

July - September 2024

HARIT KHABAR

Newsletter featuring Environment Action by HCLFoundation



Special coverage of
48th HCL Day
&
ICCD
on pages 6 - 7



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Building Cities For Tomorrow

Sustainable cities are increasingly recognised as necessary to build a vibrant, harmonious urban environment which balances social justice, economic dynamism and social equity. They focus on reducing carbon emissions, conserving resources, and integrating green spaces to enhance residents' quality of life. By planning for disaster preparedness and climate resilience these cities safeguard their communities from potential threats.

Key features of sustainable cities

Equity in Action

Access to affordable and adequate housing and essential services like healthcare, education, and public amenities; residents actively participating in sustainability initiatives and decisions.



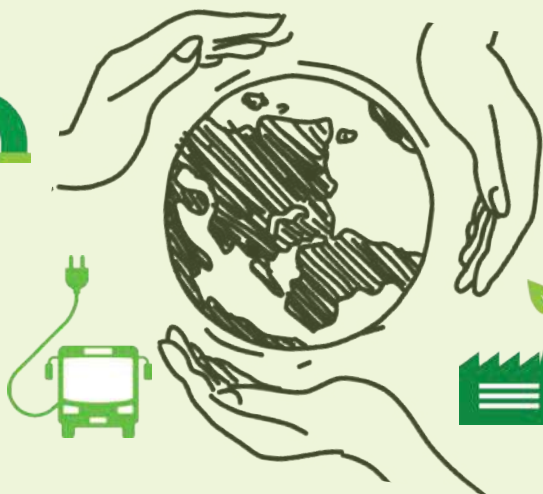
Water Conservation

Using efficient water management practices and technologies. Collecting and using rainwater for irrigation, toilet flushing, or other non-potable uses.



Efficient public transport system

To reduce reliance on personal vehicles and lower greenhouse gas emissions; creating infrastructure for cycling and walking.



Waste management systems



Prioritizing recycling and composting reduces landfill use, conserves resources, lowers emissions, and promotes sustainable waste management.



Energy efficiency

Incorporating energy-efficient technologies and renewable energy sources; invest in renewable energy sources like solar and wind power.

Green infrastructure

Energy-efficient designs and sustainable materials to help reduce energy consumption and carbon footprints; green spaces, such as parks and community gardens.



Did you know? Stockholm in Sweden is considered to be Europe's greenest city. It recycles almost 99% of its waste.

ACTIVE CITIZEN

AYESHA FATHIMAZ



Sustainable Olympics

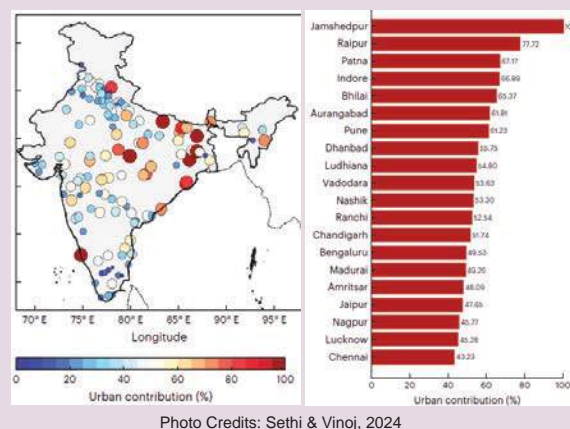
The Paris Olympics this year were heavily focused on sustainability, reflecting a broader trend towards greener and more socially responsible sporting events. The Olympic Village for the 2024 Summer Games was designed to incorporate eco-friendly technologies and materials, emphasizing sustainability and legacy. The Games targeted a 100% renewable energy supply, and most of the sporting venues were within a 10-kilometer radius.

There were sustainable waste management and recycling programs put in place to reduce waste. Overall, Paris 2024 set new standards for sustainability and inclusivity with a focus on environmental stewardship and long-term community benefits.



The Rising Heat of Urban Environments

Urbanization was responsible for 60% increase in warming of Indian cities was revealed by a study 'Urbanization and regional climate change-linked warming of Indian Cities' conducted by researchers from IIT- Bhubaneshwar and published in journal 'Nature City'.



They used NASA's Aqua satellite to collect high-resolution land surface temperature data for 18 years, from 2003 to 2020. It also found that, in contrast to bigger metropolises like New Delhi and Mumbai, Tier II cities in eastern India demonstrated increased urbanization- driven warming.

Cities for Sustainable Future

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) of India approved 12 new industrial smart city projects across 10 states on August 28, 2024, with an investment of INR 286.02 billion under the National Industrial Corridor Development Programme (NICDP). With modern infrastructure based on sustainable ideas like "plug-and-play" (easy to set up business operations) and "walk-to-work" (residential areas close to workplaces), these areas will be developed as smart industrial hubs under the NICDP.



Photo Credits: PIB, Govt of India

International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem



The International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem, observed on July 26, highlights the vital role of mangroves in ecological balance and human livelihoods. It raises awareness about threats like deforestation and climate change, promoting conservation efforts worldwide.

Protecting Sundarbans



To celebrate the day, Development Research Communication and Services Centre (DRCSC) organized plantation and awareness camps in Hingalganj and Patharpratima blocks of South 24 Parganas, West Bengal. Around 8,000 mangrove saplings and seeds were planted that day.

Between 26 July and 11 August, a total of 30,000 saplings and seeds were planted in the Sundarbans. Over 120 people, including community members, Mangrove Protection Group members (women), DRCSC staff, and Local Panchayat members, participated in the plantation events, while more than 230 people, including students and teachers, attended the awareness camps.

