

IN BRIEF

IISc quantum research park to lead India's tech drive: Min

BENGALURU: Minister for Science and Technology, N.S. Boseraju, has projected the Indian Institute of Science's (IISc) Quantum Research Park as a potential cornerstone of India's emerging quantum technology sector, with the state government committing ₹48 crore towards its development.

During a visit to the IISc campus in Bengaluru on Wednesday, Minister Boseraju engaged in extensive discussions with scientists and experts to chart a roadmap for quantum ecosystem development in the state and beyond. He emphasised the state government's resolve to position Karnataka as a frontrunner in quantum research and innovation.

"The Quantum Research Park at IISc has the potential to lead India's quantum mission. Under the leadership of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, Karnataka is fully committed to fostering a robust quantum technology ecosystem," the Minister said.

The ₹48 crore grant is being used to build state-of-the-art infrastructure, including cutting-edge laboratories, high-precision instrumentation, and incubation facilities for start-ups and innovators in the quantum domain. Boseraju assured that the state is ready to provide additional support as needed and would consult with the Chief Minister on further initiatives.

Professor Arindam Ghosh, head of the Quantum Research Park, noted that Bengaluru's vibrant academic, industrial, and R&D ecosystem makes it an ideal hub for quantum advancement. He advocated the formation of an international advisory committee to guide long-term strategic planning, with the goal of enabling a "Quantum Advantage Driven Economy" by 2035.

As part of its broader vision, the Karnataka government will host the country's first Quantum India Bengaluru Conference on July 31 and August 1, aiming to position the city as India's 'quantum capital.' The visit was also attended by Raichur MP G. Kumar Naik, KSTePS Director Sadashiva Prabhu, IISc Director Prof. G. Rangarajan, Prof. Akshaya Nayak, and senior officials from the Department of Science and Technology.

ED raids Cong MLA's properties

Bengaluru: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) conducted raids on five locations in Bengaluru on Thursday morning, including properties belonging to Congress MLA Subba Reddy. The raids were carried out in connection with alleged violations of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA). Subba Reddy, who represents the Bagepalli constituency in Chikkaballapur district, has been under the ED's scanner over suspected foreign asset holdings and undisclosed international financial transactions. The searches targeted his residences and properties reportedly owned by his family and business associates. According to sources, the investigation focuses on bank accounts and real estate holdings in foreign countries including Malaysia, Hong Kong, and Germany. Officials arrived in five vehicles around 7 AM and began searching Subba Reddy's house near Marathahalli, Bengaluru, accompanied by a team of seven additional personnel.

The raids were still ongoing by afternoon, with ED officials examining bank documents and digital records from the MLA's home and offices. When questioned by the media, Karnataka Home Minister Dr. G. Parameashwara claimed he was unaware of the ED action against Subba Reddy.

BBMP to spend Rs 2.88 crore on stray dog feeding project

THE MUNICIPAL BODY PLANS TO SERVE CALORIE-RICH MEALS SUCH AS EGG RICE AND CHICKEN RICE TO STRAY DOGS

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU

IN a first-of-its-kind move, the government, which has long supported the Indira Canteen initiative to feed the urban poor, is now extending its compassion to Bengaluru's stray dog population. The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has announced a new project to provide nutritious meals to stray dogs across its 8 zones and has floated a tender worth Rs 2.88 crore.

BBMP Special Commissioner Vikas Kishore Suralkar stated that the initiative aims to reduce stray dog attacks, especially on children, by ensuring that the animals are well-fed. He added that pilot programs conducted in a few wards have shown promising results. In these test runs, meals were provided to around 100 dogs over a period of 2-3 months, helping curb aggressive behaviour.

The BBMP plans to serve calorie-rich meals such as egg rice and chicken rice to



stray dogs. These meals will be distributed in collaboration with local restaurants and food providers.

According to the tender notice issued via the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal, proposals are being invited to provide cooked food to stray dogs across all 8 BBMP zones. The contract will initially run for one year on an outsourcing basis, with a possibility of extension for another year depending on service quality and results, as decided by the BBMP Chief Commis-

sioner. All service providers registered with the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) are eligible to participate in the bidding process. A detailed menu has already been prepared, ensuring that each meal provides between 700 to 750 calories.

