



FROM THE CEO'S DESK

Dear Reader,

As we turn the page on the first quarter of 2024, I'm filled with pride in the dedication and impact B.PAC has achieved. This newsletter celebrates the dedication of our team, volunteers, supporters, and partners who are working tirelessly to build a better Bengaluru.

Empowering Citizens for Informed Participation: The **B.PAC Election Habba 2024** is a significant initiative showcasing our commitment to civic engagement through electoral awareness. Through **Voter Awareness workshops, panel discussions and social media campaigns** we're empowering citizens with the knowledge and tools needed to actively participate in the upcoming **Lok Sabha elections**.

Building a More Equitable and Sustainable City: We believe in creating a city that fosters safety and well-being for all. Our B.SAFE initiatives continue to make a positive impact, exemplified by the **'SHE ARISES - Join the Womomentum'** event. This powerful gathering celebrated women's empowerment and provided a platform for impactful women-led organisations.

The launch of the **'Green Ride Bengaluru'** awards program underscores our commitment to sustainable mobility solutions. By recognizing organisations promoting eco-friendly commuting practices, we aim to inspire a collective shift towards a greener Bengaluru.

The **Intermediate Ring Road (IRR) : Standstill to Active** study exemplifies B.PAC's data-driven approach to solve urban issues. This

effort with the support of Bangalore Traffic Police, BBMP, and BMTTC are paving the way for transformative improvements on the IRR. We look forward to sharing our findings and working with these esteemed entities to implement positive changes.

The positive media coverage we've received is a source of inspiration for our team. It highlights the impact of the work and motivates us all to continue working alongside our supporters and volunteers to make Bengaluru a city that thrives on informed and engaged citizens.

Thank you for being a part of this journey. Together, let's continue building a brighter future for Bengaluru!

Sincerely,
Revathy Ashok,
CEO and Managing Trustee, B.PAC



**ELECTION
HABBA 2024**

Electoral Awareness Campaign by B.PAC

At the onset of January 1st, 2024, we commenced the B.PAC [Election Habba](#) 2024 campaign. The primary goal of this campaign is to foster awareness about the significance of upcoming Lok Sabha 2024 elections and enhance electoral literacy among citizens thus helping increase voter turnout. **#ElectionHabba2024**

As we gear up for the upcoming Lok Sabha Elections in 2024, B.PAC is committed to ensuring that every citizen is well-informed, engaged, and ready to exercise their democratic right through three distinct social media campaigns:

Educational Blog Series: Our commitment to electoral awareness extends

to our blogs, covering a range of topics such as [Electoral Literacy](#), [Model Code of Conduct](#), [eVIGIL Mobile App](#), [National Voters' Day](#), [A Resolution to Vote in 2024](#), [Fostering Civic Engagement in the Youth](#), and [Technology's Role in Shaping Good Governance](#).

The poster features a central text box with a white background and a blue border, set against a background of elderly voters. The text in the box reads: "The Election Commission of India Extends the **Warmth of Democracy** Allows **'Vote from Home'** Facility for Voters above 80". The background shows five elderly individuals (three women and two men) looking towards the camera. The top left corner has the "ELECTION HABBA 2024" logo with the tagline "Electoral Awareness Campaign by B.PAC". The top right corner has the "B.PAC Let's Be Better" logo. The bottom left corner has the hashtag "#ElectionHabba2024" and the bottom right corner has "#LokSabha2024".

ELECTION HABBA 2024
Electoral Awareness Campaign by B.PAC

B.PAC Let's Be Better

The Election Commission of India
Extends the **Warmth of Democracy**
Allows **'Vote from Home'** Facility
for Voters above 80

#ElectionHabba2024 #LokSabha2024

Technical Insights into Elections: Provides detailed technical information about the election processes, demystifying complexities, and making it accessible to all.

INCREDIBLE Indian Elections Facts

Bengaluru has a strong record of voter turnout in Lok Sabha elections. In the 2019 general election, the voter turnout in Bengaluru was over 65%.

Bangalore North: 50.51%

Bangalore Central: 49.75%

Bangalore South: 54.12%

Bangalore Rural: 64.09%

#ElectionHabba2024 #LokSabha2024 Source: Election Commission of India

Incredible Indian Election Facts: Offers interesting trivia to keep readers engaged, enlightening them about various aspects of the electoral process.



Stories from **‘Belief in the Ballot’**: Unveils heartwarming stories from the book **‘Belief in the Ballot’** by the Election Commission of India, shedding light on untold narratives around elections.



