

Pradnya Niketan Education Society's
THE ORCHID SCHOOL
Baner, Pune

Spearheading Change

Nine days celebration by The Orchid
School students honouring Women
Climate Crusaders all over the world.



Introduction

The book 'Spearheading Change' gives a glimpse into the nine day project undertaken by The Orchid School students. During the festival of Navratri, the school breathes, practices and shares stories unearthing the 'Inner Power' in women.

These stories help us build a culture of 'I Can' among the students as they come to know of ordinary people from all walks of life accomplishing uncommon feats.

Women are an integral part of the society and have made an impact in all strata and sectors of the society. Through this year's Nine Days Nine Stories Project, the students across the classes in The Orchid School acknowledged and lauded the efforts and indomitable strength of women Scientists, Educationists, Afghan women and Climate Crusaders.

These women have not let challenges hold them back but instead worked tirelessly for the cause they so strongly believed in. They have been successful in breaking the shackles of patriarchal dominating society and made their voice heard.

As you move on to the pages that follow, you will be intrigued by the stories of powerful women like Saalumara Thimmakka, Jane Goodall, Vandana Shiva, Tulsi Gowda, Greta Thunberg and many more. So, without any further delay, do immerse yourself into the inspiring stories of these timeless women of substance.



Lakshmi's Message



When we leverage a festival immersed in mythology and women power to relate to modern day narrative, it is an attempt to build relevance and contextualise the festival.

At TOS, we celebrate Navratri to explore women power in all its splendour and wholesomeness. To align with the theme of Climate, we began to talk about real climate goddesses - conservationists, activists, water protectors and climate warriors who inspire us with their courage and resistance. We believe that this would expand our consciousness, capabilities, sensitivities, and cultural understanding. It surely would enlarge our worldview.

Vandana Shiva's famous words, "We are either going to have a future where women lead the way to make peace with the Earth or we are not going to have a human future at all," have found resonance in our theme for this year's "9 Days 9 Stories" project.



Dr Lakshmi Kumar
Director



Message from Principal

The purpose of education is to facilitate learning of knowledge, skills, values and attitude. This is a gradual process which will happen only with continuous exposure and efforts of us to mould the future generations.

Nine Days Nine Stories(9D9S) is one of the efforts that we educators at TOS are trying to bring awareness to the students about women empowerment in different strata of society. The Academic Year 2022-23 was all dedicated to bring in the awareness to the conscious level of the students towards the drastically changing climate and make them realize their responsibility towards it.

The theme for 9D9S was to explore the stories of women who have relentlessly worked towards sustainable climate and impacting the human kind.

In the nine days of Navratri, every year when students read and explore the stories of the women change makers, they develop the sense of the set up and trends in society. Students understand that in the journey of taking initiatives to bring in the change the challenges would be there, but success is inevitable. Students become more empathetic and resilient. They develop a sense of respect for the women in and around. The intangible impacts are evident through the thought process and behaviour which the students display when they are in a specific situation.

The tangible skill development designed by us for 9D9S is research, narration, story-telling, presentation, story writing, public speaking, critical thinking, etc. With 9D9S, let's come together to promote the sense of recognition and the contribution of women in the society along with lots of learning.



Sangeeta Kapoor
Principal





Primary Domain

Grade I

- Saalumarada Thimmakka
- Pooja Badamikar
- Greta Thunberg

Grade II

- Jane Goodall
- Amita Deshpande
- Kriti Tula

Grade III

- Vandana Shiva
- Ridhima Pandey
- Purnima Devi Barman

Grade IV

- Disha Ravi
- Amla Ruia
- Rujuta Divekar



Saalumarada Thimmakka


Saalumarada Thimmakka, also known as Aala Marada Thimmakka, is an Indian environmentalist from the state of Karnataka, noted for her work in planting and tending to 385 banyan trees along a forty-five-kilometre stretch of highway between Hulikal and Kudur. She has also planted nearly 8000 other trees. With the support of her husband, she found solace in planting trees.

Thimmakka was born in Gubbi Taluk, Tumukuru District in Karnataka. She was married to Chikkaiah, a native of Hulikal village in the Magadi taluk of Ramanagara district in Karnataka. She received no formal education and worked as a casual labourer in a nearby quarry. The couple could not have children but they had adopted a son named Surya Prakash. It is said that

Thimmakka started to plant banyan trees in lieu of children.

The name word Saalumarada (row of trees in the Kannada language) is how she is referred to because of her work. Thimmakka and her husband started grafting saplings from these trees. Ten saplings were grafted in the first year and they were planted along a distance of 5 km near the neighbouring village of Kudur. In the second year 15 saplings were planted and 20 in the third year. She used her meager resources for planting these trees. The couple used to carry four pails of water over a distance of four kilometres to water the saplings. They also protected the plants from grazing cattle by fencing them with thorny shrubs. In order to get sufficient water for the trees, they started to plant the trees during monsoon. In this way, they could get sufficient rainwater for the saplings and the trees would have invariably taken root by the onset of the next monsoon.





Although the trees grown by her are worth several crores of rupees today, her life has no respite from poverty. Unfortunately, she is dependent on a pension of Rs. 500/- given by the government, which is the sole source of her income.

One might think that growing trees is not a big deal but one would know the reality of it only when they do it on their own. Padma Shri awardee Saalumara Thimmakka was appointed as Karnataka environment ambassador with a government cabinet rank by the Basavaraj Bommai-led government.



Presented By
Aishwarya Rane
Teacher



Pooja Badamikar

“It makes a big difference to recycle. It makes a big difference to use recycled products. It makes a big difference to reuse things, to not throw the scrapped tyres - and re-use each time you do, that is a victory “ - Emily Deschanel

Pooja Badamikar, 27 is a Pune based woman entrepreneur, who makes pretty footwear from upcycled scrap tyres. She chased her dream by learning, researching and finding the right way to sustain an eco-friendly start up in India.

She left her job in an IT company to start her own business in 2018 and the same year she was awarded the Upcoming Woman Entrepreneur award with Start-Up in India competition. She is a post graduate in renewable energy and has been working on converting scrapped tyres into footwear through her start up BlinkGreen. Her aim was environmental awareness as one billion tyres are discarded in the world every year. This is an alarming situation because the garbage levels are rising around us. We have to think of ways to reduce it and upcycling is one of the many solutions to this issue.

She first looked for a source that could get her the raw material for the sole of the footwear. She then tied up with a rag picker in Pune itself, who helped her with securing scrap tyres. She would secure those tyres and send them further for machine cutting. She started her journey by working with local cobblers and made two prototypes. Instead of using rubber or plastic as a sole for the footwear, she used scrap tyres for the sole.





Her business refrains her from using conventional methods of production like burning and usage of chemicals. So, there is no air or soil pollution during the process. Moreover, no plastic or leather items are used. Hence, the entire process of manufacturing is environment-friendly, and the products are purely sustainable.



Presented By
Chaitali Savala
Teacher



Greta Thunberg

Greta Tintin Eleonora Ernman Thunberg is an inspiring Swedish environmental activist who worked to address the problem of climate change. She initiated her journey of creating awareness through a movement known as Fridays for Future which is also called School Strike for Climate. At a very young age, Greta was diagnosed with Asperger syndrome.

Many people with Asperger's syndrome tend to concentrate profoundly on one idea, and Thunberg's cause became climate change. She first discovered the issue when she was approximately eight years old, and within a few years, she made amends in her own lifestyle and habits. She became a vegan and refrained from air travel as a step towards reducing emissions that contribute to global warming.

Thunberg sought to make a significant impact by urging the government into addressing climate change. Three weeks prior to the Swedish election in September 2018, she missed school to sit outside the country's parliament with a sign that stated: "Skolstrejk för Klimatet" (School Strike for Climate). Though she started out as a lone warrior in the days to come many people and students joined her movement. After the election, Thunberg resumed school, however, continued to miss school on Fridays to strike, and these days were referred to as Fridays for Future. Her unique campaign inspired hundreds of thousands of students around the world to participate in their own Fridays for Future. Strikes were held in such countries as Belgium, Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom, Finland, Denmark, France, and the Netherlands.





Thunberg was invited to various events around the globe to speak about climate change. Her speech at the UN climate event was noticed by millions. She traveled on a yacht that was emission-free for the event and made headlines for her statement “ We are at the beginning of mass extinction, and all you can talk about is money and fairy tales of eternal economic growth. How dare you!” She was credited with influencing people to talk and act against climate change. This was called “The Greta effect”.

