



MAR GREGORIOS COLLEGE OF LAW
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM



Paryavar Mitra

"seven billion dreams, one planet, consume with care"

2020-2021

ISSUE .4

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Matthew 6:26

"Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than them?"

Every year around 7 million deaths are reported around the world due to Air Pollution. The quality of air around different cities and regions across the world have degraded tremendously making it a global public health emergency . It threatens unborn babies to school going children to women cooking over open fires. There is a need to bring together communities, governments, multinational corporations and various industries to understand and to prevent any further degradation of air and also to further develop renewable sources of energy and green technologies. India as a country today has come up with innovations to curb pollution to the maximum possible extend, Delhi-based Chakr innovation curbs air pollution with the world's first retro-fit emission control device for diesel generators, Cellzyme biotech from Coimbatore uses an engineered enzyme to make antibiotics at room temperature without using solvents – a main contributor to air quality to name a few.

The right to a healthy environment is a constitutional right recognized by at least 100 constitutions across the world. Around 155 states are legally obligated, through treaties, constitutions and legislation, to respect, protect and fulfil the right to a healthy environment. How far such an obligation is met is still anomaly. The great initiative of the faculty and students of MGCL to bring into existence an eco-club to create socially responsible citizens is to be praised highly and I extend my hearty congratulations to all those hands behind the Newsletter for the year 2021.

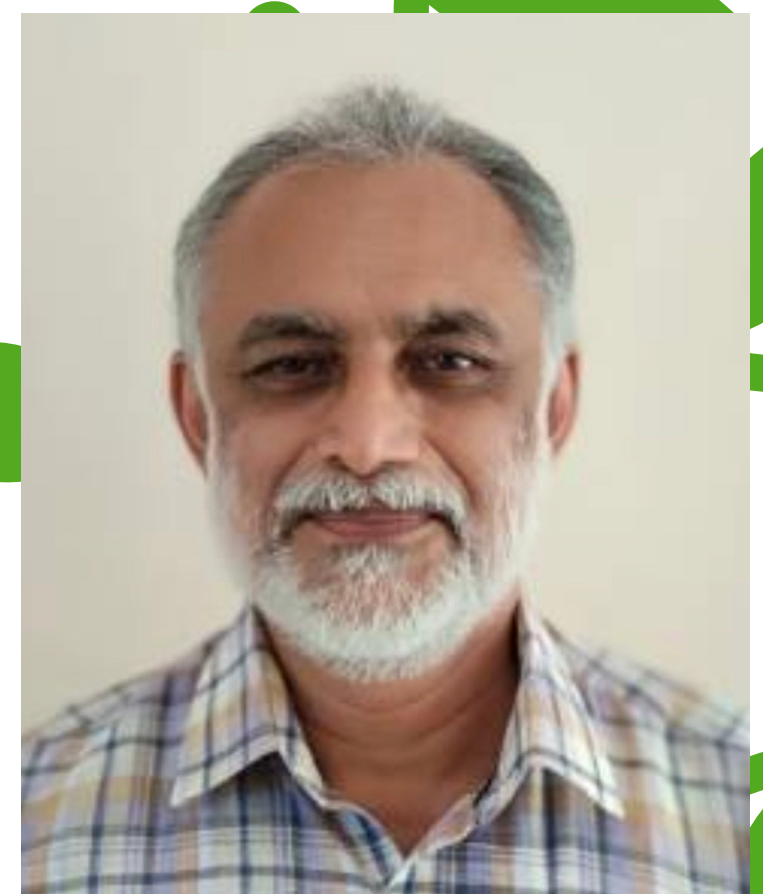


REV.DR.KOSHY
ISSAC
PUNNAMOOTIL

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Upbringing strong independent citizens of the country with a sense of environmental consciousness is of utmost importance in the present world. The ever increasing need to sustain the environment for future generations and to restore the harm already done can only be achieved through young minds. The Global Pandemic has shown us that self-sufficiency is the only way to move forward and to reimagine, recreate and restore it is important to give a space for young minds to grow and the MGCL eco club gives them the right platform for the same. The club has over the course of its existence for the past 3 years inculcated strong values in the students and the activities of the students during the global pandemic towards self-sufficiency, sustainable development and various eco friendly initiatives is to show for it. In the words of Robert Swan, "The greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it"

I hereby express my heartiest congratulations to all those who worked behind the publication of the Newsletter for the year 2021 and wish you all the success for the future endeavors.



DR. JOHN P C

Eco Pledge

We take an oath for generations to come that we shall endeavour towards a toxin free life through sustainable, preventive and restorative measures. We shall strive together to revive the long lost goodness of our earth and make it habitable ad nauseum. We pledge our wholehearted effort in rebuilding the environment for the sustenance of all forms of life and thereby maintaining the equilibrium of nature.



EDITOR'S NOTE

BY
SHILPA PRADEEP
BBA LLB

DON'T PUT IT OFF FOR TOMORROW AS TOMORROW IS NEVER A PROMISE, SAVE THE PLANET TODAY.

