



STE Annual Awards 2021

(NOMINATION AND APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED)

LAST DATE 15th November, 2021

Annual Awards of STE are the tangible symbol to signify eminence of contributions made by a person or institution. This boosts the enthusiasm of the contributors who have contributed in different fields of science and social service with their excellence, expertise and approach towards achieving certain goals for the society. Recognition of such extraordinary activities is eventually very important to boost their confidence and to honour them for what they have done for the science and society. STE confers following categories of awards and honours to such eminent personalities.:

STE Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Award

STE Green Excellence Award

STE Fellowship Awards

STE Meritorious Award

STE Water Awards

STE Best Teacher Award

STE Dr. Praloy O Basu Life Time Achievement Award

STE Young Researcher Awards

STE Best Ideas/Innovations/Technology for Environment Awards

STE Women Awards

STE International Achiever Awards

For more information, please log on to our website
www.stenvironment.org/ste-awards/

If you believe in our ideology and wish to step up for the environment, we welcome you to join our organisation and together we can save the environment.

Visit- <https://stenvironment.org/>

Follow the link, choose the kind of membership that suits you and fill-up the form.



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SAVE THE ENVIRONMENT (STE)

(A SOCIETY FOR RESEARCH, AWARENESS & SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT)

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PRAKRITI SANRAKSHAN

Newsletter

Volume 4, Issue 2, Apr. - Jun, 2021

Inside Glimpses





ABOUT US

Save the Environment (STE)

SAVE THE ENVIRONMENT (STE) is the organization that aims to spread awareness to the society about environment, health and water. It was founded and registered on 19th November 1990. STE has collaborated with various organizations in the past 29 years such as All India Institute of Hygiene & Public Health, AIH&PH and India Canada Environment Facility, DRDO Ministry of Defence, Department of Science and Technology (DST), Indian Institute of

Management (IIM), Ahmedabad to mitigate the effects of arsenic and provide arsenic-free drinking water.

The vision of the society is to protect present and future generations from various Environmental Hazards. The NGO has been actively organizing various interactive sessions such as conferences (National and International), workshops, seminars and awareness programs including poster competitions, quiz competitions, science exhibitions and webinars among the future generations.

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ARTICLES ARE INVITED FOR THE INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH SCIENCES

This journal is being published by Save the Environment. Send your manuscripts for peer-review by e-mail. The authors must mention address, Contact Nos. and E-MAIL ID in their forwarding letter. Proof will be sent for correction before publishing. A pledge for originality will be signed by the authors.

We are pleased to announce that the DOI prefix for International Journal of Environment and Health Sciences is now available from Crossref, the official Digital Object Identifier (DOI). The journal is now indexed in International Scientific Indexing (ISI).

For further details, please contact, Chief Editor at: ijehseditor@gmail.com or visit our website: www.stenvironment.org



OUR EVENTS



SAVE THE ENVIRONMENT

A Society for Research Awareness and Social Development

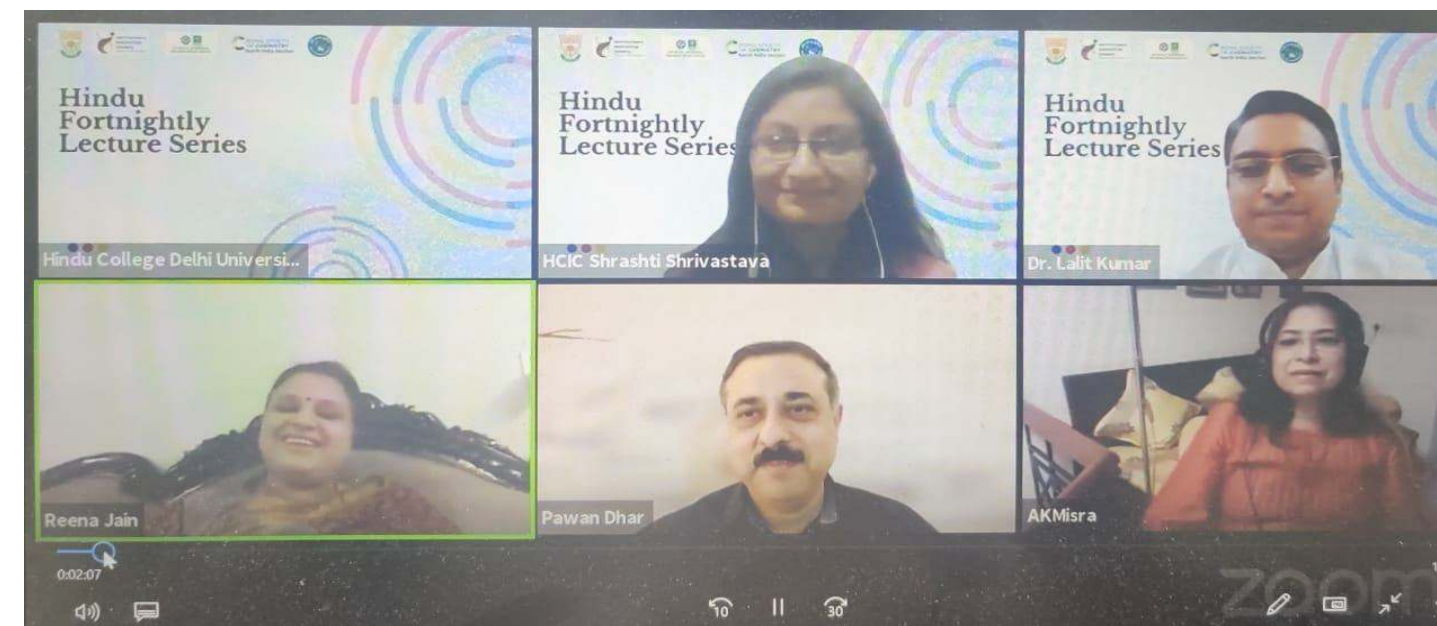
FORTNIGHTLY LECTURE SERIES

Lecture 5 # “Creativity and Innovation”

Save The Environment (STE) as a society for research, awareness and social development successfully organized its **fifth lecture** of Fortnightly Lecture Series under the aegis of MoE's Innovation Cell, Government of India, in collaboration with NEERI-a part of CSIR, Royal Society of Chemistry, North India Section and The Hindu College Innovation Council **on 21 April 2021** with the keynote address given by **Dr. Pawan K Dhar**, Professor at School of Biotechnology, JNU; Director at Centre of System and Synthetic Biology, University of Kerala.

The event was graced by the presence of Hindu College's Vice Principal Dr. Reena Jain, Honorary Secretary of Royal Society of Chemistry North India Section Prof R.K. Sharma, **President of Save The Environment Dr. Kshipra Mishra**, Senior Principal Scientist and head of NEERI, CSRI Dr. S.K. Goyal, esteemed members of teaching faculty and witnessed a huge turnout of around 500 students from all over India.

Dr. Pawan K Dhar' talk on topic “**Creativity and Innovation**” was both highly appealing and educational. He discussed about how innovation and creativity are different from each other and how they co-relates with each other in some way. He revealed that the key roots to innovation is to start with thinking, moving ahead with the thinking of people, finding the problems and finally look for the possibilities. With short stories, visuals and real life examples, Dr. Dhar kept the audience engaged throughout his talk. He gave examples that whether it was Thomas elva Edison, who created bulb; Madam Curie, who developed X-ray ,did they really invent those things or did they merely figure out how to utilize what was already there?. He further added that Innovative ideas which reciprocate with the demand or necessity of the customer are always lucrative. The event was made even more fun and interesting by certain brain storming exercises towards the end which showcased how our mind perceps things in a better way when we have a memory about it. The lecture ended with a Q&A session wherein certain selected questions from all over India were put forth the speaker. Overall, the event was a great success.





WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY CELEBRATION



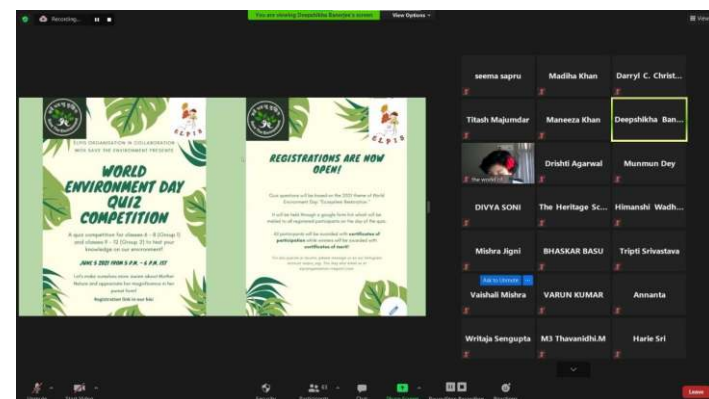
SAVE THE ENVIRONMENT(STE)organized a Quiz Competition on 5th June 2021 on the occasion of **World Environment Day** to raise awareness of the environment and sensitize the young generation to take prompt action to reverse the rate of deterioration of Mother in collaboration with **Elpis Organization**. Elpis Organisation was founded by a group of four high school students Madiha Khan, Maneeza Khan, Deepshikha Banerjee, and Titash Majumdar from The Heritage School, Kolkata with the intent to provide a unique platform to GenZ for raising voices to channelize hope into every action we take for the benefit of the society by bringing together people to be advocates in the global movement for change based on their strengths, desires, and capabilities.

