



आवनी

2019 - 2020



Centre for Green Initiatives
CGI
Shri Ram College of Commerce

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Principal's Message



“The environment and the economy are really both two sides of the same coin. If we cannot sustain the environment, we cannot sustain ourselves.”

- Wangari Maathai

It is a matter of great pride that the Centre for Green Initiatives has launched the fourth edition of its annual magazine 'Avani'. This magazine showcases the activities undertaken by the centre in spreading the awareness of our environmental initiatives as well as concerns pertinent to us as a community. The centre has been instrumental in making the college fulfil its responsibilities towards society and the environment through various activities undertaken over the years.

I appreciate the hard work of the Centre for Green Initiatives and congratulate the team on the publication of this magazine.

Prof. Simrit Kaur
Principal

From the desk of the Convenor



“It is our collective and individual responsibility...to preserve and tend to the world in which we all live.”

- Dalai Lama

We are pleased to place the fourth edition of our magazine ‘Avani’. The journey till now marks a new step in our vision to channelize the efforts of the institution towards environmental awareness. In the past years, the Centre has been instrumental in taking initiatives towards the conservation of the environment and vocalizing concerns for the ecological issues pertinent to the society. As a part of its mandate of spreading awareness on pressing environmental concerns, the magazine serves as an important conduit to channelize the creative energies of students towards the larger goal of sharing environmental responsibility.

The magazine ‘Avani’ aims at integration of writing abilities along with environmental research which will provide our generations a much needed say in the development process of environment sustenance. We hope your feedback and suggestions will help the magazine to develop further in its future endeavours.

Dr. Rachna Jawa
Convenor

ABOUT CGI

The Centre for Green Initiatives was established in the college with the aim of generating awareness and creating a pervasive atmosphere in order to facilitate conversations about environmental issues, among the various stakeholders. The centre functions with the primary objective of promoting environmental care at an individual and community level.

Our objectives:

- Understanding various environmental issues and the need to address them.
- Sensitizing people about the need for protection of environment for a sustainable and healthy future.
- Undertaking technological setup aimed at an environmentally and economically strong impact.

TATVA

The Centre for Green Initiatives holds an annual Green Festival called Tatva. The event is held in the college premises and witnesses participation from numerous teachers and students alike. The teachers fraternity has always extended support and offered encouragement to the various causes that the Centre stands for, and display their solidarity by actively taking part in the events organised during Tatva. The student community also plays a big part in making this event successful, and it is heartening to see that the initiatives taken by CGI resonate with such a huge number of today's youth. Tatva provides a platform for people to share ideas and suggestions relating to the environment, and talk about ways to conserve the environment. Different activities are conducted that aim to stress on the importance of protecting the environment.

Last year, the event witnessed a widely successful plantation drive, followed by interactive games and a pottery workshop. A paper recycling workshop was also conducted to make people aware about the importance of the three R's, Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle. The theme of Tatva was Nature, and this theme was embodied by the various stalls that were set up around the college campus. The stalls sold completely eco-friendly, recyclable products, in an attempt to encourage the use of such products that do not harm the environment. A speaker session was also held, with renowned speakers Mr. Ajay Sinha and Dr. Gyan Prakash Sharma addressing the eager crowd.

All in all, the event was a huge success, and the organisers hope to continue organising bigger and better events in the coming years.

INITIATIVES

GREEN RIDE INITIATIVE

The Centre for Green Initiatives, in collaboration with Green Ride Pvt. Ltd, launched the Green Ride Public Bicycle Sharing Service, a project funded by the Tech Mahindra Foundation and in collaboration with DPCL. Under this service, a well-designed modern bicycle stand has been constructed in the College campus housing twenty bicycles provided by Green Ride Pvt. Ltd, free of charge for students and staff members. The initiative enhances the environmental responsibility profile of the College. The service was inaugurated by Mr. Ajay S. Shriram, Chairman, SRCC, governing body on February 7, 2019. The inauguration organized by the Centre for Green Initiatives, who have spearheaded this project, consisted of a ribbon cutting ceremony and sweet distribution amongst the faculty, staff members, students and representatives from DMRC and DCPL present. Since its launch, approximately 18,250 trips have been made by the SRCC fraternity in past one year, averaging over 50 trips per day. This drive was started by Centre for Green Initiatives to promote the use of bicycles in the campus, in light of addressing the problem of traffic jams and pollution in Delhi.

