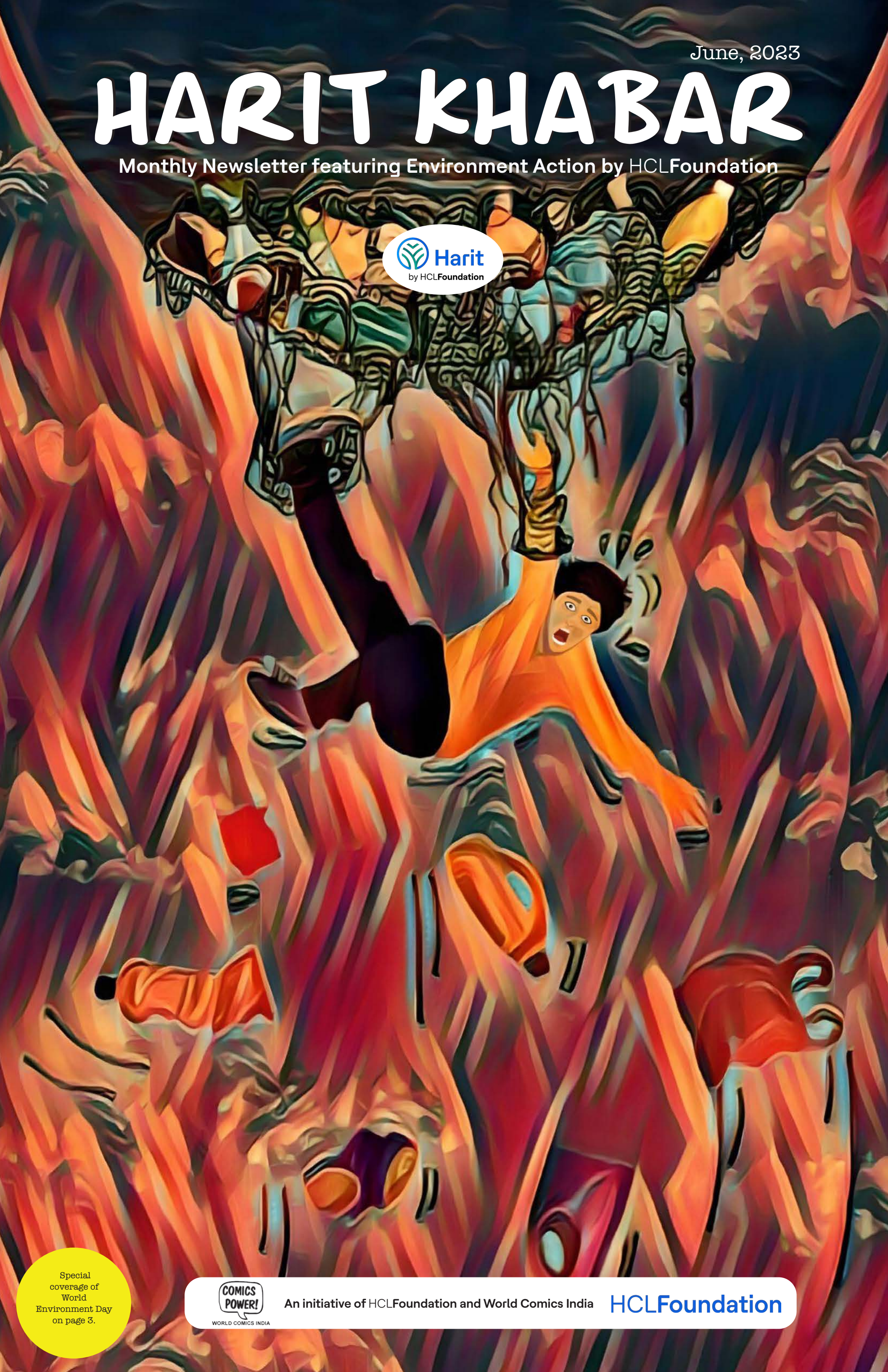


June, 2023

HARIT KHABAR

Monthly Newsletter featuring Environment Action by HCLFoundation



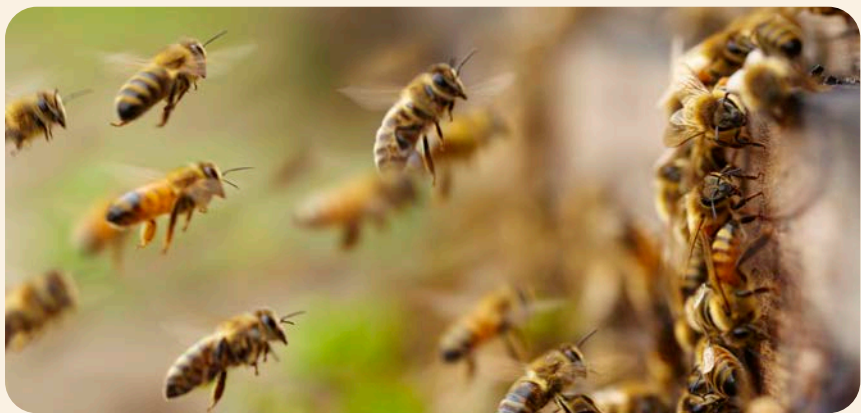
Special coverage of World Environment Day on page 3.



WORLD COMICS INDIA

An initiative of HCLFoundation and World Comics India

HCLFoundation



Bees are flying insects that collect nectar and pollen. They are considered to be the descendants of ancient wasps which can be dated back to about 120 million years ago. These wasps were initially carnivorous. However, their discovery of the delicious sweetness of nectar seemed to have pushed them down the path of vegetarianism.

Knowing about our pollinators



Give Me Trees Trust's team, with support from the HCL Foundation, observed World Bee Day on 20th of May at Harit Upvan Sorkha, Noida, by organizing a workshop with volunteers to draw attention to the essential role of bees and

other pollinators to keep people and the planet healthy.

Through the workshop, the participants were made aware about the importance of pollinators, the threats they face and their contribution to sustainable development.



Threat to bees is a threat to our food security

These buzzing insects' most significant role in environmental mechanisms is their part in pollination. As pollinators, they facilitate reproduction in plants. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, bees are responsible for an astounding one-third of the world's food production. Not only domestic crop cultivation, but wild plant growth also benefits from bees' pollination. The United States Department of Agriculture estimates that pollinators like bees and butterflies help pollinate approximately 75 percent of the world's flowering plants. This ensures the sustenance of the untamed animals and therefore, the overall biodiversity. They are, thus, an integral component of food security.

However, bees' existence is being threatened by a number of factors. The most pressing issue is that of changing climatic conditions. Rising temperatures have made many habitats too hot for the queen bees to lay eggs in and for male bees to simply survive in. Changes in rainfall patterns have led to droughts, which also have a hand in wiping out some species of bees.



