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Monthly newsletter of Centre for Environment Education (CEE)



»»» NEWS

CEE AND UNESCO LAUNCHES THE STATE OF THE EDUCATION REPORT

CEE collaborated with UNESCO, in Gujarat to launch the SEEDS OF CHANGE: State of Education Report (SoER) for India 2023 on Education to Address Climate Change. This annual flagship publication by the UNESCO New Delhi Regional Office was developed by CEE as a Technical Partner. Notably, its Gujarati summary was launched and shared with the attendees at the event.

The launch featured distinguished speakers, including Shri Kartikeya Sarabhai, Founder & Director, CEE; Dr Chong Shimray, Associate Professor, Dept of Education Science and Mathematics, NCERT and Ms Joyce Poan, Programme Specialist & Chief of Education, UNESCO. Further, a dynamic panel discussion with educators, policymakers, and environmental experts explored concrete actions towards 'Greening Schools and Curricula'. The panel had teachers and principals from some of the leading schools of Ahmedabad.

Shri Mahesh Mehta, Secretary, Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan, Government of Gujarat, was part of the panel discussion and he spoke about all the actions that select schools in Gujarat are taking towards greening. He further shared on Saksham Shala, an ongoing initiative in collaboration with UNICEF and CEE that works towards making schools clean, green, safe and inclusive.

»»» CERTIFICATIONS

INDIAN HOTELS RECEIVE THE GREEN KEY CERTIFICATION

Continuing with the audit and the certification process, Green Key India recently certified IBIS Bengaluru Outer Ring Road and Novotel Bengaluru Outer Ring Road with the prestigious Green Key certificate.

Both the hotels underwent a lengthy and rigorous process of audit to earn this renowned international certification. The Green Key certification signifies a commitment of the hotels towards the sustainable environment in the hospitality and tourism sector.

