

APRIL 22
EARTH DAY 2020
50th Anniversary

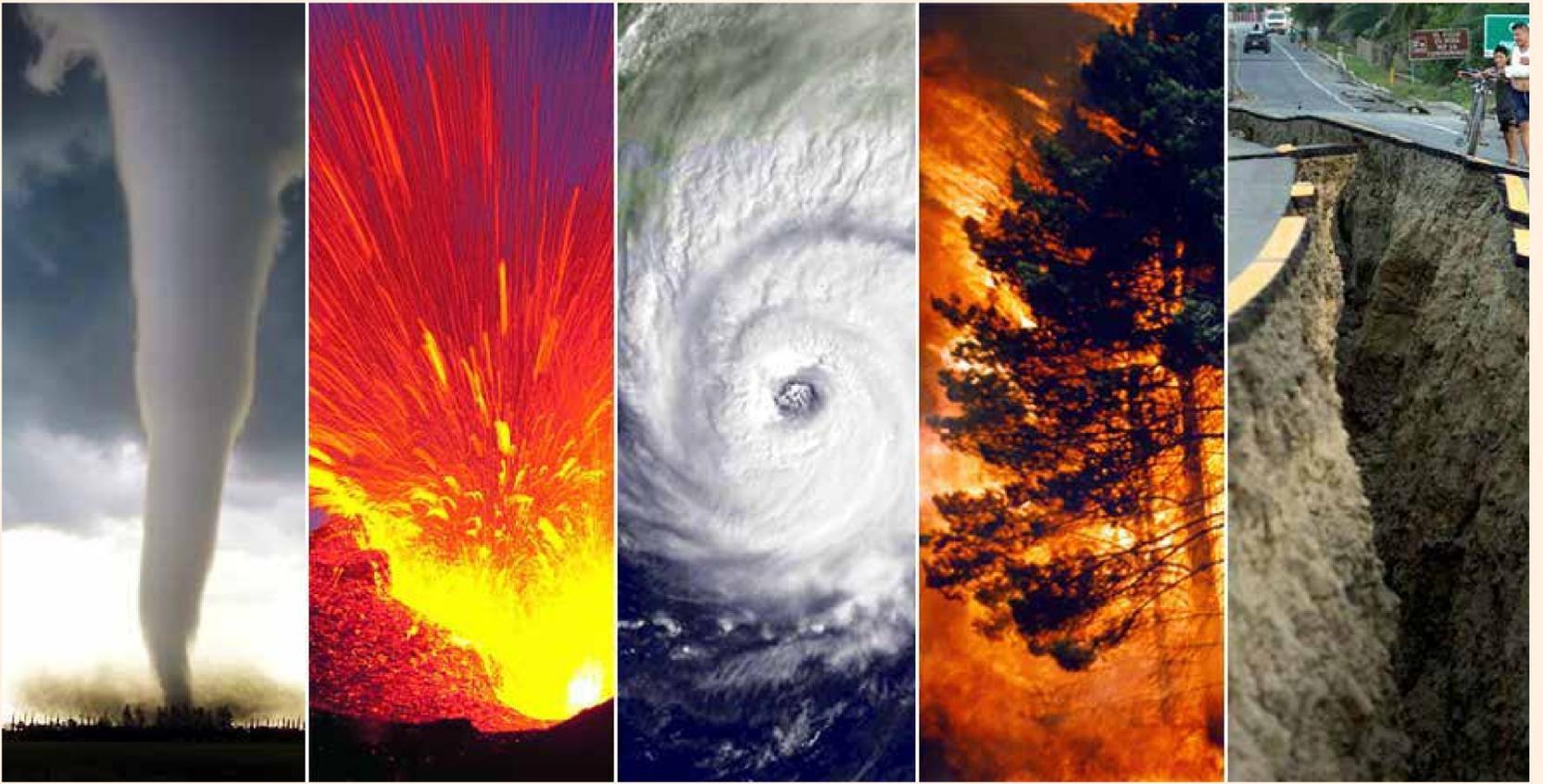


Salwan E-Newsletter



SALWAN PUBLIC SCHOOL

Mayur Vihar PH III ; Delhi-96



IF ONLY WE HAD ANOTHER EARTH TO GO TO...

