

Swachh Vayu Survekshan 2024

Three Uttar Pradesh cities were listed among the top performers in the recent Swachh Vayu Survekshan.

Key Points

- ❖ **Total cities evaluated: 131**
- ❖ **Top ranked in the country:** Surat has secured the top position in the 'Swachh Vayu Survekshan 2024' organized leaving 131 other cities behind.
- ❖ **UP Cities listed:** Agra secured third spot in Category 1 (cities with population of over 10 lakh) for its efforts in mitigating air pollution.
 - Firozabad and Rae Bareilly were ranked first in Categories II and III (cities with population between 3 and 10 lakh, and below 10 lakh, respectively).
- ❖ The winners would be officially honoured on the Swachh Vayu Diwas on September 7 in Jaipur, Rajasthan.

About Swachh Vayu Survekshan

- ❖ **Ministry involved:** It is an initiative by the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change.
- ❖ **Launched in:** It was launched in 2019.
- ❖ **Evaluation parameters:** It evaluates the efforts of cities to improve air quality with a target of reducing particulate matter. Cities are assessed on eight parameters, such as solid waste management, road dust control, construction waste, vehicular emissions, industrial emissions, awareness programmes and overall air quality improvement.
- ❖ **Implementation:** In the last five years, SMC has implemented projects worth around Rs 5,000 crores to improve air quality. These projects include removing 4,200 metric tonnes of dust annually through mechanical sweepers, introducing 35% electric vehicles in the garbage collection fleet, resulting in a 7,000 metric tonne reduction in carbon dioxide emissions annually and providing 50 electric charging stations and infrastructure.

Savills India's report on Sustainable Real Estate

Maharashtra tops list of green real estate projects, Uttar Pradesh bags second position

About the report

- ❖ **Savills India's report on Sustainable Real Estate: Strategies and Practices** said that there are more than 7000 IGBC-green certified projects across the top 15 states and union territories.
- ❖ The report outlines critical strategies and innovative approaches that are setting new standards for sustainable real estate development in India, amidst the nation's ambitious goal of achieving net-zero emissions by 2070.

Key Points

- ❖ According to a report by Savills India, Maharashtra topped the list of green real estate projects (1094 projects) across the country on account of its policy of allowing incentives for sustainable buildings.
- ❖ **Uttar Pradesh took the second spot with 643 projects and Gujarat came third with 590 projects.** Maharashtra and Telangana led in terms of total million sq ft of space.
- ❖ In terms of the total number of green projects, Telangana is ranked fourth with 519 projects, Karnataka with 501 projects is ranked fifth, Tamil Nadu takes the sixth place with 495 green projects and Haryana is ranked seventh with 450 projects.
- ❖ Delhi is ranked 14th with 242 green projects, the report showed.
- ❖ **Cluster classification:** As per the report, Maharashtra and Telangana form the top ranked size cluster where the average projects are 0.36 – 0.37 mn sq. ft. whereas Karnataka, Gujarat, and Tamil Nadu can be grouped into the second cluster where the projects are in the range of 0.25 – 0.27 mn sq. ft.
 - Uttar Pradesh and Delhi form the third cluster, characterized by project size to the tune of 0.18 mn sq. ft. West Bengal and Haryana constitute the fourth cluster, with project sizes between 0.12–0.14.

UP Specific Details

- ❖ Uttar Pradesh, with its rapid urbanization, has also implemented policies that incentivize green building through various incentives like reimbursement of 50% of IGBC Certification fee, with a maximum limit of ₹10 lakh, to hotel/wellness resorts obtaining green rating from IGBC.
- ❖ The government also offers 10% FAR for projects which are pre-certified/provisionally certified as gold or above by IGBC.
- ❖ These incentives play a crucial role in driving the adoption of green building practices, helping these states lead the way in sustainable development, it said.

Way Forward

- ❖ As one of the major contributors to greenhouse gas emissions, the real estate sector is undergoing a significant transformation in India. The report emphasizes the urgent need to integrate sustainable materials and energy-efficient technologies at every stage of development to effectively combat climate change.
- ❖ As India strides toward its climate objectives, companies across sectors are increasingly adopting sustainable practices. The real estate industry, a significant contributor to greenhouse gas emissions, is embracing these changes, ensuring that both corporate and asset-level initiatives align with the nation's climate ambitions. This collective effort is driving progress towards a resilient and environmentally sustainable future.

Centre of Excellence in Blockchain Technology

Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Lucknow's Enterprise Incubation Centre has introduced a Centre of Excellence in Blockchain Technology (CoE-BT), an initiative supported by the Government of Uttar Pradesh under its StartInUP Policy.

