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March 2022

Your monthly climate connection is here!

Capitalism, since its inception, has worked for the few, not the many. It has been converting the natural world into raw materials at a rate far greater than these resources can replenish themselves, creating an ecological overshoot. If we don't make changes to our system, the ugly side of capitalism will continue flourishing. We need to stand up and face the truth that capitalism has played/is playing a bigger role than is acknowledged, in the climate change we are witnessing today.

For the first time, the IPCC WG II report have recognised loss and damage; with much of it endured by the most marginalised who have done absolutely nothing to be at the forefront of this catastrophe. India is already experiencing the effects highlighted in the recent IPCC report. Addressing it requires bigger budgets for green energy options and policy changes fuelled by political will. If we bring about these changes NOW we will have a small window of opportunity (that is closing rapidly) to mitigate the effects of climate change.

This is our 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



Greenhouse gas emissions are choking the planet and the billions of people living in every nook and corner of the world, threatening their very existence. It is very clear that we are in a state of planetary emergency. So how have we dug ourselves into this? Expert analysis makes it evident that capitalism is the driving force behind this descent to climate chaos. It is only obvious that if a system demands greater profits and infinite growth, we are bound to encounter serious problems and we are facing those problems now at an unprecedented level. Transformational actions at an unprecedented scale in every state & in every sector is not just a choice anymore but an expeditious necessity. This article aims to highlight the flaws in a system obsessed with capitalism & provide possible solutions.

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From the corners of the country



“Climate change is here and it is killing us”, “Climate change is real and we will be extinct soon!” scream headlines from scientists, environmentalists, conservationists, and journalists. Social media stalwarts have also joined in the chorus - and the warning is now loud and clear. Climate change is a massive threat to humanity, and therefore, many countries are trying to combat its detrimental effects. India is one of the critical places influenced by climate change in its extremes in the coming years, owing to its diversified geography. The government of India is taking steps to address this issue; but the scale of the problem is such that more has to be done and down NOW. This article in the Times of India highlights the concerns and solutions related to climate change.

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From around the world



This story from Chile is so inspirational and full of hope! Maisa Rojas is a climate scientist who will be the Minister of Environment in the new Chile government. A female-majority cabinet for the first time in Chile's history is in the process of putting together one of the world's most exciting, progressive movements to avert climate crisis. This article in The Guardian reaffirms the fact that we need both politicians and experts, especially women, to be involved in the process of mitigating climate change. Governments across the world should not look at climate change just as an environmental issue but also consider the structural elements within our society, which aid and abet environmental destruction. This means also changing our development pathway. The narrative of economic growth in opposition to environmental protection brought by capitalism should be ditched and left behind.

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Global warnings



More than 3 billion lives now threatened by global warming. Yes, you read that right. Around half of the world's population is threatened by climate change with most of the people from poor and vulnerable communities who have done absolutely nothing to be at the forefront of this disaster. Harms caused by global warming are not restricted to fires and flooding; it also has effects on water availability, food production, forced migration and the livelihoods of millions of people. This article in the Forbes provides a region-by-region breakdown of the key dangers that are increasing as a result of a warming world, with risks outlined for every continent, plus the world's small islands. There are options to mitigate global warming but at this moment governments are not doing anywhere near what should be done.

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In a nutshell

WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE

COMPARING RISKS FROM RISING TEMPERATURES:

EXPLAINING THE IPCC'S WORKING GROUP II REPORT (AR6)

	1.5°C	2°C	3°C	1.5°C vs 2°C	1.5°C vs 3°C
BIODIVERSITY LOSS Maximum percentage of species at high risk of extinction across forests and land	14%	18%	29%	1.3x WORSE	2.1x WORSE
DROUGHT Dryland population exposed to water stress, heat stress and desertification	0.95B PEOPLE	1.15B PEOPLE	1.29B PEOPLE	200M MORE PEOPLE	340M MORE PEOPLE
FOOD SECURITY Costs for adaptation and residual damage to major crops	\$63 BILLION US	\$80 BILLION US	\$128 BILLION US	\$17B MORE	\$65B MORE
FIRES Increases in burnt area across Mediterranean Europe	40-54%	62-87%	96-187%	1.6x WORSE	3x WORSE
EXTREME HEAT Increase in number of days per year with a maximum temperature above 35°C (95°F)	45-58	52-68	66-87	1.2x WORSE	1.5x WORSE
EXTREME HEAT Increase in annual number of heatwaves in Southern Africa	2-4 TIMES	4-8 TIMES	8-12 TIMES	2x WORSE	3.3x WORSE
SEA LEVEL RISE Global mean sea level rise by 2100	0.28-0.55m	0.33-0.61m	0.44-0.76m	1.1x WORSE	1.4x WORSE
FLOODS Increase in global population exposed to flooding	24%	30%	NO DATA AVAILABLE	1.3x WORSE	NO DATA AVAILABLE
CORAL REEFS Further decline in coral reefs	70-90%	99%	NO DATA AVAILABLE	1.2x WORSE	NO DATA AVAILABLE

Note: For climate risks with projected ranges, we used the midpoint of the ranges to compare risks at different temperature thresholds. Sea level rise projections correspond to SSP1-1.9, SSP1-2.6, SSP2-4.5, which are roughly approximate to global warming of 1.5°C, 2°C, and 3°C, respectively.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) provides regular assessments of the scientific basis of climate change, its impacts and future risks, along with options for adaptation and mitigation. Its latest report released on 28th February 2022 paints a troubling picture for planet Earth, if necessary steps are not taken NOW. As per the report, if warming exceeds 1.5 degrees C, even temporarily, much more severe, often irreversible effects of climate change will occur. This could include stronger storms, longer heatwaves and droughts, rapid sea-level rise, and more. Read the summary of the main findings [here](#).

[Know more](#)

Nugget



Photo: Pixabay

Did you know?

From the latest IPCC WGII report, it is quite clear that we should reduce our dependence on fossil fuels. India's planned coal power decreased nearly 90%, from 250 GW to 28 GW, while coal power under construction was more than halved, from 79 GW to 36 GW. While phasing out coal is commendable, switching to gas as an alternative solution would threaten economic and climate objectives.

[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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