

Tourism: a contributor to global carbon emission

Global comprehensive tourism footprint is growing fast and responsible for 8% of global GHG emission, as found by a research by a team of researchers in University of Sydney, Australia and published in *Nature Climate Change*. US has the lion share of the tourism related GHG emission with Canada and Germany as prospective nations in this respect. Small islands also share disproportionately high emission because of international arrival. The study along with emissions from the mode of travel the tourists takes, also includes the goods and services the tourists enjoy at the spot. The research recommends that there should be financial and technical support to minimise tourism related impact on climate. (Source: <http://www.thehindu.com>, May 03, 2018).

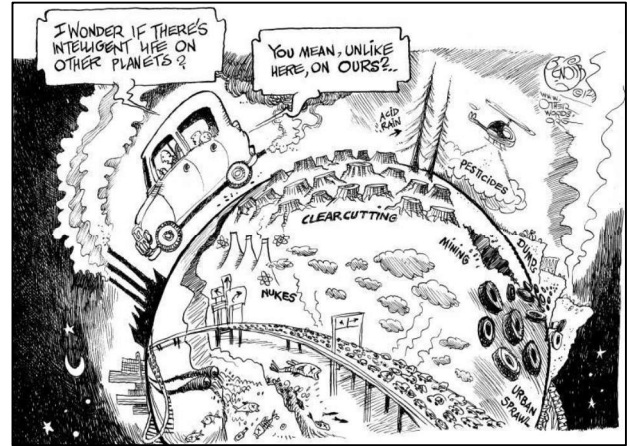


Photo credit: <https://www.conservationbytes.com>



Photo credit: *Times of India*

India lost 2.54% GDP through desertification, Land degradation and Drought

According to a recent study commissioned by the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change, India has lost 2.54% of its GDP through desertification, land degradation and drought in 2013-15 financial years. The full report on the study entitled "Economics of Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought (EDLDD)" was released in Asia Pacific Regional Workshop of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) (April-24-27, 2018) by Union Environment Minister Mr. Harsh Vardhan. The report also highlighted that 20 million tonnes of food grains are lost in a year due to drought and desertification. (Source: www.timesofindia.indiatimes.com, Apr 27, 2018)

Eco-restoration drive for water bodies

An innovative step is taken by the Chennai Corporation to reclaim and restore 206 polluted water-bodies in Chennai. As part of the project they are going to remove municipal solid waste from the water-bodies and engage local community and corporate to adopt and maintain them. Civic amenities will also be created around the water-bodies. As pilot OmaKulam in Madhavaram zone has been cleaned up to improve the water quality after several complains about ground water pollution flagged by local residents. 70% of restoring work has, so far, been accomplished. (Source: <http://www.thehindu.com>, May 03, 2018)



Photo credit: *UNESCO*



Photo credit: *Altaf Qadri, AP, uestoday.com*

Mega drought event identified in mid-Holocene period

Uranium–Thorium dating of a portion of stalagmite from Kotumsar cave in Central India revealed 70-100 year long mega drought event during mid-Holocene period (about 7000 years back). The analysis revealed that a major inter-annual to sub-decadal variations in the monsoon occurred from 8500 years ago to 6500 years ago. The summer monsoon started declining during this period causing century long drought scenario in that region and impacted agriculture practices of early humans. Post-drought event the summer monsoon again started to increase gradually between 6500 years ago to 5600 years ago. Also the interrelationship of Indian summer monsoon and El-Nino Southern Oscillation has been observed in this study. (Source: <http://www.thehindu.com>, May 12, 2018).

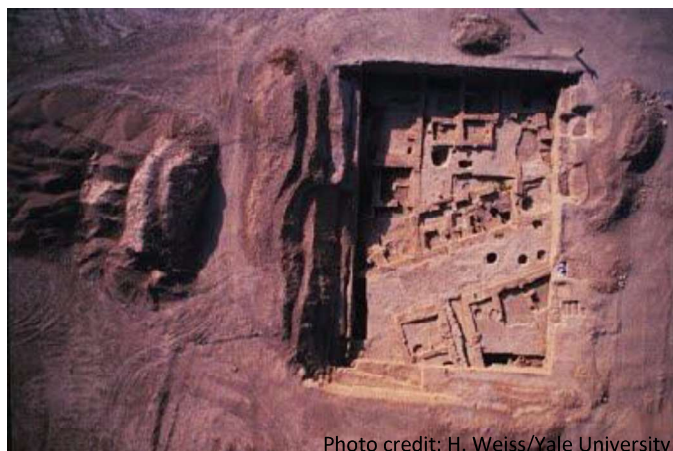


Photo credit: *H. Weiss/Yale University*

India manages to reverse the wheel of air pollution in cities

Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change in response to WHO's data on India's air pollution status, claims that the air pollution level is decreasing from 2016 to 2017 and 2018, post government's serious effort to combat air pollution. According to WHO, Delhi was the sixth most polluted cities in the world with PM 2.5 of 143 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, whereas MoEF&CC says it was 134 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ in 2016 and 125 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ in 2017 quoting CPCB. MoEF&CC added – 'there has been further improvement of air pollution level in 2018. (Source: <http://www.thehindu.com>, May 03, 2018).



Photo credit: *NASA JPL*

Carbon satellite to measure Earth's carbon balance

A group of researchers from the University of Copenhagen has developed a new method of satellite imaging to estimate Earth's carbon balance. A French satellite has been tested for this purpose which uses aerial photography and low frequency passive microwave to measure the biomass of above ground vegetation. It records carbon emission from all parts of vegetation (e.g. trunks and branches along with the crown) which was not possible so far with available technologies. The pilot study has already been done in Africa and detailed map of carbon balance has been prepared for the whole continent. This technology can become crucial for policy makers like UN and IPCC and climate change experts in decision making. (Source: www.sciencedaily.com, May 03, 2018).