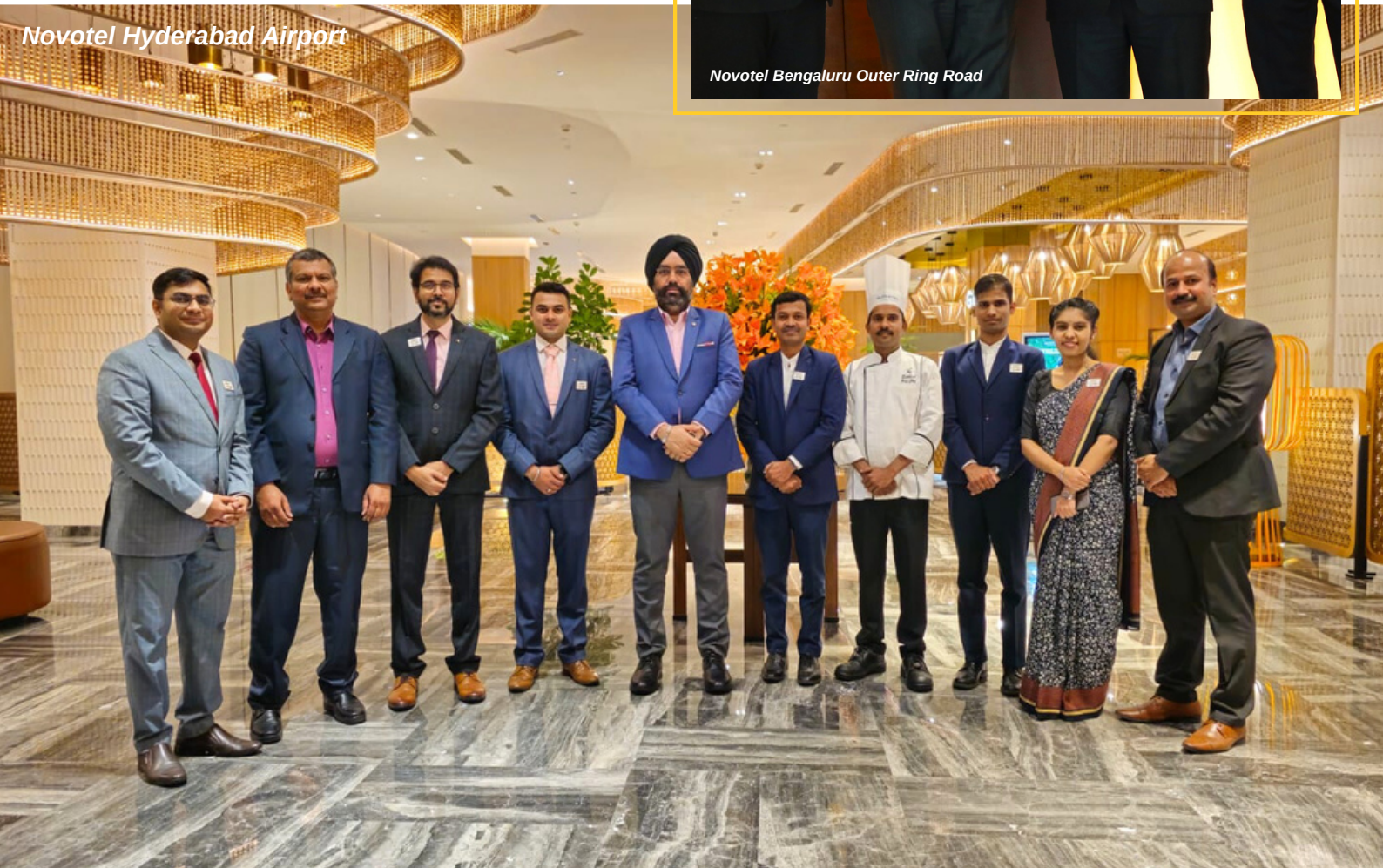


IBIS Bengaluru Outer Ring Road



Novotel Bengaluru Outer Ring Road

Novotel Hyderabad Airport



➤➤➤ AWARDS

BEST BIODIVERSITY-FRIENDLY WILDLIFE DESTINATION

Sundarvan, Ahmedabad has been honored with the prestigious title of “Best Biodiversity-Friendly Wildlife Destination” at the Wildlife Tourism Conclave and Awards 2024, presented by Discover Wildlife Tourism magazine at Sanjay Gandhi National Park, Mumbai on March 2, 2024.



➤➤➤ TRAININGS

The Climate Change Department organised trainings for batches 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10. The Saksham Shala training concluded with the 10th batch along with UNICEF and Samagra Shiksha. This time the session had Shri Nageshwar Patidar, WASH Specialist, UNICEF Gujarat Office and Shri Amita Tandon, Education Specialist, UNICEF Gujarat Office.

SAKSHAM SHALA TRAINING FOR GOG'S EDUCATION DEPARTMENT



Waste Management and MRF session by Prabhjot Sodhi

The Department of Housing and Urban Affairs, Assam organised a 2-day foundation training course for the first batch of 96 Assam Urban Administrative Service Officers on March 8-9, 2024. Mr Prabhjot Sodhi delivered a session on Waste Management and the management & operations of the Material Recovery Facility (MRF). The session witnessed participation from 96 Officers and the Urban Management Centre (UMC) team. CEE team member Mr Amit Kumar also delivered a session on Wet Waste Management. The officers then visited for an exposure visit to the HDFC Bank, CEE & SWMS MRF in Guwahati to witness and understand the entire system of operations at the MRF. During the exposure visit, the CEE and SWMS team explained the entire system and also demonstrated water conservation measures used at the MRF. The MRF operations were highly appreciated by the officers, especially emphasising aspects like water conservation, Health Safety and Hygiene, and efficient and transparent system and planning at the MRF.



Two-day training on ESD by CEE East

On February 20-21, 2024, CEE East held a 2-day training for the Child in Need Institute (CINI) on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), Waste Management, and Climate Change with a focus on gender impact. The event aimed to integrate these themes as cross-cutting issues in CINI's projects. Senior teams from CINI's Health, Child Protection, and Nutrition departments across West Bengal, Assam, Odisha, and Jharkhand benefited from the programme. Ms Preeti Rawat from CEE North led the online session on ESD. The training also included a planning exercise for CINI staff, focusing on practical application in existing projects.



EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT TOWARDS SUSTAINABILITY ACTION FOR CORPORATES

On March 20, 2024, an exciting employee engagement workshop was conducted by CEE DO for a group of young corporate professionals from a leading Multinational Corporation (MNC). The voluntary action-based workshop focused on environment awareness and education activities. As part of the workshop, participants learnt to make hand-rolled pens out of waste paper, and painted and prepared school bags to be distributed to underprivileged primary school students. The participants were also taken for a nature trail on the lush green campus of CEE to learn about plants and birds in the surroundings. They also prepared learning materials based on the trail to be distributed in schools. The workshop encouraged hands-on involvement in addressing environmental challenges while simultaneously contributing to social welfare.

Through offering such workshops/activities, CEE aims to provide a much needed opportunity to working professionals from various streams to learn about sustainability and generate collective action towards SDGs. Such employee engagement workshop nurture a culture of environmental consciousness within the workforce while building trust and partnership among the employees.



Sahiyar Milan under Aarohan

Under the Aarohan project on March 14, 'Sahiyar Milan' was organised to celebrate the womanhood at Jasdan. Over 200 women attended the event. 20 Self-Help Group (SHG) members were felicitated with awards under different categories like best SHG, best entrepreneur, best leader, etc. The members had more than four stalls at the venue and achieved sales worth INR 8,000.

International Day of Zero Waste by School Group

On March 30, 2024, the school group celebrated the International Day of Zero Waste, where they hosted both in-person and online workshops dedicated to fostering a culture of sustainability and waste reduction. The in-person workshop focused on practical techniques like waste segregation, composting, and creating your own kitchen garden, empowering participants to take tangible steps towards a greener lifestyle.

