NEWSBULLETIN

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NATIONAL BOTANICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE, LUCKNOW

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 Phytoremedia--tion of Polluted Lands and Polluted Waters etc.

News

Greenpeace activists put gas mask on Nelson's column in pollution protest

Two Greenpeace activists have climbed Nelson's column in central London to fit a gas mask to the statue as part of a city-wide protest over air pollution. Alison Garrigan and Luke Jones evaded security and scaled the 52-metre monument to Admiral Lord Nelson in Trafalgar Square soon after dawn on Monday. Once at the top they fitted a giant gas mask to Nelson's face to highlight the dangerous levels of toxic air in the capital.When they eventually climbed down after spending several hours on the column they were arrested on suspicion of causing criminal damage by police who had been watching the stunt unfold from the foot of the landmark. Garrigan was one of six women who scaled the Shard skyscraper in 2013 in a Greenpeace protest. A spokeswoman for Scotland Yard said: "Police in Westminster were called to Trafalgar Square at 04:11 hours on Monday 18 April after a group of six protesters were seen trying climb Nelson's column with a banner. At around 09:00 the protesters came down from the column – two people were arrested on suspicion of criminal damage."**Read more...**

Date: 18 April 2016

Source: http://www.theguardian.com

A year of fear and distrust in Dukeville

Dukeville, North Carolina — Deborah Graham's life changed on April 18, 2015, with the arrival of a letter.Graham was in the kitchen, pouring a cup of coffee. Her husband, Marcelle, opened a large certified envelope just dropped off by the mail carrier."The North Carolina Division of Public Health recommends that your well water not be used for drinking and cooking," the letter said."What did you just say?" Graham asked, incredulous."The water's contaminated," her husband replied.Graham's eyes flew to her kitchen faucet. She thought about the coffee she'd just swallowed. The food she'd cooked and sent over to her church. The two children she'd raised in this house.The ordinary routines of the Graham household had been disrupted by vanadium, which can cause nausea, diarrhea and cramps. In animal studies, vanadium has caused decreased red blood cell counts, elevated blood pressure and neurological effects.While the element is found in Earth's crust, it's also one of several metals found in coal ash—the toxic leftover waste from burning coal.State officials had discovered vanadium in the Graham's well water at an estimated concentration of 14 parts per billion, more than 45 times the state screening level of 0.3 ppb—a threshold set by health officials to warn well owners of potential risks. **Read more...**

Date: 18 April 2016

Source: http://www.environmentalhealthnews.org

Is your home harming you? New research highlights deadly effects of indoor pollution

A collaborative effort of European, Australian and UK researchers, led by the University of Surrey, assessed the harmful effects of indoor pollution in order to make recommendations on how best to monitor and negate these outcomes.Dr Prashant Kumar of the University of Surrey explained, "When we think of the term 'air pollution' we tend to think of car exhausts or factory fumes expelling grey smoke. However, there are actually various sources of pollution that have a negative effect on air quality, many of which are found inside our homes and offices. From cooking residue to paints, varnishes and fungal spores the air we breathe indoors is often more polluted than that outside."In 2012 indoor air pollution was linked to 4.3 million deaths globally, compared with 3.7 million for outdoor air pollution. Urban dwellers typically spend 90% of their time indoors, and this has been linked to 'Sick Building Syndrome' where dwellers exhibit a range of ill health effects related to breathing indoor air. Whether the use of coal and wood for cooking, to microbial contaminants including bacteria and viruses these effects include respiratory disease and reduced cognitive function.**Read more..**

Date: 19 April 2016

Source: https://www.sciencedaily.com

Paris climate deal: countries with about half of global emissions to join this year

The White House has said countries accounting for about half of the world's greenhouse gas emissions would join the Paris climate agreement this year, bringing the agreement "within striking distance" of entering into force. At least 34 countries representing 49% of greenhouse gas emissions formally joined the agreement, or committed to joining the agreement as early as possible this year at a high-profile signing ceremony at the United Nations last Friday.That brought the historic agreement closer to the critical threshold for becoming operational faster than expected, officials said."The progress that [was] made in only hours and days after the agreement was formally opened for signing now puts us within striking distance of entering into force years earlier than anyone would have anticipated," Brian Deese, a White House adviser, told a conference call with reporters. The gathering at the UN made other advances towards dealing with climate change, the White House said. The World Bank, along with countries such as Canada and Mexico, earlier this month endorsed setting a price on carbon.**Read more...**

Date: 25 April 2016

Source: http://www.theguardian.com

Odd-even rule: Ozone peaks lower than last April

Although Delhi's air quality is getting worse with each passing day, the peaks in surface-level ozone, a key air pollutant, has been lower this month as compared to April.last year. According to data shared by the System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR), eight-hour average of ozone had nearly touched 100 parts per billion (ppb) around April 23, 2015 while this year it is yet to breach 80 ppb.The national ambient safe standard for ozone is 100 µg/m3 (around 50 ppb) for 8-hour average and 180 µg/m3 for 1 hour average, says the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE). In fact, the volume of ozone saw a sharp dip in the first three days of odd—even scheme, but since then, it has been rising, although the spike has not been as steep as last year around the same time. The first spike was seen between April 17 and April 19 when it crossed over to the 'moderate' category from 'good'After tapering off for a while, it steadily started rising, as sunlight scorched the city. Ground-level ozone, as opposed to stratospheric ozone which shields the earth from ultra-violet rays, is a product of chemical reaction between oxides of nitrogen (NOx) and carbon monoxide (CO) among others in the presence of strong sunlight. In one of its studies.**Read more…**

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Source: http://www.thehindu.com

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