

April - June 2024

# HARIT KHABAR

Newsletter featuring Environment Action by HCLFoundation



Special  
coverage of the  
GenCAN National level  
Climate Action Winners  
on pages 6 & 7



## Forest Fires: Threatening Wildlife and Homes

The recent Uttarakhand forest fires have once again highlighted the pressing environmental challenges we are facing. They have caused great damage to an area of 1438 hectares with over a thousand cases reported in both Kumaon and Garwhal regions between November 2023 and May 2024. Five people perished in the fire along with increasing damage to ecology and severe loss at economic and social levels.

Forest fires are common in the areas of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh with 3,45,000 bushfires reported between November 2020 and June 2021, of which more than 20,000 were in Uttarakhand. 95% of forest fires in India are anthropogenic in nature i.e. caused by humans whether accidental or purposefully. Another factor of increasing forest fires is dry weather conditions with less rainfall and snowfall in previous years and presence of chir pine trees which are most susceptible to fires.

### In Brief

#### Cyclone Remal

After making a landfall near the Mongla port in Bangladesh, cyclone Remal has so far killed 16 people in Bangladesh and India.

#### Venezuela loses its last glacier

Venezuela's final glacier, the Humboldt Glacier, vanishes amid climate crisis. It has probably become the first country to lose all its glaciers. Scientists observe its rapid retreat, highlighting climate change's toll on fragile ecosystems.

#### Asia, the epicenter of disaster

Asia claimed the unfortunate title of the world's most disaster-prone region in 2023 with floods, storms, and earthquakes ravaging communities, amplifying human suffering and economic losses.

#### Goldman Environment Prize

Alok Shukla, a grassroots activist from India, has been awarded the prestigious Goldman Environmental Prize for his remarkable efforts in combating air pollution.

Shukla's relentless advocacy led to the closure of numerous polluting coal-fired power plants in the state of Chhattisgarh, significantly improving air quality and safeguarding public health.

Shukla's dedication and courage serve as an inspiration worldwide, highlighting the critical role of individuals in driving environmental change.

(Photo credits: Goldman Environmental prize)

#### Swell Waves Trigger Flooding

In March, swell waves led to flooding in several areas of Kerala; the worst affected were Alappuzha, Kollam, and Thiruvananthapuram districts. A red alert for similar waves has also been issued for South Tamil Nadu coastal districts, Lakshadweep, and the Andaman and Nicobar islands in May.



(Photo credits: iStock)

These oceanic waves are formed by distant storms like hurricanes and not by local wind waves. Due to high energy transfer from air to water, the strength of the water body rises, leading to flood-like conditions that cause big waves to travel thousands of kilometres. These waves are difficult to detect because of the silent and sudden movement they carry, although INCOIS (the Indian national centre for ocean information services) in 2020 started a swell surge forecast system that provides early warning.

#### Himalayan Glacial Lakes: Triggering Concerns

In the Indian Himalayas, glacial lakes are rapidly expanding, raising alarm among scientists and local communities. There has also been a surge in glacial lake flooding in the region in recent years. Satellite imagery and scientific studies has revealed a significant increase in the size and number of glacial lakes across the Himalayas.

These lakes, formed by the melting of glaciers due to rising temperatures, now pose a heightened risk of glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs),

#### Coral Bleaching Threatens Marine Ecosystems & Biodiversity

Rising ocean temperatures have triggered widespread coral bleaching globally including in renowned areas like Australia's Great Barrier Reef and India's Lakshadweep Islands, with recent reports highlighting alarming impacts. Coral bleaching is when corals expel algae due to stress, turning white.

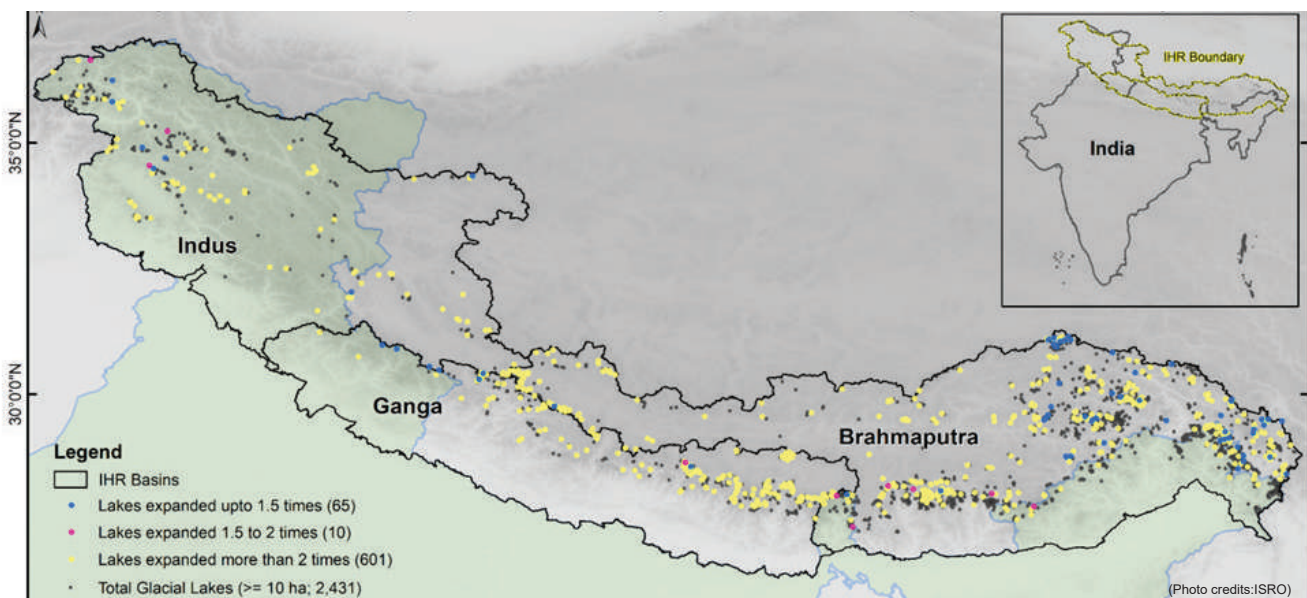
Rising sea temperatures, worsened by climate change, are the primary driver behind coral bleaching. The recent coral bleaching in Lakshadweep, a UNESCO World Heritage Site known for its rich marine biodiversity, has sparked concerns among scientists and conservationists. This phenomenon not only threatens marine biodiversity but also jeopardizes the livelihoods of coastal communities reliant on healthy reefs for food and income.



