Karnataka

July 2017 to January 2018
Dr Gaurav Garg A Tireless soul and a seeker [www.studyiq.in](http://www.studyiq.in)
Neelamani Raju becomes first woman to helm Karnataka’s police force

A 1983 IPS officer from Uttarakhand named as the first woman to lead the police force in Karnataka.

State home minister R Ramalinga Reddy announced the appointment of Neelamani N Raju, 57, as the new director general and inspector general of police (DG-IGP), a post unique to Karnataka.

In most states, the DGP is the top police post.
India has 27,312 elephants, census shows

Preliminary results from the first-ever synchronised all-India Elephant Population Estimation pegs India’s Asian elephant population at 27,312.

The estimate, derived from the sighting-based direct count method alone, will be confirmed with estimates from the indirect dung-count method in three months.

According to the report, released by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change on August 12, Karnataka has the highest number of elephants (6,049), followed by Assam (5,719) and Kerala (3,054).
The numbers are lower than from the last census estimate in 2012 (between 29,391 and 30,711).

But experts say parallels cannot be drawn, because in the 2012 count, various states used different methodologies and the effort was not synchronised across the country; errors and duplication could have led to overestimation.

The census, conducted between March and May this year, covered 1.10 lakh square kilometres and spanned four regions of the country: the northeast, east-central, south and north.

The Asian Nature Conservation Foundation (ANCF) at the Indian Institute of Science (Bengaluru), several NGOs and independent conservationists aided the Project Elephant Directorate and forest departments of 23 states in this exercise.
India starts producing world’s most expensive coffee

India, Asia’s third-largest producer and exporter of coffee, has started producing the world’s most expensive coffee, made from the poop of civet cat, on a small scale in Coorg district of Karnataka.

The Civet coffee, also called as Luwark coffee, is expensive because of uncommon method of producing such a coffee.

It is produced from the coffee beans digested by civet cat. The feces of this cat are collected, processed and sold.

It is highly priced because it is claimed to be more nutritious and high cost involved in sourcing the animal dropping, wastage during processing and quality certification.
Civet coffee, a drink of elite consumed widely in the Gulf nations and Europe, is sold for Rs20,000-25,000/kg abroad.

The exotic coffee is being sold locally under the brand ‘Ainmane.

The animal poop from plantations located close to forest from where civet cats come to eat the ripest coffee bean cherries.

“Civet cat eats flesh of the coffee cherries and not the bean. Natural enzymes in civet’s stomach enhances the bean flavour and that’s why this coffee is unique.

It is being sold at Rs8,000 per kg here, while it is available at Rs20,000-25,000 per kg overseas, he said.
Karnataka, Finland in innovation tie-up for start-up incubation

Karnataka Department of Information Technology (IT) and Biotechnology (BT) entered into a memorandum of understanding with the Embassy of Finland in Bengaluru.

The innovation cooperation between Karnataka and Finland, called Karnataka–Finland Innovation Corridor, offers a virtual platform facilitating the exchange of information and expertise in the fields of science, research, innovation and skill development.
Joint projects

Karnataka–Finland Innovation Corridor envisions identifying mutual interests and organising joint projects, such as start-up incubation programmes, research programmes, events, competitions and exposure visits.

Karnataka-based i-Samarth programme, initiated by Nokia, will act as an informal focal point for IoT-related Indian and Finnish companies to collaborate in the fields of research and development (R&D) and innovation.

Further, to meet the growing demand for quality human capital in technology, Karnataka and Finland plan to organise suitable skill development programmes.
Airtel launches 'Office-in-a-Box' connectivity solutions for Karnataka start-ups

Airtel has launched 'Office-In-a-Box' for start-ups registered under the Karnataka government’s Start-Up Cell initiative.

Airtel has been selected as the preferred partner for the state government’s initiative. The Office-in-a-Box suite will be available to the over 100 start-ups registered with the Start-Up Cell and will add to their business efficiency.

Airtel’s Office-In-a-Box offers a range of services to support the business requirements of start-ups and is available on a scale-as-you-grow model with easy payment options. The services include voice and data solutions; audio and web collaboration; cloud services; payments bank services; go-to-market support across SMS, MMS, e-mail, voice, IVR and USSD; GPS and RFID-based tracking of assets.
Ola ties up with Karnataka Tourism Department to launch tourism campaign

Ola and the Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation kicked off a campaign to promote responsible tourism, titled #GhoomoResponsibly

In line with the United Nation's theme for this year's World Tourism Day, Ola aims to raise awareness about being a responsible tourist, respecting local culture and promoting environmentally-conscious tourism in Karnataka.

To promote offbeat travel, Shenaz Treasury, actress and travel vlogger, embarked on a road trip that spans across seven states, 14 days, and 21 lesser-known locations across the country with Ola Outstation, a service for inter-city travel.
Bengaluru ranked world’s most affordable tech hub

Karnataka capital Bengaluru has been ranked world’s most affordable technology hub, followed by Harayana’s Gurugram, as per a survey by a realty consultancy firm Knight Frank.

The study, which covered top 29 global technology hubs, rated Bengaluru as the cheapest in office rentals.

Eastern Whitefield area in the eastern Bengaluru is the most affordable technology district, with a rent of $9.65 (Rs 632) per sq feet.

Whereas, with a rent of $20.40 (Rs 1,335) per sq feet, Gurugram is the only other Indian tech hub featured on the list.
Here, the cost to the firm, for employing and accommodating 100 people in the comes to around to $1.3 million (Rs 8.27 crore approximately) annually – ‘termed as lowest in the world’.

The survey has placed Zurich, a Swiss city known as a hub of banking and finance, is the costliest on this front.
Green nod to Karnataka's Rs 1,561 cr Harohalli industrial park

The Centre has given its green light to the combined development of Harohalli industrial zone in Ramnagara district of Karnataka entailing an investment of Rs 1,561 crore, a government official said.

The Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB)'s proposal is to build a multi-product industrial park in about 904.86 hectares.

"The Union environment ministry has given environment clearance (EC) for combined development of phase II and III of Harohalli industrial park in Karnataka," the official said.
Prakash Raj receives Karanth award

Actor and Film-maker Prakash Raj received the **Kota Shivaram Karanth Huttura Prashasti**.

