



Here's your specially curated update of fresh insights with news, books, films and art on environment and climate action

Editor's Note

Welcome to the May 2026 edition of the GLF Newsletter.

I am excited to present an eclectic collection of a book's backstory, a couple of book reviews, book excerpts and an insightful conversation about eco-dystopian novels.

“There is beauty in every beast, and the right to life for every creature,” writes author Lakshmy Ramanathan in her feature story that takes us into Kabini, where she spent considerable time researching for her book [*Love Bites and Pugmarks in Kabini*](#)

Here's my review of [*On The Banks of Pampa*](#) by Volga, translated by Purnima Tammireddy. In this eco-centric novel, a retelling of mythology, Sabari the protagonist, questions the propaganda and subtle manipulations of the state. The hard questions that each of us ought to be asking, but ignore.

Benedict Paramanand, GLF founder, reviews [*Smarter Than the Storm – Championing the AI-Climate Nexus for a Truly Sustainable Future*](#). Is AI our new champion for addressing the climate crisis? This is a book of hope with workable tools.

Here's an excerpt from [*Slow Living: What You Can Do About Climate Change*](#) by Vandana Shiva and Shreya Jani, published by Roli Books. It lists a few simple ways to protect water. The book shows how personal choices can challenge inequality and contribute to the well-being of the planet.

In Green Conversations, we have a piece about eco-dystopian novels from across the world, earlier published in *The Conversations*.

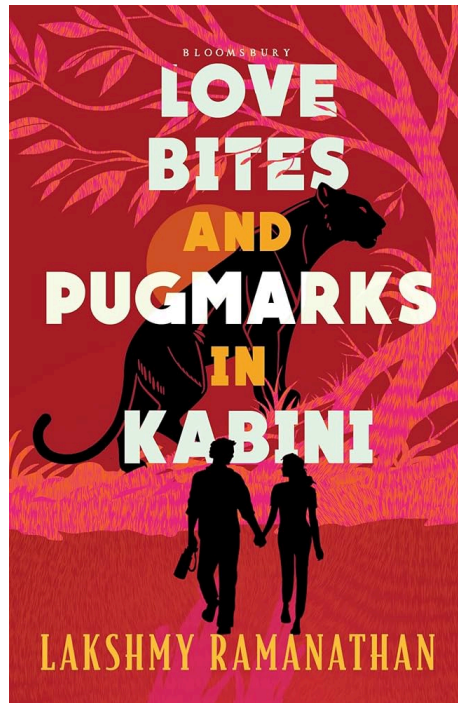
GLF is a community initiative. Please feel free to contact me with ideas and suggestions. Spread the word among your circles.

Happy May. Enjoy the heat. Only a hot summer can bring copious rains.

Monisha Raman

editor@greenlitfest.com

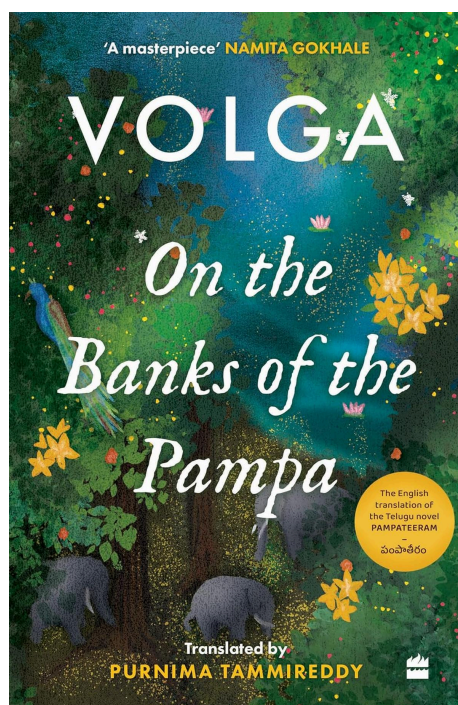
The Call of Kabini - The Backstory



For many of us, especially readers of this newsletter, the call of the wild is more than just an earworm; it is a constant tug at our knotted hearts and wandering minds that propels us to commit to nature one way or the other. [Read More>>](#)

