

# Districts

# Dakshina Kannada & Udupi

## Saffron seized at Mangaluru airport

**MANGALURU:** Officers of Customs at Mangaluru International Airport have seized 10.60 kg of saffron worth Rs 12.72 lakh. The passenger Mohammad Riyaz, resident of Mgral Puttur in Kasargod of Kerala. Mohammad arrived at MIA by Air India Express flight IX 814 from Dubai at 8 am. There were 424 packets of Iranian saffron weighing 25 grams each. It was concealed in the baggage of the passenger. The operation was conducted under the supervision of N Udayashankaran, Assistant Commissioner of Customs, MIA. Further investigation is under progress.

**DH News Service**

## Fire at Wenlock Hospital spreads panic

**MANGALURU:** There was panic and confusion following a minor fire that broke out in the main building of District Wenlock Hospital in Mangaluru on Friday.

Short circuit caused the fire in the C T scan room located on the ground floor of the building at around 11.30 am. The staff members were apprehensive of fire spreading to other rooms and tried to douse the fire by splashing water initially. Later, a few security personnel doused the fire using fire extinguishers available. Thick smoke from the room forced the staff to shift a few patients admitted in the general ward nearby. No casualties were reported.

District Surgeon Dr Rajeshwari Devi said that she will ask the concerned to conduct an inquiry into the fire mishap.

**DH News Service**

## Kissan Sangh protests power tariff hike

**UDUPI:** Udupi District Bharatiya Kissan Sangh has launched a campaign condemning the proposed hike of 80 paise per unit of power here on Thursday.

Udupi District Bharatiya Kissan Sangh General Secretary Sathyanarayana Udupa said MESCOM has submitted the proposal on January 1 demanding permission from Karnataka Power Commission for hiking the price of power to 80 paise per unit and asked public to submit their grievances by January 30.

MESCOM covering four districts comprises of 19.9 lakh consumers and 4037.56 units of power have been delivered till date.

The revenue target is around Rs 2,003.88 crore and has reached the target of Rs 1,957.27 crore.

MESCOM has been outstanding power distributor in State.

It has reduced distributing loss of 11.93 per cent. The company has the credit of having minimal loss. In spite of these, MESCOM has misgued Power Commission and demanded hiking the power tariff. He alleged the balance sheet pro-

# Varahi waters to irrigate 3,000 hectare agriculture land: Patil

**VARAHI: Minor Irrigation minister M B Patil, on Friday, said water from Varahi Irrigation project would be let to as many as 3,000 hectare of farm land on April 1.**

Speaking at a meeting held to elaborate on the progress of the ongoing irrigation project, he said the irrigation project would be able to provide water from Right Bank Canal to the 3,000 hectares of agriculture land.

As many as 18.2 km of work is done in Right Bank Canal. Talks would be held with the government to initiate the inquiry into the project on the delayed aspects from the inception date of the project. It is necessary to initiate inquiry in order to dig out the loopholes that delayed the project.

Besides coordination committee would be set up comprising of Deputy Commissioner, Deputy Conservator of Forest and Assistant Commissioner in order to look into the progress of the ongoing works.

The project was handed over to minor irrigation department only in 2003 and all official formalities were done on March 15, 2004.

The actual project work started on this particular day. It is ridiculous to blame the irrigation department. The earlier 20 years were spent on debating over the structure of the project. Initially the project was envisioned to be purely irrigation project in 1980s.

Later the proposal was converted into multi purpose and finally it is now designed to be the only irrigation project.

He said it is only after the Congress government took over, the Varahi irrigation project has turned out being a re-



**Forest Minister B Ramanath Rai addressing a gathering at Varahi in Udupi district on Friday. Ministers M B Patil, Srinivas Prasad, Vinaykumar Sorake and MP Oscar Fernandes among others look on. DH PHOTO**

ality. As many as 18.2 kilometers of work is completed in Right Bank Canal, while eight kilometers of work is over in Left Bank Canal. As many as 24 kilometers of work is covered in the distributor canal. As many as 191 crore is spent on the project in 18 to 20 months. He said the project was not able to meet the earlier deadline of December 2014, because of the seepage in the some areas, which is proposed for taking up the construction works of the canal, he added.