Hilighting the Importance of Mangroves

The M S Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) celebrated International Mangrove Day on 26th July 2024 at Chinnagollapalem, Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh. Local dignitaries, including Panchayat President Mr. Sunil, former MPTC member Mr. Koppada Venkanna Babu, and the Headmaster of Chinnagollapalem School, attended the event.



Around 100 villagers and 35 schoolchildren participated enthusiastically. The event highlighted the importance of mangroves in enhancing fishery resources, carbon sequestration, and preventing soil erosion.

An awareness rally was also held to promote mangrove conservation among schoolchildren. The MSSRF team, led by Mr. N Babji, Mr. D Srinivasa Rao, and Mr. Balarama Murthy, played a key role in organizing the successful event.

Half of the World's Mangroves at Risk

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) issued the "Red List of Mangrove Ecosystems" on 22 May 2024, revealing that over 50% of global mangrove forests are at high risk of severe degradation or collapse due to human activities and environmental changes. The report serves as a critical wake-up call for governments and conservation agencies worldwide.

Roots of Resilience

Souvik Kumar is part of the project with the Development Research Communication and Services Centre (DRCSC), supported by the HCLFoundation. The project aims at restoring the mangrove and social forestry ecosystem of the Sundarbans and enhancing climate resilience through stakeholder engagement. He is also a doctoral research scholar (Social Cultural Anthropology) and loves to write and photograph.



Mangroves are a meeting edge of land and saline water bodies on coastal belts. The Sundarbans, the world's largest mangrove ecosystem, is an archipelago of several hundred islands, spread across 9,630 sq km in India, covering 13 blocks in South 24 Parganas and 6 in North 24 Parganas. The Sundarbans have 84 species of mangrove plants, the highest recorded globally.

A study shows that the Sundarbans region has lost approx. 25 percent of mangroves due to erosion over the past three decades, mainly caused by upland dams and exploitation of resources. The mangrove forests have maintained tree density over time, but the number of large trees has declined by 0.27% per year due to exploitation.



DRCSC, in partnership with HCLFoundation, has restored more than 5 lakh mangrove saplings/seedlings (Bruguiera, Avicennia, Heritiera, Nypa, Rhizophora, Ceriops, Excoecaria, Pandanus, and other native species) and other associated native species.

Covering more than 50 hectares of coastal Sundarbans over the last two years under the project 'Restoration and Rehabilitation of Mangrove and Social Forestry Ecosystem'.

In this intervention, 30 women-led Mangroves Protection Groups have been formed that provide training and conduct workshops to maintain the sites and raise nurseries at several gram panchayats of Hingalganj and Patharpratima blocks.

With guidance from the Harit team of HCLFoundation, a biodiversity workshop was conducted with participation from DRCSC's field staff and the local community. These initiatives resulted in systematic data collection and documentation of birds, butterflies, and bees from the project sites.



From Ghost Net to Green products



Photo Credits: AWCS

Recently, a ghost-net of 1790 kg fished out by fishermen at Rajupalem, Andhra Pradesh, was safely collected and brought to the AWCS Ghost Net Upcycling Unit for further processing. This massive net could trap other fishing nets, converting them into ghost nets as well. Oceans DeTangled is an initiative by Animal Warriors Conservation Society (AWCS) and HCLFoundation to mitigate the economic and ecological impacts of Ghost Nets at Kothapotnam, Ongole, AP. Under this program, fishermen are educated about ghost nets and their harmful impacts. Ghost nets that are retrieved are recycled by fishermen, creating a circular economy.

Collecting Seeds for a Sustainable Future!

The DHAN Foundation organized a three-day native seed collection drive in the Alagar Kovil Hills, collaborating with HCLFoundation members, local Self-Help Groups (SHGs), and students from Madurai Kamaraj University. The team successfully gathered nearly 3,000 seeds from 28 different species of plants, trees, and shrubs native to the region.

These seeds, representing a wide variety of regional flora, will be carefully nurtured in nursery beds at Madurai Kamaraj University's Adavi Sacred Groves. Once grown into robust seedlings, they will be used in future plantation initiatives aimed at restoring and enhancing the regional ecosystem, thus playing a crucial role in preserving local biodiversity and supporting long-term environmental sustainability.



Photo Credits: DHAN Foundation

Van Mahotsav Celebration in Full Bloom!

