



M.C. MEHTA ENVIRONMENTAL FOUNDATION

3A, Ring Road, Opp Mool Chand Metro Station, Lajpat Nagar-IV, New Delhi-110024
Phone : (011) 41756519, E-Mail: mcmeft@gmail.com, Website: www.mcmeft.org

Organisation Brochure

Welcome to the M.C. Mehta Environmental Foundation! This Brochure aims to provide a glimpse into the work and experience of our Foundation, laying down our aims and objectives while giving details of our efforts in the field of environmental conservation.

About Us

MCMEF is a non-profit, non-governmental organisation working nationwide for the protection of the environment, the rights of the people to a clean and healthy environment, achievement of sustainable development goals and the conservation of the natural and cultural heritage of India.

MCMEF has been actively involved in creating awareness among NGO's, lawyers, scientists, public and private executives, academicians, students, youth, peoples' representatives and public at large through training and capacity building programs, seminars, workshops, declamation contests and other grass root level activities.

Our Mission

At MCMEF, the mission to conserve our degrading environment at all costs is what keeps us going. Towards actualizing our dream of a harmonious, sustainable and responsible existence on the planet on the part of each individual, we pledge to :



- To work actively for the protection of the environment and cultural heritage of India.
- To provide a forum for concerned citizens, NGOs and activists working for the survival of living beings, sustainable development and social change.

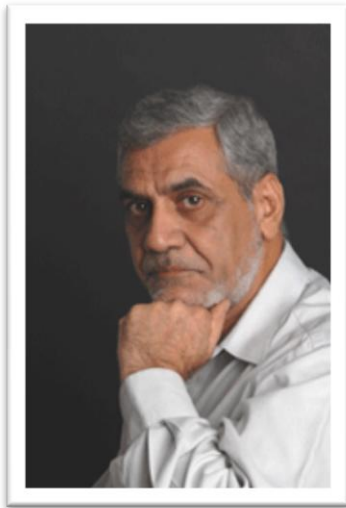


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- To create an interactive movement at the national level for environmental and social justice.
- To provide training to sharpen the skills of young lawyers, scientists and activists in order to strengthen environmental law and policy.
- To help victims of pollution and environmental degradation seek and obtain social and environmental justice.
- To implement community oriented research and training programs in the area of public interest and sustainable development.

Mr. M.C. Mehta



A lawyer by profession and a committed environmentalist by choice, he has made the fight to protect India's environment his unending mission. Founder of the M.C.M.E.F., he has pioneered legal activism for environmental protection and is proof that one man can make a difference. His career as a Supreme Court lawyer began in 1983, when he migrated to Delhi. In the words of Ms Smita Gate "Often described as the One Man Enviro-legal Brigade, Mr Mehta is probably the only Supreme Court lawyer to have taken up legal cudgels with the polluting Indian Industries and come out victorious. A dedicated, fearless and extremely honest man, he pursues his goals with single-minded devotion."

Awards

1. UNEP Global 500 Award (1993).
2. The Great Son of The Soil Award (1993).
3. The Goldman Environmental Prize for Asia (1996)
4. Ramon Magsaysay Award for Asia for Public Service (1997)
5. Rotary Manav Seva Award, 1997.
6. Seva Shree Samman, 1997 for Social and environment work
7. Vasundhara, 1997 by Rotary Club of Dombivali Midtown.
8. People of the Year Award 1998, LIMCA Book of Record.
9. Kerry Rydberg Award for Environmental Activism (1998)



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He has also been a Keynote Speaker at various International Conferences on Environmental Law and Human Rights held at USA, Russia, UK, Zimbabwe, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Thailand, Israel, Japan, Italy, Bhutan, Bangladesh, South Africa, Australia and Canada.

Environment Jurisprudence

Mr. M.C. Mehta's public interest environmental litigation cases have formed the foundation for the development of environmental jurisprudence in India, and indeed, South Asia today. His cases have established the following seminal principles in Indian environmental jurisprudence:

- The constitutional right to life extends to the right to a clean and healthy environment.
- Courts are empowered to grant financial compensation as a remedy for the infringement of the right to life.
- Polluters should be held absolutely liable to compensate for harm caused by their hazardous activities.
- Public resources that are sensitive, fragile or of high ecological value should be maintained and preserved for the public.
- Similarly, the government has a responsibility to prevent environmental degradation. Even if scientific uncertainty exists, the implementation of preventative measures should not be delayed wherever there is the possibility of serious or irreversible damage.
- Green benches should be established in Indian High Courts dealing specifically with environmental cases.

Few among the coterie of Mr. Mehta's leading cases include the following

- M.C. Mehta v. Kamal Nath, (1997) 1 S.C.C. 388 (Public Trust Doctrine)
- M.C. Mehta v. Union of India (A.I.R. 1987 S.C. 982) (Oleum Gas Leak Case)
- M.C. Mehta v. Union of India (A.I.R. 1988 S.C. 1037) (Ganga Case)
- M.C. Mehta v. Union of India (A.I.R. 1992 S.C. 382) (Taj Case)
- M.C. Mehta v. Union of India (A.I.R. 1997 S.C. 734) (Calcutta Tanneries Case)
- M.C. Mehta v. Union of India (W.P. 13029 / 1985) (Vehicular Pollution Case)
- M.C. Mehta v. State of Tamil Nadu (1996) 6 SCC 756 (Child Labor Abolition Case)



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Our Work

1) Capacity Building Programs for Teachers, Students, Lawyers and NGOs

In furtherance of our efforts to create awareness on environmental law and policy, we have been organizing various training programs at our Eco Ashram. NGOs working in the field of environment protection and related issues like solid waste management, bio medical and hazardous waste management, water conservation and management, rain water harvesting, alternate energy sources, Environment Impact Assessment, public hearing, wild life and animal rights, forest and bio-diversity etc were invited to participate in the training program. Representatives from **over 500 NGOs** from Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Uttaranchal, Rajasthan, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Jammu & Kashmir, Nagaland etc. have participated in these programs. We have organised similar training programs and other activities for over **3000 students and teachers**. Capacity Building Programs for lawyers, including special 6 week programs for **lawyers from SAARC Countries** were also organised. Through various other **on-site and off-site programs** the Foundation has reached out to more than half a million youth of the country!

