

DownToEarth



REWIND  
2018

A DIGEST OF  
**ENVIRONMENTAL  
DEVELOPMENTS**



## Down To Earth

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## AGRICULTURE

Farmers' protests ruled the headlines this year. Their distress over low farm prices, poor logistics for transport and government-assured purchases has been evident. While the 14 volumes of Dalwai committee report on doubling farmers' income provided a road map for transition from a mere Green Revolution to an Income Revolution for farmers, controversies around stubble burning causing air pollution too made news this year. Here is low down on the major developments

### FARMERS CONTINUE TO REMAIN UNDER STRESS AND PROTEST; COMMIT SUICIDES

#### In Punjab, 16,606 farm suicides in 15 years

Punjab saw 16,606 farm suicides during 2000-2015, revealed data compiled by three universities — worrisome indeed, especially at a time when debt-trapped farmers are at the brink

#### Farmers plan pan-India strike from June 1 to 10

More than 110 farmer outfits across the country planned a nationwide strike from June 1 to 10 to press for their demands.



#### Telangana's Rythu Bandhu scheme fails farmers, flops in curbing their anger

Farm distress in Telangana is rooted in the larger failure of land reforms and redistribution in the state, as well as a heightening unviability of the farm economy

#### 50,000 farmers, tribals begin march

More than 50,000 farmers from over 60 villages in the Thane-Palghar district protested against the Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train and the Mumbai-Vadodara expressway and the loss of over 1000 acres of agricultural land and houses

### CROP INSURANCE IN STATES

#### Maharashtra: Crop loans down by ₹1,426 crore

This season Maharashtra's main sowing season has begun, but farmers have been able to get less credit from banks than they did last year.

#### New crop insurance scheme gets nod of the Bihar government

Bihar state cabinet on June 6, 2018 gave its nod to the Bihar State Crop Assistance Scheme which will replace the existing system of crop insurance with effect from kharif (monsoon) season this year.

#### PMFBY payouts crash as states don't pay premium

Against claims of ₹14,453 crore made by farmers for crop losses in kharif 2017 under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, insurance firms have paid a mere ₹733 crore so far, a payout ratio of just 5%.

### PESTICIDES AND THE PEST ATTACKS

#### India bans 18 pesticides, has many more to go

Around three years after the Anupam Verma Committee submitted its recommendations, the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare has finally issued the Pesticides (Prohibition) Order, 2018, banning 18 pesticides



#### Maharashtra demands ₹93-cr penalty from seed firms

The Maharashtra government has asked cotton seed firms to pay farmers ₹93 crore for pink bollworm pest attacks.

#### After pest attack, cotton growers battle poor prices in Nagpur

The pest attack has left the cotton growers in a poor state as the rates for their produce have dropped sharply.

#### Fall Armyworm detected on sugarcane crops in Tamil Nadu

Worm found in four

sugarcane fields in the districts of Erode and Karur

### STATES ADOPT ORGANIC FARMING

#### Centre sanctions ₹1,500 cr for organic farming in Uttarakhand

The Centre has sanctioned ₹1,500 crore for three years to promote organic farming in Uttarakhand.

#### 250 farmers adopt organic farming to cultivate wheat in Bijnor

Under the Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana scheme, 250 farmers have adopted organic farming to cultivate wheat in Bijnor district of Uttar Pradesh.

#### Jharkhand Govt to develop 3,000 clusters for organic farming

The Jharkhand government has decided to develop 3,000 clusters for organic farming.

### AND THE SOLUTION FOR STUBBLE BURNING IS

#### Punjab cabinet okays revision of T&C of paddy straw challenge fund

The Punjab government agreed to revise the terms and conditions of the Paddy Straw Challenge fund to find a viable technological solution to combat menace of paddy straw burning

**REPORT IN FOCUS**

**Report of the Committee on Doubling Farmers' Income: Volume XIV- Comprehensive Policy Recommendations| Sep 2018| Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare**

This is a compilation of the various subject matter recommendations, which are detailed in the previous 13 Volumes. It says that the agriculture sector as a profession will become wholesome, when transition happens from a mere Green Revolution to a Farmers' Income Revolution or Income Revolution for the farmers  
<https://bit.ly/2StPL7m>

**Statewise and item-wise estimates of value of output from agriculture and allied sectors (2011-12 to 2015-16)|July 2018| Ministry Of Statistics And Programme Implementation**

This report presents information on Gross Value of Output of Agriculture and Allied Sectors for the years 2011-12 to 2015-16  
<https://bit.ly/2rWjutP>

**Agriculture Census 2015-16| Oct 2018| Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare**

This latest agricultural census shows a 1.53 per cent decline in total operated area at 157.14 million hectare as compared to 2010-11 data, but a rise in both operational holdings and female participation.  
<https://bit.ly/2GHYelD>



**All India Rural Financial Inclusion Survey 2016-17| Aug 2018| NABARD**

The survey highlighted that the average annual income of an agricultural household is ₹1,07,172 compared to ₹87,228 for families engaged only in non-agricultural activities.  
<https://bit.ly/2BCRdjc>

**POLICY IN FOCUS**

**Draft Agriculture Export Policy| March 2018| Ministry Of Commerce And Industry**

This policy is aimed at doubling the agricultural exports and integrate Indian farmers and agricultural products to the global value chain.  
<http://www.indiaenvironmentportal.org.in/content/452972/draft-agriculture-export-policy/>

**The State /UT Agricultural Produce & Livestock Contract Farming and Services (Promotion & Facilitation) Act, 2018| March 2018| Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare**

An Act to provide for improved production and marketing of agricultural produce and/or livestock and/or its product through

holistic contract farming  
<https://bit.ly/2VgcoOS>

**Draft Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in Animal Markets Rules, 2018| March 2018| Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change**

These draft rules have completely done away with the clause that banned both, the buyer and the seller, from trading cattle for slaughter.  
<https://bit.ly/2Ai4Otw>

**The Pesticides Management Bill, 2017| Feb 2018| Ministry Of Agriculture And Farmers Welfare**

This bill aims to regulate the import, manufacture, export, storage, sale, transport, distribution, quality and use of pesticides  
<https://bit.ly/2Rmsabd>



**IN COURT**

**States must take action to prevent straying of wild animals| Feb 2018|High Court of Kerala**

On Feb 5, 2018, the High Court of Kerala made it clear that it is the duty of the State to take remedial action to prevent straying of wild animals and also to



suitably compensate the farmers when damage is caused.

**Farmers with loan amount of upto ₹1,00,000/- can receive loan| May 2018| Supreme Court**

Supreme Court said that the farmers whose loan amount is up to ₹1,00,000/- (Rupees one lakh) can receive loan for the incoming agricultural season.  
<https://bit.ly/2AmFpis>

**Supreme Court demands plans for 2004-Tsunami Hit Farmers Of Andaman And Nicobar| Oct 2018| Supreme Court**

The Supreme Court on Oct 4, 2018 directed the Central government to submit a rehabilitation plan for the farmers in Andaman and Nicobar Island who were affected by the 2004 Tsunami.  
<https://bit.ly/2Q8c7i4>

## AIR

It's all in the air: pollution, health risks, wind patterns governing weather conditions and life expectancy. Indian cities are extremely polluted, so much that Delhi is gasping for fresh air. National and global studies have confirmed that the state of the air in India poses severe health risks. Governments, civil societies and judiciary have come together to check air pollution. Here is a low down on major developments.

### INDIAN CITIES ARE POLLUTED

#### India has world's 14 most polluted cities, says WHO

India is home to the world's 14 most polluted cities, the WHO said, based on the amount of particulate matter under 2.5 micrograms found in every cubic metre of air.



#### Not just Delhi, 70 Indian cities reel under air pollution

Contrary to perception, it was not just North India that was breathing polluted air in the last week of October. An analysis of Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) data shows that apart from Delhi and cities in Uttar Pradesh – Lucknow and Kanpur – cities across India were reeling from polluted air.

#### Transport-related emissions in megacities: Delhi on top, Bhopal emits the least

Urban commuting has become one of the most energy- and pollution-intensive activities in India,

contributing to increased greenhouse gas emissions, finds a diagnostic analysis of key cities of India by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), a Delhi-based think tank.

### CONFIRMED: POLLUTED AIR KILLS PEOPLE

#### Every 8th death in country is due to air pollution: ICMR

One out of every eight deaths in India is attributable to air pollution and the average life expectancy in the country would have been 1.7 years higher if the air pollution level was less than the minimal level causing health loss.

### CENTRAL, STATE GOVERNMENTS AND THE JUDICIARY TAKE ACTION TO CHECK AIR POLLUTION

#### Centre bans import of pet coke for purpose of trading

As part of measures to control air pollution, the Union Environment Ministry has banned import of pet coke for purpose of trading in Delhi and its neighbouring states.

#### Government sanctions ₹1,200 crore to clear pollution in Delhi

Central government has cleared schemes worth ₹1,200 crore to help check the air pollution in the national capital.

#### Govt sets target of 35% pollution cut for 100 cities

As part of its dedicated air pollution abatement programme for 100 polluting cities, the Centre has formulated a National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) to fight the menace through a long-term strategy.

#### Punjab cabinet okays revision of T&C of paddy straw challenge fund

In July 2018, the Punjab Cabinet agreed to revise the terms and conditions of the Paddy Straw Challenge Fund to find a viable technological solution to combat the menace of paddy straw burning.



#### 80% of target to fight stubble burning met: Haryana tells green panel

In Sep 2018, the Haryana government informed a Supreme Court-appointed environmental panel that it has been able to meet nearly 80% of the target the state had set to provide

agricultural implements to farmers to control the practice of stubble burning.

#### NGT orders 23 states, UTs to prepare action plans to fight air pollution in 2 months

The NGT on October 2, 2018 directed 23 states and Union territories, including Delhi and Chandigarh, to prepare action plans within two months to bring the air quality standard within the prescribed limit.

