"Bitchat access removed in India after Centre's demand. When citizens keep finding ways to communicate, the government keeps finding ways to silence them

Priyank Kharge, Home Minister

# Karwar-B'luru VB: Coastal dists divided over route

SUBHASH CHANDRA N S @ Karwar

A debate has emerged between residents of Uttara Kannada and Dakshina Kannada over the proposed Vande Bharat train connectivity between Bengaluru and Karwar, with passenger groups from Uttara Kannada opposing demand for the service to enter Mangaluru Central station.

Social media campaigns originating from Dakshina Kannada have called for the train to halt at both Mangaluru Central and Mangaluru Junction, arguing that a Bengaluru-Karwar service should adequately serve Mangaluru. However, railway user groups and passenger representatives from Surathkal, Udupi and Karwar have rejected the proposal, contending that such a diversion would significantly extend travel time for passengers bound for northern coastal districts.

Rajeev Gaonkar of the Uttara Kannada Rail Seva Samiti said Coastal Karnataka extends far beyond Mangaluru and encompasses numerous towns, educational institutions, industrial centres, tourist destinations and passenger catchment areas along nearly 300 km of coastline.

He pointed out that Mangaluru itself is served by several railway stations, including Bantwal, Farangipete, Padeel, Jokatte and Surathkal (Mangaluru North), allowing commuters to access different parts of the city with minimal additional travel. According to him, extending the train to Mangaluru Central would add nearly two hours to the journey for passengers travelling to Udupi, Kundapura and Karwar.

Gaonkar argued that passengers arriving from Bengaluru could reach Mangaluru city from stations such as Bantwal within a short period, while operational constraints often mean trains take considerably longer to cover the final stretch into the city's central stations.

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited

TENDER NOTIFICATION

(THROUGH KARNATAKA PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY)

No. [illegible] Date: 03.10.2026

KPTCL invites Bids (on percentage rate basis) on electronic mode for the following works in a Combined Packages against following Enquiry Numbers.

Enquiry number & Name of the works

I. KPTCL/2026-27/SS/WORK_INDENT4229

Work-A: 1) Providing additional 1x500MVA, 400/220/33kV Transformer in existing 400/220kV Guttur Receiving station at Guttur village, Harihara Taluk, Davanagere District.

2) Construction of 220kv DC line on DC tower at 400/220kV Guttur Receiving station for a distance of 0.120Kms using Drake conductor on DC tower in Harihara Taluk, Davanagere District.

3) Renovation & Modernization of existing 400/220kV Guttur Receiving station in Harihara Taluk, Davanagere District.

Work-B: For providing spare 1x500MVA, 400/220/33kV Interconnecting Transformer at 400kV Doni Receiving station in Mundargi Taluk, Gadag District.

Work-C: Providing additional 1x500MVA, 400/220kV/33kV ICT at GIS/AIS 400/220kV Hiremallanahole (Jagaluru) Receiving station in Jagaluru Taluk, Davanagere District.

Work-D: Providing additional 3rd 1x500MVA, 400/220kV/33kV ICT and additional 1x125MVAr Bus reactor at 400/220kV Firozabad Receiving station in Kalaburgi Taluk & District.

Work-E: Providing 1x125MVAr, 400kV Bus Reactor at Proposed 400/220kV GIS Receiving Station Dommasandra in Bengaluru East Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District.

on Total Turnkey basis including Supply of all Materials/equipments, Mandatory Spares, Erection (including dismantling and Civil Works) of all materials/equipments, Testing and Commissioning.

Last date & time for receipt of Bids is 06.11.2026 @ 15:30hrs.

II. KPTCL/2026-27/SS/WORK_INDENT4220

Work-A: Providing additional 1x20MVA, 110/33kV Power Transformer with 01 Bank and 02 Feeders at 110kV sub-station Hiremurali in Muddebihal Taluk, Vijayapura District.

Work-B: Providing additional 1x20MVA, 110/11kV Power Transformer at 110/11kV Lachyan sub-station in Indi Taluk, Vijayapura District.

Work-C: Augmentation of 1x10MVA,110/11kV Power Transformer by 1x20MVA, 110/11kV Power Transformer at 110/11kV Bidi sub-station in Khanapur Taluk, Belagavi District.

Work-D: Providing additional 1x20 MVA, 110/33kV Power Transformer at 110/33/11kV Udyambag sub-station in Belagavi Taluk & District.

