

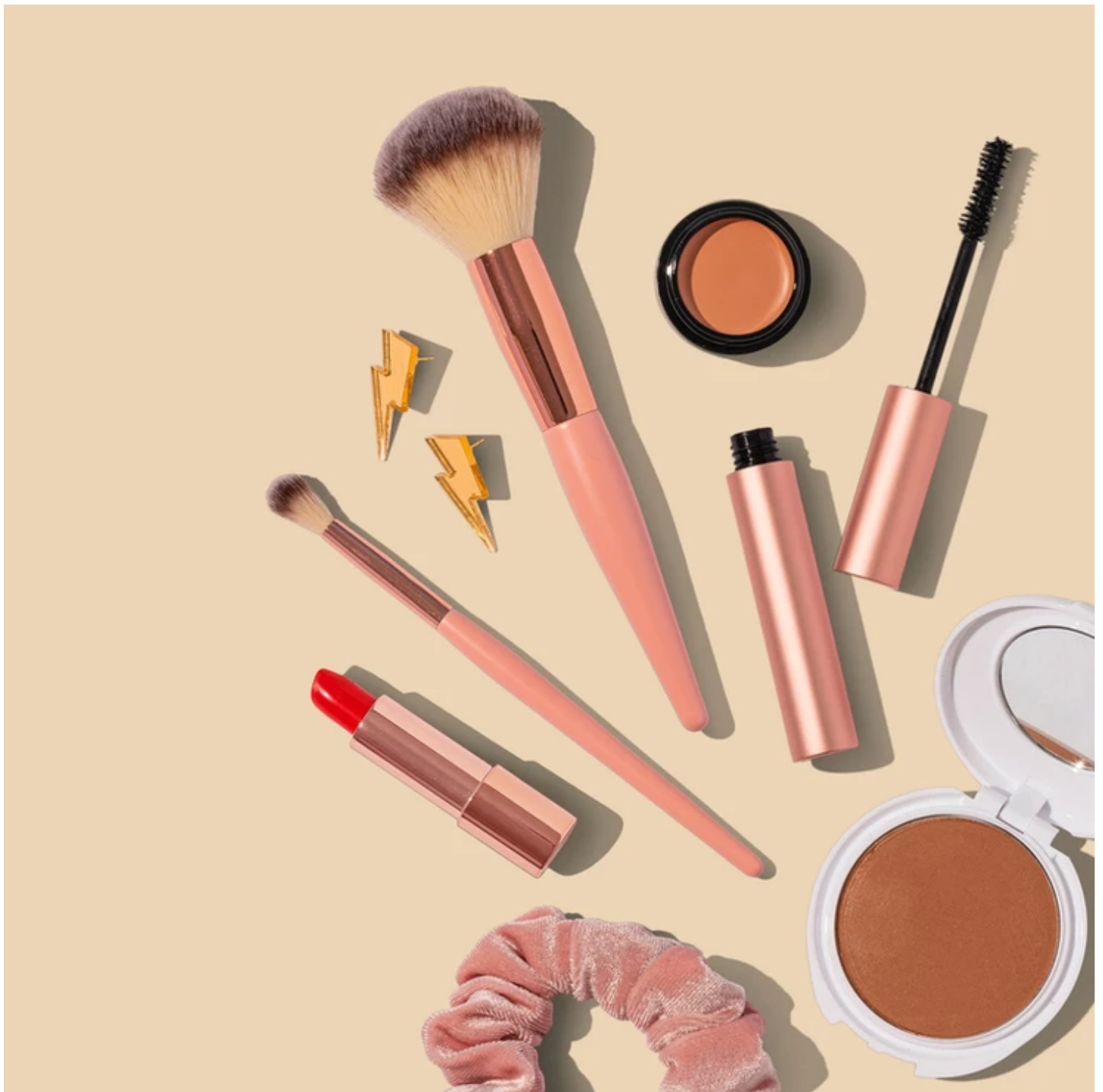


Raven Newsletter #19

"The future will either be green or not at all."

-Bob Brown

THE COST OF BEAUTY!



With the onset of social media, there is an unsaid rule of looking flawless, dolled up and pretty all the time. Makeup and skincare is now a 'feel good' thing regardless of gender, which is good, but there is an ugly side to this beauty trend.

But why are we at EnviSAGE talking about cosmetics? Here is why!

The Cosmetic Industry is a lesser-known threat to the environment.

The impact is problematic on various levels, right from the beginning- the point its ingredients are sourced, carbon emissions follow the course of its production, supply and even after its consumption in the form of residues.

These products mostly contain non-biodegradable chemicals. After being used, they find their way into water bodies. It causes water pollution and thereby is a threat to aquatic life. Not just chemicals but microbeads and silicone, and other harmful materials that go into its making contribute to environmental degradation. Even sprays like hair sprays add to the depletion of the ozone layer because it contains aerosols and hydrocarbons. The industry's constant use of plastic causes environmental pollution as everything is dumped in the landfills forever.

