

Bengaluru NavaNirmanana Party (BNP)

NEWSLETTER



16th Edition | September 2023 Roundup

[About BNP](#)

[BNP Manifesto](#)

[BNP Citizens' Portal](#)

[BBMP Info](#)

MESSAGE FROM FOUNDER

Dear Bengalurigas

The Bengaluru NavaNirmanana Party completed 4 years on 22nd September 2023! What an eventful journey it has been! I remember vividly the day we launched the BNP formally at Hotel Ajantha on MG Road. I hope this will be remembered forever as the day the seeds for good grassroots governance were sown in Bengaluru.

Allow me to give you a few insights on how I started BNP (I will cover the "why" some other time). It was on 18th April 2019 that I first articulated the concept of a new political party to a senior citizen friend who had supported me through thick and thin during my BAF sojourn. That date is significant because it was the polling day for Lok Sabha Elections 2019 in Bengaluru. After I cast my vote I went directly to my friend's place to discuss my idea.

BNP would have remained just a dream, if either he or his wife had said anything remotely negative. However, after I articulated the concept, it resonated so much that they gave a whole-hearted "YES" to the plan. Thus began my political journey.

I went around Bengaluru, met several civic-minded & conscientious citizens either individually or through citizen groups, NGOs or activist organizations. While some were negative or cynical about the concept, the overwhelming majority were enthusiastic and heartily welcomed it! And that is all the motivation I needed to quit my corporate life and plunge headlong into full-time politics! Of course, it has been politics with a difference (as you all know by now).

By the end of May 2019, I decided to proceed and had already formulated all the basic aspects: exclusive focus on Bengaluru; concentration on civic issues; no stance on national or state issues; contest only BBMP elections; get good citizens to participate; take a positive approach to problem-solving and most importantly, use the political platform to unite (rather than polarize) people for a better Bengaluru.

Over the next 3 months, I put together a team to give a name to the party, frame its Vision, Mission and Values, build its Charter and develop the basic tenets that BNP would uphold. And finally, on 22nd September 2019, my dream became a reality with the formal launch of BNP.

So, here we are, 4 years hence, going from strength to strength with an unwavering focus on making our beloved city the best in the world! More on this exciting journey in the next Newsletter!

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

SRIKANTH NARASIMHAN, Founder
Bengaluru NavaNirmanana Party (BNP)

CONTENTS

IN FOCUS @ BNP THIS MONTH

Happy Birthday BNP

AGBM Appraisal

Taxing Issue Resolved

Ward Limitation Objections

School Transformation

BNP's REGULAR ON-THE-GROUND WORK

Namma Samiti
(WARD COMMITTEE MEETINGS)

Civic Issues Addressed
Progress on Potholes
Manhole Leak Fixed
Bent BECOM Pole Straightened
Road Cleanup
Closing Up Post Road Digging
Clearing of Fallen Tree Branches

Zonal Meetings

BNP Press Releases (September)

SPOTLIGHT ON:
Ward Manifestos

IMPORTANT CIVIC NEWS IN BENGALURU

Penalty for Debris Dumpers
Guidance Value Hike
Anti-Encroachment Drive
Transforming the Transformers
BBMP Engineers through KPSC
Saving the Saplings
Support for a Transport Switchover

BENGALURIGA BYTES
(September)

In Focus @ BNP This Month

HAPPY BIRTHDAY BNP



The Bengaluru NavaNirman Party (BNP) celebrated its 4th Birthday on September 22nd, 2023, completing four fruitful years of community service. In this period, BNP has already made a significant impact on grassroots governance through multiple civic initiatives, public campaigns and community development activities. It is a matter of pride that the BNP today is a thriving, city-centric party with thousands of committed members and volunteers, led by a dynamic leadership team.

BNP's journey has been driven by its overarching promise to rebuild Namma Bengaluru and make it a model city. BNP members have been working tirelessly on the ground towards this objective. These initial years have been eventful, with some goals having been realised, while yet others are still being pursued, with determination.

This four-year milestone is obviously a time for rejoicing, but, at BNP, we also take it as a fitting moment to take stock, review past achievements and failures, and chalk out the path forward.