THE ECOSYSTEM OF THE PLANET IS ESSENTIAL TO THE CONTROLLING OF VARIOUS ECOLOGICAL PROCESSES, SUSTAINING AND MAINTAINING BALANCED FOOD CHAINS AND ALL IN ALL IN MAINTAINING LIFE FORM ON THE EARTH. ITS HIGH TIME HUMAN KIND IS AWARE OF ITS IMPORTANCE AND BEGINS WORKING TOWARDS ITS RESTORATION. IN THE PAST ONE YEAR WITH THE HIT OF A GLOBAL PANDEMIC PEOPLE HAVE STARTED MOVING TOWARDS SELF-RELIANCE AND SUSTAINABILITY WHICH HAS IN TURN LED TO ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION. FROM PLANTING A SMALL SAPLING TO GROWING THEM INTO A FULLY-FLEDGED KITCHEN GARDEN THAT GROWS PRODUCE ENOUGH TO FEED A FAMILY THE HIGHLIGHT BEING ITS DONE WITH NO SYNTHETIC FERTILIZERS. IT IS IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND THAT RESTORATION OF THE ECOSYSTEM DOESN'T REQUIRE DRASTIC CHANGES, THE STEPS CAN BE AS SMALL AS FOLLOWING A CLEAN DIET, CLEANING UP RIVERS AND COASTS AND EVEN REWILDING GARDENS.

HEALTHIER ECOSYSTEMS, WITH RICHER BIODIVERSITY, YIELD GREATER BENEFITS SUCH AS MORE FERTILE SOILS, BIGGER YIELDS OF TIMBER AND FISH, AND LARGER STORES OF GREENHOUSE GASES. RESTORATION ACTIVITIES CAN BE INITIATED BY ANYONE AROUND THE WORLD FROM AN INDIVIDUAL TO A GOVERNMENT. THE MEMBERS OF THE MGCL ECO CLUB HAVE TAKEN UP VARIOUS INITIATIVES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR TOWARDS RESTORATION OF THE ECOSYSTEM. WE AS A COMMUNITY UNDERSTAND THAT IT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO LEAD A MORE RESPONSIBLE LIFESTYLE AS WELL AS TO GET OUR FELLOW MEMBERS OF HUMANKIND TO DO THE SAME. SAVING AND PRESERVING THE MOTHER EARTH IS A CHALLENGE TO BE ACCEPTED BY ALL.



FOREST FIRES IN INDIA: CHALLENGES AND RESPONSE

BY

ASST.PROF. Mallika Ramachandran

India's forest cover, at 7,12,249 sq. kilometers or 21.67 percent of the total area (State of Forest Report, 2019), stood far below the target of 33 percent. Despite this state of affairs, the country's forests are under increasing pressure, and deforestation and degradation are widespread.

A major impediment in forest conservation is the rising menace of forest fires, which destroy forests and wildlife, and have degenerative effects and ecological, economic and social implications (National Institute of Disaster Management, 2014). Various measures have been taken towards addressing this issue including the preparation of a National Action Plan on Forest Fires, 2018 (NAPFF) which proposes zonation, mapping, enhancement of forest resilience, training, awareness, and importantly, empowering of forest fringe communities. Additionally, the Forest Survey of India introduced the Forest Fire Alerts System in 2009 which has undergone subsequent improvements, with version 3.0 in operation since 2019. Other measures include monitoring and prevention, forecast of forest fires, and action plans at state level (e.g., Tripura).

Despite the formulation of various policies and improvements in technology, incidence of forest fires continues. In recent times, severe forest fires were witnessed in Bandipur (2019), Uttarakhand (2020-21) and Simlipal (2021). The country also saw a record number of forest fire alerts between November 2020 and June 2021 (Mint, 2021). Some aspects highlighted by the NAPFF such as: the need for the use of controlled fires for forest management, which are part of traditional practices of indigenous and local communities, though prohibited by colonial laws; need to check the spread of invasive weeds; stronger engagement with and participation of local communities in fire monitoring and prevention; paucity of staff; lack of preparedness; and inadequate utilization of funds remain to be adequately addressed. Steps must be taken in this regard so as to protect the already dwindling forests of the country, as well as avert grave ecological damage.

References:

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Dr Satyendra and Dr Ashutosh Dev Kaushik, Forest Fire Disaster Management, National Institute of Disaster Management, 2014.

Forest Survey of India, India State of the Forest Report, 2019, <https://fsi.nic.in/forest-report-2019> 'India Records the Highest Number of Forest-fire Alerts in Three Years', Mint, 30 July 2021.

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ENVIRONMENTAL EVENTS

2020–2021

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- **WORLD WETLANDS DAY - February 2nd – “WETLANDS AND BIODIVERSITY”**
 - **WORLD WILDLIFE DAY - March 3rd – “SUSTAINING ALL LIFE ON EARTH”**
 - **INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FORESTS -March 21st – “ FOREST AND BIODIVERSITY: TOO PRECIOUS TO LOSE”**
 - **WORLD WATER DAY-March 22nd – “WATER AND CLIMATE CHANGE”**
 - **EARTH HOUR -March 28th –**
 - **EARTH DAY -April 22nd –“CLIMATE ACTION”**
 - **FOSSIL FOOLS DAY -April 1st -**
 - **INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY -May 22nd – “ OUR SOLUTIONS ARE IN NATURE”**
 - **WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY -June 5th –“REIMAGINE.RECREATE.RESTORE.”**
 - **WORLD OCEANS DAY -June 8th – “ THE OCEAN:LIFE AND LIVELIHOODS”**
 - **INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE OZONE LAYER - September 16th –“ OZONE FOR LIFE:35 YEARS OF OZONE LAYER PROTECTION”**
 - **WORLD FOOD DAY -October 16th –“GROW,NOURISH,SUSTAIN.TOGETHER.OURACTIONS ARE OUR FUTURE”**
 - **WORLD SOIL DAY- December 5th – “KEEP SOIL ALIVE, PROTECT SOIL BIODIVERSITY”**
 - **INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAIN DAY- December 11th – “PROTECTING MOUNTAIN BIODIVERSITY”**

JUNE 5 : A SMALL RECAP

World Environment Day is considered one of the most remarkable days for environmental action and it is celebrated on 5th June every year across the globe. The United Nations environment programme (UNEP) organises various events to increase awareness worldwide and action for the environment. The theme chosen for this year's World Environment Day is ecosystem restoration. The day will also see the launch of the UN decade on ecosystem restoration. This year's activities will be hosted by Pakistan.

