

October-December 2025

HARIT KHABAR

Newsletter featuring Environment Action by HCLFoundation



Special Coverage of HCLFoundation's ErDoMeRa and SAFE Campaign on Page 6&7



Scan here to share your feedback

Coastal Resilience Through Fisheries



On 31st October, MSSRF, in collaboration with HCLFoundation, convened a stakeholder consultation aimed at strengthening community-based approaches to enhance coastal livelihoods and promote sustainable fisheries in the Gulf of Mannar region. The consultation brought together nearly 50 participants, including government officials, academic experts, community leaders, and NGO partners, to share insights and align efforts toward resilient coastal development.

The consultation generated rich and diverse perspectives on sustainable resource management, empowering women in fisheries, addressing coastal livelihood challenges, and scaling community-driven climate resilience strategies.

Safeguarding boats, nets, marine life in Kakinada



The AWCS team conducted an awareness drive in the coastal villages of Kakinada ahead of Cyclone Montha, guiding fishermen on how to protect their boats and fishing nets. This initiative not only helped to safeguard their property but also contributed to preventing fishing nets from becoming ghost nets, thus reducing marine pollution.

Young minds paint the path to a sustainable future

To celebrate the spirit of Children's Day, Development Alternatives, in partnership with HCLFoundation, organized a drawing competition as part of the Paani Ki Paathshala session under the ongoing Pond Rejuvenation Project in Ghanuvas, UP. Students from Classes 4 and 5 sketched about what are ponds, its cleanliness and their surroundings mean to them. From *Humare Talaab, Humari Pehchaan* to *Clean Village, Green Village*, their drawings reflected pride, imagination, and a clear vision of a better village.



Teaching students to protect birds through responsible kite flying

Under the "Responsible Kite Flying" initiative, birds entangled in manja are rescued, rehabilitated at Animal Warriors Conservation Society (AWCS) shelter, and released after recovery. The program also focuses on community education to discourage the use of harmful manja.



As a part of this initiative, students from SAI Techno School visited AWCS shelter, explored the facilities, and actively engaged with their team. They asked questions and learned firsthand about the dangers of manja to birds, fostering awareness and responsibility toward wildlife.

Strengthening frontline capacity for rabies protection

As part of the concluding ceremony of the ErDoMeRa campaign, Wild-CER conducted a workshop on rabies and its prevention for staff from the Health Department and the Animal Husbandry Department. The programme was organised by the Animal Husbandry Department at Kuhi Panchayat Samiti in the Tadoba landscape. Around

60 participants attended the session and were introduced to key aspects of rabies, its transmission, and preventive measures.

The workshop proved to be highly effective, as it connected technical knowledge with on-ground realities. Participants included Medical Officers, Livestock Development Officers, Livestock Supervisors, ASHA workers, and Gram Sevaks from Kuhi Taluk, Nagpur District, enabling cross-departmental learning and collaboration.



Exploring, learning, and greening Harit Upvan



Aroh Foundation, with support from HCLFoundation and HCLTech volunteers, organized a community awareness event in Beel Akbarpur village, Dadri, UP focusing on pond conservation and sustainable water management. The programme included a poster-making competition for 40 students, a rally, and a prize distribution ceremony, encouraging collective responsibility and promoting sustainable water practices among the community and youth.

Inspiring children to conserve water and protect the environment

On the occasion of Children's Day, Tarun Bharat Sangh, in partnership with HCL Foundation under the *Jal Jan Jodo Abhiyan*, organized a school event focused on water conservation and environmental protection. Representatives from Tarun Bharat Sangh shared inspiring stories of regional transformation brought about by water, highlighting its role in turning cycles of conflict into progress and peace. Through this initiative, students learned about the significance of preserving water resources and adopting sustainable practices, empowering them to contribute to a better, greener future.



