

VOLUME 3 • AUGUST 2021

EARTH ROOT

'Eye of fire'
in the
Mexican Gulf

**CLIMATE CHANGE
DENIALISM**

**INDIAN CLIMATE
PROTESTS**

SAVE THE SATTAL, BAXWAHA
PROTEST AND EXPANSION OF
KATTUPALLI PORT

'Heavy
rainfall in
China and
Germany'

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CLIMATE CHANGE DENIALISM: A PARADOX 1

WAYS IN WHICH THE GOVERNMENT CAN FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE 5

SAVE AND SURVIVE 7



NEWS

CANADA HEAT WAVE: OVER 800 CEASES TO DEATH 9

'EYE OF FIRE' IN THE MEXICAN GULF 10

HEAVY RAINFALL IN CHINA AND GERMANY 12

BREAK IN ANTARCTICA ICE SHELF 13

PROTESTS: A WAY TO VOICE AGAINST THE ENVIRONMENT - HAZARDOUS PROJECTS 15

MOVIE RECOMMENDATION: BEFORE THE FLOOD 18

POEM: RETURNING HOME 19

Cross Word 21





img source: downtoearth.org.in

CLIMATE CHANGE DENIALISM: A PARADOX

-Gerald Kutney

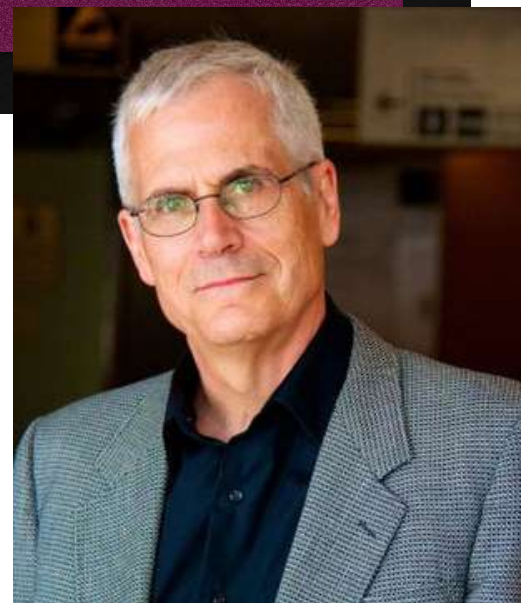
Climate denialism is a blight on modern society that has transformed climate change into a climate crisis. This dark movement has been called evil, depraved, a display of intellectual bankruptcy, a perversion of democracy, and treason against the planet. Followers of this cult of willful ignorance are commonly known as climate deniers, who are defined as follows: “one who denies that changes in the Earth's climate or weather patterns are caused by human activity.”

“Climate denier” and related terms are relatively new, first showing up in the 1990s and not widely used until the past decade, but the term is a variation of general science deniers who have existed since the earliest days of science. Copernicus called them babblers, and the first to report on the “denial” of science explicitly had been Galileo:

But once you have denied the principles of the sciences and have cast doubt upon the most evident things, everybody knows that you may prove whatever you will...

The psychological condition of “denial” had been identified by Sigmund Freud and was connected to climate change early in the new millennium. However, climate denialism has posed special challenges to psychologists:

Psychologists consider denial—the refusal to accept facts in order to protect us from uncomfortable truths—to be a primitive defense mechanism. But despite the fact that psychologists know a lot about



Gerald Kutney

Author, Media Commentator/Public Speaker on the Politics of the Climate Crisis & Climate Activist.

denial, they have never had to face denial on this scale before. Millions of people share the phenomenon of climate denial. Why has climate denialism escalated into a mass movement around the world? Science denialism has two major drivers - ideology and propaganda. Propaganda, orchestrated by the State and the Church, spread science denialism to protect the



absolute power of social order. However, after World War II, corporations also started to spread propaganda, where the goal was to protect profits which coincided with the rise of the environmental and health sciences.

An early example of this profit-based science denialism can be seen in the tobacco industry's fight against the link between smoking with cancer. Just as the tobacco propaganda campaign was winding down, the attacks on the science of climate change were ramping up, and many connected with the public relations campaigns for tobacco transferred over to fossil fuels. It didn't matter that the science for each was so different because the science didn't matter. The key job requirement was being good at propaganda to keep corporate profits flowing, first for tobacco and then for Big Oil. Since the climate sciences were bad for business, the oil industry orchestrated the most massive propaganda operation in history against the science of climate change.

In America, there was a large population on the political right especially receptive to this fossil fuel propaganda, as climate change regulations were contrary to conservative beliefs in individual freedom, small government, and free-market capitalism. While climate denialism is a global plague, the United States has negatively influenced all countries, and without addressing climate denialism in the largest economy, the world will not reach the Paris Agreement targets: "to limit global warming to well below 2, preferably to 1.5 degrees Celsius, compared to pre-industrial levels."

WHAT IS PARIS CLIMATE AGREEMENT?

The Paris Agreement is a legally binding international treaty on climate change. It was adopted by 196 Parties at COP 21 in Paris, on 12 December 2015 and entered into force on 4 November 2016.

