



**Nurturing Nature.
Saving Our Future.**

#onlyoneearth

Did you know?

- India is among the top 10 countries most affected by climate change.
(Global Climate Risk Index 2021)
- Over 600 million people, or more than half of India's population, face severe water shortages.
(NITI Aayog Report, 2018)
- In 2022, India experienced its hottest March in its 122-year recorded history.
(ABP News Bureau)

Even though the problems facing our country and planet may seem too daunting to deal with, each of us is contributing in some way, no matter how big or small. At the end of the day, that's all that matters, as even small steps in the right direction taken today can go a long way towards saving our future.

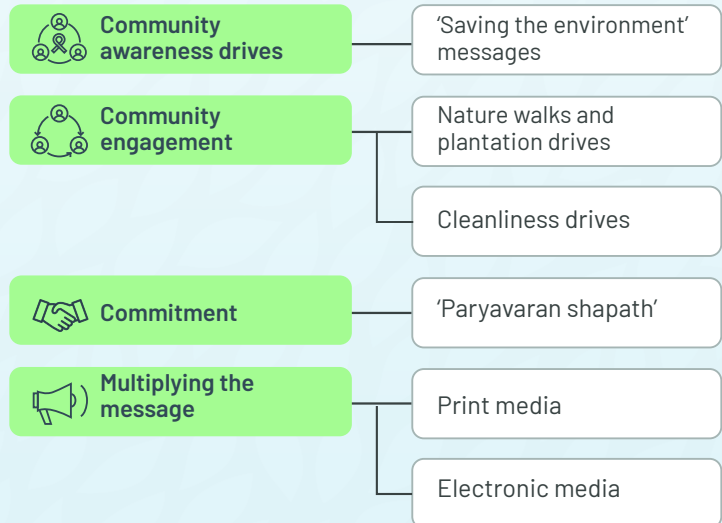


Doing our bit

Taking inspiration from the ethos of World Environment Day, Piramal Foundation brought together various stakeholders in 64 districts across Assam, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, and Haryana to raise awareness about the importance of protecting the environment by engaging them in meaningful activities.

In an effort to promote a way of life that is sustainable and in harmony with nature, we

- ✔ conducted community awareness drives.
- ✔ tapped into community engagement.
- ✔ reaffirmed our commitment to saving the environment.
- ✔ disseminated the message of #onlyoneearth.



Spreading the word

Through a high octane two week period, we spread 'Save the Environment' messages through community awareness campaigns.

- ✔ Over 2.5 lakh people participated in more than 570 activities in 1,100 villages to highlight environmental issues.
- ✔ More than 32,300 women and 11,100 children designed creative messages on the #onlyoneearth theme.
- ✔ Over 350 officials collaborated with us in 41 aspirational districts.



A mass movement

Over 1,100 sarpanches, 1,100 village water committee members, 350 faith leaders, 200 self-help groups, and 115 school principals mobilised their communities to ensure the success of the World Environment Day event.

- ✔ Cleanliness drives were conducted in over 230 public places, including water bodies, with the participation of 120+ NGOs and 660+ volunteers.
- ✔ Nearly 30,000 saplings were planted.
- ✔ Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel actively participated in the event and planted a sapling.



An unbreakable VOW

Men, women, and children of all ages took a 'paryavaran shapath' (environment pledge) to protect the environment, promote greenery, and save water. They also promised to remind their families, friends, and other acquaintances of the importance of living in harmony with nature for a better future.



Growing green, going green

On World Environment Day, Bhar Jahangir village in Risod (Maharashtra) announced a novel method of rewarding locals for promoting greenery. It stated that anyone who plants and cares for a sapling in their garden will not be required to pay house tax during the year. Besides, the panchayat will recognise the efforts of those who plant multiple saplings.



Media corner

गोष्ठी में पर्यावरण संरक्षण पर हुई चर्चा
चित्रकूट (एसएनबी)। विश्व पर्यावरण दिवस पर पिरामल फाउंडेशन द्वारा विकास भवन में गोष्ठी आयोजित की गयी जिसमें पर्यावरण संरक्षण पर चर्चा की गयी। इस मौके पर धरातल स्तर पर पर्यावरण की सुरक्षा करने वाले युवाओं तथा उत्कृष्ट स्पर्धाई कर्मचारियों को प्रोत्साहित करने के लिए सम्मानित किया गया। इस मौके पर स्वयंसेवी संस्था विकास पथ सेवा संस्थान के अध्यक्ष डा. प्रभाकर सिंह, जनकल्याण शिक्षण प्रसार समिति के डेक्कर दयाल, ग्रामीण विकास संस्थान के प्रमुख अभिलास राम, पिरामल फाउंडेशन के डिस्ट्रिक्ट लीड अनिल शुक्ला, प्रोग्राम लीड विमल कुमार, अमृत, मनोभा तथा वैशाली उपस्थित रहे।

