



**BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
BANGALORE**

**ENGLISH NEWS PAPER
CLIPPINGS**

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THE HINDU

BESCOM to audit transformers located near schools, on footpaths

This follows death of two in a blast; compensation of ₹10 lakh each to be paid

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

BESCOM officials have been directed to conduct an audit of power transformers located near schools, footpaths, and other sensitive locations in Bengaluru city to ensure safety of the people and avoid accidents in the future, Energy Minister V. Sunil Kumar on Thursday informed both the Legislative Assembly and Council.

The Minister also announced that BESCOM would pay compensation of ₹10 lakh each for two deaths to the family.

In a reply to S. Suresh Kumar (BJP) during Question Hour in the Assembly, Mr. Sunil Kumar said he had chaired a meeting with department officials after 55-year-old security guard Shiv-araj and his 19-year-old-daughter Chaitanya succumbed following transformer (250 kV) explosion on Ullal Road, Manga-



Pedestrians walk close to the electrical transformer on a footpath opposite Mysuru Road Satellite Bus Station in Bengaluru. *FILE PHOTO

nahalli, on Wednesday and directed officials to conduct audit of transformers located near schools, on footpath

and other sensitive places. He informed the Council, during Zero Hour, that special attention would be paid

to transformers over 15 years old. The Minister said at 12.50 p.m. on Wednesday, some people had informed the BESCOM officials about problems in the transformer. Despite the specific public complaint, the officials had not taken quick action and the transformer exploded at 3.10 p.m. Senior BESCOM officials have been directed to conduct an inquiry for identifying reasons for dereliction of duty on the part of officials. Based on the inquiry report, action would be taken against officials, the Minister said.

Mr Suresh Kumar said two people succumbed owing to negligence on the part of BESCOM officials in quick succession in the City. Akshaya, 14, was mowed down by a speeding BBMP garbage truck on Hebbal road on Monday. The government should give instructions to BBMP and BESCOM to make its officials vigilant, he said.

THE HINDU

11 kV wire fell on transformer resulting in blast, says BESCOM

K.C. DEEPIKA
BENGALURU

The Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (BESCOM) has termed the transformer explosion that resulted in the deaths of a man and his daughter as an unfortunate one-off incident.

Officials said preliminary investigations have revealed that an 11 kV wire, which had cut off, fell on the transformer at Ullal Main Road. The reaction led to a fire as transformers have oil in them, resulting in the blast, said BESCOM director (technical) D. Nagarjuna.

“There are around 5,000 transformers and regular maintenance measures are being undertaken. This was a one-off, rare incident,” he said.

BESCOM's transformers have been the topic of discussion for nearly a decade, with the High Court of Karnataka too intervening multiple times.

In December 2021, it had directed the power utility to submit an action plan for executing the process of converting transformers existing on footpaths and storm-water drains into a

special design transformer centre.

The controversy over the risk transformers on pavements pose broke out back in 2013 when Manoj Vasanthrao Patil, 37, who was walking on Church Street along with a friend to reach the M. Chinnaswamy stadium to watch an IPL match, tried to cross a puddle, lost his balance and caught hold of the fence of a transformer, which allegedly caused an electric shock.

Mr. Nagarjuna said over the years, initiatives have been taken up to shift big

transformers and free footpaths of them. “Earlier, transformers were raised on two to three pillars. This has been converted into a single pole and transformers are raised to 10-12ft height. Around 60% of this has been completed and we will finish the rest in half a month. We are also undertaking underground cabling. During rains, with tree branch falls, there were risks involved. Around 75% underground cabling has been completed and it will take six months for the entire project,” he said.

THE  HINDU

BBMP gives compensation to family of Akshaya

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

In less than a week three people have died due to alleged negligence or lack of infrastructure. Barely two days before a transformer burst resulting in the death of a 19-year-old girl and her father, a 14-year-old student was mowed down by a garbage truck on the busy Ballari Road. The girl, Akshaya, and a few other pedestrians were attempting to jump over a median on the busy Ballari Road. They wanted to avoid the pedestrian underpass as it was badly maintained and filled with stagnating water.

The BBMP handed over a cheque of ₹5 lakh as compensation to her family. Civic Chief Gaurav Gupta, on Friday, also relieved Ashok Bagi, assistant executive engineer, BBMP's Road Infrastructure division, for alleged dereliction in maintaining the pedestrian underpass and skywalk.

Speaking to reporters later, Mr. Gupta said that the skywalk was just yards away from the accident spot and had been inaugurated eight months ago. He said that the BBMP would strive towards making roads safe for citizens by ensuring that the pedestrian facilities are maintained in a good condition.

Local MLA Byrathi Suresh had also given ₹3 lakh from his personal funds, while the garbage truck owner had given ₹2 lakh. The insurance claim amount would also be handed over to the bereaved family, he said and added that BBMP would bear the cost of education of Akshaya's two siblings.

The family did not want to accept the compensation initially. However, senior civic officials went to their home and convinced them to accept it, he said.

THE HINDU

Biker killed in accident on ORR

Concerns raised over safety hazard bollards pose to motorists, especially with metro work under way

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

A two-wheeler rider identified as Mathew Joseph, 47, died in an accident near Devarabeesanahalli on Outer Ring Road on Thursday morning while he was on his way to office. He was riding near the bus priority lane, which has bollards, when a speeding goods vehicle knocked down his bike. He slipped and fell under the wheel of the vehicle sustaining severe head injuries. He died on the spot.

The incident has once again raised concerns over the safety hazard that bollards pose to motorists, especially as metro construction work from Central Silk Board Junction to K.R. Puram is currently under way.

The traffic police have been asking authorities such as Directorate of Urban Land Transport (DULT), Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Pa-



The spot where the biker was ran over by a goods vehicle near Devarabeesanahalli on Thursday morning. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

like (BBMP), and Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. (BMRCL) to remove bollards on the bus priority lane in areas where metro work sites have been set up. This would help motorists maneuver narrow stretches.

Due to metro construction on the median, the width of the road has reduced. BMRCL has to erect nearly 700 piers on the stretch. "Due to metro work,

the road has become narrow. We have been observing that where there is a bus lane, two-wheelers riders use the narrow gaps between the bollards to move from one lane to another thereby risking their lives. We have been asking the authorities to suspend operations of BPL wherever the road is narrow and take up proper maintenance of bollards where the road is wider," said Joint Commis-

sioner of Police (Traffic) B.R. Ravikanth Gowda.

While officials said that all vehicles are allowed to use the bus priority lane from Central Silk Board to Iblur, many motorists are demanding that the priority lane along the entire stretch of ORR be opened to them at least until metro construction work is completed.

"BBMP and DULT are discussing the issue with various stakeholders on whether to retain BPL on the entire stretch. There are two opinions: some are in favour of the priority lane arguing that it will help reduce congestion, while others are for the removal of bollards," said MD of BMRCL Anjum Parwez.

