

IN BRIEF

FB post lands man in judicial custody

MANGALURU: A Facebook post linking religious processions and mosques has resulted in the arrest of a Bengaluru-based man, highlighting growing concerns about provocative content on social media platforms. The arrested individual, identified as Mahesh Vikram Hegde (45), was booked by Moodbidri Police after he uploaded a message on September 9 under the account name "Post Card." The post, framed as an appeal to the Chief Minister, urged bulldozer action against a mosque allegedly involved in stone-throwing incidents during a Ganesh Chaturthi procession. Police said the content was "provocative and capable of disrupting communal peace." A case was registered under Section 353(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). Investigators located Hegde in Bengaluru, where he was taken into custody and brought to Moodbidri. He was presented before the local CJ and JMFC court on September 12, which ordered his judicial custody. Senior police officials said the case serves as a reminder that inflammatory social media posts will not be tolerated. The investigation will examine whether others were involved in amplifying the post. The arrest comes at a time when Karnataka Police have increased monitoring of online platforms for content that could potentially spark communal discord.

Court awards death penalty for rape and murder of minor

MANGALURU: In a case that drew widespread attention, a special court in Dakshina Kannada on Thursday awarded the death penalty to a 51-year-old man convicted of raping and murdering his minor niece in Jokatte, Mangaluru, last year. The convict, identified as Fakkeerappa Hanumappa Madar, a resident of Belagavi district, was found guilty of entering a rented house on the morning of August 6, 2024, where he assaulted the girl before killing her. The Additional District and Sessions Court (FTSC-2 POCOS) handed down the death penalty under Section 103(1) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). It also imposed life imprisonment and a fine of ₹50,000 under Section 4(2) of the POCOS Act. Additional fines and imprisonment terms were ordered under criminal trespass provisions. According to police, the investigation was carried out swiftly, with a chargesheet filed within a year. The accused remained in custody throughout the proceedings. The trial concluded in just 13 months, resulting in a rare death penalty verdict under the new BNS framework. Senior police officials, including former city commissioner Anupam Agarwal and DCPs Siddharth Goyal, BP Dinesh Kumar, and Mithun HN, supervised the probe. Inspector Mohammed Saleem Abbas of Panambur Police led the investigation, with Special Public Prosecutor Sahana Devi arguing the case. Police said the judgment underscores the judiciary's strong stance on crimes against minors.

Triton Valves celebrates 50 glorious years

BENGALURU: Triton Valves Limited, India's largest manufacturer of automotive tyre valves and a leading engineering partner to industries worldwide, commemorated its 50th anniversary with a grand celebration on Wednesday at Bengaluru. The event, marking five decades of pioneering excellence, innovation, and resilience, was attended by key dignitaries, partners, and industry leaders from the automotive sector. The distinguished evening was graced by Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar, the Maharaja of Mysore, Nandan Nilekani, Co-founder & Chairman of Infosys, and Swapnil Jain, Co-founder of Ather Energy, alongside guests including industry leaders, partners, and employees.

Food Minister mulls revoking BPL cards for high-income holders

HANS NEWS SERVICE
DAVANAGERE

KARNATAKA'S Food and Civil Supplies Minister K H Muniyappa announced that the state government is contemplating the cancellation of Below Poverty Line (BPL) cards for individuals with an annual income exceeding Rs. 1.20 lakh. In a media interaction on Saturday in Davanagere, Muniyappa explained that a survey conducted by the Union government has identified the need to revoke such cards to ensure benefits reach only the truly deserving. "The central government has carried out a survey, and based on its findings,



BPL cards of those with annual incomes above Rs. 1.20 lakh must be cancelled. We are deliberating on this and will implement it as required," he stated, emphasising the importance of refining the beneficiary list without compromising wel-

