

February 1, 2026

1. Union Budget 2026-27: Key Impacts on Karnataka

- **Increased Tax Share:** Karnataka is set to receive an additional **₹11,173 crore** in tax devolution for the 2026-27 fiscal year. This follows the **16th Finance Commission's** recommendation to raise the state's share in the divisible pool **to 4.1%** (up from the previous 3.6%).
- **Infrastructure & Connectivity:** * Two major high-speed rail corridors connecting to Bengaluru were highlighted: **Hyderabad–Bengaluru** and **Chennai–Bengaluru**.
 - The budget proposed the establishment of community-owned **SHE Marts** to support women entrepreneurs from **Self-Help Groups (SHGs)**.
- **State Leadership Reaction:** Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy CM D.K. Shivakumar expressed disappointment, noting a lack of direct funding for major state projects like the **Upper Bhadra and Upper Krishna Phase III** irrigation projects.



2. Governance & Law

- **Hate Speech Bill:** Reports indicated that the Governor declined to sign a state bill specifically aimed at preventing hate speech.
- **ED Activity:** The Enforcement Directorate (ED) conducted a significant search operation (21 hours) at the residence of N.A. Haris' sons in Bengaluru regarding a Bitcoin-related case.
- **Education AI:** Discussions began regarding the development of the **Bharat EduAI Stack** as Digital Public Infrastructure to provide AI services for education in regional languages like Kannada.

3. Culture & Religious Observances

- **Magha Purnima:** Celebrated across Karnataka on February 1 with ritual baths (*snana*) and *Satyanarayana Puja* in many households and temples.
- **Guru Ravidas Jayanti:** Observed as a restricted holiday, with satsangs and community programs held across various districts.
- **Indian Coast Guard Day:** February 1 marked the **50th Rising Day** of the Indian Coast Guard (established 1977), which maintains significant operations along the Karnataka coastline (Mangaluru/Karwar).

4. Notable Local Events

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- **Sagara Marikamba Jatre:** Preparations were in full swing for the major biennial fair in Shivamogga, which officially commenced its primary festivities in early February.
- **Village Adoption:** Bangalore University reaffirmed its mandate for all 42 academic departments to adopt at least two villages each to improve local legal and social documentation.

February 2, 2026

1. Judicial & Legal Rulings

- **Menstrual Health as a Fundamental Right:** The Supreme Court issued a landmark directive (implemented pan-India) stating that menstrual health is integral to the **Right to Life (Article 21)**.
 - **Impact on Karnataka:** All government and private schools in the state must provide free oxo-biodegradable sanitary napkins to girls in **Classes 6–12** and ensure gender-segregated, functional toilets with continuous water supply.
- **Stem Cell Therapy for Autism:** The Supreme Court strictly prohibited the use of stem cell therapy as a routine clinical treatment for **Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)**, citing a lack of established protocol.

2. Governance & Administration

- **Revenue Village & Title Deeds:** The State Government intensified its campaign to issue title deeds to **1.1 lakh families** in February. This move, based on the Karnataka Land Reforms Act amendments, specifically targets agricultural laborers and residents of tribal settlements like **Thandas, Hattis, and Gollarahattis**.
- **Textbook Delays:** Reports emerged that administrative approval for school textbooks for the 2026-27 academic year was only granted in early February. This delay in the tender process is expected to affect the timely distribution of over **6.7 crore books** to government school students.
- **16th Finance Commission:** Discussions centered on the commission's recommendation to maintain the states' share of the divisible **tax pool at 41%**, with a new emphasis on **output-based spending** and performance-linked grants for local bodies.

3. Infrastructure & Economy

- **Union Budget Aftermath:** Discussions continued on the ₹12.2 lakh crore capital expenditure announced in the Union Budget (Feb 1). Karnataka's focus remains on the newly announced **Hyderabad–Bengaluru** and **Chennai–Bengaluru** high-speed rail corridors.
- **Environment: World Wetlands Day** was observed on February 2. While the newest Ramsar sites were added in UP and Gujarat, Karnataka intensified its conservation efforts for existing sites like **Ranganathittu and Magadi Kere**.

4. Tech & Innovation

- **Biopharma SHAKTI:** A new ₹10,000 crore scheme was highlighted to position India as a global biologics hub. This is significant for Bengaluru's established biotech industry (Biocon, etc.) and the state's NIPER (National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research) institutions.
- **Kavach 4.0:** Indian Railways accelerated the rollout of the **indigenous Kavach 4.0** safety system, which will be integrated into the high-traffic South Western Railway zones in Karnataka to prevent train collisions.



5. Miscellaneous

- **Indian Coast Guard Day:** Following its 50th Rising Day on Feb 1, the Coast Guard showcased its operational readiness along the Mangaluru and Karwar coastlines.
- **Sports:** Local sports academies noted the government's renewed commitment to the **Khelo India Mission**, aimed at upgrading training facilities for regional athletes.

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- **Public Infrastructure:** KPTCL is using ₹4.39 crore in CSR funds to transform a former dumping ground in HBR Layout into an eco-friendly theme park featuring a 700m track and sports facilities.
- **Connectivity:** The "Diamond Project" will establish Bengaluru as a central high-speed rail hub, slashing travel times to Chennai (1h 13m) and Hyderabad (~2h).
- **Creative Economy:** Karnataka remains a leader in the "Orange Economy," contributing over 50% of India's AVGC exports and aiming to create 50,000 jobs by 2028.
- **Social & Rural Issues:** While the Dalai Lama won a Grammy for his audiobook *Meditations*,
- Rural workers in Bengaluru protested against MGNREGA policy changes that threaten guaranteed employment.

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- **Health:** To mark World Cancer Day, the Kidwai Institute highlighted that Karnataka detects 89,125 new cases annually, emphasizing that early detection can yield a 60–70% cure rate.
- **Governance:** The State Government resent the Scheduled Castes (Sub-Category) Bill, 2025 to the Governor to classify 101 castes into three groups for equitable 17% reservation distribution.

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- Policy: The Assembly opposed the VB-G RAM G Act, criticizing the new 60:40 Centre-State funding ratio for wages that were previously 100% funded by the Union under MGNREGA.
- Environment & Awards: Bengaluru penalized 1.85 lakh vehicles for PUC violations (2023–25), while five individuals received the **Gadinadu Chetana Awards** (₹1 lakh prize) for cultural contributions.

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- Bharat Ranga Mahotsav & Awards: Film director K. Shivarudraiah was conferred the 'Utsava Gaurav' honor during the theatre festival in Bengaluru. Troupes Rangabhoomi (Udupi) and Shantala Art Artists (Chamarajanagar) received 'Ranga Gaurav' for 40 years of service. The event also featured a poetry gathering celebrating the centenary of Rashtrakavi G.S. Shivarudrappa.
- MARCS Portal for Urban Coordination: Bengaluru authorities launched the MARCS digital portal to streamline road-cutting permissions and inter-departmental infrastructure coordination. The system integrates infrastructure data with a new Road Information Management System to better manage traffic congestion. It is now mandatory for all utility agencies and municipal authorities to use this platform for civic permissions.
- **'BayasidanteBayalu' Scheme:** The Greater Bengaluru Authority identified 250 locations to transform underused urban spaces and streets into inclusive community hubs. Through public participation, 194 viable sites were selected across five municipal corporations for phased redevelopment. The initiative focuses on context-specific designs to improve neighborhood infrastructure and public utility.
- Tele-Manas & Police Integration: Bengaluru City Police integrated the 112 emergency helpline with the Tele-Manas mental health service in collaboration with NIMHANS. Distress calls related to anxiety, depression, or sleep disorders are now diverted to trained professionals via the 14416 helpline. This initiative ensures timely psychological care while allowing police to focus on core law enforcement duties.
- Technical Education Sector Reforms: Karnataka formed an expert committee, led by former IIT Mumbai Director S. Sadagopan, to address challenges and low employability in technical education. The committee will review computer science oversupply and suggest incentives to revive core branches like mechanical, civil, and electrical engineering. The goal is to align curriculum with industry needs to improve the current 17% graduate employability rate.

