

IN BRIEF

Dakshina Kannada to hold 48-hr traffic survey from tomorrow

MANGALURU: The Public Works Department (PWD), Government of Karnataka, will conduct a two-day traffic census on state highways and major district roads across Dakshina Kannada district from 6 am on February 26 to 6 am on February 28.

According to the Mangaluru Division of the PWD, 139 enumeration centres have been identified on key road stretches in the district for the exercise. The survey is part of the state-wide road traffic assessment for 2026 and aims to gather data for infrastructure planning and road development. Authorities have appealed to motorists and the public to cooperate with officials during the survey period.

Seminar on writer Niranjana's birth centenary on Feb 27

MANGALURU: A seminar marking the birth centenary of noted Kannada writer and journalist Niranjana will be held on February 27 at Mangalagangothri campus here. The programme is being organised jointly by the Sahitya Akademi and the S.V.P. Kannada Study Centre of Mangalore University. Vice-Chancellor P.L. Dharma will inaugurate the event. Scholars and postgraduate students from various colleges in coastal Karnataka and neighbouring Kerala are expected to participate.

Women-centric music concert in Mangaluru

MANGALURU: A unique women-themed music concert was held at Ambedkar Auditorium, Urwa, under the aegis of Sangeet Bharati Foundation, showcasing classical excellence by leading women artists. The programme was inaugurated with a ceremonial lamp lighting by music gurus Smt Basti Kavita Shenai, Smt Vibha Nayak and Smt Srilatha Prabhu. Foundation president Ustad Rafiq Khan, vice-president Narendra L Nayak, secretary Dr Usha Prabha N Nayak, trustee Ramesh KG, Treasurer Karunakara Balkoor and member Soumya Kamath were present. The first half featured a classical jugalbandi by Vibha Hegde and Shivani Mirajkar, accompanied by Medha Bhat (harmonium), Vijeta Hegde (tabla), Prateeksha Prabhu (tanpura) and Shaavari. The second half presented a violin trio recital by Sangeeta Shankar, Nandini Shankar and Ragini Shankar, with tabla support by Anuradha Pal. The event was sponsored by Union Bank of India, the Tourism Department, Canara Bank, Dr Dayananda Pai, Karnataka Bank and Mudra Printers.

AESL, Indian Army sign MoU to offer scholarships to soldiers' families

BELAGAVI

AAKASH Educational Services Limited (AESL) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Army to provide scholarships and academic support to serving personnel, veterans and their families across the country.

The agreement aims to extend educational welfare benefits to wards of serving and retired Army personnel, gallantry awardees, personnel with disabilities and families of soldiers who died while in service. Officials said the initiative seeks to ease financial barriers and expand access to qual-



ity test preparation services nationwide.

Under the MoU, Army wards enrolling in AESL's programmes at centres

across India will be eligible for a range of fee concessions. Families of personnel who died while in harness will only need to pay the

registration fee, with a 100 per cent waiver on all other fee components. Wards of personnel with more than 20 per cent disability and

Aakash Educational Services Limited signs MoU with Indian Army, offering fee waivers, scholarships and mentoring support for serving personnel, veterans, gallantry awardees and families of soldiers who died in service

gallantry awardees will receive a full tuition fee waiver. Children of serving and retired personnel will be eligible for a 20 per cent tuition fee concession, applicable after adjusting other scholarships.

The agreement was signed by a senior representative overseeing ceremonial and welfare functions on behalf of the Army and Dr Yash Pal, Chief Academic and Business Head (Delhi-NCR), AESL.

Chandra Sekhar Garisa Reddy, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of AESL, said the partnership reflects the institution's commitment to honouring the sacrifices of defence personnel by investing in the education of their children.

"Education is the strongest foundation for a brighter future. Through scholarships, mentoring and coun-

selling, we aim to empower the wards of Army personnel to realise their full potential," he said.

In addition to financial support, AESL will provide structured mentoring and career counselling through virtual and physical platforms during the tenure of the MoU.

The company had earlier entered into a similar understanding with the Central Reserve Police Force Family Welfare Association to offer academic assistance and scholarships to families of CRPF personnel, expanding its outreach to the armed and paramilitary forces community.

Boseraju pushes for BRICS Quantum Summit**Seeks deeper tech ties with Brazil**

BENGALURU

KARNATAKA Minister for Minor Irrigation, Science and Technology N.S. Boseraju on Tuesday called for closer cooperation among BRICS nations in quantum technology and proposed convening a dedicated BRICS Quantum Summit to accelerate collaboration in emerging technologies.

