



HaritPrabha

The Annual Magazine of Haritima The environmental awareness society of Hansraj College

2ND EDITION

SAVIOURS & SABOTEUR
STORIES, IDEAS &
ACTIONS FOR A GREENER
WORLD

2025-2026



by
Haritima
The Environmental Awareness Society,
Hansraj College,
University of Delhi

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PROF. (DR.) RAMA

Principal, Hansraj College



I warmly congratulate Haritima, the Environmental Society of Hansraj College, on the successful launch of the second edition of its annual magazine, Haritprabha. After the great success of its first issue, this magazine continues to be an important platform for sharing thoughtful articles, creative writing, and reflections on our shared responsibility towards the environment.

Haritprabha goes beyond language barriers to include voices from across the student community, encouraging meaningful discussion on urgent environmental issues. Annual magazines play an important role in recording the achievements of a society, and this second edition stands as a lasting record of Haritima's meaningful work and growing efforts towards environmental care on our campus.

I also congratulate the convenor, Dr. Anita Thakur, whose dedicated efforts and able guidance have culminated in the meaningful environmental initiatives documented within the pages of this edition. I further congratulate the editorial board and the entire student team for their commendable efforts in shaping this second edition. I wish Haritima continued success in all its green initiatives and look forward to seeing Haritprabha inspire positive change for many years to come.

DR. ANITA

Convenor, Haritima



Greetings to the members of Haritima, the faculty, and our esteemed readers,

Every ecosystem unfolds a story of balance, and every choice we make, no matter how small, becomes part of that narrative. This edition of Haritprabha thoughtfully chronicles Haritima's journey and the work undertaken by our team during the past academic session.

It gives us immense pride to present the second edition of Haritprabha 2.0, the annual magazine of Haritima, the Environment Awareness Society of Hansraj College. Building on the success of its inaugural issue, this edition carries forward the spirit of curiosity, responsibility, and care that has come to define Haritima. This year's theme, "Saviors or Saboteurs?", urges us to examine the impact of our everyday choices: do they help sustain the environment, or do they unknowingly contribute to its degradation? In truth, we all possess the potential to protect as well as to harm. What we choose today will define the world of tomorrow.

As you turn the pages of Haritprabha, you will encounter articles, poems, and reflections that aim not only to inform but also to encourage readers to pause, inquire, and reflect. The initiatives and achievements featured in this edition demonstrate that our students are not simply witnessing this paradox; they are responding to it through deliberate and thoughtful action. Haritima is more than a society; it is a collective force turning awareness into action for a greener future.

I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the entire Haritima team, the dedicated editorial board, and every contributor whose commitment and creativity brought this edition to fruition. May Haritprabha 2.0 turn reflection into action and awareness into change.

Happy Reading!

ABOUT THE CORE



PRESIDENT

Dear Readers of Haritprabha,

When I first joined Haritima, I viewed environmentalism largely through facts, figures, and textbooks. My time here completely shattered that academic bubble. It forced me out into the real world, connecting me directly to the soil, the community, and the raw human element of conservation. It transformed a distant issue into a deeply personal, hands-on responsibility.

Haritprabha stands as the ultimate celebration of that shared dedication. This magazine holds an incredibly special place in my heart, serving as a vibrant canvas that captures a year's worth of passion, hard work, and green initiatives. From awareness campaigns to campus plantation drives, every page reflects our collective mission to heal the planet. It stands as a reminder that environmental consciousness isn't just a concept to discuss, it is a lifestyle we must actively build together.

Stepping into the role of President this tenure has been a truly defining chapter. More than just executing drives and campaigns, it taught me that true leadership lies in empowering others to speak for the planet. While our terms may end, the roots we have planted together will continue to grow. I pass the torch to the incoming core team with immense pride, fully confident that they will nurture this green legacy and continue to cultivate a more sustainable tomorrow.

Best wishes,
Aditya Kumar
President (2025-2026)
Haritima - The Environmental Awareness
Society





VICE PRESIDENT

Greetings to the readers,

Working with Haritima this tenure has made me realise that environmental awareness is not about knowing more about the environment, but about learning to see our everyday choices differently.

Through its initiatives, Haritima has always tried to create that space for people to pause, question, participate and, most importantly, act. Haritprabha takes this idea a step further. It gives a voice to everyone who has something to say, create or contribute towards a better relationship with our environment.

At the same time, Haritprabha is a reflection of Haritima's journey over the years. Behind these pages are countless initiatives, campaigns, conversations and people who have contributed to building an environmentally conscious community at Hansraj. It brings together these efforts not simply as a record of what has been done, but as a reminder of the thought, consistency and collective effort that has shaped Haritima into what it is today.

This edition is ultimately a reflection of the people who make Haritima what it is—their ideas, efforts, creativity and willingness to make a difference. Being a part of this journey has been deeply meaningful to me, and I am grateful for everything this tenure has taught me.

I hope Haritprabha leaves you with not just something to read, but something to carry forward.

Pritam Raghuvanshi
Vice President, 2025-26
Haritima.

GENERAL SECRETARY

Sustainability is not merely a lifestyle; it is a choice, the choice to believe that our actions can create a difference. That is the most beautiful lesson Haritima has taught me.

I still remember the launch of the first edition of Haritprabha. Today, it gives me immense pride to present its second edition and carry forward the legacy entrusted to us by our seniors.

The tenure of 2025–26 has been a journey filled with achievements, challenges, memories and countless lessons. From plantation drives and awareness initiatives to Project Mowgli, Wildlife Fiesta, the Air Purifier Workshop and DUSSS'26, every initiative became a chapter in Haritima's story and in mine.

I joined Haritima as a Marketing Coordinator and Council Team member. Today, I leave with something far more valuable: a family, friendships, memories and lessons I will carry forever.

As I pass the torch to the new team, I do so with immense pride and faith. May they dream bigger, create their own memories and take Haritima to greater heights.

To my team, thank you for making this journey unforgettable. And to Haritima, thank you for giving me a family when I came looking for a society.

Haritima wahi, soch nayii!

Regards,
Divyesh Kumar
General Secretary, 2025–26





JOINT SECRETARY

Greetings to the reader of Haritprabha,

Looking back at my journey with haritima , I realised that it was more than just being part of an environmental society. This journey taught me that small , consistent actions we do can make a change in the environment, and there's always a way for a problem.

Haritprabha is a reflection of Haritima throughout the year and the collective spirit of the society. This magazine is very close to my heart as I was one of the members who designed it in last tenure, and there's no better way to portray all the initiatives Haritima takes everyday for betterment of the environment. Every page in this magazine showcases a different story or initiative which is for a common cause , it's not only about knowing the environment but also how we can contribute even the smallest .

Being a Joint Secretary, this tenure has given me the opportunity to experience leadership and teamwork very closely. It showed how the trust we put in our team and work together always gives a fruitful result. This isn't a mere college society it's more like a family. I hope the new core and the new team takes forward the legacy of Haritima and inspires many more people out there.

With gratitude for the journey and everyone who made it memorable.

Manvi Raina

Joint Secretary (2025-2026)

Haritima - The Environmental Awareness Society

TREASURER

Greetings, page-turners!

Being a part of Haritima has been an enriching journey, marked by learning, responsibility, and a shared commitment to creating a meaningful environmental impact. What began as just a role has evolved into an experience that has taught me the value of teamwork, leadership, accountability, and most importantly the impact that can be created through collective action. After all, there are limits to what one can achieve alone.

As Haritima continues to grow, Haritprabha portrays our commitment towards nurturing the same spirit of curiosity, responsibility, and collective action. It showcases our efforts in fostering environmental consciousness, depicting a journey that continues to shape the way we understand sustainability. From plantation drives and awareness campaigns to workshops and seminars, it sums up every endeavour that reflects the power of people coming together to create meaningful change an impact truly realised through action.

The role of Treasurer, in particular, has been quite enriching to me. Be it manoeuvring through obstacles and finding the way out, to facing the darkest dawns, we have done it all. Being a part of this process made me overcome myself, exploring and improving consistently in steps. Together as a team, we walked confidently towards our goal and at the end of the road we found that what we cherished the most was not the fancy destination but instead the beautiful footsteps we made along the way.

Shivani Bharti
Treasurer (2025-2026)
Haritima - The Environmental Awareness Society





CHIEF ADVISOR

To everyone holding this edition,

When you spend enough time around Haritima, your perspective shifts. You stop seeing environmental action as a set of rules to follow and start seeing it as a mindset, a continuous habit of questioning how we live, build, and interact with the space around us...

Haritprabha is born from that exact mindset. It isn't just a compilation of pages to flip through, it's a living blueprint of our grit, our experiments, and our quiet victories on campus. From every late-night editing session to every campaign run in the heat, this edition captures the raw, creative energy of people who refuse to stay passive about the future...

As Chief Advisor, watching this initiative evolve has been immensely rewarding. It proves that student-led ideas aren't just symbolic, they hold real weight when backed by collective action and persistence. _Haritprabha_ gives that force a permanent voice...

My gratitude goes out to every writer, creator, and team member who poured their energy into bringing this edition to life. I hope these pages do more than just inform you, I hope they spark a fire to start building where you stand...

Shree Babu
Chief Advisor, 2025-26
Haritima - The Environmental Awareness
Society of Hansraj College



THE TEAM 2025-26

ENVIRONMENT AWARDS



Dr. Chanchal Yadav



**Dr. Mukesh Kumar
Sahu**



Dr. Neelam Singh



Dr. Beena Bhandari



**Dr. Bhavana
Sharma Jha**



Dr. Reema Chaudary



Dr. Priyanka Mehta



Dr. Pooja Jha Maity



Dr. Ritu Pandey

RENEWESS COMMITTEE



Dr. Monica Dinodia



Dr. Ambika



Dr. Chetna Gupta



Dr. Aman Phogat



Dr. Mandeep



Dr. Mahaswetta Saikia



Dr. Pratibha



Dr. Ganesh Lal



ABOUT HARITIMA



Haritima, The Environmental Awareness society of Hansraj College, is a non-profitable club which aims to bring together young minds and tap their potential into doing something productive for the environment. It is duly recognized as one of the few registered societies of the College. Since the past 20 years, it has been endeavoring to bring into limelight the issue of environment conservation, which is often neglected by everyone. Sensitizing people towards environmental threats remains a primary objective for the members of this society.

Committed to enlightening the masses, Haritima has set its mark by organizing a range of successful events since its inception. To name a few-panel discussions and speaker sessions on various environmental issues, the annual Flagship event - 'Cyclothon', the Annual fest of Haritima - 'Prakriti Kumbh', "Wildlife Fiesta" and frequent cleanliness and plantation drives. We believe that it is our collective and individual responsibility to preserve and tend to the world in which we all live, and hence we value and appreciate the little efforts done by all our volunteers.





Haritima's mission is to cultivate a generation that prioritizes sustainability and takes measures to safeguard the planet through addressing youth by workshops, tree planting initiatives, and collaborations with other educational institutions. We at Haritima envisions a future where environmentally conscious individuals lead the way toward a greener and healthier world.

OUR VISION



HANSCHETNA

Background

The title aptly captures our mission: 'Hans' refers to youth in one's salad days, and 'Chetna' signifies spreading awareness. This project was commenced in 2019 with the resolution to inculcate the spirit of environmentalism by bestowing free education to all young blood with fresh mind and making them aware of prevailing environmental issues.

Values

Hanschetna has conducted various awareness sessions and activities such as sapling plantation, environmental discussions, poem recitations, pledge ceremonies, quizzes, and poster-making. The society reached out to underprivileged students through counseling sessions and lecture series. With 20+ active members, it has organized over 10 offline classes for students in Delhi.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Hanschetna launched Harit Kaksha an online weekend class initiative with a structured course. Many school students participated, and certificates were awarded upon course completion.





MOWGLI

Background

Project Mowgli is a very active and dedicated Project of Haritima. It vows to safeguard and nurture the furry friends surrounding us. Through tireless efforts and unwavering commitment, Project Mowgli regularly organizes numerous animal drives, rescue missions to spread awareness for the noble cause of saving animals.

Under the Wildlife Fiesta, the flagship event of Project Mowgli, it brings together youth from across the University of Delhi to celebrate the amazing faunal diversity by means of interactive sessions, games and quizzes.



Values

Project Mowgli stands firmly on the values of empathy, responsibility, and co-existence. It believes in fostering a compassionate attitude toward animals while empowering young minds to become active protectors of wildlife. Through consistent action and awareness, the project promotes harmony between humans and animals, encouraging a more inclusive and kinder world.





A MILLIONMORE

Background

We at Haritima, believe that planting a tree is planting a hope and, in this regard, we set in motion our project, 'A Million More' on 1st January 2020.

This project aims to plant 10 lakh trees over a span of 5 years across the National Capital, New Delhi. It might appear like an unachievable number, but small acts of contribution, when multiplied by millions of people, can transform the world.

Values

A Million More is a dynamic initiative that brings together college students and environmental enthusiasts from across the nation to work towards a greener, sustainable future. The project envisions mass tree plantation as a key step in environmental conservation. It began with a successful Plantation Drive at the Hansraj Hostel Campus in collaboration with NGO Kalpavriksha. Since then, it has grown into a vibrant community of eco-conscious youth. The project has organized numerous impactful initiatives including plantation and cleanliness drives, hands-on workshops, speaker sessions, data collection surveys, and campaigns like Green Guardian and Adopt a Plant. Events like the Greeni-o-mania quiz competition.





ADOPT A PLANT CHALLENGE 5.0

Let's replant trees for our Earth,
The lungs of world

Open for students



ARTICLES







In the desert expanses of the Rajasthan state, a phenomenon is taking place that is nothing short of extraordinary celebration that combines cultural heritage, community engagement, and environmental protection. The festival known as the Khejri Tree Festival, though grounded in the contemporary is imbued with centuries of knowledge and affection for nature. The core of the festival is the Khejri tree (*Prosopis cineraria*), lovingly known as the "Kalpavriksha of the desert."

It's no ordinary tree. Though this species survives the most adverse weather, enriches the soil, is used as fodder, provides shade, firewood, and even food during times of scarcity. It literally keeps the desert from advancing further. But it is also not solely of practical value. The Khejri tree holds deep emotional and cultural significance, especially for the Bishnois, who have always held it sacred. In fact, in 1730, several 363 Bishnoi gave their lives in the village of Khejarli in an effort to dissuade the cutting of these trees.

