

October - December 2024

# HARIT KHABAR

Newsletter featuring Environment Action by HCLFoundation



**CEN-UPHAR**  
Center for Upholding Human  
Animal Relationship

Special coverage of  
**World Rabies Day**  
&  
**Wildlife Week**  
on pages 6 - 7



Please scan here to  
give your feedback



Wildlife Conservation Day is observed annually on December 4th to raise awareness about the importance of wildlife conservation and the urgent need to protect endangered species and their habitats. The day highlights the various threats wildlife face, such as habitat loss, poaching, climate change, and illegal wildlife trade, and emphasizes the responsibility humans have to safeguard the planet's biodiversity.

The theme for this year was "Connecting People and Planet: Exploring Digital Innovation in Wildlife Conservation"



Battle against Manjha Thread

Avian and Reptile Rehabilitation Centre (ARRC), a wildlife rescue and rehabilitation centre operated by Avian and Reptile Rehabilitation Trust (ARRT), has been at the forefront of the battle against manjha thread and human-wildlife conflict in Bengaluru since its inception in 2016.



To date, ARRC has assisted more than 38,000 urban wild animals from manjha and human-wildlife conflicts, rescuing, treating, and releasing urban wildlife into their native habitats in Bengaluru city. Since 2022, ARRT has been partnering with HCLFoundation through the "Responsible Kite Flying" project to intensify their efforts to keep Bengaluru's skies safe for urban wildlife.

ARRC has developed two digital tools to visualize the collected manjha rescue data

Mapping the Danger: Manjha Hotspots Map (<https://wildarrc.org/manjhamap>)

To identify the scope of the problem, ARRC started collecting GPS locations for all manjha rescues and visualized them using a custom web application leveraging Google Maps. This helped in pinpointing manjha hotspot clusters across Bengaluru, proactively monitor hotspots, actually finding and rescuing animals without relying on public reporting, and uses this data to launch targeted and interactive awareness programs.



Empowering Citizens: 'Manjha Near Me' app (<https://wildarrc.org/mymanjhamap>)

The 'Manjha Near Me' app leverages the user's GPS location to reveal the number of manjha rescues in a 5 km radius of the person's location over the past year and also invites the reader to become a "Manjha Warrior" and monitor/report manjha cases and trees with manjha to ARRC, thus taking ownership of the manjha issue in their neighborhood. These innovative tools showcase the extent of the manjha issue and connect people to the planet by transforming Bengaluru's residents into active participants in wildlife conservation.

Animal Welfare Convergence Workshop

HCLFoundation concluded a 3-day Animal Welfare Convergence workshop in Bengaluru on 23 October, 2024, with a session on developing SOPs for data collection, monitoring, and management related to animal welfare with Dr. Harish Kumar Tiwari from IIT Guwahati. This was followed by an online session with Dr. Basu, Project Director, Harit by HCLFoundation, and then a discussion with Dr. Zaman, Subject Matter Expert and Consultant Advisor, Animal Welfare on creating a module with best practices followed by partners who have projects on animal birth control. NGO Partners presented their work done in collaboration with HCLFoundation and discussed ideas for developing a successful compassion-building campaign. They also ideated and discussed multiple outreach strategies in developing the compassion-building campaign.



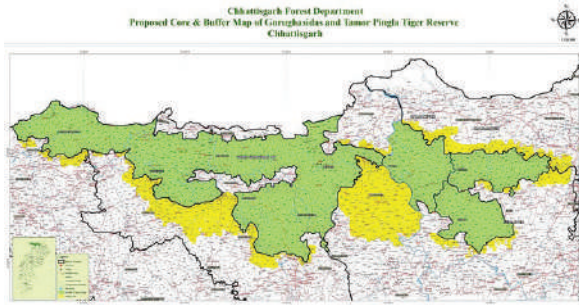
Tamil Nadu launches AI system to track elephant migration

The Tamil Nadu Forest Department has set up an artificial intelligence (AI)-triggered early warning system to notify the public about elephant migration in order to curb the growing number of human-elephant conflicts during the migratory season.

The installation of an AI-triggered system to track animal migration is the first of its kind in India.



56th Tiger Reserve in the country



Guru Ghasidas-Tamor Pingla Tiger Reserve in Chhattisgarh was officially announced as the 56th Tiger Reserve on November 18, 2024, by Mr. Shri Bhupender Yadav, Union Minister for Environment, Forests, and Climate Change.



The 2024 UN Climate Change Conference (COP29)

The 2024 UN Climate Change Conference (COP29) was held in Baku, Azerbaijan, between 11 and 23 November 2024. The conference was attended by around 200 countries, negotiators, activists, scientists, and other stakeholders to negotiate agreements to combat change.



The conference this year succeeded in taking many crucial decisions to address global climate challenges. However, the differences between the Global South and the Global North were also quite evident, especially highlighted by the fraught negotiations on the new climate finance goal. The conference succeeded in making many crucial decisions that will help fight climate change in the long run.

HCLF @ COP29

Dr. Santanu Basu, Project Director of Harit by HCLFoundation, represented HCLFoundation at the UNFCCC COP 29 main side event on Alternative Innovations Unlocked: Accessing Climate Finance in the Global South.

