

CSR TODAY

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CLIMATE CHANGE IS THE NEW DISEASE OF DESPAIR.

PSYCHOLOGISTS NEED TO STEP UP TO HELP.

People are experiencing a loss of hope in the face of the climate crisis — but mental health professionals can help find healthy ways to move forward.



CSR INITIATIVE

Bharti Foundation and Ericsson India join hands to open Robotic Lab

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Living with Leopards in Mumbai



Rajesh Tiwari
Publisher
rt@iccsr.org

IN INDIA, THERE HAS BEEN SEVERAL INCIDENTS OF HUMAN-ANIMAL CONFLICTS INVOLVING TIGERS, LEOPARDS, ELEPHANTS AMONG OTHERS.

The Sanjay Gandhi National Park (SGNP) in Mumbai has the distinction of being the only national park in the world to be located within metropolitan limits. Besides, SGNP, spread around 103 sq kms, sandwiched between eastern and western suburbs, is around one-sixth of Mumbai. It is also home to 47 leopards, making it the highest leopard density in the world.

SGNP touches the Tungareshwar Wildlife Sanctuary in Palghar district and Yeoor Range in Thane district.

During 2002-03, the areas around the SGNP witnessed intense human-animal conflict and several people lost their lives or were injured rattling the Maharashtra government. Leopards still take away stray dogs and cattle.

The attacks by leopards have peaked in 2002, when 25 incidents were reported in a span of six months.

Such initiatives need to be backed with CSR initiatives and replicated elsewhere.

In India, there has been several incidents of human-animal conflicts involving tigers, leopards, elephants among others.

Leading wildlife biologist Dr Vidya Athreya did the groundbreaking work with the Forest department by launching 'Mumbaikars for SGNP' initiative in 2011 and backing up with campaigns like 'Living with Leopards'.

Beyond leopards, the SGNP and its neighborhood which include the Aarey Milk Colony and FilmCity is home to

more than 275 species of birds, 35 species of mammals, 80 species of reptiles and amphibians, 170 species of butterflies, several species of fish and a staggering 1,300 species of plants.

Leopards do hunt Chital and Sambar but dogs become easy prey. Lakhs of people stay around the SGNP with a population of around 21,000 persons per sq km.

Dr Athreya's student Nikit Surve started a project like 'Leopard in a Spot'. Dr Athreya, whose work had been featured in Marathi movie 'Ajoba' is currently associated with Centre for Wildlife Studies, Bengaluru.

The 'Mumbaikars for SGNP' involved all stakeholders with locals being the focal point.

Limaye's focus was clear - "you cannot teach the leopard but you can surely teach human beings".

"We did the project minutely. We contacted all neighbouring police stations of SGNP and conducted programmes for them. In fact, the police station gets the first call in cases of emergency or a leopard being spotted," a MFD official said.

The teams together visited the slums around the forest and the housing societies.

People were told to manage waste properly as it attracts dogs, which in turn leopards. People were told to carry torches in dark hours.

The aim was to tell dos and don'ts, adding that the last leopard attack on humans took place in 2017

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PwC commits sustained efforts to conserve the ecological balance of Kanha Tiger Reserve

Provides 900 smokeless chulhas to local communities

PwC India Foundation, in collaboration with an NGO dedicated to wildlife conservation, provided smokeless chulhas to 860+ households and 30 schools in areas predominated by the Baiga and Gond tribes in Kanha Tiger Reserve. The initiative, which will impact 4300+ people of the area, aims to reduce the consumption of firewood by 50% and develop alternate sources of fuel thereby maintaining the ecological balance of the reserve. The adoption of this energy efficient cooking medium will not only reduce emissions but is also expected to bring down instances of respiratory diseases prevalent amongst the tribal women.

As a part of the project, PwC India Foundation will also help in preparing the forest land for planting of native trees, especially fruit bearing, which will further protect the ecological equilibrium of the area.

Satyavati Berera, Chief Operating Officer, PwC India said, “PwC Foundation is committed to address the climate crisis and we’re happy to play a part in maintaining the ecological balance of Kanha Tiger Reserve. It is fulfilling for us to work alongside non-profits in rural heartlands, across diverse habitats, to bring about a sustainable change in the way marginalised communities are adapting to climate change.”



In the last three years, PwC India Foundation has worked in eight states, impacting over 2,600 beneficiaries and empowering communities to

conserve their natural ecosystems. Currently, PwC India Foundation runs sustainability projects in Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh.

