OORVANI Foundation
Community-funded media for the new India

Annual Report 2014-15

From the Trustees

OORVANI Foundation

Metric	Value

1,035
articles published

23.36 Lakhs
Funds raised

152K+
citizens reached
each month

186
Donors

We are happy to share with you our second Annual Report.

The year 2014-15 was eventful. Though the team remained small, we have taken on new challenges. We have worked on a large number of impactful stories, and started the Open Media initiative, which saw us partnering with other media to increase the reach and impact of our journalism. We have also put major effort into data journalism and in-depth election coverage.

All of the above would not have been possible without the support of donors and well-wishers like you. Thank you.

The task in front of us is to look at institutionalising public-funded journalism. We look forward to working with experts, individual donors, institutional support and partners to make that happen.

Best Regds, Meera

The organisation

Oorvani Foundation is a non-profit that develops and promotes deep-diving journalism on governance, citizenship and society. Our award-winning reportage is published on Citizen Matters and India Together, as well as shared with other partners. Our goals include:

- Produce public interest digital journalism of the highest quality
- Identify top journalism talent and award fellowships, and create an independent journalist collective
- Maximise impact by leveraging existing channels and partnering with external organisations and media outlets; by sharing content (under Open Media initiative) and co-development of content
- Support research, surveys and data collection on public interest topics
- Offer capacity and skill development through specialised journalism courses (long term) and workshops

Oorvani Foundation is one of India's first public-funded trusts for public affairs journalism. For media to remain independent, unbiased and non-partisan, the community needs to have stake in it, rather than parties with vested interests. Our funding comes from our readers who believe in us and the work that we do.

Open Media Initiative

Expanding reach and impact

Open Media Initiative is Oorvani Foundation's content sharing plan. Through the initiative, we share select stories with other media, in addition to publishing them on Citizen Matters and India Together. This allows the best of journalism to reach wider audiences, and in turn benefit more citizens. Till date, we have tied up with Bangalore-focused publications/portals, as well as national ones and shared around 20 articles in 2014-15.

Going forward, we are also looking to partner and collaborate with other media organisations to develop stories.

More information at: oorvani.org.in/openmediainitiative

Current OMI organisations

MP Elections, 2014

Citizen Matters: Election 2014 homepage
- Work on Lok Sabha Elections in Feb-May 2014
- Focus on the three Bangalore Urban constituencies
- In-depth reporting on Bangalore MPs and candidates
- Candidate profiles, campaign trails and interviews, performance reviews of sitting MPs and voter resources

India Together: LS Coverage
- Focus on MPs of major cities: New Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai and Hyderabad
- Profiled incumbent members of the Lok Sabha in key urban constituencies and tracked their performance in the Parliament in terms of certain well-defined parameters
- Writers from across the country presented their analyses and perspectives on real issues, cutting through the noise and hype in mainstream media

Daksh-India Together

Election Data Journalism Fellows

Srinivasan Ramani is a scholar of comparative politics and political thought and a senior journalist with years of editorial and writing experience. He was the Senior Assistant Editor with Economic and Political Weekly.

SRINIVASAN RAMANI

Not just one party or the other

What sways the urban voter?

The message from voters in 2014

The many nails in the UPA coffin

Why Punjab still holds aloft the flag of 'new politics'

Prabhu Mallikarjunan is a Bangalore-based journalist with extensive experience covering public affairs and rural development issues. He had worked as a Senior Staff Correspondent for the The New Indian Express, Karwar

PRABHU MALLIKARJUNAN

Women MPs: At par, but rare still

India's 'third gender' enters poll fray with new hope

Voices Modi and Kejriwal must listen to, beyond the noise

Corruption: Do we really care?

Reserved constituencies: The next five years

Data Journalism

Collaborated with The Hoot and Data Meet to organise a two-day workshop in Bangalore on Tools and Resources for Data Journalism on November 28th and 29th, 2014

Published many articles with data collections and analysis on *Citizen Matters*, and on *India Together*, covering topics like MP elections, waste management, employment, gender violence, sex ratio and CPI.