This works on a four step approach.

Step 1- Download the app and register.

Step 2- Unlock and scan the QR code.

Step 3 - After it is unlocked, you can take the cycle and enjoy your ride.

Step 4- Lastly, the cycle is to be returned at the prescribed locations. Wait till the beep to ensure you are deregistered.

SOLAR POWER PROJECT

As a proactive institution concerned with environment protection and eco friendly ways of working in its premises, Centre for Green Initiatives, SRCC has launched a one of its kind initiative “SOLAR POWER PROJECT” for generating electricity using solar panels in the college. This initiative is under 25 years agreement with Tata Power Delhi Distribution Ltd. (TPDDL) totally funded by them for generating electricity in the college premises for inhouse purposes as well selling out to them for commercial purposes. The paneling was started in October 2019, with expected to get full capacity installation done by 2020. Under this drive around 1310 panels have been planned to get installed over college building, sports complex, girls hostel building and boys hostel building. Each panel produces around 325kw and 1500 units total per day in good weather conditions meeting around 45 percent of college requirements. Since its launch the initiative has enabled Shri Ram College of Commerce to meet its 45% electricity requirements in-house in an eco friendly way as well help is reducing carbon footprint. The project is yet to be inaugurated officially by Centre for Green Initiatives.

DIWALI CELEBRATION

Centre for Green Initiatives organised a pollution free, clean and green Diwali celebration in the Co-op area of the college on October 25, 2019. The celebration started on a melodious note with a Saraswati Vandana by the students of Aarohan. It was indeed a pleasure to all ears. In collaboration with Yamuna (Hindi), CGI had a shayari recitation too! It was followed by a play organised and performed by GBO and 1st year B.Com (Hons.) students. Diya painting competition was going on simultaneously. The play was a dramatic depiction of how crackers disturb the equilibrium of god gifted nature and how spreading noise, pollution and diseases can be replaced by sharing love, care and affection, both towards society and nature. Its motive was to make the humans aware in a non monotonous way and thus the narration was scripted by re-phrasing bollywood songs. This enactment was followed by a poem recitation. The poem emphasized the importance of celebrating Diwali with loved ones in a way that doesn't harm anyone. It was themed on aspects of the ignored sector of the society. Then the audience witnessed cultural entertainment in the form of music. GBO students performed dances and mesmerized all with their melodious voices as well!

The celebration was concluded by Principal Ma'am administering the oath. The hand painted diyas were wrapped in big dry leaves and were gifted to the faculty in handmade newspaper bags. The celebration ended by capturing this beautiful gesture in a lens to be cherished forever.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

The Centre for Green Initiatives has taken up various projects relating to solid waste management. Solid waste management is the proper collection, treatment and disposal of solid waste, along with regulation of the waste management process. Solid waste is a major hazard in today's world, and the world produces over two billion tonnes of solid waste every year, most of which goes untreated. India generates nearly 26,000 tonnes of plastic waste every day, making it the 15th biggest plastic polluting country globally. The Centre for Green Initiatives has taken numerous steps to ensure that the waste generated from our college, Shri Ram College of Commerce, atleast, is disposed off in the proper manner. All the paper from the College is properly collected and is sold to a waste entrepreneurial NGO named 'Greenobin'. Further, the college has separate bins for collection of waste, and the collected waste is segregated into biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste at the source itself. These initiatives taken by the Centre for Green Initiatives are a small step in the right direction, and are an inspiration to others in the country and in the world to start taking this solid waste management crisis seriously before it is too late.

WATER CONSERVATION

Water management is the process of planning, developing and distributing water in a way that ensures its optimum usage and minimises wastage. Water conservation is the process of using water efficiently so as to reduce unnecessary water usage. Water scarcity is a glaring problem that affects nearly 600 million people each year in India alone. Globally, at least four billion people face conditions of severe water scarcity for at least one month every year. Water is a basic need that everyone has for survival, and it threatens not only our lives but also our livelihoods. We need water for every aspect of our lives, and this dearth of water is a crisis that needs to be addressed at the earliest. The Centre for Green Initiatives has undertaken various steps to reduce this serious problem. Our college already has a rainwater harvesting system in place at the college site itself. The water collected through this method helps in replenishing the ground water table, with it providing over fifteen million litres of water every year to the ground water table. Apart from this, the borewell water available undergoes RO cleaning before being used in the college. The water that is unfit for drinking is used in the college washrooms, hence preventing the wastage of any water. These initiatives by the Centre for Green Initiatives have ensured that there is minimal wastage of water by the college.