The occasion was graced by **Dr. Kshipra Misra** President STE & Former Additional Director, DIPAS, DRDO, Delhi. The session was coordinated by **Dr. Jigni Mishra**, member of STE and Project Associate IARI, Pusa, New Delhi, who began the webinar with an introductory presentation about progress and efforts of STE.

The quiz questions were based on the World Environment Day 2021 theme **“Ecosystem Restoration”** and there were



two groups: **Group 1 (classes 6-8)** and **Group 2 (Classes 9-12)**. It was held through a Google Form link mailed to all participants on their registered email addresses 5 minutes before the start time of the Quiz. The total duration of the Quiz was 1 hour .



The Quiz was divided into 3 sections:-

The first section (The Basic Section) containing 15 MCQs worth 1 point each.

Second Section(TheAdvanced Section) containing 15MCQs worth 2 points each.

Third Section (Long Answer Question Section) containing one long answer question worth 5 points. A picture was provided for reference to the students.

About 200 participants from all around the world namely Pakistan, United States and states in India namely Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Telangana, Rajasthan, and so on had appeared for the quiz competition. To commemorate the occasion, Elpis and Save the Environment arranged an inauguration ceremony on 5th June with the intent to motivate all youngsters to be the fore bearers of change and hope for the environment. Later on, to a ward all winners, a virtual Award Ceremony was held on 12th June, 2021.



The name of winners from each group are as follows:

Group 1(classes 6-8):

1st position: Prerna Basu, The Heritage School, Kolkata

2nd Position: Sabarish Selvan, Wockhardt Global School, Maharashtra

3rd Position: Shreyan Bhattacharjee, The Heritage School, Kolkata

Group 2(classes 9-12):

Syeda Zobiya Quadri, Nasr School, Telangana

2nd position Shashvat Sagar, The Mother's International School, Delhi 3rd position: Gaurav Agarwal, The Heritage School, Kolkata.

Two students from each category were awarded the Special Mentions for writing the best and most unique answers in section 3 (long answer question).

Community Outreach Program – A Free Ration Camp in Faridpur Village, Durgapur, Distt. Burdhan, West Bengal on June 20, 2021

A step towards helping the needy and under-privileged people during the coronavirus pandemic, Save The

Group1 (classes6 - 8)

1. **Suryansh Roshan** - Venkateshwar International School, New Delhi
2. **Shloke Chakraborty** - The Heritage School, Kolkata

Group 2(Classes 9 -12)

1. **Roshanaq Usman Nasir** - Learning Alliance International School, Lahore, Pakistan
2. **Ayman Siddarth** - Nasr Boys School, Hyderabad

It was indeed an honor for Save The Environment to collaborate with Elpis with the motive of sensitizing the environment's conditions amongst the young generation.

The entire STE family sincerely thanks Team Elpis and The Heritage School, Kolkata, for organizing the event successfully.

Environment (STE) organised a Free Ration distribution Camp in Faridpur Village, Durgapur, Distt. Burdhan , West Bengal on June 20, 2021.The members of STE distributed food and COVID protection items to about 100 underprivileged families .The STE team is grateful to all the donors and participants for their kind support to successfully organise this event.



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Free Ration Camp in the Memory of



Prof. K.P. Sharma

June, 20th, 2021 at 11:30 a.m.

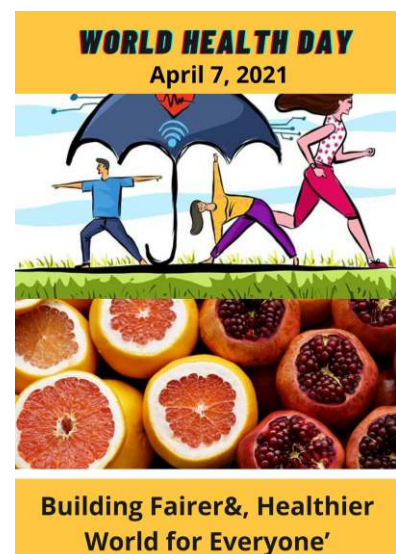
Village Faridpur, Durgapur, Pushchim Burdhan, West Bengal



The Days Observed: April-June

WORLD HEALTH DAY (7April)

"It is health that is real wealth and not pieces of gold and silver: - Mahatma Gandhi"



Every year World Health Day is celebrated on **April 7 2021**, to create awareness regarding important issues such as physical and mental well-being. This year the **theme** of World Health Day is **"Building Fairer and Healthier World for Everyone"** (SDG - 3) highlights the importance of good health and equal access to health services for all. World

Health Day is celebrated to mark the anniversary of the founding day of World health organisation (WHO) in 1948.

EARTH DAY (22nd April)

"Heal the Earth; Heal our Future – Make every day Earth Day"

Every year Earth Day is celebrated on April 22 .The day marks the start of the environmental movement in 1970, and for the past 51 years has resulted in policy change and a greater awareness of the environment It is an annual event which attempts to raise global public awareness for the well-being of the planet and all the life it supports. It aims to shine a light on the serious environmental problems we are facing, from climate change to air pollution and deforestation. The theme for this year's earth day is **"Restore Our Earth"**, which focuses on the need to reduce our impact on the planet as we recover from the effects of Covid-19.



WORLD MALARIA DAY (25th April)



'Small acts when multiplied by the millions of people can transform the world.Let's join hands together to spread awareness against Malaria', to educate young minds to combat malaria by prevention againstdreaded mosquitoes. World Malaria Day is an international observance commemorated every year on **25 April** and recognizes global efforts to control malaria .The

theme of World Malaria Day 2021 is **"Reaching the zero malaria target."**

WORLD BEE DAY (20nd May)



"I'm a worker bee, I like to have a schedule, I like to have a place to be, and a time, and a schedule."

World Bee Day observed on May 20, 2021 to raise awareness about the importance of pollinators, the threats they face and their contribution to sustainable development. Approved by the United Nations, the First World Bee Day was celebrated on Sunday, May 20, 2018. The theme of World Bee Day 2021 is **"Bee engaged: Build Back Better for Bees"**. A core focus of the observance is to support the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) **15- Life on Land.**

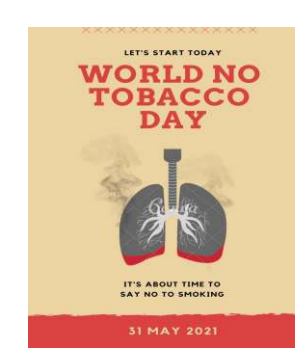
WORLD BIODIVERSITY DAY (22nd May)



The **World Biodiversity Day** is celebrated each year on 22 May, to raising global awareness about the importance of **protecting biological resources and the global biodiversity** that shapes our environment — not only the various species of plants, animals and microorganisms around us, but also the genetic diversity of

each of them, as well as the great variety of ecosystems that make up our planet. According to the UN, more than **3 billion people depend on marine and coastal biodiversity** for their livelihoods. In fact, pandemics such as the latest **COVID-19 (coronavirus) outbreak** force us to **reconsider the protective role that biodiversity plays** in the future of humankind, since its many advantages result in one fundamental benefit: **protection from infectious diseases.**The theme of this year's International Day for Biological Diversity: **"We are part of the solution."**

WORLD NO TOBACCO DAY (31st May)

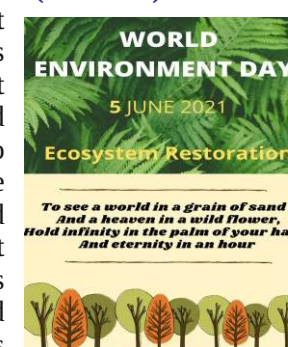


The day is observed around the world every year on May 31 to highlight the risk associated with the use of tobacco. This yearly celebration informs the public on the dangers of using tobacco, the business practices of tobacco companies, what WHO is doing to fight the tobacco epidemic, and what people around the world can do to claim their right to health and healthy living and to protect

future generations. The Member States of the World Health Organization created World No Tobacco Day in 1987 to draw global attention to the tobacco epidemic and the preventable death and disease it causes. This initiative by WHO (World Health Organization) urges all young people to join the fight to become a tobacco-free generation and encourages governments to put policies into action that help to reduce usage of tobacco products. This year's theme of World No Tobacco Day is **'PROTECTING YOUTH FROM INDUSTRY MANIPULATION AND PREVENTING THEM FROM TOBACCO AND NICOTINE USE.'** Nicotine used in tobacco is highly addictive and tobacco use is a major risk factor for cardiovascular and respiratory diseases. One needs to exercise greater care in these difficult times of Corona outbreak. The smokers are, in general, more vulnerable to COVID 19 and may develop severe respiratory symptoms if they contract the infection.

