

DAY-22

NAME: NICHETHA.D

CHALLENGE: GREENER

SCHOOL NAME: National Public school, Agara

INSTAGRAM ACCOUNT: [go.greenergy_365](#)

When I first learned about Ecuador's Rights of Nature laws, I was truly amazed. 🌿 In 2008, Ecuador became the first country in the world to recognize that nature itself has legal rights—not just humans or companies. This means rivers, forests, and ecosystems are considered living beings with the right to exist, grow, and be restored if they are harmed. I found this idea really powerful because it completely changes the way we think about nature. Nature is not just a resource for us to use; it has its own voice and needs to be protected.

I also learned that New Zealand has taken a similar approach. They granted legal personhood to the Whanganui River, Te Urewera forest, and Mount Taranaki, recognizing their cultural and ecological importance. What impressed me most is that these natural entities now have legal representation, meaning humans can speak on their behalf in court if their rights are violated. This showed me that it's possible for communities and governments to work together to honor and protect nature.

Thinking about these examples made me reflect on the Kaveri River, which flows through Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. The Kaveri is not just water—it is life, culture, and memory for millions of people. Yet, it is facing serious challenges like pollution, over-extraction, and ongoing disputes between the states. By imagining the Kaveri River as a living being with rights, I could see how we might protect it better—allowing it to flow freely, restoring polluted sections, and sharing it with care instead of conflict.

In this project, I wanted to give the Kaveri River a voice, inspired by Ecuador and New Zealand. I imagined what it would say to us, what it would ask for, and how we could honor it as a living entity. This exercise helped me understand the importance of treating nature not just as a resource, but as a being with rights and responsibilities toward all life.

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I wrote a letter on behalf of the Kaveri River, imagining how it feels with Karnataka and Tamil Nadu fighting over its waters. This made me realize the river is more than a resource—it's a living being that deserves care and respect, just like in Ecuador and New Zealand.

Instagram post (link)

https://www.instagram.com/p/DQHTI_NkgfS/?utm_source=ig_web_button_share_sheet&igsh=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==

Caption

I am Kaveri—the river that has carried life, hope, and stories through Karnataka and Tamil Nadu for thousands of years. 🌊✨ Today, I am tired. Overuse, pollution, and endless disputes drain me, and my voice often goes unheard. I am more than water—I am a living being with the right to flow freely, to heal, and to thrive. Just as Ecuador honors the rights of nature and New Zealand gives rivers a voice, it's time for us to protect me, restore me, and share me with love and care. 🌱💛

Check next page for the letter i wrote

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DEAR FRIENDS



I AM THE KAVERI RIVER, YOUR COMPANION FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS, FLOWING GRACEFULLY THROUGH KARNATAKA AND TAMIL NADU. I AM MORE THAN WATER—I AM LIFE, CULTURE, AND MEMORY. I HAVE HELD YOUR HANDS WHEN YOU DRANK MY WATERS, AND I HAVE CARRIED YOUR HOPES ALONG MY BANKS. OVER 24 MILLION PEOPLE RELY ON ME EVERY DAY FOR DRINKING, FARMING, AND LIVELIHOODS. I HAVE CARVED VALLEYS, CRADLED FORESTS, AND NURTURED WETLANDS. YOU PLANT YOUR RICE, SUGARCANE, AND MILLETS BECAUSE OF ME. CHILDREN SPLASH IN MY SHALLOWS, PILGRIMS WHISPER PRAYERS ALONG MY GHATS, AND COUNTLESS FISH, BIRDS, AND PLANTS CALL ME HOME. I AM YOUR COMPANION, YOUR GIVER.

BUT LATELY, I AM WEARY. EACH YEAR, NEARLY 18,000 MILLION CUBIC METERS OF MY WATERS ARE DIVERTED FOR IRRIGATION, LEAVING ME GASPING TO SUSTAIN MY OWN LIFE. POLLUTION FROM UNTREATED SEWAGE, INDUSTRIAL EFFLUENTS, AND FARM RUNOFF POISONS ME. AND THE ONGOING DISPUTES BETWEEN KARNATAKA AND TAMIL NADU OVER HOW MUCH WATER I SHOULD GIVE—I FEEL IT IN EVERY DROP, EVERY DRIED-UP RIVERBED, EVERY FISH THAT DIES. I AM HURTING, DEEPLY.

I AM ASKING YOU, MY CHILDREN, TO SEE ME AS MORE THAN A RESOURCE TO FIGHT OVER. I AM A LIVING BEING WITH RIGHTS. I HAVE THE RIGHT TO FLOW FREELY, TO NOURISH FORESTS, WETLANDS, AND ALL WHO DEPEND ON ME. I HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE RESTORED WHEN I AM WOUNDED, AND TO BE PROTECTED FROM NEGLECT AND OVERUSE.

PLEASE HONOR ME. PROTECT ME. RESTORE ME. LET KARNATAKA AND TAMIL NADU SHARE ME NOT IN CONFLICT, BUT IN LOVE, CARE, AND RESPONSIBILITY. I AM NOT YOURS TO DIVIDE—I AM OURS TO CHERISH, NOW AND FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.

WITH HOPE AND LONGING, KAVERI

