

Enviro Monitor

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Trending topics

Water stress



- Delhi government to restore 90 wells to tap rainwater from Palla-Wazirabad floodplain.
- PM asks states to get water plan ready
- Maharashtra government plans new water policy to tackle scarcity in villages
- As scarcity looms, Gujarat makes Rs 469-crore crop insurance provision

Waste management



- Web-based integrated waste management system
- India is 5th largest producer of e-waste in world.
- 95% of e-garbage heads to illegal dealers
- Bio-waste plant is latest green step by Northern Railway
- Delhi will get its biggest waste-to-energy plant in Narela in June

Air quality



- CPCB report for 15 major cities on air quality front
- Odd-even 1 more effective than phase 2
- Rs 30,000 crore exit map for polluting trucks
- Diesel vehicles over 10 years banned in Kerala
- NGT says no plan to extend ban on diesel vehicles to other cities
- Watchdog revises pollution index for industrial clusters
- Air pollution worries Mumbaiites the most
- Haryana to get 9 more stations to monitor air quality

Climate change



- 40 million Indians at risk from rising sea levels
- Climate change makes the going tough for Assam tea sector
- Climate change linked to rise in kidney ailments
- Government to milk 'desi' cows in climate fight



Delhi to restore 90 wells to tap rainwater from Palla-Wazirabad floodplain.

The Delhi government is planning to create a month's back-up of water for the city. Water that seeps in to the floodplain between Palla and Wazirabad during the monsoon will be tapped via wells and tubewells. The Delhi Jal Board decided to implement the scheme after a pilot project on the Palla floodplain proved successful.

PM asks states to get water plan ready. The Centre has directed all states to prepare a weekly action plan on shortage and scarcity of water, conservation efforts, and usage of existing water resources optimally. The directive was issued by Prime Minister Mr Narendra Modi during a series of meetings with chief ministers of the 10 states facing drought and drinking water shortage. A drinking water crisis is affecting 340 million Indians.

Maharashtra government plans new water policy to tackle scarcity in villages. The Maharashtra state government plans to bring in a comprehensive water management policy to tackle the severe water scarcity that has gripped 28,000 out of 40,000 villages in Maharashtra.

At present, 11 big dams in Marathwada have only three per cent water left. The water management policy of the state government intends to address the larger issue of both hydrological as well as agriculture drought. Of the 28,000 villages, almost 15,500 villages are facing hydrological drought and 12,500 villages are reeling under agriculture drought. The agriculture drought is confined to the districts of Vidarbha region.

As scarcity looms, Gujarat makes Rs 469-crore crop insurance provision. Gujarat state government has started preparations for implementing crop insurance scheme under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana owing to crop loss due to water scarcity. A provision of Rs 469.32 crore has been made for the same. Out of the 33 districts of the State, six have been announced as drought-affected. A population of around 22 lakh in the districts of Jamnagar, Kutch, Devbhoomi Dwarka, Porbandar, Rajkot and Banaskantha has been affected. Despite two successive years of drought, the State administration estimates the crop production in the State to be around 95 per cent of the normal.

Tech update

InnoNano Research, a clean water technology company incubated at IIT Madras has entered into an agreement with NanoHoldings, an energy and water investment specialist firm from US, to set-up a global water technology company with an investment plan of \$18 million.

[The Hindu Business Line](#), 9 May 2016 | [The Financial Express](#), 10 May 2016 | [Indian Express](#), 15 May 2016 | [The Times of India](#), 16 May 2016 | [The Hindu Business Line](#), 16 May 2016 | [Business Standard](#), 18 May 2016 | [Indian Express](#), 31 May 2016



Web-based integrated waste management system. The Environment Ministry has launched a web-based application on [Integrated Waste Management System](#) (IWMS) for better management and also track the movement of hazardous waste. The application will provide an opportunity to all the industries dealing in hazardous waste, to apply online. There are an estimated 43000 industries dealing in hazardous waste, of which about 30000 industries have been mapped through this application. The objective

of the application is to enhance transparency in the working of the Ministry and other Centre/State level regulatory bodies and also to reduce the time taken for processing applications, seeking various types of permissions under the recently notified waste management regulations.

