







**MATA SUNDRI JI**

## **Principal's Message**

*The Political Science Department of Mata Sundri College remains active throughout the year and conducts varied activities to bring out the latent talent of our students. The yearly e-journal, Voice is amongst an array of endeavors that deserves a special appreciation.*

*This issue of Voice is a repository of valuable information on contemporary and critical issue of frailty of the environment that is both informative as well as inspirational. It contains pressing environmental issues that are depicted in varied forms and all the sections including poetry, prose, news section and environment on screen delve deep into the urgent concerns of environment. The posters that are reproduced in the issue showcase vivid colors and are not only, a visual treat but also, depict the core theme disseminating the message contained in it in a very potent way. These are also illustrative of our civic culture, which is manifestation of a sheer neglect to the environmental concerns. A strong foundation of environmental stewardship is imperative for the very survival, health and improved quality of life of all.*

*The events conducted throughout the year are presented in a sequential manner. The editorial members deserve praise for the present issue exhibits their hard work, unflinching efforts, exuberance and focus and the faculty of the Political Science Department is appreciated for motivating the students to come up with penetrating ideas and persuasive viewpoints. Such efforts provide stimulus to the students and provides them opportunity to express their creative vision that is instrumental in continuously enhancing the quality of any dynamic institution.*

**Dr. Harpreet Kaur**

**Principal**

**Mata Sundri College for Women**



## **From the Editors' Desk**

It gives us immense pleasure to bring to you, the third issue of 'VOICE', the e-journal of the Department of Political Science, Mata Sundri College for Women.

The latest volume centers on the question of climate change and environment, an issue which is probably concerned with each and every life on this planet, calling for urgent attention, response and action, both at the national and global levels.

Climate change is an issue of unprecedented importance that puts a question mark on the future existence of the planet we are living on. In this context, the related issues of environmental governance and policy-making have special significance in the present-day scenario of day by day deteriorating quality of air and water, rapidly melting glaciers, extinction of various species of plants and animals and the ever so adverse impact of all these transformations on human health.

In the recent times, several efforts have been seen at the international level such as the signing of the Paris Climate Change Agreement by several countries of the world which obliges them to reduce carbon emissions, as well as to cut down the energy consumption with time. But a matter of concern is that most of these countries are far from achieving even the smallest of targets set as a result of these international accords for saving the environment from further degradation.

We believe that issues of environment and climate change are significant political questions. They have deep connections with the way a neoliberal and hyper-consumerist development is being organized at the global level and the subsequent power relation unravelling between the global North and the global South.

Therefore, the current attempt by the team to raise these important concerns at the platform of 'VOICE', which has, over the years, become a successful avenue to connect the flowing thoughts by way of putting together the aspirations and artistic expressions of the students. The concern for climate change and environment, has been penned down by the students of the department in different expressive ways like essays, poems, posters etcetera.



It is very rightly said that "a flower makes no garland". In the same spirit, the e-journal reflects the immense effort and contribution put forward by the entire department, for which we are ever so grateful.

Needless to add, we reserve our sincerest gratitude for the Principal of the college, Dr. Kaurjit Kaur for her constant encouragement and unrelenting support.

### Faculty Editors

Ms. Neetu Sharma  
Ms. Shashwati  
Ms. Paromita Datta.

### Student Editors

Priyanka Mishra  
A. Rajshree  
Neha Khanna





ESSAYS

The image shows a hand-drawn title card for 'ESSAYS'. The word 'ESSAYS' is written in a large, black, stylized serif font on a white rectangular background. This central rectangle is framed by a thick, hand-drawn black border. Outside this border, there are five horizontal bands of color, each with a textured, crayon-like appearance. From top to bottom, the colors are: red, green, orange, blue, and pink. The entire composition is set against a light beige background.



## **The Warning of Global Warming**

Environmental change is an adjustment in the factual dissemination of climate designs when that change goes on for an expanded timeframe i.e. decades to a huge number of years. Environmental change may allude to an adjustment in normal climatic conditions, or in the time variety of climate inside the setting of longer-term normal conditions. Environmental change is caused by variables, for example, biotic procedures, varieties in sun-based radiation on Earth, plate tectonics, and volcanic ejections.

Certain human exercises have been recognized as essential drivers of continuous environmental change, frequently referred to as leading to worldwide warming.

Researchers effectively work to comprehend past and future atmosphere by utilizing perceptions and hypothetical models. The atmospheric record-expanding, profoundly into the earth's past has been amassed and is kept on being developed on the basis of bore hole temperature profiles, centers expelled from profound collections of ice, flora and fauna that record frigid and periglacial forms, stable-isotope and different investigations of dregs layers and records of past ocean levels. Latter information is given by the instrumental record. General dissemination models, in light of the physical sciences, are frequently utilized in hypothetical ways to deal and co-ordinate with the past atmosphere information, making future projections and connections, circumstances and end results related to environmental change.

Components that shape atmosphere are called 'atmosphere forcing' or 'driving mechanism'. This can be either 'inside' or 'outside'.

Physical proof to watch environmental change incorporates a scope of parameters. Worldwide records of surface temperature are accessible since the beginning of the mid-

nineteenth century. Climatic changes are gathered from changes in intermediaries, markets that reflect atmosphere, for example, vegetation, ice - cores, dendrochronology, ocean level changes and icy geography. Other physical confirmation incorporates cold ocean ice decrease, overcast cover and precipitation, vegetation, creatures and recorded archeological proof.

The average temperature in many regions has been increasing in recent decades. The global average surface temperature has increased by 0.6-0.20 degrees Celsius over the last century. Globally, 1998 was the warmest year and the 1990s the warmest decade on record. Many countries have experienced increases in rainfall particularly the countries situated in the mid to high latitudes. In some regions such as parts of Asia and Africa, the frequency and intensity of droughts have been observed to increase in recent decades. Episodes of El Nino, which creates great storms, have been more frequent, persistent and intense since the mid-1970s compared with the previous hundred years. All these are signs that the Earth is ailing. Its climate is changing making it more difficult to survive. The Earth is losing its equilibrium due to the imbalances created by human activities.

Projections of future climate change are derived from a series of experiments made by computer based global climate models. These are calculated based on factors like future population growth and energy use. Climatologists of the intergovernmental panel on climate change have reviewed the results of several experiments in order to estimate changes in climate in the course of this century.

These studies have shown that in the near future the global mean surface temperature will rise by 1.4 Celsius -5.8 Celsius; this 'warming' will be greater over land areas and at high latitudes. The projected rate is likely to increase, leading to floods or droughts. There will



be fewer cold spells but more heat waves. The frequency and intensity of the El Niño is likely to increase.

Human societies are seriously affected by extremes of climate such as droughts, floods, and issues concerning the human health. Freshwater supplies may be affected, reducing the availability of clean water. Water can be contaminated and sewage system may be damaged, leading to spread of infectious diseases; reduction of food production leading to starvation and malnutrition. Changes in climate may affect the distribution of vector species. So, climate change should be taken care of to sustain healthy human life.

Jasnoor  
3<sup>rd</sup> Yr Sec A

## Nature's Wrath in Kerala

The 'Land of temples' has become the 'land of water'. Kerala, also known as the 'Gods Own Country' is facing nature's wrath. Kerala has a population of more than 3.3 crores where female population is 52% of the overall. It is a land of diverse religions like Hinduism, Christianity and Islam. In fact, the first mosque in India and first Jewish Church was built in Kerala. Kerala is heavily populated with a population density of 860 people per square kilometers which is three times the national average. In view of this, an important question relates to further intensifying human activities including proliferation of population in an area which consists of 44 lakes and 43 dams and which is prone to tectonic activities.

### Climate's role

A combination of four factors led to extreme flooding across Kerala this year, far above the normal seasonal rainfall (May-August). Extreme rainfall was witnessed across the whole state during the season, and over 90% reservoir storage was utilized even before the onset of massive rainfall and finally the unprecedented rainfall in the catchment areas of major reservoirs in the state led to disaster. The summer-monsoon rainfall in Kerala from May to August this year was 2290 mm which was 53% above normal. This makes the year 2018, Kerala's third wettest year in the last 118 years. Six of the seven major reservoirs in the state were full to over 90% of their storage capacities before August 8, well before Kerala received extreme rainfall. The catchment areas of the major reservoirs in the state received extreme rainfall witnessed never before in the state.

Climate change is inevitable and unstoppable in its nature. However the 20th century global warming has been directly linked with anthropological activities such as the burning of fossil fuel, excess emission of greenhouse gases and urbanization. Our planet is now a degree hotter than what it was before the Industrial Revolution. With increasing temperatures, the rate of



evaporation from the ocean increases, warmer air holds more vapor resulting in more intense rainfall and deadly flooding that follows.

Maximum and average temperatures have risen significantly over the past 60 years across most Indian states including Kerala and Tamil Nadu which are at the high end of this trend. Warmer air leads to quick evaporation of water and the higher rate of evaporation in a warmer climate contributes to more intense precipitation and rain.

### **Mismanagement of dams**

Often dams are claimed as multipurpose projects and prevention of floods is cited as one of the purposes of dams because they have something called a flood cushion which gets filled only when a river is in spate. For the first time in history 35 out of the state's 39 dams were thrown open. These 35 dams included Mullaperiyar, Cheruthoni, part of Idukki reservoir and Idamalayar, which together wreaked havoc in the downstream areas. Kerala dams clearly failed in flood moderation as they were already full when the floods occurred.

