Bengaluru NavaNirmana Party (BNP)

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

24th Edition || May 2024 Roundup

ABOUT BNP   **BNP MANIFESTO**   **CITIZENS' PORTAL**   **BBMP WEBSITE**

Message from the Founder

Dear Bengalurigas,

Every time we visit a BBMP office or meet officials regarding any project, the standard response is — "We do not have the budget for it." This raises some important questions: Does BBMP really lack funds? Is it truly bankrupt? How does BBMP manage its accounts and finances each year?

How much money does BBMP really spend annually? I call this the "₹10,000 Crores Question." No prizes for guessing how much BBMP spends annually as I have already answered it!

To understand BBMP spend, the best way is to review their financial accounts. The last published accounts were for the financial year 2021, which was three years ago. Let's examine the accounts for the financial year 2020-2021. BBMP's total expenditure for that year was ₹7,408 crores.
Where did the ₹7,408 crores go?

Salaries — ~₹700 Cr; Electricity (Including for Street Lights) — ~₹270 Cr; Administrative Expenses — ~₹230 Cr; Interest Paid on Loans — ~₹200 Cr; and, Cesses & Miscellaneous Expenses — ~₹150 Cr.
These expenses collectively add up to ~₹1,550 Cr. After spending for the above, BBMP was left with roughly ₹5,850 crores which is what is spent on all projects including roads, drains, footpaths, parks, playgrounds, lakes, SWM etc.

After spending close to ₹1,000 Cr on SWM, including payment of salaries to Pourakarmikas & payments to contractors, there was about ₹5,000 Cr available for other civic projects. When distributed among the 198 wards, BBMP had about ₹25 Cr per ward annually, or a total of ₹125 Cr per ward over a 5-year term..

As of today, BBMP has about ₹10,000 Cr to spend, due to better property Ttax collections. After essential expenses like salaries and administrative costs, BBMP has about ₹8,500 Cr for projects. Deducting ₹1,000 Cr for SWM, there is about ₹7,500 Cr available for other civic projects. With 225 wards, this means approximately ₹33 Cr per ward annually, or ₹165 Cr per ward over five years..

Do our City or Wards reflect this level of investment? Where does all this money go? Transparency is the starting point for good governance, which itself has been lacking in BBMP.

For detailed insights, visit BNP's website (nammabnp.org) and check the Citizen Portal - BRIGHT. This portal provides comprehensive information on BBMP's expenditures and projects from 2015 to 2020, which amounts to over ₹21,638 crores across 63,629 projects.

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

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

CONTENTS

GAME PLAN FOR LAKE REVIVAL

Seeking an effective game plan for lake revival, **BNP Founder and General Secretary Srikanth Narasimhan** met the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Chief Engineer of Lakes, Sri. Vijay Kumar Haridas and BBMP Executive Engineer of Lakes (Mahadevapura Zone) on 3rd May 2024 along with Arvind Keerthi, Vishakha Pathak and Shobana Ramani, citizens of Brookfield Layout. The discussion centred around the vital rejuvenation of the wetland in Kundalahalli Lake. Despite differing opinions, all agreed on a common strategy for the lake's revival, involving dredging, desilting, de-weeding and re-planting. BNP is keen to promote active collaboration between citizens and officials to restore our lakes! Kudos to Arvind Keerthi, Brookefield Layout's tireless lake revival campaigner. The city needs more people like him!

BNP also urged that lake budgets be released without any further delay. A lively discussion ensued on how to use Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds for the revival of multiple lakes, including Benniganahalli Lake.

In a follow up meeting on 24th May, **Srikanth Narasimhan** and **Governing Council Member & BNP Zonal Leader (Bommanahalli) Lalithamba B V** met Smt. Preeti Gehlot (Special Commissioner for Lakes) and Sri. Vijaykumar Haridas (Chief Engineer for Lakes) to discuss the use of CSR funds for maintenance of lakes and to put out the current budget for all the lakes transparently in the public domain. They also discussed the need for additional allocation for lakes but the officials were yet to get visibility of the same. The Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) issue at Kundalahalli lake was also discussed.