Also, a lot of the ingredients are derived from animals - for example, Tallow, a common ingredient for makeup bases and lipsticks. The common name is animal fat, but it is sourced by slaughtering animals and then boiling its carcasses until it releases its fatty substances. Similar to this, gelatin is another product that is widely used, and it is derived from boiling skin, tendons, ligaments and bones of various animals. There is a long list of ingredients to this. The cruelty doesn't stop here. Makeup testing is a stage ahead of this. An unimaginable number of innocent animals lose their lives and are tortured to death in the name of 'Research and Development'. They then are used as Production Material and then as Testers to see if it is safe for human skin or not. Most countries do not have any set regulations. There are cruelty-free cosmetics available in the market with the necessary certification, but they could still be tested on supply level or on a contract basis.

What can we do as consumers? Everything! We are the ones who can bring about the necessary change. We should avoid buying products that are one-time use like face sheet masks, nail extensions etc. We should buy more cruelty-free products, i.e., those that don't have any animal-based ingredients and haven't been tested on them at any level. We can look for products that are minimally packaged and biodegradable. Investing in waterless products could also be a solution.

We at EnviSAGE, request you to make conscious choices about the cosmetic products that we use in our everyday lives.

COP 26: India's Take



The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is an annual conference held under the UNFCCC, a worldwide agreement signed in 1992 by 197 countries (or parties) to prevent "dangerous" human involvement in the climate system. The COP is the highest decision-making body that meets to discuss how to put the Convention into effect.

At least 195 countries are anticipated to attend the Glasgow gathering, which will take place from November 1 to 12.

India has avoided committing to a mid-century net-zero objective, arguing that it should not bear the burden of large reduction because it did not contribute to past emissions.

India would emphasise climate justice and urge rich countries to transfer the necessary funds and technology to address the consequences of global warming.

The Parties will endeavour to complete the Paris Agreement implementation guidelines, mobilise climate financing, strengthen climate adaption, technological development, and transfer, and stay on track to meet the Paris Agreement goals of limiting global temperature rises during COP-26.

Elephants Are Losing Tusks and It's Our Fault!



A hefty set of tusks is an advantage for elephants, allowing them to dig for water, strip bark for food and joust with other elephants. But during cases of intense ivory poaching, those big incisors become a liability. Researchers have now discovered how years of civil conflict and poaching in Mozambique have resulted in a higher proportion of elephants never developing tusks. A previously rare genetic mutation causing tusklessness now has become very common in some groups of African elephants. They discovered that the animals had been genetically modified as a result of rampant ivory poaching. During the Mozambican civil war, when 90 percent of the elephant population was massacred by military forces on both sides to create ivory that was sold to fund the battle, elephants with tusks were particularly likely to be hunted. Those lacking tusks were left alone, which enhanced the chances of them breeding and passing on the tuskless characteristic to their young. The years of instability shifted the population's evolutionary trajectory.

Climate change: Human activities make forests emit carbon



As per a study of planet-warming gases emitted from and absorbed by forests in UNESCO World Heritage sites, the results revealed that 10 of the world's most protected forests have become net emitters of carbon, as they are degraded by human activity and climate change, and had emitted more carbon than they locked away over the past 20 years. This area of forests spans twice the size of Germany. Combining satellite-derived data with monitoring information at the site level, researchers estimated the carbon absorbed and emitted by a network of 257 World Heritage forests between 2001 and 2020, revealed that these forests around the world collectively removed 190 million tonnes of carbon from the atmosphere every year, which is equivalent to the UK's annual carbon emissions from fossil fuels". Calculations show that billions of tonnes of carbon is absorbed by all that "biomass" of trees and vegetation, the research revealed how much pressure some of these sites were under, including illegal logging, the expansion of wildfires, agricultural encroachment, and human-induced pressures are making more likely by climate change.

Biden's new spending bill has significant upsides for climate fight



Many Climate Activists have praised Joe Biden's \$1.75 trillion spending bill. They claim that this will be necessary to fend off the worst effect of Global Warming and impose a more sustainable future.

The bill has considerably upswing the growth of Renewable Energy, including solar and wind power, and would deliver clean energy tax credits and an electric vehicle tax credit that would lower the cost of an electric vehicle by up to \$12,500 per middle-class family, according to the White House.

