

**Press Release:** The Green Gala – An Evening to enliven our Environment

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Today, Gurgaon, witnessed the first of its kind event to celebrate nature! “The Green Gala” organised at Epicenter by Advit Foundation successfully reminded people about the beauty of nature. It created an increased awareness of a carbon neutral lifestyle among the NCR populace. Children, increasingly aware and conscious of the environment benefited most from the event. *“Several events were organized over the last few weeks to mark the environment day. Most events focus on the problems that we face. One has to cherish nature to realize the need to conserve it. With this belief, Advit Foundation organized the Green Gala - An event to celebrate and enliven our environment”*, said Charu Jain, Director, Advit.

Advit Foundation launched its initiative to educate citizens to take care of their local travel and ‘Be Carbon Neutral’. An Evalueserve employee, Anirudh Kabra, volunteering with Advit says “Its simple. Just estimate the amount of distance you travel in your car in a year and Advit does the rest. We calculate the carbondioxide emissions and the number of trees that will absorb it. With some contribution from the individual, Advit will organise plantation of the requisite number of trees”. Besides, the evening featured a collage of events – on display were exciting easy to adopt technologies to reduce garbage - the beautiful terracotta compost bin set can be easily accommodated in your backyard or balcony. The ready to paint birdhouse, will attract small birds in your garden. Children and adults gained hands on experience on how to test water and air for pollution. Something that they had always been hearing about, but never knew was so easy to test. Mr Niranjana Khatri, General Manager, ITC Welcom Environ Initiatives, addressed the audience on the need to conserve water and make green buildings. The documentary on the energy friendly Sehgal Foundation center served to remind the property developers, how green yet state of the art buildings can be made. Lively music on appreciating nature, a beautiful and serene animation “Happy Planet” was a refreshing reminder on the beauty of nature. Children from Shikshantar under the direction of Hemant of Ekam Satyam performed a musical audio-visual journey “Prithvi Ki Gaatha”. “An excellent learning tool, it is a must watch for the teachers and the taught”, says Hemant, Founder of Creative Heads. Budding theatre artists from Swakriti presented a skit questioning the importance given to plants and trees today – is it just for beauty and aesthetics?

Also present on the occasion were several green architects – Mr Ashok Lall, Panelist, Delhi Urban Arts Commission, Sanjay Prakash – Green Building Expert, Mrs Minoti Bahri – Chairperson Shikshantar – A unitech school for learning, Alka Toma – Director CMS Vatavaran. Two films – Happy Planet directed by Dhimant Vyas and Concert for Indias environment, produced and directed by Chinmaya Dunster served to inform as well as inspire the audience by instilling in them a sense of pride for nature. All in all, the event was a pleasant and welcome departure from most environment events, which focus on the problems alone. The evening generated amongst the audience a sense of admiration for nature. “You need to appreciate to conserve; and this was well put forth”, says Pawanexh Kohli, a Gurgaon resident and Founder CrossTree Consulting. “Luckily, intelligent society is increasingly conscious of the loss and is seeking for alternatives, a direction towards changed lifestyles that will curb and protect our environment. It’s not that we’re running out of fossil fuels—we’re running out of environment! Can we truly sustain a high quality life whilst tending to our environment? We need quick conscious action towards protecting our future, and the event served the purpose”, added Pawanexh. There are no dreams too large, no innovation unimaginable and no frontiers beyond reach. Let us learn of new and innovative ways to conserve the environment.

**About Advit Foundation:**

Advit, a not for profit organization, works with the people towards environment conservation. It aims to promote effective lifestyle changes that will allow society to move along the positive path of carbon neutral, productive activities. Advit's team members also strive at other myriad complexities of environment sustenance by working with the local rural population; teaching and training new skill sets that lead to a sustainable livelihood that reflect healthily on our environment.

Advit plans to introduce several programmes for awareness of green career options and technologies to children, options that will increasingly be the preferred opportunity in future years.

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