



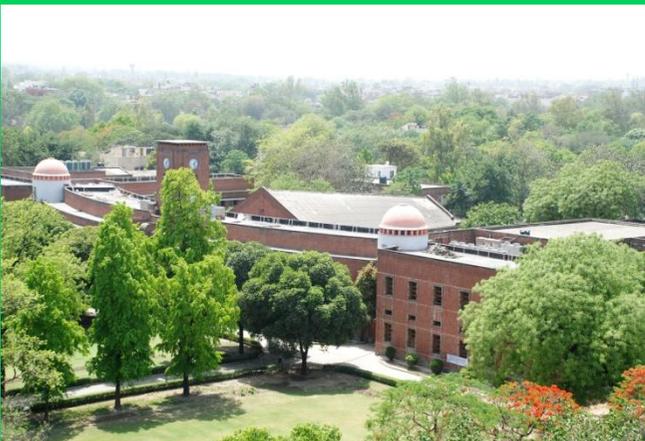
# SHRI RAM COLLEGE OF COMMERCE



## Centre for Green Initiatives Newsletter

Volume I, Issue 1

2017



# Principal's Note

It is a matter of great pride that the first newsletter of the Centre for Green Initiatives has been launched. Environmental concern and awareness is the need of the hour that requires the society to align its efforts towards the conservation of nature. This newsletter represents a positive step in this direction in facilitating the spread of awareness of our environmental initiatives as well as concerns pertinent to us as a community. I appreciate the hard work of the Centre for Green Initiatives in their commendable effort and congratulate them on the publication of this newsletter.

**Dr. R.P. Rustagi**  
Principal

## From the desk of the Convenor

The launch of this newsletter marks a new step in our vision to channelize the efforts of the Institution towards environmental awareness. In the past year, the Centre has been instrumental in taking steps and initiatives towards the conservation of environment and channelizing concerns for the ecological issues pertinent to the society. As a part of its mandate of spreading awareness on important environmental issues, the newsletter will serve as an important conduit in the effort of spreading important information about the efforts of the Centre and its activities on a periodic basis. We thank everyone for their unconditional support and cooperation in the publication of first CGI newsletter. We hope your feedback and suggestions will help the CGI to develop further in its future endeavours.

**Dr. Rachna Jawa**  
Convenor

# The Centre for Green Initiatives

As a proactive institution concerned with the conservation of the environment, the Centre for Green Initiatives was established in Shri Ram College of Commerce. The Centre is an unique initiative of the College that harnesses the joint synergy of all its constituents-the teaching, non-teaching staff and the students towards its objectives of environmental care and concern. The Centre aims to create a pervasive atmosphere facilitating conversation, action and feedback on environmental issues engaging faculty, students and the general public. The Centre operates in four distinct units to help serve the multifaceted issues pertaining to environment:

<b>Energy Conservation Cell-</b>	For better management of energy and recommendation of safe energy practices.
<b>Water Conservation Cell-</b>	For conservation of water resources and recommendation of water conserving practices and technology.
<b>Waste Management Cell-</b>	For recommendation of scientific management of waste and its disposal
<b>Botanical and Herbal Garden Cell-</b>	For management of flora and its development in the campus

With the belief that environment is the responsibility of every individual in the institution, the Centre engages all constituents of the College-Teaching, Non-Teaching and Students. To execute its functions better, the Centre operates at two levels:

## **At the Institutional Level**

At this level, the Centre looks at the macro-environmental perspective in the college and the society. Here, we nurture the environment as an institution with greener vision for the future. Our organizational structure consists of faculty members and representatives from Principal's office and non-teaching staff.

