

Making history

By KAVITHA KUSHALAPPA
DH NEWS SERVICE

BANGALORE: The exit of the present Bangalore Mahanagara Palike Council on November 23, will in some ways be historic. With the government keyed in on the process of the formation of Greater Bangalore, indications are that the outgoing corporators will be the last to represent the BMP in its present form.

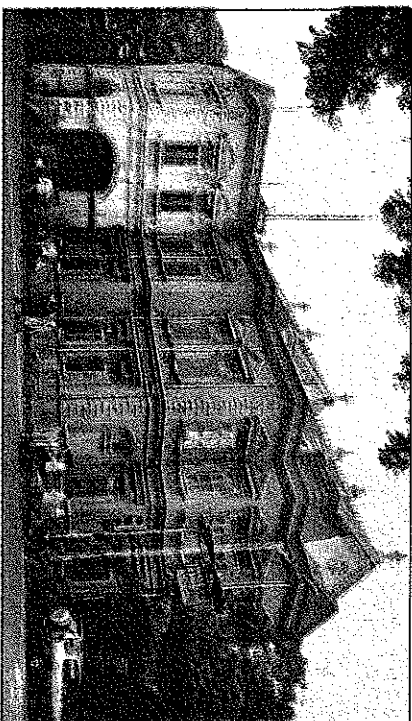
The Bangalore Mahanagara Palike came into being on December 8, 1949, as the amalgamation of the City Municipality and Cantonment Municipality. Including the outgoing one, the BMP has witnessed 11 councils of elected representatives, 43 mayors (four of them women) and 23 administrators.

Beginning with 53 members in 1949, the BMP council strength increased to 87 members in 1983 and to 100 members in 1996. Mr R Subbanna was the first Mayor. The 12th Mayor B Indramma (in 1960) was the first woman mayor. Mr H N Krishnappa a Class 4 Clerk in the BMP council section (due to retire in June, 2007) noted that prior to the KMC Act of 1976 the BMP council meetings were usually called to order in the afternoon - around 3 pm and the meetings would run on till the wee hours the next day; it was specially so when J Lingaraj and M V Thirwarj were mayors. Now as per the rules council meetings should be held between morning 9 am and 7 pm.

Mr Krishnappa also recalled the civic reception BMP accorded to late prime minister Indira Gandhi at the Kanteerava Stadium. "Devaraj Urs was the chief minister and Ananthkrishna was the mayor, and we gave Mrs Gandhi a statue of Goddess Chamundeswari," he reminisced.

For former mayor G Narayana, the inauguration of the Cauvery drinking water supply scheme to Bangalore City by late prime minister Lal Bahadur Shastri in 1964 is an occasion of note in the BMP diary.

The period between 1975 and 1983 saw the longest run; that of 13 administrators and is noted for the term of late N Lakshman Rau from January 9, 1975 to November 30, 1978. For old-time insiders of BMP, it was the "noble period" of the BMP. And to name some of Bangalore's notable projects in this period: the Jayanagar and Vijayanagar boulevard, the shopping complexes in Jayanagar Ra-



Mayo Hall where BMP council used to meet from 1949 to 1995.



The pedestrian sub-way in City Market, built between 1960 and 1971, was Bangalore's first subway. Old-time officers recall that it was among the first of the infrastructure projects to name.



I was the commissioner when there was no elected body in the BMP. It was a time when multi-storeyed structures were just coming up in the city. The corporation had already started issuing notices against violations particularly setback violations. We were very tough and demolished some of them too. I worked with three administrators in one year. Mr Gundu Rao was the chief minister and he never interfered with the BMP administration. But it is definitely healthier to have an elected body. In the absence of one, we held monthly meetings with the city MLAs and MLGs. Bangalore is a much more manageable city. Greater Bangalore is taking shape whether the BMP likes it or not. Administration-wise the move for the formation of Greater Bangalore is good.

Former chief secretary **TERESA BHATTACHARYA** is the only lady to have held the post of Commissioner BMP. She was commissioner from March 1981 to March 1982 during the long administrative period of the BMP (1975 to 1983).

A corporator should be like a watch dog

keeping a tab on the best of the civic amenities that can be given to the people. While parks and lakes of the city have received due attention, road development in Bangalore has not progressed as it should have. The existing ones cannot take the traffic load of the day. Personally being a corporator has been a great opportunity.



M K KUPPARAJU the senior most among outgoing corporators, was first elected in 1971

Satellites to track waste dumping

By Meera Vankipuram

July 8

PICTURE this: Bangalore city generates nearly 3613 tonnes of solid waste per day. The municipality collects 1139 tonnes from public dust bins and about 200 tonnes are sent to processing units.

