



**BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
BANGALORE**

**ENGLISH NEWS PAPER
CLIPPINGS**

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INDEX

1. THE HINDU
2. DECCAN HERALD
3. TIMES OF INDIA
4. BANGALORE MIRROR
5. THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS
6. THE ECONOMIC TIMES

Body of youth washed away in rajakaluve found

STAFF REPORTER

BENGALURU

The body of the youth who was washed away in a rajakaluve in spate in Gayatri Layout during the rains on Friday night was recovered downstream on Sunday morning.

A rescue official said the body of Mithun Kumar, 28, was found in the rajakaluve near Cambridge College, around 1.5 km downstream from the spot where he fell into the drain and was washed away. State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) teams that began their search and rescue operations on Saturday morning had covered a stretch of the drain leading to the nearby Seegehalli lake where the operations were halted Saturday night. Resuming the same on Sunday, rescuers took a different route and found the

body stuck among weeds and vegetation in the drain 1.5 km away.

Mithun Kumar, from Shivamogga district, and working as a civil engineer in the city, was living in a rented accommodation adjoining the drain in Gayatri Layout. On Friday night, around 11 p.m., as water from the adjoining areas was flowing on the road, Mithun's bike parked at the edge of the drain was about to fall into the drain. In his attempt to prevent this, he fell into the drain with the bike. His friends couldn't lift him and he was washed away. Mithun's body was handed over to his family after an autopsy on Sunday.

Chief Civic Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath announced a compensation of ₹5 lakh for the family of the deceased.

THE HINDU

Kannada activists blacken Hindi flex boards along Mysuru Road



Activists painting banners with Hindi words black on Mysuru Road. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

All such illegal boards on Mysuru Road will be removed, says BBMP

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Kannada activists from Karnataka Rakshana Vedike (KRV) blackened several flex boards on Mysuru Road welcoming Prime Minister Narendra Modi as they were in Hindi. The flex boards indicated they were put up by the Horticulture Minister and Rajarajeshwarinagar (RR) MLA Munirathna's supporters.

R.R. Nagar police rushed to the spot and detained the group. Dharmaraj Gowda, pre-

sident, KRV Youth Wing, who led the agitation, criticised "a Karnataka Minister putting up flex boards completely in Hindi, without a word of Kannada" to welcome the PM. "We will not tolerate such slavery to Hindi by our representatives or any such imposition of Hindi. The police did not allow us to blacken all the flex boards put up on Mysuru Road. However, a team of our activists has gone on a convoy of bikes all the way up to Mysuru and will blacken all flex boards in Hindi," he said.

Meanwhile, the incident has raised questions over flex boards and BJP party flags that have adorned not only Mysuru Road, but other areas of the ci-

ty wherever Mr. Modi will be visiting on Monday. Almost every Namma Metro pillar on Mysuru Road, where he will preside over two events has been adorned by flex boards welcoming him in the name of Ministers and has the face of Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai also displayed prominently.

It can be recalled that the CM had recently taken objection to flex boards welcoming him for an event to inaugurate development works in R.R. Nagar, also presided over by Mr. Munirathna. He had instructed civic officials from the stage to remove all flexes and banners and ensure they do not come up in the city anymore. Follow-

ing this, Deepak R.L., Special Commissioner (Revenue), Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), had recently said while penal action of booking cases would follow, the civic body had decided to collect the costs of removing these flex boards and banners from the person in whose name they had been put up illegally.

Despite repeated attempts, Mr. Munirathna was not available for comment. Chief Civic Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath said that action will be taken as per law. Dr. Nagaraj, Joint Commissioner, R. R. Nagar Zone, BBMP, said all flex boards and flags that had come up illegally would be removed by Monday morning.

THE HINDU

Ahead of PM's visit, many educational institutions declare holiday

While some were directed to remain closed by the Education Dept., some others took the call on their own keeping security concerns and the traffic situation in mind

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Many educational institutions will be closed on Monday on account of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Bengaluru. While some have been directed to remain closed by the Education Department, some took the call on their own keeping security concerns and the traffic situation in mind.

A holiday has been declared on Monday for all the students and teaching and

non-teaching faculty members of the Jnanabharathi campus of Bangalore University (BU) as the PM will inaugurate Dr. B.R. Ambedkar School Economics (BASE).

The Education Department has also declared a one-day holiday to a total of 22 schools along the routes that will be taken by the Prime Minister. The holiday on Monday has been announced for the staff and students of all the government, aided and private prim-

ary and high schools from Kengeri Upnagara to Komraghatta and within the wards of Pattanagere, Jnanabharathi and Kumbalagodu cluster. The circular says that the compensation for this holiday can be balanced on one of the other holidays in the coming days.

On Saturday, BU had also announced holidays for 64 UG and PG colleges which come under its ambit on June 20 citing possible traffic jams and

other security reasons in the backdrop of Modi's visit. Minister for Higher Education C.N. Ashwathnarayan also said on Twitter, "As PM Narendra Modi is coming to Bengaluru for a number of programmes, holidays have been announced for select colleges in the city in view of traffic congestion and his security."

While the government has announced the holiday for select institutions, some private schools in and around Kengeri

and Mysuru Road have declared holidays by themselves, expecting traffic snarls in that part of the city.

"Dear parents, Due to PM Narendra Modi's visit tomorrow and official programs in and around Kengeri, there will be no movement of public transport. Hence, all classes from 11:2 will stay suspended on June 20. It will be compensated soon," stated a message sent to parents from a private school in Kengeri.

THE HINDU

Narendra Modi arriving today on a two-day visit to Karnataka

Highlight of the trip is his participation in the Yoga Day function in Mysuru

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

In what is expected to galvanise the BJP cadre in an election year, the arrival of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday for a hectic two-day visit to Karnataka, after about two years, is being keenly watched.

The highlight of the trip is his participation in the International Day of Yoga function in the backdrop of the iconic Mysuru palace on Tuesday.

The party that has been waiting to kick-start preparations to the Legislative Assembly elections next year, and a possible election to the BBMP Council, will be expecting some kind of a start from the Prime Minister's visit, as he is also scheduled to lay the foundation for public utilities projects.

Ahead of his visit, many of the routes that he is expected to travel also saw a huge facelift. According to the



Prime Minister Narendra Modi

schedule released, he will criss-cross Bengaluru in an IAF MI 17 helicopter.

However, traffic diversions have been made and a detailed route by road has also been prepared. "Ultimately, how he travels will be decided by his security team," sources said.

While his flight is landing at Yelahanka Air Force Station, he will travel to the Indian Institute of Science,

where he will inaugurate the Centre for Brain Research and Super Computing facility, and also lay the foundation stone for Bagchi Prathasarathy Hospital.

Mr. Modi will fly into Jnanabharathi where he will unveil the statue of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, inaugurate the BASE University, and dedicate 150 upgraded ITIs.

According to the itinerary shared by the Information Department here, the Prime Minister will then reach Kommaghatta, where he will dedicate many projects, including the first AC railway station at Baiyyappanahalli.

He will also lay the foundation stone for the Bengaluru suburban railway project, six national highway projects worth ₹7,231 crore, and a multi-modal logistics park.

The Prime Minister will fly out to Mysuru and participate in a public programme at Maharaja's College Grounds, where he will lay

the foundation stone for a new coaching complex to be established at Naganahalli and Mysuru.

He will also dedicate a Centre of Excellence at the All-Indian Institute of Speech and Hearing and interact with a few beneficiaries of various schemes. He will also dedicate the Veda Patashala building and release commentaries on Yoga and Bhakti at Suttur Mutt.

He will wind up Monday's events in the evening after visiting Chamundi Hills to seek blessings of Goddess Chamundeshwari.

On Tuesday, he will participate in the Yoga day celebrations on the palace premises for one hour and 15 minutes, and visit a walk-through exhibition.

He will join the members of the erstwhile royal family of Mysuru, the Wadiyar dynasty, for breakfast before leaving for Thiruvananthapuram.

OCs to illegal buildings: BBMP 'lost Rs 500 crore'

Officials issue occupancy certificates to structures with deviations; govt orders probe

DH EXCLUSIVE

NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS

A Rs 500-crore scam has surfaced in the BBMP's town planning department, which allegedly issued

occupancy certificates (OCs) to at least 30 buildings that had up to 40% deviations from the sanctioned plan.

The certificates were issued by reducing the deviation percentage to under 5, the permissible limit, in the documents. In some cases, officials were found mischie-

vously increasing the width of the road to reduce the deviation percentage to less than the prescribed mark. If the OCs were not issued illegally, the BBMP would have earned Rs 500 crore by penalising the building owners, it is alleged.

