

# Bengaluru NavaNirmana Party (BNP)

## NEWSLETTER



22nd Edition | March 2024 Roundup

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### MESSAGE FROM FOUNDER

Dear Bengalurigas,

Five years ago, the idea of starting a party focused exclusively on Bengaluru, germinated in my mind. Founding and building up BNP has been an amazing journey, but also a very tough one. Admittedly, there have been occasions (thankfully, not too often :) when the going got so tough that I wondered if all my efforts were in vain. Invariably, all my doubts would get dispelled, thanks to the small victories and the steady progress that BNP has been achieving.

Here is a simple case in point. BNP Advisor Hema Hattangady complained to me about the missing slabs that had left a gaping hole in the footpath adjoining Lakeshore Manor, Ulsoor. Residents found it difficult to fix this obvious public hazard. I asked Hema to call the BNP Helpline 80951 30000 and report the matter. Our BNP Civic Warriors swung promptly into action. Team member Shruthi Gowda (who has been doing a wonderful job) engaged with the relevant officials immediately. And believe it or not, new slabs were laid and the footpath fixed within 48 hours!

And this was Hema's stunned reaction: "I got a taste of just how effective BNP is. A lot of us were groaning to each other about this gaping hole in a freshly done sidewalk. Walkers asked watchmen to get it fixed. Flat owners complained that the Building Secretary was no good. Srikanth asked me to call the BNP helpline. In less than 48 hours, it was fixed. Just like Gpay, Dunzo & Swiggy have become verbs, we should have a campaign: "**Complaint? Have you BNP-ed it?**"

These are the exhilarating moments that make all the hard work worthwhile! And there have been many such occasions with the truly remarkable BNP Team. Deployed full time to resolve such civic issues, Team BNP has already tackled more than 200 civic issues through this process, across many Wards. I am elated to see how BNP's spanner symbol has become synonymous with getting civic problems fixed and very proud of BNP for making the impossible possible.

Excitement is also mounting in BNP about the looming BBMP Election (whenever it happens). The time is ripe to elect some committed BNP Corporators and bring about the grassroots change that we all truly desire and deserve!



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 & General Secretary, Bengaluru NavaNirmana Party (BNP)

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# CAMPAIGN UPDATES (Developments on BNP's Ongoing Central Campaigns)

## OBJECTIONS TO NEW TAX SCHEME



Bengaluru NavaNirman Party (BNP) Founder & General Secretary Srikanth Narasimhan and Governing Council Member & Zonal Leader (Bommanahalli) Lalithamba B V met Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Chief Commissioner Sri. Tushar Girinath on 4th March 2024, to submit a strongly worded letter opposing the Draft Notification of New Property Tax Calculation based on Guidance Value. The letter listed clear and compelling reasons why such a mode of calculation is unfair, illogical and burdensome to the common citizen. Despite these objections, the Commissioner indicated that the BBMP intended to proceed with the draft notification. In response, BNP stressed that many citizens are opposed to paying such an unfair tax and that the party would support them in voicing their opposition through a petition.

## PROPERTY TAX PETITION

In accordance with its commitment to mobilise public voices against the new Property Tax system based on guidance value, BNP launched an online petition against it. There was a strong response to the petition and thousands of signatures were obtained, revealing that public opinion was overwhelmingly against this unjust mode of tax valuation. Recognising such negative public sentiment, and given the upcoming Lok Sabha polls and the Model Code of Conduct, BBMP has temporarily halted the implementation of the proposed new Property Tax scheme.

Kudos to the BNP for taking a bold and ethical stand and securing this victory for the residents of Bengaluru. Do sign [BNP's online petition](#) against proposed new Property Tax system.



## INTERACTION WITH BWSSB CHAIRMAN

Srikanth Narasimhan, Lalithamba B V, BNP Zonal Leader (Mahadevapura) Vishnu Reddy, Bellandur Area Sabha Leader Aparna Chandar, and Bellandur Citizen Laly Randolf met Sri. Ram Prasath Manohar, Chairman of Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) on 22nd March 2024. They raised the issue of overcharging by tankers and their erratic water supply. Sri. Ram Prasath acknowledged these problems and suggested that complaints be registered anonymously on BWSSB's Call Centre No. 1916 and promised that prompt action would be taken. When the absence of underground drainage in parts of Bellandur was raised, Sri. Ram Prasath assured the BNP Team that Phase 5 of the network was underway and was expected to be completed by 5th June '24. He also indicated that there would be a complete handover of responsibilities from BBMP to BWSSB. The BNP Team expressed its appreciation to Sri. Ram Prasath for his responsiveness and his positive problem-solving approach to address the concerns raised.

