

Enviro Monitor

July 2016

Trending topics

Climate change



- 30,000 Himachal farmers to learn drought-adaptive practices
- Tamil Nadu gets Rs 670 crore ADB loan to fight climate change in delta
- Agriculture in 115 Indian districts most at risk from climate change
- Climate change alters country's forest cover
- By 2030, climate shift may kill 250k more per year
- Heat stress to wipe billions off GDP in India, China

Water stress



- 46% of Bengaluru's water not accounted for
- Water scarcity costs industries Rs 350 crore
- Assam floods: Drinking water scarcity causes major health hazard in river island Majuli
- Rajasthan boosts water supplies with three major reuse projects across 11 cities

River pollution



- 231 Namami Gange projects worth Rs 1500 crore launched
- Ganga basin authority clears projects worth Rs 580 crore
- CPCB report shows clean Yamuna a distant dream
- New plan to revive encroached, polluted Hindon
- NEERI to help Maharashtra government in project to clean up Bhima river

Air quality



- Diesel cars banned in Delhi by NGT
- Buildings over 20,000 sq m to pay Rs 5 lakh for dust pollution
- Polluting industrial units to be shifted out of residential areas

Forests

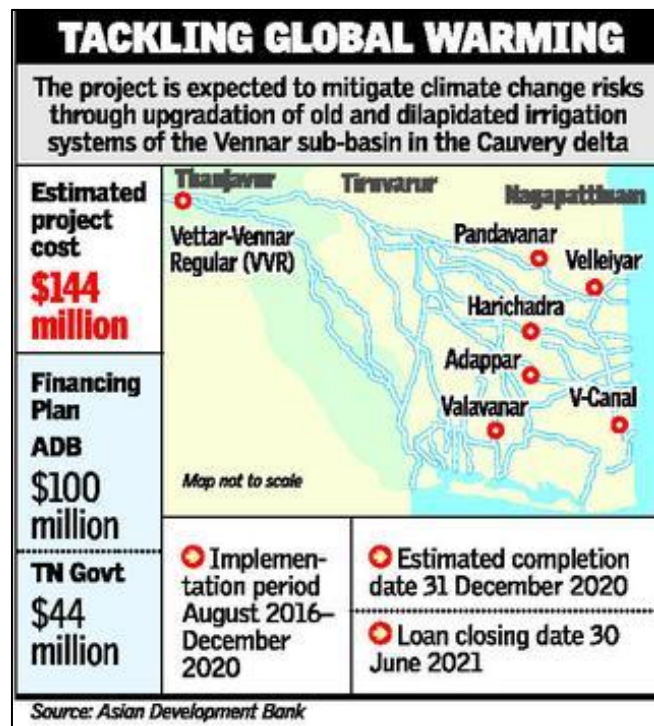


- Parliament passes a historic Bill to increase green cover and protect wildlife in India
- Afforestation fund tap opens for states
- Four hinterland talukas have 93% of Goa's forest cover

Climate change

30,000 Himachal farmers to learn drought-adaptive practices. A state-level steering committee in Himachal Pradesh has been constituted for the implementation of the Rs 20 crore centrally aided project obtained under the National Adaptation Fund on Climate Change by the Department of Environment, Science and Technology. Under the project, sanctioned for 77 panchayats of Sirmour district, as many as 30,000 farmers will be trained in adopting drought-adaptive practices.

Tamil Nadu. gets Rs 670 crore ADB loan to fight climate change in delta. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) will provide a \$100 million (about Rs 670 crore) loan to mitigate climate change risks in the Cauvery delta by strengthening six irrigation channels in the Vennar sub-basin and rehabilitating 13 irrigation pumping schemes. Tamil Nadu's Water Resources Department will be responsible for implementing the project which is expected to be completed in 2020. The Tamil Nadu government had sought financing from ADB to upgrade the irrigation systems in the region. The project will run through six rivers in the districts of Thanjavur and Nagapattinam and involves resectioning of Pandavayar, Velleiyar, Harichandranadi, Adappar, Valvanar and Vedaranyam Canal and desilting of riverbeds as well.



Source. The Hindu, 15 July 2016

Agriculture in 115 Indian districts most at risk from climate change. As floods ravage eastern and northern India, agriculture in 115 districts across 15 states is "highly vulnerable" to climate change, according to a

[study](#) published in *Current Science*. The first to analyse 38 meteorological, agricultural and social data across all of India's 572 rural districts, the study creates a climate vulnerability index for agriculture, divided into five categories of vulnerability: Very high, high, moderate, low and very low.

