

31 KPS MAGNETS OPENED SINCE 2022, SAYS HARSHU

No schools closed, says min; experts slam govt's decision to shut over 25,000 institutions; educationist say no one knows concept of KPS

RASHMI PATIL @Bengaluru

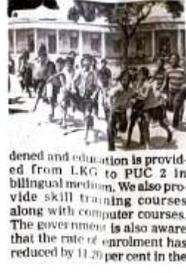
EVEN as various educationists and child rights organisations are criticising the decision of the state government and department of school education to close more than 25,000 Karnataka schools and schools (KPS) as Public Magnet Schools from 2022 to 2025, Minister for School Education and Literacy Madhu Banarappa said the department has opened 31 new KPS schools from 2022 to 2025 across the state by merging various primary, high schools and PU colleges.

The minister revealed this data while replying to BJP MLC Hanumanth Niranali and Congress MLC Bilikis Banu, during the ongoing legislative session.

He said no schools are being closed to start new KPS magnet schools. However, the reality on the ground is different. Two of seven government schools in Channarayana taluk were closed and students were shifted to Honagar KPS. The department of school education and literacy issued showcause notice to teachers and principals of the remaining five government schools in Channarayana

taluk for failing to convince parents and children to enrol in Honagar KPS magnet school. The minister said, "Various primary, high schools and PU colleges were merged to start these 31 new KPS schools. The department has started only 35 Urdu medium KPS schools from 2018 to 2025. In 2025-26, around 100 Urdu medium schools and Moulana Azad schools have been upgraded as KPS schools. This makes a total of 131 schools."

He explained, "No children are forced to enrol in KPS schools. In fact, we see that parents are not financially bur-



Children and adults standing in front of a school building.

dened and education is provided from LKG to PUC in bilingual medium. We also provide skill training courses along with computer courses. The government is also aware that the rate of enrolment has reduced by 11.70 per cent in the

past three years. But it is not because of starting or upgrading KPS schools. Parents are attracted to English medium schools and CBSE schools and want to enrol their children, which is why the enrolment percentage has reduced. This is why the government has started bilingual mediums in 9,522 primary schools as well as 4,66 lower primary schools."

Developmental educationist Dr VP Niranjanaradhya criticized the decision to shut down neighbourhood schools in villages. He said, "What is the real concept of KPS and magnet schools? No one knows

OUTDATED NORMS NH toll rates policy needs review: Panel

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

The Karnataka State Travel Operators' Association has urged the Centre to review the toll pricing framework on national highways, arguing that the existing rates framed under the National Highways Fee (Determination of Rates and Collection) Rules, 2006, no longer reflect current realities.

K Radhakrishna Holla, representing the association, said toll charges are currently revised every year strictly based on rules formulated in 2008, without adequately considering major changes that have taken place in the country's road and transport sector over the past 15 to 18 years.

He pointed out that highway infrastructure, vehicle numbers and traffic patterns have undergone substantial changes since the rules were introduced. According to him, in several highway projects, the initial investment in road construction is widely believed to have already been recovered, often more than twice, through toll collection.

At the same time, the number of vehicles using national highways has increased rapidly each year, leading to higher toll revenue. Considering these factors, the government should constitute a committee to review the National Highways Toll Rules of 2008. The review should be based on a comparison between the vehicle population before 2008 and the latest registered vehicle numbers up to March 2025, Holla added.

"A comprehensive reassessment of toll pricing on national roads is urgently required in the interest of fairness and transparency for road users," he said.

CM urges Centre to address LPG shortage in Karnataka

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

CHIEF Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday said the state government has written to the Centre urging it to explore alternative measures, including importing gas from abroad, to address the shortage of LPG cylinders. Siddaramaiah was speaking to reporters in Bengaluru.

He said the government has already responded to the issue in the Legislature when asked about disruptions in LPG supply. He also said a large section of the population depends on hotels for food and any disruption in hotel services due to LPG shortage would affect normal life.

"Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri has assured that steps will be taken to ensure there is no disruption in LPG supply," he said and alleged that Central is not taking step motherly treatment to Karnataka. On criticism from BJP leaders to Karnataka, Siddaramaiah said that instead of making statements, they should urge Centre to ensure increased LPG supply to the state.



