

THE BROWSER
YOUR POCKET VALET FOR THE CITY

- WASSUP TODAY**

THE GREEN BRIGADE, ROTARY BANGALORE JP NAGAR, RASHTRA BANDHU, ALL INDIA NGO FEDERATION: On the occasion of United Nations Summit on Climate change at Copenhagen "A Clarion Call to World Leaders- signature Campaign by children" National College Grounds, Basavangudi, 8am to 10am
- POWER WOES**

There will be no power supply from 10am to 5pm on Saturday in Old Madras Road, Ramamurthy Nagar, Akshayanagar, Thambuchettyalya, Shanthi Layout, Rajendra Nagar, MU Nagar, KR Puram, Garden City College, Kodigehalli, parts of Hoody limits, and surrounding areas due to maintenance work.
- GENERAL**

KARNATAKA GOVERNMENT ESI MEDICAL OFFICERS ASSOCIATION: Karnataka State 4th ESI Medical Conference, inauguration by Union labour minister Mallikarjuna M Kharge, and Karnataka Labour Minister BN Bachche Gowda is the chief guest, A calendar of the department will be released on the occasion. Bell Convention Centre, next to City railway station, 4pm
- ART AND CULTURE**

BTM CULTURAL ACADEMY: Nrithyollasa, Performances by Shivapriya School of Dance, Carnatic and Hindustani vocal will be performed by Sriram Parasuram and Anuradha Sriram, Sri Ramana Maharishi Academy for the Blind, 3rd cross, 3rd phase, JP Nagar, near Ragigudda, 5.30pm
- POSITIVE THINKING**

ISKCON: Srikrishna Bhakti Sangeeth by Amritha Mithra troupe, Rajajinagar, 11.30am

SRIPADA KSHETRA: Akhanda Geethagana Yagna by Sri Brahmananda Swamy, Dollars Colony, JP Nagar, 6pm
- PASSING THROUGH**

SAMAM NGO: Kathak Dance Festival, Artists from Delhi Sri Raghav Sah and Sri Sanjeev Parihast will perform Chowdhiah Memorial hall, 6.30pm

If you want your events to be listed, please send in the details to browser@dnaindia.net. You can also fax them to 42868801 or call 42868888

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AFTER HRS: PLAN YOUR DAY P4

WAKE UP TO CLIMATE CHANGE

ECOLOGICAL CLOCK

December 12 is the Global Day of Action on climate change. Keeping in mind the ongoing Copenhagen summit, **Dr TV Ramachandra** of the Energy and Wetlands Research Group Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science, tells **Bosky Khanna** why a holistic plan to combat climate change is missing in the city.

Where does the city stand?
Holistic planning is missing in Bangalore. We need to have an integrated planning system at disaggregated levels. Various government agencies and an utter lack of coherent initiatives have contributed to higher levels of greenhouse gases. In fact, Bangalore has a significant role to play in the country's contribution to global warming and the consequent climatic changes. While Maharashtra's contribution to global warming [28.85 Tg (11.8% of CO₂) is the largest among all states and UTs, Karnataka stands sixth at 15.09 Tg (6.19%).

Tackling climate change
Most significantly, the government should think of cutting down on emissions and ensure that at least 33% green cover is maintained in the city. It not only helps sequester the carbon in the environment but also stabilises the local climate conditions. The government should also encourage solar devices for water heating, lighting, etc. It must also adopt stringent norms to discourage the construction of buildings that are not conducive to the city's climate. Besides ensuring that lakes are not encroached upon, the government should take steps to convert the city's solid waste into ethanol, biogas and electricity.

Immediate steps required
As of now, the government should concentrate on improving the public transport system, discourage private modes of transport through appropriate taxation and restrictions, wipe out corruption from the public system, encourage energy conservation techniques and focus on renewable sources of energy. The government should



GOODBYE GREENERY: Mushrooming concrete structures are fast depleting the green cover in the Garden City. Inset: Dr TV Ramachandra

also recycle waste, ban mining in the Western Ghats and arrest deforestation.

Awareness among public
Nearly 30-40% of the public expressed the belief that there have been vast climatic changes and about 4-5% seemed to have a clear understanding of the reasons for it.

However, the society does need a higher level of awareness on the subject. The current lifestyle of Bangaloreans displays a high dependence on fossil fuels.

Is the govt doing enough?
Considering the advancement in technology, the government could have certainly

HKBK college students develop solar car

Students of HKBK College of Engineering have developed an Electro Solar car.

A group of five students - Muzammil Ulla Shariff, Syed Nadeem, Mohammed Azhar Ali, Yaseer Pasha and Mohammed Muneeruddin Inamdar - developed the car as part of their final year project.

"We pooled in Rs80,000 for the project. We have put in two years of effort to complete this project. We are planning to commercialise it. It would cost Rs1 lakh and can be used in hospitals, hotels, resorts and even stadiums," said Yaseer Pasha. "If we get the sponsors we need, we will develop it further so that the cars could be run on roads too," he added.

done better. We need to adopt the Gandhian philosophy of achieving good governance by equipping local bodies to the fullest. Lack of interaction among governmental agencies such as BDA, forest department and the BWSSB has also resulted in large-scale encroachment of common lands and lakes in Bangalore.

Bangalore has its own Copenhagen

Senthilal S Bangalore

Even as world leaders deliberate on cutting down greenhouse gas emission at the UN-sponsored meet in Copenhagen, Bangalore is set to initiate a slew of projects to fight climate change. A 1.2MW biogas power plant will be inaugurated next week at KR Puram. Besides being the first such plant in the city, the technology employed for power generation will be the first in the country. "The feed for the plant is water hyacinth.

The cost per unit of power produced will be Rs5," said KR Manoj Kumar, senior executive, business development of dWise Solutions and Services Pvt Ltd, at the Global Energy 2009, an international seminar and exhibition on Renewable Energy held here on Friday.

The government has plans to buy power from the KR Puram biogas plant. A research unit will use 40HP of power from this plant and the rest is likely to be connected to the grid. At least four tonnes of water hyacinth will be required each day for the plant. The cost for 1MW power generation is Rs4.5 crore.

Meanwhile, the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation has plans to increase the number of biofuel-powered buses in its fleet. "Earlier, two out of 100 buses used to run on biofuel. Now, they are going to increase it to 20," said Sheethal Singh of the Mahatma Gandhi Institute.

Underlining that non-conventional energy is the future, Ramesh S, project director of Space Craft, a trade fair organising company, said: "Non-conventional energy is the future. With depleting resources, power crisis has deepened." s_senthilal@dnaindia.net

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