

DKS warns of ban on gutka if it's laced with narcotics

Our goal is to make Karnataka a drug-free state, says chief minister

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

KARNATAKA Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Sunday said the state government will ban the sale of pan masala, gutka and similar chewing tobacco products if they are found to contain narcotic substances.

At the 31st Foundation Day celebrations of the Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (RGUHS) and the Nasha Mukta Bharat Conclave at Kanteerava Stadium, he said creating a drug-free Karnataka is one of his government's foremost priorities.

Shivakumar said he has noticed some people getting high by consuming pan masala, gutka and other tobacco products. "I want to warn all manufacturers. The government may lose some ₹100 crore. But if it is found that even a small amount of drugs is being added in your products, I will see that these products are banned in Karnataka. You (manufacturers) should be very cautious. Our goal is to make Karnataka a drug-free state," he warned.

Vice-President CP Radhakrishnan said strong willpower is the only way to completely eradicate drug abuse. He said the vision of a Nasha Mukta Bharat extends beyond eliminating drugs and seeks to



Chief Minister DK Shivakumar speaks at the 31st foundation day celebration of Rajiv Gandhi University of Health and Science at Sree Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru on Sunday | EXPRESS

ensure healthy families across the country.

Describing health as one of a nation's greatest assets, he said economic growth, innovation, productivity and social harmony depend on the well-being of citizens. Every young person lost to addiction represents not only a personal tragedy, but also a loss to society, as substance abuse destroys health, disrupts families and weakens the nation's human capital, he added.

He said the fight against drugs should not be viewed merely as a law-and-order issue

but as a social responsibility requiring the participation of families, educational institutions, healthcare organisations, community groups and civil society.

Governor Thaawar Chand Gehlot appreciated RGUHS decision to combine the anti-drug campaign with the promotion of organ donation. He described drug abuse as a serious threat to families, communities and the nation's future, while calling organ donation one of the noblest acts of human compassion. He also congratulated RGUHS, the Disha Bodh Foundation and the Narcotics Control Bureau for organising the programme.

Delivering the endowment lecture, Andhra Pradesh Governor and former Supreme Court judge Justice S Abdul Nazeer said a society cannot be considered just or prosperous if a large section of its people remains deprived of healthcare services.

Over 25,000 students from RGUHS-affiliated colleges participated in the programme and took a pledge to serve as ambassadors for a drug-free India. Vice-Chancellor Dr Bhagavan BC administered the pledge. Former vice-chancellor S Kantha and other retired vice-chancellors were felicitated during the event.

ASSAULT ON ED OFFICIALS CASE

Pleader made respondent amid bail row

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @TPuram

IN an unprecedented move, the government has decided to list district pleader T Geena Kumari as a respondent when it moves the Kerala High Court against the bail granted to an accused in the case related to the attack on Enforcement Directorate (ED) personnel during last month's raids on Leader of Opposition Pinarayi Vijayan's residence in Thiruvananthapuram. Geena was on Sunday removed as district pleader and the charge given to additional district pleader A R Shaji.

Hareesh Kumar, the ninth ac-

cused, was granted bail after Geena informed the district court that his custody was not required as the probe was past the crucial stage. This argument contradicted the police stand that Hareesh's custody was indispensable.

After bail was granted, the police took a stern view of the pleader's conduct and informed the government that it cannot proceed with the investigation and court proceedings with the same pleader. Sources in the government said that making Geena, a former state vice-president of SFI who was appointed the district pleader by the previous LDF administration, as

one of the respondents in the appeal was unprecedented, yet unavoidable.

"The police clearly informed her about its objection to the bail plea. Still, she misrepresented facts, which could be construed as an act of fraud, and facilitated in the accused getting bail. Since she is made a respondent, she will be summoned by the court to explain her rationale for doing so," the source said.

"In a case where there are 300 accused, of which only 25 have been arrested and two have fled the country, how can a public prosecutor take a stand that custody is not required and bail

be granted? Forensic analysis of the mobile phones of the arrested persons is yet to be over and the investigation is still in the infant stage," said the source.

Meanwhile, former district government pleader A Santosh Kumar has been appointed as special public prosecutor in the case. He will appear for the state when the bail pleas of other accused are considered by the additional district and sessions court. Following Hareesh's bail, several arrested persons had transferred their bail petitions from the magistrate court to the district court.

EXPRESS READ

60-year-old killed in suspected tiger attack

COIMBATORE: A 60-year-old man was found dead in a suspected tiger attack at Moonu Kuttai village en route to Gobanari near Karamadai on Sunday. The deceased was identified as Velliangiri, a non-tribal resident of the village. Forest officials said Velliangiri, who regularly ventures into the forest, failed to return home on Saturday. On information, a forest staff team launched a search operation on Saturday evening, but called it off after nightfall owing to poor visibility. The search resumed on Sunday morning. At 1.30 pm, the team located Velliangiri's partially consumed body inside dense bushes within the forest. ENS



Children play an energetic game of beach football on the muddy shores of Valiathura Beach as monsoon showers lash Thiruvananthapuram on Sunday | ALBIN MATHEW

HAVING A BALL



A health worker administers oral polio drops to an infant on Sunday | S DINESH

Pulse polio drive covers 165,000 kids in North TN

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Vellore

AS part of the National Pulse Polio Immunisation Drive, polio drops were administered to children up to 5 years across the Vellore region.

