

Grimsvotn, an active volcano in Iceland erupted on 20th May, Saturday where smoke belched as high as 20 km (12 miles) into the sky. The eruption was recorded the most powerful after 1873 .

The wind blowing on that Saturday evening turned out to be a big problem for people living near the Grimsvotn volcano as 20,000 tons of ash- per was second was erupted into the air.

Satellite images show eruptions of ash and vapor forming a huge column, 20 kilometers high, topped by a ballooning cloud. Each eruption was accompanied by lightning and thunder, as the energy was discharged in the ash cloud.

This site was the most unusual and an unexpected one seen by the people of Iceland in the last 60 years.

The latest episode forced 500 flight cancellations, with Scotland especially hit hard. Northern Europe also bore the brunt of air traffic disruption from Iceland's volcanic ash.

## A Volcanic Eruption In Iceland



There is something very holy and sacred about being out in nature. There are times when the magnificence of the natural world overwhelms us and we whisper prayers of praise and thanksgiving to the Divine hand that created it all.....The human race has also created many a wonder whether in the struggle for survival or occupation. From last month we have started this feature. We welcome your entries too. Do visit our website to upload your photos. These are some suggestions to get you going :

- The beauty of a majestic landscape at sunset...
- The ferocity and power of a tsunami, hurricane, or storm...
- The beauty carved by the human hand....
- The renewal of all things through seasons and cycles...
- The tenderness of a mother animal tending to her young...
- The splendor of the mountains that reach to the heavens...
- The insects that keep our world clean and fruitful...
- The simplicity of a river-smoothed stone...
- The complexity of the human body...
- The miracle that it all works together to sustain life!

Photo of the Month

Sunlight touching dew-drenched flowers



We welcome your comments and feedback.

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JUNE 5 : WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

THEME 2011 : FORESTS



'Environment' covers not just fauna, but also flora –

The theme for World Environment Day this year is FORESTS. Forests cover one third of the earth's land mass, performing vital functions which make our planet alive with possibilities. In fact, 1.6 billion people depend on forests for their livelihoods. They play a key role in our battle against climate change, releasing oxygen into the atmosphere while storing carbon dioxide.

Mumbai's green cover is alarmingly depleting. Reports say the area covered by the air-cleansing mangroves along coastlines have shrunk by 40% in the last two decades.

IMPORTANT TREES OF INDIA.



Banyan Trees are native to India. They are characterized by spectacular aerial roots, which grow down from the branches to take root in the soil. Banyan trees can live well over 100 years. The whole tree resembles a forest and the circumference of the crown is over 360m. Thousands of people can rest in its shade.



Bamboo is a very common and useful plant found in Monsoon Forests. They range from stiff reeds about 1m tall to giants reaching up to 50m in height. It is mainly used for construction purposes.



The Peepal Tree also known as the Enlightenment Tree is a sacred tree of India. It is a broadly spreading tree. In Sri Lanka, an entire village of 100 huts once stood under a single Peepal tree!



Mangroves are trees that grow in areas that are submerged in water. The roots are tangled and extend vertically above the ground. They provide excellent conditions for nesting and feeding. The Sunderbans in India are world famous as the home of the Bengal Tiger.

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## How to perform first-aid in emergencies ?

Learning how to perform first aid for everyday emergencies can make the difference between life and death.

### Bone Fractures

Whether it's a broken bone in a road accident or a seizure attack at home, panic seems to be the only reaction we can muster. But this is clearly not enough. Here we guide you on how to deal with some common emergencies.

**BONES** can get fractured in various incidents, from road accidents to falls. A weak skeletal structure makes children and the elderly more prone to them.

- Bleeding in the injured area should be treated first, by cleaning the area carefully with an antiseptic and applying a sterile dressing.
- Do not bandage the injury site tightly. You can also use a cold pack on the fractured area. Ice should be wrapped in a clean piece of cloth before application to prevent frostbite.
- Immobilize the fractured limb using a homemade splint for leg or sling for the arm.
- If somebody has got a back injury, it's important that you help him lie down on a hard surface like a wooden plank or a stretcher. Don't try to turn the person by lifting from the shoulders because there can be fracture in the spine. If it is essential to move, lift him from the neck and hips together.