EMPOWERING WOMEN & CHILDREN

It is well-known that empowering women from underprivileged families is a sure way to boost the fortunes of the entire family. And of course, nurturing and providing opportunities to children is crucial to securing their future prospects. The BNP is happy to announce its upcoming Women & Children Empowerment Campaign, the Party's outreach efforts in the slum areas of Bengaluru. An entrepreneur with a Masters in Social Work, Pooja Manjunath, a dedicated volunteer passionate about societal change, will head this campaign with support from all BNP members.

A questionnaire was drafted to gather reliable input about the needs and challenges faced by community members, especially women and children. Insights and suggestions gathered from BNP members and supporters ensured that this survey was comprehensive, culturally sensitive, and effectively captured the outlook of the women and children who are the intended beneficiaries of this campaign. With this collective insight, BNP will work to infuse hope and introduce practical measures to improve the bleak lives of women and children in slum areas.

TOWARDS STREAMLINING THE ELECTORAL ROLLS

Flaws in the Bengaluru electoral rolls proved to be a major reason for the recorded low voter turnout in the city. **Lalithamba B V** and **BNP Governing Council Member and Zonal Leader (Bangalore South) Poongothai Paramasivam**, along with **BNP leader Vineeth Muthanna** met Sri. Manoj Kumar Meena, Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) of Karnataka on 2nd May 2024, regarding the updating and streamlining of the Bengaluru electoral rolls. Many voters had faced polling difficulties due to their names being deleted from the electoral rolls and the presence of multiple voter IDs for the same person. The CEO promised to examine these vexing issues in June 2024, after the Lok Sabha polls. The BNP team also submitted the BNP's Polling Station Survey summary, which collated the feedback received from volunteers regarding the facilities in different booths across Bengaluru. The CEO acknowledged that there were many unsatisfactory booths that did not have the Minimum Assured Facilities (MAFs) as laid down by the Election Commission of India (ECI) and accepted the need for improvement in this matter.

BNP thanks all the volunteers who came forward to visit the Polling Stations the day before the elections in Bengaluru to check the availability of MAFs.

OFFICIAL INTERACTIONS WITH BBMP

Lalithamba B V and **Poongothai Paramasivam** interacted with a number of officials at the BBMP head office on 17th May 2024. At the Admin Dept they met Sri. Manjunath, Deputy Commissioner Admin, who explained that the BBMP organisational structure is designed only for 225 wards. BBMP is currently facing a shortage of officials below AEE rank. The Admin section proposes to recruit at least 100 additional staff members to meet the increased demand. BNP repeated its request to get the contacts of all the ward level officials updated on the BBMP Portal.

Next the team met with Sri. Munish Moudgil, Special Commissioner Revenue. It was heartening to note that the BNP's earlier request to amend the Property Tax to the correct Zone has been accepted. Many citizens have been erroneously paying higher Property Tax intended for other Zones. BNP expects these Zonal corrections to be implemented soon.

As Sri. Munish Moudgil is also the Special Commissioner Advertisements, the BNP team also discussed the need to review the policy and penalties for illegal advertisements. BBMP is yet to come up with any specific plans/regulations on the placement and removal of illegal advertisements.

The BNP team submitted a letter to the Forest Department pushing for particular focus on water percolation around trees, the need for tree guards and their removal after a few years. They also urged the adoption of a comprehensive tree plantation, tree trimming and maintenance plan.

At the Mental Health & Tobacco department, BNP submitted a letter urging strict enforcement of rules and regulations on tobacco usage and adequate measures against the uncontrolled sale of cigarettes near school premises and hotels, as well as effective action against smoking in public places. The BNP team highlighted the fact that too many tobacco shops were being licensed to open in sensitive areas.

Sri. Chandra Shekar, Deputy Director of Horticulture, discussed the Hasiru Mitra program with the BNP team and how citizens can interact with the horticulture team. The BNP renewed its earlier request to plant more trees and shrubs around the lake fringes, along road medians and in undeveloped parks and also to arrange for their periodic maintenance. The Deputy Director clarified that the Engineering team has been given responsibility for the regular maintenance of parks.

Horticulture Dept

17May24: Visit to BBMP Head Office

On 24th May 2024, **Srikanth Narasimhan** and **Lalithamba B V** met BBMP IT Head Sri. Prabhakar regarding updation of official contacts in BBMP website. He mentioned that their team was working on it and that the website would be updated in the following week.

