

Civil Society Forum's



Manifesto for BBMP Polls – 2015

Secretariat

CIVIC Bangalore

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4.	Child Rights Trust	Dr. R .Padmini
5.	Citizens Voluntary Initiative for the City - Bangalore (CIVIC Bangalore)	Ms Kathyayini Chamaraj
6.	Dalit Bahujan Movement	Mr. M. Venkatesh
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10.	Indian Social Institute (ISI)	Ms.Sagaya Shanthi
11.	International Justice Mission (IJM)	Mrs. Cynthia Stephen
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14.	The Hunger Project	Ms Padmini Ananth
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Endorsing organisations

No.	name of the organization	representative
1.	Citizens' Action Forum	Mr.S. Rajshekar / Ms Mahalakshmi
2.	SOCHARA	Ms. Thelma Narayan
3.	Individual	Mr.S. Sahu

About the Civil Society Forum

Civil Society Forum- a coalition of several civil society organisations and movements as well as individuals wishing to strengthen the electoral and democratic process in our city and state to make it more participatory and reflective of the real wishes of the people.

The Member organisations and individuals work in different sectors of urban and rural constituencies, engaging with diverse and marginalised communities in Karnataka and other states too.

The Forum was actively involved in interacting with political parties, submitting Manifestoes during the Karnataka Assembly Elections in 2013 and Lok Sabha Elections in the year 2014

The organisations and individuals as members of the forum met in Bangalore several times to discuss the civil, political and socio-economic situation of Bangalore City in view of the forthcoming BBMP Elections in August 2015. It's the forum's desire to make a difference to the politics of the city, by actively engaging in the perspective building and contributing to the political manifestos of parties and groups associated for the ensuing BBMP elections.

In recent times, we are witnessing a change in the stance of the city administrators and the government in abdicating its responsibility towards the people and tending to become a minimal agency /state catering to only certain classes of people.

With this in mind and context, the Forum has prepared a Civil Society Forum's Manifesto for the BBMP Elections in August 2015 along with the Key Demands enumerated. The points that have been raised in the manifesto and the recommendations made have arisen from a critical view of the parties ruling in the last term, as well as the development of the City in recent years.

After the elections, the civil society groups and individuals working in the sector along with others interested aim to continue to work with the city agencies and the government and participate in the effective functioning and shaping of governance structures in the city and country.

Key overall concerns

Local self-government, with transparency, accountability and people's participation, as envisaged in the 74th Constitutional Amendment for urban local bodies' stands vitiated in urban local bodies and Bengaluru in the current political scenario since more than two decades. Neither the Metropolitan Planning Committee nor ward committees nor area sabhas are in place. The State Government is exercising all powers over the city through rule by MLAs. Also, planning and delivery of various services are still in the hands of parastatal agencies like BDA, BWSSB, BESCOM, BMTC, etc., which are not accountable to the elected local body, the BBMP. Several attempts have been made to deny Bengaluru a timely elected body.

People's representatives and officials at local level, abdicating their constitutional obligations, are engaged in massive corruption resulting in large-scale encroachments of public lands, violations of zoning and building bye-laws, pollution of land, water and air in the city and deterioration of the quality of life of the citizens. The people of Bengaluru have witnessed large-scale acquisitions and encroachments of land by governmental agencies for the benefit of the real estate mafia and the looting of natural resources. These undemocratic processes are shaking the very foundations of democracy in Bengaluru.

The lobbies in these various sectors are using their ill-gotten money to fund political parties to buy votes during elections. Real-estate land-sharks are coming to power by contesting elections using their money and muscle power and then shaping policies from within the Assembly/municipality to suit their interests, which is detrimental to the interests of the citizens. This is resulting in various mafias exercising undue influence on policy-makers.

High-end infrastructure such as flyovers and expressways, signal-free corridors to please certain elite sections of society is being prioritised. In contrast, the basic entitlements of citizens to food, water and sanitation, housing, health, education, employment, and social security have been neglected. Money set apart for the SC/STs under the SC/ST Sub-Plan Act and BSUP are either unspent or diverted for other purposes. Most schemes are not reaching the genuinely eligible persons. Schemes and policies are being decided without public consultation.

This is an opportunity for all political parties to demonstrate their commitment to the citizens of this city and re-align Bengaluru on [or 'restore

Bengaluru to'] the progressive path by ushering in genuine, honest pro-people policies that guarantee residents all their basic rights and entitlements for a life of dignity and regain the trust of the citizens of this city.

1. STRUCTURE FOR BENGALURU

We recommend that BBMP should be restructured and not split. We recommend:

- **New Greater Bengaluru Authority Act (or Amendments to KMC Act incorporating provisions for all Metropolitan Areas):** We recommend enactment of a new Greater Bengaluru Authority Act with the following provisions (or Amendments to the KMC Act incorporating special provisions in general for all metropolitan areas). With this, a lot of the current problems of poor governance in BBMP will disappear while maintaining the single identity of Bengaluru.
- **3-tier structure:** A three-tier structure should be adopted, similar to the 3-tier Panchayat Raj bodies, comprising a Greater Bengaluru Authority, zonal councils and ward committees. And below them the Area Sabhas. The Greater Bengaluru Authority could be the same as the current Metropolitan Planning Committee for Bengaluru, but with the changes suggested by us on MPC Rules.
- **3+8 zones:** The three existing old core city zones of Bengaluru East, West and South can be retained and beyond these, the lines of the zones can be re-drawn along the eight arterial roads radiating out of Bengaluru, each zone comprising the area coming between two radiating arterial roads, so that their jurisdictions are clear-cut. Currently, there is no logical basis for the way the zones have been carved out.
- **The Area Sabha Representative (ASR)** should be elected by the area sabha (voters of five contiguous polling booth areas) to make him/her accountable to the people. If nominated by the councilor, as at present, the ASR will not be accountable to the people of the area but only to his/her political bosses. The election of ASR should be on non-party basis. The candidates should not be former councilors or defeated candidates and not be office-bearers of any political party but have a record of service-mindedness.
- **Ward committees:** The system of making political nominations of ward committee members as at present should be given up. Nominations are

