OORVANI

Foundation

Community-funded media for the new India

Annual Report 2018-19

From the team

Here's our sixth Annual Report. 2018-19 was another eventful year. New initiatives included a few video series, article translations (into Kannada and Tamil), Reporting Fellowships, conferences and workshops and more. We also started covering dozens more cities from early 2019.

Citizen Matters published 887 articles, and reached 3.1 Million users, and 4.6 Million page views across our National, Bangalore and Chennai sites.

We continued our work on making public data more accessible and readily available though the OpenCity website which received over 1.5 Million visits from 6.7 Lakh users. At Co Media Lab, our joint initiative with Radio Active 90.4 MHz CR (Jain University), our focus was on workshops and collaborations on the ground.

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

Org Updates

Team
Shree DN, Satarupa Sen, Laasya Shekhar, Aruna Natarajan, Navya PK, Manasi Paresh Kumar, Revathi Sivakumar, Nishanth C and TR Gopalakrishnan

Trustees
Meera K | Meenakshi Ramesh | Ashwin Mahesh

We welcomed new members to the team -- T R Gopalakrishnan and Aruna Natarajan. TRG is a veteran journalist and was formerly the Editor of The Week. He supports the team as Editorial Advisor. After a long and fruitful innings, Shree DN moved out; Our former journalist Navya PK took over as Desk Editor.

Laasya Shekhar was a participant at the International Conclave on Clean and Low Carbon Mobility Strategies organised by the Center for Science and Environment in Delhi in September 2018. Aruna Natarajan was a participant at the Out of Eden Workshop on Slow Journalism organised by Nat Geo in September 2018.

Meera K was part of a German media programme in November 2018. The knowledge exchange and networking event helped connect to evolving media ecosystems across borders.

Events

Citizen Matters led a Roundtable on 'The Urban Agenda' at the World Resources Institute's annual conference, Connect Karo in March 2019 in New Delhi.

The discussion saw citizen activists, journalists, urban experts, officials and politicians exploring how urban issues can become part of the political discourse and ensure election agendas address critical challenges faced by cities.

The Urban Agenda Roundtable

Fundamental urban issues are rarely part of the political discourse. While every candidate is besieged by demands to fix the roads or provide water supply, the root causes—leaky policy, broken planning and structural issues—underlying the daily problems of voters are too often ignored.
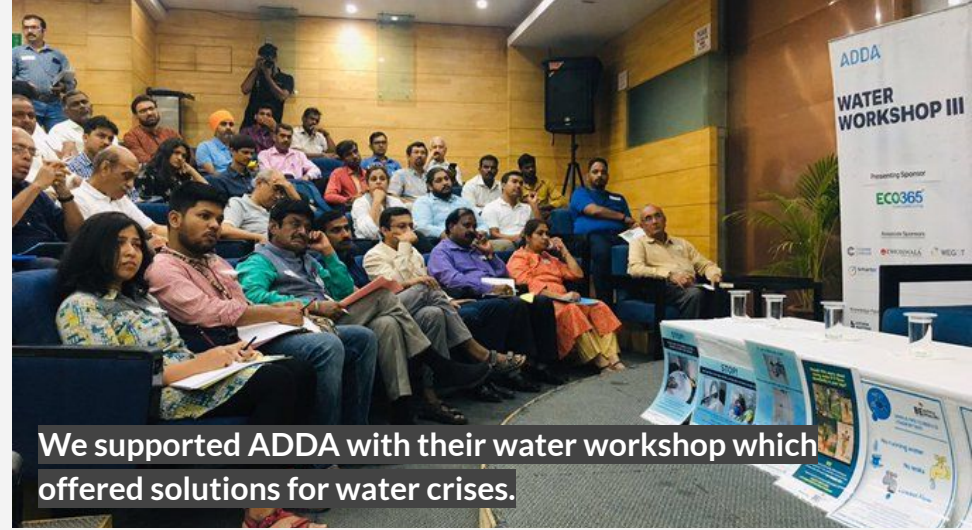
What changes do people want in their cities? For those changes to happen, what do candidates need to be pushed to think about?

Join us at #CK2019 to discuss how best the urban agenda can be included going forward.

WRI INDIA —ROSS CENTER

CONNECT KARO Urban Transitions Preparing for the Next Decade

CITIZEN MATTERS

28-29 March 2019 | New Delhi
#CK2019

Events

We supported ADDA with their water workshop which offered solutions for water crises.

Beyond Carlton in association with Bangalore Apartments' Federation (BAF), Citizen Matters, Jain (Deemed-to-be) University and When-It-Strikes, launched a campaign to offer Free Fire-Risk Assessment for Bengaluru Apartments

The Bengaluru Solutions series of discussions in partnership with Vidhi Legal and Bangalore International Center, on topics like air quality, green spaces, etc.