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) officials say on an average they operate nearly 1,000 buses on ORR. There are many videos of heavy vehicles and BMRCL buses crushing bol-

lards while shifting from one lane to the other. Motorists who are tired of traffic snarls have demanded that authorities take immediate action. "Due to metro work ORR has turned into a nightmare for motorists. Damaged bollards are a safety hazard and it's time the police and other departments do something," said Sriharsha, a motorist.

Vineetha, who works at Manyata Tech park, pointed out that firms are asking employees to return to work, as a result of which vehicle congestion has increased. "I travel from Silk Board to Manyata daily, but due to the metro work I no longer use the ORR," she said.

Meanwhile, the police are tracking down the driver of the goods vehicle involved in the accident. A case of reckless driving and death due to negligence has been registered against the driver, said the police.

THE HINDU

109 fresh COVID cases

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Karnataka on Thursday reported 109 new COVID-19 cases of which 74 cases are from Bengaluru Urban. With this, the total number of cases touched 39,45,079.

With two deaths, the State's toll rose to 40,044.

THE HINDU

Govt. seeks report on incidence of TB in COVID-recovered people

Out of 25 lakh people who were screened, 155 were found to have tuberculosis

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

With 155 COVID-19 recovered individuals and their contacts in the State having been found to be positive for tuberculosis (TB) during the active case finding (ACF) campaign conducted in August last year, Health and Medical Education Minister K. Sudhakar has now sought a detailed report on the incidence of TB among recovered persons.

Speaking at an event organised by the State Health Department on the occasion of 'World TB Day' on Thursday, the Minister claimed that it was for the first time in the country that TB screening had been conducted by the Government for those who have recovered from COVID-19. "Among 25 lakh people who were screened,

14 districts bag medals for TB reduction

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Five districts – Bengaluru Urban, Belgaum, Udupi, Uttara Kannada and Yagchiri – have been awarded silver medals for 40% reduction in TB burden compared to 2015. This

recognition by the Union Health Ministry is under the initiative of sub-national certification of progress towards TB-free status. Similarly, nine districts have received bronze medals for a 20% reduction in TB burden.

155 people were found to have TB. These people have contracted TB after recovering COVID-19. I have sought a detailed report on the incidence of TB in recovered patients," he said.

Asserting that the State is committed to make Karnataka TB free by 2025, he said :

"TB, like COVID-19, is a contagious disease. COVID-19 is caused by a virus and TB is caused by a bacterium. The society needs to join hands with the government and work collectively to achieve the target of TB elimination."

"In rural areas, people do not get tested even if they

have symptoms. One TB patient can spread the disease to at least ten people. If this happens, one person's negligence will end up harming others. So, a lot more awareness has to be created about TB. The State government is spending more than ₹5 crore every year to create awareness about diseases," the Minister said.

Stating that there is a lot of stigma attached to TB, he said such stigma causes mental and emotional distress among patients. "We must work towards supporting these people emotionally. Ever since the outbreak of the pandemic, we have conducted over 25 lakh mental health counselling sessions with the help of NIMHANS. Similarly, the patient and their families need to be counselled," he said.

Karnataka Govt. to review white-topping of roads

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

BENGALURU

The State Government will review the white-topping of roads in the State and introduce norms for it, owing to the high cost of the process, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai informed Legislative Council on Thursday.

“If normal asphaltting costs ₹75 lakh to ₹1 crore for a km, white-topping costs ₹9 to ₹10 crore for the same length. The government will relook into white-topping due to the high cost though the maintenance of the white-topped roads is low,” he said.

To another question on the reason for retendering of work on 12 high density corridors in Bengaluru, he said the estimated cost was around ₹800 crore, which has now been reduced to ₹432 crore.

“This also included ₹500 crore for maintenance of the road for 5 years. This is not

right to spend more money on maintenance than the road. Contractor is mandated to maintain the road for two years in other contracts. Efforts had also been made to bring in ineligible contractors. I wanted transparency to allow everyone to participate.” A new tender with the revised cost will be floated shortly.

Mr. Bommai also said the Python machine used for filling of potholes has been currently deployed on 182 km stretch of roads in Bengaluru, and the government has decided to further use it on 442 km stretch.

The Chief Minister also assured the House that owing to poor quality of work, Karnataka Rural Infrastructure Development Ltd. will not be given projects by BBMP.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said over the last three years, ₹6,767 crore has been spent on road work in Bengaluru.

South a bright spot in India's tuberculosis fight

Delhi has highest prevalence as per first survey in 60 yrs

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

South India has fared well in eliminating tuberculosis as the disease prevalence in every southern state is lower than

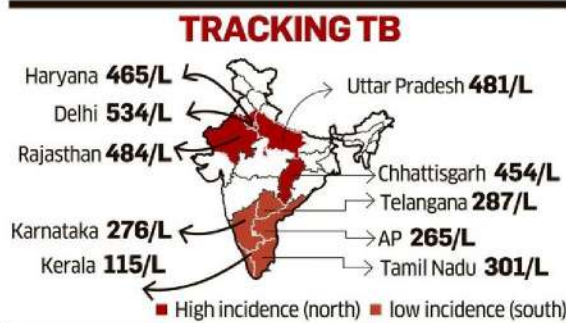
the national average.

On the other hand, Delhi has emerged as India's TB capital, with the mega city reporting a prevalence of 534 per 1,00,000 – the highest in India.

These are some of the findings of India's first national TB prevalence survey in 60 years.

Other high prevalence states are Rajasthan (484), Uttar Pradesh (481), Haryana (465), Chhattisgarh (454) and Madhya Pradesh (386). The national average stands at 316.

Each of the southern states



scores better, according to the survey, with Kerala being the best in business with a preva-

lence of 115 per one lakh population. There are improvements in Tamil Nadu (301),

Telangana (287), Karnataka (276) and Andhra Pradesh (265) too.

The National TB Prevalence Survey was conducted from 2019 to 2021 to know the actual disease burden and carried out by the Indian Council of Medical Research and Central TB Division of the Union Health Ministry in partnership with state TB cells and WHO regional office. Such a survey happened after a gap of 60 years as the first national survey took place in 1955-58.

► TB, Page 8

South a bright spot in India's TB fight

TB, FROM PAGE 1

The survey estimated the point prevalence of microbiologically confirmed pulmonary TB among persons of age 15 years and older in 20 states after examining more than 3.2 lakh persons with chest X-rays and sputum tests.

"In the first survey, TB prevalence was around 400 per lakh which has now come down to 300-plus per lakh. This is not a good enough improvement as we need to focus on TB management," medical researcher JP Muliyl, a former principal of Christian Medical College, Vellore, who is not associated with the survey, told *DH*.

Referring to a NITI Ayog poverty index showing Uttar Pradesh as India's poorest state and Kerala the least poor, Muliyl said the TB survey also reflected such a reality. "With medicine, a TB patient can become sputum negative in three months, but the medicine needs to be supported with adequate nutrition."

