Introduction

For decades, the world has seen countries come together to participate in environmental summits and conventions. Periodic gatherings of global powers deliberating over the Sustainable Development Goals bring to light several grave concerns. Though these meetings are conducted, and the governments are trying to keep their side of the promise, the restoration pace needs to match the ever-increasing damage. The ground reality speaks of sporadic weather patterns, human relocation due to environmental disasters, loss of life and property, and last but not least - the need to compensate for the lost natural space by using ‘more’ technology. Technological advancements and industrial developments are essential for society to grow economically. Still, they cannot occur at the cost of unsustainable practices deteriorating natural spaces faster than nature’s coping strength.

Sankalptaru Foundation announced the remarkable endeavour undertaken by its founder, Apurva Bhandari, as he embarked on a transformative cycling expedition covering a distance of 1300 km from Ghotaru in Rajasthan, to India Gate in New Delhi, inspiring everyone to raise Climate Awareness.

Apurva firmly believes in doing more than meetings; so he got down on the road with a bicycle in the peak of summer. ST Move instituted strategies and activities that he wanted to exercise earnestly. He communicated information to the streets and towns of India’s hottest state, and ST Move’s pit stops fell into place.
Our Journey Together

SankalpTaru Foundation is grateful to all its patrons for being steadfast supporters of the movement - ST MOVE through Walkathons, Cycle journeys, and much more! We are also glad to share that we planted trees for all patrons as a token of appreciation.

With 2.85 million steps walked and many km cycled by our patrons in solidarity with ST MOVE, Apurva pedalled 1365 km from Ghotaru, Rajasthan, to New Delhi, culminating the journey on June 5th, 2023. This movement helped sequester vast amounts of CO2 emissions, enabling us to plant 2023 trees under the ST MOVE campaign, sequestering an additional 1000 tonnes of carbon emissions. The movement of collective climate action became much more significant than was ever anticipated!

The campaign was successful with our green patrons' contribution; therefore, we would love to share glimpses of our journey with you through this report.
Apurva aimed to observe, discuss, and spread awareness about environmental struggles fueled by human actions. Meet-ups with the village elders, youth and children offered him a window into the rural population’s difficult way of life in the resource-scarce regions. This would not have been visible from within the four walls of the conference halls.

Riding nearly 80 km per day, dropping into the smallest towns, and sleeping in abandoned, inhospitable spaces, the rest always took place under the stars and with minimum resources but abundant local support. This experience was a constant reminder of reality, its unforgiving nature and a motivation to bring change to safeguard it.

Whenever his spirits dipped low, constant encouragement from our green patrons in messages and green actions kept him going. It only escalated with the enthusiasm that came in with cycling events and walkathons across the country under the ST Move campaign. It gives one power to move forward when in unison.

And so we did, and we would like everyone to keep those spirits up and spread the same level of awareness and sensitivity towards nature among their peers.
A CYCLE JOURNEY FOR A CAUSE

Journey Traveled:

- **Ghotaru**: 0 kms
- **Jaisalmer**: 437 kms
- **Jodhpur**: 750 kms
- **Jaipur**: 1032 kms
- **New Delhi**: 1365 kms
Our Journey, Together

MAY 20 | GHOTARU
Gajuo Ki Dhani, Rajasthan

When children were seen walking livestock instead of carrying school bags, Apurva envisioned building a primary school with vernacular materials to be sustainable. The closest school was otherwise 60 km away. This is how Aapno School came into being in a remote village in Rajasthan.
MAY 21 | JAISALMER

Reaching Jaisalmer and meeting with a lot of volunteers was endearing as they listened intently to the message behind the movement. A lot of heat and turbulence caused problems in manoeuvring the cycle, but our patrons’ messages and wishes served as the push and support that Apurva needed afterall.

