

INDIAN CST's GPMS CLOUD COMPUTING SOLUTIONS GET A LOT OF MEDIA ATTENTION AND COVERAGE

Bangalore University initiates exam reforms

Bangalore, May 12, DHNS:

The Bangalore University, along with the Indian Centre for Social Transformation (ICST), has initiated new reforms to oversee the smooth conduct of exams, under the chairmanship of former DG and IGP R Sri Kumar.

Initially proposed in July 2009, the system will be enforced from this academic year. In a bid to prevent malpractice, the university is introducing CCTV on a pilot basis at select evaluation centres, where there will be single entry and exit point to monitor the movement, as mentioned in Deccan Herald dated 05.07.2009. Also scanning of the answer scripts and OMR sheets are being introduced.

Further, volunteers from the society are being employed to impartially oversee, observe and record the conduct of the exams, Vice-Chancellor Dr N Prabhu Dev said.

He added that all these measures are being taken up to ensure transparency and excellence in the way examinations are being conducted.

<http://www.deccanherald.com/content/69203/bangalore-university-initiates-exam-reforms.html>

Exam reforms in Bangalore Varsity an achievement

BANGALORE: As optimistic as a sea-dwelling sponge gets, Bangalore University Vice-Chancellor Dr N Prabhu Dev has had a rocky 2011, quite literally. “The last one year of my tenure, I am reminded of Charles Dickens’s famous utterance — It was the best of times; it was the worst of times,” he says. While it may be safe to say that he is the most talked about academic personality of late, Dr Prabhu Dev takes City Express behind the scenes of his Vice-Chancellorship.

Over the past year, Bangalore University has been the dartboard for many. Braving the darts thrown at him, Dr Prabhu Dev says, “I have received a lot of flak for no fault of mine. I am not denying the problems that exist in BU. There certainly are problems.” In poetic fashion, he continues: “I harbour no illusions that the task ahead of me will be an easy one. But neither do I harbour fears that they are insurmountable.”

Exam Reforms

Since taking over as VC in 2009, his first success was the large-scale exam reforms introduced throughout BU. “Almost 2,50,000 students take the examinations every six months. 20 lakh scripts go for evaluation. Results are announced in 22 days,” he states. The word ‘Failure’ was erased from the marks cards of the University and was replaced with ‘To Repeat’. “Two per cent of the suicides are said to be related to failure in the examinations. ‘To Repeat’ is less malignant on student psyche than the word ‘Fail’. And people ask me why I focused on these reforms” Dr Prabhu Dev questions his detractors.

“This achievement, in these two years of my stewardship, of offering thousands of students their results on time to pursue post graduate studies or professional careers is a truly life-changing experience that cannot adequately be put into words,” he claims. This statement comes in the wake of recent protests by students demanding marks cards on time. The protests even saw the VC escaping a close-shave with injury.

Controversies and Regrets

The notion that the VC does not visit Jnana Bharathi campus is the talk of the town. However, Dr Prabhu Dev does not hesitate to justify his absence. “I don’t think there is a prescribed office for my functioning. And it is not like I do not visit Jnana Bharathi. I start my day from there,” he says.

About the slew of protests that are targeted against him, he calmly responds: “Students airing their opinions are common and routine in nature. I know there are vested interests working within the University.”

He is also held responsible by a few Syndicate members for the delay in the completion of the Kolar PG Centre. He calls it is one of his regrets. “I have not been able to get the Kolar PG Centre shifted to the new premises in spite of several Syndicate decisions. It is one of my regrets this year,” he says.

Despite the exam reforms he introduced, the problem of malpractice still exists. “I have not been to able to stop the menace of copying in study centres of distance education and to give standard study material,”he confesses.

“I have not yet been able to put University Visvesvaraya College of Engineering (UVCE) on development mode and make it an institute of excellence. The woes of students in the BU PG hostels remain to be sorted out. I have not been able to get the BU roads repaired,” he said. Lastly, when asked to reveal his plans for 2012, he curtly says: “I don’t believe in resolutions. Why make them when you may not be able to keep them? I believe in facing things as they come,” says Dr Prabhu Dev.

<http://ibnlive.in.com/news/exam-reforms-in-bangalore-varsity-an-achievement/215323-60-119.html>

Veerappa Moily praises Prabhu Dev for Bangalore University reforms

Rashmi Belur / DNA
February 16, 9:57 IST

Bangalore: The examination reforms adopted by the Bangalore University in the last two years received appreciation from Union minister for law M Veerappa Moily.

Addressing the gathering at the 46th annual convocation of the university on Tuesday, Moily said, “Lots of reforms have been made in the university and I appreciate vice-chancellor Prabhu Dev for that.”

Moily suggested other traditional universities to adopt reforms like issuing online degree certificates in line with the Bangalore University. “The issue of degree certificates online is one of the best practices and a pioneering student-friendly system. I am told that the university has brought down the revaluation of answer scripts and raised the confidence on university’s examination system,” he said.

He also lauded the recently-released 'Vision 2020' plan of the university. "The university has very ambitious plans for the future. For the first time, a vision document for the roadmap up to 2020 has been prepared. This document will be a game-changing step," said Moily.

With a special mention of the university's plan to set up corpus fund to overcome financial problems, the Union minister said its implementation would ensure Rs150 crore income every year. Impressed by the idea of brand building, Moily said he was anxiously waiting for the results.

<http://www.dnaindia.com/mobile/report.php?n=1508596>

World Bank Short lists Indian Centre for Social Transformation

As a normal matter of practice, the list of shortlisted firms is disclosed during the RFP stage. It is kindly requested to provide a list the shortlisted firms selected for this bidding. Response : The short-listed firms are :

1. Indian Center for Social Transformation (Indian CST),
2. Total Synergy Consulting Private Limited,
3. Price water house Coopers India,
4. Grant Thornton Advisory Private Limited,
5. Deloitte Touche
6. Tohmatsu India Private Limited
7. Egis International.

Dear Raja Seevan,

We are pleased to advise you that your firm has been short-listed for Selection # 1066627/ Introduction of e-tools in Management of Construction Projects, and is now invited to submit proposals.

To view the complete Request for Proposal (RFP) and submit your proposal, please log in to the WBG eConsultant2 system . You can access all information related to this selection on selection details page.

Please ensure strict adherence to the information provided in the "Information to Consultant" document provided in the RFP. Failure to comply with the instructions stated therein may cause difficulty in uploading your proposals or may result in the disqualification of your proposal.

All questions relating to the RFP should be submitted via the system Question & Answer portal.

If you encounter any technical difficulties, please send e-mail detailing the problems to the WBG eConsultant2 help desk at

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Best Regards,

The World Bank Group

<http://www.worldbank.org>

India: Rise of the portal who reported on corruption

Date Added: 2010-12-09 7:15:05 p.m. • **Last updated:** 2010-12-09 7:37:53 p.m.

In the fight against corruption, the Indian authorities on Thursday announced the creation of an Internet portal, "Vig-Eye" (watchful eye), which allows citizens to report cases of corruption and putting evidence in the form of photographs and audio and video recordings.

Notice of the public informed Portal Central Supervisory Commission (CVC) on the occasion of International Day for the Eradication of Corruption. Her representatives explained that after registration, which requires proof of identity, the user has the ability to send a complaint about corrupt practices, which had to deal with such in political institutions, administrative and banking. You can also attach to the application of evidence in the form of photographs or audio or video. - The site is simple to use and provides an effective mechanism for informing of corruption - said the representative of CVC PJ Thomas.

Watchful eye of yet another initiative of CVC. A week ago the Commission launched a free phone number you can call people who have witnessed the phenomenon of corruption. In the words of the agency EFE, the initiative is very popular among citizens. "In the beginning I coped because we got calls all the time. In recent days, there are some less" - said the agency EFE service personnel.

After the initial inspection of the complaint shall be forwarded to the appropriate authorities to thoroughly analyze them.

The EFE agency writes that these initiatives are intended to reassure citizens concerned about recent corruption scandal concerning illegal broadcasting license in 2008 to private telecommunications companies. According to the authorities, as a result, the Treasury lost from 12.8 to 40 billion dollars. In connection with the scandal in November. resigned to the communications minister A. Raja.

http://translate.googleusercontent.com/translate_c?hl=en&prev=/search%3Fq%3Dvigeye%26hl%3Den%26sa%3DX%26tbo%3D1%26biw%3D1280%26bih%3D671%26tbs%3Dqdr:d%26prmd%3Dimvns&rurl=translate.google.com&sl=pl&twu=1&u=http://www.polskatimes.pl/artykul/343491,indie-powstanie-portal-dla-donoszacych-na-korupcje,id,t.html%3Fcookie%3D1&usg=ALkJrhg7nDpbuyjozFKm8HhvmsTnGI5tmg

India's anti-corruption initiative gets World Bank's praise

PTI [Updated 21 Jun 2012, 17:19:28]

The conference focused on three themes, international cooperation, national enforcement and innovation in the use of information technology in the fight against corruption. "The good show of Project VIG EYE at the whistleblower session got a special mention from the World Bank VP Integrity at the closing session of ICHA and a request for a special performance for the World Bank select gathering again," Sri Kumar said.