Key Points

- ❖ **Outreach centres:** In line with the CoE-BT initiative, the Enterprise Incubation Centre will partner with Microsoft India to establish three outreach centers across Uttar Pradesh to promote and nurture blockchain-based innovation.
 - The proposed centres will be located at Gorakhpur, Lucknow, and Greater Noida/Meerut.
- ❖ **Startups:** The new facility is aimed at creating and nurturing 100 startups in the blockchain domain over the next five years, thereby fostering innovation and entrepreneurship throughout Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ According to IIM Lucknow, this initiative is in line with the state government's objective of enhancing e-governance by ensuring trust, transparency and reliability in various sectors.

AgriSURE Fund & Krishi Nivesh Portal

Union Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare and Rural Development Minister launched AgriSURE Fund & Krishi Nivesh Portal recently at PUSA, New Delhi.

About Agri Fund for Start-Ups & Rural Enterprises (AgriSURE):

- ❖ To support start-ups and agripreneurs through investments in sector-specific, sector-agnostic, and debt Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs), as well as direct equity support to start-ups working in Agriculture and allied sectors.
- ❖ **Aim:** To foster innovation and sustainability in India's agricultural sector through the establishment of a Rs 750 crore Category-II Alternative Investment Fund (AIF).
 - The fund will offer both equity and debt support, specifically targeting high-risk, high-impact activities in the agriculture value chain.
- ❖ **Ministry:** Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare.
- ❖ NABVENTURES, a wholly-owned subsidiary of NABARD, will act as the Fund manager of AgriSURE.

Krishi Nivesh Portal:

- ❖ **Aim:** To boost the agriculture investment in the country.
- ❖ **Developed:** As an Integrated, centralized one stop Portal for all Agri- investors to avail benefits from various Government schemes.

Operation Bhediya

The Uttar Pradesh government launched 'Operation Bhediya' to capture the pack of wolves that has killed several people.

Key Points

- ❖ **Objective of the operation:** To catch wolves that are targeting children and villagers in Uttar Pradesh's Bahraich.
- ❖ The forest department is using "teddy dolls" soaked in children's urine as a false bait to capture these predators.

About Indian Wolf (*Canis Lupus Pallipes*):

- ❖ **Description:** Intermediate in size, positioned between the Tibetan and Arabian wolf.
- ❖ It is found in areas with scrub, grasslands, and semi-arid pastoral agro-ecosystems.
- ❖ It is widely distributed from the Indian subcontinent to Israel.
- ❖ **Conservation Status:**
 - IUCN: Least Concern
 - Wildlife (Protection) Act of 1972: Schedule I
 - CITES: Appendix 1

Vedic-3D Museum

The Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister has ordered the construction of Vedic-3D Museum at the main building of the Sampurnanand Sanskrit University in Kashi, dedicated to Indian astrology and astronomy, and the Vedic literature.

Key Points

- ❖ The museum will showcase the evolution of Vedic literature, highlighting the 16 Sanskars, 64 arts, and 18 Vidya Sthans.
- ❖ The museum will exhibit rare manuscripts preserved in the historic Saraswati Bhawan, such as the “Raas Panchadhyayi,” Shrimad Bhagwat Gita, and Durgasaptashati, all intricately inscribed and adorned with gold artistry. It aims to revive the tradition of ‘Shastrartha’ (spiritual discourse) and serve as a platform for deepening knowledge in Vedic literature.

23rd Law Commission of India

The President of India has approved the constitution of the 23rd Law Commission of India, with its term set from **September 1, 2024, to August 31, 2027.**

Key Points

- ❖ **Members:** The commission will include a full-time chairperson, four members, and additional ex-officio and part-time members.
- ❖ The commission’s mandate is to review and recommend legal reforms to enhance the Indian legal system.
- ❖ The 22nd Law Commission’s term ended. The commission has been functioning without a chairperson for several months, delaying crucial reports, including those on the Uniform Civil Code and simultaneous elections. In March 2024, Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi, the then Chairman of the Law Commission, resigned after a 17-month tenure.

Short News

- ❖ The Uttar Pradesh government has decided to initiate strict action against the erring companies entrusted with various construction works under the Jal Jeevan Mission.

Miscellaneous

- ❖ The Cabinet Committee on Security in its meeting approved a proposal for procurement of 240 aero-engines (AL-31FP) for Russian-origin SU-30 MKI fighter aircraft from defence PSU Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) at a cost of over ₹26,000 crore.
- ❖ Telangana, Tamil Nadu, and Rajasthan have emerged as the top performers in economic growth among India's 10 largest states in FY24, according to recent data from the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).
 - The Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP), a critical metric that measures the total value of goods and services produced within a state, highlights the robust economic expansion these states have achieved

