



The B.PAC Times

Vol 55

B.PAC
Let's Be Better

Quarterly Update - July, August, and September 2024

FROM THE CEO'S DESK

Dear Reader,

In contemplating our recent endeavours from the past quarter, the timeless proverb comes to mind: "A City Is Not Built In A Day, But Brick By Brick." The third quarter has seen us lay down many of those vital bricks, each representing our efforts to make Bengaluru a more inclusive, vibrant, and resilient city. From pioneering new initiatives to forging impactful collaborations, every step forward has been a testament to our shared commitment and hard work. As we look back at the remarkable progress we've made together, we also set our sights on the future, continuing to shape the Bengaluru we all envision.

The past quarter was a milestone for B.PAC, marked by the exciting launch of the 9th batch of B.PAC Civic Leadership Incubator Program (B.CLIP). We proudly welcomed 65 passionate individuals, each stepping forward on their path to becoming tomorrow's civic leaders. Another highlight was the graduation ceremony for B.CLIP Batches 6, 7, and 8 graced by the presence of Shri U. T. Khader, Honourable Speaker of the Karnataka Legislative Assembly. The event celebrated the dedication, perseverance, and accomplishments of 157 participants who successfully completed this rigorous program, reaffirming their commitment to driving positive change in Bengaluru. It was truly a moment to remember!

We have also made substantial progress in enhancing urban mobility and safety through initiatives like "IRR Street: Standstill to Active," the Domlur flyover pedestrian access proposal, and our collaboration with the Bengaluru Traffic Police. We have recently embarked on solving traffic issues on the Hosur Road stretch. These efforts aim not only to improve infrastructure but also to ensure that our streets are safe and accessible for all citizens.

Under B.SAFE, we proudly unveiled the B.SAFE Constituency Phase III, a transformative initiative focusing on enhancing women's safety and creating a secure environment in Bengaluru. Through collaborative efforts with local leaders, we will work to raise awareness about safety measures and encourage active community participation in the Vijayanagar and Govindaraja Nagar Assembly Constituencies.

We kicked off the 4th cohort of our Participatory Democracy Fellowship Program with Mount Carmel College. We also hosted an insightful webinar on the transformative power of data and technology in election management. Adding to this, our collaboration with the Manipal Academy of Higher Education led to powerful discussions on overcoming complex challenges in local governance.

Our social media communications passionately highlighted the pressing issues facing Bengaluru, reflecting our commitment to enhancing the quality of life for its citizens. Our audience engaged enthusiastically, responding to our clarion call for action. The No-Plastic July initiative inspired sustainable swaps, while Trees First underscored the importance of prioritising trees in development. Our Together For Her Safety campaign addressed urgent solutions for women's safety.

As we reflect on our journey, we find ourselves standing at the precipice of opportunity, invigorated by the progress we have made together. Each initiative, collaboration, and campaign has brought us closer to our vision of a vibrant, inclusive, and resilient Bengaluru. While the challenges ahead may seem formidable, they are met with unwavering determination and a collective spirit that drives us forward. Let us continue to unite our efforts, harnessing the power of community engagement and innovative solutions to create a city that not only meets the needs of its citizens but also inspires future generations.

Thank you for being a part of the B.PAC family. Your passion and commitment inspire us every day.

Warm regards,

Revathy Ashok

Hon. Managing Trustee & CEO

Bangalore Political Action Committee (B.PAC)



B.CLIP GRADUATION CEREMONY - BATCHES 6, 7, AND 8 [↗](#)

The graduation ceremony for B.PAC's Civic Leadership Incubator Program (B.CLIP) for Batches 6, 7, and 8 took place on August 31, 2024, at the Khincha Auditorium, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Bengaluru. The event was graced by the presence of several distinguished dignitaries, including the Chief Guest, Shri U. T. Khader, Honourable Speaker of the Karnataka Legislative Assembly. Other esteemed guests included Ms. Kiran Mazumdar Shaw, President of B.PAC; Ms Revathy Ashok, CEO of B.PAC, Mr. Prasad Bidapa, Member of B.PAC; Mrs Revathi Kamat, philanthropist and environmentalist, Mr. N. Harish, Advocate; and Mr. Anand Gundurao, Member of B.PAC.

In total, 157 civic leaders graduated from the program on August 31st. Each graduate received a graduation certificate from the Chief Guest, Shri U. T. Khader, in recognition of their commitment to civic leadership and their dedication to building a better Bengaluru.

