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A Weekly Current Affairs Initiative

**KAS, FDA/SDA/PDO/ GROUP C,
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By- Nandan Sir

February 4th Week 2026

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WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

FEBRUARY 4th Week 2026

KARNATAKA DARSHANA

APMC to build state-of-the-art fruit and vegetable market

News -

- The Karnataka Department of Agricultural Marketing is set to build a modern fruit and vegetable wholesale market to replace congested city markets and upgrade infrastructure.

About fruit and vegetable market

- **Objective:** To create a spacious, hygienic, and well-organized trading hub with modern facilities like cold storage to benefit both farmers and traders.
- **Location:** The project is located on 42 acres and 12 guntas of land at Singena Agrahara in Anekal taluk (off Hosur Road), situated strategically on the Peripheral Ring Road (PRR).
- **Decongestion Plan:** By moving wholesale operations to the city outskirts, the government aims to stop heavy trucks from Maharashtra, Rajasthan, and Madhya Pradesh from entering the core city, reducing traffic chaos.

Development of Turtle Trails Along Karnataka Coast

News -

- In the Union Budget 2026-27, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced the development of ecologically sustainable "Turtle Trails" along key nesting sites in coastal Karnataka, Odisha, and Kerala to boost eco-tourism.

- These trails aim to protect, monitor, and showcase the nesting sites of sea turtles that flock to the beaches between December and March.

Key Details of the Announcement:

- **Objective:** The initiative aims to promote responsible wildlife tourism while ensuring the conservation of marine biodiversity.
- **Focus Species:** The trails specifically target nesting sites for Olive Ridley turtles, which are globally vulnerable.
- **Karnataka Locations:** Experts have identified 18 beaches in Karnataka for this project, including 15 in Uttara Kannada, two in Udupi, and one in Mangaluru.

Additional Information - Olive Ridley Turtles

- **About:** They are the smallest and most abundant of all sea turtles found in the world.
- **Scientific name:** Lepidochelys olivacea; also known as the Pacific ridley sea turtle.
- **Major nesting sites in India:** Rushikulya rookery coast (Odisha), Gahirmatha beach (Bhitarkanika National park) and the mouth of the Debi River.
- **Presence:** Found in warm waters of the Pacific, Atlantic and Indian oceans.
- **Features:** Known for their unique mass nesting called Arribada, where thousands of females come together on the same beach to lay eggs.
 - These are carnivores and feed mainly on jellyfish, shrimp etc.
 - The eggs hatch in 45 to 60 days, depending on the temperature of the sand and atmosphere during the incubation period.
- **Threats:** Hunted for meat, shell and other anthropogenic factors like fishing trawlers etc.

- **Conservation Status:**
 - **IUCN Red List:** Vulnerable
 - Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972
 - CITES Appendix I

Steps Taken

- Operation Olivia of the Indian Coast Guard
- Mandatory use of Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs) to prevent accidental killing

Sandalwood Revival Plan for Karnataka

News -

- The Union Finance Minister announced a partnership between the Centre and States to boost sandalwood cultivation and post-harvest processing to restore India's global market dominance.

Revival plan of sandalwood

- **Objective:** To restore the "glory of the Indian sandalwood ecosystem" by focusing on large-scale cultivation and addressing supply shortages.
- **Current Supply Crisis:** Karnataka Soaps and Detergents Ltd. (KSDL) requires 7,000–8,000 tonnes of sandalwood annually, but domestic production currently meets only 30% of this demand.
- **Import Paradox:** To cover the shortfall, Karnataka currently imports sandalwood oil from Australia. Ironically, Australia is producing this oil from native Indian sandalwood species they began cultivating 25 years ago.

Additional Information - Indian Sandalwood (Santalum album)

- **Known as "Liquid Gold" or Chandan,** this is one of India's most valuable commercial crops.
- **Forest Type:** It is primarily found in **Tropical Deciduous Forests (Monsoon Forests).**

- **Biological Nature:** It is a **hemi-parasite (partial root parasite)**, meaning it derives some **nutrients from the roots of host plants.**
- **Distribution:** Found mainly in the Western Ghats, Deccan Plateau, and states like Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and Kerala.
- **Conservation Status:** Classified as **Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List.**
- **Key Threats:** **Sandalwood Spike Disease (SSD)**, caused by **phytoplasmas**, is a major threat with no known cure.