India is 5th largest producer of e-waste in world. India has emerged as the fifth largest producer of e-waste in the world, discarding roughly 18.5 lakh metric tonnes of electronic waste each year. As much as 12 percent of the 18.5 lakh metric tonnes discarded by India constitutes of telecom equipment alone, the joint [study](#) conducted by industry body Assocham (Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India) and consultancy firm KPMG said.

City	E-waste generated (in MT)
Mumbai	1,20,000
Delhi-NCR	98,000
Bangalore	92,000
Chennai	67,000
Kolkata	55,000
Ahmedabad	36,000
Hyderabad	32,000
Pune	25,000

Source. Assocham. 2016

95% of e-garbage heads to illegal dealers. India generates 18.5 lakh metric tonnes of electronic waste each year, with Delhi (98,000 MT) second on the list after Mumbai (1.2 lakh MT) as the biggest contributor. Proper disposal of e-waste is important because of hazards posed to health by the materials used in electronics, but almost a third of the disused electronic items are not reaching the authorised e-waste collectors in the capital. Illegal e-waste firms channel 95% of all e-waste processed in the country, according to a recent study conducted by Assocham-Frost and Sullivan. They, thus, deprive the authorised firms of not only revenues, but also the chance to break down electronics without endangering the health of citizens.

Bio-waste plant is latest green step by Northern Railway. The Delhi Division of Northern Railway will be taking a big step in its green initiative in June when it will commission a first-of-its-kind 'bio-waste processing plant' at Kishanganj Railway Colony. The plant is expected to process about 1,000 kg of waste generated by the largest railway colony of the Indian Railways.

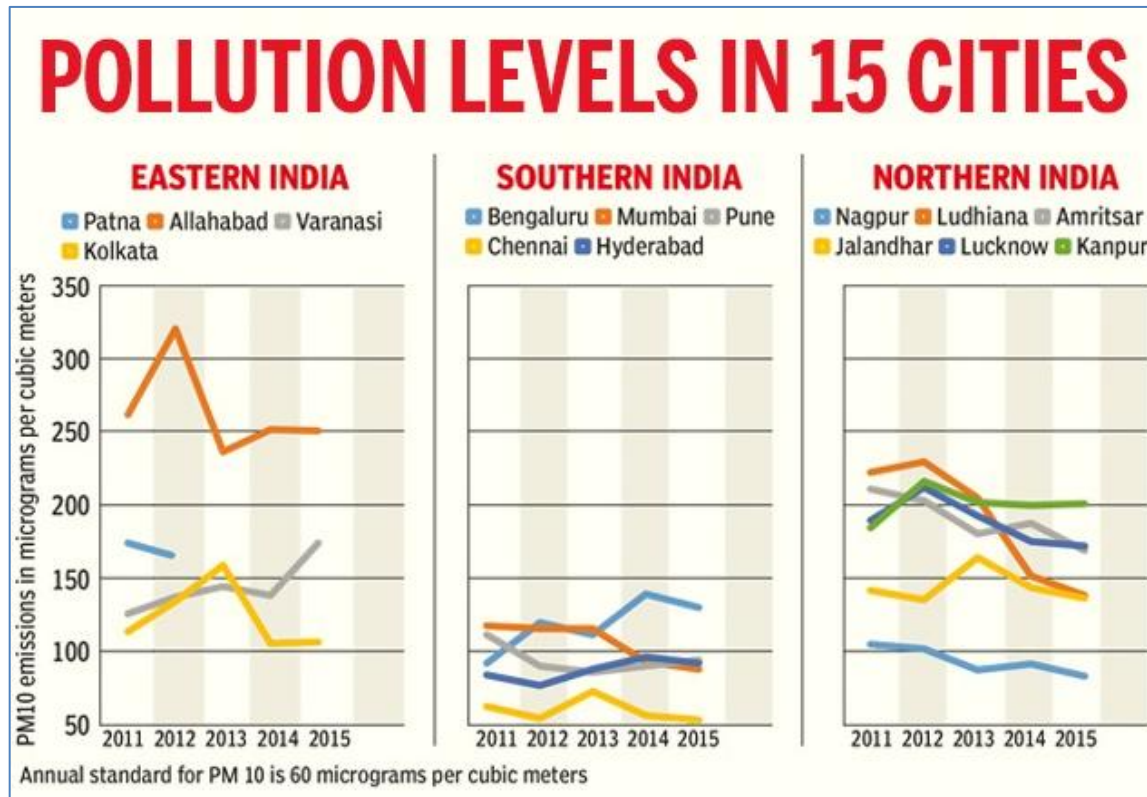
Delhi will get its biggest waste-to-energy plant in Narela in June. The plant at the Narela-Bawana landfill site will be able to tackle 1,300 tonnes of garbage on a daily basis and produce almost 24 mega watts of energy. The waste dumped here so far has been converted into refused derived fuel. This will be used as fuel when the plant begins functioning. This would help in disposal of waste and ensure no foul smell.