SVP Bengaluru Solutions Series

Social Venture Partners collaborated with Oorvani Foundation for the Cities of India Fellowship. We published a series of articles around important topics affecting Bangaloreans:

- The food on our plate
- Education and public schooling
- Job aspirations of the urban poor
- The skill gap
- Bengaluru's loss of vegetation

Each set of articles provided analysis, data, solutions and insights.

http://bengaluru.citizenmatters.in/cities-of-india-fellowship

Climate Trends
Air Quality Series

A deep dive on air quality and causes for pollution across Chennai and Bengaluru had stories exploring various sources of pollution such as vehicular emissions, industrial pollution, dust pollution and examined underlying policy issues.

http://citizenmatters.in/air-quality-in-our-cities

Sustainable Cities Fellowship

We turned the spotlight on problems faced by burgeoning cities with emphasis on equitable and sustainable solutions offering respite to millions affected by them. The four journalism fellows produced deeply-reported stories from Bengaluru, Mumbai, Delhi and Kolkata.

http://citizenmatters.in/series/sustainable-cities-fellowship

Karnataka Assembly Elections 2018

In the run up to the Karnataka Assembly Elections 2018 , we focused on comprehensive coverage with voting guides, details on locating polling booths, manifestos of major parties and details on representatives and candidates for Bengaluru, as well as Hubli-Dharwad. We also profiled incumbent MLAs and their performance during their term in office.

- 25 incumbent MLA profiles
- 17 candidate interviews
- 7 explainers related to the election process and roles and duties of MLAs
- 8 articles on citizen manifestos and community needs

http://bengaluru.citizenmatters.in/karnataka-assembly-elections-2018-bengaluru

Lok Sabha Elections 2019

For the Lok Sabha elections, we published a huge number of articles including guides on voter registration, locating polling booths, the voting process, details of manifestos of major political parties and explainers on the roles and responsibilities of the elected representatives. We also had constituency profiles, analysis of incumbent MPs and their work, video interviews and profiles of candidates.

- 39 urban constituencies profiled in-depth, with all contesting candidates
- 27 performance reports of incumbent MPs
- 15 candidates interviewed on video
- 1.1 million monthly users reached during the election cycle

http://citizenmatters.in/lok-sabha-election-2019

Focus on real issues

Before you cast your vote, here's everything you need to know about the Chennai South Parliamentary constituency -- from candidates to the key issues.

SMART CITY – T. NAGAR
WASTE OF TAX PAYERS MONEY
NO WATER –NO VOTE
WE VOTE FOR NOTA

CHENNAI.CITIZENMATTERS.IN
Chennai South: Cosmopolitan constituency crying out for better infrastructure |

1,024
People Reached

123
Engagements

Boost Po...

30

5 Comments 3 Sha...

Like   Comment   Share

Most Relevant ▾

Krishna Byre Gowda ✔
@krishnabgowda

I had a great conversation with Manasi of @citizenmatters on governance, sustainable and cohesive transport solutions, water conservation and my call to duty. Have a listen –

Citizen Matters @citizenmatters · Apr 11

Bangalore North Congress candidate Krishna Byre Gowda: "We pushed for suburban rail and metro, not just elevated corridor"

bengaluru.citizenmatters.in/bangalore-nort...

Our readers appreciated our coverage that did not get into party politics and rhetoric and kept the focus firmly on development issues and citizen needs.

Coverage in Bengaluru

#TejasviSurya #citizenmatters #conversationswithmanasi
Citizens Live : Tejasvi Surya

Articles spanned a wide variety of topics including transportation, traffic, pollution and governance. **Solutions journalism** was a key focus - a great example was the much-shared and talked-about story on water-metering. We have also produced in-depth explainers on contentious subjects such as the elevated corridor that came under opposition from the public. We also demystified proposals in the pipeline such as the plans for Namma Metro Phase 2.

A new video segment titled Citizens Live was launched in Bengaluru. The segment was structured to be an in-depth interview with civic officials, activists and experts. The segment saw 23 videos and featured prominent personalities such as MP of South Bengaluru, Tejasvi Surya and BBMP Spl Commissioner Randeep D.

Coverage in Chennai

Here's how you can fight water crisis by recycling greywater!

February 21, 2019   Aruna Natarajan

As Chennai braces for a water-starved summer, here is how you can do your bit to conserve the resource: reduce water consumption by recycling greywater.

Flowing water bodies become parched lands: Where did the water go?

February 20, 2019   Laasya Shekhar

Keezhkattalai and Pallavaram lakes, that once were primary sources of water for irrigation as well as domestic use, now suffer the effects of rampant encroachment, often sanctioned by governments themselves. Restoration work has also been moving at snail's pace.

Our coverage in Chennai included extensive reportage on the water crises that gripped the city for most part of the year. From pieces that predicted the scale of the crisis to ones that looked at the various causes for the full blown water shortage that lasted for many months. We produced guides on saving rainwater and critically analysed the feasibility of alternative solutions.