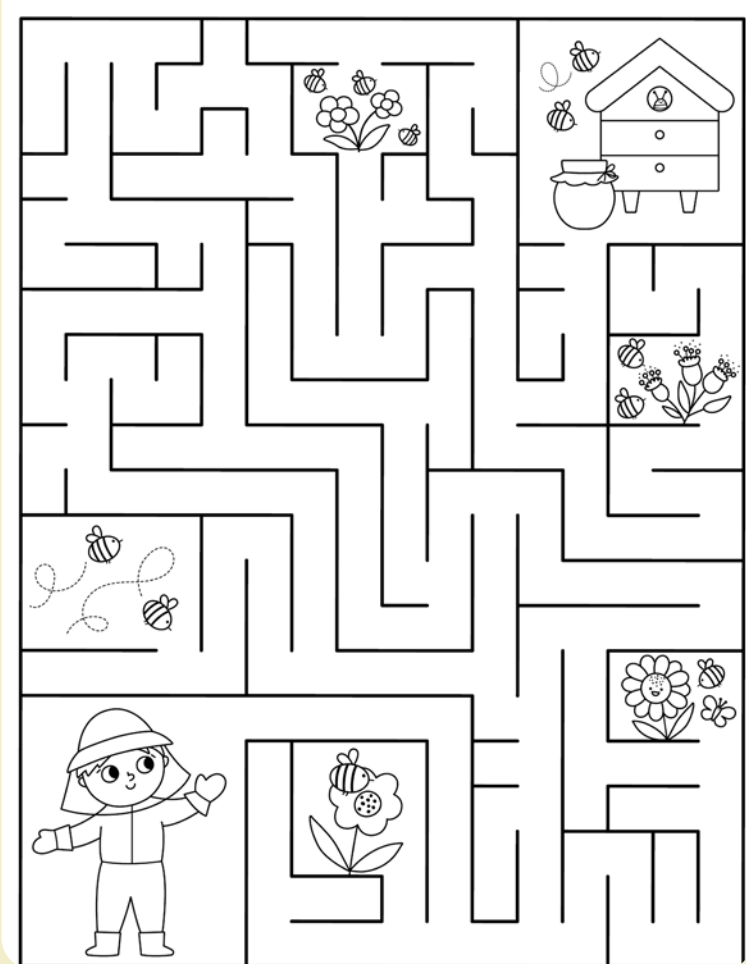
A wall for bees



With the help of **Gorakhpur Environment Action Group (GEAG)**, Harit Club children in Gautam Buddh Nagar, Noida, took the initiative to celebrate World Bee Day, recognizing the vital role of honey bees in preserving biodiversity and flourishing ecosystems. The children in Police Lines painted a full wall on this day to showcase the important role of bees in preserving biological diversity.

Despite being at home during summer vacation, school children were guided through video orientations and reading materials, who then creatively spread awareness through wall paintings, art, and crafts at Nagla Charan Das School and Composite School Yakubpur. These young environmental enthusiasts highlighted the importance of bee pollination and its benefits to both nature and humanity.

PUZZLE TIME HELP THE BEEKEEPER GET TO THE BEEHIVE



Do You Know?

- 1) A honey bee queen may lay as many as 2000 - 3000 eggs per day as she establishes her colony?
- 2) The hexagon structure of honeycombs enables bees to make super-efficient use of beeswax, and guards against wastage?
- 3) A honey bee can fly for up to six miles, and as fast as 15 miles per hour, hence it would have to fly around 90,000 miles-three times around the globe – to make one pound of honey?
- 4) The Honey bee's wings stroke 11,400 times per minute, thus making their distinctive buzz?
- 5) As with other types of bees, honey bees have 5 eyes; 3 simple eyes on top of its head, and 2 compound eyes, with numerous hexagonal facets?
- 6) Honey bees have been around longer than humans – there is fossil evidence from 150 million years ago?



**BETTER
ENVIRONMENT
BETTER
TOMORROW**

**WORLD
ENVIRONMENT
DAY**
JUNE 5

World Environment Day is a global reminder for people to look around, become aware of the conditions of their ecosystem, and take action towards its betterment. It is led by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and held annually on 5 June since 1973. Climate change is the defining issue of our time, and its main threats include rising sea levels, ecosystem collapse, and more frequent and severe weather. Global warming is increasing day by day, and if we don't prevent it, our world will face undesirable consequences.

Theme: On its 50th anniversary this year, the Day is hosted by Côte d'Ivoire. The theme this year is "Beat Plastic Pollution".

Our consumption habits choking the planet



The urgent necessity of highlighting the need to find solutions to plastic pollution manifests itself in the motley collection of alarming statistical findings. Take into account the fact that the world produces 400 metric tons of plastic waste every year, out of which 10 million end up clogging the ocean (Drowning in Plastics – Marine Litter and Plastic Waste Vital Graphics, UNEP). To counter this problem of plastic pollution, a multifaceted approach needs to be adopted. The notion of reusing plastics needs to be reinforced.

T-shirts from Recycled Plastic?

Under the Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan, Pune Municipal Corporation announced its initiative to recycle plastic bottles into T-shirts. The plastic used, amounting to about 26 tons, has been collected through a "public participation initiative". The civic body is collaborating with other private players to make these items.



Plastic troubles for India

India is not doing very well regarding the plastic situation. The country produces 3.4 million tons (MT) of the non-biodegradable material every year, with the per capita consumption being about 15 kg per person.

Landfills are overflowing with plastic waste (most of which is left untreated), and the seas near Mumbai and Kerala are ranked among the worst polluted in the world. The Central Pollution Control Board stated that plastic makes up 8% of the total solid waste, with Delhi's contribution being the largest.