## **At the Student level**

Here, the green brigade-our dynamic and environment enthusiastic students, operating as a matrix unit carry the responsibility for a safer and healthier tomorrow. Equally dividing the roles amongst themselves in spreading awareness of the environment, our '**Greenteers**' flawlessly execute the responsibilities entrusted to them under the faculty advisors. Our young nature-conscious team of students across all semesters and all courses religiously advocate the generation of environmental care and the importance of its preservation while instilling in themselves and their peers an environmental caring lifestyle. With the motto of '*Start Today, Save Tomorrow*', our student volunteers imbibe the value of caring first and consuming later.

**Chairperson:** Dr. R.P. Rustagi,  
Principal

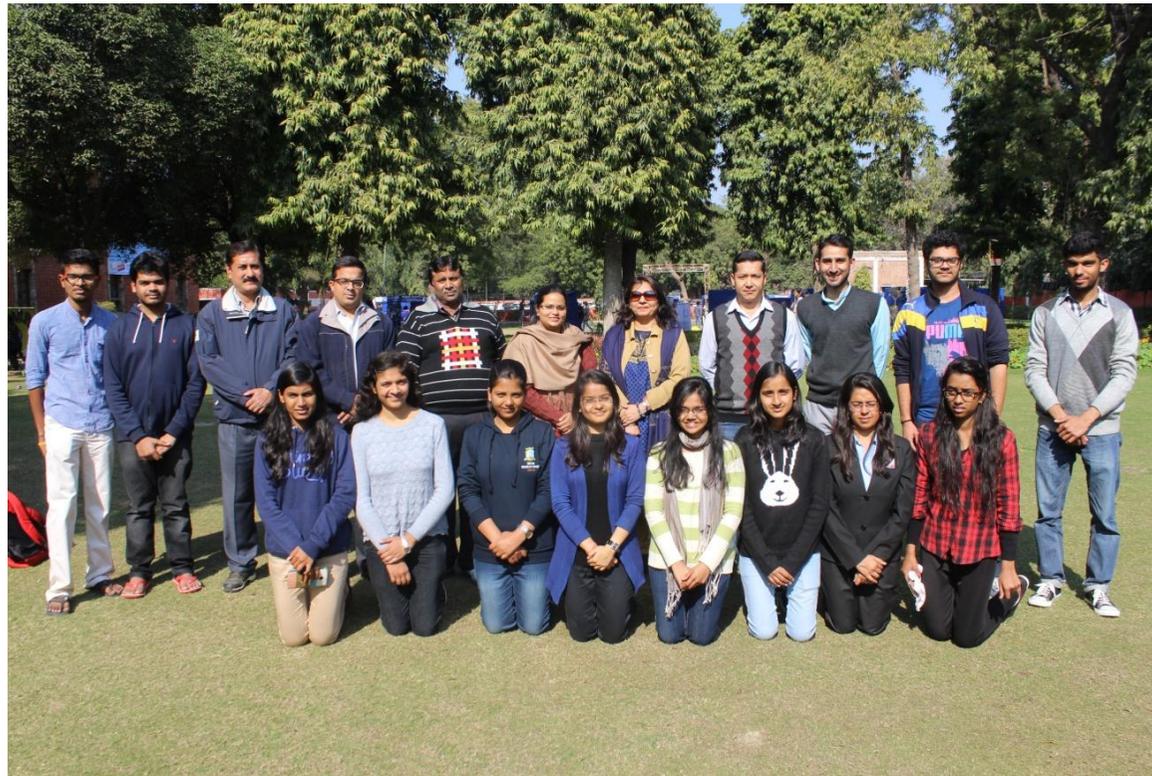
**Convener:** Dr. Rachna Jawa,  
Associate Professor

**Faculty Members:**

Dr. Nawang Gialchhen  
Dr. Kanu Jain  
Ms. Vartika Khandelwal  
Mr. Harish Kumar  
Mr. Harvinder Singh

**Administrative Members:**

Mr. Shiv Nandan (Sr. P.A. to the Principal)  
Mr. Jatin Lamba (Administrative Officer)  
Mr. P.K. Jain (Accounts Officer)  
Mr. Satyakam Gupta (Caretaker)



# Making Carbon Emissions a reality

-Shreyansh Aggarwal

B.A (Hons) Eco, IInd Year

The Paris climate agreement set out a target to lower the carbon-emissions around the world to battle the climate change. However, this has been more of a pipe dream for many for a very long time. The main reason for this inability is the massive cost associated with trying to lower the carbon emissions.

