

Bangalore Apartments' Federation News Letter

Volume 2, Issue 11, February, 2019

Dear Apartment Resident,

This BAF newsletter comes amidst the time when election dates for the Lok Sabha Elections 2019 have been announced. **The polling date for Bengaluru city** (& few other parliamentary constituencies) is **18th April 2019**. Polling date for rest of Karnataka is 23rd April 2019. Again, the time has come for all apartment residents to ensure they leave their indelible mark on the election day by voting in large numbers. Many of you who have enrolled in electoral rolls may pursue with the ward office to get the names updated & EPIC cards issued. **We urge all those who plan to take holidays, to reschedule their dates & ensure they are at their voting booths to cast their vote.** If there are any issues w.r.t. voter enrolments or voting, please do connect with BAF cluster leaders /GC. **WE WANT US ALL TO VOTE IN LARGE NUMBERS & MAKE APARTMENT VOTERS GET PROMINENTLY NOTICED & OUR VOICE HEARD.** That will ensure us success in many of our ongoing efforts with the GoK - be it amendments to KAOA/KOFA/RERA & their proper implementations, OC process issues, centralised STPs, parity in tariffs of BWSSB/ BBMP services, water connections, KSPCB/ BESCOM services and many more such. **WE DO URGE ALL APARTMENT LEADERS TO ENSURE OVER 90% VOTING IN THEIR APARTMENTS.** THERE WILL BE EXCITING OFFERS, FROM OUR "I WILL VOTE" PARTNERS TOO!

Meanwhile during the month, BAF's partnership with Beyond Carlton & the State Fire Dept. culminated in the launch of a **Fire Safety Assessment Campaign**. The event was held at the Karnataka State Fire & Emergency Services' headquarters on 23/2/2019. The campaign is a collaboration between **Beyond Carlton**, BAF, *Citizen Matters*, Jain University and **When it Strikes**. It aims to improve awareness among RWAs & residents on fire safety & to be better-prepared for fire accidents. During the event, Siddarameshwar Humanabade who helped 10 people survive during a fire accident at a hospital in Marol, Mumbai on 18/12/2018, was honoured. Dr. A Ravindra, former Chief Secretary, GoK, was the chief guest for the event. Through this initiative, free fire safety assessment will be conducted for all BAF members from April 2019. Members may use this opportunity to assess their fire risks & work on recommendations for a fire proof apartment premises. Do read the newsletter for detailed report of the event.

During the month, BAF team pursued its **representation to KSPCB on unnecessary refusal by the Board on CFO renewal mechanism** for Apartments. The new management team at KSPCB (Chairman & Member Secretary) were very appreciative of BAF representation made. They have assured **that KSPCB will work together with BAF** to ensure the notifications that do not require CFO renewal will be implemented in letter and spirit. KSPCB will also work with BAF to ensure STP inspection process can be done on an annual filing/ self declaratory process. Many affected member representatives, who were refused CFO renewal, attended the meeting & **this has brought relief to all such members.**

BAF was also invited to attend a WRI event – **The City Fix Labs**. This sustainability event on water, solid waste and energy management, saw many **new ideas & services for a better city civic infrastructure**. BAF was happy to understand revolutionary ideas that may help members/RWAs/ city as a whole, & be able to represent its members & their needs that could get addressed through these products/ideas & through WRI at policy level. BAF attended the **Bengaluru Civic Fest** held on 14th February & interacted with activists, NGOS, civic agencies that work for a better city.

The BAF SWM Team met BBMP Special Commissioner (SC) & sought clarity on the media reports concerning the update to the bulk-generator policy. BAF had earlier shared inputs to BBMP on the same, in a stakeholder consultation. **BBMP sought BAFs support on seeking feedback on services of BBMP empanelled SWM vendors & also appreciated BAF's offer to collaborate with BBMP during the upcoming LS elections to ensure maximum turnout.**

AT BAF WE ALL WORK AND PLAY TOO ! – DO SOLVE QUIZZES IN OUR NEW FUN@BAF SECTION& WIN EXCITING PRIZES TOO!

Cheers,Team BAF!

Read the Feb 2019 Newsletter @ <https://baf.org.in/newsletters>



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BAF IN THE NEWS.....

