



**Bruhat Bengaluru  
Mahanagara Palike**

**BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE,  
BANGALORE**

**ENGLISH NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS  
23-11-2020**



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# THE HINDU

## Waste management: Showcause notice to 30 junior health inspectors

They failed to ensure segregation of waste at source

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
BENGALURU

As many as 30 junior health inspectors (JHIs) have been served show cause notices for failing to ensure segregation of waste at source and not levying fines on violators in their respective wards.

Though the new garbage contracts have been put in place in a fraction of the 198 wards, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP)

### SEGREGATION AT SOURCE: THE LAGGARDS

East zone	West zone
Radhakrishna Temple, Sanjaynagar, Hebbal, Kammanahalli, Gangenahalli, Benaganahalli, Maruthisevanagar, Jayamahall, Hoysalanagar, Bharathinagar, Shivajinagar, Vannarpet	Gandhinagar, Dayanandanagar, Agrahara Dasarahalli, Maruthi Mandir, Moodalapalya, Jagajivanaram Nagar, Chalavadipalya, Chamarajpet
South zone	Bommanahalli zone
Sunkenahalli, Vishveshwarapuram, Hombegowdanagar, Deepanjalinagar, Yediyur, Shakambarinagar, Chikkalsandra	Uttarahalli, Bilekahalli, Anjanapura

has been closely monitoring segregation levels as well as fines levied and collected from citizens.

Apart from coming out

with a monthly report card on the level of segregation and fines levied, civic officials are also keeping tabs on the waste sent to processing

plants and the quantum of mixed waste being sent to the landfills.

"Every month, segregation of waste at source is reviewed. Junior health inspectors of each ward have been directed to identify households that fail to segregate waste.

"However, it was found that health officials of 21 wards failed to collect any fine from violators. That apart, segregation levels in these wards are less than 20%," said BBMP Special Commissioner (Solid Waste Management) D. Randeep.

Most of the badly performing wards are in the East

zone (12), followed by West zone (8).

Seven wards with less than optimal segregation levels were identified in South zone and three in Bommanahalli.

### Performance ranking

For October, according to performance ranking, Bommanahalli has topped the eight zones with regards to wet waste segregation.

The second place was bagged by Dasarahalli zone and third by Rajarajeshwari-nagar zone.

For the assessment, the BBMP has taken into account the quantum of segregated

wet waste collected and transported to waste processing plants, frequency of secondary transportation vehicles transporting wet waste to the plants, quantum of mixed waste going to the landfill and frequency of secondary transportation to the landfills.

### Best of the lot

The top five wards that have been segregating waste at source, with more waste sent to processing plants than landfills, are Singasandra (191), H.S.R. Layout (174), Mangammanapalya (190), K.R. Market (139) and Kadu Malleshwara (65).

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## BBMP makes another attempt at biomining

Civic body floats fresh tender for the Mandur South dump yard

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
BENGALURU

Thousands of tonnes of waste festering in Mandur on the city's outskirts are likely to be processed through biomining, six years after the dumping of mixed waste was stopped.

After a few unsuccessful attempts, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has once again floated a tender for biomining in one of the two dump yards in Mandur.

According to senior BBMP officials, biomining will be taken up first in Mandur South dump yard, measuring 80 acres. It is estimated that around 10 lakh tonnes of legacy waste lies in this dump yard. It will be taken up at a cost of ₹80 crore, earmarked under Shubhra Bengaluru scheme.

Since 2007, thousands of tonnes of waste has been dumped in two yards in Mandur by the BBMP. Officials estimate that 20 lakh tonnes of legacy waste lie in huge mounds in these two dump yards. Following op-

position by local communities to the growing mounds of garbage in the village, dumping was stopped in December 2014.

Senior officials said through biomining, the recyclables will be extracted first. Refuse derived fuel (RDF) will either be used to fill up low-lying areas, quarry pits or sent to cement factories. The 'bioearth', or fertilised earth, will be used to convert a portion of the land into a biodiversity park.

"The BBMP may, at a later point, also decide to establish a waste processing unit there," an official said.

Biomining, the official explained, may be taken up wherever municipal solid waste is dumped above the ground, such as in Mandur and Mavallipura.

The Solid Waste Management Rules mandate reclaiming of the land where garbage has been dumped by taking up biomining. In this regard, several directions have been issued to the BBMP by the National Green Tribunal.

## Footpath repaired

Sir, – I am happy to inform you that within days of publication of my letter on the damaged footpath on Kammanahalli road, the BBMP authorities swung into action and repaired it. I thank you for the support.

**K.M. VARKEY**

Bengaluru

# 1,704 new cases in State

**STAFF REPORTER**  
BENGALURU

A total of 1,704 new COVID-19 cases were reported in the State on Sunday. With this, the total number of positive cases in the State stands at 8.73 lakh. Of the total 1,704 cases, 1,039 were reported from Bengaluru Urban district.

The number of patients discharged on Sunday was 1,537 taking the total number of discharges to 8.36 lakh. As many as 13 patients died of COVID-19 on Sunday, taking the total toll in the State due to COVID-19 to 11,654.

The cumulative tests conducted in the State crossed one crore on Saturday. Of the total 24,868 active cases in the State, as many as 470 patients are admitted in intensive care units across different hospitals in the State.

As many as 1.26 lakh tests were conducted on Saturday.

The positivity rate for the day was 1.34% while the case fatality rate for the day was 0.76%.

# Medical college to bear name of ex-PM Vajpayee

## It is an autonomous institute of the Government of Karnataka

**STAFF REPORTER**  
BENGALURU

The Government of Karnataka has renamed the Government Medical College and Research Centre on the premises of Bowring and Lady Curzon Hospital in Bengaluru after former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. The medical college will now be called 'Sri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Medical College and Research Centre'.

The medical college is an autonomous institute of the government of Karnataka.

### Established in 1867

According to the website of the institute, the Bowring Civil Hospital for men was established in the year 1867.

The institute was named after Lewis Bentham Bowring, who was the Chief Commissioner of Mysuru and Coorg between 1862 and 1870. The Lady Curzon Hospital was established in the late 1890s for women and



The institute is on the premises of Bowring and Lady Curzon Hospital.

children. Before it became an autonomous institute, it was part of the Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute.

In the year 2019, the Medical Council of India granted 150 seats to this centre.

# Colleges may be shut again if COVID-19 cases rise: Minister

They were reopened in Karnataka on November 17 after eight months of closure

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
BENGALURU

Barely six days after degree and engineering colleges were reopened in the State, Karnataka Health Minister K. Sudhakar on Sunday said they may be shut again if COVID-19 cases go up. Degree, engineering and diploma colleges were reopened on November 17 after eight months of closure due to lockdown. Under the circumstances, reports emerged that at least 130 students got infected by COVID-19.

