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NEW WETLAND RULES NOTIFIED BY THE ENVIRONMENT MINISTRY EMPOWER INDIVIDUAL STATES OF THE COUNTRY TO CONSERVE AND MANAGE THEIR OWN WETLANDS

TOI - 28 SEPT 17

Now, states can identify & manage their own wetlands

New Rules May Expand List Of Legal Activities

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New Delhi: Seeking to protect over 2 lakh wetlands across the country, the Centre has come out with rules to identify and manage these ecologically fragile areas which play an important role in flood control, groundwater recharge, preserving plant varieties, supporting migratory birds and protecting coastlines.

The new rules, notified by the environment ministry on Tuesday, decentralise wetlands management by giving states powers to not only identify and notify wetlands within their jurisdictions but also keep a watch on prohibited activities.

It also indirectly widens the ambit of permitted activities by inserting the 'wise use' principle, giving powers to state-level wetland authorities to decide what can be allowed in larger interest.

The notification says, "The wetlands shall be conserved and managed in accordance with the principle of 'wise use' as determined by the Wetlands Authority."

Though it lists prohibited



DISTINCT ECOSYSTEM

> Land area covered by water, either seasonally or permanently, and having characteristics of a distinct ecosystem is called a wetland

> Wetlands play a key role in hydrological cycle and flood control, water supply, providing food, fibre and raw materials

> They support lakhs of migratory birds from colder regions of the world in summers, apart from mangroves that protect coastlines and filter pollutants

THE SPREAD

Isro prepared a national wetlands atlas based on satellite images and in 2011 mapped 201,503 wetlands

It's around 4.63% of India's geographic area

Area under inland wetlands is 10.56 million hectares (Mha)

Area under coastal wetlands is 4.14 Mha

States & UTs now have to notify all wetlands within one year

PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES

Any kind of encroachment | Setting up of any industry | Expansion of existing industries | Solid waste dumping | Discharge of untreated wastes and effluents from industries, cities, towns, villages and other human settlements | Poaching | Any construction of a permanent nature except for boat jetties within 50 metres from the mean high flood level observed in the past 10 years

activities, the 'wise use' principle may invite criticism from environmentalists who had earlier objected to it when the ministry put out the draft rules in public domain in March last year.

Many conservationists had pointed out then that the 'wise use' principle would lead to arbitrary decisions on the basis of selective understanding of critical issues around the ecologically fragile areas. The ministry, in its gazette notification, noted that the "suggestions and objections" received in response to the draft rules were considered in consulta-

tion with state governments and UT administrations.

The Centre's role under the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017, will be restricted to monitoring its implementation by states/UTs, recommending trans-boundary wetlands for notification and reviewing integrated management of selected wetlands under the Ramsar Convention — an international arrangement to preserve identified wetlands.

Decentralisation of wetlands management is seen as the ministry's effort to sync environmental policies with

the government's ease of doing business norms which are aimed at cutting delays in green clearances for development activities and supporting livelihood issues.

The new rules replace the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010, which had a provision for a super body to decide on all activities relating to wetlands.

The new rules make the provision of respective state-level wetland authorities with the Centre having a limited role through a national wetlands committee, headed by the Union environment secretary as its chairperson.

Major Swachh hiccups: Funds crunch, failure to transport & segregate waste

Just 25% Of Garbage Gets Treated

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New Delhi: About 75% of 1.7 lakh tonnes of municipal waste (garbage) that Indian cities and towns generate daily goes to landfill sites or dumping yards untreated and civic bodies cover only 44,650 out of 81,000 municipal wards through their door-to-door collection scheme.