#### Delhi gets world's cleanest petrol, diesel to combat air pollution from April 1, 2018

World's cleanest petrol and diesel are now being supplied in Delhi after state-owned oil firms advanced roll out of Euro-VI grade fuel by two years in a bid to combat alarming levels of air pollution

#### Vehicle scrap policy gets go ahead at PMO meet; over 20-yr old commercial vehicles to face axe

India's new vehicle scrap policy was given 'in-principle' approval to pave way for removing of 20 years old commercial vehicles (CVs) from April 1, 2020.

### ELECTRIC VEHICLES TOO GET A PUSH

Uttarakhand cabinet nod to new electric vehicle manufacturing policy to

### combat pollution

In a decision aimed to rid Uttarakhand of vehicular pollution, the Cabinet gave its approval to the electric vehicle manufacturing and battery charging infrastructure promotion policy.

### To curb pollution, Telanagana to move to e-vehicles

In order to curb pollution, the Telangana government announced that it will soon introduce electric vehicles in Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation

(GHMC) and Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) in Hyderabad.

### Kerala's electric vehicles draft policy okayed by state finance department

The policy, which is the part

of NITI Aayog, aims to reduce the number of vehicles on the road with the introduction of modern shared transport system like air conditioned e-bus and e-autorickshaws.

## REPORTS AND POLICIES

### IN-FOCUS

#### Air pollution and child health: prescribing clean air| October 2018| WHO

Around 93% of the world's children under 15 years of age breathe air that is so polluted it puts their health and development at serious risk, accounting for 1.8 billion children, according to this new report published by the World Health Organization.  
<https://bit.ly/2AjWz09>

#### Breathe India: an action plan for combating air pollution| July 2018| NitiAayog

Niti Aayog has proposed 15-point action plan for combating air pollution in ten most polluted cities in



the country, including Delhi, Kanpur and Varanasi <https://bit.ly/2Q2RAON>

**Introducing the Air Quality Life Index: twelve facts about particulate air pollution, human health, and global policy|November 2018| Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago**  
Indians would have lived 4.3

years longer if the 2016 air quality met the World Health Organisation's (WHO) annual safe air quality guideline of 10 micrograms per cubic metre, according to this report

<https://bit.ly/2rY9gZO>

#### National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)- India|April 2018|Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

The goal of this programme is to meet the prescribed annual average ambient air quality standards at all locations in the country.

<https://bit.ly/2ThRtIX>

#### Source apportionment, health effects and potential

#### reduction of fine particulate matter (PM2.5) in India|May 2018| Louisiana State University

Emission from thermal power plants is the largest single-point source of pollution in India says this study <https://bit.ly/2GLvA7r>

#### Airpocalypse II: assessment of air pollution in Indian cities|January 2018|Greenpeace India

Out of 630 million close to 550 million people live in areas exceeding national standards for PM10 says this analysis

<https://bit.ly/2EU7axm>

## AIR POLLUTION IN-COURT

### IN-FOCUS

#### West Bengal to pay a sum of ₹5 crore as environmental compensation for Kolkata's poor air quality| November 2018 | National Green Tribunal

The National Green Tribunal on November 11, 2018 expressed displeasure at the failure of the State to take any effective measures to control the bad ambient air quality in Kolkata and directed the State of West Bengal to pay a sum of ₹5

crore as interim environmental compensation which would be deposited with the Central Pollution Control Board.

#### Supreme Court imposes ban on old petrol, diesel vehicles in Delhi| October 2018| Supreme Court

Supreme Court on Oct 29, 2018 ordered ban on all diesel vehicles more than 10 years' old and petrol vehicles more than 15 years' old from

plying in the Delhi- NCR.

#### Supreme Court allows sale of firecrackers, but conditions apply| October 2018| Supreme Court

Supreme Court on October 23, 2018 ruled out imposing a complete ban on the sale of firecrackers during Diwali but put certain conditions in place for the sale and use of firecrackers.

#### Meet emission norms thermal power plants told|

#### September 2018| Supreme Court

Apex court asked thermal power plants to comply with emission standards for SOX and PM by 31st December, 2021.

#### SC wants HCNG project to adhere to timeline| November 2018| SC

Apex court ordered IOC to submit quarterly reports to EPCA for regular monitoring. <https://bit.ly/2StCDPu>

## CLIMATE CHANGE

While the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report projected that impacts at 2°C are “catastrophic” for the poor and developing nations like India, news reports also provided evidences of how change in the climate has been affecting the nation and its plans to cope up. Several flagship reports and studies released at the end of the year too provided facts and figures on the state of India’s climate. Here is a low down on major developments Here is a low down on what the climate has been up to in 2018

### CLIMATE IMPACTS AGRICULTURE, FLORA, FAUNA AND PEOPLE TOO

#### IPCC report: India to be highly impacted by climate change

The IPCC report made it clear that the impact of 1.5 degrees Celsius warming is greater than what was anticipated earlier while the impacts at 2°C are “catastrophic” for the poor and for developing nations like India



#### Climate change will impact agricultural productivity: Economic Survey

Climate change is taking a toll on India’s agricultural productivity—and farmers’ incomes—the economic survey 2018 shows.

#### Water scarcity, climate change will lower living standards in India: World Bank

Overall 600 million Indians will be moderately or severely affected by changes in temperature and rainfall

warned the new World Bank report released in June 2018

#### Carbon dioxide emissions costing India up to \$210 bn every year: Study

Carbon dioxide emissions are costing the Indian economy up to \$210 billion every year, according to a global study on “social cost of carbon”. The country is likely to suffer highest economic damage from climate change after the US said the study.

#### NE states witness significant drop in rainfall due to climate change

Despite heavy periodic downpour the North Eastern states including Meghalaya have received inadequate rainfall this season because of climate change said the Indian Meteorological Department.

#### Climate change, migration hit farming of 30 crops in Uttarakhand: study

Farming of 30 traditional crops has been abandoned in Pithoragarh district in last one decade due to climate change and migration showed a study by Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun

#### Himalayan Viagra under threat from climate change: report

A prized caterpillar fungus



that is more valuable than gold and is nicknamed “Himalayan Viagra” in Asia, where it is seen as a wonder drug, is becoming harder to find due to climate change said a report published in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences

#### Climate change to diminish habitat of the Nilgiri Tahr

Most of the existing habitats of the Nilgiri Tahr in the Western Ghats will become unsuitable as global warming intensifies projects a study by Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE)

#### Yak in Indian Himalayas face threat of climate change

Yak – the lifeline of pastoral nomads in high altitudes of the Indian Himalayan region – is facing the threat of gradually rising temperatures in the region

#### STATES AND CITIES STEP UP ACTIONS TO COPE WITH CLIMATE IMPACTS

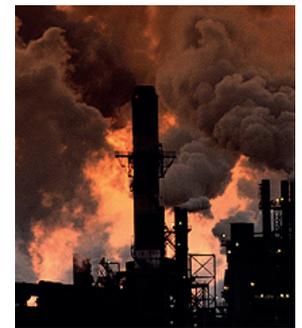
BEE comes up with first state

#### energy efficiency index

Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) has come up with the country’s first state energy efficiency preparedness index to achieve India’s climate commitments

#### India plans ₹65,000-crore project to reduce greenhouse gases from agriculture

The goal of the project, with a run period 2018-2025, is to “sequester” 49.9 million tonnes of carbon gases through improved agro-ecosystems.



#### Global Climate Action Summit: Indian cities, states step up climate action plans

In Sep 2018 at the Global Climate Action Summit, mayors and government functionaries of Indian cities have announced to scale up their actions to combat climate change and to protect people from hazardous climate impacts.

India among 170 countries to ink deal to reduce shipping emissions by 2050

In April 2018, over 170 countries, including India, signed an agreement in London to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by at least 50 per cent (based on 2008 levels) from shipping by 2050.



### **Maharashtra adopts a plan on climate change**

Eight years after the Centre's direction to formulate a state

action plan on climate change, the Maharashtra adopts a plan on climate change, but meteorologists and environment experts aren't satisfied with the action plan

### **Himachal Pradesh and Bihar opt for climate-smart agriculture**

Himachal Pradesh is going to be the first state in India to get its climate-smart agriculture (CSA) profile done. The agriculture department in Bihar with support from the Borlaug Institute for South Asia (BISA) has also launched a project to develop 100 climate smart

villages in the state



### **Orissa releases a five-year plan to deal with climate change**

On June 6, 2018, the state government released a five-year action plan on climate change

### **Delhi decides to deal with climate-related seasonal health issues**

Delhi government's health

department is preparing a road map on how to deal with the seasonal changes in the Capital

### **Katowice delivers Paris rulebook, but everyone is not satisfied**

At COP 24 in Katowice on Dec 16, 2018 nearly 200 countries agreed upon and adopted a rulebook to implement Paris Agreement. But India and many other developing countries said that the "balance" that they would have liked to see in the agreement was missing.

