

+ READER'S-WRITERS | SPOOF

Special issue

gobar times

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A DOWN TO EARTH SUPPLEMENT FOR THE YOUNG AND CURIOUS

MY DREAM MAGAZINE

On the World Environment Day and
the First Anniversary of the
Young Environmentalist website,
let us hear the voices of the
gen-next directly and
gather their views on
environmental news.





The Humanitarian Approach

This dream of Gobar Times magazine emphasizes upon spreading awareness for mitigating the climate crisis.

Sharanya Menon

We are living in a time of panic and distress, yet we continue to be in a state of delusion. Climate change is real. If we do not accept this truth and take control of the situation, we will face extinction.

While an overload of information we receive every day on climate change dehumanises the crisis and makes it distant and unreal, a huge chunk of the subject that usually gets left out from the data, statistics and reports is the human cost. Greta Thunberg and Venessa Nakate have said: “The climate crisis isn’t just about extreme weather. It’s about people. Real people. And

the very people who have done the least to create the climate crisis are suffering the most.”

The Gobar Times of my dreams should address this shortfall. It should cover the social and community-wide impacts of climate change, as well as advocate for futuristic and realistic solutions.

Because of access to information online and awareness campaigns by NGOs and civilians, most people today are aware of the technical impacts of climate change. But it is also imperative to understand the urban-rural and societal inequalities that can risk our communities and disrupt

our society’s progression.

Sustainable development, as a concept, aims at ensuring that our future generation has the resources and environment to survive. We have to encourage processes, ideas and action plans that can carry forward this notion.

As humans, we are not superior forces and cannot fight against the power of Nature. A shift in mindset is essential. This can be done through persuasive and urgent articles that clearly bring out the timeline required to resolve the problem. Climate change can’t wait to be solved in 2040 or 2060; it is crucial to solve it NOW. This message should be brought out in every article.

Also, as there are multiple facets to climate change, assigning one sub-topic to each week or month could allow the publication to cover all issues over time. The publication should be a testimony to innovative re-modelling of people’s mindsets and modernistic ideologies and solutions.

These are my ideas for the *Gobar Times* of my dreams.

The author is a student of Class IX, The Shri Ram School, Moulisari, Gurugram





Some Purpose-driven News

A desire for a magazine that focuses on well-identified environmental concerns and concrete tangible solutions.

Avik Mitra

It is our collective responsibility to maintain our earth as a habitable place for our present and future. Today, more than ever before, we are facing environmental challenges that can spiral into major crises unless we take urgent corrective measures. We have to strive to execute our actions points and *Gobar Times* provides us a wonderful platform to achieve them.

If I were the editor of *Gobar Times*, I would design its content and activities so as to proactively save our environment. Besides reaching out to subject experts for content, I would publish interviews of young students undertaking credible research and analysis. I would conduct surveys and Q&A sessions, and organize hands-on workshops to raise overall awareness on environmental issues. Through campaigns and active participation, we can make a societal impact and move towards a greener future.

One of the topics closest to my heart is waste management. We are already aware of the importance of waste segregation at source and avoiding the usage of non-biodegradable plastic.

So, I would proceed and cover biodegradable waste—the actual ways of handling it through composting it in one's own backyard. I would include diagrams, audio-visual links, and step-by-step procedures in my magazine describing how to compost at home. I would also organize DIY workshops and encourage their participants to spread awareness on the benefits of composting. They could then campaign for its implementation in their neighbourhood.

Such home composting would allow food scraps to degrade in the presence of oxygen in our residential premises itself, instead of piling up in landfills that release methane. The resultant compost can serve as a natural

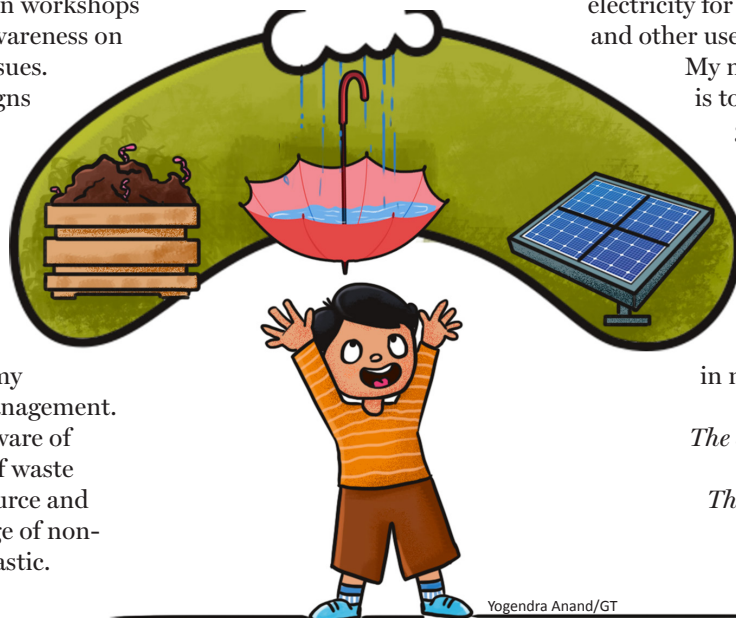
fertilizer for our plants, thereby reducing the consumption of toxic artificial fertilizers.

