

## Inside



Garbage piled in BTM Layout forcing residents to relocate.  
Page - 2



The traffic school educates children about road safety.  
Page - 4



Some countdown timers don't serve their purpose.  
Page - 4

# Biogas subsidies from Centre not reaching rural Karnataka

By Nitindra Bandyopadhyay

The subsidies given by the central government for installing biogas plants has not reached the villages of Karnataka and the gram panchayat claims that it is not aware of any such provision.

The National Biogas and Manure Management Program (NBMMP) had set a target of setting up 20,000 plants in rural Karnataka two years ago and had allotted more than Rs.5 crore to the state government. Out of this, only around 14 percent has reached the rural areas of Karnataka, according to a New and Renewable Energy report.

NBMMP entitles the central government to provide subsidies for installing biogas plants in rural areas. However, according to the NBMMP report as on Dec. 31, 2009 only 2,805 biogas plants were successfully installed.

Villages around Bangalore are at the receiving end of this problem. The LPG supply to their areas is not regular and the kerosene they get from ration shops is not sufficient. A recent central government decision has proposed to limit the subsidy on LPG cylinders to four cylinders per year for a family.

"I use wood for cooking," said Yashoda, a resident of Banjarpalya village. "The price of wood is rising regularly and now it is Rs.15 per kg. This is too costly for me now."

Another problem is that the villagers want to install biogas plants, but they don't possess the technical know-how.

"I built this biogas plant eight years ago," said Chengappa, an agriculturalist from Govendepalya. "People from the neighboring



Nitindra Bandyopadhyay

### More and more villagers enquire about the biogas plant in Chengappa's backyard.

villages come to me enquiring about how to install this at the domestic level, but they face trouble because gram panchayat does not help them."

Under the Sustainable Transformation of Rural Areas, a program was undertaken for installing biogas at domestic level in seven villages in Kunigal Taluk and Tumkur districts of Karnataka.

This program was however stopped as financial support for the project ended in 2004, as stated in a study done by The Energy and Resource Institute, Bangalore.

"It is hard to reach every gram panchayat in the state," said Manjunath, technical officer,

Karnataka Renewable Energy Development. "We give subsidies at commercial and domestic level when approached. The ministry is also conducting various programs to spread the awareness, but it takes time in covering every gram panchayat."

P. S. Loknath, Panchayat Development Officer, Gollahalli village, was unaware of the government subsidy program. "Villagers don't approach us because the initial installation charges for a biogas plant are very high," he said.

He also said that there is lack of raw materials for the plants and only private companies manage the

installation. Various meetings at both gram and taluk panchayat levels were held to promote installation of biogas plant, but no concrete steps have been taken.

NGOs in Bangalore feel that the government is not doing enough. "We promote installation of cheap biogas plants in rural areas of Bangalore," said Shyam Sundar, Director, CREST. "Government contribution is zero in promoting the use of biogas."

Vidyasagar, Director of SKG Sangha NGO said that rapid deforestation and urbanization, bad distribution of LPG and corruption in rationing kerosene are reasons for the increase in demand of biogas.

## Vendors of KR Puram market unaware of construction plans



Ankita Lath

More than 150 vendors earn their livelihood by selling flowers at the market every day.

Ankita Lath

Farmers and vendors of the K. R. Puram market do not know about the Bangalore Development Authority's plan to construct a multi-utility complex in their premises.

The vendors claim that they first heard the news from friends who read it online.

Subsequently, they contacted the BBMP and the Bangalore Development Authority to get more clarity on the proposal but received ambiguous replies.

Srinivas, president of the Akhila Farmers and Vendors Association, said that the market is a means of livelihood for thousands of farmers and vendors who are now anxious about their future.

They are concerned about rehabilitation as their families have been in the business for generations. They also feel it will be impossible

for the corporation to allot space to so many people.

The association went on strike several times to protest against this and also organized a rally from the market to Freedom Park.

