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**KAS, FDA/SDA/PDO/ GROUP C,
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August 4th Week 2026

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WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

AUGUST 4TH WEEK 2026

Chalking out plans for nanotech's quick growth in Karnataka



Why in News

The **Government of Karnataka** has announced plans to establish a **Nanotechnology Mission** and a **Nanotechnology Manufacturing Corridor** to accelerate the state's **nanotechnology sector**, focusing heavily on **talent creation** and advanced infrastructure.

Key Highlights

- **Event Context:** The announcements were made during the curtain raiser for **Bengaluru India Nano 2026**, the **14th edition** of Karnataka's flagship nanotech exposition.
- **Event Theme:** The 2026 exposition is themed 'Nanotech's Next Frontier: AI & Beyond: Conceive, Converge and Commercialise', scheduled for **August 3-5** at **The LaLiT, Bengaluru**.
- **Key Interventions Planned:** The state aims to set up a dedicated **Nanotechnology Mission** in association with industry partners and is considering a specialized **Nanotechnology Manufacturing Corridor**.

- **Talent Development:** The government is committing to collaborative talent creation with **IITs, research organisations, academia, and industry** to meet the demands of this highly interdisciplinary sector.
- **Strategic Applications Mentioned:** Nanotech will be leveraged for enhanced safety (**sensitive sensors, ultra-strong protective materials, chemical neutralisers**), healthcare (**nano-robots to kill cancer cells**), and low-electricity **AI devices**.
- **Energy Efficiency Paradigm:** Experts highlighted that while a modern data centre GPU consumes **35 to 50 times more electricity** than the human brain, nanoscale manipulation can create fundamentally faster and more resilient, energy-efficient systems.
- **National Context:** India is witnessing a paradigm shift in its **semiconductor aspirations**, expecting rapid progress in **advanced manufacturing, nano-fabrication, and lithography** to build a **self-reliant electronics ecosystem**.

Additional Information

Nano Mission (National Mission on Nano Science and Technology)

- **Launch Year: 2007** (Launched as an umbrella capacity-building programme).
- **Objectives:** To foster, promote, and develop all aspects of **Nanoscience and Nanotechnology** in India, translating basic research into useful products and processes for national development.
- **Beneficiaries:** **Scientific community, academic institutions, startups, and technology-driven industries** in India.

- **Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Science and Technology** (Implemented by the **Department of Science and Technology - DST**).
- **Component Breakdown:**
 - **Basic Research Promotion:** Funding individual and group research projects.
 - **Infrastructure Development:** Establishing centers of excellence and shared major facilities (e.g., Nano Science and Technology Institutes).
 - **Nano Applications and Technology Development:** Supporting industry-academia partnerships for commercializing nanotech.
 - **Human Resource Development:** Offering specialized fellowships and supporting postgraduate programs in nanotechnology.
 - **International Collaborations:** Facilitating joint research with global nanotech hubs.

Karnataka's Shilpa wins bronze at Commonwealth Games



Why in News

Para-athlete **Shilpa K.S.** from **Mysuru** made history by securing a **bronze medal** in the **women's F57 shotput** event at the **2026 Commonwealth Games** in **Glasgow**.

Key Highlights

- **Historic Achievement:** **Shilpa, 37**, is the **first para-athlete** from **Karnataka** to win a medal at the quadrennial multi-sport event since its inception.

- **Event Details:** The medal was secured in the **women's F57 shotput** event on **Monday** at the **2026 Commonwealth Games** in **Glasgow**.
- **Classification Criteria:** The **F57** is a para-athletics classification event specifically designed for **seated athletes** with **lower limb impairments**.
- **Personal Background:** The athlete tragically lost her **left leg** at the age of **four** due to a **road accident**.

'Soligas an example against fortress conservation approach'

Why in News

A recent study in the journal *Ecosystems and People* highlights the **Soliga tribe** of the **Biligiri Rangaswamy Temple Wildlife Sanctuary (BRTWS)** as a successful model of community-led conservation, countering the exclusionary "**fortress conservation**" model.

Key Highlights

- **Research Publication:** The article, titled 'Fortress conservation versus traditional forest management', was co-authored by researchers from **Charles Darwin University**, the **Institute for Social and Economic Change**, and the **Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment**.
- **Fortress Conservation Critique:** The traditional conservation approach, which focuses on evacuating or alienating **indigenous rights**, has led to widespread **uprooting and distress** worldwide.
- **Traditional Management Practices:** Historically, **Soligas** managed the **Biligiri** landscape using **mosaic litter burning** and **small-scale swidden agriculture**.

- **Invasive Species Control:** These traditional methods naturally controlled noxious invasive weeds like *Lantana camara*.
- **Ecological Synergies:** Traditional cultivation cleared lands that later enabled the colonization of **palatable grasses**, serving as food for herbivores and subsequently supporting carnivores like **tigers**.
- **Demographic Context:** The **Western Ghats** region hosts approximately **5,000,000 Adivasi people** across **Kerala and Karnataka**, according to the **2011 Census**.
- **Cultural Integration:** The **Biligiri landscape** is deeply embedded with hundreds of **sacred and cultural sites**, forming an integral part of the **Soligas'** ceremonies and norms.
- **Policy Recommendation:** Collaborative, community-based conservation acts as a **win-win** by reducing government management costs, protecting wildlife, and helping meet **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.

Additional Information

Soliga Tribe

- An indigenous community residing primarily in the **Biligiri Rangan Hills (BR Hills)** and associated ranges in **Chamarajanagar district, Karnataka**, known for their deep ecological knowledge and non-timber forest product (NTFP) collection.
- The **Soligas** made history by becoming the first tribal community living inside the core area of a tiger reserve in India to have their **forest rights officially recognized** under the **Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006**, setting a legal precedent for community-led conservation.

Biligiri Rangaswamy Temple (BRT) Tiger Reserve

- **Location:** Situated in Chamarajanagar district, Karnataka, at the confluence of the Western Ghats and Eastern Ghats.

- **Protected Area History:** It was declared a Wildlife Sanctuary in 1974 and became a Tiger Reserve in 2011 under Project Tiger.
- **Landscape:** The reserve consists of dry deciduous, moist deciduous, scrub and evergreen/semievergreen forests, varying with altitude.
- **Biodiversity:** It supports tigers, leopards, Asian elephants, gaur, sambar, chital, wild dogs (dhole) and sloth bears.
- **Ecological Corridor:** BRT is an important wildlife corridor between the Western and Eastern Ghats, allowing movement of elephants and other wildlife and supporting genetic exchange.
- **Tribal Communities:** The Soliga (Solega) tribal community has a close traditional association with the forest and its resources.
- **Unique Feature:** The reserve derives its name from Biligiri Rangaswamy Temple, dedicated to Lord Ranganatha, located on the Biligiri Rangaswamy Hills.
- **River System:** The Cauvery River and its tributaries influence the broader landscape around the reserve

Bescom launches PM-E DRIVE portal for private Charge Point Operators

Why in News

The **Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited (Bescom)** has launched a dedicated online portal under the **PM E-DRIVE Scheme**. This portal facilitates the establishment of **public EV charging stations** by private **Charge Point Operators (CPOs)** in Karnataka.

Key Highlights

- **Ministry:** The **Ministry of Heavy Industries** launched the PM E-DRIVE scheme
- **Charging Infrastructure Allocation:** **₹2,000 crore** has been earmarked specifically for establishing public EV charging stations nationwide until **March 2028**.

- **Bescom's Role:** **Bescom** serves as the **State nodal agency** for implementing the PM E-DRIVE scheme in Karnataka.
- **Category-A & B:** These categories involve government-owned or managed locations, such as State/Central offices, hospitals, railway stations, airports, and metro stations, where **Bescom** will directly implement charging stations.
- **Category-C:** This category allows **private Charge Point Operators (CPOs)** to participate and develop charging infrastructure.
- **Two-Stage EoI Process:** The newly introduced portal features a two-stage **Expression of Interest (EoI)**: the first stage verifies technical and operational capabilities, while the second stage accepts eligible proposals.
- **Proposal Processing:** **Bescom** will aggregate and submit eligible Category-C proposals to the **Ministry of Heavy Industries** for approval on a **first-come, first-served basis** (up to 800 locations).
- **Standardization:** **Bescom** has standardized charging station configurations for both urban and highway locations to simplify implementation and **subsidy assessment**.