The World Environment Day was established by the United Nations general assembly to commemorate the first day of the Stockholm Conference on Human Environment which was held in Sweden from June 5th to 6th in 1972. The first World Environment Day was celebrated in 1974 with the theme "Only one Earth". In 1987 it was decided to select a host country for the Environment Day celebrations every year.

This year, the host country is Pakistan on the theme of "Ecosystem Restoration" and the general theme of this environment day is "Reimagine Recreate and Restore". India hosted the event in 2018 with the theme "Beat Plastic Pollution". Protection of the environment has always been a concern which gained attention of the lawmakers worldwide after the Stockholm conference and the declaration adopted in 1972 since then the nations of the world saw tremendous growth in environmental protection through laws, policies and judgements of courts. Many concepts of environmental protection including public trust doctrine, polluter pays principle, precautionary principle etc. became part of national legal systems of many countries including India.



For the environment to be protected from pollution, destruction and over exploitation we need strict legal provisions that define the environment, various aspects of environment and environmental pollution along with policies that are devoid of ambiguity and vacuums. The Indian judiciary has shown extreme care in protecting the environment through various public interest litigations connecting environmental rights with the most important fundamental rights of citizens under article 21, the change in policy towards development at the cost of the environment is visible after the Narmada verdict. Adding to it are the new measures like the environment impact assessment notification, which is criticized as backtracking the protection offered to the environment and raising concerns in the minds of conservationists and environmentalists.



By
Asst. Prof Abhaya B K

The theme of this year's celebrations is hopefully a step forward to the efforts of the nation to restructure its actions for conserving and preserving the environment for future generations. During the developing years as a nation we have made many mistakes in not conserving the environment in the way it should have been, so the concept of re-imagine is intended to find out new measures of development with least impact on the environment. Ecosystem restoration is intended in the recovery of the ecosystem that has been degraded or destroyed in the past years as well as in conserving the ecosystem that are still intact. Thus it is not an impossible task to recreate what is lost.

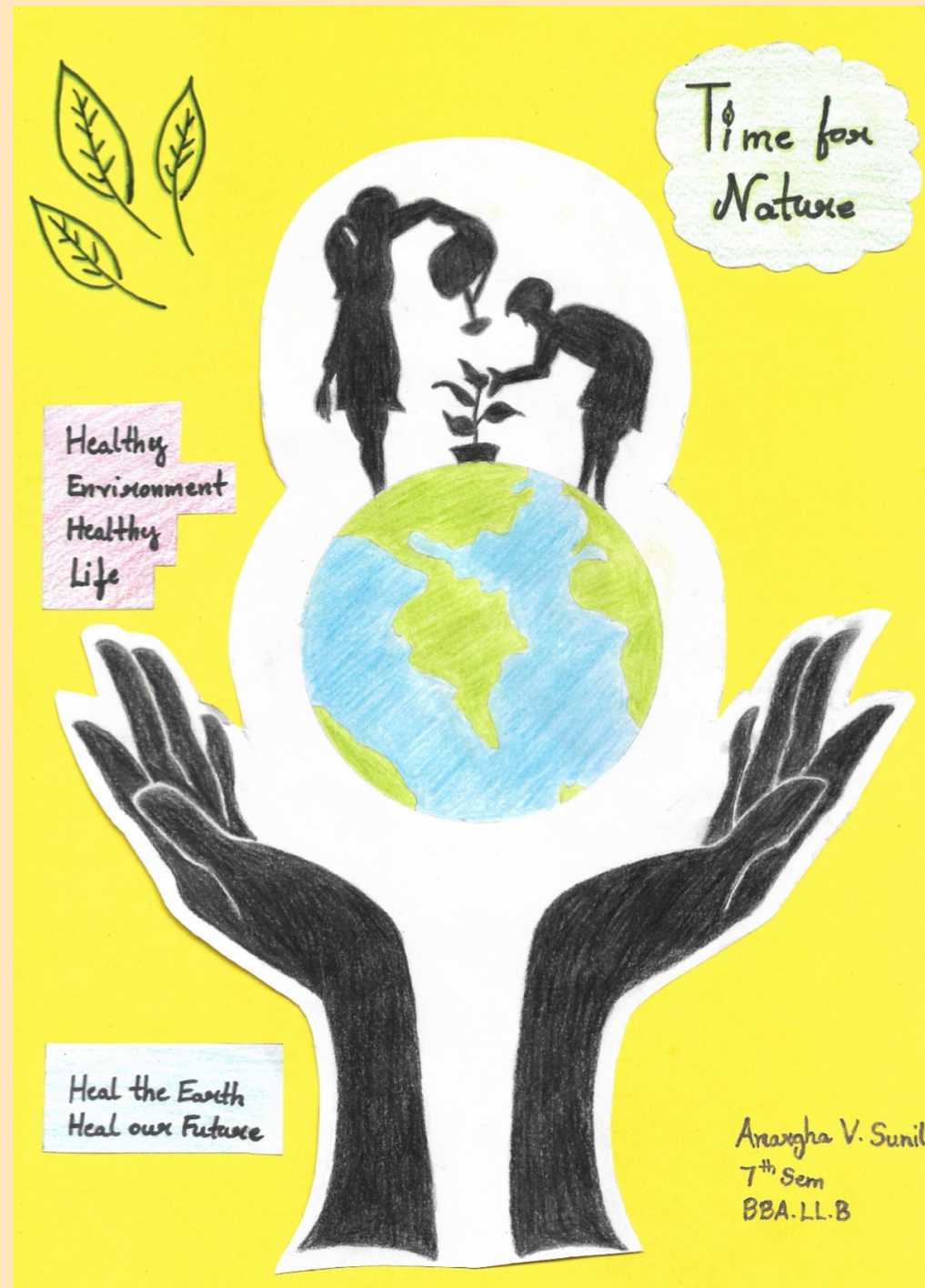
In this mission of nation building the part played by the younger generation especially of students cannot be undermined. The Paryavaran Mitra Eco club of Mar Gregorios College of Law intends to mould a generation who are environmentally responsible and proactive towards its conservation.



