Annual Report
2017-18
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.
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.
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 Thiruvanmiyur 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 ‘ಪ್ರವೇಶವಿನ ಸಮಯದವರೆ ಗಂಡುಕುಗಳು, ತೊಟ್ಟಿಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಅಂಡಗಳಿಗಿಗಿ ಕನಸುಗಳಿಗೆ.

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
Editors’ Picks

How the Noida incident shows the feudal face of Indian cities
August 17, 2017  Smita Mitra

The story of a Gurgaon community that has kept 50000 kilos of waste away from the landfill
September 13, 2017  Monika Khanna Gulati

Where are India's top five smart cities putting their money?
October 28, 2017  Navya P.K

What’s the cost of not wearing ISI helmet?
February 28, 2018  Sathya Sankaran

Hey BJP, INC, JDS, field more women candidates this time!
February 7, 2018  Manasi Paresh Kumar

Can Amaravati set land pooling example for a city built from scratch?
August 11, 2017  Divya Dua

Rs 700 crore spent annually as OMR residents wait in vain for piped water
August 4, 2017  Akshatha M

How to get a new gas connection in Chennai, online and hassle-free
October 12, 2017  Mahesh Kumar S T

Manhole in lake shows all that’s wrong with sewage management in Chennai
February 8, 2018  Bhavani Prabhakar

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.
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

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


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

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

**Total**                                                                | **4,409,413.43** | **Total**                                                                | **4,409,413.75** |

**Date:** 17.09.2018  
**Place:** Bangalore  

To be read with our report and notes of even date for P N R & Co.,  
Chartered Accountants
# Oorvani Foundation

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

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

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

**Date:** 17.09.2018  
**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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Liabilities</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Assets</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Corpus Fund</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Current Assets, Loans and Advances</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution from Trustees</td>
<td>3,000.00</td>
<td>Bank Balance in Savings Bank Account with</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- ICICI Bank A/c No. 1008050000796</td>
<td>1,052,708.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excess of income over expenditure</td>
<td>852,939.93</td>
<td>TDS receivable</td>
<td>72,071.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Sundry Debtors</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salary payable</td>
<td>63,785.00</td>
<td>HT Media Ltd</td>
<td>5,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consultancy Fee payable</td>
<td>163,250.00</td>
<td>GGV Managerial Services</td>
<td>16,200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audit Fee payable</td>
<td>30,000.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>21,200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional tax payable</td>
<td>1,200.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TDS payable</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- TDS - Consultancy/Professional charges</td>
<td>30,750.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- TDS - Salary</td>
<td>1,015.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>31,805.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,145,979.93</strong></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,145,979.93</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Date : 17.09.2018
Place : Bangalore

To be read with our report and notes of even date

for P N R & Co.,
Chartered Accountants
Firm Registration No.0024955