

OUR BANGALORE

Follow us @OurBangalore ourbangaloreweekly ourbangaloreweekly

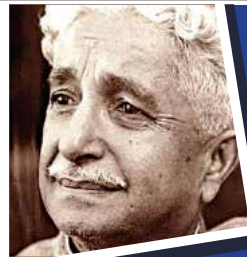
July 1- July 7, 2022 | Pages 16 | ₹2.00

www.ourbangaloreweekly.com



BRUNCH BONANZA

In a perfect world, everyone would have a glass of champagne. Take a sneak peak at the exclusive Brunch held at Phoenix Kessaku. **PAGE 11**



REMEMBERING THE FORGOTTEN THROUGH ART

Art is one of the biggest forms of expressing tribute and power, keeping this in mind Namma Wall is commemorating India's real-life heroes with its Freedom Wall. **PAGE 6**



SUGAR & SEX

Dr Mithun Bhartia answers questions with a pinch of wit and humour. **PAGE 13**

INSIDE



IT IS BABY'S DAY AFTER ALL

Access to abortion is one of the most controversially debated topics worldwide. Take a look at the recent Roe vs. Wade case

PAGE 9

PICK YOUR BRAIN!

A fan of puzzles and crosswords? Hop on the train and treat yourself to some brainstorming.

PAGE 12



SANDALWOOD FEATURETTE

We all have come across feature films, short films, documentaries, ads, corporate videos and web series, and so on. Director Sriharsha VS ventured into directing a Featurette in Kannada. Now, this is intriguing. **PAGE 10**

CITIZEN-EMPOWERED

B.PAC

STRIVES TO MAKE BENGALURU SUSTAINABLE

B.PAC (Bangalore Political Action Committee), an apolitical organisation was formed a decade ago with the intention of bridging the gap between the government and the people for a sustainable Bengaluru.

It's a people's movement supported by Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw and Mohandas Pai among others with the belief that politics is important in the governance of society.

B.PAC through its flagship initiative—B.CLIP(Civic Leadership Incubator Program), is engaged in training promising individuals having the propensity for social service. The programme coaches selected people on diverse aspects of governance that enable the participants to work in tandem with the machinery of government to serve Bengalureans and transform the city.

COVER STORY

by **SHIVANI VENUGOPAL**

FULL STORY: PAGE 7



Shivani Venugopal

Bheem Raju BG, an IT Professional is a passionate civic leader. Until Raju joined B.PAC, he had participated in protests against the government's flawed civic system as a social activist, believing that shouting slogans and holding placards was the answer to bring about a transformation and a sense of accountability among the political class to better the lives of people. Quiz the 40-year-old professional-cum-civic leader about the difference B.PAC has made to him and he informedly states: "B.PAC through its B.CLIP initiative changed my perspective from an activist to that of a reformist by educating me on the need to work along with the government by understanding the machinery of the government, their challenges and jointly coming up with solutions to tackle the concerns plaguing the lives of Bengalureans." He further states: "Learning the nuances of civic administration from subject experts was an enriching experience and I felt it was totally a different take at Civic Leadership training!"

As the ward committee member of Mahalakshmi Puram Ward No 68, Raju is happy with the delimitation announcement—increasing the wards from 198 to 243. Though he considers the move like a double-edged sword with the ruling party intending to field more candidates with the increase in wards. Nevertheless, being an optimist, he's pleased with the much-delayed Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) elections gaining some traction and is hopeful of it taking place in August as speculated.

In the absence of corporators since September 2020, Raju, also a General Secretary of his Resident Welfare Association, served the people of his ward by taking their issues to relevant government departments and working hand in hand with the bureaucrats and other officials in finding solutions to resolve the pressing issues of his ward. He finds stealing time for the well-being of society very satisfying and urges like-minded people to be a part B.PAC.

Why B.PAC?

According to T V Mohandas Pai, VP B.PAC, this apolitical organisation was formed with the intention of improving governance in Bengaluru by bringing citizens of Bengaluru and political leaders together at every political level in the city from wards to assembly level. He advocates voters' participation as the first step towards good governance, which is an association between citizens and the political parties. Supporting his views Pai opines: "For a sustainable living, voters' participation is important and B.PAC encourages citizens to exercise their voting rights at the time of elections at all levels—from ward to assembly by getting themselves registered." Under the B.CLIP programme, civic aspirants across political and apolitical spectrum are trained to work in an

"It was not an easy ride through this decade since inception as B.PAC being a not-for-profit had its own challenges. The journey was fruitful due to the collective efforts of the senior team, mentors to each program, partners, civic groups, B.CLIP civic leaders, political leaders across parties and various other stakeholders from the city."