"If the cases go up, then, as you have said in your (media) reports, we will have to



K. Sudhakar

go for a shutdown once again. There is no alternative," Dr. Sudhakar told reporters in Dharwad while responding to queries about the rising COVID-19 cases

among students. The Minister's statement came ahead of Karnataka government's crucial meeting on Monday to decide reopening of schools. Dr. Sudhakar conceded that the schools have not been reopened yet in the State for the fear of COVID-19. Stating that about 120 to 130 students were infected with the virus as per media reports, he said he would gather information from senior officials. Explaining the reason behind reopening of colleges, he said youth have immunity.

"I won't say that the students won't contract the disease. Youth have more im-

munity. We have to protect the lives of the students as well as shape their academic future. Since we have a big responsibility, we decided to reopen schools and colleges in a phased manner," Dr. Sudhakar said.

According to officials in the Higher Education Department, the decision to reopen colleges was taken as students were not able to grasp the lessons online due to various reasons such as lack of gadgets, poor connectivity and health issues such as eyesight. Besides, the faculties and the college staff were staring at unemployment.

# DECCAN HERALD

INDIA  
CASES ON  
SUNDAY

**35,838**

**355**

DEATHS

Saturday's cases: **45,209**

Deaths: **501**

KARNATAKA  
CASES ON  
SUNDAY

**1,704**

**17**

DEATHS

Saturday's cases: **1,781**

Deaths: **17**

TILL 9.45 PM, SOURCE: DHNS/PTI

# How hospitals handle babies born to Covid +ve mothers

Some allow the newborns in the same room, others weary of infection

SURAKSHA P  
BENGALURU, DHNS

Several newborns across the city have tested positive for Covid-19 within 24 to 48 hours of their birth.

Doctors at both public and private hospitals where these babies are born, however, say it is not the reason to separate them from their mothers. The hospitals follow different schools of thought in handling the mothers and their newborns.

Of 300 deliveries by Covid-positive mothers at Vani Vilas Hospital, at least seven have tested positive.

In Gosha Hospital, 15 babies of 168 tested positive, while at the Motherhood Hospital, two of 35 newborn tested positive. The figure was 1 out of 45 at Fortis La Femme.

Vani Vilas had initially separated the mother and the baby and fed the breast milk manually expressed by her. Now, the hospital allows the baby to be with the mother — albeit at a distance of six feet — even if the mother is positive and the baby negative.

While the Apollo Hospital followed the expressed breast milk system, it allows a family member to take care of the baby until the mother tests negative. The hospital's Bannerghatta Road branch so far had six deliveries by Covid-positive women, but none of the newborn babies have tested positive.

#### Safety-first approach

Doctors said separating the mother and the baby has a likely impact on mother-infant bonding, perinatal



mental health and breastfeeding. Some others, however, argue for a safety-first approach.

"In the six to seven Covid-positive deliveries we had, one was a premature baby," said Dr Prashanth S Urs, HOD and Senior Consultant, Neonatology, Apollo Hospitals, Bannerghatta Road. "Only after mothers tested negative were the baby transferred to them. (Covid) is an evolving disease and no one knows how the virus will behave."

For the baby's safety, the hospital lets a family member manage

## Different methods adopted

Dr Prathap Chandra, Neonatologist, Motherhood Hospital, said the infected newborns only needed zinc, Vitamin C supplements and breast milk since they were asymptomatic.

Dr Sreenath Manikanti, Neonatologist, Fortis La Femme Hospital, said one newborn tested positive at his hospital because the mother was symptomatic with high viral load.

"If the mother keeps the baby six feet away after feeding, there is no risk of transmission to the baby," Dr Sreenath said.

"Only if the mother is sick and in the ICU, should the baby be fed expressed breast milk, using a spoon and not a bottle, until the mother recovers," Dr Sreenath added.

the baby and it is fed expressed breast milk. Dr Prashanth said the hospital might reconsider rooming babies with mothers with emerging evidence.

Dr Anitha G S, Assistant Professor, Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute (BMCRI), said they are not separating babies from Covid-positive mothers at Gosha Hospital.

"We were separating mothers

from the babies when pregnant mothers got admitted to the trauma and emergency care unit. We were also giving expressed breast milk. We don't do it now because there are risks like dehydration of the baby and lactation failure," Dr Anitha said.

Mothers were also feeling anxious when the babies were kept separated from them, which caused psychological difficulties.

P2

# 8 months on, BBMP now scours for vaccine storage

Why didn't you build one with your budget, asks Opposition

SURAKSHA P  
BENGALURU, DHNS

Eight months after the deadly pandemic first hit the city, the BBMP is still looking out for facilities to store the Covid-19 vaccine.

Opposition leaders are accusing the civic body of missing the opportunity to build its own infrastructure as it failed to include the facility in its Rs 10,000-crore budget.

Officials plan to store the vaccine at Hebbal's Institute of Animal Health and Veterinary Biologicals (IAHVB), where the three walk-in coolers store eight crore animal vaccine doses administered to 95 lakh cattle and as many sheep, 45 lakh buffaloes, 60 lakh goats and 3.2 lakh pigs in the state.

#### Existing facilities

The BBMP has 10 ice-lined re-

frigerators at the Dasappa Hospital vaccine store, from where vaccines are transported to 141 primary health centres, 24 maternity homes and six referral hospitals.

In addition, it also has eight ice-lined refrigerators and 42 refrigerators in six referral hospitals and 24 maternity homes. The 141 PHCs have a combination of small and large ice-lined refrigerators.

"Only around 8 to 10 lakh Covid vaccine doses can be stored at these facilities as other vaccines for children are also stored as a part of the routine immunisation programme," said a BBMP official overseeing cold storage preparations in the Palike.

"Around 10 days ago, we inspected the three walk-in coolers at IAHVB in Hebbal and apprised the state health department of the available



space," the official added.

Another official said it costs about Rs 50 lakh to set up a facility similar to the one at the Hebbal institute. However, BBMP Opposition leader Abdul Wajid pointed out that Rs 49 crore is available with the civic body for Covid work.

"The fund is an accumulation of Rs 25 lakh taken from the ward development fund from 198 wards," he further noted. "Another Rs 20 lakh from each ward was allocated for Covid that amounts to Rs 39.60 crore," Wajid said, asking why the civic body could not rent, buy or install walk-in coolers and ice-lined refrigerators exclusively for Covid vaccine.

## Keeping all options open

The state health department is working with other government agencies like the animal husbandry and horticulture departments, Karnataka State Drugs, Logistics and Warehousing Society and Food Corporation of India to keep their coolers and refrigerators ready in case they are needed to store vaccines and syringes.

#### No reply from BBMP

BBMP Commissioner N Manjunath Prasad did not respond to calls or messages from *DH*.

IAHVB director Dr S M Byre Gowda said that the three coolers at the institute have a combined capacity of 150,000 litres.

"One cooler is used for a month in six months for the animal vaccination programme to store up vaccine for foot and mouth disease," Dr Gowda said, adding it can be spared to store Covid vaccine.