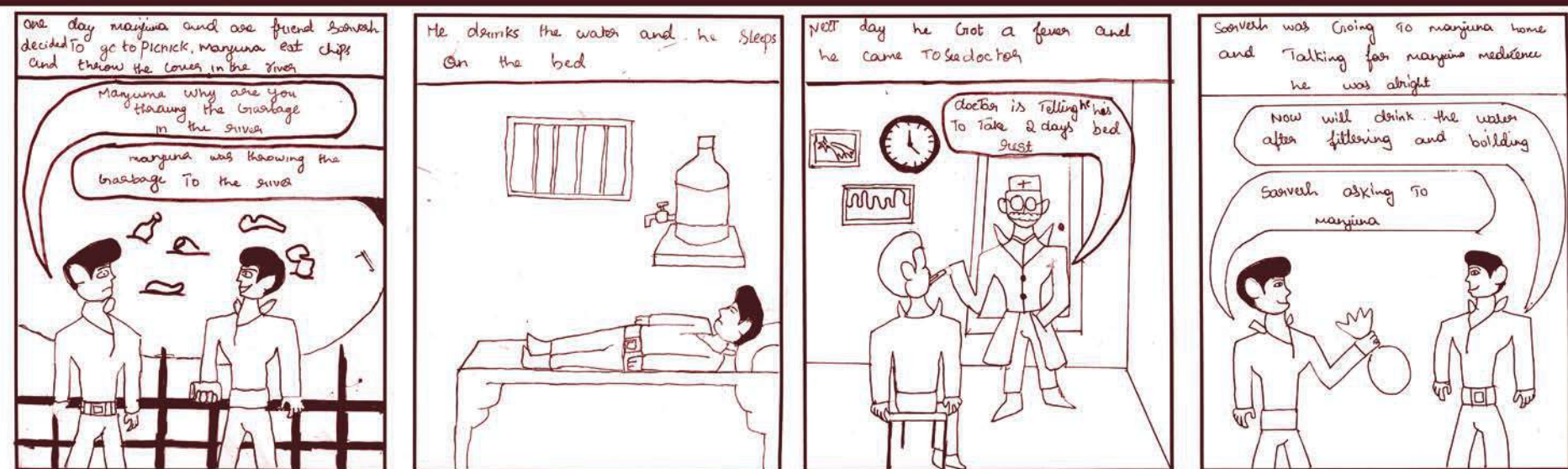


Photo Credits: GMTT

HCLFoundation and Give Me Trees Trust hosted Van Mahotsava 2024, a week-long celebration at Atal Harit Upvan in Lucknow, from July 1st to 7th. Despite rain, the event saw enthusiastic participation from local schools, colleges, and the community. Activities included nature walks, tree walks, bird walks, painting, seed ball making, and poster making, promoting environmental sustainability, biodiversity conservation, and afforestation.

The event fostered a deeper connection with nature, raised awareness, and inspired ongoing efforts to protect green spaces. Approximately 300 participants engaged in the activities, showcasing the community's commitment to environmental conservation.

Boil it First



edgju-k 10 'A'

Volunteers for Wildlife

On July 2, 2024, a team of 12 volunteers from HCLFoundation visited Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre (WRRRC) and contributed significantly to their facility's upkeep. They enthusiastically pruned vegetation around the fence, cleaned the shelter, and helped fix the mesh in the enclosures.

Their efforts have helped improve the environment for the rehabilitating animals and ensured the safety and cleanliness of the area.



Photo Credits: WRRRC

Partnering for Relief



Photo Credits: WRRRC

In response to the devastating floods in Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh, HCLFoundation swiftly mobilized to provide life-saving aid and long-term support to affected persons. The Foundation has supported over 1,000 families with essential dry rations and hygiene kits in partnership with Vasavya Mahila Mandal. Additionally, they have rescued and cared for animals in need with the Animal Warriors Conservation Society. In collaboration with SOCHARA, they provided critical knowledge on preventing waterborne diseases and ensuring access to safe drinking water.

Together for a Better Earth

A dedicated team of 21 volunteers from Cognizant, the HCLFoundation, and the local community came together for a forest cleanup drive at Buckingham Canal on 13th July, 2024. It was organised by Thuvakkam, in partnership with HCLFoundation, and by the end of the event, approximately 80 kg of waste had been collected and disposed of, with the assistance of sanitary workers.



Photo Credits: Thuvakkam

Measuring for a Greener Tomorrow



Photo Credits: TIDE

With the support of HCLFoundation, the TIDE team did baseline assessments for more than 300 students from government schools in Chennai as a part of the Harit school initiative.

This assessment will help evaluate students' understanding of national and global environmental changes and associated perspectives and behaviors. The team also received input and support from school management on key environmental challenges within schools, which the intervention aim to address through annual action projects by students.

Continuing the Commitment

In partnership with OfERR and HCLFoundation, World Comics India implemented an environmental campaign in Tamil Nadu last year in which various schools in 6 different cities participated. The staff members of OfERR and other volunteers were also provided comprehensive training on grassroots comic methodology, and eventually they became grassroots comics trainers during the course of the campaign.

However, the journey has continued with trainers from OfERR conducting comics workshops in schools this year as well. In the month of August, three comprehensive orientation and training sessions were organized by OfERR in three different schools in Chennai to enhance environmental education and creative skills among school students. Here, we are sharing a few glimpses from the workshop.



Photo Credits: OfERR

Creativity Meets Environment

Shining a Light on Sustainability

On 20th August, Composite School Kulesera Celebrated Indian Akshay Urja Diwas with a special event organized by GEAG and HCLFoundation, dedicated to promoting awareness about renewable energy sources and their vital role in addressing climate change. The event was designed to engage students creatively, with activities such as a slogan and poem writing competition, which allowed them to express their understanding and ideas about clean energy.

A total of 46 students participated in the event and learned about various renewable energy sources, including solar, wind, and hydropower, and how these alternatives to fossil fuels are essential in reducing carbon emissions



Photo Credits: GEAG

and minimizing the harmful effects of global warming.

The event emphasized the importance of transitioning to clean energy for a sustainable future, highlighting how individual actions can contribute to larger environmental benefits.

Roaring for Conservation

To raise awareness about the critical role of tigers in our ecosystem, GEAG and HCLFoundation celebrated International Tiger Day at Upper Primary School Itehra, Noida, UP, on 29 July, 2024, in which 43 students participated. The students were engaged through various activities, such as making tiger boards, paintings, face masks, and hand paintings. They were made aware of the interconnection of wildlife conservation and climate change mitigation.