More about the graduation



B.CLIP Batch 6



B.CLIP Batch 7



B.CLIP Batch 8



B.PAC Civic Leadership Incubator Program (B.CLIP) Batch 9 [🔗](#)

We launched the 9th batch of the B.CLIP Program on July 6th at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Bengaluru. After a rigorous selection process involving applications from 200 candidates, 65 were chosen to participate in this intensive program.

We have completed 30 sessions across disciplines public policy, governance, media management, communication skills, electioneering, with 24 subject matter experts and completed 3 field visit which includes Integrated Command and Control Center (ICCC), Traffic command and control center (TMC) & Jayanagara BWSSB RWH park.



B.CLIP Leaders Rise to the Ranks

Several of our B.CLIP civic leaders attained notable positions in political parties and key roles within parastatal agencies-a testament to their dedication and commitment to public service.



Mr. B. R. Naidu
Chairman, Bal Bhavan Society,
Government of Karnataka



Ms. Kavitha Reddy
Member, Karnataka Building & Other
Construction Workers Welfare Board
Government of Karnataka

BLR Habba in Your Park

We partnered with Unboxing BLR and the B.CLIP Alumni Association to celebrate Bengaluru's public parks through a series of art, dance, and music performances. Spearheaded by B.CLIP leaders, these events took place at several parks throughout August:

- Coles Park, Pulikeshi Nagar
- Mr. Sampath C.
- Gayatri Park, Gayatri Nagar
- Ms. Devika Raj
- Sankey Tank, Malleshwaram
- Ms. Kaveri Kedarnath
- Bugle Rock Park, Basavanagudi
- Mr. Thejesh Kumar & Ms. Vandana Shastri
- Inner Circle Park, Whitefield
- Mr. Sampath Ramanujam



B.PAC **ENGAGED** PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY PROGRAM

Anganwadi Survey in Shivajinagar Constituency

As part of this program, we conducted an Anganwadi survey across 16 locations within the Shivajinagar Assembly Constituency. The findings were submitted to Shri. Rizwan Arshad, MLA of Shivajinagar, followed by secondary visits to monitor progress. The MLA's office team reviewed the details of immediate actions required for the Anganwadis and Shishuvihars.

B.PAC at DPS East Model Youth Parliament 2024

Ms. Harshitha V., Program Lead of B.ENGAGED, was invited as the Chief Guest and Judge for the Model Youth Parliament 2024 inter-school competition at Delhi Public School, East. B.PAC Board Member Mr. Harish N. played a key role in facilitating the

Model Parliament sessions and served as the Chief Guest for the senior school competition.

Webinar on Data Analytics in Election & Digital Governance

On September 4th, we conducted a webinar in collaboration with the Forum of Digital Politics, featuring Mr. Thedal Anandan, National Secretary of the Forum, as the speaker. The session explored the transformative impact of data and technology on election management and governance.



Session Highlights:

- Role of Data in Election Management
- Voter Profiling and Engagement
- Data-Driven Governance
- Technology for Better Governance

Meeting with the Newly Appointed Consulate General of Israel

We had the opportunity to meet Ms. Oril Weitzman, the newly appointed Consulate General of Israel to South India, at B.PAC. During the meeting, we provided an overview of B.PAC's key programs and highlighted our previous collaborations with the Consulate.

Participatory Democracy Fellowship Program

We launched the 4th cohort of the Participatory Democracy Fellowship Program, for the students of MA Public Policy at Mount Carmel College, which consists of 100 hours of sessions with experts, on-ground surveys, and the submission of a final actionable report to elected representatives. To date, we have completed 25 hours of work, with the program scheduled to conclude in December 2024.

The fellowship conceptualized by B.PAC is designed to create a strong set of practices and standards for the students of Public Policy, Politics, Public Administration, Media and Journalism. It is expected to set the foundation for them to build a strong analytical skill set and also nurture and create instinctual and reactive changemakers.

Session on Challenges in Local Governance at MAHE

We held an informative session in collaboration with the Manipal Academy of Higher Education's Department of Public Policy, focusing on "Challenges in Local Governance: Engaging Policymakers and Leaders from Different Political Backgrounds in Karnataka (The B.PAC Experience)". The session yielded many insightful discussions on various challenges and potential solutions in local governance.