Strengthening Rabies Prevention through Frontline Workers Engagement

Rabies prevention awareness sessions were conducted across communities in collaboration with CEN-UPHAR and local RWAs/societies to promote safe human-animal interactions and strengthen community understanding. The sessions engaged parents of Anganwadi children and frontline workers, focusing on early signs of rabies, responsible behaviour around community dogs, dog-bite management, and timely medical care, and were facilitated by HCL's subject-matter expert, Dr. Zaman, along with the HCLFoundation team.



Wildlife Conservation Session at GHS Seshadripuram

An interactive wildlife awareness session was conducted at GHS Seshadripuram, Bengaluru, on 8th October as part of National Wildlife Week. The school is part of the GenCAN programme of HCLF and CEE. The session introduced students to engaging topics such as wildlife census methods, pugmarks, camera traps, and key conservation challenges in Karnataka, including poaching, habitat loss, and human-wildlife conflict.

A total of 32 students and one teacher were participated enthusiastically in hands-on activities, including a quiz, pugmark and stripe identification exercises, and the screening of a wildlife documentary on *Bhadra Tiger Reserve*. The session generated curiosity and lively discussions, particularly around the use of camera traps, with students asking thoughtful questions and demonstrating strong awareness through quick quiz responses and confident identifications.



GenCAN Summit Empowers Youth for Climate Action



The national-level Youth Climate Leaders Summit, organised by CEE in partnership with HCLFoundation under the GenCAN programme, was held online in two sessions—English on 15th December and Hindi on 16th December. The Summit brought together around 600 students from 50 schools across 15 states. The event aimed to strengthen climate literacy, inspire youth-led climate action, and to create meaningful interaction between student leaders, subject experts, and GenCAN alumni.

The English session featured expert panelists Dr Santanu Basu (HCLFoundation), Dr Anar Bhatt (WRI India), and Ms Heli Shah (DuroGreen). The Hindi session included Dr Pramod Sharma (FEE Global), Ms Viveka Jani (The ClimAct Initiative), and Ms Heli Shah. Students remained highly engaged throughout both the sessions, posing thoughtful and insightful questions that made the discussions dynamic and interactive.

Pre-COP30 Meet on Climate Resilience



A Pre-COP30 consultation was organized by HCLF, GEAG, and Vasudha Foundation, attended by Dr. Nidhi Pundhir, Dr. Santanu Basu, Mr. Srinivas, Dr. Shiraz Wajih, Prof. Anil Gupta (IIT-R), and representatives from CANSAs, WWF, WRI, TERI, UNICEF, SEEDS, and several other organizations.

The consultation aimed to facilitate knowledge exchange on climate resilience practices, developing White Paper, and generate evidence on the benefits of climate adaptation through ecosystem rejuvenation interventions. Discussions emphasized contributing to global adaptation goals and national commitments.

Participants also explored the potential of establishing a knowledge network on Ecosystem-Based Adaptation (EbA) and Nature-Based Solutions (NbS), integrating ground-level ecosystem rejuvenation activities and cost-benefit analyses to support a business case for investments in climate adaptation.

Children leading the way on climate awareness



As part of the community engagement activities under the Environmental Education Programme in Gautam Buddha Nagar, a meeting with parents and the School Management Committee (SMC) was organised at Composite School, Kulesera, Noida on 4th October 2025. A total of 64 parents were participated in the session.

The discussion focused on climate change and its harmful impacts, while also highlighting how HCLF and GEAG, in collaboration with the school, are educating children on these issues. Parents were encouraged to support these efforts through simple actions at home and within the community.

Special emphasis was placed on plastic pollution. To raise awareness, students performed a short play highlighting its harmful effects, which was warmly appreciated by both parents and teachers.



Students Turn Local Environmental Challenges into Grassroots Comics



The two days grassroots comics workshop held at Chennai, Higher Secondary School on 3rd and 4th Nov effectively integrated environmental education with creative expression. The workshop provided students with an opportunity to examine key local environmental issues, including cyclones, coastal erosion, flooding, and water conservation. Through structured discussions, exposure to environmental comics from various parts of India, and guided facilitation, students enhanced their understanding of these challenges. They subsequently translated their observations and experiences into original grassroots comics, thereby strengthening their storytelling abilities and visual communication skills.

