



26th Edition || July 2024 Roundup

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Message from the Founder

Dear Bengalurigas,

Is the Government's obsession with elevated roads & tunnel projects a boon or a bane?

"Work expands to fill the time available" - thus states Parkinson's Law! I can hear you asking: What has this got to do with elevated roads & tunnel projects? Well, my version of Parkinson's Law reads: "Traffic expands to fill the road available."

BBMP recently announced a plan to construct an 18-km tunnel from Hebbal to Silk Board Junction, with 5 entry/exit points in between. This project, which BBMP and the State Government are pursuing vigorously, has been opposed by some citizen groups and mobility experts.

At first glance, you might wonder 'why should there be opposition to a project that can potentially ease the traffic situation in Bengaluru?' However, that is a very simplistic view. There are 2 key reasons why such projects do not make sense.

Firstly, flyovers & tunnels do not reduce traffic congestion, but merely shift the choke point from one place to another. Moreover, a series of small choke points in a regular scenario, becomes a set of few very large choke points due to flyovers & tunnels.

Secondly, flyovers and tunnels will only encourage more people to purchase private vehicles, which in turn, will ensure, as I mentioned earlier, that the traffic keeps expanding to fill the roads available. This is the main reason why the traffic situation in Bengaluru never eases off, despite the continuous addition of Inner Ring Roads, Outer Ring Roads, Flyovers, Underpasses etc.

What is the solution? The simple answer is Public Transport. Some of the best cities in the world run on public transport with citizens using their cars/private vehicles more for non-regular use. Bengaluru has been notorious for public transport projects moving at snail's pace, including the metro project, where other Indian cities like Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai and Hyderabad are overtaking us significantly.

The pressing need is not to build new elevated roads or underground tunnels which cost thousands of crores to tens of thousands of crores, but to accelerate the process of completing our metro & suburban rail, adding more BMTc buses in arterial roads, creating dedicated bus lanes and creating a strong last-mile mini-bus/van fleet. Once the public transport infrastructure is installed, then the Government can identify specific locations where flyovers or tunnels can help decongest bottlenecks.



SRIKANTH NARASIMHAN
BNP Founder & General Secretary

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MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDER

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Continued...

Instead, successive Governments keep working on these big/block-buster projects only because they are money-spinners, while doing precious little on public transport infrastructure, which does not feed their pockets. This materialistic attitude is detrimental to our city and hence, these kinds of tunnel & elevated road projects must be opposed vehemently by all Bengalurigas.

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



CAMPAIGN UPDATES

(Developments on BNP's Ongoing Central Campaigns)

BNP MISSION 25 IN PROGRESS

Mission 25 is the BNP's campaign to win at least 25 wards in the forthcoming, long overdue Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Election, the dates for which are yet to be announced. Contributions received upto the month of July have totalled almost ₹5 Lakhs. While appreciating the generosity of existing supporters, BNP still has a very long way to reach its fund-raising goal, since ₹5 Lakhs is only 2% of the targeted amount of ₹2.5 crores. We appeal to all BNP Mithras working to spread the BNP message and convince donors, to first make their own personal contributions and then reach out to friends and family. Every rupee counts!

By contributing generously to the BNP's fundraising efforts, every resident is helping to achieve BNP's objectives and trigger much-needed transformation in namma Bengaluru. Your donations will directly support BNP's election campaign efforts, grassroots initiatives, and community outreach programs.

Many thanks to all BNP Mithras and Members for your dedication and constant support.

If you want to learn about the BNP Mithra Initiative and get involved, please message us at 8095130000

ONGOING CAMPAIGNS AT BNP PARTY OFFICE

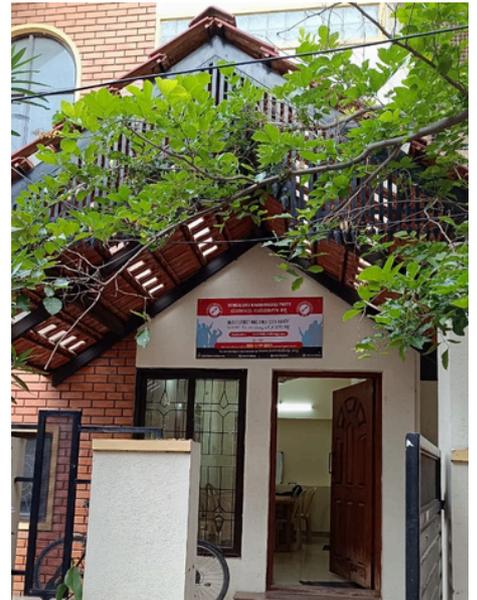
On 6th July 2024, the BNP launched a Civic Issues Collection Drive at its [Party Office in HSR Layout](#) from 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. During this time, any Area Sabha member or any citizen could come in and discuss any civic issue from their area. Civic issues thus brought to BNP's notice would be collectively discussed and tackled.

