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A Weekly Current Affairs Initiative

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By- Nandan Sir

December 4th Week 2025

- Committee to oversee unified waste management system for Bengaluru
- Friends of Police mission
- E-swathu 2.0
- Michael Cunha commission
- Raj Bhavan renamed as 'Lok Bhavan
- BWSSB wins award for water management
- 'Hygiene on Go'
- CFTRI to develop foods for astronauts, athletes, and ageing population
- 'Digital Heritage Portal'
- India-Taiwan Industrial Park to come up in State
- a.Karnataka's Hate Speech and Hate Crimes (Prevention) Bill
- 'Karnataka is India's services export powerhouse, Bengaluru is the main engine'
- Cantonment Railway Colony heritage site tag withdrawn,
- SHUCHI SCHEME
- Karnataka State Disaster Management Authority
- Emergency response vehicles
- 'Traveller Nooks' in Hampi set to be ready by March 2026
- AI Centre of Excellence for Healthcare established at IISc
- AI Centre of Excellence for Healthcare established at IISc
- a. State-appointed probe finds lapses in KKHRAC Society
- Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCSP) and Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) funds
- a.State forms technical team to expedite Mekedatu project
- Karnataka Social Boycott (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal Bill) 2025.
- Karnataka Platform-Based Gig Workers' Social Security and Welfare Bill, 2025
- Karnataka tops National Energy Conservation Awards 2025
- The Karnataka Scheduled Castes (Sub-classification) Bill, 2025
- The Karnataka State Commission for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Amendment) Bill, 2025
- CAG highlights inadequate preparedness in State's disaster management
- Tungabhadra Dam
- 'Arogya Sethu' mobile health units
- 'VijAlpatha' labs
- Siddaramaiah flags off KMF's ghee consignments to U.S., UAE, and Australia
- Gruha Arogya scheme
- Kuvempu national award, 2025
- Digital Mobile Planetarium programme
- Karnataka Non-major Ports Iron Ore Handling Policy, 2025
- Panel formed to implement SEP recommendations
- Transport Dept. rolls out AI-powered 'Smart Lock' to curb LLR fraud

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INSTA ವಿದ್ಯಮಾನ**WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS****DECEMBER 4TH Week 2025****Committee to oversee unified waste management system for Bengaluru****News :**

- Govt to form high-level committee to implement end-to-end solid waste management system for city

About

- **Purpose** : to roll out a technology-driven solid waste management (SWM) framework for the city.
- **Composition**: The committee will be headed by the **Additional Chief Secretary of the Urban Development Department**, who will serve as President, while the GBA Chief Commissioner will act as Vice-President.

Friends of Police mission**News :**

- Bengaluru Police has launched 'Friends of Police' mission.

About

- **Aim** : aimed at **strengthening community policing and youth participation in crime prevention**.
- **Goal** : Bengaluru police aiming to attract two lakh students as part of the team in **policing** to build a safer and more informed city.
- **Coverage** : Over 10,000 students took the pledge and enrolled to help the police and be their 'eyes and ears'.
- "This is not only an awareness programme, but an initiative to strengthen **police and public relationship**,"

E-swathu 2.0**News -**

- The state government launched e-swathu 2.0 to provide convenience to property owners in rural areas to get their documents.

E-swathu 2.0:

- **Aim** : to bring all rural properties into a single digital database, regularise unlisted holdings, and strengthen transparent property-tax collection.
- **Purpose**:-Swathu 2.0 is Karnataka's upgraded online system for digitising rural property records and issuing e-Khata in Gram Panchayat areas.
- **Nodal agency** - It is implemented by the **Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department** through Gram Panchayats and integrated with the Panchatantra software.
- Property owners in Gram Panchayat limits can apply (via their Panchayat) for **e-Khata and Forms 9/11A/11B** by submitting title documents, ID/address proof and supporting records.
- **Benefits** : Expected outcomes include
 1. **Easier proof of ownership** for loans and registrations,
 2. **Reduced fraud and disputes**
 3. **Increase in Panchayat and state revenue** from rural property tax.

Michael Cunha commission

- The Inquiry Commission, headed by former Karnataka High Court Judge Justice John, submitted its report on the circumstances leading to the **death of COVID patients at the Chamarajanagar District Hospital** to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah

Raj Bhavan renamed as 'Lok Bhavan

News :

- The Governor's official residence in Karnataka has been renamed as '**Lok Bhavan**'.
- The change is made in **accordance with communication from the Union Ministry of Home Affairs** and has been approved by the Governor of Karnataka.

