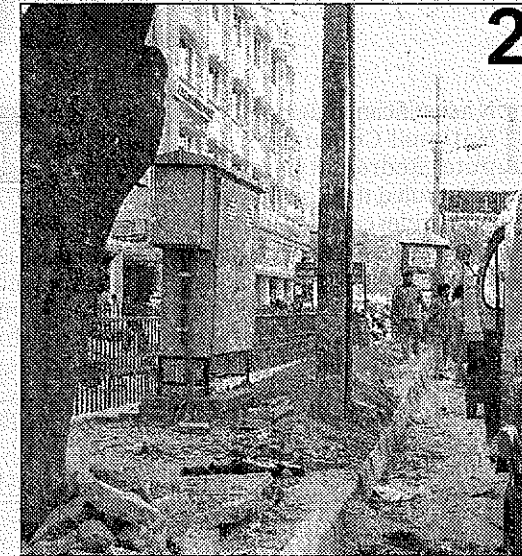
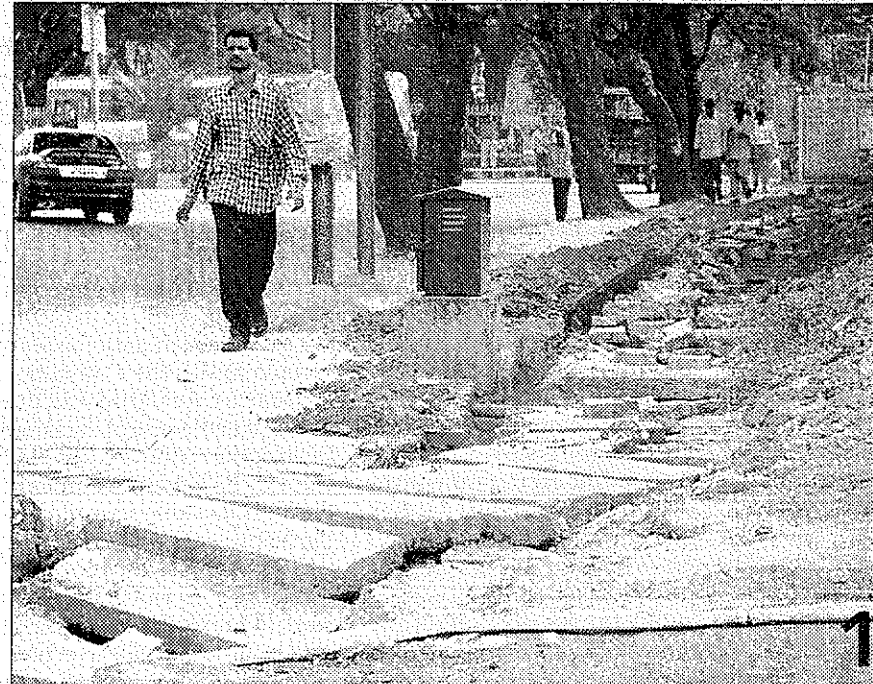


FOOTPATHS USED FOR EVERYTHING ELSE BUT WALKING



1. This footpath near Minsk Square has been dug up and slabs uprooted making it impossible for pedestrian use. 2. Is it a footpath or a place to accommodate electricity pole and transformer box? There is no space for people to walk on this narrow strip near Trinity Circle.

Missing in city: Pavements for pedestrians to walk safely

By Bosky Khanna

Dec 17: Hop, skip and jump is the way to walk on the footpaths of Bangalore, as most places lack adequate walking space. There are very few footpaths in the City and the least said of them the better.

The footpaths do not have enough walking space and levelled paths. Most of them are left unfinished due to continuous repair work or they have turned into dumping grounds for construction material and machinery. If not, they are encroached by restaurants and shops.

Motorists use footpaths as parking space and even use them as an extension of the roads during traffic jams.

Many citizens feel that there are no footpaths left for pedestrians in the City and the Bangalore Mahanagara Palike has concentrated only on improving the roads, ignoring the worries of the pedestrians.

