

Bengaluru NavaNirmana Party (BNP)

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

31st Edition || December 2024 Roundup

ABOUT BNP

BNP MANIFESTO

CITIZENS' PORTAL

BBMP WEBSITE

Message from the Founder

Dear Bengalurigas,

Stay tuned!

We keep asking ourselves a very fundamental question all the time: "Why is Bengaluru in such bad shape?" The question keeps popping up regularly because we are constantly witnessing signs of misgovernance whenever we step out of our homes. Huge potholes, traffic snarls, overflowing drains, strewn garbage, hanging cables, damaged footpaths, non-functional street lights etc.



SRIKANTH NARASIMHAN BNP Founder & General Secretary

Indeed, why is Bengaluru in such a sorry state? Does the city not get adequate funds? I had addressed this question in a previous message. It was clearly articulated how BBMP spends about ₹10,000 crores annually for the maintenance & upkeep of our civic amenities. There is a strong case to argue that the city deserves more funding given the quantum of tax revenues that it generates. However, this definitely cannot be the reason for such pathetic infrastructure when over ₹1 lakh crores have been spent on city improvements over the last 15 years or so!

So, what is the main cause for this malaise? The Indian Constitution clearly articulates that municipal corporations should function as institutions of self-government. The key principles include devolution of powers (on specific functions such as garbage management, roads, drains and footpaths, among 18 functions listed in the Twelfth Schedule), decentralization and public participation in municipal governance. These key principles are mandated to be enacted through State Laws in each State.

Unfortunately, these principles have never been seriously implemented because it would make it very difficult for politicians to retain their power centres and indulge in corruption. We do have a statute governing Bengaluru & BBMP (The Karnataka Municipal Corporations Act till 2020, replaced by the BBMP Act which is currently in force and the Greater Bengaluru Governance Act, envisaged to replace the BBMP Act). However, these Acts have been made toothless surreptitiously by successive State Governments.

Lack of empowerment of the Mayor, failure to implement Ward Committees & Area Sabhas and interference by the State Government/Ministers/MLAs are some key reasons why these Acts have become toothless. A robust Act/Law governing Bengaluru is an imperative starting point towards implementing good grassroots governance.

Interestingly, the State Government had appointed a panel of experts, christened the Brand Bengaluru Committee, which presented a strong Bill incorporating the principles of devolution of power, decentralization and public participation. However, most

recommendations of this Committee have been ignored and the Government has now tabled a Greater Bengaluru Governance Bill which seems likely to promote more corruption, centralization and misgovernance.

BNP is on the verge of kickstarting a campaign demanding a strong Greater Bengaluru Governance Act. If all citizens come

BNP is on the verge of kickstarting a campaign demanding a strong Greater Bengaluru Governance Act. If all citizens come together for this campaign, I am very confident that we can push for a robust Act, which can kickstart the process of rebuilding a better and more beautiful Bengaluru.

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

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(BNP's own Cartoon Series) - DECEMBER

ENSURING HEALTHCARE FOR SENIORS



Good news for Senior Citizens (Sr. Ctzns.) above 70 years, who are now eligible for healthcare insurance up to 5 lakhs annually, under Ayushman Bharat scheme. This benefit can be availed by any Sr. Ctzn. aged over for any ailment, of regardless economic status, simply by producing Ayushman Vandana Card in listed hospitals where treatment can be sought.

The Bengaluru NavaNirmana Party (BNP) has embarked on a concerted drive to help Sr. Ctzns. to register for this scheme by getting their cards issued. BNP Governing Council (GC) Member and Zonal Leader (Bommanahalli) Lalithamba B V reports that BNP has held about 4-5 camps so far and around 20 persons have come forward at each of these camps to get their cards.

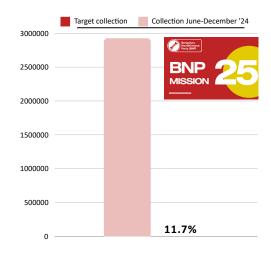
You can see the details of three such camps that were held in December, in the 'Reach out Activities' Section under the BNP Ground Report Section of this Newsletter.

More camps are being planned to assist Sr. Ctzns. to claim their healthcare benefits. However, the insurance scheme is yet to be activated officially and Sr. Ctzns. will have to wait till the scheme comes into full force before getting their benefits.

