

The B.PAC Times

Vol 58



Quarterly Newsletter - Q4 Jan-Mar, 2025

FROM THE CEO's DESK

Dear Reader,

As we stepped into the final quarter of the fiscal year, we took a moment to look back on our journey so far— one that allowed us to reflect on the strides we had made, towards our vision for 2024, and lay the groundwork for continued impact.

Under the B.SAFE program, we continued to champion women's safety, releasing the Public Places Safety Audit Report for Govindrajanagara and Vijayanagara Constituencies. Our commitment to women's empowerment was further reinforced through auto driver training programs at JP nagar, Malleshwaram and Mahalakshmi Layout, a testament to our efforts in breaking barriers and creating new pathways for economic independence.

We facilitated a field visit to the Vidhana Soudha for B.CLIP Batch 9 participants to provide them a practical exposure to the workings of the Assembly. We opened applications for B.CLIP Batch 10, marking yet another chapter in our decade-long commitment to nurturing civic leaders.

Our global collaborations have deepened, bringing new perspectives and opportunities to the table. Engaging with the Consulates of Israel, Denmark, and Namibia, we have forged meaningful partnerships—whether through smart board donations for government schools, women's financial empowerment programs, or urban safety initiatives. These alliances underscore the importance of cross-border knowledge-sharing in shaping inclusive, resilient communities.

This quarter also witnessed a significant leap in our student engagement initiatives. By offering internships and hands-on projects on Heritage Protection Policy, we empowered young minds to engage with civic challenges in real-world contexts.

Our relentless work on the Intermediate Ring Road: Standstill to Active initiative in coordination with parastatal agencies has made measurable progress in enhancing connectivity, improving road safety, and mitigating congestion. Presenting our IRR report at Namma Raste 2025 by BBMP was a proud moment, marking a significant step towards sustainable urban mobility.

Highlight of our social media outreach of this quarter was undoubtedly the #TogetherForHerSafety campaign — a month-long drive that sparked vital conversations on women safety via informative content, uniting diverse stakeholders in our shared mission to create safer spaces for women.

As we enter a new fiscal year, we're filled with gratitude for the support of our partners, stakeholders, B.CLIP leaders, volunteers, and team. With renewed resolve, we look ahead—to new opportunities, challenges, and our continued mission to build a safer, inclusive, and participatory Bengaluru.

Warm regards,

Revathy Ashok

Hon. Managing Trustee & CEO

Bangalore Political Action Committee (B.PAC)

Fostering Collaborations with Consulates

At B.PAC, we believe that true progress comes from meaningful partnerships and collective action. Through our collaborations with international consulates, we continue to amplify our efforts in building safer and more empowered communities. Here's a closer look at some of our recent initiatives:

Namibian Consul:

In an engaging introductory meeting with **Dr. Akkshye Tulsyan**, Honorary Consul of Namibia, held at the B.PAC office, we shared insights about our programs and explored potential avenues for future collaboration. This promising dialogue set the foundation for impactful joint initiatives.

In a heartening gesture of support, the Namibian Consul donated 10 sewing machines to empower women in Mahalakshmi Layout. These women, identified by B.CLIP Leader Jayalakshmi, now have the opportunity to enhance their livelihoods and achieve financial independence — a step forward in nurturing self-reliant communities.



Israeli Consulate:

Strengthening educational infrastructure is key to empowering the next generation. In partnership with the Consulate General of Israel to South India, we facilitated the donation of 10 smart boards to government schools in BTM Layout, Dasarahalli, Mahalakshmi Layout, Malleshwaram and Rajajinagar.

This initiative aims to bridge the digital divide and foster an engaging, tech-enabled learning environment for students in these schools, paving the way for brighter futures.



Denmark Consulate:

Innovation meets safety! A delegation from the Consulate of Denmark, along with representatives of Protechme — a Danish company at the forefront of developing safety devices — visited the B.PAC office for collaborative discussions. The meeting opened exciting possibilities for future projects aimed at enhancing community safety, reflecting our shared commitment to creating safer environments for all.


Greater Bengaluru Governance Bill 2024


The Greater Bengaluru Governance Bill proposes decentralised governance, improved service delivery, and increased accountability in the city's administration. To help citizens understand the bill, the B.PAC team organised the following initiatives.

Zonal Public Consultations: The team participated in organising zonal public consultation meetings to gather feedback on the Greater Bengaluru Governance Bill by engaging resident welfare groups, citizen activists, and students from various colleges.