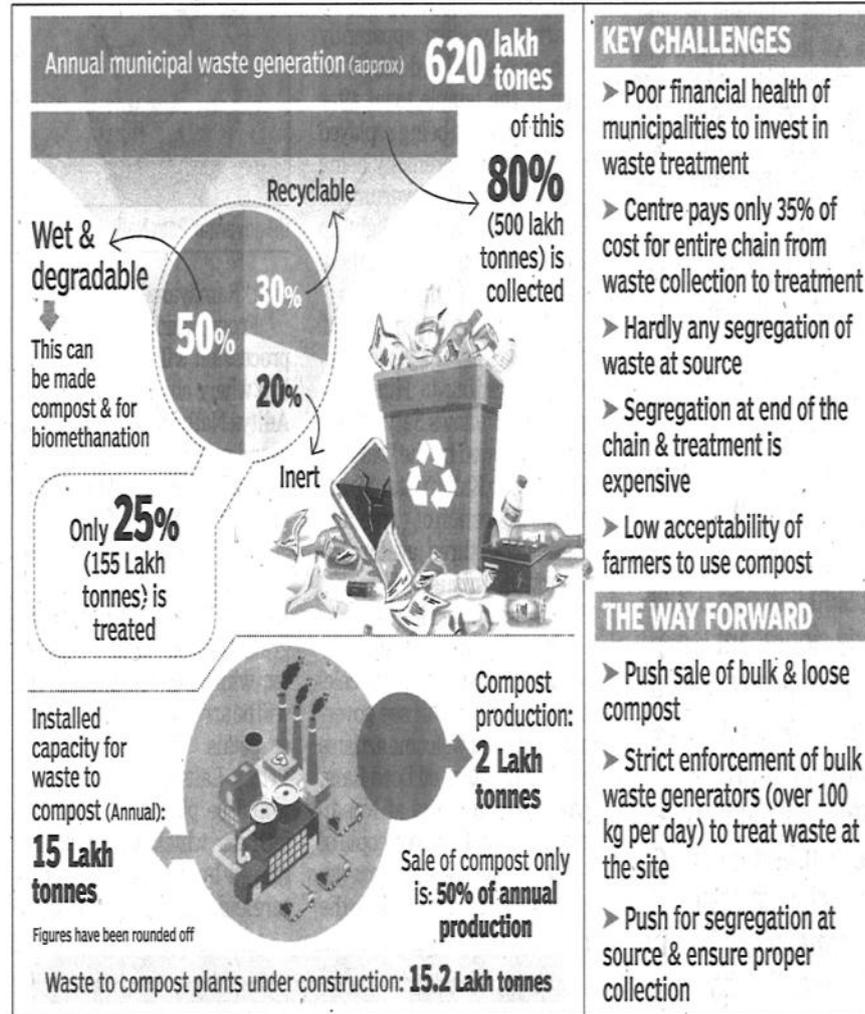
These statistics tell the government where to concentrate funds and policy planning if Swachh Bharat is to deliver the results PM Narendra Modi has sought.

The inadequacy of the municipal mechanism to collect and transport garbage from urban homes to dumping yards is a significant lacuna and highlights the need for smarter integration of Swachh Bharat with urban renewal programmes like AMRUT.

Segregation of waste at generation is hardly a norm despite efforts to promote it. Though in the past three years construction of public and community toilets has touched 2.26 lakh, there is no uniform mechanism for maintenance and sweeping and lifting of garbage across urban areas.

Officials from Centre, state, municipalities and the

WHY WASTE TREATMENT IS A CHALLENGE



private sector that TOI spoke to summarised these aspects as key challenges that city and state governments need to improve for proper sanitation in urban areas.

So far 30.74 lakh household toilets have been built against the target of 65.82 lakh by October 2019.

"Urban issues are state subject and success or failure is determined by public participation and political drive.

Cities in southern states have done well simply because there is concerted effort in which local leaders give cleanliness priority. Indore did well when the state and municipality took it up as a mission," said an official.

"Municipalities cannot spend more on collection, transportation and processing of garbage as many are hard put to pay salaries," the official said, adding the chal-

KEY CHALLENGES

- ▶ Poor financial health of municipalities to invest in waste treatment
- ▶ Centre pays only 35% of cost for entire chain from waste collection to treatment
- ▶ Hardly any segregation of waste at source
- ▶ Segregation at end of the chain & treatment is expensive
- ▶ Low acceptability of farmers to use compost

THE WAY FORWARD

- ▶ Push sale of bulk & loose compost
- ▶ Strict enforcement of bulk waste generators (over 100 kg per day) to treat waste at the site
- ▶ Push for segregation at source & ensure proper collection

few like Maharashtra. Small urban areas growing fast are hit hardest," said an official from an eastern state.

An urban affairs ministry official said there are instances of filth being dumped on the outskirts of cities. This sort of short-cuts defeat the purpose of Swachh Bharat. Half of the garbage that urban areas generate is wet and bio-degradable.

"That's why the focus is more on making compost from waste," he added. In fact, 100 kg of such waste gets reduced to 15 gram of compost for cultivation.

State and municipalities have set up 145 plants that can produce 15 lakh tonnes of compost annually. But official records show plants are working at only 14% capacity generating just a little over 2 lakh tonnes, of which just 50% compost so produced is sold. This has direct impact on a city's garbage management," said three major private players engaged in waste to compost initiative.

Though government has a policy that fertiliser manufacturing companies must sell one bag of compost with every two bags of chemical fertilizer, compost producers said this is yet to pick up.

"Why can't government issue an instruction to all horticulture and forest departments to buy compost? Getting segregated waste will reduce cost of running compost plants and make the business viable," said a manager of a big plant in Gujarat.

lenge was of building managerial capacity as well as tapping funds.

Some municipal officials agreed financial health of municipalities is poor and it's almost impossible for small ones to fund treating waste. "Centre gives only 35% of expenses for the entire solid waste management chain. Getting the rest from state and municipality is difficult in most states except a

21 Hauz Khas Village eateries sealed for violating norms

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

For 21 Hauz Khas Village restaurants and bars, Saturday night turned out to be a dud, with the Delhi government sealing their premises for violation of pollution-control laws.

The move comes days after the High Court said that the party zone was a "ticking time bomb".

Acting on directions from the Delhi Pollution Control Committee, the Revenue

Department, through the area District Magistrate, sealed the 21 properties, a senior DPCC official said.