Meeting with Dr Shalini Rajneesh, Chief Secretary of GoK

The B.PAC team met with Dr. Shalini Rajneesh, Chief Secretary of Karnataka to discuss BBMP elections 2024 - Ward reservation & election notification, Revival of Multi Stakeholder meeting coordination, Mobility Solutions, Promote Eco-friendly Ganeshas, Solid Waste Management (SWM) Solutions, Urban Flooding and Political Training Institute. This dialogue marks a positive step towards collaborative efforts with Government. of Karnataka, aiming to drive positive changes and create a better, more sustainable Bengaluru.



B.PAC
MOBILE
SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY FOR ALL

Updates on 'IRR Street: Standstill to Active'

1. Domlur flyover pedestrian access proposal: We presented the pedestrian access proposal for the Domlur flyover junction to the BBMP Traffic Engineering Committee (TEC) and the DCP of Traffic East. The proposal was also discussed with urban designers from SDeG and WRI India to gather feedback. A joint inspection of the proposed intervention sites was conducted with the BTP DCP of Traffic East, the BBMP TEC East Executive Engineer, and Mayapaxis at the Domlur flyover junction. We are currently collaborating with them to advance short-term executable interventions.



CITY / PAGE 6
LAKE DESPAIR
 Pollution control board's report confirms sewage entry in one lake, while it asks BBMP to check rapid deterioration of another



CITY / PAGE 7
POOR SHOW
 Below poverty line cards held by those who own vehicles, possess large tracts of land, or receive govt salaries to be cancelled

Citizens question how BBMP came up with cost of Rs 1 lakh for each percolation pit that it plans to dig at various locations, when some residential layouts have got it done for half the price

PRICEY PIT STOP

Officials say cost of pit depends on size and location

S Maheswara Reddy
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 @sMaheswaraReddy

The Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has allocated Rs 2.58 crore towards digging 250 percolation pits at different locations in the city to harvest rainwater. Many citizens, especially environmentalists, approached the BBMP's decision to harvest rainwater but some of them are not happy with the cost involved for each of the percolation pits. The BBMP is set to spend Rs 1 lakh per each of the percolation pits.

They question the BBMP's due diligence in calculating the cost (Rs 1 lakh) for each percolation pit while the actual cost to dig a percolation pit does not go over Rs 50,000. They said that percolation pits have been dug up at some of the residential layouts in Bangalore East. For example, the residents of Nagarajana Layout engaged a private



Rainwater harvesting pits are a must for Bangalore as benefits received a lot of rain that mostly ends up collected on roads and doesn't help make tables

“The technical specifications should include a minimum of 12 feet depth and cover civil works directing walkway, surface runoff towards the pit. More importantly a defect liability period (DLP) of three years should include regular (90 days) desilting and maintenance

— K Rajagopalan, Bengaluru, Pesticide Workers Association

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WALK THIS WAY



Citizens' group suggests ways in which BBMP could enable pedestrian accessibility on Domlur flyover

Malvin Mathan
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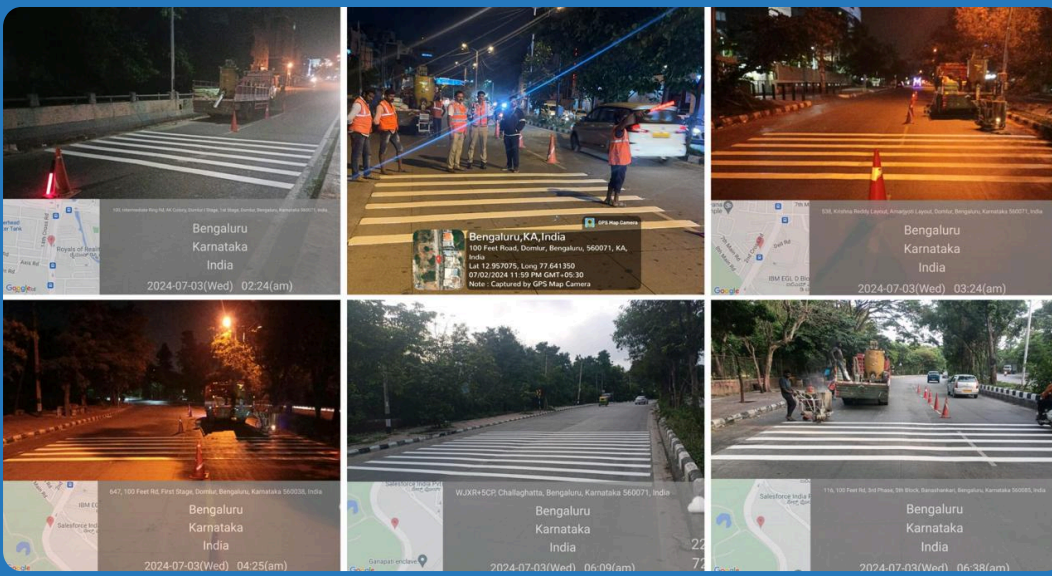
The Bangalore Political Action Committee (BPAC) has proposed to the Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) to enable pedestrian accessibility for the stretch covered by Domlur flyover.

