

Reclaim city now or never

As the year's environment day approaches, stories trickling in aren't so rosy

The green parties' rise in the European elections is a sure sign of environmental awareness and action to tackle the climate emergency going mainstream. At the Cambridge University's Centre for Climate Repair, scientists favour radical ideas - refreezing the earth's poles and removing excess carbon dioxide, with current counter measures falling terribly short. In Bengaluru, there is no collective resurgence yet. "Politicians must realise effective governance and development aren't possible if we ignore this. The scale is so vast and the need so immediate that we need to come together beyond divisive boundaries," says ecologist Harini Nagendra. "Society must integrate

the poor and marginalised, who are often blamed. Our consumption footprints are the highest. Than blaming each other for the plastic menace we must stop plastic-wrapped deliveries," adds Nagendra. Amidst the election spectacle, plans were afoot to dilute environmental clearance norms. Nations elsewhere are declaring climate emergency, nevertheless acknowledging what is at stake. "120 sq km of the Bannerghatta

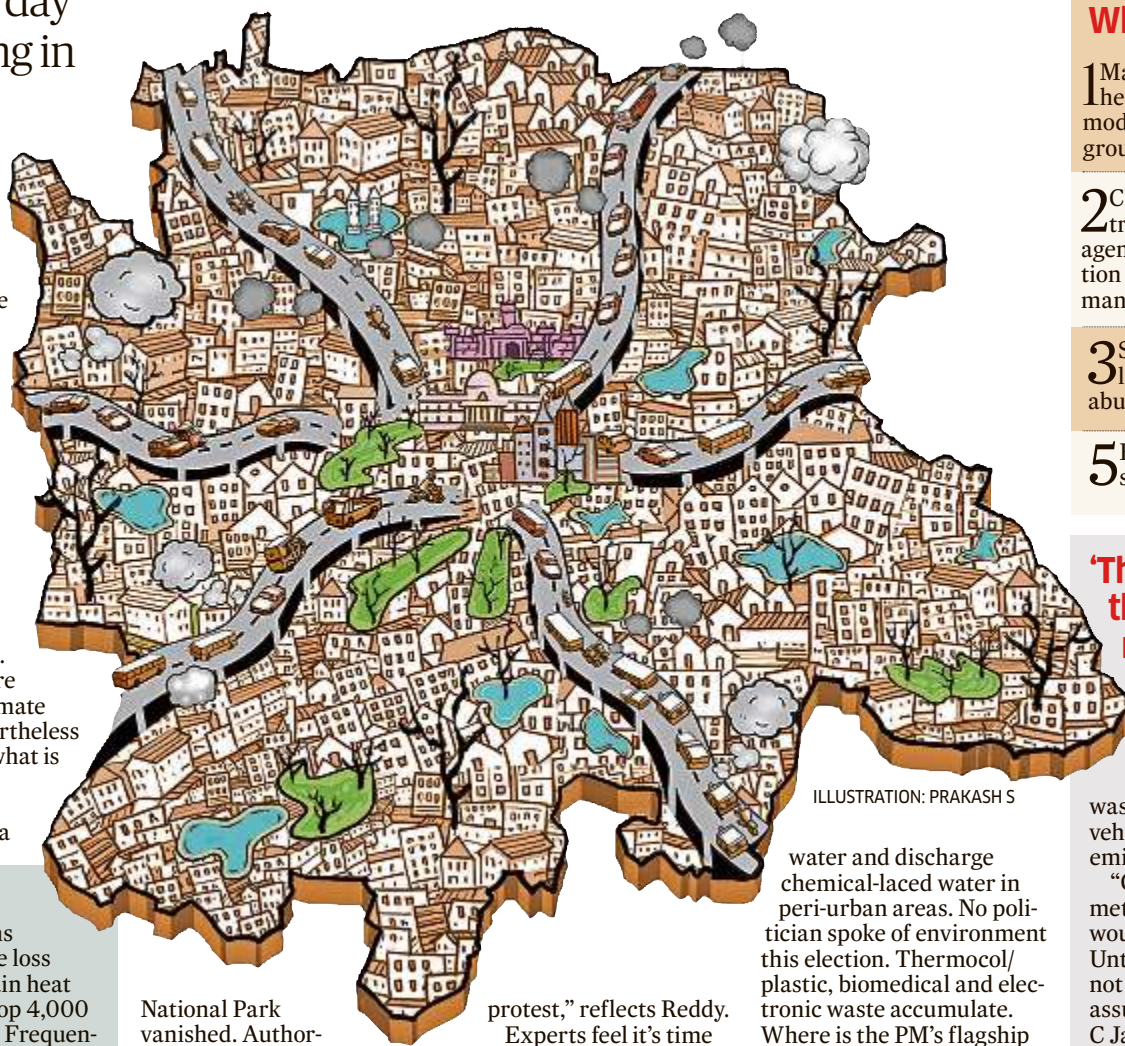


ILLUSTRATION: PRAKASH S

Transport woes

Transport contributes to 40% emissions with construction coming second. Tree loss and concrete heat the city. Trees contain heat islands. But, our ignorance wants to chop 4,000 for a corridor. Public transport is unattractive. Frequency, capacity and connectivity are key. Infrastructure infusion must make the end-to-end journey convenient. Vehicle ownership must be regulated for the desired 'push and pull effect'. **Ashish Verma**, Assistant Professor, Transportation Systems Engineering, IISc

