

Enviro Monitor

December 2018

Climate change



- Carbon emission rose 22% in India between 2010-14
- Climate change hits crops, farmers alike

Natural resources



- States get greater say over coastal regions
- DJB approves Rs 376-crore plan to rejuvenate 159 waterbodies

Water quality



- High level of arsenic found in Punjab groundwater
- Nine projects flagged off to clean Yamuna
- Ganga clean at just one out of 39 locations: CPCB

Corporate social responsibility



- Bulk of CSR spent on developed states; Maharashtra, Karnataka top the list
- Companies CSR expenditure rises 47 per cent in 4 years to FY18

Air quality



- Pan-India clean air programme set to be rolled out with Rs 300 crore initial support and a mid-term target
- In four years, second most polluted December in Delhi



Carbon emission rose 22% in India between 2010-14. Between 2010 and 2014, India emitted 22% more carbon dioxide, riding high on its economic growth story, says a new report that India would be submitting to the United Nations. Out of the total emissions, the energy sector, including electricity generation and transport, account for 73% followed by agriculture that contributes 16% of the carbon emissions. The Biennial Update Report – approved by the Union Cabinet – would be presented to

the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change as a fulfilment of India's reporting obligation under the convention.

Climate change hits crops, farmers alike. Climate change has hit agrarian Uttar Pradesh very hard and experts claim that crop yield in over a dozen districts across the state has been adversely affected and might result in a drop in production and financial losses to farmers. A joint study by Arvind Kumar, K K Singh, A N Mishra and Pratigya Tripathi maintains that climate change resulting in increase in temperature could lead to possible low yield of rice in eastern Uttar Pradesh by 1.0 to 1.1 per cent per hectare. Eastern Uttar Pradesh comprising 28 districts would be the worst affected. An estimate said that around 10 districts, with a population of around 90 million, would be affected. Similar fall in production is expected if there is a fall in temperature. The yield of rice may go down by 1.5 to 1.9 per cent per hectare.

[The Pioneer](#), 26 December 2018 | [Deccan Herald](#), 29 December 2018



States get greater say over coastal regions. The Union Cabinet has approved the CRZ Notification 2018, streamlining of Coastal Regulation Zone clearances, aimed at enhancing activities in the coastal regions and promoting economic growth while keeping in mind conservation principles of coastal regions. According to the new

notification only such projects, which are located in the CRZ-I (Ecologically Sensitive Areas) and CRZ IV (area covered between Low Tide Line and 12 Nautical Miles seaward) will require the necessary clearance from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. The new notification also relaxed the No Development Zone (NDZ) criteria. Densely populated rural areas with a population density of 2,161 per square kilometre, falling under CRZ-III A, now have NDZ of 50 meters from the High Tide Line (HTL) as against 200 meters stipulated in the CRZ Notification, 2011.

Under new norms, coastal zones along rural areas will be bifurcated, based on population density, to regulate development activities. These changes will promote eco-tourism activities in identified stretches, subject to permissions, and address livelihood concerns of certain local communities in rural coastal zones.

DJB approves Rs 376-crore plan to rejuvenate 159 waterbodies. The Delhi Jal Board (DJB) has approved the plan to rejuvenate waterbodies and another Rs 77-crore project for creation of two lakes in order to aid groundwater recharge and boost water reserves in the city. The two “mega lakes” will be developed on 25 acre of land at Nilothi and 32 acre at Rohini sewage treatment plants (STPs). With these

two lakes, the 159 waterbodies, two lakes already approved at Dwarka and Najafgarh and one lake at Timarpur expected to be approved soon, the statement said, the total area of waterbodies will be 350 acre, holding 1,581 million litres or 135 million gallons. These waterbodies will be designed scientifically with the aim of recharging groundwater as much as possible.

[The Hindu](#), 25 December 2018 | [The Hindu](#), 28 December 2018 | [The Times of India](#), 28 December 2018



High level of arsenic found in Punjab groundwater. A team of Indian, Pakistani and American scientists has recommended an immediate blanket field testing of hand pumps across the divided region of Punjab after finding extensive arsenic contamination and high concentrations of nitrate and fluorides in the groundwater there. The team comprising experts from TERI, Pakistan’s Quaid-i-Azam University and Columbia University, have reported their findings based on their study of

groundwater in Indian and Pakistani sides of divided Punjab for over two years. The report added the solution could be as simple as identifying safe wells, facilitating their switching and sharing besides large-scale water treatment and pipe water delivery.