The official added that despite several inspections and notices, the eateries had failed to comply with air and water pollution norms.

'Untreated effluents'

A total of 22 establishments had been issued notices, but one was found to no longer exist when the sealing action was taken.

In violation of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, the restaurants were found releasing untreated effluents. The restaurants' kitchens were also found emitting smoke in violation of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act.

The eateries would remain sealed till they make the required changes to comply with the laws and re-apply for licences to operate, said the official.

MASSIVE WORK PLAN WORTH RS 30,000 CRORE GETS INITIATED UNDER THE 'NAMAMI GANGA' PROJECT

Work initiated to stop flow of garbage into Ganga: Yogi

'A work plan worth ₹30,000 crore has been started'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LUCKNOW

A work plan worth ₹30,000 crore has been started under the Prime Minister's 'Namami Gange' project.

A massive work plan has been initiated to ensure that garbage and waste stop flowing into the Ganga before the 2019 'Ardhkumbh', Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said on Tuesday.

The river flows through 25 districts of Uttar Pradesh.

"Before the 2019 Prayag (Allahabad) Ardhkumbh not even a single drain or garbage will flow into the Ganga...a large scale work plan has got underway to ensure this," the Chief Minister said at a programme organised here by the Isha Foundation.

"A work plan worth ₹30,000 crore has been started under the Prime Minis-



Yogi Adityanath -

ter's 'Namami Gange' project to make Ganga and its tributaries 'aviral, nirmal' (ever flowing and clean)", Adityanath said.

Treatment plants

"In the coming two years no one will be allowed to release garbage or waste in the river and treatment plants will be set up at different places to first treat the discharge before it is allowed to flow into the river," he said.

"In the first phase we

have resolved to make all villages falling on the river's banks open defecation free (ODF) and have also succeeded in it," the Chief Minister said in the presence of founder of the Isha Foundation, Sadguru Jaggi Vasudev.

Referring to Sadguru's 'Save the Rivers' campaign, the Chief Minister said that it was not just a campaign or a slogan but an attempt to save the human creation.

A vast plantation drive has also been launched in the areas falling on the banks of the River Ganga.

"I myself had gone to Garh Mukteshwar for it...all ministers, MPs, MLAs took part at different places...officials of all departments, administration took part. We have planted six crore saplings in the State...this work has been done in different phases," he said.

NGT fines four builders over rainwater harvesting

It was found that the rainwater harvesting systems installed on their premises were non-functional

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) slapped fines on four real estate developers here after it was found that the rainwater harvesting systems installed on their premises were non-functional.

DPCC report

A Bench headed by Justice Jawad Rahim imposed an environment compensation of ₹3 lakh each on the builders after perusing the inspection report filed by the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC).



“We are satisfied that as of now the noticees appear to be compliant unit. However, compensation has to be imposed for the violation they have committed...”

NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

During the proceedings, the DPCC told the Tribunal that some of the builders had removed the deficiencies pointed out to them and rectified the problem in their rainwater harvesting structures.

“We are satisfied that as of now the noticees appear to be compliant unit. However, compensation has to be imposed for the violation they have committed. Thus, the

amount of compensation payable by the noticees...shall be ₹3 lakh each and it shall be deposited within three weeks,” the Bench said.

The green panel also issued notices to the managing directors of Naman Builders Ltd., and Brightways Housing and Land Development Pvt. Ltd., asking them to appear before on October 12, the next date of hearing.

Taking several hospitals, malls and hotels here to task for not complying with its orders on rainwater harvesting, the NGT had last year

imposed fines and issued warrants to many of them for not installing these systems.

The green panel was hearing a plea by environmentalist Vikrant Kumar Tongad, who had sought directions to the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation to “install proper rainwater harvesting system” on all its existing, proposed and under-construction metro stations, tracks and depots.

The green panel, however, had widened the ambit of the petition and incorporated various other institutions like hospitals, hotels and malls.

WIND POWER GENERATION AND EVACUATION IN INDIA TOUCH THE NEW HIGH THIS YEAR

Wind power generation, evacuation touch new high

33K M Units Generated From April To August

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Chennai: Wind power generation and evacuation in the country touched a new high during July with 9,854.34 million units of wind power being used by states. Total wind power generation between

April and August this year was 33,168.48 million units and compared to the previous financial year for the same period, with wind power generation and evacuation increasing by 27.54% (26,006.3 million units). Due to this, thermal power companies were hit as states shifted to wind power.

Experts and credit rating agencies attribute the high wind generation to better transmission lines and substations. High wind power generating states are led by Ta-

Month	2016-17	2017-18
April	2,232	3,590
May	4,133	4,983
June	5,845	7,229
July	6,978	9,854
August	6,819	7,512

SETTING NEW RECORD (in million units)

Source: Central Electricity Authority

mil Nadu, followed by Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka

and Rajasthan.