"There is a pleasure in the pathless woods. There is a rapture on the lonely shore. There is society, where none intrudes by the deep sea, and music in its roar. I love not man the less, but nature more." – Lord Byron

Greetings to the Salwan School Community.

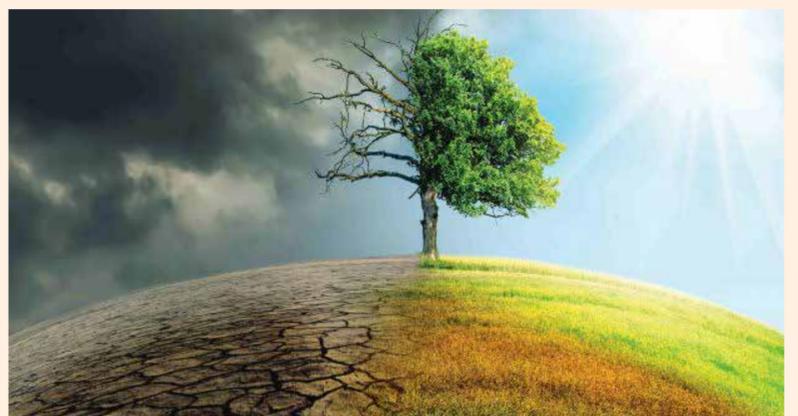
With summer season setting in, we are reminded of our environmental responsibilities and conservation of our only earth, which we share with all.

Did you know that Earth Day, celebrated on April 22, is the largest secular observance in the world? Today it completes 50 years. What began as a day of environment preservation in the U.S in 1970, is now a large-scale push for clean habitat around the world! Earth Day continues to grow as a worldwide phenomenon focused on promoting clean living and a healthy, sustainable habitat for people and wildlife alike. Celebrating Earth Day serves as a conscious reminder of how fragile our planet is and how important it is to protect it. It is also a proof that even one person can make a global impact in a positive way.

But we must not forget that major environmental problems that face our planet did not appear overnight. They are the result of several forces working together: our technological innovation, our consumptive habits, and our pursuit of wealth, along with the exponential rise in the human population over the last 200 years. These forces have worked together to transform the face of Earth, to create economic opportunities and increase the standard of living for many people throughout the world. If we look deeper into the underlying causes of Earth's environmental problems we can consider how each one contributed to create the challenges of global warming, pollution of air and land, water scarcity, biodiversity loss, deforestation, excessive plastic waste, manmade accidents like oil spills etc. Oh! How have we plundered our loving mother nature. And all for our insatiable greed for wealth, status and power. Why don't we remember that "We do not inherit the Earth from our Ancestors, We borrow it from our children."

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 issue for the world. On this day, every person and institution should act as trustees of the Earth, and look for what can be done in the field of ecology, economics, and ethics for the benefit of people and the planet. My solemn appreciation to the teachers who have contributed to this wonderful school newsletter on Earth Day's 50th anniversary. To conclude, all I can say is that education and action are the two most valuable steps we can take to protect our planet. The Earth Day gives every inhabitant of the world an opportunity to express gratitude to the planet Earth.

