

Ghost garbage vehicles exposed as civic audit uncovers massive fraud

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Surprise inspections reveal manipulated attendance records, missing auto-tippers, safety lapses, and weak oversight disrupting waste collection

A surprise inspection by Bengaluru North City Corporation officials uncovered widespread irregularities in the city's door-to-door garbage collection system, with several auto-tippers allegedly marked as present and operational despite being absent from the field.

The findings emerged after repeated complaints from residents about irregular waste collection services. Acting on the complaints, Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar constituted four inspection teams to conduct early-morning checks at auto-tipper marshalling points across multiple wards. The inspections exposed major gaps in monitoring mechanisms and alleged misuse of technology in the city's solid waste management network.

During an inspection near Wheeler Town flyover in Ward 59, the Commissioner and Deputy General Manager Rashmi found significant discrepancies between actual vehicle attendance and records uploaded through the monitoring application. Of the 32 auto-tippers assigned to the ward, only a few were physically present, while the app showed 24 vehicles as operational. Officials found that three vehicles had fake attendance marks, while several others remained completely absent. Inspections conducted between 5.56 am and 7am revealed that many vehicles shown as active had never reported to the marshalling point.

The team also found that several vehicles operating on the ground lacked helper staff, while sanitation workers did not have mandatory safety gloves. Following the findings, the Commissioner directed officials to immediately dismiss the ward marshal responsible for monitoring attendance. Similar irregularities surfaced in other wards. A team led by Joint Commissioner Mohammed Nayeem Momin inspected the marshalling point in Ward 49 and found only 10 of the 25 assigned auto-tippers present, although attendance records showed 23 vehicles as operational. In Ward 27, a team led by Additional Commissioner (Revenue) Pallavi found only 17 of the 35 assigned vehicles on site.

Another inspection in Ward 24, led by AGM Mamatha, revealed that just 18 of 31 vehicles were present despite attendance records indicating much higher participation.

Officials said the inspections pointed to manipulation of attendance systems to falsely project higher operational efficiency. Commissioner Sunil Kumar warned that negligence, dereliction of duty and misuse of attendance systems would not be tolerated in public service.