(Photo credits: iStock)

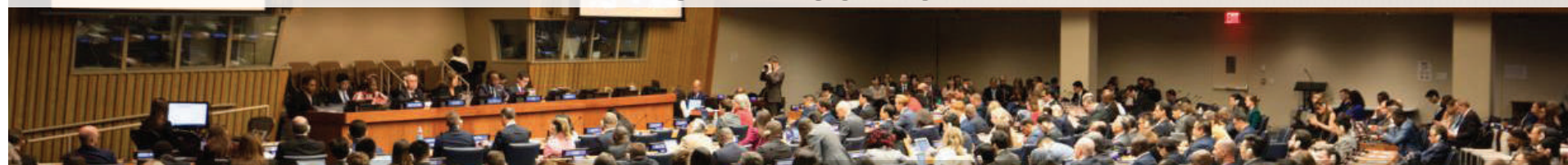
which can have devastating consequences for downstream communities and Infrastructure. Rising temperatures, attributed to climate change, have accelerated the melting of glaciers in the Himalayas.

This meltwater collects in glacial lakes, forming natural reservoirs. However, as these lakes expand beyond their capacity, they pose a significant risk of overflow and flooding downstream.



(Photo credits: ISRO)

## UNFF COP19



The 19th session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF19) was held from May 6–10, 2024, at UN Headquarters in New York. The declaration of UNFF19 reasserted the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017–2030 (UNSPF) as a global framework for action for protection and sustainable management of all types of forests and trees outside forests, to cease deforestation and forest degradation, and to strengthen its contribution to implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other international forest-related processes, commitments, aims, and goals. The delegation of India at UNFF COP19, led by Shri Jitendra Kumar, Director General of Forests and Special Secretary, MoEF, highlighted the country's advancement in forest conservation and sustainable forest management leading towards improvement in forest cover, ranking third globally in the net gain in average annual forest area between 2010 and 2020.

### World Environment Day



(Poster: UNEP)

Human-induced environmental degradation affects 40% of land and 3.2 billion people, threatening biodiversity, reducing productivity, and worsening climate change.

World Environment Day, celebrated on June 5, raises awareness and drives action for environmental protection. This year's theme, "Our Land, Our Future, We are #GenerationRestoration," focuses on land restoration, combating desertification, and building drought resilience.

### Desertification & Drought Day



"Every second, four football fields of healthy land are degraded, totaling 100 million hectares each year."

Desertification and Drought Day, observed on 17 June, focuses on land stewardship. This year's theme, "United for Land: Our Legacy. Our Future," aims to engage all generations in reversing land degradation and restoring 1 billion hectares by 2030. It calls for everyone to support sustainable stewardship.

(Source: UNCCD)

## Our Land, Our Future. We are #GenerationRestoration



Dhruv Shah is part of a long-term project with the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) supported by HCLFoundation. The project aims to conserve the river Alaknanda catchment in the mid-Himalayan region of Uttarakhand through habitat restoration and planting native trees like Rudraksha and Bhojpatra. Dhruv Sah is also an avid traveller, writer, photographer and loves to assimilate different cultures.



### 1. INTACH is working on biodiversity rich landscape of Uttarakhand. Plantation or Land Restoration – what is the focus of your work in this landscape?

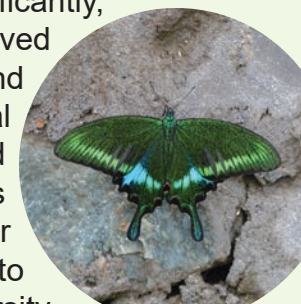
When the project began, the aim was to repopulate the middle Himalayas with a lost native species. But, on the ground, we realized that mere plantations wouldn't be enough.



Barking Deer

Thus, our focus extended to the concept of landscape restoration through afforestation, i.e., creating an entire ecosystem by not just planting trees but augmenting it with plantation of associated species of grasses, shrubs, herbs, sedges, and other trees, thereby, conserving the landscape.

Now, with our Rudraksh forests materializing and developing significantly, we have observed frequent movement and sightings of several avifauna, insect and mammalian species in and around our sites, coercing us to prioritize biodiversity conservation and habitat restoration in the region.



Common Banded Peacock

### 2. Is there any historical reason behind the degradation of this landscape?

With the advent of colonialization and the ascent of the British towards the higher regions, these forests were seen as a 'diamond mine' of lumber for the various

'developmental' needs of the Colonial Government.

Oak forests were the first to face the brunt, and Rudraksh, being an associated species, became a victim of extensive logging and deforestation practices.

### 3. How are different generations protecting this landscape and strengthening land restoration?

Interestingly, the Gopeshwar site and Aati site lie in the close vicinity of a cultural location in the mountains, which bestows a sacred aura among the masses, especially the elderly. This led to a special attachment of the elderly and women to our afforestation site.



Chestnut-headed Bee-eater

On the other hand, the youth of the local community participate in capacity and knowledge building sessions and workshops regularly with a keen interest so that they can be an integral part of protecting the land, the mountain, the biodiversity, and the environment.

### 4. How has the partnership of HCLFoundation, NMCG, and INTACH helped, and how does the partnership envision continuing the efforts?

When HCLFoundation, NMCG and INTACH came together for this endeavour, our strategies and efforts accelerated, owing to the constant cooperation of HCLFoundation members. The regular discussions regarding progress and implementation, along with

discussions on innovative interventions and approaches, have helped to expand the horizons and scope of the project.

### 5) Other than degradation, what are major challenges in terms of land restoration in this location?

When working in the mountains, you are always at the mercy of the weather. Extreme precipitation events during the Monsoon, followed by frequent landslides, and sheer dry and cold winters have always been a challenge to work with. Our sites are vulnerable to forest fires during the summers, which at times has put us under pressure so as to avoid the destruction of our saplings.

The frequent movement of wild animals attracts predators like leopards and Himalayan Black Bears, which have been seen by local villagers and our field staff. There have been instances where we have found signs and carcasses near our sites, thus raising safety concerns for the site workers.



Striped Laughing Bush

As a continuation of the efforts of HCLFoundation NMCG and INTACH, we have taken up another site for landscape conservation, near Mana-Badrinath, Chamoli district, which, being a part of the alpine and sub-alpine ecotone, will be planted with another sacred yet threatened species, Bhojpatra (Betula utilis), along with its associated species of herbs, shrubs, and timberline trees.

(Photo Credits: INTACH)



## Chennai welcomes another urban forest!



previously created in Patel Park.

While the land preparation and canal work are going on, nutrition for the land has also been prioritised by cultivating nitrogen-fixing legume plants like Dhaincha (*Sesbania bispinosa*) or Takkkai Poondu and Sun Hemp or Sanappai.

These plants enrich the soil biomass as well as improve the soil structure and increase the water-holding capacity.

