

CSR TODAY

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STATE OF THE CLIMATE

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Good news for tigers



Rajesh Tiwari
Publisher
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India's Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve (STR) has been awarded the prestigious TX2 Awards after its tiger number doubled since 2010. The Nilgiri biosphere landscape that this reserve is part of, is currently the home to the largest tiger population in the world.

Sites in India and Nepal awarded for doubling tiger populations - a good news for Indian sub-continent and tiger counties.

India's Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve (STR) has been awarded the prestigious TX2 Awards after its tiger number doubled since 2010. The Nilgiri biosphere landscape that this reserve is part of, is currently the home to the largest tiger population in the world.

Apart from the STR, the Bardia National Park in Nepal has won this year's TX2 Award for doubling the population of wild tigers since 2010. A second award for Tiger Conservation Excellence is presented to the Khata Forest Conservation Area in Nepal, which secures transboundary connectivity for tigers between Nepal and India.

This has to be taken ahead.

The awards are presented recently by the Conservation Assured Tiger Standards (CA|TS), Fauna and Flora International (FFI), Global Tiger Forum (GTF), IUCN's Integrated Tiger Habitat Conservation Programme (ITHCP), Panthera, UNDP, The Lion's Share, Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and WWF. They celebrate the 10th anniversary of all 13 Tiger Range countries committed to double the global population of wild tigers by 2022. The award acknowledges the efforts by the state governments and the local communities who have played one of the most important roles to turn a relatively new tiger reserve into one of the source populations of tigers in India.

Sathyamangalam was declared a Tiger Reserve in 2013 and now has about 80 individuals in the area. The tiger reserve is an important link between the Nilgiris and Eastern Ghats landscape. It is connected to other well-established tiger habitats like Mudumalai Tiger reserve, Bandipur Tiger reserve and BR Hills tiger reserve. The adjoining areas like Erode forest division, Coimbatore forest division and Malai Mahadeshwara Wildlife Sanctuary are also emerging as important

tiger habitats, creating a mosaic that allows the big cats to easily move in search of food and new territory.

Ravi Singh, Secretary-General and CEO, WWF India, said, "The TX2 Awards celebrate the remarkable contributions made by government bodies, NGOs, and local communities to strengthen tiger conservation. To honour a recently notified Tiger Reserve like Sathyamangalam with the award is a step forward to inspire others to work towards preserving this magnificent species and its habitats."

In September this year, tiger range countries will convene at the second Global Tiger Summit in Vladivostok to assess progress towards the ambitious TX2 goal - double the number of tigers in the wild - and identify tiger conservation priorities for the next 12 years.

The Khata corridor where community-based conservation efforts, including a network of 74 community forests covering 202 km², have secured safe passage for tigers between Bardia National Park in Nepal and Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary in India. Over the last five years, 46 individual tigers have been detected using the corridor with other iconic and threatened mammal species, including the Asian elephant and the greater one-horned rhino. Stuart Chapman, Lead of WWF's Tigers Alive Initiative, said, "The commitments made in 2010 demonstrate what can be achieved through long term commitments to tiger conservation."

The dedication of field teams, conservation partners and communities living with tigers are behind these extraordinary results."

Sugoto Roy, Coordinator of the Integrated Tiger Habitat Programme, IUCN, said, "Successful tiger conservation involves continuous management and improvement of habitats at the landscape scale, rigorous monitoring of tigers and their prey, and working extensively with local communities. All of these criteria have been met with excellence, giving us these globally significant results." 🟩

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Shishu Mandir launches “Rahim Education Project” to help Covid-hit students get back to school

Shishu Mandir, a registered NGO, founded by Dr Hella Mundra, launched Rahim Education Project, an initiative to provide financial assistance to 150 children who were deprived of education due to Covid. The initiative was launched in association with Rahim, a German Citizen, on the occasion of Founder's Day.

