

1-15 AUGUST, 2025

# Down To Earth

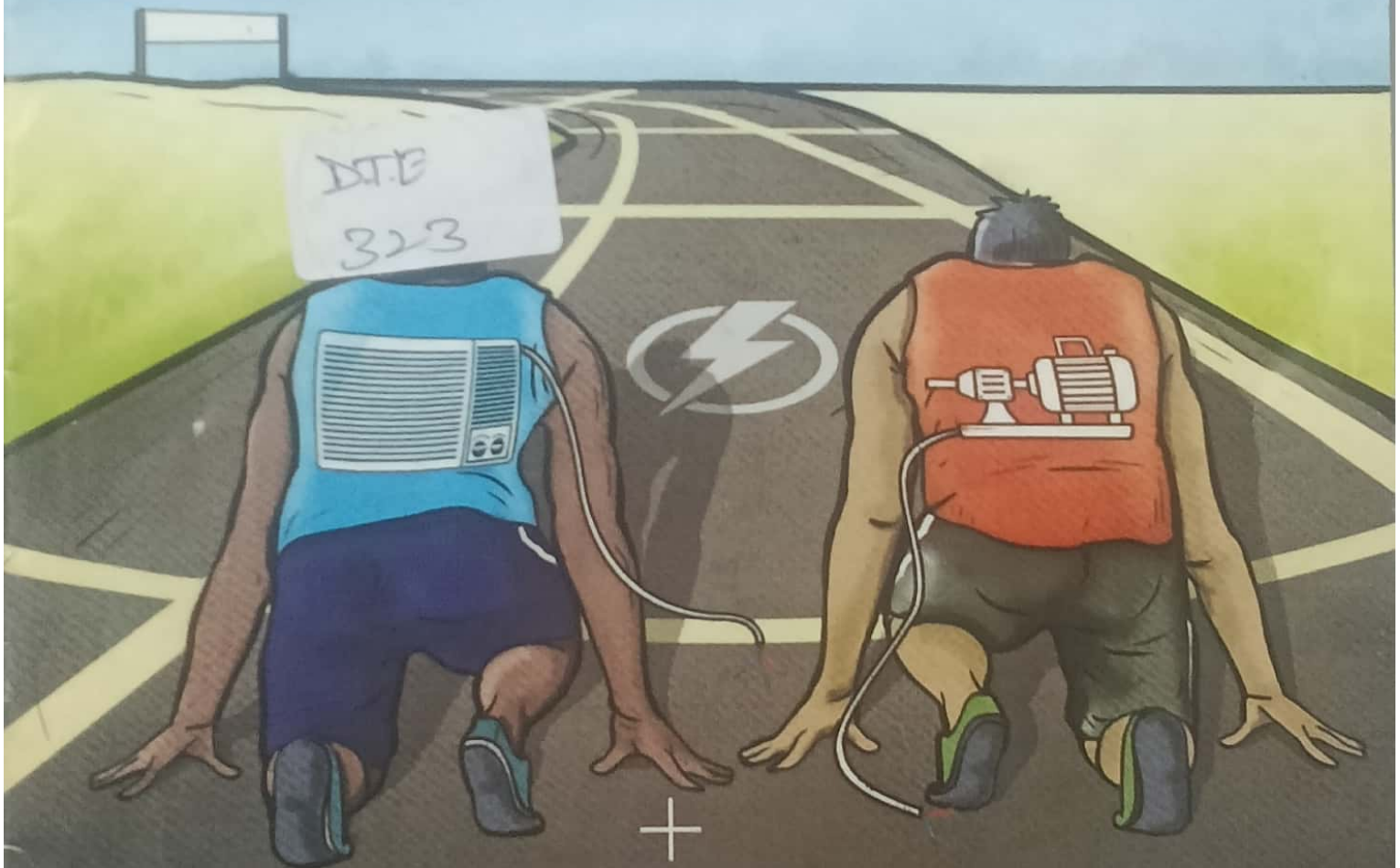
FORTNIGHTLY ON POLITICS OF DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

Subscriber copy, not for resale

₹80.00

## RACE TO EFFICIENCY

How air conditioners and water pumps can lead the way in cutting India's carbon emissions