Karnataka's "Orange Economy" and AVGC Sector Growth

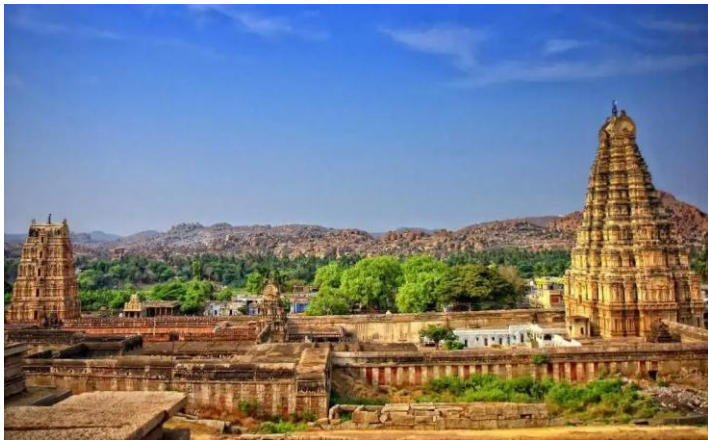
News -

- **IT-BT Minister Priyank Kharge highlighted Karnataka's decade-long leadership in the "Orange Economy" and announced the Bengaluru GAFX 2026 expo.**

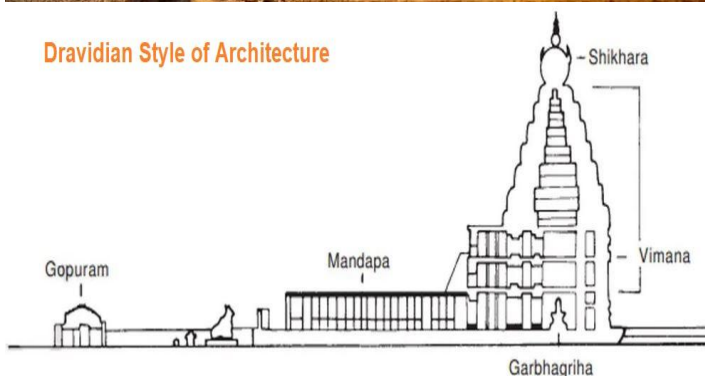
Basic terms - Orange Economy,

- It is also **known as the Creative Economy**
- It refers to knowledge-based economic activities where **individual creativity, skill, talent, and cultural heritage are transformed into economic value through Intellectual Property (IP).**
- **Origin:** Coined by **Colombian economists Felipe Buitrago and Iván Duque (former President of Colombia)** in their 2013 book, *The Orange Economy: An Infinite Opportunity.*
- **Symbolism:** The **color orange was chosen** as it has historically been associated with **culture, creativity, and identity.**
- **Core Sectors:** Includes **film, music, gaming, animation, visual effects (AVGC), fashion, publishing, software development, and cultural tourism.**
- **Recent developments - Karnataka's AVGC-XR Policy 3.0 (2024–2029)** is a strategic framework designed to establish the state as a **global leader in Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, Comics, and Extended Reality**

UNESCO Concerns on Hampi Infrastructure Projects



Dravidian Style of Architecture



News -

- The Karnataka government is preparing a **Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) report to be submitted to UNESCO by February 1, 2026**, regarding development at Anjanadri Hills.

UNESCO World Heritage Site (designated in 1986), Historical Significance

- **Capital City:** Hampi was the 14th-century capital of the Vijayanagara Empire, founded in 1336 by brothers Harihara I and Bukka Raya I.
- **Golden Era:** It reached its peak under Krishnadevaraya (1509–1530), becoming one of the world's largest and wealthiest medieval cities.
- **Decline:** The city was pillaged and abandoned following the empire's defeat by the Deccan Sultanates in the Battle of Talikota (1565).
- **Literary Accounts:** Travellers like Domingo Paes (Portuguese) and Niccolò de' Conti

(Italian) described it as more beautiful than Rome.