unhealthy and undemocratic and result in friction and rivalries and dysfunctional ward committees. As noted in the Model Community Participation Law circulated by the Ministry of Urban Development, all ASRs should be elected and be members of the ward committee and represent their areas.

As in successful well-governed, well-run cities, worldwide, we recommend that each ward be administered by a SMALL elected local body on the lines of the Grama Panchayats. In that model of city governance corruption is down because the elected reps are not faceless, dodging people, but local people who are known to many and so can be held accountable.

- Other 10 ward committee members need to be selected by various interest groups themselves.
- **Zonal council:** The directly-elected ward councillor as per the 74th Constitutional Amendment is the chairperson of each ward committee. All the ward councillors of a zone could form the zonal council. The zonal council members could elect the zonal chairperson from amongst themselves. (The zonal councils would be on the lines of the London Boroughs but it would be wrong to call them independent municipal corporations.) Rotation every year of chairperson could be done based on reservation.
- **Greater Bengaluru Authority/Council:** Chairpersons of each zonal council could form the Greater Bengaluru Authority/Council.
- **Greater Bengaluru Mayor:** The Greater Bengaluru Authority/Council members could elect one among themselves as the Mayor of Greater Bengaluru Authority/Council.
- **Indirect election of chairpersons/Mayor:** The chairperson of each level needs to be elected indirectly by other elected members at that level. This is in line with the spirit of our constitution, democratic principles and parliamentary democracy where the CM and PM are also elected indirectly by the respective elected representatives. It upholds the principle that the chairperson is one among equals. Otherwise he becomes dictatorial.
- **The State Election Commission** needs to be entrusted with the responsibility of fixing reservations, de-limiting wards and constituencies

and ensuring that elections are held as per schedule in Nagarapalikas. Some of these powers are currently held by the State government resulting in delays in conducting elections. The State Election Commission needs to fund the election of all candidates in order to curtail election expenditure and to arrest corruption. The Commission can itself organise public meetings at which the candidates can present their manifestos and receive the demands of the public.

- **Activity mapping** should be done to devolve powers and functions appropriately to the three tiers on the principle of subsidiarity. While ward committees should deliver most ward-level services, the Zonal Council would coordinate higher level or inter-ward services. Greater Bengaluru Authority/Council (or modified Metropolitan Planning Committee) could do only strategic planning on the lines of the Greater London Authority.
- **Chairpersons to be Chief Executives:** The chairpersons of the different levels - the ward committee, zonal council and the Greater Bengaluru Authority/MPC to be the Chief Executives of the various levels. The Secretary of the ward committee, the Zonal Commissioner of the Zone and the Commissioner of Greater Bengaluru Authority/MPC to be made accountable to the elected body at each level.
- **Current veto power of the councilor** given to councilors on ward committees should be removed as it makes the concept of people's participation meaningless. This provision is not there in the laws of any other state. The councilor can be allowed a casting vote when equal number of votes are cast by ward committee members on any issue.
- **All ward-level officials** of the municipal corporation and jurisdictional water board officials shall be ex-officio members of the ward committee and attend all meetings mandatorily.
- **Other jurisdictional officials** of the ESCOM, city bus Transport Corporation, city police, slum board, social welfare dept., food inspector, labour inspector and HMs of primary schools, anganawadi workers and PHC doctor should attend the ward committee meetings whenever they are called upon to do so.

- **Jurisdictions of the above service agencies and departments** need to be harmonized with that of BBMP's wards and zones.
- **Additional devolution of functions:** Functions and supervision of poverty alleviation schemes, slum development and rehabilitation schemes, PDS, primary health centers, primary schools and anganawadis to be devolved to BBMP and further down to Ward Committees.
- **Separate Municipal cadre:** There should be a Karnataka Municipal Administrative Service to select and appoint functionaries to serve the Nagarapalikas.
- **Data-base for planning:** Every ward and every higher level should have the necessary data-base on the human development, physical and social infrastructure index for the infrastructure for that level to serve as the basis for planning. There needs to be an Information & Statistics Committee at ward-level which will collect the necessary data and create a:
 - Ward Human Development Index with information on life expectancy, literacy, income levels, IMR, MMR , malnourishment and nutrition status, number of employed & unemployed persons, BPL lists, eligibility lists for old-age, widow, physically-challenged pensions, etc.
 - Ward Social Infrastructure Index to indicate number of PHCs, schools, anganawadis, day-care centres for 0-6 children per population and their status, workers' facilitation and service centres, workers' and migrants' social rental housing, community kitchens, night shelters for the homeless, etc.
 - There also need to be:
 - ✓ Ward Physical Infrastructure Index
 - ✓ Ward Assets & Resources Register
 - ✓ Boards, fencing marking to be done
- **5-year ward vision plan:** The Ward Committees should be asked to prepare a 5-year ward vision plan for "Economic development and social justice" as per a Performance Management System (PMS) based on **human development and physical and social infrastructure outcomes at ward level**. Targets need to be set and outcome indicators developed for measuring these. Monitoring and review need to be based on performance on those indicators. The Area Sabhas need to be involved

in setting targets and reviewing municipal performance and conducting social audits. The plans from the wards need to be collated at zonal level and the ones from zonal level consolidated at the GBA /MPC level in a similar manner.