Meanwhile, the online webinar saw enthusiastic participation from schools and colleges nationwide. Expert speakers like Krithika Viswanathan, Lead - Business Development at Saahas Zero Waste, and Dr Vishal Jain, Associate Professor at Geetanjali Institute of Technical Studies, Udaipur, shared invaluable insights on the Zero Waste Lifestyle and the Zero Waste Institute.



Workshop on Nurturing Sustainable Rural Development and Climate Action in the Rural Economy

On March 21, Rural Programme Group (RPG) organised a stakeholder consultation workshop on "Nurturing Sustainable Rural Development and Climate Action in the Rural Economy". The workshop was attended by various stakeholders, including 40 participants from the Agriculture Department, Horticulture Department, GOPKA, GUJPRO (Government of Gujarat), AKRSP, private consultants specialising in Natural and Organic Farming, and NGOs.

During the workshop, detailed discussions were held on the findings and challenges outlined in the COMREC study focusing on Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Bihar regions. Strategies for promoting honey and fishery, utilising portable soil and water analysis kits, exploring various schemes offered by NABARD for promoting harvesting techniques, establishing market linkages, carbon credits, and advancing organic and natural farming practices were also discussed.

Mr Kartikeya Sarabhai also provided valuable insights on the interconnectedness of sustainable development across various sectors and emphasised the importance of agricultural education and addressing climate change at different levels.



Organic Farming Practices for Climate Resilient Agriculture and Eco-activities by RPG

On March 21, 2023, RPG hosted 14 teachers and principals from DIET, Bharuch, to discuss the organic farming practices for climate resilient agriculture and Eco-activities with rural students. Gayatri Dave and Mansi Jani from the school group took a session on the activities through which the group is instilling environmental consciousness among children of all age groups. Sagar Sheikh from the Environment Management Group (EMG) took a session on Natural Farming, Basic Concepts and Understanding along with a nature trail of the CEE campus.



Brainstorming Session on PBR project by CEE Central, CEE North and RPG

On March 21, RPG along with teams from Pune and Lucknow, conducted a detailed brainstorming session on the PBR project. Each team shared their challenges and identified gaps in PBR documentation, highlighting limitations imposed by state biodiversity boards in developing ideal PBRs. Various strategies were discussed for developing action plans at both village and district levels. Additionally, there was a brainstorming session on effectively developing Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials at the district level for PBR initiatives.



BMC Training at Barwala APMC

On March 20, RPG conducted a BMC training at Barwala APMC for Ranpur and Barwala PBR villages. A total of 50 BMC members actively participated and appreciated CEE's efforts in strengthening BMC and PBR. The training included documentary showcases, engaging 'Biodiversity Around You' activities, and discussions on the structure and importance of PBR at the village level. Teams from both CEE Central and CEE North also participated in this training session.

Workshop on Sustainable Horizons: A Comprehensive Workshop on Climate Change, its Impacts, and Adaptation Strategies

RPG organised a Sustainable Horizons: A Comprehensive Workshop on Climate Change, Its Impacts, and Adaptation/Mitigation Strategies within the Gujarat Context" for master trainers of Hariraj Charitable Trust. The participants were enlightened by Mr Suman Rathod, Dr Dhara Rajput and Mr Raman Patel on the the basics of climate change, its impact on livelihood and agriculture and water and mitigation for it. The group also visited the lush green CEE campus, a nature trail conducted Sagar Sheikh.



Special Session on Road Safety at The Planet Discovery Centre

The Planet Discovery Centre in partnership with The Urban Lab organised a special session on Road Safety called 'Challan for Change' conducted by Mr Abhijit Lokre, Ms Neha Pathak and TUL team. In the interactive session, the team shared about Traffic Rules and citizens behaviour through interesting quiz and activities. The children took the baton ahead to become Super Cops. These Super Cops would observe parents, adults in families and neighbours on various traffic rules. If rules are not followed, our Super Cops will issue a Challan. After the week-long campaign, the team will analyse the challans and make an action plan for making roads safer for all.



Under the Aarohan Phase-2, a webinar on MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment) scheme is organised on March 9. Mr Hargovindbhai Desai guided about the scheme in depth.

RPG organised a virtual workshop on Documentation and Photography for the capacity building of staff. Over 25 participants attended the workshop from various field offices along with HO staff. Mr Kashyap Pandya, conducted the session about the various techniques of photography, tips to take good photos during night meeting etc. The session was very fruitful for staff and field team.

Bartan Bank at Baundi Village under TTPC

Under Tide Turners Plastic Challenge, a Rural Youth Livelihood Model of Bartan Bank was launched at Baundi Village of Bahraich District of UP. The youth group has been working with CEE as part of dolphin initiative. The group also received their first booking for a ceremony.



Workshop on Dry Waste Centre Operators at BMC

Mr Prabhjot Sodhi guided a workshop on Dry Waste Centre operators at Bombay Municipal Corporation SWM Department, with CEE Central, and Resilient Cities Network under the Urban Ocean programme.



