

In brief

Engineering course fee hiked

Minister for Higher Education T B Jayachandra on Thursday said that the fee for engineering courses for seats allotted through CET has been hiked by 10 per cent. He said the private engineering colleges' association had sought a hike of 15 per cent from his department. "The 10 per cent hike happens annually. This time, the private colleges demanded a 15 per cent hike. However, we approved only 10 per cent hike," he added.

Bio-filter plant opened

Mayor B N Manjunath Reddy inaugurated the bio-filter plant at the Karnataka Compost Development Corporation which will minimise the stench at the unit. Joint Commissioner of Bommanahalli Zone of the BBMP, Muniraju, said the civic agency aimed to set up three more such plants. The total cost of the four plants will be Rs 5.5 crore. These units arrest gases emanating foul smell, channelise them to a plant fitted with coconut coir, seashells and other bio-products for the natural purification.

State postal circle awarded

For the year 2014-15, the Karnataka Postal Circle was awarded the first position for generating the highest revenue under Speed Post service in the country and second position in respect of percentage of growth in Speed Post revenue for the same year. Union Minister of Communication and IT, Ravishankar Prasad, presented the award to Chief Postmaster General, Karnataka Circle, Usha Chandrasekhar, during the Heads of Circle conference held at Hyderabad recently.

Free camp on herbal medicine

Sri Venkateshwara Seva Kendra Trust, Jayanagar, has organised a free information camp in Kannada on herbal medicines by traditional medicine practitioners, on May 30 between 10.30 am and 1 pm. The camp will deal with asthma, constipation, gastritis, weakness of nerves, paralysis, obesity, skin diseases, hairfall, knee/ joint pain, varicose veins, fits, piles, jaundice, etc. Venue: Seva Kendra, 206, 2nd Floor, 23rd Cross, Opposite Nanda Bus Stop, 6 Block, Jayanagar. Contact: 98805 63420.

Scholarship for students

Ragigudda Sri Prasanna Anjaneya Swamy Charitable Trust will distribute 'Vidyaidhi' scholarship to meritorious and deserving students who want to do further studies after SSLC. Eligible candidates are requested to collect the application forms from the school office between 5 pm and 6 pm on all working days. Further details can be had from the school office at 080 2658 7646, 2659 4244.

Footpaths cleared of encroachment

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) on Thursday carried out an extensive drive of clearing the footpaths of encroachment at various places in the City. The drive was carried out at Kadugodi, Belachuru, Hoskote main road, Whitefield and the surrounding areas under Mahadevapura zone. Many permanent structures like shops and sheds were razed down during the drive. The Karnataka High Court had recently ordered to clear pavements of encroachment. Following the order, BBMP Commissioner N Manjunath Prasad held a meeting directing all the zonal officers to ensure that the order was followed across the City. A 15 days' notice were served to the encroachers after which action was taken on Thursday.

Untreated sewage threatens future of subsisting lakes

Experts blame BWSSB for flaws in sewerage network

Naveen Menezes

BENGALURU: Mostly encroached and sewage-fed, Bengaluru's still subsisting 837 lakes manifest a disturbing narrative of poor governance.

This is evident in the fact that Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) is unable to stop inflow of untreated sewage to the water bodies even in core areas, where sanitary network is in place.

Dirty to the core, it's not just the lakes in the 110 villages and the erstwhile city municipal corporation areas that were

added to BBMP that are sewage-fed, the condition of lakes is no different in city centre which has an underground drainage (UGD) system. The latest fish kill in Ulsoor lake and the condition of Kempambudhi lake and Sankey tank indicate the same.

When contacted, BWSSB official said that work on replacement and rehabilitation of the old main sewer network in the core city areas has been taken up under the Environmental Action Plan (EAP).

"While 80% of the work taken up in the first phase is complete, replacement of old pipelines covering another 70

kms would be taken up in the next phase, he said.

The official went on to add that 10% of the population does not discharge sewage to the pipeline due to various reasons and this ultimately gets into the lake mostly in the monsoon season.

This means that there is no end to sewage getting into the lakes. Former BWSSB official M N Tippeswamy said the Board should make efforts to ensure that all the households are connected to the sewerage network.

