

Bengaluru NavaNirman Party (BNP)

NEWSLETTER



13th Edition | June 2023 Roundup

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MESSAGE FROM FOUNDER

Dear Bengalurigas

Welcome to the 13th Edition of the BNP Newsletter. I generally like to start off my conversations on a positive note, but then there are times when there is no choice but to focus on something negative, particularly when it is impacting our city quite significantly and has been in the news prominently during the month of June.

What am I talking about? KRIDL. If you still are not familiar with these 5 letters, it is high time that you familiarise yourselves with this term. KRIDL stands for Karnataka Rural Infrastructure Development Ltd. If you are wondering what a rural infrastructure development firm has to do with Bengaluru, well, brace yourselves, KRIDL is one of the most important reasons for the sad state of civic infrastructure in Bengaluru! It was in the news recently due to a LokAyukta probe revealing a scam by KRIDL running into hundreds of crores of rupees.

About 2 years back, BNP brought to light the 4g Scam which has been going on in Bengaluru for over 20 years, involving the Government, BBMP and KRIDL. KRIDL is a Government-owned company which gets more than 50% of the contracts in Bengaluru. So, what is wrong with it, you might ask? You will be shocked to know that KRIDL has absolutely no competence in any developmental work, has only a few employees, has been blacklisted by several various government agencies at various points in the past for corruption and shoddy work, but still keeps getting a major chunk of all the contracts in BBMP!

While Clause 4g in the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements Act (KTPPA) mandates that all projects should be awarded to contractors through a proper tendering process, KRIDL has been granted exemption from the tendering process by Government after Government over the last 20 years. Taking advantage of this exemption, the bulk of the contracts are given to KRIDL without any tendering process and KRIDL in turn engages with nefarious contractors to undertake crucial development work. KRIDL is the conduit through which a good part of the money reserved for Bengaluru's development is siphoned off. And this is one of the biggest reasons why Bengaluru is in such a horrible condition.

BNP will continue its fight against KRIDL and work towards ensuring all projects are awarded to competent contractors through a proper tendering process and in a transparent manner.

Our teams continue to engage in various activities and campaigns, details of which are available in our weekly roundups as well as in this Newsletter.

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

Srikanth Narasimhan, Founder
Bengaluru NavaNirman Party (BNP)

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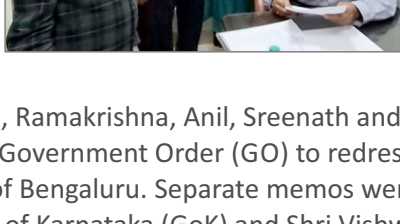
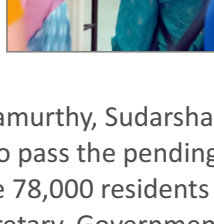
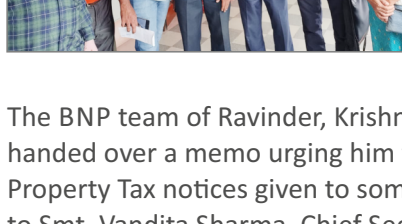
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BENGALURIGA BYTES (June)

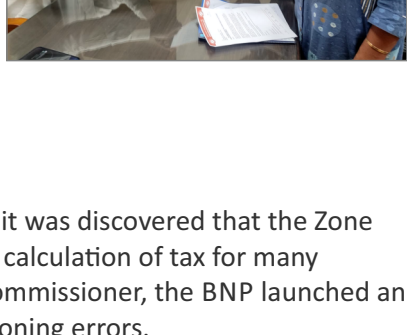
In Focus @ BNP This Month

HIGH-LEVEL MEETINGS



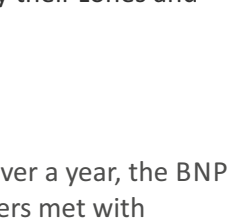
The BNP team of Ravinder, Krishnamurthy, Sudarshan, Ramakrishna, Anil, Sreenath and Lalithamba handed over a memo urging him to pass the pending Government Order (GO) to redress the unfair Property Tax notices given to some 78,000 residents of Bengaluru. Separate memos were also handed over to Smt. Vandita Sharma, Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka (GoK) and Shri Vishwanath Reddy, Officer on Special Duty (OSD). The team was given a patient hearing. The OSD examined the file and agreed to follow up the matter.

