

# Metro

## Maheshwar Rao takes charge as BBMP chief

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** M Maheshwar Rao took charge as the commissioner, Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, on Friday. The 1995 IAS officer will also serve as the district election officer.



**Maheshwar Rao**

On Thursday, following directions from the Election Commission of India, incumbent N Manjunath Prasad was transferred, without any posting.

## Constable dies in road accident

**BENGALURU:** A 24-year-old police constable attached to the Jayanagar station was knocked down by a BMTC bus near the Banashankari depot on Thursday night.

Siddappa Byramadagi was a native of Vijayapura, and had joined the police department in 2016.

According to a senior police officer, Byramadagi, on Thursday, was on the night shift. He had gone to Yediyur and was returning to the station around 11.45 pm when a BMTC bus, coming from Jayanagar, knocked him down near the Banashankari depot. He sustained severe head injuries and died on the spot, the police said.

Byramadagi, who was residing in a rented house near Yelachenahalli, was a writer in the station. He was in the station till 10 pm and on receiving a call, he had gone out on his bike.

The Banashankari traffic police have registered a case of rash and negligent driving causing death, and arrested the bus driver. Investigations are on.

**DH News Service**

## In city today

### GENERAL

**Namma Bengaluru Foundation:** Namma Bengaluru Youth Ambassadors Conclave, college students to interact with Rajya Sabha member Rajeev Chandrashekhara, The Capitol Hotel, 4:30 pm

**RV Institute of Management:** Venture Fest 2018, RVIM centre for innovation, entrepreneurship and incubation, Quadrangle, RVIM, 7 pm

**Srishti Publishers:** Book launch "Love a little stronger" written by Preeti Shenoy, Sapna Book House Pvt Ltd, No 6, 80 ft road, 7th block, Koramangala, 6 pm onwards

**Indian Institute of Journalism and New Media:** Graduation day, IJNM campus, Nityanandanagar, Kumbalangi, Kengeri Hobli, 10:30 am

**Indian Institute of Cartoonists:** inauguration of International Cartoonists day - organising exhibition of foreign cartoons, Indian Cartoon Gallery, No 1, Midford House, Midford Garden, Off mg Road, Trinity Circle, 11 am

**BNM Institute of Technology:** College day celebrations, 27th cross, 12th main road, Banashankari II stage, 9:30 am

**CULTURAL**

**Karnataka Chitrakala Parishat:** exhibition of Ganjifa Art, parishat premises, Kumarakrupa Road, 10 am

**The Indian Institute of World Culture:** special programme of lecture on "French enlightenment - Denis Diderot and the encyclopedia movement", by T K Jayaraman, retired central government official, Wadia Hall, #6, B P Wadia Road, Basavanagudi, 6:15 pm

**RELIGIOUS**

**Chinmaya Mission:** Talk on "Taittiriya Upanishad" by Swami Advanandaji, Sripaada Kshetra, No 1, 4th cross, 4th phase, Dollars colony, JP Nagar, 6:30 pm

**Adhayatma Karyalaya:** daily discourse, talk on "Moolavidya Nirasa" by Swami Prakashanandendra Saraswathi, No 68, 6th main road, 2nd block, Thyagarajanagar, 9:30 am

**Hindu Dharma Prachar Parishat:** musical programme of pancha veena vadanam, Thirumala Tirupathi devastana, 16th cross, Vyalikaval, 6:30 pm

**City weather**

**FORECAST:** Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain and thundershowers

**TEMPERATURES**

**Maximum 32.0C**  
**Minimum 19.3C**

**Rainfall Nil**  
**Humidity 57%**

**Sunrise 5:57 am**  
**Sunset 6:35 pm**  
**Moonrise 11:10 am**  
**Moonset 10:03 pm**

(Relevant data record at 5:30 pm. Source: IMD)

# Bellandur Lake froths, foam looks more toxic than before

## Conditions may worsen with onset of monsoon, fear residents

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** The Bellandur Lake began frothing again after a heavy downpour on Thursday night, spewing thick foam around its peripheral areas and spreading fear of further deterioration during the forthcoming monsoon.

Residents said the froth this time was a thick brew of synthetic nylon texture filled with a discernible black strand. "It wasn't the normal kind of foam," a resident told *DH*, adding that it was not evaporating unlike in the past.

Resident Shalini Batra said the lake was spewing foam out of the fence on the Bellandur side. No foaming was seen on the Varthur side, where the Bangalore Development Authority had drained the lake to

fix the sluice gates.

Things would only get worse with the intensifying rainfall during the monsoon, said Shonali Singh, a local resident and member of the Citizen Watch Group. "It won't be long before history starts repeating itself," she said, referring to the situation in the past when cars parked on the roadside were coated with the foam sprayed by the lake.

