

CIVIC IN ACTION – ANNUAL REPORT APRIL 2018 – MARCH 2019

74th CA & Ward committee and SWM issue

CIVIC continued to plead for the formation and effective functioning of ward committees in the PIL 24739/2012 on garbage in which CIVIC is an impleading applicant. Upon submission by CIVIC that ward committee meetings were not being held regularly in all the wards, the Division Bench of Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka, consisting of Justice Mr. B.S. Patil and Justice Mrs. B. V. Nagarathna, had directed that 1/3 members of a ward committee should submit a letter in writing to the Ward Committee Secretary asking him to call for a meeting, as per ward committee Rules. If the meeting was not conducted in spite of the letter, the Court asked that copies of such letters should be given to the Court and it would take action against the Secretaries. Executive Trustee, as a Ward Committee member of Shanthinagar, did give such a letter to the Court but action upon the letter is yet to be taken.

The Court had further directed that during the first meeting, each and every Ward Committee should prepare a ward-level plan to “ensure proper solid waste management and sanitation work in the ward and finalise location of new public sanitation units” as per Sec 13 (I) (i) of the Act. These plans were to be consolidated into an Action Taken Report (ATR) by BBMP and placed on its website, and a report of progress produced in Court prior to the next date of hearing, i.e., 8th December 2017. But hardly four ward committees have identified land and called for tenders to take up local processing of wet waste. 12 have identified land but not started tendering. The rest have failed to even identify land and no action plan is there on BBMP's website.

CIVIC's repeated presentation to the Court that mixing of waste is happening after residents give the waste to the BBMP workers and this is because of lack of infrastructure in BBMP to collect segregated waste, resulted in the Court directing BBMP to install 100 twin dust-bins in all commercial areas before the next hearing. However, the Court hearing scheduled to review implementation of this order was adjourned on 29th June 2018 and has not been re-scheduled since.

However, in BBMP Council meetings, the issues of replacing infrastructure or setting up local processing plants are hardly being discussed. Only laments about black spots keep being voiced with no solutions.

Trainings for Ward Committees

The High Court ordered in the garbage case that workshops should be held by BBMP to train all stakeholders in the management of the processing plants for garbage. But, in a surprising but gratifying move, the BBMP suo motu issued a circular that all zonal commissioners and superintending engineers should contact CIVIC for conducting trainings for all ward committees on their roles and responsibilities under the 74th CA and KMC Act and Rules pertaining to ward committees. CIVIC was very happy to take up this task and, so far, we have conducted trainings for seven out of eight zones of BBMP, attended by ward secretaries, councillors, ward committee members, and health officials in seven zones as per attached Annexure. The attendance especially of councillors and ward committee members was however poor. Though some amount of awareness has been created, there is no willingness on the part of councillors to conduct monthly ward committee meetings.

Preparation of Civil Society Forum's Manifesto for Karnataka Assembly elections 2018

CIVIC revived the Civil Society Forum (CSF), a coalition of more than 36 CSOs working on issues of governance and the marginalised to prepare a citizens' manifesto for the Karnataka Assembly elections 2018. CSF has successfully prepared manifestoes for the last three elections, namely, the Karnataka Assembly elections of 2013, the Lok Sabha elections of 2014 and the BBMP elections of 2015, and presented them to the mainstream political parties.

A series of meetings were held, facilitated by ISI, and more than 36 CSOs collaborated in the exercise. It was later endorsed by more than 40 CSOs and individuals. It was presented to the Drafting Committees of individual political parties who were asked to respond to the issues raised at a public gathering organised at SCM house on 6th April 2018. While the JDS, AAP, and CPI(M) representatives attended the public meeting, INC and BJP stayed away. Nevertheless, the event was widely covered by the press. It was one of the earliest manifestoes to be presented by a group to political parties, even before the parties had finalised their own manifestoes. An editorial was carried by Deccan Herald appreciating the move by CSF and asking political parties to heed the demands made therein by the people. IJM printed the manifestoes in Kannada and English.

