

In brief

Change of guard in BBMP?

» Speculation was rife in the corridors of power that a change of guard in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike is in the offing. There were talks that Gaurav Gupta, commissioner, Commerce and Industries Department, would replace incumbent N Manjunatha Prasad. However, there was no official confirmation. Prasad assumed office on April 25, 2016.

Kejriwal on strict diet

» Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, who is in the city, for treatment of diabetes and chronic cough is on strict diet besides naturopathy treatment at the Jindal Naturecure Institute. Dr Babina Nandakumar, chief medical officer of the institute, said when Kejriwal arrived at their Institute on Tuesday, he was taking insulin injections four times a day. On Wednesday, with dietary modifications, this was brought down to three, she added. She said that they would attempt to bring it down further by the end of 15 days.

Encroachment removed

» BBMP on Wednesday removed encroachment from footpaths at Marathahalli and Whitefield. As many as 40 temporary shops and a concrete structure encroaching upon the pavements were removed.

Photographer Perumal no more

» Ace wildlife photographer and noted conservationist T N A Perumal (84) died on Wednesday at his house in Shanthinagar. His funeral will be held on Thursday at 10.03 am at Wilson Garden crematorium. He had earned laurels for his photographs all over the world. He had received the Fellowship of the Royal Photographic Society, London. He was also honoured with the prestigious Master Photographer of French Federation de l'Art Photographique (MFAP) award. The Information and Broadcasting Ministry had felicitated him with the lifetime achievement award.

Programme to check students' suicide

» Unnati Healing Foundation Trust and RV Institute of Sanskrit Studies have jointly organised 'Life is My Choice', a day-long counselling programme, on Saturday, focussing on checking the tendency among children to commit suicide succumbing to examination pressure. The morning session will include a talk by Dr HS Nagaraja, founder of BASE Educational Services Pvt Ltd. A session by a team from Nimhans led by Dr Paulami Sudhir and a talk by Unnathi founder president Saraswathi Hegde will also be held. Professional teams from Nimhans will present effective methods of learning and relaxation. About 20,000 children from schools, their teachers and parents are expected to take part in the event.

Accident cripples traffic on Ballari Rd

» Traffic was thrown out of gear for over an hour on Ballari Road as two cars that brushed against each other at the Cauvery junction, lay stuck on the road on Wednesday night. The traffic police later towed the vehicles away. No one was hurt in the accident, the police said. The accident occurred around 8 pm when the traffic was dense and led to a pile-up which was over a kilometre long, the police said. Traffic came to a stand still on Sankey Road, till Bashyam Circle in Sadashiva-nagar, Guttahalli Road and on Ballari Road beyond Mehkri Circle in the north and BDA junction in the south. It took at least an hour for the Sadashivnagar traffic police to restore normalcy.

Yeshwantpur, Cantt stations to turn nerve centres in 4 yrs

**BENGALURU: Yeshwantpur and Bangalore Cantonment stations would be upgraded into world-class stations in the next four years if the project launched on Wednesday by Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu is executed without a hitch.**

South Western Railway (SWR) general manager A K Gupta said 23 stations across the country have been selected and Bengaluru has the distinction of having two of its stations in the list. Interacting with the media before the minister launched the stations redevelopment programme in New Delhi, Gupta said the projects will make the stations the nerve centres of the city, besides providing high-quality passenger amenities. SWR has set June 6 as deadline for submission of



A file picture of the Yeshwantpur railway station.

documents for bidders. When asked about the timeline of the project, he said the work order will be placed within an year and the project is expected to be completed within three years. As per the Public Private Partnership (PPP) model,

Yeshwantpur station will be developed at a cost of Rs 100 crore and Cantonment station at Rs 80 crore. Both amounts are indicative as the bidder can propose a project at a higher cost. In return, the developer will get 45-year lease of 2.25

acres of land near Cantonment station and 20 acres adjacent to Yeshwantpur station.

SWR officials said Mysuru, Belagavi, Ballari, Vijayapura, Dharwad and Bangarpet are among the 15 stations that will be proposed for inclusion in phase II of the programme.