Historically, technologies around the globe have focussed on carbon capture and storage, where carbon emissions from, say, a coal power plant are collected and injected deep underground at great cost. But, to reduce costs and make it more viable, the focus needs to be shifted to carbon capture and utilisation, where the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions can be turned into useful products.

Two Indians, Aniruddha Sharma and Prateek Bumb, have set up a company called Carbon Clean Solutions that captures carbon dioxide from its coal-fired boiler and converts it into soda ash (a chemical cousin of the baking soda you buy in a grocery store). And, in what Sharma says is a world's first, the commercial-scale plant set to capture 60,000 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> annually does it so cheaply that it did not need any government subsidies. Companies like Covestro and LanzaTech have been slowly introducing CO<sub>2</sub> as a raw material, or "feedstock," in their commercial production process for polymers and synthetic fuels, respectively, but both have relied on some form of government support.

However, it seems there is a lack of incentive for companies to lower their emissions. Consider, for instance, the European carbon-trading scheme, which was set up to allow companies to trade their savings on carbon emissions with other companies who were spewing more of it than government regulations allowed. It is currently the world's largest carbon-trading market and it only values emissions at \$6 per ton of CO<sub>2</sub>. On the other hand, the leading technologies available today are only able to capture CO<sub>2</sub> at \$60 per ton – a \$54 gap, at best. However, environmentalists believe that the real costs of carbon emissions are close to \$30 per ton. And, the new plant by the two Indians can also capture CO<sub>2</sub> at about the same cost. So, there is hope!

Thus, there is a need to develop more technologies to reduce carbon emissions at a viable cost which would provide an incentive to the companies to act themselves and reduce the role of government support or interference.

# Air Pollution in Delhi

-Pranav Jawa

(B.Com (Hons), IInd Year)

Pollution is now a very common term, something our ears are attuned to. Any physical, biological or chemical alteration in the air component of environment can be termed as air pollution. Air pollution can further be classified into two categories –Outdoor and Indoor air pollution. Another way of looking at air pollution could be addition of any substance that holds the potential to hinder the atmosphere or the well being of the living beings living in it. The sustainment of all living forms is due to presence of various gases that collectively form the atmosphere. The imbalance caused by change in concentration of these gases can be harmful for survival.

The air quality in Delhi, the capital of India, according to a WHO survey of 1600 world cities, is the worst of any major city in the world. Air pollution in India is estimated to kill 1.5 million people every year; it is the fifth largest killer in India. India has the world's highest death rate from chronic respiratory diseases and asthma. In Delhi, poor quality air irreversibly damages the lungs of 50% of all children. In November 2016, in an event known as the Great smog of Delhi, the air pollution spiked far beyond acceptable levels. Levels of PM 2.5 and PM 10 particulate matter hit 999 micrograms per cubic meter, while the safe limits for those pollutants are 60 and 100 respectively.

Motor vehicle emissions are one of the causes of poor air quality. According to the reports, 80 per cent of PM 2.5 air pollution is caused by vehicular emissions, though other reports suggest the percentage is lower. Other causes include biomass-burning activities, fires on agricultural land, emissions from factories, dust from construction sites and illegal industrial activities in Delhi.

The Badarpur Thermal Power Station, a coal-fired power plant built in 1973, is another major source of air pollution in Delhi. Despite producing less than 8% of the city's electric power, it produces 80 to 90% of the particulate matter pollution from the electric power sector in Delhi. During the Great smog of Delhi in November 2016, the Badarpur Power Plant was temporarily shut down to alleviate the acute air pollution, but was allowed to restart on February 1, 2017.

