



Permanent solution soon to mitigate elephant-human conflict: Forest minister C.P. Yogeshwar



Justice Hegde to attend certificate awarding ceremony at St. Joseph's Evening College today

QUOTE OF THE DAY

There is not even space for public buses to park and this adds to public's woes

— M.N. Sreehari  
Transport advisor

Briefs

RE-EXAMS FOR DCC&DE ANNOUNCED

The Directorate of Correspondence Courses and Distance Education, Bangalore University, had announced re-examinations from Jan 16 at Davanagere, Bellary, Koppal, Chitradurga and Bengaluru if the centres installed CCTVs. As of now, only the Bengaluru Center has agreed to install CCTVs. For all other students, the examinations will be conducted in Bengaluru at Osteen College, Chamarajpet. The time-table has been displayed at www.schools9.com and on the notice board of the directorate.

800 TRIBALS TO BE RELOCATED

As many as 800 more tribal families in Karnataka would be relocated from tiger reserve areas. Social welfare minister A Narayanaswamy said 142 tribal families have been relocated. They have received a compensation of Rs 10 lakh each under a Government of India scheme, while the state has given three acres and Rs 5,000 extra for LPG connections.

Other stories

CID SLAPS NOTICE ON BBMP, SEEKS FILES

DC CORRESPONDENT  
BENGALURU, JAN. 9

In a major development in the 1,539-crore bogus bill scam, the CID has slapped a notice on the BBMP additional commissioner and directed him to furnish all documents with regard to the three divisions — Gandhinagar, Rajarajeshwarinagar and Malleswaram.

The notice addressed to the BBMP standing committee on Taxation and Finance has stated that all the related documents must be furnished soon after the receipt of the notice, the notice sent by CID SP S. Maheshwarappa said.

The scam with IPC sections 420, 406, 409, 465, 471, 477, of the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement (KTPPP) Act registered at the BMTF authorities have been transferred to CID following the government order.

The BBMP additional commissioner had promised to submit the remaining 9,630 files before December 31. They should be furnished as soon as possible, the notice said.

PROPERTIES IN CITY TO GET NEW ID NUMBERS



DC CORRESPONDENT  
BENGALURU, JAN. 9

In a bid to bring properties under the tax net, the BBMP on Monday launched Geographical Information System-based Property Identity (PID) number in five wards on a pilot basis.

Addressing mediapersons, BBMP commissioner M.K. Shankarlinga Gowda said that following the delimitation, all the 198 wards would be given new PID numbers by January 15 and five wards — Pattabhiramanagar (ward no. 168), Byrasandra (169), Subramanyanagar (66), Basaveshwaranagar (100) and Prakashnagar (98) have been chosen. The Demand-Collection-Balance (DCB) validation has been done.

The property owners will be given an application along with the new PID numbers. The same can be returned to the BBMP after filling it up, he said.

Bangalore Metro has decided to levy parking fees at S.V Road and Byappanahalli metro stations

# Get ready for more parking woes

JOHNLEE ABRAHAM | DC  
BENGALURU, JAN. 9

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd (BMRL) will soon start charging a fee at its two available parking spaces in S.V Road and Byappanahalli metro stations. On Monday, it took a group of interested bidders around the two stations for a site visit.

As many as 11 bidders have shown interest to take over the parking facility at the Metro stations. "The bidders were shown around the metro stations, as they wanted to evaluate and analyse the available parking spaces in the stations," said a BMRL spokesperson.

At the S.V. Road and Byappanahalli metro stations, a total parking area of 2,500 sq meters will be demarcated with automated lifting barrier and computer parking ticketing counter. The parking rates for the first four hours will be Rs 5 for two-wheelers and it will be Rs 20 for four-wheelers, while the bicyclists will have to pay Re 1 per hour (maximum Rs 5).

Parking woes

BMRL had faced severe criticism from all sections of the society, especially the urban planners, for omitting parking facility from its original plan.

"In the initial plans, in 2004, parking space was marked out for all stations. However, later based on



FROM YOUR POCKET

VEHICLE TYPE	FIRST FOUR HRS	FOR EVERY SUBSEQUENT HR
Two-wheelers	Rs 5	Rs 3
Four-wheelers	Rs 20	Rs 5
Bicycle	Rs 1 per hour (max Rs 5)	

the recommendations on some agency, BMRL took off the parking plan. Since then it's been citing reasons such as non-availability of land and fund shortage. But that is not the case; had they planned it well, things would have been much easier," said

M.N. Sreehari, advisor to the government on Infrastructure and Transport.

