



GREEN ALERT



March - April 2017 Vol.4 Issue. 1

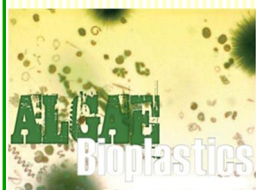
The focus of Environment information System (ENVIS) is to disseminate environmental information to decision makers, policy planners, scientists and researchers across the world.

The Centre focuses on 'Eco-labeling and Promotion of Eco-friendly Products'. This bi-monthly e-bulletin features latest news, developments and innovations in the field.

Technology for Eco-friendly Algae Bio-plastics

A research team from Marine Biomaterials Research Center, Korea has developed a technology to manufacture eco-friendly bio-plastics using green algae in the ocean for the first time in the world. They succeeded in producing a carboxylic acid, a material used to manufacture high-performance engineering plastics using fat and fatty acid. These can be easily extracted from green algae or microalgae. The research team expects that the new technology can be used to manufacture high-performance engineering plastics that are used in electronic equipment, parts of clocks and watches, structural materials for aircrafts. It is published in *ACS Catalysis* and *Scientific Reports*.

Source: <http://www.nature.com/articles/srep37121>



Eco product of the month

Environment and Budget 2017

Budget 2017 brought optimism to those who value the environment and forests as Union finance minister made announcements for the second phase of the national solar mission. Around 7,000 railway stations will get power from solar panels in the medium term. 2017 will see the initiation of the second phase of solar park development for creating additional generation capacity of 20,000 MW. The bio-toilets of Indian Railways will be fitted in all coaches by 2019.



Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) has made tremendous progress in promoting safe sanitation and ending open defecation. Sanitation coverage in rural India has gone up from 42% in October 2014 to about 60%. Priority is given for piped water supply to make villages free from open defecation.

Provision for safe drinking water to over 28,000 arsenic and fluoride affected habitations in the next four years.

Promotion of digital technology to make India paper free and cashless. A DigiGaon initiative will be launched to provide telemedicine, education and skills through digital technology.

For strengthening Energy sector, Government has decided to set up Strategic Crude Oil Reserves. This will take country's strategic reserve capacity to 15.33 MMT.

"Pilot plants for environment friendly disposal of solid waste and conversion of biodegradable waste to energy are being set up at New Delhi and Jaipur railway stations. Five more such solid waste management plants are now being taken up," finance minister said in budget speech. A good amount of additional funds is also allocated on preparing plans to implement the Paris agreement that comes into force from 2020 and creating capability of the states to handle climate change-induced disasters. Also a good amount of additional funds is also allocated for preparing plans to implement the Paris agreement that comes into force from 2020 and creating capability of the states to handle climate change-induced disasters.

The allocation for the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has been increased by about Rs 300 crore to Rs 2,657 crore in 2017-18.

Source: <http://indianexpress.com/article/business/budget/union-budget-2017-arun-jaitley-finance-minister-tax-income-tax-rail-budget-4502271/>, <http://indiabudget.nic.in/ub2017-18/bh/bh1.pdf>

Green issue

ECO NEWS

Environmental friendly vehicles to curb the pollution



The Indian Government is encouraging pro-active use of limited natural resources by taking steps to promote the use of innovative environmentally friendly vehicles. The Bharat Stage IV fuel norms are the least polluting fuel standards in India, and have been applicable in some cities in India since 2010. There are plans to introduce access to Bharat Stage IV fuel across the entire country by the year 2017. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has mandated that all vehicles in the country should use only Bharat Stage IV fuel from the year 2020.

Source: <http://tech.firstpost.com/auto/the-government-is-encouraging-environmentally-friendly-vehicles-to-reduce-the-amount-of-pollution-in-india-361291.html>

Eco-Friendly School produces its own power



The Canadian International School in Bengaluru is producing its own power and supplying the surplus to the grid, and is also giving its students important lessons on the environment. They are producing 5 lakh kilowatts per year. It also has a biogas plant. Apart from these, composting, and growing of organic vegetables, is also done

on the school premises. With cleaner, greener renewable energy being the need of the hour, the school started building on this idea, and look how far they've come. A lot of students are working on the project to get firsthand experience.

Source: <http://www.indiatimes.com/news/india/this-eco-friendly-school-in-bengaluru-produces-its-own-power-to-educate-kids-on-the-environment-269809.html>

No to hotel toiletries

Don't take it; these are plastics will go to landfill. Instead, fill small bottles with your own shampoo from home. Ask them to source eco-friendly toiletries.

Eco tip of the month

Visit CERC-ENVIS website www.cercenvs.nic.in and <https://www.facebook.com/EcoProductsEcoLabeling> to know more about our activities.

Consumer Education and Research Centre

"Suraksha Sankool", S. G. Highway, Thaltej, Ahmadabad – 380 054. Tel : 079-27489945/46, 27450528, 27438752/3/4
Fax : 079-27489947 Email : cerc-env@nic.in, cerc@cercindia.org Website : www.cercindia.org