



Nov 1, 2022



“ Stopping pollution is the best Solution. ”

“Preservation of our environment is not a liberal or conservative challenge, it's common sense.”

Ronald Reagan



Nigerian company turns e-waste into solar powered lanterns

TOP NEWS INSIDE

PM Modi's praise for Bengaluru's Suresh Kumar for contribution to environment

Punjab crosses last year's stubble-burning incidents to date

Gangua nullah most polluted, suggests report of CPCB

Using plastic will reduce the cost of road construction: Punjab minister

Bengaluru in a garbage mess

Mangroves to be chopped for proposed cycle track at Palm Beach Road

Message from Director General

Dear Friends

“Preservation of Environment is not a Liberal or Democratic Challenge--- it is a common sense” - Ronald Reagon.

The pollution of Yamuna River and the faith of devotees to take a pious dip in toxic water of the river had been in the news for obvious reasons in past few days. The fact that post Chhatt, what shall be the impact on health of devotees is any body's Guess?

In NCR, a ban on all construction and demolition activities, barring essential projects and services concerning national security, defence, healthcare, railways, airports, has been enforced to control air pollution during winter. Is it the only solution to control pollution in NCR?- the issue needs a rethinking by administrators.

Expressing displeasure over non-compliance of the Court's orders regarding the collection and disposal of solid waste across the State, the Hon' High Court of Uttrakhand issued directions to create an email portal where people can file complaints and and attach photographs on issues related to waste collection and disposal in any part of Uttarakhand. Hope the authorities read the mails and take appropriate actions.

G7 countries have asked India to join a Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP) that will help finance rapid deployment of clean energy projects in India and possibly reduce the country's dependence on coal.

The articles on (a) India's action plan for the world to shun mindless consumerism leading to huge wastage of limited resources specially by few so called developed nations; (b) Five phones to be thrown away during 2022 and ; (c) War between Environmentalists and Mining Companies on Mineral extraction, are drawing attention of like mined Communities on what is sustainable and what is not? Please enjoy reading and exploring the wealth of information in these articles.

We are also furnishing the details of the programs being organised by REIAI on; (a) Carbon Footprint Estimation and Development of GHG Mitigation Strategies by Corporates; (b) Training on "Environment Management in Industries" and (c) Conducting Energy and Water Audits etc. Please indicate your preference and specific requirements to enable REIAI to plan implementation of such programs.

Your success stories and advertisements of your products and services for publication in our fortnightly news bulletin are also welcome.

Happy reading..



R P Sharma

Secretary and Director General

BREAKING NEWS

Recycling and Environment Industry Association of India has been registered as Accredited Energy Agency by Bureau of Energy Efficiency (Register No: 263-AEA#0262)



Events & Announcements

Discussions on the Implementability of the Battery Waste Management Rules (BWMR), 2022

REIAI Organised a webinar on

"Discussions on Implementability of the Battery Waste Management Rules (BWMR), 2022".

Battery and Lead waste Recyclers/ Manufacturers joined the webinar .

Speakers and Panel of webinar:

Mr. K. P. Nyati, Founder Director, REIAI

Mr. Bhuwan Purohit President of REIAI

Mr. R. K. Bansal, Director, REIAI

Mr L. Pugazhenthay Executive Director ILZDA

Mr. Surajit Majumdar, Sr GM, Exide Industries Ltd and Secretary IBMA

Mr Ramachandra Sivaramakrishnan, Former Secretary IBMA

Mr Sandeep Ramesh Director Nile Limlited,

Mr Upainder Agarwal Director Pilot Industries Ltd

Recommendations of the webinar are being compiled and shall be shared in the next issue of the newsletter.



Events & Announcements

Recycling and Environment Industry Association of India offers the following training programmes and Environment services for Industries, consultants and other environmental practitioners.

S. No	Title of Programme	Duration	Mode	Brief description
1	Continuous Emission Monitoring Systems (CEMS) and Continuous Effluent Quality Monitoring Systems (CEQMS)	Two days	Through VC	To provide a comprehensive understanding of the real-time monitoring technologies and data validation to ensure correct implementation of the real time monitoring of emissions and effluent quality.
2	Applicable Environmental Legislations, Norms and Compliance Verification	One day	Through VC or in-person	To develop a better understanding and knowledge of the various environmental laws and their inter-relationship.
3	Environment Management in Industries	Three days	In- person	Sensitise and empower the environment managers as well as line managers to ensure improved environmental compliance of the organisation.
4	Good Quality Environmental Impact Assessment	Three days	Offline	For EIA consultants: What constitutes a good EIA; how to prepare. Focus on interactive learning through real-life examples, discussions and exercises.
5	Audit of Air Quality Monitoring Systems and Procedures	As required	In-Plant	Comprehensive review of the various aspects of AAQM, stack and fugitive emissions monitoring systems
6	Environment Management in Mines	Three-days	In-person	Sensitise and empower environment managers and line/mine managers to ensure improved environmental performance of the mining entities of the organisation
7	Environment & Energy Audit	Two-days	In-Plant	Assessing the performance of energy & Environment Management System
8	Carbon Footprint Analysis	Two-days	In-Person	Estimation of GHG emission and suggesting mitigation strategies

Other Environmental Services

S. No	Title	Brief description
1	Environmental Audit	Verification of regulatory compliance, Assessment of compliance to Company's Environmental Policy and internal systems and procedures, Identification of environmental risks and opportunities for improvements
2	Advisory services for Environment Clearance	Assisting the project proponent in preparing a high quality EIA report as well as in submitting appropriate responses and presentations to the Expert Committees so as to obtain the EC

Contact for more details:
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Events & Announcements

Water Audit Consultancy Services

Water is used almost in every sector, growth in population and increase in the standard of living of people so demand is increased. Water is used by all the living creatures found in the world but a very small portion of water is available for drinking, industrial usage and other purposes. The industry is an important stakeholder in water resource management and needs to be proactive in combating water risks.

Water-audit is used for reducing water-losses, leakages and gives the information of water used by consumers. Water audit is one of the most effective methods for keeping track of how much water is used and conserving it.

The team at REIAI comprises of highly qualified professionals such as Process / Sector Experts, Certified Water Auditors, Environment Experts, Engineers and Technicians. The team has substantial experience expertise in conducting water conservation studies for different sectors / types of industries and institutions.

For More Details, please contact:

Mr. Amit Kumar Singh

Executive Director - REIAI

International Water Auditor

Email: amitsingh.tpower@gmail.com



Events & Announcements

Recycling and Environment Industry Association of India
Training Programme on

Carbon Footprint Estimation and GHG Mitigation Strategy



Objective of the Programme

These days most of the Terms of References (TOR) and the Environment Clearances being issued by the Environmental Appraisal Committees (EAC) and SEAC, are having a condition "to submit the Carbon Footprint Estimation and Decarbonisation Strategies" for new projects in order to address the impact of the proposed developmental activity on Climate Change.

The prime objective of the Carbon Footprints Estimation is to know the total amount of greenhouse gases likely to get emitted from the proposed project during processing and production of goods and services. A capacity building program for the team from various organisations on the methodology to conduct carbon footprint estimation and developing decarbonisation strategies would be helpful to small, medium and large scale industries, consultants and corporates in carrying out this exercise regularly to improve the carbon footprints of the organisation by implementing the ecarbonisation strategies developed by the team.