Earlier, on June 14th, BNP Leaders Lalithamba BV and Poongothai had discussed the Property Tax issue with Dr. Deepak RL, the BBMP Special Commissioner (Revenue). Zonal classification errors were highlighted and the BNP leaders were requested to submit collated data on the affected persons / communities. The team also met Dr. Harish Kumar K, the BBMP Special Commissioner (Administration) and sought immediate resumption of Ward Meetings. Dr. Harish revealed that he had already issued a circular and was awaiting a response from the BBMP Chief Commissioner.



During the BNP's two-year campaign against unfair Property Tax notices, it was discovered that the Zone allocations for many properties were incorrect, thereby leading to wrong calculation of tax for many residents of Bengaluru. Further to the meeting with the BBMP Special Commissioner, the BNP launched an online campaign (**open up to July 31st, 2023**), to collate information on zoning errors. Bengaluru residents were requested to cross check the Zone mentioned in their last paid Property Tax receipt against the **BBMP Classification**. If the two don't match, they are urged to submit some basic details on BNP's **Online Form**.

You can also access the form with this QR Code



BNP leaders and volunteers will then recheck and make every effort to get the errors corrected in collaboration with the BBMP. This simple **video** produced by BNP Leader Poongothai guides citizens to verify their BBMP Property Tax Zonal classification. Share this information with your contacts in Bengaluru and help unsure residents rectify their zones and pay their tax correctly.

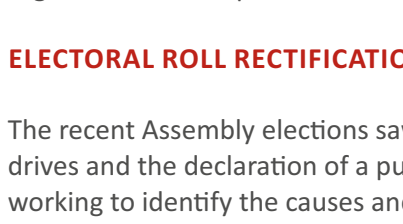
CHAMPIONING WASTE COLLECTORS

Moved by the plight of the dry waste collectors whose salaries have been pending for over a year, the BNP championed their cause and raised the matter with the BBMP. On June 28th, BNP leaders met with Jayaram Raipur, BBMP's Finance Commissioner to urge immediate release of all pending payments. As BNP Head of Campaigns Lalithamba reported, "The Finance Commissioner informed us that the majority of the pending salaries up to February (this year) have been paid recently and the remaining ones will be cleared soon." It is hoped that the BNP's intervention will help to ensure a positive outcome. You can read more in BNP's related **Press Releases dated June 3rd and June 16th**.

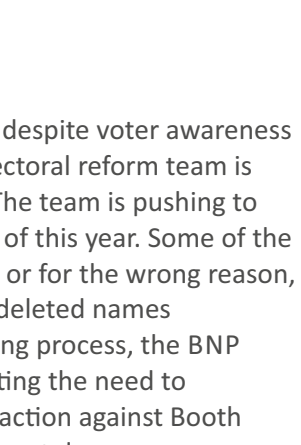
In May this year, several organisations working with the waste pickers had highlighted the **payment arrears** through an online petition appealing to the civic body to pay the pending salaries. According to this petition, some waste collectors have not been paid for over 28 months and ₹9.4 crore worth of payments have been pending for two years. The petition also stressed that although authorisation has been made on paper, the funds have not been received.

ENVIRONMENT DAY CELEBRATIONS

With plantation drives and promotion of zero waste events, various BNP Leaders led by example as they participated enthusiastically in Environment Day activities in their respective wards.



Lalithamba BV addressed audiences at the Oxford College of Law and the HSR Club about the importance of a sustainable lifestyle. She emphasized the need to conduct Zero Waste events, which completely shun single-use disposables and rely only on reusable crockery and cutlery. These events reinforce the message



ELECTORAL ROLL RECTIFICATION

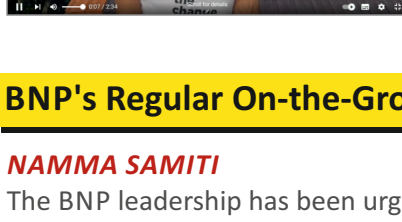
The recent Assembly elections saw a disappointing 52% turnout in Bengaluru city, despite voter awareness drives and the declaration of a public holiday to facilitate voting. A special BNP electoral reform team is working to identify the causes and pinpoint gaps and errors in the electoral rolls. The team is pushing to rectify these issues ahead of the crucial BBMP polls, which seem likely by the end of this year. Some of the detected loopholes involved Voter ID applications getting rejected without reason or for the wrong reason, missing voter names, duplication of names, unauthorised deletion of names, and deleted names reappearing in the voter list. To ensure maximum voter turnout and a smooth voting process, the BNP team wrote to the Election Commission (see related Press Release **HERE**) highlighting the need to streamline the voter registration, transfer and update processes and to take strict action against Booth Level officers who reject genuine cases without valid reason and insert names without due process.

