

Bulletin



Monthly Newsletter



MAHARASHTRA POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

OCTOBER 2022



We are gladdened to present to the stakeholders MPCB's 20th edition of E-bulletin as we continue to series. This E-bulletin is an attempt to give you a brief insight into the latest happenings in the field in terms of various new initiatives undertaken, awareness programs being carried out by MPCB and introduce the reader to the breakthrough research which is being done in this field.

Editorial

In this edition of the E-Bulletin, we present to you the second and concluding part of the article on Nature-based Solutions wherein we explain the necessity of NbS and the challenges NbS help us resolve. Highlights of events carried out by MPCB in Mumbai and Raigad are also given. Details of an important notification regarding Commission of Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and adjoining areas and circulars by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt. of India and Govt. of India, Ministry of Coal are also mentioned in the later pages.

We hope this E bulletin is very much valuable, informative and helpful for the readers. And we will also greet your suggestion & feedback for betterment of our future E-bulletins.

ARTICLE

In the previous issue, we gave a brief introduction about Nature-based solutions. These solutions cover a broad range of actions to protect, restore or sustainably manage landscapes, seascapes, watersheds and urban areas so they can tackle challenges such as food and water security, climate change, disaster risks and human health. Examples include restoring wetlands to buffer local communities from flood waters, or conserving mangrove forests that provide nurseries for fish and protect nearby homes against storm damage. From protecting salt marshes to restoring forest habitats, nature-based solutions are already in operation across the world.

NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

PART TWO



NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

Why do we need nature-based solutions?

Our planet is facing a triple global challenge of biodiversity loss, climate change and equitable development. Around a million animal and plant species are now threatened with extinction - more than ever before in human history. And the climate emergency is exposing millions of people to extreme heat waves, threatening food and water supplies, and could leave a billion people affected by sea-level rise within decades, among several other impacts. At the same time, half of the world's GDP depends on the efficient and sustainable use of natural assets and its services in sectors such as agriculture, fisheries, forestry and tourism.

Nature-based solutions are an opportunity to address these problems and ensure a nature positive future by providing essential services such as carbon storage, ensuring food and water supplies and buffering against the impacts of a warming world.

Challenges nature-based solutions can help solve

Climate change adaptation & disaster risk reduction: Helping people and nature adapt to a warming world by preventing new and reducing existing climate hazards and strengthening resilience to future risks.

Human health: Benefiting mental and physical wellbeing and reducing the transfer of diseases caused by the destruction of habitats or the consumption and commercialization of wildlife.

Food security: Ensuring people have access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.

Water security: Providing sustainable access to adequate, quality water to sustain livelihoods, human well-being, development, protect against disasters and preserve ecosystems.

Climate change mitigation: Nature plays an important role in the global climate system. When operating optimally, nature-based solutions can reduce the need to use untested methods to capture and store carbon.

Indian cities need to adopt, integrate and scale up nature-based solutions as part of their climate mitigation and adaptation efforts to build climate resilience

35/50

of the world's most air polluted cities are in India

Air pollution impacts health, leads to loss of lives and causes significant economic loss