Its goal is to limit global warming to well below 2, preferably to 1.5 degrees Celsius, compared to pre-industrial levels.

The seditious campaign of climate denialism even infiltrated the highest ranks of the U.S. government. An extreme example of climate denialism was the election of Donald Trump, whom the former Prime Minister of Australia Malcolm Turnbull called “the leading climate denier in the world.”

In a 2021 interview, the scholar Noam Chomsky described the deterioration taking place in American politics:

The only organization [the Republican Party]



**THE WORLD
CONSUMES 36 BILLION
BARRELS OF OIL
PER YEAR.**

Fossil fuels produce large quantities of carbon dioxide when burned. Carbon emissions trap heat in the atmosphere and lead to climate change.

data source: dare-energy.com

in human history that is dedicated with passion to ensuring human, that survival, survival of organized human society, will be impossible; that is exactly their program, since 2009 when they shifted to a denialist position...

According to the science historian Naomi Oreskes, democracy, itself, was being eroded: “The long history of fossil fuel funded denial has resulted in a profound, and deliberate, distortion of our democracy. As a result of fossil fuel disinformation, our rights as citizens have been undermined.”



The oil industry has deliberately polluted the global atmosphere with carbon dioxide, and their propaganda has polluted the political atmosphere overall; the result has been that climate change has become a climate crisis. In the absence of this organized propaganda campaign by the oil industry, the climate denial movement would have been much weaker, in my opinion, and we would not be in a climate crisis, as legislation in the United States would have been initiated decades ago leading to stronger climate policies in other countries, as well.

In order to end the climate crisis, we must flatten the curve of carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere now. America's role will be crucial, but climate deniers continue to impede political action.

How many Americans have been ensnared by the propaganda campaigns of Big Oil and have been converted into climate deniers? A long-running survey of American attitudes on climate change organized them into six categories; four of which represent different shades of climate deniers:

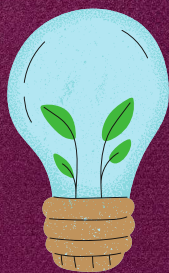
The Cautious are aware of the warming but are uncertain about its causes and are not worried about it. The Disengaged are largely unaware of global warming, while the Doubtful doubt it is happening or human-caused and perceive it as low risk. The Dismissive do not believe the planet is warming or that it is human-caused.

They oppose most climate policies.

The percentage of these four categories combined was 45% in 2020, which would translate into 110 million Americans fitting the label "climate denier."

While the numbers are imposing, there has been a significant decline in recent years. Overall, the four categories grouped as climate deniers have plummeted from 2015 to 2020 by 24%. Even in Congress, the number of climate deniers from 2017 to 2021 has declined by a similar percentage. So, it looks like climate deniers are becoming a dying breed.

There is a reason then to be hopeful that this decade will witness significant reductions in GHG emissions and may, indeed, reach the Paris Agreement targets; failure to do so is unthinkable.



ENCOURAGE AN ENVIRONMENTALLY CONSCIOUS WORKPLACE

You should promote the idea of sustainable environment in your workplace by green commuting, green office and curbing electricity consumption.



WAYS IN WHICH THE GOVERNMENT CAN FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE

-Sruthi P.

Covid - 19 has paralyzed the economy to an extent where we need a few years to get back to where we were in 2019. This situation is difficult, especially in developing countries. And since recovery from this hit will take a couple of years, government efforts to fight climate change have already taken a back seat. As the livelihoods of millions of people were affected, the country's finance and economy were severely affected. The population has also become more vulnerable to climate change. Covid - 19 has put us further back on the 2030 target to contain global warming increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius. When the government is already busy with the recovery process, the only way to fight climate change is by designing an eco-friendly recovery process.

Building back better: Central and state governments have to consider both, short-term and long-term good. With the mentality of: Is there a better way other than the one proposed? Moreover, does it support this cause? Eg: Increase tax for emission-intensive industries



Green Bailouts: As the government already plans bailouts (inducing money in different forms) into aviation and automobile industries that have taken severe hits due to covid, they could also introduce bailouts for cleaner mobility and transport options. Lowering taxes for cleaner fuel and technology can also help.



Covid - 19 Behavior change: This pandemic has made us rethink and has enabled new behavior and habits. Partial reasons for this are the corporate workplace change, normalization of remote work, and even change in consumption patterns. As we live through the pandemic, we have become acquainted with buying products locally and accepting the readily available ones. If these patterns are followed even after the ease of lockdown, we could bring down the carbon footprints of our population.

Time for a small change: Bringing in cost-effective solutions to carbon emissions will help. Policymakers have to introduce specific ways in which an individual can fight against climate change. Initiatives as simple as 0% tax on any money you have spent towards the environment can help. Motivating individuals and communities to fight against climate change might not be easy, but banning a particular harmful product in the country can also go a long way in this fight.