Let's all pledge to conserve it together.
Seema Malik



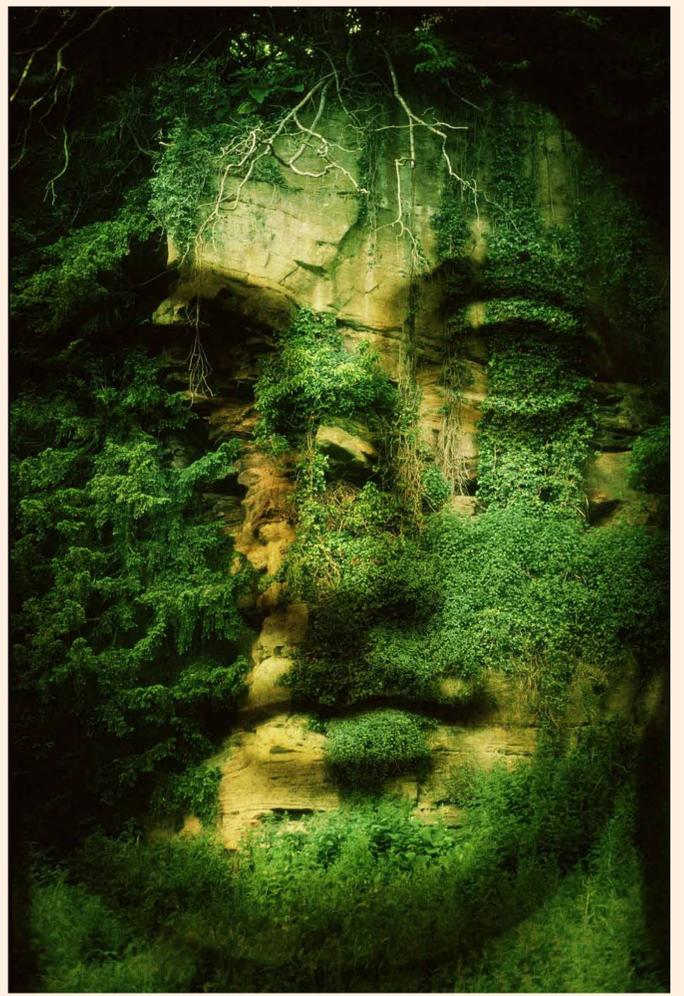
ATTAINING SUSTAINABILITY FOR CREATING A NATURAL LANDSCAPE.

Communing with nature has long been known to have health benefits and contributes to our wellbeing. The thought of achieving sustainability was earlier limited to the minds of scientists, social activists and visionaries, but the tribal dwellers were always aware about the needs of the nature. Sustainability today is considered as one of the most important aspects of a progressive and dynamic society. Concern for nature has been aptly defined by Richard Louv, co-founder of the children and nature network, in his book named "Last Child in Woods". His study states that children who spend more time with nature are better adjusted than others.



Increasing environmental concerns, stringent rules and regulations combined with public awareness, have changed the outlook of the world today. Planning and implementing, appropriate strategies and functions like green processes, product developments, energy conservations etc. helps in attaining sustainable goals. Organizations can play an important role in achieving sustainability. Many countries have even changed their economic outlook which is sustainability oriented. To quote an example, a renowned Footwear Company's innovation team has adopted the strategy of avoiding oil-based plastic which resulted in reduced carbon emissions. Textile industries have come out with a solution of dry-dyeing clothes, thus saving water, chemicals and energy. Thus, companies are adopting innovations, which are environment friendly and produce better products.

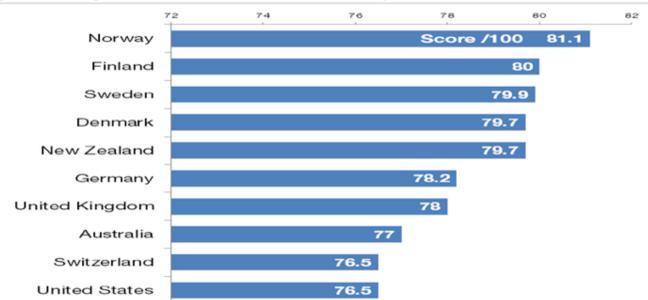
Developing a core curriculum which focuses on imparting value for the environment is a great step towards sustainable development. Cities and countries aim at becoming a living laboratory for pioneers with sustainable solutions. Environment protection laws have been implemented to safeguard the situation from getting worse, starting from Kyoto protocol, Paris agreement, agenda-21, all of which prohibit emission of harmful substances to the environment. United Nation's focus on sustainable development will change the paradigm about development while leaving no one behind.



The countries best prepared for climate change

The index summarises a country's vulnerability to climate change and other global challenges in combination with its readiness to improve resilience

WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM
COMMITTED TO THE
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



Source: ND-GAIN Country Index 2013



CASCADING NATURAL DISASTERS.

