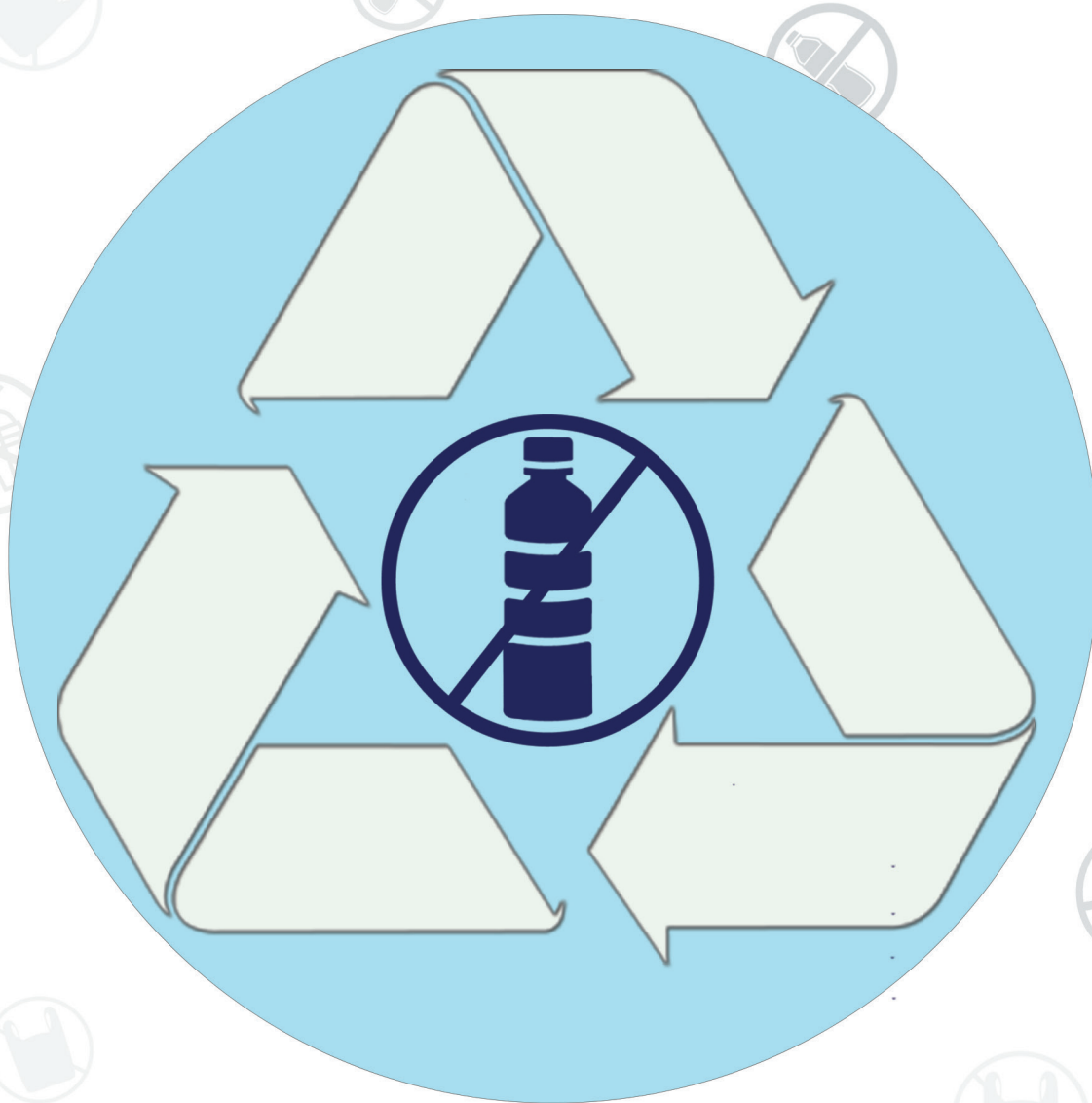


Moving Towards A Plastic-Free Future



Easy Ways to Make the World Plastic-Free



In the start of 2019, we dig deep into the significance of new year resolution. That resolution was about the betterment of ourselves. However, it's time to make another major resolution about making the world a better place to live in. Let's do our part to make 2019 a plastic-free year. No doubt, it's not humanly possible to live entirely without plastic but we can play our part by taking a few important steps.

Approximately 8.3 billion tons of plastic have been produced since 1950s when the plastic was first invented. However, only 9% is recycled, 12% of that is burned and the remaining 79% ends up causing major issues. So, the tremendous amount of plastic consumption needs serious steps to be controlled. There are two possible ways to address the issue, the first one is awareness and the second one is recycling.