The event was co-hosted by Development Alternatives and the Indian Youth Climate Network. In his address, Dr. Basu highlighted the potential of novel mechanisms like Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in bridging the financing gap for India's climate action needs.

He also shared HCLFoundation's vision to develop various source code models for social and environmental development in partnership with the government, NGOs, and employees.



The key highlights of the COP29 are listed below.

New Climate Finance Goal

By 2035, wealthy nations have committed to providing "at least" \$300 billion annually to developing nations to help them combat climate change. The \$300 billion target will serve as the focal point of a larger initiative to increase funding "from all public and private sources" to at least \$1.3 trillion annually by 2035.



Carbon Markets Agreement

Finalizing regulations pertaining to Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, which deals with carbon trading, is a significant accomplishment for COP29. A global market for the purchase and sale of carbon credits was agreed upon by more than 200 nations. Country-to-country trade and a centralized carbon market supervised by the UN were among the key landmarks of the agreement.

Declaration on Reducing Methane from Organic Waste

The COP29 Declaration on reducing Methane from Organic Waste has been endorsed by more than 30 nations, including the United States, the United Kingdom, and the United Arab Emirates. This expands on the Global Methane Pledge, which was established in 2021 at the COP26 meeting in Glasgow and aims to cut global methane emissions by 30% by 2030 compared to 2020 levels.



Photo: UNFCCC (except the left one)

Climate Update

World's largest coral reef discovered

In the month of October, during an expedition in the Solomon Islands, scientists discovered the world's largest coral, roughly 34 meters wide, 32 meters long, and 6 meters tall. The massive coral, which is believed to be 300 to 500 years old, can be seen from space as well. Coral reefs are complex underwater ecosystems built by colonies of tiny marine invertebrates called coral polyps. They are frequently referred to as the "rainforests of the sea"



Photo: National Geographic

because of their significance in marine ecosystems and high level of biodiversity.

Flash floods wreaked havoc in Spain

On October 29, 2024, flash floods caused by torrential rains in southern and eastern Spain, wreaked havoc, submerging villages and towns, and leading to the death of more than 200 people. A catastrophic weather system that combines warm and cold air to create strong rain clouds is believed

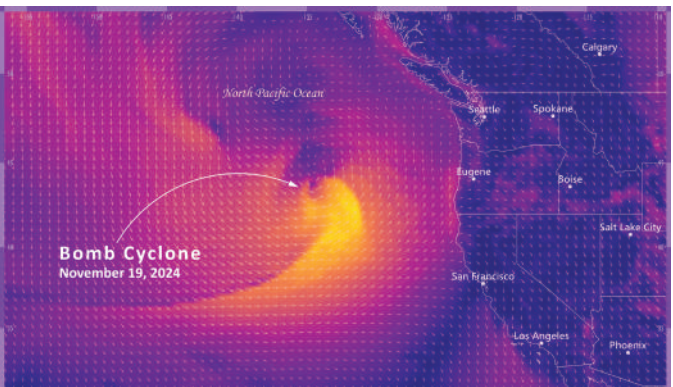


Photo: AP

to be the reason behind the flash floods. Scientists say global warming leads to an increase in the frequency of deadly extreme weather events and the Spain flood were a consequence of it. At COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan, Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez told world leaders "I have come here to tell you that climate change kills and in Valencia, it has killed 220 of my compatriots."

Bomb Cyclone hit the US

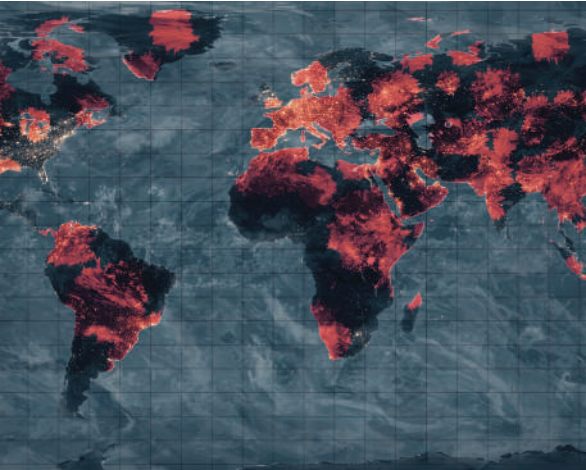
A powerful storm called 'Bomb Cyclone' hit the US North East with heavy winds and rains on 18th and



19th November, 2024. The cyclone resulted in the death of two people and leaving half a million people without power in the US. A bomb cyclone is characterized by a rapid decrease in atmospheric pressure which causes the cyclone to intensify quickly, often resulting in severe weather conditions.

Warmest year on record

The 'WMO state of the Climate 2024 update'



report, released on 11 November 2024 at COP29, said that 2024 is on course to become the warmest year on record. The UN Secretary-General António Guterres said "Climate catastrophe is hammering health, widening inequalities, harming sustainable development, and rocking the foundations of peace. The vulnerable are hardest hit."