Architectural Highlights

- **Style:** Primarily **Dravidian**, characterized by massive enclosures, high **gopurams (gateways)**, and ornate **Kalyana Mandapas (marriage halls)**.
- **Virupaksha Temple:** One of India's oldest functioning temples (7th century), dedicated to Lord Shiva. A portion of its "Saalu Mandapa" recently required restoration after collapsing due to heavy rains.
- **Vittala Temple:** Famous for its **Stone Chariot (depicted on the ₹50 currency note)** and **musical pillars that produce melodic notes when tapped**.
- **Secular Structures:** Includes the **Lotus Mahal, Elephant Stables, and the Queen's Bath**, showcasing Indo-Islamic influences

Namma 112 Helpline

News -

- Bengaluru's emergency response system, **Namma 112**, reported a massive surge in usage and technological improvements, alongside a 9% reduction in crime cases.

Namma 112

- It is the unified emergency helpline for Bengaluru, integrating police, fire, and ambulance services into a single point of contact.
- **Managed by - Bengaluru City Police.**
- **Objective - it aims to provide rapid assistance during critical "golden hours".**

Key Services & Features

- **Unified Support:** Replaces or integrates traditional numbers like 100 (Police), 101 (Fire), and 108 (Ambulance).
- **Mental Health Support:** Recently integrated with Tele MANAS (14416) to handle psychiatric emergencies directly via the Namma 112 system.

- **Rapid Response:** Hoysala patrol teams typically reach complainants within 5 to 10 minutes in urban areas.
- **Privacy & Anonymity:** Callers can request to remain anonymous by stating, "Please keep my data anonymous" during the call.
- **WhatsApp Integration:** Citizens can also reach the helpline via **WhatsApp** at **9480801000**.
- **Multilingual Support:** The system is being upgraded to include **multilingual features** to help diverse residents communicate in their preferred language.

Prof. S. Sadagopan committee

News -

- In February 2026, the Karnataka Higher Education Department officially constituted a 10-member expert committee to address the alarming decline in engineering admissions and employability.
- The committee is chaired by Prof. S. Sadagopan, the founding director of IIT-Bangalore

Key Objectives of the Reform

- **Curriculum Revamp:** Aligning basic engineering courses (Mechanical, Civil, Electrical) with current industrial and employment requirements.
- **Intake Review:** Assessing the surplus of seats in Computer Science and related branches, where over 9,000 seats remained vacant in the 2025-26 academic year.
- **Boosting Demand:** Identifying strategies to attract students back to core engineering disciplines that are currently facing potential closure in some private institutions.
- **Employability Gap:** Addressing reports that only 17% of engineering graduates in the state are successfully securing jobs.
- **Committee Members** - The 10-member committee features a mix of high-profile academic experts from IISc and UVCE, along

with key representation from VTU, industry leaders, and government officials.

Karnataka Regional Imbalances Redressal Committee

News -

- The Karnataka Regional Imbalances Redressal Committee, chaired by eminent economist M. Govinda Rao, submitted its final report to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on January 31, 2026.
- The 2026 report highlights a troubling trend: despite Karnataka's robust overall economic growth, regional disparities have worsened since the landmark Nanjundappa Committee report of 2002.

Key Findings & Classification

- The committee evaluated all 236 taluks in the state and found that backwardness is heavily concentrated in North Karnataka.
 1. Most Backward: 93 taluks (primarily in the Kalaburagi and Belagavi divisions).
 2. More Backward: 36 taluks.
 3. Backward: 43 taluks.
 4. Developed: 64 taluks.
- **Regional Concentration:** Roughly 60% of all backward taluks are located in North Karnataka.

Major Recommendations

- The committee proposed a major structural overhaul of how Karnataka addresses regional development:
- **Abolition of Boards:** The panel recommended abolishing the Malnad Area Development Board and the Bayaluseeme Development Board, citing their failure to make a meaningful impact on infrastructure over three decades.
- **KKRDB Overhaul:** It called for a complete revamp of the Kalyana Karnataka Region Development Board (KKRDB) due to operational failures and ad-hoc planning.

- **Funding:** The committee recommended a specialized **allocation of ₹29,009 crore for the KKRDB from 2026-27 to 2030-31.**
- **Education Reform:** Noting **severe teacher shortages in the Kalaburagi division**, it suggested rationalizing and consolidating schools with low enrollment (fewer than 25 students).

