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Raven Newsletter #14

Updated: Sep 1

“One of the first conditions of happiness is that the link between man and nature shall not be broken.”— Leo Tolstoy

Need to manage menstrual waste in India

[Let's Chat!](#)



Sharing with you a little story of Papna Mau, a small village that lies on the outskirts of Lucknow. The people of this village decided to not turn blind eye to the sanitary waste and do something for its proper disposal. They collectively devised a very low-cost incinerator that was nothing but a small earthen pot with small holes around it. The used sanitary are burnt with oil and dried leaves leaving no plastic waste behind. Definitely, this is not the best idea nor a permanent solution because the plastic in it would still burn and create pollution. But when we look at the ways of disposal of sanitary waste in this village in the past, we see it as a greater good. They threw their waste in the village's water bodies or at times they used to bury it or maybe flush it down the toilet. This is a bigger evil as it will be an almost forever non-biodegradable substance staying in the ecosystem that shall pollute the water body and the land and also destroy the ecosystem within it. With this simple solution, they were also able to bluntly cut the taboos around menstruation.

Sanitary waste disposal is a big issue that India needs to talk about. Since, menstruation, an already taboo-ed topic, makes it even more difficult to make people aware of the methods of disposal of sanitary waste and the use of alternative products than sanitary napkins. According to a report by the Central Pollution Control Board, around 12.3 billion sanitary napkins, amounting to 113,000 tonnes of waste reaches India's landfills every year. Wrong methods of disposing lead to the spread of dangerous infections and diseases such as HIV and Hepatitis, contamination of soil and water, clogging of drainages etc. The basic method of disposing of it would be to wrap it around the material provided by the manufacturer and throw it in the dry waste bin. Understanding the plight of women in the country regarding the awareness and access of products, it is not possible to bring about a rapid change.

So, the editorial team of The Raven urges all the proud menstruators who are in a privileged position to use their privileges in a better way and make a Green Switch. This simply requires you to switch to Menstrual Cups which is made from medical grade silicone and can be used as an alternative to sanitary napkins. It also lasts long for up to 10 years, are hygienic and is easy to use. Add on bonus, it is eco-friendly. You can also switch to tampons or eco-friendly pads that are cloth-based thereby reusable after washing. The little changes will help big in future.

Climate change: IPCC report a 'code red for humanity'



Human activity is changing the climate in unprecedented and sometimes irreversible ways, the IPCC report said. The landmark study warns of increasingly extreme heatwaves, droughts and flooding, and a critical temperature limit being broken in just over a decade.

The report "is a code red for humanity", says the UN chief. But scientists say a catastrophe can be avoided if the world acts fast. There is hope that deep cuts in emissions of greenhouse gases could stabilise rising temperatures.

Echoing the scientists' findings, UN Secretary-General António Guterres said: "If we combine forces now, we can avert climate catastrophe. But, as today's report makes clear, there is no time for delay and no room for excuses. I count on government leaders and all stakeholders to ensure COP26 is a success."

The sober assessment of our planet's future has been delivered by the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), a group of scientists whose findings are endorsed by the world's governments. Their report is the first significant review of the science of climate change since 2013.

Five future impacts:

1. Temperatures will reach 1.5C above 1850-1900 levels by 2040 under all emissions scenarios
2. The Arctic is likely to be practically ice-free in September at least once before 2050 in all scenarios assessed
3. There will be an increasing occurrence of some extreme events "unprecedented in the historical record", even at warming of 1.5C
4. Extreme sea-level events that occurred once a century in the recent past are projected to occur at least annually at more than half of tidal gauge locations by 2100
5. There will be likely increases in fire weather in many regions.

"Lowering global warming really minimises the likelihood of hitting these tipping points," said Dr Otto. "We are not doomed."

The report is another in a long line of wake-up calls for political leaders, but since it comes so close to November's COP26 global climate summit (Glasgow), it carries extra weight.

Lack of clarity in reports on pollution



Most of India's pollution control agencies remain closed entities when it involves sharing information with the public. The study by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) has found that very few of India's pollution control boards and authorities are satisfactorily putting out environmental and governance information into the public domain.

The report brought out that governance and functioning-related data remains paper-bound. Information on functioning, actions taken by a board against polluting industries, public hearing data on a new project set care rarely disclosed or remain difficult to access for the public. Limited data on current pollution levels: Data indicating these pollution levels — air pollutants, waste — the vital indicators of environmental health, is missing. Most boards display inadequate data, indicating no trends. Transparency is important when it comes to releasing the correct data about the State Pollution Control so that preventive steps can be taken and necessary policies can be formulated by the board.

Beacon of Hope



A study in green: Coaching centre in Bihar gives free classes to poor students in exchange for [saplings](#).