Photo Credits: GEAG

Green Footsteps through Line Drawing

Nagpur



World Comics India, in collaboration with HCLFoundation and NGO Aroha, held a two-day workshop at Lal Bahadur Shastri School, Nagpur. The event engaged 47 students from four schools in creating comics on environmental issues, aiming to raise awareness and encourage creative communication. The workshop successfully fostered enthusiasm and innovative thinking among participants.

Madurai

On 5th August, 2024, WCI and HCLFoundation conducted two EE comics workshops at two different schools in Madurai, with about 77 students participated. The workshops focused on using comics to explore environmental issues, offering students a creative way to express their ideas. The engaging sessions helped students deepen their understanding and passion for environmental topics.



2024 "Madurai, Tamil Nadu" 2024-08-05 14:34

Chennai



The EE comics workshop sessions engaged 37 students on the first day and 45 on the second, guiding them to explore environmental topics and draft their first comics. The workshops fostered creativity and provided students with a platform to voice their environmental concerns. The workshops were conducted by WCI in partnership with HCLFoundation.

Sorkha

At Harit Upvan Sorkha, Noida, World Comics India (WCI) and HCLFoundation hosted a workshop with 57 students. They participated in a comics exhibition, watched environmental videos, and created comics on topics like development and food waste. The event highlighted the students' enthusiasm for environmental issues and their commitment to ongoing creative expression.



Photo Credits: WCI

48th HCL day with 48,000 Saplings

To mark the 48th anniversary of the HCL enterprise, a mega plantation drive was organized on 11th August 2024 across India by HCLFoundation. On a sublime early morning, about 2,000+ volunteers, including HCLTechies, their families, NGO partners, and community members, zealously planted 48,000 saplings of native trees and mangroves. Forty-eight years of impact were fondly remembered as the drive took place at HCLFoundation project sites in districts including Gautam Buddha Nagar, Bengaluru, Chennai, Lucknow, Hardoi, Hyderabad, Nagpur, Madurai, Chamoli, Almora, Thoothukudi, Coimbatore, and North & South 24 Parganas, as well as Krishna.

Mrs. Roshni Nadar Malhotra, Chairperson, HCLTech, along with Dr. Nidhi Pundhir, Senior Vice President, Global CSR, HCLTech & Director, HCLFoundation, joined the volunteers at Amarpur, Gautam Buddha Nagar. Several members of Leadership from HCLTech took part in the mega plantation event in all the regions. This was not just a plantation event, but a tribute to the 48 years of impact by the HCL group, looking forward to a future defined by an infinity of possibilities. The collective effort symbolized HCL's commitment to environmental sustainability and community welfare.



Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh



Chamoli, Uttarakhand

“On this momentous 48th HCL Day, we reaffirm our dedication to fostering a greener, cleaner future through HCLFoundation. We are thrilled to announce the planting of 48,000 additional saplings nationwide, bringing our total to over 2.8 million trees planted.”

- Dr. Nidhi Pundhir, Senior Vice President, Global CSR, HCLTech, and Director, HCLFoundation.



Hardoi, Uttar Pradesh



Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh



Chinna Gollapalem, Andhra Pradesh



Bengaluru, Karnataka



Hyderabad, Telengana



North 24 Parganas, West Bengal



Purulia, Bankura and Jhargram, West Bengal



Madurai, Tamil Nadu



Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu



Almora, Uttarakhand



Nagpur, Maharashtra



Chennai, Tamil Nadu

International Coastal Cleanup Day

What is ICCD?

International Coastal Cleanup Day, observed annually on the third Saturday of September, is a global event dedicated to removing trash from coastlines and waterways. Initiated by the Ocean Conservancy, it mobilizes volunteers worldwide to collect and record debris, aiming to improve marine environments and raise awareness about ocean pollution.



Sea The Change with HCL

Every year, over 11 million tons of plastic waste enter our oceans. Approximately 100,000 marine animals die every year due to plastic pollution. International Coastal Cleanup Day (ICCD) is observed on the third Saturday of every September to raise awareness on this critical threat to oceans.

This year, HCLFoundation celebrated the 39th ICCD on 21st September by conducting beach cleanups across eight coastal sites in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Odisha, and Kerala. About 2400+ volunteers, including HCLTechies, students, government officials, and several members from the community, joined hands to clean up beaches in their respective areas.

In alignment with this cause, HCLFoundation partnered with local communities and various environmental organizations, including the Tamil Nadu Forest Department, The Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve Trust, MS Swaminathan Research Foundation, Development Research Communication and Services Centre, SPANDAN, ReefWatch Marine Conservation, Plan@Earth, and Animal Warriors Conservation Society, for this impactful drive.



Puri, Odisha



Chennai, Tamil Nadu



Ramanathapuram, Tamil Nadu



Murdeswar, Karnataka



Kochi, Kerala

Kudos to the united spirit of volunteering; a total of about 18458 kilograms of waste was collected from all the sites. This would not have been possible without the 13,000+ hours of effort by volunteers. The day was a successful reaffirmation of HCLFoundation's commitment to the preservation of coastal and marine ecosystems and #SeaTheChange.

Monsoon Fury

Assam

In July, Assam witnessed unprecedented rains, leaving millions displaced, and causing heavy damage to roads and infrastructure. More than 100 people also died during the floods.



Photo Credits: PTI

The floods also killed around 200 wild animals, including 10 rhinos, in Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve, which is renowned for its incredible

biodiversity and as a critical sanctuary for the Indian one-horned rhinoceros. The park is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Andhra Pradesh

More than 6 lakh people have been impacted by the severe floods that have affected several districts of Andhra Pradesh, including Vijayawada since August 31. Large areas have been submerged due to rising water levels in key rivers and overflowing reservoirs, posing a serious risk to people's lives, property, and infrastructure.