### **Kedarnath Tragedy**

In June 2013, a multi-day cloud bust centered in the north Indian state of Uttarakhand, caused devastating floods and landslide, leading to one of the most catastrophic natural disasters in the country. The primary reason why the floods occurred was that the extreme rainfall received failed to evacuate because of all the debris blocked up by the rivers causing major overflow. The natural and anthropological influence on the climate anomalies using simulations found that (a) Northern India had experienced increasingly intensified rainfall in June that year since the late 1980s (b) the increase in rainfall appears to be associated with the tendency in the upper troposphere towards amplified short waves and (c) the phasing of such amplified short waves is tied to increased loading of greenhouse gases and aerosols. Unscientific developmental activities, roads constructed in haphazard style, more than 70 hydroelectric projects in the watersheds of the state led to a 'disaster waiting to happen'. 70 hydroelectric projects contributed to ecological imbalance in the state, with flowing of river water restricted and the streamside development activities contributing to higher number of landslides and more flooding.

## Aftermath

In 2017, cyclone Ockhi crossed the sea near Kanyakumari, the southern tip of mainland India, on November 30. It caused havoc and destruction in the southern most districts of Tamil Nadu and Kerala. The damage caused across Kerala was estimated to be rupees 1843 crore, with a human casualty running into hundreds. Kerala had not even fully recovered from the damages caused by the cyclone Ockhi that the floods came along.

Approximately 370 people have been killed while 33,000 rescued over and housed in 3,274 relief camps opened at various locations to accommodate the flood victims. It is estimated that 1,247,496 people have found shelter in such camps.

Kerala is going to witness acute shortage of drinking water as many of the water treatment plants have either been damaged or are flooded with water. People have been asked to limit the use of drinking water supplied by Kerala Water Authority. Roughly half of the population of the state is urban and half is rural. Rural population also faces connectivity issues as floods damaged 10,000 km of roads. Kerala is the land of coconut (Kera), cardamom, cloves, pepper and other spices which are expensive to grow and which went bad due to flooding. It is unfortunate that the main economic activity being agriculture, much was lost to the floods including soil fertility.

Kerala has a vast forest cover and many several wildlife sanctuaries like the Periyar National Park- India's largest Tiger Reserve; Kumarakom National Park, Silent Valley National Park, Muthanga Wildlife Sanctuary. Tourism in the state depends upon these forests. If the forest are replaced by or lost to the dams, the state's revenue will suffer. Floods have also affected tourist places in the state thus ultimately affecting its revenue.

## Lessons to be learned

The Chennai floods of 2015 also were a result of people messing up with nature. Kerala is currently in pain. It will take the state a long while to recover and when that happens, the post mortem of the causes that led to the disaster will begin. What has happened in Kerala is thus also a lesson for the rest of the country to not to exploit nature. While the nature cannot always



be blamed for the kinds of calamities, the fault lies on our part. Dam mismanagement, illegal quarrying, illegal forest land acquisition by private parties for construction of resorts and other structure are the primary reason for the unprecedented flood in Kerala. Natural disasters are nature's way of reminding us that though we have been able to become the most dominant species on the planet, we can never dominate nature. We should realize it before it is too late or else, when nature cannot handle any more of the destruction and imbalance we are causing to it, it will go ahead and expunge us from its belly.

Neha Khanna  
3<sup>rd</sup> Yr Sec A

## **Eco-feminism: Where Gender and Environment Meet**

Eco feminism is a movement that sees a connection between the exploitation and degradation of the natural world and the subordination and oppression of women. It emerged in the mid 1970s alongside the second wave feminism and the green revolution, thus bringing together the elements of feminism and green movement.

Though the term was first used by Françoise d'Eaubonne it became popular in the context of numerous protests and activists against environmental destruction, sparked off initially by the reoccurring disasters.

The accident that occurred on Three Mile Island on March 28, 1979 in the Reactor number 2 of the Nuclear Generating Station in Pennsylvania, US, brought a large number of women in the USA together in the first eco feminist conference 'Women and Life on Earth' in March, 1980 at Amherst.

Women's work in the fields is never qualified as work and most of them do not have the ownership of the land they work upon. Globally women own only 13% of the agricultural land.

Methods adopted by women for farming have few common characteristics and diversity, integration and nutrition are their main considerations. Actual resources like water, soil and biodiversity are conserved and renewed and natural resources like green manure and compost are used. Evidently women who run farms maximize nutrition per acre while also conserving resources.

While women act as custodians of common heritage through the conservations of grains, the green revolution on the contrary, commercialized and privatized seeds, driven by capitalistic patriarchy. Due to such a mentality, food is no longer imbued with emotions but becomes a commodity to be merely bought and sold and to be evaluated on market parameters of profit and loss.



To give examples of the profit driven logic of the capitalist market, the high nutritive millets and oats have been replaced by polished dal. Handmade natural fibers and other natural fibers like bamboo have competition against plastic. All of these result in displacement of women from productive work on fields to making women more marginalized.

We take environmentalism as a problem because it interferes with what we see as growth. Today we spend 1.3 trillion rupees as subsidies for poisoning our soil. And that sum is bigger than our defense budget. Only 1% of the pesticides used in agriculture is absorbed by the plant, the rest goes back to the environment and water bodies leading to biomagnifications, eutrophication and other water issues.

In June 2015, we came across the news of noodles having heavy metals. But how did this happen? If lead got mixed up in the noodles, probably it came through the natural ingredients that were used to make noodles!

Food today, is not safe even at a good hotel or in a super market because it is only as safe as it is grown. These chemicals have led to 1 out of 4 men and 1 out of 5 women suffer from cancer in their lifetimes, childhood cancer and other deadly diseases.

Today, the mistaken identity of cultural poverty parallels with the mistaken identity of maternal poverty parallels with the mistaken identity of increased production with enhanced satisfaction of basic needs.

Development has emerged as the new means of subordination and discrimination of both women and nature. It is only after the intervention of women that has led to awareness about the important role played by the forests in the fragile eco-system.

Today, Germany is the leader in green activism and, eco-feminists like Heidi Hunter and Vandana Shiva are spreading awareness about the mal-development view of modern sciences and hence we see sustainable development as an agenda for all the governments all over the world.

Satakshi  
3<sup>rd</sup> Yr Sec B

## **Is Mobocracy the New Democracy?**

When a group of persons or a mob becomes violent against any individual or a particular community (in Indian context, as is witnessed especially against the Muslims or the Dalits), usually on the basis of suspicion that he/she has committed any offence or that he/she could do an activity which is considered as 'offence/unethical' by that group of persons, this often leads to what we witness as mob lynching. In such a context, what is often seen is that these, and many similar instances of the so-called 'public' trials of offences and administering justice undermines and overrides the due processes and institutions of law. We cannot agree more that law enforcement and justice in a constitutional democracy then ceases to prevail, and makes space for mobocracy.

The history of incidents like mob lynching can be traced to the times when it was used against Black Americans to suppress their rightful agitations and demands for civil rights and freedom.

Though mobocracy has no place in a secular, democratic nation, yet it is disturbing and painful that there has been no let-up in incidents of mob lynching being carried out with impunity.

The recent cases of mob lynching in India can be classified into two categories on the basis of the causes behind mob turning violent- first, those in which mob lynches a person on the basis of fake news spread through social media platforms particularly through Watsapp and Facebook. We have come across cases in which villagers attacked outsiders or tourists on the suspicion that they could be child lifters or smugglers of child organs, but suspicions and allegations such as these were only based on the messages spread through Watsapp. The second type of mob lynching which puts a dark patch on our secular state model is one in which the mob turned violent against a member of a particular religious community only on the basis of suspicion of cow slaughter or beef-eating.

The lynching of beef eaters or suspected beef eaters and meat traders in many parts of the country underlines the fascist trait of targeting those who has labelled as 'aliens' or the 'outsiders'. On the other hand, the killing of the 'suspected kidnappers of children' is



apparently the result of an atmosphere of anarchy which has come to prevail in the absence of stern enforcement of law and order.

Analyzing the causes of the emergence of mobocracy, the common propelling force behind both the types of mob lynching is the general perception of the prevailing law enforcement and justice system as slow and ineffective, making popular the idea that people should, and possible can, take law into their own hands. Focusing more on the mob attacks which are targeted against the religious minority communities, we find a number of causes responsible for it.

**The undue and politicized intervention of the politicians in the society as well as in the police service** can be seen as the first and foremost cause of emergence of these type of clashes in society. We all are well aware of the fact that no incidents of violence including communal riots or mob lynching can continue for any length of time unless there is political instigation, as the troublemakers are often known to have political backing and the police are told by their political masters to be mute spectators while the former are given free hand to vent their ire. So, it is understandable that the so-called Gau rakshaks or 'Cow Vigilantes' would not feel so empowered to do as they wish and also get away with their ruthless politics of violence unless they were sure that political backing would come their way.

The second factor responsible in such cases has to be located in the majority-minority power equation that mars our democracy even today. This unequal power relation has led to the **creation of an atmosphere of hate and suspicion against minority religions by the powerful majoritarian groups**, and all is being done in the name of 'nationalism' and 'patriotism'. For example, systematic and planned promotion and spread of different kinds of hateful beliefs about the Muslims that they are cow-eaters, or that they are a threat to Hindu women in the name of 'Love Jihad', they are members of terrorist groups etc. All of these lead to the creation of an atmosphere of sustained hatred against Muslims, making attacks on them spontaneous and the product of mob anger.

The third cause is the **lack of social coherence and tolerance for an inclusive social order among citizens as well as the political leadership of the country.** It is also the end result of politics of intolerance where the people are not ready to accept the culture and the lifestyles of others; instead, they want to prove the supremacy of their own culture by imposing it on others. The image of India which is famous for its diversity and tolerance in the world is being tarnished with these incidents.