Additional Information

PM E-DRIVE Scheme

- **Launch Year:** 2024
- **Objectives:** To accelerate the adoption of electric vehicles, establish robust charging infrastructure, and promote cleaner and more sustainable transportation solutions across India.
- **Beneficiaries:** Electric Vehicle buyers, Private Charge Point Operators, State Transport Undertakings (STUs), and public transport agencies.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Heavy Industries
- **Component Breakdown:** Demand incentives for EVs (e-2W, e-3W, e-Ambulances, e-

Trucks), grants for capital assets (e-buses via State Transport Undertakings), establishment of a public charging station network, and modernization of vehicle testing agencies.

JanAI opens first 'AI cafe' at H.D. Kote in Mysuru district

Why in News

Head Held High Foundation has launched the world's first **JanAI Café** in **H.D. Kote, Mysuru district**, aiming to drive grassroots **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** adoption and digital empowerment in rural communities.

Key Highlights

- **Implementing Organization:** The **JanAI** initiative is spearheaded by the **Head Held High Foundation** in partnership with the **Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement (SVYM)**.
- **Location & Community Hosting:** The AI café is established inside a **Millet Café** operated by women belonging to the indigenous **Jenu Kuruba community** in **H.D. Kote, Mysuru**.
- **Core Objective:** Designed as a **community AI adoption centre**, enabling rural residents to discover, learn, and build tailored **AI solutions** for local, day-to-day challenges.
- **Women-Centric Approach:** The pilot facility primarily focuses on developing grassroots technology and livelihood solutions **for women, by women**.
- **AI Ambassadors:** A cohort of **18 local youth** has been trained as '**AI Ambassadors**' in **H.D. Kote** to identify community issues and deploy AI tools.
- **Impact Tracking with Wipro:** **JanAI** has partnered with **Wipro** to develop an **AI Index** that measures usage metrics and economic value generation across **farming, healthcare, tourism, education, and women entrepreneurship**.
- **Expansion Plans:** The initiative plans to pilot **five AI cafés** across **Mysuru district**, with the next centre scheduled to open in **T. Narsipur**.

Additional Information

Jenu Kuruba Tribe

- A designated **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG)** residing mainly in the forested regions of the **Western Ghats** across **Mysuru, Kodagu, and Chamarajanagar** districts of Karnataka.
- Traditionally known as forest gatherers and honey collectors ('Jenu' means honey in Kannada), they possess rich **traditional ecological knowledge** and have been key stakeholders in forest rights struggles under the **Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006**.

IndiaAI Mission

- **Launch Year: 2024**
- **Objectives:** To build a comprehensive, sovereign AI ecosystem, democratize high-performance AI computing access, foster indigenous foundation models, and bridge the digital divide in rural and semi-urban India.
- **Beneficiaries:** Startups, researchers, students, rural innovators, academia, and industry.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)
- **Component Breakdown:** IndiaAI Compute Capacity, IndiaAI Innovation Centre (IAIC), IndiaAI Datasets Platform, IndiaAI Application Development Initiative, IndiaAI FutureSkills, IndiaAI Startup Financing, and Safe & Trusted AI.

Sky show honours India's first satellite



Why in News

The **Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium** in **Bengaluru** has launched a commemorative sky show titled *The*

Inspiring Legacy of Aryabhata to mark nearly **50 years** of India's maiden satellite mission, **Aryabhata**.

Key Highlights

- **Special Screening:** A dedicated **four-minute** sky show titled *The Inspiring Legacy of Aryabhata* was unveiled beneath the dome of the **Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium** in **Bengaluru**.
- **Key Dignitaries:** The presentation was inaugurated by **M. Sankaran** (Director, **U.R. Rao Satellite Centre**) and presided over by **A.S. Kiran Kumar** (former **ISRO Chairman**).
- **Welcome Address:** Delivered by **B.R. Guruprasad**, Director of the **Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium**.
- **Core Theme:** The show documents the foundational role played by **Aryabhata** in building indigenous capability for major contemporary missions like **Chandrayaan, Mangalyaan, and Aditya-L1**.
- **Public Outreach:** The sky show is integrated into the planetarium's daily presentations to educate school children, educators, and the public on India's early space achievements.

Additional Information

Aryabhata Satellite

- Launched on **April 19, 1975**, from the Soviet Union via a **Kosmos-3M** rocket, marking India's historic entry into space.
- Named after the 5th-century astronomer, this indigenously built satellite conducted vital experiments in **X-ray astronomy, aeronomy, and solar physics**, establishing core telemetry capabilities for **ISRO**.

U.R. Rao Satellite Centre (URSC)

- Located in **Bengaluru**, this is **ISRO's** lead facility for designing, assembling, and testing all Indian satellites.
- Originally known as the **ISRO Satellite Centre (ISAC)**, it was renamed in **2018** to honor **Prof. U.R. Rao**, the architect of India's early satellite program.

Karnataka govt. to upgrade Aadhaar authentication security infrastructure

Why in News

The **Karnataka government** has initiated an upgrade of the **Hardware Security Module (HSM)** powering its **Aadhaar authentication services** to enhance cybersecurity, system performance, and digital governance.

Key Highlights

- **Nodal Ministry & Purpose:** Announced by Minister for IT, BT, and e-Governance as a preventive technology enhancement to ensure resilient and secure public services.
- **Authentication Load:** Karnataka processes approximately **10 to 12 lakh Aadhaar authentication requests** daily across various government departments.
- **Statutory Compliance:** Under the **Aadhaar Act**, Aadhaar numbers cannot be stored in local databases; they must reside in an encrypted **Aadhaar Data Vault (ADV)** with encryption keys secured inside a **Hardware Security Module (HSM)**.
- **Hardware Security Module (HSM):** A specialized, **tamper-resistant hardware device** designed to manage cryptographic keys and prevent unauthorized access.
- **Upgrade Components:** Involves installing the latest **security patches**, bug fixes, and **OEM-supported enhancements** to resolve existing setup issues.

Mullayyanagiri Hills: HC notice to State



Why in News

The **High Court of Karnataka** has issued a notice to the State government regarding a PIL seeking the

declaration of the ecologically fragile **Mullayyanagiri Hills** in **Chikkamagaluru** as a "**conservation reserve**".

Key Highlights

- **Petition Details:** The order was passed by a Division Bench (comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice K.S. Hemalekha) following a petition by the **Bhadra Wildlife Conservation Trust** and the **Wildlife Conservation Action Team**.
- **Previous Judicial Directives:** The inaction continues despite a prior High Court direction in **July 2019**, issued during litigation concerning road widening works between **Mullayyanagiri** and **Seethalayanagiri**.
- **Ecological Vulnerability:** The petitioners assert that the delay has left the region legally unprotected, allowing authorities to permit extensive construction and tourism activities that are actively compounding ecological damage.

Additional Information

Mullayyanagiri Peak

- **Location:** Chikkamagaluru district, Karnataka, in the **Chandra Drona (Baba Budangiri) Hills** of the Western Ghats.
- **Elevation:** Approximately **1,930 metres** above sea level; it is the **highest peak in Karnataka**.
- **Western Ghats:** It forms part of the ecologically significant **Western Ghats**, a global biodiversity hotspot.
- **Ecosystem:** The higher elevations support **shola-grassland vegetation**, with grasslands interspersed with patches of evergreen forest.
- **Nearby places:** **Baba Budangiri**, **Jhari Falls** and **Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary** are important geographical features/attractions in the surrounding region.
- **Religious significance:** The summit has a small shrine dedicated to **Mullappa Swamy**, contributing to its cultural importance.

Lung cancer makes up 6% of State's cancer cases

Why in News

Ahead of **World Lung Cancer Day**, data released by the **Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology (KMIO)** reveals that **lung cancer** accounts for over **6%** of all new cancer cases in **Karnataka**.

