

IN BRIEF



Conspiracy through SIR to remove votes: DKS

BENGALURU: Dy CM D K Shivakumar on Friday alleged that there is a conspiracy to remove the votes of poor people through the SIR process and said Congress workers have been instructed to remain highly vigilant.

Speaking to reporters near his residence in Sadashivanagar, Bengaluru, the Deputy Chief Minister said the party has begun creating awareness among legislators and Booth Level Agents (BLAs) regarding the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process.

"We have convened meetings to educate our MLAs and BLAs about SIR because the dates have already been announced. Every eligible person must submit the necessary application; otherwise, citizens may lose their voting rights," he said.

He warned that similar situations had occurred in other states and stressed the importance of protecting voter rights. "If people lose their voting rights, they may also face difficulties in accessing welfare benefits such as pension schemes and the Gruha Lakshmi Scheme. Hence, we are focusing on public awareness," he added.

Responding to questions regarding the government's decision to withdraw cases filed against members of the Muslim community, Shivakumar clarified that only politically motivated cases were being withdrawn. "Cases filed against farmers and Kannada activists have also been withdrawn earlier. There is nothing wrong in withdrawing politically motivated cases," he stated.

New intl cricket stadium near Anekal soon

BENGALURU: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will lay the foundation stone tomorrow (May 23) for a new international cricket stadium coming up near Anekal on the outskirts of Bengaluru. With a seating capacity of 80,000, the proposed venue is set to become India's second-largest cricket stadium after the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad.

The mega project, estimated to cost around Rs 943 crore, is expected to be completed within the next three years. The stadium will be constructed at Surya Nagar Phase 4 in Indlawadi village of Anekal taluk under the 'KHB Surya Kreedha Grama' initiative of the Karnataka Housing Board (KHB).

Designed as a world-class sporting venue, the stadium will feature modern amenities including hospitality lounges, VIP boxes, advanced media facilities, and enhanced spectator services. Comprehensive security and crowd-management systems are also planned to handle large gatherings during international matches and major events.

Currently, Bengaluru's iconic M. Chinnaswamy Stadium has a seating capacity of only around 32,000, which many believe is inadequate for the growing demand during international cricket fixtures and IPL matches. The new stadium, spread across 75 acres, is expected to significantly boost Bengaluru's capacity to host large-scale sporting events. Apart from international cricket, the project is expected to play a major role in promoting sports and nurturing young talent in Karnataka. The facility will host cricket academies, youth training programmes, school and college tournaments, and state-level sporting events. The stadium is also being envisioned as a multi-purpose venue capable of hosting concerts, conferences, public gatherings, corporate events, and exhibitions, making it one of the largest entertainment and sporting hubs in the region.

Flight services from Bengaluru to Bidar and Kalaburagi to resume: MB Patil

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BENGALURU

INFRASTRUCTURE Development Minister M B Patil on Friday announced that flight services from Bengaluru to Bidar and Kalaburagi, the district headquarters of the Kalyana Karnataka region, will resume from June 1 and June 10 respectively.

Speaking on the occasion, he said that Star Air (Ghodawat Enterprises Limited) will operate flights

on the Bengaluru-Bidar-Bengaluru and Bengaluru-Kalaburagi-Bengaluru sectors. The Government is extending viability gap funding of Rs 28.47 crore to support the operations. Advance booking for flights on both routes has already commenced, he added.

Patil said the flight service to Kalaburagi had earlier been suspended due to financial losses. In the case of Bidar, services were being operated with special



support from the Kalyana Karnataka Regional Development Board. Taking into account the growth of industries, education, tourism, agriculture and commercial activities in the Kalyana Karnataka region, the Government has decided to revive the services under the regional air connectivity initiative, he said.

The Minister said the Government is committed to enhancing air connectivity to Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities

across the State. Such initiatives will not only accelerate regional economic growth but also contribute to infrastructure development, he noted.

It may be recalled that Patil had recently held several rounds of discussions with ministerial colleagues from the Kalyana Karnataka region and representatives of various airline companies regarding the resumption of flight services to Bidar and Kalaburagi.

Govt urges NCERT to introduce dedicated chapter on groundwater

BENGALURU

THE government has called on the Centre and the NCERT to include a dedicated chapter on groundwater conservation and management in the national school curriculum. Minor Irrigation, Science and Technology Minister N S Boseraju on Friday said the state has formally written to the Central Government seeking the inclusion of a comprehensive "groundwater" chapter in National Council of Educational Research and Training textbooks under the upcoming curriculum revisions aligned with the National Education Policy 2020.

The minister noted that while the existing NCERT Class 10 Social Science textbook, Contemporary India-II, contains a chapter on "water resources," the current curriculum largely focuses on surface water, with limited attention given to groundwater, despite it being India's most critical freshwater resource.