Reusable Shopping Bags

You can take your own canvas bag for shopping in order to avoid the plastic bags for every single shopping item. Another great option is to enhance one of the trends of mesh produced bag (brown in color). If you are not a canvas bag fan then you can play your part by returning the plastic bag to the market for the reuse.

Reusable Cups, Bottles and Straws

According to a recent survey, "A cup or water bottle that has a coat of color or a lot of designs on it takes at least 300 uses to pay off the environmental cost of making it." So, it's time to address the issue by using reusable cups, bottles and straws on a daily basis. You can take your favorite to-go bottle and straw everywhere so that you can use it for water and coffee/tea as well.

Reusable Containers for Take-out Food

If you are one of those foodies who can't eat at once but hate to waste it then you can use a reusable container for the leftovers. Ask the waiter to pack your leftover in your own container. The reusable container can be of recyclable paper and stainless steel as well. Moreover, treat yourself with fresh juices and ice-cream cones for the ultimate love of oceans.

Prefer Dairy in Reusable Container

You can buy milk in the fancy glass container which used to be our favorite but quite extinct now-a-days. For the greater cause, you can buy cheese in bulk which is affordable and requires less plastic use.

Use Home-made Remedies

Instead of buying cleaners in plastic containers, use home-made remedies. For cleaning use the ultimate cleaning solution of 1 part vinegar and 3 parts water. Baking soda is yet another great ingredient for cleaning purposes. Use natural scrubbers instead of the unrecyclable plastic scrubber. ■

Atiqah Nasir

An In-Depth Look Into

Role of Technology in Environmental Conservation

Our earth is bearing serious pressures in the form of Ozone depletion and global warming. Extreme variations in temperatures are observed all across the globe. Natural hazards have grown in size, range and intensity. Hurricanes, floods, cyclones, earthquakes have become more frequent. The all important ozone layer in stratosphere layer of atmosphere serves as a shield against ultraviolet radiation emitted by the sun. Industrial expansion and overpopulation are direct causes of over-exploitation of natural resources, which has become mandatory to meet energy demands. Combustion of fossil fuels (coal, oil and gas) releases compounds of carbon into the upper atmosphere which are eating away the ozone layer. Life won't sustain for long if the atmosphere continues to aggravate. Implementation and application of eco-friendly



tools and technologies can save our earth from a potential collapse. Eco-friendly techniques and use of satellites to pre-empt and locate a potential calamity must be inducted into industry and agriculture to reduce carbon footprint into the atmosphere.

Global information system and geospatial data are important in environmental conservation and disaster management. Global information system helps collecting relevant spatial information in the form of images, visualizations and data packs which are used to generate a wider perspective pertaining to the demography of a particular area of earth under study. In the field of environment, spatial location identifies and maps zones which are at higher risk of degeneration. Satellite images, maps, 3D visuals and virtual displays identify the 'zones of unrest' on or within the surface of earth. For example, a satellite with multi-orbiting instrument records and retrieves heaps and piles of plastic stored and placed underneath the surface of oceans. This plastic debris is so very dangerous for wildlife and environment as it is non-degradable and releases carbon dioxide upon burning. Precise location helps wiping out the calamity for eco-friendly disposal.

Less reliance on non-renewable energy sources is a natural therapy for environmental conservation. Water, air and sun are natural, environmentally sustainable, cost-effective, durable and efficient sources of energy. Non-renewable energy sources (coal, petroleum, gas) are diminishing because of overexploitation to meet growing energy demands. In the due process of energy synthesis, lethal contamination (compounds of carbons) are released into the upper atmosphere where they continue to pile up and chemically activities are initiated in the presence of sun which are resulting in ozone depletion. Renewable energy sources have no 'side effects' and won't degenerate environment during energy production. Renewable energy sources don't require a chemically motivated initiative to draw them into energy synthesis. Water is made to fall under pressure, solar panel gets charged up in the presence of sunlight, and windmill responds and rotates on the call of breeze to generate energy.

The environmental cost of inadequate and poor resource management has seriously disturbed the balance of nature and this is playing hard on humans and will continue to tease in the coming future. Induction of technology, green techniques and tools, renewable energy sources in industries and agriculture will suffice the purpose of environmental conservation. ■

Yasir Hayat

Oculus Quest

Oculus Quest is Facebook's most awaited and latest stand-alone virtual-reality headset which allows you walk without wires and its great inside-out tracking system translates your actions into VR. Quest doesn't need to connect with PC, phone, console or any additional hardware. All-in-one gaming system has convenient tetherless design, easy to setup and available in just \$400. ■



Controls to Delete History

If your activity record on Google haunts you then your worries are soon going to end as Google is soon launching the auto-delete controls for location history and web search data that let you to completely wipe out your digital imprints from the internet after using YouTube, Maps and Search. The feature will be officially available in coming weeks. ■

