

## In brief

## Matrimonial meet

► The Bhavasar Kshatriya matrimonial meet will be held on June 12. Eligible boys, girls, widows, widowers and divorcees are requested to send their post-card size photos, biodata and horoscopes on or before June 10 to Suman Tailor, No 25, Patel Kullappa Road, RS Palya, MS Nagar post, Bengaluru-23 or call 8197206347.

## Training in baking

► The Institute of Baking and Cake Art (IBCA), Bengaluru will be conducting a training course in home baking from June 6 to June 8 and eggless home baking from June 13 to 16.

These courses have been specially designed to give technical knowledge to participants for enhancing their baking skills. The courses include demonstrations and hands-on practice. For further details, contact 8088601601.

## Nikkei Asia Prize for Akshaya Patra

► The Akshaya Patra Foundation has won the Nikkei Asia Prize for its contributions to the field of economic and business innovation. The award was presented to Madhu Pandita Das, president of the foundation, by Naotoshi Okada, CEO and president of Nikkei Inc, said a release issued by the Akshaya Patra foundation. The award carries a cash of three million yen and a certificate.

## MBA entrance exams on July 2, 3

► Entrance exams for MBA, MCA and M.Tech courses will be held on July 2 and 3, reports *DHNS* from Bengaluru. The last date for applying for the exams online is June 8.

Entrance exams will be held in Bengaluru, Ballari, Vijayapura, Belagavi, Magaluru, Dharwad, Kalaburagi, Mysuru, Shivamoga and Tumakuru. "There are 189 private and 40 government colleges teaching MBA courses in the state. Private colleges charge Rs 50,000 while government colleges charge a fee of Rs 13,000," said the chairman of PG CET, Prof Subash.

## Applications invited

► Karnataka Veerashaiva Vidyabrudhi Samsthe has invited applications from students who have scored more than 95% in SSLC and PU exams as well as students from Veerashaiva and Lingayata communities who have received gold medals in medical, technical and professional courses in registered universities. The students will be felicitated with an honorarium, said a press release. For details, contact: Secretary, Karnataka Veerashaiva Vidyabrudhi Samsthe, SJM Towers, 18, Sheshadri road, Gandhinagar, Bengaluru - 560 009 or call 080 - 222 6416).

## MLA warns officials over garbage disposal

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Rajarajeshwari Nagar MLA Muni-rathna recently warned the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) administration that a flyover in his constituency will collapse, if the burning of waste under it is not stopped immediately.

He spoke about the poor solid waste management in the city at the BBMP council meeting last week. Everyday tonnes of waste is set on fire under the flyover which will melt the shock-absorber rubbers, he expressed apprehension.

"Everyday tonnes of waste is set on fire at Hoskerekhalli, Laggere, Lakshmidivi Nagar, J.P Park and various other places. Records show that at least 100 fire tenders have been rushed so far to douse the fire of these garbage piles," Muni-rathna claimed.

He accused the officials of generating bogus bills stating that waste is being sent to Seegehalli and Kannahalli processing units.

# BWSSB starts fining properties without RWH facility

## 'Only 28,000 of 1.36 lakh buildings harvesting rain water'

Naveen Menezes

**BENGALURU:** A little more than 1.36 lakh properties situated on the 800 square kilometre area of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) would be attracting penalty if these properties do not have rainwater harvesting (RWH) structures.

Almost five months after Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage (Rainwater Harvesting) Regulations 2011 was amended to make it more powerful, the BWSSB has finally collected the data of those who come under the purview of the new guidelines.

The recent BWSSB survey has identified as many as 1,36,573 properties measuring 60x40 sq ft and 30x40 sq ft (constructed after 2009), who are supposed to adopt rainwater harvesting system.

Of this, 28,000 properties have already set up RWH structures and more than one lakh properties do not have it, Kemparamaiah, BWSSB Engineer-in-chief (additional) told *Deccan Herald*.



Properties without rainwater harvesting facility will have to pay an additional 25% on the bill for domestic connections and 50% for non-domestic connections for three months. The amount of fine doubles thereafter. *DH FILE PHOTO*

At present, the Board's water supply network is connected to nine lakh properties.

BWSSB, however, does not have a separate data of now many properties come under domestic and non-domestic connections. While BWSSB

claims that about 58,500 properties harvest rain water in the old BBMP areas, city's Rainwater Club has said that the number could be as high as two lakhs, taking into consideration even the suburbs.

Kemparamaiah on Friday said the Board has already started imposing penalty from June 1 on those properties without the RWH facilities.

The violators with domestic connection will have to pay an additional 25% on the water bill for the first three months and the amount of fine doubles from the fourth month onwards. Similarly, the penalty is 50% on non-domestic connections, he said.

The Board had issued a circular to all the assistant executive engineers of as many as 31 sub-division offices regarding the new rule.

The water metre readers too were asked to impose penalty

from Wednesday, which automatically gets updated in the in-house software, a BWSSB official said.

