

## IN BRIEF

2<sup>nd</sup> PUC results today: Madhu Bangarappa

BENGALURU: The much-awaited results of the Second PUC examinations, eagerly anticipated by lakhs of students across Karnataka, will now be announced on April 9, according to State Education Minister Madhu Bangarappa. The results were initially expected to be declared earlier, but were postponed due to pending final-stage evaluation work. Authorities have now rescheduled the announcement to Thursday, April 9.

The delay also coincides with polling for the by-elections in Davanagere South and Bagalkot on the same day. Officials indicated that the results will be declared later in the evening after voting concludes, with the minister addressing a press conference to formally announce them. In a significant move aimed at easing access, students will also be able to check their results through the DigiLocker platform, in addition to the official website. This is expected to help reduce server-related issues that typically arise during high-traffic result announcements.

The results will be made available on the official portal, where students can log in using their registration number and date of birth to access and download their scorecards. This year, a total of over 7.1 lakh students appeared for the Second PUC examinations, which were conducted between February 28 and March 17 across 1,217 centres statewide. Last year, the overall pass percentage stood at 73.45%.

## State takes centre stage ahead of energy expo



BENGALURU: Karnataka has once again emerged as a key driver in India's clean energy journey as preparations intensify for RenewX 2026, South India's largest renewable energy sourcing expo. Ahead of the landmark 10th edition, Informa Markets India hosted a high-level industry roundtable in Bengaluru, bringing together leading experts and stakeholders from across the renewable energy ecosystem.

The roundtable witnessed participation from distinguished industry leaders including Bhpendra Singh Rawat, Group CEO, Dhash Green Energy Pvt Ltd.; Dr. Anand M Shivapuji, Senior Research Scientist, Centre for Sustainable Technologies, Indian Institute of Science (IISc); Raghavendra Asuti, Head of Solutions, Sigenery India; Saptak Ghosh, Sector Head - Renewables and Energy Conservation, CSTEP; Surendra Kumar K R, President, Karnataka Renewable Energy System Manufacturers Association (KRESMA); Venkata Krishnan, Co-Founder & CGO, SmartGrid Analytics and Rajneesh Khattar, Senior Group Director Energy and Construction Portfolio, Informa Markets India. The three-day expo is scheduled to be held from April 27 to 29 at the Chennai Trade Centre in Chennai.

## IIM, Kozhikode opens admissions for MBA

BENGALURU: Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode has announced the opening of admissions for the 19th batch of its flagship Executive Post Graduate Programme (EPGP) in Management, a two-year executive MBA designed for working professionals aiming to take on higher leadership roles. IIM Kozhikode Director Debashis Chatterjee highlighted the programme's strong legacy and its role in shaping future-ready leaders. "The EPGP has consistently brought together professionals from diverse sectors and career stages into a cohort defined by intellectual depth and a shared commitment to growth," Chatterjee said.

## HC quashes order shifting PSI scam accused to Mysuru jail

HANS NEWS SERVICE BENGALURU

THE Karnataka High Court has set aside a trial court order that had directed the transfer of key PSI recruitment scam accused Rudragouda Patil from Kalaburagi Central Prison to Mysuru Central Prison, citing violation of principles of natural justice.

The order was passed by a bench led by Justice S. Vishwajith Shetty while hearing a petition filed by Patil's wife, Shobha. With

this ruling, authorities have now been directed to shift Patil back to Kalaburagi jail.

The High Court observed that before transferring an undertrial prisoner, authorities must provide an opportunity for the accused to present objections. "The failure to hear the accused before shifting him amounts to a violation of natural justice," the bench noted. The court further criticised the trial court for relying on vague "security reasons" without detailed justification.

It held that merely citing security concerns, without proper examination and reasoning, cannot be grounds for such a transfer. The bench also pointed out that the district court had not conducted a thorough inquiry before passing the order.

Earlier, the Kalaburagi District and Sessions Court had permitted the transfer of Patil to Mysuru prison on January 27, citing security concerns. Challenging this order, his wife approached the High Court. During the hearing, the

State argued that the transfer was necessary due to security threats. However, it admitted that the accused had not been heard prior to the decision. Taking note of this, the High Court ruled in favour of the petitioner.

Rudragouda Patil is a prime accused in the PSI recruitment scam, which involves alleged irregularities in recruitment examinations conducted by the Karnataka Examination Authority. He was arrested in November 2023 by a special team of the Criminal In-

vestigation Department led by SP Raghavendra K. Hegde.

According to the chargesheet, Patil, a Class-I civil contractor from Kalaburagi, allegedly facilitated cheating in recruitment exams by supplying electronic devices such as Bluetooth gadgets and walkie-talkies to candidates. He is currently booked under the Karnataka Control of Organised Crimes Act (KCOCA). The High Court's order is expected to impact further proceedings in the case.



