

## WINDOWS

## 7 digital media outlets booked over communal content

PUTTUR: Police have registered seven cases against web news portals and social media accounts for allegedly spreading communally provocative content linked to an incident at Purusharakatte in Puttur on July 8. All cases were booked under Section 353(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, at Puttur City Police Station. The outlets include Puttur Chavadi Instagram, Hosadiganta, Zoomintv.online, newsfocuskannada.com, Udayavani, PrakharaNews.com, and the Karnataka Portfolio Twitter handle. Police said the platforms misrepresented facts of the July 8 incident and portrayed it as a Hindu-Muslim clash, thereby disturbing communal harmony. Cases were registered based on complaints from local residents. The Dakshina Kannada police have warned of strict action against similar attempts to inflame communal tensions. Investigation is in progress.

## Home dept refuses sanction, 4 cops dropped from scam case

BENGALURU: Four police officers accused in the Karnataka Bitcoin scam have been dropped from the case after the Home Department refused to grant sanction for filing a chargesheet. The officers are DySP Sridhar Poojar, Police Inspector Chandradhar, Police Inspector D.M. Prashanth Babu and Police Inspector LakshmiKanthaiah. The CID SIT, which was investigating the case, has now submitted a B-Report to the court, effectively closing the proceedings against the four officers. The allegations against them involved illegal transfer of Bitcoins worth Rs. 1.83 crore through international hacker Sriki. It was claimed that the officers, along with cyber expert Santosh Kumar, had misused the crypto wallets belonging to Sriki and Robin Khandewal. Under existing rules, prior sanction from the Home Department is mandatory before filing a chargesheet against government officers. Since the department rejected the proposal for prosecution sanction, the CID SIT had no option but to submit the B-Report and remove the four officers from the case. The investigation against the main accused, cyber expert Santosh Kumar, is continuing. Strong evidence has been gathered against him regarding the illegal transfer of Bitcoins from Robin Khandewal's wallet, involvement in cheating and tampering with evidence.

## CISF jawan killed in Mangaluru while on leave

MANGALURU: A Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) jawan on leave was tragically killed in a road accident in Mangaluru on Wednesday, police said on Thursday. The deceased has been identified as Sitaram Gowda, a resident of Putye in Koyila village, Kadaba taluk, Dakshina Kannada district. He was posted at the Central Jail in Jammu and had returned home on leave on July 3. According to police, Gowda had visited his native village on Monday to submit documents related to the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise. While returning towards Mangaluru, he met with a serious road accident near the KPT area in Kadri police limits. Gowda sustained critical injuries in the crash and was declared dead before he could be shifted to a hospital. The exact cause and circumstances of the accident are still under investigation. Police have registered a case and initiated further probe. The news of Gowda's untimely death has cast a pall of gloom over his village in Koyila-Kadaba, where he was widely respected. His body is expected to be handed over to the family after the completion of post-mortem formalities. Details regarding the last rites are awaited. Gowda is survived by his family members in Dakshina Kannada.

## Shivakumar receives grand welcome on first visit to Belagavi as CM

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
BELAGAVI

KARNATAKA Chief Minister DK Shivakumar received a grand welcome from Congress leaders, legislators and thousands of party workers during his first visit to Belagavi after assuming office as Chief Minister.

Shivakumar arrived at Samba Airport on a special flight from Bengaluru, where enthusiastic supporters greeted him with chants of "DK... DK...", showered flower petals, presented bouquets and celebrated his arrival amid a festive atmosphere. Among those who welcomed the Chief Minister were Ministers M.B. Patil and Satish Jarkiholi, MLAs Lakshmi Hebbalkar, Ashok Pattan, Babasaheb Patil, Asif Sait, Vijayanand Kashappanavar, Mahendra Thammannavar, Vishwas Vaidya, Belagavi District Congress President Vinay Navalagatti, and several senior party leaders. Shivakumar later received a ceremonial guard of hon-



our from the police. Thousands of Congress workers had gathered outside the airport, where flower petals were showered from JCB machines as the Chief Minister's convoy passed by. Supporters also burst crackers and raised slogans in celebration. Speaking

to reporters before leaving the airport, Shivakumar said his ongoing tour across Karnataka is aimed at reviewing the prevailing rainfall situation, assessing crop conditions and monitoring development works. "My tour began in Basavakalyan and continued

through Bidar and Kalaburagi. Today, I have reached Belagavi. Along with ministers, I will hold meetings with local legislators to review development projects and discuss issues concerning the people of this region," the Chief Minister said.

