

Let the Buds Bloom



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Puneet Kumar Vats
Director General



MESSAGE



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I am glad to know that CPWD Officers' Wives along with CPWD officers, in first of its kind initiative, have brought out a coffee table book (e-version), 'Let the Buds Bloom', which is a collection of art work by underprivileged children, mostly from Bal Baseras of various construction sites.

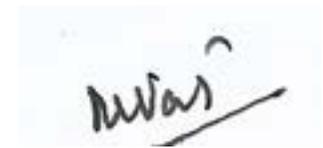
As we all know, CPWD Officers' Wives Association has been promoting welfare programs and activities for employees of CPWD and workers engaged in construction sites since seventies.

One of the most important activities of the Association is to provide and manage creches / Bal Baseras at various construction sites. Young children of construction workers are imparted non formal education, medical care and nutrition and are encouraged to undertake creative activities like art, dance and drama.

When a child is encouraged to express his creativity, a sense of innovation develops in him which certainly helps him throughout his life. Art is one such creative expression which not only makes a child imaginative but also gives him a sense of accomplishment.

‘Let the Buds Bloom’ is one more initiative by CPWD Officers’ Wives in this direction. I am told, initially, intention was to publish this collection in hard bound copies. However, due to the pandemic, at present its e-version has been made. I am impressed to see the beautiful paintings done by young children and definitely see a potential of some going far ahead in this creative field in future. Needless to say, these children have created these wonderful pieces with limited resources and without any formal education. This e-book is going to make children and their parents proud.

I deeply appreciate Smt. Udita Vats, President of the Officers’ Wives Association, who led this project from front. Appreciation is also due to Dr. Sonia Mehta, Chief Architect, who worked relentlessly with the President for giving it a shape. As there is no limit to art. I sincerely hope that this initiative will not end with this book and in coming years too there will be many more editions.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Puneet Vats', is written on a light blue rectangular background.

Sh. Puneet Kumar Vats



C.P.W.D. Officers' Wives Association

(Registered at Delhi under Societies Act XXI of 1860)

Hriday Kunj, Sector-VI, R. K. Puram, Near RBI Staff Colony,
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Smt Uditā Vats
President, CPWD Officers' Wives Association

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

On behalf of CPWD Officers' Wives Association I present to CPWD family, the coffee table book (e-version) titled 'Let the buds bloom!', being collection of the art work done by underprivileged children, primarily of Bal Baseras. It is an amazing collection of art work done by children given their young age and the fact that most of them are not going through formal education due to the circumstances they are placed in.

As you all know Bal Baseras (crèches) are run by the Association for the children of labourers, who are engaged by the contractors at various construction sites. These crèches provide informal education, nutrition, medical care and a safe environment to children. Besides informal education they are also encouraged to indulge in creative pursuits. Art is one such creative medium which is given lot of emphasis on.

The idea of collating this art work done by these underprivileged children and showcasing it took shape when some of the work done by children of Bal Basera was shown to me when I took over as President of CPWD Officers' Wives Association. 'Let the buds bloom!' is the outcome of this very thought. While on one hand it shows that creativity transcends economic and social barriers, on the other hand it also emphasises the need to find and nurture it. CPWD Wives Association, and thereby CPWD, is playing its role in fulfilling its social obligations in looking after and encouraging children of workers associated in our professional work.

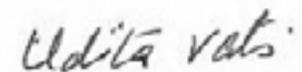
Children have a natural curiosity and urge to explore. When they hold a crayon or a paint brush in their hands, this curiosity is expressed in many ways. I am sure all of you are going to take delight in the multi-coloured hues and varied themes of paintings showcased in this book. Some of the children have used nature as theme; some various missions undertaken by the Government, some have represented routine activities of life and so on. There is no end to these children's imagination. Even the medium chosen by them are varied. Besides using crayons and coloured pencils on paper, some of them have tried their hands on thread painting as also painting on leaves. I am glad we have been able to accomplish this first of its kind initiative in a very short period.

We wanted to publish hard bound copies of this collection so that children, parents, teachers could proudly hold it in their hands. Certain paintings were to be converted into greeting cards and placed at the end of the book, to be used during festive season. However, due to the pandemic, we had to change our plans. Instead of abandoning this project altogether, we decided to go ahead with its e-version and publish it in hard bound format when situation comes back to normal. I am sure a downloaded version will give as much pleasure as a bound one.

Needless to say, it would not have been possible without the help of those who too were as enthusiastic about the project as I was.

I sincerely applaud the efforts put in by members of our Association, teachers of the Bal Baseras for putting this book together. Thanks also to Dr. Sonia Mehta, Chief Architect for her sincere involvement in this project. I further thank founders of St+Art India Foundation and their team members who gave final shape to this e-book.

I hope everyone enjoys the book. Feedbacks and suggestions shall be most welcome for us to take up similar projects in future.



Smt. Uditā Vats
President



Let the Buds Bloom!

Dr Sonia Mehta
Chief Architect CPWD

We all know that for a child, art is fun. It is in fact a game for children. However, art is also a process of learning and growing up.

When a child creates a piece of art, he/she is interacting with the world around him/her. As children become aware of their surroundings, they react to the situations around them. Through their creations, they convey ideas which they may not be able to do very effectively verbally. In fact it is a subconscious analytical process of identifying with the activities in his surroundings and making decisions of how to express.

Painting as an art form comes easiest to children. I am sure all of us have seen the pride that kids feel when they paint and express their ideas. Undoubtedly, painting is an impactful creative expression.

‘Let the Buds Bloom!’ is an initiative towards this direction by Smt. Udita Vats, President,

CPWD Officers' Wives Association. It is a collection of art work done by underprivileged children, mostly from Bal Baseras, presented in the form of an e-book. CPWD Officers' Wives Association is a socio-cultural organisation which besides undertaking several activities, is most importantly involved in the welfare of labourers working at construction sites as well as their families. One of the initiatives by this organisation is running 'Bal Baseras', where labourer's children are imparted informal education. Children here also participate in many creative activities like music, drama, art etc.