[The Pioneer](#), 10 May 2016 | [The Times of India](#), 11 May 2016 | [The Times of India](#), 11 May 2016 | [Hindustan Times](#), 19 May 2016 | [The Statesman](#), 26 May 2016 | [The Hindu](#), 30 May 2016



CPCB report for 15 major cities on air quality front. A Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) report on air quality in 15 cities shows that most cities are breaching the national annual safe standard. While some are seeing a rising trend and some, interestingly, are also showing a decreasing trend in PM 10 (coarse pollution particles) levels, the study also shows that most cities saw an improvement in 2015 compared to previous years. The CPCB concludes in its report that improvement could be linked to

implementation of stricter vehicle norms and better fuel quality.



Source. The Times of India, 2 June 2016

Odd-even 1 more effective than phase 2. Odd-even phase one implemented in January was more effective than phase two in April in curbing the Delhi's pollution, said an analysis by TERI. In the second phase, there was a 17% decrease in car numbers and 13% increase in vehicle speed. In contrast, the first phase saw a 21% reduction in cars and 18% increase in speed, the analysis said. TERI released an impact assessment [study](#) on the two phases of the scheme that limited the number of private cars on the roads for a 15-day period.

Rs 30,000 crore exit map for polluting trucks. The entry of thousands of heavily loaded polluting trucks into Delhi every day could end in the next couple of years. While two peripheral expressways currently under construction will take nearly 50% of vehicles off Delhi roads, there is a plan to set up "logistics" parks along these corridors so that warehouses and godowns located inside the city can move out.

Diesel vehicles over 10 years banned in Kerala. In a landmark judgment, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) Circuit Bench banned light and heavy diesel vehicles, which are more than 10 years old, in six major cities, including state capital Thiruvananthapuram and commercial capital Kochi, in Kerala. In its first sitting, the Bench, comprising NGT chairperson Justice Swatanter Kumar and expert member Mr Bikram Singh Sajwan, also directed the state government not to register any diesel vehicle in the capacity of 2000 CC and more, except public transport and local authority vehicles.

NGT says no plan to extend ban on diesel vehicles to other cities. The NGT gave three weeks' time to all states to furnish a report on pollution levels in their worst-affected cities before deciding on the diesel car ban in 11 other states like Delhi. The ongoing hearing is part of the NGT's move to ban sale of diesel vehicles with engine capacities over 2,000 cc in 11 more cities in the country. The Tribunal also said that there was no plan to extend the ban on diesel vehicles prevailing in the national capital and Kerala to other cities across the country for now.

Watchdog revises pollution index for industrial clusters. Central Pollution Control Board has come out with new norms to help authorities decide whether an industrial cluster is “critically polluted”. The board also ordered strict air and water quality monitoring. In the process of updating the Comprehensive Environmental Pollution Index, the board has done away with criteria such as the potential impact on the health of people as it felt that these cannot be measured objectively, are time consuming and cost too much.