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY (5th JUNE)

Every year World Environment Day is celebrated on June 5 across the globe. It is one of the biggest events organized by the United Nations (UN) with an aim to generate awareness about the significance of nature. World Environment Day was first observed in 1974 in the US. This year the theme of World Environment Day 2021 is **Ecosystem Restoration.**



Ecosystem Restoration can happen by actively planting trees or by removing pressures on the ecosystem by protecting environment and reducing the increasing level of pollution. The current pandemic scenario has shifted focus to the restoration of balance between humans and nature.

WORLD FOOD SAFETY DAY (7th June)

World Food Safety Day is an initiative of WHO and is observed on June 7 every year to draw attention, and inspire action to help prevent, detect and manage food borne risks. This year's theme, **'Safe food today for a healthy**



tomorrow', stresses that production and consumption of safe food has immediate and long-term benefits for people, the planet and the economy. Especially in COVID-19 pandemic, eating healthy and safe food has become important not only for maintaining one's health but also to protect from the virus by boosting our immune system. Healthy food provides the nutrients and energy to grow and perform day to day activities. In

recent times, **Food Safety** has become an important global issue. With an estimated 600 million cases of food borne illnesses annually, unsafe food is a threat to human health and economies.

WORLD OCEAN DAY (8th June)

“No water, no life. No blue, no green.” —Sylvia Earle ‘

Every year June 8 is observed as the World Oceans' Day for celebrating the role of oceans in our everyday life and inspiring action to protect the oceans and sustainably use the Marine Resources. The theme for World Oceans Day 2021 is **"The Ocean: Life and Livelihoods"** the Sustainable Development Goal 14.

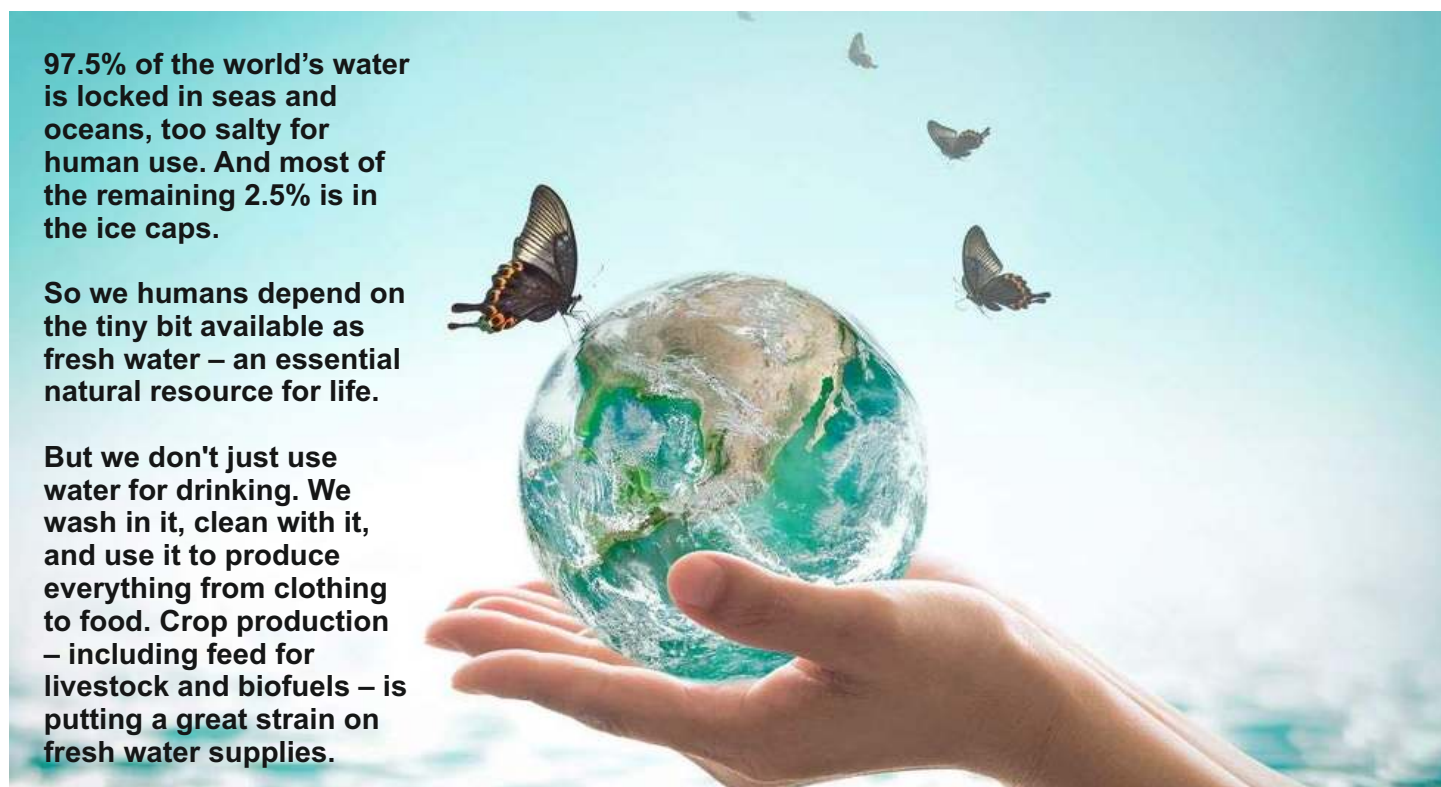
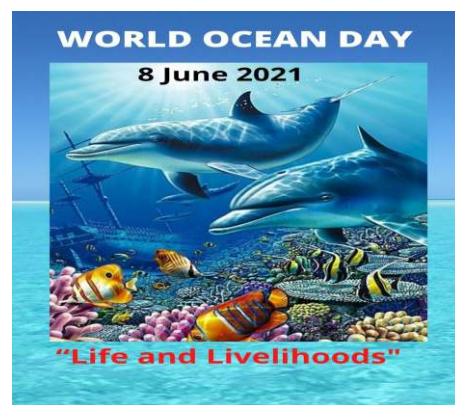
Covering more than 70% of World's surface, the Oceans are our planet's most extensive ecosystem. They are the lungs of

our planet, providing most of the oxygen we breathe. They are a major source of food and medicines. They play an important role in regulating the earth's climate. Although all of us, directly or indirectly, depend on the oceans, yet they are woefully under-protected.

The ocean is key to our economy, with an estimated 40 million people being employed by ocean-based industries by 2030. With the extinction of 90% of big fish population and 50% of coral reef destroyed, we are exploiting the ocean more than it can be replenished.

So, to protect and preserve the ocean and all it sustains, we must create a new balance, rooted in a true understanding of the ocean and how humanity relates to it. And building a connection to the ocean that is inclusive, innovative, and useful for the ocean and the life inside it.

Contributed By:
Dr. Vaishali Mishra
STE Editor



Pneumothorax-A Collapsed Lung

From The Editor's Desk...!

By: **Dr. Vaishali Mishra**
Editor, STE Newsletter

Clean air is something which can't be compromised. Almost ten Indian cities have been ranked on WHO's top lists for the highest levels of air pollution. Carbon particles, road dust, industrial waste, fossil fuel emissions, and pollutants/chemicals, these all contribute to air pollution. Allergies, heart diseases, stroke, lung cancer, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (**COPD**) can be caused by air pollution.

COPD is a chronic inflammatory lung disease that leads to obstruction of airflow from the lungs.

COPD may lead to several health complications such as pneumonia, chronic bronchitis, emphysema, heart diseases, acute exacerbations, high blood pressure in lung arteries and one of the least known disorders known as **Pneumothorax**.

Pneumothorax is a lung disorder characterised by an abnormal accumulation of air in the pleural space between the lung and the chest wall, resulting in a sudden onset of sharp, one-sided chest pain, shortness of breath, and the collapsing of lungs.

Pneumothorax are mainly of two types - Traumatic pneumothorax and non-traumatic pneumothorax. Traumatic pneumothorax happens due to trauma or injury to the chest or lung wall. Non-traumatic pneumothorax, which is also known as spontaneous pneumothorax, happens spontaneously. Spontaneous pneumothorax are two types: primary and secondary.