- **Ward CEO:** An exclusive officer called Ward Chief Executive Officer (Ward CEO) should be appointed as Ward Secretary dedicated to the Ward, who is higher in the hierarchy than the ward-level officers of health, revenue, engineering and other departments he has to direct. He should be entrusted with the responsibility of ensuring follow up action.
- **Allocation of finances:** As the uniformly allocated finances to each ward irrespective of the size, backwardness, and other conditions are not fair, it is recommended that allocations be based on the level of human development, physical and social infrastructure, needs, priorities and situation of the wards and zones, based on which the quantum of funds for each ward/zone should be determined.
- **Area sabhas** shall plan, prioritise, monitor, and social audit all works. The Area Sabha shall be consulted on allowing/disallowing any commercial or industrial activity or any land use conversion or acquisition of any land, etc.
- **No confidence motion:** Ward chairpersons not conducting three consecutive mandatory monthly ward committee meetings should be removed/disqualified from holding office by a vote of “no confidence” by a majority of the ward committee members or by vote of 51% of the area sabhas.
- **Disqualification of ward committee members:** Membership of ward committee members who do not attend three consecutive meetings without valid reasons should be automatically nullified.
- **Grievance Redressal:** Every ward committee should hold grievance redressal meetings in a public place every week and provide action taken reports on grievances at next meeting. SMS, WhatsApp, and other social media should be used to inform citizens of meetings and status of their complaints.

- **Use the Model of Rajasthan's Right to Hearing Act**
 - Grievances of citizens should be accepted everyday at the ward office between 9am and 11am.
 - Ward committees should hear complainants at public grievance redressal meetings every week.
 - Written replies on every grievance should be provided to the complainant within 21 days.
 - The zonal commissioners of the municipal corporation should review on a fortnightly basis any escalated grievances.
 - All grievances should be resolved as per the standards stipulated under SAKALA and the citizens' charter.

- **Ombudsman:** There should be an Ombudsman at Greater Bengaluru level to hear grievances of citizens and impose penalties on officials failing in their statutory duties.

- **Special Ward Sabhas for SC/STs, women, children, the disabled, the elderly and other marginalised** need to be held where plans related to grants provided to them can be developed.

- Constitution of Ward Committees needs to be within one month of announcement of results of ULB elections.
- A Metropolitan Planning Committee has to be set up for Bangalore as mandated by the 74th CA and as directed by the High Court of Karnataka and made functional soon after the BBMP Council election.
- It needs to be ensured that the development works are in compliance with the laws viz. Karnataka Town and Country Planning Act, Karnataka Tree Preservation Act, Karnataka Municipal Corporation Act, etc. and mandatorily involve public consultation (especially in urban areas) as ordered by the High Court of Karnataka (WP 13241/2009).
- Bodies such as ABIDE which gives power to corporate bodies to influence laws and policies need to be only advisory in nature and they should have no powers to interfere in functions of the executive and local self-governments. Elected bodies should not be allowed to be influenced by corporate lobbies and vested interests and their ilk.
- Steps need to be taken towards people's participation in the budget preparation process as per the Karnataka Local Fund Authorities' Fiscal

Responsibility Act and strengthen people's participation in the planning, implementation, monitoring, and social auditing of works in their wards.

- Releasing budget status information every quarter for all welfare schemes: allocation, release and expenditure information along with progress indicators.
- **BBMP's revenue situation to be improved:** All properties to be GIS-mapped and assessed for taxes. Tax defaulters to be announced on websites. Penalties to be imposed on revenue officials for not assessing taxes on properties within their jurisdiction.

2. LAND AND HOUSING ISSUES

Key concerns

Encroachments on government lands, raja kaluves, CA sites and lakebeds, even by BDA itself, have been reported widely. The reports of the A.T.Ramaswamy Committee and the V. Balasubramanian Task Force have not been implemented. Demolitions of encroachments as per Court directives have been done by the District Administration which has itself approved those layouts, buildings, etc. As the rich are able to get stay orders from courts on government notices for demolitions, it is only the poor whose houses get demolished. Even notified slums and applicants for regularisation of bagair hukum lands have received notices for eviction and demolition.

While 98% need for housing is for the EWS, more than 1 lakh luxury flats for the rich are lying vacant in Bangalore waiting for speculators to invest in them as their second or third house. The layouts formed by government bodies hardly reserve 10% of the land and sites for the EWS. At this rate the backlog of housing need of the EWS will never be reduced. The poor have nowhere else to go other than to squat on vacant government or private lands. In addition to lack of affordable ownership housing, there is lack of affordable social rental housing, which is rental housing whose rent is subsidised for the poor by the state. This is the crying need for migrants who come to cities temporarily for work and wish to return to their native place after a short stay. Despite the Rajiv Awas Yojana, forced evictions are still being done, as in Ejipura.