KHEJRI FESTIVAL: A TRIBUTE TO RAJASTHAN'S SACRED TREE

This is one of the first and most important ecological movements in Indian history and its influence still resonates across Rajasthan's dunes even today. What is unique about the Khejri Tree Festival is that it brings people together not with sermons or laws, but with songs, folklore, rituals, and tales. It does not sermonize about saving the earth it celebrates it. And in celebrating it, it reminds people that they have always loved nature. This tree also has a quiet but important function in agriculture. It sustains crops by fertilizing the soil and providing cooler microclimates. Farmers grow it among their crops in traditional agroforestry systems. Its leaves, pods, and bark are all beneficial to animals, to food during famine, and even to traditional medicines. It's well integrated in rural culture, not merely as a resource, but as a friend. One of the most beautiful aspects of this festival is that it is intergenerational.

The elders teach children through stories and participation not just in schools, but out there in the open, beneath the same trees their forebears protected. That's genuine environmental education learning through living, not just reading. In a time when most environmental policies are top-down and are not responsive to local conditions, the Khejri Tree Festival is a welcome change. It is a reminder that true conservation is possible from within the people, when people are proud of their culture and identified with their land.

Similar to the Apatani agriculture in the Eastern Himalayas, the desert ecology in Rajasthan is extremely educative. It teaches one that sustainability need not be imposed but can be embraced. All people need to do is feel heard, understood, and empowered.

Finally, the Khejri Tree Festival is not just planting trees. It is the cultivation of hope, the revival of heritage, and the reassertion of human connection to the environment. It demonstrates that climate action may be an enjoyable act rooted in personal and community identity and fueled by communities that have centuries of experience living in balance with the earth.

ANIMAL HUMANITY

The concept of animal humanity refers to the recognition that animals, though different from humans, share many qualities that deserve compassion, respect, moral consideration.

Throughout history, animals have often been treated as mere resource for food , labor or entertainment .

Yet modern science and philosophy remind us that animal are sentient beings with emotions, intelligence, and the ability to suffer. Many species demonstrate qualities once believed to be uniquely human such as empathy, communication , social bonds and problem solving.

For example, Elephants mourn their dead, dolphins display cooperation and playfulness and dogs express loyalty and affection towards their human companions. These behaviors reflect a shared emotional framework that challenges that rigid boundary reflect a shared emotional framework that challenges the rigid boundary between human and non-human life. Recognizing this does not mean erasing the differences between humans and animals, but it means acknowledging that cruelty , neglect or exploitation towards animal diminishes our own humanity.

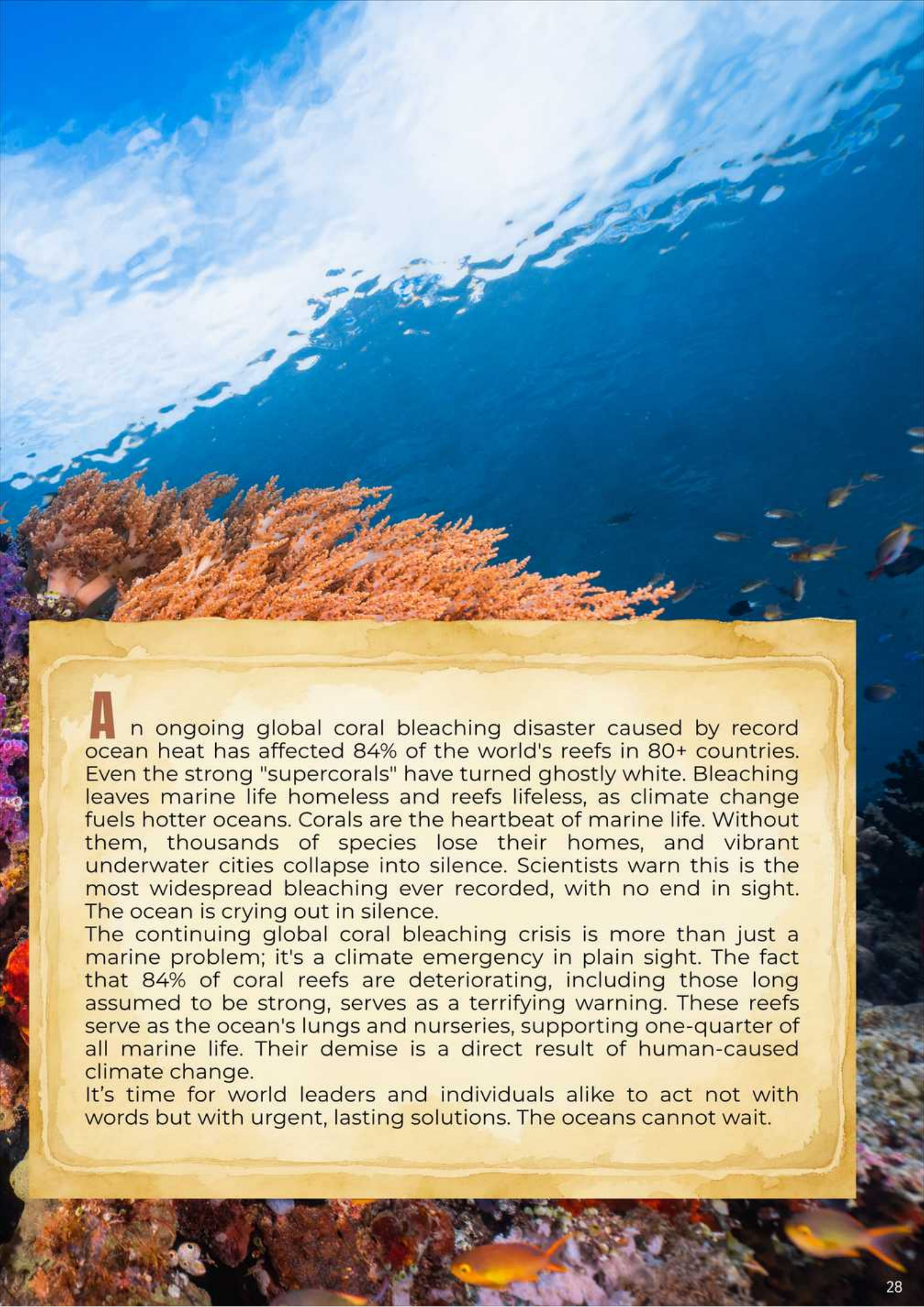
Treating animals with kindness not only benefits them but also cultivates compassion within individuals and societies laws protecting animals from abuse the growth of ethical farming and rising intrest in conservation reflect a growing awareness of our responsibility towars other living beings . To truly respect animal humanity people must view animals not as objects but as fellow inhabitants of the earth,sharing the same right to dignity and care .Just as humans value fairness and empathy within their communities, extending those principles across species strenthens our moral character. At a time when environmental crises threaten biodiversity , recognizing animal humanity also becomes an ecological necessity reminding us that their survival is interconnected with our own.

Ultimately,
honoring the
humanity within
animals is about
fostering a deeper
sense of
coexistence - one
rooted in respect,
compassion , and
responsibility
towards all form of
life.



A PLANET IN PERIL:
CORAL
BLEACHING
CRISIS HITS 84% OF
WORLD'S REEFS.



An underwater photograph showing a coral reef. The top half of the image shows the water's surface with sunlight filtering through. Below the surface, a large section of coral is bleached, appearing as a bright orange-brown mass. Several small, colorful fish are swimming in the clear blue water. The bottom of the image shows more healthy, darker coral and fish.

An ongoing global coral bleaching disaster caused by record ocean heat has affected 84% of the world's reefs in 80+ countries. Even the strong "supercorals" have turned ghostly white. Bleaching leaves marine life homeless and reefs lifeless, as climate change fuels hotter oceans. Corals are the heartbeat of marine life. Without them, thousands of species lose their homes, and vibrant underwater cities collapse into silence. Scientists warn this is the most widespread bleaching ever recorded, with no end in sight. The ocean is crying out in silence.

The continuing global coral bleaching crisis is more than just a marine problem; it's a climate emergency in plain sight. The fact that 84% of coral reefs are deteriorating, including those long assumed to be strong, serves as a terrifying warning. These reefs serve as the ocean's lungs and nurseries, supporting one-quarter of all marine life. Their demise is a direct result of human-caused climate change.

It's time for world leaders and individuals alike to act not with words but with urgent, lasting solutions. The oceans cannot wait.

THREADS FROM THE SAME MOTHER

Many say there is a wall
between that no one other than
us, humans, possess the
attribute of compassion, Yet,
there is a mirror that reflects
truth, always there to see.

A wolf's gentle and trusting dedication, a
dolphin's caress in the ocean, proves to us
that love and compassion are not an
exclusive human trait .Take a closer look,
much closer. Hidden beneath the canopy of
the rainforest, troika of gathered and lifted
macaques. One is deeply injured, a horrid
rent in her flank, her sisters drawing close
and encircling, too deep to be ranked, the
hush of sorrow binding them like a string,
mourning mothers.

A soft and deep ache, Naught a human tear,
Yet, a bowed embrace teaches, the weight of
sadness rests, gentle in its sorrow.



Soft and deep ache, Naught a human tear, Yet, a bowed
embrace teaches, the weight of sadness rests, gentle in its
sorrow. They laugh, they mourn, they understand, With hearts
that reach across the land, Not lesser beings, but grand, and, in
every breath, life's truth is planned.

They are no less versions of a human story, They are another
telling entirely, In joy and grief they move silently, Their lives are
written in love and glory.

They encompass their happiness in the leaps of the dolphins.
And during times of grief, the howls of the wolf become Echoes
that play, unnoticed, through the woods. The waves, and the
tender hours between day and night, Unveiling the truths our
inhibitions refuse to speak.

For in their eyes we see our own, and in their souls, We are
intertwined, not solely on the periphery, But woven through a
tale of grief, of love, and of life.

One spirit, one name, one eternal story that is Imprinted on every
form of life.



MEGHA JOSHI
II YEAR
DELHI SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM

HOMES WE BURN IN NAME OF CONSERVATION

A tiger doesn't know its home by the sight of a jungle. A rabbit doesn't know its home by the sight of a meadow. A bird doesn't know its home by the sight of a tree. They know it by the rustle of paws under grass, hops over bushes, chirps on nests. They feel it in the scent of their ancestors and families, the place of future and childhood bound together. Home for them is not just a location, it is an emotion made physical. Relocation for them is not just taking it away it is rewriting their story in a language they never learned. Relocation of animals sparks a major ethical debate.

In colonial times, animals were uprooted from their habitats and paraded as prized trophies. But nowadays relocation has repurposed to sustaining, surviving. Nowadays, many are moved across continents to prevent extinction and human-animal conflict. But the question that arises is: what danger do animals face in their own habitat, their home?





Conservationists argue that habitats are shrinking, poaching is increasing, but isn't that all the play of humans? Relocation is not just shifting homes, it is burning them. The tranquilizer dart, cold cages can stress animals. Unfamiliar places disorient them. Herds, flocks, prides, families of animals are severed, and animals are isolated. But here is the real paradox: isn't it us, the root cause of these problems? Why are animals' survival threats blamed on anything but the real threat-us? Is it us aiding conservation or avoiding confrontation about alarming human expansion and other problems? Relocation may have saved species but has also left them scarred. It may be a tool but not a solution. And the solution? It is us taking responsibility, tackling the fire.



ARAVALLI RANGE: SC TAKES SUO MOTU NOTE OF HEARING ON HILL DEFINITION

Amid mounting debate over its approved definition of the Aravalli hills, the Supreme Court has taken suo motu cognisance of the issue and will hear the matter on Monday. A three-judge vacation bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices J.K. Maheshwari and Augustine George Masih is set to take up the case titled “In Re: Definition of Aravalli Hills and Ranges and Ancillary Issues.”

The hearing follows the apex court’s November 20 judgment, which adopted a uniform definition for the Aravalli hills and ranges across Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, and Gujarat. The court had also imposed a ban on new mining leases in these areas pending expert reports.

The court accepted recommendations from a Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) committee which defined an Aravalli hill as any landform in designated districts with an elevation of at least 100 metres above local relief. A range would comprise two or more such hills located within 500 metres of each other.

This issue highlights the tenuous relationship between progress and environmental degradation. In cognisance of the outrage, the Central government has conducted press releases headed by the Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav, however they have not pacified the public’s concerns. Seeing the public reaction, particularly through social media platforms has been very heartwarming as it reflects that the Indian populace is not completely blind to such environmentally important issues. It reflects how the Indian populace can still possibly reorient and redirect the government and judiciary if they wish.

This issue and its aftermath will be a watershed moment not just in Indian judiciary and governance but in the whole of Indian spirit and identity, in the way how future India will be, in how posterity will find our nation to be, whether it will be a land that not only praises the land in hymns and songs but through action as well, whether our nation will be a nation which can provide its citizens a healthy environment or one that resembles the state of some unfortunate cities in our nation.



ARAVALLI ROW, SET FOR TOMORROW

Our opinion on this matter will continue following further developments in this issue. The decision of the apex court of this nation to take suo motu note of the Aravalli row, setting the hearing for the 29th December, 2025 after having accepted on 20th November the now challenged definition and proposition concerning the Aravallis by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), highlights the importance of this landform that was earlier being overlooked.

The Supreme Court was seized of the issues with regard to the Aravalli hills and ranges in two sets of proceedings. The first was in *M.C. Mehta v. Union of India and Others* (WP(C) No. 4677 of 1985) and the second one was in *T.N. Godavarman Thirumalpad v. Union of India and Others* (WP(C) No. 202 of 1995). The Aravalli issue particularly arose in recent times, when the State Counsel of Rajasthan raised the issue as to whether the classification between the Aravalli Hills and Aravalli Ranges, insofar as the mining activities are concerned, needs to be finally decided by the court. Following an examination of the CEC (Centrally Empowered Commission)'s report, the SC had decided that this issue was to be dealt jointly by the MoEF&CC and the 4 states i.e. Delhi, Rajasthan, Haryana and Gujarat, which the Aravalli is spread across. The controversy surrounding this entire issue arose when the FSI (Forest Survey of India) was consulted which had defined the Aravalli as "(i) slope > 3°, (ii) foothill buffer = 100m, (iii) interhill distance or valley width = 500m and (iv) the area enclosed by above defined hills from all sides



Before the bench, the Commission put forward the presently highly contested definition of the hills and ranges. Following this, outrage issued through the public sphere concerning this decision, with particular focus on how the new definition of the hills and ranges would result in a very large part of the Aravallis being excluded from the governmental allowing mining and construction activities in these excluded parts.

