NEWSBULLETIN

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CSIR-NATIONAL BOTANICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE, LUCKNOW

The Environmental Information System at Eco-Auditing Laboratory, National Botanical Research Institute is focussed on "Plants & Pollution". This is the E-mail Publication that Feature News, Information and Events Related to Plants & Pollution.

The Focus of ENVIS has been on Providing Environmental Information to Decision Makers, Policy Planners, Scientists and Engineers, Research Workers, etc. all over the World.

Eco-Auditing Group is Involved in R & D on Eco-Monitoring, Environmental Impact Assessment, Eco-Friendly Models that are Technologically and Economically Feasible for Phytoremedia--tion of Polluted Lands and Polluted Waters etc.

News

In Kolkata, one man's grit helped restore an abandoned dump yard to its former green glory

Besides being called the "city of joy", Kolkata, the capital of the East Indian state of West Bengal, has recently been labelled as one of the most polluted cities in the country. In the midst of the concrete jungle, however, in the southern part of the city, lies a surprise – a lush green forest patch which stands in the place of a dump yard. Over the past decade or so, Mantu Hait, a city-based lawyer, has spruced up a kilometre-long stretch of a barren, dump yard to shelter 25,000 trees spanning 150 plus species through guerilla gardening. Guerilla gardening is a technique where a significant amount of seeds are planted together at one place and left to get water from rain. Usually, when you don't have legal rights to use the land for a particular type of plantation, ...**Read more...**

Date: February 17, 2020
Source: Scroll.in

Engineered yeast can remove heavy metals from wastewater

As the world's demand for electronic goods and other chemicals grows continuously, environmental heavy metal contamination grows too. Traditional chemical approaches to dealing with the problem can be ineffective and difficult, especially in the developing world where contamination is often most severe. Researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, US, have genetically engineered yeast to precipitate heavy metals from solutions of contaminated water. They demonstrated their organism's effectiveness by cleaning up samples from notoriously polluted oil sands in Canada, and claim the yeast could easily be shipped to pollution hotspots elsewhere. The most effective way to precipitate heavy metal contaminants is by forming sulfide minerals. However, as .....**Read more...**

Date: February 18, 2020
Source: Chemistry World

Newly found bacteria fights climate change, soil pollutants

Cornell researchers have found a new species of soil bacteria—which they named in memory of the Cornell professor who first discovered it—that is particularly adept at breaking down organic matter, including the cancer-causing chemicals that are released when coal, gas, oil and refuse are burned. "Microbes have been here since life began, almost 4 billion years. They created the system that we live in, and they sustain it," said Dan Buckley, professor of microbial ecology in the Section of Soil and Crop Sciences in the School of Integrative Plant Science. "We may not see them, but they're running the show." Buckley and five other Cornell researchers, along with colleagues from Lycoming College, described the new bacterium in a paper, ...**Read more...**

Date: February 21, 2020
Source: phys.org

Pandemics, supply disruptions could turn into security threats

Originating in China in the 1850s, spread by fleas during a mining boom in Yunan, and moving to India via Hong Kong, the bubonic plague claimed at least 15 million lives, and perhaps catalysed the Parthay and Taiping rebellions. India faced the most substantial casualties – some 10 million -- and the epidemic was used as an excuse for repressive policies that sparked a minor revolt against the British. The pandemic was considered still virulent until about 1960. As the coronavirus advances through China and jolts the rest of the world, the pharmaceutical industry is on vigil over the security of its global supply chain. Over the past decade, China has established its numero uno position in the global market for active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs), the elementary .....**Read more...**

Date: February 23, 2020
Source: Deccan Herald

Seeds in Tibet face impacts from climate change

A new study published in the Ecological Society of America's journal Ecological Applications examines how warming and increased precipitation (rain and snow) harms the seeds in the ground of the Tibetan Plateau and elsewhere. "Soil seed banks are essentially the last resort of natural resilience in ecosystems," says Scott Collins, professor at New Mexico University and an author on the paper. "Too often we focus on what we see above ground and base management decisions just on the appearance of the plant community." The Tibetan Plateau, a place that has been grazed for thousands of years, is an ideal place to study direct and indirect climate effects on vegetation in a fragile environment. The study states that as the highest plateau in the world, averaging over .....**Read more...**

Date: February 25, 2020
Source: Science Daily