However, the government has taken steps towards improving this situation. The Guidelines on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for Plastic Packaging (Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2022), issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, and the single-use plastic ban are a couple of examples of the authorities taking cognizance. India is following the theme of Mission LiFE for this World Environment Day. Mission LiFE is designed with the objective of mobilizing at least one billion Indians and other global citizens to take individual and collective action for protecting and conserving the environment in the period 2022–28.



By 2040, Plastic Pollution to be Reduced by 80%

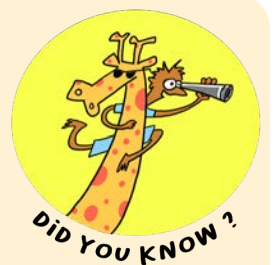


According to a United Nations Environmental Programmes report titled "Turning off the Tap: How the World Can End Plastic Pollution and Create a Circular Economy", the global amount of plastic will be slashed by 80% by the year 2040.

The report focuses on the need for a circular economy and its expansion, for which it prescribes the principles of "reduce, reuse and recycle" as well as those of reorienting and diversifying. The report also postulates that the implementation of a circular economy will generate 7 lakh jobs in a 20-year period.

The Circular Economy is a model of production and consumption, that involves sharing, leasing, reusing, repairing, refurbishing, and recycling existing materials and products for as long as possible. In this way, the life cycle of products is extended.

The Indian government passed The Plastic Waste (Management and Handling) Rules in 2011.



It specified certain rules for carrying plastic bags and banned the use of plastic materials in sachets for storing, packing, or selling gutkha, tobacco and pan masala, as well as disallowing food stuffs to be packed in recycled plastics or compostable plastics.



Our ecology is under the constant pressures of climate change. One of these increasingly intensifying challenges comes in the form of forest fires. Forest fires burn a large number of trees, shrubs and plants which contribute significantly to the deteriorating air quality. Smoke along with the release of poisonous gases like carbon monoxide has serious consequences for human and animal health. Forests are also the basis of a wide variety of tribal and rural communities; their destruction causes heavy economic strain on these people.

As per the 2022 data provided by Global Forest Watch, the rate of burning forests has doubled compared to what it was a mere twenty years ago. 2021 itself saw forest fires consume an astounding 9.3 million hectares of forest cover all over the world (World Resources Institute). The situation has the potential of worsening, as a UNEP-backed report has stated that wildfires are expected to increase by 30% by 2050.

Forest fires in India

India is facing similar troubles. An April 2022 study titled "Managing Forest Fires in a Changing Climate" has stated that over 62% of Indian states are prone to severe levels of forest fires. Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and many Northeastern states make up the list of vulnerable states, with Mizoram coming at the top. The report, prepared by the think tank Council of Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), also noticed that forest fires in the country have increased tenfold in the past twenty years.

In the month of June alone, forest fires ravaged the fertile land in Telangana with 9,520 hectares of forest land getting burned this year. Similarly, according to the satellite-based forest fire monitoring by the Forest Survey of India (FSI), around 42,799 forest fires have been detected between March 1 and March 12, which is a 115% rise in forest fires in its first twelve days alone. In the same month, more than 70 fires burned for days across ecologically sensitive forests in Goa's Western Ghats causing significant damage to these ecosystems. Similarly, over 100 fresh cases of forest fires have been noted in the hilly state of Uttarakhand. Since November last year, Uttarakhand has seen 569 forest re incidents, gutting 671 hectares of land and causing a loss of Rs 17.28 lakh to the forest department.



चीड़ का पेड़ समस्या नहीं



Pine Tree is not a Problem- The beautiful pine trees in Uttarakhand became a problem for people. Harish tells a friend it is because of these that the forest fires spread. A gathering is called and people discuss how the pine tree can be used for its good. Someone says its glue can be used to make glass and bangles. Its leaves can be used to generate electricity and the tree is also good for tourism. Harish thinks that the pine tree which was earlier seen as a problem has now become a source of our livelihood. By Himanshu Pant, Rasta NGO.