SECONDARY HUMANITY

In the corner of my alley, there's a stray dog. He disappears by the evening and returns at dawn. Brown greasy fur, ribs protruding from his chest, skin so thin it's barely there, looking up with big brown eyes every time someone comes nearby. I would pass him daily, tossing scraps when convenient, never going near, afraid of germs and dirt. But sometimes I can't help but wonder about the fragility of my own compassion. We call them beasts, but what is beastly about them? Swans mate for life and grieve the loss of their beloved. Birds starve to feed their kids. Elephants mourn their dead. Dogs have an undying loyalty towards their guardian. They don't wear the pretense of nobility. For them, no kindness shown to others is ever expected to return, yet it does. However, we, who pride ourselves on empathy, ration it like a scarce resource. Ethics bend under convenience, morality frays when profit calls. What does it mean to be human if we deny the life in them? We think of ourselves highly after one act of feeding a stray. We say humanity is exclusive to humans, yet somehow we are the ones to start a war and slaughter innocents for the "greater good." Their blood stains our hands, and we call it survival of the fittest.

Our humanity is secondary. It ends one step out of our comfort zone. We help to feel better about ourselves. To feel like a savior. But for them the "wild beasts"-it is more about the act itself. Maybe they will never earn the badge of a savior, but the truth is, they never felt the need to. Perhaps humanity begins not in grand declarations, but in meeting their eyes and choosing to care.









AIR POLLUTION:

LONG-TERM EXPOSURE INCREASES DEMENTIA RISK

A new wide-scale study conducted by the researchers at the University of Cambridge's MRC Epidemiology Unit and published in The Lancet Planetary Health links perdurable air pollution exposure to higher risks of developing dementia.

The research assessed 51 studies from across North America, Europe, Asia, and Australia to better evaluate the effects of air adulterants on cognition and mental health. The study found substantial evidence connecting the exacerbated risk of dementia, including Alzheimer's disease and vascular dementia, with three common pollutants: PM2.5, NO2, and soot.

The researchers proposed that pollutants such as PM2.5 enter our bloodstream via lungs, pertaining to their extremely small size.

From there, the particles reach the brain, giving rise to oxidative stress and inflammation, which are nothing more than the exaggerated responses of our immune system against the antigens. What scientists revealed is that these frequent theatrical mechanisms damage brain cells and blood vessels, leading to memory loss, reduced concentration, and an increased risk of developing dementia in the long run.

DIRECT CORRELATION

The experts highlighted that every 10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ increase in PM2.5 and NO2, inflated the risk of developing dementia by 17% and 3%, respectively, while every 1 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ increase in soot was linked with a 13% higher risk.



the fog in national capital region area

The findings from the research highlight the grave and threatening impacts of long-term exposure to air pollution. Such revelations underscore the immediate need for actions to redress such pressing environmental issues.

The medical implications are many, including cognitive decline, weaker retention, poor recall abilities, mental intricacies, and an increased risk of developing dementia and associated diseases. However, the complexity of the matter stretches far beyond the individual level. Impact on the macro level includes both economic and social prospects. Second, the working class in industries that are usually adorned with meagre facilities would face the worst of the effects from the pollution and would thus face poor health conditions resulting in plummeted outputs, hence giving the national industries a major blow.

Third, the most obvious of all is the undue expenditure by the government on healthcare facilities. And lastly, these aggravated health conditions may lead to premature (voluntary) retirements, thus creating economic insecurities among families and over-reliance on government policies. Plummeting economies and poor individual health may increase frustration among people, thus leading to increased conflicts in the society. Although the research only covered high economy-countries, scientists believe the pollution may affect the poor and developing nations even worse, thus deepening the already existing groove of social disparities.

The government should firmly implement policies such as GRAP (graded response action plan) to regulate demolition-construction activities, waste management, and traffic while providing cheap and better public transport to address vehicular pollution at the same time. It should also check industrial pollution by installing anti-polluting systems at each processing plant. Besides the political infrastructure, it should be us tackling the problems at the micro level. Segregating waste to prevent undue burning of plastics, refusing single-use plastic, using public transport for commutes, wearing masks, and ensuring a good diet and exercise should be our basic objectives. And most importantly, inspiring our fellow mates to help address the issue collectively, because the next time you have trouble recalling a historical fact, it might be due to the tiny air pollutants messing with your neurons!!

WHAT'S THE ALTERNATIVE?

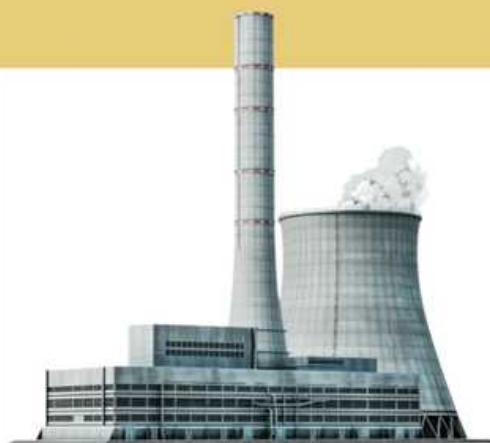
Can we reduce air pollution? Here are five innovative ideas that are in development



3

Adopt a More Sustainable Approach to Agriculture

Agriculture and food systems contribute significantly to global greenhouse gas emissions through farming, supply chains, and land-use changes. Sustainable agriculture can reduce environmental impacts by preventing soil depletion, using efficient fertilizers, and conserving water. Drip irrigation delivers water and nutrients directly to plant roots, reducing water waste. Additionally, modifying livestock diets can help lower methane emissions from farming.



1

Cut Down Emissions from Power Plants

Phasing out fossil fuels is an important step toward reducing greenhouse gas emissions and achieving net zero targets. However, the transition is challenging due to different energy needs, economic conditions, and political priorities among countries. Shifting to renewable and nuclear energy requires investment, technology, infrastructure, and global cooperation. While some countries are reducing fossil fuel use, others remain dependent on it. Meanwhile, measures like the US EPA's "Good Neighbor" plan regulate power-plant emissions and help reduce interstate smog and air pollution.



2

Decarbonise the Global Transport Sector

Transport is a major source of global carbon emissions. Emissions can be reduced through fuel efficient vehicles, electric vehicles, and low carbon fuels such as biofuels and hydrogen. Promoting public transport, car sharing, railways, and marine shipping can further lower emissions. Governments should introduce stricter vehicle standards, improve charging infrastructure, and support sustainable technologies to accelerate the transition toward cleaner and greener transportation.



4

Introduce a Carbon Tax System

A carbon tax is an environmental policy that charges producers for each tonne of greenhouse gas emissions based on the carbon content of fossil fuels. It encourages industries to reduce emissions, improve efficiency, adopt cleaner technologies, and shift toward low-carbon fuels. By making polluting activities more expensive, carbon taxes promote sustainable practices. They can also reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions at the same time, making them an important tool for addressing climate change and improving environmental quality.



5

Improving Air Quality While Fighting Climate Change

Air pollution and climate change are closely interconnected, with each worsening the other. Tackling climate change can therefore significantly improve air quality by reducing deforestation, wildfires, and other pollution sources. Governments should adopt comprehensive environmental policies addressing both issues together. Such integrated approaches can reduce greenhouse gas emissions, protect ecosystems, improve public health, and create a cleaner, more sustainable environment.





HOW TO SOLVE THE PLASTIC PROBLEM

By 2050 there could be more plastic in the sea than fish. But some genius inventions could help clean up the oceans

There are over five trillion pieces of plastic in the world's oceans. The floating island of rubbish that's supposedly found at the centre of the Pacific Ocean, dubbed the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, has captured the public's imagination, but even this doesn't do justice to the problem. In reality, if you stood on a boat at that site you would see, not an enormous plastic island, but rather endless tiny fragments floating on the surface of the ocean. According to one estimate, this plastic soup covers an area twice the size of the continental United States. As plastic moves through our seas it breaks down into smaller pieces the kind of pieces that can easily be swallowed by marine life. And the problems continue deeper down

Scientists are increasingly finding deposits of plastic at the bottom of the oceans, even as far down as the 10km deep Mariana Trench. The facts are horrifying, but many of the impacts that plastic will have on ocean ecosystems, marine creatures and, by association, us, remain to be seen. Scientists and entrepreneurs are currently working on ways to halt the flow of plastic into our oceans, and get rid of the stuff that's already there, before the problem gets even worse.

CAPTURE IT

Perhaps the most natural response to the plastic problem is to try to clean up what's already there. "Of course, clean up is really important," says Prof Richard Thompson, head of the International Marine Litter Research



The barriers that The Ocean Cleanup will deploy measure 1-2km in length and aim to capture larger plastics before they degrade

Unit at Plymouth University, “and it’s our first reaction as humans when we’ve made a mess.” Such reactions vary wildly in scale, from local ‘beach cleans’ to large scale, high-tech projects launched by the likes of The Ocean Cleanup.

The Ocean Cleanup was initially conceived by the then 18-year-old Dutch entrepreneur Boyan Slat. His highly ambitious project aims to use huge barriers to passively trap plastic as it moves around ocean gyres, the large circulating currents that keep the floating plastic in place. By anchoring the barriers in deep, slow-moving water, the idea is that the system will move slower than the plastic surrounding it, allowing the debris to accumulate against the barrier. The team behind the project estimates that deployment of their systems could clean up approximately 50 per cent of the Great Pacific

His ambitious project aims to use huge barriers to passively trap plastic as it moves around circulating ocean currents

Garbage Patch within five years. It’s an exciting proposal, and one that has captured people’s imaginations, most notably venture capitalists like Peter Thiel who have followed through on this enthusiasm with sizeable cash injections. In total, The Ocean Cleanup has received \$31.5m in donations since its inception back in 2013. The team is aiming to roll out a pilot study in the North Pacific sometime this spring, and their first fully operational system will be launched later in the year.

While it may be appealing to the great and the good of Silicon Valley, The Ocean Cleanup has attracted its fair share of criticism from the scientific community. Concerns have been raised over everything from the viability of the proposed barriers to their effects on local ecosystems. Perhaps the biggest issue raised, however, is that glamorous initiatives like Slat’s draw attention away from the key problem, which is the sheer quantity of litter entering the seas. “It’s a little bit like you’re filling the bath, you leave the taps on and go downstairs to make a cup of tea,” says Thompson. “Then you come back upstairs to find the bath is overflowing – do you start by mopping up the floor, or do you start by turning off the tap?”

What worries Thompson and others is that projects like The Ocean Cleanup

WHAT'S THE ALTERNATIVE?

Can we reduce our reliance on plastic? Here are five innovative materials that are in development



1 CARBON DIOXIDE AND SUGAR

As plastics tend to be made using fossil fuels, the search for alternatives is part of the journey towards a more sustainable future. Currently, 4 per cent of global oil production goes into plastic, but scientists are exploring ways to bring this down to zero. A sugar and carbon dioxide based substitute for the plastic polycarbonate (used for glasses lenses, DVDs and greenhouses) has been developed by a team at the University of Bath. Not only does their method bypass fossil fuels, but the resulting material is transparent, strong and biodegradable.



2 AGAR AGAR

Easily extracted by boiling red algae, agar is used to make confectionery in Japan. In a project called Agar Plasticity, the Tokyo-based design collective AMAM suggested that this gelatinous substance could be a viable plastic alternative. By heating agar, pouring it into moulds and then freezing it, the team was able to make a selection of plastic-like products and packaging (the bottle pictured has been wrapped with the agar 'plastic'). The designers are now looking to partner with industry so that they can access the scientific and technical know-how to take their idea to the next level.



3 FUNGI

The bulk of a mushroom's body consists of a mass of underground filaments called the mycelium. By employing mycelia grown on agricultural waste, New York company Ecovative Design is creating a new plastic alternative. A mixture of fungi and their food source can be placed into a mould, such as food packaging or a piece of furniture. Then, once the mould has become filled with a dense mass of mycelia filaments, it is heat-treated to kill off the fungi, which results in a product that is durable but also totally biodegradable.



