

IN BRIEF

Notice to govt over 'bribes' taken from dead woman's father

NEW DELHI: The NHRC has sought a report within two weeks from the Karnataka government and state police chief over the alleged collection of bribes from a grieving 64-year-old father of a woman who died after a brain haemorrhage, an official said on Tuesday.

The alleged harassment of the man started after the death of his daughter, an IIT Madras and IIM Ahmedabad graduate working in Bengaluru, who suffered a brain haemorrhage on September 18. The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has taken suo motu cognisance of a media report that, while mourning the death of his only daughter, the elderly man was made to pay bribes at every step, including an ambulance driver, police, crematorium staff and civic officials in Bengaluru.

According to the media report, carried on October 30, what should have been a solemn farewell turned into a nightmare of corruption, bureaucracy and inhumanity. The Commission has observed that the contents of the news report, if true, raise serious issues of violation of human rights.

Therefore, it has issued notices to the Chief Secretary and the Director General of Police, Karnataka, calling for a detailed report on the matter within two weeks.

When the father called an ambulance after the death of his daughter, the ambulance driver apparently overcharged for the services. When he reported his daughter's death to the police, they not only displayed a lack of empathy but also gave copies of the FIR and post-mortem report only after a bribe was paid.

According to the media report, the deceased's family donated the girl's eyes before cremation. Money was again demanded at the crematorium, which the father paid.

There was also a considerable delay in issuing a death certificate from the Mahadevapura Municipal authorities. Despite intervention by a senior officer, the certificate was issued only after the father paid a bribe.

Earlier, the NHRC asked 19 state governments and 4 UT Administrations to take pre-emptive steps and implement relief measures for vulnerable people ahead of the upcoming winter season.

The Commission directed the State and UT governments to protect newborns, children, infants, poor, elderly, homeless, destitutes and people involved in beggary, who are at risk of exposure to cold waves due to lack of shelter and resources, said a statement.

Woman complains of sexual harassment during morning walk

BENGALURU: A 33-year-old woman was allegedly sexually harassed and subjected to public indecency while walking her dog here, police said on Tuesday. The incident occurred in Indiranagar here on November 1, they said.

According to the complaint filed by the victim, around 11:57 a m, when she was walking her pet, suddenly when an unknown man, believed to be in his 30s, called out 'Madam' to get her attention. When she turned, he allegedly began to publicly expose himself and masturbate. The complainant stated that the man intentionally targeted her to outrage her modesty. Shocked by the act, she ran home with her dog and later informed her sister and her friend about the incident.

A case has been registered against the unidentified man for sexual harassment under section 75 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and investigation is underway to identify and

Engineers given weekly targets to demolish illegal buildings



HANS NEWS SERVICE BENGALURU

THE drive to remove unauthorized constructions in Bengaluru is picking up pace once again. The Bengaluru East Municipal Zone has set a weekly target for engineers to demolish eight illegal buildings as part of a

renewed crackdown on unauthorized structures.

Following the formation of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), the city's civic officials have intensified their focus on illegal construction activities. Bengaluru East Zonal Commissioner Lokhande Snehal Sudhakar recently convened a coordination meeting with municipal engineers, directing them to implement the demolition plan with strict timelines.

Under the East Zone's jurisdiction, there are 8 divisions, 24 sub-divisions, and 50 wards. Officials have been instructed to compile and maintain complete data related to construction activities in their respective areas within a week.

As per the directive, each division must remove at least one illegal building per week, resulting in a total of eight demolitions weekly across the East Zone. The Commissioner emphasized the need for decisive and lawful action against unauthorized structures, warning engineers against any negligence or delay.

The intensified demolition drive is not limited to the East Zone alone — similar operations are expected to begin across all city zones in the coming weeks under the Greater Bengaluru Authority's oversight.

With civic officials gearing up for large-scale action, all eyes are now on how effectively the city's long-standing issue of illegal constructions will finally be addressed.



Metro phase-3 civil works to begin from JP Nagar

Deadline set for 2031

HANS NEWS SERVICE BENGALURU

THE long-awaited Phase 3 of Namma Metro is finally moving forward, with the civil works from JP Nagar 4th Phase to Kempapura in Hebbal set to begin soon. The Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has initiated preparations to invite tenders for the project, marking a major milestone in the city's expanding metro network.

The 28.4 km stretch between JP Nagar 4th Phase and Kempapura received Central Government approval over a year ago, but tender calls were delayed due to planning for a double-decker structure along the route. Now, the BMRCL has decided to invite tenders in 10 separate packages for viaduct, station, and depot construction to facilitate smooth execution.

The Karnataka Government had approved the project back in 2022, and two years later, the Central Government sanctioned the ₹15,611 crore project. The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) will extend a loan of ₹7,577 crore, which will also cover the purchase of metro trains.

