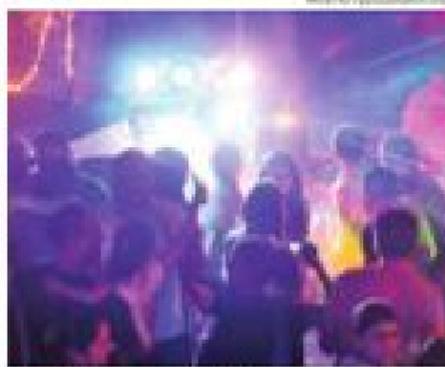


# Only a killjoy could have drafted it: Tour operators

'Dept Notification Will Surely Hit Tourism in State'

Times News Network

**Bangalore/Bengaluru:** On February 5, 2015, a couple had to be public on a bench in St Mary's Island, off Udupi, during the Spring Soak festival organised by the Udupi district administration, in partnership with event manager MF Concepts.



**WALK OVER:** Parties with foreign tourists should wind up before 10PM, says the Karnataka tourism department

### NOT THE WAY TO GO FORWARD

If these rules are implemented, you have to forget about tourism at a time when the district is trying to position itself as a tourist destination. Why are you drafting such rules to tackle some regulations? There are other ways to tackle these issues that not the way to go forward.

**Nalin Nallakoppa** | CEO, MANAGER, STATE TOURISM DEPARTMENT, BANGALORE

### TIMES VIEW

The government has put its foot in its mouth by issuing draconian guidelines for these organising bodies and parties for international tourists. How can the state attract tourism by treating their privacy and asking them to wind up parties by 10PM? These guidelines smack of moral superiority rather than concern for safety of tourists or maintaining law and order. What's worse, the chief minister says he is not aware of these guidelines and this exposes chinks in government. Instead of issuing such guidelines, the government must do better to make tourists feel welcome here.

## 'Want to ensure foreigners' safety'

Continued from page 1

The notification is the result of the controversy generated three years ago by the Spring Soak Island festival held on St Mary's Island where foreigners were allegedly found indulging in drugs and other inappropriate activities. A committee was set up to probe the festival and suggest measures to prevent its recurrence. Initially the festival was organised by the state tourism department. However, the tourism

department, which issued the notification, is criticised by all the critics. Including the notification, deputy director (tourism), Basavarajappa claimed the guidelines were issued in the interest of foreign tourists.

"It seems points to the double standards inherent in the notification, coming as it does less than a year after Bangalore extended the closing time for pubs to late, and the fact that events in Bangalore are exempt from these rules."

"It is fair to have police on the spot, for ensuring safety for everyone, but invading others' privacy by video-graphing them is not acceptable. People may not come to entertainment events. For instance, if a cab driver violates traffic rules, police have all the rights to video-graph him, but video-graphing the passenger in the car is not

justifiable. Similarly, video-graphing all foreigners is not justifiable," says Lavita Dugga, director of Coorg's Soori festival.

The wording of the guidelines is vague, causing event organisers further concern. For example, do foreign tourists include foreign students who have brought tickets to public events? What about personnel of other organisations or citizens of other countries? How do you define an event as being in line with Indian culture?

"Such rules can definitely curb Indian culture but will not promote tourism. Much greater permission to the

international music festival as it was held in an island away from the city & required a helicopter to reach Malpe. The notification can be valid for state being held inside the city, which can cause disturbance to residents - but what is the problem if it is held for some while and dispersing others?" said Rudrapatna Bhat, former MLA of Udupi, in whose constituency the Spring Soak festival was held.

Bhat should know. He came in for a lot of criticism for the festival, and one of his most prominent detractors was a Congress MLA called Subbarajashah.

# 'H1N1 patient died in the ambulance'

Times News Network

**Bengaluru:** A day after Nagara Manjappa, 48, died of H1N1, the health department on Thursday said he was treated in the ambulance during travel from Kodga Hospital, Basavanagudi, to the Raju Gandhi Institute of Chest Diseases (RGICD).