Himachal Pradesh Cloudburst

On July 31, a devastating cloudburst in the Samej area of Rampur district in Himachal Pradesh led to death of 21 people. The cloudburst struck the area with extreme force, bringing torrential rainfall within a very short period. This sudden downpour led to flash floods and landslides.

Tripura

The month of August brought heavy rains, landslides, and flash floods in Tripura due to overflowing Gomti river. The state government's Relief Rehabilitation and Disaster Management Department reported that 32 individuals had died as a result of rainfall-related causes, such as landslides and drowning.

Wayanad

In the early hours of July 30, two landslides within a gap of few hours, triggered by heavy rainfall, wreaked havoc in the Wayanad district of Kerala. It was one of the deadliest disaster in the history of Kerala which claimed more than 300 lives. The majority of the deceased were workers on cardamom and tea estates who were asleep when the landslides occurred.



Photo Credits: Down To Earth

wild animals. The Wayanad landslide tragedy highlights the importance of disaster preparedness, environmental conservation, and effective response mechanisms to mitigate the impact of natural disasters.

Eight wild elephants, a sambar deer and its calf, and two tigers were among the deceased

Gujarat



Photo Credits: iStock

Since the last week of August, 2024, heavy rainfall in parts of Gujarat has caused havoc in the state. It has caused severe damage to standing crops and according to a report in The Hindu, around 50 people have lost their lives in rain related incidents so far.

Vadodara has been severely impacted by unprecedented flooding as the Vishwamitri river breached its banks and entered residential areas, following intense monsoon rains. The floods have led to widespread disruption, significant property damage, and considerable distress among local residents.

Around The World

Dam Burst in Sudan



Photo Credits: Sky News

Arbaat dam, the main source of drinking water for the coastal city of Port Sudan, collapsed on 24 August due to severe rainfall leading to the death of close to 150 people.

Typhoon Yagi strikes



Photo Credits: iStock

The typhoon Yagi caused extensive flooding, landslides, and widespread damage to lives and infrastructure in Southern China, and the Philippines before it made a landfall in Vietnam on September 7. The typhoon submerged the Hanoi city partially and so far around 200 people have lost their lives.

Wildfires in South America

South America is experiencing unprecedented wave of forest fires from Amazon forests in Brazil to Bolivia. The wildfires has been so intense that Bolivia had to declare national emergency on September 7. Though scientists believe that many of these fires have been caused by humans, a combination of dry conditions and ongoing deforestation has also played a significant role.

According to Reuters "Satellite data analyzed by Brazil's space research agency Inpe has registered 346,112 fire hotspots so far

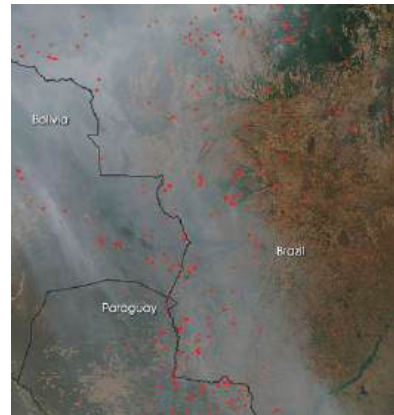


Photo Credits: NASA

this year in all 13 countries of South America, topping the earlier 2007 record of 345,322 hotspots in a data series that goes back to 1998." The smoke from forest fires in Brazil has reached the neighbouring countries like Argentina and Uruguay as well.

Draught in Southern Africa

According to Southern African Development Community (SADC), a regional block of Southern Africa countries, about 68 million people in Southern Africa are facing the effects of an El Nino-induced drought which has wiped off crops across the region.

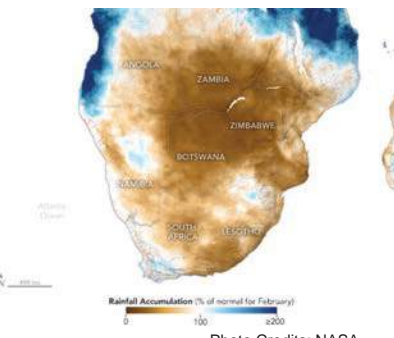


Photo Credits: NASA

Spectacular Display of Creativity & Conservation



Photo Credits: meashan.org

A parade of 100 elephant sculptures in New York is gaining everyone's attention. The Great Elephant Migration is a public art installation that's visiting New York after making its stops at Kochi, London and Bengaluru.

These sculptures are made of Lantana, an invasive plant species that's threatening elephants' habitats and making food scarce for them. Over the course of the last five years, the Coexistence Collective—a group of 200 Indigenous artists from South India's Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve—has created these sculptures of Indian elephants.

Chintamoni Mandal

Development Research Communication and Services Centre (DRCSC)



Photo Credits: DRCSC

Chintamoni Mandal (71 years old) lives with his wife Pratima Mandal in Bhagwatpur village of Patharpratima Gram panchayat, Patharpratima Block, South 24 Parganas, West Bengal. Since the age of 18, he has been fishing in the rivers of the Sundarbans delta but left the work some years ago due to age-related ailments. Now, to meet his daily needs, he knits and repairs nets for living.

Being a resident of the riverine bank of the Susunia River, he has observed and witnessed the devastating effects of deforestation and climate change in and around the Sundarban delta region. He dislikes how people are cutting down mangrove trees, which are a natural shield for the habitats of the Sundarban. At this age, he still collects the mangrove seeds from the tidal flow of the river and plants them on the shoreline.