**ARTICLES
AND
POEMS**

NEXT FOR AIR POLLUTION

People who stay with nature are more likely to report good health and psychological well-being. Over the past decade, researchers have found that high levels of air pollution may damage children's cognitive abilities, increase adults' risk of cognitive decline and possibly even contribute to depression.

Some scientists believe that air pollution is responsible for killing more people than even smoking. It's a horrifying fact that in order to compensate for a day's emission caused by production of electricity in Delhi, all vehicular movement in the capital would have to be stopped for a whopping period of six months. Six out of the world's ten most polluted cities are in India. New Delhi is the most polluted capital in the world. Air pollution is responsible for the deaths of nearly 1.25 million people every year in India. 99.9% of the Indian population is estimated to live in areas where the air quality is worse than the World Health Organization (WHO) Air Quality Guideline of 10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ for PM 2.5. The quality of air in northern India has slowly but steadily been deteriorating over the years as farmers burn crop residue in the states of Punjab and Haryana, but widespread setting off of firecrackers during Diwali, coupled with industrial and vehicular emissions, has pushed pollution to hazardous levels.

Prolonged exposure to pollution reduces life expectancy by almost 4 years. In the past fifteen years, doctors and scientists have taken long strides in discovering how harmful air pollution can be, with it leading to problems ranging from heart diseases to Alzheimer's. Air pollution causes around seven million deaths worldwide, a number greater than the deaths caused by murder, tuberculosis, HIV, AIDS and malaria combined.

Politics in Pollution:

A holistic approach in dealing with the current environmental problems is difficult to envisage as politicians are not concerned with trying to find solutions. Places like Beijing have seen improvement in the Air Quality Index (AQI) due to the citizens' strict compliance to government policies. Pollution is now becoming more of a human rights issue.

Economics of Air Pollution:

The economic cost of burning fossil fuels is about \$2.9 trillion per year, or 3.3% of the global Gross Domestic Product, Greenpeace said. Burning of fossil fuels causes approximately 4.5 million deaths every year. According to reports, Asia could reap massive benefits if the burning of household waste and industrial emissions is minimised. A United Nations report on "Air Pollution in Asia and the Pacific: Science based solutions", suggests 25 recommendations that would cost an estimated \$300 billion-\$600 billion annually, a big investment, but loose change compared with a projected \$12 trillion increase in economic growth.

Psychology and Environment:

Since most air pollutants come from the burning of fossil fuels, we urgently need to switch to other sources for generating energy. When we use clean, renewable energy sources, we contribute towards a better tomorrow. The final barrier is the lack of psychological engagement. Some people may understand the perceptual and interventional issues, but they simply don't care. Pollution, be it local or global, may simply not connect with the way they see themselves. To get past this barrier, it is necessary to link pollution to our core values, such as personal freedom and equality before the law. Moral codes and ethical norms are grafted onto such values, and most people respect them and respond when they are violated.

The road ahead:

One important factor is that as nations become richer, environmental features such as green space and air quality often come under increasing threat. Recently, researchers have also started to look at the role air pollution can play in our general mental health and happiness. In Germany, larger power plants were installed to reduce emission and people residing in areas were divided into the upwind and downwind areas of the power plants. The research on 30,000 Germans showed that the Happiness Level Index of those who lived in the downwind region suddenly went up. One of the most effective media to reduce air pollution would be ending coal powered fuel plants by 2030.

If India is to become a five trillion dollar economy, it should make an honest attempt to clean its air. The World Health Organisation has made it clear that India can prevent fifteen percent of its air pollution-linked deaths (amounting to around 1,50,000) by limiting its air pollution levels to 10 micrograms. This is not an easy task, but it is definitely one worth pursuing as a long-term target. The first step in that direction would be to modify the PM 2.5 standard to be in line with the WHO guidelines or close to the value accepted by most countries. The National Clean Air Programme identified 102 cities in India which were found to have crossed the national limits for air pollutants, especially the particulates. The situation would have been poorer if the World Health Organization's limit for PM2.5 — or 10 micrograms per cubic metre of air — had been considered as the benchmark. It is four times more stringent than our limit of 40 micrograms.

