

Wires of apathy take toll: Boy loses battle

■ Had sustained 50 per cent burns ■ Stopped responding to treatment

BELLIE THOMAS | DC
BENGALURU, FEB. 24

The 13-year-old boy, Abdul Razak, who came in contact with an 11-KV electrical line hanging dangerously low at a residential locality while playing cricket on Sunday, died early Wednesday morning.

Razak, who had sustained 50 per cent burns, stopped responding to treatment around 2.30 am. He had been admitted to the intensive care unit at the Burns Ward in Victoria Hospital since Sunday night. Razaq had climbed the railings of a first floor building to pick up the cricket ball that had gone on to a sunshade when his head came in contact with the high-tension wire.

"Razak's burnt hair is still seen stuck to the wire. There were blood stains on the ground. The cricket ball is still lying there on the sunshade, and so was a stick that he used to pull it down," a resident of the building, Nagaraj V.A., said pointing to the spot.

The postmortem was conducted at Victoria Hospital and later the body was taken to his house on 3rd Cross, L.B. Shastri Nagar. The body was buried at the Marthahalli Eidgah Grounds on Wednesday evening.

Electrical lines hanging dangerously low is a common sight over a stretch of 2 to 3 kilometres across L.B. Shastri Nagar, Ramesh Nagar, Annasandraplaya and Islampura. "I came to this area 17 years ago, and since then, these 11-KV line has been hanging low. I saw buildings coming up from down, left and right, some of them as close as one feet from the wire," said Nagaraj V.A., a real estate agent.

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**- Nagaraj V.A.
REAL ESTATE AGENT**

The Bescom authorities termed the area slum. "There was a proposal to take the overhead electrical line, underground. A joint inspection was carried out by the BBMP and Bescom two years ago, and it was decided that the two authorities would split the cost of the project. But the project was given up as the BBMP did not pay its share of the cost," said Ms Sheila Gurumurthy, General Manager for Quality, Safety & Standards, Bescom.

"This incident should be a lesson for others who build buildings close to power lines. At least they could have consulted us before going ahead with the construction," said Mr Vishwanath Naik, South East Division Superintendent Engineer.



Children seen in close proximity to electric wires in Islampura near HAL in Bengaluru on Wednesday
-R. SAMUEL
(Left) Abdul Razak receiving a trophy during his school annual day held on February 15

RAZAK WAS BRILLIANT IN STUDIES, SPORTS

Bengaluru: Abdul Razak's class teacher Bindu Raj of the New Oxford English School in L.B. Shastri Nagar broke down before hundreds of students when she called out the first roll number of class VII-A, Abdul Razak, while she was taking the attendance at the assembly in the morning on Wednesday.

Razak's parents had informed the school about the boy's death earlier in the morning. "His is the first name in the register. When his class teacher Bindu opened it to call out the names, she burst into tears and couldn't continue. She left without taking the attendance for the day," said Neelufar, Secretary, New Oxford English School.

The school remembers him as a rank stu-

No holiday for school

The school did not declare a holiday to mark Abdul Razak's death. "Earlier, when a student died in an accident, the school had declared a holiday. But the local residents spread the rumour that it was because of school's negligence. We wanted to avoid similar accusations this time," school chairman Aslam Khan said.

and sport competitions which were awarded to him on the school's annual celebration on February 15," said Neelufar.

"Razak usually secured first or second rank in all exams. He had collected his prize for elocution earlier and was yet to collect his prizes for essay and drawing competitions and Hindi elocution," his principal said. "We had a prayer for the boy in the morning. We also advised students on how to stay away from dangerously hanging electrical live wires, which is a common sight in L.B. Shastri Nagar, Aliasandra Main Road, Ramesh Nagar, Islampura and the neighbouring areas," said Aslam Khan, chairman of the school.

dent, who was bright in extracurricular and sports activities too. "Abdul Razak was bright and was known as one of the best students by all the teachers who took classes for him. He was recently appreciated for a science project. He had also bagged many prizes in the cultural

Buildings with more than 20 housing units have to mandatorily build an STP

It's sewage treatment at source now

Mohi M. Rao
BENGALURU

After segregation of garbage at source, the State government takes a jab at treating sewage at homes to tackle the dual issues of increasing sewage inflow into lakes as well as water shortfall.

