

EMBRACE MODERNITY WITH MINDFULNESS

With the rapid urbanization and the surge of commercial and residential developments across Bengaluru, the city stands at a crucial crossroads—between growth and preservation. The best way forward lies in redefining development through balance.

We can start by integrating blue-green infrastructure—restoring lakes, creating bioswales, and designing green roofs that absorb heat and rainwater. Developers must adopt transit-oriented planning, ensuring connectivity to Metro lines and reducing private vehicle dependency. Encouraging vertical greenery,



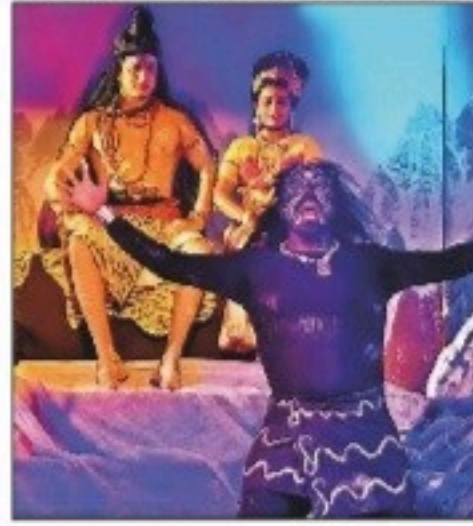
RAJAN MG | PRESIDENT, INFRASTRUCTURE AND FACILITIES MANAGEMENT, SATTTVA GROUP

shaded pedestrian corridors, and cycling tracks can make the city more breathable.

From a community standpoint, mixed-use developments can revive the old “walk-to-work” culture—reducing commute times and energy use. Mandating permeable surfaces and zero-discharge campuses can help recharge aquifers.

Above all, every project—commercial or residential—should adopt a ‘Bengaluru Charter for Responsible Urban Growth’, aligning architecture, mobility, and ecology to preserve the city’s soul while embracing modernity.

Dive into the world of Coastal Karnataka Culture



A two-day festival, Karavali Utsava, will be held on Nov 15 and 16 at Mantri Serenity in Doddakallasandra, Kanakapura Road. Organised as part of the Kannada Rajyotsava month celebrations, the event aims to showcase the rich cultural heritage of Coastal Karnataka.

It will feature music, dance, skits, huli vesha (tiger dance) and a stage play titled ‘Shivadoota Guliga’, performed by acclaimed Mangaluru theatre artists under the direction of Sri Vijaya Kumar Kodialbail. In addition, the community is organising a No Cooking Day with food stalls offering a diverse range of coastal vegetarian and non-vegetarian delicacies, along with signature dishes from across Karnataka.

K-100 is transforming the neglected stormwater drains in the city into vibrant public spaces

From distressed grey to VIBRANT GREEN

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Bengaluru’s infrastructure is crumbling, with the swelling population making matters worse. However, a walk along K-100 Citizens Waterway, stretching from Majestic Bus Stand to Bellandur Lake, could make you feel better. It reminds you of the power of communities. People can do a lot to save the city and its dying landscape.

The K-100, a BBMP project of nearly Rs 175 crores conceptualised by Mod Foundation, has turned stormwater drains choked with plastic carry bags and garbage into vibrant public spaces. “By addressing sewage inflows, restoring the channel for stormwater, and creating continuous pedestrian walkways, the project brings together design, ecology, and civic systems. This isn’t just beautification but also systemic repair. The planting, the lighting, and the walkways make the space usable and visible again, returning it to the public realm,” says Naresh Narasimhan, co-founder of the Mod Foundation, a collective of architects, urban designers, researchers and cultural practitioners at Venkataramanan Associates.

The project exposes stark civic realities

The project involved a massive cleaning of sewer lines. “They were completely blocked and the silt had to be removed, which turned out to be a laborious task,” recalls Naresh. “In Shanti Nagar, the entire sewage system had to be relaid,” he says adding, “The sewage network in the city, especially in CBD, is around 50 years old and needs to be fixed.”

Naresh wonders why liquid waste is overlooked in the city, where there is much ado about solid waste.

The stormwater drain is meant only and exclusively for stormwater disposal. “However, when the sewage network is broken, sewage is diverted into the roadside drains in the city, merges with the stormwater system and eventually flows into the main canal,” says Naresh. The toxic mix of sewage and solid waste pollutes the canals and poses significant health risks to humans, flora and fauna.

