

# Enviro Monitor

March-April 2018

## Waste management



- Centre modifies rules for e-waste and biomedical waste management
- India processes 24 per cent of solid waste generated
- SDMC to generate power from garbage
- E-waste recyclers join hands to ensure proper disposal in Bengaluru

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- Construction and dumping continue on Yamuna floodplains
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- 83% of open wells in Kerala polluted

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## Water stress



- Maharashtra accepts report suggesting autonomy to water resources authority
- Groundwater depletion owing to exceptionally high demand in India
- Ahead of peak summer, 153 districts severely dry



**Centre modifies rules for e-waste and biomedical waste management.** The Centre has come out with amendments in existing rules to ensure better management of e-waste and bio-medical waste through revised targets and monitoring under the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). [The E- Waste \(Management\) Amendment Rules, 2018](#) has made it mandatory for the 'Producer Responsibility Organisations' (PROs) to register themselves with the CPCB. Under the rule, it is the responsibility of electronic goods

manufacturers to collect and channel e-waste from consumers to authorised dismantlers and recyclers. Under the [Bio-Medical Waste Management \(Amendment\) Rules, 2018](#), the coverage has increased and also provides for pre-treatment of lab waste, blood samples, etc. It mandates bar code system for proper control.

**India processes 24 per cent of solid waste generated.** Nearly 24 per cent of the solid waste generated in the country was being processed as on January 31, according to data presented by the government in Parliament. Out of over 1.43 lakh tonnes per day (tpd) of solid waste generated across the country, only about 33,800 tpd (or 23.73 per cent) was being processed as on the last day of January, the housing and urban affairs ministry data showed. Under the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM), the government aims to attain 100 per cent scientific management of solid waste, and also make the country Open-Defecation Free (ODF) by October 2, 2019, the 150th anniversary of the birth of Mahatma Gandhi.

At 22,570 tpd, Maharashtra produced the highest quantity of solid waste as on January 31, out of which 7900 tpd or 35 per cent was processed.

**SDMC to generate power from garbage.** The South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) will generate electricity from the garbage for which it will set up a “waste to energy” plant on 50 acres of land at Tehkhand area in South east Delhi. The plant which is expected to be operational from the next year will have the capacity of handling 1,200 tonnes of waste. Also, it will set up a biogas plant at three dairies and two cow shelters with ambitious plan of generating electricity from cow dung. The biogas plants are proposed to set up at Nangli Dairy, Goyala Dairy and Kakrola Dairy and at two cow shelters - Manav Gau Sadan Rewla Gaushala and Ghuman Hera Gramin Gaushala in Najafgarh to produce electricity from cow dung so as to address the twin problem of waste disposal and power generation.

**E-waste recyclers join hands to ensure proper disposal in Bengaluru.** With citizens replacing their electronic items at a quicker rate than before, the amount of e-waste India generates is increasing rapidly. To ensure the waste, which contains heavy metals, is disposed of properly, recyclers came together earlier this month to form All India e-Waste Recyclers’ Association. The association aims at bringing all e-waste recyclers and dismantlers onto one platform and working with the government in enforcing rules. There are 170 authorized recyclers across the country, 75 of whom are from Bengaluru.

[DNA](#), 12 March 2018 | [The Times of India](#), 26 March 2018 | [Press Information Bureau](#), 27 March 2018 | [The Pioneer](#), 2 April 2018 | [The Times of India](#), 3 April 2018



**New system to measure air quality.** India is tying up with the United States and Finland to develop a pollution-forecast system that will help anticipate particulate matter (PM) levels at least two days in advance and at a greater resolution than what is possible now. The Ministry of Earth Sciences will be coordinating this exercise. The new system, to be jointly developed with expertise from the Finnish Meteorological Institute and the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, will use a different modelling approach as well as computational techniques from that employed in the SAFAR model.

**Government sets target of 35% pollution cut for 100 cities.** As part of its dedicated air pollution abatement programme for 100 polluting cities, the Centre has formulated a National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) to fight the menace through a long-term strategy. The programme focuses on target oriented approach with specific time-lines to reduce various pollutants in cities including Mumbai, Kolkata, Pune, Nagpur, Lucknow, Kanpur, Varanasi, Agra and Chandigarh. All these cities will also have their own city-specific action plans, like the one in Delhi, under the NCAP. Increasing number of monitoring stations, data dissemination, public participation on planning and implementation, setting up of Air Information Center for data analysis and setting up of an updated national emission inventory are key proposals of the NCAP.

**SAFAR to identify, mark 26 sources of Delhi pollution.** The System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR) has kickstarted its mission to identify and mark locations of 26 sources within the national capital which pollute the air. Launching a mega emission inventory campaign, SAFAR has mobilized 100 students and researchers from School of Planning and Architecture, Delhi. The teams will be collecting data over the next two months along with teams of SAFAR and experts from Odisha's Utkal University. The focus of the campaign is more towards various small sectors and factors that are equally responsible for Delhi air pollution like condition of roads, pattern of transport flow from surrounding regions, construction activity, aviation, all kinds of practices by immigrant works, changing lifestyles, cooking habits and more.