Meanwhile, urban expert Ashwin Mahesh feels that the BWSSB should first take initiative to ensure rainwater is harvested in the government-owned lands.

"Harvesting rain in 1.36 lakh properties would not serve the purpose unless flowing rainwater is arrested and re-charged to the ground even in the public spaces particularly in the storm water drains", he said.

Claiming there were more than two lakh properties who harvested rain, water conservationist S Vishwanath said Bengaluru is the second city after Chennai to have maximum number of properties harvesting rain and the number is encouraging on the outskirts of city.

**DH News Service**

# Monsoon likely to arrive in city on June 9

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** The city is likely to experience the first spell of monsoon rain on June 9 or 10, say India Meteorological Department officials.

S M Metri, director-in-charge, IMD-Bengaluru S M Metri told *Deccan Herald*, "Southwest monsoon has already arrived in Andaman and Nicobar Islands and are likely to hit Kerala coast in another 3-4 days and Bengaluru by June 9 or 10 (with model variations of four days).

The pre-monsoon showers were below average and there was an unusually prolonged summer in Bengaluru. The maximum temperatures in the city breached 39 degrees Celsius-mark, this summer.

But the IMD predicts a good monsoon showers. The state as a whole is likely to get 113% rainfall of the long period average.

The average normal monsoon showers for Karnataka is 832.3 mm. It is 659.9 mm for south interior Karnataka, 506 mm for north interior Karnataka and 3083.5 mm for coastal Karnataka.

Metri attributed the pre-monsoon showers, the city is ex-

## Rainfall (March 1 to May 31)

- Bengaluru city: 186 mm
- HAL: 211 mm
- Kempegowda Airport: 197 mm

periencing now, to the formation of two systems - upper air circulation over Lakshadweep to north Kerala and neighbourhood. And a cyclonic circulation from central Bay of Bengal off coastal Andhra Pradesh to Odisha coast. Due to these two systems, the city and surrounding areas are witnessing thunder showers and a dip in temperature. This will continue till the onset of monsoon.

### More rains

Most parts of the city recorded traces of rain on Friday evening. No tree falls or power breakdown reported due to the rain. The BBMP Praharis staff had a quiet day. The police said that there was no traffic congestion because of rain. Moderate rainfall is likely to continue in the next 24 hours.

## Towards greener world: BBMP will start fresh tree census in June second week

# 20% of city's 50 lakh trees dead and dangerous, says Palike

Bosky Khanna

**BENGALURU:** The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has formed another committee to undertake tree census in the city from June second week.

According to estimates made by BBMP Forest Cell officials, there are around 50 lakh trees in the city, of which 20% are dangerous and dead. They need to be axed. But the Palike has no official figure on the number of trees in its limits. "The survey will help us to estimate the exact number of trees," an officer said.

A senior BBMP official said that last year 13 teams were



formed to survey the trees but nothing was done. This year eight more teams have been

formed. Each team comprises volunteers and forest cell officials who will number each

tree. The survey will start from second week of June.

A similar opinion was shared by horticulture department officials.

"There are many aged trees in Lalbagh and Cubbon Park. During strong winds and heavy downpour, we are scared to sit in the offices as the old Ashoka and Silver Oak trees can fall. A plan is being chalked out to fell them and plant native trees species. By doing this, space will also be created to plant new tree species," an official said.

The BBMP every year receives 2500-3000 applications from individuals and organisations to axe trees and branches

for infrastructure works. And 80% of the applications are approved.

Meanwhile, environmentalist A N Yellappa Reddy questions the BBMP's estimates though he accepts that 20% of trees in the city are damaged and dead because of unplanned infrastructure works.

According to a study conducted by Centre for Ecological Sciences and Centre for Infrastructure, Sustainable Transportation and Urban Planning, IISc, in 2015, there are 14.78 lakh trees in Bengaluru which has one crore population. This means that there is one tree for seven-eight people.

**DH News Service**

# Children turn green ambassadors

Niveditha Jain

**BENGALURU:** Ever wondered how children view nature and what they think of the environment?

A doctor treating earth which is suffering from fever due to global warming, a globe placed atop an ice cream cone that is on the verge of melting, a thirsty bird trying to drink water from an empty tap. These are some of the images sketched by children at the sixth edition of 'Nazariya' painting competition organised nationwide by Options Conceptual Services Private Limited in association with Heritage Foundation of Art and Culture.

This World Environment Day, treat yourself to an array of thought-provoking paintings made by children that are on display at the Venkatappa Art Gallery. The exhibition which began on Friday will be held till Sunday.

A total of 103 handpicked paintings made by children from Bengaluru, Chennai, Mysuru, Meerut, Guwahati, Kolkata, Ernakulam, Hyderabad and Agra are on display. Besides, four artworks done by students of 'Nazariya' workshop that are chosen to be showcased at Japan have also been put up.

Chandrika B, president, Heritage Foundation of Art and



Culture, said the idea behind the painting competition was to create awareness about the environment, not just among children but also among parents.

