



Student ‘threatened’ for raising Vande Mataram slogan

BIDAR: An FIR has been registered against the principal of a Shaheen College in Chitguppa town of Bidar district following allegations that he threatened a PU student for raising “Vande Mataram” and “Bharat Mata Ki Jai” slogans during an Independence Day programme.

The incident reportedly occurred on August 15 after the national flag was hoisted at the college. According to the complaint, student Sagar Gouli raised the slogans following the flag-hoisting ceremony. His family has alleged that principal Abdul Hakeem objected to the slogans and warned the student against repeating them on the college campus.

The student’s father, Hiroba Gouli, approached the Chitguppa police and lodged a complaint seeking action against the principal. Based on the complaint, police registered an FIR and initiated an investigation.

According to the complaint, the principal allegedly told the student that “Vande Mataram” was associated with a particular religious community and that such slogans would not be permitted at the institution. The family has alleged that the student was threatened and that the incident caused him distress. The allegations have sparked controversy in the town, with Hindu organisations demanding strict action if the charges are established. Activists have questioned the alleged objection to patriotic slogans during an Independence Day programme.

Temple thief caught hiding after camera triggers rapid response

UDUPI: Officers from the Mulki station arrested Ravi, aged 28, following his midnight attempt to steal from Bellayaru Kolnadu Sri Chandramouleshwara Temple.

The man scaled the higher portion of the structure with a rope, sliced through the iron grille and gained entry. He then examined the contents of the offering box and made an effort to destroy the closed-circuit camera. ‘Sign In Security’ company, monitoring the feed, immediately passed the information to the temple administration board and to the police. Responding personnel and nearby residents quickly encircled the temple complex.

The accused, seeking to get away, had taken cover inside the Subrahmanya shrine when the police seized him. Images of both the theft attempt and the damage aimed at the camera exist on the system.

Biker robbed of Rs 8 lakhs in broad daylight

MANGALURU: A bike-borne traveller named Mayyadi, residing in Surathkal near Mangaluru, lost a bag containing upwards of eight lakh Rupees when four men arrived on two motorcycles and confronted him in Bantwal taluk, Dakshina Kannada district.

He had just finished collecting dues for cement distributed wholesale across multiple retail outlets and was on his return journey. The group brandished a knife in broad daylight to intimidate him, snatched the money-filled bag and fled the scene. Jurisdiction belongs to Bantwal rural police station, whose personnel are currently conducting the inquiry.

Protests intensify in Cauvery basin over release of water to TN

BENGALURU/MANDYA

PROTESTS intensified in the Cauvery basin, especially in Mandya on Thursday, as farmers alleged that a huge amount of water is being released from the KRS dam to Tamil Nadu. The Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) had upheld the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee’s (CWRC) recommendation of releasing 12,000 cusecs of water for 15 days starting from August 12.

The Tamil Nadu government has approached the Supreme Court seeking a direc-

tion for Karnataka to respect the CWMA’s order, sources said. At Sanjay Circle in Mandya, farmers staged sit-in demonstration. Kannada Sena activists extended support to the farmers’ organisation’s protest and blocked the old Bengaluru-Mysuru highway. The protesters charged there was only 109 feet of water in the dam and questioned the decision to release water to Tamil Nadu despite this. Leading the protest, Kannada activist Vatal Nagaraj appealed to people of Karnataka to unite and support the agitation to send across a strong

message all over the country. Mandya MLA Ravi Kumar Gowda (Ganiga) demanded that the release of water to Tamil Nadu be stopped. Speaking at the Cauvery Irrigation Advisory Committee meeting held on Wednesday, Gowda questioned how water could be denied to Karnataka’s farmers.

“On the one hand, you are releasing water to Tamil Nadu, while on the other hand you are saying that you will not give us water. If you do not give water to our farmers for their crops,

it will become a very serious situation,” he said.

He also demanded calling a legislative session claiming there has been a severe drought, unforeseen seen in several decades. Sources in the chief minister’s office said that Cauvery dispute was raised before Union minister Amit Shah during a meeting with the Chief Ministers of southern states in Tamil Nadu. They said Karnataka Chief Minister D K Shivakumar made a pitch for a balancing reservoir across Cauvery river at Mekedatu in Karnataka near Kanakapura.