P3

# Teen with Covid winds up at hospital with severe complications

**AKHIL KADIDAL**  
BENGALURU, DHNS

**W**hile children are largely believed to be immune to Covid-19 complications, a 14-year-old girl with the disease ended up at the hospital with serious issues.

On October 14, Swetha (name changed) was rushed to Rainbow Hospital on Bannerghatta Road after she developed breathing problems and displayed a low oxygen saturation of 85%.

Swetha, a resident of Arekere in Mico Layout, also had altered sensorium, a noted post-Covid-19 medical condition characterised by an inability to think clearly. That was not all.



requirement (the pressure in the lungs above the pressure outside the body existing after exhaling) came down rapidly, suggesting a cardiac edema,” Dr Sridhar explained.

The doctors diagnosed her with PIMS-TS (Pediatric Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome) with multiorgan dysfunction hypotension.

According to The Lancet, PIMS-TS is a novel condition



Dr Sridhar M, the pediatrician who handled her case, said the girl had a fever at the time of her admission. A closer medical examination also revealed that Swetha was close to suffering kidney failure, had cardiac manifestations and low blood pressure.

“When we looked into her medical history, we found that she had never been recognised as a Covid-19 patient, but she had all the effects of the disease. Her RT-PCR for Covid-19 was negative and her Covid serology came positive,” he said, adding that the patient was immediately put on a ventilator.

“Her initial X-rays showed bilateral infiltrates. We initially thought she may have had Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS), which is associated with Covid-19, but then her Positive End-Expiratory Pressure (PEEP)

in children who have survived Covid-19, which was first reported in April.

An examination of Swetha’s medical history also revealed that she had developed a fever first on October 12, followed by breathing problems.

She had no recorded comorbidities and was likely completely asymptomatic during her Covid-19 infection.

“Despite having no symptoms during the period of her Covid-19 infection and despite being totally healthy, she developed PIMS-TS,” Dr Sridhar said.

He added, however, that she was discharged on October 26. “At the time, she was on nasogastric tube feed, her vitals were stable, her fever spikes had reduced and she was able to maintain her saturations at room air. A follow-up visit showed that she was doing well,” he said.

## DUSTED BUT NOT DONE



**Long-delayed, the white-topping of city roads has not only disrupted traffic but also caused health hazards, increasing dust in the air and potentially worsening respiratory problems in the times of the pandemic. The picture is from the Outer Ring Road, Papareddy Palya, Nagarabhavi. DH PHOTO/RANJU P**

## BBMP begins voter enrolment drive

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Starting a special voter enrolment drive, the BBMP has asked those born before December 31, 2002 to submit applications.

The drive, which began on Sunday, will continue for the next three Sundays. Those eligible can submit Form 6 (fresh application) with a passport size photo, school transfer certificate or photo-

copy of the marks card, and ration and Aadhaar cards.

While Form 7 can be submitted to remove a name from the list, Form 8 could be given for corrections.

The BBMP has published a draft voter list for seven Assembly constituencies and said the public can submit objections before December 17. Objections can also be filed online.

P3

## CROWD PULLER



**Former chief minister H D Kumaraswamy waves at JD(S) workers during the inauguration of the party office at Mallasandra ward in Bengaluru on Sunday. Social distancing went for a toss at the event. DH PHOTO/ B H SHIVAKUMAR**

P3

# Tests go up in state, daily case numbers stagnate

**AKHIL KADIDAL**  
BENGALURU, DHNS

**W**ith the end of the festival season, the state has scaled up its Covid-19 testing further even as case numbers hover steadily in the 1,000-range in Bengaluru, with an additional 700 cases being reported from other districts daily.

The increased testing means that the test positivity rate (TPR) has fallen to below 2% in the last 10 days in the state, although several experts described this TPR decline as deceptive. Noted epidemiologist Dr Giridhar Babu has maintained that while testing in Bengaluru is adequate, it is less so in other districts.

“In some of the best performing districts for testing and surveillance such as Bengaluru Urban, Dakshina Kannada and Mysuru, the proportion of symptomatic cases is the highest among found cases. This is not true in other districts, which suggests that the test-

ing and surveillance is not doing a good job of identifying people with symptoms,” Babu said.

The state registered 11,399 new cases over the last seven days, out of which 6,386 are in Bengaluru Urban. These numbers are a match for the first week of July, when 11,573 cases had been reported, out of which 6,806 were in Bengaluru Urban.

On Sunday, the state reported 1,704 cases, out of which 61% or 1,039 were in Bengaluru. Mysuru district reported the next largest number with 100, followed by Dakshina Kannada with 46, Hassan district with 44 and Bengaluru Rural with 41.

Only 13 new deaths were reported, the majority of which (10) are from Bengaluru Urban.

Four of the fatalities happened within hours of them being identified with the disease, showing that they had been missed by the state’s Covid-19 surveillance machinery.

Among them was the youngest of the recently disclosed fatalities. This was a 30-year-old woman from Bengaluru Urban, who died at a private hospital on Friday. She had Severe Acute Respiratory Infection (SARI). The oldest fatality is a 89-year-old man, who died in Ballari on November 14, after a 14-day battle with the disease. He had no recorded comorbidities.

As many as 1,537 Covid-19 patients were discharged on Saturday, out of which 669 were from Bengaluru Urban.

According to the BBMP Covid war room, the city conducted an average of 49,663 tests daily for the last seven days.

In keeping with previous weeks, the concentration of new Covid-19 cases has been highest in Mahadevapura zone over the last 10 days, accounting for 17% of the cases, followed by South zone and East zone with 16% each. The Palike said that the city’s cumulative TPR is 8.86% as of Saturday.

# THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

## Experts see building of a second Covid wave in India

SUMI SUKANYA DUTTA @New Delhi

AFTER reaching the trough of just 28,609 fresh Covid-19 cases on November 16 — the lowest in four months — India has seen between 38,000 and 46,000 new cases daily in the last four days, raising concerns that the country is staring at a second wave of the deadly infection.

The daily infection count reached its peak of 96,860 on September 16. Ever since, there



had been a steady decline.

But, in recent days, states like Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, and Delhi have seen a sharp rise in daily new cases, pushing the national tally up.

“We are definitely seeing early signs of a second wave at the national level,” health economist

Rijo M John said. The mortality rate, too, is rising in several states, including Kerala, Odisha,

Bihar, Assam, Jharkhand, Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh, John pointed out. Experts warned that the states that did well in containing the first wave may see a higher caseload this time around if they let the guard down.

“In those states, since sero-

prevalence and infection-induced immunity are low, people venturing out would mean high daily cases,” said public health expert Oommen C Kurian. “India will have multiple peaks before vaccines arrive and a second wave by end-November or early-December is

highly likely,” he added.