Along with her work towards environmental causes, she spread awareness about Asperger’s syndrome and motivated people who had similar conditions. She advocated the idea of being different due to her disorder to make a difference. She never let her condition limit her abilities and she inspires many others to take charge of their lives and lead life with a purpose.



Presented By
Anu Pazhayannur
Teacher



Jane Goodall

Dame Jane Morris Goodall is an English primatologist and anthropologist. She is seen as the world's foremost expert on chimpanzees. Goodall was best known for her exceptionally detailed and long-term research on the chimpanzees of Gombe Stream National Park in Tanzania. Here she witnessed human-like behaviours amongst chimpanzees, including armed conflict.

Goodall made several important discoveries about chimpanzees during her years of research. She found that chimpanzees are omnivorous (eating both animal and vegetable substances) rather than vegetarian (excluding meat from the diet). She observed that they are capable of making and using tools. She also discovered that they have a set of complex and highly developed social behaviours that were previously unrecognized by humans.

She is the founder of the Jane Goodall Institute and the Roots & Shoots programme, and she has worked extensively on conservation and animal welfare issues. As of 2022, she is on the board of the Nonhuman Rights Project in April 2002, she was named a UN Messenger of Peace. Goodall is an honorary member of the World Future Council.



Presented By
Rekha Menon
Teacher



Amita Deshpande



Mahatma Gandhi once deployed the use of charkha or spinning wheel as an important tool to boycott foreign-made products and promote indigenous clothing.

Seven decades later, a software engineer from Pune is using the very same charkha to promote a similar message. The only difference is that foreign goods have been replaced by plastic ones.

Amita Deshpande, the founder of ReCharkha, is upcycling plastic waste including wrappers and bags by spinning it into yarn on a charkha. The yarn is then woven into a plastic fibre on handlooms. After she returned to India in 2013, she founded an upcycling project under Aarohana EcoSocial Developments in 2015.

Her social enterprise has employed waste pickers from Pune and tribals from her native, Dadra Nagar Haveli, to uplift the needy.



Presented By
Anagha Phadtare
Teacher



Kriti Tula

Fashion is the second largest polluting industry in the world. To solve this problem, Kriti Tula has come up with a solution – DOODLAGE. Kriti Tula, a trained fashion designer graduated from Pearl Academy in New Delhi, post which she attended the London School of Fashion on a scholarship for her master's degree. She had been in the industry for more than 12 years, she came up with the idea of sustainable and a green way business plan, in 2014 and finally launched – Doodlage.

What is DOODLAGE?

A brand that has been consciously using factory discarded clothes that ends up choking landfills to make sustainable high end fashion garments and accessories. The brand Doodlage is also very careful about the waste it generates; the waste is shredded to create new fabric that goes to home furnishing and bags.

Initially the clients did not understand why the clothes were priced upwards, but gradually they started seeing how they were helping to save the planet. Doodlage now collaborates with Corporates and helps to divert tons of fabric from landfills.

Doodlage products have been worn even by Bollywood celebrities like Tapsee Pannu, Kalki Koechlin and Athiya Shetty, telling the world that Sustainability can be fashionable too. Kriti Tula claims that every piece of her product is unique in its own way, as they are made by stitching together using waste pieces hence the name DOODLAGE.



Presented By
Steffi Joseph
Teacher



Vandana Shiva

An Indian physicist and social activist, Vandana Shiva founded the Research Foundation for Science, Technology, and Natural Resource Policy (RFSTN) in 1982. The organization is devoted to developing sustainable methods of agriculture.

Shiva was born on November 5, 1952, in Dehra Dun, Uttaranchal (now Uttarakhand), India. She received a master's degree in the philosophy of science from Guelph University in Ontario, Canada, in 1976 and a doctorate in particle physics from the University of Western Ontario in 1978.

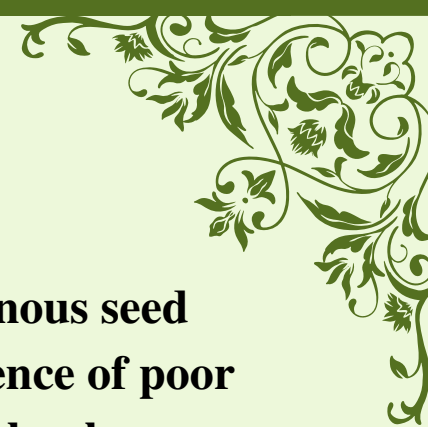
Shiva developed an interest in environmentalism during a visit home, where she discovered that a favourite childhood forest had been cleared and a stream drained so that an apple orchard could be planted.

After completing her degrees, Shiva returned to India, where she worked for the Indian Institute of Science and the Indian Institute of Management. In 1982 she founded RFSTN, later renamed the Research Foundation for Science, Technology and Ecology (RFSTE).

Shiva proceeded to work on grassroots campaigns to prevent clear-cut logging and the construction of large dams.

She was perhaps best known, however, as a critic of Asia's Green Revolution, an international effort that began in the 1960s to increase food production in less-developed countries through higher-yielding seed stocks and the increased use of pesticides and fertilizers.





The Green Revolution, she maintained, had led to pollution, a loss of indigenous seed diversity and traditional agricultural knowledge, and the troubling dependence of poor farmers on costly chemicals. In response, RFSTE scientists established seed banks throughout India to preserve the country's agricultural heritage while training farmers in sustainable agricultural practices.

In 1991 Shiva launched Navdanya—meaning “Nine Seeds” or “New Gift” in the Hindi language.

The project, part of RFSTE, strove to combat the growing tendency toward monoculture promoted by large corporations. Navdanya formed more than 40 seed banks in India and attempted to educate farmers on the benefits of conserving their unique strains of seed crops.

Shiva's idea was that a decentralized approach to agriculture, based on a diverse array of locally adapted seeds, would be more effective in a time of climate change than a system relying on only a few varieties promoted by large corporations.

Shiva launched Diverse Women for Diversity, an international version of Navdanya, in 1998. In 2001 she opened Bija Vidyapeeth, a school and organic farm offering courses in sustainable living and agriculture, near Dehra Dun.



Presented By
Pallabi Mohapatra
Teacher



Ridhima Pandey

Ridhima Pandey, referred to by some as India's Greta Thunberg, is an 11-yr-old climate activist. One of the 16 young activists who filed a lawsuit in the United Nations Conventions on the Rights of the Child, Pandey is from Uttarakhand. She says her mission is to "save the future".

On the website of Children vs. Climate Crisis, Pandey's bio reads: "I want a better future. I want to save my future. I want to save our future. I want to save the future of all the children and all people of future generations".

The 11-year-old climate activist effort began in 2013, when her father Dinesh Pandey, also an environmental activist, became the victim of Uttarakhand floods that claimed hundreds of lives and left thousands homeless. In March 2017, at the age of 9, she filed a complaint against the Indian government with the National Green Tribunal.

"My government has failed to take steps to regulated and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, which are causing extreme climate conditions. This will impact both me and future generations. My country has a huge potential to reduce the use of fossil fuels, and because of the government's inaction, I approached the National Green Tribunal," Ridhima Pandey had said in 2017.

To her dismay, the NGT said climate change was already covered under the environment pact assessment and disposed of her plea.



In her petition, she said: "India is one of the most vulnerable countries to be affected by climate change" and called for immediate government action to assess industrial projects, prepare a carbon budget and create a climate recovery plan.

"In an interview with PTI, Pandey had earlier said: "Our government is working on paper, less on the ground". She contended that India was one of the most vulnerable countries and was already experiencing the adverse impacts of climate change.

On the issue of Ganga cleaning, Ridhima had claimed that not much progress was visible on the ground. Vast amounts of waste, including polythene bags, garbage and industrial effluent, went into the river untreated and there was total apathy on the part of the authorities.

"We consider Ganga as our 'Maa' (mother). Yet we wash our clothes and throw waste in it. The government claims its cleaning but there is hardly any change in the condition of the river. It is still polluted. The government must take proactive measures," she had said.

Calling for a total ban on plastic, the 11-year-old who is a class topper had said the prohibition should be strictly implemented. "If we as consumers stop using plastic, companies will stop manufacturing it."



Presented By
Praveena Ganapa
Teacher



Purnima Devi Barman

Purnima Devi Barman is a wildlife biologist from Assam, India. She is known for her conservation work with the greater adjutant stork, known locally as the Hargila. She is the founder of the Hargila Army, an all-female conservation initiative.

