



# Campus Courier

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## Street Dogs in Bengaluru: A Growing Concern for Safety and Welfare

Sneha Sunil



Stray dogs in search of food

Increased stray dog menace has been a significant issue in Bengaluru. An estimated 2.7 to 2.8 lakh stray dogs roam the city's wards and surrounding areas, including suburbs like Kothanur. The problem has intensified in just the first half of 2025, with over 13,800 dog bite cases reported in the BBMP area alone. Karnataka has recorded around 3.1 lakh dog bite cases, with the Bengaluru

region accounting for the highest share.

The issue persists largely because many dogs remain unsterilized and unvaccinated. Unmanaged garbage, stray food, and increasing urban sprawl, especially in fast-developing rural and suburban localities, contribute to their unchecked population growth.

The BBMP is responsible for controlling the issue through

Animal Birth Control (ABC) and anti-rabies vaccination programmes. However, limited infrastructure, regulatory restrictions, and logistical delays hamper effective execution.

BBMP has started identifying feeding zones as per Supreme Court guidelines and introduced a pilot project offering cooked chicken-rice meals to about 5,000 street dogs. The aim is to reduce aggression, support sterilization efforts, and eventually expand the CNVR (Capture, Neuter, Vaccinate, Release) system and build more animal crematoriums.

Yet, the situation continues to spark anxiety and debate. "We can't walk our children to school without seeing packs of dogs on the road," says Radhika, a homemaker from Kothanur. "Some nights, they bark endlessly or chase bikes. It's scary," adds Irfan, a local grocery store owner.

## Karnataka CM inaugurates new Hebbal flyover loop in Bengaluru

Nani Samuel



New 700m Hebbal Flyover Loop

A new 700-meter flyover loop was inaugurated, at Hebbal Junction on August 18, 2025. The project, built by the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) at a cost of ₹80 crore, was completed in just seven months. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar

inaugurated the loop, which is expected to ease congestion significantly at one of the city's busiest choke points.

The new loop connects KR Puram and Nagawara directly to Mekhri Circle, providing a dedicated corridor that bypasses the heavily trafficked main carriageway at Hebbal.

Authorities estimate a 25–30% reduction in congestion at the junction. The improvement is especially noticeable during peak hours, benefiting both private and commercial commuters heading toward the city center.

However, the loop's opening has also shifted some of the traffic burden to Mekhri Circle, prompting the government to consider widening nearby service roads and relocating bus stops. The next phase of the project, linking the ramp to the Tumakuru Road loop, is expected by November 2025. The Hebbal loop is part of a broader effort to make the corridor signal-free and improve travel time for lakhs of daily commuters in Bengaluru. More flyover connections and metro upgrades are still needed to fully address Bengaluru's growing traffic problems.

## Kristu Jayanti College Granted 'Deemed to be University' Status

Bezalel C. Purackal

Kristu Jayanti College (Autonomous) was officially conferred 'Deemed to be University' status by the Ministry of Education, Government of India, on July 8, 2025.



Rev. Fr. Dr. Augustine George, Vice-Chancellor of KJU

Established in 1999 under the Bodhi Niketan Trust, the institution began with a vision to empower students through knowledge and character. From its early affiliation with Bangalore North University, KJC steadily expanded its academic offerings across commerce, management, science, humanities, and law.

Over the years, it earned recognition for academic excellence, securing an "A++" grade from NAAC.

Beyond academics, the

college has prioritized holistic development through cultural, sports, and social outreach programs along with global university collaborations.

This transition to Kristu Jayanti University marks a historic milestone. It brings enhanced academic autonomy, new opportunities for research, and the launch of innovative programs. More than a change in name, it reflects the institution's unwavering pursuit of excellence and service.

## Pedestrian Safety Concerns on Narayanapura – Kothanur Road

Daniel Joseph



Students make their way through heavy traffic

The stretch of K. Narayanapura Main Road in front of Kristu Jayanti University has become a daily choke point, with heavy vehicular movement and little traffic management in place. Students, parents, and local residents say the absence of basic infrastructure such as zebra crossings, traffic signals, and speed breakers have made the area increasingly unsafe for pedestrians.

