



**BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE  
BANGALORE**

**ENGLISH NEWS PAPER  
CLIPPINGS**

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THE HINDU

# PM to lay foundation stone for Satellite Township Ring Road

This is apart from laying the stone for suburban rail, says Bommai



Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai visited all the venues of the Prime Minister's programme, on Saturday. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

STAFF REPORTER  
BENGALURU

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lay the foundation stone for the much delayed Satellite Township Ring Road (STRR) as well on Monday.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, who visited all the venues of the Prime Minister's programme on Saturday and oversaw preparations, said apart from laying foundation stone for suburban rail, he would also lay foundation stone for the

STRR. "This road will connect Dobbspet, Hoskote and Old Madras Road. This project is being taken up after special concessions provided by Union Minister Nitin Gadkari," he said.

STRR, which aims to decongest the city, is being implemented by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) under the Bharatmala Pariyojana scheme with an investment of ₹15,000 crore. The State government will also bear a part of the project cost.

THE HINDU

## Civic chief announces details of his availability at zonal HQ

STAFF REPORTER  
BENGALURU

Chief Civic Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath has announced a calendar of when he will function out of the zonal headquarters in a month. Every Tuesday and Friday, he will be available at the zonal headquarters between 2 p.m.

and 5 p.m. The days are: First Tuesday- East zone; First Friday - West Zone; Second Tuesday - South zone; Second Friday - RR Nagar zone; Third Tuesday - Bommanahalli zone; Third Friday - Mahadevapura zone; Fourth Tuesday - Yelahanka zone; Fourth Friday - Dasarahalli zone

# Areas around K.R. Puram bear the brunt of floods again

Over 20 bikes parked near a theatre damaged after compound wall collapses

STAFF REPORTER  
BENGALURU

Heavy rains that lashed parts of the city on Friday night, especially Mahadevapura and Yelahanka zones, unleashed havoc in its wake. Areas in K.R. Puram, which suffered the maximum damage during the May 16-17 rains, again bore the brunt of heavy rains on Friday night.

Horamavu (146.5 mm) and K.R. Puram (127.5 mm) recorded the highest rainfall in the State on Friday, mostly between 9 p.m. and 11.30 p.m.. During the May 16-17 rains too, Horamavu recorded the highest rainfall.

Several apartments were flooded in K.R. Puram, with water stagnating in basements damaging hundreds of cars and bikes. Residents deploying motors to pump out water was a common sight in the area on Saturday. In another incident, over 20 bikes parked near a theatre were damaged as a compound wall collapsed over it on Friday night.

The BBMP said nearly 400 houses in Sai Layout, Gururaja Layout, Pai Layout and other adjoining areas in K.R. Puram, which were flooded during the May 16-17 rains, were flooded again with knee-deep water. "The area has water above the knee again. All the ground



Sai Layout inundated after heavy rain in Bengaluru, on Saturday; (below) More than 23 two-wheelers were damaged after a wall collapsed on them. ■ PTI & SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



floor houses are submerged. As usual, all electrical appliances are under water. There is no electricity from Friday night. Now there is a sense of deja vu with every rain," said John, a resident of Sai Layout.

"The BDA is widening a drain under the railway underpass at Sai Layout, which will solve flooding in the area. We will soon find a permanent solution and till then, it is tough to avoid wa-

ter logging in the area," said BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath.

Urban Development Minister and K.R. Puram MLA Byrathi Basavaraj, who visited the flood-hit areas, faced the ire of residents who complained that no preventive measures were taken to prevent floods after the May 16 incident. Mr. Basavaraj assured them that interventions to prevent flooding were already set into mo-

tion and all works would be completed by March 2023.

Singapura lake, near Vidyananyapura, overflowed and this led to the compound wall of an apartment complex – Commanders' Glory – to collapse flooding the complex. "Water gushed into the apartment complex and this caused the compound wall to collapse. There was knee-deep water on Saturday morning. Now the water inflow has stopped after the civic body brought in a JCB and put a block to stop the flow from the lake," said Anil, a resident of the apartment complex.

The BBMP, in a statement, said there was water logging on several roads in Vidyananyapura and water gushed into over 30 houses in the area.

THE HINDU

# Youth drives car into lake, dies

M.Tech student was on his way to Hassan

STAFF REPORTER  
BENGALURU

A youth was killed in a freak accident when he drove his car into a lake during heavy rains on Friday night in Tavarekere, on the outskirts of the city.

The deceased Prajwal, 24, an M.Tech student and a resident of Nagarabhavi, was driving his friend Ravichandra's car and they were on their way to Hassan when the accident happened.

"While coming near Devamachohalli lake, Prajwal was speeding and took the car to the right of the road and the car fell into the lake. I opened the door and came out swimming. But Prajwal couldn't," Ravichandra said in his com-

plaint to the Tavarekere police.

A senior police official said as the Devamachohalli Road was being widened into a four lane road, there was slush and water logging on the road on Friday night.

## 'No street lights'

"The car driver seems to have not realised that he has taken a steep right turn to the lake, adjoining the road. He may have mistaken it to be water stagnating on the road. Moreover, there are no street lights on the stretch," the police official said.

The Fire and Emergency Services fished out the car and Prajwal's body from the lake on Saturday morning.



NDRF personnel conducting a search operation in a drain for the 24-year-old who was washed away, on Saturday. ■PTI

THE HINDU

# Cases rise, but not many takers for precaution dose

Officials say that there is reluctance towards getting the third dose mainly because people have developed complacency

ASHFAN YASMEEN  
BENGALURU

Less than 50% of the targeted population in the senior citizens category and 3.4% in 18-59 age group due for a precaution (third) dose of the COVID-19 vaccination have been covered so far in the State.

The Centre rolled out precaution dose administration for senior citizens across the country on January 10 and for those in the 18-59 age group on April 10.

**16 districts above average**  
As of June 17, the State had a target population of 37,92,939 in the senior citizens' category and 72,89,471 in 18-59 age group, due for the precaution dose.

According to data from the Co-WIN portal shared by the State Health Department, while the coverage in 16 districts is above the State average of 48% among senior citizens, only two districts (Bengaluru Urban and Mysuru) have achieved more than the State average of 3.4% in

State average in senior citizens' category <b>48%</b>	Highest coverage in Chamarajanagar <b>75%</b>	Lowest coverage in Yadgir <b>26%</b>
Coverage above State average in <b>16</b> districts	Coverage in Bengaluru Urban (inclusive of BBMP) <b>51%</b>	
State average in the 18-59 age group <b>3.4%</b>	Zero coverage in <b>13</b> districts	Highest coverage in Bengaluru Urban (inclusive of BBMP) <b>10%</b>
Lowest coverage in Ballari and Vijayapura <b>0.01%</b>	Coverage above State average in two districts (Bengaluru Urban and Mysuru)	

the 18-59 age group.

In the senior citizens' category, while the highest coverage is in Chamarajanagar where 75% of the target population has been covered, the lowest is in Yadgir that has 26% coverage. In Bengaluru Urban district, inclusive of BBMP, the coverage so far has been 51%. While Chamarajanagar, Kolar and Belagavi have a coverage of above 70%, Ramanagaram is in-

cluding towards 70%.

