

BBMP ties up with firm to make city flood-free

Co to cough up Rs 1L per zone per day of flooding

Bosky Khanna

BENGALURU: The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has hired a company to ensure that the city is not flooded in the forthcoming monsoon season.

In its Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) to Yogaa and Company, which it issued on April 9 with three-month preparatory time, the civic body has asked them to desilt and clear the trash from stormwater drains besides ensuring that the roads are not inundated.

Should the company fail to keep the roads free of flooding, it must pay the BBMP Rs 1 lakh per zone per day (of flooding) as fine, while flooding in the Koramangala-Challaghatta Valley would cost it an additional Rs 9 lakh.

The AMC is for 440 kilometres. Out of the 842 kilometres of stormwater drains it has in the city, the BBMP has done pucca retaining walls for 349 kilometres of drains. It also claims to have done one-time desilting in 184 kilometres of drains by March 31.



The company has to desilt and clear trash from stormwater drains besides ensuring that roads are not inundated. DH FILE PHOTO

The BBMP's Chief Engineer for SWD, BS Prahlad, revealed to DH that the company had been directed to work with eight robotic excavators, 15 trucks and 880 people every day to keep the city flood-free. The company must also ensure garbage is not dumped in the drains.

He said people have turned drains into neighbourhood dumping yards and throw plastic materials. They will be penalised under the Disfigurement Act.

The BBMP has readied the city's drain map and determined the invert level (base level), besides defining the

maintenance roles. Money will not be a constraint as the 14th Finance Commission has provided Rs 35 crore for maintenance.

The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has asked the BBMP to ensure the money is adequately utilised. **DH News Service**

Why are lakes drying up? IISc professor provides answer

Rakshitha R

BENGALURU: Many lakes in the city have dried up and are ready to receive rainwater this monsoon, according to the BBMP. However, what bothers scientists and experts is why the water-bodies have dried up.

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike itself declared that no lake is expected to breach or overflow this monsoon. But scientists and experts warn 98.5% of the city will be covered with paved surfaces, with no scope for optimal hydro logical functions by 2025. And 94% of the landscape will be buildings by 2020.

They cite the decline of vegetation in catchment areas and mismanagement of flood plains and buffer zones as reasons for the lakes drying up. IISc professor T V Ramachandra said the city is facing unrealistic urbanisation. "Irresponsible conversion of flood plains and urbanisation are the prime drivers drying up the lakes, as the region is losing its ability to allow water infiltration and retention," he said.

"Irrespective of the landscape, rural or urban, the state administration and judiciary need to respect ecological principles and respect flood plains, and ensure 33% green cover in the region. Consequences of not adhering to these concepts

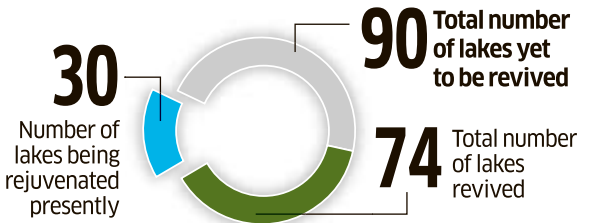


Lakes that went dry this summer

Begur lake; Sarakki lake; Gottigere lake; Sadarmangala lake; Singasandra lake; Sarjapura lake; Yelenahalli lake

Lakes that have been desilted recently

Chunchaghatta lake; Somasundarapalya lake; Benniganahalli lake and Bhattarahalli lake



are loss of groundwater and temperature rise," he added.

The professor held 'irresponsible pseudo-experts' and 'bureaucrats' responsible for the dismal situation in Bengaluru. "Flood plains depend on the size of a lake and catchment topography. Unrealistic comparison with other cities and arguing for reduction in the buffer zone, would only spell doom for Bengaluru-

rendering them without water," he said.

Experts suggest creating mini forests of 1-2 hectares in each ward with native species vegetation, which will enhance groundwater recharge and water retention at local levels. As Bengaluru receives 15TMC rainwater, they say 70% of the city's water requirement can be met in this way. **DH News Service**



Siddaganga seer Siddalinga Swami and Padma Shekar, V-C, Samskrit University, lay the foundation stone for the new hostel.

Samskrit varsity to get new hostel

BENGALURU: Flaunting a new look by ousting squatters and priests from nearby temples who had illegally occupied rooms, Karnataka Samskrit University on Tuesday laid a foundation for the new hostel block in Bengaluru.

