Annual Report
2015-16
From the team

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

It has been an eventful year. Even as we started sharing more of our stories with other media houses, through our Open Media initiative, we also started some new initiatives.

We used the opportunity of the TN assembly elections to launch the Chennai edition of Citizen Matters. Meenakshi Ramesh who has been a long time volunteer for city issues is anchoring the edition. Other cities are also showing interested in getting on board!

We partnered with our friends at Data Meet to do more work on public data and this resulted in the Open City urban data platform.

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

Best Regds, Meera
The organisation

**Oorvani Foundation** is a nonprofit 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.

Partners include both local newsweeklies to national mainstream media. Prajavani, Hindustan Times, HSR Residents Watch came on board this year. More information at: oorvani.org.in/openmediainitiative
BBMP Elections, 2015

The local elections for BBMP Council, in August 2015 saw intense coverage. We covered the overall developments as well as went in depth, analysis almost 50 wards.

- Citizen Matters: BBMP Election 2015 stories
- BBMP Wards - Bengaluru

We identified the areas with a pre-poll survey. Contestants could pitch to their electorate. Two such women candidates won the elections. We shared demographic data, information on candidates, and how budgets were spent on the ward for Tenders, job codes, bills. Live tweeting was on on the day of results.

- All set to vote in the BBMP Elections 2015? Here’s a quick guide for you
- Wardwise list of voters in Bengaluru - BBMP election 2015
- BBMP election 2015 - full list of candidates
- BBMP corporators and their contact numbers - 2015
In addition to elections data analysis, we also crowdsourced data and published a number of data journalism stories, including:

- Stories based on traffic accidents - top 10 accident spots, Hosur Road.
- We analysed the data from wards, including budgets, expenses and the list of issues raised by residents of that ward.
- Collated the list of 54 skywalks proposed in the city, and analysed the issue.
- How much water is your ward in Bengaluru consuming each month?
- Survey: How many Dengue cases in Bengaluru?
Continued coverage on building violation and SEZs coming up on lake beds.

Another garbage scam - burnt garbage soot being sold as vermicompost, with KCDC seal on it. Based on citizen intelligence and professional journalistic crosscheck, the story forced KCDC to come on record that they’ll review ties with Terrafirma, the offender.

We went back to check: What happened to the Vibgyor rape, Frazer Town and Ravindranath cases?

100s of water tankers in Bengaluru, but none with licences!

Overcharging of private LPG gas - many consumers were getting cheated till date.

Govt’s plans for handling dangling cables and piped gas supply plans for the city

Two lakh B khatas in Bengaluru only 37 Akrama Sakrama submissions!
Analysis and Insights

Sathya Sankaran, a sustainable transport advocate from Bengaluru, wrote passionately on how people can support NammaRailu - suburban railway for Bengaluru. The article had the option to email the Railway Ministry expressing support. More than 80 emails went to the ministry as part of this. In 2016 Railway Ministry and state government firmed up the plans on Suburban rail.

- Analysis of BBMP restructuring plan
- Insight series on neglected night shelters in Bengaluru
- Series on flood vulnerability and possible solutions by an expert
- Mobility issues - transport department crackdown on ZipGo and other aggregators.
- View and counter view on Tendersure roads.
- Coverage and perspectives from vision group members and artists, on tourism vision group’s plans of privatising Venkatappa Art Gallery
Enable Change - Nov-Dec 2015

Since 2008, Citizen Matters has been featuring the work of those Bengalureans who have been working hard to make a difference to the city and the community at large. It is to ensure that we continue to enable these changemakers that we launched our #EnableChange fundraiser campaign. Here is what some of the changemakers had to say about what they do, and how Citizen Matters through our coverage of citizen initiatives, is catalysing change in the city. We raised around 4.5 lakhs from this campaign.