We also produced handy guides for use by citizens to aid them in filing property tax, applying for rooftop solar connection and conducting a plastic-free wedding. We have also written on subjects that received scant mainstream attention, such as the growing culture of surveillance in the city and deeply-reported stories on Chennai's tryst with drugs.

National Stories
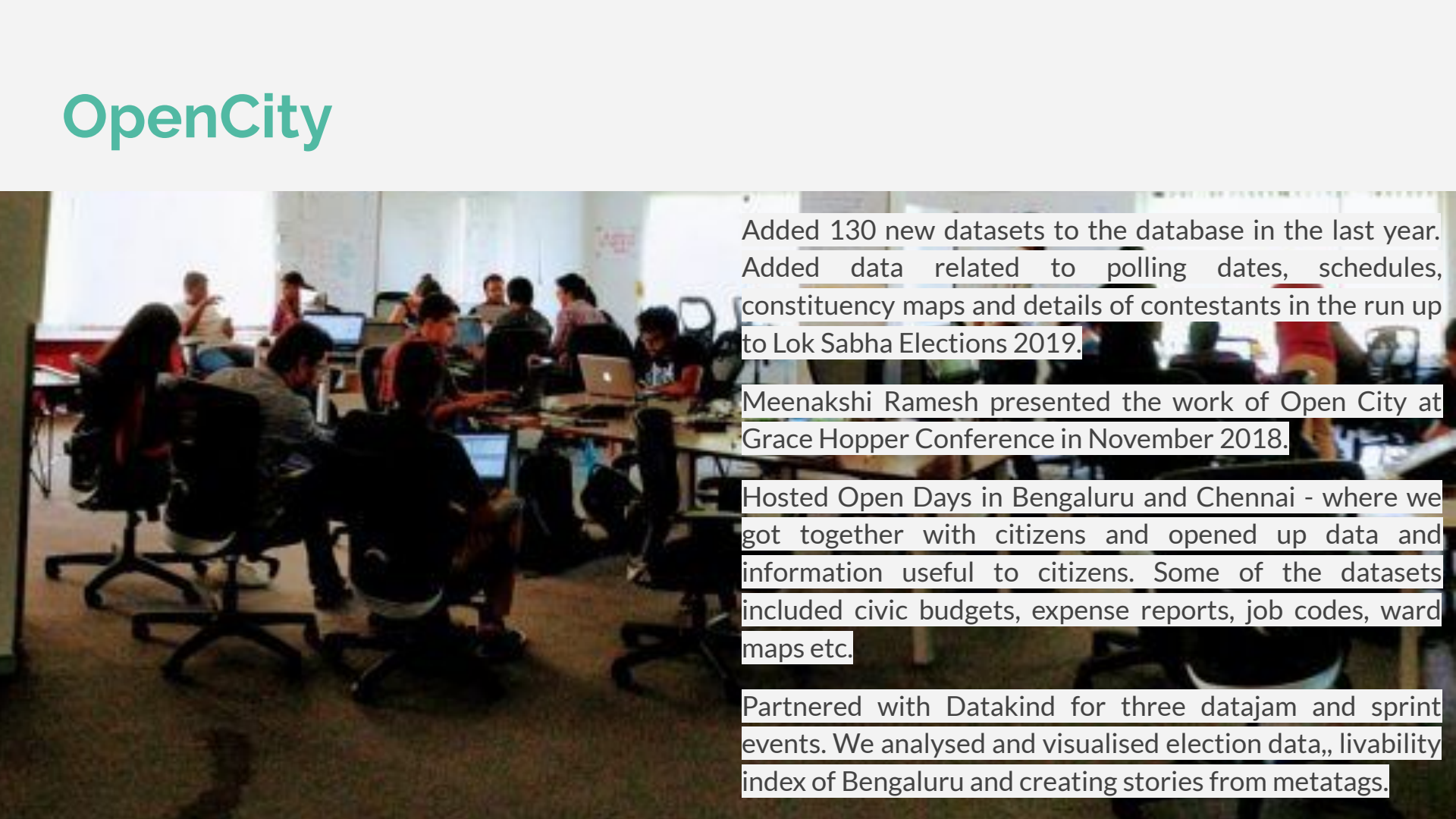
We published original reportage from other metro as well as Tier 2 cities including NCR, Kolkata, Mumbai, Shimla, Nashik, Kochi and Ludhiana..

We published articles on how water ATMs of Bhubaneshwar are proving to be a small part of the solution to the city's water needs, how a job fair in Imphal revealed an urban conundrum faced by the city, conflicts attached to the preservation of heritage in Mysuru and the issues surrounding the revival of Dal Lake in Srinagar.

