

Bengaluru NavaNirmana Party (BNP)

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

28th Edition || September 2024 Roundup

ABOUT BNP

BNP MANIFESTO

CITIZENS' PORTAL

BBMP WEBSITE

Message from the Founder

Dear Bengalurigas,
Reminiscing BNP's 5-year journey

BNP completed 5 years of its journey on 22nd September 2024! When I look back, the first word that comes to mind is WOW! The primary reason is not just because it is a milestone, but because 5 years is a long time in politics. It becomes even longer when



SRIKANTH NARASIMHAN
BNP Founder & General Secretary

there has been no election to contest during this period.

When I started BNP, I had made a promise to myself that I would commit to the cause for the long-term, no matter what the adversities are. And I guess I can say, tongue-in-cheek, that for a change, a politician is well on course to fulfil his promise!:)

It has not been an easy journey by any standards. The biggest challenge has been to attract good citizens who have shied away from politics thus far and keep them motivated and committed. We have had our share of people who have joined the party but could not sustain their involvement due to personal & professional commitments. However, I prefer to view this as the glass being half-full rather than half-empty!

One key reason I could fulfil my promise is because of the team that we have built. The number of passionate citizens who currently form part of this movement is just incredible - the tens of leaders, the hundreds of volunteers, the thousands of donors and the tens of thousands of supporters. This means that BNP is well and truly on the path to creating a large impact on Bengaluru.

Of course, there is still a long way to go. If BNP is to become a large-scale citizens' movement across Bengaluru, we need to convey the message to all citizens of Bengaluru and get many more of them involved in the process of rebuilding Bengaluru. It will take time, but then Rome was not built in a day, and neither can Bengaluru be rebuilt overnight!

On 22nd September 2024, I reiterated to myself that change, particularly in the realm of politics, administration & governance, will take time and we need to have the requisite patience, persistence & perseverance to last the course. The one thing that all BNPians / Bengalurigas need to reiterate would be the same: "Let's keep 'p'ersevering 'p'ersistently with 'p'assion and 'p'urpose with the 'p'eople that we have and the 'p'latform we have built. If we can do that effectively, success is definitely around the corner!"

My special thanks to all who form part of this wonderful citizens' movement called BNP. Let's commit and pledge to work towards making Namma Bengaluru the best city in the world!

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

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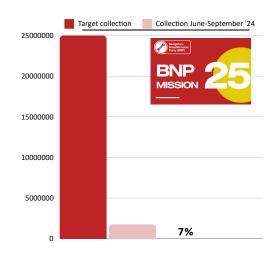
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BENGALURIGA BYTES

(BNP's own Cartoon Series) - SEPTEMBER

BNP MITHRAS PUSH MISSION 25

BNP Mithras have been working quietly and efficiently behind the scenes to help achieve the funding target for BNP Mission 25, an ambitious initiative to win 25 out of 225 wards in the next BBMP Election. Many have stepped forward to support BNP directly and also help mobilise amounts ranging from ₹25,000 to ₹2.5 lakhs each. Heartfelt thanks to everyone mentioned below for their generous donation towards BNP Mission 25: Rama Raju Nadimpalli, Parag Dhol, Prakash Veluru, Neetha Girish, Srikanth Narasimhan, Balachander Sundaresan, Manoj Kumar Sahoo and Chithra Lancelot. Your support will be crucial in the campaign to achieve BNP's target, motivate others and drive this campaign forward. Special acknowledgements to the first five mentioned here (in bold), who have already helped us mobilise more than ₹25,000 each for BNP Mission 25. Requesting all BNP Mithras to redouble their fundraising efforts by reaching out to more and more people. Your collective effort will help to make BNP Mission 25 a success!



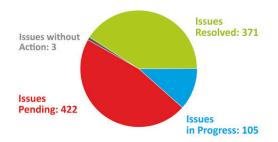
To Donate, click **HERE** or scan / click the QR Code

If you want to learn about the **BNP Mithra** Initiative and get involved, please message us at **+91 80951 30000**





Civic Issues Raised October '23 – September '24: 901



September's MOST-RAISED ISSUE CATEGORIES:

Civic Issues Resolved in September '24: 32

To view updates of other issues resolved by followup by the BNP, please visit the <u>'Civic Issues Resolved'</u> <u>page</u> under the 'Work & Progress' tab on the BNP Website.

