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Editorial Board

We are pleased to present before you the latest issue of our annual magazine *Geographica' 17*. We hope to take you back and forth in time across various exotic places as you turn your pages. This edition of the magazine has students talking about their hometown, their experiences from field trips organized by the department, their opinion of events happening around the globe and so much more. We hope this magazine is a representation not only of geography but more so of the people of the Geography Department of Miranda House. I would also like to thank all our staff advisors who have helped us immensely throughout the whole process. Happy reading!!

Durba Biswas
Editor-in-chief

As George R.R. Martin aptly says "A Reader lives a thousand lives before dying, the man who never reads lives only one", we aim to take our readers through several lives and stories through our magazine 'Geographica'. It gives me immense pleasure to bring out fascinating facts, intriguing crosswords and puzzles, inspiring stories, and travel lessons from across the globe in this year's edition of Geographica.

Geographica'17 is a result of the combined efforts of the editorial team, the contributors, and the suggestions and guidance provided by the teachers. It provides the readers with a unique learning experience as well as serves as a fascinating read.

Isha Smiti Thakur
Sub-editor

प्रिय मित्रों
शीर्ष पर केवल एक व्यक्ति के लिए स्थान होता है अथवा हमें चाहिए कि हम शीर्ष पर पहुँचे और उसके लिए अथक प्रयास करते रहे।
आज भूगोल की शाखाएँ सभी दिशाओं में अपना स्थान दर्ज कर रही है चाहे वह विज्ञान हो कला हो समाजशास्त्र हो या अन्य कोई विषय। यह बहुत ही वर्ग का विषय है कि हमारा महाविद्यालय प्रथम स्थान प्राप्त किया है।
हमें बहुत खुशी है कि ज्योग्रफिका 2017 का उद्घाटन हुआ है। इसमें भूगोल की जानकारियों पर आलेख, अन्य विषयों पर कविता, प्रारंभिक ज्ञान दिया गया है। आशा है आपके यह पसंद आयेगी। आप सभी के लिए मंगल कामनाएँ।
धन्यवाद

कुमकुम सिंह
मुख्य संपादक

जियोग्राफिका 17 में भौगोलिक एवं सामाजिक तथ्य है एवं यह बहुत ही रोचक है। इसे बनाने के सफर में एक संपादक के रूप में कई नई-नई चीजें सीखने को मिला और अन्य लोगों का नया विचार जानने का मौका मिला।

खूशबू
उपसंपादक

CONTENTS

Serial No.	Article	Page number
1.	Geography in the Anthropocene Age *Aishna Singh*	1-2
2.	The Turmoil in Israel and Palestine *Aanandita Sikka*	3-4
3.	I was a Peneplain *Maitreyee Chauhan*	4
4.	Field Trip Report – Madhya Pradesh *Aanandita Sikka*	6-8
5.	A Visit to Firoz Shah Kotla Stadium *Amisha Thakur*	9-10
6.	Pujo *Durba Biswas*	11
7.	Field Trip Report – Himachal Pradesh *Vedika Maheshwari*	13
8.	Imagined Communities *Ananya Singh*	14-15
9.	She *Harshita Amrawat*	15
10.	Narratives for Field Trip 2017 *Prachee Majumdar*	20-22
11.	Stories are Potent *Aanandita Sikka*	22
12.	A Trip Home *R.E.L Tapaswini*	23
13.	Purple *Durba Biswas*	25-26

14.	War is Hell *Varnika Srivastava*	26-27
15.	Is Tragedy of Commons Inevitabe? *Aanandita Sikka*	28-30
16.	Deep in the Meadows *Isha Smiti Thakur*	31
17.	Travelogue: A nostalgic Trip to Kerala *Sharmili Dhar*	32-34
18.	Departrment Activities *Durba Biswas*	35-41
19.	Solid Waste *Mahima Goel*	42-49
20.	Solid Waste Management *Neha Pilani*	49-55
21.	मानव *खूशबू*	
22.	तिनका *खूशबू*	
23.	प्रारंभिक ज्ञान *खूशबू*	
24.	भारत का भौगोलिक परिचय *खूशबू*	
25.	वृक्ष संरक्षण *ऐक्ता*	
26.	घर साफ सुथरा तो पार्क गंदे क्यों? *विनीता*	
27.	महानगीय जीवन की समस्याएँ *कुमकुम*	
28.	काल करे सो आज कर *कुमकुम*	
29.	माँ *खूशबू*	
30.	नारी शक्ति *खूशबू*	
31.	दिन ढल ही गया *शिवानी*	

Geography in the Anthropocene Age

We the students of geography are a myriad of acumen minds already working on providing the world a better tomorrow through their magnum opuses in the field of geography. But here's what people, who irrationally keep asking us why we chose geography and of what use could it possibly be in the contemporary world, need to definitely know.

Does Geography really matter?

"It seeks to classify phenomena (alike of the natural and of the political world, in so far as it treats of the latter), to compare, to generalize, to ascend from effects to causes, and, in doing so, to trace out the laws of nature and to mark their influences upon man." – William Hughes, 1863.

It matters. It rather comes as a benison when nobody focuses on the solution but rather on private profits, when nobody thinks of everybody but one's own greed. When the entire galore of highly statured disciplines fail on figuring where in the world are things going wrong, geography emerges with one simple rather prime fundamental view – 'studying the human-environmental relations'. Geography is basically learning everything from a spatial perspective. It's been called 'the world discipline'. It is also gapping the bridge between the humanities and the sciences. But the grief? Geography is still being sadly under-rated.

"It's the mother of all sciences"

When I say – 'In the *Anthropocene* age', I mean the current geological age viewed as the period during which humans have been the dominant factor on environment and climate - a period so vast that physics, chemistry and biology don't seem to have surpassed the outlooks that geography had towards the world. With Palaeogeography as its core, physiography as its outer core, anthropology as its mantle and Geomatics as its crust, it presents before a new planet of superlative discoveries that better be interpreted than just knowing.

It cross-questions world politics

We humans are a maven at dividing boundaries, claiming shares, procuring natural resources, engaging in warfare and debating on every other public policy issue without ever realizing its side effects. When we discuss about the nuclear ambitions of North Korea, the revolutionary hopes of the Arab Spring, the Indo-Pak border dispute, how terrorism is spreading this rapidly or America's global hegemony, we are not talking of a particular state but an entire world being affected. Without knowing where even on the

map North Korea is, without knowing its geographic features, we are putting not just North Korea but the entire world under a political turmoil. It's time that we apprehend the importance of 'Geo' again in Geopolitics.

The need for more Geographers

What Strabo, Ptolemy and the very recent, Michael Palin did for geography, needs to be done more elaborately by us taking the immortal legacy forward. In the words of the most celebrated geographer of our time, Sir Harm de Blij, Geography illiteracy poses a huge risk that each one of you should know more of geography than the sciences. This will make you more confident than ever of walking on the land. Because you need to scrutinize the land in physical terms before buying your next plot, don't you? So how about already having a mental map in your brain and an entire vocabulary of scientific yet geographic facts at the tip of your tongue?

And yes, with Theresa May becoming Britain's reigning Prime Minister, the joke on geography is definitely no longer a joke.

"Comprehending Geography is an epoch of our generation"

1. Do you know?

The first city to reach a population of 1 million people was Rome.

There is a city called Rome in every continent.

The Turmoil in Israel and Palestine

Aanandita Sikka
BA(H) Geography
II Year

The Palestine-Israel conflict owes its existence to the settling of a group of people, who called themselves as Zionists in the 19th century in conquest for a space and in efforts to create a landscape for peaceful existence of ethnic communities of Jews. Several socio political developments in Europe and rise in anti-Semitic sentiments magnified the migration process from Europe to the former British Palestine. The Arabs saw this as an effort to subdue them and take charge over the land and resources that was rightfully theirs; and since then, both the communities have indulged in hostile, unsympathetic actions against each other.

The phenomenon that has been truly tragic is the regular repetition of the human rights violation in the entire region. The acts of violence related to children and civilians along with the restrictions in movement of people, frequent blockade of even basic commodities and cruel demolition of homes has left the world aghast. Israel has been under the radar for conducting several activities against the human rights of Palestinians such as building unlawful settlements in West Coast and detention of Palestinians on mere suspicion. According to a report by Human Rights Watch, Israel has conducted 50 military incursions in Gaza in 2015. In the same report, the organization claims that Israeli security forces had brutally shot at least 96 Palestinian civilians and wounded at least 10,854 in West Bank alone. There have been widespread narratives of extremist groups of Palestinians and the Hamas indulging in inhumane activities against Israelis, but the number of causalities is significantly smaller. Hamas, which is considered a terrorist organization by various states, has involved in killings and atrocities not only against Israelis but also against Palestinians. Their involvement in the rocket and mortar attacks on civilian regions of Israel is deplorable and is extensively criticized.

It is evident that the damage done to human life of blameless Palestinians is higher in number than that of Israelis, but it is essential to realize that they are human lives nonetheless. Civilians are suffering the most in the conflict, especially in Palestine due to the blockades and lack of systematic welfare policies working for the enhancement of the human condition; providing them with education and employment. It is essential to realize that Human rights not only entail rights of the citizens but also obligation of the state to respect, protect and fulfill the same of each citizen of the globe. The solution to the conflict can only be initiated when both the communities reach out to each other in a dignified manner for a glorious and prosperous future of the coming generations.

I was a Peneplain

Maitreyee Chauhan
BA(H) Geography
I year

I was a peneplain
Waiting for my evolution.

Insomnia used to be my bed partner
And dry air was my blanket.

Tremors in life lead my mind into hay,
Still a girl walks daily in search of ray.....!!

They drag me down,
But the inner soul managed to stand erect in the crowd.

I wanted to live my life as pure as water coming out of a glacier,
But those dirty morons always tried to wash their hands in the flow of that river.

The dark clouds, pregnant with rain of grief came over me
But, the equilibrium of morals and principles was never disturbed.

Waning of heart was started
With the acceleration of people's greed.

The mind still dreams of cream in the famine,
To bake a cake in the clints and grikes.

No matter how long the dark tunnel is..??
I will reach to its end with my head unbowed,
As I am the captain of my soul.

2. Do you know?

Lesotho, Vatican City, and San Marino are the only countries completely surrounded by one other country. Lesotho is completely surrounded by South Africa, and Vatican City, and San Marino are both completely surrounded by Italy.

Field Trip Report- Madhya Pradesh

Aanandita Sikka
BA(H) Geography
II Year

If Geography is to be explained to someone who has had no confrontation with the realms of academics, I would say that Geography studies places. It makes an earnest effort to comprehend the use of a particular space, to understand the systems of survival and perpetuation in those spaces of not only humans but environment in general. It investigates about the phenomena making those places unique; speculates the reasons for the exclusivity and diversity in occurrence of incidents, events and phenomena. When each event presents such plethora of multiplicity, appreciation of the subject matter requires apprehension of more than just books. Probably for that reason field trips are considered indispensable part of Geographical studies.

The second year students of BA (hons) Geography went on a field trip to Omkareshwar, Maheshwar and Mandu in Madhya Pradesh in the first week of February, 2017 to study the sustainable livelihoods of residents in the region. During our journey in a bus we observed several physical features from plateaus to monad nocks to eroded hills to gullies and ravines along with all the other things we had just read in books about. The first destination for the field trip was Omkareshwar, a town which has gained immense amount of popularity because of the structural similarity of one of the Narmada's island to one of the symbols sacred to Hindu mythologies. The Narmada has been a life source for the masses of that region, and exactly for this reason a substantial amount of work in Omkareshwar was related to observing the river and the pattern of erosion along with its impacts on the soil and rock structures. Our confrontation with Narmada did not end there, soon it became apparent that as we move away from the river, the lands became drier and a noticeable change in the vegetation could be observed. After collection of soil samples and collecting coordinates with a GPS, we proceeded to Maheshwar. Maheshwar is famous for the handloom textile industry. For understanding the situations of livelihoods for the weavers, their traditional knowledge, their economic status and living conditions; to comprehend the complexities of their profession and problems they face as weavers, two villages Keriyakedi and Mominpura were selected for the survey by the students. The two villages were vastly different, not only in terms of ethnicity and the major religion but also in prosperity. The survey inquired about a variety of issues like the working hours, wages, raw material, subsidies, and healthcare. It also inquired about deeper issues like insecurities of people related to their profession, improvements they would like to see and what they aspired for in future. Aspirations are essential for a sustainable livelihood. In Keriyakhedi, majority of the people worked on handlooms of 'Seths' and thriving businessmen of Maheshwar and

almost all of them aspired for a handloom of their own. Mominpura on the other hand was more prosperous, ascribing to the yarn bank which provided the yarn to the weavers on subsidized prices. After completing around 300 forms in total, we proceeded to Mandu.

Group picture on the way to Mandu

"Will his green fields bring prosperity to him?"- Mandu, Dhar, Madhya Pradesh.
Clicked by: Akshita Saini.

Mandu is well known for the forts that it has and the scientific knowledge those forts possess. The grandeur of the Mandu fort remained a highlight for the trip. Students conducted surveys of tourist around the fort after having a tour of the entire place accompanied by a guide. Mandu had different kind of features too, whereas most of the places we had visited earlier were quite dry, Mandu had marshes. Another survey of the service providers was carried forward by students in Mandu. The service providers varied from hotel managers to waiters to bus drivers and tour guides. The main concentration of the survey about how much they earned and what were their busiest months and how their livelihoods were affected due to tourism. We had learned

plethora of things in Mandu, we learned about the new and innovative ways discovered by people to subsist themselves, we learned about their ideas of improvements and advancements, they aspired in their area of livelihoods; we had learned about the ancient knowledge that still stands as a proof of the magnificence of kings and dynasties that crumbled ages ago and finally we learned that sunset from Roopmati Pavilion looks beautiful.

The field trip has been a different experience for each of the student. Amidst of all the surveys and focused group discussions and marking coordinates, we collected a plethora of memories. We observed things and tried to relate it to the things we saw in class rooms.

Answers to Crossword:

Across:
1. Mongolia 2.Antilles 3.Babylon 4.Karimata Strait 5.Nauru.

Down:
1. Corsica 2.Dorne 3.Yemen 4.Hawaii 5.Italy

A Visit to Firoz Shah Kotla

Amisha Thakur
BA(H) Geography
III year

On Friday, 27th August 2016, I visited Kotla Feroz Shah Fort guided by Delhi Heritage Walks. This fortress was built by Sultan Feroz Shah Tughlaq in 14th Century, who was the third king of Tughlaq dynasty. Ferozabad was the sixth capital city of Delhi and today it is known as Kotla Feroz Shah. It extended from Hauz Khas in the south to northern ridge. The citadel complex housed the royal family. Earlier the Tughlaq fort was near the Southern Ridge but this was the first river facing city. General Cunningham (First General of Archaeological Survey of India) mentions that the capital had a total population of 1, 50,000. Another Historian believes this area was twice the size of *Shahajahanabad.*

Feroza was an enthusiastic builder and undertook the repair work during Sultan's reign. He built 4 mosques, 30 palaces, 5 hospitals, 10 baths, 100 barrages, 1200 gardens. He procured the building material from Qila Rai Pitora and the same thing happened to his fort when Shahjahan demolished it to build his own fort.

The last inhabitation in this city was till 18th Century. Tughlaqabad comprised of three parts - town area, office area and peasant area. The buildings during this period had thick walls with simple plain architecture with less of beautification, less of elegance but were strong. In Islam it is beloved that a king should construct a lot of buildings as this helps in providing employment and shows out wealth.

