

the browser YOUR POCKET VALET FOR THE CITY

WASSUP TODAY

BANGALORE CHAMBER OF INDUSTRIES AND COMMERCE (BCIC): Inauguration of All Food Tech, a trade exhibition and seminar on food processing. Agriculture minister SA Ravindranath and vice-president of ITC Foods Murali Ganesan to participate. **Where:** KTPO Trade Centre, Export Promotion Industrial Park, Whitefield. **Time:** 10am

WATER WOES

The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board is organising a water adalat from 9.30am to 11am in the office of the assistant executive engineer of east-2 at Indiranagar. Disputes of customers coming under the jurisdiction of Indiranagar, Jeevan Bhima Nagar and HAL II Stage service station limits will be settled in adalat. Consumers can call 2294 5158 and 2294 5163 for further information.

GENERAL

INSTITUTE FOR EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT: Release of Prof Ranganath Bharadwaj's 'Studies in structural method' by Dr Siddharth Swaminathan of Institute for Social and Economic Change. Additional secretary of energy department K Jairaj to preside. **Where:** Karnataka Government Secretariat Hall, Cubbon Park. **Time:** 1pm

AIR FORCE TECHNICAL COLLEGE: Passing out parade of 74th Aeronautical Engineers Course. Air Marshal PK Barbor to review the parade. **Where:** The College Parade Ground, Jahalahalli. **Time:** 8.30am

KARNATAKA STATE ROAD TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT- SC/ST OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES' WELFARE ASSOCIATION: Dr BR Ambedkar birthday celebration. Inauguration by minister PM Narendra Swamy. Transport minister R Ashoka to participate. **Where:** KSRTC Unit, Kengeri. **Time:** 1.30pm

UNION MINISTRY OF TEXTILES: Shilpa Bazaar. Inauguration by transport minister R Ashoka. Minister Katta Subramanya Naidu and MLA M Srinivas to participate. **Where:** HMT Township Ground, Jahalahalli. **Time:** 10am

ART AND CULTURE

DASTKAR ANDHRA MARKETING ASSOCIATION (DAMA): Exhibition and sales of cotton handlooms. **Where:** The Lady Jahangir Kothari Memorial Hall, No15, Queen's Road. **Time:** 10.30am



TRADITIONAL TOUCH: Folk artistes perform during a cultural festival organised by the Karnataka Dalit Sangharsha Samiti on Thursday

SADABHIRUCHI KALAVIDARU: 6th anniversary and inauguration of state-level cultural competition Giridhare. Justice Arali Nagaraj, Alemane Sundaramurthy, former MLA Mahima Patel and Kannada and cultural department director Manu Baligar to participate. **Where:** Kannada Sahitya Parishath, Chamaraajpet. **Time:** 6pm

KARNATAKA NATAKA ACADEMY: Theatre experiments and seminar. C Basavalingaiiah, BT Munirajiah, Gummadri Gopalakrishna, HC Channaiah, CV Srinivasaiah and Markandapuram Srinivas to participate. **Where:** Ravindra Kalakshetra, JC Nagar. **Time:** 5.30pm

KARNATAKA CHITRAKALA PARISHATH: Dr Rama Shankar's 'Odyssey of colours' art exhibition. Inauguration by artist BKS Varma. **Where:** KCP, Kumara Krupa Road. **Time:** 5pm

ASSOCIATION FOR VOLUNTARY ACTION AND SERVICES: 'Aikyateya Aishwarya' cultural programme. Malathi K Holla to participate. **Where:** Town Hall. **Time:** 5pm

BANGALORE LALITKALA PARISHATH: Dance performance by Seetha Kote, Dhanyashree, Sushmitha and Karthik Hebbar. **Where:** Dr HN Kalakshetra, Jayanagar. **Time:** 6.30pm

KARNATAKA CHITRAKALA PARISHATH: Art exhibition of GK Senthil Kumar and VS Venkataraman. **Where:** Parishat premises, Kumara Krupa Road. **Time:** 10.30am

POSITIVE THINKING

RAGIGUDDADA SRI PRASANNA ANJANEYASWAMY BHAKTA MANDALI TRUST: Jnana Satra. **Where:** Sri Kuchalamba Samskritika Mandira, 9th Block, Jayanagar. **Time:** 6.30pm

PARAMARTHA VICHARA SANGHA TRUST: A spiritual discourse on 'Adhyasa Bhashyam' by KG Subraya Sharma. **Where:** Aadhyaatma Mandir, National High School Road, VV Puram. **Time:** 7.45am

