

Bengaluru NavaNirman Party (BNP)

NEWSLETTER



12th Edition | May 2023 Roundup

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[BNP Manifesto](#)

[BNP Citizens' Portal](#)

[BBMP Info](#)

MESSAGE FROM FOUNDER

Dear Bengalurigas

With the Karnataka Assembly polls behind us, it is time to shift our attention to the BBMP Election. It has been over 2.5 years since the previous Council's term ended and still the BBMP Election has not been held. The tragic deaths of three people caused by the recent flooding and poor drainage can be directly attributed to the lack of accountability at the BBMP level. And to top it all, the new Government has simply asked the Chief Commissioner of BBMP to set things right! How can one person working in a highly centralized administration tackle the diverse problems of a city spread over 700 sq. kms. with over 14,000 kms. of roads & drains? The only logical answer is to conduct the BBMP Election for Bengaluru's 243 wards without further delay, and to hold the elected Corporators accountable for better civic infrastructure in each of their wards. Let us all collectively urge the new Government to focus once again on the BBMP!

On a related note, Ward Committee Meetings had completely stopped across the city over the last 2 months, with officials citing elections as the excuse. BNP has been putting pressure on the BBMP Chief Commissioner and the Zonal Commissioners to restart these meetings so that neglected civic issues can be resolved. We need the full support of all citizens for the Ward Committee Meetings to be held consistently. As part of this campaign, we also need to push for a Ward Disaster Management Committee (WDMC) comprising local citizens and officials to be set up in every ward. With the monsoon already upon us, WDMCs are the best way to tackle the frequent flooding and other related problems likely to crop up in the coming months.

And last but not the least, enabling underprivileged people to lead a dignified and independent life, without depending on others or on handouts, is a key step towards good grassroots governance. BNP's skill development scheme is an important initiative aimed at facilitating better livelihoods for all segments of society who have so far lacked such access. Do read this story to know how a BNP Leader is helping people earn their own livelihood, thereby transforming their lives.

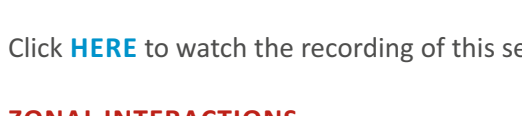
As always, I am happy to receive inputs and feedback from you at srikanth.narasimhan1975@gmail.com

**Srikanth Narasimhan, Founder
Bengaluru NavaNirman Party (BNP)**

In Focus @ BNP This Month

FOUNDER'S INCREDIBLE JOURNEY

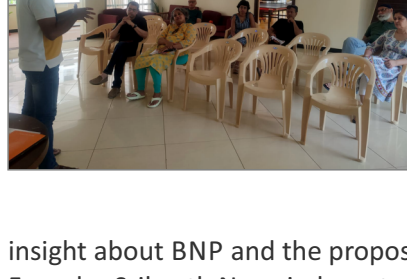
From a sceptical non-voter to a committed political architect, Bengaluru NavaNirman Party (BNP) Founder Srikanth Narasimhan outlined his incredible journey at a webinar on 'Rethinking Cities: Political Innovation in Municipal Governance' conducted by the Indian Habitat Forum (INHAF). How this



inspiring story. "You may want to stay away from politics but politics will not stay away from you," observes Srikanth as he speaks passionately about the BNP, Bengaluru's unique city-centric, citizen-led party, which has become his life's mission. He pinpoints the four turning points in his life and the vital lessons learnt: politicians will only heed the demands of regular voters; citizens can collectively bring about positive change; and citizens who lead with integrity, intent and understanding can achieve wonders in the civic sphere.

Click [HERE](#) to watch the recording of this session that took place on May 17th, 2023.

ZONAL INTERACTIONS

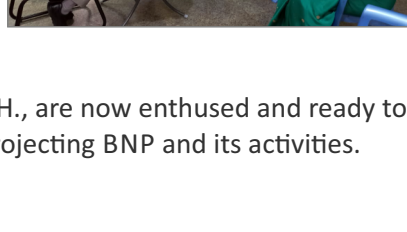


Continuing its series of zonal interactions, the BNP leadership held vital meetings at Mahadevapura and Dasarahalli in the last week of April. The Mahadevapura Zonal meeting was held on April 23rd, 2023 with 8 attendees. The discussion centred on Area Sabhas, BNP activities and charted the way forward.

The meeting for Zonal leaders in Dasarahalli Zone was held on April 26th and was the first face-to-face meeting in this Zone.