Neetu K, a resident, says that places like Commercial Street and Jayanagar, have no footpaths, while those on MG Road and Brigade Road are encroached by shop-keepers.

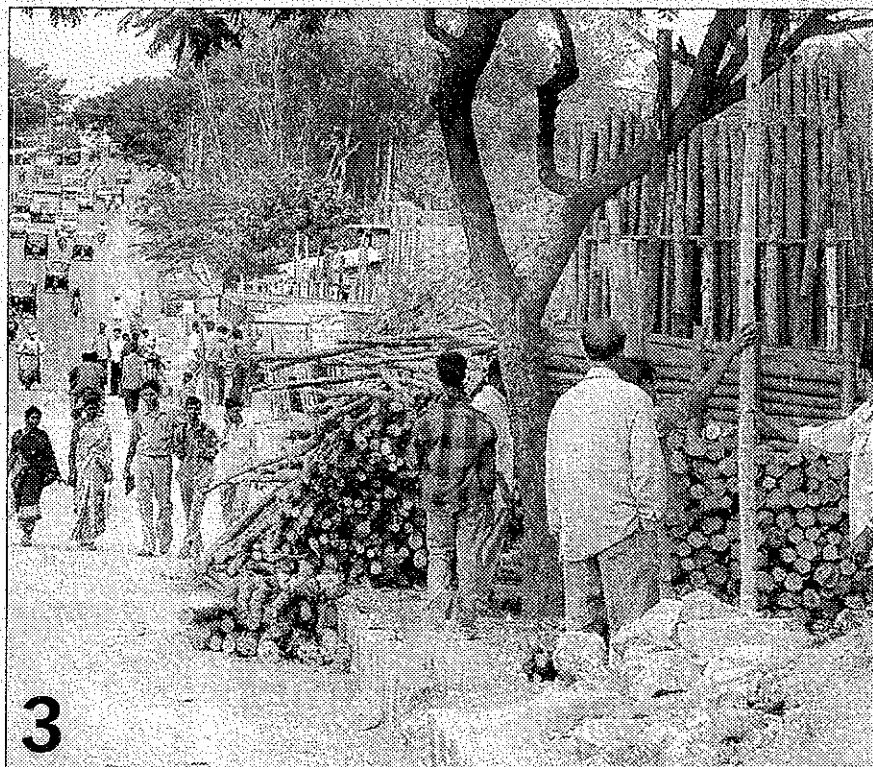
"It plays havoc with pedestrians as they are compelled to walk on roads

Many people have hurt themselves walking on the footpath as vehicles also move on them, adding to the pedestrians' worries

Rajesh Poddar, a shop owner in Majestic, complains that footpaths are not levelled, thus making it difficult to walk in these crowded places.

"Many people have hurt themselves walking on the footpaths, as none of them are suited to meet the needs of people. Vehicles also move on them, adding to the pedestrians' worries," he added.

D Narayan K, another shop-keeper, said that the Corporation should pay more attention to people's worries. It should concentrate on foot-



3. You have no shop, don't worry! Footpath is there. Footpath are commonly used by roadside vendors to sell their goods flouting rules right under the nose of authorities. This wood dealer on Outer Ring Road near Banashankari has not only occupied the footpath but also a portion of main road forcing pedestrians to walk on the busy road — Express photos

It's time for action: BMP Administrator

BMP Administrator Dilip Rau told this paper that he is aware of the bad conditions of the footpaths and it is time to take strict action.

"A policy should be worked out to stop the misuse of footpaths and deal with the situation. Some cases have been reported to us regarding structures, encroachments, debris and garbage piles.

"I have instructed the zonal officers to level and clear them up. I will hold meetings with the Commissioner and work out a policy to take stringent action against violators of law. People have been instructed to vacate the footpaths within three to four days, or strict action will be ordered," he said.

• The length of the footpaths vary depending upon the areas (residential or commercial).

• The lengths of footpaths, based on divisions:

South - 687.85 kms
North - not accounted.