



ECOBUZZ

A BUZZ TO THE GREEN FUTURE!!

MARCH EDITION

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Green Greetings from Faculty of Law, GLS University!

The biggest challenges the world is facing today are at the intersection of social and environmental problems. Climate change is contributing towards the exacerbation of existing vulnerabilities and people's ability to sustain their sources of livelihood, especially in poor and under-developed countries. In order to counteract these trends, climate adaptation and mitigation activities, including efforts designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, need to go hand-in-hand with long-term investment in development. Efforts must also be made to focus on strategies including wider use of safety nets, women empowerment, improved access to markets and management of ecosystems and natural resources. Thus, working to resolve issues ranging from climate change to environmental injustice require perspectives that crosscut the social and natural sciences.

The United Nation Environment Program Making Peace with Nature report issued earlier this year emphasised on transforming social and economic systems for improving the relationship with nature, understanding its value and putting that value at the heart of decision making. Let us transform together to build back better and greener environment. I wish you all the best for the journey you are embarking on and all your future endeavours as well.

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National Updates

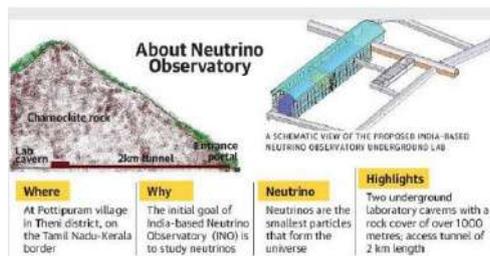
Budget 2022-23: Incentives for solar, Green Bonds in Low Carbon Plan

One of the key actions announced by the Finance Minister during her Budget speech was an allocation of ₹19,500 crore for Production Linked Incentive (PLI) for manufacture of high efficiency solar modules for fully integrated manufacturing units that can transit polysilicon to solar PV modules. The Finance Minister also announced Sovereign Green Bonds under the Government's overall market borrowings in 2022-23, which will be used to mobilize resources for green or climate-friendly infrastructure.



Tamil Nadu says NO to Indian Eutrino Observatory project in Theni

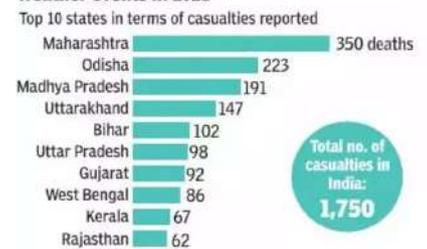
The Tamil Nadu government filed an affidavit in the apex court stating that the project in Theni would cause irreparable damage to the Western Ghats. The project, if implemented, will affect the flora and fauna of the Periyar Tiger Reserve and Mathikettan Shola National Park in the Western Ghats – which have earned global reputation for effective conservation.



2021 fifth Warmest Year in India since 1901: IMD

"The year 2021 was the fifth warmest year after 2016, 2009, 2017 and 2010 since 1901. The annual mean air temperature for the country was recorded at 0.44 degree Celsius above normal," the MeT department's annual climate statement, 2021 stated. The country also reported 1,750 deaths due to extreme weather events such as floods, cyclonic storms, heavy rain, landslides, lightning, during the year, it said.

States reporting human casualties due to extreme weather events in 2021



Green waves in civic body budget, push to promote green energy

Rajkot Municipal Corporation have hiked taxes on two-wheeler and four-wheeler, the move so made was to promote usage of public transport. Ahmedabad Civic Body have planned on installing charging ports for E-vehicles at every 9 sq. km which in total is 300 points. They are also encouraging private ports by exempting them from property tax for three years, Vadodara Government is building floating solar power plant in Ajwa, which will generate 2000 Kw of power and reduce greenhouse effect.

Municipal Corporation has to take initiative to clean the rivers in the state : HC

According to Bombay Provisional Municipal Act, factory waste couldn't be disposed into municipal drainage line. High court noted that like Arvind Limited Aashami Limited should also adopt poisonous liquid discharge technique. But Aashami Limited is facing loss since few years and couldn't afford that technique, so Hon'ble High Court stated that if the company isn't capable enough to afford the above said technique then they are free to wind up their business.

MoEF has given the nod to increase digging limits in Tadkeshwar

Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation (GMDC) on Friday announced that it has received an amendment to its environment clearance from the Union Ministry of Environment and Forest to mine up to a depth of 135 meters from its earlier approved depth of 94 meters at the Tadkeshwar, Lignite Mines.

