

Hindi gets boot as FSSAI allows labelling of curd in Kannada

NT Correspondent
Bengaluru

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India's (FSSAI) recent directive has rekindled the debate on alleged imposition of Hindi on the southern states by the Centre.

The Union government after its recent directive to the Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF) to display the label Dahi on curd packets and Mosaru (the Kannada equivalent) in brackets sparked a political uproar in the state with parties opposing the government's move.

FSSAI's letter dated March 10 says, "Provided that the name 'Fermented Milk' may be replaced with designations Dahi, and Yoghurt if the product complies with the relevant provisions of this Standard.

Provided further that in case of fermented products complying with the relevant provisions of Dahi, any other designation (prevalent regional common name) may be used together with the term 'Dahi' in brackets on the label." The authority also provided the following examples to label Dahi: Dahi(Curd) or Dahi (Mosaru), Dahi (Zaamut daud), Dahi (Tayir), Dahi

(Perugu), Dahi (Tair) etc, based on the regional nomenclature used in different states.

A copy of the directive was sent to the MD of KMF and BAMUL in Karnataka and to the MD's of the Tamil Nadu Co-Operative Milk Producers' Federation Limited and Hatsun Agro Products.

Citizens and prominent figures in the state are angered over the directive and have called out the central body for trying to impose Hindi.

"Nandini is the property of the Kannadigas, the identity of Kannadigas and the lifeline of Kannadigas. Despite knowing this, the ego of Hindi imposition has been shown.

Earlier Union Home Minister Sri @AmitShah had said in a meeting in Mandya that Nandini would be merged with Gujarat's Amul. Is printing Hindi the beginning of the Nandini Hijack?," tweeted Former Chief Minister and JD(S) leader HD Kumaraswamy.

"The Union Government of India is not only the government of Hindi speakers, the government is taxing all the speakers. To increase the unity of the Union of India, it should stop acting as the representative of Hindi language only," said Arun Javagal, a pro-Kannada activist from the city. "Forcing a Karnataka based Milk Federation, selling primarily to customers in Karnataka, to use the words Dahi written in English instead of Curd is Hindi imposition through back doors. Just because you support BJP, it is not necessary to support the imposition or deny the imposition," said another user.

The KMF has not yet issued an official statement regarding the directive. However, the FSSAI on Thursday revised its order and allowed the use of regional names in printed labels of curd packets amid political controversy in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.



Homeless man charred to death inside car

NT Correspondent
Bengaluru

A 40-year old man, who was allegedly sleeping inside a car parked at a junkyard, was charred to death after the car caught fire during the wee hours of Wednesday.

The incident took place at a scrap yard in Bhadrappa Layout under Kodigehalli police station limits in Bengaluru. The identity of the deceased person and the exact cause of fire could not be ascertained.

According to sources, the fire was first noticed by a local passerby around 2:30 am who immediately alerted the jurisdictional police. By that time, the fire had spread to the adjacent cars at the yard and the fire officials had a hard time dousing the fire, the locals said.

It was suspected that the person may have been sleeping inside the cars parked in the open junk yard during the night. The police said that more information would come out after a thorough investigation into the incident.

A team from the FSL visited the place and collected samples for further examination.

Lack of coordination leads to traffic issues, says mobility expert

Rithu David | NT

Mobility expert Professor (Dr) Ashish Verma (in pic) of the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, in an interview with News Trail, welcomes the much awaited Bengaluru Metropolitan Land Transport Authority (BMLTA) and feels it should effectively oversee the drafting of policies for mobility and coordinate between transport agencies, urban local bodies and infrastructure development agencies. Here are excerpts.

Will the BMLTA lead to transport policies being prioritized?

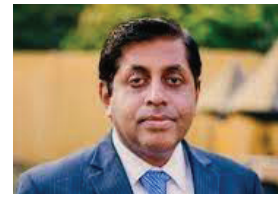
The principles laid out in this bill are very clear in terms of what the city should have. The city has seen almost two decades of road infrastructure interventions without any

tangible solution. Traffic mess is worse than what it used to be. We are still at the top among traffic congested cities. A fresh look at a strategic mobility plan is important especially as Covid has changed a lot of things in the city.

Traffic congestion patterns have changed. There was a Mobility plan a few years back by BMRCL, but this was based on pre Covid data. So, this authority should take a fresh look by understanding mobility patterns and use data to improve quality of life in the city.