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- **Post-Production Agriculture Trade Fair:** A three-day international trade fair themed "Post-Production Agriculture" was organized at Palace Grounds to transform farmers into agri-entrepreneurs. The fair focused on value addition, branding, and direct market linkages to significantly increase farmer profits. Key highlights included the promotion of flood-resilient paddy and subsidies for cereal cultivation and organic farming.
- **Manipur Political Developments:** Y. Khemchand Singh was sworn in as the Chief Minister of Manipur following the revocation of President's Rule. Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla also administered the oath to Deputy CMs NemchaKipgen and L. Dikhu. The new government aims to prioritize peace, development, and administrative continuity in the state.
- **Women-Led Industrial Park:** FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO) inaugurated a 50-acre industrial park in Gauribidanur to support first-generation women entrepreneurs. The project, cleared by KIADB, aims to reduce entry barriers for women in the manufacturing and large-scale enterprise sectors. The park is expected to generate regional employment and strengthen women's roles in industrial growth.

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- **Supreme Court Upholds K. Y. Nanjgowda's Election:** The Supreme Court overturned a Karnataka High Court judgment, affirming Congress leader K. Y. Nanjgowda's 2023 election victory in Malur. A recount confirmed he secured a 250-vote margin over the BJP candidate, providing him significant legal relief. The Court also clarified it was not offering an opinion on mandatory video recording of counting processes.
- **Delhi Karnataka Sangha Awards 2024-2025:** Veteran litterateur Hampa Nagarajaiah is among eight distinguished achievers selected for annual awards carrying a ₹50,000 cash prize. Major honors include the RashtrakaviKuvempu Award for Hampa Nagarajaiah and the Shivarama Karanth Award for Patla Satish Shetty. The official award ceremony is scheduled to be held in New Delhi on the 8th of the month.
- **Lifetime Achievement for Hamsalekha:** Renowned lyricist and music director Hamsalekha has been selected for the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 17th Bangalore International Film Festival. Deputy Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar will present the honor during the festival's closing ceremony at Lulu Mall. The recognition celebrates his extensive cinematic contributions and excellence in Kannada film music.
- **Ballot Papers for Local Body Elections:** The Karnataka Cabinet decided to use traditional ballot papers instead of EVMs for local body elections to ensure transparency and confidentiality. This change initially applies to five urban corporations under the Greater Bengaluru Authority, with plans to extend it further. The move includes entrusting the State Election Commission with voter list preparation to maintain credibility.

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- **Wildlife Clearance for Mysore-Kushalnagar Highway:** The National Board for Wildlife granted conditional approval for the expansion of the 100-km Mysore-Kushalnagar highway, utilizing 10 acres of eco-sensitive land. The ₹4,100 crore project by NHAI aims to upgrade the corridor to four-six lanes while minimizing forest impact. Approvals were also granted for 4G towers in sanctuaries and power line upgrades in Bannerghatta National Park.
- **Cooperative 'Bharat Taxi' Service Launched:** Union Minister Amit Shah launched "Bharat Taxi," India's first cooperative-based driver-owned mobility platform, to compete with private aggregators. Drivers receive 80% of earnings directly, while the remaining 20% platform share is also collectively owned by them. The service aims for nationwide expansion within three years and provides insurance coverage through IFFCO-Tokio.
- **Rubal Nagi Wins 'Global Teacher' Award:** Indian educator Rubal Nagi received the \$1 million Global Teacher Award in Dubai for his innovative work in inclusive education. His foundation has established 800 learning centers, using unique "wall art" methods to teach children in underserved slum communities. He plans to use the award funds to establish free vocational centers for skill development and training.
- **AI Software to Track Hate Speech:** The Karnataka government approved a ₹67.26 crore AI analytics solution to detect hate speech, misinformation, and deepfakes on digital platforms. Law Minister H. K. Patil clarified that the system uses automated algorithms without human interference to ensure political neutrality. While it scrutinizes malicious digital entities, the mechanism will not apply to recognized mainstream news media outlets.
- **RCB Women Win Second WPL Title:** Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) Women clinched their second Women's Premier League (WPL) championship title by defeating Delhi Capitals Women in the final. This victory highlights the growing competitive nature and professional visibility of women's franchise cricket in India. Delhi Capitals finished as runners-up for the second consecutive time.

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- **Shilpakala Academy Awards:** **The Karnataka Shilpakala Academy** announced Honorary Awards for 2024-25 and Shilpashree Awards for 2024 to recognize excellence in sculptural art. Ten sculptors were selected for the Honorary Award (₹50,000 prize) and ten for the Shilpashree Award (₹25,000 prize). The ceremony is scheduled to be held in Bidar and Chamarajanagar in March to celebrate traditional and contemporary folk styles.

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- Expansion of Kempegowda International Airport (KIA): Phase-II expansion of Terminal-2 at KIA is underway to increase the airport's annual passenger capacity by 20 million. This project aims to strengthen Bengaluru's position as a major aviation hub and accommodate the rapid growth in domestic and international air travel. The expansion includes advanced technological integrations and sustainable infrastructure to enhance the overall passenger experience.
- **'Suru Bhagya'** Housing Initiative: The state government highlighted the 'Suru Bhagya' scheme, which focuses on providing housing support and construction assistance specifically for economically weaker women. This initiative aims to ensure social security and property ownership for women, helping them lead a life of dignity. It forms a crucial part of the state's broader welfare agenda to address urban and rural homelessness among vulnerable groups.
- Agni-III Missile Test: India successfully carried out a training launch of the Agni-III intermediate-range ballistic missile from APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha. The missile has a strike range of approximately 3,000 kilometers and is a key component of India's nuclear deterrence capability. The test validated the operational readiness of the system and confirmed its high degree of accuracy and reliability.
- Bengaluru Emission Control Plan: A new urban air quality plan was introduced in Bengaluru, specifically targeting the reduction of fine particulate matter (PM2.5 and PM10). The plan includes stricter monitoring of vehicular emissions, industrial discharge, and construction dust to safeguard public health. Authorities aim to implement "clean air zones" and promote the use of public transport to meet national ambient air quality standards.
- India Wins 6th Under-19 World Cup: The Indian U-19 cricket team clinched its sixth ICC Under-19 World Cup title in 2026, further cementing its dominance in junior cricket. This victory marks a record-extending performance for India, showcasing a strong pipeline of young talent for the national team. The players were praised for their consistent performance throughout the tournament held in Zimbabwe and Namibia.

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- CAG Audit on PMKVY: The Comptroller and Auditor General flagged irregularities in the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana, noting that ₹10,194 crore in expenditure lacked verifiable documentation. The audit covers the scheme's performance between 2015 and 2024.
- ARAI Research Centre in Mandya: The Karnataka government approved the establishment of a ₹500 crore Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI) centre in

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Mandya. This facility will focus on advanced automotive testing and research to boost the local industry.