“Power generation from renewable sources continued to improve significantly to 10.2 billion units in 2017 from 8.1 billion units in 2016. The trend is expected to continue on account of higher capacity as compared to last year,” said India Ratings in its analysis on power situation in the country.

Despite the increase in the wind power generation, the overall share of wind as a percentage of renewable power generation between April and August 2017 dropped by 1% compared to the corre-

sponding period last year. While the total wind power generation was 72% in 2016, in the current year, it is 71%. Solar power has increased from 15% to 18%. All other renewable sources of energy have dropped by a percentage point or two.

“Due to better use of renewable power by states, coal production remained subdued as production by Coal India Limited (CIL) remained flat in 2017 compared to the previous year, at 37 million tonnes each. Coal production remained low in 2017 on a ye-

ar-on-year basis,” India Ratings said.

Transmission capacity, especially within states, increased because of which more renewable power was evacuated. “Transmission line capacity increased from 447km to 1,511 km between 2016 and 2017 and there is a targeted transmission line addition of around 23,000 km in 2017-18. State sector leads the transmission line addition,” the Central Electricity Authority said in its report.

To give a fillip to renewable power in the country, the

National Energy Policy (NEP) proposes gradual withdrawal of the provisions of ‘must-run’ status and other supports such as non-levy of inter-state transmission charges for nonrenewable energy. It is envisaged that as consumers become agnostic to the source of power, renewable energy will soon blend with conventional power and markets will determine dispatch rather than policy levers,” said the report.

New state thermal units smoke out green norms

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Most coal-fired power plants commissioned this year are not complying with the rules set by the Union environment ministry to cut emissions that cause lung diseases, acid rain and smog, the ministry said in an affidavit filed with National Green Tribunal (NGT).

The ministry in December 2015 revised the standards for thermal power plants to control air pollution, asking them to install equipment to cut emissions of particulate matter, sulphur dioxide and nitrous oxide before December 2017.

India's air is among the most polluted in the world and thermal power plants account for nearly 80% of all industrial emissions of particular matter, sulphur and nitrous

POWER UNITS SAY THEY DO NOT HAVE SPACE TO INSTALL UPGRADES

oxides. Most of the old plants have not complied with the norms despite an impending deadline and have not started installing the equipment.

The owners of these plants have sought more time — a demand echoed by the Central Electrical Authority, a nodal agency under the Union ministry of power — saying two years are not enough for old plants to comply.

However, even the new power plants commissioned this year have not begun the process of installing the required equipment, the ministry said in the affidavit. Plants to be established in 2017 were not given any exemption and were told to adhere to the stricter pollution control standards up front.

"It's clear from the ministry's own admissions that power plants are in violation

PRICE OF POWER Thermal plants account for 80% of particulate matter

DISTRICT	PM2.5 (mg/m ³)	Increase in life expectancy if nat'l standards met (years)*	Increase in life expectancy if WHO standard are met (years)**
NCT of Delhi	98	5.9	9
Mumbai suburbs	44	0.4	3.5
Pune	46	0.6	3.7
Bengaluru	24	0	1.4
Kolkata	44	0.4	3.5
Bareilly	85	4.7	7.8
Muzaffarpur	80	4.2	7.3

* 40mg/m³ | **10mg/m³ | Source: Energy Policy Institute, University of Chicago

of the rules and these are only a few in comparison to all the existing power plants," Sunil Dahiya, campaigner for Greenpeace, said in a statement.

Of the 16 plants commissioned this year, some have adhered to norms pertaining to PM10 emissions.

But none of the plants has even started to install equipment to reduce SOx and NOx emissions, the ministry said in the affidavit with the NGT in connection with a case filed by Dahiya.

The debt-laden power companies have argued that the plants do not have enough space to install the upgrades and that the standards should not apply to power plants established before the notification was issued.

However, the Central Pollution Control Board, which functions under the environment ministry, told the power companies last year that the plants were granted environmental clearance only on the condition that they will make space available for retrofitting to cut emissions.

