

ಇಲಾಖೆ / ವಿಷಯ : DEPARTMENT / SUBJECT: obituaryಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯ ಹೆಸರು : NAME OF THE NEWS PAPER: Indian Express ದಿನಾಂಕ : DATE: 30/12/20

Council Deputy Chairman found dead on railway track

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chikkamagaluru/Shivamogga



DEPUTY Chairman of the Karnataka Legislative Council, **S L Dharme Gowda** (62), allegedly committed suicide on a railway track at Gunasagar village between Birur and Kadur around 10 pm on Monday.

Sources said that he set out from his farmhouse at Sakarayapatna in a car along with his driver and a police gunman on Monday evening. When they reached near Gunasagar, about 22 km away, Gowda told the driver to wait near the village saying that he

would go for a stroll along a nearby railway track.

When he did not return for long, the gunman and the driver went looking for him. They found his body, cleaved into two pieces on either side of the railway track, about two furlongs away from where the car was parked. The gunman, the driver and the family then immediately informed the police. According to the police, Dharme Gowda came under a Jan Shatabdi train.

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'Council ruckus, land dispute upset him'

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SUPERINTENDENT of Police M H Akshay, MLA C T Ravi and Dharme Gowda's brother and MLC S L Bhoje Gowda rushed the spot. The police found a death note in Dharme Gowda's trouser pocket, but the contents were not made public and was seized by the railway police.

However, sources said that in the death note, Gowda had mentioned that he was upset over the recent ruckus in the Council and also about some land dispute. He had asked his family to excuse him and has given details about the property to be shared among the wife, son, daughter and son-in-law. He had asked his son to complete work on the house at the Evergreen farm near Ayyanakere, for which groundbreaking ceremony was conducted recently.

After the postmortem at McGann Hospital in Shivamogga, the body was brought to Sakarayapatna on Tuesday afternoon and was kept for public viewing on the premises of the Government Junior College. Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa, who arrived in a helicopter, placed a wreath on the body and consoled the family.

Dharme Gowda leaves behind his wife Mamatha, son Sonal, daughter Saloni, brothers Bhoje Gowda, Manjunath and Kushal Gowda.

Hailing from Sarpanahalli in Sakarayapatna limits, Dharme Gowda is the son of former JDS MLA S R Lakshmaiah. He was Bilikallahalli gram panchayat member and president. He was also a ZP member from Lingadahalli and Devanur segments. Recently, the DCC Bank administration was wrested by the BJP and all these developments had left him perturbed, family sources indicated.

The last rites were conducted at the farm on Tuesday evening with full state honours.

Many prominent leaders of the district, cutting across party lines, consoled his death.