This course will be conducted offline at the premises of the organisation/consultant for two days followed by one day verification of the report prepared by the team of organisation/consultant within two to three weeks of completion of two days training. The training module is designed to provide a comprehensive understanding of effective implementation of Carbon Footprint Estimation and GHG Mitigation Strategies.

Course Contents

- Carbon Footprint- An overview.
- Types of Carbon Emissions.
- Carbon Neutrality.
- Sources of Carbon Emissions.
- Methodologies for estimation of Carbon footprints.
- Carbon Emission reduction, carbon capture and carbon sequestration.
- Energy Transition from fossil fuel to Renewable Energy/Hydrogen.
- Report preparation and Quality Assurance.
- Verification of Report prepared by teams after two/three weeks of theoretical inputs.

Course Convener

Mr. R P Sharma

Secretary and Director General

of Recycling and Environment Industry Association of India (REIAI)
and former member of Expert Advisory Committee (Industry -1).

For further information on this training, please do contact:

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Events & Announcements

Recycling and Environment Industry Association of India (REIAI) Training Programme on

Environment Management in Industries

Objective of the Programme

The industries now a days are being closely watched for their ESG performance and issues like, resource conservation, climate change, energy conservation, water stewardship, air & water pollution and waste management are prominently appearing on the agenda of the Board Meetings. The role of industry managers is being looked upon, far beyond simply addressing the production and maintenance issues to addressing the Environment, Health and Safety issues also for sustainable development.

REIAI had been conducting the training programmes on "Environment Management in Industries" for past several years. It has conducted such programmes for SAIL Bokaro Steel, ESL Steel Limited, Sesa Goa Steel, Hindustan Zinc Limited, Rungta Mines Limited etc. The course is conducted offline at the premises of the organisation for three days and covers the following topics:

Course Contents

- Role of Industry managers in addressing ESG issues
- International Treaties/ Protocols/ Conventions applicable.
- Aspect/Impact Analysis and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment for products services and activities of the industry.
- Environment Impact Assessment (EIA), Environment clearance, Consent to Establish and Consent to Operate and Self Compliance.
- Water and Air Quality Management,
- Solid Waste Management,
- Carbon Capture & Green Belt Development,
- Cleaner Technologies and Circular Economy, and
- Corporate Environment Responsibility (CER), etc.

Additional subjects can be considered for inclusion based on the specific need of the Industry.

Course Convener

Mr. R P Sharma

Secretary and Director General
of Recycling and Environment Industry Association of India (REIAI)
and former member of Expert Advisory Committee (Industry -1).

Mr. R K Bansal

Director of REIAI
and Former Secretary and
Director General of REIA.

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Environment



PM Modi's praise for Bengaluru's Suresh Kumar for contribution to environment

In his monthly radio address, 'Mann Ki Baat', Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday praised a Bengaluru local for his passion for protecting nature. PM Modi also said that the people of India can learn a lot from this ecologist.

Suresh Kumar, who is resident of Bengaluru's Sahakara Nagar, is known for his contribution towards increasing the green cover in the tech capital of the country. The Prime Minister mentioned him and said, "Twenty years ago,

Sudhakar decided to bring back life to a forest around his residence in Karnataka's Bengaluru. His decision was full of challenges. But the saplings that were planted around 20 years ago have now turned into 40 feet trees. People of Bengaluru are now enjoying the beauty of this forest."

Suresh Kumar also received accolades for building a bus shelter in Bengaluru's Sahakara Nagar, which promotes Kannada language. "Apart from his work towards the ecology, Suresh Kumar also built a bus shelter and gifted brass plates with Kannada language written on it to people to promote Kannada and the culture of the state. Imagine how great it is to work towards ecology and culture at the same time. He taught a lesson to the entire nation and he should be an inspiration to the youngsters of this country," PM Modi added.

[Read more](#)



Need to focus on sustainable development along with environmental protection: SC

The need for sustainable development must also to be taken into account while ensuring protection of the environment, the Supreme Court held on Friday as it cleared the decks for establishing new wood-based industries (WBIs) in Uttar Pradesh.

A bench headed by justice BR Gavai underlined that a balance was needed between implementing policies and projects that provide immediate benefit and keeping the environment safe for future generations. [Read more](#)

Environment

Environmental concerns, renewable energy key components of Modi government policies: Hardeep Singh Puri

The need for addressing environmental concerns has been an integral part of Modi government's policy, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri has said. He was speaking at a summit 'The Leaders for Inclusive and Progressive Change' organised by ILead Global Foundation to celebrate Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav on Friday.

Delegates from 11 countries, renowned think tanks, academic organisations and universities participated in the summit.

"The need to address environmental concerns has been an integral part of govt policy. From announcing an International Solar Alliance in 2015 to the #PanchAmrit strategy in 2021,...

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53% in state pollution boards linked to 'polluters': Report

NEW DELHI: Individuals representing potential polluters (local authorities, industries and public sector corporations) account for 53% of the board members in the State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs), raising questions on conflict of interest, whereas scientists, medical practitioners and academics constitute only 7% of the members, said Delhi-based think tank Centre for Policy Research (CPR) in its report, analysing institutional structure and capacity of 10 state pollution control boards/committee, on Wednesday.

It noted that the statutory requirement of having at least two board members who have knowledge of and experience in air quality management is not met by most of the state pollution watchdog. Besides, there is limited representation from civil society (including those working on environmental and labour issues), academia and public health.

[Read more](#)



Air Pollution

Delhi govt bans construction work, blames UP diesel buses for pollution

Delhi environment minister Gopal Rai on Sunday announced that the AAP government has decided to implement the Commission for Air Quality Management's (CAQM) order, imposing a ban on construction and demolition activities in the national capital.

"According to weather experts, the wind speed will be 4-5 kmph from November 1 and it is predicted that the air quality index (AQI) might cross 400 (severe). We had a meeting with all construction authorities - PWD, MCD, Railways, DDA - and the Delhi Pollution Control Committee today, and decided to implement the CAQM order," Rai said at a press conference.

[Read more](#)



Punjab crosses last year's stubble-burning incidents to date

Despite a lot of efforts by the Punjab government through several awareness camps organised by the Agricultural Department against paddy stubble burning, Punjab's stubble burning incidents have crossed the figures for 2021 in the same corresponding period. Also, the state recorded a single day's highest number of fires on October 26 in this season. Till October 25 daily cases were quite below the 1000 mark.

Till October 26, the state has recorded 7,036 fibre incidents from September 15 to October 26 including 1,238 fires on October 26 while during the same period in 2021, a total of 6,463 fires were recorded and on October 26 last year 329 fire incidents were reported.

[Read more](#)



Air Pollution



Air quality panel orders closure of 24 industrial units in three weeks

The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) has issued closure orders on 24 grossly violating industrial units across the National Capital Region since the invocation of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) Stage-I from October 6.

Overall, 52 grossly violating units/projects have been issued closure orders. "24 grossly violating industrial units and 28 construction and demolition (C&D) project sites were issued closer notices," the Commission said. .

CAQM issues closure notices to those C&D projects which have an area greater than 500 sq metres and are not registered on a web portal for remote online monitoring, besides adhering to various directions of CAQM, rules and guidelines related to dust mitigating measures.

The closure notices come after the commission conducted a total of 472 incognito inspections carried out by the Commission in industrial areas and construction projects across NCR.