Thuvakkam and the HCLFoundation, yet again partnered to create an urban forest in Kundrathur, Chennai, adjacent to the urban forest

## Awareness on the Importance of Beach Cleaning



To celebrate World Environment Day, SPANDAN, in collaboration with the HCLFoundation,

organised an event in Puri, Odisha, with the local fishermen. The event was also attended by officials from Puri Municipality.

The first half of the event, an awareness programme on the impact and importance of beach cleaning was conducted, and dustbins were distributed to the community hall for the fishermen to use for their torn fishing nets.

The second half, the team, along with more than 100 women, carried out the beach cleaning activities at several community stretches.

(Photo credits: SPANDAN)

## Illustrated Natural Asset Map unveils the hidden treasures of Noida

With support from the HCLFoundation, ICLEI South Asia has developed the Illustrated Natural Asset Map of Noida. Illustrated Natural Asset Maps (INAMs) are visual representations of natural assets within a particular geographic area. Noida is a city that exemplifies modern urbanism intertwined with environmental consciousness. The city provides habitat for a wide array of flora and fauna.

They combine geographical information system (GIS) data with artistic renderings to create maps that highlight the beauty, diversity, and importance of natural features.

These maps not only serve as tools for understanding the ecological significance of an area but also for raising awareness about its value and promoting conservation efforts.

HCLFoundation



(Credits: ICLEI)

## Caring for Community dogs

Wild CER's team and one of the Harit team members visited the Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve, Chandrapur, Maharashtra, on May 16th.

The team went to the villages of Aashata and Vadala and conducted an awareness program to inform the villagers about the importance of sterilising and vaccinating their community dogs, information regarding rabies, its symptoms, and how to handle rabid dogs safely.



(Photo credits: Wild CER)

The people were also encouraged to bring their community-dogs to the sterilisation and vaccination centres set up by Wild CER in the protected areas. Under the Harit initiative, the HCLFoundation has been supporting several NGOs to run a large-scale dog vaccination and sterilisation program across India.

## Shores of Change



(Photo credits: Reef-watch)

On June 8, 2024, the Reefwatch Karnataka team organised a beach clean-up programme in celebration of World Ocean Day in partnership with the HCLFoundation. The event began at 7 a.m. near Maravanthe village in Udupi district, Karnataka. The teams that were involved in the clean-up activity collected nearly 250 KG of waste, including plastic, glass bottles, sandals, tin, and 24 kg of ghost nets. The village panchayat team also took these items for recycling, and as a token of appreciation, mementos were given to the participating teams.

## Discussing Champion pollinators on World Bee Day

GMTT celebrated World Bee Day by conducting awareness workshop at Harit Upvan, Sorkha, Noida. A few nature lovers and community children attended the workshop to learn about the essential role that bees and other pollinators play in maintaining our ecosystems and supporting agriculture.



(Photo credits: GMTT)

## Rallying for Water Conservation

To mark World Water Day on March 22, 2024, the Gorakhpur Environmental Action Group (GEAG), in collaboration with HCLFoundation, orchestrated an awareness rally themed "Water for Peace" at the Police Commissionerate Surajpur-Gautam Budha Nagar, Greater Noida. Thirty eager children actively participated in the event.

The primary aims of the rally were to educate individuals about the importance of water conservation and foster a sense of environmental responsibility. Ahead of the rally, the children convened to craft slogans and create placards for display. Commencing from the Harit Club hut, the rally traversed through residential areas, including Police Line, concluding back at the Harit Club hut.

Throughout the march, the children energetically chanted slogans to raise awareness about water conservation, emphasising the pivotal message that preserving water is crucial for fostering peace and ensuring a sustainable future.



(Photo credits: GEAG)

## Safeguarding our avian companions

TIDE recently organized an engaging summer workshop at the Government Girls Higher Secondary School in Avadi, Chennai, on May 2, 2024, in collaboration with the HCLFoundation. This educational initiative centered around the significance of birds in our ecosystem and the pressing need for bird preservation. Eighteen motivated students actively participated in the event, showcasing their ingenuity and dedication to safeguarding our avian companions.

Through immersive sessions, the students delved into the marvels of bird life, exploring their role in maintaining a balanced environment. Practical activities were a highlight of the workshop, where they learned to repurpose plastic waste into bird feeders, offering vital nourishment and support to local bird communities.



(Photo credits: TIDE)

## Crafting Homes, Saving Habitats



(Photo credits: Eco-Roots)

To imbue young minds with a deeper appreciation for nature while fostering a sense of responsibility towards environmental stewardship, a nest-making workshop was hosted at the Government School Kulesara, Noida, on May 7, 2024, by the Eco Roots Foundation in partnership with the HCLFoundation.

During the workshop, the students not only made 20 nests and honed their crafting skills but also learned about the importance of biodiversity and the delicate balance of ecosystems. Throughout the workshops, students actively engaged in discussions on topics ranging from habitat preservation to waste management. As the day concluded, the School grounds were transformed into vibrant displays of eco-art, with nests adorning trees and playgrounds.

## The Realm of Environmental Education

### A New Beginning

World Comics India (WCI), with support from the HCLFoundation, hosted an Environmental Education (EE) comics workshop at Composite School, Khairpur Gurjar, UP, on May 10, 2024. This workshop marked the initiation of another year of partnership between WCI and the HCLFoundation in the realm of environmental education. The event attracted 43 student participants and extended over a session lasting more than 3 hours.

A carefully curated comics exhibition was set up for students, with comics stories chosen on the basis of different environmental themes. The students also took part in the discussion and comic-reading session that followed the exhibition. In a relatively short period, they crafted their first comics in a 4-frame format, showcasing a captivating understanding of the medium and highlighting significant environmental issues.



### Celebrating International Biological Diversity Day through Story-telling

Celebrating the International Day for Biological Diversity on May 22, 2024, World Comics India, with support from the HCL Foundation, held an Environmental Education (EE) comics workshop at Rasta Gurukul in Noida.

A carefully curated comics exhibition was set up for students, with comics stories chosen on the basis of different environmental themes. The students also took part in the discussion and comic-reading session that followed the exhibition. In a relatively short period, they crafted their first comics in a 4-frame format, showcasing a captivating understanding of the medium and highlighting significant environmental issues.



(Photo credits: World Comics India)



## Greener Horizon: GenCAN student leaders and their teachers illuminate the path of Sustainable Future

Generation for Climate Action (GenCAN) is a climate education and action initiative of HCLFoundation and the Centre for Environment Education (CEE). The program which was launched in April 2023, has completed Phase I, and the winners were announced in April 2024. During the 10-month duration of the program, the Schools have made commendable efforts to reduce their carbon footprint within their Schools to cumulatively reduce 69 tonnes\* of carbon emissions across 42 Schools under the themes of waste, water, energy, and transport. The top 6 Schools out of 14 best-performing Schools were selected after rigorous review and evaluation by jury members.