Climate change alters country's forest cover. Climate change will adversely impact and alter 18 per cent (628,965 sq km) of the country's national parks, wildlife sanctuaries and other protected areas, reveals an assessment by the Bengaluru-based National Centre for Biological Sciences. The [study](#), published in *Current Science*, predicts the consequence on biomes of the country under two different emission scenarios. The study concludes that under these two scenarios — called Representative Concentration Pathways (RCP) 8.5 and RCP 4.5 — India's total protected area will potentially experience biome shifts by the latter part of the century by 18 per cent and 14 per cent (4,86,243 sq km), respectively. This implies that several ecological areas including forests are vulnerable and will be in danger if climate change mitigation measures are not adopted.

By 2030, climate shift may kill 250k more per year. Climate change is likely to kill 250,000 more people each year by 2030, latest [assessment](#) by the World Health Organisation shows. Most of these deaths will be caused from malaria, diarrhoeal disease, heat stress and malnutrition. India, which already has a high burden of these diseases, is expected to contribute significantly to the global death toll. A separate study conducted by the University of Oxford, published in the international medical journal *Lancet* earlier this year, projected 130,000 deaths in the country from climate change in 2050.

Heat stress to wipe billions off GDP in India, China. The massive economic and health losses that climate change is already causing across the world are detailed in [six scientific papers published](#) recently. The paper estimates that in South-East Asia alone “as much as 15% to 20% of annual work hours may already be lost in heat-exposed jobs”. The release of the papers coincides with the start of a conference on disaster risk reduction, held in the Malaysian capital, Kuala Lumpur, and jointly sponsored by the International Institute for Global Health (UNU-IIGH) and the UN Development Programme. The aim is to alert delegates to the already pressing scale of the problem and the need to take measures to protect the health of people, and to outline the economic costs of not taking action. India and China are two of the worst affected economies.

[The Times of India](#), 11 July 2016 | [Bangalore Mirror](#), 14 July 2016 | [The Hindu](#), 15 July 2016 | [Climate Change News](#), 20 July 2016 | [The Tribune](#), 28 July 2016 | [The Economic Times](#), 3 August 2016



46% of Bengaluru's water not accounted for. Even as a 46 per cent of the Bengaluru's daily supply of 1350 million litres per day (mld) of water is going unaccounted for, it is unlikely that Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board will meet its target of

bringing down "unaccounted for water" to 16 per cent even this year. The board launched the Rs 700-crore UFW project in three of the seven divisions during 2012–13.

In a nutshell

- Daily supply → 1350 mld
- Unaccounted for water in city → 46 per cent
- Board's target → To reduce UFW to 16 per cent

UFW project launched in south, west and central divisions in 2012–13

Water scarcity costs industries Rs 350 crore. The water scarcity in Sinnar, Satpur and Ambad industrial estates of Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation in Nashik has hit production losses close to Rs 350 crore in the last three-four months.

Assam floods: Drinking water scarcity causes major health hazard in river island Majuli. Scarcity of drinking water has surfaced as a major health hazard in the flood-hit river island Majuli. Marooned people resorting to contaminated sources for drinking water have caused a serious health concern in the largest river island in the world. Majuli hardly has any public drinking water supply system. People mainly depend on ponds for drinking water.

Rajasthan boosts water supplies with three major reuse projects across 11 cities. SPML Infra and Tata Projects have won three contracts worth a total of Rs 1275 crores (\$189 million) to supply sewerage and wastewater reuse systems to 11 cities in Rajasthan, India. The water reuse element of the three schemes, which each cover a group of three or four cities, will provide 74.4 megalitres per day of water to the state.

[The Times of India](#), 9 July 2016 | [The Hindu](#), 17 July 2016 | [Desalination Biz](#), 19 July 2016 | [First Post](#), 27 July 2016



231 Namami Gange projects worth Rs 1500 crore launched. The government has launched 231 projects, including installation of sewage treatment plants and ghat constructions, at over 100 locations in seven states with an estimated cost of Rs 1500 crore. The projects, aimed at cleaning the holy

river and ensuring its unfettered flow, were launched simultaneously at 103 locations in five basin states of the river -- Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal, besides Delhi and Haryana through

The water resources ministry has set up a Committee, headed by Justice (Retired) Giridhar Malaviya, to prepare the draft legislation on country's national river within three months. The other members of the panel include V K Bhasin, ex-secretary of the legislative department of the Government of India; A K Gosain of IIT Delhi and Nayan Sharma of IIT Roorkee.

which Ganga's tributary Yamuna passes.

