IN BRIEF

7,020 properties to be auctioned over tax dues

BENGALURU: The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has decided to auction 7,020 properties belonging to owners who have failed to pay property tax for several years across five city municipal zones. The move is aimed at cracking down on long-pending tax defaulters. Despite issuing multiple demand notices, property owners have not cleared dues amounting to Rs 437.55 crore. Along with the pending property tax, penalties and interest have also been levied on the defaulters. After repeated notices failed to yield results, the GBA issued property attachment orders. As tax payments were still not made even after attachment, authorities have decided to take final action by auctioning the properties.

The auction of the 7,020 properties will be held on February 17 at the offices of the respective zonal Joint Commissioners, officials said. Notices related to the auction have been published on the official website.

No licence renewal for businesses violating zonal classification

BENGALURU: The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has issued a circular allowing penalty-free renewal of trade licences for the financial year 2026–27 from February 1 to February 28 across its five municipal corporations. GBA Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao has directed officials to facilitate licence renewal for a period ranging from one to five years, based on the preference of the business owners. Renewal fees must be collected only for the selected financial year. Payments can be made online or through bank challans at Canara Bank.

From March 1 to March 31, licence renewal will attract a 25% penalty, while renewals sought after April 1 will incur a 100% penalty, the circular stated. The authority has ordered that licences of businesses started after 2015 on roads less than 40 feet wide in residential areas must be withheld and rejected with reasons recorded. However, businesses operating on roads wider than 40 feet in residential zones and notified categories of businesses that commenced after 2015 will be eligible for renewal. All other such businesses will have their licence renewals rejected. Further, licences must be denied for businesses operating in buildings constructed in violation of approved plans, including those running partially or fully in unauthorised structures, parking areas, or rooftops, if complaints are received.Businesses generating more than 100 kg of waste per day must submit documents proving on-site waste processing and disposal. Those handing over waste to empanelled vendors must submit copies of their agreements. Establishments must maintain separate waste bins—green for wet waste and blue for dry waste—and ensure scientific disposal. Officials warned that licence renewals will be strictly denied if these norms are not followed.

'Experience the Magic of Bollywood' event in city

BENGALURU: Main Hoon Bollywood, presented by Golden Orange Entertainment and founded by Maithili Kotnis, is excited to announce its inaugural event in Bangalore, reinforcing its commitment to celebrating the rich tapestry of Bollywood culture. After a successful launch in Mumbai, this talent-driven platform is making its mark in Bengaluru with a vibrant blend of singing, dance, and fashion.Now in its second season, Main Hoon Bollywood aims to encapsulate the spirit of Bollywood while engaging with the city's thriving creative community. With future editions set to take place in Dubai, Hyderabad, Goa, and Pune, this initiative is constantly evolving into a national and global movement.

Paperless property registration through Kaveri 2.0 now...

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU

PROPERTY buyers in Karnataka will no longer need to stand in long queues at sub-registrar offices for registration work. The Department of Registration and Stamps has launched a major reform by introducing a fully paperless property registration system. With the upgraded Kaveri 2.0 software platform, all registration procedures will now be carried out digitally, eliminating the need for physical documents.

Kaveri 2.0 is an advanced online property registration platform developed by the Karnataka government. It is an improved version of the earlier Kaveri software and is integrated with multiple government portals such as Bhoomi, E-Swathu, Khajane-2 and Sakala. The system enables citizens to complete the entire registration process within 10 minutes in a transparent and hassle-free manner without the involvement of middlemen.

While digital e-stamping was already in use, the entire registration process has now been converted into a digital format. After successful registration, citizens will no longer receive physical documents. Instead, they will be provided with a login ID and password through which all property-related records can be accessed securely online.

Citizens must first log in to the Kaveri 2.0 portal and enter details of the property, buyer, seller and witnesses. All required documents are uploaded in digital format. Sub-registrars verify the information online and approve payment of fees. Registration charges can be paid through net banking or UPI. Both parties sign digitally using Aadhaar-based e-sign. Finally, the applicant only needs to visit the office once for biometric verification and photograph, after which the registration is completed.

The time required for registration has been reduced to just 10 minutes. The new process minimizes corruption, prevents document loss and ensures safe digital storage. Every user will receive a unique document number to download records anytime. For further details, citizens can contact the helpline at 080-68265316.

SERVICES AVAILABLE ON KAVERI 2.0

- Online property registration: Citizens can book appointments online and avoid waiting at sub-registrar offices.
- Encumbrance certificate: Users can download certificates to verify whether a property has any legal or financial liabilities.
- Digital document verification: Land records can be checked online to confirm authenticity before purchasing property.
- Fee calculator: The portal provides an option to calculate stamp duty and registration charges in advance.
- Marriage registration: Marriages can be registered online with prior appointment scheduling.
- E-stamping services: Stamp duty payments can be made digitally to prevent fraud.
- Property valuation: Guideline values of properties can be verified online before buying or selling.

