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Environmental Society for Sustainable And Greener
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Raven Newsletter #7

“If all mankind were to disappear, the world would regenerate back to the rich state of equilibrium that existed ten thousand years ago. If insects were to vanish, the environment would collapse into chaos.” — E.O. Wilson

The Earth Day: A satire on Humanity

[Let's Chat!](#)



We had our biggest environmental day, the earth day. The UN themed it 'Restore our earth'. The UNEP posted some videos telling the seriousness of our actions and the need for conservation. Various celebrities urged conservation. The normal man, the man not on social media, continued to burn polythene, didn't segregate waste and didn't even conserve water(only if he had proper amount of water)

It was one day's love for our mother, and the next day, no one cared about restoring the earth.

We are incredible people, we love everyone on specific days. And on these designated days, we fill our social media accounts with photos and videos and then forget about the same for the next 364 days.

And I think it's the right approach, we should reserve each and every day for something or the other. Earth day, soil day, water day, river day, groundwater day, surface water day, tiger day, deer day etc etc. That way we would keep posting about everything every day. But what about the common man? The man not on social media. Let him play with the environment, let him wastewater, let him burn polythene because the awareness campaigns on social media will definitely save the earth.

A Diplomatic Win for the Climate

[ASL] Leaders Summit on Climate - Day 1



US President Joe Biden convened 40 world leaders in a virtual Leaders Summit on 22nd and 23rd April to rally the world in tackling the climate crisis. The US and other countries announced new climate targets ensuring that nations accounting for half of the world's economy have now committed to the emission reductions needed to keep the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5-degrees C within reach.

US targets to achieve a 50% reduction from 2005 levels in net greenhouse gas (GHG) pollution in 2030. EPA last reported that the U.S. cut emissions 13% from 2005 levels in 2019.

The US, Japan, Canada and South Africa were the only countries to explicitly set new goals in regard to emissions over the next 10 years. Other countries reaffirmed past commitments to curb emissions. Notably, Brazil said they would end illegal deforestation by 2030 and be carbon neutral as a country by 2050. India reiterated its target of 450 GW of renewable energy by 2030 and announced the launch of the US-India 2030 Climate and Clean Energy Agenda 2030 Partnership to mobilise finance and speed clean energy innovation and deployment this decade. Through this summit, the US was able to get China to issue a statement that described climate change as a "crisis"—a first for China—and conveyed a shared "urgency" for "enhancing their respective actions."

In the end, it can be said that the Summit achieved its primary goal: to enhance major economies' climate ambition.

Endangered Dolphins Endangered Dolphins!!!



Freshwater dolphin specifically *tucuxi* was one of the creatures that wasn't considered threatened by humans but now this species has also entered the endangered list. It simply means that all the freshwater dolphins are at a threat of extinction. The pink river dolphin faces similar lines of threats, ranging from mercury poisoning from gold mining, habitat destruction from hydropower dam construction and fishers. Researchers have warned to take precautions otherwise we will lose them to a similar dam-building spree and extinction of Chinese Baiji.

Here we go again: Another Oil Spill



400 tonnes of oil spill took place after the tanker collided with another ship at China's largest crude-receiving port - Qingdao port. The incident took place about 40 nautical miles offshore of the port. The emergency disposal is said to be carried out in an orderly manner according to the reports. One of the officials did say that if everything falls into place, the environmental impact shall be minimum. But talking about the environmental impact, an oil spill of such a quantity can have a catastrophic impact on the sea and the life of plants and animals as the oil forms a thin layer blocking the sunlight for the oceanic life which severely impacts the food chain, disturbs the PH level, and causes pollution.

Sharks Under Critical Endangerment After The Lift-Off 10-year-Old Ban



Maldives, a tropical tourist destination once created a 90,000 sq-km sanctuary eleven years ago that banned fishing of sharks. The government is considering uplifting the ban in the upcoming future. Clusters of people have raised their voice saying that uplifting the ban for managed shark fishery would overturn millions of dollars into the country every year. Blue Life Foundation – conservation for shark protection said that it would be a devastating consequence for local shark populations and a managed shark fishery is just not feasible because of poor enforcement and monitoring as it is.

News of the Maldives potentially lifting the shark-fishing ban has garnered local and international attention. More than 200 organizations formed an alliance to show their support for maintaining the country's shark sanctuary. Due to political pressure and huge support from the voter base to open the shark fishery, it has unfortunately become a very real threat to the recovering shark population.