Badshah (king), *Daria* (river), *Badal* (monsoon) are believed to play an important role in Islam and Sultan Feroz was lucky in all the three cases - Yamuna flowed besides his palace and there were plenty of rains during his period. Hunting, building and governing were his three main hobbies. He built three palaces - Palace of Grapes, Palace of wooden carving, Palace of Kush Ke Feroz. There was Khwaja Baddruddin's dargah beside his fort which is 736 years old.

Sultan Feroz built seven public mosques and one private mosque constructed by his Prime minister Shan-e-Shah. The prayer walls, mihrab facing the West while the centre had pillars and domes and inscriptions on it. When Timur of Iran invaded Delhi, he found this mosque so fascinating that he built one of the same kinds in Iran which is still working as compared to this which is an inactive mosque. In Timor's autobiography he mentions this mosque as Masjida Jami and today it is called as Jami Masjid.

The fort was made of locally available stone, minimal carving and lime plaster. The palace area was surrounded by grape garden. The outermost section of the fort was meant for the soldiers to stay in rooms having slits. Then there was a connecting link between the citadel complexes which was on a raised platform. The area for the royal women was further on an elevated platform inside the citadel complex. There was a staircase to the top which gave the view of the garden and the river and the royals spent a recreational time. 9.

The Ashokan Pillar that lies within this fort was brought from Ambala in 14th Century under orders of Feroz Shah and was installed on a three tiered pavilion near the mosque.

The Baoli or the step well which lies towards the northwestern side of the Ashokan Pillar is circular in shape as different to many baolis which are rectangular in shape and which served rest purpose to travelers and common public. However, this baoli was only meant for the use of royal family. This had water supplied through Yamuna.

There were three escape tunnels within the fort - one to Mehrauli, one to Ridge and one to Yamuna River. After 18th Century, Yamuna started flowing westward.

Today the heritage site of Kotla Feroz Shah is being reconstructed by Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).

3. Do you know?

The Shortest place name is 'Å' it is located in both Sweden and Norway. In Scandinavian languages, 'Å' means "river".

Pujo

Durba Biswas
BA(H) Geography
II year

I've walked holding the comforts of you my city
Like a scared child holding her mother's saree.
The love, the familiarity, the spirit
Draped around me ever so lovingly
Oh me the foolish wanderer
The familiarity choked me
Like a ruthless criminal with no regrets
I wanted to crush the spirit
Of the city that grew inside me,
Stabbed any love you showed towards me.
Fate was the Satan's minister
With my feet steadfastly in this new city
An amazon of dreams flowed before me.
I danced in the epiphany of my newly found freedom.
It's been a long time now
The amazon seems bleak somehow
A distant memory of a foolish child.
Now when autumn comes with its splendor
This new city remains numb.
Where are the bamboo scaffolds? The making of Devi?
The dhakis gearing up?
My soul pins for the very spirit I once wanted to crush.
Oh Kolkata! In the hectic pujo season of yours,
Do you remember that little kid
Scurrying her way through your streets
To catch a glimpse of Ma Durga?
Do you remember her with her parents
Excitedly shopping for pujo?
Kolkata you are that kid's first love
You always were.
I cursed you, I cribbed about you
But every pujo, the kid I nurtured all these years
She secretly wishes to see you again
Just like her first love.

Travel Diaries

“She rows”- Local Kashmiri girl rowing on Dal lake, Srinagar.
Clicked by: Sakshee Singh.

It’s a fascinating royal beauty of Jaipur- Situated on the middle of an ordinary street the intricate architecture and beauty of this monument stands out. It’s well worth a quick stop to take a picture.

Clicked by: Sakshee Singh.

Travel Diaries

Nature speaks to you in many ways. You just have got to listen carefully.
Clicked near the banks of the mighty Baspa river flowing across Chhitkul, Himachal Pradesh, the last village on the Indo-Tibetan border.
Clicked by: Vedika Maheswari.

Baspa River flowing in the beautiful valley of Sangla, Kinnaur, Himachal Pradesh.
Clicked by: Prachi Singh.

Field Trip Report- Himachal Pradesh

Vedika Maheshwari
BA(H) Geography
III year

The students of third year went for their five-day field survey to Sangla valley in Kinnaur district of Himachal Pradesh in month of October 2016. The survey was based on studying the sustainable livelihoods of the Himalayan region. The field trip gave us a chance to apply the knowledge we have gained from our geography books in a real world scenario. It took us approximately twenty seven hours to reach Sangla and as they say, journey is more important than the destination and indeed it was one of the best journeys. Those twenty seven hours didn't seem much amidst the company of amazing friends and wonderful professors, with whom we laughed, shared food, talked about life and got to learn so much more about each other. Apart from gaining knowledge about the resource base, local survival skills, socio-economic conditions, regional settings, traditions and culture of the different communities living in the extreme climatic conditions, the students were also exposed to the experience of working in the field. Leading a simple and happy life and being content with whatever they have, the very generous people of Sangla valley welcomed us warmly and taught us quite a few lessons of life. The most important thing we learned was the fact that how nature and human relationships are interrelated and that we humans are nothing in front of the forces of nature. We must respect nature in every way we can. This trip gave the students an opportunity to learn something beyond what is taught within the four walls of the classroom. In a nutshell, the memories of this trip, and the scent and taste of juicy apples will remain afresh in our hearts forever.

Imagined Communities

Ananya Singh
BA(H)Geography
I year

In the world of growing miseries and intolerance as a consequence of Sectarian beliefs in nationalism, religion and communitarians, it becomes essential to introspect as well as retrospect the various dimensions of the 'universally held truths'. We have begun to adhere to our notions of ideologies such as liberalism or fundamentalism so strongly that we refuse to accept them as inter-subjective realities (notions that are believed by many people and hence is considered a reality) and consider them as objective realities. What has led us here and where is it taking us is a matter of concern. Human is a notorious yet intellectual being. The world as we see today, growth and prosperity on one side and wars and dissent on the other, is a direct result of human capability to cooperate. No other species in the world has been noted to cooperate on such a large scale as humans. Every day, whether on road or in an institution, we cooperate with each other - we follow certain norms and laws. But how did we reach to such a level of cooperation? Since prehistoric times, tribes, empires, religions and states have tried to bind their members together into cooperation using various figments of imagination to function smoothly. The Empires held the King as a divine figure so as to command authority and gain legitimacy from subjects. The laws set in a state are again meant for the same purpose. Religion, though people call it as a path to spirituality, is nothing but a way to organize people. Thus, as Yuval Noah Harari puts it, “there are no gods in the universe, no nations, no money, no human rights, no laws and no justice outside the common imagination of humans.” What we believe to be a universal value is actually nothing but fiction. Our conscience is built on fiction. So here we are today, all prepared with our imagined communities, to kill each other at the slightest provocation of our ‘beliefs’. We become quite defensive when our community or religion is questioned. Hatred is spread in the name of God and nationalism. Wars have been fought to prove certain ideologies right. So it seems that we began our journey of cooperation so as to bring peace and order in lives but the same cooperation has led to quite contradictory results. It is not to say that these figments of imagination are useless - that would be a sheer folly. However, it is very important to remember that at the end of the day they remain mere fictions and not something so sacrosanct so as to create a ruckus to protect them. What we need to believe is (another fiction, yet essential) that human life in itself is sacred. Nothing in the world should undermine it. But then how to know when we are undermining others? As the golden rule says, “do unto others as you should have them do unto you” and so do not do unto others what you do not want to be imposed on yourself. You want others to impose their ideology on you? NO? Don't impose yours own others. You want to be killed for someone else’s religion? NO? Don't

do it to others either. Thus, this formula can be applied universally to analyze whether our actions are humane because it puts human self to the forefront. The thought is that of to not to superstitiously accept figments of imagination; to accept that there are millions of people out there who don't believe in what we hold to be true; to accept that the value of a human life is priceless and thus to accept MUTUAL CO-EXISTENCE.

She

Harshita Amrawat
BA(H) Geography
I year

The world where she dwells is a caldera where she dances,
She causes abrasion with every graceful move,
She moves like a powerful glacier - slow but powerful,
Her white devours all black leaving behind truncated spurs and moraines -- the witness of her strength,
She is the free one, the young stream--powerful, fierce, intense, eroding the mountains,
She is the wind that can change the orientation of the huge sand dunes, one sand particle at a time,
Who is she?
She is nature, nature personified.
She is our mother,
She is our sister,
She is the essence of a woman,
She is who we are,
Fearless, graceful, fierce, powerful, intense.
She is the reason of formation of humankind and denudation of the evil.

Narratives for Field Trip 2017

Prachee Majumdar
BA(H) Geography
II year

Mohammad Shabbeer Ansari is a weaver. His skills lay in weaving sarees. He toils for ten hours a day, taking two full days to finish weaving one saree, hands it over to his Seth, and collects the yarns for the next one. Whether it is raining , or the sun is shining too brightly outside or even if there are college kids sitting close by incessantly asking questions, he will keep his indifferent facial expression intact and focus on his concentrated movements that control how the yards of silk and Maheshwari tissue will come out as a complete product. These bright and colorful, yet exclusive and delicate saris are every bit a substantial part of his life, something he creates. But something, he cannot imagine his wife or newly married daughter donning. It is quite ironical how things we deal with everyday, are not always things that we can acquire for ourselves.

He was a former engineer of sorts at a power loom in Lucknow, after which, he migrated with his wife, Salma Bano, also a weaver, to the Mominpura village in Maheshwar, Madhya Pradesh. Ignorant of all worldly knowledge and ignorant of what caste he belongs to, Mohammad Shabbeer Ansari has only been able to mention his age in correct digits as he had been taught by his father to count his age with every year that went by. He repents how the shadow of illiteracy and ignorance had fallen on his two children, Asia Bano and Mohammad Islam, who were only fifth standard pass outs. But he was working day and night to help his third and last child, Mohammad Aslam, cross the compulsory primary education threshold to attend middle school.

His occupation allows him free working hours, although it always comes with a condition. More the number of finished sarees he produces, his wage gets multiplied accordingly. Ultimately, he cannot work for fewer hours. The need to earn more naturally drives all the weavers to sit patiently and finish what they started.

The forty-four year old weaver disapproves of the owner of their textile establishment not participating in exhibition sales and trade fairs. He says,

“Phiroz Seth eats our subsidies.”

He also mentions that even if it is possible that they are uninformed of any such venture of the owner, they are not brought to the forefront. He thinks that the owner fears that

some weavers will leave work under him if someone else comes and agrees to pay more for their labor and skills offered under better conditions.

Mohammad Ansari is highly resentful of the government not doing any ground analysis and checking up on the actual deplorable state of all weavers in the village. With no help from the “Sarkar”, or for that matter , any organization that can help them form a union – to be able to demand better pay and livelihood systems, they feel insecure and stranded under strict owners who pull their leashes around and they are hence, bound to remain subservient .

All that just to earn some daily bread and life that can actually be called a life.

FROM SUNITA CHAUHAN, KHEDIAKHEDI VILLAGE, MAHESHWAR, MADHYA PRADESH

She must be at least five to eight years younger than the age that she mentions thirty-two - too old an age for such a young face. She has a sprightly mien, two long braids on her head and a childish smile and giggle after every question that is asked. She seems to love visitors and offers water. It is an early but dry morning.

Balancing Khushi, her child on her hip, she is also curious as she has her eyes trained on the questionnaire. Sunita has had no education. But she is quite deft in her work, weaving salwar and kameez pieces, which is her specialty. Although, if the ‘Seth’ demands a saree to be made, she has to do his bidding. Ignorant of all technicalities, she also cannot say where exactly the ‘Seth’ sells her hard work.

On being asked whether she would want to know who buys her craft and “Wouldn’t you want to know how many people wear your handcraft and whether these people come from across states or seas to see your skill?” All she musters is a sad smile. She does want to, but Sunita cannot. Born of Koli, a low caste, she cannot speak directly to the supplier, who is of an upper caste. She also receives the yarn for the next piece from her husband, who works at the textile factory. There is a divide and discrimination lurking behind her smile. A subtle discrimination which people of urban born cannot decipher. A cultural, class - based segregation which renders females even in work space second-class citizens on their own soil.

After all, women weavers have their own handloom machines in their shanties, a child to nurture, utensils and clothes to rinse and wring, goats to milk and obey the social norm till death. Like all others, Sunita has accepted the wall of conventions and norms in the society, binding her to a situation where she does not even know if her husband is paid more for work than she is.

As her husband enters from the doorway, she hides her face with the veil of the saree.

FROM NEELA BAI, MALWA RETREAT, MANDU, MADHYA PRADESH

Neela Bai has been flipping omelettes at the Malwa Retreat kitchen for more than twelve years now. But it is quite strange why she does not know how many rooms and suites in total the lodge has. It is also difficult for her to say when this establishment was founded, but she manages.

Stating that the busiest season is during Diwali and tourists keep visiting sporadically between July and January, she takes a laidback and peaceful posture. She prefers the calm and quiet when very few tourists occupy the rather simple lodge. Although the owner dislikes lean seasons, as she mentions, she likes it that there is lesser running around taking food orders, being around the kitchen fire, having to be a second aide to room cleaners and watching in distaste as the tourists litter around.

Often than not, the electricity supply is cut. And there have been accidents on the road nearby, so she has heard. On being enquired about this, she feels it is the pollution and smoke enveloping the area. Most of the times, the low visibility persists till early morning. Otherwise, there is nothing new. It must be mundane and all black and white.

During the busy seasons, when the tourists arrive, she takes interest in their attire, their behavior, what they like to eat and hence spends her time observing the slow transition of people and their actions. It was obviously much different from what it is, now.

4. Do you know?

San Marino claims to be the world's oldest constitutional republic – it was founded in 301 by a Christian stonemason fleeing persecution under Emperor Diocletian. Its constitution of 1600 is the oldest written constitution in the world.

A Trip Home

R.E.L Tapaswini
BA(H) Geography
II year

It’s been rightly said that "world is the happiest seat when friends meet". This would be my best experience in my life. For this mid semester break I have travelled to my native place with all my south Indian friends. My journey started at Delhi and lasted till my place. I was thrilled when I heard that train connects not only states but also different cultures, but that truly worked out when I travelled in train for a distance of almost 1500 kilometers with people of seven different states and my folks too with me. In my opinion, my friends can be regarded as one of the best freak outs and genuine guys with whom I usually hangout. It was a great experience where we had lengthy conversations, beakless self musical band, and yes of course unstoppable food court.

The outlandish thing is, me getting down at every station which arrived along with my friends. On the same line, I have tasted the good number of patent right food of different places. The luscious and mouth watering doodh pedha of Agra, I still remember the taste of it. How can I forget the aroma of Itarsi tea? As my food goes on my plays with my friends include playing cards, musical games, cracking jokes. In between the mumbling sounds of tea 'chai' brings a smile even today.

Those hours were sleepless and joyful. Now comes the part of my selfies. They are in huge number that we just need a chance to take a picture at any situation just like all teenagers. I think we do not need any seats reserved as no one of us was ready to sleep or sit at least. Whole coach of ours had kept an eye on us, just watching our fun and noise.

Actually it’s been so long I went to home, so I was excited and double excited as it was with my lovable friends. As soon as we entered our state, the breeze of my native land groomed me like anything else. I think this would be the most memorable moment for anyone in their life when their childhood dream comes true. I wish and I hope to have much more journeys like this in my life with my colorful friends of blowing hearts in the wonderful Indian Railways.