At the same time, BNP also launched a Voter Registration Drive there. BNP volunteers are offering to register new voters, process the migration of Voter IDs and also get existing Voter IDs corrected if needed. The required supporting documents in such cases include Aadhaar / Passport / Driving Licence / Rental Agreement / Bank Passbook / Electricity Bill / Gas Bill / Water Bill. A passport photo would also be needed for fresh voter registration. The old Voter ID Card, if available, should also be furnished. Applicants bringing in their own Having your own laptop will help to speed up the process.

Residents requiring help with their Voter IDs or with Civic Issues may visit the BNP party office at: Nanasu Apartments, #1165, 23rd Main Road, Sector 2, HSR Layout, Parangipalya, on weekends or in the evening on weekdays. Contact: 94480 63776

OFFICIAL INTERACTIONS WITH BBMP (JULY)

During the month of July, **BNP Governing Council Member (GC Member) and & Zonal Leader (Bommanahalli) Lalithamba B V and GC Member & Zonal Leader (Bangalore South) Poongothai Paramasivam** held a series of meetings with BBMP officials at the BBMP Head Office. On 24 July 2024, they met Sri. Munish Moudgil, Special Commissioner BBMP Revenue. According to the BBMP Team, BNP's repeated requests to amend the property classification to the correct zone (higher to lower) and allow adjustment for overpaid taxes had been accepted and the necessary implementation completed. The BBMP team also put forth that if the correct zone change is still not reflected for any property, it might be due to inaccurate address details in the Property Tax receipt. In such cases, they said that the property owners could meet the concerned Assistant Revenue Officer (ARO) to get their address/location corrected in the BBMP records.





CAMPAIGN UPDATES

(Developments on BNP's Ongoing Central Campaigns)

Continued...

The BNP representatives also met Smt. Gayatri N Nayak, Deputy Commissioner (Advertisement) to discuss the small hoardings put up on electric poles, lake fences, BBMP parks and other public areas. Complaints regarding advertisements can be shared via Whatsapp to 9480683939 with pictures and the location link.

Thereafter, the BNP team met Sri. Vijay from the BBMP IT team regarding updating of official contacts in the BBMP Website. They were informed that the 'BBMP Organisation Chart' with contact details had already been updated on the BBMP website. A discussion followed about the challenges in the BBMP Sahaaya App, which are expected to be fixed shortly.

The next meeting was with Sri. Manjunath, Deputy Commissioner Admin, who confirmed that the BBMP organisation structure is designed for 225 Wards. He too reaffirmed that the details of the official contact list for these 225 Wards has already been shared to the IT Team for updating on the website.

The BNP team later met Sri. Vijay Haridas, Chief Engineer, BBMP Lakes. They discussed the issues affecting some specific lakes and the urgent BBMP support measures required to improve them.

At the Forest Department, the BNP Team reiterated the fact that the BBMP Sahaaya tickets related to Forest Department were getting closed by updating a standard poster rather than the picture of the actual implementation at the concerned site. In this connection, BNP urged that official contacts of the BBMP Forest team need to be updated in the portal. It was assured that these contacts would be shared with the IT team, and posted shortly. Officials have indicated that citizens can always express their concerns to the forest department by email at dcfbbmp12@gmail.com

At the Mental Health & Tobacco Section, the BNP team conducted a follow-up meeting with Dr. Sunitha. The team had earlier submitted a letter to enforce strict rules and regulations on tobacco product usage and to take adequate measures against uncontrolled sale of cigarettes near school premises and hotels, and to clamp down on smoking in public places. The BNP team pointed out that too many shops are getting licences to open in vulnerable areas. Officials stated that the Department had served notices in some areas and promised stringent action in other areas where such lapses were observed.

Finally, the BNP representatives met Smt. Prathiba, Joint Commissioner, Health & Sanitation to draw attention to the problem of garbage-dumping in empty sites and the condition of public toilets. They were assured that these issues would be dealt with. It was also revealed that citizens can identify any public place (owned by BBMP) where a public toilet needs to be installed, and the BBMP team would work to make it possible.

