

saytrees



Annual Report
1st April 2014 - 31st March 2015

1. About saytrees

ONE TEAM, ONE MISSION.PLANTTREES.

Bangalore, which was once known for its lovely landscape was losing its green cover. Urbanization and growth meant that a lot of trees had to be cut down. That's when we, a group of young software engineers with diverse backgrounds, decided to join hands to form 'SayTrees'.

SayTrees is a professional working group devoted to protecting the environment and educating the citizens about the importance of conservation. The group consists of passionate nature lovers, who work in regular offices from Monday to Friday and contribute to saving the environment over weekends. Though it started off informally in 2007, today we are registered formally as a NGO.

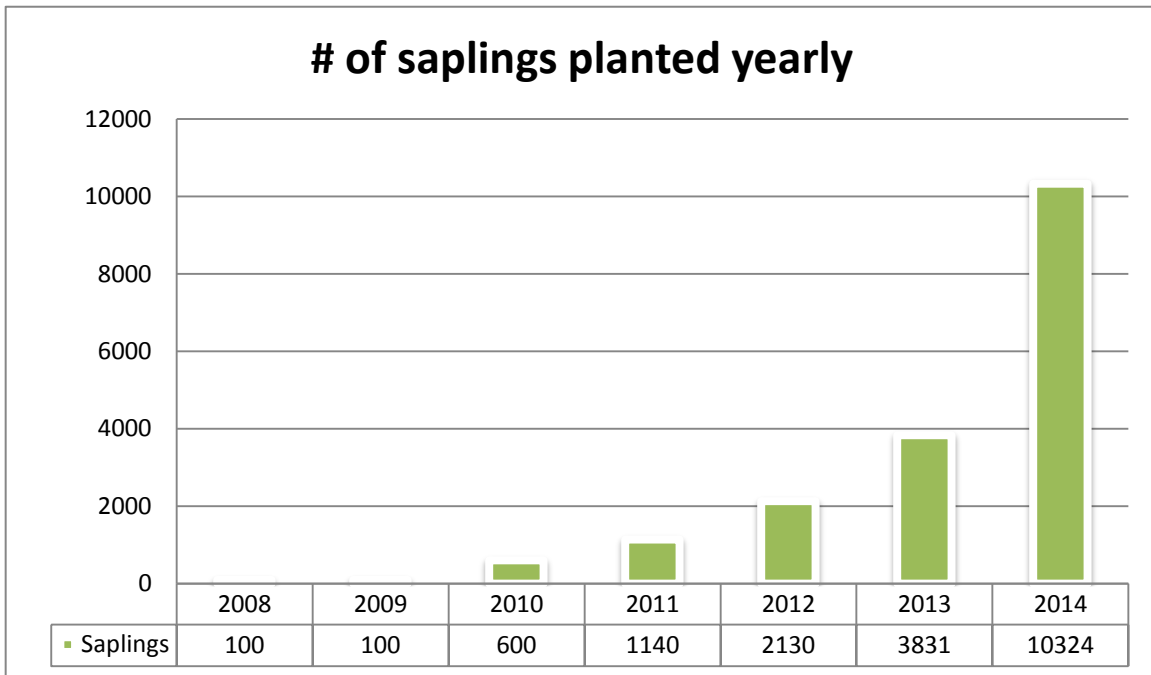
SayTrees is actively engaged in a variety of actions involving research, education, campaigns and advocate the importance of planting trees. The group is supported by thousands of volunteers, right from young children to retired citizens. Today, SayTrees organizes tree plantations and drive various initiatives across several Indian cities. We pro-actively engage in identifying areas for planting trees, keeping in mind the natural biodiversity of the local area. We ensure that the trees we plant, not only help local communities, but also provide fruits and flowers for future generations.

Our mission is to empower people to give back to nature and live in a healthier environment. SayTrees drives citizens to come together on weekends and make their cities greener. For seven years, we have helped change the landscape in Bangalore. From individuals to corporate teams, SayTrees has worked tirelessly to make sure that tree plantation is imbibed into the minds of everyone. We now intend to engage more corporate teams in our initiatives to help meet our long term plans of making the environment greener.

Interested in cleaning the air we breathe? SayTrees!