Overall, the collaboration between World Comics India, HCLFoundation, and OfERR demonstrated the effectiveness of participatory, arts-based approaches in environmental education. By creating their own comics rooted in local realities, students were encouraged to take ownership of environmental narratives. The process enabled them to emerge as confident young communicators and proactive advocates for ecological awareness and community resilience.



Creating more safer , More Aware Communities for Better Coexistence

Snakebite is one of India's most overlooked public health issues, yet it affects nearly 58,000 people every year, making India the snakebite capital of the world. The impact is felt most deeply in marginalised communities, where limited access to information and timely medical support increases the risk. Lack of awareness, fear, and misinformation often make these incidents far more dangerous than they need to be.

To address this challenge, Harit by HCLFoundation, in partnership with the Madras Crocodile Bank Trust (MCBT), has been conducting the SAFE (Snake Awareness For Everyone) workshops. These sessions aim to build scientific understanding, reduce fear, and equip people with practical first-aid skills that can save lives. Over the past few months, the team has successfully conducted 11 workshops across Chennai, Bangalore, Hardoi, Rabapura, Noida, Greater Noida, Thoothukudi, Madurai, Nagpur, and Tadoba, reaching a total of 534 participants.

These workshops brought together HCLFoundation team, NGO partners community members, frontline staff such as gardeners and women healthcare workers, as well as forest department representatives. Each session covered essential topics including identifying commonly found snakes, understanding their behaviour, learning safe response techniques, and following the correct steps during a snakebite emergency. Participants also engaged in interactive, activity-based learning, which helped dispel long-standing myths and misconceptions. The SAFE initiative remains committed to expanding its reach and educating more people about this life-saving knowledge.



ErDoMeRa Campaign 2025: ACT NOW - YOU, ME AND COMMUNITY

Harit by HCLFoundation conducted the Eradication of Dog Mediated Rabies (ErDoMeRa) campaign throughout September across five locations in four states.

Through this over 6,300 dogs were vaccinated 4,000+ people were reached out through awareness sessions in schools, colleges, communities, street plays, and rallies.

With 150+ community members taking up pledges, 50+ HCLTech volunteers engaging, a strong social media outreach, and an expert panel discussion on World Rabies Day of 28th September'25, the campaign built powerful momentum for a rabies-free future.



Air Turns Hazardous Across North India

From October to December 2025, air pollution across Delhi and much of north India escalated into a severe public health crisis, marking one of the worst winter pollution episodes in recent years. Post-monsoon weather changes, Diwali firecrackers, stubble burning in Punjab and Haryana, vehicular emissions, construction dust, and calm wind conditions combined to push air quality into the "severe" category for extended periods. PM2.5 and PM10 levels frequently exceeded safe limits by several times, leading to school closures, flight disruptions, and a surge in respiratory and cardiac complaints.



Photo: Aamir/Anshu

India Observes National Energy Conservation Day



India observed National Energy Conservation Day on 14th December, highlighting progress in energy efficiency, cleaner energy use, and reliable power systems as part of its sustainable growth efforts. This celebration reinforced the importance of reducing wastage, expanding renewable sources, and engaging citizens in energy-smart behaviours as the country works toward a cleaner energy future.

Centre Imposes Mining Ban in Aravalli Range

The Government of India has completely banned new mining leases in the Aravalli Range to protect the fragile ecosystem. The move aims to stop illegal and harmful mining across the states stretching from Delhi to Gujarat. The environment ministry has also directed forestry experts to identify other vulnerable areas and develop a science-based management plan. This step reinforces efforts to safeguard groundwater, biodiversity, and soil health in one of the country's oldest mountain systems. The Aravalli Range are vital for north India as they act as a natural barrier against desertification from the Thar, recharge groundwater, regulate local climate, support rich biodiversity, and help curb air pollution by stabilising dust and ecosystems



Photo: iStock

Arunachal's white-bellied heron habitat region, Kalai-II hydropower project gets approval



Photo: INDIAN EXPRESS

The Union Environment Ministry's expert panel has recommended environmental clearance for the 1,200-MW Kalai-II hydropower project on the Lohit River in Arunachal Pradesh. The project area includes parts of the habitat where the white-bellied heron, a critically endangered bird species, has been recorded.

