

Understanding Climate Change in Chennai

News Digest

ClimACT Chennai



June - July 2024

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Living with extreme weather | Time to climate-proof lives and livelihoods

The Hindu | Jun 28, 2024

The article explores the impact of extreme weather events in India, exacerbated by climate change. It discusses how high temperatures, floods, and cold waves are affecting livelihoods, the economy, and policymaking. The article emphasizes the need for adaptive strategies, robust infrastructure, and policy reforms to mitigate the socio-economic impacts of increasingly frequent and severe weather extremes across the country.

Link: <https://www.thehindu.com/society/extreme-weather-india-climate-change-high-temperatures-floods-cold-wave-affecting-livelihood-economy-policy-making/article68331337.ece>

Malaria Menace: How Climate Change is Fueling a Health Crisis

The Wire | Jun 26, 2024

The article explores how climate change is contributing to the resurgence of malaria, exacerbating a global health crisis. It discusses how rising temperatures and changing precipitation patterns create favorable conditions for mosquito breeding and the spread of malaria. The article emphasizes the need for integrated approaches combining climate adaptation strategies, mosquito control measures, and improved healthcare systems to combat the increasing threat of malaria linked to climate change.

Link: <https://thewire.in/health/malaria-menace-how-climate-change-is-fueling-a-health-crisis>

Heatwaves: The multi-faceted impact on health, economy and livelihoods

Times Now | Jun 20, 2024

The article discusses the multifaceted impacts of heatwaves on health, economy, and livelihoods in India. It highlights how prolonged periods of extreme heat adversely affect public health, particularly vulnerable populations. The article also addresses economic repercussions, such as reduced agricultural productivity and increased energy demand for cooling. It underscores the importance of heatwave preparedness, public health interventions, and climate-resilient infrastructure to mitigate these impacts and protect communities from heat-related risks.

Link: <https://www.timesnownews.com/india/heatwaves-the-multi-faceted-impact-on-health-economy-and-livelihoods-article-111141975>

Climate Change Presents A Fundamental Threat To Human Health: WHO

Times Now | Jun 19, 2024

The article discusses a report by the World Health Organization (WHO) highlighting climate change as a fundamental threat to human health. It underscores how climate impacts such as extreme weather events, air pollution, and changing disease patterns are exacerbating health risks globally. The report calls for urgent action to mitigate climate change effects, improve public health resilience, and implement policies that address both environmental and health challenges effectively.

Link: https://www.timesnownews.com/india/climate-change-presents-a-fundamental-threat-to-human-health-who-article-111114553#google_vignette

June 2024 to be one of the wettest for Chennai in past six decades

The Hindu | Jun 20, 2024

Chennai is experiencing one of its wettest Junes in the past six decades, with rainfall levels significantly surpassing the average. The unusual weather pattern is attributed to a combination of factors, including a low-pressure area over the Bay of Bengal and active monsoon conditions. The heavy rains have brought both relief from summer heat and challenges, such as waterlogging and traffic disruptions.

Link: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/chennai/this-june-to-be-one-of-the-wettest-for-city-in-past-six-decades/article68308271.ece>

Tamil Nadu plans Rs 22,000-crore project to increase water storage, cut flood woes in Chennai

DT Next | Jun 22, 2024

Tamil Nadu has launched a ₹22,000 crore project to increase water storage and reduce flooding in Chennai. The initiative, known as the Chennai City Water Supply Augmentation and Flood Mitigation Resilient to Climate Change project, aims to create an additional storage capacity of 20.50 thousand million cubic feet (tmc ft). This project will address both water scarcity and flood vulnerabilities by 2035, increasing the total water storage capacity to 32 tmc ft and implementing short- and long-term flood mitigation measures.

Link: <https://www.dtnext.in/news/city/tamil-nadu-plans-rs-22000-crore-project-to-increase-water-storage-cut-flood-woes-in-chennai-791335>

Climate Change May Worsen Flooding in Mumbai and Chennai

The Diplomat | Jun 20, 2024

The article discusses how climate change is exacerbating flooding in Mumbai and Chennai. Both cities face severe flooding due to their low elevations and proximity to the coast, compounded by increasing urbanization and inadequate infrastructure. Climate change is predicted to increase the frequency and severity of these floods. The article suggests that Indian cities could benefit from adopting flood preparedness and mitigation strategies used in Australia, including the development of comprehensive flood inundation maps and better urban planning practices.