The 'emission inventory' identifies the local sources and their effective region within the confined region, which helps identify the emission hotspot and plan control measures.

[The Times of India](#), 13 March 2018 | [Business Standard](#), 12 April 2018 | [The Hindu](#), 24 April 2018



**Construction and dumping continue on Yamuna floodplains.** Reduced to a drain, the Yamuna is a dying river despite multiple efforts to clean it during the past two decades. The floodplains, which are still alive, are abuzz with illegal construction activities instead of flora and fauna. Like any other construction site, there are trucks carrying materials, incomplete buildings with exposed bricks and temporary shacks housing labourers along the Yamuna starting from Khizrabad village till Jamia Nagar. Unlike other sites in the Capital, these activities are happening along the floodplains of the Yamuna, where construction is banned. The 22-km-long stretch of the Yamuna in Delhi has been at the centre of efforts to clean the river, with several court orders and thousands of crores of rupees spent on it over the past two decades.

**More than 30 Maharashtra districts facing water contamination.** Water samples collected from over 30 districts of Maharashtra were found to have contaminants. The Maharashtra Public Health Laboratory has found that water taken from various sources like bore wells, wells, public tanks and water tankers in rural and urban areas of several districts had traces of contamination. It informed that the samples, taken from 34 out of the state's 36 districts, excluding the two districts that make up Mumbai, were tested in several of its labs in March this year.

According to the report, problem was most severe in Washim district as 27% of the samples tested turned out to be contaminated. Hingoli, at 24%, and Chandrapur, with 21% contaminated water samples, stood second and third respectively.

**83% of open wells in Kerala polluted.** A study by Centre for Water Resources Development and Management finds most rivers highly contaminated due to lack of proper waste management. Scientists claim that water in almost 83% of open wells and most of the rivers in Kerala is highly contaminated. This was revealed by studies conducted by the centre which periodically monitors the 44 rivers and examines the groundwater sources in the State.

[The Hindu](#), 21 March 2018 | [The Hindu](#), 16 April 2018 | [The Times of India](#), 29 April 2018



**Maharashtra accepts report suggesting autonomy to water resources authority.** The State government has accepted a report on an integrated state water plan for Godavari basin, which proposes extending autonomy to the Maharashtra Water Resources Regulatory Authority, on the lines of the Comptroller and Auditor General, for a better supervision of irrigation projects without interference from political bosses.

**Groundwater depletion owing to exceptionally high demand in India.**

Excess extraction of groundwater is to blame for the 61% decline in groundwater level in wells in India between 2007 and 2017, according to the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), under the Ministry of Water Resources. The main reasons for the decline recorded by CGWB as part of their study submitted in the Lok Sabha include inadequate rainfall, exceptionally high demand versus limited supply owing to rise in population, urbanisation and rise in industries. While the amount of groundwater in north and northwest India, except Rajasthan, is high, the extraction, too, is higher for agriculture, mainly paddy. Eastern and northeastern states are doing well on that front.

**Ahead of peak summer, 153 districts severely dry.** Several parts of the country could be staring at a water crisis in the peak summer months ahead, with the latest meteorological department data showing mild to extremely dry conditions in 404 districts due to poor rainfall since October 2017. Of these, around 140 districts were termed severely to extremely dry in the October 2017-March 2018 period. Another 109 districts were moderately dry while 156 had mild dry conditions. as many as 472 districts facing mild to extreme dryness, with 153 districts in the severe to extreme dry category. Most of the dry districts are in north, central and west India, as well as some places in the east such as Bihar and Jharkhand. The rainfall deficit is particularly large in northwest India, which includes the three hill states, Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan.

[The Hindustan Times](#), 9 April 2018 | [The Hindu](#), 9 April 2018 | [The Times of India](#), 16 April 2018



**Many cosmetics in Indian market contain microplastics or microbeads.**

Many cosmetics available in the Indian market contain micro plastics or micro-beads, a new study by an environment research and policy advocacy body has found. Micro-beads are non-biodegradable, tiny plastic particles, which pose a serious threat to the environment, especially marine animals. The study, “Eco Personal Care Product, Microplastics in Cosmetics”, was carried out to investigate the presence of micro-beads in personal care

and cosmetic products available and sold in India.

**Heavy metals in fertilizers raise risk of diabetes, heart diseases in farmers.** Synthetic fertilizers used in farming can trigger diabetes and cardiovascular diseases. The scientists, from the nanoscience and water research unit of the central government’s

Department of Science and Technology, found a close link between toxic heavy metals used in fertilizers and the prevalence of diabetes and cardiovascular diseases among farmers. The government funded research was carried out in a village in Tamil Nadu on around 900 people whose urine samples were tested.

**Around 82.5% of the study population was involved in farming and high levels of toxic metals were detected in the synthetic fertilizers used in the study village.**

Mint, 24 April 2018 | Business Standard, 30 April 2018