Understandably, the spurt in cases has forced state governments to re-impose some of the curbs that were dialed back. Haryana and Manipur, for instance, have shut schools again while many districts in Rajasthan and Gujarat are witnessing more restrictions.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray warned the second wave “looks like a tsunami” and urged people not to lower their guards so as to avoid another lockdown. **P9**

### K'taka can avoid second wave: Expert

Bengaluru: Karnataka can avoid a second, more severe wave of Covid cases, if the same vigour is maintained in testing and detecting cases, said an expert. But if the state stumbles like Delhi did, then it will not face a wave, but a tsunami of cases and deaths, warned Sanjeev Mysore, convener of Jeevan Raksha. **P3**

P1

### COVID WOES

## Coronavirus fans child starvation epidemic in Karnataka?

RANJANI MADHAVAN  
@Bengaluru

THE number of malnourished children at the recently opened rehabilitation centre in Bengaluru suggests that the pandemic and its effects may have worsened hunger and pushed many children across the state into starvation.

Twenty-six children aged 0-5 years have been admitted at the Nutritional Rehabilitation Cen-

tre (NRC) at Vani Vilas Hospital since it opened in August. Four children were admitted in August, two in September, 16 in October and four in November (till November 17).

But the staff at the centre say the numbers are actually higher as many parents refrain from admitting their children fearing they would contract Covid-19. In October, of the 275 children screened, 24 were diagnosed with Severe Acute Malnutrition

and 44 with Moderate Acute Malnutrition. But the parents of only 16 children agreed to admit their kids. While some children were referred for treatment of other ailments, others were referred by anganwadis.

Doctors, anganwadi workers and nutritional experts said while many factors may have led to hunger, the lockdown-induced financial distress and income loss prevented children from accessing nutritious food.



“When children come in for diarrhoea, pneumonia, convulsions, sepsis, fever, etc, we detect malnutrition as well. Some

cases we have received have been from the anganwadi staff, who spotted malnourished children, especially from Goripalya, Bapuji Nagar, Kumbalgodu, etc in and around Bengaluru. One of the causes is the financial problem faced by parents due to the pandemic,” said Dr Mallesh K, head of the department of paediatrics at Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute, which has Vani Vilas Hospital under its ambit. **P7**

P1

# May shut colleges if Covid cases spike: Dr Sudhakar

Colleges opened barely a week ago with safety protocol in place

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
@Bengaluru

JUST six days after degree and engineering colleges reopened in the state, Karnataka Health Minister Dr K Sudhakar on Sunday said that they may be shut again if Covid-19 cases rise.

Citing media reports that 120-130 students were infected with the coronavirus, Dr Sudhakar added he would gather further information from senior officials. Colleges were reopened after eight months of closure due to the pandemic and subsequent lockdown.

Reacting to this news, Dr Niranjana Radhaya V P – senior fellow and programme head, Universalization of Equitable Quality Education Programme at National Law

School of India University, Bengaluru – said the decision is completely unscientific.



Students wear masks and sit at some distance from each other | EXPRESS

“The ministers and government, instead of creating an enabling environment and confidence among children and adults, are pushing them to fear. When testing is carried out, there are possibilities that the students can test positive, but it does not mean they are positive due to reopening of

colleges. The government has not clearly planned about how to handle these situations... They need to improve,” Dr Niranjana Radhaya said.

However, Dr Sudhakar stated that if cases do go up, they do not have an alternative. He was speaking to reporters in Dharwad and his statement comes ahead of the government’s meeting on Monday to decide on the reopening of schools.

The minister agreed that schools in the state have not yet reopened amid the fear of the coronavirus.

“The youth have immunity, but I would not say that the students won’t contract the disease. We must protect students, as well as shape their academic future. Since we have a big responsibility, we decided to reopen schools and colleges in a phased manner,” he informed.

P2

## Special drive to enrol on voter rolls

BENGALURU: The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike is organising a special drive on November 29, December 6 and 13 for people to enrol their names in the voters list, following directions from the State Election Commission. Citizens can also use the opportunity to get corrections done in the electoral rolls for all 28 assembly constituencies that fall within the Palike’s jurisdiction. A case pertaining to the BBMP polls is being heard by the Karnataka High Court.ENS

P2

# Work on Baiyappanahalli road bridge restarts after 7 years

S LALITHA @Bengaluru

Massive relief is in store for vehicle users heading from Banaswadi, Kalyan Nagar, Hennur and Kasturi Nagar towards Old Madras Road. Work on the Road Over Bridge (ROB) that was hanging fire for the last seven years began last month and is likely to be completed early next year. This will ensure easy access to the upcoming Baiyappanahalli railway Coaching Terminal for residents.

The bridge, proposed in 2010, was intended to provide easy access between the Coaching Terminal and Swami Vivekananda Metro station. It ground to a halt three years later, with 70% of the work completed. A ramp was constructed on one side of the bridge but completion of the other ramp depended on the handing over of land by the Defence Ministry and this caused enormous delay.

"The Defence Ministry handed over the required 10,207 square metres of land to us in August 2019 and some work had begun when construction ground to a halt for five months due to the labour shortage caused by the pandemic," said Chief Engineer, West, Constructions, South Western Railway, R K Singh.



Construction underway on the Road Over Bridge at Baiyappanahalli | EXPRESS

Work started in October and has been going on at a brisk pace since then. "We are targeting opening of the ROB by March 2021. Even if it gets a bit delayed, we are sure of opening it up by April next year," he added.

The ramp being constructed towards the Swami Vivekananda Metro Station has nine spans, with each span running into 30 metres. "We are yet to

build 270 metres of the ramp and 190 metres of the retaining wall for it. So a total length of 460 metres is to be constructed with the width running to 7.5 metres," said another official.

"The wall of the Defence property presently falls within our construction area. Another wall needs to be constructed to safeguard Defence land before we can demolish the present wall," he added.

