

# Enviro Monitor

June 2018

## Climate change



- India bats for technology, finance to achieve climate goals
- Centre plans 25% greenhouse gas emission cut by 2020
- Future looks fiery in Gujarat

## Waste management



- Most people aware of harmful effects of plastics but still use it
- Maharashtra high on e-waste, ranks low on recycling
- East Delhi project to ease landfill load

## Water stress



- Kerala to follow Goan model for water conservation
- Study under way in Coonoor for 'Smart water distribution system'

## Water quality



- Namami Gange to clean 80% of Ganga by 2019
- Groundwater in 16 States found to be contaminated by uranium



**India bats for technology, finance to achieve climate goals.** Playing a crucial role to mitigate climate change and other environmental challenges across the globe, Union Environment Secretary Mr C K Mishra said India has decided to strengthen its support with a 25 per cent increase over its contribution to \$15 million to the Global

Environment Facility's (GEF) new investment cycle. He was addressing the Sixth GEF Assembly, which meets every four years, on its concluding day that saw over 1000 delegates across the globe in this Vietnamese port city.

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GEF is a partnership for international cooperation that involves 183 countries working together with international institutions, civil society organisations and the private sector to address global environmental issues.

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**Centre plans 25% greenhouse gas emission cut by 2020.** Emission of greenhouse gases that lead to global warming and climate change would be reduced by 20-25% in India by 2020 and 33-35% by 2030, Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Dr Harsh Vardhan, said. According to the minister, the Centre has targeted to make contribution of clean energy in total energy production in the country up to 40% by 2030. India would produce 175 gigawatt electricity through different sources of green energy by 2020, out of which 100 gigawatt would be solar energy. He also reiterated India's commitments at the Paris Agreement and said the country would potentially achieve the target before the deadline.

**Future looks fiery in Gujarat.** Climate change will severely affect Rajkot – and by extension central Saurashtra – by the end of the century, predicts a research paper by Gujarat-based officials of the India Meteorological Department (IMD). The researchers say that in the next nine decades, the maximum summer temperature will increase by 3.3 °C and the minimum winter temperature will rise by 4.5 degrees. The hotter climate will mean more rain and the region will witness a 11% to 14% rise in average rainfall. The researchers took seven global climate models and incorporated them into the Long Ashton Research Station Weather Generator (LARS-WG) to project the future scenario of the region on the basis of historic daily data of rainfall, maximum and minimum temperatures, from 1969 to 2013.

[The Times of India, 14 June 2018](#) | [The Times of India, 25 June 2018](#) | [Business Standard, 28 June 2018](#)



**Most people aware of harmful effects of plastics but still use it: Study.** A majority of people are aware of the harmful effects of plastic on environment, but still use it due to lack of availability of cheaper alternatives. With a sample size of 3600, the national study conducted by market research and analysis company Velocity MR found that 90 per cent of respondents are aware of the harmful effects of plastic and 85 per cent of the respondents are even aware of the ban on polythene bags. The study

was conducted in most of the major cities of the country, including Mumbai, Delhi, Bengaluru, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Chennai, Ahmedabad and Pune. The study also revealed that seven out of 10 respondents believe that the ban is only on the use of plastic carry bags and not on other variants of plastic like pouches, garbage bags and containers.

**Maharashtra high on e-waste, ranks low on recycling.** Maharashtra generates the most e-waste in the country, but ranks very low on recycling it. According to the report jointly published by the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (Assocham) and Japan's NEC, India produces 2 million tonnes of electronic waste per annum and recycles 4,38,085 tonnes. Among Indian states, Maharashtra generates the most e-waste (19% or 3.96 lakh tonnes), but recycles only 47,810 tonnes, according to the report. This is the highest among all the states, stated the report. Among other states, Tamil Nadu produces 13% of India's e-waste and recycles 52,427 tonnes (10.9%) and Uttar Pradesh (10.1%) recycles 86,130 (19.7%). The overall volume of e-waste in India is growing at a rate of 20% per annum.

The Assocham-NEC report states that India produces the most e-waste, ahead of countries like China, USA, Japan and Germany.

**East Delhi project to ease landfill load.** East Delhi Municipal Corporation has set up a first-of-its-kind waste-to-compost project on a PPP model at Trilokpuri for decentralisation of household waste management. A timeline of eight months has been fixed for the project to become self-sustainable. In the first phase waste will be collected door-to-door from about 2500 households in blocks 13 and 25 of Trilokpuri. All households are being provided two dustbins to segregate their garbage into dry and wet waste.

[The Times of India, 13 June 2018](#) | [The Times of India, 13 June 2018](#) | [Business Standard, 21 June 2018](#)



**Kerala to follow Goan model for water conservation.** The Kerala government has decided to try out a Goan model in water conservation to combat future droughts. In the first phase, 'Bandharas', a type of dams to enable better conservation, will be constructed on five rivers and their tributaries. More than 400 Bandharas are currently operational in Goa. The selected rivers in Kerala in phase one are Thoothapuzha and Bhavani in Palakkad, Chandragiri in Kasargod, Panamaram in Wayanad and Achenkovil in Pathanamthitta. It is estimated the state can save up to 1938 crore litres of water once the construction is completed. Bandharas are constructed by erecting pillars in the river at two-metre intervals and adding a shutter made of fibre-reinforced plastic. Depending on the depth of the river, Bandharas are constructed every 5-6 km.

**Study under way in Coonoor for 'Smart water distribution system'.** In a bid to augment equal distribution of water in Coonoor town, which has been reeling under water scarcity and inequity distribution of water due to the difficult terrain of the town, a study by the Tamil Nadu Water Investment Co Ltd is underway, due to the efforts of the Citizens Forum of Coonoor. Soon, Coonoor town will fall under the 'smart water distribution system'.

[The Times of India, 12 June 2018](#) | [The New Indian Express, 14 June 2018](#)



**Namami Gange to clean 80% of Ganga by 2019.** 80% of Ganga river would be cleaned by 2019 through the execution of numerous schemes under Namami Gange programme. The Union Minister for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Mr Nitin Gadkari said that that 10 cities have been identified, which contribute the most in the pollution of Ganga with Kanpur topping the chart. Accordingly Bihar and Uttar Pradesh government have been asked to ensure zero discharge

from sugar factories, paper mills and other industrial units, which lead to high discharge of pollutants in the river. 18 new towns on Yamuna and its tributaries (Hindon and Kali) have been identified for pollution abatement.

**Groundwater in 16 States found to be contaminated by uranium.** Aquifers in as many as 16 States in the country are contaminated by uranium, whose presence in drinking water has been linked to chronic kidney disease by several studies, a recent study has shown. More importantly, uranium does not figure on the list of contaminants monitored under the Bureau of Indian Standards' drinking water specifications. The main source of this contamination is natural, but groundwater depletion by extensive withdrawal of water for irrigation and nitrite pollution due to the excessive use of nitrogenous fertilisers may be exacerbating the problem, said the study. The study was carried out by a team of researchers of the Nicholas School of the Environment at Duke University in the US. The team includes experts from the Central Ground Water Board, the Rajasthan government's Ground Water Department and Gujarat Water Resources Development Corporation. The study appeared in a recent issue of the journal [Environmental Science and Technology Letters](#).

[The Hindu Business Line](#), 8 June 2018 | [The Pioneer](#), 14 June 2018