The BNP team is committed to engage regularly with BBMP officials to draw attention to pressing urban problems and seek resolution of all kinds of civic issues.

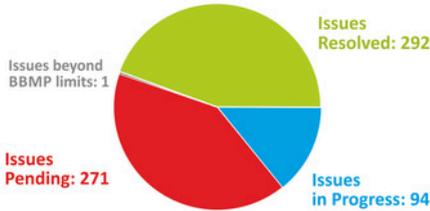




AREA SABHA ACTIVITIES

(Local civic issues addressed by BNP)

Civic Issues Raised October '23 – July '24: 658



Civic Issues Resolved in July '24: 50

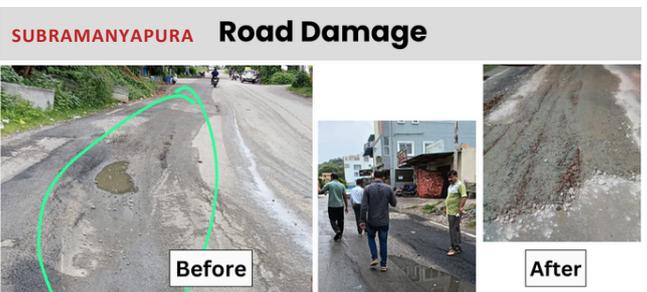
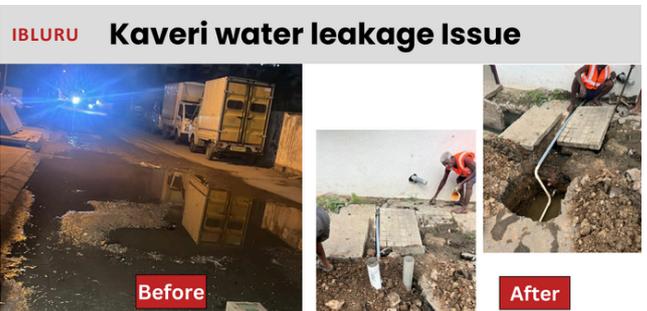
July'S MOST-RAISED ISSUE CATEGORIES:

Garbage clearance	29
Others	27
Sewage Overflow	15
Street Light repair	14
Road damage	12
Footpath damage	10
Pothole filling	7
Tree trimming/cutting	6
Spraying/fumigation	6
Footpath encroachment	5
Animal Husbandry	5
Lake related	3

As always, this month too BNP took on civic issues raised by Civic Warriors from different areas in Bengaluru and worked to resolve them. BNP Team took the issues to the relevant authorities, followed up with them, and in cases where escalation was required for action, created and shared Press Releases, all towards resolving Bengalurigas' civic woes.

In July 2024, 139 civic issues were brought to the attention of the BNP for resolution. Of these, the most raised issues were Garbage Clearance, Sewage Overflow, non-functioning Street Lights and damaged Roads & Footpaths.

BNP resolved 50 civic issues in July 2024. Pictures of few of the resolved issues below



BNP thanks the active citizens who turned Civic Warriors by reporting the issue, and the relevant BBMP officials and staff who worked to close these issues.

YOU too can become a Civic Warrior by reporting the civic issues in your area.

The best way to become part of the solution to our civic woes 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!



MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS

(Pick of Special BNP Activities)

BROKEN MUNICIPAL GOVERNANCE HINDERS GROWTH

On OoruLabs, a premier urban issues podcast from India, the host, Sri. Sathya Sankaran, speaks with **Srikanth Narasimhan, Founder and General Secretary of BNP** about how our cities are made or broken by municipal governments. Yet, as the host points out, as many as 1500 municipal corporations across the country have no elected councils!

Srikanth Narasimhan explains that though local issues directly impact our daily lives, there is little understanding about the importance of good local

governance and what it entails. Most people think of BBMP as a civic agency run by appointed Government officials, not as a third-tier Government focused solely on urban issues. Many forget that Corporators are elected representatives empowered to take key decisions regarding their Wards with extensive budgets to spend on development works. **Srikanth** said that to ensure effective governance, public awareness and citizen involvement should come together to ensure that BBMP elections are held soon, good corporators are elected, and that they are held accountable. He reiterated that CAT (Citizen participation, Accountability, and Transparency) are key for good governance and that a 'startup party' like the Bengaluru Navanirman Party (BNP) can bring about change and improve the quality of civic amenities and infrastructure in our City.

