

## #2 WHY SHOULD HEROES HAVE ALL THE FUN

### Saviours of the streets



**SMOKE SIGNALS** A Traffic constable on duty in Kammanahalli (Photo by Angel T Alex)

#### RIGHTS

##### ANGEL T ALEX

How many of us can say that we have not cursed the traffic police at least once in our life for getting held up in a traffic jam. But during times of emergency like an accident, curfew or a strike, we expect their help.

"Traffic duty is ranked the lowest in the police department. We work hard, day and night but we are not paid proper wages. In a day we have to work continuously for around 10 to 12 hours and we are expected to finish our meal in fifteen minutes," said a traffic constable, who refused to be named on the grounds of privacy.

As their work is majorly in the dusty and polluted roads, their health deteriorates.

Most of the traffic personnel nowadays are diagnosed with asthma, rashes, varicose vein, skin prob-

lems and have very poor lung condition because of the toxins inhaled during their duty time. Back in 2011, the government had introduced oxygen parlors and masks for traffic personnel but most of it are either damaged or missing.

As per a recent survey conducted by the Bureau of Police Research and Development, among 50 officers only 40 are regular to work and the rest are on medical leave. Standing for hours in the city's pollution makes them sick and weak. For all this hard work, the recognition ends with a shield. Due to shortage of personnel they often end up working in a wage less shift when a colleague goes on leave.

As per an internal survey by the Bangalore Traffic Police, 80 per cent of the traffic congestions are due to traffic rule violations by the citizens.

The misery does not end there, fe-

male traffic officers on duty, face a lot of harassment on the road. But they try to ignore it and would not react "a minute of aversion can throw the traffic into a tizzy, hence, we will painfully ignore the harassments," said a female constable under the Bangalore Traffic Police (BTP).

An Assistant Sub Inspector with the BTP stated that they are finding difficulty even to get married because of their busy schedule. Their families had learned to adjust with their work schedules but they are not getting time to spend with their beloved ones.

Authorities cite the issue of staff shortage as a major reason behind the problems. For 800 Bangaloreans there is only one constable. To address these issues, measures like implementation of automated signals should be speeded up as they can be remotely controlled.

## #2 CRIMES OVER THE NET

### Guests of the garden city



**Posters promoting PGs** (Photo by AJITH M. S)

#### SPECIALS

##### SHEETAL R

Bangalore is a dream destination for many job aspirants. Thousands of people, primarily bachelors come to the city on a daily basis for lucrative career options. This influx however comes with a price, in the lodging front, especially in a city like Bangalore where space is the biggest asset. Majority of them prefer paying guest accommodations, as it is more practical and affordable than renting a house. From college students to working professionals, many of them seek spacious rooms for their comfort. While, most of the PG accommodations offer very basic facilities, the rent depends not only on the locality of your home, but also the extra facilities that they provide. But in reality only a handful keep up to their promises, leaving the customers disappointed.

Sheba, a 23-year-old IT employee working with a city based MNC said that her PG owner always instructs against locking their doors and they have often found him loitering around their rooms, this leads to fear of safety and security among the girls. She also complained that the food is never cooked in hygienic conditions.

In 2015, BBMP raided thousands of PG owners in the city who did not possess trade licenses.

Thereafter, the civic agency has asked PG accommodations to pay property tax at commercial rates instead of residential rates. This has however increased the PG rents.

20-year-old, Revathy who is pursuing Bachelor of Arts in a reputed college in the RT Nagar area of the city, states that her PG is like her home.

*Continued on page 2*

## Ambedkar Nagar: Life over the drains



**DOWN THE DRAIN** A house in Ambedkar Nagar Slum (Photo by ANAND PRINCE)

#### CITYLIGHTS

##### ANAND PRINCE

"This drain will be our graveyard" Usha was in tears, "at least our kids

have to be safe. Dengue, Malaria, Chikungunya and many other types of diseases are going to kill us. Without proper space, food

and good water how are we going to survive here?" she continues, Usha is a resident of the Ambedkar Nagar slum, Kormangala.

Koramangala is famous for its startups, pubs, food joints and malls. But amongst these clamour and glamour lies the harsh realities of people in slums that are the least visible.

In this flourishing urban jungle, sounds of slum residents like Usha, Uma and Parimala are just a far cry. They want to share their plight, but there is no one to hear that.

Not just these women, every household in that slum have their own shocking stories.

Ambedkar Nagar slum, where more than 25 families live over the drains were neglected in the last round of JNNURM slum rehabilitation program as well. According to the residents, all their efforts to get the slum notified did not materialize. Repeated requests to local authorities has not yielded anything significant.

Most of the residents find it difficult to even find a job as companies prefer cheaper migrant laborers, which in turn leads to poverty. "We don't know what to do! Where to go? whom to ask? and who is the concerned official, we don't know. Our parents knew, but they are

all dead. We can only sit over this drain slab till our last breath," said Uma.