The Greece forest fire



The three largest wildfires stirred up in the forests of Greece on August 3. The wildfires ravaged the majority of the areas of Greece and it was described as the “greatest ecological disaster in decades” by the prime minister, Kyriakos Mitsotakis. The massive forest fire wiped out 1,00,000 hectares of forests. The savage fire has led to the deaths of many, making hundreds of people homeless and forcing people to flee making their lives miserable. The fire has resulted in cutting the large island of Evia in half to protect its northern part. The temperature has an all-time high of 45 degrees Celsius and the fires have engulfed the pristine pine trees making the forests hollow.

Mass deaths of birds reported in Faridkot!



Recently it has been noticed that in the small district of Faridkot (Punjab) more than 2500 birds (pigeons, eagles, sparrow) mostly parrots have lost their life due to extensive use of illegal chemical fertilizers on fruit trees such as chemical-laced Jamun and other fruiting trees, the report predicts the death of birds is usually before or after the monsoon, the dead birds were mostly found under these fruit trees, this highly toxic chemical disturbs the ecosystem of the birds and causes imbalance. Faridkot is famous for its Jamun, Mangoes and Kinnow, these fruits are leased out for auction and the contractors use such hazardous chemicals to produce maximum yield unaware of the dire consequences on the local birds' population. A petition has been filed to the National Green Tribunal to sought a direction for the prevention of the death of birds, the NGT has admitted the plea by ordering a probe into the incident. We hope for a speedy investigation in the matter so the required help can be provided to the innocent birds.

Italy recorded Europe's hottest temperature ever

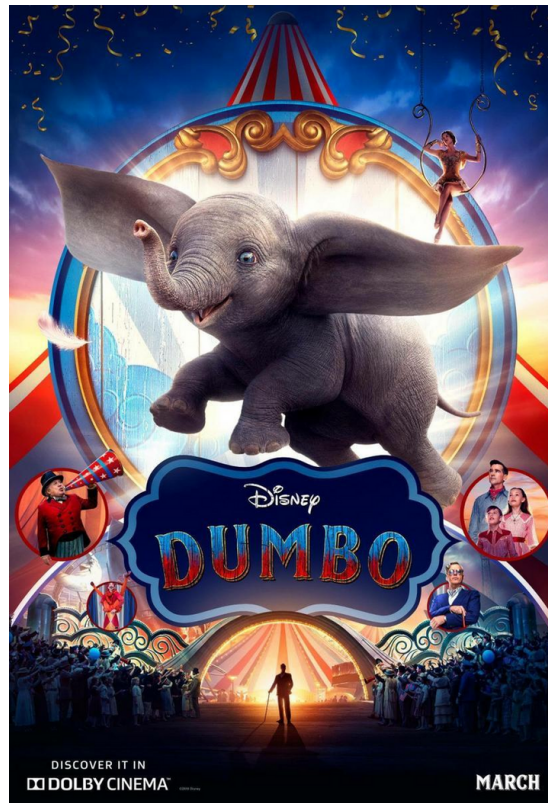


Italy may have just experienced the hottest temperature in European history, according to local meteorologists. Syracuse, Italy, saw temperatures of 48.8 degrees Celsius on Wednesday. If the World Meteorological Organization confirms it, it will break the previous European record of 48 degrees Celsius established in Athens in 1977. The data comes during a scorching heatwave that has engulfed the Mediterranean for almost a week, impacting Greece, Algeria, and Turkey. The heatwave has led to the spread of wildfires across southern Italy, with Sicily, Calabria and Puglia the worst-hit regions.

The latest heatwave in Italy is being caused by an anticyclone - nicknamed Lucifer - moving up from Africa. Anticyclones are areas of high atmospheric pressure where the air is sinking. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) of the United Nations issued a stern warning on August 9, forecasting that climate change will cause the Earth to warm by 1.5 degrees Celsius in the next 20 years. According to the research, extreme heatwaves, droughts, and floods will become more common as the planet heats.

Recommendations:

Dumbo



Dumbo (2019) is one of the best Disney remakes. The movie's plot revolves around 'Holt', a circus performer, who is tasked with caring for a baby elephant with oversized ears, Dumbo. But when it is discovered that Dumbo can fly, a few wicked men try to take advantage of the situation. Will the wicked men catch dumbo or dumbo will live a free life?

Dumbo is available on [Disney+ Hotstar](#).

The Birds



The Birds (1963) is a thriller/horror movie directed by legendary director Alfred Hitchcock. The movie revolves around Melanie, a rich socialite who tried to prank his lawyer. But things take a bizarre turn when the birds in the area begin to attack the people there. Want to know what might have happened?

The Birds is available on [YouTube](#)



"Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high;
Where knowledge is free; Where the world has not been
broken up into fragments by narrow domestic walls; Where
words come out from the depth of truth; Where tireless
striving stretches its arms towards perfection; Where the
clear stream of reason has not lost its way into the dreary
desert sand of dead habit; Where the mind is led forward by
thee into ever-widening thought and action. Into that heaven
of freedom, my Father, let my country awake."

- Rabindranath Tagore

EnviSAGE wishes every Indian a very joyous and prosperous Happy 75th Independence Day. Let's come together and work for the true independence of our environment and our culture.

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

Our mailing address is:

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