IIT Madras-designed Check Dam aids Palar River to store Surplus Rainwater

Funded under CSR by Madras Atomic Power Station (MAPS) at Kalpakkam, the Project Design of IIT Madras Researchers helped save Rs. 49.5 crore

The Indian Institute of Technology Madras researchers have designed and overseen the construction of a check dam across Palar

River that has resulted in the significant increase in storage of surplus rainwater in the river.

The innovative design of IIT Madras Researchers also resulted in a savings of nearly Rs. 49.5 crore for this project, which was funded under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities of the Madras Atomic Power Station (MAPS) at Kalpakkam.

While a conventional weir-type check dam costs around Rs. 82 crore and takes up to one year for construction, this project was completed with a funding of Rs. 32.5 crore in six months. The construction of this innovative check dam began in March 2019 and the structure was completed by August 2019, before the onset of monsoon.

Speaking about the unique features of this check dam, Prof R. Sundaravadivelu, Institute Chair Professor, Department of Ocean Engineering, IIT Madras, who lead the efforts from IIT Madras, said, "This unique project was implemented successfully using the diaphragm wall as a deep founda-



Laying of 'launching apron stone' underway as part of the Palar Check Dam designed by IIT Madras Researchers



Wall construction underway as part of the Palar Check Dam designed by IIT Madras Researchers

tion for check dam, ensuring safety and arresting seawater intrusion. The funding of MAPS, encouragement of the District Collector and cooperation of PWD is greatly acknowledged." Palar River supplies drinking water to

Chennai, Vellore and Kanchipuram. The impact of climate change in recent years has affected the river, which has resulted in a water crisis in the region. To overcome the water scarcity and prevent the seawater intrusion, it was



A woman from Epworth, Harare, holds up her family's supply of food for the week.
Image: DFAT, CC BY-NC-ND 2.0

RISING ECO-ANXIETY MEANS ADDRESSING MENTAL HEALTH ALONGSIDE FOOD SECURITY

As the effects of climate change are being felt around the world, more people are experiencing eco-anxiety, which can further exacerbate worries about food safety and security, says **Laxmi Prasad Pant**

FROM COFFEE TO COSMETICS

Companies are looking for ways to protect the plants their products are made from

As crop varieties disappear, boosting biodiversity becomes smart business.

Coffee roasted in Melbourne, Australia. By 2050, climate change will halve the tropical areas in which existing coffee varieties can grow, currently in 70 different countries.

Image: jfantenb, CC BY-SA 4.0.

“The food system that we’ve built over the last century is a dead end for the future,” said Emmanuel Faber, CEO of French food and beverage corporation, Danone, at the United Nations Climate Action Summit in September. He lambasted the current overreliance on technology and the fact that two-thirds of the global food supply depends on just nine kinds of plants. He then announced the One Planet Business for

Biodiversity, a coalition of nearly 20 of the world’s largest food, beverage and personal care companies that together generate sales of US\$500 billion across more than 120 countries and have pledged to build a more sustainable food system.

While they will focus on ways to rebuild soils and prevent deforestation, a third pillar — to “create a demand for a variety of crops, of species, of traditional seeds that are forgotten today and that are dying,” as Faber described it at the U.N. General Assembly — was

arguably the most business-centric aim for companies that create products from plants.

Plant-based companies are all too aware that the number of plant species is declining. In June, researchers reported that at least 571 — and likely more — plant species have gone extinct in the past 250 years, a rate 500 times that naturally expected. A U.N. report predicts that up to 1 million plant and animal species could go extinct, many within decades. Deforestation, conversion of land to agriculture and over-

Children in
Dumaguete,
Philippines march
for their futures.
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CLIMATE CHANGE IS THE NEW DISEASE OF DESPAIR.

PSYCHOLOGISTS NEED TO STEP UP TO HELP.

People are experiencing a loss of hope in the face of the climate crisis – but mental health professionals can help find healthy ways to move forward.



As a clinical health psychologist, I'm growing increasingly concerned about the physical and mental health of our younger generations. Just as the generation before us practiced hiding beneath their desks under the threat of thermonuclear war, we are

preparing for a future that is charred and blackened.

The big difference is, the threat we face from climate change is actually happening, and there's no drill to give us a false sense of protection from it. This realization has led many people to feel hopeless.