2. Number of Saplings Planted

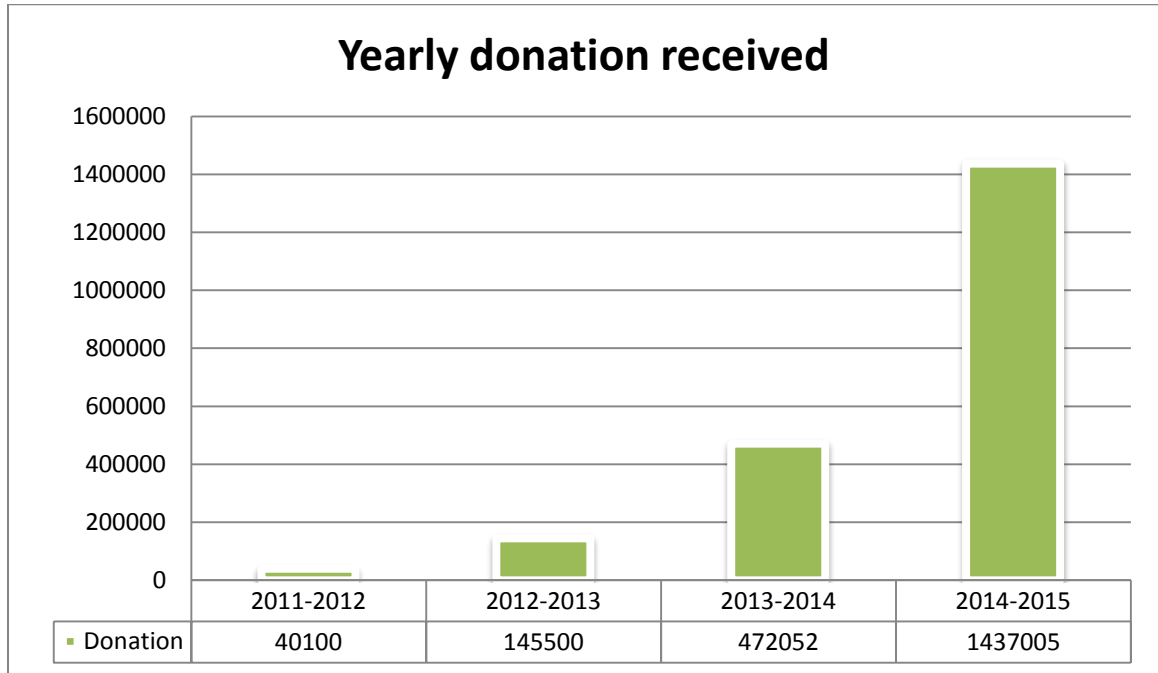
- Total number of saplings planted in 2014-15 is **10324**



[Plantation year 1st April to 31st March]