In 2017, Barman was the recipient of both the Whitley Award for her conservation efforts and the Nari Shakti Puraskar, the highest civilian award for women, presented by the President of India.

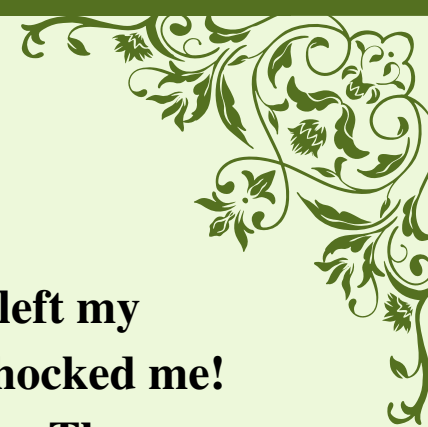
A young Purnima Devi Barman who spent her childhood with her grandmother (late) Padumi Devi, considered nature to be her school. Singing folk songs about the local birds with her grandmother was one of her favourite hobbies.

After completing a Masters in Zoology, Dr Barman's awe for storks encouraged her to pursue a PhD and learn more about a bird that was a big part of her childhood.

Leptoptilos dubius, (the Greater Adjutant), known as Hargila in the local language. Hargila is a five-foot huge, unclean and smelly scavenging bird that nests mostly in tall Kadam trees with a broad crown; the broad spreading branches provide enough space for the giant bird to sit.

The IUCN has categorized the bird as an endangered species. Dr Barman only wanted to study them in detail, but a heart-rending incident during her PhD journey, made her a full-time conservationist.





“That day was life changing,” began Dr. Barman. “I remember it vividly. I left my twin daughters with my parents and went to the village. What I saw there shocked me! A man was cutting down a Kadam tree where the Hargila birds were nesting. The baby birds fell down right in front of my eyes and a few of them died right then.

As a mother, it pained me so much. I went straight to the man and asked him why he did that, especially during the breeding season. I tried explaining to him about why the bird was important, but the response I got was sarcasm, mocks and a few laughs.

The villagers thought of Hargila as a bad omen. ”I felt helpless. I understood that the only way to make the villagers accept the bird was to integrate it as part of the culture.

I also knew who I needed by my side – the women of the village. They are the most important part of Assamese festivals, rituals and culture. To bring them together and educate them was my mission. I paused my PhD to work full-time in Hargila Conservation,” she said.

Thus, the Hargila Army was born in 2008.



Presented By
Pallabi Mohapatra
Teacher



Disha Ravi

Disha Ravi is a BBA graduate from Mount Carmel College, Bengaluru. The 21-year-old climate activist was instrumental in setting up the Indian chapter of Fridays for Future (FFF) - the global movement for climate justice founded by Greta Thunberg, an 18-year old climate activist from Sweden.

She is actively involved in environmental issues across India. She has appeared in media reports across the world, including 'The Guardian' and 'Vogue', for her campaigns. Her motivation to become a climate activist came from watching her grandparents, who are farmers and struggle with the effects of climate change.

The change in Bengaluru's weather patterns affected her directly. "In Bengaluru, We have been experiencing severe rainfall and flooding. My own house got flooded," she had said to Vogue.

FFF is also involved in campaigns for the protection of Mollem forest area in Goa, an elephant conservation zone in Uttarakhand, Aarey forest in Mumbai, Raika forest in Jammu and Dumna

nature park in Madhya Pradesh. Disha is an active participant in these causes. Thus her contribution to the environment, through her crusade against climate change is immense.



Presented By
Chanchal Gurung
Teacher



Amla Ruia

Amla Ruia is also known as Water Mother of India. She is a famous Indian social activist known for her work in water harvesting. Though born with a silver spoon in her mouth, her heart bled seeing the sufferings of people due to acute water shortage.

Once while flipping television channels, Ruia froze at the images from a village in Rajasthan that was then reeling under a severe drought in 1998. She realised that sending money and clothing to victims of the disaster was not a permanent solution.

She set out with a mission to create a water source and today her Aakar Charitable Trust has built 350 check dams, impacting 400 villages. The check dams helped in groundwater recharge through the managed aquifers recharge. The flood water and the rain water is stored in these aquifers and can be withdrawn for irrigation and even for drinking purposes from time to time. This check dam has brought prosperity to the villagers.

Farmers are growing three crops in a year; cultivable land in the villages has increased. From 2000- 2005, the charitable trust under the guidance of Amla, has helped in building almost 200 drinking water kunds. By the end of 2017, Aakar Charitable trust had built more than 200 check dams in more than 115 villages in Rajasthan.





The trust provides 60-70% of the financial resources and the rest of the amount is contributed by the villagers. When a village becomes water-sufficient, it impacts the socio-economic life of the people. This makes her feel that her dream has come true. The trust has expanded its wings to other states including Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa and Chhattisgarh.

Amla Ruia also educated the rural people, importance of the groundwater and ways to ensure the recharge of groundwater tables. Thus Amla has gone on to become one of India's foremost water heroes of today.



Presented By
Kamini Mistry
Teacher



Rujuta Diwekar

Many climate activists today are recognising the need for change at local, individual levels. One such personality is Rujuta Diwekar, a writer, nutritionist and vocal champion of un-complicating the act of eating. Born in a typical middle-class Maharashtrian family, Rujuta imbibed the principles of 'continuous learning' and 'pursuit of excellence in her field' by default.

Rujuta emphasizes on a blend of traditional food, wisdom and modern nutritional science for a healthy body and mind, best reflected through the mantra – Eat local, think global.

Rujuta Diwekar, piloted the 12-week fitness project which showcases the importance of approaching nutrition in a way that integrates accessibility, cultural relevance, and environmental sustainability in addressing diet and health worldwide. Placing traditional methods of cooking and eating at the forefront offers a bridge between social development and environmental sustainability.

In a way, it is impossible to dream of good health without building sustainable practices of growing and consuming food. We are at risk of climate change and the disasters that it will bring. It's time to wean off the donuts, chocolates, biscuits and to future proof health, environment and wellbeing.



Presented By
Snehal Welde
Teacher



Middle Domain

Std V

- Amanda McKenzie
- Prachi Shevgaonkar
- Heeta Lakhani
- Archana Soreng

Std VI

- Medha Priya
- Sneha Shahi
- Latika Nath

Std VII

- Sunita Narain
- Isatou Ceesay
- Licypriya Kangujam

Std VIII

- Dr. Sylvia Earle
- Vanessa Nakate
- Charlene Ren



Amanda McKenzie

Amanda McKenzie is an environmentalist from Australia. She is the CEO and co-founder of Australia's leading climate science communications organization, Climate Council. She also co-founded the Australian Youth Climate Coalition, and was the National Director for 4 years. She has also served on Renewable Energy Expert Panels for the Queensland and Northern Territory governments.

She was raised in the suburbs of Melbourne. She earned a degree in arts followed by a law degree(honours). She initially planned to be a human rights warrior, until she learned about climate change, which she says she realized was going to be a human catastrophe as much as an environmental catastrophe.

She has spoken in the media on topics such as the Climate Council's Job Plan, linking the Black Summer bushfires and climate change, and energy debates in Australia. Her work on climate change and renewable energy has been described by the Huffington Post, the ABC, and other media. She has won many awards for her commendable work in this field.

In 2019 she reported that the Australians would be shocked at the cover ups by the Federal Government. The Climate Council report "Climate Cuts, Cover Ups and Censorship" provided evidence that the federal government of Australia had reduced climate change funding, 'rejected advice from climate bodies' as well as 'weakened capabilities by cutting jobs at CSIRO'.

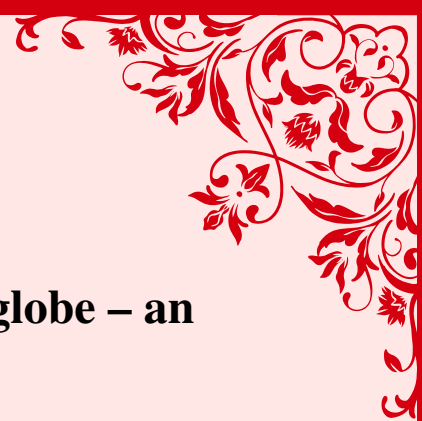
She is a passionate young woman who isn't afraid to call out our leaders when they are not doing enough to protect Australians from the dangerous impacts of climate change and embrace the clean technologies we have on hand.