‘Justice for Karnataka – Fair Share, Strong Federalism’ Campaign

News -

- Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah officially launched a public outreach **campaign titled "Justice for Karnataka – Fair Share, Strong Federalism"** on January 30, 202
- It aims **to inform citizens about the state's financial demands and alleged "injustice" in tax devolution** by the Union Government.

Key Campaign Objectives

- The campaign focuses on several **critical demands placed before the 16th Finance Commission:**
- **Restoration of Tax Share:** Reclaiming the state's share of **central tax devolution, which fell from 4.71% to 3.64%** under the previous commission, **causing an estimated loss of ₹80,000 crore.**
- **Revised Devolution Formula:** Correcting "flawed" criteria that penalise development and population control. The state seeks a reduction in income distance weightage from 45% to 25% and a return to using 1971 population data.
- **Divisible Pool Expansion:** Increasing the states' overall share of divisible taxes to 50% and placing a 5% cap on central cesses and surcharges.
- **Infrastructure & Regional Support:** Seeking ₹1.15 lakh crore for Bengaluru's infrastructure and a ₹10,000 crore special package for the backward Kalyana Karnataka region.

FICCI FLO Women-Led Industrial Park in Gauribidanur

News -

- The **FICCI FLO Women-Led Industrial Park in Gauribidanur** was formally **inaugurated on February 4, 2026.**
- This **50-acre facility is a first-of-its-kind initiative in Karnataka**, specifically designed to **support women entrepreneurs in the manufacturing sector and large-scale enterprises.**

Park Details

- **Location:** Situated in **Gauribidanur, Chikkaballapur district**, approximately 75 km from Bengaluru.
- **Scale:** The park spans **50 acres of dedicated industrial land.**
- **Target Audience:** Exclusively for members of **FLO Bangalore**, with a **focus on first-generation women entrepreneurs.**
- **Partnerships:** Developed in collaboration with the **Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB) and Karnataka Udyog Mitra (KUM).**

Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions (Karnataka) Rules, 2026

News -

- The Karnataka government published the draft **Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions (Karnataka) Rules, 2026 on January 23, 2026.**
- These rules, along with the draft Code on Wages (Karnataka) Rules, 2021, aim **to operationalise central labour codes within the state.**

Key provisions and deadlines for the draft rules include:

- **Public Consultation:** The government has invited **objections and suggestions from stakeholders (employers, unions, and HR practitioners)** within 45 days of publication.

- **Working Hours:** Daily working hours are capped at 10.5 hours, with a weekly limit of 48 hours. Certain sectors may be extended to 12-hour workdays if notified.
- **Safety and Health:** Mandates annual health examinations for eligible workers and the appointment of qualified Safety Officers in specified establishments.
- **Digital Compliance:** Introduces a common electronic registration and licensing system through portals like Karmika Spandana to promote ease of doing business.
- **Worker Welfare:** Includes special provisions for inter-state migrant workers, contract labour, and gig/platform workers.

Additional Information - Karmika Spandana

- It is the official online e-Services portal of the Department of Labour, Government of Karnataka.
- It serves as a centralized platform for employers and workers to access various labour-related services, including registrations, licensing, and grievance redressal.

Key Services and Features

- **Mandatory Registration:** Factories with more than 20 workers and commercial establishments with more than 10 workers must register through the Karmika Spandana Portal or the e-Suraksha portal.
- **Licensing:** The portal facilitates online registration and licensing for various sectors, including construction, plantations, and general manufacturing, under the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions (Karnataka) Rules.
- **Worker Welfare Schemes:** It provides access to benefits managed by the Karnataka Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board (KBOCWVB), such as:
- **Educational Assistance (Kalike Bhagya):** Financial aid for the children of registered

workers, ranging from ₹2,000 for primary school to ₹30,000 for medical courses.

