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Skywalks to curb road accidents

Nidhi B

BENGALURU: BBMP has mooted a proposal to install eleven new skywalks in the city. The skywalks are essential, especially during slow traffic movements and at heavy traffic junctions to control the disruptions caused by pedestrian crossings and vehicular movements, said Eshwaraih Sub Inspector (Traffic). Throughout Bengaluru, there are several skywalks. These skywalks give the city an urban aesthetic and appealing look, he said.

The installations of skywalks help to decrease road accidents, especially near heavy traffic zones such as KR Puram, Majestic, RR Nagar, Silk Board Junction, Mysore Road, Outer Ring Road, and near the metro stations and bus stops. Pedestrians can easily cross the road without waiting for longer duration, he said.

"Skywalks will help in crossing busy traffic interactions more efficiently and prevent individuals from jaywalking, which reduces conflicts with vehicles and it is also convenient for individuals with disabilities because they can make use of elevators in the skywalk to cross the roads."

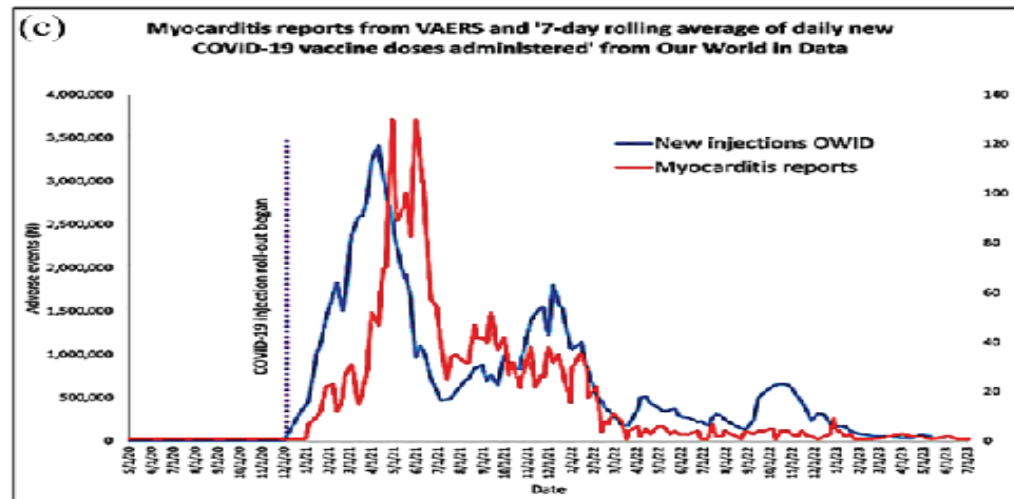
BBMP should make sure that there are security cameras installed for individual safety, elevators are in working condition, and cleanliness is maintained in the skywalks for the convenience of pedestrians, he added.

92 dead from Covid vaccine induced myocarditis

Kushal Varma

A recent peer-reviewed study deems Covid vaccines 'unsafe' revealing a strong link with developing myocarditis. Findings revealed that young males are more at risk. Last Saturday, a research paper titled 'Determinants of COVID-19 vaccine-induced myocarditis' was published. Data from VAERS (Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System) was utilised to statistically analyse and correlate the incidence of myocarditis post-Covid vaccination of Pfizer, Moderna and Janssen.

"If vaccines cannot demonstrate acceptable safety profiles or be modified to improve safety, they must be removed from the market. These data demonstrate COVID-19 vaccines are not safe," said Peter A McCullough,



Number of COVID-19 vaccinations overlapping with myocarditis reports.

J Rose, N Hulscher et al.

one of the paper's authors. As of 11 August 2023, 3078 reports of myocarditis post administration of the COVID-19 vaccine were registered on VAERS. This number is 223 times higher than the number of myocarditis reports (in VAERS) of the past 30 years combined.

Among these reports, 76% resulted in emergency care and

hospitalisation, while 3% were reported dead. A total of 69% of the cases occurred amongst men. This trend persisted across all three vaccinations with Pfizer, Moderna and Janssen having 72%, 67% and 56%, respectively. For context, of the 3078 reports, 92 died out of which 89 were men.

In addition, 7.6% of

these deaths occurred in the age group of under 20. It was thus inferred that the prevalence of reports was highest amongst males under 30 years of age. "The vaccines are genetic vaccines which install the spike protein which can be lethal. Other papers have shown the messenger RNA which produces the spike protein is stuck

in the human heart," said Peter in the paper explaining how lethal the vaccines can get and the possible threats it poses.

Similar findings were reported in other studies. Referring to one such study titled 'Spikeopathy', Peter reiterates that the spike protein produced through these vaccines can induce diseases. The paper also advocated for the suspension of gene-based COVID-19 vaccines.

