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Rakhandar : Guardian of Sustainability

In Konkan, many old stories talk about unseen powers that protect the land. These stories are told through folklore, village theatre, and everyday life, often showing the fight between nature and human greed. A recent film, Dashavatar story by Subhodh Khanolkar starring veteran actor Dilip Prabhavalkar uses the same idea of a mysterious guardian who watches over land of konkan and its people. People have praised its strong environmental message, and it has reminded the audience that wisdom of old beliefs still matter. The concept of invisible power shown in this movie is not fiction, but is a real belief which has existed in Konkan for centuries in the form of Rakhandar. He is seen as a god with no temple, idol, or marble floors, sometimes just a stone, a mark, or a tree. Villagers see him as a protector of their safety, crops, forests, and water. Rakhandar literally means “one who guards,” and unlike other gods, he has no grand rituals, only respect and fear that keep people connected to nature. This is the reason why kokan is considered as a gem of nature and rich biodiversity.

Rakhandar isn't a religion, but it's about responsibility. Farmers pray while planting seeds and recall him while harvesting. His teaching is straightforward: without taking care of land, water, and forest, we won't survive. That's exactly what we now know as “Sustainable Development” or “using resources effectively and expanding without harming nature”. The rituals connected to Rakhandar reflect ecological wisdom. Wells, ponds, and streams linked to the guardian are kept clean because polluting them is disrespectful. Trees near the guardian's area are never cut, so even as villages grow, forest patches survive, sheltering birds and animals. Farmers avoid overusing the soil; Konkan still practices crop rotation. rice, pulses, and vegetables are sown seasonally, with break periods restoring fertility.

Without written rules, Rakhandar has created a natural balance. Fear and respect for this unseen protector have achieved what today needs laws and campaigns.

It doesn't end here, even Konkan festivals have this eco-friendly concept. Consider Ganapati, for example, idols are made from river clay, decorated with flowers and leaves. After visarjan, the clay dissolves back into the soil, nourishing it instead of polluting. It reflects that God starts with nature and ends with nature. Nothing is wasted. Today in cities we make large Plaster of Paris idols with chemical paints. We should take a lesson from them but are we moving away from the way our ancestors lived, by calling it old fashioned? People should understand forests, rivers, and soil are not malls to take from again and again, but living systems that sustain life.

Now, when the world struggles with climate change, water scarcity, and biodiversity loss, Rakhandar's message feels more important. The United Nations promotes Sustainable Development Goals. Sustainable development is not something of rocket science; it means living and progressing but with respect for nature, it's just we are not aware of our doings. In the end, the question is simple: should we treat Rakhandar as superstition, or as ancient wisdom? It should not be limited only to the Konkan people. We Indians, deep believers in gods, begin to see every river, tree, and field as guarded by a divine power, it will create a direct impact. Fear of destroying nature would turn into awareness, and awareness into sustainable action. Rakhandar reminds us that progress without care is dangerous, and nature protects us only if we protect it back. Sustainability is not just a policy, it is a way of life and if we believe that gods are watching, it will surely help us develop along with nature.

- By Shubham Lad
(FYBAMMC)

Circular Economy: Turning Trash into Treasure

When you think of waste, what comes to mind? Probably stinky landfills, plastic bottles on the street, garbage in corners of the street, or piles of e-waste lying around. But what if waste wasn't really “waste”? What if it was actually a resource waiting to be reused? That's the idea behind the circular economy system, where we reduce, reuse, recycle, and give materials a new life instead of just dumping them around.

India needs this shift more than ever. As we generate about 62 million tonnes of waste every year, only a portion of it is processed. Plus, we're the third-largest producer of e-waste in the world. If we don't take a step for garbage management, our cities will be drowning in trash. The good news? We're seeing some amazing solutions. For example,

India has built 100,000 km of roads using plastic waste that are stronger and cheaper.

Startups like Phool.co in Kanpur are turning temple flower waste into incense sticks. Even stubble, which usually causes Delhi's pollution nightmare, can be turned into biofuel. Basically, we're proving that trash can be converted to have value. The government is pushing campaigns like Swachh

Bharat 2.0 and policies like Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) to make companies more active and accountable. But let's be real: policies won't work unless we, the people, change our habits. Most of us still don't segregate our wet and dry waste at home (I'm guilty too).

That's why our generation has a role here. If we can make sustainability cool, from upcycled clothes to eco-friendly campus events, we can spark a real cultural shift. Because in the end, the circular economy isn't about waste. It's about possibilities. And India's future is way too valuable to throw away.

-By Prisha Patil
(TYBAMMC)



IMAGE SOURCE - GOOGLE

DID YOU KNOW?

The Rakhandar's power lies not in rituals, but in fear and respect proving that mindset alone can safeguard entire ecosystems.