MENTORING INTERNS

Raising civic consciousness in the young generation and encouraging them to take up local governance issues is vital for building and sustaining a robust democracy. As a vibrant and emerging political party, the BNP offers an ideal training ground for those seeking to develop a better Bengaluru. The BNP Internship programme invites young citizens interested in community development to develop their skills and get involved in local governance matters. This 1-2 month long programme teaches interns to do ward-mapping using Google My Maps and create accurate ward maps by identifying areas and blocks. They engage with BNP leaders and the core team to gain insight into the realities in each ward. Would-be interns must be either graduates or undergraduate students, have basic knowledge of Google Maps and excellent communication skills. This is an opportunity to contribute to the growth of Bengaluru while gaining practical skills and making lasting connections. Apply **HERE**

INFORMATIVE VIDEOS

Citizens often struggle to get the right information about public projects or to follow the right procedure to pay their local taxes. BNP leader Poongothai has taken the initiative to create some informative videos on these subjects to guide confused citizens through the bureaucratic maze.



One such informative **video — 'How is the Taxpayer's money spent at ward level?'** takes viewers through the BBMP site to reveal detailed information on project spending in any ward under different heads. Citizens can find any information they seek on different projects, including the allocated budget, name of the contractor, amount of expenditure, timelines etc. This wealth of information being put in the public domain is a positive development and empowers citizens to monitor public spending of taxpayer funds thus facilitating greater accountability and transparency.

BNP's Regular On-the-Ground Work

NAMMA SAMITI

The BNP leadership has been urging the resumption of the stalled Ward Committee meetings and have taken up this issue at the highest levels. It is hoped that these intensive efforts will bear fruit soon.

VOTE4BENGALURU

BNP's Voter ID Registration Camps

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

KRIDL SCAM PROBE

The high proportion of BBMP projects being regularly awarded to KRIDL, despite non-completion of prior projects, had set off alarm bells two years ago and BNP had warned that this matter needed official scrutiny. The Lokayukta's preliminary investigation had found that BBMP and KRIDL engineers cleared fake bills amounting to ₹118 crore for works either not done or achieved only up to 30% progress. Now the new government has ordered a complete probe of all BBMP works under construction or just completed over the last 2 years. The probe will be carried out by senior IAS officer Aditya Amlan Biswas, the Regional Commissioner, Bengaluru. Between 2015 and 2020, the BBMP assigned over ₹12,943 crore worth of works to KRIDL, bypassing regular tender formalities. To avoid floating tenders, the BBMP awarded over 113 works to KRIDL by simply splitting the value of each work below ₹2 crore.

REVIVING BRAND BENGALURU

The setting up of a Task Force for Bengaluru is expected to give an administrative boost to our sorely neglected city. Deputy Chief Minister Shri DK Shivakumar announced, "We will constitute a task force, based on the advice of MLAs and former mayors, to ensure 'Brand Bengaluru' becomes 'Better Bengaluru' and 'Global Bengaluru'." The Task Force will bring together civil society, captains of industry and urban planners to help develop the city. A panel comprising government officials and prominent persons will prepare the blueprint for the Bengaluru Development Master Plan in the coming six months. A five-year-old proposal to restructure the BBMP by creating 5 smaller corporations for the city is also under review. Reviving Brand Bengaluru is the new mantra and a high profile meet saw brainstorming sessions by various stakeholders with Ministers and high government functionaries. The government also launched a dedicated **website** to actively seek public feedback on building Brand Bengaluru.

COMMITTEE FOR DELIMITATION

With a view to conducting the long overdue BBMP polls, the new government has set up a four-member committee to review and finalize the earlier ward delimitation carried out by the BJP. The Karnataka High Court has granted 12 weeks to rework the previous delimitation, which had increased the BBMP wards from 198 to 243. It was argued that the delimitation process had contravened guidelines, including maintenance of average populations. It was also pointed out that as per provisions of the BBMP Act, the wards should be demarcated within the boundaries of the existing assembly constituencies. The new government has expressed its intention to conduct the BBMP elections after following all necessary prerequisites. Hopefully, the delimitation process will be done within the given timeframe and the much-awaited BBMP polls can be held before the end of the year.