TCS 10K Run - Mar-Apr 2016

We registered as a CSO with India Cares; 5 runners ran in the TCS10K with the Citizen Matters bib. This along with a fundraiser workshop helped us raise almost 5 lakhs.
Top articles

Citizen Matters
Total article #: 851

- Crackdown on non-KA registered vehicles to begin soon?
- BJP retains Bengaluru with 100 seats
- All about filing FIRs in Bengaluru
- BESCOM shares updated schedule of power cuts in Bengaluru
- How Bengaluru is helping Chennai during floods
- This is what you need to do when you get fake notes from ATM!
- Here is why bandh is being observed on Sep 2 in Bengaluru
- Will BBMP reservation list spark yet another court battle?
- What documents to check while buying a property in Bengaluru?
- Traffic on ORR is likely to worsen. Here's why!
- From Mysore Maharajas to Mantri Developers: A fascinating tale of land transaction
- All you need to know about Bellandur Lake and its problems

India Together
Total article #: 187

- How prepared are we to tackle a human crisis?
- When an honest doctor chose to give up medical practice
- A doctor who cures without a word!
- Girls get the power to refuse child marriage
- Why relief packages and loan waivers won’t be enough to stem farm suicides
- Why rural girls need more than just sanitary napkins
- The skills journey: A long history but no destination in sight
- The seeds of revolution
- The real challenges to sustainable development

*2014-15: 787 CM articles & 248 IT articles
Citizen Journalists, 2015-16

Citizen Contributions: 146, Citizen Writers: 113


* We had 115 citizen articles & 86 citizen writers in 2014-15.
Testimonials for Citizen Matters

Citizen Matters’ work in evaluating the performance of local elected representatives and creating a communication channel between the elected representatives and the citizens is pioneering work and needs to be supported in any manner whatsoever.

*Harish Narasappa*
 Co-founder, Daksh

Citizen Matters’ (articles) is helping more and more nature lovers join us and plant saplings. This is a big help in making Bangalore greener. Big thanks to Citizen Matters for the efforts they are putting to bring forward issues that matter.

*Kapil Sharma, Founder, Saytrees*

Citizen Matters, by publishing information about various lake groups and citizen initiatives, has brought information to us that we didn't know about. We have developed a more dynamic and robust system of looking after lakes in Bengaluru. And that’s all because a local newspaper cared enough to talk about local issues.

*Priya Ramasubban*
 Lake activist and filmmaker
Citizen Matters shortlisted for World Summit Awards 2015

Citizen Matters a finalist in the first ever #innovationforgood award, instituted by the Centre for Work, Technology and Social Change in collaboration with SASNET at Lund University, Sweden. Received the honorary prize at the Media and Innovation Days Conference on December 9th, 2015 at New Delhi.

Subramaniam (Subbu) Vincent won the John S Knight (JSK) Journalism Fellowship at Stanford University for 2015-16. He is working on ways to let civic activists and urban experts systematically help newsrooms like Citizen Matters track what is happening in the city -- when journalists start to report on a topic, they are fully informed and armed with the collective wisdom of the community.
Donors, 2015-16

Donors, 2015-16 (Contd)

Donors, 2015-16 (Contd)

Oorvani Foundation
Charitable trust registration no:
BNG-BMH244/2013-14
Date of registration: 6th August, 2013
Registered office address: 98/1, MMR Plaza,
Sarjapur Road, Jakkasandra, Bangalore – 560034,
Karnataka
Oorvani Foundation is registered as a charitable trust
DIT(E)BLR/12A/H-257/AAATO4080E/ITO(E)-2/Vol
Any donations made to Oorvani Foundation are
exempt u/s 80G subject to limits prescribed under
DIT(E)BLR/80G/12A/H-257/AAATO4080E/ITO(E)-2/
Audited by: P N R & Co., Chartered Accountants,
No 186/1, J.C. Complex Annexe, Sirur Park Road,
Seshadripuram, Bangalore - 560020

Accounts

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Receipts</th>
<th>Amount Rs.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Bank Balance in Savings Bank Account with ICICI Bank - Account No.100805000796</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contribution received</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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<table>
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<td>Salaries</td>
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<td>Accounting Charges</td>
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<td>TDS on salary paid</td>
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<td>TDS on consultancy charges paid</td>
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<td>Interest on TDS</td>
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<td>Office Rent</td>
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<td>Professional Tax paid - Employees</td>
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<td>PT renewal fees</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bank charges</td>
<td>5,841.79</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>19,17,314.79</td>
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| Bank Balance in Savings Bank Account with ICICI Bank - Account No.100805000796 | 7,81,375.83 |

Date: 01.08.2016
Place: Bangalore

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

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<td>Professional Charges</td>
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<td>Rates and taxes</td>
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<td>Accounting Charges</td>
<td>16,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office Rent</td>
<td>1,17,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>19,17,314.79</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Amount Rs.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contribution Received</td>
<td>15,46,015.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excess of expenditure over Income</td>
<td>3,71,299.73</td>
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</tbody>
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| Total | 19,17,314.79 |