

WINDOWS



Officials raid hotel based on QR code complaint

MANGALURU: The Food Safety and Drug Administration Department launched verification raids on Friday, 21 August in response to complaints submitted through its newly introduced QR-code facility. The purpose was to scrutinise the reports that had arrived via this digital route. A complaint concerning MFC Restaurant on Falnir Road prompted one of these actions.

Officers proceeded to the premises and executed a raid to investigate the allegations contained in the submission. The step reflects the department's use of the fresh QR-code channel to initiate on-ground checks.

Officials seize over Rs 8 lakh worth chemically-ripened bananas



UDUPI: A coordinated enforcement drive on Thursday removed large quantities of chemically treated bananas from circulation in Udupi district. Food Safety and Drug Administration designated officer Rashmi and Udupi Tahsildar Gururaj held overall charge while Food Safety Officer Vivek Trimale directed field activity. Full strength of the revenue department's personnel participated throughout.

Sudden inspections targeted premises in the villages of Aleyuru, Kemturu and Duglipadavu where bananas were being forced to ripen with chemical substances. The teams confiscated every batch found to contain the prohibited agents and arranged for their complete destruction through dumping. Quantities recovered added up to 10,890 kilograms, representing an approximate value of Rs. 8.71,200. Destruction ensured the fruit could not return to markets or consumers.

World Konkani Centre celebrates Recognition Day

HANS NEWS SERVICE
MANGALURU

THE need to elevate Konkani education to a higher plane formed the central theme of the Recognition Day programme organised at the World Konkani Centre on Thursday. Anant Agni from Goa, winner of the Dr. TMA Pai Outstanding Konkani Book Award and an established columnist, lit the ceremonial lamp to open the event.

He noted that Konkani's inclusion in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution stems from its status as Goa's official language and its independent character. Elevation of the language,

Champions stronger classroom presence for the language

he observed, can occur only through sustained development of Konkani education and literature in the states of Goa, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Kerala, and cannot be achieved by functions alone.

Members of the Mangalore Konkani Vachana Satra raised the national flag and sang the pride anthem "Godi Godi Hodi Bhas Konkani", after which they staged the short play "Konkani Antardhvani" written by Ashok Nayak. President Nanda-

gopal Shenoy welcomed the gathering.

Dr. Kasturi Mohan Pai, the secretary, announced that support from the World Konkani Centre has helped approximately 4,500 students learn Konkani as their third language. He called upon the students present to convince school boards and parents to introduce Konkani teaching in their own institutions.

Melvin Rodrigues, serving as Konkani adviser to the Sahitya Academy



in New Delhi, reminded everyone that Konkani children should retain their mother tongue regardless of other subjects they master.

Kausalya, a student of SVT School, Karkala,

who obtained full marks of 100 in Konkani at SSLC level, received a Rs. 7,000 scholarship from Usha Mohan Pai. Roughly one hundred student teams drawn from differ-

ent schools presented cultural items in Konkani. Prize money went to Canara High School, Donga-rakeri (Rs. 5,000 for first place), Sharada Vidyalaya, Kodialbail (Rs. 3,000 for

second place) and Canara Higher Primary, Urwa (Rs. 2,000 for third place). M R Kamath conducted the proceedings. Guests included vice-presidents William D'Souza and Ramesh Nayak, trustees Kudpi Jagadeesh Shenoy, Vatika Kamath and Prashant Shet, Shivashankar Nayak, litterateur H M Pernal and many fellow Konkani supporters.

Judging duties were handled by senior artists Ramdas Gulvadi, Prakash Shenoy and Muralidhar Kamath. Treasurer B R Bhat conveyed the message of partial sponsor trustee Gokulanath Prabhu and expressed gratitude to everyone involved.

POLITICAL POW-WOW



Leader of Opposition in Karnataka Assembly R Ashoka, state BJP President and MLA B Y Vijayendra and others raise slogans during a protest demanding the resignation of Minister B Nagendra at Vidhana Soudha, in Bengaluru on Friday



Karnataka Congress President and MLC B K Hariprasad, Planning and Statistics Minister B Nagendra and others stage a protest in front of the Mahatma Gandhi statue on the Assembly premises, accusing the BJP and JD(S) members of preventing both Houses of the Karnataka Legislature from functioning at Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Friday

CM challenges Oppn to seek debate on Nagendra issue

BENGALURU

CHIEF Minister D K Shivakumar on Friday challenged the BJP and JD(S) to formally seek a discussion in the Legislature on the demand for the resignation of Minister B Nagendra, saying there was no justification for disrupting proceedings without giving notice.