Key Highlights

- **State-wide Burden (2025):** Karnataka is projected to record **89,215 new cancer cases**, of which **5,503 (6.1%)** will be **lung cancer**.
- **State-wide Mortality:** Lung cancer is estimated to cause **2,048 deaths** in the State, comprising **1,377 males** and **671 females**.
- **Gender Disparity:** Lung cancer constitutes **9.6%** of all cancers in men (**3,787 cases**) and **3.5%** in women (**1,716 cases**) across Karnataka.
- **KMIO Projections:** At the institute level, **836** out of **13,576 new cases** in 2025 are projected to be lung cancer.
- **Bengaluru Metrics:** The city mirrors state trends with a projected **15,693 new cancer cases** (including **1,028 lung cancer cases**) and **363 deaths**.
- **Global & National Context:** Globally (2022 estimates), there were **2.48 million new cases** and **1.86 million deaths**. India projects **1,12,659 new cases** and **98,687 deaths** for 2024.
- **Risk Factors:** **Tobacco use** is the single most important preventable risk factor; other environmental and occupational causes include **air pollution**, carcinogen exposure, **asbestos**, and **radon**.

Additional Information

National Programme for Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NP-NCD)

- **Launch Year: 2010** (Originally launched as NPCDCS, officially renamed to NP-NCD in 2023).
- **Objectives:** To manage chronic lifestyle diseases through health promotion, early

diagnosis, and management of NCDs like cancer, diabetes, and cardiovascular issues.

- **Beneficiaries:** The general population, with population-based screening targeting individuals above the age of **30 years**.
- **Nodal Ministry:** **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**.
- **Component Breakdown:** Infrastructure strengthening, human resource development, health promotion, early diagnosis, and palliative care.

Govt. sets up panel for recruitment reforms

Why in News

The **Government of Karnataka** has constituted the **Competitive Examinations and Recruitment Reform Committee**, headed by former Chief Secretary **S.V. Ranganath**, to overhaul exam procedures and ensure transparency in public service recruitments.

Key Highlights

- **Committee Composition:** Headed by former Chief Secretary **S.V. Ranganath**, the panel includes former Chief Secretaries **T.M. Vijayabhaskar** and **Vandita Sharma**, along with Financial Adviser to the Chief Minister **L.K. Atheeq**.
- **Primary Mandate:** Recommend comprehensive reforms for competitive examinations, streamline state recruitment frameworks, and adopt **UPSC best practices**.
- **Upcoming Recruitment Scale:** The state government is initiating recruitment to fill over **70,000 vacant posts** across departments.
- **Scheduled Examinations:** The **Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC)** and **Karnataka Examination Authority (KEA)** have scheduled exams for **36,773 posts** within the next six months.
- **Candidate Volume:** Approximately **35 lakh candidates** are expected to appear for these upcoming recruitment drives.

Additional Information

State Public Service Commission (SPSC)

- Mandated under **Articles 315 to 323 in Part XIV** of the Constitution of India as an autonomous constitutional recruiting agency for the States.
- The Chairman and members are appointed by the **Governor**, but can only be removed by the **President of India** following an inquiry by the Supreme Court under **Article 317**.

Hota Committee on Civil Services Reforms

- Constituted in **2004** to recommend measures for making civil services responsive, transparent, and technology-driven.
- Recommended the integration of aptitude testing, interview reforms, strict timelines for competitive examinations, and reducing bureaucratic delays in recruitment

Neelam, Totapuri mangoes exported to Maldives

Why in News

For the first time, a consignment of **Neelam** and **Totapuri** mangoes from **Karnataka's Kolar district** was successfully exported to the **Maldives** by **APEDA** to help local farmers recover from severe domestic price crashes.

Key Highlights

- **Exporting Body:** The shipment was flagged off by the **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)**, operating under the **Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry**.
- **Volume & Varieties:** Around **one tonne** of **Neelam** and **Totapuri** mangoes was exported.
- **Farmer Distress:** Farmers in **Kolar district** have been incurring massive financial losses due to a sharp drop in local prices, particularly for the **Totapuri** variety.
- **Regional Shift:** Previously, these specific varieties were primarily exported from **Andhra Pradesh** and **Chittoor**; this marks the first

direct consignment from **Karnataka** to the Maldives.

- **Key Facilitator:** The export was executed by **Ahalya Devi Ventures**, a company directed by entrepreneur **Ashwini A.**

Additional Information

Totapuri Mango

- A prominent commercial mango variety primarily cultivated in **Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu**, easily identified by its oblong shape and prominent beak-like pointed tip.
- Known for its thick skin, unique tartness, and excellent shelf life, it is heavily favored by the food processing industry for manufacturing **mango pulp, juices, and concentrates**.

Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)

- Established in **1986** under the **APEDA Act of 1985** as a statutory body responsible for the export promotion and development of scheduled agricultural commodities.
- Operating under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**, it plays a critical role in providing financial assistance, setting packaging standards, and functioning as the secretariat for the **National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP)**.

Panel formed to revise crèche norms

Why in News

The **Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (KSCPCR)** has formed an expert committee to draft revised monitoring guidelines for **private crèches and daycare centres** following a recent child abuse incident in Bengaluru.

Key Highlights

- **Committee Leadership:** The expert panel is headed by **Sripad S.**, former Joint Commissioner of the **Labour Department**,

and includes KSCPCR members and officials from various stakeholder departments.

- **Draft Submission:** The finalized draft guidelines will be submitted to the **Department of Women and Child Development** for implementation.
- **Current Regulatory Gap:** Under the existing **2015 guidelines**, there is no designated **nodal department or agency** at the State government level responsible for monitoring these facilities.
- **Proposed Monitoring Framework:** The revised norms will officially designate a **State-level nodal department** and mandate the formation of **district-level inspection committees**.
- **DCPO Integration:** Child rights activists recommend appointing **District Child Protection Officers (DCPOs)** as **member-secretaries** of these inspection panels to ensure strict compliance with the **Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009** and the **Juvenile Justice Act, 2015**.

Additional Information

Commissions for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005

- Enacted to provide a statutory framework for constituting the **National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)** and corresponding **State Commissions (SCPCR)** to safeguard child rights.
- Empowers the Commissions to act as civil courts to inquire into complaints regarding the violation of child rights, non-implementation of protective laws, and to recommend remedial measures to the government.

Palna Scheme

- **Launch Year:** 2022 (restructured from the erstwhile **National Crèche Scheme**)
- **Objectives:** To provide safe, secure, and high-quality day-care facilities for children, ensuring their cognitive development, health check-ups, and nutritional support.

- **Beneficiaries:** Children aged **6 months to 6 years** of working mothers.
- **Nodal Ministry:** **Ministry of Women and Child Development** (implemented under the *Samarthya* vertical of **Mission Shakti**)
- **Component Breakdown:** Establishment of **Standalone Crèches** and **Anganwadi-cum-Crèches (AWCCs)** providing day-care services, early stimulation, supplementary nutrition, and growth monitoring.

Karnataka Creche / Childcare Schemes

Scheme	Key points
Koosina Mane	Karnataka's community-based childcare/creche initiative, intended to support working women, particularly in rural areas. Childcare facilities were envisaged through Gram Panchayats.
Anganwadi-cum-Crèches (AWCCs)	Under Palna, existing Anganwadi Centres are strengthened to provide childcare along with Anganwadi services. Karnataka had 248 AWCCs approved and 164 established as of October 2024.
Saksham Anganwadi & Pre-school Education	The Survey notes 17,732 Anganwadi Centres upgraded as Saksham Anganwadi Centres. These provide improved infrastructure and support early childhood care and pre-school education.
Koosina Mane + MGNREGA convergence	The childcare model was particularly intended to help women participating in MGNREGA, with childcare for children in the 6-month to 6-year age group.

Govt. mulls police powers for Anti-Narcotics Task Force

Why in News

The **Karnataka government** is considering granting **police station powers** to its **Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF)**, enabling the specialized unit to register FIRs, make arrests, and independently investigate drug networks.

Key Highlights

- **Core Proposal:** Granting **police station powers** will allow the **ANTF** to independently book cases, arrest offenders, and conduct end-to-end criminal investigations rather than functioning merely as a review body.
- **MHA Directive:** Formed under the mandate of the **Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)**, which requires all States and Union Territories to set up **ANTFs** headed by an officer of **ADGP rank**.
- **Current Status in Karnataka:** The force lacks an independent head, with the **ADGP (Law and Order)** holding additional charge while its role remains limited to monthly probe reviews and jurisdictional coordination.
- **Inter-State Comparison:** Specialized units such as Telangana's **EAGLE force**, Delhi Police's **ANTF**, and Kerala's **Anti-Narcotics Special Action Force** (leading **Operation Toofan**) already exercise full investigative and statutory powers.
- **Investigation Gaps:** Current state investigations frequently stall at local peddlers; across Karnataka, arrests of producers were limited to **90 ganja growers**, failing to track illicit manufacturing chains.
- **Jurisdictional Lapses:** Highlighting intelligence gaps, the **Maharashtra police** tracked supply chains to bust **three synthetic drug labs in Bengaluru** and **one in Mysuru**.