The CVC delegation participated in various thematic discussion including ones on measuring the results of anti-corruption authorities and tools and resources for sharing anti-corruption information.

The gathering was specifically shown a computer based system to address corruption in public service delivery developed by Peru, a mobile based application to report corruption in the mining of minerals developed by Democratic Republic of Congo and CVC's VIG EYE.

"Vigilance Commissioner Kumar made a detailed presentation along with live demonstration on the use of the VIG EYE complaint handling system and global project management system (GPMS).

"He highlighted how a popular and easy to use device like mobile phone can be used to report corruption along with the capture of voice and video clips as evidence," the official said adding that the presentations were very well received by the global audiences.

The VIG EYE was launched by former Central Vigilance Commissioner P J Thomas in December 2010 since then it has been running on a pilot basis.

"The results have been encouraging and after carrying out modifications the project would be scaled up," the official said.

<http://www.indiatvnews.com/news/india/india-s-anti-corruption-initiative-gets-world-bank-s-praise--16553.html?page=2>

CVC detects Rs. 1,000 cr tax evasion in CWG projects

PTI

New Delhi, November 04, 2012

First Published: 12:58 IST(4/11/2012)

Last Updated: 13:01 IST(4/11/2012)

The Central Vigilance Commission has detected tax evasion of about Rs. 1,000 crore by government departments and private companies in carrying out Commonwealth Games-related works.

Vigilance commissioner R Srikumar said Rs. 1,000 crore evasion was detected with the help of a multi-jurisdiction investigation platform, comprising officers from tax and other authorities, developed by CVC to look into the CWG scam.

"In the CVC, we have been trying this (multi jurisdiction investigation platform) out in our direct inquiries into the CWG scam where 37 departments spent over Rs. 15,000 crore in 9,000 publicly funded projects," he said.

"There have been many inquiries into this and each inquiry and investigation has proceeded to its own conclusions. One unique thing that was noticed in CVC's multi-jurisdictional inquiry was that a huge amount of tax evasion was indulged in by the many players in the scam. "Many of these taxes, like Income Tax, Service Tax, VAT, etc. were to be deducted at source. The multi jurisdictional platform enabled us to flag tax evasion to the tune of nearly Rs. 1,000 crore," Srikumar said.

He said by bringing in the tax agencies to work closely and verify these possible tax evasions, after issuing notices to the concerned, the tax authorities have confirmed the receipt of nearly Rs. 100 crore of taxes so far.

"Thus the taxes evaded are being collected and the authorities are confident of resolving most of the Rs. 1,000 crore rupees tax evasion flagged by the CVC," the VC said.

The Vigilance Commissioner said the probity watchdog is also coming out with a report on Games related irregularities mainly concerning alleged tax evasions.

"We are working on the report. It will come out," he said. The CVC is looking into a total of 53 CWG graft cases involving various government civic and construction agencies.

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/India-news/NewDelhi/CVC-detects-Rs-1-000-cr-tax-evasion-in-CWG-projects/Article1-954668.aspx>

CVC has received 20,000 complaints so far

19 photos - Mon 12 Nov, 2012

New Delhi, July 10 (IANS) The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has received 20,000 complaints so far and taken up 1,000 for investigation, while 20,000 people have received punishment for corruption-related offences, a top official said here Tuesday.

Revealing this at an event here, Vigilance Commissioner R. Srikumar said that the CVC's 'VIG EYE' - a citizen-centric initiative - has also helped in tackling corruption in a big way.

Addressing a "Face to Face with the government" as part of the FICCI Ladies Organisation or FLO event, Srikumar said people could SMS or email any complaint of graft against any government official to the number - 922317440.

He said the CVC was trying to acquire a simpler number that the public would find easier to remember.

"Any audio, video, or even hand written evidence, of demand for bribe can be sent to VIG EYE, and the date and time of complaint as well as the location will get automatically uploaded," he said

He said there were some "glitches" still with the site that were being worked out, like making it accessible to BlackBerry users and also making it compliant with Android software.

"You can also do a sting and upload it on the site," Sri Kumar added.

"Citizens should act to fight corruption for a better future," he added.

<http://in.news.yahoo.com/cvc-received-20-000-complaints-far-151153575.html>

India: Countering corruption in the private sector: a shared responsibility



The private sector in India is vibrant and growing - accounting for a large share of the country's gross domestic product (GDP). Around 25 percent of the GDP can be attributed to public procurement with the private sector being a main supplier of goods and services. Public procurement in India takes place both at the central and state level with over 35 ministries at the central level, 28 states and 7 union territories procuring independently. Recognizing the emerging and growing role of the private sector, also the role and impact of corruption within the sector has been increasingly debated. Over the last few years with a national anti-corruption movement gaining momentum in India, civil society has become more vigilant requesting a zero tolerance approach to corruption.

In 2011, after India ratified the United Nations Convention against Corruption, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime started two initiatives aiming at encouraging corporate integrity and probity in public procurement. To this end, UNODC commissioned two studies: (i) Incentives for corporate integrity in accordance with the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) and (ii) Transparency, objectivity and competition in private public partnership projects.



Both studies assessed the compliance of existing and proposed legislation with the UNCAC. They also identified current practices and challenges at the grassroots level for

both corporate integrity and probity in procurement as perceived by the public and private sector as well as by law enforcement officials.

While both studies acknowledge that important legislation exists in India, under which corruption can currently be prevented and investigated, the Indian legal framework could be substantially strengthened by the enactment of a series of new bills, including (i) the Public Procurement Bill 2012, (ii) the Company Bill 2012, (iii) the Whistleblowers Protection Bill 2011, (iv) the Prevention of Bribery of Foreign Public Officials and Officials of Public International Organisations Bill, 2011 as well as the amendment to existing laws to include bribery in the private sector as a punishable offence.

Regarding the strengthening of corporate integrity, the study - based on a survey done - proposed a series of measures for several stakeholders involved: (i) promoting a collaborative approach between law enforcement and the private sector, (ii) training in economic crimes for law enforcement officials, (iii) need for whistleblower programmes and external audits, especially in larger companies, (iv) clear responsibility and accountability for integrity in the top management as well as (v) code of conducts for employees as integral part of contracts.

With respect to probity in procurement, the study analyzed specifically the public private partnership (PPP) approach as an increasingly used procurement model. It found that the enactment of the Public Procurement Bill and the draft rules on PPP would be an important step forward in regulating procurement under PPPs and thus promoting probity. In addition, it found that specific provisions were required to strengthen oversight for PPPs in the entire process from bidding through to implementation as well as to strengthen accountability of officials and consultants working under PPPs.

In general, during the discussion the audience agreed that more awareness and sensitization was needed across the board on ethical values and integrity and that a continuous dialogue across



various sectors of society including the Government, private sector, civil society and the media

was critical. Witness protection mechanisms as well as whistleblower policies are additional important mechanisms to strengthen the investigation and prosecution of corrupt acts.

Mr Sri Kumar, Vigilance Commissioner, Central Vigilance Commission expressed his appreciation for the studies emphasizing that the findings needed to be translated into action and be widely disseminated.

Let's walk the talk and act against corruption today!

The studies were carried out under two UNODC projects titled " Public-Private Partnership for Probity in Public Procurement" and "Incentives to Corporate Integrity and Cooperation in accordance with the United Nations Convention against Corruption" supported by the Siemens Integrity Initiative.

Click here to read:

[Incentives for corporate integrity in accordance with the United Nations Convention against Corruption](#)

Click here to read: [Transparency, objectivity and competition in private public partnership projects.](#)

<http://www.unodc.org/southasia/en/frontpage/2013/may/india-counteracting-corruption-in-the-private-sector-a-shared-responsibility.html>

Using Technology to Bring Efficiency, Transparency and Accountability into Publically funded projects

Administrative Problems

Overburdened municipalities as a result of wide service portfolio Planning, execution and maintenance done solely by municipalities (no outsourcing), Lack of transparency within working bodies despite provisions of the Municipal Act “Only 15% of outlays are spent on development work” due to lack of transparency in sharing information. Existence of multiple agencies with minimum coordination resulting in poor levels of citizen service delivery, delays and overruns. Low accountability as a result of crisscrossing administrative jurisdictions of city agencies that have no congruence with political boundaries e.g. Bangalore is divided into 278 parts for Garbage Collection division, 88 parts for Policing, 39 for electricity, 30 for property tax, 12 by the PWD etc.

Unfortunately, in none of the above is there overlap between the administrative jurisdictions of these agencies, or congruence with the ward boundary. The result: the citizen is confused, the local politician is confused, the agency representatives are confused.

Motivation

With the Indian government planning to spend close to USD 10 billion for rolling out the National e-governance plan (NeGP), the opportunities and challenges for transforming the life of an average Indian citizen is huge. As the government plans to take advantage of the private public partnership model for rolling out these projects, there is a significant opportunity for vendors.

Infrastructure/Technology needed to be primed towards creating Connected Urban Developments:

- Encourage networking of local governments
- Create awareness amongst stakeholders using technology as a platform
- Build capabilities in planning & execution
- Adopt action plan to use technology to meet Government’s Citizen SLAs
- Develop data management capabilities to track urbanization dynamics

Need Solution

Good Governance can only come through awakened citizens pushing for Efficiency, Transparency and Accountability whether it be in Public sector or private sector. Transformation through trusted technologies is what we require that is affordable, adapted to local conditions and amenable to fast deployment, a fool proof System to be put in place speedily.