‘Carry forward aspirations of Rajiv Gandhi and Devaraj Urs’

Dual birth anniversary event emphasises public service over power in politics

HANS NEWS SERVICE MANGALURU

THE people-oriented thinking and ideals of former Prime Minister the late Rajiv Gandhi together with former Chief Minister the late D Devaraj Urs require introduction to the present generation, declared former minister B Ramanath Rai.

Rajiv Gandhi, he noted, was a visionary who placed youth power first and supplied a new direction toward technology and the creation of modern India; the aspirations he nurtured regarding the nation’s



progress and the prospects of the young remain pertinent today.

“In parallel, Devaraj Urs took historic strides in support of social justice and, by means of numerous people-centered actions that encompassed land reforms, strove to provide social and economic openings for the poor, backward and exploited classes,” he said.

Rai portrayed Rajiv Gandhi as the symbol of hon-

esty, modernity and the dream of new India and Devaraj Urs as the symbol of social justice, equality and the voice of the exploited, asserting that the ideals of both continue to light the way of public service.

“Greater priority in current politics should attach to public service rather than power, to harmony rather than division and to social justice rather than inequality; true respect for the two

leaders consists in pursuing their goals,” he maintained.

Padmaraj Poojary, former principal secretary of the KPCC, spoke as well. The meeting was attended by Congress leaders and others. Tribute of condolence was paid to the late active Congress worker Lakshman Shetty. Welcome remarks came from Shubhodaya Alva while former mayor Shashidhar Hegde proposed the thanks.

Book launch, analytical sessions to mark tribute to pioneering Tulu litterateur

HANS NEWS SERVICE MANGALURU

AN afternoon programme scheduled for August 22 at 2:30 inside Mangaluru’s Tulu Bhavan will review the Tulu literary output of Prof. B A Vivek Rai, who served as the first president of the Karnataka Tulu Sahitya Academy.

The event carries the title ‘Bennida Panidompa’ and includes the release of his books ‘Tuluva Jala Poli’ and ‘Nalayidd Nalurugu’. Dr. Padekallu Vishnu Bhat, a senior researcher and retired principal, will perform the release.

Taranath Gatti Kapikad, current academy president, will occupy the chair for the occasion. Umar U H, president of the Karnataka Beary Sahitya Academy, and Stany Alvares, president of the Konkani Sahitya Academy, will appear as chief guests.

The opening discussion will feature Gunapal Kadamb, retired principal and past academy member, addressing the theme of Prof. Vivek Rai’s leadership of the Tulu Academy. Dr. Ni-



Prof B A Vivek Rai

kethana, principal of Udupi Government First Grade Women’s College, will then explore the depth of his Tulu literary research.

Later, Dr. Tukaram Poojary, who established the Rani Abbakka Tulu Adhyayana Kendra, and journalist Kodibettu Rajalakshmi will lead a conversation directly with Prof. Vivek Rai. Kasargodu Chinnu, former head of the Karnataka Konkani Sahitya Academy, will preside over the final segment, where B A Muhammad Haneef, previous Beary academy president, and Dr. Poovappa Kaniyuru, a researcher of Tulu folklore, will join as principal guests, as stated in the Tulu Academy’s release.

State to build 1,582 toilets in 1,250 govt schools: Minister

BENGALURU

THE government has decided to construct 1,582 toilets in 1,250 government schools across the state during 2025-26 under the State Sector Scheme, School Education and Literacy Minister Madhu Bangarappa informed the Legislative Assembly on Thursday.

The minister was responding to a question raised by Hirekerur Congress MLA U.B. Banakar during the Question Hour. Bangarappa said 136 toilets had also been sanctioned under the Samagra Shikshana Karnataka scheme for 2025-26.

Providing details of the funds allocated, the minister said Rs 5.04 crore remained available under the State Sector Scheme for construction of toilets, while Rs 23.17 crore was available for construction of classrooms.

Under the Samagra Shikshana Karnataka scheme, Rs 544 lakh had been released for construction of toilets during 2025-26, he said.

The minister further said that Rs 48.55 crore had been sanctioned under the PM SHRI scheme during 2025-26 for construction of 216 classrooms.

Bangarappa said priority had initially been given to schools with a higher number of students while sanctioning funds for toilet construction. As a result, no funds had initially been sanctioned for construction of toilets in government schools in the Hirekerur Assembly constituency.