Byra Reddy Prem Kumar, assistant executive engineer, BBMP said, "We are shortly going to launch the tender, and if the construction starts by December, we will be able to finish it in 2 years."

"BBMP is supposed to send a notice to the farmers and vendors association," said Prem Kumar.

The Observer has a copy of an "open for booking" advertisement with a BDA logo on it.

The advertisement states that the BDA is launching a multi-utility commercial complex of 16 floors for mall and office use.

Ashwani Luthra, Head of Department at the Department of Town Planning, Guru Nanak Dev

University, Amritsar said in carrying out such development exercises, the people involved should be relocated to a suitable place.

The association launched a website, [www.akfva.org](http://www.akfva.org), on the 10th of October to "show their grievances to the world."

They are hoping to get help through the website.

B. Banakesh, a vegetable vendor hopes that the authority will relocate them in the same place once the construction is complete.

He is worried about losses as with the springing up of big stores like Big Bazaar and Reliance, his business will take a hit.

The farmers and vendors association had filed an RTI but it did not help as they received no relevant information about the plan, funds or the construction of the complex.

# Tenants caught in owners' trap

By Priyanka Maheshwari

The security deposit for renting residential apartments is higher in Bangalore and Chennai when compared to other cities like Mumbai and Pune.

Real estate agents in Bangalore demand ten months' rent as security deposit, while in the other cities it is six months' rent or less.

"The security deposit is ten months' rent here in Bangalore, the owners and brokers themselves have hiked the quoted price," said Gaurav Mishra, deputy manager sales, Mantri Developers, a real estate agency in Bangalore.

"There is no law for rental deposit, it depends on how you communicate with the owner and broker," added Gaurav.

The security deposit amounts to one month's rent in Delhi and two months' rent in Pune. "In Mumbai the deposit rate depends on the area you choose but generally the deposit amount is six months' rent," said Shetty, a real estate agent, Mumbai.

Students in Bangalore stay as paying guests where the deposit is only the rent of one month or they

share an apartment with their friends so that the cost is divided amongst them.

Areas like Koramangala and Vasanthnagar are popular for paying guest accommodations as they have colleges in their vicinity.

"In Kolkata I paid Rs.30,000 as my deposit for the flat but in Bangalore the rate was more than Rs.100,000. I was lucky as I shared the flat with some friends and the cost per head reduced," said Ankita Roy, employee at Tata Consultancy Services in Bangalore.

In the suburbs, the owner may bring down the deposit to six months but in the posh locations, flat owners do not compromise.

The demand in the posh areas like Indiranagar and Whitefield is high and the owners know that they will find people who are willing to pay the higher amount.

Bangalore has seen a manifold rise in the IT sector.

According to Malik, a real estate agent, the employees of IT sector earn a lot of money and hence they can afford to shell out a large sum for apartment as security deposit. This is the reason for the high rates of security deposits in Bangalore.



Apoorva Sripathi

Flourishing IT sector has inflated the security deposit rates in Bangalore.

The Daily  
**OBSERVER**

IJNM PUBLICATIONS

**IJNM**

Address  
Opp. BGS International  
Residential School  
Nityanandanagar,  
Kumbalgudu  
Kengeri Hobli  
Bangalore 560 060  
India

Tel: 91-80-28437907

Email: editor@ijnm.org

Website: www.ijnm.org

For private circulation only

**The Weekly  
Observer**

Editor:  
Isha Bajpai

Chief Sub-Editor:  
Sagarika Ranjan

Sub-Editors:  
Ancy K. Sunny  
Priyanka Maheshwari  
Rashmi Guha Ray  
Rubeena Ismail  
Shikha Kumar

Page Designers:  
Chitra Lakshman  
Dipal Desai  
Nandita Raman  
Srimoyee Lahiri

Proof Readers:  
Arkodepto Mukherjee  
Mowna Ravikumar  
Nitindra Bandyopadhyay

## Garbage forces people to leave their homes



Isha Bajpai

Residents at BTM Layout live with the filth and the stink of the garbage.

