

Enviro News Monitor

May 2015

Trending topics

Water Scarcity



- India set to become water scarce by 2025
- Maharashtra emerging as a hub for water sector
- Delhi Jal Board plans 100 'water ATMs'
- Groundwater table sinks 25m in 10 years in Jaipur
- Water scarcity affects several part of the country

River Pollution



- Polluting Ganga to be a criminal offence soon
- Sewage of 118 towns to be cleaned
- First list of river cleaning projects appraised
- Industrial effluents
- Kanpur drain hurdle for clean Ganga
- Delhi will have to foot Yamuna clean-up bill
- 37 garbage points along drains to check Yamuna pollution
- NGT issues notice to Karnataka government over pollution of Cauvery

CSR



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- Railways eyes CSR funds of government firms
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- Air pollution causes 8 million deaths/year globally
- Heat & dust raise Delhi's air toxins to critical levels
- Daily bulletin on air quality index for 8 cities launched
- Children in India suffer from poor lung health

Climate Change



- Everest glaciers may disappear by 2100
- Shimla among 6 world cities for climate adaptation plan
- Global warming could sink large parts of Kochi

Trending topics



India set to become water scarce by 2025. Although India is set to become water scarce country by 2025 due to demand-supply mis-match, the water sector is expected to see investment of \$13 billion from overseas players in the next few years. With increasing household income and contributions from the service and industrial sectors, the water demand in the domestic and industrial sectors is increasing substantially, says a study conducted by EA Water, a leading consulting firm in water sector. Nearly 70% of country's irrigation and 80% of domestic water use comes from groundwater, which is rapidly depleting. However, overseas players from Canada, Israel, Germany, Italy, United States, China and Belgium see big investment opportunity in the domestic water sector.

Maharashtra is emerging as a hub for water sector. Over 12 international companies have already set up design and engineering centers in Mumbai and Pune. At present, there are more than 1200 companies dealing in water and wastewater treatment in the state, mainly cater to the small and medium sector. Pune and Nashik are going to be large hubs for manufacturing and fabrication industry in pumps, instrumentation and monitoring equipment.

Delhi Jal Board plans 100 'water ATMs' to dispense free drinking water. With the onset of summer and an increase in demand for water in Delhi, the Delhi Jal Board is likely to install around 100 water-dispensing machines in public places and major streets shortly providing free drinking water.

FALLING 2 METRES PER YEAR	
<p>► Water table falling by 1.7 to 2 metres per year in areas of south and southwest Delhi, says DU study</p>	<p>► Groundwater board says 53% of wells in Delhi showed a fall between Nov 2013 & 2014. Of this, dip was up to 2m in 46% and more than that in the rest</p>
<p>► Aquifers in Tughlaqabad & Pushp Vihar, where water is extracted at 80m, may be close to turning unproductive</p>	<p>► Govt has no data on number of rainwater harvesting structures in city or how many are functional</p>

Central Ground Water Board has found that between November 2013 and November 2014, 53% of all wells in the city showed a drop in the water level. Of these, the drop was up to 2m in 40% of wells and more than that in the rest.

Source. The Times of India, 6 May 2015

Groundwater table sinks 25 metres in 10 years in Jaipur. In the past one decade, the groundwater level in Jaipur has depleted by 25 metres. All the 13 blocks in the city have been declared as dark zones by the Central Ground Water Board. In ten years (from 2004 to 2014), the groundwater table in Amber block fell 23.18 metres, while in Bassi, it fell 18 metres. Similarly, Govindgarh and Jothwara blocks too registered a depletion of around 17 metres. Maximum depletion in groundwater level has reportedly occurred in industrial areas, and this has also affected the people living in nearby areas.

