



February - March 2024

Your bi-monthly climate connection is here!

Climate crisis and its impacts are inevitable at this point in time. We are overwhelmed everyday with news from around the world warning of rising sea levels, debilitating heat waves, and other unforeseen disasters.

Agencies monitoring average global surface temperatures have issued multiple grave warnings that our current trajectory is grossly off-track to meet the Paris Agreement. Throughout the whole of last year, we have managed to breach the 1.5°C threshold, worsening the climate crisis.

As we advocate for mitigating current emissions and polluting activities, it is high time we start preparing to adapt to the inevitable. Talking about adaptation without talking about policy and finance is futile. Political and corporate will are required to secure financing and frame policies with a robust plan of action for implementation. We also need to prioritise inclusivity and tap into the unlocked potential of indigenous knowledge in climate adaptation.

This is our bi-monthly dispatch of updates and insights on renewable energy, energy transition, climate change, and the environment in general. We hope you enjoy reading it.

Happenings from home



Indigenous communities are considered to be the custodians of nature and natural resources. With a deeply rooted way of life optimised to protect and preserve their natural surroundings, these communities have cultivated profound insights through generations of peaceful coexistence with nature. Indigenous communities offer not only a cultural inheritance but also a transformative tool to addressing the challenges of climate change. The generational knowledge they possess holds the potential to unlock innovative solutions for climate action, and upholds exemplary practices that we will do well to learn from. Mala Balaji, researcher at CAG, discusses various examples of this, illustrating how this invaluable knowledge actively contributes to climate adaptation.

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From the corners of the country



India, with its diverse geospatial and socio-economic conditions, stands as one of the countries most vulnerable to climate change. The adverse impacts of climate crisis are already being experienced by people in the form of extreme weather events, water scarcity, heat waves, inflation of food prices, etc. Therefore, adaptation needs to take centre stage to cope with these adverse impacts of climate change. There is an urgent need to devise requisite policy measures to increase adaptation investments in India. The Climate Policy Initiative has released its report on 'Financing Adaptation in India'. India's approach to adaptation as a developmental strategy is highlighted in the report. It estimates adaptation investment needs of states in India and the funding gaps, exploring ways to bridge these gaps.

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From around the world



Mitigating and adapting to the climate crisis is not an easy feat, and certainly not something that can be swept under the rug, or escaped from, citing excuses such as 'this needs to start with behavioural change among citizens'. A comprehensive plan of action driven by robust policy frameworks is what will give the necessary impetus to kickstart this herculean task. Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment at the London School of Economics and Political Science released a report analysing the impact of climate framework laws in Germany, Ireland and New Zealand. The findings show that when designed well, climate law can be an effective tool to tackle core climate governance challenges, political short-termism, piecemeal policy planning, and weak accountability for implementation.