- **Medical Assistance (Karmika Chikitsa Bhagya):** Coverage up to ₹2,00,000 for major ailments like heart surgery, kidney transplants, and cancer.
- **Marriage and Maternity Benefits:** Financial aid of ₹50,000 for marriage and specific assistance for maternity (Thayi Lakshmi Bond).
- **Compliance and Reporting:** Employers use the portal to comply with the Karnataka Minimum Wages Rules, ensuring proper wage payments and working hour regulations.
- **Grievance Redressal:** While "e-Spandana" is a broader public grievance system for districts like Ballari, Karmika Spandana specifically addresses labour-related issues and maintains a dedicated helpdesk at 1902

Karnataka Information Commission (KIC) News -

- The Karnataka Information Commission (KIC) has claimed to be the fastest in India for disposing of second appeal petitions under the RTI Act.

Karnataka Information Commission (KIC)

- It is an autonomous statutory body established on March 2, 2006, under the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005.
- It serves as the final appellate authority for citizens seeking information from public authorities within the state of Karnataka.

Key Leadership & Structure

- **State Chief Information Commissioner (In-Charge):** Dr. H.C. Sathyan.
- **Information Commissioners:** The commission includes several State Information Commissioners (SICs), such as Shri. Raman K., Dr. Harish Kumar, Sri. Rudranna Harthikote, and Sri. Rajashekara S..

- **Benches:** In addition to its main headquarters in Bengaluru, the KIC operates regional benches in Belagavi and Kalaburagi to improve accessibility.

Core Functions & Powers

- **Adjudication:** The KIC hears **Second Appeals and Complaints regarding the refusal of information** or delays by Public Information Officers (PIOs).
- **Penalties:** The commission has the authority to **impose financial penalties—up to ₹25,000—** on officials who delay information.
- **Judicial Authority:** It possesses the powers of a **Civil Court**, including the ability to summon witnesses, require oral or written evidence under oath, and inspect public records.

AI-Powered Software to Combat Misinformation and Hate Speech

News -

- The Karnataka Cabinet has approved the **deployment of advanced AI-based software to identify and track hate speech, deepfakes, and misinformation on digital platforms.**
- **Project Cost:** The initiative will be implemented at an estimated cost of **₹67.26 crore.**
- **Primary Aim:** To **strengthen public safety—specifically for women and children—**by detecting harmful narratives, disinformation, and Subject-Based Manipulations.

17th Bengaluru International Film Festival (BIFFes) Awards

News -

- The 17th edition of BIFFes concluded in Bengaluru, celebrating global and local cinema with a focus on women's empowerment.

17th edition of BIFF

- **Best Indian Film:** The Marathi film **Sabar Bonda**, directed by **Rohan Parashuram**

Kanawade, won the top honor in the Indian Cinema competition.

- **Best Kannada Film: Vanya**, directed by **Badiger Devendra**, was adjudged the best film in the Kannada segment. The movie depicts a father and daughter's struggle to protect their forest from corporate and political exploitation.
- **Lifetime Achievement Award: Renowned music composer and lyricist Hamsalekha** was honored for his massive contribution to the industry.

Other Notable Winners:

- **Indian Cinema:** Malayalam films **Moham** and **Kaadu** took second and third places, respectively.
- **Kannada Cinema:** **Nam Saali** (2nd place) and **Ravana Rajyadalli Navadampatigalu** (3rd place).
- **Special Mentions:** **Gondhal** (Marathi) won the FIPRESCI Award; The Republic of **Pipolipinas** (Philippines) received a Special Jury Mention.

Festival Statistics:

- **Duration:** 8 days (began January 29, 2026).
- **Scale:** Screened 300 films from 70 countries.
- **Attendance:** Witnessed a footfall of over 1 lakh people.
- **Theme:** "Stree Yendare Ashte Sake" (Is it enough to be a woman?), focusing on women's empowerment.

Karnataka Cybercrime Coordination Centre (K4C)

News -

- The State government is set to establish the **Karnataka Cybercrime Coordination Centre (K4C)**, modeled after the Union Home Ministry's **Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C)**.

Karnataka Cybercrime Coordination Centre (K4C)

- It is a state-level initiative designed to serve as the **nodal agency for combating digital crimes in Karnataka.**

K4C is planned to house four primary units:

1. **Cybercrime Tackling Unit:** For active investigation and detection.
2. **Cyber Security & Capacity Building:** Focused on training police, prosecutors, and judicial officers.
3. **Information Disorder Tackling Unit (IDTU):** Using AI to monitor and address misinformation.
4. **Anti-CSAM Unit:** Dedicated to tackling Child Sexual Abuse Material.
 - **Predictive Policing:** The centre aims to use Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning to predict vulnerabilities and reduce incident response times by up to 40% by 2030.