In addition to the JP Nagar-Kempapura stretch, the Magadi Road-Hosahalli to Kadabagere corridor (8.6 km) will also be developed, bringing the total length of the double-decker line to 37.12 km. The estimated cost of this segment alone is ₹9,700 crore, approved by the State Cabinet in September. Funding for the project will be shared among the State Government (50%), BBMP (10%), and borrowed funds (40%). However, officials

anticipate a 5% increase in total project costs, following the trend seen in previous phases. The first phase cost rose from ₹6,395 crore to ₹14,133 crore, while the second phase saw an escalation from ₹26,405 crore to ₹40,614 crore.

The Phase 3 expansion will include 30 stations, with 7 interchange points, enhancing connectivity across major urban zones. Initially, commercial operations were targeted for 2029, but with delays in tendering and groundwork, the revised completion deadline is now 2031.

The upcoming metro line is expected to ease traffic congestion in South and North Bengaluru, especially along key corridors like JP Nagar, Hebbal, and Outer Ring Road — transforming city mobility once again.

HANS NEWS SERVICE BENGALURU

THE Halasuru Gate police have busted a major fake currency racket that duped innocent people by promising to "make money rain" using demonetized ₹2000 notes. Acting on a complaint filed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the police arrested 10 accused who were running a well-organized interstate network of fraudsters.

The arrested have been identified as Mohan K, Srinivas Murthy, Raju, Basavaraj, Munishamappa, Mallikarjun, Ramakrishna, Palli Muralidhar, Ramachandra, and Mubarak. According to police sources, the gang used demonetized ₹2000 currency notes whose serial numbers had been tampered with, and circulated them through various banks using unsuspecting intermediaries.

The racket came to light when the RBI detected around 70

10 arrested for cheating people with demonetised ₹2000 notes



fake ₹2000 notes that had been deposited in a local bank. The serial numbers on these notes were found to be tampered versions of genuine old notes that had already been withdrawn from circulation. Based on the RBI manager's complaint, the Halasuru Gate police began an investigation, tracing the source of the deposits.

During interrogation, one of the suspects confessed that he had deposited the notes in exchange for a commission. Further inquiry revealed an elaborate scam in which a few members of the gang posed as "swamijis" or godmen. These fake holy men met gullible victims and promised them a ritual that would miraculously multiply money.

The gang convinced victims that certain ₹2000 notes from specific serial series—such as

the 2018 HS series—had special properties that could generate large sums during a ritual. Mubarak, one of the accused, allegedly handled the task of tampering with the serial numbers on genuine demonetized notes to make them appear authentic.

Victims, lured by greed and superstition, were told to bring cash and meet the "swamijis" alone near rivers or lakes for the ritual. During the ceremony, the fake godmen instructed victims to dip into the water holding the notes, claiming it would activate the magic. By the time the victims resurfaced, the fraudsters had fled with the money.

The police have recovered demonetized ₹2000 notes worth ₹18 lakh from the accused.

Indian Pharma Fair 14th Edition from Nov 7

BENGALURU

THE 14th edition of the Indian Pharma Fair, South India's biggest pharmaceutical exhibition, will be held at Palace Grounds, Gate No. 9, Princess Shrine, Bengaluru. The event will be inaugurated

by Sri Raghunath Reddy R, President, and A.K. Jeevan, General Secretary, Karnataka Chemists and Druggists Association (KCDA), which also supports the exhibition. The two-day fair will feature over 70 leading pharmaceutical manufacturing and marketing companies from across India, including Medican Group, Psychocare Health, Zee Laboratories, Medicef Pharma, Matteo Formulations, Kedar Drugs & Pharmaceutical, Elkos Healthcare, Xieon Lifesciences and many others.

City to host 30th European Union Film Festival

HANS NEWS SERVICE BENGALURU

THE European Union Film Festival (EUFF) returns with its milestone 30th edition, celebrating three decades of cinematic, cultural, and artistic exchange between Europe and India. The festival which started in Delhi on last Friday will travel to Bengaluru with its biggest and finest curation yet - 24 contemporary European films in 25 languages to be screened from November 7-15, before moving on to Hyderabad. Through this vibrant showcase of European cinema, the festival continues to foster Indo-European cultural collaboration, offering audiences a window into Europe - its people, its stories, and its spirit.

Bengaluru audiences can enjoy the festival across three iconic venues: Goethe-Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan Bangalore, Alliance française de Bangalore and Suchitra Film Society. Organised by the Delegation of the European Union to India, in collaboration with the Embassies of EU Member States and regional partners, EUFF 2025 Bengaluru edition offers Indian audiences a rare opportunity to experience Europe's most celebrated films on the big screen. The festival's curated selection highlights stories of resilience, hope, identity, and creativity, reflecting the shared human experiences that unite audiences across cultures.