## BNP'S WATER CONSERVATION CAMPAIGN

Given the dire water crisis in Bengaluru, an intense discussion on BNP's proposed Water Conservation Campaign took place on 25th March 2024. Participants explored practical ways to conserve water and planned awareness drives to promote water saving measures in the city. A drive to promote the use of aerators/flow controls in all public places, offices and homes is to be undertaken. Based on the principle of 'Waste not, want not,' BNP will actively encourage its members, supporters and all Bengaluru residents to take up the 'Half-Bucket Challenge' (look out for more information on this soon). This means making a conscious effort to use water in measured quantities, with only half a bucket of water per person for daily baths. After all, every drop counts in Namma Bengaluru and water saved is water gained.

## TOWN HALL MEETING

Srikanth Narasimhan, along with BNP Ward Leader (Whitefield) Srinivasa Reddy and Governing Council Member & BNP Zonal Leader (Mahadevapura) Indira Belde addressed about forty residents hailing from different residential communities on Kundanahalli Main Road, covering Whitefield and AECS Layout. The occasion was the BNP Town Hall meeting on 31st March 2024 in the Knightsbridge Apartment Clubhouse. The participants were excited to be a part of the BNP Area Sabha for that locality. They were also eager to spread the BNP message of 'My City, My Pride, My Responsibility' and work towards the objective of Rebuilding Bengaluru into a model city. These residents represented Gopalan Millennium, Godrej Splendour, Keerti Flora, SJR Brooklyn, Akme Encore, Sterling Shalom, Chaitanya La Grove and Knightsbridge apartment complexes.



## REACHING OUT TO RESIDENTS

Three Reachout campaigns were held in March. The aim is to talk to residents in different areas about BNP. The team carries along a Banner, a Standee and BNP Pamphlets. While the first two draw public attention, the pamphlets provide detailed information to all. Recently, the team also took along a 'My City. My Pride. My Responsibility.' photo frame that people could pose with. The main messages are that **BNP is a 'city' political party focused only on Bengaluru. The BNP goal is to: resolve the city's civic issues from the grassroots level, bring transparency and accountability in governance, actively encourage citizen participation, and make Bengaluru a model city as envisioned by Nadaprabhu Kempegowda.**

The team presents a few cases where BNP has helped in that local area and urges people to join the WhatsApp group to raise local issues and help resolve them. The team also stresses that **BNP does not contest in MP or MLA elections but only in the Corporator polls.**



In the first Reachout campaign at Gottigere, Team BNP, comprising **BNP Governing Council Member & Zonal Leader (Bangalore South) Poongothai Paramasivam, Vishnu Reddy, Jeevan, Lalithamba B V, Saroja Sinha and Jennifer** reached out to visitors at the Royal County Park on 3rd March 2024. BNP pamphlets were distributed to around 75 residents in 2 hours.

The second drive, held on 12th March 2024 at Kaikondrahalli Lake in Bellanduru, had **Vishnu Reddy, Lalithamba B V, Jeevan, Venkatachalam Subramaniam, BNP Ward Leader (Whitefield) Srinivasa Reddy, Murali and Syama** on the BNP Team. They reached out to around 75 residents who visited the lake. A group of Senior Citizen walkers were impressed that BNP had pushed for the completion of the foot overbridge near the lake. They heartily wished BNP the very best.



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On 17th March 2024, Team BNP, comprising Kamesh, Jeevan, Madhusudhan and **Lalithamba B V** reached out to around 35 residents outside KLM Mall on 27th Main Road, HSR Layout.

In all these Reachout campaigns, some citizens filled the volunteer forms on the spot. Others undertook to either register or give a missed call after reading the pamphlets.

## AREA SABHA ACTIVITIES (Local civic issues addressed by BNP)

### Garbage Burning

In Bellandur Ward, Civic warrior Awanti raised the issue of repeated instances of wilful burning, an issue that was not only polluting the environment, but was also a neighbourhood hazard. The BNP team called the relevant Junior Health Inspector (JHI) who swiftly addressed the situation with the help of relevant officials, ensuring that the fire was extinguished.



