

Urban Revamp '23

Design Challenge Brief



sensinglocal



Organised by

Partners

1 Premise



Public spaces act as hubs for activities through interaction points, resting spaces, and play areas; they offer breathing lungs to the city by offering space for biodiversity for mutual benefit to all; they offer an opportunity in the improvement of the quality of life and the image of the city; and offer opportunities for cultural activities and historical preservation.¹



In rapidly urbanising Indian cities today, regardless of their location, development level, and economic stability, **the quality of life in the public realm is consistently poor.**

This can be attributed to past planning and architectural ideologies which prioritised individual buildings and neglected public spaces and pedestrian movement. As a result, the city's intended purpose of providing a healthy lifestyle and livelihood for its urban residents and visitors is being compromised with each passing day in the context of India.

In Bengaluru, the public realm is a result of ad hoc efforts and personality-driven visions, such as the network of lakes and large parks like Cubbon Park and Lal Bagh, as well as neighbourhood parks. **Interestingly, some of the most heavily utilised public spaces in the city have been created organically, and thus, are the most under-designed spaces.**

This begs the question:

What makes great public spaces, and how can we realise them in our cities?

Two ideas that help in answering this question are: **Place-making** and **Place-keeping**.

Place-making is the process of transforming public spaces to create active, vibrant, inclusive, and livable neighbourhoods, which relies heavily on community participation to reimagine and reinvent public spaces. **This involves focusing on aspects such as access, connections, activities, image, comfort, and social interaction to establish a new identity for a place.** Place-making activities include implementing public space design and tactical urban interventions, as activation events to strengthen the connection between people and place.

In contrast, **Place-keeping** is a concept that has emerged as a counter and sometimes a complementary idea to Place-making, emphasising the preservation of the existing culture, economy, activities, and people that are already part of the place. **It asserts that public spaces already have identities, and harbour many uses and users. Therefore they do not require a complete overhaul, but rather must be well-maintained.** Place-keeping involves active care and maintenance of the place and its social fabric, not just through infrastructure and public space improvements but also through social programs, governance, funding, and evaluation.

2 Challenge

This design challenge has been conceived by **Young Leaders for Active Citizenship (YLAC)** and **Sensing Local** in partnership with the **Institute of Urban Designers India (IUDI)**, **Curiosity Alliance Foundation**, and **Kasturi Nagar Residents Welfare Association**.

Together, we invite proposals to reimagine two typical neighbourhood-scale public spaces in Bengaluru's **Padarayanapura (Ward 168)** and **CV Raman Nagar (Ward 117)** wards. The site in **Padarayanapura builds on the idea of place-keeping**, where the aim is to strengthen the existing character and improve the functionality of a happenstance urban square that has organically been appropriated into shared public space and is used by several groups of residents and visitors in the neighbourhood. And the other site in **CV Raman Nagar builds on the idea of place-making** where the aim is to revamp a long-defunct space under and alongside a flyover - an 'urban void'², and design it to become more functional and usable by the residents of the neighbourhood.

