



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

## Biodegradable drinking bottle

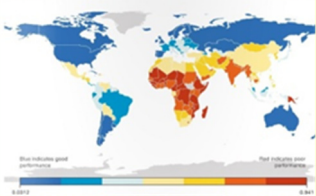


Icelandic product design student Ari Jónsson developed a biodegradable drinking bottle by mixing algae powder with water. He added agar powder to water, that forms a jelly-like material. After experimenting to find the right proportions, Jónsson slowly heated the substance before pouring it into a bottle-shaped mould that had been kept in the freezer. He rotated the mould while submerged in a bucket of ice-cold water until the liquid inside has taken the shape of the bottle. It was then placed in a refrigerator for a few minutes before the agar bottle was extracted from the mould. As long as the bottle is full of water, it will keep its shape, but as soon as it is empty – it will begin to decompose. The best part is that the bottle is edible. "You could even bite the bottle," adds Jónsson.

<http://www.sciencealert.com/this-biodegradable-algae-based-water-bottle-breaks-down-when-it-s-empty>

## Eco product of the month

## World's most environmentally friendly countries



Countries face unique challenges and opportunities to provide a healthy "green" lifestyle for their citizens. More and more countries are beginning to place an emphasis on going green by adopting environment friendly life-style. Each year, Yale's Environmental Performance Index (EPI) ranks the top-performing countries for the environment, based on how well they've fared at protecting human health and vulnerable ecosystems. The report provides a global ranking of environmental performance for 180 countries. This year Finland (90.68) was named as the most environmentally -friendly country in the world, while Somalia (27.66) was declared the least.

According to the Yale Environmental Performance Index – 2016 the developed country like the United States of America doesn't find its place in the top 20 countries and listed at 26<sup>th</sup> position. European nations top the list, with Finland, Iceland, Sweden and Denmark taking the first four places. Norway lags behind because of poor agricultural practices and high carbon emissions and ranked 17<sup>th</sup>. The Report finds that there have been global improvements in climate and energy, health impacts and water and sanitation.

Since the EPI started, several countries have made improvements to a number of environmental and social issues, such as access to clean drinking water and sanitation. Top 20 countries are possibly more aware of the environment and henceforth are setting the trend for EPI rankings. This shows that progress is the key factor in developing the world full of renewable energy and emission-free technology. However, some of other countries like Greece, Lithuania and developed nation like the US are trending down. The report says larger developing economies, such as China, which is ranked 109, are often let down by poor air quality as a result of industrial production.

India is in 141<sup>st</sup> (53.58) place and slipping from 125<sup>th</sup> place in 2012. India improved 20% over the past decade, largely because of its improvements in sanitation and wastewater treatment. Air pollution is a critical issue in India.

The Environmental Performance Index (EPI) is a biennial ranking of how well countries perform on high-priority environmental issues.

[http://epi.yale.edu/sites/default/files/2016EPI\\_Full\\_Report.pdf](http://epi.yale.edu/sites/default/files/2016EPI_Full_Report.pdf)

## Eco news

### Recycle old sarees to replace plastic bags



An all women group from Kharghar – Yuvashakti has started recycling old sarees by stitching as bags which empowers women and is also environment-friendly. With an aim to replace plastic with the biodegradable and sustainable material, a project called "Avoid Plastic Bag" came into existence which gave an opportunity

to reduce the use of plastic bags and generate income through it said Indumathi Nirmal Kumar a member of Yuvashakti. If the project turns out to be a success, the group intends on expanding from Kharghar to other parts of the city to start similar initiatives.

<http://www.thebetterindia.com/64365/how-old-sarees-turned-into-bags-by-all-women-group-reduce-plastic-use/>

### Eco-friendly Ganpati



With an aim to highlight pollution of water-bodies due to toxic paints and Plaster of Paris (PoP) two friends Ramesh Kher and Vivek Kamble sculptors from Pune are making idols out of alum. The alum is well known for the purification of water. Speaking of the size and weight of the idol, Kamble, said, "The size of the idol depends upon the size of the alum stone. Maximum size is of 10".

The weight will be approximately 1 to 1.5 kg depending on the carving done on the alum. Food colour is used for decoration and beautification of idols. Since alum does not come in a particular design, it is one of the uniqueness of alum idols."

<http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-taking-eco-friendly-ganpati-to-new-level-pune-duo-carves-idol-of-alum-2247600>

## Eco tip of the month

### Organise yourself Digitally

The greenest paper is no paper at all. Use App digitising your Post-It notes. Use Smartphone to tap, scroll and sort your way to paper less productivity.

Visit CERC-ENVIS website [www.cercenvnis.nic.in](http://www.cercenvnis.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](mailto:cerc-env@nic.in), [cerc@cercindia.org](mailto:cerc@cercindia.org) Website : [www.cercindia.org](http://www.cercindia.org)