Presented By
Anvee Wani
V Canary



Prachi Shevgaonkar



Prachi is a media professional, communicator and the founder of Cool the globe – an app and a movement for climate action.

Her personal quest has turned into global climate change.

While making a documentary in a Pune slum, Prachi met a 12-year-old boy who was worried for his home after a flood. She met a farmer who spoke about how farming had become difficult due to the changes in monsoon (largely due to climate change). She spent a few months with migrant waste-worker communities and saw the effects of climate change-induced migration on women and children. “Gradually, I realized that climate change is not just about long, heavy words. It is impacting our homes, our food, our health and life as we know it. That’s when I decided that I wanted to do something about it, even if at my level.

One day I asked my father, ‘What can I do about climate change?’ We decided to start from our own home. We took up a quest to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions to a target. Surprisingly, people around began to take notice of this. My friends and relatives would come to me and say, ‘You are doing something interesting. We would like to be a part of it’,” says Prachi. Prachi and her father began thinking of how they could take global citizens with them on this quest of climate action.

From this sprang the idea for Cool The Globe App. Prachi started Cool The Globe as a student and her father Prashant Shevgaonkar, an academician joined the venture and handled the coding of the app.





As the app was launched, Prachi's media skills helped spread the word. Along with her friends, Prachi began making simple videos about the app. These videos went viral and reached more than 4 million people. This was just the beginning.

The Cool The Globe app helps citizens reduce their carbon footprint to a target. Users set monthly and annual targets to reduce their personal greenhouse gas emissions. In the app, users can choose from hundreds of climate actions (across categories like travel, home materials...) and see the CO2 emissions they have saved. A global meter on the homepage, tracks in real-time the emissions avoided by all users combined, to show the power of collective climate action.

Today, the Cool The Globe app has more than 30,000 users from 110 countries, who have collectively saved 2 million kg of greenhouse gas emissions. Prachi says that it is the equivalent of planting around 1 lakh trees!

Also we are planning city-specific platforms where the local government and people can join hands in the climate change battle. The effort is to make climate change relatable," says Prachi. "Everyday, I get inspired by our users from around the world, who show great courage in taking climate action in their own life," says the 24-year-old, with an infectious smile.



Presented By
Shreya Jadhav
V Oyster



Heeta Lakhani

For the past 30 years, environmental activists have been calling on governments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to avoid catastrophic climate change.

The world has less than 12 years to cut greenhouse gas emissions in half- a daunting task that would require a total transformation of the global economy- according to the United Nations. Women and girls-often hit the hardest by climate disasters-have become leading figures in this movement.

Meet one such female activist from India who is fighting to save the planet.

Heeta Lakhani is a climate educator from Mumbai, India. She is the Founder and Director of the ClimAct Foundation. She has a Masters of Science in Environmental Studies and Resource Management from TERI University, India. Heeta has been active at the local as well as international level since the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP21) in 2015.

She aims to create change-makers who will take knowledge based action in order to combat the climate crisis. She is a firm believer in the participation and power of youth in grassroots as well as international processes and policies and is also an advocate for sustainable food systems.

Heeta wears multiple hats including RFS Youth Ambassador and the current UN Global Focal Point for YOUNGO, the official youth constituency of the UNFCCC. She has represented global youth at multiple high level events with the UN Deputy Secretary General, former President of the United Nations General Assembly, to name a few.



Heeta also works on training youth to be effective negotiators in the UN intergovernmental processes through the Youth Negotiators Academy.

According to her, “We cannot endlessly adapt to a warming world, so while adaptation is key, we need more action. We need to mitigate the effects of climate change. We need to help countries and communities deal with change, from the bottom up.”



Presented By
Aryan Gawade
V Oyster



Archana Soreng

Archana Soreng belongs to the Kharia tribe in Odisha. She is a voice of change, who is changing the perspective of the world by bringing awareness to how the indigenous populations and their way of living actually conserves nature. She claims that the indigenous communities who were earlier tagged as underdeveloped and backward are in fact responsible for protecting 80% of the biodiversity.

Soreng believes that the indigenous communities can inspire the world with their traditional way of life that does not disrupt the cycle of life or the balance of nature. Soreng is from the Khadia Tribe and grew up in Rajgangpur in Odisha's Sundargarh district. She first began to get involved in activism after her father's death. Throughout her life she has been active in the Indian Catholic Youth Movement.

She is also the former president of the TISS students' union. She is also the former National Convener of *Tribal Commission* also known as *Adivasi Yuva Chetna Manch*, one of the thrust areas of *All India Catholic University Federation (AICUF)*. Currently, she is working as a research officer at *Vasundhara Odisha*. Vasundhara is an action research and policy advocacy organization in Bhubaneswar working on natural resource governance, tribal rights, and climate justice.

She wants the voices of the indigenous people to be respected and heard. She believes that the world can learn a lot from the people who were so long ignored. "I think it's important that we stop tokenizing the participation of young people and indigenous people and local communities and also make them part, because of their expertise, in the entire policymaking processes and in the implementation processes," says Archana.



Presented By

Shubhrati Ramanand

V Canary



Medha Priya

Medha Priya is a 26 years' old Architect and a Green Building Analyst working towards sustainable infrastructure development.

Construction is the 2nd largest industry in India. With a massive focus from the government on Infrastructure development, this industry contributes heavily to the Indian economy. Medha observed, “37% of the greenhouse gases come out of construction activity”. This bothered her and she decided to work for the environment while helping the country make greener infrastructure.

Medha's calling came in 2013, when an 8-storey garment factory collapsed in Dhaka killing and injuring thousands. She had just completed her Board exams. She understood that the incident was totally preventable and that someone should take up the cause of making better places for people to live and work. She championed the cause.

She graduated as an Architect in 2018. She understood how sustainability and green buildings have a positive impact on the planet. Starting as an intern, Medha has come a long way facilitating green building certifications and creating strategies for good working conditions for the workers. She is one of the 17-young leaders of the United Nations 'We the change' Climate conference!

She feels the youth has a more active role to play. She runs workshops for college students called ABC of SDG (Sustainable Development Goals). She calls upon young people to stand up and even make small changes, which will benefit the whole community.



Presented By
Nikita Singh
VI Aster



Sneha Shahi

The environment is getting demolished! And we are just talking about it, not doing anything. We use paper aggressively not thinking about the trees we are cutting. Sometimes nature just takes revenge by troubling us with its disasters, floods, droughts, landslides, storms and such others. Some people really care about our green, mother earth. Well, one of them is Sneha Shahi.

Sneha Shahi is a PhD Student in Conservation Science and sustainability. She has worked with the center of environment education on water policies and climate change. She was born in north-east India.

Over the years she fell in love with nature. Back in Vadodara, Gujrat, where she grew up, Sneha showed interest in environmental activities. She has won the youth of India award. She is on a mission to clean the dirtiest river in India! She promotes conservation for urban rivers and the aquatic animals and recycling waste materials to save the aquatic animals. She has literally cleared 700 kg of waste from rivers.

Let's take these tips from Sneha to help our Earth, pass these messages to our friends and families. Let's do our part for the future of the world!

My thought about this is that if the River or the Aquatic animals are not harming or troubling Humans, why do we harm them? Why do you say that? Let's make India Green and clean again, why only India Lets make the whole world green and clean again!



Presented By
Vihaan Kudav
VI Aster



Latika Nath

Latika was raised in Kashmir, Assam and Himachal Pradesh where her family had homes. She was born to Professor Lalit M Nath and Meera Nath. From the time she was born she loved animals. When she was just a baby, she got a Golden retriever puppy and a Siamese cat.

Dr.Latika Nath is the first Indian as well as the first woman to do a doctorate on tigers. She has worked since 1990 for the conservation of tigers in India. She entered into the field of wildlife conservation in spite of numerous challenges. Latika Nath is an Indian author, photographer and wildlife conservationist. Latika not only worked for Tiger conservation but with several international organizations on species including the Asian elephant, snow leopards, gangetic dolphins, wild buffaloes etc. She used writing and photography as tools to spread awareness on wildlife conservation. She is currently working on a conservation project called 'Hidden India' which connects wilderness with cultures and communities.

Latika describes her job in the form of the hazards that accompany it, but the perks make it all worth it. As a wildlife biologist, she spends weeks in jungles conducting research, and hours together with the animals, observing them in their natural habitat. She has also been working closely with tribal communities in India to resolve human-wildlife conflicts. She is known as 'The Tiger Princess'. She also won many awards for her work. Latika was underestimated and was falsely accused for her work but she still kept on working and did not pay any heed to those people.



