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THE GREEN BELT MOVEMENT

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GREEN BELT MOVEMENT, CALL TO ACTION ALL OVER THE WORLD



By Aysha Nidha



As the climate changes and rural land is destroyed, experts believe that environmental degradation will have the greatest impact on impoverished rural communities in the global south, particularly those who rely on subsistence farming and live in rural areas. Among this group, women and mothers are particularly affected. They often have to collect firewood, water, and other resources for their families, and if they lack access to forests, they will face significant challenges and have to travel longer distances to meet their basic needs. The recognition that women are directly impacted by environmental harm has led to the development of ecofeminism.

The Green Belt Movement is such a social movement that promotes ecofeminism. When rising deforestation resulted in desertification in Kenya, women were forced to trek further out to obtain firewood and living necessities. As a result, they spent less time at home, tending to crops and caring for their children.

Professor Wangari Mathai developed the Green Belt Movement (1977) in response to these challenges, especially working with women in environmental conservation and community empowerment in Kenya.

The green belt movement was initiated by planting seven seedlings on Environmental Day in 1977. This soon evolved into a widespread tree-planting strategy, where thousands of seedlings were planted in straight rows to create a green belt of trees. Reflecting on the past four decades, it is evident that the journey was arduous and fraught with challenges. There were numerous attempts to suppress the green belt movement, including instances where Wangari Mathai was brutally assaulted by the police, causing her to lose consciousness.

Despite the many challenges faced, the GBM has successfully persevered, and thousands of women have actively participated, resulting in the establishment of over 5000 nurseries. The GBM has also managed to plant more than 51 million trees in various settings such as farms, schools, churches, and rural areas. Presently, the GBM's endeavours have expanded, focusing on four key areas: tree planting and safeguarding water sources, promoting gender equality and livelihood, advocating for climate change mitigation, and engaging in broader advocacy efforts.



>>> CLIMATE AGENDA OF INDIA'S G-20 PRESIDENCY

By Sethulakshmi

"Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" (One Earth - One Family - One Future)

Is India's theme for the G-20 summit. This aims to address the issues being faced by the global economy. The Asian development bank is supporting India's G-20 presidency, working on clean energy transition, shaping a global health agenda etc.

India's G-20 presidency provides an opportunity to raise and tackle complex and interconnected challenges.

Our Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi envisions India's G-20 agenda to be inclusive, ambitious, action-oriented and decisive. India has identified many priorities that are being deliberated by various G-20 working groups, to raise all the challenges.



India being the largest producer of renewable energy has led by example. Although the target of achieving net zero and energy independence is called an overkill by many considering the economy and other priorities of the state, we have started working towards it by taking small steps.

1. The first agenda relates to financing tomorrow's cities and establishing them as the foremost engines of economic growth. While cities generate over 80% of global gross domestic product, unplanned and rapid urbanization constrain their economic potential. To sustain economic potential cities need to be more livable through better infrastructure, housing, waste management etc.
2. The second agenda is energy transition. The transition from carbon-intensive energy to renewable energy. This will help to tackle climate change as well as improve environmental outcomes.
3. The third agenda is health care. The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in providing extra attention to an improved and developed healthcare system to solve health crises.



GREEN ECONOMY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

By Vishakha Sharma

In latest years, the idea of a green environment and sustainable development has received huge interest as the world faces pressing concerns due to climate change. In the past few years, the need to shift to sustainable practices has become more apparent than ever. We have to make certain of the well-being of our planet and future generations. This article explores the significance of a green environment and sustainable development.

Understanding the green environment: A green environment refers to an ecosystem that is characterized by a balance between human activities and the natural world. It emphasizes the preservation and safety of biodiversity, the efficient use of sources, and the reduction of environmental pollutants.

1. The importance of Sustainable development:

It recognizes the interconnectedness of economic growth, social progress, and environmental protection. By embracing sustainable development, societies can obtain stability between financial prosperity, social well-being, and environmental protection.

