

## Challenges facing industry

### K'taka Sugar Mills Federation submits memorandum to CM



HANS NEWS SERVICE BELAGAVI

A delegation of office-bearers of the Karnataka State Sugar Mills Federation and presidents of various cooperative sugar factories met Chief Minister D K Shivakumar at Suvarna Vidhana Soudha in Belagavi on Friday and submitted a memorandum highlighting key issues and demands concerning the sugar industry. The meeting was organised by MLC Channaraj Hattiholi, who is also associated with the sugar industry. During the interaction, he apprised the Chief Minister of the financial and administrative chal-

lenges currently facing cooperative sugar factories across the state.

The delegation discussed several issues related to strengthening cooperative sugar mills, ensuring the sustainable growth of the sugar industry, and safeguarding the interests of sugarcane farmers.

Chief Minister Shivakumar patiently heard the concerns raised by the representatives of the federation and the cooperative sugar factory presidents. He assured the delegation that the State Government remains committed to protecting the financial stability of sugar factories and the welfare of sugarcane

growers. The Chief Minister also assured the delegation that every point raised in the memorandum would be examined in detail and that the government would take appropriate action at the earliest. Deputy Chief Minister Dr G Parameshwara, Minister Satish Jarkiholi, former Minister for Women and Child Development Lakshmi Hebbalkar, MLAs Laxman Savadi and Babasaheb Patil, Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh, along with office-bearers of the Karnataka State Sugar Mills Federation and presidents of several cooperative sugar factories, were present during the meeting.

## Rainfall Report July 1-7

### Uneven rainfall marks Karnataka monsoon

HANS NEWS SERVICE BENGALURU

THE latest weekly rainfall bulletin released by the Karnataka State Natural Disaster Management Corporation (KSNDMC) for the period July 1-7 presents a sharply uneven picture of the southwest monsoon across the state. While Coastal Karnataka has received abundant rains, large parts of North Interior Karnataka are facing significant deficits, underlining the challenges of spatial variability even as the season is still in its early phase.

Regional Performance Coastal Karnataka has emerged as the strongest performer, with several taluks in Udupi, Dakshina Kannada, and Uttara Karnataka districts recording actual rainfall between 150 and 250 mm for the week, many falling in the normal to excess category. In contrast, South Interior Karnataka shows a mixed trend, with districts such as Kodagu, Hassan, and



Chamarajanagara receiving 80-150 mm in several taluks while areas around Bengaluru Rural, Tumakuru, and Ramanagara lag with 30-50 mm below normal. North Interior Karnataka remains the most concerning zone, where districts including Bidar, Kalaburagi, Yadgir, Raichur, and Vijayapura have many taluks receiving only 20-40

mm against normals of 60-100 mm, resulting in departures often ranging from -50% to -70%.

Key Statistics The KSNDMC data reveals that cumulative rainfall for the first week of July is significantly below the long-period average in multiple northern taluks, with several stations flagged in the large deficit category.

Coastal areas have contributed healthy inflows to Western Ghats-fed rivers, whereas interior districts show widespread large deficits, with some taluks recording less than 25% of normal rainfall. Overall, the state presents a tale of two Karnatakas — surplus along the coast and deficit in the rain-shadow northern regions. Implications

and Outlook These early figures carry important implications for agriculture, as the sharp deficits in North Interior Karnataka could delay or disrupt kharif sowing of major crops such as jowar, groundnut, and cotton. Water storage in interior reservoirs may also fill more slowly, though coastal performance offers some buffer for the state's overall water security.

This is only the first full week of July, and the India Meteorological Department's forecast of a normal monsoon season provides room for recovery through expected weather systems in the coming weeks.

The state government would do well to use this granular taluk-level data for targeted interventions such as drought contingency planning in the north and water conservation drives.

Karnataka's agrarian economy will closely depend on a more uniform rainfall distribution in the weeks ahead.

## From arecanut to chocolate: CAMPCO celebrates 53 yrs of success

HANS NEWS SERVICE MANGALURU

THE Central Arecanut and Cocoa Marketing and Processing Cooperative (CAMPCO), one of India's largest farmer-owned cooperatives, will celebrate its 53rd Foundation Day on Saturday, marking more than five decades of supporting growers in Karnataka and Kerala while unveiling a mobile application for its members, according to a press release from the president of the CAMPCO SR Sathishchandra on Friday.

Established on July 11, 1973, CAMPCO was founded to protect arecanut farmers from market instability and exploitation by traders and middlemen. The cooperative was the brainchild of noted cooperative leader Varanashi Subraya Bhat, whose birth centenary is being observed this year with a series of commemorative programmes.

The organisation said it had already launched year-long centenary celebrations in June to honour its founder's contribution to the cooperative movement and farmer welfare.

CAMPCO's evolution mirrors the changing fortunes of plantation farmers in the region. Beginning as a marketing cooperative for arecanut growers, it later expanded into cocoa procurement after farmers cultivating cocoa as an intercrop struggled to market their produce.

This led to the establishment of the CAMPCO Chocolate Factory at Puttur in 1986, inaugurated by the then President of India, Giani Zail Singh.

