

The New Indian Express 01/09/15

# Outages Force BU Staffers to Work More

by Rashmi Belur

**Bengaluru:** The power cuts announced by the state government is delaying work at Bangalore University's examination department.

Power outage at Jnana Bharati campus lasted for many hours longer than the scheduled load-shedding of three hours a day. The university had shifted the Examination Department to the Jnana Bharati campus and their power back-up is insufficient. This has forced the department staff to work up to 9 pm.

K N Ninge Gowda, Registrar (Evaluation), told *Express*, "We have no other option than to ask our staff to work overtime. The power back-up we have is for three hours and as we are facing more than three hours of power cuts, it has become a problem. We are planning to purchase a generator."

The announcement of results, printing/generating of marks cards, corrections in marks cards and verification of documents is being delayed.

"Every day we need to generate marks cards and declare results. If that is delayed, it affects lakhs of students. On Friday, we had to

declare BCA results, but due to the power cut we were unable to declare it till 5 pm. Unfortunately, students were supposed to attend document verification at Karnataka Examinations Authority for admission to MCA/MBA courses," he said.

According to officials, they are facing outages of up to five hours and Friday was the worst. Though the staff have been asked to work extra, authorities say they will not be paid extra.

"When there is no power that means the staff is sitting without work. We are compensating for that when there is power," an official said.

Students who have got seats for MBA/MCA courses through PGET and had to get their document verified at KEA told *Express*, "We have met the registrar-evaluation and requested for an acknowledgement saying the marks cards are delayed. We have got them now."

Even the science laboratories at the Science Departments are facing problems. PhD students are staying back extra hours to continue research work. The department is considering alternatives to run classes without interruptions.

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Chronicle 01/09/15

# Rain or not, power cuts haunt B'luru



AMIT S. UPADHYE | DC  
BENGALURU, SEPT. 4

Energy experts in the state are pushing the government to invoke Section 11 of the Electricity Act, which makes it mandatory for power generators to compulsorily supply power to the state grid.

Pointing to low rainfall in catchment areas of hydel power projects in the state, experts warned that the power situation could get worse. Contesting Bescom's claim that the city faced a deficit of 900 mw of power, they said that the state faced a deficit of around 3,000 mw, while the city around 1,500 mw.

"Soon, the demand for power will go up, especially in the farm sector because of the failed monsoon. Farmers will run their pumps and it will have a direct bearing on the power situation in urban areas like Bengaluru, which consumes 55% of all the power generated and purchased in the state. The government should invoke Section 11 of the Electricity Act to tide over the crisis," said an energy expert from city.

The state requires around

15,052 mw of power, of which 6,498 mw is produced in the state through hydel, coal and nuclear power generators, 2,169 mw is received from the central grid, 5,082 mw from non-conventional means and 1,200 mw from independent power manufacturers. The state is now getting only around 12,000 mw, which has hit Bengaluru badly.

"The state should have a road map for energy generation. Power cuts hit tech services and manufacturing sector badly. We are talking about the Global Investor's Meet and conducting Roadshows all over world, when the energy situation is pathetic. Most of the energy sufficient states have gas-based power production units which are missing in the state. The Bidadi power plant is yet to be made operational and the state has no choice but to manage the power situation with the available resources," another expert said.

Bescom officials hope that the situation will improve over the next week. They said that consumers can visit [www.bescom.org](http://www.bescom.org) to know about load shedding timings.

Times of India page 6

# 3-hr cuts? B'luru in dark for over 6 hrs

Times News Network

**Bengaluru:** The three-hour load-shedding schedule announced by Bescom could mean many more hours of darkness in reality. On Friday, load-shedding in at least two localities of the city went beyond the announced hours.

FULL COVERAGE: P 6

The power utility on Thursday announced three hours of daily load-shedding in three installments between 6am and 9pm, a schedule far removed from reality.

Vijay Kumar, a Malleswaram resident, told TOI on Fri-

## ON A SHORT FUSE

► Staring at acute energy crisis, Bescom announces 3-hour daily power cuts

► On Day 1, many Bengaluru areas experience cuts longer than announced hours

► Furious RWAs, citizen groups want Bescom to honour its schedule

day: "Today's newspapers spoke of a three-hour power cut in the city. Since morning, we're seeing outages every second hour. By 5pm, we've had six hours of outage."