Excise dept involved in bribery, transfer racket, alleges Ashoka

MINISTER THIMMAPUR SHOULD RESIGN: LOP

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU

IN the Excise Department, bribes are being taken for granting licenses and for facilitating transfers. Related audio recordings have been released, and complaints have been filed with the Lokayukta. Therefore, Excise Minister R.B. Thimmapur should resign immediately, demanded Opposition Leader R. Ashoka.

Speaking in the Legislative Assembly, he said that in the state government, the Excise Department is the No. 1 department in corruption. Irregularities are taking place in forms such as bribes for licenses and fixed amounts for transfers. Congress leaders who are opposing the VBG Ramji scheme are talking about Mahatma Gandhi's ideals. However, the Congress party is not following Gandhi's ideals.

In a WhatsApp message from government officials, it has been officially instructed that since the CM and Dy CM are participating in a housing department program in Hubballi, more people will come, so liquor shops should stock sufficient quantities of liquor and sell it. This is a program that ruins homes. CM Siddaramaiah talks about lessons in sensitivity. Telling people to drink liquor is their idea of sensitivity, he said.

The minister is silent because monthly fees come from officials in the scandal happening in the Excise Department. The president of the liquor sellers' association, Guruswamy, has issued a press statement saying he will complain to Rahul Gandhi about the irregularities. "In the department, targets are given every year to collect money, from licenses to all stages, one has to grease palms, it has been detected that the Excise DC takes bribes when issuing licenses. Bribes have to be given from senior officials to juniors. A complaint has been given to the Chief Minister about this," Guruswamy has said.

Permission has been given to two thousand liquor shops, bribes of 50 lakh rupees for one and one crore rupees for another have been taken, if bribes are not given by the 10th of every month, shop owners are harassed. Guruswamy is from CM Siddaramaiah's Varuna constituency itself. Even though Guruswamy has complained, Siddaramaiah has not helped. He has said that Siddaramaiah is no longer a strong CM, he added.

An audio related to the Excise Department scandal has come out. In it, allegations have been made against Excise Minister R.B. Thimmapur and his son. Yet, the minister says it's not him. Until June 2025, there are 3,267 hotel restaurants under CL-7, 4,342 MRPs under CL-2, 3,667 bars under CL-9, 1,088 under CL-11C, 316 clubs under CL-4, and 86 star hotels under CL-6. In total, there are 14,229 institutions supplying liquor. Bribes of Rs 15-20,000 are collected from each shop every month. That means, on average, 21 crore rupees per month and 252 crore rupees per year.

Money is fixed for transfers in the Excise Department. For Deputy Commissioners, 2.5 to 3.5 crore rupees, for Superintendents 25-30 lakh rupees, for Deputy Superintendents 30-40 lakh rupees, for Excise Inspectors 40-50 lakh rupees, for constables 5-8 lakh rupees have to be paid. Among these, the constables themselves run four to five bars, he said.

New 500-acre township to come up near Kengeri

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU

THE Karnataka Housing Board (KHB) has announced plans to develop a large-scale township spread across 500 acres in villages near Kengeri, offering fresh hope to thousands of middle-class families aspiring to own homes in Bengaluru.

As part of the initiative, the KHB has invited tenders for land acquisition and appointment of an architectural and engineering firm (AEF) to develop an international-standard township and housing project. The tender has been floated through the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (KPP).

The proposed township will be developed in B.M. Kaval and surrounding villages of Kengeri Hobli in Bengaluru South taluk, falling within the Bengaluru Urban district. The last date for submission of bids is February 3, by 4 pm.

Officials said the project aims to provide houses and residential plots to people without property ownership, with a focus on economically weaker sections (EWS), low-income groups (LIG), and middle-income groups (MIG).

B.M. Kaval village, located along Mysuru Road, has been identified as a high-growth zone due to its proximity to the NICE Road and connectivity through the Purple Line extension of Namma Metro. Urban planners believe the project will significantly enhance residential infrastructure in the western corridor of Bengaluru.

Land acquisition and compensation model

The land acquisition process was initiated in July 2025, with a notification already issued for acquiring land in B.M. Kaval. The project will follow a 50:50 compensation model, under which landowners will receive 50% of the developed plots as compensation, while the remaining land will be utilised by the Housing Board for its housing schemes.

According to KHB officials, the project covers three identified blocks in B.M. Kaval village. Of the total land, 41 acres of government-owned 'kharab' land have already been identified, while the remaining private land is in the process of acquisition.