Stories are Potent

Aanandita Sikka
BA(H) Geography
II year

Stories are potent. They live through ages, to glorify what is no more present; the things that were once substantial enough to be etched in history. The beauty is in how it personifies sacrifice. It gives a part of itself to you, in sheer hope that you would appreciate the efforts and nurture that has been put in its creation. In hope that you would contemplate about the struggles and the ecstasies it professes through its pages. Clandestinely hoping that you would see its truth; what it is hiding between its lines. Forever, wishing for you to appreciate the landscape of elation and agony that it is trying to weave through its words. Stories are potent because they inspire the spirits that were forgotten and buried long ago without a care. They are significant because they live through ages when we don't.

5. Do you know?

The deepest hole ever drilled by man is the Kola Super deep Borehole, in Russia. It reached a depth of 12,261 meters (about 40,226 feet or 7.62 miles). It was drilled for scientific research and gave up some unexpected discoveries, one of which was a huge deposit of hydrogen – so massive that the mud coming from the hole was "boiling" with it.

Purple

Durba Biswas
BA(H)Geography
II year

Amidst the consistent patter of the rain
The mighty sun after a long day had set
The moon rejuvenating the earth's beauty
Was peeking from behind the clouds
The sky was perfect
Like a purple background from a beautiful painting
And in that mesmerizing moment
A baby girl's cry was heard.
Nature of truly divine
Failed to put joy in her parent's eye.

Years after she was abandoned
The baby girl took her first step in the orphanage
To set her footsteps steadily on this cursed earth
The little brave heart marched forward to school
A peek into her peer's bag
She discovered small purple packets
'Dairy Milk' written in elegant handwriting
They must be delicious, she sighed
Seeing the blissful expression on her friend's face
A denied temptation, the purple packets haunted her.

Spring brings out the mischief in lovers
Our baby girl is all grown now
Holding the hands of her beloved, she stepped out into the real world
Alas! Article 377 did not accept her lover
Draping themselves with purple robes
These stubborn lovers joined the protest of the millions oppressed
The blazing purple of the flags
Keeping their dreams alive
Their love alive
The hopes of millions alive.

Consumed by blackness, the blanket of familiarity removed
She was forced into marriage
The drunken brute, enjoying her scared demeanor

Nursing her wounds from where he hit her
She cries silently at night lest he wakes up.
The purple bruises get darker
Purple forcing her to quit life.
As freedom moves further away
She drowns
A little more into the pitch darkness.

Everyone was clad in white
The mighty sun after a long day had set
The moon rejuvenating the earth's beauty
Was peeking from behind the clouds.
Amidst the purple background
The smoke from the brute's pyre rose high up
Her wrinkled hands opened the wardrobe
She took out her favorite purple sari
Mourning? She laughed a hollow laugh
Today she was going to celebrate.

War is Hell

Varnika Srivastava
BA(H) Geography
II year.

War is hell. No one has ever benefitted from war. Aeschylus correctly quoted "truth is the first casualty of war". But who defines what is true. It brings death and destruction in its wake. Countless people have died at the most petty things, all in the name of war. People start war in the hope that after it peace will ensure however short lived it is and the truth about war dies with it. People justify war saying it has a good side as it spurs individuals to heroism and self sacrifice but in reality it is a sort of an escape for people from the monotony of peace that was established by the end of the previous war. But though war is an evil, we must recognize the fact that it is a necessary, inescapable evil. A glance at the past history of the world will show war has been a recurrent phenomenon in the history of nations. No period in world history has been free from the devastating effects of war. We have had wars of all types --- wars lasting for a year or so and a war lasting for hundred years. In view of this, it seems futile to talk of permanent, everlasting peace or to make plans of the establishment of a totalitarian, yet soft government, a fancy name for what is in fact a new world order. Wars take a heavy toll on every element involved - from the surroundings to the children and the vilest of all, the bystander watched as their brethren mercilessly slaughtered all, at the

command of a leader who instilled a will to die within them from the moment he took them under his supervision. War has indeed, been such a marked feature of every age and period. That has come to be regarded as part of the normal life of nations. All in all, one must come to face the stark reality that as long as humans exist and societies flourish, war and peril will come swiftly in brisk intervals of time until everyone and everything is annihilated, leaving a lifeless desert in the wake, never to be habited again and left in a dead silence.

Deep in the Meadows

Isha Smiti Thakur
BA(H) Geography
I year

Deep in the meadows
Under the ceiling of stars

I hear the mighty river speak
And the forest laughs

A deep, resonating sound
Emanating from the depths of the woods

Rich, smooth and high
Making me shiver and sigh

Yet all seems calm and quiet
For my heart is at peace

Like the shimmering waters of the forest lake
That reflects in truly and offers what it is

And I breathe the moist air
Which has the lingering smell of damp wood

That fills me up with cheer
Illuminating me from inside

Such is the magic of nature
Go! Feel the wilderness wrap around

For the sky is hollow
And the earth is round
And the forest has beauty

Is Tragedy of Commons Inevitable?

Aanandita Sikka
BA(H) Geography
II year.

Hardin vigorously argues for control over human fecundity and an achievement of a 0% growth rate. He links zero percent population growth to prosperity. The basis of the argument being that if population becomes stagnant, the per capita resource consumption would remain same too and as a result, the pressure on resources would not increase furthermore. Meanwhile, he interrogates the role played by culture and ethics and human conscience in conservation of commons and population decline. He says:

"*Has any cultural group solved this practical problem at the present time, even at intuitive level? One simple fact proves that none has: there is no prosperous population in the world today that has and has had for some time a growth rate of zero*"

The idea of zero population growth seems an extensively utopian one, while it might regulate the resource use in short run by of decreased addition of people and hence curbing the resource utilization due to population growth, zero population growth can be objectionable in long run because it leads to more concentration of people in older age slots, and hence leads larger dependent population with lower workforce in the state. For 21st century, declining population in countries like Japan, Australia has become matter of grave concern. And the idea that zero population growth necessarily will bring prosperity is a misleading one. Several countries in Africa have zero or very close to zero population growth because of poor living conditions, sanitation and poor medical facilities which leads to high death rate and to compensate this a higher birth rate also prevails. Due to presence of both extremely high birth rate and death rate, the population growth remains marginal. Prosperity though can be linked to culture, ethics, education and development of overall society. Culture and religion form the basis of the people's life, they form perception and develop a way of thinking, in accordance to which their believers respond. Hardin undermines the influence of ethics or human conscience to control population growth or conserving the commons. Several religious beliefs of the East emphasize on the need for conservation, certain belief systems consider land, trees and animals to be sacred and hence work for its protection. A good example would be Bishnois of western India, who devote their lives in conserving flora and fauna. Tribes all over the world are proficiently managing their commons without any interference. The central idea is that if self-seeking nature of humans has caused

damage to the common pool resource, only their conscience could work as a catalyst in restricting this malpractice, intensive curbing of liberties such as freedom to breed would only make them reluctant to abide by the law. Nowadays, we see several agencies such as WWF, Biofuel watch volunteering for conservation of commons. In addition to these, we have observed some of the strongest environmental movements sustained only by the will of volunteers in different parts of the world.

Hardin mentions an example of the tragedy of commons, criticizing the Adam Smith's idea of 'invisible hand' which states that rational individuals who work for maximization of their interest promote the public interest. He provides an example of a grazing land where herdsmen try to graze as many cattle as they can. Hardin says as individual actor in attempts of maximizing profits keeps adding more cattle, when everyone adds more animals to their herd, the grassland gets over-utilized and hence the tragedy transpires. The fact that not everyone is willing to increase the animals in the herd is not acknowledged by Hardin. Addition of more animals in a herd would mean that herdsman require more space to keep them, additional capital to buy animals and more time has to be devoted in taking care of the animals and also to ensure too many animals don't indulge in quarrelling with other animals. This requires more capital in terms of money, time and labor, which might not be feasible or desirable by all herdsmen. Hardin realizing this problem of over utilization suggest various reforms. First one was to control fertility, he considered privatization of the commons a good option and last was government regulation which he called 'mutual coercion, mutually agreed upon'.

Hardin considers privatization to be a good solution to the problem of tragedy. A private authority would ensure that resources are not utilized beyond their limit, so that they can be used by future generations. While making private property might work in conserving the commons, there are three problems with privatization. Privatization of commons creates problem of externalities, Hardin mentions this problem while he discusses the pollution problem. While private owners do maintain their property, they discard their waste and anything that is not required outside the commons; this creates pollution outside the property. Common pool resources play a significant role in developing countries, especially in their rural areas. These resources such as village wells or community grazing lands are essential for their daily chores and income, hence privatizing them would lead to great loss of livelihood in these communities. In addition to that, commons like rivers or oceans or atmosphere cannot be privatized. Probably because of this, Hardin talks about mutual coercion and government regulation. Hardin then discusses state regulation and mutual coercion as a solution. He talks about a system where each person agrees on a set of norms and rules, regardless of their liking or disliking of them, to ensure that no single private actor takes undue advantage. Even with mutual coercion, we still face difficulties for creating norms for global commons such as oceans, or commons shared by more than one country such as rivers. Hardin suggested that incentives such as imposing of greater taxes on those who harm the

commons can prove to be quiet beneficial for the regulation of commons. While this probably is a good proposition, for conservation of commons we need to sensitize society towards the commons and promote its conservation at the level of local community along with the realization that individual or collective destroying of the resources in the long run would lead to difficulties for community as a whole and solely for this reason, it is responsibility of each citizen to carefully utilize the commons.

An important question is, by what extent can we avert the tragedy by following Hardin's solution which and if we have any examples present for it. China probably is the only example in the world that follows two of the major solutions proposed by Hardin. China has a policy where the government strictly controls the fertility of its population and along with that has strong state control, despite of that China is the largest emitter of the greenhouse gases in the world, its deserts are rapidly extending due to disappearing green spaces. This is probably because of the fact that China has always lacked political will to work towards conservation, industrialization and rampant economic growth has been the priority. While Hardin feels that conscience and education lose ground when compared to human rationality, the tragedy of commons has till date been averted due to conscience of certain people in the society. The tragedy though is not inevitable, with human will and strong political support, commons can easily be sustained. We see a rise of environmentalism in the society, support from global leaders, forums and organization to work for sustainable development. Populations across the countries are talking about the harmonious ways of existing with nature and states are considering nature as heritage and working for flora and fauna conservation.

The tragedy of commons has become an increasingly worrisome issue for the world. The growing population and the increasing standard of living have put additional pressure on the resources. While advancements in science and technology have helped mankind to use resources efficiently causing minimum damage to the commons, they have also created problem of externalities. While curbing freedom to breed might seem a preferable proposition to some in the long run it might lead to undesirable demographic changes and resentment from masses. Privatization of the commons, while has its benefits, fails to address plethora of issues such as externalities. Mutual coercion and claiming of authority by state is important at various degrees as it keeps a check on masses. But for averting the tragedy of commons, it is essential that we create awareness in the society and generate sympathy for commons and their conservation. Promotion of sustainable development at global level is essential along with global cooperation in conservation of commons.

Travelogue: Nostalgic Trip to Kerala

Sharmili Dhar
BA(H) Geography
I year

The previous year 2016 was of the best year I had. Firstly, it was the Miranda House, then this lovely trip to Kerala, which included Cochin, backwaters of Arabian Sea in Allepy and water fall Athiripilli near Cochin.

THE FISHER MAN BEACH WITH CHINESE FISHING NETS IN COCHIN

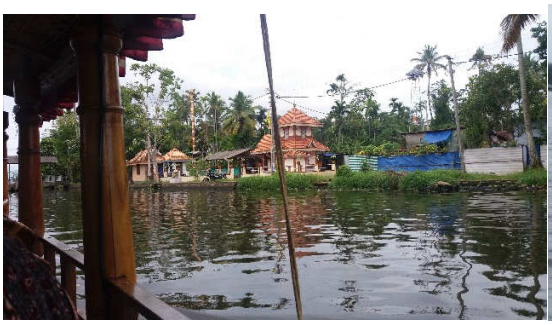
We planned the trip for 4 nights and 5 days during the monsoons as the Nature in Kerala is fresh and green and Kerala is then God's Own Country as rightly stated.

COCHIN AIRPORT

We landed at Cochin's International airport and checked in at Trident Hotel where we were warmly received with cool coconut water. It started to rain soon and the weather was miraculously cool.

Cochin is a beautiful city with warm people, everyone knowing English so we faced no language problems. The food was very delicious especially their Malabari paranthas which any normal person can eat at least three nonstop. They are non-vegetarians but relax vegetarian menu also offers a lot of palatable dishes. Cochin is a seaport and a navy base so the discipline and the security are well taken care by defense officers. The Princess Street in Cochin offers one of the best bakeries with French delicacies at most amazingly low cost.

THE PRINCESS STREET IN COCHIN



BACKWATERS OF KERALA

CATAMARAN BOAT MEN CATCHING FISHES

The trip to Allepy was also breathtakingly nostalgic. Clean highways lined with coconut trees were amazing. We reached Allepy within an hour from Cochin. We hired a private houseboat and set out for a beautiful ride on the backwaters of Arabian Sea. We relaxed and spent 8 hours watching the large stretch of backwaters with small villages and people offering hot Keralite food at subsidized rates.

WAY TO ATTIRIPILLI

The trip to Attiripilli Falls was a trip to be remembered. Nestled between the ranges of the Nilgiri Hills, the vibrant waterfall is worth many laurels. The security and cleanliness is worth appreciation that needs to be followed by rest of our states.

The trip to Kerala was one of the best trips I ever had and it is my privilege to share it with you. So you also go, enjoy and relax in God's Own Country.

Departmental Activities 2016-17

Durba Biswas
BA(H) Geography
II Year

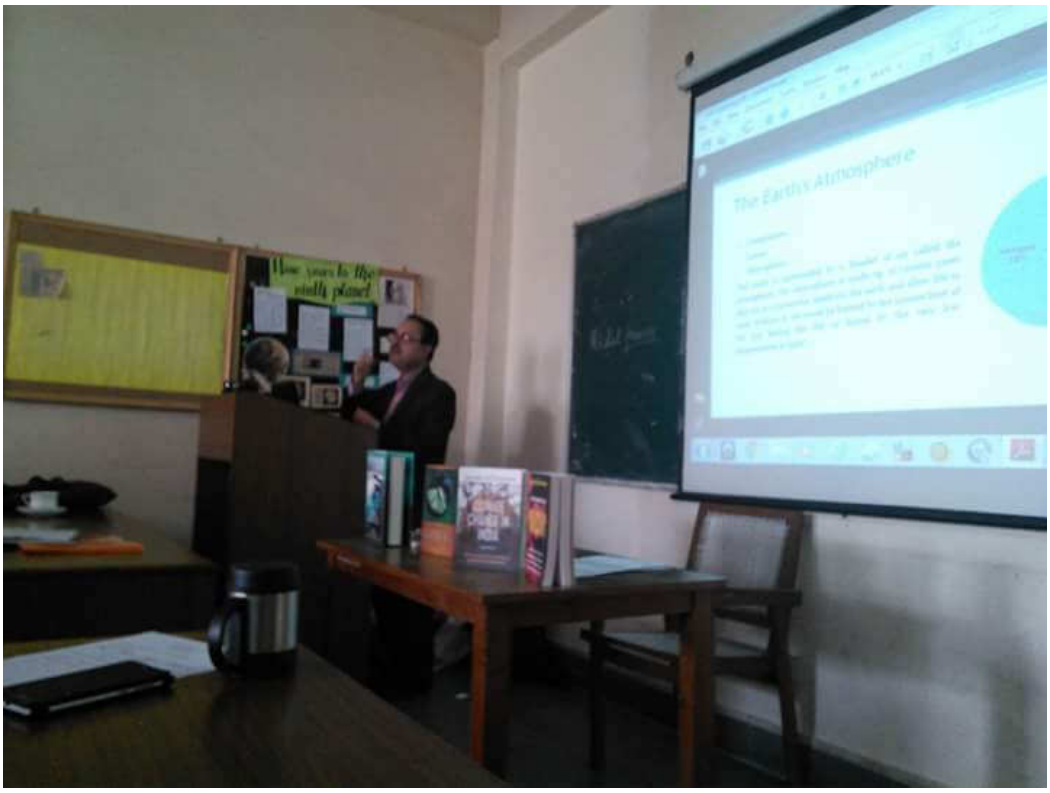
The Department of Geography, Miranda House along with its usual academic curriculums also hosted a plethora of events which attracted students of various colleges across the city to come and learn. We had some very innovative programs, informative lectures, etc. all for a better perspective of geography.