Presented By
Arya Dhole
VI Fuchsia



Sunita Narain

Sunita Narain is an Indian environmentalist and political activist.

She is director general of the India-based research institute for the Centre for Science and Environmental Communication. She is also the editor of the magazine Down To Earth.

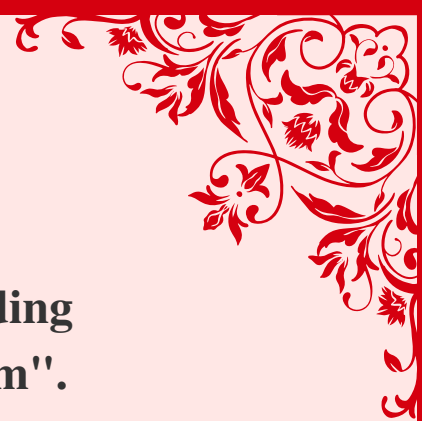
Sunita Narain was born in 1961 in New Delhi and was the oldest of four sisters. Her father, Raj Narain, who died when Narain was 8, had been a freedom fighter, and then established a handicrafts business. Her mother, Usha Narain, took over the business and raised the siblings. The income from the business provided the family with a comfortable lifestyle.

In 1979, Sunita Narain joined the student anti-logging activist group Kalpavriksh. She told Marcello Rossi of the Smithsonian magazine that this gave her a new direction in life, as she realized that "the crux weren't the trees, but the rights of people over those trees". She later completed her graduation by correspondence from the University of Delhi.

Sunita Narain started her career with the Centre for Science and Environment, one of India's first environmental Non-governmental organizations whilst still a student at the University of Delhi, working with the founder Anil Agarwal.

She became the Deputy Director of the CSE in 1993, and was appointed as the Director in 2000.





In 2004, Sunita Narain received the Chameli Devi Jain Award for Outstanding Women Mediaperson, for "bringing environmental issues to the mainstream".

The following year, she was awarded the PadmaShri by the Government of India and the Centre for Science and Environment. Under her leadership, she was also awarded the Stockholm Water Prize.

From her, we have learnt to respect the environment and nature around us and take good care of it.

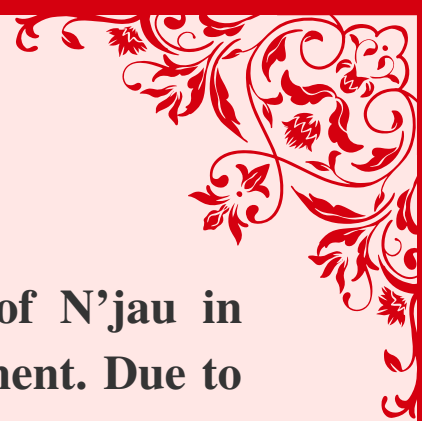
“We need a more nuanced and carefully devised strategy”



Presented By
Rohan Chougule
VII Auburn



Isatou Ceesay



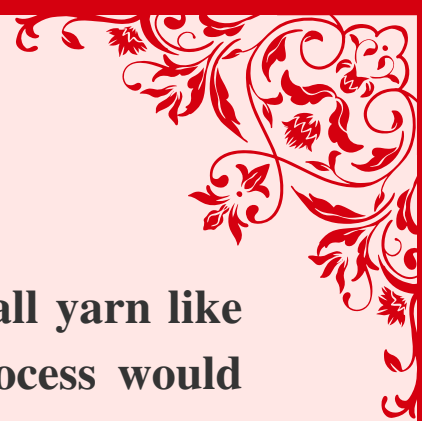
Isatou grew up on a farm in the small and under-developed village of N'jau in Gambia, battling the challenges of being raised in a third world environment. Due to her father's passing, as well as cultural limitations for women at the time, Isatou was unable to complete a proper traditional education and was forced to drop out of school.

Education was unaffordable at that time, and instead was forced to do work, making and selling toys by using small scraps of clothing and wood. With the money she got, along with her small inheritance, she managed to pay for herself to attend the Gambia Technical institute, where she trained as secretary and joined the US Peace Corps.

Almost twenty years later, she noticed just how ridiculed the main streets of N'jau were plagued with high piles of trash, consisting of all forms of house waste, and especially plastic bags etc, surrounded with puddles of water infested with malaria mosquitoes. Because of this, animal deaths from consuming plastic plagued the village, as well as outbreaks of malaria and other diseases dominated her village as there was no established system in place for trash disposal.

After seeing this, Isatou knew something had to change. Using her knowledge of recycling and upcycling from the Peace Corps, together with her local women's group, Isatou brought to life the idea of re-using these plastic bags to make purses that could be sold for money.





They would gather the plastic bags, dry them out and tear them into small yarn like threads called ‘plarn’ which they would weave into small bags. The process would utilize about ten plastic bags to make each of these bags.

But even with this achievement, societal norms were still against them, for it was improper for women to be working and was seen as inappropriate to be digging through trash instead of doing typical household work.

Despite all the hardships Isatou remained determined and took her products to a nearby city to sell, and managed to sell out the first batch. The business continued to grow and succeed and managed to create an income for the women of the village, who were able to take care of their families and this continued growth led to the birth of the Njau Recycling and Income Generation Group.

Today, the center has continued to turn different types of waste into various products including compost, jewelry etc and has even expanded into selling to bigger markets including the USA. Today, Isatou works with more than 1,100 people and NRIGG is based in four separate communities across the country of Gambia.



Presented By
Vihaan Dhongade
VII Ebony



Licpriya Kangujam

Kanarjit Kangujam and Bidyarani Devi Kangujam lived in a small village in Manipur which was known as Bashikhong . They were from a middle class family.

On 2nd October 2011, they gave birth to Licpriya Kamgujam , their youngest daughter. She completed her studies, but later she started becoming aware about the climate changes in the country. She thought of taking action towards it but because of her youth, people didn't listen to her.

Even at this young age she did not lose her hopes . She protested in July 2019 in front of the parliament house of India addressing the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi ji to bring about the climate change law in India.

Her dedication and single minded purpose made her endeavor successful. Narendra Modi ji addressed her. She kept working hard and traveled to many places to educate people about climate change. From this time she was called as India's Greta Thumberg but she did not like the use of this term.

She is one of the youngest climate activists globally and has addressed world leaders at the united nations climate change conference 2019. Due to all this hard work she received many awards such as the Dr. A.P.J Abdul Kalam Children Award and Rising Star of Earth Day network and many more. She is continuing her work and her parents and the whole world is proud of her. She has even proved that age is just a number.



Presented By
Kartiki Mandekar
VII Sienna



Dr. Sylvia Earle

Dr. Sylvia Earle is a marine biologist and climate activist. Earle was born in 1935 in New Jersey, to Alice Freas (Richie) Earle and Lewis Reade. Both her parents were enthusiastic about the outdoors and supportive of their daughter's early interests in the natural world. The family moved to Dunedin on the western coast of Florida during Earle's childhood.

Earle was the Curator of Phycology at the California Academy of Sciences and a research associate at the University of California, Berkeley, Radcliffe Institute Scholar, and research fellow at Harvard University. In 1969, she applied to join the Tektite Project, an installation fifty feet below the surface of the sea off the coast of the Virgin Islands which allowed scientists to live submerged in their area of study for up to several weeks. Although she had logged more than 1,000 research hours underwater, Earle was rejected from the program. The next year, she was selected to lead the first all-female team of aquanauts in Tektite II.

What has she done for climate change? She founded Mission Blue, an organization dedicated to protecting the ocean from threats such as climate change, pollution, habitat destruction, invasive species, and the dramatic decrease in ocean fish stocks. She also holds the record for the deepest walk on the seafloor. She teaches us many values such as commitment, persistence, and following our passion. To conclude this story, a famous quote from her.

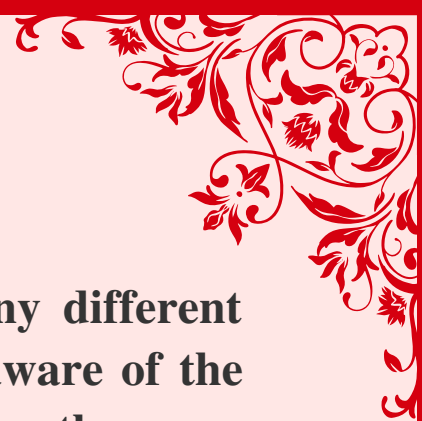
“Our past, our present and whatever remains of our future, absolutely depends on what we do now.”



