

ECO-NEWSLETTER

SOMEONE
DO SOMETHING
ABOUT CLIMATE
CHANGE!

WHAT ARE YOU
LOOKING AT?

SOMEONE

2020



GREETINGS FROM OUR ECO-CLUB

“THOMASITES FOR EARTH”

*And this, our life,
Exempt from public haunt,
Finds tongues in trees,
Books in the running brooks,
Sermons in stones,
And good in everything.*

~William Shakespeare

EDITORIAL TEAM: TANYA BHARADWAJ, SHIVIKA GUPTA, KAVYA SURI, TANYA RAWAT with MRS. SHWETA FREDERICK

INDEX



GREEN DAYS

COVID-19: NATURE'S PERSPECTIVE

TEEN VIEW

THOMASITES FOR EARTH!



GREEN DAYS

As the covid 19 pandemic spreads throughout the world , we observe a lockdown that lets nature replenish itself.

This year we get to **truly** celebrate our **GREEN DAYS** in all their glory.



Every year March 3 is celebrated as World Wildlife Day to raise the awareness of issues that impact wildlife. The theme of United Nations World Wildlife Day 2020 is 'Sustaining all life on Earth'.



World Water Day is an annual UN observance day that highlights the importance of freshwater. This year it holds a special meaning. Water quality has improved considerably given the closure of industries and day to day human activities.



National Bat Appreciation Day

occurs annually on **April 17th**. April is the best time of the year to observe bats, as they are now beginning to emerge from hibernation.



The International Tiger Day (also known as **Global Tiger Day**) is celebrated every year on 29 July to raise awareness about tiger conservation, promote the protection of natural habitat of tigers and support tiger conservation issues. The annual day is celebrated with the slogan “Their survival is in our hands”



The theme for Earth Day 2020 is climate action.

The enormous challenge — but also the vast opportunities — of action on climate change have distinguished the issue as the most pressing topic for the 50th anniversary.



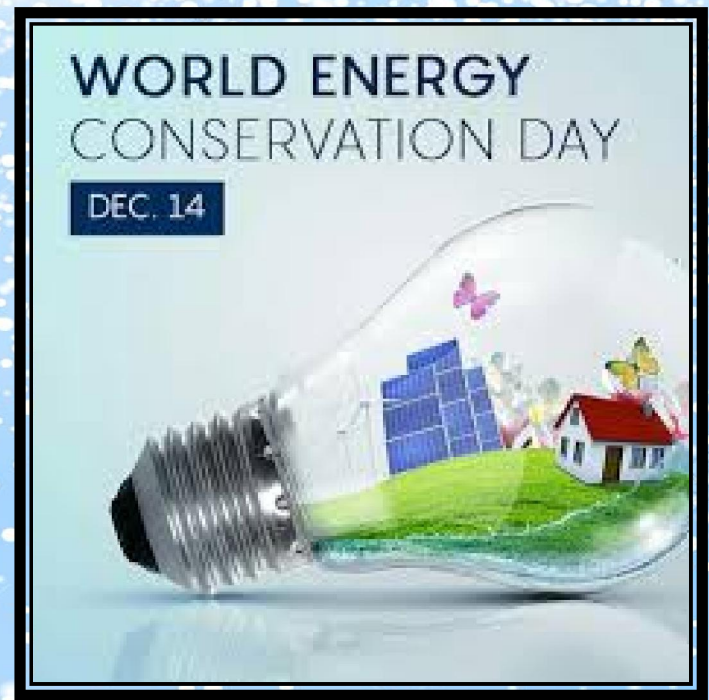


September 16 was designated by the United Nations General Assembly as the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer. We rejoice the healing of the ozone layer (partly) due to the decrease in emissions.

Clean Air Day is on 8 October 2020. Coordinated by Global Action Plan, **Clean Air Day** brings together communities, businesses, education and the health sector: to improve public understanding of air pollution, both indoors and outdoors. We can truly celebrate this day this year due to the increase in air quality. The lockdown has had a positive impact which is quite visible.



