

LONG SHOT



Govt funds advanced graph theory workshop at NIT

MANGALURU: From May 18 to 22, the Department of Mathematical and Computational Sciences at National Institute of Technology Karnataka (NITK) Surathkal ran a specialised five-day workshop named "Emerging Directions in Graph Theory and Graph Neural Networks".

The entire programme received funding through the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) and Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) of the Government of India.

On the first day of 18 May 2026, the inaugural event welcomed Prof. Pratima Panigrahi, Professor in the Department of Mathematics at IIT Kharagpur, as Chief Guest while Prof. Udaya Bhat, Dean (Research & Innovation) at NITK Surathkal, presided over the gathering.

Participants received comprehensive exposure to the mathematical underpinnings and applied dimensions of graph theory and Graph Neural Networks (GNNs). These topics hold growing relevance in areas including social networks, biological systems, recommendation systems, transportation networks, and scientific computing.

The workshop format specifically aimed to link traditional graph theory with up-to-date computational strategies, welcoming experts and learners from mathematics, computer science, data science, and associated disciplines. Attendance reached 52 individuals consisting of faculty members and research scholars representing multiple institutions.

Sona College of Technology announces admissions

BENGALURU: Sona College of Technology has announced admissions to its four-year B.E. and B.Tech programmes in Computer Science Engineering, Information Technology, Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning, and Data Science for the upcoming academic year.

The institution has invited applications from meritorious students who have completed Class XII in the Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics stream and are interested in emerging technologies and computing-related disciplines. According to the college administration, the NBA-accredited programmes are structured to provide students with strong fundamentals in Computer Science, Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning and Data Science, along with hands-on exposure to programming, robotics, basic sciences and soft skills training.

Students enrolling in the programmes will also have access to interdisciplinary electives, including Japanese language studies, while the curriculum includes a 20-week immersive industry internship aimed at providing real-time industrial exposure and practical training.

AI-ready sovereign cloud centre launched

BENGALURU: Bharath Cloud has launched its first AI-ready sovereign cloud centre at the Hyderabad DCI facility of CtrIS Datacenters, marking a major step towards strengthening India's sovereign digital infrastructure and AI ecosystem.

The new cloud centre was formally inaugurated by Sridhar Pinnapureddy. The initiative is aimed at addressing the growing demand for secure, scalable and sovereign digital infrastructure as artificial intelligence adoption, data localisation and enterprise digital transformation continue to expand rapidly across sectors.

Entrepreneur's gift creates career paths for coastal youth

Kundapura skill hub offers stipends and factory training

HANS NEWS SERVICE
UDUPI

YOUNG residents of Guddeangady in Kundapura taluk stand to benefit greatly from the SKF Industrial Training Centre, a joint venture of the Dr. G Ram-

akrishna Achar Charitable Trust and SKF Elixer India Pvt. Ltd. based in Moodbidri. Operations commence in June, delivering free practical training designed to match current industrial demands.

The centre admits about 60 students annually in batches of 20 for its one-year compressed technical programmes. Trainees choose from Electrical and Electronics, Fitting and Welding, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning, or Plumb-

ing. They master essential abilities including wiring, fabrication, motor control, industrial assembly, welding technology, refrigeration repair, and pipeline maintenance under the supervision of experienced industrial workers and qualified instructors.

Applicants who have passed or failed SSLC examinations, discontinued PU studies, or hail from economically weaker backgrounds meet the entry criteria. Training costs nothing

beyond basic registration fees. Fitting and Welding participants especially benefit from in-plant training at SKF Elixer India Pvt. Ltd., acquiring knowledge in fabrication, machinery handling, quality control, and professional discipline, supported by stipends during the period.

Dr. G Ramakrishna Achar, who originates from Guddeangady, inspires the project through his remarkable path from modest roots to heading a successful export-

oriented business. SKF Elixer India Pvt. Ltd. specialises in machinery for paddy processing, drinking water purification, and wastewater management, supplying products to more than 25 countries worldwide.

The trust extends its support further by introducing tailoring and fashion designing courses for women, prioritising self-employment skills and entrepreneurial growth to foster long-term independence.



Dr. G Ramakrishna Achar

First government IVF facility set for launch at Hubballi

The hospital administration has already completed most of the infrastructure development work and is awaiting the final licence approval from authorities

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HUBBALLI

KARNATAKA is preparing to launch its first IVF treatment centre under a government medical college setup at the Karnataka Medical College and Research Institute (KMC-RI) in Hubballi. The project, which is nearing completion, is expected to make fertility treatment affordable and accessible to common people, especially couples from financially weaker backgrounds.