SRI MADANANDA THEERTHA PRAVACHANA SAMITHI: Discourse on 'Sri Srinivasa Kalyana' by Balaguru Srinivasacharya. **Where:** Sri Raghavendraswamy Mutt, Amarajyothi Nagar. **Time:** 7pm

VEDANTA SATSANGA KENDRA: Discourse on 'Chandogyopanishad' by KG Subraya Sharma. **Where:** Vedanta Nilaya, Saakamma Gardens, Basavanagudi. **Time:** 9am

TODAY'S TOPPER

BORN FREE ART SCHOOL: Show Red Card to Child Labour. A football competition. **Where:** National College Grounds, Basavanagudi. **Time:** 3.30pm

Want your events to be listed? Please send in details to browser@dnaindia.net. You can also fax 080-42668801 or call 08042668888

LIFE AFTER 5PM PG7
AFTER HRS:DAILY DOSE PG2
AFTER HRS:PLAN YOUR DAY PG4

Only 3.5% of city population is aware of the degradation of environment ECO LITERACY ABYSMALLY LOW

Comprehensive conservation strategies are needed for sustainable management of our forests, lakes, rivers and grasslands at regional, national and global levels



VICIOUS CIRCLE: KR Road, which leads to Tagore Circle (inset) where a controversial underpass is under construction

Dr TV Ramachandra, Bangalore

A survey carried out recently in Bangalore on environmental awareness among residents brings out revealing facts. In the Garden City of India, only 3.5% of sampled population possesses environmental literacy. As pollution in the city increases day by day, it has become necessary for Bangaloreans to be environmentally literate.

To realise this vision, ecological and environmental education must become a fundamental part of the education system at all levels of education. Coupled with these, scientific and social-scientific expertise is to be augmented to develop and promote eco-friendly technologies in energy, water management, housing, and transportation. Currently, it is even more critical than ever before for the humankind as a whole to have a clear understanding of environmental concerns and to follow sustainable development practices.

The degradation of our environment is linked to unplanned urbanisation (632% increase during four decades in Bangalore), enhanced levels of pollution, lack of appropriate regulatory

Unplanned growth has resulted in increased pollution, changes in local climate, and flooding even during normal rains

measures to mitigate pollution, loss of vegetation (78% during four decades), encroachment of lakes, disappearance of lakes (79% loss during four decades), removal of green cover, indiscriminate disposal of solid waste, and issues related to food as well as ecological security.

Consequences of unplanned urbanisation is evident from lack of basic infrastructure, higher levels of pollution, changes in local climate (temperature in the city has increased by 6°C to 7°C during the last decade), flooding even during normal rainfall, changes in social behaviour, etc.

The main objective of governments should be to stimulate worldwide awareness of environment and enhance political attention and action. The theme of this year's Environment Day is 'Biodiversity — ecosystems management and

the green economy'. The year has been declared as the International Year of Biodiversity to celebrate life on earth and to understand the value of biodiversity in our lives.

Biodiversity refers to the range of variations among a set of entities and is commonly used to describe variety and variability of living organisms in terms of genetic diversity (heritable variations within populations), species diversity (species richness in a habitat) and ecological diversity (biophysical diversity).

Conservation of biodiversity is important to mankind for various reasons. It facilitates ecosystem functions (carbon exchange, watershed flows, soil fertility, climate, etc.), offers aesthetic, scientific, cultural and other values and forms the basis for foodstuff, fibres, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, etc.

The accelerated rate of extinction of species has prompted a need for comprehensive conservation strategies for sustainable management of ecosystems — forests, lakes, rivers and grassland at regional, national and global levels.

— THE AUTHOR IS FACULTY AT ENERGY AND RESEARCH GROUP CENTRE FOR ECOLOGICAL SCIENCES, IISc

Let's preserve our urban green spaces



STOP THIS: We are destroying trees which absorb excess carbon in the atmosphere

Bhargavi S Rao

The old picture of avenues and shaded parks of Bangalore are now replaced by high rises made of steel and glass along streets filled with cars. But beneath its modern look are elements that add to the greenhouse gases.

The major lung spaces such as Lalbagh, Cubbon Park, GKVK, and Indian Institute of Science campus have fallen prey to the mindless urban infrastructure projects. Thus, the city has lost a large part of its green canopy. The loss of trees has disturbed the rich biodiversity that was once this city's pride.

Urban green spaces play a key role in achieving important goals for improving public health, increasing physical activity, reconnecting children with nature and providing safe healthy alternatives for senior citizens and the physically challenged. The benefits of green spaces as recreation grounds for the urban poor are priceless.

