



A dusty road near Tejaswi Nagar bridge in Dharwad | EXPRESS

Dusty roads pose threat to residents of twin cities

MALLIKARJUN HIREMATH @Dharwad

THERE seems to be no end to the civic woes of the people of Hubballi and Dharwad. The latest issue that is posing a threat and inconveniencing the residents and road users are the dust-emitting roads. Lack of interest in repairing such roads and filling of potholes in an unscientific way are being blamed for this.

namma Circle and surrounding roads in Hubballi and Kalghatagi Road and surrounding areas in Dharwad.

Many motorists who use these roads complain that they have started suffering from dust allergies. Wearing a face mask is also not helping as the dust enters the eyes.

"We have seen that the potholes are filled with soil which is dangerous until it gets covered with concrete or tar. It's a no-win situation. During dry seasons, the dust becomes a problem and during rains, vehicles skid due to the presence of mud on the roads. When we approach the authorities, they have a ready answer: They say that they have not got any funds and the work is delayed or is in the tender process", a resident alleged.

A vegetable vendor near Tejaswi Nagar bridge in the city said that from the last one month, she is incurring losses as customers refuse to buy the vegetables that are covered by dust. "These days, authorities are working less and talking more. As for the elected representatives, they are busy making political gains", she added.

Authorities are working less and talking more. As for the elected representatives, they are busy making political gains. Vegetable vendor

UNESCO TAG FURTHER ENLIVENS 91-YEAR-OLD YAKSHAGANA TROUPE

Despite technological advancement and social media revolution, the troupe has stood the test of time

SUBHASH CHANDRA N S @Idugunji (Uttara Kannada)

IDUGUNJI town in Honnavar taluk of Uttara Kannada district, which is known for its famous Ganapathi temple, is now on the world map as the Yakshagana troupe here — Sri Idagunji Mahaganapathi Yakshagana Mandali — has received a UNESCO accreditation.

Much before the mobile, internet and television revolution, a team of artistes from Idagunji carried their props and make-up to perform at places where they were invited and entertained their audience throughout the night. Their colourful attire, masks and headgear, and their prose and poetry, created a new style of art.

The mela or the troupe has a history of 91 years and is being carried forward by the fifth generation. It was founded by Rama Hegde, was then headed



Artistes of the Idagunji troupe perform Yakshagana | EXPRESS

by Mahabala Hegde. It was later transferred to Keremane Shivaram Hegde, grandfather of Bhagwath Keremane Shiv-ananda Hegde. It was given shape and directions and went through various experiments to retain its antiquity and also imbibe modernity into it.

The mela has produced new actors and artistes who are contributing to Yakshagana in

their own way. It has stood the test of time despite technological advancement and invasion of social media, for over nine decades. "Even if we consider 150 performances every year, our number of shows will be somewhere between 8,000 to 9,000. Hundreds of artistes have emerged from our organisation," Hegde told TNIE. This troupe has enacted

many themes which are from epics like Ramayana and Mahabharata, which include Krishna Sandhana, Gadayudha and Vali Moksha. The troupe has also performed on the theme of Independence.

Expressing his happiness, Hegde said that the UNESCO accreditation came in July 2024. In a letter dated July 20, Fumiko Ohinata, secretary, Con-

vention for Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, UNESCO, says, "I am writing to inform you that the General Assembly of the States Parties to the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage accredited 58 non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to provide advisory services to the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, during its tenth session at UNESCO Headquarters from 11 to 12 June 2024 (Resolution 10.GA.9). Your organisation is among those newly accredited NGOs, and I wish to extend my congratulations to you."

The town of Idagunji and the artistes of the mela are excited about the accreditation. The UNESCO selects organisations based on recommendations. Idagunji Mandali has thanked its well-wishers for this accreditation.

Gadag dist needs 40K toilets to reclaim ODF tag

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Gadag

AFTER being declared Open Defecation Free (ODF) on October 2, 2017, Gadag district seems to have lost the tag. A baseline survey conducted by the district administration last year has revealed that open defecation is back and the district needs at least 40,000 toilets to reclaim the ODF status.

Officials attribute the reason to the Covid pandemic when most of the district staff were assigned with the task of carrying out vaccinations, and in the process, it became difficult for them to monitor and prevent open defecation in the district. The other reasons being given are the division of families, leading to more number of houses which have not been registered, and also large-scale migration which has taken place in the district over the last few years. Officials stress on the need for awareness programmes among the people and also construction of more toilets in Gadag town as well as in rural areas. Open defecation is also increasing the risk of spread of diseases.

District administration and Zilla Panchayat officials say they have begun the process of collecting data about migrants and will soon start constructing toilets. The officials, however, said this will be possible only with cooperation from the public.

Another official from the district administration said they are aggressively implementing 'Our Toilet, Our Pride' campaign under which they will soon take up not only construction of new toilets but also repair work on the existing ones. Activists and local leaders have also pointed out that more awareness campaigns need to be undertaken among the people in both rural and urban areas of the Gadag.



A toilet renovated as part of an awareness programme in Gadag district | EXPRESS

Government of Karnataka MANDYA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES MANDYA - 571 401. (Autonomous Medical Institution, Government of Karnataka) Phone & Fax : 08232-231001, Director : 08232-222086. Application are invited from the interested eligible candidate for the following posts on contractual / Temporary basis for a period of 11(Eleven) months work in the Cancer Centre at Mandya Institute of Medical Science, Mandya.

Government of Karnataka Karnataka Public Works, Department. SIRASI Division (U. K), Karnataka Telephone: 08384- 223164 Fax: 08384- 224100 INVITATION FOR TENDERS (IFT) (SHORT TERM) KW-3 e-TENDER NOTIFICATION. No. PWD/SR./Dn/AE/IFT/3054 SH/2024-25/1922 Date: 20 Nov 2024. 1. The Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Sirasi invites tenders from eligible tenderers, for the construction of works detailed in the Table below.

NOTICE FOR DRAW/RE-DRAW OF LOTS FOR LPG DISTRIBUTORSHIPS. With reference to the advertisement-Notice for Appointment of LPG Distributors in the State of Karnataka. Indian Oil Corporation Ltd, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. proposes to hold online draw/retire of lots for the following locations for selection of LPG Distributors in the State of Karnataka Draw venue address is HPCL, Bangalore LPG RO, 3 & 4, White Field Road, Mahadevapura, Bangalore - 560048. will be held on 26-11-2024 as per the list given below:

JANA SMALL FINANCE BANK (A scheduled commercial bank) Registered Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 & 12/2/B, Off Domlur, Koramangala Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071. PUBLIC NOTICE FOR SALE THROUGH E-AUCTION UNDER THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT (SARFAESI ACT) 2002, READ WITH PROVISIO RULE 8(6) & 9 OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002.

All the news. In just a click. Log to www.newindianexpress.com. THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS. Download on the App Store.