

IN BRIEF

Notices issued to over 500 PG accommodations

BENGALURU: With a growing number of people migrating to Bengaluru from different states for employment, education, and other reasons, the number of Paying Guest (PG) accommodations in the city has increased significantly. However, concerns have emerged over several PGs operating in violation of basic safety and hygiene norms. In response, officials of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) have launched a strict enforcement drive against unsafe PG accommodations.

During inspections conducted in January, health officials carried out checks across multiple Assembly constituencies, including Shanthinagar, C.V. Raman Nagar, Gandhinagar, Shivajinagar, Chamaraipet, and Chickpet. As a result, notices were issued to 574 PG accommodations for various violations.

Officials found lapses related to kitchen hygiene, availability of safe drinking water, and failure to follow safety measures. As part of the action, eight PGs were sealed, and a total fine of Rs 3.09 lakh was imposed for multiple rule violations.

Reacting to the sudden enforcement drive, PG Owners' Association President Arun Kumar said that PG owners are anxious due to the abrupt inspections. Meanwhile, Sharaneesh, a PG owner from Wilson Garden, stated that it is the responsibility of owners to comply with regulations and cooperate with authorities.

Authorities have issued warnings to all inspected PGs and have made it clear that more PG accommodations may be sealed in the coming days if deficiencies are not rectified. The GBA has reiterated that the drive aims to ensure safety, hygiene, and basic living standards for residents staying in PG facilities across Bengaluru.

Tattoo artist tied up, assaulted and shot with air gun

UDUPI: A 30-year-old tattoo artist was allegedly assaulted, restrained and shot with an air gun following a dispute over a tattoo at a rented house in Senapura village of Karnataka's Udupi district, police said.

According to police, the victim, identified as Vivek U., a resident of Dashartha Nagar in Manipal, works as a tattoo artist. On January 29, he had partially completed a tattoo for an acquaintance, Sagar, at his residence. He was later taken to Sagar's rented accommodation in Kundapur taluk on January 30 to complete the work.

Police said that in the early hours of January 31, while the complainant was sleeping at the house, Sagar allegedly woke him by splashing water on his face and began arguing, claiming the tattoo was not done properly. The accused allegedly abused the victim verbally during the altercation.

Investigators said Sagar's associates, identified as Sumanth and Aditya, allegedly joined him in the assault. The trio reportedly tied the victim with a rope and assaulted him with hands and legs, subjecting him to prolonged harassment.

When the victim cried out in pain around 3.15 p.m., Sagar allegedly threatened him with death and fired an air gun at his chest, causing injuries, police said. The injured man was admitted to Kasturba Medical College (KMC) Hospital in Manipal, where he is undergoing treatment.

Gangolli police have registered a case under Sections 352, 127(2), 115(2) and 109 read with Section 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, along with Sections 3 and 25 of the Indian Arms Act. Police said further investigation is in progress and action will be taken based on the findings.

BJP MPs accuse state of negligence as it grapples with synthetic drug surge

HANS NEWS SERVICE
MANGALURU

AMID a worrying uptick in synthetic narcotics production within its borders, Karnataka finds itself at the centre of a heated political storm. Recent operations by federal and neighbouring state authorities have exposed hidden manufacturing facilities, prompting sharp accusations from opposition figures that the ruling Congress administration is turning a blind eye to a burgeoning threat.

This comes as interstate networks exploit perceived gaps in local surveillance to set up shop in the southern state. The controversy ignited last month with a high-stakes intervention by Maharashtra's Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF) in December 2025. Acting on leads from a seizure in Navi Mumbai, ANTF teams descended on three suspected sites in Bengaluru, including areas like Spandana Layout Colony and Yerappanahalli.

Authorities reported nabbing four individuals hailing from Rajasthan, confiscating 21.4 kg of mephedrone in solid and liquid forms, alongside equipment and precursors valued at an estimated Rs. 55.88 crore. The operation dismantled what was described as a nationwide distribution chain peddling the stimulant, commonly dubbed "MD".