Notably, he is in the news because he mocked PM Modi over the murder of Journalist Gauri Lankesh who was close to Raj.

The award was instituted by the Kotathattu Gram Panchayat in Udupi district of Karnataka.

It is given in memory of the Jnanpith Award Winner late Dr. Kota Shivaram Karanth.

It was first given in 2005 to former Union Petroleum Minister M. Veerappa Moily.
To celebrate the idea of unity in diversity, the Ministry of Culture organised the 7th edition of the Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav under the *Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat matrix* in Karnataka beginning January 14, 2018.

The Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilisers and Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Ananth Kumar and The Union Minister of State for Culture (I/C) and Environment, Dr. Mahesh Sharma inaugurated the Mahotsav at the Jnana Jyothi Auditorium, Palace Road, Gandhi Nagar, and Bengaluru.
The Ek Bharat Shresusaha Bharat programme was launched by the Prime Minister on 31st October, 2016 to promote engagement amongst the people of different states/UTs so as to enhance mutual understanding and bonding between people of diverse cultures, thereby securing stronger unity and integrity of India.

The State paired with Karnataka is Uttarakhand.
Karnataka government to obtain electric vehicles under FAME-India scheme

The Karnataka government has said it would be obtaining electric vehicles under the Centre's FAME-India scheme.

Karnataka is set to procure and ply 40 electric buses, 100 four wheelers and 500 three wheelers along with setting up of charging infrastructure across the city of Bengaluru

state's Industries Minister R V Deshpande

This is as per the approval received in response to the Expression of Interest by Department of Heavy Industries of the Union government under the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid & Electric Vehicles in India (FAME-India) India scheme.
Under the scheme, subsidy is provided to an extent of 60 per cent of purchase cost for electric buses, Rs 1.24 lakh for every Electric four wheeler and Rs 61,000 for every electric three wheeler by the central government.

Also subsidy support is provided for charging infrastructure.

**Fame India Scheme**

Government of India has notified FAME India Scheme [Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid &) Electric Vehicles in India] for implementation with effect from 1st April 2015, with the objective to support hybrid/electric vehicles market development and Manufacturing eco-system.

The scheme has 4 focus areas i.e. **Technology development, Demand Creation, Pilot Projects and Charging Infrastructure.** The phase-I of the scheme is being implemented for a period of 2 years i.e. FY 2015-16 and FY 2016-17 commencing from 1st April 2015.
The FAME India Scheme is aimed at incentivizing all vehicle segments i.e. 2 Wheeler, 3 Wheeler Auto, Passenger 4 Wheeler Vehicle, Light Commercial Vehicles and Buses.

The scheme covers Hybrid & Electric technologies like Mild Hybrid, Strong Hybrid, Plug in Hybrid & Battery Electric Vehicles.
Karnataka’s Tirthahalli taluk under grip of monkey fever again.

Karnataka’s Tirthahalli taluk has come under the grip of Kyasanur Forest Disease (KFD), also known as monkey fever.

So far, five positive cases, including one death, have been reported in humans.

Moreover, deaths of 5 monkeys were reported in the forest of Ghantejanagallu near Suruvinakoppa village. In 2016-17, four persons died of KFD in Tirthahalli and 48 positive cases were reported.
Monkey Fever

Kyasanur forest disease or monkey fever is tick-borne viral diseases caused by Kyasanur forest disease virus (KFDV), a member of the virus family Flaviviridae, which also causes dengue and yellow fever. It is endemic to South Asia and was first detected in 1957 in Kyasanur Forest of Karnataka.

Monkey fever is so named because it primarily affects black-faced langurs and red-faced bonnet monkeys and result in their death.

KFD causes seasonal outbreaks between December and May along Western Ghats mostly striking farmers in Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra.
**Transmission:** The vector responsible for its transmission is ticks (*Hemaphysalis spinigera*). These ticks are known to thrive in the Western Ghats and transmit the disease to humans. Humans contract KFD infection from the bite of nymphs of the tick....

**Symptoms:** High fever with headache, followed by haemorrhagic symptoms such as bleeding from nose, throat and gums. It also causes gastrointestinal bleeding, muscle stiffness, tremors, absent reflexes and mental disturbances.

**Prevention:** Its spread can be prevented through vaccination. Moreover, additional preventative measures include using insect repellents and wearing protective clothes in areas where ticks are endemic.
Exercise Ekuverin 2017: India-Maldives bilateral military exercise held in Belagavi.

The eight edition of India, Maldives bilateral military exercise EKUVERIN 2017 was held in India in Belagavi, Karnataka.

The aim of the exercise was to conduct military training between armies of both countries with emphasis on counter insurgency, counter terrorism operations (CICT Ops).

Indian Army and Maldives National Defence Force have been holding Exercise Ekuverin (meaning ‘friends’ in the Maldivian language) since 2009 on alternate years in their countries.
ADB okays $346 mn loan to upgrade Karnataka highways

Asian Development Bank (ADB) will fund highway upgradation project in Karnataka for which it has approved a loan of USD 346 million.

It said the Board of Directors has approved the loan to improve 419 km of state highways by upgrading them to two and four-lane with paved shoulders and improving culverts and bridges.

The project will carry out a road safety survey to identify critical accident spots across the state highways and carry out measures to improve these, it said.

This is ADB's second funding to Karnataka, whose per capita income is higher than the national average and has lower unemployment and poverty rates.
The project will see construction of planned pedestrian, installation of women-friendly elements including bus shelters, marked crossings, footpaths and proper signage, among others.

Total cost of the project is USD 655 million.

Of this, the state government will provide USD 202 million and the private sector will invest an estimated USD 107 million through hybrid annuity contracts. It is due for completion by 2023.
Supreme Court refuses to stay PETA plea to ban Kambala.

The Supreme Court has refused to pass an interim order to stay Ordinance allowing kambala, the traditional buffalo slush track race in Karnataka.

However, the apex court will examine the Constitutional validity of the Ordinance. People for Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), a non-governmental organisation, had challenged the Ordinance.
Background

Karnataka Assembly had passed an ordinance Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Karnataka Amendment) Bill, 2017 in February 2017 to allow Kambal to circumvent ban imposed by Karnataka High Court.

