



Yoga practitioner bags Sarvangasana to claim world record

MOODBIDRI : P.K. Vikas, a third-year student at Alva's College of Naturopathy and Yogic Sciences, has been awarded a world record by the Book of World Records (BWR) for his continuous performance of Sarvangasana. The official certificate lauded Vikas for showing supreme endurance, bodily control, stability, and focus while maintaining the shoulder-stand posture.

Vikas, who hails from Belthangady, began his yoga journey 11 years ago as a fifth-grader. His consistent training has yielded numerous achievements, including silver medals at the Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences inter-collegiate yoga meets in 2023, 2024, and 2025, alongside a gold medal at the 2022 WFF State-Level Championship.

At the national level, Vikas took second place at the 2021 Hyderabad National Yoga Competition and the 2025 AON Medical Institute competition, while also representing the region at AIIMS New Delhi in 2024. Today, he balances his academic studies with officiating as a certified yoga judge.

Highway u-turn triggers fatal crash

MANGALURU : Reckless driving on the Mangaluru-Bengaluru National Highway claimed the life of a 67-year-old woman and left five others hospitalised near Halira village in Bantwal taluk on Monday morning.

The deceased was identified as Nebisa (67), who was traveling in a car that collided with a pickup truck. According to the complaint lodged by the pickup driver, Palaniswamy (25), a resident of Hosur in Tamil Nadu, he was transporting goods toward Bengaluru when a car traveling ahead of him abruptly attempted a U-turn on the highway.

Police stated that the car driver, identified as Akbar Ali, executed the sudden turn without warning, leaving the trailing pickup driver with no time to react and causing a severe collision.

Bystanders immediately intervened, aiding the victims and arranging transport to a hospital. Those undergoing treatment include car driver Akbar Ali and passengers Maimoona, Shama, and Zubeida, alongside pickup driver Palaniswamy. Despite medical efforts, Nebisa died of her injuries shortly after admission.

Following the incident, Vittla police booked driver Akbar Ali under multiple sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), including Sections 281, 125(A), 125(B), and 106(1). Further legal proceedings are underway.

Andhra native Paramesh found dead in Malpe



UDUPI : A person from Andhra Pradesh was murdered in Malpe, and the killing became known on Tuesday morning. The dead man has been identified as Paramesh, who hailed from Andhra Pradesh. He earned a living by collecting scrap and was discovered dead in the same place where he slept each night. Personnel from Malpe police station visited the spot and are carrying out an examination.

Three Haliyal water bodies rejuvenated under Project NANNNEER

HANS NEWS SERVICE HALIYAL

THREE water bodies in Haliyal taluk have undergone rejuvenation under Project NANNNEER, a water stewardship initiative of the AMM Foundation, increasing their combined storage capacity and improving prospects for groundwater recharge and irrigation.

The project covered Kumbarekare Lake in Thergaon village, Alloli Pond and Hanumantha Pond in Haliyal village. The work involved desilting, deepening and strengthening of the water bodies to improve water retention and recharge.

Haliyal receives more than 1,500 mm of rainfall during the southwest monsoon, but much of the water is lost as runoff because of limited percolation. The restored water bodies are intended to retain more monsoon water and improve availability during the summer.

Combined storage capacity doubles, improving groundwater recharge, irrigation availability and water security for rural communities

Kumbarekare Lake, spread over 54.5 acres, has seen its storage capacity increase from 352,002 cubic metres to 655,452 cubic metres. The restoration is expected to

benefit about 243 families in Thergaon by improving groundwater recharge and irrigation availability.

The capacity of Alloli Pond has increased from 27,280 cubic metres to 87,296 cubic metres, while Hanumantha Pond's capacity has risen from 10,115 cubic metres to 24,276 cubic metres. Together, the two ponds are expected to benefit more than 370 families. The restoration is also aimed at reducing water stagnation and flooding during heavy monsoon spells, besides supporting agriculture and improving groundwater availability.

Muthu Murugappan, CEO of EID Parry India Ltd and chair of Project NANNNEER, said water security begins at the community level and that restoring local water bodies could support agriculture and strengthen rural resilience.

Farmers and local panchayat representatives said the increased storage would improve access to irrigation water during the summer months. They also said the restored ponds would support crops, including sugarcane, and improve water availability for daily needs.