Additional Information

Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985

- Serves as India's primary statutory framework prohibiting and regulating operations relating to narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances, and precursor chemicals.
- Imposes stringent bail provisions under **Section 37** and empowers designated enforcement agencies to carry out searches, seizures, and property attachments derived from illicit drug trafficking.

KEA named recruiting authority

Why in News

The **Karnataka government** has officially designated the **Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA)** as a full-fledged **recruiting agency** for state civil services, granting it statutory powers on par with the **KPSC** to manage the end-to-end recruitment process.

Key Highlights

- **Expanded Powers:** **KEA** is now authorized not only to conduct competitive exams, but also to oversee **document verification**, formulate merit lists, and publish **final selection lists**.
- **Rationale:** The decision comes amid repeated delays and corruption allegations surrounding the **Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC)**.
- **Operational Scale (FY 2024-25):** **KEA** conducted recruitment exams for **11 departments** covering **6,116 posts**, processing over **18 lakh candidates**.
- **Addressing Duplication:** Resolves inefficiencies under the **Karnataka Civil Services (Direct Recruitment) (General) Rules, 2021**, which previously led to multiple distinct notifications and exams for posts sharing identical cadres and syllabi.
- **Single Common Exam:** **KEA** will administer a **unified examination** across multiple departments for identical cadres, preventing multi-department seat blocking and redundant merit list revisions.

Right to be forgotten: Karnataka HC lets name of acquitted woman be masked in online sources

Why in News

The **High Court of Karnataka** has upheld the "**right to be forgotten**", directing search engines and judicial repositories to mask the name of an **acquitted Iranian national** from online records to prevent lasting civil and professional harm.

Key Highlights

- **Judicial Directives:** Justice **M. Nagaprasanna** ordered the registrars of the **High Court of Karnataka, Bengaluru City Civil Court, State Police, Google**, and the **Indian Kanoon portal** to mask the petitioner's name in their digital databases.
- **Case Background:** The petitioner, who came to India on a student visa, was prosecuted during **2013–14** under the **Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956**, and was acquitted in **2019** due to lack of evidence and delayed FIR filing.
- **Current Status:** Post-acquittal, the petitioner secured **refugee status** from the **United Nations** and currently holds permanent residence in **Sweden**.
- **The "Digital Spectre":** Obsolete digital records continued to surface during routine background checks, causing severe prejudice and undermining the legal vindication granted by the court.
- **Significance of Acquittal:** The court emphasized that an acquittal is a **solemn judicial declaration of innocence**, warning that persistent online visibility can make judicial exoneration a mere paper declaration.
- **Rejection of "Floodgates" Argument:** The court dismissed procedural registry concerns, affirming that **constitutional guarantees** of fundamental rights cannot be rationed out of fear that other citizens might invoke them.

Additional Information

Right to be Forgotten (RTBF)

- Recognized as an intrinsic component of the **Right to Privacy** under **Article 21** of the Constitution by the Supreme Court in the landmark **K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India (2017)** verdict.
- Empowers individuals to request the deletion, de-linking, or masking of personal data from internet search engines and digital databases when such information becomes outdated, irrelevant, or legally resolved.

Bengaluru to host Aero India show in February



Why in News

The 16th edition of the biennial **Aero India show** will be hosted at the **Air Force Station, Yelahanka** in **Bengaluru** in **February 2027**, effectively putting to rest speculations about the mega event being relocated to another city.

Key Highlights

- **Official Confirmation:** A high-level meeting between senior **Indian Air Force (IAF)** officers and Chief Minister **D.K. Shivakumar** confirmed Bengaluru's continuation as the host city.
- **Delegation Lead:** The IAF delegation was spearheaded by **Air Marshal S. Shrinivas**, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the **Training Command**.
- **State Assurance:** The Chief Minister pledged full cooperation from the State administration

and its various departments to ensure the smooth and safe execution of the air show.

- **Venue Legacy:** The event will be held at the **Air Force Station, Yelahanka**, which has served as the official venue for the show since **1993**.
- **Schedule:** While the month is confirmed as **February 2027**, the exact dates for the five-day event will be formally announced by the **Defence Ministry**.
- **Previous Edition (2025) Metrics:** The last edition saw massive global participation, hosting **930 exhibitors** from over **90 countries**.
- **2025 Highlight:** A major attraction of the 2025 edition was the participation and display of two advanced **fifth-generation fighter aircraft (FGFA)**.

Karnataka government to release draft AI policy soon

Why in News

The **Government of Karnataka** is set to release its draft policy on "**Responsible AI**", formulated by an expert committee chaired by **Infosys co-founder Kris Gopalakrishnan**, to govern the safe, ethical, and transparent adoption of artificial intelligence in public administration.

Key Highlights

- **Policy Formulation:** The draft policy on **Responsible AI** was drafted by a dedicated state committee chaired by **Kris Gopalakrishnan**, comprising experts from industry, academia, law, and public policy.
- **Official Announcement:** Announced by **Shreevyas H.M.**, Project Director of the **Artificial Intelligence (AI) Cell** under the **Centre for e-Governance (CeG)**, during the '**Karnataka AI Mantana**' dialogue series.
- **Focus Areas:** The policy addresses key operational dimensions, including **AI governance**, safe handling of **sensitive government data**, and safeguarding **AI model security**.

- **'Kayaka' AI Tool:** An internal productivity tool currently under testing to assist state personnel with **drafting official letters**, **Kannada-English translation**, and **OCR-based document digitization** on a secured platform.
- **AI Capacity Building:** Structured training programmes are being conducted for **KAS officers** and **Deputy Secretaries** to improve AI literacy and prevent data leaks on public commercial platforms.
- **Existing Digital Footprint:** The AI Cell currently supports platforms such as **Kartavya** (used by **3.6 lakh government employees** for daily attendance) and **Nirantara** (capturing attendance for **30 lakh government school students**).
- **International Collaboration:** Minister for IT-BT & e-Governance inaugurated an international conference on '**Leveraging AI to Advance SDGs**', organized in partnership with the **University of Wolverhampton (UK)** and **Dr. Manmohan Singh Bengaluru City University (MSBCU)**.

Veeragallu in Arsikere taluk throws light on Vishnuvardhana's last day

Why in News

The discovery of a centuries-old **veeragallu (hero stone)** in **Arsikere taluk** has unearthed a **Kannada inscription** that potentially resolves the long-standing historical debate over the exact death date of the celebrated **Hoysala ruler Vishnuvardhana**.

Key Highlights

- **Discovery Site:** Unearthed during the restoration of the **Lakshmi Narayana Swamy temple** in **Neeragunda village, Arsikere taluk**.
- **The Artifact:** Two stone slabs were identified as **veeragallus** (memorial stones for warriors), one of which carries a highly significant **old Kannada inscription**.

- **Historical Context:** The text reveals the stone was installed by **Maravve** in memory of her husband **Boppa**, a soldier who sacrificed his life shortly after King **Vishnuvardhana's death** at **Bankapura** (present-day **Haveri district**).
- **Decoded Timeline:** The inscription specifies the date as the **Ekadashi of Pushya Masa of Durmathi Samvatsara, year 1064**, corresponding precisely to **December 11, 1141**, in the Gregorian calendar.
- **Settling the Debate:** Prior to this epigraphical evidence, scholars were heavily divided, estimating the king's death to be either in **1149** or **1152**.
- **Dynastic Footprint:** The **Hoysala** dynasty ruled vast parts of present-day **Karnataka and Tamil Nadu** from the **11th to 14th centuries**, with **Belur and Halebid** (in **Hassan district**) serving as their capitals.
- **Authentication:** The text was decoded by researcher **Shashidhar H.G.** and the findings are being shared with the **Karnataka Itihasa Academy** for formal academic integration.

