WINDOWS



Crude bomb ruled out in blast at Dr Rajkumar kin's house

CHAMARAJANAGARA: Erode district police have clarified that the explosion reported at the house of a relative of Kannada film icon Dr Rajkumar at Gajanur in Tamil Nadu was not caused by a country-made bomb or crude explosive. According to a press statement issued by the police, a loud firecracker blast shattered the windowpanes of the house.

Meanwhile, Thalavady police have detained five local residents for questioning in connection with the incident. The five were reportedly present near the house when the explosion occurred, and investigators are questioning them to establish their possible involvement.

However, the family members have disputed the police version and insisted that the incident was a crude bomb attack.

They have urged the authorities not to close the case by describing the explosion as a firecracker incident. Speaking to reporters family members questioned how a firecracker could have caused such extensive damage to the property.

They said the doors had been damaged, windowpanes were shattered, and a sofa inside the house had caught fire.

"If it was merely a firecracker explosion, how could the doors be damaged? The glass panes were completely shattered, the door was broken and the sofa caught fire. What happened outside our house was an explosive attack and not a firecracker blast," the family members said.

The explosion occurred at around 10.22 pm on Monday night. Initially, investigators suspected that firecrackers burst during Deepavali celebrations might have caused the damage.

However, the intensity of the blast raised suspicions of a possible crude bomb attack, prompting police to collect samples from the scene.

The latest statement from Erode district police has now added a new dimension to the investigation, with the family's allegations differing from the official explanation.

New luggage tariff in KSRTC buses

BENGALURU: Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) has placed a further load on bus passengers.

Those already troubled by the increase in bus ticket fares, now face higher luggage-transport charges beginning Tuesday, 10 November.

Under the revised schedule, the charge for the first five stages rises from Rs. 6 to Rs. 10. For stages 6 to 10, the earlier charge of Rs. 10 becomes Rs. 15, while for stages 11 to 15, the previous rate of Rs. 20 climbs to Rs. 25. Passengers remain entitled to carry luggage weighing up to 10 kg free of cost.

Free carriage is likewise available for heavy articles up to 20 kg.

Extra charges, however, will apply once the prescribed weight limit is exceeded.

The increase is expected to affect daily travellers seriously, especially traders who move at taluk and district levels.

For ordinary citizens already strained by several earlier price rises, the measure adds further economic difficulty.

Passenger jumps onto track, disrupts Purple Line services

Hans News Service
Bengaluru

AN alarming incident took place on Tuesday on the Purple Line at Vijayanagar Metro station. A person stepped onto the track as a Metro train was approaching, causing a delay in traffic on the Purple Line. Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited has expressed regret for the inconvenience presently caused to passengers.

The event occurred at Vijayanagar metro station. Around 1:31 in the afternoon, while the metro train was arriving, the individual got down onto the track, resulting in delayed movement on the Purple Line. An atmosphere of anxiety prevailed for some time after the incident.

BMRCL conveyed details through a post on social media platform X, stating that at about 13:31 hours a passenger jumped onto the up track when a train was arriving at the platform at Vijayanagar metro station. Station officials immediately adopted emergency measures, rescued the person concerned and admitted him to a nearby hospital for medical treatment.

While safety and rescue operations continued, train services were run on the unaffected portions of the Purple Line between Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Station (Majestic) and Whitefield (Kadugodi), and between Mysore Road and Challaghatta, with the intention of lessening inconvenience to the public.

Metro movement on the Purple Line was brought back to normal from 1:58 pm. No disruption occurred to metro services on the Green Line and Yellow Line.

BMRCL, while expressing regret for the inconvenience caused to passengers, also thanked the public for the cooperation and patience displayed on this occasion.



Comprehensive aviation policy to be placed before next cabinet meeting: Min

Hans News Service
Bengaluru

Gadkari responsible for ethanol crisis, alleges M B Patil



THE state government has formulated a comprehensive policy to promote the growth of civil aviation in Karnataka. The policy will be placed before the next Cabinet meeting, Infrastructure Development Minister MB Patil said on Tuesday.

Explaining the policy, he said it covers several aspects, including financial assistance, Viability Gap Funding (VGF) and efficient management of airports operated by the State Government. The policy could serve as a model for the entire country, he added.

The suspension of flight services from Shivamogga Airport is due to shortcomings in the Union Government's UDAN-2 policy. The Centre handed over Mangaluru Airport to the Adani Group and is now moving towards privatising Hubballi Airport. The State spent Rs 1,000 crore on developing the Kalaburagi Airport and handed it over to the Centre, but has not received even a single rupee in return. MP BY Raghavendra, who has been criticising the state government, should take note of these facts, Patil said.