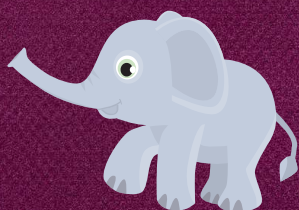


We need to remember that though there might be a fall in carbon emissions in 2020 due to lockdown, history has already proved that once the economy recovers, carbon emissions will go higher than the previous high. Cyclone Amphon's effect on Sundarbans is undoubtedly an example of climate change, which has made the situation far worse than it should have been.

It is high time that the government starts considering climate change issues as factors before every decision they make.



**12TH
AUG**



INTERNATIONAL ELEPHANT DAY

An annual event celebrated on 12th August - International Elephant Day honors elephants, spreads awareness about the threats they face, and support solutions to protect and conserve them. Launched in the year 2012, it brings to light the plight of Asian and African elephants.

“CO2 emissions could decrease by about 7 per cent in 2020 (range: 2–12 per cent) compared with 2019 emission levels due to COVID-19, with a smaller drop expected in GHG emissions as non-CO2 is likely to be less affected. However, atmospheric concentrations of GHGs continue to rise”.

data source: down to earth.org.in

SAVE AND SURVIVE

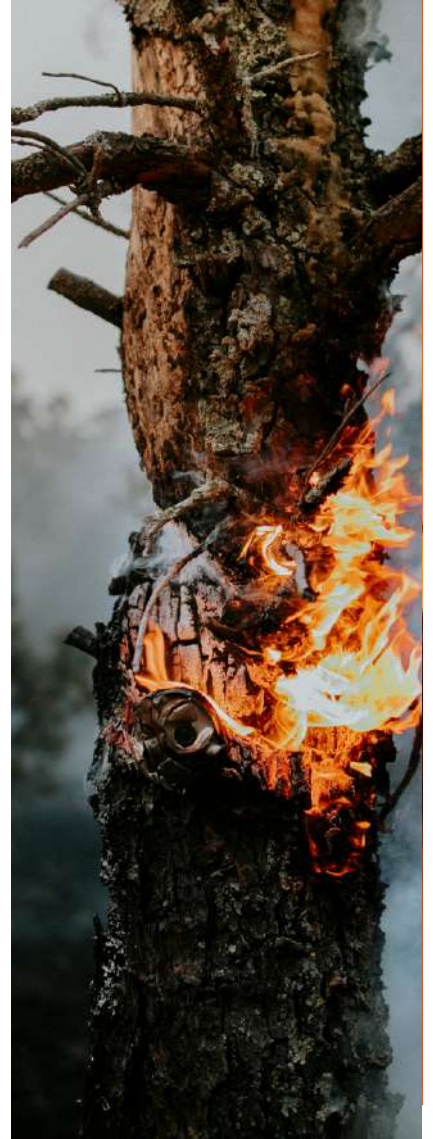
-Sanyukt

Development is necessary but let's just judge ourselves for a second. We, humans, are a species that is struggling because of many things in more than one way. The global temperature is rising by three degrees on average each year. Canada is supposed to have winter most of the time. It recorded a high temperature of fifty degrees Celsius and a monstrous heatwave.

It is like where ever we go, we tend towards the destruction of our environment. If you don't believe it, just imagine how we have conquered oceans and our dumped plastic is one of the biggest threats to marine life. We have built cities and destroying forests too. The weirdest is that we reached space and made space into the biggest dump yard ever possible!

India is not very far behind. Our average temperature rises by one degree Celsius each year. There have been numerous bush fires and forest fires in the state of Uttarakhand; as it is one of the greenest states in the country. And we also have the top 9 world's most polluted cities here. We may criticize China for its various activities. Even then, we have to accept that they have been able to tackle pollution much better than the rest of the world.

We may have forgotten but, a young environmental activist Greta Thunberg had indeed warned us about it some years back. It sometimes relaxes me that the individuals in India are trying to save the environment.



img source: yourstory.com

Joseph Sekar

Recently, we lost Hardayal Singh from Punjab, who planted and took care of 10000 trees all by himself in his village. Another environmental hero Sakshi Bharadwaj from Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh who has planted a mini forest of around 4000 plants in her backyard and set a national record. Joseph Sekar called 'India's Birdman', is also in the same league of environment protectors. He spends 40% of his salary to feed eight to nine thousand parrots in the city of Chennai; which must be increasing the cross-pollination of plants.

Numerous individuals like these are the reason we can survive the threat of pollution and climate change. And, it is becoming quite clear that if we don't act responsibly; we all will be doomed. But, let's not lose hope so soon, because if each one of us tries and contributes a little, and take steps towards environmental protection, then there may still be a chance to Save and Survive.



Sakshi Bharadwaj

img source: businessinsightsglobe.com



Let us Pledge!

Climate change is not a joke. It is one of the biggest concern facing humanity
So let's pledge for a change in our lifestyle not in our climate.

