

From the Desk of the Chief Patron

Climate Change, Environmental Protection and the Role of CEHESH TRUST OF INDIA

The world today is facing serious environmental challenges. Climate change, deforestation, biodiversity loss, pollution, and extreme weather events are affecting people in every country. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC, 2023), human activities have increased greenhouse gas emissions, leading to rising global temperatures and more frequent climate-related disasters. The World Meteorological Organization (2023) has also reported that many climate indicators have reached record levels in recent years.

World Environment Day 2026 was hosted by Azerbaijan in Baku with the theme, "Climate Action – The planet doesn't argue. It sends signals." The campaign highlighted the urgent warning signs of climate change, including rising temperatures, heatwaves, wildfires, melting glaciers, and rising sea levels. It called on countries to rapidly reduce greenhouse gas emissions and take immediate action to limit global warming. The message emphasized the importance of clean energy, methane reduction, and the protection of forests and oceans. It also stressed the need to support developing nations in addressing climate challenges. The overall message was clear: act now for the climate and build a sustainable future for all. #NowForClimate

These challenges remind us that environmental protection is not only a scientific issue but also a social responsibility. Sustainable development can be achieved only when economic progress and environmental conservation move together. The United Nations (2015), through the Sustainable Development Goals, has emphasized the need for protecting natural resources while improving the quality of life for present and future generations.

In this context, the role of educational and research organizations becomes very important. Scientific research, environmental education, and public awareness are essential for finding practical solutions to climate and environmental problems. Institutions working in environmental sciences help communities understand environmental challenges and encourage sustainable practices.

CEHESH TRUST OF INDIA is making a sincere effort in this direction. The Trust is committed to promoting environmental awareness, scientific research, and sustainable development. Through its activities, the Trust encourages the study of climate change, environmental management, geography, geospatial technologies, disaster management, and related fields. These efforts support the development of knowledge that can contribute to environmental protection and climate resilience.

One of the important initiatives of CEHESH TRUST OF INDIA is the publication of the *Journal of Geointerface*. The journal provides a platform for researchers, academicians, professionals, and students to share their

research findings and innovative ideas. It encourages scientific discussions on environmental and climate-related issues and supports evidence-based approaches for sustainable development.

We would appreciate it if researchers in Climate and Environmental Science published more articles in our journal. In this connection, the contribution of the only article in this theme, '*Investigating above-ground biomass and carbon sequestration potential in the pursuit of carbon neutrality via academic institutions*' to this July 2026 issue by Akshaya Vinod T et al. of the School of Environmental Sciences, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kerala, India, Dr. R. Satheesh Centre for Remote Sensing & GIS, and C-HAERT (Charitable Society for Humanitarian Assistance and Emergency Response Training), Kerala, India, is commendable. Akshaya Vinod T et al. have presented a highly valuable and data-driven assessment of carbon sequestration and emissions at Mahatma Gandhi University, highlighting the crucial role of campus ecosystems in climate change mitigation. Their comprehensive analysis of biomass, carbon storage, and emission sources provides important insights for advancing institutional sustainability and carbon neutrality goals. The study stands out for its scientific rigor and practical recommendations, offering a strong model for universities seeking to enhance environmental stewardship and the adoption of renewable energy.

The Trust is also involved in environmental education and awareness programmes. These activities help students and local communities to understand the importance of conserving natural resources, protecting biodiversity, and adopting environmentally responsible practices. Such awareness is necessary for building a society that values environmental sustainability.

A significant environmental initiative undertaken by CEHESH TRUST OF INDIA is the development of a medicinal plant conservation project on 15 acres of land in the forest area of Keonjhar. Since 2024, the Trust has been cultivating and conserving various medicinal plant varieties. This initiative contributes to biodiversity conservation, environmental protection, and sustainable use of natural resources. The medicinal plant plantation also serves as a learning centre for students. School and college students visit the site to learn about plant identification, morphology, medicinal uses, and conservation practices. These educational activities help young people develop a deeper understanding of the relationship between nature, health, and environmental sustainability.

Climate variability and events such as El Niño can affect agriculture, water resources, ecosystems, and human well-being. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (2024), strong El Niño events influence weather patterns across many regions of the world.

Such developments highlight the importance of environmental research, climate monitoring, and public preparedness. Organizations like CEHESH TRUST OF INDIA can play a vital role by promoting scientific understanding and community awareness regarding these environmental challenges.

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (2022), forests and healthy ecosystems are essential for climate resilience and sustainable development. Protecting natural resources and restoring degraded ecosystems are important steps towards a greener future. Through its environmental initiatives, research support, and educational activities, CEHESH TRUST OF INDIA contributes to these broader goals to some extent.

Although the Trust's efforts are modest compared to the global scale of environmental challenges, they demonstrate how local actions can support larger environmental objectives. Every research activity, awareness programme, educational initiative, and conservation effort helps to build a more informed and environmentally responsible society. As Chief Patron, I believe that scientific knowledge, environmental responsibility, and community participation are essential for addressing climate change and environmental degradation. Let us work together to promote sustainability, protect nature, and create a healthier environment for future generations.

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