Mother Nature had unleashed considerable fury in 2019, with more than 300 natural disasters registered globally. Her weapons of choice in the said year had included fire, wind, drought and rain, with earthquakes and volcanoes playing a lesser role. The Australian bushfires, the California wildfires, the Amazon Rainforest wildfires, the European heatwave, the flooding of the Vatican City are only a few to name these so-called weapons. Some might even find it safe to say that nature is trudging on more strongly than ever before with its war against humanity, that natural disasters seem to be becoming more frequent and worse- but are they really?

Natural disasters are not so 'natural'.

Some natural hazards occur because of forces outside our control. For example, the movement of Earth's crustal plates trigger earthquakes and tsunamis, variation in solar radiation entering the atmosphere and oceans triggers storms in the summer time and blizzards in winter. The movement of energy in Earth's system is what drives these natural processes. Despite these normal processes, experts now say there is no such thing as "natural disasters", for three reasons:

- First, humanity is interfering with the Earth's system. For example, as we drive anthropogenic or man-made climate change, we are adding more energy to the system. This increases the probability of more frequent and intense "hydro-meteorological" hazards such as floods, bushfires, heatwaves and tropical cyclones.
- Second, we are mismanaging natural systems. For example, removing the buffering protection of mangroves on the coast means a storm surge can be more disastrous.

•Third, settlements are sprawling out across the Earth's surface into geographic areas where natural hazards occur. This exposes us to harm and loss when the inevitable happens.

Klaus Jacob, a senior research scientist at Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory accurately responds to this, saying, "As you put more and more people in harm's way, you make a disaster out of something that before was just a natural event". Disasters don't need to happen. Potentially hazardous events do not need to end in a disaster. Disasters occur because of the intersection of hazard with exposed people and assets that are vulnerable to the hazard. They are characterized by a lack of resilience and poor capacity to cope and respond in the affected area. Without vulnerability there can be no disaster. They are a social construct and all about people. So, yes, the number of (natural) disasters occurring is on the rise but this is because of a complex set of interactions between the physical Earth system, human interference with the natural world and increasing vulnerability of human communities.

Come 2020, we are presented with clearer examples and warnings of how human interference and encroachment of 'vulnerable' land areas are only adding to the already sky-high pile of 'potential' disasters waiting to storm upon us. It is therefore more than just high time that we buck up and mend our ways.

It is now a do or die situation.

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<https://www.google.com/amp/s/theconversation.com/amp/explainer-are-natural-disasters-on-the-rise-39232>



Plastic, You and I

"The Greatest threat to our planet is the belief that somebody else will save it"
Robert Swan

Plastic, You and I are so correlated with each other that today it is very difficult to give a thought for a plastic-free society. Gradually plastic has made its way in our lives as it is versatile, malleable, sturdy, and cheaper than alternate materials available on this planet. Use of plastic can be seen in the packaging industry, health sector, automobile industry, building industry, electronics, consumer goods, house-ware, toys, furniture, in marine industry etc. In others words it is present in every sphere of life. We all know there are two sides of a coin; so has plastic. On one side the plastic has made our life smooth and easy and on the other side it has made it vulnerable and helpless. This problem is increasing by the day and we need to look for a sustainable planning to eradicate this epidemic of plastic from our life forever. For travelling, we need a ticket but plastic doesn't...from your home to landfills even to marine life, it reaches free. It is very shocking and disturbing that it has become a part of our food chain too e.g. Human beings-plastic-ocean-fish-human beings. It is very common to hear nowadays that Plastic is found inside seabirds and sea animals which reveals how big is this ocean garbage problem. These species are suffering the consequences of the decisions made by us. And then we claim ourselves to be in a civilized society. At present our planet is on the brink and if you are thinking that somebody else will bell the cat then you are wrong.

The cat is already there to eat you ...only time left with you is to act and accomplish the task. The challenge before us today is to think of development without harming our environment.