Several attempts have been made at different levels to address this menace . Unfortunately the objectivity is often restricted to contain this problem for immediate durations rather than implementing a permanent solution. The need of the hour is to generate awareness , sensitize public and putting emphasis on all the consequences associated in terms of Human lives , health hazards and monetary loss sustained due to air pollution.

# Water Pollution in India- A reality check

-Meghna

B.Com (Hons), IInd year

What is the first picture that flashes in your mind, when you hear the name ‘Ganga’? Is it a picture of a river, revered for generations, flowing with divinity? Or perhaps, also a memory of yours, where your grandma tells you how the might of this river, was controlled by Lord Shiva.

Well, if you are on the same page as what has been stated above, you might just be one of the unfortunate ones. Still wondering why?

It remains nothing less than a dream to see the Ganges, the way one has envisioned the sacred river, to be.

Comprising over 70% of the earth’s surface, water is undoubtedly, the most important resource on planet earth. The human race, has failed to understand the importance of this invaluable natural resource, assuming its endless availability.

Even though acknowledging the importance, we disregard it by polluting our lakes, rivers and water bodies. Degradation of Water resource is taking place in the terms of quality as well quantity. The various desirable qualities such as pot ability, oxygen content and life nurturing ability are disappearing by the virtue of contamination and exploitation .

The facts and figures about deteriorating water resources are very scary and demanding the immediate attention for conservation and control measures .

## **State of affairs in our country.**

At present, water bodies in India are in varying degrees of environmental degradation. Most affected of these are the lakes and wetlands. Rapid urbanization with scant regard for ecological concerns has destroyed most of these water bodies. Today many of the water bodies are encroached, full of sewage and garbage.

Consider the case of Bangalore, going by the records, at the beginning of 1960s, Bangalore had 262 lakes but now only 10 lakes hold water. Another example is Delhi. In the year 2010-11, it was found that 21 out of 44 lakes in Delhi had gone dry due to rapid urbanization and falling water tables. Also, let us consider the case of Chennai where recent floods have caused huge damage to life and property. In the 19th century, the Madras area had at least 43,000 functioning water tanks. It was also estimated that just two decades ago, there were at least 650 water bodies. But, today only a fraction (less than 30) of them remain.

Unregulated and unplanned tourist activities near the water bodies have resulted in the relentless dumping of garbage into the water bodies. Dal Lake in Srinagar is an example of this pollution. In addition, unregulated dumping of effluents into the water bodies are turning them from pristine ecological entities to city's waste dumping ground . Misuse of water bodies for cultural or religious festivals is yet another threat to the water bodies. The activities such as immersion of idols in the water bodies are known contaminate the water bodies by adding heavy metals.

### **Challenges that lie ahead**

**Lack of Data:** India has a large number of water bodies and we do not have correct data on the number of water bodies that exist in a particular region. As a matter of fact, orderly and scientific census has not been conducted so far. So the data about their existence is highly unsatisfactory. **Lack of effective institutional framework:** Another prime reason cited for the deteriorating situation of our water bodies is a complete lack of an effective institutional framework to manage our water bodies. There is also a complete lack of synergy, coordination and strategy among the implementing agencies.

**Lack of acknowledgement of a water body as a land use category:** The absence of a specific land use category for water bodies results in its use for other purposes. For example, the action of central government saved wetlands being acquired for Somepeta thermal power plant in Andhra Pradesh. Here, it will be relevant to quote eminent environmentalist Sunita Narain's observation: "If you ask the obvious question of how construction was permitted on the wetland, you will get a not-so-obvious response: Wetlands are rarely recorded under municipal land laws, so nobody knows about them. Planners see only land, not water and greedy builders take over."

**Lack of awareness and people's participation:** Without making people to realize the importance of their local water bodies and ensure their participation in protection and conservation, it becomes almost impossible to protect our water bodies. Unfortunately, most of the government policies do not rope in the local community in the conservation efforts.

