



# The Raven

*flying towards a greener Earth*

A fortnightly newsletter by **EnviSAGE**



*"Thousands have lived without love, not one  
without water "*

*– W.H. Auden*

## **Editorial: The vanishing sparrows**

'Papa what are those small beautiful birds chirping all around in the garden?', 'it's Sparrow, son! They are one of the most common urban birds and are quite likeable.'

**Is** this 15 years old conversation still relevant? Will my child, or our children ever ask this question in future? Trends would like to answer NO.

**Sparrows (Passeridae) were the most common urban birds, with almost everyone recognizing them by their melodious chirp and beautiful**

**brown white colour. These birds which could be seen everywhere, from the branches of tall trees to even in shades of small pot plants. They were so abundant that it's not wrong to call them 'unofficial pet'.**

**But this pet is now becoming rare, the friendly chirp is disappearing in city chaos. 'Sparrow is to the city what Tiger is to a forest' signifies its importance as a bioindicator and as the decline of tigers indicates a threat to the ecosystem, so does the decline of sparrows.**

**Mohammad Dilawar, the lone warrior in the fight for Sparrows links this decline to a number of reasons like-**

- The decline of urban trees
- **Lack of cavity-nesting**
- **Widespread use of concrete**
- **Cell Phone radiations**

**Mohammad Dilawar, with his non-profit non-governmental organisation, waged a war in support of sparrows, and in 2010 his organization observed the first World Sparrow Day.**

**The day is celebrated on March 20 every year to raise awareness about conserving our beloved pets.**

**And what can we do, so that our children would get the love of this pet?**

**Setting up a bird box, providing the right kind of grain and water near such boxes and in tree shades and planting native trees is some of the easiest tasks that can be done to save our friend.**

## **BUSTING THE MYTHS AROUND VEGANISM**



## **1- Vegans can't build muscle since there's no protein.**

**Debunking - This is a misconception that vegans don't have access to protein since they don't use any animal products such as eggs, meat, etc but this is nowhere true. There are natural vegan products that have a**

**higher amount of protein than any other meat. For example - Soya bean has the highest amount of protein 36.5g per 100 gm.**

## **2- Vegan Diet Is Expensive**

**No, it's not true. A vegan diet is not expensive at all compared with other animal products. Even a Vegan diet is good for your wallet. In general, animal-based proteins such as beef, seafood, pork, and lamb—all cost considerably more per kilogram than vegan proteins—such as peas, legumes, nuts, and seeds, and veggies. Dairy alternatives are almond milk, cashew milk, coconut milk. These are a little on the expensive side but still manageable**

## **3- Vegan Diet Is Not Healthy**

**This is definitely the most absurd myth. A vegan diet can be as healthy as a non-vegan diet or even healthier depending upon what the individual is eating. Vegans are far more likely to reach the recommended 10 portions of fruit and vegetables a day, have lower rates of obesity, and reduced risk of colorectal and prostate cancer. Whereas eating meat is bad for your health as it increases cholesterol in your body.**

**Fire broke out in Similipal Biosphere, spread through eight forests**



**Similipal Biosphere is a home to a variety of wild animals including tigers and elephants, besides 304 species of birds, 20 species of amphibians and 62 species of reptiles. A fire broke out in the isolated places of Similipal in Mayurbhanj district, Orissa. The fire is so big that it continued to spread through 8 forests. The fire is extremely devastating for the wildlife as well as for the people there. The reason for the fire is none other than the early arrival of summer in the country, that is, climate change.**

**Odisha tops the list; has most number of contaminated sites.**





**According to the data by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Odisha has topped the list of States and Union Territories having the most number of contaminated sites. Contaminated sites are those having hazardous and toxic substances caused by humans and are harmful to life in that area. It causes a variety of diseases like kidney ailments, skin diseases, cancer etc. Odisha has 23 contaminated sites out of 112 sites in India. Uttar Pradesh has 21 while Delhi comes at 3rd position having 11 sites. These sites are continuously harming the environment and even a small incident can cause a huge problem, in the form of leakage, long term contamination, harmful material seeping into the earth, around the area.**

# Removal Of Invasive Species



**Removal of invasive species** in the Nilgiris, in order to restore degraded forests and grasslands, is an exercise in vain because the results are not very encouraging. The experts and the officials mutually agree that the grass species that have occupied the area earlier populated by invasive species of flora such as Wattle Trees are not palatable for the wildlife. And this is just one of many challenges. A solution, therefore, appears to be out of sight for the moment as the officials struggle to restore the degraded land.

## What's new?

## India's first ever forest healing centre



India's first-ever forest healing centre was inaugurated on 7th March 2021 at Ranikhet in Kalika, Uttarakhand. The centre has been developed by the Research Wing of the Uttarakhand Forest Department. It involves various interesting activities like sky gazing, nature meditation, nature walk, tree-hugging and many more. The centre is spread wide across 13 acres. The idea behind this concept is inspired by the Japanese technique of Forest bathing and it also has Indian roots.

## Beacon Of Hope

[Mavuram Mallikarjun](#), a B.Tech graduate quit his job and started farming in his native Village Pedda Kurumapally of Telangana. He took over 12-acre of land of his father and began semi-organic farming of paddy, but he didn't get the desired results. Then he used drip irrigation followed by



hybrid red gram farming and System of Rice Intensification to increase the yield of rice. His effort and hard-work spread awareness & importance of ground water and also the harmful effect of pesticides & stubble management. Recently he was awarded Jagjivan Ram Abhinav Kisan Puruskar from ICAR for cultivating crops through organic farming.

## Watch, Environment & Chill...

*The Day After Tomorrow*



*The Day After Tomorrow* is a 2004 American climate science fiction disaster

film directed, co-produced, and co-written by Roland Emmerich. The movie is based on the book 'The coming Superstorm by Art Bell and Whitley Strieber. The movie shows destructive climatic effects following the disruption of the North Atlantic Ocean circulation in a series of extreme weather events that usher in global cooling and lead to a new ice age.

[The Day After Tomorrow available on YouTube\(Buy Or Rent\)](#)

### ***FernGully: The Last Rainforest***



FernGully: The Last Rainforest is a 1992 [animated musical fantasy film](#), directed by [Bill Kroyer](#) and scripted by Jim Cox. The movie is adapted from the novel of the same name by Diana Young. The Movie revolves around Crysta (Samantha Mathis) is a fairy who lives in FernGully, a rainforest in Australia, and has never seen a human before. In fact, she is told they are extinct. But when a logging company

comes near the rainforest, she sees that they do exist, and even accidentally shrinks one of them: a boy named Zak (Jonathan Ward). Now her size, Zak sees the damage that the company does and helps Crysta to stop not only them but an evil entity named Hexxus (Tim Curry), who feeds off pollution.

[Fern Gully: The Last Rainforest is available on Disney Hotstar.](#)



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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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