

THE BEACON

PRACTICE NEWS BULLETIN OF THE PG STUDENTS OF JOURNALISM AND MASS COMMUNICATION

Thursday, 18 September 2025 / St Joseph's University / Vol:18 Issue: 37 / www.sjcdeptcomm.wordpress.com

Checkpost removal brings travellers relief

Akhil Raj
BENGALURU: The Karnataka government's plan to dismantle all the RTO checkposts across the state has been met with cautious optimism from frequent travellers. For years, drivers in Karnataka have viewed RTO checkposts as hurdles marked by delays and informal payment requests rather than safety measures. Speaking to *The Beacon*, Ravi, a truck driver who has spent five years navigating routes like Hosur to Tumakuru, says lost time at checkpoints is nothing new. "Even when everything's in order, I've waited for hours." For Dhriti, a daily commuter from Hosur to Bengaluru, it's the uncertainty that frustrates her the most. "You don't know if you'll get stopped, or if someone will ask for a 'contribution'. You just hope to get through without getting caught in a hassle." Nikhil, a frequent interstate traveller, has another concern. "Younger men are stopped more often, for no reason, no pattern. It feels personal." The government explains that dismantling checkposts supports GST reforms aimed at improving seamless transport and curbing corruption, and that enforcement will now shift to digital systems. As reported by Bangalore Mirror, Karnataka is among the last states to act on this.

Cauvery water supply halt hits small eateries

Harivalagan E & Allen Easo
BENGALURU: Small restaurants around Bangalore are reeling from the shutdown of the water supply throughout the city as the Bengaluru water supply and sewage board announced to conduct a 3-day maintenance starting from Sept 15. This has stopped the Cauvery water supply throughout Bengaluru for approximately 60 hours. The board has begun the work from 1 am on Sept 15 and is expected to end by 1 pm on Sept 17. The maintenance work will be carried out at the Phase-1 and Phase-2 pumping stations under Cauvery Stages I, II, III, and IV, from 6 AM on Sept 16 to 6 AM on Sept 17, resulting in a 24-hour shutdown. The reason for this shutdown is to ensure the smooth functioning



BWSSB tanker stands idle amid water supply halt

Deccan Herald

of major pipelines and pumping stations. The authority has advised citizens who are dependent on the Cauvery water supply to store sufficient water for the next 60 hours. Speaking to *The Beacon*, Naresh Naidu from Shekar Biryani has expressed his strong discomfort about purchasing water for double the price because of the shutdown, making it expensive. "We can't compromise on the quality of food, and on the other hand, we cannot increase the price of food for three days because it's illogical." Prakash from Prakash Water Supply, Jayachamaraja Road, said that there has not been a hike in water orders because of the water shutdown, because most of

the apartment complexes have their own borewell facilities, and even his company uses water from a borewell as its source of water. "We haven't changed the prices because we have not received any different orders from our regulars, ever since the water shortage last year, people have started to plan ahead and not depend on

external water sources as much as possible." Naresh also added that smaller restaurants without borewell facilities like his own will be the ones affected the most. Bigger restaurants and even most apartment complexes and living complexes are equipped with borewell facilities, so they will barely feel a difference, and if they don't watch the news, then most of them won't even know there is a shutdown of the water supply. Christy Ann Thomas, caretaker of 7 Alcove Spaces establishments, has confirmed that their establishments use their own borewell facilities, and she herself wasn't aware of the shutdown of water supply. "Residents won't feel a thing because we don't depend on external water sources."

Footpath eviction threatens vendors livelihood

Niranjana Jayan & Akhil Raj
BENGALURU: Street vendors of Domlur say their lives and livelihood face uncertainty after the Central City Cooperation directed the removal of all activities from footpaths. Most of the vendors who have been working in the same area for many years say this move will make their lives miserable. On Sept 8, Bengaluru Central City Cooperation Commissioner Rajendra Cholan inspected various areas under his jurisdiction and ordered the removal of the vendors from footpaths to improve pedestrian



Street vendor of Domlur

Akhil Raj

safety and hygiene. "If they stop us from using the footpath, we don't have anywhere else to go. No shop, no stall, nothing. How will we earn? How will our families survive? We don't want to block people, but there should be a balance. Instead of removing us completely,

they should help organise things properly," one of the vendors said. Shopkeeper Basavaraj said, "Maintaining and cleaning footpaths cannot be managed by every small shop; BBMP should also take responsibility since garbage is often dumped by the public."