A pledge to lead the water stewardship in Yamuna basin

On November 5th, 2024, HCLFoundation held the first roundtable on the ‘Yamuna River Basin Collective Action,’ an initiative by HCLFoundation, at HCLTech Noida campus. HCLTech has pledged to lead the water stewardship in the Yamuna basin as a part of the ‘CEO Water Mandate Water Resilience Coalition.’ Various representatives from civil society organizations and think tanks working in the Yamuna Basin, including former Director General of National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), Mr G. Asok Kumar were a part of this discussion. Dr. Nidhi Pundhir, Senior Vice President, Global CSR, HCLTech and Director, HCLFoundation gave insights on this initiative.

Restoration of Nallathangal Oorani Completed!

The restoration work at Nallathangal Oorani, Madurai, Tamil Nadu, being supported by HCLFoundation, is now complete with the installation of inlet pipes. The oorani’s capacity has been enhanced by 5000 cubic meters, ensuring improved groundwater recharge, a reliable water supply for livestock, and support for urban biodiversity. The restored oorani now eagerly awaits the North-Eastern monsoon showers to fill its waters and serve the community.



Empowering Local Communities



The ReefWatch Karnataka team recently conducted an outreach program at Kodi Kanyana Government Higher Primary School, Udipi, Karnataka, where all the students are part of the local fishing community. With the sea turtle nesting season approaching, the ReefWatch team introduced the students to the fascinating world of marine megafauna. During the session, they shared valuable information about various species of sea turtles, their nesting behaviors, and the harmful effects of discarded fishing nets on marine life.

Harit Upvan hosted Australian Government officials

HCLFoundation recently had the pleasure of hosting a visit from Australian government officials at their project site. Mr. Tim and Mr. Cal from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Government of Australia, toured our initiatives, including Harit Upvan Sorkha, a transformative urban forest project, and My E-Haat, an innovative e-commerce platform supporting India's handicraft and handloom sector.

The dignitaries were impressed by the transformation of a wasteland into a thriving urban forest at Harit Upvan, achieved through the collective efforts of HCLFoundation, partner organizations, community engagement, and HCLTech volunteer involvement.



DRCSC Conducts Gram Panchayat-Level Orientation

Development Research Communication and Services Centre (DRCSC) carried out gram panchayat-level orientation at Hingalganj and Sandelerbill gram panchayat, West Bengal, on 12th December under the project Restoration and Rehabilitation of Mangrove and Social Forestry Ecosystem in the Coastal Sundarbans, supported by the HCLFoundation. Both the events were successfully carried out through the active participation of panchayat-level functionaries, extension workers, and staff of DRCSC.



Designing Locale Specific and Innovative Solutions to address Climate Change

A consultative multi-stakeholder meeting on the theme, ‘Capacity Building of Students to Design Locale Specific and Innovative Solutions to Address Climate Change,’ was organized by the Environment Education and Awareness Division (EEA) in TERI—the Energy and Resources Institute—at SRC-Bengaluru on 6 December, 2024.

As part of an ongoing project, in partnership with the HCLFoundation, the meeting was one of the first set of discussions undertaken in the project to develop knowledge resources for building capacities of the students, teachers, and communities on tackling climate change issues.



A sincere recognition



HCLFoundation’s research, ‘Groundwater and Beyond: Sustainable Solutions for Water Body Rejuvenation in Gautam Buddha Nagar, India,’ has been presented in the ‘International Conference on Sustainable Urban Water Management for Fast Growing Cities,’ sponsored by the Dept. of Science and Technologies, Government of India, and organized by Aligarh Muslim University, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, and BITS Pilani Hyderabad.

The work garnered appreciation for its real-world applicability with particular acknowledgment of HCLFoundation’s impactful contribution, earning acclaim from experts and scholars representing various national and international academic institutions. The presentation also won the ‘Best Paper Presentation Award.’

Spreading Wings of Knowledge

Animal Warrior Conservation Society (AWCS) recently hosted an awareness program at their Bird Rehabilitation and Awareness Centre in collaboration with Modern Architects for Rural India (MARI) Hyderabad, with support from HCLFoundation.

Several government school students explored the shelter, learned about how AWCS rescues, rehabilitates, and releases birds to safe habitats, and discovered the importance of the responsible kite-flying project.

The program also involved discussion of the dangers of nylon manjha and how simple actions can save countless lives.





Draw the Change You Want to See

Noida

Hyderabad

Lucknow



World Comics India (WCI), with the support of HCL Foundation, conducted an environmental education comics workshop on 18th October at Composite School, Kulesara, UP, and on 8th November at Composite School, Vaidpura, UP.

The workshops, attended by more than 100 students, aimed to enhance their awareness of environmental issues through the creative medium of four-panel comics. Students created and explored comics that highlight environmental issues, such as waste management, water conservation, and climate change.



In a creative fusion of art and environmental education, students at Govt High School Vijayanagara Colony, Hyderabad, took part in a grassroots comics workshop on 12th and 13th November, aimed at raising awareness about environmental issues and exploring environmental concerns through the lens of visual storytelling. The workshop was organized by World Comics India, in partnership with the HCLFoundation, in which 49 students participated. Over the course of two days, students created 42 comics, illustrating the challenges the planet faces and proposing innovative, eco-friendly solutions.



