



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!!

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!



MESSAGE FROM US

Greetings of the season from Greener Things.

In a few days, we'll enter 2021. The new year brings with itself renewed hope, strength, courage to fight the issues that have been plaguing us. 2020 was an unprecedented wake-up call for us all. Although we witnessed new heights in environmental protection, numerous concerned experts all across the globe have voiced their concerns regarding the impending future. As we're resuming and getting back to normal, we should take lessons and be mindful of stepping up for a better, inclusive and sustainable environment.

Science and tech have aided in recent times to achieve our Sustainable goals but they would be rendered meaningless without a holistic change on our part and adopt a sustainable lifestyle. Individual choices will matter the most in coming times. In absence of any sanctions, the burden is upon us to take steps for a sustainable future.



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 Agricultural Update

1) After more than three decades of research, an Indian variety of colored cotton may be commercially released by 2021. A decision will be taken once the last phase of the agronomy trials is over by next year. The final stage of the trials will end by April 2021 and a few promising seeds will be proposed for commercial release by a committee chaired by the deputy director-general of crop science, according to AH Prakash, project coordinator of the Indian Council for Agricultural Research-All India Coordinated Research Project on Cotton.

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

Indian Wetlands Update

1) Around 25 teams of citizens across Jammu & Kashmir have spurred into action over the past few months, cleaning water bodies in their neighborhoods from Dal lake, freshwater springs at Verinag, Chatlam wetlands and even Kausar Nag at an altitude of 13,000 feet above sea level. Tariq A. Patloo, Jannat and Nadeem Qadri from Kashmir are trying to protect the state's wetlands and inspire others to join the movement. With, both technical expertise and legal guidance, the Jammu & Kashmir Eco Watch is running this initiative which aims at the participation of local communities in conserving their regional water bodies and wetlands.

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

Indian Pollution Update

1) For the first time in four years India's sulphur dioxide (SO₂) emissions recorded a significant decline of approximately 6% in 2019 compared to 2018,

the steepest drop in four years, according to a report from Greenpeace India and the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA). However, India continues to occupy the top spot among emitters for the fifth consecutive year. The report ranks the world's biggest emitters of SO₂, a poisonous air pollutant that increases the risk of stroke, heart disease, lung cancer, and premature death.

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

Indian Animal Protection Update

1) Telukunchi village's community in Andhra Pradesh welcomes Asian openbill storks every monsoon in the hope of good rains and prosperity. The community has framed rules to punish those who harm the birds. Telukunchi village's community in Andhra Pradesh welcomes Asian openbill storks every monsoon in the hope of good rains and prosperity. The birds, considered local migrants that move within India, are lured by the vast wetlands in the Srikakulam district of the state along the Bay of Bengal.

2) The proposed Bodhghat Pariyojana, a hydropower project aimed at irrigating farmlands in the entire Bastar division comprising seven districts, may affect the fish habitat. The near-threatened Bodh fish (*Bagarius yarrelli*), found in the Indravati river in Bastar district of Chhattisgarh, faces a crisis due to indiscriminate hunting. The fish, popularly known as the "shark of Bastar," is worshipped by tribal communities like the Marias and the Gonds.

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

Indian Disaster Management Update

1) India has been ranked No. 3, after China and the US, in recording the highest number of natural disasters over the last 20 years (2000-2019), paying a huge economic and human cost. In a report released by the UN office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) on Tuesday global economic losses have been estimated at \$3 trillion in the last two decades. The study has avoided giving country-specific data for the losses. Extreme weather events — floods, storms, heatwaves, droughts and wildfires — accounted for almost 91% of all 7,348 natural disasters in the last 20 years as compared to 4,212 recorded between 1980 and 1999.

2) After recent occurrences of flood, landslide, and cyclone the union home ministry has approved financial assistance to the most affected states. Being the worst hit by cyclone Amphan, West Bengal and Odisha will get 2,707.77 and 128.23 crores of rupees for the rehabilitation and other necessary repairments. Maharashtra, another worst affected state by cyclone Nisarga will receive 268.59 crores rupees. Declaration of assistance also came for Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, and Sikkim, which were affected by floods and landslides during the period of south-west monsoon.

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

Interesting Trivia - United Nations predicts that within the next 10 years, 50 million people in the drylands will be displaced due to desertification. Drylands are areas that have a scarcity of water due to climate. Specifically, thousands of Sub-Saharan and South Asian peoples will be forced to migrate due to the impacts of desertification.

Indian Enviro-Justice Update

1) The National Green Tribunal has ordered KTV Oil Mills Pvt Ltd to demolish illegal structures constructed at its storage facility on the Ennore Express High Road within three months, failing which the Tamil Nadu Coastal Zone Management Authority has been authorised to carry out their demolition. The bench of Justice K. Ramakrishnan and expert member Saibal Dasgupta also set aside the CRZ clearance granted to the facility by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change's expert committee as it found the clearance to be illegal.

