



al Briefs

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- The Hindu

DJ Halli hub for narcotics s

By Nagaraju Koppula

Narcotics are being openly sold in DJ Halli, according to the local police officers. Most commonly, the government school ground is targeted for the same. There are many kinds of narcotics being traded here, but predominantly Ganja is in demand, according to the local police.

Parveena Bagam, a resident of DJ Halli said that despite police control, youngsters from Bangalore as well as other areas have access to narcotics in this area. "The government school is near to my home so everyday I can see some young people sell drugs and some people come here to buy it," Begam said.

She added that some families of this area have filed police complaints against drug sellers. "At times police take action but the selling and buying process has not been under police control," Begam added.

Pradeep BU, police inspector, DJ Halli said, "Around 25 arrests have been made under cases of drug peddling." He added that the police department and the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) are working towards controlling the illegal sales of drugs. We police department and the NCP working a lot to control it.

He added that Bangalore is a conduit for smuggling narcotics from some near villages of Karnataka.

"The NCB and city police will seize heroine



and other drugs if we come across such activities," Pradeep added.

Vinod K, counselor of rehabilitation centre of drug addictions, Sivajinagar said, "About 25 to 30 people come and see me to get rid of their addiction for narcotics. Among this many are from DJ Halli and surrounding areas."

He added that over the last couple of years the NCB has arrested people from Bangalore and

its surrounding areas. "We have seized large quantities of narcotics from the area," he added.

Pradeep said that the NCB is working on the local links in the drug trade. "However, proving these cases is a long process because several secrets are hidden in the original source of drug sellers and their distribution," he added.

Workshops empowering women candidates for GP

By Sarmistha Acharya

With the upcoming Gram Panchayat elections in the state, women organizations are encouraging women's participation by conducting workshops.

Sugrama an organisation that works for issues related to women are providing motivational workshops to the women candidates who are going to contest the upcoming panchayat elections which is scheduled on May 8 2010. The election, which is to be held in two phases, has 5,476 Gram Panchayats.

The training involves sensitizing women candidates about the procedures and details regarding the election. Sugrama has already conducted

ensure the development of women in every sector. There is an increase in participation of women candidates which amounts to 42 per cent.

"Development needs women's participation. The election should be unbiased. The workshop has helped many women and has also mobilized participation of women from various areas," Gupta added.

Venkatratnama, a women candidate from Srinivasapur taluk, Koarl district, said that the workshop made her aware of the political system. "We have lots of problems in our village, like water scarcity and health problems but knowledge from the workshop, helped me learn to work in political system and solve them."

Tharoor denies... told Modi not to... Kochi IPL details



Shashi Tharoor

By Press Trust of India

Union Minister Shashi Tharoor, locked in a f...

Yeddyurappa's statement on Belgaum: Political parties of Maharashtra cry foul

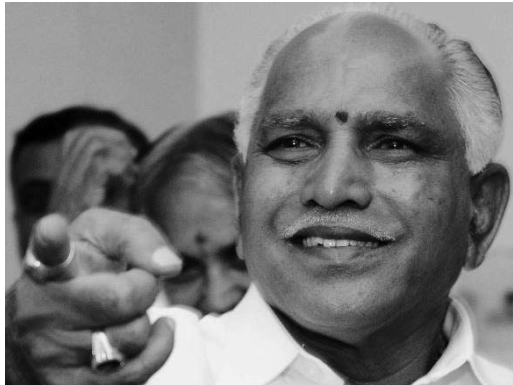
Press Trust of India

Karnataka chief minister B S Yeddyurappa's announcement that his government is mulling over giving second capital status to Belgaum has evoked sharp reactions from political parties in Maharashtra.

Maharashtra has been demanding that Marathi speaking areas of Karnataka, including Belgaum, be merged with the State.

Congress, Shiv Sena and National Congress Party (NCP) have flayed the statement of Yeddyurappa.

Maharashtra chief minister Ashok Chavan said Yeddyurappa was speaking out of turn. "The Maharashtra government's plea to have Belgaum and Karwar as part of the State is pending before the Supreme Court," he said.



A file picture of Karnataka Chief Minister B.S.

Yeddyurappa.