We had suggested extending the UDAN scheme from three years to five years, followed by another five years of joint operation by the State and Union Governments, with both sharing the expenditure equally. This would have yielded better results. However, the Centre did not give due consideration to our proposal. Consequently, flight operations at 17 airports across the country have now been suspended, he said.

It is not appropriate for the State to invest thousands of crores of rupees in building airports only to hand them over to the Union Government. That is why we are managing the airports at Shivamogga, Raichur and Vijayapura ourselves.

Flight services at the previously non-operational Kalaburagi Airport were restored with 80 per cent of the funding provided by the Kalyana Karnataka Region Development Board (KKRDB) and the remaining 20 per cent by the State Government. If Raghavendra is capable, let him arrange similar funding for Shivamogga Airport, Patil challenged.

Gadkari responsible for ethanol crisis

The Union government has created a crisis by allowing ethanol to be blended with petrol beyond the prescribed limits. Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari is primarily responsible for this, Patil alleged.

However, Union Minister Pralhad Joshi has defended the Centre's actions. A comprehensive investigation into the matter is necessary, he demanded.

They refuse to believe me when I speak the truth about ethanol. Let them ask sugar industry leaders such as Murugesh Nirani and Prabhakar Kore.

Did we not send petrol samples to the Union Government's own laboratories for testing? Why, then, should there be any doubt about the test results? he asked.

Ethanol stocks at sugar factories have exceeded their storage capacity. The problem is not confined to Karnataka; Maharashtra is facing the same situation.

The position is relatively better only in Uttar Pradesh. The Union Government encouraged excessive ethanol production but failed to ensure adequate procurement.

The scheme should initially have been introduced on a pilot basis in four or five districts to assess its advantages and disadvantages. Instead, Gadkari introduced the ethanol-blending system abruptly, resulting in the present crisis, Patil alleged.

Prove Sangh links in murders or resign: Tejasvi challenges Kharge

Hans News Service
Bengaluru



BJP MP Tejasvi Surya has challenged Karnataka Minister Priyank Kharge to produce evidence within three days to substantiate his allegations linking Sangh Parivar members to the murders of journalist Gauri Lankesh and rationalist M M Kalaburgi, or resign from his post.

Reacting to Kharge's remarks at a Muslim League programme in Kerala, Surya said securing justice in the high-profile murder cases required seriousness and commitment rather than political speeches. In a social media post, he said the Home Minister's responsibility was to ensure justice under the rule of law and not pronounce prejudiced judgments from political platforms.

Surya questioned the delay in the trials, pointing out that the chargesheet in the Gauri Lankesh murder case was filed in 2018, while the trial began in 2022. The case is now before its seventh judge, and all the accused are out on bail, he said. In the Kalburgi murder case, only 33 of the 139 witnesses had been examined by September 2026, highlighting the slow pace of the proceedings, he added.

He said Congress had been in power in Karnataka for most of the period since the murders and that the state government had constituted the SITs. The Home Department must explain its role in ensuring effective investigations and trials, he demanded.

Surya also questioned Kharge's assurance that the cases would be concluded within six months and those responsible would be sent to prison, saying such statements could raise concerns about judicial independence. He asked Kharge to disclose the names of those allegedly linked to the Sangh who had been chargesheeted and provide evidence within three days or resign.

Kharge had alleged that people associated with the Sangh Parivar were behind the murders and expressed confidence that the accused would be brought to justice within six months.

DIVINITY BECKONS



Union Minister Pralhad Joshi along with his family members performs Mahalaxmi Puja at his office in Hubballi on Tuesday

Second POCSO case filed against priest Father Cyprian Pinto

Women police station registers fresh complaint involving a 13-yr-old

Hans News Service
Mangaluru

A second case stands registered against the 65-year-old Catholic priest attached to St. Vincent Ferrer Church at Valencia for the alleged sexual assault of a minor boy. The Mangaluru Women Police Station recorded the complaint identifying the priest as Father Cyprian Pinto. The complaint states that he sexually assaulted a 13-year-old boy on May 13. The boy, a resident of Permannur village, used to attend Sunday prayers at St. Sebastian Church, and the alleged incident took place while he remained associated with that church.

Police registered the case under Section 75(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and Sections 8 and 12 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act. Further investigation has been entrusted to the Assistant Commissioner of Police, Central Sub-Division. The new complaint arrived weeks after another case was registered against the same priest at the Mangaluru South Police Station on October 15.