Only way forward

Adherence to Article 51A accountability and total transparency with best practices integrated. In fact Indian Constitution has enshrined these concepts beautifully in Article 51A aptly titled- Fundamental Duties. The time has come to remind everyone about their Fundamental Duties as enshrined in Article 51A of the Indian Constitution. Come let us do it together.

About us

The Indian Centre for Social Transformation (henceforth referred to as Indian CST) has been formed to lead such a transformation in India, to meet the needs towards making India a world leader. It is notable that Indian CST derives its inspiration from Article 51A of the Indian Constitution which stipulates that it is the duty of every citizen of India “to strive towards excellence in all spheres of individual and collective activity so that the nation constantly rises to higher levels of endeavour and achievement

Our In-House Solution

Global Project Management Solution (GPMS) Cloud computing platform is an integrated system tool that takes care of the complete life cycle of the projects (Capture, Validate, Check, Measure, Analyze, Reports, Key Points) method of project management which allows relevant information to be readily accessed from various departments and is here to assist Governance by leveraging various integrated technologies to urbanize intelligently that will enable delivery of sustainable solutions and help in addressing Energy/ Utilities / Water, Healthcare, Transport, Education, Housing, Public Safety and Security challenges across multiple dimensions of urban demand and provides a single platform for citizens to access services.

GPMS open platform tools for more collaboration, inclusive decision with civil society and private sector actors as GPMS Enables, Empowers, Engages Social, Local, Mobile, Video ... Cloud apps and the future of Content.

Case Study : Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP)

Global Project Management Solution on-going Implementation at BBMP. This e-governance initiative enables real time monitoring and management of 68,064+ works, which are going on in various parts of the City at 9 zones of Head office, 8 Zones, all 198 wards. The people can now post their comments on the cost, deadline and quality of the project on the interactive website launched by BBMP. Public can also upload photographs and feedbacks to ensure that the work proceeds in the desired direction.

Difficulties faced

1. Non-cooperation of departments
2. Giving false information/data
3. Application was under development stage
4. Shortage of Man power/resources at Ward level
5. Fear among wards for sharing data. In some instances, the work orders had been issued much before the tenders were floated by the BBMP, completely subverting set procedures.
6. No verification/checking of data
7. There are 530 accounts for salary disbursement and issuance of letter of credit.

Result:

1. This is the First time in the country and also across the world where one can see 68,064 projects online. GPMS is getting the acceptance in BBMP, A city corporation implementation of this large scale capability is getting established in the country and will be seen as a trendsetter for E-governance projects monitoring system online Management.
2. This by far is the single largest collection of civil infrastructure project information in any government body in Karnataka.
3. Indian CST acting as the citizen's initiative interface for the successful implementation of the said project
4. Congrats to our city Government for adopting IT for Good Governance. We soon expect the State and the Country to follow the same

Benefits of crowd sourcing with GPMS brings in Citizens participation with a positive attitude that yes we can

1. GPMS platform provides value to everyone and especially all those affected persons to participate in the process of decision making and validation.
2. GPMS helps every citizen to access information held by or under the control of public authorities to improve their new reader acquisition to reach an influential audience by inviting professional discussions online or share their more relevant experiences by bringing to their attention any on going public funded projects/ programs and asking them to give feedback on important local matters.
3. Viewers can share GPMS public displayed content via Social Media sites Facebook users to communicate and status updates for sharing development experiences and lessons learnt on a regular basis or act as 'policy watch groups' for tracking or by highlighting bureaucratic delays in providing information or tracking developments in the law and identifying opportunities for intervening in the policy process by disseminating accurate information in order to secure people their rightful entitlements.
4. GPMS content too reaches many areas of the Social Media ecosystem and Network with users with similar interests and employees to track comments bring awareness, providing Information and enabling knowledge that are the fundamental values of democracy by helping gather public feedback, ideas, creativity, etc. and feeding these back into the policy-making process, as it could rejuvenate direct democracy.
5. Professionals have started trusting information on GPMS integrated with other online resources available on the websites which include news, features, studies, reports, announcements where now journalists too can play a dual role- as RTI activists and monitors for scrutinizing the implementation of the Projects in rural and urban areas.

6. GPMS enables citizens to reach stake holders worldwide for public participation in governance projects to highlight key issues, expose wrongdoings of public institutions and functionaries so that they can provide immediate public answerability of all representatives & functionaries of a public authority against affected people on relevant actions & inactions which can play a significant role especially in empowering citizens, informing them and playing a catalytic role in providing a voice to the voiceless through video conferencing.
7. GPMS uses Social Media to Increase Awareness, Reputation, management, Citizens Services, Leaders, Stake holders learn about their citizens feedback to improve citizen satisfaction, by engaging citizens with simple tasks to upload photos, complaints, videos, audios and answer questionnaire surveys online related to projects for building relationship with citizens to identify professionals, domain experts who can participate to monitor public funded projects / programs / initiatives that enables target marketing, connecting citizen with Government to view projects online and post comments.
8. GPMS not only value adds to citizen participation in local Governance but networks experts and professionals, generates opportunities, generate new business, encourages them to participate, update project status information through this citizen engagement with real time communication, easy to view project information online or pass information to others and make more people accessible by co-creating value through crowd sourcing collaboration, remote project monitoring by collaborating into GPMS as volunteer for digital asset management or participating in providing expert advice for collective action.
9. GPMS provides timely and contextual, better networked data with real time data, User Driven Data, Engaged Data backed by better service, fluid, clean, safe & easy, interfaces, social and Inter connections to various databases and come with fair and attractive pricing.
10. GPMS too acts as a connector that aggregates and shapes the fragments of data information into meaningful data bringing complete transparency to the user in control always.

11. GPMS even brings accountability in Civil Society's involvement as it occupies a critical place in the governance process and promotes good governance by facilitating people's collective action for attaining sustainable socio-economic outcomes for the common good of the society.
12. GPMS provides a platform that enables the Government to operate efficiently, effectively and transparently and to be accountable to the public for good governance, accountability and transparency as it ensures participation of public in governance which eliminates corruption and empowers people and bring in the real world-transparency.



Global Project Management System is a Management Decision Support System for LEADERS

Probe ordered Rs 1,539 cr BBMP scam

<http://www.financialexpress.com/news/probe-ordered-rs-1-539-cr-bbmp-scam/881463/>

Posted: Monday, Nov 28, 2011 at 1237 hrs IST

Bellary/Karnataka: Karnataka Government today decided to order Corps of Detectives (COD) probe into the multi-crore financial scam in the Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP).

Announcing this to reporters here, Chief Minister D V Sadananda Gowda said "COD will probe into various financial irregularities that have taken place in BBMP. A decision to this effect has been taken to ensure transparency in administration", he said.

Recently BBMP Commissioner Siddaiah lodged a complaint to Bangalore Metropolitan Task Force (BMTF) police asking it to investigate into the Rs 1,539 crore financial irregularities in the BBMP wards coming under the assembly constituencies of Gandhinagar, Malleswaram and Rajarajeshwari Nagar.

The decision had evoked protests from BBMP corporators and even by some ruling party MLAs, but the opposition Congress and JDS demanded a thorough probe into the financial irregularities in all the 198 wards.

BBMP officials faced accusations of misuse of funds and payment of bills to unexecuted works among others.

BBMP scam could be of Rs.10,000-20,000 cr: Cong

http://zeenews.india.com/news/karnataka/bbmp-scam-could-be-of-rs-10-000-20-000-cr-cong_747356.html

Bangalore: The Congress on Thursday demanded in Karnataka Assembly a CBI probe into the multi-crore bogus bill scam in the city corporation Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP).

Leader of Opposition Siddaramaiah said as per the enquiry ordered by then BBMP Commissioner Siddaiah, it is a Rs 1,539 crore scam in three BBMP wards.

The Congress leader alleged that after the enquiry report came in public domain, records were burnt in BBMP office, with an attempt to destroy evidence and demanded a CBI probe into the scam.

Chief Minister D V Sadananda Gowda noted that the Crime Investigation Department is already probing the scam and hence there is no need for a discussion on it in the House.

"It (the scam) has not happened to the extent of Rs 1,500 crore. Prima facie, it is to the tune of Rs 5.22 crore pertaining to bills for works which had not been carried out", Gowda said.

Siddaramaiah, however, said, "We don't expect justice from CID."

If enquiry is conducted in all the BBMP wards, the size of the scam may top Rs 10,000 crore, he alleged. "Why was Siddaiah transferred?" he wanted to know.

HD Revanna (JD-S) alleged that people don't trust CID, whose top officials force lower rank officers to file report according to their wish.

Sharan Prakash Patil (Cong), who made a preliminary submission seeking to move an adjournment motion on the issue, said that between 2008 and 2010, when BBMP did not have any elected representatives, there was corruption to the extent of Rs 1,500 crore in the three wards.

"If enquiry is conducted in all the wards, it is estimated that it's a Rs 20,000 crore scam", Patil said, and demanded that a House committee be constituted to probe it.

