Bengaluru NavaNirmana Party (BNP)

NEWSLETTER

18th Edition | November 2023 Roundup

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MESSAGE FROM FOUNDER

Dear Bengalurigas

The shocking case of a 23-year-old lady and her 9-month-old baby, charred to death before her husband's eyes as they stepped unknowingly on a live wire on the footpath is deeply disturbing. Regrettably, this recent heart-wrenching incident is not an isolated occurrence. The depressing regularity with which such pothole and footpath-related accidents & deaths recur in our city, shows that our system is fundamentally broken and that we have not learnt the right lessons.

Why do these tragedies happen? The fundamental reason for these frequent tragedies is the profound indifference and apathy exhibited by civic agencies & authorities. Officials neglect seemingly minor issues like unfilled potholes, broken footpaths, or hanging wires, ultimately leading to catastrophic consequences.

Why is there no solution yet? To understand this better, we must first realise that Bengaluru City has ~23,000 streets extending across ~14,000 kms! Take a deep breath and picture this: over 23,000 streets & more than 14,000 kms! This is practically impossible to manage, right? How can officials effectively monitor, maintain & manage such a massive network?

Is a solution even possible? The answer is a resounding YES! At the core of the solution, is a system that relies on you, me and the citizens of Bengaluru (Bengalurigas)! Bengalurigas must be an integral part of the solution by raising issues in their respective localities and pushing the officials and the systems to ensure quick resolution of pressing issues. The solution lies in two words that I have been harping on for a long time: Area Sabhas!

Area Sabhas are local groups of like-minded Bengalurigas from different residential communities who unite to take collective responsibility for managing their own areas/localities. Area Sabha is a concept enshrined in the Indian constitution and embedded in our Municipal Laws but rarely implemented anywhere in India. The Bengaluru NavaNiramana Party (BNP) is pioneering this initiative, without even being in power. We are breaking down each Ward into 10 Areas and inviting Bengalurigas to be part of their local Area Sabhas. Through these Area Sabhas, we have already taken up hundreds of issues with officials and resolved a substantial number of them.

This form of hyper-local, decentralised, citizen-participative & collaborative approach is the only way to solve the myriad grassroots problems that confront our city. If you are wondering how we are making this happen, join the BNP Area Sabha Army and learn first-hand how you can help to make your own locality safer, cleaner, beautiful and more liveable!

Let us work together to make Namma Bengaluru better. Join Namma BNP today!

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

SRIKANTH NARASIMHAN, Founder
Bengaluru NavaNirmana Party (BNP*)*

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REVISITING THE PROPERTY TAX ISSUE

The Property Tax issue once again became the focus of discussion, with the thrust on speedy implementation. **BNP Founder & General Secretary Srikanth Narasimhan**, and **Governing Council Members & Zonal Leaders Lalithamba B V** & **Poongothai Paramasivam** met Sri. Munish Moudgil, Special Commissioner Revenue on 9th November 2023, to raise the Property Tax Zone Classification issue. They urged speedy implementation of the related Government Order (GO) issued in September 2023. The BNP representatives requested the Special Commissioner to act upon the GO at the earliest. He assured them that he would complete pending processes within 2 to 3 weeks and share the input to the IT team to implement all the necessary corrections in the Property Tax portal.

BNP OPPOSES SWM USER FEE

The recent proposal mooted by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) to levy a Solid waste Management (SWM) User fee has jolted Bengaluru residents. The BNP has opposed the proposed SWM user fee as unjust and an unacceptable burden on honest taxpayers.

In this connection, Srikanth Narasimhan, along with Lalithamba B V and Poongothai Paramasivam, met with the BBMP Chief Commissioner Sri. Tushar Girinath. They expressed their strong disagreement with the SWM User fee and demanded full accounting and disclosure regarding the BBMP's current annual expenditure of ₹10,000 crores. BNP has also written to the civic body asking for an explanation of the rationale behind the proposed levy and to provide detailed data on the SWM Cess collection and all waste-related activities: SWM allocations, household waste collection, payment to pourakarmikas etc. BNP has stressed the need for the BBMP to utilise existing revenue streams more effectively, collect dues from habitual tax evaders, and ensure transparency in financial management.

