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American Center, New Delhi

CEE
Centre for Environment Education



Introduction

The South Asia Youth Environment Conclave is sponsored by the US Department of State's American Center in Delhi, India.

The Conclave is presented by Earth Day Network, India, in collaboration with the Centre for Environment Education and the South Asia Youth Environment Network, India.

The aim of the Conclave is to showcase best examples of environmental campaigns and programs conducted by the youth of India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

In addition, the Conclave aims at helping build bridges of friendship between youth from different parts of India, and of countries bordering India, so that a momentum for them to do their bit for the environment continues to grow.

Approximately 70 college/university students, each recognized as Stewards for the Environment, are participating in the Conclave. Each of them has been selected from among the hundreds of applications received.

While all of them have done considerable work, the following notes highlight just a few of the key efforts of each.

We hope that the students will use the platform of the Conclave for more detailed interactions.

Good Luck with continuing with your remarkable work.

AZM Arman Habib
South Asian University
New Delhi



Arman, from Bangladesh, studies in Delhi. All his holiday time he spends on campaigns to protect the rich biodiversity of his country. He has researched to identify the country's biodiversity status and the major policies and legislations that support the conservation of biodiversity. He has also analyzed how effectively the recommendations of the UN Convention on Biodiversity are implemented in the country. In addition, he also works to identify the impact of human-induced climate change on fragile ecological systems. To support these efforts Arman has developed innovative strategies to encourage students to help in the conservation of biological diversity.

Aadil Ahmad Bhat
Sri Pratab's College
Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir



Over the last couple of months, Aadil organized 30 awareness camps in his state. The areas he worked in included Pampore, known for the cultivation of saffron, Dachigam National Park, and Srinagar, where his college is located. While the major focus of his work is to build awareness about the importance of conserving flora and fauna, he is also proud of the success he achieved in the banning of polythene use in these areas. Ask Aadil about his favorite event, and he says 'organizing Global Tiger Day at my college.' 'It was the first time that this event was organized in the state.' 'Aadil is also working with the Wildlife Conservation Fund to save the endangered *Hangu* (Kashimiri stag).

Abhishek Kumar
Jaipur Engineering College
Jaipur, Rajasthan



Abhishek is part of 'Filth Free India', an NGO that meets regularly to clean up *Kukas* (neighbourhoods). The NGO is inspired by the 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.' 'Our target', Abhishek says, 'is to clean Jaipur. We have begun by placing 50 permanent dustbins in an industrial area. We ask people to use dustbins instead of haphazardly throwing things around, to clean their own courtyards at the very least, and to consider bags made from natural products instead of plastic.' The management of his college has helped them with their efforts. The NGO has been the recipient of awards that recognize their efforts for a cleaner India.

Adityaraj Srivastava
Awadh Bhagwan Ram Mahavidyalaya
Sasaram, Bihar



Adityaraj's major drive is against the use of chemical fertilizers that are turning agricultural land unproductive. His group, 'Young Farmers for Sustainable Agriculture' aims to reach out to over 300 farmers to help them understand that there are excellent alternatives to chemicals. 'My team has already convinced 50 farmers whom we met for the first time, and an equal number of farmers who we had spoken to earlier (but who were undecided) about the benefits of a switch to composting. We are so happy to see the current paddy crop sprinkled with natural fertilizers that we helped develop with assistance from agricultural scientists at Patna. The results are fantastic. 'The soil is not ruined, and at the same time, productivity remains high', he says.

Advaita Parashar
Janki Devi Memorial College
New Delhi



Advaita reaches out to women in her residential complex and asks them to donate old cloth for recycling. Tailors turn these discarded items into useful grocery bags. With the help of classmates, Advaita distributes the cloth bags to people in localities of Rajendra Nagar and Amrit Kaur Puri Tank Road. Advaita's green campaign is successful in making people understand the concept of recycling. Just as importantly, it helps keep waste material from overloading landfills. The campaign also provides people a handy alternative to plastic bags. Advaita says that the ladies who use these bags tell her how delighted they are to use such beautifully designed, fashionable bags.

Aish Lohiya
Jai Narain Vyas University
Jodhpur, Rajasthan



Aish's dream for Green Cities in India is planting saplings inside road dividers and entrusting the responsibility of each plant to those who live nearby. He says 'this model can be easily adopted in any city of India. Trees can be planted instead of railings and will save a lot of government money. Schools, hospitals and corporate bodies can take responsibility for greening urban spaces around them and maintaining these. This makes neighborhoods not only more pleasant but cooler and healthier' Aish advises.