Presented By
Ruhi Shukla
VIII Honeydew



Vanessa Nakate



The climate change movement has been fought for a long time by many different activists throughout the years. Ever since mankind has become acutely aware of the impending disasters that shall fall upon us if we continue to pollute the earth, many noble people have taken it upon themselves to try and bring out the change they want to see in the world. They have stood up against the system and strived to improve our future.

Most people would shrug it off and leave the problem in the hands of the future generation. However, these empathetic people have recognized it as not only a problem for humans, but a problem for all living beings on earth and have thought of many ways to curb climate change.

Vanessa Nakate is an African climate activist. Seeing the poor condition of living and the effects of climate change upon her own country, she has stood up for her cause and protested, as well as has introduced several new ways to curb the threat of climate change.

People like her inspire me and motivate me to stand up for what I believe, as well as to fight for the beautiful wildlife and plantlife, as well as the breathtaking scenery that this world has to offer us, which may be destroyed by the force of human greed. These activists are truly some of the bravest people I have researched about.



Presented By
Atharv Bhide
VIII Ivory



Charlene Ren

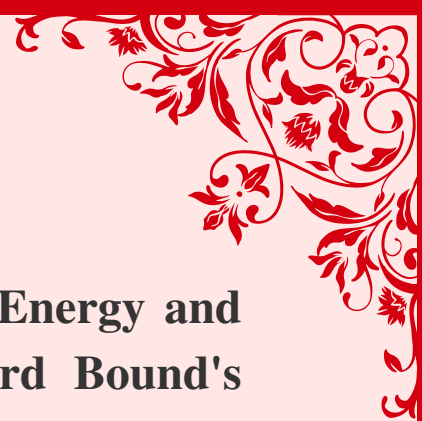
Charlene Ren is also known as Xiaoyuan Ren. Born and raised in Beijing, she is a Chinese environmental engineer and social entrepreneur. She is the founder of MyH2O, an information platform that uses data to monitor water quality and improve access to clean water resources for rural communities in China.

She recognizes herself as a ‘proud vegetarian’ and a supporter of feminist causes. As a high school student, she became interested in environmental issues and joined a local chapter of Roots and Shoots, the international youth organization founded by Jane Goodall. Her grandparents live outside the capital, and their experiences with unreliable water quality were an influence on her future field of study.

Charlene completed Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degree in physics from Vassar College. She also did Two masters' degrees in Environmental Engineering and Technology Policy from Massachusetts Institute of Technology. As part of her graduate work, Charlene studied rural water monitoring systems in India. This exploration developed into the ongoing MIT/India "Data for Improved Governance" project. Charlene first wrote a business plan for the company that would become MyH2O in 2014 during her postgraduate studies at MIT, with mentorship from engineer John H. Lienard V.

She was inspired by the robust network of water quality and sanitation databases that she observed in India while completing her masters' degrees. She launched the platform in 2015 with the goal of using similar data collection systems to combat a crisis of poor water quality in rural China. Charlene is a member of the China Youth Climate Action Network.





She has worked as an organizer of the International Youth Summit on Energy and Climate Change. Charlene represented China during one of Homeward Bound's leadership events for women scientists, joining the group for a journey to Antarctica. She was named an Echoing Green Fellow in 2016.

She was honored as one of the United Nations Environment Programme's 2020 Young Champions of the Earth, an award which comes with project funding and mentorship. What Charlene does is for the advancement of her country.

Hopefully, this will soon be for the betterment of the world. Thanks to her, I understand that much water goes down the drain. Poor people do not get enough water. When they receive even a little bit, it is dirty and unsafe to use.

Thanks to Charlene, this will not be a problem. I have learnt water's importance in our lives; how important it is to conserve it. I hope you have too!



Presented By
Veda Chhapparwal
VIII Pearl



Senior Secondary Domain

Std IX

- Tulsi Gowda
- Vandana Shiva
- Savitha Hiremath

Std X

- Elizabeth Wanjiru Wathuti
- Priyadarshini Karve
- Margaret Murie

Std XI

- Devaki Amma
- Isra Hirsi
- Garvita Gulati

Std XII

- Tori Tsui
- Norma Alvares
- Tessa Khan



Tulsi Gowda

Tulsi Gowda was born in 1944 into the Halakki tribal family within the Honnalli village, a settlement transitioning between rural and urban within the Uttara Kannada district in the Indian state of Karnataka.

Gowda was born in an impoverished family, and her father died when she was 2 year old, causing her to have to begin working alongside her mother as a day laborer at a local nursery once she was old enough, prohibiting her from ever receiving a formal education. As a result of her lack of education, she is illiterate, not able to read or write. At a young age she was married off to an older man named Govinde Gowda, but no one including her knows exactly how old she was when the marriage began, but she was estimated to be around 10 to 12 years old. Her husband died when Gowda was in her 50s.

At the nursery, Gowda was responsible for taking care of the seeds that were to be grown and harvested at the Karnataka Forestry Department, and she specifically cared for the seeds that were meant to be a part of the Agasur seedbed. Gowda continued working at the nursery alongside her mother as a daily wage worker for 35 years until she was offered a permanent position in recognition of her work towards conservation and extensive knowledge of botany. She then worked at the nursery with her permanent position for 15 more years before she decided to finally retire at the age of 70 years old.

During her entire time at this nursery, she contributed and worked directly to aid the afforestation efforts by the forest department by using her traditional knowledge of the land that she gained through first-hand experience.



She has not just planted saplings that will grow , and have grown upto become trees that help the world at a large to live better, she has also helped prevent poachers from destroying wildlife, and has worked to prevent many forest fires. She spent over 60 years as both a daily wage worker and as a permanent worker at the Karnataka Forest Department.

In 1986, she received the Indira Priyadarshini Vrikshamitra Award In 1999, Gowda received the Karnataka Rajyotsava Award, it is the second highest civilian honor of the Karnataka state of India. On 26 January 2020, the Government of India rewarded Gowda with the prestigious Padma Shri award, the fourth highest award given to citizens of India. After winning the award, Gowda reaffirmed her purpose for her actions by saying that while she is glad to have received the Padma Shri, but she “values the forests and trees more”.

Tulsi Gowda is known by environmentalists as the "Encyclopedia of Forest" and by her tribe as the "tree goddess" because of her extensive knowledge of forest and all of the plants that grow within it. She is renowned for her ability to identify the mother tree of every species of tree in the forest no matter its location. Gowda is estimated to have planted in the range of one lakh trees in Karnataka on her own. These contributions have made a lasting impact on the members of her community as well. Although Gowda has retired from the Karnataka Forestry Department, she has dedicated the rest of her life to teaching the children of her village about the importance of the forest as well as how to find and care for seeds.



Presented By
Abhuday Swami
IX Fawn





Savita Hiremath


Back in the late 90s, when cities like Mumbai and Delhi were witnessing rapid development, Karnataka's capital city became everyone's great escape from the crowds and extreme climatic conditions.

The people came and it did not take much time for the city to split at its seams And then came the flood of problems associated with each growing metropolis. Once hailed as the country's Garden city, Bengaluru has unfortunately now been reduced to the garbage city of India. One of the reasons cited by experts to a rise in the garbage crisis is population which has now risen to eight million from the three million in 1999. This has put a tremendous amount of pressure on the landfills and municipality.

While people are a part of the problem, they can also be the solution. With this belief, Savita Hiremath from Bengaluru has embarked on a mission to make waste management a part of people's daily routine. It all started in 2012 when the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) made it mandatory for the residents and commercial establishments to practice source segregation.

Like most of the residential complexes, Sobha Althea in Yelahanka also tried its hand at segregation and decided to start in-house composting. However, it needed more work. Being a resident of the complex and a leading member of Solid Waste Management Round Table (SWMRT), Savita stepped up and took charge of the system. Four years before shifting to Sobha Althea in Yelahanka, I started practicing waste segregation at Brigade Regency in Malleswaram. I used to segregate it into six categories.





