



ECOBUZZ

A BUZZ TO THE GREEN FUTURE!!

NOVEMBER EDITION

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Green Greetings from Faculty of Law, GLS University!

A vision for cities has never been more important than it is today. More than half of the world's inhabitants live in cities and this migration trend is expected to continue. By 2050 more than two-thirds of the world will be urban dwellers. India alone is expected to double the number of city dwellers by adding 404 million new people to cities over the next 35 years.

Emissions free transportation, resilient urban centres, cities with walkable neighbourhoods and no air pollution. All of these are necessary and attainable for a sustainable planet. The majority of people live in cities- that's what makes this goal so important. The benefits to health are obvious, sustainable means of transportation will also determine how easy it is to access other key services in the city, such as education and employment.

There are many challenges ahead in achieving SDG 11. Cities will need solid implementation plans and support in order to realize the targets. Innovative solutions are needed to help create people-centred cities where citizens are involved in influencing how they live and interact with their community. Civil society can play an important role in bringing together local people and Governments. Like many other goals, the identified targets need to be tangible, concrete and measurable. We'll need to clearly define what is meant by "access to green space" and determine how "access for all" to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transportation systems is to be measured. The targets have the potential to impact real change across many of the SDGs—let's make sure they have the power to make a difference.

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National Updates

India could soon experience heat waves that break human survivability limit: World Bank

Severe heat waves, responsible for thousands of deaths across India over the last few decades, are increasing with alarming frequency and soon the country could become one of the first places in the world to experience heat waves that break the human survivability limit, according to a new report.



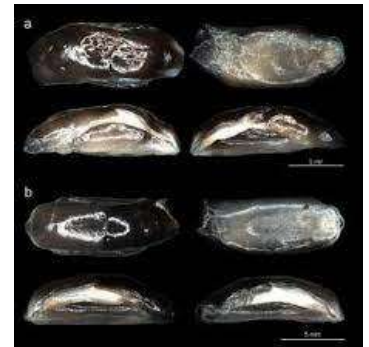
National Pollution Control Day: 5 most and least polluted cities of India

The National Pollution Control Day is observed every year on Dec 2 in remembrance of those who lost their lives in the Bhopal Gas Tragedy when the deadly gas methyl isocyanate leaked out of the Union Carbide plant on the intervening night of Dec 2, 1984. The Indian cities/towns include Delhi, Jaunpur, Kanpur, Lucknow, and Varanasi.



ZSI scientists discover new species of head-shield slug at Bengal's Digha & nearby beaches.

The scientists of Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) have recently come across a new species of head-shield sea slug, named as *melanochlamys bengalensis*, from West Bengal's Digha and adjoining places like Bakkhali, Tajpur, New Digha, Udaipur, Talsari, Chandipur and Kanika Islands (Odisha). The species was examined thoroughly by integrating morphological characters and conducting a molecular analysis, and its status as a new species was confirmed.



State Updates

Poll-bound Gujarat ranks among the lowest in socio-environmental measures, regressed in last 15 years.

With the Gujarat Assembly elections scheduled to take place in two phases on December 1 and 5, an analysis of economic, social and environmental indicators brings forth contrasting results. While Gujarat is economically one of the most advanced States in India, it fares poorly on social indicators, even featuring at the bottom of the list on some of them. The State tops the list on manufacturing-related indicators. But this has come at a cost as Gujarat features at the bottom of the list on several environmental measures.

Gujarat is seeing a revolution that's totally out of step with the rest of India.

Gujarat has nearly two-thirds of all residential rooftop solar power in India, despite having just 5% of India's 1.4 billion population and 6% of its land mass. India needs a lot more solar power as part of its plans to get half of its electricity requirements from renewable energy sources by 2030, and ultimately reach net-zero emissions by 2070. Solar now accounts for around 7% of India's electricity generation – according to the Central Electricity Authority of India – at more than 60GW.

Pair of lions brought to Mumbai from Gujarat will be released at SGNP on Tuesday.

The pair of lions brought to Maharashtra from Gujarat in November will be released in the habitat of Sanjay Gandhi National Park (SGNP), by Maharashtra forest minister Sudhir Mungantiwar, On Tuesday, December 6. The lion's were brought in from the Sakkarbaug Zoological Park (SZP) in Junagadh. With this, the closed lion safari will resume at SGNP, the department said in a statement on Monday. "Both the lion's are two years old, and due to their young age, tourists will be able to enjoy the closed lion safari for many years," the statement said.

अश्वत्थो देवसदनस्तूतीयस्यामितो दिवि ।
तत्रामृतस्य चक्षणं देवाः कुष्ठमवन्वत ॥

It is prohibited to cut Vat Vriksha as Gods live in this tree and you get no disease where this tree is planted.