Akash Lalwani
Raja Balwant Singh College
Agra, Uttar Pradesh



Akash works to protect avian species. On World Sparrow Day, he begun a movement to switch off mobile phones for at least an hour in a bid to reduce the radiation from mobile towers that often have a harmful affect on birds that perch themselves on these. He has also conducted programs to commemorate Global Tiger Day. Akash volunteers with the state forest department in its campaigns against snake catchers. Earlier this month, Akash actively worked for an eco-friendly Ganesh festival.

Ananya Naidu
IAM - Institute of Hotel Management
Margao, Goa



Ananya is a strong believer in the efficacy of plants and that is why all her gifts to teachers and friends are green gifts – pots of plants. To benefit the general public as well, Ananya plants Soursop (*Annona muricata*) in parks as well as in her institute's campus. 'Soursop has exceptional medicinal properties, in particular as a deterrent to cancer' she says. So that more people are aware of these beneficial properties, Ananya has created colorful posters that describe the plants and their benefits. The material also has contact information telling you where the the plants can be procured. Many students help with outreach . She teaches them about the importance of caring for the environment and taking hands-on action such as planting trees and flowers.

Ang Dawa Sherpa
School of Environmental Management and Science
Kathmandu, Nepal



Ang Dawa is working on a drip irrigation system for urban areas. He sees this as a way to green cities, and reduce water demand in cities. He says 'the greenery resulting from the use of drip irrigation will trap moisture and will counter-balance the dry season that is exacerbated by black-topped, radiation trapping roads.' 'The carbon footprint of water-supplying trucks also gets reduced' he says. Ang Dawa has chalked out an excellent plan that includes on-the-ground inspections and coordination with key stakeholders.

1. Ankit Raj

Catalyst Institute of Management & Advance Global Excellence
Patna, Bihar



Ankit thinks that a more efficient disposal of our day-to-day waste through segregation and composting is much needed. He proposes one by which treated waste provides useful byproducts: compost from decomposable parts that can help grow organic produce and the production of items for sale from non-decomposable ones. The added advantage of recycling, as Ankit rightly points out, is that we reduce what goes into landfills. Ankit is convinced the strategies he suggests can self finance the initiatives suggested. To generate greater awareness of these advantages, Ankit has put together pamphlets for distribution.

Aparna
Janki Devi Memorial College
New Delhi



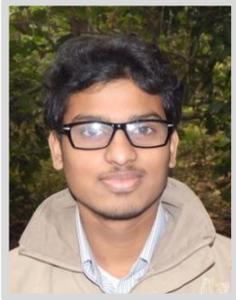
Aparna is a student of Sociology. She runs a campaign in the local vegetable market to reduce the use of plastic bags, and instead, use environment-friendly cloth ones. Aparna believes that poly-bags are the major cause of environmental degradation in cities. She reaches out to housewives in her residential complex and to others in different Delhi localities through friends and classmates. Aparna has observed that the use of cloth bags has certainly caught on. 'The next step now is to design more fashionable cloth bags' she says, and so is busy with rallying her friends to design these. Aparna is excited about the fact that several orders have already come in.

Ashutosh Choudhary
KIIT School of Rural Management
Bhubaneswar, Orissa



Ashutosh, along with Rashmi Raina, of KIIT School of Rural Management conduct awareness programs as part of the 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' (Clean India Mission). They utilize their free time to reach out to youth in several states of India - West Bengal, Odisha, Rajasthan included – to help them understand basic hygiene. 'Open defecation is unhealthy.' 'You must wash your hands before eating' are some of the focus points of their outreach. In rural areas, Ashutosh and his team work with the help of 'Anganwadi Sahayikas' (those with the government's Integrated Child Development Services program) to spread these green tips

Avinash Kumar Singh
St. Xavier's College of Management & Technology
Patna, Bihar



Avinash and other St. Xavier's College students, along with the NGO TaruMitra, are campaigning to prove that tap water in Patna is safe for drinking. The team took samples of water from taps at ten railway platforms. These were analyzed to see the level of contamination at the Sri Krishna Gyan Mandir Lab. To their surprise, the results that emerged showed that the water tested had no signs of contamination, either chemical or biological. On the contrary, the water was healthier than bottled water on many counts! 'Was it really necessary to go in for Reverse Osmosis machines, or was it just a sales gimmick created' they wondered. Armed with these laboratory findings, his team and he are making people aware that the water is drinkable.

Bhawani Shankar Nirola
College of Science and Technology
Phuentsholing, Bhutan



Bhawani believes it is essential to make people understand the importance of segregation of waste and to encourage people to practice this. He has put together an exhibition that explains this need very succinctly. Along with several other fellow students, Bhawani has developed illustrative and innovative models on the themes of the 4'R's -Reduce, Reuse, Recover and Recycle. The models include ideas on ways to use discarded plastic for road paving, how to compost, turn waste paper into useful items, etc.

