

The month of March came with a sign of hope and brought with it the season of Spring in all its glory. As it is our tradition at Vissanji, we welcomed our dear students to their new classes and to a new and exciting year ahead. It is for this reason that March brings us great joy and happiness.

Amidst all the chaos and confusions created by the global pandemic last year, we have already completed one online academic year successfully and have started another one. When we started our online classes in March'21, the situation was looking much better than it was, last March. There was more awareness of precautions and the vaccination against Covid 19 was happening on a large scale and at great speed.

However, we soon learnt that it was too early for us to feel relieved; the virus was back in a much more virulent form. April dawned on us with the threat of another lockdown looming over. As they say, "When things get tough, the tough get going." It's time that we brace ourselves with all the required precautionary measures to fight this pandemic. With a prayer in our minds and a spring in our step, let's move ahead to face the new challenges awaiting us this year.

Let's make a promise to ourselves to be positive and persevere together, as a team.

IMPORTANT DAYS IN MARCH

20th March - Navroz (Parsi New Year): A combination of two Persian words - 'Nav' which means new and 'Roz' meaning day - Navroz marks the first day of Parsi New Year, as per the Zoroastrian calendar. It also coincides with the spring equinox that falls around March 20-21 every year.

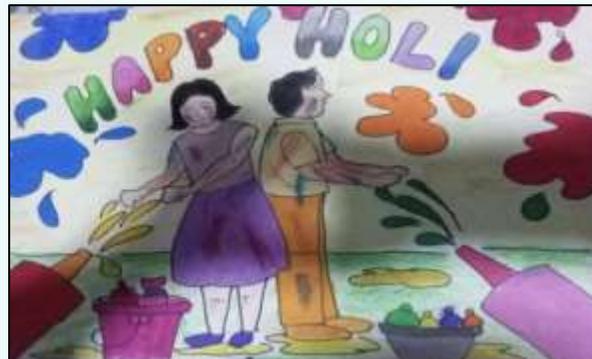
29th March – Holi: This festival of colours and love brings with it the end of winter and the arrival of spring in all its abundant colours. Holi symbolises the triumph of Good over Evil.



Art by Eshal Singhania,5C



23rd March - Shaheed Diwas: India celebrates Shaheed Diwas twice in the year. Apart from January 30, another Martyrs' Day or Shaheed Diwas is also observed on March 23, to pay homage to Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev Thapar, and Shivaram Rajguru who were hanged to death in the year 1931, in Lahore (Pakistan).



Art by Aleina Saigal 8A

SIGNIFICANT DAYS IN APRIL

2nd April - Good Friday: It is the day when Christians commemorate Jesus Christ's crucifixion. **Good Friday** is considered **good** because on this day, Jesus Christ showed His great love for man, and bought for him every blessing. It is observed as a day of sorrow, penance, and fasting,

4th April – Easter: Easter is a Christian festival which **celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ**, three days after his crucifixion on Good Friday. Easter gives the message of hope and new beginnings.

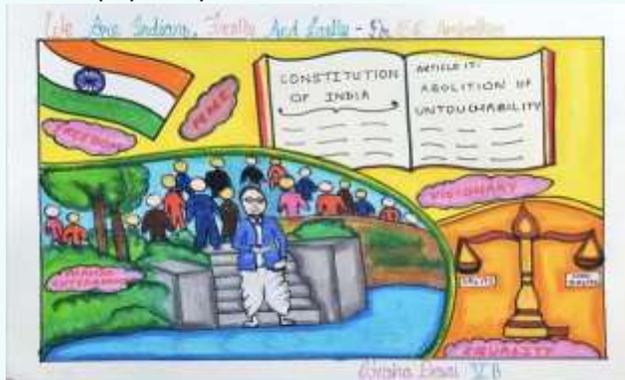
7th April - World Health Day: World Health Day is celebrated worldwide every year on 7th April. This day reminds us of the adage, "Health is Wealth".



Art by Kanak Khatod 8A



14th April - Ambedkar Jayanti: On 14th April, 2021, we celebrate the 130th birth Anniversary of **Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar**, who is popularly known as the chief architect of the Indian Constitution. Also known as Bhim Jayanti, the day is celebrated as **Equality Day** in India. He was appointed as the first Minister of Law and Justice in free India and was entrusted with the task of drafting the Constitution. His belief that **Caste System and Democracy cannot co-exist**, is now an integral part of the Indian Constitution.

