

# Annual Report 2017-18



714 articles / 205 datasets
Rs 29 Lakhs Funds raised
5 mn Page views
50+ Donors

## From the team

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

It has been another 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 published 714 articles, reached 1.9 mn users, and achieved 2.8 mn page views across our National, Bangalore and Chennai sites.

We continued our work on public data. The OpenCity website received over 630,000 visits from more than 230,000 users. At Co Media Lab, our joint initiative with Radio Active and Jain University, our focus was on workshops and other collaborations on ground.

By mid 2017, we moved to a new and more robust platform, and switched to WordPress as our publishing platform, giving up on our earlier custom code.

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



## The organisation

**Oorvani Foundation** is a nonprofit that develops and promotes deep-diving journalism on governance, citizenship and society. 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.

- Digital news media with insightful reporting on critical urban issues, ideas and solutions for cities, with local channels for civic journalism and community engagement.
- Co Media Lab is a newsroom and resource centre for citizen contributors and student journalists. We encourage, support and train community reporters/producers and young journalists.
- Open City is an Urban Data Portal - A collaboration between Oorvani Foundation and DataMeet.
- India Together is devoted to coverage of public affairs, policy, and development in India



# Org Updates & Recognition

## Team

Associate Editor: Shree DN | Staff Reporter: Akshatha M |  
Associate Editor: Satarupa Sen | Laasya Shekhar : Senior Reporter  
Editorial Coordinator (IT) - Sapana Rawat

## Oorvani Foundation Leadership

Meera K, Managing Trustee | Meenakshi Ramesh (Chennai) | Ashwin Mahesh, Trustee

September 2017- Senior Reporter Akshata M was selected by Global Investigative Journalism Network (GIJN) for a workshop in South Africa in Nov 2017, on the basis of her work at Oorvani Foundation, on environmental journalism and document-based investigative journalism.

Managing Trustee Meera K was selected for the prestigious ICFJ Knight Fellowship, where she supported innovative storytelling at other media houses in Bengaluru.

We also welcomed a few part time writers including Manasi Paresh Kumar and Revathi Siva Kumar. Laasya Sekhar joined as staff journalist in Chennai and Akshata M moved out to become the principal correspondent at ET.

Kennedy Wirth was our summer intern from the University of Washington, Seattle.

# From Citizen Matters

A rebuttal to a BBC report [Dear BBC, Bengaluru isn't running out of water soon. Here's why!](#) became very popular, and was followed up by another argument: "[Seven reasons why Bengaluru can still run out of water](#)" - that proved there is still a problem.

In a first for CM National, the article '[Why are Indian scientists asking you to march with them this August?](#)' was shared 97 times on Facebook alone and has received a lot of appreciation. The two articles on citizen efforts to save lakes - in [Kolkata](#) and [Mysuru](#), created an awareness and excitement among local citizens. [How to lock Aadhaar biometric data](#) was another popular article that showed people cared about personal data being leaked. The most popular continues to be [A guide to filing a Public Interest Litigation \(PIL\)](#).

A Chennai story on "[Internationally famous Anakaputhur weavers waiting for assistance in their home state](#)" saw several individuals and organisations reaching out to us following publication of the story on Anakaputhur weavers, expressing interest in collaborating with them and seeking contact details. We have individually responded to each of them. The article [A trek, a fire and rumour mills: Making sense of the Theni tragedy](#) - was lauded by readers as one of the most balanced published by any media..

The readership and engagement in this story - [Despite heavy rains, this Thiruvannamiyur road saw no flooding; here's why](#) - proved that Chennai is seeing more civic activism in the recent past.

# If I were Mayor contest



We had not expected to receive 68 entries for this topic, in a city where many may not even know what a mayor's job entails. Our contest, 'If I were the Bengaluru Mayor' became an all-time hit, with submissions overflowing with ideas! There were 54 English entries, and 14 Kannada entries.

We shortlisted 10 English entries and 5 Kannada entries; judges included Manjula Sridhar, an entrepreneur, Harish Narsappa from Daksh, Yatish Kumar from Prajavani, Rasheed Kappan from Deccan Herald and Prakash Belawadi of Suchitra Film Society.

The winners were: Srinivas Alavilli, a software engineer with Oracle, for his entry in English category, titled '[Plan Bengaluru 777](#)' and Veda Athavale, head of the Sanskrit Department in Delhi Public School, for her entry, titled '[ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನ ಮಾಲುಗಳಲಿಲ್ ಗರಂಧಾಲಯ, ಕಾಲೇಜುಗಳಲಿಲ್ ಮೇಯರ್ ಮತಿತ್ತರ ಕನಸುಗಳು](#)'.

More at: <http://bengaluru.citizenmatters.in/series/if-i-were-the-mayor>

# Our stories..

We invited citizens to analyse and explore how the proposed Bengaluru master plan could affect them in their neighbourhoods. Citizens could learn about and understand the Master Plan on our Open City platform. These citizen journalists did an amazing job:

- [Curious case of numbers not adding up in RMP-2031](#)
- [Non-existent roads make it to Bengaluru master plan](#)

We started a weekly roundup of urban developments in the three channels.

