

IN BRIEF

Bengaluru tops chart of APAC's office supply in 2026

NEW DELHI: India alone will contribute to about 40 per cent of Grade A office supply in Asia Pacific (APAC) in 2026, a report said on Monday. Bengaluru, Delhi-NCR, and Mumbai rank among the top five APAC markets for new office supply in 2026, with Bengaluru ranking first in the APAC region at 12.1 million sq. ft. The Grade-A office supply in APAC region is expected to reach a record 61.3 million sq. ft. in 2026, up 10.8 per cent from 55.3 million sq. ft. in 2025, the report from CBRE South Asia Pvt. Ltd said.

India and mainland China together will contribute more than 75 per cent of the total supply, it added. Shanghai will follow Bengaluru at 10 million sq. ft., Delhi NCR at 7.1 million sq. ft. and Mumbai will see its supply almost double to 5.1 million sq. ft., the report suggested.

In Bangalore, the supply will continue to be supported by GCCs. Further, office assets emerged as the most preferred investment sector in APAC, overtaking industrial & logistics for the first time in six years.

"India's growing dominance in the APAC office supply landscape reflects the structural depth of the demand drivers in the country," said Anshuman Magazine, Chairman & CEO - India, South East Asia, Middle East & Africa, CBRE.

"Even amid global macroeconomic recalibration, occupiers view India as a scalable, talent-rich destination for multi-functional growth," he added.

Despite record supply, most developed markets will remain supply-constrained, with premium offices in demand as corporates enforce stricter attendance mandates, the report said. "As we move into a cycle where income growth is at the centre of real estate decision-making, the ability for occupiers and investors to recalibrate and innovate will be critical," said Ada Choi, Head of Research, Asia Pacific for CBRE.

Choi said that occupiers are responding to softer economic growth by sharpening their space requirements and prioritising high-quality buildings in core locations, while investors are focusing on income resilience and portfolio optimisation.



'Great Sleep Store' opens in Vijayapura

VIJAYAPURA: Expanding its retail footprint in north Karnataka as part of its 20th anniversary celebrations, Peps Industries has opened a new 'Great Sleep Store' in Vijayapura. The showroom, located at Hanamashetti Complex on Gurukul Road, was inaugurated by former minister Appasaheb Patanashetti and Vijayapura Superintendent of Police Laxman Nimbargi. The outlet has been launched in association with Sangam Ventures.

Speaking on the occasion, Peps India Pvt Ltd Managing Director G Shankar Ram said the brand's expansion into Vijayapura was a significant milestone in its 20-year journey of providing trusted sleep solutions to Indian households. Karnataka remains a key growth market, he added.

Spanning 850 sq ft, the store is designed as a modern sleep studio showcasing spring, memory foam and coir mattresses, pillows and accessories. Karnataka and Goa RBM Ramesh T was also present. Peps currently operates over 5,000 multi-brand outlets and more than 110 exclusive 'Great Sleep Stores' nationwide.

Cong internal rift out in the open as SC/ST neglect allegation sparks row

HANS NEWS SERVICE
DHARWAD

ALLEGATIONS of neglecting SC/ST communities triggered a sharp verbal duel between two Congress leaders during the third quarterly KDP progress review meeting held in Dharwad on Monday, exposing internal differences within the ruling party at the district level.

The meeting, chaired by Minister Santosh Lad at the Zilla Panchayat conference

hall, was convened to assess the progress of various departments, including the Social Welfare Department. MLC F.H. Jakkappanavar took strong exception during the review, claiming that the interests of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes were not being adequately safeguarded.

"I am speaking on behalf of the SC/ST community. Their issues are being sidelined," Jakkappanavar asserted. He further alleged that he was not being given



proper time to present his views during the discussion.

Minister Lad refuted the

charge, maintaining that the meeting was being conducted in a fair and inclusive manner. "All representatives

are being given equal opportunity to speak. There is no reason to create unnecessary arguments," he said, urging members to focus on constructive dialogue.

The situation escalated when Jakkappanavar announced that he would walk out of the meeting in protest. In response, Lad remarked, "I have not asked you to step out.

If you wish to leave, it is your choice." The verbal spat created a tense atmosphere in the hall before

senior officials and political leaders intervened to pacify both sides.

After the intervention, the meeting proceeded with detailed discussions on welfare schemes and departmental performance.

Meanwhile, Minister Lad expressed strong displeasure over inadequate water supply in certain areas and directed Deputy Commissioner Snehal to file a criminal case against L&T company for lapses.

He warned that there

should be no disruption in drinking water supply during the summer months.

"Officers must stay at their headquarters and ensure effective implementation. Failure to do so will result in suspension," he cautioned.