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!

In September, 129 civic issues were brought to the attention of the BNP for resolution.

Of these, the most raised issues were again related to Garbage clearance. Streetlight repair, Footpath damage, Pothole filling and BWSSB-related issues like Sewage Overflow. However, Road Damage and Tree-trimming issues too featured highly among the issues reported this month.

BNP resolved 32 civic issues in September 2024. Pictures of a few of the resolved issues are given below.

VIDYAPEETA Footpath Damaged





BELLANDURU Sewage Overflow





SUNKENAHALLI Road Damage





HSR LAYOUT Tree branches







TESTING YOUR BENGALURU QUOTIENT

The Bruhat Bengaluru Quiz (The BBQ) turned out to be exactly what it set out to be — a unique and exciting way to share knowledge about Bengaluru and its civic administration and test the Bengaluru quotient of its participating teams. The biggest and the most authentic quiz on Bengaluru and BBMP was organised by the BNP in collaboration with research partner Nexus Consulting and led by the esteemed quizmaster Sri. Venky Srinivasan.

The Bruhat Bengaluru Quiz

Semi-Final & Final

Date: Sunday, 22nd Sept.
Venue: Institution of Agricultural

Technologists

From a total of over 1047 registrations, 120 winning teams (60 in each category, Student and Open) advanced to the Semi-Final stage. The grand finale of this much-anticipated event took place on 22nd September 2024. There were 38 Open Category Teams and 37 Student Teams, which contested in a spirit of friendly rivalry at the BBQ Semi-Final and Final. On the appointed day, the exuberance and the excitement was palpable and the participating teams at the Institute of Agricultural Technologists, Bengaluru proved not just enthusiastic but very knowledgeable.



The event began with a rousing welcome address by **Governing Council** (GC) Member and Head of BNP's Nava Yuva, Rishivanjas Raghavan.



BNP Founder and General Secretary, Srikanth Narasimhan then gave a brief, thought-provoking introduction to BBMP and BNP's mission, before declaring the BBQ open.

Thereafter, the Nexus team took over to conduct the Semi-Final round, common to both the Open and Student categories. The questions tested the depth of participants' knowledge of Bengaluru, BBMP and BNP. After a break, the 6 teams that scored the highest in the Open Category were announced.



Quizmaster Venky Srinivasan took over the stage to conduct the Finals for the Open Category. In his inimitable style, he took the contestants through 5 rounds of quizzing starting off with the 'Take Off' round based on the Bengaluru International Airport and ending with a Buzzer Round. At the end of this exciting round, the Open Category First Place Winners became clear — Preetham Upadhya and Rahul Kottalgi of the Chance Murugan team! The Quizzing for Nirvana team with Raghav Chakravarthy and Sachin Ravi took second place while the Twos Patakhi team represented by Rahul Jadhav and Abhay Kulkarni took third place.



What came next was the eagerly awaited announcement of the 6 teams from the Student Category who had entered the Final Round. Venky then led these Finalists and the audience through another 5-round session, with a range of challenging questions that tested their civic awareness. The Quiz was closely contested and it was way past noon when the Student winners of the first BBQ emerged, with Pranav K and Pavan Bharadwaj from PES College claiming the top spot. They were closely followed by Aaditya Rao and Adithya Acharya from RV College, and Oswin Joseph and Anuvind Maniyot from Christ College.



The Champions who claimed the first place in both quiz categories took home cash prizes of ₹25,000. Runners-up also received generous cash prizes, with other Finalists being awarded token cash prizes. Overall, it was a great day of quizzing! It made everyone, especially the youngsters, learn more about their city, its history, landmarks, notable figures, modern developments and of course about its local administration.