With no designated pedestrian crossing, college students often dash through fast-moving traffic to get across. The problem is worsened by ride-hailing cabs and auto-rickshaws that stop suddenly near the university

gate, adding to the chaos.

"The number of students has grown every year, but the road remains the same. Without a zebra crossing or traffic police, crossing the road feels like a risk," said Richard a 19 year old student at the University.

Local shopkeepers have also raised concerns, noting that noise, dust, and constant congestion are discouraging people from visiting the area. Simple interventions such as repainting road markings, installing pedestrian signals, and enforcing no-parking zones could significantly improve the situation.

Residents and students are now calling on the BBMP and city traffic police to take urgent steps to address the issue. They warn that without swift action, the stretch could become the site of serious accidents. Until then, the road in front of one of Bengaluru's busiest university campuses remains a high-risk zone for both commuters and the local community.

# Bangalore Bits

## Cyclists Drew The Indian Map on Namma Bengaluru Streets

Nani Samuel

As India marked its 79th Independence Day on August 15, 2025, the Bangalore Cycling Club (BCC), in collaboration with Decathlon Brigade, organized a unique and patriotic cycling event in Bengaluru. Instead of using paint or chalk, 300 cyclists created the map of India by riding a 78-kilometer route designed to form the country's outline using GPS tracking. The ride began at 6:30 a.m. from Vidhana Soudha, one of the city's most iconic landmarks.

The event aimed to promote health, creativity, community spirit, and eco-friendly transport. By blending cycling with artistic expression, the organizers hoped to encourage more people to adopt cycling as a healthy and meaningful lifestyle. Cyclists followed a pre-marked GPS route, and their paths were digitally tracked. Upon completion, all riders received finisher certificates from Decathlon.



Cyclists in front of Vidhana Soudha

Many participants expressed excitement about being part of an initiative that merged fitness, patriotism, and creativity. For them, riding on Independence Day was not just about exercise it was a celebration of unity and national pride.

The idea was originally conceptualized by Rishi

Raghav, a passionate cyclist from Bengaluru. In December 2021, Raghav completed a solo 100+ km ride across the city, using GPS to sketch the Indian map. His innovative ride inspired the cycling community. Since 2022, BCC had taken this idea forward by organizing it annually, turning it into a symbolic Independence Day tradition in the city.

## PG Crisis Hits Bengaluru: Mass Shutdowns as Tenants Shift to Flats and Co-Living Spaces

G.Gowri Parvathy

The paying guest (PG) accommodation sector in Bengaluru is facing a major crisis, with hundreds of PGs shutting down across the city due to declining demand. Industry estimates suggest that between 200 and 300 PGs have closed in recent months, especially in tech-centric areas like Mahadevapura, Marathahalli, and Sarjapur.

One of the main factors behind the closures is the introduction of stricter regulations by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP). PG operators are now required to obtain trade licenses, follow fire safety norms, ensure a minimum living space of 70 square feet per person, and comply with food safety standards.

The decline is also being driven by changing tenant preferences. Students and young professionals, who make up the majority of PG residents, are increasingly opting for shared apartments or co-living spaces that offer more privacy, freedom, and better food choices. In addition, rising operational costs, combined



A PG in Bengaluru

with reduced demand due to layoffs in the IT sector, have worsened the situation for PG owners. "People are now booking apartments well in advance instead of looking for PGs," said a resident. A PG owner also shared that his venture failed because tenants moved out quickly in favour of flats.

Many operators admit that cramped spaces, strict rules, and poor maintenance make PGs less appealing than modern alternatives. While PGs were once the most affordable housing option for newcomers, they are now experiencing an unprecedented wave of closures. However, a few PGs in the city are still managing to operate smoothly despite the challenges.