52%

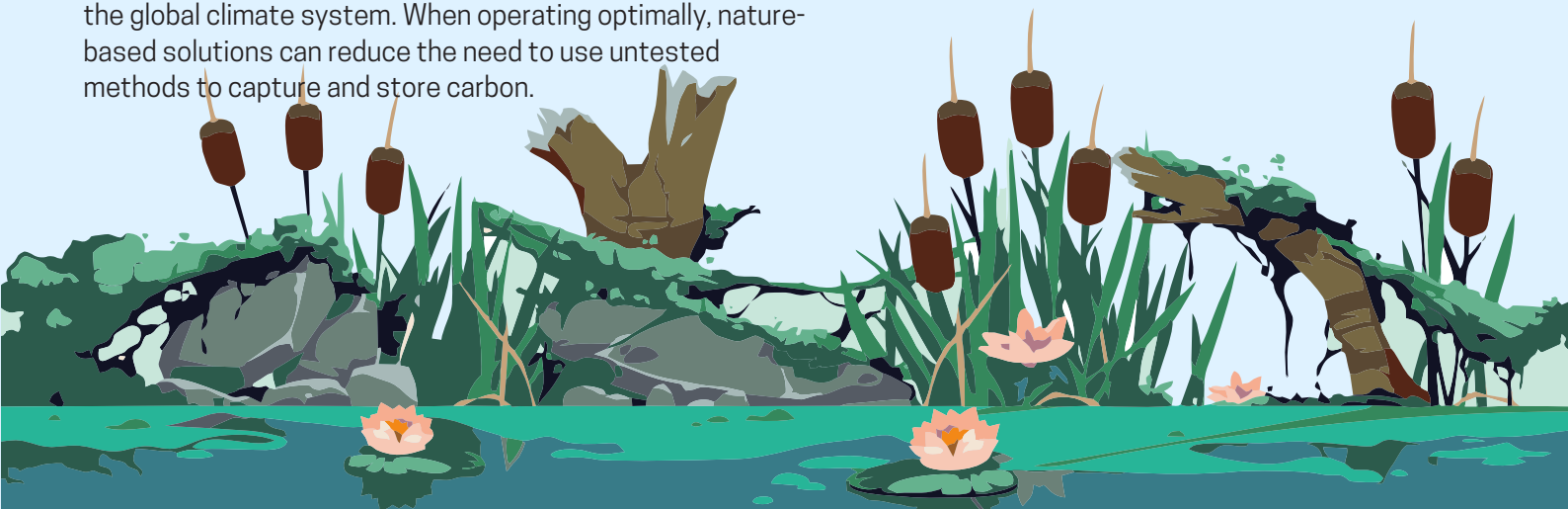
rise in cyclones in the Arabian Sea

Many coastal Indian cities will see an increase in water logging and flooding

28 Million

people face rising sea levels

6 Indian cities face the risk of severe flooding if no resilience measures are undertaken



India probably is the world leader in demonstrating the success of NbS. Our successful implementation of watershed management programmes over 60 million hectares for the past few decades have resulted in conservation of soil and water, leading to obvious storage and possibly an increase in soil organic carbon.

NbS is an opportunity for developing countries to not only ask for their due and cost-effective share of financial resources from the developed world but also to become leaders in showcasing adaptation of traditional technologies to tackle impacts of climate change.

Widespread and highly successful models of community-based biodiversity conservation have led to reduced deforestation and provided livelihoods to many rural communities. Local cultural practices imbibed by the communities over generations, are protecting sacred groves, grasslands and waterbodies, which are acting as carbon pools, contributing to a global cause.

NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

The watershed approach has evolved over several national programmes such as Drought prone Area Programme, National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana - Watershed component (PMKSY - Watershed), with decades of hard work leading to successfully tackle vagaries due to uneven monsoon in India.

EVENT

Mumbai

TESTING FIRECRACKERS FOR COMPLIANCE WITH NOISE STANDARDS



For the first time since we started testing in 2008, all crackers have fallen within the permissible decibel limit of 120

-Sumaira Abdulali, founder, Awaaz Foundation

10 CITY

Making all the right noises within permissible limits

Firecrackers found complying with noise standards, but a 50% of setting them off will continue to be high



SINGLE USE PLASTIC BAN

महाराष्ट्र प्रदूषण नियंत्रण मंडळ, रायगड तर्फे खोपोली शहरात प्लास्टिक पिशवी बंदी व एकल वापर प्लास्टिक बंदीसाठी जनजागृती मिरवणुक व कापडी पिशव्यांचे वाटप.

