

## Newsletter Theme: Youth in Environment Management



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### From Director's Desk



Youth has a power and collective voice that they can use to make changes in the society for our better future. Rabindranath Tagore's thought of youth was not just as an individual but as a whole society because they have capability to adapt to the changes, to identify new ways for addressing the challenges and in defining new path for sustainable.

The current issue of 'The Environment Management' is focusing on the theme 'Youth for Environment Management'. The decline in natural resources and worsening of quality of environment is intimidating us to take pertinent actions for their conservation and management for future generations. In management of environmental challenges, the innovation, dissemination, and adoption plays very important role. Currently, nature-based solutions, digital technology and strong social media are the tools to solve complex issues easily within the policy framework. The youth have easy access and talent that they can utilize to achieve and implement the solutions for better environment.

**Dr. Seema Mishra**



## **The Climate is Changing, but are you? The Role of Youth for ClimateAction**

**Ms. Rashi Mehta**  
Carbon Initiative Forum, Mumbai

**There is an urgency to make ‘Climate a voting issue in India’. Be aware. Make aware.  
Climate policy needs you.**

### **Importance of Climate Literacy**

Education is the only answer to stop climate change. The world needs quality climate education for all (*#ItsTimeYouAct*). UNESCO’s data from 100 countries shows that only half of the world’s national curriculum make any reference to climate change. Through its Education for Sustainable Development programme, UNESCO has been working to make education a more central and visible part of the international response to climate change.

The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Paris Agreement and the associated Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) agenda call on governments to educate, empower and engage all stakeholders and major groups on policies and actions relating to climate change. Climate literacy and policy education should be added as a mandatory in university syllabus. There is a growing need to conduct workshops on climate policy education across Indian

universities. Climate policy education will help the youth become,

- Responsible consumers
- Conscious leaders
- Hold political leaders accountable
- Spread community sustainability

### **Significant Initiatives**

Below are a few of the international initiatives taken on the climate front.

- **UN Youth Climate Summit**

A platform for young climate action leaders to showcase their solutions at the UN and to meaningfully engage with decision-makers on the defining issue of our time.

- **Youth UNESCO Climate Action Network YoU-CAN**

YoU-CAN was officially launched during COP 25 in 2019 with the aim to build on existing relevant youth action in the areas of Natural Sciences, Education, Culture and Human Sciences, Communication, and Information.

- **YOUNGO - UNFCCC**

YOUNGO is a vibrant, global network of children and youth activists as well as youth NGOs, who contribute to shaping the intergovernmental climate change policies and strive to empower youth to formally bring their voices to the UNFCCC processes.

- **YouthXchange Initiative**

YouthXchange works with young people, governments, educators, NGOs, trainers, and youth leaders in more than 50 countries around the world.

- **Youth Forum on Climate Change**

The Youth Forum provides young people with the opportunity to present their concerns and ideas to Member States and help shape the direction of UNESCO.

- **UNEP Young Champions of the Earth**

Young Champions of the Earth is a forward-looking prize designed to breathe life into the ambitions of brilliant young environmentalists aged 18 - 30. UNEP has been working with the gaming industry to explore how, through their massive reach, they can inspire young people to learn and act in support of the environment.

*The gaming industry reaches 1 in 3 people on the planet and has a platform with unprecedented influence. How can this rapidly expanding media platform be harnessed to deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals?*

- **The Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change**

Launched by the UN in 2020 to amplify youth voices and to engage young people in an open and transparent dialogue to tackle the climate emergency. Its members will bring the voices of young people into high-level decision making and advise the Secretary-General on the implementation of his 2020-21 Climate Change Strategy.

- **CliMates**

CliMates is an **international laboratory of ideas and actions**, bringing together volunteers, students and young professionals around climate issues. The NGO gathers over a hundred students from more than 30 countries, collaborating to conduct research and action projects in partnership with many influential climate actors.