Varshini reports that these discussions provided a deeper insight about BNP and the proposed ward outreach process. BNP

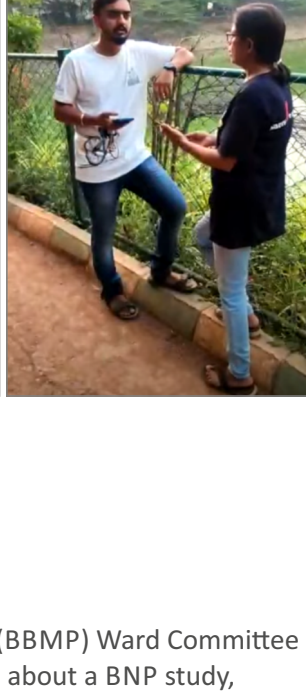
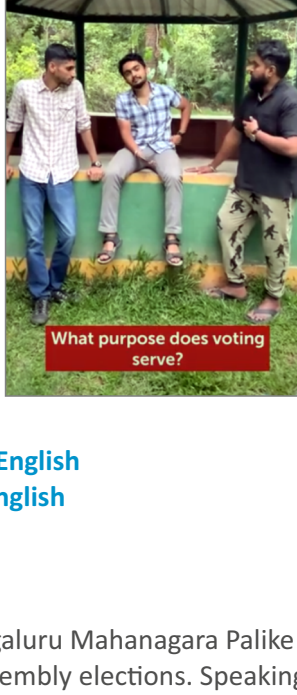
Founder Srikanth Narasimhan stressed that the outreach should be aligned with BNP's goals and values and serve our members and community in an accountable way. Nagamani BN, ward leader and District Chairperson for Women's Empowerment, remarked that the listeners were deeply inspired by Srikanth's journey from a non-voter to a political architect. Zonal President Kiran Kumar, and other leaders and volunteers, including Nagendra Singh, Manjula R. and Dattananda R.H., are now enthused and ready to launch the outreach campaign in Dasarahalli by meeting residents and projecting BNP and its activities.



MOTIVATING VOTERS

To boost voter turnout, BNP leaders launched the **Voter Mitra** campaign to get more voters to cast their vote in the Assembly elections that were held on May 10th, 2023. The response was overwhelming. From May 6th to 9th, Revathi, Lalithamba, Valli Ma'am, Poongothai and Indira Belde called back to answer 230 queries regarding Voter IDs, EPIC Nos., and Polling Stations.

Motivational videos in Kannada and English created by BNP Team members — Vineeth Muthanna, Lalithamba, Poongothai, Indira, Arjun and Vinay, also proved to be a handy tool in showing how to find voting details and the importance of every vote. Feedback about the video flowed in from friends, family and colleagues. It seemed to have reached all parts of Karnataka! What gives Vineet and his team great satisfaction is that their passionate efforts made a significant difference and encouraged BNP to take up more such key awareness-raising activities.



If you haven't seen the videos on Whatsapp, have a look at them on the BNP Youtube Channel and post a to enthuse the team to make more such awareness videos.

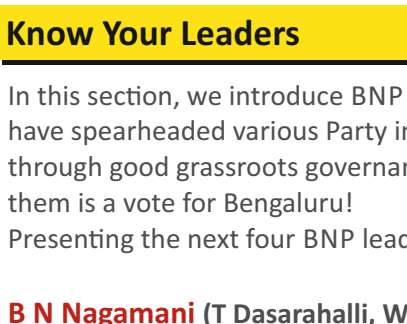
How to check your voter ID details online? [Kannada](#) / [English](#)

The Importance of Voting in the Elections [Kannada](#) / [English](#)

RECONVENING WARD MEETINGS

The BNP urges the early resumption of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Ward Committee Meetings, which were completely halted during the Assembly elections. Speaking about a BNP study, Vikram Mailar Vijay revealed that 84.3% of the people interviewed reported that these meetings have not been conducted since the Assembly polls were announced. People are running from pillar to post to multiple departments to resolve their issues. Despite contacting the Secretary and Nodal officers, they have got neither concrete answers nor a positive response to their requests to revive ward meetings. These meetings provide a platform for residents to express their concerns and ideas, and for local officials to receive feedback from their constituents. Ward Committee Meetings promote transparency and accountability; identify and address problems early; and provide information on local services, events and resources. They also foster vital collaboration between residents, officials and community organizations. In short, there can be no effective ward development without Ward Committee Meetings, and early revival of these meetings is imperative.

SKILL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE



A definite way to improve a family's future prospects is to impart useful skills to the women. Accordingly, BNP Core Working Group Member Indira Belde launched a Skill Development Programme in Mahadevapura (Ward 90) on May 11th, 2023. The first session began on May 13th with 15 women, and another 15 women have enrolled for the second batch. The free six-month-long training program teaches basic tailoring skills. The BNP conducted the training jointly with the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sanghatana, which is funding the equipment and the instructors. As Indira Belde explains, "the aim is to make women self-reliant and empower women's groups to earn their

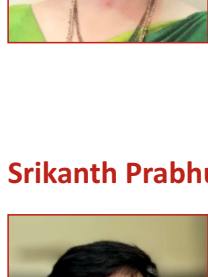
own livelihood. With four more machines, we expect to launch a similar initiative in the Doddanekundi area." She lauded the BNP for its crucial role in securing the sponsors and inspiring local women to enroll on the training program.