Climate Change Causing Wildfires in Canada

Canada has been experiencing a devastating wildfire season since March of this year. The first emergency state was declared in Alberta on 4 May - since then, 2258 fires have broken out, and more than 400 of them are still active. It is believed that the Canadian fires were caused either by lightning or human activity. The smoke from the fires has spread to the US state of Georgia. In May, greenhouse gas emissions reached 54.8 million tons. Experts say that these fires are a "harbinger" of our coming climatic conditions. They are a consequence of the dry weather. Scientists predict that wildfires are going to be much more intense in the future due to climate change.



Facts about forest fires

In 2003, a series of extremely devastating blazes in the taiga forests of Eastern Siberia destroyed over 55 million acres of land and is considered one of the biggest forest fires in history.

- Lightning strikes the earth over 100,000 times a day. 10 to 20% of these lightning strikes can cause fire.
- In February 2019, one of India's biggest forest fires broke out in the Bandipur National Park in Karnataka in which 15,443.27 acres of forest area was damaged.
- A large wildfire, or conflagration, is often capable of modifying the local weather conditions or producing "its own weather."
- 90% of all wildfires are started by humans.



Interesting fact: Do you know that one of the ways to control forest fires is to cut down trees, clear the shrubs and undergrowth to make a fire line designed to be free of combustible materials so that the fire can't spread.

Project “Oceans Detangled” protects marine ecosystems



The fishing nets that are either lost, abandoned, or discarded at sea are referred to as Ghost Nets. To mitigate this problem at ground level, **Animal Warriors Conservation Society (AWCS)**, in collaboration with the HCLFoundation, has taken up an initiative called "Oceans Detangled". The project focuses on community-driven initiatives to reduce the loss of fishing gear by educating fishing communities about the impacts of ghost nets on marine ecosystems. Ocean Detangled is working to set best gear management practices to minimize the loss of fishing gear at sea.

The Ghost Net Upcycling Unit is helping the fishing community upcycle ghost nets and end-of-life fishing gear into products that can provide economic support to the community. Recently, AWCS helped the fisher

community make a badminton net using an abandoned fishing net at sea, which is being used by young children in the community to play badminton. So far, over 2000 fishing communities have been educated under this program. A total of 183 kilograms of fishing gear have been recovered from the seashore by community beach patrol teams, and over 50 kilograms of single-use plastics, including water bottles, were collected during beach cleanup drives. Ocean Detangled is slowly being adopted by the target communities to protect and conserve the sea on which their livelihood depends.



End plastic, save environment



NGO Aroha conducted a mass afforestation program in partnership with the HCLFoundation at IIIT, Waranga, Nagpur, on the occasion of World Environment Day. A series of other events like seminars, sessions and volunteering programs were also organized.

Women protecting Rudraksh



Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) celebrated World Environment Day with the local women SHGs, followed by a plantation drive at Sagar Village, Gopeshwar, distt Chamoli, Uttarakhand. The women were very vocal about the ecological degradation and promised their active involvement in the plantation, maintenance and conservation of Rudraksh Saplings.

Planting saplings on World Environment Day



On the occasion of World Environment Day, **Give Me Trees Trust (GMTT)** planted 60 saplings with the volunteers of HCLTech in Green Connector HCL IT City, Lucknow. Volunteers not just enjoyed plantation but also developed a connection with the nature.

World Environment Day



This year, on World Environment Day, the **ActionAid** team organized events at two pond sites that were restored last year in Village Bagpur and Village Navada. ActionAid, with the support of the HCLFoundation, has rejuvenated 14 ponds in 11 villages since 2019 under the project 'Rejuvenating Ponds in Gautam Buddha Nagar'. Community members from all age groups joined the plantation, and the saplings that were chosen for planting around the ponds were native.

Mr. Prashant Tiwari, J.E. from the Greater Noida Authority also joined the plantation. ActionAid not only rejuvenates the ponds but also maintains them regularly over the years. In order to ensure sustainability for restored ponds, building relationships with the community and making them aware of pond maintenance and rejuvenation is one of the core aspects of the project.



Unused plastic turns useful



TIDE team in partnership with HCLF celebrated World Environment Week at PBGC Thoraipakkam on 5th and 9th June, 2023. Around 21 students used old unused plastic bottles and boxes for upcycling it to something as useful and beautiful as pen stands and flower pots.