The three-floor hostel with about 22 rooms will accommodate 130 to 140 students in the coming days.

The foundation was laid by Siddaganga seer Siddalinga Swami who was overwhelmed on seeing the stupendous response to Sanskrit learning in an era of digitalisation.

While the Sanskrit learners at the university were very particular about having a well to meet their daily water requirements, the university succeeded in convincing them to settle for a borewell facility.

Vice Chancellor of the university Prof Padma Shekar said the hostel would be built at a cost of Rs 1.99 crore. **DH News Service**

Govt defends action on bike taxis as Ola moves HC

BENGALURU, DHNS: The high court has sought details from the state government about the total number of bike taxis booked, seized and released to date. It's illegal to run bike taxis in Karnataka.

Justice S Sujatha passed the order on Tuesday on a petition filed by ANI Technologies Pvt Ltd, which runs the cab aggregator Ola.

The company argued that while the Transport Department had disallowed it from operating bike taxis, other cab firms were free to offer the service by using vehicles registered for personal use.

The company wants the court to order the government to permit the registration of bike taxis as transport vehicles and issue appropriate contract carriage permits under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, and the Karnataka Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989.

At an earlier hearing, the court had ordered the department to submit a status report on the action it had taken against bike taxi operators, other than Ola, that have been using motorcycles registered for personal use as transport vehicles.

At the latest hearing, the government filed a memo, stating that it had booked and seized 252 bike taxis until March 31, 2019. Of them, 124 belong to Ola while 128 are Rapido bike taxis.

The memo further stated the commissioner for transport and road safety had issued a show-cause notice to Rapido, calling its app-based bike taxis illegal against the Motor Vehicles Act and Rules.

The response given by Rapido was "unsatisfactory and unacceptable". Despite the crackdown, Rapido continued to offer the bike taxi service.

600 encroachments removed from footpaths across city

BENGALURU: What was supposed to be undertaken by the BBMP is now being carried out by the Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP). On Tuesday, traffic cops were seen busy removing footpath encroachments from almost the entire city.

As many as 600 encroachments were removed on the first day of the week-long encroachment drive. Most of them were cleared from around 50 arterial roads, including roads in Hebbal, Hosakerehalli, Old Airport Road, Outer Ring Road in Bellandur, Hosur Road, Bannerghatta Road and others.

"It was a surprise drive where we could nab a lot of unauthorised parking of two and four-wheelers on the footpaths. Many petty shops and street vendors had encroached the footpaths. There were many drives conducted before



Vendors being evicted from the Sampige Road footpath in Malleswaram on Tuesday. DH PHOTO/M S MANJUNATH

but looks like this must be a monthly cycle," said P Harishekar, additional commissioner of police, traffic.

"The Palike has organised several drives before, but the encroachments have returned. We are going to file

cases against repeat-offenders after a month. Footpaths are for pedestrian safety. We received many complaints regarding the encroachments from residents. We finally did it," said Harishekar. **DH News Service**

Cases slapped on 10 firms for exploiting bio-resources

BENGALURU: Sending out a warning message to about 250 industries that exploit the bio-resources like medicinal plants, but have consistently evaded paying 0.1% to 0.5% of their revenue towards community development, the Karnataka Biodiversity Board has field cases against 10 such companies.

Under the Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) rules notified by the Centre in 2014, a person/company that seeks to access bioresources should get the approval of the Board. While companies with a turnover of Rs 1 crore pay 0.1%, those making up to Rs 3 crore and above Rs 5 crore pay 0.2% and 0.5%, respectively.

However, most of the Ayurveda, herbal and pharma companies that use the rich bioresource of the state have not paid the pittance of ABS contribution. After failing to

elicit a response from the companies and serving multiple show-cause notices, the company filed cases against five companies last year.

Last month, the 44th Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Court disposed of the case against Pradhan Herbal Company after it agreed to pay the money. "It has come as a shot in the arm for the Board to take action against recalcitrant companies which make crores of rupees but refuse to contribute to the development of the communities that ultimately protect and conserve the rich bioresources," sources in the board said.

However, officials refused to provide names of the 10 companies facing charges. "They know who they are. We want them to fall in line. If it has to happen through the courts, so be it," an official said. **DH News Service**

The Board is getting negligible amounts as ABS contributions. In 2017-18, it received only Rs 4 lakh from 49 applications. Sources said the companies have been adopting various strategies to escape accountability.