A CPK restaurant cook prepares food on firewood on Sunday after LPG cylinder patent out across Bengaluru on Sunday | KARNATAKA

DK farmers turn to biogas amid LPG cylinder crisis

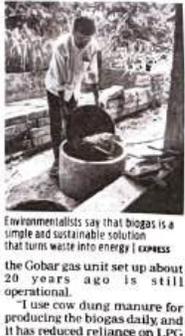
DIIVA CUTHINO @Mangaluru

THE recent LPG cylinder shortage in India created significant challenges for many households, and sustainable alternatives are being sought for their daily needs. In response to this crisis, several farmers in Dakshina Kannada have turned to biogas as a reliable and sustainable alternative.

One such example is Glen Roche, a dairy farmer who runs a homestay and a farmhouse at Inoli in Ullal taluk. Unlike many others affected by the LPG shortage, Roche continues his daily activities without disruption. Thanks to the biogas plants that he and many other dairy farmers have set up, they are able to produce their own fuel and effectively beat the LPG crisis in Dakshina Kannada.

Building on this, he explained, "We have 15 cows, and the cow dung manure is used for biogas plants. We shifted from LPG to biogas as it is a sustainable. Even our workers who stay here use the biogas plant for all their cooking needs. For electricity, I have been using solar energy, and for our farm, we use organic natural manure."

The biogas plant has also helped Jagannath Pojary from Murulya in Puttur taluk alleviate the impact of the LPG shortage in the market. Earlier, he had over 50 cows and supplied up to 150 litres of milk to the dairy. Although the number of cattle has decreased, he has continued dairy farming, and



Environmentalists say that biogas is a simple and sustainable solution that turns waste into energy | EXPRESS

the biogas gas unit set up about 20 years ago is still operational.

"I use cow dung manure for producing the biogas daily, and it has reduced reliance on LPG cylinders completely, and it provides a clean, smoke-free, and sustainable alternative to LPG and firewood," he said.

Jeeth Milan Roche, a Mangaluru-based environmentalist, said that biogas is a simple, sustainable solution that turns waste into energy while protecting the environment. "Biogas saves our forests as it reduces the need for firewood. It is also a renewable energy source which is locally available. The leftover food from hotels, vegetable and fruit waste, dairy waste and other sources can be used to generate biogas and use it for daily household needs," he said.

Crackdown on LPG hoarding, five FIRs filed across Karnataka

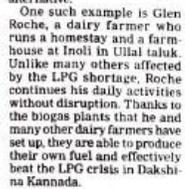
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ACCORDING to official data, a total of 11,41,657 domestic LPG cylinders and 20,941 commercial and auto LPG cylinders were distributed in the state between March 12 and 14, 2025.

The department also intensified enforcement against illegal storage, transport and refilling of LPG cylinders. Officials said raids were conducted in several districts where domestic cylinders were allegedly being stored for commercial use or stored illegally. A total of five FIRs have been registered so far, including cases at APMC police station in Davanagere and Kengeri in Bengaluru, as well as Anderson police station in Kolar.

A total of 514 cylinders were seized from several districts, including Shivamogga, Yadgir, Davanagere, Bengaluru Urban, Bengaluru Rural, Kolar, Raichur and Chikmagalur for violations such as illegal storage, refilling and diversion of domestic cylinders for commercial purposes.

The department said strict action will continue against violators while ensuring adequate supply for household and essential public services across the state.



