



NEWSLETTER #30

THE RAVEN

“

If we want children to flourish, to become truly empowered, then let us allow them to love the earth before we ask them to save it.

~David Sobel

”

INDIA'S HOTTEST MARCH IN OVER 122 YEARS OF RECORDED HISTORY

On the 2nd of April, the Indian Meteorological Department reported that the March of '22 is easily the warmest March ever recorded in 122 years. The weather department attributed the heatwave to the lack of rainfall due to the absence of active western disturbances over north India and any major systems over south India.

As a whole, the country received 8.9mm, which was 71 percent less than its long period average rainfall of 30.4mm. Since 1909, this was the driest March, preceded by only 1909 (7.2mm) and 1908 (8.7mm).

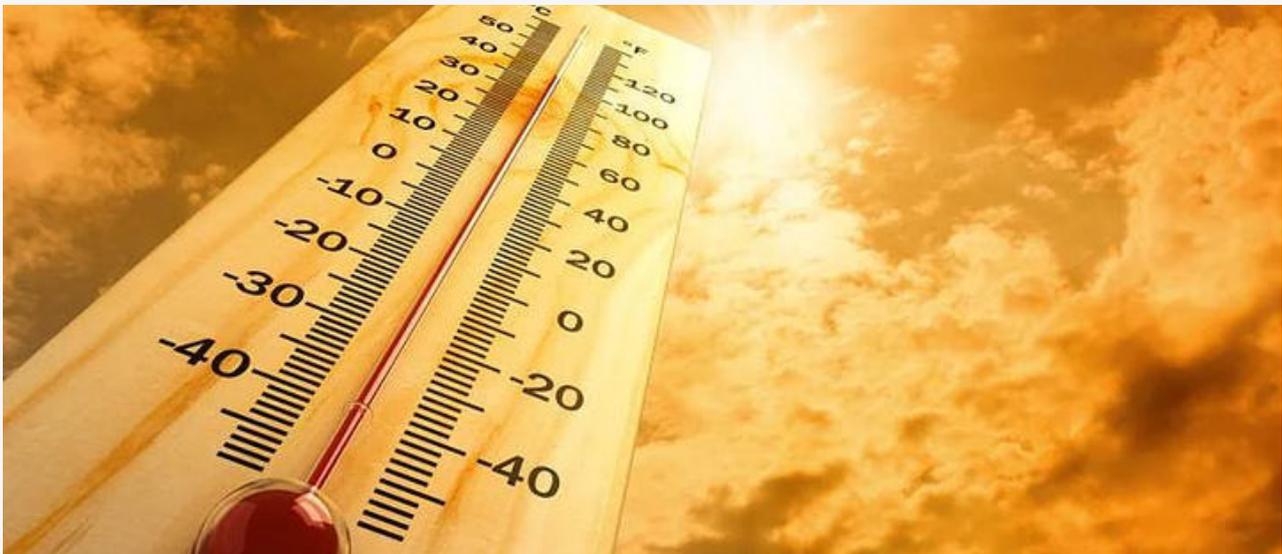
- “Over the country as a whole, the average maximum temperature (33.10 degrees Celsius) recorded in March 2022 is the highest ever in the last 122 years,” the IMD said in a statement.



The countrywide average minimum temperature of 20.24 degrees Celsius in March this year was the third-highest in 122 years. Experts say that the rising temperature in March is not just confined to India, but has been globally observed.

- “Globally also, the hottest years have been among the last two decades. Climate change is impacting severe weather intensity and duration, even in India-be it in terms of heatwaves, cyclone intensity or even heavy rainfall,” Rajendra Jenamani, scientist, National Weather Forecasting Centre at IMD said in an interview.

India is expected to receive normal rainfall of the long period average (LPA) in April, the weather office said.



THE CLIMATE CRISIS IS ALSO A MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS:

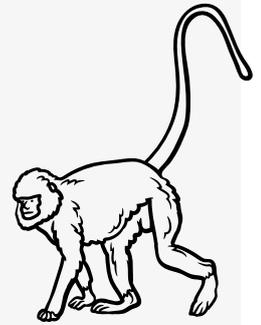


The climate crisis is a disaster for human health and well-being. Researchers have seen a rise in climate grief, anxiety, post-traumatic stress and depression, as well as rising interpersonal aggression and violence, impaired cognitive and brain function, premature births and low birth weight and many more.