Today, the cooperative procures arecanut, co-



coa, rubber, black pepper and coconuts through an extensive network spread across Karnataka and Kerala. It also operates processing units and marketing depots across the country and has diversified into branded chocolates, edible coconut oil, organic fertilisers and other value-added products. According to the cooperative, nearly 1.5 lakh members are associated with CAMPCO, while its operations provide direct and indirect employment to thousands of people. As part of

the Foundation Day celebrations, CAMPCO launched a dedicated mobile application that will allow members to access transaction details, cooperative services and other information digitally.

The cooperative said it remains committed to strengthening value addition, transparent governance and sustainable incomes for plantation farmers while carrying forward the vision of its founder.

## Project AASTHA crosses 10 lakh beneficiaries

BENGALURU

PFIZER India's flagship Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative, Project AASTHA, has crossed a major milestone by supporting more than 10 lakh patients and caregivers across the country since its launch in 2022. Implemented in partnership with Doctors for You (DFY), the programme aims to improve access to healthcare for people living with cancer and rare diseases by providing treatment guidance, counselling, patient navigation and assistance in accessing government welfare schemes.

The milestone was commemorated during the AASTHA CareConnect 2026 forum held in Bengaluru, which brought together senior government officials, healthcare experts, policymakers, clinicians, patient advocates and development partners to discuss ways to strengthen patient navigation and improve equitable access to healthcare.



Project AASTHA was launched to bridge the gap between patients and healthcare services, recognising that those battling cancer and rare diseases often struggle with navigating hospitals, understanding treatment options, securing financial assistance and accessing welfare benefits. The initiative provides dedicated helpdesks and helpline services to support patients throughout diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation.

## Heavy rains revive Tungabhadra dam, bring relief to farmers

HANS NEWS SERVICE BALLARI

After weeks of anxiety over dwindling water levels, the Tungabhadra Dam has finally begun receiving substantial inflows, bringing much-needed relief to thousands of farmers across north Karnataka. Continuous heavy rainfall in the Malnad catchment has significantly improved the reservoir's inflow, raising hopes for irrigation and drinking water security in the region. The Tungabhadra reservoir is regarded as the lifeline for the drought-prone districts of Ballari, Vijayanagara, Koppal and Raichur, supporting agriculture across vast stretches of land.

Officials said the reservoir received nearly 4.110 TMC of water during the last 24 hours, marking the first major surge of the monsoon season. The dam, which has a gross storage capacity of 105.788 TMC, currently holds 17.511 TMC of water. Inflow has risen to 49,728 cusecs, while only 180 cusecs is being released through canals to meet drinking water and other essential requirements. The sharp increase in inflow comes after an unusually dry start to the southwest monsoon



that had left the reservoir almost depleted and raised concerns over irrigation for the upcoming kharif season. Heavy rains across the Western Ghats and Malnad region over the past week have dramatically changed the situation, with streams and rivers feeding the reservoir at a rapid pace.

Despite the encouraging inflows, water storage remains significantly lower

than last year. On the corresponding date in 2025, the reservoir contained 77.343 TMC of water, compared with the present storage of 17.511 TMC. The prolonged rainfall deficit during June had severely affected reservoir levels across Karnataka before the recent spell of widespread monsoon showers. Irrigation officials are optimistic that if the

current inflow continues for the next several days, the reservoir level will rise steadily, ensuring adequate water for irrigation, drinking purposes and industrial needs. Farmers in Ballari, Vijayanagara, Koppal and Raichur districts, who depend heavily on Tungabhadra waters for cultivation, have welcomed the development after weeks of uncertainty.

Authorities will continue to monitor inflows closely as the southwest monsoon gathers momentum across the catchment. With forecasts indicating further rainfall in the upper reaches, the reservoir is expected to witness additional gains in storage, offering renewed hope for agriculture and easing concerns over water availability in the coming months.

## Cancer, rare disease care boost

### K'taka seeks more time from SC to hold GBA polls



HANS NEWS SERVICE BENGALURU

THE Karnataka Government has approached the Supreme Court seeking an extension of time to conduct elections to the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), citing the ongoing revision of electoral rolls and administrative challenges.

The State has requested the apex court to modify its May 20, 2026 order, which directed the government to complete the elections by August 31, 2026. Instead, the government has sought permission to hold the elections by

December 31, 2026, stating that completing the electoral process within the stipulated deadline would not be feasible.

In its application, the government submitted that the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the voters' list is currently in progress and that the exercise, along with other administrative and logistical constraints, has affected election preparedness.

It argued that additional time is required to complete the statutory procedures before conducting the GBA elections.

The move has drawn criticism from the Opposi-

tion, with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Janata Dal (Secular) accusing the Congress government of deliberately postponing the polls.

Opposition leaders alleged that the government is delaying the elections out of concern over its electoral prospects in the newly formed Greater Bengaluru Authority. The State's request is now pending before the Supreme Court, and the court's decision on the plea will determine whether the deadline for conducting the GBA elections is extended beyond August 31, 2026.