



23rd Edition || April 2024 Roundup

[ABOUT BNP](#)

[BNP MANIFESTO](#)

[CITIZENS' PORTAL](#)

[BBMP WEBSITE](#)

Message from the Founder

Dear Bengalurigas,
Hope all of you went out to cast your vote on 26th April. The voting percentage in Bengaluru continues to be disappointing (hovering around 50%) but one of the foremost reasons is the "bloated" nature of the electoral rolls and the failure to update them regularly.

Let me cite the example of my own apartment complex on Old Madras Road in CV Raman Nagar. Regrettably, the CV Raman Nagar Assembly Constituency has the lowest voting percentage across Karnataka. We therefore undertook to verify the names of residents from our community registered on the rolls.

Out of the 103 residents on the electoral rolls, 36 persons (more than 1/3rd) had moved out of the complex over a period of time! Two residents had passed away but their names were still appearing in the rolls. Out of the 36 who left the complex, some had moved out of the country, some to other parts of the country, while the rest had relocated to other areas of Bengaluru. What this means is that the actual number of people eligible to vote from our apartment complex is around 30-40% lower than the number registered in the electoral rolls. This in turn translates to a false lower percentage of voting from our complex.

Now imagine this multiplied across the city. Due to the constantly shifting, floating population of Bengaluru, many who no longer live in the city are still registered here. This is why I say that the electoral rolls are "bloated." These inaccurate figures in turn tend to distort the voting percentage.

What is the solution? It is time for the Election Commission to undertake a serious exercise to update and streamline the electoral rolls. BNP has already offered its support to the EC for the same. The exercise has to be done in collaboration with RWAs, apartment associations & citizen groups.

RWAs & apartment associations can conduct a similar exercise and verify the residents from their community who are registered on the rolls. Voter ID camps can help people get names deleted (in case of deceased family members or persons who have moved out of the country), or shifted to their place of relocation (whether within or outside Bengaluru). If this process is done on a war footing, I am very confident that the voting percentage can increase from the current 50s to as much as 70-80%.

BNP has been proactive on this issue and is working closely with the Election Commission to find a lasting solution.

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

SRIKANTH NARASIMHAN
Founder & General Secretary
Bengaluru NavaNirman Party (BNP)



CONTENTS

CAMPAIGN UPDATES

(Developments on BNP's Ongoing Central Campaigns)

- VOTER MITRA CAMPAIGN
- POLLING STATION READINESS SURVEY
- SURVEY ON VOTER TURNOUT
- VOTING: A RIGHT AND RESPONSIBILITY
- INTERACTIONS WITH BBMP OFFICIALS

AREA SABHA ACTIVITIES

(Local Civic Issues Addressed by BNP)

- Garbage clearance
- Garbage burning
- BWSSB / Borewells
- Footpath
- Road Damage
- Drainage/Sewage

MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS

(Pick of Special BNP Activities)

- BNP WATER WARRIORS UNITE
- JALAMITHRA TRAINING AND AWARENESS
- REACHING OUT TO HSR RESIDENTS

BNP GROUND REPORT

(Round-up of BNP's Regular Work)

Area Sabha Meetings
(Local Level Community Meetings)

SPOTLIGHT: CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNANCE

Vishnu Reddy elaborates

MEDIA CONNECT

(BNP's interactions with the media)

Press Releases
BNP in the News

BENGALURU BULLETIN

(Important Civic News in Bengaluru)

- LOW VOTER TURNOUT IN BENGALURU
- SENIOR CITIZENS VOTE FROM HOME
- GREEN STAR CHALLENGE FOR BULK CONSUMERS
- TENDER-LESS CONTRACTS RAISE CONCERN
- CONFUSION OVER PROPERTY COORDINATES
- WATER WOES LEAD TO POLL BOYCOTT
- BAF TO SELL TREATED WATER
- ILLEGAL BOREWELLS IN INDIRANAGAR

BENGALURIGA BYTES

(BNP's own Cartoon Series) - APRIL



CAMPAIGN UPDATES

(Developments on BNP's Ongoing Central Campaigns)

VOTER MITRA CAMPAIGN

The **Bengaluru NavaNirman Party (BNP)** Team worked tirelessly to empower voters and facilitate polling during Lok Sabha Elections 2024. The BNP Voter Mitra campaign, when it was first launched during the Assembly Elections in 2023, helped around 200 voters by answering their queries, getting their voter IDs, retrieving polling station details etc. Encouraged by its past success, the BNP team conducted the same campaign from 21st to 25th April 2024. During these 5 days, BNP received over 250 queries, to verify Voter IDs, locate polling stations, do a voter ID search, among others. BNP Admin logged in all queries received via 3 channels (missed calls, Whatsapp messages and emails). BNP Volunteers then located the necessary information and conveyed it to voters through Whatsapp calls. **BNP Leader Vineeth Muthanna** also prepared two informative videos. Both the [‘how to find information about the contesting candidates’](#) and the [‘how to find your polling station and make your voting process smooth’](#) videos were shared widely. Kudos to all BNP Voter Mitras who helped confused voters to vote in these crucial elections.