"There is no point in constructing sewage treatment plants (STPs), if the Board does

not rectify sewage lines and the network on a war footing", he said.

Concurring with his views, Indian Institute of Science ecologist Prof T V Ramachandra said that "the BWSSB and the government should stop giving excuses. The Board levies tax to treat sewage. If the officials are able to do it, its better they resign for the youth to take over", he said.

Quoting his own study, he mentioned that only treated sewage should be released into lakes and not divert sewage from one locality to downstream localities. Sewage generated in each locality to be

treated locally", Prof Ramachandra said.

Environmentalist A N Yelappa Reddy said, "There is no point in blaming BWSSB, which has no control over activities mainly related to construction of buildings. The government first allows development of authorised and even unauthorised layouts, without keeping space to lay water and sewage pipelines or roads." Citing lack of farsighted vision from the government, he said that buildings have been constructed illegally in places where there are lakes, raja kaluve and storm water drains.

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No kidding

Craze for colouring books picking up among adults in Bengaluru

Users say it is a stress buster, helps improve concentration

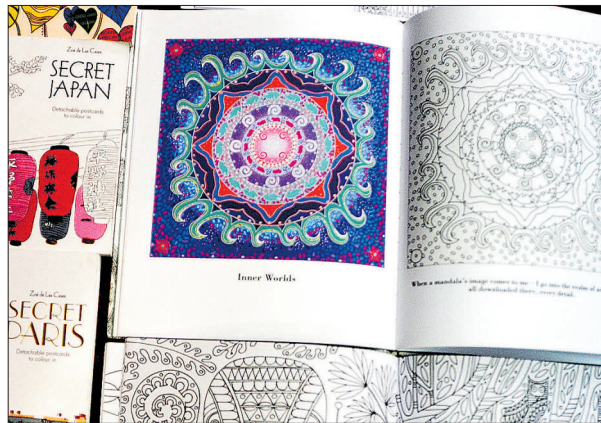
Naveen Menezes

BENGALURU: From an eye-stopper fiction to non-fiction dominate bookstores; the colouring books for adults are the next big thing on the shelves now. Considered as panacea to beat stress and improve concentration, these books are slowly making their space into Bengaluru's bookstores.

Once known as a domain of children, the fad for creative colouring books among the grown-ups first started in the West and spread world over. These books offer a simple but gloriously detailed patterns and designs for colouring and doodling its pages.

Apart from a variety of books on different themes covering nature, birds, butterflies, animals, cities, stunning concepts of movies to distinctive tattoos, there are a few books with intricate postcards, which could be sent to a passionate art lover.

Nanda Gopal P, a Bengaluru-based theatre personality says: "The patterns and de-



DABBING WITH COLOURS A variety of colouring books on different themes are available in the city. DH PHOTO

signs are intricate as well as creative. As it takes a lot of time to paint, the process is a useful diversion from the routine work. Practising any form of art is a relief and helps in beating stress. I sometimes take three to a maximum of seven days to complete a single page." He said that he recently bought one book for his son and one for himself.

Pragnya Venkatesh, design student from JP Nagar also

spends time colouring the books.

"It's a way to build patience and focus. I spend my leisure time with the book instead of watching television". Arvind Kaushik, a practicing lawyer concurs and says it is a stress reliever and satisfying to see the final work of art.

Krishna G, proprietor of The Bookworm store on Church Street said the demand for colouring books

started six months ago and is picking up. "We have seen 20% increase in the sale of these types of books in the last three months." They have sold over 500 books in less than a month.

Similarly, Mayi Gowda of Blossom Book House said that on an average 20 colouring books are being sold everyday since last three months. "We too are surprised with the growing demand. But these books are bought by grown ups, including youths," he said pointing out that 'Secret Garden' by Johanna Basford was a popular one.

Meanwhile, Dr Manjula M, assistant professor, department of psychology, NIMHANS said these books would help in improving concentration and cognitive ability. Sunitha Desai, city-based counsellor said: "It is a type of art therapy. The process would definitely calm and relax our minds", she said while picking up one such book from a bookstore on Wednesday.