CSR Meet at AMA

RPG attended the CSR meet at AMA, Ahmedabad, where the team delved into numerous opportunities within the CSR landscape. The team discussed the roles, responsibilities, gaps, and challenges inherent in CSR and NGO initiatives. The team also had the opportunity to engage with representatives from esteemed organisations such as Zydus, Wagh Bakri, JK Laxmi, Maruti Suzuki, Pedilite, and other philanthropic entities was particularly insightful.



Interactive Session by CEE and the Bhutan Royal Academy for Bhutan Schools



An interactive session brought together 540 students along with teachers from the schools of Bhutan, facilitated by the Bhutan Royal Academy and CEE, as part of the UNEP's Tide Turners Plastic Challenge. The session served as a platform to educate and empower youth about the pressing issue of single-use plastics in Bhutan. Through engaging discussions and activities, CEE shed light on the environmental impacts of such plastics and inspired these young minds to take collective action for a cleaner and greener future.

Campaign on Drive Against Plastic Pollution by CEE Delhi

CEE's state partner One Earth Foundation spearheaded a unique campaign "Drive Against Plastic Pollution" in Goa to spotlight the pressing issue of marine plastic pollution and its impact on Goa's coastlines and marine biodiversity.

As a part of the campaign spanning over 30 days, the team sailed 120 km across the entire coast of Goa conducting over 50 activities around the circular economy, waste reduction, and plastic pollution. Workshops were organised on plastic waste, fostering sustainable consumption habits, and promoting the concept of 5Rs (Rethink, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Recover). Over the 30 days, 59 educational and awareness workshops were conducted sensitizing more than 1,500 students and youth and five fishing communities across Goa, and collecting about 1,146 kg of waste from the beach and mangrove clean-up.



National Conference on Jal Jeevan Mission and Swachh Bharat Mission

The Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti organised a National Conference on Jal Jeevan Mission and Swachh Bharat Mission-Grameen on February 16-17, 2024 in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. The conference focused on key themes of innovation, collaboration, sustainability, and O&M; participation from diverse stakeholders from various states/UTs of India had a rich exchange of ideas and best practices.

The session on Plastic Waste Management was chaired by Shri Arvind Kumar Chaudhary (PS, RDD, Bihar), co-chaired by Dr Sharmila Mary Joseph, IAS Principal Secretary, Local Self Government Dept. Kerala and moderated by Mr Prabhjot Sodhi. Shri Kapil Chaudhary, Director, SBMG, DDWS set the context for the panel discussion and shared the progress at the National Level. The panelists for the session were Shri O P Srivastava- Chief Engineer, Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways (MoRTH).

Shri A Kuttalingam- Chief Engineer, RD&PRD, Tamil Nadu, PMGSY Road, Shri Santhosha G R, IFS & MD SBMG West Bengal, and Shri Ashish Tiwari, Secretary, Dept of Environment, Forest & Climate Change at Govt of UP. The panelists discussed policies and regulations, economic incentives, current practices, and challenges in the implementation of plastics; how bituminous road construction to happen and also presented their best practices, achievements, and innovative and replicable ideas from their respective states. The Chair also invited voices from the field to share their experiences.



Awareness Session on Plastic Waste Management in Government Schools

Under the HDFC Bank, CEE & NEEDS project, 'Rural & Urban Landscape Free of Dry & Plastic Waste' in Ranchi, a school awareness session was organised for the students of Class 6 to 8 at the Government Middle School of Baridih Panchayat. The session focussed on Plastic Waste Management with discussions on the harmful effects of plastic littering and the consequences of burning plastic. The students were motivated by the dry & plastic waste collection and segregation process at their school and home. They were encouraged to use the dustbins and reduce their consumption of plastic to make their school and home plastic-free. Around 62 Students participated in the awareness session.

Awareness Session on Segregation and Responsible Management of Waste in Ganjam

Under the HDFC Bank, CEE & CORE project 'Rural & Urban Landscape Free of Dry & Plastic Waste' in Odisha, an awareness session on the importance of source segregation and responsible management of waste in Ramagada Panchayat, Ganjam was organised. A total of 73 participants, including Sarpanch, PRI members, Anganwadi workers, Asha didi, SHG members, sanitation workers of villages, and villagers, participated in the session. They were oriented and encouraged to practice these principles in their daily lives. Additionally, to emphasise the importance of the conservation of water, the team demonstrated handwashing with minimal water consumption using Sato Tap to maintain hygiene.



Door-to-Door Awareness Campaign in Ranchi

Under the HDFC Bank, CEE & NEEDS project 'Rural & Urban Landscape Free of Dry & Plastic Waste' in Ranchi, a campaign "Mera Plastic Meri Zimmedari" was organised in Dahu village. It included door-to-door awareness about dry & plastic waste collection and segregation processes at households to make their village Swachh and Sundar. The team encouraged 50 households to collect their waste in a sack at their homes.