Bhupender Yadav
Echelon Institute of Technology
Faridabad, Haryana



Bhupender is a member of 'Tears of The EARTH', a group that works to save our environment. His specific focus is to look after animals and birds such as pigeons, monkeys, dogs, and cows in different localities. Conducting quizzes for students and organizing photography competitions in colleges are also part of what he does.

Bindu Bhandari
Institute of Agriculture and Animal Science
Chitwan, Nepal



Bindu has three major work foci: helping students prepare a 'Green Plan so that environmental values and leadership qualities develop from a young age; encouraging the growth of green cover in areas such as Chitwan and Bharatpur; and developing a Model United Nations to discuss and debate Climate Change issues. Earlier this year the Model United Nations was held on 'The Role of Youth Stakeholders in Changing Climate'. Student delegates from universities across Nepal were assigned roles of stakeholders such as youth, businessmen, researchers, farmers/indigenous people, political leaders, NGO representatives, etc. At the end of debates and negotiation sessions a unanimous resolution was adopted.

Chitranshi Charu Dhami

**Govind Ballabh Pant University of Agriculture and Technology
Pantnagar, Uttarakhand**



Chitranshi utilizes the outreach of the Community Radio to run awareness-building programs about the need to protect and conserve nature. Chitranshi advocates a switch to renewable energies, in particular, solar, and also the benefits of composting. Maintaining clean surroundings is another of her pet projects as is the development of kitchen and terrace gardens. Chitranshi began her campaigns by reaching out to family and friends. She then asks these people to share 'green' tips with those they interact with. And so, the circle of awareness grows wider and wider.

Digvijay Singh

**Jawaharlal Nehru University
New Delhi**



Digvijay's interest area is the study of environmental federalism and climate control. He has worked with the NGO 'Jhatka' for the Save Ganga Campaign. Digvijay says he has developed and performed several street plays on environmental issues. He has been a part of Eco Clubs since his schools days. He is a strong believer in industries getting proper clearances before they are set up.

Divya Sharma

**Indira Gandhi National Open University
Meerut, Uttar Pradesh**



Divya works for a greener Meerut. This she is doing by leading tree-planting campaigns and by speaking to school children about climate change and the immediate need to do something to save Earth from its ill effects. 'I started by meeting principals of various schools to garner their support. I then joined hands with local NGOs who helped me develop and conduct programs' says Divya. The students had fun planting trees, and we got tremendous support from the schools to ensure that the activity remains continuous.

Eskandh Sharma

**Vellore Institute of Technology University
Vellore, Tamil Nadu**



Eskandh has strong leadership qualities, as is evident from the many campus programs he runs. To name a few, he is Founder and Chairman of HelpMyPrep, an educational management Start Up. He has been selected to be the KPMG-Henry Harvard India Campus Ambassador. Eskandh's current project focuses on the utilization of the Water Hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*). He says, 'I have experimented on ways this could be turned into something useful. Dried stems of the Water Hyacinth result in strong fiber that can serve as a substitute for jute, and at 1/10th the price of the latter. Creatively weaving these fibers can produce beautiful objects, the sale of which could supplement the income of women from lesser privileged sections of society,' Eskandh says.

Fergus Mark Anthony
Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya
Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh



Fergus is an active member of 'Zidd for a Change'. Every Sunday, the group works to clean up and beautify dirty, unhygienic and garbage-laden spots. During the monsoon season 'Zidd' also started a plantation program. The group has already planted over 250 saplings in schools, government offices and other areas. Fergus is also part of a village survey team from his college that conducts analysis of forest resources and the socio economic lifestyles of people. In village schools, he and his teammates and conduct classes on environment awareness.

Gaurav Madan
Indian Institute of Technology Delhi
New Delhi



Gaurav is a PhD Research Scholar at the Department of Atmospheric Sciences, IIT Delhi. He volunteers his time to be a Communications Coordinator. For the Indian Youth Climate Network, Gaurav is a volunteer trainer. Gaurav says, 'I've done eco-restoration work in villages around Alwar in Rajasthan and Pune in Maharashtra to help support sustainable farming. In Udaipur, Gaurav and his friends have conducted 'Invisible Theatre' programs to build awareness about cleanliness in markets, bus stops and other public places. These theatrical performances were enacted at malls and street corners – not at venues where people normally expect to see theater. The team has also helped work out solid waste management techniques.

Himanshu Kumar
Cochin University of Science and Technology
Alappuzha, Kerala



Himanshu is Mission Director, Core Committee Member and Technical Head at U-Genius International. Himanshu was selected as the Paris Summit Officer for the International Paris Climate Change Summit Program [COP 21], and the Campus Ambassador for Rio +22 Power India Program 2015 conducted by IARC-UN. He was one of the finalists of the Young Reporters for the Environment, India, 2015. Himanshu co-founded 'In-Waste, Investing in Waste Management', a social enterprise that provides door-to-door service in the field of waste management and aims at creating job opportunities for 'In-Wasters'.