To conclude, monitoring air quality, identifying the main sources of air pollution, educating and engaging the public about air pollution, and enacting legislation, regulations and standards that can be enforced to limit pollution should be implemented, and all of that requires a serious global effort. A National Air Quality Plan should be brought into action. Let's vow to do our bit for our environment.

-Harsh Mishra

Critical Appreciation of Green Initiatives in India

From the Indus Valley Civilisation to the 21st Century, from discovering fire to orbiting Mars, from a simple wheel and axle to fast sports cars, we humans have come a long way in defeating the frailty of our existence. But we are still impuissant in freeing ourselves from the atrocities that our very own evolution has to offer to us! One such atrocity is Environmental Degradation. Environmental Degradation is defined as ‘deterioration in the quality of environment through depletion of Earth’s natural resources, destruction of ecosystems, habitat destruction, and extinction of wildlife and pollution’. One such region where this curse is omnipresent is India!

India is among the bottom five countries on the Environmental Performance Index (EPI) 2018, plummeting 36 places from 141 in 2016, according to the biennial report by Yale and Columbia University along with the World Economic Forum. While India is at the bottom of the list in the Environment Health category, it ranks 178 out of 180 as far as air quality is concerned.





To combat the situation, India took various steps, which are collectively known as the Green Initiative. The Green Initiative has as its main objective the offsetting of Greenhouse Gases (GHGs) emitted by human activities that range from complex industrial production processes to simply driving a car, with reforestation projects in riparian areas that need to be recovered. This initiative has been launched in India for numerous reasons ranging from deforestation and desertification to pollution and climate change. There are various problems within the country that are hindering the growth of the Green Initiative such as poverty, unemployment, corruption, religious and class conflicts, lacks of funds and infrastructure, and resistance to change. The people, the government, and various big corporate houses have all joined hands and are taking steps at their own level to accomplish the objective of the Green Initiative. Let's take a look at various sustainable Green Initiatives that India can learn from Scandinavian Countries:

1. Sustainable Green Transport: - From green buses that run on biogas and ethanol to electric trains, sustainability is the key to Sweden's public transport systems. The recyclability percentage of Stockholm Public transport's new tram purchases is a whopping 98%. The core fuel for trains is renewable electricity, i.e. hydropower and wind power. The complete underground system in Stockholm runs on green electricity, and as of 2017, all their buses are running on renewable fuels, which was their goal for 2025.

2. Investing in Green Technology:- Sweden is all set to clinch the title of 'World's first fossil-fuel free nation'. In 2016, Sweden earmarked US \$3.5 million to spend on renewable energy research and development. Sweden passed a new Climate Act in 2017 that legally binds it to produce zero emissions by 2045. By 2030, emissions from transport are forecasted to be diminished by 70%.

3. Sustainable Housing:- Sweden's cities are at the forefront of change. Malmo has designed two world-leading varieties of sustainable building. Bo01 is a constructed district that links modern architecture with ecological sustainability, while Ekostaden Augustenborg is one of the major investments in Europe in the Ecological Revolution. Stockholm Royal Seaport is the environmental district and role model in the capital. Around 10,000 homes and 30,000 offices are estimated to be built by 2025. The district will be totally free of fossil fuels by 2030 and will have a positive influence on the climate.



4. Sustainable Lifestyle:- For them sustainability is not a job to be done, but a lifestyle. 100% of household waste is recycled. Sweden stands first in the European Union in the consumption of organic foods. Swedish fashion giant H&M is a world leader in using organic cotton.

5. Green Agriculture:- Since India is an agrarian economy, it needs to take steps to boost its agricultural pattern. Environmental and financial sustainability ought to be the prime slogan of its agricultural community as it is in the case of Sweden's.

(continued)

Relevance of Startup Initiatives and Projects to build a Green India

Every big corporate house was once a startup and even before that, it was just an idea. In a mega-diverse nation like India, startup is a rock which when thrown, causes a ripple effect in the pond. In India, where corruption and public apathy usually take precedence over environmental causes, it's heartening to see private players coming out and focusing on this sector.

