

Enviro Monitor

February 2020

Climate change



- Carbon emissions by India's steel sector to triple by 2050
- Tamil Nadu: Climate change draft policy out
- National Institute of Oceanography launches study on changing monsoon trends
- Prolonged monsoon, climatic change bite Alphonso mangoes
- Jeff Bezos pledges \$10 billion fund to tackle climate change

Air pollution



- India accounts for two-thirds of the 30 most polluted cities in the world
- Air pollution costs India \$150 billion a year
- Real-time satellite data to help Bengal curb pollution

Water management



- Jal Jeevan Mission to add 11.5 million household tap connections by FY21
- As water crisis hits Hindu Kush Himalayan region, better planning and management are need of the hour
- DCM Shriram inks pact to promote water conservation

Smart cities & Green buildings



- Rajkot first to get Green Building Certificate for PMAY scheme
- Five new smart cities to be investment hubs
- Smart City Mission: Centre devises 20:20 model to boost laggard cities



Carbon emissions by India's steel sector to triple by 2050. India's steel industry is set to more than triple its carbon footprint by 2050 as demand for the metal in the world's second-biggest producer soars. Carbon dioxide emissions from the steel industry are projected to jump to 837

TERI suggests that it is possible to put the steel sector on a pathway to reduce emissions to near zero levels soon after 2050, making India the first country to industrialise while decarbonising its steel production.

million tons over the next three decades from 242 million tons now as India's demand for steel more than quadruples to about 490 million tons, according to a [report](#) by TERI. It will also contribute more than a third of the nation's total fossil fuel combustion emissions from 12% currently.

Tamil Nadu: Climate change draft policy out, suggestions sought. Aware that monitoring and evaluation of climate change is paramount to tackle its impact, the state government has invited suggestions from the public and others over its plans. The recently released [draft State Action Plan on Climate Change 2.0](#) envisages increasing the forest cover inside and outside notified areas through proper afforestation, restoring degraded forests, enhancing biodiversity conservation, managing forest fires and invasive alien species and conducting research in the forestry sector among other plans.

National Institute of Oceanography launches study on changing monsoon trends. With climate change triggering extreme weather events and changing the monsoon pattern, the Goa-headquartered National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) has launched a study into the cyclonic events that occurred in the Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea from 1960 to 2019. The NIO will study the changes in the surface water of Arabian Sea, up to a depth of 100m, which could have affected the monsoon pattern and created conditions favourable for cyclonic storms.

Prolonged monsoon, climatic change bite Alphonso mangoes. Last year's prolonged monsoon and other climatic changes in Maharashtra have affected the Alphonso mangoes in the Konkan belt. The flowering and fruit setting has been delayed, leading to almost 50-60 per cent dip in production.

Jeff Bezos pledges \$10 billion fund to tackle climate change. Mr Jeff Bezos, CEO of Amazon has said that he was committing \$10 billion to a new fund to tackle climate change. In a post to his 1.4 million followers on social media, Mr Bezos said the Bezos Earth Fund would "fund scientists, activists, NGOs -- any effort that offers a real possibility to help preserve and protect the natural world."

[The Economic Times](#), 4 February 2020; [The New Indian Express](#), 10 February 2020; [Business Standard](#), 19 February 2020; [The Hindu Business Line](#), 21 February 2020; [The Times of India](#), 26 February 2020



India accounts for two-thirds of the 30 most polluted cities in the world. According to the [2019 World Air Quality Report](#), which analyses the state of particulate pollution caused by PM2.5 in cities globally, 21 of the 30 most polluted cities in the world are in India, while Delhi is the most polluted capital in the world. PM2.5 pollution is especially dangerous since the pollutant makes its way into our respiratory system in a much easier manner than most other pollutants—92% of the world breathes

air made toxic by PM2.5 pollutants, a major cause of death among children under the age of 15 years. Southeast Asia, South and West Asia face the worst burden of PM2.5 pollution—only six cities from these regions meet the WHO’s annual pollution targets.

The 21 Indian cities named in the list in the order of their ranking were Ghaziabad, Delhi, Noida, Gurugram, Greater Noida, Bandhwari, Lucknow, Bulandshahr, Muzaffarnagar, Baghpat, Jind, Faridabad, Coraut, Bhiwadi, Patna, Palwal, Muzaffarpur, Hisar, Kutail, Jodhpur and Moradabad.