TICKING TIME BOMB

16 thermal power plants installed after December 31, 2016



> No plant has adhered to new set of pollution standards

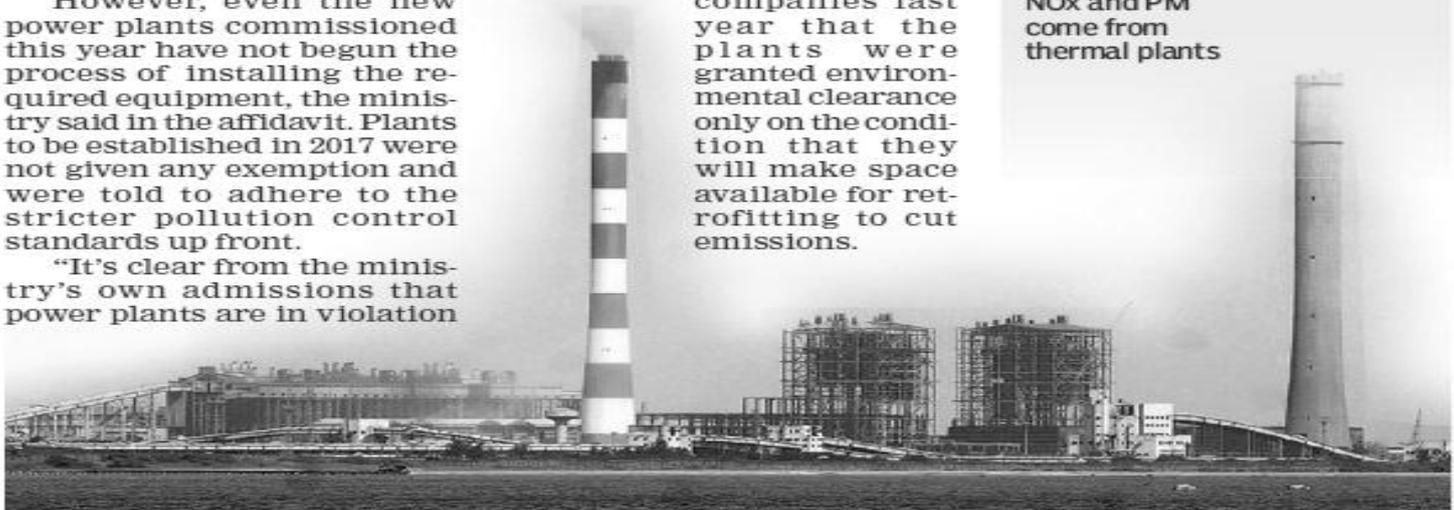
\$38bn

required to retrofit old plants



80%

industrial emission of SO₂, NOx and PM come from thermal plants



Nugu wildlife sanctuary now eco-sensitive zone

It Comes Under Nilgiri Reserve

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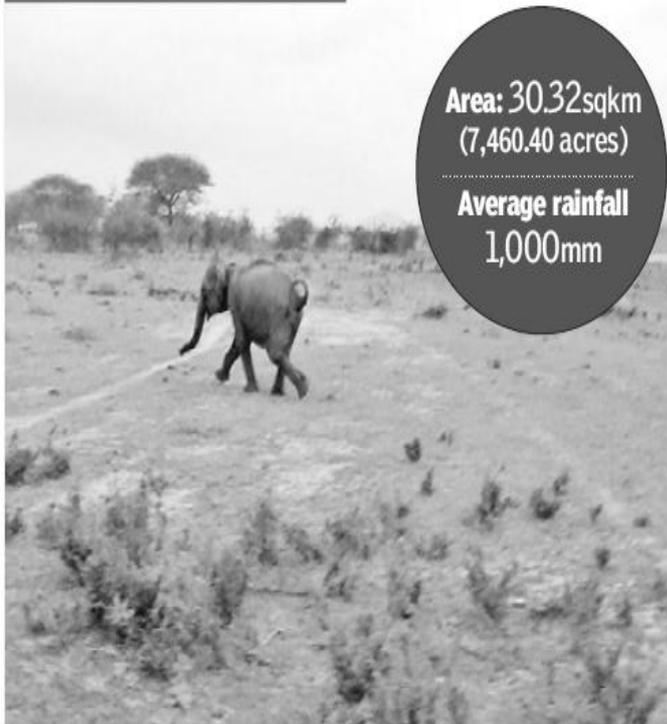
Bengaluru: The Union ministry of environment, forest and climate change (MoEFCC) declared the 30.32sqkm of Nugu Wildlife Sanctuary in Mysuru district an eco-sensitive zone on Wednesday. With this, no commercial or industrial activity, including mining, will be allowed in the sanctuary.

The move comes at a time when attempts are being made by some vested interest groups to start commercial ventures on the pretext of promoting tourism. Moreover, it comes as a shot in the arm for conservationists who have been emphasizing the importance of the sanctuary for the survival of the state's elephant population.

The ministry has directed the state government to prepare a zonal master plan for the eco-sensitive zone. A copy of the notification has been accessed by TOI.

Nugu had been declared a wildlife sanctuary on June 17,

KNOW ABOUT NUGU



Area: 30.32sqkm
(7,460.40 acres)

Average rainfall
1,000mm

Go from: Mysuru, H D Kote, Gundlupet and Nanjangud

Rock formations
Gneiss, quartzite and hornblende schist

Birds
Peafowl, parakeets, black drongo, partridges, eagrets, grey jungle fowl, owlets, myna, painted stork

Animals: Elephants, tigers, leopard, wild dogs, striped hyenas, gaur, chital, four-horned antelope, wild boars, jungle cat, small Indian civet, jackal, sambar, sloth bear, common otter, bonnet macaque, Indian porcupine, common mongoose, wild dogs, marsh crocodile, monitor lizard, cobra and rat snake

1974 and in 2003-04, it was added to the 5,500sqkm Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, the largest conservation area in the country with a high density of elephant population. On July 28, 2016, a draft notification was issued seeking suggestions on declaring the sanctuary as an eco-sensitive zone.

