

# Enviro Monitor

May 2019

## Waste management



- Over 30 FMCG firms to cut plastic waste in Punjab
- Greater Noida industrial body to implement solid waste management rules
- DJB to set up new water and sewage plants, plans lake near Rajghat

## Water stress



- Metros to see more water stress in 2020
- In Pune, 200 villages battle water scarcity
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- Karnataka lost 10,000 hectares of forest in 3 years
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- 84 cities submit plans for improving air quality
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**Over 30 FMCG firms to cut plastic waste in Punjab.** Six cities in Punjab would witness reduction in plastic waste as more than 30 fast moving consumer goods (FMCG) companies, including multinationals, in association with the state government have geared up to manage multi-layered packaging waste. They target

to collect 3500 tonnes of waste packaging material in the current fiscal. The plastic waste will be collected by registered producer responsibility organisations and NGOs.

The collected waste will be sent to recyclers, waste-to-energy plants, cement units, road construction and pyrolysis units to extract fuel oil from the MLP.

**Greater Noida industrial body to implement solid waste management rules.** Greater Noida is getting ready to implement Solid Waste Management Rules (SWM) 2016. The Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority has invited suggestions from residents regarding Construction and Demolition Waste Management, Decentralised Solid Waste Management and Faecal Sludge and Septage Management in its bid to implement SWM rules. The authority aims for an open defecation-free plus status in the next three months and initiate schemes around waste segregation, recycle and reuse of municipal and construction waste.

**DJB to set up new water and sewage plants, plans lake near Rajghat.** The Delhi Jal Board (DJB) will set up a new water treatment plant in the national capital to meet at least 10% of the additional supply demand. It will also set up a sewage treatment plant to reduce pollution in river Yamuna. The DJB approved the two mega projects, to be built within three years, at a total estimated cost of Rs 1760 crore. The sewage treatment plant (STP) will come up in Okhla with a capacity of 125 million gallons per day.

[The Times of India](#), 15 May 2019 | [Hindustan Times](#), 30 May 2019 | [The Tribune](#), 31 May 2019



**Metros to see more water stress in 2020.** Over 20 major metros in the country will reach 'zero' ground water level by 2020, which will affect 10 crore people. In the following decade, access to drinking water will sharply decline, said Niti Aayog in its [Composite Water Management Index report](#) released in 2018. According to the statistics released in January 2019, in Hyderabad, groundwater levels have dropped across 16 localities and Hyderabad district. Ameerpet, Khairatabad, Trimulgherry,

Marredpally and Musheerabad have seen a drastic drop.

**In Pune, 200 villages battle water scarcity.** As many as 200 villages in Pune district are facing a water scarcity. Over 4 lakh villagers have reportedly been affected by the water scarcity. The district collector said they plan to increase the projects under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, as part of steps to help villagers tackle the scarcity.

**Punjab's water crisis.** According to a draft report of the Central Ground Water Board, the state will be reduced to a desert in 25 years if the exploitation of its underground water resources continues at the current rate. The extraction of groundwater is 165 per cent, mostly from the 14 lakh-plus tubewells in

Malwa and other regions. Water-guzzling crops such as paddy are mainly held responsible for the sorry state of affairs.

**Gujarat facing massive water crisis.** Water scarcity is particularly acute in the Saurashtra region, Kutch, North Gujarat and parts of tribal pockets in central and South Gujarat. More than 20 districts are severely affected as towns and villages hardly get water twice a week. In more than 500 villages in 14 districts, drinking water is being supplied through tankers.

**Water policy for Kerala soon.** The Water Resources Department is framing a water supply and sanitation (WSS) policy for the State, which, among other things, will indicate standard operating procedures (SOPs) for the sector and suggest methods, including public-private-partnership models, for improved service delivery.

[The Hindu](#), 10 May 2019 | [The Tribune](#), 15 May 2019 | [Indian Express](#), 16 May 2019 | [The Hindu](#), 30 May 2019 | [Deccan Chronicle](#), 31 May 2019



**Karnataka lost 10,000 hectares of forest in 3 years.** Karnataka has lost more than 3,000 hectares of primary forests in each year between 2016 and 2018, which is way above the annual forest loss in every year since 2001, barring one. The forest loss in 2018 was 3537 ha whereas the figures in 2017 and 2016 were 3060 and 3,310 ha respectively. Since 2001, Karnataka's tree cover loss never breached the 3,000 ha mark barring a single year in 2007 when 4145 ha of forests vanished. On a micro level, the maximum decline was seen in Dakshin Kannada and Udupi districts in the last three years. In Dakshin Kannada, the loss was 1109 ha in 2016; 955 ha in 2017 and 1072 ha in 2018. In Udupi, the corresponding figures were 740 ha, 857 ha and 665 ha respectively. Estimated on the basis of NASA satellite images, the data comes from Global Forest Watch, an arm of the World Resources Institute.

**Over 1000 fires ravage 1369 ha forest cover in Uttarakhand.** The Uttarakhand forest department has recorded a loss of Rs 23.59 lakh due to ravaging wildfires that have gutted 1369 hectares of forest cover in 1099 fire incidents till date in the state this season. Most of the fires have occurred in Kumaon region (681) followed by Garhwal region(367) and the wildlife administration region comprising of wildlife divisions, wildlife sanctuaries and national parks (51), in which 938.77 hectares, 360.11 hectares and 70.41 hectares of forest cover was gutted respectively. Almora district has recorded the maximum financial loss due to fires (Rs 9.26 lakh) followed by Pauri (Rs 2.45 lakh), Champawat (Rs 2.33), Pithoragarh (Rs 2.26 lakh) and Nainital (Rs 2.08 lakh).

**Over 1 million plant faces extinction.** More than one million of the estimated eight million plant and animal species on earth are at a risk of vanishing- many of them within decades -because of lopsided human activities. According to the UN global assessment report prepared by scientists from the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, the biomass of wild mammals has fallen by 82 per cent, natural ecosystems have lost about half their area and a million species are at risk of extinction - all largely as a result of human actions. Compiled over three years by more than 450 scientists and diplomats, the

The report identified changes in land and sea use as the biggest cause, followed by direct exploitation of organisms; climate change; pollution and invasive alien species (from one habitat to another habitat).

report observes that the average abundance of native species in most major land-based habitats has fallen by at least 20 per cent, mostly since 1900.

[The Times of India](#), 7 May 2019 | [The Pioneer](#), 8 May 2019 | [Deccan Herald](#), 9 May 2019 | [The Times of India](#), 23 May 2019



Air quality

**84 cities submit plans for improving air quality.** 84 out of the 102 cities that have been tasked with reducing toxic particulate matter levels by 20%-30% by 2024 have submitted proposals. For achieving the targets set by the National Clean Air Programme, cities would be expected to calculate the reduction in pollution, keeping 2017's average annual PM levels as the base year.

**System to check particulate air pollution launched.** Gujarat launched the world's first emissions trading system for particulate pollution, the single greatest threat to human health globally. It is a market-based system where the government sets a limit on emissions and allows industries to buy and sell permits to stay below the cap. The pilot programme will be a model for the rest of India and the world as a means of reducing air pollution and facilitating robust economic growth.

[DNA](#), 9 May 2019 | [The Hindu](#), 29 May 2019 | [Business Standard](#), 5 June 2019