Even the sprinklers installed by the Palike, as pointed out by some residents, are of no use as they are soaked in the toxic foam and malfunctioned.

Dismayed by the lack of improvement in the lake's condition despite efforts by the authority, residents urged the government to speed up the process of installing the sewage treatment plants.



Toxic foam seen at the Bellandur Lake on Friday.

## Brand-new Church Street rotting with leaking drainage, garbage

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Just two months after Chief Minister Siddaramaiah unveiled the 750-metre Church Street, sewage began flooding the brand-new cobblestone top due to blocked drainage chambers.

Siddaramaiah hastened the inauguration of the still unfinished street — opening it on March 1 — to beat the poll code. With cobblestones still to be laid on a few sections of the footpath, the drainage overflow has turned the thoroughfare into a terrible mess.

One of the major roads in the Central Business District, Church Street was renovated under the TenderSURE project at a cost of Rs 14 crore. "A lot of money was spent to upgrade Church Street. Two months after its opening, the work is still incomplete," lamented M Muralidhara Hegde, who owns an office here. "The water well in our building, used by a restaurant, has been contaminated since the renovation work. It was good prior to the renovation,



Slabs seen removed along Church Street, causing inconvenience to pedestrians, on Friday.

DH PHOTO/S K DINESH

but now the BBMP has allowed drainage water to mix with the source," he further said.

The Church Street renovation work began on February 22, 2017, and the Palike missed several deadlines before it was opened on March 1. Work is still going on at a snail's pace between Empire Hotel and St Marks Road.

Tiles are not laid on the footpath and the optical fibre cable

and electrical cable chambers are not covered, which hinder safe pedestrian movement along the stretch.

"The stretch is in a dangerous condition," said Mohan, a shopkeeper. "People find it difficult to walk in the night due to the open chambers."

The city's only international-standard road laid with Kasuti-pattern cobblestones, as described by the BBMP,

is littered and the garbage dumps here brim with solid waste. "Everything from beer bottles to cigarette packets and hotel wastes is dumped on the roadside. The garbage dumps are overflowing. Since the authorities have not cleared the garbage here, the air is thick with putrefying odor while walking along the stretch," said Bhuvana Prasad, a frequent visitor to Church Street.

## Notice to BSY, others in land case

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** The high court on Friday issued emergent notices to BJP leaders B S Yeddyurappa, Jagadish Shettar, R Ashoka and others, and also issued notice to the state government, BDA and the Anti-Corruption Bureau in a petition concerning illegal denotification of land.

The court was hearing a petition filed by Wing Commander G B Athri, seeking directions to the ACB to re-investigate a complaint alleging illegal denotification of land by the then chief minister Yeddyurappa, acquired by BDA to benefit Ashoka.

The petition states that the denotification was done illegally despite officials advising against it. The BDA had acquired 18 guntas of land (survey number 10/1) at Lotteghollahalli for Rajmahal Vilas II Phase through a notification on April 23, 1988.

The petition further stated that initially the owners of the land had sought for denotification of the unutilised 9.73 guntas. But their plea was not considered.

## BJP's Bengaluru manifesto vows to bring Japanese zoning model

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** In a manifesto released for Bengaluru, the BJP has promised to curb rampant commercialisation and restore peace in residential neighbourhoods.

The saffron party has also vowed to expand the metro and the suburban rail network, while also promising an exclusive 'Nava Bengaluru Act' to address some of the city's unique needs.

The manifesto, released by party state unit president B S Yeddyurappa, envisages the 'Japanese zoning' model to reduce housing prices and stop commercial encroachments.

Residents, however, insist that the city would do better if existing laws are implemented properly and would not need new zoning regulations. "All that they need to do is to

make sure the BBMP officials enforce the laws," said Nitin Sheshadri, a resident of Koramangala 3rd Block.

The Japanese zoning model does not entirely rule out commercial encroachment. Indeed, it says a certain percentage of the residential areas can be opened up for commercial establishment.

The manifesto pledges to establish a 'K-Hub' — an incubator for start-up companies — at a cost of Rs 200 crore in partnership with the Indian Institute of Science and the Indian Institute of Management.

It vows to establish the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transit Authority (BMTA), subsuming BMTC, BMRL and the suburban rail network. It assures to double the fleet of buses.

An Rs 2,500-crore 'Na-

daprabhu Kempegowda Fund' will be established to clean up lakes and rid the neighbourhoods of the water tanker mafia, the manifesto says.