That earlier case rested on allegations of sexual harassment of a 14-year-old boy.

Police arrested the priest in the first matter and produced him before a court on October 18. The court remanded him to judicial custody until October 30; he was subsequently released on bail. Investigation into that case continues.

Mother, lover among six held for youth's murder in Belagavi

Hans News Service
Belagavi



IN a shocking case of alleged murder driven by an illicit relationship, a woman has been arrested along with her lover and four others for conspiring to kill her 24-year-old son in Belagavi.

The victim, Vijay Narayan, a resident of RT Nagar in Bengaluru, was allegedly murdered because he opposed his mother Meena's relationship with Rakesh, a man from Maharashtra. Police said the accused lured Vijay to Belagavi on the pretext of watching the Kannada Rajyotsava celebrations on November 1 and strangled him with a Kannada flag.

The Malamaruti police have arrested six people, including Meena, Rakesh and his four associates — Sachin, Manoj, Thammanna and Eknath. Meena, who worked as a manager at a beauty parlour in Bengaluru, had allegedly developed a relationship with Rakesh. To prevent Vijay from suspecting their relationship, she had reportedly appointed him as her personal car driver.

However, Vijay came to know about the relationship and strongly objected to it. As his opposition allegedly became an obstacle to their relationship, Meena and Rakesh are suspected to have planned his murder. According to the police, Rakesh and his associates brought Vijay to Belagavi, promising to take him to the grand Kannada Rajyotsava celebrations. On the night of November 1, they allegedly took him to an isolated spot near a highway and strangled him using a Kannada flag before abandoning his body and fleeing.

Meena was in Bengaluru at the time of the murder but allegedly remained in contact with the accused over the phone and received updates about the crime. Rakesh subsequently returned to Bengaluru. The murder came to light after the Malamaruti police found the body of an unidentified youth in an isolated area. Inspector B R Gadd ekar and his team began an investigation and established the victim's identity as Vijay Narayan.

BDA provides another opportunity to purchase sites in Nadaprabhu Kempegowda layout

The BDA began developing Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout in 2010 and formed around 29,000 sites of various dimensions. Between 2016 and 2026, it allotted more than 22,000 sites, including 9,000 sites to landowners

Hans News Service
Bengaluru



THE Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) has provided another opportunity to purchase sites in Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout, a major residential area in western Bengaluru.

The BDA decided to conduct an e-auction of residential and commercial corner and intermediate sites in the layout, which already has nearly 90% of its modern infrastructure facilities and connectivity network. While the BDA has also begun the allotment process for Dr. Shivaram Karanth Layout, it has scheduled an e-auction of around 101 sites of various dimensions across different blocks of Kempegowda Layout. Interested buyers have until November 16 to register their interest in participating in the e-auction. The base bidding price has been fixed at Rs. 80,000 per square metre.

The BDA began developing Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout in 2010 and formed around 29,000 sites of various dimensions. Between 2016 and 2026, it allotted more than 22,000 sites, including 9,000 sites to landowners. Although the BDA initially issued a notification to acquire around 4,040 acres of land in the first phase, it has acquired only 2,200 acres so far.

Residents and allottees struggled for several years to secure adequate infrastructure facilities in the layout. Eventually, nearly 90% of the infrastructure work was completed. Major Arterial Roads (MAR) have also been developed. The BDA is also planning to construct a 250-metre-high Skydeck in the layout, which is expected to further enhance property values in the area. Participants in the auction must be Indian citizens. They must upload the required documents, including photographs, signatures, Aadhaar and PAN details, on the auction portal. Applicants must also provide their correct residential address, email address, mobile number and landline number. Bidders registering their names on the e-procurement portal will be considered final, and the sites cannot be transferred to another person's name. A total of 101 sites will be auctioned on an 'as-is-where-is' basis in accordance with the BDA Corner Sites, Intermediate Sites and Other Auctionable Sites Disposal Rules, 1984. Depending on the site serial numbers, the bidding process will take place from November 17 to November 20. Interested applicants can register until 5 pm on November 16.

Successful bidders must pay 25% of the total site value after deducting the Rs. 4 lakh Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) already paid. The remaining amount must be paid within 72 hours of receiving the e-auction advice letter. Failure to make the payment within the stipulated time will result in the BDA forfeiting the Rs. 4 lakh EMD. According to a BDA official, the current real estate market price in Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout ranges between Rs. 9,500 and Rs. 10,000 per square foot.