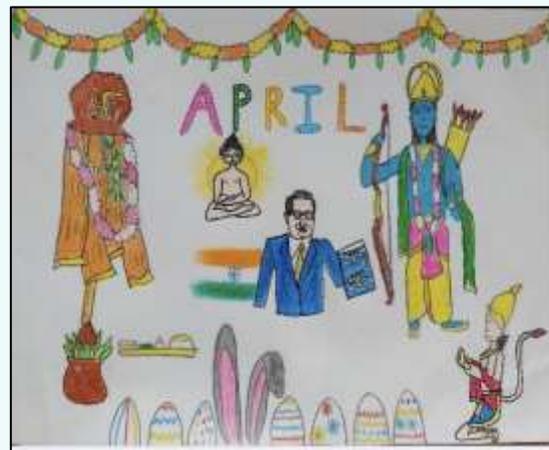


Art by Prisha Desai, 5B

21st April - Ram Navmi: Ram Navami is a Hindu festival, celebrating the birth of Lord Rama to King Dasharatha of Ayodhya.



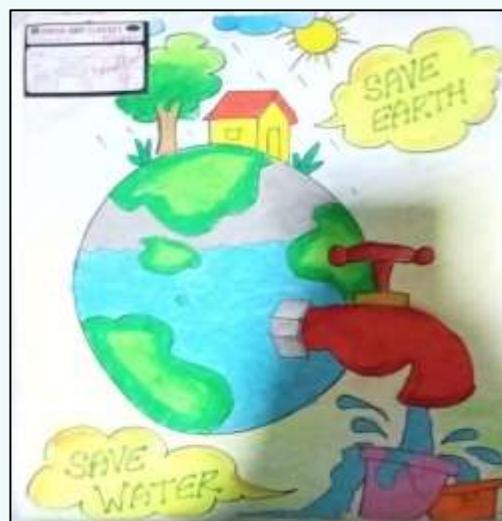
Art by Anika Barase 5C



22nd April - World Earth Day: World Earth Day is celebrated to increase awareness about the importance of our planet, which is the only one where life is possible.



Art by Tanishi Mishra, 8A



Art by Aleina Saigal, 8A

TAKING CARE OF OUR ENVIRONMENT

Every year 22nd April is celebrated as Earth Day! Earth Day 2021 marks the 51st anniversary and this year's theme is "Restore Our Earth." We all live on planet Earth, the only planet to have life on it. Mother Earth has given us many things so it is our responsibility to conserve her. A clean environment is essential for healthy living.

Now with social distancing and lockdown in place, it becomes a little difficult but there are so many ways to help the environment at home. Whenever we walk around and come across any trash or plastic bottles or cans, just collect them all and throw them in the bin. There are many things that we can do with normal household items instead of throwing them into the trash and polluting the environment, we can make use of them in many craft projects and recycle them effectively.

Conserving water is also one of the most important things we can do to make a difference and help our planet at the same time. Using adequate water at home and adopting rain harvesting techniques are the few ways to conserve water.

Another easy and achievable way is to plant trees. They capture carbon, cool overheated places, benefit agriculture, reduce the risk of disease transmission, and boost local economies. So, if we adopt the "Each One Plant One" slogan, our environment will be greener, healthier and our earth a better place to live in.

Realistically, thinking of ways to help our environment is not something we must talk about one day of the year, but something that should be on our minds most of the time rather every time. Let us pledge to keep our Mother Earth- Clean & Green!



Mishika Shenoy, Std 5 A

EARTH DAY

Earth day is an annual event started in 1970 in America that is created to celebrate and protect the Earth's exquisite environment. It is also celebrated to inform the public about the rising pollution.

It is celebrated on April 22 every year and from a student agitation it is now a global event with 193 countries on board including India.

This year marks the 51st anniversary of the Earth Day with the theme 'Restore the Earth!'. Every year on April 22, people around the world mobilize to address some of the most urgent threats facing our environment, from climate change to deforestation to plastic pollution.

Each year, corporations and activists create new projects, initiatives and campaigns to protect and restore the Earth. Children often celebrate by creating Earth Day-themed crafts and school projects.

Our planet Earth is the only planet that we can live on comfortably. We must take care of it and cherish every moment we have by stopping all the four pollutions: Air pollution, Water pollution, Soil pollution and Noise pollution.

If we can stop all the four of these pollutions, then we can finally live on a healthy and pollution free planet.

I wish you a Happy Earth Day, stay safe and stay healthy.



-Nicole Andrades, 5C

A BLISSFUL SPRING

Amidst those blooms that took my heart away
those mellifluous chirps of the sparrows
that made my mind gleefully sway
much different from the world that I call mine
a walk through the solacing meadows
into that blissful spring.

That hum of the bees as if dripping honey
the nectar awaiting the butterflies sweet
that wasn't less than the heaven on earth
my world seemed prettier like ne'er before
a walk through the solacing meadows
into that blissful spring.

An eternal happiness, I could see flowing freely
grass shimmered as sunrays rarified
mesmerized by the glory of God
I started accumulating it in my heart
a walk through the solacing meadows
into that blissful spring.

This beauty, I behold, always carry it along
sprinkle it like pixie stardust on the streets forlorn
they shimmer with hope as I see smiles around
being an eternal traveller, I carry God's message along
a pursuit to break the monotonous pattern
that only brings pain in its stride
a walk through the solacing meadows
into that blissful spring.