WINNERS of the 1st BRUHAT BENGALURU QUIZ 2024
FIRST PLACE (STUDENT CATEGORY):
Pranav K and Pavan Bharadwaj
PES College



WINNERS of the 1st BRUHAT BENGALURU QUIZ 2024
FIRST PLACE (OPEN CATEGORY):
Preetham Upadhya and Rahul Kottalgi
Chance Murugan team

A big thank you to the BNP Leaders who addressed the gathering at the outset and the volunteers who guided attendees outside the hall on how they could actively work towards a better Bengaluru. Many participants eagerly opted to join the Civic Club in their College or become Area Sabha Members in their Wards.

Special acknowledgements to **Nishitha Prashanth, Project Manager** and **Venkatachalam Subramanian, Ward Leader, Varthur**, for their careful planning, close coordination and effective teamwork in creating this truly memorable First Edition of the BBQ. Special thanks also to **BNP stalwarts Dr. Sowmya Raghavan** and **Shraddha Prabhu Kumar** for organising the catering arrangements and ensuring that the BBQ was a Zero-Waste event. BNP appreciates every participant and volunteer for their efforts and overwhelming support. Given the resounding success of this year's event, let us look forward to an even bigger and better event next year.





TAKING STOCK AT THE FIFTH AGM

The BNP held its Fifth Annual General Body Meeting (AGM) at 3.30 p.m. on 22nd September 2024 at the Institution of Agricultural Technologists at 15, Queens Road, Vasanth Nagar. BNP Founder and General Secretary Srikanth Narasimhan was unanimously voted by the general body to chair the meeting and he formally welcomed the gathering.

Rishivanjas Raghavan read out the agenda of the meeting, which had been shared earlier with members. The **Minutes of the Fourth AGM held on 22nd September 2023**, which had also been circulated prior to the meeting, was signed by the Chairman and adopted by the general body.





BNP Treasurer Lalithamba B V presented a briefing on the BNP's financial system and accounting practices. She explained the accounting mode in which BNP kept detailed records of donations made to the party by members and well-wishers. She also presented the Statement of Income and Expenditure and the Balance Sheet as on 31st March 2024. The detailed audit report by BNP's auditors, Vishnu Daya & Co LLP was also submitted along with the financial statements. The audited accounts were adopted by the members.

The Treasurer also explained the mode by which payments were approved by the Governing Council and released for specific purposes by the General Secretary and the Treasurer, who are the authorised signatories. For ad hoc payments, certain financial limits were predetermined and approval was sought from Governing Council members accordingly.

Srikanth Narasimhan offered an overview of the functioning of the party over the past year. He stressed that the BNP was the first party to initiate and develop the concept of Area Sabhas. This mechanism had enabled the BNP to reach out and involve many citizens and help them to resolve hundreds of civic issues in various wards in the city. Wards such as Bellandur, HSR Layout, Whitefield and Bengaluru South, among many others were very quick to adopt to BNP's Area Sabha format. Ward-level initiatives included setting up a process for citizen participation and civic issues resolution, thereby creating significant grassroots impact. Some of the key outcomes of these ground-level initiatives were the



empowerment of ordinary citizens and the swift resolution of long-standing civic issues. In short, the BNP had succeeded in revolutionising hyperlocal governance using the Area Sabhas as effective instruments for citizen participation. Srikanth urged more members and volunteers to join the Area Sabhas and improve the quality of life in their respective wards.







Different ward-level teams along with Area Sabha members were then invited to introduce themselves and explain their activities and initiatives so that all BNP members could benefit from their experience.































Citizen's Guide Booklet that was released on the occasion by BNP Members of the HSR Layout, Bommanahalli and Ibluru Wards



The AGM concluded with the **Chairman thanking all members for their efforts, commitment and participation**.





WORKING WITH THE LOCAL MLA

On 27th September 2024, Zonal Leader Dr. Narasimha Prasad, Uttarahalli Ward, met MLA Sri. Krishnappa on an official visit to Sevashrama clinic. In conversation, the traffic congestion near Uttarahalli circle was discussed and Sri. Krishnappa assured that he would visit the place for a spot inspection regarding widening of the road. The same day, he along with BBMP officials, visited the spot and planned for the widening of the road from Uttarahalli lake to the circle. We are hopeful that the work will commence soon.







