

in the city

Unveiling:
CM B.S. Yeddyurappa to unveil paintings on wall in front of northern gate of Vidhana Soudha.
September 14
Time: 9.30 am
Venue: North Gate, Vidhana Soudha

Seminar:
E-governance principal secretary M.N. Vidhya Shankar to inaugurate seminar on 'data centre'.
September 14
Time: 9.45 am
Venue: Hotel Atria, Palace Road

Lecture:
Lecture on coherent imaging by Prof. Theo Lasser, Switzerland.
September 14
Time: 3.30 pm
Venue: Seminar hall, Dept of electrical engineering, IISc

Play:
Toad of Toadhall.
September 14
Time: 7.30 pm
Venue: Active Kyra 2001, Katti-ma Centre, Indira Nagar
Contact: 9886200697

Workshop:
Karnataka Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Board and Rural Development and Panchayati Raj to hold a two-day workshop on 'sanitation award project'.
September 14
Time: 10 am
Venue: Hotel J P Celestial, near Anand Rao Circle

HEAT WAVE: ITPL, ELECTRONIC CITY HOTTEST WITH 4-DEGREE RISE IN TEMPERATURE

IT hub hotter than ever: Study

DC CORRESPONDENT BENGALURU

Sept. 13: The heat is on in the city's IT corridors. A recent study on 'Land Surface Temperature with Land Cover Dynamics: Multi-Resolution, Spatio-Temporal Data Analysis of Greater Bangalore' has revealed that the glass buildings which house IT companies in ITPL and Electronic City have made them the hottest places in Bengaluru with a 4-degree increase in temperature.

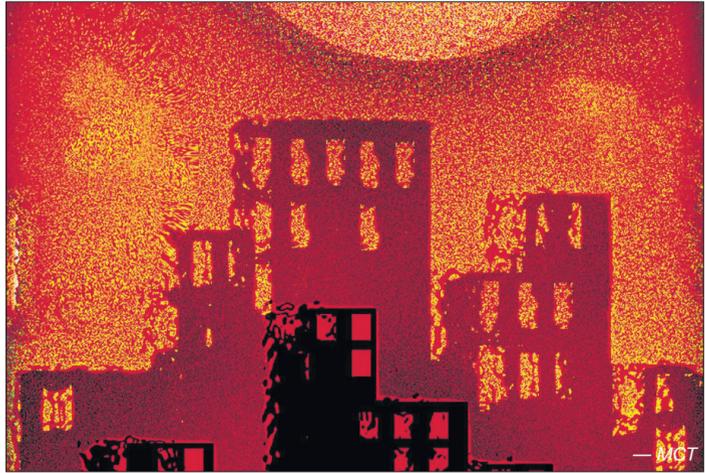
According to the study undertaken by the Energy and Wetland Research Group headed by Prof. T.V. Ramachandra, the temperature in Bengaluru has gone up by 2 degrees in the last 10 years, and by 4 degrees in areas that are now termed as 'heat islands'. "The study was aimed at analysing the role of increased urbanisation. The analysis showed that there has been a 466 per cent increase in the built-up area from 1973 to 2007 as is evident from the temporal analysis leading to a sharp decline of 61 per cent area of water bodies. Land use changes were more prominent in the city during the

Year	Built up	Vegetation	Water bodies
1973	5,448	46,639	2,324
1992	18,650	31,579	1,790
1999	23,532	31,421	1,574
2000	24,163	31,272	1,542
2002	26,992	28,959	1,218
2006	29,535	19,696	1,073
2007	30,876	17,298	1,005

area in hectares

last two decades due to the rapid urbanisation," Prof. Ramachandra said. "This, accompanied with an urban sprawl, the boom in the IT and BT sectors and the consequent migration of people from different regions added to the changes in land use," Prof. Ramachandra explained. The study on temperature rise and heat islands was taken up in Whitefield and Electronic City due to the presence of a large number of glass structures in these areas. "The buildings having glass walls which are not suitable for a tropical country like India. These European-style structures

are designed to capture heat. But the same structures if built here heat up the neighbourhood and force the building residents to go for air-conditioning," Prof. Ramachandra added. The researchers are now pressing for a compulsory 30 per cent landscaping at every corridor so that the heat levels are brought down. "Land surface temperatures were comparatively lower in areas with parks, healthy vegetation and lakes that aid in reducing the heat in these areas. The landscaping must be done in such a way that large trees are planted instead of just laying a lawn," he said.



