

OUTER ZONES OUTGROW CORE CITY GROWTH PANGS

K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj

BENGALURU: A strain on the meagre resources available for the outer zones, which were added to the BMP to form Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) in 2007, has prompted a unison cry from these areas to split the civic body. At the same time, citizens in the core areas have been opposing a division.

As per the 2011 census, outer zones have the wards with the highest population. An analysis of the data also shows that most of the largest wards and wards with highest populations are in the outer zones while those in the core areas have the highest population density.

Of the 45 wards that have a population of over 50,000, 36 are in the outer zones. Plotting all wards with population over 50,000 on a map almost results in a ring around the city. Civic experts consider the ideal population in each ward to be around 25,000.

“While the data for 2011 is alarming, the city has grown by leaps and bounds at an alarming pace in the past four years, again in the outer zones,” said urban expert Ashwin Mahesh.

A study “Modeling and Simulation of Urbanisation in Greater Bangalore” by Indian Institute of Science predicted a spurt in urbanisation in the northeast and northwest parts in 2020 with the emergence of new clustered urban nuclei on the outer zones.

The BBMP council allots Rs. 3 crore per ward for projects in the newly added areas. Many argue that this allocation is grossly insufficient for wards with high population and



Most of the largest wards and wards with highest populations are in the outer zones while those in the core areas have the highest population density. — PHOTO: BHAGYA PRAKASH K

a large area, even as such wards clearly lack basic infrastructure. These areas have seen unforeseen urbanisation in recent years, which has not been matched by adequate resources. While most of these areas suffer from inadequate drinking water facilities, many, including upmarket Whitefield, are yet to get a fully functional underground drainage system.

R K Mishra, a member of BBMP Technical Advisory Committee and a member of the Bruhat Whitefield Residents Welfare Association said that the BBMP experiment had

clearly failed. “BBMP is non-existent in the new areas. Why should we suffer? We want to opt out of BBMP. Smaller municipalities will only help better governance,” he said.

Jayamahall councillor M K Gunasekhar said that political interference and short-sightedness has led to imbalance in allocation of funds with areas in the central areas cornering most of the funds creating a regional imbalance.

A case for delimitation of wards

Staff Reporter

BENGALURU: Many urban experts have been pressing for at least delimitation of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) wards, if not restructuring before the polls. The 2011 census data highlights the uneven distribution of population across wards. While the ward

with the least population has around 21,000 voters, the ward with the highest population has around 95,000.

Urban expert Ashwin Mahesh said that this is discriminatory and makes a strong case for restructuring before polls.

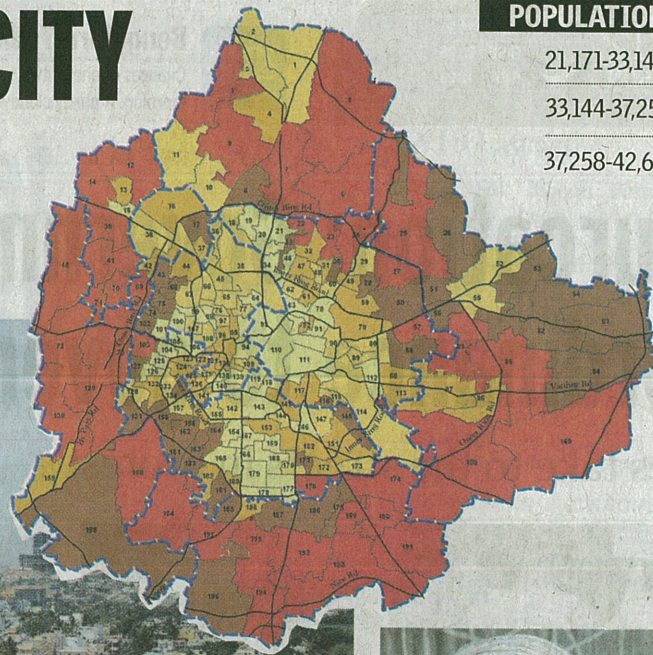
The delimitation process, as per the 2011 census data, is underway. However, the High Court has directed the government to go ahead with the polls if the delimitation process is not completed within April 13, a target

which civic experts believe is not possible to achieve. “We have done the delimitation of BBMP wards and have submitted a draft to the Urban Development Department, but it is yet to be approved. This exercise has taken into consideration the uneven population and area distribution in BBMP. Once approved, we will go ahead with public consultation, which is estimated to take 90 days,” said V Shankar, Deputy Commissioner, Bengaluru (Urban).

POPULATION

21,171-33,144	33,144-37,258	37,258-42,656	42,656-51,240	51,240-95,368
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Source: 2011 Census



There is no way that the BBMP can efficiently govern the area under its jurisdiction. I suggest trifurcation based on the three storm water valleys

T V RAMACHANDRA, SCIENTIST, CENTRE FOR ECOLOGICAL SCIENCES, INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE



TOP 5 WARDS WITH HIGHEST POPULATION

WARD	POPULATION
Horamavu	95,368
Bellanduru	80,180
Begur	80,037
Thanisandra	72,855
Doddabidarakallu	72,794

TOP 5 WARDS WITH LARGEST AREA

WARD	AREA (IN SQ KM)
Hemmigepura	28.40
Varthur	25.03
Bellanduru	24.23
Jakkuru	23.96
Begur	18.80

WARDS WITH LEAST POPULATION

WARD	POPULATION
Marenahalli	21,171
Jayamahall	21,728
Vasanth Nagar	22,815
Shantala Nagar	22,995
Dr. Rajkumar Ward	24,181

WARDS WITH LEAST AREA

WARD	AREA (IN SQ KM)
Padarayanapura	0.31
K P Agrahara	0.36
Chelavadi Palya	0.40
Shivajinagar	0.43
Dayanandanagar	0.45

TOTAL POPULATION

84,43,675

2011 census

Property tax evaluation won't be outsourced

Staff Reporter

BENGALURU: The Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) council has dropped the proposal to outsource property tax collection to private firms.

A proposal was put up in the council on Thursday to hire persons who would be evaluating properties above 4,000 sq ft and calculate the tax to be paid. This was aimed at preventing misuse of the self-assessment scheme. The proposal provided 20 per cent of the tax collected to be paid to the evaluators.

However, the proposal was opposed by councillors cutting across party lines. Though BBMP Commissioner M Lakshminarayan tried to defend the proposal saying it won't be a burden on the exchequer and the civic body was already roping in private evaluators in many cases, the proposal was dropped by the council after much debate.

Campaign against TenderSURE

Staff Reporter

BENGALURU: A group of non-governmental organisations have launched a 'No more TenderSURE' campaign. Around 50 activists from various organisations held a protest on St. Marks' Road on Thursday against the project.

Coming together under the Forum for Urban Commons and Governance, they claimed that the project was being implemented in an undemocratic way. By giving an “elite makeover for roads”, they were being taken away from the common man.

Vinay Srinivas, one of the protestors, alleged that the project is impractical as it reduced the carriageway of major arterial roads.