We also geared up to cover the Karnataka Assembly elections, supported by some smart young interns. We were busy February onwards collecting data and analysing the 28 MLAs of Bengaluru along with three more from Hubli Dharwad.

Earlier this year, we produced a series of radio programmes for Radio Active. The Bengaluru Matters show episodes here:

<http://bengaluru.citizenmatters.in/series/bengaluru-matters-radio-show>



Keep up with the most important developments of your city with Citizen Matters – Bengaluru's own collaborative community news magazine.

Learn and understand about the many issues Bengaluru is facing, how citizens are dealing with them and how you can get involved in the many local initiatives!

Every Friday at 10am - 10:30am



**Radio Active CR 90.4MHz**

Jain University, 1/1-1, Atria Towers, Palace Road  
T: +91-86-22355490 M: +91-7795626322

# Editors' Picks



## How the Noida incident shows the feudal face of Indian cities

August 17, 2017 Smita Mitra



## Can Amaravati set land pooling example for a city built from scratch?

August 11, 2017 Divya Dua



## The story of a Gurgaon community that has kept 50000 kilos of waste away from the landfill

September 13, 2017 Monika Khanna Gulati



## Rs 700 crore spent annually as OMR residents wait in vain for piped water

August 4, 2017 Akshatha M



## Where are India's top five smart cities putting their money?

October 26, 2017 Navya P K



## How to get a new gas connection in Chennai, online and hassle-free

October 12, 2017 Mahesh Kumar S T



## What's the cost of not wearing ISI helmet?

February 28, 2018 Sathya Sankaran



## Manhole in lake shows all that's wrong with sewage management in Chennai

February 8, 2018 Bhavani Prabhakar



## Hey BJP, INC, JDS, field more women candidates this time!

February 7, 2018 Manasi Paresh Kumar



## When Chennai spent Rs 65 lakh on a road in a year, but still didn't get it right!

November 27, 2017 Prashanth Goutham



# Open City

- Opened up 500-600 datasets and documents
- Elections: We created dashboards for MLAs, constituencies - collating all available data that could help voters.
- There were over a dozen Open Bengaluru days and an equal number in Chennai - where we got together citizens and opened up data and information useful to citizens. Some of the datasets included BBMP budgets, expense reports, job codes, Chennai ward maps etc.
- We invited the public to peruse the Bengaluru draft Master Plan, and partnered with BPAC to create webinar videos to understand the various dimensions of planning. Thousands of citizens did, making it the first time that so many were engaged in the process and shared their feedback with BDA!

# Co Media Lab

- Co Media Lab, partnered with the Emmy Award-winning International Reporting Program (IRP) at the University of British Columbia's School of Journalism. The project was [shortlisted](#) for the OJA award.
- We organised a Live Newsroom and Public Policy Analysis internship for two cohorts:
  - Akshata Chonkar, Alexander Sam Thomas, Arindam Sinha, Joan Elizabeth Cherian from Christ College
  - Aishwarya Sontakke, Lakshmi Raghavan, Shilpi Sinha Ray from Mt Carmel.
- We organised webinars and created learning videos for the Wipro earthian contest, which engaged with college students and invited them to explore sustainability through a journalistic report.
- We also organised a media workshop on Air pollution supported by Climate Trends. We also submitted Consolidated report to KSPCB regarding the 2 workshops held earlier at their premises.
- Around 20+ community meetings on topics like Understanding borewells, Masterplan etc.




Media Workshop on  
**BENGALURU'S  
 RISING AIR QUALITY  
 CRISIS**

21 Feb 2018 (Wednesday)  
 9.30 am to 3.00 pm  
 St. Marks Hotel, Bengaluru

team@comedialab.in  
 Organized by De Media Lab, in partnership with Climate Trends



# Donors, 2017-18

Srinivasa Gowda | Ashwin Mahesh | Seema Sharma | MapUnity Information Services |  
Puttenahalli Lake | Tara Krishnaswamy | Rajesh Rao | Wipro Ltd | Rajeev Rajagopalan | R  
Venkatasubramanian | Umesh Babu V | Ramesh Mangaleswaran

R Vaidyanathan | Sanchayan Nath | Anil Kumar Bhansali | D S Ranga Rao | Pramod Bankar |  
Rohith Venkatakrishna | Thomas Abraham | Nishanth C | Vijay Yadava | P R Ganapathy | Usha  
Mohan | Subramanya Kurady Bairy | Thejesh G N | Rahul Bedi | Arif Vakil | Subramanian  
Sankaran | Lalana Zaveri | K G Shashidhar | Gurudas S | Ramkumar Sankar | Palahalli  
Vishwanath | Ashwin Bala | Murlidhar Bhat | Rajiv Bhutara | Kshitij Kumar | Ujaval Gandhi |  
Hemantha Kumar R | Adithya Pradyumna

# Accounts

## **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 u/s 12 A of Income Tax Act 1961 Vide No.

DIT(E)BLR/12A/H-257/AAATO4080E/ITO(E)-2/Vol 2013-2014 with effect from AY 2014-15.

