridaya Jyoti' scheme to reach more people, while training in CPR will be organised to help respond to cardiac emergencies effectively.

The minister emphasised that experts have strongly recommended better preventive measures, including lifestyle counselling, regular screening, and wider awareness campaigns to address the growing health risk in the district.

# No other distribution channel in world is wide or deep as India Post: Scindia

BENGALURU

NO other distribution channel in the world is as wide or as deep as India Post, said Union Minister for Communication Jyotiraditya M Scindia on Thursday. He urged the postal employees to work towards becoming the largest logistics organisation in the world, too. Scindia was addressing the Gramin Dak Sevaks Sammelan at K P Puttana Chetty Town Hall in Bengaluru. "India post has 1.64 lakh points of presence, from Kashmir to Kanyakumari, from Bharuch to Tawang," he added. He said, although the post offices are getting modern tools, like handheld devices and Darpan, postal employees need to change the way they work



Union Minister for Communications Jyotiraditya Scindia during the inauguration of VTU-VRIF-TCOE Hub and Spoke Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru on Thursday

to bring in the real transformation. "Today, we have the capability of becoming the largest logistics organisation in the world. No one has the human resources to be able

to do this apart from us. But we've got to make sure that we are at the cutting edge. Which means we need to innovate. We need to think about productivity.

## Google search on 'how to steal' lands gang behind bars

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
CHIKKAMAGALURU

IN a bizarre incident that highlights how technology is now aiding crime, police in Chikkamagaluru district have busted a gang that used Google to learn how to commit theft. The trio, who searched online for tips on how to steal without getting caught, managed to snatch three women's mangalsutras in just one hour before the law finally caught up with them. The gang — identified as Kallesh, Raju, and Basavaraj from Yavakannam village in Belagavi district — were arrested by Birur police. Police have recovered 68 grams of stolen gold jewellery and a Pulsar bike used in the crimes.

Police said the three accused had come to Kadur looking for work but, facing a cash crunch ahead of the fes-

## Three mangalsutras, weighing 68 gms stolen in one hour



tival season, decided to commit chain snatching. Lacking experience, they turned to Google for help. They searched 'how to steal' and 'how to escape without leaving evidence', gathered tips online, and carefully planned their strikes accordingly.

The gang targeted women wearing mangalsutras. They would approach unsuspecting women, throw irritant powder into their eyes, snatch the chains and flee on their bike. Within a span of one hour, they committed thefts at three different places under Kadur,

Birur and Singatagere police station limits. To avoid identification, the gang cleverly changed clothes three times on the same day, exactly as they had learned online. After the thefts, they even dumped their bike into a well to destroy evidence.

# Gaming federation backs State's regulatory proposal

## Urges Centre to lead national-level gaming framework for effective enforcement

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
BENGALURU

IN a major move to curb the growing menace of unregulated online betting and gambling, the Karnataka government proposed the establishment of a dedicated Karnataka Online Gaming and Betting Regulatory Authority through a new legislation - The Karnataka Police (Amendment) Bill, 2025.

Commenting on decisive step Roland Landers, CEO, All India Gaming Federation, said "A clear distinction between games of skill and chance, backed by progressive regulation, is essential to ensure consumer protection and foster responsible growth in the



online gaming sector. Karnataka, home to the largest and most vibrant gaming ecosystem in the country, has taken a significant step

forward by supporting the industry through a transparent and consultative approach. As the oldest and largest industry federation,

the All India Gaming Federation (AIGF) has consistently advocated for balanced regulation rooted in user safety and responsible

innovation. "While we applaud the state government's initiative, we also believe that state-level laws alone may not be sufficient to curb the growing menace of offshore gambling platforms, which operate beyond India's jurisdiction, offer no consumer recourse and are emerging as one of the biggest national security threat.

Addressing this challenge requires a strong national framework that brings together all relevant stakeholders - to effectively regulate and monitor the ecosystem. Only through such a unified and coordinated approach can we ensure the long-term sustainability and integrity of India's online gaming industry."

# RSS has stood the test of time, says Udupi MP

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
MANGALURU

BJP MP Kota Srinivas Poojary has strongly defended the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) against recent calls for its ban by Congress leaders, stating that even former Prime Ministers Nehru, Indira Gandhi, and Rajiv Gandhi failed in similar attempts. "Dr B.R. Ambedkar once praised the RSS for its casteless and untouchability-free structure. Even Nehru, after initially trying to ban the RSS, invited it to the Republic Day parade," he said. Poojary criticised senior Congress leaders Mallikarjun Kharge and B.K. Hariprasad for what he described as "casual and misleading" remarks against the RSS. He challenged them to visit an RSS shakha and understand its

philosophy rooted in nationalism. On state politics, Poojary took aim at the Congress government in Karnataka, warning of an impending "administrative collapse" if internal leadership issues are not addressed. "There is already talk of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah being replaced. Officials are uncertain, and governance is suffering," he said. He also questioned the state's finances, alleging that there's no money left for basic infrastructure such as shoes and socks in government schools. "This government is functioning on pretence and borrowed time," he added. Poojary welcomed the High Court's stay on the state government's decision to close down Jan Aushadhi Kendras and called on the Congress to stop blocking Centre-sponsored welfare programmes.