Taking serious note of the matter, the Urban Development Department (UDD) has asked the BBMP chief commissioner to order a third-party inquiry and submit a report at the earliest. *DH* has reviewed the letter dated June 9. **► Scam, Page 5**

Under scanner

Urban Development Department has ordered a probe into 5 files (cases) in particular



1) OC issued to a building that left a setback of 3.5 metres, as against the required 5 m, and had a 32% deviation. (Addtl Dir/JDTP(N) LP No 257/12-13)

2) Plan approved for a commercial building citing road width of a different area, thereby helping the builder earn an additional profit of Rs 50 crore (Addtl Dir/JDTP(N) LP 07/19-20)

3) OC to building with a 35% deviation (Addtl Dir/JDTP(N) LP No 052/17-18)

4) Previously-issued building plan destroyed to issue a new one to bring down deviation to less than 5% (Addtl Dir/JDTP(N) 293/12-13)

5) OC issued to a building with 40% deviation (Addtl Dir/JDTP(N) 660/13-14)

Govt orders probe into Rs 500-cr BBMP scam

Scam, from Page 1

The probe was ordered following a complaint by Pavan Kumar A P, president of Bengaluru Welfare Committee, an NGO, on June 6. The mass-scale discrepancies are said to have come to light following a rivalry between two officers of the same department.

All the cases allegedly occurred in the north division of the BBMP's town planning department, on the watch of joint director B Manjesh,

who personally inspected the buildings and "passed" them.

Asked to comment, Manjesh said he was not aware of any letter issued by the UDD.

The complaint also listed an additional 25 cases where violations of similar nature were allowed by officials without taking any action. In some cases, the buildings were allowed to come up on properties by encroaching upon portions of stormwater drains and lakes. Interestingly, most of the vi-

olations were also cleared by the higher-ups in the BBMP, according to the complaint.

The UDD's recent letter also refers to its previous letter that had ordered a departmental inquiry against officials of the town planning department in April this year with respect to the above-mentioned charges. The UDD's previous letter had apparently never reached the chief commissioner's office as it was found to be lying in the BBMP's administration department.

40 hours on, body of engineer washed away in drain found

Was found stuck in an underbridge in KR Puram area

BENGALURU, DHNS

Nearly 40 hours after a 28-year-old civil engineer was swept away after he fell into an open stormwater drain in Gayathri Layout in KR Puram, his body was recovered by rescue workers on Sunday morning.

The body of Mithun Kumar was found stuck in an underbridge around 750

metres away from the spot where he was trying to stop his two-wheeler from being pulled into the water.

As the rescue workers did not find the body in the stormwater drain during the initial hours of the operation, a massive hunt was launched in Seegehalli Lake as they believed the 28-year-old may have been pulled into the waterbody.

The rescue team comprising of 59 personnel of the state disaster response force (SDRF), 24 personnel of the national disaster response force (NDRF), and 20 fire personnel were part of the operation the whole of Saturday.

They resumed the hunt on Sunday only to find the life-

less body stuck close to the underbridge near Cambridge College.

Kumar, who was living in a rented house next to the drain, hailed from Sagar taluk in Shivamogga. As Seegehalli Lake started overflowing, the 28-year-old was trying to move his two-wheeler elsewhere but the surging waters dragged him into the drain.

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has been under fire for repeated instances of rail-related calamities that have taken away many lives.

Close to a dozen people have been washed away in the stormwater drains over the last 10 years.

City's first bi-directional cycle lane opens at SK Road

AISHWARYA NAMBIAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

Bengaluru gets its first bi-directional protected cycle lane at SK Road, Doddanekundi, under the Sustainable Mobility Accords (SuMA) initiative, a community project to encourage and popularise sustainable mobility.

The project is the joint effort of the Directorate of Urban Land Transport (DULT), Bangalore, Sensing Local, and residents of Doddanekundi. "The cycling lane connects two schools en-route, making it safer for hundreds of children riding to school every day along with cyclists that use the route to work," said Nihar Thakkar, team member of the project.

The project was initiated at the end of 2020.

"In the last two months, we installed multiple counters on the Outer Ring Road cycle lanes and took initiatives to improve the footpath in this

area. Currently, we are installing the bicycle separators," Nihar added.

The bicycle separators were designed and installed by the start-up Elemental Motor Works.

Talking about the design, Piyush Verma, co-founder of Elemental Motor Works, said: "The main goal (of the design) is to prevent motorists from encroaching upon cycle lanes. This could also help prevent waterlogging, keeping it vandalism-proof and having a low carbon footprint.

"When viewed from the top, the design resembles an 'X'. It is tilted diagonally towards the bike lane traffic, making it easier for cyclists to exit the lane whenever they want while also making it more difficult for automobiles to enter because they would have to make sharp turns. Because the material is recycled four times, it is valuable only as a pollard. This reduces chances of theft."



The cycle lane at SK Road, Doddanekundi.



Covid: 588 new cases in city, one death in Belagavi

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karnataka has reported 623 new cases of Covid-19 and one death, according to the health bulletin released on Sunday. The positivity rate was 2.68%.

One person, a 78-year-old man from Belagavi, died of the infection on June 17, the same day he was hospitalised. He suffered from Severe Acute Respiratory Illness (SARI) and also had hypertension. He was hospitalised after complaining of cough and breathlessness, the bulletin said.

Bengaluru (BBMP limits) reported 588 cases at a positivity rate of 3.68%. All the figures are from Saturday when the state conducted 23,170 tests.

Dakshina Kannada saw 13 cases, Mysuru six, Udupi and Uttara Kannada four each, and Bengaluru Rural two.

Active cases in the state stood at 5,035, including 4,833 in Bengaluru. The state also saw 412 discharges, 408 of them in Bengaluru. The number of vaccinations has risen to 11.08 crore. As many as 10,382 people were inoculated on Saturday. Hospitalisation continues to remain low with only 32 people under treatment in Bengaluru. Four are in ICU and two in HDU. The rest are in general wards.

Health dept yet to trace contacts of 95% Covid patients

BENGALURU, DHNS: According to an analysis by the state Covid war room, the health department is yet to trace the contacts of 95.42% of those who have tested positive for Covid-19 over the last week.

Bengaluru recorded 3,799 cases between June 9 and 15 and the health officials have been able to track only 308 primary contacts and 241 second-

ary contacts. This implies that only 0.08% of primary contacts and 0.06% secondary contacts were actually traced.

The state contact tracing average stands at 0.09% and 0.07% for primary and secondary contacts, respectively.

“Contact tracing was given top priority during the first wave. However, since a large number of cases were record-

ed during the second and third waves, contact tracing got difficult. Also, since many of the patients were asymptomatic, it was challenging to trace contacts. The patients should come forward to give us information about the contacts and isolate themselves,” a senior health department official said.

Though the number of Covid cases has seen a steady

increase over the last 15 days, the death rate has remained low. The state death rate is at 0.06% and Bengaluru stands at 0.03%

With respect to hospitalisation, only 31 patients were being treated at various hospitals. Of the 31 patients, 26 occupied general beds, three were in ICU, and another two were treated in HDU wards.

Modi to arrive in Bengaluru today on a two-day state visit

PM to launch work on suburban rail, road projects

BENGALURU, DHNS

P rime Minister Narendra Modi will be on a two-day visit to the state starting Monday. According to the itinerary released by the government, Modi will inaugurate several development projects and participate in the World Yoga Day programme scheduled in Mysuru.

The state government has declared holiday to educational institutes located in the vicinity where the PM will be participating in various events. Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences has also declared holi-

day for all the affiliated colleges in Bengaluru and postponed the exams scheduled for Monday. In a release, the varsity said that the revised date for exams will be notified later.

On Monday, Modi will land at Yelahanka Airforce Base and proceed to Indian Institute of Science where the Centre for Brain Research Centre and Super Computing Facility will be inaugurated.

He will also lay foundation stone for Bagchi Parthasarathy Hospital. He will then head to the Jnanabharathi campus to unveil the statue of Dr B R Ambedkar and inaugurate



Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai takes stock of the preparations at Kommaghatta in Bengaluru where Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address a public meeting on Monday.

Dr B R Ambedkar School of Economics University (BASE). A total of 150 Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) upgraded into technology hubs will also be launched.

Later, the PM will dedicate various projects in Bengaluru, including the inaugura-

tion of India's first air-conditioned railway station at Bayyappanahalli, lay foundation stones for the suburban railway projects and six national highway projects in Karnataka worth Rs 7,231 crore and one Multi-Model Logistic Park Project. A public

rally will also be held.

