

JANUARY 2023 | BENGALURU



SWMRT member Nalini Shekar was featured as one of the exceptional women committed to the zero waste movement by GAIA – an organisation which strengthens grassroots social movements that advance solutions to waste and pollution. This year, GAIA compiled the 'Vision and Grit: Exceptional Zero Waste Women in the Asia Pacific Region' to recognise the contributions of women leaders in Asia Pacific, particularly in the zero waste movement. (Below) SWMRT member Vani Murthy was felicitated with 'Kirkoskar Vasundhara Green Teacher' award recently. The Kirkoskar Vasundhara International Film Festival is a unique Indian festival that combines film screenings and different allied activities related to the environment. This year's theme was "Nutritious food, flourishing nature and a healthy society."



### FIRST & FOREMOST...

A moment of honour for SWMRT! We were recognised for the work done in the space of sustainable menstruation at the recent MHM India Summit, Delhi, 2023.

The pioneers of sustainable menstruation Dr Meenakshi Bharath, Shanthi Tummala, and Malini Parmar were present in Delhi to receive the prestigious award. Dr Meenakshi Bharat was a panelist during the summit and received the award on behalf of SWMRT. The SWMRT trio are united by the belief that sustainable menstruation is the way forward and have been the driving force behind it!



(L to R) Malini Parmar of StoneSoup, Dr Meenakshi Bharath and Shanthi Tummala from SWMRT.

### W+E WRAP-UP

This month, '#WhyBurnWaste' tried to clear the air on small incinerators used for burning sanitary waste and the key issues with those available in the market. By and large, large incinerators have sophisticated pollution abatement infrastructure. However, in small incinerators, it is not clear how this aspect is taken care of and the regulations, if any, that must come associated with it. The discussion also dwelt over whether a large-scale incinerator was recommended for the city to deal with the entire biomedical and sanitary waste, or multiple small-scale incinerators installed in every backyard. In addition, concern over lack of state-of-the-art laboratories to test for harmful emissions coming out of these machines also figured in the discussion.

## CAMPAIGN TO RECOGNISE THE CONTRIBUTION OF COMPOST 'KARIGARS'



In December 2022, SWMRT launched a fundraiser campaign to acknowledge the efforts of apartments that have adopted in situ composting.

The objective of the campaign was to recognise the hard work done by the staff members and acknowledge their contribution towards environmental health. Further, to encourage bulk generators to help divert 60% of their daily household waste away from landfills by taking responsibility for their waste.

We invited communities in Bengaluru to nominate their compost karigar team and received 21 nominations. Jury members Padmashree Mahesh, Dr Umashankar and Vali Srinivasan shortlisted the nominations based on a set of criteria. The six winning teams were selected after a field visit and face-to-face interactions with the karigar team. Stay tuned for more details on the felicitation of the compost karigars.



## THE HEARTBEAT



## THE MONTH THAT WAS

- SGKK field trip: Experiential learning at SwachaGraha Kalika Kendra with students from Inventure Academy | Jan 12, 16 & 17.
- Vibing with zero-waste heroes: 'Zero-Waste Month' celebrations with garbage poetry with Pinky Chandran, Odette Katrak, Shreya Krishnan and Arpita Bhaghat | Jan 16.
- Compost Karigars apartment visit: Padmashree Mahesh, Dr Umashankar and Anuradha Govind visited apartments that nominated their compost karigar team | Jan 11.
- Composting workshop: Vasuki Iyengar conducted a hands-on composting workshop for the ground and managerial staff at RDT Bathalapalli Hospital as part of the Mana Bhoomi initiative by Rural Development Trust | Jan 10.
- Compost. Grow. Cook: Vasuki Iyengar and Siddu Chalawadi conducted a composting and gardening workshop at Samvada Baduku for 22 students | Jan 23.
- Community Spotlight series: SWMRT was invited to be a part of the spotlight series organised by Tech4Good and Rainmatter Foundation | Jan - April.

## BRAINSTORM



The Rural Development Trust organised Mana Bhoomi initiative on January 10 which aims to build environmental awareness and promote sustainable projects. As part of this initiative, SWMRT member Vasuki Iyengar addressed the managerial staff at RDT Bathalapalli Hospital.

During the session, Vasuki trained the staff in three-way segregation at source and its importance. He also introduced the staff to the appropriate ways to dispose of all streams of waste. The highlight of his session was composting, its importance, the steps required to get started and the applications of compost in gardening.

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