



IN BRIEF

Bengali domestic help alleges brutal assault by police

BENGALURU: A shocking allegation has surfaced against the Varthur police, with a Bengali woman claiming that she was brutally assaulted in custody, including on her private parts. The victim, identified as Sundari Bibi (34), has accused the police of inhuman treatment that left her with severe injuries and unable to walk properly. According to reports, Sundari Bibi worked as a domestic help in an apartment within the Varthur police limits. She allegedly found some money lying in a house where she worked and went to return it to her employer. The house owner, after checking CCTV footage, accused her of theft, assaulted her, and handed her over to the police.

However, what followed at the station has drawn outrage. The woman has alleged that Varthur police officers beat her mercilessly — targeting her head, back, hands, legs, and even her private areas. The assault reportedly caused internal bleeding and swelling, leaving her bedridden.

The case has now taken on political dimensions, after the victim's family brought the matter to the attention of West Bengal Rajya Sabha MP and chairman of the West Bengal Migrant Workers Welfare Board, Samir UL. Following this, the West Bengal Chief Minister's Office was informed of the incident and has reportedly expressed serious displeasure over the conduct of Bengaluru police.

Officials from Bengal are said to be seeking a detailed report from Karnataka authorities regarding the alleged police brutality. The incident has reignited debate over the treatment of migrant workers, particularly domestic help, in metropolitan cities like Bengaluru. Civil rights groups have demanded a high-level probe into the alleged custodial violence, calling for action against those responsible.

Share details of tunnel project, but first fix potholes: BJP

BENGALURU: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Monday demanded that the Congress-led Karnataka government share complete details of the proposed Bengaluru tunnel road project, while questioning its feasibility and financial viability.

Leader of the Opposition R. Ashoka accused the state government of withholding key information from the public and mocked it for announcing mega infrastructure plans without addressing the city's persistent civic issues. "The Congress government has not given any information to the people of Bengaluru about the tunnel road project. First, they should answer the public's questions," Ashoka said while speaking to reporters here.

He said that when he sought clarification from officials, he was told that approval from 124 departments was required for the project. "To prove they have the expertise to execute such a project, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and D.K. Shivakumar should first fill the potholes on the roads. How can those who can't fill potholes build a tunnel? And where is the money for it?" Ashoka questioned.

Nearly 30 Bengalureans participated in a symbolic circular walk through Lalbagh on Rajyotsava weekend, highlighting the city's growing citizen movement to protect its rapidly vanishing green heritage

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU

MARKING the Karnataka Rajyotsava weekend, around 30 citizens gathered at Lalbagh, Bengaluru's iconic botanical garden, to take part in a symbolic 'Parikrama of Nature' — a circular walk expressing reverence for the environment and solidarity with the city's natural heritage. The walk was organized by Bengaluru Town Hall under the banner Lalbagh Nature Walk – Parikrama/Pradakshine.

Participants — including heritage enthusiasts, urban ecologists, students, and long-time residents — began their walk from the East Gate of Lalbagh, moving through its tree-lined pathways towards the historic Peninsular Gneiss Rock and Kempegowda's Watch Tower before completing the circle back at the starting point. The route was chosen to represent the unity of nature, heritage, and civic consciousness.

Speaking to the media, several participants expressed

Citizens undertake 'Parikrama of Nature' march at Lalbagh to reaffirm commitment to ecology



concern over increasing environmental degradation and large-scale infrastructure projects threatening the city's green spaces. "It is unimaginable that decisions could endanger what remains of Bengaluru's natural heritage," said one participant. Others stressed the need for sustained civic engagement to protect the city's lakes, trees, and biodiversity.

Organisers described the Parikrama as both a tribute and a reminder — urging citizens to reconnect with Bengaluru's ecological and cultural roots.

They highlighted that Lalbagh, first developed in the 18th century under Hyder Ali and Tipu Sultan, remains one of the few surviving lungs of the city.

The walk concluded with participants taking a collective pledge to support efforts for conservation, signalling a quiet but determined stand for a greener, more sustainable Bengaluru. Lalbagh, spread over 240 acres, houses more than 1,800 species of flora and continues to be central to the city's identity as the "Garden City."

'DeepTech Decade'

State announces Rs 600-cr fund to boost startups

BENGALURU

MINISTER Priyank Kharge on Monday announced the launch of the 'DeepTech Decade' initiative, under which the state government will introduce a 'DeepTech Elevate Policy' with a funding out-lay of Rs 600 crore to boost startups in emerging technologies.

"The next 10 years will be the 'DeepTech Decade'. We will leverage DeepTech with an investment of Rs 600 crore," said Kharge, who holds the Information Technology and Biotechnology portfolios, addressing a press conference here.

Announcing the 28th edition of the Bengaluru Tech Summit (BTS-2025), scheduled from November 18 to 20 at the Bangalore International Exhibition Centre (BIEC), Kharge said the state will also host the Future Makers Conclave (FMC)—a first-of-its-kind event and a key highlight of this year's summit.