Modi will then leave for Mysuru and lay foundation stone for the New Coaching Complex to be established at Naganahalli and Mysuru at Maharaja College Grounds.

Subsequently, he will dedicate to the nation a Centre of Excellence at All India Institute of Speech and Hearing (AIISH). He will then interact with the beneficiaries of various central government schemes at the same venue.

A Veda Patashala building will be inaugurated at Suttur Mutt by the PM, who will also release commentaries on Yoga and Bhakthi at the mutt.

The PM will visit Sri Chamundeshwari Temple atop Chamundi Hills and will stay in Mysuru.

On Tuesday, he will participate at the International Day of Yoga and leave for New Delhi the same morning.

PEOPLE'S PROBLEMS
Need a hand? Write to us

Letters of grievances are pouring in and we are doing our best to accommodate as many as possible. Readers may write in to highlight civic problems

affecting their locality and we will help address them in an interactive and effective manner.

Grievances and issues related to public utility agencies such as Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB), Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTCC) and Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited (BESCOM) would be highlighted in the weekly column.

The writeups, which could be accompanied by photographs highlighting the problems, will be published on Mondays. Mail your grievances to: peoplesproblems@deccanherald.co.in

Garbage dumping continues unchecked

The area adjoining the Indane gas godown along Ayyappa Swamy Temple Road (2nd Main, 3rd Cross), Vidyapeeta, has become a garbage dumping spot. Local residents blatantly throw trash along the road. The BBMP must take immediate steps to resolve the issue.

Resident



Trash dumped along Ayyappa Swamy Temple Road, Vidyapeeta, is an eyesore.

Fix overflowing chamber near school

I would like to inform authorities that drain water near Golden Heights at the Rajajinagar Entrance Circle (before Kurlon store) runs to the front gate of Venkat International School and goes all the way to the main drainage (conservancy) behind the school.

The drainage in front of the school gate is getting blocked and water from the pipe is pouring out onto the road on both sides with a foul smell constantly in the air. This causes severe inconvenience to the residents of houses located near the chamber and also commuters who

use the road. It poses a serious health hazard for school-going children as the chamber lid is right in front of the school gate.

The authorities are not taking the issue seriously. When a complaint is raised, BWSSB staff clean the chamber a week or 10 days, that too after repeated phone calls.

Complaints and requests to the authorities concerned to find a permanent solution fall on deaf ears with the matter being passed on from one department to another. Nobody is taking an initiative to fix the problem, not even the school management.

I request the authorities to take up this issue on a war footing and find a solution before the school



An overflowing sewage chamber raises a stink.

reopens after summer vacation and before the

monsoon begins. Sathyaprakash CA

Extend 500D bus to Yelahanka

The 500D BMTCC bus runs from Silk Board to Hebbal. People staying at Yelahanka hardly have any access to the ring road, for which there has been a long-standing demand. The other bus, KIAS 8, is expensive and not everyone can afford it on a daily basis. Also, the metro service will take three years to be completed, perhaps even more. It would help lakhs of commuters from Yelahanka to travel to Silk Board if the 500D BMTCC bus is extended to Yelahanka from Hebbal. Vijay, Yelahanka

Increase bus frequency from Shivajinagar to Yeshwantpur

Residents of Vasanthnagar and Jayamah Road are facing problems as there are

no buses from these areas to Yeshwantpur in the evening hours.

The BMTCC should restore bus services from Shivajinagar to Thammanahalli (250V) and MEI Layout (250N).

There are only a few bus services from Shivajinagar to Yeshwantpur (94, 94E, G8 and 252A) and the frequency is low. There are hardly any buses during the peak hours while the buses ply empty during non-peak hours.

There are many commuters to Yeshwantpur from Vasanthnagar, Jayamah Road, Munireddy Palya and Doordarshan bus stops.

We request BMTCC authorities to run buses from Shivajinagar to Yeshwantpur and increase the frequency of bus services in the peak hours. They should also restore bus services 250V and 250N as early as possible.

Dasam Venkata Reddy, Vasanthnagar

RBI should ask traders to accept Rs 10 coins

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued Rs 10 coins as legal tender. But citizens find it very difficult to use them because most traders say they are banned. People are really confused. Even some banks refuse to accept the coins. So, in larger public interest, it would be desirable

if the RBI issues a clarification about the validity of these coins and asks traders, shops and banks to accept them. S G Prabhakar

Sleep disturbance due to noise from pubs, restaurants

Bars and restaurants have popped up on 24th Main

Road, Sector 1, HSR Layout, which is a residential area. One such bar and restaurant near 9th Cross in Sector 1 plays blaring music after 10 pm despite government orders banning loudspeakers. It does not stop well past midnight, disturbing the tranquility of the area. As there are many elderly people in this area, their sleep is often disturbed due to the loud music. Brawls are

also frequent.

We request the officials concerned to look into these issues and ensure bars and restaurants adhere to the government guidelines regarding the 10 pm to 6 am sound ban.

Residents of HSR Layout

Lift needed in railway stations

My wife and I were travelling to Mysuru by train and were boarding from the Kengeri railway station. As senior citizens, we struggled to climb the steep stairways to reach platform number 3 to board the train. The situation has not changed over several decades. There are high chances aged people may miss their trains because of this inconvenience. Hence, I request the railway authorities to provide a lift for senior citizens and physically handicapped persons.

Shankaranarayan, Krishnanagar

Footpaths are meant for walking

Despite filing complaints, the footpath next to the Maruthi Seva Nagar bus station cannot be used. As seen in the picture, the cable spool has blocked the footpath completely. To make matters worse, water stagnates on the road and people are seen urinating in the open.

Is it too much to ask the authorities to fix this problem?

Murali,

Jaibharath Nagar



Sewage flowing on to the road in Spice Garden, Marathahalli.

Sewage overflow

Sewage flows on to the road in Spice Garden, Marathahalli, making it inaccessible. Can anyone help? Vindhya



Cable spool lying on a footpath next to the Maruthi Seva Nagar bus station.

India wkly cases up 60% to 80k, deaths low but rising

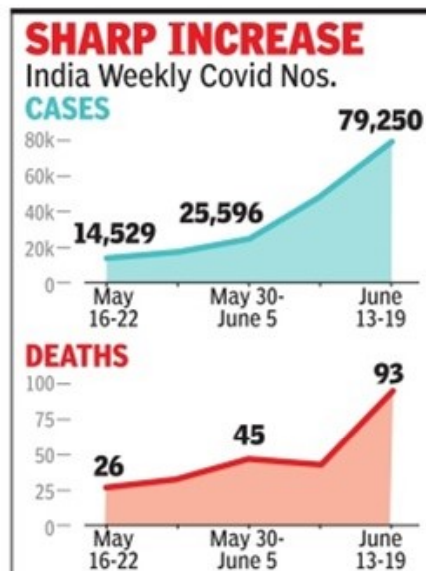
Toll 93, Higher Than Total Of Last 2 Weeks

Amit.Bhattacharya
@timesgroup.com

Fresh Covid-19 cases in India in the week ending Sunday surged to the highest in nearly four months with close to 80,000 new infections, up 62% from the previous week's tally.

Although deaths from the virus remained very low compared to previous outbreaks, at least 93 fatalities were reported in the country during the week, more than the combined toll in the previous two weeks (45 and 41).

India logged more than 79,250 new cases in the week



(June 13-19), up from 48,769 in the previous seven days, as per TOI's Covid database. This was the highest weekly total since February 21-27, when over 86,000 cases were detected. Covid-19 cases have been increasing over the past four weeks but the last two weeks have seen an accelerated surge.

K'taka reports 623 Covid cases, 1 death

Karnataka on Sunday reported 623 fresh Covid-19 cases and one death, taking the caseload to 39,60,831 and fatalities to 40,071. Bengaluru Urban accounted for the maximum number of 588 cases, the state health department said. The lone death due to Covid on Sunday occurred in Belagavi district.

INSACOG (Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium) officials were quoted by agencies as saying that Omicron sub-lineages, mainly BA.2 and BA.2.38, and BA.4 and BA.5 in some parts of the country, were behind the current spike.

► **Cases from Maha, P 11**

Highest no. of cases reported from Maha

► Continued from page 1

During this week, fresh cases rose in nearly all states and UTs. The highest numbers were reported from Maharashtra, where the weekly tally crossed the 25,000 mark (25,172), up 45% from 17,380 in the preceding week. Kerala reported a similar spike of 42%, with over 20,500 new cases.

