

SC stays HC order disqualifying Malur MLA

BENGALURU: The Supreme Court on Tuesday granted an interim stay on the Karnataka High Court order that had annulled the election of Congress MLA K Y Nanjengowda from the Malur Assembly constituency in Kolar district. A bench comprising Justices Surya Kant and Joy-malya Bagchi, hearing Nanjengowda's special leave petition challenging the High Court's verdict, issued notices to the respondents and posted the matter for further hearing on November 24.

The apex court also directed the Election Commission of India (ECI) to conduct a recount of votes in the constituency and submit the results in a sealed cover. However, it instructed that the outcome must not be made public without prior permission from the court. The single-judge bench of the High Court had found merit in the allegations that vote counting was carried out in two separate rooms, violating the provisions of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 and guidelines of the Election Commission. The court had also directed the ECI to recount the votes within four weeks and declare the winner based on the fresh tally.

In his petition, Manjunath Gowda claimed that polling agents of several candidates were not given proper access to the counting process and that multiple irregularities had influenced the final result.

139 TV artistes duped in fake site deal

BENGALURU: In a shocking case of fraud, as many as 139 television actors and artists have allegedly been cheated of crores of rupees under the pretext of being allotted residential sites in Bengaluru. The accused reportedly collected money promising land, created fake layout plans and fabricated property documents, and defrauded members of the television fraternity. An FIR has been registered at the Rajarajeshwari Nagar Police Station against five people — builder Bhagiratha, Sanjeev Tagaduru, Guruprasad, Ravindra, and Umakant — based on a complaint filed by Bhavana Belegere, a member of the Karnataka Television Association (KTVA). According to police sources, the fraud dates back to 2015, when Sanjeev Tagaduru, then a member of the KTVA Site Committee, along with builder Bhagiratha, had proposed to provide sites near Tavarekere. They allegedly collected huge sums of money from artistes, claiming to arrange genuine sale deeds. However, when the property registration process began, the documents were found to be fake, exposing the large-scale scam. The complaint states that the accused created bogus layout maps and forged land documents, cheating artists of approximately ₹1.6 crore. Several well-known small-screen actors, including Bhavana Belegere, Sharath Chandra, and Rahul, are among the victims.

Phoenix India light festival 2025

BENGALURU: Phoenix Mall of Asia, Bengaluru's premier destination for shopping, dining, and culture, proudly presents the India Light Festival 2.0 – Sitaro Ki Diwali – The Festival of Lights, Redefined. Launched this September with Navratri, the grand Diwali décor installation has transformed the Plaza into a vibrant festive hub, glowing with dazzling star-inspired elements and setting the tone for the season's celebrations. Building on last year's success of programmatic light installations that became a city landmark, this year's Phoenix India Light Festival (ILF) 2025, themed "Rhythms of Reverie," takes the experience further. The mall is reimagined as a luminous sanctuary where art and technology come together, offering visitors an immersive journey of color, memory, and imagination.

TN man ‘sends hoax bomb threat’ to residences of CM, Dy CM

BENGALURU

A probe has been launched to trace a man from Tamil Nadu who allegedly sent a hoax email recently threatening to blow up the residences of Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, police said on Tuesday.

The emails were sent from a particular ID to the Tamil Nadu DGP on October 11, following which officials of the Karnataka police were

immediately alerted and necessary precautionary measures were taken, they said.

The purported email from aarna.ashwinshekher@outlook.com claimed that “four RDX devices and several IEDs” had been planted at the residences of both the Chief Minister and the Deputy Chief Minister and would be “detonated remotely.”

As per protocol, precautionary measures were initiated, and the Bengaluru

police carried out combing operations at both residences with the bomb detection and disposal squad. However, after thorough checks, the emails were declared a hoax, a senior police officer said.

A case was registered by the police on their own against the sender of the purported email at Halasuru Gate police station under sections 351(4) (criminal intimidation) and 353(1) (b) (statements conducing to public mischief) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita

(BNS), the officer said.

“The particular email ID has been tracked to a man from Tamil Nadu and efforts are on to nab the culprit. However, what we have observed is that in the past few months, we have repeatedly received such emails with similar threats and content, which later turn out to be hoax,” he said. “A special investigation team has also been formed to trace those behind such hoax emails. Further investigation is underway,” he added.