In the latest notification, the ministry stated: "It was necessary to conserve and protect the sanctuary from an ecological and environmental point of view and to prohibit industries in the eco-sensitive zone."

The zone has extent of

land varying from 0.32km to 7.8km, from the boundary of the Nugu wildlife sanctuary. The eco-sensitive zone will include 11 villages in Hegga-devenakote taluk and two villages of Nanjangud taluk in Mysuru district.

A senior IAS officer told TOI: "Declaring Nugu sanctuary as an eco-sensitive zone will make it difficult for politicians and businesses to recklessly tamper with its beautiful landscape, especially the Nugu backwaters. The primary focus will be on protection of flora and fauna in the region."

According to sources in the forest department, there are 25 villages situated around the sanctuary with a population of 20,000-25,000 people. The cattle population is over 10,000.

"Labelling it as an eco-sensitive will help us reduce biotic pressure such as cattle-grazing, illegal removal of firewood and illicit collection of non-forest produce. Interference by politicians, especially with regard to taking action against forest offenders, can be easily thwarted now," forest department sources said.

Underground power lines in Cuddalore get Centre nod

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Chennai: The Union ministry of environment and forests has granted clearance for the conversion of overhead power lines to underground cables in disaster-prone Cuddalore district under the state's coastal disaster risk reduction programme. The expert appraisal committee of the ministry for coastal regulation zone cleared the ₹389 crore world bank-sponsored project earlier this month. The scheme will be launched shortly after awarding contracts and will take a minimum of two years to complete, sources say.

The state government is working on a similar exercise for Velankanni and Nagapattinam towns and a proposal will be sent to the ministry soon for clearance. "The expert committee observed that the proposal does not entail irreversible implications in so far as sensitivity of the area from CRZ consi-

PROJECT DETAILS

Total length of the cable	Total number of transformers
198.44km	1161

Project cost – ₹389crore

The project will have three packages in Cuddalore and four packages in Nagapattinam

derations is concerned and therefore decided to recommend the proposal for clearance," the minutes of the meeting quoting the committee said. The state coastal zone management authority recommended the project in March, aimed at converting 22KV overhead lines in different packages. The bank has approved the project, based on a detailed project study by a Delhi-based consultancy firm.

The town has been battered by multiple disasters in the past -- from tsunami in 2004 to cyclone Thane in 2011. The images of dangling cables and damaged poles still

haunt residents in the district. Heavy rain accompanied by strong winds during the 2015 monsoon uprooted 2,000 electric poles in the coastal district disrupting power supply to 683 village panchayats. "It took nearly a month to restore power supply in 2011 after the cyclone ravaged power infrastructure. The conversion of overhead lines in the town is essential. We have plans to take up work in a phased manner in other parts of the region," said a senior government official. Tangedco has already floated tenders for a package in Cuddalore and Nagapattinam.

The 198.44km-long stretch, identified for laying cables, falls under the category of coastal zone regulation II and III areas. So, the CRZ clearance is a must from the ministry. The environment impact assessment report of the project indicated that the existing overhead network would be reused in different areas.

Enforcing wet waste mgmt might not be a cakewalk

Rules Mandate Segregation Of Garbage, Not Processing

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Mumbai: In February 2002, the BMC issued a notice over a threat to public health and sanitation. In order to check the threat, it directed citizens to segregate wet and dry waste. The notice went on to state while the BMC would collect wet waste, dry waste must be disposed of by citizens through rag-pickers or scrap dealers.

In April 2017, the situation has reversed itself. The BMC has now identified 5,040 properties across the city that are bulk generators of waste, and has made it mandatory for them to process their wet waste from October 2.

This is also in sharp contrast to Solid Waste Management Rules 2016 that mandate segregation but not processing of waste. The rules state: "Within a year of the notification of the rules, all resident welfare and market associations shall, in partnership with the local body, ensure segregation of waste at source, facilitate collection of segregated waste, and hand over recyclable material to waste pickers or recyclers. The biodegradable waste shall be processed, treated and disposed of through composting or bio-methanation within the premises as far as possible."

Environmentalist Rishi Agarwal said, "It is mandatory for all civic bodies, including the BMC, to collect only segregated waste. It must not accept mixed waste."

Savita Mehra, who was the first in the city to promote segregation of waste and composting, said the BMC needs to first make citizens aware of how to handle waste. Mehra said her practice is both cost- and maintenance-free. "My method involves use of bricks for absorption of moisture, bagasse (crushed sugarcane) as a catalyst and cowdung or compost as initial ingredients. Many of us have continued to use the same bin or pit for two decades and not had to add initial ingredients either."

Civic officials admitted that they can neither punish residents who do not process waste nor can they force them to implement the plan. Agarwal said world over, user fees are high to discourage citizens from generating garbage. A former civic official, now a waste management consultant, said nowhere in the world are citizens expected to process wet waste.