Link: <https://thediplomat.com/2024/06/climate-change-may-worsen-flooding-in-mumbai-and-chennai/>

Rising sea sinking Chennai: Scientists project sea level rise of 19.2cm by 2050

The Times of India | Jul 06, 2024

Chennai faces significant threats from rising sea levels due to climate change. Studies project that substantial portions of the city's coastal areas may be submerged in the coming decades, affecting infrastructure and livelihoods. These developments underscore the urgency for robust coastal management and climate adaptation strategies to mitigate the impact on Chennai's residents and economy.

Link: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chennai/rising-sea-sinking-chennai/articleshow/111528550.cms>

SCIENTISTS PROJECT SEA LEVEL RISE OF 19.2CM ALONG CHENNAI, TIRUVALLUR AND CHENGALPET BY 2050

COASTAL CRISIS

Climate change could make 76% of the coast of three districts prone to hazards

WHAT MAY HAPPEN BY 2050?

- Sea level may rise by 19.2cm in the three districts
- The rise may lead to inundation of 6,120 hectares



CO₂ The projection is if CO₂ emissions remain near the current levels till mid-century and then start to decrease

COASTAL STRETCH THAT MAY BE PRONE TO MULTIPLE CLIMATE HAZARDS



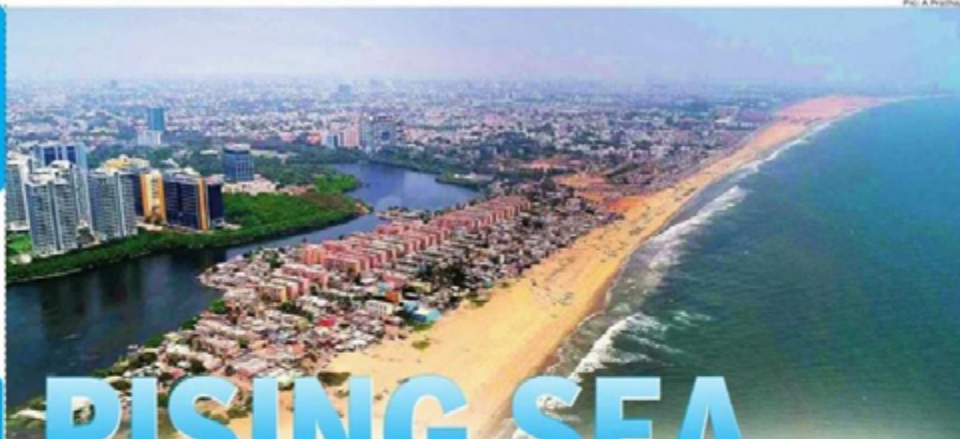
IN THE PAST

Length of coastal erosion between 1992-2022 and land lost and gained

	Length of erosion	land loss*	land gain*
Chennai	11.8km	58	55
Tiruvallur	17.3km	197	188
Chengalpet	43.85km	196	45

WHY ARE THE THREE DISTRICTS HIGHLY PRONE TO MULTIPLE HAZARDS?

- Due to shoreline changes, sea level rise and proximity to cyclone track
- Exposure factors such as T38land use and road networks within 500m from shoreline
- Vulnerability factors such as a low-lying coastal plain and groundwater salinity



RIISING SEA, SINKING CITY

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If you are living in your dream sea-facing villa or planning to purchase one, here's a warning. In 25 years, property less than 500m from the sea may get frequently flooded by the rising sea. City scientists say that by 2050, climate change and local factors could make 102.2km or 76% of the coast of Chennai, Tiruvallur and Chengalpet prone to hazards such as cyclones, coastal erosion and sea level rise. Of that, 77km with structures, roads, industries, lagoons, creeks, swamps and beaches face very high climate risk.

Climate risk includes a projected sea level rise of 19.2cm in three districts by 2050, which may lead to inundation of 6,120 hectares. This is applicable if CO₂ emissions remain near the current levels till mid-century and decline thereafter.