**Kristu Jayanti College, Autonomous, Bengaluru has been ranked 34<sup>th</sup>**

## Kothanur Raises Alarm Over Pipeline Burst on Major Akshay Road

Sneha Sunil

A water pipeline burst twice in two consecutive days on Major Akshay Road in Kothanur, causing waterlogging, slippery roads, and major traffic disruptions. The second burst, which occurred right after repair work, led to several minor accidents and left commuters frustrated.

The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) is responsible for managing water infrastructure. After the first burst, municipal repair teams quickly reached the site and began work. However, to the shock of many residents, the pipeline failed again the very next day, with a heavier water flow that made conditions dangerous for both pedestrians and vehicles.

"It was shocking to see water gushing out again. The whole stretch became muddy and risky for school buses and two-wheelers," said Sandhya Menon, a resident.

The cause of the pipeline failure has not been officially disclosed. However, similar incidents have been



Potholes formed in road due to constant pipeline breakage

reported across Bengaluru. In 2024, a pipeline burst in RK Hegde Nagar was traced to an illegal sewage connection that caused backpressure. In 2025, an old and corroded pipeline gave way in Basavanagudi, leading to flooding in surrounding streets.

The second burst on Akshay Road, coming immediately after supposed repairs, has sparked criticism about the quality of maintenance and lack of proper testing. Locals are now calling on BWSSB to conduct thorough inspections, upgrade aging infrastructure, and ensure accountability in repair operations.

With water being such a critical and limited resource in the city, residents are urging

**"How can a pipe burst again just one day after repair? Either the material is faulty or the work is careless"**

— Mohammed Asif  
a shopkeeper near the affected road

authorities not to treat such lapses lightly.

"We want safer roads, stronger pipelines, and proper testing after every fix. This cannot keep happening," emphasized Sandhya, echoing the concerns of many in the neighborhood.

## Garbage Dump in Hormavu Agara Raises Alarms over Public Health and Hygiene

Bezalel C. Purackal



Waste dumping near Hormavu Agara

A growing garbage dump in Hormavu Agara is raising serious health concerns for residents, commuters, and hospital patients. The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) continues to unload waste at the site without proper clearance or management, creating worsening sanitary conditions and a persistent foul smell.

The dumping ground is alarmingly close to residential areas, a hospital, and a school. Layers of rotting garbage have accumulated over time, becoming a breeding ground for pests and infections. The stench now reaches the nearby hospital, adding distress to already unwell patients. Muniyappa, a hospital security guard, said, "The smell from the garbage is unbearable. Patients

already sick, feel even more uncomfortable because of this."

Daily commuters are also affected. Ms. Finny, who travels this route every day, said, "Every time I cross this road, the smell is so bad that I can't breathe properly." Residents fear the health risks, especially for children attending the nearby school, as constant exposure to unhygienic conditions can affect both physical and mental well-being.

Despite repeated complaints, BBMP has not taken concrete action. Residents are urging immediate removal of the waste, along with a strict ban on dumping near residential areas, and shifting disposal operations to properly managed facilities away from hospitals and schools.

# Opinions

## The Need for Media Literacy and Press Freedom in Today's World

Sneha Sunil

Every morning, millions of us wake up and check the news on our phones, TVs, or newspapers. But how often do we stop and ask, "Is this true?" or "Who's telling us this, and why?" In today's fast-changing world, learning how to understand and question the news isn't just helpful. It has become a necessity. That's where media education comes in. It is about teaching people, especially young minds, regarding how to think critically about the media they consume.

Media literacy means learning how to understand, question, and analyze the information they receive from newspapers, TV, and the internet. In a time where misinformation spreads quickly on social media, media literacy helps citizens separate fact from fiction. It allows them to think critically, ask the right questions, and avoid falling for misleading headlines or biased reports.

On the other hand, press freedom is a basic need in any democracy. Journalists must be free to report the truth without fear of censorship, threats, or violence.

A free press ensures transparency in government actions and gives a voice to the voiceless. When the press is silenced or controlled, the truth gets hidden, and democracy begins to weaken.

Unfortunately, in many parts of the world today, journalists face restrictions, arrests, and even attacks for doing their job.