### Natural disturbances

The minister said government was committed to finish off the work covering 32 km in the Left Bank Canal by December 2015. However, there are any

foreseen misfortunes and natural disturbances, then the work in the Left Bank would be over by April 2016 and the project would be able to provide water to another 5600 acres of farmland. He said there would be no problem of consent and social impact study in connection with Irrigation Department, as suggested in the proposed new Land Acquisition Act. Hence, the district administration can go ahead with the land acquisition.

Ramanath Rai said the deemed forest clearance for as many as 129 hectare of land in the proposed Varahi irrigation project is cleared against the deemed forest issue. There is the demand for another 30

hectares of land for the project which is earmarked under deemed forest. He added that the required formalities would be furnished in another 4-5 months. He added that if additional amount of land is required the concerned department should go for online submission, following which the permission would be processed, he added. He added that there are also many other issues pertaining to the land encroachment in State. He added a survey would taken up in the State to know the amount of deemed forest in the State in order to protect the forest nature. Elaborating over the recent development in the proposed implementation of the Kasturirangan report, the

minister said the government is committed to the welfare of the people in the area, which is identified in the report.

He added the notification is issued to as many as six States, coming under Western Ghat area. However Kerala has sent the report concerning the interests of the people in the proposed area. He added the Cabinet sub committee set up for the project has sent a report to the central government, which is stronger, then the report submitted by Kerala in terms of the interest of the people in the area.

He said the finally the decision is taken up by the central government after pooling up all the suggestions, he added.

**DH News Service**

## Special officer to look into land acquisition for Varahi project

**VARAHI: Revenue Minister Srinivas Prasad said a special officer would be constituted to look into the land acquisition issue in Varahi project.**

Addressing a meeting to discuss the ongoing works in Varahi irrigation project, he said nearly 60 per cent of land acquisition process is pending to be carried out.

He said there are complaints that many land losers have not received the compensation. There are also problems with land documents and compensation can be guaranteed only with proper documents, he added.

Measures would be taken up to compensate the land losers adequately. He said initially the estimated cost of the project was around Rs 10 crore, however the amount has crossed nearly Rs 550 crore, he added.

Urban Development Minister Vinay Kumar Sorake said a nodal officer would be appointed and review meet would be held every month to monitor the progress of the work. He said inquiry should be done to know the obstacles that has de-



**Minor Irrigation Minister M B Patil addressing a gathering at Varahi in Udupi district on Friday. DH PHOTO**

layed the project. He called upon the farmers to stop their indefinite protest for the 16th day.

District Raitha Sangha president and MLC Prathpachandra Shetty alleged that the deemed forest issue cannot be taken up as the cause of the delay in the execution of the project. The deemed forest issue cropped up only in 2013. He alleged that the public were misguided in every phase regarding the project. There is also confusion prevailing over the Right Bank and Left Bank Canal.

Minor Irrigation minister M B Patil said that a meeting should be held in Bangalore comprising the ministers and officials in forest, minor irrigation and revenue department. There should be clear idea over the proposed project to take up phase by phase execution of the project. The Forest Minister Ramanath Rai said that the official should arrange for the district level meet at least three times and come to the overall conclusion of the problems that impedes the execution of the project.

This would help the higher authorities to come to an early conclusion. The blame game would not yield any result. Instead, the work should be hastened. Re-verification would be done for the land acquisition, he said Deputy Commissioner R Vishal said as many as 11 proposals concerning the project is notified. He added the new ordinance on Land Acquisition Act has toughened the land acquisition process.

The Kundapur taluk panchayat president alleged that many houses are damaged owing to the blast taking place in the area. The Minor Irrigation Minister said that henceforth the officials would be strictly directed to go for controlling blasting which would avoid the damages, he said.

The ongoing protest was withdrawn on the 16th day by the farmers. However, the farmer B V Poojary said that the protest is withdrawn only for short period. If the government fails to release the water in the month of April, the protest would be reassumed, he added.

**DH News Service**

## Fish merchant robbed

» A fish merchant was robbed of Rs 7 lakh here at Kadekar reports **DHNS** from Mangaluru.

According to police, the fish merchant Loknath, who is a resident of Kadekar, was on his way to Malpe port to purchase fish.

Meanwhile, three persons who came in motorbike stopped him, threatened him and took away the money.

A case is registered in Malpe police station.

## At a glance

## Call to check atrocities on women

» State Women Commission President Manjula Manasa has said stringent action would be initiated against atrocities on women.