The ordinance had received Central Government (Ministry of Law and Justice) and Presidential assent. The Karnataka HC had stayed these traditional sports in view of Supreme Court’s ban on jallikattu, a traditional bull taming sport of Tamil Nadu.
About Kambala

Kambala is a contest where two pairs of buffaloes tied ploughs are made to race on slush-filled tracks with a jockey guiding them while they run.

The buffaloes are made to run at a speed that they time close to 12 to 13 seconds while covering a distance of 140 to 160 metres.

The farmers use a whip to nudge the buffalo ahead and try and make them a medal winner.

The Kambala season generally starts in November and lasts till March in the following year.
The winning pair of buffaloes were awarded coconuts as part of this centuries-old tradition but these days the race is for a gold medal or a trophy. Kambala races are nowadays conducted day and night under floodlights.

Animal rights activists have opposed the sport saying that tying the noses of the buffaloes with a rope and using a whip amounts to cruelty.

Supreme Court in 2014 had banned Kambala and Jallikattu based on a petition filed by various animal rights organisations.

Kambala supporters have been protesting since the ordinance on jallikattu was moved by the Tamil Nadu government lifting the ban.

Massive protests and processions are being taken around with buffaloes to put pressure on the Karnataka government to move a similar ordinance.
Government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) sign $65.5 Million Loan to support Coastal Protection in Karnataka

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India signed a $65.5 million loan agreement in the national capital to continue interventions to check coastal erosion on the Western Coast in Karnataka.

The loan is the Second Tranche of a $250 million financing facility under the Sustainable Coastal Protection and Management Investment Program.

The financing will be used to address the immediate coastal protection needs and for strengthening institutional capacity of Karnataka’s Public Works, Ports and Inland Water Transport Department.
The project will consist of eight coastal protection subprojects to address the issues of medium to severe coastal erosion resulting in protection of about 54 km of coastline in Karnataka.

The Second Tranche Loan from ADB’s ordinary capital resources has a 20-year term.

The State of Karnataka, acting through its Department of Public Works is responsible for implementation of overall program, which is due for completion by September 2020.

The only major port is the New Mangalore Port. The minor ports are located at Karwar, Old Mangalore, Belekeri, Tadadi, Honnavar, Bhatkal, Kundapur, Hangarakatta, Malpe and Padubidri ports.
Indian Coast Guard’s (ICG) new interceptor boat V-409 was launched in Mangaluru, Karnataka by Bharathi Defence and Infrastructure Limited (BDIL).

The vessel will be inducted into service by mid-October 2017 to give boost to coastal security and national security.

The V-409 interceptor boat has length of 28 meters, beam of 6 meters and draught of 1.2 meters. It has aluminium hull.

It has Articulate Surface Piercing Propulsion, also called as Arneson Surface Drives (ASD) which is powered by twin MTU Caterpillar marine diesel engines having a capacity of 1630 kW each. These engines enable boat to attain a maximum speed of more than 35 knots.
The vessel has the capability of attaining a very high speed in a very short duration and can operate in shallow waters. The vessels can perform high-speed interception, close-coast patrol, low-intensity maritime operations, search-and-rescue (SAR) and surveillance.

The boat has complement of one officer and 12 sailors.

Background

BDIL is constructing 20 vessels for ICG of which six had already been handed over and the remaining vessels would be handed over on the projected time. The boats are being constructed as per Rs. 2.81 billion contract signed between Ministry of Defence and BDIL in March 2009. The remaining vessels will be handed over on the projected time.
Karnataka ties up with Microsoft to develop India’s first Farm Price Forecasting Model.

Karnataka Government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with software giant Microsoft India to develop a unique “farm price forecasting model.” The proposed initiative is claimed to be the first-of-its-kind in the country.

It will aid farmers from states to predict farm prices in advance and deal effectively with the unpredictable market.

The farm price forecasting model will use latest IT tools in a bid to help farmers, administrators and other stakeholders to understand market behaviour in advance.

It will be a “multi-variate” platform that will take into consideration various factors beyond conventional supply-demand equation while forecasting prices of crops.
The model will examine a slew of related factors including weather, rainfall and external factors that impact market behaviour.

It will help to provide real-time market data, besides helping analyse its implications on farm sector.

The model is expected to be in place for major crops by 2018 kharif season.
Karnataka Government launches clouding seeding Project Varshadhari.

The cloud seeding experiment taken up at cost of ₹35 crore, called Project Varshadhari, began.

This cloud seeding operation, a first in Magadi and Ramanagaram, aims to condense small water particles by clouds (size less than 10 microns) to droplets of 50 microns, which can constitute rains.

The flight for cloud seeding - BQ-100 Beechcraft – took off from Jakkur Airport at 2.45 p.m.

The flight is expected to a one-hour sortie and will spray Silver Iodide, Sodium Chloride and Potassium Chloride to condense the water particles. A committee, comprising meteorologists, experts in cloud physics and hydrologists, will monitor the process.
Surya Raitha Scheme in Karnataka to Provide Solar Water Pump Sets to Farmers

Karnataka government is going to launch Surya Raitha Scheme to provide solar water pump sets to the farmers.

Subsequently, the state govt. will replace the existing irrigation pump sets (IP Pumps) with these solar water pumps in order to produce excess energy. Accordingly, govt. launched this scheme on the pilot basis in Kanakapura on 19 January 2018.

In the initial phase, Karnataka govt. will replace 310 IP sets with solar water pump sets. These solar pumps have around 1.5 times the capacity to pump more water than the existing IP Pump Sets. Moreover, these pumps will supply 1/3rd of the total energy generated to the nearby electricity grid (assembly).

Earlier, the state govt. announces this scheme in the FY 2014 to fulfill the need of day time power supply for farmers.
Surya Raitha Scheme

Surya Raitha Scheme helps farmers in irrigation purposes as the farmers need not switch on their IP Sets during night. Subsequently, the solar water pumps keep a check on the power and water wastage.

Karnataka govt. will launch this scheme through funds collected from combination of farmers investment, Central & State govt. subsidy and soft-loans from Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (BESCOM).