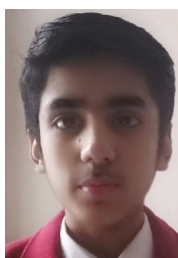
The second cause I will take up is groundwater depletion. It is a real concern particularly in Delhi and its vicinity. Rainwater harvesting is an effective way of reducing groundwater usage and also recharging it. My articles would focus on its importance and proceed onto organizing workshops about the same. They would demonstrate how to setup rainwater harvesting systems at homes and in localities, and thereby promote water conservation.

Another topic I would like my magazine to cover is—solar energy. I wish to encourage articles on how to utilize solar power on our rooftops and neighbourhood for generating electricity for water heating and other uses.

My magazine's goal is to celebrate actual green projects implemented to rescue the environment. Success stories of such projects with pictures would also feature in my editions.

The author is a student of class VI, The Shri Ram School, Moulisari, Gurugram.





Spreading the Word

Taking a small step in the right direction, saving from a big step in the wrong direction—an astute vision for a dream magazine.

Anshul Sharda

Recently, the mercury in many parts of northern India touched 48°C. Many records were broken by the rising temperature—March this year was marked as the hottest in the past 122 years! Public places, as a result, wore a deserted look as residents were forced to stay indoors.

Over the last few years, many magazines have focused on the need to convey environmental news and information to the young generation. One of them is *Gobar Times*, a children's supplement of *Down To Earth* magazine and a flagship publication of Centre for Science and Environment, which has worked hard to bring out many issues in front of the young readers.

Magazines are a mode of mass communication that help

in shaping minds. Studies have shown that reading a magazine can exert a direct impact on the brain. So, magazines should convey the truth as it impacts the community as well as the individuals reading them.

According to me as a reader, the most important thing needed in magazines is adherence to facts and data-based studies. A good magazine is one that reaches the public. To do so, a magazine should be translated into different languages, so that it can be accessed by a larger audience. For those who cannot read or children who show more interest in pictures rather than reading text, a magazine should stress on pictographic representation.

Today, poverty exists in many parts of the country. To ensure awareness at the ground

level, magazines should be circulated in slum areas free of cost and that too, in local languages. I feel that “a small step in the right direction is better than a big step in the wrong direction.”

We must understand that magazines can impact the routine lifestyles of individuals; their environment-based updates can benefit a lot of readers. *Gobar Times* is doing a commendable job in making the young generation aware about environmental issues. Every individual needs to take a step towards a change—as Mahatma Gandhi said very rightly: “Be the change you want to see in the world.”

The author is a student of Class IX, Bal Bharati Public School, Manesar, Haryana.



Yogendra Anand/GT



Practising Inspiring Environmentalism

A sagacious proposition for a dream magazine based on promoting ground-level stories of green heroes.

Yash Bhardwaj

Readers-Writers



If I was the editor of *Gobar Times*, I would appreciate and highlight all those people in my magazine who try to keep our environment clean. This would include people who save and plant trees and conduct public programmes to spread awareness about environmental issues. Environment protection is very important for all of us. In *Gobar Times*, I will publish articles which motivate people so that they can participate in planting more and more trees. My magazine would ensure that

our articles do not harm the feelings of anyone. I will conduct various campaigns for environmental conservation through my publication.

Environment pollution is a major problem in the world today, and if we don't try to minimise it, then after a few years everyone in the world would be suffering from various health problems. I will spread awareness about such health hazards through the magazine. Deforestation, pollution, industrialisation, etc. are the reasons of environmental

degradation, but through awareness building and other steps we can reduce this.

Gobar Times can conduct campaigns related to environment conservation in villages. I will try to publish real life incidents so that people take the issues seriously. Our planet Earth is unique and being the editor of *Gobar Times*, I would try and maintain this uniqueness.

The author is a student of Class XI, Shivalik Valley School, Solan, Himachal Pradesh.



Environmentalists vs Capitalists?

A daring dream of Gobar Times magazine about demystifying assumptions and raising pertinent questions on the current global environment politics.

Amara Jain

If I were the editor of *Gobar Times*, I would like to look beyond the popular notion that climate activists are not fond of people with a capitalist mindset. The environment as we know is not fragmented—it is one entity on Mother Earth. Developed and developing countries are always in opposition, blaming each other, instead of working together to achieve environmental goals. As an editor, I would want my readers to be aware of what is being done to solve the issues related to climate change.

Let us take India as an example. India aims to achieve net zero emissions by 2070, while it is 2050 for USA. This is despite all the negotiations by experts and leaders. Why can't there be one date or one year for all countries? Are they not taking global warming seriously? Or is the economic burden of these countries so huge that they can't afford to reduce their emissions at the moment? This brings us back to the thought that climate change activists may not be that fond of capitalists.