National Park vanished. Authorities now want a road traversing an elephant corridor," environmentalist A N Yellapa Reddy warns. "This is a conspiracy of silence of the people. Children should march to the Vidhana Soudha in silent

protest," reflects Reddy. Experts feel it's time the affluent had a real introspection. "Alliances with people unlike us - the most affected by the crises, gathering their insights, is the way forward" explains Nagendra. "Industries draw ground-

water and discharge chemical-laced water in peri-urban areas. No politician spoke of environment this election. Thermocol/plastic, biomedical and electronic waste accumulate. Where is the PM's flagship programme?" wonders Reddy. "The Bangalore Environment Trust wants Nandi Hills protected to tackle emissions around the international airport," Reddy reveals. **Rajmohan Sudhakar**

What the city can do

- 1 Maintain green cover for healthy oxygen levels, moderate micro climate, groundwater recharge
- 2 Check littering, decentralise solid waste management through segregation at source, extracting manure and recyclables
- 3 Stop lake abuse
- 4 Adopt polluter pays' principle
- 5 Elect sensible representatives
- 6 Free the city of mafia - land, water and waste
- 7 Delegate competent local groups to manage waste
- 8 Restrict elected members - councilors, MLAs - from waste management
- 9 Break the nexus of consultants, contractors and inefficient engineers

- Dr T V Ramachandra, IISc

'The challenge is undoubtedly the government's primary responsibility'

"Citizens must compost. Only compost will be collected, not wet waste. We will reassess vehicle ownership and emission standards." "Completion of the metro and white-topping would enhance mobility. Untreated water will not enter waterbodies," assures KSPCB chairman C Jayaram. Bengaluru, straddling rich wildlife corridors, should be championing the cause, as the UN's recent IPBES report rang alarm bells on the massive loss of wildlife.

"The motto 'maximize gains, loot and accumulate resources' has created it. Only 3.5% are environmentally literate. A cluster-based approach as per the doctrines of Mahatma Gandhi is crucial, providing jobs to local youth, arresting migration," notes professor T V Ramachandra of the IISc. Lakes support livelihoods through ecosystem goods to an extent of Rs 10,500 per hectare a day compared to Rs 20 a day per hectare when polluted, says Ramachandra.

Grim stories and glimmers of hope

As the environment day approaches, the stories aren't so rosy, from the death of a critically endangered Sumatran Rhino to a plastic bag in the depths of the ocean to the rush at the Everest. One spends at least 50,000 dollars to climb the Everest. As the climate crisis puts the emerging world in a dilemma of faster growth and sustainability, the affluent queue up at the highest mountain and litter, while millions risk global heating. "GHG footprint from recent reports show 420 ppm CO2 against 350 ppm agreed upon by global leaders," professor Ramachandra points out. All is not gloom though. Artists and musicians like Nick Cave, along with writers are teaming up to shoulder the crises. "I think there is a moral obligation to be optimistic, because if we're pessimistic we will despair. If we despair we won't act and we morally can't let it happen," author of the dystopian climate apocalypse novel 'The Wall', John Lanchester said at the Hay Festival in Wales.

Watch Japanese movies this June

The Consulate-General of Japan in Bengaluru is hosting Japanese Movie Month from June 4 to 28 at the office premises in Prestige Nebula, Cubbon Road.

There are four movies that are lined up for viewing:

Thermae Romae (Genre: Comedy, time travel)

An architect of spa baths for the Roman Empire, inadvertently travels through time and finds himself in a modern Japanese bathhouse. He takes elements of Japanese culture that he learns there back with him to Rome and becomes hugely successful. The Emperor then commands him to build a massive spa.

Yoju Mameshiba (Genre: Drama, dry humour)

A middle-aged unemployed male who has never stepped out of his town, runs into Ichiro, a Mameshiba puppy (with a red scarf around its neck). The movie is about the journey of the man and the puppy, who goes in search of his mother.

DATE	DAY	10.30AM	2.00PM
4th June	Tue	Nobody to watch over me	Thermae Romae
6th June	Thur	Mameshiba	Pop in Q
10th June	Mon	Pop in Q	Thermae Romae
12th June	Wed	Mameshiba	Nobody to watch over me
18th June	Tue	Thermae Romae	Mameshiba
20th June	Thur	Pop in Q	Nobody to watch over me
26th June	Wed	Thermae Romae	Pop in Q
28th June	Fri	Nobody to watch over me	Mameshiba

Nobody to watch over me (Genre: Drama, thriller)

The movie is about a distress family of a juvenile criminal and the conflicts of the detective who is ordered to protect them. Every move that detective Katsuura takes in protecting the bewildered daughter of the family, Saori is being fully exposed over the internet. In a deadly game of hide and seek Katsuura and Saori are eventually freed from the malicious attempts of internet addicts.