GRADUATE VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE

The BNP has embarked on a campaign to register graduate voters to elect an MLC for the Bengaluru Voter constituency. Karnataka is one of six Indian states with two legislative chambers: the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council. One graduate Member of the Legislative Council (MLC) will be elected by city-based graduate voters for the Bengaluru Graduate Constituency in June 2024. Most Bengalurigas are unaware of this election. Some hesitate to register because it is difficult to submit physical forms or the polling booth is too far. Poongothai Paramasivam has constituted a BNP team to spread public awareness through informative posters and videos. BNP is also conducting a Graduate MLC voter registration drive for eligible voters. It may be noted that in the Karnataka Legislative Council, 11 MLCs are appointed by the Governor and the rest are elected: 25 by local authorities, 25 by MLAs, 7 by graduates and 7 by teachers in the state.

To organise a Graduate Voter registration drive in your community, call BNP on **080-47190000** or email **voters@nammabnp.org**

TREE/BRANCHES

In Agara Ward, overhanging tree branches that had been cut were left uncleared. After follow up from BNP, it was cleared.

In Ibluru, it was tree branches cut down by Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited (BESCOM) that were left lying on the ground. When BBMP refused to clear it, Lalithamba followed up with BESCOM and got it cleared.

In Doddakannelli, it was Civic Warrior Jyothsna who raised the issue of uncleared cut tree branches. Post the resolution of this issue, Governing Council Member & Zonal Leader Indira Belde rightly said – "a true testament to democracy is the swift resolution of issues within 24 hours once a resident is heard, and officials promptly assign their workmen…"

FOOTPATH

BNP Leader Venkatachalam highlighted the hazardous footpath condition because of the open drain issue near Hosa Road, in Bellandur ward. Thanks to BNP's efforts, the dangerous drain is now safely closed and pedestrians can walk securely.

ROADS

In Doddanekundi Ward, 5 potholes on the Marathahalli Main Road were posing danger to 2 & 4 wheelers leading to many accidents and damages to vehicles. Despite the BNP team's persistent efforts leading to the filling of the potholes, we are unsatisfied with the resolution as the the work was substandard, probably due to supervision being conducted through the lens of WhatsApp and not in person.

STORM WATER DRAINS (SWDs)

Additionally, in another area of the same Ward, residents who have been facing difficulty due to Rajakaluve construction work that has been stalled for 6 months, raised a complaint with BNP. A letter about the difficulties was submitted to the Dy CM, former MLA of the Area, and the Chief Commissioner. A Press Release was also published to bring attention to the issue. We hope for a quick resolution.

STREET LIGHTS

In Bellanduru, the issue of no proper street lights in front of RBD Stillwaters was raised by Civic Warrior Navin Makin. Thanks to him, the streetlights are now restored and the road is lit and safe again.

Another street lights issue was raised by Sai Jayanth K Nair in the Varthur Ward. The streets of Vinayaka Nagar, Gunjur, Varthur had been dark for years, causing dangerous situations for people in the area, with stray dog attacks on two wheelers and heavy vehicles speeding through with hi-beam flights. After consistent follow up by BNP team member Shruthi, the area has been given temporary lights. The entire issue will however take a year to resolve. BNP will help see this to a satisfactory close.

In Horamavu, Civic Warrior Jayalekshmi Hariharan brought BNP's attention to the non-functioning street light in the JP parking yard. BNP team member Shruthi followed up and resolved the problem.

GARBAGE

A complaint about a garbage (black spot) in Bellandur Main Road was reported by Civic Warrior Prayag Chand Agrawal. BNP Zonal President Vishnu Reddy followed up with officials and the space has been cleared.

Yet another black spot, this time in Ibluru, was reported by BNP team member Sateesh Swamy. He went on to resolve the issue by following up with the BBMP Solid Waste Management (SWM) team.