➤➤➤ OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

On March 15, 2024, RPG organised a Farmer club's and FPO meeting at Vadali village of Mahidad cluster under the Aarohan project. Over 120 farmers attended the meeting. The group discussed on the expansion of FPO in other cluster to get the more business, sustainable agriculture practices and the registration of new members in Mahidad FPO and the future scope in FPO.

RPG organised a meeting with DDM Rajkot and EDI organisation at CEE Jasdan office for GI tagging of Patari Handicrafts on March 16, 2024. The group discussed the process of getting GI tagging and making aware Patari Foundation members about the application status, which is accepted by Government of India for further process.

45 children appeared and won first prize under Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan, Samgra Shiksha Zilla Parisad, Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar, Maharashtra visited CEE during the 2-day motivational tour to Ahmedabad.

Shri Kartikeya Sarabhai with Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi at Sabarmati Ashram.



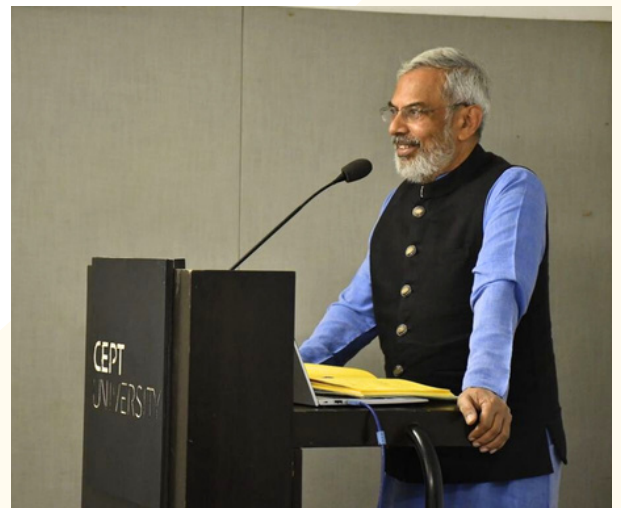
Initiative to Save Energy by CEE

An initiative to save energy, CEE recently installed 60 KW roof top solar panels at the campus. With this the centre plans on saving approximately INR 60,000 a month.



Kartikeya Sarabhai, Chief Guest at the Urban Innovation Challenge by CEPT

The Urban Innovation Challenge of 2023-24, hosted by the Faculty of Management at CEPT University, showcased innovative solutions for urban waste management. The event, graced by Kartikeya Sarabhai as the chief guest and Mr Tushar Jani as a jury member, highlighted ground breaking approaches to address urban waste issues.



Consul General of US Consulate Mumbai at CEE Ahmedabad

Mr Mike Hankey, Consul General, US Consulate Mumbai visited CEE Ahmedabad office on March 15, 2024. The Consul General also interacted with women beneficiaries of various climate change-related projects of CEE.



Chaibasa Nature Interpretation Centre at CEE Studio

The Tata Steel team from Chaibasa Nature Interpretation Centre, Jharkhand visit CEE Studio as part of the project's pre-dispatch inspection.



Aarohan SHG members at Swabhiman Mela

Under the Aarohan project of RPG, four SHG members participated with various products in Swabhiman Mela at Karnavati Club, Ahmedabad from March 15-17, 2024. The mela is organised by COWE (Confederation of Women Entrepreneurs) and SIDBI. One day sale of the members was over INR 4,000. The SHG also participated in another expo in Rajkot and generated sales worth INR 9,500 in a day.

Director of SCHEMTZ at Vocational Training Centre of Sahyog project

On March 2, 2024, Mr Markus Settegasteg, Director of SCHEMTZ from Germany, paid a visit to the Vocational Training Centre of the Sahyog project in Gandhidham. The setup showcased the partnership of SCHEMTZ and CEE along with the beautifully stitched products crafted by trainees of the Sahyog project. In addition to the tour, the certification distribution ceremony was held for the completion of sewing and embroidery vocational classes. As a memento of the occasion, a patchwork piece was presented to Mr Markus, symbolising the spirit of the Sahyog project.



EMG at Bharat Text 2024

The Environment Management Group (EMG) participated in Bharat Tex 2024, where the team launched the Innovation Challenge booklet. The booklet contains a list of innovators and their circular innovations. The activity was part of the 'Approaches for Circularity in the Textile and Apparel Industry in India' project with Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and Aditya Birla Fashion and Retail Ltd (ABFRL). The book was unveiled in the presence of IAS Prajakta Verma, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Textiles; Mr Ashish Dikshit, Managing Director, ABFRL; Dr Naresh Tyagi, Chief Sustainability Officer, ABFRL; Dr Shailendra Dwivedi, Director - Climate Change & Circular Economy, GIZ India; Ms Meghana Kshirsagar, Senior Advisor - Climate Change & Circular Economy, GIZ-India and Mr Tushar Jani, Senior Programme Director, CEE



Farmer Meeting at Madhavipur under Aarohan

Under the Aarohan project, RPG organised a farmer meeting at Madhavipur village of Jasdan block with the convergence of District Agriculture department Rajkot. The Director of Agricultural department Mr Pradip Marvaliya also attended this meeting and over 90 farmer participated. The group discussed the importance of value addition of horticulture and agriculture crops and Jivamrut for sustainable agriculture and other related topics.