A **primary spontaneous pneumothorax** occurs when there is no significant lung disease, whereas a **secondary spontaneous pneumothorax** occurs when there is significant lung disease. Smoking, harmful gases, and chemicals increase the risk of primary spontaneous pneumothorax, whereas **COPD**, asthma, and tuberculosis are the leading causes of secondary pneumothorax.

The **symptoms** of the pneumothorax due to COPD condition are usually mild at the initial stage, but they become more severe as the condition progresses. Symptoms such as fatigue, weight loss, and leg swelling appear in the later stages of COPD. Difficulty in breathing is a major indicator of advanced COPD.

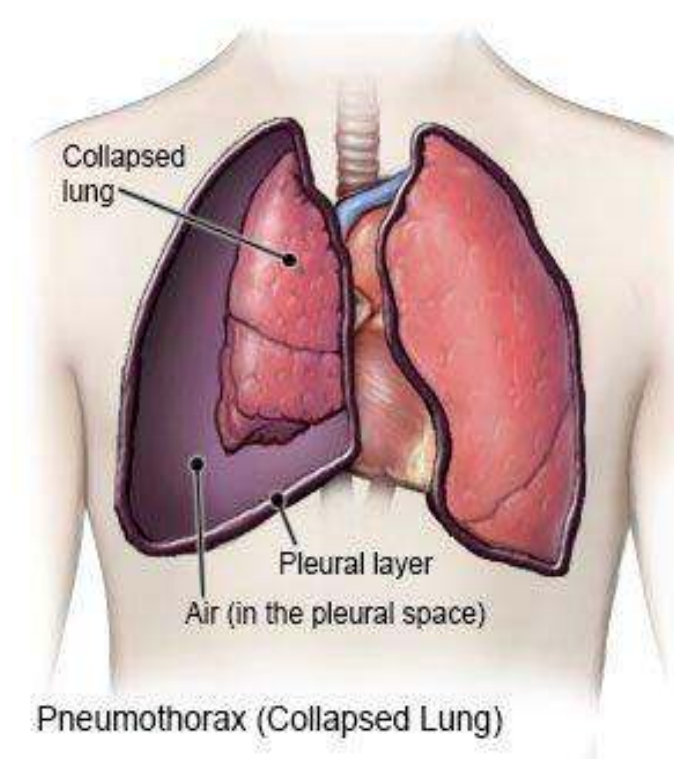
Pneumothorax has been observed in COVID-19 patients with SARS-CoV-2 (severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2) pneumonia and chronic pulmonary disease. Retrospective studies of COVID-19 patients found that pneumothorax occurred in 1% of those admitted to the hospital, 2% of those admitted to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), and 1% of those who died from the infection.

Although there is no cure for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, it can be managed with medication, oxygen therapy, and lifestyle changes.

Love your lungs.....

*We all are humans,
we all are intelligent,
We all have one or another quality,
we all can create something,
we all can take care of some or other things.
But, before we can do anything, we must all be healthy.
For this our lungs must be pink and healthy.*

Breathe in, Breathe out!!!!



(Source: Drugs.com)

Ecopharmacovigilance - Crucial Need of the Hour

By Ms. Angelina Eliza Titus

Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm. D) Student, Poona College of Pharmacy, Maharashtra, India

Introduction

Drugs have been a bonanza for the humanity in suppressing ailments, though not fully but to a prominent extent. Drug use in both human and veterinary population is increasing every day. Our home- Planet Earth is in peril. What is at risk of being destroyed is not the planet itself, but the conditions that have made it convivial for us, human beings. Pharmacovigilance is the science related to the collection, detection, assessment, monitoring and prevention of adverse effects with pharmaceutical products. Thus, to minimise harm to the patient as well as to ensure the safety and efficacy of drugs, pharmacovigilance is a prerequisite.

Similarly, Eco pharmacovigilance is the science and activities associated with the detection, evaluation, understanding and prevention of adverse effects of pharmaceuticals in the environment. Both Eco Pharmacovigilance (EPV) & Pharmacovigilance (PV) aim to monitor the adverse effects of pharmaceuticals on environment and patient. Eco pharma-covigilance is a newly discovered concept and is an emerging science. With the expanding research in fields of ecology and environment, many of the adverse effects on the environment have been rekindled. The haphazard use of pharmaceuticals and their improper disposal have disrupted the aquatic ecosystem thus causing various toxic effects on environment.

Toxic effects of Pharmaceuticals:

The first pharmaceutical substance detected in drinking water was Clofibrac acid, found by German researchers in Berlin. Contaminants detected in ground and surface water include pharmaceuticals, self-care products, steroid hormones, gasoline additives, industrial chemicals and surfactants. Pharmaceuticals contain active ingredient (crude drug) that were created to generate specific pharmacological effects in humans, but when dumped in water can affect the aquatic ecosystem, resulting in unwanted toxicological effects. There are no physicians or pharmacists to warn the fishes and

other creatures about the undesirable effects. The biggest challenge has been analysing signal detection in environment and identifying the cause and effect of the problem.

The routes through which pharmaceuticals enter water system include

- Direct release into waste water system from hospitals, manufacturing sites or disposal through toilet sinks
- Leaching from livestock and poultry manure is another route for direct entry of pharmaceuticals like hormones and antibiotics which are used as growth promoters in animals
- Excretion from a patient as parent compound or as metabolite via sewer system

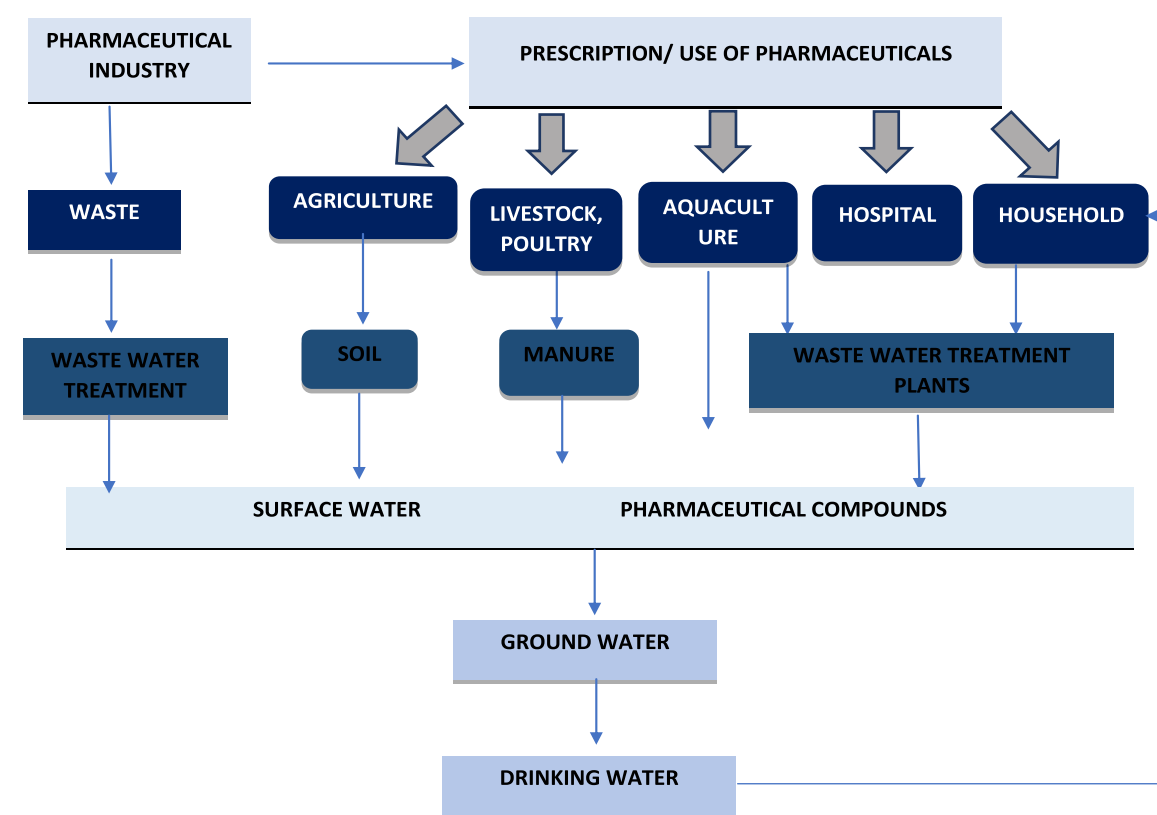
DIFFUSION AND DISPERSAL OF PHARMACEUTICALS IN ENVIRONMENT

The question arises as to whether or not the drug residues pose any significant risk to the marine life and what level of residue is acceptable.