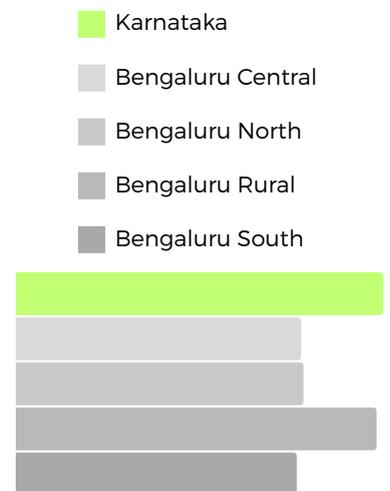
POLLING STATION READINESS SURVEY

The Election Commission of India (ECI) generally makes convenient arrangements. However, prior planning and public feedback could make polling stations more voter-friendly. BNP undertook a Polling Station Readiness Survey with around 90 citizen volunteers surveying the amenities and overall readiness of 79 polling stations across 17 wards. The parameters assessed were accessibility, parking, lighting, ventilation, clear signage, drinking water, toilets, ramps, wheelchair access etc. The BNP team enabled volunteers with information regarding the contact details of the respective Block Level Officers (BLOs) so that they could bring attention to the shortcomings and get them addressed. BNP also collated the feedback from all the volunteers to submit the same to the Election Commissioner. Inadequate parking was identified as one major problem area. In some polling centres, the ramps were too steep and seats were not available for senior citizens. In others, the waiting areas were either not organised or lacked an adequate number of chairs. Hopefully, this ground-level input will help improve facilities at city polling stations during future elections. BNP would like to express its appreciation to all the volunteers for their precious time, ground support and timely inputs.

SURVEY ON VOTER TURNOUT

Notwithstanding its reputation as a tech hub and a progressive city, Bengaluru has always registered a lower voter turnout, compared to the State and National average. The BNP undertook a quick Survey on Voter Turnout to understand the reasons behind these disappointing statistics. Voters were asked why Bengaluru's voting figures are so low. Possible reasons included: relocation of voters out of Bengaluru for employment; distance to polling locations; choosing vacation over voting on polling date; disillusionment with / disinterest in the voting process; names missing in the electoral rolls; and, lack of personal Voter ID information. Respondents were asked to pinpoint any other factors leading to voter apathy. The responses conveyed through WhatsApp revealed that the long weekend/school holidays encouraged people to travel out of town and forego voting. Another major reason was invalid or missing names in the electoral rolls which hindered registered voters from casting their votes.

Read the **Founder's Message from Srikanth** to find out how 'bloated' electoral rolls could be a reason for the low voter percentage





CAMPAIGN UPDATES

(Developments on BNP's Ongoing Central Campaigns)

VOTING: A RIGHT AND RESPONSIBILITY

BNP has always been enabling voting in Bengaluru. Through their numerous Voter ID camps, the BNP has helped many new voters get their Voter IDs and helped voters who have migrated to Bengaluru from other places in India, to transfer their Voter IDs to Bengaluru.

During election time in Bengaluru, the BNP took their usual step forward, urging voters to go out and vote on polling day as "Voting is not only your chance to have your say in the future of our City, State and Country, but also your right and your responsibility." BNP not only reminded voters but also compiled practical guidelines on the process. Voters were directed to the relevant [link in the BNP website](#) to find detailed instructions on how to search for their Voter ID in the electoral rolls; track their Voter ID application; and download their e-EPIC card. There was also a BNP Voter Mithra line for people to call/Whatsapp to clarify about their voter IDs.

BNP's 'Know Your Candidate' campaign coupled with the ECI's Voter Helpline App assisted voters to identify all the candidates in their constituency, and understand their background and performance record, so that they could make an informed choice.

