

CIVIC IN ACTION - ANNUAL REPORT OF CIVIC- BANGALORE APRIL 2020 TO MARCH 2021

This entire period was marked by the pandemic which curtailed the activities of all NGOs. Much that we wanted to achieve could not be achieved. The time was spent in doing advocacy-from-home and participating in webinars and writing articles

Social Accountability Forum for Action & Research (SAFAR) Activities

Setting up of Ward Disaster Management Cells (WDMCs) in all wards of BBMP as a result of CIVIC's email to Chief Justice Abhay S. Oka

- **NDMA makes local governments responsible for delivering services:** The National Disaster Management Act (NDMA) puts the onus of delivering services in times of disaster on local bodies. The strange fact was that in Bengaluru the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) (Greater Bengaluru Municipal Corporation) council did not even meet to discuss its responsibilities under the NDMA either before or when the lock-down was announced. It met after 15 days.
- **Rules for setting up WDMCs not invoked by BBMP:** Even when the BBMP Council met, the fact that Section 6(8) of the Ward Committee Rules of Karnataka mandated the formation of Ward Disaster Management Cells (WDMCs) were not invoked by it. No mandatory responsibilities were hence given to the councillors (and the ward committees) on their role in fighting the pandemic.
- **Several needy migrants left out of benefits:** In the absence of the WDMCs, there was no data-base of the needy at ward level and lack of coordination among officials, NGOs, RWAs, etc., in delivering benefits. Several camps of migrant and other workers were getting left out. Migrants were voicing their plaint about having to beg for food and rations, which was depriving them of their dignity.
- **Emails to Chief Secretary & BBMP Commissioner elicit no response:** CIVIC, through emails, brought to the attention of the BBMP Commissioner and later to the Chief Secretary and the State-level Disaster Management Committee in charge of Welfare that it was BBMP's duty to have constituted the WDMCs as soon as the lock-down was announced. But this elicited no response from any of them.
- **Court disappointed with BBMP's measures:** At the same time, CIVIC noted that the High Court of Karnataka had been questioning BBMP, in the PIL WP 6435/2020, on what

measures it had been taking to identify the needy and provide shelter, food and medicines, etc., to migrant workers and the homeless in Bengaluru during the lockdown. The Court however was expressing its disappointment over the reports of the State government and the BBMP on the measures taken, and lamented that no “organized and systematic efforts” were made to identify the migrants and other homeless people.

- **Email to Chief Justice of Karnataka by CIVIC:** Noting these, CIVIC, through an email on April 20th, brought to the attention of the Chief Justice that if only the institutionalized WDMCs had been set up, these could have identified the needy in every ward and provided credible data to the Court, as the ward is an oversee-able area and the councilor and ward committee members are aware of the locations where slums and migrant workers are located, being in close proximity to them. CIVIC prayed that the Court should direct BBMP to set up these Ward Disaster Management Cells immediately.
- **Ward Disaster Management Cells set up in all 198 wards:** Taking up the email of CIVIC on 24th April 2020, the Court sought the government’s response to it. As a result, the BBMP Zonal Commissioners immediately set up WDMCs in all 198 wards of BBMP, under the ward committees, through a circular on 26th April 2020, spelling out their roles and responsibilities and reported this to the Court on 27th April. The BBMP Commissioner also issued a circular on 29th April on WDMCs, as per directions from the HC.
- **Circular on creating data-base of needy issued by Labour Secretary on CIVIC’s mail to CM:** However, the circulars did not require the WDMCs to conduct surveys to create a data-base of the vulnerable and needy migrant and other workers and the homeless in their wards and put the data in public domain or furnish it to the High Court, which is what was intended in the HC’s Order. In this regard, MUKTI Alliance to End Bonded Labour & Human Trafficking, of which CIVIC is a core committee member, sent suggestions to the Chief Minister, the Chief Secretary and other officials emphasizing the need by WDMCs to create ward-level data-bases of needy persons and also to have a ward-level helpline. It was thereafter that Capt. Manivannan, Labour Secretary, issued a circular requiring officials to conduct surveys to identify and create a data-base of all construction and migrant workers in all wards.
- **MUKTI Alliance writes to KHRC on lack of data-base of workers:** MUKTI Alliance against Human Trafficking & Bonded Labour, of which CIVIC is a part, wrote to the Chairperson of the Karnataka Human Rights Commission, Justice D.H. Waghela, pointing out:

- **the poor** registration under the Inter-State Migrant Workmen's (ISMW) Act, Unorganised Workers' Social Security (UWSS) Act & the Building & Other Construction Workers' Welfare Act
- the poor housing for inter-state migrant workmen
- the lack of provision of creches for the workers' children
- migrant workers living in bonded labour-like situation

A Government Order of the Labour Department, issued based on a memorandum of CIVIC, mandates several provisions for registration of workers, housing, creches, etc., for construction workers which needs to be monitored. The letter to KSHRC Chairperson requested him to monitor the effective implementation of above provisions to ensure that the construction workers and their children live in decent living conditions ensuring their dignity. Justice Waghela gave MUKTI Alliance an appointment on 11th June 2020 when our memorandum was presented to him and the issues explained.

- **Chief Secretary appreciates General SOP for WDMCs prepared by CIVIC:** Mr. Nikhil Dey and Rakshita Swamy of SAFAR were impressed with the setting up of WDMCs achieved by CIVIC and they organized a webinar to seek inputs from academicians and activists, including MUKTI Alliance, to prepare a General Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for WDMCs, which they could share with other States. The circulars issued by BBMP for the WDMCs were restricted to handling COVID. Though General SOPs for Disaster Management were available at State and District level, they were non-existent at the ward level in urban areas. After collecting inputs, a final General SOP for WDMCs was sent by CIVIC to the Chief Secretary who forwarded it to the State Secretary for Disaster Management, (with an appreciative note to CIVIC for the work put in) and with the instruction to the State Secretary to take the inputs given by CIVIC. However, we have not heard anything from the State Secretary though I wrote to him asking for what follow-up measures he had taken on the SOP.
- **Awareness-building and Advocacy on WDMC:** CIVIC was also able to write to Rajya Sabha MP, Mr. Rajeev Chandrashekar, during a Webinar organized by NBF about the need to activate the WDMCs. He took up the matter and wrote about it in his Memorandum to the CM. CIVIC also spoke about the WDMCs in Webinars and in a radio talk on the community radio 'Radio Active' to create awareness about them. CIVIC was able to question the BBMP Mayor and officials during Webinars on the dysfunctionality of WDMCs though they were set up on the orders of the High Court. The Mayor failed to answer the question but the Special Commissioner, Mr. Surpur, claimed that there were several models for managing disasters, and WDMCs need not be the only model. But WDMCs are the only models foreseen in the statute. An article was written by the

Executive Trustee on the constitution of WDMCs through CIVIC's emails to the CJ which was published in 'Citizen Matters'.

- **Public Accounts Committee and Kar. Legal Services Authority take note of CIVIC's work on data-base and other issues of unorganized workers:** In the context of the corona pandemic and the distress caused to daily-wage workers, the advocacy done by the Executive Trustee about the need for ensuring universal social security in the proposed Social Security Code of the Central government and on maintaining Data-Bases of all workers was noted by the Public Accounts Committee of the Karnataka Legislature. It took the Labour Department to task for not maintaining data-bases of workers. The Additional Labour Commissioner, Dr.Manjunath, requested for the advocacy material prepared by CIVIC and sent them to the Labour Secretary, Mr. Maheshwar Rao, requesting him to have a discussion with CIVIC on these issues. However, the Labour Secretary did not get in touch with us. Meanwhile, the Karnataka State Legal Services Authority got in touch with CIVIC as it had heard that CIVIC has done a lot of work on unorganized workers and asked us to send all the material that we have prepared on Social Security for Unorganised Workers, which was also forwarded to them.
- **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) shows interest in CIVIC's General SOP for Ward Disaster Management Cells (WDMCs):** While attending a CPR webinar on 25th Nov 20, on 'Urban Poor Communities and COVID-19 – Inclusive Policies and Practice for Improved Urban Resilience'. Mr. Kamal Kishore, Member of India's National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and co-chair of the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) was a speaker. During his talk he said that it is not sufficient to have Disaster Management Authorities at the national, State and district levels and that there need to be mechanisms at the city level and even lower at ward level to be able to reach out to the needy during disasters. So CIVIC wrote to him about our experience in Karnataka of getting Ward Disaster Management Cells (WDMCs) set up and asked whether Mr. Kishore could bring out a General SOP for WDMCs at national level. He replied on 23rd Dec 20 that he will revert very shortly. Hopefully, we will get a General SOP for WDMCs issued by NDMA at national level to all cities. A reminder about the General SOP for WDMCs has been sent to him recently.
- **Dissemination about WDMCs during International Webinars:** ET spoke about the setting up of WDMCs in Bengaluru during the "International Workshop-cum-Training on 'Green Growth Strategies for Climate Resilience and DRR: Policies, Pathways and Tools' organised by CEENR-Institute for Social & Economic Change, Bengaluru and National

Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), New Delhi, between 26 to 28.11.20. And also during the International webinar on “Rethinking the Role of Local Governments in a Post COVID-19 World” organised by Centre for Gandhian Studies, Central University of Kerala, Kasaragod, Kerala (India) and Centre for Rural Management (CRM), Kottayam, Kerala (India) between 10.12.20 to 14.12.20. ET’s **paper on the WDMCs set up in Bengaluru has been accepted for publication in the Report of the International Webinar.**

BBMP Commissioner promises constitution of Booth-Level Area Sabhas in Bengaluru on CIVIC’s request:

- After the WDMCs were set up as per HC order, Mr. L.K. Atheeq, PRS-RD, was given the task of getting ‘community involvement’ in tackling COVID in both rural and urban areas. He trained the WDMCs and also set up Booth-level committees with local volunteers. He formed a Whatsapp group called BL-Cares and involved many CSOs, including CIVIC, in creating a website consolidating all circulars, orders, SOPs, etc., on COVID and for calling for volunteers for the Booth-level committees. CIVIC, Nikhil Dey and Rakshita tried to get Mr. Atheeq to include a grievance redress system in the WDMC SOP on COVID, but could not succeed. BBMP Commissioner too did not respond to the idea.
- The decentralised Booth-Level Committees for controlling the pandemic set up by Mr. Atheeq were not taking off because the electoral Booth-Level Officers lived far away and not in the same Area of the booth. Hence, during a webinar with the BBMP Commissioner, CIVIC pointed out to him that the HC order for Mangaluru on the setting up of Area Sabhas can be held valid for all municipal corporations and hence BBMP should also set up Area Sabhas at each Polling Booth Area. These could enlist local volunteers from the Area to control and monitor the pandemic at booth level. Luckily, former Union Urban Development Secretary, Mr. Ramachandran, had written an article saying the same thing and this was invoked by CIVIC.
- **The BBMP Commissioner accepted this point on the spot and said that he would write to the State UDD to notify each Polling Booth Area as an ‘Area’ for constituting Area Sabhas in Bengaluru. A few days ago he made a formal announcement in a newspaper interview that Ward Committees and Area Sabhas would be constituted in BBMP within two months after the BBMP elections.** This is the first time that the constitution of Area Sabhas has been accepted in BBMP. BBMP elections were due in September 2020 but are going to be postponed by six months due to the pandemic.

This will be the first time Area Sabhas are constituted in Bengaluru, if it is done as promised.

Special BBMP Bill includes CIVIC's recommendation on Zonal Committees and Area Sabha Representatives