Presenting our Manifesto and Key Demands to the new Government

Post the election, a Coordination Committee was set up with JDS and INC members to draft a Common Minimum Programme for the coalition government

On 20th June 2018, Dr. S. Subramanya, Economic Advisor to the new CM, was met and on 21st June 2018, Mr. Veerappa Moily, member of the committee for drafting a Common Minimum Programme of the JD(S)-INC coalition government, was met at his home office, along with other members of the Civil Society Forum and the Key Demands from our Manifesto were presented to them. Dr. Subramanya and Mr. Moily listened to us patiently for more than half an hour. A copy of our Key Demands and Manifesto was mailed to the new Chief Secretary, Mr. Vijay Bhaskar, and also handed over to Mr. Selva Kumar, Secretary to the CM, for including them in the State Budget which was to be presented on 5th July 2018. **We are indebted to our new Trustee, Mr. Lukose Vallatharai, for facilitating these meetings with the various dignitaries in the government and we extend our heartfelt thanks to him.**

PIL on Out-of-School Children - Discussion with Ms Shalini Rajneesh

After CIVIC reminded Ms Shalini Rajneesh, Principal Secretary, Primary & Secondary Education, to call a meeting of the High-Powered Inter-Departmental Coordination Committee set up by the Karnataka High Court in the suo motu PIL on out-of-school children, a meeting was called on 12th April 2018 by her. CIVIC briefed her on the findings of our state-wide survey on RTE and out-of-school children and non-implementation of the protocol developed to retain children in schools and the non-implementation of the “Policy on Education of Migrant Children” prepared by CIVIC and other CSOs along with SSA. A memorandum was submitted to her regarding our demands.

Study of PMAY and Smart Cities

CIVIC was invited on 14th June 2018 by Mr. Kirtee Shah, president of India Habitat Forum (INHAF), of which CIVIC is a founding member, to discuss taking up a national study on the Prime Minister’s Awas Yojana (PMAY), Housing for All and Smart Cities. CIVIC gave a proposal for funding the study in Bengaluru and Mysuru. Attended governing Council meeting of INHAF in Bengaluru on 18th August 2018.

CIVIC’s promotion of Proportional Representation Electoral System

As an important electoral reform necessary to strengthen democracy and accountability, CIVIC has joined a coalition, Campaign for Electoral Reforms in India (CERI), led by REDS of Tumkur, to promote Proportional Representation (PR) Electoral System. As a part of the learning to promote the PR system, Executive Trustee attended a three-day women scholars’ training on the PR System at Tumkur from 2nd to 4th April, 2018 organised by REDS, Tumakuru.

A State-level conference on “Proportional Representation Electoral System: An Alternative System for India” was organised by CERI, FDCA, ISI, etc., on 22nd Sep 2018 to which all political party representatives were invited.

27.11.2018 – CIVIC’s Executive Trustee participated in the 10th Anniversary celebration of CERI in New Delhi chaired by the former Vice President, Sri Hamid Ansari. Key-note address was delivered by Mr. Raja of the CPI. Mr. Rajiv Chadda of Aam Aadmi Party and other political leaders expressed their support for the PR System.

Meeting with ACS, DPAR, on the Right to Information

On 21st April 2018, CIVIC, as a trustee of Karnataka Right to Information Activists’ Forum (KRIA Katte), met then Additional Chief Secretary, Sri Vijay Bhaskar, DPAR, along with members of KRIA Katte to plead for re-opening of RTI Cells at BBMP and BDA and to suggest other measures for strengthening implementation of RTI, especially Section 4 on suo motu disclosures, in the state. DoPT guidelines recommending pre-legislative consultations under Section 4(1)(c) and (d) with affected public before framing laws, policies and projects, were mailed to Sri Vijay Bhaskar, for his action.

CIVIC nominated as a member of the Committee on SDG No. 2, “Ending Hunger”, of the State Government

It is a matter of pride that CIVIC has been nominated as a member of the Committee set up by the State government to prepare Action Plans for achieving the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) No. 2 to “End Hunger”. 17 committees have been set up to work on each of the SDGs. Committee on Goal No. 2 is headed by Sri Subir Hari Singh, IAS (Retd.). CIVIC presented a set of action points for “Ending Hunger”, from “Farm to Fork”, at the first committee meeting held on 23rd April 2018, which were much-appreciated by Sri Subir Hari Singh.

25th Anniversary celebration of CIVIC and the 74th CA

The whole of July 2018 was spent in planning and organising the 25th Anniversary celebration of the founding of CIVIC and also the 74th CA. Mr. Mani Shankar Aiyar, former Union minister for Panchayat Raj agreed to preside over the function. Mr. T.R. Raghunandan, Former Jt. Secretary, Panchayat Raj, Gol, agreed to deliver the key-note address. Dr. George Mathew, Chairman of the Institute of Social Science, New Delhi,

was the other speaker. The most thrilling aspect was that Mr. Heiko Sievers, then Director of the Max Mueller Bhavan and currently its South Asia Director, who was the facilitator/mentor/founder of CIVIC 25 years ago, graced the occasion. All founder/former trustees were contacted and invited for the programme. Mementoes were handed to all of them by Mr. Mani Shankar Aiyar.