Rahim Education Project will focus on providing school fees, books and uniform and other educational expenses to all the shortlisted students every year, with Rs 45,000 as an average for each student for their educational purpose. These 150 students were nominated based on an educational survey that was conducted covering 10 schools between Medahalli to Ramurthynagar Belt. The children were purely chosen on merit and the children who discontinued their education due to pandemic and other economical constraints to create future educational prospects to deserving students.

Commenting on the launch of Rahim Education Project, Vandana Kumar, President of Shishu Mandir said, “It gives us great pleasure to announce the launch of the Rahim Education Project, which is dedicated to the well-being and overall educational development of Children who are deprived of education. We at Shishu Mandir express our gratitude to Mr. Rahim for his contribution in bringing this



Dr Hella Mundra, Founder of Shishu Mandir, handing over the cheques to the parents and the deserving children of the Rahim Education Project

positive ray of light into the lives of many children who are in desperate need of financial assistance to pursue their education. Students are the nation's future pillars, and it is our responsibility to assist them in achieving their full potential.”

Dr. Hella Mundra, is a visionary, doctor, and the founder of Shishu Foundation. Growing up among the shackles of World War 2, Hella completed her education under the influence of some of her high school teachers, strong, highly cultured, well-read women, who were committed to humanism and pacifism.

Hella's introduction to India occurred, when she was a student, who had come in with a motive of serving people. She went on to marry a young Indian doctor named Dwarka

Das Mundhra. In the 70s Hella and her family put down their roots in Bangalore. Here, they set up the Ashok Nursing Home offering medical services to all people, irrespective of whether they could pay or not. Soon, Hella also began health camps in nearby slum areas. The lifestyle of the dwellers and the

hopeless conditions of the children disturbed her deeply. This led to the return of a former dream, to engage with children and to shape their minds towards a better world by providing quality education and healthcare for economically backward kids.

When the children were old enough to attend school, Hella looked for a suitable school before being dismayed by the quality of education offered across. She started an experimental school, which has now become the Shishu Mandir Education Centre. Hella's goal for Shishu Mandir is to provide activities and projects that create a welcoming environment for children to study, learn, and grow without fear or insecurity.

CSR INDIA UNITED

ManipalCigna Health Insurance distributes Akshaya Patra's 'Family Happiness Kits' among vulnerable communities across six cities in India



ManipalCigna Health Insurance Company Limited has partnered with Bengaluru-based NGO, The Akshaya Patra Foundation to provide groceries to thousands of families severely affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.

ManipalCigna, a joint venture between Manipal Group, an eminent

player in the field of healthcare delivery and higher education and Cigna Corporation (NYSE:CI), a US-based global health service leader, in collaboration with Akshaya Patra distributed 4,550 Family Happiness Kits worth over Rs 55 lakh across six cities in India. The coronavirus outbreak has unleashed

an unprecedented crisis wreaking havoc on countless lives and livelihoods in the last two years. Vulnerable groups such as daily wagers, labourers and children have been the worst affected. To fulfil some of the basic needs of these families, employees of ManipalCigna Health Insurance volunteered at The Akshaya Patra Foundation's COVID-19 Food Relief Centres in Mumbai, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Pune, Guwahati, and Delhi on December 17 and 18, 2021 and distributed grocery kits.

Sapna Desai, Head of Marketing and Digital Sales, ManipalCigna Health Insurance, said, "Taking care of health is the need of the hour given the times we live in and it has been our privilege to partner with Akshaya Patra to help provide dry ration kits to families from vulnerable communities in these times of adversity. At ManipalCigna, we are focused on improving the health, well-being, and peace of mind of those we serve, and to do this, we endeavor to address food insecurity and help build healthier communities under the Cigna Foundation's 'Healthier Kids For Our Future' program."

ManipalCigna's donation to Akshaya Patra is part of The Cigna Foundation's \$25 million 'Healthier Kids For Our Future' program that's aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals – good health and well-being, zero hunger and no poverty. Cigna Corporation's over 74,000 global employees are working together to put children on a healthier path, starting with reducing childhood hunger and improving nutrition in local communities.

