



Press Release

B.PAC releases the Special Report on the Criminal Cases filed against contesting candidates in 27 Bangalore Urban constituencies

Bengaluru, 3rd May, 2023: Bangalore Political Action Committee (B.PAC) undertook a detailed study focusing on the 27 Assembly Urban constituencies of Bengaluru and today launched the “Know Your Candidates” campaign having details of 115 (of the 378) candidates contesting for Karnataka State Legislative Assembly polls 2023. Under this initiative, B.PAC in association with DAKSH has conducted a specific study about the criminal cases filed against these candidates and released a special report on the criminal complaints filed.

The [Know Your Candidate](#) is an initiative intended to create awareness among the citizens about the candidates across national parties, state parties and independents, contesting the Karnataka Elections 2023 of their respective constituencies in the city of Bengaluru. Under this initiative, politically relevant information about the candidates have been collated and presented in a simple form thus letting the constituents know their candidates better and make an informed choice while voting. The information includes basic details, education, profession, assets, liabilities, criminal record and social media handles as provided in the affidavit filed with the Election Commission of India. This initiative was carried out for candidates from National parties, State parties and some independents.

DAKSH prepared the [Special Report on Criminal Cases](#) by analysing the self-sworn affidavits of **115** candidates contesting in Bangalore from the four major political parties and few select independents. The affidavits are available on the ECI and the CEO Karnataka websites. A detailed analysis was conducted to understand the nature of cases and the number of cases against each candidate. This was done to help the public understand the nature and severity of the cases that have been declared in the affidavits to make an informed choice.

We found that **38** of the **115** candidates we analysed had criminal complaints filed against them. While some of them are the stage of investigation, most are pending before the Courts.

No of cases	1	2	3	4	5	6	17
No of candidates	14	4	6	8	3	2	1

Political Party

Parties	AAP	BJP	INC	JD (S)	KRS	Nava Bharath Sena
No of candidates with criminal cases	9	11	10	5	2	1



Type of Cases

Types of cases	No of candidates with these cases
Attempt to murder	1
Cheating	10
Corruption	5
Disease/pandemic related	9
Electoral offences	5
Land dispute	3
Money laundering	2
Murder, culpable homicide or death by negligence	3
Rioting	7
SC/ST Atrocities Act	1
Unlawful assembly	17

Education and Gender

2 women candidates and 36 men out of 38 have cases registered against them.

Educational qualifications	No. of candidates
Post-graduate	3
Graduate	21
PUC	2
SSLC	8
Not completed SSLC	3
Diploma	1

Revathy Ashok, CEO, B.PAC said “We want to bring greater awareness with citizens about the criminal cases against the contesting candidates. This exercise is primarily aimed at educating the voter about the criminal antecedents of each candidate and we have also gone deeper to show what type of cases have been filed so citizens can make intelligent choices about the seriousness of the cases even though not convicted. We hope that citizens, using the power of their ballot ensure that no politician with any serious criminal background gets elected “



Leah Verghese, Research Manager, DAKSH said “While it is mandatory for candidates to declare their criminal cases, the way these cases are declared and the format of the affidavits make it difficult for us to analyze them effectively. One of the major challenges we face is that the police stations and courts where the cases are filed are not always clearly mentioned in the affidavits. This makes it challenging to track these cases on the eCourts portal, which is the official website for accessing court data in India. Additionally, the affidavits are often converted into images and uploaded on the Election Commission of India's website, making it difficult to extract the relevant information as the affidavits are not machine-readable. We urge the authorities to take steps to ensure that the information is presented in a more accessible format so that citizens can make informed decisions during the election process.”

Link to all the 27 Bengaluru Urban Assembly Constituencies candidates' details - <https://bpac.in/election-habba-2023/know-your-candidates/>

Link for the Criminal Cases Analysis Report with cases on individual candidates - <https://bpac.in/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Criminal-Cases-Analysis-Report-of-MLA-Candidates-by-BPAC-and-Daksh-1.pdf>

ABOUT B.PAC: www.bpac.in

Bangalore Political Action Committee (B.PAC) is a non-partisan citizen's group working to improve governance in Bengaluru and to enhance the quality of life of every Bengalurean. B.PAC is specifically targeting good governance practices, integrity, and transparency in all arms of the government, improving the quality of infrastructure in the city and the creation of a safer city where the rule of law is ensured for all citizens.

About Election Habba 2023: <https://bpac.in/election-habba-2023/>

Election Habba is an election awareness campaign initiated by B.PAC that celebrates the electoral process of our country. The campaign is designed to seamlessly connect all aspects of the electoral process that plays an imperative role in the formation of the to-be elected government. It also seeks active participation and involvement of all stakeholders i.e. citizens, local communities, civic societies, corporate associations, welfare associations, candidates of the democratic process, who so far have been working in separation from one another. Election Habba tries to usher in a new era of electoral politics with well informed and enthusiastic voters, leading to good governance through election of committed and responsible leaders.

About Daksh: www.dakshindia.org

DAKSH is a civil society organisation that undertakes research and activities to promote accountability and better governance in India. It was founded in 2008 by people from diverse backgrounds, including academicians, entrepreneurs, lawyers, teachers, social and political activists, and ordinary citizens. Over the last thirteen years, DAKSH has been working to create inclusive, transparent, self-correcting mechanisms that encourage accountability in all branches of the government. Our two main activities are measuring political and judicial performance.

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