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Manage your WhatsApp



Being a free chat service, around 1.5 billion people use WhatsApp and the app automatically stores all shared media like pictures, videos and other files into phone storage which sometimes caused annoyance for the users. However, there is a way to restrict WhatsApp automatically saving images on Android Gallery App. To enable the option, open chat in WhatsApp and go the Settings by clicking three vertical dots on top right side. Then, move to Data and Storage Usage and disable auto-download by unchecking photos, audio, videos and downloads in all three options. You can also stop media to be shown in phone's Gallery App by unchecking the box 'show media in gallery' by heading towards Chat in Settings. Though all media will be visible within WhatsApp but Gallery app will not show this. Data and Storage Usage also allow you to choose which data you want to keep or delete all the media of long group/individual chats from your phone just in one click. ■

Apple Card



The most notable announcement from Apple's services event at the end of March was Apple Card, a latest innovation and a credit card which lies beneath the glass screen of

your iPhone. To avail the service, sign up on Apple Wallet app from your iPhone, receive a digital card and start making your transactions within minutes via Apple Pay. Apple Card also offers customers to track their purchases and reward them cash on each transaction. The service also pinpoint your transaction history on map with place name along with location in color-code. A physical titanium card will also be sent to you without credit card numbers, expiration date or signature to make purchases at the places which don't accept Apple Pay. Apple is scheduled to launch the service in the US this summer. ■

End of Windows 7

In a bid to focus on creating newer technologies, Microsoft is phasing out Windows 7 on January 14, 2020. The company has started sending notification alerts about the change to Windows 7 users so they can move to Windows 10 before the deadline. Microsoft launched Windows 7 in 2009 and till then, it had been immensely popular with many people prefer to use the operating system over Windows 10. Though, Windows 7 lovers can continue to use



outdated operating system after the deadline but Microsoft will not release the security updates and technical assistance which will make it vulnerable to viruses. ■

ID Theft: Discover Yourself Again

It's quite hard to pick up your pieces back and start living normal after meeting any incident which steal your identity away but remember you are a strong survivor! Let's throw light on some of the ways which can help you discover yourself again.



First of all, convince your mind to act in an optimistic way despite all odds. Your mind will resist any optimistic behaviors because of the fact that it wants to react in the incidental fashion. However, don't run instead tend to your wounds – be very confident of all your struggles and hardships that you had to go through with.

Try to spend time with your loved ones, who make you feel loved. Try to involve yourself in your favorite activities such as travelling. Go through exclusive therapies if necessary or simply meditate on a regular basis. However, never neglect yourself or your needs by keeping your feelings to yourself.

Keep this one uncomfortable truth in your mind that you will fail at times, may be more than normal people. But it will definitely help you in finding your true self, boosting your confidence and making you become who you really are.

Following are a couple books that are all about the survivors of identity theft. Give them a read for inspiration.

'Where did I go?: Rediscovering My Identity, Lost After a Traumatic Brain Injury' by Polly Williamson

'Identity Theft: Rediscovering Ourselves After Stroke' by Debra E. Meyerson and Danny Zuckerman ■

PoemPortraits

Google has designed an AI algorithm 'Poem-Portraits' which is engineered to write poetry from a word of your choice and then overlap these poetic lines to a selfie by applying beautiful artistic effects. To get started, visit <https://artsexperiments.withgoogle.com/poemportraits> link and tap the begin button. It will ask you to donate a word, enter the word of your choice and click on Donate and then on Continue. Next, two choices will be appeared before users, either tap Authorize Access to allow device camera to take a selfie, at which AI-generated poetic lines will be overlaid, or Skip the step to only get the poem text. ■