Project nodal officer and SWR chief planning and design engineer D K Garg, who briefed the media and investors, said the stations will be connected to the existing transport systems, including Metro, bus and taxis. Accessibility of Cantonment station will be improved, Garg said. The developer will have to maintain the station for 15 years, during which he will share the revenue generated through advertisement and leasing of stalls on the premises.

**DH News Service**

‘Filmmakers in South fall for formula, blur local flavour’

Meghana Choukkar

**BENGALURU, DHNS: Though each state in South India has its own flourishing film industry, filmmakers say the movies they produce are often homogeneous and fail to capture the distinct identity of each state.**

Gopi Peenya, director of Kodava movie ‘Talang Neer,’ said the primary reason was that majority of the films, be it Kannada, Tamil or Telugu, are set in urban locations, focussing on lifestyle in the city.

Ignoring local flavour in this manner leads to homogeneity, he said. Gopi originally wanted to make his film in Kannada.

“I changed my mind later because I thought, since the movie was set in Kodagu, it will only be right to make it in Kodava,” he said. A photographer-turned-director, Gopi visited Kodagu frequently over a period of 30 years and gained an understanding of local issues.

“Even if the movie is set in a village, the characters will not be true to the local culture because the filmmaker has not made the effort to understand the place and the people.”

Narahari Rao, former artistic director of Biffes, said, “One thing all film critics in the country agree on is that Marathi films are the only ones which



Gopi Peenya, director of Kodava movie ‘Talang Neer’ at the Bengaluru International Film Festival on Wednesday.

DH PHOTO

have a strong, distinct identity. Not just parallel cinema, even the mainstream movies have that characteristic. This is not to be seen in any other regional cinema.”

Pressure from distributors could be a reason why film-

makers prefer to make grand, formula films, says Hemanth Kumar, director of the first movie made in Banjari, the language spoken by the Banjara tribe. “We have so many beautiful locations in this state, but distributors demand movies

and songs shot in foreign countries. They want movies that copy Hollywood and Bollywood. If we use a village as our setting, they think it is a low-budget movie of low standards,” he said.

Kumar, who belongs to the Banjara community, used to make movies in Kannada before, but switched to depicting the community’s indigenous culture, traditions and problems. “Costumes play a huge role, too. Be it Tamil, Telugu or Kannada, you only see people wearing jeans, saree and trousers. In my movies, the men wear dhotis, and women wear traditional skirt and blouse with heavy embroidery,” he said. His latest movie ‘Sone Sarik Beti’ is about the pressing issue of farmer suicides. It was screened at Biffes 2017 in the ‘Unsung Incredible India’ category.

A film critic said, “Earlier, you could look at just one frame of a Malayalam movie and say it was from the region. These days, if you mute the audio, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada and Malayalam movies become indistinguishable. They all look the same.” This is also an effect of globalisation which has led to similar dressing, food habits, etc. Festivals like Biffes help films representative of local cultures to thrive, he said.

Chapters on social reformers among key inclusions in textbooks

**BENGALURU: The inclusion of chapters on Basavanna, Sangolli Rayanna and Savitribai Phule are among the changes to be effected in the state textbooks based on the recommendations of the textbook revision committee headed by writer Baragur Ramachandrappa.**

Ramachandrappa had sent the recommendations to Minister for Primary and Secondary Education Tanveer Sait.

Class VIII Sanskrit students will study about Akkamahadevi and Class VII Sanskrit students will study about Basavanna. Class VII Tulu textbooks will have one unit on the life of Narayana Guru. A unit on Hajjaba, a fruit and vegetable vendor who built educational institutions, for Class VIII

Other recommendations

- Class X Tamil students to have chapter on Adikavi Pampa
- ‘Bhasha Bandhavnya’ chapter to be added in Marathi books
- ‘Apna Karnataka’ chapter to be added in Class VII Hindi textbook

- Urdu textbooks to have a chapter on national integration
- Images in maths textbooks of Class I to VII have been revised
- Complex chapters have been removed from primary and high school maths books

students is among the other suggestions.

