



Cultural fest Onashtami-2026 celebrated

MANGALURU : A captivating Tiruvathira dance from Kerala and a vibrant Radha-Krishna performance featured on Onashtami-2026 on 10 September 2026 at Srinivas University City Campus, Pandeshwar, Mangaluru. The 12th-anniversary celebration of the Srinivas Tigers added special weight to the Cultural Fest, which filled the campus with colour, tradition and enthusiasm.

The Institute of Hotel Management and Tourism, Department of Interior Design, Department of Animation and Department of Mass Communication and Media Studies organised the event for students and faculty and showcased the university's cultural spirit. Hotel Management and Tourism students prepared a sumptuous spread ranging from savoury appetisers and delicious main courses to exquisite desserts. Attractive presentation and flavour impressed attendees and demonstrated culinary skills, creativity and professionalism.

Chancellor Dr. A Srinivas Rao opened the day by breaking the Janmashtami handi. He said such cultural events give students a chance to come together, strengthen their bond and understand the richness of Indian traditions and culture, and that celebrating traditional festivals on campus helps pass cultural knowledge and values on to the younger generation.

Vijayalakshmi R Rao and Prof. Er. Mitra S Rao of the Board of Governors appreciated the students' enthusiastic efforts to create a festive atmosphere. The campus was transformed with representations of tigers, Mahabali and other traditional cultural themes.

Registrar Dr. Ajay Kumar, Dean Prof. B Prashanth Prabhu, Dean Dr. Venkatesh Amin, Dean Dr. Thrishala Noronha, Dean Dr. Padmanabha C H, Dean Dr. Subramanya Bhat and Dean Dr. Pranjali Mathre graced the celebrations, reflecting the university's commitment to academic excellence and cultural values. Bhoomika delivered the welcome. Amna thanked. Alfia gave the vote of thanks.

Space Expo 2026

BENGALURU : Australian space industry delegation at Bengaluru Space Expo 2026 showcases capabilities, explores Indian partnerships and advances collaboration in satellite, propulsion, research, AI and commercial space missions.

Mobility social impact awards

BENGALURU : Hand in Hand India has been named runner-up at Bridgestone India's Mobility Social Impact Awards 2026 for its Hygiene On Go initiative. The project provides mobile sanitation facilities to Bengaluru traffic police personnel, improving hygiene, dignity, safety and operational efficiency across 103 traffic junctions since December 2025.

Jungle tales with Mowgli

BENGALURU : JioStar's 16th Local Kids & Family IP, 'Jungle Tales with Mowgli', premieres September 12 on JioHotstar and Disney Channel, offering slapstick comedy, nostalgia and multiscreen family entertainment.

College honours 1,325 graduates

BENGALURU : Sona College of Technology celebrated its 25th Graduation Day, conferring BE, BTech, ME, MCA, MBA and PhD degrees on 1,325 students from the Class of 2025. The graduates included 1,039 undergraduates, 271 postgraduates and 15 doctoral scholars. Krishna Balagurunathan „C. Valliappa , Chocko Valliappa and others present.

State limits Vande Mataram to first two stanzas at govt events

HANS NEWS SERVICE BENGALURU

THE government has ordered that only the first two stanzas of 'Vande Mataram' be sung at most state government programmes, instead of all six stanzas, amid a national debate over the rendition of the patriotic song. The order follows the

state Cabinet's decision on the manner in which the song should be performed at official functions. The government has cited the need to maintain uniformity, dignity and appropriate protocol during various government programmes and ceremonies. According to the order issued by the Department of Personnel and Administrative

Reforms, the first two stanzas of 'Vande Mataram' will be sung at state government events, except programmes attended by the President, Vice-President, Prime Minister or Governor.

The government noted that 'Vande Mataram' played an important role during India's freedom movement in fostering nationalism, unity and

patriotic sentiment among people. The order also refers to guidelines issued by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs regarding the official version of the song and its performance at government and public functions. The guidelines distinguish between playing the song and mass singing, depending on the nature of an event.

The Karnataka decision comes amid discussions within political circles over whether the complete version or only selected stanzas should be performed at official functions. Congress leaders at the national level have referred to a 1937 resolution under which the first two stanzas were accepted for public rendition.



Lalbagh spared from proposed tunnel exit ; govt seeks alternative site



HANS NEWS SERVICE BENGALURU

THE proposed tunnel road in Bengaluru will no longer have an exit near Lalbagh, with the Karnataka government deciding to look for another location amid concerns over damage to the city's iconic green space.

The earlier proposal to build a tunnel exit close to Lalbagh had faced resistance from residents and environmental activists. They had warned that the construction could consume or damage a considerable portion of the garden area. Following the objections, the government has decided against proceeding with the Lalbagh site. Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar has instructed the Greater Bengaluru Authority to identify another location that can accommodate the proposed tunnel exit.