Beating plastic pollution with school kids



On the occasion of World Environment Day, the students of the Composite School Yakubpur, UP with help from **Gorakhpur Environmental Action Group (GEAG)**, participated in various activities to address the theme of "Beat Plastic Pollution." They organized an awareness rally and a street play within the community to educate them about the harmful effects of plastic. A summer camp was also organized where students creatively crafted clothes bags from waste T-Shirts focusing on reducing single-use plastic.

Green Frames of Harit Tales

World Comics India, in collaboration with the HCL Foundation, is thrilled to announce a ground-breaking comic book series on the vital issues of the environment. Through the creative medium of comics, the series aims to simplify crucial information about our environment in a lighter and easier-to-understand manner.

Environmental issues are complex, often laden with technical jargon and overwhelming amounts of data. Communicating this vital information in a way that engages and empowers the masses has proven to be a significant hurdle. Comics have a unique ability to transcend language barriers, age groups, and educational backgrounds. By harnessing the power of storytelling and vibrant visuals, comic book stories try to captivate readers and make complex topics accessible to all.

-New comics book series -

The first comic story in the series features HCL Foundation's flagship programme for environmental action, Harit, and the rest of the comic stories highlight the environmental issues that the partner organizations of HCL Foundation are combating under Harit program. The comic book series draws readers' attention to the problems of ghost nets, green cover in urban areas, urban wildlife, and human-animal interaction, respectively. One of the comic stories also introduces an environmentally friendly cooking solution, while another comic story underlines the importance of farmer-producer companies in agribusiness activities. This comic book series will be made available in the coming months, and copies will be in both print and e-book formats.



अब समझ आया



Now I Understand: Some people are discussing their issues with the sarpanch of a village while a boy stands nearby and wonders if he should ask the sarpanch about his school's renovation. Finally, he told the village sarpanch that his school was facing water leakage issues. The president tells the boy that he should inquire with the school teacher and shoos him away. The next day, the boy made a comic on the issue of water leakage titled 'Leaking Roof' and pasted it on the panchayat bhavan's wall. When it started to get attention from everyone, the sarpanch decided to fix the problem.



Eco Gyan session

The **Eco Roots Foundation**, in association with the HCL Foundation, organized an Eco Gyan session at Mahamaya Balika Inter College, Noida. Monika Kapoor, from the Eco Roots Foundation, explained to students about conservation and its crucial role in safeguarding the environment. While one of the members from the Eco Roots Foundation shared insights on crafting natural bird nests, highlighting diverse bird species and their habitats, Students actively participated and used natural materials to create their own nests. The experience will inspire them to embrace their role as environmental stewards and take decisive action to protect our planet.

Green Viral Video

A 'mimicry artist'



Nature can be fascinating in a lot of ways. And if you are someone who loves to watch videos of wildlife, then here's a clip that may leave you very happy. A video is doing the rounds on social media in which a lyrebird can be seen mimicking the sounds of nature. "A lyrebird is a species of ground-dwelling Australian bird. They are notable for their ability to mimic natural and artificial sounds from their environment and the striking beauty of the male bird's huge tail," a Twitter page called @fasc1nate said while sharing the video of the lyrebird.

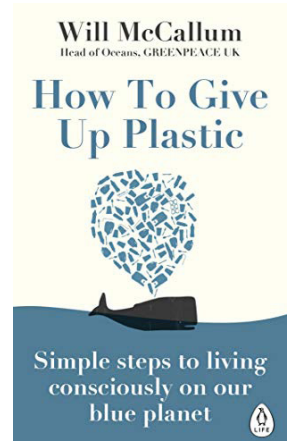


The video was originally uploaded by World Birds. (Scan the QR Code for quick access)

Book Review

How to Give Up Plastic: A Conscious Guide to Changing the World, One Plastic Bottle at a Time by Will McCallum

"How to Give Up Plastic" draws readers' attention to how dangerous plastic has become for our environment and states that the responsibility to end the production of single-use plastics falls upon individuals as well as large corporations. Written in an easy-to-understand language, it educates people about their role in furthering the crisis and how they can take small yet effective steps to reduce their plastic consumption and waste. Will McCallum is an environmentalist and works as the head of Oceans at Greenpeace; his expertise and experience of researching and working on the impact of plastics on oceans shine through all the pages of the book. It's a must-read for anyone who wants to reduce their dependence on harmful plastics.