Water scarcity affects several part of the country. ♦Haryana residents are reeling under an acute shortage of water as mercury keeps rising each passing day. Besides villages, planned and approved colonies are facing water scarcity, forcing people to take to the streets. [More](#)

◆To recharge the underground water table, the district administration has planned to construct check-dams across Kolar district in Karnataka. [More](#)

◆As many as 30 villages and 195 colonies spread in rural parts of Pune district in Maharashtra are facing water scarcity and have asked for supply of water through tankers to fulfill daily demand of drinking water. [More](#)

◆Water supply in Berhampur in Odisha has been hit as Rushikulya river, one of the major sources of water, is drying up in this summer heat, even as water trade seems to have emerged a major business. Drinking water is being sold in jars, pouches and buckets in water-scarce areas of Berhampur. [More](#)

[The Times of India](#), 6 May 2015 | [The Times of India](#), 6 May 2015 | [Indian Express](#), 9 May 2015 | [The Times of India](#), 11 May 2015 | [New Indian Express](#), 16 May 2015 | [PTI](#), 17 May 2015 | [The Hindu](#), 25 May 2015 | [The Economic Times](#), 25 May 2015 | [The Times of India](#), 30 May 2015 | [The Tribune](#), 1 June 2015



Polluting Ganga to be a criminal offence soon. The Centre is planning a stringent law that will treat all acts leading to pollution of the river Ganga as criminal offence. The government will soon launch a pilot project to prevent the flow of untreated sewerage and industrial effluent into the river besides clearing trash generated during cremation on ghats. The pilot project envisages engaging boatmen in cleaning trash on the river surface and transporting it to specially created dumping yards. It will be

undertaken in eight places. The water ministry is also exploring the possibility of engaging trash skimmer machines, aerators, river surface cleaning boats with contributions from NRIs or corporate houses.

Sewage of 118 towns to be cleaned. Close on the heels of the Cabinet approving Rs 20,000 crore for the *Namami Gange* Project, steps are afoot to invest Rs 8000 crore towards setting up of Sewage Treatment Plants to clean waste water in 118 towns.

Meanwhile, work on waste plants in eight cities will begin in the next three months. These include Allahabad, Haridwar, Patna, Kanpur and Varanasi among others.

Waste treatment capacity for four billion litres per day will be completed before 2019. The Government has sought

donations from individuals and companies. The project would also look into the cleaning of the ghats and surface pollution. It would deploy hi-tech systems like Trash Skimmer Machines, Aerators, River Surface Cleaning Boats and Arresting Booms. In the initial phase, eight towns including Patna, Sahibganj, Kanpur, Allahabad, Mathura-Vrindavan, Haridwar, Varanasi and Nabadwip, would be taken up for setting up such systems.

Namami Gange will focus on “pollution abatement interventions” through the treatment of wastewater flowing through drains into the river, use of innovative technology and immediate short-term measures for arresting pollution at exit points on the riverfront.

First list of river cleaning projects appraised under Ganga mission. Ganga Cleaning Projects under Namami Ganga Programme are to start soon following the appraisal of the first list of 14 projects by the Empowered Steering Committee. These include four projects from Uttarakhand, two from Bihar, two from Uttar Pradesh one from West Bengal amongst others.

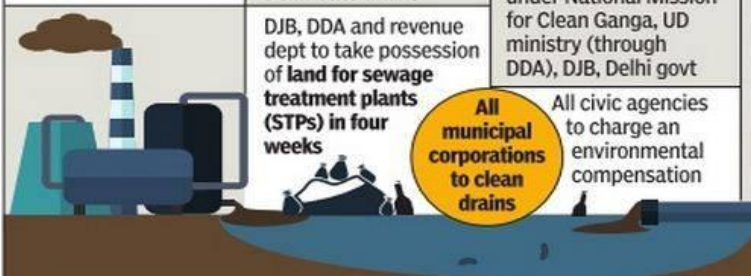

Industrial effluents. In another move, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has inventorised 764 grossly polluting industries discharging 501 million litres per day of trade effluent directly or indirectly into the drains reaching the river Ganga and its tributaries. The Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board has issued closure directions, to 98 tannery units. The CPCB has issued directions for the installation of real time monitoring by the units before 30 June 2015. The CPCB has also issued time bound directions for the implementation of Zero Liquid Discharge sector wise to prevent the discharge of effluent into the river Ganga. The CPCB has also identified 144 drains along the main stem of river Ganga, discharging about 6614 MLD of sewage/waste water.

