

FROM THE CEO'S DESK

Dear Reader,

Greetings from B.PAC!

Reflecting on the accomplishments of the financial year 2023-2024 fills me with great pride and gratitude towards our dedicated team and steadfast supporters and partners. The collective efforts have manifested in a series of impactful initiatives aimed at fostering positive change and progress across various domains in Bengaluru. With each passing year, we strive to broaden our impact by forging effective collaborations with like-minded organisations and individuals who share our passion for enhancing the quality of life in our city.

We continue to enthuse Bengaluru's voters for a stronger democracy

Through Election Habba we actively created immense awareness about Karnataka elections 2023 and Lok Sabha elections 2024 highlighting the importance of voting through various initiatives. Our awareness efforts during the Karnataka Vidhana Sabha elections held in May 2023 was widely appreciated by citizens, political class, and the media. Election Habba 2024 aims to inspire greater voter awareness and participation, ensuring that the voice of every citizen is heard in shaping the destiny of our city and nation.

Our dedication to environmental stewardship remains unwavering

With initiatives such as 'Mane Manege Mannina Ganapa' we not only aim to nurture a sense of responsibility towards our environment but also recognize the invaluable contributions of those who work tirelessly to maintain the cleanliness of our city.

Our gratitude to the BBMP Pourakarmikas and sanitation workers for keeping the city clean

Deepavali Sweets Distribution to BBMP Pourakarmikas and sanitation workers, in particular, brings me the utmost pride. Our team orchestrated the distribution of over 31500 sweet boxes across 198 wards with the assistance of 300 B.CLIP civic leaders. This is the least we can do to appreciate and honour their hard work who tirelessly with dedication keep Namma Bengaluru clean and hygienic.

We remain steadfast in preserving and revitalising our city

Projects like 'Tactical Urbanism and Placemaking Solutions' and 'Unboxing Bengaluru Habba' underscore our commitment to preserving the essence of our city while ensuring its sustainable development.

Empowering women and ensuring their safety remain paramount

From pioneering initiatives like the B.SAFE Constituency initiative creating over 40 safety ambassadors to empowering women entrepreneurs through events like 'She ARISES - Join the Womentum,' we continue to champion gender equality and empowerment in Bengaluru.

We continue to break new grounds for better mobility and infrastructure

In our pursuit of better mobility and infrastructure, strategic partnerships and datadriven interventions have been instrumental. Initiatives such as the Personal2Public campaign, Green Ride Bengaluru Awards Program, and the IRR Streets project are testament to our commitment to addressing traffic congestion and enhancing mobility experiences in Bengaluru.

Civic engagement lies at the heart of our approach

Through initiatives such as Participatory Democracy Fellowship at Mount Carmel College, knowledge-sharing sessions on Water Security and Property Tax System, and engaging with the Youth on their role in building a better Bengaluru, we continue to empower citizens to actively participate in shaping the future of our city through dialogue and collaboration.

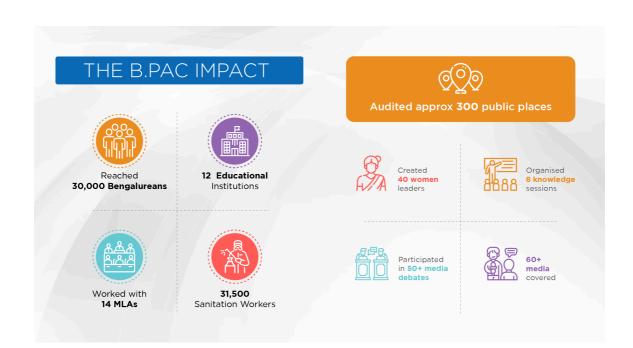
I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our partners, stakeholders, and supporters whose unwavering dedication remains instrumental in driving forward transformation. Together, let us continue to strive towards building a better, brighter Bengaluru for generations to come.