PAN India reach (Phase I) - 60 Schools, 50 cities, 16 Indian states, 81 mentor teachers, 344 students impacted, 80348 students reached

## AND THE NATIONAL LEVEL CLIMATE ACTION WINNERS ARE...

### Government High School, Dasgrain, Punjab

Through involving and mobilising all the students and teachers of the School, the climate action leaders took positive action, from conserving 924 L of water annually, recycling 1210 kg of paper and 25-30 kg of plastic waste, to creating green space through planting 110 plants! Taking training from local farmers and having their families adopt waste segregation and composting practices, the students are willing to take another step forward in the future to have a waste management model at the panchayat level.

Theme	Climate Action efforts
Energy Conservation	Switch off as a routine Replaced 6 CFLs and 3 T8 fluorescent tube lights Solar Panels Setup – 8 KW
Transport	5 students adapted walking for reaching School everyday 5 teachers adapted to carpooling to reach School everyday
Water Conservation	Repaired 6 water taps – estimating an annual water savings of approximately 924 L
Waste Management	Vermicomposting and Composting – annual 440 kg Paper Waste Recycling – annual 1210 kg Plastic Waste Recycling – annual 25- 30 kg (usable tools made from plastic waste)
Green Space created	110 trees planted



### Upper Primary School (Composite), Sitapur, Uttar Pradesh



From saving 12760 L of water through soak pits to 3300 kg of organic composting annually, the GenCAN leaders brought climate leadership skills to their families and communities. Their skills and commitment towards the environment influenced the Pradhan of Jamaitpur Gram Panchayat, who also constructed a water recharge pit near the hand pump in the village. The School envisions making their village greener and more sustainable through community engagement.

Theme	Climate Action efforts
Energy Conservation	Switch off as a routine Replaced 18 CFLs and 8 T8 fluorescent tube lights Solar Panels Setup – 1 KW
Water Conservation	Repaired 6 leaky water taps Soak Pit constructed savings of approximately 12760 L of water annually
Waste Management	Organic Composting – 3300 kg annually
Green Space created	18 trees planted

### MES boys' high School, Vadodara, Gujarat

'I Can Help Earth' Campaign led by GenCAN students positively impacted their families to adopt waste segregation and composting. They also initiated a clean-up drive at the nearby man-made lake. In addition, the GenCAN student leaders mobilised 81.64% of School students for the campaign. Now, these young leaders are working to initiate terrace gardening and grey water management.

Theme	Climate Action efforts
Energy Conservation	Switch off as a routine Replaced 25 CFLs and 20 T8 fluorescent tube lights Solar Panels Setup – 15 KW
Transport	10 students adapted walking for reaching School everyday 2 teachers adapted to carpooling to reach School everyday
Water Conservation	Repaired 1 water taps – estimating an annual water savings of approximately 1320 L
Waste Management	Organic Composting – 220 kg annually Paper Waste Recycling – 55 kg annually Plastic Waste Recycling – 99 kg annually
Green Space created	45 trees planted



### Government Model School, Jhargram, West Bengal



The GenCAN leaders from the residential School situated amidst the wilderness of Jhargram created a 2000+ kg capacity of vermicomposting and composting through the training from the Agricultural Department, Gopiballavpur-I, and saved mid-day meal costs for the School! They have also taken steps to create environmental awareness among the communities through traditional music and dance and mobilised 88.49% of School students. The School envisions upgrading their waste recycling model, especially for handling plastic waste.

Theme	Climate Action efforts
Energy Conservation	Solar Panels Setup – 5 KW
Transport	5 students adapted walking for reaching School everyday 4 teachers adapted to carpooling to reach School everyday
Waste Management	Vermicomposting and Composting – annual 2064 kg Sending 12 kg of paper and plastic waste for recycling annually

### Ramakrishna Mission Residential High School, Chennai, Tamil Nadu

From planting 217 trees and composting 11000 kg of waste annually, the students and the mentor teacher now envision making the Schools more climate-resilient and greener, focusing on increasing solar energy to 50 KW and water recycling capacity to 20,000 litres!

Theme	Climate Action efforts
Energy Conservation	Switch off as a routine Replaced 50 CFLs and 95 T8 fluorescent tube lights Solar Panels Setup – 25 KW
Water Conservation	Repaired 26 water taps – estimating an annual water savings of approximately 2200L Water harvesting model accounting to 165000 L annually.
Waste Management	Composting waste – 11000 kg annually.
Green Space created	217 trees planted



Scan to register for Phase II

### Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya, West Singhbhum, Jharkhand



The climate champions from this girls' School in Jharkhand are conserving 220 thousand litres of water annually and practicing composting waste as a daily practice! The students and the teacher are now acting towards creating a greener campus by increasing the solar panel capacity and creating vermicomposting and recycling units. The School principal also envisions having an environmental policy to be formulated and enforced by 2024-25.

Theme	Climate Action efforts
Energy Conservation	Switch off as a routine Replaced 7 T8 fluorescent tube lights Solar Panels Setup – 7 KW
Water Conservation	A total of 220 thousand Liters reutilizing wastewater annually.
Waste Management	Organic Composting – annual 220 kg Paper Waste Recycling – annual 55 kg Plastic Waste Recycling – annual 99 kg





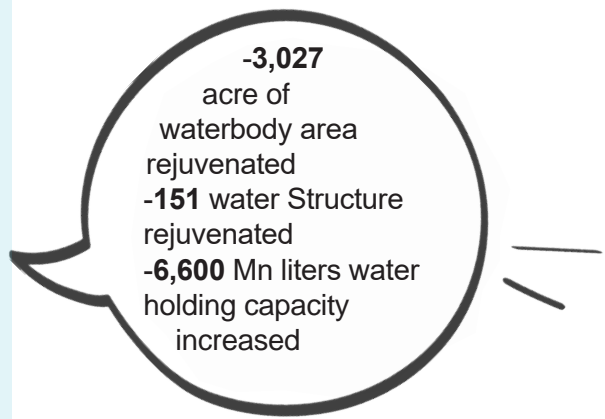
(Photo credits: iStock)

Making a difference Drop By Drop

Water is the most prevalent yet scarce component in the world. At least 50 percent of the planet's population deals with water scarcity at least one month of the year. By 2025, 1.8 billion people are likely to face “absolute water scarcity.” Today, 1.42 billion people, including 450 million children, live in high- or extremely high-water-vulnerable areas.

Loss of water bodies, polluted water sources, and losing freshwater sources due to human-made activities are causing a catastrophe in water demand. With the rise in temperature and the reduction in water table, the lives on the planet are devoid of one of the basic needs of life: water.

The collaborative effort of HCLFoundation with their partners shows a ray of hope and sets examples of how commitment and a positive outlook can make a difference!