X Spaces Discussion: We hosted an insightful X Spaces session on Bengaluru Post's profile to delve into the nuances of the Greater Bengaluru Governance Bill 2024. The discussion was enriched by the presence of our keynote speaker, **Mr. Rizwan Arshad**, MLA, Shivajinagar, and Chairman of the Joint Legislature Committee on the Bill. Mr. Arshad provided perspectives on the objectives and implications of the bill, helping participants gain a deeper understanding of its impact on the city's governance. The session proved to be highly productive, sparking meaningful conversations and receiving an overwhelmingly positive response from all attendees.

Greater Bengaluru Governance Bill 2024

 Monday,
February 17th, 2025

 7:00 PM
Onwards

Speaker:

Mr. Rizwan Arshad,

MLA Shivajinagar and Chairman of Joint Legislature
Committee of Greater Bengaluru Governance Bill

Moderator:

Ms. Harshitha V.,

B.ENGAGED Program Lead, B.PAC

Join the Discussion on
[@bengalurupost1](#) X Spaces



Student Engagement

Our student engagement initiatives are empowering young minds to take charge of their future, ensuring they have access to knowledge, resources, and opportunities to become informed, active participants in shaping a better tomorrow. We go the extra mile to create enriching experiences that inspire curiosity, leadership, and a sense of responsibility among students.

Heritage Policy Collaboration: The B.PAC team engaged in a meaningful dialogue with Smt. Smitha Reddy from the Archaeological Department, Government of Karnataka, seeking expert guidance on the Heritage Policy meticulously developed by the Mount Carmel Public Policy interns. During the meeting, Smt. Reddy appreciated the efforts put into the policy draft and expressed genuine interest in the work done by the interns. She extended her support for future collaborations, paving the way for potential partnerships that could strengthen heritage conservation efforts in Bengaluru.

Public Policy Session: The B.PAC team conducted an interactive and informative session on Public Policy for students from the Journalism and Political Science departments at Presidency College. The session aimed to bridge academic learnings with real-world policy-making processes, equipping students with a clearer understanding of how policies are formulated, debated, and implemented.



Internship Program: 5 dedicated students from Mount Carmel College (MCC) successfully completed their enriching internship at B.PAC, contributing to important projects such as the BBMP Budget analysis, drafting the Heritage Policy, and compiling the Shivajinagar Heritage Reports. Their work yielded concrete outcomes — the BBMP Budget Report was reviewed by the Assistant Commissioner of BBMP, recognising the interns' analytical contributions. The Shivajinagar Heritage Report is set to be presented to MLA Shri. Rizwan Arshad, ensuring that the research of these young policy enthusiasts reach the decision-makers.

Vidhana Soudha Visit: In our continued effort to bring students closer to the heart of governance, we facilitated visits to Vidhana Soudha for 120 students from leading institutions including Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Mount Carmel College, RV College, and Presidency College. These visits provided students with a rare, firsthand glimpse into the legislative process, helping bridge the gap between classroom theories and the practical realities of governance.

B.CLIP Batch 10 – Call for Applications

We kick-started the application registration process for the 10th cohort of B.CLIP on March 8, 2025, marking an exciting milestone as we welcomed Batch 10! The launch was met with an encouraging response, reflecting the growing enthusiasm among aspiring civic leaders to engage with governance and drive positive change in Bengaluru. Since the commencement of the registration, we have received an impressive 220 applications from passionate individuals eager to contribute to their communities.

**DEAR
BENGALUREANS,**

ARE YOU SOMEONE WHO IS

- DRIVEN
- EMPATHETIC
- HONEST
- PASSIONATE
- INNOVATIVE
- COMMITTED

ABOUT MAKING A DIFFERENCE

**IF THIS SOUNDS LIKE YOU,
THE B.CLIP PROGRAM IS FOR YOU
APPLY NOW FOR BATCH 10**

**WE AIM TO GROOM THE CIVIC
LEADERS OF TOMORROW**



B.CLIP Batch 9 Field Visit – Vidhana Soudha

The B.CLIP team organised an enriching field visit to Vidhana Soudha for 73 civic leaders of B.CLIP Batch 9, providing them with a unique opportunity to witness the legislative session proceedings up close. This immersive experience allowed the civic leaders to gain first hand exposure to the workings of the Karnataka Legislative Assembly. It enhanced their understanding of the budget session and its governance implications while empowering them with deeper policy insights.