Speaking after a high-level bilateral meeting at Vidhana Soudha with a Brazilian delegation led by Esther Dweck, Brazil's Minister of Management and Innovation in Public Services, Boseraju said structured global partnerships were essential to harness the transformative potential of quantum technologies.

He noted that other international blocs such as Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) have begun organising dedicated quantum forums, and said BRICS countries should adopt a similar approach.

"As BRICS nations, we must collaborate to apply quantum technologies in agriculture, pharmaceutical research, water resource management, climate forecasting and flood

mitigation," Boseraju said. "A BRICS Quantum Summit could serve as a strategic platform to jointly address shared developmental challenges."

Highlighting Karnataka's progress, the minister said the state is home to India's first indigenously built commercial quantum computer and is positioning itself as a national hub for advanced technology research.

He pointed to the state government's announcement of a \$100 million Quantum Innovation Fund and plans to establish a dedicated Quantum City in Bengaluru. "Our goal is to build a \$20 billion quantum economy by 2035 and generate two lakh jobs in the sector," he said, adding that quantum applications are being explored in agriculture, flood management and healthcare delivery.

Beyond quantum computing, discussions between the two sides also covered Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), artificial intelligence and space technologies.

Boseraju highlighted the implementation of a Digital Water

Karnataka Minister N.S. Boseraju calls for a BRICS Quantum Summit during talks with Brazilian delegation, outlines state's \$100 million quantum fund and plans for a \$20 billion quantum economy by 2035

Stack under the Minor Irrigation Department, which integrates satellite surveillance and AI tools to monitor water bodies, prevent encroachments, assess water quality and track groundwater levels.

The Brazilian delegation included senior technology leaders such as Rodrigo Assumpção, President of Dataprev, and representatives of the Brazilian AI Observatory.

On Monday, Boseraju also held talks with a Bolivian delegation led by Omar Alfredo Peñalosa Escalera, Vice Minister for Science and Technology, to explore cooperation in AI and quantum computing for improving education, healthcare and public services. Senior state officials, including IT/BT Secretary N. Manjula, were present at the meetings.

Upcoming Bellandur Metro station**BMRCL signs Rs 90-cr naming rights deal with Prestige Group**

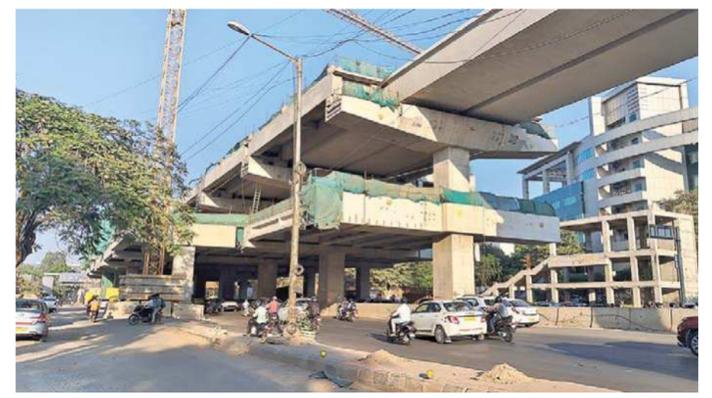
HANS NEWS SERVICE BENGALURU

BANGALORE Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has signed a Rs 90-crore agreement with Prestige Group for the naming rights and associated facilities of the upcoming Bellandur Metro station on the Outer Ring Road.

Under the agreement, the station will be officially named "Prestige Bellandur Metro Station" for a period of 30 years from the date of commencement of commercial operations, BMRCL said in a statement.

The total value of the agreement stands at Rs 90 crore. Of this, Rs 80 crore is allocated towards naming rights and other associated facilities within the station premises.

An additional Rs 10 crore will be paid for the construction of a dedicated skywalk connecting the Metro station to the Prestige campus.



BMRCL clarified that provisions have been included in the agreement to allow for design modifications to the skywalk at the project stage, if required.

Advertising and Commercial Space

As part of the deal, Prestige Group will receive 1,000 sq. ft. of advertising

rights inside the station premises, 3,000 sq. ft. of commercial space within the station campus.

However, BMRCL emphasized that the station will remain an asset under its ownership and control. Speaking on the occasion, Prestige Group Executive Director Jaggi Marwaha said, "We are committed

to supporting Bengaluru's rapidly growing transport network and contributing to the city's infrastructure development."

The agreement marks one of the significant naming rights deals undertaken by BMRCL as it seeks to boost non-fare revenue streams while expanding metro connectivity across the city.

Cyber fraud aided via mule accounts**Engineering student among two arrested**

HANS NEWS SERVICE DAVANAGERE

IN a major breakthrough against mule account operators supporting cyber fraud, the city's Cyber Crime Police have arrested two individuals, including a 19-year-old engineering student. The duo allegedly opened fake bank accounts using forged documents and helped fraudsters siphon off large sums by acting as intermediaries.