**Poor response**

The response has been very poor in the 18-59 age group with 13 districts recording zero coverage and an equal number recording less than 1% coverage. The lowest is in Ballari and Vijayapura that have recorded 0.01% and the highest is in Bengaluru Urban where 10% coverage has been achieved. Bengaluru Urban is

followed by Mysuru that has recorded 4.1% coverage, according to data.

Arundathi Chandrashekar, State Mission Director, National Health Mission (NHM), told *The Hindu* on Saturday that there is reluctance towards getting the third dose mainly because people have developed complacency. "After the third wave, COVID-19 was on a decline. Now that cases are rising again, we are hoping people will come forward to get jabbed," she said. "Moreover, many are still not eligible for the third dose as they would not have complet-

ed nine months after the second dose. We have restarted the 'Har Ghar Dastak' campaign from June 1 but the response is yet to pick up," she said.

**Complacency**

C.N. Manjunath, member of the State's Clinical Experts' Committee, said the complacency is mainly because of the mild nature of the third wave. "People are under the impression that the fourth wave will be milder than the third and hospitalisation and deaths will be very low and hence a booster dose is not

required. But, people should know disease severity, hospitalisations and deaths were low in the third wave because of vaccination. With waning immunity, a booster dose is essential," he said.

Taking note of the poor progress, the State's COVID-19 Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) has recommended that the precaution dose drive should be accelerated. While advising the extensive use of mass media to educate people about the need to get the booster shot, the TAC has said NGOs should be involved in mobilising elig-

ible persons for vaccination.

**Vaccination for children**

The State has achieved 104% first dose and 68% second dose coverage in the 12-14 age group. Vijayapura has the highest second dose coverage at 98% while Bengaluru Urban (inclusive of BBMP) has the lowest at 47%. However, in the 15-17 age group, the State has recorded 85% first dose and 78% second dose coverage. Gadag has achieved 101% second dose coverage followed by Kodagu at 92%. Raichur and Mysuru have recorded the lowest at 61%.

THE HINDU

## 750 new COVID-19 cases, zero deaths

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
BENGALURU

Karnataka on Saturday saw 750 new COVID-19 infections taking the total number of cases to 39,60,208. With this, the day's Test Positivity Rate (TPR) rose

to 3.06% and the weekly TPR touched 2.84%.

Of the new cases, 716 have been reported from Bengaluru Urban alone.

With zero deaths, the State's toll rose to 40,070. Besides, 42 deaths of pa-

tients due to non-COVID-19 reasons have also been recorded.

**Active cases**

As many as 425 persons were discharged on Saturday taking the total recov-

eries to 39,15,271. Active cases rose to 4,825.

As many as 24,469 tests were conducted in the last 24 hours, including 18,146 RT-PCR tests. With this, the total number of tests rose to 6,67,33,918.

# India reports 13,216 fresh COVID cases

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**

NEW DELHI

India's COVID-19 tally increased to 4,32,83,793 on Saturday as 13,216 more people tested positive for the virus and the active caseload climbed to 68,108, according to Union Health Ministry data.

This is the first time in 113 days that India has recorded over 13,000 cases. The death toll increased to 5,24,840 with 23 fresh fatalities, the data updated at 8 a.m. said.

The active cases comprise 0.16% of the total infections. The national COVID-19 recovery rate was recorded at 98.63%, the Ministry said.

An increase of 5,045 cases has been recorded in the active COVID-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours. The daily positivity rate was recorded at 2.73% and the weekly positivity rate at 2.47%, the ministry said. The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 4,26,90,845. The case fatality rate stood at 1.21%, it said. The cumulative COVID-19 vaccine doses administered in the country under the nationwide inoculation drive have exceeded 196 crore.



# Covid surge: States, UTs asked to submit more samples for sequencing

**NEW DELHI, PTI:** States and Union Territories have been asked to submit “larger number” of samples for whole genome sequencing from districts and areas which have seen a surge in Covid-19 cases over a period of seven days, official sources said on Saturday.

The direction was issued during Friday’s meeting by the INSACOG which reviewed the Covid-19 data to check the possibility of any new emerging variant or sub-variant and ascertain the reasons behind the breakthrough infections.

“The idea behind asking states and Union Territories to send larger number of samples is to keep a closer watch over the current circulating sublineages of Omicron and its correlation to the current epidemiological picture,” an official said.

“Also, we want to see if we are missing out any important clues regarding newer sub variants during routine sequencing through the sentinel surveillance,” the official added.

As on date, 10 states and Union Territories —Maharashtra, Kerala, Delhi, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, West Bengal and Gujarat—have over 1,000 cases.

“The last review meeting that there is no variant of concern in the country as of now. India now has BA.4 and BA.5 in addition to BA.2 which have slightly higher transmissibility as compared to other Omicron sub lineages,” the official said.

The INSACOG is a joint initiative of the Department of Biotechnology under the ministries of science and technology, and health to carry out genome sequencing of the virus to understand how it spreads and evolves.

Thirty-two districts in India, including 11 from Kerala and five from Maharashtra, are reporting a weekly Covid positivity rate of more than 10% while in 35 districts including 9 from Delhi, the weekly positivity is between 5 and 10%, sources said.

## 13k new cases

India logged a single day rise of 13,216 new coronavirus infections taking the total tally of Covid-19 cases to 4,32,83,793, while the active cases have increased to 68,108, according to health ministry data updated on Saturday morning.

The death toll has climbed to 5,24,840 with 23 new fatalities.

According to health experts although there is a rise in cases, there is no associated increase in hospitalisation or deaths. Also, the increase is limited to a few districts.

The complacency among people towards following Covid-appropriate behaviour in addition to people not being enthusiastic about taking precaution doses possibly has increased the pool of susceptible population. Increased mobility due to summer holidays, easing of travel restrictions and full-fledged opening up of economic activities have also led to the spread of infection among vulnerable individuals.





Rescue teams search for the missing man who fell into a stormwater drain at Gayathri Layout near KR Puram following heavy rain in Bengaluru on Saturday.

DH PHOTO/B K JANARDHAN

## Man missing, woman killed as rains lash city

SNEHA RAMESH  
BENGALURU, DHNS

One person was killed and another went missing in the heavy rain that lashed Bengaluru on Friday night, causing extensive damage in parts of the city.

While a 62-year-old woman was killed when the compound wall of a prestigious apartment in Garudacharpalya collapsed on two asbestos roof houses, a 28-year-old resident of Gayathri Layout in KR Puram was swept away in a storm water drain around 1 am on Saturday when he went to save his motorcycle from being washed away.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai announced compensation of Rs 5 lakh each to the kin of the two victims.

According to the residents of the area, Mithun, the man who was swept away, stepped out to move his motorcycle to safety after hearing the wall of the house collapse. "Unfortunately, he lost balance and was swept away in the drain along with his bike," one of the residents said.

In the Garudacharpalya incident, the woman, Muniyamma, was shifted to a private hospital but died soon after, according to the BBMP.

"We will ensure that the apartment pays compensation to the woman's family," Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Chief



Mithun

Commissioner Tushar Girinath said. Three of her family members also suffered minor injuries and are being treated at a private hospital.

Meanwhile, rescue teams have launched a search for Mithun. "Search operations began as soon as the incident was reported and 10 teams from the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) are on the job," said Girinath.

