

FIRST & FOREMOST...



SWMRT members Pinky Chandran and Savita Hiremath participated in the regional meeting of GAIA Asia Pacific held from April 1-4, 2023 in Hoi An, Vietnam. The meeting was to collectively develop a five-year strategy covering core areas: zero-waste cities, plastics and fighting false solutions. This gathering also served as a space for members across the Asia Pacific region to share updates, find solutions to shared problems and dive deep into issues of common interest.

Day 1 included a network report, strategy assessment, presentations and consultations for GAIA's programmes and thematic areas such as zero-waste cities, waste-to-energy/incineration, organics, electric vehicle batteries, Global Plastics Treaty, zero waste finance - divest and zero waste finance - invest. Pinky presented the India report and briefed about the draft strategy for India based on the consultations held with select India members in October 2022.

Day 2 included deliberations around GAIA's support programmes such as plastic policy, zero-waste cities and youth network, zero-waste month & refuse single-use day, zero-waste academy, circular economy vs. regenerative economy, organising in less democratic spaces, decolonising language, just transition, shifting power from corporates to people and other cross-cutting and big-picture topics.

Day 3 focused on the synthesis of discussions from the previous two days and on defining regional priorities and a tour of the operations by Zero Waste Vietnam. In addition, the meeting also served as a space to celebrate members' work culminating in an evening of inter-cultural mingling and performances.

WTE should be used *exclusively* for only non-recyclable waste which makes up no more than 15-20% of the total waste generated in our cities. However, we were surprised to find out that the declared waste capacity of certain WTE plants was almost the same as the quantum of waste generated by respective cities. The pan-India map of the proposed, defunct, operational, and other WTE plants under construction can be viewed here. <https://bit.ly/WtElocations>. Please note that these are besides the cement plants where non-recyclable waste can be processed as per the SWM Rules, 2016.

WTE plants are not only expensive to set up and operate, they also pose serious environmental risks. So, is there a need for so many plants in the first place? Apart from these topics, we also looked at the capacity of these plants and the form or kind of waste that was being fed to them.

(This is a monthly summary of the Whyburnwaste campaign being carried out by SWMRT to disseminate information on WTE plants so as to enable citizens, policy-makers and administrators to make informed decisions.)

WTE WRAP-UP



IN THE SPOTLIGHT



In March, Vani Murthy was featured on NDTV-Dettol Banega Swasth India. This year was the 9th edition of the campaign that focused on individuals who illustrate exemplary actions that aid in creating a holistic and healthy India. Vani was featured for her role in educating thousands on the basics of waste management through social media.



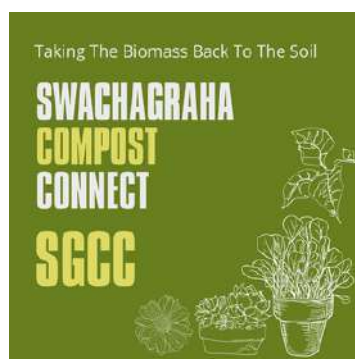
This March, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) launched a nationwide campaign 'Swachhotsav' to galvanise women's participation and leadership to catalyse the goal of garbage-free cities.

As part of the campaign, SWMRT Member Dr Shanthi Tummala was invited to the 'International Day of Zero Waste: Rally for Garbage Free Cities' at Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi.

APARTMENT SELLS 115 TONNES OF COMPOST TO FARMERS

SwachaGraha Compost Connect (SGCC) facilitated the sale of 115 tonnes of compost produced at Purva Venezia, Bangalore, over the last seven months. SGCC is a network working towards connecting the urban compost producers from apartments and gated communities with farmers in and around Bengaluru.

If you want to buy the SGCC compost which comes at only Rs 1.50/kg, visit <https://www.swachagraha.in/sgcc>. T&Cs apply.



FIRST EDITION OF COMPOST KARIGARS ENDS ON A POSITIVE NOTE

Compost Karigars / kelasagaararu are a valuable workforce in apartment communities who manage day-to-day activities of community composting and bring out loads of quality compost regularly. If not for their contribution that often remains unseen and unrecognised, the concept of in situ composting carries no weight.