ACTION AGAINST ENCROACHMENTS

After reviewing the flooding situation in vulnerable areas of the city, the Deputy Chief Minister D.K Shivakumar launched strict action against Storm Water Drain (SWD) encroachers. However, the demolition drive to clear SWD encroachments has run into unforeseen hurdles. While attempting to remove nearly 30 encroachments in Mahadevapura, BBMP officials were unexpectedly confronted with stay orders by the property owners. Consequently, only three encroachments near Spice Garden and Muneshwara Temple could be cleared. The officials expressed their intention to find ways to lift the stay orders. The BBMP has identified Mahadevapura and KR Puram as the areas with the highest encroachments. However, many of these encroachments are entangled in legal disputes, thus hindering the demolition campaign. It is a matter of public concern that auditors have revealed 132 discrepancies in the spending of ₹490 crores by the BBMP Storm Water Drain Department over three financial years.

LAKE & LANDFILL LAPSES

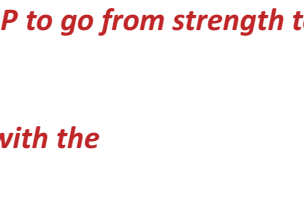
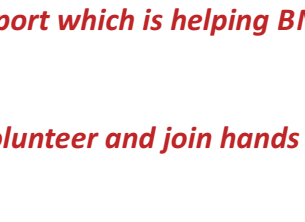
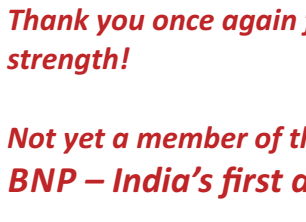
Acting upon instructions from Bengaluru Development Minister, D.K. Shivakumar, the BBMP suspended two officials for approving an unauthorised road across Hosakerehalli Lake in R.R. Nagar Zone. The suspended officials were H.S. Megha, Executive Engineer, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited, and Shilpa, Executive Engineer (Lakes). Simultaneously, a departmental inquiry was initiated. The BBMP's report revealed that 200 meters of unnecessary down ramp was built and the No Objection Certificate for the lake work was not obtained. In another development, BBMP's failure to maintain the Vittasandra Landfill has invited action by the Lokayukta. The notice stated that the BBMP's failure to maintain the landfill "amounts to not only dereliction of duty, but also amounts to maladministration within Section 2(1) of Karnataka Lokayukta Act, 1984." The Lokayukta also initiated proceedings against BWSSB, BBMP and KSPCB officials for failing to prevent illegal discharge of effluents into Yelachenahalli lake, thereby causing water and environmental pollution.

RRR DRIVE GAINS TRACTION

The Reduce, Reuse and Recycle (RRR) drive launched by BBMP has gained traction and encouraged residents to move towards a more sustainable living standard. With a view to reduce plastic usage, the BBMP conducted an RRR drive from May 20th to June 5th. A total of 533 kg of plastic, 3,273 books, 1,910 kg of cloth, and 468 pairs of footwear were collected from multiple locations across the city. Citizens, educational institutions, commercial organizations and industry professionals were urged to drop off dry waste at 49 collection centres. The waste was segregated into six categories—plastic bags, old toys, used clothes, newspapers, old books, and electronic items. The BBMP introduced this program as part of the 'My Life, My Clean City' campaign. Seven resource organisations, including Hasiru Dala, Anubhuti Welfare Foundation, Samarthanam, and Swachch, supported the collection drive.

Bengaluriga Bytes (JUNE)

Let's end on a light note... with Bengaluriga (Bengaluru) Bytes – BNP's very own cartoon strip series that features snippets of a life of a Bengaluriga (Bengaluru citizen). Since it started in April 2023, the series has highlighted many serious issues in a lighter vein. Enjoy the Instagram reels of June's cartoons by clicking on the different images. Like, Share, Comment and Follow **[namma.bnp on Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/namma.bnp)** for more.



If you would like to see them as images, zoom or see all the cartoons **[HERE](https://www.instagram.com/namma.bnp)**

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](https://www.nammabnp.org) 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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