Bengaluru NavaNirmana Party (BNP) NEWSLETTER

10th Edition | March 2023 Roundup

About BNP | **BNP Manifesto** | **BNP Citizens' Portal** | **BBMP Info**

MESSAGE FROM FOUNDER

Dear Bengaluriyas

The Karnataka Assembly Election has been announced and ***Wednesday, May 10th 2023****, is an important day to be marked on your calendar. It is a Government-declared holiday to help all residents of Karnataka exercise their franchise. Please ensure that you are part of the "I am an informed voter" campaign that I wish to reinforce with my own story. I must confess that up until a few years ago, I myself had not voted in any election from a firm belief that my vote did not matter at all, by founding a political party and actively seeking your vote, I have truly come a long way.*

Why and how did this personal transformation happen? I founded the Bangalore Apartments' Federation (BAF) a few years back in response to a spate of harassments inflicted on apartment residents by a civic agency. To tackle this, I met dozens of Ministers, MLAs, politicians and civic officials. Everyone said the same thing: "Apartment residents do not vote and hence, do not matter to us. Please stop asking questions and quietly comply with whatever we impose on you, no matter how unfair the rule"? That was an enlightening moment for me. I realized that we were only inflicting misery upon ourselves by not voting. After all, politicians listen only to the language of votes! They go all out to woo vote banks and then extract all the money possible from non-voters who do not affect their electoral prospects.

With BAF currently counting 1,200 plus apartment complexes as members, and representing a few lakh Bengaluru residents, most of whom are now voters, not only has the harassment stopped, but the Government is now actively seeking our apartment residents to understand their needs and serve them. This is a very important lesson for all of us: "Every vote truly counts, makes a difference, and goes a long way towards bringing good governance." I hope that every Bengaluriya comes out on May 10th, to exercise his/her constitutional franchise and bring in good governance.

BNP Leaders & Volunteers continue to work tirelessly on the ground on various issues, many of which are covered in the newsletter. If you would like to be part of this wonderful citizens' movement, do reach out to me at ***srikanth.narasimhan1975@gmail.com****.*

Srikanth Narasimhan, Founder
Bengaluru NavaNirmana Party (BNP)

In Focus @ BNP This Month

AUDIENCE WITH THE CHIEF MINISTER

The **Bengaluru NavaNirmana Party (BNP)** continued its two-year long battle against unfair property tax notices served to Bengaluru residents, based on a faulty Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Council Resolution.

The **BNP** Team comprising BV Lalithamba, Poongothai, Sadashiv, Raj and Karlen took up this issue at the highest level, with Hon. Chief Minister Shri Basavaraj Bommai on March 14th 2023. In a follow-up meeting on March 18th, a **BNP** delegation including Lalithamba, Vishnu Reddy, Kamesh Rastogi, Arjun, Kakila and Sumangala met the Chief Minister again. They urged a speedy issue of the Govt. Order for waiver of these unjust tax notices. The Chief Minister assured them that he would examine the issue and resolve the matter at the earliest. The same day, the **BNP** team also met the BBMP Commissioner Shri Tushar Girinath who stressed that the data on property owners impacted by this issue needs to be ascertained prior to any formal decision. The **BNP** launched a multi-pronged campaign through Twitter, Call and Whatsapp to reach out to the Hon. CM, Principal Secretary Shri Manjunatha Prasad, IAS, to get the pending file signed and the Government Order (GO) passed. However, with Karnataka now in election mode, the much-awaited Govt. Order can only be considered after the new State Government takes office.

TOO POLICY INSIGHTS

Urban Mobility Expert Satya Arikutharam made an informative presentation to **BNP** members on the Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) policy. This framework for planning, designing and transforming urban areas, is to help optimize public transport by orienting appropriate land uses. It seeks to rebalance Bengaluru's growth and improve living conditions. Accessibility is the key, as TOD aims to increase the share of public transport; provide the infrastructure for non-motorized transport use; employ mixed-land use for shorter commutes and reduced travel; ensure inclusivity for all classes, ages, abilities and genders; provide high-quality life through sustainable practices; and use a framework for delivering TOD projects.