- **Janapada Loka Awards:** The Karnataka Janapada Parishat announced the annual 'Janapada Loka' awards to honor significant contributions to folk arts and rural traditions. These awards recognize individuals dedicated to preserving the state's diverse cultural heritage.
- **Noise Barriers at Ranganathittu:** A plan was proposed to install sound-proof barriers on the highway near Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary. The goal is to reduce vehicular noise impact on the sensitive avian habitats and nesting sites within the sanctuary.
- **Decline in Out-of-State Drug Peddlers:** Bengaluru Police reported a significant drop in the proportion of out-of-State drug peddlers arrested, which fell below 12% in 2025. This trend suggests a shift in drug trafficking patterns and the effectiveness of local enforcement.
- **Wrestler Vinesh Phogat's Recognition:** The Karnataka government announced a special honor for wrestler Vinesh Phogat to acknowledge her achievements and resilience in international sports. This recognition aims to inspire young athletes and promote wrestling in the region.

February 9, 2026

- **CAG Audit on PMKVY:** The Comptroller and Auditor General flagged that ₹10,194 crore in funds between 2015 and 2024 lacked verifiable beneficiary records. Out of 1.36 crore reported trainees, documentation for 1.05 crore people was missing, raising serious accountability concerns.
- **Bennehalla Flood Control:** Chief Minister Siddaramaiah launched a ₹200 crore project in **Navalgund** to mitigate recurring floods in the Bennehalla stream. The initiative aims to protect 37 villages and 20,000 hectares of agricultural land from seasonal damage.
- **Janapada Loka Awards 2026:** Nineteen achievers were honored in Ramanagara for preserving Karnataka's folk heritage. Top honors went to Prof. **H.S. Ramachandragowda (Janapada Lokashree)** and Prof. **K. Chinnappagowda (Dr. G.S. Paramashivayya Award)**.



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- **Anti-Narcotics Trends:** Bengaluru Police reported that the share of out-of-state drug peddlers dropped to below 12% in 2025. However, overall drug cases nearly doubled to 1,057, indicating a significant rise in local involvement and consumption.
- **Ranganathittu Noise Barrier:** A **650-metre sound-proof wall** is proposed along the Mysuru-Kushalnagar Highway to shield the bird sanctuary from traffic noise. The project, cleared by the State Wildlife Board, aims to protect sensitive avian nesting habitats.
- **ARAI Centre in Mandya:** The state government approved a ₹500 crore Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI) center in Mandya. The facility will serve as a hub for advanced automotive testing and research to boost regional industry.

February 10, 2026

- **India International Coffee Festival 2026:** Scheduled for February 12–14 at **Bengaluru's Jayamahal Palace**, this event is organized by the Specialty Coffee Association and the Coffee Board. It aims to showcase India's coffee diversity to an expected 20,000 visitors, including global exporters and roasters.
- **National Deworming Day:** Karnataka launched a massive health drive to distribute Albendazole tablets to 1.95 crore children and adolescents (ages 1–19). The campaign focuses on eliminating internal parasites to prevent anemia and malnutrition, with a follow-up "mop-up" day set for February 16.
- **Social Media FIR Guidelines:** State DGP M.A. Saleem issued a directive requiring a preliminary investigation before registering FIRs for social media posts. The guidelines protect Article 19(1)(a) rights, stating that criminal action should only occur if there is a clear incitement to violence rather than mere political criticism.
- **Muzrai Department Infrastructure:** The state government approved a ₹27 crore budget for the construction of a new administrative building for the Muzrai Department. This project is part of an effort to modernize the department that manages religious and charitable endowments across Karnataka.
- **Space Sector FDI:** Recent updates highlight the relaxation of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) norms in the space sector to encourage private participation. This move is expected to boost satellite manufacturing and launch vehicle development through increased international collaboration.

February 11, 2026

- **Summer Water Management (Mini Tank Initiative):** The BWSSB is installing "Mini Water Tanks" (Sintex tanks) in densely populated and water-scarce areas of Bengaluru to

combat summer shortages. These tanks will provide free drinking water refilled by BWSSB and Cauvery tankers, reducing reliance on private vendors.

- **Nali Kali Scheme Enhancements:** The state government is strengthening this "Joyful Learning" initiative to bolster foundational literacy and numeracy in early primary education. The focus remains on activity-based learning to engage rural students and effectively reduce school dropout rates.
- **KSDL Brand Ambassador:** **Actress Tamannaah Bhatia** has been appointed as the brand ambassador for Karnataka Soaps and Detergents Limited (KSDL). She will be the face of the iconic Mysore Sandal products, helping promote the state PSU's heritage brand to a wider audience.
- **Bhartiya Antariksh Station (BAS):** ISRO has set a target **for 2028 to launch the first module of India's independent space station**. This milestone is a critical step toward India's long-term goals of establishing a permanent space presence and landing an astronaut on the moon by 2040.
- **Obituary (P. Ramaiah):** The state mourned the passing of veteran journalist P. Ramaiah. He was a highly respected figure in Karnataka's media landscape, known for his long and distinguished career in print journalism and public communication.
- **Infrastructure Coordination Committee:** A new high-level committee has been formed to oversee major Bengaluru projects and improve inter-departmental communication. The goal is to synchronize work between agencies like BBMP, BWSSB, and BMRCL to prevent project delays and public inconvenience.



FEBRAURY – 12 – 2026

1. Medicine Shortage in Government Hospitals

- **Issue:** Acute shortage of essential and life-saving medicines across the state, particularly in Kalyana Karnataka and Old Mysore regions.
- **Data:** Against a requirement of 800 varieties, some districts only have 120–180 medicines available. Even basic items like paracetamol, IV fluids, and surgical supplies (bandages, stitches) are in short supply.
- **Impact:** Emergency surgeries have been postponed in some facilities; families are forced to purchase medicines from private pharmacies.

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2. Hampi Utsav 2026

- **Event:** A major cultural festival celebrated in Hampi (Vijayanagara district).
- **Significance:** Celebrates the heritage and grandeur of the **Vijayanagara Empire**.
- **Highlights:** Features "**HampiBy Night**," sound and light shows, and cultural performances at the UNESCO World Heritage Site.

3. Elephant Task Forces

- **Objective:** To mitigate increasing human-elephant conflict in the state.
- **Structure:** Specialized task forces are operational in conflict-prone zones like Hassan, Kodagu, Chikkamagaluru, and Mysuru.
- **Measures:** Use of radio-collaring, rapid response teams, and elephant-proof trenches to manage movement.

4. Tiger Conservation Concerns (NTCA)

- **Context:** The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) flagged concerns regarding tiger captures.
- **Landscape:** Focus on the interconnected **Bandipur-Nagarhole-BRT Landscape**, which is critical for tiger population density and movement.

5. International Healthcare Exhibition (Dubai)

- **Participation:** Karnataka's Medical Education Minister attended a high-level international healthcare exhibition in **Dubai**.
- **Goal:** To explore global collaborations, advanced medical technology, and investments for the state's healthcare infrastructure.

6. National Anthem and Vande Mataram Protocols

- **Guideline:** Based on Union Home Ministry advisories, it is noted that when both are performed in a sequence, **Vande Mataram** should be sung first.

7. "SHANTI" Act Discussions

- **Focus:** Ongoing deliberations regarding the **Sustainable Harnessing (SHANTI) Act**, aimed at balancing industrial growth with environmental sustainability and labor welfare.