Subsequently, on 1st September 2018, Mr. Heiko Sievers and his wife met a few trustees of CIVIC to update himself on the recent activities of CIVIC.

Draft “SAKALA PLUS” Accountability Bill

The ‘SAKALA-Plus Accountability Bill’ that was prepared by the civil society consortium facilitated by CIVIC and led by Mr. T. R.Raghunandan, Nikhil Dey of NCPRI, and Prof. Yashomati Ghosh of NLSIU, was supposed to be placed before the Legislative Assembly during the Budget Session before elections, but sadly, the Bill was not placed and not passed. But the Congress Manifesto did hold a promise to bring a Bill for Grievance Redressal, if elected to power. We sought an appointment with Mr. T.M. Vijay Bhaskar, newly appointed Chief Secretary, and met him on 25th August 2018 and explained the framework of the Accountability Bill. He has asked us to follow up on the Bill with Mr. Rajeev Chawla, DPAR (E-Gov) Secretary, who is in charge of the SAKALA Act.

CIVIC selected to be Social Accountability Resource Unit (SARU) – January 2019

CIVIC has been selected as the **Social Accountability Resource Unit (SARU)** in Karnataka is part of the Social Accountability Cluster, coordinated by Rakshita Swamy, which is part of the larger Constitutional Values Fellowships funded by the Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiative. Executive Trustee of CIVIC has been selected as the SARU Fellow who will receive the Fellowship for a period of one year. Mr. Y.G.Muralidharan is assisting me in the activities as CIVIC’s consultant.

The Fellows are supposed to build on the work initiated through the Social Accountability Fellowship that was anchored by the Centre for Budget and Governance Accountability (CBGA) from 2017-18. There are five Fellows altogether in the States of Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Kerala, Karnataka, Meghalaya.

We have undertaken to accomplish the following tasks:

- i. Take up an ‘evaluation of pro-active disclosure under section 4 [1][a] [b] [c] and [d] of the RTI Act with special reference to ten municipal corporations/councils.

- ii. Prepare a tool-kit for conducting ward-level budget-tracking and social audit of the programme of works of the Greater Bengaluru Municipal Corporation (BBMP); train citizens' groups on it; conduct public hearings on the findings to make BBMP officials accountable.
- iii. Participatory planning and monitoring through ward committees
- iv. Campaign on SAKALA for registering and following up on public grievances in selected Districts
- v. Advocate for passage of the "Accountability bill" prepared by a coalition of CSOs in Karnataka.
- vi. Advocate for amendments to the Karnataka Municipal Corporations (KMC) Act to bring in greater accountability, citizen participation, grievance redress, social auditing.
- vii. Conduct trainings on the 74th CA, provisions of the KMC Act on area sabhas and ward committees, ward-level planning and social auditing for citizens' groups in Bengaluru and the other 10 municipal corporations of Karnataka
- viii. Social Audits of Building & Other Construction Workers' Act

Ms Rakshita Swamy, Nikhil Dey and Mr. Rajendran of APU met at CIVIC on 12th Jan 19. Executive Trustee offered to be the Fellow and Mr. Muralidharan agreed to assist her in carrying out the tasks under SARU. This arrangement was accepted by Ms Rakshita. As a result, Executive Trustee attended the interview for SARU Fellowship at Sanskriti Kendra, New Delhi on 24th Jan 19. She was interviewed by Pamela Phillipose and Bharat Dogra. Executive Trustee also attended between 12th Feb to 15th Feb 19 the Initiation Workshop for SARU Fellows at the 'School for Democracy', Bhim, Rajasthan.

On 16th Feb 19, Executive Trustee was invited by Mr. Nikhil Dey to attend a consultation on the Social Accountability Bill of Rajasthan Government at Jaipur, Rajasthan which was chaired by the Chief Secretary of Rajasthan.