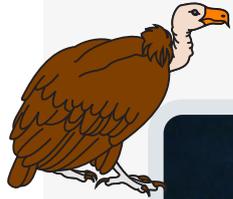
Over just the past couple of years we've seen a rapid and much-needed shift in the massive climate change. The American Psychological Association (APA) recently released a report, titled "Addressing the Climate Crisis: An Action Plan for Psychologists" the result of 18 months' worth of study by more than 20 researchers—including Markowitz. Psychologists must use their scientific understanding of human behavior to address climate change. Markowitz and the other members of the task force that produced the report spent months developing a report of their collective knowledge of the psychology of climate change. The report offered 12 recommendations, six for strengthening the field of psychology and six for broadening psychology's impact and some of them are- advance research on climate change, incorporate coverage of climate change, educate the public about the psychological dimensions of climate change, enlarge the range of settings and partnerships. Although we often treat climate change as a technical or a scientific but at its core it is a challenge of human behavior. Psychologists share their expertise and insight to help move us all forward in the right direction as quickly, effectively and equitably as we can.

GOLDEN LANGUR THREATENED BY LACK OF SUITABLE HABITAT!



Golden langur (*Trachypithecus geei*) belongs to a large group of Old World monkeys called the colobines. It is listed among the world's 25 most endangered primates. According to a recent habitat suitability study of the golden langur, found in Assam, India and Bhutan projects that by 2031 only 13% of its current habitat will be liveable for the species. Due to deforestation, the habitat which the species find amenable are scattered. The golden langur, discovered by E.P. Gee in 1953 on the Bhutan-Assam border is now struggling for suitable habitat. The study suggests that the golden langur is more sensitive to land use and land cover changes than bio climatic factors. Rapid deforestation and illegal logging have wiped out most of the forest covers in the districts of Bongaigaon, Dhubri and Kokrajhar of Western Assam, leading to a fragmented landscape. Community conservation is helping the species in increasing its population in certain pockets in Assam.

VULTURES IN ASSAM DIE BY PESTICIDE POISONING TARGETING STRAY DOGS!

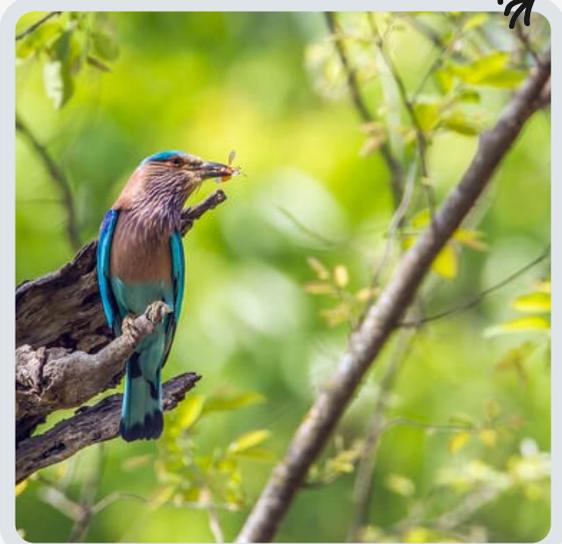


On March 17, carcasses of 100 Himalayan griffon vultures and one steppe eagle were found in Chaygaon, Assam. Pesticide poisoning is suspected to be the cause of death. The target for the poisoning were the stray dogs which have been attacking village livestock. The population of these dogs in the villages have increased exponentially and they are also very ferocious. These dogs are witnessed attacking livestock and poor people couldn't afford that, due to which they tried poisoning dogs.

However, dogs are smart enough to avoid a carcass laced with pesticide. It's the vultures who fed on them. With increasing awareness about the role of vultures in the ecosystem and the impact of pesticides along with the forest department's efforts in vulture conservation, there seems to be hope in protecting the birds and improving their population.

GHODAGHODI, NEPAL'S FIRST BIRD SANCTUARY:

The Ghodaghodi lake complex in western Nepal, home to more than 360 bird species, has been declared the country's first official bird sanctuary. Among the birds found at the site are globally threatened species such as the great hornbill, the lesser adjutant stork, and the Indian spotted eagle. This is expected to boost tourism, especially from India, as the sanctuary is located close to the Indian border. "The launch of the first bird sanctuary in the country sends a message that local governments are equally committed to conserving biodiversity."



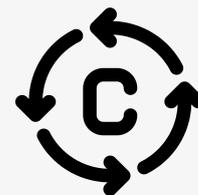
Law enforcement officials have been given identification cards to help them precisely identify 16 common owl species involved in criminal commerce. The ID cards, which will be available in both English and Hindi, will be handed free of charge to wildlife law enforcement organisations around the country.