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साधवो नहि सर्वत्र चन्दनं न वने वने ॥

Rubies are not found in every mountain; nor is a pearl to be met with every elephant.

Good people are not found everywhere. A sandalwood tree does not exist in every forest~ Chanakya Neetisaar 2.9

GREEN JUSTICE

YAMUNA BANK KISHAN BACHAO MORCHA VS.. STATE OF NCT OF DELHI AND OTHERS

CITATION: W.P.(CRL) 2035/2021

The writ petition is filed in order to restrain respondent to take over lands of farmers until completion of investigation and pay compensation for damage of their crops. It is stated that petitioners are inhabitants on bank of river Yamuna for more than 100 years performed farming also paid taxes. But now they are receiving calls and threats to vacate the place. Considering situation, NGT held that Unauthorized activities are being carried out on the floodplain and at some places they have even encroached up to the riverbed of Yamuna. Agricultural products raised from these areas have shown to be injurious to human health, primarily for the reasons that the river carries very high pollutants, including heavy-metals and acidic elements. The resultant disasters would be impairment of motor skills, onset and development of hypertension and may even result in slow cognitive development. Hence writ is not maintainable and petition is dismissed.

PRAGNESH SHAH VS DR. ARUN SHARMA AND ORS.

CITATION: Civil Appeal Nos. 7724-7725 of 2021

The appellant is the owner of land in Mount Abu in Rajasthan. The appellant claims that the land was earmarked as "Residential" and as a "Tourist Facility" in the Zonal Master Plan 2025 for Mount Abu. Appellant has a grievance that when a draft of ZMP 2030 was published, the status of his land was incorrectly changed from "Residential" and "Tourist Facility" to "Agricultural Zone". NGT at last held that no construction shall lie on lands of appellee.

VINIT KUMAR VS DSM SUGAR MILLS LTD. AND ORS

CITATION: Original Application No. 16/2021

Grievance in the application is against causing of pollution by DSM Sugar Mills Ltd., operating in Mansurpur, Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh in violation of environmental norms. Violations include untreated industrial effluent being discharged into the storm drain/nullah and Gram Sabha Pond, and eventually into the river Kali, in violation of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 absence of safeguards in storing hazardous chemicals and scrap, not having flow meter for water discharged for irrigation, inadequate treatment of effluent, not having enclosures to reduce noise, exceeding consented capacity. On verification by statutory regulators, these violations were found in the report, June 29, 2021 which led to direction of the Tribunal for remedial action. The applicant has raised objections to the adequacy of remedial action and compensation assessed while the project proponent claims compliance and disputed the report, December 31, 2021. The NGT, on February 11, 2022 directed DSM Sugar Mills, Mansurpur to pay Rs. 5 crores on polluter pays principle for restoration of the environment.

RAM BABAN BORKAR VS CHIEF SECRETARY OG MAHARASHTRA AND ORS.

CITATION: Original Application No. 39/2020(WZ)

Grievance in this application is against illegal construction by M/s. L.M.S. Realty, Pune in constructing the building project "Finswell" on Survey No. 208/1A Lohegaon, Viman Nagar, Taluka-Haveli, District Pune, on the basis of building sanction plan, without requisite Environmental Clearance (EC). EC was obtained subsequently on 02.02.2019. It appeared that the violation found is not including non FSI area in the total built-up area as required and, on that basis, EC was not earlier taken. However, no violation of environmental norms is shown from the joint Committee report. Thus, on principle of proportionality no adverse order is required to be passed in the facts and circumstances of the case even though strictly speaking, construction without prior EC is illegal.

TALAB BACHAO ABHIYAN VS STATE OF BIHAR

CITATION: ORIGINAL APPLICATION No. 88/2021/EZ

It is stated that under the garb of beautification of the pond the University authorities have laid bricks and concrete about 15 feet wide at the alluvium and about 5 feet wide at the bed of the pond which has adversely affected the aquatic eco-system of the pond and the process of recharge of underground water. It is stated that no permission has been granted by the Central Ground Water Board for construction/ renovation/beautification of the pond in question. It is also stated that the matter relating to repair, restoration and renovation of water bodies is being dealt with by the Minor Irrigation (MI) Section, Ministry of Jal Shakti. It was directed that the fire baked bricks shall be removed and the embankment of the pond in question shall not be lined either with clay bricks or fire baked bricks but shall be an earth embankment with adequate plantation of grass and other plants on the sides of the pond which will help in binding of the soil in the embankment and retention of moisture thereby preventing soil erosion

