

## **Bangalore Apartments' Federation News Letter**

**Volume 1, Issue 10, February 28, 2018**

Dear Apartment Resident,

Welcome to another month of action with BAF. Before we get into all that – Wishing all women at BAF-a Very Happy International Women's Day in March!. And All the very best to the children for their exams. **Please do share this newsletter with your children too. This is important** as what we are doing here at BAF is bringing about a change through active participation where it matters. **Our children have the ability to understand the issues and the power to bring about the change we want.** Below are a few instances during the month that reinforce this movement at BAF.

**BAF has submitted appeals to BWSSB** seeking a) immediate refund of STP penalties levied in 2016 b) sanitation cess waiver for apartments with STP & c) parity on water tariff charged to apartment residents vis-à-vis individual houses. **BAF has also made a detailed representation to BBMP Joint Commissioner (SWM)**, seeking complete waiver of SWM Cess, rationalization of waste collection charges by private vendors (our SWM costs are 10+ times than a non apartment resident), establish approved vendor list & coverage, incentives for composting/ compost buyback etc. The challenges of SWM and the discrimination/victimization of apartment residents was highlighted forcefully. **BAF is now connected to an SWM Round Table** team and we expect to work further cohesively to ensure Apartment residents who are fully compliant with SWM are given a fair deal. BAF has **also partnered with Beyond Carlton to work with Fire & Safety Department** on norms suitable for apartments.

In light of proposed BESCOM tariff hike & move to charge higher tariff category (Lt5 rather than Lt2)for STP/ Fire station for apartment complexes (with retrospective effect from 2010!) - **BAF has made a representation to the Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC)** with its objections on the general power tariff hike & representing that **apartments should be charged only at residential rates (Lt2) and not commercial / industrial rates (Lt5) for any asset inside apartment complexes.**

**BAF has had multiple meetings with BBMP, Election Commission & the Electoral Observer**, circulated the updated Constituency wise list of EROs & BLOs, and handled escalations from member Apartments to support in their AARAMB- voter enrollment campaign. **BAF is working together with Whitefield Rising** and has been able to expedite processing of lakhs of voter registration forms. The effort is reflected by updated voter lists in **Mother Roll for 2018 released on 28th Feb 2018.** **Members are requested to continue registrations as another Supplementary roll is expected before elections.** Do visit the [http://ceokarnataka.kar.nic.in/FinalRoll-2018/Dist\\_List.aspx](http://ceokarnataka.kar.nic.in/FinalRoll-2018/Dist_List.aspx) – download your booth electoral roll, ensure all your residents are enrolled, call the enlisted BLOs of your ward, if not & start the enrolment process. **DO EVERYTHING TO ENSURE APARTMENT COMMUNITY VOICE IS HEARD** in the upcoming elections. Yes and don't forget to **UPDATE YOUR APARTMENT VOTER REGISTRATION DATA FOR THE AARAMB COMPETITION!**

**The BAF Annual AGM-Cum-APARTMENT CHARTER SYMPOSIUM will be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2018, wherein BAF will present THE APARTMENT CHARTER to key political leaders from various parties.** BAF has circulated the draft APARTMENT CHARTER to the members. Kindly do circulate the same to the larger community. We welcome inputs and feedback.

Through the month there were Cluster Meets at various member locations to create individual **Assembly Constituency Charters.** **BAF urges all its members to make use of this opportunity, momentum and efforts, by participating in the above exercise.** One important thing to note – all above efforts will not yield results if BAF member communities do not come out and vote in large numbers. **WE HAVE TO SHOWCASE OUR UNITY & MAKE OUR VOICE HEARD, IF WE ARE TO FIND A LASTING RESOLUTION TO THE PLETHORA OF ISSUES THAT WE FACE!**

Best Regards,

Team BAF



## **Shrinking size: Lokayukta orders resurvey of Subramanyapura Lake**

*Feb 03, 2018*

Thanks to rampant encroachments, Subramanyapura Lake in Uttarahalli has shrunk from a 25-acre waterbody to a 6.5-acre dry land, residents of the locality alleged in the presence of Lokayukta P Vishwanatha Shetty, who inspected the lake on Friday. Taking note of their concerns, Shetty ordered a resurvey of the lake by the authorities concerned.

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## **BBMP's drone camera to keep a hawk eye on Bellandur Lake**

*Feb 07, 2018*

Starting next week, a camera-mounted drone will keep tabs on [Bellandur Lake](#) where fire broke out twice this year.

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## **Only 5 citizens turn up at meet to discuss problems in voters' list**

*Feb 10, 2018*

Poor participation marked the public meet organized by BBMP on Friday to discuss glitches in the voters' list ahead of the 2018 assembly polls. Though the public participation was meagre, several crucial issues were raised at the meeting by BAF.

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## **Garbage an albatross around Bengaluru's neck**

*Feb 12, 2018*

The countdown has begun for Bengaluru's bid for a better ranking under Swachh Survekshan 2018. The city had been ranked a dismal 210 in last year's survey.