## REPORTS AND POLICIES

### REPORT IN-FOCUS

#### **South Asia's hot spots: impacts of temperature and precipitation changes on living standards| June 2018| World Bank**

Climate change could cost India 2.8 per cent of GDP, and lower living standards of nearly half of its population by 2050, as average annual temperatures are expected to rise by 1-2 per cent over three decades, warns this new report released by the World Bank <https://bit.ly/2SnplnC>

#### **Global warming of 1.5 C| IPCC Secretariat| Oct 8, 2018**

This latest report of the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released on Oct 8, 2018 warned that global warming is occurring faster than anticipated and that it can have devastating impacts if

steps are not taken to cut down emissions. <https://bit.ly/2SjboIK>

#### **Global Climate Risk Index 2019| Dec 2018| Germanwatch**

India ranked 14th in this index released at the annual climate summit in Poland's Katowice city in Dec 2018 <https://bit.ly/2GTqr98>

#### **Global carbon budget 2018| Global carbon project**

Global carbon emissions jump to all-time high in 2018 and almost all countries are contributing to the rise, with emissions in China up 4.7%, in the US by 2.5% and in India by 6.3% in 2018. <https://bit.ly/2rY89th>

#### **The 2018 report of the Lancet Countdown on health and climate change: shaping the health of nations for centuries to come| Dec 2018| Lancet**



Average person experienced an additional 1.4 days of heatwaves per year in 2017 compared with 2000 revealed research from the University of York published in Lancet. <https://bit.ly/2rU6h4O>

#### **Performance of the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC): Committee on Estimates (2018-19)| Dec 2018| Lok Sabha**

Taking note of adverse consequences of retreating of Himalayan glaciers, the Parliamentary panel

recommended the Centre to make adequate financial allocation and infrastructure available for an extensive study of the ecosystem to measure the extent of glacial retreat and the ways to mitigate its effects. <https://bit.ly/2TdRhdk>

#### **Climate vulnerability assessment for the Indian Himalayan region using a common framework| Nov 2018| Ministry Of Science And Technology**

Ecologically fragile Indian Himalayan region is highly vulnerable to climate change and among the 12 states in the region, Assam is found to be the most vulnerable. <https://bit.ly/2SjE8zK>

## FORESTS AND WILDLIFE

The forest cover in the country has increased by about 1%, according to the biennial State of Forests Report 2017 released this year by the Forest Survey of India, but 21.23 per cent of the land is under forest cover according to Niti Aayog. Picture this: protests against forest lands acquired by the government for development projects dominated news headlines this year. The draft forest policy 2018 criticised by the environmentalists was also a major development of the year. Here is a low down on the major developments

### 21.23% land under forest cover against recommended 33% recommended in the national forest policy

Niti Aayog portal shows that India has a 21.23% land under forest cover against recommended 33% recommended in the national forest policy.



### DEVELOPMENT AT THE COST OF FOREST LANDS

#### Forest lands acquired for development projects

As many as 26 cases across 11 states show that forest land is being acquired by the government for development projects, according to Land Conflict Watch.

#### Maharashtra lost 63sqkm of forest land in 3 years

Maharashtra ranked fourth in India for maximum forest land diverted, with 40 proposals sanctioned over three years.

#### 2200 ha of forest land diverted in Gujarat

The Gujarat forest

department has diverted nearly 2,200 hectares of forest land for purposes.

#### Agra's green activists stall road project through protected forest

Agra's green activists successfully stalled the Northern Bypass road project through the protected Keetham forest along the Yamuna.

#### 1000 forest trees to face axe for laying of Sgr-Leh transmission line

Hundreds of forest trees have been cut down in different forest areas of this central Kashmir district to lay 220 kV Srinagar-Leh transmission line.

#### NORTH EASTERN STATES LOSE FOREST COVER; FOREST COVER LOST IN MAJOR CITIES TOO

#### Total forest cover rises in India but five Northeast states witness decline

India has shown an increasing trend in the forest and tree cover as against the global trend of decreasing forest cover during the last decade, but there has been decrease in forest cover in five northeastern states.

#### In last 13 years, Delhi lost 112,169 trees—1 per hour

The National Capital, Delhi has lost around 112,169 trees

since 2005, a data released by Delhi government shows.

#### Chennai's green cover is reducing by 2% every year: report

A report submitted by Care Earth Trust to Greater Chennai Corporation to assess the green cover of the city has said Chennai's green cover is reducing by 2% every year.



#### NHRC notice to Centre, Haryana and Rajasthan over massive deforestation in Aravallis

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) issued notices to the Centre and the State governments of Rajasthan and Haryana over deforestation in the Aravallis, which has led to air pollution in the Capital.

#### Vanishing act: Teak no more in Telangana top five tree species

Teak no longer figures in the top five tree species in Telangana for felling of

timber tree species.

#### FOREST FIRES, A THREAT TO FOREST HEALTH

#### 60% districts in India affected by forest fires each year: report

At least 60 per cent of districts in India are affected by forest fires each year, said the report by MoEFCC and World Bank

#### 350% more forest fires in Karnataka

Karnataka reported 1,333 forest fires, a whopping 350% more forest fires in 2017 than three years ago.

#### NATION GETS THE DRAFT FOREST POLICY 2018; STATES ACT AND THE JUDICIARY TOO INTERVENES

#### Long overdue change made in new draft of Forest Policy

The new draft National Forest Policy 2018 takes into account the climate change.

#### TN State Forest Policy 2018 to conserve forests

TN Forest Policy outlines widen of conservation area networks and provide larger ranges of habitat for wildlife in the state.

#### NGT asks states to report on actions taken on forest fires

The Green Tribunal directed hill states to file report on forest fire and the steps taken by them to control forest fires

## REPORTS AND POLICIES

### REPORT IN FOCUS

#### India State of Forest Report 2017|February 2018|Forest Survey of India

This biennial assessment shows that there is an increase of 8, 021 sq km (about 80.20 million hectare) in the total forest and tree cover of the country, compared to the previous assessment in 2015. <https://bit.ly/2TgAcdT>



#### Forests and fire: strengthening prevention and management in India|March 2018| Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

This report analyses patterns and trends of

forest fires in India. While the findings of this study indicate that forest fires occur in almost every state in India each year, some districts are more vulnerable than others. <https://bit.ly/2QRPZ1u>

#### Strengthening forest fire management in India|October 2018|Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

Forest fires are a leading cause of degradation of the forest cover in the country says this report <https://bit.ly/2EULKoa>

#### Strategy for increasing green cover outside recorded forest areas |November 2018|Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

Leasing of wasteland to the corporate sector for re-greening is among the major recommendations

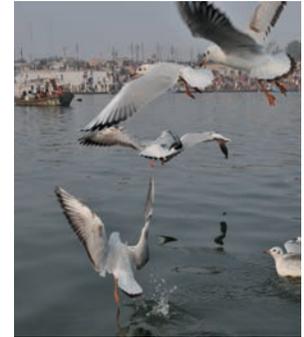
that a report by an expert committee formed by India's Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has suggested. <https://bit.ly/2VgXLKr>

#### Living planet report 2018: aiming higher|Oct 2018| WWF

It is a comprehensive study of trends in global biodiversity and the health of the planet. <https://bit.ly/2Tksq8b>

#### India's national action plan for conservation of migratory birds and their habitats along Central Asian Flyway (2018-2023)| Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

This plan states specific actions required to ensure healthy populations of these migratory species in India, within their range



across the flyway. <https://bit.ly/2EPIIXP>

### POLICY IN-FOCUS

#### Draft National Forest Policy, 2018|March 2018|Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

This will be an overarching policy for forest management, with the aim of bringing a minimum of one-third of India's total geographical area under forest or tree cover. <https://bit.ly/2Q2dLMY>

## FORESTS AND WILDLIFE IN-COURT

### IN-FOCUS

#### Ten kms around national parks and sanctuaries to be declared as Eco Sensitive| December 2018| Supreme Court

The Supreme Court on December 11 expressed its displeasure on being informed that no proposal even after 12 years has been received for 21 national parks and wildlife sanctuaries for declaring areas around them as Eco Sensitive Zones and directed MoEF to declare an area of 10 kms around

these national parks and sanctuaries as Eco Sensitive Zones. <https://bit.ly/2G2quCZ>

#### Duty of the State to prevent straying of wild animals and compensate the damage| February 2018| High Court of Kerala

The Supreme Court on Feb 5 asked the Kerala government to take remedial action to prevent straying of wild animals. <https://bit.ly/2EWErne>

#### States asked to provide

#### information on grant of land under Forest Rights Act, 2006| March 2018 | Supreme Court

SC on March 7, directed states to submit information on the number of claims for the grant of land under provisions of the Forest Dwellers Act, 2006 and action taken against those claimants whose claims have been rejected. <https://bit.ly/2BUuyrc0>

#### NGT directs hill states to file report on forest fires|June 2018| National Green Tribunal

Green Tribunal directed states to inform it about the steps taken by them to control forest fires <https://bit.ly/2RsfEH8>

#### Use of fire torches to drive away elephants a strict no| November 2018| Supreme Court

SC directed West Bengal government to place before it the names and designations of the forest officials, who would be held responsible for any accident due to this. <https://bit.ly/2Rr8xyP>

## WATER

Even as the composite water management index released by Niti Aayog warned India of the 'worse water crisis' the state of polluted rivers, lakes, groundwater contamination and depletion dominated the news headlines. It was also the most contested subject in the Indian court – Supreme Court, High Courts and the National Green Tribunal. Here is a low down on the major developments

### **SURFACE AND GROUNDWATER UNDER STRESS AND ARE POLLUTED TOO**

**Maharashtra's groundwater levels going down fast, contamination rising: CGWB survey**

Exploitation of groundwater has severely impacted its levels and quality in Maharashtra, with nearly 20 districts showing presence of heavy metals in excess of the maximum acceptable concentration. The levels of heavy metals, including lead, cadmium and chromium, were found to be exceeding the maximum acceptable concentration.



**Most rivers in Kerala highly contaminated due to lack of proper waste management**

Water in almost 83% of open wells and most of the rivers in Kerala is highly contaminated. revealed the study conducted by conducted by the Centre for Water Resources Development and Management (CWRDM), Kozhikode, which

periodically monitors the 44 rivers and examines the groundwater sources in the State.

**West Bengal rivers are not fit even for bathing**

According to the latest State of Environment Report, published by the West Bengal Pollution Control Board (WBPCB), in 17 major rivers of the State, including the Ganges, the levels of coliform bacteria (found mainly in human faeces) are much higher than the permissible limit of MPN (most probable number) per 100 ml. The permissible limit as per the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) guideline is 500.

**₹150 cr project to prevent pollution of Noyyal river: CM**

The Tamil Nadu government will implement a ₹150 crore project to prevent pollution of Noyyal river in Tirupur, Chief Minister K Palaniswami said today. Making a suo motu statement in the state assembly, he said compound walls would be constructed along the banks of the river in the Tirupur Corporation limits.