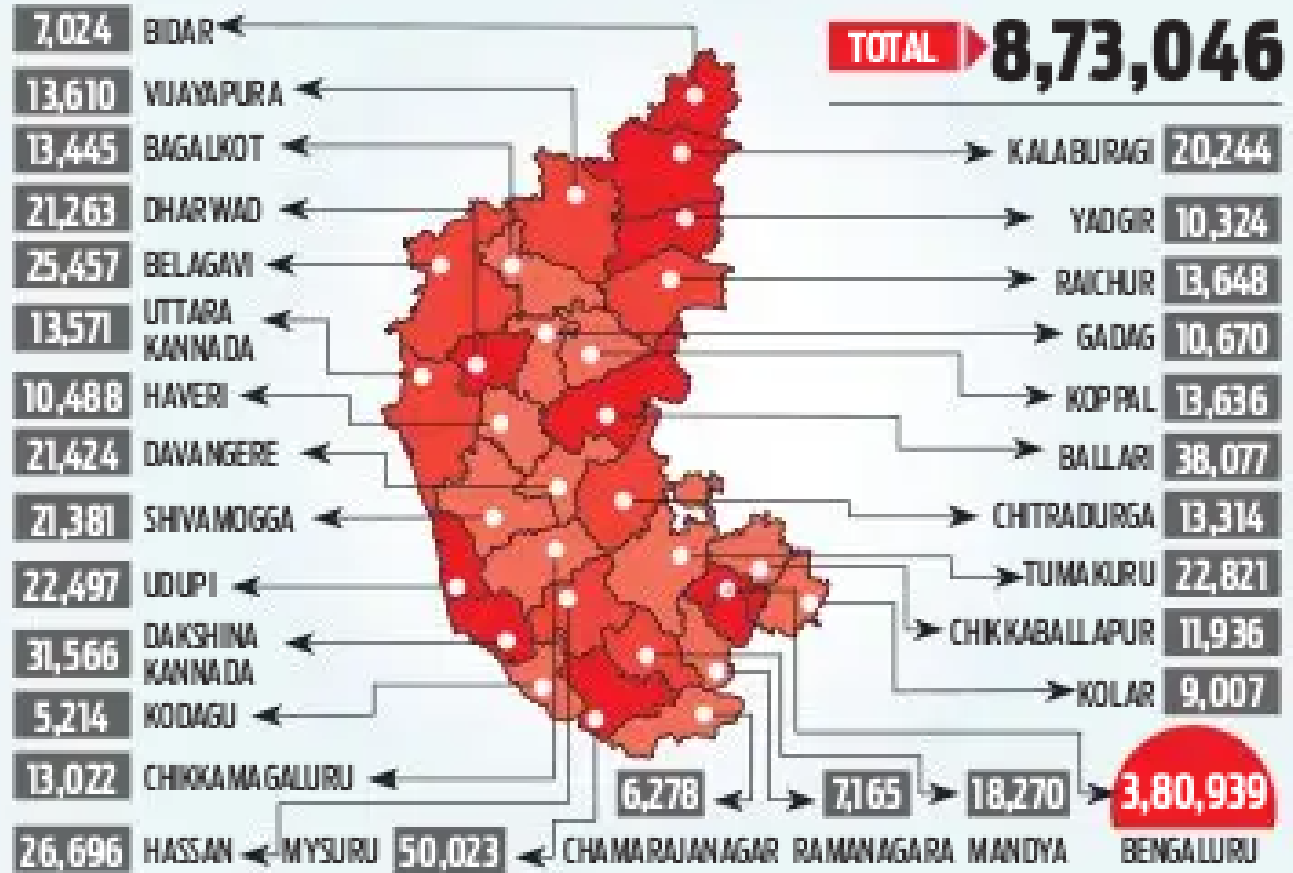
A subway three metres in length and height of 2.7 metres was also being built for the use of two-wheelers and pedestrians. "The subway will give relief to many vehicle users. Work on it will begin within 10 days and we plan to open it for public by the first week of December," he said.



**The subway will give relief to many vehicle users. Work on it will begin within 10 days and we plan to open it for public by the first week of December**

Official

## CONFIRMED CASES



NEW CASES

**1,704**

NEW RECOVERIES

**1,537**

NEW DEATHS

**13**

TOTAL DEATHS

**11,654**

TALLY ON  
**SUNDAY**

**1,26,904**

Samples tested

**24,868**

Total active cases

**8,36,505**

Total recoveries



# 'Maintain rigour to avoid 2nd wave'

Expert says if state continues with high testing, detection, it's unlikely to witness a surge

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
@ Bengaluru

IF the State Government maintains the rigour of testing and detecting Covid-19 infections for the next two months, Karnataka can avoid a possible second wave, an expert has said.

On October 9, the state witnessed its highest single-day Covid cases of 10,913, while across the country the count was 73,305 cases that day. Thereafter, the daily average cases have

started moving downwards.

"The average number of Covid cases in Karnataka in November has been 2,335. The average daily Covid toll in the state in October was 74, but in November it has shrunk by two-thirds to 22. The world is witnessing the dynamism of IAS officers and their management skills in turning around the Covid scenario. The sharp fall in Test Positivity Rate reflects that. On the other hand, clinical management skills of

Indian doctors are respected world over," said Sanjeev Mysore, convenor of Jeevan Raksha, an initiative of Proxima that closely tracks Covid cases across the country and makes projections.

"The dynamics on the ground are changing and contradicting the global Covid pattern. From India's or Karnataka's point of view, if the same rigour is maintained over the next 6-8 weeks, it is unlikely to witness further surge. However, if we goof up

like Delhi, then it will not be a wave, it will be a tsunami of cases and deaths," he warned.

It took just 13 days to go from 2 lakh to 3 lakh cases, 12 days from 3 lakh to 4 lakh cases, 11 days from 4 lakh to 5 lakh cases, 13 days from 5 lakh to 6 lakh cases, 10 days from 6 lakh to 7 lakh cases and 14 days from 7 lakh to 8 lakh cases. It has been 28 days since the state crossed the 8 lakh mark, but it has still not reached 9 lakh cases. The doubling period has increased.

P3

## Covid growth rate faster than national average in 19 states, UTs

**CONTINUED FROM P1**

AN analysis of the Covid-19 data shared by the Centre shows that while the national growth rate of the disease is 0.45% as of now, there are 19 states and Union Territories where it is growing at a faster rate than the national average.

This rate is the fastest, at 2%, for Himachal Pradesh followed

by 1.3% in Nagaland and 1.2% in Delhi and Haryana. Nineteen states, led by Himachal Pradesh, also have a seven-day moving test positivity rate of over 4%, which is the national average.

According to epidemiologist Amitabh Banerjee, both globally and in India, metros and cities with high population migration inwards have been hotspots of intense transmission, and the mortality many times high-

er than the national average.

"However, these epicentres seem to be relatively resistant to the so-called second wave," he said. "Similar phenomenon is seen in India, on a smaller scale, as our younger and leaner population is cushioning the full impact of the pandemic. Delhi, however, could take some time to stabilise due to various factors."

### **PM TO HOLD MEETING WITH STATES**

PM Narendra Modi expected to hold two back to back meetings, one with eight states with high caseloads and another with states and UTs to discuss vaccine distribution strategy, sources said.

P9

# Govt may get Oxford shots in Jan-Feb, at 50% of MRP

## India Awaits UK Approval For Emergency Use

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New Delhi: India is likely to get the first lot of anti-Covid shots in late January-early February which will allow

► **Himachal, Delhi, Rajasthan lead in positivity rate, P 6**

frontline doctors, nursing staff and municipal workers to receive the vaccine. This will be possible as India plans to give Serum Institute of India (SII) emergency-use approval for the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine candidate soon after it gets similar approval in the UK.

While the SII will need to apply for emergency use, the

## 2 VACCINES BY FEBRUARY?

- Limited stocks of Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine likely to be available by late Jan or Feb. Will be given mainly to 70 lakh healthcare warriors and 2 crore frontline workers
- Government may get the twin-shot vaccine for half the price of likely MRP of Rs 500-600
- Bharat Biotech's Covaxin may also get emergency nod once it submits data on phase I & II trials
- That means 2 vaccines could be available by February

### How Many Does India Need?

50-60 crore doses required to inoculate 25-30 crore priority population, categorised into 4 groups



firm is expected to do so some time in December.