With urban land prices having risen incredibly, lands where slums are situated are being eyed by builders. Governments are finding it convenient to abdicate their responsibility to provide affordable housing for the poor and are entering into PPPs with builders and gifting away 50% land occupied by slums

to them to build malls, etc. Slum-dwellers are being evicted from prime lands to the outer periphery of cities which deprives them of their livelihood sources.

Key demands:

- The A.T. Ramaswamy Committee and V. Balasubramanian Task Force reports on land encroachments and the Lokayukta should be accepted and the guilty officials including senior officials and those who connived with them punished.
- No demolition should be undertaken without rehabilitation when BDA or government is at fault. There should be no preferential treatment of the rich and well-to-do when taking action.
- Government should not take action if anyone has adverse possession of land or building for more than 30 years. Only such (adverse possession) structures / encroachments should be regularised.
- Land bank should be created from the acquisition of encroached lands if they are government lands, excluding lake-beds, raja kaluves, etc., for giving land to the landless, slum-dwellers and homeless, especially SC/STs, and for social infrastructure such as social rental housing, anganawadis, schools and hospitals, and not auctioned.
- All defunct mill and PSU lands and lands freed from encroachment should be earmarked for EWS housing and other social infrastructure and not auctioned.
- The Action Plan for Slum-Free City needs to be drawn up to upgrade all slums, notified and non-notified, as per Rajiv Awas Yojana.
- Money needs to be earmarked in the budget for purchasing/distributing sites for the EWS and SC/STs and acquiring private land on which slums are situated for their in situ development.
- Public sector housing agencies such as BDA and KHB should reserve **required** amount of land and houses, or at least 90% of their houses/sites, for the urban poor, especially for SC/STs, to make the city slum-free.
- Individual sites to the rich by BDA and KHB should be stopped and they also made to go for multi-storeyed housing.
- Forced evictions of slums have to be stopped. Transit housing needs to be provided whenever there is involuntary displacement. The National Resettlement & Rehabilitation Policy needs to be followed. The latest Land Acquisition, R&R bill needs to be revised to prevent land being acquired by the state, without Social Impact Assessments and prior informed consent of the land losers and for private purpose.

- Slums should be surveyed and notified within a time-frame and all slums rehabilitated/re-developed in situ, unless located on untenable land, such as storm-water drains, raja kaluves, lake-beds, etc.
- Law reserving 25% sites or houses to the urban poor from every private urban development project should be passed and strictly enforced as per conditionality under JNNURM and Rajiv Awas Yojana (RAY).
- Slum-dwellers need to be involved in framing the rehabilitation plans. All displacement should be with the provision of transit housing.
- Government should provide the EWS and SC/STs credit and affordable materials, help in planning, along with enforcement of SPHERE standards, services such as water, sanitation and waste management systems, electricity and roads, for in situ development of their settlements.
- Minimum amount of Rs. 5 lakh in urban areas should be provided to the EWS and SC/STs possessing sites to build their homes.
- All slum-dwellers should be given property rights (sale deeds) under the Slum-dwellers' Right to Property Act as per the Rajiv Awas Yojana. (As done in the slums of Koramangala and Rajendranagar).
- Developed slums should be handed over to BBMP for issuing kathas and collection of taxes, etc.
- Government should make all employers using migrant labour provide safe, hygienic, decent housing with toilet and water connections to them as per law.
- Where law does not require builders to provide housing themselves, the Building & Other Construction Workers' Welfare Fund should be used to provide housing colonies for temporary workers with water, sewerage, day-care centre, health centre and facilities for transportation to work-sites for workers and to nearest school for the workers' children.
- Government should initiate a scheme of social rental housing, where rent of the EWS is subsidised to provide affordable housing, especially for SC/STs, and prevent homelessness and pavement dwelling.

3. DRINKING WATER & SEWERAGE

Key concerns

While water is being brought from a distance of 100 Kms from the Cauvery River, the rain water that falls in Bangalore is not being collected and

led into lakes. The lakes and the rajakaluves of Bangalore have been encroached upon. Untreated sewage is being led into existing lakes which is killing them. Many lakes are frothing and burning. While there is lack of regular and minimum supply of drinking water to several slums, flood waters enter their houses during the rainy season and destroy whatever few amenities they possess. Even if water is supplied to them there are no proper drainage and sewerage systems in slums resulting in sewage entering storm-water systems and lakes. Due to increased concretisation and death and encroachment of lakes and raja kaluves, ground water levels are sinking in Bangalore.

Key demands:

- The United Nations General Assembly, in 2010 has adopted a resolution declaring Right to water and sanitation as 'human rights'. The Supreme Court has held that Article 21 of the Constitution includes the right of citizens to Water and Sanitation. We endorse this and maintain that any proposal to privatise water is unconstitutional. Acknowledging the role of the State to provide for basic services to its citizens, it needs to be ensured that water will not be privatised in Karnataka.
- Appreciating the escalating crisis related to availability of drinking water especially for the poor and marginalised, all efforts need to be made on a priority basis to provide potable drinking water through individual connections, public taps and tankers at anganawadis, schools and at convenient points, especially where impoverished communities are living.
- The poor need to be provided free metered and individual connections. A 'lifeline supply' of free water for basic purposes such as drinking, cooking and bathing should be universal. Consumption beyond 'lifeline supply' should be charged on graded slab basis at rates fixed and collected by the state government.
- Management of water, especially for the urban poor, needs to be in the hands of cooperatives of the water-users or water users' committees.