III. KPTCL/2026-27/SS/WORK_INDENT4247

Work-A: Augmentation of 2x20MVA, 66/11kV Power Transformers by 2x31.5 MVA, 66/11kV Power Transformers at 66/11kV Bannerghatta Road sub-station in Bengaluru South Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District.

Work-B: Augmentation of 2x20MVA, 66/11kV Power Transformers by 2x31.5MVA, 66/11kV Power Transformers at 66/11kV Jigani sub-station in Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District.

Work-C: Augmentation of existing 2x12.5MVA, 66/11kV Power Transformers by 2x31.5 MVA, 66/11kV Power Transformers at 66/11kV Chokkasandra sub-station in Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District.

on Partial Turnkey Basis, including Supply of all Materials/Equipments and Erection (including dismantling & Civil Works) of all Materials/Equipments, Testing and Commissioning. (for Sl. No. II & III).

The bids will be received through KPP Portal only. The details regarding participation in the e-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in with hyperlink "E Procurement KPTCL" or https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after 07.10.2026 (for Sl. I) & 06.10.2026 @15:00Hrs. (for Sl. No. II & III). Any extension of Due date for Bid submission will be intimated in the KPP Portal. Any details required in this regard can also be had from the Office of the undersigned during Office hours.

All Corrigendum/Addendums shall be noticed by the bidders before the last date of submission of the Bids.

Sd/- Chief General Manager(Tech.),
KPTCL, Corporate Office, 11th Floor,
Kaveri Bhavana, K.G.Circle, Bengaluru - 560 009.

# Pharma bodies seek tighter price checks on costly meds

GAYATHRI M KURUP @Bengaluru

AS the Karnataka government seeks central intervention over wide gaps between institutional procurement costs and the MRP of high-value medicines, pharmacists and drug trade representatives have called for tighter price regulation and greater transparency in hospital billing.

Karnataka's Food Safety and Drug Administration found 253 drugs with extreme pricing gaps, with MRPs ranging from 10 to over 82 times their landing cost. The government has sought mandatory disclosure of landing cost and MRP on patient bills, expansion of price controls, and regulation of margins on high-value medicines and hospital consumables.

Institutional discounts are significant in the case of injectables and consumables, which hospitals procure in large quantities through tenders, said Ramesh Babu of the Bengaluru Pharma Association. While retail pharmacies generally receive limited trade margins, hospitals can negotiate substantially, he said.

Pharmacists should not be seen as the primary beneficiaries of the price difference, and the focus should instead be on the pricing structure adopted for institutional supplies, Babu said. He added that pharmacists were willing to reduce or even forgo margins on cancer medicines if manufacturers brought down the MRP.

Several high-cost and critical-care medicines do not ordinarily reach retail pharmacies as they are supplied through hospital dispensaries, said Raghunath Reddy, president of the Karnataka Chemists and Druggists Association (KCDA). As a result, patients may have little idea of the actual price, he said. He also claimed that pharmaceutical companies may provide hospitals with additional rebates or incentives over and above the institutional discount, and called for greater scrutiny of hospital bills and procurement records.

The margins available to wholesalers and retailers are comparatively limited, said Ravindra Bhusnur, vice-president of the Karnataka Pharma Retailers & Distributors Organisation. Wholesalers generally receive around 8-10% and retailers around 16-20%, while the larger benefit of institutional discounts can remain with the institution where the medicine is sold, he said. Many hospitals operate their own pharmacy counters, he added, stressing that the association has urged the government and the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority to bring down medicine prices.

The three representatives supported extending price controls to high-value medicines. Medicines already covered by the Drug Price Control Order are sold within government-fixed ceilings, and bringing more high-value and high-volume medicines under similar regulation would benefit patients, Bhusnur said.

# Cong MLAs from Kolar-CB Pur meet CM amid murmurs of discontent

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

SEVERAL Congress legislators from the Kolar-Chikkaballapur region met Chief Minister DK Shivakumar at his Sadashivanagar residence in Bengaluru on Sunday, triggering speculation over fresh differences within the ruling party.

Former minister MC Sudhakar, KGF MLA Roopakala M Shashidhar, Mulbagal MLA Kothanur Manjunath, Bangarpet MLA SN Narayanaswamy and Bagepalli MLA S N Subba Reddy were among those who called on the CM. The meeting assumes significance as several issues have reportedly caused resentment among the legislators from the region. Some MLAs are said to be unhappy with the functioning of certain ministers, while differences have also surfaced among legislators during the recent Assembly session.