3. Donation received

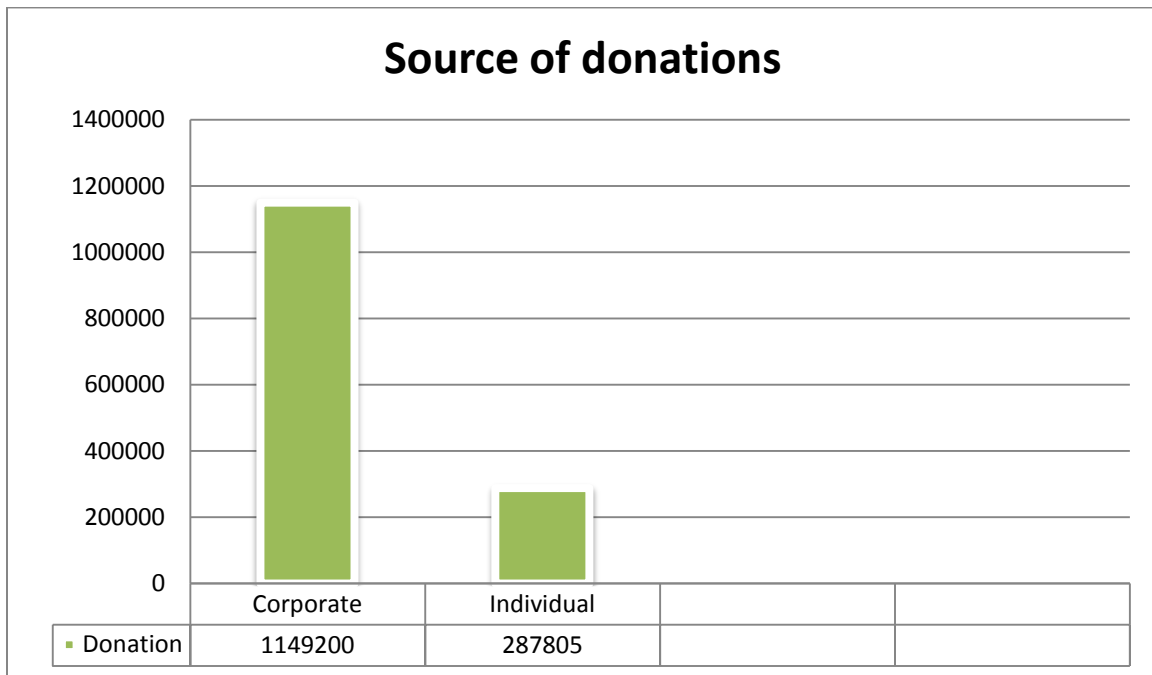
- Donation received in rupees



[Financial year 1st April to 31st March]

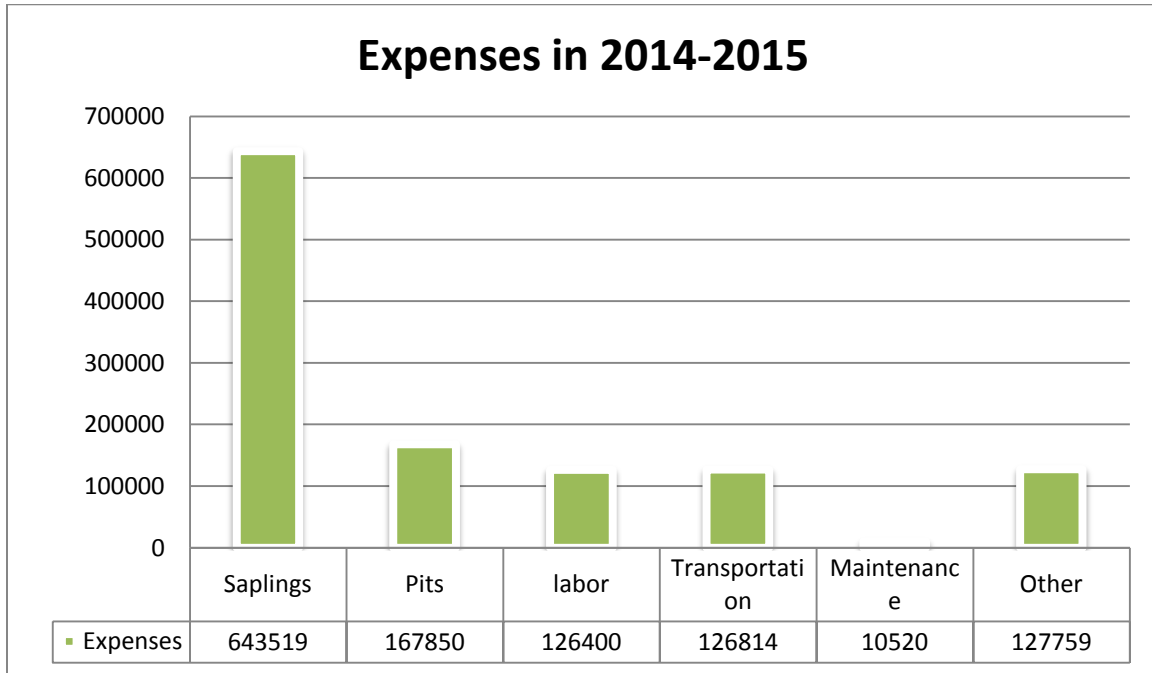
4. Source Of Donation

- Total donation received in Rupees : 14,37,005
- Corporates are major donors [79.98%].
- Increase in number of Individual donors [20.02%].