MAY 22 | NEEMBLA

Meeting our farmer-beneficiaries of one our largest forests filled Apurva with joy. Giving them solar torches donated by our green patrons brought smiles to the faces of these nurturing souls, filling the space with gratitude.
After strolling through the forest, Apurva delivered a speech focusing on the urgent planetary emergency of climate change. It involved participants pledging to incorporate sustainability into their daily lives, like switching to cloth bags, minimizing paper usage, etc. A slogan filled the room- "Karo Khub Padhai, Rahegi Climate Change Se Apni Ladai!" (Engage in Education and Fight Against Climate Change). The purposeful event reached its conclusion with the donation of computers, aiming to significantly impact the quality of technology and innovation at the grassroots level of education.
As per the Global Nutrition Report, 2021, over half of the Indian girls/women in the age group 15-49 years are anaemic. With the help of our donors like yourselves, we could support their dietary needs while supporting the rural farmers of our country. Our Poshan kits are a nutritious combo of foods rich in Iron, Protein, omega-3,6 fatty acids, and fibre, a great way to keep anaemia under check. Also, the products are sourced directly from our rural farmers to our online portal GramYumm with no middlemen in between; therefore, all the profit goes directly to the farmers.
MAY 25 | BAGUNDI

From speaking to pedestrians and initiating light but thought-provoking discussions, the message was loud and clear, Apurva spoke about reducing the use of plastic bags and not accepting packaged water bottles. He humbled his approach to the simplest level by talking about it. This was to prevail over the fight against climate change in the small towns on his way. As sustainable as the rides were, the stay was modest, too, with the solar-powered batteries of the EV car to light up dark spaces at night.

MAY 26 | DHAWA

Similar brief talks were delivered in other spaces as our team distributed our Poshan Kits. The products are nutritional and sourced from our farmer-beneficiaries. This was distributed to the schoolchildren to ensure healthy living.
MAY 27 | JODHPUR
Birantiya Kalan, Rajasthan

Reaching a stadium near a school was the next pit stop after some 57 km. The colours, the artwork and the space were enough to relieve the fatigue of the journey. The space filled them with a new spirit and an urge to keep working as the news of multiple events across the country started coming in.

ST MOVE activities across India

MAY 28 | JORHAT
Cycling Event, Assam

During the Cycling Event organized by SankalpTaru in association with the Jorhat Cycling Community on 28th May in Assam, over 75 passionate cyclists cycled a phenomenal distance of 65 km and conducted a cleanup drive. These activities emphasized the importance of environmental stewardship. This act of combining physical activity with environmental responsibility perfectly embodied the spirit of the ST MOVE campaign.
MAY 29 | AJMER

Showered with flowers, blessings and support, the ST Move campaign progressed with no scope to back down. The movement also continued through late evenings to achieve the day’s target. Such was the dedication to bring change and to show people the power of determination for a better future for all.

MAY 30 | A rest day | A moment to take a pause..

ST MOVE - A Movement for Climate Action 2023
MAY 31 | JAIPUR

Apurva sat for an interview to get the words out amidst his cycle journey. He clarified queries and appreciated the applause. By this day, our Aapno school had already picked up pace, and we began receiving pictures of smiling faces studying, mesmerised by the knowledge and eyes full of dreams.
Apurva rejoiced to witness the great number of volunteers filling the space with spirits like a show of hands with kids and adults alike. People in great numbers joined Apurva and cycled their way through the city, reflecting a combined effort to save the environment.

Meeting young people and seeing them deeply invested with a keen sense to do something for the planet was a sight, and Apurva had many such merry moments to behold. He was welcomed with offerings that made him see how much people acknowledge efforts and are conscious enough but need a push. ST MOVE is one such embodiment.
JUN 03 | JAIPUR
Neemrana visit, Rajasthan

On World Bicycle Day 2023, SankalpTaru Foundation donated bicycles to 5 female students as a token of encouragement for their meritorious academic performance. Tharuni NGO facilitated the event in support of SankalpTaru’s ST MOVE Campaign to reduce their risk of dropping out and promote education and opportunity for all. These girls had to walk over 8 km daily to reach their school, which will now be saved and invested in their academic growth and development.

ST MOVE activities across India

JUN 03 | JHARKHAND AND SANGAREDDY

Jharkhand cycling event
In Jharkhand, a big group of youth cycled for ST MOVE; their spirits were delighted.

Zilla Parishad High School, Telangana
On World Bicycle Day 2023, SankalpTaru Foundation donated bicycles to 5 female students as a token of encouragement for their meritorious academic performance. Tharuni NGO facilitated the event in support of SankalpTaru’s ST MOVE Campaign to reduce their risk of dropping out and promote education and opportunity for all. These girls had to walk over 8 km daily to reach their school, which will now be saved and invested in their academic growth and development.
JUN 04 | GURUGRAM
Plantation Drive at Tau Devi Lal Stadium, Haryana

SankalpTaru Foundation organized a plantation event under its campaign ST MOVE for the Delhi NCR volunteers to promote environmental sustainability and create conscience for collective Climate Action through small, eco-conscious actions.

ST MOVE activities across India

JUN 04 | HYDERABAD, GUJARAT, WEST BENGAL & TELANGANA

Multiple events took place nationwide in solidarity with the ST MOVE campaign. The group activities reflected the zeal and the spirits were campaigned to large distances in the hope that this is just the beginning to bring in a bigger change.

ST MOVE - A Movement for Climate Action 2023 | pg 17
Beach Clean-up, Velankanni Beach

On World Environment Day 2023, volunteers collected waste along the coast. The collected beach litter was segregated and handed to the local recycling centre for proper disposal. The activity focused on spreading awareness to take a more proactive role in protecting the marine environment. A session was also conducted here, emphasizing efficient waste management practices, as irresponsible waste management contributes directly to climate change by adding carbon-based particles into the air, warming it up and creating a disastrous greenhouse effect.

Plantation Drive

SankalpTaru team and volunteers supported the ST MOVE campaign by organizing a plantation and maintenance event for our community forests. Each participant celebrated the spirit of World Environment Day while planting saplings as a token of reverence for environment and Mother Earth.

Clean-up Drive

To promote community engagement and sustainable tourism, the SankalpTaru Forest Force, Dehradun Team conducted Clean-up drives in the city on World Environment Day 2023 as a part of the ST MOVE. The drives were concluded by installing public dustbins in various locations to promote sustainable tourism.
India Gate

Apurva cycled through the warmest places, with record-high temperatures and sporadic rainfall in the hottest month of the year. He pushed through everything because he was determined and had much support from across the country. It was truly a movement that was led together.
It’s a good initiative. Through this journey, you should create an Awareness of planting trees. You should convey the importance of doing so to them. Being a volunteer of the SankalpTaru Foundation, I wish to be a part of cycling, but I am Busy with my studies. I will join this type of campaign in the upcoming days. I hope you have a good journey and take care.

-Prathwinraj A

Sankalp Taru Foundation

Actions like this can help many to know the reality, and together we can make this planet a better place

-Prerna
Thanks for always being a green enthusiast and contributing to the plantation and maintenance of thousands of trees through SankalpTaru. To spread awareness about climate change’s impact and inspire others to take climate action, the campaign may have been led by Apurva but culminated with everyone’s input. You all had a role in creating a better future for the planet. That’s why we could measure your support in our mission in great numbers.
What’s Next?

ST MOVE was just the beginning, a movement to ignite a thought for climate action. We move forward with the conviction that we all have the power to make a difference in the world with collective actions. Pursue sustainable living. Be a better version of yourself. Become an inspiration.

Climate Action
Initiate collective actions among your peer groups

One Good Deed a Day
Support various socio-environmental causes on the way

Sustainable Living
Bring everyday lifestyle changes for our future generations to learn from

Spreading Greenery
Plant trees whenever you can, you will be happier
Global Warming and Climate Change are planetary emergencies. The wettest places see drought-like conditions, and the cold places witness a rise in temperature. It can be called unnatural. Hence, it becomes necessary to take action, any kind of action to help the situation. We want to move towards a better future for the planet by encouraging healthy and sustainable practices in everyone’s lives.

Join us online/offline and be part of the climate action movement!

We thank all our green patrons for the continued support in our efforts.

Visit our website https://sankalptaru.org/
To get in touch, email us at wishy@sankalptaru.org or call us at +91-7409999111 for any queries.

Our social media

ST MOVE

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We don’t just plant!