BESCOM will recover the loan amount through the cost of excess energy exported in the grid. After the recovery of loan amount, BESCOM will deposit the excess amount in farmers bank account. Accordingly, the payback period will be around 12 to 14 years as the amount of generated electricity and its utilization will take this amount of time.
Karnataka Electricity Regulation Commission (KERC) will fix the tariff plans and thus the net meter revenues will get deposited in the Escrow Account. Govt. will use this tariff for repayment of loan, generation based incentives and also provide certain amount to the society for maintenance.

**BSECOM Initiatives**

Under this scheme, BESCOM will perform the following functions:-

- Creation of Farmer’s Cooperatives.
- Subsequently, BESCOM will also provide channel subsidies.
- To provide soft-loans to the farmers.
- Signing Power Purchase Agreements for a span of 25 years.
- To ensure proper power supply to the Pump Sets.
Moreover, farmers will have to give shadow free lands to successfully install such systems. In addition to this, farmers will have to safeguard the installed solar photovoltaic (PV) system.

Surya Raitha Scheme – Kanakapura: Karnataka govt. will form “Harobele Surya Raitha Vidyuthchakthi Balakedarara Sangha Niyamitha Society” for the successful implementation of this pilot project.

The primary task of this society is to get payment from BESCOM and distribute these funds among the farmers.

Solar park

The department has set up the world’s largest solar park at Pavagada in Tumakuru district.
Karnataka Indira Vastra Bhagya Scheme to Provide Free Sarees & Shirts for BPL Families

Karnataka Government is going to launch Indira Vastra Bhagya Scheme for Below Poverty Line (BPL) Families.

Subsequently, the state govt. will provide free sarees and panches to the poor households. Accordingly, people from the economically weaker sections will get these clothes from the fair price shops. This scheme will benefit around 1.10 crore BPL families.

Vastra Bhagya Scheme is going to add in the list of other popular schemes like Anila Bhagya, Ksheera Bhagya, Laptop Bhagya etc. of the state government. Karnataka govt. will implement this scheme with a total outlay of Rs. 550 crore.
Here are the important features and highlights of this scheme which are as follows:

This scheme will provide **free sarees** and **panches** to the people belonging to BPL families.

Under this scheme, Men will get a set of poly cotton panche and poly viscose shirt piece. In addition to this, Women will get polyester saree and poly cotton blouse piece.

Moreover, this scheme will also benefit the households whose livelihood depends on the Handloom sector as the govt. will directly procure these clothes from weavers at appropriate prices.

Accordingly, the state govt. will launch this scheme on the lines of Indira Gandhi Saree-Dhoti Scheme.

Recently, **Tamil Nadu** govt. has also launched a similar **Free Saree Dhoti Scheme** for celebration of **Thai Pongal**.
Karnataka government has launched Sidda Sarkarada Nade Sevegala Kade Scheme (march of state government towards services for citizens).

Subsequently, the state govt. will make use of the un-utilized funds for construction work of schools, anganwadi centers and other health scheme.

For these welfare activities, Karnataka govt. will spend Rs 406 crore before March 2018.

Govt. will release these Local Area Development (LAD) funds of the legislators for the department of health, education, health and women & child development. Under this programme, govt. will carry forward the process of building classrooms, basic infrastructure development in hospitals and development of several anganwadi centers for workers.
Distribution of Funds

Karnataka govt. is going to distribute these funds among various departments for specific projects as given below in the table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Rs 243 crore</td>
<td>Construction / Repair of 2719 classrooms in government schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>Rs 122 crore</td>
<td>Improve basic infrastructure of 309 Government hospitals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women and Child Development</td>
<td>Rs 40 crore</td>
<td>Construction of 346 Anganwadi centers</td>
</tr>
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Shrama Samarthya Scheme for Construction Workers in Karnataka

The state government of Karnataka is going to introduce Shrama Samarthya scheme in the state. The objective of the scheme is to provide various benefits to the construction workers in Karnataka.

The beneficiaries will get a toolkit under the scheme. This scheme will help to enhance the skills of construction workers.

As per the released notification, the government has earmarked Rs. 99.98 crore in its budget to implement the Shrama Samarthya Scheme. About 37,440 construction workers will be trained under the scheme in various skill sets required in the construction industry.
Moreover, the state government will also amend the Mineral concession rules 2016.

This amendment will ensure the supply of sand at the time to meet the demand.

Currently, about 2000 application forms are pending from private players for M-sand production. In addition, another amendment in the rules will help to allow import of sand by state–run MSIL and also private players.

However, Shrama Samarthya scheme has not been officially launched yet, as soon as this scheme is launched,
Karnataka Indira Canteens – Starting from New Year, Jan 1, 2018

The state government of Karnataka is going to launch Indira Canteens for providing food to the needy and poor people of the state.

The primary objective of this canteen is to provide a cheap and healthy diet to the poor people and labour force for consumption. This canteen program will start on the day of new year, 1 January 2018.

The state government will provide Rs. 185 crore for setting up Indira canteens in every district and Taluka hospitals along with bus stands of the state.
According to the notification, the first stage of Indira canteens will start from 1 January 2018.

Initially, the canteens will provide food at a cheaper cost at 246 centers spread over the 171 regions of the state.

The state government will spend Rs 9 crore per month on these canteens. As per the official data, around one lakh poor citizens of the state will get healthy diet every day.
Guru Chetana Scheme Launched in Karnataka to Improve Quality of Education

The Karnataka government has launched “Guru Chetana Scheme” to improve the quality of education in the state. This scheme was launched at a function organized at the District Institute of Training and Education (DIET) by the state govt.

The objective of this scheme is to provide opportunities to the teachers to enhance their skills, ability to learn and increase the base of knowledge to improve the quality of education.

The officers of the Department of Public Instructions will design the framework and strive for the successful implementation of Guru Chetana Scheme.
Under the scheme, nearly 50,000 teachers will get selected across the state.

Furthermore, the government has fixed the target to provide training to 1,400 teachers at district level.
Karnataka Mathru Purna (Matru Poorna) Scheme for Pregnant & Lactating Women

The state government of Karnataka is implementing “Mathru Purna Scheme” or “Matru Poorna Scheme” for pregnant and lactating poor women across the state. The aim of the scheme is to provide at least one nutritious meal every day to pregnant women particularly those living in rural areas of the state.