WCI conducted two environmental education comics workshops in Lucknow on 10th and 11th December, attended by a total of 95 students, at Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV), Sarojini Nagar, and Sindhi Vidyalaya Inter College, Girls, respectively. The workshop had various components, such as an introduction to comics, comics grammar and issue identification, a comics reading session, followed by discussions about sustainability, resource conservation, and local environmental protection. By the end, each student had produced a rough draft of their comic, reflecting their ideas and growing awareness of environmental challenges.

Exploring Environment through Nature Walks

A nature walk was organized by Give Me Trees Trust (GMTT) on 9th October at Atal Harit Upvan, Lucknow, for 9 children with special needs from Bhartiya Badhir Vidyalaya, accompanied by two of their teachers. The group was highly inspired by the ground staff's efforts in transforming a barren land into a flourishing forest, which is now home to various birds, reptiles, and other forms of biodiversity.

Similarly, on December 2, 2024, a group of 13 students from Gautam Buddha Degree College, accompanied by their two teachers, visited Atal Harit Upvan, Lucknow, to participate in a nature walk organized by Give Me Trees Trust (GMTT). During the walk, the students explored the diverse native plant species, the meticulously curated butterfly garden, and the rich biodiversity that thrives within the Upvan.



Learning by Practice

Harit Diwali

In the last week of October, the Gorakhpur Environmental Action Group (GEAG) celebrated eco-friendly Harit Diwali at Composite School Kulesera, Yakubpur, and Junior High School Nagla Charan Das, UP. Children participated in activities like environmental-themed mehndi, crafts, diya decoration, painting, and rangoli. The objective of this celebration was to teach students how to celebrate festivals without harming the environment.



World Soil Day

On 5 December, the Gorakhpur Environmental Action Group (GEAG) celebrated World Soil Day at the Police Commissionerate and UPS Ithera, UP, to raise awareness about soil protection. Children learned about soil degradation, waste segregation, and composting as sustainable practices to reduce soil pollution. A live demonstration of organic composting highlighted its benefits over harmful chemical alternatives.



Celebrating the International Day of Climate Action

To celebrate the International Day of Climate Action on 24 October, schools under the GenCAN (Generation for Climate Action) Climate Leadership Challenge at HCLFoundation locations across India came together to celebrate! In Lucknow, KGBV Mall hosted a quiz competition with 35 students, awarding winners with prizes from BEO Shri Banshidhar Srivastava. KPS Jeevan Bima Nagar School, Bengaluru, engaged 30 students in a quiz and field survey. KGBV Bharawan, Hardoi, organized a painting competition, with top works being recognized. At Ramakrishna Mission School, Chennai, students led a climate-themed event with elocution, quizzes, and street plays. Poster-making and drawing competitions were also held in Chiti Dankor and Nagpur, sparking creativity and climate awareness.





World Rabies Day

Annually marked on September 28th, World Rabies Day aims to increase public awareness of the preventable but fatal viral disease known as rabies. Louis Pasteur, the French scientist who created the first rabies vaccine in 1885, passed away on this day in 1885. Mammals, including humans, are the main victims of the viral virus rabies, which is nearly invariably lethal once symptoms start to show.

The disease is spread by the saliva of infected animals mainly through bites. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), around 59,000 people die from rabies every year, with the majority of victims being children.

The World Rabies Day theme for 2024 is 'Breaking Rabies Boundaries', highlighting the need for progress and moving beyond the status quo. In celebration of World Rabies Day, HCLFoundation, in collaboration with its NGO partners, successfully organized a weeklong campaign from 23rd to 28th September. This impactful campaign resulted in the mass vaccination of over 2,600 dogs across key districts, including Gautam Buddha Nagar, Chandrapur, Rural Bengaluru, Coimbatore, and major districts in Chennai.

The campaign saw the remarkable support of more than 60 dedicated volunteers and reached over 1,500 people through various activities, including street play, student outreach programs, and training sessions for frontline staff. These efforts aimed to raise awareness about animal welfare, responsible



pet ownership, and the importance of vaccination to prevent rabies and other zoonotic diseases. This effort was officially registered on the Global Alliance for Rabies Control event page, which further amplified our impact by sharing our collective efforts on their social media platform.

This collaborative initiative underscores the shared commitment to eradicating rabies and promoting public health by engaging communities and fostering partnerships across regions



Operationalization of Center for Upholding Human-Animal Relationship (CEN-UPHAR)



Harit by HCLFoundation announced the operationalization of Center for Upholding Human Animal Relationship (CEN-UPHAR), a ground-breaking animal welfare center developed in partnership with the Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority (GNIDA). From sterilization of community animals in Greater Noida, to community awareness and compassion building programs for schools, colleges, and Residents' Welfare Associations (RWAs), this center will do it all!

