

IN BRIEF



Cyber fraudsters use e-SIM trick to loot 50-yr-old man

BENGALURU: A 50-year-old private company employee from Victoria Layout in Bengaluru lost Rs. 15 lakh to cyber fraudsters who lured him with an offer of a free upgrade from 4G to 5G network. On June 13 around 3 pm, the victim received a call from an unknown number. The caller claimed to be a representative of a major telecom company and promised to upgrade his SIM to 5G for free. Believing the offer, the victim shared his EID number.

The fraudsters immediately converted his physical SIM to an e-SIM on their own device. Soon after, his mobile network stopped working. Within just 30 minutes, the fraudsters gained full control of his mobile number and email ID, hacked into his banking details, and applied for an instant loan of Rs. 15 lakh from his bank account without his knowledge. Around Rs. 14.6 lakh was credited to his account.

The fraudsters quickly transferred Rs. 2.2 lakh to other accounts. The victim noticed the suspicious activity in time and immediately contacted his bank and the cyber crime helpline. He managed to freeze his account, preventing further loss. On June 15, he filed a formal complaint at the Central Cyber Crime Police Station. Police have registered a case under the IT Act and Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and launched an investigation.

Gut health disorders on rise in capital city

BENGALURU: Environmental allergies and gut health disorders are emerging as major public health concerns in Bengaluru, driven by rapid urbanisation, increasing pollution levels and changing lifestyles, according to leading homeopathic physician and researcher Dr. Kushal Banerjee.

Highlighting the growing burden of allergic diseases, Dr. Banerjee said that nearly 20 to 30 per cent of Indians are estimated to suffer from allergic rhinitis, making metropolitan cities such as Bengaluru particularly vulnerable. Factors such as vehicular emissions, construction dust, pollen exposure and changing climatic conditions are contributing to the rise in respiratory and allergy-related illnesses. Studies indicate that more than half of working professionals experience symptoms of allergic rhinitis, including sneezing, nasal congestion and itchy eyes. Persistent allergies can also lead to sleep disturbances, fatigue, poor concentration and reduced workplace productivity.

'SellRight by Spinny' campaign

BENGALURU: Used-car platform Spinny has expanded its nationwide "God Promise" campaign to Karnataka, with cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar fronting the initiative aimed at making car selling simpler, fairer and more transparent for customers across the state.

The campaign, which is being promoted through television, transit and outdoor advertising, focuses on "SellRight by Spinny," the company's seller-centric offering. The service promises fair price discovery, instant payments, free and quick RC transfer support and end-to-end assistance to reduce hassles in the vehicle-selling process.

According to the company, Bengaluru has been its largest market since inception and continues to play a key role in the growth of India's organised pre-owned car sector. Spinny said the city's preference for technology-driven and transparent transactions has significantly contributed to the evolution of the used-car market.

'Provide security to Mahaswamiji over alleged death threats'

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU

A group of seers representing various communities in Karnataka on Wednesday appealed to Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar to provide adequate security to Sri Pranavanandaram Mahaswamiji, pontiff of the Brahmarshi Narayanaguru Shakti Peetha Trust, citing alleged death threats made against him on social media.

The seers met the Chief Minister at his Sadashivana-

gar residence in Bengaluru and submitted a memorandum seeking immediate protection for the pontiff.

According to the memorandum, Sri Pranavanandaram Mahaswamiji, who is also associated with the Sri Sharanabasaveshwara Math in Haveri and the Brahmarshi Narayanaguru Shakti Peetha in Kalaburagi, has allegedly been receiving threats following remarks he made at a community gathering held in Gokarna. The petitioners stated that



the seer had raised concerns regarding alleged injustice meted out to the Ediga and other backward commu-

nities and had urged that government grants be distributed equally among all communities.

Following his remarks, they alleged that certain organisations and leaders belonging to the Kuruba community at the state, district and taluk levels had planned protests against him.

The memorandum further alleged that threatening comments, including death threats, had been posted against the seer on television platforms and social

media by some individuals. Expressing concern over the situation, the seers urged the government to ensure that no communal or caste-based tensions arise and that the safety of Sri Pranavanandaram Mahaswamiji is safeguarded.

Among those who submitted the memorandum were seers representing different communities, including Sri Sangamananda Swamiji of the Sarvadharm Samaja, Sri Doddendra Swamiji of the Vishwakar-

ma community, Sri Sardar Sevalal Swamiji of the Banjara community, Sri Basavamurthy Kumbara Guddayya Swamiji of the Kumbara community, Halliraya Natikar Swamiji of the Hoogar community, Sri Karunakara Swamiji of the Are Alemari community and Sri Marulashankara Swamiji of the Pinjara community.

The Chief Minister is yet to officially respond to the request for enhanced security for the seer.

BDA launches online property tax calculator

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BENGALURU

IN a major relief for plot owners, the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) has launched a new online property tax calculator that enables citizens to calculate their property tax quickly, accurately and transparently without visiting BDA offices.

