

WINDOWS

Three FIRs regd over ‘unauthorised’ posters of Minister

BENGALURU: Three FIRs were registered for allegedly pasting unauthorised posters featuring Greater Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda on public walls, police said on Thursday. The cases were registered following complaints filed by civic authorities under the Greater Bengaluru Authority on August 19, they said.

Two of the three FIRs were registered against a person identified as Shivakumar within the limits of Vidyanarayapura and Kodigehalli police stations for allegedly pasting posters on walls along public roads without obtaining official permission. The details of the third FIR were not immediately available.

Taking to social media platform X, the minister said three cases had been registered over the pasting of his posters. “The case was booked under the Karnataka Open Places Disfigurement Act by Corporation (GBA) authorities. Case booked against the person who has put up my posters on walls and public places, causing disfigurement of public places. Corporation staff are also getting the walls cleared of these posters,” he said, adding the hashtag ‘No One Is Above Law’.

According to one of the FIRs, civic officials found during a routine inspection that paper posters had been illegally pasted on walls along public roads in Ward No: 10 of the Vidyanarayapura sub-division without official permission.

Expired products found in food establishments at 36 rly stns

BENGALURU: A special inspection conducted by the Food Safety and Drug Administration department of Karnataka at food establishments in 36 railway stations on Thursday revealed the suspected use of non-permitted colours in sweets, expired dairy products and food items, and fungal growth in vegetables.

The inspection was conducted at 112 food establishments at Bengaluru City Railway station (KSR), Yeshwanthapura, Krishna Raja Puram, Yelahanka, Kolar, Mysuru, Havri, Udipi, Koppal, Gadag, Davanagere, Bagalkote, Karwar, Yadgiri, Berur and Kadur junction, Ballari, Hospet, Hubaballi and Mangaluru, a statement from the food safety department said.

The teams inspected the railway pantry, railway hotel and food served on the train.

The team found that Vande Bharat trains between Mangaluru and Kerala and Hubballi and Bengaluru were maintained clean. There was, however, ‘suspected use’ of non-permitted colours in food products, the statement said.

Yellow colour was found to have been used in Jalebi and pink colour in Khova Peda. Expired curd and standardised milk packets were found at a railway station in Havri district, it said. Unhygienic conditions were observed in a hotel at KR Puram Railway Station.

Polar Bear opens 100th store

BENGALURU : Homegrown dessert brand Polar Bear has opened its 200th outlet in India, marking another milestone for the Bengaluru-based company.

The new outlet also takes its Bengaluru presence to 100 stores, 18 years after the brand opened its first outlet near ITPL in 2008.

Founded by entrepreneur Kishore Rai, Polar Bear has expanded to more than 200 dine-in sundae parlours across over 35 cities without external funding.

The brand offers ice cream sundaes, shakes, sorbets and ice cream cakes and has built a strong presence in India’s premium dessert segment.

Rai said the brand was founded with the aim of creating innovative sundae experiences at a time when the market was largely focused on ice cream scoops.

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BENGALURU

A video allegedly showing a woman police officer engaging in an inappropriate conversation with a jailed inmate through a WhatsApp video call has gone viral on social media, triggering controversy within the police department. The officer featured in the video has now approached the Cubbon Park police, alleging that the footage was recorded and circulated without her consent.

According to the com-

Complaint filed against two rowdy-sheeters

plaint, the officer had been acquainted with a rowdy-sheeteer identified as Dharma several years ago. She allegedly spoke to him through a video call, during which he recorded the conversation. The officer has alleged that Dharma subsequently shared the recording with another rowdy-sheeteer, Saikumar, who circulated it on social media.

The officer has sought action against Dharma, Saiku-

mar and others allegedly involved in making the video public. She has claimed that the circulation of the footage has damaged her reputation and caused considerable embarrassment.

In her complaint, the officer stated that she was working as an officer in charge of security at a Metro station. She also referred to her family and social standing while seeking legal action against those responsi-

ble for circulating the video. Based on her complaint, Cubbon Park police have registered a non-cognisable report (NCR) and begun examining the allegations.

The episode has raised several questions that investigators may have to address, including how the alleged video was recorded, how a mobile phone was allegedly used inside the prison and whether anyone else was involved in facilitating



communication between the inmate and the officer.

Police will also have to establish whether the video has been edited or circulated selectively and determine

the circumstances under which it was originally recorded. The case has drawn attention because the video allegedly involves communication between a police

officer and a person with a criminal background. However, the allegations made by the officer and the circumstances surrounding the video are yet to be independently established.

The investigation is expected to focus on the origin of the recording, its circulation and the identity of others who may have been involved.

Police are also likely to examine whether any prison security protocols were violated. Officials have not disclosed further details of the inquiry so far

CM TO SHAH

‘Release Rs 5,300 cr soon for Upper Bhadra Project’



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BENGALURU

CHIEF Minister D.K. Shivakumar has urged Union Home Minister Amit Shah to ensure the early release of the Rs 5,300 crore grant announced by the Centre for the Upper Bhadra Project.