DRAINAGE & SEWAGE

The issue of open blocked drainage in Bellanduru, with stagnant water that was a potential danger and a health risk was reported and resolved by Amit Agarwal.

In Doddanekundi Ward, Vinayaka Layout, Civic Warrior Geetha reported an issue of constantly overflowing sewage. With BNP coordination, the issue was resolved within 24 hours.

The best way to become a civic warrior who resolves issues is to join the BNP Area Sabha in your neighbourhood. These Area Sabhas meet to address, discuss, and take up civic issues in the area.
To join, Whatsapp +91 8095130000 today!

MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS (Pick of Special BNP Activities)

LIGHTING UP THEIR LIVES

It was a Diwali celebration with a difference! Srikanth Narasimhan joined the children of Nagavarapalya slum to distribute sweets and burst crackers. This sprawling 400-hut slum lacks even the most basic amenities. Tucked behind the More MegaMall on Nagavarapalya Main Road, the privileged apartment-dwellers living nearby never knew about its existence! It was Covid that brought Srikanth into this community, and over time, these children have become like an extended family. The BNP has reached out with groceries and blankets, mask distribution, health camps, tailoring machines for the ladies, books for the Anganwadi kids and offered online classes on English and Internet usage for Std 9-12 kids. Sadly, the future of these children remains bleak due to poor quality education, high drop-out rates, drug and alcohol abuse and lack of facilities. We, as Bengalurigas, should seriously explore new ways to light up the lives of all slum children in Bengaluru.

ELECTRONIC EYES REGAIN SIGHT

Ten CCTV cameras installed by BBMP in Doddanekundi Ward in 2019, at a cost of ₹14 lakhs, had fallen into disrepair. **Indira Belde, BNP Governing Council Member and Zonal Leader** led a survey in June 2023, that confirmed that these cameras were non-functional. A detailed survey report was submitted to Deputy Chief Minister Sri. D K Shivakumar on 8th August 2023 and meetings were held with the Traffic Police department, which had also installed 11 cameras in the Ward. The survey report made suggestions and highlighted execution challenges. Recently, the survey team was pleased to see that some CCTV cameras were installed in BEML Layout and Kundalahalli colony. However, the residents are unsure whether the defective cameras were replaced or only repaired, and at what cost. The CCTV survey and campaign were obviously effective, but lack of public consultation and transparency in this matter remain issues of concern.

BNP GROUND REPORT (Round-up of BNP's Regular Work)

VOTE4BENGALURU (Voter ID Drives)

November saw 1 BNP Voter ID Camp in Iblur Ward at Aakruthi Silverline.
10 Registrations were completed.

NOTE: Publication of Final Electoral Rolls for the forthcoming elections will be on 5th January 2024

BNP requests all voters with Electoral Photo Identity Cards (EPICs) to go through the Draft Rolls to check if their names appear on the list, and all eligible voters without EPIC to register as Voters **well before 12th December 2023**, when the 'Period of Claims and Objections' closes.

Also, see the Article above on 'Graduate Voter Registration Drive'. One graduate Member of the Legislative Council (MLC) will be elected by city-based graduate voters for the Bengaluru Graduate Constituency in **June 2024**.

So, if you are a New Voter seeking to register OR 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**

IF you're running out of time. refer to Voter Portal User Guide on our website **HERE**
Let's Vote for Bengaluru!

- continued...

By voting, citizens can have a say in who represents them in decision-making and help shape the policies that impact their lives. Casting the ballot ensures that voters' concerns are represented and addressed. To vote, you need to be on the Electoral Rolls.

(NOTE: Links to all websites mentioned here are given at the end of this article)

1. What are electoral rolls? What is their significance?

Electoral rolls are official lists with the names of eligible voters in a particular area or polling booth. The electoral roll helps to prevent fraud by verifying voters' identities and maintaining the integrity of the electoral process.