The new digital facility is aimed at simplifying the tax assessment process and eliminating confusion regarding guideline values and other parameters that were previously difficult for the public to understand. BDA officials said the calculator is completely formula-based and has been designed to ensure transparency and accuracy in tax calculations.

The online calculator is simple to use. Property owners first need to select their layout from the list of BDA-approved layouts, which includes major areas such as Banashankari, HSR Layout and several others. Once the layout is selected, the system automatically fetches the latest guideline value notified by the Karnataka Registration

Plot owners can now estimate tax from home



Department for that particular locality, eliminating the need for manual searches.

Users are then required to enter the plot size in square metres. For instance, a standard 40x60 site measures around 2,400 square feet or approximately 223

square metres. Based on these details, the calculator instantly computes the property tax amount.

The portal also factors in rebates, penalties and previous dues. Users can enter the date on which they intend to pay the tax, and the calculator automatically applies the applicable rebate or penalty. A 5 per cent rebate is available for payments made within the prescribed deadline, generally by April 30, while a 10 per cent penalty is added for delayed payments, usually after July 1.

In addition, taxpayers can enter outstanding property tax or maintenance dues from previous years to obtain the exact total amount payable.

BDA said the new system will significantly reduce dependence on intermediaries and allow citizens to independently verify and calculate their annual property tax using a mobile phone or computer. The authority has urged all BDA plot owners to make use of the online facility and experience a faster, more transparent tax payment process.

Cabinet expansion decision rests with high command: Ahmed

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BENGALURU

AMID growing political buzz over the Legislative Council elections and the much-anticipated Cabinet expansion in Karnataka, senior Congress leader and former minister Zameer Ahmed Khan met former MP D.K. Suresh in Bengaluru on Wednesday, triggering fresh speculation in political circles.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Zameer Ahmed said the Congress is a high-command-driven party and all decisions regarding Cabinet expansion will be taken by the party leadership. "I was expecting a ministerial berth in the first list, but it did not happen. I am hopeful of finding a place in the second list. Even if that does not happen, I have no disappointment. I have never publicly demanded a ministerial position. My supporters have staged protests seeking representation for me, which is natural," he said.

Rejecting reports of dis-



satisfaction, Zameer asked reporters whether his face reflected any disappointment. He also highlighted his proximity to the party leadership, stating that he had actively campaigned for the Congress during elections in Kerala and Telangana.

On the upcoming Legislative Council election, Zameer expressed confidence about the Congress securing victory. Referring to the Congress Legislature Party meeting held at a resort in Bidadi, he said around 140 legislators were united behind the party candidates.

"We are fully united. Even if 28 legislators vote for a can-

didate, victory is assured. We do not require any additional votes," he said. Responding to allegations that Congress leaders had approached JDS legislators seeking support, Zameer denied the claim and maintained that the party has adequate numbers to secure victory on its own.

The Congress Legislature Party meeting, chaired by Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, was attended by several senior leaders, including Siddaramaiah, Ran-deep Singh Surjewala, B.K. Hariprasad and other ministers, where election strategy and political developments were discussed.

Man held for 'strangling' live-in partner to death

BENGALURU

A 27-year-old man was arrested for allegedly strangling his live-in partner to death following a heated argument, police said on Wednesday. The deceased was identified as Anusha (20). The victim and her partner Sharath, who worked as a water tanker driver in Bengaluru hailed from Sakleshpur in Hassan district, they said.

Police said the couple met through Instagram and had been living together at a rented house in Malleswaram for the last six months. According to police, the couple had a heated argument on Saturday night over personal and family-related issues, following which Sharath allegedly strangled the woman to death.

However, the matter was reported to police on Monday, following which a team from Seshadripuram Police Station inspected the scene of crime. A case of murder was registered, following which the accused was arrested in connection with the incident, a senior police officer said. Further investigation is underway.

Six, including two men held in prostitution raid

BENGALURU

SIX persons, including four women have been arrested for allegedly running a prostitution racket from rented houses and a spa in the city, police said on Wednesday.

The arrests were made following raids conducted on different dates by the Women Protection Squad of the Central Crime Branch in Kamakshipalya, K R Puram, Kumaraswamy Layout, Hennur, and Varthur, they said.

According to police, during the operations, six persons, including two men and four women who were allegedly involved in forcing and facilitating women into prostitution, were apprehended. Besides this, seven women engaged in

prostitution, including four from other states and three local women, were rescued, a senior police officer said.

"During interrogation, the apprehended persons admitted that, with the intention of earning illegal profits, they used to contact prospective customers over the telephone and arrange prostitution activities at rented houses," he said. They also confessed to conducting prostitution activities under the guise of body massage services at the spa, the officer said.

Cases have been registered against the accused at Kamakshipalya, K R Puram, Kumaraswamy Layout, Hennur, and Varthur Police Stations, and further investigation is in progress, police said.