Acknowledging their outreach effort, Mr Sundeep Talwar, CMO, The Akshaya Patra Foundation said, "We are immensely grateful to employees of ManipalCigna for their wholehearted volunteering support to enable this endeavor. If we have reached this milestone of

SKF India announces SKF Scholarship program for girls



SKF India aims to support 150 girls across different cities

SKF India, the leading bearings manufacturer, today announced its scholarship program for deserving girls' students who aspire to pursue diplomas and engineering degrees. As part of the program, SKF India aims to support 150 girls from economically disadvantaged families from Pune, Mysore, Bangalore, Ahmedabad, and Haridwar. The program will be implemented by United Way of Bangalore, an NGO that has been providing opportunities to girls to attain higher education through financial aid and career-ready programs.

Manish Bhatnagar, Managing Director, SKF India Ltd. said, "The SKF Scholarship program is part of our continuous endeavor towards empowering India's youth especially young girls through education, skilling, mentorship, and counselling. We believe that an educated, confident, and independent young woman can


lay the foundation of a stronger nation with a brighter future. Through this holistic scholarship program, deserving students can overcome financial challenges and build their future by following their dream of pursuing higher education."

SKF India Scholarship 2021-22 Highlights

- **Percentage required:** Minimum

75% in SSC/HSC board examination in the academic year 2021

- **Colleges:** Select AICTE affiliated engineering/diploma colleges
- **Annual family income:** Not exceeding 3.5 lakhs.
- **Duration of scholarship:** Till the end of the course

SKF India will provide scholarship amounts up to Rs 40,000 granted in equal annual installments over the period of the degree of study. Candidates will have to submit proof of passing every year to continue the scholarship. The application process will start from October 2021 and will continue up to Dec 2021. The selection process will include shortlisting of applications basis the academic background, and financial need as well as document verification, followed by interviewing candidates to assess their interest in pursuing higher education. 

Scholarship to support 150 girls to pursue diplomas and engineering degree

STATE OF THE CLIMATE

HOW THE WORLD WARMED IN 2021

The latest climate data shows that 2021 was another noteworthy year, but not for the right reason. Ocean surface and land surface temperatures were at their warmest on records, writes **Zeke Hausfather**. Carbon Brief

Antarctica melts under its
hottest days on record.

*Image: NASA Goddard Space Flight
Center, CC BY 2.0.*

The latest climate data shows that 2021 was another noteworthy year, but not for the right reason. Ocean surface and land surface temperatures were at their warmest on records. In this article, Carbon Brief unpacks the different datasets, remarkable records and extreme events of last year.