INTERACTIONS WITH BBMP OFFICIALS

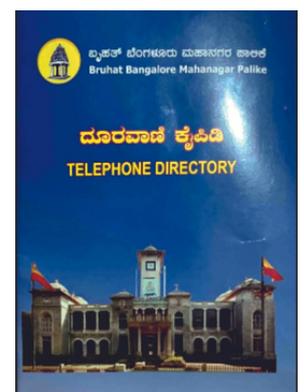
BNP Governing Council Member and Zonal Leader (Bommanahalli) Lalithamba B V and BNP Governing Council Member and Zonal Leader (Bengaluru South) Poongothai Paramasivam held discussions with a number of BBMP officials on 4th April 2024. First, they met Sri. Mounish Moudgil, Special Commissioner, Revenue. They sought to understand the reasoning behind the introduction of geo-coordinates for online property tax payments and the impact of errors made by tax-payers. The team was assured that these points would be reviewed by the office. The BNP team also requested amendment/correction of zones where higher or lower tax had been paid due to systemic issues. Sri. Raghvendra, Revenue Policy Drafting/Assessor undertook to review these issues and work on the execution. Two other topics discussed at the meeting pertained to illegal advertisement policy and related penalties and the enhancement of the Sahaya App.

The BNP team also met Sri. Selvamani R, Special Commissioner, Elections. BNP offered to organise a survey regarding minimum facilities available in polling stations. A request was made to update the BBMP portal with the latest polling stations and BLOs' contact numbers. In this connection, the team also held discussions with Sri. Naveen, Tehsildar, BBMP Elections and Sri. Kantharaj, in charge of Systematic Voters Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) for BBMP district. BNP requested Sri. Selvamani to initiate the electoral roll cleanup and rationalise the voters list at the booth level soon after Lok Sabha election.

At the Forest Department, the team met Sri. B.L.G Swamy, Deputy Conservator of Forests (DCF) to discuss the regular watering and upkeep of plants in the buffer zones around the lakes. The team received the official Zone-wise contact details and requested that this information be updated in the BBMP portal.

Next, the team met officials at the Admin Department. BNP had made a longstanding request for updating Zone/Ward level official contact details of all Departments in the BBMP website. Consequently, this year, instead of printing the annual dairy, the BBMP Admin Department released a Telephone Directory and the BNP Team was happy to receive a copy.

At the IT Department, the team met Sri. Prabhakar, the IT Head of BBMP, and requested him to update all the department contact details in the BBMP portal and in the Sahaaya app enhancement.



Continued...



CAMPAIGN UPDATES

(Developments on BNP's Ongoing Central Campaigns)

The BNP team later conferred with Dr. Sunitha, the BBMP Anti-Tobacco Lead. They urged the Anti-Tobacco team to impose stringent rules and regulations; take effective measures against indiscriminate sale of cigarettes near school premises; implement the ban on smoking in public places; and, curb licensing to tobacco shops in several sensitive locations. The Anti-Tobacco team has promised to continue strict action in this regard.

To discuss lake-related issues, the BNP team met Smt. Preeti Gehlot, Special Commissioner - Lakes and Sri. Haridas, Chief Engineer - Lakes. To enhance transparency in BBMP projects, the BNP team submitted a written request for the BBMP Lakes Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) copy and contractor details. During a detailed discussion, they requested that the scope of the contract and the contractor details be shared on the BBMP portal. Details on the Lake Monitoring System are available [HERE](#).

The team also interacted with Sri. Chandra Shekar, Deputy Director of Horticulture. They requested the Department to plant greenery around the lakesides, across medians and in neglected parks and make suitable arrangements for their maintenance. The team noticed the absence of aerators in the water taps. Lalithamba carried out an on-the-spot demonstration of the water flow rate per minute before and after fixing an aerator. Sri. Chandra Shekar was pleased with the results of the demonstration.

At the Multi-Purpose Engineering Department (MPED), the BNP team met Sri. Sharath, the head of MPED along with the maintenance contractor and plumber. They put across their observation that aerators were absent in most taps at BBMP headquarters. They conducted a demonstration of water flow with and without an aerator and urged the MPED to install aerators in all taps in the BBMP head office. Kudos to the BNP team for promoting the use of aerators in the BBMP head office!