MARINE LIVES MATTER



Industrial pollution, over exploitation, and increasing human intervention are putting marine lives at risk

Bolstering native biodiversity in Uttarakhand



HCLFoundation, under its flagship programme on environment Harit, renewed its partnership with the National Mission for Clean Ganga (Namami Gange) and the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) to bolster native

biodiversity in Uttarakhand for a period of 3 years with the signing of a formal MoU. Over the past five years, HCLFoundation has successfully planted 13,500+ saplings, including 10,000+ Rudraksha saplings, across Chamoli and Almora districts and covered 30 acres of community-owned land near Sentuna village.

The MoU was signed in the presence of Shri G. Asok Kumar, Director General, NMCG; Dr. Nidhi Pundhir, Vice President, Global CSR, HCLFoundation; and Manu Bhatnagar, Principal Director, INTACH. With the renewed partnership, the HCL Foundation aims to make an even deeper positive impact against habitat degradation and native biodiversity loss. By 2026, the Foundation's goal is to plant an additional 10,000 Rudraksha saplings and other native species in the region.

National Water Award for HCLTech

HCL Technologies has won the National Water Award in the Industry for CSR Activities category for significant efforts in holistic water conservation and management in India. The awards have been instituted by the Government of India's Department of Water Resources, River Development, and Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti. The HCLFoundation has been supporting sustainable, scalable,



and innovative solutions for effective water conservation through comprehensive programmes in rural and urban areas. To date, the foundation's key milestones include harvesting 57.9 billion litres of water and rejuvenating over 200 water bodies and rainwater harvesting structures across India. Rahul Singh, COO, Corporate Functions, HCLTech, and Dr. Nidhi Pundhir, Vice President, Global CSR, HCL Foundation, received the award from India's Vice President, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar.

'Celebrating the colours of life'



On the occasion of Biodiversity Day, Care India's BACHAT team and HCLFoundation successfully organized an event 'Celebrating the Colours of Life' at Khandera village in Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh. The event featured a documentary screening and an

awareness programme aimed at spreading knowledge about the importance of biodiversity. The whole community came together for the event to appreciate the rich diversity of life that surrounds us, and to acknowledge the power of unity in conserving the environment. The event concluded with everyone taking a pledge to implement sustainable practices in their everyday lives and assume responsibility for our environment.

Reducing CO2 emissions through ICS

On May 9, an event regarding awareness and distribution of Improved cook stoves (ICS) was organised in Charaksenpur, Dardri block in Gautam Buddha Nagar (UP) under the BACHAT GB Nagar project, run jointly by HCLFoundation and Care India, with the objective of helping people living in villages switch to clean cooking alternatives and reducing indoor air pollution. More than 600 new households have been added to the list of ICS users in the last month, who have joined hands in contributing to fights towards reducing CO2 emissions in households.



Creating nets, saving habitats



Eco Roots Foundation, in association with HCLFoundation under Harit, conducted a nest-making workshop at the HCL campus in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. The Nest Man of India, Mr. Rakesh Khatri, shared his insights on crafting natural bird nests, the role of birds in the environment, and what we can do for them. In the workshop, 34 volunteers made 24 bird-friendly nests under the guidance of Mr. Rakesh Khatri. Building nests for our feathered

friends was not just about crafting homes; it was also about creating precious memories and spreading awareness about conservation. The aim of the workshop was to create awareness about sparrows and the steps that are needed to conserve them.

Sunshine Summer Camp for kids



Animal Warriors Conservation Society (AWCS) took part in HCL Technologies' annual Sunshine Summer Camp in Hyderabad to spread awareness on the impacts of plastic pollution on oceans and birds. The kids who participated in the summer camp showed a great deal of interest and enthusiasm throughout the session and participated in making origami birds. They also named the bird and pledged to take responsibility to protect birds and nature.

About the publication

HCLFoundation and World Comics India's collaborative initiative 'Harit Khabar' is a monthly 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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