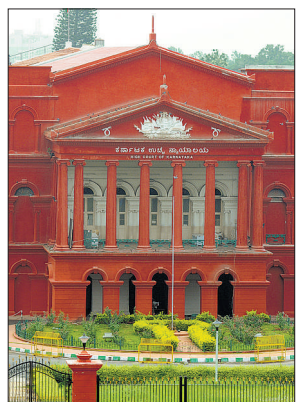
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Manyata Tech Park told to pay Palike Rs 83.45 cr tax arrears

Classification of taxation is rational, justified: HC judge

BENGALURU: The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike has received a shot in the arm following the Karnataka High Court order on a petition by Manyata Tech Park, justifying the categorisation of buildings based on installations like centrally air-conditioned industrial and technology parks.

The court rejected the petition by the tech park and asked it to pay the difference amount of Rs 83.45 crore to the Palike. The tech park had been paying at the rate of Rs eight per square foot whereas it was supposed to pay at Rs 10 per square foot.



The BBMP had sent a demand note asking it to pay the difference amount of Rs 20

since its inception. Contending the fixation of tax at Rs 10 per sqft, the tech park promoters had gone to the court.

On Wednesday, the bench of Justice L Narayana Swamy noted that the classification of taxation system based on the facilities was justified and rational.

It also complies with the Constitutional provisions, the court had observed.

The BBMP's Taxation and Finance Committee chairman M Shivaraju said the firm will have to pay Rs 110 crore, which includes the interest on the difference amount.

"The tech park had been

paying the tax at Rs eight per sqft. We had demanded them to pay at Rs 10 per sqft, which it had rejected," Shivaraju said.

A big victory

He said the High Court order is a big victory for the BBMP as owners of buildings with centrally air-conditioned, who have gone to the court challenging the taxation system, will fall in line.

"We had recently released the list of top ten defaulters and almost all of them have gone to the court challenging our taxation method," said Shivaraju.

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Power cut today

BENGALURU, DHNS: There will be no power supply on Friday from 10 am to 4 pm due to maintenance works at 66KV Kadubeesanahalli station.

The areas to be affected are - Vikas Telecom, Marathahalli, Gijnjurpalya, Panathur, Balagere, Munnekolal, Ashwathnagar, Venkateshwara, Manjunatha, Shridi Sai, Munireddy, Kaverappa and Green Garden layouts, Bhoganhalli, Kadubeesanahalli, New Horizon College and the surrounding areas. There will be no power supply from 10 am to 5 pm on Friday in the following areas under the Nagpura MUSS: Ashok Puram, Yeshwantpur Industrial Suburb, Wadpakk, KSCL Government Soap Factory, Mahalakshmi Puram, Nagpura, West of Chord Road, Dr Modi Road, Muneshwara Block, Sri Ram Nagar, Sathya Narayana Layout, Mico Layout, Pipe Line, MG Nagar, Shankar Mutta, VHBCS Layout, JC Nagar 17th Main Road to 24th Main Road; Bovi Palya Pipeline, Mahalakshmi Layout, Club Rd, Kamalamanna Gundi, Opp ISKCON Temple, BNES College and surrounding areas.

Consumers can dial 1912 to lodge their complaints, SMS 58888 or log onto www.bescom.org

City weather

FORECAST: Partly cloudy sky with likely development of thunder or lightning towards evening or night.

(Summary of observations recorded at 5.30 pm).

TEMPERATURES	
Maximum	33.2 C
Minimum	22.2 C
Rainfall	Nil
Humidity	78 pc
Sunrise	5.53 am
Sunset	6.41 pm
Moonrise	11.16 pm
Moonset	10.21 am



The building which crashed and the labourers Ram Singh of Manvi taluk of Raichur (above) and Ashok Kumar from the city (below) were seriously injured in the incident. DH PHOTOS

3 labourers injured in building crash

BENGALURU, DHNS: Three construction workers sustained injuries after they fell down from the second floor of an under-construction building at Chamundeswhari slum in Girinagar.