*I pledge that I shall do my best to
protect the nature and mother earth
I shall pledge to use eco-friendly bag
and use less plastic
I shall pledge to plant more trees, and
will never cut trees
I shall pledge to conserve the water
and not to pollute it
I shall pledge to spread environmental
awareness among my society
I shall pledge to fight against
unsustainable development
To my planet, I pledge my devotion, on
saving this mother earth where our
happiness lies.*

-Oyin Komboh

#CLIMATEHERO

CANADA HEATWAVE: OVER 800 CEASES TO DEATH

-Ritika Sen

"More than 800 people succumbed to death as per the investigation done over the US states of Oregon and Washington and in the Canadian province of British Columbia"



The ravaging heatwave called the Canadian heatwave began its journey on June 25 and till now has devastated the US Northwest before slowly going down. On June 28, Canada recorded its first highest ever temperature of 46.6°C as the country's west and the US Pacific north-west strained in an unrivaled heatwave. This temperature broke an '84-year-old' record in lightening Lytton in British Columbia as per the officials. The heatwave was compared with "heat dome" - static high pressure which acts like a 'lid on a cooking pot'- set records in many other areas. Not only Lytton but more than 40 other areas in British Columbia set their new milestones of temperature.

The Pacific northwest also broke records, particularly in parts of Washington and Oregon states. The US National Weather Service termed the surging heatwave condition as "historic" and also said that it might make new records daily, monthly and even all-time new records might be set.

Seattle and Portland, famous for their rainy climate recorded their hottest temperature on the 27th of June i.e., 40°C and 44°C respectively.



Scientists have also linked this heatwave tragedy with an old similar kind of event in Europe in 2019, where it was massively hit by a heatwave, which the researchers said became 100 times more dangerous because of carbon dioxide.

Cities across the western United States and Canada opened emergency cooling centers and provided water and hats to the daily workers. In Vancouver, the Police Department redeployed dozens of officers and urged the public to use the emergency number 911 only in case of an actual emergency.

Lytton at the beginning of this week set another second-highest ever temperature record of 49.6°C. More than 100 wildfires are spreading the heatwave as a result of hitting the western part of Canada. The high temperature might take a much bigger jump and the number of deaths can increase much more than expected.

'EYE OF FIRE' IN THE MEXICAN GULF

-Suhab Aktar Barbhuiya



After a state-owned oil business, Petroleos Mexicanos, or Pemex, an undersea pipeline ruptured, vivid orange flames erupted on the water surface.

On some social media platforms, the blazes were dubbed "the eye of fire" because they resembled molten lava.

Many Mexican journalists and media tweeted videos of the fire raging in the middle of the

ocean while boats sprayed it with water, and the films soon racked up millions of views on Twitter.

Pemex said it shut the valves on the 12-inch diameter pipeline and would investigate the source of the fire. Pemex has a history of significant industrial catastrophes at its sites.

Firefighting boats were dispatched by Pemex to put out the fires. Nobody was hurt, according to the report.

On 2nd July 2021, near sunrise, a gas leak happened about 150 yards (meters) from a drilling platform. The fire raged for more than five hours before being put out, and the gas leak was brought under control around five hours later, according to the business.

However, the mishap resulted in the strange sight of fireballs rising from beneath the Gulf of Mexico's surface. It's also a little contentious

SINCE 1986 PIPELINE ACCIDENTS HAVE SPILLED AN AVERAGE OF 76,000 BARRELS PER YEAR OR MORE THAN 3 MILLION GALLONS. THIS IS EQUIVALENT TO 200 BARRELS EVERY DAY.

data source: center for biological diversity

because Angel Carrizales, the president of Mexico's oil safety regulator ASEA, tweeted that the event "did not result in any spill."

However, he failed to explain what was blazing on the water's surface, which is odd. It's unclear how much the gas leak and oceanic firestorm affected the local marine life or how much environmental harm they produced.

"The terrifying film of the Gulf of Mexico is showing the world that offshore drilling is unclean and dangerous," Miyoko Sakashita, oceans programme director for the Center for Biological Diversity, warned.

"These terrible incidents will continue to devastate the Gulf if we don't put an end to offshore drilling for good," Sakashita concluded.

"The terrifying film of the Gulf of Mexico is showing the world that offshore drilling is unclean and dangerous," Miyoko Sakashita, oceans programme director for the Center for Biological Diversity, stated.

**FROM THE 1,224KM NORD STREAM PIPELINE
CARRYING RUSSIAN NATURAL GAS TO EUROPE
VTO THE 166KM LANGELED GAS PIPELINE
RUNNING UNDER THE NORTH SEA, OFFSHORE-
TECHNOLOGY.COM PROFILES THE WORLD'S
TEN LONGEST OIL/GAS SUBSEA PIPELINES.**

data source: offshore-technology.com



**29TH
AUG**

INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST NUCLEAR TESTS

International Day against Nuclear Tests is observed on 29th August every year. The purpose behind it is to increase awareness about the negative impact of Nuclear tests and the need for their cessation. Kazakhstan initiated it in August 2009. Many countries signed the Non-proliferation treaty in May 2010 though India remained a non-signatory due to various reasons.



img source: hypebeast.com

RAIN RAIN GO AWAY !

