

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

GLOBAL WARNING

AN ALARM WITH NO BELLS!

CCP MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2024

Theme : Blue economy

Climate change is significantly impacting the blue economy by altering its ecosystem, chemistry, circulation, sea level, and ice distribution. Since 1970, the oceans have warmed, with the rate of warming more than doubling since 1993. This has resulted in deoxygenation and acidification from increased CO2 absorption. Rising sea levels, along with more tropical cyclones and rainfall, are worsening coastal hazards like flooding. The theme is therefore, dedicated towards highlighting the impacts of climate change on the Blue Economy.

MELTING GLACIERS, BLURRING BORDERS: A WAKE-UP CALL FOR CLIMATE ACTION !

The irreversible impacts of climate change are being felt by everyone globally. Yet, the seriousness of the situation is not being fully recognized by the masses.

The iconic Matterhorn peak is undergoing revisions, due to melting glaciers. The Swiss-Italian border near this peak was defined by the once-immovable ice and snow now needs to be redefined as glacier melts due to climate change are causing a shift in the natural boundaries. The borders realignment is still pending Italy's approval.

Swiss Glaciers have already shrunk by 4% in the last year, studies predict that even though we take steps towards climate change mitigation, by 2100 half of the world's glaciers will have been melted. Urgent global action is no longer a choice—it's a necessity.



The earth's natural systems are shifting, and the time to act is now, before more irreversible damage is done. Experts had hoped that with an increase in snowfall during 2023, this year could have seen a bit of relief from the extreme heat, but it didn't happen.

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OCEAN HEALTH UPDATE!

NASA satellite data is proving vital in understanding climate change's impact on our oceans, as highlighted in a recent Oceanography article. The study emphasizes humanity's deep reliance on the \$2 trillion "blue economy," which is being threatened by rising sea temperatures, shrinking ice, and disrupted marine ecosystems. With sea levels rising by 3 cm per decade and Arctic sea ice diminishing by 13% per decade, Earth observations are critical to guiding strategies for reducing emissions and protecting ocean environments. Expanding ocean-observing technologies is key to tackling these urgent challenges.

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MARINE ENDANGERMENT: HUMAN INDUCED TOXICANTS

Marine species like dugongs are increasingly endangered due to the devastating impact of human activities, particularly oil spills and pollution. Oil spills release toxic substances into the ocean, contaminating water and coastlines, which can suffocate marine animals, damage habitats, and disrupt food sources. Species such as dugongs, which rely on clean seagrass beds for sustenance, are particularly vulnerable to habitat degradation caused by these spills. Additionally, chemical pollutants from industrial waste, plastic debris, and agricultural runoff further threaten marine ecosystems, pushing vulnerable species closer to extinction.

CORAL BLEACHING CRISIS: A THREAT TO MARINE ECOSYSTEMS AND COASTAL COMMUNITIES.



Coral bleaching poses a severe threat to marine ecosystems and the environment as a whole. When corals bleach due to rising ocean temperatures, they expel the algae that provide them with food and color, leaving them vulnerable to starvation and disease. This leads to the degradation of coral reefs, which are vital habitats for about 25% of all marine species. As reefs die, entire ecosystems collapse, resulting in a loss of biodiversity.

Additionally, coral reefs play a crucial role in protecting coastlines from erosion, supporting fisheries, and boosting local economies through tourism. The ongoing mass bleaching event, exacerbated by climate change, threatens these critical ecosystems and underscores the urgent need for global action to mitigate further damage.

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“Humans have treated nature's gifts—like water—as infinite and free, but the cost of exploiting these resources without restraint is becoming clear: environmental degradation, scarcity, and a future where these once-abundant essentials may no longer be guaranteed.”

BUDGET : WHAT IS BLUE ECONOMY 2.0?

The Blue Economy refers to the sustainable use of marine resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods, and the preservation of marine ecosystems. In India, it spans sectors like shipping, tourism, fisheries, and offshore oil and gas exploration, aligning with the UN's Sustainable Development Goal 14. With a vast 7,500 km coastline and over 2.2 million sq km of exclusive economic zones (EEZ), India's maritime assets are key to its development.

Blue Economy 2.0 is an enhanced initiative aimed at climate-resilient activities, focusing on coastal ecosystem restoration, adaptation to rising sea levels, and promoting sustainable aquaculture to balance seafood demand with environmental preservation. This approach integrates various sectors, recognizing the need for collaboration between government, industries, and civil society.

India's key government initiatives such as the Deep Ocean Mission, Sagarmala Project, and O-SMART are pivotal to advancing its Blue Economy. With the global ocean economy projected to reach USD 3 trillion by 2030, India's Blue Economy offers vast potential for sustainable development while addressing climate challenges.

GLOBAL RIVER PULSE CHECK!

Brazil plans to dredge the Amazon River to restore trade routes impacted by record low water levels. However, scientists warn this could release harmful mercury deposits, posing a threat to the ecosystem.

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In 2023, rivers dried up at the highest rate in three decades, threatening global water supplies, with over 50% of river catchments showing abnormal conditions, including severe droughts in the Amazon and Mississippi rivers. Climate change and the El Niño weather pattern have exacerbated extreme floods and droughts worldwide. The WMO warns of worsening water crises due to the accelerating and unpredictable hydrological cycle.

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A rare deluge in southeastern Morocco's Sahara desert brought more rain in two days than the yearly average, creating blue lagoons in one of the world's driest regions. In Tagounite, over 3.9 inches of rain fell in 24 hours, and NASA captured images of water filling the long-dry Lake Iriqui. The storms revitalized the desert, leaving striking scenes of water amid the dunes.

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“The blue economy leverages ocean resources for sustainable growth, emphasizing our duty to protect marine ecosystems for future generations.”

For any feedback and suggestions , Please to write to us at: climatecollectivepune@gmail.com