Crowd-sourcing data exercises: water tanker prices and biomethanation plants across Bengaluru.

Joined a select group of international newsrooms to use the Document Cloud platform for sharing public documents used in our journalism.

- 248 articles
- 47,397 users/ 1,19,126 pageviews a month; highest - 56,455users / 1,39,686 pageviews (Mar '15)*
- Newsletter reach: 17,418
- Social Media: 6,570 likes on Facebook; 819 Twitter followers

Citizen Matters

- 787 articles
- 1,04,840 users/ 1,64,100 pageviews a month; highest - 1,43,366 users/ 2,06,076 pageviews (Dec '14)*
- Newsletter reach: 14,970
- Social Media: 4,235 likes on Facebook; 3,580 Twitter followers

Additional reach (feeds, partner): Not available yet.

Reach & Impact

Helping people resolve problems

- Managing waste and solving garbage issues at a household and community level
- Ugly Indian guidebook on how to take charge of one's neighbourhood
- Averting electrical crises
- Dealing with issues in medical report
- Ensuring child safety, personal safety

Give multiple perspectives for citizens to engage

- Detailed series of stories on Vibgyor school incident - balanced coverage helped a proactive yet rational response by citizens
- BBMP restructuring and master plan
- Analysis of projects and impact of unplanned development on traffic, water
- Insight into the water crisis and tanker supply system

Impact

Highlighting abuse of power, wrongdoing and violations

- Continuing coverage of multi-crore SEZ project on the Bellandur wetlands - following up on the PIL and NGT cases
- Investigation of waste destinations - what happens to non-veg/animal waste in the city, where e-waste ends up and the related environmental impact
- Garbage burning on outskirts (citizens pushed and got it stopped after our report)
- Analysis of the Kataria report on BBMP - predicting dissolution of the council

Drawing attention to important but under-reported topics

- New government scheme to provide housing for the poor (CREDAI went to court to oppose the plan, post our report)
- The state of the urban poor - narrative features on individual cases provided understanding of the stark reality

Catalysing citizen action

- Constant eye on citizen initiatives, from lake rejuvenation to civic works monitoring, helps ideas spread virally

Citizen Journalists, 2014-15

Citizen Contributions: 115, Citizen Writers: 86

Aditya Kumar | Agratha Dinakaran | Aliya Mathew | Amith Subramanian Pallavoor | Anand C Ramanathan | Ananthraman S | Ankush Arora | Anupama Sudesan | Arathi Manay Yajaman | Aruna L | Arvind Keerthi | Ashish Sen | Ashok Kumar S | Awase Khirni Syed | Bharath Rajshekhar | Bhargavi S Rao | Brig (retd.) R S Murthy | Devishobha Chandramouli | Dharmesh Viswanathan | Divya N Setty | Divya Unnikrishnan | Dr Arbind Kumar Gupta | Gurdev Parmar | Harini Nagendra | Hemant Sarolkar | Jayashree Nagaraj | Josephine Joseph | Karthik Ranganathan | Krishnaraja M Manjunath | Lalitha Rani Mondreti | Mallika Sen | Mathew Thomas | Meenakshi Giridhar | Muralidhar Rao | Nadia Asif | Nishit Sharma | Nooraine Fazal | Padmalatha Ravi | Paramananda Ponnaiyan | Pavan Kulkarni | PG Bhat | Pooja Vijay | Poornima Kannan | Pranay Kotasthane | Prateek Sharma | Preetham Murthy | Radhika Raj Narayan | Rajesh Mehar | Rakesh HP | Raman Muthuswamy | Ramesh Hariharan | Ramesh Sreekantan | Reshma Krishnamurthy Sharma | Ritu George | S Srinivasan | Sakuntala Narasimhan | Sandhya Mendonca | Sandya Narayanan | Sarah Thomas | Sathya Sankaran | Scott Long | Shaibya Saldanha | Shilpi Sahu | Shreya Shankar | Shubha Ramachandran | Sowrabha Karinje | Sreedevi Jagannath | Sri Harshitha | Srijaya N Char | Suchitra Deep | Sudha Narasimhachar | Sugandhi G | Sumathi Rao | Suresh Aiyar | Swamynathan | T R Raghunandan | The Ugly Indian Usha Hariprasad | VT Venkataram | Vaidya R | Vasanth Ramu | Vijay Kumar K | Vikram Bichal | Vipul Redey | Vishaka Srinath | Vivek Vaidyanathan | Whitefield Rising | Yamini Chandrasekaran

