

37 govt PU colleges record zero admissions in K'taka

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STUDENT preference for Karnataka's government pre-university (PU) colleges appears to be on the decline, with official figures showing that 37 government PU colleges have failed to admit a single student during the current academic year. In addition, 57 colleges have managed to enrol only one to ten students, highlighting concerns over dwindling enrolment in the government education sector.

To improve admissions, the Department of School Education and Literacy waived the late admission fee this year and extended the admission deadline until July 31.

Among the 37 colleges with zero admissions, Mandya and Tumakuru account for five colleges each, followed by Shivamogga and Bengaluru South with four each. Belagavi, Chikkamagaluru and Davanagere have three such colleges each, while Bengaluru North, Chikkaballapur and Hassan have two each. One government PU college



each in Udupi, Mysuru, Dakshina Kannada and Bengaluru Central also reported no admissions.

The department's data further revealed that 57 government PU colleges recorded only single-digit admissions, with Hassan leading the list with seven colleges, followed by Udupi and Bidar with six each and Kalaburagi with five.

According to Pre-University Education Direc-

tor Bharath S., the number of colleges recording zero admissions has reduced compared to last year. He attributed the trend partly to the presence of multiple government PU colleges in close proximity, resulting in students preferring one institution over another.

Officials also pointed out that 15 of the 37 colleges with zero admissions are newly established institutions, which may require

time to attract students.

Education department sources believe the growing number of private PU colleges with better infrastructure and facilities has also contributed to the shift in student preference. They stressed the need to strengthen infrastructure in government institutions and regulate the opening of private colleges in areas already served by government PU colleges

CAUVERY WATER RELEASE ORDER

CM urges groups to call off Aug 13 Bandh

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KARNATAKA Chief Minister D K Shivakumar appealed on July 31 for organisations to abandon their call for a complete Karnataka shutdown on August 13. He stated that a bandh under any circumstance yields no resolution and only creates difficulties for the public.

The shutdown demand arose in protest against a CWMA directive requiring Cauvery water release to Tamil Nadu while the state faces acute rainfall shortage. Addressing reporters at Vidhana Soudha, he explained that the CWMA instructed a 15-day release during a period of hardship. He recalled that adequate rainfall the previous year allowed more than 400 TMC to reach Tamil Nadu.

The state had reportedly already submitted an appeal to the CWMA opposing the CWRC recommendation. Countering opposition claims that no representatives attended the CWMA meeting, he confirmed three senior officials from Karnataka participated, requested additional time before any

'Bandh solves nothing, only causes hardship to public'



release, and noted that ACS Gaurav Gupta advanced firm arguments alongside strong submissions from Tamil Nadu officials.

CWMA representatives observed that Karnataka was receiving higher inflows. He listed current storage figures with Hemavati at 67 percent, KRS at 36 percent, Harangi at 95 percent and Kabini at 83 percent, available to all parties. The latest order nevertheless directs the release of 4.5 TMC even as fresh inflows continue.

Protecting Karnataka's interests remains the government's primary duty, Shivakumar affirmed, citing

past experience, an MLAs' meeting convened this year, safeguards already extended to farmers and arrangements secured for drinking water.

Regarding the planned arrival of Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Vijay, Shivakumar said a letter from the Tamil Nadu chief secretary to his Karnataka counterpart fixed the visit for August 3. After telephonic discussion he requested a different date, arguing the present climate is unsuitable and that mutual benefit for both states must guide any amicable settlement of the Cauvery dispute while safeguarding state and farmer interests.

Tulu Academy, MUHTA to launch Alupa seminar

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A state-level seminar on 'Alupas in the Pages of History' has been planned by the Karnataka Tulu Sahitya Academy for August 6 at Sri Poornaprajna Sandhya College, Udupi, jointly with the Mangalore University History Teachers' Association (MUHTA).

Academy President Taranath Gatti Kapikad will inaugurate the session at 9.30 am as Dr. Chandrakanth Bhat, principal of Sri Poornaprajna Sandhya College, takes charge of the inaugural session.

Immediately after the opening, Dr B Jagadish Shetty, director of the Rashtrakavi Govinda Pai Research Centre, will present a special lecture on the historical background of Udyavara.

The first technical session centres on a lecture about 'Political Relations of the Alupas' delivered by Dr Ganapaya Bhat, retired professor of Ancient History and Archaeology at Dhavala College. Attention then shifts in the second session to 'Barkur during the Alupa Period', presented by Prof. Jayaram Shettigar, retired history lecturer of Milagres College, Kalyanpur.