Additional Information-

- In July 2024, two important halls inside **Rashtrapati Bhavan** were renamed by President Droupadi Murmu:
- 1) **Durbar Hall** → **Ganatantra Mandap** (to reflect the idea of "Republic" instead of the colonial term "Durbar").
 - 2) **Ashok Hall** → **Ashok Mandap** (to emphasise Indian cultural roots and the symbolism of Ashoka/Ashok tree)

BWSSB wins award for water management

- **Award Name:** Geospatial Excellence Award for Water Management
- **Awardee:** The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB)
- **Issuing Authority:** GeoSmart India
- **Place of Event:** Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi

'Hygiene on Go'

In news -

- '**Hygiene on Go**', a **Mobile sanitation vehicle for police personnel** launched in Bengaluru.

About the 'Hygiene on Go':

- **Aim :** In a bid to **improve the working conditions of the Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) personnel.**
- **Launched by :** **Department of Home Affairs.** It's a first-of-its-kind mobile sanitation vehicle exclusively for the Bengaluru City Police.
- **Coverage area :** The vehicles will run from **8.30 a.m. to 7 p.m.** along three major **traffic-heavy routes - Thanisandra, Adegodi, and Mysuru Road**, covering 91 designated halting points to ensure timely and reliable access for personnel on duty.
- **Components :** The vehicles will feature **separate washrooms for male and female police officers.** They will also have **exterior CCTV coverage, GPS tracking, and an LED display carrying road safety messages.**
- **Benefits :** Mobile sanitation arrangement is very beneficial, especially for women, because washrooms are much more easily accessible for men than for women.

CFTRI to develop foods for astronauts, athletes, and ageing population
News -

- The Mysuru-based **Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI)** has now shifted its focus to developing **advanced food technologies.**
- These include foods for **astronauts (space foods)**, endurance-enhancing foods for **sportspersons (sports foods)**, and **nutrition-rich foods for the elderly (geriatric foods).**

Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI)

- It is a constituent laboratory of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), New Delhi.
- It is located in Mysuru, Karnataka.
- The institute was established on October 21, 1950.
- **Mandate** - It is a leading center for research and development in food science and technology

'Digital Heritage Portal'

In News -

- State to develop 'Digital Heritage Portal' to preserve cultural legacy.

'Digital Heritage Portal':

- **Vision** : Karnataka is to become a national leader in digital heritage preservation with a proposal to create a unified Karnataka Digital Heritage Portal.
- **Role** : it will integrate manuscripts, rare printed works, archival records and other cultural resources on a single platform.
- **Launched by** : The initiative, led jointly by the Oriental Research Institute (ORI), Mysuru, and the Karnataka State Archives.
- It aligns with the Union government's Digital India Mission and the National Mission for Manuscripts.

Did you know?

- The Oriental Research Institute (ORI), Mysuru houses more than 70,000 manuscripts and 45,000 rare printed works, including the Arthashastra, Aryabhatiya, Natya Shastra and Sritattvanidhi.
- Digitisation projects worth over ₹2.15 crore, undertaken with the Bengaluru

Mythic Society and Save Our Country Foundation

- **Note** - Bengaluru mythic society established in 1909 (asked in psi 402)

India-Taiwan Industrial Park to come up in State

News -

- The Allegiance International Co. Ltd. of Taiwan will establish an India-Taiwan Industrial Park (ITIP) in Karnataka with an investment of ₹1,000 crore.
- **Significance of the move** - this collaboration will strengthen Karnataka's position as India's leading destination for Electronics System Design and Manufacturing

Karnataka Digital Economy Mission (KDEM)

- It is a not-for-profit organization established in 2021 by the Government of Karnataka.
- It serves as a "knowledge bridge" between the state government and the technology industry to accelerate digital growth and investments.

Core Objectives

- **Economic Impact**: Aims to help Karnataka contribute \$300 billion toward India's goal of a \$1 trillion digital economy by 2030.
- **Startup Growth**: Targets the creation of 10,000 startups in regional clusters (outside Bengaluru) by 2030.
- **Employment**: Focuses on creating 5 million skilled and semi-skilled jobs within the digital sector.

Key Focus Areas (Verticals)

- **Innovation & Startups**: Facilitating access to capital, mentorship, and networking for early-stage companies.

- **Beyond Bengaluru:** Decentralizing the tech industry by developing clusters in Mysuru, Mangaluru, Hubballi-Dharwad-Belagavi, Kalaburagi, Shivamogga, and Tumakuru.
- **Electronics Systems Design and Manufacturing (ESDM):** Promoting Karnataka as a global hub for semiconductor and electronics manufacturing.
- **Talent Accelerator:** Bridging the skill gap through initiatives like Future Digital Jobs and the Karnataka Skill Connect Portal.
- **IT/ITeS, BPM & GCC:** Attracting Global Capability Centers (GCCs) and mid-sized IT firms to establish operations across the state.

