

AUGUST 2022 | BENGALURU



SWMRT members Vani Murthy (C) and Vasuki Iyengar (R) conducted a composting session with sustainable living enthusiast Meenakshi Arun at the Oota From Your Thota event held on August 28 at HMT Ground, Jalahalli. SWMRT team had set up a stall showcasing its work and milestones.

FIRST & FOREMOST...

'Litter-free Lalbagh' got featured again!

Over the years, the Lalbagh Flower Show has become an annual event to look forward to, thanks to the jovial atmosphere and visitors' enthusiasm that is surpassed only by the burst of colours exhibited in the show.

SWMRT Founding Member N S Ramakanth led from the front by collaborating with various other stakeholders to make it a litter-free and low-waste event. He worked behind the scene to educate the participating vendors, planned segregation at source and worked with BBMP marshals to ensure that fines for single-use disposables were levied. The team also arranged reusable cutlery for meals.



#WHYBURNWASTE CAMPAIGN GATHERS MOMENTUM



The #Whyburnwaste awareness campaign launched by SWMRT highlighted the impact of waste burning, notably mixed waste, in July. Later on, info on controlled incineration permitted by law for biomedical and hazardous waste was shared and the importance of segregating, storing and disposing of these streams of waste safely and responsibly was emphasised. The third week covered the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) public hearing on the Delhi Okhla WTE plant capacity expansion and citizens' response to it. EIA hearings are an important forum for the public to voice their concerns and objections on environmentally sensitive projects like waste incinerators. The last week of August saw 'what is WTE?'; 'when, where and why was the first plant set up?'; and 'is WTE the right solution for India's specific conditions?' topics discussed at length.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

MG Changemakers is an initiative that brings stories of inspiring individuals who are the torchbearers of change in their communities.

SWMRT Member and Hasiru Dala Founder Nalini Shekar was featured in Season 4 of Changemakers for her passion in helping the unorganised waste-pickers regain dignity, have better access to employment and social security. Nalini's efforts have brought about a positive change in thousands of families of waste-pickers in more ways than one.



'SUSTAINABLE CITY...'

SWMRT Founding Member Sandya Narayanan was the panelist for 'Sustainable City and Inclusive Communities' discussion held on August 4.

The Global Youth Social Entrepreneurship Summit (GYSESummit) was organised by Global Shapers Community of World Economic Forum and co-hosted by over 20 cities globally. Aligned with UN SDGs, the Summit consisted of forums, competitions, and workshops. The theme of the summit was 'Shaping Social Entrepreneurship in the Post-Pandemic Era'.

FREEDOM FROM...

On the occasion of India's 75th Independence Day, the SWMRT team got its social media agenda on Instagram circling around SWM by launching

#freedomfrom campaign covering important SWM aspects like segregation, sustainable menstruation, bring-your-own-container and composting.

The rationale behind the campaign was to stress the point that simple actions could not only be personally liberating but also have a considerable impact on the planet, its people and the biodiversity.



BRAINSTORM

SWMRT Member Dr Shanthi Tummala (L) explains the benefits of in situ composting to civic officials from over 30 districts in Karnataka who visited SwachaGraha Kalika Kendra located in HSR Layout recently. The districts included Hubballi, Davangere, Tumakuru, Chamarajanagara, Koppala, Shivamogga, among others.



THE HEARTBEAT



(Top) SWMRT Founding Member NS Ramakanth (5th from R, standing) at the inauguration of RWA 'Recykal Point', Shobha Dream Acres, Mahadevapura, in early August. (Bottom) Glimpses from SGKK.

THE MONTH THAT WAS

- Expert Talks - Vani Murthy conducted an online session for the employees of CGITHursday | August 4.
- SWMRT stall set up for 'NGOs Meet for Environment' at Yuvaka Sangha | Sunday | August 14.
- Community Composting Day and Volunteering Day at SwachaGraha Kalika Kendra | Saturday and Sunday | August 20 & 21.
- SWMRT members and team participated in the eco-friendly Ganesha workshop organised by HSR Citizens Forum | Saturday and Sunday | August 21 & 28.
- Workshop and stall: Vani Murthy and Vasuki Iyengar conducted a composting workshop at Oota From Your Thota | Sunday | August 28.

On World Photography Day 22, SWMRT announced 'The SWMRT Photo Contest', calling upon citizens to capture different waste narratives like waste landscapes, portraits of the people working in the waste sector and composting at home. Held from Aug 19 - Sept 1, it was open for anyone residing in India. Exciting prizes were announced for winners. The sponsors were Saahas, Hasiru Dala Innovations, Stonesoup.in and Praacheen Vidhaan.

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