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**April - May 2023**

## **Your bi-monthly climate connection is here!**

Climate change has been well-established to be driven by human interference. While the past couple of decades of overconsumption of natural resources cannot be undone, it is high time we start course correction. Studies have shockingly revealed a correlation between air pollution and violent behaviour in humans. Glaciers, earth's natural protection against warming, are vanishing rapidly and increasing sea levels.

Millions of people have been displaced from their homes and countries and are now climate refugees. We are currently living through an event of mass extinction of animal and plant species. While governments have started actively educating its citizens about climate change, the scope of what individual action can achieve to mitigate climate change is quite limited. To effectively and equitably address the toll of climate change, world leaders need to advocate for systemic changes by using a top-down approach.

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



Air pollution is a global problem affecting millions of people's health and well-being. It is a complex issue that has far-reaching effects on the environment and human health. Air pollution not only harms our health but also impacts our behaviour. We now have increasing evidence that air pollution can have a significant impact on the central nervous system of the human brain. Studies show a positive correlation between air pollution and violent crime incidents, highlighting the need to implement air quality regulations. In India, air pollution led to more than 1.67 million premature deaths in 2019, constituting 25 percent of global deaths. This article, by Shankar Prakash, CAG, looks at studies that correlate air pollution and violent crime.

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## From the corners of the country



Photo: ET Government

The Indian Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change has launched the 'Meri LiFE' app to empower and engage the youth in taking the lead in climate action. This app has been inspired by the concept of Lifestyle For Environment (LiFE), put forth by India at COP26, which emphasizes mindful and deliberate utilisation of resources instead of wasteful consumption. The app guides the user to undertake challenges on the themes of 'Save Energy, Save Water, Reduce Single Use Plastic, Adopt Sustainable Food Systems and Adopt Healthy Lifestyle' and suggests possible climate action at an individual level. While these kind of awareness initiatives are commendable, it is important to remember that it is not possible to mitigate climate change with heavy reliance placed on individual behavioural changes alone. Governments need to work with upstream players who have the real power to effect change by transitioning away from fossil fuels.

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## From around the world



A coalition of university investment funds has called on institutional investors to push back against the boards of fossil fuel companies and their backers. Representatives from the Universities of Newcastle, Sussex, Bristol and from Trinity College, Cambridge, have written an open letter to the asset management industry urging “bold action” to stop new fossil fuel projects. Academicians have identified new fossil fuel projects as a key threat to meeting critical global climate targets, including limiting global heating to 1.5 degrees. As reported by the Guardian, the letter asks investors to support all climate-linked shareholder resolutions, particularly those that call for an end to new fossil fuel projects.