The IVF facility is being developed within the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at KMC-RI. Though the project was originally planned under a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model, the state government later decided to operate the centre directly under government supervision to ensure wider public benefit.

Officials said delays in implementation were caused due to lack of clarity regarding operational guidelines and administrative structure. However, the government has now sanctioned funds



and provided necessary approvals to run the centre under the ABRK healthcare scheme.

KMC-RI Director Dr. Eshwar Hosamani said the government has fixed the IVF treatment cost at ₹1.34 lakh per patient. Importantly, if treatment fails in the first attempt, beneficiaries can undergo up to three cycles within the same approved package, offering significant financial relief to couples struggling with infertility.

The hospital administration has already completed most of the infrastructure development work and is awaiting the final licence approval from authorities. Officials said more than 90 per cent of the preparations have

been completed.

To make the centre fully functional, KMC-RI is in the process of appointing two highly specialised professionals — an Embryologist and an Artificial Reproductive Technologist. Since such positions are not available in the existing government recruitment structure, they will be hired through contractual service agreements via tender.

Authorities said these appointments are mandatory to secure operational licensing for the IVF centre. The government has also approved procurement of medicines and advanced laboratory support through the tender process. The cost of medicines required for a single

IVF cycle is estimated to be around ₹50,000.

Medical Education Minister Sharan Prakash Patil had reportedly advised officials to avoid the PPP model and instead establish the facility entirely within the government system so that patients could receive affordable treatment without dependence on private operators.

The Hubballi centre is expected to become a benchmark project for the state. Encouraged by the progress at KMC-RI, the Karnataka government has also initiated plans to establish similar IVF facilities in medical colleges located in Bengaluru, Mysuru and Kalaburagi.

Experts say the government-run IVF centre could significantly reduce the financial burden on infertile couples, as private IVF treatment often costs several lakhs of rupees. Once operational, the facility is likely to benefit patients not only from North Karnataka but also from neighbouring districts and rural regions lacking advanced fertility care services.

Rs 414-cr investment to transform NH-66 port corridor

Captain Chowta hails flyover approval for economic growth

HANS NEWS SERVICE
MANGALURU

DAKSHINA Kannada MP Captain Brijesh Chowta shared positive updates regarding the Union government's nod for a Rs. 414.16-crore project that will construct an elevated flyover and service roads on National Highway 66 from Baikampady to KIOCL Junction. The National Highways Authority of India has taken the next step by launching the tender process.

Covering a 3.075-kilometre corridor, the development prioritises seamless connectivity with the New Mangalore Port. Plans detail a 1.520-kilometre six-lane elevated flyover executed through the EPC model, complemented by 5.825 kilometres of service roads positioned on both flanks of the highway. The New Mangalore Port Authority stands ready to offer required extra land along with financial



backing.

The MP noted the strategic importance of this NH-66 portion as a primary route for cargo linked to the port's export and import activities. The upcoming structures will isolate highway traffic from local vehicles, delivering improved flow and heightened safety.

This modernisation will particularly strengthen the Baikampady industrial belt and KIOCL vicinity, catalysing broader industrial output, economic momentum in Dakshina Kannada, and reliable coastal connectivity

while preparing for future transport needs.

Challenges in the past stemmed from the port-area road falling under National Highway Logistics Management Limited's purview, resulting in agency and logistical difficulties. Consistent engagement successfully addressed these barriers and facilitated handover to NHAI. Parallel efforts have secured approval for underpasses at Baikampady and Kuloor Junction costing Rs. 11.63 crore, and related activities have already commenced.

Captain Brijesh Chowta stressed that persistent work on this front will enhance port connectivity and encourage port-driven progress across the district. He expressed appreciation to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Minister Nitin Gadkari for greenlighting the project, which supports Dakshina Kannada's contribution to the Viksit Bharat objective.

Denial of preferred official quarters; LoP stops accepting rent allowance

BENGALURU

LEADER of the Opposition in the Karnataka Legislative Assembly R Ashoka has written to the Chief Secretary stating that he has stopped accepting rent allowance from April 2026, as a mark of protest, because the state government has not yet allotted him an official quarters of his preference.

He even said that he had raised the issue four times. The development comes as the Congress government in Karnataka led by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah completed three years in office on May 20.