### **WETLANDS AND LAKES STRUGGLE TO SURVIVE**

**Gurugram lost 389 water bodies in 60 years: Study**

Gurugram has lost as many as 389 water bodies in the past 60 years, revealed a study compiled by the Gurugram district administration and submitted in the National Green Tribunal in Jan 2018.

**12,000-yr-old Mansar Lake struggling to survive**

Mansar Lake, one of the largest freshwater lakes in the Shivalik range of the Jammu region, is facing an existential threat due to human intervention and climate change. It is being ruthlessly exploited for water along its catchment area, creating hostile conditions which, according to scientists, could pave way for its demise.

### **DESPITE THIS, POTABLE WATER GETS WASTED DAILY**

**37% of Thane's potable water is wasted daily**

According to Thane municipal corporation, roughly 37% or around 177 million litres of Thane's potable water is wasted daily. The punctures in the water distribution networks of the Corporation that is going unchecked for years is reportedly leading to wastage of water equal to the daily requirement of over 8 lakh residents

**Shimla loses five million litres of water daily due to leakages, theft: HC**

The parched Himachal Pradesh capital is daily losing more than five million litres (MLD) of potable water because of various reasons, including leakages and theft, noted the Himachal Pradesh High Court on June 10, 2018 and asked for the steps initiated by the government and the Municipal Corporation in modernising the system of collection, pumping and uplifting and distribution of water in Shimla town

### **AND THE DISPUTE OVER CAUVERY WATER MANAGEMENT CONTINUED**

**Tamil Nadu in turmoil over Cauvery Water Management Board**

In April 2018, protests against the centre's failure to set up the Cauvery Water Management Board hit Tamil Nadu in the month of April 2018.

**Tamil Nadu against Mekedatu project**

Tamil Nadu has objected to Karnataka's plans to build a balancing reservoir at Mekedatu across the Cauvery river and has approached the Supreme Court

**REPORT IN FOCUS**

**Composite water management index| June 2018| Niti Aayog**

This Composite Water Management Index is a useful tool to assess and improve performance in efficient management of water resources. <https://bit.ly/2ETewqc>

**Performance Audit on National Rural Drinking Water Programme in Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation| Aug 2018| Comptroller And Auditor General Of India**

The national rural drinking water programme, despite spending 90 per cent of ₹89,956 crore over five years to 2017, has “failed” its targets, according to this CAG audit report <https://bit.ly/2CBlsGe>

**Twenty Third Report on Socio-economic impact of commercial exploitation of water by Industries: Standing Committee on Water Resources (2017-18)| Aug 2018|Lok Sabha Secretariat**



According to this report, 2,552 m3 of groundwater is extracted per day by 18 units or blocks in ‘Semi-Critical’ areas in nine states <https://bit.ly/2VdyVLx>

**Inventory and revival of springs in the Himalayas for water security| Aug 2018| Niti Aayog**

Nearly 30 per cent of springs crucial to water security of people are drying and 50 per cent have reported reduced discharge, stated this report <https://bit.ly/2BKw7SZ>

**Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India on National Projects: Ministry of Water Resources, River**

Development and Ganga Rejuvenation| July 2018| Comptroller and Auditor General of India  
National river projects lag target by 99 per cent, cost up by ₹50,000 crore revealed this audit. <https://bit.ly/2RiBrRK>

**Water productivity mapping of major Indian crops|June 2018| ICRIER**

With India staring at a looming water crisis, thus study called for putting a price on water used for irrigation to at least recover operating and maintenance costs of structures like canals. <https://bit.ly/2s0jPcs>

**POLICY IN FOCUS**

**Guidelines to regulate and control Ground Water Extraction in India| Dec 2018| Central Groundwater Authority**

These guidelines have been notified to regulate and control groundwater extraction. <https://bit.ly/2AhA29e>

**Guidelines for sediment**

**management in hydropower and water resources projects| Sep 2018| Central Water Commission**

It details guidelines on Planning of Structures of Hydropower projects on Sediment Management for sediment management in hydropower projects <https://bit.ly/2LCXg97>

**Draft River Basin Management Bill, 2018| Oct 2018| Ministry of Water Resources**

It proposes optimum development of inter-State rivers by facilitating inter-State coordination ensuring scientific planning of land and water resources <https://bit.ly/2EOTqsi>

**Maharashtra Groundwater (Development and Management) Rules, 2018: Draft| July 2018| Government of Maharashtra**

It suggests involving farmers in the Panchayat in crop water budgeting for preparing groundwater use plan and crop plan. <https://bit.ly/2TcTXIv>

**WATER IN-COURT**

**IN-FOCUS**

**Real Time Water Quality Monitoring System to be set up for Bellandur, Agara and Varthur lake: NGT**

National Green Tribunal on December 6 ordered that no polluted waste water be discharged into the water bodies at Bengaluru - Bellandur lake, Agara lake and Varthur lake and

encroachments from catchment areas removed.

**SC directs Delhi government to avert water crisis| July 2018| Supreme Court**

Drawing attention to report of the Niti Aayog on “Composite Water Management Index”, the apex court directed Delhi Government to find out the possible solutions to deal

with the crisis and act.

**Supreme Court approves Centre’s draft scheme for Cauvery water distribution| May 2018| Supreme Court**

The Supreme Court on May 17, 2018 approved the Centre’s draft Cauvery Management Scheme for smooth distribution of water among four southern riparian states.

**NGT directs States to act on river pollution | Sep 2018 | National Green Tribunal**

On Sep 27, 2018, the National Green Tribunal directed all States and UTs to prepare action plans on controlling river pollution within two months.

## HEALTH

While, the government launched its flagship Ayushman health insurance, an improvement in the state of public health desires much more show the data on key health indicators released this year. The country also saw a spike in vector-borne diseases like dengue. Zika outbreak too made news this year. Lifestyle diseases which have been on the rise were also widely reported from across the country. Supreme court orders to end stigma of leprosy in the country was a landmark verdict. Here is low down on the major developments

### **NATION GETS 1ST EVER NATIONAL HEALTHCARE FACILITY REGISTRY; BUT PUBLIC HEALTH IS YET TO GET ITS DUE SHARE**

**India gets its 1st ever national healthcare facility registry by Modi govt**

In a major development, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare Minister JP Nadda launched the National Health Resource Repository (NHRR). Noteworthy, it's India's 1st ever national healthcare facility registry of authentic, standardised and updated geo-spatial data of all public and private healthcare establishments.



### **Child health in India: 14 out of 20 states cut spending on key programmes**

14 of 20 states surveyed cut spending on a key nutrition programme—Supplementary Nutrition Programme or SNP—that bridges the gap between a child's actual and ideal dietary needs, according to an analysis of national

health-spending data.

### **Govt spends paltry ₹1,112 on health of every citizen**

The government health spending per person per year in India is ₹1,112 and it has only marginally improved over the years.

### **HEALTH INSURANCE: AYUSHMAN BHARAT SCHEME**

#### **Ayushman Bharat scheme launch on Sept 25**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 15 announced that the government will launch the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Abhiyaan (Ayushman Bharat) on September 25

#### **20 states sign MoU with govt to implement National Health Insurance scheme**

Twenty states have signed memorandums of understanding with the Centre to implement the Ayushman Bharat – National Health Protection Mission (AB-NHPM) West Bengal, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Delhi are some of the states that have not signed up yet.

### **NATION IN THE GRIP OF VIRUSES; VECTOR BORNE DISEASES LIKE DENGUE ON THE RISE**

#### **Punjab heading towards worst dengue outbreak**

With over 13,760 cases of dengue till the end of November, the state had the worst dengue outbreak



#### **Delhi Records 2,406 Dengue Cases**

At least 260 fresh cases of dengue have been reported over the last one week in Delhi, taking the total number of people diagnosed with the vector-borne disease this season to 2,406

#### **Rajasthan records highest number of dengue cases**

Rajasthan has not only recorded highest number of cases in past 21 years, but it has also third highest number of dengue cases numbering 8490 in the country

#### **98% spike in dengue cases across Mumbai in the past five years: RTI data September, 2018**

RTI data collected by the Praja Foundation has revealed that the occurrence of dengue has increased by

98 per cent in the past five years. Despite the increase, areas such as Andheri West, Ghatkopar East and Chembur have not reported a single case of dengue this year.

#### **Dengue count reaches 671 in Bihar**

Dengue has assumed alarming proportions in Bihar with the number of people suffering from the mosquito-borne disease reaching 671 in October. At least 33 of 38 districts are reeling under massive dengue outbreak.

### **SWINE FLU TOO CREATES PANIC**

#### **Swine flu cases increasing in Visakhapatnam**

As many as 71 swine flu cases were registered till Nov 30 and five patients, who were already suffering from various other health issues, died in the present season

#### **Swine flu claims 50 lives in a month in Rajasthan**

Rajasthan has recorded 27 deaths between October 3 and October 18, while 235 persons were tested positive for the disease in the same period.

#### **266 people succumbed to H1N1 virus in Maharashtra**

Till Oct 24, two hundred and sixty six people in

Maharashtra succumbed to the H1N1 virus. To tackle this, the state health ministry has prepared a protocol for the management of critical patients.

### Encephalitis claims 66 lives in Assam

Japanese encephalitis has claimed 66 lives in Assam so far while the total number of positive JE cases in the state stood at 308.

### THE ZIKA VIRUS OUTBREAK

#### Over 280 cases of zika virus reported from three states:

Rajasthan, MP and Gujarat Over 280 cases of Zika virus infection, including two deaths, were reported from three states in India from September to November. 159 cases of the infection were reported from Jaipur in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh witnessed 159 cases.



