

# Haphazard parking of buses creates traffic jams

SNEHA JHA

Bangalore—Some of Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) bus drivers

defy traffic rules by randomly parking buses in the middle of the road. This obstructs free and smooth flow of traffic and is a potential threat to road safety.

This reporter saw a BMTC bus (route no. 210 E) that stopped in the middle of the road at Corporation Circle. This caused inconvenience to the passengers and other road users as they got caught in the traffic congestion and ended up wasting time. Haphazard parking of buses only worsens the traffic jams and adds to the existing problem of heavy vehicular population by obstructing road space.

Mr. R Mahesh, a traffic constable said, "The drivers of BMTC buses do not obey the traffic rules and laws. They park the vehicle in the middle of the road, despite instructions to stop the bus at bus bays only. This leads to inconvenience to the passengers, road users, pedestrians, and motorists and two-wheel riders. This negligent behaviour can be a cause of accidents and collisions. A bus is big, so for any other small vehicle involved in the accident the results could be grave. I make it a point to warn the drivers."

He added, "The drivers who are seen breaking the traffic rules are issued a memo. A fine of Rs 100 is to be paid in case of haphazard parking. We make sure that no one escapes the law."

The random parking creates

problems for small vehicle riders also. Mr. G. Chandrappa, an auto rickshaw driver said, "When buses stop in the middle of the road, it blocks our path and we get late."

The non-adherence of traffic rules by the BMTC drivers has created a safety menace on the roads. Mr. N Narsimha, Assistant

Commissioner of Police (Traffic Planning) revealed, "In the current year, 3,041 cases have been booked against the BMTC buses for disorganized parking. Apart from that, BMTC buses have been involved in numerous road accident cases. In this year, a total

of 97 people were killed in accidents involving these buses. And 288 people were injured. As against last year's statistics, when 4,00,009 cases were booked against these buses and 84 persons were killed in accidents involving these buses and 390 people were injured."

argument to defend themselves. Siddhaya, a BMTC bus driver said, "We are asked to stop the bus at bus bays but there are not many of them in the city. Some times the commuters stand far from the bus bays in a hurry to board the bus. Every one wants to be first. They themselves obstruct the bus bays.

BMTC is cognizant of the people's problem and has envisaged the construction of 140 new bus bays to resolve it.

Mr. Ashok, Assistant Executive Engineer (Traffic Engineering Cell) Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) said, "The BBMP's Traffic Engineering Cell is assisting BMTC in its efforts to construct 140 bus bays. A total of Rs 2 crore has been allocated for this purpose. Apart from this BBMP is considering other options like widening of roads and providing separate lanes for buses."

BMTC deplors the irresponsible behaviour of its drivers and takes prompt disciplinary action to curb the carelessness. Mr. Naveen, Divisional Traffic Officer, BMTC said, "Patrolling vehicles Saarthi have assumed the responsibility of checking the activities.

They are manned by two inspectors and are deployed in different parts of the city. In case they see any breach of law, they issue memos to the drivers on the spot. We also give complete training to our drivers at the time of recruitment in traffic rules and also in lane discipline.

Mr. S Biradar, Divisional Traffic Officer, BMTC said, "We receive public grievances on such matters by email and phone. We maintain a record of complaints manually. We warn the drivers. If the matter is serious we suspend him. No arrogance or irresponsibility on their part is tolerated. Public convenience is our prime concern," he said.



Random parking of buses leaves commuters and passengers clueless.

- Pic by author

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But the drivers have a different

How can we then stop at the bus bay? The auto rickshaw drivers and roadside vendors also obstruct our way to the bus bays. The roads are also bad and narrow. Not only this, we have to make so many trips. We do not park the vehicles haphazardly out of choice."

## Post office at Mico Layout understaffed

The Post office has only one employee and no proper post box or courier service

RATUL SUR

Bangalore—Mico Layout does not have a proper post office. This is an important area of the city, but the post office of this area remains in a disorderly condition, though it has got the approval for development.