प्रादेशिक कार्यालय, महाराष्ट्र प्रदूषण नियंत्रण मंडळ, रायगड यांनी खोपोली शहरात प्लास्टिक पिशवी बंदी व एकल वापर प्लास्टिक बंदीच्या जनजागृतीसाठी गुरुवार दि. २०.१०.२०२२ रोजी मिरवणुक आयोजित करण्यात आली. सदर कार्यक्रमांमध्ये श्री. वि. वि. किल्लेदार, प्रादेशिक अधिकारी, महाराष्ट्र प्रदूषण नियंत्रण मंडळ, रायगड तसेच पाताळगंगा नदी व पर्यावरण संवर्धन चॅरिटेबल ट्रस्टचे अध्यक्ष श्री. अरुण जाधव, श्री. हरीश काळसेकर सहा.पोलीस निरीक्षक, खोपोली, श्री. सुधाकर लहाने, पोलीस उपनिरीक्षक, खालापूर तालुका शिक्षण प्रसारक मंडळाचे अध्यक्ष, सचिव व उपाध्यक्ष, श्री. संदीप पाटील, चिटणीस, शेकाप, के.एम.सी. महाविद्यालयाचे प्राचार्य श्री. प्रताप पाटील, शिक्षक व विद्यार्थ्यांनी सहभाग घेतला. सदर मिरवणुकीची सुरुवात खोपोली पोलीस स्टेशन पासून करण्यात आली. मिरवणुकी दरम्यान शहरातील बाजार परिसरात व्यावसायिकांना व सणानिमित्त खरेदीदारांना प्लास्टिक पिशव्यांना पुरक पर्याय म्हणून कागदी व कापडी पिशव्यांचे वाटप करण्यात आले. तसेच, प्लास्टिक पिशव्या न वापरण्याचे आवाहन करण्यात आले. दर बाबतचे छायाचित्र व युट्युब व्हिडिओ सोबत जोडत आहे.

EVENT

Raigad



NOTIFICATION**COMMISSION OF AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT IN NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION AND ADJOINING AREAS**

29th October, 2022

Sub: Implementation of Actions under Stage-III (Severe Air Quality) of revised Graded Response Action Plan in Delhi-NCR steps to be taken

The Sub-Committee for invoking actions under the GRAP in its earlier meetings had invoked actions under Stage I and Stage II of the GRAP on October 5, 2022 and October 19, 2022 respectively. The sub-Committee in its meeting held on October 29, 2022 further reviewed the air quality scenario in the region as well as the forecasts for meteorological conditions and air quality index of Delhi. As per the forecast, the AQI in Delhi is likely to be in 'Severe' category in coming days owing to calm wind and stable atmospheric conditions. Therefore, in an effort to prevent further deterioration of the air quality, the sub-committee decided that ALL actions as envisaged under Stage III of the GRAP 'Severe' Air Quality (DELHI AQI ranging between 401-450), be implemented in right earnest by all the agencies concerned, with immediate effect in the NCR, in addition to all action under Stage I and Stage II of the GRAP.

These include: 1. Further intensify the frequency of mechanized / vacuum-based sweeping of roads. 2. Ensure daily water sprinkling along with use of dust suppressants, before peak traffic hours, on roads and right of ways including hotspots, heavy traffic corridors and proper disposal of the collected dust in designated sites/ landfills. 3. Further intensify public transport services. Introduce differential rates to encourage off peak travel. 4. Construction & Demolition activities:

(1). Enforce strict ban on construction and demolition activities in the entire NCR, except for the following categories of projects: a) Railway services/Railway stations b) Metro Rail Services including stations. c) Airports and Inter State Bus Terminals. related activities/ projects of national d) National security/ defence importance; e) Hospitals/ health care facilities. f) Linear public projects such as highways, roads, flyovers, over bridges, power transmission, pipelines etc. g) Sanitation projects like sewage treatment plants and water supply h) Ancillary activities specific to and supplementing above categories of projects.