Of the 24 industries which have been issued closer notices for not using the approved fuels 05 units were still found using coal.

[Read more](#)



Delhi air pollution: 586 teams to enforce construction ban, says Gopal Rai

The Delhi government is determined to enforce the ban on construction and demolition (C&D) to mitigate the severe air pollution in the capital by deploying as many as 586 field teams, state environment minister Gopal Rai said on Sunday after a review meeting with concerned agencies.

The teams, part of the government's anti-dust campaign launched on October 6, will now ensure no C&D activities are carried out as part of the Graded Response Action Plan (Grap) implemented by the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM).

[Read more](#)

Air Pollution

Delhi air pollution: AQI may stay in very poor zone till Nov 1, says forecast

New Delhi: Delhi's air quality index (AQI) improved slightly on Sunday, yet remained in the higher end of the 'very poor' category with a reading of 352, according to the Central Pollution Control Board's 4pm daily bulletin.

On Saturday, Delhi's AQI had briefly touched the 'severe' category, before settling at an average of 397 (very poor). Forecasts show that with the contribution of stubble fires to pollution in the city on the rise, and calm wind conditions expected over the next three days, Delhi's AQI is expected to hover between 'very poor' and 'severe' till November 1.

"While meteorological conditions have largely remained the same in the last 24 hours, we have seen a slight dip (in AQI)..."

[Read more](#)



GRAP stage III kicks in New Delhi to contain air pollution, see what's banned

In view of the worsening air quality in the Delhi-NCR, the Commission for Air Quality Management on 29 October decided to implement measures under stage III of the Graded Response Action Plan.

Under stage III, the commission has prescribed a ban on all construction and demolition activities, barring essential projects and services concerning national security, defence, healthcare, railways, airports, metro rail, interstate bus terminus, highways, roads, flyovers, power

transmission, pipelines among others. It also suggested to bar mining activities in the region.

Apart from this, the commission also prescribed a ban on construction and demolition activities which covers earthwork for excavation, boring and drilling; fabrication and welding operations; loading and unloading of construction material; transfer of raw material, including fly ash,...

[Read more](#)



Air Pollution



Delhi Air pollution: Fire Services starts sprinkling water at 13 hotspots

The Delhi Fire Services on Sunday said it has begun sprinkling water at 13 hotspots to combat rising air pollution in the city. The move comes after Delhi's air quality was recorded in the 'very poor' category on Sunday and even deteriorating to the 'severe' category in some areas. Forecasters said slow wind speed and an increase in stubble burning, especially in Punjab, may make it worse.

Officials said a fire tender with a four-member crew has been deployed at each spot to sprinkle water to curb pollution.

"Due to high pollution levels, Delhi Fire Service has been asked to sprinkle water in the capital preferably at or around hotspot area. As ordered, 13 fire tenders have been deputed so far," Atul Garg, Director, DFS.

[Read more](#)



Gurugram civic body forms dust control cell to curb air pollution, fix potholes

In accordance with directions from the Commission for Air Quality Management in Delhi-NCR and adjoining areas (CAQM), the MCG on Thursday for the first time constituted a dust control and management cell comprising six officers to monitor sprinkling of water, mechanised sweeping, fixing of potholes on roads and greening of central verges, officials said Friday.

MCG commissioner Mukesh Ahuja will chair the committee. Other members include Rohtash Chander Bishnoi, additional commissioner, MCG, Dr Naresh Kumar, joint commissioner, MCG, Radhe Shyam, superintending engineer, MCG and Vishal Garg, executive engineer, MCG.

Subash Yadav, additional CEO of Gurugram Metropolitan Development Authority (GMDA) and member secretary of the committee, said that the dust control cell will monitor all activities to curb dust pollution on roadsides and...

[Read more](#)



Connaught Place smog tower has 'noticeable impact' on air pollution: Gopal Rai

The smog tower installed by the Delhi government in Connaught Place has a "noticeable impact" on reducing air pollution within a 300-meter radius, Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai on Friday.

Mr. Rai said that based on data collected over a year, the smog tower was found to have reduced air pollution within a 50-meter radius by 70-80% and within a 300-meter radius by 15-20%.

"We have observed that smog towers have shown a noticeable impact up to the range of 300 metres.

[Read more](#)

Water Pollution

Gangua nullah most polluted, suggests report of CPCB



BHUBANESWAR: Gangua nullah in the State capital which has been struggling for its revival as a natural water channel is the most polluted followed by Guradih nala and Brahmani river near Rourkela, suggests a report of Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) submitted to the National Green Tribunal (NGT) in connection with a petition.

[Read more](#)

River pollution: New phosphate rules hit thousands of planned new homes



Tens of thousands of new homes face being delayed or scrapped because of river pollution that could cost the economy £16bn.

Experts say more phosphate, found in animal and human waste, is getting into rivers and affecting water quality.

Tougher rules on phosphate river pollution targets have been brought in - but that could affect 100,000 new-build homes in England and Wales.

[Read more](#)



Delhi Government Draws Flak Over Inaction As Toxic Foam Engulfs Yamuna River Yet Again

Last year, photos and videos of Chhath devotees standing amidst foam blanketing Yamuna went viral on social media and brought the issue of pollution in Delhi's lifeline river to the fore.

Ahead of Chhath Puja, environmentalists blamed the Delhi government for "not taking adequate action" to make the Yamuna pollution free as toxic foam covered sections of the river near Kalindi Kunj on Thursday.

Chhath Puja, which involves the offering of 'arghya' to the Sun god by fasting women in knee-deep water, will be celebrated on October 30 and 31. Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena has given his nod to hold Chhath Puja at designated ghats on the Yamuna and urged Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to ensure clean ghats and water for devotees, sources in his office said on Wednesday.

[Read more](#)

Waste Management



Using plastic will reduce the cost of road construction: Punjab minister

Local government minister Dr Inderbir Singh Nijjar on Friday said following the efforts of the Punjab government to ensure the disposal of plastic waste and its use in development works, the Bathinda Municipal Corporation has started the work of constructing roads from plastic waste in a unique initiative.

In a statement, the minister said with the introduction of the use of plastic in road construction by the Bathinda Municipal Corporation staff, an effective solution to plastic waste has been found and the cost will also be reduced. He said Jujhar Singh Nagar Road at Bathinda from Bajwa House to Main Street and the Street No. 3-A road has been constructed using plastic waste at Jujhar Singh Nagar.

Apart from this, the road has been constructed using plastic at street number 3 B Jujhar Singh Nagar. He said that 1,000 running feet long road has been constructed using 8% plastic waste in bitumen.

He said by using plastic for the construction of roads, there will be a success in solving the problem of plastic waste, which will make the environment clean and pollution-free.

He said by using plastic for construction, roads will be made of better quality than before. Along with this, the cost of road construction will also reduce. He said its immediate results are satisfactory.

[Read more](#)



Bandhwari landfill legacy waste to be processed by March 2023

Legacy waste from the Bandhwari landfill in the Aravallis will be completely processed by March 2023, district administration officials said. The decision was taken at a meeting of the nine-member committee constituted by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) to resolve the legacy waste issue in Gurugram on Saturday. It was also decided that the Municipal Corporation of Gurugram (MCG) will submit a revised timeline to the NGT regarding the processing of this waste.