Air pollution costs India \$150 billion a year. Air pollution from burning fossil fuels is generating economic losses of \$8 billion a day, according to a report from Greenpeace Southeast Asia and Center for Research on Energy and Clean Air. That’s about 3.3% of global gross domestic product, or \$2.9 trillion per year. China, the US and India bear the highest economic cost of soaring pollution, at an estimated \$900 billion, \$600 billion and \$150 billion a year, respectively.

Real-time satellite data to help Bengal curb pollution. The West Bengal Pollution Control Board has signed a memorandum of understanding with IIT-Delhi scientists to manage air quality in eight polluted cities using real-time satellite data. This is reportedly the first such instance when real-time satellite data would be used for round-the-clock air quality management by any state pollution control board.

[Hindustan Times](#), 10 February 2020; [Mint](#), 13 February 2020; [The Times of India](#), 26 February 2020; [The Financial Express](#), 27 February 2020



Jal Jeevan Mission to add 11.5 million household tap connections by FY21. Jal Jeevan Mission, the government’s flagship scheme, has set out a target to add 11.5 million household tap connections by 2020-21 (FY21), according to papers laid under Budget documents. The total allocation for the programme for FY21 is Rs 11,500 crore, up from Rs 10,000 crore last year. According to the government data, 1.46 million of the 178.7 million rural households in the country are yet to have functional household tap connections. The government has proposed Rs 3.6 trillion for the programme to be executed by 2024.

DCM Shriram inks pact to promote water conservation. DCM Shriram has signed a memorandum of understanding with Rabobank and Rivulis Irrigation India, the Indian arm of Israeli microirrigation firm Rivulis, to install drip irrigation in sugarcane farms of over 5,000 hectares in two Uttar Pradesh districts. The proposed installation of drip irrigation in four units of the company located at Ajbapur, Rupapur, Hariawan and Loni in Lakhimpur Kheri and Hardoi districts aims to give further fillip to the water conservation efforts.

As water crisis hits Hindu Kush Himalayan region, better planning and management are need of the hour. The Hindu Kush Himalayan (HKH) region is the

water tower for most of Asia, but many of its residents face increasing water insecurity. A recent report by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) based in Kathmandu, Nepal, throws much needed light on the drivers of water scarcity in the HKH region.

Published in [Water Policy](#), the study, based on research which looked at 13 towns in four countries

– Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan – shows that a complex set of factors are leading to the problems.

5 areas that intersect to cause water crisis are:

- Lack of sustainable sourcing of water
- Failing models of water governance
- Inequitable distribution of water
- Ignored role of women in water governance
- Increasing impact of climate change

[Business Standard](#), 3 February 2020; [The Hindu Business Line](#), 11 February 2020; [Firstpost](#), 6 March 2020



Rajkot first to get Green Building Certificate for PMAY scheme. Rajkot has become the first city in the country to obtain the ‘Green Building Certificate’ for the affordable housing scheme. Rajkot Municipal Corporation (RMC) claimed that the civic body received this honour for providing better services for houses constructed for people from lower income. The certification was issued for the houses constructed near Aryaland Residency near Mavdi area under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yogna (PMAY) scheme. The civic body has constructed 1,176 houses for economically weaker sections, RMC said in a statement.

Five new smart cities to be investment hubs. Five new smart cities, proposed by finance minister in the Budget, would be developed on the pattern of Gandhinagar’s Gujarat International Finance Tec-City with dedicated metro corridors, energy-conserving buildings, walkability elements, state-of-the-art design elements and automated garbage collection. The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade is working closely with Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs to finalise a template for the proposed smart cities. The new smart cities would reportedly be developed as investment hubs and not follow the present urban concept of retrofitting and developing a small area of a city as a smart city.

Smart City Mission: Centre devises 20:20 model to boost laggard cities. In a final push to the Smart City Mission, the Centre has devised a 20-20 model to pair the top 20 cities with the bottom 20 and help the laggard cities to kick-start the smartening up process by borrowing technical know-how and financial studies. The sister cities would provide access to technical and financial studies, including detailed project reports, feasibility studies and impact assessments. Top-ranking Ahmedabad has been paired with Chandigarh, which is ranked 81. Nagpur, which ranks 2, will hand hold Port Blair which is 96th in the all-India ranking. Similarly, other sister cities are Tirupur (rank 3) with Silvassa (87), Ranchi (rank 4) with Shimla (92), Bhopal (rank 5) with Aizawl (rank 82), Surat (rank 6) with Saharanpur (91).

[The Economic Times](#), 11 February 2020; [The Times of India](#), 11 February 2020; [The Economic Times](#), 21 February 2020