Watch the episode on 'Broken municipal governance pulling back our growth' [HERE](#)



THE TEN THOUSAND CRORE QUESTION

In the latest video on his YouTube Channel, **BNP Founder Srikanth Narsimhan** delves into '[The ₹10,000 Crore Question: Where does BBMP's money go?](#)' Every time a BBMP official is asked about a pothole to be filled, a footpath slab to be fixed or a drain to be cleaned, the standard answer is: "We do not have any money!"

Does BBMP really not have any money? Do you know that BBMP spends about ₹10,000 Crores every year, just for the maintenance of Bengaluru? And imagine, over the last 10-15 years, about ₹1 lakh crores (1 followed by 12 zeros) has been spent for the maintenance of the city!



Does Bengaluru look like a city for which such a massive amount has been spent on maintenance? Where does all this money go? Well, the public has its own perception of what happens to this public money.

Join **Srikanth Narsimhan** as he guides you through the financial maze of the BBMP, explaining the BBMP finance & accounts in a very simple and straightforward manner.



MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS

(Pick of Special BNP Activities)

Continued...

RAISING DENGUE AWARENESS

Lalithamba B V, undertook a forceful anti-dengue drive and campaign against single-use plastics on 30th July 2024 at Medina Nagar in Mangammanapalya. At the invitation of Dr. Shakila Banu, the Principal and Head Mistress, she addressed a group of students from the Malnad Primary School on the need for cleanliness, proper sanitation and effective drainage to avoid breeding of dengue-causing mosquitoes. As the locality around the school was quite poorly maintained, with plenty of litter and stagnant drains, Lalitha explained how plastic litter could block the drains and cause stagnation, thus leading to large-scale breeding of mosquitoes.



She also highlighted the importance of simple, sustainable living, avoiding single use plastics and encouraging the use of recyclable materials to save the earth and protect animals and humans from the immense harm caused by intake of microplastics. The children were very attentive and receptive to these crucial messages. This anti-dengue drive was organised by the Malnad Primary School in association with Abdulla bin Zaid Masjid, with the active assistance of the BBMP Health Department and the BNP.



BNP GROUND REPORT

(Round-up of BNP's Regular Work)

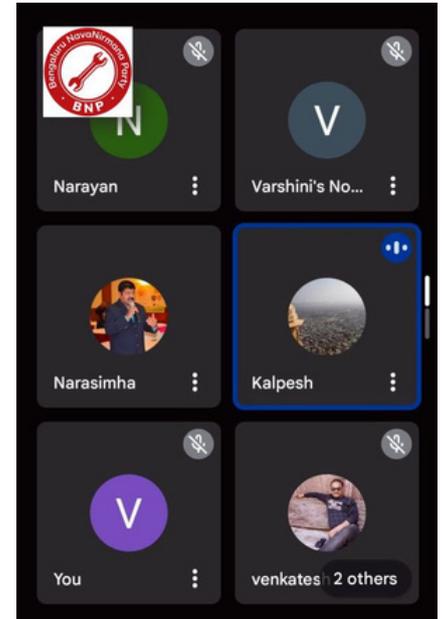
Area Sabha Meetings (Local Level Community Meetings)

Since its inception, BNP has steadily been involved in rebuilding Bengaluru through honest and active participation in grassroots governance. BNP conducts both in-person and online Area Sabha Meetings (ASMs), to discuss civic issues of that particular Area and derive action plans for resolving the same.

SUBRAMANYAPURA WARD (ONLINE MEET)

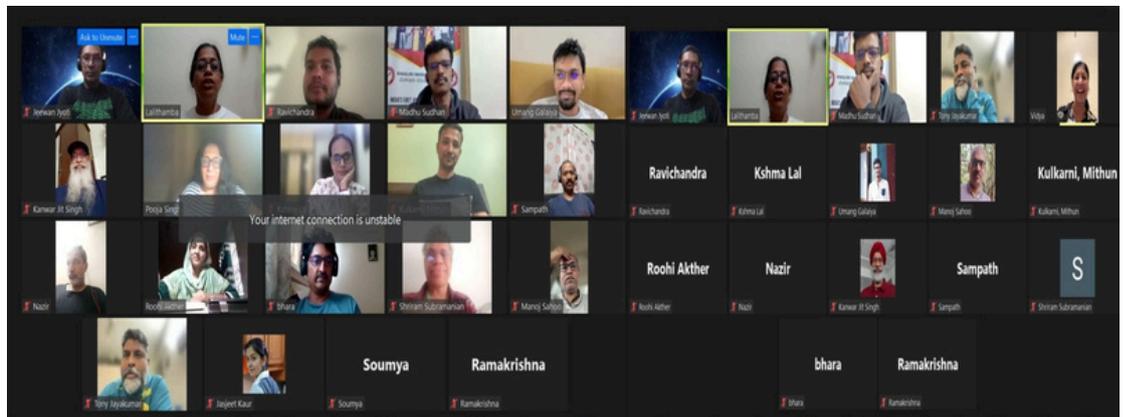
Suresh Adiga, Kalpesh, Venkatesh, Kulkarni and Shrinivas Rao joined in the Online BNP ASM for Subramanyapura Ward held on 27th July 2024. the ASM was led by BNP Leader Narasimha Prasad. Active discussions at the meeting led to 5 action points for the area including:

1. Srinivas to meet Narasimha Prasad on 29th July to discuss road issues like 80 feet road conditions.
2. Kulkarni, Srinivas and Narasimha Prasad to meet traffic officials to discuss solutions for 80 feet road barricades.
3. Narasimha Prasad to visit Elegant Embassy and meet Srinivas regarding the garbage dumping issue at the Turahalli Lake.
4. Narasimha Prasad & Kulkarni to arrange a meeting with BWSSB to discuss water connections for DS Max Saaga apartments.
5. To keep adding more residents to the BNP Community WhatsApp group to raise more & more civic issues that they come across.



IBLURU WARD (ONLINE MEET)

The same day, there was another online ASM. This one with **Lalithamba B V** had over 25 Area Sabha Members of Ibluru Ward attending. The discussion focused on the importance of



Area Sabhas and Area Sabha Leaders, ways for citizens to participate and raise civic issues, and strategies to increase awareness of BNP in various communities in the Ward.

Continued...



BNP GROUND REPORT

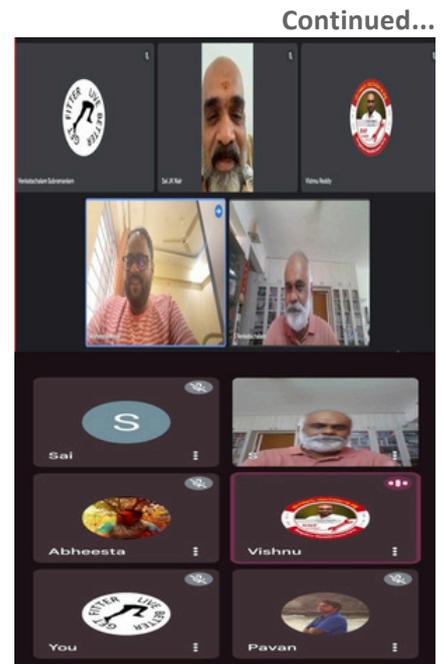
(Round-up of BNP's Regular Work)

VARTHUR WARD (ONLINE MEET)

BNP Zonal President (Mahadevapura) Vishnu Reddy, BNP Leader Venkatachalam Subramaniam, Abheesta, Jayanth K Nair, Venkatraman and Pavan B SA met online for an ASM for Varthur Ward, on 28th July 2024. The agenda for the meet included:

1. Introduction to the BNP Ideology and Mission 25, BNP's focus on Bangalore Civic Infrastructure and a discussion on the current challenges and potential improvements
2. The meet also served to clarify the objectives of Area Sabhas and how they align with BNP's mission

Attendees actively engaged in discussing how to work together to achieve these goals and improve the city's infrastructure.



SUBRAMANYAPURA WARD (IN-PERSON MEET)

BNP Leader Mr. Narasimha Prasad along with Area Sabha Members of Subrahmanyapura, also held an in-person meeting on 30th July 2024. Mr. Kalpesh and Mr. Narayan had a meeting at Elegant Embassy Apartments with Mr. Srinivas Rao. They discussed the issue of the garbage loading spot, which was causing significant inconvenience to the surrounding residents. This issue was taken up by the BNP Team immediately.





SPOTLIGHT ON: ZERO-WASTE CITIES

Sowmya Raghavan (BNP Head of Research) elaborates

1. What is the definition and concept of a zero-waste city?

A zero-waste city is one that sends as little waste as possible to the landfill. Alternatively, a zero-waste city can be thought of as a zero-landfill city.

2. What are the principles behind the concept of zero-waste?

The concept of zero-waste comes from the principles of waste hierarchy — Reduce, Reuse/Repurpose and Recycle. Waste hierarchy principles stress 'waste avoidance' before 'waste management or disposal'.