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.

VIGNAN NAGAR WARD (IN-PERSON MEET)



On 12th September 2024, **Srikanth Narasimhan** had an inspiring meeting with the BNP Vignan Nagar Team, led by the dynamic **BNP Leader Jayashree Apoorva**, who is in her 20s. The team is energized and fully committed to securing victory in the Vignan Nagar Ward for the upcoming BBMP elections.

Reach Out Programs (Meetings & Activities to Engage with Local Communities)

BLOOD DONATION CAMP

On 21st September 2024, BNP Leader **Venkatachalam Subramaniam**, along with Harish Potdar, President of the Uber Verdant Phase 2 Association, organised a successful blood donation camp at Uber Verdant in collaboration with Manipal Hospital. 63 community members attended and 53 of them generously donated blood. BNP thanks everyone who participated and made a difference in our community.





DOOR-TO-DOOR AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

A week later, on 28th September 2024, BNP GC Member and Zonal Leader (Bommanahalli) Lalithamba B V and BNP Leader Jeevan visited a few homes in HSR layout and created awareness about BNP. The people they spoke to were happy to hear about BNP and were willing to help.

VARTHURU WARD (IN-PERSON MEET)

The same day (28th Oct '24), BNP Zonal President (Mahadevapura) Vishnu Reddy, BNP Leader Venkatachalam Subramaniam, and BNP Members Radhakrishnan, Allen, Jose and Harsha held a productive meeting with residents of Varthur Ward.

The BNP Team emphasised BNP's commitment to municipal governance and the importance of further spreading awareness about BNP's initiatives and goals. Points of discussion with residents included:

- Carmelaram Road Over Bridge (ROB) BNP team gave an update on the status of the ROB and discussed the next steps moving forward.
- 100 Feet Road BNP Team gave an overview of the current status of the 100 Feet Road, along with proposed next steps to enhance its development.
- Traffic Concerns The attendees addressed the traffic situation on Carmelaram Road and Sarjapur Road. Plans were made for a follow-up meeting with the TEC team to discuss solutions.

The BNP Team were inspired by the high-energy individuals who attended the meet, who were deeply committed to social and civic development. With active citizens like these, the BNP can definitely make a meaningful impact in our city.





PRESS RELEASES

BNP demanded urgent action on the hazardous footpaths across Mahadevpura in its Press Release (PR) dated 11th September 2024. Despite the allocation of crores for infrastructure development, BNP questions the city's prioritisation of funds, as pedestrian safety continues to be overlooked. Through this PR, BNP raised concerns of the lack of footpath slabs, damaged footpaths, blocked drains, missing drain covers, garbage accumulation and other issues that make walking on the footpaths (where they are available) dangerous for pedestrians.

As **Lalithamba B V** commented on the subject, "while a huge ₹200 crore budget has been allocated for a pilot tunnel road project, the basic roads and footpaths in the city remain in miserable condition, putting commuters at risk every day."

BNP's PR released on 18th September announced the first ever Bruhat Bengaluru Quiz (The BBQ). This Quiz aimed to create awareness and stir curiosity among the Bengalurigas (citizens of Bengaluru), about the complex web of decisions that shape their everyday lives in the city. From budget allocations to Ward level governance, much of the city's civic operations remain unseen by the public eye. At the time this PR was released, BNP had, with this Quiz based on Bengaluru and its local governance, captured the interest of over a thousand teams that had signed up for the Preliminary Round!

You can read more about the BBQ earlier in this Newsletter under the 'Monthly Highlights' section.

You can access all the BNP Press Releases on our Namma BNP website HERE

BNP IN THE NEWS

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



IDEAL LOCATION FOR SECOND AIRPORT

In a much-anticipated decision, the Karnataka government announced the location for Bengaluru's proposed second international airport. After detailed evaluation, the site near Nelamangala-Kunigal along National Highway 75 has been selected. The chosen location meets the strict technical standards set by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) for a major airport infrastructure project. The Nelamangala-Kunigal site provides convenient access to Bengaluru, being only 30 km away. The area is well-connected to the national highway and the railway line, facilitating easy transportation. A considerable extent of government land is available, rendering the aviation project more feasible. Nelamangala's strategic position as a gateway to north Karnataka will definitely enhance accessibility for this whole region.