► Bescom should act, P 6

## Evening showers hit weekend plans

Traffic was affected in most parts and several areas reported long hours of power cuts on Friday evening after heavy rains lashed the city. South Bengaluru was the worst affected as Bannerghatta Road, Silk Board Junction and Hosur Road were flooded affecting the movement of traffic during the evening peak hours. Residents of Nagarbhavi, Ullal Main Road, Sunkandkatte, Anubhav Nagar, Canara Bank Colony and Saraswati Nagar complained of power cuts of more than eight hours. Met department officials said that Friday showers were due to a trough of low pressure ranging from Karnataka to Gulf of Mannar across Tamil Nadu. The rains are expected to continue for the next two days, they said.

5/9/15 DECCAN HERALD

# Showers bring relief to Bengalureans

**BENGALURU:** Much to the relief of Bengalureans, who were wilting in the heat for the past few day days, most parts of the City received good rainfall on Friday evening. The City recorded a rainfall of 22.4 mm till 11.30 pm.

However, the heavy down-pour, accompanied by thunder and lightning, threw life out of gear in many areas. Trees were uprooted in some areas, leading to disruption in power supply, traffic jams and chaos on roads.

According to the BBMP officials, trees came crashing down at Rajajarajeshwarinagar 2nd Stage, Mahalakeshmi Layout and Jayanagar 2nd Block among other places.

The BBMP Control Room



**A motorcyclist navigates through a waterlogged road in the City on Friday. DH PHOTO**

received complaints of water gushing into houses at Vasanthapura, Uttarahalli Main Road and Konanakunte in Bengaluru South.

Due to waterlogging, vehicular movement was affected in

many areas, particularly, Madivala, Mico Layout and Hulimavu areas. There was heavy congestion on Hosur Road as well. Additional traffic police personnel were deployed to regulate traffic and ensure free

movement of vehicles on the weekend.

Vehicular movement came to a halt for sometime in JP Nagar 5th Phase as a drain was overflowing due to the down-pour. Slow movement of vehicles was reported from Jayanagar, Banashankari, Yeshwantpur, Peenya, Mysuru Road, off Kengeri, the traffic police said.

According to Indian Meteorological Department (IMD)-Bengaluru, the City is likely to witness thundershowers on Saturday and Sunday as well. The maximum and minimum temperatures would hover around 30 and 21 degree Celsius respectively on both the days.

**DH News Service**

T.O. Page 6

## 4-yr-old, mom stuck in lift for 1 hour due to power cut

**TIMES NEWS NETWORK**

**Bengaluru:** A four-year-old boy and his mother were rescued from a lift in which they were stuck for over an hour in an apartment complex in southeast Bengaluru on Friday night.

The incident happened when Shylaja Mallikarjun, a homemaker, and her son took the lift from the second floor to the ground floor of Devagiri Green Apartment in Akshay Nagar on Hosur Road. As there was a power cut, the lift got stuck.

The building was recently built and the lift doesn't have connection with the standby diesel generator. The boy's father, Mallikarjun, is a businessman, and the family stays on the second floor of the building.

### Harrowing experience

The fire and emergency services received a call at 7.59 pm about the mother and child being stuck in the lift.

"The child panicked after sometime as it was dark inside the lift. He started feeling breathless. We worked quick-ly to open the lift which was stuck on the first floor of the four-storey building," said an officer in the rescue unit.

05-09-2015 THE HINDU

## Cause for concern: first power, now get ready for rationing of water

Afshan Yasmeen

**BENGALURU:** After power, Bengalureans have to brace for water rationing.

The Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB), which is expecting the coming days to be the worst ever in the last 30 years, is all set to start water rationing in one month.