### Garbage Clearance

Lots of garbage and dry leaves were lying near HSR Sector 1 park in Ibluru Ward. BNP Member V. Madhujayan Babu reported the issue. The BNP team followed up with the BBMP Solid Waste Management (SWM) team and after nearly 2 weeks, the leaves were cleared.

**Governing Council Member & Zonal Leader (CV Raman Nagar) Milind Kulabkar**, raised the issues of garbage being thrown in two locations in Konena Agrahara Ward — on 8th Main Road, B Block, Vinayak Nagar, between 1st and 5th Cross, and another nearby on 1st Cross. The BNP team followed up with the BBMP SWM Team and got the garbage cleared.



**Drainage/Sewage**

Issues sometimes require the intervention of officials other than the ‘obvious’ Department of first choice. For instance, when members of BNP Vibgyor Area Sabha in Ibluru Ward shared an issue of blocked drains, the immediate reaction was to reach out to the BWSSB. But in this case, the drains were blocked because of garbage thrown into the drain in front of their community. The BNP team worked with the BBMP SWM team and the issue was resolved.



**BBMP Lift**

In Benniganahalli Ward, Civic Warrior Dada brought up the issue of the lift at Baiyappanahalli Railway Station that was out of service for several days. The inoperative lift made it very difficult for those who had to reach the other platforms, especially for Senior Citizens and differently abled persons. Following persistent efforts and coordination by Team BNP with the officials of the respective BBMP Skywalk Department, the issue was successfully resolved.



**Trees/Branches**

Civic Warrior Flora Sagar from Gottigere reported an overgrown tree that was obstructing the road near Royal County Park, drawing attention to the problem it caused for commuters. With the support and guidance of **Poongothai Paramasivam**, the residents reached out to the BBMP Forest Department. The issue was resolved with the trimming of the overhanging tree branch and the cutting down of a dead tree nearby.

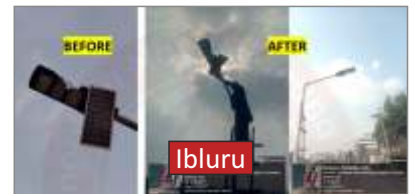


**Drinking Water Supply**

Cauvery water supply was irregular and inadequate in AECS Layout for over a week, when Civic Warriors Geetha Rao and Ameya Usgaonkar raised the issue. The BNP Team reached out to the BWSSB officials. When there was no progress, **Indira Belde** called the Water Inspector. After that, water was supplied.

**Lake Related**

Civic Warrior Bejoy who visited the Somasundarapalya Lake in Ibluru Ward noticed that a light by the walkway around the lake had been vandalised. He reported the issue and the BNP team took it up with the BBMP Lakes Maintenance Team who fixed the light within two days. Thanks to the BBMP Lake Maintenance Team for their prompt action.



**Pothole**



The BNP Team and Civic warrior Archana Singh had raised separate issues about the multiple potholes on the roads near SVR Chinmaya School and PU College, and surrounding areas in HSR Layout, Ibluru. Special mention was made of the deep pothole formed at the turning towards N D Sepal Apartment, which had become a real threat for vehicles. After multiple follow ups by the BNP Team, BBMP responded and laid a new tar road in the entire stretch. We are really thankful to the BBMP Team for tarring the entire stretch and making it a smooth ride for all the commuters and walkers.



BNP Member Namrata had raised the issue of the bad condition of the road in front of Peepal Tree apartments in Ibluru Ward. The BNP team raised and followed up the issue with the Major Roads team and the entire stretch was relaid. We are grateful to the BBMP Major Roads team for their support in fixing the tar road.

**Footpath**

BNP Advisor Hema Hattangady had noticed a huge gaping hole in the footpath next to Lakeshore Manor in Ulsoor Ward. She registered this issue with the BNP. Thanks to the swift and efficient action of the BNP team, this damaged footpath was fixed within 48 hours!

Srikanth Narasimhan has shared more on the successful resolution of this particular issue in the Founder’s Message.



BNP is proud to share its success stories in addressing often neglected civic issues.

**Do you want to be a Civic Warrior in your area? The best way to become part of the solution is to join the BNP Area Sabha in your neighbourhood. These Area Sabhas meet to take up, discuss and address civic issues in the local area. To join, Whatsapp +91 8095130000 today!**

**MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS (Pick of Special BNP Activities)**

**BNP & INHAF WEBINARS**

In connection with World Water Day, eminent experts focused on ‘Bengaluru's Water Crisis: Short Term Measures and Long-Term Solutions (Parts 1 & 2)’. These timely webinars, conducted by Habitat Forum (INHAF) and BNP, on 21st & 22nd March 2024, formed part of the ‘Rethinking Cities’ Webinar Series: 109 & 110. The webinar sought to answer several important questions: Has Bengaluru really run out of water? What is the city’s water supply and demand situation? Which are the most affected sections and why? What are the interim and long-term solutions? and more...



