

# NATURE'S NARRATIVE

Monthly newsletter of Greener Things

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## ABOUT US

*Nature's Narrative* is a literary step towards fulfillment our goal of spreading environmental awareness! An inter-artistic platform which portrays how we humans embrace and protect nature in our own native innovative way through art forms and protest movements! Let's say its nature's narration through humans!!

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*Greener Things* is an initiative driven by the common world concern of making this earth a better inhabitable place for all of us but approaches it in an interdisciplinary and innovative way to showcase how every activity in this 21st century either harms our earth or heals it in its minuscule possible way!

## ENVIRO-SNIPPETS

*Enviro-Snippets is a segment in our newsletter where we bring to you daily happenings related to nature from around the nation.*

## Indian Environmental Law Update

1) Recently, the NGT held that plastic pens are covered under plastic waste management rules and directed the Environment Ministry to finalise the Extended Producers Responsibility (EPR) regime for management of waste. This was decided by a bench consisted of NGT chairman Justice A.K. Goel who also asked the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) to coordinate with the State Pollution Control Boards and State Level Monitoring Committees on EPR. The bench further said, “Though the word ‘pen’ is not particularly mentioned under the rules but it is covered under the definition of plastic under Rule-3 (o) of the plastic waste management rule, 2016. Thus, pen is also covered by the statutory framework.” The tribunal was hearing a plea filed by Avani Mishra against unchecked use of plastic pen having adverse impact on the environment. The plea alleged that the EPR liability is not being duly enforced, and suggested for a buy back policy.

2) The Kochi Corporation will face prosecution proceedings for the violation of water, air and Environmental Protection Acts for unauthorised or improper management of solid waste at Brahmapuram. The principal bench of the NGT had recommended prosecution and environment compensation for the civic body's failure to comply with the norms. Even though the State Pollution Control Board has fixed the environment compensation, the prosecution proceedings have not yet started despite clear directives from the tribunal. A senior officer from the head office said that the notice under Section 15 of the Environment Protection Act, 1986 will be issued to the secretary of the civic body only after collecting evidences showing violation of the various acts.

3) Recently, the Apex Court sought for a report from National Green Tribunal-appointed river Yamuna monitoring committee led by former Delhi Chief Secretary Shailaja Chandra about its recommendations to improve the quality of water and the extent to which the states have implemented their suggestions. A bench led by CJI Bobde accepted the submission by senior advocate and amicus

curiae Meenakshi Arora that the Committee, which also comprises former NGT expert members B.S. Sajwan, should be roped in for the benefit of its experience and work on the river. “The committee is overseeing the programme on the Yamuna. It will help us know about the status of sewage treatment plants etc. A detailed status of sewage treatment plants etc.

To know more about these snippets, [click here](#).

## Indian Disaster Update

1) As India recorded above average rainfall, La Nina affected 2020 as India recorded above normal rains, harsher winters and decreased heatwaves-The conditions of La Nina played a significant role in having a good monsoon and extreme cold conditions in parts of northern India. There were also five cyclones in the seas along the eastern and western coasts throughout the year. According to an IMD report, four out of the five were extreme cyclone storms or beyond. If you regard the large-scale variable for the frequency of cold wave conditions, the El Nino and La Nina conditions play a dominant role. Both variables La Nina and El Nino are also believed to have an effect on the Indian monsoon. For example, an above-normal monsoon with nine percent excess rainfall was observed in 2020. 2020's December winter had extended spells of cold waves.

2) An ammonia gas leak took place on 22nd December at U.P. in around 10.30 PM which led to loss of lives and injury to many people. When the case was reported to NGT, it constituted a five members expert committee and also directed it to prepare and submit a report on the gas leak incident at IFFCO plant in Phulpur. This matter was taken up by NGT chairperson Justice A.K. Goel and Justice S.K. Singh along with the formed committee comprising representatives of the Ministry of Environment and forests, Central pollution Control Board(CPCB), UPPCB, IIT Kanpur and District Magistrate of Prayagraj.

To know more about these snippets, [click here](#).

## Indian Forest Update

1) Odisha recently thought of investing crores for the purpose of afforestation. On 17th January, 2021, the State-level Compensatory Afforestation Fund

“Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) approved the annual action plan of 2021-22 with a total amount Rs. 903.39 Crores. The activities included under it are block plantation, assisted natural regeneration of the bamboo forest, maintenance of previous year plantation, fodder and fruit bearing plantation, bamboo culture, wildlife management, infrastructure development, capacity building research and evaluation.