[Read more](#)

Waste Management

A CSR initiative that deals with hazardous fireworks waste in Chennai



This Deepavali, 300 tonnes of hazardous waste collected from the 15 zones of Greater Chennai Corporation was sent to the Common Hazardous Waste Treatment Storage and Disposal Facility (CHWTSDF) in Gummidipoondi. This figure marks an increase of 50 tonnes over what was collected in Deepavali 2021.

[Read more](#)

Uttarakhand HC launches email for people to lodge complaint on waste management



Expressing displeasure over non-compliance of the court's orders regarding the collection and disposal of solid waste across the state, the Uttarakhand high court on Wednesday issued directions to create an email where people can file complaints and photographs on issues related to waste collection and disposal in any part of Uttarakhand.

The directions were issued by the division bench of chief justice Vipin Sanghi and justice RC Khulbe while hearing a public interest litigation filed by Almora-based Jitendra Yadav, who originally hails from Delhi.

[Read more](#)



Bengaluru in a garbage mess

BENGALURU: There are very few stretches of roads in the city, where people can walk without holding their nose. This is because garbage management is a major problem in the city -- not just visual cleanliness but even its disposal. This is reflected in the recent Swachh Survekshan ranking, released by the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs. Bengaluru's ranking slipped from 28 in 2021 to 43 in 2022 in the category of cities with over 10 lakh population.

Experts said that in the last decade, garbage management has not kept pace with the growth of the city. While the BBMP has set a target of 85 per cent for segregation of waste, only 42 per cent has been achieved. A National Green Tribunal expert committee too seems to have given up.

A civic expert, Ravindran B, said that the city, being a startup capital, has not explored the possibility of helping entrepreneurs by supplying them with adequate biodegradable waste generated at homes that could be converted into compost.

[Read more](#)

Waste Management

Haryana to set up solid waste management plants in phased manner

The Haryana government will set up solid waste management plants (SWMP) in a phased manner in the state to accelerate the Swachhata campaign. All the districts have been divided into 13 clusters for implementing the projects.

In the first phase, SWMP will be set up in clusters of Bhiwani, Sirsa and Karnal, Haryana chief secretary Sanjeev Kaushal said after presiding over the meeting of the committee of secretaries to approve the selection of implementing agencies for integrated solid waste management projects on Public Private Partnership (PPP) basis.

Bhiwani cluster consists of five urban local bodies, while Karnal has 16 urban local bodies and Sirsa cluster has three.

[Read more](#)



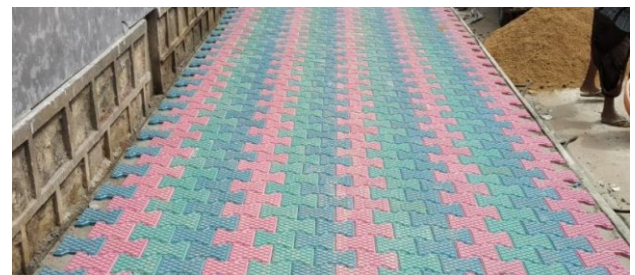
Improper disposal of e-waste will be penalised: Madurai Collector

MADURAI: Collector Dr S Aneesh Sekhar advised the public to follow the guidelines for e-waste disposal in the district as notified by the Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change.

In a recent statement, the collector said, "As per the guidelines, the collection and processing of e-waste can be carried out only by authorised dismantlers, recyclers, and authorised refurbishers and EPR authorised producers. Rule 24 from guidelines, in addition to the above, qualifies the urban local bodies to collect and channelise the orphan products to authorised dismantlers or recyclers."

He further stated, "Burning, illegal trading, and processing of e-waste by unauthorised units is a matter of concern that requires constant monitoring.

[Read more](#)



Kochi-based start-up makes interlocking tiles and furniture from plastic waste

The blue and green interlocking tiles on the Kochi campus of the Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering and Technology (CIPET) and the bunch of multicoloured furniture at the Edappally metro station may hardly seem to have anything in common.

Carbon and Whale, a Kochi-based cleantech start-up, is into making interlocking tiles with plastic pellets and furniture from plastic waste like reusable bags, food containers, plastic carts, and toys. Incubated at CIPET Kochi, it has been registered as a micro, small and medium enterprise (MSME) and recognised both by the Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM) and Startup India.

[Read more](#)

Climate Change

India to raise climate finance issue at COP27



Having updated its nationally determined contribution (NDC) in August, India is likely to raise the issue of climate finance at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP27) in November to support deployment of renewable energy projects on a large scale.

The focus for India at the conference at Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt between November 6 and 18 will be : a multilaterally agreed definition of finance; a decision on the new collective goal on finance beyond 2025;... [Read more](#)

G7 countries urge India to join Just Energy Transition Partnership



G7 countries have asked India to join a Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP) that will help finance rapid deployment of clean energy projects in India and possibly reduce the country's dependence on coal.

India has not responded to the partnership offer as yet, officials aware of the matter said, adding that the external affairs ministry is now co-ordinating interministerial consultations on the matter.

If India accepts, the JETP will likely be announced at the upcoming UN Climate Conference (COP27) in Sharm El Sheikh,.... [Read more](#)



At COP27, climate finance will be key

The United Nations climate conference --- COP27 --- will convene in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, early next month (November 6 and 18). However, while COP27 has been christened as COP of implementation, the road is littered with several obstacles: The energy crisis, thanks to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, continuing Covid-19, and a global economic downturn, and as Union environment minister Bhupender Yadav, said, the widening gap between the pledges made at COP26 in 2021 by the developed countries and the actions taken by them.

On Friday, participating at a virtual meeting of likeminded developed countries, Mr Yadav again raised the issue of climate finance and how the West has failed to pay for the damages it has caused. In an earlier interview with this newspaper, the environment minister said that the focus for India at COP27 will be: A multilaterally agreed definition of finance; a decision on the new collective goal on finance beyond 2025; an assessment of commitment made by the developed countries to provide \$100bn/year of climate finance by 2020; and matters related to article 2.1(c) of the Paris Agreement. [Read more](#)

International



Shun 'empty slogans': China urges rich world ahead of climate talks

Rich countries must move on from "empty slogans" when it comes to climate change and make progress in meeting funding commitments, a Chinese official said on Thursday ahead of a new round of global climate talks in Egypt next month.

"It is important to put forward targets, but it is equally important, even more important, to turn targets into actions," said Li Gao, head of the climate change office at China's Ministry of Ecology and Environment.

The latest round of global climate talks are set to begin in Egypt's Sharm el-Sheik on Nov. 6, and Li told a media briefing in Beijing that countries need to show "real ambition" at the meeting, known as COP27.

Rich countries pledged in 2009 to provide \$100 billion a year by 2020 to help developing countries adapt to climate change,...

[Read more](#)



Sweden gets 26-year-old climate minister in new govt

Sweden's new government named on Tuesday a 26-year-old as climate minister, the youngest person to lead a ministry in the home nation of teenage climate activist Greta Thunberg.

The nomination was among the cabinet members presented by newly elected prime minister Ulf Kristersson, who leads a right-wing coalition that is shored up by the far-right Sweden Democrats.

Romina Pourmokhtari, 26, was until now head of the Liberal party's youth wing, and has not been known to have climate as her political profile.

The young minister has in the past been an outspoken critic of Kristersson's move to closer align his party with the Sweden Democrats (SD).