Health Camp in Telangana under Rural & Urban Landscape Free of Dry & Plastic Waste project

On March 27, 2024, in partnership with Nirmal Municipality, HDFC Bank, CEE and ESREE Greenworks, CEE Delhi organised a health camp in the gram panchayat office, Sarangapur G P, Telangana. The health camp led by Mr Vedavyas with his paramedical staff assigned by the District Medical Officer, Nirmal benefitted over 30 villagers and government/private sector workers.

The beneficiaries were provided medical diagnosis, counselling, and were further referred to the district-level government hospital for major treatments. The camp was conducted under the project 'Rural & Urban Landscape Free of Dry & Plastic Waste'.



Tailoring Unit inaugurated for SHG members



On March 30, 2024, Mr A K Mishra, Unit Head, The Sirpur Paper Mills Limited (SPM), Mr M S Giri GM, HR/IR, SPM and Mrs Reena, CSR Manager, Sparsh Social Foundation (SSF) inaugurated Tailoring Unit at Bareguda GP, Kagaznagar, Telangana. The tailoring unit has been inaugurated in partnership with SSF, a CSR initiative of JK Papers, SPM and CEE to empower women SHG members. The event was attended by 50 community members including sanitary supervisor, anganwadi teachers, over 30 women SHG members and the CEE project team.

Cabinet Minister at MFPC Stall at Nari Vandana event



On March 6, 2024, the Nari Vandana event was hosted by GLPC in Jasdan, CEE team had the honour of welcoming Mr Kuarjibhai Bavliya, the Cabinet Minister of Water Supply, Water Resource and Food Civil Supply, Animal Husbandry, Rural Housing in the Government of Gujarat, to the MFPC stall.

Mr Bavliya had a discussion with the SHG members, exploring products and market dynamics. Not only did he show genuine interest in our offerings, but he also made purchases directly from our stall.

Awareness Campaign in RWA Sector by the Greater Noida Team

On February 12, 2024, the Greater Noida team conducted a door-to-door awareness campaign in RWA Sector Delta 1, 36 and Swarn Nagari-31 informing the residents about waste segregation (wet-dry).



Miyawaki Project launched under LBCT Foundation by RPG

RPG planted its first plant at Miyawaki project site, Halol (village Maruva). The project is a part of CSR by JCB India Ltd under LBCT Foundation. The plantation event was inaugurated by the chief guest Mr Manish Tiwari, HOD, CSR activities LBCT- Jaipur with Mr Dharmendra, Head of Safety at JCB - Halol along with LBCT Halol team. The event was attended by the regional social RFO- Halol, along with the village sarpanch and SHG women and school children.



CEE at the World Wetland Day Exhibition

Dr Musonda Mumba, Member Secretary, Ramsar Convention along with Sujeet Kumar Bajpayee, Member Secretary, MoEFCC visited CEE stall at World Wetland Day Exhibition, Sirpuri, Indore. CEE had been developing CEPA strategy specific to 4 Ramsar sites and other wetlands in Madhya Pradesh.

Report on 'Roadmap for Sustainable Textile Hub in India' released at Bharat Tex 2024

The 'Roadmap for Sustainable Textile Hub in India' report, a collaborative effort by CEE and UNEP, was released at Bharat Tex 2024. It emphasises Surat's role in advancing sustainable textile production. The expo featured a UNEP-led dignified panel discussion on February 28, 2024, in partnership with the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, with Mr Kartikeya Sarabhai, Director, CEE India, and other dignified panelists, focusing on transitioning India's textile industry to circular practices. This initiative marks a significant step towards environmentally friendly and economically viable textile manufacturing in India.



International Women's Day by RPG in Mehsana



On March 7, 2024, RPG celebrated International Women's Day in Ghumasan village, Mehsana. A total of 70 women participated in the event. Dr Leenaben Makvana, gynecologist, along with staff from H C C Hospital, conducted a session on women's health, hygiene, and empowerment. Kits containing cotton bags were prepared and sanitary napkins were distributed to all the participating women.

MoU with Sustainovate Climate Solution Pvt Ltd for Climate Education Programmes

On March 1, 2024, the CEE under the guidance of Mr Kartikeya Sarabhai, Mr Prabhjot Sodhi, signed an MoU with Ms Nidhi Thapak, Managing Director from Sustainovate Climate Solution Private Limited, to develop and implement climate education programmes; ESG Strategy Development Framework; Benchmarking; Performance improvement through Sustainability and Circularity programmes and approaches. Joined by Mr Nitin Mishra, Founder, Director from Sustainovate Climate Solution Pvt Ltd, the collaboration aims to pave the way for impactful climate change education programmes.



The MoU seeks to advance sustainability education as the key driver by implementing several initiatives designed to advance the expertise, capabilities, and skills of students and educators, enabling them to pursue climate-related action paths.