Since March 2019, I had, on behalf of CPWD, coordinated with St+Art India Foundation to launch India's first public art district in Lodhi Colony and my efforts were instrumental in getting the children of Bal Baseras to do a small workshop with St+Art. Smt. Vats had discussed with me the idea of collating the art work done by these children, and also by few other underprivileged children to present it to a larger audience in the shape of a coffee table book.

We agreed that this collection will not only showcase their creativity to a larger audience but also boost their confidence and make them, their parents and their teachers proud of their work. It was decided to bring in St+Art India Foundation to work along with us since they have been working with the CPWD in the field of creativity since 2015. In the year 2019, a book on Lodhi Colony Art District, India's first public art district was brought out by CPWD with the help of St+Art India Foundation.

In the same year, they had invited CPWD Officers Wives along with children of Bal Basera to work on one of the walls of Lodhi Colony and showcase their creative skills.

The Foundation also readily agreed to be part of the project.

Initially, the idea was to publish hard copies of this collection, with certain paintings converted into greeting cards or post cards at the end of the book.

Intention was to encourage everyone to use them during festive season which will motivate not only children but their teachers too.

However, this was not to happen. Suddenly we are in the grip of a pandemic, all locked out and unable to implement any grand ideas.

However, in tune with the present times, we have come up with the idea of making an e-version of the collection of paintings of the children and to postpone publishing of the hard copies once things come back to normal. We will in due course want to see the joy in the face of children when they will hold the hard bound book in their hands.

We are certain that day is also not far. Meanwhile please enjoy the e-version.

Personally to me, each piece of art in this book is a masterpiece. It's a child's uninhibited imagination. So, please look at them with a perspective that each and every child, about eight to ten years of age range, has enjoyed himself thoroughly while creating his or her "master piece", which requires recognition and appreciation.

In the end, I must with all humility congratulate Smt. Udita Vats for this personal initiative of hers to show case the work of the children (and in the process that of CPWD Officers' Wives Association). Hopefully, this trend will continue for years to come. Children will keep creating and CPWD Officers' Wives Association will keep showcasing them on a larger platform.

Dr. Sonia Mehta
Chief Architect

St+art India Foundation

At St+art India Foundation, we have always encouraged young minds to explore their creative side and express their thoughts and emotions around topics of interest and socio-economic issues that matter to them. As part of this endeavour, we are thrilled to have been associated with this current project that gave us an opportunity to engage and interact with children of migrant labourers studying at Bal Baseras, as part of our ongoing work with the CPWD (will be good to put full form here). The work done by CPWD Officers Wife's Association is commendable ensuring that under-privileged children have a vision and an opportunity for a better life. The commitment for this cause is ever-inspiring!

It personally gives me immense pleasure to be part of this project of bringing to life a book called "Let the Buds Bloom" that showcases artwork by young budding artists on some of the most relevant topics during the Covid-19 crisis.

We look forward to more avenues and activities like these in the future, where kids can express themselves through the medium of art and we can play the role of a catalyst in driving their hopes and inspirations.

Thanish Thomas
Co-Founder



**Master pieces
by
Bal Basera Kids (and others)**



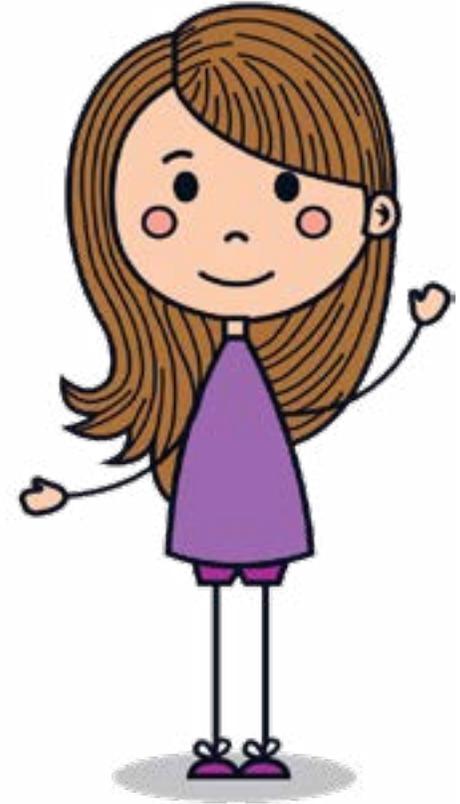
Hello, I am Aashiq. My painting reminds you to keep our surroundings clean and save our Mother Earth.

USE ME



Hey, I am Arifa. I love to paint and I like being around nature and greenery.