The culture who teaches

In everyone's childhood, there is someone who tells us bedtime stories, sings songs, or recites poems for us to fall asleep quickly. Those stories were mostly related to events that took place in the past. But how are they familiar with all those stories? Through oral means or oral tradition. This passing of stories and poems orally is known as 'Folklore'. In India, where there is a strong attachment to culture, traditions, and festivals, this folklore is disappearing day by day. The country, where people speak more than 22 languages, surely has a wide mythology, yet very few know about it.

येऊं या जी काहीं वेसकरास ।
आतून बाहेर वोजेचा घास ॥१॥
जो यावें तो हातचि रिता नाही ।
कधी तरी काहीं यावें घ्यावें ॥२॥
तुका म्हणे उयां लावीन मनेरा ।
जे हे दारोदरां भोवतीं फिरा ॥३॥
मायबापहो !

This abhang is written by 'Sant Tukaram Maharaj', who was a devoted follower of Lord Vitthal. He lived his entire life for Vitthal, writing abhangs about him and conveying important messages. In the above abhang, Tukaram states that he will close the door of his mind that roams in a world of desires. He will practice hard work and compassion to achieve his goals because the future is not what everyone thinks. If we focus on the words, there is a deep message that is very useful for today's generation.

In Maharashtra, where Abhangs, Powdas, Bharuds, and Ovis are famous forms of folklore, people are still not familiar with them and are becoming attached to pop, Sufi, and other music genres,



IMAGE SOURCE - GOOGLE

which merely entertain but do not carry messages that can help in the future. There are many singers, like Ravindra Sathe, Suresh Wadkar, and Hema Desai, who are still singing folk songs. Soham Shah is a filmmaker who made a movie in the folklore genre, and his recently released film 'Dashavtar' features the folklore tradition in a captivating way.

But the vital question remains: why should we follow folklore? Have we ever thought about why people in the past followed folklore? There is a simple reason for it. When it comes to storytelling, our culture has various forms, such as the 'Ellora Caves', which depict the Mahabharata and Ramayana through carvings in the caves. Oral forms, such as Bharuds, Powadas, and Ovis, tell us stories in an interesting, entertaining, and informative way. These oral forms of folklore were mostly dedicated to 'छत्रपती शिवाजी महाराज' and his warriors. Folklore also has a written form, which is a major source of folklore; the Vedas and Puranas. Vedas, written by 'Ved Vyas', 'Sant Kabir', and 'Sant Valmiki', had a profound impact on people and can have a similar effect today.

Continuing the folklore culture isn't a compulsion; it is our responsibility. Our culture was developed by our ancestors; we just have to maintain the tradition of passing it forward. Because it is not we who learn, but the culture that teaches.

-By Daksh Gharve
(FYBAMMC)

HABITAT

Let's Think Blue : Small choices, Big waves

How single actions can protect our oceans

Our oceans are enchanting. They cover over 70% of the Earth, control the climate, provide food to billions, and shelter an amazing array of life, from vibrant coral reefs to whispering deep-sea animals. And still, oceans are being overwhelmed with pollution. Plastic bottles, chemical runoff, and other human generated waste are decrease the marine life. Our oceans future are in our hands.

Living an ocean-friendly lifestyle doesn't require transforming your entire day-to-day routine. It begins with small change in daily life that makes a huge difference. Think of it as a ripple effect: a single simple action ripples outward, touching others and traveling far beyond our direct lives. One simple but strong act is refusing single-use plastics. Straws, plastic bags, disposable cutlery, and plastic water bottles throw in rivers and then they move into ocean's. Moving to reusable bottles, cloth bags, and metal or bamboo straws might seem insignificant, but it keeps the marine protected. Denying to unnecessary plastic packaging, even once, is another step towards healthier and polluted-free oceans. Choices about food matter a lot too. Not only do overfishing pose danger to sea species but also the communities dependent on them. Supporting sustainably harvested seafood, lowering meat consumption, and less food waste are measures to reduce the pressure on oceans. Nowadays Apps and websites make it simple to verify if seafood is sustainably harvested, which allows consumers to make ocean-friendly decisions with every meal. Everyday chemicals can be just as harmful as plastic. Phosphates in laundry detergents, microbeads in exfoliating scrubs, and chemical fertilizers from lawns often end up in rivers, which eventually drain into the sea. Switching to eco-friendly cleaning products, biodegradable cosmetics, and safe fertilizers keeps toxins out of waterways. Every minute change in our routine matters when it comes to decrease pollution.

Campuses are great spots to start making changes like this. Students can organize beach clean-ups. They can run awareness campaigns. Switching from plastic cutlery in cafeteria settings, organizing zero-waste sessions, or joining coastal marine life conservation efforts can motivate whole communities. Small campus actions send ripples, influencing habits that follow students after graduation. Innovation is also benefiting oceans in unimagined ways.