Mithun's roommates are hoping that he will be found alive. "He is a native of Shivamogga and had come to Bengaluru for studies and eventually took up a job. We do not know how to inform his parents. We are constantly in touch with the rescue teams and are helping them trace Mithun at the earliest," his roommates told *DH*.

A large volume of water has slowed down the search. The teams have not been able to trace him even after 15 hours. A rescue team member told *DH* that the water level had risen by nearly four feet. "The rising water gushed down the road with great force. The drain is too narrow for the huge quantity of water and gets clogged," he said.

Elsewhere, at least 20 two-wheelers were damaged after a wall crashed on them.



## **BBMP chief to work from every zonal office 1 day in a month**

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** In yet another move towards decentralisation and to be accessible to the public, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Chief Commissioner Tushar Girinath has decided to work from every zonal office one day a month between 2 pm and 5 pm.

“I have observed that people are travelling to the head office from far-off places to submit their grievances. Hence to avoid such inconvenience and be accessible to them, I have decided to be available at zonal offices,” Girinath said.

He added the move will help him to inspect the works going on at the zonal level as well.

The Chief Commissioner will work from the East Zonal office every first Tuesday of the month and the West Zonal office every first Friday of the month. He will be available at the South and RR Nagar offices on the second Tuesday and second Friday of every month respectively. On the third Tuesday and third Friday, Girinath plans to work from the Bommanahalli and Mahadevapura Zonal offices respectively. Yelahanka citizens can meet Girinath on the fourth Tuesday and Dasarahalli citizens on the fourth Friday.

# Mahadevapura, Yelahanka zones bear rain brunt

Overflowing SWD floods homes, residents spend night on terrace

SUNIDHI ARAKERE & RAIMA BHAUMIK  
BENGALURU, DHNS:

Heavy showers on Friday night left several areas in the city flooded with Mahadevapura and Yelahanka zones bearing the maximum brunt.

Mahadevapura zone recorded 135 mm of rain between 9 am and 11.30 pm on Friday. At least 400 houses were inundated in Garudachar Palya, Gayathri Layout, Sai Layout, Horamavu, and Guru Layout.

In Yelahanka, many areas including Motherhood Road, Sahakar Nagar, Jakkur Road, Netaji Nagar, Doddabommasandra, Basava Samithi Road, Vidyanarayapura, and



The compound wall of Krishna Theatre in KR Puram collapsed crushing seven to eight bikes that were parked alongside. PHOTO: RAIMA BHAUMIK

Fathima Layout experienced heavy rain. The sharp showers left many roads in the zone flooded. Nearly 30 houses were inundated in Netaji Nagar and Vidyanarayapura.

The overnight showers poured misery on KR Puram and Byatarayanapura. Rainwater gushed into many homes forcing several residents of Gayathri Layout and KR Puram to spend the night on the terrace. All 14 houses on the narrow lane of the area were flooded.

"Repeated calls to Bescom and the police to shut off the fuse boxes

that are below ground level, failed to yield the desired results. We had to switch off the power in each house and sit outside in the dark, said Amit P, a resident.

"Home appliances have been destroyed - TV, sofas, mattresses, documents and everything else. This is the third or fourth time we are experiencing this, but repeated complaints and visits to the office have not helped," Vijayalakshmi, an aggrieved resident, said.

According to the police, several two-wheelers have been washed

away in an overflowing stormwater drain (SWD). The SWD has shrunk and clogged due to encroachment. This, they say, is leading to repeated waterlogging.

Residents in and around Singapur Lake in Byatarayanapura had similar complaints. "A lake in the region breached last night and flooded houses in the vicinity. Many people are stranded in their houses, waiting for the water level to recede," said Bhaskar, an aggrieved resident.

More than seven bikes were damaged after a portion of the compound wall of Krishna Theatre collapsed on them.

## Medical camp

The BBMP has set up a temporary health camp in Gayathri Layout of Basavanapura ward. "We want to prevent the spread of any water-borne diseases like cholera, typhoid, and dengue since there is heavy waterlogging in the area," said Dr Vinuta, one of the doctors at the camp. An ambulance was also stationed nearby to address any emergency.

## SWD encroachment, silt deposit cause floods in KR Puram

**SNEHA RAMESH**  
BENGALURU, DHNS

Rampant Storm Water Drain (SWD) encroachment and lack of desilting measures were the major reasons for the havoc the heavy rains created in KR Puram on Friday night, the residents complain.

Owing to the heavy rains, a 28-year-old boy was washed off into a drain and the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) is yet to trace his whereabouts.

According to the residents, the SWDs, which were once 20-30 feet wide, have now been reduced to nearly eight feet. "KR Puram is a fast-developing area. New layouts have come up and the BBMP has to ensure the bylaws are followed and the SWD area is protected. SWD encroachments are rampant and that is the cause for such incidents. Unless such encroachments are removed, floods will continue," said Balaji Raghatham Bali, a resident.

Yet another resident added that the BBMP had failed to take up regular desilting of the SWDs in the area. "We have alerted the official

multiple times, but desilting activities are not taken up effectively," the resident said.

Bali said the reduced width and encroachments had left the BBMP in a lurch since there is not enough space to bring in the machinery required for desilting. "It is a spiralling effect. Once the SWDs are encroached, there is no space for machinery. Also, the water starts flowing out on to the roads, leading to flash floods," he said.

Though the BBMP officials said that the desilting activities were largely being taken up, they acknowledged that SWD encroachment in the area was evident. "We have been trying to remove SWD encroachments for a long time. However, today we have made sure the markings are done. I have instructed officials to expedite the process of encroachment removal," said Dr Trilok Chandra, BBMP special commissioner (Mahadevapura).

"Desilting work has been going on. However, a few drains may have been left out and we will make sure they are cleaned," said Lokesh M, BBMP chief engineer (SWD).



**Residents attempt to salvage a two-wheeler from an overflowing storm water drain at Gayathri Layout on Saturday.** DH PHOTO/B K JANARDHAN



## Covid: City tops state with 716 cases

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** The Bengaluru Urban district accounted for 716 out of 750 new Covid-19 cases reported in Karnataka, according to the official government bulletin released on Saturday. There were zero deaths.

With this, the total number of Covid cases has touched 39,60,208 in the state. The

day's test positivity rate stood at 3.06%. With zero deaths, the state's Covid toll remains at 40,070.

As many as 425 people were discharged on Saturday, taking the total recoveries to 39,15,271. The number of active cases in the state is now 4,825. A total of 24,469 tests were conducted in the last 24 hours.

## TAKING A STANCE

# Whose mosque is it anyway?

**After hijab & halal, Hindu groups lay claim on mosques even as ruling BJP stays away**

**AKRAM MOHAMMED**  
BENGALURU, DHNS

As the embers in the Gyanvapi mosque dispute in Uttar Pradesh were being fanned, right-wing groups in Karnataka got busy laying claim on several mosques in the state, with the ruling BJP maintaining a safe distance.

Mosques such as the Jamia Masjid in Srirangapatna, Malali Masjid near Mangaluru and Peer Pasha Dargah in Bidar, the groups contended, were built by demolishing Hindu temples.

