# Table of Contents

Executive Summary.................................................................................. 2

Introduction.............................................................................................. 4

Key Features............................................................................................. 5

Methodology............................................................................................ 10
  Approaching Takhats, Gurdwara Committees & Organisations
  Outreach: Traditional & Technological
  Toolkit Resources
  Sewa by Volunteers
  Press, Blogs & Social Media

Celebration Stories: India................................................................. 17
  Haryana
  Himachal Pradesh
  Karnataka
  Madhya Pradesh
  Maharashtra
  Meghalaya
  New Delhi
  Punjab
  Rajasthan
  Tamil Nadu
  Telangana
  Uttar Pradesh
  West Bengal

Celebration Stories: Diaspora ......................................................... 38
  Australia
  Canada
  Kenya
  Malaysia
  Norway
  Sweden
  United Kingdom
  United States of America

Conclusion.............................................................................................. 43
Executive Summary

This year, the 7th World Sikh Environment Day was celebrated by 4,100 Sikh Gurdwaras, institutions, schools and communities across India and all over the world on March 14, more than any other years since the beginning of celebration in 2011. Most of the Sikh religious as well as Non-Sikh bodies from more than 15 countries, as well as in 14 Indian states and 11 states in the USA responded to the appeal by EcoSikh to celebrate the Sikh Environment Day on March 14, 2017. This is the largest global mass action on environment by a faith community.

March 14 is an important day for Sikhs as it marks the Gurgaddi Diwas (Enthronement Day) of the seventh Sikh Guru, Guru Har Rai, the “green Guru” who is remembered for his love for nature and care for animals. He is perhaps the first environmentalist in the South Asian region who during his reign from 1644 to 1661, started and promoted herbal gardens and wild life refuge. In 2011, EcoSikh declared, the enthronement day of the Guru to be celebrated as World Sikh Environment Day, as a tribute to Guru Har Rai. In 2013, Jathedars (temporal heads) of all the five takhats (temporal seats) of Sikhism jointly endorsed this day, recognizing Sikh Environment Day as a fixed date on the official Sikh calendar.

Since the beginning of the celebrations, thousands of trees have been planted, gardens revived, flower shows held, distribution of boota prasad, marathon / bicycle rallies by youth groups conducted, katha kirtans in Gurdwaras, organic langar and organic food stall setups, vehicle free day in institutions, green hola mohalla and many more grassroots work had been done by individuals, communities and institutions for protection of our environment.

“The Sikh community, this year, was more acknowledging, more reflective and more engaging.”- Gurpreet Kaur, Campaigner EcoSikh India.

A great influence and efforts were shown by the teams from Basics of Sikhi in various cities of India like Chennai, Delhi, Panipat, Assam, Mumbai, etc. by observing Sikh Environment Day with various activities focused on nature, an effort which has garnered support from various faith communities in the country. Additionally, Press Conference for Preservation of Planet for future generations was organized in Chandigarh and Jalandhar.

During SED Celebrations, many countries across the globe participated. People from different parts of the world contributed in creating awareness and taking steps
to curb the ill effects being caused to their environment. Kenya did not receive rainfall from past two years and the Sikh sangat from Kenya, this year prayed for rainfall in their country and conducted a massive plantation drive in the Nairobi National Forest. Whereas in Punjab, Vigaas Foundation and EcoSikh started a kitchen garden project in Gurdwaras in Sri Mukatsar Sahib and have pledged to replicate it in 100 Gurdwaras across Punjab to spread the message of health and organic langar.

The distributions of seeds from the trees of Naulakha Bagh, a herbal garden originally planted by Guru Har Rai Sahib in 17th century in Kiratpur Sahib, was organised by the team of Ganga Nursery, Zirakpur. This institution has taken responsible initiatives for the preservation of this historical garden since 2008. From the year 2010 onwards, they are in partnership with EcoSikh and moving a step towards preserving the rich legacy of our Sikh Gurus.

Many leading institutions like Punjab University Chandigarh, Thapar University and Punjabi University Patiala, Khalsa University Amritsar, Delhi University North Campus and many others had huge celebrations and at the same time academic institutions like Guru Nanak Multiversity carried awareness for harmful effects of Styrofoam in 857 schools and Satnam Sarab Kalyan Trust planted 3,000 trees in 300 schools to mark the day. In addition, Kalgidhar Sewak Jatha, a group of Sikh youth in Mohali, Punjab, organized a presentation of organic produce by farmers at the celebrations and distributed thousands of saplings of many trees.

There were flower shows in Zirakpur, Ludhiana, Doraha and Abohar, with bicycle rallies in Ludhiana and Mohali. Organic langar was organised in many gurdwaras including Indore (Madhya Pradesh) and two gurdwaras in Sweden. Kitchen Gardening kits were gifted in Ludhiana, Jalandhar and Mumbai. Three Katha Kirtan diwans were organised in Mohali by Ek- tu -hi Society, two diwans in Ludhiana, Jalandhar and Patiala each and others in Hyderabad, Bangalore, Babina, Alwar and Delhi, etc.

The enthusiasm and varied celebrations of Sikh Environment Day have been phenomenal this year. It shows how more and more people are realising the need to protect the environment in active ways. An overwhelming response has been received from the Sikhs who have re-established the culture of tree plantation as sewa (voluntary service). Participation of individuals and the institutions in Derby (UK), Melbourne (Australia), Nairobi (Kenya), China and all over India who planted trees in the forests and in the country areas on the occasion of Seventh Environment Day deserve a great appreciation. These actions extend the environmental vision of Guru Har Rai, ‘The Green Guru’.
Introduction

Sikh Environment Day is an annual celebration, started in 2010 by EcoSikh, an organization that was created as the Sikh community’s contribution to the 2009 Plans for Generational Change project, initiated by the Alliance of Religions and Conservation (ARC) with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The project works with the major world religions on long-term plans to improve their relationship with the environment.

The major Sikh body, Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee (SGPC) has announced to celebrate March 14 as Sikh Environment Day throughout Punjab and appealed the Sikh sangat and Gurdwaras to participate in the worldwide celebrations and pay tribute to the seventh Guru.

This is the day for Sikhs to celebrate and reflect their bond with the environment. Gurdwaras hold divans on nature theme and inspire sangat, install solar panels, host workshops, conduct kitchen gardening and story sessions of Guru Har Rai ji for children. Sikhs across the world join and share what environmentalism means to them, and raise awareness about the state of ecology across their spiritual homeland, Punjab.

With rapid increase in industrialization, urbanization, depletion of natural resources, increasing population, destruction of vegetation and ecosystems, extinction of wildlife, cutting of trees in plains and hills, and unsafe disposal of household and industrial chemicals and bio-medical waste has caused many environmental, health, and social disorders in our society. For example, deforestation, overuse of water and continuous increase in agrochemical use has led to dire consequences in Punjab, the birthplace of Sikhism.

The Sikh faith teaches that humans create their surroundings as a reflection of their inner state, and hence the increasing barrenness of the earth reflects a spiritual emptiness within humans. Celebrating Sikh Environment Day, being kind to Mother Nature, and respecting and preserving the wonderful creation on this planet, is a step towards making this world a better and more harmonious place, both inside and outside.

The past seven years of EcoSikh campaigning has brought hundreds of trees planted by the Gurdwaras and educational institutions, and over 2000 trees planted
by EcoSikh itself in Amritsar. Clean and green nagar kirtans established India-wide, revival of 3 historical gardens in Punjab associated with Sikh Gurus, the idea of organic langar initiated at the Golden Temple and now being adopted by other gurdwaras, many Gurdwaras switched from harmful Styrofoam products to metal utensils and biodegradable pattals, granthis and preachers trained on environmental issues and last but not the least, Gurdwaras around the world now are active in environmental action.
Key Features

Plantation Drives
A large number of plantation drives were carried out in India and across the world. Almost 3000 trees were planted by Satnam Sarb Kalyan Trust, a massive plantation drive in the forests of Kenya, Hong Kong, and Derby. Kids from Malaysia planted saplings in gurdwara premises. Plantation drives by Nadar Foundation in Rara Sahib, by the students of GNDEC Ludhiana, at Baba Banda Singh Bahadur Engineering College Fatehgarh Sahib were also organised. Other tiny episodes of plantation drive took place in various parts of Punjab like Zirakpur, Ambala, Chennai, Moga, Muktsar, Doraha, Dagshai, and Ludhiana etc.

Flower Shows
This year four flower shows were held in Abohar, Zirakpur, Ludhiana and Doraha with different themes and styles.

- Zirakpur – The flower show was held in Gurdwara Nabha Sahib, Zirakpur by Bhai Manjit Singh from Ganga Nursery under the theme – “मिशनलुई मैं राजत लाटे”
- Ludhiana – Another flower show took place in Gurdwara Singh Sabha, Sarabha Nagar Ludhiana along with photography Competition with the title – “वधिकाली तुषार फूलिया”
- Doraha - Doraha Public School organized 3rd Annual Flower Show in the form of “Spring Fest 2017” and dedicated it to International Sikh Environment Day.
- Abohar – A flower show was organised in Nehru Stadium, Abohar on 13th March, 2017 for 2 hours. Prizes were distributed amongst the winners.

Cycle Rallies
Five cycle rallies were carried out during the celebrations of Sikh Environment Day in five different cities of India.

- “Ride for Life” bicycle rally was organized on 14th March, 2017 by The Khalas Organization from Gurdwara Amb Sahib, Mohali to Sukhna Lake.
- “Vatavarn Bachao Rally” was organized by Gursikh Family Club dedicated to Sikh Environment Day in Sarabha Nagar Ludhiana on 5th
March, 2017

- **“Cycle Chetna Rally”** was organised by Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha, Sarabha Nagar Ludhiana on 14th March, 2017. Rally started from Gurdwara Road spreading the message of riding bicycles, promoting healthy lifestyle, and saving the environment.

- **“Vatavarn Bachao Cycle Rally”** was organised by Guru Gobind Singh Study Circle, Abohar team. This rally was dedicated to Guru Har Rai ji and Sikh Environment Day 2017.

- **“Bicycle Marathon”** was organized by Enameh Kaur with the sangat of Gurdwara Sant Kartar Singh Kamaliyawale, Model Town, Patiala on 23rd March, 2017. Hundreds of young children, adolescent boys and girls, adults got together for this marathon.

### Cleanliness Drives
Cleanliness drives have always been the part of Sikh Environment Day celebrations to showcase the importance of cleanliness and health. This year cleanliness drive was not only carried out in India but abroad as well. Dedicated to Guru Har Rai ji, the cleanliness drives were conducted by the sangat of Patiala, Chennai, Amritsar, Fatehgarh Sahib, Kolkata, and Victoria Fresno.

### Kiddie sangat
A different feature called **“Kiddie Sangat”** was introduced by Basics of Sikhi to involve kids for the cause of environment. Basics of Sikhi conduct kiddie sangat as their regular feature and this year dedicating it to Sikh Environment Day a number of painting competitions, drawing competitions, mini plantation drives, and movie screening shows were organized in 5 cities of India.

- Chennai
- Ludhiana
- Panipat

### Green Hola Mohalla
Hola Mohalla, this year happened to fall near Sikh Environment Day which helped promoting another concept in the form of Green Hola Mohalla. Sikh Sangat celebrated it to keep Hola Mohalla green and garbage-free. This message was carried out by the organizations in Jabalpur, Ludhiana, Abohar and Anandpur Sahib.

### Marathons
Commemorating the Gur Gaddi Diwas of Guru Har Rai ji, **two marathons** were
organized.

- Starting from Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha a full and a half Marathon was organized around the Ulsoor lake in Bengaluru by Bangalore Sikh Youth on 12th March, 2017.
- A walkathon was organized by the Sangat of Gurdwara Sant Kartar Singh Kamaliyawale in Patiala on 23rd March, 2017.

Green Diwans
Green Diwans are organised every year to celebrate Sikh Environment Day in Gurdwaras in India and diaspora. Likewise, this year also many gurmat samagams and green diwans were organized in India such as at Sri Akal Takhat Sahib Amritsar, Gurdwara Kalgidhar Singh Sabha Phase IV - Mohali, Gurdwara Shri Guru Kalgidhar Singh Sabha - Ludhiana, Gurdwara Sahib – Ameerpeth, Gurdwara Sahib Sri Gur Nanak Satsang Sabha - Chennai, Gurdwara Gwaighat Sahib - Jabalpur, Gurdawar Sahib E- Block Ludhiana, Gudwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha Sarabha Nagar – Ludhiana, Gurdawara Sahib G.T.B Nagar Jalandhar, Gurdwara Nabha Sahib Zirakpur, and many other Gurdwaras such as in Ambala, Panipat, Moti Nagar Delhi, Babina Cant, etc. Similarly, Gurdwaras from many countries such as Australia, Stockholm Gurdwara, Gurdwara Sahib Glendale Arizona, Guru Gobind Singh Foundation Maryland, Gurdwara in Hashtings- New Zealand also participated.

Boota Prasad
Boota Prasad was started with the celebration of Sikh Environment Day. Many organizations and Gurdwaras distributed plant saplings as Boota Prasad. Few places have been enlisted below where Boota Prasad was given dedicating to Guru Har Rai ji's Gur Gaddi Diwas.

- Gurdwara Nabha Sahib Zirakpur,
- Gurdwara Sukhmani Sahib Dugri,
- Nadar Foundation - Rara Sahib,
- Tajpur Road Ludhiana,
- Gurudwara Nauvin Patshahi Guru Teg Bahadur Nagar, Jalandhar
- Basics of Sikh, Mumbai
- Basics of Sikh, Chennai
- Guru Nanak Sewa Dal, Abohar

Painting Competitions
Painting competitions and exhibitions were organized for kids and students in various schools and colleges. A painting Exhibition was organised at Baba Banda Singh Bahadur Engineering College, Fatehgarh Sahib. Simultaneously,
painting competitions were held in Panipat, Ludhiana, Gurdwara Sahib Moti Nagar - New Delhi, Akal Academy, Dakra Sahib Panchkula, and many more. These competitions were also organized in many countries across the world such as Norway, Malaysia, and USA.

**Other features included**

- Forest visits and plantations in HonKong and Kenya,
- Nature Walk by families in Ludhiana,
- EcoSikh Kitchen Gardens in Gurdwaras of Muktsar,
- Organic Langar in two Gurdwaras of Sweden.
Methodology

Approaching Takhats, Gurdwara Committees & Organizations

Sikh Environment Day has been an integral grassroots initiative by EcoSikh movement since its birth year in 2011. During its first year in 2011, 450 institutions participated in the call. In the second year, setting a target of 750 Sikh bodies, the response from more than 1000 Sikh bodies yet again exceeded the goal expectations. And with an ambitious target of reaching out to 1500 Sikh bodies for this year, the success was dually achieved with more than 1550 Sikh Gurdwaras, organizations, and academic institutions taking part in celebrations worldwide. Goal setting has been vital to the success of EcoSikh’s programs. Giving the much needed focus, it helped the organization to strategize and work effectively from grassroots levels to their involvement with recognized global Sikh bodies at the highest levels.

This year, EcoSikh approached Shiromani Gurdwara Parbhadhek Committee (SGPC), the governing body of major Sikh historical Gurdwaras in Punjab and Haryana to encourage participation on Sikh Environment Day in all the gurdwaras and schools under them.

The efforts bore fruits as SGPC President Professor Kirpal Singh Badungar announced the celebrations for March 14 in a meeting held at Fatehgarh Sahib and issued a powerful statement reinstating the message of Pavan Guru Pani Pita, Mata Dharth Mahat. He called for action by humbly requesting the Sikh Sangat to work towards preservation of the beautiful biodiversity by drawing inspiration from Guru Har Rai ji.

EcoSikh shared this statement and appealed people to celebrate SED by sharing plans and announcements of SED celebrations from different countries through press releases to the major newspapers, letters to various colleges and universities of North India, TV programs and advertisements, Radio shows, via social media such as Facebook, Twitter, Whatsapp messages, EcoSikh’s website, SikhNet website and other major online Sikh news platforms. EcoSikh also shared plans and ideas through its mass email tool, with those, who are registered for EcoSikh newsletter, Dharat Suhavi.

To spread the message of saving the planet Earth and keeping Guru Har Rai Ji’s mission in mind, EcoSikh staff in India approached the teams of Basics of Sikh
and coordinated with them to organise the events in different cities of India. The participation of these teams enabled widespread plantation drives, Kirtan and Kathas, and other hands-on activities in various schools and Gurdwaras under their administration. In diaspora, Gurdwara committee members and individuals were approached to discuss Sikh Environment Day plans with their respective Gurdwara committee members and execute the plans using resources provided by EcoSikh.

An English song “Wake up to Reality” was prepared by the students of Guru Nanak Dev Engineering College. The song beautifully described the pain of mother Earth, Guru Har Rai Ji as saviour of the planet and hence influenced so many people in India and abroad.

Additional feature, screening of short entertaining environmental movie A Little Gardener, which is an inspirational story of a little Sikh boy who has a big dream to create awareness among people about nature and its preservation through education, was screened in various cities to engage and inspire young minds.

CNI News, ABP Sanjha

Outreach: Traditional & Technological

Outreach has always been vital in an action-oriented movement. This year, we partnered with Basics of Sikhi group in India, they have huge public reach and encourage Sikh values. They organized rallies, kiddie sangats, boota prasad, awareness on water and much more. Many volunteers from this group reached out to the local Gurdwaras and organizations. Other partnerships included Satnam Sarv Kalyan Trust, Gurmat Gyan Missionary College and Guru Nanak Khalsa Multiversity Educate Punjab Project which helped to reach out to over hundreds of schools all over Punjab.

EcoSikh also organized two press conferences in Chandigarh and Jalandhar on 8th and 10th march, 2017 respectively, which flashed in almost 20 newspapers, various news channels, news blogs and Sikh websites. This turned out to be a major contribution in spreading the word out.

Mass emailing, calling, telephone messages and TV programs constituted the bulk form of outreach. Part of the reason for this was to minimise our own ecological footprint and be more eco-friendly in our work. Social media like Facebook, Twitter and WhatsApp on smart phones were widely used in contacting
community on various focused issues and ideas on Sikh Environment Day.

**Toolkit Resources**

Like every year, as per the needs of wider Sikh community, toolkit resources were drafted in both Punjabi and English. Toolkit included materials for Gurdwaras, organizations, academic institutions, families and individuals. These resources were sent via email with links available for download on the EcoSikh website and a few thousand resources were printed and were sent to many organizations, groups and schools along with the request letter to celebrate Sikh Environment Day. The toolkit resources this year included:

- **Info Poster** in Punjabi about Guru Har Rai and Sikh Environment Day.
- A PowerPoint show in English and Punjabi about Sikh Vision on Environment, show at your nearest Gurdwara and inspire sangat.
- Ten Minute Eco-Assembly (English and Punjabi) programme for schools.
- A series of short movies and animations for environment awareness.
- A pledge form for signature campaigns.
- **Readout for classroom:** A one page document plus a questionnaire for students of Elementary, Middle and High school to inspire them and their teachers about Sikhism and celebrating Sikh Environment Day. It can be posted on classroom or school’s notice board afterwards.
- **Brochure** about EcoSikh’s Projects.
- Coloring Pages for Children: Page 1, Page 2, Page 3, Page 4, Page 5

**Gurbani on Environment**

Click to download Gurbani on Environment: a booklet, “Eak Bageecha” with over 30 gurbani shabads on nature theme.

**Materials and Handouts for Sikh Environment Day**

- Sikh Environment Day 2017 Poster
- Five Simple Ways Sikhs Can Help the Planet Infographic: English and Punjabi
- EcoSikh Standee for Sikh Environment Day, EcoAmritsar and Green Gurdwaras
- Backdrop for Celebrations.
- Say No to plastic and disposables (Punjabi and English) 3MB.
- 10 Eco-Tips (Punjabi and English) for notice boards and distribution.
Media & its role

This year the EcoSikh Sikh Environment Day Campaign reached more than two million Sikhs across the world, thanks to social media, print & TV channels.

There were nearly 200,000 engagements and more than 800,000 video views on EcoSikh’s Facebook account in the past one month, with hundreds of Sikh social network groups sharing ideas and inspiring green action. News of the celebration appeared in over 70 national papers and dozens of websites.

TV shows

❖ Fastway Channel– Ravneet Singh, EcoSikh’s Program Manager in India appeared on Fastway News to share thoughts on importance and significance of nature and strategizing ways to curb the rapid climate change of the planet.

♦ A talk show on Climate Change with EcoSikh on Fastway News.
♦ A dialogue on Climate Change with EcoSikh, Prof Gurbhajan Singh Gill and Climate expert from Punjab Agricultural University. Click here to watch the video.

❖ Chardikala Time TV – EcoSikh show on Chardikala Time TV was organized a month before the beginning of celebrations of Sikh Environment Day to spread this message to masses via TV show. Click here to watch the video.

❖ Jagbani – Mandeep Kaur ji from Jagbani interviewed Ravneet Singh from EcoSikh to know about the organization ‘EcoSikh’ and importance of Sikh Environment Day pertaining to current situation of climate of Earth. Click here for the video.

❖ Global Punjab – A talk show was held by Global Punjab TV to explain the need and importance of celebrating Sikh Environment Day. Click here.

❖ ABP Sanjha – A special episode with EcoSikh was organized to spread the word about Guru Har Rai Ji's Sikh Environment Day and the need to protect and save our planet. Watch this video.
❖ Jus Punjabi – An interview show was organized by Jus Punjabi TV and was broadcasted as news in America.

❖ Sangat TV – This is an International TV channel that telecasts in UK and Europe. EcoSikh live show was organised for sangat in UK and Europe to spread awareness about Sikh Environment Day and the need to celebrate it. The sangat across the world was requested to come forward and contribute towards preservation of the planet.

Radio Shows

❖ 100.1 FM Gold

♦ Ravneet Singh, EcoSikh’s Program Manager in India shared his views about rapid change in Climate and significance of celebrating Sikh Environment Day on Guru Har Rai ji’s Gurgaddi Diwas.

♦ Gurpreet Kaur, Assistant Manager, EcoSikh India shared her thoughts on conservation and preservation of Environment and also enlightened people with ways to minimise the wastage, leading a sustainable lifestyle.

❖ BBC World

Ravneet Singh, EcoSikh’s Program Manager and Gurpreet Kaur, Assistant Manager, EcoSikh gave the message of importance of saving the Mother Earth during the event at Nabha Sahib. This event was organised by Manjit Singh from Ganga Nursery, who also shared his experience of reviving the Naulakha Bagh and building up a similar Bagh at Nabha Sahib, so that a similar task can be done at several different places on Earth.

Movie Shows

SikhNet Award winning movies based on Nature themes were uploaded and links were shared so that concept can reach masses via movie shows.

❖ Sangraand is an award winning movie of SikhNet Film Festival 2016 which was themed on Nature. This movie was screened for 500 students at Asian Academy of Film & Television, Noida to spread the message and invite
people to celebrate Sikh Environment Day.

❖ **A Little Gardener** is a short entertaining environmental movie, an inspirational story of a little Sikh boy who has a big dream to create awareness among people about nature and its preservation through education, was screened in various cities to engage and inspire young minds. This movie was screened in **Doraha, Baru Sahib, Mumbai, California, Norway Gurdwara, and various schools of Ludhiana.** Dedicated to Sikh Environment Day, **5 shows** of the movie were organised in **Ludhiana** targeting intellectual groups so as to take the message far and beyond.

### Press Conferences

**Chandigarh:** A Press Conference was conducted by EcoSikh on 8th March in **Chandigarh Press Club** to unveil its four-point environmental agenda for the upcoming Government of Punjab to curb the ecological disaster of the state as part of World Sikh Environment Day campaign.  
[Click for the report.](#)  
[Click for more pictures and news coverage](#)

**Jalandhar:** Another Press Conference was held by EcoSikh along with Sikh Sewak Society in **Jalandhar on 10th March.** EcoSikh South Asia Project Manager Ravneet Singh, President of Sikh Sewak Society **ParminderPal Singh Khalsa** and Chairman **Rajinder Singh Purewal** were present to endorse the people to celebrate Sikh Environment Day.  
[Click for pictures and news coverage](#)

### Facebook

EcoSikh’s [Facebook](#) page provided a great platform to keep its users up-to-date on happenings and progress of Sikh Environment Day. Invitations for celebration were sent out in the form of videos, pictures and news coverage posted on Facebook page and shared with **19,801** users. Under social media, Facebook was the major platform to connect the people.

**Special video messages** by various famous personalities such as Gurbhajan Gill from Ludhiana, Prof Surinder Singh from Raj Academy-UK, Our little star Agamvir Singh from the movie “**A little Gardener**”, the great Punjabi comedian **Gurpreet Ghuggi**, and many more were published and the message was sent to masses.
Twitter
EcoSikh’s Twitter account tweeted and re-tweeted appealing the people across the world to celebrate on Sikh Environment Day. With 4975 followers, regular updates provided quick insights into the happenings of Sikh Environment Day and other Punjab related topics.

WhatsApp Campaign
A large flow of video messages, audio messages and text messages were sent to the people across India and abroad as well. WhatsApp has been the quickest way to communicate and answer to the queries of the participants of Sikh Environment Day 2017.

YouTube
EcoSikh’s YouTube channel has several videos uploaded such as TV Shows from EcoSikh, films on Nature from SikhNet Film Festival, recordings of the people sending out appeal message for Sikh Environment Day celebrations.

SikhNet
SikhNet has provided a great platform and shared the activities and tasks being done with sangat in India and abroad on regular basis and enlightened them with upcoming themes and projects.

Sewa by Volunteers
Reaching out to 4100 Sikh institutions and spreading the message of Guru Nanak would not have been possible without the help of our volunteers. We have worked as a team dedicatedly and the tasks were assigned to the dedicated, hard-working and enthusiastic environmental activists, who volunteered their time. This opportunity provided many individuals prospect to develop leadership skills, and provided great exposure for networking opportunities with individuals and communities locally and nationally.

Volunteers provided much needed service (sewa) in designing and distribution of materials, outreach work, and taking charge of celebrations in their local communities. EcoSikh welcomes passionate individuals to volunteer with the organization on future projects as well. EcoSikh team conveys their sincerest gratitude to all the volunteers this year.
Celebrations in India

HARYANA

Ambala

Gurdwara Badshahi Bagh

Sangat from Gurdwara Badshahi Bagh had taken initiatives in previous years for the greening of parikrama area of this historical Gurdwara. The parikrama area was initially land filled and levelled. The plans to restore the gardens and green patches were discussed and proposed to the committee of the gurdwara. This year, with celebrations of Sikh Environment Day 2017, this project was carried forward and implementation for revival of the Bagh, began as a tribute to Guru Har Rai Ji on 14th March. The Landscape of the Bagh has been finalized and plantation has begun.

Akal Academy, Dakra Sahib

Akal Academy, Dakra Sahib celebrated Sikh Environment Day 2017 on March 14 dedicated to Gur Gaddi Diwas of seventh Guru, Guru Har Rai Ji. This day was celebrated by organizing poster making competition themed on Nature. Students participated in the celebrations with complete dedication and made wonderful posters and paintings.

Click here for more pictures
Panipat

Sikh Environment Day was celebrated in a local Gurdwara on 12th March, 2017 by the volunteers from Basics of Sikhi in association with EcoSikh. This day was dedicated to Guru Har Rai Ji and environment day celebrations were conducted by holding awareness lecture in the form of Katha diwan for Sikh community in Panipat. Later, an interactive session for kids on the topic “Environment” was held along with a poster making competition in kiddie sangat conducted by Basics of Sikhi on weekly basis. Click here for more pictures.

HIMACHAL PRADESH

Solan

Dagshai Public School celebrated Sikh Environment Day 2017 with great vigour and gusto. A special morning assembly was dedicated to Environment in which poignant shabads were melodiously rendered by the school choir followed by out in prettiest poetry on Environment theme by their little inmates on 14th of March. Later, in the month of April (12th April, 2017), a tree plantation drive was carried
out in which Mr Amarjit Singh from managing committee, Principal, staff and the students also participated.

KARNATAKA

Bengaluru

Sikh Environment Day celebrations were carried out by Sikh community in Bengaluru emphasizing on our future. A coloring and painting competition was organized on 19th March, 2017 for kids at Guru Harkrishan High School where students showed their complete participation by beautifully coloring the sheets and making charts with messages to save environment. After the competition, there was a distribution of plant saplings as Boota Prasad among the sangat. Click here for more pictures.

Bengaluru Sikh Youth along with Ecosikh team and members and sangat from Gurdwara Singh Sabha in Ulsoor commemorated Sikh Environment Day celebrations on March 12th by participating in Marathon and running for health. A half marathon and full marathon was organized around Ulsoor lake which witnessed a huge participation by the people and thereby spreading the message far and beyond. Click here for more pictures.
MADHYA PRADESH

Jabalpur

Sikh Sangat in Jabalpur celebrated Sikh Environment Day in Gurdwara Gwarighat Sahib on 14th March along with the celebrations of Hola Mohalla. A huge gurmat samagam was held comprising katha kirtan on Mother Nature. For the first time in their gurdwara, sangat in Jabalpur witnessed plastic and disposable free langar for the community. They had displayed various hoardings in gurdwara to make the sangat aware for the need to preserve the environment. Click here for more pictures.

Indore

Tavleen Foundation in Indore celebrated Sikh Environment Day and organized Organic Langar to spread the message of importance of healthy food. Organic Langar was organized in the Gurdwara for the sangat where this message was shared and later the celebrations concluded with distribution of plant saplings to the sangat in the form of boota prasad. Tavleen Foundation also distributed a 13 page PDF booklet, Tavleen Eco-Booklet, which is animated in a very artistic manner, shares guidelines on how to practice an environment conscious lifestyle, various concerns regarding our deteriorating environment and how we can make a contribution for a healthy and sustainable living planet.

Some ideas from the booklet include – saving electricity by switching off power when not needed, striving to be a vegetarian to be kind to animals, preserving water resources since it is vital for us to sustain, leaving less carbon footprint and travelling by public transport among other ideas. Speaks on how we feel when there is a power cut, how being vegetarian is being earth friendly, how water is must for life to sustain on Earth, and many more were held.
MAHARASHTRA

Mumbai

The team of Basics of Sikh in Mumbai celebrated Gur Gaddi Diwas of Guru Har Rai Sahib Ji and Sikh Environment Day 2017 by distributing trifolds “Lend a Hand” creating awareness about environmental conservation and protection and thereby lending a hand and planting a tree for oneself. They did a street parchar, talking to people and sharing the Sikh values and relation to the environment. They also discussed the rising temperature of Earth and the need of our participation in saving our planet. Click here for more pictures.

MEGHALYA

Shillong

North East EcoSikh Steering Committee Members and Shillong Sikh Sangat have established an incredible dialogue for nature preservation. Dedicated to Sikh Environment Day, the Shillong Sangat participated in a dialogue to save the environment on 12th March, 2017 and celebrated the day by:

- Minimizing the use of plastic in affairs of Gurdwara and imposed a complete ban on disposable plastic glasses and replacing them with degradable water glasses or steel glasses.
- Saving the electricity/ replacing conventional bulbs with LED.
- Initiating kitchen gardening with the families in the premises of the Gurdwara.
- Reusing any wastage in langar for making of compost.
NEW DELHI

Moti Nagar

Residents of Moti Nagar colony, Delhi organised a Gurmat Samagam in the Gurdwara of their locality.

PUNJAB

Abohar

_Guru Nanak Sewa Dal Society_ under the leadership of Dr. Mandeep Singh ji celebrated Sikh Environment Day by keeping Hola Mohalla Green and garbage-free. The members of the society created awareness regarding the ill-effects of plastics and Styrofoam among the sangat and also mentioned about the need to conserve the limited resources left on Earth. Dedicated to Gur Gaddi Diwas of Guru Har Rai Ji, _the sangat at Abohar_ conducted the following events:

- A huge plantation drive was organized in the premises of _Government Middle School, Village Daulatpur._
- _Boota_ Prasad was also distributed by the members of _Guru Nanak Sewa Dal Society_ on the occasion of Hola Mohalla.
- “_Vatavarn Bachao Cycle Rally_” was organised by _Guru Gobind Singh Study Circle, Abohar_ team to promote healthy lifestyle among the people.
- A mini Flower show in the name of Guru Har Rai ji was also organized by _Guru Gobind Singh Study Circle and Sikh Missionary College_ to encourage plantation and make the planet green again.

_Click here for more pictures._
Click here to watch the _video1_ and _video2_
Amritsar

The Holy city of Punjab, Amritsar witnessed a very unique celebration on the occasion of Sikh Environment Day. Dedicating this day to Guru Har Rai ji, EcoSikh volunteers along with the local communities and sangat of Amritsar carried out a massive cleanliness drive around Gurdwara ShaheedGanj Sahib. This drive not only added to the beauty of the surroundings but also became a strong platform for encouraging the people and residents of the city to keep their surroundings clean and thus contribute for the upliftment of the society. Various placards and brochures were carried by volunteers and children participating to spread the message. [Click here for more pictures.]

Bathinda

Sikh Environment Day 2017 at Adesh University was celebrated by putting hoardings around the campus with messages to save environment. For the students and staff, ways to save the planet were displayed. Similarly, tips to save the water and steps leading to a sustainable future were also highlighted. Paintings and rangolis were made by the kids of the staff residing in the campus. Children beautifully expressed their views via drawings and gave messages like plantation of trees, Reduce-Reuse-Recycle, the current status and deterioration being faced by the planet.

Chandigarh

The Khalas

Dedicated to Gur Gaddi Diwas of the seventh Guru of Sikhs, Guru Har Rai Ji, a bicycle rally “Ride
for Life” was organized in order to celebrate Sikh Environment Day 2017 on 14th March by The Khalas organization from Gurdwara Amb Sahib to Sukhna Lake. Based on “Balehari Kudrat Vaseya”, the volunteers of the organization from Suhana and sangat of Chandigarh and Mohali participated to organize this rally. The Rally was flagged off after the Ardaas by S Atar Singh ji, Head Granthi of Gurdwara Amb Sahib. Around 150 people from Mohali, Chandigarh, Mumbai, Kartarpur and Canada participated in the rally with promise to preserve the environment. The following promises were made by the participants:

- I will plant and protect at least one tree throughout my life.
- I will serve food and water to birds.
- I will use bicycle to travel at least nearby distances.
- I will carry first aid kit with me always.

Click here for more pictures.

Satnam Sarb Kalyan Trust

The organization engaged over 300 schools in plantation drive and planted over 3000 trees with students of the schools in almost 7 different regions of Punjab as part of Sikh Environment Day celebrations. The organization provides curriculum in religious studies to the schools under its umbrella and is associated with EcoSikh for promoting a healthy environment and making the planet a better place to live. Click here for more pictures.

Ek tu hi Society

A three day Gurmat Samagam was organized in Chandigarh by Ek tu hi Society. This samagam included recitation of hymns and katha diwans based on Nature theme. This celebration was dedicated to Guru Har Rai Ji and the sangat of Chandigarh
participated in the celebrations with full zeal and enthusiasm. Posters to celebrate Sikh Environment Day were displayed along with the messages to save the planet Earth.

**Doraha**

**Doraha Public School organized an event “SPRINGFEST 2017”, an annual flower show dedicated to International Sikh Environment Day.** This was 3rd Annual Flower Show at Doraha Public School which was inaugurated by Master Agamvir Singh and his parents from Vigaas Foundation. More than 40 varieties of seasonal flowers were put on display. Students of the school held placards to convey the message of the need to preserve our mother Earth. [Click here for more pictures.]

**Faridkot**

**BG Cancer Roko Sewa Society, Faridkot** organised the plantation drive at their premises. They carried out this plantation drive with motto to promote healthy living among the people and thus controlling Cancer rate on earth, particularly in Punjab. [Click here for more pictures.]

Another Plantation Drive was carried in Faridkot by students of Government Primary School Baja Khanna in their school premises. This drive was led by Sukhpreet Kaur along with her classmates. [Click here for more pictures.]
Fatehgarh Sahib

On the holy occasion of the enthronement day of Guru Har Rai Ji, Sikh Environment Day was celebrated by Department Of Civil Engineering at *Baba Banda Singh Bahadur Engineering College* on March 14th. Various events were organized by the institute under their EcoClub. **BBSBEC declared its campus vehicle free for the entire day. The celebrations began with lecture by Environment Expert Ravneet Singh, project manager, South East Asia** followed by the following events

- **Environment awareness walk around the campus** – Students of the college conducted the awareness drive by carrying messages on placards and saying slogans to save Earth.

- **Cleanliness drive in & around the campus** – Cleanliness drive was carried out by the students of the college to make their campus litter-free.

- **Tree plantation** – Ravneet Singh from EcoSikh along with Dr.G.S. Lamba, Principal Banda Singh Bahadur Engineering College, and other staff members planted trees in the campus of the college to mark the Sikh Environment Day celebrations.

- **Hanging water pots for birds** in the campus.

- **Poster making competition and exhibition.** [Click here for more pictures.]
**Gurdaspur**

*Sikh Welfare Society, Dhariwal* celebrated World Sikh Environment Day by putting banners all around in the town for the conservation of the resources and preservation of the planet. Dhariwal is a 5th largest town in Gurdaspur of Punjab, and is famous for woollen mills. Messages to control the pollution in the town were highlighted along with plantation of more trees. Volunteers reached the common man to create awareness in the form of street parchar. [Click here for more pictures.](#)

**Jalandhar**

*Gurdwara Guru Teg Bahadur Sahib*

Sikh Environment Day 2017 celebrations in Jalandhar were held at *Gurdwara Guru Teg Bahadur Sahib* at G.T.B. Nagar under the supervision of *Gurkaran Singh*. A gurmat samagam was organized followed by distribution of Boota Prasad among the sangat. The topic of water abuse was also discussed during the samagam. [Click here for more pictures.](#)
Ludhiana

**Guru Nanak Dev Engineering College**- NSS team of G.N.E. College along with Nadar Foundation organized an awareness rally in which students participated with great enthusiasm. They held placards and banners throughout the drive which conveyed various messages for the need to save our mother Earth. A plantation drive was also held by the students of the college in which trees were planted along the Gill Road. [Click here for more pictures.]


**Gurdwara Singh Sabha, Sarabha Nagar** - Various activities were structured this year to celebrate Sikh Environment Week. These included a gigantic Flower Show on March 5th 2017 with around 100 participants across varying age groups. An On the Spot Photography Competition for various groups was also held during this week. On March 14th, a plantation drive and cycle rally was organized to mark International Sikh Environment Day in which 50 new plants were planted where old plants were dead and trimming and medication of existing plants was done. An environment awareness cycle rally was organized in evening which was attended by various members of the cycle club and local residents. The rally was aimed at promoting cycle as a means of environment protection. Kiddie Sangat was organised for children and kids were shown movie “A little Gardener”. [Click here for more pictures.]
**Gurdwara Singh Sabha, E- Block B.R.S. Nagar** - Istari Satsang Sabha of Gurdwara Sahib celebrated SED by organizing a Gurmat Samagam in which sangat was made aware of the need to conserve mother Earth. [Click here for more pictures.](#)

**Vigaas Foundation - Model House Plantation** - Trees were planted by a group of youngsters in premises of a local park in Model House headed by Vigaas foundation. A video message was also broadcasted by Agamvir Singh (A Little Gardner) urging everyone to take a step forward in protecting our mother earth. [Click here for more pictures.](#)

**Gurdwara Sukhmani Sahib, Urban Estate** - Gurdwara sahib celebrated Sikh Environment Day by organizing Green Hola Mohalla in which people were made aware of the various threats to the environment and steps to protect it through various brochures and pamphlets. A stall was set up to distribute the Boota Prasad among the sangat and on the spot poster making competition for the kids was also held. [Click here for more pictures.](#)

**Rara Sahib (Nadar Foundation)** - The volunteers of the Nadar Foundation organized a massive plantation drive in a Gurdwara in Rara Sahib in which new plants were planted and old plants were trimmed and medicated. Boota Prasad was also distributed among the local sangat during the drive. [Click here for more pictures.](#)

**Gursikh Family Club** - Members of the Gursikh Family Club organized a bicycle rally in Sarabha Nagar to mark International Sikh Environment Day in which around 30-40 families participated with great enthusiasm. [Click here for more pictures.](#)
**Tajpur Road** – S. Dharaminder Singh with his team organised celebration for Sikh Environment Day 2017 in the form of plantation drive along with students of Government School and children from nearby localities. After plantation drive, the team distributed Boota Prasad in a local Gurdwara on Tajpur Road to mark the celebrations and spread the message describing the need to save our planet. Click here for more pictures.

**Guru Nanak Multiversity**- Sikh Environment Day 2017 was celebrated by staff and students of Guru Nanak Multiversity by creating awareness about harms being caused by Styrofoam. Measures to save the planet were discussed with the students and the slogans like “Say No to Styrofoam” were raised.

**Moga**

**Basics of Sikhi** celebrated Sikh Environment Day with kids during the kiddie sangat at Gurdwara Kalgidhar Sahib, Dutt Road, Moga. The team organised a drawing and colouring competition for the kids along with a plantation drive under the title “Oxygen da Langar” at their Weekly Gurmat Classes. Boota prasad was also given to the students after the class.

Sikh Environment Day 2017 was celebrated by **Government School** students by planting trees in the school premises. Students were made aware about the harms being caused to the Earth and measures to save the planet were discussed.

Like every year, this year also **Alliance International Club** at Nihal Singh Wala village played the role of advocacy to spread the message of environmental protection and curb the climate change. Under this, the ways to celebrate Sikh
Environment Day and contribute to the planet Earth were shared with local people.

**Muktsar**

Dedicated to Sikh Environment Day and to pay tribute to Guru Har Rai ji, EcoSikh created kitchen gardens in Gurdwaras in Muktsar and pledged to replicate it in 100 Gurdwaras across Punjab to spread the message of health and organic langar.

**Patiala**

**Event 1: Springdale Public School**
Mrs. Kawalpreet Kaur Ahuja, Principal, Springdale Public School took the responsibility to create awareness to control the pollution and save environment among her school students. She instructed the staff members to carry on with some interesting measures to create awareness among students. Main attractions of activities were participation by pre-primary class of the school in poem recitation. And many more activities were also held such as skit, drawing and poster making competition, slogan writing, flash cards, tree paintings etc. Students of class IX and X grew some plants by vegetative propagation. Click here for more pictures.

**Event 2: Sunflower Model High School**
Er. Jatinder Singh, Chairman and Mrs. Bhupinder Kaur, Principal showed keen interest to carry on activities related to environment protection. Teachers of different subjects talked about the environment with respect to their particular subjects. Poster and slogan writing competitions were also held in school premises. Click here for more pictures.

**Event 3: Government College for Girls**
The students of Nutrition and Dietetics Dept., N.S.S. and volunteers of N.C.C. Cadets of G.C.G. Patiala
joined the campaign to save environment. The saplings of Gooseberry, Tamarind, Curry leaves, Cinnamon, Tulsi, etc and many more medicinal plants were planted in college. Students took out a rally to make people aware about environment protection. They took a pledge to respect the natural resources, air, water, and food. Saplings were distributed as prizes to winners of poster and slogan writing competition. While taking pledge all students sang

“Our Pani Na Zehraan Ghol, Eh Daat Bahut Anmol,
Avain Na Tu Faltu Dhol, Ek Ek Boond Bacha Soneya,
Ek Ek Boond Bacha, Vatavaran Bacha Soneya Vatavaran Bacha”

Click here for more pictures.

Event 4: Sikh Environment Week
(19 March to 26 March 2017)

Gur Gaddi Gurpurab of Sri Guru Har Rai Sahib Ji was observed as “Sikh Environment Week” by EcoSikh under the worthy guidance of Mrs. Supreet Kaur, President of Ecosikh and number of activities were undertaken by the Sangat of “Gurudwara Sant Kartar Singh Kamaliyawale, Model Town, Patiala”.

- Tree Plantation Drive - 19 March 2017
Tree Plantation drive by Senior Citizens was organized in Gurdwara premises. They all participated in the movement with great enthusiasm and motivated young boys and girls to maintain and take care of plants. Click here for more pictures.

- Poem Recitation Competition-20 March 2017
Poem recitation competition was held in Gurudwara in which there were many young participants who have participated. Anhad Kaur from junior wing recited a poem on birds where as Kamalpreet Kaur from senior wing recited a poem on trees. Prof. Barinder Kaur conveyed a message through a poem. It was based on dialogue between her and God. It had a great impact on the minds of Sangat. Click here for more pictures.

- Gurbani vichar - 21 March 2017
An old practice of Gurdwara is recitation of “S.Japji Sahib” and “Waheguru Simran” by Sangat on every Tuesday. In this activity of Simran it was dedicated to 7th Guru Sri Har Rai Sahib Ji. During the event, the teachings of Guru ji and activities undertaken by him were highlighted. Even pledge sheet was put up in Gurdwara premises and all Sangat pledged to save environment and contribute in their own way. Click here for more pictures.
• **Photography competition - 22 march 2017**
Photography competition was also held. Participants were not only from gurdwara, but even from far places like Bangalore, Delhi, Bombay who sent their pictures depicting the natural beauty. In this competition, almost all age groups from kids to youth participants had participated. [Click here for more](#)

• **Bicycle Marathon and Walkathon – 23 March 2017**
Bicycle marathon and walkathon was organized by the Sangat of Gurdwara. In this hundreds of young children, adolescent boys and girls, adults got together for the marathon. Even senior citizens got together for walkathon. All the participants thoroughly enjoyed the activity and delicacies served during the activity. [Click here for more pictures](#)

• **Samaagam - 24th to 26th march**
Every year Gur Gaddi Diwas of Guru Har Rai Sahib ji is celebrated in Model town Gurdwara. Number of Akhand path sahib ji are carried out voluntarily by the Sangat. Since 2011, Ecosikh has observed the Sikh Environment Day celebrations, to convey the message through gurdwaras. All the suggestions given by Ecosikh were discussed with the Sangat. During langar, there was no use of disposables, Styrofoam plates and plastics. Instead, steel plates were used. This was a major step taken to save our Mata Dharat. [Click here for more pictures](#)

• **26th march 2017 – Exhibition & Boota Prasad**
On this final day, there was an exhibition of paintings which were made by the students. And there was a prize distribution of various activities which were held in gurdwara, schools and college. Around 150 Saplings of lemon and bael(fruit bearing shady tree) were distributed among the Sangat.
This way of celebrating the Gurpurab was appreciated by the sangat. Click here for more pictures.

**Event 5: Thapar University**
Plantation Drive was organised at Thapar University by Paryavaran Welfare Society dedicated to Guru Har Rai Ji for making Mata Dharat liveable and loveable for future generations. Click here for more pictures.

**Event 6: Fatehjit Singh**
Fatehjit Singh from Patiala celebrated Sikh Environment Day individually by carrying out plantation drive at home and in a government school in Patiala. He also used a bicycle for the whole day sending out the message to reduce the pollution on the planet.

**S.A.S. Nagar**

Gurdwara Kalgidhar Sahib, Phase-4 Mohali held a gurmat samagam in association with Kalgidhar Sewak Jatha and Dharam Prachar Committee under the leadership of Jatendar Pal Singh. An organic food stall was exhibited for the awareness of the sangat. A free Ayurvedic and Homeopathic Camp for the sangat were also organized. Click here for more pictures.

**Zirakpur**

Three day long celebrations were held at historic Gurdwara Nabha Sahib in Zirakpur with the efforts of Bhai Manjit Singh ji from Mata Ganga Nursery and cooperation from Gurdwara members. These celebrations included plantation drive, Boota Prasad, Katha-Kirtan diwan on Nature theme and a huge flower show, marking seventh world Sikh Environment Day. The Green diwan and the flower show went on all the three days and celebrations concluded with plantation drive on the highway road in front of the gurdwaras premises followed by distribution of saplings in the form of Boota Prasad to the sangat present. Click here for more pictures.
RAJASTHAN

Alwar
A group named Urban value celebrated Sikh Environment Day in Alwar by highlighting the current degraded situation of the planet amongst the people. The promises to plant “One Tree per Year” were made by the sangat in the gurdwara.

TAMIL NADU

Chennai
This year Chennai witnessed wide celebrations to commemorate Gurgaddi Diwas of Sri Guru Har Rai Ji. A Green Diwan was held in a local Gurdwara where sangat was made aware of the various environment issues. A plantation drive and cleanliness drive was carried out by the volunteers of EcoSikh team accompanied by kids of the local community. Following are the celebrations of Sikh Environment Day 2017 events in Chennai

Event 1: Presentation session was held on “Saving mother nature” in Guru Nanak Mat Hr. Sec. School on 4th March, 2107 that included colouring/drawing competitions, poster making and model making competitions followed by plantation drive. Approx. 800 Students participated in this event. Click here for
Event 2: Approx. 200 college students participated in the PowerPoint Presentation session organised on “Saving mother nature by conserving water, energy using innovative ways” by Guru Nanak College, Velachery, Chennai on 4th March, 2017 in which an extempore event was conducted for students followed by plantation drive. Click here for more pictures.

Event 3: Cleanliness Drive around Gurdwara premises was conducted by kids, volunteers and sangat which also followed by Plantation Drive in the gurdwara on 11th March, 2017. Click here for more pictures.

Event 4: Green diwan was held at Gurdwara Sahib on 12th March, 2017 in which Gurbani Shabads related to Environment were recited in the form of kirtan and Guru Har Rai Sahib ji’s message in preserving the environment was discussed in the form of katha in sangat. Click here for more pictures.

Event 5: A stall for sangat in Gurdwara sahib was put up on 12th March, 2017 for motivating people to take pledge of saving environment and plant saplings in the form of boota prasad was distributed among the sangat.

Event 6: A drawing competition was conducted, showcasing a short movie and saakhis of Guru Har Rai Sahib ji related to environment for kids in Gurdwara sahib premises on 12th March, 2017.
TELANGANA

Hyderabad

Gurdwara Ameerpat- The most visited Gurdwara in the heart of the city organized a special kirtan diwan to celebrate the Gurpurab and share the values of this day with the sangat. The sangat attended the katha and kirtan samagam to spread the message of making the society a better place for people and animals to live. Click here for more pictures.