Panel Discussion on 'Youth, Technology & Elections, The Way Ahead' on National Voters Day

Celebrating National Voters' Day, B.PAC collaborated with the Department of Humanities at Presidency College for a dynamic panel discussion titled '**Youth, Technology & Elections: The Way Ahead!**' featuring distinguished panellists **Anand Begur**, State Coordinator at KPCC, **Raghu Raj**, CEO of Smart Neta, and Election Activist **Anand Tirtha**. The insightful conversation, moderated by **Sachin Tantry**, Communications Manager at B.PAC, inspired students to pledge active participation in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, extending this commitment to their friends and family.



Electoral Literacy Workshops and Online Voter Registration Drives

Bringing Election Habba to the ground, our team has been conducting electoral literacy workshops and online voter registration drives for professionals at **Sasken Technologies, ELCITA campus, CGI, Prestige Tech Park, Embassy Tech Park, Prestige Shantiniketan**, and students of **RV Institute of Legal Studies**. The purpose of these initiatives is to establish the last mile connect with voters interested in voting but lacking the right information or time to register themselves on the electoral rolls.

B.PAC . ENGAGED

PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY PROGRAM



A Guest Lecture at St. Anne's College

In commemoration of National Youth Day on 12th Jan, B.PAC organised a talk at St. Anne's College. **Prof. Rajeev Gowda**, Vice Chairperson, State Institute for the Transformation of Karnataka, Former Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha, addressed the audience and spoke on the topic '**The Role of Youth in Building a Better Bengaluru.**'

A Virtual Session on ‘Water Security in Urban Bengaluru - Past, Present & War Forward’

We conducted an Expert Talk with **Mr. Vishwanath S.**, Director of Biome Environmental Solutions, to understand **Water Security in Urban Bengaluru** and what are long-term and short-term solutions we can implement. We learned about the critical issues of groundwater depletion and how to implement rainwater harvesting and wastewater treatment for a more sustainable future. This talk is a must-watch for residents, policymakers, and anyone concerned about Bengaluru's water security. Watch [here](#).

Virtual Knowledge Sharing Session on the Guidance Value-Based Property Tax System

This session conducted on 28th Feb 2024, by **Mr. Harish N.**, Advocate and Member, B.PAC, simplifies the framework for calculating property tax of different property categories within the Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) jurisdiction. On 20th Feb, 2024, the BBMP published a draft notification regarding the determination of property tax based on the Unit Area Value, which was withdrawn later after it received objections from the citizens. Watch the session [here](#) and understand the detailed formulae for calculating property tax based on the guidance value-based system.



Supported by





Tactical Urbanism and Placemaking Solutions

Tactical Urbanism and Placemaking Solutions are urban design approaches that foster community engagement and interventions to enhance public spaces for the safety and empowerment of women and children in urban environments.

B.PAC, along with a dedicated group of volunteers, initiated Tactical Urbanism and Placemaking initiatives, starting with the first one at **HMT Layout Park, Dasarahalli**. This initiative was supported and inaugurated by **Mr. Muniraju, MLA of Dasarahalli**. The second initiative took place at **Soundarya Park, Hebbala**. This initiative was supported by **Mr. B. S. Suresh, MLA of Hebbal**.

The volunteer team comprised members from the **CGI Team, B.SAFE Ambassadors, St. Paul's College students, and local community members**. The event transformed the parks into more engaging and user-friendly spaces for the community.



SHE ARISES - Join the Womomentum

B.PAC and CGI, a CSR partner, commemorated International Women's Day with **SHE ARISES - Join the Womomentum**. This day-long event, inaugurated by **Smt. Priyanka Upendra**, actor and humanitarian, aimed to promote inclusivity, collaboration, and transformation for the safety and empowerment of women. It provided a platform for **28 women-led organisations** in Namma Bengaluru to showcase their initiatives. Street plays, stand-up performances, and other activities organised featured themes of women's safety and empowerment. The event focused on promoting a sense of community engagement on topics related to women's empowerment and safety in the city.

B.PAC
3. MOBILE
SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY FOR ALL

A Webinar on 'Sustainable & Safe Mobility for a better Bengaluru'

We in association with Atlantis conducted a webinar on the topic '**Sustainable & Safe Mobility for a Better Bengaluru**', which was enthusiastically attended by 25 participants, many of whom were college students. The topics covered ranged from the advantages of embracing sustainable modes of transportation and the imperative need for road safety measures to the enlightening discussion on decoding the language of the street, shedding light on often-overlooked road markings and signage.