The clearance recommendation comes with environmental safeguards and further study requirements for the region's ecology and wildlife.

Meghalaya Launches 'Soil Lake' Conservation Drive



Photo: Meghalaya Times

Meghalaya has inaugurated Soil Lake, a new ecological site in East Ghoro Hills aimed at strengthening conservation and sustainable development in the region. The initiative focuses on protecting local biodiversity, enhancing natural resource management, and supporting community involvement in environmental stewardship. The project reflects the state's efforts to integrate ecological preservation with sustainable growth priorities.

Siliserh Lake Declared India's 96th Ramsar Wetland



Photo: THE HINDU

Siliserh Lake in Rajasthan has been designated as India's 96th Ramsar wetland, joining the list of internationally important wetlands under the Ramsar Convention. This recognition highlights the lake's role in supporting diverse birdlife, including migratory species, and its importance for local biodiversity and water conservation. The move is expected to strengthen conservation efforts, promote sustainable management, and enhance ecological protection of the wetland and its surroundings.

Extreme Weather Death Toll Rises in India

India recorded nearly 2,760 deaths due to extreme weather events in 2025, according to the Indian Meteorological Department and disaster management authorities. Heavy rainfall, floods, cloudbursts and landslides claimed over 1,370 lives, with Maharashtra emerging as the worst-affected state. Lightning and thunderstorms caused more than 1,310 deaths nationwide, highlighting the urgent need for stronger early warning systems, climate-resilient infrastructure and better disaster preparedness.



Photo: iStock

Ranveer Singh Gurjar

Tarun Bharat Sangh



Ranveer Singh Gurjar, a resident of Village Maharajpura, Gram Panchayat Rundhpura, Tehsil Masalpur, was born on 12th July 1974 in Karauli district, Rajasthan. He grew up in a simple rural environment. Despite facing difficult family circumstances and economic hardships, he completed his education through consistent hard work.

Ranveer Singh Gurjar is actively working in the fields of water conservation, river rejuvenation, rural development, farmers' empowerment, girls' education, nutrition improvement, social justice, and raising his voice against exploitation at the village level. His journey of social activism began during the Mahatma Gandhi Employment Guarantee Scheme, where he started advocating for the rights of poor laborers. In 2009, he formally joined Tarun Bharat Sangh as an activist, and from that moment, he played a pivotal role in bringing large-scale transformation in the districts of Karauli and Dholpur. Through initiatives such as water conservation on 23 rivers, construction of water structures, farmers' conferences, foot marches, and community awareness programs, he facilitated the rejuvenation of rivers including the Sherni river and established sustainable water management in villages that were struggling with water scarcity.

During his work, Ranveer Singh Gurjar facilitated the construction of thousands of water structures across Karauli and Dholpur, leading to unprecedented improvement in the water levels of 23 rivers, more than half of which were successfully revived. Mining activities in the region decreased significantly, and in some areas, they ceased completely. Groundwater levels that were previously thousands of feet deep rose dramatically to 40–50 feet, and in some areas, even to 5–10 feet. This revitalization

of water resources enabled a three-crop agricultural cycle, increased fruit and vegetable production, improved animal husbandry, and boosted milk production from 3–4 liters to 10–15 liters per day. Consequently, the income of rural families grew rapidly, health and nutrition levels improved, malnutrition among pregnant women and children nearly disappeared, and girls' education received new strength. Migration from villages halted, and the establishment of social security, peace, and prosperity gave the entire region a renewed identity. In recognition of his tireless efforts, he was honoured with the Jal Prahari Award by the Ministry of Jal Shakti in 2024, along with several recognitions from Tarun Bharat Sangh, including Jal Shanti Doot and Jal Yoddha.