Speaker KG Bopaiah declined permission for the adjournment motion, but allowed discussion under a different rule to be taken up later.

PTI

MLA unearths more scams in BBMP

<http://www.deccanherald.com/content/210375/mla-unearths-more-scams-bbmp.html>

Bangalore, Dec 8, DHNS:

Addressing the media here on Thursday, he said the BBMP has been executing sub-standard work, which is much below the prescribed parameters.

"For instance, in the Nagapura ward, newly installed metal halide lights were replaced with light-emitting diode (LED) lights spending nearly Rs one crore only to favour the contractor. Well-constructed footpaths near Dhobi Ghat were demolished and constructed unnecessarily again with sub-standard material," he added.

Babu said, the BBMP re-tendered and re-asphalted many roads in Mahalakshmi Layout, which were asphalted by BMRCL. The Palike has not maintained 'road history' and many a time, they end up asphaltting the same road again in a short span of time.

Lack of transparency

He said the contractor, who bags the tendered work, assigns it to another contractor and hence there will absolutely be no transparency in the tendering process.

BBMP grants time to some contractors to submit their tender papers and refuses to accept tenders from other contractors quoting the deadline for accepting tenders. Many beleaguered contractors are contemplating to drag the BBMP to court about the discrimination shown to them.

The BBMP, which claims to have a transparent tendering process, also allots tenders to its favoured contractors through Karnataka Rural Infrastructure Development Limited (KRIDL), alleged Babu.

Advertisement scam

According to Babu, documents procured through RTI show that advertisements of 50 works worth Rs 10 crore were issued by the BBMP to a regional newspaper. But when cross-checked with the newspaper, it was found that no advertisement of the tender was issued. Even the estimates of the work were found to be bogus. The MLA said that the executive engineer (EE) does not have the authority to sign on the submitted tender notification, but an EE had accepted and signed on the letters.

The documents also reveal that same demand draft number was used in two different tenders as also inviting and accepting authority letters. There have also been documents in which the same work code has been used for two different work orders by the BBMP, he added.

JD(S) ‘unearths’ Rs 169-crore BBMP scam

<http://www.deccanherald.com/content/213574/jds-unearths-rs-169-crore.html>

Bangalore, Dec 21, DHNS

The alleged misappropriation has reportedly taken place in the horticulture and forest departments of the municipal body. JD(S) floor leader in the BBMP Council Padmanabha Reddy said that the scam is related to the maintenance of parks and plantation of saplings between 2008 and 2010, when an administrator ruled the civic body.

Reddy alleged that the officers had split the works in pieces to bypass the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement (KTPPA) Act, 1999 and had awarded works to contractors without calling for tenders.

As per the KTPPA, any work of more than Rs one lakh has to be implemented through e-procurement and the State government’s online portal to display the proposed works in the public domain.

“The officers had deliberately split the works in a manner that none of the works would cost more than Rs one lakh so that tenders were not invited and no one knew about the projects being undertaken. Under the Direct Credit (DC) system, money was released for these work,” said Reddy.

The JD(S) leader alleged that though the BBMP claimed to have planted lakhs of saplings in the City and beautified many parks, it did not execute half of the work it claimed. He demanded that the Palike should make public where it had planted the saplings in the City in the last two years.

Reddy alleged the three years of maladministration of the BJP in the BBMP was primarily responsible for the series of scams. He appealed to the BBMP commissioner M K Shankarlinge Gowda to come out with a White Paper on Palike’s financial health. He said the ruling BJP did all possible things to turn the BBMP a bankrupt civic body.

BBMP scam is Rs 5 Crore, not Rs1.5K Crore: DVS

<http://expressbuzz.com/cities/bangalore/BBMP-scam-is-Rs-5-Crore-not-Rs15K-Crore-DVS/341662.html>

Express News Service

Last Updated : 09 Dec 2011 10:15:23 AM IST

BANGALORE: Chief Minister D V Sadananda Gowda on Thursday claimed that none of the documents pertaining to the multi-crore bill scam in the BBMP were gutted in the recent fire mishap.

Replying to the question raised by JD(S) member HC Neeravari about the BBMP scam, Gowda dismissed the media reports on the amount involved in the scam. "Prima facie, it appears that the scam involves only Rs 5.22 crore and not Rs 1,539-crore as reported in the media," he claimed.

However, he admitted that there were lapses in the existing financial management system of the BBMP and said that greater transparency was needed in its administration. "There are 530 accounts for salary disbursement and issuance of letter of credit. It gives scope for irregularities within the system. Hence, we have decided to reduce the accounts to just two," he said.

The CM also said that the government was now planning to implement integrated accounting system and conduct concurrent audit along with the CAG to ensure transparency in the city's civic body.

Alleging that systematic efforts were being done to hush up the scam at BBMP, JD(S) MLC H C Neeravari demanded a Lokayukta probe into the scam.

CM ruled out the demand and said the government had faith in the CID, which is probing the scam currently.

Scam with a top 'billing'

<http://www.deccanherald.com/content/209229/scam-top-billing.html>

G Manjusainath

You've heard these unflattering prefixes about the Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) a hundred times and let a sigh of sympathy escape your lips. And then, you hear about the fake bills scam, the size of which could hit stratospheric levels at Rs 20,000 crore and beyond! Shell-shocked by the scale, by the astounding audacity of the racket, you seethe in rage, demand answers, and scream for the heads to start rolling.

Surely, the Palike's chest now has more scams than funds. But the sheer size of the latest scam could rival even the infamous Commonwealth Games (CWG) embezzlement that had the entire nation in a tizzy. Yet, the Palike is in a hurry to hide that shame even as more skeletons keep tumbling out of the civic body's cupboard.

Crying hoarse, the Opposition in the Palike is convinced the size of the mother of all misappropriations could exceed even that unbelievable Rs 20,000-crore mark. Here's why: The parties claim financial irregularities were routine in almost all the 28 Assembly constituencies of the City over the last four years. A probe that covered only three constituencies - Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Gandhi Nagar and Malleswaram - unearthed a racket that was a whopping Rs 1,539.6 crore.

Call it a licence to loot. During 2006-07 to 2009-10, MLAs and bureaucrats in charge had a virtual free ride, without an elected body to steer the Palike. The BBMP's performance graph nose-dived. The City's mismanaged garbage piled on in heaps, its stormwater drains choked, its lakes and Palike properties were encroached with gay abandon. Roads aplenty resembled war-ravaged zones with potholes rivalling craters. Hoardings galore threw the City's visual aesthetics to the winds in utter contempt.

Pushed to helpless disbelief, the public protested the Palike's thrust for eminently unwanted infrastructure projects. But the Palike chose to keep the public at bay, ignored calls for consultation and steamrolled every protest to execute projects of the like of the Tagore Circle underpass. Roads that were in good condition were asphalted while the one in crying need for repair were left to rot.

No marks for guessing how this left a black mark on the Palike. Its litany of scams just kept mounting: From the garbage scam to the toilet scam, road racket to shady asphalt deals, stormwater drain irregularities to the job codes scam, the hall of shame had it all.

The scams, topped massively by the latest fraud on the Bangalorean, has only lent more credence to allegations of mass scale loot in the Palike. "If the BJP has anything to show as achievement, then it is only scams after scams. There is utter absence of administration," notes M Pari, a former Bharathinagar ward corporator.

The latest racket wasn't exposed in a jiffy. Palike sources recall how the recently removed Commissioner, Siddaiah, had received complaints about the fake bills scams in Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Gandhi Nagar and Malleswaram divisions on October 10 this year. Two days later, he instructed N Devaraj, chief engineer, Technical Vigilance Cell under Commissioner (TVCC), to probe the matter. The same day the team visited a few spots critical to the racket and collected information on the files. The day after, the teams spread out as instructions came from the very top, directing the zonal engineers to hand over all the relevant files.

It was clear the probe wouldn't be a cakewalk. Records showed that the case had 10,900 files that had to be handed over to the TVCC. But the engineers attached to the three divisions delivered only 153 files, and the rest to the Palike's Standing Committee on Taxation and Finance chaired by corporator Manjunath Raju, which had no role in the probe. The TVCC chief engineer's repeated letters, seeking the files from the engineers, were blatantly ignored. The available 153 files alone unearthed a scam that was big enough at Rs 1,539.6 crore.

A day after the TVCC handed over its report on November 3, Siddaiah lodged a complaint with the Bangalore Metropolitan Task Force (BMTF) headed by Inspector General of Police R P Sharma. But even before the BMTF could begin its probe, a mysterious fire broke out in its police station gutting many files. Fortunately, the fire did not destroy the files linked to the scam, as they were preserved safely elsewhere, as claimed by sources in the BMTF and the Palike. Sharma was clear that the size and the scale of the scam was far bigger than what people had initially thought.

But even before it could get serious about the investigations, the probe was handed over to the Crime Investigation Department (CID). If this raised eyebrows, the sudden removal of Siddaiah as Commissioner was even more surprising. That at least three MLAs, including M Srinivas (RR Nagar),

Dinesh Gundu Rao (Gandhi Nagar) and Ashwath Narayan (Malleswaram), had turned too vocal demanding his ouster, added muscle to speculations. On November 28, Siddaiah was transferred without any posting and in his place M K Shankarlinge Gowda was made the new commissioner.