The guideline and framework of Mathru Purna Scheme (Matru Poorna) has been operated by the department of women and child welfare, government of Karnataka.

This scheme includes rice, dal or sambar, green vegetables, pulses, egg and groundnut-jaggery chikki to meet the nutritional needs of pregnant and lactating women in rural areas.

In addition, this scheme is providing two kinds of sprouts for those pregnant women who don’t eat eggs. The responsibility to implement this scheme is of all the anganwadis working among rural women across the State.
The objective of Matru Poorna scheme is to improve maternal health that have a direct impact on the women and child’s nutrition. Under the scheme, the estimated cost of each meal could be around Rs. 21 per meal.

The meal to pregnant women would be provided for 15 months that means it starts from the time of pregnancy to up to six months after delivery. This scheme will help in curb child malnutrition across the state.

During 2016-17 financial year, the state government had launched micro nutrients for pregnant and lactating women who are living in backward taluks at a cost of Rs 42 crore under Mathru Pushtivardhini Scheme, under National Health Mission (NHM).

The implementation process of matru poorna scheme will be started on October 2, 2017 at all anganwadis centers across the State. The state government is providing all requirement / grant to procure utensils and gas cylinder for cooking food at anganwadis.
Sankalpadinda Siddi Programme in Karnataka Launched by PM

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched “Sankalpadinda Siddi programme” in Karnataka state to empowering farmers throughout the country.

This program organised by the University of Agricultural Sciences at Harobelavadi village in Dharwad taluk of Karnataka.

Under Sankalpadinda siddi programme, government will provide many opportunities like adequate water, quality power supply and link farmers to the market etc. to double the income of farmers till 2022.

The government is also planning to encourage the farmers to adopt online Procurement System will be undertaken through the food corporation of India (FCI).
Karnataka Aarogya Bhagya Scheme to Provide Free Medical Assistance

The Karnataka state government is going to launch a healthcare scheme named “Aarogya Bhagya Scheme” for providing free medical treatment to poor across the state.

The government has fixed the target to cover around 14 million state households as a part of universal health coverage (UHC) under the scheme.

The mainstream of the scheme is to provide free healthcare services particularly to needy households in the state. The targeted people under the Aarogya Bhagya scheme mainly will be from socially and economically backward classes in the society.
Below are the main highlights of Karnataka Aarogya Bhagya Scheme

The Universal health coverage (UHC) scheme will cover around 14 million households.

The Aadhar card will be linked with the universal health card to leverage the healthcare facilities.

The scheme will start on 1 November at Kannada Rajyotsava day in all districts of the state.

The state government will merge seven different existing healthcare schemes in the Aarogya Bhagya scheme, accordingly to the official notification.

This scheme will provide benefits to everyone without any discrepancy among APL and BPL card holders.

The beneficiary of this scheme can get healthcare treatment in government as well as private hospitals.
Schemes to be Merged in Aarogya Bhagya

Below is the list of 7 existing healthcare schemes which will be merged into the new Aarogya Bhagya scheme for the better efficiency and transparency in the whole implementation of the scheme.

- Rajiv Arogya Bhagya Scheme
- Vajpayee Arogyashree Scheme
- Mukhyamantri Santwana Harish scheme
- Yeshasvini Health Insurance Scheme
- janani shishu suraksha karyakram
- Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana
- Jyothi Sanjeevini Scheme
According to the notification, Aarogya Bhagya scheme the free healthcare facilities will be provided in two category for needy households across the state.

In first category, about 10.5 million households will be covered from different categories including farmers, unorganized workers, Anganwadi (childcare center) workers, SC / ST, media professionals, teachers of aided schools, public servants and even sanitation workers.
Insurance Premium of Aarogya Bhagya Scheme

The insurance premium amount of the Aarogya Bhagya Scheme has been decided and is different for households in rural and urban areas. People who are living in rural areas have to pay annually Rs. 300 per person and in urban areas Rs. 700 per person as insurance premium to avail the benefits of this scheme.

Moreover, the state government is also planning to fix the rates for various secondary and tertiary procedures under the Karnataka Private Medical Establishments rules which will be paid to the private hospitals.
Home Health Care Services Under National Health Campaign to be Launched in Karnataka

The Karnataka health department is introducing Home Health Care Services under the National Health Campaign with the help of Public Health Foundation of India in Hyderabad-Karnataka region.

Under this scheme, poor families in selected six district will get free home health care services. The primary health services will be provided by the health department at their doorstep.

The aim of the scheme is to eliminate the diseases in the first stage by providing medicine at home for the welfare of patient. The health department will also recommend the better hospitals to patients. The campaign would also generate the awareness about the family planning in the state.
Initially the National health campaign will start the scheme in Bidar, Ballari, Kalaburgi, Rayachuru and Yadagiri district of Karnataka-Hyderabad region.

**Home Health Care Service – Highlights**

The main targets will be the poor families across the state. The health department will provide medicines for flu, vomiting, diarrhea related diseases.

Many problems related eye, nose, throat, teeth and cancer, free health check-ups for diabetes, blood pressure, hemiplegia, lung diseases, will be covered under the scheme.

The program will also provide healthcare service for pregnant women and children.
Gradually, this campaign will be implemented in all districts across the state. Under the scheme, the state health department will provide fund to modify 105 sub-health centers in Mysuru’s T Narasipura and Rayachuru’s Lingasuguru talukas.

For the home health care services, the department is hiring 105 BSc nursing graduates as medicare assistants. The eligible nurse will be trained for 6 months through IGNOU bridge course.

After completing the course at IGNOU, these Medicare assistants will provide the requisite service at patient’s home.

The home health care nurses can work alone in the field with support resources available from the health department. To remove the difficulties, the home health care services are to assist the patient to remain at home, avoiding hospitalization or admission.
SC stays Karnataka high court verdict against 85% pictorial warning on tobacco products

The Supreme Court has stayed Karnataka High Court order reducing size of pictorial warnings on packages of tobacco products to 40% of the package space from earlier 85%.