"Nearly 97 per cent of the liquid freshwater available on Earth exists as groundwater. Around 50 per cent of domestic water usage and nearly 25 per cent of agricultural needs in India rely directly on groundwater sources," Boseraju said, according to a



release issued by his office. He warned that climate change, declining surface water availability, and increasing water consumption are intensifying pressure on groundwater reserves across the country. The state highlighted in its communication that over-exploited, critical, and semi-critical groundwater zones have increased sharply over the past two decades, while groundwater quality continues to deteriorate because of contamination and unsustainable extraction, he added. The Karnataka government argued that groundwater awareness must begin at the school level if India is to effectively address future water insecurity.

Drawing comparisons with international education models, the state pointed out that school curricula in countries such as the United States already include de-

tailed lessons on groundwater systems, aquifer behaviour, permeability, porosity, groundwater flow, and contamination, the release said. Karnataka has urged NCERT to include similar scientific and practical learning modules in the revised curriculum being prepared for the academic year 2027-28 under the National Curriculum Framework for School Education 2023. The state government recommended that the proposed groundwater chapter should include rainwater harvesting and managed aquifer recharge technologies, along with nature-based solutions such as constructed wetlands and green roofs.

It also suggested including lessons on aquifer mapping and groundwater modelling, as well as the use of advanced monitoring systems, including IoT and remote sensing.

In addition, the chapter should cover national water conservation programmes implemented by the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Central Ground Water Board, and NITI Aayog.

"Addressing future water scarcity cannot be achieved through infrastructure projects alone. The next generation must understand the real importance of water conservation at the school level itself," Boseraju said.

"Climate change is steadily reducing surface water availability, making groundwater increasingly critical for survival," he said, adding that "introducing a dedicated and comprehensive chapter on groundwater in the NCERT curriculum is now an urgent national necessity. We are confident that the Central Government will respond positively to this forward-looking proposal."

Rado watch stolen from deceased patient at city hospital

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BENGALURU

A disturbing incident highlighting alleged negligence and insensitivity at a private hospital in Bengaluru has come to light after an expensive wristwatch belonging to a deceased patient reportedly went missing from the hospital premises. A complaint has been registered at the Govindarajanaagar Police Station regarding the theft of a Rado watch worth nearly Rs 2 lakh.

According to the complaint, Ramayya, an elderly man suffering from serious health complications, had been admitted to a private hospital in Bengaluru for treatment. Despite medical efforts, he passed away during treatment. However, the family alleges that during the course of treatment, his branded Rado watch and even the shirt he was wearing mysteriously disappeared from the hospital.

The issue reportedly came to light after Ramayya's daughter enquired about her father's belongings following his death. Family members alleged that hospital staff failed to provide clear answers regarding the missing valuables and behaved irresponsibly when questioned.

Adding to the suspicion, the family claimed that when they demanded ac-



cess to CCTV footage from the hospital to verify what had happened, staff members allegedly informed them that the footage had been deleted. This response has now raised serious concerns over the handling of patient belongings and security measures inside the hospital.

The daughter of the deceased reportedly told police that the watch was not merely an expensive accessory, but one of the last personal memories connected to her father.

Hurt by the hospital's response and the disappearance of the valuables, she approached Govindarajanaagar police seeking legal action.

Based on the complaint, police have registered an FIR and initiated an investigation into the incident. Officers are expected to question hospital staff, re-

view available records and examine whether there was any deliberate attempt to destroy evidence or conceal information related to the missing watch.

The incident has triggered outrage among the public, with many questioning the safety of patients and their belongings inside private hospitals.

Concerns are also being raised about accountability and transparency in hospitals when dealing with valuables belonging to patients, particularly senior citizens undergoing critical treatment.

Police sources said further investigation is underway and action will be taken based on the findings. Authorities are also likely to examine whether the hospital violated any protocols related to patient property management and CCTV data retention.

HIDDEN THYROID DISORDERS

Major cause of infertility and miscarriages, caution medics

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BENGALURU

THYROID imbalance is increasingly emerging as a hidden but treatable cause behind infertility, irregular menstrual cycles, failed conception attempts, and recurrent miscarriages among urban women, according to Bengaluru-based gynaecologist and IVF specialist Dr. Vidya V Bhat.

Dr. Bhat, who serves as the Medical Director of Radhakrishna Multispeciality Hospital, said a growing number of women in their late 20s and 30s are being diagnosed with thyroid-related reproductive complications, particularly in metropolitan cities like Bengaluru.

With over 35 years of experience in women's health and fertility care, she noted that changing lifestyles, stress, lack of sleep, poor dietary habits, obesity, and sedentary routines are contributing significantly to hormonal imbal-



ances among urban women. "Many women undergo years of fertility struggles without realising that an underlying thyroid disorder could be the reason," Dr. Vidya V Bhat said. "Though small in size, the thyroid gland plays a critical role in regulating hormones, ovulation, menstrual cycles, pregnancy health, and fetal development."

According to her, both hypothyroidism and hyperthyroidism can negatively impact fertility by affecting ovulation, egg quality, implantation, and menstrual regularity. If left untreated, thyroid dysfunction can also increase the risk of pregnancy complications.