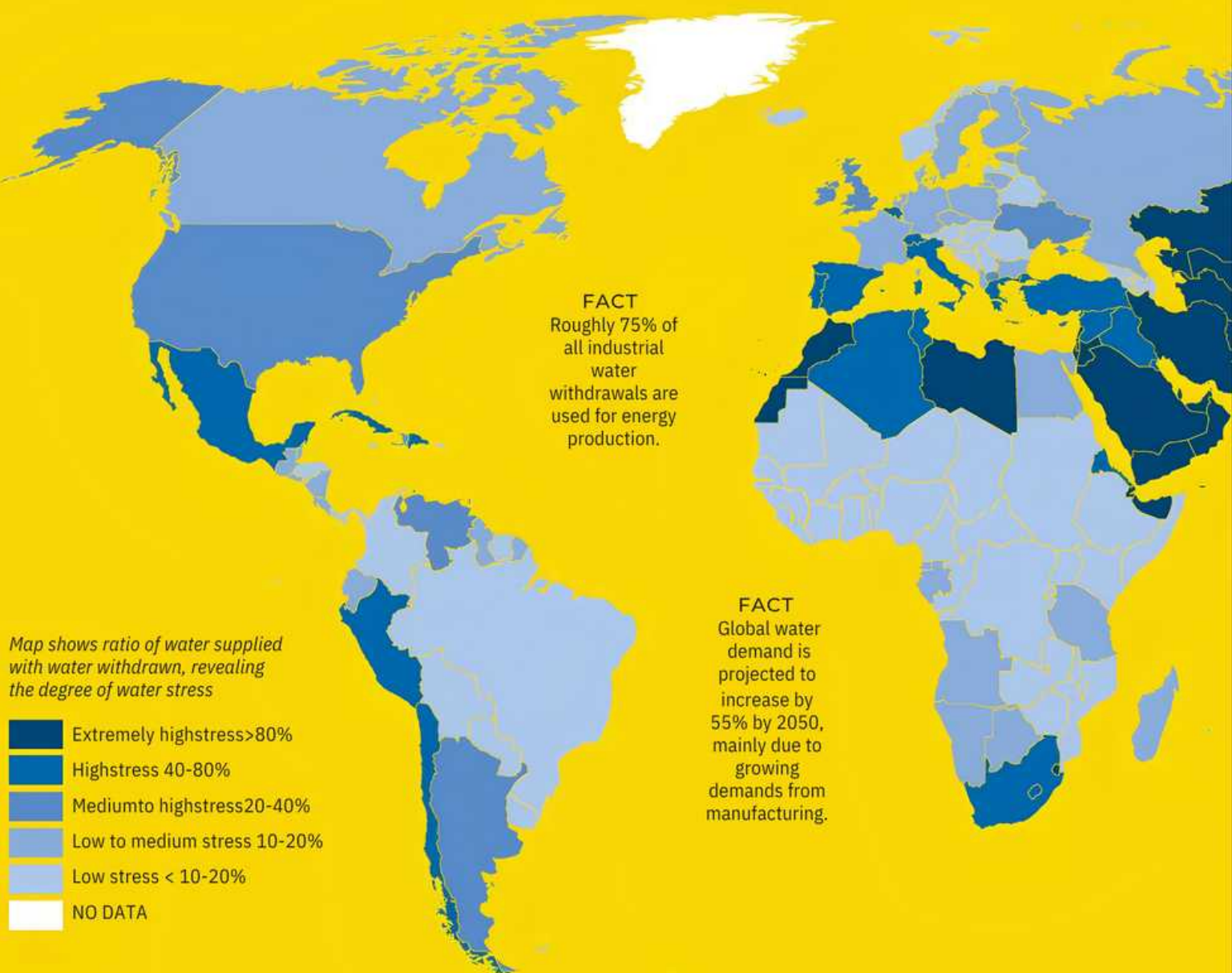
4 EDIBLE PACKAGING

Food and drink packaging is going to require a huge overhaul if we are to solve the plastic problem. One viable option could be packaging replacements that are just as edible as the products they contain. An example is Skipping Rocks Lab's 'Ooho!', an edible sphere of water made from seaweed extract that you can pop into your mouth (pictured). The US Department of Agriculture has developed a replacement for the thin plastic films used in food packaging, made from the milk protein casein. These films are biodegradable, sustainable and edible, and far better at preventing food spoilage.



5 CHICKEN FEATHERS

Enormous quantities of feathers are produced as a by-product of the poultry industry, and they are generally treated as waste. However feathers are composed almost entirely of keratin, a tough protein also found in animal hooves and horns. This means that in theory they could be used as strong, structurally sound, natural replacements for regular plastics. Researchers at the University of Nebraska Lincoln have attempted to harness this potential, by pounding feathers into a fine powder, then mixing with chemicals to make the keratin molecules bind together.



HOW TO KEEP THE

Water stress can quickly turn into a water war. So how can we reduce our usage to keep the peace and protect the planet?

A person can survive without food for a number of days, but dehydration can quickly kill them. Hence, water is our most precious resource. But it is becoming increasingly scarce, due to climate change and a rising demand from an exploding population. Most water is actually used for irrigation, rather than for drinking or around the home. Indeed, agriculture accounts for 70 per cent of global water withdrawal. The Middle East and North Africa only have 1.4 per cent of the world's fresh water resources, yet 6.3 per cent of the global population. In the US, the average person uses 445 litres a day – 60 per cent for using

CLEVER WAYS TO HARVEST AND STORE WATER



FOG COLLECTORS

Even in the driest parts of the world, fog offers a source of clean water provided it can be collected. Using a cheap commercial mesh designed for shading plants, scientists at FogQuest have created 'fog collectors' that can trap an average of five litres of water per square metre of mesh per day. The wind pushes the tiny fog droplets against the mesh, and then gravity pulls the big droplets down, moving the water through connected pipes to a cistern. Since 2000, FogQuest has helped to set up projects in arid environments all over the world, from the Atacama Desert in Chile to the Everest region in Nepal.



MANMADE GLACIERS

Water is in short supply in the Himalayan desert during spring – a problem that the Ice Stupa Project, launched in 2014, aims to solve by growing glaciers from scratch. The technology is surprisingly simple. One end of a pipe is placed upstream and the other end downstream where it jets out in a fountain. In the cold air on the Tibetan plateau, this water freezes as it falls. Over time, ice builds up from the ground, creating conical towers that Wangchuk calls 'stupas' because of their resemblance to the Buddhist structures of the same name.

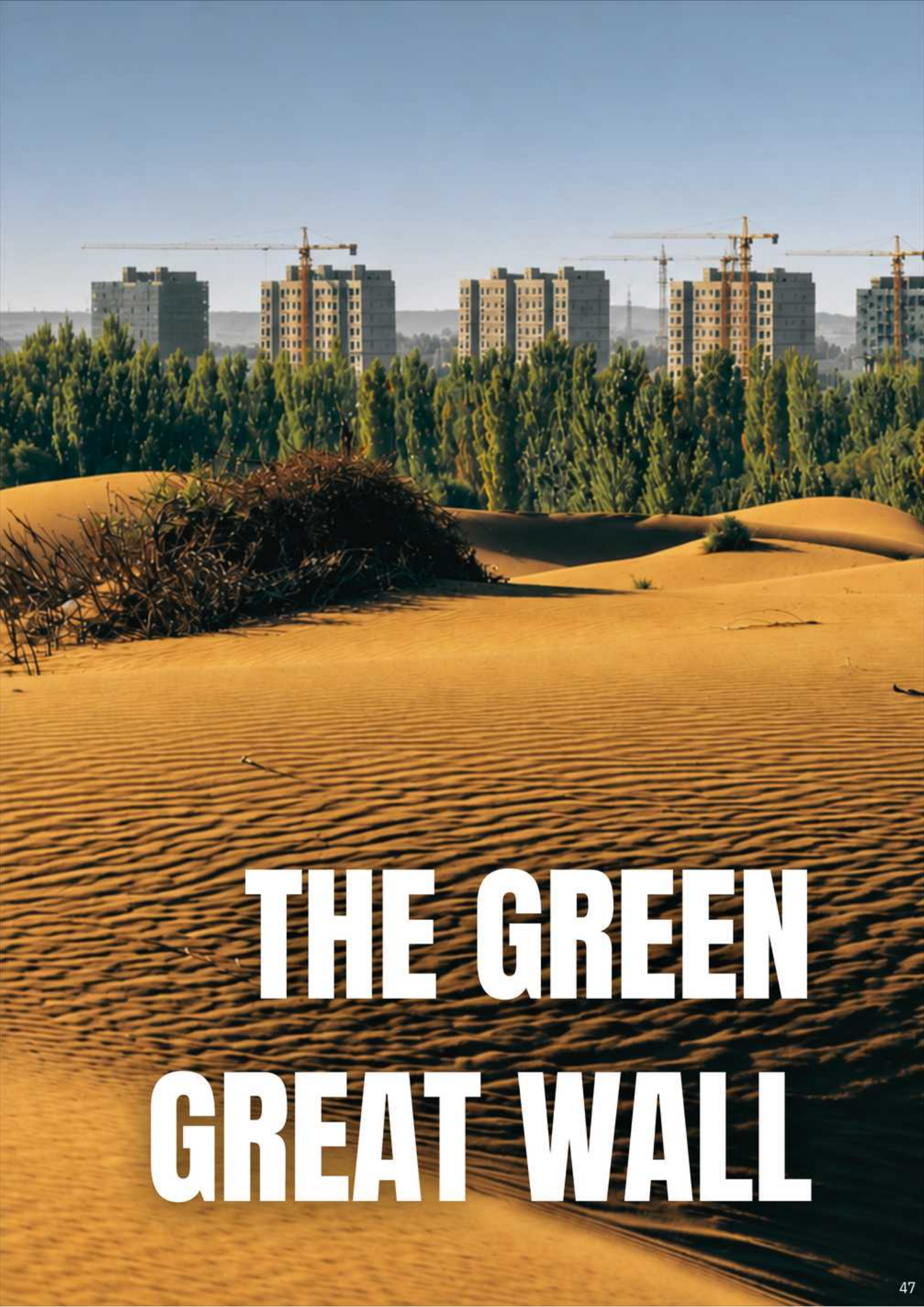
FACT
1kg of rice takes 3,000-5,000 litres of water to produce (2,000 litres for 1kg of soya, 900 litres for 1kg of wheat and 500 litres for 1kg of potatoes).

FACT
Groundwater supplies are rapidly disappearing. An estimated 20% of the world's aquifers are being over-exploited

TAP ON

toilets, having a bath, washing clothes and soon, 30 percent for watering the garden, and 10 percent is lost through leaks.

But some people are turning to technology. In agriculture, researchers are developing drought-resistant crops, and employing methods such as capturing rainwater and drip irrigation. In the home, simple measures can reduce usage, like water efficient washing machines and dishwashers, and changing to low-flow taps and shower heads. Simply switching to low-flow devices would cut heating costs and hence carbon emissions by 4.6 gigatons by 2050.



THE GREEN GREAT WALL



The Three-North Shelterbelt Program, aka the 'Green Great Wall', was launched in 1978 to halt the creeping advance of the Gobi Desert into northern China. Not to be confused with the Great Green Wall, a similar initiative planned for the Sahara, the project's intention is to plant a belt of trees that will block the path of wind and dust storms from the north and strengthen the soil with their roots, helping to prevent desertification.

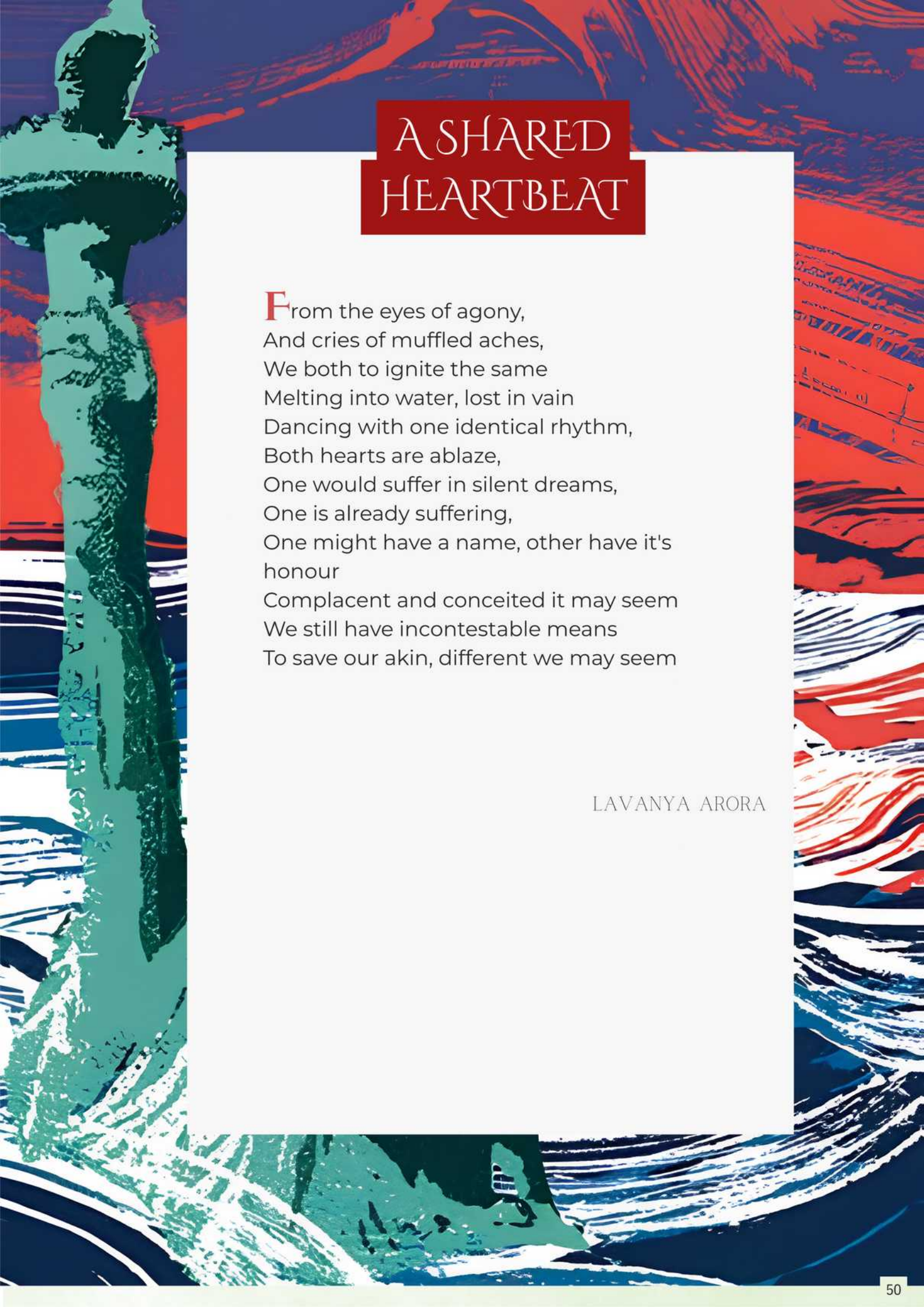
At nearly 4,500km (2,800 miles) long, the belt should consist of roughly 100 billion trees by its scheduled completion date in 2050. But

although 66 billion trees have already been planted, the project has faced and continues to face many challenges, including the loss of a billion poplar trees to disease in 2000, and continuing desertification caused by over-farming and poor use of land.





POETMS

A dramatic painting of a lighthouse on a rocky shore. The lighthouse is a tall, dark, cylindrical structure with a lantern room at the top. It stands on a dark, craggy rock. The sea is turbulent, with white-capped waves crashing against the shore. The sky is a deep, fiery red, suggesting a sunset or a storm. The overall mood is one of isolation and resilience.