However, the narrative quickly fractured along political lines. Karnataka's Home Minister Dr. G Paramesh-



wara contested the Maharashtra claims, asserting that the raid was a collaborative effort involving local police and the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB). He reportedly downplayed the haul's worth to just Rs. 1.2 crore from a single location, accusing the ANTF of inflating figures for sensationalism.

Critics, including BJP leaders, seized on the discrepancy to highlight what they call a "law enforcement vacuum" under Congress stewardship.

Barely a month later, on January 28, 2026, the NCB struck again, this time in Mysuru, the political stronghold of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. Intervening an

SUV, agents uncovered 35 kg of mephedrone with a street value pegged at Rs. 10 crore.

The trail led to a covert lab in Mysuru's Hebbal Industrial Area, masquerading as a chemical cleaning plant. Equipped with advanced machinery, the facility yielded over 500 kg of raw materials, Rs. 25.6 lakh in cash, and additional contraband. The ringleader, Mahindra Kumar Vishnoi from Surat, reportedly honed his craft during prior imprisonment, establishing the operation post-bail.

Home Minister Parameshwara initially labelled the site a mere "phenyl factory," a stance contradicted by suspect confessions and NCB

findings.

This minimisation has drawn ire, with observers questioning the state's proactive measures against such threats. BJP MP Captain Brijesh Chowta from Dakshina Kannada, unleashed a blistering critique via social media platform X. Labelling Karnataka as "slipping down a dangerous zone," Capt. Chowta lambasted the Congress regime for harbouring illicit operations and failing to act decisively.

He pointed to the Mysuru incident as emblematic of systemic rot, especially occurring in the CM's home turf, and linked it to the earlier Bengaluru revelations. Accusing Parameshwara of issuing a "clean chit" to culprits despite admissions, Capt. Chowta warned of risks to youth and societal fabric.

Echoing these sentiments, fellow BJP MP Yaduveer Wadiyar from Mysore-Kodagu suggested potential police complicity in the Mysuru case, decrying the government's rush to downplay the lab as a benign chemical unit.

These back-to-back exposures have thrust Karnataka's anti-drug strategy into the spotlight, with syndicates increasingly viewing the state as fertile ground. Despite vows to eradicate narcotics, the Congress-led government faces mounting scrutiny over enforcement lapses, particularly when contrasted with proactive interventions from Maharashtra and central bodies.

'Akka Pade' squad empowers girls, conducts awareness campaign

HANS NEWS SERVICE
CHIKKAMAGALURU

LOCAL authorities in Chikkamagaluru took a significant initiative to bolster safety awareness among young female students, hosting a dedicated session through the 'Akka Pade' program at the PM SHRI Kendriya Vidyalaya.

Guided by members of the 'Akka Pade' unit, the workshop aimed to equip female pupils with essential knowledge on protective resources and protocols. Students learned about vital contacts, such as the specialised women's support line at 118 and the all-purpose emergency service at 112, designed for quick aid during urgent scenarios.

Key discussions revolved around digital security prac-

tices, potential hazards in virtual environments, and the necessity of following road safety guidelines. Officers engaged personally with the attendees, encouraging them to feel empowered in recognising and reporting issues.

Translating to "Elder Sister Squad" in Kannada, 'Akka Pade' represents a comprehensive effort by the Karnataka State Police, involving female law enforcers, auxiliary guards, and occasionally National Cadet Corps members. Rolled out progressively in districts starting from the end of 2025 and gaining momentum this year, the squad prioritises swift intervention for females and youngsters at risk, alongside awareness campaigns in educational institutions, higher learning

centers, and public areas.

During the gathering at Kendriya Vidyalaya, law enforcement personnel spoke to clusters of schoolgirls in an outdoor school environment, highlighting approaches to policing that prioritise community involvement and tailored protections for vulnerable groups.