Pop in Q (Genre: Children's anime)

Five school girls struggling with the transition from middle school to high school, are swept into a magical adventure to save a fantasy land from the forces of evil by employing the power of music, dance and unity. All the movies are with English subtitles and are scheduled twice every week (at 10.30 am and 2 pm). The event is open to all and free without pre-registrations. Carry your valid Photo ID to the venue.

Green fashion got her to UN

Designer Runa Ray has been championing for sustainable fashion and the need for alternate fabrics

City-based designer Runa Ray has been invited to the United Nations to address its employees on sustainable fashion on June 3, ahead of the World Environment Day on June 5. Runa has always advocated green fashion. For her, it is not just about following trends but using fashion as a medium to invoke consciousness and responsibility among people towards the environment. In a conversation with Metrolife, Runa talks about her journey as a green designer and how one can follow sustainable fashion in everyday life.

How did the call come through?

I have been doing many shows in the US, especially for New York Fashion Week. From the very beginning, I have propagated sustainable fashion. I showcased a collection done by origami folding (zero wastage of cloth) in my first ever show, and in my second show, I displayed a collection with chlorophyll printing. Some people noticed my work. A few weeks back, I got an email from the UN community who takes care of the sustainable development goals. They invited me to educate the UN employees about the detriments of fashion and how we all can be sustainable in our choices.

How does it feel to be the only Indian designer to be invited?

It's fantastic. In fact, it is a huge step in the direction that I have always worked towards, as a single designer. And with support from an organisation like UN, there is a lot more that



In this dress by Runa Ray, original burlap fabric is worked on by hand to give this gunny sack a makeover. The embroidery depicts the environment, and is resplendent with flora and fauna. Jute, mostly used for packaging, is 100 per cent biodegradable.

can be achieved.

Why a sustainable fashion designer?

I always thought this was the future. When I did my first show in 2016, sustainability wasn't big at all. As a designer, I have always been someone who tries to make use of what I have. I am quick to manipulate ideas without wasting or unnecessarily, what we call, GTM (Go To Market) to buy stuff that I might not use. I have been like this as an individual too.

How much of sustainable fashion do you follow in your personal life?

Actually, I follow quite a bit. I wash clothes every Sunday and sun dry them rather than using the dryer. I also handwash a few of them. I hardly buy new clothes and make sure to get something that lasts longer. The ones that don't fit me, I mend them and give it to my maid - this way it is never wasted. I look for timeless style, this

way I don't have to worry about going out of trend.

How did the call from the UN change your perspective as a designer?

I thought there were many things that I was doing right, when it came to the design aspects. But the call made me probe deeper and find out all the things I wasn't aware of. There were certain things that they brought to my attention immediately and I was pleasantly surprised. For example, when I was asked if I was aware where the fabric was spun and the raw materials came from - we probably don't look at such things as designers. We aren't aware who created the raw materials and whether there were any children involved. This got me thinking. How important is it to make people aware about sustainable fashion? It is very important. Look at our city now! The temperature is increasing every day. Fashion is seen as one of the greatest polluters. If a person has disposable income, it becomes easy for them to walk-in and buy new clothes.

However, it is important to understand why you are buying it.

So, what can designers do to get things under control?

There are different pollutants in the fashion industry. Chemical dyes are the most dangerous. For eg, people don't realise how denim is made. Most denim factories use sandpaper to scrape and create the washes; so much fibre goes waste. The blood from leather contaminates the environment too. Today, it has become necessary to find alternate fabrics that don't lead to deforestation, like the lotus stem fabric. Some of the fabrics that I work with are made of lotus, eucalyptus, orange peel, aloe vera and soya. Avoid mass and fast fashion. Use biodegradable fabrics and shift from plastic buttons to coconut shell ones.



Do you think Indian designers are becoming aware?

Yes, they are but I think the public too needs to start wanting this change. Designers are facing a challenge as they have to give something cool to the consumer and at the same time find alternatives to expand the life of the garment like renting out the garments.

Tell us about the collection you will be showcasing at the UN?

The collection is made of 'ahimsa' silk and fabrics that are biodegradable. I have used a lot of hand embroidery and folding techniques that reduces the time spent on the machine. Besides the collection, I am also going to show videos on how these garments can be completely broken down and made into paper and how these biodegradable garments can be put into the soil for plants to grow out of it. **Surupasree Sarmmah**

Vintage bikes at UB City

From the old British Royal Enfields of 1927 vintage to the 1948 Czech Ogar Jawa 353, the Italian Moto Guzzi of 1975 make to the desi Yezdis, Federation of Historic Vehicles of India (FHVI) showcased them all at UB City on Sunday. Vintage bike enthusiasts and curious visitors came in large numbers to be a part of the event.



DH PHOTOS BY S K DINESH