We have also discussed issues that affect the nation at large such as the changes to the Motor Vehicle Amendment Bill, air pollution in the top five cities and beyond, increase in mininmum support price and impact on spending, and the financial health of public sector transport corporations.

We continued to published useful explainers on subjects of public interest such as NRI voter registration, staying safe during the spread of Nipah virus, dealing with cyber bullying etc.

OpenCity

Added 130 new datasets to the database in the last year. Added data related to polling dates, schedules, constituency maps and details of contestants in the run up to Lok Sabha Elections 2019.

Meenakshi Ramesh presented the work of Open City at Grace Hopper Conference in November 2018.

Hosted Open Days in Bengaluru and Chennai - where we got together with citizens and opened up data and information useful to citizens. Some of the datasets included civic budgets, expense reports, job codes, ward maps etc.

Partnered with Datakind for three datajam and sprint events. We analysed and visualised election data,, livability index of Bengaluru and creating stories from metatags.

Co Media Lab

"Her Stories" – a Co Media Lab projected was selected for Good Pitch Local Karnataka 2019. 'Her Stories' aims to train women from marginalized and economically weaker communities to use media to tell stories of inspiring women of substance from their own communities.

Co-Media lab organised a workshop on identifying fake news for the staff of Radio Active community radio station and some of our own citizen journalists. Shree D N, Associate Editor of Citizen matters (Bengaluru) and a Google-certified Factcheck trainer conducted the workshop in February 2019.

Co Media Lab and FactorDaily conducted a digital security workshop for journalists conducted by The Tor project in Bangalore on the basics of digital security in February 2019.

Co Media Lab and Design Beku contributed to Whose Knowledge's Visible Women Wiki campaign through a wikipedia editathon that recognised the lives and contributions of women to various fields.

Co Media Lab - Partnership with Deakin Univ

Co Media Lab was part of an international project on community media titled 'Capacity-building and knowledge-sharing in citizen journalism enterprise'. It was supported by the Australia India Council (AIC), was spearheaded by Prof Usha Rodrigues, Deakin University.

As part of this partnership, Co Media Lab also organised Sambhashane, a first of its kind event, to focus on citizens and citizen media, and the urban ecosystem that includes diverse voices from civic and environmental spaces, social justice movements and arts and theatre.

The project helped in building capacities of citizen journalists (see pic) and university students, equipping them with the requisite skills needed for a more nuanced coverage of socio-economic issues within their local communities.

10 years of Citizen Matters, Bengaluru

Citizen Matters, Bengaluru celebrated its tenth anniversary with a gathering of founders, writers and supporters past and present for an evening of celebration and reminiscence on September 22, 2018. Guests recounted the early days of the organisation and the upward growth that has seen Citizen Matters become one of the most trusted news and information source on all things urban.

Read the article on our journey: oorvani.org/10-years-of-citizen-matters-1863

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

Key Financials for FY 2018-19

Receipts and Payments				
Opening Balance		1052709	Consultancy Charges	3315800
Donation Received	2753501		Payments to Journalists	161300
Fellowship Grant	300000	3053501	Other expenses	283741
Professional Charges Received		421602	TDS on Consultancy charges	380452
IT Refund		21210	Closing Balance	407729
		4549022		4549022

Income and Expenditure				
Expenditure			Income	
Consultancy charges		3994076	Donations received	2753501
Anniversary event expenses		102139	Fellowship Grant	300000
Accounting charges		24000	Professiona and otherl Receipts	469549
Other expenses		124413	Excess of Expenditure over income	721578
		4244628		4244628

Balance Sheet				
Liablities			Assets	
Corpus Fund			Current Assets	
Contribution from Trustees		3000	Bank Balance	407729
Op bal (Excess of Income over exp)	852940		TDS Receivable	98808
less Deficit for current year	721578	131362	Other current assets	21200
Current Liabalities		393375		
Total		527737	Total	527737
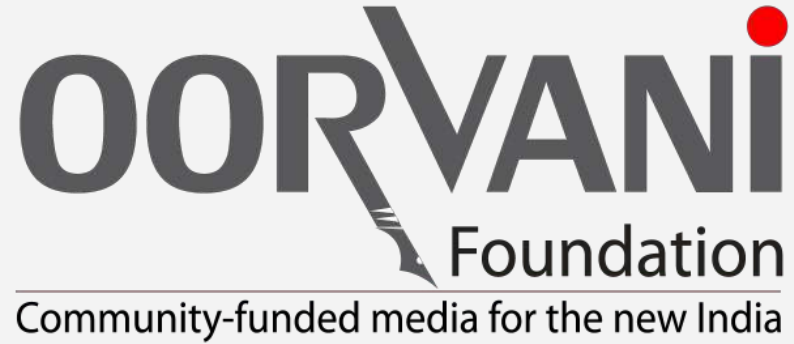
www.oorvani.org

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