- Recently, a special Bill for BBMP was presented in the Karnataka Assembly and sent to a Joint Select Committee. CIVIC analysed the merits and demerits of the Bill and sent it to the Chief Minister who has sent it to the Addnl. Chief Secretary-Urban Development, asking him to report back to the CM and us with his comments and feedback on our analysis. So far, he has not sent his report to us.
- Suggestions made by CIVIC on having Zonal Councils as an intermediate layer between the apex BBMP and ward committees to facilitate greater decentralization find a place in the Draft Bill. So also the suggestion to make Area Sabha Representatives members of the ward committees.
- **Webinar on new BBMP Bill organized on 1st August 2020:** CIVIC organised a Webinar on the New BBMP Bill with a distinguished panel on 1st August 2020. Former Mayor, P.R. Ramesh, former BBMP Commissioners, Dr. A Ravindra and K. Jairaj, former Addnl. Chief Secretary, Mr. V. Balasubramanian, who has prepared a paper on restructuring BBMP, citizen activist V. Ravichandar, who was a member of the Bengaluru Restructuring Committee, and Ms Bhargavi Rao of Centre for Financial Accountability and ESG, were the panellists. Many of CIVIC's critiques/suggestions on the Bill were supported by them.
- **CIVIC's inputs to Joint Select Committee:** The former Mayor, Mr. P.R. Ramesh, is also a member of the Joint Select Committee of the legislature that has been set up to examine the Bill and he asked CIVIC to send our critiques/suggestions to him. Our memorandum has also been sent to the Chairperson of the Joint Select Committee. It incorporates Rakshita Swamy's inputs on Social Accountability in addition to CIVIC's own comments. CIVIC is asking for Amendments to the Karnataka Municipal Corporations Act itself rather than an exclusive Bill only for Bengaluru as it will then benefit all the big cities of Karnataka. CIVIC's memorandum has been sent to the State Addnl. Chief Secretary -UDD as well.
- **Broader consensus on CIVIC's recommendations being obtained:** Janaagraha conducted a webinar on the new BBMP Bill for CSOs. CIVIC was asked to speak at the webinar and present our recommendations. CSOs were asked to select the recommendations upon which there was common agreement and this would be presented jointly by all to the Joint Select Committee. This way, broader endorsement of CIVIC's recommendations is being obtained which is what SAFAR wanted us to achieve.

Amendments to be sought to 74th CA through MP, Mr. Tejasvi Surya

Mr. Sandeep Anirudhan of 'Citizens' Agenda for Bengaluru' found Mr. Tejasvi Surya, MP of Bangalore South, willing to champion in parliament amendments to the 74th CA to make it more effective. It was decided to approach him as he was willing to listen which other MPs were not. Since Mr. Surya was amenable to the idea, Mr. Anirudhan set up a small group, including Mr. Raghunandan, Dr. Jeevan Kumar and me from CIVIC, along with Mr. V. Ravichandar, Mr. Mathew Idiculla and a few others to suggest amendments to 74th CA. Suggested amendments prepared by CIVIC earlier were presented to Mr. Surya through a zoom call on 19th September. He gave a patient hearing and has asked his legal team to look into our recommendations, select what can be included in a constitutional amendment and give it legal shape. Mr. Raghunandan has raised the need to make the group more inclusive. This is a promising initiative.

Mr. Tejasvi Surya to speak to Joint Select Committee on CIVIC's suggestions: Mr. Surya evinced interest in taking up the issue of the New BBMP Bill with the Joint Select Committee. CIVIC has sent him our critique of the Bill and the suggestions and he responded saying that he would speak to the Committee.

Mahiti Kanaja

SAFAR asked CIVIC to collect inputs from various CSOs to suggest what other information needs to be provided on the Mahiti Kanaja portal set up by Karnataka's DPAR-Centre for E-Gov, based on the Jan Soochna Portal of Rajasthan. But since all CSOs were busy with meeting the needs of the marginalized during COVID lockdown, no inputs were received from anyone. Mr. Khush of SAFAR gave his inputs to which Mr. Muralidharan and ET added inputs. ET added to Mr. Khush's inputs on the Education, Urban Development and a few other departments. Mr. Y. G. Muralidharan did a web study on existing public accountability systems for a few social sectors like Food, Rural Development, electricity access, and other public services. Mr. Muralidharan felt that if Mahiti Kanaja uploads suo motu disclosure of Section 4 (1)(a) to (d) information of all departments in real time, that itself would provide most of the info sought and needed by citizens.

SAKALA-Plus Social Accountability Bill

Efforts were made to get endorsements from other CSOs to the SAKALA-Plus Bill on Social Accountability before sending it to Mr. Suresh Kumar, minister in charge of SAKALA. The Bill was drafted by NLS-CIVIC-MKSS under the leadership of Mr. Raghunandan, Nikhil Dey and Prof. Yashomati Ghosh, and presented in 2017 to the government and during CIVIC's National Consultation in February 2020. However, only one endorsement was received as all CSOs are preoccupied with COVID. It will be sent to Mr. Suresh Kumar after doing

some further analysis of the varied citizen service centres currently functioning under various departments, such as Bangalore One, CSC Centers, Karnataka One, Atalji Jana Snehi Kendra and Bapuji Kendras, etc. The Bill foresees the setting up of a Single-Window System at ward and GP level for accepting all applications from citizens, providing grievance redressal and conducting social audits.

