

Plan BENGALURU 2020

Bringing back a Bengaluru of Kempe Gowda's dreams

Heritage

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Agenda for Bengaluru
Infrastructure and
Development Task force





Bengaluru Heritage

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Past efforts

- Bangalore Development Authority, Masterplan 1984
- Archeological Survey of India
- Karnataka Archeology Department
- Karnataka Heritage Society
- Kannada and Culture Department
- Bangalore Urban Art Commission
- The Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage
- Aga Khan Foundation

Despite numerous initiatives in the past, the city has not thus far developed a program of ongoing protection for its built, natural and cultural heritage. It is imperative, especially given the current pace of change in the city, that this should be corrected, so that there is no further loss of this heritage.

Guiding principles

- The identification and protection of the heritage of Bengaluru (natural, cultural, and built heritage) should be integrated with planning. Institutions with the necessary expertise, authority and means to protect this heritage for the benefit of future generations are necessary.
- The conservation of heritage must be integrated with the routine functions of urban administration, so that any erosion or loss of heritage can be anticipated and preempted.
- A robust management and legal framework for protection and conservation of heritage is needed. The framework must allow for differences in the management of heritage that is publicly owned, and that which is privately owned.
- Public awareness of the city's heritage as well as efforts to conserve it is a key factor in ensuring its proper protection.

Policies

- A statutory nodal agency for the identification, protection and conservation of heritage in the Bengaluru Metropolitan Region shall be established. The agency shall have appropriate funding from the government for its function, as well as autonomy in developing policies and practices.
- This agency will develop a Heritage Policy for the BMR, which shall be reviewed and revised periodically.
- The nodal agency must develop a management framework for the built, natural and cultural heritage of the city, and coordinate with government departments, agencies, and other institutions to ensure implementation of this framework.
- An ongoing program of documenting heritage should be established, with periodic review.
- The immediate environment of heritage locations must be considered along with the sites themselves, and conservation plans must include these areas as well.

Recommendations



Heritage Commission

- A Bengaluru Heritage Commission should be statutorily established, and its members should have a fixed term of 5 years. Members shall be drawn from domains of expertise suitable to the identification, protection and conservation of heritage.
- The secretariat of the BHC shall be in the Urban Development Department of the State. Its offices shall be established in a heritage building in the city (e.g. Krishna Rao Park, Basavangudi).
- The BHC shall oversee heritage conservation efforts for all locations in the BMR that are not within the jurisdiction of the Archaeological Survey of India or the Karnataka Archaeology Department, and shall also assist those bodies in their independent efforts.
- The BHC shall develop and maintain a registry of heritage sites in the metropolitan region, to be known as the Bengaluru Heritage Register.

Museum of Bengaluru

- The Museum of Bengaluru shall be established in the premises of the Mayo Hall. The BHC shall be the governing body of the museum, which will house the permanent archive and gallery of the built, natural and cultural heritage of the region.



Heritage Register

- The Bengaluru Heritage Register shall be an exhaustive compilation of the heritage of the region. The Register shall include locations identified for their importance to the built, cultural and natural history of the metropolitan region, and separate listings of all three shall be maintained.
- Based on a range of criteria (including but not limited to age, historical significance, cultural significance, artistic significance, architecture, aesthetics, as well as natural and landscape significance), a suitable classification of the entries in the BHR shall be developed. Each entry in the Register shall include its classification, as well as the basis on which its inclusion in the registry was warranted.
- The Register shall be maintained and updated every 3 years to reflect the evolving character of the city.

Built heritage

- Going forward, the development of all locations included in the BHR shall be subject to approval from the BHC as well.
- Corresponding to the classification of heritage sites in the Register, the application methods of protection and conservation applicable shall also be identified.
- The BBMP shall establish a Heritage Cell to manage and administer publicly owned heritage locations. For each publicly owned heritage location, a specific heritage conservation plan shall be developed, including an awareness program to publicise its existence and importance to the city.
- For privately owned locations in the Register, a consultative mechanism shall be evolved that emphasises 'support' for the preservation and protection of heritage, rather than mere identification and listing. Also, at the discretion of the BHC, a case-by-case approach to the protection of individual sites may be used in determining the appropriate conservation strategy.

Cultural Heritage

- The BHR shall record important phases in the cultural life of the city, including the arts, literature, and social and economic traditions of the people.
- The Register shall also record institutions and people at various points in the history of the city, who have made important contributions to the development of its cultural, economic and civic life.



Natural Heritage

- The Bengaluru Heritage Register shall include natural landscape sites (water bodies, rocks and geological formations, man-made gardens, etc) associated with specific important periods or events in the history of the city.
- Specific restoration plans for each of these natural heritage sites should be developed. Ongoing development plans of BDA/BMMP and other agencies should also be subject to guidelines for the protection of such sites.

Spatial records and plans

- A repository of historical maps should be gathered from various archives to present a comprehensive and coordinated record of the growth of the city (settlement patterns, population, establishment of monuments, etc.)
- The collected spatial record of the city's evolution should be housed in the Museum of Bengaluru, as well as made available through the web site of the BHR and the museum itself.
- The BHR should document the administrative sub-jurisdictions (wards, precincts, traffic divisions, school zones, etc) of the different city agencies within whose borders each entry in the register falls, so that proper devolution of responsibility for conservation is possible within the agencies. A conservation plan should then be developed for each agency.

Awareness

- A specific date in the calendar should be identified for designation as Bengaluru Day, marking the founding of the city, and celebrating its history.
- Each location in the Register shall be identified by a uniform, publicly visible insignia, as well as information that educates the public about the historical importance of the site. The Register shall also be available online, including multimedia presentations.
- Adequate access to the transportation network shall be provided for each site, and a tourism promotion program shall be developed based on the listed locations.
- The BHC shall oversee the development of material for use in schools and colleges, including training for teachers and instructors, as well as course material on awareness and promotion, conservation strategies, design, restoration and other key aspects of heritage.
- The BHC shall work with public forums including the media and the performing arts communities to increase awareness of heritage,

Finances

- A seed fund shall be established to create the BHR initially, and to undertake restoration of a few publicly owned heritage sites on a pilot basis. This fund may thereafter be converted into a revolving fund with access to grants from public and private donors, to support the work of the BHC.
- Annual funding for the operations of the BHC shall be made available from the budget of BBMP or the BDA. The BHC shall develop the budget and seek transfer of the funds under the law, as may be established.

Legislation

- Suitable legislation is needed to establish the Bengaluru Heritage Commission, and to give it statutory powers as identified in this report.
- A review of similar laws passed elsewhere in the country, and abroad, may be carried out to identify the best legal practices in heritage protection and conservation, and identify the specific sections and clauses to be included in the law

International standards

- A study of international standards and best practices in the conservation of urban heritage must be undertaken, to help develop the Heritage Plan for the B MR.
- Guidelines from international conventions on heritage conservation (UNESCO, the Vienna Memorandum, the Venice Charter, etc) must be incorporated into the policies and administrative methods for conserving heritage in Bengaluru.