Oceans Heating Faster

According to a new study published in journal 'Nature', the scientists have noted that the global oceans may be absorbing up to 60 percent more heat since the 1990s than older estimates had found.

New novel method in the study: Unlike earlier studies, which relied on tallying the excess heat produced by known man-made greenhouse gas emissions, the new research does not measure the ocean's temperature directly. Rather, it measures the volume of gases, specifically oxygen and carbon dioxide that have escaped the ocean in recent decades and headed into the atmosphere as the ocean heats up.

Both gases (oxygen and carbon dioxide) are soluble in water, but the rate at which water absorbs those decreases as it warms. By measuring atmospheric oxygen and CO_2 for each year, scientists were able to more accurately estimate how much heat oceans had absorbed on a global scale.

Findings of the study: The world's oceans have absorbed 60% more heat than previously thought over the last quarter of a century. This difference represents an enormous amount of additional energy, originating from the sun and trapped by Earth's atmosphere — the yearly amount representing more than eight times the world's annual energy consumption.

It found that for each of the last 25 years, oceans had absorbed heat energy equivalent to 150 times the amount of electricity mankind produces annually. The mankind must once again revise down its carbon footprint, with emissions needing to fall 25% compared to previous estimates to avoid a warming of two degrees Celsius (3.6 Fahrenheit).

The warming found in the study is "more than twice the rates of long-term warming estimates from the 1960s and '70s to the present".

Source: The Hindu.

Cabinet nod for opening up of Solar Alliance to all UN countries

The Union Cabinet gave its approval for moving a resolution in the first assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) to amend the framework agreement to open up its membership to all UN countries.

ISA: A Global Agenda: The decision was taken to put solar energy on the global agenda with the universal appeal for developing and deploying solar energy. Solar Alliance is an alliance of more than 121 countries initiated by India to work for efficient exploitation of solar energy so as to reduce dependence on fossil fuels.

Opening the membership of the ISA will put solar energy in global agenda with the universal appeal for developing and deploying solar energy.

It will make ISA inclusive, whereby all member countries that are members of the United Nations could become members.

Railways rolls out All-India Unreserved Mobile Ticketing facility (UTS on Mobile)

Ministry of Railways has introduced Unreserved Mobile Ticketing with a view to promote **three C's**– Cashless transactions, Contact less ticketing and Customer convenience and experience.

UTS on Mobile: Booking of unreserved tickets on all non-suburban sections across all Zonal Railways has been made available from November, 1st.

It enables seamless booking of unreserved tickets all over Indian Railways which will obviate the need for passengers to wait in queues for purchasing the tickets. The facility of booking unreserved tickets, including season tickets and also platform tickets is available through the 'UTSONMOBILE' app available for Android, IOS and Windows phones.

Details of the app: 'UTSONMOBILE' application is available for Android, IOS, and Windows phones and can be downloaded from Google play or window store. It is developed by Indian Railway- CRIS.

Secure Himalaya

It was launched by the Union government in association with the UN Development Programme. It is a 6 year project to ensure conservation of locally and globally significant biodiversity, land and forest resources in the high Himalayan ecosystem spread over 4 states in India.

The SECURE – securing livelihoods, conservation, sustainable use and restoration of high range Himalayan ecosystems is meant for specific landscapes.

It includes Changthang, lahaul – Pangi and kinnaur, Gangotri and Kanchenjunga – Upper Teesta valley.

UNDP has recently launched a competition for tagline and illustration with the theme "Protecting Wildlife, Preserving Landscapes and Empowering Communities in the High altitude Himalaya".

Healthcare initiatives for Ageing Population

The National Programme for the Health Care of Elderly (NPHCE) addresses various health related issues of the elderly.

The programme is State oriented and basic thrust of the programme is to provide dedicated health care facilities to the senior citizens (>60 year of age) at various levels.

The basic aim of the NPHCE Programme is to provide dedicated, specialized and comprehensive health care to the senior citizens at various levels of state health care delivery system including outreach services.

Preventive and promotive care, management of illness, health manpower development for geriatric services, medical rehabilitation & therapeutic intervention and IEC are some of the strategies envisaged in the NPHCE.

The NPHCE was launched in 100 identified districts of 21 States and Eight Regional Geriatrics Centres in selected medical colleges as referral units during the 11th Plan period.

Two National Centres for Ageing (NCA) in AIIMS Delhi and Madras Medical College, Chennai have been sanctioned to be developed as centres of excellence for geriatrics.

<div align="right">Source: The Hindu.</div>

Editorial

A Matter of Dignity
As the number of its elderly increases, India needs strategies to deal with dementia.

The 2018 WHO dementia plan focuses on the urgent need for a multi-phased approach and a multi-sectoral policy response to address the needs of people with dementia, their carers and families. The rapid increase in ageing population across countries requires national strategies to deal with age-related diseases — dementia care is becoming a significant issue.

Data from many parts of the world reveals age as a risk factor for dementia — though the debilitating condition is not an inevitable consequence of ageing. Dementia is a form of cognitive impairment that affects memory and other cognitive abilities and significantly interferes with a person's ability to perform daily activities. According to the WHO, it affects 50 million people worldwide; a number that is projected to increase to 82 million by 2030 and 152 million by 2050.

According to some estimates, one person gets affected by dementia every three seconds.
Studies have revealed how the stigma attached to the disease leads to the social isolation of patients, their families and careers. Research has thrown light on the deterioration in the quality of their lives. There is an urgent need to treat dementia as a public health concern by raising awareness on all aspects of the disease including risk reduction, diagnosis, treatment, research, care and support for patients and care givers. The efforts of the Alzheimer's and Related Disorders Society of India (ARDSI) and the initiatives of the Ministry of Health, based on directives of the WHO's Global Dementia Action Plan, are directed towards that end.

Studies that draw on interactions with people affected by dementia, their families, and caregivers indicate that several of the needs of such people — social, economic or those related to health — remain unfulfilled. For instance, leave concessions at work, adaptable housing environments, adequate diagnostic facilities, treatment options, care provisions and risk reduction measures for people with dementia are not in place. Many require psychological support, biomedical facilities, appropriate medications, counselling services and end of life care. But these are not available. The complexity of needs cutting across health, economic and social sector requires attention and policy responses.

Over a year ago, the World Health Assembly in Geneva adopted the Global Action Plan on the Public Health Response to Dementia 2017-2025. India endorsed the plan, confirming its

commitment to improving the lives of people with dementia, their careers and families. The country's commitment to Sustainable Development Goals — especially with respect to Goal 3 that deals with good health and well being — and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities should push it into formulating a strategy to deal with this debilitating condition. Such a plan should incorporate public awareness campaigns and research.

As the percentage of aged people in the country increases, improving the lives of people with dementia and their families and carers must become a national priority. These programmes could be aligned with existing policies and care models.

Mains Question

Q: The ambitious goal set by India's IPR Policy rests on how universities embrace patents. Critically analyze the state of innovations in Indian higher education institutes.