The prevalence is higher in the 55-plus age group (588)

compared to the younger groups of 35-54 years (296) and 15-34 years (220). Also the prevalence is overwhelmingly more in males (472) as against females (154).

An accompanying survey on 14,176 people with chest symptoms shows 64% of the population didn't seek treatment and the number one reason for not seeking treatment is that they ignored those symptoms.

The Union Health Ministry's annual report on TB shows that 19,33,381 TB patients were notified in 2021 as against 16,28,161 in 2020, when TB notification dropped due to the Covid-19 pandemic. As many as 18 states have committed to end TB by 2025 – a target set by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"We have developed a system of identification, treatment and support of patients across the country. New advanced technologies and treatment modalities are coming up which can be used in our fight against TB," Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said in Delhi at an event to mark the World Tuberculosis Day.



Govt alters rules to give power supply without OC

BENGALURU, DHNS

In a major relief to more than five lakh building owners who are struggling to get electricity connections without Occupancy Certificates (OC), the energy department decided to change the rules and give them power connections.

Energy Minister V Sunil Kumar will soon give them electricity connections.

D K Shivakumar, the energy minister in the previous Congress regime, ordered not to give power connections to buildings citing violation of building byelaws and deviation from the sanctioned building plan.

Left in the lurch, property owners had been venting their

ire against the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and the energy department for the past five years.

Considering the inconvenience to the owners, a delegation of BJP MLAs from Bengaluru recently met Minister Sunil Kumar and urged him to change the rules requiring an OC to get a power connection.

The minister subsequently discussed the issue with Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and obtained his consent to provide the electricity connections.

A file on the decision was also sent to the Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC) on March 22 and the minister held a high-level meeting with energy depart-

ment officials on Wednesday in Bengaluru.

Department officials led by the minister resolved to provide electricity connections, which coincides with the implementation of the popular 'Belaku' programme to electrify rural households without power.

Confirming the decision, Kumar said: "We had received several complaints from building owners who were deprived of a power connection for not possessing an OC certificate. A few MLAs from Bengaluru had also met me and briefed me about the situation. Very soon, the government will issue an official order announcing power connections to buildings without an OC certificate."

White-topping of roads costly, needs re-look, says Bommai



White-topping work underway at NR Road near KR Market.
DH FILE/S K DINESH

Govt to formulate special code to lay new roads, maintain old ones

BENGALURU, DHNS

The state government seems to be having a change of heart towards white-topping of roads in Bengaluru and other parts of the state, with Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Thursday saying the process was costly and needs a re-look.

He also said the government will formulate a special code to lay new roads and maintain existing ones.

While it costs Rs 75 lakh to Rs 1 crore to asphalt one km of road, the expenditure rose to around Rs 9 to 10 crore per km for white-topping.

“Though white-topped roads

have low maintenance, the government is having a relook as the cost is 10 times that of asphaltting,” Bommai said, responding to queries in the Legislative Council on the state of roads in Bengaluru.

The government will fix norms for roads that require white-topping. Roads with high traffic density and load, where multi-axle vehicles ply will be considered, he said.

On repairs and filling potholes in various parts of Bengaluru, Bommai said the government is looking at measures to ensure that roads once repaired stay intact for a longer period of time.

To a question by Congress

MLC S Ravi, he said that Python machines that fill potholes are being employed in 182 km roads in Bengaluru where repair works are under progress. “We have decided to use the machines for 442 km roads in the city,” he said.

High-density corridor

The government has cancelled the tender for high-density corridors in Bengaluru owing to several reasons. The project was estimated at Rs 800 crore, which was reduced to Rs 432 crore during the tenure of the previous chief minister, Bommai said.

The initial tender conditions allowed for the construction of corridors at a cost of Rs 300 crore and allocated Rs 500 crore to maintain roads for a five-year period. This condition contradicted the PWD code, which mandated a contractor to maintain roads built by them for a period of two years. “A new tender will be floated shortly at a revised cost,” he added.

BBMP roadworks in last five years

White-topped roads	Other roads
Road length: 100.60 km	Road length: 1,911.14 km
Cost: Rs 1,014.3 crore	Cost: Rs 1,449.63 crore

Underpass work near Marathahalli bridge begins

BENGALURU, DHNS: The BBMP has started constructing a two-lane underpass close to the Marathahalli railway overbridge with the aim of reducing travel time of motorists heading from Old Airport Road towards Kadubeesanahalli by 15 minutes.

The underpass will provide relief to residents of Ashwath Nagar and Munnekolala. It is estimated that the project will benefit around 20,000 motorists who travel an addi-

tional distance of 2 km to take a U-turn at Spice Garden on a daily basis.

The BBMP is using the push-box method to minimise traffic disruptions and complete the project quickly. Officials have promised to complete the work in about three months.

“The roads around Spice Garden were always a choking point. Traffic piles up till the railway bridge. The underpass has been conceived

to cut down the unnecessary travel to access the Outer Ring Road and Old Airport Road,” said Clement Jayakumar of Mahadevapura Task Force, which is headed by MLA Aravind Limbavali.

Jayakumar said the project is also part of the Revised Master Plan 2015. “The entire ORR-Varthur main road stretch will have fewer choking points once this underpass and another at Kundalahalli is ready.”



Karnataka reports 109 fresh Covid cases, two deaths

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karnataka on Thursday registered 109 fresh coronavirus cases and two fatalities as case tally swelled to 39,45,079 and toll to 40,044.

With the 117 discharges in the last 24 hours, the state has seen 39,03,201 recoveries so far. Of the new cases, 74 were from Bengaluru Urban which also recorded 90 recoveries and one death.

The number of active cases in the state was 1,792. While

the positivity rate for the day was 0.34%, the case fatality rate was 1.83%. One death each was reported from Bengaluru Urban and Dakshina Kannada on Thursday.

As many as 6,54,01,956 samples have been tested for Covid-19 in the state so far, with Thursday accounting for 32,015 tests. A total of 1,06,310 Covid vaccine doses were administered on Thursday, taking the tally to 10,31,11,273.



Covid making comeback in parts of US

WASHINGTON, AFP: Covid is making its latest comeback in parts of the northeastern United States as the BA.2 coronavirus variant becomes dominant in the country, officials said Wednesday, while urging Congress to pass new funding or risk the supply of future treatments and vaccines.

The country is currently registering an average of 28,600 cases per day, down well below the last peak of more than 8,00,000 average daily infections, seen in January.

TB cases in India up 19%, prevalence 2X of int'l avg

New Delhi: India witnessed a sharp 19% rise in tuberculosis cases in 2021 over the previous year, even as 64% of the surveyed symptomatic population did not seek healthcare services between 2019 and 2021, the India TB report 2022 and National TB Prevalence Survey shows, **Sushmi Dey.**

Over 19.3 lakh new and relapsed TB patients were notified in 2021 against 16.3 lakh in the previous year, the TB report 2022 released by health minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Wednesday shows.

