



News

Water quality in rivers poor, pollution board launches plantation campaign

In a bid to improve the water quality of the Sukhana, Markanda and Sirsa river stretches, which figure in the 351 polluted stretches in the country, the State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) today kick started a plantation drive at Baddi. Dr RK Pruthi, member secretary, SPCB, while elaborating on their endeavour, said they would adopt the phytoremediation technique to reduce pollution in these rivers. He said plantation was initiated today from the common effluent treatment plant at Baddi. In Himachal, seven river stretches have been identified as "critically polluted", where biological oxygen demand (BoD), which is the dissolved oxygen needed by organisms to break down organic material, was found to be above the permissible limit. These rivers were Sukhana, Markanda, Sirsa and Ashwani, stretches of the Beas, Giri and Pabbar. In the Sukhana river stretch in Parwanoo, the BoD was as[Read more...](#)

Date: June 22, 2019

Source: The Tribune India

Clearing the air: the hidden wonders of indoor plants

It may come as a surprise but air pollution levels indoors are almost always higher than outside, even in busy city centres. Even more surprising is that indoor plants have the ability to mitigate high levels of most airborne contaminants. Ventilation systems constantly 'refresh' buildings with air from outdoors after a filtration process that removes some large particles, such as pollen, from it. Once inside, this air is augmented by a large range of indoor-sourced pollutants. Two of the most significant of these are volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and carbon dioxide. Volatile organic compounds are petrochemical vapours that are 'outgassed' or continuously liberated from building materials, such as paint and carpet, as well as furnishings, plastics and electronic equipment. In high concentrations, many of these agents are acutely toxic and carcinogenic. Some even disrupt the endocrine systems of animals.....[Read more...](#)

Date: June 23, 2019

Source: MENAFN

The power of plants: the benefits of our leafy friends are greater than you think

We all know about the benefits of getting out into green space, but if you don't live close to a park and your average day doesn't allow you to skip off for a forest frolic, how can you still benefit from plant power? Well, you can always bring nature home with you or even take it into the office. For the price of a week's worth of cappuccinos, you can buy a pot plant. They're not just decorative. Thirty years ago a study by Nasa was the first to show the benefits of pot plants on health. It's estimated that as many as 4 million people die worldwide each year due to the effects of air pollution and much of that is indoor air pollution. Fortunately Nasa discovered that certain types of indoor plant can actually improve air quality by absorbing toxic chemical nasties like formaldehyde which is found in cigarette smoke and also commonly used in furniture manufacture. It's not only what the plants absorb[Read more...](#)

Date: June 23, 2019

Source: Independent Minds

China and India Are Making a Greener Earth

Measurements from space show that some parts of the northern hemisphere, notably China and India, are a lot greener than they used to be, which is potentially very good news for the climate. Growing vegetation takes up a great deal of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, so the more that plants and trees can use, the greater the chance of slowing global warming. The new findings appear especially positive in the light of earlier studies of global vegetation trends. Science has already found that climate change can affect the Earth's vegetation pattern adversely. There is also concern that the effort to grow crops to combat climate change will itself leave less space for other vegetation. And changes in Arctic vegetation are prompting concern that they could promote an increase in releases of greenhouse.....[Read more...](#)

Date: June 25, 2019

Source: The Good Men Project

Gomti breathes uneasy, loses flora & fauna

Dissolved oxygen (DO) in the Gomti river has plummeted to a perilous level where it can no longer sustain aquatic life, a survey carried out by environmentalists have revealed. The DO level should be at least 8.5mg/litre to make river water fit for human consumption while a drop below 5mg/litre makes it unfit for flora and fauna. But, along some stretches of Gomti, the water is so toxic that the DO is down to 0.5mg/litre, the study conducted by professor Venkatesh Dutta and his team shows to explain why only eight species of fish out of 51 are left in the river. Also, barring water hyacinth, no other plant species have survived the onslaught of pollution. The findings are similar to those of the Uttar Pradesh Solid Waste Management and Monitoring Committee, a panel constituted by the National Green Tribunal (NGT), which on Monday advised people against bathing or even boating in Gomti.....[Read more...](#)

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Source: The Times of India

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