A gazette notification of the Forest, Ecology and Environment Department - a copy of which is with The Hindu - which has been sent to various town planning and utilities departments now makes it mandatory for all residential buildings with more than 20 housing units to build an sewage treatment plant (STP) as well as "re-use" the water.

WASTE WOES

Similarly ambitious is the regulation of commercial complexes with more than 2,000 square metres built-up area or educational institutes with more than 5,000 square metres to treat all their sewage.

The gazette notification - which is to be implemented in upcoming projects - replaces previous regulations that had mandated all apartments with more than 100 dwelling units.

On the reasons for the drastic steps, the department notes that urban tanks are now severely



polluted and in particular believes treating sewage at source would aid in the rejuvenation of Bellandur and Varthur lakes.

"The foams and ignition phenomena observed in the Bellandur Amari Lake and Varthur Lake in Bengaluru in the recent past are the manifestations of the severity of the problem... (inspection has revealed that) increasing discharge of untreated wastewater containing abnormal quantity of organic matter, phosphorus, oil and grease, chemicals from detergents and cleaners etc. over a long period (has caused it to settle as sediment)," says the notification. It goes on to state that the reuse of water will aid in lowering the shortage of fresh water in the city.

With the notification being sent to the department of municipal administration as well as the Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board, the regulations will come into effect in smaller corporations such as Mysuru, Mangaluru, Belagavi among others as well as the industrial areas in the State. Ramachandra, Secretary, Forest, Environment and Ecology Department, said implementation was expected to be thorough as officers will be booked for violations. "If any civic authority gives permission for construction without an STP plan, the officer and even the organization can be held culpable," he said.

WHO HAS TO COMPULSORILY BUILD A STP NOW

- Residential projects with more than **20 housing units**
- Commercial projects with more than **2,000 sq.m. built-up area**
- Educational institutions with more than **5,000 sq.m. built-up area**
- Townships, area development projects spanning **10 acres** or above

STPS IN BENGALURU

592 STPs taken consent from KSPCB

➤ Total treatment capacity: **1.42 lakh** kilolitres - equivalent to more than **14,200** water tankers

➤ Little more than one-third of the water estimated to be reused, rest down the drain

➤ KSPCB sample inspections find more than half of STPs are non-complaint

COST OF STP

- Installation estimated between **Rs. 10 lakh** and **Rs. 15 lakh**
- Cost of treated water: **Rs. 40 to 60 per kilolitre**
- Cost of BWSSB water: **Rs. 22 per kl**
- Cost of tanker water: **Rs. 80 per kl**
- It is beneficial only if number of apartments is at least 80; and if source of water is only through tankers
- STP is cost effective only if number of apartments size is above 150
- Here, cost of operating STP is between **Rs. 350 to Rs. 1,000**

(Source: KSPCB; research by ATREE, Department of Forest, Ecology and Environment)



POST YOUR VIEWS AT
<http://bit.ly/1lq0s96>

WHO HAS TO DO WHAT

KSPCB: Technical assistance and consent for STPs based on potential sewage outflow

BBMP, BRBDA, BDA, urban local bodies, industrial areas: Approve plan for construction only with KSPCB consent

BWSSB: Provide water connection only after KSPCB consent

Electricity supply companies: Provide permanent power connections only after KSPCB consent

ATTEMPTS AT TREATING SEWAGE AT SOURCE

➤ **2010:** only residential, commercial projects above 20,000 sq.m. to build STPs

➤ **2015:** Central Pollution Control Board dictates that all apartments with more than 50 units should treat sewage and reuse water

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CITY'S HOT UNDER THE COLLAR

With February already getting this hot, brace for worse days and long hours of power cuts; while Bengaluru and other parts of south Karnataka have not yet been hit by serious water shortage, 600 villages in the north are not so lucky

Express News Service

Bengaluru: Though the onset of an early summer or summer-like conditions in February has baffled many, experts say it is a result of a global climatic phenomenon.

The conditions have worsened for a city like Bengaluru, where rapid urbanisation has already increased average temperatures by 1.4 degrees Celsius in the last decade, according to a study.

Residents of the city have complained of February being unusually hot this year than in the past. Vinod Kumar, a resident of Vasanthnagar, said that winter would usually subside only in early March. "Till then, sweaters were a part of our daily wardrobe. I don't think anyone wearing a sweater in this weather," he said.