Bellandur apartments demand Cauvery water supply

Feb 04, 2019

As many as 200 apartments in Bellandur are devoid of BWSSB's Cauvery water supply, while a few are already in the process of receiving the supply.

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Apartments in a quandary over proposed garbage tender for bulk generators

Feb 17, 2019

Bulk generators, such as tech parks and apartment complexes, are in a quandary after the recent announcement by the Bruhat Bengaluru MahanagaraPalike (BBMP) that it is thinking of floating tenders to collect segregated wet waste from bulk generators, including large apartment complexes. Until now, the civic body had been pushing for in situ waste processing, and had also identified and empanelled contractors that bulk generators could tie up with directly to pick up segregated streams of waste.

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Initiative to improve fire safety in Bengaluru Apartments

Feb 22, 2019

The 17 dead in last week's Karol Bagh fire in New Delhi are still being mourned. Families of victims who perished in Mumbai's Kamala Mills fire are still grappling with the loss of their

BAF IN THE NEWS.....

loved ones. So is every family that has lost one or more of its members to fires, that were avoidable. This February 23rd marks nine years since fire ripped through the Carlton Towers on Old Airport Road in Bengaluru, which claimed nine precious lives.

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'Beyond Carlton' campaign to offer fire-risk assessment for apartments

Feb 23, 2019

In 2010, a fire engulfed Carlton Towers, a building near Old Airport Road in Bengaluru, killing nine people and injuring almost 70 in the tragic incident. Also, three people died due to fatal injuries after jumping off the top floors of the eight-storeyed building, while six lost their lives due to severe burns and asphyxiation. The incident has brought about many changes in fire safety norms.

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Housethat! Property owners cheer SC order

March 06, 2019

Finally, Bengalureans can heave a sigh of relief as the Supreme Court (SC) on Tuesday set aside the National Green Tribunal (NGT) order on revised buffer zones for lakes and rajakaluves. In 2016, the NGT had increased the 30-metre buffer zone around lakes in Bengaluru to 75 metres and this would have impacted lakhs of houses in the city.

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Severe water scarcity in parts of Bengaluru with no piped supply

March 10, 2019

As an unusually hot summer takes off, outer zones of the city — which are yet to get piped water supply and hence are dependent on borewells and water tankers — are hit by a severe water crisis: borewells have gone dry and tankers are unable to supply water. A state of panic has set in among residents, prompting them to ration water, dig more borewells, and take up water conservation campaigns.

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Amid water crisis, citizens get half-bucket challenge

March 12, 2019

The largest body of apartments in Bengaluru is running a social media campaign, urging its members to bath in half a bucket of water so as to reduce the pressure on the city's depleting water resources. The BAFHalfBucketChallenge thrown by the Bangalore Apartments' Federation highlights growing concerns over water scarcity in the city as the summer sets in.

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REST OF THE NEWS.....

Dr. G Parameshwara, the flyover approach is going nowhere

Feb 03, 2019

It is unfortunate and unbecoming of one of the senior most politicians of the state, Deputy Chief Minister of Karnataka and Bengaluru Development Minister to make statements that sound like threats to citizens opposing elevated corridor project. We just celebrated our 70th Republic Day and the Constitution that proclaimed that people are supreme power. We expect higher standards of public discourse from elected representatives.

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KSPCB gets cracking as apartments pollute ChikkabanavaraLake

Feb 04, 2019

A number of apartment complexes that have come up on the periphery of the vast Chikkabanavaralake in northwest Bengaluru are discharging untreated sewage into the lake, pushing another water body into decay.

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Wet waste turned into fuel for restaurant kitchen

Feb 04, 2019

One neighbourhood may have the answer to Bengaluru's garbage management problems. For the past three months, nearly three tonnes of wet waste generated by residents of a few neighbourhoods in Koramangala's 5th and 6th Blocks is being processed and converted to biogas.

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REST OF THE NEWS.....

BBMP to restart tree-planting drive

Feb 04, 2019

After a hiatus of two years, the Bruhat Bengaluru MahanagaraPalike will restart its tree plantation drive this year. However, this time around, it will not distribute free saplings to citizens. The civic body is all set to call for tenders to plant and raise 2.5 lakh tree saplings and maintain them for three years.