METKIDS Program:

The METKIDS Program (Geography and You in collaboration with the Indian Meteorological Society) workshop began on the 8th of February 2016 in the Department of Geography, Miranda House. It aims at preparing students to observe climate patterns and precipitation measurements and providing them an opportunity to learn about meteorological principles, forecasting methods and advanced observing techniques such as Radar and Satellite. This programmed was started after the installation of the very first automatic weather station (AWS) of University of Delhi in Miranda House on 29th January, 2016. The Davis AWS is a wireless set up which is a Vantage pro 2 professional weather station with a weather link software data logger. It has an integrated sensor suite and gives data in the NOAA format. This was a huge step in the scientific collection of real time weather data in the college.

The METKIDS Program had two sessions - the winter and the monsoon session in February and September, 2016 respectively. Some selected candidates from first and second years of geography department of Miranda House attended this programmed. Various meteorological officers from the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) taught us about the many aspects of data interpretation and weather forecasting. First a thorough introduction was given about the weather station, all its parts and how to access the data. Students were made to download an application in their phones called weather link mobile which enabled them to get data from the AWS anytime they want. The AWS gave data on mainly three phenomenons - pressure, rainfall and temperature. The wind speed and humidity are also recorded. Lectures were also given on the earth's atmosphere and various phenomenons in the atmosphere. Retired. Air Vice Marshall Mr. Ajit Tyagi delivered lecture on how data is coded and interpreted at IMD. Coding and decoding of IMD data was also taught to the students.

Installation of the automatic weather station



Students being taught about the earth's atmosphere

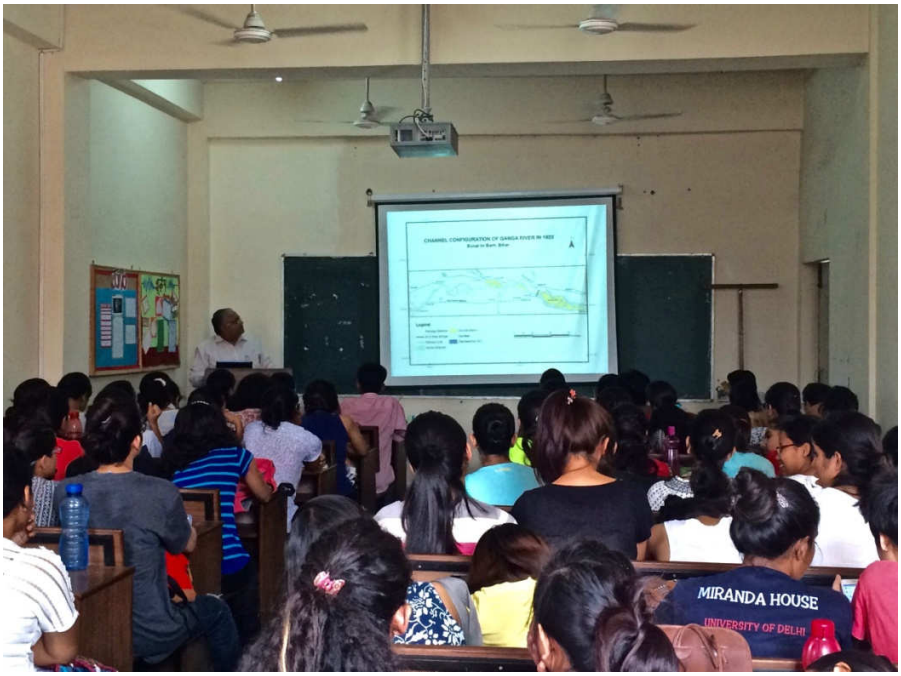
Between the winter and monsoon session, the students were divided into five groups and were given topics to make presentations on. The topics were - heat wave, cold

wave, urban heat island, diurnal variation in temperature and thunderstorm. The METKIDS programmed resumed in September with the monsoon session. The main objective of this session was to give the students a chance to present their projects so that they could be evaluated. Along with this, we were given lectures on Indian monsoon and tropical cyclones. Mr. Ajit Tyagi was there to evaluate the presentations. The students presented quality project with many convincing points. That concluded the METKIDS programmed for this year. It was a very interesting and knowledgeable session and students especially ones who want to pursue climatology benefited greatly. Department of Geography, Miranda House is very grateful to Geography and You and its entire team for such an innovative and helpful session.

Talk on Geo-Spatial Data For Geomorphic Interpretation:

On 15th September, 2016, the Geography Department of Miranda House hosted a talk on Integrating Geo-Spatial data for Geomorphic Interpretation by Dr. VAV Raman, Associate Professor, Department of Geography, Shaheed Bhagat Singh College, University of Delhi. He specializes in Geomorphology, Landscape System Analysis, Remote Sensing and GIS and Environmental Geography.

He started his lecture by showing one geomorphic feature in a topography sheet, aerial photo, satellite image and field view thus comparing the different sources of data. His talk mainly consisted of understanding geomorphic features from these sources. The features were divided into two sections - the ones in the Himalayan belt, and the ones in the alluvial fan or plain regions. The features in the Himalayan belt included folds and faults, anticlines and synclines, tectonic and neo tectonic formations and spurs which cause formation of tributaries citing various examples from his field work. He also talked about how these natural processes along with some anthropogenic factors because catastrophic results like landslides which cause damage to humans and property. He then went on to talk about various features of the plains which included meandering of the rivers which goes on to form ox bow lakes, faults along alluvial fan, braided streams, bank erosion and shifting of river courses. He gave emphasis on the middle Ganga plain and the Bihar plain showing various aerial photos and also the same features on topography sheets. He mentioned how shifting of river courses causes flooding and brings devastation to so many areas. Like for example, the river Kosi is called “The sorrow of Bihar” for the same reason. He also explained how some features are not clear when we go for field visit but is evident from the aerial photos and vice versa. Another interesting aspect of his talk was when he compared the geomorphic features of the two great Indian rivers - Ganga and Brahmaputra. He ended his presentation by showing a picture of a delta which marks the end of a river as well.



It was a very informative and interesting talk not only for the first year students who have geomorphology as a part of their syllabus but also for the others who studied it earlier. He supported his point by various examples and pictures from his field visits which helped students understand them better. Many facts that he mentioned was an eye opener for most of the students. He also cleared all the doubts the students presented after his talk. Overall, it was a successful event and department of geography, Miranda House is grateful to Dr. VAV Raman for this beautiful talk session.

Talk on Governing Riverscapes: A study of the Yamuna, Urban Environmental change along the river of Yamuna in Delhi.

On 28th September, 2016, the Department of Geography, Miranda House organized a lecture on Governing Riverscapes: A study of the Yamuna, Urban Environmental change along the river Yamuna in Delhi by Dr. Alexander Follmann. Dr. Alexander Follmann is a lecturer and researcher at Institute of Geography, University of Cologne, Germany. The main focus of his lecture was the harmful impacts of urban environmental changes on various rivers especially Yamuna. The Yamuna is one of the most polluted rivers in the world and a leading factor to this is the development happening on its banks.

He talked about the Yamuna's importance and its contribution to the development happening around it. So to save such an important source of survival, Delhi needs proper planning. He explained how systematic planning of area or landscape near Yamuna can help it to survive. The deterioration of the Yamuna over the years has happened due to various activities being performed in and around it. The industries discharge wastes, the sewage system is not up to the mark, the boats and steamers cause pollution and so on and so forth. He thinks that the Yamuna Biodiversity Park is an

important step taken by the Government of India to help the Yamuna and it should be allotted more funds and better infrastructure to strengthen and help Yamuna.

Dr. Follmann delivering his lecture.

He also narrated his personal experience of his visit to Yamuna and how it facilitates Delhi and regions nearby it by providing water and how it in turn has been essentially treated as garbage dump. He concluded by saying that Yamuna is in a very precarious state and only proper planning and efforts by government and non-governmental institutions can solve the problem. General awareness of people living near Yamuna is also important. The once mighty and beautiful river has helped Delhi prosper and it deserves our gratitude and respect in turn. Department of Geography, Miranda House would like to thank Dr. Alexander Follmann for delivering such an enthralling lecture and we the future geographers of India promise to help save our beautiful river.

TYPOLOGY OF SOLID WASTE

Mahima Goel
BA (Program)
II Year

Solid waste is defined as non-liquid, non- soluble, material ranging from municipal garbage to industrial wastes that contain complex and sometimes hazardous substances. In other words, we can say that any useless, unwanted material that is not liquid or gas is referred as solid waste. For example, newspaper, bread, racked leaves, etc.

CLASSIFICATION OF SOLID WASTE

A. CLASSIFICATION ON THE BASIS OF SOURCES

The solid waste composition varies widely depending upon its source. Accordingly, various categorizations of wastes are:-

1. RESIDENTIAL – It refers to the waste generated mainly from food preparation, sweeping food scrappers, wood pieces, clothes, old paper, packing, bottles, crockery wastes, furnishing materials, garden wastes, vegetables waste etc.

2. COMMERCIAL - This category of wastes are generated from the business premises, shops and offices, go down, market, department stores, paper, packing material glass, metals etc.

3. INDUSTRIAL - Nearly every industry generates waste. For Example, in the computer software industry, writing software generates hazardous waste. It uses acid, chemical and solvents. Other wastes are generated in the manufacture of fiber optics and copper wire used in electric transmission, magnetic disks in technical manuals.

4. INSTITUTIONAL – School, colleges, research organizations, community halls, religious places generate this type of refuse. The major constituents are waste printer paper, polythene, rejected office stationeries etc.

5. CONSTRUCTION – This includes dust, leaf litter, building debris and treatment plant sediments. These arise from various activities like demolition, construction, street cleaning, land scrapping etc.

6. AGRICULTURE – This mainly includes spoiled food grain, vegetable, glass litter, pesticides, herbicides, soluble nitrates generated from fields and farms.

7. MEDICAL – Hospitals use special care in disposing of wastes contaminated with blood and tissue. Hospitals must be careful with needle, scalpels, glassware sharps, injections, infusion kits etc.

8. E-WASTE – They are electronic devices. Used electronics for reuse, resale are also considered as e-waste. This leads to adverse human health effect.

SOURCES OF WASTE

RESIDENTIAL WASTE

CONSTRUCTION WASTE

COMMERCIAL WASTE

AGRICULTURAL WASTE

INDUSTRIAL WASTE

MEDICAL WASTE

INSTITUTIONAL WASTE

E-WASTE

B. CLASSIFICATION BY HOSSATI AND KUMAR

1. GARBAGE – Putrescible wastes from food, slaughter houses, canning and freezing industries.
2. RUBBISH – These are non putrescible wastes either combustible or non combustible. These include wood, paper, rubber, leather, garden waste, glass, metal, ceramics, stones etc.
3. ASHES – Residues of combustion, solid products after heating and cooking and incineration by the municipal, industrial, hospital and apartment areas .
4. DEAD ANIMALS – House hold pets, birds, rodents, zoo animals and anatomical and pathological tissue from hospitals.
5. SEWAGE SLUDGE – These include screening waste, settled solids etc.
6. LARGE WASTES – Demolition and construction waste, automobiles, furniture, refrigerator, and other home appliances, trees, fires etc.
7. INDUSTRY – This classification includes chemicals, paints, sand and explosives.
8. MINING – Tailings, slug ropes, culm piles at mine areas come under this.
9. AGRICULTURAL - This includes farm animal manure, crop residues and others.

C. CLASSIFICATION OF WASTE BASED ON PROPERTIES

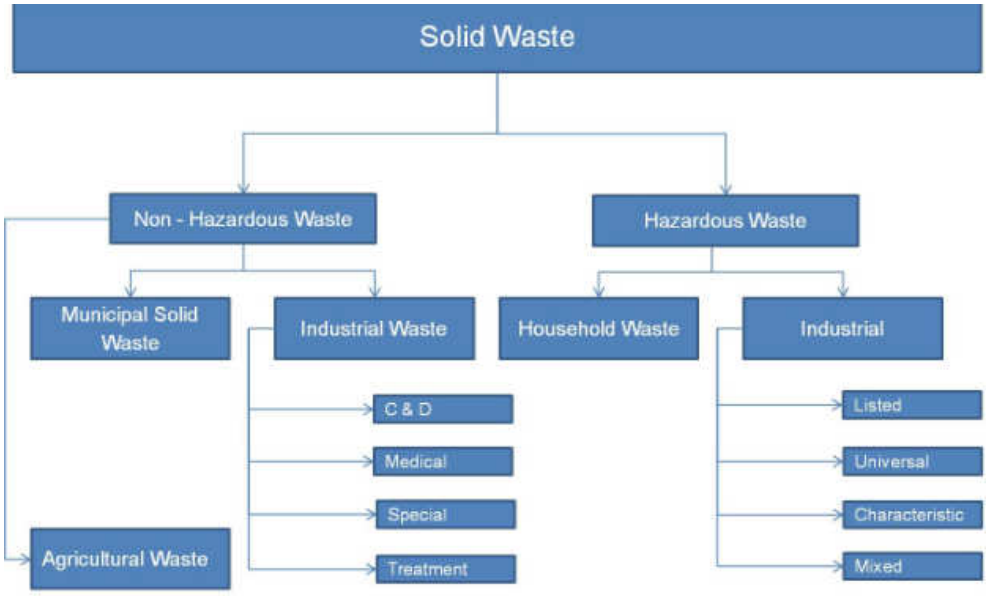
1. BIO-DEGRADABLE – These wastes can be degraded. Example, paper, woo, fruits, etc
2. NON-BIODEGRADABLE - These wastes cannot be degraded. These include plastics, bottles, cans etc.

D. CLASSIFICATION OF WASTE BASED ON EFFECT ON HUMAN AND ENVIRONMENT

1. HAZARDOUS WASTE – Those substances which are unsafe to use commercially,

industrially, agriculturally or economically and have any of the following properties – ignitability, corrosivity, reactivity and toxicity are hazardous waste.

2. NON-HAZARDOUS WASTE – Substances which are safe to use commercially, industrially, agriculturally or economically and do not have any of the properties such as ignitability , corrosivity , reactivity and toxicity. Non hazardous waste usually create disposal problems.



E. CLASSIFICATION OF WASTE ACCORDING TO PERCENTAGE OF INGREDIENTS

- COMBUSTIBLE – These wastes include paper, wood, textiles, rubbers, plastics, garden wastes etc.
- NON-COMBUSTIBLE - These include metal, glass, ceramics, stones, dirt etc.
- HAZARDOUS – These are produced in the industries, institutes, hospitals, and laboratories. These are dangerous to the living organism immediately.
- SEWAGE SLUDGE – The sewage treatment plants produce huge amounts of sludge during primary and secondary phase of treatment, these are sticky and rich in pathogens that require proper treatment. They are both are organic and inorganic.