Ganga basin authority clears projects worth Rs 580 crore. The empowered steering committee of the National Ganga River Basin authority has cleared projects worth Rs 580 crore, chiefly relating to the development of bathing ghats and to modernise crematoriums that run on electricity. Along with these projects, the empowered steering committee also took up a couple of sewerage projects for appraisal that will be executed by Uttar Pradesh Jal Nigam in Ramana and Mathura-Vrindavan. The empowered steering committee is a nodal body that clears Ganga cleaning projects and comprises of secretaries of water ministry, environment ministry, power ministry, urban development ministry and chief secretaries of Ganga basin states. The projects are also assessed by the consortium of seven Indian Institutes of Technology that acts as an independent advisor in the clean Ganga mission.

CPCB report shows clean Yamuna a distant dream. A report by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) submitted to National Green Tribunal (NGT) on Delhi's sewage treatment states that against a generation of 4200 mld of waste water, about 1951.67 mld is being treated while the rest is being discharged into the river directly. The only time there is fresh water in the river is during the monsoon, which effectively means that for the rest of the year, the river is itself a huge drain.

New plan to revive encroached, polluted Hindon. Floodplains giving way to illegal constructions, sewage flowing into the river and groundwater along the banks being over-exploited are a daily reality along the 49-km-long stretch of the Hindon in Gautam Budh Nagar district. The river, which joins the Yamuna near Tilwara in the district, gets polluted as it travels from Saharanpur, with industrial effluent, residue from stone crushing units and sewage.

NEERI to help Maharashtra government in project to clean up Bhima river. On the lines of the ambitious Namami Gange project, the state government has planned similar rejuvenation for the holy Bhima River under project Namami Chandrabhaga. National Environmental Engineering and Research Institute (NEERI), which was also involved in the Ganga rejuvenation project, will provide technical guidance to the state. The river, which originates near Bhimashankar temple in Pune district, takes the name 'Chandrabhaga' when it reaches Pandharpur as it looks like a crescent moon.

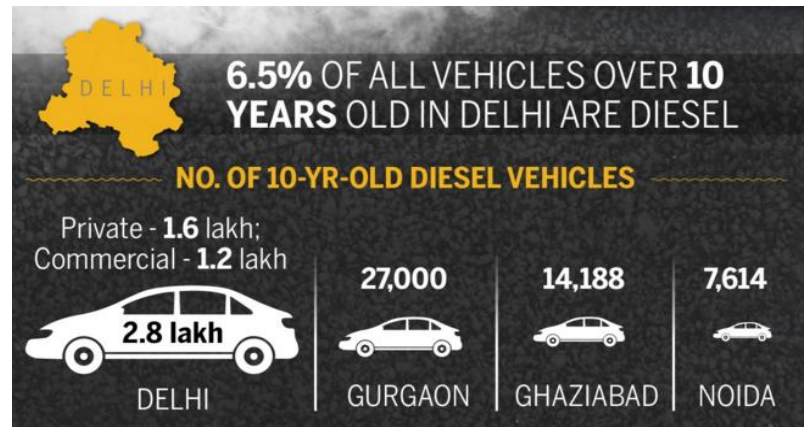
[DNA](#), 1 July 2016 | [DNA](#), 8 July 2016 | [The Times of India](#), 19 July 2016 | [The Times of India](#), 22 July 2016 | [The Hindu](#), 24 July 2016 | [The Times of India](#), 3 August 2016



Diesel cars banned in Delhi by NGT. The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has banned all diesel vehicles (passenger as well as commercial) that are more than 10 years old. It directed the regional transport office in the city to de-register with immediate effect all such diesel vehicles.

The green tribunal has deferred till August 9 the hearing on the NGT's order to phase out more than 15 years old diesel vehicles in Delhi.

The NGT has asked all states to furnish data on pollution levels in their two worst-affected cities so as to help it in passing directions over extending the ban on diesel vehicles beyond 2000 cc in cities other than the NCR. Addressing concerns expressed by vehicle owners and transporters affected by the order, Delhi's Chief Minister Mr Arvind Kejriwal has advised them to approach the Supreme Court with their grievances. The



Source: The Times of India, 18 July 2016

The Uttar Pradesh government is reportedly planning to move the Supreme Court against the order.

