



Environment



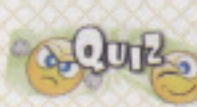
Hygiene



Health



Wild Life



Quiz



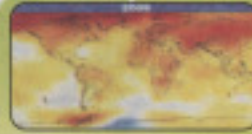
World Environment Day

5th June is celebrated as the World Environment day. World Environment Day was a resultant effort of the United Nations General Assembly in the year 1972, which took place in Stockholm Conference on the issue of Human Environment. The first World Environment Day was on 1973.

The purpose of the World Environment Day is to focus attention on the importance of the environment and stimulate political attention and public action. The event seeks to give a human face to environmental issues, empower people to become active agents of sustainable and equitable development, promote an understanding that communities are pivotal to changing attitudes towards environmental issues and advocate partnership which will ensure that all nations and people enjoy a safer and more prosperous future.

World Environment day is due to the fact that Worldwide Climate Change is becoming alarming matter day by day.

Burhani Foundation (India) has taken this opportunity to educate people and spread environmental awareness about the harmful effects of Climate Change.



CLIMATE CHANGE AND YOU

The burning issue of global warming & climate change have put today's citizen at a loss as how climate change is affecting his own life & what remedial measures can be taken. The image on the card is a depiction of this dilemma and an apt illustration of the theme of the programme, namely, "Climate Change & You"



The Industrial Revolution



in the 19th century saw the large-scale use of fossil fuels for industrial activities. These industries created jobs and over the years, people moved from rural areas to the cities. This trend is continuing even today.

More and more land that was covered with vegetation has been cleared to make way for houses. Natural resources are being used extensively for construction, industries, transport, and consumption. Consumerism (our increasing want for material things) has increased by leaps and bounds, creating mountains of waste. Also, our population has increased to an incredible extent.



All this has contributed to a rise in greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Fossil fuels such as oil, coal and natural gas supply most of the energy needed to run

vehicles, generate electricity for industries, households, etc.



The energy sector is responsible for about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the carbon dioxide emissions, $\frac{1}{5}$



of the methane emissions and a large quantity of nitrous oxide. It also produces nitrogen oxides (NOx) and carbon monoxide (CO) which are not greenhouse gases but do have an influence on the chemical cycles in the atmosphere that produce or destroy greenhouse gases. Greenhouse gases and their



sources.

Carbon dioxide is undoubtedly, the most important greenhouse gas in the atmosphere. Changes in land use pattern, deforestation, land clearing, agriculture, and other activities have all led to a rise in the emission of carbon dioxide.

Methane is another important greenhouse gas in the atmosphere. About $\frac{1}{4}$ of all methane emissions are said to



come from domesticated animals such as dairy cows, goats, pigs, buffaloes, camels, horses, and sheep. These animals produce methane during the cud-chewing process.

Methane is also released from rice or paddy fields that are flooded during the sowing and maturing periods. When soil is covered with water it becomes anaerobic or lacking in oxygen. Under such conditions, methane-producing bacteria and other organisms decompose

organic matter in the soil to form methane. Nearly 90% of the paddy-growing area in the world is found in Asia, as rice is the staple food there. China and India, between them, have 80-90% of the world's rice-growing areas.



Methane is also emitted from landfills and other

waste dumps. If the waste is put into an incinerator or burnt in the open, carbon dioxide is emitted. Methane is also emitted



during the process of oil drilling, coal mining and also from leaking gas pipelines (due to accidents and poor maintenance of sites).

A large amount of nitrous oxide emission has been attributed to fertilizer application. This in turn depends on the type of fertilizer that is used, how and when it is used and the methods of tilling that are followed. Contributions are also made by leguminous plants, such as beans and pulses that add nitrogen to the soil.



How we all



Contribute Every Day

All of us in our daily lives contribute our bit to this change in the climate. Give these points a good, serious thought:

Electricity is the main source of power in urban areas.



All our gadgets run on electricity generated

mainly from thermal power plants. These thermal power plants are run on fossil fuels (mostly coal) and are responsible for the emission of huge amounts of greenhouse gases and other pollutants.

Cars, buses, and trucks are the principal ways by which goods and people are transported in most of our



cities. These are run mainly on petrol or diesel, both fossil fuels.

We generate large quantities of waste in the form of **plastics** that remain in the environment for many years and cause damage.



We use a huge quantity of **paper** in our work at schools and in offices. Have we ever thought about the number of trees that we use in a day?

Timber is used in large quantities for construction of houses, which means that large areas of forest have to be cut down.



A growing population has meant more and more mouths to feed. Because the land area available for agriculture is limited (and in fact, is actually shrinking as a result of ecological degradation!), high-yielding varieties of crop are being grown to increase the agricultural output from a given area of land. However, such high-yielding varieties of crops require large quantities of fertilizers; and more fertilizer means more emissions of nitrous oxide, both from the field into which it is put and the fertilizer industry that makes it. Pollution also results from the run-off of fertilizer into water bodies.





Sharing Responsibilities:

All members of human society are responsible for maintaining the integrity of the environment as a Whole-Life-System. Individual efforts can be enhanced through building networks within and among all levels of civil society and government, industry and business, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

Environmental Education:

Education, especially at an early age, has a significant effect on how people form attitudes towards the environment, and is thus crucial. Educational programmes designed to enhance awareness of environmental issues and ethics must be developed and applied at all levels of society through all available and practical means.

Environmentally-Sound Lifestyle:

All members of society must cultivate a lifestyle that accepts and is consistent with sufficiency rather than greed and excess. Bearing in mind that Earth's resources are limited, each person must avoid a culture of extravagant material consumption and pursue ways to preserve the planet by improving consumption patterns.

Active Involvement:

Individuals are encouraged to participate both morally and politically in all levels in the decision-making process of environmental policies in order to improve the quality of decision-making, avoid corruption, and ensure that their interests can be properly represented.

Resolutions to make on this day!



I pledge to plant a tree and nurture it.

I pledge not to waste precious resources like water and electricity.

I pledge to use public transport more often.

I pledge to practice three R's "Reduce", "Reuse" & "Recycle".

I pledge to keep my city & country "Clean & Green".

I pledge to support environmental organizations.

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