Karnataka's Hate Speech and Hate Crimes (Prevention) Bill

News -

- **The State Cabinet approved the Karnataka Hate Speech and Hate Crimes (Prevention) Bill, 2025.**
- **Objective - to effectively curb, prevent, dissemination, publication or promotion of hate speech and hate crimes, which cause disharmony and hatred in society.**

Key Features of the Bill

- **Purpose and Scope:** It seeks to prevent dissemination, publication, and promotion of hate speech and hate crimes.
- It aims to **curb actions causing injury, disharmony, enmity, or hatred against individuals, groups, or organisations.**
- It is **applicable to both persons and institutions.**
- **Hate speech definition - It includes any expression which is made, published, or circulated in words, either spoken or written, or by signs or by visible representations or through electronic communication in public view, with an intention to cause injury, disharmony, or**

feelings of enmity or hatred or ill-will against a person alive or dead, a class or group of persons, or a community to meet any prejudicial interest.

- The prejudicial interest includes religion, race, caste or community, sex, gender, sexual orientation, place of birth, residence, language, disability or tribe.
- The **punishment for hate crime includes imprisonment from one to seven years and a fine of ₹50,000.**
- The **offences are cognisable, non-bailable, and triable** by the Judicial Magistrate First Class.
- **Alignment with Central Laws:** The Bill incorporates provisions of the **Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023 for procedural uniformity.**

Constitutional Provisions

- **Article 19(2)** - It deals with the **reasonable restrictions** that can be placed on the **fundamental right to freedom of speech and expression under Article 19(1)(a).**
- **Conditions under which speech can be restricted by the state:** Security of the State, Public Order, Decency or Morality, Contempt of Court, Defamation, Incitement to Offense.

Steps taken address hate speech

- **Indian Penal Code (IPC) / Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023:** Specific sections like Section 153A, Section 295A, etc in penal codes **criminalize promoting enmity between groups (religion, race, language),** outraging religious feelings, or inciting public fear/disorder.
- **Representation of the People Act, 1951: Sec. 123(3), 123(3A):** Prohibit **political speech that promotes hatred** or appeals to religion, caste, community during elections.
- **The Supreme Court, in the case of Pravasi Bhalai Sangathan v. Union of India**

(2014), acknowledged the **lack of specific legislation on hate speech** and recommended that the Parliament enact a comprehensive law to address this issue

- In the case of **Amish Devgan v. Union of India (2020)** the Supreme Court of India addressed the **balance between freedom of speech and expression (Article 19) and the need to restrict hate speech** to maintain public order and communal harmony.

'Karnataka is India's services export powerhouse, Bengaluru is the main engine'

News -

- Bengaluru emerged as the leader in India's service exports for 2024-25, contributing \$78.64 billion, nearly 35% of the country's total services exports.
- As per Vishvehsvarayya-trade-promotion-centre-(VTPC) — Karnataka's export facilitation arm, the State contributed 41% of India's services exports in FY2021-22, valued at \$254.4 billion,
- Karnataka's economy is profoundly **services-driven**. The Economic Survey of Karnataka records services at **68.1% of GSVA (2024-25)**, with Bengaluru Urban as the single largest contributor to GSDP.

Cantonment Railway Colony heritage site tag withdrawn,

News

- The state government has withdrawn the biodiversity heritage tag for the 8.61-acre wooded area near the Cantonment railway station.

Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS)

- **Definition** - They are specific locations with rich, unique, and ecologically fragile ecosystems, including terrestrial, coastal, inland, or marine areas.

- **Notified by** - These are areas notified by state governments under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002
- India's first BHS was Nallur Tamarind Grove in Karnataka in 2007.
- **Objective** - It aims to improve local livelihoods and conserve biodiversity through community participation via Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs).

Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS) of Karnataka

Biodiversity Heritage Site	Location	Year Accorded	Area/Details	Significance
Nallur Tamarind Grove	Bengaluru	2007	54 acres	India's first BHS; ancient tamarind trees, rich flora and fauna
Hogrekan Shola Forest	Chikkamagaluru	Notified pre-2020	Part of shola forests, wildlife corridor	Connects Kudremukha and Bhadra Sanctuaries; diverse vegetation
University of Agricultural Sciences (GKVK)	Bengaluru	Notified pre-2020	Large green campuses	Ecologically important urban biodiversity hotspot
Ambaragudda	Shivamogga	Notified pre-2020	Shola forest and	Important for endemic

			grasslands	species and conservation
Mama dapura Reserve Forest	Vijayapura	2024	Approximately 1494 acres	Also called Shri Siddeshwara Swamiji BHS; deciduous forest with diverse flora and fauna

SHUCHI SCHEME

News

- Govt. yet to procure sanitary pads under Shuchi scheme

SHUCHI SCHEME

- Objective** - to distribute free menstrual pads to school and college girls between the ages of 10 and 18 years.
- Launched in** - 2013-14
- Aim** - create awareness about menstrual hygiene among girls studying in government and aided schools and colleges across the state.