Saving water, ground water recharging and water harvesting:

- Immediate steps to be taken to rejuvenate water sources, protection of water bodies, and work towards a vision of providing safe public drinking water

- Recognising that the enforcement of mandatory policy regarding ground water recharging and water harvesting has not been implemented with the rigor required and that there is an urgency to remedy the situation as the water crisis is palpably increasing, the policy needs to be revised to ensure wider coverage and more stringent implementation.
- Use roads as collection paths and parks as storage and recharging units.
- All government buildings, houses and commercial buildings to have compulsory rain-water harvesting within a time-frame.
- Commercial usage of water should not be subsidized.
- All lakes in the city handed over to private parties for use as recreational facilities must be taken back and maintained by the BBMP as public facilities without any charges.

4. WASTE MANAGEMENT

Key concerns

Cities are drowning in garbage as waste is being treated as a nuisance rather than as a resource that can generate revenues. Unsegregated collection, lack of proper infrastructure for collecting different streams of waste, manual handling of garbage, exposure of garbage to the environment, dumping of garbage on the ground at collection points and unprocessed dumping of mixed waste at landfills, all against the MoEF Rules, is posing several hazards to citizens and the villages surrounding landfills. Indiscriminate use of non-biodegradable plastics is choking sewers and killing animals.

Key demands:

Strictly ensure that the following are being enforced in letter and spirit and an enhanced vigilance structure is brought out:

- The Hazardous Waste Management & Handling Rules (1989)
 - Bio-medical Waste Management Handling Rules (1998)
 - E-Waste Management and Handling Rules (2011)
 - Municipal Solid Waste (Management & Handling) Rules, 2000
- Efficient and eco-friendly solid waste management, including segregation at source, segregated collection, containerized storage, local processing of biodegradable waste, recycling of dry wastes and scientific disposal of rejects as spelt out in the Ministry of Forest & Environment Rules need to be implemented as a top priority.

- In this process Pattana Panchayats surrounding cities should not be used as dumping grounds. It needs to be also recognised that waste management should be viewed not just as trash with no value, but as an opportunity for resource extraction.
- An integrated waste management approach that attempts to solve this problem by considering the entire life-cycle of a product and determining the best processing method for it in order to extract as much useful material while saving energy, water, and other resources needs to be designed and implemented with the advice of experts on a priority basis.
- SWM not to be contractualised as garbage disposal is a perennial and core activity of the BBMP. Contract workers to be regularised and given all facilities as regular workers. Safety and health equipment to be mandatorily given and used.

5. EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE & DEVELOPMENT

Key concerns

Though Karnataka has one of the highest growth rates of GDP in the country, it has the shameful record of a large proportion of children dying of hunger or growing up malnourished. According to statistics of the Women & Child Development Dept. itself, there are **more than 60,000** children suffering from the highest grade of malnourishment, i.e., they are virtually on their death-bed. The ICDS, despite being operational for more than 30 years has hardly made a difference to the state's children. There is a need to strengthen all the services of the ICDS to pregnant and lactating mothers, adolescent girls and children in the 0-6 age group, especially of SC/STs, if the blot of malnourishment has to be ended in the city.

Key demands:

- As per the SC order in the Right to Food case, establish one anganawadi centre/sub-centre for every 400 population, beginning with the SC/ST hamlets and slums, to universalise the ICDS.
- Provide 'anganawadis on demand' as per SC order within three months wherever there are 40 or more children aged 0-6, especially of SC/STs, and the demand comes from the community.
- Convert anganawadis into full day-care centres for children 0-6 to help all working women and their children.

- Employ a second anganawadi worker in every anganawadi to take care of 0-3 children as per the 'Strategies for Children under Six' recommendations that has been submitted to the Planning Commission.
- Implement all recommendations of the IMR/Malnutrition Committee so as to rid the state of child malnutrition. As a first step, implement all recommendations of the Justice N.K. Patil committee within a specified time-frame regarding infrastructure, midday meals, take-home rations and pre-primary education under the ICDS.
- Use the funds accumulated in the Building & Other Construction Workers' Welfare Fund to construct the required number of day-care centres to cater to the 0-6 children in every ward and to help working women / construction workers.
- Ensure safe and adequate buildings for city's anganwadis in every ward.
- Regulate and ensure private childcare facilities adhere to basic principles and norms of the National ECCE Policy.

6. RIGHT TO EDUCATION

Key concerns

Formal education is the right of every child and it is the state's obligation to enable all children to be enrolled, retained and learning. Bangalore district has one of the highest numbers of out-of-school children who have dropped out before completing eight years of compulsory education. The mandatory protocols to be followed by officials for retaining them in schools by assisting their parents to send their children to school or by putting the children in free government hostels or residential schools are not being implemented yet. Bangalore receives huge numbers of migrant children from within and outside the state who remain out of school

Rules do not ensure the fulfilment of infrastructure norms by government schools within the prescribed time period hence a large number of them are still functioning without fulfilling the infrastructure, pupil: teacher ratio and other quality norms spelt out in the RTE Act.

Key Demands:

- Ward Education Registers where data of all 0-14 year-old children in the ward has to be maintained, as per GOs issued by Education Department, need to be prepared.