2. Benefits of a green environment and Sustainable improvement:

A) Environmental benefits:

Conservation of natural sources: Sustainable practices reduce the consumption of non-renewable resources and promote using renewable options.

Climate change reduction: Sustainability initiatives, renewable power adoption and carbon footprint reduction contribute to preventing weather change.

Preservation of biodiversity: protective ecosystems and habitats ensure the survival of various plant and animal species.

B) Economic advantages:

Creation of new job opportunities: Transition to a green economy generates employment opportunities in renewable energy, electricity efficiency, and other sustainable sectors.

Value savings: Adopting energy-efficient technologies and practices can reduce electricity intake and lower operational costs for different businesses.

Innovation and market competitiveness: Embracing sustainability drives innovation, and expands new technology



Actions that can be taken by individuals, communities and governments:

1. Individuals:

Reduction of energy consumption can be done by using energy-efficient home equipment, opting for public transportation or carpooling, and practising rainwater conservation.

Supporting sustainable businesses and products through accountable consumer choices.

1. Communities:

Promote sustainable transportation alternatives, such as cycling paths and public transit.

Foster green spaces and urban agriculture to improve air quality and promote healthy lifestyles.

1. Governments:

Implement policies and regulations that support renewable energy production and energy efficiency.

Provide incentives for organizations to adopt sustainable practices and technology.

Building a green environment and achieving sustainable development are crucial for the well-being of our planet and future generations. By prioritizing sustainability, we can create a thriving future characterised by economic prosperity, social equity, and environmental preservation. Together, let us embrace the vision of a green and sustainable world for generations to come.



POPULATION INCREASES INFLUENCE ON CLIMATE



CHANGE



By Shreya Jaiswal

World Population Day, which seeks to attention to the urgency and importance of population problems, was first established by the then-Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme in 1989, an outgrowth of the concern generated by way of the Day of 5 Billion, which changed into observed on eleven July 1987.

Through resolution 45/216 of December 1990, the United international locations widespread assembly decided to keep watching International Population Day in recognition of troubles associated with the increasing population with regards to environment and sustainability as one of the factors.

This day was first marked on 11th July 1990 in around 90 countries.

Our growing population: a concerning growth!

The world's population is more than three times larger than it turned in the mid-twentieth century. The worldwide human population reached 8.0 billion in mid-November 2022 from an envisioned 2.5 billion humans in 1950, an addition of around 1 billion people in 2010 and a couple of billion on the grounds in 1998. The earth's population is expected to boom by almost 2 billion men and women in the next 30 years, from the current eight billion to 9.7 billion in 2050 and will height at nearly 10.4 billion within the mid-2080s.

The Connections between concerning population growth and Climate change

More than one elements contribute to climate exchange, and more than one action is required to curb it. There is no question that the human population boom is a prime contributor, given that human beings use fossil fuels to strengthen mechanized life. More human beings would lead to extra demand for oil, fuel, coal and other fuels mined or drilled from under the Earth's floor that, while burned, spew sufficient carbon dioxide (CO₂) into the ecosystem which will fasten climate change.

In line with the United Nations Population Fund, the human population grew from 1.6 billion to 6.1 billion humans during the 20th century. During that time emissions of CO₂, the main greenhouse fuel, grew 12-fold. Environmentalists are worried about the ability of the planet to resist the additional load of greenhouse gases entering the environment and wreaking havoc on ecosystems down under.

The warming of the planet threatens food security, freshwater access and human health. The outcomes of climate change, including sea level rise, droughts, floods, and extreme weather conditions, will be more intense if steps aren't taken to dramatically decrease the emissions of greenhouse gases into our environment.

This has already started shrinking glaciers and ice caps, altering the availability of fresh water, contributing to ocean acidification, and destroying coral reefs and different aquatic ecosystems. It makes locations uninhabitable for many plants and animals, leading to extinctions and redistribution of species, which leads to threatening food production with alien pests and sicknesses.