Greening Minds project with TVS Motor Company by CEE South

On February 27, 2024, CEE South organised an outreach programme as part of the "Greening Minds" project, on the theme 'Tackling Climate Change and Pollution', in collaboration with TVS Motor Company, Mysore. The event was inaugurated and graced by Ms Yamuna, BRP; Mr Panneer Selvam, DGM TVS Mysore; Mr Mohan Karnat, Senior Director, SST – TVS; Mr Preston Ahimaz, Forest Consultant, TVS and Ms Rejini Simpson, Programme Director, CEE South.

This programme aims to enhance the students' understanding of climate science and environmental issues, fostering a generation of environmentally conscious citizens. Through hands-on experiences like model-making or recycling initiatives, students develop a sense of responsibility for their local environment and feel empowered to take action in their communities. In order to demonstrate their interests and degree of comprehension, activities like chart work, and models were exhibited during the programme.

The programme concluded successfully with 120 attendees, comprising teachers, students, and guests, as well as representatives from TVS and the CEE team. As the event came to an end, the team members and teachers departed with a shared commitment to perform their handprint activities and also lead students toward handprint actions.



MRF inaugurated in Guwahati

In partnership with Guwahati Municipal Corporation (GMC), HDFC Bank, CEE, and Shrishti Waste Management Services Pvt Ltd digitally inaugurated Material Recovery Facility (MRF), Adabari, Guwahati on March 12, 2024 at ITA, Machkhowa, Guwahati.

Shri Ashok Singhal, Minister, Department of Housing and Urban Affairs, Govt of Assam inaugurated MRF in the presence of other dignitaries including Smt Kavitha Padmanabhan, Commissioner & Secretary, Department of Housing & Urban Affairs, Govt of Assam; Shri Mrigen Sarania, Mayor, Guwahati; Smt Smita Roy, Deputy Mayor, Guwahati; Shri Megha Nidhi Dahal IAS, Commissioner, GMC; Shri Mrinal Bora, Joint Commissioner, GMC; Shri Pranab Dutta Goswami, Joint Commissioner, GMC; Shri Tulashi Ranjan Kalita, Collector, GMC and Shri Suhel Yasir, Assistant Commissioner, GMC. The HDFC Bank officials included Mr Premjit Konwar, Zonal Head, HDFC Bank, and Mr Dipankar Talukdar, Cluster Head, HDFC Bank. The MRF was physically inaugurated on March 10, 2024, by Shri Mrigen Sarania, Honourable Mayor, Guwahati in the presence of GMC officials.



CSR project on Solid Waste Management with Agrocel Industries

CEE's state partner Regional and Urban Development Agency in collaboration with AGROCEL and Taluka Development Office are jointly working towards the Integrated Solid Waste Management Project at Bhuj, Gujarat. The project's objective is to establish a sustainable community-led approach for solid waste management including plastic waste management and efficient recycling. The system addresses better social security measures, and job creation besides impacting livelihoods for the informal sector engagements. This initiative has created a feeling of ownership among the villagers whose waste will be managed and the local environment will be improved by the project. The project is being supported by Agrocel Industries under their CSR initiative.



Farewell to Atul Bagai

In a memorable gathering at the UN House, Delhi, on March 28, 2024, team of the Tide Turners Plastic Challenge came together to bid farewell to Mr Atul Bagai, honouring his remarkable tenure as Head of the UN House. Concurrently, it was also celebrated the signing of a memorandum of understanding with TTPC's new implementing partner, the Afroz Shah Foundation. The event was graced by the esteemed presence from various organisations including UNEP, WWF, CEE, MoEFCC, NCC, Department of Education.



Rohit Maskara at Recycling for Greener Tomorrow Conclave & Awards

Rohit Maskara spoke as an esteemed panelist in the 2nd Edition Recycling for Greener Tomorrow Conclave & Awards by BW Sustainability World. Focusing on this year theme's 'Enroute To A Zero-Waste Nation', He highlighted the critical role of recycling in achieving sustainable development goals, emphasising its immediate ecological benefits and long-term contributions to a circular economy in the panel discussion: Harmonising Energy and Resources: A Sustainable Approach to Waste.



Waste Wise - Advocating for Sustainable Waste Management by CEE Delhi

On February 20, 2024, Kaghaznagar Municipality, SPM in partnership with Sparsh Social Foundation, a CSR initiative of JK Paper Ltd and CEE organised the 'Waste Wise- Advocating for Sustainable Waste Management'. The Chief Guest was Shri Hemant Bhorkade IAS, District Collector & Executive Magistrate, Kumrambheem, Asifabad. Other dignitaries were Shri Deepak Tewari IAS Additional Collector, Kumrambheem, Asifabad; Mr Anjaiah, Municipal Commissioner, Kagaznagar; Mr Surendra, PDDRDO, and other district officials. Mr Kapil Kaul, Advisor CSR Sustainability, JK Paper Ltd; Mr A K Mishra, VP; SPM, M S Giri Sir, G M (HR & IR), SPM, Kagaznagar, and Ms Reena, CSR Manager, SSF also attended the event. Mr Prabhjot Sodhi and Mr Ezra George presented the methodology, strategy, and findings of the Knowledge, Attitude and Practices (KAP) survey conducted at Kagaznagar and 11 Gram Panchayats. The event was attended by 450 community members. The event displayed the Tailoring Unit, Cloth-Vending Machine, Plastic Lao-Thaila/Gifts Pao and Bartan Bank initiatives, showcasing innovative ways to reduce plastic waste and promote sustainable living.



