



The Environmental Information System at Eco-Auditing Laboratory, National Botanical Research Institute is focussed on "Plants & Pollution". This is the E-mail Publication that Feature News, Information and Events Related to Plants & Pollution.

The Focus of ENVIS has been on Providing Environmental Information to Decision Makers, Policy Planners, Scientists and Engineers, Research Workers, etc. all over the World.

Eco-Auditing Group is Involved in R & D on Eco-Monitoring, Environmental Impact Assessment, Eco-Friendly Models that are Technologically and Economically Feasible for Phytoremediation of Polluted Lands and Polluted Waters etc.

News

Pollution: Three steps to a green shipping industry

On 26 April 1956, US entrepreneur Malcom McLean watched a converted oil tanker leave Port Newark in New Jersey carrying 58 of his inventions: the modular shipping container. By 2015, the largest container ship in the world, with a deck the area of 3.5 soccer fields, could carry about 20,000 of the units. Ever-bigger container ships carry 90% of global consumer goods such as clothes and food (non-bulk cargo). The seaborne container trade has grown from 100 million tonnes in 1980 to about 1.6 billion tonnes in 2014. Standardized 20-foot (6-metre) containers are moved using automated systems that connect seaports, airports and train stations. Bigger ships carry more containers, ideally consuming less oil and releasing fewer pollutants for each unit of goods carried. Nonetheless, the human and environmental costs of shipping are vast. Low-grade marine fuel oil contains 3,500 times more sulfur than road diesel. Large ships pollute the air in hub ports, accounting for one-third to half of airborne pollutants in Hong Kong, for example. Particulates emitted from ships cause 60,000 cardiopulmonary and lung-cancer deaths each year worldwide. Expanding harbours to take vast ships destroys coastal ecosystems. And scrapping fleets of obsolete smaller ships pollutes seas and soils, and damages workers' health, especially in the developing world.

[Readmore...](#)

Date: 17 February, 2016

Source: <http://www.nature.com>

Green belt to fight pollution in Dhanbad

Dhanbad: Taking note of the rising pollution in the coal city, the Municipal Corporation of Dhanbad (MCD) is planning to plant trees which can absorb toxic gases from the atmosphere. *Tabebuia rosea* also known as 'pink poui' is known to absorb sulphur dioxide and other toxic gases from the atmosphere. Dhanbad mayor Chandra Shekhar Agarwal has requested the divisional forest officer (DFO) to provide one lakh *Tabebuia rosea* plants for plantation at strategic places across the city. It is pertinent to note that the move comes two days after Dhanbad was ranked worst among the least clean cities in India. Expressing concern, Agarwal said: "We are already working towards making the city cleaner. Reducing pollution in the district also remains my priority. Owing to the mining activity rampant here, our atmosphere has become polluted. The air that people of Dhanbad inhale not only contains dust, but also toxic gases. This causes various diseases. The pink poui plant not only absorbs harmful polluting gases, but also bears flowers in the month of February and March, which will enhance the beauty of city." [Readmore...](#)

Date: 18 February, 2016

Source: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com>

Climate change politics is blinding us to the devastating effects of dirty air

It is the greatest environmental hazard of the age. Nothing focuses our concern for the future more, divides rich and poor, exercises science, business, politicians, old and young. It is an existential threat, a generational battle. All political and financial resources must be concentrated on stopping climate change. But now that governments have signed up to the unambitious Paris climate agreement and pledged to try to limit greenhouse gas emissions, we must ask whether we have lost sight of everything else. Is the environment just about carbon and parts per million of gases in the atmosphere? What about the environment that we can smell, see and touch today? For 20 years or more concerns about nuclear waste, food production, the quality of river water, the health of our soils and seas, the fate of our forests, the impact of road-building and many other important ecological issues have been steadily marginalised, starved of resources or pushed off the agenda by climate change. [Read more..](#)

Date: 20 February, 2016

Source: <http://www.theguardian.com>

'Wind Trees' May be the Future of 'Green' Energy!

The French may have just gave the term 'green energy' a whole new meaning! A French firm has come up with the concept of a 'wind tree' which is a tree like structure with small green wind turbines as 'leaves'. These trees are 26 ft tall fitted with 63 aeroleaves that are completely silent, which is also a plus concerning the issue of noise pollution. Now these cute toy like contraptions can generate electricity at wind speeds as low as 4.5 mph, regardless of wind direction. The power output of one tree is 3.1 kW a year, depending on the wind, which is enough to supply power for 15 street lamps or one electric car for 10,168 miles over a whole year. These trees currently retail at \$ 33,670 and according to the firm, become profitable after an average of 7.8 mph over one year. Admittedly, wind speed is much more consistent at heights of 160 ft; however, this requires large land space away from population, monstrous machines, and produces so much sound pollution. [Read more...](#)

Date: 22 February, 2016

Source: <http://www.theweeklyobserver.com>

Planting mitigates concrete jungle

RICHMOND — A group of nine volunteers, including employees of the Watershed Project, came together on Rheem Avenue for a very different Valentine's Day activity on Feb. 14. The Watershed Project, a nonprofit organization whose mission statement "is to educate and inspire communities to protect their local watersheds," held a tree planting volunteer event on Rheem Avenue with the goal of planting six trees up and down the street. A watershed is defined as an area or ridge of land that separates waters flowing to different rivers, basins or seas. This select service for residencies was made available through the Cal Fire grant, Urban and Community Forestry. It continues to sponsor the Watershed Project's efforts. But the small event is part of an expansive collaboration between the City of Richmond and another nonprofit, Richmond Trees, as volunteers strive for promotion and growth of the city's urban forest and green infrastructure through community action and education. [Read more..](#)

Date: 13 February, 2016

Source: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com>

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