F. CLASSIFICATION BASED ON CHARACTERSTICS

1. ORGANIC – Wastes those are generally biodegradable and decompose in the process which emits offensive and irritating smell when unattended. Example, garbage.

2. INORGANIC – Waste that does not compose at any rate come under inorganic wastes. Example, rubbish.

G. CLASSIFICATION OF WASTE BASED ON THEIR ORIGIN

1. MUNICIPAL – Municipal solid waste is heterogeneous mixture composed primarily of paper and paperboard, yard waste, plastics, food waste, metals, materials such as rubber, leather, textiles, wood etc.

2. BIO-MEDICAL – Bio-medical waste means any waste which is generated during the diagnosis, treatment or immunization of human beings or animals or in research activities pertaining or in the production of testing of biological. It includes wastes like sharp waste, pathological waste, pharmaceutical waste etc.

3. INDUSTRIAL – Solid waste that are generated by manufacturing and processing units of various industries like chemical, petroleum, coal, metal gas, sanitary paper etc.

4. AGRICULTURAL – Wastes that are generated from farming activities. The substances are mostly bio-degradable. This includes food grains, vegetable, glass litter etc.

5. RADIOACTIVE – Wastes containing radioactive materials are usually byproducts of nuclear processes. Sometimes industries that are not directly involved in nuclear activities may also produce some radioactive wastes. Example, isotopes, chemical sludge etc.

6. E-WASTE –Electronic wastes generated from any modern establishments. They may be described as discarded electrical or electronic devices. Some electronic scrap components such as CRTS's may contain contaminants such as Pb, Cd or brominate flame retardants.

H. CLASSIFICATION OF WASTE BASED ON TYPES

These wastes may have reuse values in some other places, but these are of no value to the possessor who wishes to dispose them.

1. REFUSE – It includes all types of rubbish and garbage
   Rubbish – This refers to that portion of refuse, which is non putrescible solid waste as packaging material.

Garbage – This refers to that portion of refuse, which is putrescible. These are the product of cooking and storage of meet, fruits and vegetables.

2. BULKY WASTE – These include household wastes which need special collection mechanisms. These include household appliances such as refrigerators, washing machine, furniture, vehicle parts, tyres, tree, branches etc.

3. STREET WASTE – This includes wastes from streets, walkways, parks, playgrounds.

CASE STUDIES

1.DHAKA

Dhaka city anticipates generating 4,600-5,100 tons of waste/day – a 50% rise from 2004. There were adverse impacts diseases, poor air quality. With financial and technical assistance from Japan International Corporation Agency, Dhaka city designed a solid waste master plan in 2005. The project improved the waste sector by improving working conditions of waste pickers and trained them. The major component of the integrated plan was waste collection where door to door collection process was there using rickshaw operation 19 hours a day. A national 3R – Reuse, Reduce, and Recyle law was developed. Landfill will have leachate collection and treatment facilities. There will be closure of Berri landfill.

2. SAN FRANCISCO

In 2009, San Francisco, California championed the mandatory recycling and composting ordinance. It requires all residents, restraints and business to separate waste. The new mandate converts 600 tons of organic waste into nutrient rich soil compost. Farmers were benefitted from this compost. The success of the organic waste policy hinged on several factors including aggressive state and local landfill waste diversion; where there was climate action plan and zero waste by 2020 goals. Through a strong, sustained partnership with ecology, local rates are structured to provide financial incentives for recycling and composting. Residents pay based on the volume of trash disposed. Sustained investment and public awareness increased participation in compost and recycling programmed.

3. CAMBODIA

An effective waste management strategy was set up with the support of Blacksmith Institute in US .This project began in 2002, with three full time park rangers picking up litter from ground and emptying the bins. New equipment was purchased such as small tractor for transforming waste to disposal site, plastic liner for litter, recycling bin for bottles and cans were strategically placed. Recyclables are taken for sale. There has been 60% decrease in litter. Tourists have commented favorably on the cleaner surroundings. Park authorities and food vendors continue to implement the waste management strategy, thereby building capacity and ownership for the program and ensuring its ongoing stability.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

Neha Pilania
BA (Program)
II Year

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Methods of waste reduction, waste reuse and recycling are the preferred options when managing waste. There are many environmental benefits that can be derived from the use of these methods. They reduce or prevent green house gas emissions, reduce the release of pollutants, conserve resources, save energy and reduce the demand for waste treatment technology and landfill space. Therefore it is advisable that these methods be adopted and incorporated as part of the waste management plan.

Waste reduction and reuse

They eliminate the production of waste at the source of usual generation and reduce the demands for large scale treatment and disposal facilities. Methods of waste reduction include manufacturing products with less packaging, encouraging customers to bring their own reusable bags for packaging, encouraging the public to choose reusable products such as cloth napkins and reusable plastic and glass containers, backyard composting, and sharing and donating any unwanted items rather than discarding them.

Recycling

Recycling refers to the removal of items from the waste stream to be used as raw materials in the manufacture of new products. Thus from this definition recycling occurs in three phases: first, the waste is sorted and recyclables collected, the recyclables are used to create raw materials. These raw materials are then used in the production of new products.

The sorting of recyclables may be done at the source (i.e. within the household or office) for selective collection by the municipality or to be dropped off by the waste producer at recycling centers. The pre-sorting at the source requires public cooperation.

Waste Collection

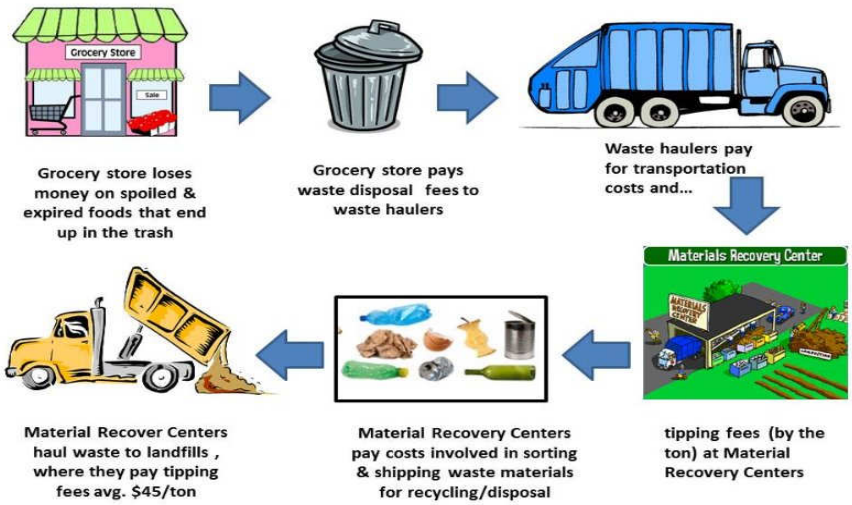
Waste from our homes is generally collected by our local authorities through regular waste collection, or by special collections for recycling. Within hot climates such as that of the Caribbean, the waste should be collected at least twice a week to control fly breeding, and the harboring of other pests in the community. Other factors to consider when deciding on frequency of collection are the odors caused by decomposition and the accumulated quantities.

Treatment & Disposal

Waste treatment techniques seek to transform the waste into a form that is more manageable, reduce the volume or reduce the toxicity of the waste thus making the waste easier to dispose of. Treatment methods are selected based on the composition, quantity, and form of the waste material. Some waste treatment methods being used today include subjecting the waste to extremely high temperatures, dumping on land or land filling and use of biological processes to treat the waste. It should be noted that treatment and disposal options are chosen as a last resort to the previously mentioned management strategies- reducing, reusing and recycling of waste.

TECHNOLOGIES AVAILABLE FOR PROCESSING, TREATMENT, AND DISPOSAL OF SOLID WASTE

The main technological options available for processing/treatment and disposal of MSW are composting, vermi composting, anaerobic digestion/biomethanation, incineration, gasification and pyrolysis, plasma pyrolysis, production of Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF), also known as pelletization and sanitary landfilling/landfill gas recovery.



Composting

Composting is a technology known in India since times immemorial. Composting is the decomposition of organic matter by micro-organism in warm, moist, aerobic and anaerobic environment. Farmers have been using compost made out of cow dung and other agro-waste. The compost made out of urban heterogeneous waste is found to be of higher nutrient value as compared to the compost made out of cow dung and agro-waste.

Main advantages of composting include improvement in soil texture and augmenting of micronutrient deficiencies. It also increases moisture holding capacity of the soil and helps in maintaining soil health. Moreover, it is an age-old established concept for recycling nutrients to the soil. It is simple and straight forward to adopt, for source separated MSW.

Vermi compositing

Vermi-compost is the natural organic manure produced from the excreta of earthworms fed on scientifically semi-decomposed organic waste. A few vermi composting plants generally of small size have been set up in some cities and towns in India, the largest plant being in Bangalore of about 100 MT/day capacities. Normally, vermi-composting is preferred to microbial composting in small towns as it requires less mechanization and it is easy to operate. It is, however, to be ensured that toxic material does not enter the chain which if present could kill the earthworms.

Waste to Energy

Even though the technology of waste to energy (WTE) projects has been proven worldwide; its viability and sustainability is yet to be demonstrated and established in the country. The main factors that determine the techno-economic viability of WTE projects are quantum of investment, scale of operation, availability of quality waste, statutory requirements and project risks. WTE projects generally involve higher capital investment and are more complex when compared to other options of waste disposal, but as pointed by Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources (MNES), gains in terms of waste reduction, energy, etc. are also higher.

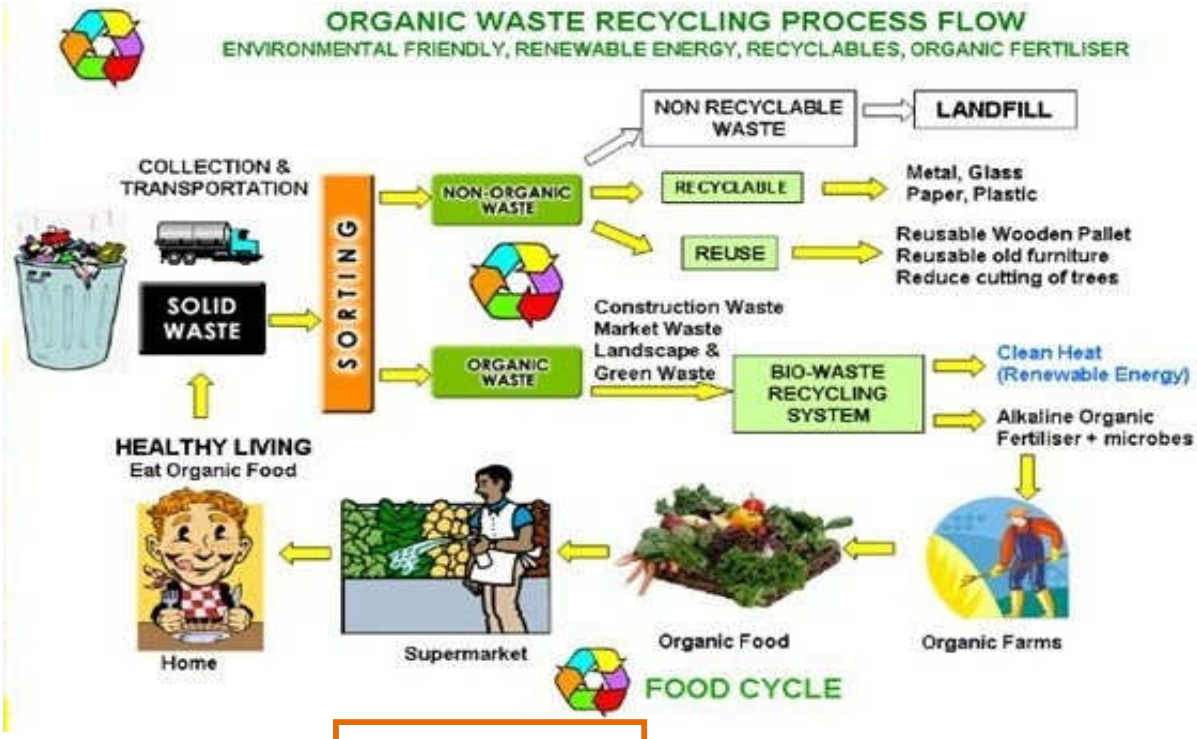
Anaerobic Digestion and Biomethanation

Biomethanation is a comparatively well-established technology for disinfections, deodorization and stabilization of sewage ludge, farmyard manures, animal slurries, and industrial sludge. Its application to the organic fraction of MSW is more recent and less extensive. It leads to bio-gas/power generation in addition to production of compost (residual sludge). This method provides a value addition to the aerobic (composting) process and also offers certain other clear advantages over composting in terms of energy production/consumption, compost quality and net environmental gains. This method is suitable for kitchen wastes and, other putrescible wastes, which may be too wet and lacking in structure for aerobic composting. It is a net energy producing process (100–150 kWh per tonne of waste input).

Biomethanation plants in India

Recently, a 5 MW power plant based on biomethanation technology was constructed and operationalized at Lucknow but unfortunately it had to be closed down for various reasons, one among them being non-supply of appropriate quality of MSW to the plant. The organic content in the waste supplied to the plant is reported to have been as low as 15 per cent.

Biomethanation technology on a small scale is also functioning at Vijayawada and at other places in the country for the treatment of selected organic waste collected from canteens, vegetable markets, etc.



मानव

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इतनी शिद्दत से ये दुनिया बनायी किसी ने इसमें सारी खूबसूरत मूल्यवान चीज को डाला, सबसे खूबसूरत और मुल्यावान चीज मानवायही मानव आज पूरा समाज, दुनिया देश को गंदा करने पर लगा है। पूरे जीव-जंतुओं में सबसे समझदार मानव है, पर इसकी हरकतें बहुत ही असहनीय है। ये अपनी जरूरत, शौक के लिए किसी भी जानवर की जान लेते हैं, तो कभी पेड़-पौधों की और कभी इंसान की भी।

इस पूरे मानव समाज से मैं पूछना चाहती हूँ क्या तरक्की, विकास का मतलब पूरे पर्यावरण, जीव-जंतुओं को नष्ट करना ही है, तो ऐसी तरक्की का क्या फायदा?

आज हर इंसान गलती करता है। जब घर में रहता है तो वह अपनी सफाई बस देखता है और अपने घर का कचड़ा चौराहे पर डाल आता है और वह तरह फैल जाता है।

मैं आप से पूछना चाहती हूँ कि आप ही बताएं जब आप रोड पर स्टेशन पर जाते हो तो हर एक कदम पर प्लास्टिक की बोतल, पॉलिथिन, अन्य खाने-पीने वाली वस्तु का पैकेट, रैपर मिलता है तो आपको कैसा लगता है यह देख कर?