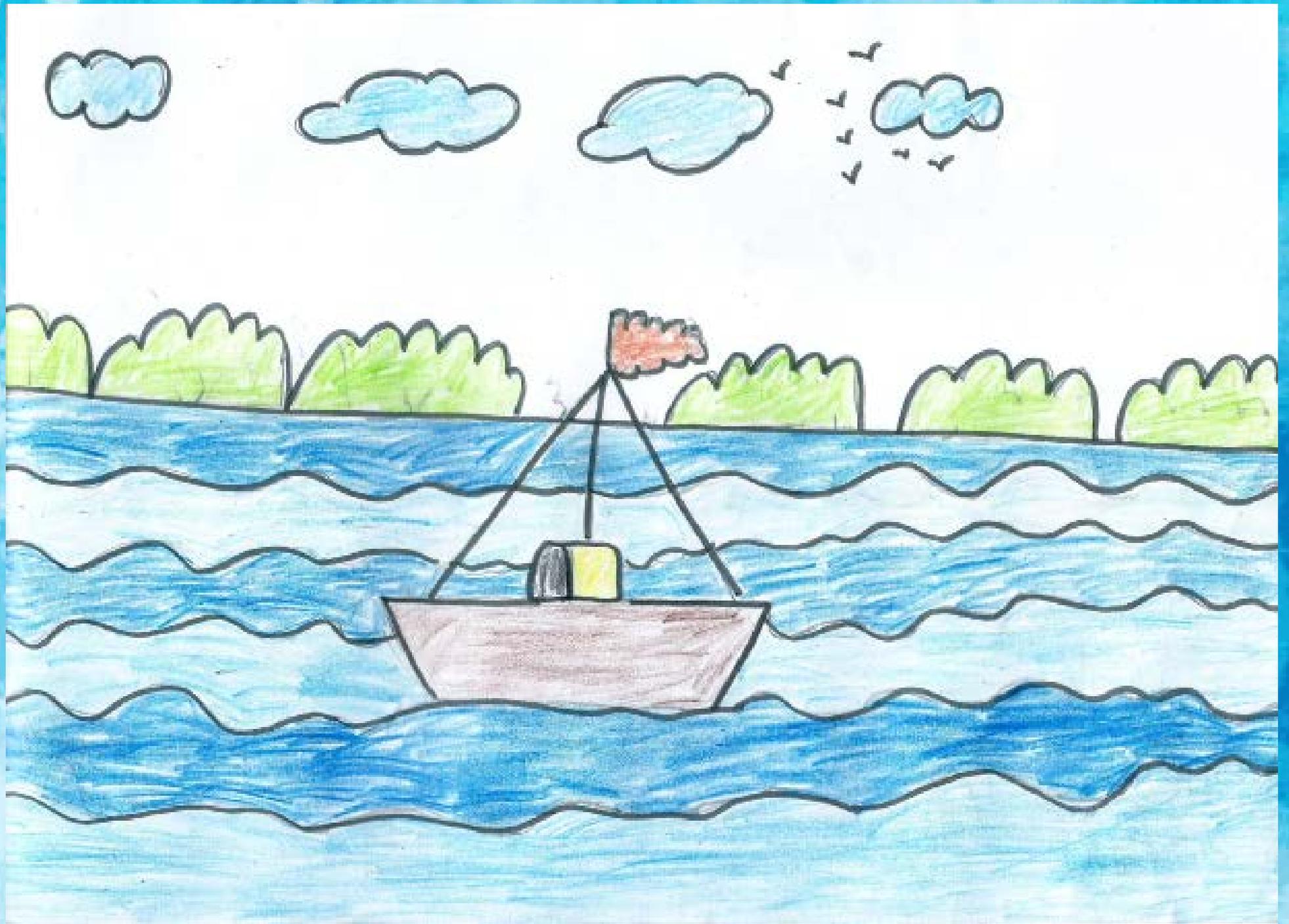
So let us all pledge to save our environment. Lets keep it green and clean.





SAVE
WATER
SAVE
NATURE



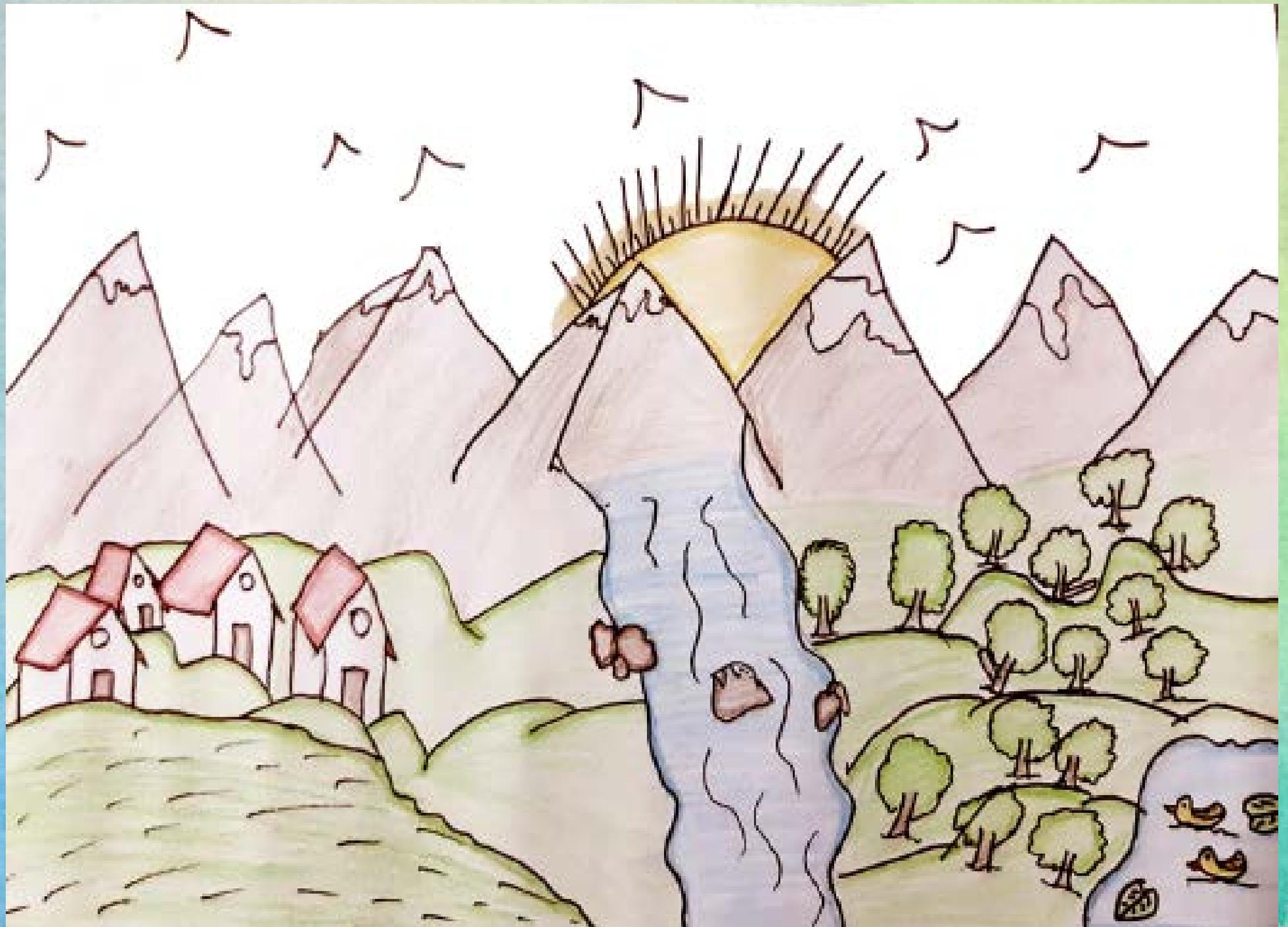








Hello ! I am Ashish, I like playing football with my friends and coloring. I have drawn the sunset and the return of the birds back home, also drawings of Lord Shiva & Ganesha.