Karnataka explores partnership with Anthropic; AI-powered digital crop survey launched

Why in News

The **Government of Karnataka** has initiated strategic discussions with AI firm **Anthropic** to integrate secure AI solutions across administration, while simultaneously launching a pilot for the **Composite Digital Crop Survey (CDCS)** using advanced spatial technologies.

Key Highlights

- **Strategic Collaboration:** Chief Minister and IT/BT Minister engaged with an **Anthropic** delegation led by **Michael Sellitto** to deploy applied AI solutions for public governance.
- **Data Sovereignty & Security:** The framework emphasizes **data residency** on **sovereign state servers**, prioritizing the use of AI to prevent systemic fraud and ensure the absolute

confidentiality of **setting examination question papers**.

- **Skilling via NIPUNA:** The State plans to integrate **Claude certification** under its **NIPUNA initiative** to build a massive pool of AI-certified talent and support its ecosystem of over **20,000 startups**.
- **Academic Integration:** The government proposed subsidizing access to **Anthropic's Claude AI** platform for higher education institutions like **Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU)**, alongside collaborative research with the **Indian Institute of Science (IISc)**.
- **CDCS Pilot Launch:** The state launched the **Composite Digital Crop Survey (CDCS)** on a pilot basis across **five selected hoblis**, covering all geographic divisions of Karnataka.
- **Agricultural Tech Stack:** The **CDCS** upgrades the state's existing 2018 GIS-based crop survey by integrating **high-resolution satellite imagery**, **Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR)**, **drone surveys**, and **Machine Learning (ML)** for scientific validation of plot-level data.

International Gay Games medallists from Karnataka urge State govt. to create inclusive sporting spaces

Why in News

Karnataka-based medallists from the **International Gay Games 2026** in **Valencia, Spain**, have urged the State government to establish inclusive sporting spaces and officially introduce a **third-gender category** in athletics.

Key Highlights

- **Event Venue:** The **Gay Games 2026**, the world's largest quadrennial international **LGBTQIA+** sporting and cultural event, concluded in **Valencia, Spain**.
- **Indian Representation:** Out of approximately **10,000-odd international participants**, only **three Indian athletes** took part in the games.

- **Goaty's Medal Tally:** Won **four gold medals** (High Jump, 5K Run, 10,000m Indoor Run, and Marathon in the Women's 25–29 category) alongside **three silver medals** (10K Run, overall women's marathon, and Mixed 4×400m Relay).
- **Sumit Pawar's Achievement:** Clinched the **gold medal** in **Javelin Throw**.
- **Local Representation:** Both medallists represent the **Bengaluru Front Runners (BRF)**, an inclusive athletic collective based in Karnataka.
- **Policy Demand:** The athletes advocated for moving beyond the rigid binary structure in Indian sports by introducing institutional infrastructure and categories for **third gender and non-binary athletes**.

Additional Information

The Gay Games

- Founded in **1982** in San Francisco by Olympic decathlete **Tom Waddell**, it is a quadrennial international sporting and cultural festival dedicated to promoting inclusivity and diversity.
- Unlike conventional international competitions that rely on strict qualifying times, the event operates on principles of **participation, inclusion, and personal best**, welcoming athletes regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, or skill level.

‘Work completed in only 12 out of 61 stations identified under Amrit Bharat Station scheme’

Why in News

Railway Minister **Ashwini Vaishnaw** informed the **Rajya Sabha** that only **12 out of 61 identified stations** in **Karnataka** have seen completed redevelopment under the **Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS)**, highlighting a slow implementation pace.

Key Highlights

- **State Completion Rate:** Works have been completed in only **12 out of 61** stations in

Karnataka, translating to an approximate completion rate of **19%** over the last three-and-a-half years.

- **National Completion Rate:** Across India, work has concluded at **261 out of 1,340** identified stations under the scheme.
- **Parliamentary Inquiry:** This data was revealed in a written reply to an **unstarred question** raised in the **Rajya Sabha** by Karnataka Member of Parliament **Mansoor Ali Khan**.
- **Completed Stations (Karnataka):** The finished list includes **Alnavar, Badami, Bagalkot, Bantwal, Dharwad, Gadag, Gokak Road, Hosapete, Koppal, Munirabad, Ranibennur, and Subrahmanya Road**.
- **Transparency Concerns:** The MP noted that the Ministry did not furnish specific details regarding **station-wise project costs, contract award dates, or year-wise progress**, making independent evaluation difficult.
- **Causes for Delay:** The Minister attributed the slow pace to the complexities of executing **brownfield projects** while keeping stations operational.
- **Specific Hurdles:** Key challenges include **shifting of utilities**, removing infringements, securing statutory clearances, and executing high-voltage electrical works without disrupting train operations or passenger safety.

Additional Information

Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS)

- **Launch Year:** **2022**
- **Objectives:** To redevelop and modernize over 1,300 railway stations across India, transforming them into passenger-centric transit hubs and integrated city centres through continuous, long-term master planning.
- **Beneficiaries:** Millions of daily railway passengers, local artisans, local MSMEs, and persons with disabilities (Divyangjan).
- **Nodal Ministry:** **Ministry of Railways**

- **Component Breakdown:** Phased execution of master plans, upgraded waiting halls, beautifully landscaped roof plazas, seamless multi-modal urban connectivity, fully accessible Divyangjan-friendly amenities, sustainable green building designs, and **One Station One Product (OSOP)** kiosks.

State takes cautious first step to introduce digital evaluation of SSLC and II PU exams

Why in News

The **Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board (KSEAB)** is planning to introduce a **digital evaluation system** for **SSLC and II PU** answer scripts in a phased manner to expedite the declaration of results.

Key Highlights

- **Phased Rollout:** To avoid controversies and discrepancies similar to those faced by the **Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)**, **KSEAB** will initially test the system on smaller examinations with an enrollment of fewer than **5,000 candidates**.
- **Pilot Examinations:** The first phase of digital evaluation is being considered for the **Karnataka State Open School Examination, Drawing Grade Examination, and Computer Education Examination**.
- **Current Digital Initiatives:** The board already issues **digital mark sheets** and **digital transfer certificates (TCs)** to successful candidates.
- **Operational Scale:** Annually, approximately **8 lakh students** register for the **SSLC examination**, while around **6.50 lakh students** register for the **II PU examination** across Karnataka.
- **Digital Evaluation Workflow:** Under this system, physical answer sheets are scanned and uploaded to a central computer. Evaluators are provided with a **secure login ID and password** to access allotted scripts, evaluate them, and enter the marks directly on the computer.

Additional Information

PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development)

- Constituted under the **National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)** in alignment with the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020** as India's first national assessment regulator.
- Functions as an advisory and standard-setting body designed to formulate norms, guidelines, and benchmarks for student assessment, aiming to eliminate evaluation disparities across all recognized state and central school boards in India.

'Water security is seventh guarantee'

Why in News

Karnataka Chief Minister **D.K. Shivakumar** announced "**water security**" as the State's **seventh guarantee scheme**, promising water from the **Yettinahole project** to the parched **Kolar** and **Chickballapur** districts by **2027**.

Key Highlights

- **New Guarantee:** The State government has designated **water security** as its **seventh guarantee scheme** for the people of Karnataka.
- **Target Timeline:** Residents of the drought-prone **Kolar** and **Chickballapur** districts are slated to receive water from the **Yettinahole project** by the end of **2027**.
- **Project Route:** The government is pushing to divert water from the **Western Ghats** through **Hassan** to **Kolar** and **Chickballapur**, having already brought water up to **Tumakuru**.
- **Lake Rejuvenation:** **104 lakes** in Kolar and Chickballapur have been successfully filled via the **K.C. Valley project**, with work currently underway to fill another **65 lakes** through the **H.N. Valley project**.
- **Groundwater Recharge Strategy:** The state has decided to fill more than **700 lakes** with **treated water** to systematically recharge depleting groundwater reserves.

- **Agricultural Resilience:** Farmers in Kolar were lauded as a state model for successfully producing milk, vegetables, silk, and flowers even when groundwater levels plummeted below **2,000 feet**.

Additional Information

Yettinahole Integrated Drinking Water Project

- An inter-basin water transfer project aimed at mitigating the severe drinking water crisis in drought-prone eastern districts of Karnataka, including **Kolar, Chickballapur, Bengaluru Rural, and Tumakuru**.
- The scheme involves lifting seasonal floodwater from **Yettinahole** and other west-flowing tributaries of the **Netravati river basin** in the **Western Ghats** during the monsoon months.

