

# THE BEACON

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## Curbing crime with dashcams

Nidhi B

**BENGALURU:** The Bengaluru city police, as part of the Safe City project under the Nirbhaya scheme, has decided to install dashcams in 241 Hoysala vehicles for patrolling. This will ensure criminal activities, unexpected incidents, accidents, and suspicious activities are recorded.

Assistant Sub Inspector Gangadhar highlighted its ability to thoroughly analyse the surrounding environment in cases involving fights or hit-and-run accidents. As a result, it is simpler to pin the responsibility and obtain the vital data required for additional investigations. He mentioned the dashcams' double objective of meticulously recording interactions inside and outside the patrol car might increase public trust in the police department.

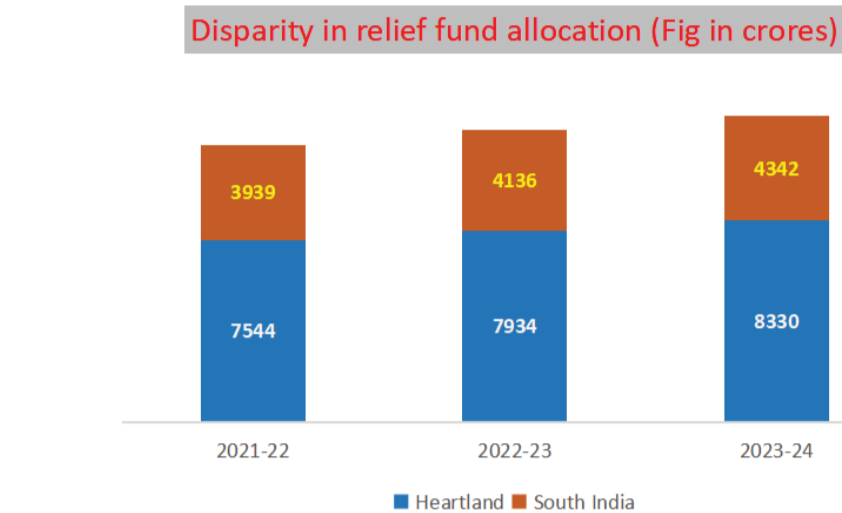
He said that installing dashcams in patrolling cars might prevent crimes, as criminals avoid breaking the law knowing they are being watched. This would minimise harassment and assaults of any type against women, children, and the general public. "Dashcams facilitate faster response times for patrolling cars by relaying location, incident specifics, and other pertinent information to other patrolling vehicles in the vicinity," he added.

## Unequal NDRF allocation persists in south India

Pratham & Dattatraya

**BENGALURU:** The National Disaster Relief Fund (NDRF) allocation data from the past three years paint a distressing picture, revealing a significant disparity in fund allocation between the southern states of Karnataka, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu and states of the Hindi heartland, such as Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Haryana, and Uttarakhand.

During Monday's hearing of Karnataka's plea regarding the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) disbursement, the Supreme Court observed, "Let there not be a contest between state and union." It noted that several state governments are approaching the apex court. It said that the issues regarding the disbursement of Disaster Relief Funds must be taken up with the Union government, providing a clear legal perspective on the



Regionwise NDRF fund allocation

matter.

In FY 21-22, the northern states of India received an average of Rs 7555.2 crore in disaster relief, Rs 7933.6 crore in FY 22-23, and Rs 8329.6 crore in FY 23-24. In the case of southern states, the average disaster relief fund allocation for the same periods was Rs 3938.4 crore, Rs 4136 crore, and Rs

4342.4 crore, respectively.

Despite a 10.24% rise in both cases, the gap between average allocations between the southern and Hindi heartland states widened from Rs 797.68 crore in FY 21-22 to Rs 868.4 crore in FY 23-24, substantiating CM Siddaramaiah's claims of unequal distribution of funds to South Indian states.

Data also suggests that the gap in fund allocation between the heartland Indian and southern states has been widening at a rate of 10.27% in the past three years.

Recently, 225 out of 250 taluks in Karnataka were declared drought-affected, with damages estimated at over Rs 37,000 crores. However, the

allocated Rs 697 crore from the NDRF falls significantly short.

According to CM Siddaramaiah, an additional Rs 18,171 crore is urgently needed to address this pressing situation. Last week, the Tamil Nadu government appealed to the Supreme Court for a time-bound release of disaster relief funds exceeding Rs 38,000 crore for Cyclone Michuung. They argued that the central government's delay was not just a delay but a violation of fundamental rights and the National Disaster Relief Policy, deeming the Centre's attitude neglectful and 'step-motherly'. They also highlighted the inequity in the unequal allocation of funds among states.