BNP MISSION 25 DONATIONS UPDATE

The donations towards **BNP Mission 25** — the Party's initiative to win at least 25 Wards in the hopefully-to-be-held-soon, long overdue Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Elections, have been coming in slowly but steadily. Total collection up to the end of 2024 was ₹29,25,940. This is less than 12% of the planned amount of ₹2.5 crores. We request BNP well wishers to come together to give in their contributions to better plan the election campaign.

Let's achieve BNP Mission 25 together!



Bengaluru NavaNirmana Party

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 83106 89931

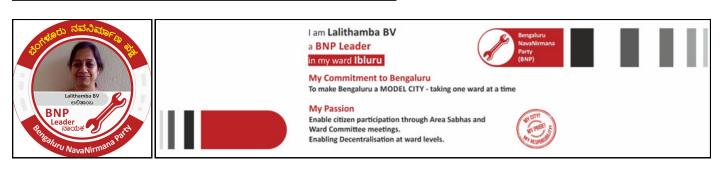
LET YOUR PROFILE SPEAK

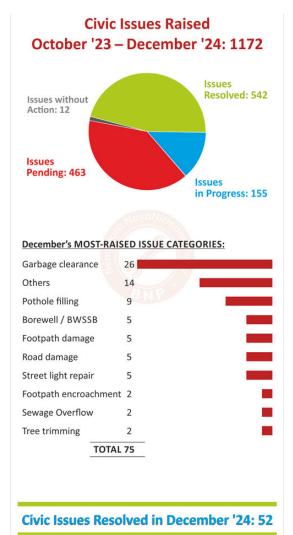
As every resident knows, Bengaluru desperately needs revival on several fronts, in different sectors. We know that the BNP is focused on rebuilding Bengaluru by bringing about transparency, accountability and good grassroots governance. It is time to step up and let everyone know that we back the BNP as a unique and progressive political party that has a clear vision and a single-minded mission.

Demonstrate your support for the BNP. Customize your social media profile picture with the BNP logo and start using it in your social media handles. Inspire others in your circle to know more about the BNP and join in to help rebuild our beloved city.

Fill out the <u>BNP Social Media Profile Picture Request Form</u> andbelow to get your own customised profile picture to share.

SAMPLE PROFILE PIC AND COVER PHOTO OF LALITHAMBA B V





In December 2024, **75** issues were brought to the BNP for resolution.

An overwhelming majority of the civic issues raised to the BNP in December were regarding Garbage Clearance. Other issues commonly highlighted were Potholes that needed to be filled, Borewell/BWSSB related issues, Footpath damage, Road Damage and Non-functional street lights.

BNP resolved 52 civic issues in December 2024.

Pictures of a few of the resolved issues are given below.







DOMLUR To view updates of other issues resolved by followup by the BNP, please visit the 'Civic Issues Resolved' page under the 'Work & Progress' tab on the BNP

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.

Website.

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 83106 89931 today!

BNP MISSION 25 WARD CORE TEAM MEETS (IN-PERSON)

BNP Founder and General Secretary Srikanth Narasimhan continued to conduct the series of casual, focused local area meets to build ground-level support for BNP towards achieving **BNP Mission 25**. These meetings set the tone for future initiatives in each area.

MUNNEKOLALA MEET

Day: 9th December 2024

Attendees: **BNP Zonal Leader (Mahadevpura) Vishnu Reddy**, Karthik, Ram, Arpita, Rakesh, Sowmya, Rajesh, Umamaheshwar, Kamal and Sheela

Everyone present at this meet held at Taste Indies (the restaurant owned by Arpita and Rakesh) enthusiastically agreed that they were ready to take on the Munnekollal Ward and secure victory for the BNP!



You can read about the earlier core team meets in the 'Monthly Highlights' Section of the <u>previous</u> issue of our Newsletter.

GOVERNMENT'S MISPLACED PRIORITIES



The latest video from **Srikanth Narasimhan** puts the spotlight on the misplaced priorities of the Government with regard to the latest tunnel project. He examines Bengaluru's traffic mess and the BBMP's ambitious plan to build an 18 km tunnel road from Hebbal to Silk Board Junction. **Srikanth Narasimhan** questions: "Is this really the solution our city needs, or is it just another example of misplaced priorities? Successive Governments have ignored public transport infrastructure like suburban rail, metro expansion, and BMTC buses, focusing instead on costly big-ticket projects. The end result? Traffic chaos continues to worsen while massive projects only serve to fill the pockets of corrupt politicians."