Rising seas mean cyclonic storms travel further inland and more frequent flooding caused by high tides. This can worsen coastal erosion, affect groundwater resources and inundate wetlands that act as protective barriers. These projections are in a draft report titled 'Climate risk assessment and adaptation plan of Tamil Nadu — coastal ecosystem' by Centre for Climate Change and Disaster Management (CCCDM), Anna University.

"Tiruvallur, Nagapattinam and Chengalpet have extensive coastlines with high vulnerability due to salinity levels and low elevation areas. Districts such as Kanyakumari,

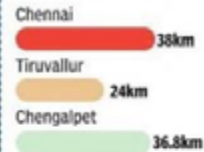
Chennai and Cuddalore have more than 60% of their coastlines exposed to climate change, influenced by factors such as land use and infrastructure," the report said.

For Tamil Nadu, projected sea level rise for 2050 indicates an average increase of 19.71cm with Tiruvallur, Nagapattinam and Thanjavur districts being the most affected, the report added. Between 1916 and 2015, there has been a relative sea level rise of 0.18feet in 100 years along Chennai coast. Global sea level rise along with other local factors such as local subsidence due to anthropogenic activities such as groundwater and hydrocarbon extraction will influence regional sea levels.

Risk to the coast was identified based on shoreline changes, sea level rise and proximity to cyclone track; vulnerability factors such as coastal plains and groundwater salinity; and exposure factors such as land use and road networks. Of the 43,888 hectares in Chennai, 28,330 hectares or 64% is built-up land.

"A combination of soft and hard measures are required to reduce coastal risks. The soft measures are primarily nature-based solutions such as mangrove restoration and conservation, shelterbelt plantation, integrated coastal zone management, artificial beach nourishment. Hard measures include coast protection structures such as breakwater, revetment, vertical walls. Early warning systems and livelihood support schemes are also essential," said Kurian Joseph, director, CCCDM.

Coastal length affected by multiple hazards such as cyclones, sea level rise and coastal erosion between 1992 and 2022



EROSION HOTSPOTS

- In Chennai: Thiruvottiyur
- In Tiruvallur: Karimanallur, Kalanji, Kattupalli and Karungal villages of Minjur block
- In Chengalpet: Kadalur village of Lathur

Number of severe cyclonic storms that crossed the three districts between 1891 and 2022

11

The Times of India | Jun, 2024

The articles discusses the increasing risk of rising sea levels leading to coastal erosion. The coastal areas around Chennai are prone to hazards like cyclones, coastal erosion, and sea-level rise. Rising sea levels also mean cyclonic storms often travel further inland causing higher levels of damage and destruction. Measures such as nature based solutions like mangrove restoration and management, shelterbelt plantation, integrated coastal zone management, and artificial beach nourishment can reduce the risk.

TN 2050: Wet, sweat, go!

The Times of India | Jun 30, 2024

The article explores Tamil Nadu's climate future projected to 2050, focusing on challenges like extreme heat, water scarcity, and health impacts due to climate change. It discusses potential solutions such as urban planning changes, sustainable agriculture practices, and community resilience building. The article stresses the importance of proactive measures to mitigate climate risks and adapt to changing environmental conditions in the state.

Link: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chennai/tn-2050-wet-sweat-go/articleshow/111322654.cms>

Water Crisis Hits Tamil Nadu: Chennai Among 26 Districts Worst Affected as Ground Water Level Depletes

MSN | 2024

The article reports on a severe water crisis affecting Tamil Nadu, with Chennai and 26 other districts experiencing significant depletion of groundwater levels. It highlights the challenges posed by drought conditions, overexploitation of water resources, and insufficient rainfall. The article underscores the urgent need for sustainable water management strategies, conservation efforts, and policy interventions to mitigate the impact of the ongoing water scarcity on local communities and agriculture.

Link: https://www.msn.com/en-in/news/India/water-crisis-hits-tamil-nadu-chennai-among-26-districts-worst-affected-as-ground-water-level-depletes/ar-BB1m53di?ocid=nl_esmx_a1_20200715_4_2

Average Maximum Temperature May Rise By 0.4°C, Heatwave Frequency Likely To Double, And Number Of Thermal Discomfort Days Could Hit 250 Annually

TN 2050: WET, SWEAT, GO!

