

**NO ONE COVERS BANGALORE LIKE WE DO. ALL THE NEWS IN DETAIL AND DEPTH**

**CITYSTATS | TREE DENSITY:** After Gandhinagar in Gujarat, Bangalore has the second-highest tree density in India. The city has over 630 parks and gardens. Work on parks is being done under three schemes — Janodyanavana (neighbourhood parks), tourist value parks, special development parks.

**CITY DIGEST**



Actor Rahul Bose and director Vinita Nanda were in Bangalore on Tuesday for a movie promotion.

**Folk percussion:** Percussive Arts Centre will present a folk percussion ensemble on Wednesday as part of a project for the ministry of culture. The compositions have been orchestrated and choreographed by percussionist Anor Ananthakrishna Sharma. Kanjira, tabla, taala, dhholki, tamate are some of the percussive presentations. 9448403070.

**Eye camp:** Narayana Nethrayala along with Rotary Club Bangalore West and Temple Trust will hold a free eye camp. Screening will be done on Friday and surgery, if required, will be done on Sunday. Venue: Sri Prasanna Veeranjaneeya Swamy Temple, Mahalekshmi Layout, form 9 am to 12 noon. 23491727.

**Medical advice:** Hoemat Hospital will give free consultation on epilepsy, brain tumours, spinal problems and strokes on Thursday, from 2 pm to 5 pm, at Hoemat Institute of Neuro Science, 25593796.

**Help for elderly:** Elders helpline 1090 offers free legal advice for the elderly every Thursday between 2 pm and 5 pm at the police commissioner's office.

**Theatre workshop:** Bangalore School of Speech and Drama will conduct summer theatre workshop for children (8 years and above) from April 11 to 24, at its Koramangala premises. 25710752.

**Ayurveda camp:** Senthigiri Ayurveda and Siddha Vaidyeesala will hold a free pain-relief disease consultation camp from Wednesday to Sunday at its Koramangala branch. 57721877.

**Leadership award:** Yogendra Prasad, chairman and managing director of National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Ltd, has got the 'Amity global leadership award' by the Centre of International Business, Amity Business School. This, for his contribution towards development of hydro-power sector.

**Correction:** In the report headlined, 'What It Is: It was the real walk of life' in these columns on Tuesday, a sentence should have read 'At a ridiculously early 9.10 pm, he (Mark Knopfler) bid a mock goodbye and then came back to do more encore...' and not as published. The show went on for about an hour later.

**ALMANAC (9-3-2005)**

Kumbha Mela 25- Sri Tarana Samvatara - Uttarayana - Shishira Ritu - Magha Krishna, Chaturdasi Hr. 17-28, Dhanusha Hr. 07-00 then Satabisheja Nalshatra Hr. 28-49, Siddha Yoga Hr. 20-17, Muharam 27, Kali Day 1864973.

**RAHU KALAM: 12 to 1.30 pm.**

— Dalveja K.M. Somayaji

**OM NAMAH SHIVAYA!**

Thousands Of Devotees Throng Temples For Shivaratri

Times News Network

Bangalore: Time was when grandparents instilled in youngsters the fear that if one did not visit a Shiva temple on Mahashivaratri, she/he would be reborn as a donkey in their next life! That's what scriptural lore had taught them. While its veracity can't be verified, the faith still makes people throng Shiva temples every Shivaratri.

The Shiva temple on Airport Road, for instance, records thousands of devotees every year. The massive marble idol here, against the backdrop of snow-white Kailash mountain — the only place where Shiva is represented in his deity form — stands testimony to the teeming crowds who flock there for a glimpse.

On Tuesday, by 8 pm, the place was chock-a-block with *Bilvapatra*, (bet or wood apple), Nalagokantra's favourite flora, brought in keeping with the faith. Says Shankar T.S., "I stay close to Airport Road, and for the past three years, fast on this day. I come here to see the akhanda abhishek." Special passes to view the spectacle were distributed to early-bird devotees.

The Kaadu Malleshwara temple at Malleshwaram dates to a century and is held in reverence by devotees who flock to the temple from afar. The mysticism of Mount Kailash, as described in skanda Purana and Shivrangana, is manifest here. A decade ago, a tank was excavated where water gushes out without any known source. Intensive



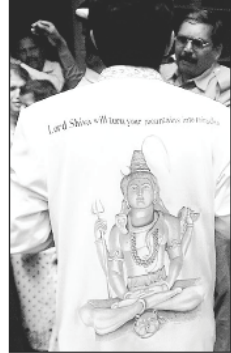
K. GovindPrasad

research on the subject has so far failed to find the source, a lake or even a river-bed. Night-long bhajans have been the attraction here for a long time.

The Kashi Vishwanatha temple near Sheshadripuram police station, also with an ancient heritage, has been a boon for people in nearby areas. At the Sree Garigangadhar Swamy temple in Garipuram, a special puja and pallaki usav was held from 6 pm. At the Sri Shivalayogeshwara Ashram campus, akanda rudrabhishekha, rudra homa, bilva archana and special flower decoration was done through the night. The Brahma Kumaris Prapajitha took out a peace procession in the morning to commemorate Shivaratri.

Like they say Shiva was in the details.

**BELIEVE IN MIRACLES?**



Devotees offer milk to the lingam.

