

**WORLD EARTH DAY – 22 APRIL, 2023**

**Theme – Invest in our Planet**



**CPREEC-EIACP RP on  
Conservation of Ecological Heritage and  
Sacred Sites of India**

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[www.cprecevis.nic.in](http://www.cprecevis.nic.in)**

**Supported by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**

**CPREEC-EIACP RP on  
Conservation of Ecological Heritage and  
Sacred Sites of India**

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### Introduction:

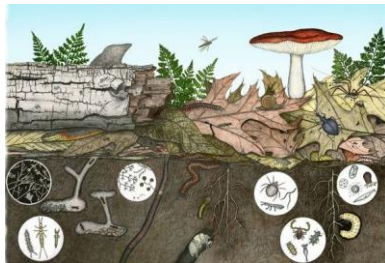
- April 22 was established as Earth Day in 1970 by Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson to encourage people to protect the environment. Since then, it has become a global day of action to protect and preserve our Earth.
- This year's Earth Day theme is **Invest in our planet**, a concept that incorporates ideas of planting trees, growing healthy food and safeguarding the environment, cleaning up pollution, and generating climate education.



- This action involves bringing the Earth back to an earlier condition — before human impact drove greenhouse gas emissions, polluted waterways, increased the rate and impact of natural disasters, and so many more pressing challenges that we now face.
- For us, every day is Earth Day. If you feel the same, here are some actions and tips to make a difference, every day of the year.

## 1. Healthy soils sustain life on Earth

- Our food systems depend on healthy soils.
- The revival of plants, crops and forests depends on the revival of degraded soils.
- This depends on the restoration of the complex relationships between the soil, the plants and a plethora of microbes, including fungi, bacteria and viruses.
- Healthy soils thrive with these microscopic life forms: they are essential for plant growth and protection against diseases.
- Soil degradation not only threatens the intrinsic value of the ecosystems, but also our ability to produce healthy and sustainable foods.



Source: <https://www.soils4teachers.org/know-soil-know-life>

## 2. Our relationship with nature is failing

- Ecosystem degradation is contributing to our failing relationship with nature: people - accepted views of ecological conditions are continually lowered, a phenomenon known as shifting baseline syndrome.



<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/forests-declaration-india-reads-fine-print-chooses-to-stay-away-7605041/>

- Restoring our emotional connection to nature (known as “nature connectedness”) is therefore important.

- People who feel more connected to nature are more likely to engage in actions such as wildlife conservation, recycling, and supporting environmental organisations.
- These are essential to reverse the ecological and climate crises we face.



Source: <https://blog.richardvanhooijdonk.com/en/technologie-wordt-ook-voor-natuurbehoud-een-steeds-belangrijker-instrument>

### **3. Indigenous cultures and knowledge is being lost**

- Indigenous culture is intimately connected to the land.
- The erosion of ecosystems can therefore result in the erosion of culture – including knowledge and language.
- This knowledge is often hyper-localised and has evolved over thousands of years.



Source: <https://www.thebetterindia.com/96847/bastar-travel-tribals-misconceptions/>

- It is vital to the health of many ecosystems and the livelihoods of communities across the globe.
- Ecological restoration can help to sustain the rich diversity of human cultures on our planet by supporting relationships between humans and the environment that are mutually advantageous.



- Protecting the rights and livelihoods of indigenous peoples and supporting indigenous research leadership has an important role to play in this process.



#### **4. Human health is dependent on ecosystem health**

- The restoration of ecosystems is intrinsically linked to the restoration of human health.
- The COVID-19 pandemic, which has so far caused over a million deaths worldwide, is a poignant reminder of how ecosystem degradation can

contribute to the emergence and spread of novel pathogens.

- To combat these emerging global conditions and protect the lives of future generations, we need to protect and restore our habitats and biodiversity.
- In addition, biodiversity loss could be making us sick.
- Restoring environmental microbiomes (the diverse networks of microbes in a given environment) through re-vegetation may have an important impact on our immune systems.

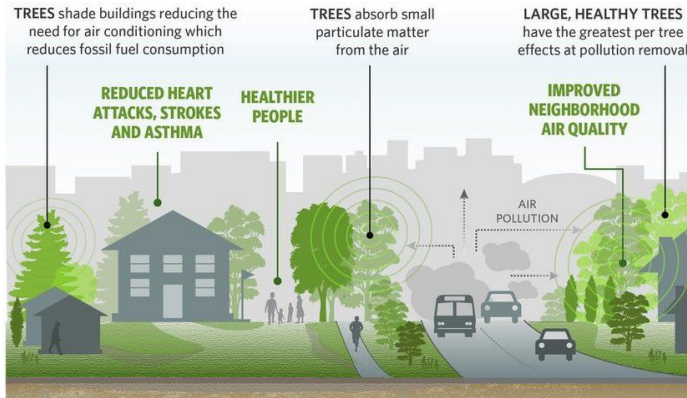
## **5. Plantation of trees allows protecting and preserving our living conditions, which benefit the society, to the environment and to the economy.**

- Trees temper the climate, filter air, regulates the cycle of water as well clean up, fertilize soil and store CO<sub>2</sub> while their growth.
- Tree planting is a simple method of geo-intelligence to recreate degraded balance of nature. We can stock carbon in soils. Rains come back and climate is more temperate.
- Biodiversity is very important in natural ecosystems. Replanting different members of trees in privileging native species will restore local biodiversity.