Ishita Jalan
Delhi Technological University
Delhi



Ishita has interned at the Goa State Pollution Control Board. Under the National Water Monitoring Program, she has visited sites that helped her develop practical knowledge on environmental issues. She is a part of her college's social entrepreneurial society, Enactus. Their project, Prakriti turns organic waste collected by the ragpicker community into compost. The profits are shared with the ragpickers. As a participant in the Integrated Water Resources Management competition by TERI, she analyzed the problems and developed solutions related to surface runoffs during the rains that causes water logging inside the slum settlements.

Jainil Shah

**Hargovandas Lakshmidhand College of Commerce
Ahmedabad, Gujarat**



Jainil and his fellow students of the Eco Club of his college are working towards creating awareness about the dangers of burning waste. 'Waste must be properly disposed in residential colonies and societies. Burning waste can lead to many dangerous health conditions caused by inhaling or ingesting even small amounts of toxic pollutants,' Jainil says. The students met authorities of residential colonies and societies, explained to them the harmful effects of burning waste and then assured the societies of their support by connecting them with efficient waste collection agencies. As an acknowledgement of their commitment to NOT burn waste, a tree sapling was gifted to each colony/society.

Jedesh Chandrasegaran

**Northshore College of Business and Technology
Colombo, Sri Lanka**



Jedesh has been instrumental in forming the 'Youth Outreach Union.' The work they aim to do is focused on the promotion of biogas as a reliable alternative energy source, the development of public transport, shaping social mindsets so that people manage waste responsibly, and the promotion of Energy Star appliances. The team has launched a Facebook page that has already got 450 likes, with people in over ten countries reading the blogs. Other projects include conducting a survey to better understand public opinion and levels of awareness about climate change related issues.

Kamaldeep Singh Wraich

**Galgotias College of Engineering and Technology
Noida, Uttar Pradesh**



Kamaldeep aims to commemorate each day as Earth Day. To do this, his programs focus on the conservation of Earth's precious natural resources. 'Water is one of the most important resources we have on Earth. We are using it so rapidly that in 10-20 years. There will be wars over water. My family and I have a 5 minute shower rule. The water we use is recycled to water plants and for other purposes.' Kamaldeep started a community with his friends called Tears of The EARTH to create environmental awareness through workshops in schools, building societies, villages and on the streets. 'I even write inspiring songs about Earth and we perform those before many.'

Kavita Gala

**Kishinchand Chellaram College
Mumbai, Maharashtra**



Kavita firmly believes that 'youth can make a difference by adopting green methods.' To encourage them to do so, she has run several programs. These include poster-making and essay competitions, classes to make paper bags and recycle unused pages from used notebooks, workshops on climate change, rallies, street plays, tree plantation campaigns, demonstrations on ways to make vermicompost, and programs to distribute solar lamps. 'My teammates and I, all students, prepared and enacted a street play 'Climate Aaj Kal' at street corners, in college campuses, at bus stops, and at railway stations. '

Koushik Mukhopadhyay

**Indian Institute of Social Welfare and Business Management
Kolkata, West Bengal**



‘Wetlands are important areas that need our protection’, Koushik says. He, and others from his institute, helped rejuvenate a neglected pond in West Bengal. Once the pond was identified, Koushik and the team motivated a local club to adopt it. ‘We utilized a participatory approach to bring in all the beneficiaries of the wetland.’ The team held sessions to sensitize the local people about the benefits of maintaining the pond. They also met with those in positions of influence so that there was cooperation all around.

Krithiga N

**Sri Venkateswara College of Engineering
Chennai, Tamil Nadu**



Krithiga has spearheaded the cleaning of a lake in her native Ellapatti village, Natham Taluk, Dindigul district. ‘The villagers’, she said, were unaware of the consequences of doing so. With the help of Panchayat (Local Self Government) officials, I have been able to persuade the locals to keep the pond clean. Dustbins have also been provided to ensure that garbage is thrown into these, and not into the lake.’ Krithiga has also created a Facebook page ‘The Biggest Oven Earth’ which she updates with information on ‘why’ and ‘how’ to preserve lakes. Krithiga has also put together a very informative report on the condition of Katrambakkam Lake and Chitlapakkam Lake in Tamil Nadu state.

Malabika Basu

**Indian Institute of Social Welfare and Business Management
Kolkata, West Bengal**



Malabika believes that we really need to work for greener and cleaner spaces. She is working diligently to raise awareness among the general public about the great benefits of planting more trees and not strewing garbage around. ‘We really need to help people understand and adopt environmentally-responsible practices’ she says. Malabika has also been a supporter of efforts to maintain wetlands in West Bengal. Along with other students, she has travelled to rural areas where ponds that are dead or dying are identified and rejuvenated with the help of those who live along the periphery of the water body, and local clubs.

