



## News

**National Clean Air Programme likely to be notified by July end: Environment ministry**

The National Clean Air Programme (NCAP), which proposes multiple strategies to combat air pollution, is likely to be notified by the end of this month, a top environment ministry official said today. "It (notification of NCAP) should be done soon, say, by the end of this month," Union environment secretary CK Mishra told PTI on the sidelines of an event here. The Environment Ministry has prepared the draft NCAP with an objective to come up with a comprehensive plan for prevention, control and abatement of air pollution, and to augment the air quality monitoring network across the country. Various green groups have submitted their recommendations to the ministry on the draft.....[Read more...](#)

**Date:** July 04, 2018

**Source:** The Economic Times

**Gurgaon residents plan Chipko to save trees**

A citizens' group is planning a Gurugram version of 'Chipko' movement, on the lines of the one launched in south Delhi recently, to save around 100 trees that are likely to be removed for a proposed revival of Bal Bhawan in Sector 4. On Sunday, some members of the group called on state forest minister Rao Narbir Singh, seeking his intervention. But officials said the contract to build new Bal Bhawan had already been awarded to a company and thus the trees could not be saved. As TOI reported last week, 28 trees will be cut while another 78 trees will be transplanted by MCG for the renovation project. MCG has already obtained permission for uprooting the trees from the forest department. ".....[Read more...](#)

**Date:** July 10, 2018

**Source:** The Times of India

**Niti Aayog proposes 15-point action plan to deal with air pollution**

Niti Aayog has proposed 15-point action plan for combating air pollution in ten most polluted cities in the country, including Delhi, Kanpur and Varanasi. The draft action plan titled 'Breathe India' includes encouraging electric vehicles, phasing out private diesel vehicle and development of crop residue utilisation policy. According to a recent WHO database (2018), Kanpur, Faridabad, Gaya, Varanasi, Agra, Gurgaon, Muzaffarpur, Lucknow and Patna are the top ten most polluted cities in India. Last month, air quality of Delhi had deteriorated beyond severe level because of a ground-level dust storm in western India, as per the Central Pollution Control Board data. Every year, air quality of Delhi plummets to very poor levels during winter season. The action plan also includes expediting strategic.....[Read more...](#)

**Date:** July 11, 2018

**Source:** The Economic Times

**Uranium pollution damaging crops, health of people in Kadapa district: Scientists**

Hundreds of people living in villages around the uranium plant at Tummalapalle in Kadapa district are suffering from a plethora of diseases caused allegedly by leachate of uranium radionuclei and alkali material used in the processing of uranium ore. Scientists for People (SFP), an environment protection body of scientists and researchers, has called upon the Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL), which owns the uranium mines and plant at Tummalapalle, to conduct a comprehensive survey by independent scientists to arrive at the extent of pollution, particularly groundwater. It alleges that all research studies conducted thus far are by Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) or its associate bodies. The studies mainly concentrated on the pollution caused by uranium and did not bother to investigate into the contamination caused by alkali chemicals used in processing the uranium ore.....[Read more...](#)

**Date:** July 12, 2018

**Source:** The Times of India

**A cheap way to save rice plants from the effects of acid rain**

ACID rain damages crops. In particular, it damages rice, because many rice-growing countries, which are predominantly in Asia, do not have in place the pollution-control mechanisms that are now routine in the wheat-growing continents of Europe and North America. A rice crop soaked by acid rain can be saved if it is rinsed with clean water. But it is not always obvious when that needs doing, for rainfall varies in its acidity and is not always acidic enough to cause harm. What is needed is a cheap and reliable way of finding out whether a particular set of plants have actually been stressed by a fall of acid rain. And Wang Xin of Nankai University, in Tianjin, China, thinks he has one. It relies on the reaction of soil bacteria to molecules secreted by plant roots.....[Read more...](#)

**Date:** July 12, 2018

**Source:** The Economist

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