शायद आपको भी उतना ही बुरा लगता होगा जितना मुझे लगता है पर हाँ आप एक काम कर सकते हैं, अगर वक्त है तो कुछ कचड़े को कुड़ेदान में डाल दें और जो कचड़ा फैलाते हुए दिखे उसे हक से बोलिए आप मेरी संपत्ति को गंदा कर रहे हैं। तो शायद हमारी और आपकी ये थोड़ी सी कोशिश रंग ला दे। जैसे मोदी जी का स्वच्छ भारत अभियान की शुरुआत तो सफाई के लिए की गई थी। बहुत हद तक यह सफल भी हुआ पर आज यह एक अपनी अच्छी फोटो प्रदर्शिनी का माध्यम बन गया है।

कुछ लोग झाड़ू एवं कूडा को छूकर अपनी तस्वीर को बस सोशल मीडिया पर वाह-वाही लूटने के लिए करते हैं।

स्वच्छ भारत तभी बनेगा जब हर व्यक्ति ईमानदार हो जाएगा। ईमानदार मतलब हर भारतीय नागरिक जब ये सोच ले की यह मेरा समाज देश है तो, वह अपनी ही सोच से पूरे देश को स्वच्छ बना देगा। जब हर व्यक्ति अपने कर्त्तव्य को समझने व निभाने लगे तो हर जगह पर कोने-कोने में आप दीप जला सकते हैं।

एक सोच से पूरा देश बदल सकता है। आप अपने अच्छे सोच-विचार को प्रयोग में लाए.... तो शायद आपकी वजह से ही कुछ बदलाव आ जाए।

पूजा, अनुष्ठान खत्म होने के बाद शेष बची हुई वस्तुएं, राख, फूल तथा अन्य वस्तुओं को आप नदी में न बहाएँ। इससे बहुत ही ज्यादा फायदा होगा हमारे लिए और उस अबोध जीव-जंतु के लिए जो उस नदी, ताल, गंगा से अपनी प्यास बुझाता होगा।

धूल की वजह से आपकी और पूरे समाज की श्वसन क्रिया खतरे में पड़ जाती है।

तिनका

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आज जो एक तिनका है वो एक विशाल जंगल के एक वृक्ष के छोटे भाग है। आप सोच रहे होंगे आखिर तिनका हीं क्यों.... तो इसका उत्तर शायद आपके पास हो ....। क्योंकि इसका जिम्मेदार पूरा मानव समाज है। अपनी जरूरत के लिए पर्यावरण को हम लोग तहस-नहस कर रहे हैं। जरा सोचिए जब हर तरफ सुखे पेड़-पोधे और सिर्फ छोटे-छोटे टुकड़े और तिनके ही तिनके दिखे तो ये मानव समाज कैसे जी सकेगा।

एशिया में सबसे ज्यादा मौत होती है इसमें से भी भारत में। वायु प्रदूषण से हर साल 1.2 मिलियन व्यक्ति की मौत होती है।

भारत के दिल्ली शहर जो इसकी राजधानी है यहाँ पर 8 लोग प्रतिदिन प्रदूषण के कारण मरते हैं। वायु प्रदूषण से प्रति वर्ष 3000 व्यक्ति की मौत होती है। ये आंकड़े देखकर रोंगटे खड़े हो जाते हैं ये मस्तिष्क सोचने पर मजबूर हो जाता है... और बार-बार यहीं ख्याल आता है कि हमारी जिन्दगी बहुत ही खतरे में हैं। इससे भी दुख की बात यह है कि भारत के अधिक युवा संख्या यही मौजूद है जो देश की तरक्की के साधन है। आज दिल्ली के हर भाग में विद्यार्थी अधिक संख्या है और इनकी जिन्दगी खतरे में है मतलब देश का भविष्य खतरे में है। यह पढ़ कर आप अधिक चिंतित न हो क्योंकि ये हमारे अपने पूवर्जो की और उनके द्वारा पर्यावरण के साथ किए गए छेड़-छाड़ का परिणाम है। विरासत में जमीन धन-दौलत के साथ आपको यह दूषित पर्यावरण भी अपनाना पड़ेगा।

मैं आपको यह समझाना चाहती हूँ कि आप ऐसा न करें और अपने आने वाली पीढ़ी का ख्याल रखते हुए संसाधन का उपयोग करें तथा पेड़-पौधे को अपनी ही नहीं अपने आने वाले पीढ़ी का भी संसाधन समझे और अधिक तिनके न बनने दें। यह आपकी जीत है।

प्रारंभिक ज्ञान

खूशबू
(भूगोल) प्रथम वर्ष

प्रारंभिक ज्ञान

सबसे बड़ा ग्रह	–	बृहस्पति
सबसे बड़ा उपग्रह	–	गनीमेड
सबसे बड़ा महाद्वीप	–	एशिया
सबसे बड़ा द्वीप	–	ग्रीनलैंड
सबसे बड़ा महासागर	–	प्रशांत महासागर
सबसे बड़ा सागर	–	भूमध्य सागर
सबसे बडा प्रायद्वीप	–	अरब प्रायद्वीप
सबसे बड़ी खाड़ी	–	मैक्सिको की खाड़ी
सबसे बड़ा मरुस्थल	–	सहारा (अफ्रीका)
सबसे बड़ी झील	–	कैस्पियन सागर
सबसे बड़ा डेल्टा	–	सुन्दरवन का डेल्टा
सबसे बड़ा देश (जनसंख्या)	–	चीन
सबसे बड़ा देश (क्षेत्रफल)	–	रूस
सबसे लम्बी नदी	–	नील नदी
सबसे ऊँची चोटी	–	एवरेस्ट
सबसे ऊँचा झरना	–	एंजिल (बेंनेजुऐला)
सबसे विशाल समुद्र	–	दक्षिण चीन सागर
सबसे विशाल उपसागर	–	हड़सन उपसागर
सबसे बड़ी पर्वत मालाएँ	–	हिमालय (काराकोरम)

भारत का भौगोलिक परिचय

खूशबू
(भूगोल) प्रथम वर्ष

भारत की भौगोलिक स्थिति का सामान्य परिचय

भारत प्राचीन काल से ही एक सुस्पष्ट भौगोलिक और सांस्कृतिक इकाई रहा है। पौराणिक राजा दुष्यंत के पुत्र भरत के नाम पर इस देश का नाम भारत पड़ा। इंडिया शब्द की व्युत्पत्ति सिंधु नदी नाम से हुई फारसवादी **स** अक्षर का उच्चारण **ह** के रूप में करते हैं। इसलिए उन्होंने सिंधु का उच्चारण हिन्दू के रूप में किया। सिंधु नदी के पूर्व की भूमि को हिस्तान कहा जाता था। यूनानी और रोमवासी सिंधु को इंडस और इसके पूर्व भूमि को इंडिया कहते हैं।

भारत की मुख्य भूमि 8º4' उत्तर अक्षांश से लेकर 37º 6' उत्तर अक्षांश और 68º 7' पूर्व देशांतर से लेकर 97º 25' पूर्व देशांतर के मध्य विस्तृत है।

देश का विस्तार उत्तर से दक्षिण तक 3215 कि.मी. है। भारत भूमध्य रेखा के उत्तर में स्थित है। कर्कवृत्त भारत को लगभग दो बराबर भागों में विभाजित करता है। 82º½ पूर्वी देशांतर इसके लगभग मध्य भाग इलाहाबाद से होकर गुजरती है, जो मानक समय है। यह ग्रीनविच समय से 5 घंटा 30 मिनट आगे है।

भारत का क्षेत्रफल 3287263 वर्ग कि.मी. है। क्षेत्रफल की दृष्टि से यह विश्व का सातवां सबसे बड़ा देश है। भारत विश्व के लगभग 2.45% भूभाग पर स्थित है। जनसंख्या की दृष्टि से ये चीन के बाद आता है। भारत की कुल जनसंख्या 2011 के जनगणना के आधार पर 1210193422 है।

भारत की सीमाएँ भौगोलिक दृष्टि से सुस्पष्ट है। उसके उत्तर-पश्चिम और उत्तर-पूर्व में विशाल पर्वत माला है तथा दक्षिण, पश्चिम और पूर्व में सागर है।

कृषि योग्य भूमि की दृष्टि से विश्व में संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका के बाद भारत दूसरे स्थान पर आता है।

सीमाएं

भारत के स्थलीय सीमा की लंबाई 15200 कि.मी. तथा मुख्य भूमि की तटीय सीमा की लंबाई 6100 कि.मी है। द्वीपों समेत देश की तटीय सीमा 7516.6 कि.मी. है। प्रायद्वीपी पठार हिन्द महासागर में लगभग 1600

कि.मी. की दूरी तक घुस गया है। इसी के कारण हिन्द महासागर दो सागरों अर्थात् अरब सागर और बंगाल की खाड़ी के रूप में बंट गया है। भारत का भौगोलिक विस्तार इतना है कि जब अरुणाचल प्रदेश में सूर्योदय होता है, तब पोरबंदर रात के अंधेरे में डूबा रहता है। भारत का दक्षिणतम भाग इंदिरा प्वाइंट निकोबार द्वीप समूह में हैं इसके विपरीत भारत का उत्तरतम भाग जम्मू और कश्मीर राज्य में है। इस राज्य की उत्तरी सीमा पर पामीर है, जहाँ विभिन्न दिशाओं में पर्वत श्रेणियां फैली हुई है। इन दोनों भागों के बीच लगभग 3000 कि.मी. का विस्तार है। और जलवायु की दशाएं तथा प्राकृतिक संसाधन है।

भारत की स्थल सीमा पर बांग्लादेश म्यांमार, भूटान, नेपाल, चीन, अफगानिस्तान तथा पाकिस्तान स्थित है। पूर्व में बांग्लादेश के साथ भारत की सबसे लंबी सीमा है जो 4096 कि.मी. है।

पड़ोसी देश के साथ सीमा विस्तार

बांग्लादेश	4096 कि.मी.
चीन	3917 कि.मी.
पाकिस्तान	3310 कि.मी.
नेपाल	1752 कि.मी.
म्यांमार	1558 कि.मी.
भूटान	587 कि.मी.
अफगानिस्तान	

भारतीय सीमा पर स्थित राज्य

पाकिस्तान :- गुजरात, राजस्थान, पंजाब जम्मू कश्मीर

अफगानिस्तान :- जम्मू-कश्मीर (पाकिस्तान अधिकृत क्षेत्र)

बांग्लादेश :- पश्चिम बंगाल, असम, मेघालय, त्रिपरा, मिजोरम

म्यांमार :- अरूणाचल प्रदेश, नागालैंड, मणिपुर, मिजोरम

भूटान :- सिक्किम, पश्चिम बंगाल असम, अरूणाचल प्रदेश

चीनः- जम्मू-कश्मीर, हिमाचल प्रदेश, उत्तराखंड, सिक्कम, अरूणाचल प्रदेश

नेपाल :- उत्तर प्रदेश, उत्तराखंड, बिहार, पश्चिमी बंगाल सिक्किम

श्रीलंका:- भी भारत का पड़ोसी देश है जो हिन्द महासागर में पाक जल संधि द्वारा भारत की मुख्य भूमि से पृथक करते हैं। एडम्स ब्रिज, श्रीलंका एवं तमिलनाडु की बीच स्थित है। एडम्स ब्रिज के उत्तर में पाक की खाड़ी एवं दक्षिण में मन्नार की खाड़ी है, साथ ही साथ पम्बन द्वीप भी है जो तमिलनाडु के रामेश्वरम में स्थित है जो एडम्स ब्रिज का ही हिस्सा है।

भारत के प्रमुख जलडमरुमध्य

भारत :- श्रीलंका के बीच - मन्नार की खाड़ी

पाक की खाड़ी- पाक जल संधि

भारत के प्रमुख चैनल

10^{0} चैनल - लघु अंडमान - कार निकोबार

90^{0} चैनल - मिनीकोय - लक्षद्वीप

8^{0} चैनल - मालद्वीप - मिनीकायॅय

ग्रेट चैनल - इंदिरा प्वांइट - इंडोनेशिया

भारत राज्य जिनसे होकर कर्क रेखा गुजरती है:-

- गुजरात -
- मध्य प्रदेश - भोपाल
- छत्तीसगढ़ -
- झारखण्ड
- पश्चिम बंगाल -
- त्रिपुरा - अगरतला
- मिजोरम

वृक्ष संरक्षण

एकता
(भूगोल) प्रथम वर्ष

एक-एक करके सारे पेड़ काट रहे हैं,

हम अपने हाथों ही अपनी मौत बाँट रहे हैं।

झुलसा रहे हैं जग को हम जान-बूझकर

कितनी रफ़्तार से देखों जंगल चाट रहे हैं।

कभी बाढ़, कभी सूखा, कभी ज़लज़ला,

ये कैसा चला है सिलसिला।

कभी मौत बरसाता है ये गगन,

कभी निगलने को ज़मीन दौड़ती है।

है खुद की ही गलती,

जिसका है हमें परिणाम मिला।

कभी बाढ़, कभी सूखा, कभी ज़लज़ला,

ये कैसा चला हे सिलसिला।

समतल हरियाली को भी कर दिया रेगिस्तान,

बड़े-से-बड़े जंगलों को भी बना डाला शमशान।

गलती है हर इंसान की,

परिणाम पर एक-दूजे को डाँट रहे हैं।

एक-एक करके सारे पेड़ काट रहे हैं।।

"वृक्ष रोपण करें, भविष्य के लिए, खुद के लिए"

घर साफ सुथरा तो पार्क-सड़क गंदे क्यों?

विनिता
(भूगोल) प्रथम वर्ष

किसी भी अच्छे व व्यवस्थित स्थान के बारे में, चाहे वह रेलवे स्टेशन हो, होटल हो या रेस्तरां हो, हम उसके सफाई व स्वच्छता के स्तर को देखकर जान सकते हैं। और यही एक देश के लिए भी लागू होता हैं अगर कोई देश स्वच्छ नहीं है तो उसके नागरिकों में चाहे कितनी भी प्रतिभा हो, वह देश कभी भी उन्नति नहीं कर सकता। इसलिए स्वच्छता की महत्ता को कुछ ही शब्दों में व्यक्त नहीं किया जा सकता।

भारत अपने प्राकृतिक सौंदर्य के लिए विश्व में अनूठा स्थान रखता है। यही सुंदरता विश्व भर के लोगों को अपनी ओर खींच लाती है। पर जब देश के गाँव-शहर, गली-मोहल्ले, सड़क, पार्क आदि ही गंदे होंगे तो कोई भी यहाँ नहीं आना चाहेगा। शायद इसीलिए कि भारत विश्व में एक सम्मानजनक स्थान पा सके, हमारे माननीय प्रधानमंत्री ने 'स्वच्छ भारत अभियान' की शुरुआत की है। सिर्फ उन्होंने ही नहीं बल्कि देश की सभी बड़ी हस्तियों ने इस अभियान में बढ़-चढ़कर हिस्सा लिया है।

सबसे महत्वपूर्ण सवाल यह है कि हम इतने गन्दे क्यों है? हम भारतीय गन्दे नहीं है बल्कि हम तो साफ-सफाई का बहुत ध्यान रखते है। यहां के लोग अपने घर के अंदर जूते-चप्पल भी नहीं पहनते ताकि घर साफ-सुथरा रहें हमारे देश में मन्दिर, पूजा-स्थल बहुत साफ रहते हैं। देश के सबसे बड़े त्योहार दीपावली के माह-भर पहले ही घरों की साफ-सफाई व रंग-रोग़न शुरू हो जाते है।

हम यह बात भी मानते हैं कि लक्ष्मी उसी घर में निवास करती है जो घर साफ-सुथरा होता है। पर हमने कभी इस बात पर गौर नहीं किया कि घर के बाहर की स्वच्छता को देखकर ही उस घर के अंदर की साफ-सफाई का अंदाजा लग जाता है। हम हमारे घर में सब कुछ साफ-सुथरा रखना चाहते है पर दरवाजे के बाहर हमें कोई मतलब नहीं होता। हम हमारे घरों में स्वच्छता के लिए बहुत सावधानी बरतते हैं।