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If this summer felt unbearable, brace yourself for what's to come in the next 25 years. By 2050, climate change and rapid urbanisation will turn up the heat for much of the year. Average temperatures are likely to increase, and heatwave days in 21 cities across Tamil Nadu will double, leading to discomfort from high temperatures and humidity for eight months annually. Rain spells may also intensify.

Projections by researchers at the Centre for Climate Change and Disaster Management (CCCCM) at Anna University say by 2050, the average maximum temperature may rise by 0.4°C. By 2080, it will hit 1.3°C and by 2100, see a 1.7°C spike. The projections will be applicable in a climate change scenario where CO2 emissions remain near the current levels but decline mid-century. In the worst-case scenario, the temperature may rise by 0.6°C in another 25 years, 2°C by 2080 and 3.6°C by 2100.

Northern districts of Chennai, Tiruvallur, Kanchheepuram, Vellore, Chengalpeta, and Ranipet are expected to experience more intense heat. Chennai, Tirunelveli, Thoothukudi, and Thanjavur will likely see a doubling of heatwave days. A heatwave is declared when temperatures rise about 4.5°C above normal. Chennai will be the most affected with an increase from 42 days between 1965 and 2014 to 81 days between 2021 and 2050. Thermal discomfort days may also rise to about 250 days a year.

The reports 'Climate Profile and Projections of Tamil Nadu - Climate Modelling' and 'Climate Risk Assessment and Adaptation Plan of Tamil Nadu - Sustainable Habitat' say the temperature rise and prolonged dry spells will lead to heatwaves and discomfort, particularly

in urban areas. Coastal districts may see intense rainfall within short periods, rather than uniformly throughout the monsoon season".

For 30 years till 2014, the average day temperature in state ranged between 29.5°C and 33.4°C and the average rainfall between 763mm and 1432mm. Chennai, Kanchheepuram, Chengalpeta, Tiruvallur, Tiruvarur and Cuddalore recorded the average highest temperature and rainfall.

"The difference in the temperature profile across TN is due to geographical location in relation to the equator, altitude, land use, urbanisation and wind and monsoon patterns," says Kurian Joseph, director of CCCDM.

Cities in northern coastal regions such as Greater Chennai Corporation, Avadi and Tambaram are exposed to high levels of climate hazards. Tirunelveli, Trichy, Thanjavur, Kumbakonam, Madurai, Sivakasi, Dindigul, Nagercoil, Kanchheepuram, Tuticorin, Cuddalore and Salem are at moderate risk, and Karur, Tiruppur, Hosur, Coimbatore, Erode and Vellore at low risk.

"The rise in heatwave days in northern TN may stem from the expanding heatwave belt from Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Odisha," says Professor Krishna AchutaRao of IIT Delhi. "Urbanisation reduces green cover, creating urban heat islands, and global warming exacerbates this. Filling water bodies for construction contributes to higher temperatures. Global phenomena like El Nino and La Nina also influence the region, including TN."

Former IMD deputy director general YE A Raj says urbanisation has also made nights warmer in cities since the 1970s as temperatures do not dip below 18°C.

It's going to get wetter too. Rainfall may



WEATHER FORECAST: (Above) Rainfall may increase by up to 4% by 2050; in the worst-case scenario, temperature may rise by 0.6°C in another 25 years

increase by up to 4% by 2050, 11% by 2080, and 16% by 2100 if emissions decline by 2030. In a worst-case scenario, rainfall could rise by 7% by 2050 and 26% by 2100. Cuddalore, Nagapattinam, and Mayiladuthurai will see the most changes, with intense rainfall days (6cm or more in 24 hours) increasing from four to seven per year by century's end. "Intense rainfall signals climate change," says Joseph. "Warmer sea temperatures increase evaporation, causing clouds to hold more water vapour, intensifying rainfall."

The reports say 16 of 21 TN cities lack sufficient green cover as per urban greening guidelines. Chennai, with the lowest at 8sqkm (2%), needs an additional 71sqkm but faces a 62sqkm shortfall in open spaces. Coimbatore has 7sqkm of green cover, requiring 53sqkm more, with a 40sqkm deficiency. Nagercoil boasts the highest urban green cover at 20%. Cities with the least green cover also have the most built-up areas.