The visit also comes against the backdrop of a social media post by Congress MLA Pradeep Eshwar, who had criticised the government and targeted former minister and Chintamani MLA Dr M C Sudhakar's constituency-related issues. His remarks reportedly upset Sudhakar, who is learnt to have raised the matter with the CM. The MLAs' meeting with Shivakumar also comes amid reported differences involving Minister KH Muniyappa.

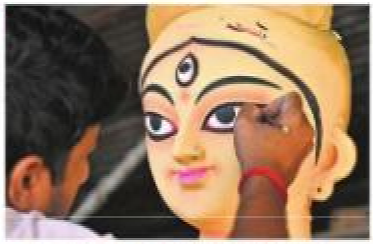
The reported differences involving MLA Roopakala Shashidhar and some of the Kolar MLAs have further added to Congress' unease. The meeting comes days after concerns raised by senior Congress legislators over the functioning of the government.

Meanwhile, Bangarpet MLA SN Narayanaswamy said there was no factionalism in the district and that the legislators had met the CM to discuss development issues. Narayanaswamy said the MLAs had also sought a probe into alleged irregularities running into hundreds of crores of rupees in the Kolar-Chikkaballapur District Central Cooperative Bank during the tenure of former chairman Govinda Gowda.

EXPRESS READ

## Garlic farmers hit hard as prices of seeds rise sharply

VIJAYAPURA: The farmers who suffered crop losses due to drought during the Kharif season are facing another challenge as they prepare for garlic cultivation in the Rabi season, with the price of sowing seeds witnessing a steep increase. Garlic is predominantly cultivated during the Rabi season in Vijayapura as the crop grown during Kharif is more vulnerable to pest and disease attacks, often resulting in lower yields. Last year, garlic sowing seeds were available at Rs 3,000 to Rs 6,000 per quintal. This year, however, the price has shot up to Rs 15,000–Rs 20,000 per quintal. ENS



DURGA TAKES SHAPE

An artist paints an idol of Goddess Durga ahead of Durga Puja in Bengaluru on Sunday | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

# SHIFT TO KPS MAY HIT RURAL CHILDREN HARD

ANUBHAB ROY @Bengaluru

AS school Education and Literacy Minister Madhu Bangarappa is going full steam establishing Karnataka Public Schools (KPSs) across the state – despite his assurance of not closing existing government schools in Karnataka – it is mostly the rural students who are at the receiving end.

The students being shifted to KPSs from their local schools are facing severe socioeconomic hindrances that undermine the potential of any sustainable education for them, let alone a holistic one. The minister has been consistently batting for the KPS model of education, which envisions unified campuses for education from the pre-primary to pre-university levels. A couple of months earlier, Bangarappa announced that 1,000 KPSs would be established across Karnataka in phases.

However, education activists and some officials within the department believe that the move will have grave consequences. Personnel at the state government's School Development and Monitoring Committee (SDMC) are equally concerned by the developments. "Although he (Madhu Bangarappa) said during the legislative session that he would not close down any government schools, on the contrary, there are attempts to do so. The Right to Education Act accounts for neighbourhood schools within walking distance as a very clearly defined responsibility of both local bodies and the state government," said Dr Niranjanaradhya VP, the chief convenor of the People's Alliance for Fundamental Right to Education.

An SDMC member from Chitradurga told TNIE, "The school in my neighbourhood has around 90 students, and all of them are eager learners. The closure of this school will be damaging for their development. Many of their parents are farmers who cannot afford to send them to faraway KPSs."

The SDMC member also cited child labour as an obvious consequence of the development, with parents ultimately giving up on their children's education. "Many have stopped sending their children to school and have started taking them to the farmlands instead. This leaves the children destined to spend the most developmentally crucial years of their lives in daily toil," he said. Dr Niranjanaradhya raised the question of community as a pedagogical necessity, noting how important it is for children – especially at early developmental stages – to stay in proximity of their respective communities. "They are deprived of interacting with their own circles and family, which is the essential future of a type of education where socialisation is the main objective. There are various models across the world where low attendance has never been a variable in the denial of a fundamental right," he said.