Upcycling turns waste into useful stuff like art or fashion or everyday items. Plastic bottles that are discarded become planters, old fishing nets become fashion accessories, and businesses are creating biodegradable alternatives for packaging. Shopping from eco-friendly brands or starting student projects makes creativity while limiting pollution in real-life. The most influential aspect of ocean-friendly living may be its ripple effect on others. Teaching, Awaring, inspiring friends and family to make small changes, and utilizing social media awareness raises the stakes. A single individual's actions will motivate an entire society to think and live in a more sustainable and eco-friendly way. Our oceans are strong but not bulletproof. Coral reefs are bleaching, sea turtles are stuck in abandoned nets, and microplastics are getting into the food chain. By committing to an ocean-friendly lifestyle now, we safeguard riendly lifestyle now, we safeguard marine life and preserve it for future generationscan witness the magic of healthy oceans. Living ocean-friendly is easy: say no to single-use plastics wherever you can, make informed food choices, use green products, shop with sustainable brands, and get involved in environmental projects. Every and single little choice matters, and although one individual might appear a drop in the ocean, when we join forces, we can make waves of change. Oceans give us life. Now, it's their turn to give back. Every effort makes a difference. Every ripple matters. Let's make waves, not waste.

- By Mrunal Nere
(TYBAMMC)



IMAGE SOURCE - GOOGLE

What's On My Plate?

Breaking Up with Plastic for a Zero-Waste Future

In our daily lives, we're flooded with terms like Sustainability, Eco-friendly, Biodegradable, and Nature-friendly. But how often do we truly embody these concepts? The accelerating pace of industrialization and urbanization is producing an enormous, unsustainable volume of solid waste. While India has rightly focused on reducing plastic bags and increasing recycling, the common citizen still has a crucial, immediate role to play.

Beyond large-scale social initiatives, we can make a powerful impact by switching from plastic to biodegradable options in our personal lives. Consider modern metropolitan gatherings: sundowners, brunch parties, and simple get-togethers often conclude with massive piles of single-use plastic cutlery destined for the landfill. We can easily solve this problem by incorporating sustainable cutlery made from compostable and eco-friendly materials.

Biodegradable cutlery generally falls into two innovative categories: plant-based, which is crafted from natural materials like bamboo, flour, wood, leaves, and sugarcane bagasse, and edible cutlery, which is manufactured from food-grade ingredients such as various grains and pulses." By making these sustainable choices, we not only accelerate a zero-waste future but also Protect ourselves from the hazardous chemicals and microplastics that are released from traditional plastic products. The shift toward green dining is already well underway in India. Around 2010, Papco and Ecoware pioneered the production of compostable tableware and cutlery from agricultural waste.

At the same time, Bakeys introduced truly edible cutlery—including spoons, forks, and chopsticks—made from millet, rice, and wheat. Today, Ecoware is a prominent name, supplying everything from plates, bowls, and containers to cutlery, cups, and straws. Their major clients include large QSR

chains, Indian Railways, airport food courts, and the Delhi Metro. In the eco-friendly packaging space, BAMBREW is a promising newcomer, creating single-use items using bamboo, seaweed, and banana fiber for rands like Decathlon, Boat, and Bigbasket.

To avoid the health risks caused by microplastics, we must commit to making conscious choices every day. Let's join hands to build a sustainable, green Earth for ourselves and for future generations.

-REWA GHAG
(SYBAMMC)



Smart Sanitary Care!

Safe, sustainable Menstrual Choices

Over the years, menstruation in India has been considered a private and even shameful topic. Girls often buy pads discreetly, and many families avoid discussing it altogether. However, this silence hides a much larger issue—the waste generated by disposable sanitary pads. India discards over a billion pads every month, most of which contain plastic and chemicals that take hundreds of years to decompose. In cities, they accumulate in landfills, while in villages, they are sometimes buried, leading to soil and water pollution. What may seem like a small personal matter is, in reality, a significant environmental challenge.

Addressing this issue requires awareness, open conversations about menstruation, and a shift to sustainable alternatives like biodegradable or reusable menstrual products. These steps can reduce environmental harm while promoting women's health and dignity nationwide.

In recent years, a slow but powerful change has started in Maharashtra. NGOs, Women's groups, and young activists are promoting eco-friendly period products such as cloth pads and menstrual cups. These options are not only cheaper in the long run but also hygienic and better for the environment.

Cloth pads are soft, washable, and last for several years. Additionally, in rural Maharashtra, self-help groups (SHG) have begun stitching these pads every single day. Women sell them locally, earning income while helping others access safer, eco-friendly products. In Satara district, some SHG's have turned pad-making into small businesses; combining livelihood with environmental care.

The menstrual cup is another alternative gaining popularity but especially in Pune and Mumbai. Made of medical grade silicone, replacing thousands of disposable pads; this single cup can last up for 10 years. While cost effective and sustainability, cultural hesitation still slows adoption. Awareness campaigns are the key to encourage its use.