Parking is an important aspect of a mass transit system and by taking away parking, it has brought down the commuter interest. "There is not even

space for public buses to park and this is only adding to the woes of the commuters," added Sreehari.

In Reach 1 of Bangalore Metro, out of the six stations, parking is available only in two; while it's counterpart Delhi had in the beginning itself acquired 1.9 lakh sq meters of land parking facility in its 76 stations. Even Mumbai metro that just started its construction work is planning multi-level parking at its stations.

PARK YOUR CAR, USE PUBLIC TRANSPORT

DC CORRESPONDENT  
BENGALURU, JAN. 9

Want to own a car? Ensure that your house has sufficient space to park it before booking. Otherwise, be ready to shell out more for street parking, said Manjula, commissioner of Directorate of Urban Land Transport (DULT) on Monday.

Speaking at a seminar on 'Combating traffic congestion in Bangalore: An alternative vision', organised by CIVIC, she said that the parking policy created by the DULT demands that the buyer should show the 'proof of the space' for parking.

The policy also says the city should be classified into different zones and parking should be banned in areas where there's good transport facility. It advocates charging exorbitant fee for on-street and off-street parking; but mentions that the fees can be relaxed in the outskirts of the city.

Some of the solutions to combat congestion are to discourage use of private vehicles, charge exorbitant parking fees and augment reliable public transport.

Paid parking fetches a good amount for BBMP. The demand and supply of such parking should be studied at multi level parking lots, he said.

"The best suited alternatives should be explored. If the road requires widening, the government should take it up after holding public discussions. It is necessary to promote pedestrian facilities, bicycle tracks and bus priority lanes. Mass rapid transportation facilities must be given emphasis," said Manjula.

Priority lanes should be given preference as the buses are the lifeline of passengers in Bangalore. It ferries 45 per



cent of the commuters every day, she added. Executive trustee of the CIVIC Katyayini Chamaraj said the BBMP and BDA must keep in mind the legal and human rights issues while taking up controversial road widening projects in the city.

"A committee comprising affected parties should be formed to assess the social impact and non-official representatives must be included in it. In case of involuntary resettlement, their prior condition should not be disturbed," said Ms Chamaraj.

The Transferable Development Rights (TDR) in lieu of the property acquired for road widening should not be enforced on people if they are unwilling. Instead, land must be acquired as per the land acquisition act, she said.

Deputy Mayor S. Harish said that the buses too need wider roads to move on. The city has a single carriageway and to make a dedicated corridor, BBMP needs to widen the road. There will be opposition, but one must keep the larger interest of the public in mind, he added.

## City commercial hubs will get smart meters



JOHNLEE ABRAHAM | DC  
BENGALURU, JAN. 9

Bescom is gearing up to install smart meters or the pre-paid meters in commercial hubs such as M.G. Road and Commercial Street. This week the utility will approach the regulatory commission to seek its approval.

A smart meter is an integral part of the smart grid and has the capacity to manage power distribution depending on availability and demand by a complex computerised system without human intervention.

"As a pilot, we have now decided to implement the project in commercial areas such as malls and shopping centres. Areas such as M.G. Road and Commercial Street are on top of the list," said Sathish Kumar, Bescom, general manager (Commercial).

For the smart meter, the Bescom currently has appointed Power Research & Development Consultants Pvt. Ltd.(PRDC) as independent consultants to study

the project and their assessment report will be submitted to the Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC) for its approval.

"We will have to get the approval from KERC and since we have the support of the business and commercial associations, we are sure that we will be able to start the tendering process by next month," added Kumar.

The Bescom officials will also visit Pune and Lonavla shortly to study the pre-paid meters installed. However, compared to Maharashtra, the proposed smart meters by Bescom will be way smarter, claims Bescom officials.

"The smart meters in Bengaluru will have options such as advanced metering, where a consumer or the utility can set a maximum power load. There also will be options such as integration of solar or wind energy, whereby, a consumer will be able to sell the power to the utility," said Kasturi Rangan, director, Syscon Hefcom Smart Solutions Pvt Ltd, a

SO SMART!