Examples of drugs affecting aqua ecosystem:

- Diclofenac, a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug is a classic example indicating the adverse impact on non-target population in wild. This was studied during a veterinary application to treat fever and inflammation in livestock in South East Asia. Vultures tend to ingest diclofenac after feeding on the dead livestock. It was estimated that 10 to 40 million vultures were poisoned and were extremely sensitive to diclofenac as the exposure to the drug caused acute renal failure and abdominal gout. Thus, relationship between scale of population decline and acute impact of diclofenac was observed.
- Ethinyl oestradiol, a potent steroid was seen to affect sexual development of male fish.
- Drug residues from novel drug formulations like transdermal patches also leave sufficient amount of drug in environment
- Continual exposure to low dose of antimicrobial through drinking water can lead

DIFFUSION AND DISPERSAL OF PHARMACEUTICALS IN ENVIRONMENT



to antimicrobial resistance. The most affected group of patients include people with renal or hepatic impairment, pregnant women, paediatrics and geriatrics due to altered pharmacokinetics in them.

- Acetylsalicylic acid breakdowns rapidly in water. Lipid lowering drugs like the fibrate derivatives being water soluble and stable will pass through treatment plant more or less unchanged.
- Fluoroquinolones being fat soluble and stable will adsorb to sludge particles through sewage treatment process.
- Cocaine, carbamazepine, oral contraceptives and iodine contrast media are other examples affecting aqua ecosystem.

Drugs like atenolol, diazepam, furosemide have removal rate of 10-30% from water bodies.

Amoxicillin, ibuprofen, fluoroquinolones have removal rate of 30-60%. The drugs difficult to remove from water ecosystem are carbamazepine, erythromycin and estrone. Water containing these drug residues if supplied as drinking water, re-enter the body of humans causing fatal reactions.

Strategies to save our Planet Earth from the Ravages of Harmful Chemicals:

- Tracking environmental risk after launch of a new drug
- Further testing, analysis or monitoring when a risk is identified
- Better sewage treatment plants
- Implementing Green Pharmacy which aims at zero pharmaceutical waste in environment
- Developing biodegradable products
- Patient education on rational use of drugs



- Proposing targeted eco pharma-covigilance which focusses on the detection, evaluation, understanding and prevention of hazardous pharmaceuticals and controlling the pharmaceutical emission in high-risk areas

Conclusion

Drug use has become an inexorable part of our lives. The largest flow of drugs into the environment comes from people who undergo medical treatment. Utilizing eco-friendly, non-hazardous and efficient solvents and catalysts in synthesizing drug molecules or drug intermediates is an effective approach to minimise toxic contamination. Ecotoxicity assessment should be initiated for all new pharmaceutical products before being marketed or indicated for a particular use. In the background of increasing Indian pharmaceutical industry and drug consumption, India should harvest responsibility for its own environment and people along with world ecosystem. We must not compromise the health of ecosystem and wildlife. Every action has an equal and opposite reaction, thus every action we take has a probable consequence on the environment. Thus, it is vital that pharmaceutical products are regulated promptly due to their potential risk to ecosystem and wildlife. An Environmental Risk Assessment (ERA) is now a regulatory prerequisite prior to launch of any new drug. All sources of pollution must be actively monitored and regulated.

ROADMAP FOR THE NEXT STEP

Ms. Madhu Sharma

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As an aftermath of the times, we live in came the pragmatic decision of cancellation of Grade 12 examination. The decision was widely applauded and hailed by parents, students and schools alike. It came after lot of pondering and weighing of a range of options from reduced lengths of examination to having online exams and postponement of examination to July and August, even suggesting an option of deferment at a later

References:

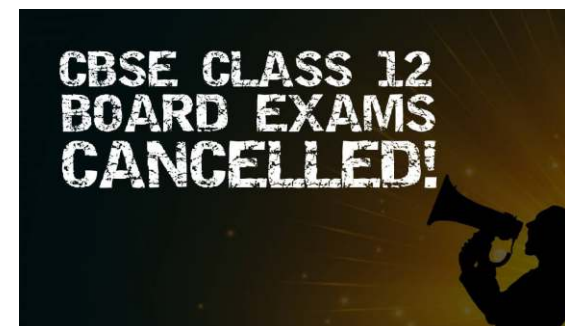
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- <https://www.longdom.org/proceedings/ecopharmacovigilance-and-its-impact-on-clinical-practice-15619.html>

stage. However, none can deny that the situation is extremely fluid and there are no guarantees. Can we compromise with the welfare and health of our students? Besides, there is the issue of deadlines facing college admissions internal and international. A rather muted criticism did come from the disappointed, meritorious students and others who vouched for the rather lenient, student-friendly outcomes from the external examinations.

There is lot of talk about criticism of one external examination deciding the fate of students, reforms and digital divide but the concern should be about redressal of immediate issues. These steps include tabulating results in a fair manner, preparation for the entrance examination and vaccination of students and teachers as frontline workers.



Assessments may include a comprehensive plan of internal, formative and summative assessments from grade 11th, along with inclusion of 10th external boards are some of the suggestions. Another issue is about the possible malpractices used in online tests and whether they are a true testament of students' skills and achievement. Notwithstanding these are the lack of relevant resources in government, less resourced private schools and the rural-urban divide.



It goes without saying that there is bound to be unfairness with schools giving higher marks to their students. While others may not have the testing tools and rubrics to pass an impartial verdict. Nevertheless, a comprehensive system of assessment with the projects, practical examinations,

THE CLOCK TURNS FULL CIRCLE

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The clock has turned full circle as we go back to where we were a little more than a year ago.

I hadn't heard the word pandemic before last year. It was unnerving to start with as we were caught in uncertainty. Most of us had never worn a mask before and we grappled with them, caught unawares.

From the initial fear of food shortage leading to hoarding stuff to getting more matured and using our discretionary powers we were lost to say the least. This was so to a lesser or greater extent a common feature and we all were glued to our TV screens trying to learn from the doctors and each other. We washed surfaces, vegetables and fruits like never before. An unknown fear gripped us as we kept buying antiseptics, disinfectants and built our immunity by using age old nuskas or recipes. We had ayurvedic kaarhasand multi-vitamins along with supplements. The Whats App university was rampant with forwards and even as we thought perhaps they knew better than us. Netflix reaped a rich harvest and online became the



extracurricular activities along with internal examinations, will be explored. Students henceforth perhaps will take attendance and ongoing school assessments a lot more seriously.

Besides online examinations, the need is to work on the logistics of conducting physical, entrance examinations across different colleges and universities. Nobody needs reminders about hygiene, sanitisation, social distancing and vaccination of staff and students alike. The task ahead is of mammoth

proportions with the lurking fear of the virus and disguised super spreaders with asymptomatic symptoms. For now, let us prepare a stringent and rigorous plan for the roadmap for the next step.

vogue leading to sale of laptops and webinars. Cousins and friends who were never on Facebook and whats app sought refuge there. They sent forwards and old aunts revelled in shared jokes and the wonders of technology. Everyone had some remedy and even as there were jokes about the self-proclaimed experts, we continued to believe them and abstained from going out. Soon Covid fatigue gripped as we wanted our life back. We had had enough!

Like others in my profession I took to online teaching. Mind you! it was not a cake walk and after initial struggle managed to pull it off in zoom, google meet and teams. Suddenly doors opened and realized the immense reach of the internet. It was a fascinating world of wide reach as I met students from other metropolitan cities and other countries. Truly amazing as I tried to meet the diverse needs of students from primary to secondary to those preparing for CA and then to multinational companies. The lockdown let to building a diverse curriculum for diverse needs and channelizing of creativity and experience gathered over decades. There was a division of labour at home in the absence of the domestic help and though far from perfect or smooth, life taught us how to appreciate labour. And more than that to invest in each other and to find ways to entertain ourselves with board or card games. We played not to lose and to get that feather in our caps the mantle of which was

forever on shaky ground but we fought vociferously, nevertheless.

All the things we held dear were suddenly not so relevant as we didn't need shopping or fancy clothes. We were happy with fewer things and realized how minimalism can make life easier. Why did we accumulate so much of clutter?

When the year was about to end we felt relieved thinking that the worst would be over soon and we could turn our backs to an aberration. We put our guard down as life was moving to normalcy with electioneering and celebrations and most of all our hunt for the intriguing vaccine was over. As we all know now that 2021 with its variant mutant came with a far

Corona Second Wave

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In 2020, a shared woe isolated each of us from each other. The covid -19 pandemic wrecked lives and livelihoods across the globe. The crisis also forced us to see beyond our differences and realize the importance of others in our lives. In the second wave, India's situation was dire, the shortages

were crippling, the numbers devastating, our country being world's epicentre of this deadly virus. How did we end up here? How did the pandemic in India get out of control? Did systemic lapses cause the crisis or do we blame the unpredictability of this virus?

B.1.617, a variant of Covid 19 with two mutations was first acknowledged by India's health ministry in March 2021. It was not immediately known whether the variant was more resistant to vaccines or it had the ability to spread faster. By April, the variant was believed to have already spread to countries such as Australia, New Zealand, the US, UK, and Germany. While testing numbers remained fairly constant, the number of people testing positive more than double in the second wave.

