

# Enviro Monitor

November 2018

## Water stress



- Groundwater depletion alarming in northwest, central India
- 1.49 lakh schools in country lack drinking water supply
- Action plan to rejuvenate 201 waterbodies in Delhi prepared
- Panel to study feedback on groundwater rules in Maharashtra

## Climate change



- India among countries worst hit by climate change, says report
- Climate change caused deadly Kerala rains
- Climate change a bigger threat than thought

## Air quality



- Thermal plants to be told to use crop residue
- ISRO to launch pollution-monitoring satellite
- CPCB taskforce identifies 21 pollution hotspots, seeks focussed actions

## Water pollution



- 17 polluted rivers: Karnataka to make them fit for bathing
- 10 projects worth Rs 1573 crore approved for cleaning of Ganga

## Green buildings



- Green building policy: Maharashtra government proposes incentives for buyers and developers
- Twin Soudhas set to turn model green buildings
- Navi Mumbai buildings to get cash for being eco-friendly



**Groundwater depletion alarming in northwest, central India.** With 230 billion metre cube of groundwater drawn out each year for irrigating agriculture lands in India, many parts of the country are experiencing rapid depletion of groundwater. The total estimated groundwater depletion in India is in the range of 122–199 billion metre cube. The Indo-Gangetic Plain, northwestern, central and western parts of India account for most intensive groundwater-based irrigation. And among these

regions, western India and the Indo-Gangetic Plain have more than 90% of the area irrigated using groundwater.

**1.49 lakh schools in country lack drinking water supply.** There are still more than 1,49,389 schools and *anganwadis* in the country, run by the government, local bodies, government-aided and private managements, that have no drinking water facility, according to the latest reports tabled at the website of National Rural Drinking Water Programme under the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation.

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**Provision for drinking water in every school is a must as per Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan rules.**

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**Action plan to rejuvenate 201 waterbodies in Delhi prepared.** The Delhi government has informed the Supreme Court that it is ready to roll out an action plan to rejuvenate 201 waterbodies. The government, in an affidavit, said a survey has identified 1011 waterbodies in Delhi. The government said its objective is to clean waterbodies, restore their ecological value and put in a management regime that is sustainable in the long term. It will then finally hand over the rejuvenated waterbody to the land-owning agency concerned.

**Panel to study feedback on groundwater rules in Maharashtra.** Nearly two months after the draft Maharashtra Groundwater (Development and Management) Rules, 2018, was made public for suggestions and objections, a committee of experts had been constituted to study the feedback on the proposed groundwater rules in the state. The draft rules for which the state government has invited comments — states that any farmer intending to cultivate a crop which is “water-intensive” will have to apply to a Watershed Water Resources Committee 30 days before the sowing period of the crop.

[The Hindu](#), 10 November 2018 | [The Financial Express](#), 22 November 2018 | [Deccan Chronicle](#), 24 November 2018 | [The Hindu](#), 28 November 2018



**India among countries worst hit by climate change, says report.** According to the [Lancet Countdown 2018 on Health and Climate Change](#) report, globally each person was exposed to an additional 1.4 days of heat wave between 2000 and 2017 compared to the baseline period of 1986 to 2005. The report has raised concern on the debilitating impact of climate

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**India experienced an additional 40 million heat wave exposure cases in 2016 compared to 2012.**

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change on human health across the world. India is one of the countries worst hit by heat stress and labour hours lost as a result.

**Climate change caused deadly Kerala rains.** The extreme rainfall and flooding that devastated Kerala in August, the worst disaster the state confronted in almost a century, were a result of climate change, the Ministry of Earth Sciences has concluded after a meteorological analysis of the event. The percentage of

“extremely heavy rainfall” and “dry days” has shown an increasing trend in the past few decades while the frequency of “light to moderate” and “very light “rainfall are decreasing in India — one of the many climate variability and impact of climate change being observed by India Meteorological Department. Rainfall data for 1951 to 2016 shows that rainfall events of more than 10 to 15 cm per day are increasing while those of less than 5 cm per day are gradually decreasing.

**Climate change a bigger threat than thought.** Humanity faces a much larger threat from climate change than previously thought, according to a study. The study, published in the journal Nature Climate Change, provides one of the most comprehensive assessments yet of how humanity is being impacted by the simultaneous occurrence of multiple climate hazards strengthened by increasing greenhouse gas emissions. An analysis of thousands of peer-reviewed scientific papers reveals 467 ways in which human health, food, water, economy, infrastructure, and security have been impacted by multiple climatic changes. These changes include warming, drought, heatwaves, wildfires, precipitation, floods, storms, sea level rise and changes in land cover and ocean chemistry, said researchers from the University of Hawaii at Manoa in the US. Until now, with few exceptions, climate hazards due to greenhouse gas emissions have been studied individually.

[The Hindu Business Line](#), 20 November 2018 | [Hindustan Times](#), 24 November 2018 | [Hindustan Times](#), 29 November 2018



**Thermal plants to be told to use crop residue.** The Centre is mulling over making use of crop residue mandatory in thermal plants for generating electricity and, thereby, reducing air pollution from stubble burning.

