

# BBMP releases zone-wise details, but property owners still confused

STAFF REPORTER

**BENGALURU:** The demolition drive that the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has taken up to clear encroachments on storm-water drains has had property owners living in perpetual fear about whether they are the next on the list. This, despite the BBMP on Sunday updating on its website the zone and ward details of the revenue maps and records indicating which areas of east and north Bengaluru will come under its demolition drive.

"You can get a copy of the revenue maps for Rs. 10 if you go down to the tahsildar's office and they are confusing. The maps uploaded on the website are also simi-

## DEMOLITION DRIVE

lar, and the additional details uploaded on Sunday are not helping. There is no way a common man can understand or identify if their property is going to be demolished after going through these documents," said Santosh, who owns a commercial property at Doddabommasandra.

"The survey officials mark buildings to be demolished and then remove the markings and mark other buildings. They seem confused and confuse us further," said Manjesh of Dasappa Layout at Doddabommasandra, who has already lost the back por-



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**Santosh,**  
Property owner

tion of his house during the drive.

"We did not get any notice and uploading some vague documents on the website is not going to serve any purpose," said Vasudha, who lost

some portions of her house at Avani Sringeri Nagar.

BBMP Commissioner N. Manjunath Prasad, however, while refuting the allegations, said that in the coming days Revenue officials would conduct a survey of the area and inform people about the properties identified for demolition.

"The joint commissioners of each zone and the engineers will also be involved and there will be no confusion," he said, and added that while these properties were illegal and had either false or no BBMP-supported PID or khata, they could not be identified in any other manner except by following the revenue maps indicating the direction of the storm-water drains.

## Stop concretising drain-beds: IISc. researcher

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**BENGALURU:** The civic body's penchant for handing over large tracts of storm-water drains (SWDs) to contractors may be doing the city more harm than good.

The contractor-consultant model for SWD development leads to maximising individual gains through concretisation of the channels rather than to ensure proper flow of water, says T.V. Ramachandra,

researcher with the Indian Institute of Science (IISc.), in a letter to the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP).

Consequently, the researcher says that the SWD estimates could be as high as Rs. 8 crore per kilometre, which was "too exorbitant and waste of public money."

The letter follows a visit by BBMP Commissioner N. Manjunath Prasad to the IISc. lab on August 11, during which, he had suggested

researchers write to him on recommendations on enhancing capacity of drains in the city.

One of the suggestions put forth by Mr. Ramachandra was to stop concretising drain-beds. Research on the canals around Kaikondrahalli lake on Sarjapur Road has shown that using natural soil-bed (with vegetation and undergrowth) retards the flow of water and also allows for recharging of groundwater. The cur-

rent model of using concrete drain-beds increases the flow of water as well as quantum of water (as the bed is nearly impervious) by more than 10 times, says Mr. Ramachandra in the letter.

Other recommendations include strengthening BBMP's legal cell to tackle encroachments and more stringent punishment against encroachers and those dumping solid waste into drains.