

Comedy actor Raju Talikote passes away

BENGALURU: Popular Kannada comedian and theatre veteran Raju Talikote breathed his last at a private hospital in Udupi on Monday following a cardiac arrest. He was 58. Talikote was in Udupi for the shooting of an upcoming Shine Shetty-starrer when he developed chest pain around midnight on Sunday. “He was brought to our emergency unit in critical condition. Despite our efforts, he succumbed at 5.30 pm,” doctors at the Manipal hospital said. His family circles told that the family would perform the final rites in his hometown. “His body will be brought to Chikka Sindagi and the funeral will be held in his vineyard, as per his wishes,” they informed. Known for his impeccable comic timing, Talikote gained fame through Yogaraj Bhat’s Manasaare and acted in more than 35 films, including Jackie, Sugreeva and Myna. A Rangayana Dharwad director and founder of the Khaskateshwara Natya Sangha, he had been a prominent face in Karnataka’s theatre scene. Winner of several honours including the Filmfare Award (2011) and Rajyotsava Popular Award (2015), Talikote is survived by his wives and children.

Passenger held with hydroponic ganja at Mangaluru airport

MANGALURU: In a co-ordinated operation, CISF officials at Mangaluru International Airport detained a domestic passenger arriving from Mumbai for allegedly smuggling 512 grams of hydroponic ganja, a high-grade variety of cannabis cultivated using water-based methods. The accused, Shankar Narayan Poddar, an Indian national (Passport No. AG 430883), arrived on IndiGo flight 6E-841 around 6:10 p.m. on October 13. Acting on prior intelligence, the Crime and Intelligence Wing (CIW) of CISF intercepted the passenger upon arrival. A search of his checked-in baggage revealed the narcotic substance concealed within his belongings. Authorities immediately alerted the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), Bengaluru, and the Bajpe Police. The seized contraband and the accused were later handed over to the Bajpe Police Station for further investigation under relevant sections of the NDPS Act. Officials said the operation highlights CISF’s vigilance in curbing narcotics smuggling through domestic routes, as traffickers increasingly exploit smaller airports to avoid detection.

My body no longer supports the game: Saina

UDUPI: Olympic medallist and Padma Bhushan awardee Saina Nehwal announced that she has formally stepped away from competitive badminton, saying her body no longer allows her to play at the desired level. Speaking at a press conference in Manipal, Nehwal said, “I am quitting badminton with a heavy heart. The enthusiasm remains, but my body doesn’t respond anymore.” The former world number one clarified that she has no plans to enter coaching. “Coaching is tougher than playing. It demands long hours of standing and constant engagement. My husband Parupalli Kashyap is already assisting Gopi Sir (Pullela Gopichand) at his Hyderabad academy. I prefer to motivate children to take up sports rather than get into coaching right now,” she said. Nehwal urged youngsters to move away from social media and embrace physical activity. On politics, Nehwal clarified, “I am not interested in politics. I admire Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s leadership and occasionally attend his events, but politics is not easy. She also hailed Prakash Padukone as a legend of Indian badminton. “Coming to his hometown, Udupi, makes me proud. He inspired both Gopi Sir and me,” she said, adding that Chirag Shetty and Satwik Shetty represent India’s bright badminton future.

WHO to revise global tuberculosis guidelines based on study by Mangaluru docs

MANGALURU A pioneering study by Mangaluru-based doctors Dr. Anurag Bhargav and Dr. Madhavi Bhargav, published in the prestigious medical journal The Lancet, has led the World Health Organization (WHO) to revise its global tuberculosis (TB)

treatment guidelines. The couple’s work, part of the RATIONS (Reducing Activation of Tuberculosis by Improvement of Nutritional Status) trial, provided the first large-scale evidence that nutritional support sharply lowers TB mortality and infection rates among patients

and their families. The new WHO 2025 guidelines now formally recommend food assistance as a standard component of TB care, a major policy shift worldwide. Conducted over three years across 2,800 households in Jharkhand, the study found that food baskets containing

cereals and pulses reduced new TB cases by 48 percent and deaths by 35 percent. In their Lancet paper, the authors wrote: “Undernutrition is the strongest driver of tuberculosis in India and other developing nations. Addressing nutritional deficiencies is therefore a vital preventive and thera-

peutic strategy.” They added that “food supplementation should be integrated into national TB control programmes as an essential, not optional, intervention.” Published in both The Lancet and The Lancet Global Health, the study has also influenced India’s Nikshay Poshan and



Nikshay Mitra initiatives under the National TB Elimination Programme. Experts say the Mangaluru doctors’

findings have now bridged a critical gap between clinical treatment and public health nutrition.