Note: The above exemptions shall be further subject to strict compliance of the C&D Waste Management Rules, dust prevention/ control norms including compliance with the directions of the Commission issued from time to time in this regard.

(ii). Other than the projects exempted under (i) above, dust generating/ air pollution causing C&D activities to be strictly banned during this period shall include:

- Earthwork for excavation and filling including boring & drilling works.
 - All structural construction works including fabrication and welding operations.
 - Demolition works.
 - Loading & unloading of construction materials anywhere within or outside the project sites, Transfer of raw materials either manually or through conveyor belts, including fly ash.
 - Movement of vehicles on unpaved roads.
 - Operation of batching plant.
 - Laying of sewer line, waterline, drainage work and electric cabling by open trench system.
 - Cutting and fixing of tiles, stones and other flooring materials.
 - Grinding activities. Piling work.
 - Water Proofing work.
 - Road construction/ repair works including paving of sidewalks / pathways and central verges etc.
- (iii). For all construction projects in NCR, non-polluting / non-dust generating activities such as plumbing works, interior decoration, electrical works and carpentry related works shall be permitted to be continued.

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5. Industrial operations

(a) For industrial areas having PNG infrastructure and supply: Strictly enforce closure / ban on such industries/ operations not running on fuels as in the standard list of approved fuels for NCR.

(b) For industrial areas not having PNG infrastructure and supply:

Regulate operations of such industries not using any of the fuels as per the standard list of approved fuels for NCR, to operate only for maximum 5 days a week as under till 31.12.2022):

i. Paper and pulp processing, distilleries and captive thermal power plants to remain inoperative on

Saturdays and Sundays. ii. Paddy / rice processing units to remain inoperative on Mondays and Tuesdays.

iii. Textile/ garments and apparels including dyeing processes – to remain inoperative on Wednesdays and

Thursdays. iv. Other industries not falling in the above noted categories to remain inoperative on Fridays and Saturdays.

© With effect from 01.01.2023, strictly enforce closure/ ban in the entire NCR, on such industries/ operations not running on fuels, as in the standard list of approved fuels for NCR.

Note: Milk & dairy units and those involved in manufacturing of life saving medical equipment / devices, drugs and medicines shall, however be exempted from the above restrictions. 6. Close brick kilns, hot mix plants which are not operating on fuels, as in the standard list of approved fuels for NCR.

7. Close down operations of stone crushers.

8. Ban / Close down mining and associated activities in the NCR. 9. State Governments in NCR/ GNCTD may impose restrictions on BS III petrol and BS IV diesel LMVs (4 wheelers).

Further, citizens may be urged to adhere to the citizen charter and assist in effective implementation of the GRAP measures aimed towards sustaining and improving the Air Quality in the region, as under:

- Choose a cleaner commute share a ride to work or use public transport or walk or cycle.
- People, whose positions allow working from home, may work from home.
- Do not use coal and wood for heating purpose.
- Individual house owners may provide electric heaters (during winters) to security staff to avoid open burning.
- Combine errands and reduce trips. Walk to errands wherever possible.

All implementing agencies are advised that actions under **Stage 'I'** and **Stage 'II'** of the GRAP are further intensified and special drives are conducted for implementation of actions under **Stage III**, particularly restrictions related to Construction & Demolition activities, stone crushers and mining and associated activities. Regulatory actions need to be taken on Industrial operations, brick kilns, hot mix plants using non-approved fuels.





NOTIFICATION



MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

New Delhi, the 11th October, 2022

S.O. 4815(E).—Whereas, the Central Government proposes to issue following draft notification in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1), and clause (v) of subsection (2) of section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (29 of 1986) is hereby published, as required under sub-rule (3) of rule 5 of the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986, for the information of the public likely to be affected thereby; and notice is hereby given that the said draft notification shall be taken into consideration on or after the expiry of a period of sixty days from the date on which copies of the Gazette containing this notification are made available to the Public;

Any person interested in making any objections or suggestions on the proposal contained in the draft notification may forward the same in writing for consideration of the Central Government within the period so specified to the Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj, New Delhi 110 003, or send it to the e-mail address at sujit.baju@gov.in and diriapolicy-moefcc@gov.in on or before 60 days after the publication of this Notification.