Chennai saw a threefold increase in built-up area from 1991 to 2021. As per the urban greening guidelines 2014, the ministry recommends that the proportion of recreational areas (parks, spaces, water bodies, etc) to the total developed area in medium towns and large cities should be between 18% and 20% and 20%-25% in metropolitan cities.

At a recent conference on heatwaves and

CHANGE IN ANNUAL AVERAGE MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE

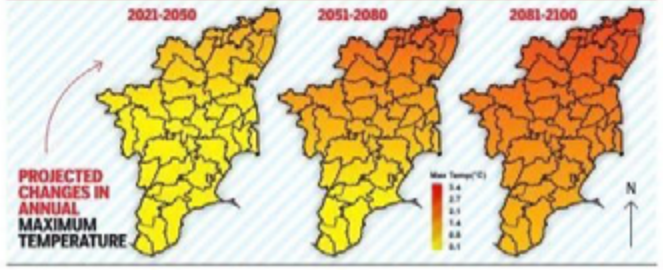
Projection Period	Increase in annual average maximum temperature (in celsius)	
	SSP2-4.5	SSP5-8.5
2021-2050	0.7	0.8
2051-2080	1.4	2
2081-2100	2	3.6

SSP2-4.5: Emissions stay at current levels before declining; SSP5-8.5 - This is the worst-case scenario

INTENSE RAINFALL EVENTS 6CM TO 20CM IN 24 HOURS (days per year)

1985-2014	2021-2050	2051-2080	2081-2100
3	4	5	7

changing monsoon patterns, Supriya Sahu, secretary of environment, climate change, and forest, announced that the state is drafting a policy to improve urban green cover: "A portal is being developed to train residents' welfare associations to tackle heatwaves. TN is the most urbanised state in India, which is why heat mitigation needs to be addressed urgently. A small increase in heat can adversely impact quality of life," said Sahu.



The Times of India | Jun, 2024

The articles talks about the increasing temperatures in Tamil Nadu, saying that the number of heatwave days in 21 cities in the state will likely double. Projections report that by 2080 average maximum temperature will rise by 1.3 degree Celsius. Moreover, urbanisation has made the nights warmer, and has reduced green cover - increasing the urban heat island effect. Chennai city has seen a threefold rise in built-up area over the last three decades.

Chennai is the hottest mega city in India, Reports CSE

News Today Net | Jun 18, 2024

The article from News Today Net discusses Chennai being identified as the hottest mega-city in India according to a report by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE). It highlights factors contributing to Chennai's extreme heat, such as urbanization, lack of green spaces, and climate change impacts. The report emphasizes the urgent need for sustainable urban planning, green infrastructure development, and heat-resilient measures to mitigate the city's heat stress and protect public health.

Link: <https://newstodaynet.com/2024/06/18/chennai-is-the-hottest-mega-city-in-india-reports-cse/>

Tamil Nadu to declare heat waves as state-specific disaster soon

The New Indian Express | Jun 25, 2024

The article reports that Tamil Nadu is planning to declare heat waves as a state-specific disaster soon. This decision aims to enhance the state's response and preparedness to extreme heat events, which have become increasingly frequent and severe. The move underscores the government's commitment to addressing heat-related health risks and implementing measures to protect vulnerable populations during periods of high temperatures.

Link: <https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/tamil-nadu/2024/Jun/25/tamil-nadu-to-declare-heat-waves-as-state-specific-disaster-soon>

Wake-up call from new study on humid heat

The New Indian Express | Jul 06, 2024

The article discusses a new study highlighting the impact of humid heat on human health and productivity. It emphasizes that high humidity combined with heat can exacerbate health risks such as dehydration, heat stroke, and respiratory problems. The study serves as a wake-up call for policymakers to prioritize measures that address the health and well-being of vulnerable populations during humid and hot conditions, particularly in urban areas like Chennai.

Link: <https://www.newindianexpress.com/xplore/2024/Jul/06/wake-up-call-from-new-study-on-humid-heat>

Change in land use pattern has intensified urban heat island effect in the city, says study

The analysis by Anna University reveals a marked increase in built-up area. In 1988, residential, commercial, and industrial areas accounted for 17.7% of the land use, and this rose to 48.7% by 2017. In the same period, agricultural lands shrunk from 42.2% to 19.6%, and forestland from 15% to 6.1%

R. Aishwaryaa
CHENNAI

Urbanisation in the Chennai Metropolitan Area (CMA) has led to significant changes in land use, contributing to the intensification of the urban heat island (UHI) effect, according to a study by Anna University.