Mega job fair in Mysuru to open new doors for state youth

HANS NEWS SERVICE MYSURU

JOB fairs are not just platforms for finding employment—they are powerful opportunities for individuals to enhance their skills and grow in their professional journey. In Karnataka, the Karnataka Skill Development Corporation (KSDC) along with several government and private organizations has been playing a vital role in this mission. Now, the state government is gearing up to empower the dreams of Karnataka’s youth by organizing a mega job fair in Mysuru.

The event, organized by KSDC in collaboration with the Department of Skill Development, Entrepreneurship and Livelihood, will be held under the leadership of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar. It aims to connect thousands of job seekers with leading companies, offering direct employment opportunities.

According to Mysuru Zilla Panchayat CEO S. Yukesh Kumar, more than 200 reputed companies from various sectors will participate in the fair, conducting direct interviews for multiple



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job roles. He urged youth across the region to attend the event in large numbers, emphasizing that this is a rare opportunity to secure employment in a single day through face-to-face interaction with employers. The mega job fair will take place at the historic Maharaja’s Ground in Mysuru on October 17, 2025, in collabora-

tion with the Mysuru Zilla Panchayat. Anyone who has completed SSLC, PUC, Degree, Post-Graduation, ITI, or Diploma qualifications is eligible to attend.

Participants will get the chance to interact directly with company representatives, understand the skills and experience they are looking for, and identify the gap between their own abilities and industry expectations. This understanding will help them plan future training and skill enhancement. Participation in the job fair requires prior registration. Eligible candidates can register online at udyogamela.ksdkarnataka.com. For

any queries, candidates can contact the helpline number 9606494308 for assistance. Participants are advised to carry multiple copies of their updated resume for interviews.

Officials have also directed that candidates registered under the Yuva Nidhi Scheme be given priority during the recruitment process. This initiative by the Karnataka government marks a major step towards reducing unemployment in the state by bridging the gap between job seekers and employers. It also reflects the state’s commitment to nurturing a skilled, employable, and future-ready workforce.

Shiv Sena invites Yatnal to join party, signals possible Hindutva alliance

HANS NEWS SERVICE RAICHUR

THE political landscape in Karnataka is heating up with reports that the Shiv Sena (Shinde faction) has extended an open invitation to expelled BJP MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal, who is said to be preparing to launch a new Hindutva-based political party.

Speaking to a media, Siddalinga Swamiji, the Shiv Sena (Shinde faction)’s Karnataka state president, confirmed the outreach, saying, “If Yatnal decides to join the Shiv Sena, we will roll out the red carpet for him. If he is committed to the Hindutva cause, we are ready to work together.”

Swamiji added that he had shared the stage with Yatnal during a recent event in Afzalpur, though no election-related discussions took place at that time. “Our ultimate goal is to establish a Hindutva-driven government. There is still time before the next election, and we are open to further discussions on political alignment,” he said.

He also clarified that just as the Shiv Sena in Maha-



rashtra operates within the NDA alliance, the party’s activities in Karnataka would also be guided by directives from the central leadership.

Accusing the Congress government in Karnataka of being “anti-Hindu,” Swamiji asserted that his party would take all necessary steps to “unite Hindu votes and bring down the current government.”

The developments have sparked speculation about a new Hindutva front taking shape in Karnataka politics. Since his expulsion from

the BJP, Yatnal has been increasingly active in the political scene. During the recent Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations, he toured several districts across northern Karnataka, drawing large gatherings of Hindu supporters.

His efforts to mobilise Hindu activists have reportedly gained significant momentum, and now, with the Shiv Sena extending an offer to join hands, political observers are closely watching whether this marks the beginning of a new saffron alliance in the state.

DHARMASTHALA HANDS OVER 666TH VATSALYA HOME HERALDS CONTINUED COMMITMENT TO RURAL UPLIFT

HANS NEWS SERVICE UJIRE

THE Shree Kshetra Dharmasthala Rural Development Project celebrated a landmark achievement on October 13, by presenting its 666th Vatsalya Home to beneficiaries in Ujire, advancing its mission to transform lives across Karnataka.