HEAVY RAINFALL IN CHINA AND GERMANY

-Sidhant Dadwal

There have been reports of heavy rain in China and Germany recently. If you believe we shouldn't be concerned about the aforementioned, you are most likely mistaken, my buddy. This has resulted in (yet another) warning that **CLIMATE CHANGE IS REAL AND HAPPENING OUT THERE.**

Here's some information:

In the Chinese province of HENAN, 25 people have died, with several of them trapped in subways. Similarly, over 150 people have died in Germany, while over 30 people have died in Belgium. It has been stated that a year's worth of rain had fallen in just three days. CLIMATE CHANGE IS MAKING THE WEATHER CONDITIONS EXTREME, is the only reason that comes to mind. According to a study published in Geophysical Research Letters, climate change in Europe is quite likely to increase the number of storms with the same vengeance as the one presently wreaking havoc on the continent. As the temperature rises, the atmosphere warms as well, trapping moisture and causing more rain to fall when clouds break. Overcrowding in cities has been proven to be detrimental in countries ranging from Germany to China

To avoid such disasters, important measures must be made. Many fingers will be pointed in different directions, but the problem is elsewhere. Yes, this can be mitigated with all precautions and safety measures in place.



- But what about Climate Change?
- Are we, as an entire community, doing enough?
- I repeat, ARE WE DOING ENOUGH AS A WHOLE COMMUNITY?

Well, the answer may vary, but we better start caring for climate change and nature now, or we will face the wrath it holds.



BREAK IN ANTARCTICA ICE SHELF

-Khushi Kaushik

Have you ever dreamed of relaxing on a couch in an underwater café in the Maldives, observing marine animals, and uniquely experiencing your day, and living a life we could never have imagined? Well within the future, it'd be possible. Nature possesses incredible power that we humans cannot perceive, hence no doubt nature can do this for you. After all, aren't we the most intelligent species, our cosmos has ever seen?



img source: climateandcapitalism.com

Doomsday Glacier as it was melting faster than predicted.

As a result, recently the world has realized that a massive iceberg had broken off from Antarctica's ice sheet. Scientists detected more warm water running beneath an Antarctic glacier than previously anticipated, putting it at risk of breaking up. That glacier's name was The Fate of Thwaites- nicknamed

Over the past few years, teams of American and British scientists have been crisscrossing the remote and inaccessible region on Antarctica's western tip, trying to figure out how fast the ice is melting and what the ramifications might be for the rest of the world.

The findings suggested that the glacier's and the West Antarctic ice sheet's fates will be sealed in the next two to



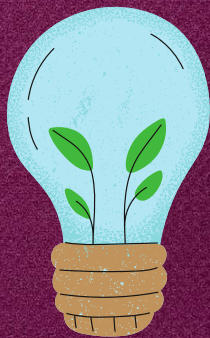
img source: livescience.com

five years, according to Anna Wahlin, a professor of oceanography at the University of Gothenburg who conducted the study.

It's also possible, according to Wahlin, that once that happens, everything will come apart, and that this is just the beginning of a catastrophic change. Thwaites' worst-case possibilities are bleak. It is the world's largest glacier, measuring more than 1km in width and holding enough ice to raise sea levels by 65cm. In the last 30 years, ice loss has increased, and it currently accounts for around 4% of global

sea-level rise.

Experts believe that if the ice near the front of Thwaites breaks away, it will have a significant impact on other glaciers in the area. The current glacier melt in Antarctica and Greenland is altering Atlantic Ocean circulation and has been connected to the collapse of fisheries in the Gulf of Maine as well as more damaging storms and hurricanes around the world. Still, we make ourselves dimwits and live in denial even when our doomsday is right in front of us.



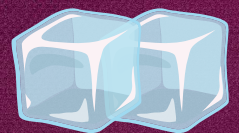
SWITCH TO RENEWABLE

Renewable energy is more cost effective. It produces little to no global warming emissions. Increasing the use of renewable energy will allow us to replace carbon intensive energy sources. Solar panel, solar thermal and boilers are good example of switching to renewables.



img source: naharnet.com

FACINATING FACTS



- Antarctic ice is up to 4.7 kilometers (3 miles) thick in some areas.
- Antarctic ice shelves may calve icebergs that are over 80 kilometers (50 miles) long.
- The Antarctic continent has been at least partially covered by an ice sheet for the past 40 million years.
- The land underneath parts of the West Antarctic Ice Sheet may be up to 2.5 kilometers (1.6 miles) below sea level.

Data source: National snow & ice data center

PROTESTS: A WAY TO VOICE AGAINST THE ENVIRONMENT - HAZARDOUS PROJECTS

-Sruthi P

People often protest and use rallies and other forms to present their viewpoints and fight against oppression. It is the same case for environmental activists and eco-friendly people. One such protest is the Buxwaha protest. This protest to save the Buxwaha forest in Bundelkhand is gaining momentum in the last couple of months. This forest lies in the Chhatarpur district of Madhya Pradesh.

The proposal to allot a 382.131-hectare patch of the protected forest to the Bunder diamond block faces opposition from the masses. It is estimated to have around 34 million carat diamonds. The forest clearance report states the need to clear a total of 2,15,875 trees for the proposed project.

EMIL of the Aditya Birla group won the 50-year lease. EMIL is presently pursuing several regulatory approvals, including mine plan approval and environmental and forest permissions necessary to execute a mining license.

