

In brief

Power cut tomorrow

» There will be no power supply on December 16 from 9 am to 7 pm due to maintenance work. The areas to be affected are HDR 3rd Block, Teachers Colony, Subhash Layout, Oil Mill Road, Managala Layout, Kacharakanahalli, Aravinda Nagar, Kamnahalli main road, Banaswadi railway police station road, Nagawara, Thanisandra, Railway mens layout, Central Excise layout, R K Hegde Nagar, Hennur Bande, Christ Jayanthi college, Don Bosco Church, Kothnur, K Narayanapura, Cauvery Layout, Doddagubbi and surrounding areas.

Global Manipal alumni convention

» The second Global Manipal alumni convention 2016 will take place at Clark's Exotica Resort, Bengaluru, on December 16 and 17.

The convention aims to bring together alumni members from across all streams of Manipal University to facilitate networking, relationship building and recreate college days and thus help build 'One Manipal' family.

The convention will be a forum for alumni to reconnect with their alma mater and relive the past and plan for future goals. For details, those interested can contact 9845220052/ 990102733, secretariatkmcalumni@manipalhospitals.com, www.globalmanipalalumniconvention.com.

Skill development training

» Dr Reddy's Foundation has invited applications from unemployed youth for a 45-day skill development training and placement programme.

Applicants should be aged between 18 and 30 years with a minimum qualification of SSLC. The training will be held at the centres in Yelahanka, Uttarahalli, Shivajinagar, Jalahalli Cross and K R Puram. The last date for enrolment is December 20. For registration and further details contact 91089 86120 or 91089 86124.

Free treatment for disabled

» The Indian Welfare Trust has invited applications from disabled people, especially the visually challenged persons seeking free treatment and surgery. Food and accommodation will also be provided. For registration and details contact 99450 22221.

CAR physical endurance test

» The aspirants who have been selected in the written exam will have to report for a physical test for the post of civil police constable (men and women) to be held from December 15 to 20.

Selected candidates can download their admission ticket from the police department website www.ksp.gov.in. The physical test will be conducted in CAR (Central), CAR (South) and CAR (North) grounds. For more information, aspirants can contact 080 - 2294 3138.

Uber launches 'SwitchtoPool'

» Cab-hiring app Uber has launched 'SwitchtoPool' campaign in six cities, including Bengaluru, where it currently offers UberPool service.

The initiative is aimed to encourage more riders to use carpooling and ride-sharing options to bring down traffic congestion in the city.

Making it a default option on the app for riders, the UberPool has proposed to roll out special 'pledge and win offers' till this month-end.

Besides, the company has planned to share the impact made by riders on the environment by switching to pool through a live microsite that will be updated on a daily basis.

Leopard safari to come up in Bannerghatta zoo in 2 years

PWD and Zoo Authority of Karnataka give green signal

Bosky Khanna

BENGALURU: The leopard safari in Bannerghatta Biological Park (BBP) is inching closer to reality with tenders for the project being finalised. The ground work is likely to start in a month or two. The project will be completed in two years.

"The tenders to build the enclosures were approved 15 days ago after the Public Works Department and the Zoo Authority of Karnataka (ZAK) gave the green signal," BBP executive director Santosh Kumar told *DH*. The work would begin soon after the ZAK member secretary gives his approval to the tenders finalised by the BBP.

According to the plan, there will be four leopard holding enclosures. Each holding enclosure will have six cages. Each enclosure is estimated to cost



The proposed leopard safari will come up between the sloth bear and the carnivore safaris. DH PHOTO

Rs 24 lakh, he said. Asked about the delay in starting the project though it was proposed two years ago, a source in the BBP attributed it to the delay in getting approval from the PWD and convincing the ZAK officials. The ZAK manage-

ment was earlier keen on creating a leopard safari in Mysuru. But the Mysuru zoo management refused to accept rescued leopards. When the proposal was again placed before the ZAK, the latter turned it down saying that leopards

Safari fares

- Normal bus safari per person Rs 180
- AC bus safari Rs 500
- Jeep non-AC four-seater Rs 2,500
- Jeep non-AC six-seater Rs 3,000
- AC Bolero Rs 4,000
- Zoo ticket rate Rs 80

are shy creatures and the safari was not a good idea. A few months ago, the ZAK gave its approval to set up a leopard safari at BBP.

