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# The power of one to fight climate change

**TIMES NEWS NETWORK**

**Chennai:** As melting glaciers, raging forest fires and loss of bumblebees resulting from climate change make news, a novel initiative by the Bharat Soka Gakkai (BSG) and Earth Charter International is here with a powerful message - 'it takes one' to create conscious, lasting change for the environment. The Indian affiliate of global peace and culture organisation Soka Gakkai International (SGI), BSG, along with Earth Charter International, is bringing a unique travelling exhibition titled 'Seeds of Hope - visions for sustainability, steps towards change', to the city from February 11 to 20.

**The initiative aims to highlight every individual's connect with the rest of the community and the environment**

The exhibition will be held across five venues – MOP Vaishnav College for Women, on February 11 and 12, Guru Nanak College from February 13 to 15, Natesan Vidyasala Matriculation Higher Secondary School on February 16, Sethu Bhaskara Matriculation Higher Secondary School on February 17 and 18, and Maharishi Vidy Mandir on February 19 and 20. With an aim to highlight ev-

ery individual's interconnectedness to the rest of the community and the environment, 'Seeds of Hope' will introduce the Earth Charter's vision for sustainable living through examples of eight individuals and groups who have successfully taken action for change, from Africa to the Arctic and Eastern Europe. It will feature 24 panels, including one left blank, so viewers can attach their own statement of what they will do towards sustainability. Each panel will also present an endangered or unusual animal to educate and encourage children to come up with their own ideas to make their communities and the planet healthier.

The exhibits are based on the 'Learn, Reflect, Empower' formula outlined in SGI president and nuclear disarmament advocate Daisaku Ikeda's 2002 proposal on education for sustainable development. "The most important message this initiative drives home is that no individual is too small or powerless to change the world for the better. Students, especially, can start at their own schools, neighbourhoods and communities, which will lead to bigger change towards a sustainable future in the rest of the country. Our panels of success stories will inspire them to do this," says Prabakaran Raju, member of the organising committee, BSG.



## Seeds of Hope, an exhibition to enable children build sustainable communities

February 15, 2020

The week-long exhibition- Seeds of Hope underway in Chennai brings awareness about the importance of sustainability and how one person's initiative can lead the way to responsible communities.

The exhibition which is the joint initiative of Soka Gakkai International (SGI) and Earth Charter International also calls for action now to ensure plentiful future.

Till now the exhibition has been visited by close to 6000 students from various schools and colleges across the city. As part of the event, students are educated on their role in building sustainable communities, and are encouraged to come up with novel ideas to bring about larger change.

The exhibition also showcases our interconnectedness with the community and the environment. It features 24 panels with stories of individuals and organisations who have successfully brought about sustainable and social change, from Africa to the Arctic and Eastern Europe. Through these, it encourages viewers to overcome feelings of powerlessness and highlights the role of a single individual in initiating positive change in their communities and environment.

Introducing the positive vision for sustainable living expressed in the Earth Charter, Seeds of Hope has toured across 16 cities with a footfall of 75000 across india.

## Local news channels covering the exhibition