The surge intensified in NCR cities, with weekly numbers more than doubling. Delhi reported 9,291 cases, a rise of 128% from last week's tally of 4,068 while Uttar Pradesh witnessed a 109% surge, reporting 2,711 infections. Haryana's tally rose 94%, from 2,029 to 3,936.

Among states that reported more than 1,000 new infections during the week, the highest percentage rise was seen in Tamil Nadu — up 169%, from 1,299 last week to 3,492 — and Bengal, where cases rose by 145% from 663 to 1,621. In states where numbers were still relatively low, Assam saw a 4.8-fold increase in cases, Jharkhand 2.5-fold and Chhattisgarh 2.2-fold.

The 93 fresh Covid deaths in the country during the week were the highest since March 21-27, when 98 fatalities were recorded. As per information from the state's Covid dashboard, Kerala accounted for more than 40 deaths, up from 19 in the previous week.

CONNECTIVITY BOOST Rail Enthusiasts Say B'lureans' Persistent Demand Paid Off After 39 years on drawing board, PM to launch suburban rail project today

Holiday for 22 schools, colleges & B'lore varsity

Bengaluru: Twenty-two schools and colleges located along the route Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be taking in southwest Bengaluru during his visit on Monday, will remain shut due to security reasons.

The educational institutions which will have a holiday are located in Kommaghatta-Kengeri corridor; Pattanagere ward, Jnanabharati ward and Kumbalgodu cluster.

They are Carmel Public School, Government Model Primary School, Government Urdu Senior Primary School, New St Annes English School, Government High School, Government Urdu High School, Radhakrishna School, PJNP schools and college, all in Kengeri; Holy Child English School, Shankaracharya Vidyaapeetha, Mothers Millenium School, Vidyaabharati School, SJR Public School, Sri Bandeshwara Swamy School, Roman Kinto School, Priyadarshini College, Seshadripuram College, Surana College, Government High School and Government PU College, all in Kengeri Satellite Town; Government Senior Primary School, Kommaghatta and Government Urdu Higher Primary School, in Beedi Workers' Colony.

Bangalore University too has declared a holiday for its staff and students. Modi will be inaugurating Dr BR Ambedkar School of Economics on BU campus. At Kommaghatta, he will lay the foundation stone for various development programmes, including Bengaluru suburban rail project.

Sources in the education department said they were asked by the home department to declare a holiday as traffic will be affected because of the PM's cavalcade and vehicles ferrying children will face inconvenience during this time. TNN

Estimated cost ₹15,767 cr	Suburban network 148km (55km elevated, 92km at grade)	Stations 57 (21 elevated, 36 at grade)	Estimated time to complete 4 corridors 6 years	Length of platform 205m (9 coaches)	Train services 5am to 12am at 100 kmph with a station dwell time of 30 seconds
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The year India won its maiden cricket World Cup (1983), Southern Railway, in its first study report about Bengaluru, recommended three commuter rail lines and a 58km ring rail. Thirty-nine years on the suburban rail project appears to be on track. While the rail network was approved by the Centre in October 2020, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lay the foundation stone for the project on Monday. TOI zooms into the project's finer details and the euphoria surrounding it

1983-2022 – STARTS, STOPS & BENDS

1983 | Southern Railway recommends three commuter rail lines and 58km ring rail

1983-2018 | Various reports on suburban rail prepared. Comprehensive traffic study by RITES (1988), committee appointed by Karnataka government (1993), RITES study (1998), intermodal survey for commuter rail in Bangalore (2002), RITES survey for local trains (2007), feasibility reports prepared by RITES (2012, 2018)

2018 | Bengaluru suburban rail project at a cost of Rs 17,000cr announced in Union budget; SPV named K-RIDE formed

2019 | RITES submits DPR & later restructures it based on finance ministry's advice. Cost reduced by Rs 3,500cr (by reducing number of stations by 16 and length by 12km). Revised DPR approved by state & Centre

2020 | CCEA approves 148-km project at an estimated cost of Rs 13,926cr & completion cost of Rs 15,767cr. Railway board too clears it

2021 | State govt decides to take up airport suburban corridor in second phase, plans to prioritise Mallige and Kanaka lines

2021 | K-RIDE invites first civil work tender for 25km Byappanahalli-Yeshwantpur-Chikkabanavara (Mallige) line

2022 | Egis-Louis Berger-AECOM, JV awarded general consultant tender

March 2022 | L&T emerges lowest bidder (Rs 859cr) for Mallige line, but no work order yet

NETWORK SPAN

Corridor-1
KSR Bengaluru City-Devanahalli (airport link) Sampige
■ Length: **41km**
■ Stations: **14**
■ Land acquisition: **12 acres**

Corridor 2
Byappanahalli-Yeshwantpur-Chikkabanavara (Mallige Line)
■ Length: **25km**
■ Stations: **12**
■ Land acquisition: **28 acres**

Corridor 3
Kengeri-Cantonment-Whitefield (Parijaata)
■ Length: **35km**
■ Stations: **13**
■ Land acquisition: **20 acres**

Corridor 4
Heelalige-Yelahanka – Rajanakunte (Kanaka)
■ Length: **46km**
■ Stations: **18**
■ Land acquisition: **40 acres**

LAND NEEDED	Railway land 327 acres	Karnataka government land 153 acres	Private land for corridors & depots 103 acres
	Of the 508 acres, 103 acres to be acquired Railway land and state govt land is proposed to be leased at a cost of Rs 1 per acre		

BOOST FOR B'LURU

- Bengaluru will be the first city in India to get a modern suburban rail system
- 53 air-conditioned trains, inducted under PPP model, with automated double-leaf sliding doors will be deployed in first phase
- Automated fare collection gates at stations will enable smart card-based cashless travel
- Trains will have LED lights, LED-based coach identification system, passenger info display system, CCTVs and cushioned seats
- Min fare could be Rs 13 for less than 3km. For a 15-km trip, fare will be Rs 35

PROMISING JOURNEY

- Will provide speedier, safer and comfortable mode of rail travel
- Will enhance rural-urban connectivity, ease traffic, provide cleaner mobility solution
- Estimated to carry more than 10 lakh passengers daily
- At more than 60% of its stations, passengers will be able to interchange with other modes of transport

SOURCE: K-RIDE

“Continuous follow-up by citizens and elected representatives finally saw the project get approval in 2020. Now, bureaucratic delays should be removed and this project should serve as a model for self-sustainable and multi-modal integrated systems. The state should execute the project and also ensure the airport corridor isn't delayed
Sanjeev Dyamannavar | COMMUTER RAIL ACTIVIST

“My dream of suburban rail dates back to 1960s and 70s, when I saw such systems in Mumbai and Chennai. It is a great moment for me and other rail activists. I hope to travel on the suburban corridor at the earliest
KN Krishnaprasad | RAIL ACTIVIST

“It is important to remember how the government, instead of implementing this project, was looking at flyovers in 2016, resulting in campaigns like #SteelFlyoverBeda. While there were many reasons to oppose the flyover, the biggest reason was misplaced government priorities. Then there was #ChukuBukuBeku campaign – Citizens for Bengaluru (CFB) mobilised thousands of people on a train from Cantonment to Whitefield, creating awareness. Until this train yatra, most people weren't even aware that Bengaluru has an excellent train network... The moral of the story is that a crying baby gets the milk. When citizens demand better governance in unison, those in power take notice and act
Srinivas Alavilli | WAS CO-FOUNDER OF CFB; PRESENTLY WITH JANAAGRAHA

– Text by Christin Mathew Philip

Body of youth washed away in rain found

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: The body of a civil engineer washed away in the early hours of Saturday in an overflowing stormwater drain was found on Sunday.

Police identified the deceased as Mithun Kumar, a civil engineer from Sagar, Shivamogga district. He was employed with a private firm and lived in Gayatri Layout, KR Pu-

Rescue teams found his body stuck in garbage in the SWD near Cambridge College, 1.5km from where he had slipped

ram. Kumar came out of his rental house around 12.30am on Saturday after hearing a huge thud of a wall collapsing. On seeing his bike being swept away in swirling rainwaters, he tried to grab it but fell into the SWD and was washed away.

Rescue teams found Kumar's body stuck in garbage in the SWD near Cambridge College, 1.5km from where he had slipped into the drain.

The body was found around 7am on Sunday. It was shifted to a mortuary and handed over to Mithun's family after autopsy. Police registered a case of unnatural death.

Bengaluru development: Govt ignores demand for task force

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Bengaluru: The Basavaraj Bommai-led government is not keen on having a task force to assist in policy making in matters concerning Bengaluru city's governance.

Given the hit the country's Silicon City has taken due to infrastructure issues, especially bad roads, the demand to form a task force comprising eminent Bengalureans to guide authorities has grown.

