



IN BRIEF

KSDL produce record 4,894.77 MT soaps in Jan

BENGALURU: State-owned KSDL, producers of the famous Mysore sandal soaps has set an all-time production record by manufacturing a total of 4,894.777 metric tonnes of products in January this year, Minister for Large and Medium Industries M B Patil said on Tuesday.In a statement, he stated that January production comprised 3,798 tonnes in the soap segment, 941 tonnes in the detergents segment, and 155 tonnes in the cosmetics segment. He recalled that Karnataka Soaps and Detergents Limited (KSDL) had earlier achieved record production of 4,735 tonnes in December 2025.

He said extensive measures have been taken to expand markets and strengthen branding in North India and overseas. In addition, a system of continuous, quality-driven production operating across three shifts has been put in place. The state-owned enterprise currently offers over 45 products, with more to be introduced in the coming days. The company's turnover is targeted to be scaled up to Rs 5,000 crore by 2030, Patil said. Prashanth, MD, KSDL, stated that the new record production has been achieved using the existing facilities, without recruiting additional staff or procuring any new equipment, and thanked the employees for their efforts in accomplishing this milestone.

Charmadi Ghat forest fire rages amid strong winds
CHIKKAMAGALURU: A ferocious wildfire has swept through large areas of Charmadi forest since February 2, completely destroying vast stretches of sensitive grasslands and leaving behind scorched earth.

The fire broke out close to the Charmadi Ghat road, a key route linking Dakshina Kannada and Chikkamagaluru districts. Its location near the heavily trafficked highway has heightened anxiety among residents and motorists, with thick plumes of smoke enveloping the surroundings and making driving conditions hazardous along the ghat stretch. Powerful winds have relentlessly driven the flames forward, causing the fire to expand at an alarming pace and complicating every attempt to bring it under control. Initial reports point toward the possibility of deliberate ignition by unknown individuals, prompting the forest department to begin a formal inquiry into the origin of the blaze. Teams from the fire and emergency services, forest department personnel, and community volunteers have been working nonstop to contain the inferno.

The steep, uneven landscape combined with persistent high winds continues to hinder progress and prevent effective encirclement of the fire. Environmental specialists warn that the ongoing destruction poses a grave risk to the region's rich wildlife and plant diversity. Repeated incidents of this scale inflict lasting harm on the Western Ghats ecosystem, threatening long-term impacts on species habitats, soil integrity, and overall ecological stability. Local authorities and travellers have been advised to exercise extreme caution while passing through the Charmadi Ghat area until the situation is fully stabilised. Efforts to douse the flames and investigate the cause remain the top priority for all involved agencies.

Owner of Rottweiler booked after it mauled woman during morning walk

BENGALURU

THE owner of a Rottweiler was booked after his pet allegedly mauled a woman during her morning walk here, leaving her with severe facial and neck injuries that required an eight-hour surgery, police said on Tuesday.

The incident happened when Shalini Dubey, (31), a techie at Teachers Colony in HSR layout stepped out for a morning walk near her home on January 26, they said. CCTV footage of the attack shows the dog running towards her on the road, knocking her down

and biting her repeatedly on the face and neck.

The dog was allegedly released onto the road by its owner without a leash or muzzle and attacked her, her family alleged. Following the attack, she sustained severe injuries to her face and neck and received more than 80 stitches across her face, throat and scalp, her husband Satya Prakash Dubey said.

She underwent a nearly eight-hour-long surgery. One deep wound, measuring about seven centimetres, was dangerously close to her airway and she is currently hospitalised,



he said. The couple has a 17-month-old toddler, and the incident has left her deeply traumatised, Dubey added. Recalling the incident,

her husband said on January 26, around 6.50 am, his wife was returning from her morning walk when the neighbour's dog suddenly ran towards her, she fell down, and the dog brutally attacked her.

She suffered severe injuries to her neck, the right side of her face, and her scalp, Dubey said. "If the pet owner could not control such a large dog, it should never have been allowed to roam freely. Pet owners are responsible for following safety norms, including using a leash and muzzle, especially in public areas," he told PTI Videos

recently.

"My wife is in deep trauma and has suffered severe mental shock. As per doctors, the scars on her face and body will remain for life," he added. Following a complaint, a case was registered against the pet owner Amaresh Reddy under Sections 117 (3) (voluntarily causing grievous hurt), 125 (act endangering life or personal safety of others) and 291 (negligent conduct with respect to animal) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and subsequently, he was held in connection with the incident, police added.

Corruption charges Action initiated against all 25 gram panchayats of Srinivasapura

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU

IN a major crackdown on alleged misgovernance and corruption at the grassroots level, Upa Lokayukta Justice B. Veerappa has registered a suo motu complaint against all 25 gram panchayats of Srinivasapura taluk in Kolar district. The unprecedented action follows serious irregularities observed during surprise inspections conducted by the Lokayukta team in the region.

