

# Cubbon Park becomes garbage dump

DIELLE D'SOUZA

Bangalore—Although boards in the park discourage litter and there are trash cans, a lot of garbage is strewn around Cubbon Park. Several people, including policemen, also use the park to take a leak.

Hawkers allowed outside the park entrance dispose their waste in the garbage trucks that come every evening. Soma, a corn vendor, said that they collect the day's garbage and put it in the corporation lorry that comes outside the gate (translated from Hindi).

Smitha, Technical Assistant at the Horticulture Office, Cubbon Park said, "Due to functions in Vidhana Soudha, many people come to the park. They throw food around and do not clear their mess. It is a nuisance."

On October 8, 2007, Cubbon Park was witness to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) rally against the Janata Dal (Secular) refusing to hand over power. The participants of the rally were served food, but left behind reminders of their

presence in the form of plastic cups and plates all across the

either. People swarmed the road outside and party workers burst

around. "They came and left their garbage here. It was quite bad,"

mentioned that they usually do not interfere, unless they receive a complaint. In the case of people urinating in the park, which is quite frequent in the evenings, the sub-inspector said that they take action if they catch the offenders red-handed. In both cases, he explained, "they are petty cases. The fine depends on the magistrate and generally goes from Rs. 20 onwards."

The technical assistant at the Horticulture Office said that they have one field officer who is in charge of maintaining cleanliness in the park, along with his subordinates. Security guards are also employed to catch offenders and look after the park, she said. "We have issued many memos and complaints to the guards, and are waiting for some action to be taken." If the office does receive a complaint, the offenders are fined Rs. 50.

Anupama, a jogger at the park said, "I come to the park to enjoy the nature but it is really deplorable that people litter all over the place. Such people ought to be punished severely."



The beauty being destroyed, garbage all around the park

- Pic by author

park.

Cubbon Park was not spared during the swearing-in of the BJP

fire crackers inside the park, not only scaring away the birds and animals but also leaving a mess

Smitha said.

Ajay Ram, Sub-inspector, Cubbon Park Police Station,

## Cruelty to chickens before culling

### Methods of poultry transportation flouts Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act

AYESHA ALEEM

Bangalore—Illegal methods of transporting poultry are in practice in the city.

It is often seen that several chicken bound by their feet and hung upside down are transported by bicycles or mopeds.

The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (1960) of India says that no animal can be "...carries, in or upon any vehicle or not, any animal in such a manner or position as to subject it to unnecessary pain and suffering" and hence the regular practice is a direct violation.

Deputy Director of

Poultry, BBMP, Prakash Reddy said, "It is illegal. It comes under the Cruelty to Animals Act (1960).

"We have appointed 10 veterinarians for the eight zones in Bangalore. We have instructed them to take action against the violators. So, at present, we are not directly concerned with the matter. Until now, Animal Husbandry Department was very weak. But now it is being centered and we have begun on strengthening it."

First we are dealing with the stray dog menace issue, then the issue of licensing, pet animals and then we will come to all these issues such as cattle, poultry and all that"

Sudhir, Secretary of The Bangalore SPCA (Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) - 'Karuna', said, "It is on the insistence of the NGOs that these provisions have been made in the Act.

We always insist that the police follow the Act - which they either fine the violator or even imprison them, usually three to six months, as per the Act. Then they will learn

a lesson and the animals can be transported safely."

A butcher in the city, who did not wish to be named, said, (translated from Urdu) that farm chickens

are transported properly in cages. It's the country chickens that are bound by their feet and transported in this manner, usually on bicycles.

Sometimes the chickens' necks get caught in the wheels and are severed. Such chickens are then dumped.

He further added that usually, such transportation occurs at night. But if the police does catch those that are transporting the chickens, they need to pay only a fine of Rs. 50-100.

While the authorities and poultry suppliers remain at loggerheads, it is the animals that continue to silently endure the cruelty.

"Sometimes the chickens' necks get caught in the wheels and are severed. Such chickens are then dumped", says a butcher

## Pets get free run in no entry zone

SHILPA KRISHNAN

Bangalore—There are two sign boards at the entrance of Cubbon Park that state that pet animals are not allowed into the park. However, many pet owners are seen bringing their pets to the park for walks.

Vijaya Raghavan, a software engineer by profession often gets his dogs for a walk in Cubbon Park. "I had no idea that a rule like this existed. I usually enter the park by the side entrance, walk around for a while and then head back home. I even greet some of the guards but they have never objected to my bringing the dogs to the park." "I think the rule of not getting pets to the park is quite stupid," he continued. "Where else will we take our pets? Can we walk them on the main roads? Even though they are just animals, they need some space to run around and some fresh air to breathe after all."

The park authorities meanwhile, seem unconcerned about the situation. Smitha, the Technical Assistant at Cubbon Park said, "We do our best to control all this. We have even put up boards at



Board stands as a showpiece

- pic by author

strategic locations. It is now the duty of the public to read these notices and follow them accordingly. We can't help it if they

don't pay attention to it." She added, "We have informed the security agency about the rules regarding pets. However they don't really pay much attention. We have even sent them notices and held meetings with them. Moreover, no complaints have been received so far regarding this so we don't find the need to take any action."

Ajay Ram, Sub-Inspector of Cubbon Park police station said, "We usually do not interfere with the pet owners unless the pets are causing any problems. So far, we have not received any complaints so we have not done anything about this issue."

The joggers however, feel otherwise. "I come to the park regularly and am irritated when I see pets being taken for a walk right in front of the board that prohibits all this," says Anandi. "Indians don't have any civic sense at all. It is high time these people are properly punished."

## Victoria's emergency ward faces staff crisis

MANASA JOSHI

Bangalore—The patients at Victoria hospital complain that they have to wait there for long even in the case of emergency.

Relatives of Muniya, a patient who had consumed poison said that they had to wait for half-an-hour before the doctor arrived. They had to wait for another 15min, as there was a huge confusion as to where to admit him and what treatment should be administered and in the mean time the patient was losing consciousness. Ramu, a villager, said that he had to wait for two hours to meet the doctor.

Dr Ravindra, the Associate professor of medicine said they get

around 40 emergency cases per day and there is a severe shortage of staff, beds, equipments, nurses and drugs.

He added that lack of doctors makes it difficult to cope up with large inflow of emergency cases.

He also states that according to medical council of India each emergency unit is required to have four doctors. But Victoria has only two per unit. He said that the hospital has no other option but to manage with what ever staff they have as these days doctors prefer to work in private hospitals as they are paid good there and this being a government hospital the staff here is very negligent.

Lalitha (Senior Nurse at the emergency ward in Victoria Hospital) agrees that there is a shortage of staff in the hospital. Though she denies the fact the patients are left unattended. She said that each ward has around 45 patients and only three nurses in the morning shift and not many doctors to attend them.

She also added that this month alone there were around 315 cases and it is very difficult to manage. Though junior doctors help a lot they still are facing a shortage of staff.

The authority concerned at the hospital refused to talk and give any information.