During their visit, the B.CLIP civic leaders engaged in an insightful interaction with Dr. Shalini Rajneesh, IAS, Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka. Dr. Rajneesh expressed her appreciation for the B.CLIP program, acknowledging the significant work being carried out by the civic leaders in their respective wards. She lauded their commitment to civic improvement and expressed keen interest in exploring future collaborations with B.CLIP leaders to collectively work towards creating a better, more inclusive Bengaluru.



B.CLIP Leaders Rise through the Ranks

Several B.CLIP civic leaders have successfully advanced to prominent positions within political parties and have taken on key roles in various parastatal agencies, a true testament to their dedication, leadership, and unwavering commitment to public service.



Ms. Akshatha R:

Elected as State General
Secretary, Karnataka Pradesh Youth Congress



Ms. Chaithra V:

Elected as State Vice
President Karnataka Pradesh Youth Congress



Mr. Deepak Bhavasar:

Elected as State Secretary, Karnataka
Pradesh Youth Congress



Ms. Lavanya Yadav T. N:

Elected as Vice President, Karnataka Pradesh
Youth Congress



Mr. Sampath Ramanunjam:

Mandal Secretary,
Mahadevapura Assembly Constituency, BJP



Mr. Samuel:

Elected as President, Mahalakshmi Layout
Assembly Constituency, Karnataka Pradesh
Youth Congress

In their new roles, we anticipate positive changes and meaningful transformations in Bengaluru.

Health Camps

In association with Muthoot Snehashraya, a comprehensive health camp was organised on January 25, 2025, under the leadership of B.CLIP Civic Leader Ms. Maria Hussain. Held at the historic Russel Market in Shivajinagar, within the Bharatinagar ward, the camp aimed to provide essential healthcare services to **385 beneficiaries** in the local community. This effort not only addressed immediate health concerns but also reinforced the importance of accessible healthcare for all, especially for under-served communities in the area.





B.SAFE Constituency Phase III Report Launch

In collaboration with CGI, we launched the B.SAFE Constituency Phase III: Public Place Safety Audit reports for Vijayanagar and Govindarajanagar assembly constituencies. This significant milestone marks our continued commitment to advancing women's safety and empowerment in Bengaluru. The reports, developed through rigorous on-ground assessments and community consultations, highlight critical safety gaps and provide actionable recommendations to make public spaces safer and more inclusive for women.

The launch event also served as a platform to engage with local leaders, law enforcement, and civic stakeholders, reinforcing the shared responsibility of creating safer neighbourhoods for all.

Chief Guests:

- **Dr. Vaishnavi K**, Officer on Special Duty to the Chief Minister, GoK.
- **Ms. Asha Bhat**, Actress and Co-Founder, The High Table
- **Mr. Sudhakar Pai**, Head of ESG & Sustainability, CSR Leader, CGI
- **Mr. Ashutosh Kumar**, Vice President - Consulting Delivery, CGI
- **Ms. Jyoti Goenka**, Vice President - Consulting Delivery, CGI
- **Ms. Revathy Ashok**, Hon. Managing Trustee & CEO, B.PAC

The event concluded with "Fix the Space - Rapid Design Workshop" by the B.SAFE team which was attended by 30 architecture students.



Tactile Urbanism And Placemaking Solutions

In collaboration with CGI, the B.PAC team once again successfully carried out the Tactile Urbanism and Placemaking (TUPM) intervention, focusing on creating safe, engaging, and child-friendly spaces. The initiative aimed to transform underutilised areas into vibrant learning environments, particularly for young children at Anganwadi centres, helping to stimulate curiosity, creativity, and holistic development.



In this 3rd edition of the TUPM Intervention, which was conducted at Anganwadi Kendras in Govindarajanagar, 25 enthusiastic CGI volunteers participated!

The intervention brought the public spaces to life through a range of thoughtful activities:

- **Educative and Interactive Wall Paintings:** Volunteers brightened up the Anganwadi walls with colourful, educational murals, featuring alphabets, numbers, and vibrant imagery that promotes early learning and keeps children visually engaged.
- **Child-Friendly Furniture and Storage:** To make the environment more functional and inviting, the team provided child-friendly chairs and tables, storage units for educational materials, and a dedicated shoe rack to help inculcate neatness and the habit of organising from an early age.