By mid-April, more than 2 lakh new cases were cropping up daily, which was two times the previous peak in September 2020. It was still uncertain whether this was because the



more lethal and contagious virus. The reverie was not to be and the clock turned a full circle back to where we were. We remain still confused, baffled, fearful and even more perplexed as our life halts and partial lockdowns are imposed.

The return to normalcy will have to wait as we turn back the clock. Again, we stay glued to the TV trying to find answers from medical experts. Once again, we seek refuge in prayers as we realize how vulnerable we are. Yet again we dig deep into optimism and feel positivity as we can't let a virus win over us. We strive to seek answers as we know we will find them.

virus was more infectious or people had stopped physically distancing or wearing masks. The proportion of deaths from Covid was initially lower in the second wave down from one thousand two hundred cases per day in 2020 to eight hundred cases per day on 12 April 2021, A few days later India suffered a sharp rise in deaths. some experts said this may be due to a rise in infection numbers, or due to more of those infected needing oxygen, or due to medical infrastructure reaching breaking point.

In the meantime, India was all set to kick off its second phase of vaccination which started on March 1, 2021, for senior citizens above 60 years of age and for those above 45 years with comorbidities. It began the drive in January, 2021. Well, it seemed quite promising as the standalone numbers were very good as India was vaccinating a lot of people, but if we look at the big picture, India had then not been able to cover even 10 percent of its population. We know that India has a huge population which is

why India's vaccination drive should have been much more aggressive taking into consideration the vaccines ability to bring down the caseload and reduce the risk of hospitalization and death.

To sum up, India is as much a victim of lapses as an unpredictable deadly virus. And unfortunately, hindsight can only give us lesson for the future and not undo the death and devastation of the past.

Deforestation and its effects

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Deforestation refers to the decrease in forest areas across the world that are lost for other uses such as agricultural croplands, urbanization, or mining activities. Greatly accelerated by human activities since 1960, deforestation has been negatively affecting natural ecosystems, biodiversity, and the climate.

Multiple factors, either of human or natural origin, cause deforestation. Natural factors include natural forest fires can result in deforestation. Nevertheless, human activities are among the main causes of global deforestation.

According to the FAO, agriculture causes around 80% of deforestation. According to the same report, 33% of agriculture-caused deforestation is a consequence of subsistence agriculture – such as local peasant agriculture in developing countries.

The construction of human infrastructures has also been driving deforestation. More specifically, 10% of deforestation can be attributed to new infrastructures that serve the current human lifestyle in four main ways: transportation, transformation and energy generation.

The population shift that is leading people to move from rural areas to urban areas is also contributing to deforestation. This urban growth – in which 68% of the world's population is expected to live in cities by 2050 – is leading to an exponential growth of housing and

consumption sites. As cities become larger so they can host more people, they challenge the natural boundaries surrounding them, often leading to deforestation

From mammals to birds, insects, amphibians or plants, the forest is home to many rare and fragile species.

80% of the Earth's land animals and plants live in forests.

We need trees for a variety of reasons, not least of which is that they absorb not only the carbon dioxide that we exhale, but also the heat-trapping greenhouse gases that human activities emit. Deforestation and forest degradation are responsible for around 15% of all greenhouse gas emissions. Trees play a key role in the local water cycle by helping to keep a balance between the water on land and water in the atmosphere. However, when deforestation or degradation occurs, that balance can be thrown off, resulting in changes



in precipitation and river flow. Without trees to anchor fertile soil, erosion can occur and sweep the land into rivers.

The agricultural plants that often replace the trees cannot hold onto the soil.

1.25 billion people around the world rely on forests for shelter, livelihoods, water, fuel, and food security.

To prevent deforestation one should start planting trees. When work can be done easily in soft copy we should avoid printing and using papers. Recycle paper and cardboard and use the recycled things. It is because one ton of paper put to recycle prevents the cutting of 17 trees. These 17 trees then sequester around 250 pounds of carbon dioxide from the air every single year. Encourage people to live in a way that doesn't hurt the environment let them know about how trees are being destroyed at an alarming rate and what steps we need to take to minimize it.

कहानी एक..... भारत के वन पुरुष की..... (द फॉरेस्ट मैन ऑफ इंडिया)

जीवित रहने के लिए हमें साँस लेने की जरूरत होती है जो हमें वायु द्वारा ऑक्सीजन से मिलती है। अभी हाल ही में कोरोना की दूसरी लहर आने पर ऑक्सीजन की कमी से देश की राजधानी दिल्ली व अन्य शहरों में जो हाहाकार मचा, उसे आप सबने देखा और पढ़ा ही होगा। ऐसा दृश्य संसार के किसी भी देश में देखने को नहीं मिला। दुनिया के कई हिस्सों में लोग संक्रमित हुए, अत्यधिक मृत्यु हुई पर कहीं भी अस्पतालों में ऑक्सीजन की कमी नहीं दिखाई पड़ी। प्राणवायु के अभाव ने हमारी सरकारों की नाकामी और प्रशासनिक व्यवस्था की पूरी पोल खोल कर रख दी। आप सब यह तो जानते ही हैं कि पेड़ों से हमें आक्सीजन मिलता है और वह हमारे कार्बन- डाईऑक्साइड को अपनी ऊर्जा बना लेते हैं। पेड़ हमें जीवन दान देते हैं इसीलिए पेड़ हमारे पर्यावरण के लिए बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण हैं।

यह कहानी उस जंगल के आदमी की है जिसने अकेले ही जी तोड़ मेहनत करके असंभव कार्य को संभव बनाया, ऐसा कार्य किसी दैवीय शक्ति के करिश्मे जैसा ही है। एक बार सन् 1979 में हमारे देश के हरे-भरे, समृद्ध पूर्वोत्तर राज्य असम की बड़ी नदी ब्रह्मपुत्र में भयंकर बाढ़ आई। जिसने पूरे राज्य के हर क्षेत्र को बुरी तरह से प्रभावित किया। चारों ओर कीचड़ ही कीचड़ हो गया। इसी समय एक 16 वर्षीय आदिवासी बालक अपने घर से बाहर निकला और अपने चारों ओर का नजारा देखकर हैरान रह गया। वहाँ अनेकों जानवर और हजारों की संख्या में साँप मरे पड़े थे, उसे समझ में नहीं आया कि ऐसा क्यों हुआ है? वह भाग कर गाँव वालों के पास गया और जो कुछ उसने अपनी आँखों से देखा था उसका कारण पूछा, तो गाँव वालों ने उसको बताया कि यह रेतीली बंजर जमीन है और यहाँ पर पेड़ - पौधे न होने के कारण ऐसा हुआ है। बाढ़ के पानी में वे सब जानवर और साँप बहकर मर गए। यह बात सुनकर उस लड़के को बहुत दुःख हुआ और उसने सोचा कि इस धरती पर अगर ऐसा होगा तो हम सब भी जल्दी ही मर जाएँगे। लोगों ने उसकी बात का मजाक उड़ाया, लेकिन उसके दिमाग में यह बात चलती रही और उसने पूछा कि इससे बचने का क्या उपाय है? तो गाँव वालों ने बताया कि अगर यहाँ पर बाँस के पेड़ लगाए जाएं तो

कुछ फायदा हो सकता है। उस जमीन पर पेड़ - पौधे लगाने के लिए उसने उन लोगों से मदद माँगी लेकिन उसे किसी ने सहायता नहीं की। वन - विभाग के अधिकारियों के पास भी वह गया वहाँ से भी उसे निराशा ही हाथ लगी, पर उन्होंने उसे बाँस के पेड़ लगाने की सलाह जरूर दी।

तब उसने उस जमीन को अकेले ही हरा-भरा बनाने की ठान ली। उसने सबसे पहले बाँस के बीस पेड़ लगाकर इस काम की शुरुआत की और तीस पौधे फलों के लगाए। वह उन्हें जीवित रखने के लिए बहुत मेहनत करता रहा। रोज वह गाँव से पानी लाकर उन्हें देता, उनकी देख-रेख करता था। यह सिलसिला इस तरह चलता रहा। यहाँ तक कि लाल चींटियाँ लाकर उसने जमीन पर डालीं कि वह उसे उपजाऊ बनाएँ। हर पेड़ के साथ छेद करके एक घड़ा बांध दिया जिससे पेड़ों को लगातार पानी मिलता रहे। अपने अथक प्रयास, कड़ी मेहनत और आत्मविश्वास के बल पर 30-35 वर्षों तक लगातार पौधे रोप कर उस व्यक्ति ने मौजूली द्वीप पर 1360 एकड़ का घना जंगल विकसित कर दिया। जो न्यूयॉर्क शहर के बीच बने सेंट्रल पार्क से बड़ा है। उस व्यक्ति को आज हम सब "जादव मोलई पायेंग" के नाम से जानते हैं। जो असम के जोरहाट जिले में रहने वाली मिशिंग जनजाति से ताल्लुक रखते हैं। 'मोलई' का अर्थ होता है जंगल या वन, यह अद्भुत कार्य करने के कारण ही उन्हें यह उपाधि दी गई। उनके इस जंगल को लगाने के कारण अब वहाँ बंगाल टाइगर, हिरन, भालू और यहाँ तक की एक सींग वाले