Activities so far

- As part of the Action Plan submitted by CIVIC to SARU, CIVIC along with NLSIU and Nagarika Shakti organised a State-Level consultation on the "74th CA: Status and Way Forward", on 24th March 19, on taking forward the demand for ward committees in 10 other municipal corporations of Karnataka. Civic activists from 9 municipal corporations across Karnataka attended and drew up an Action Plan for taking this forward in their cities. Dr. A. Ravindra gave the key-note address. Suggested amendments to KMC Act were discussed to strengthen its transparency, accountability and people's participation aspects.
- A PIL was also filed by CIVIC, case No. WP 53244/2018, along with Nagarika Shakti and the Mangaluru Civic Group, on non-formation of ward committees and area sabhas in Mangaluru. Attended hearings on 19th Dec 18 and 26th Feb 19 in the High Court on the

PIL. The Court has issued notice to Urban Development Secretary and Mangaluru Mahanagara Palike Commissioner to respond to the PIL. State-level PIL taking shape.

- As a regular activity conducted before every election, meetings were conducted with the coalition of more than 30 civil society organisations, under the banner of Civil Society Forum, to prepare a Manifesto to be presented to political parties before the Lok Sabha elections. The demands for the anti-corruption legislations and the Social Accountability Bill, which are part of the Action Plan under SARU fellowship, were included in the Manifesto. The Manifesto is planned to be presented on 9th April 2019.

74th CA, Ward Committees, Area Sabhas

As part of on-going activity on the 74th CA, conducted an awareness workshop on 74th CA and ward committees for Mangaluru Civic Group at Mangaluru along with Nagarika Shakti on 15th Dec 18.

Meanwhile, a petition is being readied and several activists from all the remaining 9 municipal corporations have been mobilised to support a State-wide PIL on the non-formation of Ward Committees since 25 years in 10 municipal corporations other than Bengaluru and non-notification of Area Sabhas since eight years in all the 11 municipal corporations, including Bengaluru.

Met the newly elected Mayor, Ms Gangambike, on 16th Oct 18, along with Citizens for Bengaluru to push her to announce monthly ward committee meetings on a fixed day, the first Saturday of every month. She accepted the demand and also announced at a BBMP Council meeting on 31st Oct 2018 that all councillors should conduct ward committee meetings on the first Saturday of the month, beginning with 1st December 2018.

Executive Trustee met BBMP Commissioner, Mr. Manjunatha Prasad, on 16th Nov 18, and requested him to issue a circular in this regard as no councillor would take action on the Mayor's directive without an official circular. Mr. Prasad issued the circular on the same day. Citizens for Bengaluru mobilised citizens in several wards to conduct a "Call your Councillor" campaign asking councillors to conduct ward committee meeting on 1st Dec. As a result, about 25% of councillors held ward committee meetings on 1.12.18. Due to continued citizen pressure, the number of ward committee meetings have been increasing every month and have touched more than 50% now in Bengaluru.

It came to our notice that citizens were being allowed to air their grievances during ward committee meetings though the Rules allow them only to be observers. But, a circular issued by former Commissioner, Sri Bharatlal Meena, in 2010, asking ward 'Janaspandana' programmes to be held on every first and third Saturdays of the month under the chairmanship of the councillor, when citizens could air their grievances, had never been implemented. Executive Trustee met the Mayor Gangambike on 29th Jan 19 and gave her and the BBMP Commissioner the earlier circular and a letter requesting that a fresh circular should be issued on holding of 'Janaspandana' in every ward, before the formal

ward committee meeting, when citizens could present their concerns and grievances. However, no fresh circular has been issued in this regard and citizens continue to be allowed to air their grievances during the ward committee meetings in violation of the Rules.

As a nominated member of the ward committee of Shanthinagar ward, Executive Trustee has been attending the ward committee meetings and trying to get them to follow the Rules, especially about issuing public notices about the date and time of the meetings, putting up ward maps identifying corporation properties, minuting and uploading the resolutions of the Committee on BBMP's website and providing Action Taken Reports at the next meeting, etc. However, all this is proving to be an uphill task as there is simply no political or bureaucratic will to comply with the Rules on ward committee functioning. Moreover, the lady councillor of Executive Trustee's ward is forever finding excuses to postpone the ward committee meetings; or suddenly call for meetings giving a few hours' notice; or issue a notice and then not appear for the meeting herself so that the meeting gets automatically adjourned due to absence of the chairperson; or in her absence her husband chairs an informal meeting where no minutes are recorded or action taken reports are provided, thus de-legitimising and informalising the ward committee meetings. On 'The Hindu' quoting the Executive Trustee on these happenings, she received a threatening call from someone claiming to be the police!

Other activities on 74th CA

23rd Sep 18 – Executive Trustee was a panellist, along with Mr. V. Ravichandar, member, Bengaluru Restructuring Committee, at a discussion called by the CPI(M) party at Jyothi Basu Bhavan, Bengaluru on "Restructuring Bengaluru"

10th Nov 18 – Took a session on "Legal Architecture of Municipal Governance" for candidates of B.CLIP programme organised by B.PAC.

