



# Green Pages

NEWSLETTER OF GREEN CIRCLE, BANGALORE

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**Launching of Mission Green Yelahanka**



**First sapling planted by MLA**



**Eco Chaupal in progress**





## Green Circle, Bangalore in action







## Green Circle Activities Diary

- 24.04.23 Earth day celebration at Prestige Royale Gardens apartments and Plogging at Avalahalli lake by Hotel Management Students of M S Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences
- 03.05.23 Organised a Plogging drive at by 40 Presidency University students to remove the posters on the fence
- 18.05.23 Harohalli lake Nature walk by 25 members of Green Circle
- 12.06.23 Mass representation at Panchayat Development office to highlight the status of Avalahalli lake and Rajakaluve
- 29.07.23 40 residents joined the interface with MLA to highlight encroachment in Avalahalli lake and Rajakaluve.
- 01.08.23 Levelling of plantation site by JCB for initiating the 1000 tree planting in the green area of MSR NE County. GC also engaged tillers (mini tractors) to remove weeds
- 06.08.23 Tree Planting drive for planting 135 saplings in the Phase I of the Mission Green Yelahanka project in the presence of MLA Mr S R Viswanath. BBMP, PDO Singanayakanhalli along with 150 residents of 15 apartments participated - student volunteers from Presidency University and BMS Institute also joined the mission
- 12.08.23 Harohalli Nature walk was attended by 30 residents from various apartments
- 22.08.23 Tree watering and de-weeding - Green Circle arranged tankers to water the saplings planted. Another 270 saplings planted, taking our total to 400 saplings
- 27.08.23 Eco Chaupal & Nature Trail at Krishna Sagara lake. Green Circle members sat under the shade of the tree and conducted a brainstorming session in village panchayat-type meeting
- 03.09.23 Sunday Shramdhana at Krishna Sagara and provision of garbage bin at the plantation site
- 09.09.23 Started Tree Adoption Project, to encourage members to adopt one tree each. About a hundred trees have been adopted
- 30.09.23 Presentation on Single Use Plastic by V Selvarajan at Rail Wheel factory during Swacchata Pakwada
- 11.10.23 Walkathon with MLA. About 70 residents from 20+ apartments participated in the walk from Avalahalli lake to Krishna Sagara lake. He inspected the status of Rajakaluve and assured of a survey to mark the Rajakaluve area.
- 22.10.23 Eco Chaupal was held at Krishna Sagara tree garden to assess the water needs and de-weeding needs of the planted saplings
- 29.10.23 25 residents from different apartments visited the Karnataka Revenue Minister Mr Krishna Byre Gowda and requested for revenue survey of Rajakaluve which he accepted and forwarded to Tehsildar. Survey is under progress
- 06.11.23 Nestmaking workshop for Vishwa Vidhyapeeth School children at Krishna Sagara tree garden, 30 Children participated.
- 22.11.23 Nestmaking workshop for Vishwa Vidhyapeeth School children at Krishna Sagara tree garden, 60 Children participated
- 29.11.23 The fence on the Highway side, Avalahalli lake fence damaged due to heavy rains on 6.11.23, Met PDO and submitted letter to repair the same. The issue was taken up with BBMP also in Sahaya App and Janaspandana App
- 02.12.23 Tree Planting program, 10 trees were planted on behalf of a donor who adopted them.
- 31.12.23 A nature trail was arranged at Timmasandra lake. About 30 participants joined the programme

## Defacing the tree is a crime

Dr V Selvarajan, Chairman, Green Circle, Bangalore

### Legal protection for trees

"Fell the trees or deface them" seems to be the mantra for the proponents of development, contractors, infra industry, corporates and the like. In 2015 itself, Delhi Government's Forest department had sent a circular which expects that all Civic agencies, Govt Departments and RWAs ensure removal of all sign boards, advertisements, any kind of signages, electric wires, high tension cables etc., placed on trees in their jurisdiction. If the board continues, the forest dept / respective Govt agency may impose Rs 10000 as penalty on the person / company whose name is found on the sign boards will be prosecuted and/or penalised to the tune of Rs 10000. Even concretisation around the trees is also punishable according to the circular. Clearly Govt departments were instructed to add the above clause in tender documents of their contracts. Even prior to this, NGT passed an order in Aditya Prasad vs Union of India & others in 2013 (application 83 of 2013) that all the sign boards etc., should be removed and all trees should be de-concretised. It also directed the respondents like DDA, MCD, DMRC, DTC, CPWD etc should be prosecuted. Civil society may not know whether respective departments prosecuted the anyone or not.