Training and Empowering Women Auto-Drivers

As part of our continued efforts in fostering women's empowerment and increasing their participation in urban mobility, we organised a dedicated training program for aspiring women auto-drivers. This initiative aims to equip women with the necessary skills and confidence to navigate the city safely and independently, while also creating new avenues for economic self-reliance. Through hands-on practice and expert guidance, the participants gained the skills required to pursue driving as a professional livelihood.

Impact and Progress:

- **10** women from the 1st batch successfully obtained their Driving Licenses.
- **15** women from the 2nd batch in Mahalakshmi Layout obtained their Learner's Licenses (LL).
- Malleshwaram Auto Training Program is ongoing with **15** women enrolled.
- J.P. Nagar Auto Training Program has **15** regular participants.
- In Rajajinagar Constituency **12** women have applied for their Learner's Licenses.
- In Vidyaranyapura, a new batch will commence, with LL applications scheduled for April

New Training Initiatives

A Women Auto Driver Training Program has been launched in Malleswaram in association with **Sri Krishna Wellness and Yoga Centre**. This initiative is designed to break gender barriers in public transport and open new avenues for women to achieve economic independence and self-reliance. Sponsored by **Mimi Parthasarathy**, Founder of Sri Krishna Wellness and Yoga Centre & B.PAC Board Member, the free training program has enrolled 20 enthusiastic women ready to steer their way toward new opportunities.



Advocacy & Collaboration:

- We also had a meeting with **Mr. Sampath Raj**, President of **B. R. Ambedkar Development Corporation** which resulted in an agreement to provide autos to women beneficiaries under the **Swavalambhi Sarathi Yojana** scheme through **Ambedkar Nigama**.



- Along with Ms. Mimi Parthasarathy, B.PAC Board Members met Ms. Shobha Karandlaje, MoS for Labour & MSME, to present advocacy points on reducing entry barriers for women auto drivers.
- In partnership with Namma Yatri, free auto driving classes were also organised for women in Mahalakshmi Layout, Malleshwaram, and J.P. Nagar.

Women's Day Celebrations for Women Auto-Drivers

Pulikeshi Nagar: B.CLIP Leader Mr. Sampath led a special Women's Day celebration dedicated to honouring women auto drivers in Pulikeshi Nagar. The event recognised their invaluable contributions to public transport and their role in breaking traditional gender barriers. By acknowledging their efforts, the celebration aimed to encourage more women to take the driver's seat, both literally and figuratively, in their pursuit of economic empowerment.

B.PAC Training Program: Meanwhile, as part of the B.PAC Training Program, B.CLIP Leader Ms. Kaveri Kedarnath marked the occasion with the women's auto driver training initiative. The celebration was not just about acknowledging their journey but also about motivating them to embrace the road ahead with confidence.

IRR Streets: Standstill to Active

We are making significant strides in improving bus connectivity, road safety, and pedestrian walkability along the Intermediate Ring Road (IRR) to alleviate traffic congestion and create vibrant streets. Our efforts include regular meetings, audits, and continuous follow-ups with relevant departments.

Cleanliness Impact:

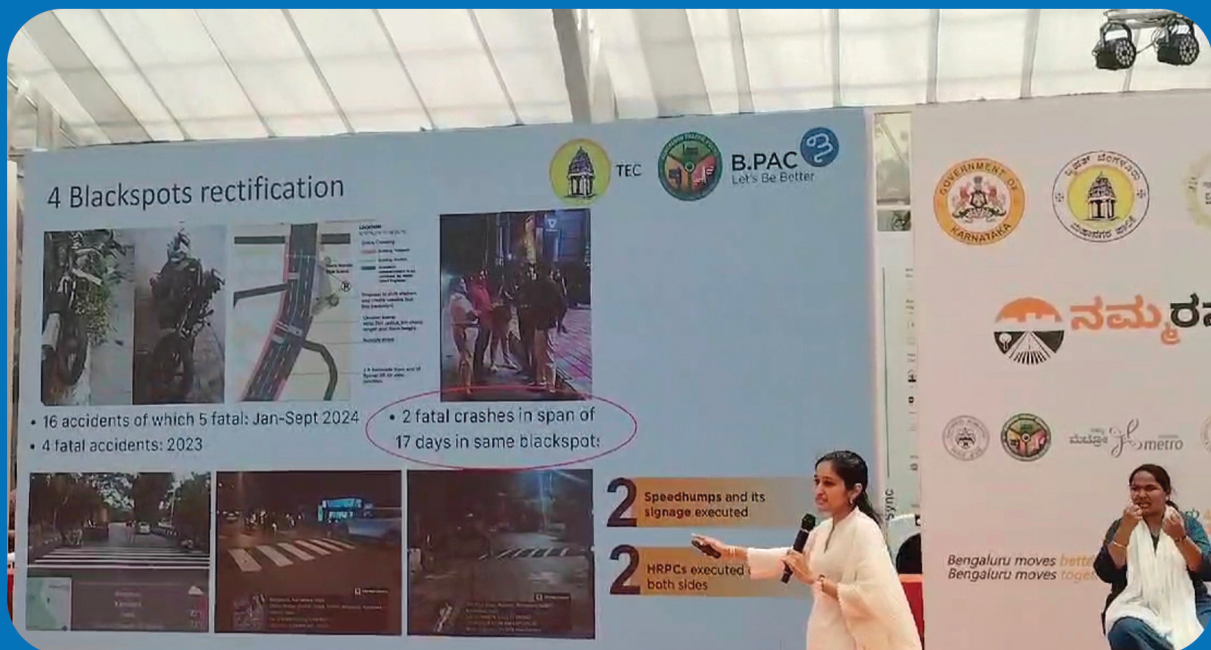
- **96 tonnes** of garbage cleared (189 auto-tipper loads)
- **4325 tonnes** of debris & soil removed (173 truck loads)
- **130 barricades** removed (5 trailer loads)