Garbage Clearance

Civic Warrior and BNP Member Venkatachalam Subramaniam raised the issue of a black spot outside Salarpuria Sanctity, in Bellanduru Ward. People used to urinate in the area, throw garbage and park haphazardly there. **BNP Zonal President (Mahadevapura) Vishnu Reddy** followed up with the BBMP officials and the spot has been cleaned. The issue has been resolved and the area is now a clean space!

Civic Warrior V. Madhu Jayan reported that garbage and piled up dry leaves were not cleared at 11th Cross near the BDA Park in HSR Layout 1st Sector. He had reported that this had attracted snakes to the area, potentially putting the lives of children and senior citizens at risk. The BNP team spoke to the BBMP SWM team who cleared the waste in the area.
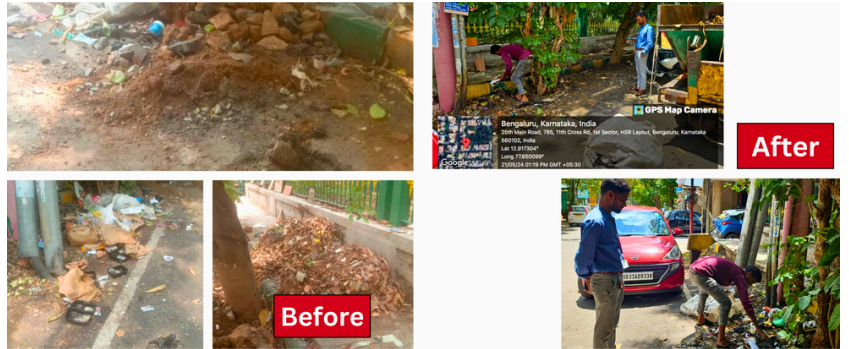
In Jakkuru Ward, Civic Warrior Jayanth raised the issue of garbage accumulation in Sri Balaji Krupa Layout, RK Hegde Nagar. BNP Team Member Shruthi spoke to the BBMP SWM authorities who promptly got it cleared..

Civic Warrior Manu Agarwal reported that in and around Sraddha Fairmount and Sobha Daffodils in HSR Layout 1st Sector, Ibluru Ward, cleaning was not being done by the BBMP. The BNP team followed up and the area was cleaned.

Non-functional Street Light
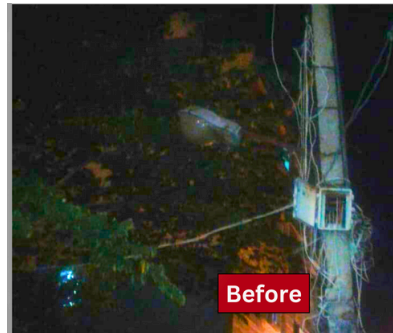
In Ibluru Ward, **Lalithamba B V** noticed and raised the issue of a non-functional street light at the end of the 1st Cross Road, Hosapalya. The issue was followed up and resolved.

She also spotted, reported and got resolved 4 other non-functional street lights in HSR Layout and Ibluru.
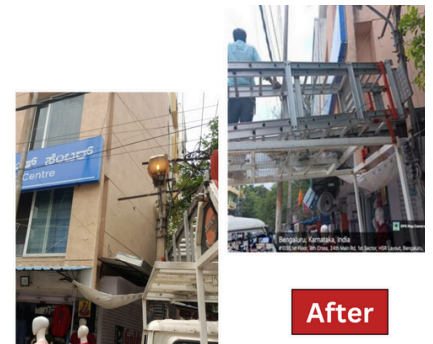

Before | After

Civic Warrior V. Madhu Jayan also reported the issue of a non-functional street light and garbage at 24th Main, HSR Layout 1st Sector. These issues were followed up by the BNP team and addressed by the relevant authorities.

Before | After

Unusable Footpath

Poongothai Paramasivam raised the issue of a broken footpath at K.R. Circle on Devaraj Urs Road, in Sampangiram Nagar Ward. BNP Member Shruthi collaborated with the BBMP Major Roads Division to address the issue, ensuring improved safety and convenience for pedestrians.
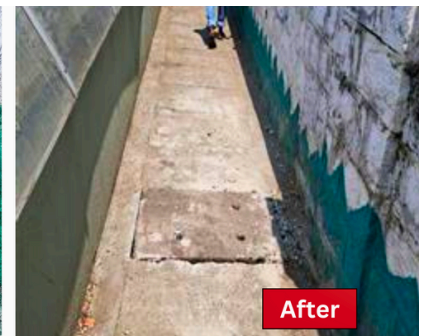
Before | After

Near ITI Layout, Sector 7, Somasundarapalya in Ibluru Ward, Lalithamba B V reported that a slab covering the roadside drain was damaged. She followed up with the Major Roads Department and the issue was resolved.