Bidders are required to maintain a kitchen within BBMP limits and select feeding locations for dogs in consultation with BBMP volunteers. Post-distribution, they must clean the feeding area and submit a

report detailing the number of dogs fed and the food served.

The BBMP emphasized that the initiative is not just about animal welfare, but also about public safety,

aiming to reduce conflicts between humans and stray animals by addressing the root cause—hunger.

This innovative project is expected to stir both debate and interest as Bengaluru continues to explore humane ways of managing its growing stray dog population.

Notices issued to CM's wife, top cops in MUDA case

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BENGALURU

IN a fresh twist to the controversial Mysore Urban Development Authority (MUDA) site allotment case, the Karnataka High Court has issued notices to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's wife B.M. Parvathi, her brother B.M. Mallikarjunaswamy, the Director General of Police, and the Inspector of Vijayanagar Police Station in Mysuru.

A Division Bench comprising Acting Chief Justice V. Kameshwara Rao and Justice C.M. Joshi passed this order while hearing multiple appeals connected to the case. The original complaint was filed by social activist Snehamayi Krishna, who has sought a CBI probe into the alleged illegal allotment of 14 MUDA plots to CM Siddaramaiah's wife.

During the hearing, it came to light that notices had not been served to several key respondents, including Parvathi, her brother Mallikarjunaswamy, the DGP, and the Vijayanagar Inspector. The court has now ordered that notices and hand summons be served to all



parties and adjourned the matter to September 4 for further hearing.

This legal battle stems from a larger controversy in which Karnataka Governor Thawarchand Gehlot had earlier granted permission to prosecute CM Siddaramaiah in connection with the MUDA land scam. However, a Single Bench of the High Court stayed the Governor's order on September 24, 2024. Siddaramaiah subsequently challenged the stay order by filing an appeal, arguing that the prosecution sanction was politically motivated.

Four appeals related to this case are currently pending before the Division Bench. The core argument by Snehamayi Krishna is that only an independent agency like the CBI can probe allegations involving the state's top executive impartially.

This fresh round of notices has recharged the Opposition's attack on Siddaramaiah, who is already under political pressure over allegations of misuse of power. Opposition parties have reiterated their demand for his resignation, while Congress leaders maintain that the al-

lotments were as per norms and that the allegations are politically motivated.

The next hearing on September 4 is likely to be crucial, with the court expected to decide whether to allow the CBI to step in and whether the Governor's prosecution sanction stays valid.

With four appeals, a high-profile political figure, and allegations of misuse of power and irregular allotments, the MUDA case remains one of Karnataka's most closely watched legal battles this year.

HC interim stay on closure of Jan Aushadi centres welcome: LoP

Govt succumbed to private medical lobby, alleges BJP leader R Ashoka

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BENGALURU

'I welcome the interim stay order issued by the High Court regarding the closure of Jan Aushadhi centres. The government, which succumbed to the private lobby, has now faced a setback, said Opposition Leader R. Ashok.

Speaking at a press conference, he said the High Court has issued an interim stay order on the closure of Jan Aushadhi centres. 'The BJP had fought against this decision. The government closed Jan Aushadhi centres to favour private medical pharmacies. The government, which bowed to the private lobby, has now faced a setback. The Health and Medical Education Minister must now understand what people need and work accordingly'.

'Government hospitals are required to provide 260-270 medicines, but such a quantity is not available. Medicines are available at discounted rates at Jan Aushadhi centres. Recently, during a visit to Hassan hospital, I found only one cardiologist. In an emer-



gency related to heart conditions, they administer an injection and send patients to Bengaluru.

Closing Jan Aushadhi centres in such a situation would cause significant problems', he said.

'Terrorists are being facilitated even in jails. The Home Department is completely defunct. The state government must immediately deport Bangladeshi and Pakistani citizens. A special task force should be formed for this purpose. Vote-bank politics should not be played here.

Steps must be taken to monitor prisoners' movements, and the use of mobile phones in jails should be prevented', he demanded.