Environmentalists say that biogas is a simple and sustainable solution that turns waste into energy | EXPRESS

Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri has assured that steps will be taken to ensure there is no disruption in LPG supply, government has already responded to the issue in the Legislature when asked about disruptions in LPG supply

-Chief Minister Siddaramaiah

ESTD 1942 R.B.I. Licence No. UBKQA 776 P

Maratha Co-operative Bank Ltd.,

1477, Baswan Galli, BELAGAVI-590002.
Ph: (0831) 2420535, 2425194

Ref No: Notification for STAFF RECRUITMENT Date: 13 Mar 2026

Applications are invited from the Eligible Candidates for the Following Posts as per order obtained from the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Bengaluru
RCS/SLC-7/Miscellaneous/06/2025-UB/Call dated 06-02-2025

Sl No	NAME	No of Posts	Education and other Qualification	Pay Scale (Rs)
1	Branch Manager	1	(i) Must have passed any Bachelor Degree from an University established by law in India. (ii) Must have studied Kannada as one of the languages in SSLC OR an equivalent examination. (iii) Must have undergone basic Computer Operations and Applications course from an institution recognized by Government and (iv) Must have passed in Degree in Co-operation or Diploma in Co-operative Management OR Higher Diploma in Co-operative Management from a University/ recognized institution established by Law in India OR have 2 years of working experience in the field of Banking / in Co-operative Credit Institutions.	36750-66350
2	Officers	4	(i) Must have passed any Bachelor Degree from an University established by law in India. (ii) Must have studied Kannada as one of the languages in SSLC OR an equivalent examination. (iii) Should have knowledge of computer operation and application (iv) Must have passed in Degree in Co-operation or Diploma in Co-operative Management OR Higher Diploma in Co-operative Management from a University/ recognized institution established by Law in India OR have 2 years of working experience in the field of Banking / in Co-operative Credit Institutions. (v) Knowledge of CBS OR equivalent software is preferred. (vi) Knowledge of Kannada, English and Hindi languages. (vii) Preference is given to those with banking experience.	29900-52950
3	Technical Staff	2	(i) From any recognised university established maximum age prescribed as below as on the date of submission of Application: (a) Computer Applications (B.C.A) OR B.E. in Computer Science & Engineering (ii) Knowledge of CBS OR equivalent software is preferred. (iii) Knowledge of Kannada, English and Hindi languages. (iv) Preference is given to those with banking experience.	29900-52950
4	Clerk	8	(i) Must have passed any Bachelor Degree from an University established by law in India. (ii) Must have studied Kannada in Co-operation or Diploma in Co-operative Management OR Higher Diploma in Co-operative Management from a University/ recognized institution established by Law in India OR have 2 years of working experience in the field of Banking/ Co-operative Credit Institutions. (iii) Should have knowledge of computer operation and application (iv) Knowledge of Kannada, English and Hindi languages.	25100-45000
5	Sub-staff	7	1) Should be Passed in SSLC with Kannada as one of the Subject / Language 2) Preference will be given to PUC candidates	16000-25600

* DA and Other Allowance as Applicable From Time to Time will be given by the Bank
1) Age limit: The Applicant must not be above 40 years of age as on the date of application. Age should not cross the maximum age prescribed as below as on the date of submission of Application.
(a) Applicant belonging to scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe or other Backward class-category-1-Age should not be more than 40 years.
(b) Applicant belonging to other Backward class (for the purpose of Recruitment, Category 2A, 2B, 3A & 3B other than the SC/ST) Age should not be more than 38 years.
(c) Applicant belonging to other classes-Age should not be more than 35 years.
2) Original Application Form should be submitted to: C.A.S.U.E 292 SENECA 1, 2025 dated 20-01-2025. The age relaxation is extended for further 5-years which applies to all the Applicants belonging to all categories.
Application Form Fee:
Sl No Post General Candidates Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe and other backward class candidates
1 Br. Manager 500/- + GST 250/- + GST
2 Officers 500/- + GST 250/- + GST
3 Technical 500/- + GST 250/- + GST
4 Clerk 800/- + GST 250/- + GST
5 Sub-Staff 300/- + GST 150/- + GST

Application Form Fee shall be paid by Demand Draft or in Cash, which is not refundable. DD should be in favour of "Maratha Co-operative Bank Ltd., Belagavi".