The Centre is finalising a contract with vaccine manufacturers for procurement of doses. The government, which will make bulk purchases, has negotiated a better price — almost half that of the likely MRP of Rs 500-600 for the two-shot vaccine, an official source said.

Interestingly, Bharat Biotech's Covaxin can be considered for emergency approval after it submits data from phase I and II trials. Regulatory sources told TOI Bharat Biotech is publishing data for the vaccine which is now in phase 3 trials in India. Two vaccines could be available by February.

► **Beneficiaries picked, P 6**

## Amid spike, PM to talk to some CMs tomorrow

PM Modi will interact with CMs of some states on Tuesday to take stock of the Covid-19 situation even as infections have risen during the festive season and taken alarming proportions in some states. The meeting will, however, not touch upon modalities of vaccine distribution.

Modi has had several rounds of interactions with CMs since lockdown was clamped in March. The current spike in infections has alarmed the Centre and the states, according to sources, who say the PM is set to iterate that people must not lower their guard till the vaccination process starts. **TNN**

P1

## With Icr+ tests, K'taka to shift focus outside B'luru

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Bengaluru: Karnataka, which took more than 200 days to test the first 48 lakh samples, saw its Covid-19 testing numbers leapfrog in the past 50 days to touch 1 crore. While the state is the fourth in India to cross the milestone, experts said shifting the focus away from a handful of districts, especially Bengaluru, should be the strategy.

Bengaluru's share in daily testing has risen in the past 50 days. Dr CN Manjunath, chairperson, state Covid-19 expert committee, said

### MAJOR SHARE

- 1cr Total Covid-19 samples tested in K'taka
- 39.9L Samples were from Bengaluru
- 52 lakh Samples tested in state after Sept 30
- 23.4L From B'luru

the focus will now shift to other districts, where the exposure has been low as per the sero survey.

► **Focus on C'ballapura, P 4**

## CM to chair meet today on reopening of schools

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: With six months of the current academic year over and amid encouraging signs of Karnataka reporting a drop in the number of Covid-19 positive cases, CM BS Yediyurappa will hold a meeting with health and education ministers on Monday to discuss about when to reopen schools in the state.

Sources said Yediyurappa will take into account the low response in colleges, which reopened recently, before considering options on reopening of schools. With neighbouring states taking the

### WHAT WILL BSY DO?

- With virus cases dropping, CM BS Yediyurappa may reopen schools in the state
- Will keep in mind less students attending colleges
- May continue web classes for primary school students
- After Vidaygama fiasco, the CM may defer reopening to next academic year

ir own call on resumption of classes 9 to 12, Karnataka may continue with online classes for those in primary schools.

► **'Will present options', P 4**

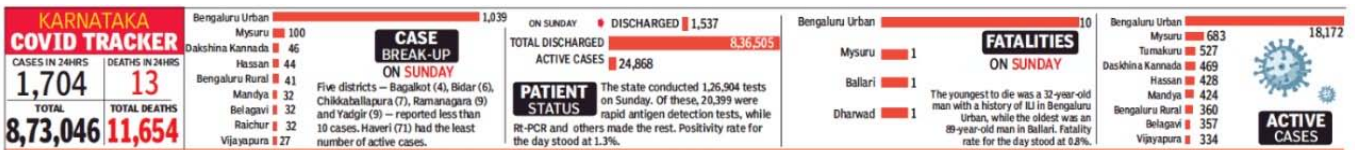
P1

# B'LURU WATCH

## Covid figures as on Nov 22

Cases	Active	Cured	Deaths
3,63,665	18,172	3,41,424	4,069

P2



**POINTS TO PONDER** Recovery Rate Better Than National Average | CBSE Schools' Body Says Parents Happy With Online Classes

P2

# Recoveries surge to 96% from 93% in October; Bengaluru Urban lags

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Bengaluru:** Even as Karnataka's caseload nears the 9-lakh mark, recoveries continue to outpace fresh cases, with the number of patients under treatment accounting for less than 3% as on Saturday (November 21).

At 96%, the state's recovery rate is better than the country's average, and is expected to help handle a second wave, which is anticipated in early 2021, better than the first surge.

As of Saturday, only Bengaluru Urban district's recovery rate (94%) was lower than the state average. Of the 24,714 patients still being treated, 17,812 were in Bengaluru Urban, which has reported 3.6 lakh of the 8.6 lakh total positive cases in Karnataka.

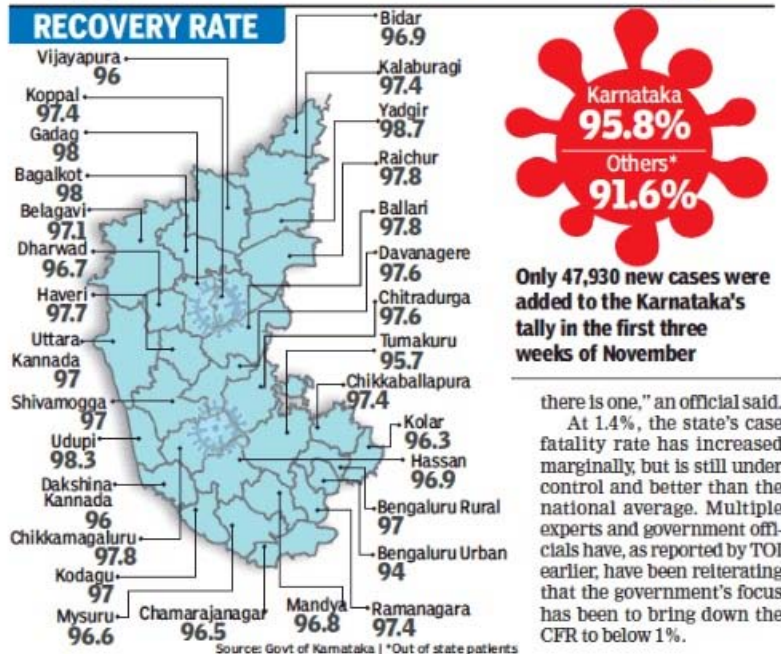
Comparatively, the recovery rate was at 93% as on October 31, from where it improved to 94.8% by the

first week of November.

In the first three weeks of November, the state added only 47,930 new cases compared to 1.8 lakh cases during the same weeks in October, which ended with 2.2 lakh cases. Cases in October had dipped marginally compared to nearly 2.6 lakh the state added in September.

Naturally, November also saw a lower number of discharges - 77,760 patients have been discharged in the first three weeks, compared to nearly 1.9 lakh during the same weeks in October. Total discharges topped 2.7 lakh in October, which was an improvement from 2.3 lakh in September.

"The consistent fall in new cases has reduced the active cases burden significantly. If we manage the pandemic like this for another six to eight weeks, then we will be in a good position to handle the second wave, if



P2

# Must ensure exhaustive safety measures, say stakeholders

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Bengaluru:** Most stakeholders TOI spoke with indicated that if the government decides to reopen schools, it must put in place exhaustive measures to ensure safety of students and faculty. Most were wary of holding regular classes.