5. Expenses

- Total Expense : 12,03,263.24 Rupees



6. Species Of Saplings Planted

SL	Tree Species	SL	Tree Species
1	Neem - Azadirachta indica	16	Badminton Ball Tree - Parkia biglandulosa
2	Honge - Pongamia Pinnata	17	Red Silk Cotton - Bombax Malabarica
3	Banyan - Ficus Bengalensis	18	Mahua - Madhuca Latifolia
4	Peepul - Ficus Religiosa	19	Jamun - Syzygium Cumini
5	Indian Almond - Terminalia Catappa	20	Atti Mara
6	Mango - Mangifera Indica	21	Goni Mara
7	Jackfruit - Artocarpus Heterophylla	22	Jacaranda
8	Custurd Apple - Annona reticulata	23	Bauhinia
9	Champaka Michelia - Champaca [sampige]	24	Mahogany
10	Tamarind - Tamarindus Indica		
11	Kakke Mara - Cassia Fistula		
12	Arjuna Tree - Terminalia Arjuna		
13	Flame Of The Forest[Muthuga]- Butea monosperma		
14	Indian Coral Tree[Harivana] - Erythrina indica/verigata		
15	Aakasha Mallige - Millingtonia hortensis		

7. Major Tree plantation Areas.

Area	No. Of saplings
ASC Centre North, Koramangala	3520
Tekulodu Village	3050
Diesel Locomotive shed, KR Puram	1159
Kasavanahalli Lake	600
Begur Lake	400
KSRP Campus, Koramangala	250
Soul Kere, Sarjapura Road.	170
BETL - Electronic City	150
Chikka Kudlu Lake	150
St. Xaviers High School, E-City	100
St. Anthony School, Begur	100

[Updated till 10/11/14]

8. Tree plantation drives

SL	Date	Location	# of Saplings	# of Volunteers	Corporate/ Group
1	19-04-2014	ASC Center, Koranamgala, B'lore	20	20+	Rewa [B Day]
2	12-04-2014	ASC Center, Koranamgala, B'lore	30	20+	Ethan [B Day]
3	23-05-2014	Govt School, KAdubeesanahalli, B'lore	50	20+	NICE
4	31-05-2014	HRBR Layout, B'lore	30	20+	Preeti [B Day]
5	04-06-2014	Govt School, HMT Layout, B'lore	20	20	Students, SAYTREES Volunteers
6	05-06-2014	Govt School, HAL Layout	20	20	Students, SAYTREES Volunteers
7	05-06-2014	Kasavanahalli Lake, Harlur Rd., B'lore	450	200+	EMC2, SAN ENGINEERING, TECH MAHINDRA, AIG, LG SOFT, 3M, BMC(CISCO), HDFC & Other Volunteers
8	07-06-2014	KSRP Campus, Koramangala, B'lore	250	100	KPMG
9	13-06-2014	Kasavanahalli Lake, Harlur Rd., B'lore	150	100	VFC
10	14-06-2014	ASC Center, Koranamgala, B'lore	100	20+	Adobe
11	21-06-2014	St. Anthony School, Begur, B'lore	100	80	BTC, Fund A Cause
12	21-06-2014	St. Xaviers School, E-City, B'lore	100	80	Students, SAYTREES

					2Volunteers
13	22-06-2014	Begur Lake, Begur, B'lore	400	400+	Residents, BEDT
14	28-06-2014	ASC Center, Koranamgala, B'lore	60	70+	AWWA, BTC, SAYTEES Volunteers
15	05-07-2014	ASC Center, Koranamgala, B'lore	1000	500+	SalesForce, Syniverse, HP, CTS, JDA, FICCI, Indian Army, BTC & SAYTREES Volunteers
16	10-07-2014	ASC Center, Koranamgala, B'lore	300	100+	EMC ²
17	11-07-2014	ASC Center, Koranamgala, B'lore	300	100+	EMC ²
18	19-07-2014	ASC Center, Koranamgala, B'lore	300	130+	KPMG
19	19-07-2014	Millennium Town, Chennai	100	30+	KPMG
20	09-08-2014	Chikka Kudlu Lake, Kudlu, Bangalore	150	50+	Proximo, Viteos
21	15-08-2014	Soul Kere, Sarjapura Road, b'lore	170	50+	Genpact, nearby residents
22	22-08-2014	ASC Center, Koranamgala, B'lore	110	50+	Cargill, KPMG
23	23-08-2014	Diesel Locomotive Shed, KR Puram, B'lore	300	100+	L&T, KPMG
24	23-08-2014	Gachibowli, Hyderabad	50	20+	Mutual Mobile
25	23-08-2014	Nandhambaakam Village	75	20+	KPMG
26	30-08-2014	Diesel Locomotive Shed, KR Puram, B'lore	100	50+	BTC, SAYTREES Volunteers
27	01-09-2014	Diesel Locomotive Shed, KR Puram, B'lore	60	30+	EMC ²
28	06-09-2014	Diesel Locomotive Shed, KR Puram, B'lore	150	20+	Aperian Global, Ebay
29	13-09-2014	ASC Center, Koranamgala, B'lore	1300	300+	Herman Miller, HP, CTS, Ebay,