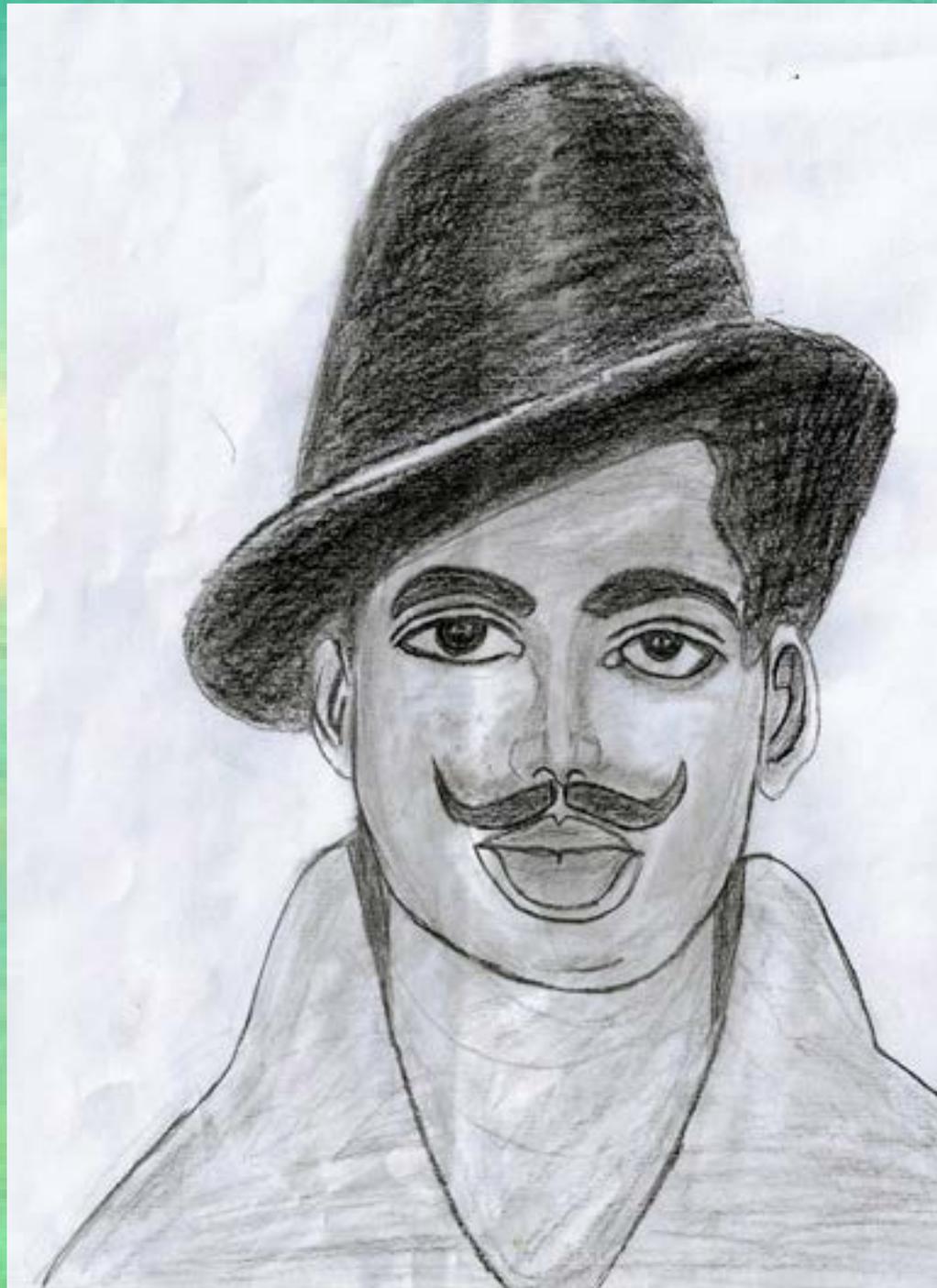
















Hi, We are Babita and Triveni. And we would like to give you all a message through our painting - Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao.