The leopard safari will come up between the sloth bear and the carnivore (tiger and lion) safari. The zoo is home to 32 leopards and the management's plan is to house 20 leopards in the enclosures for display and keep some in the zoo

area. The remaining few either are too young (around three months old), very old (more than 13 years old) or weak and are housed in the rescue centre. They will also construct five cages, which will be kept vacant to house and treat rescued wild animals. This safari is also one of the prime tourism attractions of the Karnataka Eco-Tourism Board. This plan has also been sent to the Ministry of Environment and Forests by the board for more funds. Under the BBP's master plan, Rs 5 to 6 crore has been allocated for creating the first-of-its-kind leopard safari in India in BBP, spread across 20 hectares.

No hike in rates

The zoo management has no plans to increase the safari rates at present, stating that they are already very high for a one-hour safari ride.

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Road to Bannerghatta zoo, facilities will be upgraded: Minister

BENGALURU: The Tourism Department is keen on improving facilities at Bannerghatta Biological Park (BBP) and at Jungle Lodges and Resorts (JLR) to increase the footfall.

Tourism Minister Priyank Kharge told *DH* that the department was chalking out plans to improve the park, which attracts a lot of visitors. Among the priorities is to improve the approach road to Bannerghatta. The road is narrow and needs to be widened, he said.

"Talks are also on to construct a digital amphitheatre in the zoo area. I have spoken to the zoo and JLR officials to improve facilities and speed up implementation of the zoo master plan," he said.

He said Bannerghatta is close to the city and is an ideal place for tourists to enjoy nature. JLR is a niche property and the department wants to promote more eco-tourism and wildlife tourism here. Though JLR can accommodate around 65 to 70 people,

the footfall is not very high. There is also a need to make the place more accessible to tourists, especially foreigners. Bannerghatta is a popular zoo and has the potential to attract more people, he said.

BBP executive director Santosh Kumar said the amphitheatre is being planned near the Hill View Restaurant beyond the zebra enclosure on the open space belonging to JLR.

At present, there is an auditorium located beyond the hippopotamus enclosure in BBP where short films are screened.

He said the zoo was working according to its master plan on increasing the number of enclosures and getting more animals.

Talks are on with zoos abroad to bring in more animals, including cheetahs and white lions from South Africa. The footfall last year at BBP was 12 lakh. The park attracts around 3,000 visitors during weekdays and between 7,000 and 10,000 on weekends and holidays.

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Contempt petition against DC for ignoring HC order on private school fees

Meghana Choukkrar

BENGALURU: A civil contempt petition has been filed against the Deputy Commissioner of Bengaluru Urban district in the high court for not heeding to the court's judgement passed on June 28, with regard to fixing fees in private schools.

The petitioners are nine students, studying in private schools in the city, who have appealed to the court to take action against DC V Shankar who is the chairperson of the District-level Education Regulating Authority Urban District (DERA) constituted under Rule 16 of the Karnataka Educational Institutions (Classification, Regulation and Prescription of Curricula, etc) Rules 1995. The authority has the power to look into any violation of the Karnataka Education Act and Rules by schools in their jurisdiction.

Objecting to the high fee charged by schools under various heads, several students and the Karnataka Students Parents Jagruta Vedike had gone to the court earlier this year. After hearing their case, the court had directed that the fee regulatory authority (DERA) should look into the complaints of the petitioners within one week of filing the complaint.

Following the judgement, the petitioners filed complaints with the DC. "In spite of repeat-

ed requests now and then, the accused is not fixing the date for hearing and deciding the fees," the petition reads.

The court had directed that the students pay 40% of the fee prescribed by the school. The schools were to calculate the fee based on the 1995 rules and publish the same on their notice boards, after which, if there was no further complaint, the parents would pay the balance amount.

Ravi, whose son is in Class IX, has paid 40% but wants the regulatory committee to look into the fee prescribed by the school. "They are threatening to withhold my son's hall ticket to prevent him from writing exams. They have created such a system to pressurise us to pay the remaining fee." He had addressed a complaint to the DC in July but did not receive any response. Similarly, Veeresh's daughter's school has been repeatedly sending them notices to pay the balance amount. "They have put a fee structure on their notice board. I asked them to get a seal from the authorities in the education department but they refused," he said. Other petitioners in the case are also facing similar harassment.

When contacted regarding the petition, V Shankar said, "We will initiate legal action and take steps based on the court direction."

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In city today

GENERAL

Central Cottage Industries Corporation of India: Christmas Carnival, an exhibition-cum-sale of handicrafts and handlooms, Safina Plaza, Infantry Road, 10 am to 8 pm.