Koramangala-Challaghatta (K.C.) Valley Project

- A pioneering wastewater reuse initiative that treats urban sewage water from **Bengaluru** to secondary levels and pumps it to fill a cascade of dry lakes in parched neighboring districts.
- Its primary objective is **indirect groundwater recharge**, aimed at naturally raising the water table and enabling farmers to sustain agriculture and dairying in semi-arid regions without using the treated water directly for drinking.

Health Dept. to launch Ruthu Thare, a State-wide campaign to deal with perimenopause, menopause

Why in News

The **Karnataka Health and Family Welfare Department** is launching '**Ruthu Thare**', a pioneering state-wide grassroots campaign designed to help women safely navigate the health complexities associated with **perimenopause and menopause**.

Key Highlights

- **Implementation Strategy:** The campaign utilizes a door-to-door approach, deploying trained **ASHA workers** across **Karnataka** to identify and assist women in their 40s.

- **Expert Committee:** The campaign's policy is being finalized by a dedicated committee of gynaecologists, mental health experts, and nutritionists, headed by women's health expert **Dr. Jyotsna Miralay**.
- **Phase 1 Operations:** **ASHA workers** will identify menopausal women, collect health data via specialized questionnaires, and distribute pictorial pamphlets detailing symptoms, required nutrition, and physical exercises.
- **Phase 2 Focus:** Operations will shift to identifying women experiencing perimenopause and those at severe risk of **surgical menopause** (the surgical removal of the uterus and ovaries due to heavy bleeding).
- **Preventive Care:** The campaign aims to educate women on the long-term implications of surgical menopause, which can include a higher risk of **coronary heart diseases and osteoporosis fractures**, while offering alternative treatments.
- **Scheme Integration:** Screening for perimenopause and menopause will now be officially integrated into Karnataka's **Gruha Arogya health scheme** to ensure systematic follow-ups.
- **Broader Policy Umbrella:** This initiative is part of Karnataka's upcoming comprehensive **Women's Health Policy**, which recently named actress **Divya Spandana** as its brand ambassador.

Additional Information

Gruha Arogya Scheme

- **Launch Year: 2024**
- **Objectives:** To conduct comprehensive, door-to-door preventive health check-ups and ensure early detection and management of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) at the grassroots level.
- **Beneficiaries:** Citizens of Karnataka, specifically targeting individuals aged **30 years and above**.

- **Nodal Ministry:** Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Karnataka
- **Component Breakdown:** Door-to-door health screening for diabetes, hypertension, and oral/breast/cervical cancers; free distribution of prescribed medicines at the doorstep; and systematic data collection linked to local Primary Health Centres (PHCs) for continuous monitoring.

Freedom Habba: Vidhana Soudha's grand steps to turn into a concert stage on I-Day



Why in News

The State government is organizing **Freedom Habba**, a grand musical concert on the steps of the iconic **Vidhana Soudha** in **Bengaluru** to celebrate **Independence Day**.

Key Highlights

- **Event Name:** The concert is officially titled **Freedom Habba's Music Collective**.
- **Venue & Timing:** Held on the grand steps of the **Vidhana Soudha** in **Bengaluru** on **Independence Day evening** starting at **6 p.m.**
- **Key Dignitary:** Announced by the **Greater Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda**, who emphasized experiencing Independence Day as a collective community celebration.
- **Featured Artists:** Brings together **10 prominent musical voices** of the city, including **Raghu Dixit, Praveen D. Rao, M.D. Pallavi, Bruce Lee Mani, Sanjith Hegde,**

Brodha V., Siddhartha Belamannu, Varijashree Venugopal, Harish Sivaramakrishnan, and Nakul Abhyankar.

- **Entry Requirements:** While entry is **free**, attendees must complete **mandatory pre-registration** by scanning a provided **QR code** and must carry a **valid government ID card** to access the venue premises.

Exhibition to spotlight forgotten chapters of State's role in freedom struggle

Why in News

An exhibition titled **Bengaluru '47: Forgotten Stories of Freedom** is being organized in **Bengaluru** to highlight the lesser-known contributions of ordinary citizens and prominent local figures to the **Indian freedom movement**.

Key Highlights

- **Event Schedule & Venue:** The exhibition runs from **August 14 to 23** at **RBANM's High School**, organized by **INTACH Bengaluru Chapter, RBANM's Educational Charities, #ReclaimConstitution, and 1Shanthiroad.**
- **N.V. Krishnamachari's Legacy:** Features a photograph of his bloodstained **Swaraj Flag** (the original is housed at the **Vidhana Soudha**) from when he defied British lathi charges, alongside his **Tamra Patra** and **charkhas**.
- **S.K. Kareem Khan:** Displays an autobiographical note by this **Sakleshpur-born** freedom fighter and folklorist, who mobilized rural masses using folk songs and participated in the **1938 Shivapura Dhwaja Satyagraha**.
- **Midnight Flag Hoisting:** The **#SatyamevaJayate** collective will host the fourth edition of the midnight flag hoisting on **August 15**, reviving a 1947 tradition previously observed at **Sajjan Rao Circle** and **Mysore Bank Circle**.
- **Key Sessions:** Includes a spinning workshop by **The Art of Spinning**, storytelling by **Vikram Sridhar**, a talk by historian

Ramachandra Guha, and a musical evening by **T.M. Krishna**.

- **Bengaluru's Grassroots Role:** The exhibition uses archival materials to showcase massive local protests, the promotion of **khadi**, and campaigns advocating for the entry of all castes into temples.

Additional Information

1. Swaraj Flag (1931)

- Adopted by leaders of the Indian freedom movement in **1931**, this flag centrally featured the **charkha (spinning wheel)**.
- It became a powerful symbol of defiance after the colonial government strictly banned carrying and hoisting it, leading freedom fighters across the country to hoist it in protest.

2. Shivapura Dhawaja Satyagraha (1938)

- A landmark resistance event in **Karnataka's freedom struggle** that occurred in **1938**, where activists openly defied British orders by hoisting the National Flag.
- The movement saw extensive grassroots participation, with figures like **S.K. Kareem Khan** utilizing regional folklore and folk songs to effectively mobilize the rural masses for the cause of freedom.

State targets higher coal stocks, extra rakes to increase thermal power output

Why in News

To offset a shortfall in hydropower generation caused by inadequate rainfall, the **Karnataka Power Corporation Limited (KPCL)** is aggressively increasing its **thermal power output to 100 million units (MU) per day** by securing higher coal stocks and additional railway rakes.

Key Highlights

- **Surging Demand:** Karnataka's daily power demand has spiked to between **310 MU and 350 MU**, significantly up from approximately **200 MU in August 2025**.

- **Thermal Generation Targets:** KPCL has set an annual target of **29,500 MU** of thermal power, aiming to sustain a daily generation of **100 MU**.
- **Installed Capacity:** The combined capacity of **Raichur Thermal Power Station (RTPS)**, **Yermarus Thermal Power Station (YTPS)**, and **Ballari Thermal Power Station (BTPS)** is **5,020 MW**, with **3,910 MW** currently available.
- **Unit Restorations:** An **800 MW unit at YTPS** and a **210 MW unit at RTPS** are slated to resume generation by late August, pushing available capacity to approximately **4,810 MW**.
- **Hydropower Status:** The current equivalent energy potential from reservoir storage stands at **4,585 MU**, with a total potential of **8,065 MU** (which could reach **10,000 MU** with favorable August-September rainfall).
- **Coal Inventory:** Thermal stations currently maintain a **15-day coal buffer** comprising approximately **6.5 lakh metric tonnes**.
- **Supply Metrics:** The state requires roughly **44,000 metric tonnes** of coal daily and is currently receiving **50,000 metric tonnes** daily to build reserves.
- **Strategic Logistics:** **Coal India Limited** and the **Indian Railways** have committed to supplying the required coal and allocating empty rakes respectively to streamline transport logistics.
- **Captive Mine Utilization:** KPCL plans to scale up production from its **Baranj Captive Coal Mine** located in **Nagpur, Maharashtra**, to strengthen long-term fuel security.