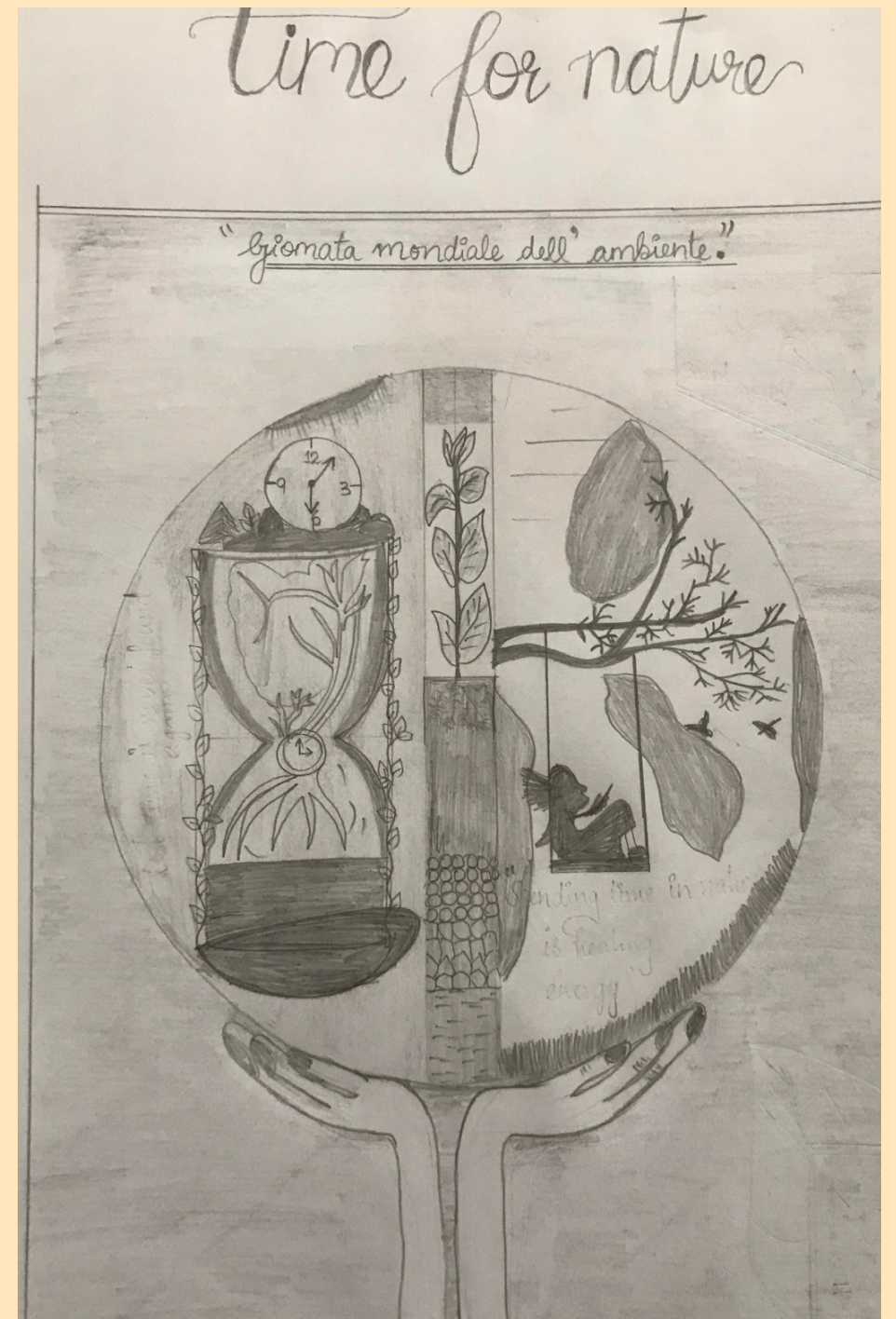
Poster competition



Mekha Ann Mary



Anargha V. Sunil



Sherlin Shaji Varghese



Sreechand



Ardra Mini Satish





A new challenge for the new decade: Development without destruction

BY

ELITA ANNA SHEEN

BA LLB

As eons pass by, quite evident it is that the human race is proceeding towards the progress of the world. And by progress, it includes advancement in all aspects mainly technological fields. With the advent of AI (artificial intelligence) and IoT (Internet of things), humans are becoming more detached from Mother Gaia. But doesn't this pose a threat to the environment around us? Indeed it does. This leads to the question pondered upon by many: is development possible without destruction? Philosophically speaking, it is quite not possible. In order to experience growth, one is forced to experience downfalls in life. Similar is the case when it comes to Mother Nature. While man is occupied with enlarging his empire on Earth, little did he realize he is uprooting himself from the very soil he was sprout. Man is oblivious to the consequences of his irrational actions. In this bright new era, one connection that cannot be forgotten is man's connection with the earth. Fortunately, there are couple of organisations which consider the after-effects of technological advents. One of them, being ASEAN, is an abode to a myriad of natural resources. Nearly half of the world's compost swamp forests exist in Indonesia and another 10% are sprinkled throughout ASEAN. The devastation of these woods is a double edged sword to the environment. Firstly, it poses a threat by limiting the natural ability of forests to resorb much of synthetic CO₂ in the atmosphere. Secondly, when these forests are destroyed to make way for roads, farms, and irrigation systems, they release the carbon that they were previously sequestering.

The amputation of forests throughout Southeast Asia is further stimulating global climate change. These deleterious effects will not only intensify the potential for innumerable diseases as well as death rates, but also hinder economic growth. So rather than worsening the currently existing precarious environmental positions by further destroying forests and generating more carbon, ASEAN must strategically make headway to harmonize its growth with environmental protections. ASEAN must further pick sustainable options for the region as cities expand and the need for space and resources increases.

As mentioned earlier, development can be vaguely categorized into two: firstly, human development and secondly, technological development. Human development is mainly about expanding the productivity of human life, rather than simply the richness of the economy. It is an approach that is fixated on men and their opportunities. Technological development, on the other hand, is an investment of time and resources with an expectation of a return on that investment in the form of time and/or resources, so that people in the community increase the efficiency to meet their wants and needs. Human Development can be easily done in a way it doesn't disturb the environment, whereas it is extremely difficult for Technological Development to not have a negative ecological impact.