A SHARED HEARTBEAT

From the eyes of agony,
And cries of muffled aches,
We both to ignite the same
Melting into water, lost in vain
Dancing with one identical rhythm,
Both hearts are ablaze,
One would suffer in silent dreams,
One is already suffering,
One might have a name, other have it's
honour
Complacent and conceited it may seem
We still have incontestable means
To save our akin, different we may seem

LAVANYA ARORA

HUMANITY (THE UNSAID IRONY)

"HUMANITY"

A word that we claim to own, But an act we
have rarely shown,

We call ourselves the wise and great, While
holding only cruelty and hate. But in our
pride, the truth is shown, We guard no life
beyond our own.

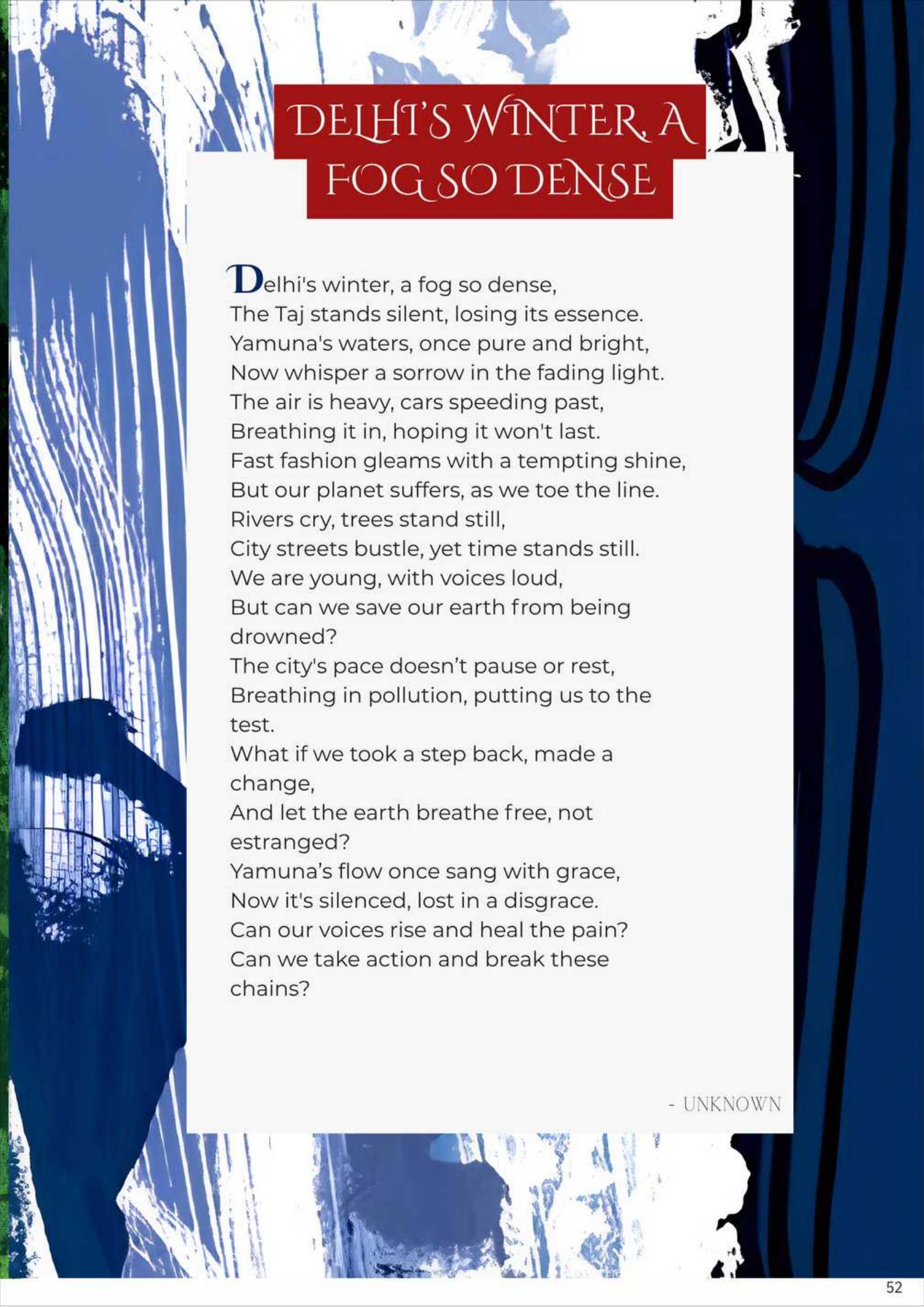
And aggression we termed "Animalistic " As
low and savage name To the failure of our
own bad game.

The beast takes life to keep its flame, But our
killing is a sport, a civil game. The wolf takes
life because it needs to eat, Its violence is
simple, honest, and complete. But! We plan
the war, we weaponize the fight Then judge
the lion for its honest bite.

So let the labels fall apart, And truth may
return to every heart. Since kindness blooms
in every face, Not bound to one, nor tied to
race. And what we claim as ours by right,
Was theirs in heart, in fur, in flight.

And yet Animal Humanity itself alone, Is
pure, uncorrupted, and still unknown.

ZABIYA ADEEM



DELHI'S WINTER, A FOG SO DENSE

Delhi's winter, a fog so dense,
The Taj stands silent, losing its essence.
Yamuna's waters, once pure and bright,
Now whisper a sorrow in the fading light.
The air is heavy, cars speeding past,
Breathing it in, hoping it won't last.
Fast fashion gleams with a tempting shine,
But our planet suffers, as we toe the line.
Rivers cry, trees stand still,
City streets bustle, yet time stands still.
We are young, with voices loud,
But can we save our earth from being
drowned?
The city's pace doesn't pause or rest,
Breathing in pollution, putting us to the
test.
What if we took a step back, made a
change,
And let the earth breathe free, not
estranged?
Yamuna's flow once sang with grace,
Now it's silenced, lost in a disgrace.
Can our voices rise and heal the pain?
Can we take action and break these
chains?

- UNKNOWN



SERENE

Morning spills across the sky,
Golden clouds come drifting by,
Dewdrops tremble on the leaves,
Softly dance the summer trees.

Rivers wander, bright and slow,
Through the valleys down below,
Wildflowers bloom beside the stream,
Painted like a waking dream.

Silver moonlight fills the night,
Stars are scattered, soft and bright,
Fireflies beneath the trees
Float like sparks upon the breeze.

Thunder rolls across the plain,
Clouds release their tender rain,
Roots drink deep beneath the ground,
While new blossoms gather round.

And soon the autumn leaves begin to fall,
Winter paints the branches tall,
Spring returns with fields of green,
Summer follows, warm and serene.

Round and round the seasons flow,
Where the ancient forests grow,
Nothing ends and nothing stays,
Life keeps turning through the days.

As new morning spills across the sky
Some days so golden , some look sly
Still the plants just stand by
While the weather calls out alight!

-AMAN KUMAR
HANSRAJ COLLEGE

मानवता की खोज

आज सोचा अंधेरी रात में जलता चिराग खोज लू,
इंसानों में छिपी फिर एक बार इंसानियत खोज लू।
चलना शुरू किया तो देखी एक ओर भाई-भाई की हिस्से पर लड़ाई,
तो दूसरी ओर जननी चिड़िया अपने नन्हे चूसो के लिए मीलों उड़
दाना लाई।

कुछ आगे क्या बड़ा दिखा गैरकानूनी धंधा,
पैसों की चकाचौंध में हर कोई था वहां अंधा।
मानवता कहां मिलेगी यही मेरा सवाल था,
मगर जहां देखा बस स्वार्थ और द्वेष का जाल था।

आगे का रास्ता मैंने अरण्य की ओर मोड़ दिया,
इंसानों में इन्सानियत ढूंढने का प्रण छोड़ दिया।
शिकारी जब आए गिलहरी ना देखे अपने पराए का भेद,
खुद शहीद हो समूह की जान बचाने में ना होता उसे खेद।

वफ़ा का पाठ मुझको कुरकुर ने सिखाया,
एक रोटी के टुकड़े पर जीवन जो लुटाया।
मासूम हिरण की आंखों में न कोई दिखावा, न कोई छल था,
वह तो बस प्रकृति का सच्चा और शांत बहता जल था।

मधुमक्खियों ने सिखाया मुझे एकता का सच्चा पाठ,
नियम कानून से चलने की बांध ली उस दिन मैंने गांठ।
एक ओर छोटी सी दीमक मुझे अपनों के साथ रहकर बड़ा घर बनाना
सिखा गई,
तो दूसरी ओर जंगल की शेरनी मरने के बाद भी चार बीज को पेड़
बना गई।

जंगल, नदी और पर्वत, सबके साथ मिलजुलकर पशु रहते हैं,
बिना किसी लालच के, हर सुख-दुख बिन कुछ कहे सहते हैं।
अब मैं जान गया हूं कहा खोजना है मानवता का भाव,
पशुओं में हैं छिपा सच्चा दयालु-उदार स्वभाव।

-SAHEJ CHAWLA

SRI GURU GOBIND SINGH COLLEGE



THE TALE OF GREEN HAIR

In glimmer of hope, stands a lone tree
Under it sits a little soul, now reduced from free
Oh how it wished for a miracle to be,
While the voices chant, how good are we!

The rivers running down , once used to glee
Now weep in pain , as the drain's water bound their spree
And, the sky once wore blue, now struggle to breathe
Just like the birds, all it wants is to flee
The forest fell silent, eyes guarding their homes;
Banners proclaiming "save the planet", sees the wild,
in city, that roams.

They say, they pledge, they care for thee
Serene surroundings and the glistening green we see,
For nature needs more than a slogan or plea
It needs you, it needs me, it needs we

Perhaps the miracle was never meant to arrive
Perhaps it was there in our hands that strive
So let the lone tree will no longer stands lonely
Just as the forests return where the concrete now be

For how the destruction came up, ironic to the saplings
sowed
Taking away lives or the trees that bowed,
Needs to be given back to whom it belonged
To the silent voices, the homes their soul longed

And when the tomorrow asks, "what did you do";
May the earth smile because it has 'you'.

HIMANSHI CHAUHAN
HANSRAJ COLLEGE

गुमान

अक्सर क्यों होता है ये?
क्यों लालच की बली तुम्हारे चढ़ता बेजुबान हैं?
ओ इंसानों, तुमको किस बात का गुमान हैं?

धरती पर रहते हैं हम सब,
ये सबके लिए समान है।
अरे दुष्टों, मत काटो जंगल,
इसमें बसती हमारी जान है।

तुम्हारी बंदूके और इरादे,
करते जंगल सुनसान हैं।
क्यों नहीं सुनाई देती चीखें,
जो करती यही बयान है?

क्या दोष हमारा इतना ही है,
कि हम सब बेजुबान हैं?
शर्म करो और मानो उनको,
जो दिए हमें अधिकार हैं।
ओ मिट्टी के पुतले तुझे,
किस बात का गुमान है?

अक्सर क्यों होता है ये?
क्यों लालच की बली तुम्हारे चढ़ता बेजुबान है?
ओ इंसानों, तुमको किस बात का गुमान है?