UHIs are metropolitan areas that are significantly warmer than their rural surroundings. This temperature difference is primarily due to human activities and changes in land use associated with urbanisation.

The study *Urbanisation Impacts on Heat Island Intensification: Cooling Strategies for Coastal Cities* was conducted by the Director of the Institute for Ocean Management at Anna University, Krishnaveni M., research scholar Adeline Arpatha Olivia P., and project scientist Madhan M. from the Centre for Climate Change and Disaster Management (CCDDM) at the university.

It revealed a marked increase in built-up area



Growth impact: The study says rapid urban expansion has led to the conversion of vegetation, fallow land, and waterbodies into built-up area, driving up the urban heat island effect. FILE PHOTO

within the CMA (1,189 sq.km).

In 1988, residential, commercial, and industrial areas accounted for 17.7% of the land use, this increased to 48.7% by 2017. Meanwhile, agricultural lands decreased from 42.2% in 1988 to 19.6% in 2017, while forestland shrunk from 15% to 6.1%. This rapid urban expansion has led to the conversion of vegetation, fallow land, and waterbodies into built-up area, driving up

the UHI effect, the paper said.

Land surface temperature data indicate a sharp increase in areas experiencing high temperatures between 31°C to 35°C. This rose from 29.34% in 2006 to 68.18% in 2017. Higher surface temperatures have been observed in barren and built-up areas when compared to vegetated regions and waterbodies, with the north-western part of the CMA showing particularly high

temperatures. The UHI effect makes the city hotter, leading to more energy use for cooling and makes the air quality worse as these produce pollutants, which also lead to respiratory issues. The effect also contributes to the degradation of ecosystems by reducing water levels and altering the biochemistry of waterbodies, which in turn affects plant and animal life, the study said. To mitigate the UHI effect, policy interventions, such as building

codes and zoning regulations, design suggestions, community awareness programmes, and heat warning systems were recommended.

Mohamed Ali, president of the Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Associations of India, Chennai, said that earlier, relocation was perceived to be horizontal, which led to expansions and development of peri-urban areas. City planners should strategise to preserve waterbodies and raise awareness on ecological sensitivity, he added.

Shifting dependence

On the shift in land use pattern, Anshul Mishra, Member Secretary, Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority, said Chennai had been a centre of trade historically, and with infusion of industrialisation and market economy, various industries emerged. In this transformation process, there has been a natural shift from the dependence on agriculture.

"Urban sprawl is a challenge as it converts natural

land into built-up area. There is a policy of urban densification that focuses on maximum utilisation of the potential of urban land. Densifying [vertical expansion i.e., increasing floor numbers] on the same plot can accommodate more people and office spaces, reduce per capita expenditure on infrastructure, and lower travel time, distance, and cost. This helps reduce pollution, heat effect, and congestion, leading to better public health," he said.

"This may reduce real estate pressure on peri-urban areas and protect land between core and peripheral areas from becoming built-up area, allowing them to remain natural spaces," Mr. Mishra said.

"Sustainable urban growth is possible. A two-pronged approach - compaction of core city and developing the satellite towns around growth centres or existing small towns - has been taken up by the CMDA, apart from undertaking 26 studies to prepare the Third Master Plan," he added.

The Hindu | Jun 23, 2024

A study - *Urbanisation Impacts on Heat Island Intensification: Cooling Strategies for Coastal Cities* was conducted by the Director of the Institute for Ocean Management at Anna University, highlights that changes in land use patterns in Chennai have intensified the urban heat island effect. The conversion of green spaces into urban infrastructure has increased surface temperatures in the city, exacerbating heat stress for residents. The study emphasizes the need for sustainable urban planning and the incorporation of green spaces to mitigate the impact of rising temperatures.

