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Oppn leaders demand strong action against illegal mining

BENGALURU, DHNS: In the wake of the gelatin explosion in Shivamogga, Leader of the Opposition Siddaramaiah urged the BS Yediyurappa administration to act against "rampant illegal mining" in different parts of the state.

"I urged the CM to take strict action against officials whose neglect led to this incident," Siddaramaiah said. "There are complaints that rampant illegal mining is taking place unabated in several parts of the state. The government should take indiscriminate action against them," he said.

"I come from a granite area. There's a manual in place that prescribes how and where explosives should be stored. A

system should be created in which, for instance, vehicles carrying the explosives should have GPS," Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president DK Shivakumar said. "If such a huge amount (of explosives) was being transported, the inquiry should look into what went wrong."

Former chief minister HD Kumaraswamy of the JD(S) pointed out that ill-effects of the blast were felt in a 14-km radius covering villages. "Such (illegal) activities are happening across the state. The government's action shouldn't be a hogwash. If strong decisions aren't taken at the highest levels, such things will keep taking place," he said.