Raising the issue at the 31st Southern Zonal Council meeting in Mahabalipuram on Thursday, Shivakumar said the grant had been announced in the Union Budget during the previous BJP government in Karnataka and was also mentioned in Parliament. However, the funds have not yet been released, affecting the implementation of the project.

“During the tenure of the Bommmai government, the Union Finance Minister had announced Rs 5,300 crore for the Upper Bhadra Project in the Union Budget. Though the amount was announced

in Parliament, it has not been released so far. This is causing difficulties in implementing the project. The funds should be released at the earliest,” Shivakumar said.

The Chief Minister also raised concerns over the manner in which Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds are being utilised by private companies and public sector undertakings. He suggested that a policy should be framed to enable state governments to decide how CSR funds generated by companies operating in their states are utilised, particularly for local priorities such as education and healthcare.

“Companies do business in one state but invest their CSR funds elsewhere. Our priorities are education and healthcare. Therefore, the state government should have a role in deciding where and how CSR funds are utilised,” he said.

Responding to the sug-



gestion, Amit Shah partially agreed and advised Shivakumar to discuss the issue with the heads of public sector undertakings. Shah noted that IAS officers are heading several PSUs and said both he and Shivakumar could discuss the matter with them.

Shivakumar also raised concerns over the disposal of land allotted by state governments to PSUs. He objected to instances where land granted for public purposes is subsequently sold or auctioned after the beneficiary organisation shuts down or ceases operations.

The Chief Minister argued that such land should be returned to the state government instead of being auctioned. “We provide land to PSUs. When they shut down or cease operations, the land

is auctioned. Since the state government provided the land, it should be returned to the government,” Shivakumar said. He alleged that there have been several instances where beneficiaries have disposed of government-allotted land without obtaining the required permission from the state authorities. Such disposal of resources provided for nation-building purposes amounts to misuse of public assets, he said.

Shivakumar further said the state governments should have a role in deciding the future use or disposal of such land and indicated that Karnataka would take legal measures to prevent such transactions where necessary. Responding to the issue, Amit Shah.

Second airport for Bengaluru

Three sites shortlisted, Tumakuru not under consideration

Somanahalli on the Kanakapura Road in Ramanagara district, Chudahalli on the Kanakapura Road in Ramanagara and Gudemaranahalli near Nelamangala have been taken up for detailed consideration

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BENGALURU

THE Karnataka government has clarified that Tumakuru is not among the locations currently being considered for the proposed second airport for Bengaluru, with three sites shortlisted for further evaluation.

Industries Minister M B Patil gave the clarification in the Legislative Assembly while responding to a question raised by Tumakuru MLA Jyoti Ganesh. According to the minister, the government has shortlisted Somanahalli on the Kanakapura Road in Ramanagara district, Chudahalli on the Kanakapura Road in Ramanagara and Gudemaranahalli near Nelamangala for detailed consideration.

Harohalli is also being examined at the final stage, the minister said, indicating that the government has not yet made a final decision on the location of the proposed airport. The clarification comes amid demands from politi-



cal leaders for an airport in Tumakuru. Earlier, Home Minister G. Parameshwara had advocated establishing the second airport in Tumakuru, citing the district’s growing industrial and economic importance. However, the government has pointed to restrictions under the Centre’s Greenfield Airports Policy. Patil said a new airport would normally not be permitted within a 150-km radius of an existing civil airport. If an airport is proposed within this distance, the impact of the new facility on the existing airport would have to be assessed separately. The Centre would take the final decision after examining the proposal and its likely impact, he said. The minister’s response also made it clear that the state government has no proposal to allocate funds for an airport in Tumakuru in the upcoming budget.

Since no Tumakuru airport project is currently under consideration, the question of earmarking funds

for it does not arise, Patil said. The proposed second airport is being viewed as a long-term requirement for Bengaluru, considering the city’s expanding population, aviation traffic, industrial activity and limitations at Kempegowda International Airport.

With three locations now shortlisted and Harohalli undergoing further scrutiny, the government is expected to undertake detailed technical, environmental and connectivity assessments before arriving at a final decision.

The location of the second airport is likely to have a significant bearing on Bengaluru’s future transport infrastructure and regional development. The government’s decision is also expected to take into account road and rail connectivity, land availability, aviation requirements and the operational impact on the existing airport. For now, however, Tumakuru has been ruled out of the state’s shortlisted locations.

Assembly proceedings stay disrupted for 4th day

BENGALURU

ASSEMBLY proceedings were disrupted for the fourth consecutive day on Thursday as the Opposition protested, demanding the removal of Minister B Nagendra over alleged embezzlement of funds from the state-run Karnataka Maharshi Valmiki ST Development Corporation.

As the session began, Opposition BJP and JD(S) members raised the issue and demanded that Nagendra be dropped from the Cabinet immediately. Opposition members were seen wearing black armbands as a mark of protest.

Leader of Opposition R Ashoka said, “We have been protesting against the loot of ST community money for the last four days. For Nagendra, the House has not been able to function. For one, Nagendra, the privilege of 224 members is being breached.”

Speaker G S Patil asked the Opposition to participate in the proceedings and seek answers from the government. Ashoka, however, maintained that the Opposition would participate in the discussions only after Nagendra’s removal.