Keeping this in mind, SWMRT ran a fundraising campaign to recognise their work in November 2022. This caught the attention of 21 communities who signed up enthusiastically and nominated their workforce. Jury members Dr Umashanakr, Padmashree Mahesh and Vani Srinivasan evaluated the composting systems and announced six winning communities.

To felicitate the compost karigars, SWMRT, in association with HSR Citizens Forum (HCF), organised an event on March 4, 2023, at SwachaGraha Kalika Kendra. The winners were felicitated by Srinivasulu from IFS, Ansem Roasario, Director of Biowise Horticulture Products and Joint Commissioner Krishnamurthy, Bommanahalli. Click on the link below to read more on the 1st edition of Compost Karigars: <https://www.swmrt.com/post/compost-karigar-1st-edition-march-2023>.



(Clockwise from top):
 1. Srinivasulu, IFS, felicitating the Mantri Alpyne team.
 2. The audience for the event included communities, citizen volunteers and compost karigar teams.
 3. 'Swacha Sambrahama' welcome board.
 4. Anuradha Govind announces the winner of the day.



SEGREGATION AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS

On March 20, Swachha Belaku under the aegis of Social Ventures Partners (SVP) India and SWMRT launched a segregation awareness campaign at Tanisandra, Byatarayanapura with Yelahanka Eco Group and the local BBMP officials. The event was attended by the local residents and the 2bin1bag segregation kits were distributed by Meenakshi Krishna Byregowda.

SVP India and Geberit Plumbing Solutions co-sponsored the 2bin1bag kits for the campaign. The Swaccha Belaku banner designed by Zen Sciences was displayed at the event for the first time.

SGKK VISITOR DATA - MARCH 2022-23

SwachaGraha Kalika Kendra (SGKK) is a multi-stakeholder establishment driven by a community of passionate citizens.

It offers experiential learning programmes on home and community composting, gardening and sustainable living.

Students, families, children, ULB and corporate organisations are some of the visitor profiles at SGKK. The centre is growing into a space for people to learn, experience and share their knowledge on themes that can help us all lead a quality life.

SGKK VISITORS REPORT		
MARCH 22 - 23	NO OF GROUPS	NO OF PEOPLE
EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTES	43	1762
MUNICIPALITIES	17	281
CORPORATE	12	181
APARTMENTS	17	41
NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS	39	301
INDIVIDUAL HOMES	NA	51
WALK-INS	NA	73
TOTAL	128	2690



A PANEL DISCUSSION ON 'INCLUSIVE CIRCULARITY'

In a panel discussion held on March 21 on “Inclusive circularity”, Sandya Narayanan discussed the role played by SWMRT in drafting the solid waste management rules of Bengaluru. The event was hosted by Saamuhika Shakthi with H&M Foundations and partners at TERI.

Sandya spoke at length on how the city has been a leader in recognising the role of waste-pickers in waste management. During the discussion, Sandya also shed light on the model of Dry Waste Collection Centres and how the concept helped bring inclusivity to the informal sector.

The discussion was moderated by Executive Director of Saamuhika Shakti Akshay Soni. Strategic Lead of H&M Foundation Maria Bystedt, Vice President of Social Alpha Smita Rakesh were present.

SWMRT member and CEO of Hasiru Dala Innovations Shekar Prabhakar also participated in the panel discussion.

SPRING CLEANING...

In April, SWMRT launched a campaign to share information on low-waste initiatives and titled it 'Spring Cleaning'.

The campaign was aimed at disseminating knowledge on the effects of single-use plastic and other toxic substances with safer and more sustainable alternatives.

The campaign focused on one room each week: kitchen, living room, bedroom and bathroom. Through posts, collaborations and Instagram live sessions, the campaign created a learning environment to nurture our community to make safer choices.

Follow us @swmrtbengaluru to stay updated on our social media campaigns.