Some **BNP** members also attended the TOD workshop at the HKBK College of Engineering on March 18th, conducted by the Asian Development Bank's Technical Assistance (TA) team, which is currently assisting Directorate of Urban Land Transport (DULT) and Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) with the TOD policy.

PUBLICITY BLITZ

On March 19th, a **BNP** publicity blitz took place at Prestige Ferns Residency (PFR) on Haralur Main Road, as **1,400 BNP brochure kits** were distributed. Residents awoke to vital information about the **BNP** with their newspaper and their morning cupa. The team had to deal with initial resistance from mail party supporters. However, the self-funded campaign got an enthusiastic response, thanks to the persistence of the PFR team led by Campaign Manager Varshini, and assisted by Vilas Deshmukh, Shoubik Dasgupta, Ravindra Tomar and Sanjay. The team followed up the QR-coded brochure kits with door-to-door visits and funding appeals. They convinced many disillusioned residents that the **BNP** offered a better local governance alternative that could transform Bengaluru. Their persuasive efforts should ensure a solid PFR voter base for the **BNP** and provide a reliable campaign model for other **BNP** teams.

BNP PRESS RELEASES – TO INCREASE VISIBILITY & GENERATE ACTION

Lake Encroachment

Plagued by encroachment, litigation and pollution, Suddaguntapalya Lake in C. V. Raman Nagar, reveals gross neglect. This DRDO-managed lake, located next to Bagmane Tech Park, spans ten acres. In the name of Kajalakuntar construction, the BBMP is illegally encroaching and levelling soil on one side of the lake. The lake continues to remain under litigation, with the water polluted and unfit for avian habitat.
The **BNP**, in its **Press Release on March 3rd**, urges the Karnataka Lokayukta to intervene and direct departments under the Karnataka Lake Conservation and Development Authority (KLCDA) for better maintenance and development of all lakes. The **BNP** also urges The Forest Department, the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) and the BBMP to collaborate for the effective upkeep of the lakes.

Creating a Safer City

Bengaluru's streets are supposed to be safer thanks to electronic surveillance. Last year, the BBMP added 7500 cameras to the existing 1100. But how many of them actually work? For instance, in AECS layout, volunteers found that the CCTV cameras at the CMRT College junction was unconnected to any monitor. The **BNP** in its **Press Release on March 9th** had highlighted this and urged the BBMP to audit all CCTV systems to ensure effective functioning for better security.
A gang rape took place in a moving car in Koramangala on March 25th. Could the car have been intercepted if there was effective electronic surveillance?

#CYanjour #BNP

As elections approach, politicians woo voters with overnight amenity makeovers. Sometimes, however, these frenzied efforts backfire, posing grave risks to citizens. Tension prevailed in Chamundeshwari Nagar, Begur, when a JCB preparing the Nyanapanahalli Main Road for asphalting pulled out a high tension 11KV electric line from the ground. This not only endangered the JCB driver and neighbourhood residents, but also caused short circuits and power failure in nearby houses.
Predictably, BESCOM and BBMP are now playing the blame game. The **BNP** issued a strongly worded **Press Release on March 21st** condemning such negligence, highlighting lack of coordination between civic agencies and holding them accountable for such mishaps.