The first arrest involved Parashurama from Kunkuv village in Honnali taluk. He had set up a firm named Talented Squad Solution in Bengaluru's Rajajinagar, posing as a job placement agency. Investigations revealed he opened six bogus accounts across nationalised and private banks.

These mule accounts were used to transfer crores of Rupees obtained through online



cheating. As many as 95 cases linked to these six accounts have been registered across the country. Parashurama is now in custody, with cyber police continuing detailed interrogation.

In a separate but related case, officers nabbed the 19-year-old engineering student who maintained mule accounts in two different banks. Scrutiny of his accounts exposed details of his involvement.

Fraudsters, using a Telegram ID named "Bhumika", first contacted the student

and lured him with promises of easy earnings through an "Earn While You Learn" scheme. They assigned him the task of receiving money into his account and immediately forwarding it to UPI IDs provided by them.

The young man carried out these transfers regularly and received a commission for each transaction. Driven by greed, he later opened additional bank accounts to handle more volume. Eight cases from various parts of the country have now been traced to these accounts.

Boy killed in Shivamogga, 7 minors held

SHIVAMOGGA

A 16-year-old boy was murdered outside a government school in Sulaebailu here, sparking tension in the area, police said on Tuesday. Following the incident, a large police force was deployed in the city.

The incident occurred after Sanketh (16), an SSLC student of the Government High School at Urugadooru, attended a special class ahead of examinations.

Superintendent of Police Nikhil B told reporters that Sanketh intervened in an argument involving a group of boys outside his school. They were discussing a cricket match.

"Some friends who were known to him - they had earlier studied in the same school - were involved. They are also minors. They hit him with their hands. Immediately after being struck, he collapsed. After he fell, by the time he was taken to the hospital, we came to know that he had died."

"... he was struck near the chest. Due to that blow, he collapsed on the spot," the SP said. All seven minors involved in the incident have been taken into custody in this connection, he said. On the possible motive, the SP said the exact cause is yet to be ascertained.

"We do not have complete information about that. Once we conduct a detailed inquiry, we will know. Some people are saying it may have been over a trivial matter. However, we cannot confirm that at this stage," he said.

Narayana Health City crosses 10K orthopaedic surgeries, says senior specialists

HANS NEWS SERVICE KALABURAGI

SENIOR orthopaedic specialists at Narayana Health City on Tuesday said the hospital has completed 10,000 orthopaedic surgeries over the past three years, marking a significant milestone in advanced joint, spine and reconstructive care in the region.

Addressing reporters, Dr Suman M Byregowda, Senior Consultant, Orthopaedics, said the achievement reflects the growing need for high-end musculoskeletal care in Kalaburagi and neighbouring districts.

"We are seeing increasingly complex revision cases, including failed joint re-

placements with severe bone loss. Our focus has been on combining surgical expertise with technologies such as customised 3D-printed implants to restore mobility at the earliest," Dr Byregowda said. He cited the example of a 70-year-old patient who had undergone total hip replacement decades ago but later developed implant loosening and metallosis, a rare reaction to metal debris that caused extensive bone damage.

The team performed a staged revision procedure, first removing the failed implant and diseased tissue, and later reconstructing the hip with a customised prosthesis. The patient was able to stand and walk with support soon

Senior orthopaedic specialists at Narayana Health City say the hospital has completed 10,000 surgeries in three years, driven by robotic navigation and customised implants for complex spine, joint and oncology cases

after surgery, he added. Dr Vinu Raj, Consultant-Spine, Department of Orthopaedics, said the integration of robotic-assisted navigation and real-time neuromonitoring has strengthened outcomes in complex spinal deformity surgeries.

"In severe congenital scoliosis and other deformities,



precision is critical. Robotic-assisted navigation allows pre-operative planning and highly accurate implant

placement during surgery, while neuromonitoring enhances patient safety," Dr Raj said. He referred to a recent

case of a 13-year-old girl with a spinal curvature exceeding 80 degrees who underwent robotic-assisted correction

surgery. She was mobilised on the second post-operative day and discharged with significantly improved alignment and balance.

The hospital has also handled complex orthopaedic oncology cases, including limb-salvage surgery for a 19-year-old diagnosed with Ewing's sarcoma. Following chemotherapy, surgeons removed the affected bone and reconstructed the shoulder with a metallic prosthesis.

Both doctors said the milestone underscores the institution's emergence as a regional referral centre for advanced orthopaedic and spine care, enabling patients to access specialised treatment closer to home without travelling to metropolitan cities.