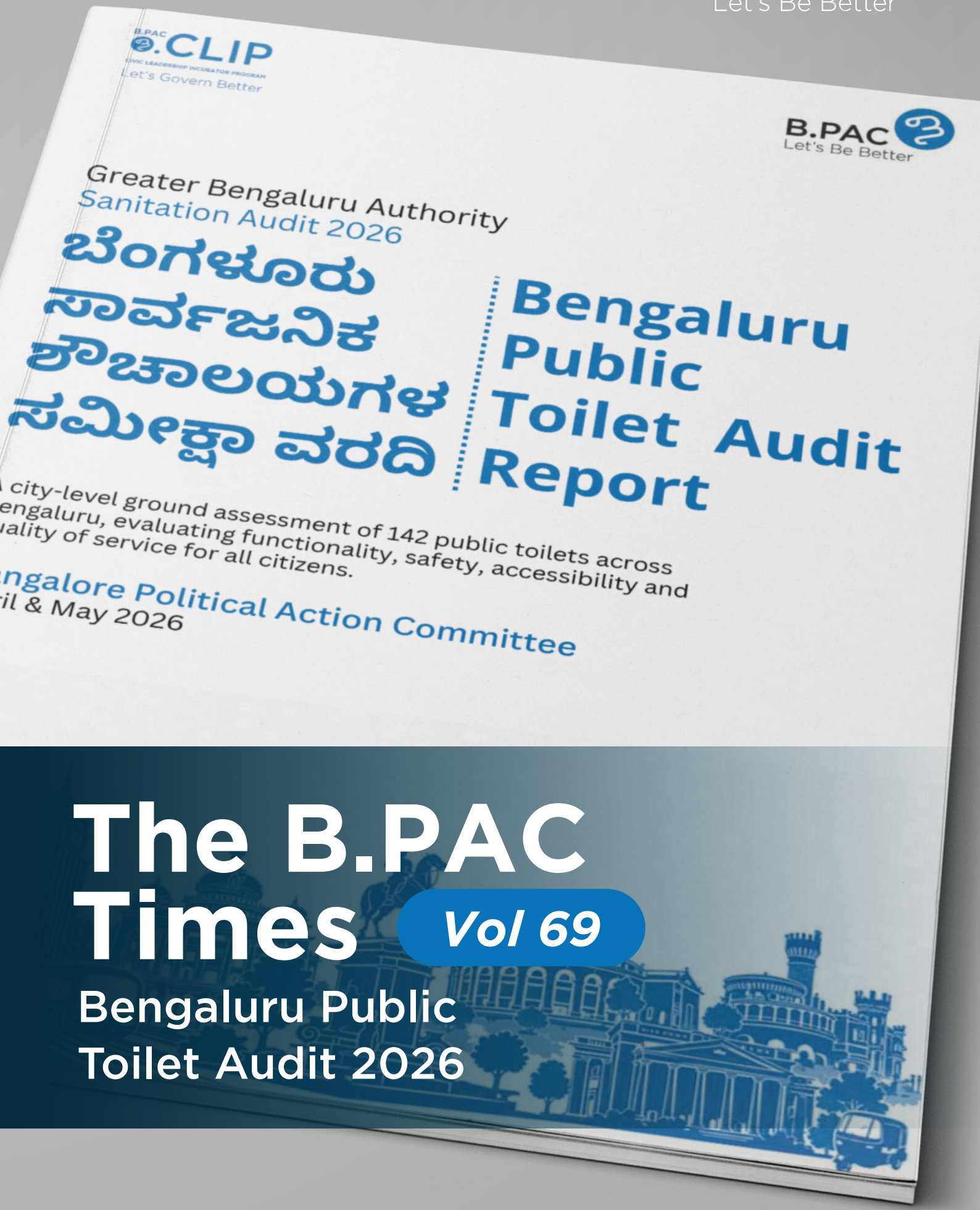
B.PAC
Let's Be Better



The B.PAC Times

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Bengaluru Public Toilet Audit 2026

FROM THE CEO'S DESK



Dear Bengalurigas,

From Audit to Action: Making Public Sanitation a Civic Priority

A city's quality of life shows up not only in its roads, public transport, and infrastructure, but also in the basic civic amenities people rely on every day. Public toilets are among the most essential—and often overlooked—of these services. They are critical to public health, women's safety, accessibility, and human dignity.

The **Bengaluru Public Toilet Audit 2026** was undertaken to understand the reality on the ground. Through a citizen-led audit of **142 public toilets across Bengaluru,** our B.CLIP Civic Leaders and student volunteers assessed these facilities from the perspective of functionality, cleanliness, safety, accessibility, and user experience. The findings make it clear that Bengaluru's challenge is not simply about building more toilets, but ensuring that the facilities we have are functional, safe, inclusive, and properly maintained.

