



Editorial

Come September... the grand festive season awaits us, but with a cautionary note “keep social distancing” looming large now. Our Covid-hit world is stressed and recoiled under various mode of standardization, developing new health practices, adopting new digital skill to changing social habits - the list can surely lengthen. Despite this, life rolls on, so does the society, along with the inevitable changes be it in social, political, economic sphere. So falling in the line, our newsletter is hatched out unfettered.

The third issue bangs with the article on “Zero Budget Natural Farming” aka ZBNF. Eulogized as a revolutionary initiative in Indian agriculture, ZBNF promises to free the farmers from the vicious cycles of costly chemical farming. It strongly argues for natural processes hinging on the factors like rejuvenation of soil microbiota, aeration and moisture retention all through judicious resource use and management. The initial ‘success story’ in few states of Deccan peninsula advocated as a ‘promising’ one and could be highly encouraging for many; but like any complex social issue, ZBNF abound with key challenges that deserve to be addressed thoroughly prior to its wider implementation. In this article, the author teases apart few confusing, entangled, and unanswered points to kindle a discussion at all level for an informed policy decision. On a similar tone, the second article talks about citizens’ participation in sustainable practices in lifestyle. Be it our food habit, clothing style, or transport choice, our outward demand for luxury, easy accessibility and affordability, used to surge the level of environmental pollution. This article tells us about how a smartphone, our second existence, can keep a check on our footprint through different apps. The article is a firsthand account of an aspiring researcher on application of mobile apps to adhere to sustainability in daily chores. It offers an overview of multifarious background practices of food and fashion industries and their overriding environmental impact.

Moving on, wild food section is filled up with plants and palates surrounding *Oxalis*, *Parkia*, *Passiflora* and *Solanum*, and their inclusion in meals and non-meals, fried vegetables, curry, non-vegetarian dishes, chutneys to jams, juices, etc. The plants are widely available, even sometimes outcasted as weeds, but their culinary potential and nutritional benefits keep them relevant to marginal people - a key aspect of food security. Coming to the end, the glimpses of nature takes us to the bee hotel, frog as soil engineers, pollen-candy and insect economy, diverse choices, practices and benefits for the humanity.

Wish you happy reading

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