The main challenge is social taboo. There are still plenty of families, where girls are restricted from kitchens, temples during their menstruation. In many villages, they are isolated. They are literally excluded from their own residences. This makes

it even more difficult to discuss healthier and eco-friendly options. Changing these mindset is as crucial as providing the products themselves.

Several NGOs are actively working to break this silence. Eco Femme, operating across India including Maharashtra, promotes cloth pads through workshops and awareness programs. Green the Red Collect Pune significantly runs many campaigns, popularizing menstrual cups and reusable pads among students and working women. Street plays, school programs and community workshops help to normalize conversations regarding menstruation and sustainability.

Sustainable menstruation supports health, society, and the environment. Reusable products like cloth pads and menstrual cups reduce plastic waste, save money, and use resources wisely. Challenges such as limited clean water and private toilets remain, especially in rural areas. Yet small initiatives, like women in Satara stitching cloth pads and promoting menstrual cups in Pune, are creating meaningful change.

As a result, sustainable menstruation is about dignity, health and protecting our planet, along with showing that real sustainability exists in everyday life.

- By Shamika Jadhav
(TYBAMMC)



Food Security and Sustainability

Sustainability, when we say sustainability, means meeting the present needs without compromising the ability of future needs. But imagine your food sustainability comes to an end, and you have to struggle for your three-times daily meal—there will be a food shortage. Even if you just imagine this, you feel uneasy; then what about the people who are facing this struggle in real life? They have to struggle for one meal. But this should end, there should be a solution for this, because this matter is not regional, it's a global-level matter, and the answer is to end hunger and achieve food security, improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture. But how this will happen is the main question, and the answer is sustainable development goals.

The 4th SDG Youth Summer Camp – SDG Resource Development has decided 17 goals. In that, the second goal is Zero Hunger. The SDG has made the target till 2030 for a sustainable life. The first target is to end hunger and ensure access by all people—meaning no one should be left out from sufficient nutrition all year round. But this is not enough. Care should be taken from the beginning—since birth the child should get enough nutrition, even the mother giving birth should get proper nutrition, and even the older people also need proper nutrition. This completes our second goal: end all forms of malnutrition.

But to complete this need, there should be proper and sufficient food for everyone. Still, the main problem arises—insufficient food. The reason is less production because the farmers don't get equal profit for their production. Sometimes if the climate affects them and they face any loss, they face more problems. And one big problem is not getting opportunities in the big market—small farmers don't get opportunities to sell their products,

or they get less money. For all these problems, the third target is made: double the agricultural productivity and income of small-scale food producers. But there is one more issue—less production because of climate change. After repeated cultivation, the land is not enough to cultivate, and this happens because of pesticides and fertilizers. There should be a proper way of farming by taking care of nature and the ecosystem. For that, the fourth target is made: ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, and strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change.

- By Yuga Pol
(TYBAMMC)



ADVANCEMENT

Sustainable Agriculture : Sow change for the green.

In a world where soil degradation, climate change and the quest for enough food are all burning issues, it is not just that how we farm has grown in importance — agriculture does not merely feed billions of us but determines the health of our planet. “Traditional farming methods harm nature because they use too many chemicals, water and land. That’s why sustainable farming is important — it’s smarter and more eco-friendly way of growing food.” Getting to sustainable farming isn’t easy though. High up-front costs for new tools, training and certifications weigh heavily on many small farmers. Others just lack the knowledge or support to use these approaches. Even when they do, defective market systems spur destructive farming. Or small farmers face limited demand for organic or local produce, putting them at a disadvantage when it comes to competing with large-scale conventional farms. And to make matters worse, inadequate government support and funding often. doesn’t give farmers the resources they need to switch gears.

And then there’s technology that plays a big role in making farming more sustainable. Digital tools, satellites and sensors and A.I. allow farmers to monitor soil health, water use and crop growth in real time so they can manage their resources better. Meanwhile, renewable energy solutions — from solar powered irrigation to biogas from farm waste — are helping farmers reduce their dependence on fossil fuels and shift to cleaner and greener practices.

Collective action is the future of sustainable agriculture. Government as an enabler Adoption of best water management practices can be encouraged through subsidies, tax breaks or producing research and while farmer learning is enabled by training and cooperative networks that disseminate new knowledge and skills. Consumers, too, have a crucial part to play: by choosing food that is sustainably produced and representing themselves in the prices they pay. Planet/People At the international level, partnership

initiatives that involve exchange of best practices and technologies can promote adoption of sustainable agriculture systems by smallholders in developing.

It’s simple: Sustainable agriculture is not a method, it’s a mind-set a commitment to live in equipoise with the natural world. We protect our soil, water and future generations by making the choice to support sustainable practices. Each small act — whether by a farmer choosing to employ sustainable practices or a consumer making choices informed by mindfulness — is itself a seed of change.