You can read more about the need for BNP and what sets BNP apart [HERE](#)

AGBM APPRAISAL

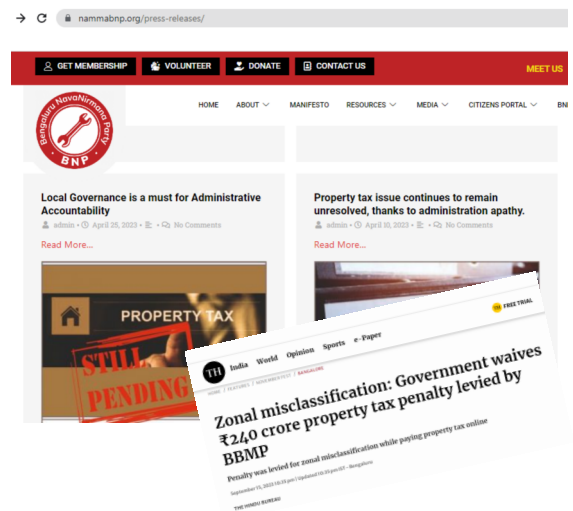
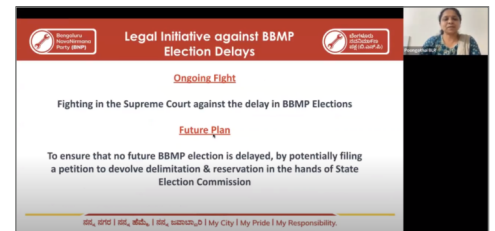
The BNP held its Fourth Annual General Body Meeting (AGBM) on September 22nd at its Registered Office and as a Webinar. BNP Founder Srikanth Narasimhan was unanimously proposed to chair the meeting. After BNP Governing Council Member and Nava Yuva Founding President Rishvanjas Raghavan welcomed all the members to the Meeting, gave an introduction and shared the agenda, BNP Governing Council Member and Treasurer Lalithamba presented the detailed cleared audited report. After this was discussed and adopted by the members, BNP Governing Council Member and Head of BNP Ward Initiation (B-WIN) Poongothai gave an overview of BNP's city-wide initiatives: the Property Tax campaign, Electoral Rolls clean-up, Vote4Bengaluru (Voter ID Drives), Namma Samiti (Ward Committee Meetings), the campaign to pass the BMLTA Bill, BNP Citizen Portal, Hesaraghatta Rakshisi and BNP Vruksha Rakshaka. Attendees were also updated on the Legal initiatives, including the ongoing fight in the Supreme Court against the inordinate delay in

holding BBMP elections. BNP Leader Vishnu Reddy then presented an overview of ward-wise initiatives during the past year: Setting up the Process for ward level initiatives - Civic Issues resolutions through Area Sabhas, citizen participation and follow up mechanism; issues resolved in different wards including Bellandur, HSR Layout, Whitefield, Bengaluru South etc; creation of grassroots impact through citizen participation; with, the key outcomes of empowerment of citizens, swift resolution of civic issues and revolutionising hyperlocal governance through Area Sabhas.

Srikanth stressed the fact that the BNP is the first Indian political party to constitute Area Sabhas, thereby revolutionising municipal governance. He urged BNP members to get more involved in Area Sabhas to enhance local governance by working together to resolve the multiple civic issues in every individual ward.

TAXING ISSUE RESOLVED

The BNP's campaign over the last 2 and half years to waive the Property Tax penalty, has borne fruit. As many as 78,500 families benefited as the Urban Development Department (UDD) waived the ₹240 crore penalty imposed by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) for zonal classification errors. As per the Government Order (GO), the penalty on the zonal classification issue would be removed completely. Interest at the prevailing bank rate will be levied on the difference between Property Tax paid and payable. Where penalty has been paid, the amount will be adjusted. Tax notices will be cancelled if based on any wrongly entered zonal classification. Though the State cabinet approved the waiver 2 years ago, it took a signature campaign, media coverage, periodic visits to BBMP officials, and an appeal at the ministerial level to get the Government Order passed. Kudos to the BNP team that kept up this relentless fight for justice!