Sustainable Tourism Development in Udupi

News -

- The Union Tourism Ministry has identified **four destinations in Udupi district to be developed under the National Mission for Developing Globally Competitive Tourism Destinations.**
- **Identified Destinations:** The four locations under consideration are **Kodi-Kanyana, Kodi-Kundapur, Barkur Port area, and Trasi-Maravanthe.**
- **Final Selection:** One of these four destinations will be selected for **comprehensive development to meet international standards.**
- **Objective:** The project aims to **develop more than 50 global-level tourist spots across India**, focusing on sustainable and responsible tourism that protects natural and cultural resources.

Key Features: The chosen site will feature:

1. Use of renewable energy.
2. Infrastructure developed to global standards.
3. Environmentally friendly facilities.
4. Global marketing campaigns to attract international tourists.

5. **Funding & Model:** The Union government has allocated a ₹300 crore grant for this pan-India scheme.

ARAI Research Centre in Mandya

News -

- Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy announced that a world-class **Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI) centre will be set up in Mandya.**
- **Investment:** The project will be established at a total cost of **₹500 crore**,

Key details regarding the project include:

- **Location:** The Karnataka government has identified **105 acres of land in Muddanaghatta and Heggadithihalli villages, located in Basaralu Hobli.**
- This site is roughly 30 km from Mandya and 500 metres from the Mandya–Nagamangala State Highway.
- **Specialisation:** While it serves the broader automotive sector, it is proposed as **India's first dedicated Construction and Infrastructure Equipment Testing facility.**
- **Regional Impact:** Announced by Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy, the centre is expected to **boost the automobile industry across Karnataka, specifically benefiting the Mandya and Mysuru regions.**

Bhoo Guarantee

News-

- **The Chief Minister of Karnataka launched the "Bhoo Guarantee" scheme during a mega convention in Haveri**, marking the state government's 1,000 days in office.

Bhoo Guarantee

- **Ownership Rights:** The scheme **grants legal ownership (title deeds or hakku patra) to marginalized communities, including Dalits, Adivasis, and agricultural laborers** who have lived on government or private land for years without legal documentation.

- **Mass Distribution:** At the launch event in Haveri, title deeds were distributed to over 1.06 lakh (106,000) beneficiary families.
- **Doorstep Delivery:** Updated land records are being delivered directly to farmers' doorsteps through a streamlined process managed by the Revenue Department.
- **Digital Integration:** The initiative includes scanning millions of pages of land records and Aadhaar-seeding land parcels to ensure a clean, modern database.

Context of the "Sixth Guarantee"

- This scheme joins the five original guarantees launched by the Congress government in 2023:
 1. Shakti: Free bus travel for women.
 2. Gruha Jyoti: Up to 200 units of free electricity per household.
 3. Anna Bhagya: 10 kg of free food grains for BPL families.
 4. Gruha Lakshmi: ₹2,000 monthly allowance for female heads of families.
 5. Yuva Nidhi: Unemployment stipends for graduates and diploma holders.

Karnataka Introduces 10% Women's Quota in Fire Services

News -

- The Karnataka government has proposed changing the official designation from "Fireman" to "Firefighter" and introducing a 10% reservation for women to promote gender inclusivity in the state's fire department.
- **Union Government Directive:** This decision follows instructions from the Union Ministry of Home Affairs to encourage greater participation of women in fire services across India.
- **New 10% Women's Quota:** Under the new policy, women will receive a 10% reservation in direct recruitment for the posts of firefighter and station officer.

- **Legal Framework:** These historic changes will be officially implemented by amending the Karnataka State Fire and Emergency Services Rules, 2013.
- **Department Background:** Established in 1964, the state fire department handles fire accidents, natural disasters, floods, and animal rescues.