~Atharvaveda 5.4.3

GREEN JUSTICE

VIMAL BHAI VS STATE OF UTTARAKHAND on 14 December, 2011

Appeal No. 65/2013

Since 1988, appellant No. 1 has been a Gandhian social activist campaigning for environmental protection and people's rights to natural resources in the middle Himalaya region. The second appellant is an economist and former Professor at the Indian Institute of Management in Bangalore who lives on the banks of the Alaknanda River. The third appellant is a Social Activist who was elected as Van Sarpanch of Village Naurakh. And they are all affected by the Final Clearance of the Vishnugad-Pipalkoti hydropower project, which calls for the construction of a 65-meter-high diversion dam across the Alaknanda near Helong Village in Uttarakhand's Chamoli district. (Judgment delivered by the Bench) This appeal is filed being aggrieved by the grant of Forest Clearance (for short FC) accorded by the First respondent through its Order No. 8-65/2009 - FC dated 3rd of June 2011 under which deforestation of 80.507 hectares of government forest land diverted for construction of 65m high diversion dam across river Alakhnanda near village Helong in Chamoli District of Uttarakhand State for the purpose of generating hydroelectricity power.

VARUN VS CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

Original Application No. 32/2020 Order date:29-11-22

Grievance in this application is against dumping of untreated and toxic industrial waste into Gaunchi drain in Faridabad, Haryana, in violation of environmental norms. It is stated that Satpal Bhati, resident of Ballabgarh, is collecting such waste from Sector 24 and Pali Industrial Areas at Faridabad and dumping the same into the drain unscientifically, resulting in pollution of the water. Such pollution has resulted in contamination of groundwater in the area. This is also causing foul smell and unhygienic conditions. In view of the above, a report has been filed by the State PCB on 10.06.2021 to the effect that Satpal Bhati has denied dumping of waste into the drain and stated that he will never do so in future. Though none appears for the applicant, we have considered the matter. Learned Counsel for the State PCB has pointed out that the Tribunal is already considering in pursuance of which the State authorities are taking steps and report of action taken is being filed in the said matter. In view of above, the State authorities may take further remedial actions as per orders of this Tribunal and as per mandate of law. The characteristics of effluents in the said drain and steps for interception and diversion for treatment may be mentioned. Contributors of waste water to the drains are checked and they also be regulated including providing sewerage. Final confluence of this drain (river Yamuna or Canal) and correspondingly its compliance with the standards be also mentioned.

RAJENDRA SINGH BHANDARI VS STATE OF UTTARAKHAND on 21 September, 2020

Execution Application No. 64/2017 Order date 29-11-2022

Facts, to the limited extent necessary, are that the election of the Legislative Assembly of Uttarakhand was held in the year 2012. The present applicant contested the said election from 04 Badrinath Assembly Constituency as candidate of Indian National Congress Party. While contesting the said election, the present applicant had printed a picture (photo) of Lord Badrinath in his hand bills as well as pamphlets. On account of this illegal act on the part of the applicant to influence the voters and use the religious feelings of local people, an FIR was lodged against the applicant on 25.01.2012 under Section 125 of the Act, 1951 and Section 153A of the LPC. by the Returning Officer, to the Fit, it is clearly mentioned that due to the act of the applicant, the religious sentiments of the people are being shaken. On the basis of the evidence found against the present applicant for his involvement in commission of the crime, the Investigating Officer has submitted the charge sheet against the applicant under sub-section (3) of Section 123 of the Act, 1951. This application has been filed under Section 482 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (hereinafter referred to as the Code) to quash the Charge Sheet dated 05.03.2012 in Case Crime No. 12 of 2012 registered with Police Station Gopeshwar, District Chamoli and cognizance order dated 18.09.2014, passed by the learned Chief Judicial Magistrate, Chamoli in Criminal Case No 699 of 2012, "State vs. Rajendra Singh Bhandari" under Section 125 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 (hereinafter referred to as the Act, 1951) along with entire proceedings, pending in the court of Chief Judicial Magistrate, Chamoli

शैले शैले न माणिक्यं मौक्तिकं न गजे गजे ।

साधवो नहि सर्वत्र चन्दनं न वने वने ॥

Rubies are not found in every mountain; nor is a pearl to be met with every elephant.
Good people are not found everywhere. A sandalwood tree does not exist in every forest.

~ Chanakya Neetisaar 2.9

THE PARIS AGREEMENT

Climate change is a global emergency that goes beyond national borders. It is an issue that requires international cooperation and coordinated solutions at all levels.