A Testament of Community's Victory

The neglected pond, once a dumping ground for the Muthiyani village, has been revitalised into a vital resource for the community, by the community. Located at the village entrance, Muthiyani Pond suffered from neglect and poor water recharge. It was an unpleasant sight, marred by animal carcasses, posing health risks.



BEFORE



AFTER

(Photo credits: Development Alternatives)

Collaborative efforts by HCLFoundation and Development Alternatives transformed the pond, breathing new life into it by fostering community engagement. Discussions, workshops, and street plays were organised to raise awareness about pond conservation and cleanliness. The revival of Muthiyani Pond was not just a cosmetic effort but a comprehensive rejuvenation project. The effort did not stop at clearing the garbage only; the newly planted flora surrounding the water body enhanced its aesthetic appeal, discouraging waste dumping and contributed to their environment consciousness and sustainability.

A Pond Conservation Committee was also formed, exploring ventures like fish farming for economic opportunities. Muthiyani Pond's revival showcases the impact of community involvement and empowerment, illustrating the potential of collective action in transforming local landscapes and livelihoods.

Reviving Forgotten Waters

In 2022, the Madurai district administration, along with the DHAN Foundation and HCLFoundation, digitised all water resources in Madurai district. Access to the cadastral maps of all the water commons led to finding new water resources, increasing the count of ponds from 34 to 56.



Before



After

create a bund around the oorani, removing weeds like Prosopis juliflora, and evicting encroachments. They strengthened the bunds and deepened the water to 1.5 meters. This commendable effort led to the reclamation of 1.2 acres of water spread area and the restoration of Oorani.

(Photo credits: DHAN Foundation)

One such pond, "Thumbai Chedimedu oorani," was built by Ayyanpapakudi villagers 200 years ago to meet the drinking water demand of the farmers and farm labourers who worked in the paddy fields of the Ayyanpapakudi irrigation tank. However, due to urbanisation, the irrigation tank got filled with sewage, turning nearby fields into fodder grass fields.

Neglected for a long time, the oorani became heavily silted, was invaded by weeds, and was partially encroached upon. DHAN Foundation and HCLFoundation initiated the restoration work, demarcating boundaries, desilting 2400 cubic metres to

Animal Warriors Conservation Society

Santoshi Jaddu, Harit Champion

Santoshi Jaddu has been an ardent animal lover since her childhood. She volunteered with animal welfare organizations in Hyderabad and used to rescue and foster stray animals around her community. She and her teammates have rescued more than 10,000 animals and counting. She has been with Animal Warriors Conservation Society (AWCS) since its beginning in 2019 and has worked in different roles and capacities, contributing immensely to the organization's growth. She also played a major role in shaping up the AWCS Bird Rehabilitation Centre with support from the HCLFoundation.



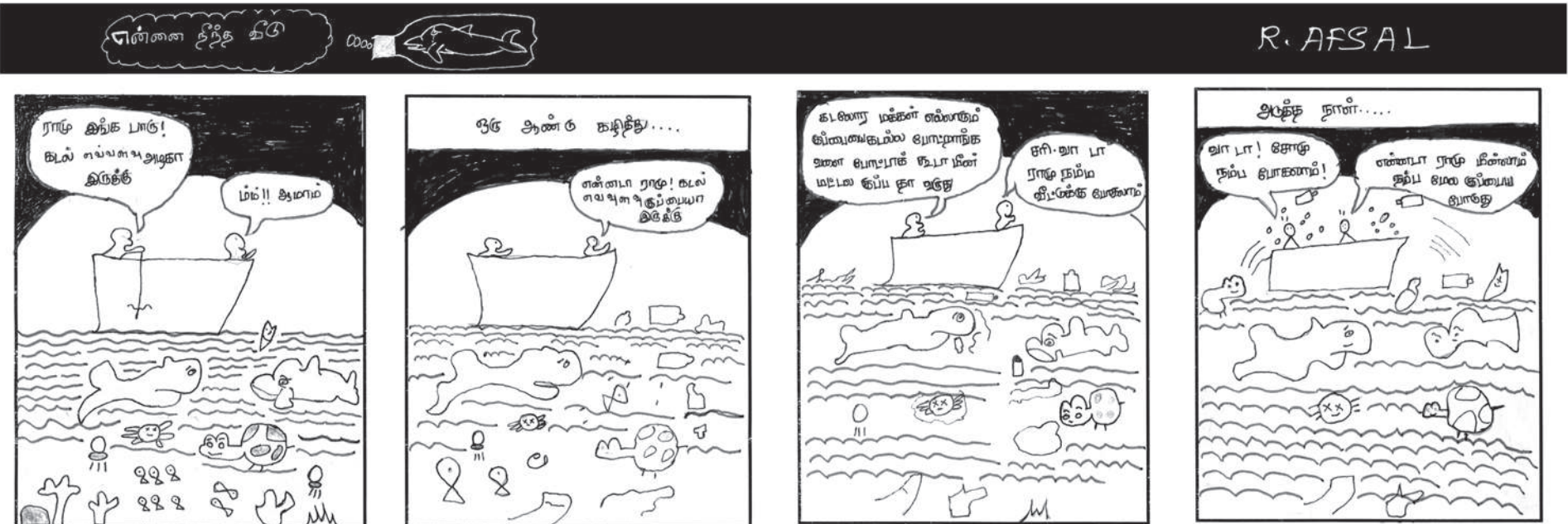
Photo: AWCS

She believes gender is never a boundary when saving animals from extremely difficult situations. "With good team support and skills, one can save animals from distress and disasters," she says. She has been an inspiration to many women. A compression passage about the story of Santoshi and Pradeep and their association with Animal Warriors Conservation Society was also published in the 1st year English text book of the Telangana State Board of Intermediate Education.



Photo: AWCS

Animal Warriors Conservation Society is a non-profit organisation working towards the conservation of nature and protecting wildlife from unnatural threats by engaging communities.



Let me swim – Two friends go out into the sea and are enchanted by its captivating beauty! They come back after a year to find it full of filth and garbage. Reflecting on the situation, one of them tells the other that this is the result of people throwing garbage into the sea. The next day, they find all the fish throwing garbage back at them as if pleading with humans to allow them to swim!

-R. Afsal

Humane Animal Society

Jeeva, Harit Champion

Right from his childhood, Jeeva had a special place in his heart for animals. But little did he know that his love for animals would one day lead him on a journey with the Humane Animal Society (HAS). Jeeva's first encounter with HAS was not a mere coincidence; it was his calling. He went there to treat a rescued animal, but his conversations with Dr. Mini Vasudevan, the founder of HAS, drove him to make a life-altering decision—he left his job and dedicated himself fully to the cause of animal welfare. In 2019, he joined HAS as an animal handler in the ABC and Rescue Centre.