Such efforts reflect the core mission of 'Akka Pade' by cultivating secure communities, deterring offenses targeting females and youth, and instilling self-assurance in adolescents via informed guidance and reliable aid networks. Authorities in Chikkamagaluru are encouraging residents to make active use of these emergency contacts and stay alert to contribute to collective well-being.

NSUI leader survives sword attack

HANS NEWS SERVICE
UDUPI

A young Congress leader in Udupi district had a narrow escape from death following a vicious late-night attack involving swords and iron chairs. Sharath Kundar, aged 25 and serving as vice-president of the National Students' Union of India (NSUI) in Udupi district, sustained severe injuries to his palm and fingers during the assault near PPC Cross on Friday night.

The incident originated from a seemingly insignificant argument at a hotel in Manipal earlier that evening. While Sharath was having dinner with friends, a verbal exchange reportedly took place with one Ramanand Pai over a small issue. The matter appeared settled, and Sharath returned home afterward. Another Akshat Pai allegedly called Sharath later, saying he wanted to resolve the earlier misunderstanding and asked him to meet at PPC Cross. Sharath arrived there along with friends Dhruv, Silan Gagan, and Rohit, and waited by the roadside.

At 11:30 pm, two SUVs arrived at the scene carrying 6-7 assailants armed with swords and iron chairs. The group immediately targeted Sharath with lethal intent.



Ramanand Pai is said to have swung a sword, striking Sharath's hand and causing deep lacerations to his palm and fingers.

The attack was halted only when Sharath's friends raised an alarm and shouted for help. Before fleeing, the assailants reportedly hurled death threats at the group. Sharath was rushed to a nearby hospital where he received emergency treatment. Doctors report his condition as stable, though the hand injuries are described as serious and may require prolonged care.

Udupi City Police have registered a case and constituted a special team to identify and apprehend all those involved. Officers are examining CCTV footage, recording statements from eyewitnesses, and probing the rapid escalation from a minor verbal disagreement to an attempted murder.

The motive and full chain of events remain under active scrutiny.

Deal with issue of illegal Bangladeshis in state with an iron hand: Ashoka

BENGALURU

THE Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the Assembly, R. Ashoka, on Monday stated that the Karnataka government should not treat the issue of illegal Bangladeshis in the state as a matter of prestige and deal with it with an iron hand.

He made the statement while speaking on the motion of thanks to the Governor's speech in the Legislative Assembly on Monday. "Illegal immigrants are now daring to carry out business in village fairs, some of them were arrested also. This is the beginning, if this is not dealt with firmly, the days are not far when these illegal immigrants will become terrorists," he claimed.

"The government should form special operation to deport illegal Bangladeshis and a separate team led by the police officer of the rank of DIG should be formed and the team should be given a free hand. In a few places the politicians are making illegal immigrants their vote bank," he stated.

"The issue should not be viewed by the government as a matter of prestige or from a political standpoint. It must be treated as a priority issue concerning future safety and security. According to the



information available to me, more than 15 lakh migrants have settled in the state. Of these, over six lakh migrants are residing in and around Bengaluru city. As a result, they have been successful in taking away employment opportunities from workers who have migrated to Bengaluru from various rural parts of our own state," Ashoka claimed. Some of those who have been settled here for decades are also involved in criminal activities in the state. There are reports that the High Court has denied bail to an accused who was caught after creating fake documents. What is even more serious and unfortunate is that police are registering case after case against those who are identifying and pointing out the locations of camps where illegal Bangladeshi nationals are staying, Ashoka noted.

"There are reports of an incident in which a woman

shouted slogans of "Jai Bangla" during an operation to evict illegal settlers, following which she was arrested by the police. Questions are also being raised about how these migrants have settled in the Malnad district of the state. Despite all this, instead of taking action to evict the illegal settlers, the police have allegedly detained and harassed individuals such as Puneeth Kerehalli, Dr Nagendraappa and others who were showing the locations where Bangladeshi nationals were staying," Ashoka slammed.