"According to rule, they have to take the approval of the board for accessing and exploiting the bioresources. This also allows the board to maintain a balance and take up conservation works. But hardly any company cooperates though we are not asking them to reveal business secrets like a formula for the preparation of a particular product," an official said.

Officials said 16 plants had entered the list of threatened species due to over-exploitation. "The list is only going to grow if not monitored," they said.

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EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE
E-TENDER NOTICE NO. : SG/DSE/T/OT/04/19. 1. Name of work with its location : Provision of 6 Quad cable in (1) SSM-BKJ, (2) BKJ-PIRO & (3) PIRO-ARA sections for manning of unmanned LC gates. 2. Approx. Cost of the work : ₹2,11,96,017.44 (Rs. Two Crore Eleven Lakh Ninety Six Thousand Seventeen rupees and Forty Four Paise). 3. Earnest money to be deposited : ₹2,56,000/- (Rs. Two Lakh Fifty Six Thousand only). 4. Closing date & time for Submission of e-tendering : 14.05.2019 up to 12.30 Hrs. 5. Website particulars where complete details of tender can be seen etc. : www.reps.gov.in. Sr. DSTE/Tele/PR/0116/MGS/T/20 ECR/Mughalsara

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE
E-Tender Notice No.- ECR-CAO-C-N-ETN-05-19-20. E-Tender is invited on behalf of the President of India for the under mentioned work. 1. Name of work with its location : Provision of platforms, Stabling lines, Goods reception and departure line towards KVC and Dismantling of scissor and goods line no. 06 & 07 and other miscellaneous works in connection with remodeling of Muzaffarpur station. 2. Approx. cost of the work of : ₹29,16,82,949.71. 3. Earnest money to be deposited : ₹16,09,400/-. 4. Date & Time for closing of tender : 17.05.2019 at 14.30 hrs. 5. Website particulars: Notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen and addressed of the office from where the tender form be purchased etc. : The above E-Tender, E-Tendering document alongwith full information is available on website i.e. http://www.reps.gov.in. Note: In case of any discrepancies found in tender notice, English version will be final. Tenderers are requested to visit the website http://www.reps.gov.in at least 15 days before last date of closing for latest corrigendum/corrections etc in response to this E-tender. CAO/CON/orth/ECR/PR/0118/CON/T/32 MHX, Patna

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE
Tender No. DNR/S&T/SIG/2019/2 Danapur, Dated 18.04.2019. Divisional Railway Manager (Signal & Telecom), East Central Railway, Danapur Division, for and on behalf of President of India invites tenders on web portal www.reps.gov.in for the following work. 1. Name of work with its location : Provision of signalling indoor & outdoor work for interlocking of Level crossing gates (13 gates) in Danapur division. 2. Approximate cost of work : ₹5,30,26,164.76. 3. Earnest Money : ₹4,15,100/-. 4. Last Date & Time of Submission & Opening of tender : Up to 15.00 hrs. on 20.05.2019 at 15.30 hrs. on 20.05.2019. 5. Website particulars where detail of the work and criteria can be seen : www.reps.gov.in. 6. Address of the office from where detail information can be obtained : Sr. Divnl. Signal & Telecommunication Engineer, East Central Railway, Danapur. Note : Any corrigendum if required will be uploaded on above website before 14 days. DSTE/PR/0115/DNR/T/28 ECR/Danapur

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When canines become a calling

Akhil Kadidal

BENGALURU, DHNS: As the clock hits noon, Haris Ali closes his small cyber-security consultancy, starts his motorcycle and travels across the city to a dusty property on the outskirts, near Bannerghatta.

At the property, the cacophony of barking rises as dogs recognise Ali and rush to the gate to greet him. This is the Sarvoham Trust animal shelter which Ali set up in 2017 to treat injured street dogs and abandoned pets.

The shelter is utilitarian, with half of the quarter-acre property enclosed by offices, a large pen where some of the serious cases are kept and an open-air ground in which several dog houses

A dog's life

More than 30 animal hit-and-run cases occur in the city every day

Between 2009 and 2018, 1.91 lakh dog bite cases registered

BBMP says it has sterilised nearly 3.86 lakh canines

The trust releases street animals after treatment, but retains pets



Canines at an animal shelter in Gottigere. DH PHOTO

are erected, where recovering animals enjoy free reign.

"At present, we are taking care of 82 dogs here," Ali said. "We get at least 20 animal rescue calls each day."

While most animal shelters across the world are run by animal welfare activists, for Ali, his shelter is a calling, which began af-

ter he witnessed the brutal killing of a puppy when he was nine-years-old.