Link: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/chennai/change-in-land-use-pattern-has-intensified-urban-heat-island-effect-in-chennai-says-study/article68324281.ec>

India's urban development model is collapsing

Deccan Herald | Jul 04, 2024

The article critiques India's urban development model, arguing that it is collapsing under the pressures of rapid urbanization, inadequate infrastructure, and unsustainable growth practices. It highlights issues such as overcrowded cities, pollution, lack of basic amenities, and social inequality exacerbated by urban sprawl. The article calls for a fundamental rethinking of urban planning and governance to ensure sustainable development, equitable growth, and improved quality of life in Indian cities.

Link: <https://www.deccanherald.com/opinion/indias-urban-development-model-is-collapsing-3092368>

ROKA amazes international delegations with its efforts in solid waste management in Chennai

Adyar Times | Jun 26, 2024

The article praises ROKA for its exemplary efforts in solid waste management, impressing international delegations with its innovative approaches. ROKA has implemented effective recycling initiatives, composting programs, and community engagement efforts to minimize waste and promote environmental sustainability. The organization's commitment to sustainable practices and its positive impact on local communities have garnered recognition and appreciation on a global scale.

Link: <https://adyartimes.in/roka-amazes-international-delegations-with-its-efforts-in-solid-waste-management/>

Let's tackle the sea of plastic

The Times of India | Jun 25, 2024

The article addresses the issue of plastic pollution in Chennai and emphasizes the need for concerted efforts to tackle it. It discusses initiatives and challenges related to plastic waste management in the city, highlighting the environmental and health impacts caused by plastic pollution. The article calls for collaborative action involving citizens, businesses, and government authorities to reduce plastic use, promote recycling, and implement effective waste management practices to safeguard Chennai's environment and marine ecosystems.

Link: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chennai/lets-tackle-the-sea-of-plastic/articleshow/111239064.cms>

ROKA's event to clear up the City collects 10 tonnes of waste

Adyar Times | Jun 26, 2024

The article covers Residents of Kasturba Nagar Association's (ROKA) event aimed at cleaning up the city, where they successfully collected 10 tonnes of waste. This initiative involved community participation and focused on improving cleanliness and environmental sustainability in Chennai. ROKA's efforts underscore their commitment to civic responsibility and environmental stewardship through proactive waste management and community engagement.

Link: <https://adyartimes.in/rokas-event-to-clear-up-the-city-collects-10-tonnes-of-waste/>

KP PARK RESIDENTS LAMENT

'Crumbling walls, uncleaned garbage, unreliable elevators here'

■ SWEDHA RADHAKRISHNAN

CHENNAI: Following the accidental death of 52-year-old man after he fell from an elevator stuck between two floors in Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Board in KP Park, Pullianthope, residents fumed that the building has been in a dilapidated condition for the last 2 years.

"Despite submitting multiple petitions, authorities have not taken any step. They haven't even carried out an inspection till date," they lament. "Getting stuck in the elevator is one of the perennial concerns we've been facing ever since we came here in 2021."

Thousands of families who encroached near river banks in the city were shifted here from various localities. "There are crumbling walls and broken windows. Even the



Stagnated sewage water has become a breeding ground for mosquitoes

ceiling falls off. We're unable to fix a nail on the wall and have to be careful about using every item in the house," rued Sheela, a resident,

who was relocated from Pallavan Salai. "Since we live on the fifth floor, it's difficult to use the stairs often. So, we're dependent on the

elevator, but it's not in a good condition for the last two years."

Accusing the lift operators of being lazy, drunk and lackadaisical, she recalled the horror of being stuck inside the elevator 2 months ago. "I got stuck for more than 15 minutes and developed chest pain and shortness of breath. I fell unconscious, and I don't know when I was rescued. Such incidents are common, and lift operators are aware of it, but they don't complain to the higher authorities or fix the issue," Sheela pointed out.

In another incident, a 35-year-old S Shruthi, who is also a relative of the deceased S Ganesan, got stuck in the elevator with her children for more than five times since she relocated. Now, she takes the stairs to the sixth floor.

Though complaints were raised to officers and ward members, nobody has visited KP Park in the last 3

years. However, just ahead of the Lok Sabha polls, local politicians and authorities carried out patch work in the apartment.

Residents pay Rs 1,000 per month (Rs 250 rent and Rs 750 for maintenance). However, the premises always reeks of stagnated sewage and uncleaned garbage.