World Energy Conservation Day is celebrated on **14th December** globally to highlight the importance of energy consumption and its use in our day-to-day life, its scarcity and its impact on sustainability of global eco systems. Think about the energy exploited in factories and industries every year and the impact of the pandemic on energy consumption!



National Bird Day is a holiday which has been celebrated on **January 5th**. The purpose of this holiday is to bring attention to the plight of our feathered friends.

COVID-19

Tum paas aaye...
yun muskuraaye...

Haath Milaye to
virus phailaye



NATURE'S
PERSPECTIVE



THE GANGES PURIFIES ITSELF; WITHOUT HUMANS

YAMUNA TOO CLEANS UP

PICTURES OF THE YAMUNA RIVER FROM INDIA LOOKING CLEANER ARE CIRCULATING ONLINE AND THE OFFICIALS SAY THAT THE CLOSURE OF INDUSTRIES HAS A ROLE TO PLAY.

THE CLOSURE OF INDUSTRIAL UNITS IN THE CAPITAL AND THE REDUCTION IN THE AMOUNT OF TOXIC WASTES BEING DUMPED IN THE RIVER LED TO THE IMPROVEMENT.

hindustantimes

ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

Lockdown leaves Ganga cleaner: CPCB data

Haider Naqvi & Sudhir Kumar

letters@hindustantimes.com

KANPUR/VARANASI: The nationwide 21-day lockdown to combat the spread of the coronavirus disease (Covid-19) is doing what ambitious schemes could not do over the decades—cleaning the Ganga.

Real time data from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) shows that the water quality of the river has improved considerably, notably in industrial towns through which it passes.

The deserted ghats also tell a whole new story as the river flows silently—and bare, with no signs of bodies, human waste, old clothes or



Ganga river with water visibly much cleaner than before, as seen from Kanpur's Parmat Ghat.

HAIDAR NAQVI/HT

general garbage.

Pandit Narendra Tripathi, who attended to thronging pilgrims in Varanasi before the lockdown, said: "On an aver-

age, 3000 to 4000 devotees take a dip in the river. Now they are home."

Experts say that if not for the presence of natural bacte-

ria in the river, the water at this point of time is good enough to be consumed.

Kalika Singh, the regional officer at Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board at Varanasi, says: "The dissolved oxygen level upstream is 8.7mg per litre and it is 8.1 mg per litre downstream, which is good enough for bathing."

Experts say the improvement in the water quality is a sign the river can recover.

Santosh Nigam, 27, who lives a few metres from the river bed in Kanpur's Parmat, one of busiest and revered ghats, is elated.

"I have never seen the river looking so clean," he says.

"It is beautiful."

»P6

Lockdown does what decades of schemes couldn't: Clean Ganga

Haider Naqvi & Sudhir Kumar
letters@hindustantimes.com

KANPUR/VARANASI: The nationwide 21-day lockdown to combat the spread of the Covid-19 is doing what ambitious schemes could not do over the decades—cleaning the Ganga.

Since 1986, when the Ganga Action Plan was conceived, the Central government has pumped in about ₹5,000 crore to clean a river considered holy by millions of Indians, but with little impact.

Now, real time data from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) shows that the water quality of the river has improved considerably during the lockdown, notably in industrial towns through which it passes.

The deserted ghats also tell a whole new story as the river flows silently—and bare, with no signs of bodies, human waste, old clothes or general garbage.

Pandit Narendra Tripathi, who attended to thronging pilgrims in Varanasi before the lockdown said: "On an average, 3,000 to 4,000 devotees take a dip in the river. Now they are home."

Besides, funeral pyres at the Manikarnika Ghat in Varanasi are not burning 24X7; many believe cremation here assures salvation to the dead.

Gulshan Kapoor, managing trustee, Baba Mahashamshan Nath Mandir, Manikarnika Ghat said: "Earlier, on average 80 to 100 bodies reached the ghat daily. Ever since the lockdown, the number has gone down to 15-20."

Experts say that if not for the presence of natural bacteria in the river, the water at this point of time is good enough to be consumed. And after a long time, the river water has finally become fit for bathing, they add.

Kalika Singh, the regional officer at Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board at Varanasi, says the water has improved in terms of both colour and quality.