Photo by: M. Vedhan

NCP leader and deputy chief minister Chhagan Bhujbal said, "The statement is uncalled for and we will seek legal recourse on the issue." Sena leader Diwakar Raote said his party would oppose any

attempt by the Karnataka government to impose its mandate on lakhs of Marathi-speaking people there (Belgaum).

The boundary dispute between the two States is more than half-a-century old. After reorganisation of States, there has been a demand to include Marathi-speaking areas of Karnataka in Maharashtra.

Karnataka recently held a special five-day session of the Assembly in Belgaum.

Later, nominations of all Marathi-speaking candidates in the Belgaum mayoral poll were rejected and the lone Kannada-speaking nominee was declared elected unopposed.

This prompted protests against Yeddyurappa during his Mumbai visit earlier this month and he was welcomed with black flags in Mumbai by the Shiv Sainiks.

State Briefs

People march against conversion

Various organizations, including Tribes took out a March at Thithimathi yesterday to protest against the conversion going on in the area.

Jasnajagruthi Suraksha Vedike, which led the protest, appealed to the government to immediately stop special benefits to the converted Tribes.

newkerala.com

GramPanchayat elections in Kodagu on May 12

Kodagu is all set to tackle Gram Panchayath elections and the Zilla Panchayath has released the statistics. Kodagu will go for election on May 12. The nominations would be filed from 21st April to 28th. Scrutiny would be held on 29th. The last date of withdrawals before May 3rd.

newkerala.com

Two-phase panchayat elections announced in Karnataka

Karnataka Election Commission today announced two-phase elections to as many as 5,476 village panchayats in the state on May 8 and 12, as they had completed their term. Addressing newsmen here today State Election Commissioner C R Chickmath said the first phase of the elections would be held on May 8 in 16 districts and the remaining 14 districts will undergo polls on May 12th.

newkerala.com

Farmer's markets in offing

Parliamentary Secretary to Chief Minister and MLA, SA Ramdas performed "Guddali Puja" for the construction of the much-awaited "Yeddyurappa Raiitha Santhe" behind Dasara Exhibition grounds here today. Mayor Purushotham, KHB Chairman GT Devegowda, MLC Thontadarya, former MP CH Vijayashankar, Karnataka Exhibition Authority (KEA) Chairman BP Manjunath, Deputy Commissioner P Manivannan and, MyLac Chairman MV Ravishankar, were presents on the occasion.

UNI

Cong represents true values of nation's character: Sonia

Stating the country always stood for the values of those who preached national integrity and a society beyond the barriers of caste, creed and religion, AICC President and UPA Chairperson Sonia Gandhi said her party was taking forward the tradition. Addressing a mammoth gathering to mark the centenary of the Shivayoga Mandir here today, Ms Gandhi said 12th century social reformer Basaveshwar had taught the importance of secularism and casteless society.

UNI

Infosys reports marginal rise in Q4 profit at Rs. 1,617 cr

Press Trust of India

Information Technology major Infosys Technologies on Tuesday reported a marginal rise of 0.25 per cent in consolidated net profit at Rs. 1,617 crore for the fourth quarter ended March 31, 2010.

The company had a net profit of Rs. 1,613 crore in the March quarter of the previous fiscal (2008-09), Infosys said in a filing to the Bombay Stock Exchange.

Income from software services, products and business process management rose to Rs. 5,944 crore for the fourth quarter from Rs. 5,635 crore in the year-ago period.

The company's cash and cash equivalents stood at USD 3.5 billion at the end of March 31, 2010.

"We maintained our margins in one of the toughest years. for the industry. The currency volatility continues to be a concern for the industry.

We have an active hedging programme to minimise its impact on our margins," Infosys CFO V. Balakrishnan said.

For the year ended March 31, the



S. Gopalakrishnan, CEO and MD, Infosys Technologies

File Photo M A Sriram

IT bellwether posted a consolidated net profit of Rs. 6,266 crore, up 4.64 per cent over the year-ago period.

The board has declared a final dividend of Rs. 15 per share for the

fiscal on every share of Rs. 5 held.

Shares of Infosys were trading at Rs. 2,668.45, down 0.55 per cent over the previous close on BSE.