While there were demonstrations held and petitions submitted to claim these structures as their own, the Hindu Jagarana Vedike released a list of 1,860 Islamic places of worship across India alleging that they were built by demolishing temples.

This list identified 191 mosques, dargahs, forts and mazars in different parts of Karnataka - the world famous Gol Gumbaz, forts at Bidar, Kalaburagi and Raichur among others - as being either 'temple sites', 'built on top of temples', 'temple materials used', 'ancient Hindu city converted' and so on.

Now, the Eidgah Grounds in Bengaluru's Chamarajpet is the latest to hog the limelight.



Observers note that Hindu groups are pursuing such sensitive issues despite Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) Sarashanghachalak Mohan Bhagwat's stand against "trying to find Shivlings in every mosque."

BJP leaders got involved in the Hubballi Eidgah and the Chikkamagaluru Baba Budangiri aka Datta Peeta cases. But, the party as such has kept away from the recent claims. However, some of its lawmakers such as Abhay Patil in Belagavi and Sharanu Salagar in Kalaburagi have made their assertions in the past few weeks.

According to observers, such developments are a sign of how the BJP is preparing ground for elections next year, given that 'communal' issues have made headlines since the turn of 2022.

Phaniraj of the Karnataka Communal Harmony Forum says that such communal incidents are along the lines of the 'Uttar Pradesh model' under which there is a sustained violence against minorities. "It is not like the communal riots of the past where

curfew has to be imposed for four to five days. The model has changed," he says.

"Heightening communal tensions in the state started with the Hijab row, followed by calls to ban Muslim traders selling wares near Hindu temples. Then there was issue of loudspeakers installed at mosques," he notes, adding that the agitation against mosques is a part of this sustained agenda.

A section of Christians, on the other hand, is worried about the Karnataka Protection of Right to Freedom of Religion Act, known as the anti-conversion law, which is currently in force through an ordinance. Now that the BJP has a majority in the Legislative Council, the party will look to push for passage of the law.

Karnataka Congress working president Saleem Ahmed is of the view that BJP is resorting to "communal tactics" fearing an imminent defeat in the 2023 polls. "Congress has done well in all the recent elections. BJP knows that it won't cross more than 60 seats in the 2023 polls," he says.

Karnataka BJP general secretary Mahesh Tenginakayi says the party is not involved in any row related to mosques.

"The party has not and will not make it an issue," he says. Statements made by MLAs are "their personal stand", he adds.

It can be seen that Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, who is presiding over the goings-on, gets ticked off when the pursuits of the 'fringe' elements are placed before him.

He has politely admonished journalists several times for asking questions on subjects other than development, the plank he wants to go to polls on.

# Heavy rain lashes B'luru for 2 hours, claims three lives

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Bengaluru:** Heavy rain across Bengaluru on Friday night killed three people, damaged over 75 vehicles and flooded many residential localities in eastern and northern areas of the city.

While Mithun Kumar, a civil engineer with a private

► **Assam floods, landslides kill 17 in 24 hours, P 9**  
► **FULL COVERAGE | PAGE 2**

firm, was washed away in an overflowing stormwater drain in KR Puram, Muniyamma, 62, succumbed to injuries following a wall collapse in Mahadevapura. An MTech student Prajwal died after his car plunged into a flooded lake near Magadi.

Several bikes were damaged after a compound wall of the four-decade-old Krishna Theatre in KR Puram collapsed. More than 25 cars were submerged as water filled up basement parking in several

K Sunil Prasad



**NIGHTMARE RETURNS:** Sri Sai Layout in Horamavu Agara flooded after Friday night's rain

apartment complexes in and around Whitefield.

KV Trilok Chandra, zonal commissioner (BBMP), Mahadevapura, said the problem was largely due to heavy rainfall in a span of two hours. "Between 9pm and 11.30pm, about 135 mm rainfall was recorded in Mahadevapura limits," he said.

According to officials of the Indian Meteorological Department, Bengaluru received over 15cm of rainfall through Friday night.

# 2 youths, homemaker die as walls collapse and lakes overflow in rain

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Bengaluru:** A sudden decision to visit an ailing relative in Hassan on a rainy night ended tragically for MTech student Prajwal on Friday. Driving to Hassan along with his friend via Magadi, Prajwal lost control of the car and met a watery grave when the vehicle veered into a lake near Tavarekere, on the outskirts of Bengaluru.

Police suspect that due to heavy rain, Prajwal lost sight of the road and control of the car as the Deva Mochohalli Lake overflowed. A student of SJB Institute of Technology in Uttarahalli, Prajwal was from Arkalgud in Hassan and stayed in a rented accommodation at Sunkadakatte.

"He called me around 8pm asking for my car to visit one of his ailing relatives. He came to our farmhouse near Deva Machohalli along with other friends and parked his bike. While they all left, we chose to drive to Hassan and he offered to take the wheel," Prajwal's friend Ravichandra said in his complaint.

"As we drove past the lake in heavy rain, around 11pm, he lost control of the car and it suddenly veered towards the right and drifted into the depths of the lake. I jumped out of the vehicle and swam back to the road. People from some vehicles that were passing by shifted me to a nearby hospital and informed police," he said.



**NO BREAKTHROUGH:** Civil engineer Mithun lost his balance and was washed away in an SWD in KR Puram as he attempted to salvage his bike, which was caught under debris when a wall collapsed. Four teams with 60 personnel searched Seegehalli Lake for him on Saturday, but in vain

## Washed away in SWD while trying to retrieve bike

Similarly, while trying to retrieve his two-wheeler from under the rubble of a compound wall built adjacent to a stormwater drain (SWD), civil engineer **Mithun**, 24, lost his balance and was washed away in the drain in KR Puram limits.



Hailing from Adaranthe in Sagartaluk of Shivamogga, Mithun was staying at Gayatrinagar in KR Puram with his friends.

"We woke up to the loud sound of the wall collapse and saw two motorbikes buried under the debris. As he was trying to pull out the bike by standing on the platform wall, the ground beneath

me collapsed because of the strong force of flooding water and pulled him in. Even though I rushed to his help and held his fist, he slipped. As the others watched, Mithun and his motorbike were washed away in the flooding waters," his friend Chandan said.

Trying to retrieve Mithun's body, a team of personnel from the fire and emergency services, civil defence force, and State Disaster Response Force were on a search mission in the 31-acre Seegehalli Lake on Saturday. Four teams with around 60 personnel searched the waterbody for Mithun, but in vain.

In another incident, when the wall of their house began collapsing, V Muniyamma and her son Muniraju woke up and rushed outside to gather whatever they could from

the side of the wall. "It was still raining heavily and we were unable to see anything. In a few seconds, the debris had fallen over my mother. With great difficulty, we pulled her out and rushed her to a hospital," Muniraju said.

However, Muniyamma succumbed to injuries at a private hospital. Zonal commissioner KV Trilok Chandra said: "Three other family members injured during the same incident are being treated. The BBMP will bear the treatment costs."

The fire and emergency services control room (101) received at least 150 rain-related calls from different parts of the city. According to a rough estimate, at least 250 two-wheelers and 120 cars were either damaged or partially submerged in the night-long rain.