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) sources confirmed that a section of people close to the corridors of power are keen on forming a new team to guide authorities in policy making. They also pointed to the letter former chief minister SM Krishna wrote to Bommai on the deteriorating image of the city and how the Bangalore Agenda Task Force Krishna had set up when he was CM had facilitated the city's development.

But Bommai is not keen on forming any such team. A senior IAS officer said, "The CM thinks that in the name of a task force, people will take control of policy making. Even elected representatives are sometimes left out of the process. He also thinks many field

TIMES VIEW

Democracy is not limited to electoral success nor is governance the prerogative of only the executive. Democracy must be a continuous process and a participatory one. But BBMP ward committees – set up to ensure citizens' participation in governance – have run a torturous course because of the reluctance of the executive to share power. Participation must be facilitated at multiple levels. The more levels, the better. A task force of eminent Bengalureans, with enough checks to prevent conflict of interest and trespass into policy domain, is certainly worth a try.

experts are working selflessly to fix problems and their consultancy will do."

Byrathi Basavaraj, urban development minister, also said there is no need for a task force as the CM himself is monitoring infrastructure work. "People offering advice seldom take any responsibilities," he said. "The CM has asked us [MLAs] to work towards the city's development and we are doing this with dedication."

Many civic activists and bureaucrats ToI spoke with are also not in sync with the idea. They feel it will lead to conflict

of interest and simply add another layer to already existing departments and teams.

It may be recalled that in 2002 Krishna constituted the Bangalore Agenda Task Force and this public-private partnership body existed till 2004. The Congress government under Siddaramaiah had also set up a Bengaluru Vision Group in 2016 to address Bengaluru's infrastructure woes.

Srinivas Alavilli of Janagraha said experts have already spoken and their views have been available for years. "In my opinion, citizens are the biggest task force, and they already exist in every ward," he said. "Decentralised governance at the zonal level with empowered ward committees will ensure the voice of people is considered in every ward. BBMP elections based on real issues will lead to improved city leadership," he said.

Ramprasad V, another civic activist, said, "We do not have a problem with a task force, but the members should be identified in such a way that they do not milk money making/tweaking policies."

Tushar Giri Nath, BBMP chief commissioner, said it is up to the chief minister to decide. "Only he can speak on this."

Youth lost life to brazen encroachment that left not even a metre of prescribed 50-metre buffer near primary stormwater drain

DRAIN DEAD

Buildings constructed in violation of NGT norms

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

A strange and uneasy calm descended upon neighbourhoods in KR Puram after the deluge on Friday. Anup Sarkar is in a dilemma on how to go to office on Monday — his bike was damaged when his house was flooded with rainwater.

“Though rainwater did overflow two to three times in the past, it is the first time our vehicles got damaged,” said Sarkar.

Similarly, S Prashanth, whose bike and car were damaged, is contemplating to apply for leave on Monday. “I am not sure whether I will be able to get my bike and car repaired by Monday,” Prashanth told BM.

Like Anup and Prashanth, many hapless residents of 10th Cross, Gayathri Layout in KR Puram assembly constituency, are yet to recover from the shock, after their homes were inundated with rainwater on Friday night.

They are now wondering how to cope with a similar incident in the



(Left) The place where a temporary platform was constructed to park vehicles. **(Above)** Actual width of the stormwater drain outside the educational institution

near future if the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and elected representatives continue to turn a blind eye towards encroachment of stormwater drains across Bengaluru.

Encroachment rampant

It was quite shocking and amusing for this correspondent, to come across in person, the brazen encroachment of the stormwater drain by ‘greedy’ property owners in the area. Most buildings, including residential apartments and educational institutions, are constructed in violation of National Green Tribunal (NGT) norms.

The building at 10th Cross of Gayathri Layout was constructed

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 >>

“ Collapse of temporary platform blocked the stormwater drain; blockade caused overflow of rainwater, flooding nearby houses.

— resident

Save it for a drainy day

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

without leaving even one metre buffer zone from the stormwater drain. It is a primary stormwater drain. As per the BBMP's Master Plan 2015, the buffer zone for primary stormwater drain should be 50 metres but not a metre's space was left while constructing the building.

As if the aforementioned violation was not enough, a temporary platform was constructed on the stormwater drain for parking vehicles. Eight bachelors used to reside in that house; they used to park their vehicles on the temporary platform as there was no provision for parking at the main entrance of the building. It is said that Mithun, who lost his life amid Friday's downpour in the city, was swept away in the primary stormwater drain while trying to save his bike from being carried by the floodwaters when the temporary platform collapsed.

"Collapse of the temporary platform blocked the stormwater drain. The blockage of the stormwater drain caused overflow of rainwater, flooding nearby houses," said a resident.

Residents were seen either drying wet beds, pillows and blankets or cleaning water sumps. "We were shocked to see rainwater flooding our homes. We lost everything including food grains, fridge, sofa set. We do not know whether we can use the bed and pillows that got wet. The BBMP supplied food for two days," said Manjunath J, a resident.

Housing keeping employees were busy removing silt and stagnating water from Sreepadam Apartment complex. Most of the vehicles parked on the premises were damaged due to water-logging. Water in the swimming pool was contaminated due to the overflow of water from the stormwater drain.

"Many of our vehicles are damaged. We have pressed our house keeping staff into cleaning the premises. It will take two to three days for us to keep the apartment premises



Inside an educational institution the size of a stormwater drain has shrunk



Beds, pillows and clothes outside their homes for drying



Condition of a swimming pool in an apartment complex adjacent to the stormwater drain



Residents waiting at a garage to get their bikes repaired

clean," said Rambabu, president, Sripadam Apartment Owners' Association.

Residents stressed that brazen encroachment of the stormwater drain is the main cause for flooding of their homes. They said neither the BBMP ward engineer nor the elected representatives bothered to prevent people encroaching the stormwater drain. According to them, even after the loss of one precious life, alongside household items worth thousands of rupees, the BBMP is not taken to task for negligence or dereliction of duty — elected representatives, as usual, came and went.

"I have requested urban development minister Byrathi Basavaraj who represents KR Puram to remove

“ We are thinking about moving the Karnataka High Court seeking a direction to the BBMP for clearing encroachments

encroachments along the primary stormwater drain. None of the building owners, including an educational institution, followed the buffer zone norms while constructing buildings. The width of the stormwater drain is less than six feet inside the educational institution owned by an influential person. We are thinking about moving the Karnataka High Court seeking a direction to the BBMP for clearing encroachments along the stormwater drain," said Vasanthappa, an advocate.

Meanwhile, BBMP chief engineer (stormwater drains) Lokesh said the BBMP has made arrangements to clear the encroachments along the stormwater drain. "The work will begin in a day or two," he said.

However, urban development minister Byrathi Basavaraj, who represents KR Puram assembly constituency, was not available for comment.

Civic staff to strike from July 1

Pourakarmikas seek proper wages, regular employment, allowance for housing, children's education



| Saumyangi Yadav
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The pourakarmikas have decided to go on a strike starting from July 1 to protest against low wages and lack of permanent employment for civic workers.

Kalavathi, a pourakarmika who works near Navodaya Nagar every day from 6:00 am to 2:00 pm gets paid a salary of Rs 15,000 per month, which she uses to sustain a family of five.

Out of Rs 15,000 she gets an amount of Rs 13,000 in hand. Her duties involve sweeping the streets and collecting garbage from roadside. Though she is not the sole breadwinner in the family, it gets hard for her to manage all the basic family needs. Many other pourakarmikas like Kalavathi from around the state will be gathering in their respective districts to demand for a wage hike.

Nirmala M, president of BBMP Pourakarmika Sanghatane, said the workers have multiple demands. "We are asking the government to give housing aid. Many pourakarmikas live in poor conditions, many of their homes have been flooded; they are not able to afford their children's education. These are some of the reasons

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 >>

Low wages amidst rising prices



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

we are holding a strike but the main demand is permanent employment of the workers who have been working for so many years now," she told BM.

A senior BBMP official said the civic workers are being paid regularly. "We pay them according to the minimum wage norms on a regular basis and provide them with all the equipment required... We are also giving hardship allowance to employees working on ground. Now they are demanding permanent employment. Earlier, we used to hire the pourakarmikas on contract basis. Now we do it on the Direct Payment System (DPS); but they are demanding to regularise the services, which is not in our hands. It is the government which will take a decision on this."

Pourakarmikas had protested for regularisation of services in October 2021 as well. There are currently about 40,000 temporary pourakarmikas in Karnataka. Currently, the pourakarmikas are being paid around Rs 15,000.