Many people have witnessed the impacts of climate change: excessive climate events like the Australian bushfires and floods in Kenya have led to the devastation of lives. Also, we can see a critical impact on agriculture through soil degradation and unstable weather changes cause unpredictable and unstable crop yields which are very dangerous for poor farmers.

Meanwhile, the human cost of climate change is catastrophic. The increase in sea level threatens the masses of millions of people in coastal communities and cities throughout the globe. Due to food and water shortages, warfare can arise over productive land. Progress in global health can be rolled back because of communicable sicknesses including malaria spreading in places never existed before. Hundreds and thousands of people are likely to be forced to migrate from their homes by 2050.

We have to take the necessary steps to curb this growing concern. As we know that the population grows exponentially we have to educate more people regarding this change. World population day is a great reminder for people and governments to watch out and take essential steps to lower the population growth rate.





URBAN TREE PLANTATION INITIATIVE AND THEIR IMPACT ON SUSTAINABLE CITIES



By Madhu Kumari



Sustainability means making sure that things can last a long time without harming society, finances, or the environment. When we talk about cities, urban sustainability means creating cities that can keep going for a long time while taking care of people, money, and the environment.

Cities have some special challenges when it comes to sustainability. As cities grow, they need more land and buildings, which can make it harder to grow sustainably. They also have to deal with food security for the growing population. That's why urban agriculture is becoming important.

In the future, as more countries become urbanized, the demand for land to grow food for cities will keep increasing. So, cities that depend heavily on importing food will have to think about bringing back agriculture within the city or nearby areas.

Urban tree plantation plays a vital role in enhancing the sustainability of urban cities. Here are some key ways in which urban tree plantation contributes to sustainability:

- **Environmental Benefits:** Trees in urban areas provide numerous environmental benefits. They help in reducing air pollution by absorbing harmful gases such as carbon dioxide and releasing oxygen.
- **Mitigating Urban Heat Island Effect:** Urban areas tend to be hotter than surrounding rural areas due to the high concentration of buildings and paved surfaces that absorb and radiate heat.
- **Stormwater Management:** The canopies of trees intercept rainfall, the roots of trees also help in absorbing and storing water, reducing the risk of flooding.
- **Biodiversity and Ecological Balance:** Urban tree plantations serve as valuable habitats for a variety of plant and animal species. They contribute to urban biodiversity and help maintain ecological balance.
- **Social and Psychological Benefits:** Green spaces created by urban tree plantations offer opportunities for recreation, relaxation, and physical activity. positive effects on mental health, reducing stress and improving overall well-being.
- **Energy Conservation:** Well-planned tree plantations can help reduce energy consumption in urban areas.

To ensure the sustainability of urban tree plantations, it is important to consider factors such as appropriate tree species selection, proper planting techniques, regular maintenance, and long-term management plans. Collaboration between local government, urban planners, community organizations, and residents is crucial to implement and sustaining urban tree-planting initiatives effectively.



RIDDLES RELATED TO BOTANY

By Aditi Asthana

➤➤➤ QUESTIONS

1. Which Indian botanist was honoured this year at London's Chelsea Flower Show
2. NASA shared a photo of which plant's flower that was sowed and grown in the International Space Station.
3. Cedar tree appears on the flag of which country?
4. The *Ranunculus* literally means what?
5. The national tree of India is
6. Which country has the most plant species?
7. The primary pollinator of pineapple is
8. Which plant has the most chromosomes?
9. Which trees are struck by lightning more than any other tree?
10. What is the largest fruit that grows on a tree?



ANSWERS

1. DR JANAKI AMMAL, 2. ZINNIA PLANT, 3. LEBANON
4. LITTLE FROG 5. THE BANYAN TREE (*FICUS BENGHALENSIS*),
6. BRAZIL 7. HUMMINGBIRD 8. *OPHIOGLOSSUM RETICULATUM*
N=1262 9. OAK TREE 10. JACKFRUIT (*ARTOCARPUS HETEROPHYLLUS*)