<https://theenergymix.com/2021/01/28/critics-weigh-merits-of-soil-sequestration-based-carbon-storage>

- Planting trees allows improving air quality with particles filtering particularly in cities.



<https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-37813709>

## Protect and Preserve our earth – It Starts with You

- Save energy

**Save Energy**  
#ChooseLIFE

**Use Bicycles whenever possible**  
जहाँ भी संभव हो,  
साइकिल का प्रयोग करें

Scan the QR Code to know more

moefrc Moefrc moefrcgpr moef.gov.in

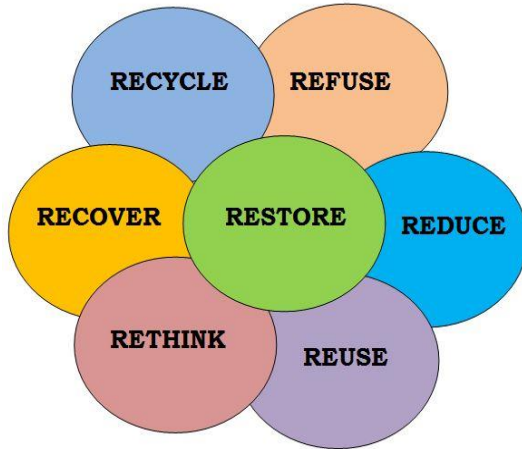
**Save Energy**  
#ChooseLIFE

**Use public transport wherever possible**  
पब्लिक ट्रांसपोर्ट का प्रयोग करें

Scan the QR Code to know more

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- Follow the 7R's to conserve resources and landfill space.



- Volunteer for clean-ups in your community. You can get involved in protecting your watershed too.



<https://www.thebetterindia.com/106406/chennai-coastal-cleanup-volunteer-initiative-chennai-trekking-club>

- When you further your own education, you can help others understand the importance and value of natural resources.



- Use Long-Lasting Light Bulbs

**LIFE**  
Lifestyle For Environment

**Save Energy**  
#ChooseLIFE

**Use LED Bulbs/  
Tube-Lights**

सदैव एलईडी बल्ब और ट्यूब  
लाइट प्रयोग करें

Scan the QR Code  
to know more

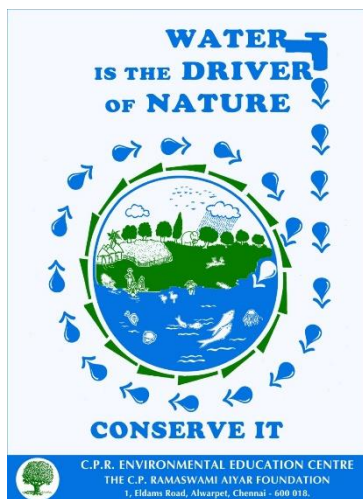
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- Shop Wisely - Buy less plastic and bring a reusable shopping bag.



- Conserve Water



**LIFE**  
Lifestyle For Environment

75th  
Azadi Ka  
Amrit Mahotsav

**conserve Water**  
#ChooseLIFE

Scan the QR Code to know more

Create Rainwater Harvesting infrastructure at home/ schools/ offices

घर/स्कूल/कार्यालयों में वर्षा जल संचयन के बुनियादी ढांचे का निर्माण करें

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- Plant a Tree

### Let me live

**MY LEAVES**

- convert the sun's energy into food for all living beings with the help of chlorophyll, carbon dioxide and water.
- release carbon dioxide to oxygen, making it possible to live in healthy and fit.
- provide shelter for birds and various life forms.
- when the ground becomes water impermeable due to soil.

**MY BRANCHES**

- provide foodwood

**MY FRUITS AND SEEDS**

- provide food for man and animals.

**MY TRUNK**

- provides shelter.
- provides pulp for making paper.
- is used for making pens.
- is used for making medicine.
- is used for making medicines.

**MY ROOTS**

- prevent soil erosion, thereby maintaining its fertility.
- hold nutrients, thereby conserving groundwater.
- absorb water from the soil.
- are used for making medicines.

**MY FLOWERS**

- provide nectar for insects.
- are used for making dyes.
- are used for making dyes.

**MY LEAVES**

- provide shade, thereby bringing down the temperature.
- absorb air pollutants.
- provide a home for birds, insects and animals.

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