Roshni S, a teacher, observed that conditions have been hot since last Friday. "Apart from the heat, humidity is making the situation a lot worse," she added.

Above-normal Temperature

Indian Meteorological Department's weekly temperature variation chart for Bengaluru shows that in current temperature recorded in Bengaluru (35 to 22), was 1 to 3 degrees above the normal maximum for the month.

Dr TV Kamahandra, Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science, alleged that the maximum temperature could be above normal, considering the above conditions. According to a research paper published on Jan. Land Surface temperature is 2 to 4 K more in places that have undergone rapid urbanisation.

SSM (Senior Scientist at KSSNDMC, said that apart from the present weather conditions, the present weather might be a bit milder. Noting that 2015 was the hottest year in recorded history, he said that 2016 is expected to be hotter.

Though a couple of showers could bring temporary respite, it is unlikely in the next few days in Bengaluru, he added.

RAIN BRINGS RELIEF

Even as temperatures sizzled across the state, parts of the state had some respite owing to showers. Moderate to light showers were recorded in five districts (as of 9 pm), on Wednesday. During the day, there was rainfall in several parts of Chikmagalur district, with the district centre receiving 56 mm. Davangere district too received showers, with Channarayana taluk recording 19 mm rainfall. Parts of Hassan taluk, Peryapatna taluk in Mysuru district and Theerthahalli in Shivamogga district received light showers during the day.



DEATH OF POWER IN STATE

Power, Water Situation to Worsen

by Nandini Chandrashekar

Bengaluru: Searing temperatures across the state even before the onset of March is already giving a taste of what to expect during summer. As people brace themselves for a harsh three months, the already deteriorating situation in power and water could only add to the woes.

The state is looking at a grim scenario when it comes to power. Even during winter, there was power shortage and load-shedding. This summer, the situation is likely to worsen.

According to the Energy Department, the recent fire at the Sharavati Generation Station at Jog Falls, knocked off more than 1,000 MW of production. In addition, the Raichur Thermal Power Station has been suffering outages due to shortage of water.

The total demand for power in the state jumped from 196 million units to 207 million in the last three days.

Industries are just recovering from the staggered holidays imposed on them for five months and they might be looking at its possible continuation. March and April are also important due to the examination season. Energy Minister P K Shivakumar has requested the Centre to allot more power. Admitting that the power production

situation was grave, he said, "We have got no response from the Centre yet. There is a lot of pressure and we are exploring all situations. This includes asking Central Govt to supply power."

Drinking Water Shortage

While the southern part of Karnataka including Bengaluru, has still not seen a serious water shortage, several parts of north Karnataka have not been so lucky. Already 600 villages in the north have been asking entirely on tankers for drinking water.

Belagavi, parts of Vijayapura, Bagalkot and Haveri have been identified as crisis districts. So much so that the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department has approached the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to help them identify potential groundwater zones. On Wednesday, ISRO agreed to start mapping groundwater zones in 800 villages of north Karnataka. ISRO has promised to train officials at the village and taluk level on managing water resources.

The district administration in Vijayapura has directed farmers and industries to stop drawing water from Krishna and Bhima rivers, as the water levels have dipped alarmingly. The state is also planning to ask Maharashtra to release waters.

EXPECTED DEMAND 10,453 MW
EXPECTED AVAILABILITY 9,726 MW
SHORTFALL 700 MW-1,000 MW

EFFECT: Minor to two-hour load shedding in the cities. Staggered holidays for industries. Drastic reduction in three-phase power supply in rural areas.

WATER AVAILABILITY IN BENGALURU

PEAK SUMMER DEMAND 1,450 mld
CURRENT SUPPLY 1,400 mld

EFFECT: The demand is expected to increase in March, April and May by another 50 mld. To deal with water supply disruption, BWSSB is likely to use 83 tankers in two shifts from 8 am to 10 pm. Provisions were made in January to draw an additional 3-7 TMC from KRS and Kabini. As of now, about 1.5 TMC has been used up.

Temperatures Are Above Normal in State, Say Experts

by Akram Mohammed

Bengaluru: The signs of a warm summer were already there. Between June and the first week of August last year, which is when monsoon usually peaks, rainfall was inadequate and the state recorded the longest dry spell in the last five decades. What followed was a short winter and the onset of summer in February.