-SUNDARAM CHAUHAN
HANSRAJ COLLEGE

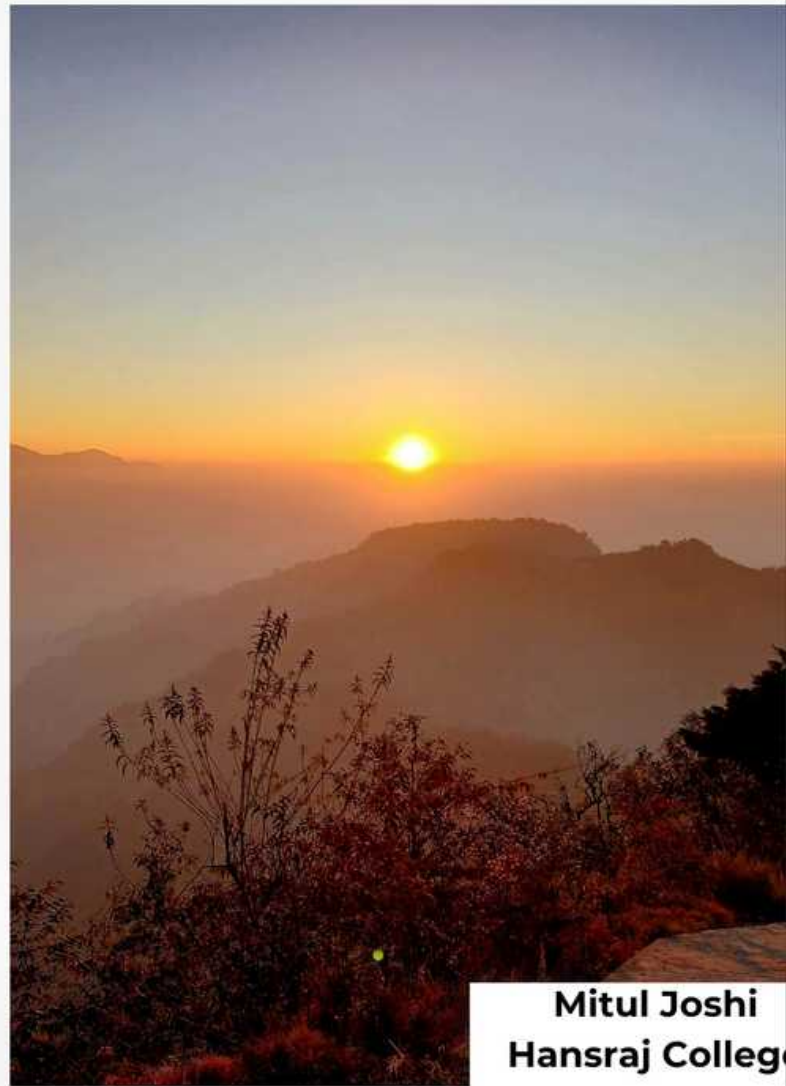
PHOTOGRAPHY



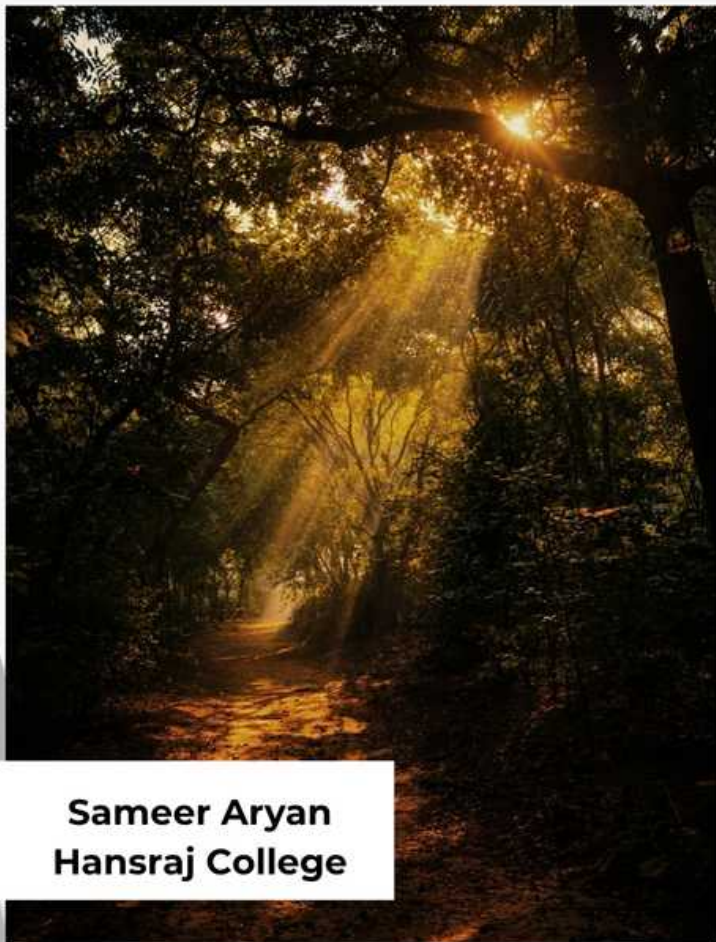


A close-up photograph of a large, hairy tarantula spider on its web. The spider is brown and very hairy, with its legs spread out. The web is a complex, spiral pattern of fine threads. The background is dark, making the spider and its web stand out.

Ujjwal Ojha
Hansraj College



Mitul Joshi
Hansraj College



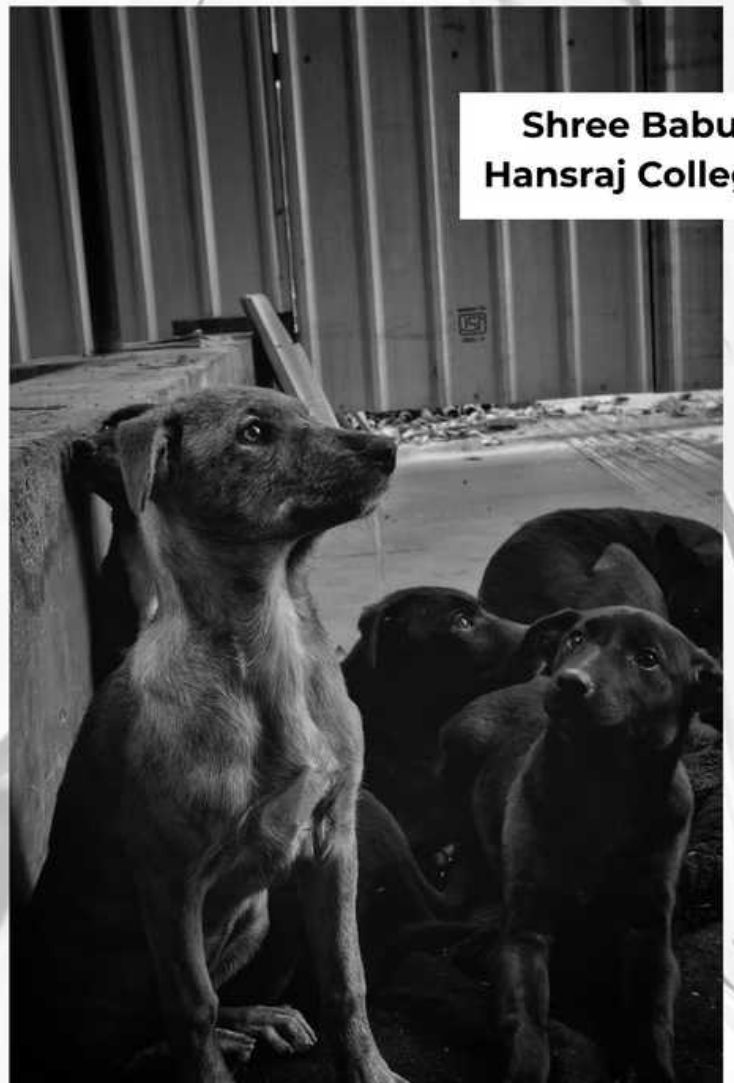
Sameer Aryan
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**Abhishek
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**Divyesh kumar
Hansraj College**



**Shree Babu
Hansraj College**



Aditi Yadav
Hansraj College



Ashutosh Pandey
Hansraj College

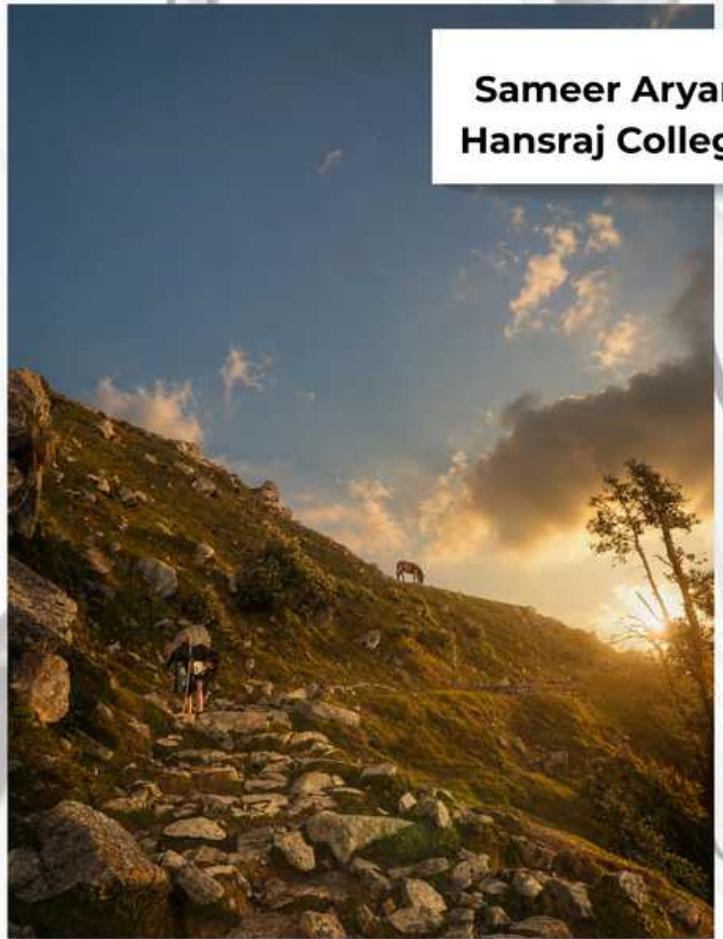
Pritam Raghuvarshi
Hansraj College



Sameer Aryan
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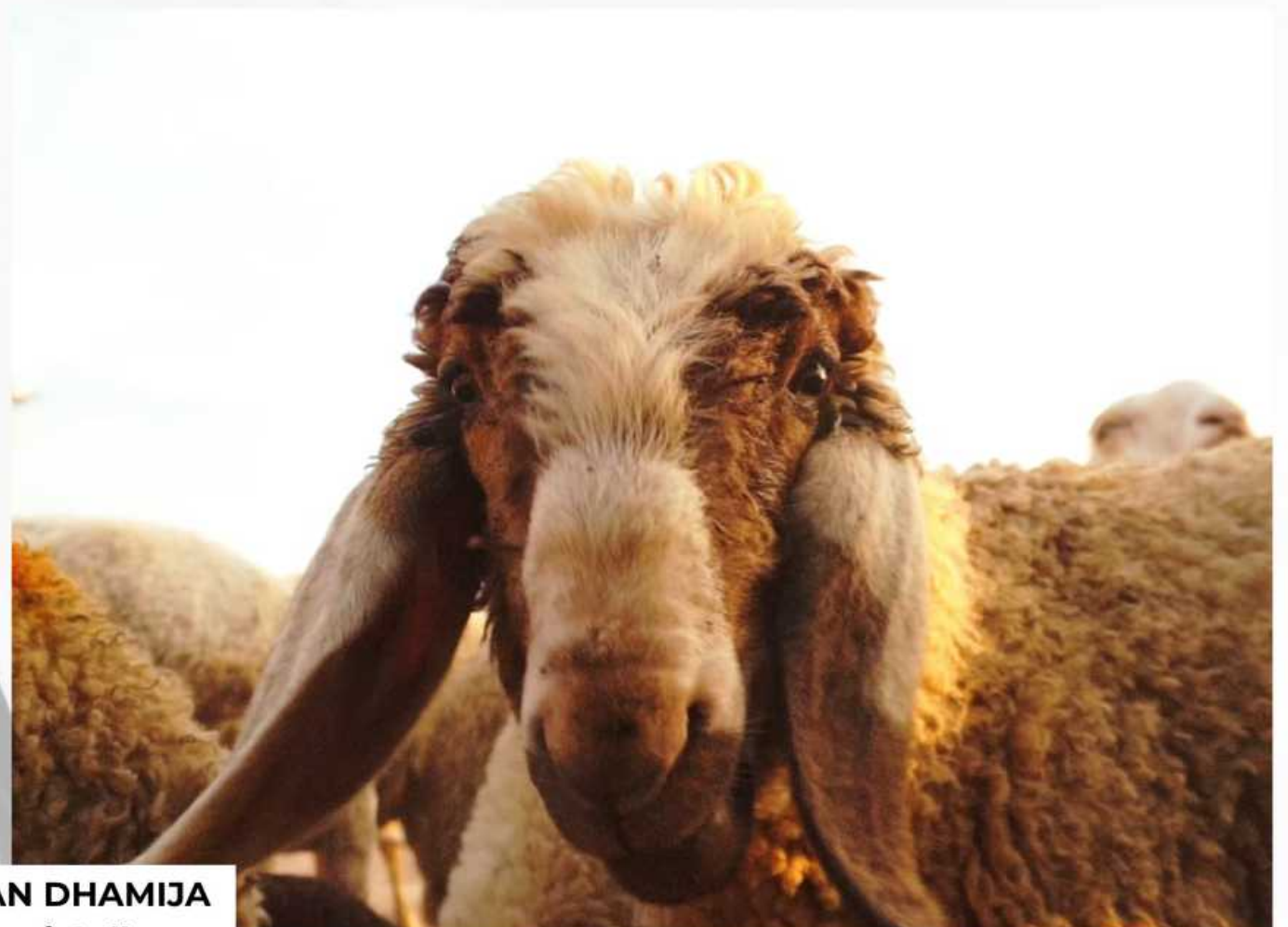


Ritika Kumar
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KATYAYANI MISHRA
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MANAN DHAMIJA
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ANANYA TICKOO
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YATHARTH GOSWAMI
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ANANYA
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**Khushi Pandita
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**Pritam Raghuvanshi
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**Shivam Jaiswal
Hansraj College**

Ganesh Bansal
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Shree Babu
Hansraj College

Charit Express

Khejri Festival

Rajasthan's Khejri Festival celebrates the deep cultural and ecological significance of the Khejri tree, often regarded as the "Kalpavriksha of the desert." For centuries, the Khejri has played an essential role in sustaining communities across Rajasthan by providing shade, fodder, food, and protection against the region's harsh climate. The festival highlights that conservation is not merely about planting trees but also about preserving the traditions and cultural practices connected to nature. Songs, folklore, stories, dance, and rituals passed down through generations reflect the strong bond between local communities and their environment. By bringing together cultural heritage and environmental awareness, the festival encourages people to recognize the importance of protecting native trees and ecosystems. Through celebrations, storytelling, and sapling plantation, it inspires collective responsibility towards nature and promotes a greener, more sustainable future while honoring the roots, traditions, and resilience of Rajasthan's desert communities.

Date of posting : 19/08/25

News headline : Khejri Festival: A tribute to Rajasthan's sacred tree

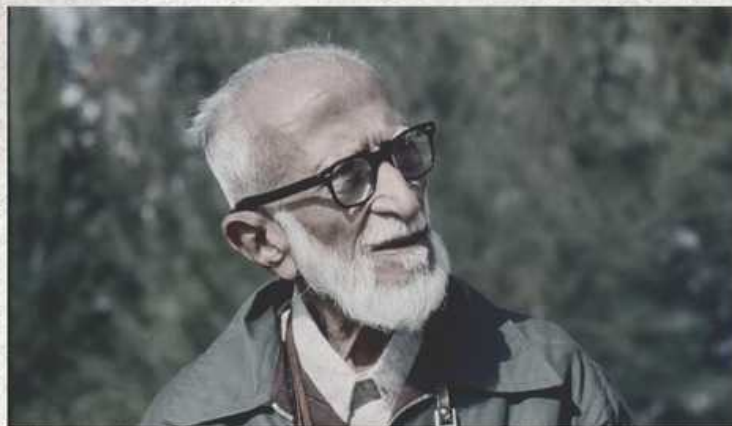
Ecospotlight

Lui Ngai Ni is a significant Naga festival that welcomes the arrival of spring and marks the beginning of the agricultural season. Celebrated with drums, traditional songs, rituals, and community gatherings, it represents a sacred seeding ceremony that brings together diverse Naga communities. The festival reflects the deep relationship between indigenous people and the natural world, emphasizing respect for the land, forests, rivers, and biodiversity. Nature's seasonal signs, such as blooming plants and migratory birds, guide the agricultural traditions associated with the celebration. Naga women and families play an important role in preserving and treating seeds as sacred, helping protect traditional crops and promote food sovereignty. Through its customs and rituals, Lui Ngai Ni passes ecological knowledge from one generation to the next. Ultimately, the festival represents a continuing commitment to sustainability, environmental protection, cultural heritage, and a resilient future built on harmony with nature.