Since its construction around 2009, the Domlur flyover has blocked pedestrian access for those travelling to and from Kuvempu, Doodar and Indiranagar. The flyover acts as a barrier between the three areas and prevents accessibility to the areas without vehicular access. The Karnataka park that lies towards Doodar also remains inaccessible for Kuvempu and Indiranagar residents by foot. To enable more walkability in the area, BPAC has sent a proposal to the traffic engineering wing of BBMP to make a few changes to the flyover. As per the proposal, series interventions have been proposed for the stretch towards Kuvempu, Indiranagar, Marathahalli and Trinity Circle. They have proposed ramp access to walkways and connecting

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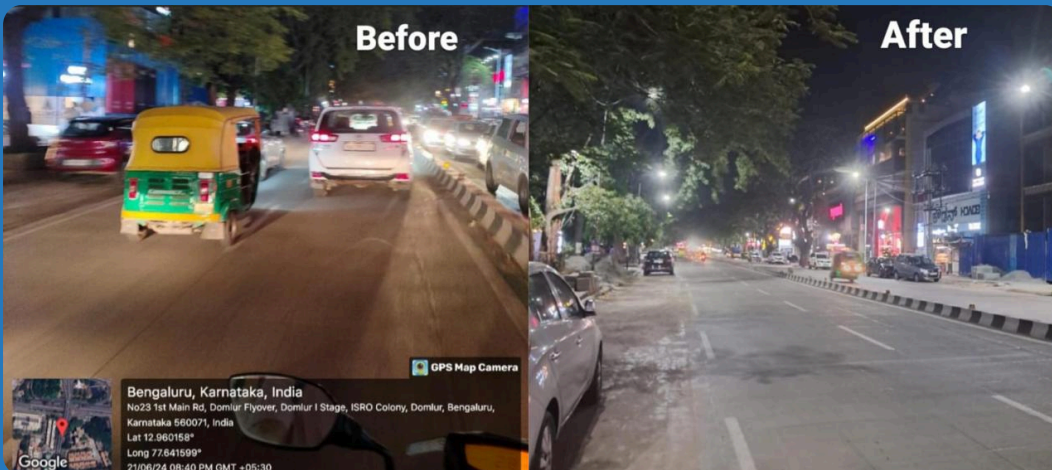
On July 12th, Bangalore Mirror featured B.PAC's Domlur flyover proposal and its on-ground impact on the Inner Ring Road (pages 1 and 8).

2. Road Markings and Traffic Calming Elements: We took the initiative to collaborate with BBMP officials to lay lane markings from the Indiranagar KFC junction to Indiranagar 16th Main. Additionally, rumble strips were installed at the Domlur flyover down ramp, near DELL, and at the S-curve section adjacent to the defence land.



3. Roadcrash Blackspot Rectification: Shared the alarming and repeated fatal & non-fatal road crashes report of past 2 years from Ulsoor Traffic Police Station with BBMP Traffic Engineering Cell to push for high priority execution of long awaited HRCs and speed humps on IRR accident blackspots.

4. Street Lighting: 10 new LED light bulbs have been installed on Koramangala 100 ft Road. Streetlights have been electrified along both the right-hand side and left-hand side from Indiranagar 16th Main to the Domlur flyover, including pedestrian lights.



5. Ejjipura Flyover: With the support of Dr. Shalini Rajneesh, Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka, improvements on the Ejjipura Flyover, which had been stalled for 6 years, are now underway. At least five prefabricated segments have been placed onto the columns, with additional segments currently in progress.

6. MF5 Bus Fleet Recommendation: Following B.PAC's supply-demand analysis, BMTc has increased the MF5 fleet from 17 buses in November 2023 to 25 buses today. This adjustment has resulted in an additional 71 trips, bringing the total to 240 trips per day in both directions between Indiranagar and Koramangala.

