

# THE BEACON

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## Cuts in funding flagged by union

**Prajwal S K**

**BENGALURU:** The BBMP has cancelled the 15 crore rupees intended to purchase uniforms and safety equipment for Pourakarmikas- the city civic workers responsible for the cleanliness of the city - said Anjaneya, the president of BBMP Pura Karmikara Sangha.

The BBMP Pura Karmikara Sangha wrote a letter to CM Siddaramaiah on October 22, expressing dismay over the cut in funding.

"We are not happy with the decision of the government to take back the funds allocated for Pourakarmikas," said Anjaneya. "There are about 18,500 of them in the city. The corporation had covered all the costs of uniforms for them till now with this fund. Additionally, the same funds are utilised for their welfare and development. In such a situation, the state government has withdrawn the allocated funds." We are going to hold a meeting on October 26 to decide the form and date of the protest," he added.

Speaking to The Beacon, Shanthamma, a pourakarmika said, "The government is slashing all of our funding to allocate funds for the free schemes. This is not right, there will be numerous issues."

She expressed dissent over the non-responsiveness of the government to their long-standing demand for permanent recruitment

## Dig well when house is on fire approach flayed

**Parvathi Nair**

**BENGALURU:** Most often, building violations in Bengaluru go unnoticed and it's only when an entire layout is destroyed that the issues are attended to, said Sandeep Anirudhan, founding convener of the Citizens Agenda Bengaluru and Convenor of Namma Whitefield in conversation with The Beacon.

In a bid to curb illegal construction, the BBMP on Monday identified 40 illegal buildings in Whitefield. After a joint team from the Department of Town Planning and Ward Engineering surveyed the properties in the White Rose layout, notices were issued to 27 buildings, while 13 were left pending as their owners could not be contacted.

Anirudhan said that although these are recent happenings in Whitefield, such incidents have happened in places like Koramangala, JP Nagar and BTM Layout. The issues



BBMP issues notices to illegal constructions

Special Arrangement

hog the limelight only when the problems caused by illegal constructions, peak. "That's when you realise that this place has gone to hell because of the high density of population and violations," he added.

The White Rose layout has seen rapid degradation

because of illegally constructed PGs in the area, read the press release by the committee. Various concerns such as sewage management, violation of fire safety protocols, and water crisis caused by the copious number of borewells in the area, have been

raised by citizens. While talking about the situation in Whitefield, Anirudhan said that such circumstances shouldn't be arising at all, and if they are, it is because of dysfunctional governance. He alluded to a 2019 suo motu PIL by HC against illegal

construction. The PIL was filed to get a court mandate to crack down on illegally constructed buildings after BBMP failed to take action.

He said that as per the bylaws, the building plan approval is issued subject to its display outside the wall, after which, the owner is supposed to get a commencement certificate from the ADTP. Only then must construction be commenced. He pointed out that most constructions are going ahead without commencement certificates. Ascribing the problem to a lack of retribution, he said that a lack of punitive measures has emboldened the officials who are inept or corrupt.

"Ultimately if there are no punishments, no stakes, then these officials will continue to be like this. They'll be very lax, they'll be conniving. They'll be hand-in-glove, making a lot of money, and they'll just let the city go to dogs," he added.

## Students from LU invent economical gas sensor

**Shruti Srivastava**

A cost-effective gas sensor has been invented by a team of students and professors from the Physics Department of the University of Lucknow.

The gas sensor can detect the presence of toxic gases like carbon dioxide in the environment. The sensor got the patent under the name of the Department of Physics on Friday after the application was registered on September 25.

The sensor is made entirely out of clay, fly ash and other waste materials. Talking to The Beacon,



Lucknow University

Zee News-India

assistant professor from the Department of Physics, Dr Chandki Ram Gautam, said, "This sensor differs from other sensors available in the market in terms of its response time and recovery, plus it is entirely made out of waste materials." He

further added that it took them nearly one and a half years from the process of ideation of the sensor to finally getting it patented.

This research project was funded by the Higher Education Service Commission of Uttar Pradesh

(UPHESC) and was headed by Prof Bal Chandra Yadav from Baba Sahab Bhim Rao Ambedkar University, Lucknow. The team had 7-8 students and professors from both universities, who collaborated on this project.

Gautam said, "We got the patent in our name but if any industry will be interested in the sensor, we are willing to transfer it." Budget constraints and meagre government funding have prevented them from being introduced to the market. Commercial use by some industries or companies is what is feasible at the moment, he added.

## Power theft penalised

**Amrutha G P**

**BENGALURU:** According to the latest report, the Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (Bescom) has collected approximately 8.49 crore in penalties from a total of 3,232 incidents of users utilising household meters (L1 and L2) for business activities.

Shankar, a rice mill owner said, "For the past 5 years I have been paying two separate bills for my residence and shop, which is in the basement of my house." He mentioned that he thinks Bescom should be more clear about what counts as commercial and what counts as domestic to avoid penalising citizens.

Talking to The Beacon, a Bescom official said that even setting up a shed behind a house for any small-scale business, the installation of a proper commercial electric meter is required, non-compliance of which may lead to heavy penalties. "Commercialisation does not have to be just pubs and bars, even a small shed doing any business comes under commercial usage and BESCO has all rights to seize the shop," he added.

## A delightful Dussehra to remember

**Kiranmai Basavaraj**

**BENGALURU:** A new committee called Kolar Dussehra 2023 and the previous committee "Nagarika Vedike" celebrated Dussehra in a grand way in Kolar.

After the completion of nine days of Navratri Vratha, on the tenth day that is on Vijaya Dashmi people follow the tradition of seeking blessings from the Shami tree. The tradition is followed as there is a belief that all the blessings sought during the Navratri Vratha will be fulfilled. In addition to this tradition,



Kolaramma Devi on 'Belli Pallaki'

Kiranmai Basavaraj

Dussehra was celebrated for the first time in Kolar on such a large scale as per the eyewitness accounts.

There is a procession of Kolaramma Devi in 'Belli Pallaki' which is taken all around the streets of Kolar, along with 'dollar kunitha' told Srinivas, a

committee member.

There were stage programmes of famous comedian Jagappa and Vrinda from Gich Gilli Gilli, a famous Kannada reality show, Bharatanatyam performed by Kannada actress Lasya Nagaraj. Around 5,000 people witnessed the event.

## Dismay over SC's verdict

**Neenu and Sonia**

**BENGALURU:** Commenting on the Supreme Court verdict on same-sex marriage, Rohini Malur, the head of the Queer Reads, Bangalore opined that the legal system was rigid, docile, and considered hearsays as arguments. The Supreme Court recently refused to alter the Special Marriage Act to accommodate same-sex marriages in India in response to a petition. On October 11, a five-

judge bench concluded a 10-day-long marathon hearing and deferred its decision although the advocates and the petitioners asserted equal rights for the LGBTQ+ to ensure a dignified life for them. The LGBTQ+ community expressed dissatisfaction with the verdict. "It becomes much more complicated in terms of a legal sense. Maybe the route now is more political," said Aravind Narayan, Advocate of the People's Union for Civil Liberties.