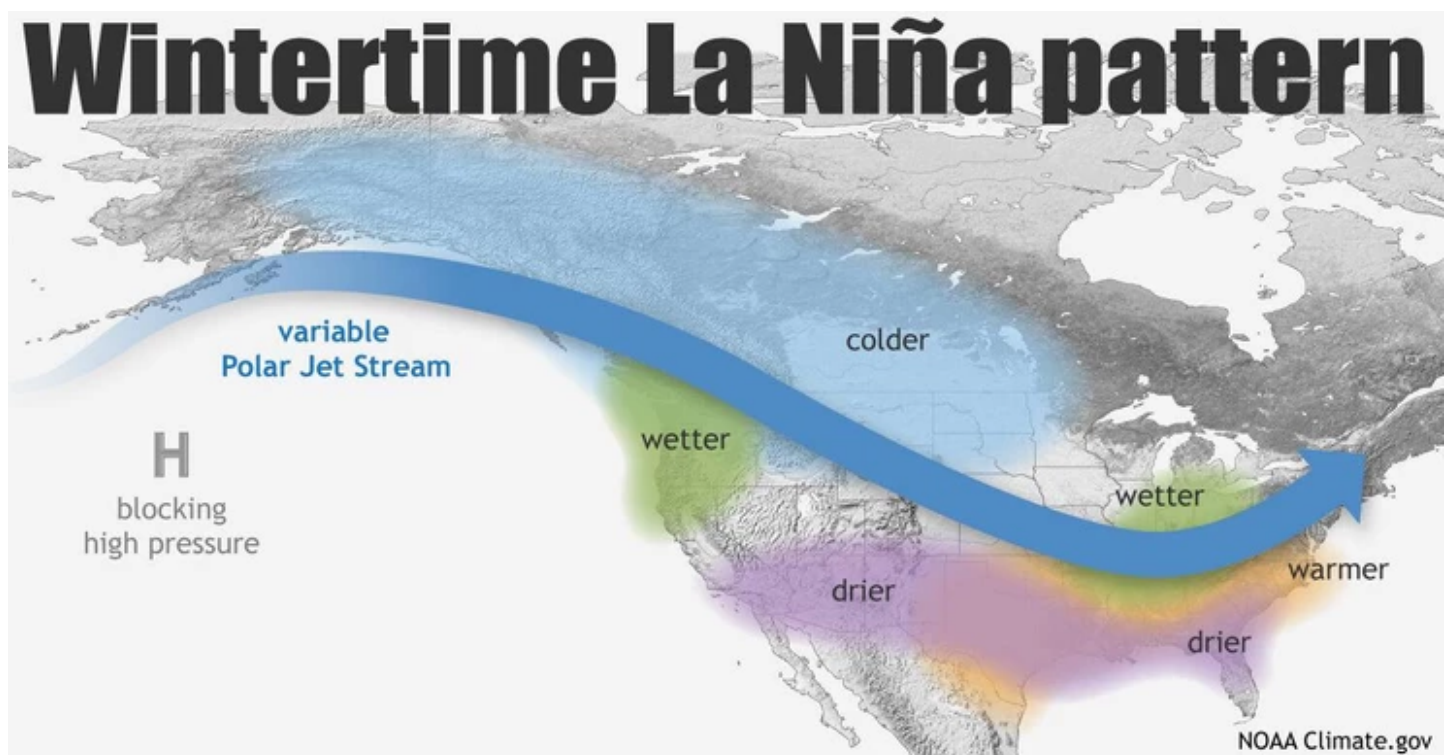
The proposition also includes donations and loans to rural communities to deploy renewable energy technologies. It will strengthen state and local efforts to electrify buildings, migrate to clean transportation and electric buses and help communities build protections against harsh weather and other climate-fuelled disasters.

Beacon of hope



Silver Forget-me-not butterfly recorded in Tamil Nadu for the first time. With this, the state has 318 recorded species of butterflies.

What is La Nina's effect ?



La Nina basically stands for the phenomenon where the ocean currents have much more cooling effect than of average, resulting in a change of pattern in weather conditions for several months or even years. La Nina phenomenon tends to rotate the weather pattern in such conditions where the prediction of the climate change may be in a moment or delayed. There is a difference between La Nina effect and El Niño effect, the latter meaning the unusual appraisal in terms of temperature, making the water surface warmer than the average before. The phenomena of La Nina tend to affect the water bodies severely due to dropping down of water temperature, which causes drought sections in the Southern U.S and cooler temperature, heavy rains and flooding in the pacific North West. El Nino and La Nina are together a part of a cycle that influences extreme weather, and can impact food production , human health and water supply as well. La Nina, in certain cases, due to its low temperature in water attracts marine life as the water is richer with nutrients than that of usual. It attracts certain cold marine species such as squid, salmon etc, near the California coast.

The La Nina glimpses its phenomenon over India as well- Unusual snowfalls as early as October in parts of Leh, Jammu and Kashmir , Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand with inducing monsoon showers across north and northwest parts of India, making it 38% of excessive rainfall in 2021. This off going yet non predictive change in the cycle of climate change would be causing extended winters, short but intensified scorching heat waves across India, before the arrival of the monsoon causing this cycle to be stuck in a loop which will have no barriers to stop this phenomenon.

Recommendations

Captain Fantastic



Captain Fantastic is a comedy-drama movie whose plot revolves around a family who decides to isolate themselves from society and to go into the wild. After co-existing in nature, the family has to move into the city back again. How much has their life changed? This is what you can find out by watching the movie.

Captain Fantastic is available on Amazon Prime Video.

An Inconvenient Truth



An Inconvenient Truth is an Oscar-winning documentary featuring Former US presidential candidate Al Gore. He holds this film together as, in front of an audience and with few aids beyond photo slides, he explains how humans have messed up the planet. Gore issues an urgent warning on what must be done, and done quickly, to save the earth.

An Inconvenient Truth is available on Apple TV.

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

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Curated with love by Kasturi, Akshita, Deepali, Shawn, Ayush, Ashmeet, Charu, Jyothika and Shivansh.