Buildings over 20,000 sq m to pay Rs 5 lakh for dust pollution. Construction sites above 20,000 sq m will be fined Rs 5 lakh for causing dust pollution and flouting environmental norms, the NGT has said.

Construction sites built on a plot area of 100 square metres will pay Rs 10,000 while buildings of 100 to 200 sq m will pay Rs 20,000 as environmental compensation. Buildings of plot size 200 to 500 square metres will pay Rs 30,000 while sites of 500 to 20,000 sq m will pay Rs 50,000 as environmental compensation.

Polluting industrial units to be shifted out of residential areas. The Haryana government is mulling a comprehensive plan on Delhi's pattern to relocate thousands of units operating from residential areas across the state to the industrial areas. The Local Bodies Department has issued a notification asking 98 types of 'dangerous and hazardous industries causing pollution' (red category) units to shift out of the residential areas within six months.

[The Times of India](#), 18 July 2016 | [The Financial Express](#), 19 July 2016 | [Hindustan Times](#), 20 July 2016 | [Indian Express](#), 22 July 2016 | [Indian Express](#), 23 July 2016 | [The Tribune](#), 29 July 2016 | [Hindustan Times](#), 2 August 2016



Parliament passes a historic Bill to increase green cover and protect wildlife in India.

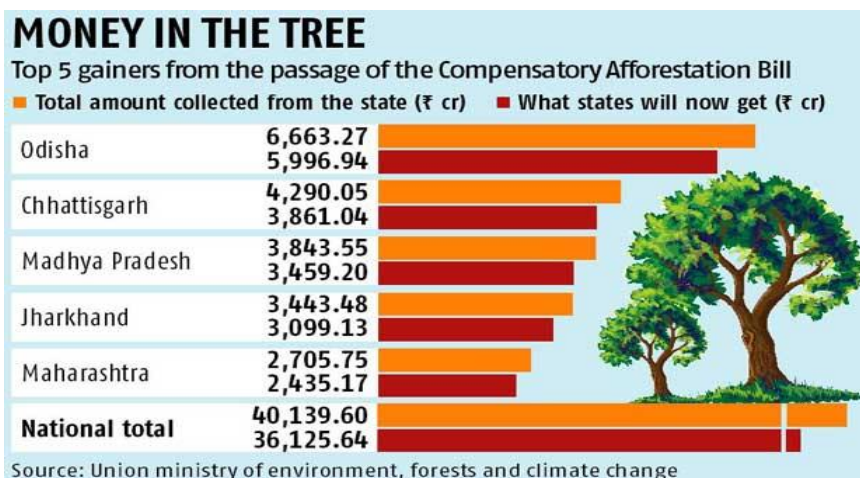
A much awaited Bill, meant for unlocking over Rs 42,000 crore fund for compensatory afforestation and wildlife protection, was passed by the Parliament. The Rajya Sabha has approved the Bill after the government assured the Upper House that it would make enough

provision in rules to safeguard the interests of forest dwellers and tribals. The Lok Sabha had passed the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Bill during the budget session in May.

The legislation is aimed at setting up the National Compensatory Afforestation Fund at centre and State Compensatory Afforestation Fund in respective states.

Four hinterland talukas have 93% of Goa’s forest cover. The four hinterland talukas of Goa, partly in the range and partly in the foothills of Sahyadris account for 93% of the state's total forest cover of 1225.12 sq km. As per the *Economic Survey 2015-16*, Sanguem, which is also the biggest taluka in the state, had the most extensive forest cover of 569.48 sq km while Sattari accounts for 280.99 sq km, Canacona 185.81 sq km and Quepem 115.27 sq km.

Afforestation fund tap opens for states. The Compensatory Afforestation Fund Bill, 2015 permits the Centre to return Rs 36,125 crore to states that had lost forest cover to industrialisation and growth since 2006. The passage of the Bill would also ensure an annual fund flow to states, estimated at Rs 2000-4000 crore. The Bill provides for repatriating 90 per cent of the funds collected to the respective states. The rest would be used by the Centre for management and supervision. The states would get to use the fund for afforestation, wildlife management and other forest-related activities.



Source. Business Standard, 29 July 2016

[The Times of India, 27 July 2016](#) | [The Times of India, 28 July 2016](#) | [Business Standard, 29 July 2016](#)