Read more BNP Press Releases HERE

Know Your Leaders

In this section, we introduce BNP leaders from various wards every month. These are our activists who have spearheaded various Party initiatives and campaigns. Wholly committed to rebuilding Bengaluru through good grassroots governance, they are worthy of your trust and deserve your support. A vote for them is a vote for Bengaluru!
Presenting the next four BNP leaders…

Indira Belde (BNP Leader, Doddanakundi, Ward 108)

A lawyer, political aspirant and BNP governing council member, Indira Belde founded The People's Corp, a non-profit organisation for sustainable community development and recruitment. She is inspired by the words of Nadaprabhu Kempa Gowda's mother: 'Neregalaam kaiu, maraglaam nele' (constructs dams, plant trees) to make Bengaluru a dream city. Indira wants to preserve the city's heritage, improve infrastructure and tap into its resources and geographical advantages. She seeks to create opportunities for youth by promoting knowledge and setting higher education and medical standards. She intends to provide accessible opportunities to all sectors, revive tourism, improve drainage and adopt new technologies for water management.

Arjun Adithya (BNP Leader, Kalkere, Ward 83)

An MBA by qualification, Arjun Adithya is an environmental enthusiast who advocates sustainable living. He urges citizens to vote for him if they want "great ecological change and a balanced environment with focus on sustainable living". A resident of Kalkere, he also maintains close links with the KR Puram Ward. In the past, he has pushed for better governance within his own ward, and across Bengaluru, by promoting Participation, Accountability, Responsibility and Transparency. As a Corporator, he plans to set up community parks, streamline the waste management system, and establish a senior citizens clinic for the convenience of elderly residents.

Kokila CK Jayakumar (BNP Leader, New Byappanahalli, Ward 119)

Kokila Jayakumar teaches Mathematics online to international students and is a wildlife mentor. She believes that your city should be a source of pride for you and, your responsibility. Although New Byappanahalli is her primary ward, she has a close connect with Kammanahalli as well. According to Kokila, Bengaluru desperately needs good governance that focuses on bettering its infrastructure. She seeks an opportunity to implement positive change in the ward, and ensure a clean and safe environment, especially for women. If elected Corporator, she intends to enhance the city's surroundings, improve public transport and conduct interactive governance sessions to address real problems.

Udaya Shankar AS (BNP Leader, Hosakerehalli, Ward 209)

A travel agent by profession, Udaya Shankar believes in fostering teamwork. He assures voters that he will work to improve his ward's infrastructure, heighten public security, and enforce traffic discipline. He has contributed to the betterment of lakes in his ward, and worked to improve his ward's infrastructure and raise safety standards. If elected as a Corporator, he intends to install street cameras to enhance street safety. He also promises to work towards uplifting the living conditions of both Below-Poverty-Line (BPL) and Above-Poverty-Line (APL) segments of society. His goal is to usher in better governance by coordinating official efforts and enlisting the support of the citizens of the ward.

BNP's Regular On-the-Ground Work

NAMMA SAMITI

This month, the BNP and its supporters attended Ward Committee meetings in 2 Wards — 40 -Jalahalli-Rajarajeshwari zone and Ward194 - Gottigere.

JALAHALLI-RAJARAJESHWARI WARD

Ward Committee Meetings are ideally held on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of every month at all the Ward offices.

GOTTIGERE WARD

If you would like to attend Ward Committee Meetings in your area and take part as a citizen in good grassroots governance, call 080-47190000 or email info@nammabnp.org

VOTEABENGALURU

BNP's on-request Voter ID Registration Camps
Weekends in March saw the BNP conduct Voter ID Camps in apartments in Agara (3 camps), Illur (3 camps) and Shanthi Nagar.

If you stay in a layout or apartment complex and want to arrange a voter registration camp, simply give a missed call to BNP on 080-47190000 or send an email to voters@nammabnp.org

Important Civic News in Bengaluru

METRO EXTN. INAUGURATION

Ahead of the Assembly elections, the Hon. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has visited Karnataka seven times for the inauguration of a flurry of projects. On March 25th, he inaugurated the Whitefield metro line along with Karnataka Governor Thawar Chand Gehlot and Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai. The Purple Line from Baiyappanahalli to Whitefield covers 13.5 km, including the 13 km stretch from Krishnarajapura to Whitefield was inaugurated. The stretch between Krishnarajapura and Baiyappanahalli with its crucial links will only be ready by mid-year.
After several missed deadlines, the much-awaited National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) was launched and used by the Prime Minister on the Whitefield Metro line. The card costs ₹100 and is rechargeable. Available at all metro stations, this card can currently be used in Namma Metro, the Mumbai & Delhi metros.
It is disheartening to note that water leakage has been reported at Metro stations such as Pattandur Agrahara (International Tech Park Bangalore) and Nallur Halli, both part of the stretch newly inaugurated by the PM.