"We are very much concerned about the problem. We need to shift it, but even after having the approval we are not able to shift it for lack of proper place," said Jayanth Kumar, the assistant postmaster of the Head Quarter.

Though this is the age of e-mails, handwritten letters have not lost their importance. They are one of the most intimate and cheapest ways of communication. The Postal Department still enjoys the credit of having the largest network in the country.

Moreover, Mico Layout has under its belt the credit of being a posh area as it houses many software companies like TELDNA and suits their modern lifestyle. Even after this, the post office is not able to meet the minimal requirements. This post office lacks basic facilities like speed post so the residents of this area have to

depend upon the post-office at Koramangala.

This post office, situated at the furthest niche of Mico Layout, is a mere single room with a lone employee. The residents have complained about the behaviour of the employee and say that he is not generous to the public.

The residents of this area are

**What can I do? I am just an employee. People every time come and blame me.**

— Gopal Kumar,  
post office employee

vocal about the condition of the post-office. A resident, T.S. Ghosh said, "Whenever I need to send any courier I have to go to Koramangla, though we have a post-office at Mico Layout."

Shilpi who works in a software firm retorted, "I have to send money to my parents who live in Chennai, but I have to go to General Post Office (GPO)." The residents also say that due to a lack of staff, the functioning of the post

office is slow.

The residents said that until sometime back this post office did not even have a proper place for the post-box and that it was tied to a tree.

The lone employee at the post office, Gopal Kumar said, "What can I do? I am just an employee. People every time come and blame me."

"The main reason for the condition of the post office is absence of proper accommodation," said Jayanth Kumar, Assistant Postmaster of the Head Quarter.

He said that the post office was started 3 years ago and at that time the population of the area as well as the demands of the people were not many. Only a few people used to come. But now, as the population of this area has increased and space has become a problem.

He said that essential service like speed post is going to be introduced soon. "We are trying to address people's problems as fast as we can. We will complete the work at the earliest. I will personally ensure that it is done," he added.

## Irregular updating of drug list in hospitals

Victoria and Vani Vilas hospitals updated their drug list in August 2007, while it has to be updated every week

RITIKA KUMAR

Bangalore—The list of drugs available in Victoria and Vani Vilas hospital, which were supposed to be updated every week, was last updated in August, 2007.

Dr. O.S. Sidappa, the Medical Superintendent, Vani Vilas Hospital, explained that for the convenience of the patients the list of the drugs available are updated regularly. He added, "The list has to be updated every week and we do it regularly."

When it was pointed out that it has last been updated in August, he failed to give any confirmed answer and referred to the resident medical officer. The resident medical officer taking the assistance of a helper confirmed the date as 31st August 2007. "We are understaffed, we are flooded with patients everyday and therefore it is difficult to update it," he justified.

Dr Shiva Prakash, Administrative Officer, Victoria hospital said, "The board is of no use. It is just a formality. All our doctors and nurses are well informed of the drugs available."

Dr. S. Prakash, Joint Director (Medical), Directorate of Health and Family Welfare, said, "We do give them warnings, we do penalize them but still it happens

because of two reasons." He explained that the hospitals do not update the drug list so that the doctors can prescribe those drugs, which could be bought from a local pharmacist. Furthermore, he said that the doctors get commissions from these pharmacists every time the he refers the patients, to them. "Patients themselves do not know about such a board in hospital, therefore such doctors take advantage", he added. The second reason for this is staff shortage in some hospitals he said.

He said, "Look at me, I'm myself understaffed." He said it referring to his office, where everybody had left except him. "We are trying our level best to add to the existing man power but it's a bit difficult. But still we are trying our level best."

The patients on the other hand were ignorant about the existence or relevance of any such board. Ganesh, patient's relative, aged 23, said that he does not know of any such board.

He asked, "is not the doctor responsible for telling us about the drugs?" Another patient's caretaker, Sriram aged 58, pointing towards the board asked which language it was written in. The board was written in English and he knew only Kannada.