Srikanth Narasimhan moderated the first panel discussion, in which Kirtee Shah, President of INHAF participated, along with esteemed experts Dr. Ananth S. Kodavasal (Chairman & Director of Ecotech Engineering Consultancy), Dr. Hariharan Chandrashekar (Founder-Trustee of AltTech Foundation), and Dr. Annapurna Kamath (Founder-Trustee of Jalaposhan Trust). The second panel discussion was moderated by Kirtee Shah, President of INHAF along with experts Arvind Lakshimisha (Research Fellow, Azim Premji University), Prof. Mohan Kumar (Head, Technical Approval Committee BWSSB), Vishwanathan S (Advisor, Biome Environmental Trust) and Shreya Nath (Managing Partner- Urban Water, Well Labs).

**INDIA CIVIC SUMMIT**

The India Civic Summit by Oorvani Foundation was held at the Institution of Agricultural Technologists in Bengaluru on 23rd March 2024. Participants explored effective civic solutions to make our cities more sustainable. The panel discussion on institutionalising change, explored why it is essential to address interlinked issues beyond the local level, pushing it to the city level and beyond, and how to strategise to ensure sustainable progress in our cities. Srikanth Narasimhan, joined other recognized changemakers: V Ravichandrar (Civic Evangelist), Asiya Khan (Save Chevella Banyans), Raghavendra HS (Ward Committee Balaga) and Anjali Karol Mohan (Urban Planner), to share their experiences. Stories of change were narrated by passionate civic warriors as they spoke about their initiatives, successes and lessons learned. Through the learning sessions, engaging workshops and panel discussions, participants gained insights into community engagement, youth involvement, and the climate future of various cities. Most importantly, participants connected with like-minded individuals and became part of a passionate community committed to meaningful urban change.



## SUNDAY WITH SRIKANTH

Do you know that Bengaluru receives 2.5 times more water than its needs? Why then are the residents suffering from water shortage? What can be done at the individual and community level to help ease the situation? **Srikanth Narasimhan**, provided some answers to these vital questions in the 24th March 2024 edition of his weekly discussions '**Sunday Sanje Srikanth Jothe**'. The earnest discussion focused on multiple reasons for the water crisis and the various short-term and long-term solutions to overcome Bengaluru's water woes.

## HONOURING LEADING LADIES

BNP marked International Women's Day by honouring twenty five ladies who have worked diligently on the frontlines and behind the scenes to build up BNP over the years. They were all presented a '**Leading Light Lady**' memento, and a bouquet, and treated to a special lunch. Each lady shared her personal experiences working with BNP and appreciated the tributes and the recognition they received for their work. **Hema Hattangady** had suggested the event, while Nishitha and **Srikanth Narasimhan** organised and conducted the felicitation ceremony.

On behalf of the BNP, **Milind Kulabkar**, **Srinivasa Reddy**, **Vishnu Reddy** and Governing Council Member & President of BNP NavaYuva (BNP's Youth Wing) **Rishivanjas Raghavan** gave away the mementoes. Congratulations to all our leading lights: Lalithamba B V (with her daughter Prachi), Poongothai Paramasivam (with her daughter Ilamathy), Subhashini, Anna, Deepa, Sowmya, Shraddha, Syama, Mary, Aparna Chandar, Sharada, Geeta, Aparna Shamanth, Nishitha, Varshini, Samaara, Revathy, Shruthi, Nandini and Pooja. Also featured in the list of honour were Indira Belde, Valli and Laly Randolph although they were unable to attend the event.



## BNP'S WATER WARRIOR



The water shortage in Bengaluru has come under intense media discussion. But Lalithamba B V went beyond mere discussion and undertook a personal campaign to save more than 18 lakh litres of water! A resident of HSR Layout, Bengaluru, Lalithamba follows the BNP motto — 'B the change'. She advocates the use of aerators/flow controls to spray or restrict water flow and reduce consumption significantly. These ready-made devices can be fitted to any tap nozzle in a matter of minutes. Lalithamba and her team have spent ₹12,000 from their own pocket to install 125 aerators in marriage halls, conference venues and schools, thereby saving 15,000 litres per month, @ ten litres per minute. She urges the government to install aerators in public spaces, community toilets and wash areas, so that much more water can be saved.