BJP has been staging demonstrations inside and outside of both the Houses of Karnataka Legislature demanding removal of Planning and Statistics Minister Nagendra alleging his involvement in the

Karnataka State Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation scam worth Rs 89 crore, which had happened in 2024.

Speaking in the Legislative Council, Shivakumar said the opposition was entitled to protest in a democracy but should follow parliamentary procedures and place its allegations before the House.

He recalled that Nagendra had earlier resigned to facilitate an inquiry and that the government had subsequently conducted an investigation.

Questioning the basis of the renewed demand for res-

ignation, the Chief Minister asked what fresh information the opposition had uncovered and urged it to disclose before the House any findings allegedly obtained from agencies such as the CBI, Enforcement Directorate and SIT.

He said the government was prepared to devote an entire day, or even two days, to a discussion on the issue if the opposition submitted a notice. Shivakumar also said he was ready to explain the reasons behind reinducting Nagendra into the Cabinet and answer all questions raised by the opposition.

The Chief Minister criticised allegations made against Nagendra and the government without a formal debate, saying it was unreasonable to brand the minister or the government as corrupt without first discussing the matter in the Legislature.

In a swipe at BJP members, Shivakumar said opposition leaders might be uncomfortable if he began naming Union and state ministers against whom cases had been registered in the past and explaining how those investigations had proceeded, reiterating his call for a structured debate on the issue.

Haveri farmers protest as 90% of lakes remain dry despite monsoon



HANS NEWS SERVICE
HAVERI

FARMERS in Haveri district have raised serious concerns over the failure to fill local lakes even after nearly two-and-a-half months of the monsoon, alleging that water available through lift irrigation channels is not being released into the water bodies.

Farmers of Keremattihalli village in Haveri taluk staged a protest on the bed of their village lake, demanding immediate release of water. The protesters raised slogans demanding water and accused officials of ignoring their repeated requests. The district has around 2,058 lakes, and farmers claimed that nearly 90% of them have received little or no water so far. The situation has caused concern among the farming community, particularly in areas dependent on lakes for irrigation and groundwater recharge.

The approximately 100-acre lake at Keremattihalli is among the water bodies that remain largely dry. Farmers from the surrounding areas said the lack of water could seriously affect agricultural operations during the ongoing kharif season.

The farmers said the situation was particularly worrying because the district is already experiencing inadequate rainfall. They alleged that while rainfall has been below normal in several parts of the district, the

authorities have also failed to utilise available water resources by diverting water through lift irrigation channels into the lakes.

According to the protesters, they have repeatedly approached officials of the Minor Irrigation Department, seeking water for the lake. However, their requests have allegedly failed to result in any concrete action. Farmers also alleged that they were unable to contact the engineers responsible for the irrigation infrastructure. Despite repeated attempts to reach the officials over the phone, there had been no response, they claimed.

The protesters said the authorities should not wait until the situation worsens before taking action. With a significant portion of the monsoon already over, they fear that continued failure to store water could leave farmers dependent on borewells and other uncertain sources during the later stages of the agricultural season.

The farmers pointed out that filling lakes is important not only for irrigation but also for improving groundwater levels. If the water bodies remain dry, borewells in surrounding agricultural areas could also be affected, increasing the burden on farmers. The protestors demanded that the government immediately assess the availability of water in the lift irrigation system and release water to eligible lakes wherever technically feasible.

They also urged the Minor Irrigation Department to inspect the channels and identify whether any technical problems were preventing the flow of water. Any damaged or blocked sections should be repaired without delay, they said.

Farmers warned that continued official inaction could lead to serious consequences for agriculture in the district. They demanded a clear plan for filling the lakes and better coordination between irrigation officials and local farmers. The protesters said the government should treat the issue as an urgent water-management problem rather than waiting for farmers to approach officials repeatedly.