Watch this <u>Video from Srikanth Narasimhan's Youtube Channel</u> to understand why public transport holds the key to solving Bengaluru's traffic woes and what we can do about it!



FORMATION OF CORE TEAMS

Continued...

With a view to enhance BNP's visibility, add interested people to BNP WhatsApp groups and maintain community engagement, the BNP began a process of core team formation to boost its ongoing and future campaigns. At the BNP Offsite programme (30th November-1st December 2024) the response was simply amazing! Each topic presented by team leaders offered fantastic ideas and practical suggestions and drew energetic participation from attendees. Campaign Coordinator Varshini reports that the following core teams were formed with specific goals.

1) **BNP Civic Issues Team**: Led by **Lalithamba B V**, this team's aim is to tackle civic issues and concerns pertaining to different areas and improve the lives of citizens.



2) Door-to-Door Team: Led by BNP Leader Uday Shankaran, the team's intent is to directly connect with people and share BNP's vision.



3) **Voter ID/Other Camps Team:** Headed by **Vishnu Reddy**, this group will organise regular camps to raise voter awareness and empower them to vote.



4) **Micro-Level Campaigns Team:** BNP GC Member and Zonal Leader (Bengaluru South) Poongothai Paramasivam leads this team that has the goal of engaging communities through grassroots campaigns.





- 5) **Power of Blink Team**: This team, led by BNP Leader Milind Kulabkar will craft impactful, rapid reach out-response campaigns.
- 6) **BNP Merchandise Team: BNP Leader Deepa Peck** directs this group to promote BNP-branded merchandise and thereby heighten BNP awareness across the city.
- 7) **BNP Tech Team:** Under **BNP Leader Purushottam Deshpande**'s direction, this team plans to strengthen BNP's digital and technical presence.

Already, four of these core teams have commenced operations. Ground-level campaigns were initiated by Area Sabha Member Asha Naik. Led by **Poongothai Paramasivam**, and supported by a team of 11 people, these microlevel campaigns met with success at Gottigere Ward, resulting in 25-30 people joining BNP as supporters.

Four Voter ID and other camps were held, directed by **Vishnu Reddy, BNP Leader Venkatachalam Subramaniam** and team. Camps were held across Varthur, Bellandur, RBI Layout and Whitefield with more than 50-75 people joining BNP WhatsApp groups as supporters.

Thirty-four members successfully trained on BLINK, with support from BNP Program Manager Nishitha Phirangi.

The BNP Tech team has formed a three-member team for providing BNP website maintenance.

You can read a bit more on the activities held in this month (December 2024) under the head 'Reach Out Programs' in the 'BNP Ground Report' Section.

BNP calls upon all BNP Leaders and supporters to channel your skills for a better tomorrow. Make sure you join a team that aligns with your interests and help shape the future of Bengaluru!

Area Sabha Meetings (Local Level Community Meetings)

VARTHUR WARD (ONLINE MEET)

Lalithamba B V, Vishnu Reddy, Venkatachalam Subramaniam, BNP Civic Warrior Shruthi and BNP Members Abheesta Arnav, Sanjay Lavakare, Sai JK Nair, Nagendra Babu, Juliet Peris and Venkat came together in an online meet of Varthur Ward on 7th December 2024.

Attendees discussed and came up with a list of actions to take on civic issues in the area.

For potholes and missing slabs

Action: Identify potholes and missing slabs on footpaths and share them in the Varthur Area Sabha group.

Update: **Vishnu Reddy** mentioned that 400-450 slabs have been allocated for Sarjapur Road and we expect action from BBMP in the next 1-2 months.

• To prevent two-wheelers from riding on footpaths

Action: Explore the possibility of elevating footpaths to prevent two-wheelers from riding on them.

• For Gunjur road conditions and street lights

Action: Raise the condition of Gunjur Road and the issue of street lights with BBMP and BESCOM authorities via a formal letter.

Plan: Sai JK Nair to plan a representation to the ministry. Lalithamba B V, Vishnu Reddy, Venkatachalam Subramaniam and Sai JK Nair to discuss next steps.