The 'Green Ride Bengaluru' Awards Program

Green Ride Bengaluru is an initiative recognizing and awarding organisations and individuals promoting sustainable employee commuting practices. Launched in March 2024 with 93 corporate heads in attendance, the competition runs until September 2024. It's a joint effort by **Corporates in Real Estate (CiRE)**, **B.PAC**, and the **IISc Sustainable Transportation (IST) Lab**.

Think your organisation qualifies? Register now!
Find details and application forms [here](#).



IRR Streets - Standstill to Active

The Intermediate Ring Road (IRR), connecting Indiranagar and Koramangala, sees a daily influx of hundreds of thousands for work, dining, shopping, and commutes. This high volume makes the Indiranagar Metro Station the second busiest in Bengaluru, after Majestic.

Our goal: Improve bus connectivity and pedestrian walkability along the IRR to alleviate traffic congestion and create lively streets.

Our approach: Conducting audits, surveys, data analysis, inferences and suggest recommendations with the concerned government departments, and work with them to see change on ground

Objective 1: Improving Traffic Condition & Pedestrian Access on IRR with Bangalore Traffic Police

B.PAC conducted walkability and road safety audits along the Intermediate Ring Road (IRR). We also assessed four signalised junctions on the IRR. We presented our initial recommendations to **Mr. M. N. Anucheth**, Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic). **A pilot program to test some of the readily implementable recommendations, is in the pipeline.**

Objective 2: Improving Walkability on IRR with the BBMP

We conducted extensive walkability audits and assessments of 29 bus stops along the IRR. Following this, B.PAC met with BBMP officials from Project Central 9 and the Traffic Engineering Cell (TEC) on March 18th, 2024. We appreciate the support of **Mr. Prahallad**, EIC, who facilitated the connection with relevant officers. We look forward to continued collaboration with BBMP's team for successful on-ground implementation.

Objective 3: Improving Experience and Reliability of Buses on IRR with the BMTC

To identify areas for improvement, we conducted a bus frequency and occupancy survey during peak morning and evening hours. **We analysed over 100,000 data points to understand ridership patterns, including overcrowding issues and origin-destination demands at different times.** We and WRI presented our recommendations to **Mr. Prabhakar Reddy**, BMTC Chief Traffic Manager (Operations) and he was very appreciative of our efforts.

We'll be releasing a report of our findings on improving the IRR in the public domain soon. We plan to share the findings, including audits, analysis, and recommendations, with relevant government departments to collaborate and implement positive changes on the ground.

Media Coverage

[Bangalore Mirror](#) throws lights on the B.PAC Civic Leadership Incubator (B.CLIP) Program calling it the “Tool Kit for Better Civic Leadership”.

[The South First](#) covers the B.SAFE program that has been making significant strides in enhancing women's safety and empowerment for the past decade.

A local daily, Prajavani, elucidates the SHE ARISES, Join The Womomentum event.



ಮಹಿಳಾ ದಿನಾಚರಣೆ

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಪೊಲಿಟಿಕಲ್ ಆಕ್ಷನ್ ಕಮಿಟಿ (ಬಿ.ಪ್ಯಾಕ್), ಸಿಎಸ್‌ಆರ್ ಹಾಗೂ ಸಿಜಿಬಿ ವತಿಯಿಂದ 'ಶಿ ಅರೈಸಸ್ - ವುಮೆನ್ಸ್ ಮೂವ್' ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆಯಡಿ ನಗರದ ಎಂ.ಜಿ. ರಸ್ತೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹಮ್ಮಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗಿದ್ದ ಅಂತರರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಮಹಿಳಾ ದಿನಾಚರಣೆಯನ್ನು ನಟ ಪ್ರಿಯಾಂಕಾ ಉಪೇಂದ್ರ ಉದ್ಘಾಟಿಸಿದರು. ಮಹಿಳಾ ಅಟೋ ಚಾಲಕರಾದ ವಿಜಯಲಕ್ಷ್ಮಿ ಪರಮೇಶ್ವರಿ, ಬೈಕರ್‌ಗಳಾದ ಐಶ್ವರ್ಯ ಗೌಡ, ಹರ್ಷಿಣಿ ವೆಂಕಟೇಶ್, ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ ಮುಖ್ಯಸ್ಥರು ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಿದ್ದರು - ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ ಚಿತ್ರ

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our supporters and volunteers who continue playing a vital role in creating a better future for Bengaluru.

Bangalore Political Action Committee B.PAC

NO. 4/6, GROUND FLOOR, MILLERS ROAD, OPP MANIPAL HOSPITAL, 560052,
BENGALURU

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