Let's Play the Game of Plastic, You and I and finish the task:

Game Rules

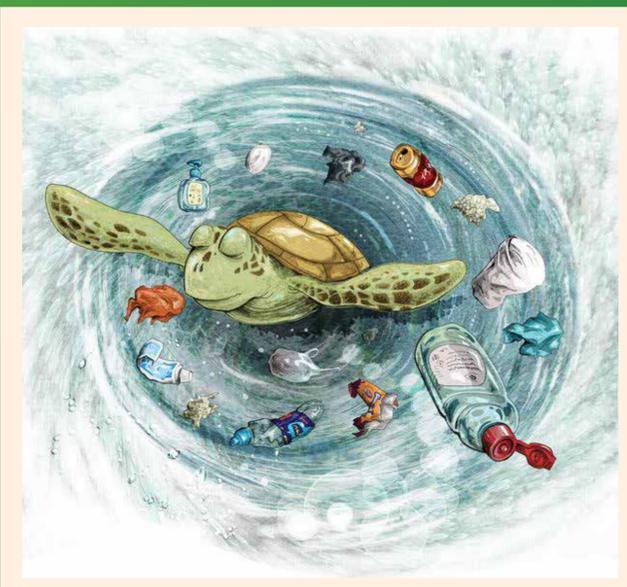
Total 7 tasks are there to reach to next level.

Each task has some points/reward to be won

Total Score is 200 points, after which you win a Jackpot

S. No.	Task	Points	Rewards/Points
1	Ignite yourself and others by creating awareness	50	
2	Follow Govt rules and regulations	50	
3	Say No to Single-Use Plastic	50	
4	Segregat	20	
5	Take your	10	
6	Stop buying bottled water	10	
7	Rethink	10	
	Total Score	200	

Hope everyone has completed the task assigned and reached the next level. You must be curious now to know about the reward. The Jackpot of this game is "Life" which you are going to gift to generations yet to come. Less plastic more life!



Climate emergency...

Climate change is accelerating, bringing world 'dangerously close' to an irreversible change. There is no longer any debate that global warming is real and that it is happening now at an alarming rate. It is transforming the global climate system like never before. 2019 marks the close of the hottest decade on record. Seven of the 10 hottest years ever recorded on the planet have taken place since 2010. Earth is now the warmest it's been in some 120,000 years. And concentrations of carbon dioxide – a potent greenhouse gas – are likely the highest they've been in 15 million years. Worrisome!

Some documented impacts of climate change:

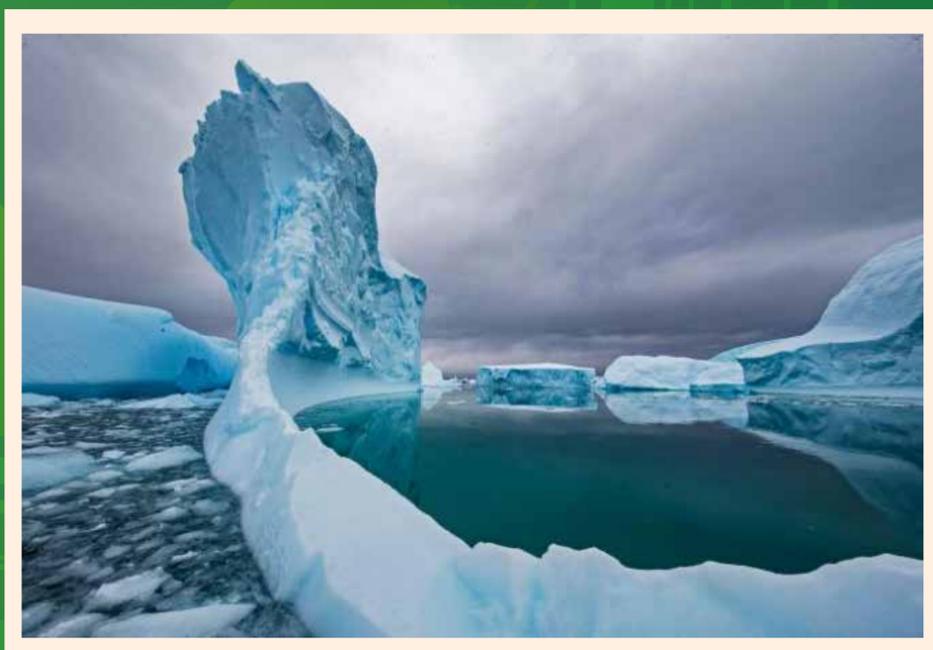
Melting of glaciers:

Great masses of ice that scientists once presumed were largely immune to melting are losing ample ice into the sea. Beyond the continually grim news from the north and south poles is the melting of the "third pole," known as the Hindu Kush Himalaya region. Two-thirds of these mighty glaciers could disappear, with an overall ice loss of a whopping 90 percent.