"The dissolved oxygen level upstream is 8.7mg per litre, which is good enough for bathing," he



The Dashashwamedh ghat in Varanasi on Thursday.

HT PHOTO

says.

CPCB has three real time monitoring stations in Kanpur. One is upstream of Ganga Barrage, the second, downstream of the barrage, and third is at Shuklagunj.

The CPCB monitors a range of parameters: dissolved oxygen (it should be more than 6 mg per litre), biochemical oxygen demand (less than 3mg/litre), pH (range between 6.5 and 8.5), ammonia (less than 1.2mg/litre).

The monitoring station located upstream reported on March 28 that the dissolved oxygen level was 8mg/litre, BOD was 2.1mg/litre, pH was 7.90 and ammonia, 0.49mg/litre. The chemical oxygen demand was less than nine at all the three monitoring points. It should be less than 10mg per litre.

CPCB officials say the water quality has seen a significant improvement, particularly in industrial towns along the river, including Kanpur.

The city has a cluster of industries along the river. The leather industry, with nearly 400 units, is one. The river had been reduced to a dumping ground for industrial and domestic waste.

While 400 tanning units were assessed to be contributing 50 MLD (million litres per day) of hazardous waste in the river, seven drains, including the biggest Sisamau nullah, were carrying 140 MLD of domestic waste

straight into the river.

The biggest success under Namami Gange project came when Sisamau drain was tapped and its waste flow diverted.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi lauded the achievement when he held the first ever meeting of the National Ganga Council in Kanpur in December 2019.

PK Mishra, a professor at the department of chemical engineering at the Indian Institute of Technology, Banaras Hindu University, says: "30% of the total BOD load is due to industries along the river Ganga... Since all the major grossly polluting industries are closed, this toxic load is not entering the river now. As a result, one-third of the pollution load has been minimised. The only load now is due to sewage from major cities."

Experts say the improvement in the Ganga's water during the lockdown is a sign that the river can recover. Rama Rauta, former member of National Ganga River Basin Authority, says the data is encouraging. "This proves that dams and industries are the biggest enemy of the purity of the river water," she says.

Santosh Nigam, 27, who lives a few metres from the river bed in Kanpur's Parmat, one of busiest and revered ghats, is elated. "I have never seen the river looking so clean. It is beautiful."

THE CARRIERS: *HUMANS OR ANIMALS ?*

With the reports claiming the possibility of dogs being carriers of COVID-19; people have developed a feeling of abhorrence for these creatures. Now, not only are they repulsed by the mere sight of a street dog, but many dog owners have given up their own pets. However, now, with tigers, infected who is harming whom? Is the fear of a curable disease more important than the lives of our pets?

Hundreds Of Pets Abandoned In Mumbai After WHO Hoardings On Coronavirus Trigger Panic

WHO hoardings warning about pets spreading COVID-19 in Mumbai spreads panic, hundreds of owner abandon their pets.

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has since reiterated that there is [no evidence yet that pets can spread COVID-19](#) to people or that they might be a source of infection in the US.

Laila, a golden retriever was rescued along with a Rottweiler from a politician's bungalow, both left to die, tied in the scorching heat outside to the main gate of his house, with no water, no food, cigarette bud marks all over her body. Both the dogs were adopted by a family. The silver lining is how so many families came forward to give shelter to the abandoned pets even in these trying times of lockdown and limited supplies.

- A four-year-old female Malayan tiger named Nadia tested positive for COVID-19, the Wildlife Conservation Society said Sunday
- The tiger was screened after developing a dry cough and a decrease in appetite
- Six other cats at the Bronx Zoo were also suffering possible COVID-19 symptoms

A tiger at the Bronx Zoo has been infected with the coronavirus, in what is believed to be a case of what one official called "human-to-cat transmission."