Eminent experts in the field of conservation, public interest law and policy are invited to speak and discuss environmental law, policy, guidelines, constitutional rights and duties for the protection of environment. Among such experts, few include Justice Kuldeep Singh (Former Judge, Supreme Court of India), Justice P.N. Bhagwati (Former Chief Justice of India), K.N. Saikia (Former Supreme Court Judge), Shri PC Tyagi (former Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board), Dr. Vinod Rishi (Ex-Additional Director General for Wildlife Conservation in India, Founding member Project Tiger and Project Elephant etc.), Hon'ble Justice Brian Preston (Supreme Court of Australia), Hon'ble Justice Zinat Ara (Supreme Court of Bangladesh), Sh. Ritwick Dutta (Advocate and Environmentalist), Dr. G. D. Agrawal (Former Member Secretary, Central Pollution Control Board), Dr D. K. Biswas (Former Chairman Central Pollution Control Board), Dr. I. M. Mishra (Head, Deptt. Of Chemical Engineering, IIT Roorkee), Dr A. Dey (Sr. Scientist, Central Ground Water Authority, Govt. of India), Shri S. K. Gupta (Director, Enviro-tech); Dr. Amita Singh (Professor of Law, University of Delhi), Mr. M. C. Mehta (Advocate, Supreme Court of India) etc.

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2) Declamation Competitions

Declamation contests on environment sensitive issues were organised for selected schools in Delhi, Rohtak, Nahaan, Uttarkashi, Haridwar and Gurgaon. The winners of the competition from all the participating schools were awarded a sponsored trip to attend the Eco-Camp besides being given a certificate of merit. It was observed through these contests that the gravity of the student's thoughts and expressions was directly related to the environmental impact they witness. Some of the various schools that participated in the event include Laxman Public school (Hauzkhas Enclave, Delhi), Keendriya Vidhyalaya (Andrews Ganj, Delhi), MDN Public School (Rohtak, haryana), SD Adarsh Vidyalaya (Gurgaon, Haryana), Goswami Ganeshdatta Saraswati Vidyalaya (Uttarkashi, Uttaranchal)etc.

Students from all the above mentioned participating schools who stood first in these declamation competitions were awarded a sponsored trip to attend an Eco-Camp at our Ashram in Thanou, Dehradun. Various activities were organized for the young and bright students in whose hands lies the future of our planet. The very purpose behind this camp was to encourage the leaders of tomorrow to come forward and take responsibility, while enabling them to believe in their dreams and their vision.

3) Green Marches

Various Green Marches were conducted and Mr. Mehta himself has covered more than 2500 kms by way of just Green Marches and succeeded in getting more than 7.5 lakhs of trees planted by mobilizing local people and students.

First 'GREEN MARCH' was organized covering a distance of about 300 kms from Jammu to Srinagar in the State of J & K in May, 1989. Thousands of people participated during the GREEN MARCH at different places. The dangers of deforestation and the necessity of protection of ecology and environment were highlighted. The people were made aware of their rights and social obligations and solutions to their problems were chalked out.



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Second Green March was organized in June, 1990 from Kurukshetra -- Shimla- Mandi in the state of Himachal Pradesh. Thousands of people were made aware of the dangers of pollution and environmental degradation in the state of Haryana, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh. Similarly in the later years green marches were organized in parts of Haryana, U.P, J& K, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu for creating wider awareness on the need for the protection of cultural heritage and environment.

4) National Rivers Protection Campaign

Launched 'National Rivers Protection Campaign' in January 1998 at Varanasi. Subsequent programs held at Mathura-Vrindavan, Faridabad, Cuttak, Kanpur etc. Environmental awareness programs were held in cities and towns along the major rivers like Ganga, Yamuna, Brahmani etc. by involving the local people, school/ college students, NGOs, officials and concerned citizens.

5) Kumb Mela Campaign (2010)

MCMEF, in association with the Indian Council for Enviro-Legal Action, campaigned to spread grassroots awareness about conserving the Ganga and Himalayas. A camp was set up at Haridwar, where the Kumbh Mela takes place, which was used as a base for organising workshops, talks, and awareness-raising on these issues.

We collected over one million signatures to pressure the government to take immediate and effective measures to protect the Himalayas and the Ganga from the onslaught of damming and other destructive development projects in this eco-fragile region.

Conclusion

We are committed to ensure that our aims and objectives translate into action through our various ongoing and upcoming programs. Our existence on this planet can only be secured through collective action and realisation on the part of each student, teacher, lawyer, doctor, engineer, government servant, scientist etc. Towards the same we believe that our programs of environmental education are instrumental in bridging the gap between realisation and action. Our team of experts in the field of environmental law, science, policy who are enriched with immense experience, along with your team of professionals equipped with the requisite resources, can undoubtedly ensure that the vision of a green



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planet is actualized. We hope that you will join us in our efforts and that we together can ensure the sustenance of life on this beautiful planet.

Thank You!