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June-July 2024

Your bi-monthly climate connection is here!

On July 22, 2024, the flames of history were stoked as Earth experienced its hottest day ever recorded. Human activities, notably the burning of fossil fuels and deforestation, have significantly increased the concentrations of greenhouse gases, intensifying the effects of climate change. Human activities are causing unforeseen havoc with weather patterns, sea levels, and ecosystems.

Climate change has increased levels of uncertainty about our future. As its impacts intensify over time, one thing has become certain: we leave a precarious Earth for our children, young people, and their future generations. The world is home to 1.8 billion young people between the ages of 10 to 24 – the largest generation of youth in history. Young people's unprecedented mobilization around the world shows the massive power they possess to hold decision-makers accountable. Their message is clear: it is the young who will pay in full – with their very futures. It's time we listened to them, and took action.

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



All thanks to the critically endangered Great Indian Bustard, the Supreme Court of India has given climate justice the much-needed spotlight it deserves. In an unprecedented landmark ruling, on March 21, 2024, in the case of *M.K. Ranjitsinh & Ors. v. Union of India & Ors.*, the Court expanded the interpretation of the Right to Life (Article 21) and the Right to Equality (Article 14) to include protection against the adverse effects of climate change. The ruling acknowledges the adverse effects of climate change as a violation of citizens' fundamental rights, thereby placing environmental issues at the forefront of public and legal discourse. This recognition can drive legislative and policy reforms and their effective enforcement to reduce environmental harm, writes Mala Balaji, Researcher at CAG.

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From the corners of the country



Photo: Shutterstock

Tamil Nadu is witnessing a revival of its marine biodiversity, thanks to the installation of artificial reefs. Home to nearly 1.3 million fishers, the Gulf of Mannar region, rich in diverse habitats like coral reefs and seagrasses, had faced significant declines in fish populations due to the dual threats of overexploitation and climate change. Dr. R.T. John Suresh from Participatory Learning Action Network and Training (PLANT) highlights how climate change has exacerbated the stress on marine ecosystems, causing further harm to already vulnerable coral reefs. With support from the Global Environment Facility, these initiatives are set to enhance both ecological and economic sustainability for local communities, positioning artificial reefs as a key element in Tamil Nadu's marine conservation efforts.

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From around the world



For the first time in Tajikistan's history, the Youth for Water and Climate Network took center stage. At the Dushanbe International Water Conference, held from June 10-13, 2024, the spotlight was on the youth, and their impact was nothing short of inspiring. They shared the Youth Water and Climate Plan, setting a new benchmark for how young people can drive meaningful change. The Youth for Water and Climate Network of Tajikistan aims to build the capacity of the young people to address climate challenges, advocate for youth-led water and climate actions and implement and monitor the Tajik Youth for Water and Climate Plan. This isn't just about youth participating; it's about them leading the charge, proving that they can tackle the toughest climate and water challenges with the right support and resources.

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Global warnings



Photo: Earth.com

The climate crisis is hitting harder than ever, with NASA confirming July 22, 2024, as the hottest day ever on record. The staggering heatwaves are part of a worrying phenomenon driven by human activities, especially the emission of greenhouse gases primarily driven by burning fossil fuels and deforestation. Research shows that the planet has already warmed by approximately 1.2 degrees Celsius since the pre-industrial era, which might seem modest but carries profound consequences for weather patterns, sea levels, and ecosystems. NASA Administrator Bill Nelson expressed the gravity of the situation, noting that this year has already been the hottest on record, with the past two weeks being particularly brutal. As global temperatures soar, the need for urgent climate action has never been clearer.

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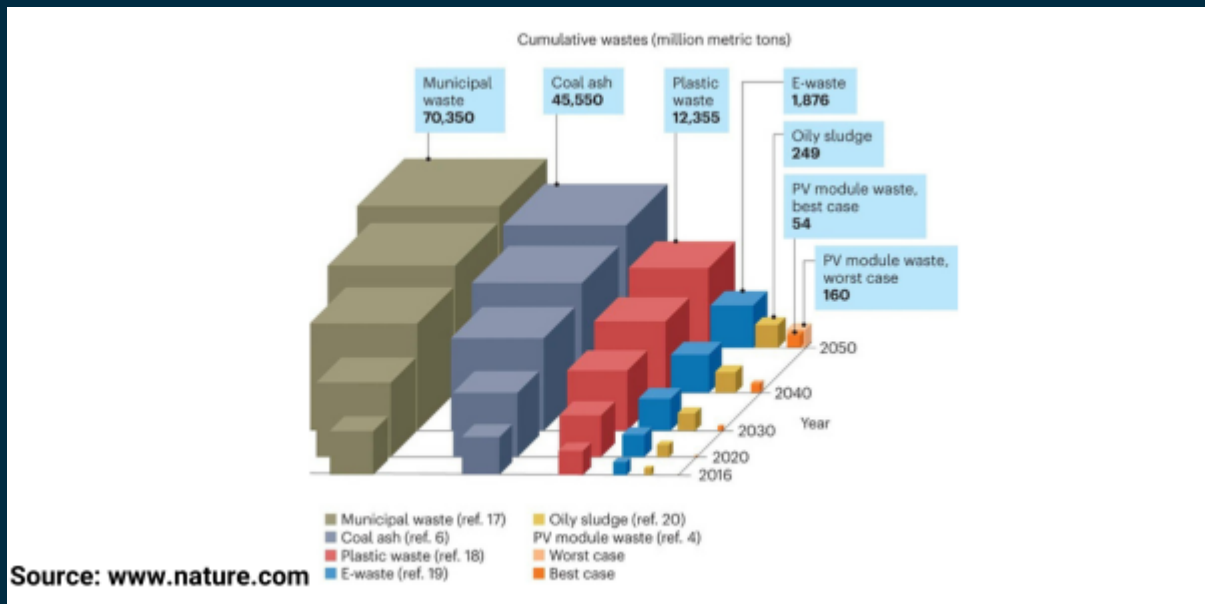
In a nutshell



Water is central to growing crops and raising livestock, producing electricity, maintaining human health and meeting the world's climate goals. Water is not only the basis of life for animals and plants, but is also likely to become a contested resource in parts of the world in the coming decades. According to projections by the World Resources Institute (WRI), 51 of the 164 countries and territories analysed are expected to suffer from high to extremely high water stress by 2050, which corresponds to 31 percent of the population. Living with this level of water stress jeopardises people's lives, jobs, food and energy security.

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Nugget



Did you know that solar panel waste till 2050 is tiny compared to existing waste streams? It's common for many in the climate space to overestimate the waste and mining requirements for clean energy transition and underplay how wasteful fossil fuels are.

[Know more](#)



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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