

U.F.O.S IN DAKSHINA KANNADA

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by Shree Padre

Mundaje, a sleepy village, 10 km from Ujire, Karnataka, witnessed a strange storm in August which is suspected to have been caused by a flying saucer.

The arecanut trees in the area have been uprooted in a straight line 30 to 60 metres broad and severed hundred metres long. Surprisingly enough, the trees on either side of this area are intact. Even then, one could not normally dismiss this as a storm.

The storm struck at 4.35 a.m. on August 2, accompanied by a roaring sound and a dazzling light, which many locals attribute to a UFO.

Bhide, an elderly farmer says, "I haven't seen such a storm in my life. There was a thundering sound as if 10 lorries were racing at high speed and I could see a bright light, emitting every now and then."

Another resident, Athavali, says, "I saw the light several times and it was not like that of lightning. That heavy sound gave a feeling as if it

was an earthquake." Athavali's neighbour, Gopalkrishna Bhat, corroborates the statement.

Was it a UFO really?

"Even though it appeared like a storm at first sight, doubts arise as to why it had such peculiarity," Shampa Daithota, a freelance journalist residing in Mundaje, told SUN.

A couple of years ago there was a similar incident near Puttur. Trees were cut in a straight line as if a vehicle had passed in between. A

local daily had front-paged the story, suspecting a flying saucer behind the incident.

In November 1978, P.S. Venkatramana of Panjaje saw an object speeding from the north-west to the east with a dazzling orange-yellow light. This was at about 8.15 p.m. "For a split second," he recalls, "it appeared as if there was broad daylight." Half-a-dozen neighbours of Venkatraman also swear to have seen this UFO.