The final factor is the **silence of other political parties on this issue.** Very surprisingly, political parties like the Congress are also not coming out in much favor of the victims of mob violence and this failure to come forward in support of the minorities and the oppressed shows that the secular resolve in the Indian state has weakened.

It is of importance that the recent directions of the Supreme Court on the same issue to the central and state governments includes the appointment of Nodal Officer in each district of different states to take stock of recent incidents and to make adequate laws against mob lynching. But it is to be noted that if the self-appointed 'gau-rakshaks' and other mob instigators do not fear from the existing laws, a new law will not be anything more than an addition to the statute book.

As far as the way forward is concerned, the most probable option seems to be that the people who are approving to these politically motivated acts should stop and think what they are attesting to? Their silence is akin to legitimating such crimes as normal and these forms of hate crimes, if normalized, would be the severest blow to the democracy of India. The government should take strict action against such self-appointed 'vigilantes' in society and make adequate laws that protect all its people equally, all the while, preventing law from turning into a plaything for power-hungry politicians, mob instigators and rioters. We cannot deny the fact that as long as the police would remain the caged parrot of politicians, we cannot hope for the situation to improve.

So, all these causes and consequences should compel our country's leadership to realize how we are failing as a secular nation and harmonious society.



All these causes and consequences should compel our country's leadership to realize how we are failing as a secular nation and a harmonious society. The need of the hour is to instill a feeling of respect and tolerance among the different social and religious groups that will strengthen the image of India that is multi-cultural and also one of the largest democracies to sustain the vagaries of time.

Priyanka Mishra  
3<sup>rd</sup> Yr Sec A

## Environmental Concerns in the Sustainable Development Goals

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a successor of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) set a broad agenda to achieve 'sustainability- using natural products and energy in a way that does not harm the environment' in almost all spheres of development. It emphasizes on sustainability in the lifestyles of people, in the use of natural resources of the earth, in the processes of production and consumption. This shows that the issues of climate change and environmental sustainability are well incorporated in the SDGs. This puts forth the 'way forward' of environment friendly development. These goals have been made universally implementable as most of the countries of the world have adopted SDGs as their target to be achieved by 2030 since nation states are the proper agencies responsible for curbing emissions to protect the shared global commons.

The SDGs in the Goal 7 (Achieving Affordable Clean Energy), Goal 11 (sustainable cities and communities) and Goal 13 (Climate Action), attempt to address the issue of 'climate change' and 'ecological balance' which are crucially related to the overall health and existence of the planet. The need for embedding environment in the goals and targets came from the consensual recognition at international level that '**global warming was not approaching, it had already arrived**'. Climate change is here and it is hitting us hard from all sides.

But despite the ambitious targets and the need felt by the countries for immediate action related to conservation of climate, why these targets are still far from being met, is a question of concern.

Climate change is natural and when the climate changes naturally, it changes to heal its own damages. But when we look at the present pace of climate change, especially the gradual increase of temperatures across the globe, especially since the 1970s, nearly all the warming is man-induced.

Today, excess emission of carbon dioxide and greenhouse gases is one of the main causes of global warming and climate change. This has been due to the culture of unprecedented level



of consumerism. The emergence of such a culture based on an indiscriminate exploitation of the natural resources of the Earth and the resulting increment in the level of pollutants in the atmosphere can be traced back to the period when the so-called developed world or the Global North was actually developing by setting up more and more industries, extracting the natural resources, putting more pressure on environment and adding more and more pollutants in water and air. Numerous scientific studies and government reports calculate that the greenhouse gases in this big picture account for more than 90% of post-industrial Earth's warming, the consequences of which are today being borne by the developing countries housing the more economically and socially vulnerable population. It is ironical that when it was the turn for the third world countries to develop and prosper, they were thrust with the responsibility to heal the damage caused to the planet by the developed world. The United States is still the world's second largest emitter of Green house Gases (GHGs) and had generated more than a quarter of the total anthropogenic GHGs in the atmosphere since 1850. Recently, the US, still a superpower, under the leadership of Trump has withdrawn from the Paris Climate Change Agreement, the most ambitious agreement at the international level to curb environmental degradation. There is no wonder in the fact that if any third world country, say India had undertaken a similar step, it would face ridicule and condemnation by the western world, following which global trade sanctions would be imposed or perhaps other kind of bans and penalties but nothing of such kind happened with the US, given its superpower status.

It means that the western world, especially the US, which is responsible for polluting the environment is not ready to even compensate for or cooperate to replenish what it has destroyed. The US government has not only ordered the federal governments to cancel or amend the policies that might interfere with domestic energy production, but also slashed research budgets for climate change. Not to mention that the US is the leader of the gamut of western developed countries which have more or less followed the same developmental path, as also the similar climate policies.

So, the pressure or burden to restore the ecological balance and stop further degradation of the earth has been shifted largely to the developing world since its population would be more

affected by the extremes of natural phenomenon like drought, wildfires, severe heatwaves and cyclones as they are densely populated as well as technologically backward. They do not have advanced protection mechanisms to protect its population from the threats of ecological disturbances.

While the way ahead lies in recognizing the fact that a major emitter is retreating from its former commitments, which is in itself a grave danger to the world's climate, however, at the same time, other countries must persist with their efforts, especially towards developing and making renewable sources of energy more and more affordable. The most affected countries should consider the fact that the successful implementation of global agreements such as the SDGs need support and pressure from other actors within and across their territories, who function at many levels - provinces, cities, policy think-tanks, scientists, philanthropists, local communities, civil society organizations, investors, transnational groups and multinational industries.

Priyanka Mishra  
3<sup>rd</sup> Yr Sec A







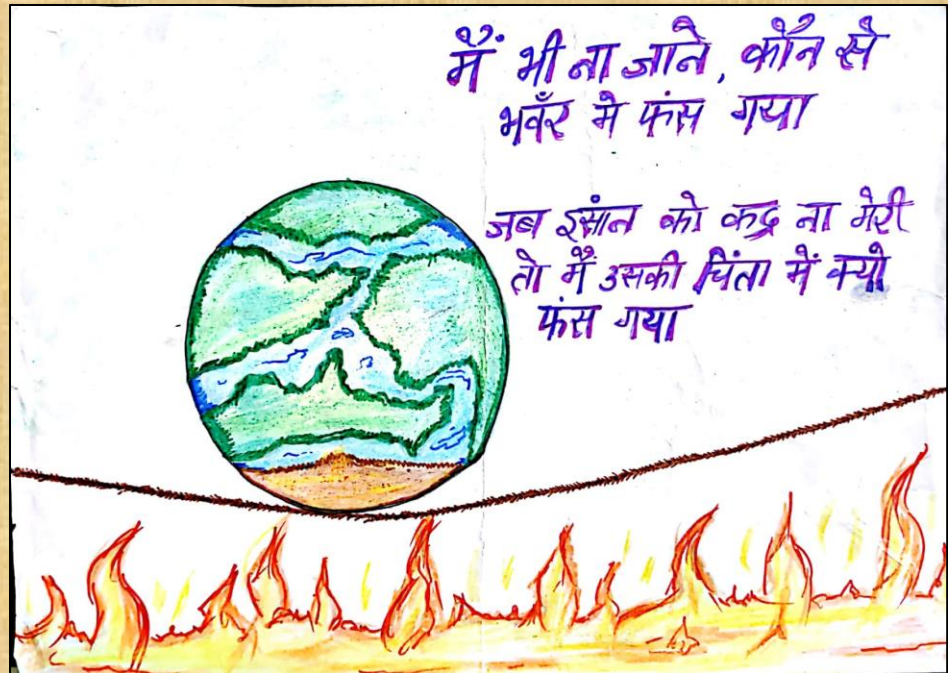


Destruction in the midst of the Ideal (1)

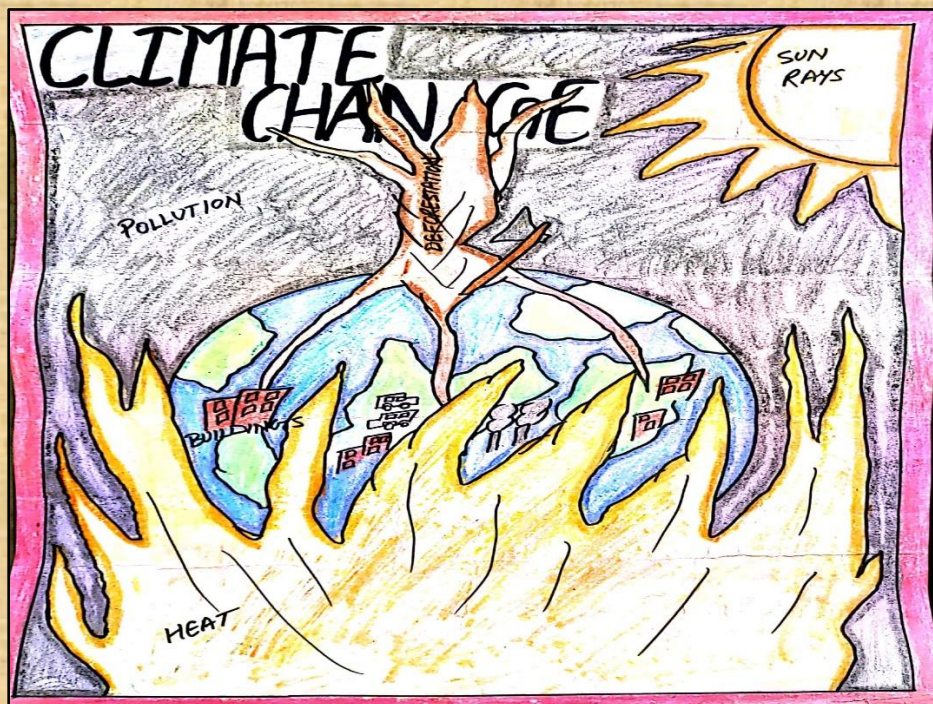


The Impacts of Global Warming (2)