Date of posting : 30/11/2024

News headline : Climate crisis threatens 40 % of coral species with extinction





Green Warriors

The potential extinction of 40% of coral species is more than just an environmental tragedy. It is a stark reminder of humanity's larger crisis. It emphasizes the need of stronger climate action, better marine conservation practices, and sustainable development in protecting both our natural world and the people who rely on it. We must fully respect and strengthen international agreements such as the Paris Agreement, which seeks to limit global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. Educating the general public about the importance of coral reefs and the threats they face can help to increase support for conservation efforts. More funding should be directed toward research on coral resilience, adaptation strategies, and the effects of climate change on marine ecosystems. Addressing the climate crisis now will determine whether future generations will be able to experience the wonder of vibrant coral.

Date of posting : 23/07/25

News headline : The Aquaman of India - Rajendra Singh



Green Warriors

The post, "Efforts of the Birdman of India – An Inspiring Story," celebrates the remarkable life and contributions of Dr. Salim Ali, widely known as the "Birdman of India." His fascination with birds began at a young age and gradually developed into a lifelong passion for ornithology and wildlife conservation. From studying common birds such as sparrows in Bombay to conducting extensive research across India, Dr. Ali played a crucial role in documenting the country's rich birdlife. His scientific work, field studies, writings, and conservation efforts helped make the study of birds more accessible and encouraged greater awareness of India's natural heritage. More than just an ornithologist, he became an important voice for protecting biodiversity and natural habitats. His dedication inspired generations of researchers, nature enthusiasts, and conservationists. His life demonstrates how curiosity and a genuine love for nature can develop into meaningful work and leave a lasting legacy for both science and conservation.

Date of posting : 20/08/25

News headline : The Birdman of India - Dr. Salim Ali



EVENTS

2025-26





DR. SOUMYA
PANT

TERI SESSION



Pranada, a sensitization programme, was organized by Haritima, the Environmental Awareness Society of Hansraj College, in collaboration with the Institution Innovation Council (IIC) and The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI). The programme aimed to educate students about the impact of climate change on biodiversity and ecosystem services and was conducted as part of a project initiated by the Department of Environment, Government of NCT of Delhi for eco-club students. The event began with an introduction to Haritima, highlighting its more than 18 years of environmental advocacy since 2006, followed by the welcome of distinguished TERI guests, Ms. Amrita, Ms. Soumya and Mr. Siddharth. The formal inauguration included a lamp-lighting ceremony with traditional shlokas, followed by the felicitation of the guests by faculty members. The TERI team then introduced their multidisciplinary approach involving scientists, researchers and students to address complex environmental challenges. A pre-assessment MCQ test was conducted among 20 student participants to assess their existing knowledge of environmental issues, followed by a poster-making competition on "Understanding the Impacts of Climate Change on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services." During the competition, a TERI-Dell short film was screened, using a growing red dot as a metaphor for expanding cities and increasing resource consumption. The film portrayed forests being replaced by concrete structures and clean streams becoming polluted drains, while emphasizing the need to maintain a balance between development and nature and ending with the transformation of the red dot into a green dot representing sustainable living. The technical session further explored Delhi's environment, trees, rivers, biodiversity and changing landscapes, along with international environmental agreements such as the Paris Agreement, Stockholm Convention and Rio Declaration. Students were also introduced to the Gaia Hypothesis, eco-anxiety and the role of eco-clubs in promoting environmental action. Another session highlighted the declining population of sparrows and the vulnerability of urban ecosystems.



AIR



PURIFIER



HARITIMA
The Environmental Awareness Society
Hansraj College

in collaboration with

**CLIMATE COLLECTIVE,
CLIMATE CADETS COLLECTIVE & FILTAIR**

organizes

A HANDS-ON LOW COST

AIR PURIFIER WORKSHOP

BUILD WHAT YOU BREATHE.

WORKSHOP DETAILS

DATE - 24TH FEBRUARY, 2026
TIME - 11:40 A.M. ONWARDS
VENUE - A104, HANSRAJ COLLEGE

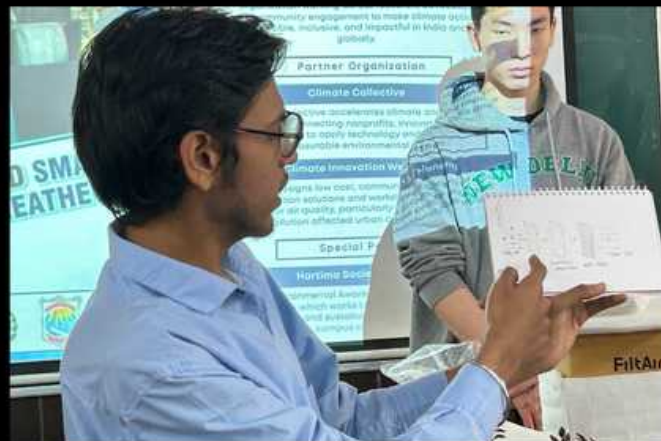
SCAN TO REGISTER 

LIMITED SLOT AVAILABILITY.

Prof. (Dr.) Rama Prinspal
Dr. Anita Thakur
Convener, Haritima
Dr. Beena bhandari
Program coordinator
Aditya Kumar
President, Haritima



WORKSHOP

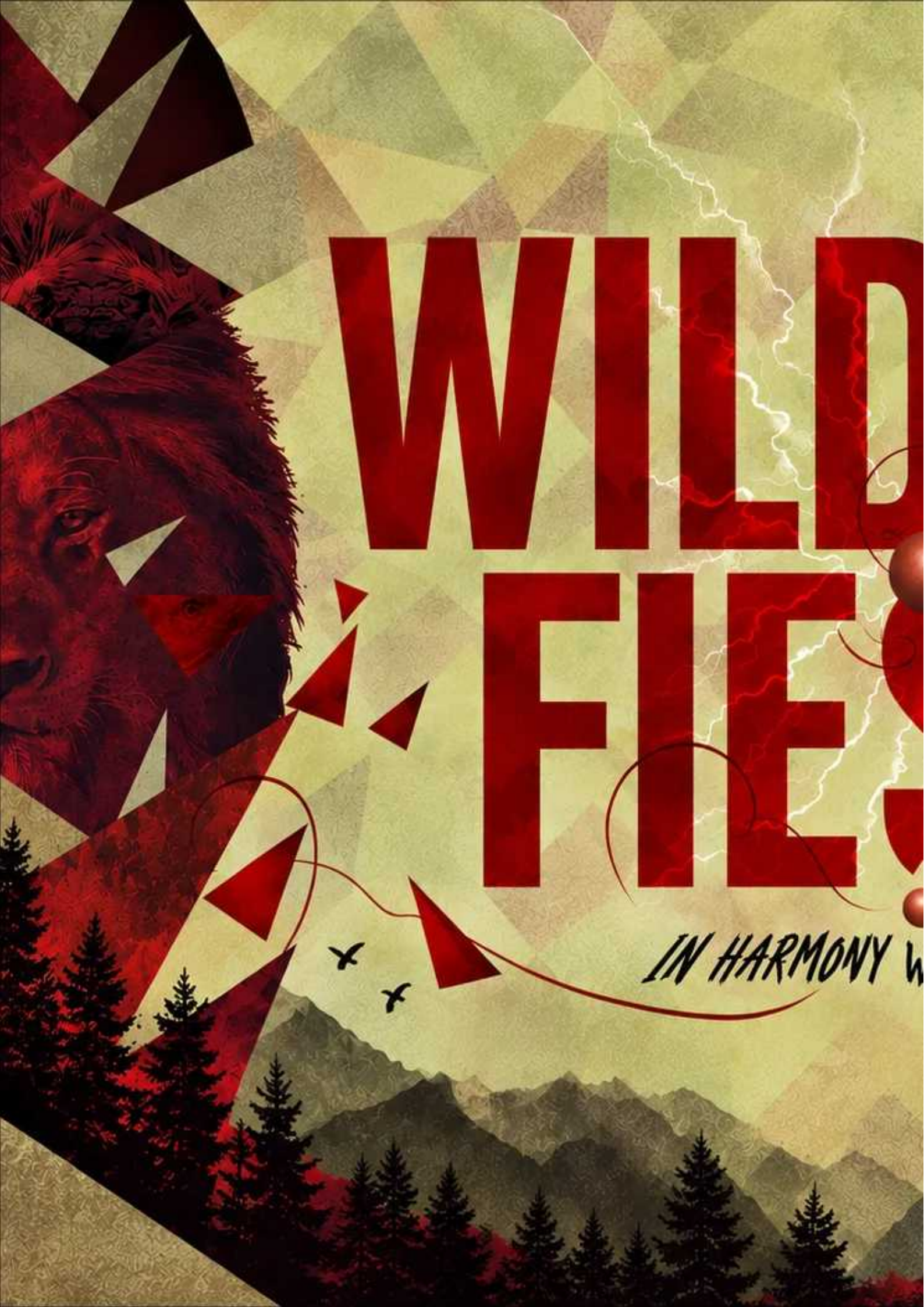


The workshop proceeded by explaining how the air purifier works and how many filters are involved in the whole process. To do this, materials were distributed to the teams and it was followed with making a low cost air purifier. The main part of the workshop was about the cost of the possible cost of those self-made air purifiers.



One of the workshops conducted by the society was Air purifier workshop where members of Haritima in collaboration with Climate Cadets Collective and Filt Air as part of Delhi Climate Week. It focused on understanding air pollution and building affordable air purifiers. Participants engaged in a team activity to learn about air purification and constructed DIY purifiers costing approximately ₹2,298 compared to commercial alternatives costing around ₹15,000.



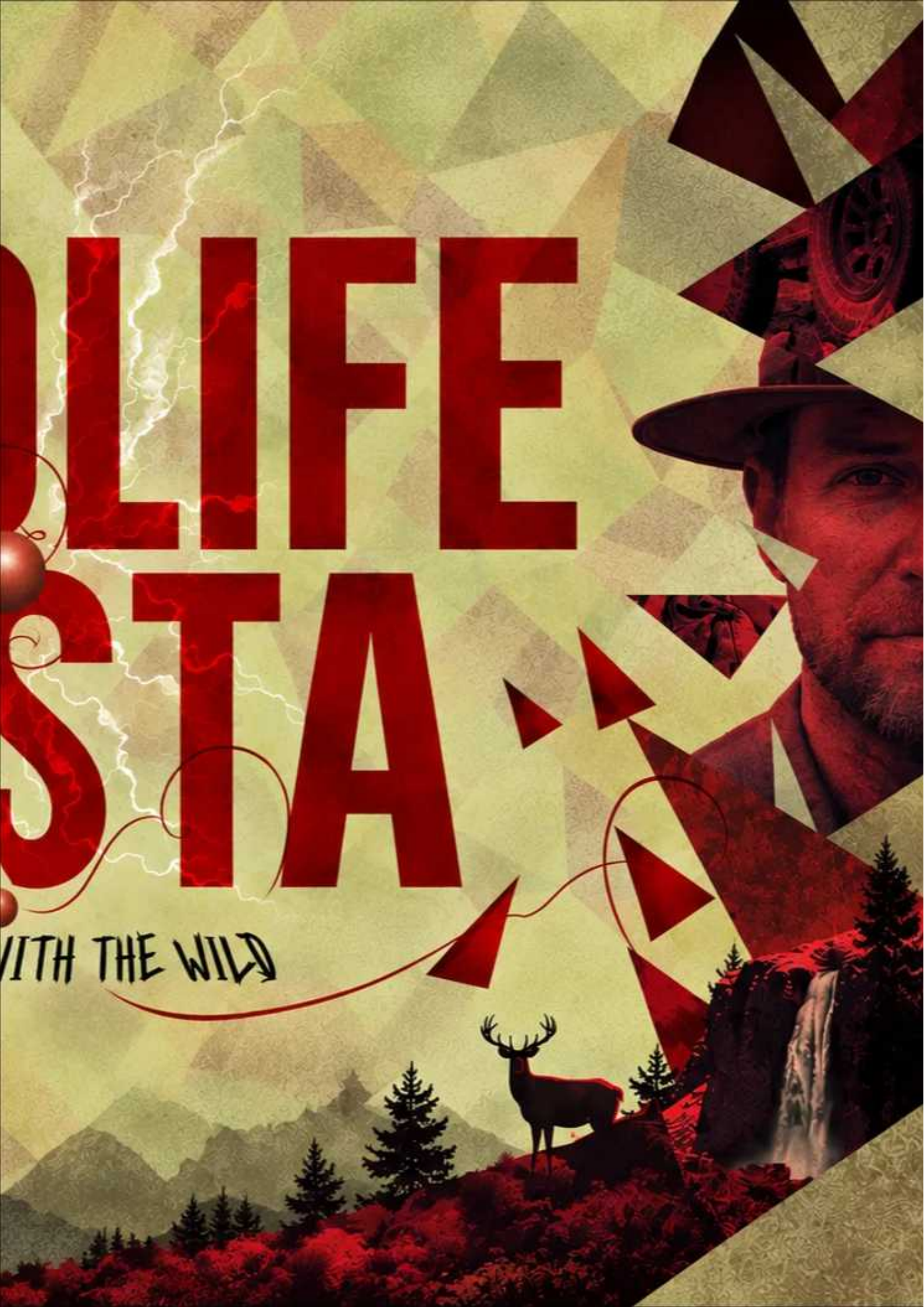


WILD FILES

IN HARMONY W

WILDLIFE STARS

WITH THE WILD



A poster making competition was organised by Haritima, the environmental awareness society of Hansraj College, under the umbrella of its flagship event "Wildlife Fiesta". The competition took place in an online mode, in which the participants submitted their entries in either digital or traditional format. The themes of the contest were "Zoocature" and "Environment- Then, Now, and Ahead". Entries with the most creativity and artistry were adorned with various prizes.

WILDLIFE

A photography competition was organised by Haritima, the environmental awareness society of Hansraj College, under the umbrella of its flagship event "Wildlife Fiesta". The competition took place in an online mode, with participants submitting digital entries on the theme "Human-Animal Co-existence". Entries showcasing the most genuine and unique perspectives were awarded various prizes.