Defaced trees

### Does nailing harm the tree?

Can the trees bear such nailing? Do they want breathing space? According to science, there is life below the bark of the trees. An analogy can be drawn to the human skin below which vascular system, nervous system etc., are present. Trees and plants do transport water and nutrients through xylem and phloem canals. Yes, the tree vascular system comprises two main types of tissue: the xylem and the phloem. The xylem distributes water and dissolved minerals upward through the plant, from the roots to the leaves. The phloem carries food downward from the leaves to the roots. If a nail is fixed, it obstructs free water/ nutrient passage in addition to cell damage. This is indeed a sin which is committed on trees.

### Is geo tagging / naming trees Correct?

Many NGOs like Green Circle undertake de-nailing activities. They bring to the notice of SDMC/ DDA and follow up through Twitter and other social media. Challans were issued against the perpetrators of the crime against trees. But no long-lasting solution exists. A vigilance squad is essential to bring the culprits to book. Verhaen Khanna, an activist from South Delhi filed a petition with Delhi Chief Conservator of Forests for removing the geo tags on trees (QR code gives information about the tree), in Lodi Gardens. Tree barks were cut to a square to fix name plates. NDMC had removed all tags as per orders of the Delhi Chief Conservator of Forests. When asked for a solution, he adds, ' long since, plates bearing the names of trees are fixed on the ground, near the tree. Where there is a will, there is a way. Saving an existing tree is a workable act than planting a new tree and waiting for 20 years to get the oxygen. Trees are treated as our family and Gods in our culture. Will everyone take note and avoid harming a tree?



## Green Circle, Delhi Activities

### 'All about AIR POLLUTION' Tips given in Green Circle Seminar at Manipal Hospital, Dwarka 30.11.23

#### CAUSE

- Vehicular emission
- Industrial pollution
- Stubble Burning
- Cigarette smoking
- Incense stick burning

#### SYMPTOM

- Burning of eyes
- Tightness in chest
- Persisting cold & cough

#### PRECAUTION

- Avoid early morning walks
- Practice Pranayama
- Wear N95 masks
- Ventilate interiors
- Install Air purifiers
- Keep Indoor plants
- Do Pulmonary Function Test

#### CIVIC DUTY

- Adhere to pollution terms
- Consider Car pooling
- Use Cleaner fuel
- Plant more trees
- Stop garbage burning
- Check your car/ scooter for pollution adherence



Green Circle Dwarka Chapter is organising a Painting Competition on 20.1.2024





## Avalahalli lake & Rajakaluve

Avalahalli lake is situated in the Singanayakkanhalli Panchayat, Yelahanka, North Bangalore. This lake is situated on the eastern side of Prestige Royale Gardens on the Doddaballapura Road and M S R North East County on the southern side. The area of the lake is 13 acres 11 guntas and has an interlock-tiled track on the bund area on all sides. The compound wall cum fence is incomplete and the inlets and outlet are clogged. The mandatory buffer area is slowly disappearing. Green Circle, a trust registered under Public Trust Act in Bangalore, is taking initiative to stall the violations from time to time. Interestingly the lake is coming under BBMP. The Rajakaluve is coming under the Panchayat jurisdiction. Active residents belonging to about 25 residential complexes have come together and making efforts to save the lake and Rajakaluve. The following are few observations made by Green Circle.

**Status of Rajakaluve Inlets & outlets:** - The South and West side entry points of the Rajakaluve are clogged and full of plastic waste. Rajakaluve is an important source of water to the lake. However, a lot of encroachments seem to have taken place in its path thereby depriving water supply to the lake. Moreover, sewage water has replaced the storm water. While the last year's monsoon created havoc in the nearby MSR North East County and BEL Layout, this year due to little rain, flooding was avoided. Unless the Rajakaluve is rejuvenated and restored, the situation will not improve in future also. During the ensuing monsoon, the storm water flow will be obstructed due to the encroachments and clogging due to plastic & toxic waste. Further installing passive STP at inlets will prevent the untreated sewerage water from entering the lake.

**Ongoing Construction:** - We are given to understand that a multi-storey building is proposed on the eastern side of the lake, in the vacant plot next to Prestige Royale gardens. The plot is adjacent to the Rajakaluve (outlet) which is supposed to be receiving surplus water from Avalahalli lake. As per village map, this Rajakaluve is connected to the Singanayakkanahalli Aminikere/ Harohalli kere. At present, this storm water drain has been reduced to a narrow sewage drain alongside plots in survey no 26-28. Now that a building is proposed, many trees are felled and construction activity has just commenced, violating the buffer norms for the Rajakaluve. No construction is permitted at 50, 25, and 15 m from the primary, secondary and tertiary SWDs, respectively.

