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**February - March 2023**

**Your bi-monthly climate connection is here!**

Climate change is rapidly manifesting all over the world, affecting the poorest the most. It is taking a toll on economies, a burden ultimately borne by the common people. The world leaders have finally taken this matter to the exclusive table of the Security Council but we are yet to know if they will walk the talk.

Scientists have found that the major driver of climate change, CO<sub>2</sub>, has reached unprecedented levels after 4,00,000 years. The most significant and effective way to mitigate climate change is to move away from fossil fuels. However that cannot happen overnight and countries need to plan for a just transition to renewables while indemnifying the marginalised communities who are largely dependedent on fossil fuels, especially coal.

This is our bi-monthly dispatch of updates and insights on renewable energy, energy transition, climate change, and the environment in general. We hope you enjoy reading it.

## Happenings from home



Photo: Canva

Climate change impacts are manifesting in our day-to-day lives. This is not merely an environmental phenomenon as it also has cross-sectoral impacts. From rising grocery bills to health issues, climate change is leading to social and economic consequences, making life more expensive for Indians. As we bear witness to its unprecedented and devastating effects day in and day out, we must also grapple with the reality that global economy is not immune to its effects. How does tackling climate change & adopting climate-resilient practices help mitigate inflation?

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## From the corners of the country



India pledged to achieve net-zero by 2070 at COP26 in Glasgow by decarbonising its economy. However, several stakeholders in coal-rich states in India are now concerned over the fate of their economies which thrive on coal. Therefore, states need to plan for a just transition from a fossil-fuel-dominated regime towards a non-fossil-fuel one, where the welfare of the people affected by the transition is taken care of. Jharkhand is the 1st state in India to have created a dedicated task force to assess details about the dependency of the local communities on the coal economy and recommend a road map towards a sustainable, 'just transition' by the end of December 2024. Will other states follow suit?

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## From around the world



Climate change poses a major threat to our energy security. And it will continue to do so since the world population is estimated to reach 8.5 billion in 2030, and further to 9.7 billion in 2050. This boom in population will only result in more demand for energy; and relying on fossil fuels for energy generation is out of the question since it's a vicious cycle. While renewable energy sources may take some time to scale up and become fully operational, we need to look for creative solutions in the meantime. In Tallaght, Dublin, heat from data centres and refrigerators in supermarkets, which would otherwise be released into the atmosphere as waste, is being reused by channeling into other buildings. Is this unusual form of green energy feasible for practical use and scalable to power a district?

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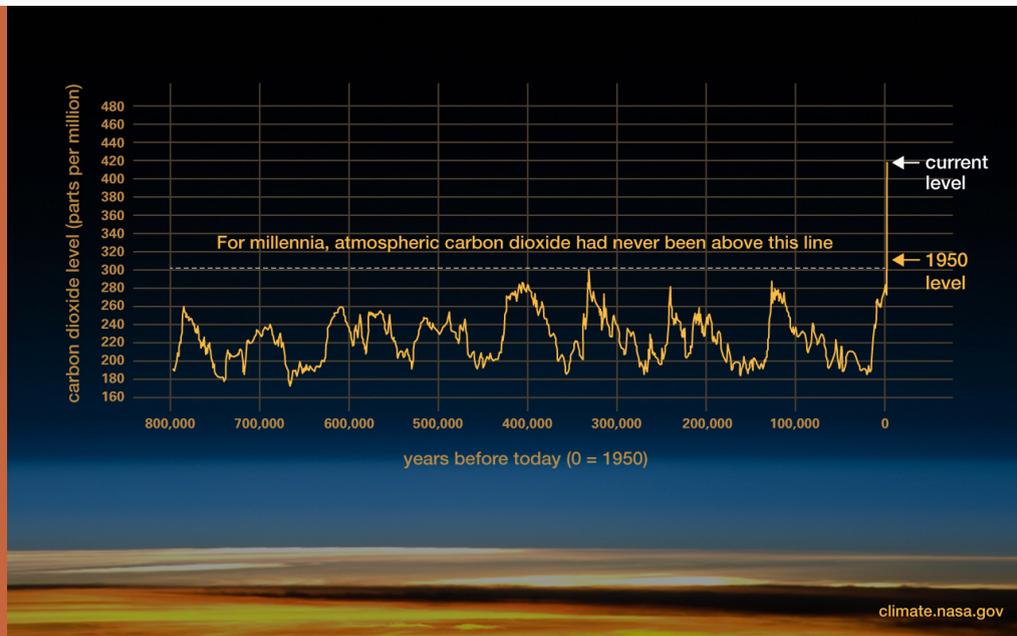
## Global warnings



As the UN Security Council held its first-ever debate on Climate Change's global implications in February, António Guterres emphasised the grave danger our planet, animals and human species are facing and will continue to face if we do not act immediately. The impact of rising seas is already creating new sources of geopolitical instability and conflict. This is seen as a threat multiplier as it jeopardizes access to food, water and healthcare. Even under the most ideal scenario, where the global temperature is limited to 1.5°C, the planet will still have a sizeable rise in sea levels. Therefore, following the UNSC meeting, civil society organisations hold out hope that the UN General Assembly and the International Court of Justice will act soon, imposing obligations on nations.

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## In a nutshell



NASA's research on CO<sub>2</sub> levels in the atmosphere has revealed that it is higher than it has ever been in the last 4,00,000 years. During the ice ages, CO<sub>2</sub> levels were around 200 parts per million (ppm), and during the warmer interglacial periods, they hovered around 280 ppm. But in 2013, CO<sub>2</sub> levels surpassed 400 ppm for the first time in recorded history. This recent relentless rise in CO<sub>2</sub> shows a remarkably constant relationship with fossil-fuel burning and can be well accounted for, based on the simple premise that about 60 percent of fossil-fuel emissions stay in the air.

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**Make it happen!**



Photo: [globalcitizen.org](https://www.globalcitizen.org)

Climate emergency is already here and it knows no borders, and it's often the world's poorest who are at the frontlines of its impacts. But year after year, and COP after COP, we watch those in power fail to deliver the action that our planet so desperately needs. With every delay, the scale of the crisis grows. We can no longer afford half-measures, empty promises, or foot-dragging to phase out fossil fuels. Global citizens are joining forces to remind those in power - it's time to put words into action and protect our planet's future. Sign the petition and be a part of this change!

**Know more**

## Nugget



Did you know that we lost 302.4 billion work hours in 2019 due to excessive heat? The Lancet report found that the number of work hours lost to heat across the globe increased from 199 billion in 2000 to 295 billion in 2020 (equivalent to 88 work hrs per person)

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# CAG

**Citizen consumer and civic Action Group**

Climate Connection is an initiative of Citizen consumer and civic Action Group (CAG) to assist and inform local communities, grassroots NGOs, environment and consumer groups, village representatives and media representatives on how to embrace renewable energy, navigate energy transition, mitigate climate change, and protect the environment they live in. We create change by developing and disseminating information resources on air pollution, climate change, environment and policies surrounding these issues.