Niraj Kumar

**National Law School of India University
Bengaluru, Karnataka**



Niraj is part of ‘Team Sanjeevni’ that works toward achieving a cleaner, greener, sustainable campus for their university. Being students of Public Policy, the team organized brainstorming sessions that had students put forth their ideas on ways to evaluate their waste management systems. Segregation of waste at source and an internal composting mechanism emerged as the most efficient methods to recommend to their university authorities for implementation. Before doing so, a Cost-Benefit Analysis was applied to different Solid Waste Management systems to ensure that the ones recommended were price-easy as well.

Niraj Sapkota
Sikkim University
Gangtok, Sikkim



Niraj is an active member of the ‘Zero Waste Himalaya Group of Sikkim.’ Many of the programs he has volunteered for, help build awareness on ways to tackle solid waste, a problem that he says is a major issue in Sikkim. Along with others he helped design a mobile exhibition that focuses on zero waste. This aims to make people aware of the need to take individual responsibility to reduce waste and manage what is generated. He has also worked on campaigns to reduce the use of plastic bags and has been part of the group that approached the state government to ensure that the ban on plastic bags is enforced. Niraj has also undertaken shop-to-shop surveys to understand the use of disposable plates and cups being used by shops in Gangtok.

Nivedita Niram
Indian Institute of Social Welfare and Business Management
Kolkata, West Bengal



Nivedita’s focus is on ‘Green Buildings.’ She is very interested in widening awareness about ways that structures can be made environment friendly. With this in mind, she identifies techniques that even residents of existing structures can adopt. These include: rainwater harvesting, growing potted plants on rooftops and terraces, composting kitchen waste, switching to solar, recycling grey water, etc. Nivedita has developed posters to showcase these strategies. Along with her peers, she then uses this material to explain the benefits of green buildings to wider audiences.

Pralayasimha Yedida
Institute of Cost Accountants of India
Hyderabad, Telangana



Pralayasimha regularly volunteers with several organizations to organize campaigns on issues such as waste management, the conservation of natural resources, cleaning up of neighborhoods and other green initiatives. His persistent sensitization campaigns have helped reduce the use of plastic in his village. Pralayasimha keenly participates in many ‘Runs’ in Hyderabad to collect donations for environment protection. He also volunteered with the NGO Waste Warrior to collect waste and send it for recycling.

Prasenjit Paul
Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur
Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh



Part of the ‘Group for Environment and Energy Engineering’, member of the Presidential Council and the Student Gymkhana are just some of the posts Prasenjit holds. He has organized awareness drives against climate change and environmental pollution and for renewable energy as well among others. On a regular basis, he helps put together programs to commemorate days such as Earth Day and World Environment Day on campus. In order to bring about change at an individual level, Prasenjit has helped organize programs that showcase ways to stop food wastage in the canteen and curtail the unnecessary wastage of electricity, water and other resources in the residence halls and other areas. Prasenjit is also collaborating with other students to have the Indian Institute of Technology (Kanpur) campus turn 100 percent energy efficient by 2020. This they hope to do with funding from alumni that will help install additional solar panels.

Prashant Bhandari
Agriculture and Forestry University
Bharatpur, Nepal



Prashant has designed a unique concert that will focus on biodiversity. This came alive after Prashant spent hours consulting not just with his seniors, mentors and teachers, but also juniors and friends. His committed efforts have resulted in 'One Song for Conservation, One Dance for Biodiversity'. The concert has participants share their emotions, experiences and ideas through poetry and songs.

Pratibha Yadav
Harishchandra Ramkali Institute of Pharmacy
Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh



Pratibha's main focus is to make people understand why changing regular bulbs to LED ones is important for the environment. Building complexes are a major target area for her. Pratibha also uses innovative methods to make students aware of the need to save electricity.

Priya Chawla
Kamala Nehru College, University of Delhi
Noida, Uttar Pradesh



Priya believes that waste generated in residences can be efficiently managed. With the 'go ahead' from Residents' Welfare Associations, Priya organized workshops to explain 'What is Climate Change', 'The Importance of Segregating Waste,' and 'What Can Be Composted' was explained in these sessions. Priya also goes from house to house, sensitizing families that couldn't make it to the workshops. She distributes green ribbons to each household that agrees to take part in the project and tells them to tie it on the bags containing green waste. Today, 17 families are segregating waste and sending it for composting. Priya has also sensitized sweepers so that they identify bags that contain waste for composting. The target is to get 100 families actively participating in composting. Plans are afoot to install a used Tetra Pak cartons recycle bin as well.