Class VII social science textbooks will have a topic on ‘Sufi movement,’ in addition to the existing ‘Bhakti movement’. Class VIII students will have a chapter on human rights in social science textbooks, besides

lessons on the selection process and administration in state and central public service commissions. Language textbooks should have an introduction on the best writers in Kannada, English and other languages, the committee has recommended. For instance, the pre-

vious textbooks did not have any piece penned by noted writer Masti Venkatesha Iyengar. This time, a part of his play ‘Yashodhara’ will be included.

The books will also have lessons on Siddaiah Puranik, Shantarasa, Simpi Linganna and other writers from the Hyderabad-Karnataka region.

‘Blade Runner’ dropped

The committee has recommended that the chapter ‘Blade Runner’ on Oscar Leonard Carl Pistorius be removed from the textbook as it will set a negative example for children. He has been charged with the murder of his girlfriend. Students will learn V K Gokak’s poem ‘The Song of India’ in one of the non-Kannada textbooks.

**DH News Service**

Call to protect, nurture Ravindra Kalakshetra



Artistes perform a dance at the golden jubilee celebrations of Ravindra Kalakshetra on Wednesday. DH PHOTO

**BENGALURU:** Seventy artistes performed Bharatanatyam, Kuchipudi and Odissi dances for a tune at Ravindra Kalakshetra on Wednesday.

The programme was held as part of the golden jubilee celebrations of Kalakshetra.

Senior theatreperson Vimala Rangachar, who spoke at the programme, said the Kalakshetra became a reality due to the efforts of many artistes.

‘Continue activism’

“The activism should go on. Kalakshetra should not be allowed to become a decrepit

hall. We should protect and nurture it for future,” Vimala said.

Shanthala award winner Radha Sridhar said there is a need for a separate repertoire for classical dances on the lines of Ravindra Kalakshetra, which mainly caters to theatre activities.

Theatreperson Srinivas Kappanna of Kalakshetra Cultural Committee expressed concerns over regular protests at Town Hall.

“We have requested the police to prevent these protests,” Kappanna added.

**DH News Service**

Leachate from waste processing unit choking Somasundarapalya lake

**BENGALURU, DHNS: Leachate from the Karnataka Compost Development Corporation's waste processing unit at Kudlu near HSR Layout is threatening the Somasundarapalya Lake.**

Negligence by authorities managing the waste processing unit has left the lake reeking and has endangered aquatic life. Leachate is being released stealthily at night over the past several months. Angry residents had blocked the drain leading to the lake from the KCDC unit.

However, on Wednesday, the blockade was removed and thousands of litres of leachate was allowed into the lake. Soon, KCDC officials and the solid waste management expert committee members were called to the spot. Kavitha Reddy of Hasiru Mitra accused the expert committee members of allowing the plant to re-open and destroy the lake, which was home to many migratory birds. “Highly concentrated leachate was let directly into the lake which is killing aquatic life,” said Kavitha. She said expert committee member Almitra Patel too visited the spot and saw the damage caused to the lake.

When contacted, the chief executive officer of Karnataka Lake Conservation and Development Authority (KLCDA) G Vidyasagar said he has directed the pollution control board to shut down the plant if KCDC is unable to check leachate flow.

Karnataka State Pollution Control Board chairperson Lakshman said he was aware



A view of the polluted Somasundarapalya lake.

of the leachate problem.

“There is a leachate storage plant in the KCDC unit, which is overflowing. Instead of pumping out leachate and transporting it to the BWSSB’s waste water treatment plant, KCDC authorities let the polluted water into the lake. I have asked KCDC officials to check the flow of leachate,” said Lakshman.

BBMP joint commissioner (solid waste management) Sarfaraz Khan denied that leachate was released regularly. He said the leachate flowed into the drain while filling the leachate tanker for transportation. Due to the poor handling of leachate at Lingadheeranahalli plant in Banashankari VI Stage, Sompura lake in the adjoining area was contaminated. The plant was later shut down for violating environmental norms.