The episode has sparked political discussions in Dharwad, highlighting both governance concerns and simmering tensions within the Congress ranks over representation and welfare priorities.

Centre weakening pro-people laws, says Siddaramaiah

CALLS FOR NATIONWIDE SUPPORT TO RESTORE MGNREGA

HANS NEWS SERVICE
CHIKKABALLAPUR

KARNATAKA Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday alleged that the Union government is systematically weakening pro-people legislations enacted during the Congress regime and urged citizens to support the nationwide agitation to restore MGNREGA.

Addressing the 'NREGA Bachao' protest in Chikkaballapur, he appealed to the people of the state to back the Congress movement until the "Vikasit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar Aajeevika Mission (VBGRM)" Act is withdrawn and MGNREGA is reinstated.

The Chief Minister said the Centre had scrapped the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) during the winter session of Parliament and replaced it with a new law. "There was no need to abolish MGNREGA. It provided livelihood security to labourers, Adivasis, small farmers and women," he said.



He recalled that MGNREGA was enacted in 2005 when Manmohan Singh was Prime Minister under the leadership of Sonia Gandhi. "Along with MGNREGA, landmark legislations such as the Right to Education, Right to Food and Right to Information were introduced. The present government led by Narendra Modi is weakening these pro-people laws," he alleged.

Siddaramaiah claimed that under MGNREGA, 12.16 crore people were provided employment, with around 53% beneficiaries being women. He further stated that 17% of Scheduled Caste and 11% of Sched-

uled Tribe beneficiaries had gained work opportunities under the scheme.

He criticised the Centre for introducing the new Act after only eight hours of discussion in Parliament, alleging that it undermines the rights of rural workers.

The Chief Minister said MGNREGA strengthened Mahatma Gandhi's vision of Gram Swaraj by guaranteeing 100 days of employment locally, with Gram Panchayats and Gram Sabhas empowered to decide the nature of works.

"Now, decisions will be centralised. Without Central approval and funding, work cannot proceed at the pan-

chayat level," he said. He also objected to the proposed funding pattern of 60% Central and 40% State contribution under the new Act, claiming it burdens states and fails to protect their interests.

Protest to continue until demands are met

Listing the Congress party's demands, Siddaramaiah said, the VBGRM Act must be fully withdrawn. MGNREGA must be reinstated. The right to employment must be restored. Panchayat autonomy must be protected. A nationwide minimum wage of ₹400 per day must be ensured.

"Our agitation will continue until these demands are fulfilled. Just as anti-farmer laws were repealed after protests, this movement too will not stop," he asserted, calling upon people across Karnataka to join the struggle.

He concluded by urging citizens to support what he termed the Congress party's "genuine effort" to restore a scheme that benefits rural India.

BJP's days are numbered, says Deputy CM

Save MGNREGA and save villages, labourers and Gandhiji: Shivakumar

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU

DEPUTY Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Monday said that the BJP is nearing its final days. Speaking at the MGNREGA Bachao convention at Chikkaballapur, he said, "Like the lamp which burns bright before dying, the BJP is nearing its end as they are planning to finish the legacy of Mahatma Gandhi."

"We are organising this event to save the nation. The Congress party had given employment guarantee to the rural people through MGNREGA scheme. The Centre is trying to kill the scheme. We need to save MGNREGA and save Gandhiji's legacy," he said.

"Panchayats had the power to decide which works to take up. The scheme ensured works worth Rs 1-2 crore in each of the 5900 panchayats. We need to save MGNREGA," he added.

Panchayat offices to be named after Mahatma "MGNREGA is a scheme



which gives self-confidence to farmers and labourers and we need to protect it. Our party and the government have decided to name the panchayat offices after the Mahatma," he said.

"Under the new scheme, the states have to bear 40% of the costs. Even the BJP run states also will not be able to implement it. Chandrababu Naidu has also said he won't be able to implement the new scheme. This new scheme is

a deathknell for all the states," he noted.

"BJP and PM Modi used to criticise our guarantee schemes but they copies it later. No one can stop thime guarantee scheme. Congress party will not allow anyone to stop it," he said. "Like they are stealing the voters' rights, they are taking away employment rights too. We will fight till the MGNREGA is reinstated we need your support int his fight," he concluded.

Actor Ranveer Singh moves HC to quash FIR against him

BENGALURU

BOLLYWOOD actor Ranveer Singh has moved the Karnataka High Court challenging the FIR and quashing of a criminal case registered against him over alleged insult to a 'deity' while mimicking 'Kantara Chapter-1' film. The controversy relates to remarks allegedly made by the actor at the Filmfare Awards event in Goa while speaking about the film



'Kantara'. He is accused of imitating a Daiva and calling it 'devil'. Based on a complaint lodged by advocate Prashanth, an FIR was registered at the High Grounds police station. Police had earlier issued notices to Singh in connection with the case. As there was no response from the actor, the High Grounds police recently initiated steps to proceed with further legal action, police sources said.