By Isha Bajpai

A lane in BTM Layout is now called the "garbage lane" because it is filled with piles of garbage forcing the residents to shift from the locality.

The lane is opposite to a playground and a slum. The garbage is causing diseases to the local people. The slum dwellers have been facing this problem for the last five years.

"Our kids fall ill every now and then and as we are poor, everybody neglects our complaints," said Jaya, a slum dweller.

The restaurants nearby dump their wastes in the lane every day and they claim to have complete rights over the area since it is a government property, said a resident of the lane.

"We prefer not to pass through

the lane, and I don't know how these people live here," said a commuter, who himself littered that very lane.

One of the shopkeepers of the area, Pradeep said that he is losing out on customers because of the smell of garbage.

"We have complained about 50 to 60 times and have not got any response," said Vijay Kumar, a resident of that lane. "A lot of people are shifting from here because of the smell, dirt and the insects causing diseases," he added.

Pradeep, junior health inspector of the ward said that they clean the garbage twice a day but the people have taken this area as a dumping ground.

"Public does not cooperate, we clean it every morning but they throw garbage at night," said Pradeep.

## PVR to bring IMAX experience to B'lore



Andy Mitchell

Bangalore is set to have the IMAX movie format which may prove too costly for common people.

By Tej Sapru

PVR Cinemas, which is one of the biggest multiplex theatre groups, is all set to bring the IMAX movie experience to Bangalore.

PVR sources who spoke to The Observer were reluctant to get into details about the project, but did say it would be off the ground "by next year."

A local theater owner said the plan was an open secret. "We have known that they are going to do it in Yeshwanthpur, in the Brigade Gateway property, for the past six months," said Amit Gowda, owner of Urvashi Theater and an industry insider.

Though PVR was not willing to discuss the financial aspects of the project, a look at the Rs.62 lakh construction price of the Prasads IMAX in Hyderabad provides a fair understanding of the monetary risk.

IMAX is a brand as much as an experience, and even using the name comes with a hefty price tag.

"When we looked into IMAX they asked us for around Rs.6 crore—just to use the brand," said Gowda.

PVR will have to bank on the power of that brand to ensure that all the seats are occupied since there are a limited number of films shot

in this format.

"Only 16 Hollywood films are going to be made for IMAX this year...there are no local movies made in the IMAX format," said the head of PVR's projects wing.

All of this might push the price of a ticket up considerably.

"I am sure that if they open an IMAX in Bangalore it will not be less than Rs.600-700 a ticket," said Gowda.

To make the IMAX project profitable, PVR is thinking outside the box. It's looking into the possibility of resizing super hit movies, such as Sholay, into the appropriate format.

Theater screens for IMAX have to be extremely large to handle the larger film format of such movies—10 times larger than the ordinary 35mm film format.

The standard IMAX screen size measures 22 meters by 16.1 meters, but they can be much larger—the LG IMAX Theater in Sydney is the largest in the world and has a screen measuring 35.73 meters by 29.42 meters that covers an area of more than 1,015 square meters.

Though it will cost PVR an arm and a leg to build a venue big enough to screen IMAX films, the response from viewers in other cities has been promising.

## State struggles to promote premier cloth

By Shikha Kumar

Karnataka government is doing its best to promote Khadi, while the laborious work and low wages are leading to a decline in the number of entrepreneurs coming into the Khadi business.

M. Selvaraju, economic officer, Khadi & Village Industries Commission (KVIC) believes that one of the reasons for the declining numbers is the laborious nature of the job. The cloth is completely handwoven and handspun and does not involve any machines.

Selvaraju added that the government needs to elevate the importance of this cloth. "Even when the rest of the world will not have clothes to wear, India will always have clothes to wear, because they produce Khadi," he said.