The first goal is to stop all kinds of pollutants from entering the river, be it industrial effluents, domestic sewage or religious offerings, according to the Ministry of Water Resources, river development and Ganga rejuvenation. While the focus is presently on pollution abatement it has however been decided that work related to urban sewerage network will not be taken up at this stage.

Kanpur drain hurdle for clean Ganga. Looking for a unique solution to one of the biggest challenges on the critical stretch (Kanpur-Varanasi) of the Ganga, the Centre has asked IIT-Roorkee to suggest ways to contain the Sisamau drain. The drain not only discharges the highest amount of untreated sewage (138 MLD) into the river but also passes through heavily populated and congested areas. Experts of the institute will examine it and recommend the best options to the ministry of water resources.

Delhi will have to foot Yamuna clean-up bill. Applying the 'polluter pays' principle, National Green Tribunal (NGT) imposed an 'environmental compensation' on all households in Delhi which are generating sewage, irrespective of whether they are connected to a sewer or not.

PUSHING FOR A CLEAN RIVER

Highlights of NGT order issued on May 8			
Najafgarh and Delhi Gate drains cause 63% of Yamuna's pollution across India. Cleaning them up will be the priority project in phase I of Maile Se Nirmal Yamuna 2017 (MSNY 2017)	DPCC to ensure all CETPs operate to optimum capacity	All new STPs to release effluent to prescribed standards as notified by CPCB	from every household that is generating sewage irrespective of whether they have sewerage connection
	DSIIDC to ensure all industries discharge trade effluents only in designated drain	DJB and DSIIDC, through DPCC, to introduce online monitoring system at specified observation points	Amount directly proportional to property tax or water bill, whichever is higher
DJB to submit action plan; to invite tenders within 45 days; and complete it by 2016	Irrigation and flood control department, in coordination with DJB, to dredge Najafgarh, supplementary and Delhi Gate drains	Total funds for ₹ 3,659-cr project to come from water resources ministry under National Mission for Clean Ganga, UD ministry (through DDA), DJB, Delhi govt	DJB to get de-sludging vehicles
	DJB, DDA and revenue dept to take possession of land for sewage treatment plants (STPs) in four weeks	All civic agencies to charge an environmental compensation	Agencies to fine anybody throwing waste into the river ₹ 5,000 as per NGT's earlier orders
		All municipal corporations to clean drains	

Source. The Times of India, 9 May 2015

The money will fund the "Mailey Se Nirmal Yamuna Revitalization Project 2017" that involves decentralizing sewage treatment, optimizing the output of existing sewage treatment plants and ensuring that effluents from all industries are treated, among other things. An expert committee

consisting of former JNU professor Dr Brij Gopal, IIT Delhi scientist Dr A K Gosain and IIT Roorkee professor Dr A A Kazmi along with DJB had come up with the Rs 3659-crore plan. NGT directed that, besides the new compensation, funds be made available under National Mission for Clean Ganga and from the ministry of urban development.

37 garbage points along drains to check Yamuna pollution. In an attempt to alleviate the growing pollution of Yamuna, the East Delhi Municipal Corporation plans to construct garbage collection points in areas near the drains leading up to the river. About 37 points have been identified after inspection by the corporation in collaboration with the irrigation and flood control department. There are 11 such drains under the East Delhi Municipal Corporation. The garbage collection points will be constructed in localities around these so that the drains and eventually the Yamuna are spared further pollution.