Then came the November 30 BBMP Council Meeting. Strangely, this brought to the fore an unprecedented unity among the saffron BJP and the secular Congress party MLAs and corporators in targeting the TVCC chief N Devaraj for carrying out, what they alleged, a ‘faulty probe’. While levelling a volley of allegations against him, the MLAs and corporators had no interest in checking the authenticity of their statements.

The MLAs and corporators alleged that Devaraj had completed the report by examining 10,000 files in just two days. Devaraj, however, had worked with a team of the accounts superintendent and five of his subordinates, two staffers from the chief accounts office, three executive engineers and a superintending engineer, for 20 days. They went through only 153 files and not 10,000, as the elected representatives claimed in tandem.

As things stand, the probe is now taken away from a technically empowered BMTF to the CID, which is said to be lacking expertise to probe matters like the fake bills scam. The government has also turned down the plea for a CBI or a Lokayukta probe. While the BMTF has no restriction to keep its investigation limited to three constituencies, the CID certainly has its limits. The CID probe, then, appears to be a mere eyewash.

IT'S FAR AND WIDE

The fake bills scam is spread far and wide beyond the three Assembly constituencies, now under probe, if BBMP insiders are to be believed. This is one reason why the Palike's watchdog, the Technical Vigilance Cell under Commissioner (TVCC) fears that the files not furnished by the engineers could be destroyed to ensure a decent burial for the scam.

Palike sources say the scam goes beyond RR Nagar, Gandhi Nagar and Malleswaram, and has its roots deep in Mahalakshmiipuram, Basavanagudi, Chickpet, Chamarajpet, Padmanabha Nagar, Jayanagar, BTM Layout, Shanthi Nagar, Shivaji Nagar, Vijayanagar, Bangalore South and Kengeri. JD(S) Floor Leader in the Council, Padmanabha Reddy, has even demanded a probe by the Lokayukta.

What brought the scam to the fore was the gross mismatch between the Rs 3,000 crore purportedly spent in the three Assembly constituencies and the lack of any visible development on the ground. A member of the team that probed the scam under TVCC had this to say: “How so much money can be spent on projects in the old areas of Bangalore, where the scope for any construction activity has reached a saturation point. We are pretty sure that in these core areas, nobody can spend more than Rs 30 crore a year.”

The trail

1. Tendering done without any prior information or any notes in the records
2. Details missing on the publication of tender notification
3. Tender process was taken up to favour contractors
4. Engineers executed the work without seeking revalidation from the Commissioner
5. The engineers inflated the tender rates much above the Schedule of Rates, issued every year by the Public Works Department
6. Payments made without seeking Quality Test Reports from the Quality Control Department of the Palike
7. Completion certification lacked authorisation from the competent authority

It's official: BBMP does shoddy work

<http://www.bangaloremirror.com/index.aspx?page=article§id=10&contentid=201112202011122004013284262100c9b>

Posted On Tuesday, December 20, 2011 at 04:01:05 AM

There has always been a sneaking suspicion that money spent by the BBMP on civic works is, quite literally, money down the drain. Newly asphalted roads develop potholes with one shower of rain, retainer walls come crashing down and drains overflow. Quality is not the BBMP's forte. Now, there is conclusive evidence to prove it.

An internal investigation into 208 projects executed by the BBMP between April 1, 2010 and March 31, 2011 has pointed out that in a whopping 146 projects, the work is shoddy. The projects include laying new roads, asphaltting existing ones, constructing public buildings, footpaths and drains.

The investigation, conducted by the technical vigilance committee cell (TVCC), has found that around 40 works related to road infrastructure in various parts of the city fail to meet acceptable standards.

Yelahanka Zone tops the list of badly executed projects with the TVCC finding fault with as many as 24 projects out of 40 executed. Results in the other zones are just as grim. Of the 25 projects completed in South Zone, 18 have been declared shoddy, 16 (out of 17) in West Zone and 11 (out of 27) in East Zone. Only two projects were executed in Bommanahalli Zone and both have failed to pass muster.

Biggest offender

The road infrastructure division, known as major roads division, has had the highest number of failures. It executed 21 projects of which 18 failed to meet standards. In the case of projects related to drains and footpaths, out of 19 that were executed, 16 are below par.

The TVCC investigates allegations of irregularities. A copy of its report is sent to the chief accounts officer, who is empowered to stop payments to errant contractors. TVCC chief engineer S Devaraj said, "This is an internal investigation which is carried out every year. We have found a lack of quality in 146 works. We have submitted our report to the commissioner who is authorised to initiate action against erring officers and contractors."

However, apportioning blame and punishing the guilty has been a difficult task. For example, in Gandhinagar, Malleshwaram and Rajarajeshwarinagar divisions, the TVCC found irregularities in civic works worth Rs 1,539 crore executed between 2008 and 2010. An FIR was filed with the Bangalore Metropolitan Task Force (BMTF) and Ediya Vendon, executive engineer (Gandhinagar) was arrested. But there was a deliberate attempt to obliterate incriminating evidence when fire was set to the room where the files were stored. Following the incident, the state government handed over the case to the CID.

The investigative agency has widened its probe to include all civic works executed by the engineering division from 2005. But a senior CID officer claims BBMP officials are not cooperating with the investigative agency ever since Vendon's arrest.

Speaking to Bangalore Mirror, commissioner MK Shankarlinge Gowda said, "I have asked all the officers concerned to provide the required information to the CID. The investigation agency will take appropriate action against the guilty. Depending on that, we will also initiate action against them. The TVCC is doing good work and they should continue to do so."

Padmanabha Reddy, the JD(S) floor leader in the council, said, “The BJP was in power when the alleged scam took place. It should accept moral responsibility for the irregularities. Instead of telling the BBMP not to initiate any new projects because it is going through a bad patch, chief minister DV Sadananda Gowda should attend a special meeting of the civic body, hear the grievances of each ward and provide solutions.”

The road infrastructure division has the highest number of failures – 18 out of 21 fail to meet standards.

Vajpayee Arogyasri extended to BBMP areas

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/bangalore/article2745177.ece>

Bangalore, December 25, 2011

To enable people from the economically weaker sections of society in Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) limits get quality healthcare, the State Government's Vajpayee Arogyasri health insurance scheme was launched in the city on Saturday.

Launching the scheme, Chief Minister D.V. Sadananda Gowda said the annual allocation for health in the State Budget would be increased substantially and Rs. 45 crore would be set aside exclusively for this scheme.

Medical relief

Pointing out that a majority of the grievances received at Janata Darshan programmes were regarding health issues, the Chief Minister said he had disbursed Rs. 13.5 crore as medical relief through his discretionary quota in the last four-and-a-half months (after he assumed charge as Chief Minister).

Cashless treatment

Some 35 lakh people from 7 lakh poor families will benefit from the health insurance scheme.

Cashless medical treatment, including surgery for 402 ailments such as heart and kidney disease, neurological problems, accidents, maternity care and even burns, will be provided in 37 empanelled private and government hospitals in the city.

People from the economically weaker sections (who have BPL cards) apart from senior citizens, pensioners, autorickshaw and truck drivers, pourakarmikas and slum-dwellers can avail themselves of the benefits of the scheme.

Nearly 2,000 beneficiaries identified in Malleswaram Assembly constituency were issued smart health cards on Saturday.

The BBMP had set up a huge pandal and 40 counters on the premises of Malleswaram grounds to distribute the cards.

Mayor Sharadamma said BBMP had set aside Rs. 20.88 crore in its budget to implement this scheme. It would soon start enrolment of beneficiaries in other wards of the city: “We have even included senior citizens, widows and persons with disabilities under the scheme.”

Transport Minister R. Ashok and Malleswaram MLA C.N. Ashwath Narayan also spoke.

PPP model

Deputy Mayor S. Harish said the BBMP would soon extend health services to all sections of society by collaborating with private and top government hospitals.

Mr. Harish told The Hindu on the sidelines of the programme that the BBMP had recently tied up with Vasavi Healthcare to provide free dialysis facilities to people.

“We are also starting a 100-bed BBMP ward in Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research and a 50-bed ward in Bangalore Kidney Foundation at a total cost of Rs. 4 crore. We are also donating Rs. 1 crore to the State-run Karnataka Institute of Diabetology. We are looking at more such collaborations,” the Deputy Mayor added.

Bangalore Municipality Gets Tech Savy

Good Governance Magazine

The BBMP is transforming from its Archaic system of financial monitoring to the modern financial management system on real-time basis with the help of a pioneering technology developed by the Indian CST. The service is scalable, Secure and efficient, while improving over all service and reducing costs.

Mention government projects and the first reaction is great deal of scepticism about feasibility, executive skills, quality of the end product and timely completion. While this may sound extremely cynical and even unjustified, unfortunately interactions with the government authority have given ample reason to become sceptical.

Recognising this regrettable state of affairs and with the objective of taking the country forward in the right direction to meet its needs of becoming a global economic leader by the year 2035, Indian Centre for Social Transformation (Indian CST) was recently formed to improve e-governance through the global project management system. Indian CST truly believes in information technology for social change, says its website. In a first of its kind of project in India, Indian CST recently rolled out a financial management system for the municipality of Bangalore-BBMP (Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike) which proposes to deliver services that are scalable, secure and efficient, while improving the overall service and reducing costs.