Priyanka
TERI University
New Delhi



Priyanka is a Climate Counselor. She is part of the International Centre for Culture and Education's 'Green (R)evolution Global Program-Action Against Climate Change' program. Earlier this year, Priyanka participated in TERI's regional round of the inter-university competition on 'Water Resource Management'. She has been awarded the second prize in TERI's Poster Competition at the SWASH program they organized in March 2015.

Radhika Modi
Indraprastha College for Women
Delhi



Radhika is part of a Green Audit team. 'We have taken the initiative to conduct an audit in our college and video-document this entire auditing process' she says. This video-documentation was showcased in an international competition hosted by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. 'We are happy to share that our video was shortlisted as the top 24 videos on Youth and Climate Action from around the world,' Radhika proudly announces.

Rashi Jain
Indraprastha College for Women
Delhi



Rashi is a student of Political Science. She has participated in the United Nations Competition that focuses on fighting against Climate Change. 'Our team video showcases a Green Audit conducted in our college. We also ran a campaign to have citizens sign pledges to ensure a healthy environment. Her friends and she have also produced a video that demonstrates the hazards of cigarette smoking. 'No Plastic' is another campaign that Rashi has helped generate. This campaign has been very effectively run using social media.

Ravi Kiran Junjupelli
Indian School of Mines
Dhanbad, Jharkhand



Ravi and other students enthusiastically commemorated Earth Day with a 'Total Waste Solution Campaign' that included cleaning and greening their surroundings. They have also organized a 'Liter of Light' workshop to develop low-cost, solar-powered, lighting solutions. The concept uses discarded PET bottle filled with water and liquid bleach. The prepared bottle is hung through the roof of a home with one-third of it above the roof. When sunlight falls on the upper part of the bottle, water refracts the light and the solar bottle illuminates, equivalent to a 55-watt bulb! These they have successfully installed in nearby villages and in slum schools.

Reeny Modi
Indraprastha College for Women
Delhi



Reeny says she is part of a team that is carrying out a Green Audit of their college campus. 'As part of this project, we are studying the various environmental aspects of our campus. We work to ensure that within the college, best practices for sustainability and environment protection are followed. We calculate how much waste is generated and how it is disposed off. We also observe whether or not energy and water resources are used efficiently, and record the number of trees in the college, among other things,' Reeny says.

Rishabh Sharma
Vivekananda Institute of Technology & Science
Karimnagar, Telangana



Rishabh is a keen nature photographer. He enjoys taking pictures of plants, animals and other living creatures. His teammates have formed a group which they call 'Tears of the Earth'. The team spends hours putting together videos that build awareness about environmental concepts. These are then uploaded on social media sites. The 'Tears of the Earth' Facebook page also provides information on solar energy, water conservation, car pooling as a means to reduce fuel consumption, reducing the usage of poly-bags, planting trees and other such issues. Rishabh also organizes quiz competitions that provide opportunities for students to expand their knowledge about several environmental issues.

Ruchi Saini
Indraprastha College for Women
Delhi



Ruchi is helping with the census of trees at her college campus. She is part of a group of students who count the trees and identify their species. Each tree is then labeled with both the scientific and popular names. Ruchi is also part of the college's team that audits water management. 'I look for answers to the following questions,' Ruchi says. 'What is the water source for our college? How much are we consuming? How much are we saving Is there any wastage? Is the water safe for drinking? Is the water for our swimming pool recycled? Can we implement a rainwater harvesting system?'

Rumit Walia
Harishchandra Ramkali Institute of Technology
Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh



Rumit and his teammates plant trees, promote the use of renewable energy resources and work with local communities to appraise them about simple ways to save water, manage waste, reduce the use of plastic, and other such 'green' initiatives. Rumit's passion is to increase local green cover. Along with others, he regularly plants in available vacant spaces. On special days dedicated to trees in particular, the group plants along street curbs, in road dividers, on rooftops, etc. Rumit is also a strong advocate for solar energy. He has convinced his father to install solar in their home and also persuaded his uncle to open a solar panel shop. These are just some of the many green initiatives Rumit is part of.

Sahil Singh Kapoor
TERI University
New Delhi



On Climate Diplomacy Day (June 17), Sahil organized a panel discussion on 'Climate Change as a Threat Multiplier to Human Security'. This was held in conjunction with the Indian Youth Climate Network. Sahil has also organized programs for the Climate Action Network South Asia. These were held both at regional and national levels and addressed issues pertaining to climate change. He is also actively engaged with programs for the Climate Reality Project, 2015 that focuses on helping communities understand and respond to climate change in India.

Sajid Iqbal
North South University
Dhaka, Bangladesh



Sajid is the founder of the organization 'Change.' In collaboration with 'Earth Club of North South University' and '4Matters' he helps organize campaigns in educational campuses to collect used plastic bottles. This 'Green in a Bottle Campaign' aims to encourage the recycling and reuse of discarded bottles. He and his team placed fifty bins at different locations, and used social media to encourage students to deposit used bottles in these. The bottles that were collected were converted into amazing pots for the garden, penholders, and decorative items.