Though there is a slight variation in the data provided by the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) and the Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre (KSSNDMC), both show that the temperatures in February this year in South interior Karnataka were above normal. In fact, the temperatures in Bangalore, Mysore, Malavalli, and Srirangapatna were 1 to 2 degrees Celsius above normal, as compared to the normal range of 18 to 20 degrees Celsius.

At the same time, in South interior Karnataka, over the course of the last week, there has been a temperature rise. In Mysore, the maximum temperature was 31 to 32 degrees Celsius above normal.

While the temperatures in North Karnataka are above normal, in South Karnataka, the temperatures are mostly below normal. In Raichur, the temperatures are 1 to 2 degrees Celsius below normal.

Dr G Srinivas Reddy, Director of KSSNDMC, said that the temperatures recorded this month were above normal. "The temperatures are 1 to 2 degrees Celsius above normal. In March, April and May, the temperatures are expected to rise by another 1 to 2 degrees Celsius. The temperatures are 1 to 2 degrees Celsius above normal. In March, April and May, the temperatures are expected to rise by another 1 to 2 degrees Celsius. The temperatures are 1 to 2 degrees Celsius above normal."

IT WAS A HOT WEDNESDAY

Raichur	42.1°C
Kalaburagi	41.8°C
Bellari	41.7°C
Chitradurga	41.6°C
Tumakuru	41.5°C
Davangere	41.5°C
Bagalkot	41.4°C
Belagavi	40.9°C
Vijayapura	40.7°C
Koppal	39.5°C

Data Disparity

Due to the differences in the number of observation points between IMD and KSSNDMC, temperature readings of the two agencies have variations. While IMD collects data at the district level, KSSNDMC records readings at the hobli level.

The last one was per IMD. The maximum temperature recorded in Raichur in February was 42.1 degrees Celsius. In Mysore, the maximum temperature this month was 31.4 degrees Celsius.

However, readings by KSSNDMC show that Jajjala hobli in Raichur district recorded the maximum temperature of 42.1 degrees Celsius on Wednesday.

KSSNDMC scientist, SSM Ganaskar, said, "Winter recedes only after Shivarathri festival, which is during the first week of March. There are a few days left for Shivarathri, but the temperatures have already cooled down. So in the temperatures have been uncharacteristically high in the past three to four years," he added.

Tata gets green nod wind power project

New Delhi: A state green panel has given forest clearance to Tata Power Company for setting up of a 52.50 MW wind power project in Koppal district, Karnataka. The proposal was examined by the Regional Empowered Committee (REC) of the environment ministry in its recent meeting. "Considering the type of the forest land involved and the purpose of the project is to generate renewable energy, the committee has approved the proposal," according to the minutes of the meeting. The green panel has given clearance for diverting 36.27 hectares of forest land. — PTI

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Deccan Herald
NTPC shares down 4%

Shares of NTPC fell by over 4 per cent on Wednesday, in line with a weak broader market, as the company's offer for sale (OFS) saw lacklustre retail demand. The stock ended with a loss of 4.2 per cent at Rs 118.7 on the BSE. During the day, it slipped 4.56 per cent to Rs 118.25. At the NSE, shares of the company went down by 4.15 per cent to end at Rs 118.65.

'Keep footpaths clean and easily accessible'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: The high court on Wednesday directed BBMP to keep city footpaths clean and easily accessible.

A division bench headed by Chief Justice Subro Karmal Mukherjee gave this direction while disposing of a PIL filed by Jennifer Pinto and Priya Rao, relating to the



TALKING OF BASICS

HC TO BBMP

rights of pedestrians. The bench also took on record BBMP's report citing the measures taken by it to improve footpaths in the city.

The Paikie said it has removed all encroachments by private gardens on footpaths, completed landscaping and are maintaining them too. Advertisement hoardings, poles or any type of projection/obstructions will be removed from pavements for the safety and comfort of pedestrians. Further, transformers are being relocated by Bescom to nearby government or private properties; electric poles are

being shifted to the edge of footpaths.

The civic agency said 12 roads in the central business district have been taken up under the TenderSURE project and four major signal-free corridors are being constructed proposed along Dr Rajkumar Road, Vatal Nagaraj Road to Old Soap Factory junction (3.96km).