A study describes the serious consequences of losing the Arctic's summer sea ice, which reflects the incoming sunlight back to space during the long summer days of midnight sun. With the ice gone, the sun's energy will instead be absorbed by the ocean. Losing the ice will be equivalent of adding 25 years' worth of greenhouse gas emissions at the current rate humans are burning fossil fuels.

Ocean heating and acidification:

Earth's vast sea has gulped up around 30 percent of the carbon dioxide humans emitted into Earth's atmosphere over the last century thereby helping to alleviate additional warming. This absorption costs ecologically to the ocean, as the absorbed CO2 reacts with seawater and changes the acidity of the ocean. There has been an overall increase in acidity of 26% since the beginning of the industrial revolution. "At some point the ability of the ocean to absorb carbon will start to diminish," says a climate scientist.



Forest fires:

Forest fires are strongly influenced by weather and climate phenomena. These fires lead to massive releases of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere. Summer of 2019 saw unprecedented wildfires. In June alone, these fires emitted 50 megatons (Mt) of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. There were also widespread fires in the non-renewable tropical rain forests in Southern Asia and Amazon, which have had impacts on the global carbon budget. Once lost, these forests will never be regained in their primary form.

Natural habitats become hostile:

Some ecosystems are at a risk of collapsing. As sea ice disappears, ice-dependent mammals such as walruses and polar bears struggle to survive. In 2008, the polar bear became the first animal to make the Endangered Species Act list of threatened species because of global warming. Coral reefs are highly sensitive to small changes in ocean temperatures. The heat stresses the algae that nourish the corals and provide their vibrant colours. Also, a more acidic ocean affects the normal calcium balance, meaning creatures with calcified shells, such as shellfish and coral, may not have enough calcium to grow.

The challenges are immense.

In a pivotal moment for the whole planet, every country on Earth agreed to take on climate change when they adopted the Paris Climate Accord in 2015. That committed countries to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions adequate enough to keep the Earth from warming beyond roughly 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, a threshold that could be catastrophic for people and ecosystems if it's crossed. "Seize it so that planet can live on, so that the humanity can live on....." But who paid heed to this advice by the UN?

We need to act fast to reset these global controls and to accelerate through a new global energy transition. The means are at hand. Solar and wind renewable technologies are surging in the market place. We cannot promise a panacea. There is no hope that we can suddenly and magically return to our era's old norms of climate and atmosphere. However, there is hope that we can avert a fundamental civilizational crisis—but only if we take immediate and "exponential" action



Nature Fights Back...

Nature has been regarded as "Mother Nature" innumerable times by writers and poets for the simple reason that it nurtures us. It provides us with Unconditional Love. Nature teaches us that everything under the heaven has its own purpose, and we should value what each creature does. The human race, since its origin and evolution, has had the privilege of being blessed by the abundance of natural resources and a plentiful living atmosphere. Human beings' sense of self tends to contemplate things in nature as being useful or useless in general. It's a pretty incredible conceit!! In order to increase the level of comfort, mankind has messed up with resources, water, land, mountains, flora and fauna etc. which took a toll on the environment. One can take numerous examples viz. plastic pollution, global warming, ozone hole, soil erosion, forest fires, poor air quality and undrinkable water. All is attributed to our ravenousness for exceptionally comfortable lives. Though its healing qualities are well-known, but when we despoil the natural world, it very evidently comes back to plague us. We need to remember that humans are also one of the many species, which means - a part of nature and not the controller of nature. Lately, it seems, Mother Nature has been trying to get our attention. The signs are increasingly loud, vociferous and hard to miss. Some have been lethal.

Various examples from recent past makes all of this crystal clear...

Uttarakhand disasters have set an example in front of us in the recent years. The mountains were never so fragile. Heavy machines plying every day on kuchcha roads have weakened them and now landslides happen more often. Changing lush forests into monocultures leading to reduction of keystone species like honeybees, is also causing deadly chain reaction that would take place if they become extinct. Although the forest are the lungs of our earth providing more and more fresh air and retaining soil fertility, on the other hand monocultures deplete soil of a particular nutrient and slowly decertifies the land over a period of time.