Nine projects flagged off to clean Yamuna . A total of 11 projects will be taken up by National Missing for Clean Ganga (NMCG) to conserve the river with the action plan primarily targeting three major drainage zones — Kondli, Rithala and Okhla. The projects, which will be carried out at a cost of Rs 1,656 crore, will see the capacity of the three zones increase to around 950 million litres per day (MLD) with the Okhla sewage treatment plant (STP) set to become the country’s biggest. The nine projects for which the foundation was laid include eight infrastructure projects like the STP at Okhla (564 MLD), three new STPs at Kondli (204 MLD) and Rithala (182 MLD), apart from laying trunk sewer and rising main lines.

Ganga clean at just one out of 39 locations: CPCB. Only one out of 39 locations through which the Ganga river flows had clean water in the post-monsoon period this year, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has said in its latest study. As many as 37 of the 41 locations through which the Ganga river flows reported moderate to severe water pollution in the pre-monsoon period this year, according to the ‘[Biological Water Quality Assessment of the River Ganga \(2017-18\)](#)’ report that was recently made public by the CPCB in compliance with a Supreme Court direction.

According to the report, 34 areas showed moderate pollution in the river while three areas recorded severe pollution in the pre-monsoon period in 2017-18.

[The Hindu](#), 22 December 2018 | [Hindustan Times](#), 28 December 2018 | [The Times of India](#), 28 December 2018



Bulk of CSR spent on developed states; Maharashtra, Karnataka top the list. Companies spend most of their corporate social responsibility (CSR) budgets in states which are well-developed. A fifth of CSR spends between 2014-15 and 2017-18 was spent in Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Karnataka. All three states are among the most developed in India -

among the highest in terms of economic output. The analysis looked at the sum of CSR spends since 2014-15 from corporate tracker, PRIME Database. This was compared to government figures on gross state domestic product at factor cost (current prices) for the 32 states and Union Territories for which the CSR data is available.

Companies CSR expenditure rises 47 per cent in 4 years to FY18. Companies in India spent Rs 7,536.3 crore on corporate social responsibility (CSR) activities in 2017-18, a 47 per cent rise compared to 2014-15, says the KPMG India CSR Reporting Survey 2018. The cumulative expenditure by top 100 companies from 2014-15 to 2017-18 is about Rs 26,385 crore, the survey said. The average amount spent per company has gone up to Rs 76.1 crore as compared to Rs 58.8 crore during 2014-15, up 29 per cent, it said.

[Business Standard](#), 19 December 2018 | [The Economic Times](#), 26 December 2018



Pan-India clean air programme set to be rolled out with Rs 300 crore initial support and a mid-term target. The Centre has earmarked Rs 300 crore for implementation of the upcoming National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) for financial year 2018-19 and 2019-20. Overall cost of taking multiple air pollution abatement measures in 102 cities across the country will, however, be much more than what the government has budgeted for next 15 months. The NCAP is a pan-India national level strategy to tackle increasing air pollution problems in a comprehensive and time-bound manner. The Centre has set a mid-term (five-year) target to reduce air pollution by 20-30% by 2024, taking 2017 as base year.

In four years, second most polluted December in Delhi. Unfavourable weather conditions pushed pollution levels up to such extremes over December 23 and 24 that Delhi recorded the second most polluted December day in four years. Scientists said conditions over the past few weeks have been in complete contrast to the favourable meteorological conditions that cleaned up Delhi's air making it the cleanest November since 2015. This is the second most polluted December day since 2015 when the National Air Quality Index was introduced. In 2017, the AQI had shot up to 469 making it the most polluted December day so far. While the AQI was recorded to be 450 on December 23, it dropped to 448 on December 24.

[The Times of India](#), 26 December 2018 | [Hindustan Times](#), 26 December 2018