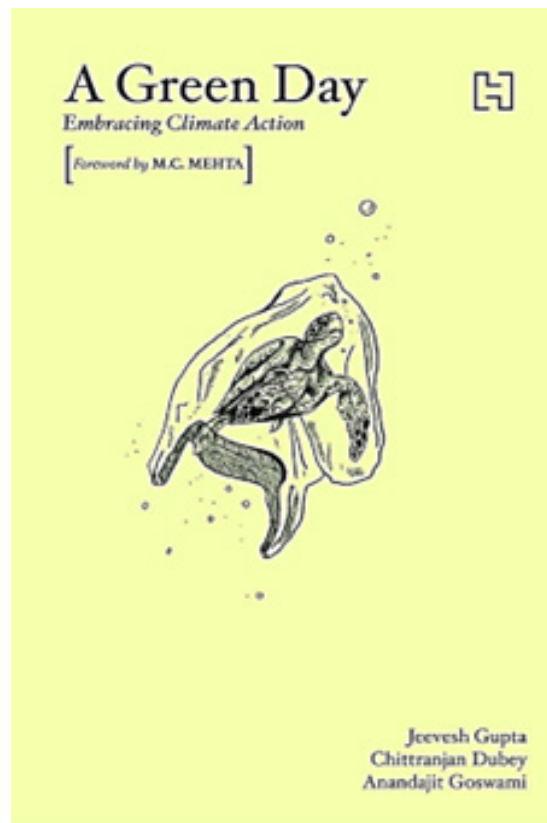


A Green Day: Embracing Climate Action



A Green Day: Embracing Climate Action. By Jeevesh Gupta, Chittranjan Dubey, Anandajit Goswami. Hachette India, 2024, ISBN: 9789357319751, Price: INR 499.

A Reflection on Nature, Change, and Collective Responsibility

The book serves as a deeply insightful narrative centered on the ecological journey and mission of several people who care for the environment. Their efforts represent a beacon of individual willpower translating into transformative ecological action. The book urges civil society organizations and communities to support and scale such missions to restore and preserve forest cover-symbolizing a broader call to heal Mother Earth.

The concept of 'ecosophy'-the wisdom of the earth-stands as a foundational pillar in the book. It invites readers to blend ecological consciousness with philosophical depth. The narrative

challenges species solipsism, where human beings remain trapped in a self-centered worldview, disconnected from the rest of the biosphere.

Philosophically, the book reflects on how preconceived beliefs often overshadow truth. It raises a haunting idea: the most frightening reality is when individuals refuse to learn-even when ignorance comes at their own expense. That's a darkness difficult to comprehend.

Themes of attitude and behavior change are explored through nudge theory, emphasizing how positive reinforcement and indirect suggestions can shift societal norms. Yet, the book rightly asserts that policies and rules can only guide us; it takes personal determination-'Adhithana'-to drive real change. Key ideas such as 'radical ecological democracy', 'eco-swaraj', and 'the flower of transformation' point to the necessity of radical, systemic shifts-political, social, and cultural-in how we approach development. It urges learning from indigenous communities who embody values like solidarity, autonomy, and coexistence with nature.



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The book calls for a redefinition of development. It's not about unchecked urbanization or industrial growth, but about harmonizing human progress with ecological integrity. Sometimes, solutions exist, but intentions fall short. Hence, narratives of success must evolve.

Examples such as the 'Green Hub Project' illustrate how nature-based livelihoods can be integrated with resource conservation, offering a practical and hopeful blueprint for sustainable living.

Green Day is like a house with many windows-each one revealing a different perspective or experience addressing the grand challenge of climate change. It shows how environmental issues are not isolated-they are deeply social, political, economic, and cultural.

A Global Anthology of Environmental Activism and Climate Justice

The anthology *A Green Day*, authored by Jeevesh Gupta, Chitranjan Dubey, and Anandajit Goswami, emerges as a significant contribution to contemporary environmental literature, offering a vivid and multifaceted exploration of climate activism across the globe. This volume synthesizes passionate essays, detailed profiles, and poignant first-person narratives from environmental activists, particularly emphasizing grassroots movements in the Global South alongside initiatives in the Global North. From an academic perspective, especially within environmental policy, Science and Technology Studies (STS), and science policy, the book offers a critical resource that bridges empirical experience with normative reflection, illustrating the complex intersection of ecological crisis, social justice, and collective agency.

Contextualizing Environmental Crisis through Grassroots Narratives

A Green Day sets itself apart by centering voices often marginalized in mainstream environmental discourse, predominantly from vulnerable communities in the Global South. This methodological choice is both ethically and epistemologically important; as scholars such as Pellow and Brulle (2005) argue, environmental degradation disproportionately affects communities with the least political and economic power. By foregrounding testimonies from Adivasi communities in India, African youth activists, and Latin American leaders, the book aligns with critical environmental justice scholarship emphasizing the inseparability of ecological sustainability and social equity (Schlosberg, 2007; Roberts and Parks, 2007).

The collection's commitment to pluralistic epistemologies resonates with postcolonial critiques within environmental studies, which argue that traditional top-down approaches to climate policy often erase indigenous and local knowledge

systems (Nixon, 2011; Escobar, 2018). These narratives provide empirical substance to political ecology frameworks that analyze how power relations shape both the causes and consequences of environmental harm (Robbins, 2012). The book thereby contributes to a decolonized environmental discourse that is urgently needed in academic and policy circles.

From Anguish to Action: The Role of Emotion and Ethics in Climate Engagement

A central theme permeating the anthology is the ethical imperative to act-a call not just for policy reform but for a transformation of values and responsibilities. The editors and contributors underscore a collective duty to safeguard the planet, a notion that aligns with ethical theories of care and stewardship prevalent in environmental philosophy (Nussbaum, 2006; Plumwood, 2002). This moral framing situates environmental activism as an extension of human solidarity and intergenerational justice, echoing contemporary debates in environmental ethics about obligations owed to future generations (Gardiner, 2006; Light, 2014).

