Enviro Monitor

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Climate change

- IIT-M to set up lab in Munnar college to study climate change
- India could face productivity loss equivalent to 34 million jobs in 2030 due to global warming: UN

Pollution

- 93 villages in Bengaluru Urban hit by fluorosis
- Budget to be utilised to clean up air in 102 cities

Water stress

- 30,000 water bodies to be rejuvenated in Tamil Nadu this year
- For water plan, government goes for 3D mapping of all villages

Waste management

- Chennai set to become first Indian city to supply recycled sewage to industries
- New tech to sort out garbage at dry collection units

IIT-M to set up lab in Munnar college to study climate change. The Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M) will soon set up a state-of-the-art laboratory in Munnar, in collaboration with College of Engineering, Munnar, to study the climate change scenario in south India, said IITM faculty. The laboratory will be located in the high altitude of Munnar as it is apt for the study. It will be extremely beneficial in studying and analysing pollution and the associated climate change, which are major concerns of the society now.

India could face productivity loss equivalent to 34 million jobs in 2030 due to global warming: UN. India is projected to lose 5.8 per cent of working hours in 2030, a productivity loss equivalent to 34 million full-time jobs, due to global warming, particularly impacting agriculture and construction sectors. The International Labour Organization (ILO) released its report 'Working on a Warmer Planet - The Impact of Heat Stress on Labour Productivity and Decent Work' which said that by 2030, the equivalent of more than two per cent of total working hours worldwide is projected to be lost every year, either because it is too hot to work or because workers have to work at a slower pace.

The Times of India, 2 July 2019 | The New Indian Express, 26 July 2019

93 villages in Bengaluru Urban hit by fluorosis. Bengaluru Urban district administration recently identified 93 villages, where residents are suffering from fluorosis, once again bringing to the fore the issue of unsafe drinking water. Fluorosis is a chronic condition where teeth and bones get affected, at times even leading to permanent damage. People who consume water with fluoride content or vegetables rich in fluoride get affected by fluorosis.

The fluorosis-hit villages are spread over all four taluks — Bengaluru north, south, east and Anekal. Villages like Kannur (Bengaluru north), Avalahalli (Bengaluru east), Soolikere (Bengaluru north) and Indlawadi in Anekal are among the worst hit..

Budget to be utilised to clean up air in 102 cities. The Union Environment Ministry is set to initiate a special scheme to reduce air pollution in 102 cities, including four in Karnataka. The budget for 2018-19 was Rs 2683 crore and the allocation in 2019-20 budget is Rs 3175 crore— an increase of Rs 482 crore," Union Environment Minister Mr Prakash Javadekar said. Most of the enhanced budget, nearly Rs 450 crore, would be utilised for clean air programme as the central government will fund purchase of vacuum road cleaning machines, install more instruments to check PM-2.5 and PM-10 (particulate matter with 2.5 and 10 micron size) level and strengthening the state pollution control boards

Deccan Herald, 9 July 2019 | The Times of India, 22 July 2019

30,000 water bodies to be rejuvenated in Tamil Nadu this year. Just after announcing the Tamil Nadu Water Resources Conservation and Augmentation Mission to avoid water scarcity, the State government has issued administrative sanction for rejuvenating 5,000 minor irrigation (MI) tanks and 25,000 ponds and 'ooranies' (water source) in the State during the current financial year at a cost of Rs 1250 crore. There are 21,609 MI tanks, 48,758 ponds and 'ooranies' in Tamil Nadu. Rejuvenation of the rest of the water bodies will be taken up in coming years.

For water plan, government goes for 3D mapping of all villages. The Centre is carrying out 3D aquifer mapping of every village which will help it take specific water conservation measures at micro level across the country. The ongoing exercise of 3D aquifer (underground layer of water-bearing rock) mapping at micro-level will assist the government in estimating quantity and quality of ground water in a particular village or cluster of villages and help in assessment of sustainable level of ground extraction. The mapping is being undertaken by the Central Ground Water Board on the scale of 1:50,000 in 3D.

The Times of India, 23 July 2019 | The New Indian Express, 29 July 2019

Chennai set to become first Indian city to supply recycled sewage to industries. Chennai will soon become the first Indian city to recycle sewage and supply it for industrial purposes, said Chennai Metro Water Board officials. A new treatment plant being built at Kodungaiyur in North Chennai will be operational by August first week as construction works are in the final stages. Once the plant starts functioning, recycled water will be sent to industries in the city. This means that fresh water that is currently being supplied to industries will be provided only for residents as drinking water, helping the city to tide over the severe water crisis.

New tech to sort out garbage at dry collection units. In order to tackle the rising dry waste, the BBMP will rebuild over 10 technology-based new dry waste collection centres. The government has given a 4G exemption to StreetSmart, a company based out of the Netherlands, to design these centres at various points wherever necessary. Here, the waste will be sorted mechanically, unlike the existing centres where it is done manually.

Deccan Herald, 16 July 2019 | The New Indian Express, 29 July 2019