At B.PAC, we believe evidence must lead to advocacy, advocacy must lead to institutional action, and institutional action must ultimately translate into better outcomes for citizens. We presented the audit report to **Sri Krishna Byre Gowda, Hon'ble Minister for Bengaluru Development, Government of Karnataka; Smt. Shalini Rajneesh, IAS, Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka; Sri Maheshwar Rao M., IAS, Chief Commissioner, GBA; and Sri Kareegowda, IAS, CEO, BSWML.** The report and its recommendations received positive appreciation from all, who acknowledged the findings and expressed their willingness to work towards addressing the gaps and implementing the suggested measures.

The findings have also received significant attention from leading media organisations, helping bring the issue of public sanitation into wider public discourse. Following the publication of our Public Toilet Audit Report, Prajavani, one of Karnataka's most trusted Kannada daily newspapers, took the findings seriously and published a series of stories covering each of the five corporations separately. This kind of sustained media attention is important in keeping civic issues visible and encouraging greater accountability.

We have taken the findings of the audit to key decision-makers and will continue to advocate for stronger accountability, better maintenance, greater accessibility and, adequate public sanitation infrastructure across Bengaluru. Our goal is simple: that every citizen, regardless of gender, age, or ability, should have access to a public toilet that is clean, safe, functional, and dignified.

Warm regards,
Revathy Ashok
Hon. Managing Trustee & CEO
Bangalore Political Action Committee

The Audit: What We Found

Conducted during **April and May 2026,** the citizen-led audit covered **142 public toilets** across Central, North, South, and West Bengaluru. The findings reveal significant gaps in functionality, cleanliness, safety, accessibility, and accountability.

Key Findings from the Audit

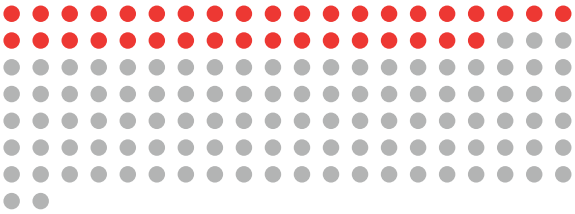
The audit reveals serious concerns about the condition and accessibility of public toilets across Bengaluru:

142 **Public toilets audited across Bengaluru**

Central | North | South | West

37 **26%**

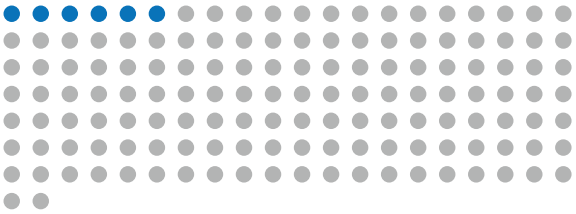
are completely non-functional.



Each dot is one audited toilet

6 **4.2%**

toilets were rated “Very Clean”



Each dot is one audited toilet

Odour

58%

of toilets have persistent foul odour

Lighting

56%

are adequately lit, raising significant safety concerns, especially for women

Water

~40%

of functional toilets have water available

Accessibility

94%

nearly, are inaccessible to persons with disabilities

Only 9 toilets have ramps

Hygiene basics

0%

toilets had soap dispensers or dustbins

None of the toilets audited passed

Caretakers

15%

of caretakers are women

Contractor information and user charges are largely absent, limiting public accountability.

The audit highlights that Bengaluru’s sanitation challenge is no longer merely about constructing toilets—it is about ensuring that existing facilities remain **functional, safe, inclusive, and well-maintained.**



What B.PAC Recommends

Based on the findings, B.PAC recommends immediate and systemic reforms to improve public sanitation across Bengaluru:

- Launch a **30-day emergency repair campaign** to restore all non-functional public toilets.
- Create a **single Public Toilet Management Cell** under the Greater Bengaluru Authority for unified planning, monitoring and, maintenance.
- Shift from **"Build-Only" contracts to five-year Operate & Maintain (O&M) contracts,** with strict performance monitoring and contract termination for poor maintenance.
- Ensure uninterrupted water supply, lighting, soap dispensers, dustbins, and regular maintenance in every public toilet.
- Retrofit existing toilets to become fully accessible for persons with disabilities and adopt universal accessibility standards for all new facilities.
- Prioritise women-friendly and gender-inclusive public toilets, including She-Toilets and transgender-inclusive facilities.
- Strengthen community participation by involving RWAs, NGOs, and citizen groups in monitoring public toilets.
- Display contractor and caretaker details prominently to improve transparency and accountability.

From Audit to Action

The Bengaluru Public Toilet Audit is not an end in itself. It is a call for sustained action—from government agencies and elected representatives to contractors, communities, and citizens.

B.PAC will continue to engage with relevant authorities and stakeholders to ensure that the findings translate into functional, safe, accessible, and dignified public sanitation facilities for every citizen of Bengaluru.