Recently, the state government had announced a 'hardship allowance' of Rs 2,000 for pourakarmikas in the state budget 2022-23, acknowledging their hard work during covid-19 pandemic. However, many pourakarmikas BM spoke to in the city have not received the allowance yet.

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Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Leakage detected

Halasuru



Drain leakage opposite Indira Canteen, Halasuru Metro and Murphy Town market, Indiranagar.

Move the trolley

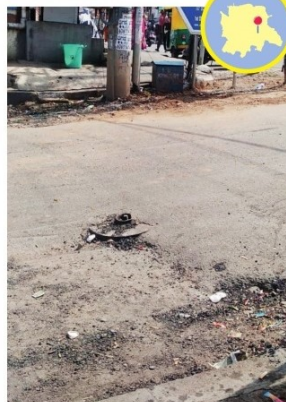
Medhahalli



Trolley lying idle for many days near Karunashree Layout, Medhahalli. It is blocking the footpath.

Fix the road

Medhahalli



This is the state of Janakiraman Layout near the Indian oil petrol pump.

Covid: Health authorities gear up for the worst

The state health authorities are crossing their fingers as Karnataka is nearing the Covid peak period. As per a report by the IIT Kanpur Technical Recommendation Committee, the peak is predicted to start from the third week of June. State Health Minister K Sudhakar has said that the IIT Kanpur team, which has given an accurate report on the last three covid waves, has predicted a spike in the number of covid cases in the state from the third week of June. The report says the peak will last till October.

IIT Kanpur team has predicted a spike in the number of covid cases in the state from the third week of June

The Health department is observing the situation closely. The Covid variant which is surfacing these days is not fierce and there is no need for the people to panic, the minister said.

But, the authorities fear that as the caseload sees a spike, there might be a concerning situation though the variant is not showing any fierce hospitalisation symptoms in patients so far. Dr. KV Srinivasa, consulting physician, told IANS that in the current scenario, the number of cases is high. There are no severe symptoms found and the cases requiring hospitalisation are also less.

Sunday's tally

Karnataka on Sunday clocked 623 fresh covid cases and one death, taking the caseload to 39,60,831 and fatalities to 40,071, the health department said. The day also saw 412 people being discharged. Active cases in the state stood at 5,035.

-Agencies

Key Arkavathi River is brimming in all its glory

Otherwise dry Kakolu Lake has turned into a hot picnic spot these days

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Monsoon has just begun and one of the key lakes on the Arkavathi river link is now brimming. For the last few days, Kakolu Lake in north Bengaluru is overflowing. This has come as a cause of enthusiasm for scientists as well as picnickers. The overflowing water is cascading into mini waterfalls drawing hundreds of people to visit the place. It is said that this is the first time Kakolu Lake has filled up to the maximum level in the last two decades.

Suresh S, an expert said, "Arkavathi, a tributary of Cauvery used to be the lifeline of Bengaluru once upon a time. When the city's lakes were not enough to quench the thirst of ever growing Bengaluru, the administration was in search of an alternative source of water. When Bengaluru was reeling from one of the severe water crisis, the Hesaraghatta lake project was conceived. The lake was constructed in 1891 by Mysore Dewan K Seshadri Iyer spread across 1,224 acres. The tank was designed to supply water to a population of 2.5 lakh in 1925 and Hesaraghatta Lake went dry. The last time the Hesaraghatta Lake was filled to the brim was in the eighties. Kakolu lake is in the upstream of Hesaraghatta lake."

According to him, till Hesaraghatta lake, the Arkavathi river runs through a chain of lakes where in each lake overflowing to fill the downstream lake and then the excess water reaches Hesaraghatta lake. "It is the Kakolu Lake water that is filling the Hesaraghatta lake." According to Prasanna Gowda, a



Locals and visitors alike are overjoyed to see the overflowing Kakolu Lake, which has not been this full and flowing in decades

“**It is just the beginning of the monsoon and even decades ago; the lake would be filled up only after a few months of heavy rains**

—Prasanna Gowda, a resident of the area near the lake

local, the timing of the brimming is quite unusual. "It is just the beginning of the monsoon and even decades ago; the lake would be filled up only after a few months of heavy rain," he said.

For locals who have been used to watching the near dry lake, the overflowing lake has turned it into a picnic spot. "For Bengalureans, Hesaraghatta is one of the favourite hangout places because the place is full of greenery. Many would stop at Hesaraghatta lake but now for the last few days, people are heading a lot ahead to watch the Kakolu lake overflowing in full glory. As the

excess water is flowing towards Hesaraghatta lake, it is cascading into mini waterfalls. It is definitely a treat to watch. We just hope to receive good monsoon rainfall so that if the lakes in the Arkavathi river basin fills up, then it will rejuvenate the Arkavathi river," said Nandita S, a local.

Though Arkavathi takes birth in Nandi hills, it has been almost dry for the last few decades. Even Hesaraghatta lake has not been filled up and hence the river bed till Makali is almost dry. However, from Makali, industrial effluents are let into the river. Further, the Kumudvathi river

joins Arkavathi at Thippagondanahalli (TG Halli) reservoir. Beyond TG Halli, the downstream Manchanabele is brimming with water for the last few days and the overflowing water flows towards Harobele reservoir in Kanakapura before joining Cauvery at Sangama. The police are requesting people to see the overflowing water from the nearby bridge and not to venture into the water as it can be quite dangerous.

Who let the dogs out?

Ado over dog training centre at Rustam Bagh Layout; centre owner cries foul at licence being revoked after complaints

Melvin Mathew
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

A dog training centre that came up two years ago at Rustam Bagh Layout is proving to be a pain point for residents of the area. The owner of the centre says they were given permission by the BBMP, but now after repeated complaints from the residents of the area, BBMP is revoking the licence. In the past two years, the resident welfare association had approached the establishment several times to request them to sound-proof the centre.

Owing to repeated follow-ups with officials, now there is a plan to shift the facility out of the residential neighbourhood.

The area has several senior citizens as its residents, especially being within close range of Manipal hospital. Senior citizens complain that living in the area has become unbearable. "The dog facility came up around 2 years ago. They transformed a bungalow into a dog grooming/training facility. There is continuous barking from the facility. To silence the dogs, you can hear the trainers yelling at the top of their voices," said Anjali Bhate, a senior resident in the area.

Shankar, an 84-year-old, who lives right opposite the facility has to bear the brunt of the racket. "Through the day, the dogs keep barking and the trainers also start shouting. I am not able to sleep," said he.

The water consumption by the facility is also affecting the water table of the area, residents said.

"There is constant washing of the premises and dogs. The water used for washing is being let onto the roads and creating a stink in the neighbourhood," said 71-year-old Dr Issac Mathew, consultant doctor at Manipal hospital.

Residents note that the situation worsens during the weekend with over 50 dogs on the premises and all of them barking at the same time. "It gets worse during weekends. Hearing these dogs, the street dogs also start howling. The trainers can also be heard yelling," said Sunaina, a resident. She is a mother of a one-year-old whose sleep schedule is ruined because of the dogs.

People working from home are also affected. "It has been a constant disturbance, it is very difficult to take online calls with dogs barking in the background," said Ram Narayan, a citizen of Rustam Bagh Layout.



Residents say the constant barks is making life unbearably noisy for them

“The case in high court has lapsed and in one to two months the facility will be shifted. We have cancelled their licence

– Mallappa Bhajantri, Assistant Director of BBMP Animal Husbandry

The RWA and Rustam Bagh Association for Welfare (RAW) has been voicing the resident's concerns to officials. They have written to the Animal Husbandry Department highlighting the same.

Complaints were made to the owner and the commercial tenant of the property but they did not listen, the residents said. "We have complained, at the ward committee meetings, where we were asked to complain to the Animal Husbandry Department and the MOH, which we did along with the signatures of the affected residents. Despite the authorities concerned having issued a notice to them, there is no respite," said Poornima Shetty, President of RAW.

Residents living near the facility have been forced to completely keep their windows shut due to the stench of the place. Other complaints are that children are unable to cycle or play on the street due to the muck around the establishment.

As per documents accessed by BM, BBMP's animal husbandry department had

also issued a notice to the establishment.

Assistant Director of BBMP Animal Husbandry, Mallappa Bhajantri told Bangalore Mirror, "The case in high court has lapsed and in one to two months the facility will be shifted. We have cancelled their licence and the high court order has asked them to shift out of the locality."

