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BBMP pitches tent as complex crumbles

ANIL DAS

The health and revenue departments have been housed under a pandal near Vidyapeeth Circle following partial demolition of the complex they were located in.

The Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagar Palike (BBMP) complex in Basavanagudi was partly demolished last year to make way for a new multilevel parking, but the complex has not been touched since then. It is in a dilapidated condition and lacks basic amenities. Many walls are missing in the building and the roof has caved in at certain spots. Cigarettes, liquor bottles, cards and all sorts of litter are strewn about on the floor together with demolished construction material.

The complex, which is situated near the Gandhi Bazaar vegetable market, used to house the revenue and health departments; now it contains a few private traders who have rented the space.

The complex was constructed to cater to local villagers from neighboring areas to sell their produce and conduct business.

The revenue and health departments from the building have been moved out to the Channamankere CT bed near Vidyapeeth circle due to the reconstruction activity. The

revenue officials were found collecting taxes outside the building under a pandal.

Revenue Inspector, Mr. Srinivas said: "The building has been partly demolished for the reconstruction activity since a year ago a tender has been called. However nothing has improved and our offices have been shifted to different location. We come here regularly and put up a pandal to collect taxes and make



Revenue collectors sitting outside the building
by Anil Das

it easier to the citizens. This is one of the main centers for collection of taxes as Kempe Gowda, Shankarpuram, Vishweswarapuram, Basvanagudi, Srinagar and Shrinivasnagar fall under this jurisdiction.

An assessing officer in revenue department, Nagendra refused to comment, stating he is not aware of anything on this matter.

A shopkeeper Chandrashekar

rueed at the apathy of the officials, stating that there are no basic amenities such as toilets, water and electricity in spite of them paying their taxes religiously.

This market is used only during morning hours from 6 AM to 9 AM by flower vendors; it is idle afterwards. The first floor has become haven for playing cards and liquor consumption, as there are no security officials to man the complex.

Manjula, a local vegetable vendor and resident complained: "it is little inconvenient for me to go to the makeshift office and get my things done".

A resident of the area, Mahadeviah said "this has caused me inconvenience while getting some paper work done; otherwise I finish my work in Bangalore one counter."

The Chief Engineer Projects BBMP, A.K. Gopalaswamy, said that the BBMP plans to construct a multilevel complex at the location to house all the departments. "We have called for the tender for reconstruction and we shall start work within three months."

About the delay of the work, he said that the BBMP is aware that it is an inconvenience, but certain matters cannot be spoken about.

Security a major issue in High Court

POOJA GAUTAM

Karnataka High Court lacks proper security. Although the City has been put on a high alert, after the attacks on High Court in Uttar Pradesh (UP).

If one were to enter the premises of the High Court, one would find one constable at the gate without any equipment. The rear gate of the building is entirely devoid of any security.

Sumitra, a High Court lawyer said, "There is a lax in security here. People from outside come here whenever they want. They are not checked. There are very few policemen here. There is a need for more security. What happened in UP may happen here also."

Philomina Ross, another High Court lawyer agrees, "The public should not be allowed to walk in just like that. There should be an id- proof system in place. The lawyers will carry identification with them. They can also identify the people that are brought in as witnesses. There should also be more police force in here. The security is definitely not enough."

Jeena, another High Court lawyer said, "Along with the id- proof system, the security people should be given metal detectors as well."

Mr.Naik, Assistant Registrar, however, said, "We have around 100 constables here. First there were 60. Now, after the attacks we have increased the number by 40."

Contradicting this statement, constable Somnath Naik said that there are a total of nine security personnel in the place: six head constable, three constables, one

inspector, one Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) and one Assistant Police Commissioner (APC).

The circular of security states that there are supposed to be around 47 men for the place. He is also in the favor of having an identity proof arrangement in place, like there is in Vidhan Soudha.

Sri. B. A. Patel, Registrar (Administration), said, "Yes, I agree that there is not enough security in place. There is a scarcity of policemen. There aren't enough men on hand. We have written a letter to the Government. They did assure as that they would appoint more policemen in here. Although the assurance is yet to become a reality, but we are going to have a discussion on this matter with the ACP in charge, as well as the Honorable Chief Justice."

Mr. M. K. Murali, the Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP), who is in charge of the high court said, "We are facing shortage of staff. We require additional force. In fact I just came out of a meeting with the Honorable Chief Justice, the Registrar and other senior officials. We are going to get an additional force of around 36 men, including three sub-inspectors. We are also going to have the people physically checked by metal detectors. These measures are going to be applied immediately- in a day or two. We are also going to have high- level security measures like advanced equipments and gadgets. CCTV camera for example. But this will take some time."

By- two kaapi, please!

CHITRA PHALGUNI

When you think of coffee today, what would strike you instantly? Filter? Instant coffee? Chicory? Or even tea?

The youth of Bangalore would probably say 'CCD' (Café Coffee Day), a popular place to hang out at, while Siddharth Hegde would light up a smile and say "Success!"

A generation preceding, 'coffee' meant socializing with intellectual equals and discussing politics, poetry, people or even just anything.

The story of coffee, according to the folk of Karnataka, goes back to the 16th century. On a pilgrimage to Mecca, the holy man, Baba Budan, is said to have found this wondrous plant and have fallen for it. Coffee beans came with him all the way out of the Yemeni port of Mocha. The Chandragiri Hills in Karnataka became the new home for coffee, in India.

If you want to see coffee in not only the trite, white cup-and- saucer, but also more forms than one, then just walk

down the Ambedkar Veedhi. Opposite the Visvesvarayya Towers is the Indian Coffee Board.

An Act of the Parliament of India in 1942 was the genesis for the Indian Coffee Board. The Board works on research, development, quality upgradation, market information and endorsement of Indian coffee.

The Coffee Board has been carrying out basic and applied research on coffee for 75 glorious years. The Central Coffee Research Institute (CCRI) in the Chickmagalur district of Karnataka has been a forerunner of coffee research over the years. The Institute continues to be one of the leading institutes of the world in this field.

The Board runs two quality control laboratories: one in Bangalore and the other in Hassan. The laboratories, equipped with the best roasting and brewing machines, control and advise the industry on quality issues. The best quality evaluators keep a strict vigil on the pre and post

harvest processes. The quality of Indian coffee is, thus, maintained.

Every Thursday, the Board holds auctions of the coffee beans produced. The sale includes green beans of coffee of all varieties. The samples are displayed by the auctioneers at the Board, outside the Auction Hall. The coffee beans come with the name of the estate, the grade of the coffee, the rate at which they are being sold, et cetera. The bids are called by both export and local buyers, the criterion being the quality of the coffee.

Its canteen is what draws an outsider to the Coffee Board. With its hot coffee and special or filter coffee. Of course, the canteen offers cold coffee too. No lover of coffee would be able to resist the aroma, the taste, the pleasure of having hot coffee or the special coffee served in the age- old style at the canteen of the Indian Coffee Board.

Indeed, a lot has happened over coffee!