



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

Taj Mahal turning green as insect excrement stains monument's white marble

Angry tourism guides have demanded action, worried the negative press will jeopardise their livelihoods, while the Government has launched an urgent investigation. Guide Shamshuddin Khan said he had a tough time answering questions about growing greenish patches on its famed white marble walls. "This is like a fungus, growing onto the walls. When they see this kind of thing they say 'Taj is getting dirty!' The dirtiness is increasing, that kind of green fungus is increasing day by day," he said. A report has found that the creeping green stains are insect excrement, with environmentalist Brij Khandelwal saying it is because the adjoining river is dying. "The preliminary survey report says that the polluted Yamuna river at the back of the monument is contributing to this problem," he said. The Taj backs onto the Yamuna, for years soiled by human and industrial waste, and now shrunken by drought. [Read more...](#)

Date: 24 May 2016

Source: <http://www.abc.net.au>

Why British environmentalists should vote for Brexit

The leading lights of the UK environmental movement would have us believe that a win by the Brexit camp on 23 June would be akin to a natural disaster. According to them, it is only our membership of the EU that renders our beaches swimmable, our water drinkable and our air almost breathable. Freed from the noble, ceaseless efforts of the ever-vigilant EU, troglodyte Britain would tear up decades of environmental legislation and return to our 1970s roots as the "dirty man" of Europe. This is complete and utter tosh. First, the EU's record on the environment is far from the rose-tinted picture it is so keen to promote. The common fisheries policy has protected neither fisheries nor fishing communities. The common agricultural policy discriminates against African imports, destroying the rationale for investment in Africa and holding back sustainable development. For a brief decade, Europe led the world in renewable energy investment, but not any more – that would be China. EU nations promoted clean energy at vastly inflated costs through imposed renewable energy targets, tariffs and subsidies. When budgets reached breaking point in 2011, European renewable energy investment slumped by more than half and has yet to recover. [Read more...](#)

Date: 24 May 2016

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

Cladding absorbs pollution at Montreal facility

Every day, buses pulse through the STM Stinson Transport Centre in downtown Montreal, emitting exhaust fumes along the way. Yet, the spacious facility, built to house and maintain 300 buses, is wrapped in 25,000-square-foot of bright yellow, ventilated ceramic cladding that absorbs the polluting particles. Integrated with smart, hydrophilic tile (HT) technology that cleans and deodorizes air, the German manufactured cladding has helped the depot earn LEED Gold certification since its opening in 2014, while creating a healthier environment for nearly 700 employees and the surrounding neighbourhoods. "It's the equivalent to planting trees around a building—the action of a tree makes the air cleaner; ceramic cladding does that, too," notes Meggie Desjardins, communications coordinator at Ceragres, manufacturer of innovative cladding products. "A catalyst featured in the enamel is activated when in contact with air and sunlight." Lemay, designers of the two-storey building, had more than 100 colours to choose from and the yellow signature hue of the STM emerged as the winner. While the vibrant panels maintain their brightness even when in direct contact with UV rays, they can also be seen as an peculiar choice with dirty, grey bus fumes wafting about. [Read more..](#)

Date: 26 May 2016

Source: <https://www.reminetwork.com>

Africa's green growth imperative

Speaking at the Addis Ababa meeting in early April, the deputy executive secretary of UNECA, Abdalla Hamdok, said: "There is now growing commitment among African countries to pursue inclusive green development. Collective commitment from across the African Union will strengthen the speed and effectiveness of such a strategic shift." Indeed, about one third of African countries have already drawn up formal green development strategies, including Kenya, Zambia, Mozambique and Ghana, and more are planned. Yet Africa is in a difficult position when it comes to climate change. Firstly, with the exception of South Africa, it is not really responsible for the problem. If the entire world produced as much carbon and methane pollution per capita as Sub-Saharan Africa, then there would not be a problem in the first place. Yet secondly, it is widely accepted that few parts of the world will be as badly affected by climate change as Africa. Rainfall patterns are forecast to become more irregular and temperatures in an already hot continent are expected to rise. [Read more...](#)

Date: 31 May 2016

Source: <http://africanbusinessmagazine.com>

Diesel is dirty

Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar has breathtakingly dubbed as 'senseless' and 'without any scientific basis' some of the decisions of the Supreme Court and the NGT regarding the ban on private diesel cars above a certain capacity. As Defence Minister, Parrikar has no locus standi in the matter. But it must be presumed he would know that all of Europe is coming around to the view that was also expressed by the apex court in March - diesel is a dirtier fuel than petrol. The debate is over. It is revealing that it is the Ministry of Heavy Industry that has moved the NGT against the ban, not the Health or Environment Ministry. If the government were able to see a little beyond the immediate; it would see the writing on the wall. Globally, the trend is unmistakably clear. It is only a matter of time and a few cycles of debate before private cars with diesel engines go off the roads. The auto industry can either invest more in the technology and be forced to abandon it later, or cut its losses right now. On behalf of the government, Finance Minister Jaitley has remarked that the "Indian auto sector is extremely comfortably placed", and would not be shaken by the ban. Listening to the alarmist auto or petroleum sector has done no good for any country ever, including the US. [Read more...](#)

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

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