The primary reason Ranveer Singh Gurjar deserves to be called a "Harit Champion" is his lifelong dedication to society, the environment, and the conservation of natural resources. He transformed a region burdened with deep social crises such as water scarcity, mining, dacoit terror, migration, and malnutrition through focused water conservation efforts. His work brought positive changes in every sector rivers, agriculture, animal husbandry, education, health, and social systems. Without any selfish interest or desire for recognition, he brought permanent transformation to the lives of thousands of rural people.

Parul Gupta

Centre for Environment Education



Born and brought up in Delhi, Parul always wondered how young minds could be meaningfully engaged with environmental concerns and encouraged to take positive action. This curiosity shaped her career choice and set her on the path to becoming an environmental educator. She found the perfect alignment between her passion and purpose when she got the opportunity to work with the Centre for Environment Education (CEE), a national organisation committed to promoting environmental awareness across India.

Parul joined CEE as a Project Coordinator for Generation for Climate Action (GenCAN), a school-focused climate change and sustainability education initiative implemented in partnership with HCLFoundation. Working both online and in person with schools across regions, she found a platform where her efforts could make a tangible impact. "Visiting remote schools, interacting with students, teachers, and the local community—my work gives me a new purpose to learn and do more," she shares. In her role, Parul facilitates climate literacy and action activities in more than 500 schools and guides a team of six field educators. She draws great satisfaction from making climate science engaging and accessible for both teachers and students. Through learner-centred, interactive methodologies, her training sessions help translate climate concepts into activity-based learning in classrooms.

A core part of her work is helping students recognise their role as young climate leaders who can bring change within their local environments. She introduces them to concepts like carbon footprint and 'handprint' positive actions for sustainability. From reducing electricity consumption to saving water and minimising waste, students take tangible steps in their schools and daily lives.

Parul empowers them to realise that every action, no matter how small, contributes to a more sustainable future. "When we understand how our daily actions impact the climate, we feel a stronger responsibility to act," she often reminds her students. Working at CEE which is a Centre of Excellence in environmental education for over four decades aligns perfectly with Parul's mission. Through her role, she continues to inspire and build climate-conscious communities across the country, nurturing a generation committed to sustainability.



NOT a drop to WASTE

ONCE UPON A TIME... RAHUL THINKING ABOUT USED WATER!

THE WATER WE USED IS MOVING TO DRAINAGE

RAHUL TALKING WITH HIS FRIEND ARUL

BUT DRAINAGE WATER IS WASTE! RAHUL WE SHOULD SAVE WATER

THINKING HOW TO USE THE DRAINAGE WATER

ONE IDEA... THE WASTE DRAINAGE WATER CAN BE USED IN GARDEN

ARUL TELLING RAHUL THE USE OF DRAINAGE WATER

THE PLANT WILL GROW WITH THE HELP OF THAT DRAINAGE WATER

KISHORE.M

ACTION OVER REACTION

Hi there is so much garbage here already why are you throwing garbage?

There is no dust bin here. If there were garbage.

we should complain to the municipality get dust bins for this place.

How okay I will bring my friends.

Why I will arrange some things some they Sam and Sam be over.

How so please help our cause is you polluted see this cleaning but is to washing please help us.

Municipal office

finally our searching on clean and use will be healthy as well.

hey see should educate people to throw garbage into dust bins.

USE ME

city waste local plastic waste

A. Chandu

THERE ARE NO CLOUDS!

What happens you are coughing a lot?

I am feeling sick for the past couple of days.

It is because of all the factories emitting smoke all day long here. It is not easy to breathe.

In this way you are coughing.

Let's move from here and find a better place.

Yes that would be much better for our health.

I wonder where all the clouds are! When it would rain it would help with all the pollution here.

Name: Firdous Begum
Sec: B
class: 9th

THE RIVER REVIVED

TINKU AND JOHN GO FOR FISHING

There are no fish in water.

It is due to water pollution.

What is water pollution?

People throw garbage like tosy chemi calls mix with water river get polluted we clean the river.

THEY BRING THEIR FRIENDS FOR CLEANING

ok we take the help of our friends.

ok friends let's clean the river.

