

## Developmental work in shambles

No new project has been sanctioned under JNNURM scheme in Bangalore for the last one year

DEBASIS MOHAPATRA

Bangalore—The developmental work in Bangalore is hampered due to the absence of city councils and for the last one year, Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagar Palike (BBMP), which is reeling under the scarcity of funds, finds it difficult to cope with the growing need of the city.

Ex-councilor of kengeri Mr. M.R.Sudhir informed that the officials have not taken many of the developmental projects up. "BBMP is only doing the maintenance work", he added. Giving instances of official apathy, he said that Hosikara lake upgradation has completely neglected by the lake development authority and the median street lights from Hosilaa circle to Manasapalaya has not been fixed up in his area. Another ex-councilor of Rajarajeswarinagar, Mr. Ramachandra, has also informed that a lot of developmental work has not been taken up due to the absence of city councils. Mr. Rajesh, the ex-councilor of Jaynagar area has expressed concern over the slow pace

of developmental work. He said that due to the absence of local representative, the public grievances relating to civic problem go unattended. Giving instances of negligence, he told 'The Observer' that their long standing demand of constructing a fly-over from BTM Layout to Dairy Circle has gone unheeded, whereas Mr. Somshekhar complained about poor maintainance of roads in his area. It is to be informed that the city councils of BBMP have been dissolved on Nov. 2006 and till date elections are not being held. Absence of elected

representatives, make the public officials directly responsible for city's future growth.

Answering to the questions regarding the slow pace of growth in Bangalore, the public relation officer, Mr.Pattaraju said that they were doing their work properly and many developmental works have been taken up during this year. Giving instances of various projects like Kriya Yojana, Vishesh Abhibrudhi Yojana etc., he



Absence of city councils has stagnated developmental work. -Goolge image

informed that total Rs 59.5cr worth of projects have been implemented. Regarding the release of Central funds under Jawaharlal Nehru Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM), he informed that no money has been received by the BBMP during this year as an elected council in the civic body is the essential condition to get the fund released. "No new projects have been taken up by the BBMP during this last year", he added. But reacting to the

ex-councilors' concerns about the present pace of development, he said that the concern was baseless.

The chief Finance Officer of BBMP, Mr. Manjunath said that Rs97cr. has been received by the BBMP for the year 2006-07 under JNNURM scheme for which the projects has been sanctioned by the previous city council. This decision has been taken in August 2006. The delay in civic election hampers the fund release, he added. But he declined to comment on the impact of non-release of funds on the developmental needs of the city.

## Till power-sharing do us apart....

SNEHA JHA

The BJP and JD (S) resuscitated their coalition partnership in the state on. The remarriage was solemnized after the state came under Central rule for the fifth time, following the vacation of office by the former Chief Minister H.D.Kumaraswamy.

The cloud of uncertainty is looming large over the political horizon because of the turmoil over leadership issues between the two partners of the alliance. The JD (S) refused to transfer power to the BJP chief ministerial candidate and Deputy CM, B.S.Yeddyurappa.

This refusal was a breach of contract, which was undertaken 20 months earlier. Consequently, the political marriage was annulled. Although the divorce was on mutual consent the entire affair is replete with animosity. It was very clear that Kumaraswamy was not ready to step down and just at that opportune moment the Tourism Minister B.Sriramulu proved to be the messiah for JD (S). His allegation against Kumaraswamy that a murder was planned on him was the face saving moment for JD (S). This is mere political chicanery on the part of JD (S) was clearly evident when JD (S) remained adamant even after BJP sacked Sriramulu. This spurred Deve Gowda to call BJP as cheaters and that they are defiling the secular setup of JD (S).

And to further ascertain its secular look Deve Gowda appointed Mirajuddin Patel, a Muslim, as the state JD (S) chief. This was clearly a ploy to entice the minority community, which does have a major say in Karnataka politics. The former deputy CM who was supposed to wield power after Kumaraswamy's rule was particularly bitter by the betrayal his party Accusations and counteraccusations befouled the political atmosphere. This was climax of the high-voltage political drama. But finally both the coalition partners, hungry for political power, realized the urgent need to sew up a re-alliance for the furtherance of their own political interests. This was the classic case of political opportunism, which is ubiquitous in the political scene and manifests itself in various forms like defection, horse-trading, political marriages and divorces. The power hungry politicians devise power-sharing strategies only to wield power and to concentrate it in their hands. This time the renewal of relationship is only on the condition that the alliance is advancing the purpose of both the partners. It has notched up their score in the political numbers game. But has it notched up their integrity deficiency in the eyes of the electorate? This is a debatable question at least until the next assembly elections.