2. How are Electoral rolls compiled in each constituency?

Electoral lists are compiled through voter registration in each constituency. All Indian citizens can vote by registering with the Election Commission of India (ECI). Register through **ECI's Voter Helpline app** or at ECI's **Voters' Service Portal**, or through voter registration drives organised by BBMP, volunteers and Government offices. Registered voters are issued a Voter ID or Election Photo Identity Card (EPIC).

3. How can you check the electoral rolls to ensure your name is included?

- Go to **Search in Electoral Roll** page. Choose the 'Search BY EPIC' option
- Key in your EPIC number to get the new Part and Serial numbers
- Use this new Part and Serial numbers to search for your name on the draft Electoral Roll

4. If your name is missing from the electoral rolls, how can it be included?

If your name is missing, **choose any one** of the following options:

- Complain on the Telephone No. 1950
- Submit a request letter for inclusion, citing the existing EPIC number, at the BBMP Electoral Office in your jurisdiction
- Report your issue at the Complaint Section in the Voter Helpline app
- Email *complaints@eci.gov.in*
- Fill out **Form 6** online and provide proof of address, date of birth and a photo. Once details are validated, your name will be added to the rolls before the next election cycle

5. How can you get electoral rolls corrected or updated?

This can be done online using **Form 8** in the **Voters' Service Portal** and selecting the correction task needed. You can also visit the Electoral office in the voter's jurisdiction and get it done.

6. How can you transfer voter ID from one constituency to another?

To transfer your Voter ID, log into the **Voters' Service Portal**

- Fill **Form 8** and submit with required documents:
  Address proof (jpeg within 2MB); age proof (jpeg within 2MB); A photo (within 200KB); Aadhar card and mobile no.
- Use the reference number given to follow up status of application in the same website
- Once an EPIC number is generated, use this number and find out if your name is included in the Electoral Rolls using the process in the answer to Question 3

7. What is the process and the deadline for updating electoral rolls?

The schedule of events is issued in August/September. Rearrangement of polling stations and preparations for the supplementary roll for the year are carried out. Draft rolls are released in October end, listing all voters in the previous year. One month is given for claims and objections and then the corrections are done. The final roll is published after 1st January.

8. How does the BNP help in registering new voters?

BNP is already running campaigns in apartments and other communities based on request. These Voter ID camps have proved popular and very successful among Bengaluru citizens.

BNP also has trained a number of enthusiastic volunteers who assist people like Senior Citizens to fill up the form. They also follow up with authorities when requested. The BNP website (nammabnp.org) has a special section to guide voters to apply anew, change address or correct their voter ID.

IMPORTANT LINKS:

ECI's Voter Helpline app   Voters' Service Portal   Search in Electoral Roll   BNP's Voters & NVSP Portals User Guide

The Electoral Rolls for the Assembly constituencies are now available on the official website of the Chief Electoral Officer, Karnataka **https://ceo.karnataka.gov.in/en**

Press Note on Special Summary Revision 2024 was released on 27th October 2023. See **https://bit.ly/3Qp8f81**

For information regarding the documents needed for applying for a Voter's ID, please visit: **https://nammabnp.org/apply-voterid**

BNP requests that all citizens verify if their names are correctly included in the list. The window for submission of claims will be between 27th October and 9th December 2023

For queries, please call us at **080 47190000** OR email **voters@nammabnp.org** OR message on Whatsapp at **+91 8095130000**

MEDIA CONNECT (BNP's interactions with the media)

PRESS RELEASES

BNP issued 4 Press Releases in November. On 9th, BNP drew attention to the plight of the residents of HBR Layout, 5th Block, who have fought relentlessly for over 15 years to ensure proper disposal of sewage and preservation of their environment. This was followed up on 18th, with the BNP questioning the usefulness and accountability of CCTV cameras. Recalling the condition of the CCTVs as revealed by the survey conducted in June 2023 at Doddanekundi, this Press Release raised questions about the lack of transparency regarding costs and failure to consult citizens before the implementation of these projects. The 22nd November BNP Press Release focused on another civic issue at Doddanekundi, the stalled construction of Storm Water Drains (SWDs) in front of the VRR Lakeview Internal Road, that has been lying unattended for the past 6 months. On 26th, BNP urged immediate action to address multiple problems and relieve the public agony caused due to uncovered sewage tanks and open drains in Bellandur.