यस्मिन् सर्वानि भुतान्यात्मैवाभूद्विजानतः ।

तत्र कौ मोः कः शोकं एकत्वमनुपश्यतः ॥

See all living beings as souls. Do not feel infatuation or anguish at their sight. Experience oneness with them.~ Yajurveda 40.7

GREEN LAWS

UN CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE



United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

The 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference, more commonly referred to as COP26, was the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference, held at the SEC Centre in Glasgow, Scotland, United Kingdom, from 31 October to 13 November 2021. The president of the conference was UK Cabinet Minister Mr. Alok Sharma. Delayed for a year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it was the 26th Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the third meeting of the parties to the 2015 Paris Agreement (designated CMA1, CMA2, CMA3), and the 16th meeting of the parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP16). The conference was the first since the Paris Agreement of COP21 that expected parties to make enhanced commitments towards mitigating climate change; the Paris Agreement requires parties to carry out a process colloquially known as the 'Ratchet Mechanism' every five years to provide improved national pledges. The result of COP26 was the Glasgow Climate Pact, negotiated through consensus of the representatives of the 197 attending parties. Owing to late interventions from India and China, that weakened a move to end coal power and fossil fuel subsidies, the conference ended with the adoption of a less stringent resolution than some anticipated. Nevertheless, the pact was the first climate deal to explicitly commit to reducing the use of coal. It included wording that encouraged more urgent greenhouse gas emissions cuts and promised more climate finance for developing countries to adapt to climate impacts. In the midst of the conference, on 6 November 2021, a march against inadequate action at the conference, as well as for other climate change-related issues, became the largest protest in Glasgow since anti-Iraq War marches in 2003. Additional rallies took place in 100 other countries

ENVIRONMENT IMPACT ASSESSMENT: A COMPARISON

	2006	2020
Categorization of Projects and reduced scrutiny	All projects are divided in 3 categories based on the potential social and environmental impact. Category A goes through max scrutiny.	Projects under certain sectors are categorized from A to B1 or B2. This recategorization removes certain scrutiny, and may not lead to project assessment by the appraisal committee for getting environment clearance.
Exemption from requirement of EIA/Public Consultation	Categories of projects requiring EIA and public consultation is wide.	Approx. set of 40 industries will now be in B2 category and therefore be exempted from the requirement of EIA and public consultation process.
Project Modernization / expansion	Construction project having land less than 20,000 sq. m. and built-up area less than 1, 50,000 sq. m. did not require prior environment clearance.	Construction projects up to 1,50, 000 sq. m. are exempted from assessment environment clearance may be granted after scrutiny by state level expert appraisal committee alone
Procedure for Public Consultation and hearing	Notice period for public hearing is 30 days and public hearing to be completed in 45 days.	Timelines have been reduced- notice period to 20 days and process to be completed in 40 days.

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Rubies are not found in every mountain; nor is a pearl to be met with every elephant.

Good people are not found everywhere. A sandalwood tree does not exist in every forest~ Chanakya Neetisaar 2.9