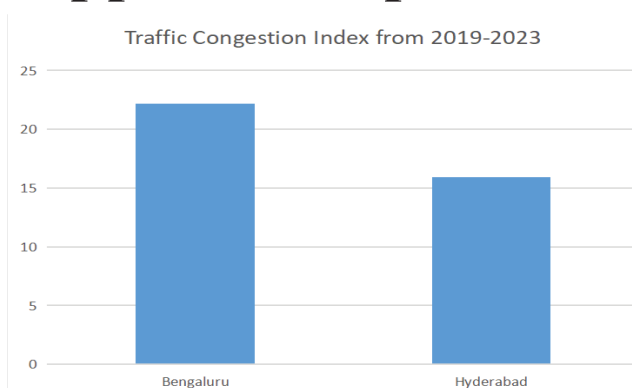
The aforementioned vaccines have not been fully licensed by the US Food and Drug Administration and have only been authorised for emergency use. The FDA has yet to address the issue, while the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention continues to endorse the vaccines.

Bengaluru grapples with perennial traffic woes

Dattatraya Dutta

BENGALURU: Bengaluru, a booming IT hub that boasts all the salient features of a modern metropolis, has continually struggled to grapple with its perennial traffic congestion issues. CEIC data suggests that the average traffic congestion index of Bengaluru from January 2019 to January 2024 was 22.160.

For context, another Indian IT city, Hyderabad, reported an average traffic congestion index of 15.90 from January 2019 to November 2023, suggesting that the average time a person spends in traffic in Bengaluru is relatively high.



Statistical representation of TCI in Hyderabad and Bengaluru

Dattatraya D

Bengaluru owes its traffic issues to multiple factors, but a major factor contributing to this is the low road density of the city. Bengaluru has a road network of 10,200 kilometres with a road density (length

of road per square kilometre) of 8.2 per square kilometre, according to a report by Global Mobility Monitor Network, which is way lesser when compared to the road density of the national capital, Delhi,

which has a road density of 21.6 per square kilometre.

This lower road density is a concerning factor given that the number of registered vehicles in the city has grown almost fourfold in the past decade. Reports by the Transport Department of Karnataka state that the city had 41.56 lakh registered vehicles in 2012, which shot up to 1.14 crore in 2023.

According to city planning experts, the government should ideally invest in building an efficient road infrastructure to tackle this rising vehicle population.

Customers seek fair ride prices

Hemalatha Y.N

BENGALURU: Off-late customers using online cab and auto aggregator services, such as Ola, Uber, and Rapido are facing unexpected price variations during their rides.

Customers ended up paying an additional amount for their journey, leading to concerns about transparency and fairness. Tilak, a regular customer said, "I have been using online cab and auto services for about two years.

Most of my rides have been charged more than the initial price. Contacting customer service for a refund has never been helpful. Some Ola drivers demanded me to pay cash when the online payment didn't reflect. Customer service didn't help me. I think it's important for these services to have easy-to-reach customer support, especially through phone calls," he added.

The failure of these online platforms to refund the additional charges has left customers feeling dissatisfied with the service. As a result, there is a growing call for better accountability and clarity in the pricing and refund processes.

The journey from poverty to power

Kessiah Joseph

Director Vidhu Vinod Chopra's "12th Fail" is a movie that delves into an individual's journey of conquering poverty and corruption by cracking one of the nation's toughest exams.

It is a Hindi language biographical drama, adapted from Anurag Pathak's book. The story revolves around Manoj Kumar Sharma who rises from extreme poverty to become an Indian Police Service officer. The movie

boasts a captivating narrative that keeps the audience hooked with the exploration of various thought-provoking themes. Each frame transcends the boundaries of mere entertainment and adds to the film's visual splendour ranging from stunning landscapes to close-ups, giving more depth to storytelling.

Characters are portrayed by a talented cast who transcend the traditional boundaries of the genre. The exploration of love, loss, the passage of time and the

portrayal of a spectrum of emotions offers touching insights into the human experience.

The movie is a masterpiece of artistic brilliance and the depiction of innocence and honesty is heart-warming and makes it special.



Leap Finance faces employee backlash

Hemalatha Y.N

BENGALURU: Leap Finance Corporation has kicked up a row for allegedly flouting the terms of the contract with its employees. The company that lends loans to study abroad has forced its workers to sign a contract to increase the working hours than prescribed during the recruitment.

The company employee said that the HR did not mention a work-based contract in the interview process

during the recruitment. After joining, they were asked to sign a 9-month work contract and have been experiencing extended work hours beyond the organisation's timings, he complained.

"There is a lack of transparency around employment terms and conditions and a dire need for clear communication of their work policies before hiring, to ensure a balanced work life and overall job satisfaction," he said.