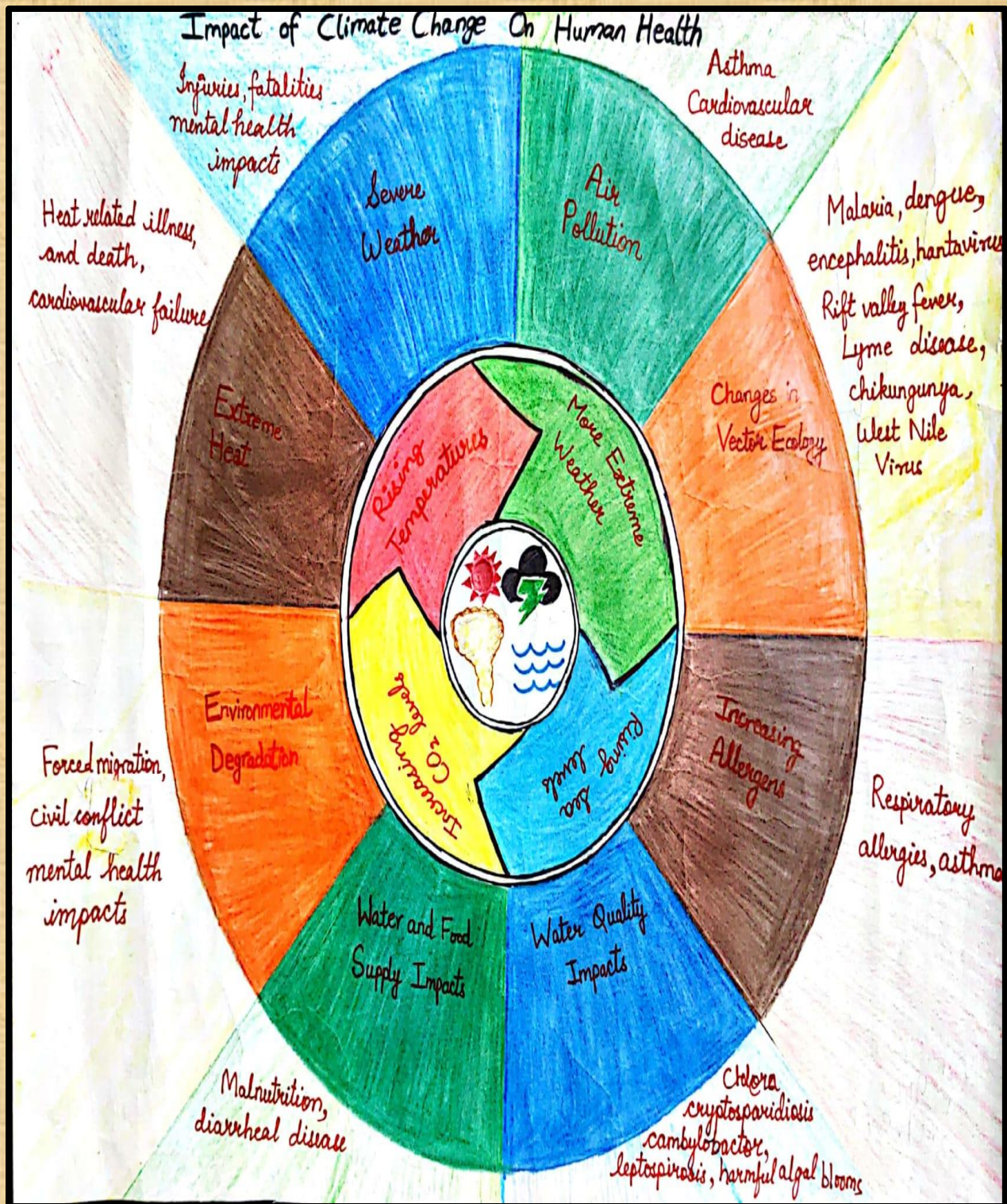


The Dilemma (3)



The Rage of Climate Change (4)





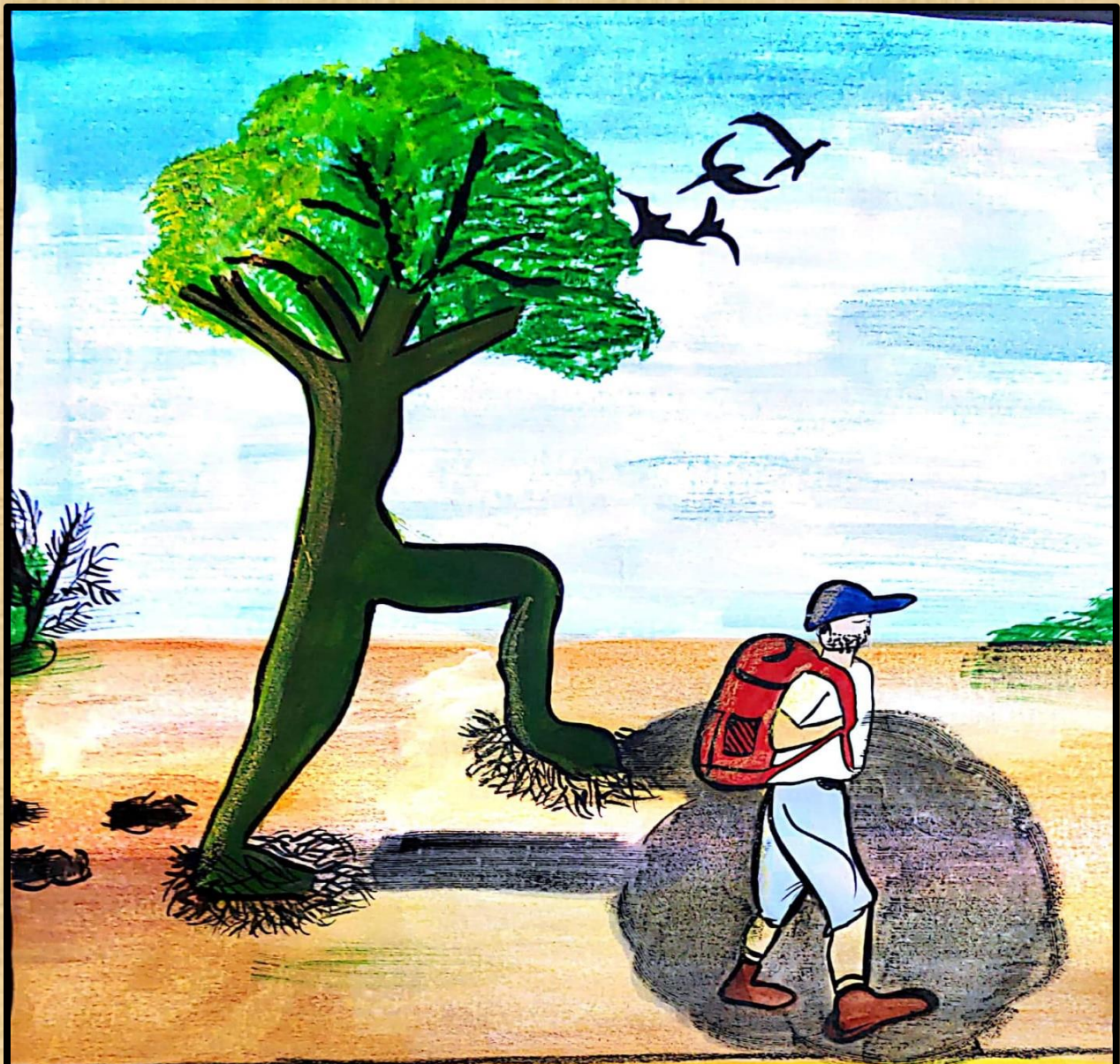
The Impacts of Climate Change on Human Health (5)





The Cry of the Earth (6)





Don't complain about the HEAT,  
**PLANT a TREE**

The Message, Loud and Clear! (7)





### The Contrasting Worlds: Which One Do You Choose? (8)

(1- Shivangi Singh 3rd Yr Sec A, 2- Shweta Prakhar 3rd Yr Sec B, 3- Bhoomika Aggarwal 3Rd Yr Sec A, 4- Anu 3rd Yr Sec A, 5- A. Rajshree 3rd Yr Sec A, 6- Sonika 3rd Yr Sec A, 7 Shweta Prakhar 3rd Yr Sec B, 8- Meemansa Narula 2nd Yr Sec A)







## SCARS OF THE VALLEY KEDAR....

“Created cosmic chafe calls a catastrophe,  
Look, grave groves the grief in 'The God's Own Country' “

Dictations of Devbhumi, shivered me profound  
Oh! Ordeals of my mountainous movements!

Shrieks do echo, of those buried in my body  
Questions queue up on my pure origins,  
Though they are victims of  
Voracious traders of technology.

Pierced dynamite trembles my hills  
Crushed grasses, ruined rivers  
Chaotic courses of action, tear the forest cover.

Quarry, a mere quid pro quo  
Burn garbage on banks  
Bank money, embanking the flow.

A crime but has a culmination,  
Roar of thunder, the clouds scattered,  
Bolt from the blue, gushing water,  
Clattering among rocks and debris.  
Shouts of stream, swallowing all,  
Seems similar to shouts of mother,  
Searching for her small one.

Alaknanda out of its peaceful periphery  
Mysterious Saraswati spitting out human's impiety,  
Knowledge today completely turning black.