Free Bicycle Scheme in Karnataka (2026)

News -

- The Karnataka State Policy and Planning Commission, headed by Deputy Chairman B.R. Patil has submitted a 210-page report to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah recommending major educational reforms to be included in the 2026–27 State Budget.
- **Reviving the Free Bicycle Scheme:** The panel strongly advises restarting the free bicycle distribution program for girl students in government high schools to provide safe, last-mile transportation where bus connectivity is poor.

Free Bicycle Distribution Scheme in Karnataka

- **Objective-** It was originally launched to improve school attendance and reduce dropout rates among students in rural and hilly areas.

Current Status

- **Discontinued:** The scheme was officially paused after the 2019–20 academic year.
- **Alternative:** The government currently provides free bus passes to rural students to facilitate their travel to school.

'Mobile Bidi Pustaka Hidi' Campaign

News -

- The Karnataka State government is launching the 'Mobile bidi pustaka hidi' (Put down your mobile and pick up a book) campaign to reduce children's screen time and systematically develop a habit of reading.

'Mobile Bidi Pustaka Hidi' (Drop the Mobile, Pick up a Book)

- It is a statewide campaign launched by the Government of Karnataka in February 2026
- Objective - to combat mobile phone addiction and revive reading habits among schoolchildren.

Key Details of the Campaign

- **Primary Objective:** To reduce excessive screen time for children under 16 and encourage them to cultivate a love for physical books and libraries.
- **Target Audience:** Approximately 50 lakh students across government, aided, and private schools in Karnataka.
- **Implementation:** Overseen by the Department of School Education and Literacy (DSEL) and the Department of State Education Research and Training (DSERT).

Core Strategies & Initiatives

- **Digital Detox for Parents:** The campaign urges parents to lead by example by putting away their own phones when children are at home and reading books instead.
- **School Integration:** Teachers are instructed to organize regular parent-teacher meetings to discuss the negative effects of gadget addiction and set healthy limits on mobile use.
- **Holistic Development:** Beyond reading, the campaign promotes physical activities, sports, and hobbies to distract children from digital devices.
- **Inter-Departmental Support:** The education department plans to collaborate with the Library, Health, Police, and Women and Child Welfare departments to raise awareness about cybercrimes and online safety.
- **Note -** The campaign was inspired by a grassroots movement led by a government school teacher, T.N. Chikkaveeraiah, from Ramanagara, who initially started the

"Mobile Bidi Pustaka Hidi" effort to pull his students away from screens

Export of Karnataka's GI-Tagged Produce to the Maldives

News -

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently highlighted the first-ever air-shipment of three Geographical Indication (GI)-tagged agricultural products from Karnataka to the Maldives during his 'Mann Ki Baat' radio broadcast.
- Export Statistics: The successful trial shipment included 500 kg of Nanjangud Rasabale (bananas), 250 kg of Mysuru betel leaves, and 500 kg of Indi lemons.

Nanjangud Rasabale (Banana):

- **GI Status:** Awarded in 2006.
- **Region:** Grown in Mysuru and Chamarajanagar districts of Karnataka.
- **Unique Features:** Known for its unique aroma, thick pulp, and medicinal properties (believed to cure neurological ailments).
- **Soil Requirement:** Thrives specifically in black clay alluvial saline soil found on the banks of the Kapila River.
- **Threat:** Susceptible to Panama Wilt disease.

Mysuru Betel Leaves (Veelyadele):

- **Region:** Primarily grown in and around Mysuru.
- **Characteristics:** Locally known as Chigurele, they are prized for their smooth texture, taste, and quality.

Indi Limons (Lime):

- **Region:** Cultivated in the Indi region of Vijayapura (Bijapur) district, Karnataka.
- **Export Value:** Hailed as "superfoods" in international markets like the Maldives due to their high quality

Karez Water System

News -

- **Recent unauthorized digging has damaged the centuries-old Naubad–Aliyabad karez in Bidar, causing the district administration to halt activities to protect this ancient water system.**

Karez (Qanat):

