



Recent Happenings



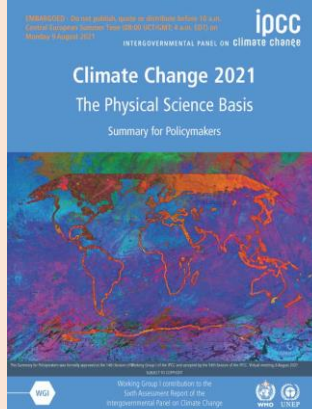
IPCC AR6 2021 Summary:

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), set up in 1988 by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is the international body for assessing the science related to climate change. Every few years, it produces the assessment reports. Recently its 6th assessment report is published (9th August, 2021). The major key points are given below –

1. The average surface temperature of the Earth will cross 1.5 °C over pre-industrial levels in the next 20 years and 2°C by the middle of the century without sharp reduction of emissions.

2. (CO₂) Concentrations are observed at the highest levels comparing it from the last two million years.

3. Sea-level rise has tripled in 1,000 years. Coastal areas will face continued sea-level rise



throughout the 21st century, resulting in coastal erosion and more frequent and severe

flooding in low-lying areas. The Arctic Sea ice is the lowest it has been compared with 1901-1971.

4. IPCC has informed that a global net-zero by 2050 was the minimum required to keep the temperature rise to 1.5°C. Without India, this target would not be possible to achieve as India is 3rd largest emitter in the world and the need for India's positive commitment for a net-zero emission by 2050 is compulsory.

Rainfall in Greenland:

Greenland experienced a rainfall for the first time in history. It continued for three days and the temperature was 18° higher than the average. The precipitation recorded on 14th of August is estimated 7 billion tonnes. The area of ice melted is almost four times the area of UK. This unprecedented event points at the bare catastrophes that will follow without immediate aggressive actions. The global sea level would rise by 6m, submerging the low-lying cities like Amsterdam, Sanghai, Mumbai; if all of the Arctic Ice melts by 2050.

Buxwaha Forest Protest:

The Buxwaha forest of Bundelkhand region is facing a protest from the locals since April this year against a proposed diamond mining plan which is spread around 382 hectares of the protected forest and involves the cutting down of around 2,15,000 trees for the purpose. The forest provides many products like mahua, tendu leaves, chironji, amla and other such products which are the basis of livelihood for around 7000 villagers of 17 nearby tribal villages. Australian mining giant Rio Tinto also got license for mining in the region in 2006 but with stiff opposition the mining was shelved in 2016. The MP government invited fresh bids to the 90-billion dollar diamond mine project with a reduced mining area than before. Yet, the project is under opposition as the locals claim they'll lose livelihoods and also there will be loss of biodiversity if the project initiates. The officials however are of opinion that the locals have welcomed this project as it's a source of employment generation for them. Activists like Neha Singh and Dr PG Najpande have filed PIL in Supreme Court and NGT respectively to quash the permission granted for mining. Social media campaigns like '#SaveBuxwahaForest' have been trended on 20 May to create awareness amongst the people of the country. Will the protests, petitions and opposition be able to save Buxwaha or will one more forest succumb to the hands of industries for mere economic gains sidelining ecological losses seems a fight worth seeing in the upcoming future.

Indian Company Wins Prince William's inaugural 'Eco-Oscar' Award:

New Delhi-based 17 year old entrepreneur Vidyut Mohan is among the five global winners for the inaugural 'Earthshot prize' also known as the 'Eco-Oscar' that honours people trying to save the planet. Vidyut Mohan has been awarded in the Clean our Air category, for his technology called 'Takachar', a small and portable device that uses crop residue to convert it into bio-products like fuel and fertilizers to reduce smoke emissions and combat air pollution. Each of the five winners will receive £1 million for their project.

Death of Sundarlal Bahuguna:



The eminent environmental activist, the leader of Chipko movement and Anti-Tehri dam protests, Padma Vibhushan. Sri Sundarlal Bahuguna has passed away on May 21, 2021 due to COVID-19 complications. We lost a gem that was an inspiration to thousands.

Uttarakhand Chamoli Disaster:

Place: Environs of the Nanda Devi National Park

Date: 7th February, 2021

Cause: Ice and Rock avalanche by breaking off the Nanda Devi glacier, causes releasing of water trapped behind the ice.

Deaths: 83, Missing: 123



World Environment Day – 2021:



Theme: Ecosystem Restoration

Hosting Country: Pakistan

Slogan: Reimagine, Recreate, Restore