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Top official out of panel looking into garbage tender

Feb 05, 2019

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) solid waste management wing's special commissioner D Randeep has been kept out of the committee looking into the Rs 425 crore garbage tender.

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Solid waste management head now part of BBMP tender panel

Feb 06, 2019

Following a TOI report 'BBMP leaves top official out of its garbage panel, BBMP commissioner N Manjunatha Prasad reinstated solid waste management special commissioner D Randeep in the panel constituted to look into the recent tender floated for lifting garbage in wards across the city.

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BWSSB draws up Rs 2,500-cr plan to upgrade STPs

Feb 07, 2019

The quality of sewage treatment plants (STPs) maintained by the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) came to light recently when "treated" water supplied to Kolar started frothing. The situation may not get better anytime soon, but the BWSSB has some plans to improve it. It has drawn up a Rs 2,500-crore plan, and hopes to raise a long-term loan from the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), to revamp all old STPs, rehabilitate old sewage lines and also cut down unaccounted of water.

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Why Bengaluru's Bellandur is more than a lake

Feb 08, 2019

Included in Bengaluru only in the previous decade, the Bellandur ward, with about eight tech parks, rubs shoulders with the high and mighty of the technology world. With an area of 26.4 sq km, it is one of the largest wards in the city and also the largest contributor to property tax. But it gets a raw deal when it comes to infrastructure, development and fund allocation.

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Solar rooftop tool maps 12 Malleshwaram buildings

Feb 11, 2019

The violin-shaped Chowdiah Memorial Hall could have a solar rooftop system of 40.3kWp (kilo watt peak) based on sanctioned load with a minimum annual solar generation of 75,966.62 kWh/year.

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Parking even in front of your home may no longer be free

Feb 12, 2019

There will be no free parking on any public road in the city, not even outside one's own house, if the new parking policy, drafted by the Urban Development Department, comes into force.

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BBMP to do away with SWM cess for bulk waster mangers

Feb 12, 2019

Bulk generators of waste like apartment complexes, hotels, malls, temples and hospitals who dispose of the waste they generate are in for some relief as the BBMP has decided to waive the solid waste management cess component of their property tax.

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Water connections sans OC: BBMP told to pass resolution

Feb 12, 2019

Tushar Girinath, chairman of the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board suggested the BBMP council pass a resolution to provide water connections to buildings even without occupancy certificates (OC).

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With an injunction order worth Rs 45, illegal building being set up in Bengaluru

Feb 13, 2019

At least 70 per cent of buildings in Bengaluru have some violation or are illegal and successive governments have often tried to implement Akrama –Sakrama to regularise them and protect

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Over past decade, toxicity of Bengaluru air worsened 46%

Feb 13, 2019

Toxicity level in Bengaluru's air is increasing at an alarming rate. A recent analysis of air quality data from the city shows that its PM10 level has gone up by 46% in the past 10 years.

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'New Bengaluru' misconceived, needs a fresh approach

Feb 13, 2019

The budget for 2019-20 presented by chief minister Kumaraswamy gives a big push to urban development and Bengaluru. An amount of Rs 8,015 crore has been provided for what is termed the 'Nava Bengaluru KriyaYojane' or New Bengaluru Action Plan.

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Over 1,000 realty developers keep dodging RERA notices

Feb 14, 2019

With over 1,000 real estate projects in the state not registering with the Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA) and their proponents not responding to repeated notices, the authorities are in a fix.

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'Bangalore Civic Fest' a big draw among students

Feb 15, 2019

As part of its 'I Change My City' initiative, Bengaluru NGO, Janagrahaa, held the 'Bangalore Civic Fest' at the Freedom Park on Thursday, for the first time bringing civic bodies and ordinary people under one roof to thrash out various issues concerning it. Present were hundreds of citizens, urban experts, citizen groups, school and college children and representatives of civic bodies.

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Mantri Developers leave residents, maintenance staff in despair

Feb 19, 2019

Staying at a high-rise apartment may look cool, but it comes at a heavy price. For MantriEspaña residents paying the price for maintenance was not enough as they have been left without proper facilities despite transferring crores of rupees to the developer.

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Cabinet approves phase II of rooftop solar programme

Feb 19, 2019

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs on Wednesday approved Phase-II of the Grid Connected Rooftop Solar Programme that aims to achieve a cumulative capacity of 40,000 MW from rooftop solar projects by 2022.