With the water-level in Krishnaraja Sagar (KRS) plummeting to around 50 per cent of its total capacity of 49.45 tmcft, the board on Thursday wrote to the Cauvery Neeravari Nigam Ltd. to reserve 15 tmcft of water exclusively to meet

### WATCH OUT

KRS capacity	Present stock
49.45 tmcft	25 tmcft

**Bengaluru's need till next June amounts to 15 tmcft**

**If water level in KRS goes down further, Bengaluru will face a crisis.**

**Water rationing may be inevitable, say officials**

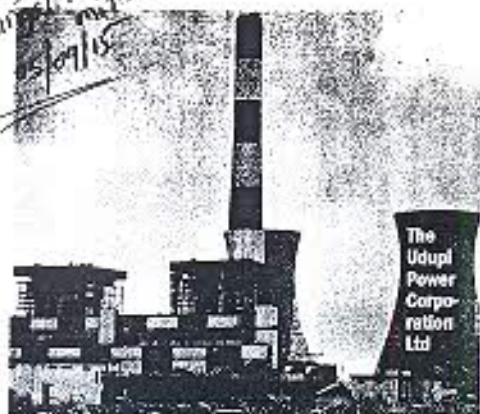
the drinking water needs of Bengaluru.

"Of the existing live storage level at the KRS — which is around 29 tmcft as on September 4 — we need

at least 15 tmcft for adequate water supply to the city up to June. We are expecting a worst-ever crisis if the level further plummets and we have already started working out modalities to deal with it," S. Krishnappa, BWSSB Engineer-in-Chief, told *The Hindu* on Friday.

The board is also chalking out other conservation measures. "We are planning to take up a massive consumer awareness drive to educate consumers on judicious use of water," the official said.

**■ STOCK MAY NOT LAST TILL NEXT MONSOON | PAGE 3**



## It could be less than 3 hours of outage in a week's time

Deepthi Sanjiv  
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**B**engaluru can probably afford to breathe easy on the scheduled power outage (for load-shedding) front.

The area-wise timetable for the three-hour power cut daily drawn up by Bescom, the utility provider, on Thursday could see a positive revision within a few days. The load-shedding could be brought down to two hours or even one hour a day.

Good tidings have come from the Udupi Power Corporation Ltd (UPCL), where both the units of 600 MW each could be functional within a week or so. UPCL supplies lion's share of Bengaluru's power needs. While 50 per cent of the power generated in

### Get ready for 2-hr 'meltdown' in city

**T**he city is expected to face a 2-hour power outage on Friday. The outage is scheduled for 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. The outage is due to the scheduled maintenance of the power lines. The outage is expected to be a 2-hour 'meltdown' in the city.

**On August 14, we broke the bad news that load-shedding will come into force. Now we give you the good news that the 3-hour scheduled power outage that came into effect on Friday could be curtailed.**

UPCL goes to Bengaluru, the rest of it is shared by Mangaluru, Gulbarga and Hubballi.

Sources in Bescom told

TURN TO PAGE 29

## Outage could be less than 3 hrs

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

This paper that apart from the two units of UPCL, the likelihood of Bellary Thermal Power Ltd and Raichur Thermal Power Ltd being restored is also high. We are hopeful that units at Bellary and at Raichur too will resume power in another week. Similarly, if UPCL too comes back to generation mode, a call will be taken whether to reduce the duration of power cuts in Bengaluru. Till then there is no other way to meet the growing demand than to shed load at regular intervals, an engineer said.

A Kishore Aiyar, executive director, Project Development and Corporate Affairs, UPCL, told Bangalore Mirror: "Due to a turbulent sea 24 days ago, sand had entered the pipeline of Unit 1 and if since there was a lot of pressure from the energy ministry to restore lines as quickly as possible due to the power shortage in the state, temporary lines have been laid with pipes that were brought in from Orissa. One unit has resumed generation. The second one is also getting certified, and by Sept

7 of Unit 2 too should be functional. UPCL, an imported-coal-based power project, was recently taken over from Larsen & Toubro Group and is located in Udupi, about 35 km from Mangaluru. It is after a hiatus of more than 15 years that Bengaluru is forced to witness scheduled power cuts during monsoon.