3A Site 1

Place-making: Reclaiming urban voids as active public spaces



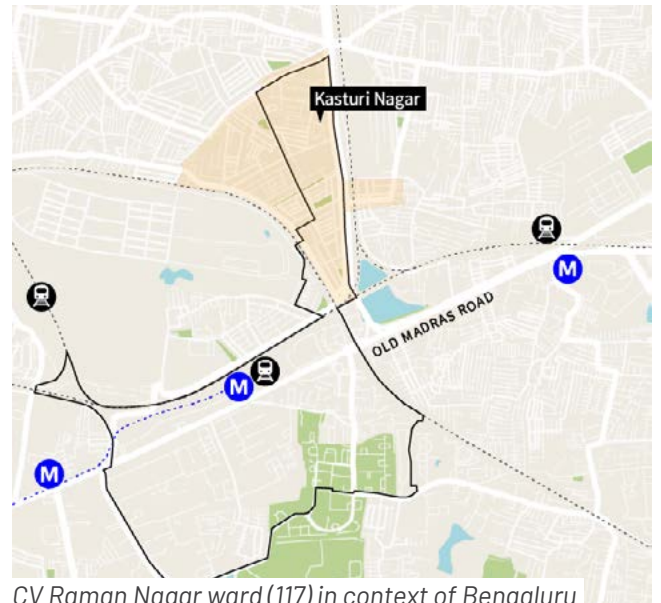
Brief

Considered the entrance to the Kasturi Nagar neighbourhood, the long 200m site under Benniganahalli flyover is flanked by a defunct portion of Benniganahalli Lake on the north-east, a triangular park on the north-west and a hazardous junction on the south. The site is located in C V Raman Nagar ward, which spans 3 sq. km in area with a population of 35,696 and is predominantly residential.

The flyover was reportedly built 20 years ago. The space underneath the flyover (UFO) remained neglected until 2018, when the local RWA was involved in transforming it into a usable community space for the residents. **This space holds significant value within the neighbourhood due to its position between two major roads, ORR and Old Madras Road, which have multiple transit lines, such as the railway, metro rail, and bus stops, running through and across them.**