The center is equipped with various facilities-an Operation Theatre, Dog Kennels (including isolation kennels), activity hut for carrying out awareness workshops, animal food preparation room, a working office and a meeting room. Other than these, a basic working laboratory and a biomedical waste incinerator are currently under pipeline. The event was attended by Dr. Nidhi Pundhir, Senior Vice President of Global CSR at HCLTech and Director of HCLFoundation , Mr. Indu Prakash, OSD GNIDA , Mr. Bharti, OSD, GNIDA, Mr. Gaurav Baghel, GNIDA and Dr. AK Dwivedi from the Chief Veterinary Office, Gautam Buddha Nagar. HCLFoundation's senior leadership including Ms. Simi Suri, Associate Director, Dr. Santanu Basu, Project Director, Harit by HCLFoundation along with leadership from HCLFoundation's implementing partner, Friendicoes SECA, Ms. Geeta Seshamani and Ms. Amanda Seth were also present.





Wildlife Week: Conservation Through Coexistence

Wildlife Week, celebrated from October 2nd to October 8th, is an annual event dedicated to raising awareness about wildlife conservation, the protection of endangered species, and the importance of biodiversity. In 2024, the theme for Wildlife Week was "Wildlife Conservation Through Coexistence".

October began with a colorful Wildlife Week full of fun-filled visits by HCLTechies to some of the restored & rejuvenated afforestation sites known as Harit Mini-forest by HCLFoundation. Every such site visit began with a brief about the do's and don'ts of interacting with the flora and fauna, followed by a nature walk around the site to observe the birds, insects, trees and anything naturally thriving there.

The idea was to pay attention to what is wildlife, how do we relate to it, what are the unique features that set them apart and give rise to a rich biodiversity. Volunteers enthusiastically drew sketches of the flora and fauna observed by them in the sea of biodiversity budding at Harit's afforestation and habitat restoration sites.

About 180+ HCLTech volunteers along with NGO Partner field staff and HCLFoundation team members engaged in these activities across seven such sites in Lucknow, Madurai, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Nagpur, Chennai and Bengaluru. The visit left them more in touch with nature and questioning as to how they can contribute more to the protection of wildlife and ecosystems.



GenCAN nature camp and Phase I award ceremony

Generation for Climate Action (GenCAN) is a sustainability and climate action initiative of HCLFoundation and Centre for Environment Education (CEE). To mark completion of GenCAN Phase I, 35 GenCAN students & 12 mentor teachers of Phase I winner schools from 5 states: Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Chhattisgarh were part of the 3-day camp held at Pachmarhi, Madhya Pradesh. Some activities of the 3-day included:

Day 1

- Small research project on history, geography, indigenous communities, ecosystems of Pachmarhi
- Nature walk and bird watching



Day 2

- Outdoor activities on Greenhouse gases and Web of life
- Student panel discussion on their GenCAN climate action journey
- Felicitation of GenCAN Phase I winners by Mr. Rahul Gajbhiye, CEO Pachmarhi Cantonment, Ministry of Defence and Dr. Savita Chib, Director - National Centre for Biological Science, Pachmarhi.



Day 3

- Visit to Bison Nature interpretation center
- Teacher presentation on their school's long term plans to continue the climate action efforts
- Reflection on the camp and way forward for GenCAN Phase II







Annual Tragedy of Pollution in North India

The northern belt of the Indian subcontinent, including Lahore in Pakistan, was impacted by severe air pollution in the month of November, with AQIs (air quality index) often reaching extremely hazardous levels. Though much of the media reports highlighted high levels of air pollution in Delhi-NCR, small cities of North India, especially those in Punjab, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh, observed high pollution levels and record-breaking AQIs.

Measures to be taken

High AQI levels can lead to a range of health issues, particularly for vulnerable groups such as children, the elderly, and people with pre-existing respiratory conditions. The following are possible measures you may take to reduce the amount of air pollution you are exposed to:

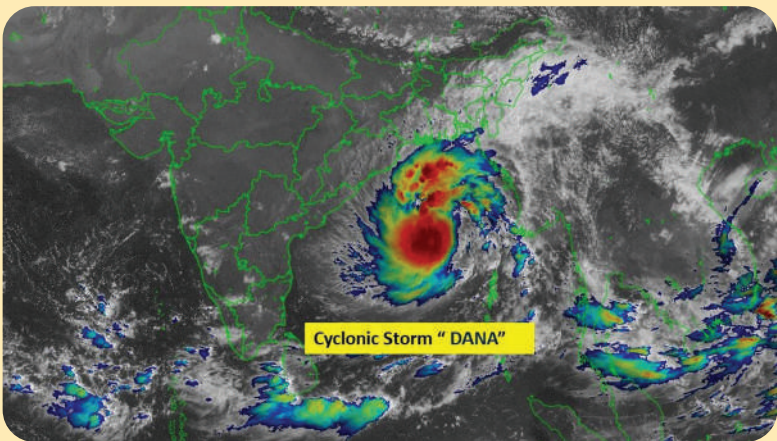
1. When the AQI is very high (above 200), it's best to stay indoors. Outdoor exercise, especially running or walking, should be avoided.
2. Use apps like Safar India, AQICN, or IQAir to track real-time air quality in your area and adjust your outdoor schedule accordingly.
3. Avoid activities that generate indoor pollution like burning incense, using candles, or smoking indoors
4. An N95 mask or N99 mask is most effective in areas with high pollution as they are designed to filter out fine particles (PM2.5)
5. If you have air conditioning at home, use it in recirculate mode to avoid drawing in outdoor air.
6. Staying hydrated helps your body cope better with pollution, as it helps clear toxins from your system.