The apex court took decision saying that health of citizen has primacy and emphasised on importance of public health and harmful effects of tobacco products.
Background

The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) in 2014 had amended Cigarette and other Tobacco Products (Packaging and Labelling) Rules prescribing mandatory 85% statutory warnings space on both sides of tobacco packaging telling consumers that cigarette smoking and tobacco chewing were harmful to health.

These rules were framed under Cigarette and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003
In December 2017, Karnataka High Court judgment had quashed MoHFW rules that mandated pictorial health warnings to cover 85% of tobacco product packaging space, holding that they violated Constitutional norms.

However, it made it clear that 40% pictorial health warning rule, which existed prior to amendment rules, will remain in force.

It had held that rules framed by MoHW in 2014 was violation of the Article 77 (Conduct of Business of Government of India) and Transaction of Business (ToB) rules framed under it as subject of tobacco control and legislation was not attached to one department or Ministry.

Moreover, these rules are also contrary to Article 19(1)(g) (right to practise any profession, or to carry on any occupation, trade or business).
Karnataka govt clears Boeing plan to set up ₹1,152-crore tech facility in Bengaluru

Seattle-based commercial aircraft maker Boeing will invest ₹1,152 crore to set up an engineering and technology facility. The Karnataka government has cleared the project, which will create 2,300 jobs.

The Boeing facility will come up on about 36 acres of KIADB (Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board) land at Aerospace Park. The company is planning to build its new facility for engineering and technology with electronics/avionics manufacturing and assembly.

In July, Boeing had said it expects Indian airlines to order up to 2,100 new aircraft worth $290 billion over the next 20 years which, according to the plane maker, is the highest-ever forecast for the country.
It also said it expects single-aisle planes like the next generation 737 and 737 Max to account for most of the deliveries.

MORE PROJECTS CLEARED

The Karnataka clearance committee today cleared four projects totalling ₹3,427 crore, including that of Boeing. The project are together seen creating 2,595 jobs.

*CDC Development India’s* proposal to build a Technology Innovation International Park on 100 acres of KIADB land, *at an investment of* ₹740 crore, *was also cleared.*

Also cleared was the *Coast Guard’s* ₹1,010-crore project to build the Indian Coast Guard Training Centre (ICGTC) on 160 acres of KIADB land in Baikampady, Dakshina Kannada district.

Universal Builders’ ₹525-crore affordable housing project was also cleared by the *State government.*
Amazon announced a partnership with the Akshaya Patra Foundation to implement the Karnataka government's 'Ksheera Bhagya' Scheme in the city, wherein schoolchildren would be provided a glass of milk each five days a week.

The partnership aims to reach out to 170,000 children across 1,300 government schools in the state.

The scheme is a dream project conceived by Karnataka Milk Federation on Chief Minister's (Siddaramaiah) suggestion to help poor children by providing them nutritious food essential for healthy growth and all-round development of schoolchildren.

The Ksheera Bhagya Scheme was launched by the Congress government in 2013 to provide nutrition through milk to students of government schools and anganwadis across the state.
The Karnataka government today signed MoUs with eight companies including Google and PwC to cater to the needs of the identified 100 startups under the state's 'Elevate 100 programme.'

"Google which will provide $3000 worth of cloud credits for startups registered with Startup Cell and $20,000 worth of cloud credit for startups who are winners of Elevate100," said state IT Minister Priyank Kharge.

Elevate 100 is a government project which will help elevate selected 100 startups by providing them funds and mentors to help them turn their ideas into successful businesses.
PwC will provide mentoring and consulting services for sustainable growth of startups and Yes Bank will give banking services, API Integration and customized solutions for these startups.

Kotak Bank will provide help to set up business and registration processes and assistance in providing accounting, income tax returns, GST returns and tax audits among other support while the Indian Law Practices will provide legal consultancy services for identified startups

Digital Ocean will give a $100 one-time credit for all startups registered with Startup Cell and a $1000 one-time credit for startups, that are being funded under Karnataka Startup Cell while Zoho will provide the startups 35 plus integrated applications on one account with complete administrative control and complementary mobile apps.
Under Elevate 100 programme, Karnataka government plans to spend Rs 400 crore to elevate 100 startups by providing them funds and mentors to help them turn their ideas into successful businesses.

The shortlisted startups will also have access to government VC funds, pilots, private VC funds, world class accelerators and mentors.
Bengaluru: 2018 Millet fair begins

The three day Organics and Millets 2018, International Trade Fair (ITF) began on 18th Jan at the Bengaluru Palace.

The event offers an excellent platform for farmers, buyers, sellers and exporters of organic produce and millets. It also facilitates organic product processors, manufacturers of farm equipment and others to showcase their products and expertise in organic and millet related areas.

The fair also has a lot to offer for the public, where various discussion, demonstrations and contests will be held to bring about an awareness on the health benefits about millets.
Karnataka has an early mover advantage by being the first State in India to formulate an organic policy in 2004 that seeks to cater to the entire organic value chain and signals the shift from conventional agriculture, which is increasingly becoming unsustainable.

The policy evolved as the land under certified organic cultivation grew from 2500 Ha (2004) to 93,963 Ha, paving the way for the Karnataka Organic Policy 2017

Nutrient-rich millets have got a boost with the Union government deciding to declare 2018 as the ‘national year of millets’.

This decision has been taken following a request by Karnataka, which is the country’s leader in the millet sector.
Karnataka woos techies, organises blockchain hackathon

The Karnataka Government has decided to use the blockchain technology and is planning to bring out a White Paper on ‘Blockchain Use in Governance’ as a prelude to a separate policy.

Karnataka's Information Technology department is organising a blockchain hackathon from January 19 to January 21 to see if participants can create demonstrable prototypes of the use of blockchain in government applications.

This is a 'residential' hackathon: it will last 48 hours (Friday to Sunday), and participants cannot leave the venue for the duration. The government will provide all facilities including food at the venue.
The hackathon will be open to students, startups, and other IT professionals while cloud-based blockchain technology providers will be invited to provide platforms for use in the hackathon.