Inform locals immediately about wildlife movement, Minister instructs officials

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU

FOREST, Ecology and Environment Minister Eshwar B. Khandre has directed officials to immediately alert local communities about wildlife movement near forest fringe areas to prevent further loss of human lives.

The Minister convened an emergency video conference with senior officials following the death of two plantation workers within a span of seven days near Hunasehalli in Chikkamagaluru taluk. He instructed the department to promptly share alerts received at the command centre with planters' associations, labour unions and local leaders.

He also ordered the creation of WhatsApp groups comprising village heads and landowners in wildlife conflict zones to ensure real-time dissemination



of information. "Human life is invaluable. Losing another life after an earlier fatality is extremely painful. Officials and staff must maintain 24x7 vigilance to prevent recurrence of such incidents," he said.

Section 144, thermal drones for capture operations

Khandre directed officials to impose Section 144 wherever necessary and carry out wildlife capture operations. He stressed the use of advanced equipment, including thermal drones, to track animals effectively.

Officials informed the Minister that after a person was killed in an elephant attack in Chikkamagaluru last week, steps were taken to capture the elephant and advisories were issued asking locals not to venture into plantations. However, the latest fatality occurred after workers entered the estate despite warnings.

The Minister warned that if plantation owners send labourers into fields despite official advisories, they must also be held accountable. "If there is negligence, file complaints. Landowners too have responsibility,"

he said. According to department data, around 35 elephants are currently moving outside forest areas in three groups in Chikkamagaluru district. While such movement is common during summer, he directed staff to ensure that human-wildlife conflict incidents do not increase and that fatalities decline year by year.

Senior officers to visit conflict zones

With the next two to three months expected to be critical due to summer conditions, Khandre instructed senior officers to personally visit conflict-prone regions and guide field staff on preventive measures.

Safari resumes, meetings in fringe villages

Referring to the resumption of safaris at Nagarahole National Park and Bandipur National Park,

the Minister said only a few individuals have opposed the move.

He stated that the state government has decided to allocate 35 per cent of safari revenue for the welfare of forest fringe villages. Officials were instructed to hold meetings in such villages and design programmes based on local needs. Skill training for youth, providing equipment to schools and colleges in fringe areas, and creating awareness on how to respond when wildlife enters human habitation were also emphasized.

The meeting was attended by Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of Forest Force Meenakshi Negi, Chief Wildlife Warden Kumar Pushkar, senior officers including Biswajit Mishra, Manoj Rajan, CF Prabhakaran and Koppa DCF Shivashankar, among others.

Alleged sexual harassment of Class VI student triggers protest in Ballari village

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BALLARI

A serious allegation of sexual harassment against a government school teacher has triggered widespread outrage in a village in Kampli taluk of Ballari on Monday with hundreds of villagers particularly women staging a protest demanding strict action against the accused.

According to preliminary information, a Class 6 girl

studying in a government school in Kampli taluk was allegedly subjected to sexual harassment by a teacher identified as Jadesh. The incident reportedly took place within the school premises, which parents described as a "temple of learning" that should have ensured children's safety.

Villagers alleged that the accused teacher behaved inappropriately with the minor student. As news of the alleged misconduct

spread, anger mounted rapidly across the village.

Hundreds of women gathered in front of the school, raising slogans and condemning the alleged act. "If teachers themselves behave like this, whom should parents trust with their children?" protesters questioned. The demonstrators demanded that the accused be immediately brought before the public and arrested without delay.

In a show of strong

resistance, protesters sat on the road for some time, partially disrupting vehicular movement in the area. They insisted that mere suspension would not suffice and called for stringent legal action, including dismissal from service and imprisonment if found guilty.

As tension escalated, police personnel from the Kampli Police Station rushed to the spot and attempted to pacify the

agitated crowd. Officers assured villagers that a thorough investigation would be conducted and that strict action would be taken against anyone found guilty.

Police sources said the process of registering a formal complaint was underway and that statements from the victim, her family members, and school authorities would be recorded.

Child protection pro-



ocols are expected to be followed as part of the investigation.

Village leaders expressed concern over repeated reports of misconduct in educational institutions in recent times.

"Such individuals are a threat to society. They

should not be allowed anywhere near children," one local leader said.

The incident has once again raised serious concerns about student safety in schools and the need for stricter monitoring mechanisms to prevent such alleged acts from recurring.