



The Raven

flying towards a greener Earth

A fortnightly newsletter by **ENviSAGE**



“In nature’s economy, the currency is not money, it is life.”

- Vandana Shiva

The Right Intentions!



On his [first day](#) as president, Joe Biden signed 15 executive orders, one of them to cancel the controversial Keystone pipeline. Opposition to this pipeline centres around devastating environmental consequences.

Biden also re-enrolled the US in the Paris Agreement, the landmark 2015 agreement under which 200 countries pledged to curb greenhouse gas emission.

He also renewed the earlier US commitment to cut greenhouse gas emissions by at least 26% below 2005 levels by 2025.

John Kerry, Secretary of State under the Obama administration is all set to become the first Special Presidential Envoy for climate. This will be the first-ever office of the United States National Security Council solely dedicated to the environment. These steps have revitalized the hopes of a better and environmentally concerned future and now all eyes are on the United State's new president's overall environment policies in the next four years.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed an online [Climate Adaption Summit](#) on 25th January, which was organised to mark 5 years of the signing of the Paris Agreement. The Prime Minister in his address said that he is planning to exceed the targets. The targets include; 450 gigawatts of renewable energy capacity by 2030, promotion of LED lights and saving 38 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions annually, restoration of 26 million hectares of degraded land by 2030, provision of clean cooking fuel to 80 million rural households, connections of million households

to a piped water supply. These ambitious targets by the world's second populous country show the need and imminent commitment required to counter the climate degradation occurring all around the world.



Union Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari announced a “Green Tax” on vehicles older than 8 years at the time of renewal of fitness certificate at the rate of 10% to 25% of road tax for commercial vehicles. This tax is in accordance with "Polluter Pays Principle", part of the 1992 Rio Declaration. The revenue from Green Tax will be kept in a different account and will only be utilised for tackling pollution and to develop facilities that monitor the emission level. This will also help in prioritisation of hybrid and electric vehicles over carbon fuel-based vehicles by rationalising prices of such low emission vehicles rather than imposing additional taxes.

Here We Go Again!



[Heat Waves](#) across Australian coastline, near the city of Adelaide, have been occurring this week. An environmental disaster is predicted in the upcoming days. The rise in temperature was the major cause for the devastating bushfire which occurred last year and was left unattended. This year might be the same or even deadlier. This temperature reading covers the part of the state's coastline which includes the world heritage sites of Ningaloo Coast and Shark Bay – both threatened by warming ocean temperatures. Leading to the mass death of marine wildlife adversely affecting the aquatic. A [recent study](#) shows that in the last few years this extreme weather caused by climate change has damaged 45% of Australia's coastal

habitat.

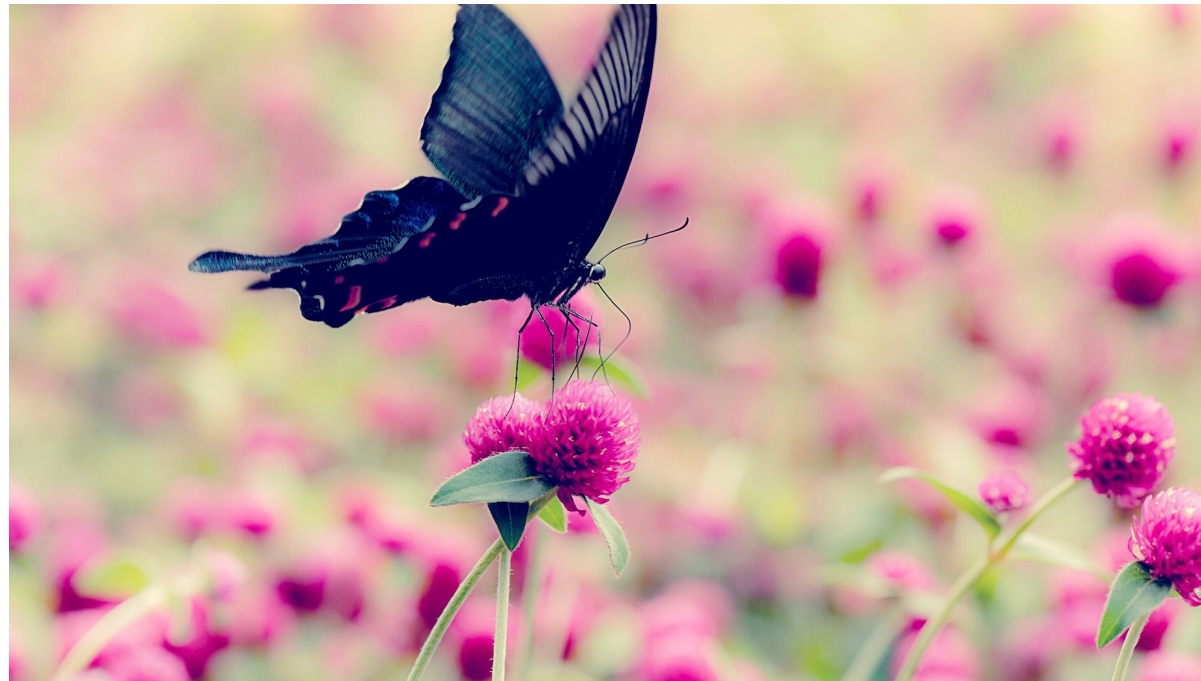
New Hope With a New Day!



The [US Department](#) of Energy is sponsoring a mega-project to pull out oxygen from the atmosphere. So how can we snatch oxygen from air? Like iron, we cannot separate oxygen permanently in magnetic fields. As a consequence, if we pumped air where the field is strong enough oxygen gets concentrated in that area but in low concentration. But if we treated the oxygen-enriched part the same way over and over again, it would get pure enough to be useful. Aqwest, the magic extra ingredient in the process, is a tube less than a millimetre in diameter, used to carry gas and liquid. And it works as a gas separator in these devices. This new innovation excites

us and presents an outlook to live for another day but in the near future, whether, this method will prove cheaper and much efficient than the present alternative remains to be seen.

Now You Know!



A recent study conducted at [Lund University](#) solved the mystery of how butterflies are able to fly, considering their large wings compared to their body. Wingbeats of butterflies were studied in a wind tunnel that showed their wings cup and collide during flight, making the wing stroke much more effective.

The study was confirmed by designing mechanical wings that worked in the same

way. These new findings can be implemented in small drones to improve their performance.

Beacon Of Hope!

An endangered Indian rhinoceros was born in Poland's Zoo, a hopeful development in efforts to preserve the rare animals.

Towards Destruction



The one-year mass bleaching event destroyed two-thirds of the Great Barrier Reef.

Watch, Environment & Chill...

Cowspiracy: The Sustainability Secret



Cowspiracy: The Sustainability Secret is a 2014 documentary. This documentary shows the destructive impact of animal agriculture on the environment and investigates the policies of environmental organizations on this issue. It shows the journey of an aspiring environmentalist to seek the solution to environmental issues.

Cowspiracy: The Sustainability Secret is available for free on youtube.

The Polar Explorer



The Polar Explorer brief the effect of climate change on the polar regions of the earth. The film also documented the journey of Norwegian Roald Amundsen exploring Canada's Northwest Passage navigated for the first time in 1903.

Are We Environmentally Challenged!!! - A questionnaire series by EnviSAGE

Do you support veganism and are you a vegan yourself?

Click on the [link](#) to give your opinion.



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What did you like about this fortnightly's The Raven? What did we miss? Let us know what you think:

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