A recent survey found that many young people are grappling with the stress of climate change. In the face of such circumstances, psychologists have a responsibility to answer the call to action that lies before us. We have a particular set of skills that make us uniquely capable of helping, and we're

IIT Hyderabad Researchers developing algae-based sewage treatment systems that can reduce the cost of treatment & produce recyclable water & biodiesel

This system will help rural communities in the long-run while the immediate intended beneficiaries of the research are gated urban communities that have in-house plants for treating sewage.



The IIT Hyderabad Research Team from the Department of Civil Engineering - Mr. Marttin Gundupalli, Research Scholar, Mr. Vinod Vadithya, Undergraduate student Mr. Raj Kumar Oruganti, Research Scholar, Dr. Debraj Bhattacharyya, Associate Professor, and Ms. Keerthi Katam, Research Scholar,

Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad Researchers are developing algal-bacterial hybrid systems that can reduce the cost of wastewater treatment, in addition to providing practical routes to producing recyclable

water and biodiesel. These systems serve the dual purposes of wastewater treatment and biodiesel production.

The Research team hopes that their system will help rural communities in the long-run. The immediate intended

beneficiaries of the research, however, are gated urban communities that have in-house plants for treating sewage.

The research team comprised Dr. Debraj Bhattacharyya, Associate Professor, Department of Civil Engi-

SEEDS partners with the government of Uttarakhand to launch the Honeywell Safe Schools Program



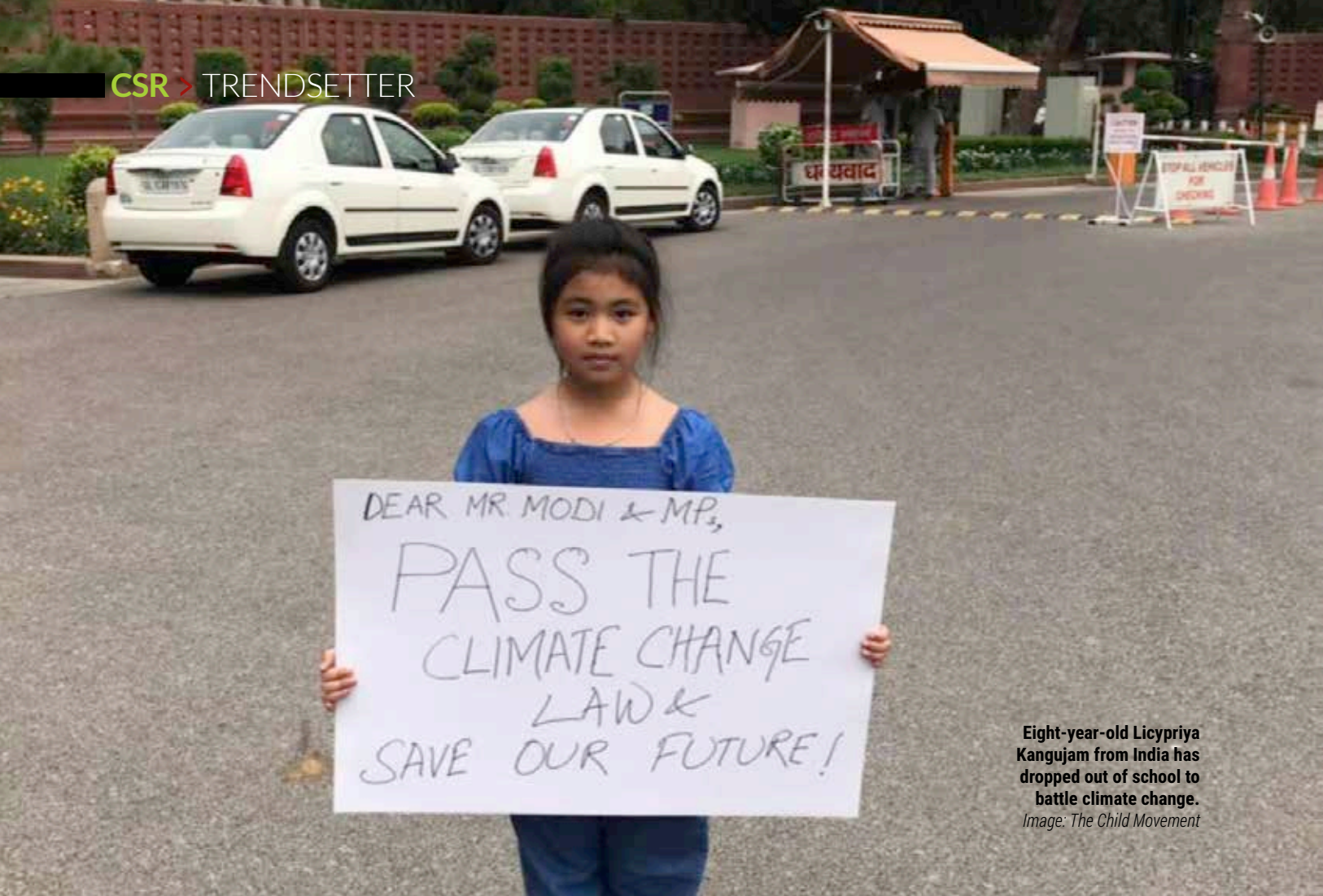
(From Left to Right) Sangitha Ghalay - Head - Honeywell Hometown Solutions India Foundation, Dr Manu Gupta - Co-Founder, SEEDS, Sunil Uniyal Gama - Mayor Dehradun, Shri Trivendra Singh Rawat - Chief Minister Uttarakhand, Dr. Akshay Bellare, President, Honeywell India, Mehant Dilip Singh Rawat - MLA Lansdowne Vidhansabha with Anita Chauhan - Project Manager, SEEDS