FEBRUARY – 13 – 2026

1. International Conference on Dam Safety (ICDS 2026)

- **Host:** Held at the J.N. Tata Auditorium, IISc, Bengaluru (Feb 13–14).

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- **Significance:** CM Siddaramaiah termed dam safety a "**national security imperative.**" He noted that ~70% of Karnataka's 231 dams are over 25 years old.
- **Key Launch:** Unveiling of **DAMCHAT**, an AI-powered platform for dam management developed by ICED, IIT Roorkee.
- **Investment:** Ongoing implementation of **DRIP Phases II & III** with an outlay of **₹1,500 crore** covering 58 dams in the state.

2. State Budget 2026-27 Schedule

- **Announcement:** The Cabinet officially fixed the Budget session from **March 6 to March 27, 2026.**
- **Milestone:** CM Siddaramaiah will present his **record 17th state budget** on March 6.
- **Focus:** Expected to balance the "Five Guarantees" with high-tech urban infrastructure like tunnel roads and the Bengaluru-Mumbai Industrial Corridor.

3. Judiciary: High Court Ruling on Road Negligence

- **Ruling:** The Karnataka High Court increased compensation to **₹25 lakh** for the family of a driver killed in a collision with a parked tractor.
- **Legal Precedent:** The court ruled that negligence lies with the driver of a **vehicle illegally parked** in the middle of a national highway at night, setting aside "contributory negligence" previously attributed to the victim.

4. World Radio Day 2026

- **Observation:** Celebrated on February 13.
- **Theme:** "Radio and Artificial Intelligence: **AI is a tool, not a voice.**"
- **Karnataka Context:** Discussions focused on leveraging AI for personalized broadcasting while preserving the human element in regional communication.

5. Obituary: Joe Simon (1946–2026)

- **Profile:** Veteran Kannada filmmaker, actor, and lyricist from Mandya.
- **Career:** Worked in over 100 films; famous for directing hits like *Sahasa Simha* and *Snehada Kadalalli*.
- **Demise:** Suffered a fatal cardiac arrest during an executive meeting at the **Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce (KFCC)** in Bengaluru.

6. Water Resources: UKP & Mekedatu

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- **Upper Krishna Project (UKP) Stage III:** The state moved forward with a **consent award mechanism** to expedite land acquisition and ensure fair compensation for farmers.
- **Mekedatu:** Reiteration of intent to start the project following environmental clearances, supported by recent fiscal allocations for pre-construction work.

FEBRUARY – 14 – 2026

1. Kala Pratibhotsava Art Festival & Mobile Addiction Awareness

- **Event:** Inaugurated by Kannada and Culture Minister Shivaraj S. Thangadgi in Bengaluru.
- **Focus:** Promoting performing arts among children to counter the "dangerous levels" of mobile and video game addiction.
- **Key Message:** Encouraging youth toward sports, music, and drama to reduce digital isolation and holistic development beyond just marks-oriented education.

2. National Anthem & State Song in Prisons

- **New Protocol:** Karnataka prisons have introduced a daily recital program for inmates.
- **Content:** Includes the National Anthem (**Jana Gana Mana**) and the Karnataka State Song (**Jaya Bharata Jananiya Tanujate**).
- **Objective:** To instill patriotism, discipline, and a sense of regional identity among prisoners.

3. Cricket: Pavilion End Named After Anil Kumble

- **Honour:** A pavilion end at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru has been named after legendary cricketer **Anil Kumble**.
- **Significance:** Recognizes his immense contribution to Karnataka and Indian cricket.

4. Obituary: Joe Simon

- **Profile:** Veteran film personality associated with the Kannada film industry.
- **Legacy:** Recognized for his extensive work in **Film Direction** and acting. He passed away recently in Bengaluru.

5. Regional Comparative Schemes: **Kalaignar Women's Rights Scheme**

- **Source:** Mentioned in the context of regional welfare models (Tamil Nadu).
- **Feature:** Provides **monthly financial assistance** to women heads of households to promote financial independence and social security.

6. Healthcare & Technology

- **NIMHANS SHUT Clinic:** Ongoing focus on managing technology-related behavioral issues, with thousands of parents seeking help for their children's digital addiction.

FEBRUARY – 15 – 2026

1. Agriculture & Environment: Arecanut Leaf Spot Disease

- **Context:** A major concern for **arecanut growers in the Malnad** and coastal regions of Karnataka.
- **Current Update (April 27–28):** Two premier government institutes in Karnataka are completing the first year of a three-year field demonstration project.
- **Objective:** To guide farmers in managing **Leaf Spot Disease** by adopting a specific "package of practices" (PoP).
- **Significance:** The disease has caused substantial yield loss and economic instability for state farmers. Warm, moist environments in these regions have accelerated the fungal and bacterial pathogen growth.

2. Banking & Finance: Karnataka Bank Milestones

- **Status:** Headquartered in **Mangaluru**, Karnataka Bank continues to expand its "Your Family Bank, Across India" initiative.
- **Digital Integration (April 24):** NPCI Bharat BillPay Limited (NBBL) integrated several major banks, including those with a strong presence in Karnataka, into its Banking Connect platform to streamline credit-on-UPI ecosystems.

3. State Governance: Digital Census Preparations

- **Context:** Following the April 1 launch of self-enumeration, Karnataka remains at the forefront of India's first **fully digital census**.
- **Progress:** Residents are increasingly utilizing the online registration portal to receive a **Self-Enumeration ID (SE ID)**, which is intended to streamline the eventual house-to-house enumeration process.

4. Urban & Digital Policy: Social Media & Safety

- **Ongoing Debate:** The state continues to refine discussions around the proposed **ban on social media for children under 16**.

- **Platform Regulation:** New draft rules at the national level regarding digital platforms (discussed extensively in the final week of April) align with Karnataka's state-level focus on tightening the "digital public square" to protect minors from psychological harm and digital addiction.

5. Cultural Events: Bengaluru Karaga & Regional Festivals

- **Karaga Conclusion:** The historic **Bengaluru Karaga**, which began in late March at the Shri Dharmaraya Swamy Temple, concluded its major festivities in April, drawing thousands of devotees from the Thigala community.
- **Cultural Preservation:** New partnerships with global platforms like YouTube (finalized in late March/April) have begun showcasing Karnataka's folk arts, such as **Yakshagana**, to a global digital audience.

FEBRUARY – 16 - 2026

Short Notes: Karnataka Current Affairs (February 16, 2026)

1. Prevention of Violence Against Government Servants Act, 2026

- **Purpose:** To ensure the safety of public servants and protect government property from damage or threats.
- **Penalties:** Proposed maximum of **3 years imprisonment** and a fine of **₹50,000**.
- **Key Feature:** Offences will be treated as **non-bailable**.
- **Property Damage:** Recovery of twice the purchase value of the damaged property from the offender.

2. 'Shakti' Smart Card & NCMC Integration

- **System:** The state is moving toward a **National Common Mobility Card (NCMC)** based system for the 'Shakti' scheme.
- **Function:** A unified transport integration system allowing a single card to be used across different modes of transport (Bus, Metro, etc.).

3. KSRTC Luggage Policy

- **Free Limit:** Passengers are permitted to carry up to **30 kg of luggage free of charge**.
- **Fee:** Any weight exceeding the 30 kg limit will attract additional charges as per corporation rules.

4. Stray Dog Adoption & Animal Welfare

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- **Legislation:** Stray dog adoption and management are governed under the **Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act**.
- **Objective:** To streamline the adoption process and ensure ethical treatment and population control of stray animals in urban areas.

