

# Power sharing: Congress high command will take final decision, says CM Siddaramaiah

Bengaluru, Jan 23 (IANS): Commenting on the issue of power sharing in Karnataka, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah remarked on Thursday that the final decision in this regard would be taken by the Congress high command.

Speaking to reporters in Bengaluru, in response to a question about supporters of PWD Minister Satish Jarkiholi and Deputy Chief Minister and state Congress President D.K. Shivakumar organising special ceremonies to pray for their leaders to attain the Chief Minister's post, CM Siddaramaiah stated, "Ultimately, the high command will take a decision regarding everything." This statement has gained significance because CM Siddaramaiah had previously asserted with confidence that he would complete his tenure as the Chief Minister. Recently, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar had also said that he would do his duty and the rest would be decided by the party. He had also categorically stated that there



was no power-sharing agreement in the state and that he would work under CM Siddaramaiah. Asked about the Karnataka Lokayukta giving him and his wife a clean chit in the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) case, CM Siddaramaiah said he was unaware of the development. When questioned

about his participation in the Davos Summit, he replied, "I am not going to Davos. The preparation for the budget needs to be done." In response to the BJP's allegation that grants were not being released to corporations and boards, CM Siddaramaiah stated, "The BJP is making false accusations. Their allegations are politically motivated." CM Siddaramaiah earlier paid floral tributes to the portrait of Subhas Chandra Bose during the celebration of Netaji's 128th birth anniversary.

Speaking to the media after the event, he said, "Subhas Chandra Bose passed away at an early age. He was a great leader who loved and revered his country. He cleared

the ICS exam, which is equivalent to the IAS today. He sacrificed and dedicated himself to the freedom struggle. He also served twice as the President of the Congress party." CM Siddaramaiah further explained, "The difference of opinion was that Bose believed achieving independence was difficult through the path of non-violence as advocated by Mahatma Gandhi. In this context, he sought to use armed struggle to expel the British and established the Indian National Army (INA)." "We know that he died in an airplane crash in Japan. He had a profound concern for the country and dreamt of its independence and the freedom of individuals from British slavery.

# K'taka govt has failed to regulate microfinance institutions: BJP

Hubbali, Jan 23 (IANS): Former chief minister and BJP MP Basavaraj Bommai has accused the Congress-led state government of losing control over microfinance institutions (MFIs), leading to widespread harassment of vulnerable citizens. Addressing the media here on Thursday, Bommai alleged that microfinance agencies were resorting to extreme measures, including forcibly seizing even mangalsutras from women. This exploitation, he claimed, has driven families to abandon their homes, with some even taking their own lives.

"The government is failing to enforce the law. There is no fear among these institutions, and rowdy elements are being allowed to carry out collections," Bommai said. He criticized the government for its contradictory stance, mentioning that while it claims to support women-centric pro-



grammes, it is unable to curb the harassment perpetrated by some microfinance companies. Bommai recalled a law introduced during H.D. Kumaraswamy's tenure as Chief Minister to regulate high-interest lending practices. However, the legislation was stayed by the court. He urged the current government to take steps to lift the stay, impose stringent regulations, and reclaim control over this sector.

Meanwhile, Karnataka Home Minister G. Parameshwara acknowledged the issue, stating that the Finance Department

must act against MFIs operating without proper licenses. "We are not fully aware of unlicensed microfinance companies in the state, but the Finance Department must intervene," Parameshwara said on Wednesday. He assured that complaints from affected people would prompt immediate action and investigation. The minister also noted recent incidents linked to MFI harassment. "A woman in Tiptur town of Tumakuru district committed suicide due to harassment by MFIs. Similar cases have been reported in and around Tumakuru. We have registered cases and initiated legal action," he said.

Parameshwara stressed the need for preventive measures but admitted that proactive monitoring is challenging. "Guidelines exist for microfinance businesses, but violations, especially by unregistered entities, cause problems.

# Mangaluru: Cong-led govt focused on corruption, failure of law & order - MP Capt Brijesh Chowta



Mangaluru, Jan 23: MP Capt Brijesh Chowta has accused the Congress-led state government of having a singular agenda: to exploit public funds, undermine the sentiments of the Hindu community, and support extremist ideologies.

He further stated, "The law and order situation in the state has completely collapsed.

In 2023 alone, over 563 rape cases were reported across Karnataka, with 178 of them in Bengaluru. Additionally, 6,042 cases of sexual harassment were recorded, including 1,321 in Bengaluru. Statistics for November 2024 show 540 rape cases statewide, with 166 in Bengaluru, and 5,873 sexual harassment cases, including 1,381 in the city. Women are

not safe in Karnataka. "Chowta also accused Congress's defeated candidates of being involved in a police transfer racket, expressing concerns about the safety of women, cattle, and contractors. He labeled Bengaluru as the "crime capital" of the state. "The state's failure is evident, with incidents such as the severing of udders of three cows in Bengaluru and lawless elements freely roaming the state. The government has withdrawn important cases, including those related to the PFI, and has remained silent on the pro-Pakistan slogans raised at Vidhana Soudha.