#### India, 15 others account for world's 80% malaria cases

India, along with 15 countries in sub-Saharan Africa, contributes to about 80% of the global burden of malaria, according to the World Malaria Report, 2018

#### Malaria parasite in Indian monkeys

Scientists have for the first time detected the malaria parasite Plasmodium falciparum in India's rhesus and bonnet monkeys and called for intensive

surveillance to determine whether this has any implications for the country's malaria-control programme

#### State for zero malaria transmission by 2020

The Goa government is aiming to achieve zero indigenous malaria transmissions and zero malaria deaths by 2020. In 2007, Goa registered 9,755 malaria cases. Within a 10-year period, it has managed to significantly control the spread of malaria.

### THE BURDEN OF FILARIA TOO

#### Maharashtra's filaria burden rises, 877 cases recorded till June

The rising cases of microfilaria have sent alarm bells ringing in Maharashtra, while posing a huge challenge to the Centre's goal of eliminating lymphatic filariasis in the country by 2020.

### ANTI-MICROBIAL RESISTANCE: NATION FIGHTS SUPERBUGS

#### Kerala to unveil Anti-Microbial Resistance Strategic Action Plan

At a time when antimicrobial resistance (AMR) has emerged as a global public health concern, Kerala is set to unveil an AMR Strategic Action Plan, a first of its kind in the country itself

### STATE OF CHILD HEALTH: NOT SO HEALTHY

Bengaluru sees rise in hand-foot-and-mouth disease among children Bengaluru is seeing an increase in cases of hand-foot-and-mouth disease

among children.

#### On an average, 87,000 Maharashtra kids in rural, tribal and slums underweight

Of the 57 lakh children in Maharashtra screened every month for their weight and nutrition status under Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS), an average of over 87,000 children are severely underweight.

#### 3 infants die every 2 minutes in India; 8 mn premature deaths in 2017: UN September, 2018

About 8,02,000 infant deaths were reported in India in 2017, the lowest in five years, according to UNIGME.

### MATERNAL DEATHS REDUCE

#### Maternal mortality drops to 130, Kerala top, big improvement in backward states June, 2018

India has registered significant improvement in an area where it has lagged - maternal deaths have reduced from 167 in 2011-13 to 130 (per 100,000 live births) in 2014-16 with Kerala leading the table, according to new data released by the registrar general of India.

### STATES TURNING OBESE; LIFESTYLE DISEASES RISING

#### Andhra Pradesh gaining obesity capital of India tag

Andhra Pradesh appeared to be turning obese. Studies carried out by the Union health ministry suggested that there was 33 per cent increase in obesity cases in

the State. In a decade up to 2015, it was observed that there was a 33 per cent increase in obesity cases.

#### 149% rise in obesity in Gujarat men

The latest Lancet study — covering the 1990-2016 period — on the prevalence of obesity among the people of Gujarat above 20 years has revealed a 149% rise among men and 121.6% rise among women



#### Assam ranked 4th among top tobacco-consuming states

According to a survey report released by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Assam has been listed as the fourth highest tobacco consuming state in the country.

#### Heart disease deaths rise in India by 34% in 26 years

The death rate due to cardiovascular diseases (CVD) declined by a significant 41 per cent in the US between 1990 and 2016, whereas in India it rose by around 34 per cent

#### Cancer incidence rate highest in Kerala

The highest number of cancer cases in India has been detected from Kerala, followed by Mizoram, Haryana, Delhi and Karnataka, while it is the lowest in Bihar.

## REPORTS AND POLICIES

## REPORT IN FOCUS

**Healthy states, progressive India: report on the ranks of States and UTs |February 2018| NITI Aayog**

This index ranks states and UTs innovatively on their year-on-year incremental change in health outcomes, as well as, their overall performance with respect to each other. Kerala, Punjab and Tamil Nadu ranked on top in terms of overall performance.

<https://bit.ly/2V7NnVk>

**National Health Profile 2018|June 2018|Central Bureau Of Health Intelligence (CBHI)**

This annual report provides data on major health sector-related indicators, namely



demographic, socio-economic, health status, health finance, health infrastructure and human resources <https://bit.ly/2AtBZL1>

**National Health Stack: strategy and approach|July 2018| NITI Aayog**

The National Health Stack (NHS) envisages a centralized health record for all citizens of the country in order to streamline the health information and facilitate effective management of the same. <https://bit.ly/2RdFteb>

**Global Adult Tobacco Survey: India 2016-17 |May 2018| Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**

Exposure to second-hand smoke remains a major concern in India even though there has been a reduction in such exposure at home and public places since 2009-10 reveals this report <https://bit.ly/2Q3SLIG>

**Special bulletin on maternal mortality in India 2014-16|May 2018| Office Of The Registrar General**

Maternal deaths have reduced from 167 in 2011-13 to 130 (per 100,000 live births) in 2014-16 with Kerala leading the table. <https://bit.ly/2Q3fMUE>

## HEALTH IN-COURT

**Support and encourage people afflicted by leprosy to lead a life of equality and dignity: Supreme Court | September 2018| Supreme Court**

Supreme Court on September 14, directed the Centre and the States to undertake periodic national surveys for determining the prevalence rate and new cases of leprosy and ensure that drugs for management of leprosy are available free of cost at public health facilities of the country. <https://bit.ly/2ApBv8p>

**Supreme Court permits passive euthanasia| March**



**2018| Supreme Court** Supreme Court in a landmark verdict on March 9 gave legal sanction to passive euthanasia and said that the right to die with dignity was a fundamental right. <https://bit.ly/2CHfNym>

**Regulate clinical drug trials on humans| September 2018| Supreme Court** The Supreme Court on September 12, directed

the Centre to finalize the Drugs and Clinical Trials Rules as unregulated clinical trials have a serious impact upon people's health. <https://bit.ly/2R2B925>

**SC stays Delhi HC Judgement striking down exclusion of genetic disorders from insurance policies as unconstitutional | August 2018| Supreme Court**

SC on August 27 stayed the Delhi High Court Order which had ruled that companies can't deny health insurance to those suffering from genetic disorders. <https://bit.ly/2C3a3xx>

## URBANISATION

Housing projects in India are way behind the targets, but slums seem to have been on the agenda of several state governments show some of the projects initiated this year. Two new research papers too provided an interesting insight on the Indian slums, especially in Bangalore. While the disputes over illegal constructions kept the courts busy, opposition to urban infrastructure projects due to their environmental impacts dominated news reports. The “Ease of Living Index” launched in September 2018 has been a transformative initiative of the urban ministry to help cities assess their liveability. We list the major developments of the year

### HOUSING PROJECTS IN INDIA ARE WAY BEHIND THE TARGETS



#### Cabinet approves creation of National Urban Housing Fund

The Union cabinet on Tuesday approved the creation of a Rs 60,000-crore National Urban Housing Fund to finance the government’s Housing for All programme, which aims to build 12 million affordable housing units in urban areas by 2022.

#### 4.65 lakh units of housing projects pending execution: Report

Financial constraints, execution challenge, and environmental clearance are some of the major issues due to which over 4.65 lakh units of housing projects across India are way behind their delivery deadlines, according to a report by PropEquity, an online subscription-based real estate data and analytics platform.

### SLUMS REHABILITATION REMAINED A PRIORITY OF SEVERAL STATES;

#### Ordinance okayed for slum dwellers’ rehabilitation in Uttarakhand

Uttarakhand Urban Local Bodies and Authorities Special Provisions (2018) got approved by the cabinet. It aims at tackling the rehabilitation and resettlement issues and also punishing persons occupied government land illegally.

#### Construction loan for slum rehabilitation schemes in Mumbai: Only 4 proposals received in a year

Nearly a year since Maharashtra government launched a programme to give a fillip to slum rehabilitation projects in Mumbai by offering developers or society members loans for construction of rehabilitation and free-sale apartments, only four proposals seeking such credit have been processed for final approvals.

#### With titles, a million slum dwellers in Odisha become home owners

The eastern state of Odisha aims to give titles to 200,000 households in urban slums and those on

the outskirts of cities by the end of the year. Officials used drones to map the settlements.



#### Indian slums: an economic asset hiding in plain sight

Studies using machine learning and satellite imagery which focused on Bangalore reveal that shanty towns may hold more value than previously estimated

#### Slum dwellers in Himalayas especially climate vulnerable

New research finds that climate change will have severe impacts on urban settlements in India’s Himalayas, especially on the livelihoods of the urban poor.

### OPPOSITION TO URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS DUE TO IMPACT ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

#### Ghaziabad’s elevated road project gets environment clearance

Prestigious elevated road project from UP Gate to Raj

Nagar Extension in Ghaziabad got the much-awaited environment clearance, paving the way for its inauguration, an official said.

#### Citizens protest planned road through biodiversity park

A large number of people gathered at the Aravali Biodiversity Park in Gurugram to protest against a proposed six-lane road — for better connectivity between the Capital and Manesar — that will cut through the green cover.

#### Haryana plans new road in Gurugram via leopard corridor, Mangar area

Haryana’s public works department has proposed a 16 km road to link two parts of Gurugram, cutting through a leopard corridor in the Aravalis. Though the PWD is tighlipped on its alignment, environmental activists have warned the road, if built, would destroy Mangarbani, the sacred grove on the Gurugram-Faridabad border.

#### More than 800 trees face the axe for various infrastructure projects

Even before the first month of 2018 has ended, 806 trees in the city are on the block -

to be cut or transplanted. Most trees identified for cutting or transplantation are for various infrastructure

## **PUBLIC TRANSPORT IN CITIES NOT UP-TO-THE-MARK; DESIRES MUCH MORE**

### **India needs 30L buses for transport, has only 3 lakh**

The total number of buses available for transporting general passengers is less than one-tenth of the requirement, posing an enormous logistical challenge revealed government data



### **Delhi Metro is second-most unaffordable in world: CSE**

The Delhi Metro is the second-most unaffordable in the world among Metro systems that charge less than half a US dollar for a trip, says a study by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE)

### **Gurugram to Delhi in 10 minutes! Uber plans air taxis to beat congestion, traffic jams in India**

Uber said that it has shortlisted five countries - India, Japan, France, Australia, and Brazil to start with its operation

### **Last-ditch effort to revive Rs 600-cr BRTS project in Amritsar**

Rs 600-crore ambitious Bus Rapid Transit System (BRTS) in Amritsar has failed to fructify as envisioned.