AREA SABHA ACTIVITIES

(Local civic issues addressed by BNP)

Garbage Clearance

Civic Warrior Abhishek Ayyagari, a resident of Purva Whitehall, raised the issue of the regular mess created by Anand Sweets on Sarjapur Road, in Bellandur. He also reported that there was some bad cement mixture next to the road making it difficult to walk there. BNP took up the issue of the waste disposal practices of this enterprise. Following BNP intervention, there was swift action and the Health Inspector not only got the waste cleared, he also took up the matter directly with the restaurant. This ensured that the footpath was walkable again for pedestrians.



Civic Warrior Sateesh raised the issue of garbage being dumped near S V NEST apartment in Somasundarapalya, Sector 7 in Ibluru Ward. The BNP Team followed up with the BBMP authorities and cleared the area.



Continued...



AREA SABHA ACTIVITIES

(Local civic issues addressed by BNP)

Garbage Burning

Lalithamba B V noticed that garbage was being burned in Somasundarapalya in Ibluru Ward. BNP team connected with the Solid Waste Management (SWM) team and the fire was doused. Thanks to the prompt and swift action from the SWM team, the issue was resolved immediately.



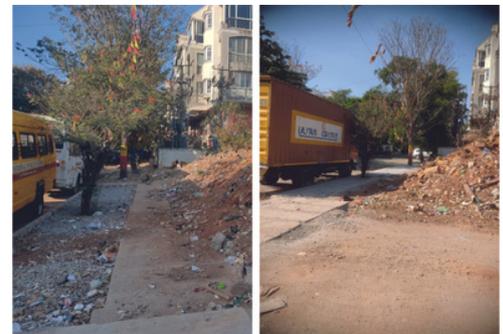
BWSSB / Borewells

In Horamavu Ward, Bengaluru North, BNP Member Kamalesh reported borewell digging near Golden Palms Apartments, Narayanapura. BNP obtained information from the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) team, confirming that the borewell was being drilled by BBMP within the 110 village limit, for public purposes. It is essential for community members like Kamalesh and organisations like the BNP to stay vigilant to address local concerns effectively.



Footpath

In Sanjaya Nagara Ward, Civic Warrior Neeru raised the issue of the pathetic condition of the Kalpana Chawla Road. For many years, all efforts by residents to bring garbage collectors/supervisors/health inspectors to inspect and resolve the issue had failed. BNP Team followed up with the concerned authorities and got the footpath fixed.



Footpath

BNP received a complaint about high levels of noise happening in front of the B.M. Lotus apartments, Doddakanahalli, due to improper road levelling. The shuddering sound, particularly when heavy commercial vehicles passed by, made it difficult for residents to sleep at night. The BNP team followed up and got the issue rectified.



In HSR Layout, in the KEB Junction, a patch of road was dug up for the Metro line by the Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRC) to lay the power cable line from Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited (KPTCL). Once the cabling work was complete, the road was restored by tarring the patch. We sincerely thank the BMRC team for their support.



Continued...



AREA SABHA ACTIVITIES

(Local civic issues addressed by BNP)

In Doddanekundi Ward, 11th Cross Road in Chinnapanahalli had not been tarred for several years. Residents had submitted multiple requests in writing to BBMP and political leaders but, there was no action taken. The 2500+ residents were given only false promises. After Dipen, Shivramreddy and Divyesh brought this to the attention of BNP, the BNP team followed up and the road got tarred.



Drainage/Sewage

Civic Warrior Ambarish reported the issue of a leak in the Under Ground Drain (UGD) near Samruddhi Heights causing an overflow. For over a week, there was no action from the BWSSB though a ticket had been raised. BNP followed up and the BWSSB workers responded promptly to fix the leak. Residents noted the diligent follow up by the BNP and expressed their gratitude to Srikanth and BNP Member Shruthi who does the follow up calls for most of the civic issues on behalf on BNP.



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 WATER WARRIORS UNITE

Calling all water warriors to join BNP's long term Save Water Campaign. A WhatsApp group has been formed with the intention of "promoting awareness on the importance of conserving water in Bengaluru"

Each member, acting as a community leader, would reach out to individuals by sharing water conservation initiatives. These include: the **BNP Half Bucket Challenge**; installation of water aerators in taps etc. BNP has been sharing digital pamphlets of its Half Bucket Challenge and weekly webinars, and volunteers have shared these with friends, family and Resident Association groups through Whatsapp, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and email. BNP will share its success stories and anticipates hearing other experiences as the campaign gains momentum. Let us strive to make Bengaluru self-sufficient in water resources.