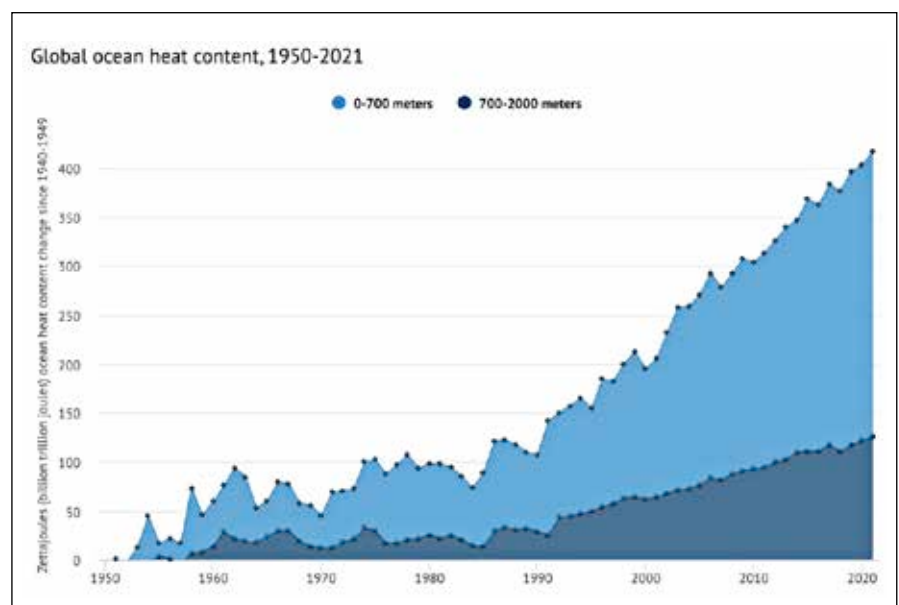
RECORD OCEAN HEAT CONTENT

Last year was the warmest on record for the heat content of the world's oceans. Ocean heat content (OHC) has increased by around 417 zettajoules — a billion trillion joules — since the 1940s. The heat increase in 2021 alone, compared to 2020 — about 14 zettajoules — is around 23 times more than the total energy used by everyone on Earth in 2019 (the latest year in which global primary energy statistics are available).

Human-emitted greenhouse gases trap extra heat in the atmosphere. While some of this warms the Earth's surface, the vast majority — around of 93 per cent — goes into the oceans. About two-thirds of this accumulates in the top 700 metres, but some also end up in the deep oceans. Annual OHC estimates between 1950 and present for both the upper 700m and 700m-2000m depths of the ocean are shown in the figure below.

In many ways, OHC represents a much better measure of climate change than global average surface temperatures. It is where most of the extra heat ends up and is much less variable on a year-to-year basis

than surface temperatures. Changes in the amount or rate of warming are much easier to detect in the OHC record than on the surface. For example, OHC shows little evidence of the modest slowdown in warming at



Annual global ocean heat content (in zettajoules — billion trillion joules, or 10^{21} joules) for the 0-700 metre and 700-2000 metre layers. Data from Cheng et al 2021.

Royal Enfield rides with 'Helmets For India'

Two-wheeler rider safety and the lack of adoption of helmets, have been among the most pressing subjects concerning road safety in India. Taking this into cognisance and to enhance awareness and increase adoption of helmets as essential companions for millions of riding enthusiasts in India, Royal Enfield has partnered with Helmets For India, a not-for-profit, creative initiative aimed at bringing about a positive change in the mass perception of wearing a helmet and improving road safety in India.

This collaboration will unlock the potential of a widespread and passionate Royal Enfield ecosystem - unified community, expansive retail network etc - for Helmets For India and will allow the initiative a larger canvas to mobilise influential voices and inspire action towards the cause. The collaboration will also allow Royal Enfield to deepen its commitment towards its social mission of Responsible Travel, and in general encourage adoption of safe riding gear for riders, especially helmets.

Conceived in 2018, Helmets For India is an initiative started by Niels-Peter Jensen, a German film-maker and former world champion mountain bike racer, who, during his first visit to India was profoundly affected by a road mishap involving a young two-wheeler rider. Feeling compelled to take charge and influence change, Niels initiated 'Helmets For India' with the motto of Safe ride for everyone, everywhere! Helmets For India has since used self-expression and art as a means of inspiration to unite the global motorcycle community and raise awareness for the

Started by Niels-Peter Jensen, Helmets For India is an Artists Collective initiative to change perspective towards helmet safety in India

Royal Enfield to support and further strengthen this initiative to increase safety awareness and helmet adoption among riding community


cause of educating millions on the need to wear a helmet.

Speaking about this collaboration, B. Govindarajan, Executive Director, Royal Enfield, said "Nurturing a culture of safe riding among enthusiasts has been a significant aspect of building the pure motorcycling experience for us at Royal Enfield. Awareness towards road safety, ensuring the adoption of the right kind of riding gear, and most importantly, helmet safety have been key pillars of this objective. Helmets For India is a unique initiative inspiring riders by positioning and showcasing helmets as an extension of their personality in addition to being a critical safety gear. This worked well with our own ethos of motorcycling being a means of self-expression and we are very happy to be partnering with Niels and Helmets For India."