Additional Information

KPCL Thermal Power Infrastructure

- KPCL operates the primary thermal power baseload stations in the state: **RTPS** (Raichur), **BTPS** (Kudatini, Ballari), and **YTPS** (Yermarus, Raichur).

- These stations play a critical role in maintaining grid stability and meeting energy demands, particularly when monsoon deficits severely impact the state's predominantly hydro-dependent energy mix.

CM announces Udyoga Sankalpa and Udyoga Nidhi schemes

Why in News

During the **80th Independence Day** celebrations, Karnataka Chief Minister **D.K. Shivakumar** announced the **Udyoga Sankalpa** and **Udyoga Nidhi** schemes to accelerate job creation, alongside sweeping initiatives for **Artificial Intelligence**, agriculture, and urban infrastructure.

Key Highlights

- **Employment Targets:** Under the 'Young Karnataka-New India' vision, the government is focusing on creating **one lakh new private sector jobs** while initiating recruitment to fill **72,000 government vacancies** within the next six months.
- **Udyoga Nidhi Scheme:** Entrepreneurs operating in **10 economically backward districts** will receive a government incentive of **₹2,500 per month** for every new job they create.
- **AI in Education:** Artificial Intelligence will be introduced in government schools starting from **Class 6**, supported by the newly proposed **AI Akshara Abhiyana** and **Coding Gurukula** programmes.
- **Tech Infrastructure:** Bengaluru will establish India's first **government-owned AI university**, with additional **technology hubs** planned across the State to strengthen the startup ecosystem.
- **Economic Milestones:** Karnataka's per capita income has reached **₹4.33 lakh**, retaining its **second rank** in national **GST and income-tax collections**. The State targets a **\$3 trillion economy (₹320 lakh crore)** by 2047.

- **Agricultural Tech & Support:** The **Chief Minister Raitha Chaitanya** scheme will integrate **drones and satellite imagery** for crop surveys. Additionally, the **Raitha Mitra** scheme will provide a **50% subsidy** on agricultural machinery rentals for farmers owning **three acres or less**.
- **State Highway & Rural Roads:** Beyond the recently constructed **1,663 km** of State highways, the **Pragathi Patha** scheme will develop **7,100 km of rural roads** with an investment of **₹5,200 crore**.
- **Bengaluru Development:** Urban infrastructure projects worth **₹1.50 lakh crore** are underway. Post-Phase III, the **Namma Metro** network will expand to **220 km**, and a **117-km ring road** will be built under the **Bengaluru Business Corridor** at a cost of **₹26,000 crore**.

Additional Information

Udyoga Nidhi & Regional Imbalance

- By targeting employment incentives specifically in **10 economically backward districts**, this scheme directly addresses the recommendations of the **Dr. D.M. Nanjundappa Committee Report**, aiming to decentralize industrial growth away from the saturated Bengaluru region.
- The monthly wage subsidy acts as a targeted fiscal intervention to reduce initial operational overheads for MSMEs, encouraging the formalization of rural and semi-urban job markets.

Karnataka leads the charge in EV infrastructure in the South



Why in News

According to recent data from the **Ministry of Heavy Industries, Karnataka** has emerged as a national leader in electric mobility, ranking second in India with **6,805 electric vehicle (EV) charging stations** installed as of **July 2026**.

Key Highlights

- **National Standing:** Karnataka holds the **second-highest** number of EV charging stations in the country, marginally behind **Maharashtra**, which leads with **6,985 stations**.
- **National Share:** The State accounts for nearly **12.9%** (approximately 13%) of the **52,718 total EV charging stations** installed across India.
- **Parliamentary Disclosure:** The statistics were revealed in response to an **unstarred question** in the **Rajya Sabha** on **August 7, 2026**, citing data up to **July 29, 2026**.
- **Southern States Comparison:** Karnataka's infrastructure vastly outpaces its neighbors, followed by **Tamil Nadu (3,839)**, **Telangana (3,739)**, **Kerala (3,399)**, and **Andhra Pradesh (1,976)**.
- **De-licensed Operation:** Under the **Ministry of Power's** guidelines, setting up EV charging stations is an **unlicensed activity**, enabling private players to freely establish and operate charging infrastructure.
- **PM E-DRIVE Integration:** The scheme allows Central ministries, State governments, and their PSUs to submit proposals to independently establish public charging stations or engage private **Charge Point Operators (CPOs)**.
- **Policy Catalyst:** Transport experts attribute this rapid growth to the State's proactive **2017 EV policy**, which successfully built early consumer confidence in Bengaluru.
- **Future Focus Areas:** Experts stress that the next phase must prioritize **interoperability**, **standardized charging tariffs**, **real-time**

charger availability, and expansion along inter-city highways to eliminate **range anxiety**.

Additional Information

Karnataka Electric Vehicle and Energy Storage Policy (2017)

- **Karnataka** was the first state in India to introduce a dedicated electric vehicle policy, aggressively aiming to position **Bengaluru** as the EV capital of the country.
- By offering extensive capital subsidies, stamp duty exemptions, and power tariff concessions, the proactive policy framework successfully catalyzed early private investments in both EV manufacturing and widespread charging networks.

SC/ST Commission has no power to adjudicate land disputes or direct mutation of Revenue records: HC

Why in News

The **Karnataka High Court** ruled that the **Karnataka State Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (KSC-SC&ST)** is strictly an investigating and recommending body, lacking the jurisdiction to adjudicate land disputes or order the mutation of **revenue records**.

Key Highlights

- **Judicial Pronouncement:** Justice **Suraj Govindaraj** clarified that the **KSC-SC&ST** cannot function as a parallel court and is not empowered to issue binding directions to **Revenue or Forest authorities** regarding land titles.
- **Statutory Limitation:** While the Commission can examine constitutional safeguards under the **KSC-SC&ST Act, 2002**, it cannot legally declare notified forest land as non-forest land or order the transfer of **khata**.
- **Case Background:** The ruling stemmed from a writ petition filed by **State Revenue and Forest authorities** challenging a **2023** directive issued by the Commission.

- **Contested Directive:** The Commission had illegally directed the **Forest Department** to delete specific land entries in **Sira taluk, Tumakuru district**, and mutate them in favor of private individuals who claimed inheritance based on alleged **1937** land grants.
- **Section 8(b) Clarification:** The Court explicitly stated that the Commission's power under **Section 8(b)** to inquire into the denial of SC/ST safeguards does not extend to deciding land grants, property titles, or the forest status of a land.

Additional Information

Karnataka State Commission for SCs and STs

- A statutory body constituted under the **Karnataka State Commission for SCs and STs Act, 2002**, functioning as a watchdog to protect the socio-economic and educational interests of marginalized communities in the state.
- While it holds the powers of a **civil court** for specific procedural matters (like summoning witnesses or demanding documents), it is bound by the limitation that its findings are advisory and it cannot issue binding judicial decrees or injunctions.

Government launches 'Eat Right' campaign



Why in News

Health and Family Welfare Minister U.T. Khader has launched the 'Eat Right' campaign to promote healthy eating habits among citizens, which includes the

formation of citizen-led food safety watch teams at the taluk level across the State.

Key Highlights

- **Citizen-Led Watch Teams:** The taluk-level teams will act as force multipliers and consist of senior citizens, former food safety officials, and experienced chefs. They will be issued ID cards to inspect premises and report violations to the head office.
- **Strict Ultimatum for PGs:** The Minister has given Paying Guest (PG) accommodations and other food providers a strict **10-day deadline** to rectify violations and comply with safety norms, after which they will face penalties.
- **Expanded FSDA Inspections:** The Food Safety and Drug Administration (FSDA), which has already inspected hotels, dhabas, and anganwadis, will now expand inspections to private college hostels and catering centres.
- **Transit Hub Sampling:** Food samples from railway stations, airports, and airplanes will be collected in the coming days for laboratory analysis.
- **Food Safety Conclave:** The Health and Family Welfare Department will soon host a conclave with Union government officials and representatives from other States. It aims to frame recommendations on food safety standards, including the consumption of meat and imported chocolates.
- **Engagement with Hoteliers:** A meeting will also be held with star hotel owners to take their suggestions into consideration.

Karnataka third-highest contributor to pollution among southern States

Why in News

A CSTEP study titled '*Governance Framework for Airshed-Level Air Quality Management in South India*' revealed that **Karnataka (47%)** is the third-highest contributor to interstate pollution among five southern States.