"Ulf Kristersson without SD - Absolutely. Ulf Kristersson with SD - No thanks," she wrote in a post to Twitter in 2020.

[Read more](#)



Nigerian company turns e-waste into solar powered lanterns

LAGOS, Oct 13 (Reuters) - Quadloop, a Nigerian based company, has found a way to turn electronic waste into solar lanterns and other products which will have a lower impact on the environment.

Dozie Igweilo, founder of Quadloop, told Reuters he came up with the idea after discovering a market for affordable, locally produced electrical goods, for which components were not available in the country.

"At that point, we noticed that... if we leverage on electronic waste, we are going to cut down the cost of production as well as the cost of sales,..."

[Read more](#)

Forest/Wildlife



Mangroves to be chopped for proposed cycle track at Palm Beach Road

Mumbai: Despite the dust barely settling on the issue of the Powai cycling track around Powai Lake, the Maharashtra Coastal Zone Management Authority (MCZMA) has cleared a fresh controversial proposal: a cycling track along Palm Beach Road in Navi Mumbai. To be executed by the Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation (NMMC), the project envisages the cutting of 21 mangroves for the track. The proposal was cleared in the MCZMA meeting held on September 12.

NMMC officials informed the MCZMA that as per the site visit conducted by the mangrove cell on February 22, 2021, the 21 mangroves were spread over an acre at Sonkhar village. The NMMC has approached the Bombay high court for permission to cut the mangroves. The proposal has already received clearance from the state forest department.

A senior officer of the NMMC told HT that the cycling track would be 7.99 km long. "It will start from the Sion-Panvel highway underpass to Uran Junction near the NMMC head office at Kille gaothan," he said. "The turning point will be at Moraj Circle. The track will have pause points, seating areas, gazebos, sculptures, water fountains, lighting, irrigation, horticulture, signage and toilets."

The minutes of the MCZMA meeting, which were published recently, say that for every mangrove that is chopped, the NMMC will have to replant five mangroves. MCZMA has also said that the debris generated during the project activity should not be dumped in...

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Corbett illegal tree felling: Green tribunal halts tiger safari project

The Pakhro Tiger Safari project will not be allowed to proceed until a three-member expert panel identifies the violators and recommends steps for environmental restoration of the area, the principal bench of National Green Tribunal has ordered, taking cognisance on its own of a media report on the illegal felling of over 6,000 trees in the Corbett Tiger Reserve in Uttarakhand.

[Read more](#)

Forest/Wildlife

Penalty for not treating waste: Month after NGT fined Punjab Rs 2,000 cr, state says can't pay

A MONTH after The National Green Tribunal (NGT) imposed a penalty of over Rs 2,000 crore on the Punjab Government as environment compensation for not being able to treat solid and liquid waste, the Finance department has expressed its inability to pay the huge amount of fine citing funds crunch.

On September 24, a Bench headed by NGT chairperson Justice AK Goel had imposed the fine stating that corrective action could not wait for an indefinite period and health issues deferred for long. The tribunal had imposed a fine of Rs 2180 crore out of which the state government had deposited Rs 100 crore.

The tribunal had given a deadline of two months to the state government for depositing Rs 2080 crore. Over a month has since elapsed but the FD has stated that it does not have this much amount to be paid. [Read more](#)



Centre asks states to be strict in enforcing single-use plastic ban

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has directed chief secretaries of all states to implement the ban on single-use plastic (SUP) that has proved to be ineffective since its introduction on 1 July.

In a communication to the states reviewed by Mint, CPCB chairman Tanmay Kumar said that despite the ban, the use of SUP items, specifically thin carry-bags continues unabated in the low-end section of the economy.

Kumar has directed for strict enforcement of the ban, with a focus on street vendors, vegetable markets and local markets, along with checks at borders and inspection of concerned industries during October-December.

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Articles



Mission LiFE: India's action plan for the world to shun mindless consumerism

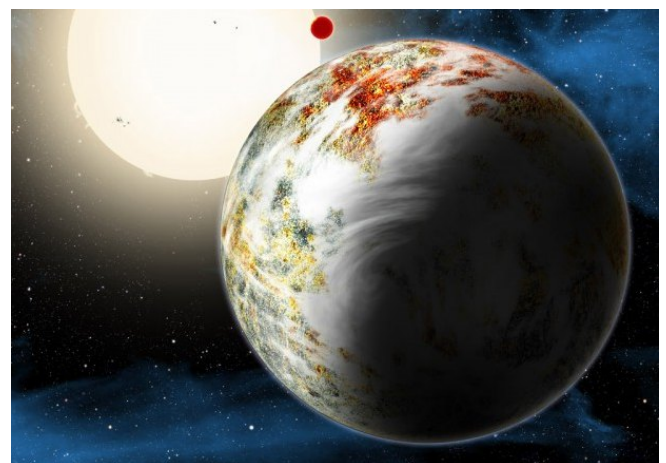
By Bhupender Yadav
Source : Indian Express

Bhupender Yadav writes: It believes in the individual's capacity to change the world. It is the mantra to reverse historical and cultural wrongs wreaked upon the environment. Mission LiFE is the call to action for citizens and governments to save the planet

The human race is plundering Planet Earth at a pace that far outstrips its capacity and ability to support life. A recent study says that if the current rate of consumption were to continue, by 2050, humans would need two more planets, in addition to the Earth, to continue to exist. This means that we could be staring at major climatic crises in the years to come and our future generations may never get to experience the beauty of nature, the glaciers, the oceans, the snow and the rivers, that we have been fortunate to see and experience.

In view of this danger lurking around, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on October 20 unveiled the action plan for Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment), an India-led global mass movement that will nudge individuals and communities for action to protect and preserve the environment.

PM Modi had first given the mantra of LiFE to the world in 2021 at COP 26 in Glasgow. On October 20, 10 heads of states, including French President Emmanuel Macron, UK Prime Minister Liz Truss, Guyana President Irfan Ali, Argentina President Alberto Fernandez, Mauritius Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth, Madagascar President Andry Rajoelina, Nepal Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba, Maldives President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, Georgia Prime Minister Irakli Garibashvili and Estonia Prime Minister Kaja Kallas extended support to the India-led LiFE movement.



Articles



Environment protection, as rightly stated by PM Modi, has for far too long been perceived as a policy issue by the general masses. There has been a perception that only national governments and international organisations can do something to protect the Earth and environment. But Mission LiFE makes environmental protection and conservation a participative process and recognises the importance of each effort — no matter how small or big — to save the environment both at the level of the individual and at the level of the community.

What threatens our existence more than anything else is the pace at which we are producing and consuming. The consumption pattern of the world is mindless and pays scant regard to the environment. Mission LiFE tries to remind the world that the mindset of “use and throw” must immediately be replaced by “reduce,

reuse and recycle” so that our scarce resources are not overexploited and the world doesn’t crumble under the weight of all the waste that it is generating by the second.

In India, the cultural ethos of limiting needs and treating the environment and its resources with reverence has produced very visible results. We constitute 17 per cent of the world’s population, but our contribution to global carbon emissions is only four per cent. Against the developed world’s carbon footprint of four tonnes per head, the carbon footprint of an average Indian counts to only 1.5 tonnes.

Despite not being part of the problem, with numerous global initiatives such as the International Solar Alliance, the One Sun One World One Grid initiative, and the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure, India has taken the lead in presenting and building solutions for the world by bringing the global community together. The need to build these global alliances to fight climate change stems from the understanding that only collective action can save the world from the vagaries of climate change that are increasingly becoming a reality and are rising in ferocity.



