

## IN BRIEF



### Advanced minimal invasive treatment for urology care

BENGALURU: Trustwell Hospital has enhanced its urology department with the launch of an advanced 160-Watt Holmium Laser System, enabling minimally invasive treatment for a wide range of urological conditions.

The state-of-the-art laser technology can effectively treat kidney stones, ureteric stones, bladder stones, enlarged prostate (BPH), urethral strictures and select upper urinary tract tumors. The new system offers greater surgical precision, reduced bleeding, shorter hospital stays, faster recovery and improved patient outcomes.

Speaking on the occasion, Consultant Urologist Dr. Ravikumar B. said the high-power laser will help perform complex endourological procedures with enhanced safety and efficiency while ensuring quicker recovery for patients.

CMD of hospital Dr. H.V. Madhusudan said the introduction of the advanced laser platform reflects the hospital's commitment to adopting the latest medical technologies and providing world-class healthcare services. The addition further strengthens Trustwell Hospital's capabilities in advanced urological care.

### Novartis launches cancer treatment therapy

BENGALURU: In a significant milestone for cancer treatment in India, Novartis India has launched Pluvictis (lutetium (177Lu) vipivotide tetraxetan), the country's first regulatory authority-approved radioligand therapy for eligible patients suffering from advanced PSMA-positive prostate cancer.

The launch marks a major advancement in precision oncology, offering a targeted treatment approach for metastatic prostate cancer by delivering radiation directly to cancer cells while minimizing damage to healthy tissues. Experts believe the therapy could help delay disease progression, improve survival outcomes in specific patient groups, and enhance overall quality of life.

Prostate cancer has emerged as one of the fastest-growing cancers among Indian men, with nearly 2.5 lakh cases reported annually. According to medical experts, nearly half of all diagnosed patients are detected only after the disease has spread to other parts of the body, making treatment significantly more challenging.

### MSR Academia hosts evening of fashion, music

BENGALURU: MSR Academia successfully hosted an exclusive evening of fashion, music, and networking, bringing together industry leaders, creative professionals, fashion enthusiasts, and aspiring designers under one roof. The event celebrated the convergence of creative expression, contemporary style, and design innovation while offering guests a first-hand glimpse into the institution's vision for the future of fashion and design education. The evening featured engaging interactions, vibrant networking opportunities, curated music experiences, and insightful conversations around emerging trends in fashion, creativity, luxury craftsmanship, and design leadership. Attendees explored potential collaborations and connected with like-minded professionals committed to shaping the next generation of creative talent.

During the event, MSR Academia highlighted its industry-focused fashion design programs, including Indian Textiles & Luxury Crafts, Future Textiles & Innovation, and Fashion Collection Development, designed to equip students with both creative excellence and practical industry skills.

## Dog bite cases surge in capital; nearly 9,800 cases reported in five months

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
BENGALURU

DOG bite cases continue to rise at an alarming rate in Bengaluru, with the latest figures released by the Health Department raising serious concerns over public safety. In the last five months alone, the city has recorded 9,763 dog bite cases, while 13,220 cases were reported across Karnataka in just one week.

The growing menace of stray dog attacks has also led to fatalities. According to official data, two people lost their lives due to dog attacks in the state last week. From January till date, Karnataka has reported a staggering 2,66,367 dog bite cases, resulting in 30 deaths.

Among Bengaluru's health zones, the South Zone has recorded the highest number of dog bite incidents with 3,303 cases reported in

the last five months. The East Zone follows with 2,909 cases, while the North Zone has reported 2,569 cases. Anekal has recorded 982 dog bite incidents during the same period.

The sharp rise in cases has put additional pressure on government hospitals. Hospitals, including KC General Hospital, are witnessing an increased demand for anti-rabies vaccines, with nearly 60 to 70 dog bite victims vis-

iting hospitals every day for treatment and vaccination.

To tackle the growing demand, government hospitals have started stocking larger quantities of anti-rabies vaccines to ensure uninterrupted availability.

Medical experts have urged the public not to ignore dog bites under any circumstances and to seek immediate medical attention, as timely vaccination remains the most effective

way to prevent rabies.

The increasing number of dog attacks has once again brought the issue of stray animal management to the forefront. Residents and public health experts have called for stronger measures, including intensified sterilisation drives, vaccination of stray dogs and greater public awareness, to curb the menace and ensure the safety of citizens across Bengaluru and the state.



## 'Doctors are living gods, uphold people's trust'

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CHIEF Minister DK Shivakumar on Tuesday urged newly graduated doctors to uphold the trust reposed in them by society, describing them as "living gods" who play a crucial role in people's lives during their most difficult moments.