A wildlife-themed treasure hunt was organised by Haritima, the environmental awareness society of Hansraj College, under its flagship event "Wildlife Fiesta". The hunt saw participation from 13 teams of two members each, with students from various DU colleges. The competition consisted of two rounds, where teams solved location based clues, with the top four advancing to the final round. The first team to solve the clues and find the hidden idol was crowned the winner.

FIESTA

A quiz competition was organised by Haritima, the environmental awareness society of Hansraj College, in collaboration with Illuminati, the Quizzing Society of Hansraj College, under the umbrella of its flagship event "Wildlife Fiesta". The competition featured multiple quizzes centred around wildlife, biodiversity, conservation, and the natural world, testing participants' knowledge and awareness through an engaging and competitive format.

Delhi University

STUDENT SUSTAINABILITY SUMMIT

17TH & 18TH APRIL, 2026





DUSSS

The event stressed the role of renewable energy in creating jobs and supporting rural development. It emphasized that sustainability is an immediate necessity rather than a distant goal.

Overall, Haritima organised the Delhi University Student Sustainability Summit on April 17-18, 2026, bringing together students from across the University of Delhi to engage with pressing sustainability challenges

The first day featured an inaugural session by Dr. Anushree Poddar, Professor of Management and Sustainability at Masters' Union, followed by a panel discussion on "Urban Sustainability Challenges:





Delhi University Student Sustainability Summit



The Role of Students in Changing Delhi's Future," with Mr. Rumit Walia. A workshop on "From Idealism to Implementation: The Reality of Sustainable Business" further explored the practical dimensions of sustainability.



The second day featured brainstorming sessions, group discussions, and 'Prakriti Manthan,' a case competition where students presented innovative ideas for integrating sustainability into policy and decision-making. The summit concluded with a round-table discussion and a vote of thanks by Society General Secretary Divyesh Kumar.

The summit provided a platform for students to exchange ideas, develop solutions, and envision a more sustainable future for Delhi. This conference highlighted the importance of collective action for India's sustainable future.



PRAKASHA

Prakāsha, organised by Haritima, the Environmental Awareness Society of Hansraj College, was an interactive environmental awareness session held at Mother Khazani Convent School, Bakhtawarpur. The event focused on the impact of pollution on humans, animals, and the environment through interactive discussions, short films, a quiz competition, and engaging activities. It concluded with the felicitation of the winners and the school principal.



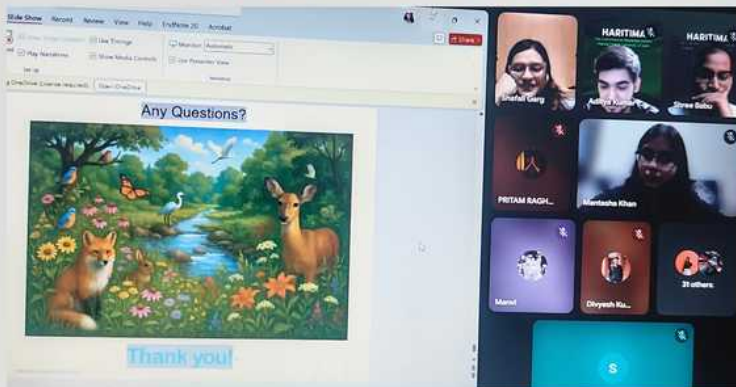
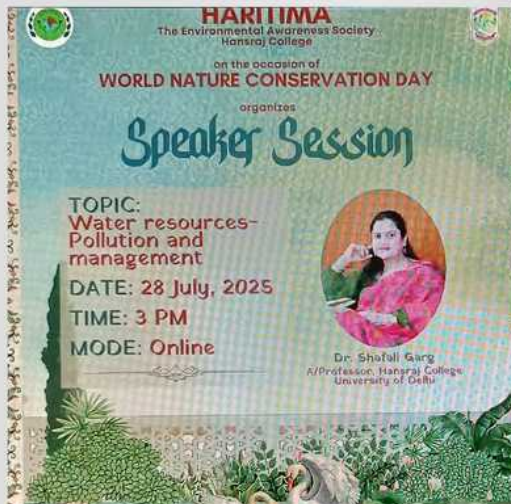


**VENUE: Mother Khazani Convent School,
Bakhtawarpur**

The event commenced with an introduction by the head of Hanschetna, Piyush. He was followed by Divyesh and other members of the Hanschetna wing. The students were given an introductory lesson on pollution, followed by the screening of a short movie on the effect of crackers on animals and the environment. An interactive quiz was conducted among the students. Another short movie focusing on how pollution affects humans was screened. With this short respite in between, the second round of the quiz was conducted and the competition ended. Personal interviews of the top performers were conducted and the event concluded with the felicitation of the winners of the quiz competition and the principal of the school, Mrs. Rashmi Kathuria.

Through engaging activities, discussions, and demonstrations, Prakāśa aimed to shed light on how our everyday choices impact the environment and how small, mindful steps can make this festive season cleaner and greener.

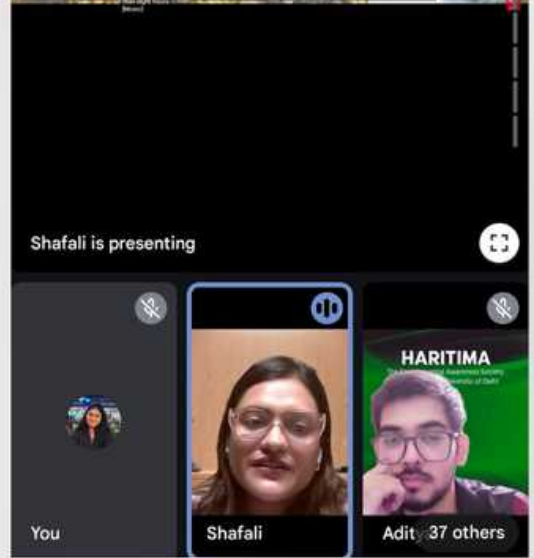




The speaker sessions organised by HARITIMA became meaningful spaces for conversation, learning and reflection. Through discussions on water conservation, women's role in environmental leadership, sustainable travel, climate change and compassionate coexistence with animals, each session offered a different perspective on the environmental challenges around us.



SPEAKER SESSIONS



Beyond facts and information, these conversations encouraged us to pause, question our everyday choices and understand the role we can play in creating a more sustainable future.



DRIVES & VISITS

2025-26





One of the greatest ways of learning something is directly via hearing it from the experts. Haritima boasts an incredible panel of speakers who were very enthusiastic to interact with the crowd that Haritima provided with Baiju Raj M. V. (Director - Conservation Projects, Wildlife SOS), Dr. Samir Kumar Sinha (Senior Director - WTI), Prof. Suresh Babu (Director - Centre for Urban Ecology and Sustainability), Prof. N. C. Pant (Vice President - LIGHTS), Dr. Vani Murthy



Haritima believes every creature is a teacher if we're willing to learn. Through its "Urban Wildlife Watch" program, city dwellers track foxes and hawks using motion-sensor cameras, discovering how predators keep ecosystems balanced. Meanwhile, "Stray to Savior" initiatives transform community dogs into conservation allies, training them to detect poachers and invasive species.



Haritima treats coexistence as a verb. Its "Elephant Whisperer" workshops teach farmers to protect crops using beehive fences and chilli smoke, turning conflicts into partnerships. In slums, "Street Vet Squads" train homeless youth to care for community cats, building empathy through shared survival.



At Haritima, even the smallest lives spark monumental change. The "Butterfly Effect Project" turns school gardens into waystations for migrating pollinators, with students tagging monarch wings like tiny scientists. Meanwhile, "Pond Patrol" equips kids with microscopes to document how dragonfly nymphs indicate water purity—proof that guardians come in all sizes.

VISITS

Haritima organized an Animal First Aid Awareness Workshop to educate students about basic animal care and emergency response.

Students learned essential first-aid measures to help injured animals before veterinary assistance arrives.

As part of the initiative, they visited a shelter housing around 80 rescued dogs.

The caretakers provided the animals with love, care, and medical support.

Students learned inspiring stories of rescued animals, including Hero, a Labrador injured by a Hero motorcycle.

They also learned about Batman, a Cane Corso awaiting surgery for a vertebral tumour.

The shelter was built through the collaboration of several NGOs.

It also housed a gaushala, monkeys, and a bird house.

The visit highlighted the importance of compassion, responsible care, and animal welfare.

Overall, it was a meaningful and educational experience for the participants.





The India Sustainability Mission 2.0 brought together policymakers, industry leaders, and environmental experts. The event focused on India's transition towards a cleaner and more sustainable future. Discussions highlighted the balance between economic growth and environmental responsibility. Key topics included energy security, renewable energy, climate resilience, and sustainable cities. Experts discussed India's target of 500 GW renewable energy capacity by 2030. They also highlighted India's Net Zero target by 2070.



Solar and wind energy were identified as important sources of clean energy. Battery storage, green hydrogen, and electric mobility were also discussed. Speakers emphasized innovation, research, financing, and collaboration. Industry representatives showcased advancements in renewable technologies. Government officials discussed initiatives such as PM Surya Ghar and PM Kusum. The National Green Hydrogen Mission was also highlighted.

The event stressed the role of renewable energy in creating jobs and supporting rural development. It emphasized that sustainability is an immediate necessity rather than a distant goal. Overall, the conference highlighted the importance of collective action for India's sustainable future.



CLEANLINESS DRIVE

Cleanliness paves the way for a healthier environment. With this determination, the environmental warriors of Hansraj College dedicated their heart and soul to various cleanliness drives throughout the year. In collaboration with NGOs (river cleanup) and societies from different institutions, including IIT Delhi, Haritima contributed significantly by removing kilos of waste from the banks of the Yamuna.

It was a powerful testament to how collaborative efforts can spark tangible environmental restoration. That day, the warriors did not just clean the riverbanks; they planted a sapling of responsibility within the public conscience toward our city's waterways.





PLANTATION DRIVE

As part of its continued commitment towards environmental conservation and sustainable development, Haritima, the Environmental Society of Hansraj College, organized a plantation drive within the college premises. This plantation drive marked the second plantation initiative of the society's current tenure, reflecting Haritima's sustained efforts towards creating a greener and more environmentally conscious campus. The drive was conducted in the college garden, where members of the society planted several saplings to enhance the green cover of the campus. The initiative aimed to promote ecological awareness, encourage sustainable practices, and inspire students to actively contribute towards environmental preservation. Participants enthusiastically took part in planting and watering the saplings while discussing the crucial role of trees in maintaining ecological balance, improving air quality, conserving biodiversity, and mitigating the impacts of climate change. The activity served as a reminder of the importance of collective action in addressing environmental challenges.





NATURE WALK

Amid the rush of college life and the constant noise of the city, our nature walk to the Kamla Nehru Ridge offered a refreshing pause. Surrounded by lush greenery, diverse flora and the quiet sounds of nature, we explored one of Delhi's precious green spaces and discovered the beauty that often goes unnoticed. The walk was not just an opportunity to observe and learn about nature, but also a reminder of the importance of protecting these natural spaces. Through this experience, we at HARITIMA connected more deeply with our environment and with each other, taking home memories, knowledge, and a renewed appreciation for nature.



SECRETS OF THE WILD

DESERTS THAT AREN'T DEAD,
DADS WHO GET PREGNANT.
FUNGI THAT RUN THE FOREST.
EARTH'S FULL OF SURPRISES —
HERE ARE THE BEST ONES.

DESERT DECEIVERS



1.Deserts aren't lifeless — a whole community of animals hides from the heat until dark.

2.Antarctica is technically the world's largest desert, thanks to how little precipitation it gets.

DEEP BLUE SECRETS



3.Did you know?
In seahorses, Dad carries the pregnancy — not Mum

4.Most of Earth's volcanoes are actually underwater, along mid-ocean ridges

5.The ocean's deepest point could swallow Mount Everest and still have water above it

6. Earthworms are nature's soil engineers, aerating soil as they burrow.

7. Spiders can "balloon" on electric fields in the air to travel surprisingly far.

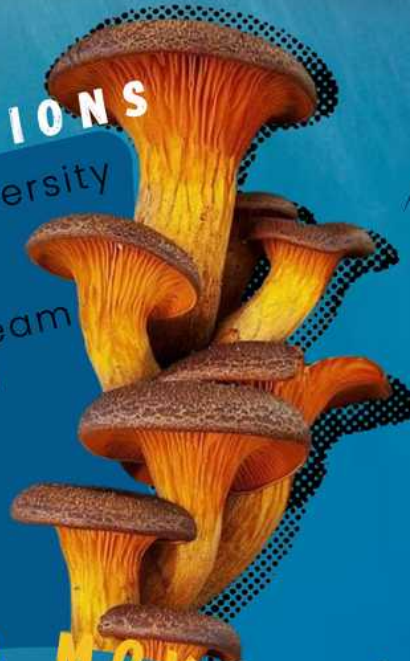
8. Bamboo can grow nearly 3 feet in a single day.

TINY BUT MIGHTY

HIDDEN CONNECTIONS

9. A forest can lose biodiversity long before it visibly disappears

10. ~90% of land plants team up with underground fungi (mycorrhizae) to get nutrients



GREEN POWER MOVES

11. About a third of the food we eat depends on pollinators like bees

12. Composting can shrink household waste dramatically

13. Solar is now the world's fastest-growing renewable energy source

13. Only ~3% of Earth's water is fresh – and most of that is locked in ice



CROSSWORD SAFARI



Down:

1. Human-caused process leading to land degradation in dry regions
2. Salt-tolerant coastal forest ecosystem
3. India's largest mangrove forest, located in West Bengal
4. Large-scale destruction of forests by uncontrolled fire
5. A prolonged period of unusually high temperatures.

Across:

6. Ancient mountain range crucial for checking desertification in north India
7. Whitening of corals due to environmental stress
8. International designation for wetlands of global importance
9. Movement pathway connecting fragmented wildlife habitats
10. Waterlogged ecosystem important for biodiversity and flood control

CREDLITS



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2025-26



MEMORIES





*And with that, Tenure 2025-26
comes to an end. Until the
next chapter.
~Adios*