Pics: K Sunil Prasad

## EXPECT MORE RAIN, THUNDERSHOWERS

The southwest monsoon progressing over south-interior Karnataka districts, including Bengaluru, is expected to bring heavy showers along with thunderstorms. According to the forecast issued by IMD, Bengaluru and adjoining districts are likely to witness heavy rainfall in isolated parts along with thundershowers over the next two days.

"The monsoon is active, especially over Bengaluru and adjoining districts of South Karnataka. The situation will continue with the same intensity for 24-48 hours," said an IMD official.



# Battered by floods again, Sai Layout residents fume

Pavan Kumar Pateel | TNN

**Bengaluru:** Barely a month after they faced the fury of pre-monsoon showers, residents of Sri Sai Layout and Vaddarapalya on Hennur Main Road were yet again at the receiving end on Friday night when their areas were flooded with knee-deep water. Thirty other nearby localities were also left marooned.

Battered by back-to-back rain, residents of Sri Sai Layout slammed elected representatives and the government. "A few weeks ago, the entire government machinery descended here. If they had acted swiftly in the last two days, they could have resolved the flooding problem. Several residents complained about snakes slithering into their households. We request officials and politicians not to pay token visits but do something concrete so that the area doesn't get affected next time," said Dayanand, chairperson of Sai Baba temple at the layout.

Arun, a marketing execu-



K Sunil Prasad

**KNEE-DEEP IN TROUBLE:** About 300 houses were flooded with 2-3ft of water in Sri Sai Layout during the Friday night downpour

tive, said: "We spent the entire night pumping out water. Ministers, MLAs and engineers had come here last month but nothing has changed."

At least 300 houses were flooded with 2-3 feet of water. In Guru Layout, more than 250 houses were submerged, residents said.

In Yelahanka zone, Motherhood Road, Sahakarnagar, Jakkur Road, Nethaji Nagar, Basava Samiti Road in Doddabommasandra, Vidyanarayapura and Fathima Layout were affected by the over-

flowing stormwater. Singapura Lake was filled to the brim and excess water flooded 50 houses nearby.

BBMP officials told STOI that Mahadevapura and Yelahanka zones were badly affected by the rain. Chief commissioner Tushar Giri Nath said Rs 25,000 compensation will be given to the affected families. "We were in the process of desilting side drains, but work cannot be completed on all roads in 30 days. It will take some more time to clear the mess."

# 40 bikes damaged as wall comes crashing at KR Puram theatre

**Bengaluru:** Several youngsters, who had gone to watch a movie at the four-decade-old Krishna theatre in KR Puram, were dumbstruck when they saw their bikes buried under the rubble of a huge compound wall that collapsed in heavy rain on Friday night. More than 40 bikes were damaged in the incident.

Sanjay DV, 23, who had gone to watch a movie with his family, told **STOI** two of his vehicles — a Royal Enfield bike and a Deo — are still under the rubble. “The show began at 9.30pm and we stepped out of the theatre at 12.30am. We were shocked to see the entire wall had collapsed on our vehicles. The incident may have happened between 11.30pm and 11.45pm, but no one at the theatre bothered to inform us,” said Sanjay, adding that many bike owners rushed to



**REDUCED TO RUBBLE**

KR Puram police station and filed a complaint.

“We reached home by 4am. However, the theatre owner is yet to give us an explanation,” said Sanjay, who has incurred a loss of more than Rs 2 lakh. “Our vehicles are mangled, the chassis is bro-

ken. We have no idea how to recover them.”

Kiran P, a techie whose Bajaj Avenger bike was damaged, said the victims have neither received a copy of the FIR nor got answers from the theatre authorities. Speaking from the accident spot on Saturday, he expressed disappointment that not even a slab has been removed from the rubble 12 hours later. His bike was worth Rs 1.2 lakh.

The victims said the incident might be brushed off as a natural calamity and they might not get any help or compensation. A bike owner, who wished to remain anonymous, said: “If the theatre owner knew the compound wall was in bad condition, why did he allow parking of vehicles? They charge us for parking and then say they are not responsible.” **TNN**

K Sunil Prasad

# 7 malls owe BBMP ₹46cr property tax

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Bengaluru:** Seven malls in the city have defaulted on property tax to the tune of over Rs 46 crore, BBMP special commissioner (revenue) Deepak RL said.

According to data shared by the Palike's revenue section, Mantri Square is the biggest defaulter with dues of Rs 27 crore. The mall has not paid tax since 2019. Now, officials are in talks with the finance departments of the malls to collect the pending amount.

Rock Line mall on Tuma-kuru Road has not paid property tax since 2016. It owes the BBMP Rs 6.6 crore. Royal Meenakshi Mall is the third biggest defaulter with dues of Rs 5 crore. The others on the list are GT World, Virginia, and Total Mall.

Deepak said the civic agency is making efforts to collect dues from these defaulters. Earlier, BBMP had closed Mantri mall, but as it causes

## TRACKING DUES



## ZONAL PICTURE OVER THE YEARS

Zone	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23*
Yelahanka	121.8	106.8	189.1
Mahadevapura	412.9	367.2	548.5
Dasarahalli	44.4	38.2	61.7
RR Nagar	110.8	93.3	137.7
Bommanahalli	157.9	140.5	205.1
South	274	225.9	332.3
West	181.1	148.7	229.7
East	311.9	275.2	395.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,614.8</b>	<b>1,395.8</b>	<b>2,100</b>

Source: BBMP; figures in ₹ crore \* Till June 16

inconvenience to the public such action is not being taken now. "We are hopeful of collec-

ting the money," he said.

Asked if there is pressure from politicians not to take ac-

tion against the defaulters, he said, "So far, I have not come under any pressure. We are dealing with them like any other defaulters."

## In a record, agency nets tax of ₹2.1k crore

This fiscal (till June 16), BBMP has collected nearly Rs 2,100 crore property tax, its highest so far.

In 2020-21, the collection was Rs 1,615 crore, while the figure plummeted to Rs 1,396 crore in 2021-22. The slip was attributed to the pandemic.

Data shows Mahadevapura tops the list and is followed by East and South zones. The special commissioner said all officials were given targets locally and this helped increase the revenue. He said BBMP will analyse the performance of officials with regard to their efficiency in collection and they will be ranked accordingly. Poor performers will be asked to work hard to achieve the targets.

# Cars, bikes float in muddy waters in apartments

Farheen.Hussain@timesgroup.com

**Bengaluru:** The unprecedented heavy rain in Mahadevapura resulted in the flooding of basements at several apartment complexes in Whitefield.

The sudden downpour in less than two hours on Friday night left the parking areas of many of these apartments submerged, with cars and bikes floating in muddy waters. While the residents of Paranjape Windfields on Yemalur Road in Bellandur woke up in shock at around 1.30am on hearing the loud noise of a tree collapsing on their

premises, those at Elegant Aster in Geddalahalli, Kothanur, were rattled as 30-40 cars parked in the basement were found floating in water.

A resident of Paranjape Windfields told STOI their compound wall adjacent to HAL airport gave way to a stream of gushing water, leaving over 50 cars submerged in the basement parking area. "The loud noise woke us up and we rushed downstairs. Even though we wanted to save our cars, we could not step out because of the strong force of the flooding water."