“I have had enough discussions on charges and allegations against Nagendra in the past,” he said. He accused Deputy Chief Minister G Parameshwara of “misleading” the House on Wednesday by giving a clean chit to Nagendra, despite the minister having been named in several chargesheets.

Parameshwara had on

Oppn demands removal of Minister Nagendra



Wednesday defended Nagendra’s induction into the Cabinet and criticised the Opposition’s protests. “Siddaramaiah had earlier removed Nagendra from the Cabinet, while Chief Minister D K Shivakumar and the Congress high command made him a minister once again by taking money from him,” Ashoka alleged.

This led to heated exchanges between the Opposition and treasury benches, with some ruling Congress MLAs, including Pradeep Eshwar, engaging in counter-sloganeering. Amid the sloganeering, the Speaker conducted Question Hour, during which some Congress MLAs sought answers from ministers on their questions.

The Speaker then asked Ashoka to participate in a discussion on the drought situation. Ashoka replied, “What is there to discuss when the government has not yet declared a drought and has not released money

for relief?” As the Opposition continued sloganeering and demanding Nagendra’s removal despite repeated requests from the Speaker to participate in the debate on the drought situation, the House was adjourned for some time.

When the House resumed, the Opposition again raised slogans demanding Nagendra’s resignation. The Speaker repeatedly urged the members to allow the House to function and participate in the discussion.

Responding to this, Ashoka said the ball was in the ruling party’s court.

“Let the government first declare the state as drought-affected. After that, we will participate in the discussion,” he said.

Ashoka questioned why the ruling Congress wanted to retain Nagendra as minister despite the allegations and cases against him and suggested that another Dalit leader without such allega-

tions be appointed instead.

With the Opposition’s protests and sloganeering continuing, the Speaker adjourned the House for lunch.

When the House resumed after lunch, the Opposition continued its protest despite the Speaker’s requests to withdraw it and participate in discussions on issues, including drought. The Speaker proceeded with the consideration and passage of Bills.

Amid sloganeering and protests, three Bills—the Bangalore Development Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2026; the Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Heritage Area Development Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2026; and the Karnataka Town and Country Planning (Amendment) Bill, 2026—were passed by the House.

The Speaker then allowed Congress MLAs A S Ponnanna, Thammaiah and T D Rajegowda to raise issues for which they had given no-

tices, including the Centre’s reissuing of the draft notification on the Western Ghats eco-sensitive zone.

As chaos continued amid confrontation between the ruling and Opposition benches over discussions on other pressing issues, the Speaker adjourned the House for some time.

When the House resumed, the situation remained unchanged. Despite the sloganeering and disruptions, the Speaker allowed a few Congress MLAs to speak on the drought situation in the state.

He then took up calling attention notices, during which some Congress legislators sought replies from the government. No Opposition MLA participated in these proceedings.

As the protests by the BJP and JD(S) continued, the Speaker adjourned the House for the day.

Nagendra, who resigned from the previous Siddaramaiah-led Cabinet following allegations of embezzlement of funds from the Karnataka Maharshi Valmiki ST Development Corporation, was inducted into the Shivakumar-led Ministry on August 3. He is currently the Minister for Planning and Statistics.

The Enforcement Directorate arrested the Ballari MLA in connection with the Valmiki corporation scam in July 2024, and a special court in Bengaluru granted him bail in October that year.

Nagendra has been named in the charge sheets filed by the ED and CBI in connection with the case.

City’s longest 28-km elevated corridor to be taken up under BOOT model



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BENGALURU

BENGALURU is set to take a major step towards easing its traffic congestion with the proposed construction of the city’s longest elevated corridor. Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited (B-SMILE) has invited tenders for the 28-km elevated corridor connecting Yeshwanthpur (Matikere Cross) to Tin Factory Junction in KR Puram.

The elevated corridor, which is also planned as the city’s first tolled elevated road, will pass through key locations including the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Mekhri Circle, Jayamahal Road, St. John’s Church Road and the Ulsoor Lake area. Officials expect the project to significantly reduce traffic congestion along these busy stretches. The project will be implemented under the Build-Own-Operate-Transfer (BOOT) model at an estimated cost of Rs 3,536.89 crore. The government will provide 40 per cent of the project cost as Viability Gap

Funding (VGF). The successful bidder will be permitted to collect tolls from road users for 30 years after completing the project. B-SMILE Technical Director B.S. Prahlad said the increasing number of vehicles in the city has made it necessary to expand the road network and develop elevated corridors. He said the toll rates would be fixed in accordance with government notifications, keeping the interests of motorists in mind. Under the proposed model, the concessionaire will also be responsible for maintaining the quality of the elevated road, while motorists are expected to benefit from smoother and faster travel.

The 28-km corridor is among 11 major infrastructure projects planned to address Bengaluru’s traffic problems. B-SMILE is also expected to invite a tender soon for another 18.5-km tolled elevated corridor connecting Ragi Gudda Junction on Marenahalli Main Road with Talaghattapura Junction on Kanakapura Main Road.