They also urged elected representatives and district authorities to intervene and ensure that water reaches the lakes before the remaining monsoon period ends. For farmers in Keremattihalli and surrounding villages, the issue is not limited to the immediate agricultural season. They said adequate storage in the lake would help maintain groundwater levels and support farming and drinking-water needs in the months ahead.

The farmers have therefore demanded immediate release of water through the lift irrigation canal and a comprehensive assessment of all major lakes in the district to prevent a possible water crisis.

Key witness in ex-MP Prajwal rape case says she got threat calls

BENGALURU

A key prosecution witness in the rape trial against former Hassan MP Prajwal Revanna has expressed apprehension about her safety and that of her son after allegedly receiving threatening phone calls following her deposition before a special court here.

The 43-year-old social worker from Hassan district, who was examined as a prosecution witness on July 6, raised the issue during her cross-examination on Thursday. The court, taking note

of her allegation, directed the Additional Director General of Police, Criminal Investigation Department (CID), to inquire into the alleged threats and submit a report at the next hearing. It also directed the authorities to provide protection to the witness as per law.

The witness also told the court that she feared a possible threat from the accused persons and said that if anything happened to her or her son, they should be held responsible. The case is currently at the trial stage and is



being conducted through a special public prosecutor. The development comes days after

Central Crime Branch (CCB) personnel recovered a mobile phone, charger, pen drive and

scribbling pad from Prajwal's cell in the high-security bar-rack at Parappana Agrahara prison. Prajwal, the grandson of former prime minister H D Deve Gowda and Holenarasipura MLA H D Revanna's son, represented Hassan in the Lok Sabha from 2019 to 2024.

He was arrested in May 2024 in connection with sexual assault cases and was later convicted in a rape case. A special court in Bengaluru sentenced him to life imprisonment in August 2025, following which he was lodged in Parappana Agrahara prison.

Single-roof administration for Mangaluru Railways to begin in October

HANS NEWS SERVICE
MANGALURU/NEW DELHI

THE Ministry of Railways has formalised a long-discussed jurisdictional realignment involving the Mangaluru railway area. A Railway Board communication numbered 2025/E&R/1(3)/1 and dated 21 August 2026 addresses the General Managers of South Western Railway and Southern Railway as well as the Chairman and Managing Director of Konkan Railway Corporation Limited.

The competent authority has decided that the Mangaluru area up to Ullal will be transferred from the Palakkad Division of South-

ern Railway to the Mysuru Division of South Western Railway. Consequently, the interchange points between South Western Railway and Southern Railway will shift from Padil to Ullal.

Thokur station will remain part of Konkan Railway Corporation Limited in its present capacity and will function as the interchange point between Konkan Railway and South Western Railway. The divisional and zonal boundaries that currently exist between Konkan Railway and Southern Railway will become the boundaries between Konkan Railway and South Western Railway.

Transfer to Mysuru Division of South Western Railway ends years of split jurisdiction

Exact divisional and zonal boundaries between Southern Railway and South Western Railway will be specified in the Gazette Notification that will follow. On the question of manpower, the Board has prescribed clear procedures.

For gazetted staff, necessary transfer orders for the change of zone together with posts will be issued in due course; action in respect of Group-B officers will be

taken as per extant rules.

For non-gazetted staff the transfer of posts and personnel will occur on an "as is where is" basis, yet every employee will be offered the choice of remaining with Southern Railway or moving to South Western Railway. Those who opt for South Western Railway will be transferred on administrative grounds, with seniority determined according to length of service in the



present grade.

The jurisdictional changes will take effect from October 1 once the Gazette Notification is issued. All preparatory steps, including the transfer of posts,

the calling of options from staff, and the relocation of control boards, are required to be completed in a timely manner. Dakshina Kannada parliamentary representative Capt. Brijesh

Chowta has noted that the demand for unified administration had been pressed consistently since mid-2024 through engagement with the Union Minister for Railways and other institutional

forums. The realignment is expected to reduce coordination difficulties that arose from the previous dual jurisdiction, facilitate quicker handling of operational and passenger-related matters, and allow more concentrated attention on railway infrastructure and connectivity projects serving coastal Karnataka.

With the formal notification anticipated shortly, the new arrangement places the Mangaluru segment under a single zonal and divisional authority within South Western Railway, thereby simplifying the administrative framework that governs one of the region's important transport corridors.