Ward map of Bengaluru highlighting CV Raman Nagar



CV Raman Nagar ward (117) in context of Bengaluru

Map of Kasthuri Nagar larger neighbourhood with Landmarks and major roads

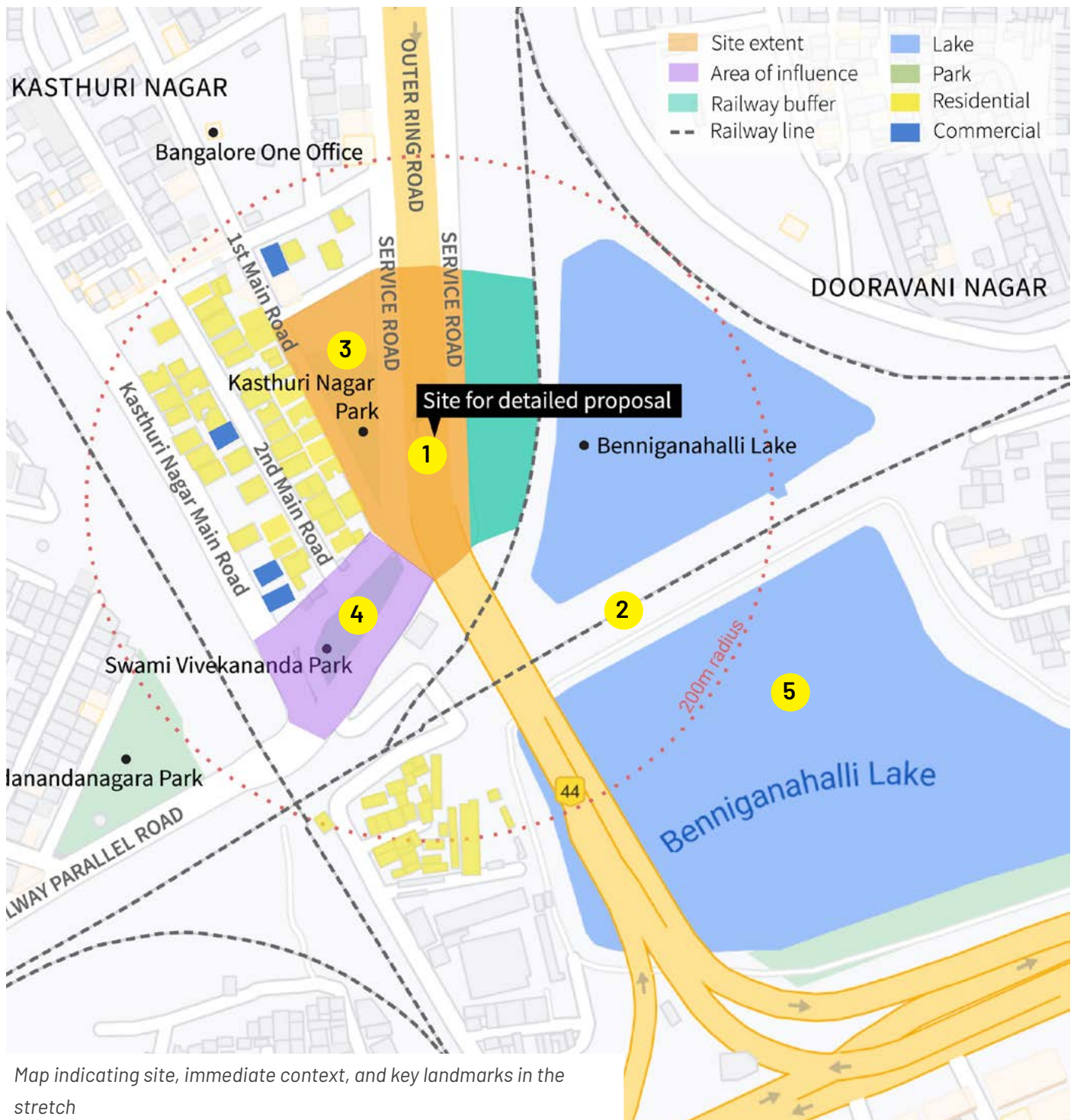




Satellite map highlighting selected site and landmarks

Unfortunately, the neglect towards the site has created an urban void. However, utilising the principles of **PLACE-MAKING**, it has the **potential to be reimagined and transformed into an active node that serves as a connector for pedestrians between various transit lines and a thriving public space for the neighbourhood.**

The intervention must be targeted towards (but not limited to) **two key user groups** - the people residing in Kasturi Nagar and those traversing the site crossing over to go to the various transport hubs.



Key features & Landmarks

Site Location	<i>Benniganahalli Flyover & service roads, Kasturi Nagar</i>
Length of road	<i>200 m under Flyover</i>
Key Land use	<i>Residential, Open spaces, Railway lines and buffer</i>
Key Landmarks	<i>Benniganahalli Lake, Benigannahalli flyover, Kasturi Nagar Park, Swami Vivekananda Park, Railway lines</i>



1 Benniganahalli flyover

The flyover connects the area of Whitefield and KR Puram towards Kalyan Nagar, Hebbal and the airport beyond. It is constructed across three railway lines and cuts through Benniganahalli Lake. Its location also, in effect, cuts off pedestrian access from Kasthuri Nagar to the lake edge.



2 Railway lines

While the tracks are not significant landmarks of the neighbourhood, the railway lines are important because they form the border that disrupts the neighbourhood's connectivity to the arterial Old Madras Road. This means that, as an informal shortcut, pedestrians often walk across the railway tracks and skirt along the lake to reach the bus stops (and proposed metro station) on Old Madras Road.



3 Kasthuri Nagar park

Originally a densely wooded BBMP park, the Kasthuri Nagar Park is currently used by the BMRCL for metro construction work and is, therefore, inaccessible to residents of the neighbourhood. A concrete-walled nallah was recently constructed to direct stormwater into Benniganahalli Lake across the road.



4 Swami Vivekananda Park

This park is effectively a large road island, surrounded on all sides by one-way traffic movement. Although the park is maintained and in good condition, access to it is only by crossing roads with unregulated traffic.



5 Benniganahalli lake

The Benniganahalli Lake, historically, was a much larger lake, which in the current day is divided into three parts. The larger 15-acre waterbody is situated along Old Madras Road, on both sides of the highway, but is not visible or readily accessible from the road itself. The lake drew attention a few years ago due to sewage inflow and frothing, following which the RWAs from surrounding neighbourhoods urged the local MLA and the BBMP to [revive the lake in 2018](#). The RWAs have also formed a trust and undertaken multiple initiatives to reforest and keep the surrounding landscape clean. However, the other two parts flanked on either side of the flyover on the Kasturi Nagar side remain defunct, with no plans for revival in the near future.