In a flash life came to a standstill with the onset of Coronavirus. We humans, the unstoppable ones are put under a lock down, and so we got some time to sit down and ponder upon the need to rethink our relationship with the nature. The wildlife took to reclaiming public spaces again. In Uttarakhand, three Sambar deer were spotted walking on the streets, while a nilgai was found strolling in Noida. We also came to know that Mayur Vihar is so named, as a lot of peacocks lived there, which lately coming back to various societies. An elephant was captured in Uttarakhand's Dehradun, a Small Indian civet was seen in Kerala's Kozhikode, Olive Ridley Turtles came ashore a beach in Odisha, a bison passed through a marketplace in Karnataka, peacocks danced on the streets in Mumbai, and a leopard reached close to an Air Force base near Patna in Bihar.

We will get back to our daily routine soon. The roads will be flocked by thousands of vehicles, and the animals would be forced to retreat to the wild and their sanctuaries and zoos. There is a possibility that human-animal conflicts might increase if they get used to a human-free environment. But if the coronavirus lockdown has told us anything, it's this: the human-wildlife interaction needs to change. We need to be more inclusive, make laws keeping in mind the ecological aspect. Let's remember - Nature is the Art of God.

source-(<https://theprint.in/opinion/pov/animals-have-come-home-covid-19-lockdown-gives-control-back-into-natures-hands>)

Source-(<https://www.conserve-energy-future.com/causes-effects-and-solutions-of-wildfires.php>).

Source (<https://www.hindustantimes.com/>)



LIFE DOES NOT GIVE A 2ND CHANCE.

Air pollution was a matter of great concern till 22nd March, 2020 because of the quality of the air which had many poisonous gases like carbon-monoxide (CO), sulphur dioxide (SO₂), carbon-dioxide (CO₂), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and ozone (O₃). Delhi witnesses this situation every year because of a combination of human and environmental factors, including agricultural crop burning to clear fields and fumes from passenger and freight vehicles, combined to create a "perfect storm of pollution," The weather – slowing winds and stagnant air – also allowed for a build-up in pollution. The grey skies also came less than a week after Diwali, which is celebrated by many with fireworks turning the city "into a gas chamber."

"Emerging as the biggest threat in Delhi, the Supreme Court admonished the present governments, both Central & State, to address it and find tangible solutions to the grey monster. The State Government took a slew of measures to cope up with the crisis such as declaring a public health emergency, shutting schools down, cancelling flights and distributing five million masks in Delhi schools. Also, a two-week "odd-even" road rationing system to reduce the number of cars on the road and a ban on garbage burning and construction and development activities in Delhi-NCR was brusquely implemented. The Supreme Court commented on the situation, "Delhi is choking every year and we are unable to do anything". SC came down heavily on the states for failing to purchase stubble from farmers and providing subsidies to buy stubble cutting machines like Happy Seeder. The collected stubble could be then be used in the paper and cardboard industry or could be turned into fodder for the cattle.

But suddenly we see a twist in this sordid tale... on 22nd March, 2020, after the lockdown was implemented, the quality of the air changed dramatically. What human intervention failed to achieve, the lockdown did. It gave time to the nature to heal itself. As the governments extended the lockdown on 14th April, 2020 for another 19 (nineteen) days, we are hopeful that the environment will itself repair the damages which the human beings have done over the past years in the name of the development.

Once the situation stabilizes, we should make rules and regulations towards creating a healthy environment, so that we can live a healthy life in future, by providing sustainable livelihoods to every human being. Let's not make the same mistakes which we have in the past because...

LIFE DOES NOT GIVE A 2ND CHANCE.



Editorial Board

Articles by:

1. Attaining sustainability - Zeba Danish
2. Cascading natural disasters - Manvi Shukla
3. Plastic, You and I - Poonam Sharma (Lib)
4. Climate emergency - Trapti Gupta
5. Nature fights back - Shalini Raheja
6. Life doesn't give a second chance - Preeti Singla
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