The change in plan is aimed at ensuring that the infrastruc-

ture project does not come at the expense of Lalbagh's valuable green cover and open spaces. The tunnel road is among the major infrastructure proposals being considered to address Bengaluru's persistent traffic congestion. The project envisages underground connectivity as an alternative to adding more surface-level roads in the already congested city. However, the proposal has also triggered concerns about its impact on existing public spaces and the environment. Lalbagh, with its extensive vegetation and heritage significance, has emerged as one of the most sensitive points in the project. Residents and environmentalists had opposed the proposed exit, arguing that construction in the area could have a lasting impact on the garden. Their protests appear to have prompted the government to reconsider the location.

Shivakumar govt moving in the right direction, says Siddaramaiah

HANS NEWS SERVICE BENGALURU

FORMER Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said governments must remain accountable to the people and urged the D K Shivakumar-led government to fulfil all the promises made in the Congress manifesto during the remaining period of its tenure.

Speaking after inaugurating the programme "Drudha Karnataka Sankalpa, Successful Completion of 100 Days" at the Vidhana Soudha Banquet Hall on Wednesday, Siddaramaiah said the completion of 100 days should not be viewed merely as a celebration, but as an opportunity for the government to present its performance before the people and assess whether it was moving in the right direction.

"We are in a democratic system where the people are the masters. What matters is whether the promises made to the people are being implemented. Governments have a responsibility to remain accountable to the people," he said.

Siddaramaiah stressed the



need to eliminate social inequality, poverty and unemployment and work towards creating an egalitarian society. He said elected governments had a responsibility to uphold the ideals of the Constitution and ensure social, economic and political empowerment for all sections of society.

Defends guarantee schemes

Siddaramaiah said the Congress government had fulfilled its commitment to implement the five guarantee schemes despite criticism from the Opposition and the BJP-led Union Government. Congress leaders had an-

nounced the five guarantees before coming to power on May 20, 2023, and Opposition parties had claimed that the schemes could not be implemented and would push the State into financial distress, he said.

"Within the first year of coming to power, we implemented all five guarantee schemes. The government spends around ₹52,000 crore every year on these schemes. Despite the criticism, the government has borne the expenditure and ensured that the benefits reach the people," he said.

He said the schemes were aimed at supporting poor

people belonging to different communities and reducing inequality. Siddaramaiah urged the government to continue the guarantee schemes despite criticism, stating that such programmes were necessary to address social and economic inequalities.

'Fulfill all manifesto promises'

Siddaramaiah said a government was not required to implement every manifesto promise within the first year and had five years to fulfil its commitments. He recalled that the Congress manifesto in 2013 contained 165

promises, of which more than 158 were implemented during his tenure as Chief Minister.

"If there is a government that keeps its word, it is the Congress government. We not only fulfilled our promises but also introduced several programmes, including Krishi Bhagya, Ksheera Bhagya and the five guarantee schemes," he said.

He urged the D K Shivakumar-led government to use the remaining tenure to fulfil all the promises made to the people. Siddaramaiah said the Congress government was working on several new ideas and programmes and expressed confidence that the government was moving in the right direction.

He congratulated Chief Minister D K Shivakumar and all members of his Cabinet and urged them not to be distracted by criticism from the Opposition. "D K Shivakumar has worked as Deputy Chief Minister and understands the problems of the State. Do not worry about the criticism from the Opposition," he told the Chief Minister.

ED raids on Jarkiholi's premises politically motivated, says Hebbalkar

HANS NEWS SERVICE BELAGAVI

FORMER Minister and Belagavi Rural MLA Lakshmi Hebbalkar has strongly condemned the Enforcement Directorate (ED) raids on the residences and offices of Public Works Minister Satish Jarkiholi, terming the action "politically motivated."

In a statement, Hebbalkar alleged that the BJP-led union government was misusing central investigative agencies for political purposes and targeting political opponents. "It is not new for the BJP to misuse investigative agencies under its control instead of confronting political opponents through democratic and fair means. The ED raids on the premises of Satish Jarkiholi are also part of the same po-



litically motivated agenda," she alleged.

Hebbalkar accused the BJP of targeting Congress leaders for political gains as the Congress government in Karnataka continued to implement welfare and development programmes. "Unable to tolerate the people-oriented programmes, development works and achievements of our government, the BJP is targeting Congress leaders politically. Using central

agencies such as the ED and CBI against political opponents is not a healthy development for democracy," she said.

She described Jarkiholi as a senior Congress leader who had made significant contributions to the party and the development of Karnataka. "At a time when attempts are being made to put pressure on him through investigative agencies, the Congress party will stand united and face such attempts," Hebbalkar said.

She asserted that the Congress would extend its full support to Jarkiholi and would not be intimidated by what she described as political manoeuvring.