NGT issues notice to Karnataka government over pollution of Cauvery. The National Green Tribunal has served notice to the Karnataka government on the issue related to Bengaluru's sewage being let into its rivers and canals, including Cauvery. Petitioner K Sudhan, an advocate, claimed that many districts in Tamil Nadu, including Chennai, were dependent on Cauvery water for drinking purpose, and pollution was posing a danger to the people using the river water. The petitioner also claimed that on a daily basis several lakh litres of Bengaluru's sewage was let into Cauvery river, which comes to Tamil Nadu.

[The Times of India](#), 9 May 2015 | [The Pioneer](#), 12 May 2015 | [Deccan Herald](#), 18 May 2015 | [The Pioneer](#), 20 May 2015 | [The Times of India](#), 22 May 2015 | [Indian Express](#), 27 May 2015 | [Deccan Herald](#), 27 May 2015



Companies Act amendment allows use of allowing CSR funds in startups. An amendment made in the Companies Act allowing corporate social responsibility (CSR) contributions to incubators, is providing legs to for-profit ventures working with social objectives. Non-banking finance company Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services Ltd used a portion of their 2014-15 CSR funds to invest in two social startups through Villgro — a Department of Science and Technology certified business incubator with focus on social

enterprises and the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad's technology business incubator Centre for Innovation Incubation and Entrepreneurship. SustainEarth Energy Solutions — a startup working to provide affordable biogas technology for rural areas — received Rs 23 lakh; Sickle Innovations — a startup making handheld cotton picketing machines using a patented technology that enhances labourer productivity — got financial support of Rs 25 lakh from the NBFC.

Railways eyes CSR funds of government firms to spruce up stations. The Railways is eyeing the huge corporate social responsibility funds available with the government's public sector units (PSUs) to upgrade and modernize passenger amenities at platforms. To begin with, the state-run transporter will sign MoUs with railway PSUs for taking up works to ensure better facilities for travellers using their CSR funds at 10 stations during the ongoing 15-days customer facilitation drive that started on May 26. The railways' mega plan aims to cover more stations by involving other government PSUs such as NTPC.

Successful corporate initiatives. Jindal Steel & Power Ltd has been awarded for its successful collaboration projects in CSR by Odisha CSR Forum. JSPL has been recognized for its successful partnership projects like Kishori Express and Watershed Management Programme. JSW Steel, a mega integrated steel plant in Toranagal in Ballari district in Karnataka, has set aside Rs 37 crore for CSR activities for 2015-16.

The State Bank of India has created a separate company, SBI Foundation, to carry out its massive CSR initiatives and hopes to get it "running" from July.

Jharkhand government identifies priority areas for CSR. The state's chief minister, while chairing the first meeting of the governing body of the corporate social responsibility council has identified skill development, sanitation, healthcare and education as the state government's priority areas of development.

CII-BSE-IICA create an online platform to pick NGOs for CSR activities. The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) and the Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA) have come together to create an online platform called *Sammaan* to help corporates comply with the rules and regulations laid down in the recently amended CSR Law. This platform has been created to identify and pick the right NGOs capable enough to work with corporates listed under the CSR category. The move is an attempt to bring greater efficiency and transparency to CSR practices.

CII launches single window CSR platform. Confederation of Indian Industry-Southern Region (CII-SR) launched the 'CII-SR CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) Gateway', an online platform connecting businesses with other CSR stakeholders to facilitate effective application of CSR funds as mandated by the Companies Act. The gateway is open to industries pan-India and is a single window solution for CSR needs with respect to capacity building, programme designing, monitoring and evaluation.