FEBRUARY – 17 – 2026

1. Hampi Gang Rape & Murder Case Verdict

- **Judgment:** The First Additional District and Sessions Court in **Gangavathi** sentenced three convicts (**Mallesha, Sai, and Sharanappa**) to death.
- **Case Details:** The crime occurred on March 6, 2025, near the Tungabhadra Left Bank Canal (Sanapur, Koppal district). The victims were an Israeli traveler and a homestay owner from Anegundi.
- **Significance:** Justice delivered under the provisions of the **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS)** to ensure deterrence against violence targeting tourists and women.

2. Gig Workers Welfare Fee

- **Policy:** The Karnataka government has notified a **welfare cess** for gig workers.
- **Funding:** The fee is collected from **aggregator platforms** (digital delivery and transport apps) rather than the workers or consumers directly.
- **Objective:** To create a dedicated fund for the social security and welfare of platform-based workers in the state.

3. Anti-Discrimination Law in Higher Education

- **Legislation:** A proposed law aims to prevent **caste-based discrimination** and harassment within higher education institutions.
- **Focus:** Ensuring a safe and inclusive academic environment for students from marginalized communities.

4. Preantral Follicle Technology

- **Science & Tech:** A reproductive technology primarily used in animal husbandry and assisted reproduction.
- **Function:** It involves the **retrieval of immature eggs** (ovarian follicles) which are then matured in a laboratory setting for fertilization.

5. Great Nicobar Mega Project (NGT Update)

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- **Components:** An integrated infrastructure project including a **transshipment port, international airport, power plant, and township.**
- **Status:** Recently reviewed by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) regarding environmental clearances and its impact on the local ecology and indigenous tribes.

FEBRUARY – 18 – 2026

1. Mega Coaching Terminal Project (Yelahanka)

- **Location:** Shifted from Devanahalli to **Yelahanka, Bengaluru**, due to better operational feasibility.
- **Scale:** Estimated to cost **₹5,754 crore**; expected to be the largest railway coaching terminal in India.
- **Objective:** To decongest rail traffic in Bengaluru and improve train maintenance and stabling capacity.
- **Redevelopment:** **KrantiveerSangolli Rayanna (KSR) Railway Station** will also be redeveloped under a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model at a cost of ₹1,370 crore.

2. Airbus H125 Helicopter Assembly Unit

- **Location:** Inaugurated in **Vemagal, Kolar district.**
- **Collaboration:** A joint industrial venture between **Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL)** and **Airbus.**
- **Significance:** First private-sector final assembly line for helicopters in India, boosting the "Make in India" initiative in the aerospace sector.

3. 'Akka Pade' Initiative

- **Purpose:** A specialized initiative focused on **women's safety and emergency response.**
- **Mechanism:** Deployment of women-led rapid response teams to enhance safety in public spaces and provide immediate assistance.

4. Biodiversity: Migratory Birds at Malavi Reservoir

- **Sighting:** Large numbers of **Demoiselle Cranes** were observed at the Malavi Reservoir (Vijayanagara district).
- **Context:** These birds migrate seasonally from Eurasia to warmer regions in India during the winter.

5. Media & Publishing: KN Tilak Kumar

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- **Affiliation:** Associated with **The Printers (Mysore) Private Limited**, the prominent publishing house behind major newspapers like *Deccan Herald* and *Prajavani*.

6. Science & Technology: INSAT-3DS

- **Launch Vehicle:** GSLV-F14.
- **Purpose:** A meteorological satellite designed to enhance weather forecasting, disaster warning, and satellite-aided search and rescue services.

FEBRUARY- 19 – 2026

1. Graded Lake Buffer Zone Revision

- **Legislation:** Amendment to the **KTCDA (Karnataka Tank Conservation and Development Authority) Act**.
- **Change:** Shifted from a uniform 30-metre buffer zone for all lakes to a **graded system** based on lake size:
 - **Up to 5 guntas:** No buffer zone.
 - **10 guntas to 1 acre:** 3-metre buffer.
 - **10 acres to 25 acres:** 12-metre buffer.
 - **25 acres to 100 acres:** 24-metre buffer.
 - **Above 100 acres:** 30-metre buffer.
- **Objective:** To rationalize protected area regulations around lakes to balance urban development with environmental conservation.

2. FACT Accreditation (Ramaiah Memorial Hospital)

- **Achievement:** Ramaiah Memorial Hospital in Bengaluru received global **FACT (Foundation for the Accreditation of Cellular Therapy)** accreditation.
- **Significance:** It is the first hospital in Karnataka (and second in India) to receive this for **Bone Marrow and Cellular Therapy**.
- **Impact:** Recognizes international standards in cell collection, processing, and transplantation.

3. Biofortified Rice: 'Sirichandan' (IET 29631)

- **Product:** A new biofortified high-zinc rice variety.
- **Features:** High protein, iron, and zinc content with a **low glycaemic index (GI)**.

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- **Benefits:** Suited for diabetic-friendly diets and addresses micronutrient deficiencies.
- **Suitability:** Suited for irrigated areas; developed to enhance nutritional security.

4. Rail Wheel Factory (RWF), Yelahanka

- **Role:** A major production unit of Indian Railways located in Bengaluru.
- **Function:** Primarily responsible for manufacturing **wheels, axles, and wheelsets** for railway rolling stock.
- **Status:** Highlighted for its integral role in the indigenous manufacturing of critical railway components.

5. Vulture Conservation: Ramadevara Hill

- **Location:** Ramanagara district.
- **Significance:** Home to the Ramadevara Betta Vulture Sanctuary, which hosts nesting colonies of the critically endangered **Indian Vulture** and **Egyptian Vulture**.
- **Focus:** Ongoing conservation efforts to protect the dwindling population of these scavengers from habitat loss and diclofenac poisoning.

6. 'Vikram' Language Models

- **Developer:** Sarvam AI (Bengaluru-based startup).
- **Innovation:** A series of indigenous large language models (LLMs) trained specifically on Indian languages.
- **Objective:** To enhance AI accessibility and performance for regional Indian linguistic contexts.

FEBRUARY – 20 – 2026

1. 'Put Down the Mobile – Hold on to the Book' Campaign

- **Initiator:** School Education Department, Karnataka.
- **Aim:** To curb mobile addiction among students and promote reading, sports, and outdoor activities.
- **Implementation:** Teachers, parents, and School Development and Monitoring Committees (SDMCs) are key stakeholders.
- **Focus:** Creating awareness about digital misuse risks, online fraud, and "digital arrest" scams.

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2. AI Healthcare Pilot Projects

- **Partnership:** The Karnataka government signed agreements with **St. John's Medical College** and **St. John's Research Institute**, Bengaluru.
- **Objective:** To implement AI-based healthcare solutions and research pilots to improve diagnostic and treatment efficiency.

3. GI-Tagged Karnataka Coffee

- **Event:** Featured at the **AI Impact Summit**.
- **Representative:** The **Coffee Board of India** showcased the unique Geographical Indication (GI) status of Karnataka's coffee varieties to a global audience.

4. 2026 S.L. Bhyrappa Sahitya Pratishthana Award

- **Recipient:** Noted actor and director **Prakash Belawadi**.
- **Significance:** Recognized for his significant contributions to literature, theatre, and the arts.