"As per the information available to me, police are allegedly collecting monthly bribes from infiltration camps. They are also reportedly taking monthly bribes from landowners who have provided shelter to these illegal settlers. Illegal electricity connections have also been provided to these settlements," Ashoka said.

Union Budget reflects vision of 'Amrit Kaal': Kateel

HANS NEWS SERVICE
MANGALURU

FORMER Karnataka BJP president and former MP Nalin Kumar Kateel on Sunday said the NDA government's Union Budget reflects a development-oriented vision aimed at achieving a "Viksit Bharat" by 2047.

Addressing a press conference at the BJP office here, Kateel praised Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, stating that the Rs 53 lakh crore budget prioritises employment generation, agriculture and economic growth. He said poverty levels had declined due to central schemes and highlighted GST simplification, increased allocation for self-reliant India initiatives, and the announcement of medical hubs to boost medical tourism.

Kateel criticised the Siddaramaiah-led Karnataka government, alleging that despite adequate central grants, state finances had weakened due to excessive spending on guarantee schemes. He also ques-

tioned the Chief Minister's participation in GST Council meetings. He said Karnataka would benefit from central budget allocations across sectors such as agriculture, railways, fisheries, women's self-help groups, logistics hubs and inland water transport. Bengaluru has been included in the Urban Economic Zone programme, under which the city will receive Rs5,000 crore over five years for development.

Highlighting the fisheries sector, Kateel said the Union Budget 2026-27 earmarked a record Rs2,761.80 crore, including Rs2,530 crore for scheme-based initiatives and Rs2,500 crore under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana. Measures include integrated development of 500 reservoirs and Amrit Sarovars to strengthen the fisheries value chain.

He added that Karnataka ranks first in coconut, sandalwood and silk production, and is among the top five states in cashew production.

Uphold unity and identity, shun divisiveness, CM tells Beary community

Focusing on education as a tool for empowerment, Siddaramaiah praised the community for increasingly educating their daughtersHANS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU

CHIEF Minister Siddaramaiah urged members of the Beary community to safeguard their identity and unity against all odds, emphasising secularism, education, and cultural preservation as their guiding values.

Speaking after inaugurating the Beary Central Committee's Grand Beary Convention - 2026 at the Palace Grounds in Bengaluru, Siddaramaiah lauded the community's commitment to harmony and progress despite geographical and cultural diversities.

Highlighting that Beary language lacks its own

script, the Chief Minister noted the importance of retaining the identity through the Kannada language. "It is commendable that the Beary community has preserved its essence and culture through Kannada. This cultural connectedness reinforces Karnataka's linguistic unity," he said. Describing the Bearys as a secular and peace-loving community, Siddaramaiah pointed out their presence across regions within India and abroad. "Bearys are traders by origin. They have harmoniously worked with people of all communities and preserved their distinct culture while contributing to the economic and social fabric of society.



They do not entertain caste or religious fanaticism. They embody true secular values," he observed. Focusing on

education as a tool for empowerment, Siddaramaiah praised the Beary community for increasingly educating

their daughters. "In earlier times, women were denied education. Now, the growing literacy among girls is a

positive development. Education is key to eliminating gender discrimination," he remarked.

The Chief Minister also stressed that religion should not be interpreted for convenience, saying, "Every religion teaches love, compassion, and humanity. True spirituality lies in living as humane, secular beings rather than exploiting religion for personal or political ends."

Reaffirming the state government's support, Siddaramaiah recalled the Rs. 5 crore grant for the construction of the Beary Bhavan. He further announced that the government would extend additional assistance for the

preservation of the Beary language and arts, including Rs. 3 crore for the Mangaluru Beary Academy and Rs. 10 crore for the Haj Bhavan.

Applauding Legislative Assembly Speaker U T Khader, a prominent member of the Beary community, Siddaramaiah noted that Khader has been performing his duties with integrity and impartiality, earning respect across party lines.

With these assurances, the Chief Minister reaffirmed his government's commitment to inclusive growth, linguistic diversity, and communal harmony, calling the Beary community "a beacon of secular values and cultural coexistence."