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### 1. NGT bans open waste burning across the country

NGT bans open waste burning across the country

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) imposed a complete ban on burning of waste in open places across the country and announced a fine of Rs. 25,000 on each incident of bulk waste burning. The green panel's judgement was given on the petition seeking directions to local bodies in states and Centre for improving solid waste management methods.

NGT Judgement

- Complete prohibition on open burning of waste on lands, including at landfill sites.
- For each such incident, violators will pay environmental compensation of Rs. 5,000 in case of simple burning and Rs. 25,000 in case of bulk waste burning, States and UTs to enforce and implement Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 in a time-bound manner.



Union Environment Ministry and all States must pass appropriate directions in relation to the ban on short-life Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) and chlorinated plastics within a period of six months. Establish and operationalise of plants for processing and disposal of the waste and selection and specifications of landfill sites Non-biodegradable waste and non-recyclable plastic should be segregated from the landfill sites. It must be used for construction of roads and embankments in all road projects all over country.



NEWS LETTER

**Did you know?**

In 2014, China built two wind turbines per day.

**2. Waste-to-energy plant to come up at Ghazipur**



**Did you know?**

If taken advantage of to its fullest extent, sunlight that beams on the earth for one hour could meet world energy demands for an entire year.

News Across the Globe

**Environmentalists protest hunting bison plan in Poland**



Environmentalists are protesting Poland's plan to allow hunters to shoot bison, while authorities say it is necessary for the well-being of the oversized herd and will earn money for its upkeep.

Greenpeace had gathered almost 9,000 signatures online by Monday afternoon on a letter asking Prime Minister Beata Szydlo to stop the plan. The opponents say Europe's largest mammals, which live in old-growth forests in northeastern Poland, are endangered and protected by law, and a symbol of Poland's nature.

Environment authorities have allowed the hunting of 10 bison in the Borecka forest, saying the herd there is too large and threatened with tuberculosis. With 15 calves born in 2016, the herd has 111 animals, while it should be around 95, authorities claims.

Delhi government has decided to set up a waste-to-energy plant at the Ghazipur poultry and fish wholesale market to convert about 10 tonnes of organic waste into biogas and compost.

BARC's website describes this technology as one that can "process biodegradable waste, such as kitchen waste, paper, grass, gobar and dry leaves. It offers zero garbage and zero effluents and provides high quality manure and methane gas. Weed-free manure obtained from such waste has high nitrogen content and acts as an excellent soil conditioner."

The plant is proposed to be set up in an area of 1,500 sqm within the mandi. Once fully commissioned, it will be able to supply 1,800 kW per hour of electricity, all of which will be used to meet the power demand of the wholesale market.

The scope of work includes sweeping, scavenging, collection, segregation and transportation of 10 tonnes of waste per day from the mandi and management and operation of the plant. Approximately 150 kg of residual manure shall be produced from treatment of one tonne of waste.

News Across the Globe

**No tax on CO2 emissions in China's new environment law**



China has passed a law that levies taxes on pollution, but ignores carbon dioxide, one of the major contributors to global warming, according to the web site of the country's highest legislative body.

The National People's Congress (NPC) standing committee passed the law, the first to tax polluters, less than a fortnight after a red alert for smog left more than 20 cities in the country's northeast choking under a heavy haze.

Polluters will be charged for contributing to air, water and noise pollution.

But CO2 did not make the list, which includes air and water pollutants such as sulphur dioxide and sulphite, taxed at rates beginning at 1.2 yuan (\$0.17) and 1.4 yuan (\$0.20) per unit respectively.

It also stipulates a monthly tax ranging from 350 to 11,200 yuan (\$50 to \$1612) for noise pollution. The Environment Tax Law will come into effect on January 1, 2018.

China is the world's largest emitter of greenhouse gases, due to its heavy reliance on coal to provide electricity to its population of 1.37 billion. The fuel has also contributed to the country's severe smog problem.



NEWS LETTER

**Did you know?**

Plants use energy from sunlight during an important process called photosynthesis

**3. Create Urban Forest with better survival rate of saplings**



Several thousand saplings are planted in every district each year. However, only one percent of these saplings become trees. To provide technical expertise and increase the survival rate of saplings, several environment enthusiasts from the four southern states got together at Coimbatore for the Southern India tree planter's meet. They also set up an urban forest in a 400sqft area in a school and demonstrated the Miyawaki method of growing plants.

Kerala's Guruvayuraappan's method of creating garbage enzymes, Bandipur's Nagendran's technique of setting up one foot wide trench around saplings to help them survive on barren land, Puducherry's Saravanan's technique of creating a biodiversity education centre on 100 acre barren land, Tamil Nadu's Vincent's technique of creating urban forests - all these and more were discussed by over 50 enthusiasts at the meet. Just by using household garbage, jiggery and water enzyme can be prepared at home that would be a growth booster for kitchen garden and also help in fighting climate change.