During the fiscal, income from

software services, products and business process management rose to Rs. 22,742 crore from Rs. 21,693 crore in the previous fiscal (2008-09).

"We have been able to take advantage of the opportunities in the market and grow faster due to our investments in capacity and capability building even during the economic downturn," Infosys CEO and MD S. Gopalakrishnan said.

Infosys, which has Goldman Sachs, BT Group and BP Plc among its clients, added 47 clients during the quarter.

At the end of March 31, the company had 1,13,796 employees, which includes a net addition of 3,914 staff during the fourth quarter.

"Though the economic environment continues to be challenging, businesses are investing in growth for building a better future," Mr. Gopalakrishnan added.

On a standalone basis, the company has posted a net profit at Rs. 1,430 crore for the March quarter, a decline of 8.85 per cent over the same period last fiscal.

Government plans community radio stations in all states

Press Trust of India



Stepping up measures to connect the rural hinterland with the national mainstream, Centre has decided to take its Community Radio Station

(CRS) initiative to all the states.

A senior official in the Information and Broadcasting Ministry said that during the current fiscal, the community radio network will focus on covering states like Andhra Pradesh and Orissa, which have remained untapped so far.

"An amount of Rs 3.25 crore has been sanctioned for the entire Plan (2007-2012) period for information education and communication for CRS. In 2007, the network had focused on a few regions.

In 2009-10 we started covering some states, and by the end of this fiscal, we aim to cover all states including ones like Andhra Pradesh and Orissa, which have not been touched so far," the official said.

Road construction turns roadblock

By Vaidehi Venkatraman

Residents of Hoysala Nagar near Ramamurthy Nagar, are facing traffic jams and roadblocks due to delay in construction of road starting from the TC Palya stretch.

The city corporation of the Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) was supposed to undertake the construction of this stretch two months back after they got it sanctioned, however the work is not completed so far.

The residents have been complaining of traffic jams, caused by debris of the construction material, which lies unattended thereby blocking the road and making community difficult.

"The stretch of the road starting

from TC Palya main road is in shambles. There is hardly any presence of pitch or tar," said Arvind Narsimhan, a resident of the area who also filed a complaint about the problem on the BBMP complaint forum three months back.

The residents also said that it was impossible to drive through this stretch since their cars were getting damaged if they used the road.

"The construction of this road will begin in another 15 days and is expected to be finished in another eight months," said Chikrayappa, chief engineer, Major Roads, BBMP.

He added that the work was going on and many roads were under construction. "We are undertaking the building of roads one by one," he said.

Senior citizens to get internet savvy

By Siddharth Kotian

If you thought social networking was only for the younger set, think again. Senior citizens are the latest follows of social networking sites designed especially for the over 50 crowd.

Taking note of the lack of social networking sites for older users, social networking sites for seniors are taking off with www.verdurez.com being the first entrant in this space. The site on its home page announces itself as the 'First Unique social networking site for Indians aged 55 years and above living in India and abroad'. The site offers discussion forums, networking options, and even plans a job board for elderly Indians.

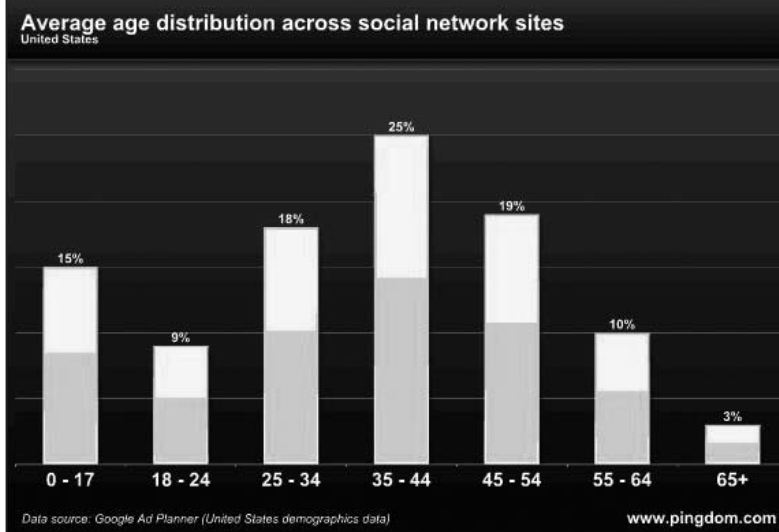
"My wife's death has created a void in my life, and last month my daughter-in-law suggested I join as a member of verdurez and post my profile," said S Umakanth, retired professor from Bangalore University.