What sets Jeeva apart is his exceptional ability to connect with animals on an almost intuitive level. Jeeva's journey is marked by countless rescues, each executed with a level of empathy that transcends the ordinary. His commitment has led him to undertake even the most daunting of rescues, from dogs to cows stranded on busy roads. It goes without saying that he is indeed the star animal handler at HAS.

When asked about what stands out for Jeeva in his journey with HAS, he says that HAS helped him understand the deep-rooted problems in breeding and how they contribute to rendering stray animals homeless. He's become profoundly conscious of the cause of indie dogs. His journey has also led him to believe that all beings are equal, but animals, in fact, evoke more goodness in the world.

Finally, Jeeva's commitment extends beyond his own actions. He is diligently sowing the seeds of compassion in the heart of his daughter, guiding her towards a life where empathy towards animals becomes second nature. In these efforts lies the possibility that one day she might carry forward his legacy, continuing the beautiful journey he embarked upon.



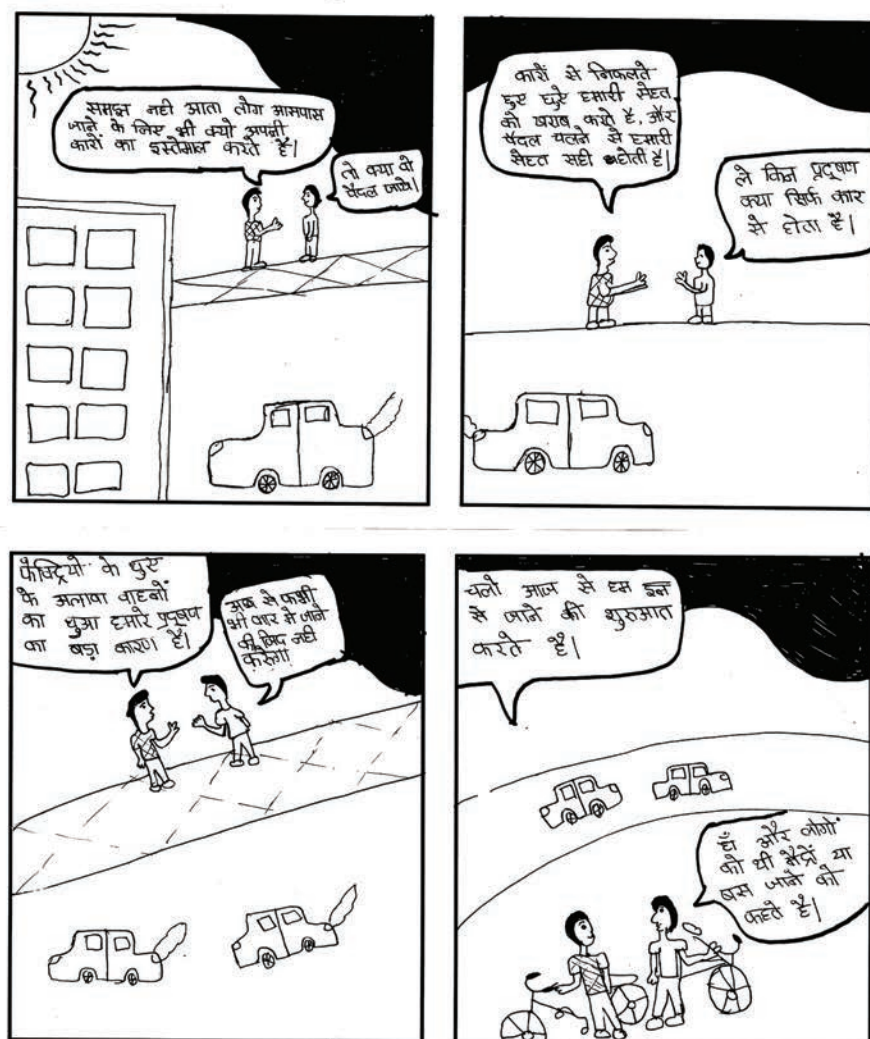
Photo: HAS



Photo: HAS



## बैकार की कार ?



Disha

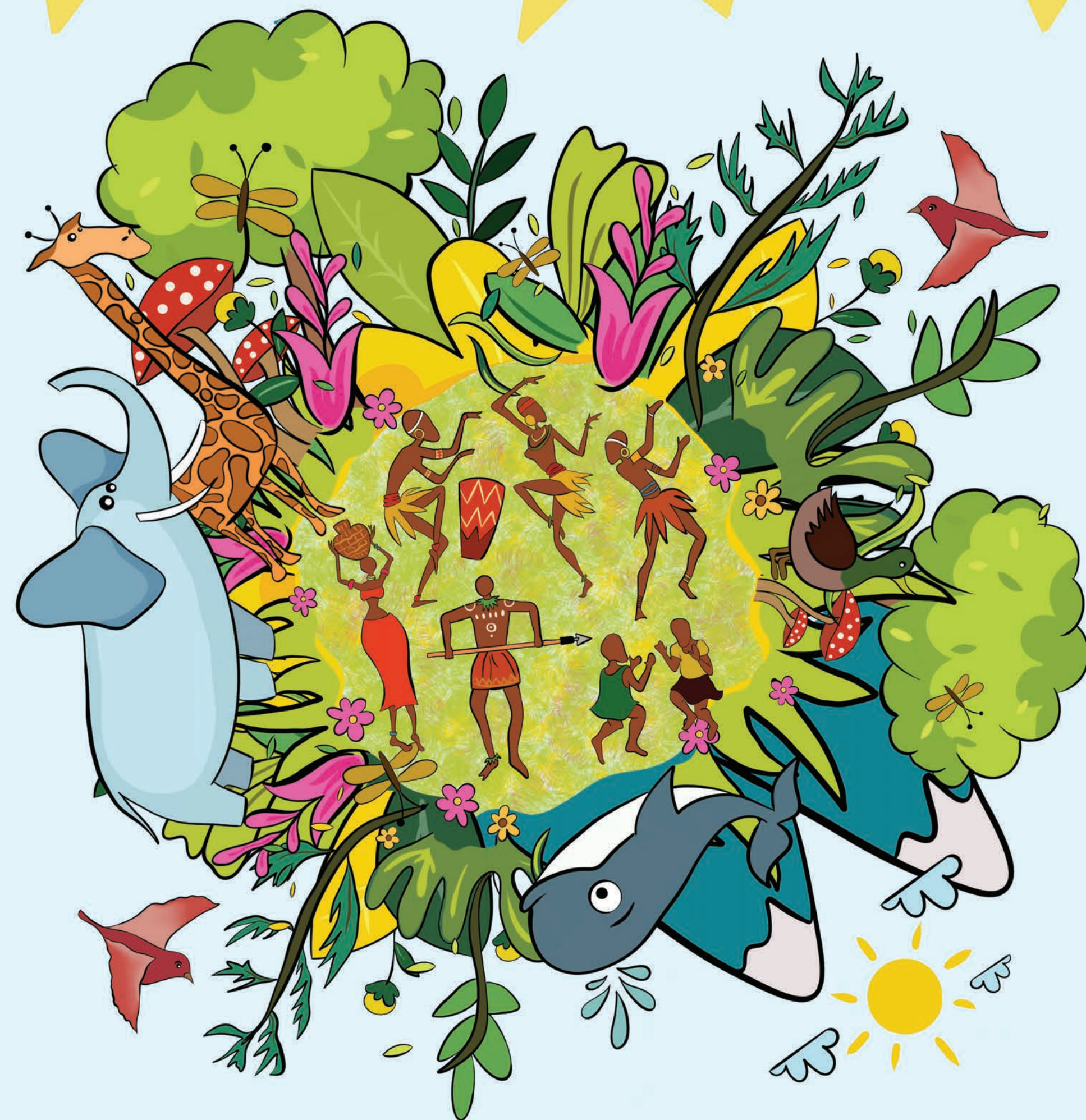
**Worthless car** - The father tells his son that he doesn't understand why people use cars, even for short distances. The son asks him, Why should they walk? The father explains that the smoke from cars is harmful for our health, whereas walking provides health benefits. The son inquired again if cars were only responsible for pollution. The father says that, apart from cars, smoke from factories is one of the major reasons. The son finally understands and decides to use public transport like buses and metros for commuting. **By - Prajapati**