3. What does the zero-waste city approach seek to achieve?

A zero-waste city seeks to achieve the following:

- Complete segregation of municipal solid waste into three categories: wet, dry and reject waste
- Decentralised management of segregated wet and dry waste in various city wards
- Minimal generation of reject waste
- Co-processing of rejects in the cement industry wherever possible
- High temperature incineration of unavoidable rejects

When assessed overall, a zero-waste city should be sending less than 5% of the total waste generated for incineration or to landfills.

4. How has the zero-waste movement grown in India?

The zero-waste movement is yet to take off in a big way. Most big cities, including Delhi and Bengaluru continue to be focussed on sending waste to the outskirts for waste-to-energy projects or to accumulate in landfills. States like Kerala and Tamil Nadu have rightly started to focus on decentralised waste management and seem to be on the path to zero-waste.

5. What are the benefits people and governments can derive through promoting zero-waste cities?

An interesting study was done by a Pune-based NGO in one city ward a few years ago. These are the main advantages that have been identified:

- Zero-waste helps create a circular economy and creates jobs in collecting, handling, recycling, segregation and processing of waste, composting and producing Refuse-Derived Fuel (RDF). Resources are endlessly circulated through the economy, instead of being used once and thrown away.
- It creates ten times more jobs than mere disposal of waste
- It reduces adverse climate impact by reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

This study estimated that in a ward generating about 50 tons of waste, an annual savings of ₹8.5 lakh accrued to the Pune municipality. Reference [HERE](#)

6. How practical is the zero-waste concept? What are its chances of success?

Zero waste concept is achievable with citizen education and administrative will. Several climate action forums are also stressing the importance of sustainable waste management and minimising waste-to-landfill strategy.

7. What are the limitations of the zero-waste city concept?

The current limitations are the lack of focus on far sighted production strategies. Manufacturing of materials must have a clear end-of-life fate in sight. All production strategies must ensure that materials are either compostable or recyclable. As of now, this is not a reality.

8. How far can the 'polluter pays' principle be applied in India?

The 'polluter pays' principle is enforceable anywhere, provided the law has a clear definition of a polluter and the administration has the resources to track and penalise. India's litigation on polluting industries needs more rigour and the administrative will to enforce existing laws needs to be strengthened.

Continued...



SPOTLIGHT ON: ZERO-WASTE CITIES

Sowmya Raghavan (BNP Head of Research) elaborates

Continued...

9. How far has the BBMP and municipal authorities in general, been able to apply zero-waste principles and achieve positive outcomes?

BBMP has woefully lacked in the implementation of basic waste segregation requirements as per the Solid Waste Management (SWM) Rules 2016. Despite having a large civic-minded citizenry base, the authorities have not used it to their advantage to educate errant citizens and improve compliance. BBMP has repeatedly failed to keep up its end of the contract when it comes to payment to waste management vendors. This has left such vendors frustrated and in a confrontationist stand.

10. What is the BNP's stand on zero-waste events and the concept itself? How far does BNP promote or apply zero-waste principles within its own organization?

BNP is fully attuned to the principles of zero-waste within its organisation. All the public events conducted by BNP are zero-waste events. Food and beverages are served in reusable cutlery. Packaging of gifts is avoided. Many BNP leaders independently conduct and campaign for zero waste principles in all public forums.



MEDIA CONNECT

(BNP's interactions with the media)

PRESS RELEASES

Despite the BBMP allocating substantial funds for the development and maintenance of road infrastructure, Bengaluru's roads have long been a source of frustration. [BNP's Press Release \(PR\) dated 31st July 2024](#), brought attention to one of many such roads.

Despite discussions with officials for over a year and a half, residents say that the primary road connecting HSR Layout and Kudlu remains woefully neglected. The BWSSB has repeatedly dug up the road, leaving open pits that pose safety risks; electrical work has left wires exposed on the footpath; two drainage areas along the road suffer from knee-high water logging during heavy rains; debris from drain cleaning was left uncleared; and, later, this was used to plant small trees along the roadside! These trees now further constrict the already narrow road.

Commenting on the lack of responsiveness from officials, **Vishnu Reddy, BNP Zonal President (Mahadevapura)**, said "...Despite numerous complaints, the necessary actions have not been taken, leaving residents to face the consequences. What is adding to the problem is that the city does not have elected councillors, as BBMP elections have been delayed unreasonably, with no one to take accountability for such civic issues. This lack of responsiveness not only disrupts daily life but also poses serious safety risks..."