A total of 10 teams will be awarded: 1 first prize, 2 second prizes, 3 third prizes, and 4 fourth places. Each team will have to submit its entry in the form of a video. The winners will present their solution at a special Blockchain summit on Feb 15, where their use may be expanded further.
Karnataka government notifies minimum and maximum fare for taxis

The State government notified minimum and maximum fare for taxis operated by aggregators such as Uber, Ola and others.

Four categories of fares have been introduced based on the cost of the vehicle.

The notification states that hiring a small cab (D class - vehicle costing below ₹5 lakh) will cost ₹ 44 for the first four kilometres. For subsequent kilometres, the aggregators can charge minimum fare of ₹ 12 and maximum of ₹24.

For C class (vehicles costing between ₹ 5 and 10 lakh), the first four kilometres cost will be ₹ 52. For subsequent kilometres, a maximum rate of ₹ 24 and minimum of ₹ 12 will be applicable.
For B class (₹ 10-16 lakh), the minimum fare for the first four kilometres will be ₹ 68, there after maximum of ₹ 34 per km and minimum of ₹16 per could be charged.

For luxury taxis (A class, vehicles costing above ₹16 lakh), for the first four kms the rate would be ₹80 and thereafter maximum of ₹45 per km and minimum of ₹20 will be applicable.
Contemplating paperless administration, especially at the courts, the state government has decided to implement **Integrated Court Case Management System (ICCMS)**.

The project, which will be rolled out in the next three years, will convert the High Court of Karnataka and its benches at Hubballi-Dharawad and Kalaburagi into paperless courts.

Besides, under the new system, the advocates can plead their case through video conference without having to appear in person in the court hall.

The project will pave way for paperless administration in all these courts and hopefully by 2020 the project will be completed,
Tobacco use in Karnataka has declined by 5.4 percentage points: Survey

The overall tobacco consumption among adults in Karnataka has declined by nearly 5.4 percentage points in the last seven years, says the findings of the second round of the Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS 2) 2016–17.

The survey revealed that overall tobacco use prevalence has declined significantly among adults from 28.2% in 2009–10 (when GATS-1 was done) to 22.8% (GATS-2) in 2016–17.

While smoking decreased from 11.9% to 8.8% during this time, smokeless tobacco use has also decreased equally from 19.4% to 16.3%.
The Telangana government has assured Karnataka that it will consider release of water from out of its allotment in Rajolibanda Diversion Scheme (RDS) to meet the latter State’s water crisis for both irrigation and drinking purposes.

However, it will be done only after engineers of two States assessed the irrigation requirement for 7,000 acres in Alampur Assembly constituency of Mahbubnagar district, Telangana Irrigation Minister T. Harish Rao informed his Karnataka counterpart at a meeting of the States’ Ministers and officials which was convened to discuss the Karnataka’s request for water.

Telangana had a share of 3.5 tmc ft water from Tungabhadra dam which flowed to RDS. After irrigating 7,000 acres in Alampur, the rest of the water could be released to Karnataka.
To compensate for the water used from RDS, Karnataka promised to release 2 tmc ft water from Narayanpur dam in that State to Jurala in Telangana whenever the latter government placed a request.

Karnataka had given one tmc ft water to Jurala from Narayanpur last year at the request of Telangana for drinking needs.
Karnataka cabinet approves bill mandating Aadhaar

The Karnataka state cabinet has approved a central legislation to provide statutory backing to Aadhaar, the unique identification scheme, for use for transferring government subsidies and benefits.

"The cabinet gave its nod to Aadhaar (Target Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Bill, 2016

The legislation was passed in 2016, as a money bill amidst protests from Congress and opposition parties.
Karnataka is set to get additional power just ahead of summer as the second unit of the National Thermal Power Corporation’s thermal power station at Kudgi in Vijayapura has commenced commercial generation of power.

The unit has a capacity of 800 MW, and as the host State Karnataka will get over 400 MW. The remaining power will be shared among the other southern States like Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

The first unit commenced commercial power generation on July 31 last year. It has already generated around 1,900 million units of power, according to a release from the NTPC.

The power plant is also getting 5.2 tmcft of water from Almatti reservoir for operations. It has also started selling ash that is produced after generating power. According to officials, about 1.5 lakh tonnes of ash is being provided to various entities.
Veteran Kannada actor Kashinath passes away

Veteran Kannada actor Kashinath passed away at Sri Shankara Hospital in Bengaluru, where he was admitted two days ago.

He has not only acted but also directed and produced several Kannada films. Kashinath was recently seen in Chowka, released last year.
Tata Power Renewable Energy (TPREL) has announced that it has commissioned its 50 MW DCR solar plant at Pavagada Solar Park in Karnataka.

The commissioning takes Tata Power's installed operating capacity to 1664 MW.

The 50 MW solar plants have been built over a plot of 253 acres. Sale of power from solar plant has been tied up under a 25-year Power Purchase Agreement with NTPC at a tariff of Rs. 4.84/ unit.

Karnataka bans sale of loose cigarettes

A notification issued by the Under Secretary to the Department of Health and Family Welfare states that sale of loose cigarettes, beedis and chewing tobacco (called kaddipudi in local parlance) violates Sections 7, 8 and 9 of the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act (COTPA) 2003.

Persons violating the ban are liable for punishment under Section 20 to COTPA, which stipulates imprisonment up to one year or with fine up to ₹1,000 or both in the case of first conviction. A repeat offence stipulates imprisonment up to two years and fine up to ₹3,000.
Karnataka to give free education to all girls till graduation

In a grand sweep, the Karnataka government has decided to make education free for all girls from Class 1 to graduation level in all public and aided private schools and colleges, barring only professional institutions, from the next academic year. The earmarked funds, however, are anything but grand.

We expect around 18 lakh students whose parents' income would be less than Rs 10 lakh to opt for this scheme and are planning to earmark Rs 110 crore," higher education minister Basavaraj Rayareddi

But even by that arithmetic, each student would get just over Rs 611 a year. Similar schemes have been launched in Telangana and Punjab. While Telangana has announced free education for girls from kindergarten to post graduation, Punjab recently fulfilled a key poll promise by extending the scheme till PhD.
Karnataka, Intel’s Mobileye tie up

The Karnataka government has partnered with Intel company Mobileye to launch a project for automotive safety.

