

WINDOWS
Film fraternity
opposes Cauvery
water release to TN

BENGALURU: The KFCC, along with representatives of the Kannada film industry and farmer organisations, on Thursday opposed the release of Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu, saying the state should prioritise its drinking water requirements.

In a setback to Karnataka, the Cauvery Water Management Authority on Thursday rejected the state's appeal and upheld the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee's recommendation directing it to release 3,500 cusecs of water daily to Tamil Nadu for the next 15 days.

Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce president and veteran actor Jayamala said the Kannada film fraternity had always rallied behind farmers whenever Karnataka's land, water and language came under threat. She said the industry would continue to stand united with them on the Cauvery issue.

"We have always stood with farmers. If language survives, if people survive, and if our land and water remain with us, then we survive. Whenever these are threatened, we will always stand with the farmers," she said. Producer Sa Ra Govindu said the film chamber would support whatever course of action Kannada organisations and farmer groups decided to take.

Two held for
assaulting official
on SIR duty

BENGALURU: Two men were arrested on Thursday for allegedly assaulting a government official engaged in the ongoing SIR of the electoral rolls here, police said. The accused were identified as Yarab (21) and Dastagir (22), they said.

According to the FIR, the 37-year-old official, a superintendent with the Karnataka Slum Development Board, had been deputed as the supervising officer for 11 BLOs carrying out Special Intensive Revision-related work in Ward No 47 of D J Halli.

He had been working under the supervision of the Pulakeshinagar Revenue Officer for about a month. "On July 29, at around 1.30 pm, while supervising the ongoing SIR process in D J Halli, he noticed Yarab and Dastagir arguing with one of the BLOs over the issuance of an SIR form," the FIR said.

The BLO allegedly asked the two men to obtain the form from their own jurisdiction after learning that they were residents of Jayanagar and not of the local electoral constituency. Police said they began arguing with the Booth Level Officer over the issue.

When the official intervened and asked them why they were creating a disturbance, one of the accused allegedly punched him in the face, causing his lip to bleed. The other accused then allegedly punched him near his eyebrow and struck him on the back, causing injuries, the FIR said. Members of the public gathered at the spot, intervened and stopped the altercation, it said.

Kixx lube launched
in India

BENGALURU: GS Caltex India has unveiled the refreshed global identity of its flagship lubricant brand, Kixx, in India as part of its global brand evolution after two decades. Featuring a modernised logo and the new slogan, "Lubricating the Future," the rebranding reflects the company's focus on innovation and advanced lubrication technologies.

CEO and Managing Director Vijay Savant said the refreshed identity underscores Kixx's commitment to delivering high-performance lubricant solutions for India's evolving mobility and industrial sectors. The new branding will be introduced across products and customer touchpoints in phases.

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU

THE Karnataka High Court has issued notices to the Central and State governments on a fresh petition challenging the constitutional validity of the Karnataka Platform-Based Gig Workers (Social Security and Welfare) Act, 2025 and the rules framed under it.

The petition, filed by Uber India Systems

Private Limited, was heard by a single-judge Bench of Justice Suraj Govindaraj. After a preliminary hearing, the court directed notices to the respondents, including the Karnataka Chief Secretary, the Principal Secretary of the Labour Department, the Union Ministry of Labour and Employment, and the Karnataka Platform-Based Gig Workers Welfare Board.

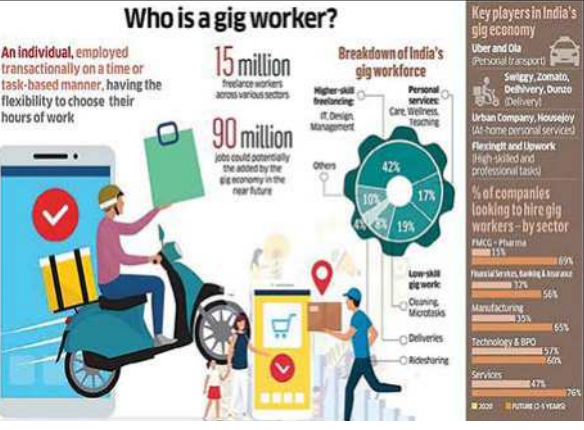
During the hearing, the court also clarified its earlier interim order issued on July 3, directing Uber to deposit the second instalment of the welfare cess. The Bench ruled that the three-week deadline would now be reckoned from July 28, giving the company additional time to comply with the direction.

