



News

Plants that alert of thirst: India eyes Israeli tech

Israel's expertise in precision agriculture is well known and its leadership in drip irrigation is recognized world over. But what would excite India more during PM Narendra Modi's farm visit there would be the arid country's efforts to take the concept of irrigation to a new level by developing a unique artificial intelligence system. The new system, which has been in commercial use for nearly one and a half year, analyses data generated from crops through sensors and translates it into irrigation commands. It helps farmers get real time alert on the actual water needs of plants in their fields. Though drip irrigation has already transformed the water efficiency measures in agricultural operations in Israel and elsewhere in the world including India, the new sensor based system will further revolutionise the irrigation concept. Obviously, such technology may help India if adopted in water starved regions of Maharashtra (Marathwada), UP, Madhya Pradesh (Bundelkhand) and Rajasthan... [Read more...](#)

Date: 04 July 2017

Source: <http://www.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/>**Harsh Vardhan to launch plantation drive on July 5**

The Union Environment Ministry will launch tomorrow a month-long drive to plant saplings, with minister Harsh Vardhan urging the states to undertake similar initiatives. Urging people to become "green ambassadors", Vardhan said native trees, which have a high survival rate, should be planted as they readily adapt to the local climate and integrate into the eco-system. He added that in order to meet goals set by India under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), initiatives such as plantation drives on a large scale are important. "Dr Harsh Vardhan urged the people to become 'Green ambassadors' and participate actively in plantation drives during the period of monsoon, in keeping with the spirit of Van Mahotsav," an official statement said.. [Read more...](#)

Date: 04 July 2017

Source: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com>**We have forgotten our culture of environment protection, Union minister Harsh Vardhan says**

Union Environment minister Harsh Vardhan on Thursday said had India continued with its culture of environment protection it would have set a big example before the world. Terming the present condition of our forests, rivers, air and land as a "matter of serious concern for us", he said our modern lifestyle is responsible for this. "Environment protection is related to our culture, but we have forgotten our cultural heritage. Had we continued with this heritage of the protection of environment today, we could have presented a big example before the world," he said during a plantation drive at District Park in Paschim Vihar here to mark the 'Van Mahotsav' celebrations. Noting that plants were a form of God, he pointed out that they absorb carbon dioxide and give us free oxygen. Terming climate change and global warming as "burning issues" of the world, he said attempts were being made at various levels to resolve these issues... [Read more..](#)

Date: 06 July 2017

Source: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/>**Environment protection should become mass movement: Vardhan**

Union minister Harsh Vardhan on Friday said scientific research should reach the public and asked scientists to solve the basic issues like water and sanitation confronting the common people. Launching the National Carbonaceous Aerosols Programme Project (NCAP) on Carbonaceous aerosol emissions, source apportionment and climate impacts (NCAP-COALESCE project) at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bombay, the minister said that scientists should work at the grassroots level. There should be synergy and coordination between the various scientific and technical institutions working for the common goal to combat climate change, Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, said. Carbonaceous aerosols are a matter of great concern on the issue of climate change, he added. [Read more...](#)

Date: 07 July 2017

Source: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/>**NGT wants Yamuna report in three weeks**

Noting that the Yamuna is highly contaminated by industrial effluents and sewage, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Delhi and Uttar Pradesh as well as the the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) to submit a detailed report on the river's rejuvenation within three weeks. A bench headed by NGT chairman Justice Swatanter Kumar warned that in case of default, each of the states would be liable to pay an amount of Rs 50,000. "The pollution of the river still remains a matter of serious concern. It is highly polluted by industrial effluents, sewage and other waste. We direct the state of Uttar Pradesh, UP Jal Nigam, Namami Gange (Ministry of Water Resources) and Haryana to submit their proposed plan for prevention, control, rejuvenation and restoration of the river," the bench noted. Further, the bench asked that states submit district-wise reports keeping in view the drains that join the river. The green tribunal also asked for a list of industries located on the catchment area of the river, and directed the Haryana and Himachal Pradesh pollution control boards to jointly conduct a study of water quality and flow of Yamuna at the point where it enters Haryana. [Read more...](#)

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Source: <http://indianexpress.com/>

NEWSBULLETIN COMMITTEE

Executive Editor

Dr. Pankaj Kumar Srivastava

pankajk@nbri.res.in

Compiled By

Dr. Priya Srivastava, Diwakar Saini, Krishna Mohan

NBRI ENVIS Node: <http://www.nbrienvvis.nic.in>NBRI Website: <http://www.nbri.res.in>ENVIS Cell: <http://envvis.nic.in>Ministry of Environment & Forests: <http://envfor.nic.in>

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