

BMP lacks contract management skill

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BANGALORE Mahanagara Palike (BMP) seems to have serious shortage of skills in contract management. Earlier, it was Rajajinagar grade separator, EWS joint venture and now the garbage contracts

Following an article in this paper on alleged irregularities in awarding new garbage contracts, the Commissioner of Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BMP) K Jairaj sought an explanation from the Special Commissioner Gaurav Gupta. Gupta in turn referred the matter to joint commissioner (health) M P Baligar who in turn referred it to chief medical officer Dr Vijayalaxmi. New garbage contracts were in the middle of controversy for various reasons including cartelling by contractors.

But the officials came out with an explanation that begged the question. They justified awarding of major portion of Rs 250 crore works to contractors related to each other by saying that the terms of contract did not bar family members from competing. BMP further explained that the bids were evaluated by a consultant IDECK.

Gupta told this paper that he had no role to play in awarding the contracts. He sought to be excused by saying that he was not present at BMP on the day bids were opened. But the health department is under his charge. He said that the contractors were issued mobilisation orders. But were they given work orders? "I don't know. How am I expected to know every event in my section?" asked the officer.

Histrionic Talent



Artiste Lakshmi Chandrashekar performs 'Henallave-just a woman' solo performance organised by Creative Theatre Trust at Raj Bhavan in Bangalore on Monday.

—Express photo by Mohan Kumar B.N