Any donations made to Oorvani Foundation are exempt u/s 80G subject to limits prescribed under the Income Tax Act 1961. (Approval no. DIT(E)BLR/80G/12A/H-257/AAATO4080E/ITO(E)-2/Vol 2013-2014) with effect from AY 2014-2015.

Audited by: P N R & Co., Chartered Accountants, No 186/1, J.C. Complex Annexe, Sirur Park Road, Seshadripuram, Bangalore - 560020

## Oorvani Foundation

NO. 98/1, M M R Plaza, Sarjapur Road, Jakkasandra, Bangalore 560034

**Receipts and Payments Account for the period from April 01, 2017 to March 31, 2018**

Receipts	Amount Rs.	Payments	Amount Rs.
Bank Balance in Savings Bank Account with ICICI Bank - Account No.100805000796	913,380.43	Salaries	858,929.00
Contribution received	2,896,892.00	Consultancy charges	1,996,296.00
Professional Charges received	599,141.00	Professional charges -	<b>188,730.00</b>
		Accounting Charges	<b>16,000.00</b>
		TDS on salary paid	18,438.00
		TDS on consultancy charges paid	195,267.00
		Interest on TDS	165.00
		Interest on PT late payment	58.00
		Professional Tax renewal fee	2,000.00
		Office Rent	60,000.00
		Professional Tax - Employees	2,800.00
		Bank charges	21.82
		Closing Balance	
		ICICI Bank - SB Account No.100805000796	1,052,708.93
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,409,413.43</b>		<b>4,409,413.75</b>

Date : 17.09.2018

Oorvani Foundation

Place : Bangalore

To be read with our report

and notes of even date

**for P N R & Co.,**

**Chartered Accountants**

**Oorvani Foundation**

NO. 98/1, M M R Plaza, Sariapur Road, Jakkasandra, Bangalore 560034

**Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended March 31, 2018**

<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Amount Rs.</b>		<b>Income</b>	<b>Amount Rs.</b>
Salary and benefits	913,567.00		Contribution Received	2,896,892.32
Consultancy charges	2,299,183.00		Professional receipts	519,632.00
Professional Charges	188,730.00		Excess of Expenditure over Income	111,200.50
Rates and taxes	2,223.00			
Accounting Charges	16,000.00			
Office Rent	60,000.00			
Travelling Expenses	18,000.00			
Audit Fee	30,000.00			
Bank charges	21.82			
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,527,724.82</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>3,527,724.82</b>

Date : 17.09.2018

**Oorvani Foundation**

Place : Bangalore

To be read with our report  
and notes of even date

**for P.N.R. & Co.,  
Chartered Accountants**

Firm Registration No.0024955



**Oorvani Foundation**

NO. 98/1, M M R Plaza, Sariapur Road, Jakkasandra, Bangalore 560034

**Balance Sheet as at March 31, 2018**

<b>Liabilities</b>	<b>Amount Rs.</b>	<b>Assets</b>	<b>Amount Rs.</b>
<b><u>Corpus Fund</u></b>		<b><u>Current Assets, Loans and Advances</u></b>	
Contribution from Trustees	3,000.00	Bank Balance in Savings Bank Account with - ICICI Bank A/c No. 100805000796	1,052,708.93
Excess of income over expenditure	852,939.93	TDS receivable	72,071.00
<b><u>Current Liabilities and provisions</u></b>		<b><u>Sundry Debtors</u></b>	
Salary payable	63,785.00	HT Media Ltd	5,000.00
Consultancy Fee payable	163,250.00	GGV Managerial Services	<u>16,200.00</u>
Audit Fee payable	30,000.00		
Professional tax payable	1,200.00		
TDS payable			
- TDS - Consultancy/Professional charges	30,790.00		
- TDS - Salary	<u>1,015.00</u>		
	31,805.00		
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,145,979.93</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,145,979.93</b>

Date : 17.09.2018

**Oorvani Foundation**

Place : Bangalore

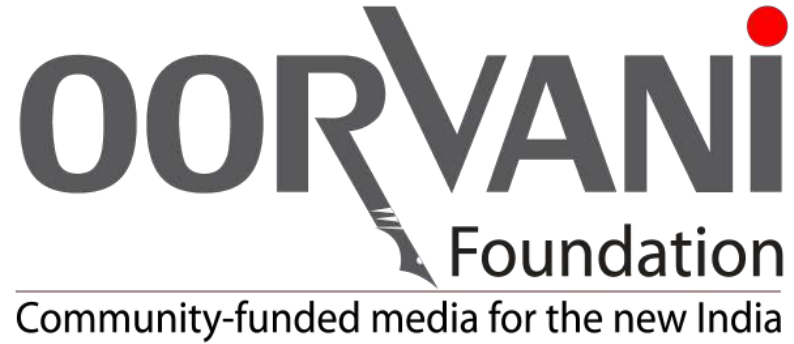
To be read with our report  
and notes of even date

**for P N R & Co.,**

**Chartered Accountants**

Firm Registration No.0024955





[www.oorvani.org](http://www.oorvani.org)

[foundation@oorvani.in](mailto:foundation@oorvani.in)