AI cameras tighten traffic monitoring in Bengaluru Record 87% of violations automatically

HANS NEWS SERVICE BENGALURU

MOTORISTS who thought they could break traffic rules unnoticed are in for a shock. The Bengaluru City Traffic Police have deployed advanced AI-powered cameras across major roads to automatically detect and record traffic violations, drastically reducing manual policing on the streets. According to official data, 87% of all traffic violations reported between January and July 2025 were captured through these AI cameras.

Of the 30 lakh total cases registered during this period, 11,800 violations were recorded daily by these automated systems, while police personnel manually registered only around 1,500 cases, mostly related to no-entry driving and illegal parking. The AI cameras, installed at nearly 75 key junctions, are capable of detecting a range of violations — including riding without a helmet, pillion riders not wearing helmets, driving without seat belts, and jumping traffic signals.

Each infraction is auto-



matically recorded in both video and photographic formats, leaving no room for motorists to deny the offense. Officials say that this system not only ensures transparency and accuracy but also saves time for traffic personnel who can now focus on managing congestion rather than stopping vehicles for checks.

Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic) Karthik Reddy told that public awareness about traffic rules has improved significantly after the installation of AI surveillance cameras. He

added that citizens can now conveniently check details of violations through the AS-TraM mobile app, designed for easy access to real-time traffic updates and penalty information. So far, the department has collected over ₹44 lakh in fines, accounting for nearly half of the total penalties imposed during this period.

The AI-driven enforcement system has been hailed as a success in improving compliance and accountability on Bengaluru's busy roads. However, challenges remain. Despite the tech-

nological progress, illegal parking and one-way violations continue to trouble the city traffic police. These offenses often occur in areas without camera coverage, forcing officers to intervene manually. Authorities plan to expand the network of AI cameras to additional high-traffic zones in the coming months to ensure comprehensive monitoring. With the integration of artificial intelligence into daily enforcement, Bengaluru is fast emerging as a model city for smart traffic management in India.

Bengaluru’s ‘immortal’ potholes spark clash between industrialists and govt

HANS NEWS SERVICE BENGALURU

THE city's never-ending pothole problem continues to haunt commuters and embarrass the government, despite repeated promises of action. The issue, which has frustrated citizens for years, has now reignited tensions between industrialists and the state government, after Biocon chief Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw raised her voice once again over Bengaluru's crumbling infrastructure.

Entrepreneurs had earlier warned that they might move their operations out of the city if conditions did not improve. Following criticism from the industry and the high command's reprimand, both Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy CM D. K. Shivakumar had personally intervened, issuing strict orders and deadlines to officials. Yet, potholes continue

to dominate Bengaluru's roads.

In a social media post that went viral, Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw revealed that a visiting industrialist from China questioned her about the city's poor roads and garbage piles, asking whether the government truly supports investors. She tagged CM Siddaramaiah, DCM D. K. Shivakumar, and Minister Priyank Kharge in the post, drawing public attention to the issue once again.

Responding to her remarks, IT & BT Minister Priyank Kharge said, “Industrialists like Kiran Mazumdar have made valuable contributions to Bengaluru, and we welcome their inputs. But they can also reach out directly to us for discussions. Everyone must play their part—citizens must stop littering and take responsibility. Garbage doesn't fall from the sky.” He also added that

other states are naturally inviting entrepreneurs, noting humorously that “the Andhra IT Minister seems to be waiting like a hawk for opportunities.”

Meanwhile, Large and Medium Industries Minister M. B. Patil took a balanced tone, acknowledging both the city's challenges and Shaw's role. “Kiran Mazumdar has contributed a lot to Bengaluru, and Bengaluru too has given her everything. Heavy rains have caused damage across the state, making it difficult to fix potholes immediately. Still, we are working to repair them. The number of people coming to Bengaluru continues to grow—hardly anyone is leaving,” he said.

Despite the reassurances, residents and business leaders remain skeptical, as Bengaluru's potholes continue to outlive every deadline, turning into a symbol of the city's chronic civic neglect.



EIGHTH SESSION OF ISA ASSEMBLY IN INDIA FROM OCTOBER 27-30

HANS NEWS SERVICE BENGALURU

THE Eighth Session of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) Assembly, scheduled from October 27 to 30 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, will bring the world together under one Sun, one vision, and one shared commitment to solar energy.

Launched by India and France at COP21 in Paris, ISA is the largest treaty-based intergovernmental organisation from the Global South, bringing together 124 Member and Signatory Countries. This high-level ministerial gathering comes weeks ahead of COP30 in Brazil, shaping priorities for scaling solar energy, unlocking transformative finance, charting technology and policy roadmaps, and



building skill ecosystems to accelerate a just and inclusive energy transition.