"The township will particularly benefit economically weaker, low-income and middle-income groups. It will help many families realise their dream of owning a home in Bengaluru," a senior KHB official said. The state government has set a target of providing 10,000 houses to the landless in urban areas, and the KHB plans to construct several housing complexes as part of this broader objective.

Urban development experts have termed the project a significant step towards addressing Bengaluru's housing shortage and promoting planned urban expansion.

Fatal fall of minor: Pub owner, staff booked for serving him alcohol

BENGALURU

THE owner and staff of a pub here have been booked for allegedly serving alcohol to a 15-year-old boy who fell from the seventh floor of an apartment building and died, police said on Tuesday. The incident occurred at an apartment located on Dr Vishnuvardhan Road on the night of January 31, they said.

The action was taken based on a complaint filed by the boy's father, police said. According to police, the complainant claimed that at around 9.40 pm on January 31, his 15-year-old minor son, fell from the seventh floor of the apartment, where he was residing, and died.

In this regard, a case has been registered at Rajarajeshwari Nagar police station. "During the course of investigation, the police examined the matter from various angles and found that on January 31, the deceased minor, along with his friends, had consumed alcohol and smoked at the establishment (pub)," a senior police officer said.

Therefore, for allowing a minor to consume alcohol, a case has been registered against the owners and staff of the concerned company under the provisions of the Juvenile Justice Act and the Karnataka Excise Act. The investigation is on, police added.

CM directs officials to grant tax exemption to 'Landlord' movie

BENGALURU

CHIEF Minister Siddaramaiah on Tuesday instructed the authorities concerned to grant tax exemption to the recently released Kannada film 'Landlord', which he said is based on the themes of social inequality and caste-based exploitation.

Taking to social media platform 'X', the chief minister expressed hope that this decision will inspire the making of more films like 'Landlord' that shed light on social issues in the days to come.

"I have instructed the concerned authorities to grant tax exemption to the film 'Landlord', starring Duniya Vijay, which is based on the themes of social inequality and caste-based exploitation," he said.

The chief minister said it is his belief that cinema is a highly effective medium to convey meaningful messages to the public, shape public opinion, and bring about social transformation.

"When films address social concerns, it is our moral responsibility as a government to stand by and support such efforts," he added. The Kannada action-drama movie 'Landlord', starring Duniya Vijay and directed by Jadeshaa K Hampi, was released in theaters on January 23.

Govt moves resolution to repeal VB-G RAM G Act, reinstate MGNREGA

BENGALURU

The Congress government in Karnataka on Tuesday moved a resolution in the Legislative Assembly urging the Centre to immediately repeal the new rural employment legislation VB-G RAM G Act and reinstate the UPA-era MGNREGA in its original form, amid strong objections from opposition BJP.

The resolution moved by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said the 'VB-G RAM G Act, "unilaterally" enacted by the Centre, is "detrimental to the basic ideals of federalism and the right to livelihood of the rural people".

"With a view to protecting the right to life of the rural people of Karnataka, this House urges the central government to immediately repeal the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-GRAM-G) Act, which is against the federal principle, is a severe burden on the state exchequer and is against the principle of decentralization, and has taken away the powers and rights of the Gram Panchayats; and to reinstate the Mahatma

Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) in its original form, which has led to rural asset creation and self-reliance of the poor," the resolution read by the CM said.

Stating that the Assembly reiterates its full commitment to the Panchayati Raj system and the principles of decentralization of power, which are the bedrock of Indian democracy, it said, "This House takes serious view of the repeal of the MGNREGA, which was a Sanjeevini (something that gives life) for the rural poor and an integral part of rural life."

"This House strongly opposes this move of the Centre (of bringing in the VB-G RAM G act repealing MGNREGA)," it added. BJP members led by Leader of Opposition R Ashoka immediately took strong objection to it and said, "Don't say the House opposes, say the Congress government opposes.

Don't make us party to this."

However, the chief minister, repeatedly asserting "this House", continued reading the resolution, asking the opposition members to raise their objections during the discussion. This angered the opposition members, who shouted slogans against the government, some even accused the Congress of "loot" under MGNREGA.

The constant sloganeering by the BJP members disturbed Siddaramaiah, who initiated the debate in favour of the resolution. Enraged CM asked the ruling Congress members to react, leading to chaos. Speaker U T Khader then adjourned the House for lunch.

The resolution reads the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act's abbreviation as "VB-GRAM-G" Act, instead of the actual VB G RAM G Act. BJP criticising this has said, the ruling party has an "allergy" to name 'Ram'.

The Karnataka cabinet had earlier decided not to accept the VB-G RAM G Act, replacing the MGNREGA, and to take up a legal battle against it.