**Unauthorised Activities:** - BBMP has provided the lake with sufficient benches and tiled walking track. However, the border tiles at the South end (opp to Vajram Apartment) have been broken within 2 months of laying, to enable the two wheelers to pass through the lake. The grill fence work by the BBMP is incomplete at this point, thus providing easy access to the two wheelers. The purpose of fencing is to prevent unauthorized use of the lake from anti-social elements. During our night walk, we found that certain illegal activities like men taking liquor, young couple in suspicious condition and two-wheeler movement were taking place. It is therefore essential that the lake should not be open to night users and should be kept under lock and key like all other BBMP-monitored lakes. Shifting the main gate from the Doddaballapur Road to the road leading to MS Ramiah city (besides Reliance) will avoid accidents due to parked vehicles on the state highway.

Continued...





**Encroachments in lake area:** - We noted a lot of encroachments within the lake boundaries especially cement fencing by private parties. This must be cleared immediately. Avalahalli Lake was built in Sy No 10 (Avalahalli Village) and Sy No 64 (Singanayakahalli village) with 13 acre and 11 guntas. Of this, some parts have been allegedly encroached. We also learnt from locals that the Rajakaluve inlet has been narrowed down due to construction of cement walls for a cemetery. The buffer area norms by the NGT are flouted. Encroachment of Rajakaluve and changing direction of Rajakaluve led to flooding in the Layout. The issue was taken up with Gram Panchayat, but there is no development over last 4 years.

**Sewage water joins Strom water drains:** - Presently all sewer lines have been connected to SWDs which in turn reaches the lake. Thus, the polluted water from household and establishments reaches the lake untreated, thus threatening the biodiversity of the lake. This is in fact a nagging issue and only temporary solutions are in place. In most of the cases, the contaminated water coupled with hazardous medical and plastic waste are dumped in the SWDs leading to the lake. The Panchayat had been requested several times to lift the trash in lake, Rajakaluve and residential areas within Panchayat limits. Sufficient staff must be deployed to clear the Rajakaluve and road sides where unauthorised dumping is rampant. Garbage burning, which is against pollution control norms, is frequent despite several appeals by residents to the Panchayat to stop it.

**Need for dredging:** - The lake water is subject to sedimentation, which affects the survival of micro-organism and fish in the lake. Already excessive growth of algae and planktons has led to eutrophication and has reduced the water holding capacity of the lake. Periodical desilting, though being done, is not sufficient. In addition, to eliminate the pollutants being poured into the lake by the SWDs turned sewers, dredging needs to be carried out. Dredging is a major work that requires sufficient budget allocation.

**Multiple Jurisdiction issue:** - It is unfortunate that this ill-fated lake seems to be nobody's baby because the jurisdiction of Panchayat is subject to limitations. While the Avalahalli lake is understandably within BBMP jurisdiction, the surrounding areas and Rajakaluve fall within Singanayakkanhalli Panchayat limits. The sewage drains and SWDs come under the jurisdiction of Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB). All these agencies must work in synchronized manner to mitigate the present stalemate in addressing the issues. Constitution of a joint action committee involving resident representatives also for these prolonged issues must be considered at the earliest