Visit [BNP's Water Conservation page](#) on the BNP website to:

- register as a 'BNP Save Water Campaign Volunteer'
- pledge to save water with the Half Bucket Challenge
- get a 10% off coupon on the purchase of aerators





MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS

(Pick of Special BNP Activities)

JALAMITHRA TRAINING AND AWARENESS

Given the serious water crisis and its wide impact, the BWSSB has enlisted public help in tackling it. Residents were invited to heighten their awareness on water conservation and train as Jalamithras. BWSSB Chairman Sri. Ram Prasath Manohar conducted an interactive water conservation awareness session on 18th April 2024 at the BWSSB premises. **Lalithamba B V** represented BNP at this session. In her words, "Sri. Ram Prasath encouraged citizens to support BWSSB and support water conservation by using aerators in taps, digging recharge wells and using STP-treated water for non-potable purposes." Many concerned Bengaluru residents attended the session and gave their valuable feedback on water conservation issues and shared tips on how to save water for future generations.

REACHING OUT TO HSR RESIDENTS

Team BNP comprising Jeevan and **Lalithamba B V**, met visitors to the park in HSR Layout Sector 2 on 21st April 2024. They projected the role and mission of BNP as a political party focused solely on Bengaluru's municipal governance. Most visitors appreciated the idea of BNP as a city-based party seeking to make Bengaluru a better place. The BNP representatives reached out to around 25 residents and distributed pamphlets. A few visitors said that they would go through the details and register later.

The BNP Reach Out journey will continue in the months ahead in different locations across Bengaluru.



BNP GROUND REPORT

(Round-up of BNP's Regular Work)

Area Sabha Meetings (Local Level Community Meetings)

On 28th April 2024, Srikanth and BNP Area Sabha Leader Venkatachalam met residents at DSR Woodwinds, Sarjapur Road. They discussed BNP, the role of Area Sabhas and the positive impact BNP is having on ground. Participants shared their appreciation and gave valuable inputs to further strengthen the community's connect with BNP



Continued...



SPOTLIGHT ON: CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNANCE

Vishnu Reddy (BNP Zonal President — Mahadevapura) elaborates

1. What does the concept of 'Citizen Participation in Governance' mean?

Citizen Participation in Governance refers to the active involvement of individuals and groups in the decision-making processes that affect their lives and impact their communities. It embodies the principles of democracy and inclusivity, allowing diverse voices to be considered in the governance of a city or country.

2. What are the different levels of citizen participation possible?

Levels of citizen participation can range from basic information-sharing to co-creation of policies:

- Informing and educating the public about governance processes
- Consulting with citizens to gather opinions and feedback
- Involving citizens directly in decision-making processes
- Collaborating with citizens in policy development and implementation
- Empowering citizens to lead initiatives with the support of local government

3. Why is Citizen Participation in local governance important?

Citizen Participation in local governance is crucial for several reasons:

- It ensures that decisions reflect the community's needs and aspirations
- It enhances transparency and accountability in governance
- It builds trust between the government and citizens
- It leverages the collective wisdom and expertise of the community for better decision-making
- It fosters a sense of ownership and responsibility among citizens towards their local environment and community

4. What are the groups, committees or institutions through which citizens can effectively engage in local governance?

Effective participation can occur through various platforms:

- Ward committees and Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs)
- Public consultations and town hall meetings
- Advisory boards and task forces on specific issues
- Online platforms for policy feedback and suggestions
- Public-private partnership initiatives for urban development

5. What are the specific ways in which citizens can take part in local governance?

Specific ways for citizens to participate include:

- Attending Ward Committee Meetings
- Participating in public consultations and surveys
- Engaging with elected representatives
- Volunteering for local projects or committees
- Utilising digital platforms to report issues, propose solutions, or track progress

6. Is voting in local, State, or National polls a key aspect of Citizen Participation? Why is this so significant?

Voting is a fundamental aspect of citizen participation. It is the most direct way for citizens to influence governance by selecting their representatives. Voting ensures that leaders are accountable and responsive to their constituents. It is a cornerstone of democratic governance and a primary means of expressing citizen preferences and priorities.

7. How can a citizen monitor the execution of projects taken up by the local Corporator?

Citizens can monitor project execution through:

- Regular updates provided by the local corporator or municipality
- Accessing public records and project reports
- Participating in Ward Committee Meetings to discuss projects
- Filing Right to Information (RTI) applications to obtain official data on project status and expenditure
- Engaging in social audit mechanisms by which citizens can review project implementation



SPOTLIGHT ON: CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNANCE

Vishnu Reddy (BNP Zonal President — Mahadevapura) elaborates

8. How can a citizen raise ward-level issues with the local corporator and ensure resolution?

Citizens can raise Ward-level issues by:

- Attending Ward Committee Meetings and presenting issues directly
- Writing formal letters or emails to the corporator's office detailing the issues
- Utilising social media platforms to publicise and escalate concerns
- Collaborating with RWAs or citizen groups to present a unified voice
- Following up regularly on the status of the issue until resolved

9. How successful has BNP been in promoting Citizen Participation? Has strong citizen involvement led to any policy change?

