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## Illegal structures still stand firm

Demarcated buildings in Puttenahalli have not yet been demolished

J JAGANNATH

Bangalore—The illegal structures in Puttenahalli marked by Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagar Palike (BBMP) are yet to be demolished.

The massive flooding in Puttenahalli during October 2005 led to a High Power Land Encroachment Eviction Committee to look into the illegal structures that were encroaching the Raja Kaluve (main canal) in the area towards the South.

This committee formed under the chairmanship of the then Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) Commissioner, M.N.Vidyashankar, identified 28 such structures and promptly even marked those structures which were to be demolished.

However, two years hence the structures are yet to be demolished. Even till date more construction work is happening near the Raja Kaluve.

Flats are mushrooming all over. Puttaraju, Public Relations Officer of BBMP, said, "Till 2006 not much progress happened in this matter. But this

year we are trying to do something about this. Moreover the structures did not completely encroach the Kaluve. Only a minor part of it



Undemolished illegal buildings  
Courtesy-Indian Express

(Kaluve) has been encroached." Betttae Gowda, Assistant Executive Engineer Bommanahalli City Municipal Council, had different reasons for the structures not being demolished. He said, "People of

those structures have brought a stay order from the High Court. Hence, we are not able to do anything about it. The builders of the apartments are very influential people. A leader elected from the same constituency also has a home there." M.A. Sadiq, Urban Deputy Commissioner and District Magistrate, refused to divulge the reasons that compelled the High Court to provide a stay against the demolition since the case is still sub judice.

D.S.Umesh, Chief Engineer at Lake Development Authority, was part of the committee, which identified the 28 structures. He was of the opinion that people themselves encroach the Raja Kaluve and then cry hoarse about the excessive flooding. BBMP has to be more strict anyways!

## City market: nest for diseases

MANASA J. TEJESWINI

Bangalore—Improper garbage dumping in KR market has increased the number of tuberculosis and diarrhoea cases in just past few months.

Dr. Ravindra, Assistant Professor of Medicine department Victoria Hospital says that recently there has been a rise in the number of diseases like typhoid, Gastro-enteritis and Food poisoning reported around the city market. Such cases are caused due to the unclean fruits and vegetables that are being sold

next to the open drains and garbage disposal points in KR Market, he says.

Records at the Victoria hospital shows that everyday around 12-15

diarrhea cases are being reported. In this month itself 96 tuberculosis cases have been reported.

But the health ministry has entirely the opposite point of view to say. LT Gayatri (Chief Health Officer BBMP) says that twice a



Filth and garbage all over  
-Pic by author

month strict intensive cleaning is being done and every week the garbage is being collected. She also claimed that certain garbage disposal points have been made in order to keep the place clean and signboards have been put up at these disposal points to help people, which were not to be seen anywhere in the market. She

denies the fact that there has been rise in number of gastro-enteritis cases and tuberculosis. Ignorance of the people is the reason for this troublesome situation.

## Tuberculosis eradication-now successful in India

ANUYA ULPE

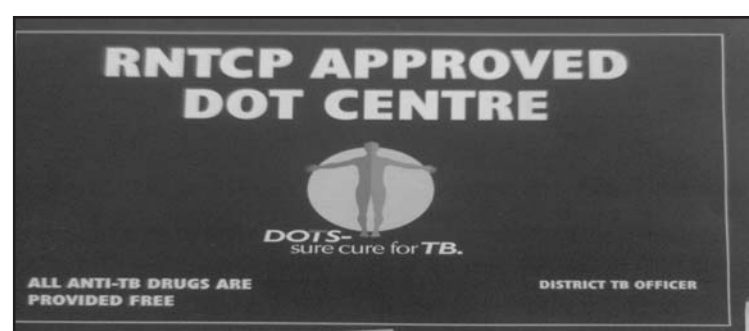
Bangalore—According to the World Health Organization report (WHO), India has the largest number of TB patients. But the increasing detection and treatment rates show a decrease in the number of patients.

The website www.healthinitiative.org (updated as of October 29, 2007) indicates that out of the total population of Karnataka of 55.3 million, 68 percent TB cases were detected and 89 percent were treated. This is due to 100 percent reach of the Direct Observation Therapy (DOT) under the Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme (RNTCP) started in the 90s.

On 2nd October, Rameshwar Thakur, governor of Karnataka called TB not only a health problem but a "socio-economic" problem as well. He emphasized on more awareness of TB among people especially in the rural and urban slum areas. And for this he called on the involvement of the

government as well as Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) in the state to fight TB together.

Prahlad Kumar, director of National Tuberculosis Institute



(NTI), Bangalore said, "The NGOs are given all the opportunities to work with the NTI to promote awareness of TB, provide treatment (to patients), set up hospitals and diagnostic centers". At present there are about 3000 NGOs countrywide that are working with the NTI. The NTI has reached its target of 70 percent detection rate, which the WHO had set for them. Kumar added that the

treatment rate is 85- 88 percent in total cases.

Although they do not deal with the TB Seal campaign he explained, "The infrastructure is perfect. All the peripheral and

voluntary workers working towards TB are doing well. Apart from that, the DOT is quite successful". DOT is an approach wherein trained individual (not a family member) assists and makes sure that the patient adheres to the treatment. All major practitioners are urged by the government to adopt the DOT strategy.

Rohit, manager, Gurushree High-tech hospital said that they get

about 5-6 cases in a span of three weeks to one month. 70 percent of the patients are from rural background and 10- 20 percent from lower-middle class to upper class. The detection rate is 100 percent. About the XTR-TB he hasn't "figured it out yet". "I don't believe that it's a socio economic problem. I think its only due to lack of awareness and hygiene". On the involvement of the NGOs, he says, "Its very less. I actually think they are not doing anything at all".

On the other hand, the emergence of extremely drug-resistant TB (XTR-TB) has put the T.B. treatment under the scan. But Kumar said that India is "fortunate" to

have only 3 percent of the XTR-TB at present. The funds allocated by the government under the RNTCP to combat TB are being completely

utilized in the proper manner.

TB can usually be treated with a course of four standard, or first-line, anti-TB drugs. XDR-TB can develop when these second-line drugs are also misused or mismanaged and therefore also become ineffective. Because XDR-TB is resistant to first- and second-line drugs, treatment options are seriously limited.

At Akshaya Homeo Clinic in Kormangala, Dr. Srinivas has seen a good progress in the number

"The government is working towards 'total eradication' of TB and so has made TB medicines free for the patients," Dr. Srinivas, Akshaya Homeo Clinic, Kormangala

of TB patients over the last four to five years. Although private practitioners are allowed to only diagnose and then

refer the patient to a government hospital for treatment. So, Tuberculosis cases have reduced drastically in number.