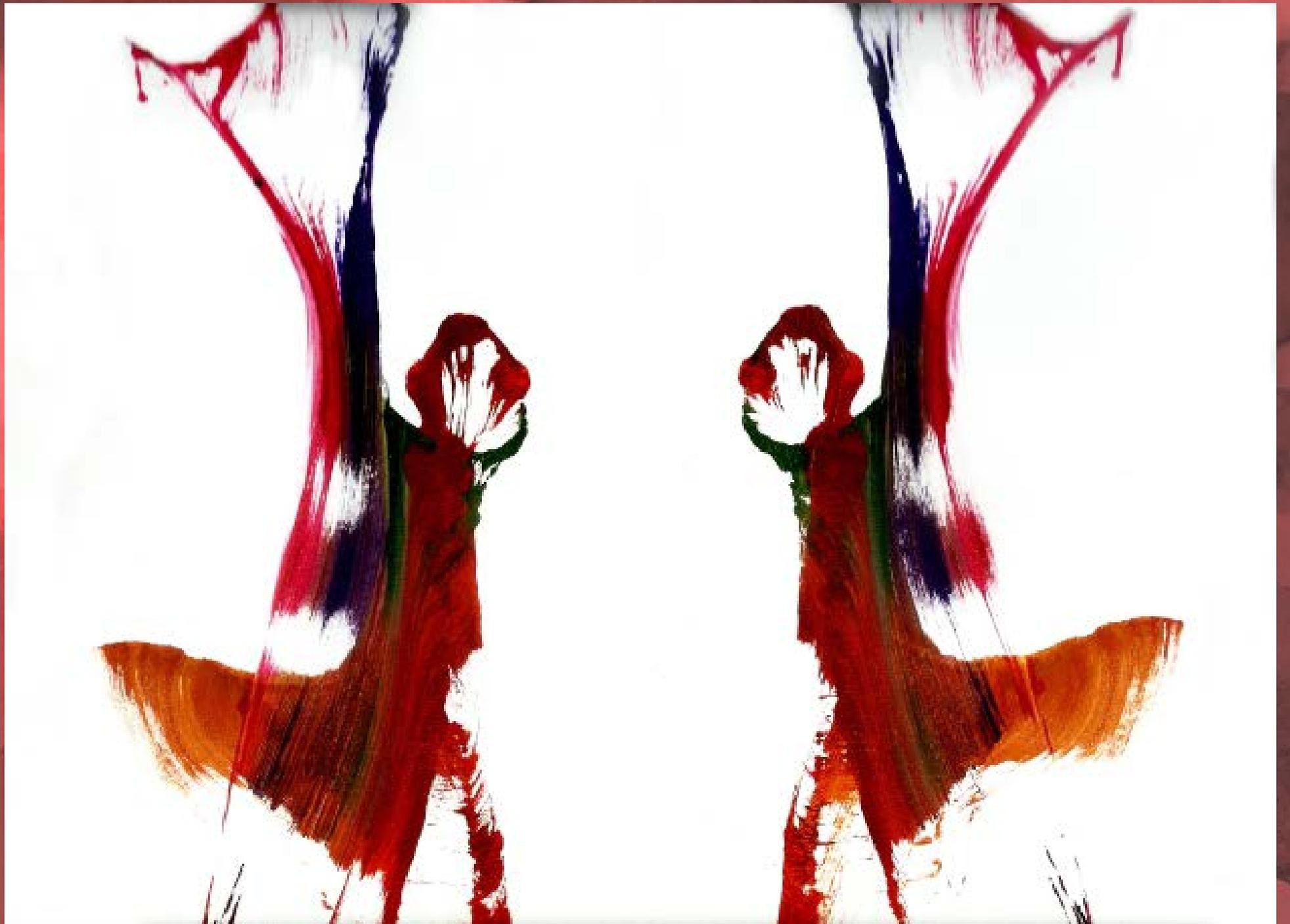
Let us all work towards a safer tomorrow together, Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao.



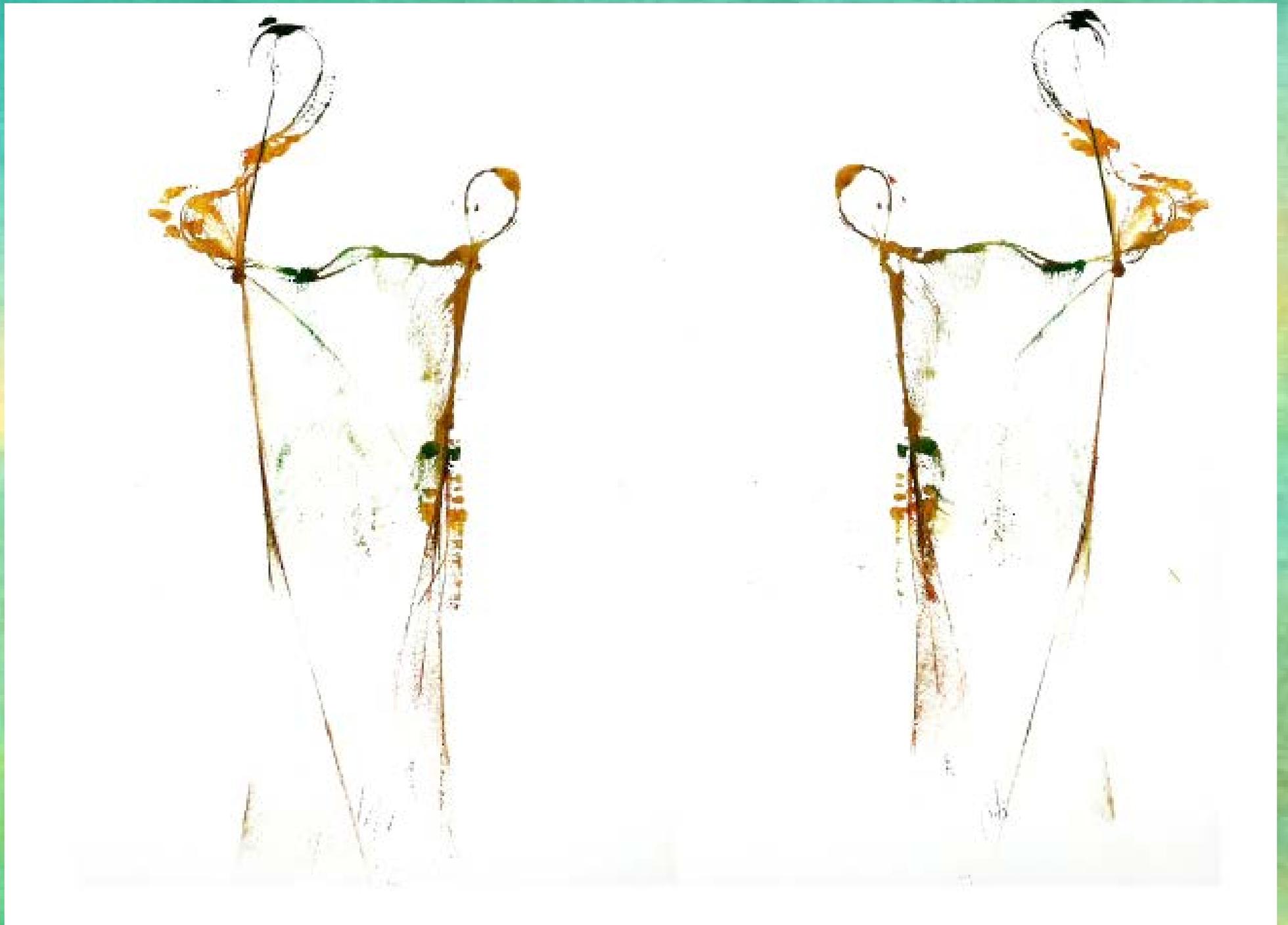


Hi, I am Deepak. My paintings are string art abstract. I did it by using thread. I love exploring different objects and mediums to make drawings also I like to collect coins.