Tree Protection Efforts: In parallel, we continue our commitment to preserving Bengaluru's green cover. We have formally submitted a letter to the Deputy Conservator of Forests (DCF) and the Tree Officer, advocating for the transplantation of 157 trees that are at risk of being felled due to the Ejipura Flyover project. Our goal is to balance infrastructure development with environmental responsibility.

Road Safety Improvements: Significant road safety interventions have been completed under the HRPC project on the Koramangala stretch of the IRR. Two critical blackspots—near the DELL office and the TVS showroom in Domlur—have been addressed, making these stretches safer for all road users.

Namma Raste 2025

B.PAC presented the 'IRR Street: Standstill to Active' project at Namma Raste 2025 exhibition, spotlighting the collective efforts and collaborative spirit that drove the urban mobility intervention. The project successfully exemplifies the convergence of multiple civic agencies — BMTC (Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation), BTP (Bengaluru Traffic Police), BBMP (Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike), and BSWML (Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited) — who are working together to rejuvenate the Intermediate Ring Road (IRR) corridor.



Hosur Road Traffic Management:

Based on a request by the B.PAC team and Bengaluru Traffic Police's (BTP) advice to ease congestion from Shoolay Circle to Sony Signal, Arcadis added a signal at Madiwala Police Station junction to stop the free left from Market Road. Additionally, another signal at the junction has been repositioned to improve visibility.

Transport Integration Training:

As part of the ongoing efforts to strengthen urban mobility frameworks across India, we conducted an engaging and insightful session on the 'Integration of Multimodal Transport Systems', under the aegis of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) training program, facilitated by the Indian Institute for Human

- The session witnessed active participation from 30 senior officials representing State Road Transport Undertakings (SRTUs) and State Transport Corporations (STCs).
- Participants hailed from a wide geographic spectrum, spanning 7 states and 1 Union Territory, including Delhi, Gujarat, Odisha, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala, Telangana, and Uttar Pradesh.
- The interaction provided a valuable platform for cross-learning, fostering collaboration between state transport authorities to implement integrated transport solutions in their respective regions.

Communication & Outreach

Women's Day Campaign: Together for Her Safety

As part of our Women's Day celebrations, we launched a dedicated campaign titled 'Together for Her Safety', an extensive initiative aimed at amplifying the message of women's safety and empowerment. The campaign highlighted that women's safety is a shared responsibility, and raised awareness about existing safety initiatives and resources. Spanning across multiple days, the campaign featured a curated series of 30 informative and thought-provoking posts that covered a wide range of topics. From practical safety tips and insights on legal rights to spotlighting community champions and successful initiatives, the posts were crafted to educate, empower, and encourage collective responsibility. It helped inspire individuals and communities to actively contribute towards building safer, inclusive spaces for women.

B.PAC IN MEDIA



Acknowledgement

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our supporters, funders, partner organisations, para-statal agencies, media, civic groups, Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs), B.CLIP civic leaders, and volunteers who continue playing a vital role in our efforts to create a better future for Bengaluru.

Bangalore Political Action Committee B.PAC

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