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## **Residents form human chain, seek closure of compost plant**

*Feb 12, 2018*

What's only a temporary inconvenience for the rest of the city is a daily reality for the residents of HSR Layout Sector 2 and surrounding areas. Early on Sunday, over 1,800 residents formed a human chain protesting the toxic pollutants and stench emanating from the Karnataka Compost Development Corporation (KCDC) plant that receives almost 150-180 tonne of waste from the city every day.

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## **Once copious, Bengaluru's lakes left out to dry, die**

*Feb 14, 2018*

From a source of drinking water until the 1870s, Bengaluru's lakes have become foaming, frothing cesspools that occasionally spit fire. Over the past three decades, the number of lakes in the city has shrunk by 30% — from 285 in the early 1970s to just 194 in 2006.

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## **When will B'luru become 'Swachh'?**

*Feb 14, 2018*

The Supreme Court reportedly warned the Centre recently for dumping "junk" before it about solid waste management (SWM) across the country, saying that the top court is not a "garbage collector". The bench reportedly said, "You had framed rules in 2000 but nobody...implemented it. Then you came out with 2016 rules but nobody seems to be interested...Why do you pass these kind of rules?"

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## **2 BBMP officials arrested for septic tank tragedy**

*Feb 15, 2018*

Two BBMP officials were arrested on Wednesday in connection with the death of two persons in a septic tank at a hotel in Whitefield's AECS Layout on Tuesday.

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## **Register for voter ID, update online from June**

*Feb 15, 2018*

By June this year, voters will be able to add their names to the electoral rolls through an app while sitting at home. In a bid to give a 'digital' push to conducting elections in the country, the Election Commission of India has initiated a web-based application where people can register for a voter ID and correct or change their addresses in case they shift from one state to another without having to visit the election office or voter booth.

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## **This year, the odds are in favour of real estate sector**

*Feb 15, 2018*

Quikr Homes recently conducted a comprehensive survey to capture the perceptions and expectations of builders on the real estate regulatory authority act (RERA) and goods and services tax (GST) in order to judge its impact on the real estate market. The survey received responses by as many as 300 participants from the top seven metro cities in India. It highlights the key factors that will shape the Indian realty sector in 2018. Here are the major findings

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## **Smart water meters, the need of the hour**

*Feb 15, 2018*

There is a growing water crisis across the world, evident through the droughts in summers. As rivers are drying up, there are millions of people who have no access to fresh water in the country as well. And, with the summer approaching, water shortage will be a key concern in Bengaluru.

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## **BEL to set up STP to rejuvenate Doddabommasandra lake**

*Feb 16, 2018*

In an attempt to rejuvenate Doddabommasandra lake, Defence PSU Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL) will set up a 10 MLD Sewage Treatment Plant. The plant, which will cost Rs. 13.5 crore, is expected to come up in 18 months, and will be maintained by the BEL for 20 years.

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## **Bescom's plea to hike power tariff**

*Feb 20, 2018*

Citizens overwhelmingly objected to an increase in electricity rates and asked the Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (BESCOM) to improve efficiency, regularise unauthorised irrigation pumpsets, and get their accounts audited by recognised chartered accountants.

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### **KSPCB data shows only two lakes in Bengaluru pass water quality test**

*Feb 21, 2018*

The deteriorating state of Bengaluru's waterbodies has been highlighted yet again. Latest data on the quality of water in the city's tanks/lakes shows that only two waterbodies — Agara Lake and Ulsoor Lake have water quality index at satisfactory levels.

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### **Govt withdraws controversial amendment to Karnataka Tree Preservation Act**

*Feb 21, 2018*

Amidst a raging controversy among the green activists, opposing the proposed amendment to the Karnataka Tree Preservation Act of 1976, the state government on Wednesday withdrew the bill suo moto.

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### **Not all 99 apartments around Bellandur need to get sewage plants**

*Feb 22, 2018*

Some of the 99 apartments mandated to install sewage treatment plants (STPs) have the BWSSB's permission to let their sewage directly into lakes, the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) learnt on Wednesday.

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### **BBMP on a mission to clean up 1,000km of roads, drains in 8 days**

*Feb 22, 2018*

Starting from Saturday, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) is launching a mammoth eight-day clean-up drive to rid the city of black spots.

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### **Apartments with STPs hit by high electricity bills**

*Feb 22, 2018*

The Bengaluru Electricity Supply Company's (Bescom) move to bring sewage treatment plants (STPs) and fire pumps in apartment complexes under a different and higher tariff structure has not gone down well with residents of these complexes.

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### **Air pollution level in Karnataka's 11 cities and towns cross limits**

*Feb 23, 2018*

Air quality in 11 cities and towns in Karnataka has been deteriorating, thanks to the increasing number of vehicles and unscientific waste management

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### **EC launches initiative to help differently-abled voters**

*Feb 26, 2018*

The Election Commission has recently come up with a plan to help the differently-abled exercise their franchise this election season.

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