Uma earns a meagre 1000 rupee a month due to irregular work contracts. She has to run her family of eight with this income.

Apart from the income discrepancy she also has to face the mosquito menace, for which she has to spend not less than 30 rupees a day to buy mosquito coils.

According to the slum residents, the authorities failed to conduct mosquito eradication program this year which led to the massive outbreak of mosquitoes.

*Continued on page 2*



# Campus Courier

November 2016

Issue 4

## Towards a slum free Bengaluru

Bangalore, the silicon valley of India is often projected as an ultramodern abode. Like every Indian city, Bangalore also has its share of slums, to be exact, 597 of them. These slums are home for over 1.4 million people, a figure that is roughly 35 percentage of the city's population. These numbers are increasing at a rate of 25 percent every year. However there are huge discrepancies between the official figures and the ground truth. A Survey by Association for Promoting Social Action, a city based NGO had documented over 1500 non-notified slums which are shadier and filthier.

The mismatches does not end there, schemes aimed at betterment of dwellings in slums have often fizzled out. Union Minister, Rao Inderjit Singh in Rajya Sabha reflected that a total of 2,17,953 houses built under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) and Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna (PMAY) are lying vacant across the nation. Specifically in Karnataka, out of the allocated 83 crores, only 62 crores has been utilized so far and in Bangalore all except one project is running behind the schedule.

These statistics plainly paint the shortcomings with slum eradication programs. Or in simple terms, it should be noted that the size of funds and the number of schemes are not proportional to effectiveness of slum eradication, or rather the schemes need a change of approach.

Slums are indeed inhumane and unhealthy for a city but the role played by areas of affordable housing in and around the city cannot be ignored. These low cost areas accommodate millions of people who take care of the blue and pink collar jobs that offer very less remunerations, but are essential for a city to function.

Hence mere relocations or evictions of slums will not solve this issue. Instead the city needs effective master plans to redesign slums into areas of affordable housing. Meticulous planning, space saving designs and efficient construction should be the cornerstones of execution.

And also, efforts should be taken to implement the recommendation by the National Advisory Council, that cities should keep aside 25 to 40 per cent of land in their development plans for social housing.

## Guests of the garden city

Continued from page 1

"The place where I live is good, they are fairly-serviced, my owner is friendly and approachable. All our necessities are taken proper care of," said Revathy. Most PGs offer a room with bed, table, chair and a geyser in the bathroom. However, some owners are now offering televisions and refrigerators. Few owners have even started offering covered two or four wheeler parking areas. But all these facilities come at a price. Hence, it is necessary to negotiate the terms and conditions well be-

fore signing up; also proper enquiries should be made from reliable sources before stepping into a paying guest accommodation. Basic amenities like safety, healthy food, hygienic environment, good supply of electricity and water should be checked and availed for, by the tenants.

A PG shall provide the comfort of a home, not necessarily luxury but more of a family ambience. It makes the occupants feel at home and welcomed in a city such as Bangalore, that's brimming with bright, innovative, creative and warm population.

## Ambedkar Nagar: Life over the drains

Continued from page 1

"Food should be cooked in a clean kitchen, for us, unfortunately this drain is our kitchen. As a result, our kids are getting stomach related infections" said Parimala, a

36-year-old-mother of two. She is a third generation occupant of the Ambedkar nagar slum, whose 'forefathers' hail from the same area.

Parimala had a disturbing story to tell, "Lakshmi fell at this very same spot!" said Parimala with an anxious eye, she was narrating the incident where a girl fell into the drains from her house. Though the girl was rescued, she suffered severe damage in the kidneys due to immersion, She is still under treatment.

There are many more unheard stories from Ambedkar Nagar. These people are leading a life with diseases and painful sorrow amongst the posh neighborhood of Koramangala. For them, leading the life over this filthy drain is their fate.

## Crimes over the net

CRIME WATCH  
ANAND PRINCE

Cyber criminals have established a strong base in Bengaluru. The number of complaints filed with the cyber crime cell are on the rise. On an average, the cyber crime department receives six complaints a day. Hacking bank accounts, face morphing, online bullying, spreading net hoaxes and fake news, defamation through social media platforms, phishing, fraudulent job invitations, online lottery cheating are the major cyber related offences. The extent of cyber trauma faced by the netizens is a cause for concern.

"Majority of the cases is in regards to Facebook, WhatsApp based fraud and Debit card pin number duplication. Cases involving young girls for prostitution by misusing social media are also recklessly increasing", said K.S Nagaraj Prasad, Additional Sub-Inspector, Bengaluru Crime Branch.

