

# Bengaluru NavaNirman Party (BNP)

## NEWSLETTER



14th Edition | July 2023 Roundup

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[BNP Citizens' Portal](#)

[BBMP Info](#)

### MESSAGE FROM FOUNDER

Dear Bengalurigas

With the new Government fully and firmly in place in Karnataka, there is a lot of debate about the five electoral promises that the Congress party had promised in its manifesto. While that debate about whether freebies hamper development or promote equity rages on, there is another initiative called **“Brand Bengaluru”**, which the Government is pushing vigorously. Given that the Congress fared poorly in Bengaluru despite winning a massive mandate across Karnataka, this initiative is understandable, particularly in the context of the BBMP Election that cannot be delayed indefinitely. Brand Bengaluru seems to be a Government initiative to win the trust of Bengalurigas who have not warmed up to the Congress.

BNP has launched a counter campaign to Brand Bengaluru, which we are branding as **“Let’s Rebuild Bengaluru”**. And the background to this is quite simple. If we have to rebuild the Bengaluru brand, the first and most important step is to rebuild the civic infrastructure of the city. Any initiative to build the brand will fail miserably if the gross misgovernance at the grassroots level is not set right. If the city’s roads are riddled with potholes, if the storm water drains continue to flood the city at the slightest hint of rain, if the footpaths are not going to be walkable, if the quality of the civic infrastructure continues to be a mess, and the misgovernance so visible, how can a good brand be built?

BNP has submitted a representation to the Deputy CM cum Bengaluru Development Minister Shri. D. K. Shivakumar to first address this by announcing the BBMP Elections soon and decentralizing governance to an elected BBMP Council, with a clear focus on Citizen Participation, Accountability & Transparency in the functioning of BBMP.

One of the key aspects that once again got highlighted during the State Assembly Election was the poor voter turnout in Bengaluru. BNP has been continuously asserting that the electoral rolls are bloated, primarily due to the significant floating population of Bengaluru. BNP is now engaging very closely with the Election Commission with clear suggestions and recommendations on how the electoral rolls can be cleaned up. As always, we do not stop with our suggestions but have expressed our interest to work closely with the Election Commission and the officials to implement the same. I am very happy to share that we have received an extremely positive response from the Chief Electoral Officer Shri. Manoj Meena and Special Commissioner Shri. Ujjwal Ghosh, who have promised all necessary support. The BNP Leadership team has already started engaging on this front and the initial results are quite positive. BNP is fully committed to ensuring that the voting percentage in Bengaluru increases from the current levels of less than 60% to about 70 - 75% in the foreseeable future.

As always, I am happy to receive inputs and feedback from you at [srikanth.narasimhan1975@gmail.com](mailto:srikanth.narasimhan1975@gmail.com)

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

### CONTENTS

#### IN FOCUS @ BNP THIS MONTH

Brand Bengaluru Inputs  
Monitoring The Cameras  
Request For Ward Meetings  
Electoral Roll Reform  
School Transformation

#### KNOW YOUR LEADERS (Series Introducing BNP’s Leaders - Part 7)

**Anjan Rangarajan**, Hoysala Nagar  
**Biplab Saha**, Vijnana Nagar

#### BNP’s REGULAR ON-THE-GROUND WORK

Namma Samiti  
(WARD COMMITTEE MEETINGS)  
  
Civic Issues Addressed  
Lighting Up Lives  
Progress On Potholes  
Erasing Black Spots  
Easing Traffic Jams

#### IMPORTANT CIVIC NEWS IN BENGALURU

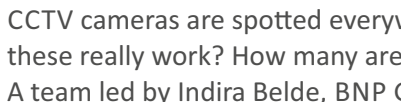
Mahadevapura Meet  
Reviving The Rajakaluves  
Water Deficit Worries  
Fishkill At City Lakes  
Building Violations  
Reclaiming Footpaths  
White-topping Woes  
Illegal Conversion Of Khatas

#### BENGALURIGA BYTES (June)

### In Focus @ BNP This Month

#### BRAND BENGALURU INPUTS

Will the government’s Brand Bengaluru campaign see real change on the ground or be a superficial branding exercise? The Bengaluru NavaNirman Party (BNP) believes that any such branding drive must involve efforts to rebuild the city, fulfil public needs and create a strong foundation for growth.