Toshiba invites innovators to shape the future of IoT

BENGALURU

TOSHIBA Digital Solutions Corporation, together with Toshiba Software India Pvt. Ltd., is pleased to announce the first ever GridDB Cloud IoT Hackathon, a two-day, in-person event that will take place in Bengaluru, India from January 31 to February 1, 2026. The hackathon invites startups, students, and developers to take on the challenge of developing real-time IoT applications using GridDB® Cloud, Toshiba's fully managed time-series database available on Microsoft Azure Marketplace.

Bajaj Finance records 27% surge in festive loan volume

BENGALURU

BAJAJ Finance Ltd., India's largest private sector non-bank lender and part of Bajaj Finserv, today said it had seen a surge in consumption finance during the festive season, disbursing a record number of consumer loans, higher by 27% in volume and 29% in value as compared to the same period last year.

The rise in consumption credit, represented by loans for consumer goods, reflects the positive outcome of the government's next generation GST reforms and changes in personal income tax, aimed at increasing consumers' purchasing power.

HANS NEWS SERVICE BENGALURU

KNOWN across India for its traffic congestion, pothole-ridden roads, and broken footpaths, Bengaluru rarely evokes an image of urban perfection. Yet, in a surprising revelation, a recent viral post has showcased a part of the city that looks nothing short of a modern-day paradise — Bharatiya City in North Bengaluru.

A video shared by the social media account IndianGems has taken the internet by storm, showing clean roads, wide pedestrian pathways, and lush greenery within the privately developed 200-acre township. The user expressed amazement at the meticulous planning and maintenance of the area.

"I was in Bengaluru and stumbled upon this 200-acre private area. I was shocked to see how beautifully it's maintained. The roads were free of potholes and dust, and the footpaths had gardens

and trees. What's stopping our government from maintaining our public roads like this?" the caption read.

The visuals show Bharatiya City's well-paved roads, sprawling parks, cycling-friendly pathways, and towering residential complexes — some rising over 50 floors. The clean and calm environment has left many viewers wondering if this is truly Bengaluru.

The post, uploaded on November 2, has already garnered over 500,000 views, sparking a debate on urban infrastructure and privatisation. One user commented, "Private development is the only way forward if we want clean and well-maintained cities." Another called Bharatiya City "Bengaluru's living paradise."

Spread across 125 acres near Thanisandra, Bharatiya City has been hailed as one of the most well-planned urban developments in the country, setting a new benchmark for sustainable and livable city design.

The viral post has reignited conversations about the need for better urban planning and maintenance across Bengaluru — a reminder that a cleaner, greener city is not impossible, but it might just need the right kind of management.



Now, new smart attendance system introduced to curb late reporting by cops has already yielded encouraging results

HANS NEWS SERVICE BENGALURU

THE Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) has rolled out a new Artificial Intelligence

(AI)-powered attendance system to ensure its personnel report to duty on time and at the right locations. The department has integrated a geo-tagged e-

attendance feature into its Aastram mobile application, replacing the older biometric machines.

Under the new system, police officers must now mark their attendance using their smart phones. At the start of each shift, they are required to take a selfie with geotag and timestamp, which the AI then cross-verifies with their Aadhaar-linked photograph. This ensures both the identity of the officer and their physical

presence at the designated junction.

A key element of the system is geo-fencing — attendance will only be accepted if the officer is within a 50-square-meter radius of the assigned junction. If they attempt to check in from outside this zone, the system automatically rejects their attendance.

Explaining the move, Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic) Karthik Reddy said, "We have over 1,000

junctions and two shifts — 7 am to 2 pm and 2 pm to 10 pm. Earlier, there was no mechanism to confirm whether an officer was actually present at their assigned location. With this new feature, we can now monitor when and where each officer is stationed."

The system enforces strict punctuality. Officers must check in between 7:00 am and 7:15 am for the morning shift. Those who arrive between 7:15 and 7:30 am are

marked as late, while anyone logging in after 7:30 am is automatically recorded as absent.

According to officials, the system has already yielded encouraging results. With daily deployment across 800 to 1,000 junctions, absenteeism among traffic police personnel has significantly dropped since the introduction of e-attendance. Previously, absenteeism was a persistent issue, but now only one to three officers fail

to report each day.

Additionally, the AI-based monitoring provides real-time alerts to senior officers about patterns of late arrivals or early departures, helping enhance accountability, transparency, and discipline across the force.

Officials believe the move represents a major step forward in modernizing Bengaluru's traffic management system — ensuring that the guardians of road discipline follow discipline themselves.