

Nature Environment and Pollution Technology

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Nature Environment and Pollution Technology

EDITORS

Prof. K. P. Sharma

Ecology Lab, Deptt. of Botany
University of Rajasthan
Jaipur-302 004, India
Rajasthan, India

Dr. P. K. Goel

Assoc. Prof. & Head, Deptt. of Pollution Studies
Yashwantrao Chavan College of Science
Vidyanagar, Karad-415 124
Maharashtra, India

Managing Editor at Jaipur: Dr. Subhashini Sharma, Department of Zoology, Rajasthan University, Jaipur, Rajasthan, India

Business Manager: Mrs. Tara P. Goel, Technoscience Publications, 2 Shila Apartment, Shila Nagar, Karad-415 110, Maharashtra, India (E-mail: contact@neptjournal.com)

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13th to 16th July 2015, Athens, Greece

Website: <http://www.atiner.gr/water.htm>

Contact person: Gregory Papanikos

Science for the Environment 2015

1-2 October 2015, Aarhus, Denmark

Website: <http://dce-conference.au.dk/>

Contact person: Anja Skjoldborg Hansen

Energy and Sustainability 2015 - 6th International Conference on Energy and Sustainability

2-4 September 2015, Medellin, Colombia

Website: <http://www.wessex.ac.uk/energy2015>

Contact person: Rachel Van Look

International Congress on Energy and Environment Engineering and Management

22-24 July 2015, Paris, France

Website: <http://ciiem.info>

Contact person: Mónica Martins

Water and Society 2015 - 3rd International Conference on Water and Society

15-17 July 2015, A Coruna, Spain

Website: <http://www.wessex.ac.uk/watersoc2015>

Contact person: Irene Moreno Millan

Plant Growth, Nutrition & Environment Interaction

25-27 June 2015, Vienna, Austria

Website: <http://viscea.org/index.php/plant-growth>

Contact person: Alisher Touraev

River Basin Management 2015 - 8th International Conference on River Basin Management including all aspects of Hydrology, Ecology, Environmental Management, Flood Plains and Wetlands

17-19 June 2015, A Coruna, Spain

Website: <http://www.wessex.ac.uk/rivers2015>

Contact person: Rachel Van Look

The 3rd EnvironmentAsia International Conference

17-19 June 2015, Bangkok, Thailand

Website: <http://www.tshe.org/environmentasia-2015/>

Contact person: Asst Prof. Dr. Ratcha Chaichana

Ecology & Safety 2015, 24th International Conference

4-8 June 2015

Elenite Holiday Village, Burgas, Bulgaria

Website: <http://www.sciencebg.net/en/conferences/ecology-and-safety/>

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17th to 19th June 2015,

Bangkok, Thailand

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ACSEE 2015 - The Fifth Asian Conference on Sustainability, Energy & the Environment

13th to 16th June 2015

Osaka, Japan

Website: <http://iafor.org/iafor/conferences/acsee2015/>

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International Conference in Nature Studies and Innovations for the Environment

19-23 May 2015, Clark, Pampanga, Philippines

Website: <https://sites.google.com/a/pssnonline.org/iconsie-2015/home>

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Sardinia 2015 - 15th International Waste Management and Landfill Symposium Forte Village

5-9 October 2015,

S. Margherita di Pula, Cagliari, Italy

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ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

Climate Change May Make Some Species Take Flight

Don't get too used to seeing the local sparrows and chickadees visiting your backyard bird feeder. According to a new U.S. Geographical Survey study, loss of habitat may force many species to relocate in the coming decades. Fragile habitats like wetlands are threatened by new weather patterns and temperature fluctuations caused by climate change — to say nothing of development and clearcutting. The USGS study, published in the journal PLoS One, shows that many birds are going to have to pick up and leave — in some cases, like the Baird's sparrow, up to 90 percent of their habitat in the U.S. could be abandoned due to such changes. The report tallies with another issued recently by the Audubon Society.

CNBC News

After US-China deal, India may have to reset climate goals

A section within the government believes the US-China deal would, by default, give India enough elbow room to peak its emission some 15 or 20 years beyond 2030.

US-China climate deal is not so ambitious, says India phase out fossil fuels in power by 2100: IPCC Why Himalayan glaciers are expanding instead of shrinking UN panel scrambling to finish climate report CA 4th exam postponed to Nov 22 The US-China joint pledge to take actions to limit their carbon emissions may put pressure on India to commit something substantial by March next year when all countries are expected to come out with their 'intended' goals of cutting emissions. The development is also seen as something that may trigger a clamour within India to de-link itself from China ahead of the make-or-break global climate negotiations in Paris next year.

Climate experts and environmentalists, on the other hand, believe that whatever the top two emitters have pledged is well short of what is needed from them to limit warming to 2 degrees Celsius by the end of the century. Shyam Saran, former special envoy of the PM on climate change, said, "This agreement was expected. With a declared peak year of 2030, China can continue to increase its carbon emissions until then, which could be a questionable achievement for climate change. India has, in a manner of speaking, already accepted an emissions ceiling. In 2007, then PM Manmohan Singh said India's per capita emission would never exceed the average per capita emission achieved by the developed world. The lower the latter, the ceiling for India too would have to be lower."

A section within the government believes the US-China deal would, by default, give India enough elbow room to peak its emission some 15 or 20 years beyond 2030 - the year around which China promised to reach its peak emission. It means India may take it easy on its mitigation part and rather focus on adaptation and increasing its share of renewable energy in the country's total energy mix - the stand which the Narendra Modi government may take while de-linking itself from China at international platforms on climate issue.