Additional Information - Shuchi-Nanna Maithri

- It was a pilot project **launched in 2023**
- It distributes Menstrual Cups instead of pads to pre-university students** in select districts like Dakshina Kannada and Chamarajanagar to **promote eco-friendly hygiene.**

Karnataka State Disaster Management Authority

News -

- Karnataka State Disaster Management Authority has prepared the road map for a

'disaster-resilient Karnataka' to reduce mortalities, economic loss and casualties

Karnataka State Disaster Risk Reduction (KSDRR) Road Map 2025-30

- According to this report **80% of the State's geographical area is prone to drought, 22% is prone to moderate earthquakes and 24% of the geographical area in the State is prone to cyclones, heavy winds, etc.,**
- Human-induced disasters like **road and industrial accidents too** are considered for risk assessment and disaster mitigation.

Additional information - Karnataka State Disaster Management Authority

- Apex Body:** It functions as the **highest decision-making authority for disaster management in Karnataka.**
- Leadership:** The authority is headed by the **Chief Minister** of Karnataka.
- Facilitation & Monitoring:** It facilitates, coordinates, reviews, and monitors all disaster-related activities in the state, including capacity building.
- Policy Formulation:** It lays down the State Disaster Management policy and guidelines for various government departments to follow.
- Plan Approval:** It approves the State Disaster Management Plan and individual Departmental plans, ensuring they align with guidelines from the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).

Emergency response vehicles

News -

- The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) launched 'Accident Emergency Response Vehicles' aimed at **providing swift assistance during road accidents and vehicle breakdowns involving State-run buses.**

Emergency response vehicles

- Initially, **two vehicles** will be deployed at central locations in **Bengaluru and Mysuru**.
- The **specially equipped vehicles** will **function as mobile workshops, enabling technical teams to quickly reach stranded buses with necessary tools, spare parts, and support to restore operations.**

'Traveller Nooks' in Hampi set to be ready by March 2026

News -

- **New "Traveller Nooks" aimed at improving visitor experience at the UNESCO World Heritage site of Hampi are expected to be ready by March 2026.**

Traveller Nooks

- **Aim** : To strengthen **tourism infrastructure** while ensuring that all interventions remain sensitive to **Hampi's archaeological and cultural significance**, thereby supporting sustainable tourism development in Hampi.
- **Launched by** : The initiative was launched by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2024** to provide essential amenities and information support to the growing number of tourists visiting the heritage town.
- **Ministry** : **"The Ministry of Tourism** has sanctioned the project 'Setting up of Traveller Nooks at Hampi' for the cost of ₹25.64 crore under its Swadesh Darshan 2.0 scheme to develop tourist amenities.
- **Implementing agency** : the State government has designated Karnataka Tourism Infrastructure Ltd. (KTIL) as the State Implementing Agency for the scheme,"
- **Benefits** : The Traveller Nooks are designed to address critical gaps in visitor facilities by providing **drinking water stations, hygienic toilets, ATMs, retail kiosks, and shaded resting areas.**

AI Centre of Excellence for Healthcare established at IISc

News -

- **The Translational AI for Networked Universal Healthcare (TANUH) Foundation** has been established at the **Indian Institute of Science (IISc)** in **Bengaluru**

AI Centre of Excellence for Healthcare established at IISc

- **Aim** : as a dedicated AI Centre of Excellence in Healthcare to advance AI-driven healthcare innovation at scale in the country.
- This has been established in line with the **government of India's vision of 'Make AI in India and Make AI Work for India'**,
- It will be a not-for-profit company that focuses on **developing and deploying scalable AI solutions** for the effective management of **non-communicable diseases (NCDs)** at the point of care.
- The centre operates as a **multidisciplinary hub**, bringing together **clinicians, data scientists, and AI researchers.**

State-appointed probe finds lapses in KKHRAC Society

News

- **The report, prepared by retired IAS officer Sudhir Kumar, was recently submitted to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.**

Findings

- A State-appointed inquiry has uncovered extensive **financial and administrative irregularities in the Kalyana Karnataka Human Resource, Agriculture and Cultural (KKHRAC) Society.**
- The investigator described the **alleged mismanagement as one of the biggest misuse of funds in Karnataka** in the three-year period from 2020-21 to 2022-23.

Additional information - Kalyana Karnataka Human Resource, Agriculture and Cultural Society (KKHRACS).

- **Nature:** It is a registered society established by the Government of Karnataka, not a constitutional or statutory commission.
- **Headquarters:** Kalaburagi (Gulbarga).
- **Mandate:** To promote the culture, literature, and heritage of the Kalyana Karnataka region (Bidar, Kalaburagi, Yadgir, Raichur, Koppal, Ballari, and Vijayanagara).

Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCSP) and Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) funds

News

- The State government has used a significant share of the amount earmarked for the **Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCSP) and Tribal Sub Plan (TSP)** towards implementing the five guarantee schemes of the Congress government since 2023.

Additional information

- The Government of Karnataka enacted the **Karnataka Scheduled Castes Sub-Allocation & Tribal-Sub Allocation (Planning, Allocation and Utilisation of Financial Resources) Act, 2013. And Rules 2017**
- Its aim is to ensure allocation of a budget in proportion to the population of SC/STs in the States.
- **Karnataka became only the second state to have such an Act.**

State forms technical team to expedite Mekedatu project

News

- The Karnataka government has issued a notification to form a team led by the **Karnataka Engineering Research Station (KERS) director K.G.MAHESH** to expedite

the Mekedatu project “in view of the favourable Supreme Court order”.

- **Composition :** The team under the KERS director will comprise an executive engineer, three technical assistants, six assistant engineers, one accountant, a superintendent and other staff.
- Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar announced that the **project office** for the mekedatu project would be set up in **Ramanagara**.
- **The Cauveri Neeravari Nigam Ltd. (CNNL)** will take steps to set up the Mekedatu project office.

Connect with the basics - Cauvery River System

- **Origin** - Talakaveri
- **Total length of the River** - 805 km
- **Flowing** - Eastern
- **Flows through** - Karnataka, Kerala, Tamilnadu & Pondicherry.
- **Tributaries** - Arkavathy, Shimsha, Hemavati, Kapila, Honnuhole, Amravati, Lakshmana Tirtha, Kabini, Lokapavani, Bhavani and Noyyal.

Mekedatu Project

- The Mekedatu project is a balancing reservoir and drinking water project.
- Built across - It is to be built at the confluence of the Cauvery and Arkavathi rivers by the Karnataka Government.
- **Objective** - The project is aimed at solving the drinking water problems of the Bengaluru and Ramanagara district.
- **Significance** - It would also generate 400 MW of hydroelectric power.
- **Concerns with the project** - Almost 63% of the forest area of the Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary will be submerged because of the project.

Karnataka Social Boycott (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal Bill) 2025.

News -

- Recently the Karnataka assembly passed The Karnataka Social Boycott (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal Bill) 2025.

Karnataka Social Boycott (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Bill, 2025.

- **Objective** - The legislation aims to criminalize social exclusion and "unconstitutional practices" enforced by informal bodies like caste or community panchayats.
- **Uniqueness** - Karnataka is the second state in India to enact such a law, following Maharashtra's 2016 Act.

Key Provisions & Features

- **Target Entities:** Specifically targets caste panchayats, community groups, or influential individuals who enforce social boycotts.
- **Definition of Social Boycott:** Defines it as any oral or written act/gesture resulting in social discrimination. It recognizes 20 forms of boycott, including:
 1. Denial of professional, social, or economic interactions.
 2. Obstruction from religious or community functions, marriages, and funeral rites.
 3. Restricting access to public spaces, services, educational institutions, or water sources.
 4. Forcing individuals to follow specific cultural norms (e.g., dress or language).
- **Criminal Liability:** Liability extends to those who directly impose the boycott, those who encourage it, and members of any body who vote in favor of such a decision.
- **Penalties:** Offenders face imprisonment for up to three years, a fine of up to ₹1 lakh, or both.

Enforcement Mechanism:

- **Social Boycott Prohibition Officer:** A Group 'A' officer will be appointed to detect offenses and assist victims during trials.
- **Police Powers:** The police are empowered to file suo motu (on their own initiative) complaints.
- **Victim Support:** Recovered fines may be awarded to victims as compensation.

Karnataka Platform-Based Gig Workers' Social Security and Welfare Bill, 2025

News

- Karnataka government passed the Karnataka Platform-Based Gig Workers' Social Security and Welfare Bill, 2025,

Karnataka Platform-Based Gig Workers (Social Security and Welfare) Act, 2025

- **Mandate** - to provide legal recognition and social protection to approximately 400,000 gig workers.
- It replaces the earlier ordinance promulgated in May 2025 and was formally notified on September 12, 2025.

Key Features

- **Welfare Board & Fund:** Establishes a tripartite Gig Workers Welfare Board headquartered in Bengaluru to oversee registrations and schemes.
- It also creates a **dedicated Welfare Fund** financed by a "welfare fee" of 1% to 5% of the payout per transaction, levied on aggregator platforms.
- **Registration:** All gig workers must be registered and assigned a Unique ID applicable across all platforms to access benefits.
- **Algorithmic Transparency:** Platforms are required to disclose details about their automated monitoring and decision-making systems (algorithms) in simple

language to ensure fairness in task allocation and earnings.