BBMP BUDGET

BBMP Special Commissioner for Finance, Jayaram Raipura announced the BBMP 2023-24 budget on March 2nd, 2023. With total receipts at ₹11,163.97 crore and total outlay at ₹11,157.83 crore, the budget surplus is ₹6.14 crore. Despite public opposition, the BBMP plans 15 new flyovers and underpasses. However, there are some serious issues for concern. The order on March 24th by the Urban Development Department (UDD) allows BBMP to raise the budget by ₹587 crore, leading to ₹210 crores worth of projects possibly having to be dropped. It also permits the State Govt. to impose additional works worth ₹577 crores, adversely impacting revenues and financial management. A massive ₹575 crores are allocated for 'Discretionary use' by various civic authorities. Interestingly, this is higher than BBMP's earlier allocation of ₹400 crores. If the BBMP elections get postponed, the BBMP administrator will control all discretionary funds allotted for Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Standing Committee. Public records remain vague on the exact utilization of these discretionary funds.

LATHER OF CORRUPTION

Lokayukta raids on March 2nd, 2023, led to the shocking arrest of Prashanth MV, Chief Accountant, BWSSB and son of BJP MLA Madal Virupakshappa. He was caught red-handed accepting a bribe of ₹40 lakhs, out of a total bribe of over ₹80 lakhs. Lokayukta sleuths subsequently recovered ₹7.62 crores of unaccounted cash from the homes of Prashanth and his aides.

LOKAYUKTA NOTICES FOR BDA

The Karnataka Lokayukta issued notice to the Bengaluru Development Authority (BDA) over the alleged scam by certain builders in allotting flats meant for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) to others, after obtaining BDA occupancy certificates. Notice was issued to BDA Commissioner G Kumar Naik demanding the submission of a report. In its report to the Lokayukta, the BDA conceded that the EWS flats were not built in Mantri Serenity and Shobha Dreams. However, no action would be taken as a High Court ruling on March 6th, 2023 had clarified that EWS reservation cannot be mandated for private builders.
Meanwhile, media reports revealed that BDA floated ₹675 crores worth of tenders for electrical works at Arkavaram Karthik Layout. The Karnataka Lokayukta took suo moto cognizance of failure by BDA to obtain the prior mandatory approval from the Govt-constituted committee. The Upa Lokayukta felt that this failure amounted to "maladministration" under Section 2(10) of the Karnataka Lokayukta Act. Notice was served to the BDA Engineer Officer and BDA Executive Engineer (Electrical), to submit a report.

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 the BNP? Click HERE to volunteer and join hands with the BNP – India's first and only city party!

Stay updated on BNP's activities. Follow us on

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CONTENTS

IN FOCUS @ BNP THIS MONTH
Audience with the Chief Minister
TOD Policy Insights
Publicity Blitz
BNP Press Releases

KNOW YOUR LEADERS
(Series Introducing BNP's Leaders – Part 4)
Indira Belde, Doddanakundi
Arjun Adithya, Kalkere
Kokila CK Jayakumar, New Byappanahalli
Udaya Shankar AS, Hosakerehalli

BNP'S REGULAR ON-THE-GROUND WORK
Namma Samiti
(WARD COMMITTEE MEETINGS)
VoteBengaluru
(VOTER ID REGISTRATION DRIVE)

IMPORTANT CIVIC NEWS IN BENGALURU
Metro Extn. Inauguration
BBMP Budget
Lather of Corruption
Lokayukta Notices for BDA