

B.PAC **Bangalore Political Action Committee**
 A NON-PARTISAN FORUM SEEKS GOOD GOVERNANCE THROUGH PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Our Values

- Let's be heard
- Let's be fair
- Let's be proud
- Let's be green
- Let's be progressive
- Let's be accountable

Committed to promoting a BETTER LIFE for citizens of BANGALORE

B.PAC NEWSLETTER Volume 12, January, 2015



May this season of cheer and the coming year
 Open new doors for you in a safe city, a better city.
 May this new dawn be the promise of a green town,
 Clean air and a better life for you and your family.
 Team B.PAC wishes you a Happy New Year!

Dear Bengalurean,

Team B.PAC wishes all of you a very Happy 2015!

The early days of the year is replete with great resolve and enthusiasm to aim higher and achieve more than the year gone by.

Our goal has been to strengthen the institutions of democracy by providing a platform for citizen engagement and advocacy on key issues. Oftentimes citizens may not feel sufficiently motivated to exert their citizenship, either because they are not sufficiently informed, or because they have lost faith in the political establishment and are engulfed by a feeling of helplessness, or because they feel that they do not have control or a say over really important issues.

Through our various programs, community action, advocacy efforts and communications during the year, we have tried to narrow this gap and create an informed citizenry which is the basis for a healthy democracy. B.PAC will continue to work hard to make our city clean, green and safe, our citizens engaged and responsible and our political leadership accountable.

I welcome you to the latest edition of the B.PAC newsletter brimming with stories of new initiatives to fight the problems of the city and of committed citizens who have stood at the forefront of these endeavours against all odds.

The month of December saw B.PAC working on all those aspects of governance and participation that are an essential part of our Agenda for Bangalore. Our prime focus rested on improving the leadership pool to govern the city, to ensure accountability and protecting the city's environment. We are working on these tasks through B.CLIP, Aptamitra- a newly launched grievance redressal service, and the Green Ambassador Program among several others.

It was 'Aarambha', a new beginning in December for the second batch of B.CLIP who were embarking on their political and social leadership journey with the completion of their theory sessions. These B.CLIP participants will now work on implementing their projects that will try to solve problems in their respective wards through active engagement of local residents. We were very pleased to hear the Upa Lokayukta, GoK, Mr. Subhash B. Adi exhort the B.CLIP participants to organise themselves to solve the garbage menace, illegal hoardings and lake encroachment, all issues that B.PAC is already focussing on.

Citizen inclusion is an integral part of all B.PAC programs. While our Green Ambassador Program engages college students, teachers and staff in taking positive action in improving their surroundings, our B.SAFE Programs brought together concerned parents, teachers, lawyers, counsellors and other citizens together to discuss and agree on the safety protection measures to be taken by various stake holders to keep our children safe. We used 'Jagruti' as our platform to reach out to school students and get them to be engaged in expressing their voices on issues concerning the city and the country.

Kofi Annan famously said, "No one is born a good citizen; no nation is born a democracy. Rather, both are processes that continue to evolve over a lifetime."

B.PAC is strengthened by the foundations that we have laid with your help and support and will continue to evolve. We approach 2015 with renewed determination and hope that you will once again lend us your support to enable us to push for transformative changes in the city!

Warm Regards,
 Revathy Ashok
 CEO and Managing Trustee
 B.PAC

Aarambha: Beginning of a Social Transformation!



The B.PAC Civic Leadership Incubator Program (B.CLIP) participants organised Aarambha, where they thanked the selection committee for selecting them for this innovative program and all the speakers for sharing their vast knowledge and experience on various topics related to urban civic leadership during the class room training. The program was presided over by Hon'ble Justice Subhash B. Adi, Upa Lokayukta, GoK, Kiran Mazumdar Shaw, President, B.PAC, Mr. K. Jairaj, Secretary, B.PAC & Ms Revathy Ashok, CEO B.PAC.

[Read More about Aarambha here: Press Release](#)

APTAMITRA: Service helpline launched by Manjesh, B.CLIP Participant



Manjesh began his journey of social transformation through Aptamitra, a grievance redressal service to increase accountability and solve civic issues in a time bound manner.

Manjesh J C, B.CLIP participant, Member of Namma Vidayaranayapura RWA and Paramvaibhavam founder, launched a first of its kind service helpline for reporting illegal banner issues in 'Vidayaranayapura ward called 'Aptamitra'. The Aptamitra team will work with the BBMP officials to report, track and help engineers/elected representatives to resolve the issues faster. All the issues that are reported will be logged into their [Website](#).

[Read More about Aptamitra here.](#)

Green Ambassador Program



B.PAC's Green Ambassador Programme is gaining huge momentum among the college students. About 150 college students from BNM and Mount Carmel College have enrolled and completed the classroom module and 50 more from Vasavi Vidyaniketan are undergoing training and will soon be taking a lead in making Bengaluru a cleaner and greener city.

Do you want to become a Green Ambassador too? [Sign up Here!](#)

Parisara Jagriti Abhiyan by Ravi Kumar H, B.CLIP Participant



B.CLIP participant Ravi Kumar H initiated 'Parisara Jagriti Abhiyan' to increase the green cover in his ward, Bapuji Nagar in which he organised a sapling drive and an environment awareness program. The event saw the coming together of the local community, elected representatives and government officials. More than 200 trees have been planted in the ward with great community participation and the onus of maintaining these saplings has been gladly taken up by the residents of the locality. Worshipful Mayor, Smt Shantha Kumari inaugurated the event by planting saplings and was presided over by environmentalist [Saalu Marada Thimakkala](#).

[Read More about Parisara Jagriti Abhiyan here.](#)

Jagruti: Awakening India!



It is often said that schools are the cradles of democracy, and on the 21st November, Jagruti showed us what exactly these cradles are capable of producing. Jagruti is a joint initiative by 18minut and B.PAC to celebrate the future of the country by heralding the youth and providing them with a platform to express their views, and more importantly, make their voices heard. Jagruti was inaugurated by Revathy Ashok, CEO, Bangalore Political Action Committee and the Guest of Honor, Sandeep Shastri, Pro Vice Chancellor, Jain University.

[Read more about Jagruti here.](#)

Safer Schools for Our Children!



A safe environment devoid of anguish, distrust and violence is necessary for a child to grow without fear. There have been several unfortunate incidents of child abuse in schools in Bangalore city and other parts of the state, and some of them have come to light. These heinous incidences are outrageous and firm action by the state and civil society is the need of the hour. In the light of this, B.PAC, through B.SAFE (the Women and Child Safety Initiative), organised a meeting of experts and various school authorities to encourage schools to adopt a Child Protection Policy, and to set up a monitoring and evaluation process of its implementation in participating schools on 28th November 2014. The [Draft Child Protection Policy](#) was discussed, with emphasis on the key provisions to be considered by schools for implementation.

[Read more about Child Protection policy discussion with schools here.](#)

B.PAC in Media



B.PAC thanks you for your solidarity in our movement to make the city better. We hope 2015 will be a safe, healthy and prosperous year for you and your family.