At the curtain-raiser today Pralhad Joshi, Minister of New and Renewable Energy,

GoI, & President of the ISA Assembly, said, “Owing to its clear vision and the consist-

ent policies, India achieved its renewable energy targets five years ahead of the schedule, crossing the 50% mark in overall installed electricity capacity from non-fossil resources. Today with approximately 125 GW of solar capacity, India is the world's third largest solar producer. This progress shows how the national ambition can translate to meaningful change at the local level. It is because our success story is more than just numbers; it is about the people. We have seen firsthand how decentralised solar transforms lives, bring light to rural homes, powers local health centres and gives new tools to our farmers. With PM Surya Ghar - Muft Bijli Yojana, more than 20 lakh households are benefiting from solar power.”

Man arrested for cheating people with ‘black magic’ rituals

BENGALURU

A 49-year-old man was arrested for allegedly cheating people by claiming to perform rituals to remove 'black magic' or 'retrieve hidden treasures', police said on Tuesday. With the arrest of the accused, identified as Dada Peer, who operated under multiple aliases, police said they recovered 485.4 grams of stolen gold ornaments worth Rs 53 lakh.

The matter came to light on September 26, when Hulimavu police received a tip-off that a suspicious person was standing near Bannerghatta Main Road, police said. Acting on the information, the station staff rushed to the spot, detained the man, and found he was a native of Kolar. Upon inspection, gold ornaments were recovered from his possession.

When questioned about their source, he confessed

to stealing the ornaments and searching for buyers to sell them, a senior police officer said. A case of theft was registered at Hulimavu police station, and the accused was formally arrested, police added.

During interrogation, the accused revealed that he deceived the public by claiming to perform rituals to 'remove black magic' or 'unearth hidden treasures' (nidhi). Gaining their trust, he would collect gold ornaments under the pretext of performing rituals or puja and then escape with them, the officer said.

He further confessed to committing a similar offence recently in Bhadravathi, Shivamogga district, Karnataka, the officer added. Police said half of the stolen gold ornaments were kept at his residence in Kolar, while the rest were pledged at jewellery shops in Nagpur, Maharashtra, and BTM Layout here.

Minister alleges threat calls for seeking ban on RSS activities in govt premises

BENGALURU

MINISTER Priyank Kharge on Tuesday claimed that he has been receiving phone calls “filled with threats, intimidation and filthiest abuses” directed at him and his family, as he dared to question and restrain RSS activities in government schools, colleges and public institutions.

“For the past two days, my phone hasn't stopped ringing. Calls filled with threats, intimidation and the filthiest abuse directed at me and my family, simply because I dared to

question and restrain RSS activities in government schools, colleges and public institutions,” Kharge said in a post on ‘X’.

However, the Minister, who is the son of Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, asserted that he was neither shaken nor surprised.

“When the RSS didn't spare Mahatma Gandhi or Babasaheb Ambedkar, why would they spare me?” he remarked.

Reiterating his resolve, Kharge, who is Information Technology and Biotechnology Minister,



said, “If they (RSS) think threats and personal jibes will silence me, they are mistaken. This has just begun.”

Calling for a more equitable and compassionate

society, he added, “It is time to build a society founded on the principles of Buddha, Basavanna and Babasaheb, a society rooted in equality, reason and compassion, and purge this nation of the most

dangerous viRuSS.”

The Minister recently wrote to the Chief Minister Siddaramaiah requesting him to ban RSS activities in government schools and colleges and public places. “An organisation called the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) has been conducting its shakhas in government and government-aided schools, as well as in public grounds, where slogans are shouted and negative ideas are instilled in the minds of children and youth,” he wrote in his letter.

He claimed that such

practices go against India's unity and the spirit of the Constitution. Later speaking to reporters, Kharge said he had been in a similar situation when Basavaraj Bommai was the Chief Minister.

“The police officers who investigated the matter in the past had told me that the IP addresses of the calls are masked and no one can figure out from where the call has been made. They told me officially that they cannot do much. Even now the same has happened,” he said.

According to Kharge,

whenever he spoke out against the system, he received such calls. “Let them make threat calls, I am not going to be intimidated.” Addressing reporters, Siddaramaiah said he is not aware of threat calls to Priyank Kharge.

“I don't know about any such development. I will speak to Priyank Kharge,” he said. The Chief Minister on Monday said he has forwarded Kharge's letter to the Chief Secretary to find out what the Tamil Nadu government has done to stop RSS activities in government and public properties.