Deaths from TB increased to 4.93 lakh, excluding HIV pa-

tients, in 2020, up 13% from a year ago, while the mortality rate due to all forms of TB between 2019 and 2020 rose by 11%.

The TB prevalence survey – held 60 years after the first National Survey 1955-58 – shows that the prevalence of TB among Indians is 312 cases per 1 lakh population, more than double the global average of around 127 cases per 1 lakh people. Delhi, with 534 cases/1 lakh population, had the highest TB prevalence, followed by 484 in Rajasthan & 481 in UP. Kerala (115) had the lowest prevalence.

► **State seeks report on TB among Covid survivors, P 4**

► **Childhood TB, P 12**

Childhood TB remains a major problem

► **Continued from page 1**

Findings of the survey show that childhood TB remains a major problem contributing to around 31% of the global burden. Mandaviya reaffirmed the government's commitment to making India tuberculosis-free by 2025 and said this will be achieved by ensuring access to quality healthcare and advanced treatment.

India had reported an 11% rise in TB cases to just over 24 lakh patients in 2019 over the previous year.

However, TB notifications dropped significantly by over 60% during the nationwide lockdown period due to Covid-19 in 2020 and raised apprehensions that unaddressed cases and higher household transmission could cause a spurt in the disease.

Akshaya's parents get ₹8L relief

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: The parents of 14-year-old **N Akshaya** who was run over by a BBMP garbage truck after she tried to cross Ballari Road as the pedestrian subway was waterlogged on Monday, have been given Rs 8 lakh compensation.

BBMP paid Rs 5 lakh and Hebbal MLA Byrathi Suresh paid Rs 3 lakh. Both cheques were handed over to the girl's parents, Narasimhamurthy and Geetha, on Thursday.

The owner of the waste truck

will give another Rs 2 lakh to the girl's parents, BBMP chief commissioner Gaurav Gupta said. "An unfortunate incident occurred



in the city on Monday. We need to be more cautious when it comes to road safety. It should be ensured that pedestrian subways are in good condition. Action has been taken against an officer

for not ensuring proper maintenance of this subway. Measures will be taken to facilitate free education of the remaining two children of Akshaya's parents," Gupta said.

Govt seeks report on TB among Covid survivors

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Health minister K Sudhakar on Thursday said since tuberculosis has been detected in several people who recovered from Covid-19, the government has sought a detailed report on the matter.

He was speaking at an event organised by the health department on the occasion of World TB Day. "For the first time, TB screening was conducted by the government for those who recovered from Covid in the state. Of 25 lakh people tested, 144 were found to have TB after recovering from Covid," he said. TB, like Covid, is a contagious disease but caused by bacteria. "All government hospitals have facilities to conduct TB test. People must get it done. If detected early, treatment will be more effective," he said, adding that his department's aim is to make Karnataka free of TB by 2025.

Medals for districts

Five districts in the state received 'silver medals' for curbing TB. In these districts, compared to previous years, there has been a 40% fall in its incidence. Nine other districts received 'bronze medals'. Sudhakar underlined the need to counsel TB patients like those of Covid-19, who were counselled with help from Nimhans.

Expensive affair: Only select roads in B'luru to be whitetopped, says CM

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Chief minister Basavaraj Bommai on Thursday said whitetopping (cement roads) are proving expensive and the government has therefore decided to whitetop only select roads in Bengaluru.

Replying to a question raised by S Ravi in the council, Bommai said regular asphaltting (bitumen) costs about Rs 75 lakh for a 1km stretch, while whitetopping costs Rs 10 crore.

From now, he said, only stretches with high-density vehicular movement and roads where multi-axle vehicles ply will be cemented. "We will fix norms soon. The state government is also mulling a code for each road," Bommai said.



BLACK AND WHITE: Chief minister Basavaraj Bommai said only roads with high-density traffic movement will be cemented

Over the past five years, 6,363km of roads within BBMP limits have been re-asphalted at a cost of Rs 4,110 crore, the CM said. He also said there were 12 mishaps due to bad roads in the past three years, in which 11 people died. How many of these deaths were caused due to potholes is

being investigated, he said.

Asked about the status of work on the 12 high-density corridors in Bengaluru, Bommai said the tender was cancelled as the cost of the project was Rs 300 crore while maintenance was Rs 500 crore. He said PWD norms state the maintenance fee

cannot be higher than actual construction cost.

"There were several other reasons for the tender being cancelled. We will float another tender," he said.

On infrastructure projects being entrusted to Karnataka Rural Infrastructure Development Ltd (KRIDL), Bommai said all work has been stopped. BBMP had allegedly awarded projects to KRIDL to bypass the tendering process.

"All KRIDL projects will be scrutinised and action will be taken against both BBMP and KRIDL officials if there are irregularities," Bommai said. When Ravi demanded that KRIDL be blacklisted, Bommai said an investigation will be conducted on who allotted work to KRIDL.

BA.2 Omicron subvariant behind case surge: WHO

The WHO reported that the highly contagious Omicron subvariant, BA.2, that is helping to drive another surge of coronavirus cases in Europe is now the dominant version of Omicron around the world. Globally, BA.2 made up about 86% of cases reported to the WHO between February 16 and March 17, the agency said in a report on Tuesday. The previously dominant subvariants, BA.1 and BA.1.1, together represented about 13% of the cases. BA.2 is already dominant in the WHO's Americas region and its share of cases has been steadily increasing in parts of Africa, Asia, Europe and the Middle East since the end of 2021, the agency said. When the WHO last reported these figures, on March 8, it said that BA.1.1 was the dominant subvariant and that BA.2 made up 34% of new cases.

In the US, about a third of new coronavirus cases are BA.2, Dr Rochelle Walensky, the director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said at a White House briefing on Wednesday. US health officials have said they expect case numbers to rise, but that they do not anticipate a major surge caused by BA.2.

While BA.2 is more trans-

missible than BA.1, it has not been shown to cause more severe illness. And even though the virus has evolved considerably since vaccines against it were first developed, the inoculations still work, Dr Maria Van Kerkhove, the WHO's Covid-19 technical lead, said. "Our vaccines remain incredibly effective at preventing severe disease and death, including against both of the sublineages of BA.1 and BA.2," she said.