For garbage dumping near Asha Bhavan

Action: Further follow-up needed to resolve this as it still continues.

• Re. MDP Civic Works

Action: **Vishnu Reddy** explained the ongoing MDP civic works. **Venkatachalam Subramaniam** to share the list of civic works in Varthur. Team to engage with the projects and report any issues in the Area Sabha group.

• To develop a Ward-level Civic Issues Dashboard

Action: Venkatachalam Subramaniam to discuss the development of a ward-level dashboard with Shruti.

Namma Samiti (Ward Committee Meetings)



RBI LAYOUT

After a long time, a Ward Committee Meeting (WCM) was held this month on 12th December 2024 at the BBMP Ward Office, RBI Layout. **BNP GC Member Kesari Prasad** attended the meeting. Key issues discussed and the actions agreed upon were:

1. Noise Pollution from Shubh Convention Centre (Post 10 p.m.)

Action: The BBMP officials will engage with the management of Shubh Convention Centre to address the noise pollution issue and ensure it does not recur.

2. Wrong-Side Driving (Puttenahalli to Brigade Millenium Signal)

Action: Traffic Police Inspector Sri. Umesh assured that traffic constables will be deployed to catch offenders. Additionally, we proposed the appointment of traffic wardens at this location to prevent wrong-side driving.

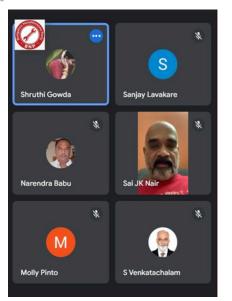
3. Manhole Cover at Li-Ning Sports and Puttenahalli Main Road Junction Action: Sri. Hitheish, AE (Major Roads), confirmed that he would address the issue and a barrier has already been placed at the spot. Potholes in the area will also be

repaired for smoother access to Puttenahalli Main Road.

4. e-Khata Issues

Action: The ARO will be available at the next WCM to provide clarity on e-Khata matters.

(Repeated in this issue because it was mistakenly shared in the Nov issue)





5. Waste Management Confusion

Action: A Ward Environment Engineer will be present at the next WCM to address the confusion regarding the roles of Bangalore Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML) and BBMP in waste collection and the fees associated with it.

6. Restoration of Roads After BWSSB Pipeline Work (Kothnur Area)

Action: Bangalore Water Supply & Sewerage Board (BWSSB)'s representative was not present at the meeting, so, we will take up the matter of the incomplete road restoration with them later.

7. Issues with Signboards in Gaurav Layout

Action: Ward Engineer Ms. Shilpa assured that necessary corrective measures will be taken regarding the removal of good signboards and the installation of blank ones with commercial messages.

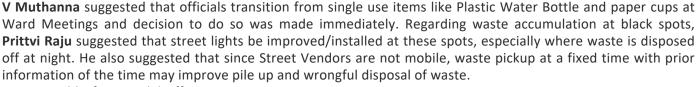
This meeting was conducted in a cordial manner and had a positive impact. Future meetings are to be held every Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. A WhatsApp group for Ward 195 (Konankunte) has been created, including representatives from key agencies: Ward Nodal Officer, Ward Engineer, Police (Traffic and Law & Order), (Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited (BESCOM), BBMP, BWSSB, Health Inspector, and other relevant agencies. The meeting notices and minutes are to be uploaded to the BBMP website and shared via the WhatsApp group for citizen dissemination.

CV RAMAN NAGAR AND KAGGADASAPURA (Combined Meeting)

This WCM held on 18th December 2024 was attended by **BNP** Leaders V Muthanna and Prittvi Raju, Area Sabha Member Shachi Pathak, and many other members of the public.

Some of the issues raised and discussed were:

- 1. Damaged Road at entrance of Versova Layout
- 2. Damaged Road at Rajakaluve Bridge near Centre for Artificial intelligence and robotics (CAIR)
- 3. Unfinished Project and Strewn Construction Material at Rajakaluve Bridge near CAIR
- 4. Street Lights requirement at Rajakaluve Bridge near CAIR and Byrasandra Main Road
- 5. Waste Disposal and Black Spots at Byrasandra Main Road
- 6. Condition and Maintenance of Public Toilet Facilities in the Wards
- 7. Dumping and Burning Waste at Open Site (near Saraswati Vidyamandira)
- 8.Illegal Disposal of Non-Veg/Animal Waste at 7th A Cross
- 9.Stop Lines for easier Regulation at Kaggadasapura Railway Crossing
- 10. Speed Control Measures at Bhuvaneshwari Nagar junction
- 11. Black Spot opposite Deja View on Varthuru Road
- 12. Frequent Overflow of Sewerage at Varthuru Road