Nadia (front) was tested out of an abundance of caution after developing a dry cough and a decrease in appetite. Six other cats at the zoo, including Nadia's sister Azul (back), two Amur tigers and three African lions, were also suffering possible coronavirus symptoms, WCS said

AIR QUALITY RISES; AS DO BIRDS



WILDLIFE FILLS THE VACUUM

CORONA'S IMPACT ON CARBON FOOTPRINT

Biggest fall in emissions since WWII

Reuters
letters@hindustantimes.com

LONDON/WASHINGTON: Carbon dioxide emissions could fall by the largest amount since World War 2 this year as the coronavirus outbreak brings economies to a virtual standstill, according to the chair of a network of scientists providing benchmark emissions data.

5% or more drop in carbon dioxide emissions this year, something not seen since the end of World War 2," Jackson, a professor of Earth system science at Stanford University in California, told Reuters in an email.

"Neither the fall of the Soviet Union nor the various oil or savings and loan crises of the past 50 years are likely to have affected emissions the way this crisis is."

to avoid the worst impacts of climate change.

But the improvements are for all the wrong reasons, tied to a world-shaking global health emergency that has infected more than a million people while shuttering factories, grounding airlines and forcing hundreds of millions of people to stay at home to slow the contagion. Experts warn that without

finement ends, I expect the emissions will go back close to where they were," said Corinne Le Quéré, a climate scientist at the University of East Anglia in eastern England.

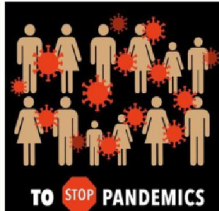
After world greenhouse gas emissions dipped in the aftermath of the 2007-2008 global financial crisis, they shot back up a whopping 5.1% in the recovery, according to Jackson.



SPARROWS SHOW UP IN THE BACKYARDS

1. Global wildlife trade is in the spotlight.

The pandemic is thought to have originated at a market selling wild animals in China, [throwing a spotlight on the global wildlife trade](#). The New York-based Wildlife Conservation Society is urging governments to ban live animal markets, and stop illegal trafficking and poaching of wild animals.



Wildlife Conservation Society | GLOBAL WILDLIFE CONSERVATION



AQI AFTER THE LOCKDOWN

Good 0-50 Satisfactory 51-100 Moderate 101-200
Poor 201-300 Very Poor 301-400 Severe 401-500



- Pollution in Delhi has been brought to a bare minimum due to suspension of most human activity and favourable weather
- This decline allows scientists to study baseline levels that would help prepare strategy on cutting down sources of pollution

This is Dhauladhar mountain range of Himachal, visible after 30 yrs, from Jalandhar (Punjab) after pollution drops to its lowest level. This is approx. 200 km away straight.



Imagine If Trees Gave Off
Wifi Signals, We Would
Be Planting So Many Trees
And We'd Probably Save
The Planet Too.



Too Bad They
Only Produce The
Oxygen We
Breathe.



TEEN VIEW

APNA DHYAAN RAKHONA,
GHAR PAR HI RAH ONA...
APNA DHYAAN RAKHONA,
DUSROO की देखा देखी में
घर से बहार मत निकलोना.....
APNA DHYAAN RAKHONA,
THORA PARENTS के साथ भी
TIME SPEND KARON A....
APNA DHYAAN RAKHONA,
AGAR नहीं रहे घर पर इस बार
तो चला जाएगा देश बहुत पीछे
इस बार.....
APNA DHYAAN RAKHONA,
GHAR से बहार मत निकलोना.....
GHAR पर ही रहोना.....
APNA DHYAAN RAKHONA.