BNP firmly believes in the pivotal role of active citizen participation in achieving effective governance and fostering a vibrant democracy. Our commitment to bridging the gap between government actions and citizen expectations has yielded significant policy changes, notably in our campaign against the BBMP's arbitrary Property Tax increases. By mobilising strong, sustained opposition, BNP ensured that Bengaluru residents were heard, leading to a just approach to Property taxation. Moreover, our relentless push for regular Ward Committee Meetings has successfully institutionalised these forums, enhancing transparency, accountability and citizen engagement.

These successes underscore BNP's commitment to a participatory governance model that is responsive, transparent and reflective of the community's needs, making Bengaluru a better place for all.

10. How has citizen participation helped to resolve civic issues? Do share some BNP success stories.

Citizen participation has been instrumental in resolving civic issues in Bengaluru, showcasing the power of the community. BNP has facilitated a dynamic platform through our community WhatsApp groups, allowing residents to voice concerns and report problems directly. This innovative approach enables us to aggregate and categorise issues efficiently, after which we engage with relevant officials to address these concerns promptly. Our records highlight the impact: Out of 319 issues registered, at least 161 were successfully resolved, with 50 in progress and only 108 still open! These figures not only reflect our commitment to fostering citizen engagement but also underscore the effectiveness of collaboration between the community and local governance in creating tangible improvements.



MEDIA CONNECT

(BNP's interactions with the media)

PRESS RELEASES

BNP's Press Release (PR) dated 7th April 2024, called for concerned officials to take the necessary steps towards checking the black spots and encroachments causing traffic issues and implement strict rules against violators. This PR came as the next step in trying to resolve the issues of the residents of J P Nagar 3rd Phase, after letters submitted by the residents of the Casa Ansal Apartment to the BBMP and the traffic police brought forth no remedial action. Vendor encroachment, misuse of bus stops, improper parking were some of the issues that were highlighted in the PR. Speaking about the inefficiency in the city's governance, Poongothai Paramasivam said "...Numerous (Civic) complaints are often overlooked until a serious incident occurs..." She further pointed out that "The reason for persistent unsolved civic issues is the absence of an elected representative in the city due to delayed BBMP elections."

BNP's second PR for April, released on 16th April, highlighted the health hazard caused by open drains in certain areas, specifically Haralur, HSR, and Sarjapura. The drainage water flowing on these roads posed significant public health and safety issues. Despite multiple requests to authorities including the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, the response was inadequate. BWSSB officials, after site inspection, declared that drain cleaning is BBMP's responsibility. However, BBMP officials claim that the ward does not fall under their jurisdiction. BNP called for an urgent resolution of the open drainage crisis with effective civic coordination. As Vishnu Reddy stated, "The blame game among civic departments is a common problem where each department shrugs off responsibility... It is time for proactive governance to ensure the health and safety of our citizens. This pressing public health issue demands immediate attention."

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.



LOW VOTER TURNOUT IN BENGALURU

Bengaluru is known for being vocal and active in raising civic issues. Yet, its voting numbers were disappointing. According to Election Commission (EC) records, voter turnout in Bengaluru was 53.8 percent. While Karnataka recorded a 69.5 percent voter turnout (preliminary figures), Bengaluru South (53.1 percent), North (54.4 percent) and Central (54 percent) took the bottom three turnout rankings. Bengaluru Rural saw a record 68.3 percent turnout and Chikkaballapur witnessed 77 percent voting. In spite of widespread messaging urging citizens to vote, polling station arrangements and incentives offered by some restaurants and transport operators, the voter turnout did not meet Karnataka Chief Electoral Officer Sri. Manoj Kumar Meena's expectations of 72 percent for the state and at least 60 percent for the city.