Articles



Mission LiFE stems from the thought that every little effort to protect the environment counts and the world can benefit from India's ideas and experiences in this area. By working together with the United Nations in this regard, the prime minister has sought to ensure the message reaches far and wide. India-UN partnerships have already presented fruitful results for the world. An example of this, as the PM stated, has been seen in the celebration of International Yoga Day on June 21. The world is now benefiting from Yoga on an unprecedented scale. The decision to celebrate 2023 as the International Year of Millets marks another golden chapter in the India-UN partnership which has numerous positives for the world to reap from.

In the same sequence of India offering knowledge from its religious and cultural ethos to the world, Mission LiFE aims to pull the world away from a "mindless and destructive" consumerist approach towards a "mindful and deliberate utilisation" of resources. It is also, at the same time, an effort to prevent India from heading that way.

India is already working towards building a circular economy and moving towards a stage where all our energy requirements are met through the use of renewables. Our policies are all aligned towards ensuring sustainable development, where nature is not disregarded for development but where the most marginalised are not left to their destiny by denying them development.

Mission LiFE is a philosophy which shows how this can be made possible. It shows the power of small efforts to make big impacts. It believes in the individual's capacity to change the world. It is the mantra to reverse historical and cultural wrongs wrecked upon the environment. Mission LiFE is the call to action for citizens and governments to save the planet.

Let us all join this movement by being thoughtful of nature and making the changes that help us prevent the exploitation of nature at our own levels. Let us adopt environmentally friendly lifestyles.



Articles



E-Waste: Five Billion Phones to Be Thrown Away in 2022

By Giovanni Prete

Source : Greek Reporter

In the past two months, Apple, Google, and Samsung have all launched their newest devices with the hope of getting consumers to upgrade ahead of the winter holidays. However, the companies and their clients may also be adding to a growing environmental problem—namely, that of electronic waste or e-waste.

The International Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) announced last week that in 2022, 5.3 billion mobile phones will be thrown away. WEEE's estimate is based on global trade data, which highlights the ongoing environmental problem of "e-waste." The new research suggests that many people prefer to keep the old phones rather than recycling them.

"People tend not to [realize] that all these seemingly insignificant items have a lot of value and together at a global level represent massive volumes," WEEE Director General Pascal Leroy said.

Precious minerals not extracted from waste electronics, such as the copper in wire or the cobalt in rechargeable batteries, have to be mined. This further adds to the ongoing problem.

74 million tons of e-waste by 2030

The new study also suggests that an estimated sixteen billion mobile phones worldwide with a third of it in Europe alone are no longer in use. Moreover, electrical waste, including washing machines, toasters, tablet computers, and cell phones, will grow to seventy-four million tons a year by 2030.



Articles

Magdalena Charytanowicz of the WEEE said, "These devices offer many important resources that can be used in the production of new electronic devices or other equipment, such as wind turbines, electric car batteries or solar panels—all crucial for the green, digital transition to low-carbon societies."

17.4 percent recycled

The limited lifespan of many gadgets, mostly cell phones, designed by big tech companies, combined with the limited options to fix older devices, have caused e-waste to surge. Official United Nations data indicates that the world generated a staggering 53.6 million metric tons in 2019 alone. Of that, only 17.4 percent was recycled.

The International Telecommunication Union has set a target to raise that to thirty percent by next year. The reason is because e-waste is one of the "fastest growing and most complex waste streams that affects both human health and the environment, as it can contain harmful substances."

Leroy said there are many options to decrease the sheer volume of the amount. In his words, it can be done by "providing collection boxes in supermarkets, [picking up]...small broken appliances upon delivery of new ones and offering PO [post-office] boxes to return small e-waste."

E-waste defined

The UN Environment Program defines e-waste as any electrical or electronic equipment that has been disregarded. This includes working and broken items that people throw in the garbage or donate. It is particularly dangerous due to toxic chemicals that naturally escape from the metals inside when buried.

The most common example of e-waste include: microwaves, cell phones, tablets, home entertainment appliances, televisions, video games, printers, and cords and cables. Yet, because of today's rapid technological advances, a growing amount is products that haven't stopped working. Instead, a lot of electronic devices that still work fine become obsolete.

Moreover, companies do not always comply with measures for proper disposal even if the technology is available to do so. Furthermore, the EU, U.S., and other developed countries will often export e-waste into developing countries such as China, Taiwan, Mexico, and Pakistan, for instance.

A 2015 report by the European Union Action to Fight Environmental Crime estimated that in 2006 alone, the EU exported 1.9 million tons of e-waste to other countries, and, of that, it sent 1.1 million tons illegally.

E-waste releases toxic materials

The majority of tech companies insist that modern electronics are safe to use. However, most electronics contain some form of toxic materials, including beryllium, cadmium, mercury, and lead, which pose serious environmental risks to both human health and wildlife.

Burying e-waste at a landfill leads to microscopic traces that dissolve into the gross sludge that permeates it. Eventually, these traces of toxic materials pool into the ground below. This is known as leaching.

The more e-waste and metals, the more toxic materials contaminate the ground and freshwater in the surrounding area. This causes disease and sickness in wildlife. It is usually due to lead, arsenic, cadmium, and other metal poisonings from high concentration of these minerals. Even worse, they can be dangerous to the health of humans.

Developing countries at high risk

Developing countries face exceptionally elevated risks, as they import large amounts of e-waste every year. For example, Guiyu, China receives a significant amount of e-waste and also contains some of the highest amounts of cancer-causing dioxins.

Studies by the World Health Organization (WHO) have shown that this amount has detrimental effects on people that work with e-waste. It can also be harmful to those who live nearby.

The United States and other developed nations have now made it illegal to dispose of electronics in landfills. This is due to the risk of toxic chemicals and the potential danger to humans and the ecosystem. However, many developing countries do not have these laws or the ability to refuse imports.

To improve conditions, the International E-Waste Management Network, run by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Taiwan EPA, held a workshop for eleven countries in 2018. Their first goal was to assess possible markets for e-waste material. The second was to protect people and the environment and better interact with the industry and new technology.

Articles



Surfers, environmentalists and mining companies at war over plans to expand mineral extraction

Source : ABC News

To those who live here, it's like a little piece of heaven, boasting pink flamingos, white beaches and blue ocean waters.

Yet this stretch of South Africa's west coast has also become a battleground, pitching mining firms against environmentalists fearful that one of nature's last wild treasures is being bulldozed away.

Diamonds, zircon and other minerals have long been extracted in the sandy coastline near the Olifants river, which flows into the Atlantic about 300 kilometres north of Cape Town.

But plans to expand the mining have angered surfers, animal lovers and residents in this remote, sparsely populated region -- and they are pushing back with lawsuits and petitions.

"It's one of the last frontiers of the South African coastline where you can go and sort of lose yourself," said surfer Mike Schleich, 45, co-founder of a green campaign group, Protect the West Coast.

Key points:

- Plans to expand mining on the South African west coast have angered environmentalists
- Mining companies say they are operating "in an environmentally sustainable and responsible way"
- In Doringbaai locals have been shocked to see mining start by a company which held a licence since 1991

Mining companies say they bring much-needed jobs to the area and insist they abide by environmental rules.