Key Highlights

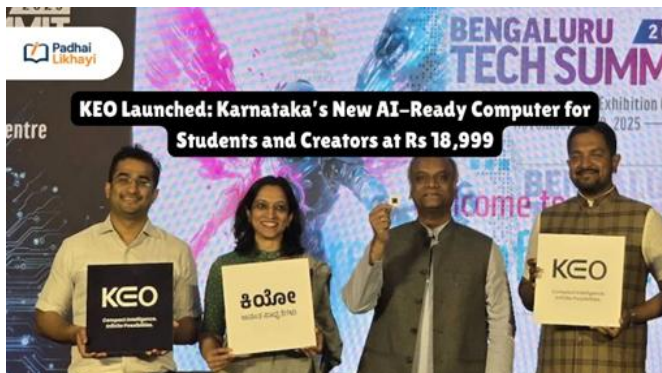
- **Pollution Share:** Locally originating pollution is highest in **Kerala (65%)** and **Tamil Nadu (61%)**, followed by **Karnataka (47%)**, **Andhra Pradesh (44%)**, and **Telangana (38%)**.
- **Exporters vs. Receivers:** **Tamil Nadu** and **Andhra Pradesh** are net exporters of pollution, whereas **Kerala** and **Telangana** are net receivers.
- **Karnataka's Role:** Due to its central geographic location, Karnataka moderately receives and exports air pollution.
- **Major Emission Sources:** The top local sources are **domestic, industrial, and open burning**, while domestic, energy, and industrial sectors drive transported **PM2.5**.
- **Airshed Dynamics:** Unlike the Indo-Gangetic Plain, South India has no single pollution hotspot as levels shift with meteorology and geography.
- **Non-Attainment Cities:** The NCAP classifies **25 cities** in South India as non-attainment for failing to meet ambient **PM10** standards.
- **Key Recommendations:** The study recommends creating a regional statutory body like the **CAQM**, adopting an approved fuel framework, and setting uniform EV targets.

Additional Information

National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)

- Launched in **2019** by the **MoEFCC** to achieve a targeted **40% reduction** in particulate matter (PM10 and PM2.5) concentrations by **2026**.
- Focuses on city-specific action plans, expanding air monitoring networks, and improving cross-sectoral coordination to reduce urban pollution.

KEO to take AI computing to every govt. school in State



Why in News

The Karnataka government has rolled out KEO, India's first home-made AI personal computer, to provide affordable AI access to government schools and the general public.

Key Highlights

- **Affordable Access:** Unveiled by Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, the KEO device is priced at ₹18,999 to democratize artificial intelligence.
- **Target Audience:** Aimed at students, teachers, farmers, and entrepreneurs who cannot afford expensive AI computing.
- **Development Partners:** Co-developed by the IT/BT Department, State-owned KEONICS, semiconductor partners, and system integrators.
- **Key Features:** KEO integrates open-source RISC-V processor architecture and on-device AI in a compact desktop platform.
- **Initial Deployment:** KEONICS is releasing an initial batch of 2,222 units across 239 taluks in the State.
- **Distribution Strategy:** Select government schools in 31 districts will receive 10 devices each to boost grassroots learning.
- **Future Variants:** KEONICS is also building a broader computing portfolio by planning to launch the KEO Lite and KEO Pro.

State govt. prohibits sale of non-dairy paneer for one year

Why in News

The Karnataka government has prohibited the manufacture, storage, distribution, and sale of **analogue (non-dairy) paneer** marketed as "paneer" across the State for **one year**.

Key Highlights

- **Statutory Action:** Issued under **Sections 30(2)(a), 18, and 29** of the **Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006**.

- **Analogue Paneer Defined:** Paneer-like products where milk fat or milk solids are wholly or partly replaced with **vegetable oil, fat, or non-dairy ingredients**.
- **Scope of Ban:** Covers the manufacture, processing, packaging, storage, transport, display, wholesale, and retail supply of such items.
- **Standardization Norms:** Under safety regulations, genuine paneer is a standardized milk product with **milk fat as an essential constituent**.
- **Preventive Step:** Imposed as a preventive measure to safeguard public health and prevent **misbranding and consumer deception**.
- **Exempted Products:** The order does not impact separately standardized items such as **frozen desserts, processed cheese, and mixed fat spreads**.

Additional Information

1 Food Safety and Standards Act (FSSA), 2006

- Consolidates various food laws into a single statute to lay down science-based standards for articles of food and regulate their manufacture.
- **Section 30(2)(a)** empowers the **State Commissioner of Food Safety** to prohibit the distribution or sale of any food article for up to one year in the interest of public health.

Three from State chosen for National Teachers' Awards

Why in News

Three teachers from Karnataka have been selected for the **National Teachers' Awards 2026** for their exemplary contributions to education, to be honoured at **Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi**.

Key Highlights

- **Award Overview:** The award carries a cash prize of **₹50,000** and a **silver medal**, conferred annually on **September 5**.

- **National Selection:** Conferred on **21 faculty members** in Higher Education and **48 teachers** in School Education nationwide.
- **Prof. Shivani V. (Karnataka Samskrit University, Bengaluru):**
 - Head of Vyakarana Department; bridges traditional knowledge systems with modern technology.
 - Collaborated with IITs in machine translation and developed the *Sambhasha* website for Shastric studies.
- **Vishwanath H.S. (MEI Polytechnic College, Bengaluru):**
 - Selected under Higher Education for innovative, practical methods in polytechnic education.
 - Recognized for making technical and vocational learning more engaging and effective.
- **Ratnakumari (GHPS Samatagaru, Hosanagara, Shivamogga):**
 - In-charge headmistress with over 30 years of experience promoting activity-based learning.
 - Mobilized local villagers, parents, and department officials to advance rural primary education.



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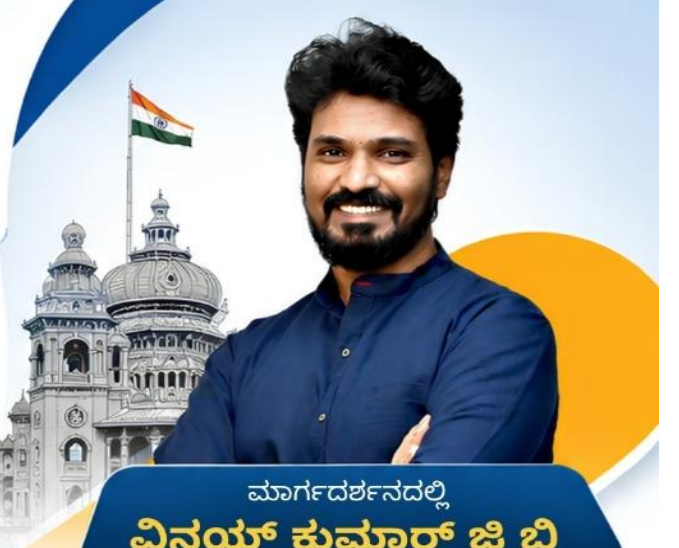
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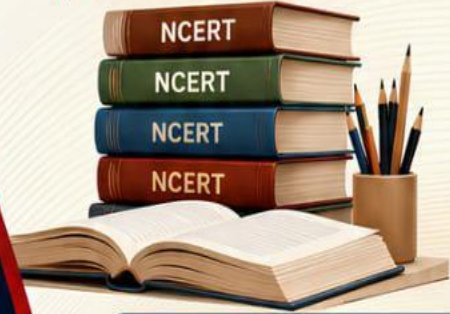
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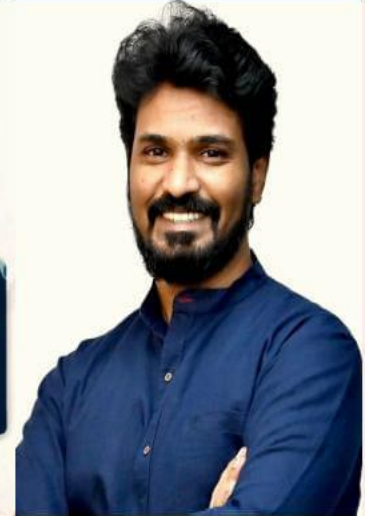
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