



ECOBUZZ

A BUZZ TO THE GREEN FUTURE!!

JUNE EDITION

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Green Greetings from Faculty of Law, GLS University!

The June Edition of Ecobuzz is pivotal as the World Environment Day is marked on 5th June by the United Nations which is a primary tool for encouraging awareness and action for the protection of the environment. The United Nations Conference on the Human Environment 1972, elevated sustainable development on the global agenda and led to the establishment of World Environment Day. Fifty years later, Sweden is hosting Stockholm+50 from 2nd to 3rd June, and World Environment Day on 5th June.

This month Ecobuzz shall focus on issues surrounding Sustainable Development Goal 6, which goes beyond drinking water, sanitation and hygiene. It also addresses the quality and sustainability of water resources, which are critical to the survival of people and the planet. The 2030 Agenda recognizes the importance of water resources to sustainable development and the vital role that improved drinking water, sanitation and hygiene play in progress in varied areas of human life including health, education and poverty reduction.

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National Updates

UAE, India discuss economic opportunities of energy transition

Government and business leaders in India and the UAE have held a series of high-level meetings focused on opportunities within the energy transition and industrial growth. Prior to the bilateral meeting, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on climate action was also signed by the two Ministers to establish a framework to facilitate and enhance bilateral cooperation on climate action and also contribute towards implementing the Paris Agreement.



Despite worsening heatwaves and floods, India is pushing construction at the cost of the environment

Rains over the weekend brought some relief from a sweltering heatwave to northern India, but temperatures are projected to rise again. Last week the heat wave in New Delhi matched that of Riyadh in Saudi Arabia and is predicted to do so again this week. At the same time, India's northeastern region and the neighboring country of Bangladesh have been battered by heavy rainfall and floods.



Use of drones will rise in agriculture, sport and disaster management sectors, says PM Modi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday, May 27, 2022, said there was an environment of "indifference" towards the use of technology in governance before 2014 due to which the poor and the middle class suffered the most. Addressing a gathering after inaugurating India's biggest drone festival in Delhi, the Prime Minister said the enthusiasm being seen in India about drone technology is amazing and indicates possibilities of an emerging sector of employment generation.



Gujarat needs more protected areas for lions: Parliamentary panel

Gujarat needs to create more protected spaces for Asiatic lions as 50 per cent of them dwell outside the Gir National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary. This was recommended by the 11-member parliamentary standing committee on science and technology, environment and climate change, which is on a four-day visit to Gujarat. The state, which is the only abode of Asiatic lions, has lost 283 of them including 142 cubs to natural and unnatural causes in the past two years.

Project Lion: Union Forest Minister visits Gir National Park In Gujarat

As per the Environment Ministry, Project Lion entails habitat development, modern technologies in lion management and addressing the issue of diseases among lions and its associated species through advanced world-class research and veterinary care. Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav on Tuesday held meetings in Gujarat's Sasan-Gir; home to the Gir National Park and Sanctuary, to review the ground situation for the implementation of the proposed 'Project Lion', said officials.

NGT-constituted panel gives clean chit to Ghogha Seaport

A joint committee constituted by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has given a clean chit to Ghogha Seaport authorities who were allegedly violating environmental norms in the beaching of a decommissioned ship, according to a private complaint. In December 2021, NGT had initiated proceedings based on a complaint by one Robert Drawin who pointed out that beaching of the decommissioned ship, Dona Paula-II, at the port has resulted in environmental norms violation with local authorities conniving with Gujarat Pollution Control Board (GPCB) officials.

यस्ताडागं नवं कुर्पात् पुल्लं वापि खानयेत्।
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The man who excavates the pond and gardens of the old stepwell or gets it rebuilt anew, gets the fruit of constructing new water bodies and planting new gardens ~Vrksayurvedah-6

GREEN JUSTICE

SANDEEP SINGH SON OF SATPAL SINGH VS MINISTRY OF ENVIROMENT AND FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

CITATION: Appeal No. 20/2022

This appeal has been preferred against grant of Environmental Clearance (EC) vide order dated 19.01.2022 by State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SELAA), Punjab in terms of proposal dated 15.07.2021 for project "Omexe Chandigarh Extension", for expansion. A Joint Committee was formed . The tribunal ordered the joint Committee to undertake visit of the site, interact with the stakeholders, verify factual position and furnish a report inter alia covering observations.