CIVIC's inputs on Social Security sent to MoLE, Parliamentary Standing Committee on Labour and State Labour Minister

- CIVIC has prepared an Alternative Bill and Framework for Social Security which was sent to the Union Minister for Labour & Employment and to the Chairperson of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Labour which was examining the SS Code. Some of CIVIC's inputs are that the following should be built into the law itself:
 - (1) that there should be a single institutional mechanism for Social Security;
 - (2) there should be a ward/GP and central database of all workers;
 - (3) there should be a mechanism for raising funds from employers and government for the Social Security Fund and
 - (4) there should be a common scheme providing all nine benefits prescribed by the ILO Social Security Convention No. 102.

These same recommendations were also reflected in the recommendations of the Parliamentary Standing Committee to Parliament.

- CIVIC's inputs on social security have also been sent to the State Labour Minister, Mr. Hebbar, since he has also expressed the desire to prepare a protective State law for unorganised workers.

Networking nationally on 74th Constitutional Amendment

Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA), Homes in the City (HIC) and Indo-Global Social Service Society (IGSSS) in association with a number of organisations organised an online consultation on **"Institutionalising Citizen Participation through the Implementation of Citizen Participation Law and 74th Constitutional Amendment Act"**. The consultation was held on 12 November 2020. The purpose of the consultation was to strategize an advocacy engagement with the national and state governments through a broad-based coalition of civil society organisations to implement the Citizen Participation Law. Further to the consultation, during which CIVIC shared about our initiative in activating Ward Disaster Management Cells, other groups from other States requested that all materials regarding this initiative be shared with them. **The Gujarat**

group has started petitioning their State government on initiating Ward Disaster Management Cells in their cities.

CIVIC's experiences with ward committees in Bengaluru appearing in book

Ms Aruna Roy of MKSS invited me to write an essay on CIVIC's experiences in bringing about citizens' participation through ward committees in Bengaluru for a book that she is bringing out on '**Unpacking Participatory Democracy: From Practice to Theory, Theory to Practice**'. My essay has been accepted. I am excited about the book as some of the other writers for the same volume are such well-known figures as Shiv Viswanathan, Wajahat Habibullah, Sridhar Acharyulu, Nikhil Dey, SM Vijayanand, etc.

Mangaluru Corporation resolves to form Ward Committees/Area Sabhas as per HC order obtained by CIVIC and others

- The Mangaluru Civic Group (MCC), with whom CIVIC is networking, has been following up with their municipal commissioner about the formation of Ward Committees and Area Sabhas in Mangaluru Municipal Corporation as per the High Court order obtained through the joint PIL of MCC, CIVIC & Nagarika Shakti. **For the first time in the State, the State Govt. has notified 'Areas' for the purpose of constituting 'Area Sabhas' in Mangaluru**, after a contempt petition was filed by Nagarika Shakti.
- Though elections were held to Mangaluru Municipal Corporation in November 2019, the Council was not constituted till August 2020 due to the pandemic. But at the first meeting of the Council, a resolution has been passed by the members to form Ward Committees and Area Sabhas as per the High Court order. **This is the first time Area Sabhas are going to be constituted in the entire State.**
- **MCC Civic Group petitioned their Commissioner to call for applications from citizens for forming the ward committees**, as was done by Hubballi-Dharwad Commissioner, and given him sample application forms developed by CIVIC and the guidelines circular issued in 2002 by BBMP Commissioner. The MCC Commissioner has added a few more points to the application form asking applicants to provide an affidavit on stamp paper that they do not belong to any political party, that they do not have any criminal cases against them, that they are not relatives of any councillor, etc.
- 1,200 citizens' applications have been mobilised for the 600 ward committee posts in 60 wards, 10 posts per ward. But while some wards have received more than 10 applications, some wards have not received even 10. So, clarity has been sought by CIVIC from the Urban

Development Dept. on whether the persons from wards which have excess applications can be appointed as ward committee members in a different ward as there is no clarity regarding this in the Ward Committee Rules. But UDD is taking its own time to give the clarification.