Commenting on the deal, Sunita Narain, director general of Centre for Science and Environment, said, "It is a self-serving deal in which both countries have agreed to converge their per capita emissions at 12 tonnes in 2030. This is a high level of emission and not in line with meeting the 2 degree Celsius temperature target mandated by IPCC." She added, "India should push for a principle-based emissions reduction target for all countries. This is the only way we can force the US and China to reduce their emissions which are in line with the planetary limits."

IANS, November, 2014

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

Climate Change Worsens Dead Zones in Seas, Lakes and Rivers: Study

Global warming is likely playing a bigger role than thought in dead zones in oceans, lakes and rivers around the world, according to a new study. Dead zones occur when fertilizer runoff clogs waterways with nutrients, such as nitrogen and phosphorous. The resulting explosion of microbes leaves the water depleted of oxygen. The study, published Monday in the journal *Global Change Biology* by Smithsonian Institution researchers, found about two dozen different ways — biologically, chemically and physically — that climate change worsens the oxygen depletion.

The researchers looked at 476 dead zones worldwide — 264 in the U.S. They found that computer climate models predict that, on average, the surface temperature around those dead zones will increase by about 4 degrees Fahrenheit (slightly more than 2 degrees Celsius) from the 1980s and 1990s to the end of this century. The largest predicted warming is nearly 7 degrees (almost 4 degrees Celsius) where the St. Lawrence River dumps into the ocean in Canada. The most prominent U.S. dead zones, the Gulf of Mexico and the Chesapeake Bay, are projected to warm 4 degrees (2.3 degrees Celsius) and nearly 5 degrees (2.7 degrees Celsius) respectively.

CNBC News

Air pollution set to rise drastically in Indian cities

If current trends of vehicle population, fuel and emission standards persist in India, PM 2.5 (particulate matter smaller than 2.5 micrometers) emissions will increase three times and NOx (nitrogen oxide) will rise five times in the coming years. Compiled by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), University of California, San Diego (UCSD) and the California Air Resources Board (CARB), the report "Options to reduce road transport pollution in India" said that the transport sector contributes about 15 to 50 percent of PM 2.5 emissions in cities, and is a dominant contributor to NOx emissions.

"Vehicular emissions contribute to PM 2.5 and NOx. PM 2.5 is the dominant contributor to premature deaths and numerous other illnesses, followed by NOx, and these are the major contributors to agricultural impacts," said the report. According to CARB chairman Mary Nichols: "In 1991, there were 20 million vehicles in India. The number had skyrocketed to 140 million in 2011, and by 2030, vehicle population is expected to reach a staggering 400 million."

TERI director general RK Pachauri said: "We should go beyond technological transfers and evolve pathways for pollution control as there are co-benefits of reducing greenhouse gases and reducing the health burden."

"We need to develop larger frameworks to mobilize resources and invest in technological innovations," he said adding that the report would provide intellectual inputs to formulate specific pollution control models for states. "This will require the intervention of not just the government, but all stakeholders," he added.

Upgrading fuel quality, tightening vehicle emission standards, fostering new engine management technology, encouraging fleet modernization, increasing distribution of electric and hybrid vehicles are some of the many steps that the report suggests to curb the rising pollution levels.

IANS, November, 2014

BOOK REVIEW

Anubha Kaushik and C.P. Kaushik 2014. *Perspectives in Environmental Studies*. Fourth Multi Colour Edition, pp.357, New Age International (P) Ltd., Publishers, New Delhi, ISBN: 978-81-224-3614-3, Price Rs. 200.

The subject of environmental studies is a fast emerging multidisciplinary subject in line with deeper impact of human activities on the environment and surfacing of diverse global problems like greenhouse effect and climate change, ozone depletion, acid rain, and water and air pollution. In view of this, several steps have been and are being taken in the whole world. One of the measures taken is to make increasing the awareness and accounting the responsibility of individuals towards the environment. Supreme Court of India has also emphasized the need of teaching the subject of environment in education system. UGC has framed a syllabus for the environmental studies course to be made compulsory at undergraduate level in all streams in India. Many books so far have come in marked, based on the UGC syllabus.

The current book has been judiciously written with keeping the depth of the subject to such a level, which may be easily understood and grasped by science as well as non-science students. The book has been divided into seven main Chapters as per the UGC syllabus, i.e., The Multidisciplinary Nature of Environmental Studies, Natural Resources, Ecosystems, Biodiversity and Its Conservation, Environmental Pollution, Social Issues and the Environment, Human Population and the Environment.

A Chapter on Field Work has also been included to give guidance and the major observations to be made in various ecosystems like aquatic, forest, grassland, hilly areas as well as industrially polluted areas, water logged/saline areas, and to study common plants, insects and birds, etc. For a good aesthetics, and better visualization and understanding, the book has been made in multicolour incorporating many coloured photographs where required. The book has been written in a lucid language, easily understandable by students. A positive point of the book is that each chapter has been provided with a set of questions including multiple choice questions. The book has also included a glossary at the end, which is quite useful to the specialized subjects like this. Many chapters have been substantiated with case studies, especially pertaining to the local environmental problems.

The book shall be highly useful to the students and teachers of the subject and must be the part of libraries of all the colleges and universities or where the subject is taught. The low price of the book shall also encourage students to make it a part of their personal collection.

Dr. P. K. Goel
HOD
Department of Pollution Studies
Yashwantrao Chavan College of Science
Karad, Maharashtra