Hello, I am Ganga Prasad, I like watching cartoons and spending time with friends, and we all believe that a healthy future needs a healthy planet.

RAIN

WATER

USE

FOR

LIFE









Hi, I am Karan, I really like expressing myself through colors and sketching. My paintings are about different things I love.

When you
Believe
beyond eyes can see.....
Signs from
Heaven show up to remind you
Love never dies.



Bus stop



Class Room







Save Water

Save
Pipes



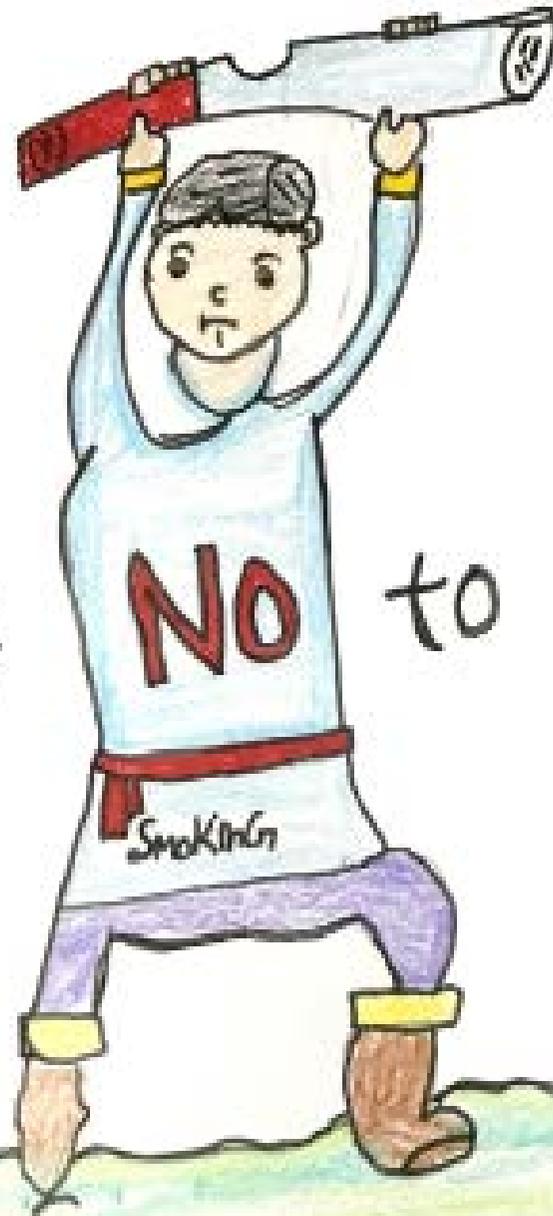


Hey, I am Raina. Through my artworks I want to convey the message of Say No to Child labour & Say No to Tobacco.

Also, I would like you to make a promise of Keeping the Environment clean.



Say **NO** to Tobacco



Save Earth





NO



CHILD

LABOUR





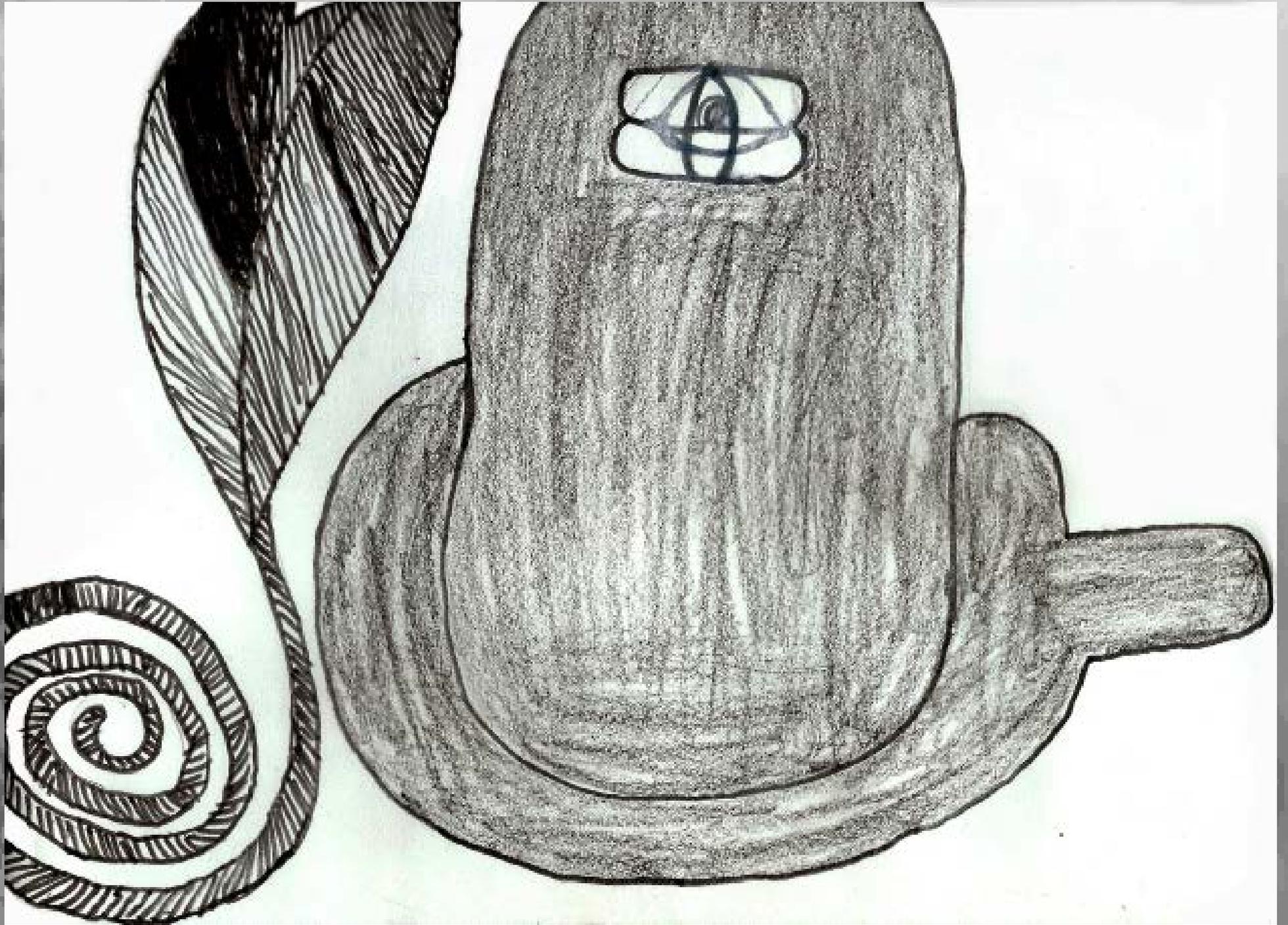




Hello, I am Aarti. I love to solve math problems and draw in my free time. I have drawn an ode to Lord Shiva and a message to make India Clean.