Delhi's smog nightmare

The Air Quality Index (AQI) in Delhi reached "severe plus" levels around mid-November, as a result of contributors like car emissions, construction dust, and agricultural stubble burning in nearby states.

The worst air quality of the season was reported in Delhi on November 18, 2024, when the 24-hour Air Quality Index (AQI) measurement was 491 and categorized as "severe plus." At this level, air pollution is extremely dangerous, and even healthy individuals may experience serious health effects, such as shortness of breath, coughing, and throat irritation. For people with pre-existing respiratory or heart conditions, exposure to such air quality can lead to worsening of symptoms, respiratory distress, and a higher risk of heart attacks or strokes.



Cyclone Dana struck Odisha coast

Cyclone Dana hit the Odisha coast on October 25, causing damage in 14 districts worth more than Rs 600 crore. The cyclonic storm had a particularly devastating impact on three districts: Balasore, Bhadrak, and Kendrapara. The storm and the ensuing floods and heavy rainfall affected around 41.04 lakh people in 131 blocks across 14 districts, either completely or largely.

Extreme weather events on a rise

The Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) released the India Climate Report 2024, which states that during 93% of the first nine months of 2024, India saw extreme weather events that destroyed 235,862 homes, damaged 3.2 million hectares of crops, and claimed 3238 lives. Climate change has increased the frequency and severity of extreme weather events, which pose a serious and expanding hazard to ecological and human systems.



Tamil Nadu declares heat-waves a state-specific disaster

The Tamil Nadu government designated a heat wave as a "state specific disaster" in an October notification. The notification announced ex-gratia payment of Rs. 4 lakhs to families of deceased persons, including those involved in the relief operations or associated in preparedness activities. The state government had previously declared sea erosion, lightning, thunder, whirlwinds, and gale winds as State-specific disasters.

Rising temperatures breaking records

According to data from the India Meteorological Department (IMD), with an average daily maximum temperature of 29.37 degrees Celsius, November 2024 was the warmest November on record in India since 1901.

At 26.92 degrees Celsius on average, October 2024 was also the warmest October in India since 1914.



Only 28% of all urban sewage is treated

A research published by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) states that over 70% of India's untreated waste water flows into rivers, lakes, and land. Additionally, the study discovered that only 28% of all urban sewage is being treated. At a nationwide workshop organized by CSE and the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), which is part of the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India, the report, Waste to Worth: Managing India's Urban Water Crisis via Wastewater Reuse, was released.



Ganesan

Humane Animal Society



In the heart of Sengathurai, Sulur, a small team of three tirelessly travels the streets, led by a man whose unwavering dedication to animal welfare has made him a true champion of the cause. Meet Mr. Ganesan, a person who lives and breathes compassion for animals.

For nearly a decade now, Mr. Ganesan has been one of the driving forces behind a remarkable journey of animal welfare in Coimbatore. With his animal shelter at Sulur as a base of operations, he ventures far and wide with his team to rescue, treat, and ensure the well-being of stray animals in need. From cooking to cleaning at his shelter, from rescue missions to treatments, Mr. Ganesan rolls up his sleeves and dives into every aspect of animal care to ensure their quality of life.

The spark that ignited Mr. Ganesan's remarkable journey began in childhood. Growing up, he was surrounded by dogs, fostering a natural affection and empathy for these loyal companions. When he moved to Coimbatore, he began feeding the community dogs. However, he was unaware of the larger challenges that awaited. His turning point came when he crossed paths with "Lucky," a puppy in desperate need of medical help. True to her name, she did turn out really lucky for Ganesan, as she led him to the Humane Animal Society (HAS) for her treatment.

Through HAS, Ganesan found the formal guidance he needed to dive deeper into animal welfare, learning the ropes of sterilization, rescue, and treatment. Mr. Ganesan's journey hasn't been without hurdles. He overcome obstacles, mastered the art of dog-catching, and has racked up an impressive record of over 1250 rescues and 100-150 sterilizations so far, all in collaboration with HAS. His dedication extends beyond daylight hours; he has pulled countless all-nighters to nurse sick animals back to health. Through it all, he credits his success to the support of his family members and like-minded individuals on WhatsApp groups, a testament to the power of collective efforts.

Now, Mr. Ganesan's phone rings incessantly, each call a plea for help, a desperate request for rescue. But he wouldn't have it any other way. This journey has transformed him into a more compassionate soul, one who finds solace in his supportive family and even opens his heart and home to disabled pets, setting a personal example that speaks volumes. Through every rescue, every treatment, Mr. Ganesan is rewriting the narrative of animal welfare, one selfless act at a time.



Photo Credits: HAS



Mrs. Shameem Jahan

Gorakhpur Environmental Action Group (GEAG)



Mrs. Shameem Jahan has always been passionate about teaching, training, and creating positive societal change. Driven by her desire to make a difference, she chose to address one of the most urgent issues of today's time— Climate change. Understanding that today's children are tomorrow's leaders, she has dedicated herself to raising awareness and responsibility for the environment among young learners.