According to a volunteer of this protest, around 7000 villagers from 17 tribal areas depend on forest products like Mahua, Tendu leaves, Amla, and Chironji for their livelihood. But, Chhatarpur's Chief forest Conservator's (CFC) assessment report claims that the tribals are not dependent on the forest.

Activists and environment lovers have created social media pages to raise awareness, and on May 20, #SaveBuxwahaForest was one of the top 10 trending topics on Twitter.

Though pandemic limits offline protests, establishing a national committee and the soon-to-be-made village committees raises awareness of the issue. Buxwaha forest has gained the limelight, and many scientists, professors, retired civil servants, and judges have expressed interest in joining the protest as it gains momentum. Questions on compensatory afforestation being just on paper and the livelihood of the animals depending on the forests have made activists wary of the project.



img source: scroll.in

These protests present us with an opportunity to save our environment, and any individual contribution for the same could take us a long way. The Save Sattal movement gives us an example of one such movement backed by an environmental organization for support.

Urbanizing the Sattal Region in Uttar Pradesh comes with a massive cost to ecology that we are not ready to pay. Citizens are actively protesting against the urbanization of Sattal. The project that aims at urban development and beautification compromises sustainability and therefore receives hostility from locals and activists.

Letters and petitions have been sent to various government authorities by locals and activists. By initiating the project, authorities have failed to acknowledge these concerns. Sattal is home to a large number of species, both flora, and

fauna. Home to high-quality oak-dominated hardwood forests, this region has incredible biodiversity.

The project involves constructing shops, children's parks, parking lots, and more around the Sattal lakes and forests. The new shops might be a threat to all the local shopkeepers and would disrupt their business. Though a birding center proposal is a part of the project, environmentalists warn that the place would see a decline in the birds' visits if the construction continues.

'Save Sattal Movement' by the Sattal Conservation club is actively running a campaign by undertaking all the groundwork needed. This movement has been accentuated by the 'There is No Earth B' an organization that has provided all the necessary support.



**9TH
AUG**

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

Observed on 9th August every year, International Day of the World's Indigenous People spreads awareness and protects the rights of the world's indigenous population. The day also notes and recognizes their contribution to many world issues. It was pronounced as a celebration day in December 1994 by the United Nations General assembly.



It is time we realize that development without considering sustainability is a burden to society in the long run. One such proposed development is the Kattupalli Port expansion project that would affect people's livelihoods, threaten the existing biodiversity, and invade the sea-land against many other environmental rules and regulations.

The proposed expansion of Kattupalli port between Pulicat lake and Chennai has sparked protests in the Ennore area. Demonstration of protest by nearby villagers took place on February 10, 2021. Adani Ports and SEZ Ltd bought 330 acres of the Kattupalli port in 2018 from L&T.

They soon initiated the expansion of the port. In 2021, at the cost of 53,031 crores, the corporate giant wants to expand it to 6,111 acres with 2000 acres of the sea turned to land.

The project will erode the northern part of the coast at a frightening rate of 16 meters per year. At present, the erosion rate is 8.6 m/year. Why is this rate disturbing? Because beaches eroding at the rate of 1m/year are considered "high eroding" by the government.

The construction would take around 20 years, after which the company guarantees only 1500 jobs but impacts the lives of 50,000 people. It also disturbs one-fourth water supply to Chennai as the Minjur desalination plant must be relocated because of the project. Moreover, the supposed construction site is just 2.1 km from Pulicat Wildlife Sanctuary, and the law states that a port is not to be built within 10 km of a sanctuary. The public hearing that was supposed to happen on January 22, 2021, was postponed citing COVID protocol.

A big salute to all those brave activists and responsible citizens who raise voice against issues that affect the environment. A sustainable future is only possible if we realize the need to protect our environment.



PLANT SOME TREES

There are lot of benefits of planting trees as it reduce climate change, purifies air, saves water, prevents water pollution, provides shelter for wildlife. Other than this trees also help us in relaxing, connect us with nature and have a calming effect.

MOVIE RECCOMENDATION

BEFORE THE FLOOD

-Sidhant Dadwal

Strange how an idle evening can be turned into a rather informative but concerning one. Well, I guess that's the precision of an exquisite documentary. So scrolling through the vast ocean available I stumbled upon BEFORE THE FLOOD *a climate and environment change* a documentary that transpired some alarming waves to be very honest. The movie covers none other than the United Nations representative on climate change LEONARDO DiCaprio (you read it right he is also an active environmentalist).

Now the documentary focuses on probably all the aspects you'd want it to touch. From lifestyle changes to

human race using more than what is optimum and ample; from habitats to the corporate viewpoint on climate; you name it.

DiCaprio visits several eminent personalities around the Globe discussing various environmental threats and that part is shocking. The documentary itself opens up from DiCaprio referencing a painting that very much summarizes the whole documentary or I should say the current world scenario.