[The Times of India](#), 5 May 2015 | [The Hindu](#), 9 May 2015 | [The Times of India](#), 9 May 2015 | [Orissa Dairy](#), 11 May 2015 | [The Times of India](#), 12 May 2015 | [Zee News](#), 17 May 2015 | [The Economic Times](#), 29 May 2015 | [The Times of India](#), 29 May 2015



Air pollution causes 8 million deaths/year globally. Deaths due to air pollution have increased fourfold across the globe over the past decade, the latest assessment by the World Health Organization (WHO) shows. Of the 4.3 million deaths globally from indoor air pollution, China accounted for nearly 1.5 million and India for close to 1.3 million. Between them, the two Asian giants accounted for nearly two-thirds of the global total. As for outdoor pollution, the south-east Asian region, which includes India in the WHO categorisation, accounted for about 9.4 lakh deaths and the category that includes China had 1.7 million. The two regions were home to over two-thirds of global deaths due to this cause.

Heat & dust raise Delhi's air toxins to critical levels. Toxins in the air rose alarmingly on 28 May in Delhi due to a cloud cover trapping pollutants. The capital's air quality index (AQI) breached the 'severe' level, going from 219 (poor) on 27 May to 410 in one of the sharpest single-day spikes in recent months.

Daily bulletin on air quality index for 8 cities launched. Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has launched a daily bulletin service to highlight air quality index in eight cities namely Delhi, Chennai, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Faridabad, Kanpur, Agra and Varanasi. The bulletin was launched on CPCB's website and will provide a comparative data of air quality index on a daily basis in the categories of moderate, satisfactory and poor, apart from giving the major pollutant in that particular area.

The government says emission from old diesel vehicles is not to be blamed. Experts say government is selectively using data to make its case.

Children in India suffer from poor lung health. According to nation-wide survey report titled *Breathe Blue'15* conducted by HEAL Foundation, 21% of the children surveyed in Delhi have been tagged with 'Poor' lung capacity in the Lung Health Screening Test conducted on them while another 19% faring as 'bad'. Together this segment forms 40 per cent of the children surveyed. This was followed by Bangalore at 36 per cent (14 per cent 'Poor' and 22 per cent 'Bad'), 35 per cent in Kolkata (9 per cent 'Poor' and 26 per cent 'Bad') and 27 per cent in Mumbai (13 per cent 'Poor' and 14 per cent 'Bad'). The survey included 2000 school students in the age group of 8-14 from all parts of the county.

[Business Standard](#), 1 May 2015 | [Outlook India](#), 4 May 2015 | [The Times of India](#), 5 May 2015 | [The Hindu](#), 5 May 2015 | [Mint](#), 5 May 2015 | [The Times of India](#), 19 May 2015 | [Business Standard](#), 28 May 2015 | [The Times of India](#), 29 May 2015



Everest glaciers may disappear by 2100. Glaciers in Nepal's Everest region could shrink at least 70% or even disappear entirely by the end of the century as a result of climate change. Researchers in Nepal, the Netherlands and France came to the conclusion after studying weather patterns on the roof of the world and then created a model of conditions on Everest to determine the future impact of rising temperatures on its glaciers. The latest [study](#), published in *The Cryosphere*, paints a grim

picture of the impact of climate change on the world's highest peak by 2100. The model used by the scientists showed glacier volumes in the region could shrink by between 70% and 99% by 2100, a far grimmer prediction than those made in previous studies.

Shimla among 6 world cities for climate adaptation plan. Shimla is among the six cities selected for the prestigious CityLinks Climate Adaptation Partnership Programme, funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The programme will be managed by the International City Managers Association. The programme will prepare long-term strategies to meet the emerging challenge of climate change and its impact on other sectors in Shimla which has grown phenomenally and facing problems of rise in temperatures, shrinking of green cover, lesser snowfalls and rain and scorching heat during the peak summer season. The collaboration will build on Colorado's experience in designing and implementing many climate change initiatives and

Colorado will be the resource city for Shimla and a series of exchange visits and collaborative initiatives have been planned between the patterned cities.

the team will look into the key areas of municipality, water supply, sanitation, solid waste management and slum development.