Medical Officer of Health, Dr Shive Gowda said, "We are going to withdraw their licence and NOC. The file has been sent to the IT department and has spoken to the Deputy Director of Animal Husbandry to cancel their permit. We were told that the party has informed us that they will be shifting out. There have been strong complaints from RWA against the facility regarding loud noise and stench."

Why now?

The founder of the establishment however has a different story to tell. According to them, "When the matter was taken to court, the notice presented by BBMP was quashed as per the High Court order dated April 18, 2022. They have called the cops and BBMP officials for surprise inspections and have not found any noise or stench problems. Residents have barged into our premises without permission and hampered our safety guidelines and processes."

The founders have put their life savings into the establishment and questioned the BBMP saying, "After a year and half of operation, why is the BBMP telling me to stop? Why are other commercial establishments being permitted then?"

Mithun's body fished out after 34 hrs

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

AFTER a 34-hour search operation, the body of civil engineer **Mithun Kumar** (28) was fished out from an open drain in KR Puram on Sunday morning. Mithun, a resident of Gayatri Layout in KR Puram, was washed away in the storm water drain (SWD) right next to his house on Friday night, after heavy rain lashed Bengaluru and the city outskirts.

Dr KV Trilok Chandra, Special Commissioner, BBMP, Mahadevpura Zone, said the

search operation resumed at 7am Sunday. A team of 50 NDRF and SDRF personnel was deployed to search for the body soon after the alert was sounded on Friday night. They had searched areas over a 2km distance from the spot.



Kumar's house is next to the storm water drain, that was swollen with rainwater. Water from the adjoining area was also flowing into the open drain.

Kumar, who tried to save his parked bike from being washed away, fell into the drain. Though his friends tried to lift him out of the drain, they

failed and he was washed away. BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Girinath said the government would give Rs 5 lakh as compensation to Kumar's family. His body was handed over to the family after postmortem. The last rites will be conducted in his native Sagar, in Shivamogga district, on Monday.

Kumar's younger brother Satvik had filed a police complaint. In another incident on the same day, 62-year-old Muniyamma died after a compound wall collapsed. Due to heavy rain, about 400 houses were also flooded in KR Puram and Mahadevpura on Friday night.



Rain lashed parts of the city on Sunday afternoon spoiling the weekend plans of many Bengalureans. (Top) The ground staff at Chinnaswamy Stadium cover the pitch after showers disrupted the fifth and final T20 cricket match between India and South Africa; A family bails out water from its flooded house in South Bengaluru | EXPRESS, ASHISHKRISHNA HP

Police, Def depts top defaulters of water bills

Police dept owes ₹49.73 cr, Defence ₹26.43 cr

S LALITHA @ Bengaluru

THE Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) is left with unpaid water bills of over Rs 147.5 crore, with defaulters being government departments, led by the police, defence and Railways.

With a monthly collection of Rs 110 crore as water and sanitation bills, the water board runs on a no profit-no loss basis, said a top official. It depends on bill payment to carry on its daily affairs.

Statistics on arrears up to May 2022 reveal that the police department owes BWSSB Rs 49.73 crore, Defence Rs 26.43 crore and Railways Rs 18.73 crore. Banks, Postal and Telecommunication Department, PWD, maternity homes, public urinals, Education, Forest and Horticulture departments and BBMP figure among defaulters.

Unlike in the case of individual consumers, BWSSB refrains from disconnecting the service to government departments as a large number of staff and the public could get impacted, said a top BWSSB official. "Water charges have remained the same for over a decade, but our power charges due to pumping of water have doubled to Rs 70 crore per month now. We depend a lot on our bill collections," he added.

Nisha James, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Administration, said that since April 2020, the Police Department has been paying the water bills regularly. "The pending bills are the legacy that we have inherited. Earlier, all families staying in the quarters paid the same bill and there was some opposition to it. That has been changed now with families paying only for the water they consume. It is not possible to track our past residents, many of whom have retired, and make them pay," she said.

The water board must waive off these charges as they include penalty for non-payment, interest and fines in connection with rain-water harvesting and sewage treatment plants, she added.

Additional Divisional Railway Manager, Bengaluru Division, Kusuma

Hariprasad said the Railways paid up all its monthly bills. "The Division paid Rs 22 crore for water bills for the last financial year and has earmarked Rs 23 crore for this year. What is still being billed in our account is the penalty and interest on that. This sum needs to be waived off," she added. She said that in fact, BWSSB owed the Railways Rs 28 crore over the last three years for non-payment of 'Way Leave' charges for using its land to lay pipelines.



Water charges have remained the same for over a decade, but our power charges due to pumping of water have doubled to Rs 70 crore per month now.

A top BWSSB official

Amphitheatre inside BBMP park vandalised

BENGALURU: Miscreants vandalised an amphitheatre located inside a BBMP park in Dasarahalli near Nelamangala on Saturday night. Bagalagunte police have registered a case and the accused are yet to be arrested. A senior police officer said that the incident took place a couple of days ago. However, the incident came to light on Sunday morning after passersby found the windows of the amphitheatre damaged by stones. Police suspect the role of miscreants under the influence of alcohol behind the incident. CCTV cameras are not working at the amphitheatre. Based on a complaint, police have launched a manhunt to nab the accused.

DURATION OF PANDEMIC	CASES REPORTED	DEATHS	DISCHARGES
2 YEARS, 103 DAYS	623	1 0	412 425
	750	POSITIVITY RATE	MORTALITY RATE
	TALLY	5.93% 5.93%	1.01% 1.01%
TODAY	39,60,831	ACTIVE CASES	RECOVERY RATE
YESTERDAY	39,60,208	5,035	98.86%
		4,825	98.86%

B'uru Urban: 588	Chamarajanagar: 0	Dharwad: 1	Kolara: 1	Shivamogga: 0
B'uru Rural: 2	Chikkaballapur: 0	Gadag: 0	Koppal: 0	Tumakuru: 0
Bagalkot: 0	Chikkamagaluru: 0	Hassan: 1	Mandya: 1	Udupi: 4
Ballari: 2	Chitradurga: 0	Haveri: 0	Mysuru: 6	U'Kannada: 4
Belagavi: 1	D'Kannada: 13	Kalaburagi: 1	Raichur: 0	Vijayapura: 0
Bidar: 1	Devanagere: 0	Kodagu: 0	Ramanagara: 0	Yadgir: 0

Kannada activists attempt to remove Hindi banners, detained

Posters were put up to welcome PM Modi; Only Hindi not acceptable, they say



KRV activists blacken welcome banners in Hindi on Mysuru Road on Sunday

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

HIGH drama prevailed on Mysuru Road and in RR Nagar on Sunday, after several pro-Kannada activists, including Karnataka Rakshana Vedike, tried to remove and vandalise welcome banners put up for Prime Minister Narendra Modi, as they were in Hindi. The agitators alleged that the BJP government is supporting Hindi by putting up such banners.

A senior police officer said that more than 500 persons belonging to pro-Kannada organisations went to RR Nagar, Vijayanagar and Mysuru Road and tried to remove the banners. Vijayanagar and RR Nagar police detained them and sent them back, as tension gripped the area.

Praveen Shetty, president of Karnataka Rakshana Vedike, told *The New Indian Express*

that the BJP government is insulting Kannada by putting up welcome banners in Hindi. "We will never tolerate this attitude by the government. We won't allow only Hindi boards in and around the city. Police took our activists and members to the police station, but we will not stop our fight," he said.

Meanwhile, heavy police security was deployed on Mysuru Road following the incident, and security was tightened at venues where Modi's events are scheduled.

Sannerappa, a KRV activist, said they have no problems with English banners. "Had the banners been in Kannada and English, it was fine. Only Hindi is not acceptable," he said, alleging that the banners were put up by minister Muniratna, who has been selected by Kannadigas. "It's a federal system and all languages should be given equal importance," he stated.

