



Editorial

Welcome once again to a fresh bunch of reading. We are now in the middle of the year and are gradually accustomed to our new secluded digital life. However, the sphere of negativity has new rays of hope, like a comparatively better recovery rate from the infection, full swing in the vaccine development program, rebooting the public healthcare system, and an exploration of the full potential of digital platform. We anticipate our newsletter will be a treat to the interested readers at this evolving time.

This issue commences with an article on human-nature interaction in the background of the Indian state of Kerala. A brief but illustrative discussion on how changing perception of environment to humans affects our ecosystem and surroundings; and also how instant materialistic benefits blind people towards its long-term bleak consequences and how a competitive social welfare system effectively deals with the health emergency like COVID-19. Hope this article will instigate us to rethink our traditional practices and societal values that related to a harmonious stay with nature. Our second article is on Non-Timber Forest Produce (NTFP), a valuable livelihood resource for the majority of forest dwellers. Being a topic of continuous debate on over-harvesting, loss of genetic diversity, effective as well as failed management, NTFP offers a diverse array to study, from policy formulation to framing economy. The author penned down his long time research experience on NTFP for general readers with his subtle language and complementary examples.

For wild food section and glimpses of nature, we present the whereabouts of the members of *Monochoria*, *Mukia*, *Neptunia*, and *Oenanthe* obtainable from waterbodies to climbing walls. Not only as vegetables, but they also find their way as ingredients in non-veg preparations, in spicy condiments, and even as snacks like *Dosa*. We wish that our readers will enjoy these culinary delights and happily engage themselves in finding alternative foods. Similarly, snippets tell us about artificial intelligence, fiery hot *Piper chaba*, floral pollution and remedy, and beautiful *rime* – the ice flower.

Wish you all a happy and enjoyable reading.

Stay safe.

Rajasri Ray

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