- **Selection Committee and Guidelines for Ward Committee membership sought:** MCC Civic Group under the guidance of CIVIC was pushing for the setting up of a Selection Committee with distinguished citizens to scrutinise the applications and select the best persons as ward committee members. Meanwhile, the MCC Commissioner has set up a committee of officials to screen the applications and select the best candidates but without any distinguished citizens. He has promised to complete the selection process by 15th February 2021.
- Since the Hubballi-Dharwad municipal commissioner had written to the Directorate of Municipal Administration (DMA) asking for 'Guidelines' for the manner of selecting the ward committees and this is a dire need, CIVIC has written to UDD asking for a copy of the 'Guidelines' if they have been issued but UDD has not replied.
- **Ward committees in other 4 cities being activated:** Since the High Court judgement that we obtained in the case of Mangaluru Municipal Corporation on the setting up of Area Sabhas and Ward Committees is applicable to all other municipal corporations of Karnataka, we have activated civil society groups in Mysuru, Tumakuru, Davangere and Shivamogga, where elections have been held, to give a letter to their respective municipal commissioners with a copy of the Court judgement asking that Area Sabhas and Ward Committees should be set up in their cities also, based on the judgement. These cities too have not had any ward committees since 27 years after the 74th Amdt.
- Queries with the Directorate of Municipal Administration and UDD made by CIVIC & Nagarika Shakti have revealed that the process of forming the ward committees in these cities is under progress. Commissioner of Davangere has given in writing that Area Sabhas have been notified there already and that he is waiting for the approval from UDD to proceed with the formation of ward committees.
- We are asking the CSOs to ask their Commissioners to issue public advertisements calling for citizens' applications and also give them the sample formats for inviting applications from citizens.
- **Ward committees under Nodal Officers:** 198 ward committees have been constituted under Nodal Officers in the absence of elected councillors in Bengaluru, as their term got over in 10th Sep 2020. An RTI application asking for the number of meetings and minutes of meetings

has been filed on 24th November 2020. No reply has been received yet. A first appeal will have to be filed now since a month is over.

Special BBMP Act includes CIVIC's recommendation on several points

The following suggestions made by CIVIC now find a place in the New BBMP Act:

- (1) on having Zonal Councils as an intermediate layer between the apex BBMP and ward committees to facilitate greater decentralization;
- (2) our suggestion that the Zonal Committee should be headed by one of the elected councillors elected as Chairperson by the zonal councillors, and not the Zonal Commissioner, a bureaucrat, has been accepted.
- (3) the suggestion to make Area Sabha Representatives members of the ward committees;
- (4) Veto power of the councillor on ward committee decisions which we wanted removed has been removed.
- (5) a 'Performance Management System' with establishment of 'performance indicators' and that these should be reviewed and monitored for judging the performance of the corporation has been included
- (6) A Grievance Redressal Authority at city level, independent of the local government, headed by a retired judge or IAS officer has been included.

National Workshop on "Social Audits in India Today and An Agenda for Action" organised by SAFAR, etc. -5.11.20 to 7.11.20

CIVIC as part of SAFAR participated in a national seminar and workshop virtually on 'Social Audits in India Today and An Agenda for Action', from 5-7th November 2020. CIVIC hosted the discussion on "Social Audits in the Urban Development Field" on 5th Nov and our Chairperson, Dr. Jeevan Kumar presented the summary of discussions and recommendations on 6th Nov 20 to the national audience. The national seminar and workshop aimed to provide a platform to hear and learn about social audits from different perspectives and reflect on the unique set of challenges and opportunities that the pandemic and ensuing lockdown have thrown at social audits. Eventually, the seminar hoped to lead to a practical agenda for collaborative action to deepen and extend social audits in new areas.

The website - <https://socialauditin.wordpress.com/> gives the details.

Single Integrated Grievance Redressal Platform set up in the State as a result of SAFAR's and CIVIC's efforts

A single Integrated On-line Grievance Redressal Platform related to all departments was announced by Karnataka DPAR (e-governance) department in December 2020.

Mr. Rajeev Chawla, Principal Secretary of the department has been assisted in this by SAFAR and CIVIC. He held several discussions with Ms Rakshita Swamy of SAFAR, during which CIVIC also participated once. A scoping study of the varied citizen service centres currently functioning under various departments in silos, such as Bangalore-One, CSC Centers, Karnataka-One, Atalji Jana Snehi Kendra and Bapuji Kendras, etc., was done by CIVIC.