Another measure taken to develop the environment with minimum damage is the SDG. The primary intention of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was to reconcile environmental protection with socio economic development. Here, SDG indicators are compared to a suite of external measures, showing that while most countries are progressing towards environmental SDGs, this has little relationship with actual biodiversity conservation, and instead better represents socioeconomic development. If this trend persists, the SDGs will likely serve as a camouflage for further ecological destruction throughout the decade.

Speaking of socio-economic developments, a Uruguayan writer, Eduardo Gudynas, developed an idea called Buen Vivir. As per Gudynas, one could achieve a good quality of life for the inhabitants without harming the nature.

However, it would implicate a tad altered lifestyle than the conventional one. Jointly with several other researchers, Gudynas has supported this alternative to the traditional development idea that also recognizes the intrinsic values in nature. Buen Vivir could be roughly translated to “a good life”, which is based on social communities rooted in their native lands. Thus, this “good life” implies expanded communities, both in the social and ecological dimensions. Buen Vivir calls for a new ethics that balances quality of life, democratisation of the state and concern with biocentric ideals.

Especially in countries with a high percent of indigenous communities, these ideas have become part of communal discussion.

Gudynas sees Buen Vivir as a new paradigm of social and ecological commons – one that is community-centric, ecologically balanced.

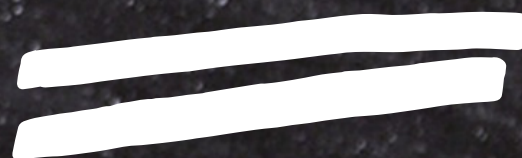
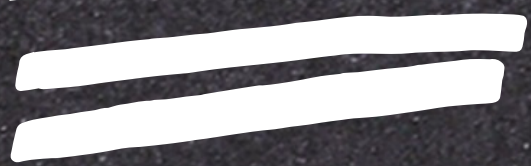
In a nutshell, it is beyond delightful to note that the world is thriving towards development in a more eco-friendly manner. While the need to move towards greener cities and to preserve the environment is more urgent than ever, ASEAN cities also have the ability to utilize state of the art technology, innovate in new ways, and to learn from those around them. These exciting advances in sustainability and urban development will enable ASEAN cities to progress even more than before to ensure their livelihoods, economic prosperity, and restored harmony with the natural world. With benevolent minded people like Gudynas, one can hope that the world will be greener than it was ever before. Nonetheless, the duty to promote an eco-friendly environment lies not just on Gudynas; rather on each one of us. With an equal amount of compassion and determination, it is more than possible to save our Mother Earth. It is high time that we start nurturing our earth, before it takes revenge for our wrongful deeds.