UNDERPASS FOR HOPE FARM JUNCTION

There is welcome news for commuters using the Hope Farm Junction in East Bengaluru. After years of unexplained delays, the BBMP will begin constructing the much-needed underpass at this busy junction. The civic body has issued a public notice for the acquisition of nine private properties, offering compensation through the Transferable Development Rights (TDR) scheme. Construction is due to begin only after the land acquisition process is complete. Rapid development in areas beyond Kadugodi and Channasandra had worsened traffic congestion at Hope Farm Junction. Frequent users of this key junction have long urged the construction of the underpass to reduce waiting time at the signal.

POT-HOLE FILLING GAINS MOMENTUM

Deputy Chief Minister (Dy. CM) D. K. Shivakumar, had on 8th September 2024, warned the BBMP officials of stringent action, including suspension, if they failed to fill up all the identified potholes in the city within a week. Following this stern warning, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) officials embarked on an urgent drive to fill up these potholes.

Approximately 2,000 potholes were reported via 'Raste Gundi Gamana,' BBMP's new application. BBMP Chief Commissioner Sri. Tushar Girinath has assured that all these reported potholes will be filled. All Zonal officials were instructed to inspect road works in their zones and take prompt action to fill all the identified potholes. It remains to be seen how far this campaign will succeed in ridding the city of its worst potholes.

FEW TAKERS FOR BDA FLATS

With just one-third of Bangalore Development Authority's (BDA) Kanminike Residential Project (off Mysuru Road) sold so far, the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) constituted by the State Government visited the site. This visit followed an adverse report by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), criticising the BDA for proceeding with the project without studying the housing market in the area. The fact that the BDA failed to provide a direct access road for a 850-metre stretch from Mysuru Road to the flats is cited as the main reason for the slow sales. The alternate route from Hebbala via Judicial Layout to these flats is long-winded and shunned by prospective home buyers.

PG HAZARDS IN PREMIER IT HUBS

The prominent IT hub of Whitefield, is witnessing a surge in unauthorised Paying Guest (PG) accommodation, creating safety hazards in the area. Built on smaller segments of land, constructed barely one foot apart, these PGs house hundreds in cramped spaces. The failure of planning and governance bodies, and lax regulation has resulted in this chaotic development. Essential safety norms, such as setbacks, parking spaces, and fire safety requirements, have been violated. Whitefield's residential layouts have thus become highly unsafe and overcrowded, impacting the local community adversely. Unless stringent official measures are taken to rectify the situation and impose effective regulations, it is only a matter of time before disaster hits these overcrowded PG hostels.



DESIGN FLAWS IN LAKE REVIVAL

Efforts to revive Bengaluru's lakes are commendable, but design flaws in restoration have serious implications. Restoration must be based on the anatomy of a lake ecosystem and it is imperative to restore connected lakes. Rajakaluves need to be cleared and not merely diverted to prevent sewage contaminating the lake. The lakebed should ideally be deepest near the bund and slope towards the foreshore, where there are several water inlets. Thereby, the shallow end supports a wetland and maximises biodiversity, by allowing wading birds to feed and nest. The N K Patil committee report on the status of Bengaluru's lakes in 2012 emphasised these points. However, most Bengaluru lakes follow the impractical 'soup bowl' design: a steep wall with stones around the edge, a paved path for joggers and beautifying elements like a central island with various trees. Such a lake offers no ecological benefits either to humans or other species.

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 September's cartoon by clicking on the image. (If you would like to see it as an image, zoom in, or, go <u>HERE</u> to see all the BB cartoons published so far).

Like, Share, Comment and Follow <u>namma.bnp on Instagram</u> for more.



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

Your support helps BNP go from strength to strength!

Not yet a member of the BNP? Become a BNP Member today!

Or Volunteer and join hands with the BNP —
India's first and only city-based Political Party!

Stay updated on BNP's activities. Follow us on











To know more, visit our BNP Website nammabnp.org