BBMP with annual Budget of Re.14,000 crore is one of the largest municipalities in the country, with the help of the Indian CST's solution will enable efficient monitoring of the various payments received from the 198 wards in the city under various departments.

For the seamless operation of government departments multiple applications and services need to be addressed and delivered in a scalable, secure and efficient manner. TO achieve this, the Indian CST has come up with a Global Project Management Solution (GPMS) as a service for the use of various government agencies. While this 'Software Platform as a service' (SPaS) is done without technically licensing the software, it enables the use of data across projects, to improve efficiency and cost.

Interestingly, the computing environment will be based on the tenants of cloud computing environment where the customers do not own the physical infrastructure and the access and process data on the cloud. Typically here, the capital expenditure is avoided by renting the usage from a third-party provider where payment is made only to the extent of which the service is used.

Indian CST provides such infrastructure under the GPMS where it can be shared across a set of e-governance applications as well as services rendered to common man. Further, to address the sensitivity of information in various e-governance projects as well as information about citizens, data security will be addressed by CVC (Central Vigilance Commission) and CSIR (Council for Scientific and Industrial Research).

How does GPMS-FMS work?

GPMS essentially addresses the complete life cycle of a project by using the technique of capture, validate, check, measure, analyse , report along with key performance indicators. While it enables organizations to easily monitor their projects, it can also be successfully used for pre and post award analysis of projects besides enabling investigations if any that need to be carried out. While the projects are effectively checked, analysed, measured and reported using relevant indicators, the data gathered is used as a Knowledge Management System which holds vast repository of RFP's (Request for Proposals), tender processes, vendors and their performances, rate as well as technologies available in the market.

The GPMS also stores data on the brief history of the organization, details, tenders, analysis of payment process, tax deduction practices, duplicity, besides also analysing the necessity of a project under consideration. Further, apart from the 360 degree view of the projects under consideration, the employee's and contractor's history is also stored, facilitating a detailed analysis from all angles and when required.

GPMS to help BBMP

As the fifth largest city in the country, Bangalore commands a budget of Re. 14000 crores for carrying out its municipal functions. Interestingly, BBMP Accounts department was un aware, in a real time basis, the quantum of funds received by its 198 wards. After this shocking truth had dawned, BBMP approached Indian CST to implement the GPM-FMS to monitor its fund management in real time.

To meet the specific requirements of BBMP, Indian CST has customized the GPMS cloud computing solution, where it enables the efficient monitoring of the various receipts received or payments done from the respective departments across the 198 wards. Besides providing adequate training to the BBMP staff

on the use of the GPMS-FMS-BBMP financial management system, site visits were initiated to ascertain its implementation in every zone.

Through the GPMS-FMS-BBMP integrated all the 936 bank of nationalised, private, cooperative bank branches across the city with their departments that span head office, divisions, sub-divisions, 198 wards and 450 Offices where each engineer can report revenue collected on a daily basis. This, besides enabling reporting on real time basis, also brings in transparency in the BBMP operations.

GPMS-FMS-BBMP Financial Management System packs in:

1. Revenue Monitoring system
2. Revenue Receipts data entry sheets
3. Generation of Automatic receipts online
4. View Receipts online
5. Generation of relevant MIS reports

Incidentally, the capturing of this data makes it the single largest information collection system in civil infrastructure project any government body in Karnataka, offering information on payment, collection and deposit into the various bank accounts of the BBMP.

A Palike transformed:

This project has drastically transformed the face of BBMP within its short period of implementation. Besides ushering in a paperless office and clarity of data through the computerized receipts and payments has been a drastic increase in the revenue collections and scrutiny done online and payments released. The revenue c collections increased by over Re.1100 crores in the very first few months of its implementation, a pointer to the tremendous advantage of technology facilitated by the GPMS.

The new system also brings in the accountability, with the name, designation and contact details of the receipts issuing person made available. The user friendly system also allows the data to be easily retrievable for further reference, besides enabling authorized persons access the site to view collections online in real time.

This initiative is a sure step forward in the eradication of corruption and malpractices in the government, lending creditability to its functioning.

Indian CST efforts to make BBMP more transparent and efficient can be a good example how technology can benefit the officials as well as the recipients of the service. Many a time, the e-governance initiatives do not reach or address the common man in the manner it is envisaged, especially in the rural areas. This is particularly so due to the digital divide that exists between the urban and rural masses. The Indian CST aim is to provide e-governance services that are efficient and scalable right from the grass root level such Municipalities and Panchayats. Supporting this will be a portal that will be accessible to people and link them to varied range of project that will offer cost effective computing, knowledge management systems and critical applications at affordable costs. In short, it would ensure that the e-governance reaches and addresses effectively the needs of the common man.

Eleven extraordinary Bengalureans to be awarded

The latest Namma Bengaluru Awards receive a record 61,000 nominations from citizens. 53 finalists in 9 categories will vie for honours. P Manivannan, Britannia, B N Vijay Kumar, BOSCO among those nominated.

By News Desk
15 Mar 2013, Citizen Matters

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The *Namma Bengaluru Awards*, instituted by the Namma Bengaluru Foundation, will be presented this Saturday 16th of March at 6 pm at the Malleshwaram Grounds. The awards will be given away in a glittering event of music, dance and entertainment. Entry to public is free.

Total of 53 finalists in 9 categories will vie for the prestigious NBA. They include Prithvi Reddy, Arundhuti Gupta, Bangalore Traffic Police, BESCOM, **Indian Centre for Social Transformation**, Goonj, Kormangala 3rd Block RWA, Puttenhalli Neighborhood Lake Improvement Trust, Ashok Dalwai, B G Chengappa, BIOCON, IBM, Canara Bank and many more.

The *Namma Bengaluru Awards* this year will be conferred in the presence of eminent Bengalureans and jury members who will attend the much anticipated event. Other dignitaries who are expected to attend the event are Members of Parliament, Ministers, MLAs, RWAs and citizens of Bengaluru.

Jury's Choice

The *Namma Bengaluru Awards* for 2012 received unprecedented response from the public with citizens **nominating more than 61,000 citizens of Bengaluru for the Awards**. A 20 member jury, under the Chairmanship of Pradeep Kar, Founder, Chairman and Managing Director, Microland, consisted of prominent citizens of Bengaluru from the fields of art and culture, music, literature, law, media and environment. The jury, after serious deliberations spanning over four sessions over eight weeks, short-listed 53 finalists in nine categories. Of this, names of 11 winners will be announced on Saturday.

Internationally renowned audit and process firm KPMG were engaged as audit partners to ensure transparency in the process of nomination and selection of the winners.

"The Namma Bengaluru Awards selection process reached a different level this year. From the enormous number of nominations (61,000+) to the tremendous quality of nominations. It was truly a very difficult process to select one amongst the finalists, all of who deserved to win the award. It is truly gratifying to see the selfless commitment of these individuals and organizations, most of whom go unrecognized in their journeys. I am delighted that the Namma Bengaluru Foundation has chosen to recognize these selfless leaders/organisations, all of who are making an immense difference to our city, silently." said Pradeep Kar, at the final deliberation of the nominations today.

Bengaluru takes the lead

Namma Bengaluru Awards is first of its kind in India where citizens of the city nominate their choice for these awards; the event, over the past 3 years has evoked tremendous interest, enthusiasm and engagement from the people of our city. For the nominees, it is a tremendous opportunity to be recognized, applauded and encouraged by the citizens of the city they serve.

Music and Dance

The inaugural part of the award will evoke tremendous emotional ownership for the public. The latter half of the evening will entertain guests with music and entertainment that includes performances by Raghu Dixit Project, Vilas Nayak, Antardhwani and Articulate Ability.

Entry to the Awards function is free and citizens can come and enjoy an evening of pride, glitz and glamour. The entire awards ceremony will be webcast live.

<p>CATEGORY: CITIZENS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Dr Anthony Sebastian – Founder & Executive Director, ECHO2. Fr George Kannanthanam - Founder, Sumanahalli Society3. Jasmeen Patheja - Founder, Blank Noise4. G Manohar Row - Founder Anga Karunya Kendra, Bangalore Cares, Karunashraya5. Nitin Seshadri –Member, Kormangala 3rd Block Association6. Prithvi Reddy – Co Founder, Smart Vote7. Arundhuti Gupta - Mentor Together8. Kuldeep Dantewadia – Reap Benefit9. Pranav Raghav Sood – Student Activist <p>CATEGORY: GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Bangalore One2. Bangalore Traffic Police3. BESCO4. DPAR - Sakala	<p>CATEGORY: Groups/ Organizations</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. BOSCO – Reconstructing lives of the Young at Risk2. Goonj - Rehabilitation – Distributing Clothes to the under privileged communities3. Indian Centre for Social Transformation - E-Governance transparency in BBMP Projects4. Kathalaya Trust – Using storytelling as an education tool in all the schools to inculcate civic awareness5. Kidwai Institute of Cancer - Serving underprivileged cancer patients6. Kormangala 3rd Block RWA – Enriching the quality of life of its residents7. Mission 5 - A student initiative that supports underprivileged students realize educational dreams8. Puttenhalli Neighborhood Lake Improvement Trust – First Ever citizen’s group managing citizens group that was handed over the management of the Puttenahalli Lake due to their effective restoration9. Rag Pickers Education & Development Scheme – Multipurpose Social Service Society working with Urban Poor, Street Children10. Shri Ramana Maharishi Academy for Blind - Addresses the economic development and social welfare of the visually impaired11. The Belaku Trust – Working with the underprivileged women and children
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CATEGORY: SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURS

1. LabourNet - Social enterprise that creates sustainable benefits for workers in the informal sector by offering them a platform to access services
2. Ujjivan - Provides financial services to the economically active poor under the joint liability group model as well as individual microfinance
3. Smt Pavitra Y S – Managing Director , Vindhya – E – Infomedia Pvt. Ltd – A BPO solely for differently abled people.

