



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

Decibels rising, Delhi can't afford to flunk its noise pollution test

The National Green Tribunal will meet government officials, traffic cops and residents to discuss solutions to noise pollution in south Delhi's Panchsheel Park located along the busy Outer Ring Road. A petition in the green court seeks relief for 5,000-odd residents who suffer as the noise levels in their neighbourhood touch 65-75 decibels (db), while the safe limit for day and night is 55 and 45 db, respectively. They have already scored a partial victory when earlier the Tribunal directed the traffic police to declare Panchsheel Park as a no-horn zone, limit the speed of vehicles passing the area to 30 km/hr and fine the violators. Residents have been asked to grow green hedges to ward off the noise from the road. But they want a concrete sound barrier around the neighbourhood. [Readmore...](#)

Date: 04 May, 2015

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

Discoloration of the Taj Mahal: What to blame?

Agra: Even as measures -- some of them knee-jerk -- are being taken to stop the majestic Taj Mahal from turning yellow, the exact causes for the monument's discoloration are yet to be ascertained, a recent analysis shows. The analysis was undertaken by science and environment fortnightly 'Down To Earth'. "We will not be able to fix the problem unless we know the underlying cause," says Down To Earth (DTE) editor and Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) director general Sunita Narain. Different analyses have come up with different culprits, ranging from algae and dirt to the resin applied on the Taj to preserve the monument. In the 1980s, sulphur dioxide was suspected to be turning the white facade yellow. More recent studies have suggested that the scourge of pollution continues to adversely affect the white marble of the monument. [Readmore...](#)

Date: 07 May, 2015

Source: <http://zeenews.india.com>

The Big 5 for Chennai

Everyone only talks about the vital role of renewable energies such as solar and wind. But that is not enough. How does one make these renewable energies viable for use in a city, and how does one create an alternative way of living? That needs a broader perspective and wide-reaching policy changes. Here are five ideas that Chennai can implement to make it a healthier city. **1. Improve air quality** : Named the Detroit of the East, because of its fast-growing automobile industry, Chennai continues to battle with air pollution from traffic. A sustained awareness campaign on emission standards would considerably improve the air quality [Read more..](#)

Date: 09 May, 2015

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

SC wants green cover to protect Taj

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Friday slammed the Uttar Pradesh government for neglecting and "sleeping over" the issue of depleting green cover around Taj Mahal and asked for involvement of civil society in planting and preserving trees in Taj Trapezium Zone (TTZ) to protect the white marble mausoleum from pollution. A bench of Justices T S Thakur and C Nagappan said the state government had been cutting trees in TTZ for the last 19 years but failed to plant saplings despite assurance given to the court that compulsory afforestation would be done. [Read more...](#)

Date: 09 May, 2015

Source: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com>

Stormwater innovations mean cities don't just flush rainwater down the drain

More than half the world's population lives in metropolitan centers. The built environment of a city is very different from that of rural and natural areas. When it rains over a rural landscape, much of the rainwater sinks into the ground or is evaporated or transpired by trees, crops and other plants. In urban areas, though, when it rains, it pours! City streets, rooftops and parking lots make for hard surfaces that convert huge amounts of rainwater directly into runoff. In a typical city block, stormwater is collected by drains and catchbasins which then convey it underground through sewers. Finally, it's discharged to a natural water system such as a creek, river or lake. Often stormwater is released without any pollution management. That's a problem, since as water runs over urban surfaces, it picks up bacteria, heavy metals, nutrients and particulates. [Read more...](#)

Date: 12 May, 2015

Source: <http://phys.org>

This City Plans to Be the 'Greenest City in the World by 2020'

In a country reckoned to have the worst climate policies in the industrialized world, one big city is setting out to defy the central government and become 100 percent carbon neutral. Vancouver, in British Columbia, Canada, wants to establish itself as "the greenest city in the world by 2020" by demonstrating that economic growth and the welfare of its citizens depends on developing renewables, rapid transit systems, and promoting cycling and walking to curb car use. It is one of dozens of cities worldwide working towards improving the life of their citizens while reducing fossil fuel use, but it claims to have the most ambitious targets. Many city administrations in Europe have the support of their governments, but in other countries—particularly Australia and Canada, where governments are actively promoting fossil fuels—cities are having to act alone. A conference in Vancouver, attended by leaders from 45 countries, opens today to help the local government reach its goals. [Read more...](#)

Date: 13 May, 2015

Source: <http://ecowatch.com>

Government pollution policy takes chainsaw to local forests

The Government should listen to forest owners and fix their climate change policies, which are driving trees to be cut down rather than planted, meaning New Zealand's polluting greenhouse gas emissions will increase says the Green Party. The Forest Owners Association today called on the Government to fix the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) to encourage more tree planting that can act as a carbon sink and help reduce our net greenhouse gas emissions. [Read more...](#)

Date: 13 May, 2015

Source: <http://www.scoop.co.nz>

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>