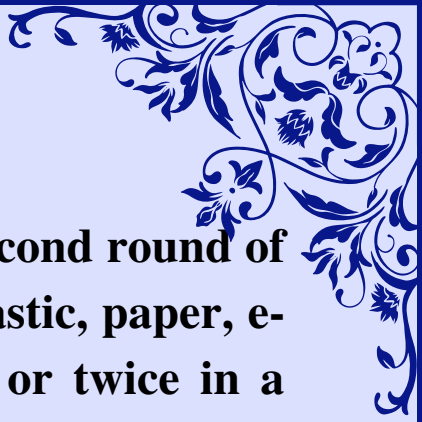
Initial days were tough but eventually it became a habit. The sight of segregated waste is beautiful at Sobha Althea, the society committee gave Savita the freedom to experiment with different composting methods. Despite having a full-time job, she dedicated herself to the cause and tried six different methods of scientifically processing the waste.

“From learning DIY methods, vermicomposting to requesting people to segregate waste in more than two categories, we explored several options. We also had to be careful with the people as they were already segregating their waste into two kinds. More pressure would have backfired,” Savita, a journalist by profession, says. While she was researching for the best options, Savita also made sure to exploit the social media. It was on one of the online groups where she came across Reap Benefit.

The company was looking for someone to help them try out their new compost culture and document the progress of their product for close to a month. Savita and her team sourced the culture and thus began their community-composting experiment. “It was not challenging to convince the 200 families once I told them about my old apartment’s success,” says Savita. Instead of hiring a contractor to manage the composting unit, Savita roped in the building’s housekeeping staff to make the process self-sustainable.

While researching, I came across multiple buildings who purchased the machine and the contractor hired was either not doing his job properly or would leave the job. In case of the latter, the residents would be left hanging, says the 45-year-old. Savita trained around 14 housekeepers in segregating the dry waste and processing the wet waste in the newly purchased unit. The staff is divided into three teams and functions on shift basis.






After all the household waste is collected by the staff, the waste undergoes a second round of segregation where dry waste is further divided into 21 categories including plastic, paper, e-waste, glass and so on. Depending on the volume of dry waste, every once or twice in a month, it is sold to a local recycler who sells it to plastic and paper factories as raw material. The money collected is given to the housekeeping staff as an incentive. The wet waste is shredded in the shredder for 15 minutes after which it is mixed with culture and placed in milk crates. It takes around 3 weeks for the compost to turn into organic manure. As for sanitary waste, it is given to an incinerator company.

The manure soon replaced the pesticides that were used to maintain the complex garden. A significant improvement was observed in terms of health of the plants. Earlier the dogs used to get blisters when they rubbed their back on the lawns and the leaves had a burnt colour to it. Now, they have an earthy smell and the shade of colour green has become more beautiful, says Savita. Among the series of transformation, people's behaviour towards garbage also changed.

The outlook towards non-biodegradable waste also changed as the residents ditched plastic cutlery and switched to eco-friendly ones during society's social gatherings. We reinforced the idea that what we take from the soil should go back to the soil. The residents now connect with nature more and feel responsible towards it. In fact waste has increased community bonding, says Savita.

200 families generate around 6-7 tonnes of kitchen waste every month that further produces 2 tonnes of manure. The society also prevents close to 120 tonnes of waste from entering the landfill per year. It is considered a zero-waste community despite the non recyclable waste which has no destination, says Savita.





The entire journey has been documented by Savita on her blog 'Endlessly Green'. On her blog, Savita has also reviewed close to 20 composting units available in the market for people to make a choice according to their needs. Her other columns include organic gardening and community and home composting.

One of Savita's successful trips was at the Purva Venezia residential complex. She helped 1300+ flats process waste source. Awareness among the residents regarding waste existed but implementation was missing. That is when Savita stepped in. Her inputs on segregation and collection of waste helped and motivated the residents.

She has also collaborated with city-based waste solution vendors and the BBMP to convince residents to practice waste segregation. The citizen-driven group regularly organises meetings with vendors where they put up stalls giving solutions on BBMP premises. Savita strongly believes that garbage crisis has to be fought at multiple levels and is not one person or one organisation's job.

She recently launched Swach Garha Compost Connect that aims at connecting farmers with residential complexes that produce huge amount of nutrient-rich manure. "Our aim is to connect the urban compost producers with farmers farming in and around Bengaluru. Many communities are sitting with stockpiles of nutrient-rich compost even after using it for their gardens. More than 25-30 apartments have come forward to sell their compost at a nominal price. However, many farmers have misconceptions about urban compost and we aim to change that.', says Savita.



Presented By
Divye Sakhuja
IX Beige





Elizabeth Wanjiru Wathuti


Elizabeth Wanjiru Wathuti is a Kenyan environment and climate activist and founder of the Green Generation Initiative, which nurtures young people to love nature and be environmentally conscious at a young age and has now planted 30,000 tree seedlings in Kenya.

Elizabeth grew up in one of the most forested regions in Kenya. Africa is home to close to a fifth of the world's forests but every year, deforestation destroys nearly 3 million hectares of the continent's forest. Today, the growing impacts of climate change are making it harder to reverse forest loss and land degradation across the continent and the world.

“The natural world that my friends and I knew as children began to change before our eyes. The streams are no longer flowing at the same fast speed and also the trees that we had planted as children have disappeared. At some point - I remember walking into this beautiful forest, and finding tree logs and tree stumps instead of mighty trees..says Elizabeth.

Elizabeth founded the Green Generation Initiative in 2016 - a youth-led initiative aimed at addressing environmental issues through education, tree growing for impact, advocacy, and activism. She was determined to empower communities, particularly children and young people, to find solutions to the climate and ecological crisis.





“This is about humanity's future. This is about making sure that the world right now is liveable.”If our actions are not truly genuine, then we are not going to be doing any justice to the people that are impacted by the crisis right now.

And we are not going to be doing any justice to the children and the people whose lives and livelihoods depend on the decisions that are being made right now,” says Elizabeth.

She also feels: “If we are going to achieve everything, we will need everyone on board.” “What I think needs to happen is that the people who truly understand why this work is really important, need to also continue putting up so much pressure on everyone.

We even need more climate activists on board, we need more people who care and are concerned about the planet to join this movement and make sure that we are holding everyone accountable, because this is also about system change. This is also about individual responsibility,” she stresses. “It's not easy to get someone to take action.

That ability and the will to act has to come from deep within us so that we can do what must be done and we need to know how to get people and how to move people to actually take action. And if we get a majority of people who actually understand and feel it themselves, then we are the people that are also going to move the leaders to take action.”

“That kind of power is what is going to make a huge and real difference in the world today.”



Presented By
Aryan Surana
X Iris





Dr Priyadarshini Karve

Dr. Priyadarshini Karve completed Ph.D. in Physics from University of Pune, in 1998. As a student, she worked on a three-month project to create compact fuel for stoves used in areas using sawdust and sand.

Her struggle with the inefficient stoves that rural women dealt with on a daily basis spurred her to join the Appropriate Rural Technology Institute, NGO based in Maharashtra, where she experimented with stove designs and fuels.

In a career spanning more than 20 years, Dr. Karve invented a number of improved biomass burning cooking devices, to reduce smoke in the kitchen and dependence on firewood for domestic cooking in rural areas.

She has also worked on “organic waste to fuel” technologies, specifically focusing on char and biogas. From 2015, she has been advocating strongly for carbon negativity through conversion of waste biomass into char, and using the char for a variety of fuel and non-fuel applications.

In 2005, she started Samuchit Enviro Tech, a social enterprise that promotes environmentally sustainable energy and lifestyle products. Dr. Karve, who is the Managing Director of Samuchit, has also invented an easy-to-use Carbon Footprint Calculator for Urban Indians, and conducts workshops on climate friendly lifestyle, sustainable urbanisations, etc.





Dr. Karve is actively involved in national & international organisations working in the field of renewable energy, equitable sustainable development, climate resilience and more.

Currently she is a Member of the Board of Trustees of Initiatives for New Ecological Community Concerns (INECC), a registered society in India. She is also teaching courses on Sustainable Development and History of the Universe at Symbiosis International University.



Presented By
Neel Prabhat
X Plum



Kollakkayil Devaki Amma

Long before the world had started taking to the streets and raising their voices against environmental degradation, Kollakkayil Devaki Amma was already undertaking the initiative of creating a sustainable environment in her backyard.

It was her love for the environment and her desire to mitigate the effects of climate change that allowed her to create a forest over the five acre stretch around her home. Devaki Amma's grandfather, a vaidyan, was a great source of influence for Devaki Amma. It was he, who helped her inculcate a love for horticulture. Her feelings were intensified when she married Gopalkrishna Pillai, an English teacher, in whose family all women were required to engage in agricultural work. Devaki Amma would assist her mother-in-law in cultivating paddy until 1980 when she injured her leg and was advised against walking. After three years, she planted a sapling in her backyard and the process began.