Addressing the 28th annual convocation of the Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (RGUHS) at the GKVK campus in Bengaluru, the Chief Minister, along with the Governor, conferred degrees on graduating students and encouraged them to pursue excellence with dedication and compassion.

"Doctors are the living gods people can see and approach. No matter how difficult their circumstances are, people come to doctors with immense faith and trust. It is your responsibility to preserve that trust and serve society with commitment," Shivakumar said.

He noted that the medical profession presents new challenges every day and emphasized that Karnataka-trained doctors have earned global recognition for their competence and dedication. "I have travelled to many countries and visited renowned hospitals abroad. In several of them, I have seen Indian doctors, especially those from Karnataka, serving with distinction. The quality of doctors produced here is

### DK SHIVAKUMAR TELLS MEDICAL GRADUATES



second to none," he added.

#### Serve rural areas, prevent migration to cities

The Chief Minister called upon young doctors to extend quality healthcare services to rural areas and help bridge the urban-rural healthcare gap. "India is at a crucial stage of social and technological transformation. Medical education and healthcare have witnessed tremendous advancements. However, your focus should not remain confined to urban centres alone. By serving in rural areas, you can ensure better healthcare access and prevent unnecessary migration of people to cities," he said.

Shivakumar also praised Medical Education Minister Sharan Prakash Patil for his commitment

to the sector and lauded his disciplined approach to governance. He expressed hope that the campaign for a drug-free India, drug-free Karnataka and drug-free campuses would succeed with the active participation of healthcare professionals.

#### Quality teachers are the strength of a university

Highlighting the importance of quality education, the Chief Minister said that the strength of any university lies not in the number of students or degrees awarded, but in the quality of its teachers.

"Teachers should act as mentors and role models, inspiring students towards research and innovation. Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences has

emerged as one of the largest health sciences universities in the country, and the state government remains committed to extending all necessary support for its growth," he said.

Shivakumar revealed that this was his first public address after assuming office as Chief Minister. Reflecting on his own journey, he said, "I was born into a farming family, became an entrepreneur by profession, an educationist by choice and a politician by passion."

#### Karnataka produces around 14,000 doctors every year

Emphasizing Karnataka's contribution to healthcare and education, Shivakumar said the state produces nearly 72,000 healthcare

graduates annually, including 13,940 doctors every year, making it one of the largest producers of medical professionals in the world.

"Karnataka is not just an IT powerhouse; it is also a hub of talent across various sectors. Bengaluru alone has 2.6 million IT professionals, nearly double that of California. Our state has 72 medical colleges, the highest among all Indian states, and our doctors and nurses are serving with distinction across the globe," he said.

He credited RGUHS as a cornerstone of Karnataka's healthcare ecosystem, noting that the university, named after former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, has produced over eight lakh graduates in the last three decades.

#### 'Set goals and become role models'

Sharing a personal anecdote, Shivakumar said he could not complete his graduation at the usual age because he entered politics during his student years. He eventually earned his degree from the University of Mysore in 2008 at the age of 47.

"Despite serving as a minister earlier, the joy I felt when I finally received my degree was unmatched. Today, history is repeating itself through you. You are graduating at a time when the world is looking towards India and Karnataka. Set ideals for yourselves, define your goals and strive for excellence. I wish each one of you a bright and successful future," he told the graduates.

## GBA entrusts E-Khata correction responsibility to deputy commissioners



HANS NEWS SERVICE  
BENGALURU

IN a significant move aimed at improving citizen services, the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has decided to entrust the responsibility of e-Khata corrections in its five city corporations to Deputy Commissioners.

Speaking to reporters after a review meeting of the Revenue Department, Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao said that the authority had earlier vested the power to make corrections in e-Khata records with Zonal Joint Commissioners. However, considering their extensive workload, the responsibility will now be transferred to the Deputy Commissioners of the respective zones.

"Based on the suggestions received from various city corporations, Deputy Commissioners in the Revenue Department have been assigned greater responsibilities. They will take steps to expedite the disposal of pending corrections and complaints under the 'My e-Khata, My Right' campaign," Rao said.

He added that the move is expected to make e-Khata services more efficient and accessible, enabling citizens to avail themselves of services in a quicker and more streamlined manner.

Rao further stated that the

authority has undertaken several initiatives related to e-Khata and property tax administration, resulting in a substantial increase in revenue collection.

"So far, property tax collection has crossed Rs 3,000 crore. During the corresponding period last year, the collection stood at Rs 2,800 crore," he said.