REFUSE MIXED REFUSE, BMC TOLD



BMC PROGRAM

- > All citizens must continue to segregate waste
- > Bulk operators—those who produce over 100kg of garbage per day—must process wet waste from October 2
- > Bulk producers include big societies, commercial complexes, civic markets



SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT RULES 2016

- > These mandate segregation but not processing of waste
- > Rules specify that within a year of notification, biodegradable waste must be processed, treated and disposed of through composting or bio-methanation within the premises—as far as possible

KERALA MODEL

- > Southern state starts setting up plastic-shredding units to convert it into fine granules
- > 10% of local plan funds to be used for metallurgy roads with plastic granules, say sources

BMC ON WET WASTE

All those who produce more than 100kg of wet waste a day must process and convert it into compost

- > Local self-govt dept registers rag-pickers and gives them the task of collecting plastic to be supplied to shredding units
- > Already, four plastic-shredding units are operational in Thiruvananthapuram

ACTIVISTS SPEAK

“Wet waste is of three types—that which can be converted into compost, non-compost wet waste and soiled wet waste. Citizens must be made aware of the need to separate these to get good compost

Savita Mehra | BANDRA RESIDENT AND FIRST CITIZEN TO PROMOTE SEGREGATION AND NATURAL PROCESSING OF WASTE

“The BMC is clueless about the efforts it has made in the past. Each time a new civic chief comes in, it starts the process from scratch. Often we have to make presentations to officials to let them know what's been done. This exercise is designed to fail — Rishi Agarwal | ENVIRONMENTALIST

Meanwhile, Kerala to revert to centralized treatment of waste

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Mumbai: While the BMC is bracing to introduce a decentralized waste management system for the city, Kerala—one of the first states to have switched over to it—is reverting to a centralized method for its urban centres. The southern state has found that a decentralized mechanism has not been able to produce the desired results.

After exploring new technologies, Kerala will announce setting up of a high-powered committee chaired by chief secretary K M Abraham to finalize what will be brought into use. The committee will include local self-government, industries and land revenue department heads. "From our experience, the decentralized waste management has not given us the desired results. We are not completely discarding the decentralized method, but feel that it should be a combination of both. The government has taken a policy decision regarding this and is going ahead with its implementation," chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan told TOI.

The Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation (KSIDC) was asked to invite expressions of interest, to which 22 companies responded. A committee chaired by former additional chief secretary P Mara Pandian held a preliminary screening of firms to suggest the best suitable players from among them. "We recommended seven of the 22 companies that we felt would suit us and have forwarded the list to the government," said M Beena, managing director, KSIDC.

While chairing a conference of the district collectors the previous Thursday, the chief minister asked the collectors to find land for setting up waste treatment plants in municipalities and corporations.

The state had to switch over to a decentralized system when it faced severe opposition from the local residents against the Vilappailsala waste treatment

plant in the capital, which had to be ultimately shut down in December 2011. "The problem with the state's system then was that though some plants were operational, these were using the windrow compost model where waste must be segregated at source and only liquid and compostable waste fed into the plant. No such segregation was being done. Also, none of the treatment plants were supplemented with leachate treatment plants. Learning lessons from its past mistake, the government has now planned to segregate the waste at source, though it will be collected by the concerned municipality or corporation," said sources in the local self-government department.

The state has already initiated setting up of plastic shredding units in all the local bodies, where the cleaned and dried plastic will be shredded and converted to fine granules. Already, four such plastic-shredding units are operational in the capital city alone.

25-yr-old cleaning tank inhales toxic gases, dies

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New Delhi: A 25-year-old man died after he fell unconscious in a tank containing waste water in a plastic factory in Bawana on Monday. The man, Pintu Das, was cleaning scrap material alone when the incident occurred.

The accident happened at 7pm when Das went to the top of the tank and was sorting plastic from scrap. The tank was full of toxic gases and while cleaning, Das felt nauseated but continued to work.

Suddenly he fell unconscious into the tank. Only after a few minutes, his co-workers

Pintu Das was cleaning scrap material when the incident occurred. Das felt nauseated but continued to work. He then fell unconscious

realised that something was amiss and went up to look for him. They found Das inside the tank, pulled him out and rushed him to a hospital in Pooth Khurd village, where he was pronounced brought dead by doctors.

Police said prima facie evidence indicated that Das died of asphyxiation; however, a clear reason will only be avail-

lable after the autopsy report.

Though police officials have ruled out any foul play in the case, the co-workers and factory owners are being questioned regarding the hazardous working condition, which led to the death.

The victim is a native of Assam and had been living in Bawana on rent for a couple of years and working in the factory. He is survived by his wife and three kids, all of whom live in Assam.

A case under IPC sections 287 (negligent conduct with respect to machinery) and 304A (causing death by negligence) has been registered and investigation is on.

EnviroFlash
PCB news Alerts



3,000 million litres of sewage enters Maharashtra waters daily, says environment ministry report:

MAHARASHTRA: At least 3,000 million litres of untreated sewage and industrial effluents flow into rivers, water bodies or percolates into the ground in Maharashtra every day, according to a central government report. The report by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, based on Central Pollution Control Board findings, accessed by HT, revealed....