Bring paradise from the doors of heaven
I try creating blissful meadows around
I walk and walk, just halt to tickle the sad
I bring the spring in autumnal solstices
I don't stop, will never ever
for the beauty I behold need be dispensed
a walk to remember, a walk perpetual
a walk through the solacing meadows
into that blissful spring...



Prisha Desai, 5B

SELF DEVELOPMENT

Learning to accept your own mistakes and to rectify it takes time. Self-acceptance will make us aware of our unique strengths and weaknesses which will gradually develop and create our own identity. Have you ever analysed your strength and weakness.

Make your strength and weakness chart and keep updating whenever you convert your weakness to strength. Understanding and exploring our talents builds our confidence. We should groom our hobbies in different forms of art like painting, music, exercising which will boost our confidence. We should keep track of our good habits and should regularly self-praise it. This will help us to think creatively and study efficiently. Self – Development is about changing behaviour and our qualities. This will bring the best version of our own selves. Personal growth is the first step to be part of a good society. So, believe in yourself!!



Roshni Vajifdar, 5A

SPRING

It is the time of spring.
In this season, birds will sing,
Flowers will bloom,
And no one would be bored in their room
Flying butterflies and buzzing bees,
Green grass and tall trees.
The sun will also smile,
To go and play, we quickly arrange books in a pile.
Spring is the season of great fun and peace,
Satisfaction, happiness and fun will increase.
I love spring,
As it is like a diamond of a golden ring.
Happy with the sun,
Spring is the best season to have a lot of fun.



Viha Mehta, 4B

WINGED-WONDERS

When the lockdown first started, everyone was locked up in their houses. Trying to find a hobby, I picked up bird watching from my father and since there were a lot of trees near my house, I could spot many different types of birds. We would excitedly spot birds from the window as well as go to the terrace occasionally. Some of the birds that I spotted were Coppersmith Barbet, Black Kite, White-eared Bulbul, Red-Vented Bulbul, Rose Ringed Parakeet, Oriental Magpie Robin, Drongo and Common Kingfisher. We also spotted the Asian Pied Starling in the vicinity of our house. This bird is not seen in Mumbai. It was a rare sighting and so we were truly delighted.

My father and I have also visited places like Bhandup, Seawoods and The Sanjay Gandhi National Park. I saw birds such as Painted Stork, Greater and Lesser Flamingo, Cormorant, Cranes and Egrets, Red Wattled Lapwing, Seagulls and Eurasian Curlew. Many of these are migratory birds.

It helps me connect with nature and also to relax.

It's impossible not to be fascinated by birds and I for one am hooked for life.

I have a Canon DSLR camera with two lenses with which I have clicked all of these pictures.



Black Winged Stilt



Black Kite



Red Wattled Lapwing



Asian Pied Starling



Hundreds of Greater and Lesser Flamingos



Yug Shah - 8A

A SPOOKY NIGHT AT THE BHANGARH PALACE

It was a pleasant Sunday morning. My cousins and I had gone for vacation to Rajasthan. We stayed at a palace hotel which was very beautiful. When we were visiting places in Rajasthan, we came across, 'The Palace of Bhangarh.'

It was very spooky and silent. My cousins gave me a dare to sleep there at night. I momentarily agreed. In the evening, all of a sudden, the dark clouds started to gather. There were rumbling sounds of the sky. At night, I took my bedding and tried to sleep. After a while, I heard a loud weeping sound. I woke up and went to check what was wrong. I saw a few red coloured footsteps and then I heard a banging sound. I turned to check but found nothing. Drops of sweat trickled down my forehead. I wanted to go out of the palace, but there was no way to escape. I saw a shadow moving in the corner of the palace. Shivers ran down my spine and when I was going further, all of a sudden, a creepy skeleton hung down. I was petrified and ran to save my life. On the way, I heard a familiar voice laughing. When I turned around, I saw my cousins laughing at me. I was filled with rage.

However, there was more to The Bhangarh Palace. As we all were walking out of the gate, we heard an old vase falling and breaking into pieces, the windows creaking and the doors banging. We were soaked to the bone and ran to save our lives until we reached our hotel.

(This story is purely a work of fiction. The character that Veer portrays here is totally an imaginary character.)



Veer Gala - 6A

THE POWER OF READING

The world of words has always fascinated me and has impacted me for the good. The broadened vocabulary has helped me juggle with words. During exams I get really stressed out as there is a lot of syllabus to be covered and at times, I am unable to concentrate after studying for hours. Reading a book relaxes me and also reduces my stress and even prepares me for a good night's rest. During the lockdown I had read three books which helped me to evolve.

1. '7 Habits of Highly Effective Teenagers' by Sean Covey

I read this book last year. This book describes the entire teenage life that I am soon going to enter. It streams us to become a good student and enjoy life. After reading this book, I have learnt to prioritise my schedule and have become a little more organised nowadays.