"Wages given to the artisans are hardly enough. The artisans weave around 25 ladi of cloth after working for 8-10 hours a day. However, they are paid a meagre Rs.3, which includes government incentives for manufacturing one ladi of cloth," said P.M. Janwadkar, district development officer, The Karnataka State Khadi and Village Industries Board (KVIB).

"The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act calls for workers in rural areas to be paid a minimum of Rs.100 to sustain their livelihood. With Rs.25 a day, one can survive, but cannot live a comfortable life. That is the main reason why people are not coming into this sector," he added

Janwadkar said that efforts are being made to increase the saleability of the cloth.

Two years ago, the KVIB tied up with National Institute of Fashion Technology so that budding designers can take up this fabric and increase its visibility and commercial value.

Another initiative taken is to blend silk with cotton Khadi. This makes the end product both comfortable and fashionable, especially for the youth.

To attract workers, the board is contemplating on increasing the wages provided to the workers. "Instead of Rs.3, our chairman and minister are trying to increase the wages to at least Rs.6 per ladi," he added.

For 108 days in the year, the cloth is sold at a discount, especially during Independence week, Republic day week and Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary. "It is a direct rebate to the customer from the government as he gets a discount of 10-15 percent."

Biradar, development officer at KVIB said that just providing rebates is not enough. He feels that distance is an undermined issue.

"Khadi production is done in rural areas, while the market for it is in urban areas." Efforts need to be made to increase accessibility and reduce this gap.

"Khadi is not just a fabric. It holds a special distinction of being used during war time and is an indication of our freedom," said Janwadkar

## Illegal burning of garbage causes health hazards



Arkodepto Mukherjee

**Garbage containing dry leaves and paper ready to be burnt at J.P Nagar**

By Arkodepto Mukherjee

In J.P. Nagar, instead of cleaning the garbage, BBMP is burning it illegally causing health problems to the residents.

The smoke emitted from burning garbage, containing dry leaves and paper, is causing lung problems for the residents.

Many suffer from chest congestions because of the early morning smog.

"We have already complained to solid waste management department of BBMP, yet this is a common practice and if you call BBMP it is just a waste of time" said B. R. Udupa, the president of the family welfare association in J.P. Nagar.

Garbage is being burnt for more

than three months but B.V. Satish, the chief engineer of solid waste management department, does not know about this. However he accepted that burning garbage is illegal.

"I have heard about it but do not know about the complaints. I will try to find out and take steps accordingly as it is illegal", said Satish.

The residents of J.P. Nagar are complaining that BBMP does not supervise the area properly.

They do not know whom to contact, as the responsibility for cleaning this garbage has been shifted to another department.

"BBMP has shifted the garbage issue from health to engineering department and therefore this issue is getting neglected as the

engineering department does not have time to look into this," said P. Harish a resident.

"BBMP had collected money from each house of the area for cleaning up the garbage but nothing has happened. Moreover, the government had also allotted money for cleaning up garbage," said Seshadri Iyer, secretary of the family welfare association.

"They are not only burning it but BBMP has also stopped spraying DDT on the accumulated garbage for 10-15 years," said B.R. Udupa.

"Mosquitoes are spreading germs of dengue," he added.

"If BBMP does not take necessary steps then we will have no other option but to file a case against them, said Seshadri Iyer, the secretary of the welfare association.

## PHOTO CORNER



Nitindra Bandhyopadhyay

### Mysore Palace exhibits the royal regalia

Dasara, celebrated to mark the victory of good over evil, is a prominent festival in Mysore. It is celebrated by the Wodeyar Royal Dynasty with great pomp and show every year.

The entire palace is lighted with about 50,000 bulbs and a huge procession known as Jumbo Savari is taken out on Vijayadashami.

This year the celebrations began on September 28 and continued till October 6, 2011. The Observer visited the palace on the seventh day and found the celebrations marred by heavy rains.

## Parks in Vijayanagar reduced to a dumping ground by residents and BMRCL



Chitra Lakshman

**Children are restricted to play in their houses as the parks are in pathetic conditions**

By Chitra Lakshman

Parks on West of Chord Road in Vijayanagar are being used as a dumping ground by the residents and the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation for years.

