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Waste management

- Alappuzha sails away with swachh glory
- West Bengal plans to set up 2 hazardous waste treatment units
- EDMC ropes In IIT-Delhi to stabilize Ghazipur landfill
- East Delhi launches pilot project for processing non-recyclable plastic
- Bengaluru gets first e-waste bin on roadside
- Bengaluru: BBMP releases manual on handling waste at micro level

Air quality

- Air pollution neither Delhi specific nor limited to winter alone
- Delhi air pollution: Centre to set up pollution task force
- 5 NCR states told to figure out viable ways to stop crop burning
- Medical body to study link between hospitalization and air pollution
- Air pollution causes 30 per cent premature deaths in India

Water resources

- 88 lakes vanished in Bengaluru in recent years
- Nagpur tops division in rain water conservation
- Kerala's 26 % water sources polluted

Climate change

- By 2030, India may offer green investment potential of $3 trillion, says IFC report
- 3209 sq km in Tamil Nadu could be under water by 2100
- Bengaluru to collate data along with 91 cities
- Plant emissions higher than believed
- Developing nations to receive $540 million to eliminate climate-warming chemicals

Waste management

Alappuzha sails away with swachh glory. Alappuzha, Kerala, is among the five cities recognized by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) as global success stories in solving the problem of solid waste. The city has addressed the problem by introducing a decentralized waste management system. The UNEP's report, [Solid approach to waste: how 5 cities are beating pollution,](#) notes that many urban centres have not risen to the challenge, but the Kerala town and the four other cities have adopted 'a solid approach to waste.' Osaka (Japan), Ljubljana (Slovenia), Penang (Malaysia) and Cajicá (Colombia) are the other winners.

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.

EDMC ropes In IIT-Delhi to stabilize Ghazipur landfill. In order to prevent recurrence of the recent cave-in incident, the East Delhi Municipal Corporation (EDMC) and Indian Institute of Technology ((IIT) Delhi have joined hands to work on measures to stabilize the Ghazipur Landfill site. In the first phase, stabilization analysis of the slope would be done and in the second phase that part of the slope which had caved-in would be stabilized.

East Delhi launches pilot project for processing non-recyclable plastic. The project -- WE CARE (Waste Efficient Collection and Recycling) — will be carried out in association with Indian Pollution Control Association, an NGO empanelled with the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). The NGO will assist in collection and segregation of non-recyclable (including multi- layered plastic or printed plastic) with the support of waste-pickers. The civic agency will use the waste as fuel to generate electricity at the Ghazipur waste-energy plant. Every day, about 2-3 tonnes of waste will be used as fuel at the plant.

Bengaluru gets first e-waste bin on roadside. A bin to collect discarded electrical/electronic devices has been installed on CMH Road in east Bengaluru to collect e-waste. The bin has been put up jointly by Saahas and Environmental Synergies in Development (Ensyde) and BM Kaval Residents' Welfare Association.

Bengaluru: Manual on handling waste at micro level. The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike has brought out a manual to not only create awareness about garbage problems plaguing the city, but also set out standard operating procedures on waste handling and management starting from the micro level. The manual outlines how ward committees should draw up an action plan based on the BBMP's micro plan, once it is ratified.

> Bengaluru generates 37,000 metric tonnes of electronic waste every year.

A provision version of [Bengaluru Masterplan 2031](#), released by the Bangalore Development Authority recently, points to an uphill challenge when it comes to handling solid waste. Going by the plan, in the next 14 years, the amount of waste generated per day will go up to 13,911 tonnes.

Millennium Post, 8 November 2018 | The Times of India, 19 November 2017 | The Pioneer, 21 November 2017 | Hindustan Times, 28 November 2017 | The Hindu, 29 November 2017 | The Hindu, 30 November 2017 | The Times of India, 1 December 2017

Air quality

Air pollution neither Delhi specific nor limited to winter alone. A study has pointed out that air pollution is neither Delhi-specific or limited to winter alone. At least four other cities have suffered more compared to Delhi in terms of the number of days and severity of air pollution. The annual concentration of major pollutant PM2.5, or particles with diameter less than 2.5 micrometres, was more in Gurugram, Kanpur, Lucknow and Faridabad, the study by the Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago (EPIC-India) said. It said Patna and Agra had annual concentration of pollutants similar to Delhi.

Delhi air pollution: Centre to set up pollution task force. The Centre will soon set up an inter-ministerial task force, headed by the Prime Minister's principal secretary to look into the issue of Delhi's air pollution and find ways and means to deal with it in a comprehensive manner. The task force, comprising of Union secretaries of environment, agriculture, earth sciences, transport, power and petroleum and principal secretaries of Delhi and NCR states, will also coordinate with representatives of other states on the issue.

5 NCR states told to figure out viable ways to stop crop burning. National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed Delhi and its neighbouring NCR states to convene a meeting next Tuesday to find out workable solutions to stop crop burning by farmers in these areas.

Medical body to study link between hospitalization and air pollution. The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has begun a study in five hospitals of Delhi to get evidence on the link between air pollution and hospitalizations by looking at pollution-related diseases. Five government hospitals in Delhi began tracking hospitalizations related to respiratory diseases in July to study the effect of ambient air quality on health. Outdoor air pollution is responsible for 6% of India's total disease burden, with indoor air pollution contributing 5%, showed the ICMR-Public Health Foundation of India report, India: Health of the Nation's States on state-level disease burden and risk factors trends from 1990 to 2016 released recently.

Air pollution also remained the second leading risk factor after malnutrition in India as a whole, posing a significant and growing challenge to population health.