12th and 13th Nov 18 – Represented CIVIC as a panellist in session on "Participatory Governance" at a 2-day National Conference on 74th Constitutional Amendment organised by the Indo-Global Social Service Society at UTC, Bengaluru. Executive Trustee's paper on 74th CA was distributed to all participants at the conference.

9th Dec 18 – Conducted an awareness programme on the 74th CA, ward committees and SWM at the Indian Social Institute as part of Human Rights Week celebrations.

9th Dec 18 – Made a presentation on CIVIC's work on the 74th CA to students of Master's Course in Public Policy at the National Law School of India University on the invitation of Nikhil Dey of MKSS.

10th Dec 18 – Made a presentation to students of Christ University on how ward committees could solve problems of water sustainability on the invitation of Simar Kohli, consultant on water issues.

27th Jan 19 – Made a presentation on 74th CA and ward committees to members of Aam Aadmi Party on invitation from Ms Renuka Viswanathan.

23rd Feb 19 – Made a presentation on 74th CA and ward committees to members of Kalyan Nagar and other neighbouring RWAs.

8th March 19 – Executive Trustee was a panellist at ISEC's Ramakrishna Hegde Chair's Women's Day seminar on "Women's Empowerment in Karnataka". Was asked to speak on "Women's participation in BBMP".

Solid waste management

Solid waste management continues to be a mess in Bengaluru despite an on-going PIL on this (WP 24739-740/2012) in the High Court since 2012. As an Impleading Applicant in this case, CIVIC has made several submissions to the Court, especially on the collection of loose garbage by BBMP in violation of the human rights of workers; on the lack of infrastructure in BBMP to collect waste in a segregated and hygienic way, avoid manual handling and dumping of garbage on the ground at collection points, and exposure of garbage to the environment causing health hazards; the lack of secondary storage containers at collection points as per SWM Rules and High Court orders; the poor working conditions and exploitation of workers, etc. However, none of these points are being acted upon by BBMP.

Made a presentation to newly-elected Mayor Gangambike on SWM on 16.10.18. On pursuing the matter with BBMP, was given an appointment on 31st Oct 18 by Mr. Mahendra Jain, ACS-UD, to make a presentation on garbage management along with members of Civil Society Forum.

On 15th Nov 18, made a presentation on SWM to Mr. D. Randeep, Special Commissioner, BBMP (SWM). On 18th Nov 18, was requested by Mr. D. Randeep, to make a presentation on SWM to Junior Health Inspectors of BBMP at IPP Centre, BBMP. On 30th Jan 19, CIVIC was invited to present our views at BBMP on the Draft Policy on SWM prepared by DMA.

The only point taken up for implementation by BBMP after all these presentations is that a **Standard Operating Procedure** has been issued by Mr. Randeep to avoid dumping of garbage on the ground at collection points.

Sustainable Development Goal – 2 (SDG-2) – “End Hunger” committee meetings of GoK

Participated in the meeting on SDG-2, ‘End Hunger’, Committee meeting at Vikasa Soudha on 3rd Oct 18 and 28th Dec 18 under the chairmanship of Sri Subir Hari Singh, IAS (Retd.). Provided response to replies of Agriculture, Social Welfare, W&CD and Labour departments to suggestions of CIVIC for indicators. W&CD is refusing to accept “Whether institutions prescribed under the National Nutrition Policy” have been set up as a sub-indicator. It is refusing to accept “number of anganwadis” in the State as a sub-indicator for ending hunger. Agriculture department is refusing to accept “number of farmers’ suicides” and “MSP” as sub-indicators. The Labour Department is refusing to accept “Whether the minimum wages fixed fulfil the nutrition norms and other basic needs prescribed by the 15th ILC, SC judgements and the Seventh Pay Commission calculations in this regard” as sub-indicators, though these are requirements under the National Nutrition Policy.

Lok Sabha Elections 2019

Executive Trustee represented CIVIC at a discussion called by Congress Party with Mr. Shashi Tharoor on 28th Oct 18, on giving inputs for the Congress Manifesto for 2019 elections on

environmental issues. Was unable to give our inputs due to too many speakers. On 7th Dec 18, CIVIC was invited by the Congress Party Manifesto Committee to give our suggestions on Mobility and Traffic Congestion. Kumari Selja, former Union Minister, Prof. Rajeev Gowda, MP, etc., received our memorandum. Prof. Rajeev Gowda also asked CIVIC to start a Change.Org petition on what we considered a very important requirement to be included in the Congress Manifesto. I submitted a petition on making ECCD universal for 0-6 year-olds and education compulsory till 18 years and providing a vocational stream at the secondary level for 15 to 18 year-olds.