Army Officials visit MRF at Bastar

On February 8, 2024, Shri Prakash Kumar Sarway, SAS CEO Zila Panchayat, Bastar, and over 20 senior Army Officials including Brig and Col visited MRF at Bastar, Chhattisgarh set up under HDFC Bank, CEE & SWMS for the project 'Rural & Urban Landscape Free of Dry & Plastic Waste'. The team at CEE & SWMS guided the visitors on the MRF collection, segregation, transportation, recovery, processing and safe disposal with near to zero landfills. How the communities are involved in all processes of decision-making, safety and local ownerships in the project.



The initiative is seen as a project with focus on transportation, optimisation for better profits. The dignitaries were explained that the focus in the project is on traceability, (monitoring dashboards) and transparency in operations and at all levels. The business model approach with a clear focus on maintaining transparent accounting systems. Much was emphasised in the inclusivity of the informal sector, including the safai mitras. The knowledge products on the project were also shared and all appreciated the sincere efforts of the team.

➤➤➤ EXPERIENCING NATURE

World Wildlife Day at Sundarvan

Every year on March 3, World Wildlife Day is commemorated, serving as a significant reminder of the vital role wildlife plays in preserving ecological equilibrium. In line with this vision, Sundarvan organised an awareness event for its visitors to educate them about the importance of the day and the imperative to protect and conserve wildlife. Approximately 150 visitors engaged in the discussion, receiving insights on the necessity of wildlife conservation, followed by a snake awareness program conducted as part of the event.



Night Camp for PDC students by CEE West

The Planet Discovery Centre (PDC) in coordination with CEE West for our nature buddies organised evening activities and night camp. About 60 participants enjoyed evening trails and morning bird watching, outdoor games, star gazing, tent pitching and tent stay along with make and eat activities.

World Wildlife Day by CEE Nature Camps

Celebrating the World Wildlife Day on March 3, 2024, CEE Nature Camps organised an overnight camp for children in the age group of 6 to 14 years. With over 44 registrations the team engaged the group in activities like web of life, quiz, identify the sounds of animals and insects to help them understand the surroundings around them and the steps to conserve it.

For the fun and entertainment part, the team had the traditional puppet show, campfire, tent pitching and sky gazing for the group.



Organic Farm Visit for School Students

Sardar Patel Farm situated in the suburbs of Ahmedabad is a 150-acre organic farm that practices natural way of farming. Owned by a practising allopath Dr Dinesh Patel, students on their visit on February 10, 2024, had an in-depth interactive session with Dr Patel knowing various crops and how they excel in growth an output in the traditional farming methods.



Guided Visit to Sarkhej Roza for school students under CKB



As part of CEE Ka Bioscope (CKB) programme Grade 7 students of Rachana School were taken for a guided visit to Sarkhej Roza where they had an in-depth understanding of the architectural complex and its history. As part of the same programme, students of grade 8 were taken for a visit to a farm that practices natural way of farming. Students had an interactive session and learned about various crops and how they excel in growth and output using traditional farming methods.

Field Visit at UNESCO World Heritage Site Visit under CKB

CEE conducted a one day field visit for 35 teachers to Pavagadh hills and Archaeological Park Champaner, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, located in Panchmahal district in Gujarat. In this one day trip held on March 5, 2024, participating teachers had an intriguing session with CEE staff and a professional guide who took them in a time travel, explaining history, lifestyle and the uniqueness of the culture once thrived in the region.



Bisleri and CEE Launch Manual to Promote Responsible Plastic Use in Schools Across India

In a bid to educate students on responsible plastic consumption and encourage a shift towards a sustainable future, Bisleri International, collaborated with the Centre for Environment Education (CEE) to unveil a new manual titled "Towards Responsible Use of Plastics". The manual, launched in Mumbai, serves as an educational tool for schools across India. It incorporates a teacher's guide, posters, and student booklets designed to equip young people with comprehensive knowledge on various aspects of plastics. The book delves into the science behind plastics, including their composition and various types. It also sheds light on the historical development of plastics and their widespread use. But more importantly, it addresses the critical issue of plastic pollution and its impact on our oceans, ecosystems, and the food chain. Bisleri International and CEE plan to translate the manual into seven regional languages – Marathi, Kannada, Tamil, Malayalam, Telugu, Bengali, and Gujarati – within the next three months to ensure wider accessibility across the country.



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