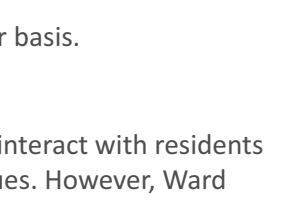


The BNP team, comprising Lalithamba BV, Indira Belde and Sowmya Raghavan met the Hon. Deputy CM, Shri D.K. Shivakumar on July 17th 2023, and submitted BNP’s recommendations. The government was urged to ensure strong citizen-centric local governance and to rebuild Infrastructure through careful planning, monitoring and implementation. BBMP funds should also be spent effectively to provide public amenities. The BNP stressed the need to hold municipal elections without further delay to overcome the local leadership vacuum. Moreover, they also repeated the need for Area Sabha and Ward meetings to be held regularly to rebuild Brand Bengaluru from the grassroots. Related Press Release [HERE](#)

#### MONITORING THE CAMERAS

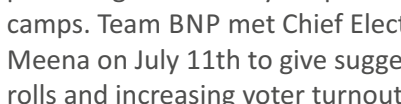
CCTV cameras are spotted everywhere in the city keeping an eye on public movements. But how many of these really work? How many are simply lulling people into a false sense of security?

A team led by Indira Belde, BNP Governing Council Member, decided to monitor the cameras in Doddanekundi (Ward No. 85) and undertake a study on their status. Their survey findings give cause for concern. In 2019, an amount of ₹13 lakhs was spent to install 21 CCTV cameras but only 12 of these are currently functioning. The non-functional cameras not only weaken the entire surveillance system but compromise public safety. The detailed audit report prepared by the team was submitted to the Deputy CM, Shri D.K. Shivakumar and to local officials for follow up action. The government was urged to conduct a thorough check of all CCTV cameras and to monitor and repair them on a regular basis.



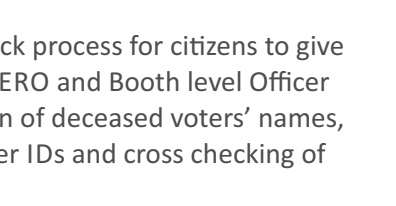
#### REQUEST FOR WARD MEETINGS

Ward Committee meetings provide opportunities for local government officials to interact with residents and Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs) and help them to resolve their civic issues. However, Ward meetings, which were suspended after the Karnataka Assembly elections were announced, have yet to be restarted. BNP leaders Lalithamba BV and Poongothai Mahesh met Shri Harishkumar, BBMP Special Commissioner (Admin) on July 17th to request the immediate resumption of meetings in all Wards across the city. The Special Commissioner indicated that he is awaiting directions from the Deputy Chief Minister regarding this matter. He also clarified that certain Wards, including Mahadevapura, have restarted Ward meetings on their own initiative.



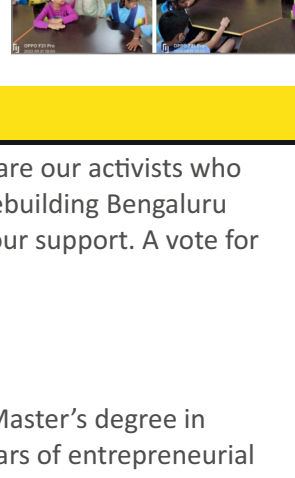
#### ELECTORAL ROLL REFORM

The Bengaluru Assembly elections saw relatively low voting percentages in the city despite the BNP’s awareness drives and voter camps. Team BNP met Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Shri Manoj Kumar Meena on July 11th to give suggestions on streamlining the electoral rolls and increasing voter turnout. The team, led by BNP Founder Srikanth Narasimhan, included Lalithamba BV, Indira Belde and Poongothai Mahesh. BNP representatives also had a follow up meeting on July 19th with Mr. Ujjwal Kumar Ghosh, Additional CEO, to discuss rectification of the electoral list. BNP’s Electoral Rolls Reforms suggestions include: all citizens to get access to the booth boundaries; quick process for citizens to give inputs to Electoral Roll Officer (ERO); Election Commission to provide the ERO and Booth level Officer (BLO) with full access to voter data in their respective booths; and deletion of deceased voters’ names, inclusion of eligible voters, prevention of the late rejection of genuine voter IDs and cross checking of repeat voter IDs.



#### SCHOOL TRANSFORMATION

BNP member Bhuvaneshwari Subramanian believes in creating value out of waste. During the last two years, she has adopted and transformed the Begur Government Primary School and the Chikka Begur Government Primary School by providing much-needed furniture. Underprivileged children who used to sit on the classroom floor, finally have proper tables and chairs. The furniture is made from leftover planks and boards from her enterprise that makes space saving furniture for home and office interiors. More recently, Bhuvaneshwari helped these students by gifting them little study desks for home use. More than 500 desks have been gifted so far. Bhuvaneshwari remarks, “both the parents and the children are very happy as the little desks encourage them to do their homework in their tiny homes.”