In Ranipet, Cooperation Minister V Gandhiraj inaugurated the campaign at the Arakkonam New Bus Stand. The campaign was held from 7 am to 5 pm, and 76,683 children were administered polio drops. The district set up 824 booths to carry out this exercise. For the children who missed out, field workers will visit their houses directly from June 29 to July 4 to administer the vaccine. Around 3,296 staff and 111 volunteers from the Departments of Public Health, Education, Social Welfare, Revenue, District Child Protection Unit, Child Development and Nutrition, Rural Development, Municipalities and Women's Self Help Groups were involved to carry out the immunisation.

In Tirupattur, District Revenue Officer J Narayanan and Tirupattur Member of Legislative Assembly Dr N Thirupathi inaugurated the drive. Polio drops were administered to 89,005 children up to five years at all primary health centres, sub-health centres, government hospitals, and government nutritious meal centres. There were 777 centres total, including 653 rural centres and 124 urban centres. Special arrangements were also made to administer polio drops to children of migrant workers and Sri Lankan Tamils.

DRO R Rampradeepan inaugurated the campaign at Vengikkal Community Hall in Tiruvannamalai. The district set up 1,945 special polio vaccine booths, including at government hospitals, primary health centres, schools and Anganwadi centres to administer polio drops.

Naidu calls to revive joint family system

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Vijayawada

LAUDING the greatness of the traditional Indian joint family system, Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has underlined the need for its revival to uphold values in society. "The joint family system is one of our greatest strengths. Grandparents and other family members in a joint family system help shape children with values, besides extending emotional support," Naidu said.

The CM administered polio drops to children as part of the Pulse Polio Immunisation Programme at his camp office in Undavalli on Sunday.

Later, he interacted with children and their parents, and enquired about their health, vaccination status and upbringing. He urged parents to ensure that children receive all government-recommended vaccinations on time to safeguard their health. Officials of the Health and Family Welfare Department informed the Chief Minister that the State aims to administer polio drops to approximately 4.92 million children below the age of five dur-



CM Nara Chandrababu Naidu at the pulse polio immunisation programme after administering polio drops to children at his camp office in Undavalli | EXPRESS

ing the three-day Pulse Polio campaign.

During his interaction with families, Naidu asked parents about the challenges of raising children, especially in households where both parents are working. He stressed that child care should not be considered solely the mother's responsibility, and called upon fathers to actively participate in raising children. "Fathers and other family members must share the responsibility of bringing up children. Parenting should

never be left entirely to mothers," he said.

The CM observed that societal attitudes towards having more children are changing, and stressed that children should be viewed as a source of joy and strength rather than a burden. Reiterating his government's commitment to encourage large families, Naidu said it is creating awareness among people about the importance of having two or more children and promoting a family-friendly social environment.

Leopard kills horse in Ooty, owners alerted

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Nilgiris

A leopard killed a horse near VC Colony in Finger Post, behind the Udagamandalam North Forest Range Office, on Saturday. Following this, officials of the Nilgiris Forest Division have once again instructed horse owners to keep their horses safe by tying them inside sheds to prevent escalation of human-animal conflict.

"We have confirmed that the horse was attacked and killed by a leopard, as it had leopard bite marks on its neck. The big cat had also consumed portions of the horse's body from the rear. The horse was relatively young and is estimated to have been around seven years old. It had been roaming inside the forest. Since the area near VC Colony has a significant leopard presence, people are aware of the risk," said a forest official. "Despite knowing about the presence of leopards, locals continue to leave their horses unattended, thereby facilitating human-animal conflict. As we will impose a fine and take action against the owner for allowing the horse to stray into the forest, no one has come forward to claim ownership of the animal," the official added.

Pallava-era sculptures discovered in V'puram

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Villupuram

ANCIENT Pallava-era sculptures of Kotravai and Jyeshta Devi, believed to be around 1,200 years old, have been discovered in Perani and Moongilpattu villages near Villupuram during a recent field study by historian and writer K Senguttuvan. According to him, a stone sculpture over five feet of Kotravai, locally worshipped as Kali, was found at Perani. The eight-armed deity is depicted standing on a buffalo head. "The sculpture features a rare artistic element with a parrot resting on her raised right hand and a separately carved snake near her right leg, features not seen in over 100 Kotravai sculptures documented in the district," he said. At Moongilpattu, a

stone sculpture worshipped as Annappoorani in the renovated Ramanatheeswarar temple was identified as Jyeshta Devi. It depicts the goddess seated gracefully with rich ornaments, accompanied by her son Manthan and daughter Manthi, reflecting the distinctive Pallava artistic style, he said.