SEEDS, a leading not-for-profit organization, has partnered with the Government of Uttarakhand and Honeywell India to introduce a pioneering school safety program in 100 Government schools across Dehradun and Haridwar.

First introduced in 50 Delhi government schools in 2017, the Honeywell Safe Schools program brings a tailor-made approach to address the unique safety-related issues of each school or

location, involving structural assessment of schools by engineers and architects, evaluation of risk perception, and examination of preparedness in the face of any natural or manmade disaster. Thereafter, experts from SEEDS will work closely with children, schools, and communities to train them in disaster-preparedness and risk reduction. This is done through interactive sessions, mock drills, peer-to-peer learning, and structural and non-structural mitigation of risks.

Speaking at the Safety First Carnival organised by SEEDS, Shri Trivendra Singh Rawat, Honourable Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, said, "Children are our future citizens and it is our prerogative to provide them with a safe learning environment. This disaster risk reduction program resonates with our state government's recent call to corporates and NGOs to take ownership of schools, and help improve the quality of infrastructure and education. We can ensure safety with the help of awareness. It is



Eight-year-old Licypriya Kangujam from India has dropped out of school to battle climate change.

Image: The Child Movement

DON'T CALL ME 'GRETA': YOUNG CLIMATE ACTIVISTS DEMAND TO BE HEARD

Over the past year, the trend of young climate activists being portrayed as their national version of Swedish teen activist Greta Thunberg has become common, a description that has been criticised to erase 'unique stories, identities, names and movements'.

Young campaigners say they have had enough of being dubbed their country's "Greta", as the world's media track every move by Swedish activist Greta Thunberg, 17, known for starting the school

strike movement and berating leaders over climate change.

Last week, 8-year-old Licypriya Kangujam from India's remote northeast hit out at journalists on Twitter for calling her the "Greta of India", saying she was not trying to imitate Thunberg.

Award-winning Kangujam told the Thomson Reuters Foundation the comparison was unfair and hurtful, and undermined her work with "The Child Movement" which she founded in July 2018, before Thunberg started her weekly demonstrations outside parliament. "If you call me Greta of India, you are not covering my story. You are deleting a story," Kangujam said in emailed comments.

This week, she clambered on an excavator in Bengaluru city, where she is now based, to stop the felling of more than 8,500 trees to widen roads and was due to launch a new electric car



8 ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT STORIES TO WATCH IN THE NEW MAKE-OR-BREAK DECADE

The narrative of the year will be if 2020 will be a turning point for the better or for the worse, says World Resources Institute president Andrew Steer. What stories should be watching out for?

The world was not kind to the environment over the past decade, the warmest in recorded history.

Superstorm Sandy caused more than \$70 billion of damages in the United States. Cities like Cape Town, South Africa nearly ran out of water. Record floods killed 1,300 people in India and Pakistan. Fires burned more than 22 million acres (9 million hectares) in California, Amazonia and most recently, Australia, destroying forests, homes and human lives.

New global targets — including the Paris Agreement on climate change and the Sustainable Development Goals, both adopted in 2015 — were notable bright spots. But it's unclear if the world will be able to deliver on these ambitions in the coming years.

Key moments and decisions to be made in 2020 will be critical for putting the world on a more sustainable trajectory. “The overwhelming story for the year won’t be if 2020 will be a turning point,” WRI President and CEO Dr. Andrew Steer. “Instead, it is whether 2020

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