### 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 two more BNP leaders...

#### Anjan Rangarajan BNP Leader, Hoysala Nagar, Ward 120



Founder & CEO of Catalyst Properties, Anjan Rangaraj holds a Master’s degree in business administration. His educational background and 20 years of entrepreneurial experience, gives him the skills to ensure efficient, transparent and corruption-free ward governance. Anjan believes that a Corporator should be proactive, have a futuristic vision and fulfil basic community needs. In a multicultural city like Bengaluru, with people from different economic strata, all residents must feel they belong and work collectively for their Ward. As a Corporator, Anjan intends to prioritize better infrastructure, security and cleanliness.

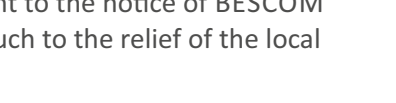
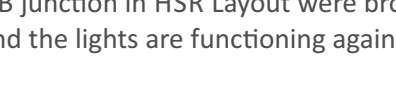
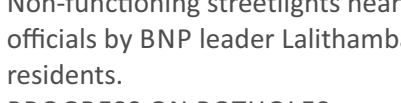
#### Biplab Saha BNP Leader, Vijnana Nagar, Ward 92



A Solutions Architect & IT Consultant, Biplab Saha is enthusiastic about rebuilding Bengaluru. Working with a lake trust group, he mobilises support for lake revival. Biplab arranges weekly yoga sessions for local residents. He has urged residents around Vibhutipura Lake to resist encroachment, obtain CSR funding and organize clean-up drives. His RWA motivates senior citizens & residents to resolve civic issues effectively in a time-bound manner. Biplab also briefs residents on proper segregation, minimal plastic usage and collective recycling. As a Corporator, he would focus on better roads, drainage systems and healthier parks.

### BNP’s Regular On-the-Ground Work

#### NAMMA SAMITI



This month the BNP and its supporters attended Ward Committee Meetings in Bellandur and Horamavu. The team is also actively following up to resume the Ward Committee Meetings in other Wards.

#### CIVIC ISSUES ADDRESSED

##### LIGHTING UP LIVES

Non-functioning streetlights near KEB junction in HSR Layout were brought to the notice of BESCOM officials by BNP leader Lalithamba and the lights are functioning again, much to the relief of the local residents.

##### PROGRESS ON POTHOLES

Multiple potholes on roads around Somasundarapalya were giving motorists in the area a bumpy ride. BNP leader Lalithamba highlighted this problem to the BBMP Major Roads team and pushed for immediate action. Currently, work is in progress to fix these potholes.

##### ERASING BLACK SPOTS

Erratic collection of garbage in Iblur Ward had led to a high number of black spots. At Green Glen layout, the BNP’s civic warrior Chandrasekar took the lead to rectify this problem, reported to the BBMP Ward officials and it was successfully resolved.

##### EASING TRAFFIC JAMS

Traffic congestion in Somasundarapalya and surrounding areas prompted BNP civic warrior Manisha to raise this issue. A meeting was held with the traffic teams of Electronics City and HSR Layout, letters from the BNP were submitted and the traffic issue was addressed. Congratulations to all these BNPIans for making Bengaluru a better place!

If you are a BNP civic warrior and have resolved any issues in your ward, please write to [info@nammabnp.org](mailto:info@nammabnp.org) by the last week of every month. Preferably with ‘Before’ and ‘After’ pictures.

#### BNP PRESS RELEASES

In July, BNP issued Press Releases to bring media and public attention to ‘Rebuild Bengaluru first, Brand Bengaluru is next’, and other key matters including pending BBMP workers’ wages and contractors’ payments, Property Tax issue resolution, Electoral Reforms, and certain Wards’ longstanding civic woes. You can access them all on our Namma BNP website [HERE](#)

### Important Civic News in Bengaluru

#### MAHADEVAPURA MEET

Citizen groups & RWAs from Mahadevapura and KR Puram raised multiple civic issues at a special meeting with Dakshayani K, the newly appointed BBMP Joint Commissioner on July 1st 2023. Residents complained that without segregated collection and processing facilities, garbage was being dumped in vacant plots and lakes. Solid waste management officials stated that collection centres are being constructed in 5 wards and land was being allotted for the remaining wards. Citizens complained also about rampant illegal construction, the danger of hanging overhead cables and footpath encroachments and other issues. It is hoped that such forums ensure that steps are taken to deal with these civic problems, not just in Mahadevapura but in all other wards as well.

#### REVIVING THE RAJAKALUVES

Environmentalists have urged the government to revive lakes and clear blocked rajakaluves to solve the drinking water problem rather than promote the Mekedatu Reservoir project. This will help regulate the water levels as the interconnected lake system plays a crucial role in hydrological cycles and replenishment of groundwater. Furthermore, experts recommend employment of advanced technology for treating impure water to increase drinking water supplies.