Today, not only are we filling the atmosphere with harmful gases, but also removing its natural mechanism for eliminating them. The planet's natural way of absorbing excess carbon is simple: trees. The concept of offsetting it is not new. In fact, many traditional cultures practice some form of environmental offsetting. It is time we realise this need and preserve our urban green spaces for posterity.

— THE WRITER IS COORDINATOR, EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES, ENVIRONMENT SUPPORT GROUP

Biodiversity must be priority of this decade

Harini Nagendra, BANGALORE

Once known as India's 'Garden City', 'Kalyananagara' and 'City of Lakes', a typical Bangalore urban landscape until late 1970s consisted of an area with residential homes and offices interspersed with fruit orchards, lakes, agricultural fields and parks, with tree-lined roads and canals connecting large green patches and lakes.

Now, trees are being felled across Bangalore to make way for 'development', and lakes, agricultural fields, orchards, plantations, and wetlands are being converted to urban land uses. Even big lung spaces like Cubbon Park and Lalbagh have been encroached on last year. Academic institutions, public sector, and government and military areas seem to be the only green spaces largely unaffected by these changes. But even these are not protected against further encroachment for infrastructure expansion, as the much contested encroachment of GKVK campus bears sad witness to. In this process, many valuable ecosystem services contributed by these open spaces are being irretrievably lost. Bangalore is host to over 340 bird species, 160 butterfly species, 40 mammal species, 38 reptile species, 16 amphibian species and 41 fish species.



CHOKING LAKE: Our water bodies are dying due to encroachments and waste dumped there

Importance of large green spaces can be seen from the fact that as many as 93 ant species have been found in the IISc campus alone. Many of the city's avenues including Nanda Road serve as critical conduits of biodiversity, cooling the city,

and reducing pollution. Yet the large canopied trees that dominate the visual landscape of this as well as other roads are being steadily removed due to a host of infrastructure projects.

The environmental and ecosystem services

Tree loss in Bangalore is deliberate and systematic, not accidental and sporadic

provided by these trees are substantial. Most movements of humans in cities are on roads. Trees in Bangalore's streets reduce pollution substantially, decreasing suspended particulate matter from four times the acceptable limit to near-acceptable limits on some city streets, and reducing ambient air temperature by several degrees on sunny afternoons. Unfortunately, rather than finding ways to combat climate change, we are exacerbating it by cutting down the oldest and largest of trees, which presumably have the greatest role to play in combating pollution and ameliorating urban heat islands. Tree loss in Bangalore is deliberate and systematic, not accidental and sporadic.

Biodiversity must get its place in the list of city's priorities for the next decade. This is the least penitence we can pay to Mother Nature for gross violation of all norms and ethics.

— THE WRITER IS ASSOCIATED WITH ASHOKA TRUST FOR RESEARCH IN ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT.

SPEAKUP BANGALORE CAN NEVER ATTAIN GLOBAL STATUS IF WASTE IS PILED UP AT STREET CORNERS

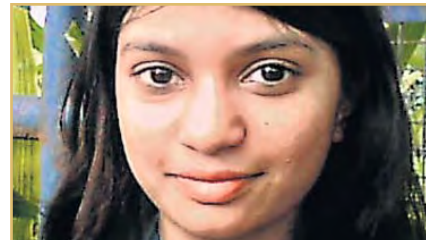
THINK OF NATURE WHILE PLANNING PROJECTS

SHIVALINGAPPA, TRAFFIC POLICE



As a traffic police, I find that the toxic fumes emitted by vehicles are fouling the city air. Autos are the worst culprits. If more people make use of public transport, air pollution can be minimised. The cool and fast Metro can tempt many commuters to leave their vehicles home and take the rail.

SAKSHI K, STUDENT



While walking along the streets, I find heaps of stinking waste at corners. Bangalore can never be called a global city unless these garbage are cleared regularly. Another thing that upsets me is the way trees are being cut for various projects. Where is my clean and green city?

SUE ROGERS, HR MANAGER



The city air is highly polluted. The water we drink is contaminated. The Metro is a grand project. If it becomes operational, it may reduce private vehicles on roads. But the project has gobbled up at least 300 trees. The Palike should maintain a balance between growth and environment.

GIRISH, STUDENT



The city may be growing, but its lung space is shrinking. Such a development is unhealthy for the citizens. Civic agencies must give top priority to environment whenever they plan new projects. This way, they can avoid clashes with greens at a stage when it is impossible to reverse their plans.