



## NEWSLETTER #26

# THE RAVEN

“

*A nation that destroys its soils destroys itself. Forests are the lungs of our land, purifying the air and giving fresh strength to our people.*

*- Franklin D. Roosevelt*

”

## LET'S TALK BUDGET



The Union Environment Ministry's budgetary allotment was boosted by 5.6 percent over the previous fiscal year. This year, the government upped the budget for the National Mission for Green India from Rs 290 crore to Rs 361.69 crore, with the national afforestation programme receiving Rs 300 crore, up from Rs 235 crore last year.

For 2022-23, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman budgeted Rs 3,030 crore to the ministry, of which Rs 460 crore was allocated to pollution control, which is Rs 10 crore less than last year's Budget. In her statement, the minister emphasised India's commitment to reducing its carbon footprint, stating that the Budget offers several short- and long-term actions in this regard. The finance minister, however, preserved the budgeted allocation for the climate change action plan at Rs 30 crore, the same as the previous year.

The Union Budget has cut the budgeted allocation for the statutory body Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM), which manages air quality in the national capital region and surrounding areas, from Rs 20 crore in 2021-22 to Rs 17 crore this year. Control of Pollution was created to provide financial support to pollution control boards and committees, as well as money for the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP).

Project Tiger and Project Elephant, both initiated by the government, got an increase in funding this year, with the former receiving a Rs 50 crore boost and the latter receiving a Rs 2 crore boost. The budget for the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), which is responsible for tiger census and wild cat conservation and is a statutory entity under the ministry, remained constant at Rs 10 crore. The Central Zoo Authority's budget has been cut from Rs 11 crore to Rs 10 crore this year. The funding for the National Coastal Mission, which was nearly doubled to Rs 200 crore in the previous fiscal year, was cut by Rs 5 crore this year. The environment ministry is in charge of preserving the livelihood and security of coastal people, particularly fishermen, as well as conserving and protecting coastal stretches and promoting sustainable development based on scientific principles, as part of the National Coastal Mission.



The budgetary allocation for the National Mission for Himalayan Studies was also increased by Rs 8 crore, while the budgetary allocation for various regional offices and statutory institutes, such as the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, Forest Survey of India, Zoological Survey of

India, National Green Tribunal, and others was increased from Rs 460 crore in 2021-22 to Rs 487 crore this year.

'Environmental knowledge and capacity building' funds have also been boosted from Rs 70 crore to Rs 78.62 crore. It is a central sector umbrella scheme with two sub-schemes: Forestry Training and Capacity Building and the Eco Task Force. The budget for environmental education, awareness, and training has been cut from Rs 77.13 crore in 2021-22 to Rs 58 crore in 2022-23

This year's Budget also lowered the total allocation of five autonomous bodies within the Ministry of the Environment. The budget for statutory and regulatory organisations has also been reduced, from Rs 160.5 crore last fiscal year to Rs 154.5 crore this fiscal year.

Was the Government generous enough or do we have long ways to go? We would love to know your views on this year's budget at: [envisage@sgndkc.du.ac.in](mailto:envisage@sgndkc.du.ac.in) or our Instagram page: @sageenvi



## GAUR DIES AFTER CONSUMING PLASTIC NEAR QOITY!

A Gaur, around 6 years old, died after consuming plastic waste which was negligently disposed of near Kattabettu. The carcass was found by tea estate workers who further informed the Forest Department. According to the post-mortem report, a bag used for packaging fertiliser was found in the intestine of the Gaur, which later caused its death. This particular incident highlighted several problems faced by the wildlife in villages. Poor waste disposal mechanism was witnessed. Consequently, people dump the waste in open lands which later on become a feeding ground for wild animals. The Forest Department has written to the district administration to direct local bodies to set up fences around areas where open dumping is prevalent.



## HOW CHINA GOT BLUE SKIES IN TIME FOR THE OLYMPICS



Everyone agrees to the fact that blue skies just look incredible. But nowadays, a blue sky is hardly visible due to increasing pollution and contamination. China faced the same situation. In 2013, China became a source of international attention and widespread public discontent as pollution reached an alarming level. And hence, it launched an ambitious plan to improve its air quality. Tougher emission standards were imposed on coal-fired plants and the number of cars on the road was curbed to cut vehicle emissions. Local officials were given environmental targets, and coal-fired boilers in homes were replaced with gas or

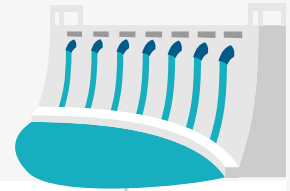
electric heaters. After a lot of effort, the sky is finally pretty clear, and Olympic athletes can see the mountains surrounding the city at present.