The thoughtfulness of Chintamoni got its wings when the opportunity for mangrove plantation work came to his village under the project "Restoration and Rehabilitation of Mangrove and Social Forestry Ecosystems in the Coastal Sundarbans," supported by HCLFoundation and initiated by DRCSC. The initiative led him to be an inseparable part of "Kachipata Banasuraksha Gosthi," a mangrove protection group, and he wholeheartedly joined the group without claiming any monetary benefit for his work.

Since 2022, DRCSC has planted total 28000 plantation covering almost 7 hectares of area in his village, with support from HCLFoundation. The planted saplings have a survival rate of more than 85%. It is his daily routine to check the mangrove plantation sites and the fencing, and in his own words, "such activities give me immense happiness." He says that he wants to compensate for the loss of nature for the sake of future generations.



Photo Credits: DRCSC

Marine Eco-Champions

SPANDAN

Marine Eco-Champions: Suguna, Kaveri, Madhu, Akila, Rukmani, Devi, Shanti, Venkatlaxmi, Aruna, Kanakaamma, Sathish, Ramu, Ravanamma, Laxmi and Satyavati

Penthakotta is one of the largest marine fishing habitats on the east coast of India and comes under the tourism city of Puri in the State of Odisha. Harit by HCLFoundation, in partnership with regional organization SPANDAN, initiated on-shore and off-shore sea-beach cleaning drives with the local coastal community in Puri.

SPANDAN has been working since 2009 towards mobilization and awareness building of women SHG groups in different hamlets of Puri coast along with other environmental initiatives. With HCLFoundation, SPANDAN has formed youth groups from the local community known as 'Marine Eco-Champions' in different hamlets. These youth members organize 'beach cleaning campaigns' in different hamlets along with women SHG members from the same hamlets.



Photo Credits: SPANDAN

It is now found that the male members are also actively participating in programmes, after a series of multiple behavior change meetings and workshops. They also collect solid waste from the beach and segregate it as per different categories, like ghostnets, glasses, and other waste, with the help of community members. So far, the implementation and intervention, along with community involvement, have removed more than 1.0 tons of ghostnets from the beach. The response from the community has been very positive, and leaders of various baraf (hamlets) are approaching the organization to initiate such programs in their respective hamlets at regular intervals. The program, which was started in the year 2023, is becoming a journey towards collaborative association.



Khushi Baghel

NGO Aroha

Khushi Baghel, a 15-year-old student at Vivekananda Nagar School in Nagpur, is making a difference. Khushi is currently in 9th grade, and she got involved with NGO Aroha through the HCLF-Harit environment education program at her school.

Through this program, she learned about organic farming, biodiversity, rainwater harvesting, composting, eco-friendly products, and more. She is very concerned about ozone layer depletion and considers protecting the ozone layer through pollution awareness and tree care to be her mission. She says, "The ozone layer is depleting due to pollution, so we should focus on reducing pollution. It's not enough just to plant trees; we must also nurture them to grow."

Before joining the program, Khushi was unaware of toxin-free food. During an orientation on environmental education, she received seeds for her home kitchen garden, which helped her understand the importance of organic food. She also learned about medicinal plants and their uses. Khushi actively participates in cleaning, watering, and harvesting vegetables from the school's kitchen garden and regularly attends Aroha's programs. She is committed to planting more trees and ensuring they thrive.