WARD LIMITATION OBJECTIONS

The BNP registered its objections to the UDD regarding the latest delimitation scheme with 225 wards (the third scheme in recent years). The latest delimitation lacks a comprehensive approach and undermines fair representation and the democratic process. Splitting a layout into two distinct wards would certainly have negative effects on local governance, representation, grievance redressal processes and daily life. Responses from BNP Leaders revealed that layouts like Classic Orchards, Versova Layout and Defence Layout will face governance issues because each split section comes under a different ward. Konena Agrahara has also been divided into two wards, leaving the newly created ward without either a Primary Health Centre or a waste segregation facility.

BNP Leaders also stressed that utilising census data from 2011 for the year 2022 is illogical. Instead, data on new water and BESCOM connections could have been used to compute the population increase within each ward.

BNP's Regular On-the-Ground Work

NAMMA SAMITI

Ward Committee Meetings have yet to be conducted regularly since they were stopped citing Election Code of Conduct.

CIVIC ISSUES ADDRESSED

PROGRESS ON POTHOLES

In Iblur, Roohi took up the issue of a stretch of potholes to be fixed on a road hump. Was fixed by the Major roads team.

MANHOLE LEAK FIXED

A Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) manhole was leaking due to blockage in Iblur. Sateesh worked to get the block cleared using BWSSB Jetting machine. Another manhole in Iblur, in Hosapalya Nursery, was leaking heavily. This was followed up by Lalithamba and was addressed partially by the BWSSB.

BENT BESCOM POLE STRAIGHTENED

Lalithamba also reported a BESCOM pole that had bent and was a hazard. The pole was straightened the same day.

ROAD CLEAN UP

Manish took on the clean up of Somasundarapalya Road. He and his team cleaned up a stretch of about 250 meters on both sides of Somasundarapalya.

CLOSING UP POST ROAD DIGGING

Syed brought up the issue of a road in Agara dug up by BWSSB for maintenance and then left to become a big traffic hazard. After following up, it was partially solved by the BWSSB with cementing work.

CLEARING OF FALLEN TREE BRANCHES

Venkatesh and his team in Iblur removed the tree branches that were lying where they had fallen for 2 days.

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 in to info@nammabnp.org by the last week of every month. Preferably with 'Before' and 'After' pictures.

If you want to report and follow up on civic issues in your Ward –

Login to our website and report the issue using the '+ADD ISSUE' button on BNP's [Register Civic Issues](#) page

ZONAL MEETINGS



BNP PRESS RELEASES

On September 15th, BNP issued a Press Release to bring media and public attention to the Government Order to waive off penalties and arrears on unfair Property Tax - a milestone achievement for the BNP, whose tireless advocacy efforts over the last 2.5 years yield the desired results. Another related Press Release was the one informing the public of the BNP in association with BBMP initiating a process to rectify wrong zone classification for properties in Bengaluru.

Other BNP Press Releases in September highlighted the lack of a comprehensive approach to the latest delimitation of wards, called for a transparent electoral system in Bengaluru, and highlighted the need for clean ups in Kaverappa Layout and HSR Layout.

You can access them all on our Namma BNP website [HERE](#)

Spotlight On: WARD MANIFESTOS (An in-depth focus section)

In the run-up to the BBMP elections, the spotlight falls on the **Ward Manifestos**, which summarise the electoral promises made by the BNP. It is the only city-based party to offer no less than **25 specific assurances to the electorate**. The party promises to deliver good grassroots governance at the ward level, through citizen participation, accountability and transparency, by implementing the following key measures:

- 1. AREA SABHAS:** Area Sabhas, comprising 5 – 10 active citizens of the ward, will be set up in at least 10 identified areas of the ward.
- 2. WARD COMMITTEE:** A 11-member Ward Committee comprising the Corporator and citizen representatives from each Area Sabha will be set up, and will meet at least twice a month.
- 3. PROJECTS IDENTIFICATION:** Area Sabha Members will identify key projects to be taken up in their respective areas.
- 4. PROJECTS FINALISATION:** The Ward Committee will prioritise the projects and decide the final list of projects to be approved.
- 5. PROJECTS APPROVAL:** The BNP Corporator will implement only those development projects which are finalised by the Ward Committee & by Area Sabhas that are approved by the BBMP Council.
- 6. WARD WEBSITE:** All the approved projects & tender details will be displayed on a Ward Website, which will be available in the public domain with full transparency.
- 7. PROJECTS MONITORING:** Project status, contract value and contractor details will be discussed in the Ward Committee Meetings and displayed at Ward Offices.
- 8. WORKS COMMENCEMENT:** Sanction for commencement of work on approved projects, specifically those involving road digging, will be given only after consultation with Ward Committee & Area Sabha Members.
- 9. UPKEEP OF BDA LAYOUTS:** Once such layouts have been formally handed over, they will be maintained by BBMP.
- 10. ROADS & FOOTPATHS:** Within a year, all the potholes in the ward will be filled up and all the broken footpaths as identified by citizens, will be fixed. They will be continuously monitored & fixed every year thereafter. Strict compliance with standards applicable for internal roads will be ensured.
- 11. PREVENTIVE & PRIMARY HEALTH:** Nimma Arogya Camps will be conducted for low-income groups at their doorstep to offer health checkups and primary health treatments.
- 12. SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT (SWM) /BLACK SPOTS:** Dry Waste Collection Centre (DWCC) will be set up/upgraded and waste collection contracts will be linked to GPS. All the garbage dumping spots/ black spots in the ward will be monitored, cleaned up and eliminated.
- 13. STREET LIGHTING & CCTV:** Bill payments to BESCO and systematic replacement of worn-out bulbs and fixtures will be done promptly and CCTV cameras will monitor blackspots and high-footfall areas.
- 14. POURAKARIKAS:** Pourakarikas will be directly employed by BBMP, given a weekly day off, provided with proper safety gear, given access to drinking water & toilets and given two nutritious meals per day.
- 15. BBMP SCHOOLS:** Infrastructure of BBMP schools will be revamped, staff salaries will be streamlined, book distribution for students will be ensured and transport to and from school will be provided.
- 16. TREES & GREENERY:** Tree census will be done, branches pruned, new saplings will be planted in various areas, boards/nails will be removed from trees & leaf litter will be cleared daily and composted in BBMP parks within the ward.
- 17. PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS:** Maintenance of parks and playgrounds will be diligently carried out. Designated areas for children with special needs will be available in these facilities.
- 18. RECREATIONAL & SPORTS:** Centres with special equipment will be set up in consultation with prominent sportspersons in the city. Allocations will be made for additional facilities for seniors' wellness and needs.
- 19. GOVERNMENT SCHEMES:** Jana Mitra camps will be conducted in various residential communities to enable citizens to get various cards, benefits and other entitlements.
- 20. LAKES:** A Lake Maintenance Committee comprising active citizens will oversee lake maintenance and function as a subcommittee of the Ward Committee.
- 21. STORM WATER DRAINS:** There will be periodic desilting and maintenance of storm water drains, with erection of necessary mesh covers to keep solid waste out of the drains.
- 22. BOREWELLS & RAIN WATER HARVESTING:** Rainwater will be harvested through smartly designed collection pits and digging of new borewells will be strictly controlled.
- 23. ANIMAL WELFARE:** Stray animal census will be conducted and they will be vaccinated and neutered periodically.
- 24. STREET VENDORS:** Street vendors will be provided with proper licences and zones with basic amenities will be earmarked for street vending.
- 25. PUBLIC TOILETS:** Public Toilets will be constructed/maintained in a hygienic manner in all ward locations with medium to heavy footfall.

Important Civic News in Bengaluru

PENALTY FOR DEBRIS DUMPERS

Construction and Demolition (C&D) waste dumped haphazardly around the city is not just an eyesore but causes public obstruction and poses a danger to both pedestrians and motorists. The BBMP has decided to impose stiff penalties of ₹10,000 per tonne on those responsible for such unauthorised dumping in public places, along roads, in drains, vacant land or quarries. Those liable to be held responsible include waste generators, collectors, transporters and disposers. However, the BBMP has clarified that the primary responsibility for the proper collection, appropriate transportation and authorised disposal of C&D waste lies with the waste generator. Collection and transportation must be done according to specified scientific procedures, and disposal must be only at designated treatment facilities.