Minister warns against communalising Ganesh immersion tragedy



HANS NEWS SERVICE
HASSAN

DISTRICT in-charge Minister Krishna Byregowda has strongly warned that attempts to give a communal colour to the horrific Ganesh immersion tragedy at Mosalehosahalli will not be tolerated. He said such acts amount to a criminal offence and strict legal action will be taken against those responsible. After visiting the residence of Prabhakar, a victim from Holenarasipura taluk, to console the grieving family, Byregowda told reporters, "This is a heart-wrenching tragedy. On behalf of the government, I express my deepest condolences. The loss suffered by the families cannot be compensated with words. We share in their grief, and each bereaved family will be given compensation of Rs 5 lakh." On the treatment of the injured, he explained, "Arrangements have been made for their treatment in the hospital. I had directed the district

administration to complete legal formalities overnight and hand over the bodies without delay. Postmortem examinations were conducted and the bodies were handed over to families by 3 am." Byregowda also disclosed that the accident raised suspicions when seen on video. "The truck first hit a bike, then accelerated again, ramming the divider and ploughing into the Ganesh procession, causing the tragedy," he said. On the driver's condition, the minister clarified, "Blood samples were collected last night to test whether the driver was under the influence of alcohol. The samples have been sent to the forensic lab with a request for immediate results. Tests at HIMs ruled out drug use." He further added, "When I met locals, they shared many concerns and suggestions. It is our duty to respond with compassion. The government will carefully consider their inputs and take necessary action."

'Govt creating controversies over Ganesh festival celebrations'

BENGALURU

THE Karnataka unit of BJP has criticised the Congress-led government, saying it is creating a series of controversies regarding celebration of Ganesh festival. Speaking to the media on Saturday at the BJP State Office, Jagannath Bhavan in Bengaluru, the Legislative Council Opposition Leader Chalavadi Narayanaswamy said that the government is more afraid of minorities than supporting them, because it does not have the power to control them. Therefore, the state government is creating controversies by not allowing the

Ganesh festivities to take place. The Congress government stands in the favor of minorities. On one hand, it claims to support minorities, and on the other, it acts out caste-based politics in fear of them, Chalavadi Narayanaswamy criticised. He added that, as per tradition, Ganeshotsava (Ganesh festival) has been celebrated peacefully without any disturbances in the past. "The Chief Minister is taking back criminal cases of minorities for political mileage and attempting to present them as peace ambassadors. This is disrupting peace across the state," he alleged.

Families mourn engineering students among 9 dead in accident

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HASSAN

THE horrific road accident at Mosalehosahalli in Hassan district on Friday night has left nine people dead, including three engineering students from different districts. Among the deceased were Praveen Kumar from Ballari, Mithun from Chitradurga, and Suresh from Chikkamagaluru. Their bodies were brought back to their native villages on Saturday, where grief-stricken families and residents broke down in tears. Of the nine victims, eight were under 25 years of age, with the ninth being a 55-year-old man from Hassan. The untimely deaths of these youngsters have devastated their families and friends, leaving behind a trail of inconsolable sorrow. Praveen Kumar, a final-year engineering student originally from Nagalakere in Ballari, was the only son of his widowed mother, Sushilamma. Despite grinding poverty, she worked as a cook in a private hospital to support her son's education. Having lost her husband when Praveen was just two years old, she raised him with dreams that one day he would secure a good job and lift the family out of hardship. Those dreams were shattered when his lifeless body returned home in an ambulance on Saturday morning. Villagers wept alongside the grieving mother, whose cries pierced the air. His aunt, sobbing uncontrollably, said: "My sister worked day and night in the hospital to educate her son. Last night we got a call saying he was hurt in the leg. We prayed for his safe return, but today he came back as a body. He was like a son to all of us." Hundreds of Praveen's friends gathered at his home, shedding tears and promising to stand by the family in this dark time. In Chitradurga, Mithun, a final-year student at the Government Engineering College in Hosadurga, also met a tragic end. What made his death even more heart-wrenching was that it came just hours after he had celebrated his birthday on Friday. His friends recalled cutting a cake and wishing him, unaware that it would be his last celebration. In Chikkamagaluru's Manenahalli, the body of student Suresh was brought to his village for the final rites. His brother Raju lit the funeral pyre as the entire village mourned in silence. Former minister and MLC C.T. Ravi

visited the grieving family and offered condolences. Former minister B. Sriramulu also visited Praveen Kumar's home in Ballari, where he demanded that the government enhance compensation for the poor family. "The government must provide at least Rs 10 lakh to Praveen's family. No amount can bring him back, but greater support can help his mother survive this unbearable loss," Sriramulu said. The tragedy has left not just families, but entire communities in Ballari, Chitradurga, and Chikkamagaluru in deep mourning, as the young victims were seen as the future of their households.