Global warming could sink large parts of Kochi. Within 100 years, rising sea levels caused by global warming could submerge large swathes of coastal land in Kochi, Kerala's second most populous city, scientists at the Goa-based National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) have predicted. Inundation scenarios created by NIO scientists Dr R Mani Murali and Dr P K Dinesh Kumar using satellite imagery and a digital elevation model have also warned that Kochi, a city the duo claims has "expanded rapidly and heavily stressed from environmental perspectives", will create "harmful effects" for the population as well as the coastal environment and severely impact fishing, agriculture and other socio-economic activity. The two scenarios simulated by the scientists for a one-metre and two-metre sea level rise are in sync with the globally accepted levels of sea rise of 0.5 metre to two- metres over the coming century.

[The Tribune](#), 10 May 2015 | [The Times of India](#), 19 May 2015 | [Mint](#), 27 May 2015 | [The Times of India](#), 28 May 2015

News in brief

Gujarat to initiate project to restore ecology of saline areas

Gujarat, which possesses more than 1.2 million hectares of arid area due to salinity ingress, is planning to initiate a project to turn the vast tracks of saline land into grassland and restore green cover of those areas. In this regard, the Gujarat ecology commission of the state's forest and environment department has taken up a pilot project in a village near Gulf of Khambhat and will subsequently implement in other areas also. According to the website of Narmada Water Resources, Water Supply and Kalpsar department, coastal areas of Kutch and Saurashtra are saline which comprises around 1.2 million hectares.

[The Times of India](#), 12 May 2015

Bengaluru wetlands

Degradation has stripped the wetlands of Bengaluru of all their value. The loss in value is 99.8%, according to a study by the Indian Institute of Science (IISc). The study put the valuation of a relatively pristine wetland in Bengaluru at Rs 10,435 per hectare per day. However, a polluted wetland of the city is valued at a mere Rs 20 per hectare per day. The IISc study, incidentally, provided Koramangala residents enough ammunition against the setting up of an SEZ in Bellandur wetlands in violation of environmental laws. Hearing a petition filed by the residents and activists, the National Green Tribunal recently imposed Rs 140 crore fine on two builders implementing the SEZ project.

The study, titled [Conservation of Bellandur Wetlands: Obligation of Decision-makers to Ensure Intergenerational Equity](#), was undertaken by Dr T V Ramachandra and others of Energy and Wetlands Research Group, Centre for Ecological Sciences, IISc. The project has tellingly illustrated the threats faced by wetlands of Bengaluru. Pointing out that the number of water bodies in Greater Bangalore has shrunk from 207 in 1973 to 93 in 2010, the study says that 72% of the lakes have lost their catchment areas, 66% are now sewage fed and 14% are hemmed in by slums. According to the study, 54% of lakes have been encroached for illegal buildings. The anthropogenic activities particularly, indiscriminate

disposal of industrial effluents and sewage wastes, dumping of building debris have altered the physical, chemical as well as biological integrity of the ecosystem.

The Times of India, 10 May 2015

India ranks 24th in the first Environmental Democracy Index

India has ranked 24th out of 70 countries in the first [Environmental Democracy Index](#) that is topped by Lithuania and evaluates nations' progress in enacting laws to promote transparency, accountability and citizen engagement in environmental decision making. Lithuania, Latvia, Russia, the US, South Africa, the UK, Hungary, Bulgaria, Panama and Colombia are the top 10 nations in the list launched by World Resources Institute and Access Initiative. The index evaluates environmental democracy in 70 countries, including 75 legal and 24 practice indicators, based on recognized international standards.