आओ एक
कदम बढ़ाएँ
भारत को
स्वच्छ बनाएँ







Hi, I am Sadek. My friends and I want to travel in a big ship one day all around the world teaching people, how to protect our planet, also Holi is my favourite day of the year.







HOLI
HAI



टीकरी







Hey, I am Sona.
A healthy body ,is a happy body
so let us pledge to do the same
with our earth.







Hey, I am Vikram. I have drawn a koala bear, koalas are very rare and I want to meet a Koala Bear once when I grow up.



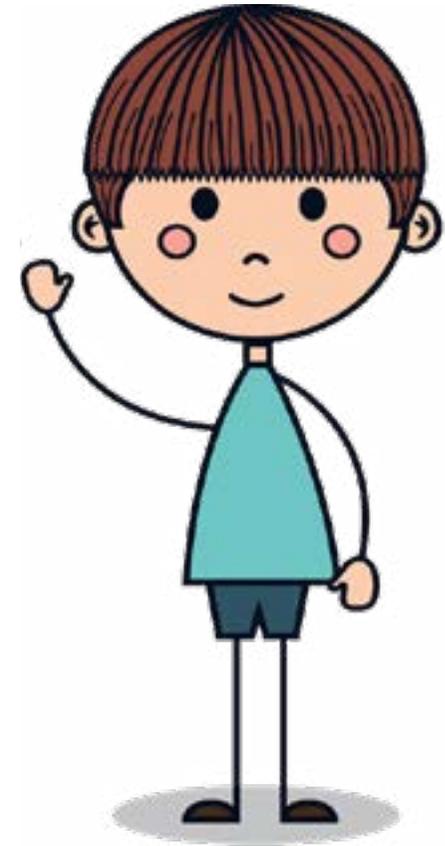






Hi, I am Golu. In my artwork,
I want to give the message of
keeping our India neat and clean.

Let us stand together and take
care of our nation as one.



स्वच्छ भारत
हरी दिल्ली





Hello, I am Dharmendra and I love making paintings. My artworks are dedicated to Swatchh Bharat Abhiyan, Lordess Saraswati, our favourite Santa Claus.

स्वच्छ भारत

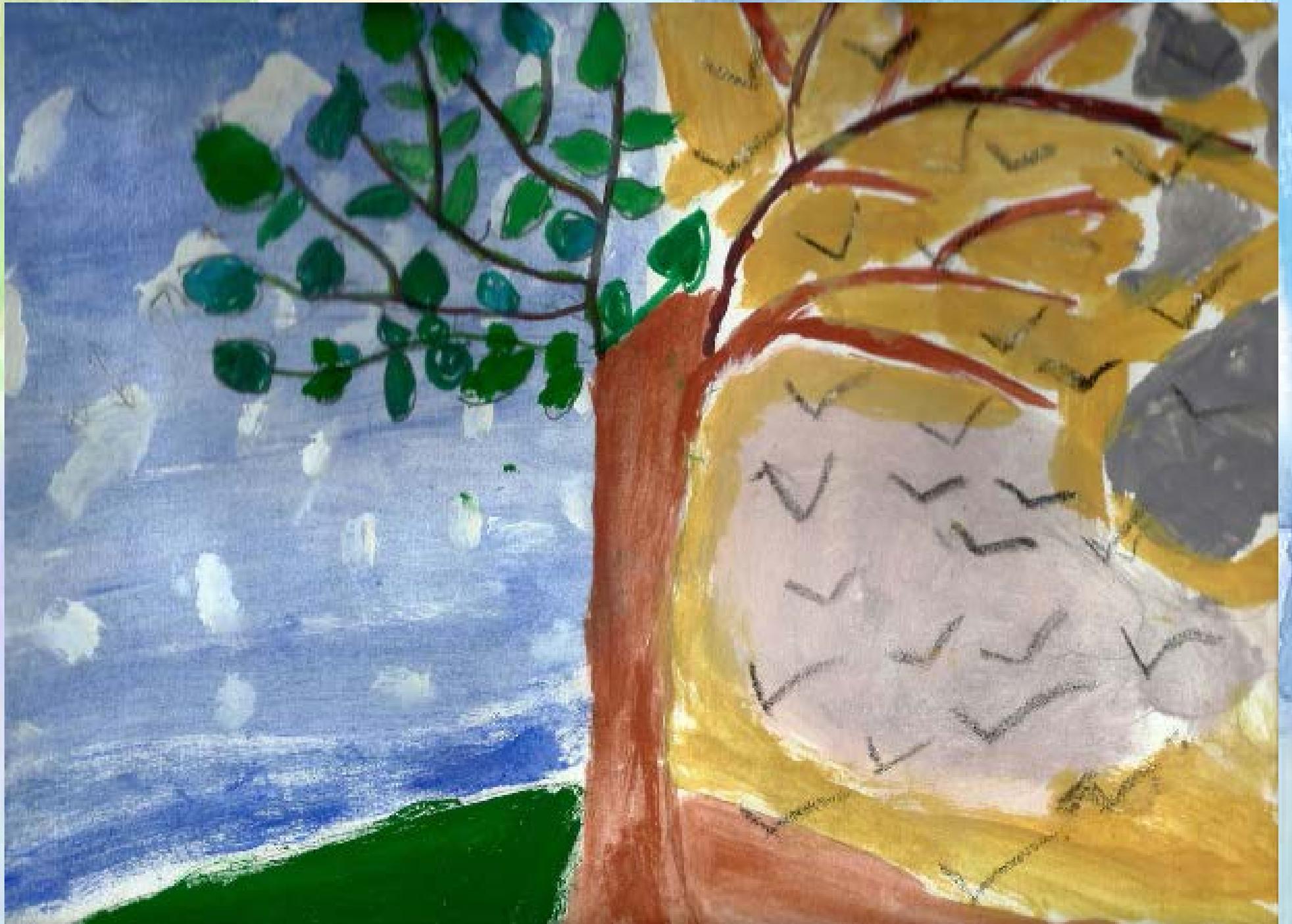






Hey, I am Bharti.
My painting is a tree art
signifying two seasons, and
the beauty of our nature
cycle, changing and growing.