Note to Public from Nodal Officers:

- Waste Management is getting more difficult since the population in the area had increased but the strength of the waste managing force is still low
- Cannot rely solely on taking action on offenders as it is time consuming
- Need public cooperation to keep our city clean. (Recently they have had to cope with late collection at residences as there are more and more late risers. It is a growing inconvenience but they are managing it)
- People should be aware that waste is supposed to be collected "From the source". It is not to be disposed off in public areas, vacant sites, in drains or any other public space
- If there is trouble in the waste collection system, public is request to give feedback and correct the way it is collected and managed, not just dispose it outside!



Continued...



The WCM also inspired citizens to take a more active role in civic matters and engage as stakeholders in the development of their Ward and the City. We hope that WCMs resume regularly in all Wards to ensure citizen participation in Ward issues.

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

AYUSHMAN BHARAT CARD DRIVES

On 8th December 2024, at Sai Poorna Paradise in Iblur Ward, Lalithamba B V organised an Ayushman Bharat Card drive for 70+ year old Senior Citizens. Along with her, BNP Leader Jeevan and student volunteer Durga were able to help the Seniors in getting the Cards. BNP thanks Sampath and their Committee for supporting the drive at Sai Poorna Paradise.





The next day, on 9th December 2024, Kesari Prasad, Prasad, and Vishnu Reddy held a highly productive session with the Senior Citizens of RBI Layout. Around 30 individuals participated in the session. The BNP Team also assisted 5-6 people with their Voter ID registrations at this camp.

Another such camp was conducted on 14th December 2024 by a BNP team consisting of Jeevan, Sampath and BNP Leader Madhusudhan. They had organised the Ayushman Bharat Card drive for 70+ years Senior Citizens at DSR Rainbow Heights apartment in Ibluru ward. The team were able to help the Seniors in getting the Card. Special Thanks to Ashish Gupta and their Committee for supporting the drive at DSR.





AADHAAR CARD UPDATE CAMP

On 9th December 2024, Venkatachalam Subramaniam and Sai Jayanth K Nair, in coordination with Janasevak, meticulously organised an Aadhaar card update camp, complete with a token system, at Panacea Golden Nest Apartment, Gunjur. They assisted 36 community members with a range of services, including address updates, telephone updates, new cards for children, biometrics, and more.



DOOR-TO-DOOR CAMPAIGNS

On 15th December 2024, the BNP team from Gottigere and Kalenagrahara, along with BNP GC Member and Zonal Leader (Bengaluru South) Poongothai Paramasivam, conducted a Door-to-Door (D2D) campaign in Meenakshi Layout at Kalenagrahara. A total of 11 volunteers including Asha Nayak, Hema, Vinod, Raghavendra, Naresh, Suresh, Muthukrishnan and Meenal, participated in this reach out program. Over a period of one and a half hours, they reached out to over 45 residents in the area.

The campaign was an effective way to personally connect with the community, explain the objectives of BNP, and encourage new members to join the BNP community group. The BNP team enjoyed the positive responses they received from the residents.

The team followed this up with a second Door-to-Door campaign the next weekend, on 22nd December 2024, with five dedicated volunteers including Poongothai Paramasivam, Asha Naik, Vinoth, a kind Venkatesh. This time too they were encouraged by the positive response they received from the 15 residents they interacted with.



Positive and impactful events, these Camps will be followed up by connecting with the citizens individually and adding them to relevant BNP WhatsApp groups for further engagement.

We invite other Leaders to share details of their Reach Out programs so we can report the same here.



PRIVATE PLAYERS MOOTED FOR SWM

If things go according to plan, private players may soon be taking charge of the city's waste management. If the Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Ltd (BSWML) current proposal is accepted, two to four private companies will take full responsibility for the city's waste management, handling approximately 5,500 tonnes of waste daily for the next 30 years. The private players are expected to invest ₹2,850 crore on infrastructure and will be paid through tipping fees, based on the volume of waste they collect and dispose off. It is estimated that BSWML currently spends about ₹50 crore a month for the collection and transportation of waste.

