



NEWS BULLETIN

Plants and Pollution

ENVIS RP-NBRI

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Earth Day: Restore Our Earth

CSIR-NATIONAL BOTANICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE, LUCKNOW

Earth Day 2021: Now An App To Save Trees

NDTV, 20 April 2021

New Delhi: The green cover in cities is constantly under threat due to urbanisation. In the recent years, there have been many instances where citizens have protested against felling of trees. Whether it is Mumbai's Aarey Forest or Gurgaon's Aravali Biodiversity park, citizens have realised the importance of trees for clean air and have taken a stand against the deforestation. Now you can also make your voice heard and maybe save a tree through a newly launched app called 'Save Trees'.

Save Trees app was launched on April 14, and is a brainchild of Verhaen Khanna, Head of the NGO New Delhi Nature Society, working for the protection of trees, animals and birds.

Mr Khanna tells NDTV that he gets calls and messages from across Delhi, and even outside Delhi, on a daily basis, about trees being cut or damaged. He said,

"We have received many calls regarding trees being cut over the years. A lot of times we were able to help. However, in most cases, people don't know what to do to save trees. Sometimes people who know what to do, are not aware about where and when the trees are being cut. People are generally also not aware about their local laws for trees. So, everyday trees are being cut for various reasons. Through this app, we aim to connect people around the world to save trees.

The app creates a line of communication between a person who sees a tree getting cut but doesn't know what to do, with the people who know what to do, but don't know where and when a tree is being cut.

The app is simple to use, if you see a tree being cut, you can post it on the app and notify like-minded people nearby. This is a global app, it has filters and location settings so that users can be notified about cases in different parts of the world. So, if a tree is being cut near you, you will get the notification on your phone. Moreover, the authorities can also use this App to save trees.

Users nearby can also reach the location quickly, they can try and save the trees, or the authorities can be immediately notified if they have this free app downloaded in their devices. Also, cases posted in the app can be,..... [Read More...](#)

Earth Day 2021: Why we need to pledge to save our forests

Down to Earth, 22 April 2021

As we gear up to celebrate Earth Day, this period might be a good time to pause and reflect on the health and well-being of our planet. The theme for this year's Earth Day focuses on practices and initiatives that can 'Restore Our Earth'.

Come to think of it, restoration of Earth does not necessarily mean extravagant movements or big budgets; it's all about understanding the current state of our environment and taking small steps to restore its lost beauty.

Planting trees, managing our waste, using our natural resources mindfully and generating awareness about environmental conservation are a few ways to embark on the journey of restoring our planet.

Environment degradation and climate crisis are the outcomes of the combined effect of a variety of factors. These include depletion of resources like air, water, and soil, overpopulation, destruction of natural habitats and ecosystems, pollution and deforestation. When it comes to India, the ever-increasing population has led to a rampant rise in advancement and urbanisation.

In the midst of urbanisation, we seemed to forget that a healthy planet is necessary to support our work and livelihood as well as health and happiness. Humanity started encroaching forests for commercial purposes, failing to understand that development cannot take place at the cost of environmental degradation.

As forests were being sabotaged, our environment and wildlife suffered tremendously. Needless to say, the felling of trees is one of the primary causes of climate change, loss of biodiversity, increase in greenhouse gases, loss of homeland and natural disasters.

When we harm forests for our selfish needs, we fail to understand that our reckless activities have a significant impact on the,..... [Read More...](#)



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Earth Day – the past, present and future

Gulf Times, 23 April 2021

Each April 22, the world marks Earth Day, an annual celebration that honours the achievements of the environmental movement and raises awareness and actions for ecological conservation. This year, we celebrate its 51st anniversary, themed Restore Our Earth, focusing on environmental restoration.

A brainchild of the late American Senator Gaylord Nelson from Wisconsin and spurred by environmental disturbances across the USA, Earth Day was envisioned in 1969 to convince the US federal government that the planet's future was at stake.

During this period, protecting the planet's natural resources was not embedded into national and global policy-making agendas, nor was environmental activism as widespread as it is today. Massive gas-guzzling cars were considered a mark of class and economic prosperity, as opposed to an environmental liability, and recycling was virtually non-existent.

In the era of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, integrations of environmental policies into national policymaking and visions, such as Qatar National Vision 2030 (QNV 2030), and electric automobiles that aim to be operated via Artificial Intelligence, the world has come a long way; however, there is still a long way to go.

In the Middle East, a region plagued by pollution, water scarcity, overgrazing, high temperatures, and excessive mining activities and urbanisation, there is a long journey ahead, but we are heading in the right direction. Around the region, environmental protection and sustainable economic development have taken a more central position in policy-making, and on a societal level, the public has become more aware of the need to support these efforts.

Understanding the importance of protecting the planet, Qatar became a signee to major pacts, such as the Paris Agreement and Kyoto Protocol to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. In addition, one of the four pillars of QNV 2030, alongside human, social and economic progression, is environmental,..... [Read More...](#)

This Earth Day, Pledge to Save the Planet by Doing These Little Things

News 18, 23 April 2021

Earth is a beautiful and the only planet where the human race can survive. But it is threatened by rapid industrialization, pollution and the resultant climate change, leading to catastrophic flooding, rise in sea level, and destruction of habitations. So, to raise awareness for protecting the planet that has so far protected us, the Earth Day is celebrated on April 22 every year. More than a billion people take part in it globally.

The event started in 1970, when an American senator organized a national rally to raise awareness about environmental issues. It gave voice to an emerging public consciousness about the state of our planet and by 1990, Earth Day was an event celebrated by more than 140 countries around the globe. It gave a huge boost to recycling efforts and paved the way for the 1992 United Nations Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. Individuals can contribute to help reduce greenhouse gases to protect the environment.

First and foremost, conserve water. Turn off the water tap while you're brushing, shaving or doing any other work. Stop drinking bottled water and switch to filtered tap water to reduce plastic waste.

Become a Waste Warrior. A plastic bottle can take over 450 years to decompose in a landfill, so try recycling it. Also, waste generation can be controlled by buying things smartly, by reducing consumption to only whatever is needed, not desired.

Pledge to use energy efficient bulbs to reduce greenhouse gas emission. This will also save money in electricity bills and curb pollution.

Plant a tree to offset the loss of vegetation due to industrialization or otherwise around the globe. Trees absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen. Depending on where trees are planted, they can even reduce the need for air-conditioning in summer months..... [Read More...](#)