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!

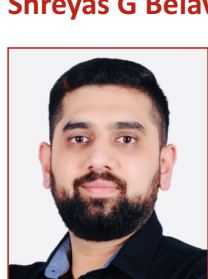
Presenting the next four BNP leaders...

B N Nagamani (T Dasarahalli, Ward 21)



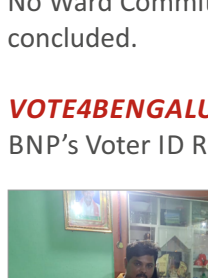
Mrs. B N Nagamani is Founder President of the Yashaswini Mahila Souharda, a Credit Cooperative Society. As Corporator, she will undertake effective measures against rain-related problems. She will ensure that every road in her ward is asphalted and well-maintained. Mrs. Nagamani wants to establish well-stocked libraries and reading rooms, and also conduct hygiene camps with health check-ups. She has worked with government school students on hygiene-related issues. For her commendable efforts, she has received the Sahakara Rathna Award from the Government of Karnataka and her Co-Op Society has won two awards from the National Cooperative Development Corporation, New Delhi.

Manjula R, (T Dasarahalli, Ward 21)



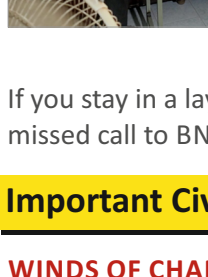
An entrepreneur with 17 years of experience, Manjula has worked with various organizations and schools. Her management degree has helped her to tackle and resolve important civic issues. Her record speaks volumes: she has highlighted transport issues and got roads tarred. With her vigilant local team, she has highlighted black spots. Manjula supports eco-friendly practices, and urges residents to plant free saplings supplied by the horticulture departments to transform Dasarahalli into a model ward. She plans to revive lakes and showcase them as tourist attractions. Another mission is to provide public aid to street vendors to improve their amenities and boost business. Manjula also plans to make markets more organic and hygienic and less congested.

Srikanth Prabhu, (Bagalakunte, Ward 18)



Srikanth Prabhu holds an MS degree from Georgia Institute of Technology and works as an Architect at Microsoft Research, Bengaluru. He has always been a dedicated volunteer working in the Bagalakunte ward. He likes to coordinate public events personally and on the ground. He has organized meetings to highlight and tackle civic issues, and invited corporators and MLAs for these public events. Srikanth Prabhu is an accomplished academic professional, and his human connect will help him implement his well-conceived plans for his ward. He also maintains a close connection with Shettihalli (Ward No 17).

Shreyas G Belavadi (Sarakki, Ward 199)



Shreyas G. Belavadi was awarded an honorary doctorate for his social work and has the right skills to be a successful Corporator. He plans to synchronise development funds with its effective usage by local bodies. He proposes to strengthen technical vigilance cells and town vending committees; upgrade the BBMP testing lab; improve urban primary health care; provide waste disposal bins and adequate lighting for parks. Shreyas is committed to analysing road data before undertaking new projects. He aspires to fit CCTVs in BBMP offices, set a zero-garbage target in his ward, establish a 24-hour water facility and build a general hospital in Sarakki.

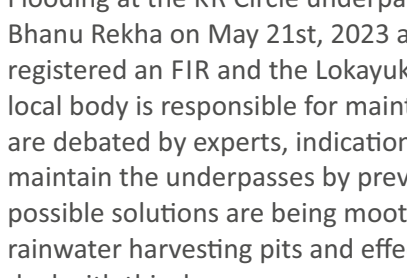
BNP's Regular On-the-Ground Work

NAMMA SAMITI

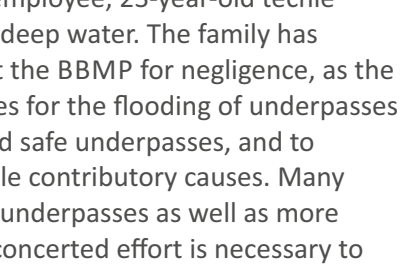
No Ward Committee Meetings were conducted this month, even after the Assembly elections were concluded.

VOTE4BENGALURU

BNP's Voter ID Registration Camps



Not resting on their record voter registrations pre-elections, the BNP team conducted 2 Voter ID camps in Iblur. While the one conducted on May 21st, 2023 was for the residents of an Apartment Complex, the second one held on May 27th was open to all. A total of 40 registrations were completed.