- **Grievance Redressal:** A **two-tier mechanism is mandated:** first through an **Internal Dispute Resolution Committee (IDRC)** at the platform level, followed by an appeal to the **Welfare Board**.
- **Termination Protections:** Platforms **cannot deactivate or terminate a worker without providing a valid written reason and a 14-day prior notice** (except in cases of bodily harm).

Karnataka tops National Energy Conservation Awards 2025

- **Karnataka Renewable Energy Development Limited (KREDL)** has won the National Energy Conservation Awards 2025.
- **Organised by :** The award ceremony, organised by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) under the Union Ministry of Power
- **Category :** under the State Energy Efficiency Performance Award (SDA Group-1) category,
- **President Droupadi Murmu** presented the award in New Delhi on December 14 during the **National Energy Conservation Day celebrations**.

The Karnataka Scheduled Castes (Sub-classification) Bill, 2025

News -

the Legislative Assembly on Thursday passed the much-debated Karnataka Scheduled Castes (Sub-Classification) Bill, 2025

Features of bill

- **Aim :** The Karnataka Scheduled Castes (Sub-classification) Bill, 2025, that **seeks to provide legality** to the government orders related to **sub-classification of the 101**

Scheduled Castes with a reservation share of 17%

- As per the Bill, **Category-A, which has 16 castes, and Category-B, with 19 castes, will get reservation of 6% each, while Category-C, comprising 63 castes, will get reservation of 5%.**
 - ❖ Similarly, the Bill has three non-categorised Scheduled Castes – Adi Andhra, Adi Dravida and Adi Karnataka that are eligible to opt for reservation under Category-A or Category-B, based on caste certificates.
- The **one-man commission** led by retired **Justice H.N. Nagamohan Das** had submitted its report to the government on August 4 this year with **specific recommendations on sub-classification of Scheduled Castes** among various sub-groups of SCs.
- The government approved the recommendations of the commission with some modifications to implement the sub-classification among the SCs for ensuring a fair and equitable distribution of reservation benefits,

The Karnataka State Commission for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Amendment) Bill, 2025

News -

The Karnataka State Commission for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Amendment) Bill, 2025, was tabled in the Assembly

- The Bill seeks to **nominate a person belonging to the ST and a woman** as the members of the **Karnataka State Commission** for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.
- It also **seeks to empower the Karnataka State Commission for the SC and ST** to

make necessary modifications in the reservation percentage of sub-classification to the members of SCs on the receipt of new data or information from the government.

CAG highlights inadequate preparedness in State's disaster management

NEWS-

The report of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India has highlighted the vulnerabilities, inadequate preparedness in disaster management system of Karnataka

Observations

- Report Analysing the efforts from 2017-18 to 2022-23 in managing calamities and risk reduction.
- The report pointed out that although the Karnataka **State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA)** was established in **2008**, the **State Disaster Management Policy** was published after 12 years, only in 2020.
- It said that the **State Emergency Operation Centre** was **under-equipped** in terms of human resources and infrastructure, which affected its functioning.
- **The Disaster Response Force Units had huge vacancies — ranging from 67% to 96% —** of the sanctioned strength resulting in the units facing difficulties in carrying out duties and rescue operations'
- The CAG has pointed out that although the **State Action Plan for Flood Risk was established in 2021**, it lacked preparation for flood management in critical sectors.
- It found that **49 out of the 100 Water Level Sensors installed in Bengaluru** remained non-functional as on December 2023. The State has **not established a legal framework for flood infrastructure.**

Tungabhadra Dam

News-

New crest gates for Tungabhadra Dam by June, says Deputy CM

- After the water level recedes to **1,613 ft in the Tungabhadra reservoir** by December-end, the installation of new crest gates would be taken up and would be completed by June 2026

About thungabhadra dam

- **Location:** The dam is constructed across the **Tungabhadra River** (a tributary of the Krishna) at the confluence of Hosapete and Koppal in **Karnataka**.
- **Alternate Name:** It is also known as **Pampa Sagar**.
- **Storage :** Tungabhadra reservoir has a storage capacity of **101 TMC** (Thousand Million Cubic feet) with catchment area spreading to **28000 square kms**. It is about **49.5 meters in height**.
- **Purpose:** It is a **multipurpose reservoir** serving the objectives of irrigation, hydroelectricity generation, and flood control.
- **Structural Composition:** It holds the distinction of being **India's largest stone masonry dam**.

'Arogya Sethu' mobile health units

News-

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah flagged off 81 'Arogya Sethu' Mobile Health Units (MHUs)

About 'Arogya Sethu' mobile health units

- **Aim:** aimed at **delivering primary healthcare services** to people living in remote, inaccessible, forest and hilly regions of Karnataka.