Many residents said they had bo-

ught these cars only six months ago. They added that they called the BBMP helpline but received no response until 6am on Saturday. "Even now, water is being pumped out at a snail's pace," one resident said. "The neighbouring apartment was constructed on a storm-water drain (SWD) by laying huge pipes. This can choke anytime soon. The rajakaluve carries a lot of water from HAL area."

The sudden flooding of basement areas had many residents worried that water might reach the first floor.

George John, a resident of Elegant

Aster, said they spent half of Friday night manually pushing their cars out of the flooded basement. "BBMP's work in the area has left our apartment in a low-lying zone. This means it always ends up with flooding of our apartment basement," he said, adding that 30-40 cars are now parked on the side-roads of the locality.

A resident of Basavasamithi Layout in Vidyananyapura ward also complained about how 200 families were affected because of a dysfunctional SWD. Their homes were flooded with overflowing drainwater at 3am.

# Ahead of PM's visit, potholed road gets sudden makeover

Pics: Syed Asif

## Officials Had Ignored Many Citizen Complaints

Syed.Asif@timesgroup.com

**Bengaluru:** Thousands of vehicle users who travel on the road linking Kommaghatta and Kengeri are thanking Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Reason: The road, dotted with potholes and broken stretches for several years, has got a facelift ahead of his visit.

"Our pleas for the last three years to carry out road-work fell on deaf ears, but the PM's visit (on Monday) forced civic officials to repair the road overnight. We are thankful to Modi," a group of road users told **STOI** on Saturday. Modi will participate in a public event on Monday near Kommaghatta and is scheduled to take Shivakumara Swami Road to reach the venue.

Apart from the road being asphalted, drains with broken slabs have been repaired and replaced and the entire stretch has been given a swanky look. While the complete transformation of the road in no time has made residents happy, many are fuming at elected representatives and Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike over the latter's cavalier attitude.

Jagadeesh, a businessman from the locality, said: "We've been complaining about the poor condition of roads for over three years and no official responded to any of our queries. But look at it now. A brief visit by the PM has made all the difference. If they could do



**SWANKY LOOK:** Apart from the road linking Kommaghatta and Kengeri being asphalted, drains with broken slabs have been repaired and replaced and the whole stretch given a clean look

### BOMMAI INSPECTS VENUES

Chief minister Basavaraj Bommai on Saturday inspected the venues and reviewed preparations ahead of the PM's visit. He first visited the Indian Institute of Science campus and then Ambedkar School of Economics at Jnanabharathi campus. Bommai inspected the venue of Modi's public meeting near Kommaghatta in Yeshwantpur and shared details of his programme in Bengaluru and Mysuru. Bommai said Modi will land at Yelahanka Airforce Station at 11.55am on Monday and take a chopper to various places.



**SAFETY CHECK:** Bomb squad personnel check the venue at Kommaghatta ahead of the PM's visit

this for him, why couldn't they do it for the people of Bengaluru? The high court has pulled them upon so many occasions. Yet they remained silent. But now, work is happening on a war footing!"

Another resident said the way officials are working now shows they just want to impress their political bosses and don't care about the plight of common citizens. Some other residents said adjacent cross-roads and parallel stretches are still riddled with potholes while officials have focused solely on the main road.

### Pipeline work incomplete, yet road asphalted

People at Kengeri said the Cauvery 5th stage pipeline work has not been completed but officials have asphalted the road in a hush-hush manner. "If you come a week later, you will see the entire asphalted stretch being dug up again to lay sanitary pipelines. What was the need to spend taxpayers' money on temporary work? If officials were so serious, they should have completed pipeline work and then asphalted the road," said Hanumanthe Gowda, a resident.

### HOLIDAY FOR SCHOOLS

Higher education institutions located in the proximity of Modi's travel route will be shut on Monday due to security reasons. Higher education minister CN Ashwath Narayan said a government order was issued on Saturday. The holiday will apply to higher educational institutions near IISc, Goraguntepalya, CMTI, Ring Road, Nayanahalli, Mysuru Road, RV College, Nagarabavi, MEI junction, Govardhan Talkies, Yeshwantpur and Jakkur Aerodrome route, he said.

# Monsoon Mayhem

1 death, crumbling infra, flooded roads, courtesy BBMP



Debris blocks Rajakaluve near Marathahalli

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Last month, many parts of the city were marooned due to heavy rainfall, testing monsoon preparedness of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike with heavy pre-monsoon showers.

However, in the last few weeks, there has been hardly any ground preparation as many areas were flooded again on Friday night due to heavy monsoon showers. The area around Deepa Nursing Home in Marathahalli was flooded within just one hour of rainfall on Friday.

"The BBMP has not learnt any lessons. After making big announcements, they have clearly failed. If they had cleared the debris from the rajakaluve, the rainwater could have easily drained. However, with debris blocking the flow, the rainwater got diverted to nearby areas and flooded the low lying houses. Monsoon is just beginning; if the BBMP fails to act at least now, then more misery is in store," said Krishna H, a resident of Marathahalli.

"For almost two decades, the rajakaluve has not been desilted despite our pleas. People are so fed up with waterlogging

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 12 >>**

# 'BBMP has failed Bangaloreans'

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

that they are spending lakhs of rupees to raise the foundation height of their homes," he added.

Sai Layout, badly affected during the pre-monsoon showers last month, was flooded again on Friday night. A resident said, "Whenever it starts pouring, we are scared. With no alternative arrangements, we get marooned every rainfall."

Many residents complained that they were scared to stay inside as snakes had entered homes along with the floodwater. People had a tough time on Saturday as there was knee-deep water on the road; many were seen pushing their bikes to move to safer places. A woman biker said, "I was stuck in knee deep water and scared to go ahead."

Meanwhile in KR Puram, moviegoers had a tough time. Twenty four bikes parked near the Krishna theatre were damaged as a compound wall collapsed.

A biker said, "I had parked my bike to watch the second show. As I returned at around 11.30 pm, I was shocked to see my bike completely damaged. I paid for the parking ticket; I want the theatre owner to pay compensation. Many women had come to watch movies; they had a tough time returning home without their vehicles. Most of us stayed at the theatre till 4:00 am and then headed to a nearby police station, lodged a police complaint against the theatre owner."

Many residents in SR Layout had sleepless nights. Kamamma, a 60-year old said, "At around 1:00 am on Saturday, rainwater gushed into the house. There was no one at home except me and my granddaughter. We had to stand on the cot to save ourselves. Most of the equipment was damaged. The area is flood prone but this time was the worst as the water force was such that it entered even through the windows. We don't have water to



**Horamavu's Sai Layout flooded again in Friday's rain; Water flowing on the roads in Horamavu; Vehicles damaged in wall collapse at Shree Krishna Theatre on Miller's Road**

Layout, Sai Layout and Guru Layout. Water-logging was also reported from Sahakar Nagar Main Road, Jakkur Road, Netaji Nagar, Doddabommasandra, Vidyanarayana and Fatima Layout.

BBMP officials blamed heavy rainfall. According to reports, Mahadevapura reported 13.5 cm rainfall in just 2.5 hours (9 pm to 11.30 pm) on Friday.