HDK steps up attack on NICE project, questions toll collection

HANS NEWS SERVICE BENGALURU

UNION Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy on Tuesday intensified his criticism of the Bengaluru-Mysuru Infrastructure Corridor Project (BMIC/NICE), alleging large-scale financial and land-related irregularities and questioning the continued collection of toll on the NICE Road.

Addressing a press conference in Bengaluru, Kumaraswamy alleged that irregularities in the project amounted to more than Rs 3 lakh crore. He also accused project promoter Ashok Kheny of serious wrongdoing and said the government should first stop toll collection on the road.

Kumaraswamy further alleged that around 1.25 lakh acres connected to the project had been denotified in 2004 and claimed there was a plan to commercially exploit the land. He questioned Kheny's reported claim that the state government would



have to pay around Rs 2 lakh crore and asked who was supporting such demands.

The allegations come after a July 2026 Karnataka High Court judgment that raised serious questions over the implementation of the BMIC project. The court noted that the project originally envisaged a 111-km expressway, 41-km peripheral road, 9.8-km link road and five townships. It also recorded that only about five kilometres of the proposed expressway had been constructed in 25-26 years, according to a state affidavit.

The High Court dismissed

appeals filed by NICE and KIADB and suggested independent assessment, investigation and a forensic audit of the project. The court also examined issues concerning land utilisation, compensation and toll collection.

Kumaraswamy said he had attempted to scrap the project when he was chief minister but claimed he did not receive adequate political support. He said farmers who had lost land had approached him for assistance and indicated that he would continue the legal fight following the court proceedings.

Contractors seek release of Rs 38,000 crore pending dues

HANS NEWS SERVICE BENGALURU

THE Karnataka State Contractors' Association has urged Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar to release around Rs 38,000 crore in pending bills, while expressing dissatisfaction over what it described as delays in fulfilling earlier assurances given to the contracting community.

In a letter to Shivakumar, the association recalled assurances made when he was Deputy Chief Minister that the government would stand with contractors and clear their pending payments. It said that after nearly three years of the government, several promises had not been implemented.

The association said Shivakumar met its office-bearers on June 30, 2026, and assured them that pending dues would be cleared within two months. It claimed that the chief minister



had also instructed the Finance Department to make arrangements for the payments. According to the association, around Rs 38,000 crore is pending across development departments, with dues dating back to 2021-22. It sought immediate release of the amount and demanded that payments be made according to the seniority of pending bills.

The contractors also urged the government to stop issuing Special Letters of Credit and ensure greater transparency in tendering and payment procedures. They sought the release of

the eight per cent VAT-GST difference for 2017-18 and 2018-19. The association also demanded withdrawal of the requirement to upload work details on the Contract Management Module before treasury payments are released. It sought preference for local contractors at district and taluk levels.

The association said small and medium contractors had faced financial difficulties since the Covid-19 period and requested measures for licence renewal and continuation of government works.

4-day meet held on GST, Customs practices

HANS NEWS SERVICE BENGALURU

THE Directorate General of Taxpayer Services (DGTS), Bengaluru Zonal Unit of Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), Ministry of Finance, ran a four-day Outreach and Trade Meet on GST and Customs from September 22-25. Shailendra Kumar Sinha, Director General, DGTS, New Delhi, presided. Sessions were held at the BMTC Building, Banashankari; the CR Build-

ing, Queens Road; and HMT Bhavan under Bengaluru North GST Commissionerate. Day one reviewed the Zonal Unit; the next three days were set aside for trade talks. DGTS, created in August 2015 as a CBIC field formation with six zonal units, exists to strengthen taxpayer services, stakeholder contact, grievance handling and public outreach. It links taxpayers with the indirect-tax system and promotes voluntary compliance, openness and a better taxpayer experience.

Coffee cafe opened

BENGALURU : Third Wave Coffee has opened its first café in Manipal at Canara Mall, marking its 102nd café in South India. The expansion strengthens its Karnataka presence across Bengaluru, Mangaluru and Manipal, targeting the city's growing student population and evolving café culture.

Nitte gets 5-yr FAO reference centre badge

HANS NEWS SERVICE MANGALURU

Nitte (deemed to be university), Mangaluru, has been re-named an FAO Reference Centre for Antimicrobial Resistance and Aquaculture Biosecurity for five more years, through 2031, four years after first joining that select global group.