You can access them all on our Namma BNP website **HERE**

BNP IN THE NEWS

Please click **HERE** to see how different Media organisations have supported BNP by publishing articles on our endeavours to resolve civic issues in Bengaluru.

BENGALURU BULLETIN (Important Civic News in Bengaluru)

TECH SUMMIT BREAKS BOUNDARIES

Brand Bengaluru gained a major boost with the 26th edition of Bengaluru Tech Summit (BTS) themed 'Breaking Boundaries' which witnessed 300 new startups and highlighted the city's innovation ecosystem. According to Karnataka IT Minister Sri. Priyank Kharge, "Forty-five countries actively participated in the 26th BTS. With a roster boasting 401 speakers, the event attracted over 18,597 business visitors, fostering an environment ripe for collaboration. Noteworthy achievements include the launch of 37 new projects, 427 successful B2B meetings, and 1,981 impactful B2B virtual meetings."In its 'Beyond Bengaluru' initiative, the state government positioned Tier 2 and 3 cities as hubs for development and talent pools for future tech growth.

WATER RESERVED FOR BENGALURU

A deficient monsoon and low levels of storage in local reservoirs had heightened public concerns over a possible drinking water shortage in Bengaluru. Several areas in Bengaluru had reported reduced water supplies. These concerns have been allayed as the government has decided to reserve 24 Thousand Million Cubic Feet of water (TMC ft) until the next monsoon to meet the city's needs. Deputy Chief Minister Sri. D K Shivkumar referred to the Supreme Court's landmark judgement in 2018, which permitted 24 TMC ft of drinking water to be reserved for the Silicon City. Bengalurigas are undoubtedly heaving a sigh of relief after this decision.

NIRBHAYA COMMAND CENTER OPENS

Safety levels have been raised recently in the Silicon City. Karnataka Chief Minister Sri. Siddaramaiah on 24th November 2023 inaugurated a new state-of-the-art Safe City Command & Control Centre at the Police Commissioner's office. He stated that this Centre will enhance safety standards in Bengaluru, particularly for women and tackle crime more effectively. The Command Center costing approximately ₹660 crores was granted under the Nirbhaya Yojana (with central government providing 60% and the state government 40%). A total of 7,500 CCTV cameras installed across Bengaluru can be monitored from here, around the clock. It can alert all Hoysala police vehicles enabled with high-end features, which can reach the spot in just seven minutes.
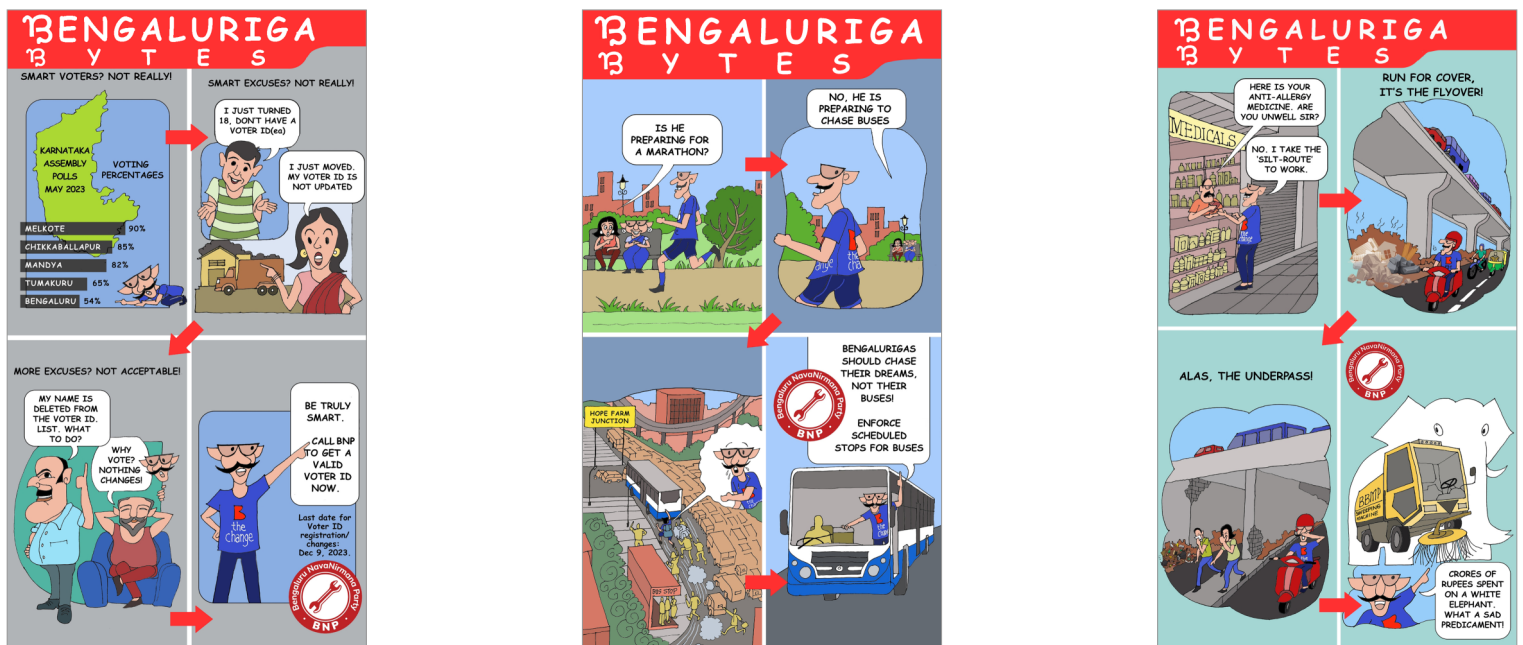
SUBURBAN RAIL ON SLOW TRACK