Warm Regards,

Revathy Ashok

Hon, Managing Trustee & CEO

Bangalore Political Action Committee (B.PAC)





Election Habba 2023, the electoral awareness campaign aimed at increasing the voter turnout in 2023 Karnataka assembly elections, started by conducting several electoral literacy workshops followed by online voter registration efforts at Tech campuses and educational institutes. It was heartening to see so many professionals and students attend these sessions and enroll themselves on the electoral rolls

The <u>Voter Awareness Yatre</u> traversed the city educating citizens about their electoral duties and urging them to not sell their votes for any kind of inducements. This yatra was even covered by leading television news channels.

Information on the <u>Legislative Participation of MLAs</u> was made public. The <u>Namma Bengaluru</u>, <u>Namma Manifesto</u> aimed to shape a citizen-centric manifesto that would address the key issues facing the city. The <u>Know Your Candidates</u> campaign facilitated the dissemination of information about the candidates contesting in the elections so that voters can make an informed decision while voting.

Bengaluru being a tech hub and majority glued to their smart phones we devised a digital strategy creating awareness about elections and also urging them to vote without fail In the upcoming elections. Over **150 creatives and e-posters** were flooded in the social media with our message about the elections and the need to vote.

These initiatives collectively contributed to increasing voter awareness, promoting active citizen participation, and fostering a more informed electorate in Karnataka.

Note: Link to the detailed newsletter of Election Habba 2023



Election Habba 2024 - an effort to inform and enthuse voters of Bengaluru.

At the onset of January 1st, 2024, we commenced the B.PAC Election Habba 2024 campaign with the primary goal to foster awareness about the significance of upcoming Lok Sabha 2024 elections and enhance electoral literacy among citizens thus helping increase voter turnout.

B.PAC is committed to ensuring that every citizen is well-informed, engaged, and ready to exercise their democratic right through distinct social media campaigns: Technical Insights into Elections, Incredible Indian Election Facts and Stories from 'Belief in the Ballot' book by Election Commission of India.

Educational Blog Series: Our commitment to electoral awareness extends to our blogs, covering a range of topics such as <u>Electoral Literacy</u>, <u>Model Code of Conduct</u>, <u>cVIGIL Mobile App</u>, <u>National Voters' Day</u>, <u>A Resolution to Vote in 2024</u>, <u>Fostering Civic Engagement in the Youth</u>, and <u>Technology's Role in Shaping</u> Good Governance.



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 - taking election to the doorstep of voters

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.





Inauguration of 'Mane Manege Mannina Ganapa' by Prof. Rajeev Gowda, Former Rajya Sabha MP, and Rizwan Arshad, Shivajinagara MLA, at Ulsoor Lake

Continued efforts towards environmental sustainability through the 4th edition of Mane Manege Mannina Ganapa: The 'Train the Trainer' Program Read Here

To spread awareness about the hazardous effects of Plaster of Paris and promoting alternative eco-friendly raw material to make Ganesha idols during Ganesh Chaturthi, B.PAC, along with B.CLIP Civic Leaders, citizens and student community, organised 'Mane Maneyalli Maninna Ganapa'. We scaled up the program, in 2023, by introducing the 'Train the Trainer' initiative. This initiative attempted to teach citizens how to make clay Ganesha idols on their own. It was inaugurated by Shri. P. C. Mohan, MP Bangalore Central, Shri. Rijwan Arshad, MLA Shivajinagar, and Prof. Rajeev Gowda, former MP Rajya Sabha, at Ulsoor lake. This event saw participation from 3 educational institutions with more than 100 students. Over 20 civic leaders organised the campaign in various wards.



A token of appriciation and gratitude to the selfless efforts of BBMP Pourakarmikas and Sanitation workers Deepavali Sweets Distribution to the Read Here

The diligent BBMP Pourakarmikas and sanitation workers play an instrumental role in keeping our city clean. To honour their dedication, we organised **Deepavali Sweet Distribution** across Bengaluru with generous support from **Mazumdar Shaw Philanthropy**. Over **300 B.CLIP civic leaders** helped distribute sweet boxes to **31,500** Pourakarmikas and sanitation workers from all **198 wards** of Bengaluru. This initiative was launched in the presence of **Shri. Tushar Girinath**, IAS Chief Commissioner, BBMP; **Shri. Rakesh Singh**, IAS Administrator, BBMP Additional Chief Secretary, UDD, Govt of Karnataka; **Shri. Dr. Harish Kumar**, IAS Special Commissioner (SWM), BBMP; and **Shri. Sai Prasad Rao**, Member, BPAC.