**DH News Service**

Church Street to be closed for TenderSure work

**BENGALURU, DHNS: The Church Street will be closed for traffic Friday onwards for BBMP's TenderSURE work that will start in full swing, the city traffic police said on Wednesday.**

The Church Street stretch towards Brigade Road will be sealed and the other end towards St Mark’s Road will be partially opened for commercial establishments. The project will go on till July-end, BBMP officials said. The Rs 1 crore project on the 715 metre-long stretch of the road will provide space to park 103 two-wheelers and 32 four-wheelers. “The city traffic police have spoken to representatives of com-

mercial establishments of Church Street to arrange alternative parking facilities for them and their customers,” a senior police officer said. “There will be no alternatives as such because the work will be implemented on the entire stretch and several commercial establishments have already told us they will remain shut for a while,” he added.

The project involves development and strengthening of the carriageway with uniform lane width and development of pedestrian-friendly footpaths. On January 17, Bengaluru Development minister KJ George had performed ground-breaking ceremony for the project.

Footpaths along 40-km Metro corridors to get facelift

G Manjusainath

**BENGALURU: Here is good news for pedestrians complaining about the poor condition of footpaths along the elevated Metro rail corridor.**

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has taken up a project to give a facelift to pavements along the 40-kilometre stretch. The BBMP’s major roads division has already started work on Mahatma Gandhi Road near Anil Kumble Circle. The pavement repair work extends till Baiyapanahalli.

Similarly, the pavement improvement work has begun from Prasanna Talkies to Nayandahalli, KC General Hos-

pital to Goraguntepalya and from Bangalore Institute of Technology on KR Road to Outer Ring Road on Kanakapura Road.

Sources in the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike said the cost of the project is Rs 36 crore of which one-third is borne by the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd (BMRL) and the rest by the state government. “We will improve 80 km of footpaths on both sides of the 40-km stretch. The work will be carried out in a phased manner,” said a BBMP engineer. The engineer clarified that these footpaths will not be developed under TenderSURE specifications.

**DH News Service**

In city today

**GENERAL**  
**Bharatiya Samskruthi Vidyapeetha:** K Nagesh Hathwar birth anniversary, renaming of Chamarajpet 4th cross as K Nagesh Hathwar Road by Bengaluru Development Minister K J George, Hathwar Auditorium, Chamarajpet, 9.30 am.

**Sindhi College of Commerce:** Inauguration of national conference on ‘Women in Academic Institutions - Opportunities, Challenges and Constraints’ by KSOU-Mysuru premier VC K Sudha Rao, college premises, 33/2B, Kempapura, Hebbal, 9.30 am.

**Yaume Urdu:** City Police Commissioner Praveen Sood to flag off Urdu Day rally, Chota Maidan, behind Shivajinagar Bus Stand, 9.30 am

**Siddaganga Public School Science Forum:** Lecture on ‘Style Your Life for Health’ by Dr D M Mahesh, 1st stage, 2nd Phase, Chandra Layout, 2.30 pm.

**CULTURAL**  
**Kannada and Culture Department:** Four-day dance programme ‘Nruthiyadithya’ organised as part of golden jubilee celebrations of Ravindra Kalakshetra, Kananda Bhavana, 6 pm.

**Pentagon:** Contemporary art and sculpture exhibition, Karnataka Chitrakala Parishat Art Complex, 11 am.

**RELIGIOUS**  
**Shri Vaikuntanarayana Swamy Temple:** 9th Anniversary, Kumbabisheka of new Rajagopura, Shri Vaikuntanarayana Swamy Temple, Bilekahalli, off Bannerghatta Road, 6 am.

City weather

<b>FORECAST:</b> Mainly clear sky.	
<b>TEMPERATURES</b>	
<b>Maximum</b>	<b>30.0 C</b>
<b>Minimum</b>	<b>16.6 C</b>
Rainfall	Nil
Humidity	21 pc
Sunrise	6.44 am
Sunset	6.24 pm
Moonrise	4.56 pm
Moonset	5.01 am
(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm. Source: IMD)	