In State of insanity, forgets to saturate  
Changes course, washes all  
The endangered Mandakini,  
Shinning glaciers today burning in agony  
Floods finish the residual formality.

I, the Lord of Fields  
Still stood still.  
But now this heart aches,  
A sense of déjà vu, seeing South submerge.

Lives again lost, aqua's again red  
Same in difference and ignorance  
Heat the wounds of a half-healed hatred.  
My past pains, this present perplexes  
With faults, will future persist?

Kedar Valley finally warns-  
Hear, you parasites  
If now in lust of monetizing those immense unchained skies,  
Let Shelley's song simmer through your scavenging souls,  
"Even for Ozymandias, 'Nothing Else Remains' ".

Akanksha  
3<sup>rd</sup> Yr Sec A



## बदला संसार

बदल रहा सारा संसार  
देखो कैसा हो गया इसका आचार  
नील गगन, सुंदर वन, महकती सुगंध  
निर्मल जल जिसकी पहचान थी  
आज बंजर जैसी इसकी तसवीर  
मानों यह वर्षों से वीरान थी

बदलते संसार के बदलते इंसान ने  
विकास के नाम पर पर्यावरण को ठुकराया है  
धरती की गोद को बांझ बनाया है  
उसके प्रेम के बदले,  
प्रदूषण, वन कटाई, ग्लोबल वार्मिंग जैसा  
उपहार लौटाया है

हाथ जोडकर करों इसे प्रणाम  
प्रण लो लौटा देंगे इसका सम्मान  
पहचानों यह केवल मिट्टी की धरा नहीं  
हमारी जननी, हमारी मातृभूमि  
आओ मिलकर करें इसे प्रणाम

Jyoti Tiwari  
3<sup>rd</sup> Yr Sec B

## कराह रहा केरल

आसमानी आफत से  
फला फूला केरल पुनः कैसे पौढ पाएगा  
अभी तो ट्रेलर था  
तरन्नुम यही रहा तो विनाश अवश्य आएगा

कहर कुदरती है, किसमत को न कोसों  
चर्चाएं बहुत हुई, अब सच में सोचों  
आज मुझपर यह दिन आया तो  
न तुम, न मैं, हमसब को न कोई बचा पाएगा  
तरन्नुम यही रहा तो विनाश अवश्य आएगा

प्रकृति पैगाम नहीं, हिदायत दे रही है,  
हजारों गिलें एकस्वर कह रहीं हैं  
मान जा मानव  
न और बन तू दानव  
प्रगति करो, करते रहो, पर न लांघों दायरें  
विकास के दलदल में संसार समा जाएगा  
तरन्नुम यही रहा तो विनाश अवश्य आएगा

अभी बस केरल ही बर्बाद हुआ  
कही यह जहां ही न उजड़ जायें  
उन्नति की होड़ कही अवनति की ओर न ले जाये  
शपथ है  
प्रकृति से न मसलसल संतुलन खोना  
बिगड़ता संतुलन सब कुच ढहा ले जाएगा  
तरन्नुम यही रहा तो विनाश अवश्य आएगा



## पर्यावरण संरक्षण

बदलें हम तसवीर जहां की,  
सुंदर सा एक दृश्य बनायें  
संदेश हम यह सब तक फैलायें,  
आओ पर्यावरण बचायें

फैल रहा है खूब प्रदूषण  
काट रहा है मानव जंगल बड़ा  
हवा हो रही है जहरीली  
कमजोर पड़ रहा है सबका तन  
हम सब कोई कदम उठाएं  
संदेश यह सब तक फैलायें  
आओ पर्यावरण बचायें

प्रयोग करें गाड़ी का कम हम  
पैदल चलने पर जोर दें  
थैले रखे हम कपड़े के  
प्लास्टिक रखना छोड़ दें  
अहंकार को छोड़ कर यह बातें  
आओ सब को समझायें  
संदेश यह सब तक फैलायें  
आओ पर्यावरण बचायें

हवा चाहिये शुद्ध ही सबको  
पेड़ न कोई लगाता है  
अनजाने में सब रोगों को  
पास खुद ही बुलाता है

हरियाली फैलाकर आओ  
सबको हम स्वस्थ बनायें  
संदेश यह सब तक फैलायें  
आओ पर्यावरण बचायें

मत व्यर्थ करो जल को  
जल है तो अपना जीवन है  
प्रकृति ने जो हमको दिया  
सबसे अनमोल ये वो धन है  
सब जीवों को मिलाकर बराबर  
संदेश यह सब तक फैलायें  
आओ पर्यावरण बचायें

माता है ये धरा हमारी  
हम सब इसका सम्मान करें  
क्युं बिगड़ रहे हालात है इसके  
इस बात पर हम ध्यान करें  
भला हो जिससे सब जन का  
आदत वो हम सब अपनायें  
संदेश यह सब तक फैलायें  
आओ पर्यावरण बचायें

## पुकार प्रकृति की

वो दिन कुछ और थे जब हम प्रकृति के साथ गुनगुनाते थे  
आज तो सब हेडफोन में ही मस्त हो जाते हैं  
एक नन्ही सी कली से महक उठता था पूरा आंगन  
आज बड़े बड़े पेड भी प्रदूषण से हारे जाते हैं

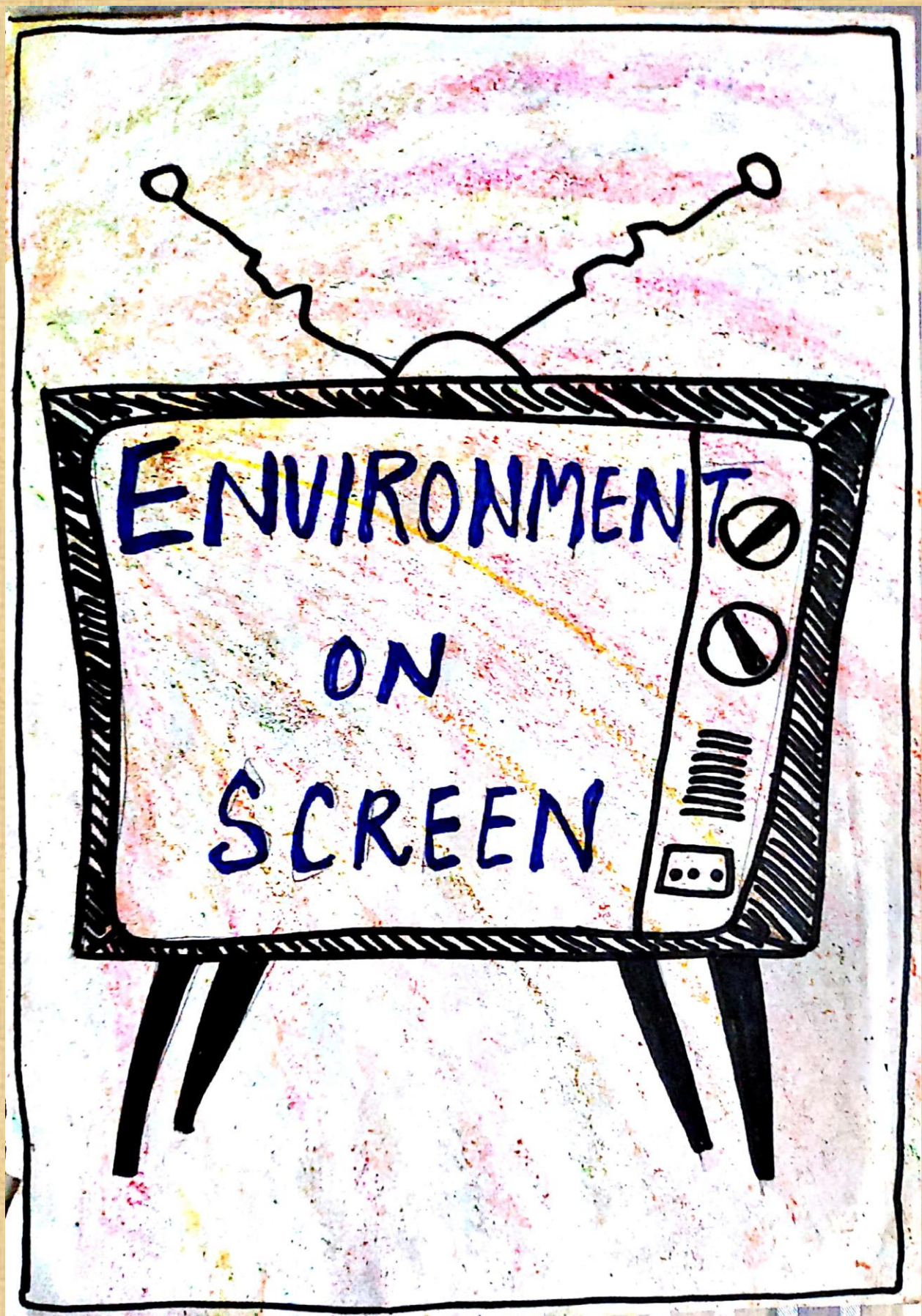
वो झरने की कलकलाहट, वो चिड़ियों की चहचहाहट  
कही खो सी गई है  
न है भंवरे की चाहत, न ठंडी छाव की राहत  
प्रकृति जैसे हमेशा के लिये सो सी गयी है

वो घंटे बगीचे में बिताने पर भी,  
दिल नहीं भरता था फूलों से  
आज देखकर भी अनदेखा कर देते हैं  
क्योंकि दफ्तर के लिये लेट हो जाते हैं

वो खाली घाटियों को आवाज देने पर  
प्रकृति भी हमे जवाब देती थी  
आज रोती है वो पेड कटने पर  
और हम मौन हो जाते हैं

इस भागती दौडती जिंदगी में,  
हमने पर्यावरण को पीछे छोड दिया  
जब जब सताया हमने उसे  
तो उसने परिणाम भी भयावह दिया  
वक्त है अब भी सुन लो प्रकृति की पुकार  
कही देर न हो जाये  
अभी बचा है पृथ्वि का श्रिंगार  
कही यह खो न जाये







*(In this section, we offer a glimpse into the diverse and creative ways in which the issues of environment, climate change and the subsequent impacts on human life have been represented on the big screen via documentaries and telefilms. We bring before you a discussion on five world-renowned documentaries on climate made in the recent times which raise issues of global warming, challenges of environmental degradation and human displacement)*

## **INDIA: THE CLIMATE CHANGE**

The ambit of handling the ongoing climate change in India is shown by the Founder Valley's production documentary, 'India: the climate change.' The technology that has resulted into the devastation of the nature and ecosystem has been exhibit in a way to help the living beings to cope up with the problem of global warming.