The High Court further directed the Registry to

club Uber's petition with similar pleas filed by the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI), Swiggy, Zomato, and other platform-based companies, as they involve identical legal issues concerning the gig workers' welfare legislation. The matter has been posted for further hearing on August 24.

The Karnataka law, enacted to provide social security and welfare

benefits to platform-based gig workers, has been challenged by several digital platform companies, which contend that certain provisions of the legislation and the associated welfare cess are unconstitutional and impose an undue financial burden on aggregators. The High Court is expected to hear all connected petitions together during the next hearing.



All-party meeting on Cauvery water
dispute on August 2: Shivakumar

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NEW DELHI

KARNATAKA Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Thursday announced that an all-party meeting has been convened on August 2 at Krishna, the Chief Minister's official residence in Bengaluru, to discuss the state's strategy on the ongoing Cauvery water dispute.

Addressing the media at Karnataka Bhavan in New Delhi, Shivakumar said former Chief Ministers, Members of Parliament from the Cauvery basin region, and legislators have been invited to participate in the meeting.

The Chief Minister said the state has already filed an appeal before the Cau-



very Water Management Authority (CWMA) against the recent directive on water release to Tamil Nadu. He added that the government would deliberate on the future course of action at the all-party meeting.

Shivakumar also revealed that he had held discussions with Union Ministers Pralhad Joshi and V. Somanna, along with senior BJP leaders Jagadish Shettar and Basavaraj Bommai, regarding the issue. He said they had assured their support and were making sincere efforts to safeguard Karnataka's interests.

Responding to reports that a DMK leader had advised Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Vijay to engage

with the Union Government instead of Karnataka Congress leaders, Shivakumar declined to comment.

"We are not interested in political confrontation. There are established legal mechanisms to resolve such issues. We must respect each other and work together in the interest of the country," he said.

Reacting to the BJP's criticism over the delay in expanding the Karnataka Cabinet, Shivakumar hit back by recalling the previous BJP government.

"Did B.S. Yediyurappa not govern for a period without a full Cabinet? Didn't the father and son enjoy power then?" he remarked, taking a swipe at the Opposition.

Do not release Cauvery water to
Tamil Nadu: Bommai urges govt

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU

FORMER Chief Minister and MP Basavaraj Bommai has urged the Karnataka state government not to release Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu under any circumstances, stating that the water currently available in Karnataka is barely sufficient even for drinking needs.

Speaking to the media in New Delhi, he launched a scathing attack on the state's legal team and representatives in the regulatory authorities (CWMA/CWRC), calling their presentation of Karnataka's case extremely weak.

"The water currently available in our reservoirs is just enough to meet Karnataka's drinking water requirements. Therefore, it is not being used for any other purpose. Under these circumstances, Tamil



Nadu is exerting pressure to release water. Although this is a long-standing dispute, the state's representatives have failed to strongly present Karnataka's actual plight before the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA). This failure is precisely why Tamil Nadu is repeatedly pressuring us for water. I have discussed this issue with Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, and he shares the same view," Bommai said.

"Farmers in the state are already protesting. Protecting the interests of the state's farmers is the primary duty of the state government. During our tenure, when similar orders were passed, we stood firm and did not release water. The current government should also take a similar resolute stance to safeguard the interests of our farmers and our drinking water needs, while aggressively pursuing the legal battle," he urged.