"The entire Congress party stands with Satish Jarkiholi. There is no question of being afraid of such political

conspiracies. Congress leaders and workers will unitedly face such attempts," she said.

Hebbalkar also urged central investigative agencies to maintain their autonomy and function in an impartial manner. "Political differences should not be settled through investigative agencies. In a democracy, Opposition parties and political opponents should be confronted politically," she said.

She further warned that attempts to intimidate or politically weaken Congress leaders would not succeed.

"If the BJP believes that it can frighten or threaten Congress leaders and weaken them politically, it is mistaken. Congress will always stand with truth and justice and will unitedly face this political conspiracy," Hebbalkar said.

Centre withholds Rs 2,186 crore grant to gram panchayats

State to move Supreme Court: Eshwar Khandre

HANS NEWS SERVICE BENGALURU

THE Karnataka government has decided to approach the Supreme Court against the Centre for withholding ₹2,186.20 crore due to the state's Gram Panchayats under the recommendations of the 15th Finance Commission.

Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Eshwar B. Khandre held a meeting with Advocate General Shashikiran Shetty and senior officials at his office on Thursday to discuss the legal course of action. Khandre expressed displeasure over the Centre's refusal to release the ₹2,186.20 crore allocated to Karnataka's Gram Panchayats for 2025-26.

The minister said the Centre's decision assumes significance at a time when Karnataka is facing drought-like conditions due to inadequate rainfall. Drinking water shortages have been reported in 710 villages, with 149 villages receiving water through tankers. The government has also hired 561 private borewells to meet the water requirements.

Khandre said farmers were already facing difficulties as seeds sown in several areas had failed to germinate. The meeting discussed the legal grounds on which the Centre's decision to withhold the funds meant for the state's Gram Panchayats could be challenged before the Supreme Court.

Preparations for gram panchayat elections

The state government is also preparing to conduct elections to Gram Panchayats, Taluk Panchayats and Zilla Panchayats whose terms have expired. Khandre said the elections had been delayed as government staff were deployed for Special Intensive Revision (SIR) work. He said the government was now fully prepared to conduct the Gram Panchayat elections and that a preliminary notification would be issued shortly.

During the meeting, Khandre sought details from Advocate General Shashikiran Shetty and Panchayat Raj Department Secretary D. Randeep on the legal aspects involved in conducting the elections.

WhatsApp ticket booking facility opens for state buses

The 'One Karnataka Mobility' app has been developed to bring together the services of the four state road transport undertakings

HANS NEWS SERVICE BENGALURU

THE Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) has been providing an online advance reservation booking facility to make passenger journeys more comfortable and convenient. As part of this initiative, the One Karnataka Mobility App has been developed to bring together the services of the four State Road Transport Undertakings KSRTC, NWKRTC, KKRTC and BMTC on a single digital platform.

With a modern and user-friendly interface, the platform is aimed at providing passengers with a simple, seamless and integrated travel experience. The upgraded Mobile App KSRTC AWA-

TAR 2.0 and WhatsApp ticketing facility was launched by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka on 10-09-2026, during the 100-day programme held at Vidhana Soudha, Bengaluru.

Key features of the One Karnataka Mobility App

A secure user login facility will enable passengers to authenticate their identity, access details of previous bookings and conveniently manage their transactions. Passengers will be able to register grievances related to all four transport undertakings on a single platform.

The system will facilitate tracking of grievance status, escalation wherever required and monitoring of the resolution process. A digital monthly pass facility will



be introduced in a phased manner, enabling passengers to book, receive and manage bus passes online. The facility will also provide for QR code-based digital

verification.

Ticket booking through WhatsApp

For the convenience of passengers, Ticket booking through WhatsApp is

now available for bus services operated by KSRTC, NWKRTC and KKRTC. Passengers can initiate the booking process by sending message by WhatsApp to

number +91 6364940880

The interactive WhatsApp booking system will guide passengers through the complete ticket reservation process, similar to the existing KSRTC online booking system.

Ticket cancellation through WhatsApp

Tickets booked through WhatsApp can also be cancelled through the same WhatsApp number. To cancel a ticket, passengers need to send message on WhatsApp and select the "Ticket Cancellation" option. They will then be required to enter their: PNR Number, Mobile Number & Transaction Password received at the time of booking. The cancellation process can then be completed

through WhatsApp.

Towards an integrated mobility ecosystem the One Karnataka Mobility App is intended to provide the foundation for integrating additional public transport and mobility services in the future. The initiative will further strengthen the Government of Karnataka's vision of an integrated, accessible and technology-driven public transport system across the State.

Passengers are encouraged to make use of this facility for advance ticket reservations. For any assistance or reservation-related queries, passengers may contact the KSRTC Call Centre at 080-26252625 (available 24x7) or the AWATAR Cell at 7760990034 / 7760990035 (7:00 AM to 10:00 PM).