

CARING ABOUT TOMORROW

# Will they survive CLIMATE CHANGE



## 150 HILL FISH SPECIES ARE FEELING THE HEAT, POLLUTION

An internal study of the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) has revealed that climate change will adversely affect around 150 native fish species of Himalayan states, including Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and Arunachal Pradesh.

### Common snow trout in danger

Of the 150 hill fish species, the common snow trout is said to be most threatened, and in danger of going extinct. This fish, highly sought after as a food source, is likely to lose around 21 percent of its existing space of 16,251 square kilometres in the region. The WII scientists indicated that "continuous stalking of

Brown trout, a carnivorous invasive fish species, introduced in the Himalayas in 1860 by the British, has also emerged as a major threat to native fish species in Himalayan region



**DID YOU KNOW?**

natural habitat by human being" coupled with pollution, global warming and damming of rivers (there are over 200 major dams in the region) are some of the factors that pose a grave risk to the habitat of these native fish species.

### How dams pose a threat

According to the scientists, the common snow

trout lives in the cold Himalayan water and tends to swim upstream, to the higher reaches of the river during summer; to escape warm waters. The WII report found that the presence of dams on almost all the Himalayan rivers hinders this process.

Aashna Sharma, senior research fellow at WII, said, "Our study found the native high-altitude fish species survive in their natural habitat in the areas where dams have not been built, like Himachal's Tirthan river." Similarly, another fish species, Mahseer, is also thriving in the undammed Nayaar river in Uttarakhand's Pauri Garhwal. Sharma added, "Our research work indicates that, by 2050, the snow trout will vanish from 400 sq kilometre of its habitat - from Jammu and Kashmir, to Arunachal Pradesh." The scientists said they took climate models from developed countries to predict the impact of climate change on the future. Vineet Dubey, project scientist (WII) also said that the exotic, highly invasive brown trout species is also a threat to the survival of the Himalayan freshwater fish. **TNN**

## Are you ready to go plogging?

Plogging - the fitness craze from Sweden that combines running with garbage collection - is all set to hit India on October 2



The India Plog Run is being organised in Delhi and 49 other cities to make garbage collection fun, healthy and to create a plastic-free environment. The two hour event will be held as part of October 2 (Gandhi Jayanti) events.

tonnes of plastic waste daily, out of which 10,000 tonnes remain uncollected. The plastic materials choke landfills, drains and rivers, gradually flowing into the sea affecting the marine life. It also percolates into the soil, infecting the natural environment with poisonous chemicals. These harmful chemicals are also found inside human blood and tissue, exposing people to deadly diseases like cancer, birth defects, impaired immunity and other ailments.

### The rundown

According to Ramakrishna Ganesh, convener of India Plog Run, the idea is to convey the message to a larger audience on how single-use plastic affects us, and the importance of disposing it properly. The organisers of the Plog run are taking on board waste management partners in each city, who will be recycling and re-processing the plastic collected during the drive.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

India plog run will happen in 50 cities and 500 locations

### How to participate

Enthusiasts can register at a point nearest to their locality or by logging onto [www.indiaplog.run](http://www.indiaplog.run) **TNN**

## CORALS UNDER THERMAL STRESS IN THE ARABIAN SEA

Coral reefs - the marine wonders that leave us awestruck by their rockpools of colour - are under climate threat.

A recent study, published in the reputed science journal 'Current Science', shows that they are slowly bleaching away on Gujarat's Gulf of Kutch shores. A major reason is the frequent 'ocean heat waves' or thermal stress owing to climate change, coupled with anthropological issues.

### What is bleaching

Bleaching means the change in colour of the corals because of the decay in al-



Photo: Getty Images

The frequency, intensity and extent of marine heatwaves like those that devastated Australia's Great Barrier Reef have all increased, with ocean hot spells twice as likely today as during the 1980s.

prone to disease and ultimately die.

### What the study found

A study undertaken by Isro's Space Applications Centre (SAC) research team and the department of geo-

physics, Kurukshetra University analysed sea surface temperatures (SST) from 1982 has reported increased number of heat stress days. The study includes three distinct years of 'Mass Coral Bleaching' (MCB) instances of 1998, 2010 and 2016 recorded during the El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO) that caused abrupt rise in sea temperature.

The study revealed normally corals can re-establish themselves (or return to their pre-bleaching state) in a decade or two. But the quick frequency and intensity of MCB overwhelms the coral reefs ability to recover from heat stress episodes. **TNN**

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Globally, the corals upon which half-a-billion people depend for food and protection are unlikely to survive surface warming of two degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. **AFP**

### ECO TIP OF THE WEEK

#### Do you plant the wrong kind of greens?

If you live in a dry and arid region, planting greenery that requires large quantities of water can be a major waste of money and natural resources.