GUIDANCE VALUE HIKE

From October 1st, Bengaluru will be witnessing a 25-30 per cent increase in guidance value (the minimum price officially set for registration of property). Separate drafts to cater to seven registration districts (urban districts of Basavanagudi, Jayanagar, R R Nagar, Shivaji Nagar and Gandhi Nagar; and rural districts of Ramanagara and Bengaluru Rural) were issued on September 8th. The deadline for the public to file objections was September 23rd, after which the final notification is expected to be issued. The guidance value for agricultural land has been increased upto 50% above the present value. For sites, it has been increased upto 30% depending on the area. The guidance value for apartments has been increased by 5% to 20%. This guidance value hike will impact all asset owners as the stamp duty for registration is 5% of the guidance value and 2% of the stamp duty is paid as Property Tax.

ANTI-ENCROACHMENT DRIVE

BBMP started an anti-encroachment drive in Mahadevapura and KR Puram to clear footpaths. Under pressure from the High Court, BBMP has also designated the Executive Engineers of different zones in the city as the competent authority to receive public complaints regarding encroachments, especially on Storm Water Drains. It is hoped that alert citizens will identify more existing encroachments and such vigilance would deter encroachments in the future. Revenue department officials are also pinpointing high value government properties either encroached upon or granted to people illegally, so that they can be reclaimed. Preliminary encroachment data on 176 acres has already been provided to the department across five taluks, including Bengaluru North, Bengaluru South, Bengaluru East, Yelahanka and Anekal. Although this campaign is not restricted to Bengaluru, properties in the city are obviously given priority because of their high value.

TRANSFORMING THE TRANSFORMERS

In a welcome move, Bengaluru got its first underground transformer at Malleswaram 15th Cross on September 5th, 2023. Set up by Escom, an electricity company, it is reportedly India's first such transformer. Commissioned by BESCOM at a cost of over ₹1.9 crore, the 500 KVA transformer was inaugurated by Energy Minister KV George. Concealed inside a concrete chamber set 10 feet below the ground, the transformer will allow pedestrians to walk safely, improve the utilisation rate of land and safeguard electrical equipment from severe climatic conditions and ensure uninterrupted power supply. Hopefully this underground transformation of overhead transformers will continue, reducing pavement obstructions and using innovative new technology.

BBMP ENGINEERS THROUGH KPSC

After a gap of 13 years, BBMP engineers are being recruited through the Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC). The UDD has issued orders for fifty Junior Engineers and hundred Assistant Engineers to be recruited. This will ensure more qualified and responsible BBMP engineers. Besides reducing the burden on the existing staff, the move should help improve accountability since, from 2009-2010, BBMP has been relying on engineers deputed from other departments or hired temporarily. There is also disruption when these engineers return to their original departments.

SAVING THE SAPLINGS

Saplings planted by Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) as part of its compensatory afforestation programme came under scrutiny after the NGO Action Aid reported on the sorry condition of saplings around Sarakki, Veerasagara and Gottigere lakes. Following strong public criticism, BMRCL has agreed to take corrective measures. It has instructed contractors to ensure watering by water tankers during the dry summer months and nominated three staffers to monitor sapling conditions. Number boards hung on binding wires had hampered the growth of the saplings. These wires are being removed and the boards will be slung over the branches. Tree guards are also being set up to protect the saplings. Waste accumulated around the saplings are being cleared and cleanliness maintained in the area.