Moreover, the book's vivid portrayal of emotions-anger, despair, hope-reflects an important "affective turn" in environmental humanities that recognizes how emotions are critical in mobilizing political and social action (Petryna, 2018; Tschakert and Dietrich, 2010). As many contributions attest, acknowledging the emotional toll of climate change is crucial for sustaining activist energy and community resilience. From an academic standpoint, this focus challenges the conventional privileging of rational, data-driven environmental discourse and highlights the necessity of integrating affective dimensions into science communication and policy advocacy.

Bridging Science, Policy, and Activism

One of the anthology's distinctive features is its ability to intertwine personal storytelling with rigorous attention to scientific and legal frameworks. Several essays reference concrete environmental phenomena-such as abnormal weather patterns, droughts, and sea-level rise-and situate these within constitutional and policy mandates, especially within the Indian context. This approach exemplifies the intersectional analysis increasingly advocated in science policy and environmental governance scholarship, which calls for the integration of scientific knowledge, local experiences, and institutional mechanisms to address climate challenges effectively (Jasanoff, 2010; Stirling, 2010).

The book highlights the Indian constitutional commitment to environmental protection, thereby linking grassroots activism to formal legal structures and rights-based approaches (Rajamani, 2011). This connection reflects broader academic discussions on environmental governance, particularly the importance of embedding sustainability within legal and institutional

frameworks while recognizing the agency of civil society (Ostrom, 1990; Dryzek, 2013).

Multi-Scalar Environmental Engagement: From Local to Global

A *Green Day* adeptly illustrates how environmental activism operates across scales—from local community projects to global policy advocacy. This multi-scalar perspective is critical for understanding contemporary environmental movements and aligns with STS scholarship that examines the interplay between local knowledge systems and global scientific and political processes (Latour, 1993; Jasanoff, 2004).

The book presents diverse case studies ranging from water conservation initiatives in Indian villages to climate litigation in European courts, underscoring the need for integrated, context-sensitive strategies. By juxtaposing these experiences, the volume challenges monolithic solutions and highlights the significance of culturally specific interventions, reinforcing participatory and community-based conservation models supported by empirical research (Agrawal and Gibson, 1999; Berkes, 2004).

This layered analysis is particularly relevant for scholars and policymakers grappling with the governance of complex socio-ecological systems, emphasizing that effective climate action requires collaboration across actors and scales (Young, 2002; Cash et al., 2006). Furthermore, the inclusion of youth-led movements and marginalized communities affirms the vital role of diverse stakeholders in shaping sustainable futures.

Inspiring Hope and Urgency: The Political Dimension of Climate Activism

The anthology's dual focus on the grim realities of climate change and the possibilities for transformation conveys a nuanced message of hope as a political act (Mourad, 2018; Anderson, 2017). Contributors articulate hope not as passive optimism but as an active stance that fuels resistance and innovation. This framing aligns with emerging environmental humanities scholarship emphasizing hope's role in sustaining movements under conditions of uncertainty and crisis (Tschakert et al., 2013; Nixon, 2011).

Concurrently, the book stresses the urgency of immediate action, reflecting broader scientific consensus on narrowing windows for effective climate mitigation (IPCC, 2021). It repeatedly calls for rapid policy responses, behavioral shifts, and enhanced civic engagement, resonating with science policy debates on mobilizing society-wide transformations (Meadowcroft, 2009; Pelling and Manuel-Navarrete, 2011). The voices gathered thus balance realism with visionary commitment, an equilibrium essential for driving long-term sustainability.

Pedagogical and Research Implications

From an academic standpoint, A *Green Day* offers valuable pedagogical tools for courses in environmental policy, science and technology studies, and sustainability science. Its interdisciplinary approach facilitates critical discussions on climate justice, governance, ethics, and activism, while its accessible narratives encourage student engagement and reflexivity (Levy and Spicer, 2013; Jasanoff, 2012).

Moreover, the anthology invites further research into the dynamics of climate movements, the efficacy of multi-scalar governance, and the integration of emotion in science communication. Its pluralistic methodology encourages scholars to consider alternative epistemologies and embrace participatory frameworks in environmental scholarship and policymaking.

CONCLUSION

The book surely provokes an essential question: What do we mean by development—is it destructive or constructive? It argues for community-based and community-led conservation, nurturing a sense of collective responsibility. Issues like the conservation of water, air, land, and forests are woven into the broader fabric of environmental justice. A compelling vision emerges—hopes replacing hopelessness, green replacing brown, and life reclaiming barrenness.

Finally, the book touches on an urgent issue: the public health consequences of environmental crises, especially the rise of climate anxiety. As climate change acts globally, its mental health effects are profoundly local. In response, it calls for empowering students and youth as climate advocates, cultivating a generation that sees itself as stewards of the Earth.

In sum, A *Green Day* stands as a vital academic and activist text that captures the complexities and urgencies of contemporary environmental struggles. Its rich array of voices and perspectives provides an empirically grounded and ethically compelling portrait of climate activism that transcends geographic and disciplinary boundaries. By weaving together grassroots experiences, scientific insights, legal frameworks, and emotional narratives, the book offers a holistic understanding essential for scholars, policymakers, and practitioners dedicated to fostering equitable and sustainable futures.

For academics engaged in science policy, environmental governance, and STS, A *Green Day* is not only a repository of knowledge but also a call to action—urging deeper engagement with the socio-political dimensions of climate change and the cultivation of hope through collective responsibility and transformative activism.

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