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Global warnings

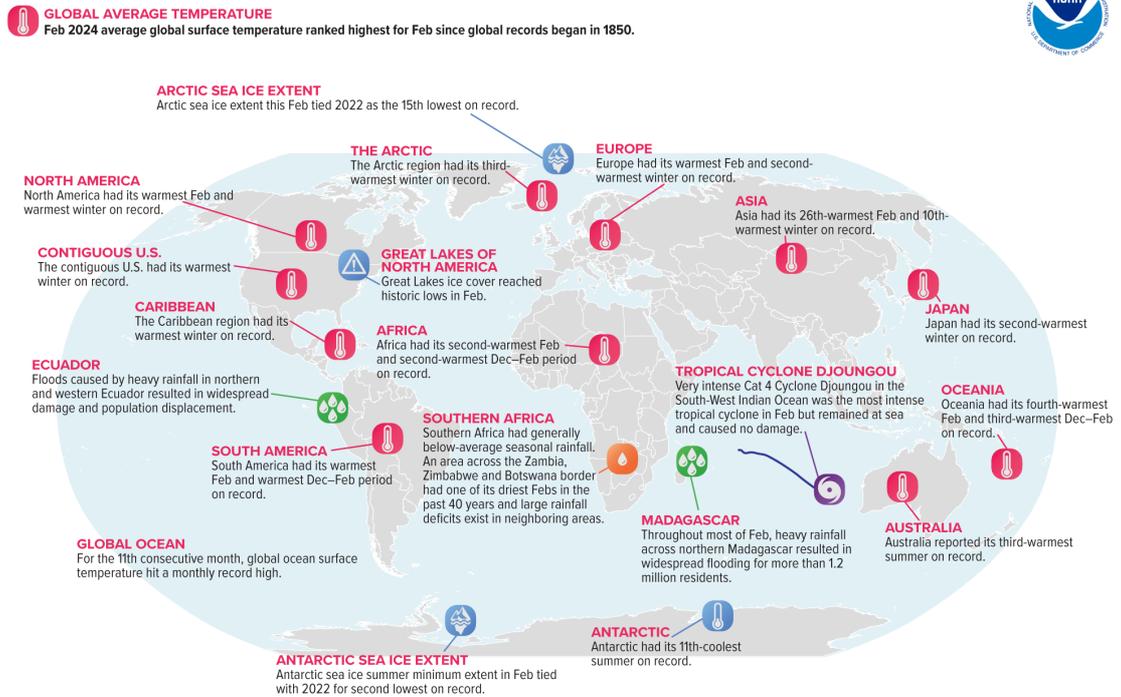


When it comes to worsening the climate crisis, we continue to outperform ourselves each year and sometimes even every month. 'For the first time on record' is starting to be the new normal. Bringing to you yet another broken record, the planet has exceeded the 1.5°C limit over a 12-month period. The scientists at European Union's Copernicus Climate Change Service have called this a 'warning to humanity'. Scientists say that while this first year-long breach doesn't break the landmark Paris agreement, it does bring the world closer to doing so in the long-term. Some are also saying that the Paris goal can no longer realistically be met, but are still urging governments to act faster to cut CO2 emissions to limit overshooting the target, as at the current rate of emissions, the Paris threshold could be crossed within a decade.

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In a nutshell

Selected Significant Climate Anomalies and Events: February 2024



Please note: Material provided in this map was compiled from NOAA's State of the Climate Reports. For more information please visit: <https://www.ncsl.noaa.gov/access/monitoring/monthly-report/global/>

Time for a temperature check! USA's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration calculates the global temperature anomaly every month based on preliminary data generated from authoritative datasets of temperature observations from around the globe. February 2024 ranked highest for average global surface temperatures compared to all the other February(s) since global records began in 1850. The temperatures in February was recorded to be 1.77°C warmer than pre-industrial average. Let's take a look at some of the significant climate anomalies and events in February 2024.

Know more

Make it happen!



Climate change doesn't play favourites but the extent of loss and damage suffered differs among countries and individuals. The lack of climate finance for adaptation puts the global south at a disadvantage. Meanwhile the polluters who are housed in the global north (mostly) are continuing business-as-usual, doubling their investments. Join this call for action to demand new taxes on fossil fuel companies, the transport sector, finance and wealth to support communities in Europe and in the Global South in dealing with the climate crisis by signing this petition.

Know more

Nugget



Photo : Unsplash

Did you know that the chance for the average global temperature to rise above 1.5°C has increased to almost 50% for the next five year period between 2022 and 2026? When the Paris Agreement was signed in 2015, the chance was zero.

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CAG

Citizen consumer and civic Action Group

Climate Connection is an initiative of Citizen consumer and civic Action Group (CAG) to assist and inform local communities, grassroots NGOs, environment and consumer groups, village representatives and media representatives on how to embrace renewable energy, navigate energy transition, mitigate climate change, and protect the environment they live in. We create change by developing and disseminating information resources on air pollution, climate change, environment and policies surrounding these issues.



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