



Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

The Struggling Dolphin – SDG 14- Life Below Water



“Hurry mom. I have to go!” she exclaimed since it was her daily routine. “I’ve already made your feast. You need to run to catch your school bus,” her mother replied. Garima, for that was her name, managed to catch her bus in a near-impossible manner. All of her friends were sitting at the back seat of the bus, eagerly awaiting her arrival. In the balmy weather of Kochi, their school had arranged an educational excursion trip to a nearby seaboard, Cheral beach. They eventually reached the shore.

With the pleasant beach weather, everyone was enjoying themselves to the fullest. Coconuts scattered nearby, adults relaxing by the seashore, and children running and playing created the perfect scene at Cheral beach. But there was a setback disheartening her. Water bottles, packaging, and other pollutants littered the

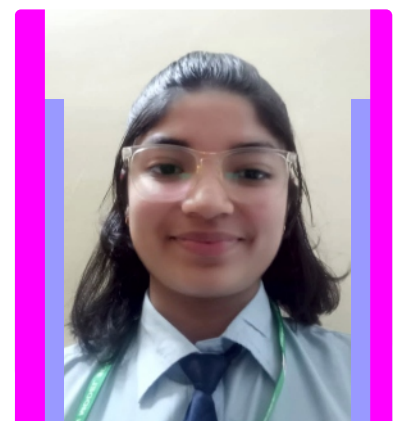
waterfront. Garima stood on the shore watching the sun set over the ocean when she noticed something moving in the water.

As she drew closer, her heart sank at the sight of a dolphin ensnared in a tangle of plastic, desperately struggling to swim. The sight of the dolphin's suffering brought tears to her eyes. The realization hits her hard, this isn't an isolated incident, but part of a much larger problem. Determined not to let this moment pass without action that night, Garima began searching for ocean conservation efforts and ways to reduce water pollution. She started a small beach cleanup with her friends, but her vision grew. She dreamed of advocating for stricter environmental laws and creating awareness about the plight of marine life. Forty years since then, Garima, a professional environmentalist, still has the image of the struggling dolphin in her mind, fueling her mission to protect the ocean, and leading her organization to save the ocean from such a danger.

Author

Name: Lakshita Tanwar

I'm a 14 year old student at Maharaja Agrasen Model School with a passion for writing stories. Storytelling has always been my way for portraying my thoughts and emotions. Apart from writing, I love reading books that inspire me to learn and grow. I'm grateful for the opportunity that enabled me to share my story with a wider audience.



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