According to the gardening website

GrowVeg, using grey water - i.e water that has already been used in your washing machine, showers, and sinks - is one way to cut down your water waste.

Got an idea to conserve the environment? Mail us at [toinie175@gmail.com](mailto:toinie175@gmail.com)

### IN THE NEWS

#### Scientists fertilise seven northern white rhino eggs

Wildlife experts and veterinarians have announced that there is hope to prevent the extinction of the northern white rhino as they successfully extracted eggs from the last two remaining females of the species. The eggs will be used to reproduce the species through a surrogate. The groundbreaking procedure was carried out recently on the northern white rhinos known as Najin and Fatu who cannot carry a pregnancy. The eggs are to be artificially inseminated with frozen sperm from a northern white rhino bull and then transferred to a southern white rhino surrogate mother. **AP**



#### Man completes 800 kilometre backwards walking to save forest



An Indonesian man completed an incredible feat of walking backwards nearly 800 kilometres from his village in eastern Java to capital Jakarta to raise awareness about deforestation and seek the government's help in saving a forest in his home province. Surrounded by curious onlookers and members of the volunteer group Indonesian Escorting Ambulance, which has helped him during parts of his journey, 43-year-old Medi Bastoni, appeared indefatigable and happy with the attention he received after completing the arduous walk that took him about a month. **AGENCIES**

### What is plogging

Plogging comes from the Swedish phrase 'plocka upp', which means 'pick up'. It was started in 2016 and has since spread to other countries.

In 2018, the Bengaluru Plog Run led to collection of 33.4 tonnes of plastic waste by more than 7,000 participants in under 12 hours.

### Why plastic

Data from Central Pollution Control Board states that India produces 25,940



### QUICK NOTES

- 1 Plogging comes from the swedish phrase 'plocka upp,' which means pick up.
- 2 Plogging started in Sweden in 2016 and has since then spread to other countries.
- 3 Joggers pick up garbage as they run, to reduce damage caused by single-plastic in their environment.

## Pop Quiz

### IDENTIFY THESE SPECIES



### ANSWERS

1. White lioness
2. Oryx
3. Knobbed Hornbill
4. European cat
5. Asiatic black bear

## Iceberg hunter on the trail of WHITE GOLD

The business of iceberg harvesting has soared in tandem with the warming of the planet

It's midday and Edward Kean, a Canadian fisherman who now scours the North Atlantic for icebergs that have broken off from Greenland's glaciers, is positively beaming.

Using his binoculars, the rotund, 60-year-old captain of the fishing boat 'Green Waters' has spotted his next prize - it's several dozen meters tall and floating just off the coast of Newfoundland. "It's a fine piece of ice," Kean proclaims.

Every morning, Kean sails out with three other crew members to hunt what has become his personal white gold: Icebergs. For more than 20 years, he has been hauling ice giants. He then sells the water for a profit to local companies, which then bottle it, mix it into beverages or use it to make cosmetics.

### Race against time

As summer gets underway, time is of the essence in harvesting the icebergs. "They come here, and they melt so fast," noted the captain, adding that once they are floating off the coast of Newfoundland, it is a real race against the clock. "In Newfoundland, it's like a fallen leaf. They are going to die in a couple of weeks," he said. "So, we're not here hurting the environment, we're just utilising the purest water we can get."

### No easy harvest

Armed with a pole and net, crew members laboriously wrap up the precious fragments of a floating iceberg, each one weighing a ton or two, and fasten them to a hook at the end of a crane, which winches them aboard the boat. Kean then hacks the blocks up with an axe and puts the pieces into containers to melt over the coming days. They sell to local merchants for a dollar a litre.



### 'Pure' business

Those businesses in turn market the iceberg products as made from some of the purest water money can buy. Dyna Pro, one of Kean's clients, sells the water \$ 12 each. They are targeting a wealthy clientele and have hopes to expand their business abroad. The popular Auk Island Winery in the tourist village of Twillingate, makes wine from wild berries and iceberg water - and sells it for \$10-90 a bottle. **ET**



### YOUR GREEN CHECKLIST



### DON'T WASTE WATER

HAVE CUTTING WATER: Instead of filling a full glass of water, drink in half measures. Even the UP assembly announced this measure to save drinking water. And if you cannot finish a glass of water, pour it all into a nearby plant.

### REUSE WASTE WATER

REUSE AIR CONDITIONER WATER: Place a bucket under your air conditioner outlet to collect the water that escapes, and use it for mopping or watering plants. Do the same to your RO outlet. In fact, rethink ROs as they waste water. You can also fix all the leaky pipes at the home.



### WASH BY HAND

HAND WASH SOME OF YOUR CLOTHES: Every time we machine wash, an average of nine million [plastic] microfibres are released into the environment. If you use a machine, use a low temperature setting, a liquid detergent and don't overload. **TIMESLIFE**