Together, we can help farm continue to give us not only crops, but a healthier life and a greener tomorrow.

~ Yogita Dhanure (TYBAMMC).



Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam

When we speak about the future of our planet, the term “sustainable development” is what we most often hear. It basically means that we must have better lives today without exhausting the resources that future generations will need. To help countries find the exact way of doing this , the United Nations has set 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These goals range from health, education, and gender equality to climate action as well as the protection of life on earth.

There are many projects in India that are helping us move towards these goals. During one of the sessions focused on clean energy, speaker Dr . Saurabh Tiwari mentioned the campaign “Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam” (One Tree in Mother’s Name) as the most inspiring one. PM Narendra Modi launched the Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam campaign on World Environment Day (June 3, 2024), with the concept being so simple and strong that each person would plant at least one tree in memory of their mother. This is not only an environmental program but also an initiative that creatively links human feelings with nature.

The campaign has a strong relationship with sustainable development goals. Tree planting guarantees health and promotes well-being (SDG 3) thanks to the fact that the air gets cleaned and the spread of diseases is contained. Due to this, children become involved in personality development exercises through learning (SDG 4) in which they come to understand the importance of preservation. Cities and urban areas become more environmentally friendly, and towns and communities follow suit and become sustainable as well (SDG 11). Each tree is currently carbon neutral as it absorbs carbon dioxide ; thus, the campaign is climate-friendly (SDG 13). Without a doubt, it is very closely linked to biodiversity , which is a crucial aspect of the campaign. By restoring habitats and caring for the soil that supports life on land (SDG 15). Additionally , the government, NGOs, schools, and citizens joining forces as one characterizes partnerships (SDG 17), a point that stands out. Not only that but it also indirectly assists in the eradication of poverty, providing jobs, producing clean water , and promoting equality (SDG 1, 6, 8, 10). All this and more of the 17 Goals are connected directly or indirectly to this Campaign.

It is the emotional aspect incorporated into the plan that makes this campaign so unique. The act of planting a tree in a mother’s name is transformed into a gift of love and gratitude, making individuals more open to participation. So far , the campaign

has quickly expanded in India. For instance, Uttar Pradesh planted over 2 crore saplings in one day , while Haryana and Karnataka also carried out significant plantings. These joint efforts are a perfect example of what can become reality when we humans act collectively. At the same time, the campaign serves as a reminder that planting is only the first part. Caring for the trees and the commitment of the communities through the steps is also part of the campaign. Genuine sustainable development is not a sudden change; rather , it is about the small and continually repeated acts of ordinary people.

In fact, Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam is not solely about trees either. It revolves around the idea of paying tribute to our mothers while acknowledging that the planet itself is the best mother. We are taught that the true meaning of sustainable development is a balance between love and duty, growth and accountability, today’s needs and tomorrow’s hopes. By taking small steps together, we can build a greener, safer future and leave behind a kinder world for the next generations.

Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam reminds us that true sustainable development begins with small acts of love and responsibility.

~ Shubham Lad (FYBAMMC).



Building the Future: How Sustainable Urban Planning is Shaping Our World.

Do you ever think about how our cities were built? For us city life is just a part of our day-to-day lives. But as youths of future generations, we do understand more; the way our cities are designed really affects our day-to-day lives. It may affect our health and, more than that, the health of our planet.

That’s what sustainable urban development is. The goal is to create cities that are not just big, but also smart. A smart city is a place that can be good for business, treat everyone equally and be healthy for our environment. These are the kinds of cities we want to live in once we get older.

This is not just an idea for the near future, but it’s happening right now in our neighbourhoods. For example, think about mixed-use development. Instead of having houses far from stores and offices, city planners are now putting apartments, shops and businesses in the area. Just imagine walking to class or your part-time job or a local coffee shop, all within a few blocks.

A huge part of this is sustainable urban planning, whose main focus is also on green infrastructure.

This involves more than just a few park benches. It is about designing cities that would work with nature.

But why should we as students care about all this? As these decisions help shape our future. The choices that are made today about city design will affect the quality of your life. This field holds great promise for innovation and careers, from architecture and engineering to public policy and urban design. Sustainable cities do draw in investment and talent, setting themselves up for long-term economic success. This also encourages us to have a better and healthier lifestyle by providing easy access to green space and reducing the need for cars, which will lead to better public health.

You have a say in this. By understanding the basic rules of sustainable urban planning and pushing for more green space in our college campus or supporting local initiatives that are led by the common public, we can help cities that will treat everyone right. After all, the future isn’t just something that happens to us; it’s something we can create, one step at a time.

~ Shivani Kedar (SYBAMMC).



Sustaining Tomorrow: How Renewable Energy is Rewriting Our Future.