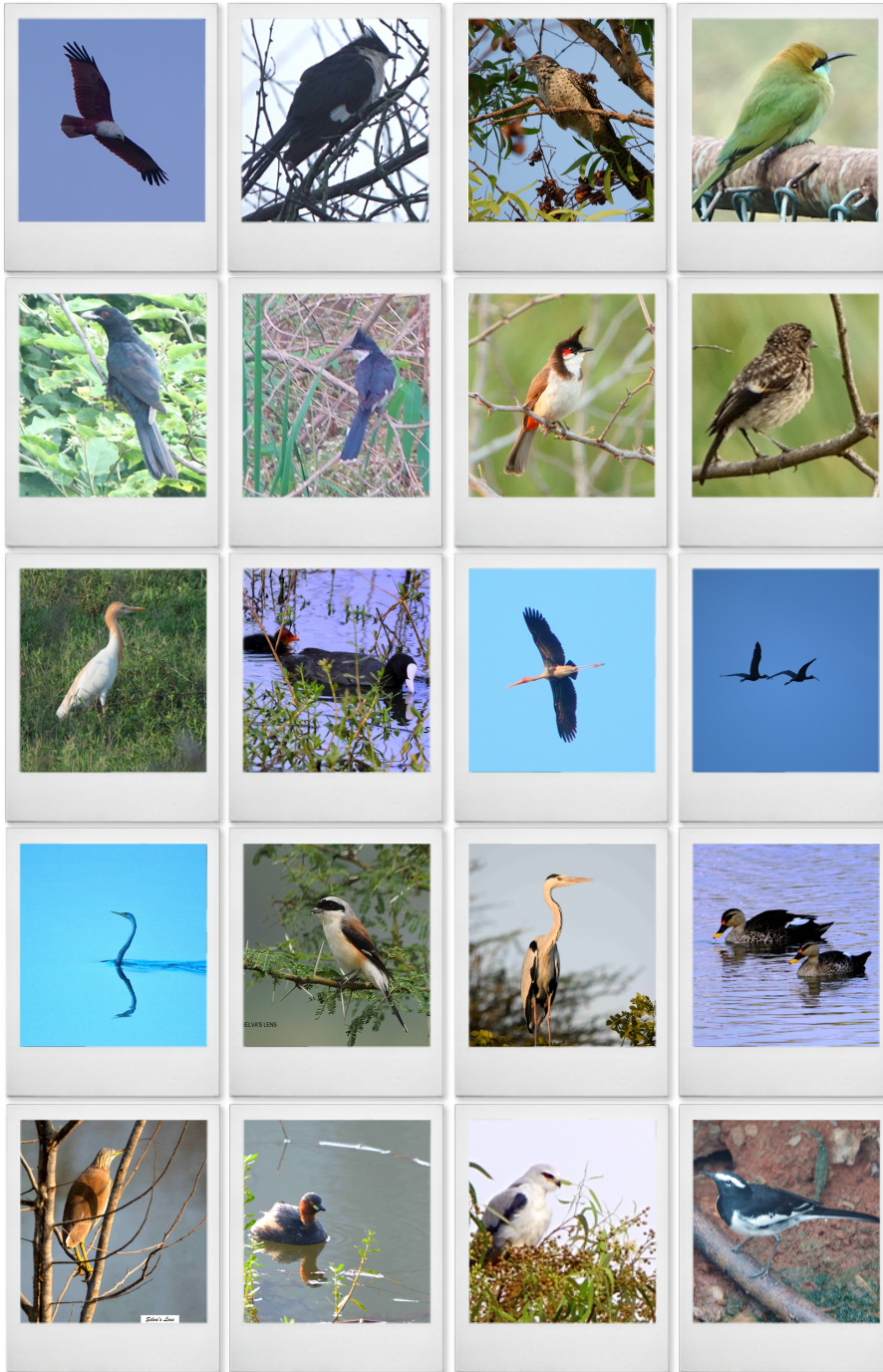
(Green Circle is committed to save the lake from further degradation and is working for achieving the above mentioned issues)

**The Earth has enough resources for our need but not for  
our greed - Mahatma Gandhi**





## Avalahalli lake birds



Photos by Selva

**61 species of birds  
have been  
recorded at  
Avalahalli lake by  
Green Circle**

1. Ashy Drongo
2. Ashy Prinia
3. Asian Green Bee-eater
4. Asian Koel
5. Black Drongo
6. Black Kite
7. Black-headed Ibis
8. Black-rumped Flameback
9. Black-winged Kite
10. Blue-faced Malkoha
11. Blyth's Pipit
12. Brahminy Kite
13. Brown Shrike
14. Common Myna
15. Common Tailorbird
16. Coppersmith Barbet
17. Eastern Cattle Egret
18. Eurasian Coot
19. Great Cormorant
20. Greater Coucal
21. Grey Heron
22. Grey-headed Swamphen
23. House Crow
24. House Sparrow
25. Indian Grey Hornbill
26. Indian Peafowl
27. Indian Pitta
28. Indian Pond-Heron
29. Indian Robin
30. Indian Spot-billed Duck
31. Indian White-eye
32. Intermediate Egret
33. Large-billed Crow
34. Laughing Dove
35. Little Cormorant
36. Little Egret
37. Little Grebe
38. Oriental Magpie-Robin
39. Pale-billed Flowerpecker
40. Pied Bushchat
41. Pied Cuckoo
42. Purple Heron
43. Purple Sunbird
44. Purple-rumped Sunbird
45. Red Avadavat
46. Red-rumped Swallow
47. Red-vented Bulbul
48. Red-wattled Lapwing
49. Red-whiskered Bulbul
50. Rock Pigeon
51. Rose-ringed Parakeet
52. Ruddy-breasted Crake
53. Scaly-breasted Munia
54. Shikra
55. Spotted Dove
56. White-breasted Waterhen
57. White-browed Wagtail
58. White-cheeked Barbet
59. White-throated Kingfisher
60. Yellow Bittern
61. Yellow-billed Babbler

Avalahalli lake falls under Singanayakkanhalli Panchayat, Doddaballapur Road, Yelahanka, Bangalore. Green Circle is working to save this lake