Digital Green is a Not-for-Profit Organisation which combines technology with social organisations to help humanity in diversified fields. They build innovative platforms to enable rural communities to create and share videos for wider adoption of locally relevant practices. Waste Ventures India averts up to 90% of waste from dumpsites and produces nutrient-rich organic compost. The Delhi-based startup, launched in 2011, has 44 projects lined up this year. Bangalore-based Encashea collects scrap waste for cash in select areas of the city. They pay people for segregating their recyclable scrap properly, lowering its environmental impact. Founded in 2010 by Vivek Subramanian, Saif Dhorajiwala and Vikas Saluguti, Fourth Partner Energy (4PEL) focuses on financing and building rooftop solar projects for commercial, industrial and residential clients. Banyan Nation collects plastic waste from industries and recycles it for further use in the industry. The company recycles more than 300 tons of plastic every month. Kanpur-based HelpUsGreen makes “flower-cycled” natural and certified organic products from flowers. They collect flower waste from places of worship and even the Ganges River and repurpose it into vermicompost, luxury incense and bathing bars through proprietary methods. D&D ecotech, a startup that helps households and organizations adopt rainwater harvesting, designs its own rainwater harvesting recharge structures based on their clients' needs and specifications. Ugly Indian is a Bangalore based anonymous startup that does 'spot fixes' carried out in the city and have started a Facebook page to highlight the same. Now, they have a whole generation of activists working for them. Feeding India is a social enterprise that tackles rampant and interconnected problems of food wastage and hunger by helping the needy get access to excess cooked food from restaurants and caterers.



To conclude, even though the environment is designed for humans, humans don't deserve it. They overexploit the resources of Mother Earth. It is always Man and his immortal greed that invites his own doom. It is no rocket science to figure out that the way things are going, it won't be long before Earth becomes an inhabitable planet for life to exist! Thus arises the need for Green Initiatives. Green Initiatives, undertaken by India at different levels are very crucial for the abidance of the environment as a whole. They not only counter environmental degradation wholly but also pave the path for good that humanity has to offer to settle in. There are a number of things that India needs to incorporate or improve in the policies already in place to reach the milestone of "Green India". It all depends upon the individual awareness that one has to accept or offer to extrapolate one's wisdom in times of emergency. People can take various steps to empower this initiative at different levels of society. From individuals to small groups to communities to startups to corporatisation of business entities to the country as a whole, we can always give our contribution and take a step towards a greener India. The only question we need to answer is 'Are we ready to take the leap'?

THE EPIPHANY

You wake up one day, gasping for breath. You want to believe it was a nightmare but it's just the beginning of an epiphany. Your eyes wandering through the room, seeking help, of any kind. Your legs trembling, struggling to breathe. Your lungs congested, your throat choked. No, there's no drama or climax to this story. It's just death.

No apologies for the morbid introduction, because that's exactly what we're living in today. A living gas chamber we dearly call Mother Earth. In today's age, about five million lives annually fall prey to this catastrophe called air pollution. Mind you, five million is a big number. Who is to blame, you ask? The answer's pretty obvious.

A short while back, we celebrated the Indian festival-Lohri. Before you go on to blame me for blasphemy, remember this- I have nothing against the culture, but only against the way things are done. There are 1.3 billion of us constituting the Indian population, but not every part of India celebrates this particular festival. As a sample, let's assume that all the twenty million residents of Delhi celebrate Lohri, ignoring the other parts of North India that believe in this festival as well. That's five million households each lighting bonfires on the 13th of January, praying to the Sun God for a better crop yield the coming year.

The burning of fossil fuels, as we all know, is a major cause of air pollution. Broaden the above number of bonfires to places where there's no electricity, like the backward and rural parts of India, and we see the impact just one cause of air pollution has. Please note, this is just one country we're talking about here. One can only wonder the scale on which our air is polluted world-wide.

It's high time we realize the ramifications of our wrongdoings. There's a reason why, as school children, we're taught about the composition of different gases in the air. The air we breathe won't get purified by itself. Start small, but do start somewhere. Let's plant saplings, practice car-pooling, walk instead of driving, and enlighten ourselves with awareness on the festival of lights. Let's do everything except something that harms our environment and us, specifically, in the long run.