PHOTOGRAPHY



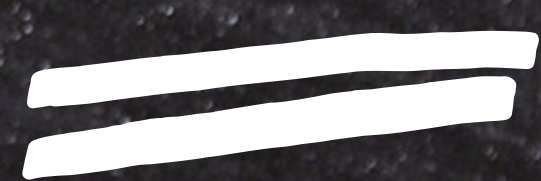
Elita Anna Sheen



GARDENING



Mehka Ann Mary





NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL – A TOOTHLESS TIGER

By Aysha Bai

The National Green Tribunal was established with the aim of providing speedy and effective disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources. The National Green Tribunal Act, 2010 enables an individual to enforce any legal right relating to environment and contains provisions for grant of relief or compensation to persons and property and for restitution of the environment. Due to an increase in the number of environmental cases pending before the High Courts, a need was felt for the establishment of separate environmental courts to lessen the burden of High Courts from such cases. The Supreme Court in various cases such as *M.C. Mehta v. Union of India*, *Indian Council for Enviro-Legal Action v. Union of India*, reiterated the need for the establishment of environmental courts with experts as members. In pursuance of a request by the Supreme Court, the Law Commission submitted its 186th Law Report which recommended the setting up of environmental courts having both original and appellate jurisdiction relating to environmental laws. NGT has been a critical player in upholding environmental regulations. It has passed strict orders from various issues ranging from pollution to waste management to deforestation and so on. It offers a smooth road for the evolution of environmental jurisprudence by establishing such an alternative dispute resolution system. In doing so, it helps to reduce the burden on other courts in India by dealing exclusively with environmental matters.

Furthermore, it forms a less formal, cheap and faster avenue of resolving disputes relating to environment. Moreover, the members and chairperson are not eligible for further appointment making them more likely to deliver independent judgements without much pressure of bureaucracy and bias.

Even so, there are rather many shortcomings for the current system and organisational scenario of the NGT. The wildlife(Protection) Act of 1972 and the Scheduled Tribes and other Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act of 2006 is out of NGT's jurisdiction. Thus, it can be difficult to adjudicate certain cases which are linked to these acts which are directly correlated to environment protection. To no one's surprise, the NGT has had limited impact, as parties use the appellate jurisdiction of the Supreme Court to stay or quash or overrule or abrogate the decision held by an NGT. Due to the repercussions on the economic growth and environment, the decisions have been challenged time and again. Furthermore, the implementary aspect of the decisions are also mercurial. The decisions given by the NGT are not fully complied by the government or the stakeholders. Sometimes its decisions are pointed out to be unable to be performed or implemented within a given timeframe. The NGT has only 5 benches across the Indian territory. This hinders the justice delivery mechanism as reaching out to these tribunals aren't as realistic as it sounds in principle. For poorer and weaker sections of the society NGT is nothing but a prestidigitation. Furthermore, the Tribunal lacks support from State and Central Governments. The State and the Central Pollution Boards are inefficient as a result of which, a lot of times, there is delay in implementation of the directions and decisions of the Tribunal. Despite having such an important role in environment protection, the Tribunal doesn't have power to punish for its contempt. Another important issue which has often escaped public attention is the fact that NGT only has the jurisdiction to try civil cases. The environmental statutes also impose criminal penalties on environmental defaulters, but the legislative mandate of ensuring criminal prosecutions has often been ignored. In order to achieve complete justice in environmental cases, specialized criminal courts akin to NGT are necessary.

HIGHLIGHTS OF ACTIVITIES DURING THE YEAR

ESTABLISHMENT OF CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

The Centre for Environmental Studies is dedicated for sustainable development and it reflects our commitment towards the environment. The centre is established with the aim of creating environmental awareness and education.

MISSIONS

To develop skills and best practices for sustainable development, and make significant contributions towards environmental protection

OBJECTIVES

- To promote environmental awareness among all segments of the society
- To educate students and inculcate eco-friendly attitude
- To conduct research and disseminate solutions community issues
- To inculcate proper attitude towards environment conservation

REPORT OF PROGRAMMES CONDUCTED ON 22-03-2021

In connection with world forestry day and world water day, two events were conducted by Paryavaran Mitra on 22nd March 2021.

1. Tree planting drive:

Highlighting the importance of the World Forestry Day tree planting drive was conducted in the college premises under the Social Forestry initiative in association with Kerala Forest Department.

Time:- 9:00 am Participants: Staff and students Number of saplings: more than 50

2. Webinar

In order to create awareness about the conservation of water a webinar was conducted on the topic "Right to water and Right over Water".

Resource of person: Prof. Dr Sairam Bhat, Professor of law & centre coordinator, Centre for environmental law education research and advocacy, National law school of India university Bangalore

Date: 22-03-2021

Time: 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm

About the speaker: Prof. Dr Sairam Bhat is professor of law & centre coordinator of Centre for Environmental Law Education Research and Advocacy at National Law School of India university Bangalore. He is also the author of "Environmental Law Handbook for Law Practitioners", "Law Relating to Business Contracts in India" and many others. He is the recipient of Young India Environmental Law Fellowship.

Description: during this webinar he presented various aspects relating to the right to water and different dimensions of right over water. A clear cut understanding about the pros and cons of water privatisation, water related disputes, water stress and crisis etc were given through the lecture.

Program: the program was conducted through Microsoft Teams, a team named MGCL events. There were more than 156 participants.

The meeting began with a welcome address by Ms. Jincy P Babu, Assistant Professor and Coordinator of eco club which was followed by introductory remarks by Dr. Deepthi U, Assistant Professor Mgcl. The lectures lasted for 45 minutes and after that questions were asked and discussions on the same were conducted. Arundathi D, Student of Mgcl proposed the Vote of Thanks.

WEBINAR ON JUNE 5



MAR GREGORIOS COLLEGE OF LAW
Mar Ivanios Vidyanagar, Nalanchira Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala - 695015



PARYAVARAN MITRA (ECO CLUB)

CELEBRATES



Environment Day

INAUGURATION OF CLUB ACTIVITIES & LECTURE
Environmental Challenges & Prospects: Perspectives on Law, Policy & Practices.