**Did you know?**

Oxygen, carbon, hydrogen and nitrogen make up 90% of the human body.

News Across the Globe

**These Wild Sculptures Actually Generate Green Energy**



The winning designs of the LAGI 2016 competition range from giant sailboat sculptures that harvest fog to floating gardens that harness wave power

The enormous sculpture looks, in the artist's rendering, like the sails of a fleet of futuristic ships whose bodies have just sunk beneath the ocean's surface. Cool enough, just for its aesthetic power, but this piece of public art has another purpose: it harvests fog to create clean water. Regatta H2O, as the sculpture is called, is the winner of a contest sponsored by The Land Art Generator Initiative (LAGI), an organization whose goal is to "accelerate the transition to post-carbon economies by providing models of renewable energy infrastructure that add value to public space, inspire, and educate." Since 2010, LAGI been hosting a biannual contest for artists to create public art that's beautiful and generates green energy.

News Across the Globe

**Power from the Air**



Internet devices powered by Wi-Fi and other telecommunications signals will make small computers and sensors more pervasive. Even the smallest Internet-connected devices typically need a battery or power cord. Technology that lets gadgets work and communicate using only energy harvested from nearby TV, radio, cell-phone, or Wi-Fi signals is headed toward commercialization. The University of Washington researchers who developed the technique have demonstrated Internet-connected temperature and motion sensors, and even a camera, powered that way.

Transferring power wirelessly is not a new trick. But getting a device without a conventional power source to communicate is harder, because generating radio signals is very power-intensive and the airwaves harvested from radio, TV, and other telecommunication technologies hold little energy. A gadget using the technique absorbs some energy from the signal it is modifying to power its own circuits.



NEWS LETTER

**Did you know?**

A microwave uses about 50% less energy as compared to an oven.

**4. Digitization key to sustainable growth**

A majority of rural masses will be moving towards urbanization in next three decades following high aspirations. So there is a need to ensure growth in skill sets and importantly digitize businesses, as these are necessary for positive and sustainable development. Today's skills may not be of any use in the future as they keep changing. The top 10 jobs of demand may vanish in the next one decade. We can see this in the European Union, wherein the income of people are 15-20% lower than what they used to earn earlier. Several major countries that were once ruling the world economy have now slowed down. Satellite service is bound to have huge impact on a country's growth and economy. We are living in a world that is increasingly driven by technology, such interventions have brought both immense opportunities as well as challenges that impact our lives.

Claiming that satellite industry is running on big revenue and it is going to have a huge growth as many Internet giants and entrepreneurs are investing heavily in industry.

**Did you know?**

Earth's surface is covered with 70.9% water, 29.1% land.

**News Across the Globe**

**Tamil Nadu gets world's first salt-tolerant plant garden**



The world's first Genetic Garden of Halophytes (naturally occurring salt-tolerant plants) was inaugurated at the coastal town of Vedaranyam in Tamil Nadu. The first of its kind garden in the world was inaugurated by Mauritius President Ameenah Gurib Fakim through video-conferencing. The garden has been set up by M S Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) founded by eminent agriculture scientist Prof M S Swaminathan, father of Indian Green Revolution. It will have over 1,600 species belonging to 550 genera and 117 families of Halophytes plants. Initially it will comprise halophytes occurring along the coasts of India including the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

**Significance:**

Halophytes plants are important in the context of increasing salinisation of land especially due sea level rise because of climate change and global warming. In recent times, alarming rise in the sea level has prompted agriculture scientists to call for the cultivation of saline-tolerant crops in light danger of sea intrusion. In future, anticipatory research of these plants could reap rich rewards to mitigate impact of climate change as they can provide food for people, fodder for livestock, bio fuel and also can be used for ornamental purposes.



The event was conducted in association with department of industries and commerce. The conference was aimed at focusing on world-class manufacturing practices and operational efficiency and innovative ideas.

**News Across the Globe**

**Maharashtra becomes first state to adopt Fly Ash Utilization Policy**



Maharashtra became the first state in the country to adopt the Fly Ash Utilization Policy. It was approved by state cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis. The policy paves way for prosperity by generating wealth from waste and environment protection. The policy seeks 100% use of fly ash generated from thermal power plants and biogas plants for construction activities. Facilitates use of fly ash to make bricks, blocks, tiles, wall panels, cement and other construction materials. The policy extends use of fly ash to 300 kms radius of power plant from earlier 100 kms radius of power plant. It will help in environment protection and save soil excavation. It also will make available raw material for construction at low cost to help 'Housing for All' projects. It will also help create new employment opportunities in the power plant sector and pave way for prosperity by generating Wealth from Waste.

For any suggestions,

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