More than 6,000 children took part in the competition by sending entries last year between February and December. Out of them, the top 103 have been displayed at the

gallery. The themes are environmental pollution, conservation of biodiversity and climate change. The prizes were given away to 60 children last January, she said.

### A platform

Vaishnavi B M, a class 5 student at Sarvodaya National Public School, Vijayanagar, was among those who took part in

the competition. She said she was excited to take part in the competition. "It has given me a platform to share my thoughts on the environment. I made an image of a globe and showed a person planting trees in the backdrop, to stress the importance of greenery."

Hemalatha Sahu said her seven-year-old son Anapay Akshar Sahu's painting was one

of the four to be presented globally. "He has made a painting showing a child trying to conserve all elements: land, animals, birds, aquatic creatures and trees. He took four days to make the painting and we are happy his efforts are being appreciated."

The exhibition is open from 10 am to 6 pm and entry is free. **DH News Service**

# Bengaluru no longer the city for trees to grow

Bosky Khanna

**BENGALURU:** There is no space to plant saplings on the roadsides in Bengaluru city limits, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) concede.

Ranganath Swamy, Assistant Conservator of Forests, BBMP Forest Cell, said the existing roads were being constantly used and re-used for infrastructure projects, making trees vulnerable in the city. As a result, saplings can be planted only in "closed spaces" like educational institutions, fenced government premises and clubs. The space in commercial and residential institutions is also limited. Only shrubs can be planted but not trees, he said.

The BBMP Forest Cell had suggested to the engineering wing to retain or undertake fresh plantation on new Tender SURE roads, but the request was turned down on the grounds that the infrastructure would get disturbed because of underground pipelines and cables. This has led to further reduction in space, said a forest

cell official.

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Ashok Kumar Singh, said the search for space in city limits was going on for plantation of saplings.

Mahantesh Murgod, Deputy Director of Horticulture Department, Cubbon Park, too opined that space was a constraint. He said space was limited not only in the city but also in Cubbon Park and Lalbagh. He said the search for space for plantation of native species was going on.

Noted Environmentalist A N Yellappa Reddy said that despite new developments, the government and urban bodies had not created new lung spaces or earmarked the area for plantation. The existing parks have more shrubs and ornamental species than native species of trees. There is a need for tree parks, he said.

At a recent meeting of the BDA board, Chief minister Siddaramaiah and Bengaluru Development minister K J George had said that abandoned garbage quarry pits on the outskirts would be turned into tree parks. **DH News Service**

## 'Send suggestions for Bengaluru to bag 'Smart City' tag'

**BENGALURU:** Bengalureans can now use a new mobile-based application to chip in their suggestions which will be incorporated as part of the extensive proposal for the capital to bag the 'Smart City' tag. Prominent proposals which will be sent to the Centre to make Bengaluru better can even win a cash prize for Rs one lakh.

People can go to the Google Playstore in their mobile and download "eye orta-smart city

Namma Bengaluru." Also, they can visit [www.facebook.com/smart-city-namma-bengaluru](http://www.facebook.com/smart-city-namma-bengaluru)

Speaking after launching the app on Friday, Mayor B N Manjunath Reddy said that the Centre had given a second opportunity to avail the 'Smart City' tag to Bengaluru, which will not be lost.

"We have 25 more days in which a proposal containing detailed information will be submitted to the Centre," the

Mayor said, appealing to the corporators, MLAs and BBMP officials to help prepare an extensive proposal."

He called upon the engineering college students, residents' welfare association and IT-BT employees to make the drive successful.

The Mayor said, "The Centre has certain parameters and if we meet at least 70 per cent of it, Bengaluru will be entitled for the 'Smart City' scheme. Smart meter usage, smart

waste disposal, smart fuel, smart administration, are among the requirements which we hopefully able to fulfill. Slums will be converted into a better living places and at least 250 acres of land will be converted into a green zone, regarding which the BBMP has taken a strong initiative."

Speaking on the occasion, BBMP commissioner N Manjunath Prasad asked people to give their feedback on city's development, share information

vital to the city and lodge complaints along with pictures. The names will be kept a secret, the commissioner said and added that all information shared by the citizens will be flashed in the Union government's portal, BBMP's Facebook page, e-mails, Twitter and BBMP's display boards.

He claimed that such an application had been launched for the first time in the country. **DH News Service**

## Strike may hit fuel supply

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Fuel supply in the city will be affected from June 6 as the tank truck crew attached to the Devanagathi terminal on the city outskirts, from where all the oil companies dispense fuel, have decided to go on an indefinite strike from Monday demanding better wages and facilities at the terminal.

Karnataka Petroleum Transport Drivers' and Cleaners' Association president Sri Ramu said the strike would hit fuel

supply to Bengaluru, Mysuru, Chamarajanagar, Mandya and surrounding districts.

Bangalore Petroleum Dealers' Association president B R Ravindranath said the association will support the strike. Ramu said: "Last month when lorry owners and truck driver associations held a flash strike, the companies gave us an undertaking that a panel comprising distributors, drivers and lorry owners would be formed. But till date nothing has happened."