To kickstart this collaboration, Helmets For India and Royal Enfield have put together a unique global artists collective initiative wherein world-renowned artists will create unique and evocative expressions on helmets which will then be auc-

tioned to raise funds for the cause of helmet safety. Over 25 global artists', including Jet Bailey, Ron Miller, Sankar Sawant and Francesco Colombo's helmet graffiti designs will be unveiled across Royal Enfield's social media channels as well as the Helmets For India website. The final artworks will join the 30 previously created for Helmets For India last year, to take part in a prestigious exhibition and auction in India later this year. Entire proceeds from the auction will be donated to an Indian NGO that rehabilitates children who have suffered serious head injuries in road traffic accidents.

Niels-Peter Jensen, Founder, Helmets For India said, "Helmets For India is a passionate endeavour born out of a cause which has become very close to me over the last few years. Lack of awareness on road safety contributes to a significant loss of lives in India every year. At Helmets For India, we are working towards creating exciting and engaging avenues to educate the riding community about the importance of road safety and adoption of helmets. We are excited and delighted to partner with a global motorcycling brand like Royal Enfield to help us drive positive change and inspire the riding community to embrace helmets as vital partners in their journeys."

In keeping with its position as the oldest motorcycle brand in continuous production, Royal Enfield has remained steadfast in its commitment to road safety awareness, and has undertaken a host of initiatives to ensure customer safety while riding, including giving helmets to customers along with the sale of every new motorcycle, free of cost. 



A rubber farm in Myanmar. Rubber growers can boost their climate resilience with the right cultivation methods.
Image: Sean Beesley via Flickr, CC BY 2.0

NATURE CAN'T WAIT

Humanity is enmeshed in nature. Because we are capable of destroying it, we are responsible for protecting it, writes **Andrea Meza**

Costa Rica is celebrating 200 years of independence this year. It is an opportunity to honor our ancestors and think about our descendants, and we invite the world to celebrate with us. Those who cannot visit in person should do so by protecting the

Earth's land and oceans, the source of all life.

Specifically, governments, businesses, communities, and individuals should commit to conserving at least 30 per cent of the planet's land and oceans by 2030. Scientists have determined that this "30x30" goal is the minimum level

of conservation needed to prevent a catastrophic loss of nature and to stem climate change.

But 30x30 will not happen by itself; it will require time, attention, and money. Economists estimate that achieving this goal – by conserving the world's most important intact wild areas and restoring

How vulnerable are Asian firms to extreme weather?

Wild fires, flooding, droughts, rising sea levels, and typhoons are a growing risk for businesses in Asia Pacific, the world's most climate-vulnerable region. But how well prepared are Asian companies to weather the coming storms?

Wild fires, heat waves, intense flooding and droughts, rising sea

levels, and typhoons. These are some of the extreme weather conditions to batter Asia-Pacific this year. As emissions and global temperatures continue to rise, these extreme weather conditions are predicted to worsen. This makes it vital businesses are equipped to endure an increasingly warming world.

The recent COP26 climate conference, coupled with August's sobering Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report, which United Nations secretary-general António Guterres warned was "a code red for humanity," have promoted the need to reduce carbon emissions and confront climate change up the agenda in corporate boardrooms.

"There is an urgent need for climate action," said Michael Salvatico, head of Asia Pacific ESG [environ-



Extreme weather events such as drought are increasing the risk of businesses, which reported disruptions their supply chain due to climate change. Image: M. Lloyd/ CGIAR

mental, social and governance] business development at S&P Global Sustainable1, a data intelligence firm. "We need to rapidly decarbonise global economies. The starting point for this urgent action in my mind was 2015."

According to analysis by S&P Global Sustainable1, vital corporate assets worldwide, including factories, transport networks and power transmission lines, increasingly face threats from catastrophic weather events triggered by climate change.

S&P Global Trucost data also reveals in a comparison of industries that physical assets owned by the utilities, materials, energy, consumer staples and healthcare sectors are at the frontline of threats from climate change between now and 2050.

In addition, the report found that, if left unmitigated, water scarcity poses the greatest threat from climate change to all industries. However, in spite of this it rarely shows up on investors' radars. The analysis also flagged up Asia as the most vulnerable region to climate change.