In a short duration, she had developed a lush green forest in her patio in Alappuzha district of Kerala. Devaki Amma reminisces, "I used to enthusiastically participate in paddy cultivation. But, following the accident I was bedridden for almost three years and was forced to abandon rice cultivation. But it led to something more important. Helped by the family members, I started planting saplings 35 years ago. I never thought at that time the place would become a forest."

It was her love for the environment and her desire to mitigate the effects of climate change that allowed her to create a forest over the five acre stretch around her home. Her husband and family played an instrumental role in uplifting her spirits. Every day, without fail, her husband would bring seeds and saplings for her.



Even now she is regularly gifted saplings and seeds by her family members, relatives and friends. She acknowledges their efforts and says, “I get enormous support from my children, grandchildren and their children in conserving the forest. They contribute in a big way and want to protect the forest in the best way possible.”

Since protection of the environment has been her aim, Devaki Amma uses only green organic manure to grow and sustain the plants and trees. The forest houses over 3000 trees like Teak, Mahogany, Tamarind, Mango, Pine, Bamboo, etc. Some rare plants like Lakshmi Tharu, Chinese Orange, etc are also found in her forest. Apart from the 200 different varieties of trees and shrubs that supply fruits, vegetables and flowers in abundance, the forest also has ponds, a wetland and animals like cows, buffaloes, oxen, etc.

Devaki Amma takes immense pride in her work when she says, “Instead of restricting the birds and animals by putting nets, I have made water and nest provisions for them. As a result, you can see peacocks, monkeys, and exotic birds like Amur Falcon, Bluethroat, Black Winged Stilt and Emerald Dove in the forest.”

To prevent environmental degradation and to curb environmental pollution, she stresses on the need to neutralise carbon footprints and says, “Planting a tree is the most effective and feasible option. Our family has been cancelling carbon footprints by planting trees for four decades now.” She has also made rain water harvesting facilities available in order to deal with the water problems.

Truly she is a hero and a role model for the youth. Her contributions to the conservation of environment has inspired many to take up the cause.



Presented By
Sarang Damani
XI B



Isra Hirsi

16 year old Isra Hirsi is mobilizing her peers in support of bold climate action. At the age of 12, she was one of the participants protesting for justice for Jamar Clark at the Mall of America. Hirsi attended Minneapolis South High School, from which she graduated in 2021. She became involved in climate activism after joining her high school's environmental club in her freshman year.

Hirsi was one of the lead organizers of the first ever Youth Climate Strike in the US, which took place on March 15 as a part of the global Fridays for Future protests. The budding activist is pursuing climate justice by raising awareness about environmental racism.

She wants to ensure that any climate action prioritizes communities of color and those likely to be marginalized, who are often disproportionately impacted by climate change. Hirsi coordinated the organization of hundreds of students- led strikes across the United States on March 15 and May 3, 2019. She co-founded the U.S Youth Climate Strike, the American arm of the global youth climate change movement, in January 2019.

She acts as the co-executive director of this group. In 2019 she won a Brower Youth Award and Voice of the Future Award.



Presented By
Om Bharadwaj
XI A



Garvita Gulati

In 2015, Garvita founded Why Waste? and worked with over 5 lac restaurants, 10 million people and prevented over 6 million litres of water from being wasted. Garvita has been recognised by the Earth Day Network as an 'Earth Day Network Rising Star' and was named one of the 40 under 40 environmentalists of the year in 2019.

Deeply impacted and disturbed by the water crisis India faced in 2015, Garvita Gulhati felt the need to take a lead and compelled her to make a difference. 21-year-old Gulhati took a stand and started an initiative called 'Why Waste?' after she learnt that 14 million liters of water are wasted every year simply in the water that we leave behind in our glasses at restaurants.

At an age when most teenagers remain unfazed by the world outside, Garvita Gulhati found herself perturbed by the looming water crisis. With an aim to bring a shift in the mindsets regarding wastage, and preserve millions of liters of water wasted every year by restaurants, she founded her youth-led initiative 'Why Waste?'. The app, which has worked with restaurants and individuals, is responsible for saving over 10 million liters of water and has impacted over six million lives.

'Why Waste?' aims at changing the mindsets of people towards natural resources, specifically water. With the increasing number of restaurants, the primary goal of Why Waste? is to reduce wastage of water in restaurants. Their pilot project #GlassHalfFull, has been a huge success.



Presented By
Revaa Wadodkar
XI C



Tori Tsui

Tori Tsui is an Hongkonger intersectional climate activist and mental health advocate who currently resides in Bristol, England.

She graduated in 2015 as Master of Research in Ecology, Evolution and Conservation at Imperial College London which build her foundation of Climate Science and its sustainability. A year after her graduation, Tsui moved to Bristol to learn about natural history documentary industry.

Her involvement as being part of Extinction Rebellion for making short movies about how climate change affects specific species for Extinction Rebellion's social media led her to be called by creative director of Stella McCartney to be part of her campaign. She became a part of the advertising campaign called 'Agents of Change' with Jane Goddall, Deya Ward and Ruby Munslow and other famous personalities working to combat climate change.

She spent two months building a new project called Sail for Climate Action. The project's purpose was to bring Latin American, Indigenous and Caribbean young activists to attend United Nations Climate Change Intersessional SB52 in Bonn, Germany. Though, the project also cancelled cause of Covid-19 pandemic and stopped at Bermuda Later, Sail for Climate Action was rebranded to become Unite for Climate Action. Recently she has been a part of #StopCambo Campaign and also attended the United Nations Climate Change Conference in 2021.



Presented By
Vanya Mahajan
XII A



Norma Alvares

A resident of Goa and married to a fellow climate change activist, Norma Alvares has long been at the forefront of environmental activism in India. She is the founding member of Goa Foundation, an NGO and environmental action group, as well as an advocate at the Bombay High Court. From fighting for the conservation of dunes and coastal areas in Goa to breaking ground in protecting animal rights, Alvares has contributed immensely to preserve natural habitats.

Without the efforts of Padma Shri awardee Norma Alvares, an environmental lawyer and her husband Claude, Goa would have most likely failed to retain its natural charm and a significant chunk of its ecological heritage.

For more than three decades, the couple has fought hundreds of legal battles in the High Court (HC) and the Supreme Court (SC) on a variety of issues ranging from protection of coastal ecology and forests, mining devastation, and unplanned urbanization among others. Along with this they have also been simultaneously campaigning extensively on these issues with their non-profit NGO, the Goa Foundation.

Till this day their home in the north Goa village of Parra remains open to those seeking guidance in their battles to protect the State's pristine environment. It was the Goa Foundation's efforts that eventually resulted in the Apex Court of India issuing a historic ban on the rampant illegal mining in the State, which had devastated vast swathes of Goa's ecosystem.



Presented By
Tanya Paranjpe
XII B



Tessa Khan

Tessa Khan is an environmental lawyer residing in the United Kingdom. She co-founded and is co-director of the Climate Litigation Network, which supports legal cases related to climate change mitigation and climate justice. Tessa Khan has been involved in human rights law and advocacy campaigning.

While in Thailand in 2015 she learned of a court ruling at the Hague ordering the Netherlands to reduce its greenhouse-gas emissions. Inspired by the case, Khan moved to London to join the Urgenda Foundation legal team in 2016.

Khan co founded the Climate Litigation Network with Urgenda Foundation to support climate cases around the world. She serves as the Climate Litigation Network's co-director. Through the organization, she has successfully helped activist groups sue their own governments.

In December 2019, in the State of the Netherlands vs Urgenda Foundation case, the Supreme Court of the Netherlands ordered the government to scale back the capacity of coal power stations.

Tessa Khan has spent over a decade working to promote human rights, social and environmental justice and has supported grassroots and international movements for change. She started her legal career in Australia and has worked in the Hague, Washington DC, Thailand, India, Egypt and the UK. She is a trustee of Global Greengrants Fund UK and is an awardee of the Climate Breakthrough Project. In 2019, she was named by TIME magazine as one of fifteen women leading the fight against climate change.



Presented By
Saanj Sanghavi
XII C



Special Mention of the Editorial Team



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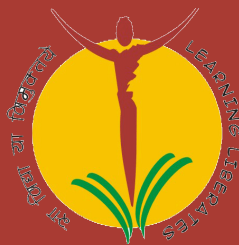
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