But a large percentage, estimates the Environment Association of Bangalore (EAB), is dumped in open spaces or remains uncollected!

EAB President and Joint Secretary, Department of Space Dr R G Nadadur blames the absence of effective waste management solutions and proper landfill sites as major causes for this burgeoning problem.

Urban waste management, he feels, requires careful planning. "Technology can play a vital role. Remote sensing imagery, generated by our satellites, can identify proper waste disposal sites, help design routing for transport of waste and even track illegal dumping," he said.

Inaugurating EAB's annual Urban Waste Management seminar here on Saturday, former Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) Chairman and MP Dr K Kasturirangan, pointed out that satellite imagery had been used to identify forest encroachment in Maharashtra and analyze the impact of urban infrastructure on water sources in Karnataka.

Currently, the Indian Remote Sensing Satellite series, Resourcesat, Technology Experiment Satellite and CARTOSAT generate spatial data used for monitoring natural resources, flood mapping and land use. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) store and enable optimum use of this data.

ISRO Regional Remote Sensing Service Centre head P G Diwakar avers that GIS could help identify landfills and dumps on the basis of terrain characteristics, slope, drainage patterns



Garbage dumped on Basavanagar main road, attracting dogs and flies — Express photo

STINKING CITY

Source-wise generation of solid waste in Bangalore (tonnes per day)

Stake-holder	Volume	Percentage
Households	650	18
Commercial Establishments	1436	39
Hospitals, institutes	128	4
Industries	1399	39
Total	3613	100

(Source: EAB Seminar on Urban Waste Management, July 2006)

and soil permeability. GIS can also help devise the best routes for transporting garbage to disposal sites, and to design efficient collection and disposal strategies.

However, Dr Kasturirangan firmly believes

Remote-sensing imagery generated by satellites can identify waste disposal sites and even capture illegal dumping

that no single agency can deal with waste management. "We could design the best waste management systems but unless everyone, including government agencies, NGOs, waste generating institutions as well as citizens cooperate, we will not achieve success," he said.

And sharks eyeing Bangalore's Hirekere lake

DH Photo



Rapid development on the banks of Hirekere lake near Nagarbhavi in Bangalore calls for concern as construction wastes are let into the lake directly.

being formed very close to the lake bed a month ago KSPCB issued notices to BMRDA, Sulikere and the Kodigehalli gram panchayats — all of whom served en-

WHAT'S LEGAL ABOUT THIS?

NAME OF THE LAKE: Hirekere, **360** acres

LOCATION: 3 km from Nagarbhavi

LAKE'S JURISDICTION: Sulikere GP, Kengeri Hobli

PRESENT SCENARIO: Roads constructed to form a private layout on tank bed. Foundation for **300** houses laid, but construction activity has come to a halt. Drainage connections from the layout has been directly given to the lake. Work began six months ago, according to the KSPCB.

JURISDICTION OF LAYOUT: Kodigehalli Gram Panchayat

BUILDER/PROMOTER OF LAYOUT: No answer with Govt.

WHAT DOES KSPCB HAVE TO SAY? Permission from KSPCB is a must for a layout formation. However, it has denied granting permission for this layout in Hireker. It states that even BMRDA & grama panchayats had not given their consent for this.

dorsements stating that nobody had sought permission from them for the layout for-

would be considered illegal, he added.

Certificate required

"The formation of any residential area requires a Consent for Establishment (CFE) certificate by the KSPCB. Builders have to take precautions to ensure that the lake is polluted. We are yet to ascertain who the builder or builders are," he said.

When asked what was the extend of the tank bed and whether encroachment had taken place, the officer said he was yet to get information in this regard from the tahsildar of the Kengeri Hobli. "We are yet to ascertain the defined boundary, if

any, to find out the extent of encroachment," he added.

Mr Lakshminarayana said that work on the layout had stopped after the KSPCB had started inquiring into the matter, a few days ago.

Mr Satish Babu, a bird watcher residing in Vijayanagar, has been visiting the lake for over 15 years to study birds flocking to the lake.

"This lake is a rich resource to the birds that feed here, as it is still untouched to a large extent. Unfortunately, the Bar Headed Geese, a migratory species from the Himalayas, haven't been visiting the lake for five years now," he told *Deccan Herald*.

te Pollution Control Board (KSPCB), according to board officials.

Following information on to *Deccan Herald* regarding the alleged illegal layout formation, this reporter visited the spot for a preliminary check on Friday. A layout area, neatly segregated into plots with half-connected roads and drains in place, was seen. However, there was no board indicating the layout or builder's name.

When contacted, Mr Lakshminarayana, an environmental officer, KSPCB, Bangalore North II, said that Board officials had inspected the layout recently. "We heard at the residential layout