### CHAOS AT HOSPITAL

Manjappa, a former bus contractor in Ruler district, was declared brought dead by doctors who attended him in the ambulance. The family had rushed to Kodga Hospital and arrived in doctors of ambulance.

Chief health officer revealed that Nagara was after when he left Kodga Hospital in an ambulance and died en route to the RGICD. Nagara's family had signed the discharge summary letter showing the patient's pulse rate and heart beat.

DHO Dr M Nagar told TOI that the family doctor revealed to doctors at Kodga that Nagara had died on arrival at RGICD.

"Initially, the family told doctors they wanted available at RGICD and hence they had brought Nagara back," Manjappa said.

Kodga doctors took the corpse to the emergency ward and declared him dead after conducting a few tests.

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**First H1N1 death in Belagavi district**

**Belagavi:** The first H1N1 death has been reported in Belagavi district's Nijigal town. Vijay Nalkani, a 66-year-old retired professor, was admitted to a private hospital in Belagavi, Maharashtra on February 22 and was diagnosed with H1N1 three days later on March 3, he

# BBMP offers less to women's team

Times News Network

**Bengaluru:** Trust BBMP is cutting money figure in everything it does. Mayor D. Shanmugasundar on Thursday flagged off the State Organizational level kabaddi tournament, with a huge disparity in the prize money for men's and women's teams. The event ends on March 8, the International Women's Day.

### KABADDI TOURNAMENT

The prize money for the winning men's team is Rs 2 lakh, but the victorious women's contingent will have to be satisfied with Rs 1.5 lakh. The men's runner-up team will get Rs 1.2 lakh, while their women's counterparts will be given Rs 1 lakh. The rewards for the bronze coming third are Rs 1 lakh and Rs 75,000.

The event is being held at the Vidyanagar grounds in west Bengaluru.

Former minister and Rajinagar MLA, Suresh Kumar gave vent to his anger against the civic agency on Facebook. "Gender disparity has continued even though a woman has taken over the mayor's post," he wrote.

His Facebook post drew several responses demanding that the mayor set the victory rights. "It should be the other way. Women should be encouraged to participate in sports, fitness and outdoor activities."

### Mounting liabilities

Even as its mounting liabilities have touched Rs 11,000 crore, BBMP on Thursday made a big show of splendour in what was not its immediate concern. The civic body flagged off the Mayor Cup, a national-level kabaddi tournament, being organised at a cost of Rs 15 lakh. Asked about the huge money outlay on the tournament, Mayor D Shanmugasundar said they were using the money allocated for the event in the budget and it is an annual event.

"I will ensure that prize money is distributed equally among men and women players. The prize distribution day, March 8, also happens to be International Women's Day. I have a surprise for women players on the occasion." **N Shanmugasundar** | Mayor

We need major efforts to reverse this," Adinarayan Gowda said in his comment.

Asked about the disparity in prize money, though, said the civic agency that prize money is distributed equally among men and women players. "The prize distribution day, March 8, also happens to be International Women's Day. I have a surprise for women players on the occasion," she added.

# Denotification row: Court stays proceedings against Deshpande

Times News Network

**Bengaluru:** The high court on Thursday stayed all further proceedings against higher education and tourism minister H V Deshpande in connection with an FIR registered against him by Lokayukta PVJee.

The FIR was filed against the minister following a newspaper's reporting that he had been decapitated head captured by the KARNATAKA

Pressing on interim order, Justice AN Venkatasudhakar ordered justice in Lokayukta petition Vasudeva Noddy the complete report before the special Lokayukta court.

On February 18, 2015, the special Lokayukta court had directed Lokayukta police to investigate and file a report by April 30, 2015.

Vasudeva Noddy had alleged that the KARNATAKA police, in collusion with the minister, had not filed 800 copies in the Lokayukta court, but later selectively excluded a large portion of the material and restricted the investigation to 48 hours.

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