"As soon as I took office as the Leader of the Opposition in the Karnataka Legis-



lative Assembly, letters were written to allot government quarters as per my preference request. But till now, my preferred government quarters have not been allotted," Ashoka said in a letter to Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh, dated May 21.

Stating that he had in-

formed the government that if his preferred government housing is not allotted, he will not even receive house rent allowance in the future, he said, "Since the request of the Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly has not been responded to, I am protesting without taking

house rent allowance from April 2026."

Sharing details of his preferred government quarters, Ashoka further said, "I hereby strongly request that any of the mentioned government quarters of my preference be allotted as designated quarters to the Leader of the Opposition in the Karnataka Legislative Assembly."

He had sought any one of three quarters -- 1 Kumara Park East, 1 Race View Cottage or 2 Race View Cottage -- as his preference for official residence. According to reports, Ashoka even raised this issue and expressed displeasure before CM Siddaramaiah and his senior ministerial colleagues recently.

BENGALURU

BJP MLA G Janardhan Reddy has endorsed a reported statement by former party leader and MLA Basangouda Patil Yatnal, calling on students to respond with 'Jai Sri Ram' instead of 'Yes Sir' when teachers call their names during attendance in classrooms.

The recent statement by Reddy, a former minister, is circulating on social media. "Though he has nothing to do with our party now, Yatnal has said a big thing; that during attendance at schools, when their name is called by the teacher, students should respond by saying Jai Sri Ram instead of Yes Sir. I extend one hundred per cent support to this call," Reddy said.

Speaking to reporters in Koppal recently, he said, "Whenever I go to any school or college, I will also give a



similar call...let the students go wearing saffron shawls and saffron turbans; we are Bharateeyas, it is a matter of Hindutva, our country, our Sanatana Dharma."

The remarks seem to be a reaction to the government's decision allowing students to wear hijabs and other faith symbols in schools. The Congress government last week

withdrew a 2022 order banning the hijab in classrooms.

It issued an order allowing students to wear limited traditional and faith-based symbols such as Hijab/headscarf, turban, 'Janeu' (sacred thread), Shivadhara and Rudraksha along with prescribed uniforms in schools and pre-university colleges across the state.

Demo at Town Hall

Police caution against Cockroach Janata Party's call

BENGALURU

THE Bengaluru police on Friday cautioned the public against participating in or circulating social media messages related to a proposed "peaceful human chain" programme allegedly called by a group -- "Cockroach Janata Party Karnataka" -- near Town Hall here on May 24, saying no permission had been granted for such an event.

In a press note, the Bengaluru City Police said a viral social media post had invited people to gather in large numbers in front of Town Hall for a peaceful human chain demonstration on Sunday.

Police clarified that no application had been submitted by any individual, organisation or political party seeking permission to hold the programme and that no approval had been granted either by the police or by the GBA authorities for use of the venue.

"It has come to notice that a post has been circulated on social media under the heading 'Cockroach Janata Party, Karnataka,' in which an invitation has been given to gather in large numbers in front of Town Hall for the purpose of forming a peaceful human chain," the police said.

According to the police statement, protests, sit-in



demonstrations and rallies are not permitted at locations other than Freedom Park in accordance with the Karnataka High Court's August 1, 2022 order.

The police said any gather-

ing in front of Town Hall in violation of the order would amount to a breach of the court's directions.

The department advised the public not to knowingly or unknowingly forward

or share the viral message through platforms including Facebook, WhatsApp, Instagram and Twitter, and urged people not to assemble near Town Hall.

The viral poster, translated

from Kannada, called upon supporters to show "The strength of cockroaches not just online but also on the streets" by participating in a peaceful human chain at Town Hall in Bengaluru at 11 am on May 24.

The poster appealed to "all cockroaches and fans of the Cockroach Janata Party" to come and demonstrate strength and send a message to the self-serving administration.

It listed grievances, including "youth have no future," "students are burdened with the NEET examination," "life has become difficult because of price rise," "our votes are being stolen," and allegations that money collected

from people was being sent abroad.

The message further stated: "There are no leaders here, we ourselves are the leaders. There is no organisation here; people joining hands itself is the organisation."

Police said the advisory had been issued in the public interest to create awareness about the law.

The 'X' account of Cockroach Janata Party, a satirical digital outfit that came up last week and took social media by storm, was withheld in India on Thursday. Soon after, came another handle -- 'Cockroach is Back' with the tagline 'Cockroaches Don't Die'