FINALLY THEY CLEAN THE RIVER

RIVER IS CLEANED FISHES ARE BACK.

never throw garbage in river.

K. VASUN

IUCN Red List

Where India's wildlife stands today

A snapshot of major Indian species, their IUCN status, main threats, and what we can do



ENDANGERED

Tiger

Panthera tigris

- ♦ Habitat loss and fragmentation
- ♦ Human-elephant conflict
- ♦ Poaching in some regions



ENDANGERED

Asiatic (Indian) Lion

Panthera leo persica

- ♦ Extremely limited range
- ♦ Disease outbreaks
- ♦ Human-wildlife conflict



ENDANGERED

Indian Elephant

Elephas maximus indicus

- ♦ Habitat loss and fragmentation
- ♦ Human-elephant conflict
- ♦ Poaching in some regions



VULNERABLE

Greater One-Horned Rhinoceros

Rhinoceros unicornis

- ♦ Poaching ... outside protected areas
- ♦ Strict protection
- ♦ Translocation programmes
- ♦ Anti-poaching patrols

CRITICALLY ENDANGERED

Gharial *Gavialis gangeticus*

- ♦ River habitat degradation
- ♦ Sand mining
- ♦ Fishing nets
- ✔ Captive breeding and release programmes



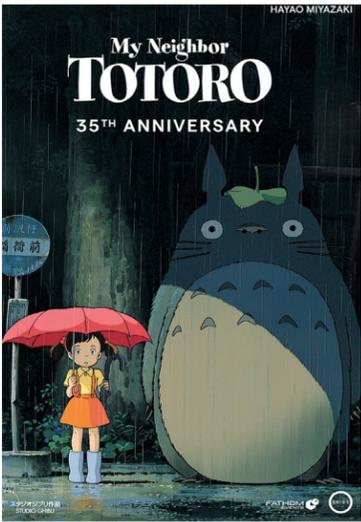
VULNERABLE

Indian Wolf *Canis lupus pallipes*

- ♦ Habitat loss
- ♦ Persecution
- ♦ Community tolerance programmes



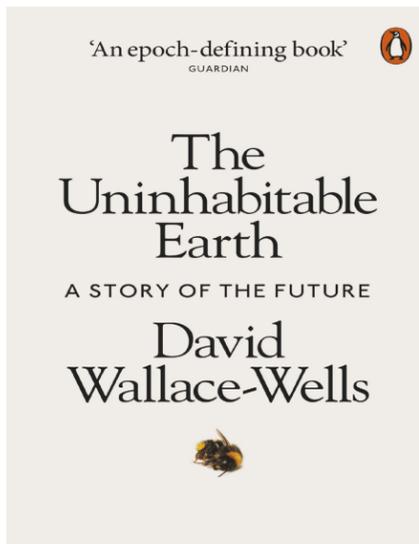
Movie Recommendation: My Neighbor Totoro (1988)



My Neighbor Totoro is an animated movie set in the peaceful countryside of Japan, where two young sisters move to a new home surrounded by trees, fields, and nature. As they explore their surroundings, they meet Totoro, a gentle forest spirit who represents the magic and life of the natural world. The film shows nature as something alive, friendly, and full of wonder. Through simple moments and everyday experiences, the movie helps us understand the importance of living in harmony with nature. My Neighbor Totoro

encourages children to respect trees, animals, and the environment around them, and reminds us that caring for nature begins with love, curiosity, and kindness.