The FMC, to be held on November



20, will bring together over 10,000 founders, entrepreneurs, investors, mentors, and industry leaders, serving as a platform to showcase India's most promising AI and DeepTech startups. The event will feature show-and-tell sessions, keynote speeches by unicorn founders, investors, and industry captains.

"This initiative reflects our vision to create a robust DeepTech pipeline supporting entrepreneurs working on technologies such as AI, Machine learning, quantum computing, advanced manufacturing, robotics, and sustainability-driven

innovation," Kharge said, adding that the move is aimed at positioning "Karnataka as the DeepTech Capital of India."

He also said the state government is in discussions with leading venture capital firms to create a joint fund of up to Rs 1,000 crore dedicated to DeepTech and AI startups. "Our blueprint is ready, and we are serious about being global players in the technology landscape," he added.

Outlining the investment plan, Kharge said Rs 150 crore will go to the DeepTech Elevate Fund with a focus on AI and frontier technologies. He said

Rs 80 crore will be allocated under the El-evate Beyond Bengaluru Fund to support startups in Mysuru, Mangaluru, Hubballi-Dharwad, and Kalaburagi.

Additionally, Rs 75 crore will be provided through the KITVIN Fund for equity-based investments in DeepTech and AI startups, with funding ranging between Rs 50 lakh and Rs 2 crore.

Additionally, Rs 48 crore will be allocated for new incubators and accelerators in Dharwad and Kalaburagi, while Rs 110 crore will be earmarked for business incubators in higher education institutions to nurture early-stage innovation and entrepreneurship across 11 institutions already cleared by the Cabinet.

Kharge said the government will also explore fund-of-funds and co-investment models with the venture capital ecosystem to ensure sustained capital flow and scalability across the DeepTech value chain.

JD(S) slams DKS over promise of land to Bihar association

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU

THE Janata Dal (Secular) has launched a sharp attack on Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar after he promised to allot land in Bengaluru to the Bihar Association. Calling the move "vote bank appeasement politics," the JDS accused the Congress government of "betraying Kannadigas for electoral gains."

In a fiery post on its official X handle, the JDS wrote, "Congress leaders who shout 'Our taxes, our rights' — what should we call your hypocrisy now? Shame on you for trying to gift land belonging to Kannadigas to migrants just for votes."

The post went on to allege that the Congress is prioritizing "high command slavery" over protecting the interests of local citizens. "Instead of safeguarding Kannadigas, you are indulging in appeasement politics for the sake of Hindi-speaking voters."

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy CM Shi-



vakumar once accused Biharis of snatching jobs from local youth. Now, to win Bihar elections, you promise them land in Bengaluru — a symbol of Congress's double standards," the JDS statement read.

The controversy stems from DK Shivakumar's recent assurance during an interaction with members of the Bihar community in Bengaluru. The Deputy CM said, "If not for Biharis, Bengaluru wouldn't have its finest buildings. Hence, land will be allotted to the Bihar Association in the city."

Shivakumar also urged construction firms and contractors to grant three days' leave to Bihari workers so

they could return home and vote in the upcoming Bihar elections.

The JDS has accused the Congress of using Karnataka's resources and taxpayers' money to run its "vote bank politics." The party alleged that the Congress leadership was "bending over backwards" to please non-Kannadiga communities for political benefit, instead of focusing on employment and development for local youth.

The statement has sparked intense political debate across Karnataka, with opposition parties framing it as yet another example of Congress's "appeasement politics" ahead of key elections.

Woman arrested for killing pet dog in apartment lift

BENGALURU

A woman has been arrested for allegedly killing a pet dog by banging it against the floor of an apartment lift here, police said on Monday. The incident, which took place on November 1, was captured on CCTV installed inside the lift, they said.

In the footage, the woman—identified as Pushpalatha—is seen entering the lift with the pet dog. As the doors closed, she allegedly banged the animal against the floor, killing it on the spot, po-lice said. According to the complaint filed by a 23-year-old woman, she had hired Pushpalatha to take care of her four-year-old dog, Goofy,

on a monthly salary of Rs 23,000 from September 11.

"On November 1, my dog died. When I asked Pushpalatha how the dog had died, she said she did not know. Later, upon checking the CCTV footage, it was found that near the lift, she had lifted the dog and thrown it onto the ground, causing its death," the complainant alleged.

A case has been registered under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act and Section 325 (mis-chief by killing or maiming an animal) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita at Bagalur police station. Pushpalatha was arrested on Sunday in connection with the incident, a senior police officer said.

Metro Pinkline to become operational by May

BENGALURU

KARNATAKA Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Monday announced that the Metro pink line will be operational by May 2026. In a post on X, he said the 13.76 km stretch from Kalena Agrahara to Nagawara will ease traffic.

"Our commitment to better connectivity continues! Namma Metro Pink Line connecting Kalena Agrahara to Nagawara will be operational by May 2026," Shivakumar said. "This 13.76 km stretch will ease traffic and strengthen north-south connectivity across Bengaluru," he added.

'Karnataka controlled by two mediocre sons'

BENGALURU

BJP MP Lahar Singh Siroya on Monday attacked Minister Priyank Kharge and Congress MLC Yathindra Siddaramaiah, alleging that the state was being "controlled by two mediocre sons" who "stoke needless controversy" and "ride roughshod over all seniors" in their party and in the government.

