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'Time for nature': Education and the environment

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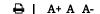








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s year's World Er

t we have reach

is the moment to act! In line with the theme, I am happy to share s to showcase the Indian government's work on environment or the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. India he first time among the top 10 countries in the Climate Change

Performance Index (CCPI).

The annual increase in carbon stock is 21.3 million tons, which is equivalent to 78.2 million tons of CO2. As per the ISFR 2019 report, forest and tree cover have increased by 5,100 sq. km. I also congratulate my colleague Prakash Javadekar for his untiring efforts in achieving the above goals.

Prime Minister Modi, on the occasion of International Mother Earth Day, set the priorities regarding nature. He said, "We all express gratitude to our planet for the abundance of care and compassion. Let us pledge to work towards a cleaner, healthier and more prosperous planet."

the guiding spirit as to what values we want to impart to our ners in the Human Resource Development ministry. Education and servation have a symbiotic relationship.

ed a society is, the more protective towards nature the society ith its rich cultural heritage, complemented by education, always relationship with nature.

servation has always been close to my heart.

and where the famous Chipko movement started. Chandi Prasad Bahuguna and Gaura Devi have been my inspiration. When I was ninister of Uttarakhand, I had the opportunity to launch the ""Van me", ensuring public participation in conserving forests. In government to give a "green bonus" to hill states. I launched the upaign to ensure that our national river Ganga stays unpolluted.

innovative curriculum in higher educational institutions shall ffering of credit-based courses and projects in the areas of environmental education. The same vision was enunciated by DG UNESCO, Audrey Azoulay, when she visited India. She emphatically articulated that environmental awareness should be a part of the curriculum.

The approach for environmental conservation cannot be straitjacketed but requires continual inquiry and reflection. Thus, multiple strategies have been adopted for integrating the environment with education. The HRD ministry has ensured that the teaching of Environmental Studies as EVS (science) and EVS (social studies) starts as early as the primary stage and is incorporated in classes above and even in higher education.

Several initiatives have been launched. I am glad that students are coming out in large numbers to participate. Jal Shakti Abhiyan (Samagra Shiksha-Jal Suraksha) conservation campaign has been launched wherein 10 crore students have

3,650 crore litres of water in one year and will save 36,500 crore lo years.

is aplings have been planted by students across schools and higher test under the "one student one tree" campaign. Further, an imme has been initiated on environmental hazards of electronic. The AICTE has issued guidelines for the ban of plastic use in institutions.

eremarkable efforts of higher education institutes towards green building a more sustainable and environmentally conscious

reloped SATAT—a Framework for Eco-Friendly and Sustainable tent, with various courses at the graduate and postgraduate level ronment conservation. A six-month core module syllabus for tidies will be impl

ironment require

their role and responsibility in working towards a sustainable jet.

le Development Goals—Climate action (Goal 13), Life on land (Goal 15), Life below water (Goal 14), and responsible consumption and production (Goal 12)—are all interrelated and interdependent. Due to the onset of the pandemic, the gains in tackling poverty, hunger, health and education may suffer serious setbacks.

However, the setbacks may be aggravated if we collectively do not address threats to the environment. It is essential to strengthen education about the environment; this cannot be studied in isolation but requires multidisciplinary integration in the curriculum at all levels. This can only be possible if academicians, teachers and students come forth to adopt traditional practices and knowledge systems on environment conservation. Together we can act #ForNature.

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