# Koraga community deserves justice: Brinda Karat lashes out at govt's divide and rule tactics

Mangaluru, Jan 23: Brinda Karat, the national vice president of Adivasi Adhikar Manch, addressed the gathering at the 'Adivasi Akrosha Rally' at Clock Tower on Thursday, January 23, voicing the need for



justice and rights for the Koraga community and lashing out at the government's divide-and-rule tactics. Before the rally, members of the Koraga community marched from Jyothi Circle to Clock Tower. During the event, Brinda Karat released a book written by journalist Naveen Soorinje, titled Koragaru Tulunadina Mathru Samudaya. Karat spoke passionately about the plight of the Koraga community, one of the most oppressed among the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs). She criti-

cized the BJP-led central government, claiming that its policies have historically divided communities along caste lines, echoing the divisive tactics of British colonial rule. She stated, "The government says 'divide, divide, divide', but we say 'unite, unite, unite'. We must stand united to fight the toxic caste system—this unity is our weapon, and no one can take it away from us." Karat also highlighted the upcoming 75th anniversary of the enforcement of the Constitution, contrasting the celebrations with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other leaders with what she described as an insult to Dr B.R. Ambedkar by union minister Amit Shah in a parliamentary session.

# Kasargod rail operations at risk amid Karnataka power outage

Kasargod, Jan 23: Rail services in Kasargod face a potential crisis due to the suspension of power supply from Karnataka. The issue arose after a transformer at the Udipi Generating Station broke down on January 7, disrupting power to the Uppala Railway Substation. Currently, the railway system relies on electricity supplied from the Jokatte Substation in Karnataka. However, if this supply fails, trains may halt on the tracks, creating significant operational challenges.

Locomotive pilots have reported that voltage drops after trains pass Kasargod, with power to Bekal to Mangaluru operations also dependent on the Jokatte Substation. The affected areas include key facilities such as Mangaluru Central, Mangaluru Junction, and other associated yards. Freight trains further strain the power supply. In some cases, officials preemptively cut the power to prevent overloading, leading to the possibility of trains coming to a standstill on the tracks.

# Evidence of Ancient Human Activities Discovered in Lava Tube Caves



Recent advancements in interdisciplinary archaeological research in Arabia have revealed new insights on the development and historical progression of regional human populations. This research has also shed light on the shifting patterns of cultural change, migration, and adaptation to environmental variations. Despite the challenges posed by the limited preservation of archaeological assemblages and organic remains in arid environments, these discoveries are reshaping our understanding of the region's rich cultural heritage. One such breakthrough led by Griffith University's Australian Research Centre for Human Evolution (ARCHE), in collaboration with international partners, comes from the exploration of underground settings, including caves and lava tubes, which have remained largely untapped reservoirs of archaeological abundance in Arabia.

Through meticulous excavation and analysis, researchers have uncovered a wealth of evidence at Umm Jirsan, spanning from the Neolithic to the Chalcolithic/Bronze Age periods (~10,000-3,500 years ago). Insights into Ancient Arabian Life: Our findings at Umm Jirsan provide a rare glimpse into the lives of ancient peoples in Arabia, revealing repeated phases of human occupation and shedding light on the pastoralist activities that once thrived in this landscape," said Dr Mathew Stewart, the lead researcher and a Research Fellow at ARCHE. "This site likely served as a crucial waypoint along pastoral routes, linking key oases and facilitating cultural exchange and trade." Rock art and faunal records attest to the pastoralist use of the lava tube and surrounding areas, painting a vivid picture of ancient lifeways. Depictions of cattle, sheep, goat, and dogs corroborate the prehistoric livestock practices and herd composition of the region. Isotopic analysis of animal remains indicates that livestock primarily grazed on wild grasses and shrubs, while humans maintained a diet rich in protein, with a notable increase in the consumption of C3 plants over time, suggesting the emergence of oasis agriculture. "While underground localities are globally significant in archaeology and Quaternary science, our research represents the first comprehensive study of its kind in Saudi Arabia," added Professor Michael Petraglia, Director of ARCHE. "These findings underscore the immense potential for interdisciplinary investigations in caves and lava tubes, offering a unique window into Arabia's ancient past."