Figures like former AS PREZ. Barack Obama, Pope Francis, Elon Musk, and Sunita Narain are some of the personalities DiCaprio

encounters. Probably the conversations these activists had amongst themselves was the one aspect that concerned me. You can tell that by judging the tone and the gravity. The documentary will be a real eye-opener for everyone who watches it. I strongly recommend this to everyone who cares about Mother Earth. You will be drawing some great inspiration from watching the documentary itself. If Documentaries bore you, watching Leonardo DiCaprio will certainly be helpful in this case.



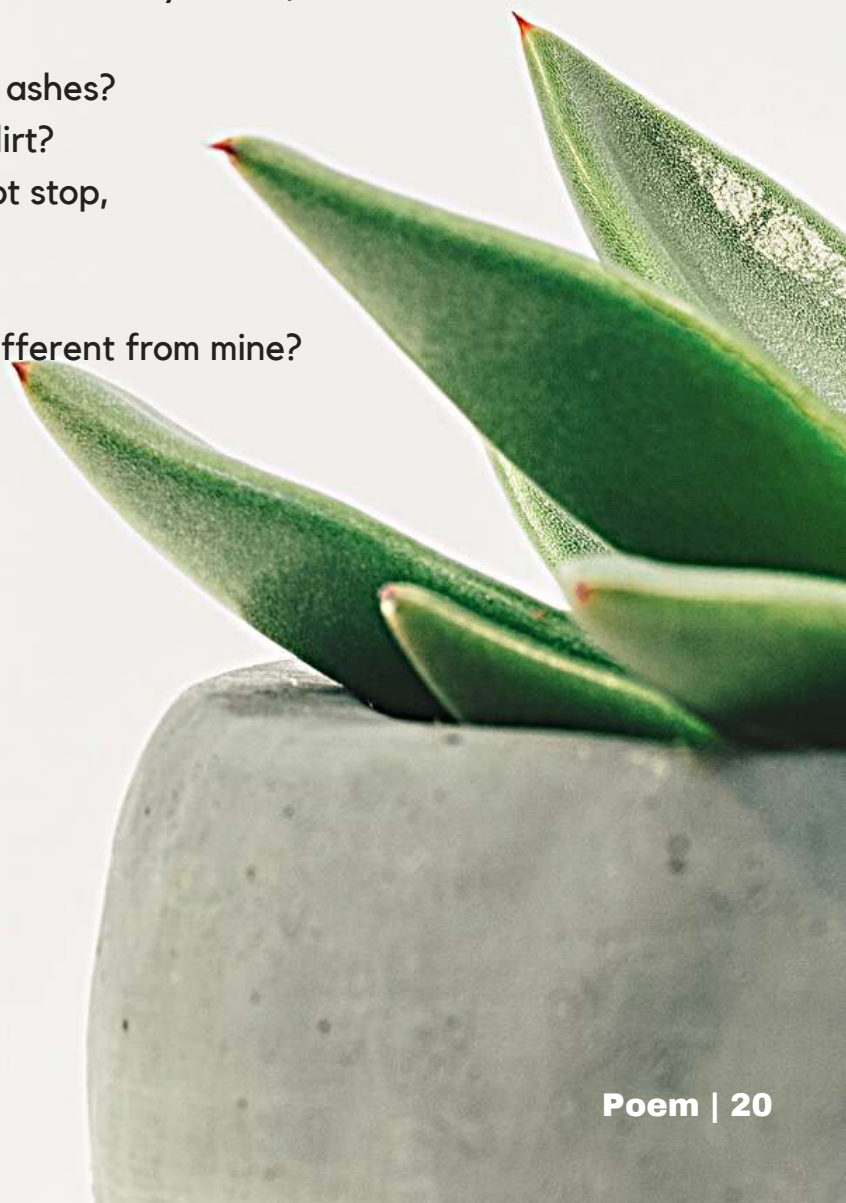
RETURNING HOME

-Deepika

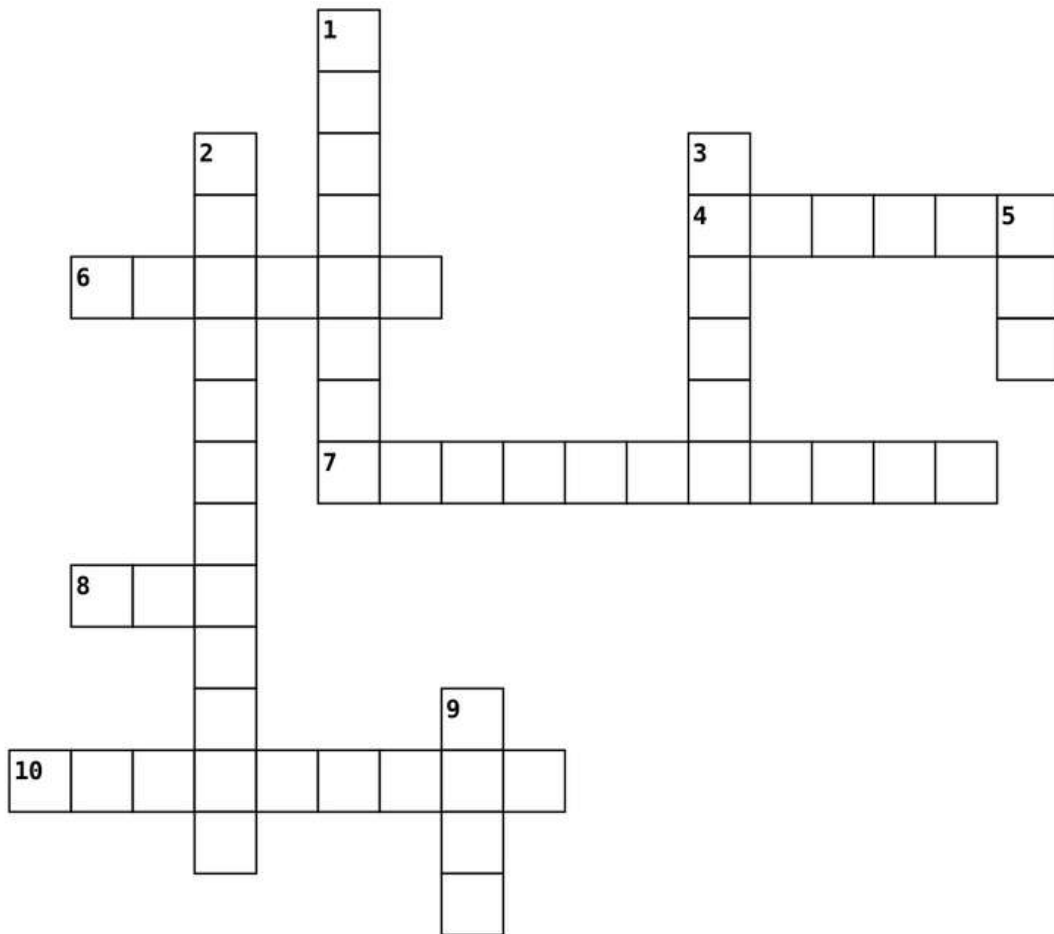
As I passed by the window, wings fluttering in the air,
Searching for my home that I built just last year,
Flying above the clouds, crossing oceans I could bear,
Hot, cold, and rain, normal tests, normal tears,
Exhausted, I perched, on the sill for a while,
Eyes dazed, mind muddled, lub-dub echoing to miles,
Home, my home, chirping all the while...
The journey this time, seemed all unfamiliar and unkind,
Past days event, like a broken record kept playing on my mind,
The luscious greens that marks my trail,
Were wilted brown, filled in despair,
As I flew past them, I could not help but wonder,
Have the seasons changed a bit early or was that I who was late?
Flying could be tiresome but the winds help a lot,
Guiding and gliding, making way for the lost,
Strange, that I found helping winds too have changed,
No longer guiding or boosting my flight,
It was head on collision, of my wings and its might!
Miles after miles, something familiar, at last, caught my eye,
Elated I swooped down but then I lost my smile,
The sparkling blue was just a mirage,
Looking at the dried cracks, the once lively picture popped in my mind,
Unable to bear such a great contrast,



My heart broke down, and I finally cried,
But my tears could not please,
Neither the naked void nor the hidden unease,
What went wrong? Why such a frightening sight!
I flew away when my tears dried,
Yearning for home, praying everything would be fine,
With a heavy heart, I kept searching,