- BBMP Standing Committee on Health, Education and Social Justice which has been made responsible for ensuring that all children are in school and that government schools fulfil all infrastructure norms have to be trained and activated to perform their duties.
- The Standing Committee should ensure that all children are in schools, including migrant children, and that government schools follow RTE Act norms for infrastructure (number of classrooms, pupil: teacher ratio, toilets, drinking water, playgrounds, etc.) and be upgraded to the quality level of CBSE schools within a specified time-frame.
- Protocols for Attendance Authorities (Education Coordinators) that have been developed to ensure retention of all children, especially SC/STs, girls and minorities facing economic, social and cultural barriers need to be implemented and officials not following these should be held accountable for every drop-out and penalised.
- BBMP Standing Committee on Health, Education and Social Justice to be trained and activated to perform its role as first level grievance redressal authority for violations of RTE Act.

7. RIGHT TO HEALTH

Key concerns

An effective primary health care and referral system does not exist in BBMP. There is splintering of services between various agencies and lack of Indian Public Health Standards in BBMP's health care institutions. Most patients end up at the few tertiary government hospitals even for small ailments or patients are forced to go to private clinics though they cannot afford them as BBMP's health care institutions lack the required manpower, equipment, laboratory facilities, medicines, etc.

Key demands:

- Free, universal and comprehensive health care that includes preventive, promotive, curative and rehabilitative health care to be made available to all the people in and through the public health institutions.
- Primary, secondary and tertiary care should be linked through a robust referral system ensuring continuum of care.
- Free, essential, generic medicines to be provided to all citizens in all public health institutions. Prohibit distribution of outdated medicines and make special provisions for people living with HIV&AIDS.

- A transparent, accountable logistics and quality control system to procure and distribute drugs should be put in place within the public health system.
- The practice of writing out prescriptions for purchasing medicines from pharmacies should be stopped with immediate effect.
- We demand that any and all moves to hand over institutions – primary to tertiary – to private and corporate agencies including NGOs be stopped immediately.
- The collection of user fees/charges/service payments in any form in all public health institutions including those which are autonomous institutions should be stopped with immediate effect.
- The public health system should be strengthened to meet Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS).
- The vacant posts of doctors, nurses, pharmacists, lab technicians, ANMs and other should be filled with permanent posts.
- All those serving as contract workers must be made permanent.
- The action plan and budget allocation of the Special Component Plan (SCP) and Tribal Sub-plan (TSP) should be displayed prominently at all public health institutions.
- **Free diagnostic services:** All government hospitals and health centres should provide free laboratory and other diagnostic facilities such as X-ray, ultra –sound scanning, as per the Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS).

8. SC/ST SUB-PLAN

Key concerns

Despite passage of the SC/ST Sub-Plan Act, much of the money earmarked for their welfare in remaining unspent, is being diverted or is being spent in a manner that does not truly empower the SC/STs with education, vocational skills and entrepreneurship that would enable them to stand on their own feet.

Key demands:

- Budgets have to be earmarked as per the sub-plans for the SC/STs (22.75%), urban poor (7.5%), disabled (3%), etc. and used without

diversions. Any diversion should be banned, and the funds too should not be allowed to lapse.

- SC/STs without land, house, water, anganawadi, health, education and jobs need to be identified and schemes should reach those who are currently deprived of these.
- In zones which have high SC/ST populations, separate ITIs, diploma courses, home-guard, police and KSRTC drivers' trainings should be started for them. Employment should be assured at the end of the training.
- Skill training in arenas where there is demand should be given to SC/ST unemployed SC/ST girls and boys and placement should be assured by the training centres.
- Self-employment and entrepreneurial training should be given to SC/STs and 75% grant should be given for taking up self-employment.
- Land for housing should be given free to every landless SC/ST family.

9. UNORGANISED WORKERS

Key concerns

Most unorganised sector workers in Bangalore lead precarious lives with insecure employment. Bangalore receives hosts of migrant and trafficked workers and child labourers who end up working and living in pitiable conditions without job security, proper wages, working and service conditions, occupational safety and health, including in such prestigious projects as the Bangalore Metro.

Key demands:

- The Building & Other Construction Workers' Welfare Board to effectively deliver schemes and benefits to construction workers by devising an effective Action Plan.
- Ensure effective protection to all contract workers in factories and other work places, especially the safety and social security of women garment, domestic and construction workers.
- Special schemes for the children of construction workers to be taken up by the Labour Department/Women and Child Development Department/Education Department and Social Welfare Department.

10. BONDED LABOUR ISSUES

Key concerns

There are many small-scale production and sales units (Industries) which exploit Bonded Labour and Bonded Child Labour in the city. This is happening because it is not formalized and minimum standards are not maintained by the perpetrator. This is because obtaining the license is very easy for the perpetrator.

- There are only 3 government-run homes in the city with very limited capacity and facility for keeping rescued, trafficked Bonded Labourers in a transit home until they are repatriated.
- There is a Child Help Line, Women's Help Line, Old Age Help Line and Help Line for Differently-abled people but when someone finds out that there is Bonded Labour Trafficking, there is no help-line which he or she can contact.

Key Demands:

- Licensing of small-scale production and sales units to be formalized and monitored so that they don't engage Bonded and Child Labourers
- Need to address the response mechanism like 1098 when someone comes across bonded labour or trafficking.
- Transit Home capacity and quality to be increased to fulfil the need of space and facilities for the trafficked and abandoned Bonded Labour and Child Bonded Labourers for their rescue and nurture till they are repatriated.
- BBMP to have labour officers (one for every 3 wards at least) to enforce labour legislation.