Sanjib Talukdar
Cotton College
Guwahati, Assam



Sanjib says his love for nature comes from the rural setting he grew up in. In the city he lives in presently, he misses the open spaces and the green expanses that were so much a part of his childhood. To try and block out the vista of concrete, excessive traffic and unmanaged garbage, Sanjib has brought together a group of youth who work to make their city greener and cleaner. The group is also active in recommending the installation of rainwater harvesting on campus. Sanjib also volunteers with the environmental NGO 'Wild Roots' and conducts several programs with them. In rural areas, where he says water is available, Sanjib helps the people test the waters to ensure that iron, fluoride and arsenic are not excessively present.

Satyansh Singh Tomar
Lovely Professional University
Phagwara, Punjab



As a part of LPU-NSS for the past two years Satyansh has organized and volunteered in tree-plantation drives. "We organize Earth Day activities in which we motivate the youth of our society to keep their surroundings clean and green. Our cultural performances like '*nukaad natak*' have environmental messages. In university and in parts of Jalandhar and Phagwara region I organized cleanliness drives to make the neighborhood clean and healthy. We promote the use of dustbins to keep the city clean. I also organize events like 'Best out of Waste' in which we take old material and recycle it into something useful.'

Sayanee Das
Indian Institute of Social Welfare and Business Management
Kolkata, West Bengal



Sayanee is currently interning with 'Pollinate Energy.' The company is working to improve the lives of India's urban poor by giving them access to sustainable products that could make their lives better. For example, Sayanee works to provide solar lights and solar fans at reduced rates to the lesser privileged in Kolkata. On a personal front, Sayanee is keen on water conservation campaigns and hopes to set up a rain water harvesting system in her home.

Sayanti Basak
Bhola Borooh College
Guwahati, Assam



Sayanti has been able to connect effectively with school students who she found to be keen to know and understand environmental issues. Teachers of several schools, where she went for first visits, have asked her to come back and conduct more programs so that the school students remain engaged in eco-friendly activities. 'My best achievement has been in being able to connect with the people at the grassroots level and see the problems of the environment through their eyes,' Sayanti says.

Shaik Afsha
Indian Institute of Human Rights
New Delhi



Shaik Afsha is associated with banglanatak.com, a unique organization that uses theater and folk arts as effective communication strategies. Over the recent past, she has been active in channelizing youth talent for the '*Shehar Green Karo*- It's our turn to lead' campaign. She reached out to youth and motivated them to do something for the environment. Shaik Afsha also worked for 'Green Angle', a photography competition that focused on our beautiful planet. She has also reached out to women *Panchayat* leaders to help them identify policies that would benefit the environment of their constituencies.

Shashikamal Madusanka Kodithuwakku
Open University of Sri Lanka
Colombo, Sri Lanka



Shashikamal tells us that his beautiful island country has a long coast line that extends over 1700 kms. 'The growing urbanization and population' he says 'is dramatically ruining the environment of these areas.' Shashikamal and his teammates selected a strip from Mt. Lavinia to Moratuwa, an area with intense population pressure, to develop strategies to help people reflect on this coastal ruination, and the effect it will ultimately have on their lives. With guidance from Professor SA Norbert (Department of Geography, University of Colombo), informative handbills were developed for distribution. These included information on the importance of the coastline, the causes of coastal pollution and consequence of coastal degradation.

Simran Kalra
Indraprastha College for Women
Delhi



Simran is another crusader for green campuses. She has played an active role in conducting a 'Green Audit' at her college. The judicious use of water, the management of waste, and the curbing of power wastage are some of the programs she has worked on. She also conducted a Tree Census wherein she counted and named the trees with their local and scientific names.

Sudeep Ghimire
Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University
Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh



Sudeep has done something unique. He has organized a South Asian Environmental Poetry Competition for students as he thinks that poetry is a medium that reaches the hearts of many. The competition drew many entries. Some of the poems were in praise of nature, while others addressed pressing environmental issues. Sudeep effectively utilized social media such as Facebook to expand the reach of the poems to a larger number of youth. Even the Media helped his endeavors by providing press coverage. The poems are available at www.sanosansar.org

Surbhi Jain
Delhi college of Arts & Commerce
New Delhi



Surbhi raises awareness among people about how changes in everyday lifestyles can make a huge difference to the environment. 'The excessive use of plastic, for example' she says, 'is a huge problem everywhere.' 'I am creating awareness on how to minimise its usage.' She encourages the use of real cups and silverware at functions, instead of plastic ones. She has also convinced her classmates to bring their lunches wrapped in aluminium foil that can be used repeatedly. Surbhi has widened awareness about ways to reuse plastic bottles among several segments of society – slums included.