# Toxic Rides: New Study Reveals Hidden Dangers in Your Car's Air



A study reveals that personal vehicle interiors are contaminated with cancer-linked flame retardants due to outdated flammability standards. These chemicals, found in 99% of tested cars, pose significant health risks, especially in warm conditions which increase their concentration. The air inside all personal vehicles is polluted with harmful flame retardants—including those known or suspected to cause cancer—according to a new peer-reviewed study published today (May 7) in Environmental Science & Technology. Car manufacturers add these chemicals to seat foam and other materials to meet an outdated federal flammability standard with no proven fire-safety benefit. "Our research found that interior materials release harmful chemicals into the cabin air of our cars," said lead author Rebecca Hoehn, a scientist at Duke University. "Considering the average driver spends about an hour in the car every day, this is a significant public health issue. It's particularly concerning for drivers with longer commutes as well as child passengers, who breathe more air pound for pound than adults."

The researchers detected flame retardants inside the cabins of 101 cars (model year 2015 or newer) from across the U.S. 99 percent of cars contained tris (1-chloro-isopropyl) phosphate (TCIPP), a flame retardant under investigation by the U.S. National Toxicology Program as a potential carcinogen. Most cars had additional organophosphate ester flame retardants present, including tris (2-dichloro-propyl) phosphate (TDCIPP) and tris (1,3-dichloroethyl) phosphate (TCEP), two California Proposition 65 carcinogens. These and other flame retardants are also linked to neurological and reproductive harms. About half of the cars were tested in both

summer and winter. Warmer weather was linked to higher flame retardant concentrations because off-gassing from interior components like seat foam is increased by higher temperatures. And vehicle interiors can reach up to 150 degrees Fahrenheit. The researchers also analyzed samples of seat foam from 51 of the cars in the study. Vehicles that contained the suspected carcinogen TCIPP in their foam tended to have higher concentrations of TCIPP in their air, confirming foam as a source of this flame retardant in cabin air. Flame retardants are added to seat foam to meet the U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) 302, an open-flame flammability standard that was first introduced in the 1970s and remains unchanged. "Firefighters are concerned that flame retardants contribute to their very high cancer rates," said Patrick Morrison, who oversees Health and Safety for 350,000 U.S. and Canadian firefighters at the International Association of Fire Fighters.

# Home minister Parameshwar directs immediate arrest of unisex salon attackers in Mangaluru



Udipi, Jan 23: Karnataka home minister Dr G Parameshwar has directed to immediately arrest those involved in the attack on a unisex salon in Mangaluru. Speaking to the media during his visit to Udipi, he emphasized the need to uphold the law and protect the rights of individuals to conduct their business without interference. "The purpose behind the attack on the unisex salon is not yet known. However, I have instructed the authorities to take action strictly as per the law. Such incidents must not be allowed to occur. Everyone has the right to work, and no one should take the law into their own hands," said Dr

Parameshwar. The minister assured that the attackers would be identified and dealt with sternly. "If there is any illegal activity happening in these establishments, it should be reported to the authorities. Vigilante actions are unacceptable," Dr Parameshwar added. Dr Parameshwar also pointed out that trade licenses are issued by the local corporation, and establishments must adhere to the conditions laid out. "If rules are violated, action will be taken. I have instructed the police department to ensure that the attackers are arrested immediately and such incidents are prevented in the future," he stated.

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[See proviso to rule 8(6)]  
Notice for sale of immovable assets

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

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of ICICI Home Finance Company Limited, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is", as per the brief particulars given hereunder:

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s)/Co Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Legal Heirs/Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date and Time of Auction	One Day Before Auction Date	SARFAESI Stage
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)	(H)	(I)
1.	Rahul Vinay (Borrower) Munitrathnam Vijay Kumar, (Co Borrowers) V Nikitha Raju (Co Borrowers) Loan Account No. LHBJP00001531799	Site No. 956, Koramangala 1st Block, BBMP Ward No. 66A, New Ward South Taluk, Karnataka	Rs. 1,07,52,970.74/-	Rs. 1,65,21,840/-	February 21, 2025 11:00AM	February 28, 2025 02:00 PM	February 27, 2025 05:00 PM	Symbolic Possession

The online auction will be conducted on website [URL Link: https://assets.matexauctions.com] of our auction agency Matex Net Pvt Ltd. The Mortgagee/notice are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till February 27, 2025 before 05:00 PM else these secured assets will be sold as per above schedule. The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) RTGS/ Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at ICICI Home Finance Company Limited Branch Office Address mentioned on top of the article on or before February 27, 2025 before 04:00 PM. The Prospective Bidder(s) must also submit signed copy of Registration Form & Bid Terms and Conditions form at ICICI Home Finance Company Limited Branch Office Address mentioned on top of the article on or before February 27, 2025 before 05:00 PM. Earnest Money Deposit Demand Draft (DD) should be from a Nationalized/Scheduled Bank in favor of "ICICI Home Finance Company Ltd. - Auction" payable at the branch office address mentioned on top of the article. For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact ICICI Home Finance Company Limited on 9920807300. The Authorized Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit https://www.icicifcf.com/ Date: January 24, 2025 Place: Bangalore Authorized Officer, "ICICI Home Finance Company Limited", CIN Number- U65922MH1999PLC120106