Water connections without corresponding sewage connections create problems. Some households have a water connection but no corresponding sewage line, leading to improper waste disposal and added strain on the system. Whenever a water connection is provided, a sewage connection should be made mandatory.

The project launched in early 2021 is 70% complete.

Bringing govt agencies together

The K-100 initiative also demonstrates how multiple agencies- BBMP, BWSSB, KSNMDC, and others- can break down silos and create a coordinated response to urban water challenges. “This kind of collaboration is essential if we want to move from reactive flood control towards resilient, blue-green urban systems that restore ecological balance and improve quality of life in our cities,” notes Anam Husain, programme associate (Urban Water Program) at WELL Labs, an NGO that is transforming water systems through research and collaborations.

Reconnecting people with the city

Most importantly, the project invites citizens back into a relationship with their own city — to recognise such spaces as functional public assets, and to hold the system accountable when it fails. “The K-100 is proof that even the most neglected parts of Bengaluru can be reclaimed through accountability from governing systems, good design, and community participation,” says Naresh.

When people walk beside water, they begin to care for it — and that’s how we reshape the future of our urban commons.



“The K-100 Citizens’ Waterway is not just about transforming a drain — it’s about transforming the city’s mindset. For decades, Bengaluru’s stormwater channels were treated as the city’s backdoor — places to dump, neglect, and forget. Through the K-100, we’ve asked a simple but radical question: what if a neglected drain could be restored and reimaged as meaningful public space? When people walk beside water, they begin to care for it and that is how we rebuild trust, stewardship, and resilience in the city’s public infrastructure and our urban commons.”

The project is proof that even the most neglected parts of the city can be reclaimed with care, strategy, and community will.

Naresh Narasimhan | ARCHITECT, URBAN DESIGNER AND CO-FOUNDER OF MOD FOUNDATION

“Different govt departments worked hand in hand under the guidance of Shalini Rajneesh, chief secretary, and did their bit in taking forward the project that had been lingering for a long time.”

“The K-100 transformation is about more than rebuilding infrastructure — it’s about changing how we experience the city. By taking down walls, adding planters, and creating walkable paths, the canal is now something people can see, access, and connect with. What was once hidden has become a shared public space — a place to walk, meet, and engage with the water and the neighbourhood. Bringing this together across multiple agencies and scales was a huge challenge, but it’s been deeply rewarding to see how design can reshape both the landscape and the way people relate to it.”

Amritha Ganapathy | URBAN DESIGNER AT MOD FOUNDATION

“The main objective of the project was to make the city sewage-free. It allows the treated water to flow into the rajakaluve to create an urban river. The project has brought about socioeconomic change. With improvement in the living standard, real estate prices have risen to new heights.”

“Projects like K-100 show the potential of what can be achieved when urban stormwater management is approached holistically. When we integrate hydrological, geological, and spatial analyses, we start to understand how water flows, accumulates, and interacts with the built environment across the entire catchment. Such an approach allows us to address upstream issues, design for network connectivity, and ensure that interventions downstream are effective and sustainable.”

B S Prahallad | DIRECTOR, (TECHNICAL), BENGALURU SMART INFRASTRUCTURE LIMITED

“The project aims to intercept sewage from stormwater drains and keep them clean and odour free. It shows that, with proper solid and liquid waste management, drains can carry only rainwater and be transformed into recreational spaces and walkways.”

“Without proper treatment, the K-100 would remain nothing more than a sewage-infused canal. Ayala has introduced its Natural Biological System (NBS), a distinctive nature-based technology designed to manage and purify the canal’s contaminated waters. The NBS offers a truly sustainable solution—requiring no energy nor chemicals, operating with minimal maintenance while restoring the canal’s ecological health.”

Tushar Girinath | ADDITIONAL CHIEF SECRETARY, URBAN DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

“The project was initiated by me after witnessing how waterfronts elevate cities across the world. It’s not the buildings; the environment is our greatest heritage. We felt rajakaluve, an under-leveraged urban asset, could spark a new level of ambition for the city. Getting the right stakeholders aligned and deploying capital for high impact catapulted K-100 to success.”

Prashanth Prakash | CHAIRMAN AND CO-FOUNDER, UNBOXINGBLR

Anam Husain | PROGRAMME ASSOCIATE - URBAN WATER PROGRAM, WELL LABS

Sindhu Cherian | DIRECTOR, AND HEAD OF INDIA OPERATIONS, AYALA NATURAL BIOLOGICAL

“Bengaluru has secured support from the World Bank to upscale its stormwater drain network. The move follows the success of the K-100 project.”