The new ID tools, co-authored by Saket Badola, Head of TRAFFIC's India Office, and Merwyn, provide critical information on the species' legal status, habitat, and distribution. They offer helpful hints for recognising owls at the species level as well as highlighting common hazards.

Richa Kedia crafted the watercolour pictures of the 16 owl species. The ID card is a downloadable booklet with owl pictures, significant attributes of each species, distribution in India, and size comparisons with house sparrows and crows for simple identification.

Ravi Singh, secretary general and CEO, WWF-India, adds, "Owls play an essential role in our ecosystem. They enhance agricultural productivity by keeping a check on the rodent populations. Unless trafficking and illicit trade of owls is controlled, the owl populations will remain under threat. Adequate conservation and protection efforts for owls and other endangered species is crucial for maintaining a healthy ecosystem".

'BLACK CARBON' THREAT TO ARCTIC :



February last year , Russian tanker , Christophe de Margerie , made history by navigating the icy water of the northern sea route . It has been made possible by the climate crisis. The shrinking of polar ice allowed shipping traffic in the Arctic to rise 25% between 2013 and 2019. Arctic shipping rose exhaust fumes, which accelerated ice melt in this sensitive region due to a complex phenomenon involving 'black carbon', an air pollutant formed by the incomplete combustion of fossil fuel. When black carbon lands on snow it dramatically speeds up melting. Dark snow and ice melts far faster than heat reflecting white snow, creating a vicious cycle of faster warming.

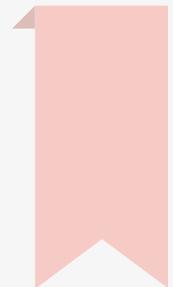
Environmentalists warn that the Arctic, which is warming four times faster than the global average, has seen a rise of 85% of black carbon from ships between 2015 and 2019. The International Maritime Organization (IMO) 2021 ban on heavy fuel oils in the Arctic is a move aimed at reducing the risk of spillage and expected to come into effect in 2029 - will lead to reduction in black carbon emission.



BEACON OF HOPE

On 5th April 2022, a mascot named 'Prakriti' was launched by Bhupendra Yadav, Union environment minister. With the aim of spreading awareness among people about the small changes that can contribute to a better environment.

RECOMMENDATION TO READ AND ATTEND

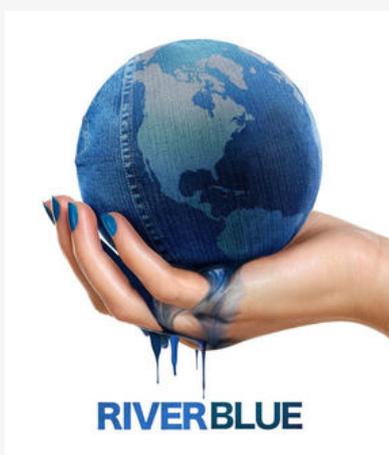


Here is a list of environmental books. In this context they are notable books that feature the environment as a major theme, including human impacts on the environment.

"Uncovering the new world Columbus" created by Charles C.Mann.

"A Geography of Blood:Unearthing Memory from a Prairie Landscape" by Candace Savage.

"All we can save" by Ayana Elizabeth Johnson and Katherine Wilkinson.



RiverBlue(2017)

Moving on to water habitats, RiverBlue follows Canadian conservationist, professor and paddler Mark Angelo embarking on an unprecedented three-year river journey around the world. During his adventure, he unveils the irreversible damage that the global fashion industry has inflicted on water supplies. Through interactions with local conservationists interspersed with footage of rivers and seas heavily polluted by toxic chemicals, this eco-fashion film urges us to reevaluate our thirst for fast fashion and reorient our consumption practices.

**WHAT DID YOU LIKE ABOUT THIS
FORTNIGHTLY'S- THE RAVEN?
WHAT DID WE MISS?
LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK:**

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ENVISAGE

About EnviSAGE

EnviSAGE- the Environmental Society of SGND Khalsa College is a group of highly motivated environment conscious and prudent members who believe in the maxim, 'Our actions today will impact the tomorrow of others'. We consider the earth and all its resources as a precious gift, not to be taken for granted, but to be respected, preserved and nurtured. We feel that we are responsible and accountable for our activities and behavior towards the environment and strive to share the same enthusiasm, concern, knowledge, and sense of gratitude with others as well. Through our activities, we aim to empower individuals in terms of knowledge about environmental issues and challenges that we are currently facing.

Curated with love by

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Sabmeet, Naina, Priyanka, Amrit***