Before | After

AREA SABHA ACTIVITIES
(Local civic issues addressed by BNP)

Road digging

In Jakkasandra Ward, BNP Team Member Charan noticed that down the Agara Lake road towards HSR Layout BDA Complex, the barricades were missing around a place dug up by BMRCL. There was an 8 foot drop, no hazard tape, and half the street lights on that stretch were not working. He raised the issue, highlighting its dangerousness. The BNP Team contacted the Traffic Police and they immediately placed the barricades, ensuring safety for everyone.

Before

After

Lake related issue

In Anjanapura Ward, **Poongothai Paramasivam** noticed and reported plastic waste and cut wood lying visible on the dry Kembathalli Lakebed. She raised the issue on 15th. Thanks to Lake Department's quick action, it was resolved by 18th May.

Before

After

Drainage/Sewage

Civic Warrior Vinod Kumar Jeengar raised the issue of garbage clogging a drain in Hosapalya, Somasundarapalya, in Ibluru Ward. The BNP team approached the Lake Maintenance Team who cleaned the drain.

Before

After

Other than these, many other civic issues including un-cleared debris (Solid Waste Management), flex banners and Storm Water Drain overflow were also resolved in May 2024.
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 regularly to take up, discuss and address civic issues in the local area.

To join, Whatsapp +91 8095130000 today!

YOUTUBE DEBUT FOR SRIKANTH

Srikanth Narasimhan, the Founder, General Secretary and the driving force behind Bengaluru NavaNirmana Party (BNP) has made his debut on YouTube! Through this **Srikanth Narasimhan YouTube Channel**, BNP will release videos in which **Srikanth** will discuss various matters of importance pertaining to Bengaluru, BBMP, civic issues and municipal governance. He will naturally be talking also about the BNP, its remarkable track record in raising and resolving civic issues and how it is transforming Bengaluru's political landscape.

In the **1st YouTube episode of Sunday Sanje Srikanth Jothe (SSSJ)**, **Srikanth** narrates his remarkable evolution from being an apathetic non-voter to founding BNP, India's first and only political party focused solely on Bengaluru and its municipal governance. Which four turning points in **Srikanth**'s life ultimately led to the founding of BNP? How did the death of a 17-year-old girl influence this transition? What were the key events that led to this incredible transformation? Prepare to listen transfixed as he narrates the riveting story behind his bold leap into the world of political entrepreneurship, fuelled by an unwavering passion for rebuilding Bengaluru and making it a model city.

Do Watch, Like, and Share the videos, and Subscribe to the channel. Click on the Bell icon to be notified whenever a fresh video is released. You can stay updated on a range of interesting topics pertaining to Bengaluru and its municipal governance.

If you would like any specific topics to be covered or want to share any feedback on these YouTube videos, email **srikanthnarasimhan.bnp@gmail.com** or **WhatsApp on 8095130000**.

SERVING UP SUPPORT

Mani's Dum Biryani, a popular restaurant chain, with 30 outlets across Bengaluru and Chennai is **Srikanth Narasimhan**'s favourite meeting place, not just for the food quality but also because he is an investor in the enterprise. **Srikanth**'s friend Sri. Jayanth Narayanan conceived the restaurant in 2008 and invited him to be a partner. Masterchef Mani also joined the venture, lending his name to the brand. BNP meetings have been conducted on and off at these outlets. However, the meeting at Mani's Dum Biryani on 17th May 2024 was special. At Jayanth's invitation, **Srikanth** shared the ups and downs of his business journey and explained to the leadership about BNP and its key objectives. The Management Team then sprang a big surprise by handing over a cheque for ₹1 lakh to **Srikanth** in support of BNP's mission to rebuild Bengaluru! Much gratitude to the management of the restaurant for their trust and generous support.

REACH OUT IN HSR CONTINUES

As part of the ongoing efforts to reach out to citizens and make them aware of the BNP and its activities, BNP Mithra Jeevan Jyoti met people near a park in HSR Layout on 5th May 2024. He spoke about BNP being a Political Party solely focused on resolving the civic issues of Bengaluru and distributed BNP pamphlets for those interested to know more.