We have submitted a detailed calculation to BMTc outlining the need for 30 buses on the MF5 route to achieve a 5-minute frequency. The CTMO has assured us that the remaining 5 buses will be added shortly as more buses and crew become available. We thank Dr. Aitichya Chandra, IISc Bengaluru, for his guidance.

7. Bus Waiting Shelter: We are working with BBMP TEC to install the 8 missing bus waiting shelters on IRR on priority and for maintenance of the rest 19 shelters, based on our audit findings.

8. Construction Debris: We successfully removed 50% of the debris beneath the Ejjipura flyover; however, more construction and demolition waste is still being dumped in the area. Increased surveillance and penalties are needed to address this issue.

As part of the traffic management program, we have taken up the responsibility of auditing Hosur road traffic and proposing sustainable solutions for improving the traffic conditions of the road. We have started with site inspections in coordination with the Bangalore City Traffic Police. This is an ongoing project and we will share more updates in the coming days.

Brainstorming Session on Sustainable Mobility & Public Health

B.PAC served as the Outreach Partner for a session organised by the BeST Cluster at IISc on September 25th, focusing on "Understanding Sustainable Mobility as a Public Health Measure for More Holistic Decision Support for Urban Local Bodies." The session was led by Prof. Ashish Verma and Prof. Prabhdeep Kaur from IISc.

Focused group discussions addressed existing gaps in knowledge, implementation, and policy, as well as best practices from India and abroad and priority identification.



Other Updates and Activities

Participation in IISc-IST Lab's 15th Anniversary Celebration: On July 3rd, the B.PAC team participated as panellists in a roundtable discussion during the IISc-IST Lab's 15th Anniversary celebration. The discussion centred around the critical theme: "Enabling Ecosystems to Translate Mobility Research into Practical Solutions for Sustainable and Liveable Indian Cities."

Data Lab Meeting at WRI India: On July 12th, the B.PAC team participated in a Data Lab meeting at WRI India, where Mr. Evan Tachovsky, Global Director of Data Lab, presented innovative digital products aimed at tackling climate and sustainability challenges. B.PAC contributed ideas on leveraging AI for impact, developing data-driven tools, and implementing effective strategies for communicating data and research.

Ride to Resilience Workshop Participation: We participated in the "Ride to Resilience" workshop at the WRI office, where we engaged in discussions focused on enhancing cycling infrastructure in Indian cities.



Commenced the B.SAFE Constituency Phase 3 in Vijayanagar & Govindaraja Nagar

- **B.SAFE Ambassadors Recruitment:** we conducted interviews for candidates applying to the B.SAFE Ambassador Program. We scheduled interview sessions for 31 applicants, with 20 candidates attending. Ultimately, 9 candidates were selected for the program, 4 were placed on a waiting list, and 7 were not selected during the interview process.
- **B.SAFE Ambassador Training Sessions Conducted:**



- **Engaging Student Volunteers for Safety Audits:** Conducting public place safety audits for women and children in Bengaluru - we reached out to various colleges in Vijayanagar & Govindaraja Nagar to engage student volunteers for on-ground safety audits. Additionally, we contacted St. Joseph's College on MG Road, Global College in RR Nagar, RNS Architecture, and JSS in Channasandra to broaden our volunteer base.
- **B.SAFE Mobile App Orientation for Volunteer Students of RNS School of Architecture:** On September 12, 2024, we conducted a Mobile Application Orientation Session for volunteer students from RNS School of Architecture. During this session, students were signed up and assigned to their respective wards, equipping them with the tools needed for effective participation in this initiative.
- **Public Place Safety Audit:** The on-ground public place safety audit, conducted by students from RNS School of Architecture, covering 18 wards and 274 locations. Our volunteers are actively visiting these sites, in the mornings and evenings, to gather the required lat-long data.

Project Malleshwaram Anubhava

To investigate and understand the intricate fabric of Malleshwaram and identify the key factors and forces driving its urban growth and transformation, we launched Project Malleshwaram Anubhava. This study will encompass both the Kadu-Malleshwara and Malleshwaram wards.

Our approach involves working with student volunteers who will engage with their assigned wards. We enlisted students from BMS College of Engineering, who successfully carried out the initiative in the assigned Malleshwaram wards. Additionally, we are exploring a potential collaboration with BMS College of Architecture (BMSCA) to organise a stakeholder meeting that will involve all key players and community members in Malleshwaram, focusing on the theme "Malleshwaram Anubhava."