For pedestrian safety: The petitioners had sought for a direction to BBMP and po-

lice to remove all advertisement hoardings and obstructions on footpaths and medians to ensure safety of pedestrians. They said the PWD, KRDCI, and BBMP should jointly maintain footpaths by providing access to prams, wheelchairs, ensure safe crossing zones, zebra crossings at regular intervals with suitable escorts for the differently abled and children/senior citizens.

"Unfortunately, the 'might over right policy' prevails in the country. The state, in its anxiety to use resources only on flyovers, expressways underpasses and for the Metro project, has grossly neglected the plight of pedestrians... It has deprived people of freedom of movement, from crossing roads safely, access to utilities, and is forcing them to use motor vehicles. The cluttering of medians and pedestrian zones with advertisements is taking away scarce resources and causing hardship to pedestrians," the petitioners said.

The Economic Times 25/2/2017

GAINS IN COAL INDUSTRY

'Supply Policy for New Plants by March'

Coal secretary Anil Swarup says Uday a solution to CIL's surplus

Our Bureau

Kolkata: As part of its efforts to reduce a growing coal stockpile, the government has decided to offer the fuel to thermal power units that do not have any supply contracts with Coal India. A policy on this would be readied by the end of March, coal secretary Anil Swarup said.

Speaking to reporters at the Asian Mining Congress in Kolkata on Wednesday, Swarup said the policy would outline the methods for supplying coal to power plants that do not have any supply agreement with Coal India. Supplies could start in early 2016-17.

Power plants with some 57,000 MW of installed capacity do not have any coal supply agreement or any supply commitment from Coal India. Of these, units with 9,000 MW capacity have already achieved commercial operation with coal received on temporary sources. The remaining units are in various stages of construction and will come up for commissioning from this year through 2020. Some 6,000-7,000 MW of these projects already have power purchase agreements in place, but they do not have coal supply contracts from the state-run miner. Another set of 30,000 MW of power plants are in the pipeline and they have coal supply contracts in place.



Total coal stocks at present are as large as 75 mt; 35 mt of this lying with power companies

"The current surplus supply situation is a temporary phenomenon and the government's UDAY scheme aimed at improving the financial conditions and operational parameters of distribution companies is expected to help boost power demand in the next six months. As financial positions of discoms improve, they would be better placed to buy larger volumes of power. Increased power demand will fuel increased demand for coal," the secretary said.

At present, discoms do not have the financial strength to buy additional power being generated. This situation has in turn damped power sale. CIL has achieved production growth of about 10% this year and power plants that have supply contracts with it are filled to the brim with coal.

Trade bodies urge government to ease power situation

BENGALURU: Various industry associations on Wednesday urged Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to take measures to ensure efficient power supply to industries in the State.

Representatives of the associations, including the Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FKCCI) and the Karnataka Small Scale Industries Association (Kassia), met the chief minister at Vidhana Soudha and submitted their memorandum for the State budget 2016-17. Siddaramaiah, who also holds the Finance portfolio, has been holding pre-budget meetings.

The Kassia, in its memorandum, said that erratic power supply in rural areas had hit industries hard. The government should ensure uninterrupted power supply power to industries through a separate feeder line. The FKCCI suggested that the government to initiate the demand side management measures to bring in efficiency in power supply.

FKCCI president Tallam R

Dwarakanath said the government should ensure early commissioning of 350 Mega Watt combined cycle gas power plant at Yelabanka, Bengaluru, to augment power supply. He also urged the chief minister to give exemption from payment of electricity tax of 10 paise per unit for captive consumption above 250 kVA and 5 paise per unit for auxiliary consumption above 50 kWh.

Kassia president V K Dixit urged the chief minister to provide better infrastructure like good roads, air connectivity and ports. Besides, basic amenities at all industrial areas should be upgraded. He also urged Siddaramaiah to reduce VAT rate on defence sector procurement.

Later, speaking to reporters, Siddaramaiah said the industry associations have asked for number of tax exemptions and that he will take an appropriate decision at the time of drafting the budget document.