Hey, we are Suraj, Aarti and Dharmendra. Our artworks are known as leaf paintings.









Initiative by



Smt. Udita Vats
(President, CPWD Officers' Wives Association)

This project became possible because of those who are working tirelessly for the Association.
I sincerely commend their commitment.

Smt. Udita Vats



C.P.W.D. Officers' Wives Association

(Registered at Delhi under Societies Act XXI of 1860)

Hriday Kunj, Sector-VI, R. K. Puram, Near RBI Staff Colony,
New Delhi - 110022 * Phone : 26103681



Smt. Anuradha Singhal
General Secretary



Smt. Mukta Bhardwaj
Treasurer & Vice President
School & Day care



Smt. Seema Mahobia
Vice President



Smt. Sharda Dayal
Creche Incharge



Smt. Mamta Saxena
Secretary School & Day
Care & Creche Incharge



Smt. Rachna Aggarwal
Joint Treasurer



Smt. Shalini Katyaj
Co- Convenor



Smt. Swati Thakur Bhramar
Secretary Welfare &
Programming



Smt. Seema Kumar
Creche Incharge



Smt. Vineeta Rana
Secretary VTC

**Bal Basera
Teachers**

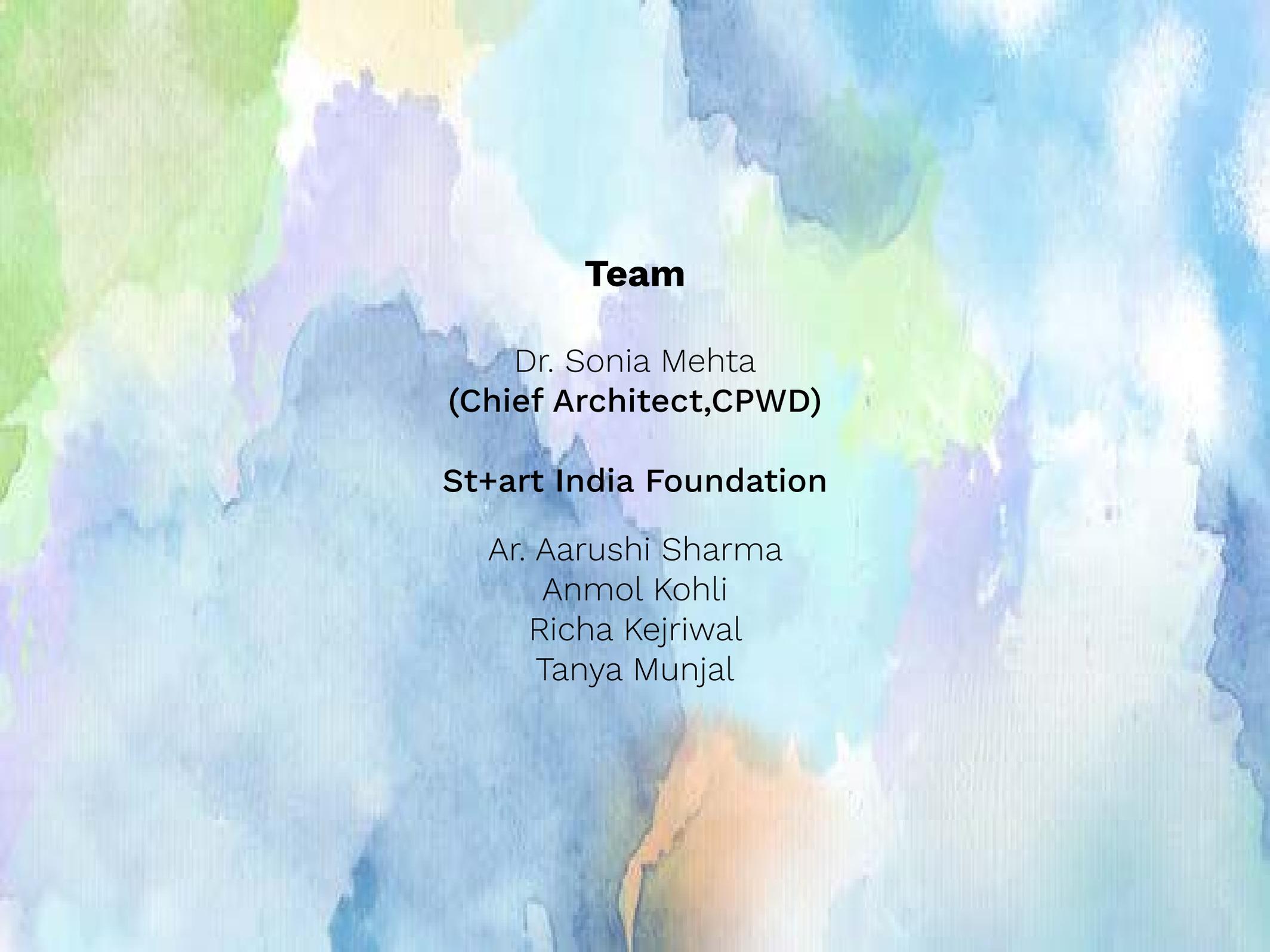
Premlata

Kiran

Shruti

Pratibha

Goldie



Team

Dr. Sonia Mehta
(Chief Architect, CPWD)

St+art India Foundation

Ar. Aarushi Sharma
Anmol Kohli
Richa Kejriwal
Tanya Munjal