Top articles

Citizen Matters

Total article #: 787

- [How to get LPG subsidy with or without Aadhaar card?](#) (Dec '14)
- [Non-Karnataka vehicle owners burdened by high re-registration fee in Bangalore, ask CM to rationalise rules](#) (Sep '14)
- [How to pay property tax for 2014-15 in Bengaluru?](#) (Apr '14)
- [All set to vote on the 17th? Here's some info for you!](#) (Apr '14)
- [Here's how you can manage Swine flu in Bengaluru](#) (Feb '15)

India Together

Total article #: 248

- Should our anti-dowry law shield husbands too? (Aug '14)
- Could Modi be a development disaster? (Apr '14)
- How the latest changes to our Constitution will impact the judiciary (Aug '14)
- Do we really need Gujarat's Sabarmati model? (Sep '14)
- What the Modi juggernaut entails (May '14)
- PMO, NGOs appeal for funds for flood-hit J&K (Sep '14)
- How about smart villages, Mr Modi? (Jul '14)

Editors' Pick

You can buy a villa for 3 crores in Whitefield suburbs, but not clean air!

Whitefield outskirts where real estate is going north, have clean air in short supply. Indiscriminate burning of low value plastic stealthily in leased village lands here has affected villagers and gated community residents alike.

14-year-old girl fills blind mother's life with light, while her own stars remain bleak

What are the options for a girl child, now the only support for her blind mother? This is the story of one such girl—the breadwinner of her family— a story that will set you thinking about the flowers under your feet.

Why elderly people in family go missing, and how to deal with it

Bad news first: Dementia has no cure. Good news is, the conditions could be improved with proper care. Here's your guide to understanding dementia and the facilities for patients in Bangalore.

Bribe the valveman to cut water supply, and make money selling water!

It's all about murky deals. Real estate, local politics, water supply - all are interconnected. Here is a scholarly insight into the water mafia operating in Bangalore.

26 projects could: add 19,000 cars to Whitefield traffic, up water demand by 10.5 million litres

East Bangalore area, particularly Whitefield- KR Puram - Mahadevapura area, is on the prime real estate map. What are the projects coming up next? What are the implications?

Testimonials for Citizen Matters

"*Citizen Matters* provides much needed information and news coverage of the issues in the city. What's more, it does this in a balanced, solution-centric way. If you care about your city, I strongly recommend subscribing to their newsletter and supporting Citizen Matters"

-Ramakrishnan K, Audio Engineer in training

"Community funding is the only way to build a true public media, which produces consistent and quality journalism. I can't think of any better candidate than *Citizen Matters*"

-Thejesh G N, Technologist & co-founder, Data Meet

"Oorvani Foundation is a trailblazer for what a city based community media should look like. They need encouragement from us. Think of yourself as a Maharaja of yore providing patronage for the cause of quality, local city journalism."

-V Ravichandar, CEO of Feedback Consulting and Executive Committee Member of Bangalore City Connect Foundation

"What interests me is the very high quality of material published in *Citizen Matters* on the ills that beset the city of Bangalore and what is or could be done about them. "

-Xerxes Desai, Former Chairman & MD, Titan Industries

"The work of Oorvani Foundation is very critical to sustain an independent public discourse on matters of interest to all citizens. Many serious issues simply do not get highlighted or investigated in the mainstream media today. Oorvani's work sustains investigative reporting, sound analysis, expert comment and also creates space for citizens themselves to report issues that matter to them.

