



Date: December 16, 2022

Footpaths encroached in HBR layout, no action by officials- Bengaluru NavaNirmana Party (BNP) demands immediate action

BNP demands BBMP to clear the footpaths and take immediate action against the offenders for causing danger and obstructing a public way

Access to reasonable footpaths is a fundamental right, however, the statutory laws relating to footpaths and public streets are rarely implemented.

One of the buildings on the opposite BDA complex of the HBR layout next to the BESCOM office has been under construction for three years. A footpath that runs along the building has been encroached on by the building owners who have put up sheets to cover the construction site. Thus blocking the footpath for pedestrians, forcing them to use the busy road.

Additionally, the KPTCL has dug up huge pits across major roads alongside the footpaths to lay lines for metro works and this has aggravated the problem.

Madan Prasad, a resident of HBR layout said, “We have raised this issue of encroachment several times in the ward committee meetings. However, officials have not taken any action. We have no option other than walking on the busy roads posing a risk of danger”.

Speaking about the encroachments, Srikanth Narasimhan, founder and General Secretary of BNP said, “We need to implement stricter laws to avoid such illegal encroachments. Both encroachers and the concerned officials are aware of the laws against encroachment, but despite this awareness, encroachers do not fear the BBMP or the traffic police because of a bribery system that has become institutionalized over the years. Additionally, supervising encroachments and holding the offenders responsible is a continuous process”.

Expressing concern over unsafe walkways in the city, Vikram Mailar, a member of BNP, said, “As per the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data, as many as 1,880 pedestrians lost their lives in road accidents across the Karnataka last year, of which Bengaluru city saw a record 272 pedestrians being killed in accidents. The number of pedestrian deaths has been increasing every year and the main reason is the encroachment of footpaths. The state government should bring stringent laws against offenders and encourage pedestrianization of roads to provide safe and sustainable urban living”.

About Bengaluru NavaNirmana Party (BNP): BNP is India's first and only city party with an exclusive focus on Bengaluru and BBMP. BNP is made up of a diverse set of individuals, such as committed civic activists, professionals from various fields, entrepreneurs, homemakers, and students, all united by their common love for Bengaluru and their desire to help rebuild the city and revive its former glory. BNP is a party of, by, and for the citizens of Bengaluru and aims to bring good grassroots governance through Citizen Participation, Accountability, and Transparency. BNP's goal is to give shape to Nadaprabhu Kempegowda's vision of making Bengaluru a model city.

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