It also promises to build 200 toilets with at least 10 per ward and make Bengaluru a zero-garbage city. To encourage tourism, it would establish heritage walks and set up centres of music and dance in four places consisting of auditoriums, which could be rented out at heavily subsidised rates for classical music and dance performances. Developing Devanahalli town as an IT city due to its proximity to the airport; and instituting the Bengaluru Transit Challenge Fund with an Rs 200-crore initial corpus to encourage citizen-driven transit innovation other promises.

## BJP promises...

**BJP manifesto, from Page 1**

The party's Hindu agenda is also reflected in the manifesto.

The party has promised to reintroduce Karnataka Prevention of Cow Slaughter and Preservation Bill, 2012 with its stringent provisions and re-establish the Cow Protection Commission.

The manifesto was released by party chief ministerial candidate and BJP state president B S Yeddyurappa in Bengaluru.

The manifesto assures that the first meeting of the state Cabinet will take a decision to waive crop loans to the tune of up to Rs 1 lakh including those availed from nationalised banks.

The BJP has claimed it will launch "Negilayogi Yojane" to provide direct income sup-

port of Rs 10,000 to 20 lakh dry land small and marginal farmers.

On women empowerment, the manifesto states that a Rs 10,000-crore "Stree Unnati" fund will be set up to run one of the largest women-run cooperatives and to establish "Stree Unnati" stores to market its products at district and taluk headquarters.

BJP MP and state General Secretary Shobha Karandlaje said over three lakh people, besides experts were consulted while preparing the manifesto. In all, the manifesto deals with 14 sectors including farmers, women empowerment, youth, good governance, education, health, infrastructure, economy, culture and environment.

**DH News Service**

## 'Cong will give city Rs 1L cr'

**NEW DELHI, DHNS:** Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Friday said the Karnataka government was committed to investing Rs 1 lakh crore to further develop Bengaluru and other cities in the state.

His comments come as a counter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's accusation against the Congress government of turning Bengaluru into a centre of urban decay, crime and chaos.

Modi had also charged the government of turning Bengaluru into a "garbage city". "Cosmopolitan, innovative & historic, beautiful Bengaluru, India's pride, is the world's most dynamic city," Rahul said. "Our Government is committed to investing Rs 1 Lakh Crore to further develop Bengaluru and other cities in Karnataka," Rahul tweeted.



Congress workers garlanded (from left) former Kerala chief minister Oommen Chandy, party candidate R Sampath Raj and MP Shashi Tharoor at CV Raman Nagar. DH PHOTO/S K DINESH

## Chandy, Tharoor campaign in city

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Former chief minister of Kerala Oommen Chandy and Thiruvananthapuram Member of Parliament Shashi Tharoor on Friday campaigned for the CV Raman Nagar Congress candidate R Sampath Raj, also the mayor of the BBMP.

They requested the Malayali community in the constituency to vote for Sampath Raj.

They campaigned in an open jeep in Malleshpalya, Thippasandra and GM Palya area in the constituency, where a considerable Malayalam speaking population resides.

Meanwhile, Tharoor also met the members of Whitefield Rising. He was at the Mahadevapura constituency campaigning for A C Srinivas, the party candidate from the constituency, who is pitted against BJP's Arvind Limbavali.

The residents talked to him for over 45 minutes and asked him why should they vote for the Congress.

"Despite known as one of the major taxing constituencies of the city, the area is ill-equipped with no proper infrastructure. So we asked him why should we opt for the Congress instead of the BJP," said a member of the Whitefield Rising. "Tharoor said that we should look at the broader picture wherein the BJP was trying to divide the country on the communal lines and there was no unity."

## Plea challenges poll manifestos

The high court issued notices to the state government, the Election Commission of India, Indian National Congress, Bhartiya Janata Party and Janata Dal (Secular) while hearing a petition challenging the promises made by the political parties in their poll manifestos, reports *DHNS* from Bengaluru.

A division bench comprising, Justice B Veerappa and Justice Sunil Dutt Yadav, was hearing a petition filed by the Anti-Corruption Council of India (The constitutional and fundamental rights public trust).

The trust has sought the court to direct the political parties to give an undertaking to it or the EC saying that they would fulfil the promises made in the manifesto in case they come to power.

## NGT panel meet on lakes called off, no proposals discussed

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** The technical committee constituted by the NGT to look into proposals to rejuvenate Bellandur and Varthur lakes, which met for the first time on Friday, failed to deliberate anything as officials called off the meeting citing the model code of conduct.

A few experts, who attended the meeting, expressed anger over the cancellation.

"The meeting was called just to announce that no decision can be taken until the model code of conduct was in place. The next date of the meeting was also not decided. If this was the case, there was no need to call the meeting," said one of the committee members.

