

Report on *Laudato Si'* Initiatives

Christian Brother Schools in India

Summary

This report documents the *Laudato Si'* ecological initiatives undertaken by Christian Brother schools and communities in India in 2025, particularly in observance of World Earth Day (22 April). Inspired by Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'*, the projects sought to cultivate ecological awareness, sustainable practices, and community action.

Key highlights included:

- Awareness-building campaigns (radio skits, rallies, cultural activities).
- Practical ecological measures (composting, waste management, cloth bag adoption).
- Youth-led and community-inclusive activities (seed planting, cycle rallies, farming).

The collective effort demonstrates how educational institutions can foster ecological responsibility, blending faith, education, and action.

1. Introduction

Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'* calls for urgent care for our common home, urging individuals, communities, and institutions to adopt sustainable practices and nurture ecological consciousness. Responding to this call, Christian Brother schools and Social Justice Animators in India have been pioneering initiatives that combine education, creativity, and environmental stewardship. The communities of the Christian Brothers have also been adopting the sustainable goals of *Laudato Si'* in their life and mission.

In 2025, these schools marked the World Earth Day with activities reflecting the theme "Planet vs Plastics" and broader ecological concerns. This report captures these initiatives, their impact, and the roadmap for sustaining and expanding them.

2. Institutional and Community Initiatives

1. St. Edmund's Higher Secondary School, Shillong

Radio skit titled 'Garbage Diet'. Theme: Planet vs Plastics. Raised awareness on plastic pollution.

2. Providence School, Shillong

Project: 'Turning Waste into Wonder'. Focused on recycling and innovative reuse of waste.

3. Goethal's Memorial School, Kurseong

Student-driven ecological awareness initiatives in each classroom focusing on local sustainability issues.

4. Edmund Rice Mangkara School, Wairinong

Hands-on eco-friendly actions promoting sustainable living practices.

5. Patharlyndan & Umtyrkhang Communities, Meghalaya

Promoted cloth bag use with slogan: 'Simple Change. Lasting Impact.'

6. St. Edmund's College, Shillong

Established a compost plant for organic waste, teaching circular economy and organic farming.

7. St. Edmund's School, Shillong

River cleaning drive by students and teachers of Umkliar River by St. Edmund's School, Shillong, along with Operation Clean Up (OCU) in April.

8. St. Patrick's Higher Secondary School, Asansol

Organized 'Think Green Cycle Rally' on 8 Feb 2025 with 15 schools. Fostered climate action collaboration.

9. St. Vincent's High & Technical School, Asansol

Greenathon - A rally was organized by St. Vincent's School, Asansol, to create awareness on sustainability.

10. St. Mary's Orphanage & Day School, Dum Dum, Kolkata

Activity: 'The Mango Relay' where teams planted mango seeds as part of a relay race.

11. St. Joseph's School, Bow Bazaar, Kolkata

A plastic recycling initiative was undertaken by St. Joseph's School, Kolkata, by collecting single-use plastic from the campus and from their homes and sending it for recycling through an NGO partner.

12. St. Joseph's College, Nainital

Engaged in local ecological initiatives (unspecified in presentation).

13. CCBI Novitiate, Simran, Bhopal

Brothers transplanted paddy, promoting sustainable agriculture.

14. St. Columba's School, New Delhi

Participated in *Laudato Si'* projects, like creating compost pits, butterfly and herbal gardens, organizing a special SOC Mass, awareness campaigns and e-waste collection drives adapting ecological actions to urban context.

15. St. John's High School, Chandigarh

A tree plantation drive; *Vanmahotsava* (*Ek ped maa ke naam*) was celebrated in collaboration with the Dept. of Forests and Environment, the Youth Innovative Society and the Eco Warriors of St. John's School, Chandigarh.

16. St. Mary's School, Mount Abu

A plantation drive was conducted in the summer months on this hill station school.

17. St. Joseph's High School, Nainital

A plantation drive was conducted by the school to green the campus.

3. Observations and Analysis

1. Youth Leadership: Students were central actors, demonstrating education and activism hand-in-hand.
2. Community Engagement: Local communities partnered with schools, multiplying the impact.
3. Creativity and Innovation: Projects blended ecological awareness with cultural and creative expression.
4. Practical Solutions: Composting, cloth bag campaigns, and sustainable farming showed ecological benefits.
5. Network Synergy: Collaboration across schools amplified advocacy impact.