They also recommend that the sustainability of the ₹9000-crore Mekedatu project needs serious further study. The River Cauvery does not have either adequate water or precipitation levels to sustain another dam. And with 63% of the forest area of the Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary likely to get submerged, the proposed dam project would clearly have a detrimental effect on the ecology of both Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

#### WATER DEFICIT WORRIES

Bengaluru swings between two extremes: flash floods during heavy rain and water shortage during deficit rainfall. Ample rainfall over the past three years has led to a comparatively high water table. However, the low rainfall level in June this year calls for a contingency plan. The BBMP proposes to deploy water tankers and dig 100 borewells in the 110 outlying villages that now come under its ambit. The budget requested is ₹10 crores, but with each borewell costing approximately ₹8 lakhs, the BBMP expects that even ₹7.5 to 8 crores would be sufficient. As BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Girinath explains, “It is important to note that these villages do not receive water supply from the Cauvery River, so this plan is part of our preparedness efforts.”

#### FISHKILL AT CITY LAKES

Mounting levels of pollution in Bengaluru lakes, particularly in peripheral areas, have resulted in 11 incidents of mass fish kill in the first half of 2023 alone. Hundreds of dead fish have been spotted floating in the lakes. Some lakes have suffered from multiple instances of fish kill indicating that no corrective measures are being undertaken. According to experts, delays in laying sewage lines and installing sewage treatment plants have allowed contamination to destroy the delicate lake ecosystems. Officials from the Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) say they are working on identifying gaps in the sewerage network and that construction of STPs is in progress.

#### BUILDING VIOLATIONS

Major multiple building violations prompted BBMP to withdraw the occupancy certificates of 160 flat owners of Casa Grande Lorenza, a luxury residential property in Yelahanka. The withdrawal order was issued by the Joint Director of BBMP (Town Planning), after the builder failed to respond satisfactorily to the BBMP’s show cause notice in January. Apart from a 40% deviation, the No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board was not obtained. This BBMP move will hopefully deter other builders from flouting building norms. Unfortunately, it is unaware flat owners who suffer the drastic consequences.

#### RECLAIMING FOOTPATHS

The Bengaluru Traffic Police launched a special campaign to clear the footpaths of debris and illegally parked vehicles. On July 10th, the 48 police stations in the city focused on clearing one footpath stretch along the main roads within their jurisdiction. In the process, many street vendors were displaced. While the pedestrian-friendly move was well-intentioned, activists objected to the eviction of vendors without notice, which contravened the Street Vendors Act. Police sources clarified that their main focus was to remove illegally parked vehicles and encroachments. During the drive, vendors who were obstructing pedestrian movement were relocated with the BBMP’s permission.

#### WHITE-TOPPING WOES

Despite several quality issues, more white-topped roads have been sanctioned by BBMP. Over 150 kms of faulty roads have already been built. The Doddihal report highlighted several concerns: lack of bitumen filling for joints, the camber not being uniform, reinforcement bars not conforming to design etc. Despite this, the recent State budget okayed ₹800 crores for laying additional 100 kms of white-topped roads. Ensuring that concrete roads are free from underground utilities is crucial and relocation of utility lines adds to the cost. The Doddihal Committee has suggested six criteria for road selection and several cost-saving measures. It is hoped that all these recommendations are followed.

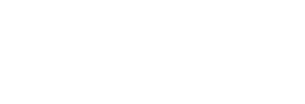
#### ILLEGAL CONVERSION OF KHATAS

In a shocking revelation, the BBMP identified nearly 40,000 city buildings illegally converted from B Khata to A Khata. Jayaram Raipura, the BBMP Special Commissioner (Finance) has now directed Zonal Commissioners to form a special team of revenue officials to identify all illegally converted buildings. According to the Special Commissioner, since 2015-16, some 45,133 properties have been converted from B khata to A khata by levying a fee of ₹898 crores. The majority of illegal conversions are from Mahadevapura Zone, followed by Bommanahalli. An impartial probe must track all these illegal conversions and bring the culprits to justice.

### Bengaluriga Bytes (JULY)

Bengaluriga Bytes, the BNP’s tongue-in-cheek look at life in Bengaluru, draws attention to pressing civic issues that need rectification if Bengaluru is to become a model city. Enjoy the Instagram reels of July’s cartoons by clicking on the different images. Like, Share, Comment and Follow [nammabnp.org](https://nammabnp.org) on Instagram for more.

If you would like to see them as images, zoom or see all the cartoons [HERE](#)



#### Contact Us

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