Book Review - Monisha Raman

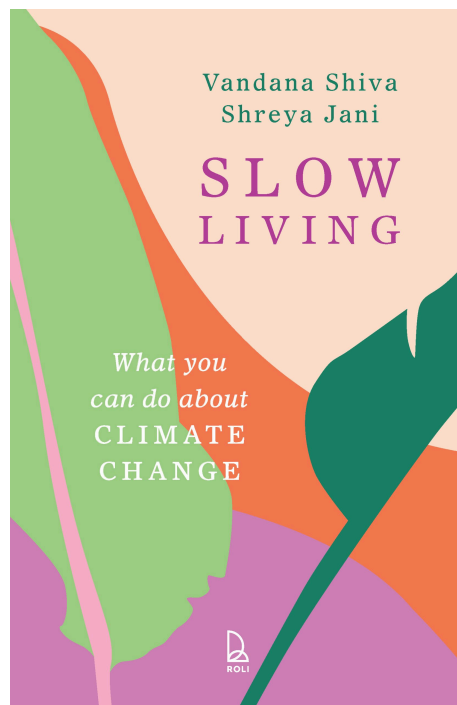
Ecosystems versus Empires



In the development agenda of the 21st century, the land takes the biggest blow, and the struggles of those who live adapting to its rhythms are

buried under the cities and industries that rise. On the Banks of Pampa, by Volga, a prominent name in Telugu literature, translated by Purnima Tammireddy, is a reimagining of Sabari's tale in Ramayana. [Read More>>](#)

Book Excerpt



In a world consumed by greed for consumption and speed, *Slow Living* advocates for change—small, progressive steps toward a sustainable future. Questioning the dominant narratives that widen the inequality prevalent in societies, the book shows how individual choices and small acts of resistance can, in turn create ripple effects that could restore our relationship with the planet. [Read More>>](#)

Book Review - Benedict Paramanand

Can AI Save the Planet?



America's recent snobbish attitude towards climate change, hurricanes, flash floods and heatwaves everywhere, the Himalayan glaciers melting at a rapid rate, and when the temperature in the once cold countries started to soar, the world looked like it was giving up.

Surprisingly, in recent months, something started to shift. AI has emerged as the potential saviour. But how to harness its immense power quickly and inclusively is the trillion-dollar question. A new book, *Smarter Than the Storm*, seems to have some answers. [Read More>>](#)

Green Conversations

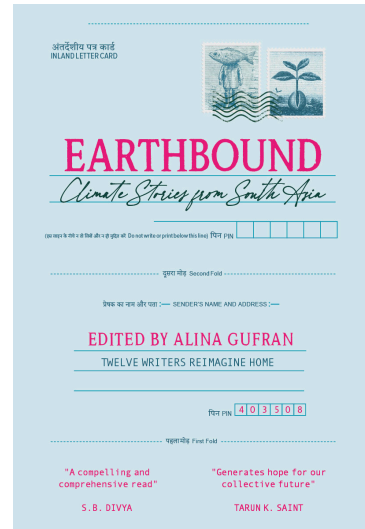
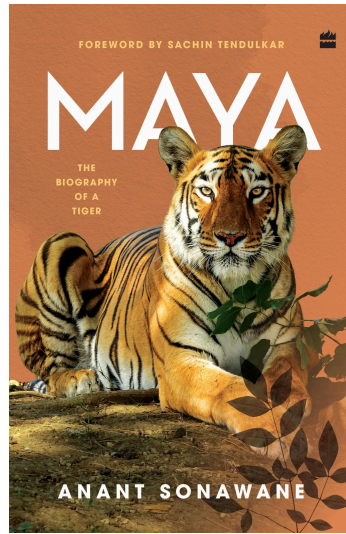
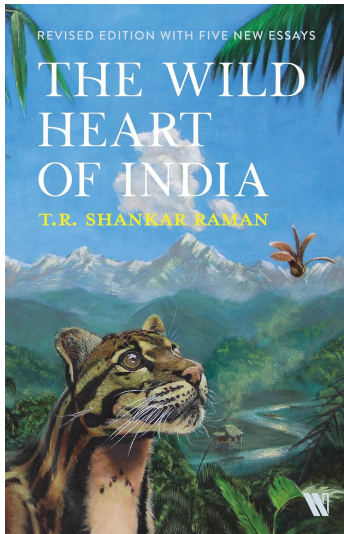
How 'Eco-dystopian' Novels from Asia and Africa are Pushing Boundaries