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

C V RAMAN NAGAR CORE TEAM MEET

On 25th May 2024, **Srikanth Narasimhan** met the C V Raman Nagar core leadership team. Together, BNP Leaders **Vineet Muthanna**, **Rakhi Anil**, **Prittvi Raju**, **Biplab Saha**, **Jayashree Apoorva P** and **Balasubramaniam Durai**, kick-started their plan to build a strong presence for BNP in the C V Raman Nagar, Kaggadasapura and Vignana Nagara Wards as part of **BNP Mission 25**.

Look forward to more information about **BNP Mission 25** and **BNP Mithras** in the next edition.
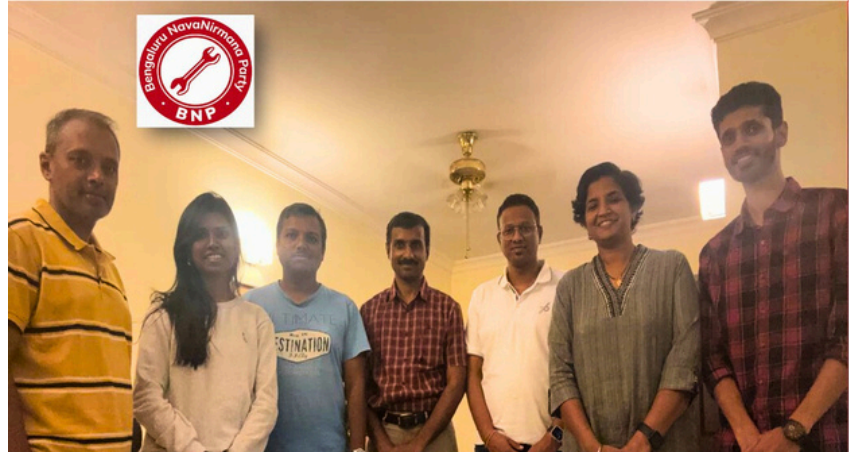
Area Sabha Meetings (Local Level Community Meetings)

KORAMANGALA 6th BLOCK

Srikanth Narasimhan met some residents of Koramangala 6th Block on 3rd May 2024. While they have been doing stellar work on the ground, they had hit multiple roadblocks in BBMP with regard to a few issues, including those relating to illegal constructions. **Srikanth** provided them an action plan and gave them the commitment that the BNP team would work along with them to prevent more illegal structures from coming up.

He also urged many of them to step forward and be a part of the BNP Leadership Team for the Ward so that they could start driving many civic initiatives.

VIBGYOR SCHOOL AREA, IBLUR (ONLINE MEET)

Members of Vibgyor School Area Sabha met online on 19th May 2024. **Lalithamba B V** and others attended this session to discuss what local issues to take up next and ideate on how to reach out to more communities to spread the BNP message.
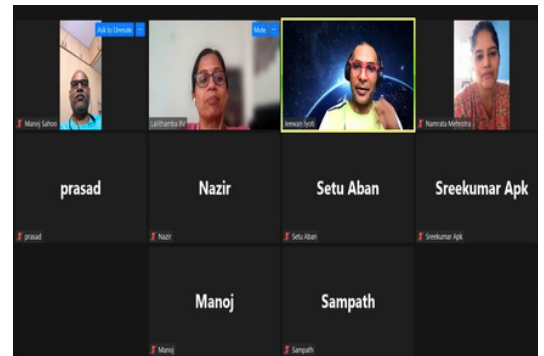
Vote4Bengaluru (Voter ID Camps)

BNP Members Jeevan Jyoti and Madhusudhan conducted a Voter ID Drive in HSR Layout on 11th May 2024. They had over 10+ registrations. They also shared information about BNP, Area Sabhas, Ward Committee Meetings and how each Bengaluriga could get involved in resolving civic issues working along with the BNP.

Two weeks later, on 25th May, Jeevan Jyoti, by himself, conducted another Voter ID camp in HSR Layout. He had over 8 registrations. He again used the opportunity to share information about the BNP and to motivate the citizens to participate in resolving Bengaluru's civic issues.