The Times of India, 21 May 2015

Reclamation of land unsuitable for agriculture

As per the Land Use Statistics for 2011-12 compiled by Directorate of Economics & Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture, out of total geographical area of 3287.3 lakh hectares in the country, 1467.5 lakh hectares is non-agricultural land/ area. Area under non-agricultural land consists of forests, area under non-agricultural uses, barren and un-culturable land, permanent pastures and other grazing land. The reclamation of area under non-agricultural land is generally not viable due to ecological and cost considerations. However, to improve fertility of soils in the country, the Government under the component of soil health management of National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture is promoting soil test based balanced and integrated nutrient management through setting up/strengthening of soil testing laboratories, establishment of bio-fertilizer and compost units, use of micronutrients, trainings and demonstrations on balanced use of fertilizers etc. Recently, a National Mission on Soil Health Card has been launched to provide soil tested based fertilizer recommendation to all the farmers in the country. Further, Ministry of Rural Development is implementing an Integrated Watershed Management Programme for development of rainfed/degraded areas. This information was given by the Minister of State for Agriculture Mr Mohanbhai Kundaria in Rajya Sabha.

Business Standard, 8 May 2015

Kasturirangan report to be implemented by year-end

The union environment minister has said that the recommendations made by the Kasturirangan Committee report on eco-sensitive zones in the Western Ghats would be implemented by this year-end. While Kerala has submitted its comments, Karnataka is yet to do so. Tamil Nadu, Goa, Maharashtra, and Gujarat are expected to submit their reports shortly.

The high-level working group headed by Kasturirangan had in its 2013 report recommended to the environment ministry that that 37% of the Western Ghats area should be declared as ecologically sensitive. This area, the report had recommended, should be out of bounds for a range of industrial, mining, quarrying and related activities. The environment ministry had then conveyed "in principle" acceptance of the report through 2013 office memoranda. Though many observe the [Kasturirangan report](#) as a serious dilution of the original [Madhav Gadgil report](#) on the Western Ghats, even this met

with serious objections from most stakeholder states over the demarcation of the environmentally sensitive area or eco-sensitive areas. Kerala and Maharashtra have been particularly opposed to the Kasturirangan report, arguing it will seriously hamper development projects and hit livelihood prospects. [The Hindu](#), 29 May 2015

New rules proposed to check pollution from thermal power plants

To check pollution from thermal power plants, the environment ministry has proposed stringent emission and water consumption standards. The ministry, on 15 May, put on its website a [draft notification](#) to amend the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986, with the Environment (Protection) Amendment Rules, 2015. It proposes to control emissions of particulate matter, sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides and mercury and also cut water use by coal-based thermal power plants. The new norms will also require all existing cooling tower-based plants to restrict water consumption. According to CSE, the new standards will lead to an 80% cumulative drop in freshwater withdrawal by thermal power plants from around 22 billion cubic metre in 2011-12 to around 4.5 billion cubic metre in 2016-17.

[Mint](#), 20 May 2015

Ganga-Brahmaputra basin mapped

The Ganga-Brahmaputra Basin together store around 960 cubic km of water, researchers have claimed in a first first-of-its-kind study after mapping the rivers, and said it will help understand droughts and floods to better manage water resources in the region. Scientists from India, the UK, France and Bangladesh undertook mapping of the two rivers during 2003 to 2007 from the basins with the help of satellite images. The Ganges-Brahmaputra basin covers a large area, extending over India, Nepal, Bhutan, China and Bangladesh. The basin houses rivers, floodplains, lakes, wetlands and the largest delta in world, all of which contribute significantly to the regional climate; groundwater, surface water and rainfall form an interconnected cycle and are constantly affecting each other. The study was aimed at understanding the relationship between these elements by quantifying water storage at different levels, and variations across years.

[The Hindu](#), 26 May 2015

EU readies template for making Indian cities more sustainable

The project of building 100 smart cities could get a boost with a template readied by the European Union for making Indian cities more liveable, sustainable and energy efficient. Cooperation in the smart cities project between India and the 28-nation grouping, the country's largest trading partner, is likely to be discussed at the India-EU summit later this year in Brussels. The EU, which has been working with Maharashtra on making Mumbai a smart city, brings with it a range of expertise from its member states to make Indian cities more liveable amid growing population pressure on these cities.

[The Economic Times](#), 4 May 2015