- It is an **ancient underground water-harvesting system.**
- It uses a gently sloping horizontal tunnel to **bring groundwater from higher areas to the surface using gravity.**
- **Key Design Features:** The system includes vertical shafts at regular intervals for air and maintenance. **Because the water flows underground, it highly minimizes water evaporation and contamination.**
- **Historical Background:** It was built in the 15th century during the Bahmani Sultanate. It is one of India's **earliest adaptations of Persian-Central Asian water technology.**
- **Unique Geology:** The Bidar karez is extremely rare because it is **carved entirely through laterite rock**, unlike most others globally that are built in limestone or soft soil.
- **Ecological Importance:** It is **not just a monument, but a living groundwater recharge system** that can help solve Bidar's chronic water shortage. If properly conserved, it has the **potential to become a UNESCO World Heritage site.**

New 'Sahyadri Sindhura' Red Rice Variety

News -

- **The Keladi Shivappa Nayaka University of Agricultural and Horticultural Sciences in Shivamogga recently launched a highly popular, nutrient-rich red rice variety named "Sahyadri Sindhura."**

'Sahyadri Sindhura' Red Rice Variety

- **The Cross-Breed:** This new rice is a hybrid created by crossing two popular traditional rice varieties: Jyothi and Biliya.

- **Nutritional Benefits:** This fine-grain red rice is packed with **high protein, iron, and zinc.** It also has a **low glycaemic index, making it a much healthier dietary option.**
- **High Crop Yield:** It gives an impressive yield of **53 to 54 quintals per hectare in irrigated lands**, easily outperforming traditional varieties that only yield 40 to 45 quintals.
- **Fast Maturation:** The crop grows **relatively fast** and is ready to harvest in just 120 days.
- **Disease and Pest Resistance:** Farmers benefit greatly because the crop is **naturally resistant to blast disease and can tolerate common agricultural pests like leaf folders and stem borers.**
- **Extra Benefits for Farmers:** Along with fetching a **strong market price (₹70 to ₹80 per kg)**, the crop produces **high-quality straw that serves as excellent fodder for cattle.**
- **Official Recognition:** Developed after five years of rigorous research by a team led by **Dr. B.M. Dushyantha Kumar**, the variety is officially registered with the National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources in New Delhi.

Tulu language

News -

- **The Karnataka government has expressed support for declaring Tulu as the State's second additional official language.**

Tulu language

- **Historical Roots and Geography:** Boasting a recorded history of over 3,000 years, Tulu is predominantly spoken in the coastal Karnataka districts of Udupi and Dakshina Kannada.
- **Linguistic Heritage:** Featuring its own distinct script, Tulu holds the distinction of being one of **only five literary Dravidian languages, alongside Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, and Malayalam.**
- **Constitutional Recommendation:** A state-constituted committee in 2023, headed by educationist Mohan Alva, officially recommended declaring Tulu as the State's second official language under Article 345 of the Indian Constitution.

ಮಿಷನ್ ಆರಕ್ಷಕ

ಪಿಎಸ್‌ಬಿ/ಇಎಸ್‌ಬಿ/ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಗ್ರೂಪ್ ಸಿ @ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

ಬ್ಯಾಚ್ - 4 ತರಬೇತಿ ಪ್ರಾರಂಭ **23ನೇ ಫೆಬ್ರವರಿ 2026**

ಪ್ರವೇಶ ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆ

ಪರೀಕ್ಷಾ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 18ನೇ ಫೆಬ್ರವರಿ 2026

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ಒಟ್ಟು ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆಗಳು **25**

ಪ್ರಾರಂಭದ ದಿನಾಂಕ:
9ನೇ ಮಾರ್ಚ್ 2026

- ವಿಭಾಗೀಯ ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆಗಳು = **15 ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆಗಳು** [ಪರಿಕಲ್ಪನೆಗಳ ಅರ್ಥೈಸುವಿಕೆಯ ಮೇಲೆ ಕೇಂದ್ರೀಕರಣ]
- ಪ್ರಚಲಿತ ಘಟನೆಗಳು + **2 ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆಗಳು** [ಬಜೆಟ್ ಮತ್ತು ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಸಮೀಕ್ಷೆಯನ್ನು ಒಳಗೊಂಡಿರುತ್ತವೆ]
- ಪೂರ್ಣ ಪ್ರಮಾಣದ ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆಗಳು = **8 ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆಗಳು**



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TIME TABLE

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ನಿಲ್ದಾಣದ ಎದುರು, RPC ಲೇಔಟ್, ವಿಜಯನಗರ,
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