**Lack of Consensus among the stakeholders:** Another big challenge for the protection and management of water bodies is to bring diverse groups of people together to arrive at a consensus to solve common problems. Local organizations, welfare associations, activist groups, political organizations and government agencies have very different ideologies, agendas and views. This difference of opinion often makes protection and management of common resources difficult.

## Is there a way out?

For saving our water bodies the following steps has to be taken in the order: identify our water bodies, study the rate of disappearance, arrest the decline and, take steps to reverse the destruction caused to our water bodies. Sensitizing the present generation about this issue and dealing with this as a grave matter of serious concern.



## CGI activities in a Glance

### The Inauguration

In order to holistically engage the SRCC fraternity into its cause towards the environment, the Centre organized an open house discussion on the theme of "**Start today, Save tomorrow**" with the objective to generate awareness and ideas on environmental protection, conservation and care which can be adopted on the level of an individual and the institution at large. The discussion, enthusiastically attended by students and faculty alike, drew a huge response and a number of suggestions for resource conservation and environmental care were received. A slogan writing contest on the same theme was also organized. The best slogans were chosen and duly awarded on the occasion.



## Plantations and Green Memorations

From time to time, the Centre organizes plantation drives in the campus area to promote the spread of green cover and to improve the floral diversity in the campus. This measure also helps create enthusiasm amongst students who scout the campus for new places of plantations.

Also, SRCC as a celebrated institution hosts a galaxy of dignitaries in its various events. The Centre recommended saplings in china clay pots or shawls to be presented as a token of gratitude to the dignitaries who grace the College during various events and fests in place of bouquets and other. This initiative has been lauded for its environment consciousness.

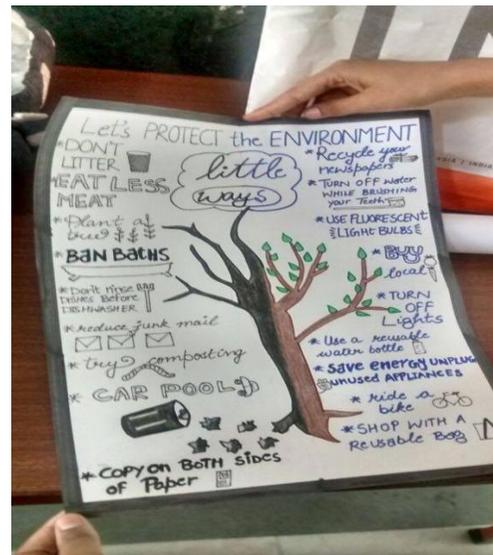
As a mark of respect and everlasting contribution to the College, the Centre for Green Initiatives also gifts retiring staff member a sapling which is subsequently planted in the college premises symbolic of the growth of the institution.



## Carbon Footprint Awareness

The carbon footprint is a measure of how an individual's domestic and social activities are affecting the environment in terms of Carbon dioxide generation. Hence, one of the first steps, you can, we can take towards protecting our Mother Earth is becoming aware of our Carbon Footprint and then working proactively towards reducing it. It was with this vision, that Centre for Green Initiatives,

Shri Ram College of Commerce set up a Carbon Footprint calculator on the 19th of July, 2016, the day of College Orientation for the newcomers to the college. The Calculator witnessed active participation from students, both old and new, teachers and parents. This first of its kind initiative turned out to be highly successful in fulfilling its purpose of imparting awareness and participants were surprised to know their Carbon Footprints. The effort was greatly appreciated by the participants as well as the faculty alike.