'Rambhupuri Jagadguru has expressed his opinion.

When lakhs of devotees visit, he expresses their sentiments. That's what Swamiji has conveyed.

The government is announcing guarantees every day, but there's no money to transport rice, leading to a lorry strike. Giving guarantees while keeping all bills pending is of no use.

Even though free bus services are provided, schoolchildren have to walk. Swamiji has said that people should be given a self-reliant life', he noted.

'B.K. Hariprasad has insulted the oppressed communities. In the BJP, we don't announce presidents based on hereditary succession.

Elections are not held in Congress, but the BJP follows democracy', he said.

Paying obeisance to the Guru



Sri Sai Spiritual Centre decorated with fruits and vegetables on the occasion of "Guru Purnima" festival, in Bengaluru on Thursday

‘Only 30 pc of coconut husk utilised’

UNION MINISTER CALLS FOR BOOST IN COIR VALUE ADDITION

BENGALURU

UNION Minister Shobha Karandlaje on Thursday said only 30 per cent of the coconut husk generated in India is being effectively utilised and stressed the urgent need to enhance value addition in the coir sector, particularly in response to growing domestic demand for coco peat (coco pith). Karandlaje emphasised the importance of developing new applications for coir products, especially in horticulture and other emerging sectors. Union Minister of State for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) was reviewing the research and develop-

ment activities of the Central Institute of Coir Technology (CICT) under the Coir Board in Bengaluru, according to an official release. Highlighting the growing potential of carbon extraction from coir fibre, Karandlaje expressed interest in its role in environmental sustainability and carbon credit markets.

She suggested that training programmes be modular and industry-specific—covering coconut-based products, carbon/charcoal extraction, and coir wood panel production. She also urged the CICT and Coir Board to actively collaborate with national-level technical institutions such as the Indian Council of Ag-



ricultural Research (ICAR), Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (CPCRI), Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (IIHR), the Coconut Development Board, and various state-level export units. The goal, she said, should be to create scalable and high-value coir-based products.

Karandlaje reiterated that the technologies developed by the Coir Board must be systematically transferred to farmers, entrepreneurs, and co-operatives through a phased, sector-specific approach to ensure widespread adoption at the grassroots level, the release added.

Govt takes over historic Gali Anjaneya Swamy temple under Muzrai dept

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THE historic Gali Anjaneya Swamy Temple located in Byatarayanapura on Mysuru Road, Bengaluru, has officially been brought under the jurisdiction of the Karnataka State Muzrai Department. The decision was taken following multiple allegations of financial mismanagement and administrative lapses within the temple trust.

A government order, issued under Sections 42 and 43 of the Karnataka Hindu Religious Institutions and Charitable Endowments Act, 1997, declares the temple a "notified institution." This follows a detailed report submitted by the Muzrai Department, which highlighted gross irregularities, including the alleged misuse of temple funds.

The controversy came to light last year when CCTV footage emerged showing trust members mishandling money while



counting offerings from the temple's donation box (hundi). The video, widely circulated on social media, triggered public outrage and raised questions about transparency in the temple's administration.

According to the Muzrai Department's report, the temple generates lakhs of rupees annually, yet the trust failed to maintain proper financial records for over 25 years. Records were reportedly created only after intervention by the department's assistant commissioner. It also stated that

despite the substantial income, there has been no surplus recorded, and the expenditure patterns raised suspicions of fund misuse.

The report further stated, "There is no internal harmony among the trust members, and management has been non-transparent. Given the misuse of funds, lack of accountability, and the public sentiment involved, the government deems it appropriate to bring the Gali Anjaneya Swamy Temple under direct Muzrai Department control for better regulation and to uphold devotees' faith."

The government order cited all these reasons and officially declared the temple a government-administered "notified institution" under the 1997 Act.

With this move, the administration of the temple is now under the Muzrai Department, ensuring better oversight, record-keeping, and accountability, aiming to restore public trust in one of Bengaluru's most revered temples.

BEAUTY ON DUTY



Chief Minister Siddaramaiah meets Miss Universe Karnataka- 2025 Vamshi in New Delhi on Thursday