

# Enviro Monitor

October 2017

## Pollution



- At 2.5 million, India tops list of pollution-linked deaths
- Air pollution in Delhi
- Beyond Delhi-NCR, cities reeling under severe air pollution
- Centre launches interactive online platform to give corporate push to Ganga cleaning
- Government to sell treated sewage water

## Climate change



- CO<sub>2</sub> levels in the Earth's atmosphere surged to highest levels in 800,000 years
- UN warns of 'unacceptable' greenhouse gas emissions gap
- India to achieve COP21 goals before deadline

## Water stress



- Panel on water resources in Northeast
- Centre eases rules for groundwater extraction by industry
- NCR lost 40% of its water bodies in 42 years

## Waste disposal

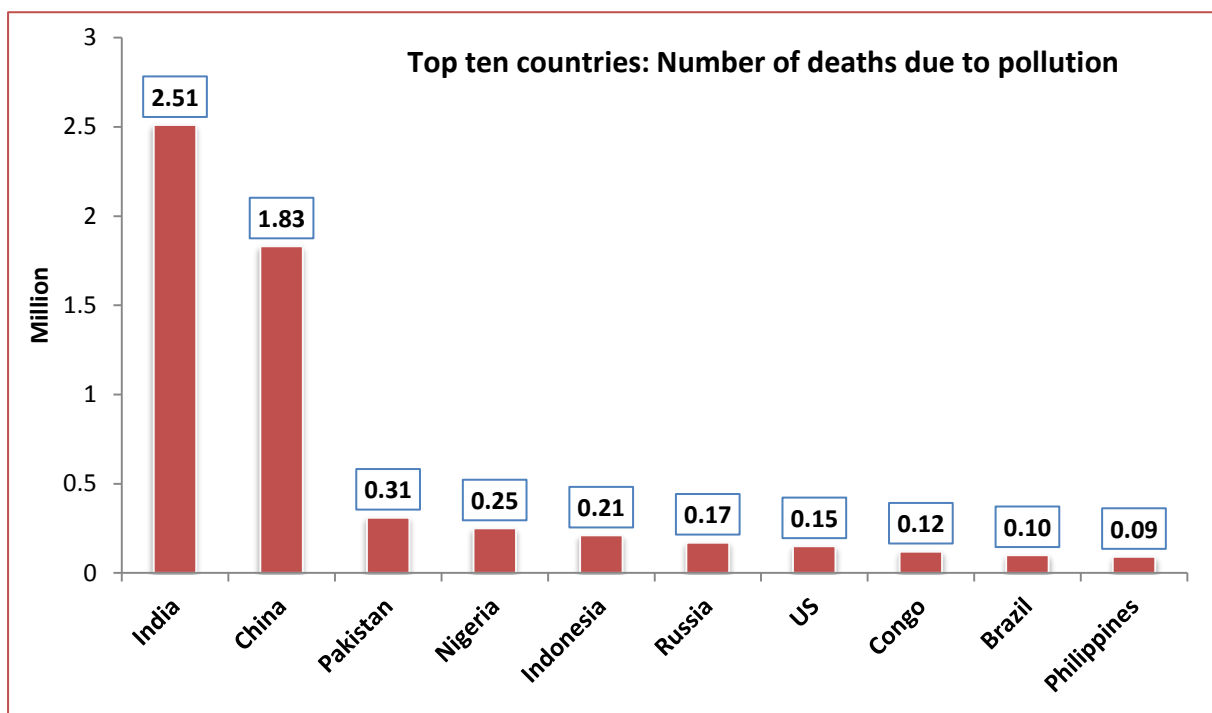


- NGT to penalise Indian Railways over station waste management in Delhi-NCR
- West Bengal plans to set up 2 hazardous waste treatment units
- Wet garbage disposal: New norms for government, private institutions in Jaipur



**At 2.5 million, India tops list of pollution-linked deaths.** India has topped the list of countries with pollution-related deaths in 2015, with 2.51 million people dying prematurely in the country that year due to diseases linked to air, water and other forms of pollution, according to a recent [study](#) published in *The Lancet*. India accounted for about 28 per cent of an estimated 9 million pollution-linked deaths worldwide in 2015, the study found. It also topped the list of deaths linked to polluted air (1.81 million)

and water (0.64 million).



Source. *Indian Express*, 20 October 2017

Of the 2.51 million deaths in India, 1.81 were related to air pollution, 0.64 million to water pollution, 0.17 million to occupational exposure and 95,000 linked to lead pollution, according to the study.

**Air pollution in Delhi.** With thick toxic smog engulfing the national capital and its suburbs for the, the Delhi government will take a decision today on whether to bring back the odd-even scheme to regulate vehicles on the road in a bid to curb air pollution. The Delhi government has banned entry of trucks and halt all construction activity into the city.