A smart meter manages power distribution depending on the availability and demand by a complex computerised system without human intervention. It makes it possible for a consumer to be a generator of power. For example, those using solar energy or wind mills can put back electricity into the grid, thus augmenting power availability. The utility also can opt for time of use tariff through smart meters. When demand is high, the utility can charge a higher tariff and when demand is low, they can give a rebate. Smart meters cost: Rs 5,000

joint venture company based in Bangalore.

In the pilot, the smart meters are expected to cost Rs 5,000. "Since the pilot roll out will be in a small area, the cost of meters will be Rs 5,000. However, the cost can be brought down considerably, once it is implemented throughout the city," said Rangan.



HAVING A BALL

A man transports a bunch of plastic balls on a two-wheeler, in Bengaluru on Monday — Shashidhar B

## 'BDA spends ₹70 cr on consultancy'

DC CORRESPONDENT  
BENGALURU, JAN. 9

The Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) commissioner Bharatlal Meena has been favouring 'consultancy mafia' and has planned to give away Rs 70 crore towards consultancy fee to various companies to provide feasibility reports, alleged a member of Jayaprakash Narayan Vichara Vedike.

Addressing a press conference on Monday B.M. Shivkumar said the tax payers' money is being wasted in the name of project consultancy. The BDA



Bharatlal Meena

has proposed to spend Rs 70 crore on 44 companies. Already, Rs 20.75 crore have been released while Rs 43.79 crore is pending.

"A North Indian consultancy firm M/s Tandon Urban Solutions Private Limited is the highest paid firm and the BDA has pro-

**A consultancy firm has been appointed even to put up a chain-link fence**

posed to pay them Rs 18.19 crore. Ironically, a consultancy firm has been appointed even to put up a chain-link fence. Even a common man can estimate the cost of a chain-link fence. This is the height of favouring," he said.

Consultancy reports have been sought even for disputed lands and for construction of commercial complexes on civic amenity sites. Though many qualified engineers are available in the BDA to prepare blueprints and estimates, the BDA has been entrusting private agencies merely to favour them, he alleged.

Following complaints from the Vedike to the governor H.R. Bhardwaj, the urban development principal secretary has sought a detailed note on all the consultancy projects in the last two years.

However, the BDA has provided false information to the government on the money spent towards consultancy fee, he alleged.

IGNORAMUS

## Bengaluru students' awareness lower than other metros

DARSHANA RAMDEV | DC  
BENGALURU, JAN. 9

A recent survey conducted in top schools across the country has revealed some surprising trends among the children. What's more, while Delhi and Kolkata scored very well in the survey, Bengaluru has markedly lower results than the other metro cities.

The Quality Education Study, conducted by Educational Initiatives with Wipro, did an in-depth analysis into the level of awareness of students. The purpose of the study was to bring to notice the dropping levels

of learning, the increasing need for learning by rote and the dipping values and social commitment among children.

A dependence on learning by rote was the most distinctive trend in the study. Students seemed unable to answer questions that were not taken directly from their textbooks, and learning levels were found to have dropped significantly from what was observed in 2006; the levels are still lower than the international average, although students seem to be able to catch up by Class 8.

The survey revealed that



the need to learn by rote is one of the biggest contributors to this drop in awareness levels. Students do well in questions that are

Facts and figures

- There is a drop in learning levels from a study conducted in 2006
- Performance in Math, English and Science is lower than the international average
- About 43% of the students in classes 4, 6 and 8 felt that education for girls is less important than their responsibility towards the family
- Nearly 80% of the students across different classes think of differently abled people as burdensome, unhappy or less intelligent

purely procedural and do not show a deeper understanding or application of concepts. Practical competencies like map-reading,

using good language and a general awareness of well-known facts are not well-developed. Misconceptions are ram-

portant in the life of a student. Although their overall performances improve as they graduate to higher classes, they carry their misconceptions forward with them.

The students various beliefs range across gender equality, religion and social attitudes. For example, around 40% felt the education of the girl child was barely necessary, many hold prejudices on the basis of religion and may even resort to violence to prove their point. In fact, having the last word in every argument is very important to them!

The teacher's approach to the classroom proved to be one of the biggest influences on a student's performance. Classrooms where teachers follow a constructivist approach tend to produce better outcome. However, rigid beliefs in discipline, including beating as a form of punishment, shows the highest negative correlation with performance in class.

What's more, being in a positive classroom environment makes their work more cohesive and helps the children feel involved. These children are also likely to show better social attitudes, values and interpersonal skills.