Across Asia, extreme weather conditions pose huge threats to economies. Rising temperatures will lead to reduced working hours in labour intensive industries, such as agriculture, construction and mining. Rising sea levels and severe flooding threaten to engulf cities and heavily impact industries.

Based on such factors as water, pollution, extreme heat and general vulnerability to climate change, 99 of the 100 most risk-prone cities



A family of a Filipino farmer suffers from crop losses due to extreme weather in a village in New Antique in M'lang, North Cotabato, Philippines.
Image: Karlos Manlapig/Greenpeace Philippines

The world is heading for 2.4°C of warming under Current climate pledges

A hotter future will mean widespread extreme weather becomes the norm. The COP26 climate talks have done little to avoid impending disaster, writes **Robin Hicks**

The world is on course to heat by a ruinous 2.4 degrees Celsius by the end of the century, according to a climate prediction model based on current national pledges to rein in greenhouse gas emissions. A study by Climate Action Tracker

(CAT), published on 9 November, finds that if countries successfully meet the net-zero emissions commitments they have made by 2030, global average temperatures will increase by between 1.9°C and 3.0°C — which averages at 2.4°C — above pre-industrial times by 2100.

Countries were urged to commit to net-zero emissions by 2050 at the United Nations' (UN) COP26 climate talks in Glasgow, by accelerating the phase-out of coal, ending deforestation, investing in renewable energy, and speeding up the switch to electric vehicles, but the UN has warned that updated national pledges to reduce emissions still fall short.

More than 2°C of global heating could mean that one billion people endure life-threatening heat waves, coral reefs that sustain fisheries are wiped out, violent storms become common, and cities face two metres of sea-level rise if ice sheets collapse, climate scientist Benjamin

Destroy and deny:

Climate villains that made the headlines in 2021

The list of climate obstructionists and profiteers is getting longer. Eco-Business shortlists those who made the top headlines.

Some villains hide behind masks, and others have accomplices who help cover their traces, which makes them harder to detect and nail down.

This year, well-financed climate disinformation campaigns were the target of activists and environmentalists, who tried to expose and highlight advertisements and other corporate attempts to underplay companies' true impact on the environment. In some instances, the platforms that carry the ads or claims have been lambasted for being complicit in letting blatant misinformation go unchecked on their sites, and their culpability for spreading untruths have been deemed equal to that of the perpetrators themselves.

While compiling this list, Eco-Business found that many of these 'climate villains' are becoming increasingly stealthy. With the public shifting towards acceptance of climate change, sceptics have avoided outright climate change denial, altering their tactics to instead discredit evidence that emerges or 'greenwash' their way forward. It now takes more effort, sometimes requiring full and persistent investigative projects, to figure out who is to blame, and our list also



A protestor holding up a sign that reads "Stop climate crime" on Global Day for Climate Change.
Image: Fraser Morton/Eco-Business

pays tribute to the individuals who have worked hard this year to make sure that no planet-harming action goes unnoticed.

Jair Bolsonaro, President of Brazil | Made the headlines for plundering the Amazon

The rate of deforestation in the Amazon was at its worst in 15 years. According to a report released this November, the world's largest rainforest had lost an astounding 13,200 square kilometres of tree cover from August 2020 to July 2021. Critics have pinned this alarming development on the Jair Bolsonaro administration, for its record of implementing policies that actively weaken environmental enforcement and encourage slash and burning in the Amazon.

Amnesty International has said that the acceleration in Amazon

deforestation is a "direct result" of Bolsonaro's policies. In April this year, two former Brazilian environment ministers Marina Silva and Rubens Ricupero penned their thoughts in an opinion piece published by The Guardian, arguing that the current Brazilian government has "transformed Brazil into an environmental pariah, the world's greatest destroyer of tropical forests and the foremost threat to the planet's already precarious climate equilibrium", in a bid to warn global leaders against striking deals that could strengthen the Bolsonaro government.

"Deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon is not the result of a lack of money, but a consequence of the government's deliberate failure of care," said the two former ministers. Bolsonaro has put forward proposals to burnish his image, publicly