गंडे (जो विलुप्त होने की कगार पर हैं) वह भी आने लगे। अनेकों लंगूर, बंदर, गिद्ध सब उन पेड़ों पर जंगल में रहते हैं। भारतवर्ष में पक्षियों की अस्सी प्रतिशत प्रजातियाँ मोलई के इसी जंगल में मिलती हैं। अपने आप में उनका यह महान कार्य हमारे पर्यावरण के प्रति प्रेम और संरक्षण की भावना को प्रदर्शित करता है।

जादव मोलईपायेंग यह नेक कार्य करते रहे और इस बात की किसी को कानों-कान खबर न थी। केवल सन् 2009 में कलकत्ता से 'जीतू कलीथा' नाम के एक फोटोग्राफर उस क्षेत्र में आए और उन्होंने देखा कि ब्रह्मपुत्र नदी के किनारे रेतीली जमीन पर एक हरा-भरा जंगल लहरा रहा है। वह वहाँ जाकर जादव मोलई पायेंग से मिले और उनके बारे में एक स्थानीय समाचार पत्र में विस्तार से लिखा। उनकी इस उपलब्धि को जानकर सन् 1992 में दिल्ली के जवाहर-लाल नेहरू विश्वविद्यालय ने उन्हें आमंत्रित करके उन्हें वन पुरुष या फॉरेस्ट मैन ऑफ इंडिया की उपाधि से सम्मानित

स्वच्छ पर्यावरण सुरक्षित हम

मोनिका रानी व्यास

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1. भूमिका:

मनुष्य एक सामाजिक प्राणी है। समाज के बिना किसी भी मनुष्य के अस्तित्व की कल्पना भी नहीं की जा सकती। मनुष्य जिस समाज में रहता है। उसके चारों ओर एक ऐसा वातावरण होता है जिसमें वह साँस लेता है और यही मनुष्य के आस-पास का वातावरण पर्यावरण कहलाता है। यदि मनुष्य शुद्ध एवं स्वच्छ पर्यावरण में जीवन यापन करेगा तो निश्चित ही उसका जीवन स्वच्छ एवं सुरक्षित होगा।

2. पर्यावरण संबंधी जानकारी के माध्यम:

पर्यावरण के बारे में जानकारी प्राप्त करने के लिए परिवार, समूह, समाज, संगठन आदि के माध्यम से कोई भी मनुष्य आवश्यक जानकारी प्राप्त कर सकता है। यदि परिवार में मान लीजिए यदि परिवार का मुखिया या कोई बुजुर्ग व्यक्ति अपने घर में पेड़ लगाकर उसकी देखभाल करता है तो उस परिवार के सभी सदस्य उस पेड़ की उपयोगिता तथा उस पेड़ के पर्यावरण पर जो सकारात्मक प्रभाव पड़ते हैं उसके, बारे में मनुष्य आवश्यक जानकारी प्राप्त करते हैं। इसके अतिरिक्त किसी समाचार-पत्र, पत्रिका, टेलीविजन पर प्रसारित पर्यावरण संबंधी जानकारी प्राप्त कर सकते हैं।

किया। उसी साल राष्ट्रपति श्री अब्दुल कलाम जी ने उन्हें ढाई लाख रुपये की वित्तीय सहायता भी दी। सन् 2015 में तत्कालीन राष्ट्रपति महामहिम श्री प्रणव मुखर्जी ने भारतवर्ष के उच्च सम्मान 'पद्मश्री' से भी उन्हें नवाजा। पर्यावरण की पढ़ाई के लिए आज अमरीका के कई स्कूलों में 'जादव मोलई पायेंग' की इस कहानी को पढ़ाया जाता है।

मेरा यह लेख जून महीने में 'विश्व पर्यावरण दिवस' के अवसर पर इस संस्करण में 'जादव मोलई पायेंग' को समर्पित है। उनका यह कार्य हम सभी देशवासियों के लिए प्रेरणा का स्रोत है और एक उदाहरण स्वरूप है।

आभार: यू टुयूब एवं अन्तर्जाल

तृप्ति श्रीवास्तव

संपादिका (हिंदी) एसटीए-न्यूजलैटर

3. पर्यावरण दूषित बनाने वाले बिंदु:

पर्यावरण को दूषित बनाने वाले बिंदु निम्नलिखित हैं।

- (1) पेड़ों का कटाव पर्यावरण को दूषित बनाता है।
- (2) कारखाने से निकलने वाला धुंआ भी पर्यावरण को दूषित बनाता है।
- (3) पोलिथीन का प्रयोग भी पर्यावरण को दूषित बनाता है।
- (4) स्वयं के जन्म दिन पर 8 पेड़ लगाने का संकल्प लें।



4. स्वच्छ पर्यावरण हेतु मुख्य बिंदु:

स्वच्छ पर्यावरण बनाने हेतु मुख्य बिंदु निम्नलिखित हैं।

- (1) अधिक से अधिक पेड़ लगाए।
- (2) पेड़ों की देखभाल भी करें।
- (3) पोलिथीन के स्थान पर जूट के बने थैलों का प्रयोग करें।
- (4) स्वयं के जन्म दिन पर 8 पेड़ लगाने का संकल्प लें।



5. पर्यावरण के प्रति नैतिक दायित्वः

पर्यावरण के प्रति मनुष्य का यह नैतिक दायित्व बनता है कि वह स्वयं भी पेड़ लगाए तथा आस-पास के समाज के लोगों को भी पर्यावरण के बारे में जानकारी प्रदान कर पेड़ लगाने के लिए उन्हें प्रेरित करें ताकि स्वच्छ पर्यावरण का निर्माण हो सके।

जय हिन्द जय भारत

That Saddest Death Ever
Madiha Khan

The Heritage School, Kolkata
Class 12



Oh stalkers of precious time!
As the clock stands by you,
marking minutes of life
As you enjoin peaks of ambitions
Embedded in cemeteries of success
Darkness shines through looming roofs
Fraught silence crashing down in churning waves
Breaking frothing barriers, permeating every way
The incessant plethora of unimaginable dreams
Labouring production shored against seas of rejections
Slithering ambitions burning in shade
As hope perishes away
Our planet weeps bitterly
Weeping in the work time of others
Weeping in the country of free
The diseased mosaic of days blackens
Blackens with my beloved country
Enmeshed in pixelated shadows of the Bengal lore
Lies an encryption of shattered bones and silent screams
We'll all stand homeless, away from ease

Then how do we not see moments pass by?
Why do we not see our fading existence die?

Oh bearers of superfluous fortune!
As your markets roar with rage
As stuffy stalls selling kurtis¹, chudis² and sarees³ come to life
Tattered tarmacs and wagons selling vegetables and fruits
Pushed at the teetering edge of prospective fortune
Vendors competing with each other for concoctions of sustenance
Screaming prices like auctioneers
Attracting customers like a bee to nectar
Swatting jhadoo⁴ on dancing flies
Bickering loudly with frustrated housewives
Wedge in minute gaps
Breathing the stale air ruled by the rancid stink
Of smelly armpits and nearby gutters
Sweat trickling down their necks and above their eyebrows
They lean wearily against deep blue tarmacs
Cursing the mutating weather; a foreboding omen
What elation do you feel
To seek out obscure objects for your bile?

Oh lovers of idle provocations!
As exhaustion seeps through every pore
As damp smelly shirts stick to clammy skin
Like a clingy mistress in the night
As the sun roasts you with crackling menace
Forlorn souls in an abyss of despair
Lay in the dust, in the deathly heat
With maddening lethargy, they stagger to their feet
Big brown eyes mirroring treacherous fate
Chapped lips, voice crying for alms, a luxury to them
Spreading their feeble hands, trembling with hope
Eyes weeping tales of struggles
A dream with no sleep
And a reality agonizingly deep
What desires do you have
To make this world a safer abode?