2. 'Mr. Stink' by David Williams

After reading this book, I realized that the tramps living on the road also have a life. The only things they need are love, support and help from all of us. It has taught me the value of empathy.

3. 'The Day I Stopped Drinking Milk' by Sudha Murty

After reading this book, I learnt a lot of new words and there are many values that the author has stressed on like being good to people even if they are not good to you and helping the poor and the needy. In fact, reading has helped me evolve and transform my life. I even urge my friends to create a passion for reading as it widens our creativity and develop our critical thinking skills.



Aleina Saigal-8A

THE PEACOCK'S PRIDE

There was once a peacock who lived in a beautiful forest. The party which the peacock belonged to, had been massacred. He was the only one who survived. At first, the animals of the forest were fascinated when they saw his lovely appearance. They treated him as a precious being. But they soon realised how deceptive the peacock was. The peacock, who was now called 'Hera', was no doubt beautiful, but his arrogance was passing its limits.

One day, he met a swan, who was simple but magnificent and elegant. Hera boasted about his own appearance while disregarding the latter's. He bragged about how pretty and vibrant his feathers were while hers was plain white. The swan, whose name was 'Athena', just smiled gently at him and told him that a time will come when he would realise his mistake. That time came sooner than expected. They were ambushed by a group of hunters who had come to hunt for a prey. Hera's vibrant and attractive feathers only caused the hunters to become more tempted to find the creature.

As soon as Athena saw his futile attempts to escape, she quickly distracted the hunters by throwing a rock in the opposite direction. Hera then realised his fault. It wasn't his extravagant feathers that saved him, it was the patience, skill and quick thinking of Athena. He finally learned that *"All that glitters is not gold"*.

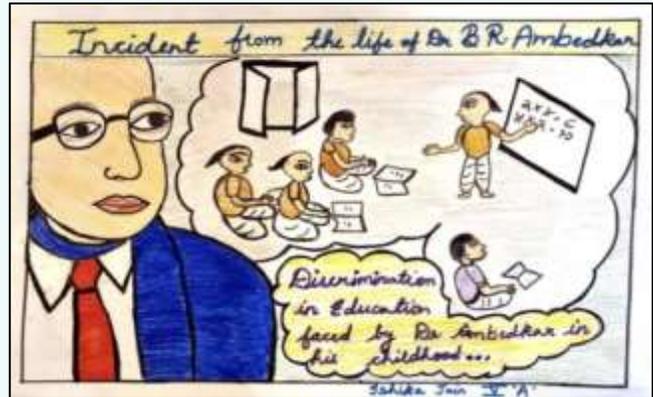
Srishti Agrawal - 8 B

REMEMBERING DR. BABASAHIB AMBEDKAR

On the occasion of Ambedkar Jayanti, an art activity was conducted for the students in which they expressed their thoughts about the life and message of Dr. Ambedkar in the form of beautiful drawings. Here are some of those:



Anya Kumar 5A



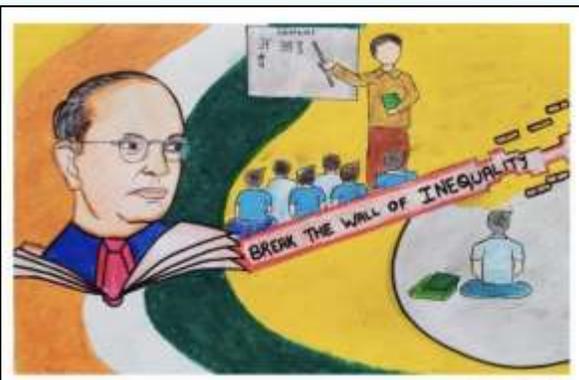
Ishika Jain 5A



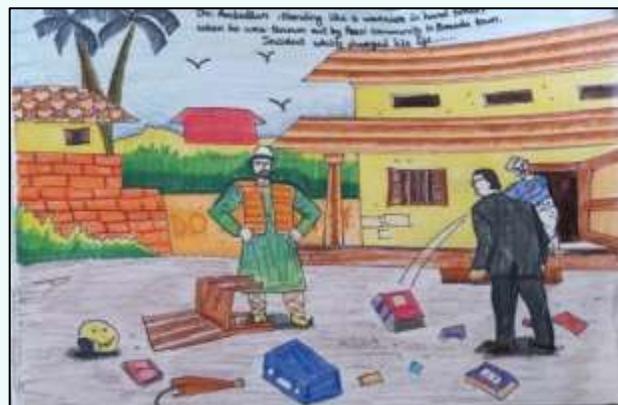
Aarush Dalal 4C



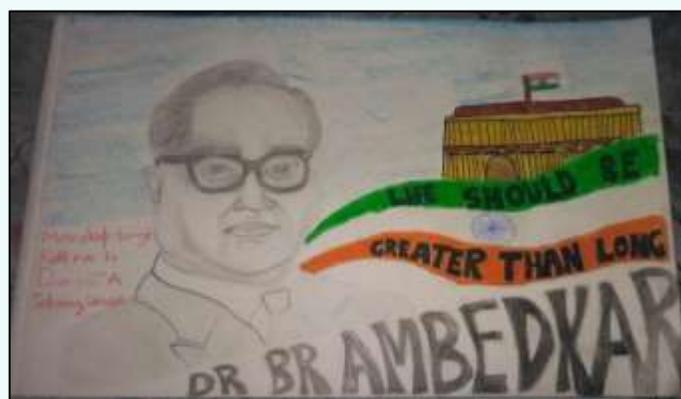
Viraj Singhania 8B



Gunika Pruthi 8B



Preksha Surana 7C



Mandeep Singh, 6A

OUR GREEN CRUSADERS

Project Mumbai, in collaboration with the Government of Maharashtra had conducted an Essay writing competition for school students. Students were given an opportunity to present a solution to Mumbai and Maharashtra's land, water and air pollution problems. Several of our students contributed their ideas in the form of essays and podcasts. Four of our talented children have made their place among the 45 shortlisted participants from all over Maharashtra.

Here are the four selected entries which have made us all proud:



IDEAS IN ACTION: MOVING TOWARDS A WORLD WITH CLEAN LAND

Mumbai, The City of Dreams has undergone a vast amount of development throughout its existence. Whether it be cheap transport or employment opportunities, Mumbai has excelled in all fields. But **the waste problem of Mumbai is degrading its beauty**. According to the **Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)**, Mumbai generates **11000 tonnes of solid waste per day**. The waste generated is either dumped in dumping grounds or disposed of into water bodies. As per a report by Times of India, **Mumbai dumps around 2100 million litres of human waste into sea daily**. A global study found **the sea near Mumbai's coast to be among the most polluted**. I wish to bring back the beauty of **'Aapli Mumbai'** and suggest a way to reduce land pollution.

Singapore is a country surrounded by water on all sides. It is heavily urbanised and densely populated. As a result, the waste generation accounted for nearly **7.7 million tonnes of waste in 2018, enough to fill about 15000 Olympic-sized swimming pools**. On a **daily basis, the waste thrown is 21083 tonnes**, which is the weight of more than 1400 double-decker buses. **Even after so much waste, Singapore is Asia's cleanest country**.

- This is because they have **strict guidelines and fines** for littering.
- **The Semakau Island was established in 1999** and is estimated **to hold Singapore's waste until 2040**. It covers a **total area of 3.5 km²** and has a **capacity of 63 million m³**.

The construction of **The Semakau island** took many years but the end result was stunning. **I would like to adopt a similar method for creating a landfill island near Mumbai also**.

- A **7-8 km perimeter of rock bund could be built to enclose a part of the sea**.
- **The waste generated would be converted to ash by incineration plants and sent to a waste management plant (near the coastline) for storage**.
- **Later, it could be shipped to our own landfill island in a covered barge to prevent the ash from getting blown into the air**.
- To make the site clean, free of smell and look scenic, **trees and bushes can be planted which will in turn help in solving Mumbai's air pollution problem**.
- During construction, the installment of silt screens **will ensure that marine life is not affected**.
- **The landfill can be lined with an impermeable membrane, and clay and any leachate produced can be processed at a leachate treatment plant**.
- **Regular water testing will ensure the integrity of the impermeable ships**.

With proper methods, **Singapore has turned its landfill into a scenic island. Adopting its methods will surely help Mumbai in the near future**.

- If Mumbai would adopt a similar method of waste management, the **coastline could get cleaner, the air would get purer and the land could get better**.
- The cost of making 'The Semakau island' was approx. 2900 crores rupees.
- **The BMC budget 2020-21 is ₹ 30,692 crore**. Out of this, the budget for **solid waste management is ₹ 177 crore**.
- With help from various organisations, private companies and better planning, **Mumbai can be able to create an artificial island in the Arabian Sea, solely dedicated to dispose waste in a better manner, without harming marine creatures**.
- If the plan is successful, the remaining landfills in Mumbai like **Deonar and Kanjurmarg can be permanently closed and the area can be used for green plantation**.
- With proper expertise and construction, **Mumbai's dream of becoming clean and more eco-friendly can be surely achieved!**



Shreyas Kulkarni 9C

Pollution is the introduction of substances (or energy) that cause adverse changes in the environment and living entities. These substances that cause pollution are called pollutants. Pollution, even in miniscule amounts, impacts the ecological balance. Over the past decade, Mumbai and Maharashtra have been impacted by various forms of pollution and associated problems. Every day sewers and manholes are left open, smoke and toxic gases which are harmful are being released into the environment, trees and forests are being cut down for making buildings, cinemas, restaurants etc. Sometimes the rate of increase in pollution rapidly increases whereas sometimes the rate of pollution dips. The dip in the pollution rate is really very important and is necessary, otherwise this issue will become (and is becoming) difficult to administer and therefore it demands immediate attention. There are different types of pollution, which are either caused by natural events (like forest fires) or by man-made activities (like cars, factories, nuclear wastes, etc.) They are Air Pollution, Water Pollution and Land Pollution and I would like to add Noise pollution.