5. Justice Verma Committee Recommendation

- **Context:** Highlighted in state educational policy discussions regarding female student mobility.
- **Focus:** Recommended the **Bicycle Distribution Scheme** to improve school accessibility and safety for girls.

6. New Species of Army Ants

- **Discovery:** Researchers discovered two new species, *Aenictuschittoorensis* and *Aenictuslankamallensis*.
- **Location:** Found in the Eastern Ghats, with significant involvement from Karnataka-based researchers.

FEBRUARY -21- 2026

1. Crime Trends in Karnataka (2025)

- **Mixed Patterns:** Karnataka saw an increase in **POCSO** and **SC/ST atrocity cases**, while overall violent crimes declined.
- **POCSO Cases:** Cases rose steadily from 2,197 in 2019 to 4,096 in 2025.
- **Declining Crimes:** Murder cases dropped from 1,293 in 2023 to 1,131 in 2025. Robbery, dacoity, riots, and rape also showed a downward trend.

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- **Institutional Strengthening:** In December 2024, the powers of the Directorate of Civil Rights Enforcement (DCRE) were expanded, and 33 special police stations were established.

2. Ondede Rangotsava

- **Event:** A two-day festival celebrating gender minority cultures held on February 21–22, 2026, in Bengaluru.
- **Venue:** National Gallery of Modern Art.
- **Significance:** Organized for the first time at the national level by the Ministry of Culture to showcase the art and lived experiences of intersex persons, transgender persons, kothis, and sex workers.
- **Highlights:** Featured the play "*Akkai: A Challenge of Compassion*" about activist Akkai Padmashali.

3. Netherlands PM's Visit

- **Dignitary:** Prime Minister **Dick Schoof** visited Bengaluru on February 21, 2026.
- **Focus:** Toured the **Traffic Police Museum** and Experience Center to study Bengaluru's AI-based traffic management and technology-driven enforcement systems.
- **Outcome:** Schoof expressed interest in future India-Netherlands collaboration in AI research.

4. School Dropout Rates

- **Primary Level:** Lower primary dropout rates improved, reaching **0%** by 2024-25.
- **Secondary Level:** High school dropouts increased to **18.3%** (2024-25).
- **Vulnerable Groups:** Dropout rates are highest among SC (31.9%) and ST (24.1%) students. Karnataka ranks 5th and 3rd in India for SC and ST high school dropout rates, respectively.

5. Mandatory Blood Centre Accreditation

- **Directive:** All blood centres in Karnataka must obtain **NABH** or **NQAS** accreditation within one year (as per an order dated February 17, 2026).
- **Requirements:**
 - **Government Blood Banks:** Must obtain NQAS certification.
 - **Private Blood Banks:** Must obtain NABH accreditation.

- **Objective:** To standardize quality, ensure blood safety, and prevent transfusion-transmitted infections.

6. Hakki Pikki Members Detained in Ghana

- **Incident:** Approximately 26 members of the Hakki Pikki tribal community (from Shivamogga and Davangere) were detained in **Ghana**.
- **Reason:** Allegedly selling unregistered herbal oils and plant-based medicinal products without approval from Ghana's Food and Drugs Authority.

7. Gram Panchayat Tax Collection

- **National Ranking:** Karnataka ranked **first in India** for Gram Panchayat tax mobilization.
- **Performance:** Achieved **71.39%** tax collection for FY 2025-26 as of February 18, 2026.
- **New Laws:** The *Gram Panchayat Taxes, Rates and Fees Rules, 2025* came into force on October 17, 2025, to enhance financial autonomy.

FEBRUARY – 22 -2026

1. Proposed Social Media & Mobile Ban for Minors

- **The Proposal:** Chief Minister Siddaramaiah initiated discussions with vice-chancellors to consider a **ban on mobile phones and social media access** for children **under the age of 16**.
- **Rationale:** The CM cited concerns over excessive gadget use affecting children's learning, mental health, and behavior, noting that similar steps are being taken in countries like Australia.
- **Challenges:** While academic heads generally supported the move, some flagged practical issues, such as private schools using mobile apps for assigning homework.

2. KSRTC Luggage Charges Controversy

- **Minister's Clarification:** Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy denied the introduction of "new" luggage charges by the **KSRTC**, stating that fees have been collected since the corporation's inception.
- **Historical Context:** The Minister attributed the last significant hike in luggage fees and ticket fares to the previous government in 2021.
- **Current Rules:** Passengers are still permitted up to **30 kg of luggage for free**; fees only apply to excess weight.

3. Sports: Pankaj Advani Wins Champions Cup

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- **The Victory:** Legendary cueist **Pankaj Advani** won the Liber Win Champions Cup by defeating Kamal Chawla 6-3 in the final.
- **Venue:** The final was held at the **Karnataka State Billiards Association (KSBA)** in Bengaluru.
- **New Role:** Following his win, Advani was officially named the **Indian Brand Ambassador** for the sport.

4. Cultural & Minority Festivals

- **Ondede Rangotsava:** The second day of this two-day cultural festival continued at the National Gallery of Modern Art in Bengaluru.
- **Focus:** The event showcased the art and life experiences of **sexual and gender minorities**, including performances like the solo play "*Journey A to E*" and devotional songs by the Jogappa Sangha.

5. Regional Highlights & Incidents

- **Internal Reservation:** Nomadic and micro-communities in Karnataka have moved to the High Court to challenge the latest internal reservation matrix.
- **Bengaluru Incidents:**
 - Six foreigners were detained for alleged involvement in prostitution near Madiwala.
 - A major fire at Bandepalya destroyed 20 laborer sheds; residents have alleged sabotage.
- **Honesty Recognized:** A bus passenger in Bengaluru was lauded after accidentally making a digital payment of **₹62,000** for a **₹6 ticket**, which was subsequently flagged and rectified.

FEBRUARY – 23 – 2026

1. Honey Testing Laboratory at GKVK

- **Establishment:** **Bangalore Agricultural University** is setting up a state-of-the-art honey quality testing laboratory at its GKVK campus.
- **Technology:** The facility will use **Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR)** technology to detect adulteration and ensure authenticity.

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- **Significance:** NMR certification is mandatory for honey exports to the USA, EU, Middle East, Japan, and Australia.
- **Cost:** The laboratory costs ₹10.3 crore, with the NMR machine alone costing approximately ₹6–7 crore.

2. Bengaluru Traffic Signal Optimization

- **Infra Kaizen Report:** A study found that faulty signal sequencing and non-functional "Free Left" turns are significantly worsening congestion.
- **Findings:** Approximately 31% of 32 major signals studied function in an anti-clockwise sequence, forcing left-turning vehicles to wait unnecessarily.
- **Impact:** Proper "Free Left" movement could reduce junction congestion by **20–30%**.

3. Agricultural Exports Highlighted in "Mann Ki Baat"

- **Prime Minister's Recognition:** PM Narendra Modi praised the export success of Karnataka's GI-tagged products to the Maldives.
- **Featured Products:** The highlights included **Nanjangud Rasabale** (banana), **Mysore Betel Leaf**, and **Indi Lemons** ('Kagzi' variety).
- **Growth:** Lemon export turnover has increased from ₹350–500 crore to ₹600–800 crore.

4. Proposed Mobile & Social Media Restrictions

- **Minors Under 16:** The State government is considering curbs on mobile phone and social media use for children under 16 to combat screen addiction and mental health issues.
- **Campaign:** The initiative is titled "**Mobile bidi pustakahidi**" (Put down your mobile and pick up a book).
- **Context:** CM Siddaramaiah cited similar restrictions already imposed in Australia and European countries.