Though the National Thermal Power Corporation has already started the process of procuring crop residue on a large scale, same may have to be followed by other coal-fired thermal power stations across the country.

The NTPC successfully conducted a test of biomass co-firing at its Dadri thermal power plant, near Delhi, and now the company wants to extend this experiment to remaining plants

**ISRO to launch pollution-monitoring satellite.** The Indian satellite, Hyper Spectral Imaging Satellite (HySIS), will help in monitoring pollution from industries. The satellite will also have other applications in agriculture, forestry, geology, coastal zone study and inland water studies.

**CPCB taskforce identifies 21 pollution hotspots, seeks focussed actions.** A Central Pollution Control Board taskforce has identified 21 hotspots of high pollution levels in Delhi-NCR and directed the respective area municipal corporations to take "focussed actions" to mitigate the effects. The taskforce has identified 15 hotspots in Delhi. They are: Anand Vihar, Bawana, CRRM Mathura Road, DTU, Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range, Dwarka-Sector 8, Jahangirpuri, Mundaka, NSIT Dwarka, Narela, Okhla Phase-2, R K Puram, Rohini, Shadipur, Wazirpur. In NCR areas outside Delhi, six hotspots have been identified. They are: Sector-16A in Faridabad, Vikas Sadan in Gurgaon, Vasundhara in Ghaziabad, Knowledge Park-III in Greater Noida, Sector-125 in Noida and RIICO Industrial Area-III in Bhiwadi.

[Deccan Herald](#), 24 November 2018 | [Hindustan Times](#), 29 November 2018 | [Business Standard](#), 4 December 2018



**17 polluted rivers: Karnataka to make them fit for bathing.** Karnataka government has formed a “river rejuvenation committee” in accordance with directions the National Green Tribunal (NGT) issued in September. Seventeen of the 351 polluted stretches are in Karnataka, in the Arkavathi, Lakshmantirtha, Malaprabha, Tungabhadra, Bhadra, Cauvery, Kabini, Kagina, Kali, Krishna, Shimsha, Asangi Nalla, Bhima, Kumaradhara, Netravathi, Tunga and Yagachi rivers. The committee will prepare the

action plan and will serve as the monitoring committee for its execution. The polluted rivers will have to be fit at least for bathing within six months of the plan’s approval. The action plan will have to “include components like the identification of polluting sources including functioning/status of STPs/ETP/s/CETPs, solid waste management and processing facilities, quantification and characterisation of solid waste, and trade and sewage generated in the catchment area of polluted river stretches”.

**10 projects worth Rs 1573 crore approved for cleaning of Ganga.** The executive committee of the National Mission for Clean Ganga has approved 10 projects worth Rs 1573.28 crore, of which more than half the amount has been earmarked for Agra. Himachal Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal are the other states where works to prevent polluted waters from reaching the Ganga, its tributaries and sub-tributaries, have been sanctioned. The major components of the project include tapping of 61 *nalas*/drains, construction of three sewerage treatment plants of a total capacity of 166 MLD, construction of 10 decentralised STPs of 9.38 MLD and renovation of two existing STPs, laying of rising main of 17.61 km, and renovation of sewage pumping station

The Economic Times, 21 November 2018 | The Times of India, 30 November 2018



**Green building policy: Maharashtra government proposes incentives for buyers and developers.** The Maharashtra government has published the draft of its [green building policy](#) that ensures incentives for buyers and developers to invest in green buildings. The buyers of property in green building will be entitled to a property tax rebate for a period of five years from

securing the Occupancy Certificate based on the green building rating of the property secured from the empowered agencies. The buyer of a property having a five-star or platinum rating would get rebate of 10 per cent in property tax while those with four-star or gold and three-star or silver ratings would get rebate of 7.5 per cent and 5 per cent, respectively in the property tax.

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The Maharashtra government would soon be signing an MoU with TERI-GRIHA (Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment) and GBCI-LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) to certify the buildings as green buildings.

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**Twin Soudhas set to turn model green buildings.** The Karnataka government, which has drafted Karnataka Green Building Incentive Policy to encourage eco-friendly buildings, wants to turn Vidhana Soudha and Vikasa Soudha into model green buildings in the state. The buildings are expected to practice energy efficiency, effective waste management and reduce of water consumption. Both Vidhana Soudha and Vikasa Soudha will be retro-fitted based on benchmarks prescribed by green building certification systems like LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design), IGBC (Indian

Green Building Council), GRIHA (Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment) and EDGE (Excellence in Design for Greater Efficiencies).

**Navi Mumbai buildings to get cash for being eco-friendly.** The Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation is set to incentivise waste segregation & composting, rainwater harvesting, and solar power generation. The motivation for NMMC is to improve its ranking in the 2019 Swachh Survekshan -- a survey conducted to rank India's cities on various sanitation and cleanliness parameters. The annual incentives will range from Rs 10,000 to 25,000 per category for two years, beginning from January 2019. Ward committees, under the respective ward officers, would be constituted to inspect the societies that are to be part of the initiative.

[Indian Express](#), 8 November 2018 | [The Times of India](#), 22 November 2018 | [The Times of India](#), 27 November 2018