

The focus of Environment Information System (ENVIS) is to disseminate environmental information to decision makers, policy planners, scientists and researchers across the world.

The CERC-ENVIS Resource Partner focuses on 'Environment Literacy - Eco-labelling and Eco-friendly Products' This bi-monthly e-bulletin features latest news, developments and innovations in the field.

Breakdown of plastic in weeks



Researchers at the Chinese Academy of Sciences' Kunming Institute of Botany have found a fungus that is able to break down waste plastics in a matter of weeks. It will solve the problem of non-biodegradable plastics that would otherwise persist in the environment for years. *As per gillus tubingensis* is found in soil, but the study found that it can also thrive on the surface of plastics. It secretes enzymes which break down the bonds between individual molecules. Its mycelia break them apart. The temperature and pH balance of its surroundings and the type of culture medium in place had an impact on its performance. The next step for these researchers is to figure out what conditions would be ideal to help facilitate a practical implementation.

Source: <https://futurism.com/researchers-find-a-fungus-that-can-break-down-plastic-in-weeks/>

Eco product

Breakup with single use Plastic



Strong, durable, cheap and can be moulded into any shape, plastic is a wonder material. It has proved so useful since the 1950s 8.3 billion metric tons of plastic stuff has produced. However, the victim of this success appears to be much of life on the planet. Approximately 79% of the produced plastics was accumulated either in landfills or the natural environment. Around 9% of which had been recycled and 12% was incinerated. This has been described as "an uncontrolled experiment on a global scale" by scientists. If this trend continues, 12,000 Mt of plastic waste will be in landfills or in the natural environment by 2050.

Every year, with more than eight million tonne plastics, go into the oceans. It is estimated that by 2050, there will be more plastic than fish and 99% of all the seabirds on the planet will have consumed some. Some plastics are toxic, it can disrupt hormones vital for a healthy existence. Even it is not dangerous itself – or not known to be – they act like a magnet for a range of other toxins and pollutants spilled into the natural world.

According to the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organisation "Killing off sea creatures is bad for humans because we consume so much of it ourselves. Some 92.6 million tonnes were caught worldwide in 2015." Professor Frank Kelly, an expert in environmental health from King's College London told "There's a real possibility that some of those microparticles will be entrained into the air and they will be carried around and we will end up breathing them."

In February 2018, the United Nations announced it had "declared war on ocean plastic." UN Environment launched a global campaign to eliminate major sources of marine litter: microplastics in cosmetics and the excessive, wasteful usage of single-use plastic by the year 2022.

The United Nations Environment (UNE) every year celebrates World Environment Day (WED) on 5 June to raise global awareness to take positive environmental action to protect nature and the planet Earth. 'Beat Plastic Pollution' is the theme of the World Environment Day this year. India will be the Global Host for World Environment Day (WED) 2018.

Source: <http://advances.sciencemag.org/content/3/7/e1700782>, <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=176642>
<https://www.independent.co.uk/nment/plastic-how-planet-earth-environment-oceans-wildlife-recycling-landfill-artificial-a7972226.html>

Green issue

No Plastic bans in Mumbai



The Bombay high court refused to stay the Maharashtra government's ban on plastic. The Maharashtra government has decided to lift the ban on small PET and PETE bottles with a capacity of less than a half liter. Now all starred hotels will have to install crushing machines for using these bottles in bulk. However, people will have to pay Rs 2 extra for using each small these bottles having the capacity of less than a half litre under the depository buyback scheme. The manufacturers of PET bottles will also have to install vending and crushing machines at tourist and public places, senior officials from the state environment department said. Though no official date has been announced, all rules regulating the use of plastic items will become effective in three months.

Source: <https://www.nyoooz.com/news/mumbai/1075636/maharashtra-government-lifts-ban-on-plastic-bottles/>
<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mumbai/bombay-high-court-refuses-to-stay-plastic-ban-in-maharashtra/how/63746603.cms>

India to host World Environment Day 2018

India is selected as a global host of 2018 World Environment Day (WED) which will take place on June 5, 2018. It will focus on the battle against plastic pollution. Dr Harsh Vardhan, Minister of MoEF&CC said "Indian philosophy and lifestyle has long been rooted in the concept of coexistence with nature. We are committed to making Planet Earth a cleaner and greener place." He also added. "If each and every one of us does at least one green good deed daily towards our Green Social Responsibility, there will be billions of green good deeds daily on the planet." The GoI will organise and promote the WED celebrations through a series of engaging activities and events generating strong public interest and participation. From pan-Indian plastic cleanup drives in public areas, national reserves and forests to simultaneous beach cleanup activities – India will lead the initiative by setting an example.

Source: <http://www.dinews.gov.in/sci-tech/india-host-world-environment-day-2018>

Eco news



Say No to Plastic

Look around yourself and see what plastics you can replace. It will drastically reduce your plastic footprint on the environment and help you live a healthier life

Eco tip

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Consumer Education and Research Centre

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