### **Govt hopes green buses will boost public transport**

Mumbaikars may soon commute in methane, ethanol and electric buses Mumbaikars can soon commute in environment-friendly buses to be operated on methane, ethanol and electric batteries

## **PARKING POLICY IN FLUX**

### **Delhi parking policy in flux as file is sent back to law dept**

The parking policy a draft of which was released by L-G Baijal on January 29, is staring at uncertainty as the file pertaining to it has been sent back to the law department over the question of whether the AAP government or Lt Governor Anil Baijal will notify it.

### **SDMC plans to use hike in existing one-time parking charges to build modern parking lots**

The civic body plans to use this hike for construction of modern parking systems. However, it remains unclear whether the move will help resolve Delhi's parking woes.

## **THE SMART CITIES**

### **Shillong, the 100th smart city**

Shillong selected as 100th smart city The Urban Development Ministry has selected Shillong as the 100th smart city after evaluating the proposal submitted by the city.

### **First Ease of Living Index under AMRUT ranks 111 cities**

Andhra Pradesh gets 1st rank in Ease of Living Index under AMRUT

Andhra Pradesh has topped the chart in the 'Ease of Living Index' rankings under the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), followed by Odisha and Madhya Pradesh, the Union Housing and Urban Affairs ministry said on Monday.

## **3D MODEL AND REVISED TOWNSHIP RULES AND MASTER PLAN FOR INDIAN CITIES**

### **Jaipur to build 3D model of city for better management, civic planning**

The city of Jaipur is cloning itself. Not a brick and mortar clone, but a virtual one — built to scale and faithfully representing all the urban and architectural features of the real city. It's a first for the country, and if successful, it is likely to become the norm for every smart city project.

### **DDA nod to changes in master plan**

Delhi Development Authority (DDA) approved amendments to Master Plan for Delhi 2021 to provide relief to traders from the ongoing sealing drive.

### **Maharashtra govt adopts UN goals in vision document 2030**

The Maharashtra government has prepared its vision document based on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030.

### **Maharashtra revises**

### **township rules, unlocks more green land for construction**

Urban Development department notified revised regulations for integrated township, where the developers will now be permitted to exploit anywhere between 3-3.6 times the existing building rights on green belts, depending on the size of the township.

## **ENERGY CONSERVATION CODE FOR RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS**



### **Government of India launches energy conservation building code for residential buildings**

Ministry of Power, Government of India launched the ECO Niwas Samhita 2018, an Energy Conservation Building Code for Residential Buildings (ECBC-R). The implementation of this Code is expected to push for energy efficiency in residential sector.

## REPORTS AND POLICIES

## REPORT IN FOCUS

**World urbanization prospects: the 2018 revision|May 2018|UN Department Of Economic And Social Affairs (UN DESA)**

Delhi is projected to become the most populous city in the world around 2028, according to these new United Nations estimates. India is expected to add the largest number of urban dwellers by 2050. <https://bit.ly/2MzbpqM/>

**Global cities: the future of the world's leading urban economies to 2035 November 2018|Oxford Economics**

17 of twenty fastest growing cities in the world will be from India reveals this annual Global Cities report.

It has forecast significant growth disparities between cities around the globe over the coming decades to 2035 and predicts far-reaching changes in the world's urban order. <https://bit.ly/2BQoxAx>

**Transforming India's mobility: a perspective|September 2018|NITI Aayog**

This report calls for efficient and convenient public transport to answer the twin problems of pollution and congestion. <https://bit.ly/2Tj5Hcr>

**Annual survey of India's city-systems, 2017|March 2018|Janaagraha Centre For Citizenship And Democracy**

It evaluated quality of



governance in cities, covering 23 major cities in India across 20 states based on 89 questions. Indian cities scored between 3.0 and 5.1 on 10, with Pune topping the charts for the first time <https://bit.ly/2C3fywb>

**The world's cities in 2018|October 2018|United Nations Department Of Economic And Social Affairs**

**(UN DESA)**

Close to three in five cities worldwide with at least 500,000 inhabitants are at high risk of a natural disaster, cautions UN DESA. Collectively, these cities are home to 1.4 billion people or around one third of the world's urban population. <https://bit.ly/2RpgXG>

## URBANISATION IN-COURT

## IN-FOCUS

**Carrying capacity assessment of Manali and Mcleodganj to be carried out| September 2018| National Green Tribunal**

The National Green Tribunal on September 19 directed that the carrying capacity assessment of ecological sensitive and geologically fragile areas, particularly Manali and Mcleodganj be carried out within three months by a Special Expert Committee. The Special Expert Committee should consider the present situation of Manali and Mcleodganj in respect of environment, ecology, forest, sewage system, water supply,

collection and disposal of municipal solid waste and the carrying capacity as well as strength of the hill, besides examining adequacy of civic infrastructure especially municipal solid waste management and sewage/sewage network and management. <https://bit.ly/2Vmjpgx>

**Supreme Court lifts the ban on construction in Mumbai imposed by the Bombay High Court| March 2018| Supreme Court**

Supreme Court lifted the ban on construction in Mumbai imposed by the Bombay High Court with a direction to deal with and

safely dispose of the solid waste and construction debris that is generated by the activities of construction of buildings. <https://bit.ly/2LILj1Y>

**Meaningful public participation a must while amending Delhi Master Plan | May 2018| Supreme Court**  
Supreme Court in its order on May 25, 2018 made it very clear that the people of Delhi have to be taken into confidence with regard to amendments to the Master Plan.

**Submit Coastal Zone Management Plans by August 31: NGT tells States | July 2018| National Green**

**Tribunal**

In a hearing on July 23, the National Green Tribunal was informed that draft Coastal Zone Management Plans (CZMPs) has been prepared by 5 States out of 13 States. This led to the Court directing the remaining eight states to complete the process by August 31, 2018. Thereafter MoEF&CC will complete the process. <https://bit.ly/2LGThsg>

## WASTE

Cities continue to drown in waste and there are disturbing incidences of major landfills catching fire in Mumbai, Delhi and Kolkata. Plastics remain an issue of concern. Protests over solid waste dumping across India have increased. Menstrual waste was another subject that was widely reported this year after CPCB released the guidelines on sanitary waste management. CPCB also notified rules on solid waste management. Here is low down on the major developments

### CITIES DROWN IN WASTE

#### Delhi produces 10,000 metric tonnes of garbage every day

Delhi reportedly produces 10,000 metric tonnes of garbage every day and the space to dump this garbage is a major problem.



#### Garbage dump in Delhi is almost as tall as the Qutub Minar

East Delhi's Ghazipur garbage dump stands at 65 metres tall, very close to the height of Qutub Minar, which stands at 73 metres.

### THE LANDFILLS ON FIRE

#### Fire breaks out at Mumbai's Deonar dumping ground, as temperature soars

As Mumbai reeled under a heat wave, fire broke out in the city's largest landfill site at Deonar on March 26, 2018.

#### Mumbai's garbage woes to worsen; largest dumping ground to be shut down

The largest dumping ground

in Mumbai, located in Deonar, is to be shut down by October end but alternate dumping sites will be operational only by next year claimed Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC)

#### Calcutta landfill burning, city getting pollutant-rich smoke

Dhapa dumping ground has been burning since Nov 2018 and the thick smoke billowing out of the site is making the city's polluted air even more toxic

#### Fire at Bhalswa landfill

Since 20 October, fires caused by toxic gases have been raging inside a landfill in Bhalswa, an urban village in North Delhi where a 40-acre graveyard of waste waits for its own death.

#### Okhla landfill fire smoulders, leaves many sick

Toxic smoke from a blaze at the Okhla landfill caused health problems amongst local residents.

### STATES DEAL WITH PLASTICS MENACE

#### Maharashtra becomes 18th state to ban plastic carry bags

The Maharashtra government has imposed a complete ban on plastic carry bags and thermocol cutlery, becoming the 18th

state of the country to impose such ban



#### 200 buildings in south Mumbai to become plastic free by June

Two hundred residents' associations/buildings in south Mumbai decided to become plastic-free by June 17 as a drive against single-use plastic was launched here

#### From April 1, no plastic bags in Golden Temple

From April 1, the Golden Temple will replace the use of plastic carry bags with compostable ones to make its contribution to environment protection

#### Telangana government tells urban local bodies to execute plastic ban

The Telangana government issued guidelines to ban plastic usage in urban local bodies in the state.

### MANAGEMENT OF SANITARY WASTES BECOMES A SERIOUS ISSUE

45% menstrual waste in India disposed of with

#### routine waste, data shows

45% of the menstrual waste collected across the country, primarily consisting of sanitary napkins, is disposed of as routine waste along with other household garbage revealed Menstrual Health Alliance India

#### CPCB releases guidelines sanitary waste management

The guidelines released in May 2018 detailed various options for disposal of different kinds of sanitary wastes

#### BBMP offers to pay private players ₹15 per kg of sanitary waste

Six years ago, BBMP became the first urban body to announce that it will collect sanitary and medical waste separately. But its implementation has run into a cost conundrum.

#### Corporation to revive sanitary waste disposal plan

Thiruvanthapuram municipal corporation is likely to revive the proposal of demand-based door-to-door collection for sanitary waste with CPCB issuing guidelines for handling sanitary waste

### CITIES ACT TO COLLECT, SEGREGATE AND MANAGE WASTE

Garbage segregation

**mandatory from December**  
 With Mount Pirana growing at an alarming rate, the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) has finally put its foot down. Come December, the corporation will not collect domestic waste if it is not segregated into dry and wet



**Each ward in Gurugram to get manager who will ensure timely pick-up of garbage**

With an aim to resolve waste management problems of residents in Gurugram, the agency responsible for solid waste management in the city has taken the local management approach by appointing ward managers in each of the 35 wards

**TN civic bodies to send non-recyclable waste to cement plants, thermal power stations**

Soon, all the municipalities and corporations in Tamil Nadu will begin sending non-recyclable waste to the cement plants and thermal power stations to be incinerated and converted into fuel.