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

WINDS OF CHANGE

The Assembly elections have installed a new Government and the winds of change are blowing across Karnataka. The Congress has promised to review and even roll back some of the BJP Govt's controversial laws. However, great challenges lie ahead. The State of Karnataka is reeling under debt liabilities of ₹5.6 lakh crores inherited from the previous BJP govt. Therefore, the Congress will find it a big financial challenge to fulfil all its election promises and will have to find new ways to fund all its planned welfare schemes and poll guarantees. For the city of Bengaluru, the Congress manifesto had promised to enact a comprehensive legislation for the management of BBMP; to bring all utilities under a single agency; and also create a mega "Bengaluru Region."

With the income from the IT sector making Bengaluru (Urban) the highest contributor to the state GDP and the BJP having emerged stronger in the City in the Assembly polls, the BBMP polls will be a challenge for the Congress. So the burning question remains: Will the promised new comprehensive legislation for the city and the possible review of ward delimitation delay the BBMP polls even further?

FATAL UNDERPASS DISASTER

Flooding at the KR Circle underpass led to the tragic death of an Infosys employee, 23-year-old techie Bhanu Rekha on May 21st, 2023 after her car got submerged in the neck-deep water. The family has registered an FIR and the Lokayukta has initiated a suo moto case against the BBMP for negligence, as the local body is responsible for maintaining the drains. While the main causes for the flooding of underpasses are debated by experts, indications are that the failure to design and build safe underpasses, and to maintain the underpasses by preventing clogging of the drains are possible contributory causes. Many possible solutions are being mooted, including warning sirens at flooded underpasses as well as more rainwater harvesting pits and effective barricades at the underpasses. A concerted effort is necessary to deal with this danger.

AN URBAN SPRAWL

The Bengaluru Development Authority (BDA) has converted over 1,155 acres of mostly agricultural land for residential purposes within the span of one year. The BDA has also cleared the construction of 51 private housing schemes and 39 high rise buildings within the same period. Experts have criticised the sheer magnitude of these approvals as unprecedented and unacceptable. Critics say that the BDA's massive land conversion sans any strategic planning or without reference to an updated Master Plan is likely to create a mindless urban sprawl. Surely Bengaluru, the country's bustling IT hub, deserves a well-conceived and effective Master Plan?

MOBILITY CARD MISSES THE BUS

Although launched in April 2023 with great fanfare by the Hon. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) has not met public expectations because the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMT) which boasts a daily ridership of 3 million passengers has not yet accepted the NCMC. One and a half months since its launch, with 2784 cards issued so far, only 380 are being used regularly. Clearly, more official efforts are needed to bring the BMT within the ambit of the National Mobility Card.

PROPERTY TAX HIKE

The BBMP had prepared a detailed scheme before the Assembly elections to raise Property Taxes. However, after the election verdict, this proposal has now come before the new Govt. for consideration. Deputy Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar, who also holds the portfolio of Development Minister for Bengaluru City is currently reviewing the working of the BBMP and examining the details of this tax hike proposal before taking an official decision. He revealed that the Union government had stopped giving funds for the city and has advised BBMP officials not to rely any longer on the Govt. for development funding. Instead, he stressed that the BBMP should "avoid tax leakage and maintain its resources by collecting taxes."

If the tax hike proposal is accepted by the new Govt., over 25 lakh property owners in Bengaluru will have to shell out additional Property Tax.

STALLED SLUICE GATES

During last year's monsoon rains, over hundred lakes overflowed into the low-lying areas of Bengaluru city, causing severe damage to homes and infrastructure, and inflicting misery on residents. One key promise made by the Bommai government was the installation of sluice gates in approximately 162 lakes to control water flow. Now, a senior official with the Lakes Department revealed that sluice gates were approved only for ten lakes, and work is nearing completion only in three lakes: Rachenahalli, Doddanekundi and Jakkur. Activists have pointed out that the benefits of having sluice gates have been clearly demonstrated in Varthur lake but far from fixing sluice gates in the remaining lakes, BBMP engineers have actually removed even the existing ones!

COLLEGIANS TO THE RESCUE

When enthusiasm meets energy and commitment, young activists are born. Jhatkaa.com's new app Namma Clean Bengaluru has spurred students from city colleges to clean up black spots in the city, one spot at a time. A group of 15 students from Christ University cleaned a black spot near Shalini grounds in Jayanagar. Students from the International School of Management Excellence also participated in the collective clean-up. Launched less than one month ago, the app has already received reports of 30 black spots located in various parts of the city. The app allows citizens to instantly report garbage spots within a range of 500 meters of their vicinity, inform BBMP officials and even create a citizen's squad to tackle the garbage menace in future.

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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