## Teacher's Day Celebration

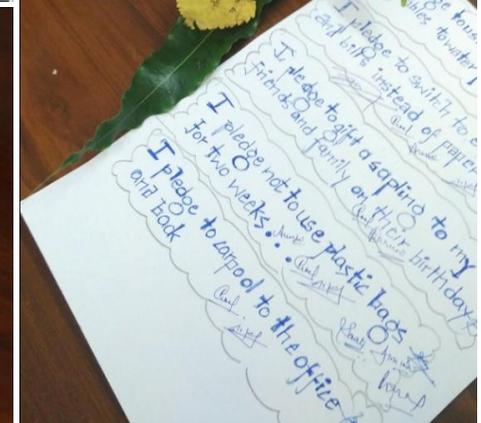
*"A Teacher affects Eternity.*

*He can never tell where his influence stops"*

**- Henry James**

On the Teacher's Day of 5th September, 2016, the Centre for Green Initiatives, SRCC celebrated our teachers with a uniquely green blend by commemorating our beloved teachers with eco-friendly pencils made from recycled newspaper and quotes written on fallen leaves. These novel pencils help in cutting down the stress inadvertently put on the environment and ensure that the principles of 3R's - Reduce, Reuse and Recycle are followed.

It is with a sense of immense gratitude towards our teachers who are the constant source of awareness, these products were presented as token of respect.





## Poster Making Competition for Cracker free Diwali

*"Individual commitment to a group effort - that is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work"*

**-Vincent Lombardi**

The 26th of October, 2016 witnessed an event that couldn't have been better to describe a wonderful example of individual commitment to a group effort. As participants of the 'Say No to Crackers' Poster Making Competition conducted by the Centre for Green Initiatives got together on the NSS lawns, a spirit of working for the cause of a pollution free Diwali was created, with every entry portraying creativity at its best. The winners were of the contest were awarded prizes by Dr. R. P. Rustagi, Principal, SRCC.