Called “Automotive Safety Innovation”, this project will create a repository of road and traffic information, according to company officials.

As part of this project, multiple vehicles fitted with cameras and other sensors would be covering several areas around the State to build the repository over the next nine months.
Further, this repository can be used to develop and validate artificial intelligence technologies that can learn and analyse data of road conditions and assist drivers to make informed decisions for higher safety, said Priyank Kharge, Minister for IT, BT and Tourism.

This initiative can be leveraged by academia and start-ups to build their capabilities and showcase their innovations which can enhance commuter, pedestrian and vehicle safety.

The vehicles will also carry Mobileye Collision Avoidance Systems that would identify potential accident zones also known as “Grey Spots”, in addition to real-time warnings to the driver.

These Grey Spots will provide the State authorities with sufficient information to improve infrastructure for road safety.
Karnataka government launches Vision-2025 project

The Karnataka government launched 'Vision-2025' project aimed at evolving a draft policy for development of the state in next seven years by seeking the opinion of the public.

Under the project, the government would seek public opinion on how they want their dream state to be in the next seven years, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said.

Officials will collect the required information after discussing with public representatives and the general public. They will then bring out a draft vision policy for the year 2025, portions of which would be incorporated in the manifesto of ruling Congress.

website 'www.navakarnataka2025.in was also launched
Karnataka medical Bill tabled

A Bill to enhance transparency in private medical establishments and to empower the State government to fix uniform package rates for treatment and procedures under the health assurance schemes of the government was tabled in the Karnataka Assembly.

Karnataka Minister for Health and Family Welfare KR Ramesh Kumar tabled the Karnataka Private Medical Establishments (Amendment) Bill (KPME), 2017.
Objectives

Citing the recommendations of the joint select committee of both Houses, the Health Minister said that after discussions with delegates of doctors’ associations, it was considered necessary to amend the Karnataka Private Medical Establishments Act, 2007.

The following are the objects and reasons for the Bill: reconstitute the registration and grievances redressal authority and to specify the patient’s charter and private medical establishment’s charter in the schedule to the private medical establishment Act.

The Bill also provides for levy of monetary penalty in case of non-compliance to the patient’s charter or private medical establishment’s charter.
Emergency treatment

With regard to penal provisions, the Bill has removed the provision for imprisonment in case of violation of a few sections such as Section 12 and 13. There is provision for emergency treatment without insisting on advance payment from patient or representatives of patients in specified cases.

Medical establishments should hand over body of deceased patients to this representative without insisting on prior payment of the dues. The Bill has enhanced monetary penalties leviable under Section 19, which imposes fine up to ₹1 lakh.
The State Cabinet approved the much-delayed and debated Karnataka Prevention and Eradication of Inhuman Evil Practices and Black Magic Bill, 2017 — better known as the anti-superstition Bill — which seeks to ban among other practices the controversial ‘made snana’ ritual (devotees rolling over plantain leaves having food leftovers) in public/religious places.

However, the Bill does not cover regulations for astrology and vaastu practice, piercing of ears and nose of children in accordance with certain rituals, and performance of religious rituals such as ‘Keshlochan’ by the Jains.

But, it proposes to ban evil practices such as killing an animal by biting its neck (gaavu).
The Bill also encompasses ban on human sacrifice; coercing a person to perform fire-walk at religious festivals; piercing jaw with rods, *baibeega* practice; pelting stones in the name of banamathi, mata-mantra; creating panic in the minds of the people by invoking ghost or mantras.

claiming to perform surgery with fingers, or claiming to change the sex of foetus in the womb.

It also seeks to ban practices against women: forcing them to stay in isolation; subjecting them to inhuman and humiliating practices such as parading them naked in the name of worship (*betthale save*); and sexual exploitation by invoking supernatural powers.
A Cabinet subcommittee, headed by Speaker Kogadu Thimmappa, drafted the Bill that was vetted by the Law Department before placing it before the Cabinet.

The Bill proposes appointment of a vigilance officer to monitor violations of the provisions of the law and its rules. Violators of the law will be penalised, with imprisonment of not less than one year and a fine of not less than ₹5,000.
New biotech policy for 2017-22 gets nod

To provide a push to investment in the biotechnology industry, the State Cabinet approved a new biotechnology policy (version 3.0) for 2017-22.

The policy encourages investments in new technology platforms of life sciences for effective multi-disciplinary collaborations. It envisions more streamlined financial incentives and concessions for larger investments.

As far as startups are concerned, the policy would institute funding mechanisms and mentorship programmes to stimulate innovations that not only aid the development of the bio-economy, but also benefit the society as a whole. In 2015, the State captured 35% (₹44,250 crore) of the total revenue (₹1,26,700 crore) generated by the Biotech Market (in India).
With the new policy, the objective is to capture a larger share of the predicted $100 billion (₹6,80,000 crore) bio-economy market in India and the $775 billion (₹50,00,000 crore) worldwide bio-economy market.

Minister for IT, BT Priyank Kharge said “with India’s human population expected to reach 1.5 billion by 2030 — add to that the billions of animals and the ever-dwindling resources — the need of the hour is to develop new bio and other technological innovations”.
Former Minister Qamarul Islam passes away

Qamarul Islam, the former Minister and Muslim leader from the Hyderabad-Karnataka region, passed away following a brief illness on Monday. He was 69.
Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), Ministry of Water Resources, RD & GR has entered into an Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore for ‘Development of ground water flow models and preparation of aquifer management plans for parts of Karnataka’.

This mathematical model being developed as a part of the aquifer mapping and management programme will render better understanding of existing groundwater scenarios, predicting response of groundwater system to various stress conditions expected to arise in the future and developing effective management plans incorporating different demand and supply side interventions.
The study will cover an area of 48000 sqr. kms comprising Chikballapur and Kolar Districts and parts of Bagalkot, Bangalore Rural, Belgaum, Bellary, Chitradurga, Davanagere, Gadag, Gulbarga and Yadgir districts.

The study has to be completed within a year and IISc will present an inception report and a final comprehensive report. The inception report has to be submitted within two months of the signing of the agreement.
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