Acting on the directions of the Upa Lokayukta, the Karnataka Panchayat Raj Commissioner has now constituted a three-member committee to examine the detailed reports that have been sought from each of the gram panchayats. The committee has been instructed to scrutinize the submissions and present a comprehensive report within 15 days.

Justice Veerappa has reportedly raised more than 30 specific questions to every gram panchayat regard-



ing financial management, execution of development works, conduct of meetings and overall administrative transparency.

The action was initiated after the Upa Lokayukta personally visited several panchayats in Srinivasapura and discovered instances of misuse of public funds, procedural violations and poor governance.

Following these findings, the Panchayat Raj Commissioner on January 23 formed the special committee comprising senior officials to evaluate the responses of the local bodies. The panel will assess whether the panchayats have followed legal

procedures and adhered to norms in carrying out public works and purchases.

Speaking about the initiative, Srinivasapura Taluk Panchayat Executive Officer Sarvesh stated that the primary aim of Justice Veerappa is to transform Srinivasapura into a model taluk in Karnataka by strengthening the concept of "Gram Swaraj."

He added that the reforms being introduced here could later be implemented across other taluks of the state.

"We are working seriously to rectify the issues pointed out by the Upa Lokayukta. Steps are being taken to ensure that gram sabhas

and general body meetings are conducted as per law. Transparency in procurement and implementation of projects will be ensured through proper tendering processes," Sarvesh said.

He further informed that all gram panchayats will be provided with internet dongles to improve digital connectivity.

Reverse Osmosis (RO) water purification plants will be set up under panchayat limits. To curb illegal activities and ensure discipline, biometric attendance systems and CCTV cameras will be installed in panchayat offices.

The developments have created political and administrative ripples in the district.

With the taluk panchayat currently under Congress control, the action has assumed additional significance. Observers believe the intervention of the Upa Lokayukta could pave the way for long-awaited reforms and greater accountability in rural administration.

Kerala lottery tickets worth Rs 72,000 seized near state border



HANS NEWS SERVICE
MANGALURU

KARNATAKA Police have confiscated 1,220 Kerala State lottery tickets with an estimated face value of Rs 72,000 during a routine check in the Mangaluru region, officials said on Tuesday.

According to police, the seizure was made after officers intercepted a vehicle travelling from Bandadka in Kerala towards interior parts of Karnataka. The tickets were allegedly being transported for unauthorised resale in violation of state law, they said.

Preliminary inquiries revealed that the accused had procured the lottery tickets in Kerala and was attempting to transport them to Sampaje, where they were to be sold at prices higher than the

official rate. Sale and distribution of lottery tickets from other states, including Kerala, is prohibited in Karnataka under existing legislation.

The individual found in possession of the tickets was taken into custody during routine surveillance conducted in border areas. The lottery tickets were seized as material evidence, and a case has been registered at the concerned police station, officials said. Police sources said smuggling of Kerala lottery tickets into Karnataka continues despite a statewide ban on lottery operations. Such activities are frequently reported in border taluks and rural pockets, where demand remains high and enforcement challenges persist.

Authorities said intensified checks are being carried

out along key transit routes connecting Kerala and Karnataka to prevent illegal transportation and resale of lottery tickets. Special teams have been deployed to monitor vehicles and conduct surprise inspections, particularly during early morning and late evening hours.

The accused is expected to be booked under relevant provisions of the Karnataka Lottery and Prize Competitions Control and Tax Act. Further investigation is underway to determine whether the incident is linked to a larger network involved in the illegal lottery trade, police added. Officials reiterated that strict action would be taken against those involved in the unlawful sale or movement of lottery tickets across state borders.

Awareness march organised for World Cancer Day

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU

SRV Agadi Hospital organised a community awareness march on Tuesday to observe World Cancer Day 2026 and to highlight the importance of early detection, prevention and timely treatment of cancer. The initiative aimed to create greater public understanding about various types of cancers and the lifestyle changes required to prevent them.

The march was flagged off from Al-Ameen Institute of Management Studies on Hosur Road and concluded

at SRV Agadi Hospital in Wilson Garden. It was inaugurated by Dr. Niti Raizada, Senior Director - Medical Oncology and Haematology, Dr. S. Krishnamurthy, Senior Consultant - Surgical Oncology, Dr. Anju Agadi, and Shri Umar Ismail Khan, Chairman of Al-Ameen College of Management Studies.

Students, healthcare professionals and local residents participated actively in the event, carrying placards and spreading messages on cancer awareness. Doctors from the hospital interacted with the public and explained the impor-

ance of regular screening, vaccination for preventable cancers and adopting healthy lifestyles.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Abhay Vispute, Founder-Director of SRV Hospitals, said early diagnosis plays a key role in improving survival rates. He added that community outreach programmes like this march help bridge the gap between awareness and timely medical action.

The hospital announced that similar programmes and screening camps will be organised in the future to strengthen cancer awareness efforts.