SENIOR CITIZENS VOTE FROM HOME

In a unique drive, the EC announced a voting-from-home facility for super senior citizens (above 85 years) and those with disabilities. However, out of 1,13,108 senior citizens above 85 years in the city, across three Lok Sabha constituencies — Bengaluru North, Central and South, only 7,558 registered to vote from home. Similarly, of the identified 30,693 people with disabilities, only 302 registered for the vote-from-home option. Among the registered voters, 18 were deceased, 16 absent at the time of their visit, and two refused to vote.

Lalithamba B V acknowledged that BBMP worked 'proactively' to enable her 87-year-old father Vishwanathaiah to vote at their home in HSR Layout. At the appointed date and time, they set up the voting apparatus within 10 minutes and briefed him, allowing his vote to be cast smoothly. BNP hopes more super seniors will avail this opportunity to participate from home in the electoral process.

GREEN STAR CHALLENGE FOR BULK CONSUMERS

Bulk water consumers face significant supply cuts imposed by the BWSSB. Users consuming over 40 lakh litres per month will get 10% less while the 38 bulk users consuming over 2 crore litres per day will get 20% less supply. BWSSB Chairman Sri. Ram Prasath Manohar met bulk users on 1st April 2024 to advocate the five principles of the Green Star Challenge: promoting water conservation technologies, increasing utilisation of treated water, deploying technology for borewell monitoring, excavating rainwater harvesting pits, and fostering public awareness. He stressed that there was no scarcity, only a temporary shortage due to depleted groundwater and inadequate rainfall, which could be managed effectively by careful water usage. A meeting was held with 133 major builders to urge them to utilise treated water.

TENDER-LESS CONTRACTS RAISE CONCERN

The Karnataka Rural Infrastructure Development Limited (KRIDL) has appointed a private consultancy, Bureau Veritas India Pvt Ltd, without tendering, to conduct quality inspection of all works for 1 year. The concern is about transparency in the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department (RDPR), which oversees KRIDL. KRIDL availed exemption under Section 4(G) of the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements Act to award this contract. This agency will now inspect all works costing between ₹10 lakh and ₹2 crore. Last month, the Finance Department issued new guidelines to stop Departments from skipping the tendering process. KRIDL is already under the scanner, after the Lokayukta's exposure of a ₹118-crore fake bill scam, and the State government has ordered a probe into all BBMP works entrusted to KRIDL.

CONFUSION OVER PROPERTY COORDINATES

The BBMP's new mandatory feature asking citizens to enter the latitude and longitude (lat-long) coordinates while paying Property Tax has caused difficulties. Many were unable to pay tax as they did not know the coordinates and some entered wrong locations. BBMP failed to give prior intimation regarding this feature, which is obviously a problem for Senior Citizens and those without smartphones. Srikanth Narasimhan questioned the need for such a feature without taking citizens into confidence. "Irrespective of whether the lat-long details are optional or mandatory, how does the data help the BBMP? What are they going to do with the data? The BBMP has not made it clear to the public," he pointed out. Media reports quoted BBMP Special Commissioner (Revenue) Sri. Munish Moudgil, clarifying that the new feature would not be mandatory considering the difficulties and that erroneous details could be corrected in future.



WATER WOES LEAD TO POLL BOYCOTT

The water crisis spurred 200 Royal Lakefront Residency (RLF) dwellers to threaten to boycott the Lok Sabha polls. This BDA-approved housing society in J P Nagar has been trying for a long time to get the Cauvery water connection from the BWSSB. Since the borewells have gone dry, they have no water source except tankers. Sri. Ramprasath Manohar V, Chairman of the BWSSB clarified to the media that it is mandatory for all layout categories to pay the infrastructure charges to get the connection. A demand letter had been sent to the housing society and the connection would be given once the charges are paid. In a recent order, the Karnataka High Court had declared the demand for beneficiary capital contribution charges by the BWSSB as illegal. However, the Court upheld the demand for pro rata charges and treated water charges for construction.

BAF TO SELL TREATED WATER

Treated water from apartments and gated communities in Bengaluru will now be available for commercial purposes. The Bangalore Apartment Federation (BAF) has signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the BWSSB to sell treated water which meets the National Green Tribunal standards. The Confederation of Real Estate Development Association of India (CREDAI) will buy the excess water, while BWSSB will be the facilitator. BAF will sell the water at ₹ 8 per kilolitre, with ₹2 being paid to BWSSB as facilitation fee. A BAF spokesperson stated that money is not the primary consideration but it is to avoid wastage and promote sustainability.