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

Indian Enviro-Action Update

1) The initiative “#TreeCheers Campaign” was taken by Indian Oil Corp to raise environmental awareness on the green coverage of the country. The campaign took place from 12 to 16th of November nationwide. An overwhelming number of over 2 lakh customers went to the IOC fuel stations to refuel their new vehicles during this time. After this huge response, the IOC declared their plan to plant trees to the equivalent number of customers they received. More than 1 lakh saplings were planted before the declaration on air,

the rest of the plantation is on the way. The newly planted trees are expected to sequester carbon dioxide of 1.36 lakh tonnes. Such initiative strengthened the faith of the citizens in environmental consciousness.

2) After the Asan Conservation Reserve was recognized by Ramsar Convention last October, 2 more wetlands got recognized as Ramsar sites in India this November. The newly added sites are the Lonar Lake in Maharashtra and Sur Sarovar or Keetham Lake in Agra. Lonar Lake is known as the only crater lake in India.

3) The rocky patch of Janjgir-Champa district in Chattisgarh was an area devoid of vegetation for a long time. Wildlife of the area had no way left to enter the village and demolish the croplands in search of food. These frequent confrontations of animals and residents of that area turned them into enemies, causing damage to the natural and human-built environment. However, after years of suffering from both sides, an exemplary act of villagers brought an end to the endless human-animal conflict.

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

Interesting Trivia - 2010-2020 was observed as the The United Nations Decade for Desert and the fight against Desertification.

Indian Animal Kingdom Update

1) Often seen on the open grasslands of Madhya Pradesh, the lesser floricans are undergoing a rapid decline in their once breeding place. Cultivation of soybean instead of traditional crops is contributing to their falling numbers. Only 11 individuals of lesser florican were found last year in the area. An opposite scenario is found in Rajasthan which has become a stronghold of the floricans. The breeding habit of the floricans is closely related to rainfall and cropping patterns.

2) As the winter wind has started to blow, thousands of migratory birds are landing in Bhitarkanika National Park at Odisha. Escaping the extremely cold weather in their abode in the northern hemisphere, the seasonal guests are gathering in large numbers in the wetlands of the national park, especially in Bhitarkanika and Chilka wetlands. The abundance of food and non-intervention of humans made the wetlands preferable to the migratory birds to stay in.

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



National Biodiversity Update

1) Researchers of the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) have discovered 4 new species of vine snakes-one of the most widely found snakes in Peninsular India. The research found that the commonly seen Indian green vine snake encompasses several different species. The newly found species were discovered in the rainforests of Western Ghat, uniquely characterized by their small bodies and short noses. They have a slight morphological similarity and can be separable by their ecological barriers. This discovery may elucidate the evolution of vine snakes in South Asia.

2) A group of scientists from India and China has discovered a new species of light-emitting mushrooms in a bamboo forest of Meghalaya. Growing on dead bamboo the mushrooms emit a green glow at night and got familiarized to the locals as “electric mushrooms”. A thorough laboratory test confirmed the mushroom as the first fungus of the *Roridomyces* genus to be found in India.

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

Interesting Trivia - The word "flamingo" comes from the Spanish and Latin word "flamenco" which means fire, and refers to the bright color of the birds' feathers. Not all flamingos are brightly colored, however, and some of the birds are mostly gray or white. The strength of a flamingo's coloration comes from its diet. Younger birds also have less coloration.



GREENOGRAPHY

Greenography is a segment in our newsletter where we feature Photographs submitted by you. Nature is bountiful with great scenarios. 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.

PHOTOGRAGH BY

Jaamitra Bhardwaj



ABOUT THE PHOTOGRAPH

This photograph is clicked on a farm near Sanand, Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

Interesting Trivia - International Photography Awards conducts an annual competition for professional, amateur, and student photographers on a global scale, creating one of the most ambitious and comprehensive competitions in the photography world today. They organise competitions on specific category of Climate Change.



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.



In this edition of Humans for Nature, we will tell the story of a marine wildlife rescuer from Gujarat, Dinesh Goswami. A factory worker in Saurashtra with a heart full of love for marine creatures. He is the owner of an NGO named Prakruti Nature Club which works to

rescue whale sharks and other marine species like turtles and dolphins in the coastal areas nearby Kodinar. He did not know much about marine animals and their migration towards the Saurashtra coasts until he met Mike Pandey, a famous award-winning director. From Mike, he got to know about the marine wildlife which eventually turned him into a rescuer of them. It was 1997 when he started his journey as a rescuer alone. With time his endeavour went high with the establishment of the NGO. More than 500 whale sharks have been rescued by Goswami from 1997 to 2017. Sea turtles have also been rescued in a large amount by the NGO.

Goswami and his coworkers are now a part of the International Sea Turtle Society, where they gained knowledge on marine species that live and migrate to the coasts. With no relevant academic knowledge and no financial support from the government, the only thing that pushes Dinesh to save the marine animals is his love for them.





That's all folks!

Dear Reader,

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Our LinkedIn Handle - [Greener Things](https://www.linkedin.com/company/greenerthings)

Our Twitter Handle - [@things_greener](https://twitter.com/things_greener)

Our Facebook page - [The Greener Things](https://www.facebook.com/TheGreenerThings)

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.

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

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