

Enviro Monitor

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Climate change



- India faces risk of annual coastal flooding
- Climate crisis causing more frequent extreme El Nino events

Air quality



- Delhi's air quality dips with spike in stubble burning
- Construction activities banned from October 26-30 in Delhi-NCR
- Delhi: Study to develop model for real-time pollution sources
- Ghaziabad is most polluted city in India
- Rise in stubble burning cases in Punjab
- New technology at brick kilns helps Punjab's fight against pollution

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- Better sanitation made groundwater safer, says IIT study
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Waste management



- 5000 illegal e-waste units being run in Delhi
- Lack of alternatives may hurt decision to phase out plastics



India faces risk of annual coastal flooding. A new research study has projected that 36 million people in India could face annual coastal flooding by 2050 if global CO2 emissions are not cut drastically. The findings are based on CoastalDEM, a new digital elevation model developed by Climate Central, a US based climate research and communications organisation. According to Climate Central, coastal flood risks assessments were until now based on NASA's Shuttle Radar

Topography Mission but it underestimated the elevation risks according to the study published in the journal, [Nature Communications](#).

Climate crisis causing more frequent extreme El Nino events. The climate crisis is causing extreme El Nino events to become stronger and more frequent, according to a study that may lead to better forecasting models for global weather conditions. The study, published in the journal PNAS, noted that the El Nino weather phenomenon -- where the surface waters in the central and eastern Pacific Ocean become significantly warmer than usual -- causes a shift in the movement of warm water and winds from the western Pacific towards the Americas, changing global weather and heating up an already warm planet.

[The Times of India](#), 22 October 2019; [Hindustan Times](#), 30 October 2019



Delhi's air quality dips with spike in stubble burning. Delhi's air quality deteriorated further on October 29 and remained one notch short of the 'severe' category (AQI 401), the worst for this season so far. The Air Quality Index on Tuesday was recorded at 400, 'very poor' category, at 4 p.m., which is the average of the past 24 hours, according to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

Construction activities banned from October 26-30 in Delhi-NCR. Hot mix plants, stone-crushers and construction activities that generate dust are prohibited from October 26 to 30 in Delhi and its satellite towns, a committee overseeing the implementation of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) said. Coal-based industries, except power plants, will also have to cease operations during those five days in the city as well as the satellite towns of Faridabad, Gurugram, Ghaziabad, Noida, Greater Noida, Sonipat and Bahadurgarh.

Delhi: Study to develop model for real-time pollution sources. Round the year study of air quality is expected to aid Delhi government in being able to specify sources of air pollution in the city from next year. The project will assess data from Delhi Pollution Control Committee stations and create a model that will indicate the sources fouling up the city air every four hours. Called Real Time Source Apportionment Study for Air Pollution in Delhi, the project is being carried out by Delhi government jointly with the Department of Energy, Environmental & Chemical Engineering of the University of Washington in St Louis. Such a study had been included in Delhi government's green budget in 2018.

Ghaziabad is most polluted city in India. The air quality in Ghaziabad dropped to the season's worst on October 29, making it the country's most polluted city. One of its most polluted areas was Loni. While the air quality index (AQI) for Ghaziabad city was recorded at 459 on October 29 — up by 63 points from previous day's 396 (4pm data, AQI had worsened to 'severe' later on October 28) — which was in

the 'severe' range, that for Loni bordering Delhi stood at 454 on Tuesday, according to the System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting And Research (SAFAR).

Rise in stubble burning cases in Punjab. Over 3,300 cases reported till October 21 as against 2564 incidents in corresponding period last year. As paddy harvesting has gathered momentum in Punjab, the key grain producing State, as many as 3307 cases of stubble fire incidents have been reported till October 21, as against 2564 incidents in the corresponding period last year. The government data is based on the satellite aggregation during the ongoing kharif season, between October 1 till October 21.

New technology at brick kilns helps Punjab's fight against pollution: 70% cut in emissions. While districts such as Barnala and Sangrur have seen 100 per cent conversion to the new technology, of about 270 kilns in Ludhiana, about 100-125 are still to convert. After grappling for decades with its 2,800-odd polluting brick kilns, Punjab has got most of them to switch to a new technology, thereby cutting emissions by an estimated 70 per cent. After a few initial hiccups, officials of the state pollution control board say they have been able to convince the owners of at least 1,800 kilns to opt for the newer 'induced draft' kilns with zigzag brick settings.

[The Times of India](#), 19 October 2019; [Indian Express](#), 20 October 2019; [The Hindu](#), 23 October 2019; [The Hindu](#), 25 October 2019; [The Hindu](#), 30 October 2019; [The Times of India](#), 30 October 2019



Better sanitation made groundwater safer, says IIT study. Rising income and improved access to sanitation facilities has led to a decrease in disease-causing bacteria that cause acute diarrhoea in groundwater, according to a study by researchers from Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur. Open defecation is a major contaminant of groundwater, which is the most common source of drinking water in India. Acute diarrhoea is the cause of 9% of all deaths among children under the age

of five.

Andhra government launches water grid project. The Andhra Pradesh government has launched an ambitious project to provide a drinking water connection to every household in the state by 2022. The Panchayati Raj and Rural Development Minister said that the statewide water grid project would ensure supply of clean drinking water to every household from 2022 for at least the next 30 years.

[Indian Express](#), 14 October 2019; [Hindustan Times](#), 24 October 2019



5000 illegal e-waste units being run in Delhi: Study. The hotspots are located in the Northeastern and Eastern part of Delhi, including Seelampur (Shahdara), Mustafabad (North East Delhi), Behta Hazipur and Loni (Ghaziabad), among other places. Over 5,000 illegal e-waste processing units employing approximately 50,000 people continue to operate in violation of environmental norms in the capital, a study by think tank Toxic Link has revealed. The study has found that these units operate in 15 "informal hotspots" in Delhi. According to the study titled "Informal E-waste Recycling in Delhi: Unfolding impact of two years of e-waste (Management) Rules 2016", the hotspots are located in the Northeastern and Eastern part of Delhi, including Seelampur (Shahdara), Mustafabad (North East Delhi), Behta Hazipur and Loni (Ghaziabad), among other places.

Lack of alternatives may hurt decision to phase out plastics. Use of single-use plastic products such as carry bags and bottled water is not yet banned in India, but they are on their way out after the Centre enforced a voluntary phasing out of disposable plastics. The Centre's recent advisory suggests that states "curb" the manufacturing of plastic carry bags, with or without handles, irrespective of the thickness and size; plastic cutlery including plates, plastic cups, glasses, straws, stirrers and Styrofoam cutlery by October 2 and instead encourage manufacturers and consumers to shift to environment-friendly materials.

In standard guidelines on single-use plastics shared with the states in September, the environment ministry also suggested that states come up with legal options to phase out certain single-use plastic products.

Hindustan Times, 4 October 2019; Indian Express, 18 October 2019