To know more about these snippets, [click here](#).

***Interesting Trivia - The North East India is endowed with rich forest resources. The region which constitutes only 7.98 percent of the geographical area of the country, accounts for nearly one fourth of its forest.***

## Indian Water Update

- 1) As the Himalayas are influenced by global warming, the Ministry of Earth Sciences on 20th December, 2020 decided to estimate the depth of glaciers in the zone in order to ascertain their volume and gauge the water available in them. In the Chandra river basin, the aim is to first study the seven glaciers by NCPOR (National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research).
- 2) Chilika being the largest brackish water lagoon of Asia is now home to 22 % of India's seagrass area. The survey conducted by the Chilika Development Authority (CDA) to assess the biodiversity of the lagoon ecosystem has found that the area of seagrass has increased by 3 Km in a year. The distribution of seagrass has been estimated over an area of 155 sq km, against last year's 152 sq km.

To know more about these snippets, [click here](#).

## Indian Environmental Diplomacy Update

- 1) On 12th December, 2020 The UN chief at the Climate Ambition summit held online to mark five years since the pandemic, said that as nations rebound from the pandemic, they are expected to make good on their commitments to curb carbon emissions.
- 2) After successfully increasing the population of wild animals such as Asiatic lion, snow leopard, Great Indian Bustard, Indian Gangetic Dolphins, etc through protecting their habitats, On 31st December, 2020 it was decided that

India will be a co-chair of this regional forum to conserve wildlife habitats. The APAP is a regional platform to assist governments and other stakeholders to engage together in the field to handle protected areas (PAs) more effectively.

To know more about these snippets, [click here](#).

***Interesting Trivia - Traditional water conservation methods for irrigation like Water Kundis are called Khoop in Arunachal Pradesh, Zabo method of Nagaland, Dong Pokhar of Assam and have been in use from thousands of years in the region.***

## Indian Energy Sector Update

- 1) On 16th December, 2020 A hybrid renewable energy park as big as the country of Singapore and Bahrain was inaugurated. By 2022, India is preparing to generate 175 GW of green energy and 450 GW by 2030 in Mandvi, Gujarat. The megapark will be located in the Kutch region of the western Gujarat state in India and will span 72,600 hectares (180,000 acres).All things instrumental in the development, such as solar panels, solar energy storage systems, and windmills, will build up the park.
- 2) On 8th December, 2020 India established a CBG plants in Delhi and Tamil Nadu. The gas generated at CBG plants can be used to power automobiles with fuel. Biofuels have the capacity to minimise the fuel import bill by Rs. 1 lakh crore.

To know more about these snippets, [click here](#).



## National Biodiversity Update

1) The Himalayan Serow was seen for the first time in the cold Himalayan desert region of Spiti, Himachal Pradesh in Hurling village- On 14th December, 2020 Wildlife officials suspect that this unique species might have fled into the Spiti Valley from the Rupi Bhaba Wildlife Sanctuary. The Himalayan Serows are listed in Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act 1972, which provides absolute protection and their IUCN Red List Status is vulnerable.

To know more about these snippets, [click here](#).

**Interesting Trivia - After New Zealand, India has the second highest sheep density in the world.**

## GREENOGRAPHY

*Greenography is a segment in our newsletter where we feature Photographs submitted by you. Nature is bountiful with great sceneries. We, at Greener Things relish nature and its eternal beauty. we look for pictures showcasing nature's beauty as well as the ill-impacts that human activities have had on nature.*

## PHOTOGRAPH BY

*Hemal Prajapati*



## ABOUT THE PHOTOGRAPH

This photo is clicked on a Canon EOS 1300d, near 72 Kotha ni Vav, Para, Mehsana, Gujarat.

**Interesting Trivia -** *Nature Photography Day is an event created and promoted by the North American Nature Photography Association (NANPA) in order to promote the enjoyment of nature photography, and to explain how images have been used to advance the cause of conservation and protect plants, wildlife. It is celebrated on June 15th.*

# MESSAGE FROM A VOLUNTEER

by Shail Palan

*As I found greener things website,  
I saw the shining stars of environment,  
As I go to apply as volunteer,  
I got a golden chance.*

*The thinking of members in the group,  
Gives me hope to do some good,  
It gives ideas for environment conservation  
and expand my knowledge .*

*How beautiful newsletter that we publish,  
Its a gift from all of us,  
May you be thankful of what talent you have,  
And share the blessings of almighty God.*

*Someone do research,  
Someone goes through news,  
Someone capture photographs ,  
Someone design and make it creative.*

*This is a great time,  
It's a nice fulfilling way,  
It's because I have to say,  
Please join with us in the greener things.*

About the Contributor - Shail is a volunteer with Greener Things and has helped in contributing to various editions of Nature's Narrative.

