

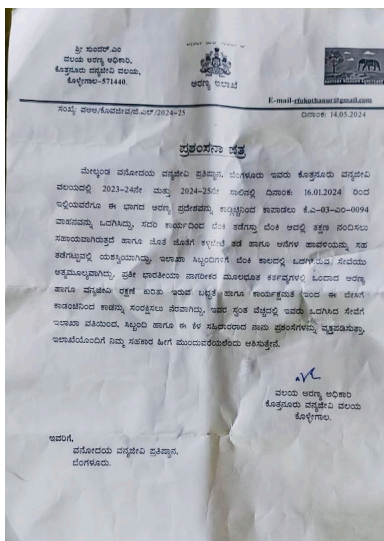
Eco club Activities

Our Eco club conducted activities in ten government high schools for 9th grade students, engaging over 400 students. Activities included screenings, presentations, nature walks, quizzes, and games focused on local wildlife. Home activities complemented the learning. A feedback quiz showed 40% of students had increased awareness and engagement. Schools' feedback was positive, and we plan to continue next year.



Forest fire prevention

Our jeep and driver were crucial in quickly handling forest fires, preventing animal poaching, and safely guiding elephants back to the forest from Kothnur Range villages. We received praise from the Range Forest Officer for our invaluable assistance during a tough fire season.



Chikkaluru Jaatre Patrol



The Annual Chikkalur Jatre took place on January 27th and 28th, 2024. Vanodaya had 35 volunteers participating, with 17 stationed at Muthathi and the rest at Chikkaluru. Volunteers and Department staff monitored vehicles for alcohol at Thalavadi and Bhoochalli check-posts, and advised tourists against feeding animals or littering plastic in the protected area. Some volunteers patrolled from Thalavadi to Muthathi, while the Bhoochalli roads deterred traffic. Approximately 400 four-wheelers passed Thalavadi on the 27th and 600 on the 28th. At Muthathi, volunteers prevented river crossings on foot successfully on the 27th, but on the 28th, they apprehended four students from Kerala attempting to cross. Volunteers at Chikkaluru split into three teams to monitor routes, ensuring no unauthorised activities like tree cutting or river crossing occurred. Throughout both days, volunteers assisted with crowd control from 9 am to 6 pm, collaborating closely with the Department.



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## Manning Check-post & Pamphlet distribution

**T**his year, Vanodaya volunteers supported the forest department for 40 days at Talvadi and Boohali checkpoints. They lightened the workload, especially on weekends when tourist traffic is high. Their duties included checking vehicles for alcohol, educating visitors against feeding animals and starting fires, and distributing safety pamphlets for 20 days to promote forest etiquette.



## Shivratri Jaatre

**T**he Shivaratri festival on March 8th took place at Shivaldappa Betta and Madivala. Seven volunteers, accompanied by forest department staff in each team, monitored both locations. Crowd activity was largely contained around the temples, with occasional reminders to visitors not to stray into protected areas. Forest routes leading to the temples were patrolled from 9 am to 6 pm, ensuring no incidents of fire, a common challenge during the festival, were reported.



## Patrolling



**E**ach Sunday for 45 days, Vanodaya volunteers managed crowd control, safely guiding tourists from Bhoochali to Talvadi. Their duties included safeguarding visitors and wildlife by preventing vehicle stops in forested areas, thereby minimising risks to the natural habitat. They also discouraged littering, unauthorised entry near water bodies, and feeding animals. Their efforts promote

environmental mindfulness and wildlife respect, emphasising responsible behaviour in forest environments.



**D**uring the Ugadi festive season, Vanodaya provided a jeep and driver, Prashanth, for patrolling the Muggur range, known for rampant poaching along the Cauvery. Collaborative efforts between department staff and Vanodaya volunteers significantly reduced poaching activities through vigilant patrolling, effectively discouraging such illegal activities.

## Watcher Welfare

**W**ith the generous support of Emergency Response Team, Vanodaya assisted two watchers injured in the line of duty at different times during the year. A total contribution of ₹48,500/- was made towards their medical expenses.





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**Photographic memories**