ALLEGED BRIBES FOR E-KHATA

The BBMP has acknowledged receiving both written and oral complaints about Assistant Revenue Officers (AROs) fleecing property owners to issue final e-khata. According to the BBMP, at least 2,000 people are applying daily to secure final e-khata. These approvals are supposed to be done electronically (not manually) and completed within a few days. Applications with issues are referred to the AROs, who are obliged to approve the applications within 10 days. However, AROs have been citing multiple reasons for keeping the cases pending and demanding money for clearance. BBMP officials have said that they cannot act unless there is a formal complaint but the Revenue Department is holding daily video conferences with all AROs to collect details about disposal of cases.

HIGH PROFILE PROJECTS STIR DISSENT

The Karnataka Government's high-profile project proposals such as the Tunnel Road (18-km underground six-lane road in Bengaluru, connecting Hebbal in the North to Silk Board in the South) and Skydeck (250-metre-high viewing platform at Hemmigepura in South Bangalore) have triggered a dissent petition among residents, urging the State to abandon or postpone these projects and focus on real problems like water-logging and upgrading the metro rail system. They allege that these fancy projects will satisfy the status-consciousness of only a small segment, while a majority of underprivileged people in Karnataka seek the government's attention on projects that serve them. Residents have highlighted that the Tunnel Road will cost around ₹16,500 crore but serve only 3 percent of the population - 23 lakh private car owners in Bengaluru vs. Karnataka's approximate population of 7 crore.

COMMITTEE FOR PRR COMPENSATION

The proposed 74-km Peripheral Ring Road (PRR) project, or the Business Corridor Project, will form a semi-circle in the city's outskirts. Nine committees will be formed to fix the compensation structure in 77 villages and urban areas covered by this project. The committee, headed by a special Land Acquisition Officer, will take the opinion of land losers and fix compensation based upon village guidance value. As per the initial discussion, the Bangalore development Authority (BDA) was to issue consent-based awards based on the village guidance value as on June 2024 along with 100 percent compensation, interest of 12 percent, and additional value as per the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition Act of 2013. For many landlords, this offer may now not be attractive, as the market value in the outskirts has shot up manifold, with Bengaluru attracting huge investments in recent times.

SWIFT CITY AS INDUSTRIAL HUB

The Karnataka Government revealed its plan to develop a SWIFT City (Startups, Workspaces, Innovation, Finance and Technology) near Bengaluru's Sarjapur, similar to the recently announced KWIN (Knowledge, Wellbeing, and Innovation) City. According to Karnataka Minister Sri. MB Patil, SWIFT City will enhance the start-up ecosystem in Bengaluru and become a major industrial hub in the tech capital, similar to ITPL and Electronic City. It will be built in more than 1000 acres near Sarjapur, close to IT hubs with excellent connectivity to NH 44 and NH 48. There are to be 8 to 10 Plug-and-Play facilities (20–25 acres each). It is set to feature 150m wide connecting roads, state-of-the-art offices, co-working spaces, residential blocks and schools. It will offer land parcels from 5,000 to 20,000 sq. ft. for startups through lease, sale or equity-sharing models.

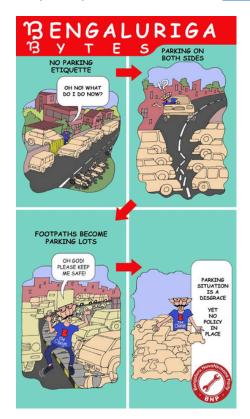
NO KR PURAM RAMP DEMOLITION

In a significant step, the Hebbal flyover augmentation project undertaken by the BDA, has decided not to demolish the ramp leading from Krishnarajapuram (KR Puram) to the city. This follows the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) decision to realign its line slightly and effect changes in the existing Tumakuru loop. These moves will significantly reduce the project's completion time by many months. The much-delayed flyover project by the BDA is being carried out at a cost of ₹106 crore. With the convergence of Metro and suburban rail projects at the spot, the need to accommodate various agencies caused delays. The latest project deadline is June 2025 for Phase-I and December 2025 for full 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 December'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? <u>Become a BNP Member</u> today!

Or <u>Volunteer</u> and join hands with the BNP –

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