As India pushes forward with its economic agenda, we need many platforms that enable people to really understand the trade-offs that are being made, and whether we are indeed on a path that will take all Indians along. Oorvani Foundation is committed to venturing into these difficult spaces,to ensure eternal vigilance as the price for our democracy"

-Rohini Nilekani, Chairperson, Arghyam

Testimonials for India Together

"At a time when much of the mainstream media in India and other parts of the world has been compromised on account of pressures from different sections -- large corporate entities, including advertisers, political parties and their representatives and government bodies -- the spaces for independent reportage, critical commentaries and investigative journalism need to be preserved and nurtured. This is what *India Together* is doing.

-Paranjoy Guha Thakurta, Journalist, author and filmmaker

"In these times of embedded journalism, yellow journalism and establishment journalism we are fortunate to find a successful model of people-oriented journalism maintaining the highest professional standards yet entertaining in *Citizen Matters* and *India Together*. Kudos Oorvani Foundation!"

-Nitin R, Advocate

"At a time when the media's gaze is shifting away from the concerns of the majority of people in the country, a website like *India Together* is essential. It serves as a reminder that there are other stories, other processes, other events and others perspectives that the media needs to reflect upon and report"

-Kalpana Sharma, Author, columnist and media consultant

"*India Together* offers an excellent forum for people from diverse fields of expertise to present their views, share their experiences and raise questions about where our country and society are headed in the future."

-Amitabha Basu, Retired scientist

"God bless you folks for the nice, selfless work! Keep it up!"

-Raman Muthuswamy, Reader

Organisational Updates

The extended team (clockwise from top left):
Chetan Dhruve , Akshatha M, Meera K, Subramaniam Vincent,
Pavan Kulkarni, Satarupa Bhattacharya, Ganga Madappa, Sapana
Rawat, Shree DN, Ashwin Mahesh.

Staff

- Associate Editor (Local): Shree DN
- Associate Editor (Nat): Satarupa Bhattacharya
- Staff Reporter: Nikita Malusare (-Oct 2014), Akshatha M (Jan 2015-)
- Short-term Interns: Pavan Kulkarni, Rashmi Patil and Varsha Parashivamurthy
- Staff Reporter- Community Manager: Ganga Madappa
- Researcher: Josephine Joseph (part time)

Oorvani Foundation Leadership

- Meera K, Managing Trustee
- Subramaniam Vincent, Trustee
- Ashwin Mahesh, Trustee

Awards & Recognition

Citizen Matters - Joint winner of the Manthan Award - South Asia and Asia Pacific, and the Manthan Award South West India instituted by the Digital Empowerment Foundation, in the e-News & Journalism category.

Citizen Matters: A successful model for a citizen journalism news site - International Journalists' Network, March 2015

Citizen Matters: A local news outlet for Bengaluru - Mint, January 2015

Mint features *Citizen Matters* in its write-up about the Manthan Awards: Digital innovators honoured at Manthan, December 2014

Accounts

Balance Sheet as at March 31, 2015

Liabilities	Amount Rs.	Assets	Amount Rs.
Corpus Fund		**Current Assets, Loans and Advances**	
Contribution from Trustees	3,000.00	Bank Balance in Savings Bank Account with	
		- ICICI Bank A/c No. 100805000796	11,06,660.56
Excess of income over expenditure	9,13,316.56		
Current Liabilities and provisions			
Salary payable	1,52,224.00		
Professional tax payable	1,400.00		
TDS payable			
- TDS - Salary	36,210.00		
- TDS - Consultancy	510.00		
Total	**11,06,660.56**	**Total**	**11,06,660.56**

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended March 31, 2015

Expenditure	Amount Rs.	Income	Amount Rs.
Salary and benefits	19,96,659.00	Contribution Received	23,86,980.30
Professional Charges	4,40,329.00	Excess of expenditure over income	1,10,645.70
Rates and taxes	8,588.00		
Accounting Charges	20,000.00		
Office Rent	24,000.00		
Travelling Expenses reimbursement	8,050.00		
Total	**24,97,626.00**	**Total**	**24,97,626.00**

www.oorvani.org.in

foundation@oorvani.in