The debris from the metro construction piles up in the park, making it impossible to be used by the residents.

According to the residents of the area, there are broken benches, hanging high tension wires and rusted swings in the parks.

The garbage stinks and serves as a breeding ground for mosquitoes. "The condition of the parks has not changed for the past several years. We have complained to the BBMP many times, but they never respond to us", said, Dr. Sunil Mallesh, managing director at Gayathri Hospitals.

"Even though there are prominent personalities like Justice Ajit J. Gunjal residing here, the BBMP does not take the responsibility to maintain it regularly," added Dr. Sunil Mallesh.

One of the parks in front of the hospital is maintained by the hospital as patients often use this park. The hospital has set up benches for the patients at the park.

"Since the residents in that locality use this place as a dumping ground, we lock the park but, somebody always breaks in and uses it," said Mallesh

"I remember the greenery and the serenity around the place," he said. The condition of the parks has deteriorated for the past seven years. The public don't come here anymore and don't they buy the tender coconuts that are sold here," said Lingayya, a coconut seller on chord road for years.

"Usually at night, the residents, hotels and hospitals dump the garbage here as nobody sees it," said Nagappa, superintendent of the horticulture department of BBMP. Nagappa claims that there is shortage of workers yet they keep cleaning the parks.

According to Krishnam Raju, assistant chief engineer at BBMP said the garbage and dust getting piled up will be cleaned once the metro work gets completed.

He also said that there is an agreement signed between BBMP and BMRCL and the latter will complete all the repair work.

# 'We want our money back'



Apoorva Sripathi

**The members of Karnataka State Rural Weightage Employees Forum stage a protest to claim their monetary benefits and promotions.**

**By Antara Sengupta and Apoorva Sripathi**

The Karnataka State Rural Weightage Employees Forum staged a protest outside Freedom Park because they did not receive monetary benefits and promotions that they were entitled to during their service spanning 1998 to 2003.

In 1998-99, the state government appointed employees under the Rural Weightage Scheme, which gives opportunities to people from rural areas in employment and education.

In 2003, unemployed people from urban areas filed a case in the Supreme Court following which the court upheld the order and terminated them from their service as it was illegal to appoint teachers based on the rural quota.

In August 2003, the rural employees were reappointed based on humanitarian grounds but their earlier services were not considered for salary.

"We have sent three representatives from the association to meet the chief minister regarding this issue and come to a conclusion. The government is not ready to pay our earlier benefits," said S. S. Hadli, secretary, government employees federation.

The Karnataka State Rural Weightage Employees Forum was formed in 2003 and it aims to arrange jobs and forms special recruitment rules for people from the rural areas.

A similar situation took place in Punjab in 2002. The Punjab

government appointed a judicial committee to define its stand. The committee submitted a report to the Punjab assembly which gave it to the high court which in turn was passed to the Supreme Court which delivered the judgment in the government's favor.

"The Karnataka government is silent till now and only today has the chief minister agreed to talk it out with the forum. 5,017 people are suffering because of this," said Ranganath Havaladar, national executive committee member, school teachers federation of India.

The state government has been considering only seven years of service even though some employees have put in 12 years or more of service.

"They are not considering my four years of service which I did between 1999 and 2003 and are not considering my service seniority or giving me any monetary benefits," said Padmavathi, assistant teacher of a government school in Gulbarga.

"I will fight for justice even after my retirement and we know our course of action which we will undertake if the government does not agree to our demands," she said.

This struggle has been going on for a year and a half now and the forum is urging the state authorities to solve the issue by amending the 2003 rule 4 (1) and 4 (2) to safeguard their due privileges.

The Chief Minister, D.V. Sadananda Gowda wrote a note on the memorandum to the ministry of law seeking opinion on this.