हमारे देश के गंदा होने के क्या कारण है जिसके कारण विदेशी कंपनियां भारत में निवेश नहीं करना चाहती? इसके लिए कौन जिम्मेदार है? क्या नगर पालिका या नगर निगम इसके लिए जिम्मेदार है जो अपना कार्य कुशलता से नहीं कर रहे है? इसके लिए हम दोषी है। हमारी मानसिकता इसके लिए जिम्मेदार है। हमारी यह सोच कि 'जो बाहर है वह मेरा नहीं है।' व मेरे थोड़े से कचरे से क्या फर्क पड़ जाएगा।' इस देश को गंदा बना रही है। पास में पड़े कूड़ेदान में फेंकने की बजाए हम उसे सड़क पर ही फेंक देते हैं। जब हम घर से बाहर निकलते है तो उसी कचरे को देखकर नाक सिकोड़ कर गालियाँ देते हुए निकल जाते है व अनजाने में स्वयं को ही गाली देते हैं। जो मोहल्ला साफ-सुथरा होता है वहाँ सभी का जाने का व रहने का मन करता है तो क्यों न हम स्वयं के मोहल्ले को भी स्वच्छ बनाये। अगर हम सच में एक स्वच्छ देश चाहते है तो हमें स्वयं को ऐसे कदम उठाने पड़ेंगे बगैर यह सोचे कि कोई और आए और हाथ में झाड़ू लेकर साफ करे।

कई विदेश जाने वाले भारतीय वहाँ की सफाई को देखकर अपने दाँतों तले अँगुली दबाने के लिए मजबूर हो जाते हैं। वहाँ साफ सफाई सरकार की वजह से नहीं है बल्कि वहाँ के लोग स्वयं जागरुक हैं, वे स्वयं वहाँ कचरा नहीं फैलाते हैं। हम भारतीय रसोई के बर्तनों को जूठे हाथों से छूते तक नहीं है वहीं हम दूसरों के घर के बाहर कूडा ऐसे फेंकते हैं जैसे ओलंपिक खेलों में गोला फेंक रहे हैं। आवारा पशु, सूअर, आदि

गलियों में घूमते रहते है व गलियों को दूषित करते है जिससे बीमारियाँ फैलती हैं उनके रहने के लिए कोई निश्चित स्थान नहीं है।

हमारा देश भारत विभिन्न धर्मों व संस्कृतियों का संगम स्थल है। यहाँ की जनता हमारे देश को अलग ही नज़रिये से देखती है कि जो बाहर है वह मेरा नहीं है। आखिर यह देश भी तो हमारा ही है हमारी आन-बान-शान व पहचान इसी देश से तो पर हमारा नजरियाँ अलग ही है व इससे चाहे लाखों नगरपालिका। नगर निगम के कर्मचारी क्यों न काम करें, प्रधानमंत्री व नेता सैकड़ों भाषण दें तो भी भारत स्वच्छ नहीं बन सकता। कुछ लोग इस बात से कतराते है कि अगर वे मोहल्ले में झाड़ू उठाकर काम करेंगे तो उनकी इज्जत क्या रह जाएगी, लोग क्या कहेंगे इत्यादि। भगवान कृष्ण ने भी राजसूय यज्ञ के समय जूठी पत्तले उठाई थी। उनका संदेश था कि आदमी अपने कर्म व सोच से बड़ा बनता है। कोई भी काम छोटा या बड़ा नहीं होता। बहुत से नेताओं, अभिनेताओं, बड़ी-बड़ी कंपनियों के मालिकों, जिन्होंने आज तक अपने हाथों में झाड़ू नहीं उठाई थी, उन्होंने भी झाड़ू उठाकर इस अभियान में अपना योगदान दिया। पर यह काम तभी पूरा हो सकता है जब हम सब मिलकर सोचें कि यह देश भी हमारा घर है। इसको स्वच्छ रखना हम सबकी जिम्मेदारी है।

स्वच्छ भारत एक सुखी व समृद्ध भारत की कुँजी है जिसे खोलने पर खुशहाली ही खुशहाली है। हमारे माननीय प्रधानमंत्री श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी द्वारा चलाया गया यह स्वच्छ भारत अभियान, महात्मा गाँधी के लिए स्वच्छ भारत का अनूठा तोहफा होगा जो हर भारतीय के जीवन को बदलने की क्षमता रखता है। शास्त्रों में पहला सुख निरोगी काया को कहा गया है। अगर बाहरी वातावरण ही स्वच्छ नहीं होगा, कूड़े-करकट पर मक्खियाँ भिनभिनाती हुई हमारे खाने पर बैठेंगी, मच्छरों के कारण तरह-तरह की बीमारियाँ जन्म लेंगी तो कोई कैसे तन के भी स्वच्छ व स्वस्थ होने की कल्पना कर सकता है।

भारत के करीब साठ प्रतिशत घरों में शौचालय नहीं है। लोग खुले में ही शौच जाते हैं। लोगों के स्वास्थ्य पर इसका बुरा असर पड़ता है। वे अनेक बीमारियों का घर बन जाते हैं। इस संदर्भ में अनेक अभियान चलाए जा रहे है। 'निर्मल भारत अभियान' के तहत घरों में शौचालय बनवाए जा रहे हैं। इसके बावजूद भी कई घरों में शौचालय होने के बाद भी वे घर से बाहर जाते है इसलिए शौचालय के निर्माण के साथ-साथ उन्हें साफ रखना भी जरूरी है। महात्मा गाँधी ने भी कहा था कि एक शौचालय को एक बैठक की तरह साफ होना चाहिए।

स्वच्छता अभियान को सफल बनाने के लिए युवा वर्ग की भूमिका अहम है। अगर हर व्यक्ति अपने आसपास के सिर्फ दस मीटर का क्षेत्र साफ करता है तो हमारी जनसंख्या इतनी है कि पूरा देश साफ हो सकता हैं एक समस्या यह भी है कि साफ करने के बाद उस कचरे को फेंकने की व्यवस्था नहीं है। इसके लिए नगर पालिका को आधुनिकरण, हर मुहल्ले में कचरा-पात्र व जन जागरुकता बहुत जरूरी है। शौचालय के निर्माण के साथ-साथ उनकी सफाई के लिए पानी की सप्लाई भी आवश्यक है।

निगरानी के अभाव में सरकार द्वारा इन योजनाओं में लगाए गए करोड़ो अरबों रुपए धूल में चले जाते हैं। कुछ गाँवों में लड़कियाँ इसलिए स्कूल नहीं जाती क्योंकि वहाँ शौचालय नहीं है। शौचालय बनवाने के साथ-साथ

हर जगह नगरपलिका के द्वारा रखवाए गए रिसाइकेबल कचरा पात्र भी होने चाहिए। प्लास्टिक थैलियों के प्रयोग पर पूरी तरह प्रतिबंध लगा देना चाहिए। थैलियों के कारण पर्यावरण को तो नुकसान पहुंचता ही है व साथ ही अस्वच्छ वातावरण भी बनता है।

भारत की स्वच्छता का अंदाजा शायद इस कथन से लगाया जा सकता हैं एक विदेशी पर्यटक ने आगरा शहर को देखकर कहा "आगरा के लिए ताज महल के लिए का होना उसका सौभाग्य है पर ताज महल के लिए आगरा में होना दुर्भाग्य है।" हम सबको एकजुट होकर इस कथन को गलत साबित करना हैं हम सबने बचपन में पढ़ा है। 'वी आर प्राउड टू बी एन इंडियन' (हमें भारतीय होने पर गर्व है)। हमें भारत को साफ सुथरा बनाकर सच में भारतीय होने गर्व महसूस करना है।

जिस प्रकार गहने शरीर की सुंदरता बढ़ाते है, उसी प्रकार हरियाली से प्रकृति की सुंदरता है। पेड़ प्रकृति का गहना है। भारत को सुंदर व स्वच्छ बनाने के लिए पेड़ लगाने होंगे। इससे वातावरण की भी शुद्धि होगी। कुछ अमीर लोगों का गाँवों को गोद लेकर उनके लिए काम करवाने का कदम भी सराहनीय है। नए कानून, जुर्माने के नए मापदंड भी बहुत जरूरी है। नदियों की नियमित सफाई व सफाई के लिए नए अभियान भी चलाने चाहिए।

हमारे तन की शुद्धि मन की शुद्धि से जुड़ी है व उसी से हमारे अंदर सही गलत का फैसला करने की शक्ति आती है। इस बदलाव को लाने के लिए हमें स्वयं को बदलना होगा। जब हमारा मस्तिष्क स्वस्थ होगा तो स्वच्छ जरूर बनेगा इंडिया। अब हमें स्वच्छता को अपनाकर भारत को धरती का स्वर्ग बनाना होगा। हमें इस अभियान को और ऊँचाईयों तक पहुँचाना होगा जैसा कि हमने एक बार पोलियों को मिटाने के लिए किया था तो हम यकीनन राष्ट्रपिता महात्मा गाँधी की 150 वीं जयंती, 2 अक्टूबर 2019 को हर भारतीय के लिए यादगार बना देंगे।

हम सब भारत के लोग इस देश की शक्ति हैं, पहचान है। हम ही इस देश को बनाएँगे स्वच्छ भारत, भारत, स्मृद्ध भारत व श्रेष्ठ भारत।

महानगरीय जीवन की समस्याएँ

कुमकुम सिंह
(भूगोल) तृतीय वर्ष

दूर के ढोल सुहाने ही लगते है जिस प्रकार महानगरीय जीवन वर्तमान पीढ़ी को आकर्षित कर रहे है। परन्तु इन बड़े-बड़े महानगरों में न जाने कितनी समस्यों है। महँगाई के दौर में तो इन समस्याओं से निपटना भी नामुमकिन सा लगता है। भौतिकता भी लोगों को आकर्षित करने में मुख्य किरदार निभा रही है। छोटे-छोटे नगरों

बसें घरों को छोड़कर लोग अब महानगर की राह पर चल पड़े है। महानगरों में आने पर लोगों को पहले तो अपने रहने का ठिकाना ढूँढना ही मुश्किल हो जाता हैं अनजान लोगों पर विश्वास करना अत्यधिक कठिन है। व्यक्ति को रहने के लिए मकान तो लिए जाते है परन्तु घर नहीं। चार दिवारों से बना मकान कभी किसी की अपने घर की याद को पूरा नहीं कर सकता। रोजगार की समस्या से वह सभी रिश्तों से दूर हो जाते हैं। नया रोजगार मिलना बहुत कठिन हो जाता है। शहर की आबो-हवा वेसे तो सुहानी लगती है परन्तु जब वास्तविकता से सामना होता है तो वे बहुत दुखदायक होती है। शहरों में आने के बाद यदि व्यक्ति को कुछ हो जाए तो उसके लिए कोई नहीं होता। पहले खुद को शहर में बसाना और फिर परिवार को रखना एक संघर्ष के समान हो जाता है। -- अपने बच्चों को पढ़ाना बहुत कठिन कार्य है। उनकी ट्यूशन इत्यादि सभी के बस में नहीं होता। इसलिए इन महानगरों में रहना हर व्यक्ति के लिए संभव नहीं हो पाता।

काल करे सो आज

कुमकुम सिंह
(भूगोल) तृतीय वर्ष

किसी ने पूर्णत: सत्य ही कहा है कि - काल करे सो आज कर आज करे सो अब पल में प्रलय होएगी बहुरी करेगा कब। अर्थात् जो कार्य कल करना है उसे आज ही कर ले और आज ही नहीं बल्कि इसी क्षण कर ले क्योंकि यदि यदि पल भर में कोई घटना या दुर्घटना हो गई तो वह कार्य नहीं हो पाता है। किसी भी कार्य को समय पर कर लेना समझदारी कहलाती है और उसे टालना सबसे बड़ी मूर्खता। किसी भी विशेष कार्य के लिए निर्णय लेना बहुत ही सतर्कता का विषय बना जाता है परन्तु यदि वह कार्य भविष्य से जुड़ा हो तो? यद्यपि कोई निर्णय भविष्य से जुड़ा हो तो हमारी सर्तकता में और अधिक वृद्धि हो जाती है परन्तु हमारी सोचने की क्षमता और भी कम। यदि हमारी सोचने की क्षमता ही कम हो गई तो भविष्य के निर्णय ही गलत हो जाएंगे और भविष्य बर्बाद।

चूंकि बच्चे आने वाले कल का भविष्य है अपने भविष्य के निर्णय को धीरजता से, सजगता से लेना चाहिए क्योंकि जल्दबाजी में लिए गए निर्णय सदैव ही गलत हाते हैं। इस बात का तात्पर्य यह नहीं है कि हम अपने निर्णयों को उस कल पर छोड़ दे जो कभी आता ही नहीं।

सही काम को यदि सही समय पर न किया जाए तो उसे समय की बर्बादी कहा जाता है। इसीलिए हमें समय रहते ही सारे काम कर लेने चाहिए। भविष्य में जो हम बनना चाहते है उसका फैसला हमें उपयुक्त समय पर कर लेना चाहिए। हमें अभी से यह सोचना प्रारंभ कर देना चाहिए कि हम भविष्य में किस उपाधि को पाना चाहते है, और फिर उसके अनुसार स्वयं को उस कार्य के लिए सक्षम बनना चाहिए। क्योंकि सही समय पर लिया गया निर्णय सदेव ही फायदेमंद होता है।

भविष्य में हम जो बनना चाहते है उसे हमें सही समय पर सोच लेना चाहिए वरना अंतिम क्षण में लिए गए फैसले पर हमेशा ही पछताना पड़ता है। इसीलिए तो कहा है-

"अब पछताए होत क्या जब चिड़िया चुग गई खेत"।

भविष्य में हम जो बनना चाहते है उसकी तैयारी अभी से हमें अपने भीतर आरम्भ करनी होगी।

अपने मकसद से परिचित होने के पश्चात हमें पूरी लगन से उसे पाने के लिए परिश्रम करना होगा। क्योंकि बिना परिश्रम कुछ नहीं मिलता। हमें पूरी मेहनत, लगन, दृढ़ निश्चय और ईमानदारी से अपने मकसद को हासिल करने के लिए जटिल से जटिल प्रयास करने चाहिए।

अगर हमें अपने मकसद को हासिल करने के लिए स्वयं में किसी भी प्रकार का कोई परिवर्तन करना आवश्यक हो तो उस परिवव्रन को अभी से आरंभ कर देना चाहिए। परन्तु साथ ही हमें इस बात पर भी ध्यान देना चाहिए कि हम उस परिवर्तन के कारण स्वयं को कोई हानि ना पहुँचा दे। और अपनी अच्छी आदतों में कभी परिवर्तन न होने दे।