While all are equally important, I have decided to write about air pollution today

Air pollution refers to the release of harmful contaminants (chemicals, toxic gases, particulates, biological molecules, etc.) into the earth's atmosphere. These contaminants are quite detrimental and, in some cases, pose serious health issues. If the air to breathe is not good then how can life survive because healthy, clean and unpolluted air to breathe is the most essential need of a living being. Sometimes, air pollution is visible. For example, a person can see dark smoke pour from the exhaust pipes of vehicles (think traffic in Mumbai and that is vehicular pollution) or chimneys of factories (chemical pollution). More often, however, air pollution is invisible. Polluted air can be dangerous, even if the pollutants are invisible.

Some of the major causes of air pollution are release of harmful gases like carbon monoxide from vehicles, release of smoke and gases like Nitrogen dioxide and Sulphur dioxide from factories, burning of fossil fuels, mining activities (like drilling). Its effects are that it can make people's eyes burn and make them have difficulty breathing. It can also increase the risk of lung cancer, increased risk of skin diseases, Acid rain, Greenhouse gases like water vapour, carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide etc. are causing ozone depletion and Global warming etc.

Some methods to reduce air pollution are

- a) Using bicycles or walking to places close by instead of using cars and encouragement on use of dedicated cycle lanes.
- b) Another method is by using public bicycles whose stations can be made at some crowded or at places where most people come to work and term those places as Bicycle Stations. An app-based monitoring system can be introduced to monitor renting of cycles.
- c) People who are going to one place for work should either carpool or use public transport.
- d) Do regular pollution tests of our vehicles and use CNG fuel in vehicles.
- e) Encouraging use of mass public transports like local trains and metros, use water-based transport (cost, safety etc. aspects to be looked into)
- f) We should grow a lot of plants as plants absorb carbon dioxide from air.
- g) by conserving energy, reducing the release of CFCs and greenhouse gases,
- h) Polluting factories and industries should be compulsorily shifted to and set up outside the residential areas in barren areas and the gases produced can be converted into liquefied gases and can be used in gas cylinders and be supplied in rural areas.
- i) Create dumping ground away from residential areas.
- j) By following the R's Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.
- k) Whenever we buy new electrical equipment, we should look for an Energy Star label on it.
- l) One of the ideas we can borrow from countries like Switzerland and China is the concept of 'Carbon Guzzler' a machine which directly sucks carbon dioxide from air and converts it into gas which is then helpful in growing vegetables (a win – win solution).

I am aware that quite a few of the above ideas have already been put in place and hence I strongly believe that the most important idea for controlling all forms of pollution lies in not just suggesting new ideas but rather in their implementation, after due diligence. We already have reports of various expert committees to deal with the issue and many of these have remained on paper. So, it will do no good just generating ideas unless there is effective participation by people and appropriate implementation and monitoring and encouragement by the government with a balance of carrot and stick approach where positive behaviour is rewarded and bad behaviour is called out and punished and publicly shamed. So I recommend setting of a '**Ministry of Implementation**' which has experts and commoners as its members and is a public and private participation initiative whose job it will be to monitor effective implementation of announced ideas

So, if all follow these measures and take care of their surroundings then only will this problem disappear and earth become a beautiful place to live in.



Aarav Daga, 8B

पर्यावरण २.० जन नेक्स्ट : मुंबई व महाराष्ट्राच्या माती प्रदूषणावर उपाय

मुंबई आणि महाराष्ट्रातील पुढील पिढी वय वर्ष १४ ते २१ हे पर्यावरणावर परिणाम करणारा थोरण निश्चित योगदान देण्यासाठी निमंत्रित केल्याबद्दल मी स्नेहा राणे विस्संजी अकादमी इयत्ता नववी तुम्हा सर्वांचे आभार मानते. मातीचे प्रदूषण हा पर्यावरणाला सर्वात मोठा धोका आहे. आपल्या अन्नाचे मुख्य स्रोत असलेली मातेची प्रदेशात झाल्याने आपल्या मानवी जीवनावर प्रतिकूल परिणाम होत आहे.