The PR ended with BNP urging the authorities to discharge their duty and address these issues with urgency and accountability.

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.



GREATER BENGALURU BILL UNDER REVIEW

The stage seems to be set for drastic changes in the municipal governance structure of Bengaluru. The Karnataka Cabinet on 22nd July 2024 approved the Greater Bengaluru Governance Bill, 2024, which seeks to revamp civic administration by dividing the city into multiple Zones. The Bill is being reviewed by a joint select committee of the State Legislature. The Bill proposes a new entity called the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) with expanded planning, executive and financial authority. Five zones will be created under the GBA, governed by a three-tier structure: the Chief Minister/Bengaluru Development Minister at the top, followed by Municipal Corporations, and Ward Committees. Experts claim that the move is designed to improve governance through a more structured system. This controversial Bill is opposed by political parties and civil society groups, for conflicting with the 74th amendment of the Constitution, which decentralises power to local bodies. This move is bound to delay the civic polls further. The failure to conduct local elections in Bengaluru over the past four years has already led to several petitions before the top Courts.

DOUBLE DECKER FLYOVER OPENS

It was a much-anticipated moment for the residents of Bengaluru. The double decker flyover connecting Ragigudda, J. P. Nagar to Central Silk Board junction was formally inaugurated by Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister Shri. D K Shivakumar and Transport Minister Shri. Ramalinga Reddy on 17th July 2024. Shivakumar called it a “historic” moment for Bengaluru and revealed that the government is planning 150 km of flyovers and signal-free corridors to decongest the city. The rail-cum-road flyover, reportedly the first of its kind in Southern India, straddles one of the busiest junctions of Bengaluru — Silk Board Junction. The flyover stretches 5.12 kms and includes various loops and ramps designed to facilitate smooth traffic. The project is expected to reduce travel time by over 30 per cent for commuters heading in the direction of Krishnarajapuram and Hosur Road. Although the main flyover is operational, the ramps from HSR Layout connecting Ragigudda and BTM Layout, covering 1.37 kms, are yet to be completed, expected to be operational only by June 2025.

THREE SECTIONS FOR PRR PROJECT

With the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) unable to attract bidders for its ambitious Peripheral Ring Road (PRR) project, the 74 kms corridor is likely to be split into three sections to enlist better participation. This will allow the cost of the project, estimated at ₹27,000 crores, to be divided among three companies. The three parts will be: Tumakuru Road to Ballari Road, Ballari Road to Old Madras Road and Old Madras Road to Hosur Road. While the original plan envisaged building a 100-metre-wide road with space for Metro or Monorail at the median and a dedicated lane for cyclists, the government is likely to reduce the width to 60-75 metres, with the remaining width being designated as commercial space. The BDA is also considering providing land instead of cash compensation to farmers in its new layouts.

BDA NAMES UNAUTHORISED LAYOUTS

The BDA has published the names of 279 unauthorised layouts on 16th July 2024. Almost all of these layouts are located on the outskirts of the city, in areas such as Yelahanka, Jigani, Begur and Kengeri. The move is intended to heighten public awareness about these irregular developments while also putting pressure on developers to get the mandated approvals for their plans. A layout is termed unauthorised if it fails to receive the BDA's approval in accordance with the Revised Master Plan 2015. Some small-time developers often avoid the complications involved in securing the necessary approvals, which are caused mainly by corruption-related issues within the system.

OWNERS ACCOUNTABLE FOR DENGUE BREEDING

Given the alarming upsurge in dengue cases in the city, BBMP will be imposing fines on property owners who fail to keep their premises in a sanitary state. BBMP officials are empowered under relevant by-laws to enter and inspect any premises, including buildings, and take prompt action to control breeding of mosquitoes. They can also instruct property owners to undertake appropriate mosquito-control measures, including the clearing of stagnant water. Failure to comply with these measures could invite penalties. First-time offenders would be liable to pay a fine of ₹50, and a further penalty of ₹15 may be levied for every day of non-compliance. Zonal-Level Officers would be authorised to collect these penalties from all defaulters. Fines would be imposed on owners of both residential and non-residential properties.