Apartments not the major polluter of Bellandur lake, govt. tells NGT:

BENGALURU: A State government report on the clean-up of Bengaluru's two beleaguered lakes, Varthur and Bellandur, to the National Green Tribunal showed that sewage from apartments form a minuscule part of the total sewage entering Bellandur lake. The report states that while 480 million litres of sewage was entering Bellandur lake daily....

CSE releases CEMS guidance manual to monitor industrial air pollution:

NEW DELHI: Following on from the series of CEM events, being held in Europe since 1997, CEM India is an attempt to provide in-depth information on Indian regulation and policy, guide lines, calibration and quality control on industrial emissions monitoring to delegates, government and industry representatives, manufacturers and other stakeholders....

Power plant penalized for defying pollution norms, damaging cotton crop:

PATIALA: Taking a serious note of the pollution being caused by the blowing of ash from the Talwandi Sabo Power Plant which resulted in damage to the cotton crop in the areas, the Punjab Pollution Control Board has imposed a penalty of Rs 5 lakh on the plant. Chairman of the board KS Pannu said they had received multiple complaints against the authorities of the thermal plant....

Palsana incinerator unit shut down over foul smell:

SURAT: The incinerator unit of Geo-Hybrid Industrial Solution Private Ltd in Palsana taluka was shut down following complaints of foul smell emanating from the unit by nearby villagers. The Gujarat Pollution Control Board had issued closure notice to the company on September 26 after several representations by people of Baleswar village in Palsana over the years. The environment watchdog cut off power supply to the units and has directed the owners to comply to the environment norms before beginning operations....

NGT ban on hot mix plants delays road repair

NOIDA: Officials of the Noida authority said they are waiting for the National Green Tribunal (NGT) to temporarily lift its ban on the use of hot-mix plants to resurface a five-kilometre stretch of the Master Plan-2 Road. Officials are hopeful NGT will lift the ban for a fortnight. The stretch falls under the city's first elevated road. The stretch was damaged during the construction of the elevated road. "We will resurface the stretch in 15 days if we get NGT's permission to run hot mix plants. Our target is to resurface the main road and the service lane along it before Diwali" said SC Mishra, senior project engineer, Noida authority....

GREEN EVENTS

International Conference on Renewable Energy,
Green Technology & Environmental Science
8th October 2017
Puducherry, India

<http://www.asar.org.in/Conference2017/9/Pondicherry/ICREGTES/>

International Conference on Pharmaceutical, Medical
& Environmental Health Sciences
8th October 2017
Pune, Maharashtra, India

<http://irfconference.org/Conference2017/9/Pune/2/ICPharME/>

261st International Conference on
Environment and Natural Science
9th - 10th October 2017
Phuket, Thailand

<http://iastem.org/Conference2017/Thailand/5/ICENS/>

TOPIC OF THE WEEK

[INDIA READY TO WORK ABOVE AND BEYOND PARIS CLIMATE DEAL: SUSHMA SWARAJ](#)



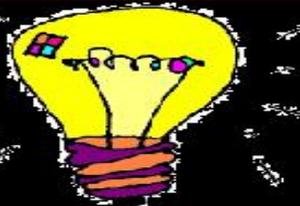
HIGHLIGHTS

India reaffirmed its commitment to the landmark Paris climate change agreement, saying it is willing to “work above and beyond” the pact to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

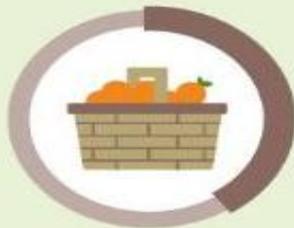
External affairs minister Sushma Swaraj, during a UN ‘Leadership Summit on Environment Pact’, said that India had been at the forefront of the debate on environment and development. Her remarks came amid uncertainty over the US role in the deal after President Donald Trump in June announced that America was withdrawing from the Paris deal, arguing that it gives undue advantage to countries like India and China. India, which is the world's third largest carbon polluter, along with more than 190 nations reached a pact in December 2015 with an aim to prevent an increase in the global average temperature and keep it well below 2°C. The deal, which replaced the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, was ratified last October. Participating in the UN meet hosted by Secretary General Antonio Guterres, Swaraj said India was willing to work “above and beyond” the Paris agreement.

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DID YOU KNOW?



Food waste and loss comes in different shapes



In developing countries
40% of losses occur during
post-harvest and **processing level**



In industrialized countries
40% of losses happen at the
retail or **consumer level**



Destroyed in
transport



Not bought at
a supermarket



Thrown away
by the consumer

Over the **last 50 years** global surplus of food increased roughly **65%**

UNEP

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We, at INDUS, are constantly looking to improve our services and raise our performance to unprecedented heights. This cannot be achieved without your help and guidance. We, therefore, warmly welcome your feedback on the newsletter including any improvements or new ideas that you might have. You can contact us at the following addresses:

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