Crackdown to begin on illegal
construction waste dumping

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BENGALURU

THE Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) is set to tighten enforcement against illegal dumping of construction and demolition (C&D) waste by introducing a mandatory registration system for demolition activities across the city. The move is aimed at improving waste management and preventing indiscriminate dumping that has become a major civic concern.

Under the proposed regulations, owners or contractors undertaking demolition of houses or commercial buildings will have to register the project before beginning work. Authorities have warned that construction debris dumped on roadsides, vacant sites, lakes or other public spaces without authorisation will attract penalties.

The new framework also proposes a standard disposal charge of Rs 760 per tonne, to be collected by the authorised agency responsible for transporting and processing construction waste. Officials said the initiative is intended to ensure scientific disposal of debris while preserving the city's cleanliness and preventing environmental damage.

Speaking to report-



ers, Bengaluru Urban Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda said the government is preparing additional measures to strengthen solid waste management in the city. He said garbage generated by private vehicles has become a growing challenge, with several operators dumping waste in public places instead of designated processing facilities. To curb the practice, the government plans to make GPS installation mandatory in all vehicles engaged in waste transportation.

According to the minister, every operator involved in waste collection and disposal will also have to register with the authorities. The government will soon hold consultations with the police and transport departments before implementing the new rules across Bengaluru.

Krishna Byre Gowda said the objective is to establish complete accountability in waste transportation so that authorities can monitor where garbage is collected and where it is finally disposed of.

The minister also stressed that ensuring adequate drinking water remains the government's top priority. Referring to the prevailing water situation, he said the government has already discussed the issue with Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and decided that drinking water requirements would receive precedence over all other uses. With the new regulations, the GBA hopes to reduce illegal dumping, improve construction waste recycling and maintain cleaner public spaces across Bengaluru.

AMID SPECULATION OVER COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S POST...
Horatti denies CM sought his resignation

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU

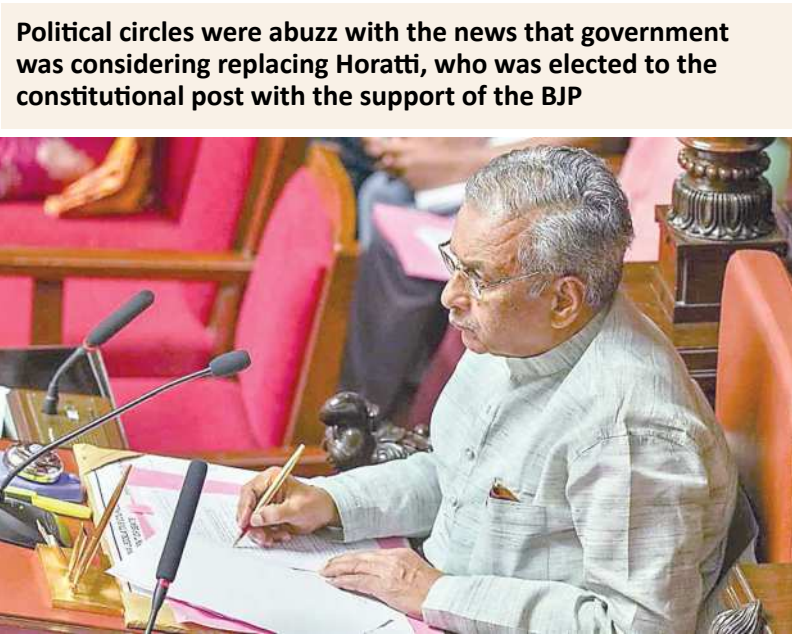
SPECULATION over a possible change in the post of Chairman of the Karnataka Legislative Council gathered pace after the state announced the schedule for the monsoon session of the Legislature. However, Council Chairman Basavaraj Horatti on Thursday dismissed reports that Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar had asked him to resign.