1) Application should be in Bank's prescribed form which is available at Bank Administrative office, Bengaluru. (Main Branch) between 11.00 am to 5.00 pm on all working days.
2) Original Application Form should be submitted in Handwritten or typed in Hindi or Kannada with self latest passport size photo on the application and two more extra photos should be submitted along with application Form.
3) Candidates should enclose copy of SSLC/ 10th class mark sheet or SSLC/ 10th class Transfer Certificate in proof of Age and qualification certificates including marks card duly attested by the Gazetted officer.
4) Applicants belonging to SC/ST and other Backward classes should enclose valid Caste certificate.
5) Last date for submission of Application: Duty free/ completed application with all documents should be submitted before 5.00 pm on or before 30th March 2026 to The General Manager, Maratha Co-operative Bank Ltd., Belagavi, 1477, Baswan Galli, Belagavi-590002. The submission of applications will start from 10th March 2026.
6) Other instructions and conditions:
a) The requirement for the posts of Branch Manager, Officer, Technical Staff and Clerk will be done through a written test and the candidates shall be called for interview in the ratio of 1:5 based on the percentage of marks obtained in the written test or technical test prescribed for the post.
b) The requirement for the sub-staff post the candidates shall be called for interview in the ratio of 1:5 based on the marks obtained in the prescribed educational qualification and there is no written test for this post.
c) As per marks of recruitment only eligible candidates will be called for written test or interview.
d) The written test shall carry 250 marks consisting of Kannada language for 50 marks, General English for 25 marks, General Knowledge for 25 marks, Cooperation matters for 50 marks. The Constitution of India for 25 marks and the subject relevant to the objective test or interview will be 25 marks.
e) Candidates should appear to the written test or interview at his / her own cost.
f) Applicants belonging to scheduled castes/particulars incomplete furnished information, not signed, required fee not paid, fail to attach necessary certificates and not attested at the documents, such applications shall be rejected and also the application submitted after due date shall be rejected.
g) Appointment Committee reserves the right to postpone or cancel the recruitment process and also to change any condition without assigning any reasons.
h) Any call or orders for written test and interview will be sent to eligible candidates and there will not be any correspondence with the office.
i) The Married female applicants should fill their details (D/O full name, address etc.) in application as per educational qualification certificates and not attested at the documents, such applications shall be rejected.
j) For more information contact administrative office (Main Branch) of the Bank.
Place: Belagavi
Date: 16.03.2026
The General Manager / Member Secretary, Staff Recruitment Committee, Maratha Co-operative Bank Ltd., Belagavi

EXPRESS READ

Parrot astrologer held for cheating IT official

BENGALURU: A roadside parrot astrologer was arrested by the Bhartiya Nagar police, for cheating a 55-year-old senior administrative officer at the Income Tax department, of valuables worth over Rs 31 lakh. The accused had claimed to perform rituals for his promotion at work and transfer to a region of his interest. The victim Mr. Shekar, the accused, near Sri Circle, Bhartiya Nagar, on March 6, last year. Shekar started performing the rituals, and the victim fell to the false predictions. The victim lost 194 grams of gold ornaments and around 13 kilograms of silver along with some cash. ENS

Insta friend extorts gold, cash from BCA grad, held

PRAVEEN KUMAR @BENGALURU: A 21-year-old BCA graduate has been extorted of gold and cash worth Rs. 5.5 lakh by a man with whom she came in contact on Instagram a year ago. The woman's father, M. Muniyappa (56), from Samanduru village in Anekal, filed a police complaint against the accused, Praveen, a resident of Kaggaliguru, on March 6. Praveen was arrested on Wednesday. According to the complaint, the woman is said to have been giving ornaments and cash to Praveen since July 2024. Her ornaments were being used for the victim's sister's wedding. ENS

LAST POLL IN 1999

Experts divided over student polls in Karnataka

RASHMI PATIL @Bengaluru

AMIDST the debate among academics and students about whether student elections should be held in universities or colleges, the Karnataka Government on March 6 announced conducting student elections from the next academic year in universities and colleges.

While some academicians have come in support of elections, others fear that it will bring back rowdy culture and caste politics into campuses. Therefore, they suggest there must be a systematic strategy to implement student elections.

and political parties must not only remain out of campuses but also stay away from imposing their ideas on students. The last student elections in state universities happened in 1999, after which they were stalled due to a few violent incidents.