Ravindra Babu, Bangalore Development Authority engineer; Nagaraj, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike engineer; AN Yellappa Reddy, noted environmentalist; IISC Prof T V Ramachandra, Raja from Scalene Energy Water

Corporation Limited and Dr Madhusudhan from Karnataka State Pollution Control Board attended the meeting.

The members said that no proposals could be discussed in the meeting.

"The meeting started with the discussion on ways to revive the Varthur Lake. Some plans were tabled. The members of Art of Living Foundation suggested sprinkling microbes, natural and chemical substances to curtail pollution and frothing in the Varthur Lake. "We were informed about the location in the last minute and could not make it on time," Shonali Singh, member of Citizens Watch Group said. Interestingly, frothing at the Bellandur Lake was listed as one of the agendas of the meeting. But the officials brushed it aside stating: "There is nothing new about it as it has been happening for the past two years."

## 2nd highest rainfall for the year in city

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** The city on Thursday night received the second highest rainfall for 2018.

According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), up to 8.30 am on Friday, the city received 15.3 mm rainfall, HAL airport 39.4 mm and Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) received 36 mm of rain.

The highest recorded so far was 16.8 mm on April 21. From March 1, the city so far has received 123 mm of rain, HAL airport 133 mm and the KIA 157 mm of rain.

The heavy downpour led to tree fall in many places. The BBMP received complaints regarding this from across the city, including Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Mahalakshmi Layout, Old Airport Road, Sanjay Nagar, SVG Road, Moodalpalya, Rajajinagar, AM Layout, Kumara Park and surrounding areas.

However, it did not get any waterlogging complaints.

The heavy downpour and prolonged thundershowers have led to a drop in temperatures. The city recorded a maximum of 33.7 degrees Celsius

and a minimum of 19.3 degrees Celsius at 8.30 am on Friday morning. This was lower than the maximum and minimum normal of 34.2 and 22.1 degrees Celsius, respectively.

The maximum and minimum temperature at the HAL airport was 33.2 and 19.2 degrees Celsius. The maximum and minimum at the international airport was 33 and 19 degrees Celsius.

## Expect more rain

Weathermen have forecast thundershowers and gusty wind for the next two days. Geeta Agnihotri, IMD-Bengaluru Director-in-charge, said a warning had been issued on the same for south interior Karnataka. This is because of the formation of various systems.

According to the IMD, there is a cyclonic circulation extending up to 1.5 km above mean sea level over Coimorin area and neighbourhood.

There is also a trough above the cyclonic circulation to south interior Karnataka across interior Tamil Nadu extending up to 1.5 km above mean sea level.

## HC notices to BBMP, govt over sweeping machine procurement

**BENGALURU:** The high court on Friday issued emergent notices to the government and the BBMP with regard to a petition seeking action over a scam by the Palike while procuring truck-mounted sweeping machines.

A division bench, comprising Justice B Veerappa and Justice Sunil Dutt Yadav, was hearing a petition filed by R Gopal.

The petition sought directions to conduct a court-monitored investigation by a special investigation team or the Central Bureau of Investigation into the violation during the process of procurement of the machines.

The petitioner stated that the BBMP had procured the machines at the rate of self-propelled sweeping ma-

chines. The truck-mounted machines cost about Rs 65 lakh while the self-propelled machines cost about Rs 1.18 crore each. The civic body had got eight of those machines.

The respondents also accepted the fact, but have not taken any action against this and the tender has also not been cancelled, the petitioner said.

The petitioner contended that the rate at which the machines were brought and the actual cash operation, maintenance and administrative costs were almost double than the prevailing market price.

This is creating a huge loss for the exchequer and is a waste of public money. Despite this, the respondent has not initiated any action, the petitioner said.

## Brace for delayed...

**Cabs, from Page 1**

"Recently, officials have been taking our cars for election duty. The situation has worsened," he added.

National Drivers Union president Gandasi Sadanandraswamy said a majority of private commercial vehicles "forcibly taken over" for election duty were those of Ola and Uber.

"According to available information, more than 80,000 vehicles are required for election duty."

The government depends on private vehicles to meet more than half of the demand," he said.

A nodal officer in the BBMP, however, said they have taken

780 government cars and a maximum of 250 private cars for each of the four divisions in Bengaluru area. "For security-related work, a separate order has been issued authorising police to take private vehicles," he said.

Spokespersons from Ola and Uber did not comment on the fall in driver numbers. However, an industry source said both the companies have been facing 30 to 35% drop in number of drivers.

"Even before elections, there was a drop when migrant drivers returned home for the festive season. But GST, hike in diesel price and input costs have forced many drivers to quit," he said.

**DH News Service**