Karnataka Lalitakala Academy: Jain Chitrakala Camp, Varna Art Gallery, Kannada Bhavan, 11 am.

Hanumanthanagar Bimba and Ganasudha Bellimandala: Paryaya Chalanachitra, a workshop, Karnataka Chalanachitra Academy President S V Rajendra Singh Babu presides over the programme, K H Kalasoudha, 6 pm.

Karnataka Rajya Souharda Samyukta Sahakari Nigama: Ten-day special camp on personality development for co-operative societies' employees, Regional Cooperative Management Institute, Padmanabhanagar, 10.30 am.

St Joseph's Boy's High School: Peace march as part of 'Go Green' initiative, school premises, Museum Road, 8.30 am.

SJR Rajajinagar Pre-university College: Explorica-2016, inauguration, Dr Rajkumar Road, Rajajinagar, 9 am.

Parivala Nirbhaya Nishpaksha Patrike: 'Samruddha Nageya - Hasya Harate' by KP Putturaya and team, Ravindra Kalaksethra, 11 am.

Karnataka Legislators' Club: Ranga Rathaakea-2016, state-level skit competition, B Channabasavappa Auditorium, KGS Club, 6 pm.

Arts Village: Solo exhibition of paintings by Kapila Mayur, Arts Village, Centre for Yoga, Dance and Art, St Marks Road, 10 am to 6 pm.

Pathrakarthara Rakshana Vedike: Release of the book 'Samashiti Mathu Chintaneyondige Kattikollabeku Baduku', Ravindra Kalaksethra, 10.30 am.

CULTURAL

Sapthashwara Arts and Creations: 'Noopura Naada' by Malini Paramesh, disciple of Manjula Paramesh, ADA Rangamandira, opp Ravindra Kalaksethra, JC Road, 6 pm.

RELIGIOUS

Sri Surabharathi Sanskrit and Cultural Foundation: Margasheershot-sava - 2016, High Court judge Aravind Kumar participates, Jagadguru Bharathi Theertha Sabha Mantapa, 9th C Main, Service Road, Near BWSSB water tank, First Block, HRBR Layout, 5.30 pm.

Nanjanagud Sri Raghavendra Swamy Mutt: Harinama Sankeerthane, Shi Raghavendra Mut, No 524, 11th main, 45th cross, 5th Block, Jayanagar, 7.30 pm.

Vedanta Satsanga Kendra: Discourse on Bruhadaraanyaka Upanishath by scholar K G Subraya Sharma, Vedaanta Nilaya, Sakramma Garden, Basavanagudi, 9 am.

Paramaarthha Vichaara Sangha Trust: Discourse on Brahmastotra Bhaahyam by K G Subraya Sharma, Adhyatma Mandira, V V Puram, 7.45 am.

City weather

FORECAST: Generally cloudy sky with light rain.	
TEMPERATURES	
Maximum	22.4 C
Minimum	18.6 C
Rainfall	Trace
Humidity	82 pc
Sunrise	6.34 am
Sunset	5.58 pm
Moonrise	7.31 pm
Moonset	7.37 am
(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm. Source: IMD)	



Students take part in a cultural procession from Dodd Ganapathi Temple to the National High School Grounds in Basavanagudi, the venue of the Hindu Spiritual and Service Fair-2016, on Wednesday. DH PHOTO

Cultural procession marks beginning of 5-day Hindu spiritual fair

BENGALURU, DHNS: The five-day Hindu Spiritual and Service Fair-2016 began at the National High School Grounds in Basavanagudi on Wednesday.

Nearly 250 Hindu socio-religious service institutions from across Karnataka have set up stalls showcasing their services in various fields.

Hindu Spiritual and Service Fair intends to provide a platform for spiritual and service organisations and also to motivate and involve the public to be part of the process of social

transformation, said a release issued by the organisers.

Students from over 100 educational institutions are taking part in various competitions organised as a part of the fair.

The event is being organised by Hindu Spiritual and Service Foundation, Bengaluru. Conserve Forest and Protect Wildlife, Preserve Ecology, Inculcate Family and Human values, Sustain Environment, Foster Women's Honour and Instil Patriotism are the themes of the fair.

Space scientist and former Isro chairman Dr Kasturirangan, who is also president of reception committee of the fair, Veereshananda Saraswati of Ramakrishna-Vivekananda Ashrama, Tumakuru, Bante Varajyoti Swamiji of Bidar, Gyani Darbar Singh of Gurdwara, Bidar jointly inaugurated the conclave.