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GST council may cut tax on under-construction houses to 5%

Feb 20, 2019

NEW DELHI: The GST Council is expected to reduce GST on under-construction houses to 5% and on affordable ones to 3% without allowing input tax credit, from the existing level of 12% and 8%.

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A long drawn wait for refund for home-buyers

Feb 20, 2019

Home buyers in Karnataka, who had invested large amounts to purchase property, were hopeful of falling back on the provision for a full refund from the builder as per the Real Estate Regulatory Act (RERA) in case things went wrong.

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Bellandur residents meet Deputy CM

Feb 21, 2019

A delegation of residents from the Bellandur Welfare Association met Deputy Chief Minister and City Development Minister G. Parameshwara at his Sadashivanagar residence on Thursday morning to discuss the lack of infrastructure and the poor condition of roads. They sought a slew of works, including improvement of footpaths, development of an underground drainage system, road widening and an extension of the elevated corridor project.

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Karnataka: Special camps for enrolment of voters from Friday

Feb 21, 2019

The Election Commission of India will hold special camps for enrolment of voter on February 23-4 and March 2-3 at all the polling booth across India ahead of the upcoming Lok Sabha polls

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Effect on Real Estate in Budget 2019

Feb 22, 2019

All stakeholders in the real estate sector, such as home buyers, home owners, builders, developers and bankers have welcomed the Interim Budget for 2019. Let us analyse how the proposals can help the common man.

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'A' Khatas for tax-paying properties, moolah for BBMP

Feb 23, 2019

After years of confusion, the Bruhat Bengaluru MahanagaraPalike (BBMP) is set to fully legalise all the 'B' Khata properties in its jurisdiction. This means any property owner paying tax to the civic body will get 'A' Khata. The move will boost the coffers.

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BBMP budget gets revised by Rs 1,000 crore

Feb 24, 2019

Within five days, the Bruhat Bengaluru MahanagaraPalike (BBMP) budget got revised by Rs. 1,000 crore to touch Rs 11,500 crore. This is after deliberations in the BBM council over the past few days in which corporator and standing committee members demanded an increase in allocation on various fronts.

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First-time homebuyers, realtors cheer GST cut

Feb 26, 2019

First-time homebuyers and developers have reason to cheer as tax deduction on affordable and under-construction properties has given them much-awaited relief

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BBMP launches app to track movement of auto-tippers

Feb 25, 2019

Residents can now hope their daily worry about waste not being picked up from their doorstep will soon end as the BBM has launched an app to monitor the movement of garbage.

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GST cut to ignite interest in under-construction projects

Feb 26, 2019

PUNE: Real estate players on Monday said the new GST rates to come into effect from April 1, 2019, would wean customers off investing only in ready-to-occupy homes, while igniting interest in under construction projects

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Police issue notice to BBMP, Bescom and BDA

Feb 26, 2019

Investigating the death of a seven-year-old boy who was allegedly electrocuted while playing in a park on Sunday, the Banaswadi police has issued notices to the Bruhat Bengaluru MahanagaraPalike, Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (Bescom) and the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA).

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BBMP floats new tenders, lays down stricter norms

Feb 28, 2019

Failing to control the stray dog menace in the city despite spending crores of rupees on the Animal Birth Control programme, the BBMP has floated fresh tender, which are said to be more stringent and scientific in nature.

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Karnataka Election Dates: 28 LS Constituencies to vote on April 18 and 23, Bengaluru votes in Phase 2

March 11, 2019

The state of Karnataka, that sends 28 MPs to the Lok Sabha, will vote in general elections in two phases. While 14 seats will go to the polls in phase 2 on April 18, the rest 14 will vote in phase 3 on April 23. Voters of state capital Bengaluru will exercise their franchise on April 18.

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Lok Sabha Elections 2019: When will you vote? Know poll dates of your seat here

March 11, 2019

The Election Commission has finally sounded the poll bugle and declared the schedule for the Lok Sabha Elections 2019 on Sunday. The Lok Sabha Elections 2019 will be held in seven phases, starting from April 11. The results will be declared on May 23. Announcing the seven-phase schedule for 2019 Lok Sabha polls, Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora also said 10 lakh polling stations would be set up this time as against about nine lakhs in 2014.

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