CONGRATULATIONS



We congratulate our B.CLIP Civic Leaders who are steadily growing in their party ranks and being rewarded with prominent party positions across party lines. Of the **354 B.CLIP Civic leaders** across **8 batches**, **137 Civic leaders** have been awarded party positions so far and in the last year **11 civic leaders** have achieved the same.

- 1. **Chandrakhasin M**, President Shakthi Ganapathinagar (INC)
- 2. Ravi Kumar S, State General Secretory (AAP)
- 3. Saravana S, President Jayanagara (AAP)
- 4. Madhuri Subbarao, Convener, Intellectual Cell, (BJP)
- 5. **Thejas Kumar C**, Chairman Karnataka Govt Social Schemes Implementation Committee Basavanagudi (INC)
- 6. **Sudeendra MG**, Chairman Karnataka Govt Social Schemes Implementation Committee Mahalakshmi Layout (INC)
- 7. **Shivakumar Naidu**, President, Shanthinagar Assembly Constituency, (AAP)
- 8. **Peter Samson**, Karnataka State Executive Member, Minority Morcha, (BJP)
- 9. Girish R, Bengaluru North District Executive Member Social Media (BJP)
- 10. Shyla S, President Women wing Bangalore City, (JD-S)
- 11. **Kiran Kumar C**, President Youth wing, Yelahanka (JD-S)





The B.SAFE Constituency Phase II - Our resolute effort to make Bengaluru a safe city for women and children - Read Here

Women's safety is imperative to make strides towards women's empowerment. Furthering this cause in Bengaluru, **B.SAFE Constituency** entered its second phase reaching the nooks and corners of Dasarahalli and Hebbal assembly constituencies. The **Public Place Safety Audit Reports** were released on 28th Oct, 2023, in the presence of Smt. **Jija Madhavan Hari Singh**, IPS (Rtd.) and Former DGP, **Dr. Rahul Ghodke**, Senior VP and Business Unit Leader, CGI, and **Ms. Chitra Talwar**, Program Head, B.SAFE.

The reports include the audit analysis of 6 types of public places, conducted in 298 public places on 29 streets in 20 BBMP wards. These include analysis of 76 Anganwadi Kendras, 92 Bus Stops, 54 Parks, 10 PHCs, 7 Police stations, and 35 public toilets in both assembly constituencies. The reports also comprise an action plan and way forward to exemplify safety and empowerment of women. 20 enthusiastic and passionate B.SAFE Ambassadors were chosen to conduct the audit.



Muniraju S., MLA Dasarahalli with the volunteers at HMT Layout Park, Dasarahalli



Tactical Urbanism and Placemaking Solutions making the city cleaner and aesthetic

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. Starting Jan 27, B.PAC and a dedicated group of volunteers, commenced Tactical Urbanism and Placemaking initiatives, first at HMT Layout Park, Dasarahalli, and second at Soundarya Park, Hebbal. Both were supported and inaugurated by Mr. Muniraju, MLA Dasarahalli, and Mr. B. S. Suresh, MLA Hebbal, respectively. The volunteer team comprised members from the CGI Team, 48 B.SAFE Ambassadors, St. Paul's College students, and local community members. The initiative transformed the parks into more engaging and user-friendly spaces for respective communities.



Ms. Roopa S, Executive, CSR, CGI, Ms. Chitra Talwar, Member, B.PAC, Ms. Priyanka Upendra, Actor, Ms. Srividya Nataraj VP Corporate Services, CGI, Ms. Shanmuga Priya Asokan, VP - Consulting Services, CGI

SHE ARISES - Join the Womentum

B.PAC and CGI commemorated International Women's Day with 'SHE ARISES - Join the Womentum', a 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 and products. The event also was peppered with Street plays, stand-up performances, and other activities featuring 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.