**Polluting roads in Delhi-NCR under lens.** A number of major roads in Delhi-NCR, which are in a state of disrepair and contribute to dust pollution, have come under the scanner of the Supreme Court-mandated Environment Pollution (Prevention) Control Authority (EPCA). The EPCA has tasked the authorities in the region with preparing a list of such roads — around three each in Delhi, Noida, and Gurugram for the time being.

**Graded action plan put in place to curb Delhi air pollution.** The Badarpur power plant has been shut, diesel generators banned, hundreds of brick kilns ordered to stop production, and if the air quality worsens, Delhiites may have to shell out more as parking fee, possibly four times the

current amount. The Supreme Court-appointed EPCA, a body empowered to enforce the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) under which these steps have been taken, made it clear that if needed it will not hesitate to enforce the 'odd-even' plan, order cars off roads, and shut schools.

### Graded Response Action Plan: in brief

The Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) involves a range of actions assigned to multiple agencies when pollution touches moderate, poor, very poor and severe levels, based on air quality index.

#### Specific role for agencies

##### Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC)

- Stop construction
- Shut down Badarpur power plant
- Stop use of diesel generator sets
- Issue advisories in newspapers/TV/radio

##### Transport Department/DTC/DIMTS/DMRC

- Introduce odd and even scheme
- Encourage off-peak travel
- Increase bus and metro services
- Heavy fine for polluting vehicles

##### Traffic Police/Delhi Police

- Stop entry of non-destined trucks
- Enforce dust control at construction sites
- Enforce ban on firecrackers

##### Municipal Corporations

- Stop construction activities
- Enhance parking fee by 3-4 times
- Stop trucks (except essential commodities)
- Stop garbage burning
- Sweep roads mechanically

##### PWD/CPWD/NHAI

- Increase frequency of mechanised road sweeping and sprinkling of water on roads

#### What Government Departments are doing

##### DPCC

- A control room is being set up Whatsapp numbers where people can lodge their complaints 9717593501 / 9717593574.
- Complaints can also be lodged with SAMEER app of CPCB
- Email id to come up shortly for citizens to lodge complaint

##### Delhi Police

- Will deploy personnel to maintain smooth traffic flow
- In case of 'severe' pollution, traffic police won't allow trucks to enter Delhi

#### What NCR States are doing

**Uttar Pradesh: Noida/Ghaziabad** - Regular inspection of polluting units; Two monitoring stations established; Two more coming up

**Haryana** - Special teams to implement GRAP; CM monitoring the situation; Farmers being encouraged to refrain from stubble burning; Gurgaon civic body to levy hiked parking fees and crack down on garbage burning

**Beyond Delhi-NCR, a look at cities reeling under severe air pollution.** While Delhi's adverse air quality has been screeching alarms all over the country and the world, it would be incorrect to believe that the extreme lung-hazard is a concern of the capital region alone. The affected regions along with Delhi are its surroundings — Noida, Gurgaon and Faridabad. Going slightly further, Ghaziabad (475), Moradabad (500) and Bhiwadi (439) are among the hardest hit due to heightened, hazardous concentrations of PM-10 and PM-2.5, as per the Air Quality Index report released by the CPCB. Also flagged in the report were Howrah (451), Lucknow (365), Kanpur (361) and Agra (355)

**Centre launches interactive online platform to give corporate push to Ganga cleaning.** Facilitating private companies to undertake corporate social responsibility (CSR) activities for Ganga rejuvenation, the launched an interactive web page on the National Mission for clean Ganga (NMCG) online platform. The exclusive web page carries all details of projects and activities which can be taken up by corporate houses under the CSR funds. It will enable them to apply works online on the NMCG website's interactive page.

**Government to sell treated sewage water.** The water resources ministry is planning to monetise sewage water polluting Ganga river by selling the treated water to power plants, industries and railways, Union water resources minister Mr Nitin Gadkari has said. Water resources ministry is exploring innovative ways for utilization of recycled sewage by power plants, sugar industries, distilleries, tanneries with zero discharge policy. The work for setting up 50 million litres daily (MLD) capacity sewage treatment plant (STP) in Varanasi will be carried out at an estimated cost of Rs 153.16 crore. In Haridwar, two STPs of 68 MLD and 14 MLD will be developed, at a cost if Rs 171.53 crore, a statement said. Both the projects are centrally-funded.

[The Times of India](#), 11 October 2017 | [India Today](#), 12 October 2017 | [The Hindustan Times](#), 17 October 2017 | [The Economic Times](#), 18 October 2017 | [Indian Express](#), 20 October 2017 | [The Hindu](#), 20 October 2017 | [The Pioneer](#), 23 October 2017 | [Indian Express](#), 8 November 2017 | [NDTV](#), 9 November 2017



**CO2 levels in the Earth's atmosphere surged to highest levels in 800,000 years.** Concentrations of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere accelerated at record-breaking speeds in 2016 to their highest concentrations in 800,000 years, according to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). The rate of increase of atmospheric carbon dioxide in the Earth's atmosphere over the past 70 years is without precedent, the WMO's annual [Greenhouse Gas Bulletin](#) says. This could lead to "severe ecological and economic disruptions". Since 1990, there has been a 40% increase in the warming effect on our climate – known as radiative forcing – and a 2.5% increase between 2015 and 2016 alone.