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14th Graduation Day
2025 BATCH STUDENTS

Monday, 29th June, 2026 | 10.30 am | RMKCE Auditorium

**Mr. Babukannan Balakrishnan**
Senior Director, Silicon BU,
Tech Mahindra Ltd., Bangalore

Chief Guest

will deliver the Graduation Day Address

Vidya Ratna, Thiru. R. S. Munirathinam Ex. MLA.
Founder - Chairman, RMK Group of Institutions will preside and deliver the Presidential Address



RMK GROUP OF INSTITUTIONS

Docu on Rajendra Chola selected for FETNA fest

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Puducherry

THE documentary film, *Mamannan Rajendra Cholan*, written and directed by documentary filmmaker R Ravi alias Gunavathi Mainthan, has been selected for screening at the FETNA International Film Festival in the United States of America.

The Federation of Tamil Sangams of North America (FETNA) will organise its 39th Tamil convention on July 2, 3, and 4 at Edison, New Jersey. The convention is being conducted in association with more than 70 Tamil organisations from different states in the USA. Organisers said over 5,000 people are expected to participate in the events.

Mainthan, a native of Puducherry, has directed several historical documentaries. He is currently working as Chief Marketing Manager at Express Publications (Madurai) Private Limited.



Vellore Kamban Kazhagam, in association with the Tamil Department of Voorhees College, celebrated the birth anniversary of the legendary Tamil poet and lyricist, Kaviyarasar Kannadasan, at a function held on Sunday. Dr K V Selvam, vice president of VIT and president of Vellore Kamban Kazhagam, presided over the programme | EXPRESS

**GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU**
DIRECTORATE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH
KILPAUK, CHENNAI - 10

NOTIFICATION

Applications are invited for admission to Under Graduate - MBBS & BDS Courses for 2026 - 2027 session (through Online mode only).

- Tamilnadu Government Medical, Dental Colleges
- Government Quota Seats in Self-Financing Medical, Dental Colleges and State Private Universities.
- Management Quota Seats including NRI Quota seats in Self-Financing Medical, Dental Colleges and State Private Universities.

For prospectus and filling up of applications, kindly visit the following website:
www.tnmedicalselection.org

Date of Commencement of online application	29.06.2026, 12.00 Noon
Last date for submission of online application	Will be intimated later

DIPR / 568 / Tender / 2026 **DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH**

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Given Name: RASIYA TABASUM
Surname: **ABDUL RABANI**
(Old Name) D/o. Abdul Rabani,
date of birth: 12.11.2001,
residing at Door No.20,
Ramaswamy Muthaliyar Street,
Vasanthapuram, Vellore, Vellore Taluk,
Vellore District, Tamil Nadu - 632001.

Given Name: RASIYA THABUSAM
Surname: **ABDUL RABANI**
(New Name)

Vellore, Given Name: Rasiya Tabasum
27.06.2026 Surname: Abdul Rabani

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BUT KNOW
NOT WHAT WE
MAY BE**

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GOLD AUCTION NOTICE

The pledges, in specific and the public, in general, are hereby notified that public auction of the gold ornaments pledged in the below accounts is proposed to be conducted at the following branches on 16/07/2026 from 10.00 am onwards. We are auctioning gold ornaments defaulted customers who have failed to make payment of his/her loan amount despite being notified by registered letters. Unauctioned items shall be auctioned on any other days without further notice. Changes in venue or date (if any) will be displayed at auction centre and on website without any further notice.

List of pledges:-
RANIPET, OLD BUS STAND CIRCLE, 0128720730008075, 8164, WALAJAPET, 0101910700757678, THIRUVANNAMALAI, CHEYYAR, 0116980730007493, GANDHI ROAD ARNI, 0104700700039445, 0104700730008665, NATARAMPALLI, 0124270700063351, VANIYAMBADI MARKET, 0122650700024715, 4799, VELLORE, DHARAPADAVEEDU, 0127870730007231, SANTHAPET BAZAR, 0124020730016396, SENGUTTAIKATPADI, 0121880730015367,

Persons wishing to participate in the above auction shall comply with the following - Interested Bidders should submit Rs. 10,000/- as EMD (refundable to unsuccessful bidders) by way of NEFT/RTGS on the same day of auction. Bidders should carry valid ID card/PAN card. For more details please contact 9072607147.

Authorised Officer:
For Manappuram Finance Ltd

**Government of Tamil Nadu**
ELECTRONICS CORPORATION OF TAMIL NADU LIMITED - ANGADI

9th Floor, Sigappi Aachi Building, 18/3, Rukmani Lakshmiipathi Road, Egmore, Chennai-600 008
<https://elcotangadi.tn.gov.in> | +91 44 2855 1234 | tenders@elcotangadi.in

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender No. E-ANGADI-RC-TT02-2026-0011

ELCOT Angadi invites "Rate Contract Tender for empanement of vendors for supply, installation and commissioning of Printers, Scanners and accessories (3rd call)", through ELCOT Angadi e-Commerce portal". For complete details, please visit www.tntenders.gov.in. Pre-bid meeting: **07.07.2026, 11:00 AM** at ELCOT Nandanam Office. Last date for submission of e-bids: **16.07.2026, 03:00 PM**. For queries: tenders@elcotangadi.in.

SD/-

DIPR/2157/TENDER/2026 **General Manager (Procurement)**