## More rain

The Met department has predicted scattered very light to moderate rain in Bengaluru for the next two days. The temperature is likely to stay between a high of 30 and a low of 19 degree Celsius respectively. The Southwest monsoon was active over interior Karnataka. Rainfall occurred at most places over coastal Karnataka and at many places in interior Karnataka. Hesaraghatta recorded 11 cm rainfall, GKVK 10 cm, HAL airport ITC Jala 5 cm each.

drink now."

## 1 dead, 1 missing

A 62-year old woman was severely injured when a company compound fell on her house at Kaveri Nagar in Garuda-charpalya. She died after failing to respond to treatment in a private hospital. Three of her family members also sustained injuries.

Mithun, a 24-year-old youth was washed away in rajakaluve waters. He lost control when he was trying to recover his bike which was washed away by the flood waters at Gayatri Layout in Basavanapura. He could not be traced till Saturday evening. Water inundation was reported in more than 400 homes at Garuda-charpalya, Gayatri

# All hands on deck to give PM grand welcome

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**C**hief Minister Basavaraj Bommai is leaving no stone unturned to make Prime Minister Narendra Modi's state visit a grand success. Preparations are in full swing for the two-day affair on June 20 and 21. "We have made all the preparations to make it a grand success," Bommai said.

The Chief Minister was speaking to media persons after inspecting the preparations at Kommaghatta grounds in Yeshwanthpur constituency where the Prime Minister is scheduled to address a public rally.

"We have received his tour schedule. All of us including our senior leader DV Sadananda Gowda, my ministerial colleagues, and the MLAs of Bengaluru are working to ensure that the programmes are conducted efficiently. The officials from BDA, BBMP, and the police too are working in association with the SPG to ensure



A hoarding welcoming PM Narendra Modi seen on Hebbal flyover

fool-proof security for the Prime Minister," Bommai said.

## PM's schedule

Modi is scheduled to arrive at 11:55 am at Yelahanka airbase and reach the Indian Institute of Science by helicopter to participate in two programs. He is set to inaugurate the Brain Cell Research Centre estab-

lished at a cost of Rs 450 crore by Kris Gopalakrishnan and lay the foundation stone for an 850 bed Research Hospital being built by MindTree.

## Foundations to be laid

Apart from laying the foundation for the Rs 15,000 crore suburban rail project, Modi will be launching six rail-

way projects. He is also scheduled to lay the foundation stone for the Satellite Town Ring Road connecting Dabaspet on Tumakuru Road with Old Madras Road near Hosakote. Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari agreed to provide special concessions for the project. After launching these projects, the Prime Minister will address a public rally at Kommaghatta, Bommai said.

## A grand success

Bommai said, "The preparations are in full swing. A huge gathering is expected for the Prime Minister's programs. So, all the arrangements are being made to ensure that all the programs turn out to be grand successes."

## Covid testing

Those participating in public programmes need to show their covid vaccination certificate, and those who turn up for the programs in indoor halls need to get tested again for Covid, Bommai said.

# E-Aasthi to go digital

It will ensure more transparency and reduce frauds



BBMP is now planning to gradually extend e-Aasthi from East to South and West zones of the city

**Sridhar Vivan**  
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TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

**Y**ou may soon get your e-Aasthi khata in your digilocker as now Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has decided to bring in more transparency in issuing khatas.

Khata is an important document with all the important details of the property including owner's name, tax and property details. The paper format can be tampered with, it has been decided to digitise the property documents.

BBMP's Special Commissioner (Revenue) Deepak said, "We have introduced e-Aasthi which is part of the online property management system. Currently, we are populating the properties in the system with all the relevant data. This is greatly beneficial not just for the property owners but even for those who want to buy property."

This will be beneficial to buyers as well. They can easily extract documents from the digilocker. "If you are planning to buy the property, then with e-Aasthi, you can check the owner's name, photo, property details etc. You don't require files to maintain it safely and instead ex-

tract the document in your mobile phone with a touch," he added.

He informed Bangalore Mirror that earlier khata were issued with master khata which were issued manually. But BBMP has different plans for the future. "Now, we have plans to add 42 features for your e-Aasthi which includes photographs of the owner and property and other details, location and extent etc. The digitisation is definitely a time consuming process but eventually we want to digitise every property. We are now planning to tie up with Bangalore One centres for citizen interaction and e-Aasthi details with a nominal fee in the east zone.

As of now, we have e-Aasthi in the East zone," he said.

BBMP is also planning to gradually extend to the South and West zones. "Once this is done, this would mean that we have covered e-Aasthi in the core area. Then, we can head to peripheral areas and then take e-Aasthi to digi locker," he added.

The e-Aasthi was first introduced in the East zone. First, it was piloted at Shantinagar constituency and then extended to JC Nagar, Hebbal, Shivajinagar, Vasanth Nagar, Pulikeshinagar etc.

The photographs of the owner and property will stop fraudulent activities. "Revenue officials should personally inspect the location, take pictures and upload it. In peripheral areas, we are not as comfortable with computerisa-

**E-Aasthi in the digilocker is an effort made by BBMP to reduce tampering of paperwork**

tion as many areas have been added from erstwhile CMC and TMCs and we need to follow SOP. The ultimate goal is that khata should be delivered to digilocker. We have already identified 10 revenue officials as master trainers to take this project forward in west and south zones. These master trainers have trained 100 plus officials. We have added 42 features to prevent tampering. We may also plan for biometrics in the future to make it a robust system so that no one tampers," Deepak said.

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**Problems in your area?**

Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

» **Clear the road**

**JP Nagar**



Half of the road at 26th Main, JP Nagar 1st phase is occupied by garbage and faces traffic jams. Construction material and parking also makes it difficult for the elderly and children to move around.

» **Cable tangle**

**RT Nagar**



BESCOM cables lying around at RMU Unit, Manorayanapalaya, RT Nagar. They have not been cleared despite complaints.

» **Road danger**

**Ranga Rao Road**



This is the state of Ranga Rao Road, Shankarpura since the past four months.



# BWSSB has found culprit behind flooding. It's YOU

## Homeowners will soon be fined for diverting rainwater into sewage lines

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

In a bid to find a solution to sewage overflowing onto roads, BWSSB officials will be clamping down on homeowners that are diverting rainwater into sewage lines instead of stormwater drains.

Officials say that the practice can be ascertained to be one of the key reasons for flooding in the city with just a short spell of rain.

Sewage can be commonly seen gushing out of manholes, flooding the streets, and posing a health-risk to residents. Continued flooding on streets could also lead to wear and tear of the roads and prove risky for motorists to traverse through the murky water.

An inspection led to BWSSB officials discovering that people are using drainage pipes for diverting rainwater from their premises.

BWSSB Principal Chief Engineer, Suresh B, said, "Any rainwater should go through the stormwater drain alone and not the UGD line. In some areas, rainwater is passing through the UGD line or the pipes have been interlinked. The UGD line is designed to only hold sewage from households and any additional rainwater is overwhelming the system. UGD pipes start from 4 inches, increase to 9 inches, and expand into 330 diameters, finally leading to our STP. After reaching full capacity, the sewage starts leaking onto the streets."

Officials highlighted this taking place in areas like Chickpet and



Sewage gushes out of manholes and floods the streets soon after a short spell of rain in some areas

**“ Any rainwater should go through the stormwater drain and not the UGD line. In some areas, rainwater is passing through the UGD line**

—Suresh B, BWSSB Principal Chief Engineer

Cottonpete that do not have adequate stormwater drains.