You can read about Lalithamba's successful water conservation efforts in the Telugu publication [Eenadu, dated March 18, 2024](#).

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

### Vote4Bengaluru (Voter ID Drives)

On 17th March 2024, the BNP Team of Jeevan, Madhusudhan, Uday and Lalithamba B V conducted a Voter ID camp at HSR Layout. There were over 30 registrations. The next weekend, on 23rd Mar '24, Jeevan and Shailen conducted another Voter ID Camp. This one was at Purvi Lotus in Ibluru and had over 20 registrations. The drive on 24th Mar '24 at Classic Orchards in Gottigere had over 35 Voter registrations offline/online, and was conducted by Poongothai, Praveena and Harshitha. BNP thanks its team of tireless workers who run these Voter Registration drives, for enabling more and more citizens to become voters.



**Note:** You can still choose to register as a new Voter for elections that will come up in the following years.

Please refer to Voter Portal User Guide on our website [HERE](#)

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](mailto:voters@nammabnp.org)

**Let's Vote for Bengaluru!**

**1. What is the concept of BNP Ward-mapping?**

BNP initiated the formation of unofficial Area Sabhas to connect residents of a particular area for the purpose of addressing civic issues. As per government guidelines, the Area Sabha should be formed by clubbing 2 or 3 polling booths, but in Bengaluru, polling booth areas often do not have clearly demarcated boundaries. Moreover, voters are randomly allocated to booths, making it difficult to form the Area Sabha teams on this basis. To overcome this challenge, BNP undertook its own Ward-mapping by creating 10 to 15 sub-sections within the Ward limits in a more scientific way.

**2. What does the process of Ward-mapping involve?**

Keeping the BBMP Ward map as the frame of reference, internal sections of a reasonable size are created in the google map, with its internal boundaries largely determined by obvious physical features such as roads, residential lay-outs, gated communities or institutions and landmarks.

**3. What are the special aspects of Wards that are covered in a Ward-mapping exercise?**

The Area Sabhas set up after the Ward-mapping exercise focus on studying the main features, and the state of public facilities/amenities in their respective sections. They try to understand the composition of communities within the area and interact with residents. The Area Sabha also identifies deficiencies, black spots and problems within their areas through Ward Walks, and rectifies these problems with the support of local officials and community leaders.

**4. What are the main objectives of Ward-mapping?**

The objectives are to have clearly defined areas of manageable size to form the BNP's Area Sabha groups. This helps to assess the situation, and the strengths and shortcomings of the area; to create community awareness and encourage citizen participation to tackle pressing civic issues; and, to improve the lives of the local community.

**5. Does Ward-mapping require any specialised skills?**

Basic computer skills, coupled with local knowledge and familiarity with different aspects of the Ward is a helpful skill for a person who does Ward mapping.

**6. Does BBMP regularly carry out Ward-mapping exercises?**

The Ward-mapping done by BBMP pertains solely to mapping the official delimitations of the Wards for administrative and electoral purposes. In recent years, the State government has made several changes in the delimitation of Wards, increasing the number from 198 to 225 Wards.

**7. What is the BNP's perspective on the importance of Ward-mapping?**

From the BNP perspective, Ward-mapping has proved to be a very practical and effective technique in subdividing and micromanaging Wards, making it easier to create an impact at the ground level by recognising and resolving key civic issues.

**8. Which are the Wards covered by BNP's Ward-mapping campaign?**

BNP Ward-mapping has been done for all Wards in Bengaluru. The Area Sabhas created within the different sections then make a detailed study within their own demarcated areas to assess its particular situation, specific needs and civic problems.

**9. Who has been leading the BNP's Ward-mapping efforts?**

The BNP Central Team has taken the lead in carrying out Ward-mapping and forming the Area Sabhas in different Wards.

**10. How successful has BNP's Ward-mapping exercise been?**

BNP's Ward-mapping process has simplified Ward management. It has facilitated the formation of active Area Sabhas that work within clearly demarcated areas, thus avoiding overlapping and duplication of efforts. Ward-mapping has helped to pinpoint problem areas and undertake remedial measures.