Scientists suspect that BA.2's rapid growth is thanks to its unique mutations. In the gene for the spike protein on the surface of the virus, BA.2 has eight mutations not found in BA.1. Although BA.2 has become the latest subvariant on many people's minds, there are also three so-called recombinant variants that the WHO has deemed noteworthy. One of these variants, nicknamed "Deltacron," was discovered in February but had not been officially named. On Tuesday, the agency said that it had named the three variants — two versions of Deltacron and one that combined BA.1 and BA.2 — XD, XE and XF. There was no evidence that these recombinant variants are more transmissible or cause "more severe outcomes," the report said. NYT

Citizens allege fresh encroachment of Gattahalli Lake by private players; lake is critical link in sustaining water in at least 45 waterbodies of Anekal taluk

LAKE PIRATES OF BENGALURU

'Over 1 lakh sq ft of lake land encroached'

Iffath Fathima@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

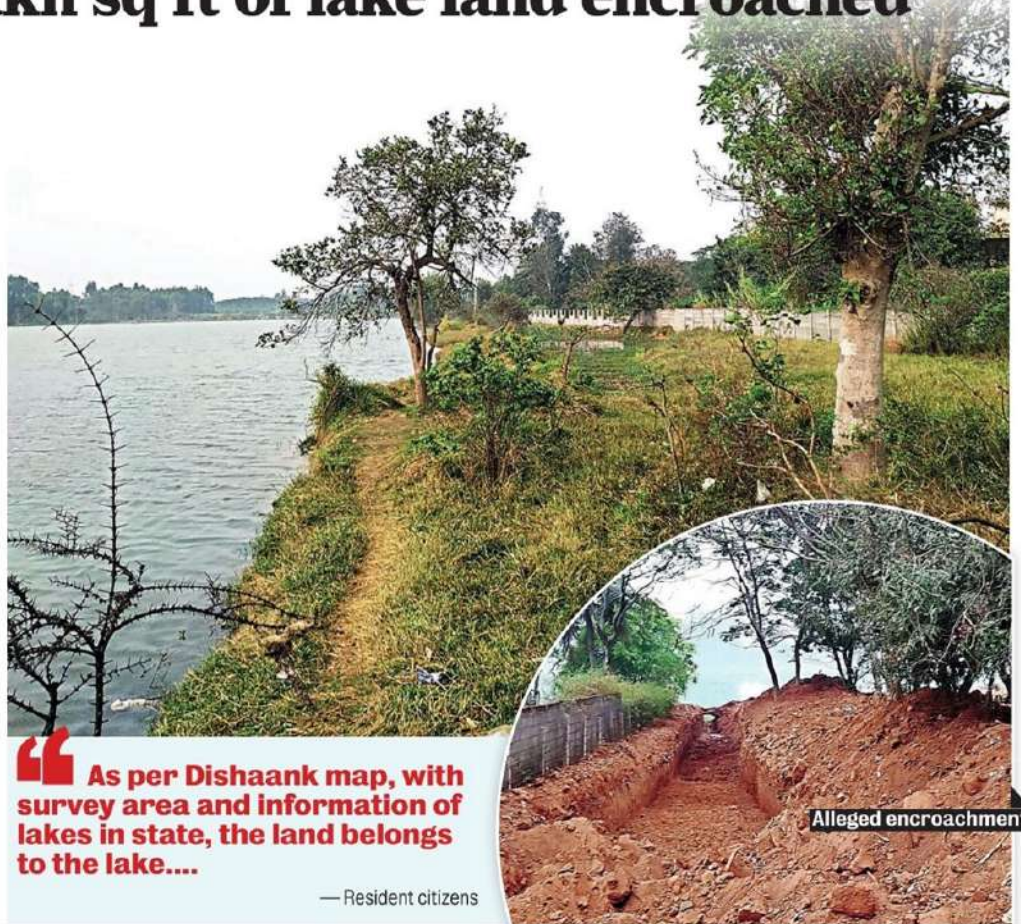
The Gattahalli Lake, which is spread across 100 acres in Anekal taluk, was recently surveyed. The encroachments at the waterbody were removed last year in the month of August.

That said, once again now, lake activists and citizens from the area are complaining about private entities encroaching upon the waterbody.

Last year, several encroachments by local farmers and natural blockages were seen at the lake premises which needed to be addressed. The revenue department officials along with deputy commissioner J Manjunath and resident citizens had carried out the removal of encroachments back then.

Gattahalli Lake serves as an important reservoir in the lake network that sustains robust water channeling. The waterbody receives KC Valley water which then flows into the Muthanallur Lake and thereafter feeds over 45 lakes in Anekal taluk. Henceforth, the lake is in fact a critical link in maintaining the water table and ecosystem of the lakes it helps sustain.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 >>



As per Dishaank map, with survey area and information of lakes in state, the land belongs to the lake....

— Resident citizens

Another city lake encroached

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

While removing the encroachments last year, gates put up by private players in the vicinity of the lake were demolished by a revenue department team and Anekal administration.

However, now some private parties have once again acquired land near the lake. Citizens in the area pointed out that more than one lakh square feet of land has been encroached.

The 'Citizens Movement, East Bengaluru' team posted on social media that a certain part of the lake has been dug up by a private builder. While there is no indication of what work is going to take place, a huge portion has been dug up, threatening the waterbody.

Members of 'Citizens Movement, East Bengaluru' said a portion of the lake was encroached upon where a large number of trees and other flora were present. Many people would



come in the mornings and evenings and would relax here, while a few had even made it their favourite picnic spot. Once the encroachments began three months ago, people stopped visiting the lake, as the area concerned is now blocking entry to people.

"Private builders are digging in the place and have made it like a landfill; they are getting soil and even filling the portion. The builder is now saying that the land belongs to them. However, the Dishaank map, which gives survey area and information of the lakes in the state, clearly shows the land belonging to the lake. This was a beautiful location people visited daily. Now the entry to the park area of the lake is blocked. People have stopped coming. We have highlighted the issue to the panchayat, tahsildar, DC and area MLA; our requests have gone unnoticed," said a member of 'Citizens Movement, East Bengaluru'.

Lake activist Captain Santosh Kumar said a private builder is encroaching upon and building in the lake premises. "I have informed the tahsildar to constitute a team and verify the encroachments; we will ask the administration to conduct another survey. We need to

make sure that once the encroachments are removed, then the waterbody is not encroached upon again. Strict action needs to be taken against the encroachers so that the lake is not affected again. The DC and tahsildar need to come forward and take action against the violators," he noted.

The citizens, meanwhile, also pointed out that as the lake is bordering the BBMP area, real estate value of the land is high. This leads to illegal encroachments. Some even alleged the builders have bribed the panchayat and other officials, because of which stern action has not been taken yet.

"The issue was brought to my notice last Saturday. I would be inspecting the spot on Friday. I will look into the problem," Anekal tahsildar Dinesh told BM.

Bangalore Mirror reached out to Bengaluru Urban deputy commissioner Manjunath J. He was unresponsive on the matter.

Women for climate action

Selected to be recognised as climate professionals after mentorship programme



I Garima Prasher
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) in association with C40 Cities Network, has launched the 'Women4Climate' programme.

Under the initiative, women of Bengaluru, who are working in the climate domain will come under one roof to fight climate change.

BBMP will identify women entering or at an early stage of their work in the climate domain and match them with individual mentors to help them further develop their climate ideas or project.

This will help these climate change fighters access in-depth knowledge of their ideas in a particular sector. They will also be mentored to realise their idea into reality which could be replicable and scalable.