5. Wildlife & Security Infrastructure

- **African Cheetahs:** **Bannerghatta Biological Park (BBP)** will receive African cheetahs from South Africa in early March, with public viewing expected by April.
- **New KSRP Battalion:** The State Police Complaints Authority has proposed establishing the **13th KSRP Battalion in Raichur** to improve regional security and response times.
- **Award Recognition:** Veteran actress **Bharathi Vishnuvardhan** has been selected for the **Siddhashri National Award**.

FEBRUARY – 24 – 2026

1. Nadoja Award 2026

- **Hampi Kannada University** has selected three eminent personalities for the prestigious **Nadoja Honour**.
- **Awardees:**
 - Prof. G. Ramakrishna: Eminent educationist from Hospet, Vijayanagara district.
 - Prof. C. Mahadevappa: Centenarian litterateur recognized for his lifelong contribution to Kannada literature.
 - H.C. Satyan: Social worker recognized for his community welfare efforts (pending review of allegation letters).
- The awards will be presented by **Governor Thaawarchandra Gehlot** at the university's 34th Nudihabba (Convocation).

2. Appemidi Mango Conservation

- Environmental experts are urging the Karnataka Biodiversity Board to declare the **Appemidi mango region** along the **Aghanashini River** as a **Biodiversity Heritage Site**.
- **Area:** A 30-km stretch of the riverbank, including a 100-meter buffer from the river mouth to Unchalli Falls.
- The region hosts rare types such as **Jeerige Midi, Kanchappe, and Girisundi**.
- The petition seeks protection under **Schedule 37 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002**.



3. KSP Police Run 2026

- The 3rd edition of the **KSP Police Run** will take place in Bengaluru on **March 1, 2026**.
- **Slogan:** "Our Police is Our Pride".
- **Categories:** 10 km and 5 km races starting from the steps of **Vidhana Soudha** at 6:00 AM.
- The event aims to raise awareness about **Green Bengaluru, Drugs-Free Karnataka, and Cyber Crime prevention**.

4. National Counter-Terrorism Policy: PRAHAAR

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- The Ministry of Home Affairs has released **India's first-ever comprehensive anti-terror policy** titled **PRAHAAR**.
- It establishes a strategy to prevent and combat terrorism across **water, land, and air** domains.
- The policy emphasizes integrating legal experts into investigations and establishing a **uniform anti-terror structure** across all states.

5. Swachh Bharat **Mission-Urban 2.0 Allocation**

- The Union Government has allocated **₹2,245.30 crore** to Karnataka under Swachh Bharat Mission – Urban 2.0.
- **Specific Earmarks:**
 - **Solid Waste Management:** ₹709.30 crore.
 - **Bengaluru Projects:** ₹512.68 crore cleared (with a Central share of ₹128.16 crore).
- Infrastructure goals include creating Material Recovery Facilities and **Waste-to-Energy plants**.

6. Karnataka BioEconomy Report 2025

- Karnataka's bioeconomy is valued at **\$39.2 billion**, contributing over **20% (one-fifth)** to India's total bioeconomy.
- Biotechnology contributes **10.51% to the State's GSDP**.
- The state added **218 new biotech start-ups** in 2025, bringing the total to 1,451.
- **Regional Hubs:** Bengaluru hosts 54% of start-ups, followed by Mysuru (8.7%), Belagavi, and Dakshina Kannada.

7. **Mission Prakriti Awards 2026**

- **Ten schools** in Karnataka received the Mission Prakriti Award for excellence in **environmental education**.
- The program, "Mission Nature: From Classroom to Conservation," was organized by Samagra Shiksha Karnataka and **WWF India**.
- Awarded schools include those in **Ballari (Emmiganur), Belagavi (Katral), Chikkaballapur (Alipur), and Udupi (Koteshwar, Hakladi, and Mallur)**.

FEBRUARY – 25 -2026

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1. Job Recruitment Protests in Dharwad

Thousands of job seekers, led by the **All Karnataka State Students' Association (AKSA)**, staged a massive protest in Dharwad.

- **Core Demands:** Immediate notification to fill approximately **2.84 lakh vacant posts** in various State government departments.
- **Current Status:** While the Finance Department has approved recruitment for **50,000 posts**, formal notifications have not yet been issued.
- **Escalation:** Leaders warned of a march to Bengaluru if their demands for transparent, corruption-free recruitment are not met.

2. Mekedatu Balancing Reservoir Project

The Central Water Commission (CWC) recently reviewed the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the Mekedatu Project.

- **Location:** Proposed at **Ontigondlu** at the confluence of the Cauvery and Arkavathi rivers.
- **Capacity & Utility:** Designed with a storage capacity of **67.16 TMC** to ensure drinking water for Bengaluru and generate **400 MW of power**.
- **Environmental Concerns:** The project area falls within the **Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary** and will utilize approximately 5,267 hectares of forest and revenue land.
- **Next Steps:** The CWC has directed fresh geotechnical investigations and technical studies.

3. Karnataka Bioeconomy Growth 2025

Karnataka continues to lead India's biotechnology sector, with its bioeconomy valued at **\$39.2 billion (₹3.25 lakh crore)** in 2025.

- **National Contribution:** The state contributes **21% to India's total bioeconomy** and over 10% to its own GSDP.
- **Sector Breakdown:**
 - **Biopharmaceuticals:** Largest segment, accounting for over 40% of the market.
 - **Bio-industrial technology:** Holds a 29% share.
 - **Bio-services:** Accounts for approximately 25.8%.
- **Geographic Focus:** Bengaluru remains the hub with a 54% output share, while North Karnataka is emerging as an agricultural biotechnology zone.

4. Rural Education: STEM & AI Labs

A new **STEM & AI laboratory** was inaugurated at Kantanakunte Government Higher Primary School in Doddaballapurataluk.

- **Objective:** To bridge the rural-urban digital divide by providing hands-on exposure to basic coding, Artificial Intelligence, and design thinking.
- **Support:** The initiative was backed by Cherish Trust and received CSR support from the **ANSR Foundation**.

5. Healthcare: Asha Kirana Eye-Care

The "Asha Kirana" initiative has reached a milestone by providing free eye screening to **1.4 crore people** across Karnataka since its relaunch in July 2025.

- **Infrastructure:** 393 permanent vision centres have been established in district and taluk hospitals.
- **Impact:** Distributed over **2.91 lakh free spectacles** and facilitated over 4.19 lakh cataract surgeries as of January 2026.
- **Recognition:** The World Health Organization (WHO) has commended the model for potential replication elsewhere.

6. Space Research: PSLV Failure Probe

ISRO has formed an expert committee, including external experts like **S. Somanath** and K. Vijay Raghavan, to investigate successive PSLV mission failures.

- **Trigger:** The recent failure of **PSLV-C62** in January 2026, caused by a **third-stage ignition malfunction**.
- **Scope:** The panel will review manufacturing, assembly, and procurement processes to identify systemic causes.

FEBRUARY – 26 – 2026

1. Kusuma Sanjeevini Scheme: Hemophilia Care

- **Launch:** Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao inaugurated the scheme in Bengaluru to provide preventive treatment and emergency care for hemophilia patients.
- **Funding:** The government has **earmarked ₹50 crore** for treatment and medicines.
- **Services:** The initiative includes free **108 ambulance services** for transport to 36 designated treatment centers.

- **Medicine:** A new preventive biologic drug, **Emicizumab** (developed by Roche), has been introduced to reduce bleeding complications.