The Bangalore Suburban Railway Project (BSRP) has been chugging on a slow track and work has been lagging far behind schedule. Only 4% of work on the entire project has been completed although more than 53% of the allotted time has elapsed and only 35 months are left. Concerned activist groups like Citizens 4 Citizens (C4C) are urging that the project be fast-tracked and monitored closely with a countdown clock until its completion. C4C has urged that external financing be secured and intermediate targets be set urgently. Work on the already delayed Airport Corridor (C1) depends on completion of this rail project. Hence, it is crucial that relevant contracts and tenders be awarded immediately.

CURTAILING VEGETABLE CONTAMINATION

Further to the finding of heavy metals above safety limits in vegetables sold in Bengaluru, by the Environment Management and Policy Research Institute (EMPRI), a suo moto case was filed by the National Green Tribunal (NGT). At the NGT's Southern Zone hearing, EMPRI submitted that a larger sample size covering all seasons would be required. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) launched a special drive to collect samples for testing, as per the general guidelines of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW). FSSAI is seeking to extend the project beyond Bengaluru to the whole of Karnataka. Meanwhile, the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) has also been instructed to examine the causes for the contamination of water used by farmers.

PROPERTY RECORDS TAKE THE TECH PATH

Property records are taking the tech path as the BBMP is digitising all property registers on a priority basis. This is a welcome move that could transform the delivery and speed of property-related services, often mired in delay and alleged corruption. The scanning of legacy property records is a necessary prerequisite for the civic body to offer timely khata-related services online. Once digitisation is complete, the BBMP will completely switch to online property records. At present, khata certificates are issued in manual formats in most wards, leading to revenue loss and possible misuse. Around 5,000 registers pertaining to 20 lakh properties will be digitised during the special drive.

BENGALURIGA BYTES (BNP's own Cartoon Series)

Bengaluriga Bytes (BB), 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 November's cartoons by clicking on the different images. Like, Share, Comment and Follow **namma.bnp on Instagram** 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

https://nammabnp.org