Continue to Site #2:

Place-keeping: Enhancing the value and functionality of public squares

3B Site 2

Place-keeping: Enhancing the value and functionality of public squares



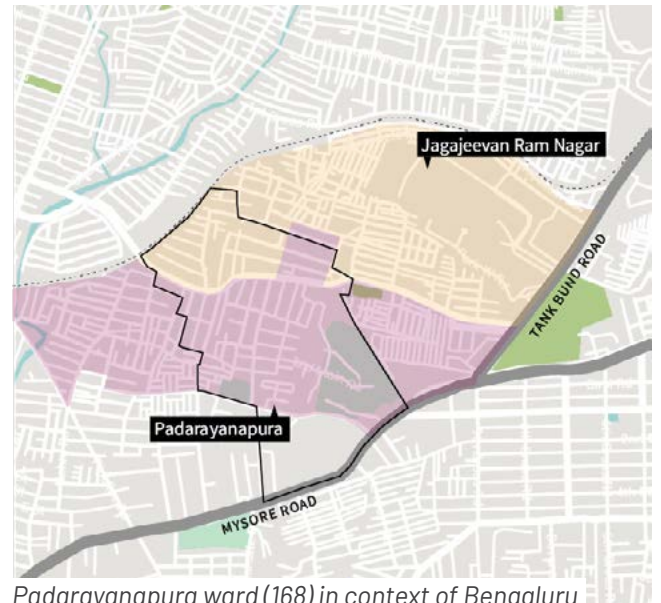
Brief

The culmination of Chowdappa Road and the entrance of Padarayanapura forms a unique trapezoidal space that is flanked on both sides by public land and is commonly referred to as the Padarayanapura Circle (the space with the flagpoles). This unique formation that follows up after a major junction **relieves the site from heavy traffic movement and allows for pedestrian-oriented activities to thrive, functioning almost like an exclusive neighbourhood square.** Together with one of the perforated public land edges - i.e. the Indira Canteen and Public Toilet, the site spans an area of **2833 sq.m.**

Located in the densely populated Padarayanapura ward (that houses about 39,539 people within an area of 0.5 sq. km.), **the site forms an important node and the only relief for the dense and compact neighbourhood.** The site caters to residents from **four neighbourhoods** - Padarayanapura, Rayapuram, JJR Nagar and Goripalayam.