SUPPORT FOR A TRANSPORT SWITCHOVER

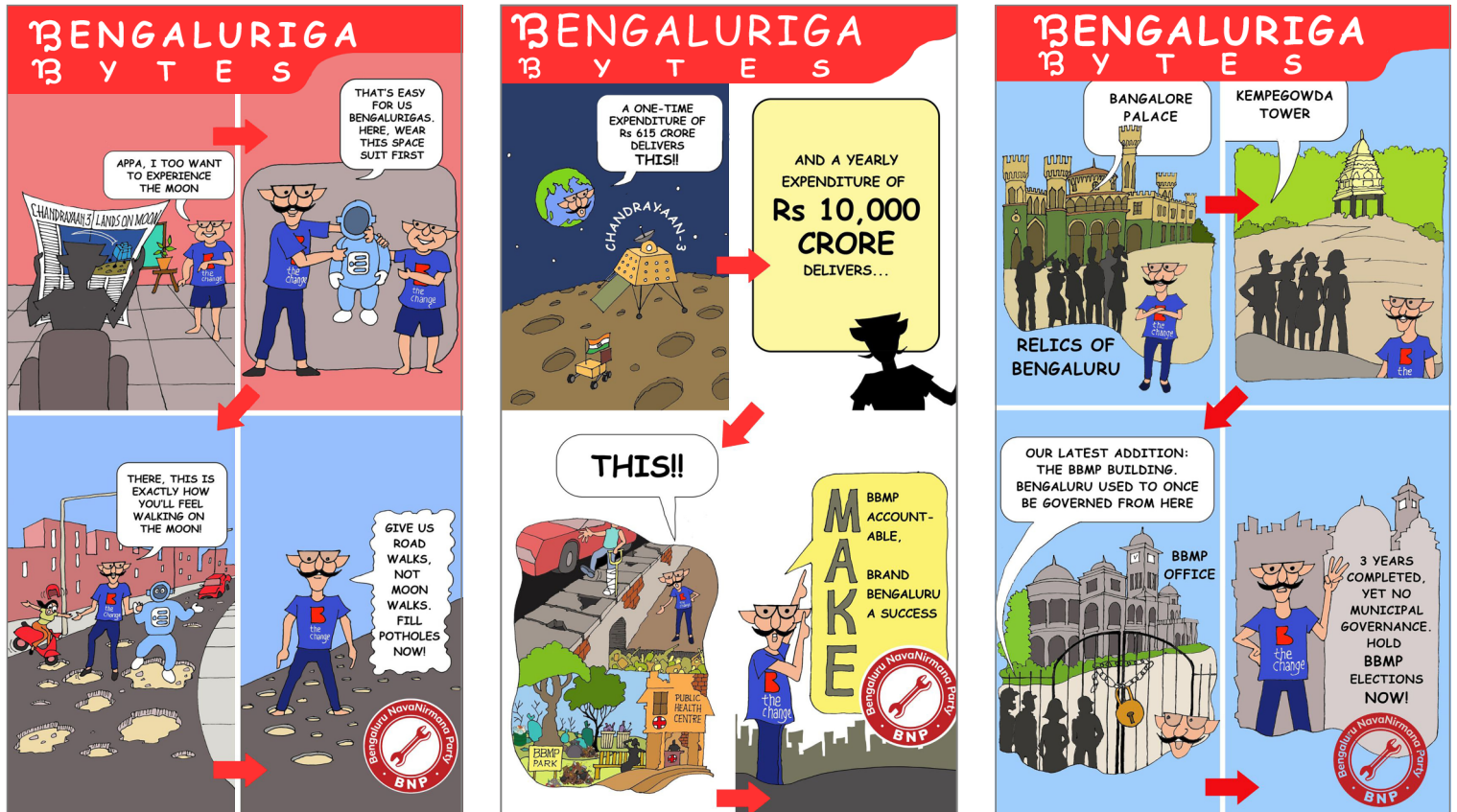
A recent survey by the Bengaluru Political Action Committee (B-PAC) and World Resource Institute (WRI) India indicated overwhelming public support (95%) to switch to Metro Rail and public transport. These two organisations plan to launch a 'Personal2Public' campaign to motivate the public to switch to bus and Metro services. According to B.PAC & WRI, the only long-term solution to traffic woes is public transport. The year 2023 will be significant as the Metro gets extended to Whitefield. #Personal2Public is a citizen's movement with active participation from corporates, auto unions and citizen groups. All these are supporting government agencies to improve first and last-mile connectivity. Since the Outer Ring Road (ORR) has the maximum number of daily commuters, running faster feeder buses from Purple Line metro stations to ORR tech parks will make a big difference. Commuters are urged to adopt public transport at least two days a week for starters.

Bengaluriga Bytes (September)

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 September'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 in, or, see all the cartoons [HERE](#)



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



Contact Us

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