Revathy Ashok, Hon. Managing Trustee, B.PAC presenting the findings of IRR to Mr. Prabhakar Reddy, BMTC Chief Traffic Manager (Operations)

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.

With 'IRR Streets - Standstill to Active' initiativewe aim to improve bus connectivity and pedestrian walkability along the IRR alleviating traffic congestion and creating lively streets. Our approach is to conduct audits, surveys, data analysis, and 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:

We conducted walkability and road safety audits along the Intermediate Ring Road (IRR). We assessed four signalised junctions on the IRR. The initial findings and recommendations were presented 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. The initial findings and recommendations were presented to BBMP officials from Project Central 9 and the Traffic Engineering Cell (TEC) on March 18, 2024. We are anticipating 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. Along with WRI India, we presented our recommendations to **Mr. Prabhakar Reddy,** BMTC Chief Traffic Manager (Operations) who appreciated the efforts.

We will release 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.



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.



Personal2Public Campaign

Read Here

Personal2Public is a citizen-led initiative spearheaded by **WRI India and B.PAC** aimed to encourage commuters to switch to public transport at least 2 days a week to help ease traffic congestion and reduce pollution. Under this initiative we conducted a commuter survey, panel discussions, and social media awareness campaigns.

Bengaluru Commuter Study, a comprehensive survey was conducted to understand the commuter dynamics of the city.

Panel discussion on 'Bengaluru: Ready for a Transformational Shift in Mobility?' was moderated by Ms. Revathy Ashok, CEO of B.PAC and the panel included Prof. M. V. Rajeev Gowda, Fmr. MP Rajya Sabha; Ms. Kalpana Kataria, Executive Director, BMRCL, Mr. Prabhakar Reddy, CTMO, BMTC; Mr. Prahalad BS, Chief Engineer, Road Infra Dept. BBMP, Mr. Anucheth, Jt. Commissioner of Police (Traffic); Mr. Shamanth P. K., Sr. Design Lead, DULT; Mr. Jayen Desai, Sustainability Ecosystem Collaboration; and Mr. Manas Das, President, ORRCA.

The discussion centred around the current state of public transport, mobility management, and infrastructure solutions. It also delved into the interventions needed to foster a shift in behaviour, encouraging active mobility, minimising dependency & usage of personal vehicles and facilitating the transition from personal vehicles to public transport systems.

Brand Bengaluru: Agile & Sustainable Mobility For All - A Stakeholder Workshop

B.PAC was invited to participate in 'Brand Bengaluru: Agile & Sustainable Mobility For All', a Stakeholder Workshop' held at IISc, where we spoke about solutions to improve mobility in Bengaluru. The combined inputs from the panellists shaped the report 'Brand Bengaluru - Agile & Sustainable Mobility For All' compiled by IISc and MSRIM.

Namma Raste Read Here

Namma Raste' (Our Streets) was a two-day public exhibition, convened by the BBMP and WRI India to facilitate conversations about co-creating solutions that help make Bengaluru's streets and public spaces safer, inclusive, accessible, and resilient. B.PAC presented the findings of the 'Intermediate Ring Road (IRR) Street: Standstill to Active' initiative that highlighted gaps in mobility infrastructure, and offered recommendations.

'Sustainable & Safe Mobility for a Better Bengaluru' Webinar

B.PAC and Atlantis, a tech startup focusing on climate impact conducted a webinar on the topic 'Sustainable & Safe Mobility for a Better Bengaluru' for the youth. The participants were empowered with the knowledge and tools to become active citizens, equipped to address and advocate for their civic concerns effectively.



A Discussion on the Arogya City Initiative

Read Here

Our partnership with Arogya World to make Bengaluru as India's first Arogya City, progressed further when we invited various stakeholders of the Arogya City project to help facilitate interaction between government agencies. This interaction results in solutions such as initiating pledges, health check-ups, and knowledge-sharing sessions on health. This project is in the initial stages and we hope to make steady progress.