## Crack in the castle: growing woes of Modi

DEBASIS MOHAPATRA

As the Gujrat elections get closer, the difficulties of Modi seem to be on rise. Simmering discontent within Bharatiya Janata Party, growing urban- rural divide, drifting of tribals from BJP and recently held Tehelka exposure add to the woes of Modi. It's difficult to

predict the outcome of upcoming assembly elections but it's for sure that without an emotive poll plank (like Godhra riot in last assembly elections) this will be a tough fight for Modi.

Though Gujrat has been lauded by the planning commission

during post-Godhra riots. This does not augur well for Modi as Zadaphia might just pull out those cadavers properly stuffed inside the proverbial cupboard. Another most noteworthy dissident is former chief minister Kesubhai Patel who vehemently opposes his autocratic attitude. Though the central BJP leadership always neglects Kesubhai's pleas, but with the change



Tough time ahead: Next assembly election is the acid test for Modi to prove his political standing -Google image

as the fastest growing state, the inside story is something very different. Farmers of Saurashtra and Central Gujrat have been neglected under Modi regime. They are worst hit by the poor harvest of Bt. Cotton without any support from state government. Annoying part of this fiasco is that Modi is passing the buck on the Central Government for this sorry state of affair. The NSSO 2005 figures shows that Gujrat's farmers have an average debt of Rs 15,526. Modi has also admitted in the Assembly that between January 2006 and January 2007, 148 farmers had committed suicide. So, in reality the developmental model of the Gujrat government is pro-urban. Also, his autocratic rule has spawned many dissidents and most noteworthy was former Home Minister Gordan Zadaphia who is known as Modi's right hand man

of dynamics it may go against Modi. So winning this upcoming assembly election is crucial for Modi to sustain his unquestioned legacy and further speaking his prime ministerial ambitions.

Modi is desperately trying to project himself as an ideologically moderate leader who has shed his pro-hindutva mindset when the reality shows that he has paid only lip service to the minorities considering the fact that his council of ministers does not have a single Muslim leader. His political agenda is to fight the next elections on the basis of developmental work done in Gujrat but statistics reveal the muck lying under this glorified façade. His claim that Guajrat is the only energy surplus state has been refuted by the Gujrat Urja Vikas Nigam Limited, which reported that the state is facing a shortfall of 900 Mega Watts. Thus, the hunky-dory picture drawn by Modi is actually a chimera. So, both Modi and BJP are standing at a crucial juncture where their fate will be determined by the assembly elections.

## Reminiscing the inception

President's rule fades the Rajyotsava celebration

MANASA J. TEJASWANI

Half yellow and half red flags flying everywhere in Karnataka. Procession from different areas all over the city is pretty interesting to watch. This indicates the unity among the people of the state. Celebrating the official formation of the state on November 1 1973 is called Kannada Rajyotsava So Kannada Rajyotsava means the 'State Celebrates its birthday'.

But under the president's rule, Karnataka this time saw a gloomy Rajyotsava celebration. As, the political parties are busy squabbling with each other for grabbing power there was no significant show of pomp and display.

The celebration all over the state portrays the rich cultural heritage of the state. Initially Mr.Ramamurthy created this flag for a political party called "Kannada Paksha" in 1965, though his party was not able to make success but the flag, which he had adopted, for his party later turned into Kannada Flag. The flag has which is of two colors Yellow & Red represents 'Arishina' &

'Kumkuma' which is considered as a good mangala sign.

After the independence the state of Mysore was created taking into fold districts from Bombay, Hyderabad and Madras presidency. People of North and Hyderabad area did not accept the name Mysore and demanded a change in name. Late Devaraj Urs the then Chief Minister of state decided to go ahead



Karnataka celebrates its 51st birthday with grandeur - pic by Google Images

with the change in name. After a prolonged debate the name of the state was changed to Karnataka on November 1, 1973. The state has been witnessing hue and cries now and then. The reason being deterioration in the number of people speaking Kannada and dominance of other languages. An awareness program called the "Kannada Kavalu Samithi" was established in the year 1993, by the Karnataka government to keep track of the diminishing language. It is the responsibility of each and every individual living in this state to promote the language and embrace the rich cultural heritage. But the drive for the language should not turn into a struggle for a sovereign state.