## HUMANS FOR NATURE

*We humans have been lucky enough to have humans around us who have been enthusiastic, rebellious at times, and generous always to fight for our mother nature. Humans for Nature is such a segment in our newsletter where we cover such personalities.*

*For this edition of Humans for Nature, our volunteer Ardhya Singh had a telephonic interview with a grassroot level conservationist **Pradhan Birua** from Jharkhand. Here is the excerpt of the interview.*



In this edition of humans for nature, we cover the story of a grass-root level conservationist from Jharkhand, Pradhan Birua. He presently works actively towards the betterment of four sectors- environment, society, education and historical legacy. While all these sectors merge into a larger agenda-sensitizing people, particularly children, towards a sustainable and a less self-centred life if not a selfless one like the one he lives. He belongs to the Ho community. An MBA degree holder, Birua, was dedicated to the cause of environment conservation since young days. He initiated the Kalpana Chawla Science Club in his school days and worked on

numerous project reports in groups regarding conservation at the District level. While growing up and honouring the environment through his humble contributions, Birua had the maturity to realize that nobody gave enough consideration or even lent an ear to a person with no accomplishments in life. The actions of a simpleton or a novice, no matter how noble would be harshly looked down upon as publicity stunts or attention-seeking gimmicks. This is when a determined and far-sighted Birua headed to Bangalore for higher education and as he landed a job in a decent job of the tertiary sector and started some ground-level research regarding conservation processes and nature in his spare time or even by taking leaves. After 10 years, he decided to follow his passion and started applying for research and progress centres in Jamshedpur and slogged through all legitimate ways for four months but to no avail.

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Contd...

This is when it struck him that to bring a change, flashy centres are of no need and no matter, where you go or what you are in life, your roots embrace you and thus he came to his native place and started a school in his village to fulfil his dream of spreading knowledge of the environment amongst the inhabitants- The Aayub

School, Pandrasali Village, West Singhbhum District of Jharkhand- Pradhan Birua leads a community of school students through youth engagement to bring about a meaningful shift in society from recklessly pursuing leisure and greed to sustainable development of the community and environment we live in.

His core and foremost challenge he admits to date was convincing the children to participate in plantation drives and rescue missions of avians and animals including snakes-a part of the ecosystem which people in rural areas kill with sticks at the first sign of its presence. Birua and his team believes that it is best if these snakes are rescued from civil areas and ‘dropped’ to the jungles-their habitat, a task which Birua himself undertakes with a lot of zeal and has even trained a few young adults to carry out such rescue missions with efficiency. On a local level, young children are engaged in various conservation works and plantation activities. School students are very sincere and many schools are involved in many campaigns, such as plantation drives and activities for water conservation. Few of the awards he has been accorded with in the field of grassroot conservation are Gandhi Environment Warrior Award, Nepal; Satvarshiki Social Worker Award, West Bengal; India's Youth Icon Award, Nagpur; Bharat Leadership Award, Patna, Bihar; Adivasi Role Model Award, Saraikela, Jharkhand; VESCO Samman, Deoghar.



# That's all folks!

Dear Reader,

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Our Instagram handle - [@\\_greenerthings](#)

Our Twitter Handle - [@things\\_greener](#)

Our Facebook page - [The Greener Things](#)

Our LinkedIn Handle - [Greener Things](#)

We would be very happy to receive your contributions for our next edition of Nature's Narrative. To submit entries for our next edition of Nature's Narrative, mail us at [greenerthings.gt@gmail.com](mailto:greenerthings.gt@gmail.com).

A Question before we conclude this edition of Nature's Narrative -

Whether this edition of Nature's Narrative is forwarded to you by someone?

If yes, you could yourself subscribe to our newsletter by clicking [here](#).

We value your suggestions, mail us your suggestions to [greenerthings.gt@gmail.com](mailto:greenerthings.gt@gmail.com).