## ऐसे झाड़ अक्ल



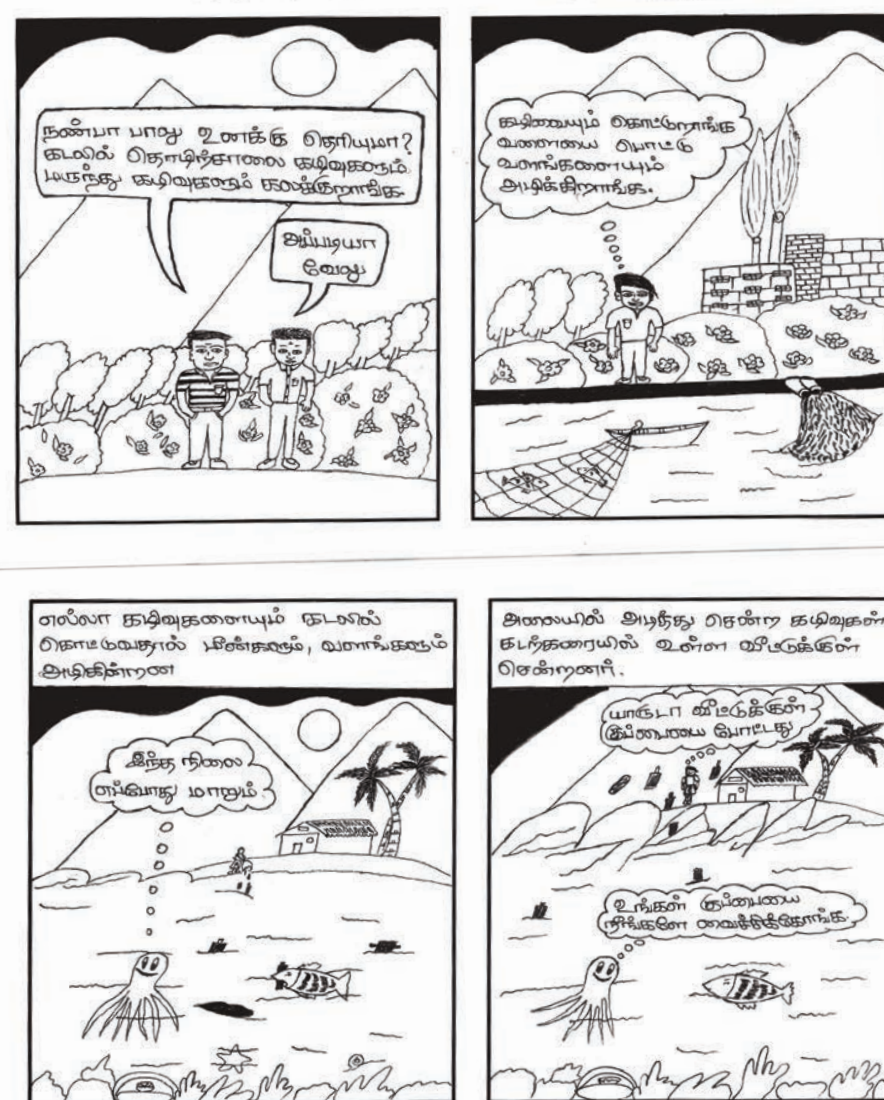
Archana

**This is how he learned** - Rahul was passing through a jungle when he saw a beehive on a tree. He threw a stone at the beehive and started laughing out of fun. Just then, the bees started to chase him. Some people came for help and told him that if the bees had attacked him in defence. Rahul understood his mistake and vowed to never do it again. **By - Archana**

IN THIS ECOSYSTEM,  
CO-DEPENDENCE IS THE KEY

**Indigenous communities living in the forest are not a threat to the eco system, they have preserved it for centuries**

## பிணை விதைத்தவன் பிணை....



S. Denusan

**Action Sower reaction** - Balu and Velu are friends, discussing the decline of sea resources due to industrial waste and garbage dumping. A fish in the sea wonders when this situation will change. After some time, a sea wave sweeps debris into a house near the beach, and the person inside the house is shocked to see sea garbage in his house. To which the fish says - Your trash is yours. **By - S.Denusan**

## இன்றைய நிலைமை யோசனையார்



G. Thamina

**Think of today's plight** - Due to persistent drought, a farmer decides to sell his land for a meager amount to a corporate house even as one of his friends reflects on whether this move on the former's part is right! The corporate holds a meeting and decides to do farming and sell vegetables in the market at a higher price! Soon, the prices of vegetables hit the roof and no one turns up in the market to buy them!. **By G. Thamina**



# How to make a 2-litre SIP?

(Sub-Irrigated Planter)