HOLI, SUMMER RUSH: SW RAILWAY EXTENDS MYSURU-AJMER EXPRESS SPECIAL

BENGALURU: South Western Railway on Tuesday announced the continuation of the Mysuru-Ajmer-Mysuru Express Special to clear additional passenger rush during the forthcoming Holi and summer season. In a press release, the Mysuru Division of South Western Railway, headquartered in Hubballi, said the Railway Board had decided to continue Train number 06281/06282 for 17 additional trips with the existing path, stoppages, fare structure and coach composition, with revised timings on Western Railway and extension of the service from Ajmer to Madar Junction over North Western Railway.

"The Railway Board has decided to continue the running of Train number 06281/06282 Mysuru-Ajmer-Mysuru Express Special in order to clear the extra rush during the ensuing Holi and Summer season," the release said.

The special train will halt at Vasai Road, Surat, Vadodara Junction, Ratlam Junction, Mandasor, Nimach, Chittaurgarh Junction, Bhilwara, Bijainagar, Nasirabad, Ajmer Junction and Madar Junction.

Seven held after dispute over alleged illicit relationship leads to murder

HANS NEWS SERVICE
SIDRAPURA

SEVEN people, including a self-styled astrologer, were arrested following a violent incident over an alleged extramarital relationship that left one person dead and two others critically injured in Averaguppa village of Siddapur taluk in Uttara Kannada district, police said on Tuesday. The incident occurred on Monday when a group including Suchitra, her father Lokanath Choulappa, astrologer Kamalakhar Bhat, and others allegedly attacked Mahesh Naik, his brother Vasanth Naik (43) and a neighbour identified as Kumar after an argument erupted over allegations involving an illicit relationship between Suchitra and Bhat, officials said. According to the FIR registered

at the Siddapur police station, the dispute began after Naik's elder daughter raised concerns about her mother's alleged relationship with Bhat. Mahesh Naik, who resides in Bengaluru for work and had returned on leave, reportedly filed a complaint with the police and later went with his brother to confront those involved.

A confrontation ensued during which the accused allegedly assaulted the trio. Vasanth Naik sustained serious injuries and died while being taken to a hospital, police said. Mahesh Naik and Kumar were admitted to a local facility and are receiving treatment for serious wounds. After the attack, four suspects including Bhat and Suchitra were initially detained by Siddapur police, while three others were arrested in Shivamogga district, authorities added.

Davanagere makes big strides towards becoming TB-free dist

Earlier in 2024, 40 gram panchayats in the district were officially declared free from tuberculosis. Health officials are hopeful that by the end of this month, more panchayats will join the list

HANS NEWS SERVICE
DAVANAGERE

THE district has achieved a major milestone in the fight against tuberculosis with 61 gram panchayats being declared TB-free under the innovative campaign titled "Defeat TB - Empower Gram Panchayats." The district health department has been working relentlessly to eliminate the disease and transform Davanagere into a completely TB-free district. Encouragingly, the number of TB cases in the district has been steadily declining year after year.

Earlier in 2024, 40 gram panchayats in the district were officially declared free from tuberculosis. Health

officials are hopeful that by the end of February this year, more panchayats will join this list, said District Health Officer Dr. Shanmukhappa S.

Lifestyle-related illnesses such as diabetes, poor dietary habits, and stressful living conditions have increased vulnerability to TB. People with weakened immunity are more prone to contracting the disease. However, government hospitals across the district are ensuring uninterrupted treatment and monitoring for all diagnosed TB patients.

Under the National TB Elimination Programme, suspected cases are identified through rigorous screening. In Davanagere, 30 suspected individuals per 1,000 popu-



lation are tested. Diagnosis is done through sputum tests, modern molecular tests, X-

rays, and drug-resistance examinations like CBNAAT and DST. Specialized treat-

ment is provided for drug-resistant TB cases under expert medical supervision.



ASHA workers and treatment supervisors regularly visit patients' homes to ensure proper medication adherence. Counseling is provided to both patients and their family members. TB patients undergo a treatment course of six to nine months, which includes a combination of four antibiotics during the initial phase.

Speaking to media, DHO Shanmukhappa said that under the Nikshay Mitra initiative, 1,035 TB patients are provided monthly food kits and financial assistance of Rs. 1,000 each. So far, Channagiri has 17 TB-free panchayats, Davanagere 22, Harihar 7, Honnali 7, Nyamati 5 and Jagalur 3.

By 2025, the district had

recorded 2,154 TB patients, of which 1,882 have been successfully cured. At present, 922 patients are undergoing treatment. Health workers are actively identifying new cases at the village level to ensure early intervention.

Medical officer Dr. Gangadhar stated that panchayats are declared TB-free only after ensuring zero cases for three consecutive years. Regular testing of suspected patients and tracking of those taking private treatment are part of the strategy. "Our goal is to eradicate TB completely from Davanagere district. With early detection and preventive treatment, especially among children, we are moving steadily towards that dream," he added.