Fridtjof Detzner, a German startup founder travels across India to understand the problem related to global warming and exploring the technologies that the growing entrepreneurs are introducing to fight the current situation of climate change. To understand the problem relating to the issue of global warming in Hyderabad, Fridtjof meets Sathya Raghu Mokkalapati, who is a co-founder of **Kheyti**, a green house plant to assist the farmers for boosting productivity of crops, also known as 'Greenhouse in a Box'. This not only provide productivity, but also security in terms of resisting climate change, higher temperature and drought. Sathya came up with such method as the climate change has resulted into reducing the amount of rainfall which outcomes into lack of productivity and oblige the farmer to attempt suicide, as he remains unable to satisfy his family basic needs and to pay back his debts.

To understand the situation more in India, Fridtjof visits Sunita Narain, an environmentalist, who was also on Time Magazine in the list of 100 most influential people. She explains that the term climate change is no more a prediction; rather a reality and measures should be taken to overcome such issue.



He meets another entrepreneur, Prajwal Sabnis, who builds premium electric motorcycle and is planning and designing a new kind of energy for the two wheelers through special battery which will transform the electrical energy into mobility and also wants to set up network of



battery swap station, just like the petrol pumps, but rather would be environment friendly.

The last guest that entertains the theme of the documentary is Sheelika Ravishanar, co-founder of private spaceship founder team **Indus**. Indus is a robot designed to send to the moon so as to explore the lunar surface through Rover. Indus is designed in such a way that it can tolerate  $+130^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $-130^{\circ}\text{C}$ . She believes that due to the global warming and temperature change, the earth will arrive in a condition where no living beings would be able to survive here, thus resulting in searching of some other planet so as the human race can survive on it and thus Indus is invented to discover the universe.

The documentary has stated the major impact of climate change and its direct and indirect effect on human life. With the realization of the problems, it has also explored the required solution and the measures that people are taking to avoid such a worst condition of earth.

The film by Christian Roman has exhibited the existing problem and the steps by small entrepreneurs in very simplistic and creative way. The cinematography also provides a flavor of India's reality in a very innovative and beautiful manner. They have tried to cover the major issues and the scope of human ability to resolve and deal with the ongoing global problem of climate change.

## **THE ARCTIC: CHANGE AT THE TOP OF THE WORLD**

The Snagfilm production, 'The Arctic: Change at the top of the world', 2017, is a journey to the Arctic on a philanthropic fact-finding mission to uncover the impact of climate change on the region's environment and people. It gives an overview of the footprint of global warming on the polar cap of the world and its effect on the locals, including the flora and fauna. It also

explores the fragile ecosystem and the time honored way of life faring in the face of global warming.

The climate warming at the Arctic and subarctic regions has become a major issue in today's time. The northern poles heats faster than the other regions on the globe which results into the melt down of the snow. The defrosting of the snow can lead to increase of water level of the oceans, which will affect the entire globe and extinction of many local habitat of the region



will take place.

In the documentary, Charles Annenburg Weingarten hosts the audience to the issues that are arising in the region of northern pole, through a journey from Resolute, Canada to Iqaluit, Greenland.

He explored the issues of global warming in different cities of Arctic. The barren lands of Beechy, Canada manifested the major issue of vanishing of snow in the area. On the other hand, in Baffin Island, Captain David Martin, Canadian Coast Guard, informed Charles about the melting of glacier and polar ice caps eventually in the ocean. The visit to Sisimiut and Iqaluit of Greenland conveyed the impact of climate change in Arctic, as the locals stated that the season cycle of snow is not the same as it used to be.

The documentary has illustrated very effectively about the problems that the locals are facing in the northern pole of the globe. Exhibiting the opinion of the citizens, mayors, students and researchers, it has explained the impact of climate change on each and every residence of the Arctic. The impact on animals has also been mentioned. As stated by Jacques Sirois, a naturalist, the mercury that is being emitted by different industrial plants around the world, flow to the Polar Regions due to temperature gradient, also known as Grasshopper effect, has resulted into affecting the local animals, such as polar bear, seals, whales etc. He has also warned that the melting of the ice in Greenland and Arctic will eventually raise global sea level and will alter the current, thereby impacting life of many people resulting in massive change.

The Katy Garrestson written and Weingarten directed documentary, casting Charles Annenburg Weingarten, Elisapee Sheutiapik (Mayor of Iqaluit), Scott Macphail (Arctic



Historian), Jim Hargreaves ( Naturalist), David Martin (Canadian Coast Guard), Jacques Sirois ( Naturalist), Mary Ellen Thomas ( Arctic Researcher), Leonid Tatarin, Hayley Shephard, Hermann Berthelsen ( Mayor of Sisimuit), Andrew Medeiros ( Arctic researcher), is a well informative film regarding the climate change issue of Arctic, which highlights the effect of our day to day activity on environment and its ultimate impact on the Polar Regions. It also portraits the consequences of the climate warming, and also warns to take required measures to bring an end to such simultaneous change of the surrounding.

## **GLOBAL WARMING AND WINE**

Eric Michaud directed 'Global Warming and Wine' explores the consequence of rise in temperature which is influencing the topography and taste of wine, by travelling to the countries of France, Spain, Argentina and Tasmania. The investigatory documentary surveys the research carried out and decisions made by both vineyard owners and scientists to tackle the problem of global warming.

The documentary unveils the worrisome scenario of the European countries, that is, France and Spain regarding the degradation and changing of quality of the wine. Due to increase in the temperature, occurrence of imbalance between the sugar, acidity and the color pigment of the grapes is taking place which is resulting into disparity in the wine quality from that of earlier times. Global warming obsesses the maturing process of the fruit resulting into ripening of the grapes earlier from outer surface than the inner, which creates a change in the taste of the vintage wine. While exploring the southern regions of the world, such as Argentina and Tasmania, it's been concluded that the global warming is affecting the yielding process there. In Argentina, the mountains near Medoza provide irrigation to the wine fields as the melted snow is kept as water reservoirs. With increase in temperature the rate of defrosting is increasing day by day which might become a major issue for the wine cultivators and no source of water would be present after 20-30 years. Raul Ricardo Besa, director of Direction Agricultural and Contingency Climatic of Argentina, has mention the climate change to be a reality and the terror of over melting of glacier and future degradation of Medozan water source to be a major issue.

Different organization, institutions and researchers are manifested in the documentary who is trying to conserve the originality and productivity of wine. The *Institute of Science of Vigne et du Wine* at Bordeaux, France is trying their best to save the originality of the wine by regulating the hydrating and transpiration process of the plant. The founder of Wine Academy of Spain, Pancho Campo, also known for organizing the first world conference on wine and environment, suggest that the best way to handle such situation is by *domento terresta*, that is, putting solar roof and also creating a system of recycling water.

The Wocomo DOCS documentary tried to convey the major problem that is being faced by a large scale of citizens whose economy depends on the wine production and the struggle of many individuals and groups to preserve the ongoing traditional practice of wine cultivating. From the current cultivation land to the barren, the documentary has shown the consequences of climate change on winegrowing on each way possible. Visiting different region around the globe, it tried to explain the importance of the issue and the required steps that should be taken to conserve it.

## **CHANGING CLIMATE: MOVING PEOPLE**

UNESCO India documentary, 'Changing Climate: Moving people', 2015, is an attempt to make people aware of the drastic effect of climate change and its consequences on the internal migration around the nation. In a search for safe and better environment with shelter, job security and education for the children, people migrate from their native land to a metro Politian city. In recent studies it is being found that climate change plays a major role in migration of the people, which has been exemplified in the documentary through various case studies. By disclosing the effect of climate change and the occurrence of natural calamities in places like Kedarnath, Bundelkhand and Odisha, the documentary has shown the direct relation between the climate change and mass migration.

On explaining the flash flood of Kedarnath, Dr. Shresth Tayal, fellow of the Energy Research Institute stated in the documentary that as per IPCC projection about global warming and the increase in the Earth's temperature, Uttarakhand always will be sensitive to



this increase in temperature. He said that major chunk of water resources comes from the glaciers and the increase in temperature will have an impact on the rate at which these glaciers are melting. Instance of cloudbursts are kind of an extreme weather event, and due to greater precipitation, such events are likely to happen. Due to the flash flood in Kedarnath in 2013, vast destruction took place resulting in migration of many locals to metro cities in search of employment. To rebuild the temple city, mass migrations from Nepal to Uttarakhand also occurred.

In the next case study, the issue of Bundelkhand is portrayed, where the increasing of temperature is leading to droughts. 9 droughts have occurred there in last 10 years, and in search for job security, locals migrated to cities.