However, this on-line portal does not have provision for physical submission of grievances at ward level and physical grievance redressal hearings through ward committees. The single window system at Ward and Gram Panchayat level for Information, Awareness and Grievance Redressal linked to public grievance redressal hearings at Ward Committee and Gram panchayat level are some of the main provisions included in the Social Accountability Bill prepared by a team of CSOs facilitated by CIVIC in 2018. Mr. Raghunandan, our Trustee, was one of the key authors of it. This Bill was shared with DPAR (e-governance) by SAFAR along with many other suggestions. But DPAR is yet to take up this Bill.

PIL on Out-of-school children

In the on-going PIL on out-of-school children, in which I am impleaded as a Party-in-Person, the HC directed the government in March 2021 to hold the Inter-Departmental Coordination Committee (IDCC) meeting under the chairpersonship of the Chief Secretary (which had not been held since a year) and come up with responses to the several directions given by the HC in March 2020.

2020.08.23 - Bengaluru Nagarika Samiti confers 'Eminent Personality' title on Executive Trustee, CIVIC Bangalore

Citation: Bengaluru Nagarika Samithi honours "Eminent Personality", Bengaluru Nagarika, Smt. KATHYAYINI CHAMARAJ

Felicitations:

Bengaluru Nagarika Samithi today had the opportunity to meet and felicitate one of the first Civic crusaders for Bengaluru *Mrs Kathyayini Chamaraj* with Title "Eminent Personality". She is a social activist, civic activist, child welfare activist, journalist, ward committee crusader, Nagarika volunteer, last but not the least a home maker. In her illustrious career of 32 years of journalism she has been an ambassador of better governance in the city of Bengaluru. It was our great honour and privileged to appreciate her noble contribution towards Nagarikas and society as a whole. We wish her all the very best and to keep guiding us with her tremendous knowledge on civil society and civic awareness she has contributed thus far. May we have more civic leaders like you in the future to make this city a fabulous place to live.

Jai Hind,

Jai Karnataka Mathe.

Bengaluru Nagarikara Samithi

23.08.2020

CIVIC's participation in Webinars/Press Conferences

- 6.4.20 - BNP BELIEF Knowledge Series - IMPORTANCE of WARD COMMITTEES
- 7.5.20 - Discussion with BBMP Mayor and officials on "Re-booting Bengaluru" on 7th May, organised by Namma Bengaluru Foundation.
- 13.6.20 – On the Social Security Code organized by the Social Security Association of India –Karnataka Chapter
- 24.6.20 – Mitigating Discrimination & Exclusion of the Marginalised during Pandemic organised by St. Aloysius College, Mangaluru
- 9.7.20 - On "Children of Migrant Workers" by CRY
- 11.7.20 – On "Crisis in governance" by Ramaiah Public Policy Institute
- 30.7.20 – On "Walking with the Migrants" by ISI Bangalore
- 1.8.20 – On New BBMP Bill by CIVIC
- 16.8.20 - On ward committees and area sabhas by Bengaluru Navanirman Party (BNP)
- 16.8.20, 29.8.20 & 27.9.20 – On garbage management by Aam Aadmi Party
- 17.9.20 – On "Children and Democracy" organized by Child Rights Trust
- 23.9.20 – On the railways decriminalizing begging, organized by Radio Active
- 1.10.20 – On 'Urban employment guarantee' organised by National Alliance of Women (NAWO)
- 10.10.20 – On the "Pandemic and Social Security of the Unorganised" organised by Janashakti media
- 14.10.20 – On "Vulnerabilities of Unorganized Sector Workers and Strengthening Welfare Measures, including Building & Other Construction Workers Welfare Scheme" organised by International Justice Mission
- 20.10.20 – Panel discussion on "Conscious Cities"
- 4.11.20 - Consultation with CIVIC on New BBMP Bill by PRS Legislative Research
- 5.11.20 to 7.11.20 – National Workshop on Social Audits organised by School for Democracy
- 11.11.20 – Webinar training on Ward Committees for Mangaluru citizens organised by Janaagraha
- 25.11.20 – Consultation on New BBMP Bill by PRS Legislative Research
- 26 to 28.11.20 – Presentation on "Decentralised governance (and civil society) in sustainable city making: success and failures" during the "International Workshop cum Training on 'Green Growth Strategies for Climate Resilience and DRR: Policies, Pathways and Tools' organised by CEENR-Institute for Social & Economic Change, Bengaluru and National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), New Delhi
- 1.12.20 – Inaugural speech by CIVIC for celebration of Human Rights Week by consortium of CSOs of Bengaluru led by ISI –Bengaluru
- 5.12.20 – Consultative webinar on Social Security Rules organised by Social Security Association of India –National Chapter. Was invited to be a speaker at this event where I