**UN warns of 'unacceptable' greenhouse gas emissions gap.** There is still a large gap between the pledges by governments to cut greenhouse gas emissions and the reductions that are needed to avoid dangerous levels of climate change, the UN has said in the [Emission Gap Report 2017](#). Current plans from national governments, and pledges made by private sector companies and local authorities across the world, would lead to temperature rises of as much as 3C or more by the end of this century, far

outstripping the goal set under the 2015 Paris agreement to hold warming to 2C or less, which scientists say is the limit of safety.

**India to achieve COP 21 goals before deadline.** India is likely to achieve the self-declared Sustainable Development Goal of lowering fossil fuel share in the energy mix earlier than committed according to Secretary, Ministry of Power, Mr Ajay Kumar Bhalla. Speaking at the launch of a project partnership between Energy Efficiency Services Ltd and Global Environment Facility, Mr Bhalla said that India is promoting a target of 40 per cent non-fossil fuel capacities by 2030. The 40 per cent non-fossil fuel target is a commitment India had made at the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 21).

[International Business Times](#), 31 October 2017 | [The Guardian](#), 31 October 2017 | [The Hindu Business Line](#), 1 November 2017



**Panel on water resources in Northeast.** The Vice-Chairman of the NITI Aayog will be heading a committee to study and offer suggestions on how to better utilise the water resources in the Northeastern region. The Committee would submit its report by June 2018. The committee would facilitate optimising benefits of appropriate water management in the form of hydro-electric power, agriculture, bio-diversity conservation, reduced flood damage erosion, inland water transport, forestry, fishery

and eco-tourism.

**Centre eases rules for groundwater extraction by industry.** Seeking to have uniform regulatory framework on groundwater use across the country, the Centre has come out with a [draft guidelines](#) which stipulate existing and new industries, infrastructure and mining projects to obtain 'no-objection certificate' (NOC) from district and state-level authorities for drawing groundwater. The draft also proposes to levy a new water conservation fee based on quantum of groundwater extraction in lieu of existing provision of creating recharge mechanism, including construction of artificial recharge structures, by project proponents.

**NCR lost 40% of its water bodies in 42 years.** Water bodies have decreased by a steep 40% in the National Capital Region (NCR) as a result of rapid urbanisation between 1972 and 2014, when the region saw a 17-fold rise in urban built-up areas, a study has revealed. At certain places, the complete transformation into an urban environment has led to an increase of 3 to 5 degrees in land surface temperature and 2 to 4 degrees in air temperature during this period, the [study](#) by the Centre for Atmospheric Sciences at IIT Delhi found.

[The Hindu](#), 4 October 2017 | [The Economic Times](#), 23 October 2017 | [The Times of India](#), 24 October 2017



**NGT to penalise Indian Railways over station waste management in Delhi-NCR.** The National Green Tribunal (NGT) imposed fines on Indian Railways for not complying with the rules on solid waste management at four stations in NCR region. A Bench headed by Chairperson Swatanter Kumar imposed a penalty of Rs 1 lakh each on the Vivek Vihar, Anand Vihar, Shahdara, and Shakurbasti railway

stations. At present, the Railways are doing waste management through contractors. It has a plan for a waste treatment plant in Delhi and in Jaipur, for which subsidiary RITES recently floated a global tender. The plants were to handle 20 tonnes a day of waste in Delhi and five tonnes in Jaipur.

NGT has imposed fines of Rs 2-3 lakh on major hotels in the Delhi region - Leela Venture, Fraser Suites, Royal Plaza and Mahagun Hotels, Radiance Motel, Golden Petal Hotel and Banquet, and Park Inn. Similar fines were imposed on hospital groups..

**West Bengal plans to set up 2 hazardous waste treatment units.** West Bengal government is planning to set up hazardous waste treatment units each at Bantala in South 24-Parganas and at Barjora in Bankura which could be also serve as waste banks. Waste bank is one of community-based waste management system that enables the public to actively participate in managing their environment. Waste management has several instruments to help community managing their waste independently in their household. The West Bengal government has written to the Centre for its clearance to set up a unit at Barjora in Bankura for the disposal of hazardous products of various factories.

**Wet garbage disposal: New norms for government, private institutions in Jaipur.** The Jaipur Municipal Corporation (JMC) has decided to make government and private institutions partly responsible for disposing the wet garbage produced by them. The corporation has given November 30 as deadline to set up compost plants of required capacity to treat wet waste and produce compost, vermicompost and bio-methane.

[Business Standard](#), 24 October 2017 | [The Times of India](#), 7 November 2017 | [Millennium Post](#), 8 November 2018