In this piece, Alastair Bonnett lists out some of the speculative environmental fiction titles from across the world and emphasises the need for them to help people process eco-anxiety. [Read More>>](#)

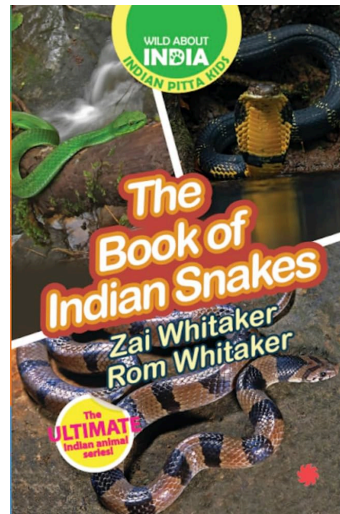
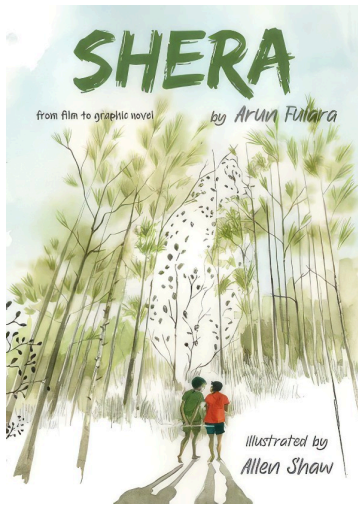
New Book Releases

Fiction/Nonfiction



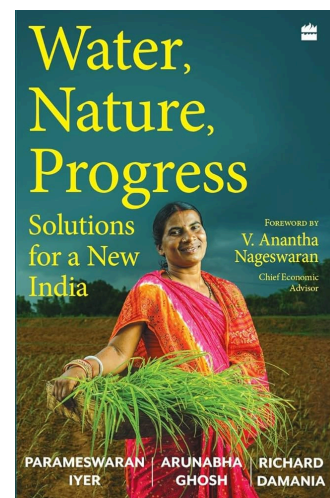
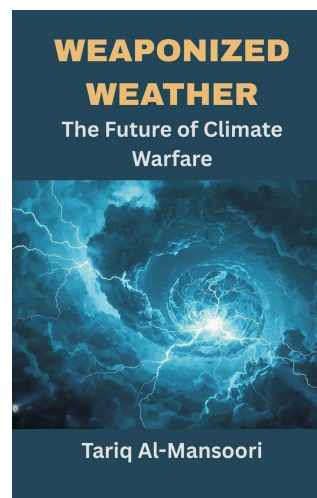
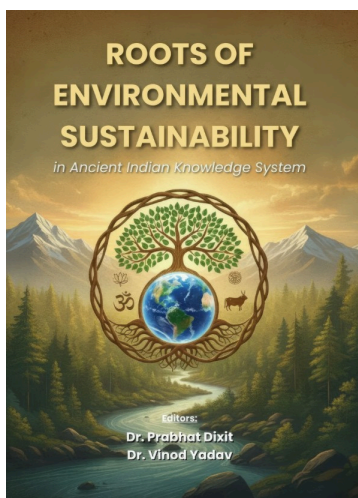
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