As already mentioned, and as a regular activity conducted before every election, meetings were conducted with the coalition of more than 30 civil society organisations, under the banner of Civil Society Forum, to prepare a Manifesto to be presented to political parties before the Lok Sabha elections which was planned to be presented on 9th April 19.

Right to Information

27th and 28th April 2018 – As a Working Committee member representing Karnataka State in the National Campaign for People’s Right to Information (NCPRI), attended its working committee meeting at New Delhi and a public hearing and release of a study on the working of Information Commissions across the country.

Annual Convention of National Campaign for People’s Right to Information -10.10.2018 and 11.10.2018

Executive Trustee represented CIVIC as Karnataka State Representative at the Working Committee meeting of the National Campaign for People’s Right to Information (NCPRI) on 10th Oct 18 at New Delhi and discussion on proposed RTI Amdts. at Constitution Club, New Delhi, on 11th Oct.

Executive Trustee, as the Karnataka State Representative of NCPRI, represented CIVIC at the 13th Anniversary Celebration of RTI, organised by the Central Information Commission on 12th Oct 2018. The Chief Guest was the President of India, Sri Ramnath Kovind.

Unorganised Workers’ Social Security Bill

On behalf of Civil Society Forum, Executive Trustee had met Mr. Vijay Bhaskar, Chief Secretary, and presented him with our analysis of the deficiencies in the Central Act on Unorganised Workers’ Social Security and a copy of our alternative Draft State Bill on Unorganised Workers’ Social Security. He had passed it on to the Labour Secretary and asked him to call us for a discussion. However, Labour Secretary, passed on our documents to Mr. G.K. Karanth, Director of the Karnataka State Labour Institute. We were given appointments twice by Mr.Karanth which were each time postponed.

Since nothing happened for several months, ET wrote to Mr. Vijay Bhaskar informing him that no meeting had taken place. On instruction from Mr. Vijay Bhaskar, we were given an appointment by Mr. Amlan Aditya Biswas, Secretary Labour, on 7th Dec 18, to make a

presentation to him, Mr. Karanth and Mr. Shripad, Jt. Labour Commissioner, on our Draft Bill on Unorganised Workers' Social Security, along with members of Civil Society Forum. However, Mr. Amlan Biswas countered all our points saying, among others, that a State Act could not be passed while there was a Central Act on the same subject. On doing some research, we found that Punjab had passed a State Act even though there was a Central Act and a Madhya Pradesh Act was also in existence. **An expert was kind enough to provide his expert comments refuting most of what Mr. Biswas had stated.** These inputs were passed on to Mr. Vijay Bhaskar, Mr. Biswas and others. But we have not heard from them since.

Good Pitch on “Manual Scavenging”

CIVIC met Mr. Gautam Sonti and Ms Tara Rao of Good Pitch on 9th Jan 19 who want CIVIC to partner them in Pitching against Manual Scavenging by getting ward committees to pass resolutions against the practice in their wards. On 12th March 19, represented CIVIC at “Good Pitch” programme at BIC and committed to ‘pitch’ for the issue of manual scavenging in Bengaluru and get ward committees to pass resolutions that they will ensure that their ward is free of manual scavenging.

CIVIC selected to be core team member of ‘Mukti’

CIVIC has been invited to be a core committee member of “Mukti”, an “Alliance to End Human Trafficking & Bonded Labour”. In this connection met the CS, Mr. Vijay Bhaskar, on 31st Jan 19 to invite Govt. of Karnataka to collaborate with Mukti and launch it in Vikasa Soudha. On 1st March 19, ‘Mukti’, was launched at Vikasa Soudha with Mr. L.K. Atheeq, Principal Secretary, RD&PR, hosting the programme.

Representing CIVIC at meetings/consultations/conferences, etc.

- On 8th Dec 18, attended a meeting of SHAKTI, a forum demanding 33% representation to women in the Assembly & Parliament.
- Executive Trustee represented CIVIC as one of the State Coordinators of Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) and National Election Watch (NEW) at its 14th Annual Convention at Lucknow, from 1st March to 3rd March 2019. Raised the issues of Proportional Representation, women’s representation in assemblies and parliament, need to strengthen NOTA, etc.