CM Siddaramaiah highlighted that Rs 4.30 lakh crore goes to the Centre as tax from Karnataka. "When we ask for more (share) from our tax money and relief amount for drought mitigation, they lie. This is an injustice to the people of Karnataka," he stated.

## Kharge slams government for rising household debt

Dattatraya D

**C**ongress President Mallikarjun Kharge blasted the Central government on Tuesday for the household debt of Indian citizens reaching an all-time high.

According to the RBI report released last week, Indian household debts are estimated to have surged to a staggering 40 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by December 2023, while net financial savings have dropped by 5 per cent.

In his tweet, Kharge pointed out that household savings have reached their



Kharge's X post referring to household debts

Kharge's X

lowest in nearly 50 years and that youth, farmers, Dalits, and the backward class are all suffering the brunt of the economic ruin caused by the Modi government.

Kharge also criticised the BJP government's derisive statements about the Congress manifesto. Congress promises to compensate the citizens for their income, medicine,

and education. "The aware public will no longer fall into the trap of BJP; it will definitely teach a lesson to the Modi government."

Sitaram Yechury of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) also tweeted about the alarmingly increasing household debts. "If the high-net-worth households are separated, then the depth of misery of the middle- and low-income households can be understood," he wrote. Yechury termed the Modi government's argument that households are now buying assets, hence the rise in household debts, a hoax.

## BJP MLA accused of bias

Sinchan & Sadhika

**BENGALURU:** Congress' Bengaluru North MP candidate Prof Rajeev Gowda lodged a complaint against BJP MLA Dr Ashwath Narayana and Assistant Returning Officer of Malleshwaram to the Chief Election Commissioner Wednesday for refusing him permission to hold a public meeting at Malleshwaram playground. He accused officers of being biased against the Congress party.

Gowda mentioned that his party, the Indian National Congress, had requested a meeting permit on the ground. However, permission was rejected because the ground will be used only for sports-related activities.

Gowda alleged that V Senthil Kumar, from Bangalore North, obtained permission to hold a 'sports event' for kids on April 9. However, instead of the sports event, RSS conducted a political rally in which Narayana and others were present.

"This has been allowed to happen. They have been partial towards one political party..." said Gowda at a press conference after lodging the complaint.

## Karnataka CM accuses BJP and JDS

Hemalatha Y N & Nidhi B

**BENGALURU:** Chief Minister of Karnataka Siddaramaiah on Wednesday made an accusation, stating that the BJP and JDS are resorting to spreading communal hatred through the dissemination of fake news in their bid to win the elections. He pointed out a false statement attributed to him in a Kannada daily, where it was claimed that the party doesn't require Hindu votes to win and that Muslim votes are enough. He said that instead of

engaging in fair debates, these parties resort to dishonest tactics, which will not go unpunished. Siddaramaiah also expressed his disappointment, stating that a party with a 10-year record of ruling the country should not have "stooped to such a despicable level".

As the Lok Sabha elections are nearing, a controversy has erupted over the CM's alleged comment that Muslim's votes would suffice for his party to win the election.

Reports allege that the CM said, "We don't need Hindus. Muslims are enough. I want to be born as a Muslim in my next life. Don't bother with BJP's criticism of Muslim appeasement." These statements have been circulating on social media. However, it was discovered that the photograph used to make these claims was taken from a meeting between Siddaramaiah and senior officials and not from a gathering of Congress leaders as claimed.

## Goatlife: exploring human spirit

Kessiah Joseph

**A**dujeevitham (The Goat Life), directed by Blessy Ipe Thomas, is a remarkable transformation of the novel with the same name, resonating deeply with audiences. The real-life story of Najeeb is a profound cinematic achievement that goes beyond the screen to explore the essence of human existence.

The film, led by the brilliant performances of actor Prithviraj Sukumaran as Najeeb, delves into his journey of hope, resilience, and redemption. It showcases the excellence of Malayalam cinema.

Blessy's direction adds a rare depth to the film, blending cinematic artistry with personal storytelling. It skillfully captures the novel's essence, drawing viewers into Najeeb's compelling survival story with authenticity and depth. "Goatlife" navigates Najeeb's challenges with grace and sensitivity, shedding light on the struggles of those who dare to dream against adversity. The narration goes beyond just a movie; it showcases Malayalam cinema's talent, creativity, and innovation.