



GREEN ALERT

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

Converting plastic bags into petrol, diesel



gasoline, waxes and lubricating oils such as engine oil and hydraulic oil can also be obtained. A report of the new study appears in the journal Fuel Processing Technology.

Source: http://news.illinois.edu/news/14/0212bags_oil_BrajendraKumarSharma.html

Eco product

A research team at the Illinois Sustainable Technology Center has successfully converted used plastic shopping bags into diesel, natural gas and other useful petroleum products. Brajendra Kumar Sharma, a senior research scientist at the centre, led the research. He said it involved a process called pyrolysis which is essentially heating the bags in an oxygen-free chamber. The conversion produces significantly more energy than it requires and results in transportation fuels – diesel, for example – that can be blended with existing ultra-low-sulfur diesels and biodiesels. Other products, such as natural gas, naphtha (a solvent),

Green issue

Saving urban green cover

Taking note of the community concern about depletion of green cover in cities, the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change has prepared a draft guideline for 'Conservation, Development and Management of Urban Greens'. The objective is to invite individuals/NGOs/government departments, particularly municipal and urban development authorities, to comment/suggest on the draft guidelines on and off line. This guideline calls for identifying and conserving trees of historic importance in cities. The urban development authorities will also be urged to encourage 'Tree Tourism'.

The draft also reveals the pathetic state of urban greens in the total geographical area in cities such as Ahmedabad (4.6%), Hyderabad (5%), and Bengaluru (6.85%). Urban population in India has increased from 17% in 1951 to 31% in 2011 and is expected to reach 55% by 2050.

Policies and strategies to enhance tree cover in urban areas and a legal framework for conservation of urban greens are important to make cities sustainable. Technical guidance is needed for conservation and management of existing trees/greens and development of new greens in urban/peri urban areas.

Ritwick Dutta, a Delhi-based environment lawyer and environmental activist of the Legal Initiative for Forest and Environment while giving an interview to *The Hindu* newspaper said: "The draft has no policy to prevent diversion of existing green natural habitats in cities for several other purposes. It also lacks clear vision on what are the tree varieties that should be conserved."

Source: <http://envfor.nic.in/sites/default/files/draft-fp-24714.pdf>
<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-andhrapradesh/moef-seeks-suggestions-on-saving-green-cover/article6266317.ece>



Eco-friendly and non-carcinogenic Silk Mark

The Central Silk Board, Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India has released two crore Silk Mark labels at the Silk Mark Expo 2014 in Madurai. Silk Mark is a certification mark in India for silk textiles which certifies that the textile is pure natural silk with no adulteration. In India, there are around 2,800 authorised dealers. D Kirubakaran, nodal officer from Chennai said, "Each Silk Mark label costs around Rs 2 which needs to be authorised by us before shops selling silk saris can use the label. The Central Silk Board had also unveiled a Silk Mark India Fusion Label for the international community which is 1eco-friendly and non-carcinogenic. It also has 'Track and Trace' features through online or SMS service.

Source: <http://www.fashionunited.in/news/apparel/silk-mark-expo-releases-two-crore-silk-mark-labels-131020147655>



5 Indian companies in global list of green firms

A new global index, 'CDP Climate Performance Leadership Index 2014', has been developed by the CDP (formerly Carbon Disclosure Project) for firms that have shown leadership in adopting measures to cut their climate-damaging emissions. The CDP is a global system for companies and cities to measure, disclose, manage and share vital environmental information. The list has 187 companies from across the world that illustrate that a low-carbon future does not mean low profit. Most of the companies topping the list are in Europe, US and Japan. The Indian companies that have made it to the list are: Essar Oil, Larsen & Toubro, Tech Mahindra, Tata Consultancy Services and Wipro.

Source: http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/environment/global-warming/5-indian-companies-in-global-a-list-of-green-firms/articleshow/44831606.cms?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=digest_section



Eco news

Ditch dry cleaning

Avoid clothing that requires dry cleaning. Natural fibres are often easier to care for at home. They can be washed in cool water and hung out to dry, reducing chemical use and energy, too.

Eco tip

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