- प्लास्टिक बॉटल पासून होणारे प्रदूषण रोखण्यासाठी टीप नंबर १. प्लास्टिक बाटल्यांचा शहरात तसेच ग्रामीण भागात दुष्परिणाम होत आहे ग्रामीण भागातील एसटी बसेस मध्ये आपण इको कंपार्टमेंट बनवून त्यात प्लास्टिक बोटल्स संघटित करू शकतो. ज्या गावात जास्तीत जास्त प्लास्टिक बोटल्स जमा होतील त्यांना सरकारतर्फे किंवा ग्रामपंचायतीतर्फे सन्मानित करण्यात येईल. तसेच आपण शहरात बीईएसटी मार्फत हा उपक्रम राबवू शकतो. नगरसेविका, नगरसेवक या उपक्रमात सहभागी करू शकतो.
- प्लास्टिक बॉटल पासून होणारे प्रदूषण रोखण्यासाठी टीप नंबर २ पर्यटक आकर्षण असणाऱ्या स्थानांवर प्लास्टिक बोटल रिसायकल मशीन लावणे. देणगी कूपन अर्थात डोनेशन कूपन देऊन लोकांना प्रोत्साहित करणे.
- माती प्रदूषण कमी करण्यासाठी टीप नंबर ३ कॉर्पोरेट कंपनी प्रोत्साहित करून मोठा भाजीपाला मार्केटमध्ये कंपोस्ट मशीन उपलब्ध करणे तयार झालेले कंपोस्ट खत त्यांच्याच कॉर्पोरेट गार्डन साठी उपलब्ध करून देणे.
- माती प्रदूषण कमी करण्यासाठी टीप नंबर ४ सेंद्रिय खत कंपन्यांना शेतकऱ्यांशी संबंधित करून शेतीतील सेंद्रिय शेती कचरा व पीक अवशेष रिसायकल करण्यास प्रोत्साहित करणे व जास्तीत जास्त जमीन सुपीक करण्याचा प्रयत्न करणे.
- माती प्रदूषण कमी करण्यासाठी नंबर ५ कचरा नियोजन शहरी विभाग प्रत्येक रहवासी सोसायटी ना जमा होणारा कचरा २०, ५० किंवा १०० किलो बाग मध्ये भरून स्वच्छता वान मध्ये देणे अनिवार्य करणे प्रत्येक सोसायटीला QR कोड असलेले स्टिकर किंवा ताग उपलब्ध करून देणे. ज्यानचा ओला आणि सुका कचरा वेगळा केलेला नसेल किंवा कचरा मयदि पेक्षा जास्त असेल अशा सोसायटींना QR कोडनी ट्रेक करून दंड आकारण्यात यावा.

अशा तरेनी अनेक उपाय योजना राबवून, मातीचे प्रत वाढवून पिकांची उत्पादन वाढवून तसेच शहरी टाकाऊ पदार्थांवर प्रक्रिया करून पर्यावरणाला पूरक उपाययोजना करणे आवश्यक आहे.

पुन्हा मी तुम्हा सर्वांचे आभार मानते आणि माझा पॉडकास्ट येथेच थांबवते.



स्नेहा राणे (१०-ए)

Environment 2.0 Next-Gen

इस विशाल जगत का सबसे अहम हिस्सा है- 'पर्यावरण'। इसी के कारण आज हर जीव जंतु का अस्तित्व है। पर्यावरण खाने पीने से लेकर रहन सहन तक सब कुछ प्रदान करता है। दुनिया में आज जितने भी व्यापार चल रहे हैं, वे पर्यावरण द्वारा दिए गए उपहारों के ही नतीजे हैं। पर्यावरण निस्वार्थ भाव से हमारी सारी ज़रूरतों को पूरा करता है। परंतु इसके बदले में मनुष्य ने पर्यावरण को केवल बरबादी दी है। इस बरबादी का सबसे भयंकर रूप है- 'प्रदूषण'। प्रदूषण का अर्थ है पर्यावरण की शुद्धता और खूबसूरती पर गंदगी का दाग लगाना। महाराष्ट्र, भारत का एक अहम राज्य, भी इस प्रदूषण के काले बादलों से घिरा हुआ है। मुंबई, यहाँ की राजधानी, इस राज्य का तीसरी प्रदूषित शहर है। प्रदूषण के तीन प्रकार हैं - भूमि प्रदूषण, जल प्रदूषण और वायु प्रदूषण।

वायु प्रदूषण का अर्थ है हमारे आस-पास प्रस्तुत हवा की स्वच्छता को दूषित करना। इसका सबसे प्रबल कारण है हवा में प्रस्तुत हानिकारक पदार्थ जैसे धुँआ। मुंबई तथा पूर्ण महाराष्ट्र में वायु प्रदूषण का मुख्य कारण लोगों की बढ़ती हुई संख्या है, जिसकी वजह से वस्तुओं की मांग बढ़ती जा रही है, तथा अधिक उद्योगों की स्थापना होती जा है। इन उद्योगों द्वारा छोड़ी जाने वाली हानिकारक गैसों वायु प्रदूषण करती हैं। ज्यादा लोग होने

