

3rd Edition April-August 2021

the newsletter of Bengaluru Navanirmana Party

About BNP Manifesto **BBMP** Info Know your Ward **Know Your City**

Dear BNP Members and Supporters,

BNP has been abuzz with activities over the past few months. Each of these activities has helped the party realise the true potential of citizen power, bring about positive changes to the landscape of Bengaluru, win the trust of more and more Bengalurians, and increase its supporter base.

Here is a brief roundup of our activities from March – May 2021

<u>August 2021</u> A 'Taxing' Issue



Just when Bengaluru citizens were recovering from the Covid nightmare, the BBMP launched a new one in the name of retrospective collection of property tax on some new assessment criteria and additionally also issued fines for the so-called 'arrears'. Tens of thousands of Bengaluru citizens were issued received notices in this regard.

BNP swiftly moved into action, started an online petition and in record time, got signatures of thousands of citizens for the same. Thanks to this unprecedented show of support from Bengaluru citizens, the petition reached right upto the Karnataka CM's office. To know more click here.

A Date To Escalate

However, when the BBMP did not move to retract their notices but instead, kept issuing fresh ones, BNP set the date, 4th September 2021, to escalate the issue by holding a unique hybrid tax protest, both online and offline. Both forms were a success with 50 BNP volunteers and leaders joining the offline protest in front of the BBMP office and more than 500 volunteers joining the online protest.

More about this in our next edition. Until then, please read a report of the event from a leading daily here.

JULY 2021

One Good Thing Leads to Another...

In the course of the initiative to enable Covid Relief amongst needy citizens, BNP



Campaigns Team realised that Government of Karnataka had announced a Covid Relief Fund for domestic workers, but it was going under-utilised due to lack of awareness, lack of crucial government ID proofs and the complexity of the application process. BNP started the 'Gruha Karya Mitra' campaign to help create awareness about this fund

and to also to support your domestic workers receive their relief.



JUNE 2021 Give a Little, Help a Lot!

Realising there were many more government schemes which were going underutilised, the team expanded its focus to help other sections of the public, and swung into action. BNP successfully collaborated with some NGOs to organise camps to create awareness among citizens, and to enable them to enroll for the schemes or apply for the required IDs.

In this way, the new 'BNP Jana Mitra' initiative successfully kicked off at a venue in Bellandur Ward on 21st Aug 2021, and was subsequently held in 2 other venues as well. We hope to replicate it in a number of other wards in the days to come.

IN THIS EDITION:

A Taxing Issue – Rising and raising voices against BBMP's unfair Property Tax notices **One Good Thing Leads** to Another -Help with paperwork and ID documents to avail Govt. welfare schemes Give a Little. Help a Lot. Sustenance aid with grocery distribution **BNP Rises in a Crisis – BNP** provides pandemic medical assistance including organising Oxygen, Hospital Beds and Medicines for over 2,000 people **Prevention is Better than** Cure – Vaccination drives The Power of BELIEF -Information packed weekend webinars **BBMP Budget – Bouquets or Brickbats?** Experts analyse the **BBMP** budget Editorial -Staying focused on building a model Bengaluru City as we wait for BBMP elections.

To help the marginalised people of Bengaluru who were going hungry due to loss of jobs and drop in income, BNP put together grocery kits and organised distribution drives in various pockets of Bengaluru. A donation drive was also run in the process. Thanks to our Donors, we collected Rs. 18.6 lakhs in a record period of just over 3 weeks. We were able to reach out to no less than 2,100 families spread across 80 locations in the city. As always, about 120 volunteers rose to the occasion and executed the drives to perfection. To know more click here.



MAY 2021

BNP Rises In A Crisis BNP Covid Management Team

Wanting to help in the unprecedented health crisis caused by the 2nd wave of Covid-19, BNP called for volunteers and in no time, no less than 300 volunteers came together to form the BNP COVID Management Team. The team was divided into 4 sub-teams and a data sheet with clear instructions for all volunteers was provided. Subject Matter Expert (SME) teams were put in place for management of different areas such as ICU beds, oxygen support, online doctor consultations, medicine availability, etc., for volunteers to reach out to. And last, but not the least, an efficient back end team was put in place to gather and allocate Covid cases to volunteers with a minimum time lag.