- **Greenbits Initiative**

Greenbits Initiative is a project aiming to leverage active youth participation in policy making by developing their capacity. As a result, empowering young people to engage in environment and climate related policies from the grassroots level. The initiative aims to build a critical mass of the public pressure to influence formulation of ambitious climate change policies through increased awareness and enhanced involvement of young people.

### ***Starting point – Joining a Local Climate Chapter***

Over half of the world's population currently resides in cities, collectively contributing to 75% global GHG emissions, thus making the role of cities in addressing climate change necessary. India is the third largest GHG emitter in the world, following

China and the United States. Therefore, the role cities play in the climate action of the country is a necessary one.

The Planning Commission, which was replaced in October 2010 by the National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog), and the Financial Commission are the pillars for policy making and implementation in India. The CLIMATESMART CITY ASSESSMENT is one of the positive initiatives aimed at establishing various climate related actions in 100 cities of India while continuing the undergoing developmental projects simultaneously.

### What you can do as an individual

Everyone's actions can lead to a significant impact. Below are few things you can do to help fight climate change,

- Start by getting educated on climate policy and find out ways to contribute - it can be as simple as starting by signing petitions
- Stay updated with climate conferences and understand what world leaders are saying and doing to address the issue
- Write a letter to your Environment Minister
- Send emails to local ministers to protect habitats - ask politicians what is their plan of action to meet the NDC commitments
- Join a Local Climate Chapter to work on local climate related issues
- Consume less - everything we use comes from the earth e.g. the paper that we use comes from trees

- Participate in the democratic process actively - We have the power to choose our leaders
- Network - Connect with those who are already taking action for climate change
- Use public transport as much as possible and consider your travel
- Stop using single-use plastic - Almost 90% of the plastics are not recycled
- Eat more vegetables
- Throw away less food. Start composting at home
- Reduce, reuse, repair, recycle
- Change your homes source of energy. Speak to building authorities to install solar panels where possible
- Switch to an electric vehicle – makes sense only if it is charged by renewable energy
- Choose eco-friendly products
- And most important - Speak up!

### The evil of Green Washing

In recent years, it has become clear that consumers are willing to pay a higher price for environmentally friendly goods. **This makes way for a new term called greenwashing which is on a steady rise.** It is a dirty tactic used by a corporation or group that spends more effort and money on presenting themselves as environmentally friendly than on reducing their environmental effect. It's a **'deceptive marketing trick'** meant to deceive customers who prefer to buy goods and services from environmentally conscious companies.

It can be observed whether or not a company is guilty of greenwashing. Companies might boast of their product's



environment friendly features while not disclosing their negative impact. There can be vagueness in their statements like ‘non-toxic’, ‘new and improved’ that doesn’t actually relate with sustainability. Most importantly, companies might make claims without any proof to back them up.

Greenwashing isn't used by all businesses and organizations. Some of them do have a favorable environmental impact. As a mindful consumer, it should be checked if the company's actions match their words. As a result, consumers will be able to understand dirty marketing methods and hold corporations accountable.





## **Alleviating Poverty and Improving Livelihoods of Tribal Community in Melghat- Initiative of Dream Organization**

Mr. Gajanan Kale  
Dream Organization  
Teosa, Amravati (M. S.)

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DREAM organization is a registered voluntary organization working throughout Maharashtra on sustainable development of the rural, tribal and urban community since 2001. It was established with specific vision to up lift the most vulnerable by striving to provide and secure their rights and bring them in the mainstream of society.

Dream Organization has been working for livelihood empowerment in 10 villages of Tiger reserve project in Chikhaldara taluka of Melghat since 2001. With the support of Department of Science and Technology, New Delhi, Dream is working sustainable livelihood development through the eco-friendly scientific practices and conservation of biodiversity.

Makhala village is one of the project areas in Melghat which had no electricity since independence. In collaboration with MEDA, the organization installed a 38-kW solar grid in Makhala village and provided electricity to 150 households. In order to monitoring and management, we formed Village Energy Committee by bringing together active youth at village level. This committee engaged in managing and monitoring of the unit and also collects electricity bills from the people.