**FESTIVE SPIRIT SHIVARATRI**

**ELSEWHERE IN STATE**



The golden mukhavada (mask) of Lord Shiva adorns the lingam at the Sri Trineshwara Temple in Mysore Palace, was arranged to Lord Shiva at Sri Trineshwara Temple. Palace Board authorities said the gold mask (mukhavada) weighing 9.30 kg, adorns Lord Shiva only on Mahashivaratri. The special ornament is in the safe locker and displayed only on this day.

Mangalore: The holy dip in the seven ponds in Kadri Manjunatha temple, spe-

cial poojas and Anna Santarpene (mass feeding), bhajans and cultural programmes marked the festivities.

Udupi: Mahashivaratri was celebrated with devotion and religious fervour. People thronged Sri Anantheshwara temple, the only Shavite centre in the Vaishnavite citadel of Udupi. Devotees poured in with flowers and oil cans to make their offerings to Lord Shiva.

The oil is used to light the lamps. People pour oil inside an old huge lamp installed on the left side of the sanctum sanctorum. It is the popular belief among devotees that their problems will be solved if they see their own face in the oil and offer it to the temple. Gulbarga: In Sedam taluk, Manik Giri of Yaregundi, about 110 km from Gulbarga city wore a festive look with nearly 1 lakh devotees queuing up chanting slogans and praising Mathe Manikeswari and waiting for her darshan. The Mathe came out of her cave, clad in white on Tuesday and gave darshan to the devotees for 45 minutes raising her hand in blessing. She did not speak to anybody.

The reclusive Mathe comes out of her cave once in 15 or 20 days, giving no prior indication when this would be. In fact, thousands return home without seeing her, and keep trying to keep up a date with her.

**Believe in taking risks on dreams**

By R. Edwin Sudhir/TNN

Bangalore: They're among the best and brightest that the institute has produced. And now, they're teaching and doing research abroad. Winners of the Distinguished Alumni Award, they share their thoughts on how the institute shaped their lives and their prescription for the road ahead.

● **Satyam N. Atturi, California:** The lectures by Roddam Narasimha, C.V. Jogarao, A.V. Krishnamurthy and R.K. Bhamagar were memorable, and were the cornerstones of my intellectual development. The day I enrolled at IISc, I was ushered into the office of the then director, Prof. Satish Dhawan. He asked me why I chose Aerospace Engineering and what my dreams were. I was overawed that a man of his stature would actually spend time with me. At the very first lecture, I saw how fortunate I was to be long to a diverse and gifted group of students.

I recall spending many an evening and weekends in the libraries, which were excellent by any standard. To be truly world-class, any institution needs among other things: Excellent academic and library infrastructure; an excellent student body; energetic and excellent and young faculty; more endowed professorships and visionary leadership.

● **S.S. Iyengar, Louisiana:** I was introduced to think analytically and solve research problems. This helped me discover many solutions to computer science problems. In the late '60s, I was working on a Masters programme at IISc and after extreme difficulty, managed to make notes from the only book on a certain subject. I understood it a lot better with an inquisitive mind and developed the motivation to be the best.

IISc is perhaps the best research institution in the world because of all the distinguished faculty and students. The problem, however, is the lack of motivation to be the world's best. Faculty members sometimes think small although their abilities are big. A strong student mentoring programme is also needed. Infrastructure facilities can be improved considerably across the campus. Reduce the bureaucratic process and ensure that the junior and senior faculty members work together.

● **K.R. Sreenivasan, Italy:** I got my Ph.D. at IISc and learnt what it means to do serious research there. That has stayed with me even though I have done very different things. The most memorable lecture I attended was by George Sudarshan. It showed such a remarkable depth and freedom from the shackles of

previous great men in Physics. He could say something like, "Well, someone like Heisenberg said it could not be done, but here it is. It can be done". When the institute needs now is more people who are a little more open to taking risks on big dreams.

● **Jamshed Tata, London:** At IISc, it was for the first time that I realised the value of a mentor-student relationship in understanding the true meaning of scientific inquiry. The most memorable incident happened on the day I arrived at the institute when I was told that the professor who was to be my research supervisor had left on sabbatical for one year! My disappointment did not last too long as I was welcomed with open arms, and without any bureaucratic problems. In the Department of Pharmacology and Microbiology where I spent two very happy and

productive two years. The institute should carry on doing what it is best at doing: pick the brightest students and young staff.

● **Tummala Rao, Georgia:** IISc gave me the best

and most rigorous undergraduate education. I can ever get at any place. It was the foundation on which rest of my career developed. The professors gave detailed lectures at phenomenal speeds and they expected every student to take notes completely. To make sure the students understood, they gave quizzes often. Hardly was a textbook used and yet we learned in depth and in breadth. IISc is not attracting top graduates from IITs or anywhere else, since they go to the US. Its research focus is good but consumption of this research is not there for most part in India. IISc needs to have a first-class undergraduate programme in its campus, both to feed into and enhance the number or quantity of students that Indian or transnational companies need.

**ALUMNI GIVE BACK**

Narain Malhotra, non-general secretary, IISc Alumni Association: Of the 25,000-plus students who have passed through our portals, about 7,000 are members of the Alumni Association. We keep them posted about institute activities and have been giving the DAA since 1977. Apart from regular donations, some get together to contribute for a special cause. Many living in California sent in Rs. 2 lakhs for the ISAA library and hence it's called the California Alumni Library. R. Krishnan, president, ISAA: It provides a forum for alumni to exchange views on the institute's growth and how science can be socially relevant.

Tomorrow: Women in science