- initiative was intended to **ensure that quality healthcare reaches citizens** who have so far remained outside the formal health system.
- **coverage** : The mobile units, rolled out under the theme “**Healthcare at the remotest village**”, will provide doorstep healthcare services in hard-to-reach areas, including **32 Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (SC/ST)-reserved constituencies**.
- **Implementation and fund** : Of the total 81 units, 49 are being implemented under the **National Health Mission (NHM)**, while 32 are funded through the State government’s Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan and Tribal Sub-Plan (SCSP/TSP) allocations.
- Each mobile health unit will be **staffed with an MBBS doctor, a nurse and a laboratory technician**.
- **The services** offered will include outpatient consultations, basic diagnostic tests using rapid diagnostic kits, free medicines, referral services and community health monitoring.
- The MHUs will be implemented at the **district level with decentralised monitoring** and supervision, enabling flexibility based on local needs and geographical conditions.
- units would also be deployed during **medical emergencies and disasters**.
- Of the total, **41 vehicles have been allotted to the North Karnataka region**

‘VijAlpatha’ labs

News-

Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman launched ‘VijAlpatha’, a pilot Artificial Intelligence (AI) education initiative in hosapete

- **Aim** : equipping government school students with future-ready skills in **Artificial Intelligence, Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), robotics, coding and digital innovation**.
- **Implemented by** : the **Cyient Foundation in partnership with the Karnataka government**, was inaugurated at the **Government Girls’ Pre-University College at Amaravati in Hosapete taluk of Vijayanagara district**.
- **Benefits** : “Programmes such as VijAlpatha will help **bridge the digital divide and prepare students from government schools for emerging technologies**,”

Siddaramaiah flags off KMF’s ghee consignments to U.S., UAE, and Australia

News-

Expanding its overseas market, the Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF) formally began exports of Nandini ghee to the U.S., Australia and the UAE.

- The **KMF has got orders** for supplying its ghee to the tune of **8 tonnes from the UAE, 5 tonnes from the U.S., and one tonne from Australia**.
- KMF was presently exporting its premium products like UHT tetra pack milk, ghee, butter, cheese, dairy whitener, ice cream, flavoured milk, sweets, and savouries to **Dubai, Qatar, Brunei, Maldives, and Singapore**, which have a sizeable concentration of Kannadigas

Additional information

About KMF

- KMF is the **Apex Body** representing Dairy Farmers Co-operatives in Karnataka and is owned and managed by milk producers.
- It is the **largest cooperative dairy federation in South India** and the **second largest** in the country in terms of procurement and sales.
- **Establishment:** The organization of Village Level Dairy Co-operatives **began in 1974** as part of the country's first World Bank-funded Dairy Development Program.
- **Mission:** The core mission is to usher in rural prosperity through dairy development.
- **Motto:** The federation operates on the motto "**Quality Excellence from Cow to Consumer,**" aiming to spread the "wealth of health."
- **Network:** The federation comprises **13 District Cooperative Milk Unions**, over 10,500 Dairy Cooperative Societies, and more than 2 million milk producers.

Gruha Arogya scheme

News-

Over 40 lakh people screened for cancers under Gruha Arogya scheme

- Since the **State Health Department** extended its **Gruha Arogya scheme** across Karnataka in August, **over 40 lakh people in rural areas** have been screened for oral, breast, and cervical cancers.

The Gruha Arogya Scheme

- **Launch Date:** The scheme was officially launched on **October 24, 2024**.
- **Initiative By:** It is a flagship program of the **Government of Karnataka** (Department of Health and Family Welfare).
- **Motto:** The initiative operates under the slogan "**Healthcare at Your Doorstep**".

- **Objective:** The main goal is the early detection and management of **Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs)** to **prevent complications and premature mortality**.
- **Target Population:** The scheme specifically targets individuals **aged 30 years and above** targets **1.67 crore people**.
- **Operational Mode:** It involves door-to-door health screenings conducted by health workers (including ASHAs and Community Health Officers) on designated days (Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday).
- **Diseases Covered:** The screening focuses on **Hypertension (Blood Pressure), Diabetes, and three common types of cancer: Oral, Breast, and Cervical cancer**.
- **Benefits:** Patients diagnosed with chronic conditions like diabetes and hypertension receive free medicines delivered to their doorsteps (supply for up to 3 months).
- **Pilot Project:** The scheme was initially rolled out as a pilot in the Kolar district before the planned statewide expansion.