The vendors note that they have not received any official notice from the authorities, and most of them learned about their removal through the media. They said that shifting elsewhere abruptly would gravely affect their customer base built over years. Community leader Kumar said that unlike educated people, the uneducated vendors cannot find jobs that easily. He explained that if they enforce the new rule upon them, he plans to approach the Ambedkar Sangha for aid.

BMTC's EV buses to cut costs

Aryan Arun

BENGALURU: Bengaluru's fleet of buses is going green, with over 20 per cent of BMTC's vehicles becoming electric. This move, in addition to being environmentally friendly, is also strategically economical and efficient. The shift promises lower fuel costs and reduced dependence on fossil fuels, aligning with the long-term goals of the BMTC. Under the Gross Cost Contract (GCC) model, private operators supply and maintain the vehicles while BMTC pays them a fixed amount and collects the fare revenue. "It's a win-win," G Parvathi, Economics professor, explained. The private owner (Ashok Leyland) is assured a steady income while BMTC avoids the burden of running costs and retains the surplus as profit. Furthermore, the shift is having an impact on daily operations. On the road, conductors feel the immediate change. "These buses are quieter, quicker, and cleaner. Drivers are also finding it smoother. This feels like a step in the right direction," Ramesh said. This steady growth of EV-powered vehicles marks a favourable move toward a sustainable future.

Indo-France heritage on display

Ameya Krishnakumar

BENGALURU: Alliance Française de Bangalore inaugurated Scripted Dialogues: A Calligraphic Conversation, a travelling exhibition highlighting Indo-French heritage through calligraphy, on Saturday, Sept 13, at its Vasanth Nagar campus. Curated by Padmaja Srivatsava, the exhibition showcases calligraphy as more than decorative writing, positioning it as a bridge linking language, literature and culture across borders. The opening drew students, art enthusiasts, foreign visitors and community members. "Art is bound internationally, and many people in Asian



Calligraphy meets culture

Ameya Krishnakumar

countries don't know about our things, and this is the best opportunity to showcase our cultural heritage, which will improve our global intelligence," said visitor Meghnath, reflecting on the event's international appeal. The exhibition features work from many artists including Achyut Palav, Navakanth Karide, Nikheel Aphale,

Sudeep Gandhi, Suresh Waghmore, Tarun Deep Girdher among others. It also reinterprets the writings of celebrated Kannada authors such as Girish Karnad, D. R. Bendre and S. L. Bhyrappa through French calligraphic forms. The exhibition runs through Oct 4, with visiting hours from 9:30 am to 5:30 pm.

Demand for citywide green cover

Anaina Kasim

BENGALURU: The Karnataka government has declared Bengaluru's 8.61-acre Cantonment railway colony area, home to 371 trees, as a Biodiversity Heritage Site. Over 15,000 residents demanded that the Cantonment railway colony be declared a protected zone. An online petition against tree felling gathered 3,081 signatures, while 10,670 people backed digital campaigns to save trees. Additionally, 972 residents and environmentalists emailed the government in support of preserving 371 surveyed trees. Speaking to *The Beacon*, Sandeep Anirudhan,

an environmentalist said, "While Singapore and Japan are expanding their green cover, Bengaluru has gone from 70% green and blue cover in the 1970s to just 2% today, a 97% loss, which he attributed to poor protection and reckless urbanisation. Furthermore, he added, "All of Bengaluru should be treated as an ecologically fragile ecosystem," stressing the urgent need for sustainable urban governance. Activists argue that while this is a victory, the city's rapid concretisation demands broader planning and protection.

Reporters / Editors: Akhil Raj, Harivalagan E, Allen George Easo, Niranjana Jayan, Aryan Arun, Anaina Kasim, Ameya Krishnakumar | Sub-editors: Allen George Easo
If anyone has any feedback / complaints, reports / photographs or are conducting events, please email us at: beacon@sju.edu.in