But locals contend the excavation, in which sand is extracted from beaches and the seabed and sifted for valuable minerals, is scaring off fish and tourists alike — and shrinking rather than broadening employment opportunities.

"If we are going to have sea mining, beach mining, land mining ... where is the public going to have access to the coast?" questioned Suzanne Du Plessis, 61, a local resident and campaigner.

Articles



Dolphins, seals and excavators

From offshore diamond prospecting to the construction of a new harbour, several projects threaten to scar the area, a biodiversity hotspot home to dolphins, seals and succulent plants, according to Protect the West Coast.

Campaigners secured a small victory in June, when the operator of a mineral sand mine that had gained government approval to expand its activities to 10 more beaches, committed to additional environmental checks.

This came on the back of a lawsuit brought by the Centre of Environment Rights (CER), another environmental group, that was settled out of court by

the mine operator, Australian-owned Minerals Commodities.

But activists remain wary.

"CER is entitled to go back to court should the mine not comply with the provisions of the agreement," said CER's lawyer Zahra Omar.

She said the mine had already asked for more time to put together its biodiversity management plan.

Minerals Commodities legal counsel Fletcher Hancock said the company was committed to conducting its operations "in an environmentally sustainable and responsible way."

Activists and locals feel the government has left them to fend for themselves.

Smaller catch

In Doringbaai, a small town a few kilometres south of the Olifants estuary, a once-pristine beach where people used to walk their dogs and enjoy the sunset to the sound of crashing waves is now being torn up by heavy machinery.

Resident Peter Owies, 54, said locals were blindsided when mining started earlier this year.

"It was quite a surprise and shock to us," he said.

A meeting requested by the community to discuss the mining plans was never held, with the required consultation happening only online, said Du Plessis, the campaigner.



Articles



Preston Goliath, a 46-year-old fisherman, said his catch had dwindled after the mining work began and the same is true for dozens of others.

"Because they were pumping for diamonds ... the fish moved away and our richest (fisheries) bank is now empty," Mr Goliath said.

Some residents want the beach mining to stop.

But mine owner Trans Hex said all its environmental papers are in order, adding it has held mining rights for the area since 1991.

With dozens more mining permits waiting for approval, Mr Schleich of Protect the West Coast said he hoped the government would rethink its strategy for the region.

"There's a whole array of new industries that could have a profoundly positive effect on the people that live on that coastline, like algae farming," Mr Schleich said.

"We've got to show them that there's a much better way.

Activists here are optimistic, emboldened by victories scored elsewhere by environmentalists.

On September 1, activists claimed victory in a court case against energy giant Shell — despite the government's support of the company — resulting in the ban of seismic exploration off the tourist favourite Indian Ocean coast.



Articles



Chhath Pooja: The controversy around Delhi Jal Board and Yamuna's toxic foam

By Explained Desk
Source : Indian Express

In the run-up to the Chhath Pooja festival celebrated from October 28 to 31, Delhi's political parties made allegations and counter-claims regarding the quality of water in the Yamuna river.

Last year too, images of devotees praying to the sun to mark the festival, while standing amid the toxic foam covering the river's surface, had raised concerns and led to BJP criticising the Aam Aadmi Party government. Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal hit back, asking the BJP to give an account of its 15 years in the Municipal Corporation of Delhi.

This year, West Delhi MP Parvesh Sahib Singh Verma clashed with a Delhi Jal Board (DJB) official over the use of "defoamers" to tackle the froth. On October 30, the official took a bath on the Yamuna banks using its water at Kalindi Kunj, after filing a complaint against BJP leaders.

What was the issue with the toxic foam in Yamuna?

The AAP hit out at Verma on October 28, after a video emerged of the MP speaking sternly with an official of the DJB who was in charge of spraying a "defoamer" in the river ahead of Chhath Pooja. In the video shared by

DJB Vice Chairman Saurabh Bharadwaj on Twitter, Verma said to the official about the defoamer chemical, "After eight years, you have remembered now that it is approved? You take a dip in it now."

The official then asked Verma why he is getting angry. "Why do you think people will die of this? It is a chemical that is approved by the US FDA. The NMCG (National Mission for Clean Ganga) has also approved it," he said. In response to this, Verma said: "Tere sar pe daal doon yeh chemical? Tum yahan pe chemical daal do paani mein aur yahan pe log lagayenge dubki, yeh main tere sar par daal doon? (You will spray the chemical in the water here and people will come to take a dip in the water. I'll pour this over your head?) Sharam nahin aati tumhein? (Are you not ashamed?)."



Articles



Why does the Yamuna froth every year around Chhath Pooja?

The reason behind the foaming is usually the presence of phosphates from detergents, and anaerobic bacteria in the water that falls from a height at the Okhla barrage, an official from the DJB said.

Sushmita Sengupta, Senior Programme Manager of the Water Programme at the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) said that at this time of the year, the river is in a lean phase and the water flow is less.

Pollutants, therefore, are not diluted, causing foaming. The defoamer neutralizes the phosphates, the DJB official said. The spraying to combat the foaming is confined to the part of the river near the Okhla barrage since much of the foam is generated here. "Spraying began after Diwali, with a focus on Chhath puja. But spraying may continue later as well, whenever there is foam in the river. Trials were done first in the laboratory, before trying it in the river. It is a temporary way of dealing with pollutants in the river," the official told The Indian Express.

How does the defoaming work?

The senior DJB official who did not want to be named said that the defoamer is a solution which can suppress the foam.

"The product has been approved by the US FDA as a defoamer. Various types of defoamers are available in the market. This is a polyoxypropylene-based defoamer, and it is not poisonous. It is easily available

in the market. If something poisonous is sprayed in the water, the biggest effect is usually on the dissolved oxygen, which reduces. Before spraying, the dissolved oxygen in the Yamuna was 3.96 mg/litre. Now, after spraying, it is 4.8 mg/litre, which means there it has no effect on the river's ecology," the official said.

"The defoamer is being diluted at a ratio of 1:100, which means that even constituents like silicone will not be risky since they are only present in residual form. Besides, the spraying of the defoamer has been approved by the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)," the official said.

A release from the Ministry of Jal Shakti earlier this month said that a joint committee of "stakeholders" was formed "to oversee and coordinate efforts to minimise froth formation downstream of Okhla barrage" during Chhath puja. The committee includes representatives from the DJB, Delhi Pollution Control Committee, NMCG, Upper Yamuna River Board and Uttar Pradesh Irrigation Department. The communication from the Ministry said: "It has been decided that eco-friendly anti-surfactant shall be sprayed from 25/10/2022 onwards till Chhath Puja from boat-mounted sprayers."