Although he says it is early days for him to decide if social networking via the Internet is helpful, he is willing to give it a try.

Internet penetration in the country has gone up from a mere 0.1 per cent ten years ago to around seven per cent according to latest numbers, but usage by senior citizens accounts for less than one per cent according to a survey conducted by juxconsult.com.

Trends show that in the America too, where penetration levels are the highest, only 42 per cent seniors use the Internet.

And while 60 per cent of internet traffic in the country is via social networking sites (Comscore survey), users in the age group of 55-65 years find themselves getting lonelier.



But that could be changing. A study conducted last month by Pingdom shows 10 per cent of users on the top nine social networking sites like Facebook and Myspace are above the age of 55.

A recent study by the Phoenix Center for Advanced Legal and Economic Public Policy studies, a U.S.-based think tank, says the elderly should get online if only because it positively impacts mental health.

The study says getting online can cut depression by 20 per cent among senior citizens. Retired Colonel H S Bopaiah, spends an hour each day touching base with his grandson, a student in Australia. "I look forward to it. It cheers me up," Bopaiah said.

Dr Anisha Shah, senior psychiatrist at National Institute of Mental Health And Neuro Sciences

(NIMHANS), agrees senior citizens from India would be much benefited by getting net savvy.

"Our joint family structure has given way to the nuclear family and most parents are dealing with loneliness as children move away. The internet can offer a substitute social support system to the elderly," Anisha said.

According to another study conducted by the Semel Institute of Neuro Science and Human Behavior at University of California Los Angeles (UCLA), Internet activity can also "stimulate and enhance brain function and cognition in older adults."

As Internet content geared to the 65 plus user base finds a ready audience, there is also the need to make websites user friendly for that age group.

"There is a very real need to

make websites accessible to senior citizens," Sunil Abraham, owner, Internet and Society, Cunningham Road, Bangalore which is currently engaged in formulating guidelines for Web Content Accessibility for government websites.

"Most government websites including those dealing with social issues cannot be used by people with disabilities and senior citizens with vision and hearing problems. Unfortunately developers have so far neglected the special needs of this segment," Abraham added.

Even for assistive technologies (such as screen readers), websites need to have built in features that will make them accessible to everyone. "In our experience we find that many senior citizens use the internet to book e-tickets, for banking or paying bills," Abraham said.

City

Bangalore pub fire: Caretaker, 13 pandits arrested

Fourteen people have been arrested in Bangalore for the fire that engulfed NYK's Pub on Residency Road on Monday afternoon. No casualties were reported, but the fire revealed that basic safety regulations had been overlooked by the pub's owner. Fire safety officials said that had the fire taken place at night, the pub could have turned into a gigantic deathtrap.

- NDTV

Bangalore doctor gets Padma Shri

City-based Dr Kodaganur S Gopinath, was honoured with Padma Shri, the highest civilian honour in the country by the President of India, Pratibha Patil, in New Delhi. Dr Gopinath is the National President of Association of Surgeons of India. He is a medical graduate from JJM Medical College, Davangere. After heading Department of Surgical Oncology at Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology, he moved on to establish Bangalore Institute of Oncology in 1990.

- Express News Service

Wine festival in Bangalore draws wine lovers in large numbers

Enthusiasts recently turned up in large numbers to get a taste of exclusive varieties of wines during the two-day long wine festival held here. The festival was held at the White Petals, Palace Grounds, Bangalore. Organised by the Karnataka Wine Board, the event saw participation of over ten leading wine manufacturers from across the country.

-ANI

Developers floored by Microsoft combo suite

IT pros participating in the Microsoft Tech.ed 2010 summit waited with bated breath as Microsoft unveiled the much-awaited Visual Studio 2010 and .Net Framework 4 in Bangalore on Monday, and announced that Silverlight 4 would be unveiled later this year. The two products were released in the US later in the day. Participants of the three-day summit that kickstarted on Monday were more than pleased with the IT giant's new package of development tools.