Kuvempu national award, 2025

News -

Konkani writer Mahabaleshwar Sail chosen for Kuvempu national award, 2025

Award: Kuvempu National Award 2025 (Kuvempu Rashtriya Puraskar)

Awardee: Mahabaleshwar Sail (Noted Konkani writer)

Issuing Authority: Rashtrakavi Kuvempu Pratishthana (Rashtrakavi Kuvempu Trust)

About Award:

- It is a **national-level literary award** conferred annually to a writer who has made significant contributions to any of the

languages recognized by the Constitution of India.

- Instituted in **memory of the late Kannada Poet Laureate Kuvempu**, it is presented on his birth anniversary (December 29), which is observed as '**Vishwa Manava Dina**' (**Universal Brotherhood Day**).
- The award carries a **cash prize of ₹5 lakh**, a **silver medal**, and a **citation**.

About Mr. Sail

- Mr. Sail served in the Indian Army and participated in the Indo-Pak War in 1965. He also served in the United Nations Peacekeeping Force on the Israel-Egypt border in 1964-65. After his military service, he worked in the postal department.
- Mr. Sail's **first novel, Kaali Ganga**, was published in 1996 and it was based on the lives of farmers along Kali river in Karwar.
- Some of his well-known works include **Hawthan, Paltadcho Munis, Yug Sanvar and Vikhar Vilkho**

Digital Mobile Planetarium programme

- **Launch Date:** The upgraded programme was flagged off on November 27, 2025.
- **Implementing Authority:** Department of Science & Technology, Government of Karnataka and executed by **KSTePS (Karnataka Science and Technology Promotion Society)**.
- **Objective:** To bridge the rural-urban gap in science education and ignite scientific curiosity among students in remote areas who cannot access city planetariums.
- **Target Audience:** Students of Government schools in rural Karnataka.
- **Key Features:**
 - ❖ The initiative uses custom-built vehicles equipped with a 5-meter inflatable dome.

- ❖ It features 360-degree fish-eye projection systems for an immersive experience.
- ❖ The vehicles are air-conditioned and equipped with advanced audio systems.

Karnataka Non-major Ports Iron Ore Handling Policy, 2025

News-

State government approves policy for iron ore exports from non-major ports in Karnataka

Background

- Amid large-scale violation of rules in extraction of iron ore and large quantities of iron ore export illegally, the State government had banned export of iron ore from 10 non-major ports in 2010 **under the Karnataka Ports (Landing and Shipping Fees) Act, 1961**.
- However, in 2022, the Supreme Court allowed export of iron ore from these ports strictly under the policy of Indian government.
- It permitted export of iron ore through ports in Karnataka as is being done in the rest of the country.

About new policy

- To clear the **export of iron ore from minor ports in Karnataka**, the State government approved Karnataka Non-major Ports Iron Ore Handling Policy, 2025/
- **Objective** : handling of iron ore through non-major ports under the **Karnataka Maritime Board**.
- "The policy is a **standard operating procedure** for the export of iron ore from these ports.

List of Karnataka's 13 Non-Major Ports:

1. Karwar (All-weather, deepwater)
2. Belekeri
3. Tadri (Tadadi)
4. Pavinakuruva (Pavinakurve)
5. Honnavar
6. Manki
7. Bhatkal
8. Kundapur (Kundapura)
9. Hangarakatta
10. Malpe
11. Padubidri
12. Old Mangalore
13. Baindur (Byndoor) (Udupi district)

- **composition** : The vice-president of the Karnataka State Higher Education Council, the Commissioner of the Department of Collegiate and Technical Education and the Director of the Department of Technical Education are members of the committee, and the Special Officer of the Higher Education Department is the member-secretary.
- **timeline** : The committee has been given two weeks' time to submit its report to the government.

Note :

- **The SEP Commission**, headed by educationist **Sukhdeo Thorat**, submitted the final report of the State Education Policy consisting of 2,197 pages to the government on August 9, 2025.
- The report made a total of **26 major recommendations related to primary education, 52 to higher education, and 20 recommendations to professional education.**

Transport Dept. rolls out AI-powered 'Smart Lock' to curb LLR fraud

News-

the Karnataka Transport Department has rolled out an AI-powered 'Smart Lock' system

About 'Smart Lock'

- It uses artificial intelligence, facial recognition, and behavioural monitoring to ensure that only genuine applicants take the test
- **Aim** : to end malpractice and improve transparency in the licensing process.
- **Developed by** : the new mechanism developed by the **Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways**



Panel formed to implement SEP recommendations

- **Headed by** : The State government has appointed a **five-member expert committee headed by the Principal Secretary** of the Higher Education Department
- **Aim** : to examine and implement the recommendations related to higher education in the State Education Policy (SEP) final report, submitted to the government by the SEP Commission.

- It has been integrated into **the Sarathi Parivahan Seva portal** as an additional security layer.
- It uses **artificial intelligence, facial recognition, and behavioural monitoring** to ensure that only genuine applicants take the test.

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