## Headmistress spends Rs 2 lakh for govt school renovation on her son's birthday

The school with 90 students from Class I to VII has its walls artistically designed to resemble railway coaches, creating an attractive and child-friendly environment that has delighted students and villagers alike

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
HAVERI

AT a time when many parents prefer private schools citing poor infrastructure in government institutions, a government school headmistress in Karnataka has won widespread appreciation by choosing to celebrate her son's birthday in a unique way. Instead of spending on a lavish celebration, she used her personal savings to renovate the school where she serves, giving it a vibrant new look. Umair Salma Kadoor, headmistress of the Government Urdu School at Hamsabavi village in Hirekerur taluk, spent nearly Rs 2 lakh from her savings to repaint the entire campus. The school walls



have been artistically designed to resemble railway coaches, creating an attractive and child-friendly environment that has delighted students and villagers alike. The school, which has over 90 students from Classes 1 to 7, had remained without proper painting for several years, leaving the campus dull and unattractive. Parents had also expressed concern over the condition of the school.

Determined to improve the campus, Umair Salma discussed the proposal with members of the School Development and Monitoring Committee. She volunteered to bear the entire cost of painting the school as a birthday tribute to her 26-year-old son, Malik Rehan, while requesting the committee to take care

of the annual school function expenses. Following the renovation, the school has been transformed into a colourful learning space. The railway coach-themed artwork has generated excitement among students, many of whom say they now feel as though they are entering a train every time they come to school. The initiative has drawn praise from residents, parents and educationists, who described it as an inspiring example of social responsibility.

Instead of spending money on a private celebration, the headmistress chose to invest in the future of her students, demonstrating how personal milestones can be turned into meaningful contributions to society.

## Six killed in head-on collision on Arvail Ghat

## Three critically injured

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
YELLAPUR

IN a horrific road accident on the treacherous Arvail Ghat (Aratibailu Ghat) in Yellapur taluk of Uttara Kannada district, six people were killed on the spot and three others sustained critical injuries on Thursday morning.

The victims, all residents of Dharwad district, were travelling in a Cruiser (multi-utility vehicle) for a leisure trip to Gokarna. The incident occurred when their vehicle collided head-on with a lorry coming from the opposite direction on the Yellapur-Ankola National Highway.

The impact of the collision was so severe that the Cruiser was completely mangled, leaving little chance of survival for the six occupants. Local residents and rescue personnel rushed the three injured individuals to a nearby hospital, where their condition is reported to be critical.

Yellapur police reached the spot immediately after receiving information, conducted an inspection, and shifted the bodies for post-mortem examination. A case has been registered, and an investigation into the exact cause of the accident is underway. Factors such as vehicle speed, road conditions on the ghat section, and possible driver fatigue are likely to be examined.

This stretch of the highway, known for its winding ghats and challenging terrain, has witnessed several accidents in the past. Authorities often urge motorists to exercise extreme caution while navigating the area, especially during early morning and night hours. Further details regarding the identities of the deceased are awaited.

## Leopard spotted near Magadi Main Road

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
BENGALURU

A leopard was spotted in the Byadarahalli and Bharat Nagar areas near Magadi Main Road in Bengaluru early on Thursday morning. The animal appeared around 4 AM close to NICE Road and was immediately noticed by local residents, creating widespread fear in the neighbourhood.

Forest department officials reached the spot quickly after receiving information about the sighting. They immediately began an operation to capture the leopard. Teams have placed traps in several locations and have also used firecrackers to drive the animal out of hiding.

Residents of the area stated that this is the first time in the past ten years that a leopard has been seen in this locality. The sudden appearance has left many people anxious and worried about their safety. Local residents have strongly urged the forest department to capture the leopard at the earliest.

## First plastic-free climate action 'Walk and Run' in capital on July 12

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
BENGALURU

BENGALURU will hold its first-ever plastic-free walk and run event on Sunday, July 12, when the Climate Action Walk & Run 2026 brings together over 1,500 people at St. Joseph's Indian High School Grounds on Vittal Mallya Road.

The gathering, organised by Hasirotsava Forum and Suraksha Enviro Solutions in association with the Karnataka Jesuit Province Ecology Commission, is designed to encourage sustainable living and united action on climate issues. Participants are required to report by 5:30 AM, with the flag-off scheduled for 6:30 AM.

Arathi R, Co-Founder and Director of Hasirotsava Forum, explained that the event has been planned as a low-impact and environmentally conscious



public activity. Organisers have completely removed single-use plastics and introduced sustainable options such as seed paper race bibs and wristbands, along with other responsible practices in event management. The goal is to show that even large community gatherings can be conducted without sacrificing environmental standards.

The walk and run will include environmentalists, runners, students, corporate professionals, families and volunteers who will come together to spread awareness about climate change, cut down plastic pollution and promote simple sustainable habits in daily life.

Described as a community-driven movement, the event seeks to motivate citizens to take small yet meaningful steps toward protecting the environment and creating a greener future for everyone.