30th April 2018 – Was felicitated by the Shanthinagar Residents’ Welfare Association (SRWA) at their annual cultural meet for contribution to the city of Bengaluru.

5th May 2018 - Co-organised with Citizens for Bengaluru (CfB) mock voting on people’s issues at the Town Hall from 9.30-10.30 AM

5th May 2018 – Was a panellist at a live streaming on Facebook of a panel discussion organised by Aam Aadmi Party on issues before the Karnataka Assembly elections from 12.30 to 1.30PM.

8th May 2018 – CIVIC facilitated along with NBF a talk by Mr. Alok Shukla, former Election Commissioner, at NBF.

24th May 2018 – Presented CIVIC's strategies and success stories to students of Holy Cross College, Worcester, Massachusetts, USA, at the Indian Social Institute (ISI).

27th May 2018 – Took a session on the 74th CA, Ward committees and Area Sabhas to members of Swaraj India political party and Whitefield Rising, an RWA.

31st May 2018 – Took a session on “Citizens’ Perspectives on RTI” to a batch of officials at the Administrative Training Institute, Mysuru.

1st June 2018 - CIVIC was invited to talk to Elected Women Representatives of several cities of Karnataka on their roles and responsibilities under the 74th CA by the Azim Premji Foundation.

9th and 10th June 2018 – Attended a two-day consultation and planning meeting on Women's Land Rights organised by the Rural Education for Development Society (REDS) in Tumkur. A pan-Indian rally is being organised to demand women's land rights in October 2018. The rally is expected to pass through Karnataka in August for which plans to host the padayatri is being done.

16th June 2018 – Attended a Farmers' Federation annual meeting at Anantpur, A.P., to understand the functioning of the farmers' cooperative and marketing of its value-added products under the brand-name 'Farmveda'.

18th June 2018 - CIVIC was asked to share with members of Mantra, J.P. Nagar, its success story in bringing changes in the RTE Rules for making the state truly responsible for ensuring the Right to Education of all children under the RTE Act through the suo motu PIL of the Karnataka High Court on out-of-school children.

20th June 2018 - CIVIC facilitated and also participated in the consultation on “Proactive Disclosure of Information in the Extractive Industries (Mining)” organised by the National Campaign for People's Right to Information (NCPRI) at SCM House. Mr. Nikhil Dey of NCPRI addressed the gathering.

24th June 2018 – CIVIC was invited by United Bengaluru, a coalition of NGOs/CSOs/ RWAs, working towards better governance in Bengaluru, facilitated by Namma Bengaluru Foundation, and chaired by veteran freedom-fighter, Sri H.S. Doreswamy, to sign a joint statement and address a press conference on an agenda for the newly elected government of Karnataka. The need to make the growth of Bengaluru inclusive and sustainable, have an effective MPC and functioning ward committees was emphasised by CIVIC. The need to have an Integrated Water Management Authority for Bengaluru

bringing rain water, water supply and sewerage, storm-water drains, lakes and ground water under one body was also emphasised.

14th and 15th July 2018 – Attended the Right to Food Campaign Steering Committee meeting at New Delhi and shared the status of NFSA in Karnataka. Was asked to be part of the sub-committee on ICDS and coordinate its activities.

31st July 2018 – Was a panellist at a discussion on the recommendations of the Bengaluru Restructuring Committee (BRC) organised by the Communist Party of India (M). The other panellist was Mr. V. Ravichandar, member of the BRC.

2nd August 2018 – Co-chaired the valedictory session of a consultation on “Integrating Transgenders into Local Self-Government” organised by the Ramakrishna Hegde Chair on Decentralisation & Development at the Institute for Social & Economic Change .

6th August 2018 – Took a session on “Roles & Responsibilities of an RWA” for the RWA of Munirabad Reserve Police Battalion at Hospet, Bellary.

15th August 2018 – Was the Chief Guest at the Independence Day celebrations of the RWA of Celestial Greens Apartment Complex at K.R. Puram and spoke about “Citizen participation through ward committees”. The other guest was Srikanth Viswanathan of Janaagraha.

17th August 2018 – Attended a panel discussion on “Modern forms of slavery” organised by International Justice Mission and contributed to the discussion.

26th & 27th August 2018 – Participated in the “Women Farmers’ and Land Rights Yatra”.

5th Sep 18 – Made a presentation to teachers attending a UGC-HRD refresher course at Bangalore University on CIVIC’s PIL on RTE.