1. What are Area Sabhas? How would you define them?

Section 33B of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Act, 2020, pertains to the establishment of Area Sabhas:

- These Sabhas serve as local-level bodies to facilitate citizen participation in local governance.
- They are designed to enhance democracy by involving residents in decision-making processes related to civic issues in their specific areas.

The Karnataka Act 53 of 2020 details the provisions related to the establishment and functioning of Area Sabhas:
- **The idea is to decentralise governance and empower citizens to actively contribute to the development and management of their localities.**
- **Area Sabhas play a crucial role in the participatory planning and execution of local projects, ensuring that the community's needs and preferences are taken into account.**
- **Members of these Sabhas often include residents and other stakeholders in the respective areas.**

2. Is an Area Sabha a mandatory official body or an informal committee?

So far, the BBMP has not constituted any Area Sabha, even though it is provided in the BBMP Act. Since there is no elected BBMP Council at present, the Area Sabha formed by BNP remains an informal committee.

3. How exactly are BNP Area Sabhas constituted? Who takes the lead in forming them?

BNP initiated the formation of unofficial Area Sabhas to connect residents of a particular area to address civic issues. As per government guidance, the Area Sabha should be formed by combining 2-3 polling booths. However, registered voters in any polling booth do not necessarily come from a particular area, but are randomly allocated to these booths. So, the Area Sabha team cannot be formed on the basis of polling booths. To overcome this challenge, BNP created the Ward-Mapping concept by demarcating 10 to 15 sections within the Ward boundary in a scientific way. Each Ward is broken down into 10 Areas with each Area having about 1,500 households each and approximately 10 residential communities (a Layout/Apartment complex/Villas/Slum, etc.). Each Area will have designated Area Sabha leaders, who organise monthly/bi-weekly meetings to discuss civic issues.

4. Can any interested person join their local Area Sabha? How does such a person get enrolled?

Each Area is to be managed by a 25-50 member Area Sabha with at least 2-3 representatives from each Residential Community in the Area. Interested residents can reach out to them and get involved.

Most Area Sabhas comprise like-minded citizens from the Ward who are or have been:

- Managing Committee Members of an Apartment/RWA
- Worked on civic issues relating to the Ward/City
- Attended Ward Committee Meetings
- Members of an NGO/citizen group/civic group in the Ward/City
- Any resident who is keen to bring about positive change to the Ward

5. What are the main goals and objectives of Area Sabhas?

It is a decentralised way to manage a certain Area. Through the Area Sabhas, members will discuss and find ways to resolve their civic problems and assess what projects are required for the development of their Area.

6. Have Area Sabhas been constituted in all wards in Bengaluru?

BNP has formed Area Sabhas in about 20 Wards at present.

7. How does it differ from the Ward Committees and other local level committees?

Area Sabha members will give area-specific project requirements to the 11-member Ward Committee (comprising the Corporator & 10 Citizens), which is the Managing Committee that decides which projects should be taken up in the Ward.

8. Do the Area Sabhas work independently or in cooperation with BBMP and other local authorities?

As per BBMP act, Area Sabhas should work in cooperation with the Ward Committee, BBMP and other local authorities.

9. What are the specific functions carried out by Area Sabhas?

Identifying projects that will serve the civic needs of the Area, monitoring public health and sanitation issues, helping to improve amenities and community services, and strengthening safety standards of the Area as well. The Area Sabhas raise and resolve all these local issues with the help of the Corporator, Ward Committee and local authorities.

10. What are the difficulties faced by Area Sabhas in carrying out their functions? How do they overcome these difficulties?

Currently, the BNP-constituted Area Sabhas are only informal committees, so they have no official standing to push for resolution of matters. Maintenance-related issues generally get resolved quickly by BBMP. However, BBMP takes time to make budget allocations needed to resolve major area-specific issues. Once the Corporators are elected, the Ward Committee becomes functional, and the Area Sabha teams are constituted formally, Area Sabhas can bring about tremendous change on the ground.

11. In the BNP's experience, how well have the Area Sabhas achieved their stated objectives?

Citizen participation is crucial to bring about change and Area Sabhas provide a great opportunity for residents to become part of the local system, to suggest development projects in their Area and help resolve their own civic problems. The Area Sabhas constituted by BNP have proved to be an effective platform for residents to assess their development needs, suggest projects and collectively raise various local issues.