## Charred body murder case solved with ATM footage, supply chain trail

## AP police solve blind murder case using papad packet clue

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
BALLARI

ANANTAPUR district police have solved a blind murder case in which a completely charred body was found with almost no clues. The victim has been identified as Gururaju Rao, a deaf and mute happala (papad) trader originally from Ballari. Police arrested two men from Ballari — Basavaraju, aged 31, and Kotresh,

aged 36 — both of whom are also deaf and mute. The body was discovered on June 23 in an agricultural field near Pulakurthi village in D. Hirehal mandal. It had been burned beyond recognition. During a thorough search of the spot, forensic experts recovered a partially burned Kannada newspaper, burned clothes, a sacred thread and, most importantly, a small papad packet. This packet became the key



clue that helped crack the case. Police traced the manufacturer details on the packet and travelled to Chennai. By following the supply chain, they established a connection to Ballari. Inquiries in Ballari revealed that Gururaju Rao, a deaf and mute happala trader, had been missing. The Kannada newspaper and sacred thread found at the scene helped confirm that the charred body was his. Further investigation showed that the accused had used the victim's ATM card to withdraw money after the murder.

## 'Public service is the highest duty of governance'

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
BELAGAVI

KARNATAKA Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Thursday delivered a strong message on administrative accountability, public service and governance, warning that dereliction of duty by government officials would not be tolerated.

Addressing the Belagavi Divisional Progress Review Meeting at Suvarna Vidhana Soudha, the Chief Minister said the government is committed to development, transparency and administrative discipline while ensuring that governance reaches the doorstep of every citizen. "People have elected us to govern. It is now our responsibility to take the government to their doorsteps. Public service is the true duty of administration," Shivakumar said.

He reminded officials that while elected representatives seek a public mandate once every five years, civil servants are accountable to the people every single day. "Failure to discharge one's duties is not merely an administrative lapse; it is a betrayal of public trust," he said. Emphasising discipline within the administration, Shivakumar warned that officials found using mobile phones during official review meetings would face immediate suspension. "If any officer is seen talking on a mobile phone during the meeting, the suspension order will be ready before the meeting concludes. Discipline is the first rule of administration," he said.

The Chief Minister directed district and taluk-level officials to reside within their respective jurisdictions and remain accessible to the public. "Officials should be among the people, not confined within office walls. Citizens should

not be forced to move from one office to another for minor issues. Problems must be resolved at the local level wherever possible," he said. He also instructed senior district officials to maintain daily records of field visits and the work carried out by subordinate officers. "Good governance is measured by effective field administration. Every official's field visits and grievance redressal efforts must be monitored regularly," he added.

## Focus on citizen-centric governance

Shivakumar directed officials to strengthen the functioning of the Praja Seva Department, established to ensure faster resolution of public grievances. He said ministers, legislators and officials should proactively engage with citizens, adopting the government's Janaspadana model to resolve grievances promptly within



the framework of the law. The Chief Minister stressed that future urban expansion must be scientific and well-planned.

"There will be no room for unplanned layouts. Cities and towns must be developed keeping the needs of future generations in mind, and government policies must be implemented in both letter and spirit," he said. **E-Khata expansion across**

## CM issues stern warning to officials



Karnataka Highlighting reforms in the Revenue Department, Shivakumar described the state's e-Khata initiative as a model for the country. "The system delivers e-Khata services to citizens without any additional cost. It will now be expanded beyond Bengaluru to every district in Karnataka," he said. Announcing new initiatives in the education sector, the Chief Minister said the

government would establish CSR Schools on the lines of the successful KPS Schools model to improve educational opportunities for rural students.

He said the government aims to develop 10 to 20 high-quality schools in every constituency through partnerships with industry under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives. To improve employment opportunities for young people, Shivakumar announced the launch of the Yuva Udyoga Setu programme, which will connect students and job seekers with opportunities in the private sector.

On the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, the Chief Minister said the exercise must remain free from political interference. "Every eligible citizen's right to vote must be protected. Booth Level Officers (BLOs) should visit every household at least three times, and no eligible voter

should be left out," he said. He also announced plans to establish 10,000 Bharat Jodo Yuva Sanghas across Karnataka, with each organisation receiving Rs 10 lakh in government assistance to promote constitutional values, communal harmony and the message of universal brotherhood inspired by poet Kuvempu.

## Statewide audit of government land

The Chief Minister directed officials to conduct a comprehensive audit of government land across the state. "The government must have accurate records of every inch of public land. A major programme to provide house sites to landless families will be launched soon," he said. Reiterating his government's priorities, Shivakumar said development, transparency and discipline would remain the three guiding principles of the administration.