## REOPENING SCHOOLS

D Shashi Kumar, general secretary, Associated Management of Primary and Secondary Schools in Karnataka, said schools are in financially poor shape and the government must address those issues before reopening schools.

"It should also ensure every student and teacher is safe," Kumar said. "If a student is infected, she should be treated free. Proper guidelines should be laid before reopening."

Chandrashekar Nugli, president, Primary Teachers' Association, said schools should be reopened gradually, if at all. "The education minister has not sought our opinion in this regard, but we hope he



For representation

**BIG RESPONSIBILITY:** School associations also wanted the government to ensure free treatment for those children who may get infected

will take our advice too," Nugli said. "As an association, we suggest classes in shifts for children in grade 5, 6 and 7. If things go well, then they can think about reopening fully."

Mansoor Ali Khan, secretary, Management of Independent CBSE Schools' Association, said an internal survey suggested 90% of parents were happy with online classes. "They say they would send their children to schools only when a vaccine is out," he said.

However, Niranjana Arad-

hya VP, Centre for Child and Law, NLSIU, pointing to the successful conduct of SSLC, PUC, CET and NEET exams, said schools must reopen.

"Only 6% of all Covid-19 patients were below 20 years of age," he said. "Taking all preventive measures, the government should reopen schools as many children are being deprived of nutrition in the absence of midday meals or are becoming victims of child marriage, child labour and other problems."

## BUZZ BACK ON CHURCH STREET

Chethan Shivakumar



**SUNDAY VIBES:** Shoppers throng the traffic-free Church Street on a near-normal weekend amid pandemic fear. This is the third week after the launch of the Clean Air Street Initiative, a pilot project to test the impact of traffic closures every Saturday and Sunday

# Metro, buses likely to accept common mobility card by June

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**Bengaluru:** The city's long-pending dream for a common mobility card that can be used in multiple transport modes like buses and Metro is likely to materialise by June 2021.

BMTC recently invited an expression of interest from banks and financial institutions for implementation of Automatic Fare Collection system in buses, which includes Electronic Ticketing Machines (ETMs) that will support National Common Mobility Card (NCMC).

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had in March 2019 launched NCMC, also known as One Nation One Card, to facilitate single card usage

across transport modes and also for payment of parking fees and toll.

BMTC recently interacted with firms regarding NCMC. Its managing director C Shikha said 28 banks and financial institutions have evinced interest in the project. "We may introduce NCMC by the next financial year. Passengers will be able to use the same card in Metro and buses," she said. K Santosh Babu, director (Information & technology), BMTC, said: "We plan to float a tender by December and finalise it by January-end. We will issue NCMCs by June."

He said banks and financial institutions will be the lead bidder and will have hardware and software partners to provide ETMs. "The

selected consortium will have to provide NCMC as well as ETM for better coordination. We plan to issue student passes through BangaloreOne Centres," added Babu.

In April, BMRCL had floated a tender to select a financial institution to issue the open-loop card.

"RBL Bank has been selected for acquiring and issuing NCMC. It will take eight months to implement and test NCMC so commercial launch is expected by June. Passengers can use NCMC in other transport modes if the operators have introduced the facility in their fare collection system," said BMRCL chief public relations officer BL Yeshwanth Chavan.

Full report: [toi.in](http://toi.in)

P3

## Will present all options to CM: Min

► Continued from page 1

**W**ith the Vidaygama fiasco creating serious concerns for the safety of students and teachers, the CM may defer reopening to the next academic year, sources said.

Primary and secondary education minister S Suresh Kumar said any decision, if made, will be based

on the outcome of Monday's meeting. "We will present all the options to the CM in presence of the health minister and his team. Our options are based on interactions with school development and monitoring committees across the state," said Kumar.

He said the education commissioner and principal secretary will make a presentation with statistics.

P4

# A WASTE AGENCY

## State govt seeks BBMP's views on setting up new agency to look at functioning of 7 waste processing units; collection, transport of garbage to remain Palike's job

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**H**appy with the way of functioning of the BWSSB or BESCOM? Because the state government is planning to create one more such entity. This body with an independent board will supervise the seven large waste processing units of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, established at a cost of around Rs 1,000 crore. After receiving complaints that the BBMP had failed to maintain the waste processing units, the State Government has directed the civic agency to prepare a report on the pros and cons of setting up such a body.

The responsibility of collection and transportation of waste on a daily basis, however, may continue to lie with the BBMP for the time being. "The chief minister has asked us to submit the proposal on bringing seven garbage processing plants under an independent board with an aim to operate these plants more professionally. Such a body run by technically qualified people could put an end to issues raised by residents living around the plant," N Manjunath Prasad, BBMP Commissioner told Bangalore Mirror.

Collection and transport of waste, he said, will not be brought under the purview of the proposed entity, initially. "More responsibilities could be given to the Board based on its performance," the commissioner said.

In the last state budget, Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa had also talked about establishing a separate body for the solid waste manage-



The state government has received complaints about the BBMP failing to manage the waste units

**“We need to focus on decentralisation and phase out large plants on the outskirts. About 80% of the transportation expense could be saved if the waste is processed in every ward**

—Deepu Chandra, E-City resident

ment division of the BBMP that is currently plagued by complaints of "interference" from the corpora-

tors and failure to segregate waste at source.

Sources said a couple of meetings were held in the BBMP to chalk out the details. "The agency will have operational and financial independency. Waste collection, transportation, processing, clearing of legacy waste and landfill management require a standardised approach. It cannot be different in different wards," a senior BBMP official said.

Garbage contractor Balasubramanian said the independent body may take quick decision unlike in the current set up of BBMP. "There is a likelihood that the problems could be sorted out quickly if the solid waste manage-

ment is handled by a separate board. In the present scenario, every decision needs clearances at multiple levels," he said.

Residents living around the plants say the entity is of no use as long as the focus is not on establishing waste processing units at a decentralised level. "We need a philosophy that focuses on decentralisation and phases out large plants on the outskirts. About 80% of the cost on transportation of waste could be saved if the waste is processed in every ward," Deepu Chandra, a resident of Electronics City said. "Currently, the people living on the outskirts are considered as second class citizens only to benefit the city dwellers."

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# MLA sees red over green

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

priority is to solve public issues. If you are comfortable in creating trouble for the general public and for temple devotees then go ahead with your proceedings. In the coming days, the public might stage protests on this issue. Thanks and Regards," said MLA R Manjunath, in his email.

The 65-year-old says she is shocked by the tone of the mail. Neither the MLA nor anyone in the locality had ever approached her about this. She points out that people in her neighbourhood appreciated the plants in her plot.