How best can public transport be upgraded and the onslaught of private vehicles be regulated?

The first thing the au-



thority needs to look at is the speeding up of public transport infrastructure and coordination across public transport modes. We also need to reduce the use of personal vehicles.

Thousands of two and four-wheeler vehicles are registered every day at the RTOs. We need to make public transport more attractive and user friendly for commuters.

For a few decades the government should stop thinking about road infrastructure works, and this

is the only way out to save Bengaluru city from the traffic mess.

Will traffic awareness campaigns to boost the use of public transport help?

To ease the time consuming, toxic commute that most face on roads, traffic awareness campaigns can help. But they have limited scope. The use of public transport cannot be enforced on the public by the government as travel choices are personal and based on convenience, safety, comfort, travel cost, accessibility etc.

Are the traffic police currently using appropriate strategies...

Majority of traffic issues in Bengaluru are due to lack of coordination and unscientific ways of traffic management. The traffic police have limited scope and say in mobility planning.

Woman set on fire by lover; police deny love jihad claim

NT Correspondent
Bagalkote

A 22-year-old Dalit woman, Netravathi Vaddar, was set ablaze by a man who was reportedly in a relationship with her.

The perpetrator of the crime has been identified as 26-year-old Afzal Solapur, who also tried to commit suicide by setting himself on fire.

According to the cops, no sooner Afzal found out that Netravathi's family had arranged for a marriage with another man then he decided to kill her and end his life, too. However, local Hindutva outfits have been trying to give the crime a communal colour.

The two are currently



A 26-year-old man set his lover ablaze after the victim's family members fixed her match with another person in Bagalkote

the cops have registered a case against the accused and booked him under Section 307 (attempt to murder) of the Indian Penal Code along with appropriate sections of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act of 1989.

As soon as the news of the incident spread in the Hunagund taluk, Hindutva outfits sought to mobilise support for Netravathi's family while trying to paint the matter with a communal brush. They alleged that Afzal tried to kill her after he realised he was "not going to get her."

However, the Superintendent of Police Jayaprakash has disclosed the truth and denied the claims made by the right-wing outfits.

undergoing treatment at Hubballi's Karnataka Institute of Medical Science (KIMS) hospital for grievous burns.

Vaddar belonging to the Bhovi community, a resident of Amingad town, has sustained burns on 35 percent of her body while Afzal has sustained burns on 80 percent of his body

and is said to be in a critical condition.

The incident occurred on the evening of March 27 at a private school ground at Amingad. Afzal had come with a bottle of petrol to the school ground where he used to often meet Netravathi after work.

Based on a complaint from the woman's family,

Bhoota Kola artist dies during performance

NT Correspondent
Bengaluru

A Bhoota Kola artist passed away on Thursday in Dakshina Kannada district, after collapsing in the middle of a performance.

The deceased has been identified as Kanthu Ajila, 59, a resident of Mulangiri, Yefamangala, Kadaba Taluk.

The tragic incident took place during a ritualistic performance in Idyadka, Yedamangala. The event and



A grab from the video of the performance moment before Ajila (right) collapses

the sequence of the artist's death have been captured in a viral video recorded by one of the onlookers.

The artist was immediately attended to after he collapsed and taken to a nearby hospital where he was declared brought dead. He was suspected to have died due to a cardiac arrest.

Locals said Ajila was one of the popular professional Daiva Narthaka in the region who had been performing in various Nemas and Kolas across the state.

Notorious rowdy-sheeter expelled from city

NT Correspondent
Bengaluru

City police expelled a notorious rowdy-sheeter, Nagaraju alias Wilson Garden Naga from the city directing him to stay out of Bengaluru till

the completion of the Karnataka Assembly elections.

The order was issued by the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Bengaluru West division, Laxman B Nimbargi. According to the sources, the rowdy-sheeter can enter the city only un-

der the police supervision

after the elections are over. Bengaluru police have begun warning rowdy-sheeters ahead of elections and are making them sign bonds under CRPC section 110 which is security for good behavior from habit-

ual offenders.

Famous by his alias, Wilson Garden Naga, the offender has a long list of criminal cases including murder and robbery against him. In 2009, he was booked by Kalasipalya police in a murder case.