Dr. PARIVELAN K M
Associate Professor
Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai

June 5
4: 00 PM



MAR GREGORIOS COLLEGE OF LAW
Mar Ivanios Vidyanagar, Nalanchira Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala - 695015



PARYAVARAN MITRA (ECO CLUB)

CELEBRATES

June 5

Environment Day

Time: 4:00 PM

INAUGURATION OF CLUB ACTIVITIES & LECTURE
Environmental Challenges and Prospects:
Perspectives on Law, Policy and Practices.



Dr. PARIVELAN K M
Associate Professor
Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai

EVENTS

1. PHOTOGRAPHY 2. ESSAY WRITING 3. POSTER COMPETITION

REPORT OF PROGRAMMES CONDUCTED ON JUNE 5

1. Competition:

As part of the World Environment Day, poster designing essay writing and photography competitions for the students and following students are the winners. List of winners:

ESSAY WRITING

1. SHILPA SANJEEVAN– 8TH SEM BBA LLB

2. PREM HARSHAN — 2ND SEM BA LLB

3. NAVAMI GOPAN– 2ND SEM BA LLB

POSTER DESIGNING

1. SHERLIN SHAJI VARGHESE– 1ST SEM BA LLB

2. ANARGHA V SUNIL– 7TH SEM BBA LLB

3. MEGHA ANN VARUGHESE– 2ND BA LLB

PHOTOGRAPHY

1. ELITA ANNA SHEEN– 5TH SEM BA LLB

2. Inauguration of Eco club activities for the Academic Year 2021–2022 and a talk on significance of the day

Inauguration of eco club activities was conducted along with a talk on the relevance of environment day.

Resource of person: Dr. Parivelan K M ,Chairperson; Associate Professor, Nodal Centre Of Excellence, For Human Rights Education ;Centre For Statelessness, And Refugee Studies, School Of Law, Rights And Constitutional Governance,Tata Institute Of Social Sciences.

Date: 05–06–2021

Time: 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm

About the speaker: Dr. Parivelan K M ,Chairperson; Associate Professor, Nodal Centre Of Excellence, For Human Rights Education ;Centre For Statelessness, And Refugee Studies, School Of Law, Rights And Constitutional Governance, Tata Institute Of Social Sciences. Previously he had served at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for facilitating the post–Tsunami recovery and at the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and facilitated the voluntary repatriation of Sri Lankan refugees as part of the peace process. He also taught at Pondicherry (Central) University, Puducherry.

Description: during this webinar he presented various aspects relating to the right to water and different dimensions of right over water. A clear cut understanding about the relevance of the day, why the environment is to be protected, the impact of disasters on the environment etc were discussed.

Program: the program was conducted through Microsoft Teams, a team named MGCL events. There were more than 156 participants.

The meeting began with a welcome address by Ms. Jincy P Babu, Assistant Professor and Coordinator of eco club which was followed by introductory remarks by Ms. Abhaya B K, Assistant Professor Mgcl. The lectures lasted for 45 minutes and after that questions were asked and discussions on the same were conducted. Shilpa Sanjeevan, Student of Mgcl proposed the Vote of Thanks.



Jincy P Babu
Coordinator
Centre for environmental studies and
eco club
Mgcl



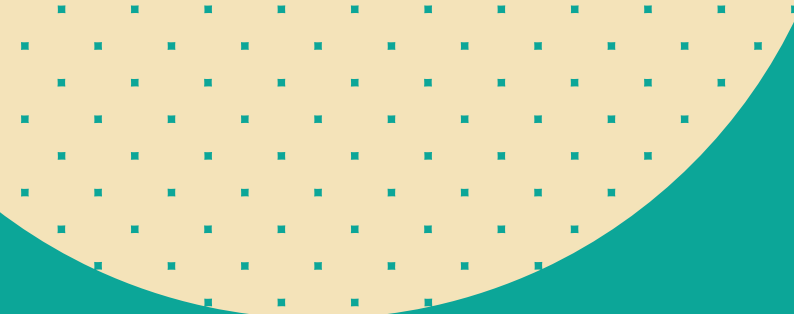
A New Challenge for the New Decade: Development without Destruction

Shilpa Sanjeevan

BBA LLB



The emphasis laid by humankind on development has ravaged the planet. With the advent of the 21st century, nations across the world started to strive towards achieving an all-round development in society with the major focus being on the creation of jobs and the promotion of economic growth to satisfy their urge for development. Today, the affluent communities are driven by their want to satisfy their needs. In the process of attaining development, the question of sustainability of the environment is being overlooked. The home that provides us with a plethora of resources is being damaged in the name of development. Anthropogenic activities like the burning of fossil fuels to meet the increasing energy needs, and destroying forests to expand cities, result in producing greenhouse gases, leading to climate change which further poses a serious threat to the environment and the biodiversity composing it. Such an alarmingly high rate of destruction faced by the planet has further exacerbated the current environmental position. The world has witnessed over-exploitative development plans being adopted regardless of considering the far-reaching repercussions on the environment. Another issue that development entails is the over-exploitation of natural resources. The exploitation of natural resources adversely affects the environmental composition of the planet. The over-use and improper utilisation of resources have been a concern for humankind over the past few decades. With the beginning of the 21st century, the planet witnessed a dramatic rise in consumption of resources in the form of a surge in demand and the greed for development. Moreover, evidence of a new geological epoch, Anthropocene, commonly known as The Age of Human Impact on Earth has been found to exist as argued by some scientists. Through this, natural resources are seen as the material basis of society. During the current epoch, the planet continues to be subjected to global warming, habitat destruction, extinction, over-exploitation of natural resources, all contributing towards transitioning of the planet.