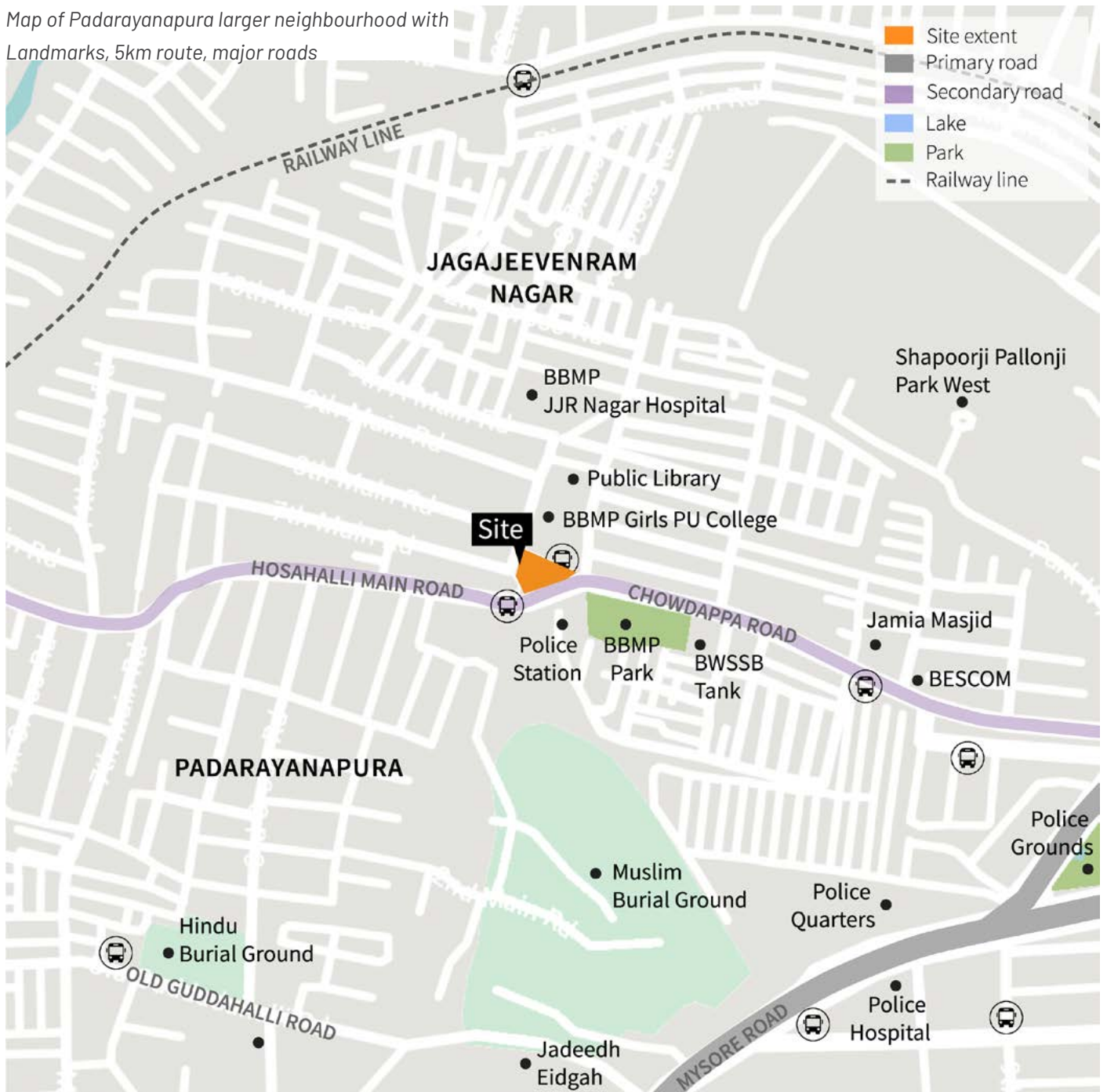


Ward map of Bengaluru highlighting Padarayanapura



Padarayanapura ward (168) in context of Bengaluru

Map of Padarayanapura larger neighbourhood with Landmarks, 5km route, major roads





Satellite map highlighting selected site and landmarks

Following the principles of **PLACE-KEEPING**, the site requires **interventions that protect the existing usage while creating a community square that prioritises pedestrians and attends to the neighbourhood's shortcomings.**

The intervention must be targeted towards (but not limited to) **two key user groups** - Floating users/ Commuters using the site as a transit point and residents across different age groups and gender who use the site as a public open space.



Key features & Landmarks

Site Location	<i>Intersection at Hosahalli Main Road, Padarayanapura</i>
Length of road	<i>2833 sq.m</i>
Key Land use	<i>Public: Park, Bus stop, Police station, Auto stand ,Educational: school, library, college, Commercial: shops and on-street vending</i>
Key Landmarks	<i>Indira Canteen, JJR Nagar Bus stop, JJR Nagar Police station, BBMP school/college, BBMP Park</i>



1 Indra Canteen

Situated within the Padarayanapura circle, The Indra canteen known for its offerings of subsidised food, receives considerable footfall from the residents of the neighbourhood as well as the transit users. The formal and informal vending within the circle is anchored around the Indra Canteen.



2 BBMP School/College/Hospital

North of the site is an entire complex of BBMP-owned land which houses a primary school, a girls' college and a public library. Further inside is a complex of government hospitals, including a maternity clinic and pharmacies. This, hence, acts as an ancillary for women and children to use the circle.



3 Police Station

Although the police station premises is on the other side of Hosahalli main road, the station is currently housed within the BBMP college building. The 'square', therefore, gets used by the police personnel for inspections, gatherings, etc



4 BBMP Park

The park is a well-maintained public green space with play spaces for children, a walking path and seating. Being one of the few open spaces present and the only children's park within the neighbourhood, the children of Padarayanapura rely heavily on this park for recreational activities.