Being situated in one the finest forest regions in Maharashtra, the project villages are endowed with rich biodiversity and natural resources. The economic situation of Korku community in the project area is challenging. The project area is surrounded by forest area, mostly reserve forests. Agriculture and labours are the mainstay of Korku livelihood. In the majority of the Korku villages agriculture gets over with the rainy season. Remaining part of the year i.e., almost six months in a year working as a casual labour is the main livelihood activity. Therefore, majority of the working population migrates to work as labour in urban areas or as farm labour in adjoining districts of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. Collection of forest produce like Tendu leaves, Char fruits, Moha flowers, Dhawada gum etc. is practiced by Korku community. Weak linkages in the livelihood of Korku community are low productivity of agriculture, crop predation by wild animals, low irrigation coverage, poor market facilities due to remoteness and limited employment opportunities.

Dream has been empowering and involving the local community in the protection, conservation and management of forest is essential for the ecological sustainability and livelihood. Our endeavors are towards

the capacity building of tribal peoples in terms of harvesting and preservation of NTFPs by adopting the scientific method which enabling them to enhance their livelihood and prevent the migration. We formed Producer Company with the proactive participation of community members from 10 villages. We established unit for NTFPs/Agri. Processing and value addition by installation of various machines on village level and this units are functional with local tribal youths. Local youths trained and are supporting in execution of conservation and management plan through various line department especially forest. Youth trained on business plan through

workshops and trainings to best practices especially for honey, Gum, Mahua flower and seed etc. So in such a way forest based business initiated in villages to sustain ecological security and sustainable livelihood. The organization carries out various activities with schools and teachers to ensure quality education for the children of the tribal community and create a bright future for them.

The tribal community is the king of the jungle but is still pathetic. To this end, if the tribals are empowered to solve their basic problems of livelihood and avail them opportunities, then the tribal community can develop itself sustainably.







## **Happie Foundation: A Mission to Bring Positive Change in Society**

**Mr. Vishal Vijaylakhshmi Shahani**

**Happie Foundation, Mumbai**

Happie Foundation is a registered NGO which was been started in year 2019 on 9th September by a group of 7 youths to bring a positive change in society by doing work for good cause. The first event carried out by Team Happie Foundation was tree plantation drive at Aarey Colony along with Varmora Company and huge variety of plantation was been carried out and for that day Team Happie Foundation started not only working in field of helping needy but also to save environment in different way during October 2019 we officially joined hands with Mumbai Sustainability Center "Safai Bank of India" and with the theme of diverting Multi Laminated Plastic we have carried out different lecture series with different college and localities and diverted around 15000+ MLP and the major contribution of this drive was to save environment from such plastic which can stay around us for many decades. The main initiative is to make MLP free earth which only possible if done on large scale. During March 2020 whole world got affected by pandemic COVID 19 virus than also Team Happie Foundation along with whole safety carried out various food and sanitization drive but along with it Happie Foundation also carried out Digital World Earth Day, Environmental Day and Vanmahautsav and

spread digital awareness to save environment. During this pandemic Team Happie Foundation also collaborated with \*Buy Food with Plastic\* Switzerland-India NGO and carried out many drives in Adiwasi Pada, Slum area to create awareness that how you can use source of plastic to buy food and thus the collected plastic has been recycled to save environment. This drive has been carried out several time in different localities and right now also the same drive has been going on. The main objective is to make a plastic free Mumbai and to recycle plastic to reduce plastic pollution. Team Happie Foundation has planted 5000+ plants in the month of June 2021-September 2021 and according to survey of January 2022 around 3181 plants are till surviving all over planted locality. The main objective behind this mission is to make \*Green Mumbai Clean Mumbai\*. Team Happie Foundation also collaborated with SIES Environmental Management Nerul - BPCL as NGO partner and working on monitoring part of Tree Plantation carried out during August - September 2021 in different localities all around Maharashtra under guidance of Dr Seema Mishra Mam (Director SIES Environmental Management - Nerul).



