

# Enviro Monitor

August 2019

## Climate change



- Climate change to hit 150 Himalayan fish species
- India to study climate change in deep oceans

## Natural resources



- Centre gives over Rs 47,000 crore to 27 states for green activities
- Only 50% of fragile Western Ghats in draft protection plan

## Water stress



- NITI Aayog releases composite water management index
- Water harvesting now must for Delhi homes of 100sq m & above
- IIT Delhi's 'waste to wealth' center to clean water bodies, create resources with pollutants
- DJB approves plan to revive 12 water bodies
- World Resource Institute study maps Chennai as extremely water-stressed city



**Climate change to hit 150 Himalayan fish species.** An internal study of the Wildlife Institute of India reveals climate change will adversely affect around 150 native fish species of the Himalayan states, including Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and Arunachal Pradesh. Common snow trout, found in the Himalayas and much sought after as food, alone is likely to lose around 21% of its existing space of 16,251 square km.

**India to study climate change in deep oceans.** India is all set to study climate change in the deep oceans as part of an ambitious Rs 6500 crore Deep Ocean Mission, according to Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Mr M Rajeevan. Studying climate change, marine biodiversity and survey for compounds like hydrocarbons and minerals will be part of the deep ocean mission. Institutions, including the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services and Centre for Marine Living Resources and Ecology are involved in the mission.

[Deccan Herald](#), 19 August 2019 | [The Times of India](#), 27 August 2019



**Centre gives over Rs 47,000 crore to 27 states for green activities.** The environment ministry on Thursday released over Rs 47,000 crores to 27 states for compensatory afforestation and other green activities, including prevention of forest fire, biodiversity management and soil conservation. Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh got the maximum share of the fund. The funds were released under Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) Act. The corpus will be

utilised for compensatory afforestation, wildlife management, forest fire prevention, work related to soil and moisture conservation in forests, voluntary relocation of villages from protected areas, management of biological resources and biodiversity, research in forestry and monitoring of CAMPA works among others.

**Only 50% of fragile Western Ghats in draft protection plan.** Four of the six Western Ghats states have agreed to declare only 31,387 sq km — about half of what K Kasturirangan Committee had recommended as — as ecologically sensitive areas (ESA) where mining, quarrying, and polluting industries will be banned. Minutes of a meeting of these states with the environment ministry, held on February 15, 2019, show that Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Goa and Kerala have proposed to notify only about half of the recommended 60,000 sq km as ESA. Besides these states, Karnataka and Gujarat share areas with the ecologically fragile Western Ghats, a mountain range that runs parallel to India's western coast. The Madhav Gadgil Committee in 2010 recommended that 75% of the 129,037 sq km of the Western Ghats be declared ESA because of its dense, rich forest cover and large number of endemic species. Later, a panel headed by Kasturirangan, former chief of Indian Space Research Organisation, had scaled it down to 50%.

[Hindustan Times](#), 27 August 2019 | [The Economic Times](#), 29 August 2019



**NITI Aayog releases composite water management index.** Goa, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Goa and Karnataka have topped the Composite Water Management Index 2.0 for 2017-18 among non-Himalayan states. Among Himalayan states, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Tripura are on top of the index. The Index is an important tool to assess and improve the performance of

states and union territories in efficient management of water resources. This has been done through a first of its kind water data collection exercise in partnership with ministry of jal shakti, ministry of rural development and all the states/ union territories.

The objective of index is to involve all key stakeholders to understand how states can better manage water resources.

**Water harvesting now must for Delhi homes of 100 sq m and above.** In a major move to shore up the city's water table that's falling alarmingly, the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) on Thursday made it mandatory for all the properties with an area of 100sq metres and above to have functional rainwater harvesting systems, with strong penal provisions for defaulters. DJB, which amended the water and sewer (tariff and metering) regulations 2012 to include this provision, also made waste water recycling mandatory for bulk users in new properties.

**IIT Delhi's 'waste to wealth' center to clean water bodies, create resources with pollutants.** The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi partnered with the Denmark-based DESMI to setup 'DESMI Centre of Excellence on Waste to Wealth' at IIT Delhi. The objective of the DESMI Center for Excellence is the removal of floating debris from drains including Babarpur, Barapullah and other water bodies in Delhi and generate resource from the mixed waste feedstock collected. IIT Delhi and DESMI also proposed to work together to adapt, modify and create new mechanical tools to clean water bodies; the need for decentralized small scale solutions.

**DJB approves plan to revive 12 water bodies.** With an aim to clean Yamuna River and improving water and sewer network, the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) cleared some of the crucial projects including rejuvenation of 12 water bodies using (PTT) 'Phytoid Treatment Technology' and extension of scheme for regularisation of domestic and commercial unauthorised water connection. The move is considered important as ground water level of Delhi has alarmingly gone down due to over exploitation and rapid urbanisation of the city.

**World Resource Institute study maps Chennai as extremely water-stressed city.** A recent global study by the World Resource Institute has put Chennai on the map for being an 'extremely water-stressed' city. This means that, on an average, more than 80 per cent of its available water supply is used up every year by consumers, industries and agriculture. A majority of districts in Tamil Nadu and Chennai, were found to have extremely high levels of water stress, exceeding 80 per cent. Before recent rain came as a timely respite, the city was reeling under one of its worst water crisis in two decades.

Both Chennai and other parts of Tamil Nadu are predicted to have extremely high demand for drinking water by 2030.

[The New Indian Express](#), 19 August 2019 | [The Pioneer](#), 20 August 2019 | [The Economic Times](#), 23 August 2019 | [The Times of India](#), 30 August 2019 | [Indian Express](#), 30 August 2019