



A Billion Hands for a Clean India

By Rajendra Garnepudi of ApnaBharatClean.org

India, our beloved homeland, is a treasure trove of culture, history, and breathtaking monuments. From the ghats of Varanasi to the palaces of Rajasthan, and then to shores of Kanyakumari, the spirit of Bharat lives in every Indian, every village, town and city. But amidst our glory lies a painful fact and a growing concern—our villages, towns and cities are overwhelmed with trash (strewn unsightly plastic and paper) and are battling the burden of stretched public services and declining hygiene. While overpopulation is one of the reasons, the problem largely points to lack of awareness of surroundings and civic responsibility for most of us.

In such a scenario, we asked a bold question:

Can a billion (100 crore) hands come together regularly to clean up India (week after week, every week) just for a 30 minute to make Bharat sparkle and shine? Can we make our country a magnet for the World to come, see and enjoy the beauty of Bharat?

Many scoffed at this challenging question and spoke. “Too complex.” “Too ambitious.” “Impossible.”

But not everyone turned away.

A humble housewife (Lakshmi Puligadda), a young techie (Tapsay Yellapragada), a schoolteacher (Sarvani B), an NSS co-ordinator (Prof. E. Manohar) and a passionate teacher couple (Ajitesh-Priyanka) said something remarkable:

“Yes. We can help start it”



Lakshmi P, Tapsay Y, Sarvani B, Manohar E, Ajitesh-Priyanka (L-R)

That’s how our first challenge began.

A small start, with just about 40 children in a small school called Purnmayi Education Trust near Varanasi. but it became a story of hope, action, and transformation.

We called it: **Apna Bharat Clean— The Civic & Entrepreneurial Awakening Project**



The Mission

We identified a gap in our education system:

Children in schools are rarely taught civic responsibility, project planning, project execution and real-life entrepreneurial skills to create businesses. We asked, “What if we changed that?”

What if we taught children not just to read history but to make it?

To not just learn about the environment but reclaim it?

We have created a simple project charter with clear and actionable steps:

- Make four teams of 5-10 students. Each team would elect a leader using secret ballot (a Civic responsibility)
- Complete the organizer’s charter we provided. Prepare team charters. Let the charter drive the 3-month project and its goals. (Project Management skills)
- Print a Google Map of their town/colony and identify dirty areas of the town on the map (Planning skills).
- Wear gloves, be safe and go around the town once a week for 1-2 hours and pick three things from the streets: plastic bottles, plastic bags, and paper waste (another Civic responsibility)
- Compost biodegradable waste using collected dry paper and vegetable scraps brought each week from their homes. Send plastic bags for recycling (Claiming Environment)
- Convert plastic bottles into upcycle product (s) that are creative, and usable (Creativity)
- Learn business aspects of costing and profit and market upcycled products (Entrepreneurship)



The Varanasi village Clean-up Challenge: A Glorious Start

Our pilot team of schoolchildren hit the ground running.

Armed with gloves, bags, and big smiles, they took to the streets.

In just a few weeks:

- Students formed 4 teams
- Started the process of selecting the leaders, making the project charters
- Over 1,200 plastic bottles were collected.
- Countless plastic bags and roadside litter were cleared.
- Vegetable waste brought from homes was mixed with paper to create organic manure.
- A friendly competition emerged with 4 student teams vying to innovate the most.
- Plastic bottles turned into pencil holders, planters, and decorations.



Election process for Team Leader selection





The visuals warmed our hearts



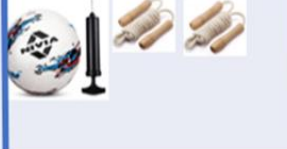
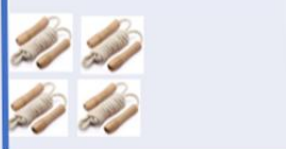
People enquired children about our mission

As the streets got cleaner, spirits soared.

Passersby stopped, smiled, and even joined in.

A whole town watched as children taught everyone the real meaning of “Swachh Bharat”

Collected material by each team was measured each week to determine which team demonstrated most drive. All performing teams were rewarded with sports kits — Cricket, Badminton, Football, and Jump rope kits — to remind them that children must also play, dream, and grow.

1 st Award	2 nd Award	3 rd Award	4 th Award
1 st Maximum Collection	2 nd Maximum Collection	3 rd Maximum Collection	4 th Maximum Collection
1 cricket kit or equivalent, 1 foot ball and 2 Jump ropes.	Shuttle badminton and 2 jump ropes.	1 Football and 2 jump ropes.	4 jump ropes
			

Awards given to teams



Teams received awards and played, laughed and had the World of fun

The upcycled products bewildered all of us. The magic was unraveling in front of us with creative ideas converting zero cost plastic bottles into treasurable art. One genius stood out (Babli) but everybody competed fiercely. Children started learning how to price and market their creations, bringing financial returns. This is turning them into employment creators.



Creating treasures from trash



A Movement Begins

We witnessed something powerful:

When guided with purpose, children don't just clean streets — they clean mindsets.
Their energy became contagious. Their actions, a call to the nation.



The Purnmayi Education Trust School Group's Proud Moment

Now, we ask again:



Can we replicate this **Apna Bharat Clean-Civic & Entrepreneurial Awakening Project** 100 or 1000 or even 100,000 times more across India?



Can we bring together a billion (100 crore) hands together every week for 30 minutes all over India?

We believe the answer is YES. We can do it.

But we can't do it alone.

We invite you to bring this ApnaBharatClean program to your school/college/organization/retired community to clean your town and your city.

Contact us at team@ApnaBharatClean.org or WhatsApp# 014103705678. We will work with you closely. We'll guide you and your students, community, share the charter with you, and support your initiative by mentoring and proving awards.

Together, we can build an India that's clean, conscious, and connected.

An India where entrepreneurship begins young and flourishes.

An India that cares for its own people. India that realizes its full tourism potential to attract World visitors bringing billions of dollars in foreign exchange and inflows.



Sara Jahaan Se Achha, Hindustan Hamara

Join us. Act now. Let's make Apna Bharat a Clean Bharat.

Jai Hind. Jai Bharat.

Our Goals:

- 1) Replicate this **Apna Bharat Clean — The Civic & Entrepreneurial Awakening** model in 100-1000 and 100,000 schools in India to cleanup towns and cities and to bring creativity, sportsmanship, entrepreneurship to young
- 2) Get youth, student organizations, sportsmen, celebrities, administrators, politicians and common public of Apna Bharat to participate once a week, every week (on Sunday 15minute cleanup drives) cleaning streets of plastic bags and bottles and paper waste of each village, town and city in the whole of Bharat.
- 3) Bring a legislation to positively implement the program by encouraging and allowing 1 Billion (100 crore hands) come together every week for 30 minutes to clean
- 4) Make Bharat a Swatch Bharat, a Clean Bharat



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