PM announces Rs 2 lakh ex gratia

BENGALURU

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday expressed grief over the tragic incident of a truck ploughing into the Ganesh Visarjan procession, leading to the death of nine people. "The mishap in Hassan, Karnataka, is heart-rending. In this tragic hour, my thoughts are with the bereaved families. I hope those who have been injured recover at the earliest," the

Prime Minister's Office (PMO) quoted PM Modi as saying in a post on the social media platform X. "An ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh from PMNRF would be given to the next of kin of each deceased. The injured would be given Rs 50,000," it said. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah expressed his condolences over the tragic incident and announced Rs 5 lakh compensation and free treatment to injured persons.

BEML, DIAT join forces to boost defence, aerospace innovation

BENGALURU

BEML Limited, a leading public sector company under the Ministry of Defence, and the Defence Institute of Advanced Technology (DIAT), a premier deemed university under the same ministry, on Friday entered into a strategic partnership to promote innovation and academic excellence in the defence and aerospace sectors. The Memorandum of Understanding was exchanged in the presence of BEML Chairman and Managing Director Shantanu Roy and DIAT Vice-Chancellor B H V S Narayana Murthy, and formally signed by BEML Executive Director M G G Raju and DIAT Dean Sangeeta Kale, along with senior lead-



ership from both institutions. BEML, in a statement, said the collaboration will drive advanced research in frontier technologies, support academic programmes leading to postgraduate and doctoral degrees, and facilitate the development of case studies, white papers, and research articles. The partnership will also include capsule programmes, industry immersions, internships for DIAT scholars at BEML, and BEML-sponsored doctoral enrolments, it added. On the occasion, Roy said, "This collaboration represents a significant step in strengthening India's self-reliance in defence and aerospace.

Opposition mounting against new irrigation project in Uttara Kannada

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KARWAR

A fresh irrigation project proposed for Uttara Kannada district has sparked strong opposition from seers, legislators, and Members of Parliament. They have demanded that the government first conduct a carrying capacity study of the district and review the ecological impact of river-linking and the Sharavathi Pump Storage Project before moving forward. The current proposal seeks to link the Shalmala and Bedti rivers with the Varada river and divert water to Haveri district. Haveri MP and former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai has repeatedly spoken in favor of the plan. The state government has also signaled readiness to implement the Sharavathi Pump

Storage Project in the district. However, both projects have drawn widespread resistance locally. Critics argue that Uttara Kannada has already made enormous sacrifices, hosting several hydel and dam projects, including the Kaiga project. Locals fear that further projects could lead to more landslides and ecological imbalance. Speaking on the issue, Uttara Kannada MP Vishweshwar Hegde Kageri said: "The district's carrying capacity must be studied before taking up any new project. I have raised this in Parliament as well. The government cannot push new projects without assessing their long-term impact. People here have already sacrificed much for earlier projects and remain displaced without proper support.

Culturally, people of all religions participate in Dussehra festival: CM

MYSURU

COMMENTING on the controversy over the Mysuru Dussehra inauguration by International Booker Prize awardee Banu Mudda, the Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said on Saturday that the matter should be settled in court. He further stressed that culturally, people of all religions participate in Dussehra festival and it is not of any one religion. Speaking to the media in Mysuru on Saturday, CM Siddaramaiah stated, "Culturally, people of all religions



participate in Dussehra festival. Dussehra is a state festival, not limited to a single religion or community. Everyone from all castes and religions can participate." He further said that if former BJP MP Pratap Simha tried to disturb peace, the police would take action. Answering media queries about alleged delays in the Special Investigation Team (SIT) probe in the Dharmasthala case, the Chief Minister said there was no delay. "The SIT is conducting its investigations independently, and the government

is not intervening. There is no reason for unnecessary delay, and as far as I know, there is no delay," he said. On the FIRs filed against BJP MLC C.T. Ravi and MLA Basanagouda Yatnal for allegedly making inflammatory speeches following the Ganesh Visarjan violence in Maddur town, the Chief Minister said that maintaining peace and public order is essential. Action would be taken against anyone giving provocative speeches and this is not a political matter. In response to a ques-

tion that the violent act was planned against Hindus, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said he is "also a Hindu, and both the names Ishwar and Ram are part of my name." Talking about the Ganesh Visarjan tragedy in which nine people were killed and 20 injured in Hassan district, CM Siddaramaiah stated, "The government providing compensation to the families of the deceased does not equate to equaling the death. Compensation is provided as a gesture of condolence to the bereaved families."