12. Please share some success stories where the Area Sabhas have been able to make a difference

BNP has achieved the formation of Area Sabha teams in about 20 Wards so far. All these teams have taken up several pressing matters in their Areas, from minor issues to major civic issues, and got them resolved. They have been very proactive and successful in ensuring regular garbage disposal, cleaning of black spots, fixing of non-functional streetlights, unclogging of storm water drains, removal of encroachments and clearing of footpaths, as well as repairing of dangerous potholes.

PRESS RELEASES

The only **Press Release (PR) released by the BNP in May 2024** was one that arose from the loss of a young life and raised a call for accountability on deaths due to infrastructure negligence. The PR called attention to the death of a 20-year-old student, KVS Balaji, who, while riding his scooter back home, encountered a patch of mud and silt on the right side of the road, causing him to slip and fall. A crane following behind could not stop in time and this resulted in a fatal collision.

As **Vineet Muthanna** pointed out "Whenever a road accident occurs, the response often is to blame it on driver behaviour like negligence, not wearing a helmet, loss of control, and to close the case. However, when deaths are directly linked to poor road conditions caused by negligence in maintenance and monitoring, those responsible are rarely held accountable. And that is probably why, the engineers and contractors can relax even when they know that a road they are in charge of, can kill someone."

Addressing this situation, **BNP Governing Council Member and Zonal Leader Indira Belde** said "The accountability for such preventable incidents lies not only with drivers but significantly with BBMP and relevant officials who fail to maintain road safety standards. In this recent case, as well as others, where avoidable hazards like potholes and waterlogging lead to loss of life, it is clear that regular checks, maintenance and importantly, accountability of officials is needed."

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.

FIVE POINT PLAN FOR BENGALURU

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister Sri. DK Shivakumar announced on 23rd May 2024, a five-point programme to address infrastructural issues in Bengaluru: drinking water, pothole filling, widening Property Tax net, Property Tax collection, and removing Rajakaluve encroachments.

BBMP will repair all the dysfunctional drinking water units, conduct quality tests, and submit test reports to the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB). Regarding potholes, the Dy CM indicated that BBMP would fix over 5,000 potholes in Bengaluru within a fortnight. A new App is to be launched to enable citizens to report potholes by uploading a photo and location. The High Court had earlier directed the Government to clear Rajakaluve encroachments. Initially, 2,626 encroachments were identified of which 556 had been cleared by 2022-23.

RESISTANCE TO HESARAGHATTA PUMPING PLAN

State Government efforts to mitigate the water crisis in Bengaluru encountered strong resistance with farmers and activists opposing the BWSSB plan to pump water from Hesaraghatta Lake to Dasarahalli in West Bengaluru. The farmers objected to the move, fearing ecological imbalance and adverse impact on agriculture in this region, which is entirely dependent on water from this lake. The farmers demanded that instead, the State Government should safeguard the lake from uncontrolled pollution and also de-silt the lakebed. The BWSSB had anticipated that such a supply arrangement would be advantageous when the lake is supplied with water under the ongoing Yettinahole Lift Irrigation Project. Negotiations are on between BWSSB officials and the Karnataka State Raitha Sangha (KSRS) officials in this regard.

NEW INTERCHANGE METRO STATIONS PLANNED

The Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) intends to introduce 16 new interchange metro stations in the upcoming Phase 2 and Phase 3 projects, connecting various Namma Metro lines. Currently, the Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Station in Majestic is the sole interchange metro station connecting the Purple and Green Lines. The multi-level interchange Metro station at Jayadeva Junction on Bannerghatta Road is due to open by the year end. Set to be the largest metro station in the city, it will become a pivotal point for both the Yellow and Pink Lines. After the Majestic interchange station, Jayadeva will become the busiest interchange station with around 80,000 to 90,000 people likely to use it once both lines are open. Other interchange metro stations are set to come up at M.G. Road, K. R. Puram, Hosahalli, Mysuru Road, Peenya, R. V. Road, J. P. Nagar, J. P. Nagar 4th Stage, Dairy Circle, Nagavara, Kempapura, Hebbal, Agara, Central Silk Board, and Sumanahalli Cross.