BWSSB will conduct a survey spanning over 6 months to identify the culprits. While the survey has been finalised, officials noted that the investigation will be conducted parallelly along with regular meter-reading and arrears collection drives, and clarified that a special drive won't be conducted for the survey.

"The survey has begun and we are inspecting connections in houses across the city. A survey will be conducted in all service station areas. We have seen the violations are more prominent in congested areas and supported by narrow roads. Due to the vast area under the survey, it could take at least 6 months for completion," said Suresh.

After identifying the violators,

BWSSB will start issuing notices to individual homeowners and penalties will be imposed. However, BWSSB has still not finalised the penalty amount that will be levied.

### Rain-water harvesting

Suresh added that a lot of rainwater is also being wasted by residents which can be re-utilised through rainwater harvesting. "We have been insisting on homeowners engaging in rainwater harvesting as it will help in easing the burden on stormwater drains as well. Rainwater can be collected and reused for daily needs," added Suresh.

# Rain horror in B'luru: One dead, another washed away



Fire and Emergency Service and NDRF personnel launch a joint search operation for 28-year-old Mithun (right), who was washed away at KR Puram in Bengaluru on Friday night | EXPRESS

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
@ Bengaluru

AN elderly woman died and a 28-year-old man was washed away in a storm water drain when heavy rains lashed Bengaluru on Friday night. The deceased Muniyamma, 62, was killed after a wall of her house in Cauvery Nagar collapsed due to the impact of the rains and heavy winds. Two other persons suffered minor injuries in the incident.

In another tragic incident, a man, 28, was washed away after he slipped and fell into a storm

water drain in KR Puram while trying to retrieve his bike which fell into the drain. Bikes of four bachelors staying in the area fell into the drain when a compound wall of a house adjoining the drain collapsed.

According to Urban Development Minister Byrathi Basavaraj, 50 NDRF personnel are engaged in search operation. "The victim is from Shivamogga and his father has arrived. Rs 5 lakh compensation will be given to the deceased and the homes which are severely impacted will be given Rs 25,000 each," said Basavaraj. **PS**



A wall damaged in Singapura Layout as the Singapura Lake overflowed due to heavy rain on Friday night | ASHISHKRISHNA HP

# Woman dies after apartment compound wall collapses

**CITY GETS 181.6 MM RAIN**

According to the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), in the last 24 hours Bengaluru City received 43.1 mm rainfall and its observatory in HAL recorded 55.2 mm rainfall. For the month of June, 87 mm is the normal rainfall but so far the City has already received 181.6 mm rainfall.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 1

AS many as 24 two-wheelers parked in the premises of Krishna theatre were damaged after the compound wall collapsed. According to Mahadevapura Joint Commissioner, Venkatachalapathy, in Mahadevpura Zone's Horamavu areas, 135 mm rainfall was recorded due to which areas like Cauvery Nagar, Sai Layout, Gayathri Layout, Basavanapura and Vijnapura flooded.

BBMP Commissioner Tushar Girinath said the Palike launched a search operation for the missing man since Friday night. SDRF was approached and they have formed 10 teams. In another incident, a Godrej apartment compound wall collapsed and as a result an aged woman died. "We have told that the apartment residents will have to compensate", he said. In Pai and Sai Layout, it keeps flooding as there are no proper storm water drains. BDA is working on building a big drain. The commissioner also said that in Friday night rains, areas in Jakkur and Yelahanka surroundings also were impacted and flooding of homes was reported.

# Palike's contingency plans under fire

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

@ Bengaluru

THE torrential rain had left Bengaluru marooned and claimed lives which spark a question, especially ahead of PM Narendra Modi's visit, whether the BBMP is capable of handling emergency situation.

BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Girinath said that all storm water drains have been cleared and eliminated chances of major incidents. "The Palike's efforts of clearing the drains in advance have paid off since only a few low-lying areas have seen flooding," Girinath said, adding that in some places like the Pai and Sai Layouts and other areas, the storm water drains are being developed which may take

some time.

However, urban expert Ashwin Mahesh has a different opinion and said that Palike has zero preparedness but only a response mechanism for such situations. "Can you imagine that Palike has no contingency plan for emergencies at night. They claim there is a plan but are exposed when crisis arises."

According to reports, CM Basavaraj Bommai, Revenue department and the Disaster management held a meeting a month in advance just before monsoon arrived. The Deputy Commissioners were instructed to keep personnel and equipment ready to handle flood-like situations and prepare community halls to convert it to temporary shelter during floods.

## PM VISIT: PREPARATION IN FULL SWING

Bengaluru: Ahead of PM's visit to Karnataka, CM Basavaraj Bommai visited Kommaghatta on the outskirts of Bengaluru to oversee the preparations. Bommai told the media that the PM will arrive at Yelhanka Air Force Station at 11:55 am on Monday and will reach Command centre. From there, Modi will reach IISc and take part in two events — inaugurate the Brain Cell Development Centre and a 850-bed research hospital. From there he will reach Kommaghatta on a helicopter to lay the foundation stone for Bengaluru Suburban Railway Project, road projects, and multi-modal logistic parks. As per CM, six railway projects will be launched along with National Highway projects, and foundation will be laid for Satellite Town Ring Road (STRR) from Dobuspet to Hoskote by PM. "It is gift from PM to Bengaluru," said Bommai. He further added that PM will be heading to Dr B R Ambedkar School of Economics to unveil the statue of Dr B R Ambedkar and inaugurate the institute. Later, Modi will leave to Mysuru to participate in several events.

DURATION OF PANDEMIC	CASES REPORTED	DEATHS	DISCHARGES						
<b>2 YEARS, 102 DAYS</b>	■ <b>750</b>	■ <b>0</b>   ◀ <b>2</b>	■ <b>425</b>   ◀ <b>503</b>	B'turu Urban: 716	Chamarajanagar: 0	Dharwad: 4	Kolar: 0	Shivamogga: 5	
	◀ <b>634</b>	<b>POSITIVITY RATE</b> ■ <b>5.94%</b>   ◀ <b>5.94%</b>		B'turu Rural: 0	Chiklaballapur: 0	Gadag: 0	Koppal: 0	Tumakuru: 0	
	<b>TALLY</b> ■ <b>39,60,208</b>		<b>MORTALITY RATE</b> ■ <b>1.01%</b>   ◀ <b>1.01%</b>		Bagalkot: 1	Chikkamagaluru: 0	Hassan: 0	Mandya: 0	Udupi: 6
■ <b>TODAY</b>	◀ <b>39,59,458</b>	<b>ACTIVE CASES</b> ■ <b>4,825</b> ▶ <b>4,500</b>	<b>RECOVERY RATE</b> ■ <b>98.86%</b> ▶ <b>98.87%</b>		Ballari: 2	Chitradurga: 0	Haveri: 0	Mysuru: 8	Uttara Kannada: 0
◀ <b>YESTERDAY</b>			Belagavi: 2	D.Kannada: 7	Kalaburagi: 0	Raichur: 0	Vijayapura: 0		
				Bidar: 0	Davanagere: 0	Kodagu: 0	Ramanagara: 0	Yadgir: 0	