— REVATHY ASHOK,
Managing Trustee & CEO B.PAC

CITIZEN-EMPOWERED B.PAC STRIVES TO MAKE BENGALURU SUSTAINABLE



"B.PAC through its B.CLIP initiative changed my perspective from an activist to that of a reformist by educating me on the need to work along with the government by understanding the machinery of the government, their challenges and jointly coming up with solutions to tackle the concerns plaguing the lives of Bengalureans."

— BHEEM RAJU BG,
IT Professional is a passionate civic leader

intertwined way with the government departments to bring about a change and making a difference to people's lives.

Purpose of B.CLIP

The B.CLIP initiative supported by Infosys Foundation and Azim Premji Foundation, selects talented individuals with a clean track record across political and non-political parties. The selected individuals undergo a 6-month rigorous training in varied aspects of good governance by subject experts with the intention of trained



"We are glad that the revised 243 wards have been announced thus signalling that the elections will be held soon. B.PAC is planning to launch Election Habba, an electoral awareness campaign aimed to enthruse voters to come out and vote for the BBMP elections in large numbers. This campaign is a collaborative effort of B.PAC along with other civic agencies, civic groups Tech parks, RWAs and like-minded organisations/individuals."

— ANANDA GUNDURAO, Mentor B.PAC



"For a sustainable living, voters' participation is important and B.PAC encourages citizens to exercise their voting rights at the time of elections at all levels—from ward to assembly by getting themselves registered."

— TV MOHANDAS PAI, VP B.PAC

candidates contesting municipal elections to serve society in the near future. Pai is happy about B.PAC's accomplishments in bringing the government and people together and in ensuring accountability. He proudly states: "I'm happy with the progress of B.PAC. Today there are around 350 alumni of B.CLIP from across political parties, which means there's coalition of good across all political parties. They are working with the government for making Bengaluru viable in every aspect from traffic to tariffs, but we've a long way to go."

By 2030, B.PAC targets to train around 1500-2000 B.CLIP participants to work at ward levels. Despite the presence of eminent people from varied fields, just like any organisations, B.PAC too has had its share of initial challenges in winning the trust of people on coming up with the idea of citizen representation and the need for them to be a part of B.PAC. "It was not an easy ride through this decade since inception as B.PAC being a not-for-profit had its own challenges. The journey was fruitful due to the collective efforts of the senior team, mentors to each program, partners, civic groups, B.CLIP civic

leaders, political leaders across parties and various other stakeholders from the city. Most importantly, the driving force behind the success of B.PAC is that we are all invested in the mission towards creating a better quality of life for the citizens of Bengaluru," remarks Revathy Ashok, Managing Trustee & CEO B.PAC.

B.PAC's Election Habba

With the recently announced ward delimitation and BBMP elections likely to be held in August, B.PAC has already swung into action and plans to launch Election Habba to generate awareness about the importance of voting in BBMP elections. Ananda Gundurao, Mentor B.PAC, is delighted with the increase in wards and the elections finally being held nearly after two years. The elated Gundurao states: "We are glad that the revised 243 wards have been announced thus signalling that the elections will be held soon. B.PAC is planning to launch Election Habba, an electoral awareness campaign aimed to enthruse voters to come out and vote for the BBMP elections in large numbers. This campaign is a collaborative effort of B.PAC along with other civic agencies, civic groups Tech parks, RWAs and like-minded organisations/individuals. We are also hopeful that our trained Civic leaders from B.CLIP will contest and make it to the BBMP council as corporators and be a harbinger of positive change for Namma Bengaluru."

Though people give an edge to general and assembly elections at the time of voting, the far stretched BBMP elections has perhaps made them realise the importance of having corporators—whom they could reach out to with their woes in anticipation of a solution. The BBMP election pitch is set by all related organisations coming together and creating an awareness on the importance to vote. This time around there seems to be an urgency among the citizens as well to elect their representatives, however, whether the urgency transforms into action in coming out and casting their votes or reneging and returning to their complaining attitude is something to wait and watch when the BBMP elections take place in a couple of months.