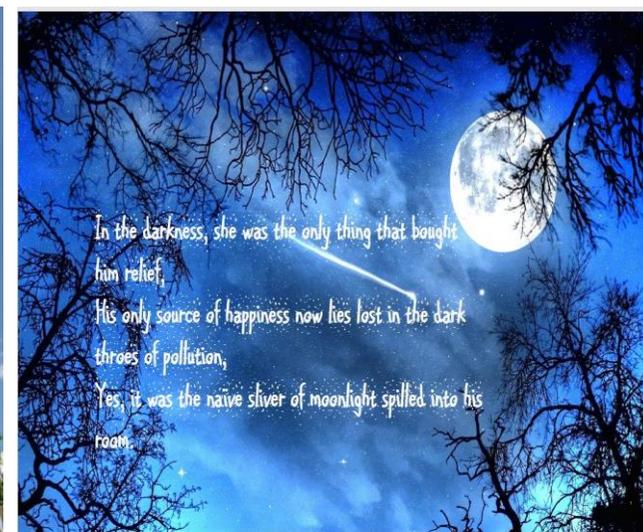
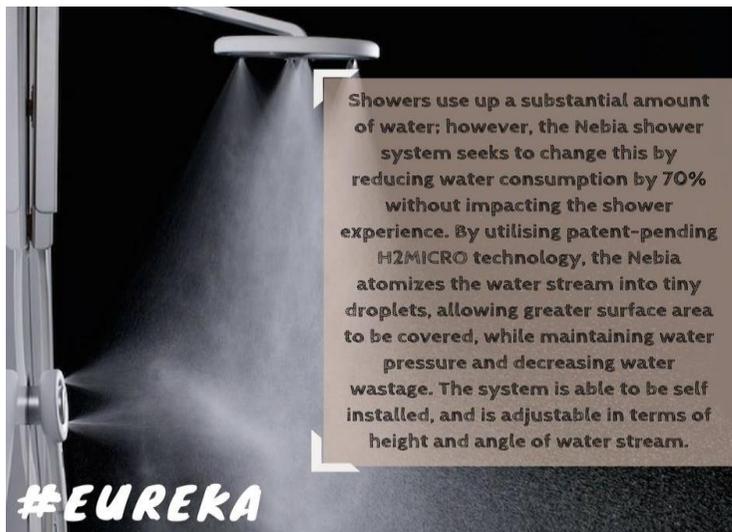
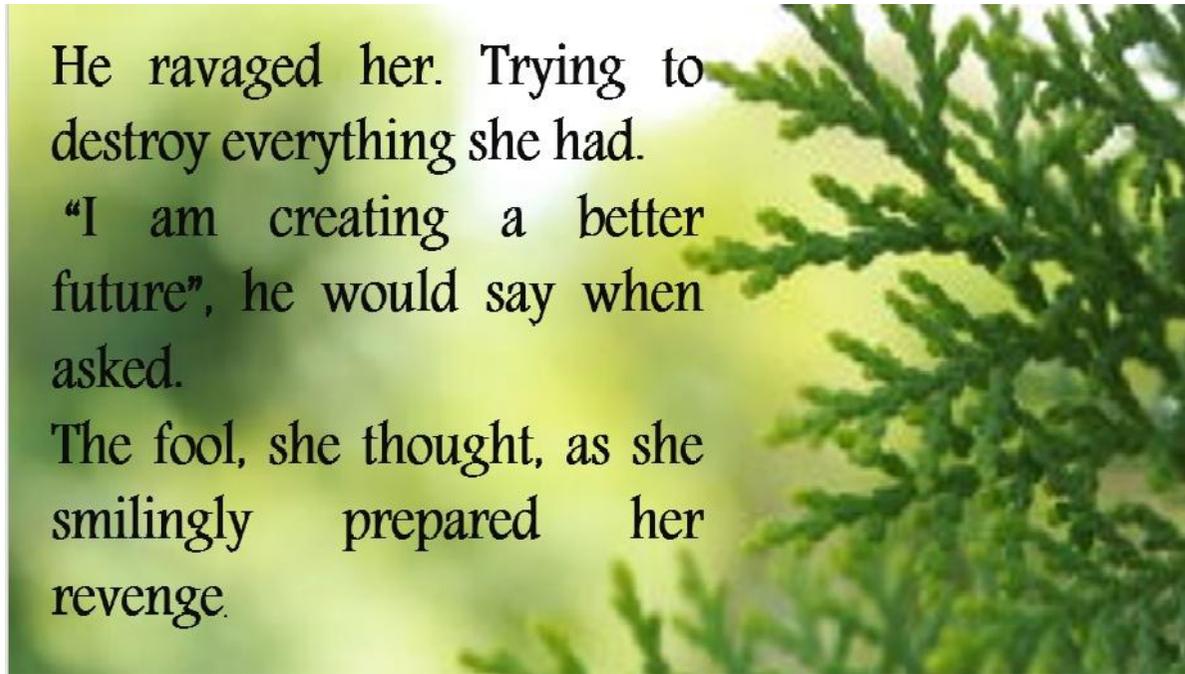