Ram Singh and Ashok Kumar were rushed to a private hospital for treatment, while Shyam was discharged after being treated as outpatients, the police said. The incident occurred around 12.30 pm when the three were working in the second floor. The slum board has taken up a project to construct quarters.

The work on the three-

storey building was on and Ram Singh and Ashok Kumar were busy fixing bricks. The wall on which they were working came crashing down and the two sustained injuries. Shyam, who was working on the ground, was also injured, the police added.

There were about 15 workers when the incident occurred. Shyam and Singh had moved to the city about six months ago for livelihood following drought at their place. The police have registered cases against the project engineer Nataraj Kumar and supervisor Suresh.

2 Bescom staff injured as mob throws stones at them

BENGALURU: An executive engineer (EE) and a lineman of Bescom sustained injuries after a mob pelted stones at them at Kadaalapanahalli village in Doddabelavangala, when they had gone there to inspect the cause of death of a contract employee, on Thursday afternoon.

T B Gangaraj, the EE who sustained injuries on his head and Ravi, the lineman, were rushed to MS Ramaiah Hospital. They are said to be out of danger. Nagesh, 40, a resident of Melukote in Doddaballapur taluk, was electrocuted while he was laying power lines at around 2.30 pm.

Bescom has taken up the project to draw power lines at various places under the Nirantara Jyothi scheme in and around Kadaalapanahalli. The contractor for the project had obtained permission from Bescom to disconnect power.

However, power supply was restored even as Nagesh was

still sitting atop a pole and drawing the wires. He was electrocuted.

A large number of local residents gathered at the spot after the news spread. They said that the negligence of the Bescom staff resulted in the death of an employee. They held Bescom assistant engineer Balakrishna responsible for Nagesh's death. The residents said that there were two such deaths in the past few days.

As Gangaraj and his team arrived there, angry local residents and Nagesh's family members started throwing stones at him, injuring him on his head. The police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control. They rushed Gangaraj and Ravi to a local hospital and later, they were shifted to MS Ramaiah Hospital, police said. The police arrested Anil, a distant relative of Nagesh, for the stone-pelting incident.

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History-sheeter Yashaswini gets anticipatory bail

BENGALURU, DHNS: Woman history-sheeter Yashaswini Mahesh who assaulted a woman for delaying repayment of loan and absconded subsequently, has managed to obtain anticipatory bail.

The City Civil Court on Thursday heard her petition and granted her the anticipatory bail. Yashaswini, a resident of Hulimavu and wife of Mahesh alias Dadiya Mahesh, is a history-sheeter at Basavanagudi police station since 2012.

Puttathayamma, a daily-wage worker, had borrowed loan from Yashaswini for a surgery and had delayed repayment. Yashaswini assaulted Puttathayamma and the latter lodged a complaint with the police about two weeks ago.

Yashaswini got herself admitted to a private hospital on Bannerghatta Road, complaining of chest pain and absconded from there. She had moved the city civil court seeking anticipatory bail.

Youth to cycle across US for cancer awareness

BENGALURU, DHNS: A city-based youth, Shubham Butra, is part of this year's Illini 4000, an American non-profit which conducts annual cross-country bike rides to raise funds for cancer research.

A student of St Joseph's Boys' High School, Butra is presently pursuing a degree in Actuarial Science at the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign. "This summer, I will be riding my bicycle from New York City to San Francisco for a distance of around 4,600 miles over 71 days as part of the Illini 4000-2016 Trek Bike America team for the organisation Illini 4000. I take a lot of pride in representing this organisation as I believe that cancer affects everybody. Regardless of the outcome, a cancer diagnosis is a nightmare that affects everyone directly or indirectly. Giving a voice to the people affected by cancer is something I am really looking forward to do as part of this organisation," he said.

Illini 4000 has been working towards documenting the American cancer experience



Shubham Butra

and is also involved in raising funds for cancer research and patient support services. As part of these efforts, the organisation spreads awareness about the fight against cancer through annual cross-country bike rides. "Every year, a team of 20-25 riders is selected after a round of interviews. The team selected is also required to go through a vigorous training routine for about nine months to prepare for the journey," Butra said.