The Ken-Betwa Project: A Nightmare For Many



It is the first project under the National Perspective Plan for interlinking of rivers. Under this project, water from the Ken River will be transferred to the Betwa River. Both these rivers are tributaries of river Yamuna. An agreement signed this week paves the way for implementation of the Ken-Betwa Link Project in drought-prone Bundelkhand (Central India-UP & MP).

According to the Union Jal Shakti Ministry, the project is expected to provide annual irrigation of 10.62 lakh hectares, drinking water supply to about 62 lakh people and also generate 103 MW of hydropower. The dangerous consequence of the interlinking of the two rivers, despite economic boost to some regions, majority of the land (around 4,206 ha of land) lies around the core of Panna Tiger Reserve with the building of Greater Ganga Dam of Ken Betwa Link Project. It is projected around 10 villages would submerge and 10,000 people of their locality would be obliged to displace even though many opposed.

The current cost of the Ken-Betwa project is ₹38,000 cr and the contours of the ecological destruction that the project will wreak includes, 23 lakh uprooted trees, effect on key wildlife species and their ecosystems such as tiger, endangered vultures, mahseer fish, and gharials in the Ken Gharial Sanctuary. The loss of the special and unique ecosystem of gorges, rocky cliffs and riverine flora and fauna on either[bank] of the River Ken. The wildlife including microflora and fauna which have evolved in this ecosystem will, on commissioning of the project, perish forever.

Beacon of Hope!!!

Tightening the European Union Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) in line with the European Union Green Deal can speed up the decarbonization of Europe's power sector which can result in phasing out of coal power as early as 2030.

Explained:

Green Consumer Tax



In a pandemic where the economies of many countries had plunged, many governments have embraced a slogan “Build Back Better.” to encourage Green post-pandemic recovery. And one way is to introduce ‘Green Consumer Tax’ on taxes on resource-intensive goods. This tax is more about smart tax rather than higher, and the key is to shift labor taxes to tax on the usage of resources.

Economist, since the year dot pestering the Government to raise the taxes according to usage of resource and environmental harm as it would be more equitable and would help in penalizing polluters for the costs they inflict on society.

Carbon Tax

CO2 emissions are an invisible enemy causing Global Warming. And one way to water down the effect is to introduce the Carbon Tax and or restricting the supply of tradable emissions permits, while phasing out long-standing fossil-fuel subsidies.

There is a Hegemony of rich people over poor. According to one estimate, in 2015 the richest 10% of the world's population were responsible for 52% of cumulative CO2 emissions, with the top 1% alone accounting for 15%.

This tax would vary according to size and weight of the goods linked with non-energy resources. This would make the life of rich people arduous and usher them to innovate,

adopt less resource-intensive goods. This method would also prompt consumers to start adopting more sustainable spending habits and make them understand sharing resources rather owing them.

To get the support for this consumer tax, the government could use the revenue coming from these taxes to finance a decrease in taxes on labor, to increase subsidies for services and green products or to business and government investment in necessary infrastructure and R&D.

THUNBERG V/S GATES



Climate change is surely a major concern for the people who care about the planet, such people would also be familiar with the name - Greta Thunberg, an 18 year-old who is internationally known for challenging world leaders to take immediate action against climate change. But the world's fourth richest man - Bill Gates seems to disagree with her. Thunberg is of the view that renewable resources are the way to go to lead a sustainable lifestyle and do our part in energy consumption area to slow down the climate change, whereas Gates support the view that by the virtue of technological advancement we would be eventually able to cut down on the energy consumption or make efficient compensates and alternatives.

Some are of the view that technology that is needed for this vision might arrive too late to save the planet whereas others think that as the human race explores more of the current technology they will faster develop its next shape thus, accelerating the process to reach to the optimal phase of technology. Well, both perspectives provide an adept rationale for their arguments, do let us know about your thoughts on this emerging debate in the field of environmental conservation.

What to Watch?

The Year Earth Changed



The Year Earth Changed is an environment documentary narrated by Sir David Attenborough. This documentary has shows the impacts of global lockdown on nature. A fresh new approach to the global lockdown and the uplifting stories that have come out of it. People all over the world have had the chance to engage with nature like never before.

[The Year Earth Changed is available on Apple TV+.](#)

Twelve Monkeys



Twelve Monkeys is a 1995 movie starring Bruce Willis and Brad Pitt. The movie plot has set to a dystopian future where humans are forced to live underground due to the outbreak of a deadly virus. It's the story of Bruce Will who will travel to the past to change it but will he succeed in it?

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