Photo Credits: NGO Aroha

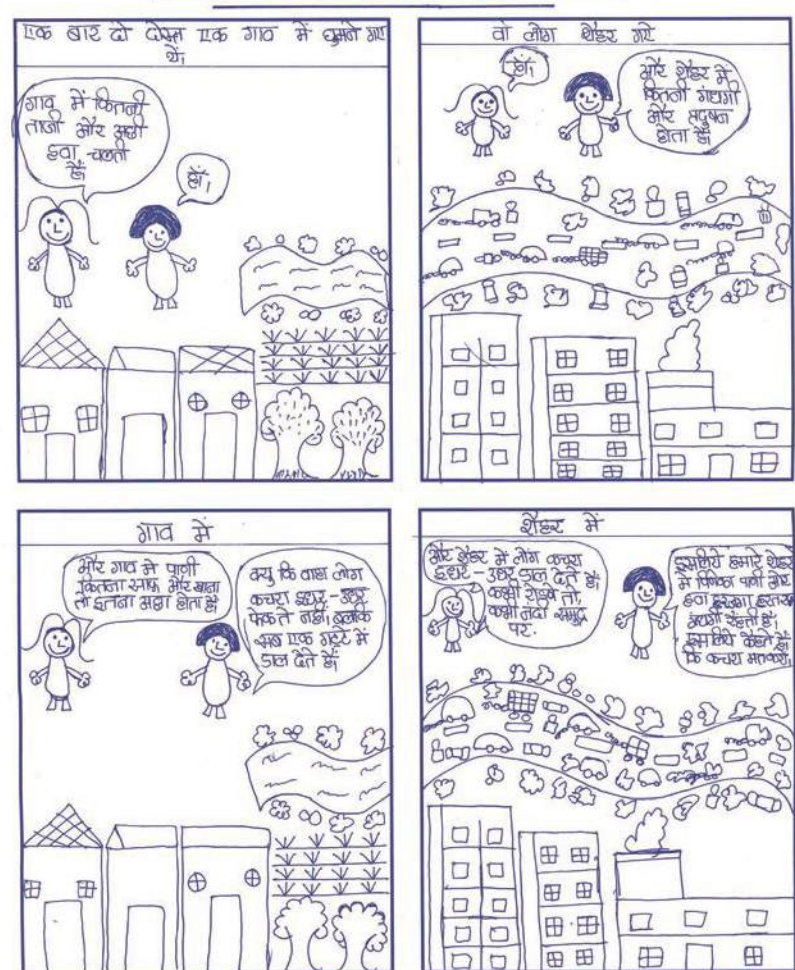
बने जिम्मेदार नागरिक

नाम - प्रीतमकुमार शर्मा



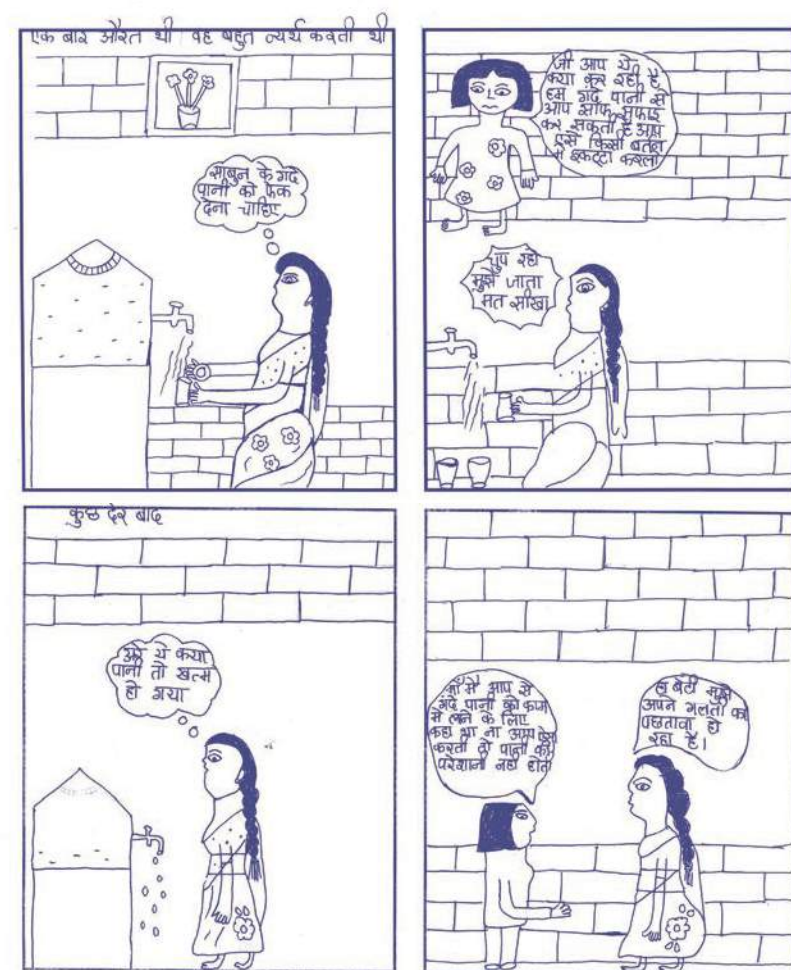
Be a responsible citizen - Rahul and Raju, who were close friends, went on a jungle safari. During the safari, they asked the guide about the illegal smuggling of elephants' tusks. The guide tells them that it's true and that their smuggling is illegal, but the government has prohibited its trade. As they reached close to the river, they asked if the trade was causing a lot of problems for the elephants, and the guide replied that that is true, and if it is not stopped, elephants will soon become extinct. After they crossed the river, they spoke about the various ways elephant tusks are used for and wanted to know how it could be stopped. The guide replies that if we stop buying their products, the demand will reduce automatically. As the safari finished, they decided that they would never buy such products and would tell others not to buy as well.

शहर की मुसीबतें.



City Problems - Once, two friends visited a village and started comparing it with the city. They realized that the air was very clean in the village, whereas the city air was polluted. The water was also clean and food was healthier in the village because they don't throw garbage here and there and use compost pits for disposal. But, people in the cities throw garbage on the roads, rivers, and seas, and the friends understood that this is the reason for the water and air pollution in the cities.

पानी खत्स



Water is over - Once there was a woman who used to waste a lot of water. She would wash clothes and throw the waste water away. Her daughter tries to explain that rather than wasting the used water, we can use it for cleaning the house. The mother, however, did not like the suggestion and scolded the child. After some time, the water gets over. The daughter comes back and again explains the benefit of reusing the water. This time, the mother understands and accepts her mistake.

