



News

Delhi plans its first 'green' budget to tackle bad air

With alarmingly high pollution levels in the capital raising serious health concerns, the Aam Aadmi Party government has decided to come up with a multi-department action plan in the 2018-19 Delhi Budget, to be presented in March. Discussions around what is being projected as Delhi's first "green budget" started last week and, by mid-February, the government plans to finalise proposals that will form a part of an action plan to be implemented in the new financial year. Through this action plan, the government is aiming for a "visible impact" over the next two years, sources say, adding that the government feels that air pollution in Delhi has reached crisis levels. Officials cite several [Read more...](#)

Date: February 05, 2018

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/>

China is re-assigning 60,000 troops to plant trees

China will plant new forests covering an area of 84,000 square kilometers, roughly the size of Ireland, in 2018, as it aims to increase forest coverage to 23% of total landmass by the end of the decade, China Daily reported last week. The current forested area stands at 21%. Meanwhile, a separate source in the Central Military Commission said a large regiment of the People's Liberation Army – in addition to the nation's armed police force, which has just been absorbed into the commission – have been withdrawn from northern border areas and tasked with a new mission: planting trees. The actual number of soldiers mobilized is said to be over 60,000. The armed police force has [Read more...](#)

Date: February 09, 2018

Source: <http://www.atimes.com/>

A tree for every major life event" to boost air quality and mental health

A Northern Ireland local authority has begun a programme of planting a native tree to mark every birth, death and marriage registered with it, "as part of a wider strategy to improve air quality and the public's mental health". The Life Tree Project has been launched by Derry City and Strabane District Council in partnership with Northern Ireland's Public Health Agency, which provided funding, and the North West Regional College, which assisted in its marketing. It will see around 4,000 new trees planted in the area each year, with the council encouraging registering families to plant the tree at their own property, but if this lacks a suitable location it says it will plant a tree for them [Read more...](#)

Date: February 13, 2018

Source: <https://www.hortweek.com/>

Breathing bus stops and forest cities – which places will soon have the cleanest air?

This week marks the 15th anniversary of the London Congestion Charge, the revolutionary initiative to reduce traffic and cut air pollution in the capital. On top of the standard congestion charge, high-exhaust vehicles are now penalised extra for entering the low-emission zone under the T-Charge scheme, to be replaced by the Ultra Low Emission Zone in 2019. This will be expanded out to the North and South Circular roads in 2021. But despite all efforts, both congestion and air pollution in the capital are still excessively high. Traffic analytics firm INRIX recently revealed that London is Europe's second most congested city after Moscow, reporting that drivers in the capital [Read more...](#)

Date: February 13, 2018

Source: <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/>

Dedicated plan for 100 cities to reduce air pollution levels

Looking beyond Delhi which has long been in focus due to its bad air quality, the Centre has decided to launch dedicated air pollution abatement programmes soon in around 100 additional cities with a target to reduce pollution levels in each of these cities by 35% in the next three years and 50% in the next five years. It will be part of the Centre's ongoing National Clean Air Programme where the environment ministry in coordination with the state governments would work on achieving results within the set time line. The list of 100 cities, identified on the basis of level of pollutants such as NO₂, PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀, include all the major cities including Mumbai, Pune, Nagpur, Lucknow, Kanpur, Varanasi, Chandigarh and Kolkata among others. Maharashtra has the maximum number of cities (17) in the list followed by Uttar Pradesh (15), Punjab (8), Himachal Pradesh (7), Odisha (6) and Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Assam and Rajasthan (5 each). "We will strengthen the National Clean Air Programme in around 100 non-attainment cities where parameters (air quality) are not right and require attention", said environment minister Harsh Vardhan while announcing the Centre's target [Read more...](#)

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Source: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/>

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