Muralidhar B, professor of the Computer Science department from Bengaluru University, Jnanabharti Campus, explained, "Student elections must happen before the student elections are held. The representatives can explain the problems to the administration. These days, the vice chancellors select a student representative on

their own who is likely to favour all the decisions by the administration. There will always be fights among student groups with or without elections on the campuses. In fact, the administration must come out with a clear road map to prevent these fights from happening."

He added, "Caste system or politics will continue to exist even in the student elections. It cannot disappear when the universities have segregated even the hostels based on the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (SC/ST). If they are to blame the

elections for the same. Then they must get rid of caste-based hostels the first place."

Meanwhile, prof. Basavara Donur from Central University of Karnataka in Kalaburgi, said, "I cannot disagree when the students are coming from across the globe to study in Karnataka. If elections happen, then it will give rise to fights and controversies on the campus."

schools from 2022 to 2025 across the state by merging various primary, high schools and PU colleges.

notice to teachers and principals of the remaining five government schools in Channapatna

He explained, "No child are forced to enrol in schools. In fact, we see that ents are not financially

Estd: 1942

R.B.J. Licence No. UBDKA 776 P



Maratha Co-operative Bank Ltd.,

1477, Baswan Galli, BELAGAVI-590002.
Ph.: (0831): 2420535, 2425194

Ref No.

Notification for STAFF RECRUITMENT

Date: 13 Mar 2026

Applications are Invited From the Eligible Candidates For the Following Posts as per order obtained from the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Bengaluru RCS/UBC-7(Miscellaneous)/06/2025-UBCell dated 06-02-2026

Sl No	NAME	No of Posts	Education and other Qualification	Pay Scale (Rs)
1	Branch Manager	1	(i) Must have passed any Bachelor Degree from an University established by law in India. (ii) Must have studied Kannada as one of the languages in SSLC OR an equivalent examination. (iii) Must have undergone basic Computer Operations and Applications course from an institution recognised by Government and (iv) Must have passed In Degree in Co-operation or Diploma in Co-operative Management OR Higher Diploma in Co-operative Management from a University/ recognized institution established by Law in India OR have 2 years of working experience in the field of Banking / in Co-operative Credit Institutions.	36750-66350
2	Officers	4	(i) Must have passed any Bachelor Degree from an University established by law in India. (ii) Must have studied Kannada as one of the languages in SSLC OR an equivalent examination. (iii) Should have knowledge of computer operation and application (iv) Must have passed in Degree in Co-operation or Diploma in Co-operative Management OR Higher Diploma in Co-operative Management from a University/ recognized institution established by Law in India OR have 2 years of working experience in the field of Banking / in Co-operative Credit Institutions.	29900-52850
3	Technical Staff	2	(i) From any recognised university established under law, a degree must have been obtained in Computer Applications (B.C.A) OR B.E. in Computer Science & Engineering (ii) Knowledge of CBS OR equivalent software is preferred. (iii) Knowledge of Kannada, English, and Hindi languages. (iv) Preference is given to those with Banking experience.	29900-52850
4	Clerk	8	(i) Must have passed any Bachelor Degree from an University established by law in India. (ii) Must have passed in Degree in Co-operation or Diploma in Cooperative Management OR Higher Diploma in Cooperative Management from a University / recognized institution established by Law in India OR have 2 years of working experience in the field of Banking/in Cooperative Credit Institutions. (iii) Should have knowledge of computer operation and application (iv) Knowledge of kannada reading, writing and speaking.	25100-45000
5	Sub-staff	7	1) Should be Passed in S.S.L.C with Kannada as one of the Subject. (Language) 2) Preference will be given to PUC candidates	16000-25650

* DA and Other Allowance as Applicable From Time To Time will be given by the Bank

1) Age limit: The Applicant must have attained the age of minimum 18 years and should not cross the maximum age prescribed as below as on the last date of submission of Application.

a) Applicant belonging to scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe OR other Backward class-category-1-Age should not be more than 40 years.

b) Applicant belonging to other Backward class (for the purpose of Recruitment Category 2A, 2B, 3A & 3B other than the SC/ST) Age should not be more than 38 years.

c) Applicant belonging to others classes-Age should not more than 35 years

* Note: As per Karnataka State Government Notification No. C.A.S.U.E 262 S.E.N.E.N.I. 2025 dated 29-01-2026. The age relaxation is extended for further 5-years which applies to all the Applicants belonging to any categories.