CATEGORY: ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

Shri B N Vijay Kumar – MLA, Jayanagar ConsistENCY

CATEGORY – GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE

1. Shri Ashok Dalwai - Deputy Director General (Technology Centre) and DDG (RO), Bangalore), UIDAI, Planning Commission.
2. Shri B G Chengappa - Director KSFE,
3. Shri Gopal Hosur - Inspector General of Police, Intelligence, Karnataka State, Bangalore
4. Shri P. Manivannan- Managing Director, BESCO
5. Shri T Rangappa – Police Inspector , Banaswadi Police Station
6. Dr. M A Saleem - Addl. Commissioner of Police, Traffic,
7. Shri Mahadev Rajappa Sambargi - Police Head Constable
8. Dr. Shalini Rajneesh - Secretary - Personnel, AR & Trg Dept, DPAR

CATEGORY – MEDIA

1. Hemanth Kashyap –Principal Correspondent, Bangalore Mirror
2. S. Kushala – Assistant Editor, Bangalore Mirror
3. Priyanka – Radio Jockey, Radio Active
4. Seethalakshmi S – Metro Editor, The Times of India
5. Shiva Prasad – Senior Producer and Anchor, TV9
6. Shradda – Radio Jockey, Fever 104 FM
7. Citizen Matters
8. News 9
9. TV 9

CATEGORY – CSR

1. BIOCON - Social change and empowerment of rural communities through public health, sanitation and education programs.
2. BOSCH - Focuses on enabling lives and livelihood through education and technology. Projects focused on areas like education, environment, vocational Training and health & rehabilitation
3. Britannia - Effective Solid Waste Management
4. Canara Bank – Focus on Rural Development, Social Banking Cell and has a Centre for Entrepreneurship Development for Women
5. IBM – focus on Education, Healthcare, Disaster response, Economic growth, Urbanization
6. Microlabs - Pharmaceutical Manufacturing
7. Narayana Hrudalaya - Provide affordable quality healthcare for the masses

[News Desk](#)

15 Mar 2013

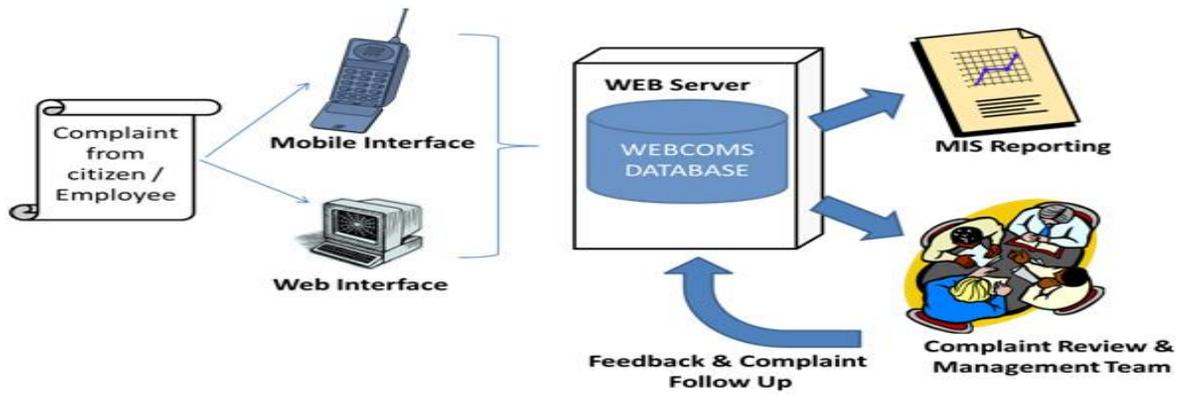
Here's how BBMP can mop up funds

<http://www.thisweekbangalore.com/issue197/BBMP.html>

AS PER THE STATEMENT OF MAYOR OF BBMP NO FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE IN BBMP TO RUN THE BBMP. HERE ARE SOME OF THE SUGGESTIONS TO BBMP ON HOW TO COLLECT INCOME FROM THE PUBLIC

1. Footpath Hackers on pavements are common in Bangalore City. They hold no license to do the business. The BBMP can introduce monthly rental basis method to collect fees
2. Some of the Owners of the Residents in Bangalore have not paid the Home Tax to BBMP. There are nearly 5 lakhs non tax payers to BBMP. Immediate action may please be taken to collect the tax with arrears. No thorough check up from the BBMP officials.
3. Unauthorized construction of Shops/Buildings on Government Land - Identify and levy the fine etc.,
4. Unauthorised occupation in Government Buildings - Collect fine and fees.
5. The BBMP has leased out the Government Lands to Clubs/Associations/Temples. BBMP can ask for 50% of the earnings to BBMP as the Rules and Regulations of the Lease Agreement is not to conduct income generated schemes on the Government Lease land.
6. Road side business in the morning timings: BBMP can collect fees for the same
7. In Majestic/City Market and other busy areas on the road side and on the footpath there are so many people transacting business without paying fees to BBMP, and earning thousands of rupees. Police and BBMP officials are taking bribe from them.
8. Water Mafia in Bangalore: Unauthorised water usage by the Mafia should be checked.
9. Unauthorised Hoardings in Bangalore city, in and outside the houses: There is no fee levied for Hoardings in vacant lands. In these cases too, bribes are collected from the owners by the BBMP officials.
10. Electricity Theft Mafia: Unauthorised power being used by some of the House owners, Commercial establishments.
11. Construction of the watchman sheds on the roadside and on footpaths for newly constructed houses; no fees collected Fake stamp paper Mafia.

12. Auto Meter tampering: No check up by officials.
13. In Burma Bazar and National Market in Majestic and in other such markets, all the goods sold are bogus, and not billed. No licence is issued to these establishments for doing business.
14. Temples in Government/BBMP Land/Play field- Temples have been built, without supporting records. Lakhs of rupees are collected from the devotees, Members and misused, without paying a single rupee to BBMP.
15. Non-Approval of House Building Plans - Almost 90% of the houses in Bangalore are unauthorizedly constructed without proper approval. Crores of rupees can be mopped up from them in the form of AKRAMA SAKRAMA.
16. Hotels and Restaurants are not maintaining the norms of BBMP - If thorough check up is conducted crores of rupees will be collected to BBMP
17. In Bangalore lakes, parks, circles, fountains can be outsourced to private people for maintenance on sponsorship basis. This will be a significant accretion of income to the BBMP.
18. Government Schools may be given to Private companies on sponsorship basies. This will be a income to the BBMP
19. Parking Mafia in Bangalore –Electronic system of payments should be adopted for collection of parking fees and BBMP can charge a percentage of the amount collected.
20. Parking in front of the Hotels,/Commercial complexes free of cost on the roadside- Parking fee should be levied.
21. Fees to be levied on Vegetable Vendors doing business on the roads like in Basavanagudi, 9th Block Jaynagar, to mop up additional revenue and prevent corruption by way of bribes.



