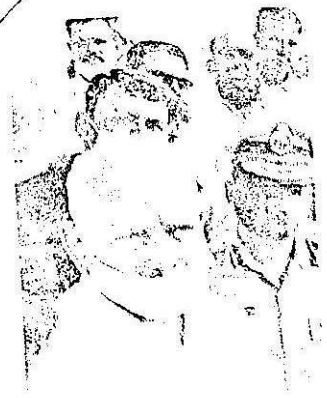


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QUARRIES RAIDED IN MANDYA DISTRICT

Several stone quarrying and crushing units in Channakere and Karadahalli villages of Mandya district were raided on Sunday and hundreds of electric detonators and gelatin sticks were seized by the district authorities.

EXPLOSIVES MAY HAVE LANDED IN SHIVAMOGGA FROM ANDHRA

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
 @ Shivamogga, Bengaluru

COMING under attack from the Opposition for his remarks on regularising illegal stone quarries in the state, Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa on Sunday stressed that only those unauthorised mines which meet regulations can apply for regularisation and it will be considered as per law.

The officials will conduct a spot inspection and permission will be given only if it does not cause any inconvenience to people, he said.

The CM said the problem of illegal mining is widespread and added that he has given di-

rections to district deputy commissioners to stop all illegal mining with immediate effect. "This problem is prevalent not only in Shivamogga, but across the state," he ruct.

A case in point is Gadag district where there are 65 legal quarries near Adrahalli, Nelugal, Chennapattana and Nadihalli villages, as per the records of Mines and Geology Department. Of these, 49 quarries are operating while the Gadag For-

est department has issued notice to six quarries and 10 other quarries have stopped working. However, villagers say that there are many illegal stone quarries in the region and locals have also witnessed minor accidents.

Meanwhile, the preliminary investigation into the blast at a stone-crushing unit at Hunasodu near Shivamogga on Thursday night has indicated that the explosives was brought from Andhra Pradesh. **FULL REPORT: P4**

FAMILIES OF BLAST VICTIMS CLUELESS

Two of the six workers who died the Hunasodu explosion, were the sole bread-winners for their families. The kin of Manjunath (35) say they do not even know what what kind of job he was doing. The family of Praveen (36) too are clueless about how he died.