Subhiksha Venkatesh R, a wildlife researcher, had certified the plants and trees as a home for a wide range of birds, insects and reptiles. The report of June 23, 2020, stated that creepers of bougainvillea and heart-leaved moonseed have grown over 7 feet in height and have formed a dense foliage around the walls. "This serves as an ideal habitat for a number of passerine species like the common tailorbird, munias (lonchuras), bulbuls, etc. A number of insect species, particularly butterflies were spotted within a span of 30 minutes," said Venkatesh in the certificate.

Nirody insists the plants do not encroach upon the road, nor do they block access to the temple as mentioned in the letter. She reached out to the MLA to enquire about the complaints, which he claimed were not in writing, but what he had heard from the residents. And yet, Nirody says she is open to pruning the hedges scientifically. However, she is sure to oppose the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) sending its workers to her home with cutting machines and earth-movers.

Arun Prasad, wildlife activist from Wilson Garden, is alarmed by the threatening note in the MLA's email. He said the greenery and the urban wildlife habitat of the places surrounding the Shettyhalli Lake must be preserved to maintain a healthy ecological balance.

"The habitats of the scheduled species protected under the Wildlife Protection Act should not be destroyed under any circumstances. The Urban Wildlife Report too stresses on the need to protect the greenery. Cutting the greenery near Shettyhalli Lake will also adversely affect the migratory birds visiting the lake for nesting," said Arun Prasad.

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# Putting up netas' pics can be criminal act

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**F**inally, some respite from having to see the faces of our beloved politicians wherever we look. Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Commissioner N Manjunath Prasad has issued a circular to the joint commissioners (JCs) and the chief engineers (CEs) of eight zones to register criminal complaints against those responsible for the disfigurement of public spaces.

Many social activists and environmentalists have been objecting to elected representatives exhibiting their photographs at bus shelters, public toilets and reverse osmosis (RO) plants put up with taxpayers' money. But the elected representatives continue to exhibit their photographs while the BBMP takes no action.

The Supreme Court has also banned politicians' photos on government advertisements. The Karnataka High Court too often directed the BBMP authorities to



keep the city clean from visual pollution.

Based on a complaint by social activist Sai Datta, Prasad directed the joint commissioners and the chief engineers to remove the photos of elected representatives from public places, including bus shelters and RO plants in the city.

The BBMP Commissioner made it clear that there is no provision for exhibiting elected representatives' photographs on advertisements related to the developmental projects and amenities provided by the Palike. He has directed the JCs and the CEs to file a criminal

Politicians' pictures often grace bus stops and RO plants in the city



complaint against those responsible for disfigurement of public places under the Karnataka Open Places (Prevention of Disfigurement) Act, 1981, at the jurisdictional police station.

Activists are now hoping the Commissioner's order will be implemented. "I submitted a letter to State Chief Secretary Vijay Bhaskar TM in February seeking removal of photographs of elected representatives from bus shelters and RO plants as per the Supreme Court guidelines. The Chief Secretary forwarded the letter to all the departments, including the BBMP, for further action. I could not follow up on it due to covid-19," said H M Venkatesh, a social activist.

However, Sai Datta is of the opinion that most of the JCs and CEs may not want to implement the order since they would not want to antagonise the elected representatives.

"The elected representatives are getting publicity with the taxpayers' money. It is against the norms. It shows disregard to the Supreme Court order," he said.



# Schools taking poor college attendance as a sign

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Flower School said that the experiment to open colleges had hit a roadblock. "Twenty year olds are hesitant to come to college. How can you expect small kids to go to school? I think we will have to wait for some more time until the community around us feels safe to send their kids to school again." She suggests staggered timings and small batches when schools for students of Class 9 and 10 re-open, depending of course on the prevailing situation.

Mansoor Ali Khan, Member, Board of Management, DPS said that after the tepid response to colleges re-opening, 95 per cent of parents of school children don't want to send their kids to school. Hopefully in January, we will do one more survey. Without parents' cooperation, it is very difficult to reopen the schools," he said.

Deepu Chandran, a parent said that the online classes were working well and there should be no compulsion for schools to re-open for regular classes. She added that though several government schools had been ineffective in imparting online education, this should not be the reason to re-open schools.

However, senior educationist VP Niranjan Aradhya said, "Schools and colleges are not comparable. College students are mature, can study on their own and only require mentors. Whereas schools, especially government schools, are not only learning centres but also supportive institutions for poor and marginalised sections of society. Closing them for a long time will have serious repercussions in learning and can lead to social evils like child marriage and trafficking. The decision not to re-open schools is unscientific and the state is abdicating its responsibility to provide a safe and secure environment to re-open schools. The State should re-open schools with necessary safety measures in the best interest of children."

Meanwhile, CM BS Yediyurappa is likely to hold a discussion with the education minister S Suresh Kumar on Monday to take a call on re-opening of schools. Earlier, a report prepared by the Commissioner for Public Instruction had favoured reopening of schools in either last week of November or December for class 9 and 10 and up

CM TO MEET EDUCATION MINISTER, HEALTH MINISTER AND SENIOR OFFICIALS

## Decision on Reopening of Schools Today

Our Bureau

**Bengaluru:** Chief minister BS Yediyurappa will hold a crucial meeting on reopening of schools and pre-university classes for in-person learning with education minister S Suresh Kumar, health minister K Sudhakar and senior officials on Monday.

Neighbouring Andhra Pradesh has reopened schools from class 9.

The steady drop in the Covid-19 positive cases, improved recovery rate and a sharp fall in the positivity rate have strengthened the case for reopening of schools and colleges though for a shorter duration.

The chief minister as well as Kumar and Sudhakar are expected to pore over the recent Covid data and respond to demands for phased reopening of schools for in-person learning of students.

Infosys founder NR Narayana Murthy, in a recent interview to ET, had favoured reopening of schools. "We cannot close our

### TAKING A CUE

Andhra Pradesh has reopened schools from class 9

schools. I have immense faith in our children. If we teach them the importance of social-distancing, in my opinion, they will follow it better than elders," he had said. "If schools are not running, parents would not pay fees, and managements cannot afford to pay teachers their salaries."

### State Sees 1,704 Fresh Cases; Case Fatality Rate below 1%



**BENGALURU** Karnataka added 1,704 Covid-19 cases on Sunday, taking the total active cases in the state to 24,868. Hospitals discharged 1,537 patients, while the virus claimed 13 lives on Sunday. Positivity rate has dropped to a comfortable level of 1.34%, while case fatality rate (CFR) for the day was 0.76%, which meets the government ambitious target of taking it below 1%. Bengaluru Urban district reported 1,039 cases and 10 deaths, while Ballari, Dharwad and Mysuru reported one death each. Mysuru reported 100 new cases, but the discharges were higher at 107. —Our Bureau

### South Covid Count

	Fresh Cases	Total Cases	New Deaths	Total Deaths	Total Recoveries
AP	1,121	8,62,213	11	6,938	8,41,026
Kerala	5,294	5,62,735	27	2,049	4,94,664
Puducherry	46	36,693	0	NA	NA
TN	1,655	7,69,995	19	11,605	7,45,848
Telangana	873	2,63,526	4	1,430	2,50,453