This is why both media literacy and press freedom must go hand in hand. While media should be allowed to function freely and fairly, the public must also be trained to consume news wisely. Schools, colleges, and families must take the lead in spreading media literacy.

Only when the people are informed, and the press is free, can a society truly be called democratic and just.

*"The illiterate of the 21st century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn."*

- Alvin Toffler

## Charlie's Legacy: Where Every Life Matters: The Story of CARE

Brindha C.K.

In the bustling heart of Bangalore, where city life rarely slows, there exists a sanctuary where compassion sets the rhythm. Charlie's Animal Rescue Centre (CARE), founded in January 2013, is home to animals once abandoned, injured, or forgotten. Its inspiration came from Charlie, a three-legged indie who changed perceptions forever. At a time when therapy dogs were expected to be pedigree breeds, Charlie defied stereotypes. Despite his disability, he comforted countless people, teaching them that love and strength go far beyond appearances.

"Charlie proved that you can be imperfect and still make a difference," says Keerthan, Chief Manager - Operations. His words echo through the centre, which has since rescued more than 5,000 animals, dogs, cats, rabbits, pigs, hens, ducks, and even terrapins. For those who cannot be rehomed, CARE becomes a forever home, offering dignity and peace. CARE's work is as multifaceted as it is heartfelt. With a rescue helpline, animal ambulance, and trauma-care unit, their team responds to emergencies every day. Adoption drives



Where every wag tells a story of hope

kindness, and campaigns against cruelty extend their mission beyond rescue. The "Compassionate Citizen" initiative, in particular, nurtures empathy in young minds and builds a more caring society.

For Keerthan, who has dedicated over two decades to animal welfare, the work is both personal and



transformative. "Our mission is simple: a cruelty-free society." At CARE, every wagging tail, every playful bark, and every second chance is a living tribute to Charlie, the hero who proved that being different is not a weakness, but a gift. In this corner of compassion, hope lives, and love truly has no bounds.

**"Even a small act, like taking an injured animal to the vet, can change a life"**

- Keerthan

## The Power of Visual Content in Digital Marketing for Kochi Businesses

Karthika Saiphy



A representational image of Digital Marketing

In today's fast-paced digital world, grabbing someone's attention is a challenge. With endless scrolling and shrinking attention spans, businesses are discovering powerful visual content. From vibrant images to short videos and info-graphics, visuals are no longer just add-ons; they're at the heart of successful marketing strategies.

Why the shift? Studies show that the human brain processes visuals far faster than text. A striking photo or a quick video can stop a casual browser mid-scroll, sparking curiosity and conversation. In fact, visual posts consistently attract more views, likes, and shares compared to text-heavy updates.

But the impact doesn't end at engagement. Visual storytelling

also builds brand memory. People may forget the words they read but tend to remember what they see. A consistent use of colors, logos, and style creates an identity that stays in the audience's mind, often influencing purchase decisions.

Marketers are also finding new creative routes. Info-graphics turn complex data into easy-to-digest nuggets. User-generated content, like customer photos or reels, lends authenticity and trust. Meanwhile, videos whether product demos, behind-the-scenes snippets, or live sessions bring brands closer to audiences in a relatable, human way.

As digital spaces become increasingly mobile-driven, the challenge is to create visuals that are crisp, mobile-friendly, and optimized for quick loading. And with SEO-friendly tags and analytics tools, businesses can track what clicks with their audience and refine strategies.

Ultimately, visuals are not just about looking good; they're about connecting. In a world of crowded feeds and fleeting attention, the right image or video can transform a message into a memory and a viewer into a loyal customer.

## Major Problems and Safety Issues on Bangalore-Thrissur Highway

Daniel Joseph

The national highway from Bangalore to Thrissur, mainly NH 544, is now facing serious problems.

Broken roads, unfinished construction, and heavy traffic are making travel very difficult for both passengers and goods vehicles.

Recently, a lorry carrying timber turned over near Muringoor, causing a traffic jam of nearly 10 kilometres that lasted through the night. With no proper traffic controls or alternative routes, hundreds of vehicles were stuck for hours.

