

THE BHUMI PROJECT

Applying Hindu teachings in caring for the Earth

An initiative of
THE OXFORD CENTRE FOR HINDU STUDIES



Caring for the Earth

Environmental damage is one of the most pressing problems facing the world today. Climate change, pollution and loss of biodiversity are concerns which affect us all.

Hindu teachings and practices are deeply rooted in care for the natural world. The Rig Veda refers to the planet as Bhumi, Mother Earth. We are asked to treat the planet with compassion, love and respect. We are encouraged to lead lives in harmony with nature, to not exploit natural resources, and be mindful of overconsumption.

As Hindus, we have a responsibility to live by these principles, and to be a good example to others. Through words and action, Hindus everywhere can play an important role in addressing the environmental concerns of our time.



Our Activities

Hindu Environment Week

Every February we celebrate Hindu Environment Week. Temples, ashrams, schools and communities across the world organise events to celebrate the natural world and raise awareness about environmental concerns. In 2015, over 10,000 people participated in India, the UK and US. Temples and organisations that have participated include the Jagannath Temple in Puri, Banaras Hindu University, and Parmarth Niketan Ashram in Rishikesh.

Hindu Environment Week was launched in 2013 in Varanasi, and a year later in the British House of Lords.

Green Pilgrimage Network

The Green Pilgrimage Network (GPN) is a global network of pilgrim cities and sacred sites around the world intending to be models of green action and care.

The Bhumi Project is working with the GPN to raise awareness and address environmental concerns in Hindu pilgrimage sites across India. At present we work with over a dozen pilgrim sites in India, including Dwarka, Rishikesh, Puri, Varanasi and Ujjain.

Bhumi Pledge

Our Bhumi Pledge campaign aims to encourage young Hindus to make a commitment to take better care of the environment. Students are encouraged to make practical changes in their lives for the environment and to organise an event on their college campus to raise awareness about environmental concerns.

This campaign forms part of our ongoing efforts to work with young Hindus across the world, helping them to connect their religious beliefs with current and modern concerns in the world.



Why we're unique

A Trusted Voice

Based at the Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies, we are a trusted voice, free from sectarian and political bias. We have been featured by the BBC, the Wall Street Journal, and others. We are regularly invited to speak at international conferences, seminars, and public gatherings.

Inclusive

We believe the variety that exists within the Hindu community is a strength that should be embraced and celebrated. We aim to work with all Hindu communities and groups, providing a platform and voice for their activities, and other groups doing environmental work.

A Hindu Approach

Hindu teachings speak at length about care for the natural world. These are important messages that have significant importance when addressing current environmental challenges and solutions.

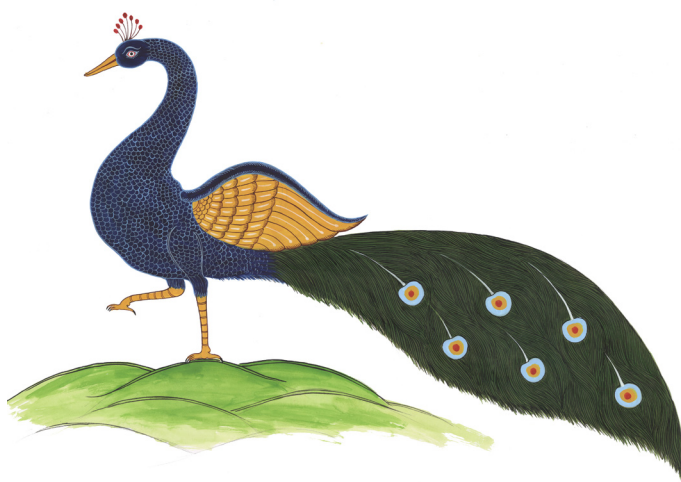


The increasing involvement of Hindus in the conservation of the world's natural environment is greatly welcomed. I hope that the Bhumi Project will have a galvanising effect on the whole Hindu Community world wide.

— His Royal Highness Prince Philip

I commend the Bhumi Project for their efforts to clean sacred cities and the pilgrimage routes around them. I encourage all Hindus to take part in the work that the Bhumi Project is doing, and to support them in all their endeavors.

— Sri Rameshbhai Oza



The Bhumi Project (India)
is supported and facilitated by:



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