Along with this team Happie Foundation also celebrated eco-friendly Ganesh Utsav during month of February 2022 and created awareness that how we can celebrate our festivals rituals in a traditional and eco-friendly way. Team Happie Foundation is

also working on various upcoming projects like \*Waste Management 2025\*, \*Green Bhandup 2026\* and much more. Our social work along with different green initiative will for sure bring a positive impact in upcoming days









## Centre For Monitoring of Surface Water Bodies

|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| Physical Characterization                                   | Temperature, Colour, TS, Turbidity  |  |
| Chemical Characterization                                   | pH, EC, Salinity, Alkalinity, Magnesium Hardness, Carbonates & Bicarbonates, Phosphate, Nitrate, Ammonical Nitrogen, Sodium, Potassium, Calcium, Heavy Metals, BOD, COD, DO |  |
| Biological Characterization                                 |   |  |
| Total Bacteria, Total Fungi, Fecal coliform, <i>E. coli</i> | Biomonitoring<br>Phytoplankton, Zooplankton, Benthic Invertebrate   | Indexing<br>Saprobity Index, Diversity Index |



**SIES Indian Institute of Environment Management,**  
Sri. Chandrasekarendra Saraswathi Vidyapuram, Plot 1- E, Sector V, Nerul, Navi Mumbai 400 706  
Phone: 022 6119 6455 / 56 / 57 / 54  
Email id: [iiemoffice@sies.edu.in](mailto:iiemoffice@sies.edu.in); Website: [www.siesiiem.edu.in](http://www.siesiiem.edu.in)

## SIES INDIAN INSTITUTE OF ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT

### Services on Green & Environmental Audit

As per the NAAC (Criteria 7) and NBA Accreditation for Academic Institutions

|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <br><b>Water Audit</b><br>Water Consumption & Conservation | <br><b>Biodiversity Audit</b><br>Biodiversity (flora & fauna) | <br><b>Energy Audit</b><br>Energy Consumption & Conservation |
| <br><b>Air, Water &amp; Noise Monitoring</b>               | <br><b>Waste Monitoring and Management</b>                    | <br><b>Carbon Footprint Assessment</b>                       |

Contact on

**SIES Indian Institute of Environment Management**  
Plot 1 E, Sector- V, Nerul, Navi Mumbai 400706  
E mail id: [iiemoffice@sies.edu.in](mailto:iiemoffice@sies.edu.in); Phone no.: 022 61195454/55/56/57/59/60



## **A Life Along with Nature**

**Prafulla U. Sawarkar**

**Director**

**Happy Nature Ecological Services, Amravati**

**prafulsawarkar@gmail.com**

**8928929920**

My father was a high school teacher, and he was posted in a small village in Wardha district, which is very close to the Bor Tiger reserve. Jungle is near to this village, every day I use to hear something about wildlife, My father use to tell me regularly, "today Leopard was observed by someone near the school, Blue Bull seen inside the school, Leopard killed the goat of villagers, that all stories settled in my sub conscious mind. During that time I was 9 to 10 years old. In 1997 my father transferred in another village in Amravati district, where I roamed with local boys around the river and did swimming. I had enjoyed those days with nature. After some years, I came with family in Amravati city for education. Here, I was living in the cement-concrete Jungle. I took admission in B. Sc. Biology at Shri Shivaji Science College, Amravati. I was not very fond of traditional education system, I don't know what happened with me, I was not regularly attending the class and during college hour I roamed around the lakes for bird watching.

One day I met to Mr. Vishal Bansod, who was working in the field of wildlife conservation in Melghat Tiger Reserve, with him I traveled in Melghat and worked with him in nature education for the tribal communities. I have participated in various activities regarding the wildlife conservation in Amravati district.

Somehow completed the B. Sc degree and taken the admission for M. Sc in Environmental Science in Nasik, again same education system. So, I chose my education path that was closer to nature. There I was searching the Vultures in the Ajaneri hills, regularly visited Nandur Madhmeshwar Wildlife- sanctuary for bird watching and on weekends did birding in lakes around the Nasik.