A cultural procession (Shobhayatra) was held prior to the inaugural, from the Dodd Ganapathi Temple on Bull Temple Road to the National High School Grounds.

Enough water for city till June 2017: BBMP commissioner

BENGALURU: The city won't face any water crisis till June 2017, according to N Manjunath Prasad, the commissioner of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike.

"The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) officials have informed that there is enough drinking water to meet city's requirement till June 15. The city needs 9.84 tmc feet of water while the availability is 15.88 tmc feet," Prasad said here on Wednesday.

He was speaking to reporters after a meeting with city MLAs and several ministers at Vidhana Soudha.

Bengaluru Development Minister K J George, who was present in the meeting said that

steps should be taken for reviving waterbodies in the city. He said that Palike should look into supplying water to 110 villages brought under BBMP limits and borewells should be sunk wherever necessary.

Mayor Padmavathi said that water tanks in all the 198 wards would be repaired. She said that BWSSB should take steps to plug leakage of potable water. The mayor added that Thippagondanahalli reservoir would be desilted.

The MLAs present in the meeting sought that 10 borewells be sunk in each of 28 Assembly constituencies in the city. Minister George replied that he would approach the chief minister in this regard.

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Next Palike budget to factor in citizens' wants

Booklet of people's wishlist submitted to mayor

BENGALURU: Bengalureans will have a say in how the next BBMP budget should be prepared and how much money should be allocated under various heads.

On Wednesday, over 67,114 inputs collected from about 40,000 citizens were handed over to Mayor G Padmavathi and commissioner N Manjunath Prasad. It was part of the first-ever 'My City My Budget' campaign, which was launched by citizens' collective Janaagraha in partnership with BBMP. Citizens were given an option to choose from 11 categories and 80 sub-categories. The inputs were collected both in Kannada and English.

A booklet containing the in-



Mayor G Padmavathi receives a copy of the Citizens' Budget 2017-18 from Neeta Reddy during the 'My City My Budget' programme at Town Hall in Bengaluru on Wednesday. (From left) Sapna Karim, head-civic participation, Janaagraha, BBMP special commissioner (finance) Manoj R, BBMP commissioner N Manjunath Prasad, BBMP ruling party leader Rizwan and BMTC managing director Ekroop Caur are seen. DH PHOTO

puts was submitted at a function held at Town Hall, which was also attended by BMTC managing director Ekroop Caur and six corporators. Collecting inputs from citizens was a two-month-long intensive campaign.

"Citizens have highlighted footpath and walkability as key areas of concern. These constituted 23% of the total budget

inputs. Inputs linked to road and driveability came next at 18%, health and sanitation inputs made up 15%, while inputs about trees, parks and playgrounds comprised 12%," Sapna Karim, head-civic participation, Janaagraha, said.

Crime prevention and safety were also issues of concern for citizens. Close to 5,000 inputs related to surveillance cam-

What they want

- 15,494 (23%) - Footpath and walkability
- 12,294 (18%) - Roads and drivability
- 10,271 (15%) - Health and sanitation
- 7,904 (12%) - Trees, parks and playgrounds
- 5,849 (9%) - Water supply and sewage facilities
- 4,791 (7%) - Crime prevention and safety
- 4,667 (7%) - Bus transport
- 5,844 (9%) - Others

eras.

"There were a total of 67,114 inputs from the citizens. BBMP tops the list with 51,004 budget inputs, followed by Bangalore city police with 4,791 and the BWSSB with 4,506 inputs," a press release said.

Inputs gathered

The campaign, according to the release, gathered inputs from school and college students, residents' welfare asso-

ciations, trade unions, urban poor communities, citizens at IT parks and the digitally active community.

"The budget bus travelled 1,560-km in Bengaluru, touching 212 locations over 51 days," it said. "So what is next?" Sapna said the BBMP budget would now be analysed to understand the budgetary allocations towards citizen inputs and other budgetary allocations to the wards. "The status of each citizen input will be tracked by organising ward sabhas with citizens, councillors and civic agency officials," she said.

The commissioner and mayor promised to incorporate these suggestions in the budget. "The city received Rs 9,000 crore to undertake projects. Of this, Rs 4,500 crore came from the state government and the remaining amount is raised through tax," said commissioner Prasad. BMTC MD Ekroop Caur urged the BBMP to provide monetary support from the Palike towards procuring new buses. The present fleet of 6,000 buses was not adequate for Bengaluru, she said.