

# Namma Yele, Namma Gobbara

## Turning Fallen Leaves into Community-Owned Compost in Bengaluru

Bengaluru is known for its lush green canopy, but with that green cover comes a lesser-discussed challenge—managing the enormous volume of dry leaves shed by trees across the city. Every mature avenue tree can shed 20–30 kg of leaves every month. When unmanaged, these leaves are often burned or dumped, contributing to air pollution, carbon emissions, and landfill burden.

**Namma Yele, Namma Gobbara** (Our Leaves, Our Manure) was launched in November 2025 to change this narrative—by transforming fallen leaves from a perceived nuisance into a shared environmental resource.



# Why Leaf Composting Matters

Leaf shedding is a natural ecological process, especially during Bengaluru's dry months and after monsoons. However, in urban settings, the lack of awareness and systems has led to harmful practices such as burning leaves or transporting them long distances to landfills.

The initiative addresses common misconceptions—that leaf composting causes bad odour, attracts pests, or creates hygiene issues—and instead demonstrates that dry leaves are one of the easiest and cleanest forms of **organic waste to compost**.

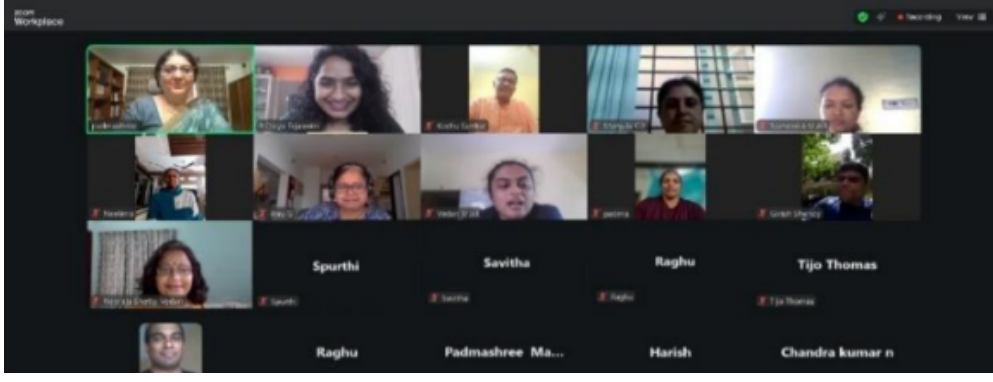
## From an Idea to a Citywide Demonstration

The idea for **Namma Yele, Namma Gobbara** was conceived by **Mrs. Padmashree Balaram**, who had been composting leaves outside her own home and saw its potential at a neighbourhood scale. The initiative received strong institutional support from **Mr. Karee Gowda, CEO** of BSWML, with facilitation by **Mrs. Ramamani, COO of BSWML**, and was implemented on the ground by Vedan Trust.

Importantly, this was not designed as a free distribution drive. The core objective was **awareness and behavioural change**, encouraging citizens to take ownership of the trees that give them shade.







Orientation of Namma Yele Namma Gobbara

**Orientation on Namma Yele Namma Gobbara**  
**Date: 22 Nov, 2025**  
**Time : 12:00 pm**

**Introduction:**  
 Ms. Ramamani  
 COO, BSWML

**Trainer:**  
 Ms. Padmashree Balaram  
 Lead Partner, SVP India

**SPL THANKS TO:**  
**Mr. Karee Gowda, IAS**  
 CEO, BSWML

**JOIN US:**

**Inauguration of Namma Yele Namma Gobbara**

**PRESIDED BY**  
 Mr. Karee Gowda, IAS  
 CEO, BSWML

**LEAD BY**  
 Ms. Ramamani VK  
 COO, BSWML

**IMPLEMENTED BY VEDAN**



Inauguration of Namma Yele Namma Gobbara

**ನಮ್ಮ ಎಲೆ ನಮ್ಮ ಗೊಬ್ಬರ**  
**Namma Yele Namma Gobbara**

**(ಎಲೆಗಳು ಮಾತ್ರ)**  
**ಎಲೆ ಗೊಬ್ಬರ ಘಟಕ**  
**LEAF COMPOSTER**  
**(LEAVES ONLY)**

**ಕಾಗದ-ಪ್ಲಾಸ್ಟಿಕ್ ಹಾಕಬೇಡಿ**  
**NO PAPER/PLASTIC**





# How the Initiative Worked

Citizens across Bengaluru registered through an open call. Based on a first-come, first-served process, **47 leaf composters** were installed across neighbourhoods such as Jayanagar, Nagarbhavi, Yelahanka, KR Puram, and HSR Layout.

The process included:

- Direct coordination with selected citizens
- Planned installation routes to ensure efficiency
- An online orientation programme on how to use and maintain leaf composters
- Clear installation criteria to ensure composters were placed in community-accessible public spaces

Senior officials, such as GBA Chief Commissioner Mr Maheshwar Rao, also led by example—leaf composters were installed at the residences of senior government leaders, sending a powerful message that environmental responsibility starts at home.



# What Changed on the Ground

## Output

47 leaf composters  
installed across Bengaluru

## Outcome

- Leaves are now being directly deposited into composters instead of being burned or mixed with waste
- Increased public understanding that leaf composting is safe, odour-free, and effective
- Neighbours and passers-by are learning and expressing interest in adopting similar systems

## Impact

- Reduction in leaf burning and related air pollution
- Stronger citizen ownership of local environmental practices
- A visible shift from “waste disposal” to “resource management”

## The Road Ahead

The initiative is being actively monitored, with participating citizens sharing updates every fifteen days. The Vedan team continues to provide handholding support—addressing operational issues, guiding composting practices, and ensuring smooth coordination with pourakarmikas.

The long-term goal is simple but powerful: one neighbourhood inspiring the next. By dedicating a small public space to leaf composting, citizens can collectively reduce pollution, improve soil health, and protect Bengaluru’s green legacy.

Namma Yele Namma Gobbara proves that sustainable cities are built not just through policies, but through everyday participation.