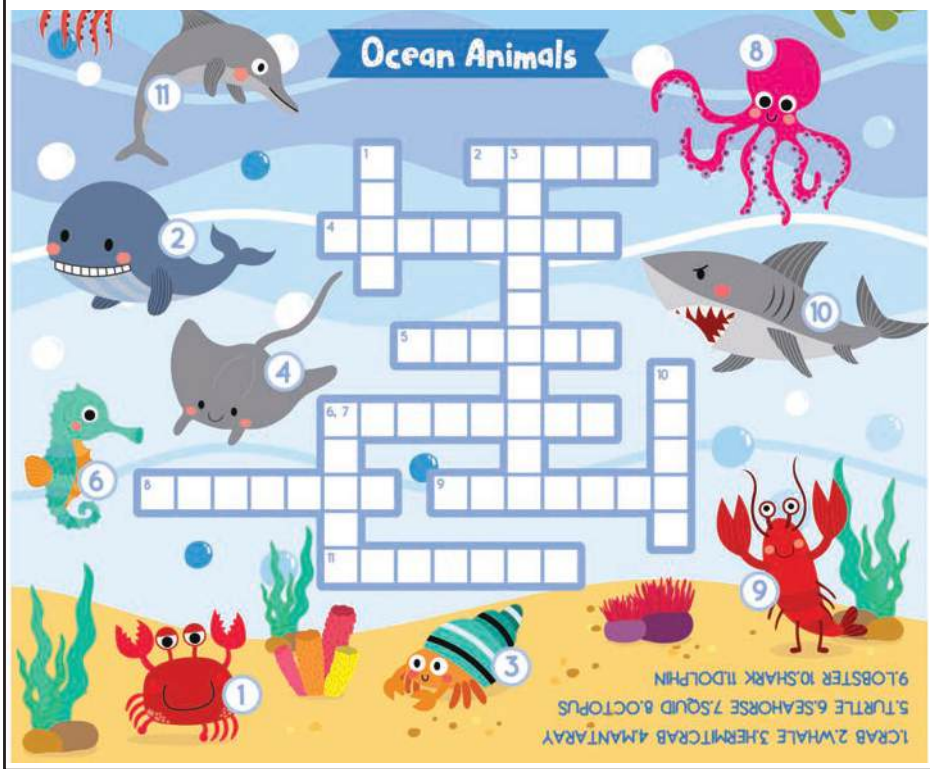
THE SOLAR REVOLUTION IN VILLAGE

Nishal M.D
10th STD



Every waste that is not managed
will come back to haunt us

CROSSWORDS



Credits: iStock

QUIZ



- 1) Who leads the elephant herd typically?
- a) The eldest male
 - b) The youngest female
 - c) The eldest female
 - d) The strongest male
- 2) How do elephants typically communicate over long distances?
- a) Through trumpet calls
 - b) Through ground vibrations
 - c) Through visual signals
 - d) Through scent markings
- 3) What do you call the long, curved teeth of an elephant?
- a) Fangs
 - b) Tusks
 - c) Claws
 - d) Antlers
- 4) What is a common threat to elephant populations in the wild?
- a) Habitat loss
 - b) Diseases
 - c) Predation
 - d) Overpopulation

Ans: 1(c), 2(b), 3(b), 4(a)

ACID RAIN

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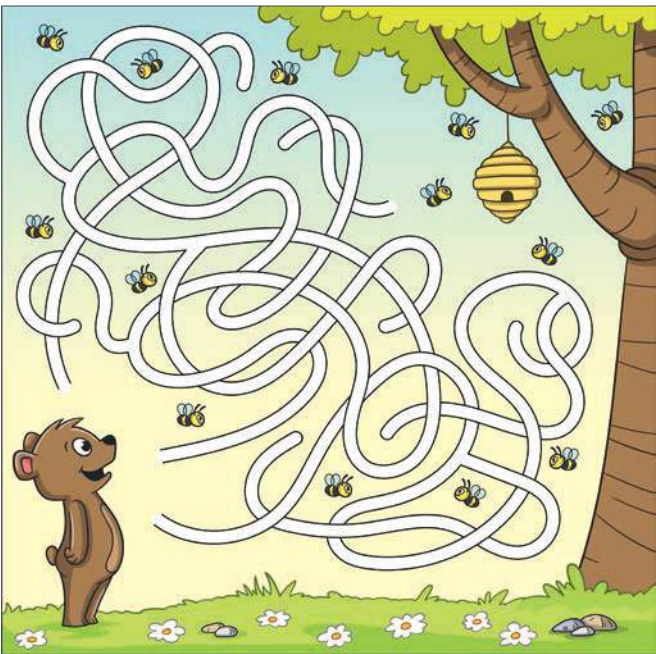


Find the right way

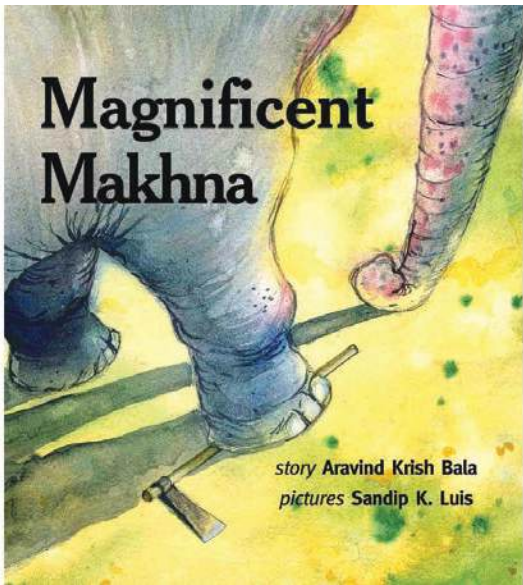
Books to read

Magnificent Makhna by Aravind Krish Bala and Sandip K Luis

2018: Best of Indian Children's Writing: Contemporary (Recommended by CBSE & NCERT)



Credits: iStock



Available on: <https://www.tulikabooks.com>
(in Multiple Indian Languages)

A majestic elephant protects the forests from timber traders, tree-cutters and poachers.

The animal becomes such a legend, that his photograph is a regular display piece on the walls of their homes. But one day, the Forest Department receives strict orders to hunt the elephant down...

This riveting story, with painterly illustrations, has been inspired by true events. Highlighting the complex cause of conservation, it draws the reader's attention to realities that need to be faced without taking sides.

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.

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