"To build resilient cities, communities are to be inclusive and the most vulnerable must be protected. Hence, cities must pursue gender-inclusive climate action and encourage community-led projects that benefit all citizens equitably.

Bengaluru women for climate action

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The full potential of women to take action against climate change can be only realised through policies and actions that empower women," said Harish Kumar, special commissioner, solid waste management, BBMP and nodal officer of the programme.

The initiative will educate and empower women championing sustainable and community-based solutions that will contribute to their city's climate priorities and action plans.

"It is a platform for them to build strong networks across C40 cities, learn about each other's projects, share their achievements and ideas for improvements. They will be expected to attend bi-monthly training sessions to strengthen their climate leadership skills," said Harish Kumar.

The ten-month-long mentorship programme will provide monthly access to training and networking opportunities for the selected women, connecting them with the climate change fighters from other cities.

"As many as 10-20 mentees will be selected under the programme in 2022. We

The initiative will educate and empower women championing sustainable and community-based solutions for the city

encourage women from diverse backgrounds and underrepresented communities to come forward and participate. We are looking at women whose climate solutions aim to engage or build skills of citizens from hard-to-reach and frontline communities. It can also be women who are developing green initiatives or tech projects in the space. Women volunteers and activists are welcome to apply too. Applicants will be selected based upon their motivation, potential and ideas," an official said.

The selected mentees will be recognised as climate professionals by the end of the mentorship programme and shall receive a certificate of participation from the BBMP and C40 Cities.

Applications to the programme are open till April 3 and the list of selected women will be announced on April 18.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9 >>

whatsapp
MIRROR

9591233247

Problems in your area?

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

No more pollution

HSR Layout



Garbage is being burnt regularly near the BDA complex in HSR layout. Despite hundreds of complaints from residents, no action has been taken. Pourakarmikas do not listen to the requests. The issue needs immediate attention.

Fix the slabs
Indiranagar



The slabs covering sewers on CMH Road and Indiranagar 17E Cross junction are on the verge of collapse. The BBMP and BWSSB should inspect the issue and fix the slabs at the earliest.

Lethal connection
CV Raman Nagar



Even after laying underground cable six months ago on 14D Cross Road at Nagavarapalya in CV Raman Nagar, Bescom officials have not disconnected the hanging wires.

Concrete cover-up job

First trees were chopped, now gaps are filled with concrete; forest dept steps in seeking action

Iffath Fathima
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Weeks after a private school allegedly axed seven well-grown Ashoka trees in front of its premises in Kadubeesanahalli, residents have now raised concerns over the vacant spots where the trees stood being concretised.

One of the residents pointed out that he had gone out of town for a few weeks, and on his return on Monday, he noticed that the trees were chopped off. The private school refused to have chopped the trees, he said. On Tuesday, the residents noticed that even the trunks of the trees were chopped and spots were covered with cement.

Resident Ram said, "I was surprised to see that the trees were chopped off. The stretch here would look beautiful because of the trees standing on the roadside. They would also provide a lot of shade. On Tuesday, when I noticed the concrete space, I approached the school officials, who stated that it was done to provide visibility to the school. It was really disappointing to see that such well-grown trees were chopped off. The citizens of the locality conduct many tree planting drives to improve the green area



Seven well-grown Ashoka trees on a pavement in Kadubeesanahalli were illegally cut down to 'provide visibility' to a private school. Later, the spot where the trees stood was cemented and covered up

and our lung space. However, with these activities, we would only lose the existing green cover."

When Ram raised the issue on social media, he was told by the Mahadevpura task force team that an FIR has been filed in this regard. The official handle of the task force attached a copy of the complaint copy with the response. The FIR was filed against Geetanjali Olympiad School by the Karnataka Forest Department. "Thanks for highlighting this issue. Unfortunately, it was the School which had done this illegal felling of trees. An FIR has

“We are giving them some time to replant the trees. With the heat, it will be difficult for new plants to grow

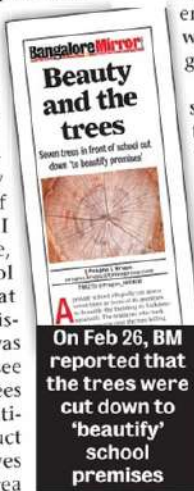
—RFO, Yelahanka zone

been lodged against the School and the Forest department is pursuing the case." tweeted the Mahadevpura task force team.

The incident had already come into light earlier and an FIR had already been filed. Now, the range forest officer (RFO) of Yelahanka zone has assured to have the school plant back the trees in the same space. "We have booked a case against the

management of the school and they will have to pay a fine. They will also have to remove the cementing and plant the trees in the same space. We are giving them some time for the plantation to be done. As with the heat, it would be difficult for new plants to grow. Once the season is better, we will ask the school to plant the trees."

Vijay Nishanth, known as the Tree Doctor, said, "Educational institutions need to promote tree plantation among students and others and bring awareness of planting more trees and protecting them. Chopping trees is not acceptable and it is also illegal. As in this case, they had also covered the trees' space with cement, strict action needs to be taken against them."



Underpass coming up, just a bit ahead

Kundalahalli underpass may miss March-end deadline, but work is going on

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Work is still going on at the long-delayed Kundalahalli underpass. Its latest deadline was the end of March and now with five days left in the month it seems unlikely that the underpass work will be completely done by then.

The project was launched by BBMP in 2019 to ease traffic congestions at the ITPL main road. The project is also a part of 17-km-long signal free corridor project along the Old Airport Road. Over five deadlines were given since then to the project. Now it is March-end and though work is almost over, it is not yet over.

The project at an estimated cost of Rs 25 crore, faced hurdles, especially with land acquisition. Over 27 properties needed to be acquired of which some owners didn't agree, and some were in litigation. In November 2021, BBMP said land acquisition issues were sorted. Since then work was moving fast, but, in it has been lagging for the last few weeks.

Lokesh M, BBMP Chief Engineer (Projects), told Bangalore Mirror that most of the work is completed and only asphaltting of the ramps remains. "Only ramp asphaltting is to be carried out. The major box portion of the under pass is completed. In another 10 days, we will complete all the work," he said.



Work is going on at a steady pace on Kundalahalli underpass

The underpass will help connect the area to EPIP Zone, Brookefield, Varthur and Whitefield, and considerably cut commute time.

Clement Jaykumar, Secretary of Mahadevpura Task Force, said, "Currently, contractors are carrying out the work. Festivals had slowed down work. As of now upper and lower ramp asphaltting is to be done. Once that is done, traffic movement from Marthahalli to Varthur and Varthur towards Marthahalli will get smoother." Residents who have been closely working with the officials said a payment issue has slowed down work.