Local leaders say the road work has been going on for years without proper planning. A member from Vadookkara, near Thrissur, said very little progress has been made. Many travellers, especially students going from Bangalore to Kerala, say their journey now takes 14 hours instead of the usual 9. Because of this, they are missing classes and work.

Alan, a student from Thrissur, studying in Bangalore, said, "I lost an entire day on the road. The bus was moving so slowly that I reached home exhausted."



Bangalore-Thrissur highway choked

It feels like travelling backward in time with how bad the highway has become."

A bus driver, who has been driving on this route for over 20 years, said the roads are now worse than ever. There are potholes, cracks, and dangerous dips that make driving risky.

After complaints from the public, the Kerala High Court stopped toll collection at the Paliyekkara plaza, saying it is unfair to collect tolls when the roads are in such bad shape. More than 15 road failures have been reported in Kerala this year. The Public Accounts Committee has asked the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) to inspect the quality of the highway construction and find out who is responsible.



## Film Recommendation

### The Curious Case of Benjamin Button

Daniel Joseph

The Curious Case of Benjamin Button is a rare cinematic gem that blends sweeping romance, breathtaking visuals, and profound reflections on life.

Directed by David Fincher and led by powerful performances from Brad Pitt and Cate Blanchett, the film invites you to experience time, love, and destiny in a way you've never seen before.

It's not just a movie - it's a journey that will leave you reflecting long after the credits roll. If you want a story that stirs the heart, challenges the mind, and captivates the senses, this masterpiece is an absolute must-watch, offering timeless emotions, unforgettable artistry, and a viewing experience that transcends ordinary cinema.

# Culture

## Bengaluru Celebrates Janmashtami across Three ISKCON Venues

G. Gowri Parvathy

The people of Bengaluru witnessed a vibrant Janmashtami celebration on 15 and 16 August 2025, with major festivities organized by ISKCON across its temples at Rajajinagar (Hare Krishna Hill), Vasanthapura (Vaikuntha Hill), and Whitefield (KTPO Convention Centre). Thousands of devotees gathered to celebrate the birth of Lord Krishna in a spiritually uplifting atmosphere.

The festivities included deity adornments, devotional music, pallakki processions, the deity bathing ritual, and the dahi handi tradition. Prasadam distribution and annadhana were conducted across all venues.

At the Rajajinagar ISKCON temple, midnight Abhisheka and Mangala Arati were performed on 16 August 2025. At ISKCON Whitefield (KTPO), the Ananda Mahotsava featured vedic chants, cultural programs, midnight Arati, and a grand pallakki procession.



Deity Adornments at ISKCON

A devotee remarked, "The ghoshala was heart-warming and I loved the diversity of people. Though it was a rush, volunteers managed it well and the food stalls were a highlight." The two-day event radiated devotion, community spirit, and cultural richness, beautifully marking the divine appearance of Lord Krishna.

## Timeless Tailoring: Retro Fashion's Evolving Thread

Brindha C.K.



Time tailoring, modern flair

Retro fashion is more than just a return to old silhouettes—it's a cycle of reinvention that keeps the past alive while shaping the present. Every era has left behind not only its signature cuts and fabrics but also its philosophy stitched into the seams. The 1950s, with its precise tailoring and cinched waists, reflected a society eager for stability and refinement after the turbulence of war. The 1970s, bursting with bold prints, flared pants, and unstructured fits, mirrored a generation's hunger for freedom and self-expression. Then came the 1980s, where oversized blazers, shoulder pads, and power suits embodied ambition, status, and unapologetic confidence. The 1990s stripped fashion back to simplicity—minimalist slip dresses, neutral tones, and

clean lines spoke to a culture craving authenticity and restraint.

