

AUGUST EDITION

CATHEDRAL CARES



CLIMATE AND SUSTAINABILITY

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: AADITYA AGARWAL

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Dear Readers,

Welcome to the Second Edition of Cathedral Cares 2025! This newsletter was founded to raise awareness of the work being done by various NGO's and charitable organisations across the country. It aims to encourage the students of Senior School to actively participate and volunteer their time and their skills to these deserving causes. Whether through supporting ongoing initiatives, joining fundraising drives, or starting new projects, every effort counts in creating lasting change. We hope that by reading about these NGOs that are working tirelessly to protect the environment, you will be inspired to contribute in your own, unique way.

This edition focuses on Climate and Sustainability. Sea levels are rising, species are going extinct, and ecosystems are being disrupted. By volunteering at any of these remarkable organisations, we hope to be a part of the solution to this pressing global issue. Whether it be by restoring habitats, planting trees, or participating in clean-up drives, each action moves us one step closer to a safer, cleaner, and ultimately, more sustainable world.

GREEN YATRA

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INTRODUCTION

Green Yatra was founded in 2008 by Pradeep and Durgesh with the simple but pressing goal of celebrating the Ganesh festival without harming the environment. Go Green Ganesha, their initial campaign, urged educational institutions, housing societies, and schools to switch out hazardous Plaster of Paris idols for more environmentally friendly ones.

The success of the project led to the creation of Go Green Kids, a program that teaches children sustainable living practices in the hopes that they will be passed on to their families.

THEIR WORK

Green Yatra has grown into thousands of communities throughout India since registering as an NGO in 2010. Currently, large scale plantation drives are planting lakhs of trees (hundreds of thousands per year). Moreover, their projects like Zaroorat as well as Green Youth Green India promote concrete action in citizens for the betterment of the environment. Using the Japanese Miyawaki Dense Forestation Technique as motivation, they have created forests in urban areas all while engaging with their localities.

Green Yatra stands to solve the climate crisis, innovation for global warming, restoration of ecosystems to find sustainable solutions for soil, water and air. Also to help people re-engage with nature, collectively and meaningfully to build a healthier pollution free India.

“A greener world starts with us—every tree, every drop, every choice matters.”



WRITTEN BY JIA LAUD

GREEN YATRA

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VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

- Community-based workshops on biodiversity, clean-up initiatives, and tree planting drives at housing societies, schools, and colleges.
- Corporate-based collaboration on CSR projects that help businesses achieve their Net Zero objectives by promoting sustainable urban and rural projects.
- Participate in environmental awareness campaigns and practical events like workshops on sustainable farming, Miyawaki forest creation, and water body rejuvenation that can be done on an individual level.



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WRITTEN BY JIA LAUD

VANASHAKTI

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INTRODUCTION

Founded in the year 2007, Vanashakti was formed by a group of community changemakers who were deeply concerned about the depleting environment around them.

Upon realising that Mumbai's mangroves were vanishing and our forest systems are under constant threat, they vowed to help in safeguarding natural ecosystems.



THEIR WORK

They have successfully managed to provide environmental education to over 46,000 young children, but have also organised over 60,000 tree plantation drives!

Through scientific investigations, Vanashakti documents environmental damage such as illegal dumping, wetland encroachment, and mangrove destruction.

Its legal team has filed multiple Public Interest Litigations (PILs) to safeguard rivers, forests, and wetlands, influencing policy decisions at the state and national level.

A few other notable success stories of theirs, include the implementation of ecologically sensitive zones at Sanjay Gandhi National Park, conserving various Morjim turtle nesting sites, as well as installing the Sawantwadi Dodamarg wildlife corridor.

VANASHAKTI

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VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

They are constantly seeking new volunteers to help with projects related to the following:

- Wetland restoration
- Tree planting
- Clean-up programs
- Education programs
- Online research
- Wetland conservation



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SAYTREES

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INTRODUCTION

SayTrees is a dynamic Indian environmental NGO founded in 2007 by Kapil Sharma, driven by the belief that collective action can reverse the damage caused by deforestation, climate change, and water scarcity.

From its humble beginnings as a group of passionate volunteers, SayTrees has grown into a national force for ecological restoration, planting over 5 million trees and reviving more than 50 lakes across India. Their model blends environmental science with community participation, ensuring restoration efforts are sustainable and impactful.



THEIR WORK

SayTrees focuses on two critical areas: green cover restoration and water conservation. Their projects aim not only to plant trees but also to nurture them until maturity, creating thriving ecosystems that sequester carbon, cool cities, and improve biodiversity. Water conservation work includes lake rejuvenation, watershed management, and rainwater harvesting, helping address India's water crisis while supporting agriculture and livelihoods.

Although headquartered in Bengaluru, SayTrees has a strong presence in Maharashtra, carrying out projects in Mumbai, Palghar, Bhiwandi, and Satara. Each initiative is tailored to local needs, whether it's creating dense urban forests in crowded cities or planting fruit-bearing trees in rural landscapes. In Mumbai, a place where green space per capita is among the lowest in the world SayTrees has undertaken targeted greening efforts to combat pollution and heat stress.

SAYTREES

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VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

Students can contribute meaningfully through various volunteer opportunities:

- Tree Plantation Drives
- Lake & Water Body Cleanups
- Environmental Awareness Campaigns.
- Educational Workshops
- Special Events
- Donations

WHERE THEY WORK

- In Palghar, SayTrees has worked closely with farmers to plant fruit-bearing trees such as mango, guava, and jackfruit. This improves soil quality, prevents erosion, and offers additional income for farming communities.
- In Bhiwandi, they have restored degraded land near industrial areas, improving air quality and preventing soil degradation.
- In Satara, SayTrees has carried out large-scale afforestation on barren hillsides, increasing rainwater percolation and reducing the risk of landslides during monsoons.

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TARUMITRA

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INTRODUCTION

Started in 1988 by students in Patna, Tarumitra is a nationwide students' organization that promotes ecological sensitivity and campaigns to raise awareness on environmental issues among various sections of society. It has over 200,000 members across more than 1,000 high schools and colleges. In 2005, the United Nations conferred Special Consultative Status on Tarumitra.

THEIR WORK

They mobilise students to engage in conservation actively through various hands-on projects. Volunteers help in the creation and maintenance of Oxygen Belts: green gardens that improve air quality. They have worked on transforming garbage dumps into clean and green areas, and they participate in tree-plantation drives.

Beyond these initiatives, Tarumitra has also set up a bioreserve in Patna that houses over 400 rare North Indian plants on the verge of extinction. This reserve holds a tissue culture lab and a nursery, which offers students exposure to biodiversity conservation.

Tarumitra also runs awareness campaigns focusing on the ill effects of plastic, along with eco-rallies and workshops. By combining education, activism, and practical conservation, Tarumitra empowers students to take ownership of environmental protection.



TARUMITRA

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VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

They have a plethora of activities that students are encouraged to participate in, including:

- Tree plantations
- Creating oxygen belts
- Awareness campaigns
- Promoting sustainable technology
- Nature camps
- Bio-reserve conservation



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