Suyog Giri
Nepal Engineering College
Kathmandu, Nepal



Suyog runs the 'Solid Waste Management by Natural Ways' project in Nepal. He has developed a waste collecting center in the biggest market in Kathmandu – Kalimati Market, and has also chosen a site where this waste would be taken and worked upon – the compound of the Nepal Engineering College. Suyog is proud of the fact he had the opportunity to share his project details with the Secretary of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment.

Swati Rautela
Govind Ballabh Pant University of Agriculture and Technology
Pantnagar, Uttarakhand



A PhD student, Swati is doing her thesis on 'The Effect of Climate Change on Farm Households.' With help from her department colleagues, Swati has prepared a model that helps farmers understand the advantages of planned and sustainable agricultural practices over traditional methods of farming. Swati has introduced the farmers to the concept of solar energy-run pumps for drip irrigation as well other practices. She leads them through the financial implications of adopting these and clearly demonstrates the cost reductions that result. Swati has also helped conduct brainstorming sessions that help explain in simple terms, the effect humans have on climate change. She helps people understand simple ways to minimize these.

Tejaswani Jaglan
Cummins College of Engineering for Women
Pune, Maharashtra



Tejaswani is studying Mechanical Engineering. Her aim is to 'liberate electrical devices from the wall socket. 'Ironically, when we move around with our portable devices we produce a lot of energy. But a lot of this energy is lost as heat. If that mechanical energy is converted into electricity, our very mobility could charge our mobile devices, or any other appliances for that matter,' Tejaswani says. As she explains, the Muscle Energy of humans is a huge, largely untapped energy resource, and the potential for extracting energy from it is considerable.

Thinley Wangmo
College of Science and Technology
Phuentsholing, Bhutan



Thinley's college has contributed to make Phuentsholing clean and green. On His Majesty's 34th Birthday in Bhutan, Thinley, as part of the student body of her college, organized a cleaning campaign in Phuentsholing town, rather than a cultural program. 'This year, we wanted to do something different, keeping things simple but effective and unique. The campaign was a successful one as we were able to draw the attention of local residents and were able to create awareness about waste management. Conserving energy is also essential and we can start small by turning off lights, fans or ACs when not required. If turning on the lights and ACs are now a reflex shouldn't turning these off be a reflex too?' Her classmates have done a mini project on automatic lighting and AC control-based on passive infrared sensors.

Vinayak Mishra
Lovely Professional University
Phagwara, Punjab



Vinayak is a green activist who regularly takes part in plantation drives, awareness rallies, seminars, workshops to demonstrate how to get the best out of waste, and so much more. The programs he participates in are not limited to just his college campus or surroundings, but are conducted in other parts of Punjab as well – both in cities, and in villages. Earth Day was commemorated widely by Vinayak and his peers. They planted saplings, organized lectures, and even held a fashion show of natural fabrics.

Vishwaas Choudhary
School of Energy and Environmental Studies
Indore, Madhya Pradesh



Vishwaas believes that we can keep Earth clean by following the rule of 'reduce, reuse, recycle.' He hopes that we can be green citizens by reducing use of resources like water or gasoline. It is more responsible to find ways to reuse jars, plastic bags, and boxes rather than throw things away. His college's annual Earth Day commemoration included tree planting, gardening and various go-green activities in which the staff and students participated included cleaning the drains of garbage and making the surroundings green and clean. These events inspire students to adopt simple ways - 'If everyone takes a small part we can make Earth Day Every Day!'

Yogesh Bhandari
TERI University
New Delhi



Yogesh's *mantra* is solar energy for rural areas so that students benefit. Yogesh has spent months studying the rural electrification scenario in India. His findings are that even in villages where electric lines have been drawn, energy supply remains meager. 'Added to that', he says 'more than one lakh villages in India are still to be electrified.'

Yogesh has drawn up a plan for a small district in Jharkhand called Latehar. 'Getting solar energy to this area will likely see a reduction in absenteeism in schools, resulting in a rise of literacy levels, that at the moment are sadly very low.'

Zuhair Ahmed Kowshik
Institute of Disaster Management and Vulnerability Studies
Dhaka, Bangladesh



'Teen for Green' is an environment-friendly project that Zuhair is a part of. It is conducted in educational institutions in Kaukhali Upazila and Pirojpur. 'The project has helped develop a culture of good environmental practices in my community. It has reversed negative behavioral practices and created a consciousness for the environment among teenagers.'

The project has also been successful in helping students recycle waste items into beautifully-crafted decorative pieces. A major achievement has been the 'discovery' of green and environmentally-conscious teenagers that has in turn resulted in the development of an environmentally-friendly generation for the betterment of Earth,' Zuhair says.

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