It lastly highlights the case study of Odisha, which has gone through 32 natural disaster since 1963, including flood, drought and cyclone. The recent cyclone in Odisha occurred in 2013. For the safety of one's life and well-being of family, people started migrating to different areas.

The documentary has illustrated the proportional relation between the climate change and migration. Due to the change in the climatic condition, the surrounding has become more prone to natural disaster, which obliges a citizen to move away from his native land. Soumyadeep Banerjee, a migration and population specialist, ICIMOD, stated in the film that among various determinants of migration, environmental factor does influence one to migrate. It also broadcasted the fact that India is highly vulnerable to climate change and people will keep moving to cope with dramatically changing climate patterns. The data that it shows of internal migration is of 400 million in the nation and stated this factor to be a part of solution for climate change.

The Saransh Sugandh directed documentary has highlighted one of the basic problems of climate change and its basic impact on human lifestyle. The interviews of the locals who were a casualty of the disastrous events and are compelled to migrate and that of the experts in the field such as Dr. Shreshth Tayal (Fellow, The Energy Research Institute, TERI), Soumyadeep Banerjee (Migration and Population Specialist, ICIMOD), Rajiv Khandelwal (Executive director, Aajeevika Bureau), Birija Prasad Pati (Advisor, Nature's Club, Kendrapada), Ravi Srivastava (Professor, JNU, Delhi), Dr. Indrani Mazumdar (Senior Fellow, CWDS, Delhi), manifested the issue in more lucid manner. The choice of

folk music in the documentary also gave the perfect effect to understand the condition of the natives through their folk songs.

## **LIVING AT THE AGE OF CLIMATE CHANGE**

The situation of climate change in Africa has been featured in 'Living at the age of climate change', a Kirk Manson production documentary. The documentary focuses on the temperature rise in East Africa and specially highlights the case of Tanzania. The temperature and rainfall variance in that area has led to many issues regarding the farming and pasteurization which the film has conveyed.

The increasing of heat in the atmosphere is leading to less rainfall in the areas of Africa, specially affecting the farms of East Africa who are trying to deal with such major issue. While some locals adapted to the changes stating it to be an act of god, rest suffers to introduce new techniques to safeguard their land and means of economy. There is a vast weather change in last two decades, as also stated by Jennifer Olson, Assoc. Professor of Michigan State University, that the temperature is warming up rapidly since 1980s, resulting into altering the life of the natives. The inconsistent weather pattern and dramatic changes in the environment is leading to greater problems, one of which also includes escalation in the number of insects and the increase in diseases in plants and animals. Due to failure of crops and instability in economy, people changed their professions so as to fulfill the basic need of one and their family. The loss in crops has also led the farmers to change the crop pattern and switching over to other crops, rather than maize, which is a traditional crop cultivation of the area, so as to ensure basic income guarantee from whatever source they can get.





The documentary also conveys the situation in Africa where the growth of grass has become minimum due to uncertainty in rain, leading to the declining in pastures and does the mobility of animals; specially cows is taking place throughout the country in search of food.

It also highlighted the unimportance of education in that area, as the struggle for many is to gain minimum economy for livelihood and due to weather change and crop failure it is becoming difficult for one to acquire. Thus, the children drop out from the school to help the family for earning through contributing their labor in the fields or by any means.

The altered lifestyle of citizens in Tanzania is been shown in the documentary through visiting and interviewing various farmers, Massai pastoralists, researchers and professors around the area. It tried to manifest the difference in living pattern and economic activity of the natives of earlier times to that of today and the effects of climate warming on both plants and animals. The documentary achieves to take one through the journey of East Africa and makes one understand the drastic effects of climate change on the citizens of that area. To make one understand the situation there, the description of the documentary quoted it to be, "The stories of older people who have witnessed the effects of life-altering temperature increases, as well as younger people rethinking their sense of future, comes to life in *Living on the Edge of Climate Change*."

Poojita Goswami  
3<sup>rd</sup> Yr Sec B



The background of the page is a hand-drawn green texture, resembling marbled paper or a dense pattern of green ink splatters. A thick black line is drawn around the perimeter of this green area, creating a rectangular border. The text is written in a bold, black, hand-drawn font across the center of the page.

# ENVIRONMENT MAKING HEADLINES



# 5 lakh tonnes of waste dumped in the open

Study says quantity 62 times more than solid waste generated

COB KOSHY  
NEW DELHI

Delhi has 5,57,000 tons of municipal solid waste (MSW) legally dumped on the roadside or in open plots, a quantity that is 62 times higher than the MSW generated per day in the city, says a study that used a special scanner to estimate the extent of waste.



SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Warning of a dip in air quality from November 1 to 10, an expert panel, constituted under the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) for Delhi, has recommended a ban on construction activities, such as civil work and excavation, and dusting.

## Centre unveils pollution forecast system for Capital

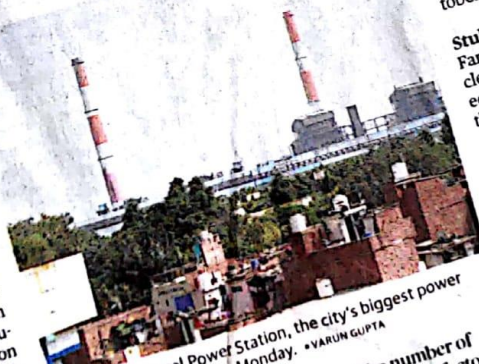
To work like a weather model that will assimilate data from satellites on pollutants

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Central government on Monday announced a pollution forecast system that can alert, three days in advance, about the likelihood of extreme pollution events and dust storms.

Though unveiled by Union Environment Minister Harsh Vardhan, the system is yet to go live but is expected to be made available "in the next two days" to the public via the Central Pollution Control Board and the Environment Pollution Control Authority, said Secretary of the Ministry of Earth Sciences Madhavan Rajeevan.

The National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting, the India Meteorological Department and the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology in Pune — all



Badarpur Thermal Power Station, the city's biggest power plant, was shut down on Monday. • VARUN GUPTA

It will account for background aerosols and pollutants and forecast how the dust is likely to travel over long distances.

**Better air quality**  
On Monday, the Graded Response Action Plan for Delhi

## Eastern Ghats face loss of forest cover, endemic plants

Forest cover shrunk from 43.4% to 27.5% in 95 years

ASWATHI PACHA

The Eastern Ghats spread across Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, lost almost 16% of its forest area in 95 years.



## construction ban

respiratory illness on prolonged exposure

last year and a 15% reduction in October. PM2.5 levels reduced 28% in September compared to last year and 13 days of October saw a 22% dip.

**Stubble burning**  
Farmers burn stubble to clear the ground of harvested paddy and prepare it for the rabi crop.

Due to a delayed monsoon exit in September, the harvesting has been delayed.

Instances of such burning are likely to spike later this month, several officials told The Hindu.

So far, the government has allocated ₹591 crore of Central funds for helping farmers buy farm implements that would disintegrate them to burn stubble. Punjab has distributed 7,062 (91% of what it was allotted) and Haryana 2,814 (51% of its quota) to farmers.

"Several additional steps have been taken this year — the opening of the Eastern Peripheral Expressway and the forthcoming Western Peripheral Expressway, additional coaches by the

The number of good, satisfactory and moderate days is 157 in 2018 (till October 13) compared to 150 in 2017 and 107 in 2016 during the corresponding period



YAKHDAN  
Minister



## Air pollution: SDMC collects over ₹1 lakh from violators in 2 weeks

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

In its effort to curb air pollution, the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) has collected fines amounting to ₹1,12,900 over the last two weeks from those found violating National Green Tribunal (NGT) directions.

With the Graded Action Response Plan coming into effect from October 15, following deteriorating levels of air quality in the city, the

corporation said it has stepped up monitoring of violations. The civic body has hired 57 water tankers, apart from 40 currently owned by it, to spray water.

Violators: It has issued 57 notices to violators. NGT's directions are being actively

tion, four challans were issued resulting in total fine of ₹82,900. For burning leaves and garbage, four challans were issued.

THE HINDU  
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2018

## 59 plant species in IUCN threat categories

AATHIRA PERINCHERY

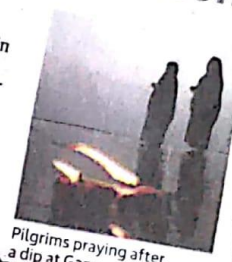
Threatened wildlife is not just about tigers but numerous plants too. Records

and one species each are data deficient and least concern. The threat levels of some

## Where Ganga meets the Bay of Pollution

HIV SAHAY SINGH  
KOLKATA

exponential increase in number of pilgrims going to the Ganga Sagar which takes place at Purnima Sankranti, responsible for polluting water prompting raise serious but the likely several



Pilgrims praying after a dip at Gangasagar in West Bengal. • REUTERS

## As groundwater depletes, drought looms over State

ALOK DESHPANDE

11,487 villages in 167 tehsils may face water scarcity: GSDA survey

64.11% from 84.14%. Collection of water storage in all dams in the State has come

## China's melting glacier draws tourists amid climate worries

## An African island's troubled waters

The Migingo Island, claimed both by Kenya and Uganda, is a fisherman's paradise

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
MIGINGO

A rounded, rocky outcrop covered with metallic shacks, Migingo Island rises out of the waters of Lake Victoria like an iron-plated turtle. The densely populated island is barely a quarter of a hectare large. There's little else but a few bars, brothels and a tiny port.

Nevertheless, for over a decade, Migingo has been a source of tension between Uganda and Kenya, who have been unable to decide to whom it really belongs.