International Consulate Engagements

B.PAC hosted **Ms. Jennifer Bullock**, Public Affairs Officer, US Consulate in India, in June 2023 and **Ms. Tammy Ben-Haim**, Consul General of South India, Israel, in August 2023. We engaged in a fruitful discussion where we introduced them to the various B.PAC initiatives. We wish to establish a meaningful partnership with the Consulate similar to our collaboration in the past.



Participatory Democracy Fellowship Program with Mount Carmel College Read Here

B.PAC successfully executed the fourth instalment of the Participatory Democracy Fellowship Program in collaboration with Mount Carmel Public Policy department, hosted at the office of **MLA Sri Rizwan Arshad.** The program spanned over 7 weeks, focusing on mobility issues within the Shivajinagar constituency. Through rigorous surveys and analysis, students assessed various facets of mobility and compiled a comprehensive report, particularly highlighting insights on last mile connectivity and bus stop infrastructure. We eagerly anticipate collaborating with

the office of MLA Shivajinagar to translate these findings into actionable steps for the benefit of the community.

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 the 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.

Click to Watch

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

This session conducted on 28th Feb 2024, by **Mr. Harish N.,** Senior Advocate, 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.

Click to Watch



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.'

Introducing B.PAC to WHU Business School, Germany

B.PAC and its initiatives were introduced to **MBA students and professionals** from **WHU Business School, Germany**, who were visiting the city as part of an India-focused program in collaboration with IIMB. The session provided insights into citizen participation at the grassroots level, civic leadership, and advocacy, emphasising the principles of participatory democracy.



Sensitizing the youth about sustainbility on World Environment Day

B.PAC conducted a special initiative at **St. Anne's Public School** celebrating **World Environment Day**. The initiative started with a talk titled 'Your fair share in a messy affair'. **100 students** attended this talk which included the advocacy of making lifestyle changes by refusing disposables, diligently segregating waste, assisting recycling and composting. This was followed by two fun Art competitions, enthusiastically participated by **344 students**: My Plastic-Free World (drawing and colouring) and My Waste Crafted' (upcycling waste).





<u>Unboxing Bengaluru Habba:</u> Reenacting the Udbhava Legend - Relieving Kempegowda's Vision

In order to preserve and relive the inspiring story of Bengaluru's rich history, we teamed up with **Art Mantram**, **MOD Foundation**, and **Unboxing BLR**, to launch Unboxing Bengaluru Habba and organise the unveiling of the Udbhava Legend, a reenactment of the city's origin story. The event was organised on 30th Nov 2023 at **Raja Market Circle** where the visionary **Nada Prabhu Shri. Kempegowda** laid the foundation of the city **486 years** ago. The event was attended by **Shri. D. K. Shivakumar**, the Deputy CM of Karnataka and **Shri. Tushar Girinath**, IAS, Chief Commissioner of BBMP, along with many dignitaries.

B.PAC IN MEDIA



Media coverages – 60+

The media has been our strongest ally for their unwavering support and commendable coverage of our service initiatives. Their dedication to highlighting the positive impact of our work on communities near and far has been instrumental in spreading awareness and inspiring others to join our efforts. Through their insightful storytelling and comprehensive reporting, they have amplified the voices of those we serve and shed light on the issues we strive to address. Their partnership has not only magnified our reach but also fostered a deeper connection with our audience, fostering a sense of unity and collective responsibility towards creating a better world. We are profoundly thankful for their commitment to shining a spotlight on the power of service and the transformative change it brings.



DK Shivakumar, Dy Chief Minister of Karnataka conversing with Revathy Ashok, Managing Trustee B.PAC, on Brand Bengaluru conclave by The SouthFirst.com See Video





B.PAC as experts on media - 50+

We extend our sincerest gratitude to the media for recognizing our expertise and inviting us to participate in television debates and contribute to newspaper articles. Your acknowledgment of our knowledge and insights is deeply appreciated. Being given the platform to share our perspectives on various topics is not only an honor but also a testament to the value we strive to bring to public discourse. We are committed to continuing to provide thoughtful analysis and informed commentary to contribute meaningfully to the ongoing conversations in our society. Thank you for your trust and support.

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

Bangalore Political Action Committee B.PAC

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