On the occasion of Women’s History month, SWMRT organised a Wonder Woman social media campaign. The objective of the campaign was to shine light on the women breaking barriers and paving the way in solid waste management.

The women included noted environmental policy advocate Almitra Patel, composting staff members of Mantri Tranquil Chennamma, Chandramma and Sridevi, sweeper in Ward 174 in Bommanahalli Nagamma, sustainable menstruation activist from Siddipet N Shwetha, active SWM volunteers Suhasini Hathwar and Rekha Pradeep.

GLOBAL WE - MUSEUM FOR THE UNITED NATIONS

Recently, Science Gallery Bengaluru collaborated with the Museum for United Nations—UN Live to launch an international public engagement programme—‘Global We’ to bring together diverse voices for the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27), 2022 and the following months.

The “Global We” programme covers the voices of people impacted by climate change. The programme is a space to connect with people from all walks of life. In March, SWMRT members Anuradha Govind and Pinky Chandran were invited to visit the museum.



INTERNSHIP



As part of the SWMRT's Kaushalya Kalike (skilling programme), 12 interns worked for seven weeks at SwachaGraha Kalika Kendra. They contributed to regular operations, participated in community projects such as monitoring temple and leaf composters.

Several internal and external speakers engaged with the interns on their journey through waste management. Field visits to communities, recovery facilities, green businesses and homes of terrace gardeners were organised.

The on-ground team from SWMRT, Siddu, Lokesh, Abhilash and Tirunjanam with the SGKK operations team played a major role in structuring and engaging with the interns. We extend our thanks to all contributors for supporting us through the internship programme.

BRAINSTORM

On Saturday, April 29, SWMRT organised a half-day, hands-on workshop on community composting for SWM champions, supervisors and kelasagaararu / karigars. The workshop was part of SWMRT's Kaushalya Kalike programme. The programme aims to provide a platform for SWM to upskill through in-depth learning from experts. The workshop covered detailed understanding on methods to produce better and richer compost and tackling existing problems like fly infestations and space issues.



THE HEARTBEAT



THE MONTHS THAT WERE

- Field visits at SGKK: Silver Oaks International school, Feb 11. Bengaluru Champs, Feb 12. Midway Journey, Assam-based NGO, Feb 14. Treamis school visits, March. Trivandram Government College, March 25. Garden City University, April 27.
- Expert Talks: Session 1: Composting and low-waste living by Vani Murthy | Feb 12, 24 and March 11. Session 2: SWM engagement session with HSBC employees, March 11. Session 3: Composting by Vani Murthy and Anuradha Govind, April 20. Session 4: Sustainable living and waste management in works spaces by Vasuki Iyengar and Aarthi Thoppae, April 20. Session 5: SWM and sustainable living by Anuradha Govind, April 21.
- Workshops: Vasuki Iyengar and Abhilash conducted an in-depth session on sustainable solid waste management for students from Gandhi Krishi Vigyan Kendra (GKVK) from Bengaluru, Feb 23.
- Temple Composting Reinstallation: SWMRT members and interns from Samvada Baduku inaugurated a temple composter at Varasiddhi Vinayaka Temple in HSR Layout, Feb 14.
- Lane Composters installation: MLA Satish Reddy inaugurated a CSR-funded lane composter in HSR Layout, Feb 16.

- Webinar: SWMRT member Anuradha Govind spoke at the Zero Waste Future webinar series by Women's Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (WICCI), SwachaGraha Kalika Kendra, April 4.
- Instagram Live: Make your own bioenzymes from citrus peels with Anuradha Govind and Vani Murthy, April 8. Q&A with Dr Meenakshi Bharath and Shreya Gurung on menstrual cups and cloth pads, April 29.
- Community Volunteering Day: All weekends.



(From top) 1. A group photo from a field trip organised for Treamis students. 2. Instagram lives events hosted in the month of April. 3. Webinar session hosted by Anuradha Govind. 4. Weekend Community Volunteering days organised at SGKK. 5. Expert talk sessions organised for corporates.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE & INSTAGRAM FOR INFO ON OUR UPCOMING EVENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS & A LOT MORE.