5 Jagajeevanram Nagar Bus Stop and roundabout/circle

The intersection also includes the JJR Nagar Bus stop and roundabout. The bus stop is significant as a terminal point for buses coming in [directly from Shivaji Nagar](#) and serves as the first/last point of public transport networks for the larger neighbourhoods of Padarayanapura and Jagajeevanram Nagar. The roundabout is a small road island with state flags and a high-mast light, with parking alongside. Arriving buses take a precarious turn around the small circle and tend to wait at length before departing again. Residents of Padarayanapura, Rayapuram, Goripalaya and JJR Nagar use this bus stop.

.....● **Continue to: Eligibility, Calendar, Registration, Prizes, and Submissions**

4 Eligibility

The competition is open to **professionals and students from architecture, urban design, public space design, spatial planning and other allied fields**. The entry can be submitted as a team of individuals or as a firm/office. **At least one team member should reside in Bengaluru or be able to commute to Bengaluru** for the public engagement events (visioning workshop and presentation to the community if shortlisted).

5 Calender

- **28 April** - Launch of Competition
- **26 May** - Registrations close
- **3/4 June** - Visioning Workshops
- **3 July** - Submission of Entries
- **10 July** - Announcement of Shortlisted entries
- **15 / 16 July** - Presentation to Jury Panel
- **24 July** - Announcement of Winners

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Prizes & Certificates

The top two entries from each site will be given a prize money of **INR 30,000 for first place** and **INR 20,000 for second place**. The first-place entry will be evaluated for feasibility of implementation and will be supported by the organising team to make a pitch to the BBMP for implementation.

All the awarded proposals would receive a special certificate, and all the participants would receive a certificate of participation.

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Registration

Teams must register separately for each site by filling in the registration form linked on the website www.urbanrevamp.in. Those that want to participate for both sites will need to register twice. The registration will close by the **26th of May 2023 (Friday) at 11:59 pm**. As soon as you register, you will receive an e-mail with the drive link to the data package and a unique ID number. This unique ID number will be the one you will use when submitting your entry. The design package will include the following information:

1. Photographs and videos of the sites with labels
2. Survey drawings (AutoCAD) of the sites
3. Google My Maps file with geo data points of site area, ward boundary, Points of Interest, Lakes and transit lines
4. Stakeholder interviews
5. Sheet format for submission

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Submissions

- Submissions must be legibly composed on **two landscape-oriented A1 sheets** (59.4 cm height & 84.1 cm width) and must include an analysis of the site, detailed site master plan, concept sections, 3D views, etc.
 - Any technique of the team's choice – sketches, diagrams, 3D visualisations, physical model photos, CAD drawings, text, walkthroughs/ videos, etc. – is acceptable to convey their ideas.
 - A **500-word (maximum word limit) summary text** in English explaining the project idea and concept, along with the A1 sheets, must be included.
 - The submissions should not have any identifying markings and **should only have the Unique ID number** given to the team.
 - The submission has to be uploaded through the form link, which will be shared with you once the registrations close. The file has to be in High-resolution PDF format (suitable for printing) with the Unique ID number as the file name and the panels being titled <Unique ID No>_Panels, and the writeup as <Unique ID No>_Writeup.
Both A1 sheets must be combined into one PDF file.
 - The PDF File **cannot exceed the size of 10 MB**
 - Cover image/thumbnail of size 2000px x 1000px or larger in aspect ratio 2:1.
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References:

1. K.Nanda (2019), Does the provision of well-designed public spaces lead to positive city development in India? The University of Edinburgh, pg.3
2. 'Urban voids' are undesirable urban areas that are in need of redesign, anti-space, making no positive contribution to the surroundings or users. They are ill-defined, without measurable boundaries and fail to connect elements in a coherent way. However, these spots offer huge opportunities for urban redevelopment, creative refill, adaptive reuse and potential discovery. (Trancik, 1986:p.12)