Ajit Lakshmiratan, retired RBI officer and an activist following the project, said, "According to

the site engineer, the underpass portion will soon be white topped and the tabletop will be done by next week. The tabletop work is important as once it's over and opened, it will help in the movement of commuters coming from ITPL to Marthahalli. The contractor at the site said it would take a month for completion. We have waited long and now we see the work happening."

Lakshmiratan added that the BBMP and contractors have been in touch with citizens and are updating them. "We had asked for LED lights on a stretch, which was added so the road is bright. Some parts need more lights. As they are in touch with us, the citizens know about the work's progress," he said.

Biowaste being dumped on NICE Rd: BJP MLC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

BJP MLC Munirajugowda PM alleged that some private hospitals in south Bengaluru are dumping biowaste illegally at some parts of NICE Road near Bannerghatta.

Raising the issue in the Council on Thursday, the MLC alleged that biowaste was being dumped by private hospitals at Nellureddy quarry in Kembattaalli.

Only NICE Road has access to that place. He alleged that the police, BBMP health officials and NICE Road staff were involved in illegally dumping the biowaste.

“Provision has been made to dump biowaste in Dobbspet and Chikkaballapura but hospitals are dumping it illegally to save money. They also burn

the waste, causing health hazards to the villagers of surrounding areas. It is also adversely affecting the underground water,” Munirajugowda said.

Replying on behalf of the health minister, leader of the floor Shrinivas Poojari said that the health department had conducted a survey at hospitals to check how they were disposing of biowaste and notices have been served to hospitals violating the procedures.

Film City in Mysuru soon

The government said Mysuru Film City works will be taken up soon. Responding to the issue raised by MLC CN Majegowda, Poojari said that the Film City will be developed by the Information Department in partnership with private entities.

Speeding truck knocks down biker on ORR

Residents blame narrow road, heavy traffic and cycle lanes

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

A 47-year-old biker was killed after a speeding truck knocked him down on HAL Outer Ring Road on Thursday. The truck driver was reportedly over-speeding before crashing into the bike. However, the residents blamed the mishap on a narrow road and heavy traffic in addition to the cycle and bus lanes on the Outer Ring Road.

The deceased G M Joseph Mathew, a resident of Balaji Layout, was working at a B P O unit in Devarabeesanahalli.

Traffic on the busy Outer Ring Road was thrown out of gear following the accident which was exacerbated by passers-by and motorists who stopped at the scene of the accident to click pictures and record videos. A senior police officer said the accident took place around 9 am when Mathew was going to office through the Outer Ring Road.

The over-speeding truck hit him from behind, and due to the impact, he was flung in the air and died on the spot from severe head injuries. The passers-by alerted HAL police who rushed to the spot and seized the truck.

The driver fled the spot after the mishap. A case of reckless driving has been filed against the driver.

Demand to remove bus lane gains traction

S LALITHA @Bengaluru

WITH companies on the Outer Ring Road (ORR) set to return to their full staff strength from April 1, the death of a 47-year-old biker on the road has unleashed a torrent of anger and sparked debate both online and offline regarding the traffic on the narrow road.

Metro construction work is eating into a major chunk of the road resulting in slim spaces for buses and other vehicles. There seems to be a huge demand to do away with the separate bus priority and cycle lanes to free more spaces for vehicles.

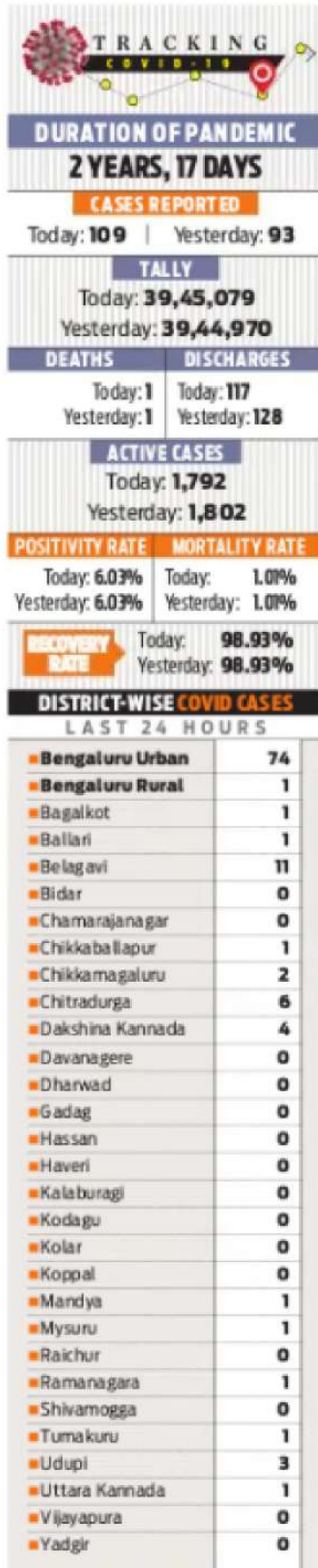
V Manjula, Commissioner of Directorate of Urban Land Transport (DULT), which planned the road here, told TNIE, "We have a meeting on March 29 with BBMP, BMRCL and Traffic Police in this connection."

Rajan Gowda, who runs his

own computer business on the service road along this stretch, stridently argues why nothing could be done to prevent traffic-related deaths. "I saw a mother and her child fall down and die in front of my eyes here. And again, this morning I heard that another person has died. Why are the cops not stopping bikers from entering the bus lanes?" he asked. A senior cop managing the traffic called the fibre barricades "killer barricades" and demanded its removal from the bus lane and allow all vehicles to use it.

A senior BBMP official said, "Suitable arrangements and precautions on the main road is now Metro's responsibility". The city's first bicycle mayor, Satya Shankaran, said, "This crisis that has cropped up on this road must be used by other vehicle owners as an opportunity to switch over to public transport or they will never change."





TB on the rise in Covid patients

Govt seeks report; Coronavirus has potential to activate Tuberculosis

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

HEALTH Minister Dr K Sudhakar has asked for a detailed study and a report on Covid-infected people who have been diagnosed with Tuberculosis (TB) in the state. In Karnataka, there were 244 such cases in 2021.

Speaking at an event organised by the Health Department on the occasion of World TB Day, Dr Sudhakar said that for the first time in India, the Karnataka government has conducted TB screening on those who have recovered from Covid-19.

“Of the 38.02 lakh individuals screened in the state, 243 new TB cases were identified,” reads the TB report. Dr Sudhakar, however, said, “TB has been detected among several people who have recovered from Covid-19. Among 25 lakh people tested, 144 people were found having TB. These people contracted TB after recovering from Covid-19.” According to experts, severe Covid-19 dam-

ages the lungs of many people as the viral infection starts by targeting the respiratory system. The damage done to the lungs persists even after they recover from Covid-19.

“Covid-19 has the potential to activate Tuberculosis,” says Dr Sanjay Kumar, Pulmonologist, SHRC Hospital, Bengaluru. He says a cough that refuses to quiet down for weeks or months after recovering from Covid-19 could either be a symptom of long Covid or could also be TB. According to health experts, the bacteria causing TB lies in a dormant state in many people for years. But it can get activated when the body has low immunity.