					Mizuho Bank, Kishore & SAYTREES volunteers
30	19-09-2014	BETL, Electronic City, B'lore	100	50	HP
31	20-09-2014	Diesel Locomotive Shed, KR Puram, B'lore	300	80+	KPMG, ConseroGlobal, SalesForce
32	02-10-2014	Diesel Locomotive Shed, KR Puram, B'lore	50	20+	DigiCaptions
33	02-10-2014	Lady Vailankanni English School, Varthur, B'lore	20	50+	School Students
34	09-10-2014	Diesel Locomotive Shed, KR Puram, B'lore	9	2	Nikhil Chhabra [Anniversary]
35	15-10-2014	Diesel Locomotive Shed, KR Puram, B'lore	100	40+	Yodlee
36	16-10-2014	BETL, Electronic City, B'lore	40	40	RUOSH
37	25-10-2014	Diesel Locomotive Shed, KR Puram, B'lore	50	15+	SAYTEES Volunteers
38	02-11-2014	Tekulodu Village	800	20+	SAN LOCOMOTIVE, SAYTREES Volunteers, Villagers
39	03-11-2014	Tekulodu Village	710	40+	Mahindra Finance, Villagers
40	14-12-2014	Kengeri Railway Station	50	20+	SAYTEES
41	28-12-2014	Tekulodu Village	1550	40+	SAYTREES
42	12-01-2014	Diesel Locomotive Shed, KR Puram, B'lore	50	20+	Reliance Digital
43	28-02-2014	Raghavendra's land.	200	20+	KanakpuraRo ad.
44	8-3-2014	Delhi with rotary club	50	50+	Delhi

9. Participating Corporates

- Corporate which participated in year 2014-15

Sl	Corporate	Sl	Corporate
1	Adobe	17	Mahindra Finance
2	AIG	18	Mizuho Bank
3	Aperian Global	19	Mutual Mobile - Hyd
4	Cisco	20	NICE
5	Cargill	21	Orion
6	Consero Global	22	Proximo
7	Cognizant	23	RCI
8	Digicaptions	24	Ruosh
9	EMC2	25	Sales Force
10	FICCI	26	San Locomotive
11	Herman Miller	27	Syniverse
12	HP	28	Tech Mahindra
13	JDA	29	Vfc
14	KPMG	30	Vincular
15	L&T	31	Viteos
16	LG Soft	32	Yodlee

10. Total Saplings planted by corporate

- Corporate which planted 100 saplings or more in year 2014-15

Corporate	No. Of saplings
KPMG	1075
EMC	700
SAN Locomotive/Kishore Govinde	200[Bangalore] 500[Tekulodu Village]
Mahindra Finance	710 [Tekulodu Village]
VFC	360
HP	300
Herman Miller	300
SalesForce	300
CTS	150
Aperian Global	150
Syniverse	150
Proximo Tech	135
Adobe	100
Yodlee	100
L&T	100
RCI	100
Consero Global	100

[Updated till 12/11/14]