JITUL DEKA S/O SHRI KARUNA DEKA VS UNION OF INDIA THROUGH SECRETARY GOVT. OF INDIA MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

CITATION: Original Application No. 48/2019

The Applicant alleges in the application of rampant illegal mining of gravel and stone in the Ri-Bhoi District of Meghalaya. It is stated that the State of Meghalaya while issuing Notification dated 12.09.2016 notifying the Meghalaya Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 2016 has excluded gravel and stones from within the meaning of 'Minor Minerals' provided in Schedule III to the said Notification. The Original Application was disposed of with a direction to the respondents to ensure recovery of Environmental Compensation from the violators noted in the affidavits following due process of law within a time frame of three months and when the recovery is made the same shall be deposited with the Meghalaya State Pollution Control Board within three months.

DHARMENDRA GAUTAM VS RAJASTHAN STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

CITATION: Original Application No. 65/2021

The issues raised in this application relates to the unauthorized and illegal operation of food factory namely M/s R.J. Food Product situated near Kota, Rajasthan. The matter was taken up by this Tribunal on 03.09.2021 and this Tribunal by constituting a joint committee consisting of Collector Kota and representative of Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board directed to submit factual and action taken report. During the course of proceedings, this application has been moved by the applicant to stay the operation of the order passed by the State Pollution Control Board. In changed circumstances and closure of unit and decision of applicant to shift the unit from residential to non-residential area, the appeal so filed is dismissed.

HARISHCHANDRA GOEL VS MIDC

CITATION: Original Application No. 52/2022

This Application has been moved under Section 18(1) read with Sections 14 and 15 of the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010 praying to declare the resolution dated 04.11.2020 that would adversely impact environment and open space for plantation in industrial land which should be declared illegal and violative of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and the rules framed thereunder. The tribunal clearly observed that it is evident from the pleadings, that, it is a case of private dispute between two parties relating to violation of the terms and conditions of the lease deed stated above. Whole grievance of the Applicant admittedly is that whatever plantation has been done by them should not be allowed because that would lead to environmental degradation. To this extent the arguments have some force. Thus, the application is disposed of .

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Agni, the sole one is kindled in many ways. Sun, the sole one manifests in all things. Usha, the sole one illuminates all universe. The one (sole power) has become all this . ~ Rigveda 8.58.2

GREEN LAWS

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT POLICY



The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) was signed into law on January 1, 1970. NEPA requires federal agencies to assess the environmental effects of their proposed actions prior to making decisions. The range of actions covered by NEPA is broad and includes:

- Making decisions on permit applications,
- Adopting federal land management actions, and
- Constructing highways and other publicly-owned facilities

Using the NEPA process, agencies evaluate the environmental and related social and economic effects of their proposed actions. Agencies also provide opportunities for public review and comment on those evaluations. The National Environment Policy (NEP) by the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) aims at mainstreaming environmental concerns into all developmental activities. It emphasizes conservation of resources, and points that the best way to aid conservation is to ensure, that people dependent on resources obtain better livelihoods from conservation, than from degradation of the resources. It argues, that, environmental degradation often leads to poverty and poor health outcomes among populations. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) was one of the first laws ever written that establishes the broad national framework for protecting our environment. NEPA's basic policy is to assure, that, all branches of government give proper consideration to the environment prior to undertaking any major federal action that significantly affects the environment. NEPA requirements are invoked when airports, buildings, military complexes, highways, parkland purchases, and other federal activities are proposed. Environmental Assessments (EAs) and Environmental Impact Statements (EISs), which are assessments of the likelihood of impacts from alternative courses of action, are required from all Federal agencies and are the most visible NEPA requirements.



Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES

Planet Earth is home to over 13,000 known species of mammals and birds, tens of thousands of reptiles, amphibians and fish, some 250,000 flowering plants, and millions of insects and other invertebrates. Concerned about the overexploitation of many vulnerable species as a result of unregulated international trade, governments adopted the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in 1973. CITES regulates international trade in over 36,000 species of plants and animals, including their products and derivatives, ensuring their survival in the wild with benefits for the livelihoods of local people and the global environment. CITES has taken the lead in raising awareness regarding the surge in illegal trade in wildlife and in taking a coordinated approach to the fight against illegal wildlife trade, included the establishment of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC), a collaborative effort of five inter-governmental organizations (CITES, INTERPOL, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the World Bank and the World Customs Organization), working to provide coordinated support to the national wildlife law enforcement agencies and to the sub-regional and regional networks that, on a daily basis, act to defend the natural resources. India is a CITES Party since 1976. Due to its extreme diversity, India is recognized all over the world for harboring up to 7-8% of all the species recorded by CITES. As an active CITES Party, India prohibits the international trade of endangered wild species. CITES was drafted as a result of a resolution adopted in 1963 at a meeting of members of IUCN (The World Conservation Union). The text of the Convention was finally agreed at a meeting of representatives of 80 countries in Washington, D.C., United States of America, on 3 March 1973, and on 1 July 1975 CITES, entered in force. The original document of the Convention was deposited with the Depository Government in the English, French and Spanish languages, each version being equally authentic. The Convention is also available in Chinese and Russian.

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ENSURE AVAILABILITY AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION FOR ALL

CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION: A CURE TO ALL DISEASES :JYOT BAXI

Proper water and sanitation is a key foundation for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, including good health and gender equality. By managing our water sustainably, we are also able to better manage our production of food and energy and contribute to decent work and economic growth. Moreover, we can preserve our water ecosystems, their biodiversity, and take action on climate change. Around 1.8 billion people globally use a source of drinking water that is fecally contaminated. Some 2.4 billion people lack access to basic sanitation services, such as toilets or latrines. Water scarcity affects more than 40 per cent of the global population and is projected to rise. More than 80 per cent of wastewater resulting from human activities is discharged into rivers or sea without any treatment, leading to pollution. Water and sanitation-related diseases remain among the major causes of death in children under five; more than 800 children die every day from diarrhoeal diseases linked to poor hygiene.

A study by the World Bank Group, UNICEF and the World Health Organization estimates that extending basic water and sanitation services to the unserved would cost US\$28.4 billion per year from 2015 to 2030, or 0.10 per cent of the global product of the 140 countries included in its study. The costs are huge—both for people and for the economy. Worldwide, more than 2 million people die every year from diarrhoeal diseases. Poor hygiene and unsafe water are responsible for nearly 90 per cent of these deaths and mostly affect children. The economic impact of not investing in water and sanitation costs 4.3 per cent of sub-Saharan African GDP. The World Bank estimates that 6.4 per cent of India's GDP is lost due to adverse economic impacts and costs of inadequate sanitation.

Without better infrastructure and management, millions of people will continue to die every year and there will be further losses in biodiversity and ecosystem resilience, undermining prosperity and efforts towards a more sustainable future. Civil society organizations should work to keep governments accountable, invest in water research and development, and promote the inclusion of women, youth and indigenous communities in water resources governance. Generating awareness of these roles and turning them into action will lead to win-win results and increased sustainability and integrity for both human and ecological systems. You can also get involved in the World Water Day and World Toilet Day campaigns that aim to provide information and inspiration to take action on hygiene issues.



TARGETS

- By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all
- By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations
- By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes

Image Source: UN
<https://www.unwater.org/publications/sdg-6-infographics/>

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UPCOMING EVENTS

National

- 4 June, 2022: Faculty of law, GLS University celebrates World Environment Day by organizing a webinar on "GREEN EARTH: A QUEST FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT"
- 6-7 August, 2022: Faculty of Law, GLS University is organizing the 2nd International (Virtual) Conference on the theme "Climate Change Governance and Law" to commemorate the semi-centennial year of Stockholm Declaration(50 years) and Semi-Sesquicentennial of Independence of India(75 years). Theme 4 for the said conference is on "Climate Change and Biodiversity Extinction".

International

- 2 June, 2022: World Environment Day Youth MeetUp: Youth Action United for #OnlyOneEarth in Stockholm, Sweden
- 8 June,2022 : WaterEx World Expo 2022 in Mumbai, India
- 10 June,2022 : Behavioural science for sustainable change, youth acting for climate through universities and gaming on multiple online platforms.
- 26 June,2022 : World Urban Forum 11 in Katowice, Poland



Concept and Design: Tapati Dave

"We shall not defeat any of the infectious diseases that plague the developing world until we have also won the battle for safe drinking water, sanitation, and basic health care."
~Kofi Annan

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