Buildings with glass walls are not feasible for India's tropical climate.

City growth on fast track

MANY CITIES in developing countries are now undergoing rapid urbanisation evident from the increase in urban population from 13 per cent (220 million) in 1900 to 29 per cent (732 million) in 1950, going on to 49

per cent (3.2 billion) in 2005. Experts say that it is projected to rise to 60 per cent (4.9 billion) by 2030. Researchers emphasise a need to chalk out a future plan of action for the city. They fear that if

the city's vegetation cover is not protected, more numbers of heat islands will come up in Bengaluru. Since vegetation and water bodies act as heat sinks in urban areas, they must be preserved.

Feathered visitors land in city

AMIT S. UPADHYE DC | BENGALURU

Sept. 13: Come October and the city will resound with the chirping of winged guests from across the globe. Warblers and harriers have been the first to arrive in Bengaluru, indicating that the season of migration has started.

Every year, by mid-September, thousands of birds flock to the 'Garden City' from the cold regions of Siberia, Afghanistan, Tibet, China and other parts of Europe in search of food. Several green pockets in and around Bengaluru shelter the birds until May when they return to their native land.

The numbers of migratory birds in the city have dwindled in the last few years due to disturbance in habitat and disappearance of lakes but many still fly undeterred to the city during the season. "There are two types of migration — local and distant. While birds such as storks and pelicans migrate to the wetlands of Bengaluru from other parts of India, some birds migrate to Bengaluru from far-off places. Unlike resident birds and other local migrants, the birds that come from other countries do not breed here," explains bird expert Harish R. Bhat. While migratory land birds including sand pipers, warblers, harriers, wagtails seek the city's forest pockets, several

provide protection, say bird lovers

IT IS not just habitat destruction that is affecting migratory birds in Bengaluru. Every year, a number of migratory ducks are poached for meat. While land birds including birds of prey manage to escape, ducks and other water birds are always hunted down. "Since the wetlands are not provided with any security, hunting goes unchecked. Regular patrolling must be carried out around lakes during the migratory season," said a regular birder.

water birds migrate to the wetlands in and around the city. Water bodies including Madiwala Lake, Madhurai Kere in Hesarghatta, Hebbal, TG Halli dam, Puttenhalli Lake and Jakkur Tank attract water birds which continue to thrive in the region till the beginning of summer. Unfortunately, 80 per cent of waders that once visited the paddy fields around the wetlands have disappeared in the last 15 years. "Several lakes have lost their biological characteristics and drastic habitat destruction has affected bird migration," says ornithologist Dr S. Subramanya. "Waders generally depend



A Montagu's Harrier (above) which has flown to the outskirts of Bengaluru from Siberia. — K. VINAY
A painted stork (below) lands on a tree-top in a lake catchment area on the outskirts of Bengaluru. — DC



on shallow waters. But due to the disposal of sewage water, the lakes are no longer feasible options. It will be hard put to find a migratory bird at the Nagawara Lake which used to record over 15,000 water birds in the last decade due to the introduction of mechanised boating," he added.

Migratory Bird	Place of origin
Bar-headed geese	Tibet and China
Sand Piper	Europe
Pin-tailed duck	Northern Europe
Shoveller	Northern Europe
Marsh harrier	Western Europe
White wagtail	Western Siberia
Yellow wagtail	Northeast Siberia
Rosy starling	Afghanistan
Booted warbler	Eurasia
Blyth's reed-warbler	Eurasia
Harriers	Europe
Peregrine falcon	North America

swine flu

Three more die in state

DC CORRESPONDENT BENGALURU

Sept. 13: Three more deaths due to H1N1 influenza were reported on Sunday in Karnataka including one woman in Bengaluru. With these three fatal cases, the H1N1 toll in the state has gone up to 65.

A day after a one-year-old baby died in Hubli after contracting H1N1 influenza, a 5-year-old boy also succumbed to the global flu pandemic in Gulbarga district.

The third death reported is that of a 60-year-old man, who was a resident of Kolar district. Meanwhile, keeping in mind the rising toll, the state government has launched an active surveillance programme in all the wards of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) in a bid to curtail the H1N1 fatalities.