# Rare inscription with curse against theft found in Ballari

KIRAN BALANNANAVAR @ Sandur/Ballari

A rare Kannada inscription carrying an unusual curse against theft has been discovered on the bund of an agricultural field at Dodda Anthapur village in Sandur taluk of Ballari district, offering a glimpse into the agricultural practices, property protection and social beliefs of the post-Vijayanagara period.

The four-line inscription, found on a land belonging to a farmer named Tippappa, is about three feet tall and one-and-a-half feet wide. It is believed to date back to the period of local chieftains after the Vijayanagara Empire, based on its script and style. The inscription was documented by the Vijayanagara Tirugata Research Team during a field survey.

The inscription mentions a person named Kadaba and his agricultural field, warning against the theft of sedhe, an agricultural material. Researchers said such harsh expressions were used to discourage theft and protect agricultural property through religious and social beliefs.

The inscription also features a distinctive human sculpture below the text, depicting a man in an unusual posture. Professor H Thippeswamy, Director of the Nandihalli Postgraduate Centre of Vijayanagara Sri Krishnadevaraya University, said the sculpture and the unusual curse made the inscription.

ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್ ಆಫ್ ಬರೋಡ
बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ौदा
Bank of Baroda

REGIONAL OFFICE, BENGALURU NORTH : 4TH FLOOR, VIJAYA TOWER, 41/2, MG ROAD, BENGALURU - 560001. Phone: 080 25011520, 8547008778.
E-mail: recovery.blrnorth@bankofbaroda.co.in, Website: https://bankofbaroda.bank.in

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES "APPENDIX- IV-A [See proviso to Rule 8 (6) & 9 (1)]

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) & 9 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s), Mortgagor (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Bank of Baroda, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is" and "As is what is" basis for recovery of dues in below mentioned accounts. The details of Borrower/s/Mortgagor/Guarantor/Secured Asset/Dues/Reserve Price/e-Auction date & Time, EMD and Bid Increase Amount are mentioned below–

| Name & address of Borrower/s/Guarantor / Mortgagor/s | Description of the Immovable property | Total Dues | Date & time of e-Auction | 1) Reserve Price, 2) Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) 3) Bid Increase Amount | Status of Possession (Constructive/ Physical) Property | Property Inspection Date & Time |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| (1) Sri. AJAY KUMAR BANGERA, Residing at [illegible] JP nagar 7th phase, Bangalore-560078 | Schedule A property: [illegible]<br>Schedule B property: [illegible]<br>Schedule C Property: [illegible] | Rs. 74,55,895.00 [illegible] as on 27.06.2026 plus further interest and other charges. Branch: Kumaraswamy layout Branch | 23.10.2026 & From 02:00 PM to 06:00 PM | Reserve Price: Rs. 55,00,000.00 EMD: Rs. 5,50,000.00 Bid Increment Amount: Rs. 25,000.00 | Physical Possession | With Prior Appointment from Authorised Officer |
| (2) M/s Suvastra India (Applicant) Partners, Mr. B. Karthigeyan, M/s Supreme HealthCare (Bangalore) Pvt. Ltd. [illegible] Guarantors: M/s Supreme Health care Private Limited, [illegible] Mr. Karthigeyan B, [illegible] Mrs Sowrya R Krishnan, [illegible] Mr. Amarnath Shetty, [illegible] Raghavendra R, [illegible] Rajendar Sambhasan, [illegible] Rajeshwari R, [illegible] | [illegible] | Rs. 16.65 Crore [illegible] as on 31.05.2026 plus further interest and other charges. Branch: Jalahalli Branch | 23.10.2026 & From 02:00 PM to 06:00 PM | Reserve Price: Rs. 4,47,32,000/- EMD: Rs. 44,73,200/- Bid Increment Amount: Rs.50,000/- | Physical Possession | With Prior Appointment from Authorised Officer |
|  | [illegible] | Rs. 16.65 Crore [illegible] as on 31.05.2026 plus further interest and other charges. Branch: Jalahalli Branch | 23.10.2026 & From 02:00 PM to 06:00 PM | Reserve Price: Rs. 2,65,00,000/- EMD: Rs. 26,50,000/- Bid Increment Amount: Rs. 50,000/- | Physical Possession | With Prior Appointment from Authorised Officer |

For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer/visit to the website link https://baanknet.com. Also, prospective bidders may contact the Authorised officer on Tel No 080 -25110520 Mobile: 8547008778

Date: 05.10.2026, Place: Bengaluru Sd/- Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda