

Hello everyone,

Dear honourable guests and students who are attending this **Day of Children's ecological cinema of Russia** event.

I am very pleased to be invited as an honored guest on this occasion of the **Day of Children's ecological cinema of Russia**. Unfortunately, due to some unavoidable circumstances, I am unable to attend this event in person today.

I fully support such initiatives and events and consider it of paramount importance that the country's future leaders are participating in such activities.

Mahatma Gandhi, the father of our nation, once said- Mother Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's needs, but not every man's greed".

India is endowed with rich bio-diversity and in this journey of development and well being, we have taken effective steps towards conservation and protection of our environment & forests. India continues to lead by example in the fields of renewable energy, forestation, green transportation, and youth awareness.

Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi has often shared his vision of building a new, self reliant India by the year 2022. You may be aware that our great nation is celebrating the 75th Anniversary of Indian Independence as 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav'. To commemorate the monumental occasion, conservation of ecology and environment is one of the top most priorities of Govt of India led by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav is an intensive, country wide campaign that focuses on citizen participation, to be converted into people's movement, where small changes at local levels will add up to significant national gains.

Keeping in view the clarion call of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to phase out single use plastics by 2022, "Awareness programmes to avoid the use of single use plastics" was identified as one of themes for the 'Iconic Week' celebrations of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, from 4th to 10th October, 2021.

As a sequel to celebrate "Iconic Week" under Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav "Mass cleanliness drives" were organized with participation of students & youth leaders, across various cities in India while public were also administered the 'Green Pledge' towards making India single use plastic free by 2022. Mass public

participation is a must for success in our mission to manage plastic waste and reduce single use plastics.

We all need to act as trustees of our environment. One of the most important Climate Actions that we can take individually is to bring in conscious changes to our lifestyles as there is no Planet B and we have to remember that the earth which we have inherited is not our parental property rather a loan from our future generations.

We all have to adopt a strategy focusing on behavioural change, strengthening of institutional systems for conservation of ecology in active participation with NGOs, Industry leaders and make it a mass movement. Sustainable consumption and production is the need of the hour. There is a need for sustainable lifestyle as matters of consumerism are grave threats to the environment. Habit and attitude are much a part of the solution. The future of the world is in your hands, and only with thoughtful approach to ecological matters, we will successfully combat climate change.

We must also explore the possibilities of international cooperation and cultural exchange with leading institutions of ecological conservation in different countries, especially with India and Russia as we enjoy excellent relations.

Ecological degradation is a problem of a global proportion, and we are interested in how your young minds can contribute for the future of our planet. Students and youths through various 'Eco Clubs' or 'Green Friends clubs' may help build an environment towards effective management of our ecology.

I wish you best of luck and I sincerely believe that engaging such bright minds as you will create a bright future for everyone.

Thank you.

(Kumar Gaurav)