Reports confirming that 23 persons in the state had tested positive for H1N1 came on Sunday. With these, 760 positive cases of swine flu have been confirmed in the city.

Another 3,297 people are suspected to have swine flu and are awaiting the reports of their samples from the designated testing centres.

SWINE FLU UPDATE

3,67,153
Air passengers screened in the state

3,297
Suspected cases

760
Total confirmed

23
Confirmed to be positive on September 13, Sunday

city briefs

Artificial limbs donated

DC CORRESPONDENT BENGALURU

Sept. 13: Artificial limbs were donated to differently-abled people suffering from locomotive disabilities at a camp organised by the Rotary Club of Jayanagar in association with the Sri Mahaveer Jain Sahayatha Samithi and the Sri Mahaveer Jain Hospital in the city on Sunday.

The camp focussed on helping out those living in the often neglected areas around Bengaluru.

The low-cost artificial limbs, of which 201 have been distributed in the last two years, will enable its users to go about their lives in a normal manner, said the programme coordinators.

"Thousands of Indian amputees who suffer from disabilities largely come from the lower income groups and cannot afford methods to overcome the disability," said chairman of the Artificial Limb Project, Ashok Maheshwari. In future, the project aims to reach more people across the state, Mr Maheshwari added.

Appeal to shift camels

DC CORRESPONDENT BENGALURU

Sept. 13: Members of Akhila Karnataka Prani Daya Sangha have appealed to the police and animal husbandry department to shift camels from the state to the states that they belong to, following a recent High Court order.

On September 3 this year, chief judicial magistrate Mustafa Hussain S.A. and justice V.G. Sabahit of the Karnataka High Court had ordered the transfer of 39 camels. The members are now demanding an early transfer of the animals to their respective states.

"We are asking the government to take steps to shift these animals along with providing them full medical care. We are also seeking the help of the railways for the transfer of these animals. The investigative officers must take photographs of the camels so that they do not end up in slaughter houses," said a member of the Sangha. The members have appealed to the public to tip them off if they spot camels being tortured. The Sangha can be contacted on 25919960.

BIZ EDUCATION

Colleges add CAT to their kitty

MADHUMITHA B. DC | BENGALURU

Sept. 13: The demand for a career in business administration has only surged in the past one year, the economic downturn notwithstanding. Keeping in mind the increasing number of applicants to top-ranking B-schools in the country, 51 new institutes have joined the bandwagon of the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) and decided to use the Common Admission Test (CAT) scores for evaluation purposes, revealed experts. Fortunately, 15 of these new entrants are based in Karnataka.



comes to choosing students of impeccable quality to enter its threshold. B-schools, which previously used other tests and internal assessments for admission, have chosen to opt for CAT as it evaluates students on various essential parameters. "The skills that are being assessed through CAT surely determine a level of qual-

ity among applicants. Many of these institutes were already using CAT as one factor of the assessment but will now look primarily at CAT scores before admitting the applicant," said R. Shivakumar, director, academics, Career Launcher. The general consensus among institutes is that adopting CAT will enable them to net in more stu-

51 more institutes opt for CAT scores

THERE WILL be 51 new institutes opting for CAT this year, taking the total number of such institutes to 151 across the country. In Karnataka, 15 new B-schools will be part of the test, which is expected to raise the benchmark of quality required for admission. Experts feel that with the new computer-based test, CAT might become a globally recognised test in the coming years, opening doors to international students as well.

dents, especially since three lakh students are expected to attempt the test this year, Mr Shivakumar added. Experts also state that the addition of institutes in the list of those using the CAT score as an evaluator could make the test more popular in the country. "A lot of B-schools who were not accepting CAT scores earlier felt that they missed out on good students in the past few years. It has become essential for them to have access to this talent pool this year," said an

MBA expert. But some believe that the association of more B-schools with the test is purely a marketing gimmick. "It is the most common and well-acknowledged test and adds credibility to any institute. Many students who take the CAT do not get into the IIMs and this reality opens up avenues for the new institutes to garner students," said Ajay Arora of entrance coaching institute Triumphant Institute of Management Education (TIME).

more than puppy love



Children play with puppies at the puppy adoption camp organised by 'Let's Live Together' in Malleswaram in Bengaluru on Sunday. — SHASHIDHAR B.