**11. Can you share some BNP success stories made possible through Ward-mapping?**

Once the Ward-mapping has been done and an Area Sabha has been formed, regular Ward Walks are conducted to identify civic issues. By involving local residents, civic issues are taken up with local officials and agencies. Working in this way, Area Sabha members undertook a successful campaign to clear footpaths in HSR layout, removing unwanted debris, unauthorised obstructions and illegal encroachments. Another phenomenal success story was the creation of Sundaravana, an urban forest serving as a green buffer zone around the Somasundarapalya Lake. In 2021, Area Sabha members in this locality, with strong community support and backing from local organisations like Community Task Force, Rotary Bengaluru HSR and Say Trees organisation helped to clear a garbage dump and planted 12,500 indigenous tree saplings to grow a protective buffer zone near the lake.

## MEDIA CONNECT (BNP's interactions with the media)

### PRESS RELEASES

On 5th March 2024 BNP released a Press Release (PR) firmly stating why the BNP was against BBMP's proposed new Property Tax calculation system in line with Guidance Value. The PR also stressed that given the absence of an elected Council, the Chief Commissioner of BBMP and the State Government should refrain from taking such decisions. While emphasising that this would significantly elevate Property Taxes throughout Bengaluru, Srikanth Narasimhan said "The guidance value is primarily intended for commercial transactions. Using the same system for the purpose of Property Tax calculation is completely fallacious and unreasonable... ..BNP demands that BBMP should retain the existing system and not introduce unreasonable and unfair systems, which act against citizens' interests."

The PR of 25th Mar '24 brought attention to the alarming practice of burning waste, especially dry leaves and roadside waste. It stressed how, despite a ban, garbage burning is widespread in Bengaluru, posing a threat to public health and taking a toll on the city's air quality. Speaking on the issue, Vishnu Reddy urged that "the need for stringent measures and consequences for those who flout waste disposal norms is crucial in curbing this alarming trend."

Earlier, towards the end of February, on 28th Feb '24, BNP had released a PR related to another issue that had received no official action, despite numerous complaints lodged via BBMP's Sahaaya app. It concerned a footpath in Bikasipura area of Doddakallasandra that was overrun with plants and creepers, making it inaccessible to pedestrians. It had also become a place for drinking, making it especially discouraging for women to take this path. Further, the complaint raised on BBMP's Sahaaya App regarding the issue had been closed without resolution!

You can access all the BNP Press Releases 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)

### OFFICIAL VOTER EDUCATION DRIVE

The District Electoral Officer (DEO) and BBMP Chief Commissioner Sri. Tushar Girinath held an interaction with representatives of RWAs on 25th March 2024 regarding voter awareness under the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation programme (SVEEP) in view of the upcoming Lok Sabha Election-2024. SVEEP aims to educate, enable and enlighten voters to register and cast their votes in an informed manner. RWAs were encouraged to carry out voter awareness programmes and competitions for their members. It was also recommended that RWAs could conduct a drive to teach voters how to locate their names and polling stations in the voters list. BNP is already running a campaign to help people track their Voter ID applications, check their new Part and Serial numbers, download their e-EPIC cards and be ready for voting.

### REGULATION FOR WATER TANKERS

As the water crisis worsened, Bengaluru water tanker prices soared, prompting the Government to act under the Disaster Management Act. The crisis exposed the illegal, unregulated water tankers, the so-called "tanker mafia". Transport department officials revealed that out of nearly 3,500 tankers registered in the ten city-based Regional Transport Offices (RTOs), only 1,499 are water tankers. The rest carry commodities such as oil, milk and Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG). BBMP mandated that all owners upload their tanker details in a special online application. BBMP data showed that over 1,700 tankers were registered with the Transport Department until 14th March 2024, more than the official number of 1499. Officials admit that unauthorised tankers are operating, fitted to agriculture, commercial tractors and trailers, due to the high demand for water. A transport department official says there is no data on such unauthorised vehicles because they cannot be tracked.

### TOWARDS A WATER SURPLUS CITY

With a three-fold strategy involving water conservation, utilisation of treated water and groundwater recharge, Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) Chairman Ram Prasat Manohar stated that Bengaluru could become a 'Water Surplus' city by July 2026. The BWSSB will promote the judicious use of clean Cauvery and tubewell water, and curb wasteful practices. The Board issued directives advocating aerators and flow controls to reduce water consumption. BWSSB has also directed bulk users to cut water consumption by 20 per cent to counter groundwater depletion. An appeal has been made to hotels and restaurants to use only treated water for secondary purposes.