11. Participating Organizations Since Inception

SL	Corporate	SL	Corporate
1	Adobe	27	kabadi - VFC
2	AIG	28	KPMG
3	Aperian global	29	L&T
4	Aujas Network	30	LG Soft
5	bhartiya international - VFC	31	Mahindra finance
6	Bangalore Mountaineering Club	32	matrix - VFC
7	Banngalore Trekking Club	33	Mizuho bank
8	Capgemini - Wekare Society	34	mutual mobile
9	cargill	35	NICE
10	Caterpillar	36	orient craft - VFC
11	celebrity - VFC	37	ORION - VFC
12	CISCO	38	perkin elmer
13	Concentrix	39	Proximo
14	consero global	40	RCI
15	CTS	41	RUOSH
16	DELL	42	Salesforce
17	Deloitte	43	San Locomotice
18	digicaptions	44	saran garments - VFC
19	EMC2	45	shahi - VFC
20	FICCI	46	syniverse
21	gartex insta - VFC	47	tech mahindra
22	GE-WIND ENERGY	48	vincular
23	Herman Miller	49	Viteos
24	HP	50	yodlee
25	JDA		
26	Juri Matrix - CLUTCH GROUP		

12. Events we participated

- Presentation in RCI on occasion of Earth Day - 22-04-2014
- We had a stall in Ebay to on <DATE> to spread the awareness among ebay volunteers.
- Ebay Hackathon - 8th and 9th November 2014
- LPU Tech Fest - We missed this because of lack of resources to attend this event.

13. Media Coverage/ Blogs

Blogs

- <http://www.iamin.in/en/bangalore-south/news/volunteer-group-saytrees-attempts-reclaim-bangalore%E2%80%99s-garden-city-title-39228>
- <http://www.timeoutbengaluru.net/around-town/features/like-that>
- <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bangalore/Tree-plantation-drive-in-Bangalore-on-July-5/articleshow/37768742.cms>
- <http://punaha.wordpress.com/tag/kapil-sharma/>

Media Coverage

- 09-03-2014 - Indian Express

DOWN TO EARTH Gardening is a de-stressor for many professionals in Bangalore

and tending to them for the first few years so they quickly form a dense canopy, allowing native shrubs to thrive underneath. Patches planted by Afforestt in Whitefield and Nelamangala are now healthy ecosystems that attract birds and animals.

Ironically, many of these green warriors have lived in Bangalore for less than a decade. Kapil Sharma, another passionate tree planter, has helped plant 8,000 trees across Bangalore through his NGO, Saytrees.

For many, the need to welcome their children into the green fold is a powerful impulse to start gardening, says Sriharsha, whose rooftop greenhouse yields everything from beefsteak tomatoes to Swiss chard

An engineer with Impelsys, a digital publishing solutions company, Sharma set up Saytrees in 2007 when he saw huge numbers of trees being felled for Metro work and road widening projects. With increasing participation from volunteers and corporate support, Sharma and his four associates have scaled up rapidly in the past year, planting as many as 3,000 seedlings along Bangalore's lakes and highways and in schools and parks. "We identify areas that are bereft of trees and get the required permissions from civic authorities before we plant. Once the rains start, we invite volunteers to join us every weekend and continue planting mature saplings till December," he says. "The rest of the year, we water and monitor the saplings planted." This year, Saytrees hopes to plant over 5,000 trees and make a bid for creating mini-gardens between Metro pillars. This is just the beginning, says the 31-year-old. "Bangalore is waking up to a green future." ■

eye

MARCH 9-15, 2014

- 12-05-2014 - Times Of India

"Bangalore's already facing the result of

SENSITIZE URBAN PLANNERS

“Poor urban planning and proliferation of road networks have taken a heavy toll on the green cover. Projects like road construction should be well planned and designed to ensure minimum felling of trees. Alternative roads, advance or pre-planting of native trees prior to road construction and appropriate designing to save precious tree species are ways to minimize damage to the green cover and environment. More importantly, the planners and civil engineers need to be sensitized about issues concerning the environment

Suresh Heblīkar | FILMMAKER AND ENVIRONMENTALIST

NO ONE OPPOSES TREE-FELLING

Bangalore is already facing the result of reckless tree felling. The highest temperature in the city was 39 degrees Celsius this year. This is because authorities only like to take shortcuts and the simplest option is to kill a tree, as no one opposes. No one thinks of long-term ill-effects. In other countries, cutting tree is the last option, but here it's the first.

Kapil Sharma | FOUNDER, SAYTREES

reckless tree felling as authorities take shortcuts to kill the city's flora. No one thinks of long-term ill-effects," says Kapil Sharma, founder of Saytrees, a group of techies working for the cause of trees in Bangalore.