BBMP ALLOCATION FOR THIRTEEN LAKES

Some positive news for Civic Warriors who have been pushing for lake revival. BBMP has allocated funding of ₹35 crores for revival works in 13 lakes. Part of this budget is earmarked for procuring a robo cleaner and a jal dost, commonly used for weed removal. The designated lakes include Kundalahall (₹5 cr), Vengaiahna kere (₹4 cr), Kaggadasapura (₹4 cr), Jakkur (₹2 cr), Hosakerehalli (₹3 cr), Handralli lake in RR Nagar (₹2.4 cr), Gandhinagar Hoskere (₹4 cr), Chikka Kammanahalli lake (₹1.5 cr), Yediyur (₹50 lakh), and Kogilu (₹1.45 cr). The civic body has also set aside ₹38.50 cr for the regular maintenance of approximately 170 other lakes. Provision has also been made for improvements such as pathway repairs, construction of security rooms, toilet repairs, and sluice construction for some of these lakes. These maintenance funds are primarily meant for clearing blockages at the inlets and outlets of the lakes, which is an essential, periodic task.

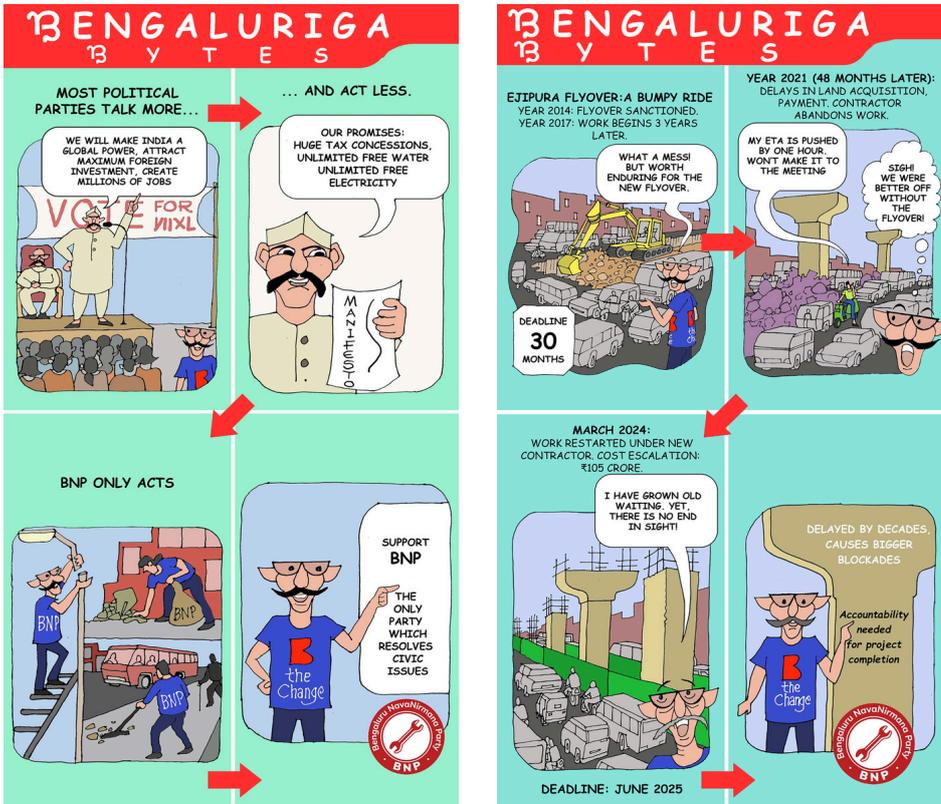
BLAME GAME OVER LAKE REVIVAL

Incomplete dredging and unchecked sewage inflow are only two of the many problems plaguing the revival projects for Bellandur and Varthur lakes. As expected, multiple agencies involved in the revival effort are playing the blame game. Directives from the National Green Tribunal (NGT) to form a Lake Development Monitoring Committee have yet to be implemented, aggravating the situation. Lack of funds and poor coordination between BDA and BBMP are also hindering the project. BDA is overseeing works like desilting, while BBMP is tasked with preventing waste dumping. BWSSB has to monitor the water quality and ensure that only treated water is discharged into the lake. However, continuous sewage flow into Bellandur lake continues unabated due to shortage of STP facilities and inadequate monitoring. Marshals cannot patrol the lake effectively without vehicles or CCTV cameras, hence construction waste dumping is ongoing. While the original plan envisaged dredging up to 3m, logistical challenges limited the dredging to only 1.5m. Unless all these issues are addressed, the revival of these lakes will remain an unfulfilled dream.



BENGALURIGA BYTES — JULY

(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 July's cartoons by clicking on the images. (If you would like to see them as images, 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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