**New rules for disposal of garbage in Cuttack**

The municipal corporation in Cuttack, will enforce a new set of regulations,

including fines for littering roads in front of homes, for better segregation and disposal of waste

**MUMBAI PROSECUTES THE DEFAULTERS; TRICHY TOO PENALISES**

**Mumbai: 567 societies & business units face cases for not treating waste**

To push waste segregation and processing at source, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation has initiated prosecution against 962 bulk waste generators – housing societies and commercial establishments – and also dragged around 567 to court over non-compliance

**Mobile waste management squad to penalise littering**

Taking a cue from police patrol and beat vehicles assigned for surveillance activity, the Trichy Corporation has launched an exclusive mobile solid waste management (SWM) flying squad.

**E-WASTE: THE GROWING MENACE**

**India among top five nations in e-waste generation**

India is among the top five e-waste generating countries in the world besides China, the US, Japan and Germany,



according to a report.

**India doesn't have data and monitoring mechanisms to manage e-waste**

One of the biggest producers of e-waste in the world, India doesn't have data and monitoring mechanisms to manage e-waste

**PEOPLE PROTEST IN OVER SOLID WASTE DUMPING ACROSS INDIA**

**Noida waste-to-energy plant project put on hold**

The protest by residents over the construction of a waste-to-energy (WTE) plant in Sector 123, garbage disposal at the site ended after 20-days.

**Protest brews over plan for waste-to-power plant**

Residents of Peringammala have begun a campaign against waste-to-power plant proposed by state in the district farm area

**Shift Vellore dumping yard demand the residents**

Several lakh residents around Vellore, Podanur and LG Nagar demand shifting of the Vellore dumping yard from their neighborhood as it is causing health hazards.

**SWACHH SURVEKSHAN 2018 QUESTIONED**

**Swachh Survekshan 2018 rankings: Mumbai cleanest state capital**

Mumbai bagged the tag of the cleanest state capital in India in the Swachh Survekshan (cleanliness survey) 2018 rankings

**Swachh Survekshan 2018 only about visible**



**cleanliness, no waste management**

The Swachh Survekshan this year has awarded cities that have worked only on the cleaning aspects, but not on how to process and recycle the waste, said Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), on the latest cleanliness survey results released by the government.

**CENTRE AMENDS RULES TO MANAGE PLASTIC AND E-WASTE**

**Plastic waste rules amended, but give a miss to extended producer responsibility**

The plastic waste rules amended by the centre does not address the issue of changes needed in plastic waste rules concerning extended producer responsibility said CSE

**E-Waste Management Rules amended for effective management of E-Waste in the country**

Government has amended the E-waste (Management) Rules in a move to facilitate and effectively implement the environmentally sound management of e-waste in India.

## REPORTS AND POLICIES

## IN-FOCUS

**E-Waste (Management) Amendment Rules, 2018|March 2018|Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**

These amendments have been done in a move to facilitate and effectively implement the environmentally sound management of e-waste in India <https://bit.ly/2Sje2N8>.

**The Bio-Medical Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2018| March 2018| Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**

These rules seek to improve compliance and strengthen the implementation of environmentally sound management of biomedical waste in India <https://bit.ly/2ScWx7q>

**Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2018|March 2018| Ministry of Environment, Forest and Wildlife**

The amended Rules lay down that the phasing out of Multilayered Plastic (MLP) is now applicable to MLP, which are “non-recyclable, or non-energy recoverable, or with no alternate use <https://bit.ly/2LAdNed>

**Draft Assam Urban Solid Waste Management Policy, 2018|July 2018| Government of Assam**

This policy aims to achieve a totally clean, sanitized

and healthy city with proper collection, transportation, treatment and disposal facilities. It will ensure improved public health and sanitation facilities. <https://bit.ly/2ES2Cfy>

**What a waste 2.0: a global snapshot on solid waste management to 2050|September 2018|The World Bank**

This report presents national and urban waste management data from around the world and highlights the need for urgent action. <https://bit.ly/2Rimclp>

**Solid waste management in India: an assessment of resource recovery and environmental impact| April 2018|ICRIER**

This study analyses the environmental and financial sustainability of solid waste management in Indian cities. <https://bit.ly/2Q3SKkI>

**Bangalore s toxic legacy intensifies: status of landfills, waste processing sites and dumping grounds, and working conditions of Pourakarmikas| February 2018| Environment Support Group**

This report provides a critical framework to evaluate the progress achieved in advancing environmental and social justice of communities impacted by waste handling and disposal. <https://bit.ly/2rWmbvr>

## WASTE IN-COURT

**S C disappointed over solid waste management and penalises states| July 10, 2018| Supreme Court**

The Supreme Court, in its order on July 10, expressed disappointment over the sorry state of affairs of

solid waste management in majority of the states with no effective systems in place for processing and disposal. The court slapped a fine of ₹100,000 each on Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, West Bengal, Kerala, Karnataka, Meghalaya, Punjab, Lakshadweep and Puducherry for not filing the affidavit despite earlier directions.

**Delhi government to pay a fine of ₹25 cr for dereliction****of environmental duties | December 2018| National Green Tribunal**

The NGT while expressing its displeasure of the lackadaisical attitude of the Delhi government over the issue of unregulated handling of plastics ordered the Delhi government on December 3 to deposit a sum of ₹25 crore towards the cost of damage to the environment with the Central Pollution Control Board for restoration of the damage within one month.

**NGT directs Meghalaya to comply with Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016| December 2018| National Green Tribunal**

The National Green Tribunal on December 11 directed Meghalaya to furnish a report on the execution of directions for compliance of Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 to the Eastern Zone Regional Committee so that the progress in the matter can be monitored appropriately.

## LAND

Infrastructural projects like – metro, highways, airports – from Maharashtra to Tamil Nadu were opposed by farmers and tribals who feared loss of their agricultural land and livelihood. Tribals from Niyamgiri were in the news for their protests against Vedanta project which has plans to expand the project, while villagers from Balarampur in central Odisha's Dhenkanal district forced the government to scrap the ₹102 crore brewing project. Farmers from Himachal also sought ownership rights over chakauta, shamlat land. Here are some of the major developments

### FARMERS PROTEST FOR THE AGRICULTURAL LAND ACQUIRED DUE TO INFRASTRUCTURAL PROJECTS



#### 50,000 farmers protest bullet train, expressway

More than 50,000 farmers from over 60 villages in the Thane-Palghar district protested against the Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train and the Mumbai-Vadodara expressway

#### Metro III Corridor: Tribal community moves high court against eviction

Five members of the Kokna tribal community have moved the Bombay High Court to oppose their rehabilitation from the Prajapur Pada in Aarey colony to SRA buildings.

#### Farmers protest Sarkhej-Dholera highway land acquisition

Following the notification regarding land acquisition for the Sarkhej-Dholera Highway, several farmers who own land along this

route converged on the Ahmedabad district collectorate.

#### Farmers form human chain against Salem-Chennai green corridor project

Members of Tamil Nadu Vivasayigal Sangam are demanding the government to drop the Salem – Chennai green corridor project, which is feared to affect the livelihood of a large number of farmers of the five districts through which it passed.

#### Union government defends land acquisition for greenfield corridor project in Tamil Nadu

The Union government defended the land acquisition prior to environment clearance for the Chennai-Salem greenfield corridor project, stating that the law bars only the commencement of the project before obtaining the clearance and there is no prohibition on acquiring land

#### Jharkhand villagers ask why should they lose land for Adani project supplying power to Bangladesh

Experts have raised questions over the legality of the acquisition, given that Godda is part of the Santhal Parganas Division, which is governed by the Santhal

Parganas Tenancy Act, which does not permit the transfer, lease or sale of agricultural land, barring a few exceptions.

#### Farmers warn of protest against hydrocarbon project

Farmers from delta districts are opposing the hydrocarbon exploratory project by the Union government in Nagapattinam and Cuddalore districts.

### TRIBALS, VILLAGES PROTESTS AGAINST INDUSTRIES TO SAVE HILLS AND WATER BODIES

#### Odisha govt lures industries via land banks, alienates people from commons| Sep 2018| Down To Earth

Some areas in Odisha are worst hit by a government-sponsored land grab to lure industries and investments found an investigative report by the Down To Earth



How many people can they kill, asks Niyamgiri tribe as Vedanta faces another

#### Sterlite-like challenge in Odisha

The killing by police of 13 people protesting against the copper smelter in Tamil Nadu has given fresh impetus to their campaign to also close the Odisha refinery run by the company's Indian unit, Vedanta Ltd. The company is seeking to expand the plant.

#### Villagers win brewing forest rights fight in Odisha

The Odisha government scrapped a ₹102 crore brewing project when resolute villagers braved the government and police to protect felling of trees in Jhinkargadi forest

### MINING GRABS FARMERS LAND

#### Gujarat farmers Warn Of Violent Protests Over land acquisition

Gujarat may witness a "violent confrontation" between the state administration and villagers over the issue of lignite mining by the Gujarat Power Corporation Limited (GPCL) at Bhavnagar, warn farmer leaders.

### CLAIMS OVER CHAKAUTA LAND IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

Farmers seek ownership rights of chakauta, shamlat land

Farmers, under the banner of the Laghu Kisan Ekta Himachal Pradesh (LKEHP), staged a protest in front of the Vidhan Sabha, demanding ownership rights of both chakauta and shamlat land without any condition. They sought the removal of all flaws and errors in the Ownership Rights Scheme-2015.

### 2,754 Gujarat villages have no grazing land, government admits

In reply to starred questions by Congress MLAs, Gujarat state revenue minister stated that a total of 2,754 villages in the state do not have any gauchar land.