के कारण गाड़ियां भी अधिक है जो हवा में धुँए की मात्रा बढ़ा रही हैं। यदि बढ़ते हुए वायु प्रदूषण को नहीं रोका गया तो कई जानलेवा रोग फैल सकते हैं। महाराष्ट्र में जीवाश्म ईंधन की जगह हरे ईंधन का उपयोग किया जाना चाहिए। महाराष्ट्र सरकार को उद्योगों को सौर ऊर्जा और वायु ऊर्जा के विषय में अवगत करना चाहिए। सौर पेनल्स और हवा चक्कियों की स्थापना की जानी चाहिए। वाहनों की संख्या कम करने के लिए महाराष्ट्र सरकार सार्वजनिक परिवहन के भावों को कम कर सकती है, जिससे और लोग उसका उपयोग करें। ऐल.ई. डी तथा सी. ऐफ़. ऐल जैसे लाइट बल्ब का इस्तेमाल किया जाना चाहिए, जो कम ईंधन का उपयोग करते हैं। इन छोटे-छोटे उपायों से महाराष्ट्र से वायु प्रदूषण कम किया जा सकता है।

प्रदूषण का दूसरा प्रकार है- जल प्रदूषण। आज महाराष्ट्र की नदियों का मीठा पानी धीरे-धीरे कड़वा होते जा रहा है। यह जल में प्रस्तुत कचरे, रसायन और ऐसे अन्य पदार्थों के कारण है। उद्योग सबसे ज्यादा जल प्रदूषण फैलाते हैं। महाराष्ट्र एक खेती का राज्य है और इसमें उपयोग किये जाने वाले कीटनाशक नदियों तथा सागर तक पहुंचकर जल प्रदूषण करते हैं। इस प्रदूषण को रोकने के लिए सबसे पहले उद्योगों को कचरा प्रबंध और मल प्रबंध के बारे में सिखाया जाना चाहिए, जिससे वे कचरे तथा रसायन को सही तरह से फेंक सके। महाराष्ट्र के पानी की बचत और तर्कसंकत उपयोग के लिए और एक उपाय है- बारिश के पानी का संग्रहण। सरकार समाज को इस विषय में जागृत कर सकती है और इमारतों पर इस तरकीब की स्थापना करने में उनकी सहायता भी कर सकती है। इससे किसानों को भी फायदा होगा जो गर्मियों के दौरान निश्चिन्त होकर खेती कर पाएंगे। जैविक खेती करने से भी कम रसायन नदियों तक पहुँचेगा। यदि कोई संस्था कूड़ा नदियों में फेंकती है, तो उससे जुमाना लिया जाना चाहिए। इस प्रकार हम महाराष्ट्र के कीमती पानी को बचा पाएँगे।

भूमि प्रदूषण भी महाराष्ट्र में कुछ मात्रा में मौजूद है। इसका प्रमुख कारण पेड़ों की कटाई है। इसकी वजह से मृदा अपरदन होता है, जो खेती के लिए बहुत हानिकारक है। नई इमारतों की स्थापना करने में कई पेड़ों को काटा जा रहा है, जो हमें ऑक्सीजन जैसी जीवन निर्वाह गैसें प्रदान करते हैं। सरकार को यह सुनिश्चित करना चाहिए कि पेड़ काटे जा रहे हो, तो उनके बदले में नए पेड़ भी लगाए जाए। महाराष्ट्र एक कृषि राज्य है और भूमि प्रदूषण की मुख्य वजह खेती में उपयोग किए जाने वाले रसायन हैं। ये पदार्थ मिट्टी की उर्वरता को काम करते हैं, जिसका प्रभाव आने वाले समय में महाराष्ट्र के किसानों पर ही पड़ेगा। सरकार को यह सुनिश्चित करना चाहिए कि इन रसायनों की बिक्री पर रोक लगा दी जाए। महाराष्ट्र की सरकार किसानों का जैविक खेती शुरू करने में हाथ बढ़ा सकती है। गीले कचरे का खाद बनाना भी भूमि प्रदूषण को रोकने का एक सटीक उपाय है। हम इस प्रकार महाराष्ट्र की माँ समान भूमि की रक्षा कर सकते हैं।

महाराष्ट्र के जल, वायु और भूमि को दूषित उसके लोगों ने ही किया है, इसलिए इन्हीं लोगों का यह कर्तव्य बनता है कि वे वातावरण के सौंदर्य को पुनः स्थापित करने में सरकार का सहयोग करें। समझदार नागरिक होने के नाते हमें महाराष्ट्र के प्रति अपनी ज़िम्मेदारी दिखानी चाहिए। जिस तरह पर्यावरण ने हमें एक माँ की तरह सब कुछ दिया, उसी प्रकार हमें भी उसकी संतान होने का कर्तव्य निभाना चाहिए। हम सब मिलकर सरकार के साथ महाराष्ट्र के जल, वायु और भूमि को उसकी खूबसूरत पहचान लौटा सकते हैं। इन ख्यालों का निष्कर्ष निकलते हुए मुझे कुछ पंक्तियाँ याद आ रही हैं:

“ जान- जान को अब होश में लाना है,
पर्यावरण को अब हमें बचाना है।”



वेदिका गुप्ता, दसवीं अ