What makes retro tailoring timeless is its adaptability. These iconic pieces are no longer worn as rigid replicas of the past; instead, they're tailored for contemporary lives. A once formal 1950s-inspired skirt suit might now be paired with chunky sneakers. The loud florals of the 70s find fresh breath in gender-fluid collections. The dramatic shoulder pads of the 80s return in sustainable fabrics, echoing strength without excess. And the 90s slip dress—once sleek and subtle—is reimaged in earthy textures and paired with streetwear staples. In this way, retro tailoring evolves, never losing its origin story while opening new narratives.

Beyond aesthetics, each revival carries cultural storytelling. Fashion doesn't just cover the body; it reflects the hopes, struggles, and spirit of the times. Post-war suits represented resilience, the disco-era prints expressed rebellion against conformity, the corporate sharpness of the 80s signaled women claiming space in boardrooms, and the minimalist ease of the 90s mirrored a growing desire for calm amid chaos. Today, as we prioritize sustainability, inclusivity, and comfort, fashion's dialogue with the past gains even greater significance. Vintage-inspired tailoring feels not only stylish but also ethical, connecting us to heritage while supporting a conscious future.

## Kattadikadavu: Where Earth Meets Sky

A Journey to Kerala's Hidden Hilltop Paradise

Karthika Saiphy



A breathtaking sunset view from Kattadikadavu

The morning mist hung over the Western Ghats like a silk scarf, as travelers set out towards a destination whose name sounds like poetry: Kattadikadavu. Tucked away in the peaceful Vannapuram panchayat of Idukki district, this secluded hillock has long whispered promises of untouched beauty and serene solitude.

The journey takes one through the heart of Kerala,

passing rubber plantations, spice gardens, and quiet villages where time seems to move alongside grazing cattle. As the roads wind upward past Thodupuzha, the air grows crisper, and the landscape shifts from gentle slopes to dramatic highlands.

Unlike Kerala's crowded hill stations, Kattadikadavu remains blissfully untouched. There are no luxury resorts or bustling markets—only nature at its most raw and welcoming state.

The ascent to the summit offers a soulful trek through forests where sunlight streams through leaves like golden lace. At the halfway mark, trekkers can pause to breathe in a panorama of emerald fields and mist-veiled hills.

At the summit, silence reigns more profound than words. The 360-degree view spans the Idukki highlands, distant mountain ranges, and visitors often linger during the golden hour, when the sun dips behind the Ghats and paints the sky in fiery hues. There are no crowds, no noise, only a sacred stillness broken by the whisper of grass.

The descent is a thoughtful one. Kattadikadavu offers more than just a view; it provides deep peace and reconnection. For those seeking nature's truth over tourist traps, this hidden gem serves as a spiritual retreat. Travelers leave not only with memories but with quieter, fuller hearts.

## Bengaluru Sees Ride-Hailing Fare Hike; Auto Unions Demand Action against Platforms

Riya Roy

Commuters in Bengaluru are beginning to feel the pinch as fares on online mobility platforms such as Uber, Rapido, and other community-based ride-hailing services have raised noticeably in recent weeks. The hike has sparked frustration among daily users who depend on these services for convenience and accessibility.

Auto and taxi drivers, meanwhile, have demanded immediate action against Rapido and Uber, calling for the fare hikes to be rolled back. The drivers' union has issued a seven-day deadline and warned that if no action is taken, they will remove the yellow number plates from their autos and replace them with white number plates, a

move that could take them outside the regulatory framework.

Drivers attribute the surge to changes in commission structures. Several auto rickshaw drivers said that companies have recently increased the commission percentage on each ride. While this has pushed up fares for passengers, drivers admit they are seeing only marginal benefits.

"Yes, the companies have increased the commission percentage. That has made the rides costlier for passengers," one auto driver said. "We are getting a little more than before, but not much." Another echoed the same



From budget rides to pricey drives

sentiment, noting that although their take-home earnings have risen slightly, the burden falls squarely on commuters.

Mobility experts point out that rising fuel prices and operational costs had already strained both drivers and customers, and the latest commission changes add another layer to the debate over fair pricing in the ride-hailing sector.

## Photo of the Month

Credits - Anchita Sarkar



Hands speak the language of the Market



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