### The 'smallest war'

They were once pushed to the brink of what some said would have been Africa's "smallest war" over the island. While fishing communities around Lake Victoria have seen their catches slowly diminish over the years, the waters surrounding



Rich in resources: A general view of the small but densely populated Migingo Island. • AFP

Migingo abound with catch such as Nile perch.

It was in the early 2000s when the island was barely inhabited - then situated within Kenya on all maps - that it began drawing the attention of Ugandan authorities who sent officials to Migingo to tax fishermen and offer protection against pirates. Kenyan fishermen in return began complaining

they were being shaken down by the Ugandans in their own waters and chased from the island. They called on Kenya's government, which deployed security forces to Migingo in a move that nearly brought the two nations to blows in 2009.

Kenya and Uganda then decided to create a joint commission to determine where the watery border is,

relying on maps dating from the 1920s whose interpretation is a key point of contention. But nothing has come of the commission, and in the absence of any decisions on the boundary, the island is co-managed by both countries.

Faced with mounting complaints from their constituents, local Kenyan politicians have called on Nairobi to ask the International Court of Justice to intervene and make a decision on the border - to no avail.

On the island, some taunt each other good-naturedly. "This is Kenya," said Collins Ochieng. "It's Uganda," fired back a Ugandan fisherman passing by, with a smile.

"I don't know who this island belongs to," said Kenyan fisherman Emmanuel Aringo. "These are all political issues and we just want to sell our fish."

up 250 m since 1982



Above the Baishui Glacier No. 1 mountain in Yunnan. • AP

2018 report in the *Journal of Geophysical Research*.

Scientists found in 2015 that 82% of glaciers surveyed in China had retreated. They warned that the effects of glacier melting on water resources are gradually becoming "increasingly serious" for China.

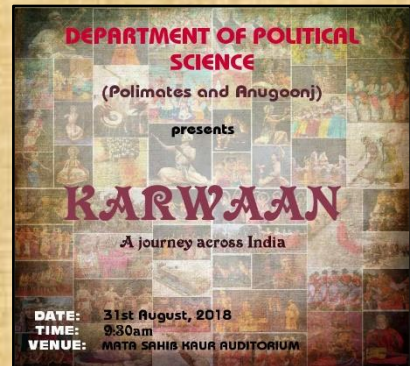
"China has always had a freshwater supply problem with 20% of the world's population but only 7% of its freshwater," said Jonna Nyman, an energy security lecturer at the University of Sheffield.



## The Department this Year (Jan-Nov 2018)

### Karvaan: A Journey Across India, 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2018

As a novel way to welcome the fresh batch of students this semester, the Department of Political Science, under the auspices of Polimates and Anugoonj, the cultural society-organized 'Karvaan: A Journey Across India' on August 31. Involving all the three batches of the department, the event was first of its kind, celebrating the diverse and multicultural spirit of the country which forms the force behind its democratic system.



The idea behind the event was based on the thematic division of the country into six zones, each representing a specific region within the country. The socio-cultural and political histories of the respective zones- namely, the north, south, north-east, central, east and west- were presented before the audience through audio-visual presentations, interjected by cultural performances based on folklores of these regions, by the students. The students also presented short informative skits narrating the political histories of some of the regions, while for others, interesting archival material including images and photographs were meticulously used.

## **A Talk on An Agenda for Good Governance: Policy Initiatives in India, by Prof. Rumki Basu and Dr. Abhay Prasad Singh, 25<sup>th</sup> September, 2018**

The Department of Political Science organized a talk with two eminent political scientists, Prof. Rumki Basu and Dr. Abhay Prasad Singh on the issue of good governance. Both the speakers gave persuasive presentations on the theme, drawing the audience's attention to important aspects of the same. Needless to say, the theme



**DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE**  
invites you all  
for a talk on

**AN AGENDA FOR GOOD GOVERNANCE:  
POLICY INITIATIVES IN INDIA**

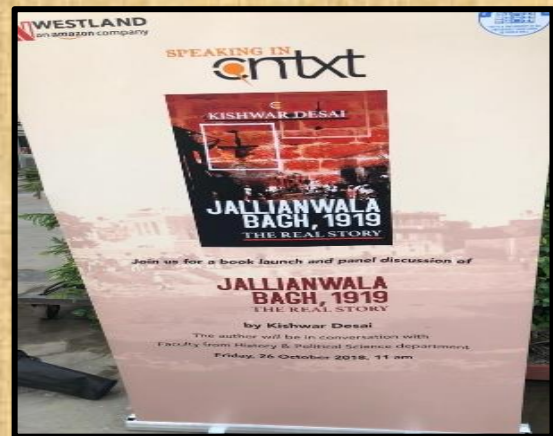
**By:**  
**Prof. RUMKI BASU**  
Department of Political Science, Jamia Milia Islamia  
&  
**Dr. Abhay Prasad Singh**  
Department of Political Science, PGDAV College  
25th September at 11 a.m in MATA SAHIB KAUR AUDITORIUM

of good governance, being part of the ambitious Sustainable Development Goals, is of extreme relevance in the present times, and both the speakers were able to highlight aptly, not only the significance of a goal like good governance for a country like ours, but also the challenges that come in the way of implementation of the goal.



## **Book Launch and Panel discussion of Jallianwala Bagh, 1919, The Real Story by Kishwar Desai, 26<sup>th</sup> Oct, 2018**

The Department of Political Science organized the launch of the book *Jallianwala Bagh, 1919, The Real story*, by Ms. Kishwar Desai, in association with the Westland, Amazon. Ms. Desai has been an eminent journalist with prolific pieces on sensitive issues like surrogacy in India, gang-rapes etcetera, besides also being a gifted author of several renowned works that includes both fiction and non-fiction. Currently she occupies the chair at TAACHT, an organization responsible for setting up the country's first ever partition museum in Amritsar.



The event included an enlightening session where the eminent speaker spoke at lengths about her latest creation, sharing details of experiences in her journey of writing the book. She shared with a packed hall of students, the details of meticulous research that went into the making of the book, and also presented some interesting archival materials like

photographs and maps before the audience. The session proceeded with a panel discussion between the author and several teachers from the department of Political Science and History.

## THE ALUMINI MEET, 18<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2018

The Department of Political Science organized the Alumni Meet on January 18. The Meet saw a very successful coming together of more than a hundred participants- students and teachers from the past years- who were more than willing to come back to their *alma mater* and share their valuable experiences with us. The



Meet opened with a note of welcome by the Teacher-in-charge, Dr. Madhuri Sukhija who spelt out the theme of the meet 'Go Green', followed by the screening of a documentary called 'Our Environment'. Poetry recital, folk dance etc by the students enthralled the audience.

An important highlight of the Meet was the selection of an Alumni Association consisting of students from the previous batches, who were entrusted with the responsibility of organizing the Alumni Meet of the Department in the coming years. The office bearers include, Varsha Goyal as the President, Rekha Bisht as the Vice-President, and Niha Samreen as the Secretary. The Association aims at maintaining a regular correspondence with the department and keeping updated information about the various alumni of the college and



contributing in whatever way they can. The former teachers of the department too were present at the Meet and were honored with a sapling each, which they planted, symbolizing their ongoing and nurturing bond with the institution. The alumni were also presented with eco-friendly paper folders as a token of remembrance.



## THE CAREER COUNSELLING WORKSHOP, 2<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY, 2018



As a first-of-its-kind event, the department organized a career counselling workshop for its students. The importance of a workshop with the aim of guiding the students in a crucial issue like their future career cannot be stated enough. This purpose was successfully met by the workshop which saw eminent personalities from different fields like the law, media and civil services come forward for a day of active interaction with the

students of the department. *The eminent personalities included Mr. Aditya Shankar, Lawyer, Founder and Team Leader, Chambers of Aditya Shankar; Mr. C.B.P. Srivastava, Discovery IAS CLUB, and Mr. Siddharth Mishra, eminent journalist and President of Centre For Reforms, Development & Justice.* Formerly associated with media houses like the Times of India and the Millennium Post. Each guest, being a master of his own field, brought to the floor an enlightening mix of experience sharing and counselling. The students had much to benefit from the guests as they flooded the speakers with questions related to future career and work. Mr. Aditya Shankar shared with the students, moments from his own journey to become one of the leading lawyers in the country, in a way also highlighting the kind of challenges that the students can expect to face all along. Mr. Srivastava's presentation was centered primarily on the different aspects of the process of preparation for a career in civil services, ranging from subject selection, pattern of question papers in the prelims and the mains, to the final stage of facing the interview. Added to these important personalities was Mr. Mishra who shared details of the world of media to the students. Needless to say, the students received much knowledge and crucial information related to career building from all the three guests.

## POSTER-MAKING AND PICTURE-INTERPRETATION COMPETITION, 9<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2018

The department organized a Poster Making Competition for the students on the theme of climate change and environment. It was heartening to see an active participation by the

students as they explored the different facets of the theme through the creative and bright world of paints and colors. Several of the posters by the students focused on the necessity of a more sustainable, sensitive and humane relation between man and the nature. *Themes along the lines of Swacchh Bharat, sustainable environment, development-induced destruction of nature etc were explored by the students.* The Poster Making Competition was followed by a Picture Interpretation Competition where the participants were asked to give their interpretation of a set of paintings and art work presented before them.



## Our Contributors



### The Editorial Team

(From the left: Neha Khanna, A. Rajshree, Akanksha Tiwari, Priyanka Mishra, Kajal)

## **CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS**

We invite submissions for the  
next edition of the VOICE.

The length of the articles should  
be a minimum of 500 words and  
should not exceed 1000 words.

You can e-mail your submissions  
at the following:  
[voicemsc2016@gmail.com](mailto:voicemsc2016@gmail.com)

For direct submission and any  
other queries, please contact,

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