TIMES CITY

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BANGALORE | MONDAY, MAY 12, 2014

GREEN HEROES

Saytrees

A two-year-old trust, Saytrees draws its name from the phrase 'say cheese'. The group started as an informal Bangalore Tree Planting Group with a handful of techies coming together to plant trees in a big way. The green enthusiasts initially funded their own



YOUNG TURKS: Kids do their bit too

activities but soon corporate funding started coming their way as several corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives adopted their replanting drives.

Planting ideas: The activists get saplings from BBMP and forest nurseries and plant them along lake beds, apartment complexes, schools and colleges. They have planted saplings along the Intermediate Ring Road connecting Indiranagar with Ejjipura. They also step in where BBMP's plantation drives fail and take up re-planting. The group uses social media to boost their activities. "We mostly prefer local species as they are the best in terms of survival. Then there is the obvious ecological advantage of attracting birds etc when it is a native species. Exotics are good on road medians," says Balbir Bora, founding member of Saytrees.

- 15-09-2014 - Deccan Chronical

A sapling of hope AMID DWINDLING TREE COVER

DARSHANA RAMDEV | DC
BENGALURU, SEPT. 14

In The efforts of one nature-loving techie from Chhattisgarh, founder of the SayTrees Environmental Trust, have resulted in nearly 15,000 healthy trees being planted across the city. Kapil Sharma, who has been in Bengaluru for 12 years now, was struck by the number of trees being felled for the metro rail work back in 2007.

Disturbed by the trend, he spent his time running between government offices, trying to get them to change their minds. Naturally, that didn't work, so he decided to do something constructive instead. On Saturday, over 400 people joined hands with the trust to plant close to 1,500 trees over 400,000 square feet in the army land adjoining Bellandur Lake in Koramangala. This has brought them closer to their target of planting 10,000 trees in 2014 - the tally now stands at about 6,500.

Kapil Sharma and Sumant Parmar also a techie, are now close friends, apart from being neighbours and running Saytrees together. Over the last seven years, the trust has worked closely with the government, the BBMP, corporates

ANGEL INVESTOR

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

and the public to restore Bengaluru's once verdant network of trees. "I was handing CSR for a company here and we were interested in planting trees," said Parmar.

"That's when I found Saytrees online, but I didn't know that my next-door neighbour Kapil Sharma, whom I often played cricket with, was the same person who founded the trust," laughed Parmar. Both men have held on to their day jobs and dedicated their weekends to their NGO. However, the trust has grown so fast so quickly that they now find themselves putting in three or four hours of work every day, to meet their plantation targets.

"I would travel 50 km a day to work, from Vijaynagar to the Outer Ring Road," said Sharma, as he describes his journey into social work. "When the Metro work had started, I noticed that trees had



been felled across the entire stretch, which I really didn't like," he explained.

Tree plantation drives a dime-a-dozen and most of them make tall orders along the lines of planting a 100,000 saplings in a day. Compared with this, 15,000 trees over several years seems like a small number, but there is far, far more to it than meets the eye. Small saplings are usually the norm, but these require intensive care, need tree guards and usually fall prey to careless pedestrians, cattle or even heavy rains. Different areas need particular kinds of trees, if they are expected to survive.

"We bring in very big saplings, technically small trees," said Parmar. "There are many benefits to doing this." Now this implies that there are a number of challenges as well, which, of course, include the cost. The larger the sapling, the higher the price and the saplings they bring in can cost up to four times as much as the small ones. They are sourced from across the state, because Sharma is very particular about the species and the size.

"People think planting trees is as simple as digging holes in the grounds and sticking the saplings in them," said Sharma. "What we do, however, requires extensive planning." Considering the size and the weight of the saplings, a single person will find it very difficult to do more than one. Pits are up to four feet deep and they are usually prepared in advance with JCBs.

Planting trees is all very well and even if these have a higher survival rate than a baby sapling, they need up to six months of maintenance. To deal with this, June to December are dedicated to planting, while only maintenance is done up to May, to help the trees make it through the harshest, driest months. "Summers in Bengaluru are not what they used to be, they're as hot as North India now," said Sharma.

Even maintenance is done at a formidable cost, because the only source of water is from tankers. During summer months, these are more expensive than normal and most tanker drivers don't have the patience to wait around until every sapling is watered. All this is non-negotiable, as far as Parmar and Sharma are concerned. For them quality and survival are of the utmost importance.