The great oak, cedar and pine,
I flew and flew and flew all the way,
The nostalgic scent empowering me to survive,
Scorched barks greeted me, I choked on lingering smog,
Flapping my wings, desperately, I escaped, what looked my demise,
Days went by, and I stumbled to this side,
Wondering if I am near or farther away from my home,
I rest in worry, if ever I can find,
That forest with pretty shade, or those friendly winds,
Or the river that satisfied my thirst,
Can those trees be born again from ashes?
Or will everything there remain as dirt?
Once again I take flight, as I, cannot stop,
Home, my home, I have to find!
My friends would be there,
Would their journeys be similar or different from mine?
I flap my wings a little bit harder,
Hoping I won't be the last to arrive!



CROSS WORD



Across

4. Air pollution can cause us to have an lower respiratory disease called _____.
6. The Pollution Prevention Act, is an act that limits the amount of _____ that the industries are releasing into the environment.
7. Acid rain is an effect on the _____.
8. The Clean Air Act works alongside the experts at ____ to reduce and regulate emission of greenhouse gasses.
10. Air Pollution/Global Warming can cause ozone _____.

Down

1. Would visibility increase or decrease due to air pollution.
2. Burning _____ is a cause of air pollution/global warming.
3. _____ dioxide is what we exhale.
5. The government of the US and the world have enacted policies and created agencies to regulate the quality of the ____.
9. Chronic respiratory disease, lung cancer, heart disease, damage to the brain, and COPD are examples of _____ term effects.



To strive for a greener world to live in ERF hosted another plantation drive. Along with the ERF team, around 35 people from all walks of life took part in it. The people joined their hands together and planted 50 plantlets. Old and young, men and women, were the people who came forward to do their part in making their place a better home for themselves and future generations. The drive was a success as it achieved its purpose of creating awareness and doing things together for a greener world.

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