In rural areas, people don't get tested even if they are unwell. One TB patient can spread the disease to at least 10 people. If this happens, one person's negligence will end up harming others. So, a lot more awareness is needed. The State Government is spending more than Rs 5 crore each year to create awareness on various diseases, he added.

73 STUDENTS INJURED IN HONEY BEE ATTACK

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

@ Bengaluru

AT least 73 students from NMKRV Degree College for Women in Jayanagar were injured when honeybees swarmed into the college premises on Thursday afternoon.

The injured girls have been shifted to three private hospitals where they were given first-aid as outpatients.

Although their condition was not critical, many of them had massive swellings around the area where the bees stung.

During lunch break, when the girls were coming out of their classrooms, the honeybees invaded. It is yet to be ascertained whether a stone was thrown at a nearby beehive or it fell under its own weight. The girls rushed back inside their classrooms and shut all the doors and windows. However, the bees entered the PUC college premises of NMKRV.

Of the injured students, 28

were treated at Apollo Hospital, 25 at Ramakrishna Hospital, and 20 at Deepak Hospital, all in Jayanagar.

The college administration said they have asked the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike to remove all the beehives in the vicinity to avoid recurrence of such incidents.

No case registered yet

The police are yet to register any case. "We did not receive any calls from the hospitals or from the college about the incident, and so, no case has been registered. Neither the police control room nor the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike control room received any calls," said a police officer.

A couple of weeks ago, a police inspector and eight other police personnel had sustained injuries at Freedom Park when they were attacked by honeybees. Of the injured, two had to be treated in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU).



White-topping roads costs 10X more than asphaltting



IN THE HOUSE

Cong: Officials working for BJP

Congress MLA Soumya Reddy on Thursday alleged that the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) officials are working for the BJP government for the upcoming elections. Raising the issue in the Assembly, Soumya, who represents Bengaluru's Jayanagar Assembly constituency, said the polls are coming and these officials play an important role in adding and deleting names from the electoral rolls. "Why don't you change the name of the civic body to the Bruhat BJP Mahanagara Palike?," she said.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

CHIEF Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Thursday said there was a need to rethink of the white-topping of roads as it costs 10 times more than the regular asphaltting.

Replying to a question by Congress MLC S Ravi in the council on Thursday, the CM pointed out that a km of regular asphaltting costs Rs 70 lakh to Rs 1 crore, while it costs Rs 9-10 crore for white-topping. "I agree that the quality of the white-topped roads is better and durable, but we need to think at what cost we are doing it," he said.

"In all, 1,911.14 km of new roads were constructed at Rs 1,449.83 crore in BBMP limits in the last five years, while 100.60 km of new white-topped roads at Rs 1,014.20 crore was developed.

Besides, Rs 4,110.05 crore was spent on road management. In the last three years, Rs 125.04 crore has been spent on filling up potholes in Bengaluru. Eleven people had died in 12 accidents that occurred because of potholes," Bommai told the House, to which Ravi replied that a large number of people have been injured in accidents because of potholes.

When the members advised the Chief Minister not to implement any project through the Karnataka Rural Infrastructure Development Ltd alleging that the agency has been

involved in irregularities, the CM said the government has stopped giving works to the agency and is investigating the irregularities.

No schemes for minorities stopped

To a question by Congress MLC C M Ibrahim, Bommai said no schemes announced for the welfare of minorities have been stopped, except 'Shaadi Mahal' that was stopped last year. "We have restarted Ganga Kalyana

and have increased grants for Arivu scheme. We are also developing slums and colonies where people from minority communities dwell," he added.

BMRC recruitment

JDS MLC K T Srikantegowda asked the CM to consider giving jobs to those who appeared for exams held to fill up various posts in BMRCL in 2019. The CM re-

plied that 38,344 applications were received and the recruitment process was on. "As the pandemic hit, the BMRCL also suffered losses as Metro stopped running for almost two years and the recruitment notification was cancelled. For fresh recruitment, a new notification will have to be issued".

KPSC to be revived

The CM also said there were two-three major problems with the KPSC and he has held meetings to discuss solutions to the problem and revive the commission soon.



In the last three years, Rs 125.04 crore has been spent on filling up potholes in Bengaluru. Eleven people had died in 12 accidents that occurred because of potholes

Basavaraj Bommai,
Chief Minister



CORONA METER

CASES ON THURSDAY 1,342^o

ACTIVE CASES 21,963 (-538)^o

Recovered 42.48 M (+1,799)	Deaths 516,753 (+81) [*]
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TOTAL CASES 43.02M

Source: State bulletins, PTC. *11 states/UTs as of 2:15 PM; rest of recoveries/deaths change since 12am, 24 Mar. ^oIncludes Kerala's 72 previous or reclassified deaths.

Daily Infections

5 worst-hit states	CASES ON THU	DEATHS
Kerala	558	2 [^]
Mizoram	191	0
Maharashtra	139	3
Delhi	104	1
Karnataka	109	2

Source: State bulletins. [^]incl. 72 previous or reclassified deaths

4 Main Metros [^]	CASES ON THU	ACTIVE CASES
Delhi	104	488
B'uru Urban	74	1596
Mumbai	54	258
Chennai	13	168

Source: State bulletins

VACCINE DOSES ADMINISTERED IN INDIA 1825.71 M (+2.76M)

1st dose... 979.33 m (96.67%) 56.50 m [^]	2nd dose 824.13 m (81.35%) 36.37 m [^]
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12-14 yr 1st dose 8,896,980

[^]15-18yr: 10M[^]; 19-15yr: 10M[^]

BOOSTER DOSES

HCV/FLW	60+
11.14 m	11.12 m
TOTAL 22.26 m	

Top 10 States/UTs	THU	Total Day 433
UP	270,409	297.49 m
MP	269,275	115.19 m
Bihar	257,389	123.52 m
Maharashtra	255,951	159.70 m
West Bengal	212,768	133.70 m
AP	185,789	90.44 m
Gujarat	181,471	105.58 m
Rajasthan	155,755	101.64 m
Telangana	134,624	60.57 m
Tamil Nadu	130,608	102.09 m

Source: dashboard.covid.gov.in, 08:17 PM

Samples Tested so Far[^]

784.95 MILLION 661,954 in last 24 hours[^]

POSITIVE TESTS[^] 5.48%

Source: KMR, 23 Mar. [^]Cumulative, 3-day average

GLOBAL COUNT

Total Cases	477.11 M	Vaccine Doses Administered	11170.75 Million
Deaths	6,130,230		
Recovered	412.28 M		

Source: worldometers.info, 08:19 PM

NEW INFECTIONS IN 5 WORST-HIT COUNTRIES^{*}

S. Korea	395,589
Vietnam	120,000
Australia	63,184
Austria	41,607
Japan	36,605