Volunteer Empowerment

Daily meetings were organised for volunteers with experts like Dr. Hema Diwaker, to help educate them on the disease, its various stages, and the treatment available. These were a source of good and sound advice to all who attended.

Mindful of the mental stress that volunteering in this situation could cause, BNP also organised de-stressing workshops by the renowned guru Sri Dinesh Singh.

Since recovery from Covid is a slow process, with several Dos and Don'ts, a Post-Covid Recovery Seminar was held for recovering patients and volunteers. A booklet with useful information was also published for public distribution. Thanks to this timely and well-organised actions, BNP could handle as many as 950+ cases, lend a helping hand, a sympathetic ear and even save some lives. Full marks to all our volunteers who, despite the challenges and mental trauma they had to face from time to time, persevered on to make a difference. You can join us in expressing gratitude to each one who helped here.

Prevention is Better Than Cure

After the devastating effect of the Covid 2nd wave in Bengaluru, it was obvious that vaccinations were the key to prevent or mitigate the predicted 3rd wave. At this point the BBMP was short of vaccines and as a result, the rate of vaccination was woefully slow.

Wanting to improve things, BNP, along with citizen groups like Whitefield Rising and Citizens for Bengaluru along



with BAF, collaborated with private hospitals to conduct mass Covid Vaccination

Drives. These drives were conducted in residential communities, making sure that proper protocols and SOPs were followed. The BNP teams also persuaded residents in these communities to sponsor vaccinations for the domestic help, and the staff of the communities as well.

Thanks to these drives, around 1500 citizens got vaccinated across Bengaluru. This helped control the Covid positivity rate and eased the burden on the BBMP. It was heartening to see that Bengaluru got listed among the top performing cities with

regard to Covid vaccinations!

<u>APRIL 2021</u>

The Power of BELIEF (BNP Enabling Learning In Every Function of BBMP) – 3

BNP'S BELIEF – 3 Symposium kicked off on Saturday, 3rd April 2021. Over the next 4 weekends, we had a series of interesting talks and discussions by an eminent set of experts on varied topics - History of Bengaluru, Mapping of Wards for Effective Budget Proposals, Importance of Ward Samithis, BBMP Finances, How to Run Successful Election Campaigns, the Power of BELIEF, and more. Thanks to efficient planning and publicity, we received a record number of registrations and the sessions were well attended.



As a build up to each weekend's sessions, a quiz was also run during the week on our social media platforms. These elicited enthusiastic participation and caught the interest of many! To view these informative sessions, click here.

BBMP BUDGET – Bouquets or Brickbats?

BBMP presented its annual budget for the year 2021-2022 on 27th March 2021. While on the face of it, the budget seemed to have allocated money for most of the important areas such as roads, drains, S.M., education, etc., on scratching below the surface, BNP found it wanting in many respects. To know more, read our budget analysis here.

EDITORIAL:

There is still no clarity on when the BBMP elections will be held, but BNP has not let that hamper its drive and enthusiasm. On the contrary, the party has made good use of this period to strengthen its base and make a difference to the citizens of Bengaluru. Every month is abuzz with new ideas and new activities, and the party remains committed to being the platform for citizens to come together and work to create a model Bengaluru City.

That's it for now! Look out for more such newsletters every month!

Thank you once again for your unwavering support which is helping BNP to go from strength to strength!

Not yet a member of BNP? Click HERE to volunteer and join hands with BNP - the political party that is of, by & for the citizens of Bengaluru!

In a lighter vein...



- What does it take to be a Bengaluru pedestrian today?
- A: An athlete!

Swalpa Adjust Plan Maadona!

Stay updated on BNP's activities. Follow us on



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