Traffic diversions today for PM's visit, likely to hit smooth flow

Bengaluru Traffic Police have introduced diversions in some localities, for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Bengaluru on Monday. Guidelines have also been issued for the movement of vehicles

11 am to 1 pm

Commuters travelling to Airport and arriving from Airport requested to avoid Kaveri Junction, Mehri Circle and Hebbal flyover, and take alternative routes

12.30 pm to 2.30 pm

Restriction on vehicle movement on Mysuru Road, from NICE Bridge towards Kengeri, and towards Bengaluru city, from Uttarhalli towards Kengeri, and towards Mysuru

1 pm to 3.30 pm

As PM will be travelling from Kommaghatta to Jnanabharathi, and making a return trip, traffic restrictions will be in effect. School administrations are requested to take note of this and take adequate measures to avoid inconvenience to school children

ALTERNATIVE ROUTES FOR COMMUTERS USING ELEVATED CORRIDOR TO REACH AIRPORT



Vehicles travelling from KR Puram and Ring Road

Tin factory - Ramamurthy Nagar - Hennur Cross right turn - Hennur Main Road - Byrathi cross - Hosuru Bande - Jagalahatti - Bagalur Gundappa Circle - Bagalur Bus stop - Bandi Kodigehalli Main Road - Beguru - KIA

From Tumakuru Rd and Ring Rd

Goraguntepalya - BEL Junction - Gangammanagudi Circle - MS Palya - Yelahanka Mother Dairy Junction - Major Sandeep Unnikrishnan Junction - Nagenahalli gate - Singanayakanahalli - Rajanukunte - MVIT junction - Vidyanagar cross - Chikkajala - Sadahalli gate - Airport toll - KIA

From Vidhana Soudha, Raj Bhavan, KR Market side

Kaveri Junction - Bhashyam Circle - Sankey Road - Mallawaram 18th Cross - Maramma Circle - Yeshwanthpur Circle - Mathikere Cross - HMT Main Road - BEL Circle - Gangammanagudi - MS Palya - Yelahanka Mother Dairy Junction - Major Sandeep Unnikrishnan Junction - Nagenahalli gate - Singanayakanahalli - Rajanukunte - MVIT Junction - Vidyanagar Cross - Chikkajala - Sadahalli gate - KIA

From JC Nagar, RT Nagar side

Jayamahal Main Road - CQAL Cross - Water Tank junction - PRTC junction - Devegowda Road - Dinnur Junction - Kavalibyrasandya Road - Nagavara Junction - Hennur Cross - Kothanur - Kannuru - Bagalur Circle - Bagalur PS - Hoovinaayanakanahalli Cross - Bandi Kodigehalli Main Road - Mylanahalli Cross

200 workers toiled to ready venue in B'luru

S LALITHA @ Bengaluru

A veteran in making arrangements for many huge events, including a few in the past attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, K V Raja has been mandated with the job of taking care of all arrangements for the D-Day at Kommaghatta Grounds. Modi will lay the foundation stone for the Bengaluru Suburban Rail Project and inaugurate the Sir M Visvesvaraya Terminal among other projects on Monday afternoon.

Proprietor of Raja Enterprises in Chamrajpet, Raja said it was a nerve-wracking fortnight for him and his team comprising nearly 200 workers. "I was a challenging assignment. The massive ground at Komma-ghatta had to be levelled for the big event. To top it all, we had heavy rains," Raja told *TNIE*.

The sprawling shamiana which was readied with cloth material from Germany and China extends to a length of 700m and a width of 280m.

"A total of 40,000 people can be accommodated. It is a combination of ordinary seats as



Workers erect a stage at Kommaghatta

well as sophisticated seats," he said. Twenty huge LED screens, lighting and stage carpeting have all been taken care of by the agency.

Asked if he was intimidated by the daunting task, Raja said that it was not something new for him. "We have been in the business for 30 years. We have taken care of events attended by PM Modi in Mangaluru, Coimbatore, Dharapuram and thrice in Bengaluru in the past. We have done at a few more places in South India too. We have pulled them off successfully and so I was confident we would be able to do it well," he said. On cost involved in making all the arrangements, Raju diplomatically said they had not calculated it yet.

MODI ON 2-DAY TOUR OF K'TAKA FROM TODAY

PM to Inaugurate Suburban Rail, Ring Road Projects in B'luru

BENGALURU Prime Minister Narendra Modi will kick off his two-day visit to Karnataka on Monday. He will visit Bengaluru and Mysuru and participate in various official programmes.

On day one, he will open the Centre for Brain Research and lay the foundation stone for Bagchi-Parthasarathy multi-specialty hospital at IISc. He will later launch the new campus of Dr BR Ambedkar School of Economics (BASE).

Modi will kick off 150 Technology Hubs the state's skill development department has developed by uplifting ITIs with generous funding support from the Tatas.

In the afternoon, the PM will lay the foundation stone of multiple rail and road infrastructure projects worth over ₹27,000 crore. In the evening, he will attend a public function at Maharaja's College Ground in Mysuru where he will also lay the foundation stone of Coaching terminal at Naganahalli Railway Station and open the 'Centre of Excellence for persons with communication disorders' at the All India Institute of Speech and Hearing (AIISH). In the evening, Modi will visit Suttur Math and later the Chamundeshwari Temple. On Tuesday, Modi will participate in a mass yoga demonstration at the Mysore Palace ground on the occasion of the eighth International Day of Yoga.

IN BENGALURU, THE PM WILL.....

1. Kickstart work on the Bengaluru

Suburban rail project (BSRP), which will connect the city with suburbs and satellite townships. The ₹15,700-crore project will have four corridors with a route length of 148 km.

2. Launch work on redevelopment of Bengaluru Cantt and Yesvantpur Junction railway stations at ₹500 crore and ₹375 crore, respectively.

3. Open India's first AC railway station Sir M Visvesvaraya Railway Station at Baiyappanahalli, developed at a cost of ₹315 crore.

4. Launch 100% electrification of the Konkan railway line (about 740 Kms) from Roha (Maharashtra) to Thokur (Karnataka) by flagging of Electric trains from Udupi, Madagaon and Ratnagiri.

5. Open two railway line-doubling projects: Arsikere to Tumakuru (around 96 km) and Yelahanka to Penukonda (around 120 km) by flagging off passenger trains and MEMU service respectively.

6. Kickstart work on the two sections of the Bengaluru Ring Road project. The ₹2,280-crore project is aimed at reducing traffic congestion in Bengaluru.

7. Launch work on six laning of Nelamangala-Tumkur section of NH-48 & widening of Punjalkatte-Charmadi section of NH-73,

8. Kickstart work on the ₹1,800-crore Multi Modal Logistics Park at Muddalinganahalli, 40 km from Bengaluru. It will help in lowering the transportation and secondary freight costs. —Our Bureau



CORONA METER

CASES ON SUNDAY **11,375[^]**

ACTIVE CASES
76,933 (+3,421)^o

Recovered
42.71 m
(+7,943)

Deaths
524,875
(+11)

TOTAL CASES **43,310,971**

Source: State bulletins, PTI; [^]23 states/UTs (excl. UP, Rajasthan & Punjab) as of 10:43 PM; ^onet of recoveries/deaths (Change since 12am, 19 Jun)

4 Main Metros	CASES ON SUN	ACTIVE CASES
Mumbai	2087	13897
Delhi	1503	5542
B'luru Urban	588	4833
Chennai	306	1696

Source: State bulletins

VACCINE DOSES ADMINISTERED IN INDIA
1962.19 M (+276,000)

1 st dose...	2 nd dose
1014.73 m (93.59%)	905.93 m (83.56%)

(% 12yr+ population)

BOOSTER DOSES
TOTAL 41.53 m

Source: dashboard.cowin.gov.in, 10:43 PM

GLOBAL COUNT

Total Cases 544.17 M	Vaccine Doses Administered 12022.64 Million <small>(204 countries/areas)</small>
Deaths 6,340,521	
Recovered 519.35 M	

Source: worldometers.info, 10:43 PM

NEW INFECTIONS IN 5 WORST-HIT COUNTRIES*

Germany	80019
Taiwan	53694
Italy	38700
Australia	26927
North Korea	20370

*as of Sat

Youngest Kids in US Cleared for Moderna, Pfizer Covid Vax

US health officials approved Covid-19 vaccines for infants and toddlers, the last remaining age group that hasn't been eligible for inoculation.

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices voted 12-0 on Saturday to recommend Pfizer's three-dose vaccine for youngsters ages six months through 4 years. They also voted 12-0 to recommend Moderna's two-dose vaccine for children six months through 5 years. CDC Director Rochelle Walensky signed off on the recommendations making the advice official and allowing the shots to finally go into arms.

Shots will be available at thousands of pediatric practices, pharmacies and other locations this week, the agency said.

President Joe Biden said the decision marked a "monumental step forward



in the nation's fight against the virus."

"These vaccines are safe, highly effective, and will give parents the peace of mind of knowing their child is protected from the worst outcomes of Covid-19," Biden said in a statement.

The CDC endorsement is welcome news to the parents and caregivers who have been eager to give their youngsters some form of protection sin-

ce vaccines first became available more than a year and a half ago.

However, the rate of vaccination for older children suggests that uptake is likely to be limited for toddlers. Only 29% of American kids ages 5 to 11 have been fully vaccinated, according to CDC data, suggesting that some parents are hesitant or less motivated to inoculate their children. **Bloomberg**