After completion of second semester, I went to the BAIF Research Foundation training Centre at Javhar and worked on Impact study of Watershed Management on tribal communities of Javhar block, at same period I had met Mr. Sanjay Patil, a researcher in Indigenous seeds. With community' participation he had conserved more than 200 rice varieties, 35 Millets varieties and other Indigenous seeds, I had joined him and started working with him on same subject.

In 2011 I was selected for the Spark Fellowship program of BAIF Research Foundation, Pune and posted in the Nandurbar district on conservation and protection of Indigenous seed with the participations of local tribal communities of Dhadgao block, at there I have traveled in each and every hamlet of Dhadgao block for collection of the Indigenous seeds, where I got the Maize and Sorghum races. As par



the local farmers, they were using those seed varieties from several generations. I had cultivated these seeds in local farmland for research; I had been taken 4 cultivation trials and made seed Bank of Indigenous seed at Harinkhuri village for community, where any farmers take seed for cultivation and after production return doubles. I had successfully completed the Spark Fellowship program.

Within a week I was selected for Bombay Natural History Society, Mumbai on the post of Education Officer and posted in Nagpur. I worked in BNHS on Tiger Conservation & protection program with community participation of Tadoba- Andhri, Pench, Bor & Navegao-Nagzira tiger reserve. In these protected areas, I had worked more than 100 peripheral schools of tiger reserve as well conducted the guide training, youths & women sensitization programmed for conservation the Wildlife. During same periods I was selected for Darwin Scholarship program which was organize by Field Study Council in United Kingdom. After that got selected in Kinship Fellowship program of Kinship Foundation of United States of America. In 2019 I have participated in Wildlife Conservation course in Philippines, that was organized by Oxford University and WILD Cru organization.

From 2012 to 2019, I was the part of BNHS and worked for conservation of Tiger & Tiger Habitat in protected areas of Central India Landscape.

In 2018 Sahitya Prasar Kendrs, Nagpur published my Jungle Shala book and within one year first edition was sold second edition as well is on the same way.

Form 2019 I am working in Melghat Tiger Reserve as a Livelihood Expert and working with local tribal communities on the livelihood generation through various medium as well as conducting nature camps for students, youths, conducting guide training program, writing, and compiling the magazine, books, making documentaries regarding Melghat.

In March 2021, I have established my own **Happy Nature Ecological Services (HNES)** firm, which aim to protect and conserve & enhance the biodiversity with communities Participation. Within a one-year span Happy Nature Ecological Services got challenging opportunities from Education institutions and Government institutions.

The main aim of HNES is to Protect & Conserve the Nature & Natural Resources through Community Participation

Main Services provided are -

- Conducting the conservation education program, nature camp (winter & summer) nature trail for schools, college, corporate institution & other communities of society.
- To conduct green audit of colleges, schools, companies, corporate institutions, government & non-government institutions and other village development activities programme.
- Conducting the Corporate Social Responsibilities (CSR) activities regarding social & environmental.
- Document & implement the people biodiversity registration (PBR).
- Conducting various workshops regarding wildlife conservation, man

animal conflict, conservation education, capacity building & alternative livelihood opportunities to periphery villages of protected & protected areas.

- Running tourism activities in forest, organic farm and other places.
- To do ecological planning, ecological assessment, eco landscaping and plantation planning.
- To do baseline ecological surveys for execution & monitoring of eco management plans.
- Writing scripts for documentaries on biodiversity & other subjects.
- Writing books on biodiversity for schools, forest department and other stakeholder of communities.
- Provide and facilitate organic production of vegetables, fruits and other items related to agriculture and horticulture.
- Documentation & implementation of the indigenous seed diversity farm as well as organizing and conducting organic farming workshop.