presented my views on the Social Security Code Rules. The proceedings and recommendations of the webinar are being sent to the Ministry of Labour by SSAI.

- 5.12.20 – Webinar on CAG’s report on 74th CA Implementation in Karnataka organised by the Indian Institute of Public Administration –Karnataka Chapter
- 10.12.20 to 14.12.20 – International webinar on “Rethinking the Role of Local Governments in a Post COVID-19 World” organised by Centre for Gandhian Studies, Central University of Kerala, Kasaragod, Kerala (India) and Centre for Rural Management (CRM), Kottayam, Kerala (India)
- 18.12.20 – Webinar on “Urban village development plan” organised by World Resources Institute
- 7.1.21 – Spoke at Webinar on ‘Governance and Data in the Development Praxis’ organised by the Centre for Research in Social Sciences and Education (CERSSE), JAIN (Deemed-to-be University), Bengaluru. The discussion was moderated by our Chairperson, Dr. Jeevan Kumar
- 16.1.21 - Spoke at Webinar on the new "BBMP Act 2020: Urban Development & Democracy" organised by Left Parties
- 24.1.21 – Talk on New BBMP Act on Janashakti Media
- 10.02.21 – On ‘New BBMP Act’ to group organised by Mr. Krishnaswamy
- 17.02.21 – On Karnataka’s Action Plan on SDG Goal 1 on Radio Active
- 22.02.21 – On Karnataka’s Action Plan on SDG Goal 2 on Radio Active
- 25.02.21 – On Karnataka’s Action Plan on SDG Goal 4 on Radio Active
- 27.02.21 – On “Public Policy Evaluation Process” organised by Jain College
- 04.03.21 – On ‘New BBMP Act’ on Radio Active

Press clippings

- Janashakti media video on social security
<https://www.facebook.com/690357324363690/videos/341605507149955>
- Janashakti media video on
<https://www.facebook.com/690357324363690/videos/681694529146623>
- Article in 'Residents' Watch' on the recommendations made by CIVIC to the CM and Joint Select Committee on the New BBMP Bill
- <https://www.residentswatch.in/revise-kmc-act-and-avoid-limiting-number-of-wards-says-civic-bangalore/>
- 2020.10.02 – Udayavani – on why fresh ward committees are being formed under nodal officers
- 1.10.2020 – Urban employment guarantee organized by NAWO and FES
- 10.10.20 – Janashakti - "Attack on the right of life and livelihood during the corona period: Resistance and Solutions", in which ET spoke on "Social Security".
- 12.10.20 - NCPRI National Campaign for the People's Right to Information - Public Meeting of RTI activists and users to mark 15 years of RTI in India

- 14.10.20 - Samrakshita Karnataka - A journey towards the well-being of Atmanirbhar Workers - Webinar Series Part 3 - on Entitlement Schemes for Workers - organised by IJM, Bengaluru University and Mukti Alliance

2020.04.30 - The Hindu – on WDMC Constitution

2020.04.29 - Deccan Herald – On WDMC constitution

Deccan Herald – on Labour Secretary Manivannan’s circular to survey create data-base of all workers

2020.08.10 - Udayavani –On whether BBMP councillors’ term can be extended

2020.09.06 - Deccan Herald - BBMP Commissioner promising setting up of ward committees and area sabhas

06.08.20 – Udayavani on constitution of ward committees in Mangaluru within a week

13.08.20 Udayavani on Council resolution on setting up of ward committees in Mangaluru

14.08.2020 - Udayavani on need for seeking citizens’ applications for ward committee membership

Udayavani