Closing the technical portion, the third session allows students from various colleges to offer papers concerning 'Multi-Deity Worship Centres of Udyavara', as stated in an Academy release.

Lung cancer not limited to smokers

BENGALURU

LUNG cancer is no longer confined to smokers, with doctors reporting a steady rise in cases among young adults, women and non-smokers in India. Speaking ahead of World Lung Cancer Day, Dr. Radheshyam Naik, Senior Consultant, Medical Oncology and Head of Bone Marrow Transplant Unit at Sanjeeva Hospital, said air pollution, passive smoking, indoor pollution and radon exposure are emerging risk factors.

He noted that advances in artificial intelligence, molecular diagnostics and personalised treatment are significantly improving survival rates, offering hope that many patients will live longer and some may even achieve complete recovery in the coming decade.

HC grants bail to Vinay Kulkarni, stays conviction

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THE Karnataka High Court on Friday granted bail to former Minister and Congress leader Vinay Kulkarni in the 2016 murder case of BJP leader Yogesh Gowda. The court suspended both his sentence and conviction pending disposal of his appeal, a move that could pave the way for the restoration of his Assembly membership.

A Division Bench comprising Justice Mohammad Nawaz and Justice G. Basavaraja ordered Kulkarni's release on a personal bond of Rs5 lakh along with a surety of the same amount. The court also directed that he should not leave the country without prior permission.

Besides Kulkarni, the High Court granted bail to nine other convicted persons in the case. They include Chandrashekhara Indi alias Chandu Mama, Dinesh, Ashwath, Sunil, Nazir Ahmed, Shanawaz, Nuthan, Harshith and Channakeshava Tingarikar. The case relates to the murder of BJP leader Yogesh



Gowda, who was hacked to death in Dharwad on June 15, 2016. Following allegations of political involvement, the investigation was transferred to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

On April 17, 2026, a Special Court in Bengaluru convicted Vinay Kulkarni, holding him guilty of murder and criminal conspiracy. The court sentenced him to life imprisonment. It also imposed a seven-year prison term for destruction of evidence and levied a fine of Rs30,000. The trial court further di-

rected that compensation amounting to Rs16 lakh be paid to the victim's children and brother.

Following the conviction, Kulkarni lost his membership of the Karnataka Legislative Assembly. He subsequently challenged the verdict before the High Court.

With the High Court suspending the conviction and sentence while admitting his appeal, legal experts say the order could enable Kulkarni to seek restoration of his MLA status, subject to the applicable legal provisions and further proceedings.

NEET protester alleges assault; FIR filed in B'luru

BENGALURU

AN FIR has been registered after a 19-year-old student associated with AISA alleged that he was assaulted by four unidentified persons over his remarks on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, police said on Friday.

The incident occurred on July 28 in the Jalahalli area, they said. According to police, in his complaint, the student alleged that four unknown masked persons travelling on two two-wheelers allegedly blocked him on his way home and hit him on his right leg with a wooden log before fleeing the scene.

In a statement, AISA claimed that on the night of July 28, one of its members was assaulted by "suspected goons", who it alleged were from the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP). It claimed they threatened the victim by asking "You dare to demand the resignation of Modi."

According to the All India Students' Association (AISA), the student had been actively participating in the protests in Freedom Park in solidarity with the nationwide student-youth movement demanding the resignation of then Education



Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.

Following a complaint, a case was registered against the four unidentified men on July 29 under sections 118 (1) (voluntarily causing hurt or grievous hurt by dangerous weapons or means), 126 (2) (wrongful restraint), 352 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace) and 3(5) (common intention) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, a senior police officer said.

"We have registered an FIR and efforts are being made to identify and nab the suspects involved in the protests. Further investigation is underway," he added. Condemning the incident, AISA demanded that strict action be taken against

those responsible.

Meanwhile, the ABVP, Bengaluru Mahanagara, has strongly condemned the recent incident in Jalahalli and categorically rejected the allegations leveled by AISA alleging its involvement in the assault, calling them "baseless".

"Official police records confirm that an FIR was formally registered at the Jalahalli Police Station on July 28, 2026, against unidentified individuals, establishing zero organizational affiliation or political linkage to ABVP," it said in a statement. ABVP urged the Bengaluru City Police to conduct an impartial investigation and initiate strict legal action against the individuals.