Food and Agriculture Or-

ganization (FAO) first designated Nitte for 2022-26, making it one of four world reference centres in those fields. An assessment of that period led FAO to renew the status from 2026 to 2031.

The formal presentation took place at FAO Headquarters in Rome during the FAO Global Conference for Actions on One Health, between September 21-23. Vice Chancellor

Dr. M S Moodithaya received the certificate from Deputy Director General Godfrey Magwenzi, in the presence of Assistant Directors General Thanawat Tiensin and Manuel Barange. Dr. Indrani Karunasagar, who heads the Nitte FAO Reference Centre, and Dr. Iddya Karunasagar, former FAO Senior Food Safety Officer and now adviser to the centre, were also in the delegation.

Give Rs 50k per acre drought relief or admit financial crisis: Vijayendra

HANS NEWS SERVICE BENGALURU

BJP state president B Y Vijayendra accused the Congress government of failing to respond adequately to the difficulties faced by farmers amid the severe drought situation in Karnataka and demanded that the government provide at least Rs 50,000 compensation per acre.

Addressing a press conference at the BJP office on Tuesday, Vijayendra said there were expectations that the government would convene a special Assembly session to discuss the drought situation and take concrete measures to support farmers. However, he alleged that no serious steps had been taken to provide direct relief to farmers.

He said the BJP had demanded in both Houses of the legislature that farmers be

Referring to a letter issued by the Finance Department, Vijayendra said it had raised serious questions about the state's financial position. He demanded that Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister D K Shivakumar immediately issue a white paper on the actual financial condition of Karnataka

provided a minimum compensation of Rs 50,000 per acre. Instead, the state government had provided only Rs 2,500, which he said was inadequate considering the extent of the farmers' losses.

Vijayendra said the government should provide appropriate relief, help farmers deal with the burden of loans and ensure adequate power supply at a time when farmers were facing severe difficulties. He also alleged that the government was finding it difficult to implement its guarantee schemes.

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serious questions about the state's financial position. He demanded that Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister D.K. Shivakumar immediately issue a white paper on the actual financial condition of Karnataka.

He also alleged that beneficiaries of various social security schemes, including pensions for persons with disabilities and old-age pensions, were not receiving payments on time and that basic programmes such as housing for the poor were being affected.

Vijayendra alleged that the government was providing opportunities to political



workers through guarantee implementation committees instead of prioritising people based on their needs. He said public funds should not be used for political purposes and that the government was accountable to taxpayers.

On allegations concerning a video conference reportedly conducted by Home Minister G. Parameshwara, Vijayendra said the government should clarify claims that party workers were being given priority in the implementation

of guarantee schemes. Beneficiaries, he said, should be selected based on their needs and not on lists prepared by Congress workers.

Vijayendra also criticised the government over the availability of three-phase electricity to farmers during the drought. He demanded that farmers be provided at least five hours of three-phase power every day and said electricity should be purchased from other states if necessary.

He also questioned Congress leaders' protests against the Election Commission and the Chief Election Commissioner. Vijayendra said constitutional institutions should not be targeted in a manner that creates distrust among the public. He said electoral victories and defeats were part of democracy and alleged that questioning constitutional institutions after an electoral defeat was inappropriate.

On the proposed Congress padayatra from Shikaripura announced by B.K. Hariprasad, Vijayendra said he welcomed the move and claimed that it could have been inspired by the BJP's Ballari Chalo padayatra. He said Shikaripura was the place that had shaped his political career and challenged Hariprasad to visit the constituency and see its development. Vijayendra said the BJP

would strengthen its organisation from the booth level ahead of the forthcoming local body elections and prepare its workers for the polls.

On the proposed all-party delegation to the Centre over drought relief, Vijayendra said the state government should first fulfil its responsibility towards farmers. He reiterated the demand for Rs 50,000 compensation per acre and farm loan waivers, adding that if the state's financial condition did not permit such relief, the government should openly acknowledge it.

He also demanded a comprehensive white paper on the state's debt, expenditure on guarantee schemes and spending on other programmes, alleging that Karnataka's debt burden had increased substantially during the Congress government's tenure.