

# THE NEED TO PRESERVE THE CORAL REEFS

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Coral reefs are actually a colony of living animals called coral. Corals have a symbiotic relationship with 'zooxanthellae' microscopic algae that live on them. Zooxanthellae assist the coral in nutrient production through its photosynthetic activities. They also provide colouration to them. Coral is made up of layers of limestone skeletons covered ultimately by tiny living animals called polyps. Andaman and Nicobar Islands are among the four major reef areas of India. These islands are found to be very rich in species diversity.

Coral reefs mostly occur in shallow tropical areas where the seawater is clean, clear and warm. They are one of the most productive and complex coastal ecosystems with high biological diversity. They are classified depending upon their locations into fringing, patch, barrier and atoll. These reefs are natural protective barriers against erosion and storm surge. Coral Reefs are also the largest biogenic calcium carbonate producer and provide substrate for mangroves.

When the water heats up, corals become stressed and they expel the tiny algae called dinoflagellates that live in their tissue. With their algae gone, the coral polyps could still feed by plucking morsels out of the water, but their metabolism slows down. They ultimately become weak and more vulnerable to diseases.



A decorative banner with a red background. At the top, there are four stylized jellyfish icons. The text '6th NOVEMBER' is prominently displayed in white. Below it, the full name of the day is written in white capital letters: 'INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR PREVENTING THE EXPLOITATION OF THE ENVIRONMENT IN WAR AND ARMED CONFLICT'. To the right, there is a calendar icon showing the date and several yellow starburst graphics.

According to the World Coral Reef Status Report, the world lost about 14% of the coral on its coral reefs between 2009 to 2018. This lost amount is equal to the 11,700 square kilometres of coral in Australia. There were many other past events like 1998 coral bleaching which killed eight percent of the world's coral. However, the increase in global coral cover in 2019 offers some hope.

The warming of the oceans has impacted coral reefs significantly, and the continuation of this warming will further destroy the reefs. We need to somehow halt ocean warming through global cooperation so that coral reefs and the entire marine ecosystem can be revitalised.



## Trapped earth in Greenhouse

-Khushi Kaushik

Have you ever seen the process of baking biscuit inside a microwave. Well it's gonna be us inspite of biscuit in future.

The given cartoon depicts the one of the real reason behind the rising temperature on our planet and yes don't forget it's just a small glimpse of whatever is coming for us...