Manoj Misra of the Yamuna Jiye Abhiyaan pointed out that the foam is generated by pollutants in the water mainly from detergents and industrial effluents. "The foam is a year-round phenomenon in the river. It sees an upward trend around this time because winter sets in and the oxygenation of river water is reduced. Defoamers are used in industries, and silicone defoamers are used. It is a man-made polymer and it is not to be used in the way it has been sprayed here. It is effective in the sense that it can immediately do away with froth. But the issue is that they should be cautious



Articles



Why the idea to convert protected areas like the Aravallis into safari parks is a recipe for disaster

By Explained Desk
Source : Indian Express

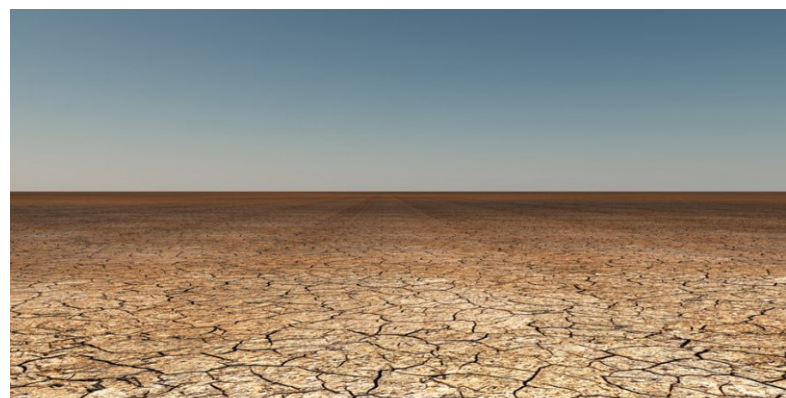
In India, we have also devastated our wilderness and driven expressways through national parks

All over the world these days, the trend is to “rewild” wilderness and wasteland areas, to bring them back as close as possible to their original state of nature.

This has happened with some success in the US and in Europe – where nearly every wild area was manicured and pedicured and planted with trees all standing stiffly to attention in plantations, which were regularly “harvested” and “managed” (as if Mother Nature was inept at her job.) Now they’re letting Mother Nature take down her hair again; wear it wild all over her face, and take over what she’s best at doing: keeping the world ticking over.

Here in India, we have also devastated our wilderness areas, turned them into wastelands, driven expressways through national parks and built helipads in the last places they ought to be built (by slaughtering scores of trees that refused to be evicted). And now, we want to convert protected areas – such as the Aravallis into safari parks like the ones they have in Dubai and Singapore.

I saw some pictures of the Dubai safari park and was horrified: if that’s what they want to do to the Aravallis god help Mother Nature. As for Singapore’s famous “night safari” I visited that many years ago – an experience that was bizarre to say the least. A train running on rubberized wheels (to keep it quiet) took you from one ecosystem to another: the enclosures were relatively small and the animals seemed listless and semi-tame. A pair of tigers, probably unaware, or uncaring, that they were being watched by dozens of people conducted their of metres away from your embarrassed gaze: it was the most demeaning thing to do to the most magnificent apex predator in the world.



Articles



You could walk along a trail too, from one ecosystem to another, along a wooden board-walk. And just in case this rough jungle trek tired you, every so often there'd be a little shelter (with a whirring fan, if I remember rightly) where you could catch your breath. Of course, everything was brilliantly signposted – where you were going, what animals you were seeing and so on and so forth and you could get all the information you wanted at the press of a button. But of wildness, there was none!

were tastefully done, and the aviaries for birds from various regions were full of apparently happily singing birds of every hue. But there was this: in the aviary for rainforest birds, a pathway ran around the circumference of the aviary, in the midst of which they had planted their "rainforest". Promptly at noon a simulated thunderstorm began, showering down on the rainforest as it does in any self-respecting rainforest. But not a single drop of water was allowed to fall on you on the path (they like to keep you on the straight and narrow!). I guess it was something like the way it often rains in Delhi, when one side of your house gets wet but not the other!

What was worse were the shows. They would put magnificent eagles, hawks and owls through their paces, flying across an amphitheatre from their perch to snatch a tidbit being held by a keeper. Yes, so you did see these birds in action and it did heighten your appreciation for them. But later, you came across these same "stars" shackled to perches all in a row, a sight which uneasily reminded you of slaves in the galley of a ship sailing for America back in those

terrible days.

I dread to think what's going to happen in the Aravallis, with all those grandiose plans in the offing. It is 10,000 hectares they're wanting to meddle with. It seems suspiciously more a money-making project than one about caring for or protecting wildlife and nature. If it is already a protected area, really all we need to do is to protect it as fiercely and loyally as rottweilers! By all means round up the local youths for this, and give them jobs (and better careers) to guide and show visitors around, but leave the landscape and its denizens as is. Don't convert it into a glorified zoo.

I won't be surprised that, once it is done, the demand will go up for live action "natural" shows to be staged – tigers or leopards stalking and taking down chital and sambar; cobras battling mongooses, eagles pouncing on hapless bunnies. But I guess our die-hard vegans will come to the rescue here and insist that the carnivores be fed with soyabean nuggets and khichri instead.

By all means we should develop safari parks – but in devastated wastelands where we have killed, poisoned and destroyed every living thing, including the soil, water and air; not in already protected areas. And given the will and proper scientific inputs (and no political interference) we can do wonders. The Yamuna Biodiversity Park at Wazirabad in Delhi is testament to that. So as a real challenge – how about converting the three monstrous, simmering garbage landfills around Delhi into safari parks? A warning: be quick otherwise some smart aleck tour operator is surely going to cash in and promote them as prime destinations for Eyesore and Stench Tourism!





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EIA Study & Environment Management Plan for NABET accredited Sector (20)
Technical environmental consultancy services
Post project EC compliances & regular monitoring



Odour monitoring & Mitigation/ Management Services

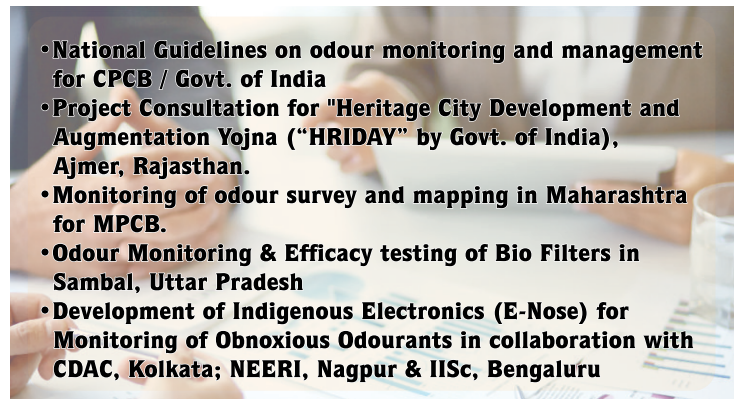


Corporate Environment, Health & Safety (EHS) Compliance Audit



Environmental Laboratory and Post Clearance Compliance Monitoring for Air, Water, Soil & Noise etc.

MILESTONE PROJECTS

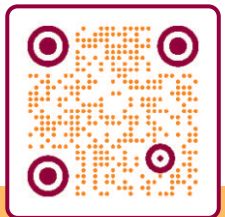


- National Guidelines on odour monitoring and management for CPCB / Govt. of India
- Project Consultation for "Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojna ("HRIDAY" by Govt. of India), Ajmer, Rajasthan.
- Monitoring of odour survey and mapping in Maharashtra for MPCB.
- Odour Monitoring & Efficacy testing of Bio Filters in Sambal, Uttar Pradesh
- Development of Indigenous Electronics (E-Nose) for Monitoring of Obnoxious Odourants in collaboration with CDAC, Kolkata; NEERI, Nagpur & IISc, Bengaluru

Clientele



- 120+ Employees
- 3000+ environmental initiatives globally in diverse sectors
- 2700+ Category A Projects
- 1200+ Mining projects for technical consultancy
- 10+ Corporate EHS Compliance Audits for Textile, Mining and Cement Industries



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