Quick Facts

- **Microsoft** has removed its eBooks store.
- **Sony's** new PlayStation is expected to launch next year.
- **Skype's** new screen sharing feature for Android and iOS is now available in beta.
- **California** has permitted companies testing of light-weighted self-driving trucks on its roads.
- **NASA's** InSight Mars Lander has recorded first seismic activity on Maritain surface which means red planet is seismically active.
- **Verizon** is planning to launch 5G service in more than 30 cities by the end of 2019.
- **Ford** has designed prototype self-braking shopping cart to avoid supermarket mishaps.
- **Google Fit** has been released for iOS users along with Apple Watch support.
- **Google Earth** Timelapse feature, to show Earth evolution over time, has arrived on Android.
- **Google Search** now has 'work from home' filter to make finding remote jobs more accessible.
- **Alphabet's** Wing has become the first company to get FAA approval for drone deliveries in US.
- **Google Assistant** on phones now supports Arabic language.
- **Samsung** revealed Galaxy A60 and Galaxy A40s with mid-range specifications.
- **Tesla** announced to launch one million robo-taxis next year.
- **Microsoft** scrapped 'Sets' feature from Windows 10.
- **Huawei's** EMUI hit 470 million daily users.
- Microsoft has revamped **OneDrive's** icon on iOS devices.
- Samsung is rolling out new updates in **Galaxy A30** including improved GPS performance and earphone sound.
- **Oppeo Reno 10x** is scheduled to release on May 10, 2019.
- **Xiaomi** has unveiled Redmi Y3 in India with a 32-megapixel selfie camera and splash-resistant body.
- **WhatsApp** is testing 'Ignore Archived Chats' feature to ignore annoying conversation.
- **Nintendo** is reportedly releasing Mario Kart Tour mobile game this summer.
- **Amazon** is using artificial intelligence to track and dismiss low-productivity warehouse employees' regardless human supervisor's involvement.
- **Uber's** women preferred view feature aimed to facilitate female drivers to select only women as their riders.
- Nubia's **Red Magic 3** gaming smartphone has built-in cooling fan.
- **Cadillac** showcased 2020 CT5 sedan at New York Auto Show. ■

Kids Corner

Drawing in the Air



Hey kids! Tired of searching for extra pages to draw whatever comes to your mind? Now, you can draw without having pages and the ordinary pencils. 3D printing pens have been invented to let you draw in the air. Literally, in the air. Let's see how it works. In the normal drawing, when you write something, ink comes out of the nib of the pen. On the other hand, a thin molten plastic comes out of a 3D pen. This dries out into whatever you have made. You

can make many differently colored 3D structures and landmarks with this 3D pen. The pen needs a power source to melt the plastic. You can choose from a range of colors and three different speeds are adjustable according to your style and taste. The pen is portable so you can carry it anywhere. Thus, instead of using pages to do your drawings, convert your imagination into a beautiful 3D structure right before your eyes! ■

Google Tells Bedtimes Stories

Many people among us miss the time of their childhood when their mother would cuddle them in her arms and read them a bedtime story. The old fantasy bedtime stories would drift them into a peaceful sleep. Google is now trying to revive that time of your life. Google Assistant now has

'Tell a Story' function, which is available on all Android phones. When you would give it a command, it would start reading a story for you like, Hansel and Gretel, the Sorcerer's Apprentice, Goldilocks and the Three Bears, and also a number of Nickelodeon and Dora the Explorer stories. ■



Apple Watch Returns

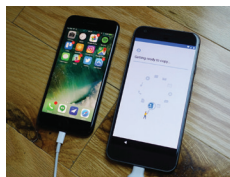


Robert Bainter lost his Apple Watch at Huntington Beach California while surfing. He immediately turned on Lost Mode via the Find my Phone app. By doing this, a message is displayed on the lost device that displays

the contact number of the watch owner, so if anyone find the lost device, they can contact the watch owner. Brainter gave hope after searching a long time for his watch. Six months passed and then finally Brainter got a call from an unknown number who told him that he had found Brainter's watch some 3 miles away from the original place where Brainter has lost it. And the watch was still working. All the data and apps were still there in the watch. This miracle proves that Apple watch is waterproof and can prove very beneficial for swimmers and deep sea divers. ■

Shifting data from Android to Android

When we buy a new phone then our first worry is to restore all the settings and apps from our old phone to pick up from where we left off. It wouldn't be surprising for anyone to know how deeply our android phone depends on Google services. Google automatically backs up contacts, calendar entries, call logs, Do Not Disturb settings, and more to the cloud and it can be restored to a new Android phone. However, make sure that your old phone data has



successfully backed up and the operating system has been updated. Now, turn on your new phone, select the language, tap through normal Terms and Conditions screen, connect to Wi-Fi network and sign-in to Google account as of the previous phone. It will finally ask you about restore options; tap 'Restore' option. In a few minutes, all your Gmail, Contacts, Calendars, Photos, and backups will be downloaded and appeared in your phone. That's it! Now it's ready to use, so enjoy having a new smartphone without losing your information. ■

Google Cloud Study Jam

In April, Google Cloud Study Jam opened up with a presentation title 'Introduction to Machine Learning and Basic ML Terminologies' in Skylite Network's Innovation Lab where developers and members from the community come together to get hands-on



knowledge of core areas of machine learning. A C# Corner MVP Mehreen Tahir, and an expert computer programmer from Rabwah, Afzaal Ahmad Zeeshan cordially discussed about Machine Learning services and solutions on Google cloud. The most interesting part of the seminar was hands-on session on Machine Learning model to infer and predict results like which team would likely win this year's game. ■

Upcoming Event

May 2019

• Machine Learning Study Jam

For details and registration visit : skylite.com/event-registration/

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