# The clock ticks for countdown timers

**By Nandita Raman**

Some of the countdown timers that were installed in 2009 by the Bangalore traffic police at many signals are not working. These timers help in decreasing traffic violations such as signal jumping.

"The idea of these signals is for people to know how long they exactly have to wait," said M. A. Saleem, Additional Commissioner of Traffic and Security Bangalore city. "As it helps the commuters prepare, they don't violate as much in the signals that have these timers."

The timer is available only for the red signals and not for the green. This means that people know how long they have to wait, but they do not know how many seconds they can travel during the green signal.

"The Bangalore traffic police have not paid for both the services, which is why it is present only for the red signal," said D. Ravikumar, manager at Bharat Electrical Ltd (BEL), the company in charge of setting up the timers.

According to BEL, the traffic department upgraded 150 signals and added 184 new signals, in 2008. Out of these, all 184 new signals and around 35 upgraded ones have-countdown timers.

"Some timers have not been working and BEL will fix it and install it again in the next month or two," said Vasant Bhagwat of the Traffic Management Cell.

"The traffic police does not cal-



Harish Upadhyaya

**The traffic count down timers not working properly in most signals in the city.**

culate the time that is spent in each signal properly," said Shree Hari, traffic engineer. "They do not take into account the traffic volume to calculate the time. This is what is leading to all the bottle necks in the city."

The timers have environmental advantages.

Bhagwat said that the commuters switch off the engines, thereby saving petrol and polluting less.

"Since I know exactly how long

I have to wait, I switch off my vehicle and turn it on when it is just around 6 seconds," said M. Deepak, a commuter.

A pilot project, Vehicle Actuated Detector, has also been launched in the MG Road corridor. This is a wireless technology that senses the traffic flow and times the signal accordingly.

If this project is a success the timers will be removed throughout the city and will be replaced by this new system.

# Traffic school's training for children goes in vain

**By Mowna Ravikumar**

The Students Association for Road Safety educates thousands of children every year on traffic discipline while they are mostly exposed to their parents flouting these rules.

"Teaching children once in a while, for an hour does not help," said L. Ramkumar, an educational counsellor. "Children are more likely to follow their parents, irrespective of good or bad habits."

More than 100,000 students were trained in the Traffic Park on St. Marks' Road last year according to the Students Association for Road Safety. Every year, more than 100 schools enrol in this program.

"We educate and train children to learn about the traffic rules at a young age," said M. Rao, deputy chief of the program who answered the phone call while he was driving.

"Students are ignorant about rules; they use mobile phones and listen to music while riding and crossing roads."

The training mostly concentrates on high school and junior college children, between the age groups of 13-17, because at school level kids tend to understand and take teaching seriously. Almost all schools in the city are enrolled for this training.

The Students Association for Road Safety was started in 1976 and it operates like an NGO. The traffic officers visit all the schools under



Antara Sengupta

**Traffic rules in the city are not followed as school children sit on the rear of bicycles that are meant for solo riding.**

their jurisdiction and enrol students for training.

Earlier, only private schools were given training. "In the last two years, we have covered government and corporation schools as they are usually the ones who do not have enough exposure," said M. T. Nayak, chief traffic warden of Bangalore.

The children start their training by familiarizing rules that is presented to them through lectures and PowerPoint. On Saturdays, they are given practical lessons through drills, march past and practical

regulations of traffic in The Traffic Park.

The children also help in controlling traffic during processions and religious ceremonies that hinder free flow of vehicles.

The park provides bicycles so that children can get a first-hand experience in following lane discipline.

Vijendra S., a student who underwent this training along with his friends, said the training hardly made any difference to him or his classmates.

## Weather Report

Max temp : 25°C  
 Min temp : 19°C  
 Humidity : 64%  
 Wind : 8 km/hr

Source : Android

## Market Watch

ONGC dropped 2.13 %  
 Infosys fell 1.64 %  
 Tijaria Polypipes surged 14.84 %  
 Shivam Autotech Ltd. rose 2.37 %

Source : Google Finance