-Muskan Hans



GRETA THUNBERG: VOICE OF THE PLANET

"If you cannot do great things, do small things in a great way"

Greta Thunberg is the epitome of this quote. A teenager from Sweden, popularly known as the 'Voice of the Planet', she leads a global youth movement which is believed to be the biggest fight for the conservation of the climate in the history of mankind.

Greta began reading about the environment at the age of eight. She could not understand why nobody was taking any steps to protect it. She wanted answers and hence dived deeper into it. She wanted to be able to look herself in the eye and say that she had done enough.

In May of 2018, Thunberg won a climate-change essay competition held by a Swedish newspaper. It was the genesis of her career as a successful activist. She started her fight at the age of fifteen with a solitary strike outside the Sweden Parliament on every school-day for three weeks, as a form of protest against the lack of action by political leaders on the current climate crisis. This further led to a nationwide movement called "#FridaysForFuture" which began in August of 2018. On the 8th of September, 2018, she decided to continue going on strike every Friday until the Swedish policies provided a safe pathway well in line with the Paris agreement.

The hashtags #FridaysForFuture and #Climatestrike spread and many students and adults began to protest outside their parliaments and local city halls all over the world. This also inspired the famous Belgium Thursday school strikes. More than a million kids from dozens of countries joined Greta in her noble fight.

Greta's book "No one is too small to make a difference" is a collection of her speeches that have made history across Europe, ranging from stirring the United Nations to action to triggering mass street protests. It is a rallying cry for why we all must wake up and fight to protect our living planet, because our future depends upon it. To make even more contributions to her cause, Greta decided to go vegan. She refused to fly to avoid carbon footprints. She even sailed across the Atlantic in a zero-emissions boat to reach New York.

Greta has famously described her Asperger's syndrome as a 'superpower', which allows her to cut through the noise and see through to the heart of the problem.

According to Greta, "Humanity is now standing at a crossroads, where we must decide which path we want to take." That is why she presses on the fact that the coming months are very crucial, if the world is going to manage to keep the global temperature increase less than 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels. Emissions have to start reducing before the end of next year, she warns, or we are likely to pass tipping points leading to uncontrolled climate change.

“We are in the beginning of a mass extinction and all you can talk about is money and fairytales of eternal economic growth.” This statement by Greta Thunberg highlights how she fiercely criticizes and rebukes political leaders who are building their ambitions at the cost of our environment.

All these protests have raised an alarm and the world leaders are taking steps towards resolving these problems. To address the same, the United Nations Climate Action Summit, held in September 2019, reinforced the global understanding that 1.5°C is the socially, economically, politically and scientifically safe limit to global warming by the end of this century, and to achieve this, the world needs to work to achieve net zero emissions by 2050. Further, it plans on reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 45 per cent over the next decade, and therefore align policies and systems to accelerate the implementation of both the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals.

According to World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the 20 warmest years in all of recorded history have occurred in the last 22 years. This trend also sits in perfectly with the emission rates of greenhouse gases which were at a record high in 2018 and the temperature was 1 degree Celsius warmer than the 19th century average. Such increasing temperatures contribute to melting of polar ice caps and mountain glaciers, rising sea levels and more severe droughts. It also contributes to longer fire seasons.

This trend is likely to continue, if appropriate steps are not taken. That is why we, the youth, have to come forward. As the climate affects all of us, every person should try to reduce his/her carbon footprint. Air travel should be minimized. Moreover, less consumption of meat can bring about a big difference, particularly of cows and sheep as they emit large quantities of methane, a powerful global warming gas. More emphasis can be laid on use of renewable sources of energy like solar energy. Installation of solar panels and use of electric vehicles would be a good start.

Despite being mocked by world leaders including Donald trump and Vladimir Putin on Twitter, Greta Thunberg continues to stand for her cause, as do the millions of people who support her, with an astounding level of dedication and commitment.

-Ishita Jain



EXQUISITE MOTHER EARTH?

A stitch in time saves nine,
Peaceful nature dies while you dine,
Hollow and empty we have become,
Ignorant dunce preparing to live in a glum.

Please forgive me- but I am not the only one to call,
The sprinkling sound of water nearby,
The foggy mornings with fuzzy sky,
The humming sounds of animals say it all,
Pollution has made trees stifle to ultimately fall.