जीवनकाल में रचनाओं तथा कल्पनाओं का सर्वाधिक महत्व है। किसी भी मकसद या उद्देश्य का पूर्ण होना तब तक संभव नहीं है जब तकि उसकी कल्पना ना की जाए। कल्पना और रचना हमारे उद्देश्य के महत्वपूर्ण अंश है। पर प्रत्येक कार्य अपनी सीमा के अंदर ही अच्छे होते हैं। इसलिए हमें कल्पनाएँ भी अत्यधिक नहीं करनी चाहिए। यदि हम परिश्रम छोड़ कल्पनाओं से अपने भविष्य का निर्माण करेंगे तो वह अवश्य ही बिखर जाएगा। अब हम यह तो जान चुके है कि अपने भविष्य की नींव किस प्रकार रखी जाए। अपने कर्तव्य कर्म को बिना विलम्ब यथा समय करना ही उचित है। यदि हम भविष्य में कुछ अच्छा बनना चाहते है तो उसे अभी से बिना समय नष्ट किए कर दे क्योंकि बीता हुआ समय किसी के लिए नहीं लौटता। यूं तो समय सभी के लिए बहुत महत्वपूर्ण है परन्तु जो व्यक्ति अपने जीवन को सफल बनाना चाहता हो उसे लिए तो समय की महत्ता और भी बढ़ जाती हैं हम अपने आने वाले कल को आज ही निर्धारित कर सकते हैं यदि हम समय का सदुपयोग करे तो। समय का सदुपयोग सफलता की कुंजी है सशीलता का चिह्न है। प्रगति का लक्षण है और श्रेष्ठ स्वभाव का परिचायक है। उचित समय पर उचित काम करो तो जीवन में आनंद की, स्त्रोतस्विनी बहेगी।

जो बीत गया उसे याद करने से अच्छा है कि हम इस बात पर ध्यान दे कि आज हमारे पास क्या है हमें भविष्य में क्या चाहिए। शेष जीवन को ही लक्ष्य में रखते हुए प्राप्त अवसर को परखों, समय का मूल्य समझो। हर काम के लिए एक समय और समय के लिए एक काम निश्चित होता हैं यदि हम उस काम और समय को रख ले तो जीवन आनंदमय बीतेगा। हमारे भविष्य निर्माण का समय एक बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण भाग है। जिसने समय की कद्र की है, समझो उसने अपने भविष्य की कद्र की है। प्रकृति समय की गुरू है। ब्रह्म मुहूर्त, प्रातः काल, मध्याह्न, सांयकाल और रात्रि, ये सब ही समय प्रकृति के है। जिसने इन समयों पर नियंत्रण पा लिया उसने न केवल अपना भविष्य सुधार लिया बल्कि प्रकृति को भी अपने वश में कर लिया।

अपने लक्ष्य को निर्धारित करने के लिए उसके लिए समय निर्धारित करना भी अति आवश्यक है क्योंकि निर्धारित समय पर निश्चित काम करने में ही जीवन सफलता का रहस्य है।

यदि हमने कार्य आज से शुरू नहीं किया तो कल भी कुछ नहीं कर पाएंगे। यदि आज नहीं तो कभी नहीं क्योंकि कल कभी नहीं आएगा। यदि हमने प्रत्येक कार्य निश्चित समय पर परिश्रम से किया तो अन्य कार्य भी स्वयं ही होते चले जाएंगे। अंतकाल में कोई कार्य संभव नहीं है। यदि समय पर कर्म से चूक जाओगे, तो बाद में जीवन एक जीवन्त अभिशाप बन जाएगा।

यदि जो भविष्य में बनना है, वह अभी से आरंभ नहीं किया तो वह रात-दिन की कुढ़न एवं क्रंदन बनकर आपको कचोटता रहेगा। एक बात कभी नहीं भूलनी चाहिए कि इस आधा पल की देर कर देने वाला समय पर छूट जाने वाली रेलगाड़ी को कभी नहीं पकड़ पाता। देखते-ही-देखते रेलगाड़ी छूट जाती है और हम जीवन रूपी प्लेटफार्म पर खडे-खड़े दूसरी गाड़ी की इच्छा करते है। और अपनी गफलत पर पछताते है। अगली गाड़ी की प्रतीक्षा में यात्रा को उद्देश्य भी समाप्त हो जाता है। हमें अपनी उज्जवल तथा शांत भविष्य को दृढ़ निश्चय और कठिन परिश्रम से अभी से आरंभ कर देना चाहिए।

माँ

खूशबू
(भूगोल) प्रथम वर्ष

तुझसे है अस्तित्व हमारा

तुम बिना न कोई मेरा सहारा।

सुबह उठते हीं तेरी याद है मुझको आती

दिनभर की भाग-दौड़ में मेरी आँखे थक जाती

फिर भी आँखों में नींद नहीं आती

क्योंकि तेरी लोरी की याद सताती।

सोंचती हूँ काश तू मेरे पास आ जाती

काश तेरी आवाज मैं फिर से सुन पाती

तो तेरी लाडली फिर से मुस्कुराना सीख जाती

काश माँ तू मेरे पास आ जाती।

जिन्दगी में हैं तन्हाई, तेरे बिना

जिन्दगी का हर लम्हा बोझ बन आई

तेरे बिना मैं जिन्दगी की बोझ है उठाई।।

जिन्दगी ने की है मेरे साथ बेवफाई

पापा की बेबसी मैं नहीं सह पाई

और ना ही, बजी हमारे घर सहनाई

क्योंकि, पापा कैसे करते दहेज की भर पाई

माँ तु क्यों नहीं आई?

क्या मेरी बेबसी तुझे नहीं रुलाई?

तेरा अनमोल रतन मैं नहीं बन पाई

क्योंकि किस्मत ने की थी बेवफाई

तेरे बिना मैं जिन्दगी का

सफर न तय कर पाई.....

ये थी जुदाई की भरपाई

तुम बिन जिन्दगी में बस तन्हाई ही तन्हाई

बेटियों ने तोड़ी बेड़िया

खूशबू
(भूगोल) प्रथम वर्ष

आज पूरे समाज में बेटी की छवि बदल रही है क्योंकि इन बेटियों में अथाह गुण होते हैं। और इसे साबित करने की जरूरत नहीं है आज बेटियाँ नहीं उनकी सफलता बोलती है। बेटी हर कार्य, जिम्मेदारी, धर्म एवं कर्म को निभाती हुई बढ़ रही है अपने जीवन में सफलता को पा रही हैं, सफलता के शिखर छू रहीं हैं। मगर फिर भी समाज इनकी कद्र नहीं करता क्यों...?

मैं आपसे जानना चाहती हूँ की आज भी एक लड़की जब अपने लक्ष्य की तरफ बढ़ रही होती हैं तो कभी, समाज तो कभी परिवार उसके पंख काट लेते हैं... ऐसा क्यों? हर मोड पर लड़की को खुद को साबित करना होता हे स्पष्टीकरण देना होता है ऐसा क्यों... क्योंकि हम बेटी हैं। लड़की हैं।

लेकिन मुझे ये कहते हुए गर्व महसूस होता है कि मैं लड़की हूँ, बेटी हूँ स्त्री हूँ चाहे लक्ष्मबई बाई, झलकारी बाई से लेकर आज किरण वेदी, टीनाडावी, अरुणिमा सभी स्त्री हैं और अपने जीवन को सार्थक बना रही हैं।

इन्होंने अपने पैरों की बेड़िया तोड़ दी है और अपने पंख के साथ उड़ रही है कहते है जज्बा और दृढ़ निश्चय के सामने यम भी आने से डरता है तो फिर चंद लोग क्या कर लेंगे। खुद में इतनी दृढ़ता लाओ की सफलता के बीच आने वाला हर पत्थर को तुम हटा पाओ। आत्मसम्मान, आत्मविश्वास के साथ आगे बढ़ो रास्ते आसान हो जाऐंगे।

मैं आपको एक उदाहरण देना चाहती हूँ दृढ़ता की जब एक स्त्री सोंच लेती है कि मुझे यह करना है तो उसे कोई नहीं रोक सकता। उन्हीं में से एक अम्मा थी , यह वह स्त्री थी अपने जीवन में बहुत संघर्ष देखा फिर

भी वह हार नहीं मानी। एक अभिनेत्री होने के बाद भी एक सफल, राजनैतिक सत्ता को संभालने वाली नेता बनी। इस सत्ता को संभालते वक्त भी लोगों ने इन्हीं बहुत हीं जलील किया, फिर वो हार नहीं मानी।

बहुत सी कठिनाईयों का सामना करते हुए, समाज हित में सर्वश्रेष्ठ योगदान दिया।

नारी शक्ति

खूशबू
(भूगोल) प्रथम वर्ष

नारी हूँ, मैं कमजोर नहीं

शक्ति हूँ मैं संदेह नहीं

सतियों के नाम पर जलाया

दहेज के नाम पर सताया

तब भी न रुके मेरे कदम

तो, समाज ने ठुकराया।

अबला नहीं, नारी हूँ

जब देवी हूँ तो प्राणदायी हूँ

जब चंडी हूँ तो प्राण विनाशिनी हूँ।

कोमल हूँ, पर कमजोर नहीं

कई रंग है, मुझमें गुलाल की मुहताज नहीं

खुद हूँ स्वाभिमानी किसी की ताज की मुहताज नहीं

धरती हीं नहीं, आसमान भी नापा है
न दे सकोगे साथ फिर भी, खुद को कदम काफी है।
हौसले मेरे देख न पाए,
इसलिये शायद अबला नारी बुलाए।

क्षितिज से भी ऊँची हूँ समुद्र से भी गहरी हूँ
आत्मा से भी सच्ची हूँ
रोक न पाया ये समाज

मेरे कदम क्यों कि
हौसलों
इरादो की पक्की हूँ।।

दिन ढल ही

शिवानी मीना
भूगोल तृतीय वर्ष

दिन ढल ही गया था
शाम होने ही वाली थी
शीत ऋतु का आगमन हो ही गया था
आसमान में एक चमकता सुनहरा केसरिया
गोला दिखाई दे रहा था।

लाठी के सहारे चल रही थी मेरी प्रतिमा
देखते ही देखते वह गोला और केसरिया
होता जा रहा था
जैसे कोई दिया अपनी आखरी रोशनी के
सहारे जी हो।

यह शोर हृदय को दुख दे रहा था।
मैंने यह कभी सोचा नहीं था।
यह दिया बुझ ही जाएगा
अब देखा तो ऐसा नज़र आ रहा था
कि आसमान में कोई गुलाबी नज़ारा
आँखों में और अंधेरा भरता ही जा रहा था।

हरी हरी पत्तियों में यह रंग बहुत खिल रहा था।
मानो जैसे कोई स्वर्ण के पत्ते देख लिए हों।
वह गोला अपनी रोशनी के सहारे अपनी
आखरी साँस ले रहा था।
वातावरण में कोई शांती फैलती ही जा रही हो जैसे।

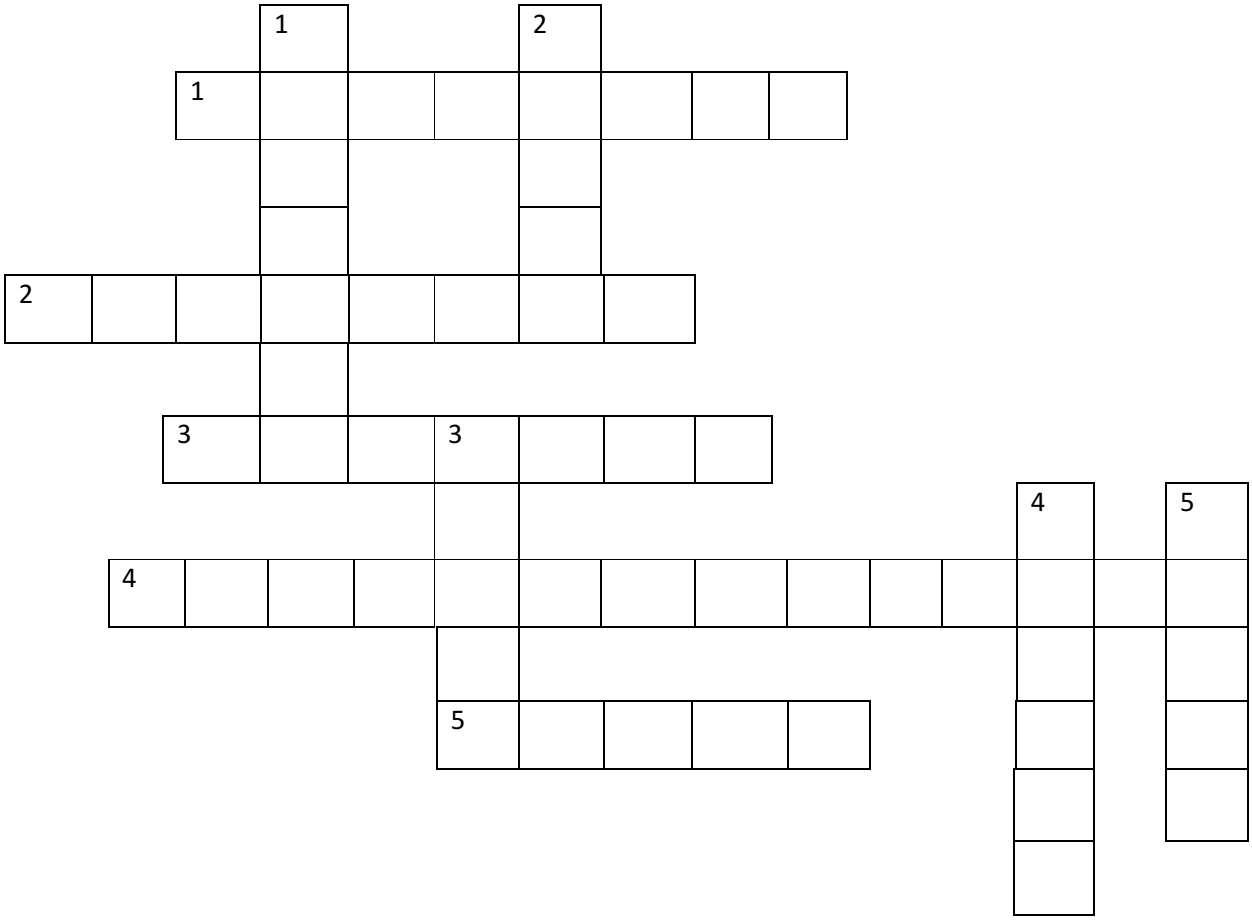
इन पलों में सहारा दिया था मेरी ही जैसी एक प्रतिमा ने
बस चारों ओर एक ही रोशनी दिखाई दे रही थी।
और धीरे-धीरे वह अपने जीवन कि आखरी चार
साँसे लेने ही वाला था।

बूझ ही गया था वह दिया पर एक बार
जैसे ही नज़र घुमाई तो देखा कि वह जिन्दा था।
बिल्कुल लाल सुनहरा था वह
बस वह डूबने ही वाला था। धरती के आखरी छोर तक पहुँच ही गया था।

अब बस बाकी थी तो दो साँसे और
आधा चिराग तो पहले ही बुझ गया था।
और अब चारों ओर बस अंधेरा और हल्का-हल्का उजाला था।
और अब वह अपनी आखरी साँसे जी रहा था।

धुन्धला सा पड़ गया था यहाँ सब कुछ
और उस उजाले ने अपना दम तोड़ ही दिया।
पर मन में वह अहसास जिन्दा है
कल सवेरा फिर होगा
दिन ढल ही गया
दिन ढल ही गया।

Crossword



ACROSS

1. The most sparsely populated country in the world (8)
2. Group of islands that contains all of the West Indies except Bahamas (8)
3. The famous Mesopotamian city , that means ‘Gate of Gods’ (7)
4. The strait that connects the South China sea to the Java sea, dividing the islands of Sumatra and Borneo (14)
5. The island country with no capital (5)

DOWN

1. The fourth largest island in the Mediterranean Sea, one of the most popular tourist places, it is also the birth place of Napoleon Bonaparte (7)
2. The only kingdom in Westeros, in a fantasy series by author George R.R. Martin where citrus fruits and spices are cultivated (5)
3. The only country in the world starting with this letter (5)
4. The only state in the US which grows coffee (6)
5. The land of cheese, wine and art masterpieces (5)