Indian Citizens and International Teams Applaud Indian CST Initiatives















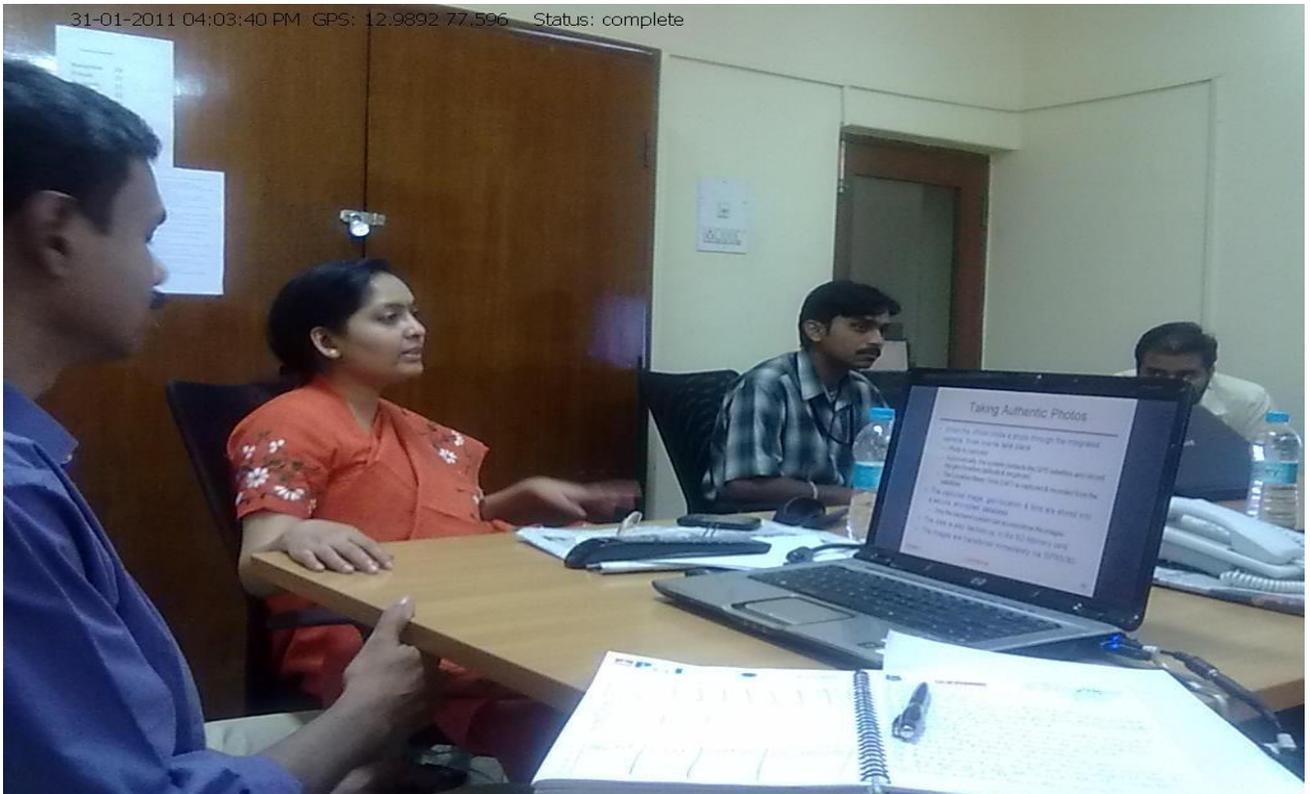
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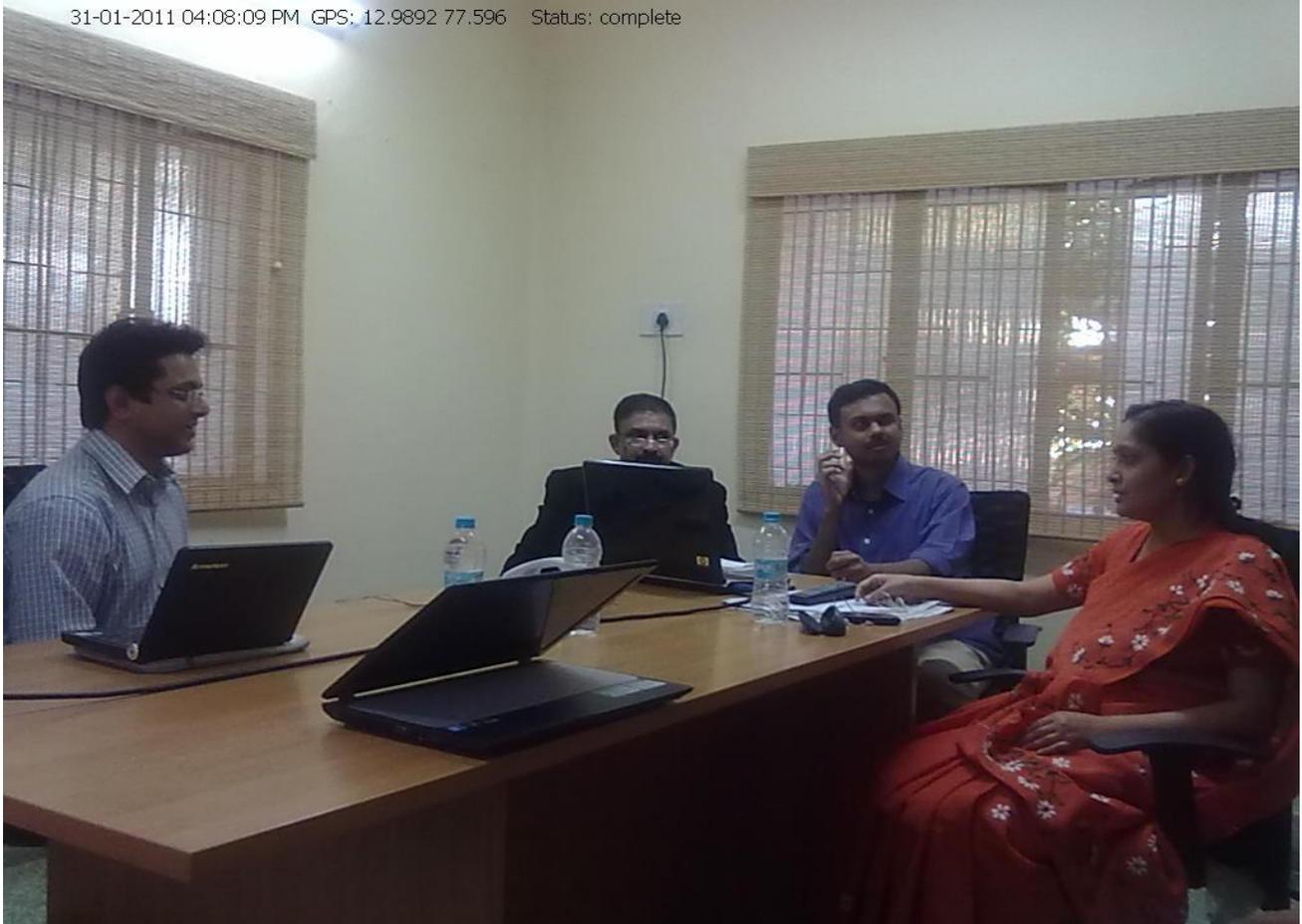


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67% of state funds allotted for development works lie unused

By N. Srinivasan

Mumbai: More than two-thirds of the budget allotted for development work for 2011-12 is lying unused in the state coffers.

With a little over four months remaining for the end of the financial year, the government has spent only Rs 13,000 crore of the total plan expenditure of Rs 41,200 crore.

Plan expenditure refers to funds meant for development projects and schemes. It does not include establishment costs such as salaries.

This means that the state has so far used less than 33% of the funds allotted for development works at the beginning of the financial year. Restrictions imposed on account of cuts of subsidies for elections of state-level officers holds between December this year and March next year is bound to impact the expenditure pattern in the coming four months too, a source of fiscal said.

BRAKES ON GROWTH

Department	Amount allocated (Rs in crore)	Spent so far (Rs in crore)
Employment	16	3.8
Revenue and funds	660	42
Housing	1,770	14
Urban development	1,725	76
Industry, Energy and Labour	1,241	34
Rural development	1,867	78
Medical education	90	17
Village development	1,302	21
Food and civil supplies	56	4

Key depts lag behind in spending on works

With elections around the corner is a number of urban local bodies and pilla parishads, a major concern for the Democratic front (DF) government is that key departments like urban development, environment, rural development and forest, medical education, environment, tribal development and food and civil supplies, are low spenders when it comes to development work (see table). These departments deal with issues that directly affect citizens. The general administration and public health departments are the only ones to have used over 50% of their funds, too.

A trend observed over the last five years is that the spending towards development works gains pace during the last few months of the year. For instance, only Rs 10,000 crore had been spent up until around this time during the last fiscal. The government managed to spend Rs 33,000 crore. However, this trend could be impacted this year on account of the elections, officials said.

A finance department official said the plan expenditure is estimated on the basis of concrete development plans charted out by the state. "Ideally speaking, the state should exhaust the entire allocation, which means by now, it should have spent 67% of the funds," the official said. He blamed red tape and lack of vision while planning projects for the poor performance.

The environment department has been the worst performer so far. It has spent only 2.08% of the funds allocated. Other offenders are the employment department (3.42%), revenue and forest department (6.62%), housing department (6.67%), urban development (9.31%), food and civil supplies (10.86%), and the industries, energy and labour department (14.90%).

'30 pay-&-park locations for open category

By S. Srinivasan

Mumbai: After months over reservations for its pound pay-and-park 30 across Mumbai, the BMC told the Bombay HC that kept 30 additional locations for general category.

A division bench of P. B. Marudkar and Mridula Bhaskar was a petition filed by lawyer Anand Ganeshi, a well-known advocate, to be upheld.

30 locations, Area 90,000 sq ft, 50% of 10 are to be given. BMC will provide 30 pay-and-park locations for open category. BMC will provide 30 pay-and-park locations for open category. BMC will provide 30 pay-and-park locations for open category.

Suggest names for baby AR

26/11 hero's widow helps

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Dr. Ashwani Kumar
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& Earth Sciences and Vice-President, CSIR

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• CSIR Young Scientist Awards 2011

• CSIR Technology Awards 2011

• CSIR Diamond Jubilee Invention Award
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Dr. Ashwani Kumar

Minister of State for Science and Technology,
Earth Sciences and Planning

will preside over the function

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Announcement of SSB Prizes 2011

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