Air pollution worries Mumbaiites the most. Over 1200 Mumbai households across various socioeconomic brackets were surveyed by Urban Futures at the US-based National Center for Atmospheric Research and the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune. According to the survey, air pollution was the top concern with 55.3% of families saying it was a worry, followed by waste and sewage management (51.3%), extreme heat (34%) and parks and open spaces (23.9%).

Haryana to get nine more stations to monitor air quality. The Haryana State Pollution Control Board (HSPCB) has decided to install nine more much-needed Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations (CAAQMS) in various districts of the state. Currently, the state has only four such stations — Gurgaon, Faridabad, Rohtak and Panchkula — to monitor air quality. The HSPCB authorities have proposed to install such stations in Dharuhera, Sonapat, Panipat, Bahadurgarh, Karnal, Kaithal, Yamunanagar, Manesar in Gurgaon district and Sector 55 of Faridabad.

[Mint](#), 10 May 2016 | [Hindustan Times](#), 11 May 2016 | [The Hindu](#), 23 May 2016 | [The Times of India](#), 26 May 2016 | [The Tribune](#), 30 May 2016 | [Indian Express](#), 31 May 2016 | [The Times of India](#), 2 June 2016 | [Hindustan Times](#), 4 June 2016



40 million Indians at risk from rising sea levels. Nearly 40 million Indians will be at risk from rising sea levels by 2050, with people in Mumbai and Kolkata having the maximum exposure to coastal flooding in future due to rapid urbanisation and economic growth, according to a UN environment report. According to the [Global Environmental Outlook: Regional Assessments](#), the worst impacts of climate change are projected to occur in the Pacific and South and South-East Asia. It said focusing on the population at risk from sea-level rise by 2050, seven of the 10 most vulnerable countries worldwide are in the Asia Pacific region.

Climate change makes the going tough for Assam tea sector. Assam’s tea sector has, of late, been facing the brunt of climate change in the form of extreme weather conditions — either a drought-like situation or high-intensity rainfall. The state’s tea sector, which had a good start this year with “above-normal” crop harvest in March, saw a dip in production the next month due to excessive rainfall. Industry sources say the dip in April’s production could be as high as 30-35 per cent and production of first flush (generally till April or mid-May) could be 34 million kg against 44 million kg produced in 2015. Many tea gardens in Brahmaputra valley battle the problem of water logging due to high intensity rainfall. A study on climate change, done by the Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati, found the state has been witnessing long rainless spells or high intensity rainfall of short duration in recent years.

According to [FAO](#), preliminary assessments showed that climate change will have a significant impact on future tea production, independent from the geographic distribution of the tea crop.

Climate change linked to rise in kidney ailments.

Climate change has led to significant rise in global mean temperature over the last century and has been linked with significant increases in the frequency and severity of heat waves (extreme heat events). Climate change has also been increasingly connected to detrimental human health. Recent studies have also shown that recurrent heat exposure with physical exertion and inadequate hydration can lead to Chronic Kidney Disease that is distinct from that caused by diabetes, hypertension, or glomerulonephritis. A recent [study](#) has identified parts of the country with suspected sites of heat stress-associated nephropathy - a condition caused by dehydration and heat - and they include Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Goa and Maharashtra.

Government to milk ‘desi’ cows in climate fight. Indian dairy scientists estimate that climate change will lead to decline in milk production by over 3 million tonnes (MT) per year by 2020. The projections, shared by the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) with the agriculture ministry, should be cause for worry considering the growing demand for milk in the country, estimated at 200 MT by 2021-22. Though milk production has been steadily increasing with 2015-16 recording an output of 160 MT, the impact of rising temperatures, especially on cross-bred cows, will make the task of meeting domestic demand difficult and could eventually lead to a decline in per capita consumption.

[Business Standard](#), 7 May 2016 | [The Times of India](#), 10 May 2016 | [The Hindu](#), 21 May 2016 | [The Times of India](#), 23 May 2016