Sustainable development has become one of the most important goals for the world. And one of its role is of renewable energy. This makes sure that the economy, society, and environment everything work together in a balanced and proper way. Sustainable does not harm the people or environment rather it is very useful. Now renewable energy is a big and important part of sustainable development. Sustainable energy is good and needed for the planet, people, and the economy. For Planet, sustainable energy is used to keep water and air clean and gives us a healthier nature. For people, renewable energy helps to create a fair world. It can provide a reliable source of electricity, especially for the people who live in remote areas, who don’t have or have very little access to power, so it helps them to improve their quality of life. And for economy, renewable energy helps, as it is cheaper to build solar panels and is becoming more affordable. And once solar panels are built, the fuel, sunlight, and air are free and clear. It is long-term, which saves money and time for the people. And it is also a long-term investment and very helpful, so because of this, with solar panels, people also don’t have to worry about money and get a fresh life. One of the

good example of renewable energy are solar,energy power and hydrogen.

Solar power is used for turning sunlight into energy. Solar power gives electricity from one house to whole city and village to everyone. This solar power is also very useful for rural area so that they get electricity for less money as well as very useful. Another one is wind power. This using captures the winds or air energy and makes electricity. Next is hydropower, which uses the flow of water of rivers to create power. This renewable energy is also very important and useful. In this water is used to create electricity. This is one of the oldest forms of clean energy. And a great step towards sustainable development. Hydropower generates electricity 24/7. This can also operate for a very long time. Now, renewable energy is a part of this. That’s why renewable energy is so important for sustainable development. They are used for so many things in so many ways. Renewable energy is a very important part in sustainable development. This also includes geothermal energy is which is also important, which helps to use the heat from the Earth to generate electricity.Renewable Energy makes life easy as well as helpful for everyone from rural area to city.

~ Yuga Pol.



PROGRESS

Jobs Redefiend: How GIG Jobs platfoms help Sustainable Growth Of India.

Nearly 27th of its population falls under the 15–29 age group, making the nation’s youth a vital driver of progress.

With a median age of just 28.5 years, India is often called a “young country.”

At the same time, the gig economy is expanding rapidly, opening up flexible opportunities for students.

A new generation of startups such as Timbuckdo and Internshala—are redefining how young people view work. These platforms are restoring the dignity of labour by offering real, structured opportunities where

students can earn, learn, and grow. By valuing every task, whether sales, creative, or technical, they help make student contributions visible and respected.

These startups help bridge the gap between college and industries. Timbuckdo, a Bengaluru-based student platform, with approximately two lakh active registered users have managed to provide verified in-campus gigs to peers by having a gamified campus ambassador program that helps them to earn their pocket money and become financially independent while developing confidence, professionalism and gain valuable work experience. They provide a variety of jobs from sales to technical work ensuring to cover a larger aspect.

In this program students get various tasks and jobs from different brands associated with the startup to carry out within the campus that help them build communication skills, teamwork and get a sense of work ethic by completing deadlines giving them the full work experience all while attending lectures and not missing out on their college life. While Timbuckdo helps youngsters get work experience in-campus, startups like ‘Internshala’ helps them connect to companies across different sectors with internships offering structured training that work like

stepping stones in shaping and building their careers. Similarly, ‘Karostartup’ is an Ed-tech startup offering career guidance and placement support along with internships in Tier 2 and Tier 3 city students providing access to big metropolitan cities.

As India dreams of a \$5 trillion dollar economy these startups show that young India is not only a job-going country but also a job-creating one. Initiatives like these play a huge role in sustainable development of the country by helping teach the young

that no job is menial and every experience is part of a larger journey towards growth and that every form of labour matters.

- Jai Bane (SYBAMMC)



जैवविविधतेचे संरक्षण : पुढील पिढ्यांसाठी गरज

आपण ज्या पृथ्वीवर राहतो ती खरोखर अद्भुत आहे. डोंगर, नद्या, समुद्र, अरण्याे आणि त्यामध्ये राहणारे असंख्य जीव यामुळेच पृथ्वीला जीवन मिळाले आहे. या विविध जीवसृष्टीच्या संगमाला आपण जैवविविधता असे म्हणतो. ही केवळ निसर्गाची शोभा नाही, तर मानवी अस्तित्वाची खरी हमी आहे. कारण आपला श्वास, आपले अन्न, आपले आरोग्य आणि आपल्या जीवनाचा प्रत्येक क्षण या जैवविविधतेवर आधारलेला आहे.

जैवविविधतेत प्रत्येक प्रजातीचे स्वतःचे महत्त्व असते. झाडे ऑक्सिजन देतात आणि प्रदूषण शोषून घेतात. फुलांवर भिरभिरणाऱ्या मधमाशा आणि फुलपाखरे परागीभवन करतात आणि त्यामुळे शेतीला आधार मिळतो. प्राणी-पक्षी अन्नसाखळी टिकवतात. मातीतील सूक्ष्मजीव जमिनीला सुपीक ठेवतात. यामुळे आपल्याला अन्नधान्य, फळे, औषधे, स्वच्छ हवा आणि पाणी मिळते.