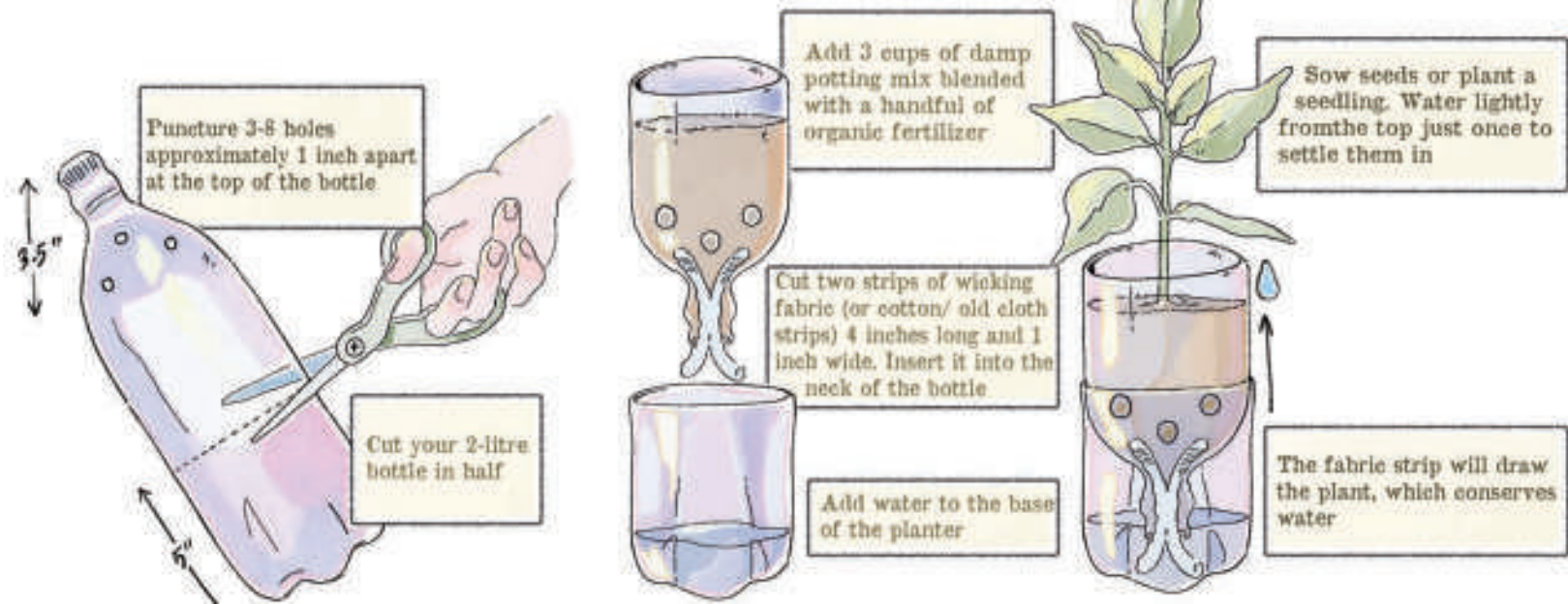


Illustration Credits- Yashsavi

## Spot The Difference

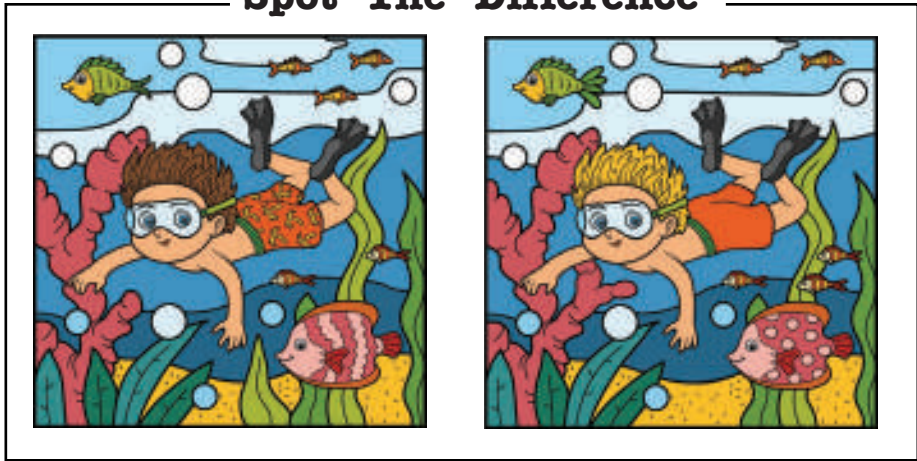


Photo Credits- iStocks

## Solve the Mystery



Photo Credits- iStocks

## Quiz Time

- 1) Which of these materials is biodegradable?

  - a) Plastic
  - b) Glass
  - c) Paper
- 2) How can we reduce air pollution?

  - a) Using public transportation or carpooling
  - b) Driving alone in a car
  - c) Burning trash
- 3) Which of the following is a renewable resource?

  - a) Plastic
  - b) Oil
  - c) Solar power
- 4) What should you do with old toys and clothes you use?

  - a) Throw them in the trash
  - b) Donate them to charity or recycle them
  - c) Leave them lying around
- 5) What is the process called when plants use sunlight to make food?

  - a) Photosynthesis
  - b) Respiration
  - c) Decomposition

Ans: 1) c 2) a 3) c 4) a 5) a

## Movie you can watch

"The Lorax" (2012) Dir: Chris Renaud

"The Lorax" is an animated film about Ted, a young boy who learns the history of the Truffula trees, which were destroyed by the greedy Once-ler to produce Thneeds. This led to severe ecological damage, including habitat destruction and pollution.

The Lorax, a mystical forest guardian, warns the Once-ler about the consequences of his actions. Through vibrant imagery and a compelling narrative, the film underscores the need to conserve natural resources and adopt sustainable practices, highlighting the impact of individual choices on the environment.



Photo Credits- TMDB

Available on - JioCinema, Amazon Prime Video

### About the publication

HCLFoundation and World Comics India's collaborative initiative 'Harit Khabar' is a quarterly newspaper that aims to educate people on environmental issues and challenges and raise community participation towards the cause of the environment. This publication has been launched to provide a platform to various partner organizations working in collaboration with the HCLFoundation's distinct flagship programme Harit - The Green Initiative to showcase their work and accomplishments and also to create a network between them. Through Harit Khabar we aim to stir meaningful debates on critical issues concerning our environment and ecosystem, accessibility to environmental education and public participation in decision-making processes in the country.

### About HCLFoundation

HCLFoundation delivers the corporate social responsibility agenda of HCLTech in India through its flagship programmes and special initiatives. It is a not-for-profit organisation that strives to contribute towards national and international development goals, bringing about lasting positive impact in the lives of people, through long-term sustainable programmes.

### About World Comics India

Advancing Grassroots Comics as an alternate tool of communication to local communities, World Comics India has been continuously working for the past 20 years. Many successful mass campaigns have also been organized using this medium of communication.

Issue – 25, Year – 3, April-June. 2024  
(Private circulation only)

We are grateful to HCLFoundation partners for their significant contribution to this publication.

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