



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 Phytoremediation of Polluted Lands and Polluted Waters etc.

News

Taj Mahal: Indian authorities ordered to protect historic landmark from air Pollution threats

When the Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan, the "king of the world", built a mausoleum for his wife from white marble on the banks of the Yamuna river, the domes and minarets of the Taj Mahal were what resulted. Once gleaming white, now yellowing, the dome's marble has been under threat from pollution from the black smoke that billowed from a wood-burning crematorium nearby. Now India's Supreme Court has ordered a state government to remove the offending crematorium or make it environmentally friendly to protect the iconic monument in the city of Agra. Built in the 17th century, the Taj Mahal was crafted by hand for Mumtaz Mahal, the "Chosen One of the Palace", who died giving birth to the couple's 14th child. Today, it attracts up to four million tourists each year. Uttar Pradesh has closed several nearby factories and made a conscious effort to supply uninterrupted power to the area to discourage residents from using fume-inducing, diesel-operated generators. On Monday the Supreme Court in Delhi heard that the local government could either move the crematorium away from the Taj Mahal or install an electric one in its place. [Readmore...](#)

Date: 17 November, 2015

Source: <http://www.independent.co.uk>

The Whiteness of Green Spaces

The environmental movement in the United States has a problem. From rooftop gardens to central parks, cities across the country have been putting the green into green spaces. In fact, cities like New York have committed upwards of \$130 million to revamp old parks and create new ones. Well-intentioned as they may be, these investments drive up the cost of rent in these neighborhoods, forcing low-income families out, as the wealthy flock to greener pastures. The result of this "environmental gentrification" is unfortunately, albeit predictably, racial as well as economic: The lower-income families who can't afford to live where the grass is greener — or exists at all — tend to be racial minorities. Lack of access to a park might seem like a somewhat trivial complaint until it's coupled with the fact that low-income minority communities also bear the brunt of a city's waste disposal and pollution. A study done by the Commission for Racial Justice found that race played the most important role — more so than income or property value — in the location of abandoned toxic waste facilities. Three out of five African Americans live in communities with at least one of these abandoned facilities, and three of the five largest commercial hazardous waste landfills are in predominantly Latino American or African American communities. In addition to being eyesores and a drag on property values, these waste sites pose major health risks: dioxin, lead, and mercury released in the incineration of waste leaks into the soil and water supply, polluting the environment around the facility. [Readmore...](#)

Date: 17 November, 2015

Source: <http://www.brownpoliticalreview.org>

Ministers failed to halt river pollution, say green groups

Dozens of rivers are being polluted by fertiliser and pesticides running off fields because ministers secretly decided not to use their powers to protect them, conservation groups claim. The Angling Trust and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) are taking the government to the High Court accusing it of dragging its feet over the protection of 44 rivers and wetlands, including Poole harbour in Dorset, the Fal and Helford rivers in Cornwall and the Humber estuary. [Read more...](#)

Date: 19 November, 2015

Source: <http://www.thetimes.co.uk>

Green Panel Calls Meeting of Uttarakhand Officials on Ganga Pollution

New Delhi: The National Green Tribunal today decided to hold a meeting with officials of Uttarakhand government on Thursday to deliberate on a strategy to make Ganga pollution-free in the state. "Let the Secretary (Urban Development), Secretary (Water Supply), Secretary (Tourism), Secretary (Environment) and Member Secretary of concerned authorities be present on November 26, in Chamber of Chairperson," a bench headed by NGT Chairperson Swatanter Kumar said. The green panel, which was directed by the Supreme Court to act against industrial units polluting Ganga, passed the order after advocate MC Mehta, who has filed the petition for cleaning of Ganga, said most units operating from Gomukh to Haridwar were operating without obtaining No Objection Certificate (NOC). The argument was denied by the counsel for Uttarakhand, who said that the state was "least polluting" and no hotel, ashram, dharamshala was running without NOC. [Read more...](#)

Date: 24 November, 2015

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

Coca Cola plant 'spewing toxic waste' near Delhi: Pollution report by Centre's top green watchdog claims sewage is leaking into pond near agricultural fields

A Coca Cola plant is spewing out raw or partially-treated sewage and toxic industrial waste into a pond surrounded by agricultural fields near Delhi, the Centre's top green watchdog has said. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has indicted the Hindustan Coca-Cola Beverages Pvt. Ltd (HCCB) after three of the four clean-up plants at its Hapur (UP) facility were found to be defunct. The plant has been running without the requisite 'consent to operate' for a year, the CPCB has said in its inspection report. Granted after periodic audits, the consent is a key safeguard against environmental degradation. The inspection, ordered by the National Green Tribunal (NGT), found a 75m x 75m pond was overflowing with effluents. There was a growth of mosquitoes and flies. The coliform (found in excreta) count in the pond was about 3,500 times more than what it should be in treated waste water. Water quality in the pond - with inlet and outlet at the same corner - quality is also poor on organic strength indicators.

[Read more...](#)

Date: 25 November, 2015

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

NEWSBULLETIN COMMITTEE

Executive Editor

Dr. Nandita Singh

n.singh@nbri.res.in

Compiled By

Dr. Shivani Srivastava, Yashpal Singh, Deepmala Yadav

NBRI ENVIS Node: <http://www.nbrienvvis.nic.in>

NBRI Website: <http://www.nbri.res.in>

ENVIS Cell: <http://envvis.nic.in>

Ministry of Environment & Forests: <http://envfor.nic.in>