ENSURE HEALTHY LIVES AND PROMOTE WELL-BEING FOR ALL AT ALL AGES

GOOD HEALTH AND WELL BEING -A GOAL OF HIGH SIGNIFICANCE

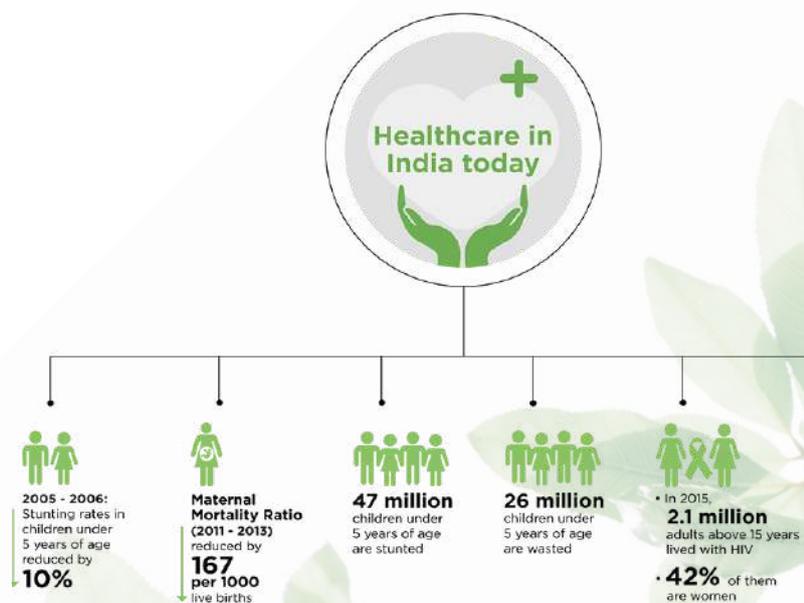
~SAHIL NAIR

Sustainable Development Goal 3 (SDG 3 or Global Goal 3) is one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals created by the United Nations in 2015. It focuses on "Good Health and Well-Being." "To ensure healthy lifestyles and promote well-being for everybody at all ages," says the official statement. SDG 3's aims cover and focus on a variety of areas of a healthy living and lifestyle. Twenty-one indicators are used to track progress toward the goals.

To track progress toward targets, SDG 3 has 13 targets and 28 indicators. The first nine goals are "outcome goals." Reduce maternal mortality; eliminate all preventable deaths in children under the age of five; combat communicable diseases; ensure a reduction in noncommunicable disease mortality; promote mental health; prevent and treat substance abuse; reduce road injuries and deaths; provide universal access to sexual and reproductive health, family planning, and education; achieve universal health coverage; and reduce illnesses and deaths from hazardous chemicals and pollution. Implement the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control; support research, development, and universal access to inexpensive vaccines and medicines; and enhance health budget and assist health workers in developing countries are the four "means to attaining" SDG 3 aims. SDG 3 aims to achieve universal health coverage, which means that all men and women have equal access to healthcare services. It recommends putting a stop to the avoidable deaths of newborns, babies, and children under the age of five (child mortality) as well as epidemics. The 2030 Agenda and sustainable development require good health. It focuses on greater economic and social inequities, urbanisation, climate change, the ongoing burden of HIV and other infectious diseases, as well as emerging concerns like noncommunicable diseases. Given the global epidemic of COVID-19, there is a pressing need to devote large resources to achieving global health and well-being.

The COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 poses a major threat to SDG 3's goal of ensuring everyone's health and well-being. As the pandemic expanded over the world, nearly 70 countries imposed a moratorium on different health services, including child vaccination, family planning, cancer screening, and so on. In 2020, hundreds of thousands of children under the age of five are predicted to die. The epidemic has also resulted in overpopulation and overcrowding of health services, and many individuals are terrified of becoming infected if they attend these institutions. The majority of non-COVID-19 diseases have been ignored or halted, causing healthcare services to be stretched beyond their capacity to provide adequate care. This is a significant reversal after decades of progress, highlighting the need for governments to emphasize issues of healthy living and well-being in order to achieve SDG 3. Governments and healthcare systems in countries where health workers are in short supply should use the lessons learned from this crisis to strengthen their resilience in the face of future pandemics and make progress toward Universal Health Coverage.

TO PROMOTE HEALTHY LIVES AND PROMOTE WELL-BEING FOR ALL AT ALL AGES



Source: SONATA SOFTWARE

<https://www.sonata-software.com/sustainability/good-health-and-well-being>

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UPCOMING EVENTS

National

6-7th August: 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 1 for the said conference is on "Law, Policy and Governance of Climate Change".

8th March: National Conference on Advances in Science, Agriculture, Environmental & Biotechnology. NCASAEB -2022.

9-10 March: International Conference on Environmental Science and Biotechnology (ICESB)

International

1st march- 9th World Ocean Summit

3rd march- Launch of UN World Environment Situation Room at UNEP@50

21st march- Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury (COP-4)

23rd March- UNEP harnessing the power of technology for tackling disasters



Life (ayu) is the combination (samyoga) of body, senses, mind and reincarnating soul. Ayurveda is the most sacred science of life, beneficial to humans both in this world and the world beyond. Ministry of AYUSH recommends, Ayurveda, the science of life, which propagates the gifts of nature in maintaining healthy and happy living

Concept: Maitri Patel, Tapati Dave
Design: Pratibha Patel

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