News Coverage

UTTAR PRADESH

Babina Cant

A gurmat samagam was organized in the gurdwara in Babina Cantt to mark the celebrations of Sikh Environment Day 2017. Dedicated to Guru Har Rai Ji this day was celebrated with help of the sangat of the Gurdwara. Sharanjit Kaur from Babina Cant helped organizing the Green Diwan and Katha Kirtan based on Nature theme was conducted in the Gurdwara.

WEST BENGAL

Kolkata

Kolkata English High school organised a cleanliness drive in and around the school campus to celebrate Sikh Environment Day. Students of the school took part in the drive, cleaned the roads around the school and raised slogans to create awareness among the general public.
Celebration in Diaspora

Celebrations across the world have been very impactful. Sangat from many countries of the world participated with full zeal and enthusiasm. This year, the sangat from Diaspora shared their plans via video messages which were shared by EcoSikh through social media to inspire and encourage more sangat to participate. The activities for the Sikh Environment Day celebrations included katha kirtan diwaans, plantation drives, organic langar, Nature Walk, Forest Visits, prayers for Rain, Movie shows on Nature, clean up drives, Painting competitions, etc. Apart from these events, the Sikh sangat from different parts of the world expressed their love for Nature by reciting shabads from Gurbani related to Nature and Environment (below).

- **Bhai Harbaljeet Singh and Bhai Gurmeet Singh from California** reciting “Basant Chariya Phooli ban raye. [Click here to see.](#)"

- **Harlove Singh with Harmonium and Makheer Singh with Dilruba from Kaur and Singh Academy, Los Angeles** reciting Gurbani and paying tribute to Guru Har Rai Ji on Sikh Environment Day. [Click here to see.](#)"

- **Satninder Singh Bodal, winner of prestigious award in singing at Harivallabh Sangeet Sammelan**, singing Gurbani shabad in Raag Basant dedicated to the Sikh Environment Day, March 14, Gurgaddi day of Guru Har Rai ji, the 7th Sikh Guru. [Click here to see.](#)"

- **British Sikh Chaplain Col. Mandeep Kaur** expressing her love for Nature and our relation with it. [Click here to see.](#)"

AUSTRALIA

Sikh Environment Day was celebrated in **Gurdwara Miri Piri, Melbourne** on 19th March, 2017. A gurmat samagam was organized for sangat which included PowerPoint shows describing the importance and need for celebrating Sikh Environment Day. Shabad and Gurbani related to Nature theme was recited dedicating this day to 7th Guru of Sikhs, Guru Har Rai ji. [Click here for more pictures.](#)"
CHINA

HongKong

Sikhs in HongKong organised a campaign “Save The Mother Earth” taking an action for controlling Climate change on the planet. The team visited the forests of Hongkong where they had planted around 100 trees. This visit was made on Sikh Environment Day to ensure the existence of the planted trees.

AFRICA

Kenya

Sangat from Kenya under the leadership of Satinder Kaur celebrated Sikh Environment Day with great zeal. They organized a huge plantation drive in Nairobi and prayed for the rains. Due to rapid and continuous climate change, people in Kenya did not witness rains from past three years. Kids were taught how to nurture and grow organic food. An Art Competition for kids was also held on 11th March based on Nature theme. Click here for more pictures. Click here for the video.
ASIA

Malaysia
Sikh Environment Day was celebrated by Punjab Education Centre in Petaling, Jaya on March 14, 2017. A plantation drive was organized for kids in Gurdwara, where they planted saplings in colourful pots followed by a poster making competition based on Nature theme and kids were rewarded with presents. Click here for more pictures.

OCEANIA

New Zealand
A Gurmat Samagam was organized to commemorate Sikh Environment Day 2017 celebrations in the Gurdwara Sahib in Hashtings. On 14th March, a Katha- Kirtan diwaan was held by Bhai Gurwinder Singh and Bhai Gurdev Singh respectively. Click here for more pictures.

EUROPE

Norway
Sikh Sangat in Oslo, Norway celebrated Sikh Environment Day by organizing premier of a short film “A Little Gardner” in a local Gurdwara followed by a poster making competition for kids related to environment. Click here for more pictures.

Sweden
Gurdwara Sahib Stockholm organized Katha & Kirtan Samagam followed by organic langar. Another Organic langar was also organized in Gurdwara Sahib in Foreningen to discourage people from eating pesticide laden food and promote
healthy food and lifestyle.  

UK

Derby

A plantation drive was carried out in The National Forest of Derby, UK. Sikhs in Derby organised this drive with local sangat for the cause of community and the planet. The sangat prayed for the control of the climate change and then began the plantation drive in the forests. After the plantation drive, flower planting was done by the kids at the Gurdwara Sahib Ramgharia Sabha Derby UK  

USA

California

Sikh community in California celebrated Sikh Environment Day in Victoria by organizing a community clean up drive in Victoria West Park on March 19th. This event was hosted by Sikh Council of Central California.  

Maryland

Sikh Environment Day was celebrated by Guru Gobind Singh Foundation in Maryland in a local Gurdwara where Kirtan Samagam was held followed by a talk on Eco Friendly Gurdwara Assessment.  

Khalsa Public School in Baltimore (Maryland) celebrated Sikh Environment Day  

Arizona

Nishkam Sewa Gurdwara Sahib in Glendale, Arizona organized a Kirtan Katha Samagam to commemorate Sikh Environment Day.  

New Jersey
Khalsa School, Bridgewater in New Jersey under Garden State Sikh Association celebrated Sikh Environment Day with kids of the school. Kids were told about the concept and harms we are doing to the environment. Later, a painting competition and colouring competition was organized for the kids. They expressed their views via drawings. 

*Click here for more pictures.*

*Click here for the video.*

*Note: To view more pictures from Sikh Environment Day celebrations from this year, please visit our Flickr page or follow our face book page.*
Conclusions

Keeping in mind the environmental vision of our Gurus, it becomes our moral duty and responsibility to come together and promote a healthy and sustainable environment. The God had created a balanced environment for the benefit of both the beast and humans so that biodiversity remains vibrant and all the creations coexist in harmony. But due to the pressures of population and technology, the biophysical environment is being degraded, sometimes permanently. This has been recognized, and EcoSikh has tried to put its best efforts to convey the message of preservation to the masses by organizing the workshops to bring together people and involve them in this noble cause. Our survival is possible with the survival of the planet and that can be done only when we work continuously to improve our environmental performance by setting and working towards quantifiable goals that reduce the environmental impact of our activities. This will eventually enhance quality of living on the Mother Earth. In conclusion, the Sikh Environment Day creates a platform for all the communities to come together for protection and preservation of Mother Earth. This year also, Sikhs worldwide celebrated this day and took tangible actions for introducing organic Langar and leaf plates, stopping the use of food containing pesticides and chemicals, banning Styrofoam from their routine, planning long-term sustainability projects like composting and solar panels, and creating awareness about water and soil conservation among the farming community. EcoSikh ensures to serve the communities by taking every possible action required and thus trying to fulfill the organization’s mission. In coming years, Sikh Environment Day celebrations, will engage even more number of Gurdwaras, organizations, academic institutions and other members of the Sikh community by outreaching more people via events and workshops. EcoSikh hopes to integrate grassroots programs and education of children, who will be leaders in the near future, to guide the Sikh community towards a sustainable living!