- continued...



At the South India Hotels and Restaurants Association meeting on 21st March 2024, the BWSSB Chairman offered treated water supply at discounted rates from 1st April As an incentive, hotels and restaurants that promote water conservation, recycling and groundwater development would be given a 'Green Star' rating.

### **APPS TO TACKLE WATER CRISIS**

Faced with a severe drinking water crisis in the city, the BWSSB on 14th March 2024 launched four mobile applications intended to facilitate and regulate different water supply processes — Parisara Jalasnehi, Jala Samrakshak, Antharjala and Jalamithra. The Parisara Jalasnehi mobile application will streamline and monitor treated water from Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) to be used by the public for alternate purposes other than drinking. The Jala Samrakshak application will identify and impose penalties on those who utilise drinking water for non-essential purposes. Citizens applying for permits for digging new borewells can receive the No Objection Certificate (NOC) through the Antharjala app. The Jalamithra app monitors the leakage of water, pinpoints drain issues, and regulates other water supply and demand aspects related to the BWSSB.

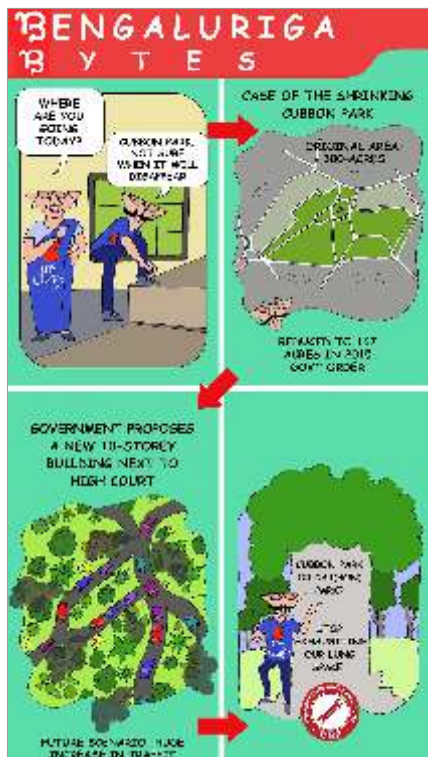
### **WATER CONSERVATION AWARDS**

To mark World Water Day, the Bangalore Apartments Federation (BAF) and Residents' Welfare Associations (RWAs), on 22nd March 2024, partnered with LaundryMate to share innovative and economical washing practices. Open to all BAF member apartments, the apartments with effective ideas for water conservation were felicitated at the Visvesvaraya Rainwater Harvesting Theme Park on 24th March 2024. The awards were presented by India's 'Rain Man', Dr. Vishwanath Srikantaiah. Winners in the apartment category were Rainbow Drive Layout, Nandi Woods and Sobha Indraprastha. In the residents' group, the winners were Divya Rani from Sobha City Santorini; Rajeswari Radhakrishnan from Shivnag Dharani Heights Apartment; and Mahesh Munet from Purva Palm Beach. Special Mention awards were presented to Ajmera Annex, Mahaveer Seasons, and Suncity Apartment. As Kamesh Rastogi of Mahaveer Seasons apartment remarked, "these awards will further encourage RWAs to support their residents in all possible ways towards conserving and judiciously using water."

### **SCHOOLING IN WATER CONSERVATION**

When it comes to tackling the severe water crisis in Bengaluru, school children can teach their parents some crucial lessons in water conservation and recycling. Environmental activist Dr. Hariharan Chandrashekhar initiated the 'Rain Reach' programme to educate school-going children from 9-15 years about water conservation. His objective is to make water conservation a childhood habit, The Rain Reach programme sets up systems in municipal schools to harvest rainwater, treat sewage effectively, and regularly recycle both rainwater and wastewater. Additionally, rain gauge weather stations and digital metres are installed to help students measure rainfall levels. Every month, experts educate children about water conservation measures, and how to maintain these systems. Children also take a solemn pledge to save water. The far-sighted Rain Reach initiative has helped 40 schools in Bengaluru to collectively save 34 million litres of water.

## **BENGALURIGA BYTES (March)**



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 reel of March's cartoon by clicking on the image.

Like, Share, Comment and Follow [namma.bnp on Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/namma.bnp) for more.

If you would like to see it as an image, zoom in, or, see all the cartoons [HERE](#)

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***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!***

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