**OFFSHORE SAND MINING**  
Kerala fishers  
oppose decision

P20

**CLIMATE BRIDES**  
Weather disasters fuelling  
adolescent marriage

P52

**SODA SCIENCE**  
Susan Greenhalgh on  
Cola companies, obesity

P54

# DownToEarth

Founded in 1992 to arm you with knowledge critical to shaping a better world

**FOUNDER EDITOR** Anil Agarwal

**EDITOR** Sunita Narain

**MANAGING EDITOR** Richard Mahapatra

**CHIEF COPY EDITOR** Snigdha Das

**ASSOCIATE EDITORS** Aditya Misra, Rajit Sengupta

**SENIOR CREATIVE DIRECTOR** Ajit Bajaj

**SUPPLEMENT EDITOR** Souparno Banerjee

**CHIEF CARTOONIST** Sorit Gupta

**REPORTING TEAM** Shagun, Akshil Sangomla, Pulaha Roy, Rohini Krishnamurthy, Himanshu Nilnaware

**SENIOR SUB EDITOR** Dakshiani Palicha

**WEB EDITORS** Rajat Ghai, Preetha Banerjee, Nandita Banerji

**DESIGN TEAM** Chaitanya Chandan (Art Editor), Ritika Bohra (Assistant Art Editor), Tarun Sehgal (Senior Designer), Yogendra Anand (Senior Illustrator), Vineet Tripathi (Graphic Designer), Shri Krishan

**PHOTO EDITOR** Vikas Choudhary

**PRODUCTION** Rakesh Shrivastava, Gundhar Das

**TECHNICAL SUPPORT** Rajendra Rawat, Jaidev Sharma

**MULTIMEDIA** Joel Michael, Sunny Gautam, Shreya KA, Dhruval Parekh, Surangya Kaur, Danishmand Khan

**INFORMATION AND RESEARCH SUPPORT**

Kiran Pandey, Susan Chacko, Madhumita Paul, Lalit Maurya, Dayanidhi Mishra

**CONSULTING EDITORS** Anumita Roychowdhury, Vibha Varshney

Vol 34, No 6; Total No of Pages: 60

Editorial, subscriptions and advertisements:  
Society for Environmental Communications,  
41, Tughlakabad Institutional Area, New Delhi 110 062.

Phone: 91-11-40616000, 29955124,  
29956110, 29956394, 29956399 | Fax: 91-11-29955879  
Email: editor@downtoearth.org.in

© 2025 Society for Environmental Communications.  
All rights reserved throughout the world. Reproduction  
in any manner is prohibited. Printed and published by  
Richard Mahapatra on behalf of Society for Environmental  
Communications. Printed at Viba Press Pvt. Ltd. C-66/3, Okhla  
Industrial Area, Phase-II, New Delhi - 110 020, India, and  
published at 41, Tughlakabad Institutional Area,  
New Delhi 110 062.

To subscribe, sms 'die Subscribe' to 56070  
or visit [www.downtoearth.org.in/subscription](http://www.downtoearth.org.in/subscription)

**FOR ADVERTISEMENTS** Jyoti Ghosh  
jghosh@cseindia.org

**FOR SUBSCRIPTIONS**  
K C R Raja, raja@cseindia.org



# Content

COVER STORY

# 30

Air conditioners, water pumps show major energy saving potential for India. But are the technologies efficient enough?



- 11 **Digest**  
Setbacks in achievement of targets under critical SDGs
- 16 **Health**  
Ambiguities in UN draft resolution to eliminate trans-fats pose nutrition risks
- 20 **Offshore mining**  
Fishers protest sand mining off Kollam coast in Kerala
- 28 **Conservation breeding**  
Case of mistaken identity leaves Alpine musk deer status uncertain



- 45 **Forest management**  
Chhattisgarh villages leverage Community Forest Resource Rights

◀ Cover design: Ajit Bajaj | Cover illustration: Yogendra Anand

Down To Earth does not endorse the content of advertisements printed in the magazine. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent courts and forums in Delhi/New Delhi only.

24

Climate models struggle to capture rapid changes in polar regions



54

Susan Greenhalgh on how Soda Science investigates Big Food's manipulation of science and policy



48

Spread of herbicide-tolerant cotton seeds in Madhya Pradesh

52 **Opinion**

Climate-linked disasters lead to rise in marriages of young girls

58 **Civil Lines**

Europe on a river-barrier demolition spree