Briefing reporters, on Friday, she said "as chairperson of Women Commission, she is not belong to one particular party. It is not right to divide society in the name of religion. Women from all religions undergo atrocities. There is a

need to check atrocities against women. The commission will not keep quiet if the women are exploited in the name of religion, moral policing. The commission has already filed 76 suo motu cases and the investigation is in progress," she added. The Women & Child Welfare Department has been directed to create awareness on welfare programmes for women.

## Helpline for students set up

» Block Education Officer G S Shashidhar has said under Vision 95+ programme, aimed at improving the SSLC results in Puttur Taluk, a "Manoprerane helpline," has been set up to help children overcome examination fear and other stress related to exam.

He said SSLC students who undergo stress can dial the helpline to get professional help. Students can contact psychologist Gangadhar Bellare (9448911885), Suleka Varadaraj (08251-233784) every Thursday between 6 am to 7 am and Ganesh Mudraje (9448624924) on every Friday at 7 am to 8 am.

A total of 6,002 students are appearing for SSLC examinations in the taluk this Puttur Taluk Head Teachers Association President Venkatramana Bhat said teachers in 73 high schools in Puttur Taluk are making effort to implement Vision 95+ effectively. The parents meetings are held every month in the school.

High School Teachers Association President Abraham said the programme has been chalked out to bring in changes in children through love. The teachers have taken the programme as a challenge and working hard for improving the SSLC result.

## Lecture on Gandhi

» Dr Akeel Bilgrami, Sidney Morgenbesser Professor of Philosophy, Columbia University, New York, will give a public lecture at Manipal Centre for Philosophy and Humanities (MCPH) on Saturday 17th January, at 4:30pm.

The lecture titled, 'Mentalities of the Non-West as a source of Swaraj: Lessons from Gandhi' is part of the proceedings of the three day conference, 'Rethinking Swaraj', being held at MCPH. The conference is being supported by the Indian Council for Philosophical Research and the Dr TMA Pai Chair on Dharma. Through the course

of the lecture Dr Bilgrami seeks to interpret Gandhi's notion of swaraj as a mentality which is not only independent of the mentalities of the European West, but also a critique of it.

The conference, 'Rethinking Swaraj', takes its theme from an influential essay by Indian philosopher, K.C. Bhat-tacharya, titled, 'Swaraj in Ideas'.

A driving force behind the conference is to give an account of what 'cultural subjection' under colonialism could mean, especially the residues of such subjugation on conceptual thinking today.

## Geriatric care at government hospitals

» Health Minister U T Khader has said the department is contemplating to start geriatric care centres in all district hospitals. The speciality of the department is that speciality doctors would visit the patients in the centre, instead of the patients going to a particular doctor. Plans are on the anvil to start the pilot project in Kolar, he said.

However, the same would be opened in all district hospitals including Chikmagalur and Dakshina Kannada, he informed.

WHO consultant Dr Satishchandra and DAPCU officer Dr Kishore, District Surveillance Officer Dr Rajesh District Surgeon Dr H S Rajeshwari Devi and RCH Officer Dr Rukmini were present.

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## German remedy

# ‘Body tambura’ enhances possibilities of music therapy

**MANGALURU:** As psychotherapist and music therapist from Berlin Dr Cordula Dietrich played the perfectly tuned 'Body Tambura', terminally ill patients at the palliative care centre of geriatrics ward at KMC (Attavar) slid into a soothing sleep. Geriatric Palliative Care Course, first of its kind in India, organised by the hospital in association with MediAcion, Germany, witnessed its third session at KMC, Attavar.

Dr Cordula Dietrich conducted a brilliant mind altering music therapy using the instrument 'Body Tambura'.

KMC Geriatrics Department Head Dr Prabha Adhikari said terminally ill people can't be put at ease even with medication while this therapy was truly a mind opener. She added that she the hospital will get a

body tambura for use in the ICU. Mangalore Alzheimer's Association (MAA) Founder Director Jerardin D'souza said it was truly a 'seeing is believing' experience to see patients calm down magically.

'Body Tambura', was first invented by Mr Deutz on Berlin Germany in 2004, as the media of music therapy.

The body tambura is inspired by the classical Indian Tambura. The instrument resembles Swaramandal and Santoor used in Indian classical music. The base of the wooden instrument is designed to be concave, so it can be neatly placed on the abdomen of the lying down patients to make them feel the vibrations produced from the instrument, when its 28 strings are being plucked.



**Psychotherapist and music therapist from Berlin Dr Cordula Dietrich plays 'Body Tambura' to heal a patient in Mangaluru. DH PHOTO**

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