11. HAWKERS AND VENDORS

Key concerns

Lakhs of people migrate to Bangalore in search of new livelihoods. Hawking and vending are occupations which they can take up with small investments and which provide useful services to urban citizens. But colonial concepts of illegality, road widening, metro construction, etc., which claim pedestrian pavements, deprive them of even these sources of livelihood. Also, though their livelihood on the streets is protected by SC judgements and a National Hawkers & Vendors (Protection of Livelihood) Act, they are being evicted or harassed by the police and municipal officials for bribes before the

necessary Rules under the Act are framed and the Town Vending Committees to regulate their trade are set up.

Key demands:

- Town Vending Committees, as per the National Hawkers and Vendors Act need to be established to demarcate 'hawking zones' in all areas and near '*natural markets*'.
- A transparent registration system needs to be initiated to accommodate them and ensure that their means of livelihood are not destroyed.
- All development projects and formation of new layouts also need to ensure that the livelihood of hawkers /vendors are ensured by including designated spaces for vending in the plans of the said project.

12. MIGRANTS

Key concerns

Realising that with the rapid trend of urbanisation, internal migration between states is on the rise, as people move to Bangalore in search of livelihood as a response to inequitable distribution of resources, services and opportunities, as a result of displacement due to mega development projects or to escape violence or natural disaster. The movement of people from rural to urban and peri-urban areas has rendered thousands of families homeless and deprived of basic amenities such as shelter, drinking water, sanitation, education and health care and even proof of identity. They are even denied the right to vote as their native villages are far from their migrant settlements. Their vulnerability is exploited by middlemen and the children are the ones that suffer the most.

Key demands:

- Acknowledging this reality, a policy to protect the rights of migrants and their families, especially the children and young girls, to ensure their rights to food, housing, water and sanitation, education in mother tongue, child care facilities on the lines of Mobile Creches, access to health care, etc., needs to be drafted taking special cognisance of their needs.
- Measures to provide them with an identity and the right to vote from wherever they are currently located (as assured for NRIs, army personnel and government employees) need to be taken to ensure their fundamental right to participate in the democratic process.

- Strict enforcement of the Inter-State Migrant Workmen’s Act has to be insisted upon.
- There is need for an Intra-State Migrant Workers’ Act to provide them the same facilities as envisaged for Inter-State migrants.
- Onus to ensure the education of migrant school-age children either at the source of migration or destination should be placed on the contractor.
- The number of homes for people in distress, homeless and children’s homes should be increased so that they and their children can be housed safely before rehabilitation measures are planned.
- There should be one shelter home for every one lakh population as per SC directive. There should be a home in every zone for trafficked migrants.
- The BBMP should involve civil society and ensure that every migrant child in the school-age group is in school or in a residential school, and has access to a childcare facility if below that age.

13. URBAN TRANSPORT

Key concerns

- Urban roads are getting choked with private vehicles which are placing an enormous and disproportionate demand on public resources for road-widening, flyovers, expressways, signal-free corridors, etc. which are affecting the rights to livelihood, shelter and property for those living and working on or beside these roads.
- Private vehicles are also imposing huge costs on the nation for importing scarce fossil fuels. They are also causing immense health costs on the population in terms of increased pollution and loss of greenery.
- Incentives to and streamlining of public transport, especially cheap and affordable bus service, and use of surface rail to create an intra-city commuter rail system is getting neglected in this scenario.
- Road-space for pedestrians and non-motorised vehicles are getting side-lined in the rush to cater to private vehicles.

Key demands:

- The National Urban Transport Policy (NUTP) which mandates equitable road space for public transport, pedestrians and non-motorised vehicles needs to be implemented with urgency.

- An accessible, affordable, frequent, reliable, and prioritized bus transport system is the need of the hour in cities and rural areas.
- Effective feeder systems to the bus transport system through non-motorised and para-transit vehicles needs to be ensured to provide last-mile connectivity.
- Private vehicles need to be dis-incentivised by imposing a congestion tax, higher taxes for second and third vehicles, graded parking fees, etc.
- Cheaper, existing surface rail options for intra-city transport should be prioritised.
- There should be a limit to the new cars being registered monthly, especially of diesel cars, and a strictly-implemented phase-out of vehicles older than 15 years.
- A staggered once-a week ban on the use of four-wheelers based on the number, banning the use of odd-numbered cars on one day a week, and of even numbered cars on another day of the week as is the practice in Beijing to address the problem of vehicular pollution.
- Focus on public transport especially speeding up the fleet modernisation of the buses of the BMTC, disposing of older and polluting vehicles to be explored rather than capital-intensive metro options.
- Allocate more and better buses to the suburbs in the north-east, where large numbers of working class people, the bulk of BMTC's customers, live. If there are shortage of buses reduce the bus facilities to more prosperous areas where frequency is high and buses run half-empty.
- Government, BMTC and school managements need to address the problem of safe transport for school and college students by starting yellow-coloured student specials from the institutions to terminuses - this will avoid congestion of the roads around the schools by autos, private cabs, and personal cars sent to pick up or drop children.
- Bus shelters to be designed such that it provides proper protection from sun, rain and have proper seating arrangement. Shelter to have all information about bus routes and timings.