The Chief Commissioner also noted that a comprehensive review of the functioning of city corporations has been conducted with the objective of simplifying the e-Khata system and improving service delivery to the public. Necessary modifications to the software platform have been recommended to ensure smoother operations.

Special Commissioner for Revenue, Munish Moudgil, instructed officials to intensify efforts to recover pending taxes from defaulters and in revision cases.

"All officers must work proactively to ensure effective collection of taxes due to the city corporations from defaulters and pending assessment revision cases," he said.

The review meeting was attended by Special Commissioner Dr. K. Harish Kumar and Commissioners D.S. Ramesh, G. Jagadish, Pommala Sunil Kumar, K.N. Ramesh and Dr. K.V. Rajendra, among other senior officials.

## HC questions anticipatory bail granted to Vachanananda Swamiji in POCSO case

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BENGALURU

THE Karnataka High Court has expressed serious concern over the manner in which anticipatory bail was granted to Vachanananda Swamiji of the Harihar Panchamasali Peetha in Davanagere district, who is facing allegations of child abuse and offences under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

The case came up before a bench headed by Justice M. Nagaprasanna while hearing a petition filed by the mother of a minor boy challenging the anticipatory bail granted to the seer by a Davanagere district court. During the hearing, the High Court observed that the anticipatory bail appeared to have been granted even before a formal complaint was registered, describing the development as "shocking" and prima facie improper.

The court noted that serious offences had been invoked against the seer under the POCSO Act and remarked that the manner in which anticipatory bail was granted required judicial scrutiny. The bench is-



sued notice to Vachanananda Swamiji and adjourned further hearing of the matter to June 23.

The controversy surrounding the seer has been building over the past several months. In April, trustees of the Panchamasali Peetha removed him from the religious institution. Of the 15 trustees, 13 participated in a meeting and unanimously resolved to remove him from the post. The dispute reportedly stemmed from the management of two religious institutions. Trustees alleged that despite repeated requests to choose between the two peethas, the seer failed to comply.

Separately, complaints were also raised by children residing in the mutt. Some of them allegedly accused the seer of verbally abusing and harassing them. Following these allegations, officials of

the Child Welfare Committee visited the institution and conducted an inquiry.

Subsequently, based on a complaint lodged by the mother of a minor boy, a POCSO case was registered against the seer. Authorities have already questioned him in connection with the allegations and conducted a medical examination as part of the investigation.

Anticipating arrest in the case, Vachanananda Swamiji approached the Davanagere district court seeking anticipatory bail on April 21. The district court granted him relief subject to certain conditions. However, with the High Court now expressing reservations about the process, attention has shifted to the next hearing, where the legality of the bail order is expected to come under closer examination.

## CM defends Bidadi township, minister expresses concern over project

BENGALURU

CHIEF Minister D K Shivakumar has defended the proposed Bidadi township project amid growing opposition from farmers and sections within the Congress, while Public Works Minister Satish Jarkiholi expressed concern over the growing discontent. Jarkiholi also said the issue could come up for discussion at the Cabinet meeting scheduled on June 20.

The Greater Bengaluru Integrated Township is seen among Shivakumar's ambitious projects presented as India's first AI-powered integrated township. The project is expected to cover about 7,481 acres across nine villages in the region, according to official sources. The proposed township project, estimated to involve investments worth several thousand crore rupees, envisages the acquisition of large tracts of land in and around Bidadi on Bengaluru's outskirts, for urban development.

"This is not a township conceived by me. It was originally notified by former CM Kumaraswamy himself. During the previous BJP government,



about 1,000 acres were acquired and allotted by KIADB," Shivakumar told reporters in Bengaluru on Monday while responding to criticism of the project.

The chief minister said similar large-scale township projects were being implemented in other states and accused critics of attempting to politicise the issue. "In Maharashtra, 80,000 acres have been acquired, and a new township is being developed. In Telangana, a new township is being developed over 40,000 acres," he said.

Referring to earlier industrial and urban development projects in the region, Shivakumar asked,

come up for discussion, because the future of the entire party also depends on it. Unnecessary confusion should not arise. The government should not end up burdened because of an attempt to develop a township," the minister said. Asked whether opposition to the project could hurt the government's image, Jarkiholi said the administration was conscious of the political implications. "We should not launch a scheme and then have it become a burden on the government. It should not become the cause of another problem. We are aware of those concerns as well," he said.

Jarkiholi said the government did not yet have a complete assessment of the extent of opposition to the project, but maintained that a discussion was necessary. "Any programme should produce positive outcomes and not negative consequences. We don't even have complete information about the extent of opposition on the ground. We do not know how much opposition is there. Still, it is necessary to discuss it from the party's broader perspective," he added.