-DNA

'Rising temperatures can set Bangalore on fire'

If experts from Indian Institute of Science (IISc) are to be believed, the soaring temperature in Bangalore can result some more sweltering days in the near future. The rising heat may lead to natural fire breakouts, thus adding to the incessant fire accidents in Bangalore, cautioned IISc experts during the recently concluded study on climate change in city.

-NDTV

Infosys cautious on recovery; flags currency risk

By Reuters

Infosys Technologies, India's Number two software services exporter, forecast stronger-than-expected annual revenue growth of 16-18 per cent, noting that a pick-up in global technology spending was improving demand for outsourcing.

However, a firming rupee on the back of rising foreign investment in India's fast growing economy may keep earnings growth muted for outsourcers, and Infosys expects its profit margins to take a hit this year. "The results show that although there is buoyancy on the business front, there is pressure on margins," Sandip Sabharwal, CEO of portfolio management services at Prabhudas Lilladher said.

"This pressure is not likely to go away as the rupee is still appreciating," he said. "I wouldn't buy Infosys at this point in time. I'm underweight on the IT sector."

Kicking off the earnings season for the \$60 billion sector, Infosys CEO S. Gopalakrishnan said in a statement that the economic environment is expected to remain challenging. Infosys, sector leader Tata Consultancy Services, and third-ranked Wipro have revived hiring, signalling improving demand for the outsourcing sector. Infosys added 47 clients in January-March, its strongest pace of additions in

seven quarters, taking the total tally to 575

Currency to hit growth

Infosys, which counts Goldman Sachs, BT Group and BP among its customers, expects its dollar revenue to rise 16-18 per cent in the year that started on April 1. Most brokerages were expecting growth of 12-15 per cent. Bangalore-based Infosys, set up in 1981 with \$250 borrowed from the spouses of their seven founders, expects earnings per share to rise 4.3-8.6 per cent for the full year.

But the strengthening rupee, which rose 3.6 per cent against the dollar in January-March after gaining 4.7 per cent in 2009, higher wages and competition from global firms such as IBM and Accenture are key risks for the industry.

"Infosys is known to be the best manager of margins in the industry," Srivathsan Ramachandran, analyst at Spark Capital Advisors said.

"If we are going to see margin pressure it is going to be right across, it is not going to be Infosys specific."

Infosys shares, valued at \$35 billion, fell as much as 1.8 per cent in a broader

Mumbai market down 0.5 per cent, and traded flat by 0445 GMT. Trading in the stock was almost four times the normal daily average.

Throw-ball association requires funds

By Divya Suryanarayan

The Karnataka throw-ball association lacks funds from the government to promote the game and also to provide training facilities to the players.

Thimmaiah Raman, general secretary of throw-ball association of India who is also the president of amateur throw-ball federation of Karnataka said that the government gives zero funds.

"The association has to depend on the donations from the sports lovers or the match money that the players win," Raman said.

Despite these problems, Santosh Doraisinga, the under 16 tournament coach is confident of winning the national competition which will begin in Goa from tomorrow.

"The team has trained well for the past ten days and are expected to perform like the previous year," he said.

Last year the girl's team was runners up in the national tournament that was held in Haryana.

Both the girls' team and the boys' team were the winners at the junior subdivision level tournaments.

In the selection process they had selected 36 boys and 36 girls but only 12 made it to the state team.

Doraisinga said that this new team would also win like the previous batches. The team that had participated last year in the Sri Lankan tournament had won.

Chaitra K, the under 16 player who had participated then is confident of winning at Goa.

Eesha Eva Devaiah, captain of the under 16 team is confident of a good show as they have been practicing really hard.

She said that girls were all friendly with each other and a few were from the same school so it won't be difficult to play well with each other."

However, Devaiah added that the ground is a bit of a problem as it is marshy.

"We don't have a proper ground but then we are playing well so it won't affect our performance," Devaiah said.

At the state training camp the girls compete with the boys. The boys did not fare as well as the girls did but the coach feels this year they can put up a better show.