Oh followers of blissful ignorance!
Kolkata is always flooded
Not with water, but with buildings
Not with trees, but with people
Down the roads, the continuous tinkle of trams
And bony, brown bodies pulling rickshaws plague
Yellow taxis, buses and cars alike
Packed like sardines on dark roads
People pushing by in shouts and shrieks
As the heat pours down on them in a furnace of pandemonium
Tall red buildings, blue windows
Looming skyscrapers over fluttering billboards
ACs humming, a symphony without flaw
On heavy bodies and bursting headaches
Which fades to a dull throb, dissipating like a fog off a terrible lake
How many of you are still in denial
Of the terrible truth that the world is ending?
Oh dancers to the symphony of deadly fate!
Swaying amidst honks and chaos of emotions
Worshipping hospitals filled up with life, death unfair
People drawn into vortex of strange anticipation
A stubborn optimism paralyzed in pools of adversity
As doctors diagnose all kinds of maladies-
heatstroke, cardiac arrest and what not
Engulfed by the demons of the bankruptcy
They plead to one bank and another
Joy long deserted their hearts, the infinite oblivion shattering like glass
And they sway to tuneless fate
Swimming in placid emerald waters
Into lurking dangers hiding in lonely corners
A staccato rhythm of lasting torment
What enjoyment do you derive
Performing the arabesque of lived experiences?

Oh dictators toiling for pathless authority!
As the glare of electricity flickers out,
Plunging rooms into darkness, a dreaded companion
Making the air saturated with perspiration
Restlessness denying sleep of any kind
The oppressive heat an ordeal
A pink red bloom of people's madness

While the nonchalant snores, groaning and whistling
The cacophony drowning nature's wail, while her heart fills with grief
Knowing the impending bludgeoning of circumstances
A stranger who has loved despite being unloved
A mother who long nourished despite being malnourished
A beauty once cherished, but now being ravished
Why do you race through the chasms between dominance and morality?
Mad lust for power, not a vestige of concern
Though conscious of wrath and tears
That will hail on all unfortunate, a great testament to your resilience?

Oh hapless victims of disasters!
While power corrupts strong willed of men
While politicians rave to myopic fans
Of many a synthetic vow to reform social flaws
Children labour in futile attempts, entangled in a web of academic brilliance
Swept away by pitiless waves of ruthless intentions
Burnt to ashes by embers of ambitions
Clinging together in fierce desire
While crops wither in paling doom
Mounting prices, disputing vices
Hollowed-out citizens in aggravating crises
A field of corpses engulfed by death, golden seas an echo from past
Boundless feed morphed into baleful gloom
Playing havoc in people's life, lacing it with rusted woe
A massacre of sinless lives engulfed by starving death
Unlucky reapers offering fatal sacrifices
Of treasured lives neglected
Why do they invite beloved death
To play and gamble away dear breath?

Oh citizens of gifted realms!
I write this poem with my soul bared
In fear for what remains in store
For beyond the fleeting tranquility of my safe abode

A deadly melange of clashing elements devours
lands at bay
The pride of Bengal falls
As the dwindling thread of hope snaps
The beautiful forest with towering green, grasps
at fertility lost
As its inhabitants battle to breathe through
stinking poverty
In creaking boats and plundering erosion
In erratic rains and thundering explosions
As wildlife clashes with aggressive demeanour
The royal striped predator hungers for
innocence
All the while clambering for existence
Gone are domains of safe inhabitations
Gone are the prosperous way of life
How will we ever survive
With mother nature's survival deprived?

Oh sufferers of a painful doom!
The mighty trees writhe and quiver in fear
Livid wild winds slapping, piercing each soul
Destroying huts and carrying away livelihood
Over the mourning screams of prayer
The angry waters of the cruel sea fill its appetite
of demolition
The land struggles for a sliver of hope, begging
not to be sent away
Away to its watery grave, away from its
unbroken glory
Children hide their eyes and weep
Looking with their hollow sunken faces
As nature's rage upon the forest falls
The waves dance and the winds laugh, in glee
and in sheer satisfaction
Death arrives solemnly to carry imminent
funeral rites
Why do they still yearn to live a life in a
haunted place
Tormented?

Oh witnesses of malevolent death!
Eyes glassy with fierce tears, heart aching with
irretrievable loss

Stomach rejecting all kinds of vital subsistence
As people deprived of food and water shiver
While the sea stands tall, proud, unbent
Heated rejoicing against ruins of endeavors
Conquered swamps desolate of life, a stark
contrast
To the hungry tides, content and cold
People broken with nothing to gain
Their only hope's a confusing labyrinth of new
beginnings
Away on stranger lands, away from cherished
memories
What had they done to lose everything when
they did nothing?

Oh bystanders by gaping graves!
One day you will love her
One day you will crave her
One day you will beg for her mercy
But she'll rise, rise with vengeance in eyes
Banishing us all away from usurping glory
Banishing us towards cold coffins in fiery hell
Where do you think then you'll flee?
Given the fact there is no planet B
For now she might be blazing blind
Fraying bonds with dispassionate dwindling
sheen
She wronged you not but you wronged
yourselves
Black crushed velvet of wiped existence
Is that your chosen fate in meek acceptance?
Is this the threshold where you sit and mourn?
How can you people find nothing to do?
Nothing to do to save your prized from doom!
Drifting in the infinitude of black void of space
Corpses lain cold, glazed eyes accursed
Is this your wish to suffer, that saddest death
ever?

¹kurtis: a type of a loose collarless shirt worn by many women in India

²chudis: Bangles

³sarees: a woman's garment worn in India especially Bengal

⁴jhadoos:broomst

OBITUARY



Save The Environment (STE) pays tribute to Dr. Sanjay Bajpai (February 1965-May 2021), Head, Technology Missions Division (Energy,

Water & all Other), Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, who was passionately committed towards the application of Science, Technology, and Innovation for socio-economic progress. The nation has lost an experienced technocrat with a demonstrated history of designing and managing creative national, and international research and development programmes. He displayed an exemplary commitment towards facilitating the creation of an eco-system for accelerated research, technology and innovation for clean and affordable water and energy in India by working, for months, from a hospital bed while negotiating all the pains and stresses of battling an organ rejection.

STE proffers its sincere prayers for the departed soul of Dr. Bajpai.



Mr. Mahidhara Davangere, Founder and Managing Director of Pramatha Analytics Pvt. Ltd- an Actuarial Risk Management and Consulting firm with Headquarters in Bengaluru, India left

for his heavenly abode after a long battle with Covid-19 on 15th May 2021. Notably, he was the First Indian to be elected as a Council Member of the 160-year-old International Body - Institute & Faculty of Actuaries (IFoA) in UK.

Mr. Mahidhara was also the Chairman, Working Group on Wider Areas of Actuarial Science, Institute of Actuaries of India, Secretary of Advisory Group for Data Science and Deputy Chair of IFoA Finance & Investment Board. He had 16 years of experience in Research and Financial Valuation covering industries like Banking, Insurance and financial sectors in India, South Africa and other emerging African Markets. He had noteworthy expertise in commercializing innovative ideas to practical realities. He was an eloquent speaker and was passionate about Mathematics and Art.

Save The Environment (STE) pays tribute to a very young and dynamic member of STE, Mr. Mahidhara Davangere whose remarkable contribution for environment shall be immensely remembered.

From the Editor's Desk

Dear Readers

I would like to welcome you to the 2nd issue of 4th Volume of **PRAKRITI SANRAKSHAN** quarterly newsletter of STE.

April-June issue highlights the celebration of World Environment day on 5 June 2021, Fortnightly Lecture Series on "Creativity and Innovation" and Community Outreach Program – A Free Ration Camp in Faridpur Village, Durgapur, Distt. Burdwan, West Bengal on June 20, 2021. This issue also contains articles and poems based on environmental issues. The important environment days observed from the month of April to June have been also included in this issue.

I express my sincere thanks to all the people who have contributed informative and inspirational articles to make this newsletter successful. I would like to express my profound gratitude to the President of STE Dr Kshipra Misra, the editorial team and Mr. Gian Kashyap for designing this issue of **PRAKRITI SANRAKSHAN** and giving it the desirable shape.

Dr. Vaishali Mishra
Editor STE

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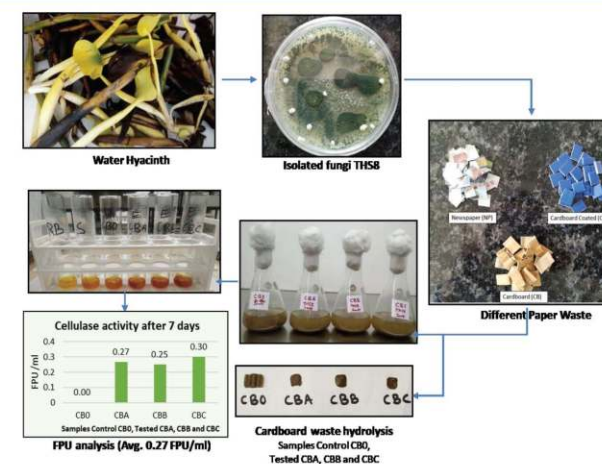
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