### **Significant Development during 2021**

In August 2021 got the very challenging opportunity from The South Indian Education Society, Mumbai for making 5 lakhs seed balls in one month, which was very challenging. I took this challenge and worked on it with full dedication. I made a proper plan, such as selected huge warehouse for making seedballs, local workers of Amravati were not interested in making the seed balls as local villagers were busy in cultivation the crops in own farms. So, I decided to use my goodwill relation, I have a lot of tribal friends in Melghat and had healthy relations with them. On one

phone call, 15 youth joined my organization in Amravati and made first 1.5 lakh seed ball. After that second batch of youths came and they made 21 lakhs seed balls. Again, third batch of 15 youths from another village of Melghat made remaining seed balls. Relation is very important in life which can make our life easy, safe and happy.

HNES got another valuable opportunity from forest department of Amravati; I have written & designed the Conservation Education book for them, that is very informative for students. Some colleges communicated with me regarding Green Audit and HNES made the standardized and completed all the norms of Central Pollution Control Board and prepared the green audit for some colleges of Amravati district. Another one opportunity got us, regarding Wildlife-Conservation through community participation, in that project we supported in making the kitchen garden for tribal community and making healthy relationship with them, while they trust us then they listen our voice for conservation the wildlife.

Within a one-year span, HNES established its own ecofriendly camp site in 3-acre land and starting nature camps, organic farming program for communities, kitchen garden workshops, etc.

Happy Nature Ecological Services is working closely with Nature for happiness the biodiversity and human being.



**Receiving Biodiversity Conservation Award from State Biodiversity Board, Nagpur**

**Disclaimer:**

Editors have taken utmost care to provide quality in this compilation. However, they are not responsible for the representation of facts, adaptation of material, and the personal views of the authors with respect to their compilation.



| Environment in News Headlines  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>Three devastating cyclones displace 2.5 million Indians in 2021</b></p> <p>Cyclones Yaas, Tauktae and Gulab displaced 2.5 million people in India during 2021 as per IDMC report. The report further stated that around 1.9 million displacements recorded between June to October 2021. Around 4.9 million Indians became homeless due to natural disasters in 2021.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Business Insider, May 2022</p> <p><b>Climate crisis has cost India 5 million hectares of crop in 2021</b></p> <p>In 2021, extreme weather events affected the crop yield in India. Three cyclones during May – July months and flooding in July affected the crops during nursery raising and transplantation. In August nationwide deficit and in September excess rainfall was recorded. In October heavy rainfall in many states affected the harvest ready crops. Overall, India lost 5.04 million hectares crop area to cyclonic storms, flash floods, floods, landslides, and cloud bursts up to November 2021 in India.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Down to Earth, December 2021</p> <p><b>India updated 2030 climate targets under Paris Agreement</b></p> <p>India announced its updated climate targets at COP 26 in Glasgow, Scotland. India had laid claim on Climate Leadership by being the only large emerging economy to respond to the call for increased emissions. The PM of India announced Net Zero target by 2070 and emphasized to adopt LIFE (Lifestyle for Environment).</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Financial Express, Nov. 2021</p> <p><b>Green industrial policy for developing countries to adapt to climate change</b></p> <p>The United Nations conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) released report on Trade and development in October 2021 emphasized to adopt transformative approach to climate adaptation with large scale public investment programmes for adapting to threats, and green industrial policy for improving growth and job creation. The long-term climate security and adaptability are need of the hour.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">UNCTAD, 28<sup>th</sup> Oct. 2021</p> | <p><b>Advisory Board</b></p> <p><b>President</b><br/>Dr. V. Shankar</p> <p><b>Honorary Secretary</b><br/>Mr. M. V. Ramnarayan</p> <p><b>Joint Honorary Secretary</b><br/>Prof. K. Venkatramani</p> <p><b>Honorary Treasurer</b><br/>Mr. Devdas Nair</p> <p><b>Editorial Board</b></p> <p><b>Issue Editor</b><br/>Dr. Seema Mishra</p> <p><b>Forthcoming Event</b></p> <p>Masterclass on Map Mapping 15/01/2022</p> <p>Prakkathan: An ecofest on sustainability will be organized in February 2022</p> <p>Articles, photos etc. are invited for next issue (January-March, 2022) of the Newsletter on the theme “In Pursuit of sustainable Development goals: challenges and Opportunities”.</p> |