Application Form Fee:

Sl No	Post	General Candidates	Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe and other backward class candidates
1	Br. Manager	500/- + GST	250/- + GST
2	Officers	500/- + GST	250/- + GNT
3	Technical	500/- + GST	250/- + GST
4	Clerk	500/- + GST	250/- + GST
5	Sub-Staff	300/- + GST	150/- + GST

Application Form Fee shall be paid through Demand Draft or in Cash, which is not refundable. DD should be in favour of "Maratha Co-operative Bank Ltd., Belagavi."

3. Application submission Procedure:

a) Application should be in Bank's prescribed format which is available at Bank Administrative office, Belagavi (Main Branch) between 11.00 am to 5 pm on all working days.

b) Original Application form should be filed by applicant in his / her own hand writing and shall fix latest passport size photo on the application and two more extra photos should be submitted along with application Form.

c) Applicants should enclose copy of BSLC/ 10th class marks card or SSLC / 10th class Transfer Certificate in proof of Age and qualification certificates including marks card duly attested by the Gazetted officer.

d) Applicants belonging to SC/ST and other Backward classes should enclose valid Caste certificates.

4. Last date for submission of Application: Duty filed/ completed application with all documents should be submitted before 5 00 pm on or before 30th March 2026 to "The General Manager / Member Secretary, Staff Recruitment Committee, Maratha Co-operative Bank Ltd., Belagavi, 1477, Baswan Galli, Belagavi-590002. The submission of applications will start from 16th March 2026.

5. Other Instruction and conditions:

a) The recruitment for the posts of Branch Manager, officer, Technical Staff and Clerk will be done through a written test and the candidates shall be called for interview in the ratio of 1:5 based on the percentage of marks obtained in the written test or technical test prescribed for the post.

b) The recruitment for the sub staff post the candidates shall be called for interview in the ratio of 1:5 based on the marks obtained in the prescribed educational qualification and there is no written test for this post.

c) As per rules of recruitment only eligible candidates will be called for written test or interview.

d) The written test shall carry 200 marks consisting of Kannada language for 50 marks, General English for 25 marks, General Knowledge for 25 marks, Cooperation matters for 50 marks, The Constitution of India for 25 marks and the subject relevant to the objectives and activities of the Bank for 25 marks.

e) Candidates should appear to the Written Test or Interview at his / her own cost.

f) Applications without complete particulars, incomplete furnished information, not signed, required fee not paid, fail to attach necessary certificates and not attested all the documents, such applications shall be rejected and also the application submitted after due date shall be rejected.

g) Recruitment Committee reserves the right to postpone, to canceling the recruitment process and also change any conditions without assigning any reasons.

h) Any call or letter for written Test and for interviews will not be sent to ineligible candidates and there will not be any correspondences in this matter.

i) The Married female applicant should fill their details (the full name, address etc.) in application as per educational qualification certificates and also enclose the Marriage certificate.

j) For more information contact administrative office (Main Branch) of the Bank.

Place: Belagavi

Date: 18.03.2026

The General Manager / Member Secretary, Staff Recruitment Committee, Maratha Co-operative Bank Ltd., Belagavi

EXPI

CHILD said the C me abro cylin repo He spon when ply H ulation disru short "U has a sure ply." metin Karn ers th to Kar stead urge supply

Cra hoa file

CONTIN

ACCOR 11,41,65 20,941 co were d March 1 The d forceme port an cials sai districts alleged use or st have bee es at AP and polle and Ken dersonp A total several o Yadgir, Bengalu Chikkam legal sto domesti purposes The de continue adequate sential pu

Union Mini that step disrupti ahead Legislatu

E.

RASHMI PA

AMIDST th micians an er student e in universi nataka Go announce elections in year in uni While so come in su ers fear tha dy culture campuses. there must gy to imple