The answer to that lies in the simple fact that one cannot force people to change. Change is something that needs to be embraced by the people. When people do this and there is a cultural transformation,

the climate crisis will get easily resolved. For instance, the term 'Sustainable Development' was coined in the year 1987 by the Brundtland Commission and it has been 35 years since. Yet, the majority of the businesses are still developing their Annual Reports on the basis of the economic-bottom-line approach, instead of the triple-bottom-line approach that focuses on social and environmental aspects as well.

The world now needs to come together to implement the solutions before it's too late. Ignoring global warming is morally criminal (if not legally so, yet). And yes, it is

a collective goal and cannot be different for every country. If the developed nations have the wherewithal, then they must transfer money and technology for implementation of the same across the globe. Today, the world wants to know more about solutions than the problems. Or let's just say we are tired of the problems and we millennials want quick results for historical mistakes.

The Earth is for everyone, and everyone must be for the Earth.

The author is a student of Class X, The Shri Ram School, Moulisari, Gurugram.



Yogendra Anand/GT



Pertinent Green Updates

A meticulous wish-list regarding presentation of environment news and updates, catering to a smart audience.

Devika Maitra Chakravarty

I imagine if I were the editor of *Gobar Times*! Could there be anything more exciting than working on a magazine that brings topics related to Nature to the notice of young environmentalists across the country? The first thing I would do is add a 'Creative Corner' section to it which would include art created with sustainable material. Quizzes and puzzles would make the magazine more interactive. A page would be dedicated to a 'Young Environmentalist of the Month' to not only highlight the good work done by the person but also serve as an inspiration to others our age.

We live in a digital age and we must include interactive content in our magazine, like opportunities to interact

online and links to videos that supplement its articles. Each year, we can pick up one cause, plan awareness campaigns and fundraising events to support it, and involve students from around the country. Every month, we could have a guest editor, a student who can bring in the perspective of the target audience of the magazine because the readers of today would become the doers of tomorrow.

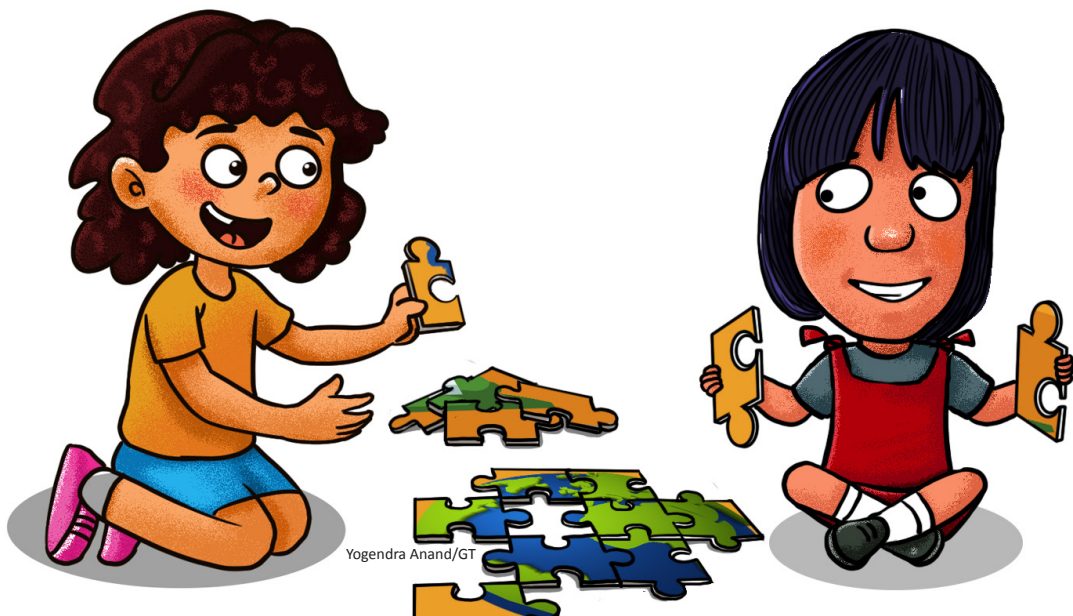
An 'In the News' section to keep us up to date with environmental issues from around the world. Children like me are aware, thanks to our school, which has environmental issues integrated into every subject; however, at *Gobar Times*, we must ensure that no child is left untouched by the love for Mother Nature. It is a

bond that ties us together, irrespective of age, religion and economical background.

Forest fires, soaring temperatures, dying sea life are all signs that the time to act is now if we are to even have a 'tomorrow'. Thus, magazines such as *Gobar Times* can have a big impact on the impressionable minds of young children. I believe that the future belongs to us and as the biggest stakeholders in the future, the change must come from us children too. We must be part of the change we want to see in the world.

We must help the earth heal again. That should be our top priority. Thank you.

The author is a student of class VII, The Shri Ram School, Moulisari, Gurugram.



Yogendra Anand/GT



KHOOB LAPETA

India's retail inflation surged in a humongous manner recently, recording more than 7%, which is an eight-year high. This was owing to escalating food and fuel prices, and most significantly, the war in Ukraine, which disrupted the global supply chain. The price inflation of fuels, vegetables, and oils and fats reached 10%, 15% and 17% in May 2022, which was a steady increase from the inflation levels in April 2022. Fertilizer shortages and poor harvests have also contributed to these rising prices.