There are many unreported issues which are still under the rug. The victims are hesitant to reveal the experiences they had due to humiliation and insecurity. In some cases, people are unaware about how they are getting trapped. Lack of technical knowledge and poor safety precautions make things

worse. Even tech-savvy people are prone to fall in the potholes of the cyber world. Recently, an IT professional from Peenya lost a sum of three lakh rupees from his bank account, to a fake online market website.

Problems get worsen when it comes to teens and youngsters.

### TIPS FOR SAFETY

Secure Your Social Media Accounts With Strong Passwords.

Avoid interacting or sharing your personal information to strangers online.

Don't respond to mails and SMS enticing you claim lottery, huge prize money, valuable articles.

Ensure the validity and authenticity of chain messages before sharing them.

Don't share your passwords with anyone.

Be cautious and confirm the authenticity of the websites before buying or availing goods or services from them.

Do not disclose your Bank details, PIN numbers to anyone

Their fascination for the well-connected virtual world make them prone to such traps. Recently, a 22-year-old college girl from Koramangala became a victim of online bullying, after a boy from her class posted a morphed photo on Facebook in a vulgar slur. The boy was caught and a case of defamation and cyber bullying was filed.

On the other hand, it's a mammoth task for the police to find the real culprits who use ingenious and anonymous methods to hide their identity. The open cyber world entertains criminals to operate from other countries. It is difficult to locate them. Unfortunately, the fact is that the number of cases cracked and culprits charged with punishments are minimal.

Recently, the report of the Annual Crime Statistics of the Crime Branch Department revealed that crime in the district is rising yearly by 80 percent. Prior to this, the report of National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) of 2013 also warned about the rising cyber crime rates, in which Bengaluru topped the Statistics Charts.

The authorities have urged caution from the netizens and are tightening the security to probe the risk factors. The pushy attitude of online users makes things uncontrollable and dangerous.

## Why should heroes have all the fun: Empowering trends from the tinsel town

TRENDS

NIKHIL P SAM

Gone are the days of Indian cinema where a sari clad women drained emotionally and had nothing much to say or emote, instead appeared only for the sake of glamour or as a side lead. In spite of having women centric movies like Mother India, Andhi and Bhumika as early as 1970's, the masses were not open to accept women as heroes. Male dominated scripts enjoyed a good success ratio over women centric films.

As per statistics, there are more number of male oriented films than female ones, because they can easily pull in crowd, but over the years there has been tremendous changes in the Indian cinema industry.

During this centenary year of Indian cinema, women centric films with good themes are critically and

financially attaining success. From the past few years there has been numerous movies with women protagonists, films such as Mary Kom, Queen, and Kahaani has not only won the hearts of the audiences, but also set the box office on fire. These films have challenged the male domination in the industry.

This trend is not limited to bollywood, even the regional movies are producing good number of progressive women centric films. The Marathi movie 'Sairat' became a financial success all over India despite the language barrier.

Currently many mainstream Indian filmmakers are working on female oriented subjects. The most recent movies, 'Akira' and 'Pink' had received positive reviews. And movies like 'Margarita with a straw' that explores the femininity of a differently abled girl are revolutionary in every aspect.

Unlike the yesteryear movies, most of the films nowadays portray women as strong yet beautiful beings, who are are cherished for being a woman and are given equal or sometimes more importance.

These trends are slowly gaining acceptance in the society, which is evident from the box office collection of such movies.



## Censorship vs Creativity

DEMOCRACY

SHARLET PETER

What is censoring? Does CBFC, the Central Board of Film Certification, certify or censor? Well, according to the rule of the land, censorship involves chopping or banning of those contents that incites or instigates communal hatred or obscenity or any other disturbance.

By statute, the board is only responsible for certifying a movie, but in the recent times they have been on a chopping spree. This has raised a lot of queries and criticisms against the board. The artists are arguing that the board only has to certify and not block the creative flow of film making.

The recent cuts demanded by CBFC for Udta Punjab and Aligarh, saw them drawing flak from artists and cinegoers across the country. They stated that they do not need a 'power' to dictate what is right and wrong. There will be variances in individual perception, hence the problem lies within the beholder, the board should not be responsible for them.

But, few sections of the crowd are true worshipers of censorship. They say that certain contents should be eliminated, especially those that are dark or bold which will corrupt and disturb the children.

They are also arguing that at teen-

age, kids are considered to be very vulnerable and more susceptible to disturbing elements hence to keep them at bay, such films or exhibits should not be released.

The board can censor visuals that hampers minds, but should not cut the ones which highlight staunch issues, that force people to think about good and desired change needed in the society.

Film makers are equally responsible in this feat. What can be more creative than a film that portrays truth, courage, change and acceptance.

And finally it is upon the people to decide and consume the healthy or the junk.

### TOON NOOK SHEETAL R

FREEDOM FROM DIGITAL WORLD