Senior officials from the energy department said that UPCL's each unit has one sub-critical coal-fired steam generator. The generators linked to a reheat-type condensing steam turbine and a sea water cooled condenser along with all other required auxiliaries. Each steam turbine is of 300 MW, tandem compound, single reheat, condensing type machine.

Sea water is used to cool the condenser and other requirements. Re-circulating type of circulating water (CW) system with natural draft cooling tower, has been installed. Desalination of seawater is carried out to meet the freshwater requirement for the plant. Due to contamination of water with particles like sand and other impurities, it was difficult to carry out the operations.

## Inflow to Almatti dam stops completely

**ALMATTI (BAGALKOT DISTRICT):** The inflow into the Almatti reservoir stopped completely on Friday. Sources, quoting official statistics said that it is for the first time in 14 years that the inflow has stopped before the first week of September.

There has been no rains in Krishna basin including the Western Ghats of Maharashtra. The reservoirs in Maharashtra too have not filled up and hence water has not been released from them. This has led to complete stoppage of inflow into Almatti.

According to the information available on Friday, the 519.6-metre height Almatti reservoir has water up to 514.90 metre. In other words, the dam with a maximum

storage capacity of 123 tmc ft has only 63 tmc ft of water. Excluding the dead storage, only 45.28 tmc ft of water is available for use.

The power generation too has come down to 150 million units (mu) per day. According to Karnataka Power Corporation Limited Executive Engineer S B Basilapur, only 80 mu of power has been generated during the period between April 1 and August 31 this year. He said that normally these months are referred to as peak period during which time as much as 300 mu of power is generated, he added.

The installed capacity of power generation at Almatti reservoir is 290 MW.

DH News Service

# 'Until ministers experience our plight, they will not act'

► Continued from page 1

The senior citizen said the government shouldn't play with citizens' lives. "Our life has been thrown into disarray," he said.

Retired zoology professor DS Srikantha, from Banashankari III Stage in south Bengaluru, said: "Thursday was the worst. We had intermittent supply from 10.30am to 7.30pm, totalling six hours of outage. On Friday, outages were frequent and accounted for three hours by evening."

Srikantha said: "In and around Banashankari, power cuts are carried out on the local Bescom unit's whim, and children are the worst hit. My little granddaughter cries (every time power goes off) as the house becomes stuffy." Syed Imran, a software analyst from Sahakarnagar, said he would call the Bescom helpline in case of outage, only to be promised early restoration of power. "They never keep their word and offer no explanation for the erratic pattern," he said. Bengalureans are increasingly growing skeptical of Bescom's promise. "Many areas in the city are experiencing power cuts for up to six hours, and the schedule is just an eyewash," pointed out Radha M, from Malleswaram.

Rajiv K from Koramangala has decided to live down unscheduled power cuts in Bengaluru. "Until ministers experience our plight, they won't act. Our area had three cuts by 4pm Friday," he added.

Resident welfare organizations and citizen groups want Bescom to stick to the schedule it has announced and not shock citizens with extended power cuts for one reason or the other.

## It's a double whammy: Citizens

First of all, the September sun is blazing and, to top it, there's no power. Bengalureans are certainly feeling the heat in what was ideally supposed to be a rainy season.

"This morning, I noticed a blaring generator spewing smoke outside a restaurant, causing high pollution in the heart of the city. Thousands of such diesel generators come alive at such times," said Pravir B, a media professional and member of Whitefield Rising.

Juice centres, photocopying and printing shops and small enterprises are running into loss, not to mention the inconvenience being caused to customers. "A colleague couldn't complete work on time as the inverter drained out. Laptops and mobiles run out of charge in no time. People have to make do with half-toasted bread and half-baked pizzas. Neither can they use washing machines nor heat water, such is the plight," said Pravir.

Added Ganeshan K, a resident of Dasarahalli, "Bescom should run a 'Save Power' campaign. Many of us have cut down on power consumption by using LEDs, switching off appliances and fans, etc. The government should make LEDs tax-free and impose deterrent tax on incandescent lamps. It can incentivize lower slabs and increase rates for higher slabs (consumption above 100 units per month)." TNN

### YES, IT'S ERRATIC, SAYS BESCOM

Admitting to the fact that the city has been witnessing prolonged hours of power cuts in the past few weeks, a senior official from the customer relations wing of Bescom said: "We did receive complaints of erratic power supply from a few areas. This could be due to maintenance issues coupled with power outage."