However, the government is now considering a proposal to utilise the remaining funds for toilet construction in nine government schools in the constituency.

The proposal includes construction of two boys’ toilets in two schools and 13 girls’ toilets in seven schools. Each toilet unit is estimated to cost Rs 2 lakh, taking the total estimated cost of the proposed works to Rs 30 lakh.

The minister said the proposal would be examined as per the rules and appropriate action would be taken.

HEAVYWEIGHT HAUL



An elephant being lifted after its capture from a coffee plantation area at Virajpet in Kodagu district on Thursday

Five killed, 23 injured in separate road accidents



BENGALURU

AT least five people were killed and more than 23 others injured in two separate road accidents reported in Haveri and Mandya districts of Karnataka on Thursday. In a separate incident in Udupi district, seven passengers had a narrow escape after a private bus caught fire near Brahmavar town in Udupi district.

Three people were killed and three others critically injured after a car rammed into a parked truck near Chalageri Cross on the outskirts of Ranebennur town in Haveri district in the early hours of Thursday.

The deceased have been identified as Siddharth, 27, Hasanmukhi, 29, and Yashoda Bai, 51. All three

were residents of Davanagere city. The injured — Soundarya, Sindhu and one-year-old Kashvasri — were shifted to a private hospital in Davanagere for treatment.

According to preliminary information, the car was travelling from Ranebennur towards Davanagere when it collided with the parked truck. The Ranebennur Rural police have registered a case and launched an investigation. Further details are awaited.

In another accident, two people were killed and 20 others injured after a private sleeper bus overturned near Bellur Toll in Mandya district. The accident occurred on the Mangaluru-Bengaluru highway after the bus reportedly hit a roadside signboard and overturned. Police sus-

pect that overspeeding may have led to the accident. The injured were shifted to Bellur town hospital for treatment. The identities of the deceased are yet to be ascertained.

Meanwhile, seven passengers escaped unhurt after a private bus caught fire near Brahmavar in Udupi district. The bus was travelling from Udupi towards Sagar when smoke was noticed inside the vehicle. The fire subsequently broke out in the electrical box and began spreading.

The conductor immediately stopped the bus and evacuated all seven passengers, averting a possible tragedy. Fire and Emergency Services personnel from Udupi rushed to the spot and extinguished the blaze. Further details regarding the cause of the fire are awaited.

Forest officers’ body defends its team involved in firing incident

BENGALURU

THE Karnataka State Range Forest Officers’ Association has defended the forest personnel involved in the August 15 firing in Chamara-janagar district in which three suspected poachers were killed, saying the officials had opened fire only in self-defence and to protect wildlife. The statement comes amid continuing controversy over the incident in the Hanur Wildlife Range of the Cauvery Wildlife Division, with the deaths of the Tamil-origin men triggering outrage, especially in Tamil Nadu.

Tamil Nadu Chief Min-

ister C Joseph Vijay had condemned the killings and sought an investigation, while political leaders in the state have demanded a probe into the incident. The association said the firing occurred inside a reserve forest when forest personnel were attempting to trace and apprehend suspected wildlife poachers.

“Forest department officers and staff work 24x7 in shifts to protect forests and wildlife. In the said operation, they opened fire only in self-defence and in the interest of protecting forests and wildlife, and had no other intention,” it said, adding that the deaths were



regrettable. It strongly condemned the registration of a police case against forest

department officials and alleged that relatives of the deceased had continuously

attacked forest personnel and forest department properties. “It has been observed

that various forms of pressure are being exerted on the government to take action against forest department personnel, and that this is being continuously propagated on social media,” the association said, describing the development as highly regrettable.

It said such pressure undermined the morale of forest officers and staff and made it difficult for them to discharge their duties. The association also pointed out that forest personnel had lost their lives while protecting forests and wildlife during several such operations, and that unavoidable incidents had occurred in some

instances in order to save their own lives.

“In such circumstances, the association believes that it would be appropriate to take necessary action only after a proper investigation into the incident,” it said. The August 15 incident has emerged as a sensitive Karnataka-Tamil Nadu issue, with demands for an independent probe growing in Tamil Nadu.

The Karnataka government, however, has maintained that the men had entered the Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary for illegal hunting, while the circumstances surrounding the firing remain under scrutiny.