Draft Notification

Whereas, the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification of the Government of India in the erstwhile Ministry of Environment and Forest vide number S.O. 1533 (E), dated the 14th September, 2006 was published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (ii), regarding requirement of prior Environmental Clearance (EC) for the projects covered in its schedule (hereinafter referred to as the said notification); And whereas, in view of India's commitment for low-carbon path of development, it is necessary to have smooth integration of renewable energy into the grid and to have greater grid safety and stability. In this context there is a growing need for energy storage and thereby the development of Pumped Storage Plants (PSPs) is critical. And whereas, from the environmental clearance angle, PSPs are considered in the same category as hydropower projects and as such attract the provisions of EIA notification 2006 for getting Environmental Clearance.

And whereas, the environmental impacts of such projects are less as compared to classical hydro projects as well as irrigation and water supply projects and therefore there is a need to rationalise the EC process for these projects.

Now, therefore, in exercise of powers conferred by sub-section (1) and clause (v) of sub-section (2) of section 3 of the said Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (29 of 1986), read with clause (d) of sub-rule (3) of rule 5 of the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986, the Central Government hereby makes the following further amendment in the said notification: -

In the said notification, in the Schedule: -

In item 1(c),

A. in column (2):-

The words "(i) River Valley projects" shall be substituted with the words "(i) River Valley projects with or without Pump Storage Projects / Pump Storage Projects (PSPs)"

B. in column (5):-

Under Note: after the existing paras, the following shall be inserted.

"(iv) PSPs shall be appraised based on specific ToRs issued by the Ministry for PSPs. The PSPs which meet all the criteria given below shall be appraised as B2 category irrespective of power generation capacity: (a) Projects which do not attract FC and/or WL Clearance, (b) Projects wherein no new Reservoir is created (c) Projects wherein the existing reservoir is not expanded and/or structurally modified."



[F. No. IA3-22/33/2022-IA.III]
Dr. SUJIT KUMAR BAJPAYEE, Jt. Secy.

Note : The principal notification was published in the Gazette of India, vide number S.O. 1533(E), dated the 14th September, 2006 and was last amended vide the notification number S.O. 3194(E), dated the 14th July, 2022.



GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF COAL

Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi
Dated the 31st October, 2022

CIRCULAR

ORDER

Subject: Methodology for Auction of Coal Mines/Blocks for sale of coal under the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015 and the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957.

The undersigned is directed to refer to Orders dated 28.05.2020 and 24.11.2021 (copy enclosed) on the subject mentioned above and to say that on the recommendations of the Empowered Committee of Secretaries, the Central Government has approved the following modification in the methodology for auction of coal mines/blocks identified under the relevant Act for sale of coal as mentioned in para 2 below:

2. The para 2.1.5 (A) of Order dated 28.05.2020 on the subject mentioned above shall stand modified as under

Upfront Amount:

(A) The Upfront Amount shall be calculated at 0.20% of the value of estimated geological reserves of the coal mine. Value of estimated geological reserves shall be equal to the product of the following:

(i) estimated quantity of geological reserves in the coal mine, and (ii) the representative price of relevant grade(s) of coal referred in para 2.1.3 (A) (iii)(a) of OM of even number dated 28.05.2020.

However, the upfront amount payable shall be as per actual calculation as per above method or as per ceiling mentioned here below, whichever is lower :-

Geological Reserves in mine (MT)	Upper ceiling of Upfront Amount(Rs. cr)
Upto 200	75
Above 200	500

3. All other terms & conditions will remain the same.

This issues with the approval of Competent Authority.

(Rishan Rytathieng)
Under Secretary to the Govt. of India



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