The event, held at Amruthavarshini Sabha Bhavan in Dharmasthala, saw the presence of Vidushekhara Bharati Swamiji of Sringeri Peeth, who offered blessings and extolled the virtues of selfless service in bolstering both spiritual and social well-being.

Speaking to attendees, Swamiji outlined four human archetypes, those who give without expectation, those driven by self-interest, those who harm for gain, and those who cause harm pointlessly. He urged the adoption of righteous company, acts of kindness, and spiritual routines such as reciting the Bhagavad Gita and chanting divine names.



Lauding the Heggade family’s enduring social contributions, Swamiji hailed the Vatsalya Home program as an exemplary act of compassion, acknowledging the obstacles inherent in such noble pursuits and wishing for Dharmasthala’s legacy as a hub of humanitarian and

spiritual excellence to thrive.

Executive Director of the Rural Development Project, Anil Kumar S S highlighted the project’s far-reaching impact, empowering over 53 lakh families with economic self-sufficiency. The initiative has distributed 2,094 nutritional kits and equipped

18,500 needy families with essentials like bedding and kitchenware. With ₹10.14 crore invested in constructing 781 homes, the project aims to reach a target of 1,000, significantly improving living standards for Karnataka’s underprivileged.

Notable attendees at the

event included Hemavati V Heggade, D Harshendra Kumar, Sonia Yashovarm, board member Shyam Bhat K, regional director Manoj Meneses, and Dr. Sridhar Bhat of SDM College, Ujire, all gathered to honour this pivotal step in rural development and community support.

DIPLOMAT CALL



Dy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar with Singapore Consul-General Edgar Pang during a meeting in Bengaluru on Tuesday

‘Green cheer’ at Kadri Park from October 17

HANS NEWS SERVICE MANGALURU

THE city’s Kadri Park will host a three-day Kadri Sasyotsava – Raitha Mela from October 17 to 19, celebrating sustainable farming, plant culture, and green living. The event, led by the Raitha Kudla Foundation, will be open daily from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. with free public entry. Deputy Commissioner Darshan K.V. will inaugurate the festival on

Thursday. Foundation president Bharath Raj Sorke will chair the event, while Zilla Panchayat CEO Narwade Vinayak Karbhari will confer the Raitha Kudla Honour on farmer John Montero of Bantwal for his innovative water conservation practices. Visitors can explore a wide variety of ornamental, fruit, and vegetable plants, along with organic fertilisers, seeds, gardening tools, and grow bags.

Guv urges digitisation, simplification of RTI on 20th anniversary

BENGALURU

GOVERNOR Thaawarchand Gehlot on Tuesday emphasised the need to digitise and simplify the RTI process to boost transparency and strengthen governance. Addressing an event marking 20 years of the Right to Information Act, Gehlot said, “The need of the hour is to completely digitise and simplify the Right to Information (RTI) process, enhance the independence and efficiency



of Information Commissions, and, most importantly, nurture transparency as a moral value in governance.”

He stressed increasing the use of Information Technology at all levels of governance. “Increasing the use of Information Technology at all levels of governance will automatically lead to transparency,” he added.

Highlighting challenges in implementing the RTI Act, the governor said that misuse of the Act, the rising burden

on public offices, and a lack of public awareness remain major issues. “It is essential to understand the true power of the RTI Act, prevent its misuse, and ensure that every citizen can effectively exercise this right,” Gehlot said.

He noted that greater use of technology in administration will enhance transparency and public awareness, empowering citizens to recognise RTI as their own right. “The RTI Act is a people’s right that strengthens the very

spirit of democracy. It lays the foundation for accountability, transparency, and mutual trust between the government and the citizens. The RTI Act is not just a legal provision—it is a democratic instrument that bridges the gap between citizens and the government,” the governor said.

Stressing citizen awareness, he added, “When citizens are aware, the administration becomes accountable. The Right to Information is the cornerstone of this awareness—it

empowers citizens and ensures administrative responsibility.”

Gehlot said that over the past two decades, the RTI Act has transformed governance by promoting transparency, curbing corruption, enhancing citizen participation, and driving administrative reforms. Calling for collective efforts to strengthen the Act, he said, “There is a need to hold a thoughtful dialogue on how to reinforce this right in the days to come.”