14. DIFFERENTLY-ABLED

- There is an urgent need to guarantee access for all in all govt buildings as well as public facilities such as parks, bus/train/metro stations and shopping centres. Information on access as well as toilets should be readily available on a BBMP website, with a time-bound requirement for all other facilities to comply with the spirit of existing laws on disabilities.

- Public transport for the disabled is a very big issue, both for employment as well as social activities. All new buses should be disabled-friendly and also senior-citizens friendly, as we have all noticed how difficult it is for the elderly to get on and off a bus; currently, wheelchair users have no access to buses. All large taxi companies should be required to have a small percentage of their fleet to be wheelchair accessible.
- Information on govt measures and plans for the disabled should be publicised widely in hospitals/rehabilitation centres/government offices, and funding as well as employment opportunities should be examined periodically to ensure optimum reach and use of such programs.
- Accessibility in Govt building and public places in BBMP area
- 3% reserve fund plan for the development of disabled persons in the entire BBMP
- Rehabilitation of persons with disability through appointing urban rehabilitation workers in BBMP area (3 to 4 ward one urban rehabilitation worker and for every 20 ward one Multiple rehabilitation worker).

15. CHILDREN'S ISSUES

Key demands:

- Reduce air pollution to curtail children's asthma and respiratory diseases.
- Create ample playgrounds dedicated to children.
- Traffic – safe and clear footpaths, pedestrian crossings, traffic wardens at school crossings at their peak timings, heavy penalties for hitting children.
- Pro-active information and awards to ensure SC/ST education, health & welfare schemes are fully implemented and properly utilised.
- Clean drinking water, sanitation and public hygiene in slums and schools.
- Strengthen and train child protection staff in government, schools and other public institutions to internalise child protection norms, prevent violations and operationalise quick and effective response mechanisms.
- Strengthen allocation for systems for child protection. Ensure that all staff follow child protection policies; that behaviour codes that include and protect children are the norm.

16. PROTECTION OF ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

Key concerns

Development that has a severe impact on the environment is no development at all. Any development initiative that is ecologically sustainable would be sustainable in other ways also and ultimately benefit a larger number of people for a longer period of time. In the drive for development, Bangalore has suffered from loss of greenery, land, water and air pollution, not to forget unbearable noise pollution, leading to grave health disorders among citizens, especially children and the elderly. The lakes of Bengaluru are frothing and burning, groundwater has receded and increased number of private vehicles have caused air pollution resulting in asthma and respiratory diseases.

Key demands:

Parties need to show their genuine commitment towards the protection of environment and sustainability in the following ways:

- Strictly enforcing compliance to pollution control laws and regulations on industries, commercial establishments, vehicles, groups and individuals.
- Trees not to be choked all round with cement. Survey of trees to be done and survival rates monitored. High penalties to be imposed for illegal tree-cutting. Checking to identify diseased, old and dried up trees to be regularly done and such trees felled before they harm people. Empty spots for planting new trees to be left while laying footpaths where no trees are present. Sufficient area around the trees to be left free to enable water to percolate to the roots. Small trees to be planted on small roads. BESCO to be mindful of shape of tree when pruning. Pruning to be done under supervision of the Forest Department.

17. PARKS

- Parks should be left open all through the day. Closing during day time restricts many people, including under-privileged children and women, from using the park as they are not often free to use it at other times. They should be also allowed to use the space when everyone else is there in the park rather than shooed away as at present.

- Parks not to be handed over to private parties but to be under the ownership of BBMP. Terms of contracts to be displayed at parks. No fees should be charged and parks should be open to all throughout the day.
- Maintenance of parks on regular basis and not at the mercy of contractor.
- Physical activity and play time is important for child's growth and it should be added and utilised strictly in the school curriculum. Most of the time, this time is been used by other teachers to cover the portions or children are not allowed to play outside.
- Corporation Swimming pools have been made non-usable or handed over to private parties. They must be taken back and maintained by the BBMP for the use of the general public.

18. CONCLUSION

Commitment towards strengthening democracy by engaging in fair electoral practices:

- Parties need to make the forthcoming BBMP elections free and fair by:
- Not engaging in any kind of influencing of voters by way of kind, cash, favours or threats to citizens.
- Ensuring that all promises made to the citizens during the course of the elections and as mentioned in the manifesto are legal and constitutionally valid.
- Ensure democratic practices within the functioning of the party.
- Adequate representation of women and people from marginalized sections in the list of contesting candidates.
- Committing to reduce the influence of money power in elections – by not exceeding the ceiling on expenditure incurred during election campaigning.
- Prohibit candidates with criminal charges from contesting the elections.
- Supporting a provision for the Election Commission to forward the assets and liabilities information declared by the candidates to IT department and Enforcement Directorate for action against illegal possession of assets.

Parties should ensure that tickets are given only to persons with a clean record of service, who are non-communal, who have no charges of sexual

harassment or criminal cases pending before them, and who will take active part in the sessions of the BBMP.

Above all, they should abide by Constitutional values and rule of law.

We, as members of civil society organizations, wish to be the catalyst for change and are proposing the above recommendations and proposals because we think it is time for us to speak and partner the rulers. We cannot allow society to move ahead on the path of corruption, injustice, communalism and discrimination. We need to cherish, follow and uphold the ideals in the Constitution and swear by its tenets. We hereby request all political parties longing to come to power to consider the above-mentioned recommendations and add them in their manifestoes.