### Eye Injuries

**THE** eyes are the most delicate part of your body and any injury to them may result in permanent damage and blindness. However, different kinds of treatment are recommended for varied conditions.

- If you have suffered a blow to the eye, place a cold compress over it but don't apply pressure to the eyeball.
- If there is continuous pain, reduced vision, blood or discoloration in the eye, you may have internal eye damage and must see an ophthalmologist.
- Don't rub your eyes to remove debris. Instead, flush them with water. Artificial tears can also be helpful. However, if something is stuck in the eye which has also cut or punctured the eye, do not wash it and also don't attempt to remove the object as it can cause more damage. Maintain stability without causing pressure to the eyeball and seek medical assistance as soon as possible.
- For chemical burns, flush the eye with water for a minimum of 15 minutes. If the chemical is caustic, continue flushing the eye en route to the doctor.

### Restoring breath

**CARDIO** pulmonary resuscitation or CPR is an emergency procedure to save a person whose heart has stopped or he is not breathing due to a heart attack, electrocution or near drowning. It can help maintain circulation and breathing.

- Firstly, check for pulse. If there is no pulse, place the heel of your hand over the center of the person's chest. Place your other hand on top of the first hand and push straight down on the chest.
- Give the compressions in a smooth, rhythmic manner. Don't rock back and forth and don't pause between compressions.
- After 30 such compressions give two artificial breaths by putting your mouth on his mouth. Check for breathing and pulse again. If they are still absent, repeat the process.
- Do not begin the chest compressions if heartbeat has stopped until the airway is cleared.
- Do not give chest compressions if there is a heartbeat. Doing so may cause the heart to stop beating.

### Seizure Attacks

**WITNESSING** someone having a seizure is a scary experience: One moment a person is normal and the next, he is making violent movements with his hands and feet and has foam coming out of his mouth.

- If you are around someone going through this, simply let it run its course, since a seizure can't be stopped.
- You need to call the ambulance if the seizure persists for more than five minutes, or if the victim is pregnant or diabetic. In some people a second seizure may begin before he regains consciousness, which is also an emergency situation.
- Do not shake or hold the person who is having the seizure. Also avoid putting anything (including medicine) in the mouth. It may cause choking.
- Turn the person on his left side to ease breathing.
- A seizure attack accompanied by fever, headache or weakness may signify brain infection, stroke or brain tumour.

### SHOCKS

**ELECTROCUTION** is another emergency situation which is risky for the person trying to help too. A victim of suspected electrocution is an electrical conductor until he is free of contact with the current.

- If the current cannot be turned off and a live wire is touching the victim, dry your hands completely and insulate them with dry gloves or a cloth.
- Stand on a dry, non-conductive surface, such as a stack of newspapers, a board, or pile of clothes.
- Depending upon the situation, you can either push the victim away from the wire or push the wire from the victim.
- Move the person or the wire using a wooden pole or board. Check whether the victim is breathing or has a heartbeat. If not, cardio pulmonary resuscitation is essential.
- The victim may take time to revive because recovery from electric shock can be slow. When breathing is restored, treat the victim for shock by elevating the feet and covering with a blanket. Also check for other injuries on the body.
- If the victim is struck by lightning, the rescuer does not need to worry about sustaining a shock since the current has passed through the body and disappeared.



### El-Nino Current

A warm ocean current, known as El Niño Current flows north to south between 3 degrees S to 36 degrees S latitudes along the Peruvian Coast. The temperature does not fall and the rainfall increases along Peruvian coast due to this current.

El Niño is a weather phenomenon. The cold water mass near Peruvian coast becomes warm due to this strong El Niño and causes heavy rainfall and destruction of marine life in the first half of the year.

El Niño warms the surface water of the Pacific Ocean. It affects monsoons in the Indian Ocean. Air pressure in the affected areas becomes low because of warm sea conditions. Dry conditions prevail in the tropical western Pacific resulting into severe droughts in Indonesia, Bangladesh and India. The widespread fire in the forest of Indonesia in 1997-98 was related to drought resulting from strong El Niño event.

The image shows what happens when a very strong El Niño strikes surface waters in the Central equatorial Pacific Ocean.