INVITING PUBLIC INPUT ON LAKE REVIVAL

BBMP plans to revive 185 lakes in the city limits within four years, by inviting proposals from corporates, resident associations and other bodies. Smt. Preeti Gehlot, Special Commissioner for Forest, Environment and Climate Change, BBMP, revealed that while there are 202 lakes within BBMP limits, 17 are beyond rejuvenation. She identified several challenges, including encroachment, sewage inflow, solid waste dumping and chemical inflow. Other problematic factors include inadequate funding, lack of staff and interdepartmental synergy, lack of technical knowledge, improper understanding of geography and geotechnical aspects. The BBMP is currently awaiting approval from the Karnataka High Court for its Community Involvement Lake Conservation Policy 2024.

CRACKDOWN ON ILLEGAL SEWAGE CONNECTIONS

The BWSSB is cracking down on illegal sewage connections. By mid-May 2024, BWSSB had inspected 17,793 spots and penalised 2,137 consumers for illegally allowing sewage to flow into BWSSB pipelines. Of the 2,137, 587 are from apartment complexes. The BWSSB has now served a demand notice with regard to 149 connections and a notice for 1,390 other connections. Earlier in April, BWSSB Chairman Dr. Ramprasath Manohar V had directed officials to do an immediate survey of such illegal connections in order to prevent diseases and ensure good sanitation standards. Cautioning citizens about possible health hazards, Dr. Manohar urged them to regularise their illegal sewage connections that add pressure to the pipelines, resulting in sewage overflow and leading to public health issues.

NEW ENTITY FOR GARBAGE COLLECTION

The BBMP announced the modification of some Departments and functions on 23rd May 2024. Solid Waste Management (SWM) is now the responsibility of the newly created Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML). The BSWML, became a separate entity from the BBMP in 2021, along the lines of BESCOM and BWSSB. It is now fully responsible for door-to-door garbage collection, transportation and processing of solid waste. Through an internal memo, BBMP Chief Commissioner Sri. Tushar Girinath announced the integration of the existing SWM cell into the newly formed Health and Sanitation (H&S) Department. The H&S division will be led by a special commissioner, an IAS officer, with support from a joint commissioner of KAS rank.

NEW TENDER LIKELY FOR EJIPURA FLYOVER

The never-ending Ejipura flyover project seems jinxed. More troubles loom as Karnataka Chief Minister Sri. Siddaramaiah has instructed BBMP to issue notice to the contractor, BSCPL Infrastructure Ltd., and even terminate the tender if necessary, since only 4 per cent work was completed in the last six months. The 2.95 km long flyover project started in 2017 at an estimated cost of ₹204 crore. Due to internal problems, the company halted the project work after completing only one-third. The BBMP then floated fresh tenders to complete the project but failed to attract other contractors. In September 2023, a single bidder sought a 19 per cent enhancement for completion. Due to inordinate delays, the flyover cost rose by as much as 33 per cent. The State Government revised the project cost to ₹307.96 crore in September 2023 and selected BSCPL for the project with a firm deadline to finish the flyover in 15 months. Will citizens ever see this endless project reach completion?

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 May's cartoon by clicking on the image.
If you would like to see it as an image, zoom in, or, go **HERE** to see all the BB cartoons published so far.

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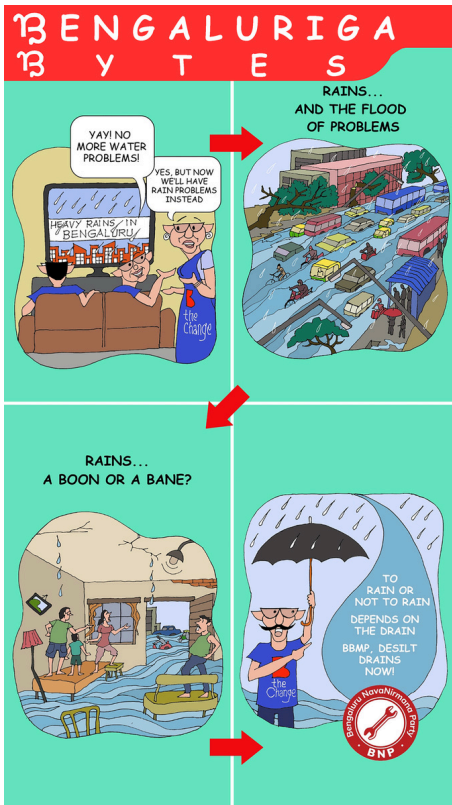
That's it for now. Thank you for reading. Next one, next month.

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