In full devotion

Devotees dressed as Rama and Hanuman distribute Panaka and buttermilk on the occasion of Sri Rama Navami at Khoday Circle in Bengaluru on Thursday

2 killed after car rams into two-wheeler

NT Correspondent
Chikmagalur

Two people from Chikmagalur died on Wednesday after a car crashed into the two-wheeler they were riding.

The deceased, Azim, 23, and Bilal, 20, were heading to their workplace in Hunasaghatta village. The car that collided was coming from Ajampura. The fatal collision occurred in Tarikere, killing the two on the two-wheeler.

The police who rushed to the spot of the accident were informed by the locals that the car driver fled from the scene. Tarikere Police Station has registered a case in the matter.

A notch or two short of becoming a classic

MOVIE REVIEW

Film: Gurudev Hoysala
Director: Vijay N
Cast: Dhnanajaya, Naveen Shankar, Amrutha Iyengar, Achyuth Kumar, Prathap Narayan
Duration: 132 minutes
Certificate: UA

S Shyam Prasad | NT
Bengaluru

Mainstream Kannada film makers would easily accept the verdict of 'guilty as charged' when it comes to their aversion to addressing serious social issues. They cannot be blamed when anyone and everyone seems to be easily offended for even innocuous elements in movies. So, director Vijay N and his team should primarily be commended for blending an important concern into what is essentially a commercial pot-boiler. Of course, he plays it safe and makes sure names, places and references remain generic, but the risk taken is admirable. I won't blow the gaff on the theme here. It is best experienced as part



A still from Gurudev Hoysala

of the film. Gurudev Hoysala is the typical honest cop whose suitcases are best left unpacked. He arrives in Belagavi to investigate a missing police officer but soon gets embroiled in an issue that has the potential to flare up things beyond anybody's control. Our hero has to set things right before the Pandora's Box he has unwittingly opened threatens to shatter peace. Yes, of course we know he

will win in the end, but does his actions till then entertain us is the question.

The story is packed with loads of action befitting a cop saga. There are incidents and characters that would make any film meaningful and worth the watch. The characters portrayed by Achyuth Kumar, Naveen Shankar and Nagabushana for example keep the narrative engaging. What they lack is the complexity

that makes some film characters household names. The characters are given very little time to mature in the minds of the audience. The director and the editor are in a hurry to keep the film around the two-hour mark. That perhaps is the need of the hour as well.

The film has a taut storyline and a pacy narrative, but its generic conflicts make the progression predictable. How would an insane villain get back at the

gritty cop? Of course, attack his family and friends. The easy way out of tricky situations is taken throughout and even in the climax. A few unpredictable actions by the protagonist would have made this film classier. Gurudev Hoysala is a good cop action thriller no doubt. But it just stops short of propelling 'Hoysala' from becoming a cult.

A few more fleshed-out characters and scenes may have put Hoysala on the same footing as a Sangliyana or even a Police Story. A few more nuances and a few more subtle play up of emotions perhaps? It is not too much to ask for right?

Hoysala is a pot-boiler of action, heroics, revenge, class conflict and emotions. It is entertaining and engaging too. It is a mass-masala police story whose underlying social theme gives it a broader and humane appeal. The film won't disappoint and is a value-for-money proposition for audiences and is a worthy addition to Sandalwood's cop genre movies.

SSLC Board Exams begin today

NT Correspondent
Bengaluru

SSLC exams commences on March 31 and will end on April 15. About 8,42,811 students have registered for the examination to be held across 3,305 centers.

The exams will begin at 10:00 am and conclude at 13:45 pm. According to the time table issued by the board the First Language exam will be held on March 31, followed by Maths on April 4, Second language on April 6, Science on April 10, Third language on April 12 and Social Science on April 15.

The exams will be conducted under tight security. CCTV cameras have been installed at all the examination centers. Students as well as

Board Exams Time table:
March 31 - First language
April 4 - Math
April 6 - Second language
April 10 - Science
April 12 - Third language
April 15 - Social Science

invigilators have been prohibited from carrying smartwatches, smartphones, or any other electronic devices inside the hall.

Female students wearing hijab will not be allowed to take exams and have to appear for the supplementary exams.

Section 144 will be imposed around the examination centers during the duration of the examination. DCs and SPs are being deployed for ensuring security in selective districts.