Australian Consulate-General, UNSW B'luru Campus unveiled

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KARNATAKA Minister for Large and Medium Industries M B Patil on Friday inaugurated the new Australian Consulate-General in Bengaluru and the UNSW (University of New South Wales Sydney) Bengaluru Campus, established by one of Australia's leading universities.

Speaking after inaugurating the university campus, the Minister said, "UNSW Sydney is among the world's top 20 universities and one of Australia's leading institutions of higher education. Its Bengaluru campus located at Manyata Tech Park will enable students from Karnataka to access world-class international education closer to home. It is the sixth foreign university to establish a campus in the State."

He said UNSW Sydney will follow the same curriculum and teaching methodology as its Australian campus. Initially, the Bengaluru campus will offer undergraduate programmes in Business, Computer Science, Data Science and Decisions, along with a one-year postgraduate programme in Cyber Se-



curity. Each programme will have an intake of 30 students.

Patil said the University of Liverpool, Lancaster University, La Trobe University, Flinders University and Imperial College London have already established campuses in Karnataka.

Several more globally reputed universities are expected to set up campuses in the State in the coming years. He said Karnataka's world-class research institutions, strong industrial base and vibrant innovation ecosystem make it an ideal destination for international universities.

Earlier in the day, Minister M B Patil inaugurated the newly established Australian Consulate-General on Cunningham Road in Bengaluru.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said Australia has made a commendable decision in choosing Bengaluru for its Consulate-General. He noted that more than 40 Australian companies already have a presence in the city. Australia has also been a regular participant in major events hosted by Karnataka, including the Global Investors Meet, Bengaluru Tech Summit and Space Expo. He further said that the Australian states of Queensland and Victoria have already established trade and investment offices in Bengaluru.

Patil expressed confidence that the opening of the Consulate-General would further strengthen the long-term relationship between

Karnataka and Australia. He said the State looks forward to welcoming greater investment, more institutions and increased innovation from Australia in the years ahead. Both events were attended by Hon. Julian Hill MP, Assistant Minister for Citizenship, Customs and Multicultural Affairs and Assistant Minister for International Education; His Excellency Philip Green AOM, Australia's High Commissioner to India; Khushbu Goyal, Commissioner, Department of Industries and Commerce; Hilary McGeachy, Consul General, Bengaluru; and Prof Attila Brungs, Vice-Chancellor and President, UNSW Sydney.

MANDYA (KARNATAKA)

A farmer couple allegedly died by suicide due to mounting debt in Mandya district, police said on Friday. The deceased were identified as Puttaswamy (58) and his wife Nagamma (55), who hanged themselves from a tree at Hatna Bevukallu village in Mandya taluk on Thursday, reportedly due to crop losses and mounting debt.

According to police, the couple owned five acres of agricultural land and had taken a loan of about Rs 10 lakh from a bank for farming. Their crops had withered due to inadequate rainfall, and they were unable to repay the loan, which is suspected to have driven them to take the extreme step, police officials said.

Personnel from Shivalli police station visited the spot, and further investigation is underway. Meanwhile, speaking to reporters here, Karnataka BJP President B Y Vijayendra on Friday termed the incident "deeply tragic and heartbreaking."

He urged the state government to take immediate steps to address the issue of farmers. Vijayendra said the suicide of Puttaswamy and



Nagamma reflects the "severe distress" being faced by farmers in the state.

"Although they cultivated tomatoes and other vegetables on about five acres of land, they reportedly suffered continuous crop losses and accumulated debts of around Rs 10-15 lakh. Unable even to repay the interest on the loans, they were driven to take the extreme step," he said, expressing sorrow.

He appealed to farmers not to lose courage or resort to suicide, regardless of the hardship they face and urged them to remain hopeful that

solutions to their problems can be found.

Vijayendra said that instead of advising farmers not to sow or cultivate crops, Chief Minister D K Shivakumar should focus on restoring confidence among distressed farmers. He added that the government must respond to the problems faced by farmers across the state, including those in the Cauvery basin.

Vijayendra said BJP teams were touring different parts of Karnataka to assess the condition of farmers. With deficient rainfall causing severe hardship, he urged

the government to take immediate remedial measures. He demanded that taluks affected by inadequate rainfall be declared drought-hit without delay. He also called for a waiver of loans taken by distressed farmers and the announcement of a comprehensive relief package.

Vijayendra said that if the government fails to respond promptly to the agrarian crisis, it would be as good as being "dead" for the farming community. He urged the CM to tour the state, directly interact with farmers, and implement relief measures.