To tackle climate change and its negative impacts, world leaders at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP21) in Paris reached a breakthrough on 12 December 2015: the historic Paris Agreement.

The Agreement sets long-term goals to guide all nations:

- substantially reduce global greenhouse gas emissions to limit the global temperature increase in this century to 2 degrees Celsius while pursuing efforts to limit the increase even further to 1.5 degrees;
- review countries' commitments every five years;
- provide financing to developing countries to mitigate climate change, strengthen resilience and enhance abilities to adapt to climate impacts.

The Agreement is a legally binding international treaty. It entered into force on 4 November 2016. Today, 194 Parties (193 States plus the European Union) have joined the Paris Agreement.

The Agreement includes commitments from all countries to reduce their emissions and work together to adapt to the impacts of climate change, and calls on countries to strengthen their commitments over time. The Agreement provides a pathway for developed nations to assist developing nations in their climate mitigation and adaptation efforts while creating a framework for the transparent monitoring and reporting of countries' climate goals.

The Paris Agreement provides a durable framework guiding the global effort for decades to come. It marks the beginning of a shift towards a net-zero emissions world. Implementation of the Agreement is also essential for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

3
KEY ELEMENTS OF THE
PARIS AGREEMENT
ON CLIMATE CHANGE

1.
Limit temperature
rise to 1.5C

2.
Review countries'
commitments to
cutting emissions
every five years

3.
Provide climate
finance to
developing
countries

Source : United Nations
<https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/paris-agreement>

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MAKE CITIES AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS INCLUSIVE, SAFE, RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE

SAFE, RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE HUMAN SETTLEMENT

:JYOT BAXI

Worldwide consumption and production — a driving force of the global economy — rest on the use of the natural environment and resources in a way that continues to have destructive impacts on the planet. Sustainable consumption and production is about doing more and better with less. It is also about decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation, increasing resource efficiency and promoting sustainable lifestyles. Sustainable consumption and production can also contribute substantially to poverty alleviation and the transition towards low-carbon and green economies.

The World Economic Forum and the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on a jointly designed 'Sustainable Cities India program' which will aim to create an enabling environment for cities to generate decarbonization solutions across the energy, transport, and the built environment sectors.

This initiative is particularly noteworthy as it comes after the Honorable Prime Minister Narendra Modi stated India's commitment to turn net zero by 2070 as a climate mitigation response at COP26.

The 'Sustainable Cities India program' intends to enable cities to decarbonize in a systematic and sustainable way that will reduce emissions and deliver resilient and equitable urban ecosystems. The Forum and NIUA will adapt the Forum's City Sprint process and Toolbox of Solutions for decarbonization in the context of five to seven Indian cities across two years. The City Sprint process is a series of multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder workshops involving business, government, and civil society leaders to enable decarbonization, especially through clean electrification and circularity. The outcome of the workshop series will be a shortlist of relevant policies and business models, which not only reduce emissions but also maximize System Value, such as improved air quality or job creation. City Sprints will help to jumpstart and/or accelerate net zero planning and action. The City Sprint process uses the Toolbox of Solutions - a digital platform containing over 200 examples of clean electrification, efficiency and smart infrastructure best practices and case studies across buildings, energy systems and mobility from over 110 cities around the world. The City Sprint process will also enable cities to run pilot solutions and, based on findings, India will be able contribute 10 to 40 best practice case studies which will be integrated into the Toolbox of Solutions and showcased across the world.

As per the World Economic Forum's Global Risks Report 2022, densely populated countries that are highly dependent on agriculture, such as India, are especially vulnerable to climate insecurity. Decarbonization in cities is a real opportunity to keep global warming well below 2°C and cities in India can make an enormous contribution in reaching this goal.

- By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums.
- By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons.
- By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries.
- Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage



Image Source: United Nations Sustainable development goals <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal9>

मूल ब्रह्मा त्वचा विष्णु शाखा रुद्रोमहेश्वरः ।
पातले पातले देवानाम् वृक्षराज नमोस्तुते ॥

With Brahma in your roots, Vishnu in your body, Shiva in your branches and other Gods & Goddess living in your leaves, oh tree- the King I salute you!

~ Srimad Bhagwat

UPCOMING EVENTS

National

16 December: International Conference on Advances in Smart Materials, Chemical, & Biochemical Engineering (CHEMSMART-22)

18 December : National Conference on Advances in Science, Agriculture, Environmental & Biotechnology

18 December: National Conference on Business Management, Economics & Social Science

International

7 December : UN Biodiversity Conference (COP 15)~ Canada

11 December : 7th Summit for Subnational Governments & Cities~ Canada

18 December : Biodiversity Action For and By the Global South ~ Canada



Concept and design :Tapati and charishma

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