2. India's First Statewide Gender Minorities Survey

- **Scope:** Conducted across all 31 districts of Karnataka between September and November 2025, identifying **10,365 gender minorities**.
- **Demographics:** The survey found 5,509 individuals in rural areas and 3,589 in urban settings.
- **Findings:** It highlighted significant challenges, including school violence and healthcare discrimination.
- **Goal:** The data will help the **Gender Minorities Welfare Board** design better social and educational measures.

3. Growth in ESDM and AI Data Hubs

- **Infrastructure:** Karnataka plans to develop **AI data center zones** to boost the Electronics System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) sector.
- **Capacity:** Proposed projects include mega data centers (500 MW+) and smaller hubs (25–200 MW) in tier-2 and tier-3 cities.
- **Location:** The coastal belt, specifically **Dakshina Kannada**, is proposed as a major AI data hub with a possible cable landing station at Mangaluru.

4. Achievement at Khelo India Winter Games 2026

- **Gold Medal:** Karnataka skier **Bhavani Thekkada Nanjunda** won gold in the Nordic women's 1.5 km sprint event in Gulmarg.
- **Total Medals:** This was her third medal of the edition, having also won two bronze medals in relay events.
- **Background:** Hailing from Kodagu, she is **the first Indian female athlete** to compete in the Cross Country Skiing World Cup.

5. Mandatory Body-Worn Cameras for Passports

- **Directive:** Bengaluru City Police now requires officers to wear body-worn cameras during the entire **passport verification** process.
- **Accountability:** The move aims to prevent corruption and harassment, strictly prohibiting officers from summoning applicants to police stations.

- **Process:** Officers must visit the residential address, collect neighbor inputs, and provide a 24-hour advance notice before the visit.

6. National Smartphone Exports Surge

- **Top Export:** Smartphones emerged as **India's top export category** in 2025.
- **Projections:** India is expected to export smartphones worth **\$30 billion** in 2025, with global firms like Apple and Samsung leading the production.

FEBRUARY – 27 – 2026

1. Egg-Based Anti-Venom Breakthrough

Scientists at the Karnataka Veterinary, Animal and Fisheries Sciences University in Bidar have developed a new anti-venom for snakebites.

- **Production Method:** Unlike traditional horse-based serum, this anti-venom is produced using **egg-laying hens**. Antibodies are extracted from the proteins in the egg yolk after injecting hens with cobra or Russell's viper venom.
- **Benefits:** This method addresses ethical concerns regarding animal welfare and is currently being prepared for large-scale commercial production following successful tests on rats and guinea pigs.

2. Major Government Recruitment Drive

The Government of Karnataka has approved the direct recruitment for **56,432 vacant posts** across various departments.

- **Timeline:** The recruitment process is expected to be completed within 30 days.
- **Legal Compliance:** All hiring will strictly adhere to the **50% reservation ceiling** and follows the introduction of the Karnataka Scheduled Castes (Sub-Categorisation) Bill, 2025, to provide legal backing for internal reservations.

3. AI-Based Water Shortage Prediction in Bengaluru

The Indian Institute of Science (IISc), supported by the BWSSB, has developed India's first AI-based water prediction framework for urban management.

- **Findings:** The study used AI and IoT technology to predict water scarcity in **65 wards of Bengaluru** this summer, including Jakkur, Hebbal, and Koramangala.
- **Response Plan:** Authorities plan to fast-track water connections, refill identified lakes with treated water to recharge groundwater, and penalize the use of potable water for non-essential purposes.

4. Health and Fitness Initiatives

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- **Asha Kirana Scheme:** Since its launch, 1.40 crore people have been screened for eye problems, resulting in 4.19 lakh cataract surgeries and the distribution of free spectacles to 4.3 lakh beneficiaries.
- **Naturopathy for Police:** The Ministry of AYUSH launched a weight-loss initiative for security personnel. Selected institutions, including the Government Naturopathy & Yoga Medical College in Mysuru, conducted an 18-day camp where participants reduced 5–6 kg through diet and lifestyle modifications.

5. Urban Sanitation and Safety

- **Litter Picking Machines:** Bengaluru introduced a suction-based litter picking machine costing ₹65 lakh to clear garbage "black spots" more efficiently than manual methods.
- **5K Safe-A-Thon:** The Transport Department will organize a road safety awareness event on **March 7** at Kanteerava Stadium under the slogan "Our Roads - Our Safety".

Solar Observations: **Aditya-L1 and Gauribidanur**

Scientists from the Indian Institute of Astrophysics combined data from the **Aditya-L1 satellite** and the ground-based **Gauribidanur Radio Telescope** (near Bengaluru) to study solar shocks.

- **Observation:** They recorded a coronal mass ejection (CME) shock wave traveling at **1,700 km per second**, marking the closest confirmed observation of CME-driven shocks near the Sun to date.

FEBRUARY – 28- 2026

1. Grihalakshmi Multipurpose Cooperative Society Limited

- **Aim:** To promote financial self-reliance and entrepreneurship among women beneficiaries.
- **Membership:** Open to Grihalakshmi scheme beneficiaries with a fee of ₹1,250 (including ₹1,000 share capital).
- **Savings & Loans:** Monthly deposit of ₹200 for six months builds eligibility for collateral-free loans ranging from ₹30,000 to ₹3 lakh.
- **Usage:** Loans can be used for small businesses, agriculture, education, or vehicle purchases.

2. Bengaluru Karaga Shakyotsava 2026

- **Event Dates:** Scheduled for April 1, 2026, with flag-hoisting on March 24 at **Dharmaraya Swamy Temple**.

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- **Significance:** One of South India's oldest festivals, organized primarily by the Thigala community and dedicated to Draupadi Amman.
- **Key Rituals:** Hasikaraga ritual starts at 4 a.m. on March 30; main procession at midnight on April 1.

3. All India Women's Janapada (Folk) Festival

- **Objective:** To preserve folk heritage like millstone songs and "Sobane" rituals.
- **Initiatives:** Includes "Hatti Arivu" for tribal communities and youth-centric college folklore programs.

4. GAFX-2026 Conference

- **Focus:** Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, and Comics (AVGC-XR) sector growth and responsible AI adoption.
- **Policy:** Implementation of the AVGC-XR Policy 2024–2029.
- **Workforce:** Training over 6.5 lakh employees in AI-related skills.

5. NABARD State Focus Paper (2026-27)

- **Credit Target:** ₹4.99 lakh crore for Karnataka's priority sectors, a 12% increase from the previous year.
- **Allocations:** 45% (₹2.27 lakh crore) for agriculture/allied sectors and 42% (₹2.14 lakh crore) for MSMEs.

6. Bangalore University Village Adoption Programme

- **Requirement:** All 42 academic departments must adopt at least two villages each.
- **Goal:** To improve legal awareness, documentation access (Aadhaar, licenses), and social empowerment.

7. State Action Plans for Snakebite & Rabies

- **Snakebite (SAPSE):** Karnataka is the first Indian state to have a dedicated action plan for snakebite; it is now a **notifiable disease**.
- **Rabies (SAPRE):** Aims to eliminate dog-mediated rabies deaths by 2030 through mandatory vaccine availability at all health centers.

8. SHANTI Act, 2025 (Nuclear Energy)

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- **Focus:** Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India.
- **Legal Issue:** The Supreme Court is examining the Act's operator liability cap (₹3,000 crore) and supplier liability exemptions.