Air pollution causes 30 per cent premature deaths in India. Air pollution causes 30 per cent premature deaths in the country, according to a report by the Centre for Science and Environment. The report, "Body Burden: Lifestyle Diseases", estimated that India had 22.2 million chronic COPD patients and around 35 million chronic asthma patients in 2016. It identified, among the fallouts of environmental pollution, mental health diseases.

Mint, 16 November 2017 | The Times of India, 23 November 2017 | Hindustan Times, 23 November 2017 | The Times of India, 24 November 2017 | Indian Express, 28 November 2017 | The Times of India, 28 November 2017

Water resources

88 lakes vanished in Bengaluru in recent years. Of the 837 lakes in Bengaluru Urban district, 88 lakes covering an area of 1,307 acres have completely disappeared from the map over the years, says the House committee report on lake encroachment. It notes that while there were 51 healthy lakes in and around central Bengaluru in 1985, the number has dwindled to only 17 now. The data, according to Member of Legislative Assembly, Mr M Krishnappa, who was a member of the committee, is of the last four decades during which the city witnessed a drastic change in its eco-system. The report has also identified Enzyme Tech Park as the largest encroacher, as 136 acres and 30 guntas have been encroached for the project.

Nagpur tops division in rain water conservation. As many as 432 of total 498 villages in Nagpur district have become self-reliant in water due to the flagship Jalyukta Shivar campaign. The district has emerged on top in the campaign in the entire revenue division. In last two years rain water conservation works of building earthen dams, bunding and cement bandharas along with de-silting and deepening of seasonal rivers and culverts was taken up in 498 villages in the district. Of them 432 villages have become self-sufficient creating an additional protected irrigation potential of 24411 hectares and water with total water storage of 64 million meter cube of water.

Kerala's 26 % water sources polluted: Kerala State Literacy Mission Authority study. Amid the state government's efforts to rejuvenate and reclaim water sources, a study has come up with a startling finding that 26.90 per cent of water sources in Kerala are "completely" polluted. As many as 46.10 per cent of over 3000 water sources including ponds, canals, river and backwater stretches and public wells, surveyed in 2003 wards across the southern state, are "partly polluted. The Study Report on Status of Water Resource,

Core reasons for water pollution			
Solid waste	Liquid waste	Household waste	Encroachment

prepared by Kerala State Literacy Mission Authority, has covered 3606 water sources including 495 in capital district Thiruvananthapuram, 318 in Ernakulam, the commercial hub of the state, and 194 in northern Kozhikode district.

The Times of India, 11 November 2017 | The New Indian Express, 20 November 2017 | The New Indian Express, 23 November 2017

Climate change

By 2030, India may offer green investment potential of $3 trillion, says IFC report. India, which has pledged to significantly reduce the emissions intensity of its GDP, offers a climate-smart investment potential of $3 trillion between 2018 and 2030, said a report released by International Finance Corporation (IFC). India's efforts to fulfil its commitment to low carbon growth would require large investments in diverse fields such as agriculture, energy, infrastructure and transport, according to Climate Investment Opportunities in South Asia: An IFC Analysis. The impressive national target of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka have untapped opportunities in climate-smart investing in sectors including renewable energy, transport, green buildings, urban wastewater, climate-smart agriculture, & municipal solid waste management.

generating 175 GW of renewable energy by 2022 represents almost $448 billion in investment potential. This will be crucial given India's aim to electrify all new vehicle sales by 2030, creating a potential investment opportunity of almost $670 billion if this goal is fully met.

3209 sq km in Tamil Nadu could be under water by 2100. 3209.33 sq km of state's coast is prone to submergence if sea level rises by one metre by 2100. Quoting a report prepared by Ahmedabad-based Satellite Application Centre, an unit of Indian Space Research Organization in 2012, environmentalists have urged the State government to ensure that the soon-to-be released Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP) accounts for sea level rise and contains the mandatory hazard line, long-term plans for fisher housing and prospective land-use. Under the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 2011, each maritime State ought to have prepared its CZMP by 2012 containing these mandatory elements.

As per the Centre's report, for a one metre sea level rise by 2100, 231.54 sq km of State highway, 85.66 km of railway infrastructure, 497.65 sq.km of cropland and 826 sq km of aquifers will be submerged or degraded by tidal action.

Bengaluru to collate data along with 91 cities. Bengaluru has joined 91 cities across the globe in collating data on climate change. Called the [Datacity](#) programme led by French start-up accelerator NUMA, Bengaluru is the recent city to join this network along with Barcelona and Singapore. The aim of the programme is to develop data which can help resolve climate challenges. According to NUMA representatives, the programme has been successfully implemented in Paris and Casablanca.

Plant emissions higher than believed. Carbon released by plant respiration may be around 30% higher than previously predicted, a new study claims. The [study](#), published in the journal Nature Communications, suggests that as the mean global temperature increases, respiration will increase significantly. Such increases may lower the future ability of global vegetation to offset carbon dioxide emissions caused by burning fossil fuels.

Developing nations to receive $540 million to eliminate climate-warming chemicals. Developing countries will receive $540 million to continue their work in phasing out ozone-depleting chemicals, according to UN Environment. The funds will be provided by developed countries for three years starting from 2018 through the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol, which has disbursed over $3.7 billion since 1991 to support developing countries to phase out chemicals that destroy the ozone layer.

The New Indian Express, 17 November 2017 | The Hindu, 18 November 2017 | The New Indian Express, 19 November 2017 | Zee News, 28 November 2017 | The Hindu Business Line, 30 November 2017