विश्व पर्यावरण दिवस पर जिलाधिकारी ने कलेक्ट्रेट परिसर में किया चौधरोपण, पर्यावरण को शुद्ध एवं हटा-मटा बनाए रखने के लिए सभी से वृक्षारोपण करने की किया अपील



A Healthy Water Footprint is Key for a Healthy Earth

What will really move the needle for the climate change agenda is to evolve a citizen's action framework that is water-centric

Column
SWATI PIRAMAL & ANUJ SHARMA

dimming the hope that people harbour of a better, safer world.

RENEWING HOPE
India is the only major country to be on track to achieve targets set out in the Paris climate agreement, according to the UN Environment Programme's Emission Gap Report. India's COP26 pledges and progress of its solar mission are commendable. The government has announced audacious plans of reducing Indian economy's emissions intensity by 45%. All states are building solar capacity and moving away from fossil fuels.

WATER MATTERS
India has 18% of the world's population but only 4% of the global freshwater resources—being an agrarian economy it is the world's largest extractor of groundwater. This makes India one of the world's 17 'extremely water-stressed' countries. A NITI Aayog report (2018) reveals that nearly half of India's population faces extreme water stress.

CATASTROPHE LOOMS LARGE
The alarming Arctic meltdown is seeing irreversible economic and geopolitical consequences. The California wildfires destroyed 4,397,809 acres of forest area, while Amazon fires have charred over 63,000 sq km of forest. Closer home, a severe heatwave was recorded in large parts of India last month. Floods in Assam, Uttarakhand, Bihar and Kerala continue to leave millions displaced, thousands dead and vast tracts of land affected. Chennai city officials declared in 2019 that 'Day Zero', or the day when almost no water is left, had arrived. The deluge of disasters is only



action at scale is taken. What then, are we, the people of India, doing about our colossal water footprint?

THE ANSWERS LIE WITH US
Efforts are underway for improving agricultural efficiency, as also for moving away from water intensive crops, but this has yet to become common practice. Similarly,

THE IMPACT
India has 18% of world's population but only 4% of global freshwater resources – being an agrarian economy, it is the world's largest extractor of groundwater

water user crops like wheat, rice and millets is a choice as only you can make Cotton, sugar and tobacco are other highly water-intensive crops. Thus, wise choices of fashion, food and fun will make the much-needed difference. Simple prudent daily choices like bathing using bucket water and keeping a check on our daily water use can add up significantly to conserving water. Rejuvenation of water bodies, like Bengaluru's lake rejuvenation, and reducing plastic pollution is a major cause of water body pollution like Siddam showed, are other steps that can be initiated by local governments and supported by communities.

WE HAVE TO MOVE NOW
What will really move the needle for the climate change agenda is to evolve a 'citizen's action framework' that is water-centric and leverages the proven Jan Andolan approach to make for an effective strategy. Every society must address lack of awareness along with the prevailing hopelessness through mobilising mass movements, with youth essaying a key role, and continue to track progress, until change is visible. India should create a sound water-centric framework for citizen's climate action leveraging everyone's participation. The time for debate has passed. If we are to leave something to the next generation, each one of us has to take positive action to avert the impending water disaster, as our lives depended on it. Because, now, they do.
(Swati Piramal is a non-chairperson, Piramal Group; Anuj Sharma is lead, Climate Action and Sustainability, Piramal Foundation)



Our choices matter

It is crucial to conduct plantation drives and raise awareness among communities to spark behaviour change. If we want to heal our planet, we have to recycle, reuse, save water, make better transport choices, select sustainable diets, reduce electricity consumption, shop locally, and choose a better future. Think about them. Are these really that difficult to follow?



In the universe are **billions of galaxies,**
In our galaxy are **billions of planets,**
But there is **#onlyoneearth.**
Let's take care of it.



About Piramal Foundation

Piramal Foundation seeks to usher in transformation at scale by solving India's most intractable problems through innovation, collaboration, and sewa bhaav. Its vision is to provide equal opportunities to every citizen and transform the country's health, education, water, and social sector ecosystems.





Saving the Environment Begins with Each One of Us

*"Ours is the last generation that can take
steps to avoid the worst impacts of climate change"*

Ban Ki-moon,
former Secretary-General of the United Nations