"A female dog had given birth to three puppies near my house," explained 25-year-old Ali. "I started feeding them, and one of the six-month-old pups quickly became my favourite. One day, however, it playfully

snatched a plastic bag being carried by a girl passing on the street, and she screamed hysterically."

Fighting back tears, Ali explained that a large mob gathered and someone began hitting the puppy on the head with an iron rod. "It began screaming for help, and about the 8th blow, just as it died, it looked me in the eye as if to ask 'why aren't you helping me?'" he said. Ali then began to notice cases of animal abuse and neglect in the city.

BBMP figures show Bengaluru had over 2.9 lakh stray dogs in 2012, up from 1.85 lakh in 2007. The Palike has not conducted a survey since 2012, but Shashikumar, Deputy Director of Animal Husbandry, BBMP said a survey is under way.

In city today

GENERAL

City Central Library: Kruthi-iswamy and World Book Day, memory test; Central Library, Kumaraswamy Layout; 9 am.

RV College: Annual Day at Community Institute of Commerce and Management Studies, Y V Gundurao presides over; RV College Auditorium, Jayanagar; 10 am.

BMS Institute of Technology: Discussion, 'Village youth turns businessman'; BMS Institute of Technology, Seminar Hall, Banashankari 2nd Stage; 2.30 pm.

Sri Aurobindo Complex Trust: Lecture on 'Aurobindo and current India' by S S Lahari; Samskruthika Sabha Bhavana, Aravinda Marg, JP Nagar, 1st Stage; 5.30 pm.

Karnataka Chalanachitra Academy: 91st birth anniversary of Dr Rajkumar. Prof Nisar Ahmed and Nagathalli Chandrashekar to participate; Ravindra Kalakshetra, JC Road; 5 pm.

The Bangalore Science Forum: Lecture on 'Milestone in The Evolution of Geometry' by S N Aravind; Multimedia Hall, National College, Basavanagudi; 6 am.

CULTURAL
Koramangala Social: Musical evening by D G Ganesh; Koramangala Social, 3rd floor, Koramangala 7th Block; 9 pm.

Shukra Auditorium: Madhu Musical Events, 4th anniversary, Dr Raj Dhvani Gayana Sparidhe; 15th Cross, Malleswaram; 10.30 am.

RELIGIOUS
Sathya Sai Ashrama: Bhagavan Sri Sathyaasaibaba Aradhane, Bhakti Sangeetha; Sathya Sai Ashrama, Ramesh Hall, Brundavana, Kadugodi, Whitefield; 4.30 pm.

Kodandaramaswamy Temple: Kodandaramaswamy Brahma Rathotsava, Krishna Rathotsava, Krishna Gandhotsava, Mantra Pushpa Mahamangalarathi; Hulimaa; 7 am.

Muthyalamma Devi Temple Trust: Muthyalamma Devi Temple Rathotsava, Homa, Rathotsava band, Flower Pallakki; Muthyalamma Street, Seppings Road; 5 am.

Adhyatmaprakasha Karyalaya: Lecture on Gowadpada Hrudaya by Keshav Avadhani; 6th Main, 2nd Block, Thyagaraj Nagar; 9.30 am.

Ragigudda Prasanna Anjaneya Bhaktamandali Trust: Harivamsa, Pravaचना; 9th Block, Jayanagar; 6.30 pm.

Paramaarthya Vichara Sangha Trust: Lecture, Udgeetaaha by K G Subraya Sharma; Adhyatma Mandira, VV Puram; 7.45 am.

Sree Ramaseva Mandali: 81st Sree Rama Navami Global Music Festival 2019, Prathibhakanishi Youth Music Festival Concert, Special Pandal; Old Fort High School Grounds, Chamarajpet; 5 pm.

Srivani Kala Kendra: Rama Navami, music by M R Sriram Shastry, Hindustani music by Sanjana Kaushik; Basaveshwaranagar; 5.30 pm.

Sri Rama Mandiram Trust: Hanu-mantotsava, Bhajans, musical programmes; Sri Rama Mandiram Trust, NR Colony; 10 am.

City weather

FORECAST: Partly cloudy sky. TEMPERATURES

Maximum	34.2C
Minimum	23.2C

Rainfall	--
Humidity	45%
Sunrise	6:02 am
Sunset	6:33 pm
Moonrise	11.15 pm
Moonset	10.03 am

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm. Source: IMD)