Rudragouda Patil

## Kharge regrets remarks on Gujarat during Kerala poll speech

HANS NEWS SERVICE BENGALURU

MALLIKARJUN Kharge, President of the Indian National Congress, has expressed regret over his controversial remarks referring to people of Gujarat as "illiterate" during a recent election campaign speech in Kerala.

Taking to the social media platform X, Kharge said his statements made during a public rally were being "deliberately misinterpreted." However, he added that he sincerely regretted the remarks. "I express my heartfelt regret if my words have hurt the sentiments of the people of Gujarat. It was never my intention to insult them," he stated.

Kharge clarified that he has always respected the people of Gujarat and would continue to do so. "I have great regard for the people of Gujarat and their contributions. Any suggestion otherwise is incorrect," he wrote.

The controversy stems from Kharge's speech delivered on April 5 in Idukki, where he compared the literacy levels of Kerala with other states. Praising Ker-



ala's high literacy rate, he reportedly said that while leaders might be able to mislead "illiterate people" in places like Gujarat, it would not be possible to do so in Kerala.

The statement quickly triggered a political storm, with the Bharatiya Janata Party strongly condemning his remarks. BJP leaders accused Kharge of insulting the entire population of Gujarat and demanded an apology. Political observers noted that while Kharge intended to highlight Kerala's educational achievements, the comparison led to widespread backlash. The BJP has used the remarks to tar-

get the Congress, alleging that such statements reflect the party's "elitist mindset."

Meanwhile, Congress leaders have defended Kharge, arguing that his comments were taken out of context and were meant to emphasize literacy differences, not demean any community.

The episode underscores the sensitivity of political rhetoric during election campaigns, especially when references to regions and communities are involved. With elections approaching, such controversies are likely to intensify political exchanges between major parties.

## DAVANAGERE SOUTH, BAGALKOT BYPOLLS

## Are BJP rebels rallying behind Kumaraswamy?

HANS NEWS SERVICE BENGALURU

THE political heat around the by-elections in Davanagere South and Bagalkot has intensified, with both Congress and BJP leaders aggressively campaigning on the ground. However, what has caught political observers' attention is the visible shift of several BJP rebel leaders, who appear to be aligning more closely with HD Kumaraswamy rather than the party's state leadership.

Senior leaders considered part of the rebel camp, including Ramesh Jarkiholi, GM Siddeshwar, Kumar Bangarappa and B P Harish, have largely stayed away from campaigning alongside BJP state president BY Vijayendra. While some leaders have maintained distance altogether, others have been seen sharing the stage with Kumaraswamy during campaign events, sparking



speculation within political circles.

Notably, these rebel leaders have openly expressed reservations about accepting Vijayendra's leadership. Earlier, Basanagouda Patil Yatnal had been vocal in his criticism of the B.S. Yediyurappa family, which eventually led to his expulsion from the party on charges of anti-party activities. Despite his expulsion, Yatnal has continued to campaign in Bagalkot in support of BJP candidate Veeranna Charantimath, though he has also kept his distance from

the Vijayendra camp.

A similar pattern is visible with Ramesh Jarkiholi, who has participated in campaign activities but avoided sharing platforms with Vijayendra, instead appearing alongside Kumaraswamy. This trend has added fuel to ongoing discussions within the BJP about internal divisions and leadership acceptance.

Amid these developments, there is renewed speculation that in the event of the BJP returning to power in the state, Kumaraswamy could emerge as a Chief Ministerial

candidate under a potential alliance arrangement. While the Yediyurappa faction has not endorsed such a possibility, the rebel camp has remained non-committal, indirectly giving rise to interpretations that they may be more open to Kumaraswamy's leadership.

Political analysts view these developments as early prediction of shifting dynamics within the BJP-JD(S) alliance in Karnataka. Despite internal differences, rebel leaders have continued to campaign for BJP candidates, including in Davanagere, where they have supported Srinivas Das Kareyappa.

While their participation signals continued party loyalty, their growing proximity to Kumaraswamy is being interpreted as a sign of his increasing influence within the alliance. The evolving situation is likely to have significant implications for the future political equations between the BJP and JD(S) in the state.

## Police recover 110 stolen mobiles worth Rs 22 lakh using CEIR portal

HANS NEWS SERVICE BENGALURU

BENGALURU police have successfully recovered 110 stolen mobile phones valued at around Rs. 22 lakh through a special drive conducted by 13 police stations in the North Division. The operation made effective use of the Central Equipment Identity Register (CEIR) portal and the 'e-Lost' app to track the devices.

Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh, while addressing a press conference on Tuesday, said that information about lost or stolen mobiles is uploaded on the CEIR portal and the e-Lost app. Based on technical clues and thorough investigation, the police were able to

## Return phones to owners



locate and seize the devices.

The breakdown of recoveries includes, 12 from RT Nagar, 8 from Jalahalli, 9 from JC Nagar, 12 from Mahalakshmi Layout, 6 from Sanjaynagar, 10 from Rajajinagar, 11 from Subramanyanagar, 12 from Nandini Layout, 8 from Malleshwaram, 3 from Hebbal, 10 from Yeshwanthpur, 4 from RMC Yard, and 5 from Shrirampur police stations.

The Commissioner urged the public to immediately report lost or stolen mobiles either on the CEIR portal or at the nearest police station, as this greatly helps in quick recovery. DCP B S Nemagouda and his team led the successful operation.

## CM accuses EC of 'bias', defends guarantee schemes ahead of bypolls

BENGALURU

CHIEF Minister Siddaramaiah has accused the EC of "double standards" and "bias" after it sought details on the state's guarantee schemes in Davanagere and Bagalkot districts, where bypolls are scheduled for Thursday. In a post on 'X' on Wednesday, Siddaramaiah said the Election Commission of India had asked the Karnataka government for information on fund releases under five ongoing guarantee schemes in the constituencies going to polls. "The polls were necessitated following the deaths of senior Congress MLAs Shamanur Shivashankarappa and H Y Meti, respectively. Siddaramaiah alleged that the ECI had remained silent when similar cash transfer schemes were announced in Maharashtra and Bihar ahead of elections, calling



the scrutiny of Karnataka's schemes a "clear case of bias".

"In states like Maharashtra and Bihar, cash transfer schemes were announced or fast-tracked just before elections, directly benefiting voters. Yet the ECI remained silent. This is not neutrality-it is complicity," he said. The CM accused the BJP and NDA governments of "a double standard", noting that when they act, the ECI "looks the other way", but when Karnataka fulfils its promises, it faces "intense scrutiny".

He added that targeting the state's guarantee schemes is "not just political but anti-poor, anti-women, and anti-Karnataka." Siddaramaiah

clarified that these schemes were not launched in connection with the bypolls but are ongoing programmes implemented as part of the Congress government's commitments from the 2023 Assembly elections. Funds are transferred regularly to beneficiaries in a transparent and structured manner, he added.

"The guarantees are part of governance-a direct investment in human dignity, household stability, and economic participation, not inducement," he said. He also accused the BJP of "hypocrisy", saying that while it criticises Karnataka's schemes as "freebies", it rolls out similar programmes in states it governs. "The Karnataka model has set a benchmark for the country. What is deeply concerning, however, is the ECI's selective approach," Siddaramaiah added.

## Space manoeuvres



ISRO Chairman V Narayanan (third left) along with International Academy of Astronautics (IAA) Secretary General Jean-Michel Contant, (second right) former ISRO Chairman AS Kiran Kumar (centre), ISTRAC Director Dr AK Anil Kumar, (second left), ISTRAC Associate Director Raghavendra MR and UR Rao Satellite Centre Director M Sankaran, (right), during the inauguration of International Conference on Spacecraft Mission Operations in Bengaluru, on Wednesday

## HUSBAND MURDERS WIFE OVER PROPERTY DISPUTE

According to police, Daniyappa had earned crores as a contractor but had his eyes on the Rs. 3-4 crore worth of property registered in the names of his wife and mother. He planned to sell it and move to Athani to build a political future. However, Kavya repeatedly refused to agree to the sale, leading to frequent fights

HANS NEWS SERVICE BENGALURU

A domestic murder case in Peenya has taken a new turn with police uncovering a calculated motive behind the killing. Contractor Daniyappa-

## Funding political ambitions root cause



pa from Athani in Belagavi district has been accused of murdering his wife Kavya so that he could sell family property and pursue his political ambitions. The couple, who got married 15 years ago, were living in Rukmini Nagar, Na-

gasandra, along with their two children. On April 2, an argument broke out between them. During the quarrel, Daniyappa allegedly stamped on his wife's neck with his foot, leading to her death.

According to police, Daniyappa had earned crores as a contractor but had his eyes on the Rs. 3-4 crore worth of property registered in the names of his wife and mother. He planned to sell it and move to Athani to build a political future. However, Kavya repeatedly refused to agree to the sale, leading to frequent fights. Two days before the murder, he had organised a grand feast for villagers in his native place and decided to enter politics. When his wife continued to oppose the property sale, he allegedly planned her murder. On April 2, he picked a fight at home and killed her by pressing his foot on her neck. A case has been registered at Peenya police station, and further investigation is underway.