Tata Trusts announces major endowment for IIMB

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU

IIM Bangalore has received a landmark philanthropic commitment from the Tata Trusts to develop its new School of Undergraduate Studies in Bengaluru. The grant will support the institute's academic vision, campus infrastructure and long-term plans for excellence in undergraduate education. Located roughly 27 kilometres from the main IIMB campus, the new school reflects the institute's aim to bring the same level of academic rigour and global standards it applies to its postgraduate and executive programmes to the undergraduate level.

The school will begin operations this August with two four-year full-time residential programmes. One is a BSc Honours in Economics with a minor in Data Science, while the other is a BSc Honours in Data Science with a minor in Economics. Each programme will admit 40 students, creating a total initial cohort of 80. The curriculum blends data science, economics and business studies within an interdisciplinary approach that prepares graduates for data-driven professional environments through focused

To launch IIM Bangalore's new undergraduate school



learning, close mentorship and personalised academic support. The endowment will fund the creation of high-quality academic and residential facilities. It will also enable the formation of new research clusters that bring together fields such as artificial intelligence, data science, algorithmic design, Indian Knowledge Systems and applied business learning. This support will further help IIM Bangalore attract and retain faculty members from a wide range of academic backgrounds.

The Tata Trusts view such investments in knowledge and the people who advance it as among the most enduring contributions philanthropy can make. Their long tradition of backing institutions that combine academic excellence with a connection to India's development goals aligns with

the design of these undergraduate programmes centred on data, economics and evidence-based thinking. Noel Tata, Chairman of the Tata Trusts, noted that the organisation has for over a century backed some of India's most important institutions, including the Tata Memorial Hospital and the Indian Institute of Science. He described the current support as following the same approach of shaping institutions at an early stage so that philanthropic capital influences not only physical structures but also the overall character and ambitions of the organisation.

Dr. Devi Shetty, Chairperson of the Board of Governors at IIM Bangalore, welcomed the endowment and said that transformative support of this kind is essential for placing institutes of national importance on a path to global leadership.

He emphasised the institute's commitment to developing undergraduate talent and building a pipeline of thinkers equipped for a data-driven world. Siddharth Sharma, CEO of the Tata Trusts, stated that the organisation looks to support initiatives that combine ambitious vision with practical grounding. He said backing IIM Bangalore as it extends its tradition of excellence into undergraduate education reflects their belief that investing in knowledge and in the people who will shape India's future ranks among the most meaningful contributions possible.

Professor U Dinesh Kumar, Director-in-Charge of IIM Bangalore, explained that the programmes are designed not only to build technical skills but also to help students ask better questions, handle complexity and lead with evidence. He added that the Tata Trusts' support enables deeper investment in faculty, research infrastructure and the overall campus environment, creating a state-of-the-art learning ecosystem aligned with India's developmental priorities and global capabilities.

Bidadi township row

Kumaraswamy says posters against family won't contain his fight

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU

UNION Minister HD Kumaraswamy launched a sharp attack on Karnataka Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, alleging that a smear campaign was being carried out against him and his family over the proposed Bidadi township issue.

Speaking to reporters in Bengaluru, Kumaraswamy said he had expected Shivakumar to rise above such tactics after becoming Chief Minister, but alleged that the practice of circulating objectionable content and putting up defamatory posters had continued.

"I thought that after becoming Chief Minister, he would stop indulging in such activities. But that mindset has not changed. Posters are being pasted not only against me but also against my wife. They have put up posters claiming that my family owns 100 acres of land, along with photographs of me and my son Nikhil," Kumaraswamy alleged.

Rejecting the allegations, he clarified that his family had legally purchased land decades ago. "We bought 46 acres nearly 40 years ago after years of hard work. Apart from that, there is the 100 acres they are talking about?



My wife Anita Kumaraswamy has purchased around 36 to 37 acres legally. How can anyone falsely portray

legally acquired property through posters?" he questioned. Kumaraswamy further al-

leged that supporters of certain individuals were behind the poster campaign and questioned whether such tactics suited a person occupying the Chief Minister's office. "Will people believe everything that is written on posters? At least after becoming Chief Minister, one should maintain certain standards. This kind of behaviour is not good for the state," he said.

Calling it a reflection of Shivakumar's "distorted mindset", Kumaraswamy alleged that such political methods had been followed for years and continued even after assuming the state's top post. "He has targeted not

only me but also leaders like R. Ashoka, Chalavadi Narayanaswamy and BY Vijayendra through posters. If anyone has committed wrongdoing, let the government direct officials to take legal action. Why resort to anonymous posters and propaganda?" he asked.

Referring to the Congress government, Kumaraswamy claimed that several ministers and legislators had been silenced from speaking openly on important issues. "We thought things would change, but unfortunately that mentality has not gone away," he said.

On the upcoming Legislative Council elections,

Kumaraswamy said his party was a smaller political force and acknowledged the Congress government's advantages. "We are a small party. They have the government, money power, organisational strength and public support. It is not easy to fight against such a powerful establishment," he remarked.

Kumaraswamy also declined to respond to remarks made by Agriculture Minister N. Chaluvarayaswamy. "I will not react to Chaluvarayaswamy's statements. He is making such comments only to protect his chair," the Union Minister said.