म्हणूनच जैवविविधता हा निसर्गाचा खजिना आहे.

परंतु आज या खजिन्यावर संकट आले आहे. मानवी गरजा वाढल्या, तसतसे जंगल तोडले गेले, कारखाने उभारले गेले आणि शहरांचा फैलाव वाढला. यामुळे हजारो प्रजातींचे नैसर्गिक अधिवास नष्ट झाले. औद्योगिक प्रदूषण आणि हवामान बदलामुळे परिस्थिती आणखीनच बिकट झाली. समुद्रातील प्रवाळभिती कोमेजत आहेत, नद्या दुषित होत आहेत, अरण्याे रिकामी होत आहेत. वाघ, गेंडा, गिधाड, कासव यांसारख्या अनेक प्रजाती नामशेष होण्याच्या मार्गावर आहेत. ही परिस्थिती केवळ निसर्गाचा नाही तर आपल्या जगण्याचाही प्रश्न आहे.

जैवविविधतेचे नुकसान म्हणजे जीवनचक्रात मोठी पोकळी. जर मधमाशा

नाहीशा झाल्या तर पिकेच नाही उगवणार. जर जंगल नष्ट झाले तर पाऊस कमी पडेल, हवामान आणखी उष्ण होईल आणि पूर-दुष्काळ वारंवार येतील. जर प्राणी-पक्षी कमी झाले तर कीटकांची संख्या वाढेल आणि रोगराई पसरेल. म्हणजेच एक प्रजाती नाहीशी झाली तरी त्याचा परिणाम थेट आपल्या जीवनावर होतो. म्हणूनच जैवविविधतेचे रक्षण करणे ही पुढील पिढ्यांसाठीची खरी गुंतवणूक आहे.

यासाठी शासन, सामाजिक संस्था आणि आपण सर्वांनी मिळून प्रयत्न करायला हवेत. जंगलतोड थांबवणे आणि मोठ्या प्रमाणावर वृक्षारोपण करणे ही पहिली पायरी आहे. वन्यजीवांसाठी राष्ट्रीय उद्याने आणि अभयारण्ये यांचे काटेकोरपणे संवर्धन केले पाहिजे. अवैध शिकार रोखली पाहिजे. शेतकऱ्यांनी पारंपरिक बियाण्यांचा वापर करून रासायनिक खते आणि कीटकनाशकांचा अतिरेक टाळला पाहिजे. स्थानिक समाजाला संरक्षणात सामील करून घेणे अत्यंत आवश्यक आहे. गावकऱ्यांना आणि आदिवासींना जंगलातील संपत्तीचा उपयोग करून देताना तिचे जतन करण्याची जबाबदारी दिली, तर ते आपसूकच पुढे येतात.

आजच्या पिढीनेही यात भाग घ्यायला हवा. शाळांमधून निसर्ग संवर्धनाविषयी शिक्षण देणे, विद्यार्थ्यांना अरण्याे सफरींमधून प्रत्यक्ष अनुभव देणे, वृक्ष लागवडीचे उपक्रम राबवणे ही काळाची गरज आहे. जागतिक पातळीवर हवामान बदल थांबवण्यासाठी जशी करार आणि मोहिमा सुरू आहेत, तशीच आपल्यालाही स्थानिक पातळीवर प्रयत्न करावे लागतील.

शेवटी एवढेच सांगता येईल की जैवविविधता म्हणजे पृथ्वीचे प्राण आहे. ती जर हरवली तर आपले अस्तित्व धोक्यात येईल. पुढील पिढ्यांना सुरक्षित, निरोगी आणि समृद्ध जीवन द्यायचे असेल तर आजपासूनच जैवविविधतेचे

रक्षण करणे आवश्यक आहे. आपण जर निसर्गाचे जतन केले, तर निसर्ग आपल्याला दुष्पट परतफेड करतो. म्हणूनच आता एकच संदेश द्यायचा आहे

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Development or destruction?

“जैवविविधता वाचवा, भविष्यास सुरक्षित करा”

भारत आणि शाश्वत विकास

शाश्वत विकास ही केवळ एक कल्पना नसून आजच्या काळातील सर्वात मोठी गरज आहे. विकास करताना जर नैसर्गिक संसाधनांचा अतिरेक झाला आणि भविष्यातील पिढ्यांसाठी काहीही उरले नाही, तर तो विकास अपूर्ण ठरेल. याच कारणासाठी १९८७ मध्ये प्रसिद्ध झालेल्या ब्रंटलँड अहवालात प्रथमच शाश्वत विकासाची व्याख्या देण्यात आली.