The Karnataka Legislature's monsoon session will be held from August 13 to August 27, spanning 10 sittings. Ahead of the session, political circles were abuzz with reports that the Congress government was considering replacing Horatti, who was elected to the constitutional post with the support of the BJP.

Clarifying the rumours, Horatti said the Chief Minister had only telephoned him to enquire about his health while he was admitted to hospital and that there was no discussion regarding his resignation. "If anyone asks me to resign, I will do so immediately. I am not someone who will cling to the chair," Horatti said, adding that there was no question of stepping down merely because of speculation.

He pointed out that since the formation of Karnataka in 1956, successive Council Chairmen had completed their terms irrespective of changes in government. Horatti said his tenure extends until July 2028 and maintained that there was no constitutional or political reason for his removal.

"There is no precedent of a no-confidence motion being successfully moved against the Chairman. Two individuals are eyeing this post and are spreading rumours. But they will not



become Chairman," he remarked.

Horatti also defended his functioning, saying the office of the Chairman is a constitutional position that must function impartially regardless of political affiliations. He noted that he is among the longest-serving presiding officers in the country, with nearly five decades of legislative experience.

Questioning the basis for any move against him, Horatti said a no-confidence motion against a presiding officer would require valid grounds such as corruption, misconduct or partisan behaviour. "What allegation can be made against me? If someone wants to move a no-confidence motion, they must first establish that I violated constitutional norms or acted with bias," he said.

The issue has, however, drawn a political response from the ruling Congress. Legislative Council member Nagaraj Yadav said Horatti's recent political remarks were inappropriate for a person occupying a constitutional office.

Rejecting Horatti's claim that no no-confidence motion had ever been moved against a Council Chairman, Yadav pointed out that such a motion had been initiated against former Chairman D.H. Shankaramurthy in 2015.

He further argued that since Horatti was elected to the Chairman's post with BJP support, it would be appropriate for him to step down after the change in political equations. According to Yadav, the Congress does not favour continuing with a Chairman elected with the backing of the opposition when the ruling party enjoys a majority.

HIV cases rise in capital; Health Department steps up awareness campaigns

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BENGALURU

A rise in HIV infections in Bengaluru, particularly among young adults, has prompted the Health Department to strengthen awareness campaigns in colleges, universities and workplaces. Health officials say changing social behaviour and increased use of online dating platforms have contributed to the growing number of infections in certain high-risk groups.

According to official data, 4,795 people tested HIV-positive in the last five

months across the state. Health authorities said a significant proportion of the newly detected infections were reported among men who have sex with men (MSM), a recognised high-risk group for HIV transmission. Officials also noted that a sizeable number of new cases involve unmarried individuals, accounting for nearly 20-25 per cent of infections.

The Health Department has expressed concern over the increasing number of infections among students residing in college hostels and paying guest (PG) accommodations in Bengaluru. As a preventive measure, awareness programmes are being planned in educational institutions to educate young people about safe sex-



ual practices, HIV prevention and the importance of early testing.

Responding to the trend, Karnataka State AIDS Prevention Society Project Director Padma Basavan-

thappa said awareness remains the most effective tool in preventing the spread of HIV. She said outreach programmes are being intensified among college students, IT employees, migrant workers, drivers and truckers, who are considered vulnerable groups because of mobility and behavioural risk factors.

She also pointed out that men who have sex with men and commercial sex workers continue to be among the identified high-risk categories, making focused intervention programmes essential. Health officials said increasing use of dating applications has changed patterns of social interaction, making awareness about responsible behaviour and safe practices even more important. The department clarified that HIV testing cannot be made compulsory under existing health guidelines. Testing can only be conducted with the informed consent of the individual, while maintaining confidentiality and counselling.

Officials urged people to avoid stigma surrounding HIV and encouraged those engaging in high-risk behaviour to undergo voluntary testing and seek timely medical advice. They emphasised that early diagnosis and treatment not only improve health outcomes but also significantly reduce the risk of further transmission.