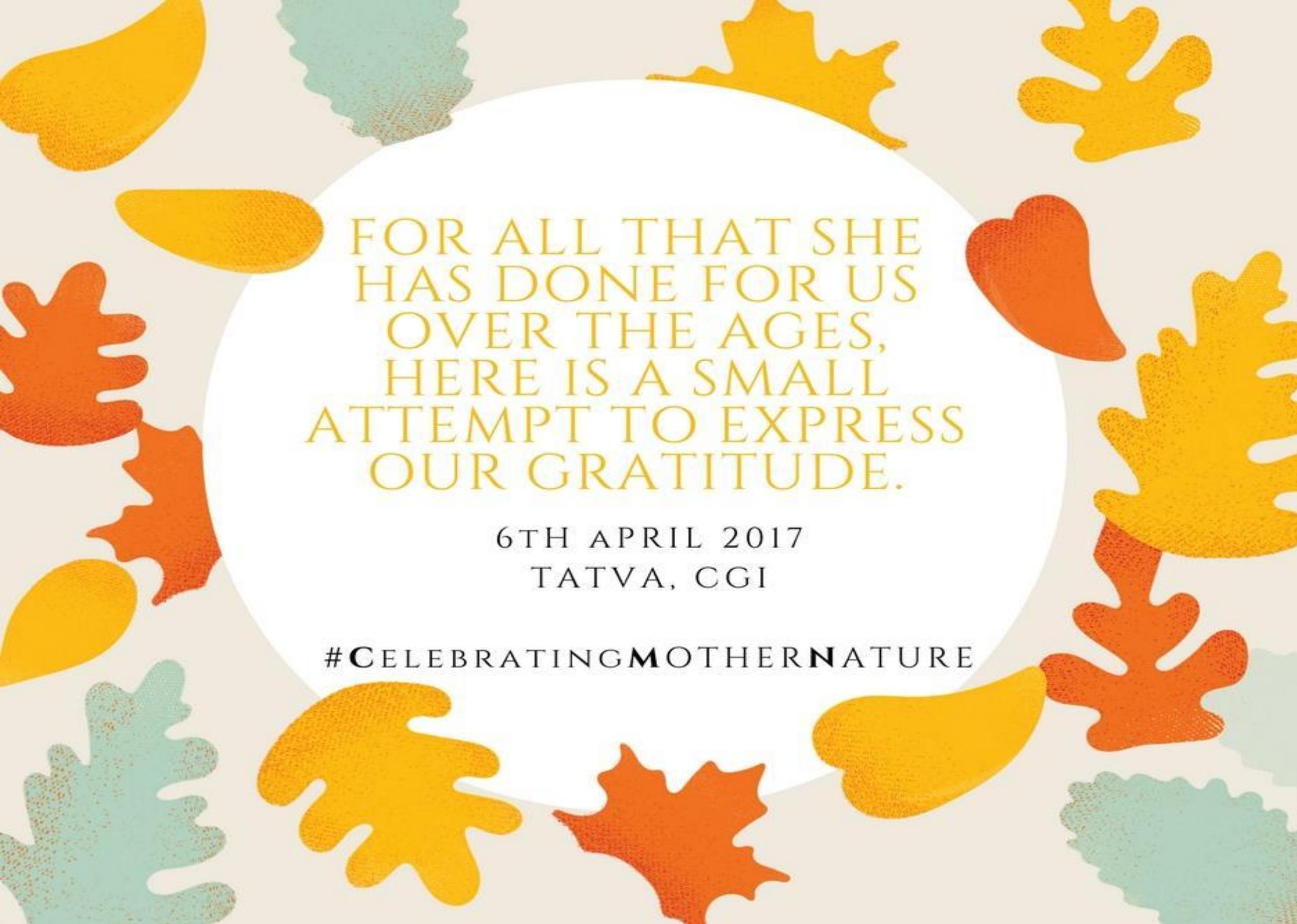
## Facebook Campaigns

CGI believes in completely utilizing the potential of social media to sensitize people about environment concerns. Apart from colouring the social media green on important days like 'Earth day', 'Ozone day', 'Environment day', we have actively running Facebook campaigns like #Eureka (stories of people who innovate and inspire people to work for the environment.) and #Green tales ( Tiny tales on various environment related issues.)



# Some of our Facebook stories...





FOR ALL THAT SHE  
HAS DONE FOR US  
OVER THE AGES,  
HERE IS A SMALL  
ATTEMPT TO EXPRESS  
OUR GRATITUDE.

6TH APRIL 2017  
TATVA, CGI

**#CELEBRATINGMOTHERNATURE**





**Centre for Green Initiatives**  
**Shri Ram College of Commerce**  
**University of Delhi**  
**Delhi - 110007**

Phone: +91-11-27666519, +91-9810580849 Fax: +91-11-2766650  
Email us at: [Convenor.gic@srcc.du.ac.in](mailto:Convenor.gic@srcc.du.ac.in)  
Website: <http://www.srcc.edu/centre-green-initiatives>  
<https://www.facebook.com/centreforgreeninitiative/>