## THE LONG WAIT FOR COMPENSATION

### 37 years on, farmers still waiting for compensation for land acquired by Govt.

It has been 37 years since land of farmers at Raipur Berisaal village, in Bijnor district, was acquired by UP government for construction of a 1 km road. These farmers have been waiting nearly four decades for compensation.

## LAND CLASSIFICATION RULES CHANGE ; CHANGES IN LAND LAWS

### Gujarat: Land classification rules changed after farmers object to compensation

Tweaking a rule on the compensation awarded on



land acquisition to agricultural land owners in rural areas, the state government has excluded the land parcels falling under Urban Development Authorities and Area Development Authorities from the definition of urban region.

### New policy to expedite land

### acquisition for highways

Land acquisition for highways is likely to gather steam with the state cabinet amending section 19 of the Maharashtra State Highways Land Acquisition Act 1894. The move will help farmers, who have surrendered their land for the road widening project .

### Chhattisgarh to withdraw controversial tribal land law

Faced with massive tribal protests, Chhattisgarh government was forced to relent and the cabinet decided to initiate the process for withdrawal of its controversial amendment to Land Revenue Code

## REPORTS AND POLICIES

### State-led alternative mechanisms to acquire, plan, and service land for urbanisation in India|July 2018| World Resources Institute

This paper analyses six mechanisms that provide an end-to-end area development approach that enables land acquisition, its planning, and servicing. <https://bit.ly/2STe6DI>

<https://bit.ly/2STe6DI>

### The legal regime and political economy of land rights of



### Scheduled Tribes in the Scheduled Areas of India|March 2018| Centre for Policy Research

This report revealed that

while almost 89% of all mineral wealth generated in India comes from schedule areas, this wealth is not channeled appropriately for the benefit of tribal peoples. <https://bit.ly/2Td6qcF>

### MIDCOURSE MANOEUVRES: Community strategies and remedies for natural resource conflicts in India| June 2018| Centre for Policy Research

This study is an attempt to understand the lived experience of people affected

by land use change and related conflicts. <https://bit.ly/2VaG8vU>

### Lakes of Bengaluru: The Once Living, But Now Endangered Peri-Urban Commons| March 2018| Azim Premji University

Research examines the transformations to peri-urban commons such as lakes, ponds, wooded groves, cemeteries, grazing lands and other commons <https://bit.ly/2rWmyGI>

## COMMONS IN-COURT

### Village Common Lands (Regulation) Act: Decide on amendment, HC tells Punjab govt| Feb 2018| Punjab and Haryana High Court

The Punjab and Haryana High Court has granted a final opportunity to the Punjab government to decide

on the proposed amendment in the Punjab Village Common Lands (Regulation) Act, 1961 and said the court would go ahead with the transfer of pending cases of Gram Panchayat land grabbing in Mohali and Rupnagar districts to the

empanelled officers on March 20 if the government decides not to amend the Act

**On 2013 Land Acquisition Act, Supreme Court s Notice To 5 States| Dec 9,2018| Supreme Court**  
Supreme Court on Dec 9,

2018 issued notices to five states -- Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Jharkhand states seeking their responses on a plea challenging the validity of certain amendments made by them to a central law of 2013 on land acquisition.

# RENEWABLE ENERGY

While global reports praised India's progress for renewable energy investments, the year has not been very good for the green sources of energy here. Investors found that the sector is generating both less power and less financial returns than they had expected. Also, the government's performance when it comes to solar energy was lagging, found a parliamentary panel on energy. It's not all bad though. Diu, Delhi and Mumbai set benchmarks on utilising solar power that other cities can follow. Here is a low down on the major developments

## GLOBAL REPORTS PRAISE INDIA'S RENEWABLE ENERGY SUCCESS

### World bank praises India's renewable energy success

A World Bank report praised India's success in renewable energy auctions that delivered record-setting low prices for solar power



### India is now a world leader in renewable energy

With increased investments and clean energy installations, as well as the world's largest renewables auction market, India ranks 2nd after Chile in the 2018 Climatescope report by BloombergNEF.

## THE LEADING STATES

### Karnataka has emerged the leading State for renewable energy in India this year, pipping Tamil Nadu.

With 27% of its power generation coming from renewable energy, Karnataka has emerged the leading State for renewable energy in India this year, pipping

Tamil Nadu said a report by the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA)

### Maharashtra leads with most rooftop solar installations in India

Of 1,095 megawatt (MW) rooftop solar capacity in India, Maharashtra leads the way with maximum number of installations and capacity at 145.09MW, according to the ministry of new and renewable energy (MNRE).

### GAIL installs India's second-largest rooftop solar plant in Uttar Pradesh

GAIL has commissioned the country's 2nd largest rooftop solar power plant at its Pata petrochemicals complex in Uttar Pradesh.

## FIRST UNION TERRITORY AND MUNICIPAL CORPORATION IN INDIA

### Diu India's first union territory to run 100% on solar

The Diu Smart City has become the first city in India that runs on 100 per cent renewable energy during the daytime, setting a benchmark for other cities to follow

### SDMC becomes first civic body in India to generate solar energy

South Delhi Municipal Corporation claimed that it

has become the first civic body in the country to generate solar energy by installing panels over rooftops of its over 55 buildings

### Mumbai's Metro Inox becomes 1st multiplex to go solar

Metro Inox — Mumbai's iconic heritage cinema — recently launched two screens, which are 100 per cent solar powered, thus becoming the first multiplex in India to join the solar revolution

## THE WORLD'S FIRST

### 100 MW Veltor solar power plant in Telangana gets quality certification

The Veltor Solar Power Project in Telangana, has been awarded the world's first solar project quality certificate for a photovoltaic plant.



## SOLAR, THE SOURCE FOR ELECTRICITY FOR UNELECTRIFIED VILLAGES

### Tripura to provide solar power to 52,000 tribal

## families

Tripura government has embarked into a plan to provide power connection to 52,000 remote tribal families tapping solar energy under Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana (Saubhagya)

### 91,000 Solar Lights Provided In Un-Electrified Villages In Jammu And Kashmir

The Minister for Social Welfare and Science and Technology said 91,000 solar home lights have been provided to households in un-electrified villages in the Jammu & Kashmir.

## BUT, THE YEAR HAS NOT BEEN VERY GOOD; STATES ARE NOT BUYING SOLAR

### 2018 a sobering year for renewable energy in India

The renewable energy sector in India has had a sobering year in 2018 with the number of new projects slowing down and investors finding that the sector is generating both lower power and financial returns than they expected.

## NO TAKERS FOR SOLAR POWER

### Power minister warns that states are not buying even at lowest rates!

Since "states are not very keen on purchasing" solar power even at the lowest

price discovered of ₹2.44 per unit (wind tariff are higher at Rupee Foradian 2.76 per unit under latest auction), the country's installed renewable energy capacity might get stranded, Union power minister RK Singh warned

#### Muted response to wind-solar hybrid scheme

SECI's bid to set up 1,200 MW of wind-solar hybrid plants attracted dismal interest from the industry, with only two firms putting forward their bids, offering 1,050 MW in total



**National and state policies to promote renewables**  
**Cabinet approves National Policy on Biofuels - 2018**  
 The Cabinet approved the National Policy on Biofuels to reduce Green House Gas emission.

#### Govt unveils National Wind-Solar Hybrid Policy

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy in May 2018, unveiled a National Wind-Solar Hybrid Policy that which seeks to promote new projects as well as hybridization of the existing ones.

#### Haryana makes solar power plants mandatory for new buildings

Solar power plants are mandatory for new buildings

#### Gujarat launches wind-

#### solar hybrid power policy

In June 2018, the Gujarat government announced the wind-solar hybrid power policy - 2018 to make optimum utilisation of the land and grid

#### Rajasthan becomes 1st Indian state to implement biofuel policy

Rajasthan has become the first State in the country to implement biofuel policy unveiled by the Centre in May this year.

## REPORTS AND POLICIES

### REPORT IN FOCUS

#### Thirty Ninth Report on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy | March 2018| Lok Sabha

India's ambitious target of achieving 100 gigawatts of installed solar energy capacity by 2022 has received a setback said this report <https://bit.ly/2BjffPnz>

#### State of the Indian renewable energy sector|September 2018| Council on Energy, Environment and Water

This report analyses how the interplay between

risks, policies, and market developments has shaped renewable energy capacity addition in India. <https://bit.ly/2ESoffB>

#### An assessment of India's energy choice|May 2018| Climate Policy Initiative

This report examines the challenge of managing India's renewable energy growth with increased flexibility in the system. <https://bit.ly/2Q9FI15>

### POLICIES

#### National wind-solar hybrid policy| May 2018| Ministry Of New And Renewable Energy



This policy seeks to promote new projects as well as hybridisation of the existing ones. <https://bit.ly/2EU32D2>

#### Gujarat Wind-Solar Hybrid Power Policy 2018| June

#### 2018| Government Of Gujarat

Gujarat government announced this policy to promote setting up of wind as well as solar power projects at one location <https://bit.ly/2GKjSFD>

#### Draft Indian Wind Turbine Certification Scheme| Nov 2018| Ministry Of New And Renewable Energy

It enlists guidelines for benefit of all the stakeholders from concept to lifetime of wind turbine. <https://bit.ly/2Q6AeIh>

## RENEWABLE ENERGY IN-COURT

#### Wind energy projects should be given 50 per cent of the NPV | November 2018 | Supreme Court

Supreme Court on Nov 2 said that Wind World India Ltd, should be given the benefit of 50 per cent NPV even though the project had

started prior to the order granting exemption. <https://bit.ly/2ETefn5>

#### SC sets aside Orissa HC order on staying imposition of safeguard duty on solar panel imports| September 2018| Supreme Court

SC on Sep 10 allowed Centre to implement safeguard duty on imported solar panels and modules.

#### Power regulator should consult wind developers on wind zones dispute| September 2018| Bombay

**High Court**  
 Court directed Maharashtra Electricity Distribution Co to submit proposal to reclassify wind zones before regular again and ensure developers are heard before decision is taken