6th Sep 18 - Executive Trustee represented CIVIC at a panel discussion on “Strengthen LokAyukta” organised by LanchaMukta Karnataka Nirmana Vedike (Bribe-free Karnataka Forum) at the Legislators’ Home. Then other panellists were Sri H. S. Doreswamy, Hon’ble Justice N. Santosh Hegde, Sri Sreekumar, former Central Vigilance Commissioner, Sri Krishna, former Speaker of Karnataka Assembly, Sri S. R. Hiremath and Prof. B.K. Chandrashekar.

9th Sep 18 – Took a session on the 74th CA and ward committees for a group of animators in a slum in Old Baiyappanahalli organised by IT For Change.

14th Sep 18 – Was invited to be a member of a Coordination Committee set up by International Justice Mission to address Bonded Labour issues in the State.

17th Sep 18 – Was invited to participate in a round-table discussion on “Sustainable Transport” in Bengaluru by the Civil Engineering Dept. of IISc.

20th & 21st Sep 18 – Participated in the State-level conference on Bonded Labour in Contemporary Karnataka organised by the International Justice Mission.

22nd Sep 18 – Helped in organising and participated in the State-level conference on “Proportional Representation System – An Alternative System for India” organised by CERI, FDCA, ISI, etc.

29th Sep 18 – Participated in a meeting called by ‘United Bengaluru’, a coalition of CSOs working on Bengaluru’s governance, of which CIVIC is a member, on issues facing Bengaluru. Dr. Parameshwara, skipped the meeting. It was attended by Mr. Rajeev Chandrashekar, Mr. P.C. Mohan, MPs from Bengaluru, and Dr. Ashwathnarayana, MLA, Malleshwaram.

6th October 18 – Participated in the event on “Garbage management” hosted by Deccan Herald attended by Dy CM Parameshwara and BBMP Commissioner. Was unable to give him our memorandum on SWM.

13th Oct 18 – Made a presentation on Fundamental Rights & Duties under the Constitution with emphasis on Bengaluru’s problems to school children organised by Rotary West Bengaluru.

15th Oct 18 – Addressed District Judges of Karnataka on problems in laws on RTE, child marriage, child labour and ECCD causing unsafe conditions for children at the Karnataka Judicial Academy organised by KSHRC, Hans Seidel Foundation, Germany, and Global Concerns India.

27th Oct 18 – Participated in a discussion organised by CPI(M) party on Bengaluru Restructuring with Mr. V. Balasubramanian, ACS (Retd.).

28th Oct 2018 – Participated in a discussion organised by Mr. E.P. Menon of India Forward on ‘Participatory Democracy’.

3rd Nov 18 - Was a panellist at a discussion on “Bangalore Forward” organised by ‘Students for Development’ of M.S. Ramaiah College

17th Nov 18 – Represented CIVIC at discussion on “Elevated Corridors” organised by Bus Prayanikara Vedike.

1st Dec 18 – Represented CIVIC at consultation on “Traffic Congestion” organised by Deccan Herald which was attended by Transport Secretary, Mr. Basavaraju and the Traffic Police Head.

3rd Dec 18 – CIVIC was invited to give its views at a discussion called by Director, SAKALA Mission, IDCS, on strengthening SAKALA.

26th Dec 18 - Made a presentation on “Civic Awareness” at the Institution of Engineers.

29th Dec 18 – Represented CIVIC at a consultation on Child Marriage called by the Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights at Vikasa Soudha and submitted memorandum.

25th Jan 19 – Attended Indian Institute of Public Administration felicitation of Mr. Ramanathan, President, IIPA, where a Festschrift containing my article on “A Framework for Excellence in Social Security Administration” was released by Mr.Veerappa Moily and Mr. Vijaybhaskar, CS.

29th Jan 19 – Represented CIVIC at a consultation on ECCD called by CRT

8th Feb 19 - Chaired a session on “Culture and Tradition” at the Interfaith Harmony Dialogue organised by BIRDS, etc.

23rd Feb 19 – Helped to organise and attended a symposium on “Save Constitution – Save India” organised by the Forum for Democracy & Communal Amity –Karnataka

8th March 19 – Represented CIVIC at Women’s Day discussion organised by B.PAC.

31st March 19 – Was felicitated at a Women’s Day function organised by a B.CLIP leader at Begur

31st March 19 – Was a panellist at a Women’s Day function on “Women’s role in promoting peace & harmony” organised by the Mahila Sadbhavana Manch, women’s wing of Jamaat-e-Islami Hind.