He alleged that despite being "arrogant" and violating their own high command's guidelines, they are tolerated. "One is not sure if the two act independently or are mouthpieces of their fathers? From my many political interactions, I have learnt that the two sons are intensely disliked by their own partymen. They are being tolerated because their fathers are in power. The moment their fathers step down, I am told, the reality for these two sons may become very different. If one son now acts like a super Congress President, the other acts like a super Chief Minister," Siroya said in a

post on X.

Priyank Kharge is the son of Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, while Yathindra is the son of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. The BJP MP claimed that, despite all the controversies, both their fathers don't seem to have the ability to stop them or correct them.

"Perhaps they secretly enjoy their dominance in the party and government, and use them as tools to communicate and accomplish what they cannot say or do directly," he said.

Taking a dig at Priyank Kharge, the BJP MP said the minister constantly makes ideological statements on the RSS and BJP, which is more in tune with Rahul Gandhi's "hate-filled" language.

"This indirectly earns brownie points for Kharge Senior with the Nehru-Gandhi family and helps him survive in Delhi. Kharge Junior has become a kind of guru to the Siddaramaiah government on ideological matters," he alleged.

Akshayakalpa Organic launches high-protein milk

BENGALURU

AKSHAYAKALPA Organic on Monday launched high-protein milk, further expanding its portfolio that includes high-protein paneer, peanut and ragi-based snacks. The new variant is part of the company's ongoing efforts to make clean, functional nutrition accessible to Indian consumers, it said in a statement.

The high-protein milk will be available across Bengaluru, Hyderabad, and Chennai, and can be ordered through the Akshayakalpa App and on Swiggy throughout November,



the company said. Produced from fresh organic cow milk and developed using ultrafiltration technology, the new high-protein milk delivers 25 grams of protein per 250 ml serving and is lactose-free. The milk is also free from antibiotic

preservatives, and added hormones, it said.

"It is designed to be gentle on the gut and easy to digest, offering consumers a healthy option that can be consumed directly from the pack or used in smoothies, cereals, and beverages," the company said. Shashi Kumar, Founder and CEO of Akshayakalpa Organic, said, "Protein is one of the most critical nutrients for long-term health, yet most Indian diets do not provide enough of it. With the launch of our high-protein milk, we are strengthening our commitment to clean, functional nutrition."

NEW DELHI

India's white collar hiring strong in October

INDIA'S white-collar job market in October 2025 showed notable strength in education, accounting and finance, BPO/ITES, and specialised tech roles despite a slowdown in recruitment during the Diwali-Dussehra holidays, a report said on Monday. The report from recruitment platform

Naukri said that India's white-collar hiring experienced a 3 per cent year-on-year growth when adjusted for the 'holiday effect' from the festive calendar shift. The Naukri JobSpeak Index recorded 2,480 points dur-

ing the month, marking a 9 per cent year-on-year dip, as the Diwali-Dussehra festive cluster temporarily slowed recruitment momentum. While the festive season led to a broad-based slowdown, sectors such as accounting and finance (up 15 per cent YoY), education (up 13 per cent), and BPO/ITES (up 6 per cent) defied the trend with positive growth.

FAN MURDER CASE

Court frames charges against Darshan, 16 others

BENGALURU

Accused plead innocence

A Karnataka court on Monday framed the charges against jailed Kannada superstar Darshan, his partner Pavithra Gowda, and 15 other accused in the sensational fan murder case.

Darshan and all other accused denied all charges against them in the case of the gruesome murder of his fan Renukaswamy here on June 8, 2024. Renukaswamy was kidnapped from his hometown, Chitradurga, brought to Bengaluru, kept

in a shed, and tortured to death.

After the murder, his body was thrown into a canal. The incident came to light after the security personnel of a private apartment building saw the body being dragged by a pack of dogs.

Judge Erappanna Pavadi Naik read out the charges against Darshan, Pavithra Gowda, and the other accused and sought their response. The court also asked

them to confirm whether they were able to hear the charges clearly.

Subsequently, the judge announced that the date for the trial would be fixed on November 10 and adjourned the matter. The jail authorities had produced Darshan, Pavithra Gowda and other accused before the court. Tight security arrangements were made in the premises of the 64th CCH Court, with additional police force de-



puted. Initially, the judge directed that the advocates concerned with the case should only be present, or he would adjourn the matter, questioning where he would make the 17 accused persons stand while beginning the process of framing of charges. He had also directed the lawyers overcrowding the court hall to step out.

Darshan is facing the charge of murder under IPC Section 302, while he has been booked for causing fatal injuries under Section 355, under Section 120-b for

criminal conspiracy, Section 204 for attempting to destroy evidence, and Section 359 for kidnapping. He is also booked under Sections 143, 147, 148 and 149 for illegal gathering and other charges.

Darshan was released from prison on October 30, 2024, after spending 131 days in custody.

Following the appeal by Karnataka Police, the Supreme Court has cancelled the bail and Darshan, his partner Pavithra Gowda, and others were re-arrested.