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## Global warnings



Photo: F.PAUL/NASA/USGS

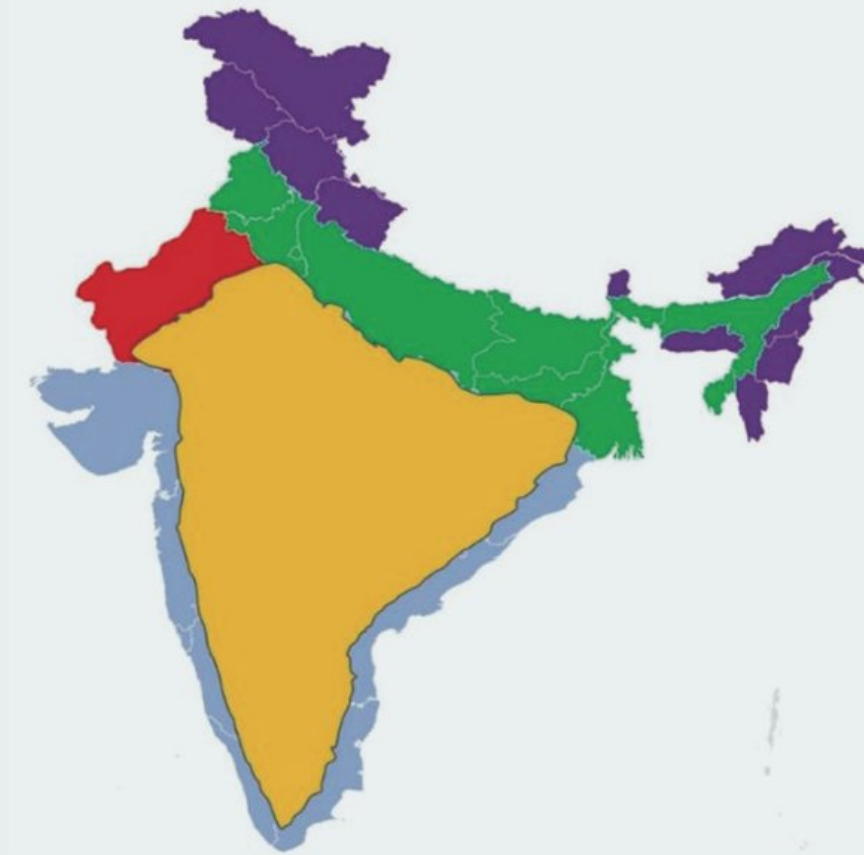
Glaciers act as a protective cover for the earth and its oceans by reflecting excess heat back into space and therefore they play a huge role in slowing down climate change. In many parts of the globe, they also function as critical water reservoirs. More than 20% of the world's population is thought to be dependent in some way on summer melt waters that flow from glaciers - for drinking, for agriculture and to drive hydropower stations. While the best way to assess glacier distribution is from ground level, for the vast majority of them, observation from space is the only way to keep an eye on how they are responding to climate change. Europe's Cryosat spacecraft has obtained the best satellite assessment yet of the status of the world's glaciers and the results are shockingly worrying.

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**In a nutshell**



**Chart II.1: Risks Emanating from Climate Change across Geographical Regions in India**



<p><b>Thar Desert</b> Heatwaves</p>	<p><b>Great Himalayas</b> Landslides Cloudbursts Melting of glaciers</p>	<p><b>Indo-Gangetic Plains</b> River floods Heatwaves Thunderstorms</p>
<p><b>Coastal Plains and Ghats</b> Heavy precipitation Urban floods Cyclones Landslides</p>	<p><b>Central Peninsular Plateau</b> Heatwaves Forest fires Droughts</p>	

**Note:** Map not to scale.

**Sources:** Mani *et al.*, (2018); Krishnan, *et al.*, (2020).



No nation is immune to the impacts of the climate crisis. India, like every other country, is prone to climate change induced extreme weather events and loss of biodiversity, worsening living conditions for all species. Given the variegated terrains of India, the type of impact may vary from region to region. Understanding this will help us in preemptively preparing for disaster management and to develop an adaptation and mitigation plan suitable to each terrain. Check out what risks are likely to emanate from various geographical regions across India.

[Know more](#)

## **Make it happen!**



Extreme weather events, rising seas and deteriorating ecosystems could impact the lives of billions of people. Already, 41 people every minute have been displaced by extreme weather hazards since 2008. What makes this even worse is the cruel injustice that those losing their family homes, culture and heritage overwhelmingly contributed the least to cause the climate crisis. Climate refugees don't have any international legal status, or protection. They are the forgotten victims of climate change. Lend your voice to this call to world leaders to protect the most basic human rights.

**Know more**

## Nugget



Did you know we are currently living through a mass species extinction event? The speed of this mass extinction appears to be the result of human activity. Scientists estimate that we are losing 10,000 times more species per year than at the normal rate.

**Know more**



## RESOURCES FROM CAG



You can now download and use the much anticipated textbook on climate change, FOCUS. The book is designed specifically for middle school children aged 12-14. Dive into the world of climate change and join us in our mission to empower young minds to understand and address climate change. Together, we can build a sustainable future for our planet. For those who prefer a high-resolution print version, simply write to our [helpdesk mail](#).



Small actions can make a big difference. By reducing water waste, we can conserve this precious resource and contribute to a healthier planet. From turning off the tap while brushing our teeth to fixing leaky faucets, every action counts. #SustainableLifestyle



# 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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