Despite the progress, Beijing's annual average air pollution last year was still more than six times the limit laid out by the World Health Organization's guidelines. So, there are miles to go and it is the time for 'Now or Never'.

## TO BUILD OR NOT TO BUILD A NEW DAM?

The 126-year-old Mullaperiyar Dam is owned, operated, and maintained by the Tamil Nadu government, despite its geographical location in Kerala. It has been a source of dispute between the two neighbouring governments for decades. While Tamil Nadu is turning the dam issue into a sentimental one, recalling the British engineer Colonel John Pennycuick's memories, Kerala has been adamant about the need to decommission the 'deteriorated' structure and replace it, citing climate change-induced erratic and heavy rainfalls as a reason. Kerala's political leaders argue that the dam is a ticking time bomb that might explode at any time, killing thousands of people in the state. Meanwhile, Tamil Nadu regards the dam as safe and well-maintained, and is working tirelessly to raise the water storage level to 152 feet.

While the political wrangling between the states continues, environmentalists have expressed worries over the dam's location, which is in a Seismic Zone III area, as well as a shift in the rainfall pattern in Idukki since 2018, which must be taken into account.



## INDIA-SRI LANKA WATER TURNS INTO HOTSTOP FOR SEA CUCUMBER TRAFFICKING



India banned the sea cucumber fishery in 2001, while Sri Lanka tried to restrict the trade through a system of permits issued for collection, processing, transporting and exporting. But, according to data analysis from 2015 to 2020, authorities in Sri Lanka and India seized nearly 65 metric tons of sea cucumber worth more than \$2.8 million and arrested 502 people in connection with the attempted trafficking.

Sea cucumber are echinoderms, from the same phylum of marine animals that includes starfish and sea urchins, live on the sandy bottom of Oceans. Sea cucumber are popularly known as bêche-de-mer, harvested in South Asia and exported to East Asia. bêche-de-mer are considered a delicacy, eaten both fresh or dried, and used in traditional Chinese medicine. Overharvesting of sea cucumbers has severely depleted their populations; from 21 species of sea cucumber to only 9 species left in 2015. According to media reports between 2019 and 2020- there was a sharp increase in the cases, making the Gulf of Mannar/Palk Bay region between the two countries a global hotspot for sea cucumber smuggling.

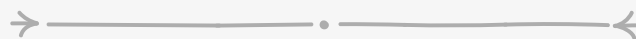
## WORLD SET TO MARK 50 YEARS OF UN ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT



Environmental protection is the need of the hour. Many organizations are now working for it. But do you know when it all started?

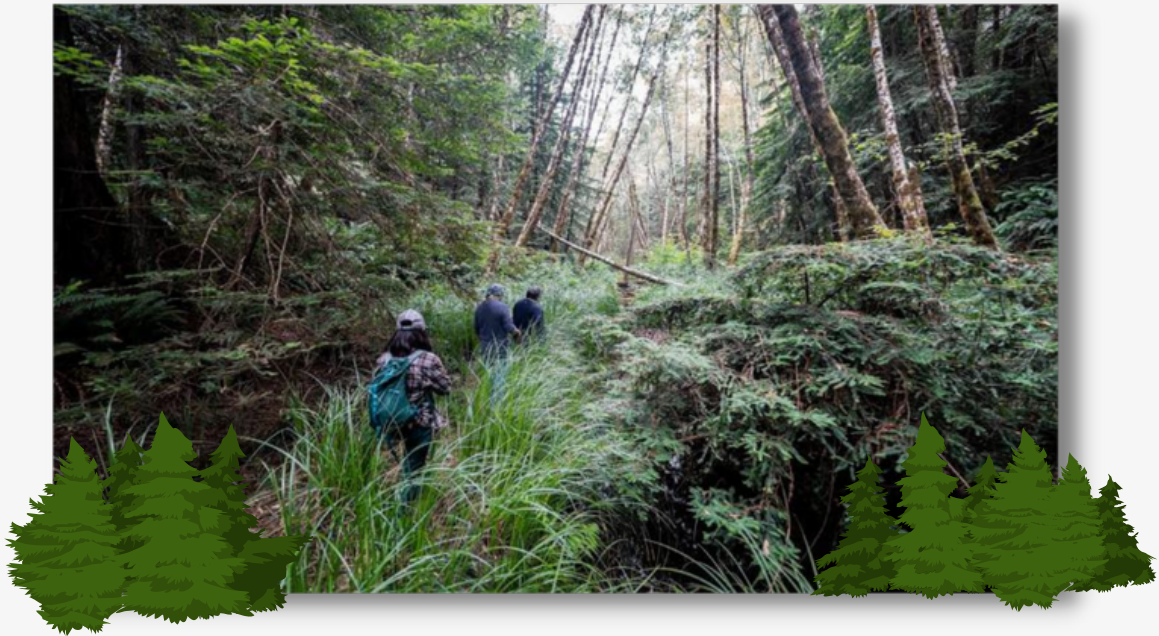
Environment protection has a long history. The UN Environment Programme (UNEP), the world's highest-level decision-making body with universal membership of all 193