I don't realize, what do they intend?

Only bother, just to pretend!

Led by selfishness – what message do they want to send?
For development's sake, trees are shredded by some goon,
Please consider it a slaughter and not just a prune.



-Sidharth Gang

INTERVIEW

Anubha Jain



Team CGI recently interviewed Ms. Anubha Jain, a famous environmentalist and the founder and director of an NGO named Nurture Planet. Here are a few excerpts from that interview:

Interviewer: What is the idea of Nurture Planet?

Anubha Jain: “Nurture Planet” is an initiative that aims to nurture Mother Earth, undo the devastation we have caused to our precious planet and to do all that without disrupting the massive development human society has done till now.

Interviewer: How did you come up with Nurture Planet?

Anubha Jain: Being a nature lover, I always used to enjoy nature’s touch. After becoming a mother, I could feel that the future of our children was turning dark. They are going to be struggling to get basic resources of life if this devastation and degradation continues. So I decided to take action on a mass level and founded NURTURE PLANET for the same.

Interviewer: There are so many organizations working towards improving the environment. What sets Nurture Planet apart?

Anubha Jain: Every such organization has a primary objective of saving our environment through different ways. Nurture Planet has taken responsibility of conserving our three basic resources of life, namely air, water, and food. Air and water are our primary agendas and we are taking multiple initiatives to spread awareness and popularize the best practices to make their use more efficient. We must collectively work and focus on the future. This is the actual insurance of our lives and generations to come. All materialistic progress and comfort will be ours only if we can survive on this planet.

Interviewer: How do you think college students be made aware of the various campaigns undertaken by Nurture Planet?

Anubha Jain: A large number of college students are aware about the various problems and their causes. Some of them are already taking steps at their level. However, the effectiveness of those steps is dubious if they are taken by only a few people. Our government needs to provide support and guidance to make these people leaders of such campaigns, so that their energy and enthusiasm can motivate others and impact lives. All institutions should make environment sustainability a primary focus area to be studied and explored by students.

Interviewer: What are the problems faced in running such an initiative?

Anubha Jain: The main challenge is awareness. Many people do not take environmental concerns seriously and ignore the importance of taking right steps. Comfort, luxury and material gains have become an inseparable part of our lives, and people will do anything to attain these things, even if they come at the cost of our environment. We all have to understand the importance of the basic necessities of life and leave behind the illusions of the materialistic world created by us.

Interviewer: What is your long term vision for Nurture Planet?

Anubha Jain: I wish to see Nurture Planet create a true and real impact in protecting the environment and in improving the future of our children. I hope to see every citizen putting conscious efforts to utilize our basic limited resources judiciously and minimise wastage, so that our lives are not stuck the way they have been these past few years. Children are not able to go to schools due to heavy air pollution. I hope we can bring about a positive change through our initiatives, and inspire people to actively take part in these initiatives too!

Interviewer: According to you what can we as individuals do to help the environment? What would be your message to them?

Anubha Jain: We as individuals can get ourselves connected to such organizations that are coming forward for environment sustainability. We should read the news/data available on different media platforms and try to understand the gravity of the problem. Following are some major steps that people as individuals can take:

1. Try to increase the green cover around yourself. This is the easiest and most effective method to bring nature closer to you.
2. Conserve water and try to join various campaigns against water pollution.
3. Try to collect knowledge on water harvesting methods and encourage your elders/friends to implement such methods as well.
4. Try to gain more knowledge on solar power utilization and try to implement the same.
5. Reduce, reuse, and recycle should be our motto of life.
6. Get away from plastics and move towards more environment friendly options as soon as possible.

MEET THE TEAM



Bottom Row Left to Right (sitting):

Palak Nagar, Ms. Vartika Khandelwal, Dr. Kanu Jain,
Dr. Rachna Jawa (convener), Prof. Simrit Kaur (Principal),
Dr. Nawang, Mr. Harvinder Singh, Sh. P.K. Jain

First Row Standing Left to Right:

Palak, Bhavik, Tanya, Jaskaran, Ghazal, Simran, Sonali, Anuja,
Piyush, Stuti, Mr. Sudhanshu Yadav, Mr. Shiv Nandan, Phaniraj

Second Row Standing Left to Right:

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