Shalini Rajneesh | CHIEF SECRETARY, KARNATAKA

₹3,500-CRORE LOAN FROM WORLD BANK

The World Bank has approved a Rs 3,500-crore loan for the city under its Programme-for-Results financing. The loan will be used to strengthen stormwater drains (SWDs) and build sewage treatment plants (STPs). The loan will start being disbursed from next year onwards.

The project, which covers **9.6 km, diverted over 100 MLD of raw sewage and industrial effluent from the rajakaluve into the sewage network. As many as 18 vehicular bridges and two public parks have been constructed along the stretch. A 5 MLD sewage treatment plant was commissioned in the Kalasipalayam area to treat the diverted flow. A 5.1 km pathway built inside the drain is another highlight of the project.**

HOW K-100 STOPS THE INFLOW OF SEWAGE INTO RAJAKALUVE

The systemic effort behind the project has enabled the drastic reduction in the amount of sewage flowing into the K-100.

“Additional sewer lines were laid where they didn’t exist, faulty and overburdened lines were rectified and repaired; including the trunk sewer line; alternate solutions like DeWats system to treat sewage were considered in areas too dense to lay new lines. Extensive house-to-house surveys were carried out in the catchment to separate stormwater and sewage. An enforcement of water quality and function was carried out by the Pollution Control Board on private STPs within the catchment. The strategy has been to ensure separation, and treatment, if possible, at source,” explains Amritha Ganapathy

DEAR READER If you have done something in your locality, apartment complex or home that others can benefit from, do write to timescommunity@timesofindia.com, with your photo.



Vikrant with his carpooling buddies Kranthi, Vishwas and Noumaan

Sobha Silicon Oasis has an active carpooling community

Your lead story on carpooling made for an interesting reading. At Sobha Silicon Oasis, we have created a community of carpoolers. I drive an XUV700 and have been carpooling to commute to my office in Manyata Tech Park since 2021. The initiative operates through a WhatsApp group created by residents. Participation in the group is informal and flexible.

I choose carpooling mainly for convenience and to help reduce traffic congestion in Bengaluru. It also feels good to contribute, even in a small way, to easing the city’s traffic and reducing environmental impact. However, one drawback is the unpredictability—people may not always post their travel plans, or their timings may vary, making it unreliable at times.

The initiative has also fostered social connections among residents. I did make some friends during the rides. It’s a nice way to connect with people from the same community who share similar routines or destinations. For me, carpooling is a great way to promote social bonding.

Vikrant Jain | RESIDENT, SOBHA SILICON OASIS, HOSEA ROAD.



Embassy Lake Terraces offers emergency care within its premises

Residents of Embassy Lake Terraces, Hebbal can now access medical assistance just a few yards from their homes.

The on-site facility, in collaboration with Manipal Hospital, provides emergency care and life-saving interventions alongside routine primary care services. “The initiative aims to reduce response times,” says Juggy Marwaha, management committee member of the Embassy Lake Terraces Apartment Owners Association (ELTAOA).

The association has created a dedicated corridor directly connecting the premises to Manipal Out of Hospital Clinic, ensuring critical patients can be transferred quickly. The clinic is equipped with state-of-the-art diagnostic and emergency equipment, including cardiac monitors, defibrillators, oxygen support and telemedicine links for specialist consultations.

“Our goal has always been to make Embassy Lake Terraces



EMERGENCY CARE AT DOORSTEP: The Manipal Out of Hospital Clinic allows residents of Embassy Lake Terraces to access medical care within their premises. Emergency patients can now be transferred to the clinic swiftly and safely

“Having a Manipal hospital clinic within Embassy Lake Terraces offers residents immediate access to quality medical care. It ensures quicker response during emergencies and provides convenient routine check-ups, health monitoring, and consultations. The presence of trained medical staff enhances the overall safety and well-being of the community. The clinic also promotes preventive healthcare.”



Dr Vijay Agarwal | PRESIDENT, EMBASSY LAKE TERRACES APARTMENT OWNERS ASSOCIATION (ELTAOA)

not only the most beautiful and sustainable community; but also one of the safest,” said Juggy, who is also the CEO of Prestige Group - Office Business.