For the past two and a half years, Mrs Jahan has been actively working with the Gorakhpur Environmental Action Group in collaboration with the HCLFoundation. Through this partnership, she has engaged students and teachers from government schools in hands-on, interactive activities that bring climate education to life. Her creative methods make learning effective and enjoyable, helping students connect with the cause on a personal level.

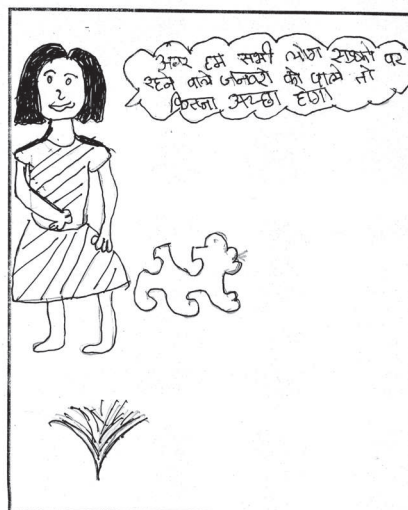
To date, Mrs. Jahan has reached nearly 1,400 to 1,500 students, equipping them with knowledge and sustainable habits that they can incorporate into their daily lives. Her impact goes beyond imparting information, she fosters a sense of responsibility and stewardship for the planet. Through her dedication, Mrs. Shameem Jahan is shaping a generation of climate warriors ready to lead and protect our environment for years to come.



Photo Credits: GEAG



## काश कि...



Name ⇒ Palak Dongre  
class ⇒ 3<sup>rd</sup>

**I Wish:** A girl sees a puppy in her neighbourhood whose mother had died. She decided to adopt the dog and named it Shiro. The dog also thinks that the girl is a good person. The next day, a lady asked the girl if she could keep the puppy and also assured her that she would take care of it like a mother. Even though the girl had developed an attachment to the puppy, she decided to give the dog to the lady. The girl wished that all the people should adopt dogs from the street.

## खुल गई नाली



Name - Sakib Ansari

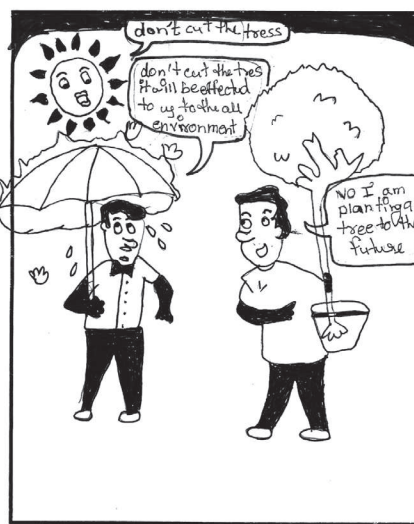
**The Drain has Opened:** One day, Ramu was walking towards his house when he saw a drain clogged with litter. He thought of cleaning the drain and decided to talk to his friend Hariya first. He asked his friend if he knows why rivers have become so polluted. His friend replies that people use a lot of plastic and then throw it on the roads, and when it rains, the drains carry the waste to the rivers. They came up with a solution and put nets in the drains so that the water doesn't carry the waste further into the rivers. Soon, everyone started to follow the practice. They removed the plastic waste, and water started to flow in the drains again.

