



TEAM VIVA

You don't expect someone who has been born and brought up in the National Capital to have learnt climbing trees, even if it was for fun and as a child. But 22-year-old Latika Nayar mastered the art while trying to steal guavas from the tree in her Janakpuri home in the National Capital. "There were no PS3s or video games then and all we had in the name of fun was getting to the playground near my house and enjoying. But when I grew up and happened to visit the slums in Dwarka during my stint with Child Rights And You (CRY), I found that there were no play areas for kids there. I feel children have the right to play and no one should deprive them of playgrounds as this is where they learn to enjoy themselves, be it getting onto the trees or the periphery of the walls of the parks," she shared.

Apart from this, Nayar has also been advocating and lobbying for the effective implementation of the Right To Education Act with CRY in collaboration with National Commission for Child Rights Protection and Delhi Commission for Child Rights Protection. For her untiring efforts, Nayar was awarded the Outstanding Performance in the Youth category by Green Globe Foundation. The organisation recognises and honours those who have dedicated themselves to actively saving the planet.

A similar effort in the sphere of sustainable development was done by the ITC Group. "In fact, ITC Green is the first platinum rated office building in India," shared Niranjan Khatri, general manager, ITC WelcomGroup. Talk to him about "green knowledge" and he says that it has "gone into the veins and arteries of the organisation". "Keeping a strict focus on energy, atmosphere, water harvesting, education and innovation, we at ITC make sure our energy is not wasted and is preserved and thus helps us in safeguarding our environment," said Khatri.

As to what sustainable development means to him, Khatri remarked, "Sustainable development is a goal and not a journey" and to

THE GREEN SOLDIERS

The Green Globe Foundation recently honoured individuals and organisations who have dedicated themselves to actively save the planet



Latika Nayar



Dia Mirza



Rama Satish

how this goal would be accomplished, he quickly added, "By preserving our natural resources and not wasting the one we have. If we have the resources, we should use it only when required." He then went on to speak about the ITC office which works without "lights during daytime" and automatically senses "darkness on cloudy or rainy days and the lights switch on". The Best Practice in Green Design and Architecture category was awarded to the ITC WelcomGroup.

Talking about sustainable development in energy conservation, every Green Hero present at the 3rd edition of the Green Globe Foundation Award at the Taj Palace Hotel had something to say. If sustainable development and energy conversation was a baby to some, for others it was use of solar energy and subsequently preventing pollution by fuels such as diesel and

petrol. The Unnir Group seemed to have taken a strong liking for such strategic development in the "energy" sector by installing fuel catalysts in DG sets in tower sites for reducing consumption and cost and the use of energy efficiency through free cooling units at shelter towers. Having "core" focus on energy, Rajiv Bawa, executive vice president (corporate affairs) revealed, "We will be coming up with towers in remote areas and using solar energy thus reducing our diesel intake and hence not polluting the environment. Being a new company, we will be adopting measures on sustainable development from scratch," he shared.

A shift from the industrial to the more domestic agro-based sector had Rama Satish

talk about farmers committing suicides. In order to prevent such deaths, the NGO run by Dr Vanaja Ram Prasad provides "farmers with initiatives and provides them with opportunities in areas of land development and soil nurturing", said Satish of Green Foundation, an NGO. She went on to add, "We work with small farmers across Karnataka and provide them with technical inputs such as organic pesticides. In fact, we have revived over 400 varieties of seeds."

Laying strict emphasis on industrial development which is adversely affecting the land for agriculture and our agro-based economy, she cautioned, "Food should be clean, easily available and never become a luxury." Rama was felicitated with the award in the Extraordinary Work by an NGO category.

Speaking on the occasion, the man behind TERI, Dr RK Pachauri said, "The huge ecological footprint which we are imposing on the ecosystem needs to be sorted out. I urge the present generation to go green by fighting global warming. We have to join hands and find a way. Also present during the award function was actor Rahul Bose who said, "Development is for everybody and not just these people who won the awards." And that included model-turned-actor Dia Mirza who was presented the Green Globe for the "best public figure".

photos Pankaj Kumar