DH News Service

Page no 7 25/2/17 RTPS fifth unit hit by snag

The power generation at the fifth unit of the Raichur Thermal Power Station (RTPS) stopped on Tuesday night due to a technical snag. A leakage in a tube of the boiler has brought the 210MW unit to a grinding halt, reports Deccan Herald from Raichur. The 250-MW eighth unit of the RTPS has been taken up for annual maintenance while the production at the first unit has been brought down due to a technical problem. The sixth unit, which had stopped functioning since February 21 resumed power generation on Wednesday. RTPS Managing Director C Venugopal said.

Deccan Herald

DISINVESTMENT AGENDA Retail investor portion, which had 8.25 crore shares reserved, received bids only for 3.64 cr; Institutional interest saves the day

NTPC Offer Subscribed 3X, but Retail Interest's Muted

Our Bureau

Mumbai: Retail investors chose to give the National Thermal Power Corp.'s (NTPC) share sale a miss a day after institutional investors led by Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) bid aggressively to the issue. The retail investor portion received bids for 44% of the shares set aside for them, showing their growing aversion to stocks after the recent fall. However, strong appetite from institutional investors ensured that the two-day issue was subscribed three times. NTPC's ₹5,000-crore offer for sale closed on Wednesday.

According to Disinvestment Secretary Neeraj Gupta, LIC made an application worth around ₹3,000 crore. Foreign institutional investors placed bids worth ₹925 crore, while mutual funds and banks applied for shares worth over ₹440 crore each, said Gupta.

The retail investor portion, which

had 8.25 crore shares reserved, received bids for 3.64 crore shares. There were bids for about 59.62 crore shares from the institutional investors at an average price of ₹123.90 as against 32.98 crore shares offered. NTPC shares declined over 4% on

Wednesday to close at ₹118.70.

Most of the bids on Wednesday came in at around ₹122.27/share compared to the base price of ₹122 set by the government.

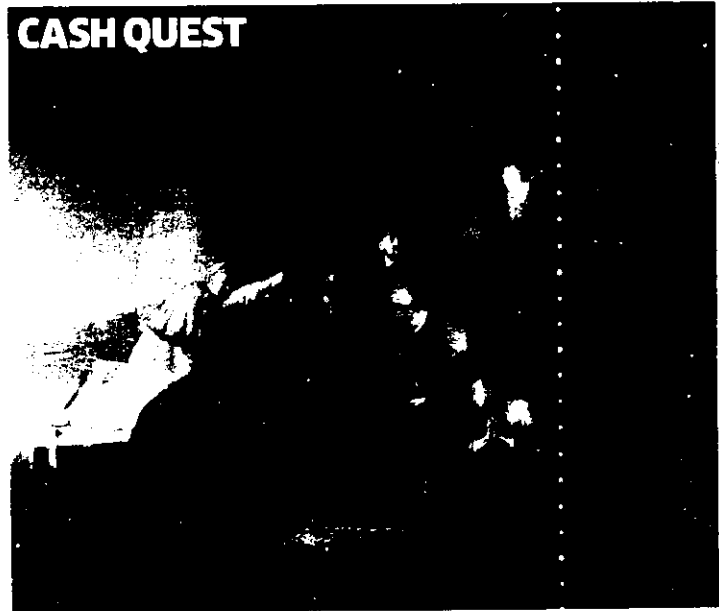
This is the second biggest disinvestment in the current financial year after the ₹9,370 crore share sale in Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) in August 2015. The government has garnered about ₹18,400 crore from divestment in the current fiscal as against its target of



LIC made an application worth around ₹3,000 cr, as per disinvestment secretary

₹41,000 crore.

CASH QUEST



REBRANDT. Repentant Judas Returning The Pieces Of Silver

Rain lashes Chikkamagaluru, Davangere

DH
A heavy rain accompanied by gusty winds lashed Chikkamagaluru and surrounding places for about two hours on Wednesday.

The first rain of the season arrived with gusto as it poured uninterrupted. Rain water gushed into low lying areas while roads were waterlogged due to clogged stormwater drains. There were reports of heavy rain in the hill ranges of Bababudangiri. However, coffee growers are worried about the rain as the coffee plants may flower prematurely due to the showers.

Channarayana taluk in Davangere district too received heavy rains for about one hour towards the evening. Power supply was disrupted in several areas as trees fell on electricity poles.

DH News Service



DRENCHED: Children walk in the rain in Chikkamagaluru as the town received its first showers of the season on Wednesday. DH PHOTO