Their ultimate aim is to use treated water sourced from apartments and the BWSSB to water the saplings, but this is still a work in progress.

Corporates usually volunteer to fund the drives, but according to Sharma and Parmar, they never ask for more than Rs 200 per tree. "Even this amount, people are not willing to give," said Parmar. "That's the mentality we're dealing with - we want the best and we want to get it cheap!"

Interestingly, although they have been in the field for seven years now, the entire trust is managed by those hailing from North India.

This has been a huge hassle, for Parmar has only been in the city for three years and speaks hardly any Kannada, while Sharma can manage the basics. "Working with government officials is actually that much harder," admitted Sharma. "We have one local - Shiva, who sometimes acts as a translator. The only South Indian on our team is Nanda Kumar, who comes from Tamil Nadu!"

This is an awkward observation to make, no doubt, that too coming from a Bengalee, but we're all happy to blame our immigrant population for ruining the city, because it's easier to shift responsibility on someone we call an outsider. The work that this team does, however, is more than commendable and they have stuck by it, difficult though it can get at times.

"There have been days when we sit down and tell ourselves that we're going to end this, because drives are often cancelled at the last moment, sometimes after we have received our saplings which will all die if they aren't planted soon enough," said Parmar. "But then, we have a successful drive and we realise that no matter what, it's totally worth it in the end!"

In an age where self interest rules, it is hard to find a good hearted individual who goes out of the way to help the less fortunate. DC profiles these Angel investors every Monday

- 26-10-2014



వ్వర్ల ప్రదేశాల్లో మొక్కల పెంపకానికి పాదులు



మొక్కల్ని నాటడంలో నిమగ్నం

పుడమికి 'పచ్చ'లపేరు

బెంగళూరు (ఎలకానిక్ సిటీ), న్యూన్ టుడే : పచ్చదనం.. అదే వారికి తారక మంత్రంగా మారింది. ఎక్కడ ఖాళీ స్థలం కనిపించినా పచ్చదనంతో పుడమితల్లిని సింగారిస్తారు. దీన్నో యజ్ఞంగా భావిస్తారు. వీరంతా ఐదీ, తదితర రంగాల్లో ఉద్యోగులు. సెలవు రోజుల్ని ఇలా సర్వావరణ పరిరక్షణ కోసం వినియోగిస్తున్నారు. ఇందులో భాగంగానే శనివారం నగర శివార్లలోని కృష్ణరాజపురంలో మొక్కల్ని నాటారు. ఇప్పటి వరకు వివిధ ప్రాంతాల్లో 14 వేలకు పైగా మొక్కల్ని నాటారు. 2007లో ఒకరిద్వారితో



నాటిన చోట పచ్చదనం విస్తరణ అంచనా కార్యక్రమం



మొక్క ఎదగడానికి ఊతం ఏర్పాటు

మాత్రమే ఆరంభమైన మొక్కలు నాటాలన్న ఆలోచనకు ఇప్పుడు ఆరు వేల మందికి పైగా భావస్వారూపుల కల్గిన వారు తోడుగా నిలిచారు. ఈ ఉద్యమానికి వేదికైన 'సేవ్ ట్రీస్' సంస్థలో ఎప్పుడీ కప్పుడు కొత్త సభ్యులు చేరుతుంటారని సంస్థ ప్రతినిధి సుమంత్ ఉత్సాహంగా స్పూన్ టుడేకు తెలిపారు.

14. Preparations/Plans for year 2015-2016

- Nursery setup with 20000 saplings. At 3 locations - KR Puram, Tekulodu Village & Santhosh's farm
- Three main projects
 - a. City : Plantation within cities to increase lung space in cities
 - b. Village : Plantation in villages.
 - c. Forests : Plantation in forest areas to make forest more dense
- Association with organizations/clubs to plant thousands of saplings in forest around Bangalore. Like HP, Rotary Club etc
- Increase visibility in Chennai, Hyderabad & Gurgaon.
- Saplings target in Bangalore and around : 20,000 saplings
- Saplings target in Chennai : 5,000 saplings
- Saplings target in Hyderabad : 2,000 saplings
- Saplings target in Delhi/Noida/Gurgaon : 5,000 saplings
- Participation in IIT-BHU [Feb-march]