## THERE ARE NO CLOUDS !



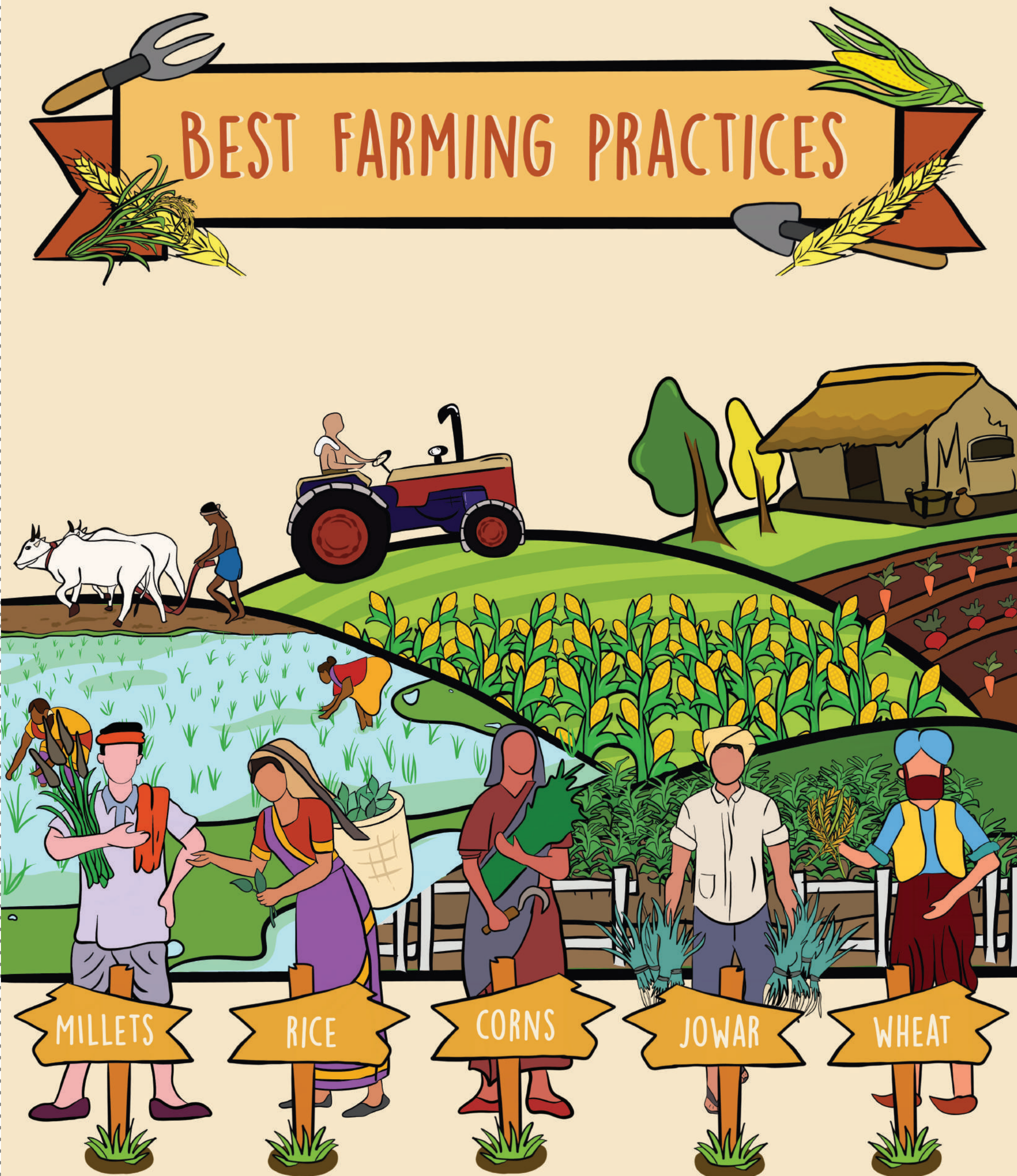
Name: Jyotsna Begum

## YES!! ITS HIGH TIME



Abhishek JA

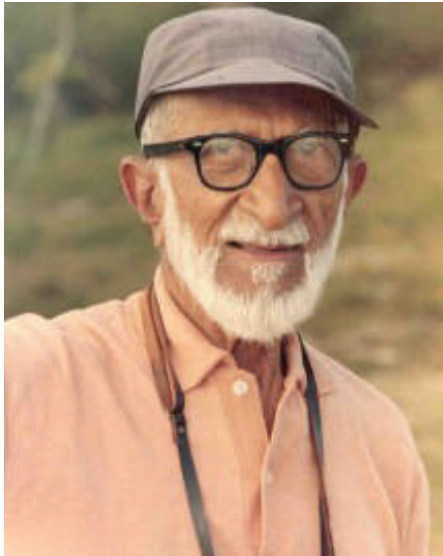




Natural farming practices and diverse crops  
are good for health of both the soil and humans



Birdman of India



Born on November 12, 1896, Dr. Sálím Moizuddin Abdul Ali is widely recognized as India's leading ornithologist and is often referred to as the "Birdman of India." When he was ten years old, his uncle gave him an air rifle, which marked the beginning of his adventure with birds.

Sálím took a sparrow he shot to the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) for identification since he was curious about it. Honorary Secretary Walter Samuel Millard recognized it as a Yellow-throated Sparrow and

presented Sálím with the Society's bird collection. His lifelong love in ornithology was sparked by this crucial event.

Dr. Sálím Ali has made incomparable contributions to Indian bird research and conservation. His writings, such as The Book of Indian Birds, continue to motivate conservationists and bird enthusiasts worldwide.

CROSSWORD

### FARM ANIMALS

ILLEGAL FACTORIES

hey! here we want to construct a factory

No! It is very dangerous to our village

I know but I will do it anyway

Then I am going to make a complaint

Show me your permission papers

No! I don't have any permission papers

Then you are under arrest for constructing illegal factory

Sorry Sir! I can't assist me

**FIND 5 DIFFERENCES**

Movies to Watch

WALL-E

Dir by: Andrew Stanton (2008) Genre: Family/Sci-fi Duration: 1h 38m

What if humanity abandoned Earth, leaving behind a lone robot? WALL-E, built to clean up the planet, spends centuries doing his job alone until he meets EVE, a sleek search robot sent to find signs of life. When WALL-E accidentally discovers a plant, the key to Earth's future, EVE races back to space to report to the humans. Determined not to lose her, WALL-E follows, setting off a heartwarming adventure across the galaxy that could change humanity's fate forever.

Along the way, WALL-E's determination and innocence awaken hope in those around him. Together, he and EVE inspire humanity to rediscover their connection to Earth and to each other. Their journey becomes a powerful reminder of the importance of care and stewardship for the planet. Through their bond, they show that even the smallest act of love can spark monumental change.



Available on: Hotstar, Amazon Prime Video, Youtube

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 – 27, Year – 3, October-December, 2024  
(Private circulation only)

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

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