



News

Fiinnovation launches a phytoremediation based tree plantation initiative 'ECOTOPIA'

Innovative Financial Advisors (Fiinnovation), a leading research and advisory agency in the corporate social responsibility (CSR) and sustainability sphere, earlier this month launched a new initiative called 'ECOTOPIA'. As a part of this initiative, Fiinnovation pledges to plant a million trees by the end of 2020 with the support and participation of its partners. Dr Soumitro Chakraborty, CEO Fiinnovation, along with his team members, set the programme in motion in the first week of September 2020, by planting tree saplings around Fiinnovation's Delhi office. For the initiative, the organization aims to partner with corporates and utilize its vast network of more than 2000 implementation partners (civil society organizations) spread across the nation. Through ECOTOPIA, Fiinnovation will help corporates in steering their environment-related CSR goals in the right direction.

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Date: September 22, 2020

Source: Business World

Fiinnovation to plant 1 million trees by the 2020-end across India to reduce soil toxicity

With an aim to plant 1 million trees by the 2020-end across the country, Fiinnovation launched a phytoremediation-based tree plantation initiative called Ecotopia. The research and advisory agency says this will be done with the help of its network of over 2,000 implementing partners, including corporates, across India. "Rapid industrialisation and urbanisation has resulted in deforestation and contamination of soil, water, and air, which in turn has accentuated the adverse effects of climate change. It has also had an inverse impact on the rich biodiversity," says CEO of Fiinnovation, Dr Soumitro Chakraborty. "Mitigating the effects of climate change requires concerted efforts by one and all. We are contributing our bit towards climate remediation through this initiative. It is a small step but we feel it will create awareness," he says, exhorting all public and private enterprises,

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Date: September 24, 2020

Source: The New Indian Express

How do aquatic plants respond to combined effects of cadmium and low carbon dioxide?

Cadmium (Cd), classified as a human carcinogen, is dispersed into aquatic ecosystems mainly through industrial processes or via the application of phosphate fertilizers. The high solubility of Cd in water facilitates its wide distribution in aquatic systems, and it can be readily taken up by aquatic plants and cause phytotoxicity. For aquatic plants, carbon-shortage is another common problem. Nevertheless, the aquatic plants have evolved carbon dioxide-concentrating mechanisms (CCMs) to counter the problem of inorganic carbon limitation. Very few reports are available on the combined effects of Cd and low inorganic carbon stress in aquatic plants. *Ottelia alismoides* is the only known species to perform three CO₂-concentrating mechanisms (CCMs): facultative Crassulacean acid metabolism (CAM), constitutive bicarbonate (HCO₃⁻) use and C₄ photosynthesis.

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Date: September 25, 2020

Source: Phys.org

Delhi air pollution set to spike again as stubble burning begins and economy reopens

The approaching winter signals the annual return of the dreaded pollution and smog in Delhi — largely attributed to Punjab and Haryana farmers burning paddy stubble in their fields. But this time around, the resumption of economic activity after the Covid-induced lockdown could end up being as big a culprit. The lockdown gave Delhiites a breath of fresh air for several months. At the beginning of September, the air quality index (AQI) in Delhi was recorded at 41 — the lowest since the National Air Quality Index was launched in 2014. However, just as satellite images began spotting farm fires in Punjab last week, Delhi's air quality too began to deteriorate — the capital's AQI Monday morning was at 140, which falls in the moderate category.

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Date: September 29, 2020

Source: The Print

Environment Ministerial Meet On Air Pollution With Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, UP And Rajasthan On Oct 1: Javadekar

New Delhi [India], September 29 (ANI): Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Prakash Javadekar informed that this year meeting with Environment Ministers of Delhi and neighbouring states of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan will be held virtually on October 1. According to a press statement from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, highlighting that the problem of Air Pollution in the winter months in Northern states especially Delhi, apart from man-made factors are caused by meteorological and geographical factors, Javadekar at a press conference said that Central, state government and citizens need to work together towards mitigation of air pollution and it is a shared responsibility.

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Date: September 29, 2020

Source: Business World

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