### TO KNOW DARK HOURS

- Visit [www.bescom.org](http://www.bescom.org) or the power utility's Facebook page
- In case of discrepancy, call 1912

### TIMES VIEW

It's one thing for Bescom to announce a load shedding schedule and another to adhere to it. The three-hour outages are causing consumers enough inconvenience without the power utility turning off the electricity at unscheduled hours too. People are at their wit's end trying to get their household chores done, lest the power be switched off without warning. Bescom, which for a long time had been insisting that the power situation was all right, has suddenly unleashed this dark phase on our lives. The least it can do to mitigate our woes is to follow the power cut schedule strictly.

# One-on-one Teaching Need of Hour: PM

Express News Service (A)

**Bengaluru:** Six students from two city schools participated in an interaction with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday at Manekshaw Auditorium in New Delhi. Students from all over the country got a chance to ask the PM questions at this interaction.

Out of six from the city, one boy from Little Flower Public School, Hosakerehalli, was the only to be selected for the interactions, while the five girl students from New Horizon Public School, Indiranagar, were allowed to participate in the programme as audience as they had met the PM during the Parliament session to explain about a mobile application they had developed on waste management.

When he got his turn to ask question, Atmik Ajoy, a Class 10 student, asked, "Nowadays, a majority of the youths are not showing interest in taking up teaching



Students listening to PM Narendra Modi's speech on the eve of Teachers' Day at Malleswaram Govt Girl School in Bengaluru on Friday

as a profession. When this is the situation, how will you give us teachers like Dr Sarvapalli Radakrishna that we expect?"

Narendra Modi told him, "There are teachers in all professions. Those who have expertise in their profession are teachers. The need of the day is one-on-one teaching."

After the programme, the PM spoke to Atmik and asked about his health condition as Atmik suffers from

kidney-related problems.

Speaking to *Express*, Dr Gayatri Devi, principal of the school, said, "Following the instructions from the state Department of Public Instructions (DPI) we had sent Atmik's name from our school. The DPI sent it to MHRD and he was selected."

"There were some guidelines for us to follow while sending student names. For example, the student should be active in inter-school competitions at district and

state levels. He/she should also be excellent in academics," said Padnavati, Deputy Director Public Instructions (DDPI) Bengaluru South.

Even the question asked by students was finalised by officials at Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD).

## Power Trouble

A majority of the city schools arranged for the live telecast of the PM's interaction with students at their schools, but the powercut came as a nuisance.

Some of the schools were able to watch 30 minutes of the programme, out of the 90 minutes, while the rest just watched the first 15 minutes.

"Though we had back-up, it was not sufficient as we had arranged the telecast on LCD monitors which need more power supply. So, we were able to show just the first 15 minutes," said the principal of one of the city-based schools.

# Powerless City Grapples With Frequent Outages

Express News Service

**Bengaluru:** Bengalureans are at the receiving end of frequent and long hours of power cut. Though the government announced three hour of load-shedding, many areas have been going without power for many hours.

Aruna, who works with a private firm, said there was a power cut just when she was about to get money from an ATM. Even the UPS was not working. "I did not get the money, but the amount was deducted from my account. Fortunately, the money was credited back by evening."

Radha, who works in the HR department in a private

firm on Cunningham Road, said there were frequent power cuts in her office. Though there is UPS, the office uses it only for the computers. "Our office is on the fifth floor. Thanks to the power cuts, we are unable to use the lift. We are forced to take the stairs," she said.

However, BBMP head office does not seem to be having much trouble.

Sheshadri, IT Adviser at Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, said, "We have UPS which has three hours of back-up. If this goes off, we have a diesel generator. We tell our staff to switch off unnecessary lights and fans that consume more electricity."

However, problems are

different at the ward offices. One of the staff members from a ward office said at some places, they either have no UPS or the UPS do not last long enough. "At our ward office, the UPS is not functional. We are directing the public to pay their tax at BengaluruOne centres as we do not have power," he said.

Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (BESCOM) helpline 1912 was busy since Friday morning and many people were unable to reach the number. BBMP control rooms were flooded with calls from the public too.

"People are calling us even

though we are not directly concerned. We are directing them to contact BESCOM," a staffer said.

The power cuts are even affecting people going to the police station to lodge complaints. A senior police official at High Grounds said there was no power for more than two hours in the morning. This was a hurdle for people who wanted to file complaints online, he said.

SJ Park police station suffered even more. "We need lights during the day as the place does not have sufficient light. We have no other option but to use candle lights to carry on with work," a po-



## NETIZENS SPEAK UP

@RoshniKumar: PM for 24-Hour Power Supply in Every Village By 2022 - bengaluru 3 hour/day power cut has begun

@LAKSHMISHARATH: THINK THE ELECTRICITY BOARD IN BANGALORE IS CONFUSED WHETHER IT'S 3 HOURS OF LOAD SHEDDING OR 3 HOURS OF ELECTRICITY A DAY. POWERLESS

@vrasait: #Bengaluru - we already have no power since 5 hours today. High time govt announces when power will be supplied rather than power cut.

@vinod\_gowda: Agreed, there's shortage of rain, but that doesn't mean you impose load shedding at peak hours when Bengaluru contributes most to revenues.

lice personnel said.

Banaswadi police station staffers are also facing a similar situation. "Ours is one of the busiest police stations. More people visit here and without power and fan it is suffocating to sit and work inside," a staff member said.

Parvathi Menon, a techie,

blamed the government for the power cuts. She said that there was no such problem till the BBMP elections, and now that the poll results are declared, power cuts have become regular.

CREDAI Secretary Suresh Hari also blamed the government for poor planning. He,

however, said their business was not affected much as they use a power grid. He pointed out that using more generators will ultimately affect the environment with carbon emission. Also, cost of using generators will be put on the customers in any business.

The New Indian Express

# Energy-rich Iceland woos power-hungry data centres

**Copenhagen, Sept. 4:** As it emerges from financial isolation, Iceland is trying to make a name for itself again, this time in the business of data centres — warehouses that consume enormous amounts of energy to store the information of 3.2 billion internet users.

The island has long been associated with hi-tech trends such as the 'Eve' video game, the genome deCode project or singer Bjork's use of soft-

ware as well as its links to filesharing site Pirate Bay, the Silk Road online black market and Wikileaks.

Now it wants to capitalize on the rapidly growing data storage business: data creation has accelerated with 90 percent of stored data created in the two previous years according to Scandinavian research group Sintef, and data centres consume 2 percent of global electricity

The island has long been associated with hi-tech trends such as the 'Eve' video game, the genome deCode project or singer Bjork's use of software as well as its links to filesharing site Pirate Bay, the Silk Road online black market and Wikileaks.

to keep humming servers cool.

Iceland's authorities are in the process of lifting capital controls imposed

in 2008 after a spectacular financial meltdown when its three main banks, with assets worth ten times its gross domestic

product, went bankrupt. Its massive energy generating capacity thanks to hydro and geothermal power cannot be exported due to the island's remoteness so it produces five times more electricity than its 320,000-strong population needs and all of it is renewable.

It is hoping its cool climate and cheap reliable power can entice data center operators, offering them dramatically lower costs and a recently

passed tax incentive. Although the country has not yet attracted big Silicon Valley names, smaller data operations have already arrived.

It has five data centres including one at a dismantled NATO base operated by Verne Global, whose top publicly named client is carmaker BMW, and the government is campaigning to attract more.

"When BMW said they paid 83 percent less for

operating their data center on Iceland than in Germany, it (interest) really picked up," said Einar Hansen Tomasson, who works to woo data clients through a government-backed program, Invest in Iceland.

A study by consulting firm BroadGroup in 2013 showed the island is cheaper than Germany, Britain and the United States when looking at costs over a 10-year span.

— Reuters

# Clean Green Bengaluru



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**DAY TWO**  
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