~ Written By Shruya Kapoor

The Corona Virus
won't last long
because it was
made in China

SH4F3



SELF QUARANTINE- BORING OR REVIVING

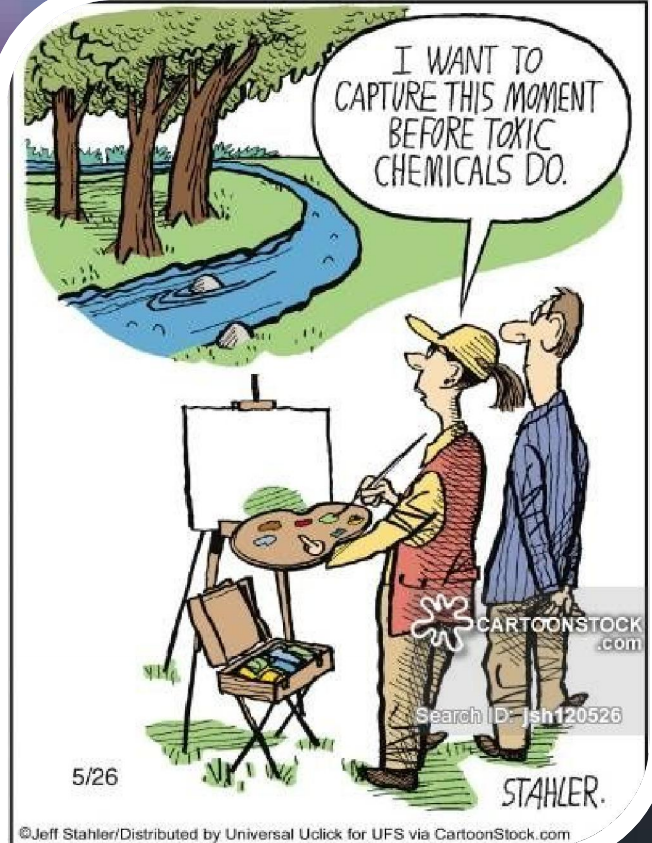
By Amaira Aggarwal

What do we do besides chores and daily routines? Cribbing for a vacation for six months twice a year right !! So why crib now that we are bored and captivated. I perceive this as an opportunity to let Mother Earth revive itself of all ill treatments by us humans. We all know Italy is one of the most affected countries by the pandemic COVID-19 which is taking away people from their loved ones. But let us also rejoice that the canals of Venice have become crystal clear and dolphins have returned to spread positivity. The situation in India can still be brought under control . Being together without actually being together should be the ultimate motto.

Connect with people in your society by playing songs in the balcony and exercise and dance. Video call with friends and family. Enjoy the perks of technology along while having gratitude towards the silent, exhausted heroes "our medical staff". They need our support. Write positive letters showering support , strength and love to the ones affected and to the unsung heroes. In these times worshipping to our saviour and also keeping a calm attitude is prevention against all negativity.

God has proven that there is no force greater than him. He has brought together people from all religions, colour, caste in cohesion.

TOGETHER WE FIGHT , TOGETHER WE WIN , TOGETHER WE CELEBRATE!



IS COVID-19 A TWEET FROM GOD?

God has concluded mankind

To be the poison all along

My memories are becoming tainted

The cold truth is after

all, worth more than my
existence

But why does my guilty soul

still denies it

The smoke of my greed

Choked my mother

In this world of finite

expectations,

She ceases to exist

In my hands I hold,

the ashes of her feeble dream

Once crawling towards her true
destiny,

She is flying now

Unlike the human mind she is free

This time her leap is not her fall
rather her climb

On seeing her reflection in the
raindrops she creates a rainbow

Already died her first death she is
free My wandering feet held in a rut

Every moment seems like eternity

After a long cold winter

The winter bear is awake from its
sleep

The music of her hushed footsteps

Sharing her fragile truth

Its too good to be true

Hoping the door is still open, my
mind is lost in maze

Keep running and running but there
is no escape

With the onset of how human
disaster

She soars higher in the sky

The four walls I caged her in

The shackles I tied her with

Now confine me

Beyond inhumane humanity

A universal spirit exists, which is
divine

The divine power, that is mother
nature

Allows mankind to devour

The taste nature

By **GAURI GARG**

COVID 19 A LIFESTYLE CHANGE

By KAVYA SURI

COVID-19 or Coronavirus is spreading rapidly all over the world. It has caused a lot of deaths leading towards major changes in our lifestyle.

It has affected trade, world economy and various aspects of our lives. It has made us cautious and more aware of our surroundings. It has both Boons and Bains but we all expect it to be over as soon as possible.

The lockdown has Boons like spending time with family, playing games, meditation, creative works, focusing on ourselves, re-connecting with friends, exercise, etc. Bains of lockdown are: keep clean our houses, sanitize ourselves frequently, avoid social contact, attempt social distancing and stay at home.



THOMASITES FOR EARTH