ILLEGAL BOREWELLS IN INDIRANAGAR

In the context of the severe water crisis in Bengaluru, BWSSB had imposed a moratorium on drilling any new borewells in areas being supplied Cauvery water, until the end of May 2024. Despite the ban, there are complaints from residents that illegal drilling continues quite rampantly. Recently, when a borewell was being drilled on a private property on 6th Main, opposite Axon Speciality Hospital in Indiranagar, the residents took up the matter with the local authorities and the drilling was halted immediately. However, the residents are upset that the civic authority revealed their identities to the owners of the private property. Lack of confidentiality over the filing of complaints might deter other residents from reporting borewell drilling violations.



BENGALURIGA BYTES — APRIL

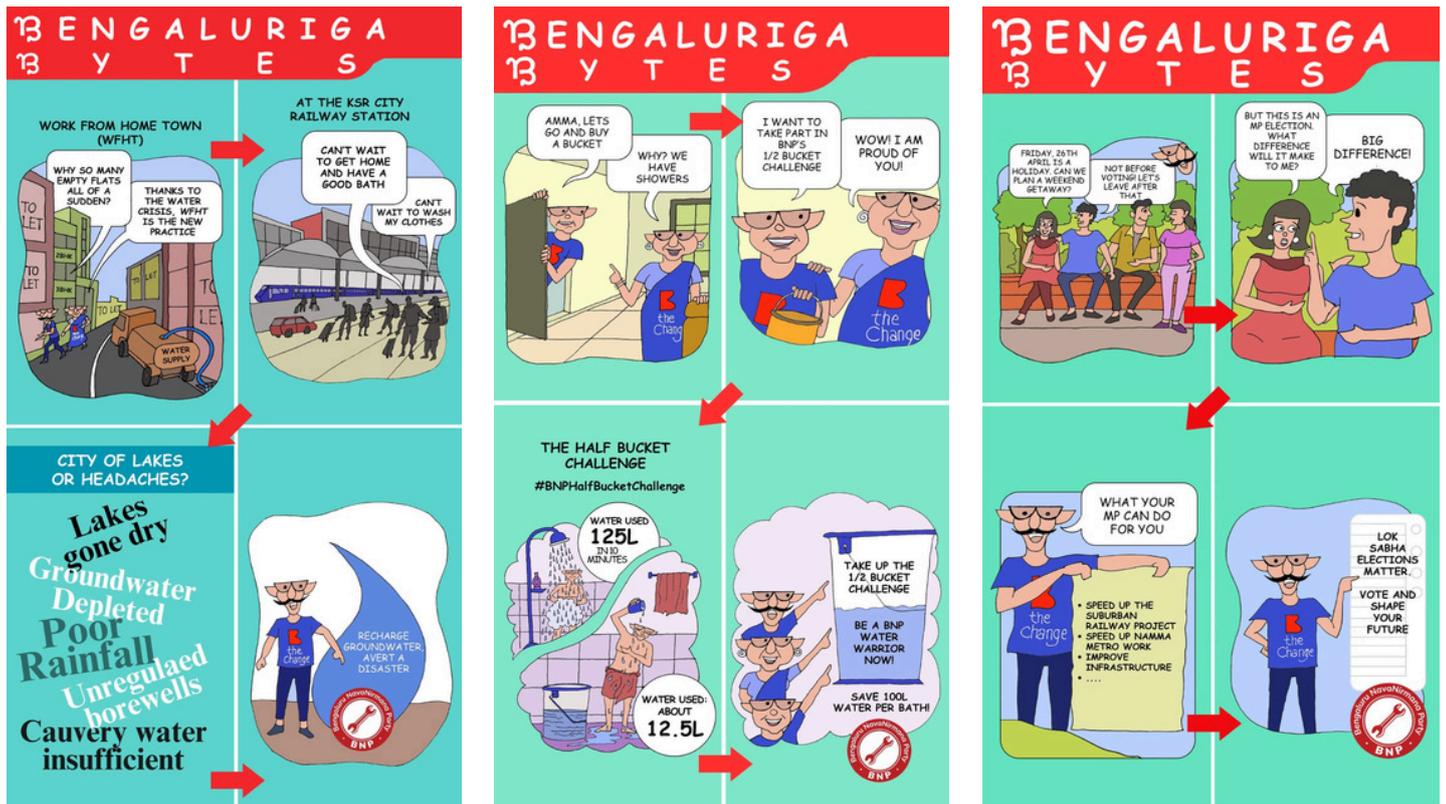
(BNP's own Cartoon Series)

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 April's cartoons 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 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



To know more, visit our BNP Website nammabnp.org