We held a series of productive dialogues with BMSCA and the Malleshwaram MLA team. Following a second round of discussions with BMSCA, we teamed up with B.CLIP leader Kaveri Kedarnath and arranged a meeting with Ms. Sushma, a BBMP

officer in Malleshwaram, along with BMS College students, to provide a briefing on Project Malleshwaram Anubhava.



Participation in the International Conference on Global Criminology and Victimology 2024

We participated in a closed-door discussion on Global Criminology and Victimology at the International Conference on Global Criminology and Victimology (ICGCV) 2024 held at RV University. The discussion yielded valuable insights into emerging trends in criminology and victimology, fostering collaboration among experts and identifying actionable strategies for addressing crime and supporting victims more effectively.



Green Ganesha 2024

For the 8th consecutive year, B.PAC with support from B.CLIP Alumani Association organised the "Mane Maneyalli Mannina Ganapa," the Green Ganesha initiative across multiple locations in Bengaluru. The initiative raises awareness about the environmental harm caused by Plaster of Paris Ganesha idols and synthetic paints and promotes the use of eco-friendly clay idols for Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations.

This year, a clay Ganesha idol-making workshop for children was held in collaboration with Bal Bhavan, Government of Karnataka, on 1st September 2024. The event brought together young participants for an afternoon of creativity, where they learned to craft their own clay idols. Through these workshops and community events, over 3,280 clay Ganesha idols were made, allowing families to contribute to reducing pollution and celebrating an environmentally conscious festival.

We ran a week-long social media campaign to raise awareness about this initiative and also providing environmentally friendly alternative methods to celebrate an eco friendly festival.



Communication & Outreach

In the last quarter, our social media campaigns focused on key pressing issues, reflecting our ongoing commitment to raising awareness and advocating for a better quality of life for Bengaluru's citizens. These campaigns highlighted our efforts to address the city's most urgent challenges and drive positive change.

- **Environmental Change Makers of Bengaluru:** Bengaluru's climate and tree cover have been in steep decline, leading to rising average temperatures. In such a scenario, it's crucial to spotlight the environmental change makers who are tirelessly working to protect and restore the city's green cover. To support this cause, we created a series of eight social media videos showcasing Bengaluru's most prominent environmentalists, aiming to build solidarity and inspire support for their efforts to bring back the city's natural glory.
- **No Plastic July:** Plastic pollution has become a significant menace, and despite the ban on plastic, the desired impact remains elusive. To make sustainable alternatives more attractive and accessible, we launched a month-long social media campaign highlighting everyday items that can be easily replaced with eco-friendly options. The objective - to raise awareness and encourage people to make simple, sustainable swaps in their daily lives.
- **Trees First:** Trees are the source of life-everything begins and ends with them, yet this simple truth often escapes us. Sustainable development is impossible without prioritising trees, a message we must urgently convey. To emphasise this, we launched the 'Trees First' campaign, reminding people that trees existed long before humans, and if humanity is to thrive, trees must be protected and prioritised in all development efforts.
- **Together For Her Safety:** There is an urgent need for pragmatic solutions to ensure women's safety. While several laws and regulations exist to protect and empower women, enforcing and strengthening them remains a challenge in the face of rising criminal incidents. The 'Together For Her Safety' campaign is a collective call to action, urging the reinforcement of these laws and the implementation of stronger safety measures. It also aims to raise awareness about the current safety protocols and legal protections available to women.

Our awareness and advocacy efforts extended to writing well-researched blogs on critical topics such as [mitigating Bengaluru's monsoon floods](#), promoting eco-friendly practices through the '[Green Ganesha](#)' initiative, and highlighting the [vital role of Pourakarmikas and sanitation workers](#) in maintaining the city's cleanliness. These blogs delve into practical solutions for flood management, offer insights on sustainable celebrations with clay Ganesha idols, and shed light on the challenges and contributions of Bengaluru's sanitation workforce. Through these in-depth discussions, we aim to foster greater community involvement and create meaningful impact on these pressing issues.

Acknowledgement

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our Supporters, Funders, Partner Organizations, Para-statal Agencies, Media, Civic groups, Resident Welfare Associations, B.CLIP Civic Leaders and Volunteers who continue playing a vital role in creating a better future for Bengaluru.

Bangalore Political Action Committee B.PAC

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