“भारतासाठी शाश्वत विकास ही गरज आहे, पर्याय नाही”

असा या संकल्पनेचा सोपा अर्थ आहे.

भारतासारख्या प्रचंड लोकसंख्येच्या आणि वेगाने प्रगती करणाऱ्या देशासाठी ही संकल्पना जीवनावश्यक ठरते.

संयुक्त राष्ट्रांनी २०१५ मध्ये शाश्वत विकासासाठी १७ उद्दिष्टे निश्चित केली. गरीबी निर्मूलन, भूकमुक्ती, आरोग्य, शिक्षण, लैंगिक समानता, स्वच्छ पाणी व ऊर्जा, पर्यावरण संवर्धन आणि हवामान बदलाशी लढा या उद्दिष्टांना विशेष महत्त्व दिले गेले. भारताने ही उद्दिष्टे स्वीकारून २०३० पर्यंत त्यांची पूर्तता करण्याचे वचन दिले आहे. नीती आयोग या उद्दिष्टांवर काम पाहणारी प्रमुख संस्था असून दरवर्षी राज्यांची कामगिरी दर्शवणारा SDG इंडेक्स जाहीर करते. भारतात शाश्वत विकासासाठी अनेक योजना राबवल्या जात आहेत. स्वच्छ भारत अभियानामुळे देशात स्वच्छतेबाबत जागरूकता निर्माण झाली आहे. प्रधानमंत्री उज्ज्वला योजनेतून कोट्यवधी महिलांना धुरकट चुलीऐवजी स्वच्छ एलपीजी गॅस मिळाला आहे. राष्ट्रीय सौर मिशन व आंतरराष्ट्रीय सौर आघाडीच्या माध्यमातून नवीकरणीय ऊर्जेला मोठी चालना मिळाली आहे. मनरेगा योजनेमुळे ग्रामीण भागातील रोजगार सुरक्षित झाला आहे. जल जीवन मिशनद्वारे प्रत्येक घरापर्यंत शुद्ध पाणी पोहोचवण्याचा प्रयत्न सुरू आहे. परंतु या प्रवासात आव्हाने कमी नाहीत. प्रदूषण हे भारतातील सर्वात मोठे संकट

बनले आहे. जागतिक आरोग्य संघटनेच्या अहवालानुसार जगातील सर्वाधिक प्रदूषित शहरांमध्ये भारतातील अनेक शहरांचा समावेश होतो. पाणीटंचाईची समस्या गंभीर बनत आहे. नीती आयोगाने २०१८ मध्ये दिलेल्या इश्यानुसार २१ मोठ्या शहरांमध्ये २०३० पर्यंत पाणी संपण्याचा धोका आहे. जंगलतोड, हवामान बदल आणि शहरीकरणामुळे पर्यावरणावर मोठा ताण येतो आहे. दुसरीकडे गरीबी, बेरोजगारी, निरक्षरता आणि स्त्री-पुरुष समानतेचा अभाव या सामाजिक समस्या अजूनही कायम आहेत.

भारताची सर्वात मोठी ताकद म्हणजे त्याची तरुणाई. जगातील सर्वात मोठी तरुण लोकसंख्या भारताकडे आहे. या तरुणाईला योग्य शिक्षण, कौशल्य विकास आणि रोजगाराच्या संधी उपलब्ध करून दिल्या, तर ती शाश्वत विकासाच्या मार्गावर मोठा हातभार लावू शकते. सेंद्रिय शेती, हरित उद्योग, डिजिटल तंत्रज्ञान, स्मार्ट शहरे आणि नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा या क्षेत्रांत भारताला अपार संधी उपलब्ध आहेत.

शाश्वत विकास हा केवळ सरकारचा विषय नाही. प्रत्येक नागरिकाची जबाबदारी आहे की पाणी, वीज, इंधन यांचा काटकसरीने वापर करावा, वृक्षारोपणात सहभाग घ्यावा, प्लास्टिकचा वापर टाळावा आणि पर्यावरणपूरक जीवनशैली स्वीकारावी. स्वयंसेवी संस्था, खाजगी उद्योग आणि शैक्षणिक संस्था यांनीही या प्रक्रियेत सक्रिय सहभाग नोंदवणे आवश्यक आहे.

शेवटी एवढेच म्हणता येईल की भारतासाठी शाश्वत विकास ही गरज आहे, पर्याय नाही. विकासाची गती कायम ठेवत असताना पर्यावरण जपणे, सामाजिक न्याय साध्य करणे आणि अर्थव्यवस्थेला बळकट करणे ही मोठी जबाबदारी आहे. शासन, उद्योग, स्वयंसेवी संस्था आणि नागरिक यांनी सामूहिक प्रयत्न केले तर भारत २०३० पर्यंत शाश्वत विकासाचे उद्दिष्ट साध्य करून जगासाठी प्रेरणादायी उदाहरण ठरू शकतो.

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