nations, is celebrating its 50th anniversary on March 3 and 4 by bringing together governments, businesses, civil society, and other stakeholders to address the environmental challenges that threaten the planet. Since its creation, UNEP has worked closely with its 193 member states and other stakeholders to galvanize worldwide commitments and coordinated action to address many of the world's most pressing environmental challenges. It also played a leading role as the docking station for 15 multilateral environmental agreements. For 50 years, UNEP has coordinated a worldwide effort to confront the planet's biggest environmental challenges. This global collaboration has helped repair the ozone layer, phase out leaded fuel, stop some endangered species from going extinct, and more. They will continue doing it in the future as well.



# BEACON OF HOPE

*A California Redwood Forest has Officially Been Returned to a Group of Native Tribes*



# RECOMMENDATION

There are quite a lot of things that produces debris around our planet, in this section we will address the daily use items that are creating havoc on the environment.

## 1. Gas stoves.

There are scenarios where Gas stove burners are not cleaned properly, which leads to leakage of methane gas i.e. greenhouses. It is found that 2.6 million tonnes of methane release itself due to leakage.

## 2. Toothpaste.

Toothpaste and many other products such as shower gel contain microscopic beads making it the leading contributor to 8 million tonnes of plastic waste. These beads are microscopic that can neither be filtered nor are they biodegradable.

3. **Teabags** contain an element known as PET (polyethylene terephthalate) which is in high demand by manufacturers. In use, this element does not decompose and causes debris- causing more waste.

## 4. Razors.

Razor blades have a high carbon footprint impact on the environment. Since they can be used only for a limited amount of time, razors have steel and plastic components which end up in landfills. It is recommended to use straight razors or electric trimmers.

## 5. Laundry detergent.

Detergent contains phosphate, which is harmful to aquatic life. Phosphate pollutes the water, causing blockage of sun light, less oxygen and formation of algae. We recommend you to buy phosphate-free products from the market.

## 6. Tampons and Sanitary pads.

A single tampon or a sanitary pad takes up to 500 years to decompose. These feminine hygiene products are non biodegradable and an average female uses 12,000 of these products in their lifetime. Therefore, other alternative solutions such as menstrual cups are recommended.

**WHAT DID YOU LIKE ABOUT THIS  
FORTNIGHTLY'S- THE RAVEN?  
WHAT DID WE MISS?  
LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK:**

## **CONNECT WITH US**



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### ***About Envisage***

*EnviSAGE- the Environmental Society of SGND Khalsa College is a group of highly motivated environment conscious and prudent members who believe in the maxim, 'Our actions today will impact the tomorrow of others'. We consider the earth and all its resources as a precious gift, not to be taken for granted, but to be respected, preserved and nurtured. We feel that we are responsible and accountable for our activities and behavior towards the environment and strive to share the same enthusiasm, concern, knowledge, and sense of gratitude with others as well. Through our activities, we aim to empower individuals in terms of knowledge about environmental issues and challenges that we are currently facing.*

***Curated with love by***

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