Click here for the detailed report

ADVOCACY - Taking the Findings to Decision-Makers

Following the release of the Bengaluru Public Toilet Audit Report, B.PAC has initiated advocacy with key government authorities to translate the audit findings into concrete actions and meaningful improvements on the ground.



Engagement with Bengaluru Development Minister

We met **Sri Krishna Byre Gowda, Hon'ble Minister for Bengaluru Development,** and presented B.PAC's audit findings and recommendations. The Minister appreciated the report and its comprehensive assessment of the city's public toilet infrastructure, and assured us of efforts towards transforming these facilities.



Advocacy with Greater Bengaluru Authority & BSWML

B.PAC submitted the report to **Sri Maheshwar Rao M., IAS, Chief Commissioner, Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA),** and **Mr. Kareegowda, IAS, CEO, BSWML,** to take forward discussions on improving public toilet infrastructure, maintenance, and accountability across Bengaluru. Following discussions, BSWML agreed to organise **corporation-wise meetings with public toilet caretakers and concerned GBA officers.**

Audit Report Submission to the Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka

The report was also submitted to **Smt. Shalini Rajneesh, IAS, Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka.** The Chief Secretary immediately forwarded the report to the concerned departments for necessary action, marking an important step towards taking the audit findings into the government system.



B.PAC in Media

A Special Media Spotlight

Following the publication of our Public Toilet Audit Report, Prajavani, one of Karnataka's most trusted Kannada daily newspapers, **brought the findings of B.PAC's Public Toilet Audit Report into focus through a dedicated series covering all five corporations separately.** This helped bring the audit findings to a wider audience and highlighted the need for focused attention to public sanitation across Bengaluru's five corporations.

Amplifying the Issue Through the Media

The Bengaluru Public Toilet Audit received extensive media coverage, bringing the condition of the city's public sanitation infrastructure into wider public discourse and highlighting concerns around functionality, cleanliness, accessibility, women's safety, and accountability.

We thank the media for helping amplify this important civic issue and bring it to the attention of citizens and decision-makers.

The Hindu | Bangalore Mirror | The New Indian Express | ThePrint | The Times of India | Deccan Herald | NDTV | Hindustan Times | Deccan Chronicle | Prajavani | Oneindia | Vijaya Karnataka | News Trail | ETV Bharat | Times Now Kannada | Hosadigantha | Kannada Prabha | Republic Kannada | Pragathi Vahini | Suvarna News | Udayavani | Zee News



Acknowledgement

The Bengaluru Political Action Committee (B.PAC) extends its sincere gratitude to all individuals who contributed to the successful completion of the Bengaluru Public Toilet Audit Report – 2026, undertaken as part of a city-wide effort to strengthen urban sanitation systems.

We would like to sincere thanks to Ms. Revathy Ashok, CEO and Managing Trustee of B.PAC, for her leadership and vision in enabling citizen-led initiatives such as this audit, which aim to drive accountability, transparency, and systemic improvements in urban governance.

We would like to acknowledge the dedicated efforts of the B.CLIP Civic Leaders and student volunteers, including Naveen Kumar G. N., Ramachandra S. R., Rajesh M., Sachin M., Girivasulu Naidu, S. Vennila, Prakruthi Prasanna, Dr. Nagaraja K. C., Bharath Kumar G., Khizere Alam, Choodamani H. P., Asha Sultana, Sarvana S., Saravanan S., Sathya Lakshmi Rao, Irshad Pasha, Narasimhulu K., Prabhavathi G., Surya Prathap, Sumathi, Deepika, Bhanupriya Ravi, Pallavi Sagar, Devika Murthy, Suresh B. V., C. Sampath, Arathi, Manjunatha K., Bhavani C., Santosh Kumar, and student volunteers Harshali Chiranjiv Hedavu, Devika Ajith, Ashly Chacko, and Monica, whose extensive field surveys across multiple wards formed the foundation of this report. Their commitment and diligence in documenting the on-ground conditions have been invaluable.

We extend our appreciation to the survey leads and mentors, including H S Raghavendra Poojari, Survey Lead & B.CLIP head, Manjunatha K, B.CLIP Coordinator & survey in charge; and Suman M P, Research and Program Associate, B.Engaged for their active role in coordinating, who provided continuous guidance, technical direction, and oversight throughout the audit process, ensuring accuracy, consistency, and quality in data collection and analysis.

This report has been prepared and compiled by Divya Suresh, and interns at B.PAC, Pranav Holla M , Sankya Shet, Srividya Subramaniyan, whose efforts in analysis, synthesis, and documentation have shaped this report into a comprehensive and actionable resource.

B.PAC also acknowledges the support of civic agencies, local stakeholders, and community members who provided inputs during the survey process, reinforcing the importance of collaborative efforts in addressing critical urban sanitation challenges.