Book Recommendation: The Uninhabitable Earth (2019) by Amitav Ghosh



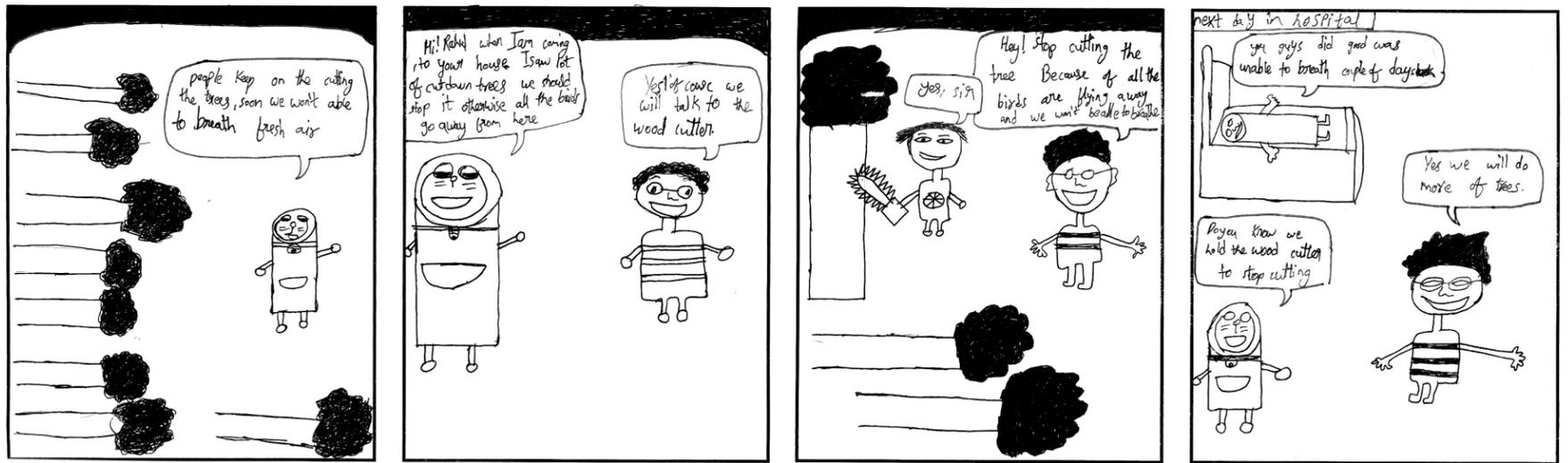
The Uninhabitable Earth is a non-fiction book that explains climate change and its impact on our planet in a clear and powerful way. It talks about rising temperatures, extreme weather, melting ice, and how these changes affect people, animals, and ecosystems across the world. The book helps readers understand that climate change is not a distant problem, but something already happening around us.

Through real examples and scientific facts explained in simple language, the book encourages readers to think about the future of the Earth and our responsibility towards it. The Uninhabitable Earth reminds us that the choices we make today—about energy, food, and lifestyle—can shape the world we will live in tomorrow.

Photo: Wikipedia

CHOOSE TREES, CHOOSE LIFE

Pran Sai



HOW TO MAKE COMPOST AT HOME!

Turn Your Food Waste into Useful Soil!

- 1. COLLECT SCRAPS**
Save kitchen waste like fruit peels, veggie bits, tea leaves, and eggshells.
- 2. MIX 'BROWN' & 'GREEN'**
Add "Green" (food scraps) & "Brown" (dry leaves, paper).
- 3. KEEP IT TOSSIN'**
Turn the pile often to mix & get air inside.
- 4. MOIST BUT NOT WET**
Keep it damp like a wrung-out sponge.
- 5. WAIT & HARVEST**
In 2-3 months, your compost is ready!
BLACK, RICH SOIL!

USE YOUR COMPOST FOR A HEALTHY GARDEN!

WHAT DO THEY DO TO SAVE THE EARTH?

1. I ... out waste
2. I drive ...
3. I bring waste to the ... plant
4. I ride a ...
5. I ride a ...
6. I love my ...
7. I've installed ... panels
8. I have ... cup and bag
9. I ... trees

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 – 31, Year – 4, Oct-Dec, 2025
(Private circulation only)

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

Editorial Board: Dr Santanu Basu, Ravi Kumar Sharma, Chandralekha R, Shikha Katwal, Jagjit Singh, Charu Sharma

Cover: Garima Sharma | Editor: Sharad Sharma

web: www.hclfoundation.org | www.worldcomicsindia.com
email: hclfoundation@hcl.com | wci.hcl@gmail.com
Twitter: HCL_Foundation | Facebook: HCLFoundation