Human activities over the past years have unfolded at such accelerated rates that it has resulted in modifying the planet to unfit conditions. As the decade began, nations came together to address the issue. Deliberations were made on the employment of efficient resource management tools for deploying resources more responsibly, so as to provide a sustainable resource base for future generations. In fact, the year 2020 was considered optimum by experts to attain maximum sustainability, and it even saw a shift to using eco-friendly alternatives by the world. However, as the world was struck by an unprecedented global pandemic, priorities had changed. The emergence of the pandemic forced people into homes and prompted nations to adopt quarantines and lockdowns as a result of which sustainability was seen to have taken a backseat. The main focus had shifted from sustainability to mitigating the worldwide health crisis. However, amidst such a crisis, the world saw an about-face with regard to the environment. Skies were no longer covered by a brown haze, pollution rates reduced, and the emission of greenhouse gases plummeted. The world also witnessed a more efficient use of resources. Soon, nations started to feel that the environment was replenishing. The biggest takeaway from the pandemic year would be the huge impact humans have on the environment. With just a few months of curbed movements, the planet was in a better place. Although, environmentalists have suggested that the responsible use of natural resources, during the pandemic, is not going to bring long-term effects to the planet as human activities have deeply wounded the planet for years. In fact, the world, post-pandemic has the potential to wipe away the benefits acquired during the lockdown.

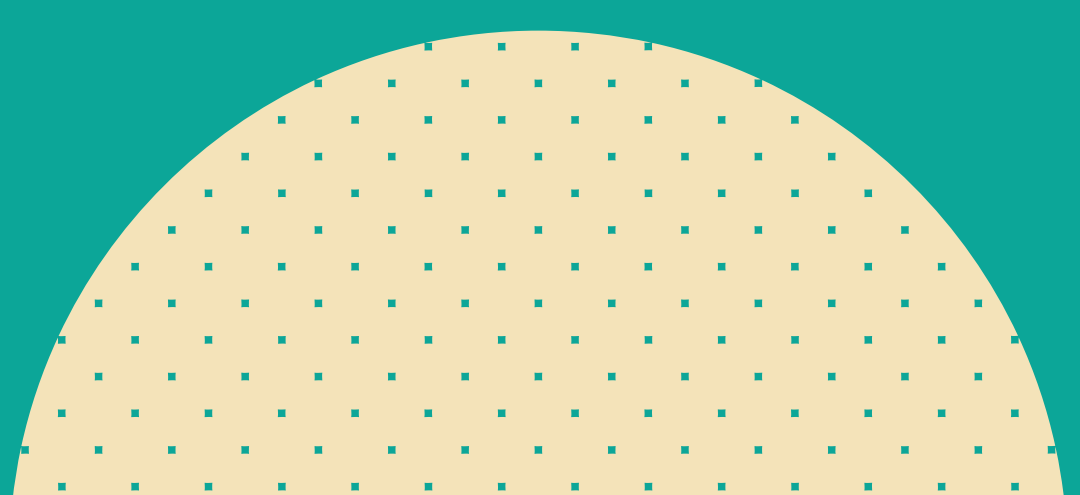


It has been well-established that our relationship with the environment is at stake. Due to our over-exploitative activities, the environment is deteriorating at an unprecedented rate. It is time, nations acted towards decelerating the process. The first step to be taken towards the conservation of the environment is to deeply understand the interrelationship between environment and development. Any decision taken towards the progress of one tends to jeopardise the progress of the other. This is when the concept of sustainable development comes into picture by creating a balance between the two. By this concept, development is only advocated for, to the extent that it meets the present needs without compromising the needs of the future generation. Therefore, to tackle this challenge, it is imperative to consider both development and sustainability as a unit and then work on it. In this way, if on analysis a decision taken for the benefit of development is found detrimental to the environment, an alternative can be formulated at that instance, thereby preventing irreversible damage that would have been caused by such decision. Environmentalists advocate that sustainability should be the guiding principle for taking any decision which could impact the environment. It is further advised that before any major decisions are taken, the complex interactions between the environment and development should be looked upon to enable one to arrive at

sustainable choices. Therefore, it can be concluded that sustainability must be the guiding principle for deciding all other human activities.



The world today is witnessing a society running on human greed. Rampant industrialisation and the greed for development have encroached on nature. The planet which serves us with a stock of resources sees a rupture in its functioning merely because of the impact of human activities. For a society to survive in an ever-evolving world, development is inevitable. However, it should not be at the cost of the environment. To resolve the same, the concept of sustainability has been advised to be the driving force to prioritise decisions because only a sustainable approach can protect the planet from further exploitation. To promise ourselves a better world to live in, we must prevent contributing to further depletion and rise above our self-centred notions to create an equitable, sustainable and healthier planet for all.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Vegetable garden
- National conference on environmental law faculty and environmental crimes in association with maharashtra national law university
- Cleaning programme under swach bharat abhiyan
- Waste management awareness program under swachatha hi sewa
- Butterfly park
- Logo designing for centre for environmental studies
- Photography
- Eco craft hunter

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