Transport Minister distributes 10 free EV autos to empower women

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BENGALURU

IN a significant initiative aimed at promoting women empowerment and sustainable urban mobility, Karnataka Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy personally distributed 10 free electric vehicle (EV) autos to women and transgender beneficiaries at the Koramangala office in Bengaluru.

Speaking on the occasion, Ramalinga Reddy said that it was a matter of great satisfaction to provide free EV autos from his personal funds to women aspiring to lead self-reliant, dignified, and financially independent lives. He stated that the initiative was launched with the objective of creating sustainable livelihood opportunities through eco-friendly self-employment and enabling women and transgender persons to build independent futures. He also emphasised that financial independence among women is an important step towards social empowerment.

Under the initiative, the selected beneficiaries received specialised training from CGI, B.PAC, and Peace Auto Union. All the beneficiaries possess valid driving licences



and have undergone the necessary training to safely and professionally operate electric autos.

The programme has prioritised widows, single mothers, women without family support, and transgender persons, with a focus on strengthening their financial independence and social dignity. The initiative reflects the Karnataka Government's commitment towards women empowerment, green mobility, and the creation of sustainable livelihood opportunities for women and marginalised communities.

Peace Auto State President Raghu Narayan Gowda, B.PAC Programme Head Raghavendra Poojari H.S., and other dignitaries were present during the auto distribution programme.

VTU CREATES A RECORD

Results declared 10 minutes after exam!

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU

VISVESVARAYA Technological University (VTU) has created history by announcing the final semester engineering exam results just 10 minutes after the exam ended. The results were jointly released by VTU Vice-Chancellor Prof. S. Vidyashankar and Registrar (Evaluation) Prof. U.J. Ujwal. A total of 56,192 students appeared for the B.E. and B.Tech final semester exams. The exam ended at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, and by 5:40 p.m. the results were announced. Achieved 99.98% result. Compared to previous years, the entire evaluation process was completed 8 days earlier, breaking previous records. Earlier, results were announced within one hour of exam completion. This time, results were directly sent to students' mobile numbers.

Speaking on the occasion, VTU Vice-Chancellor Prof. S. Vidyashankar said: "VTU has always been at the forefront of adopting technology. This result itself is proof that VTU is student-friendly. Announcing results within just 10 minutes of exam completion is no easy task. I congratulate the administrative staff, exam section staff, and affiliated college



RESULT HISTORY

- In May 2025, results for the 2021 batch (50,321 students) were announced within one hour after exam.
- In May 2024, results for the 2020 batch (37,011 students) were announced within 3 hours.
- In 2023, results for the 2019 batch (43,662 student) were announced two days after the exam

staff who made this possible. Final-year students eagerly await results for jobs and higher education, so we ensured quick announcement." Registrar (Evaluation) Prof. U.J. Ujwal added: "We adopted digital evaluation of answer scripts and prepared in advance to announce results quickly. With everyone's cooperation, this was possible." Students can see the result at website <https://results.vtu.ac.in>

Fake doctor profile on matrimonial sites

Bengaluru, Mysuru women cheated of lakhs

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU

A shocking matrimonial fraud case has surfaced in Karnataka where a man allegedly posed as a PhD holder and doctor on matrimonial websites and cheated more than ten women from Bengaluru and Mysuru by promising marriage and collecting lakhs of rupees from them. A case has now been registered at the Aduodi Police Station against the accused, identified as Pradeep

Solomon, and his mother Kalavathi. The duo is currently absconding fearing arrest.

According to police sources, Pradeep Solomon allegedly created fake high-profile accounts on matrimonial platforms under the name "Dr. Pradeep Solomon," claiming to be highly educated and financially well settled. Investigators said his mother actively supported the fraud by helping create a false image of wealth and social status before pro-



spective brides and their families. The accused reportedly rented a luxurious bungalow



in Mysuru and projected themselves as a rich and influential family. Police said the lavish lifestyle and ex-

pensive setup helped them gain the confidence of women and their parents who approached them for marriage alliances.

After establishing trust, the accused allegedly began demanding money from the victims citing urgent financial issues.

He reportedly told families that a huge amount of his money was "stuck" in the bank due to technical reasons and requested temporary financial assistance, assuring them the amount

would soon be returned. Believing his claims, several families transferred large sums of money to him. In one recent case, a wealthy Bengaluru-based family allegedly lost lakhs of rupees after trusting the accused.

Soon after receiving the money, Pradeep Solomon and his mother reportedly disappeared and stopped all communication.

As news of the fraud spread, multiple women and their family members from Mysuru and Bengaluru

gathered near the rented bungalow in Mysuru claiming their too had been cheated in a similar manner.

Police said a detailed investigation is underway and special teams have been formed to trace the mother-son duo. Officers suspect that more victims could come forward as the probe progresses.

Authorities have also appealed to the public to verify matrimonial profiles carefully before sharing personal or financial information.