M Baskar said, "Only four workers come to clean the garbage and stagnant drainage water in the premises. It has been more than two months since they have cleaned the sump, which led to sewage overflow and became a breeding ground for mosquitoes."

With such horrible living conditions, now the State government is constructing buildings for commercial purposes. "When they can't fix the existing building, why are they constructing shops here? It will worsen the situation," said Shakuntala, another resident.

Jun, 2024

The article discusses the poor state of infrastructure at the KP Park Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Board, Pullianthope. This came to light after the accidental death of a resident who fell from an elevator stuck between two floors. The residents lament about the crumbling and broken walls, along with the poor state of the elevators. Despite complaints from residents, the authorities do not repair the infrastructure.

Parandur Airport: What will this Rs 30,000-crore project mean for the environment?

Citizen Matters | Jun 21, 2024

The article discusses the environmental impact of the proposed Parandur airport near Chennai. It highlights concerns about ecological disruption to wetlands, agricultural lands, and biodiversity hotspots in the region. The project's potential effects on water sources and local communities, as well as the need for transparent environmental assessments and public consultation, are also emphasized.

Link: <https://citizenmatters.in/parandur-airport-environmental-impact-chennai/>

Need to strengthen agriculture extension system to address climate change issues: experts

The Hindu | Jun 30, 2024

The article discusses the importance of strengthening the agriculture extension system in Kerala to address climate change challenges. Experts emphasize the need for improved advisory services, farmer education, and technology dissemination to help farmers adapt to changing climatic conditions. The article underscores the role of extension services in promoting climate-resilient farming practices, enhancing agricultural productivity, and ensuring food security in the face of climate variability and extreme weather events.

Link: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/need-to-strengthen-agriculture-extension-system-to-address-climate-change-issues-experts/article68352357.ece>

EFFORTS

Coming soon, a green paradise along Buckingham Canal

The Times of India | Mar 22, 2024

Chennai's Buckingham Canal is set to become a green paradise with the addition of a 2.1 km walkway, park, and cycling track inaugurated in 2022. Future plans include similar green developments along the Chepauk-Mandaveli stretch to enhance urban green spaces and promote sustainable living. These initiatives are part of broader efforts to revitalize the area and provide eco-friendly recreational spaces for the community.

Link: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chennai/coming-soon-a-green-paradise-along-buckingham-canal/articleshow/108691499.cms>

How Tamil Nadu plans to walk the Green Mile

The Times of India | Jun 27, 2024

Tamil Nadu is implementing comprehensive strategies to enhance environmental sustainability and combat climate change. Key initiatives include the creation of the TN Green Energy Company, climate literacy workshops, and the establishment of a Blue Carbon Agency. These measures aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, promote green energy, and protect coastal and marine ecosystems.

Link: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chennai/how-tamil-nadu-plans-to-walk-the-green-mile/articleshow/111301901.cms>

TN government to replace 2.1 km road with high-level bridge to restore Pallikaranai marshland

The New Indian Express | Jun 26, 2024

The Tamil Nadu government plans to dismantle a 2.1 km stretch of the Thoraipakkam–Pallavaram Radial Road on the Pallikaranai marshland and replace it with a high-level bridge to restore the wetland and mitigate monsoon flooding. The project involves constructing the bridge from Thoraipakkam to Kamatchi Hospital Junction, with Rs 20 lakhs allocated for the Detailed Project Report. This initiative aims to rejuvenate the marshland, which serves as a crucial natural reservoir, and address severe flooding issues experienced in nearby areas

Link: <https://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/chennai/2024/Jun/26/tn-government-to-replace-21-km-road-with-high-level-bridge-to-restore-pallikaranai-marshland>

Raise a toast to these changemakers trying to protect urban environment

Citizen Matters | Jul 01, 2024

The article highlights local organizations making a difference in Chennai and other cities by promoting environmental sustainability. In Chennai, Nizhal focuses on urban greening and biodiversity, while the Chennai Climate Action Group addresses the impact of climate change on marginalized communities. Other featured organizations include Sprouts Environmental Trust and Vanashakti in Mumbai, and Biome Environment Trust in Bengaluru, all working towards environmental conservation and awareness.

Link: <https://citizenmatters.in/this-envt-day-meet-some-local-organisations-trying-to-make-a-difference-in-your-city/>

Three permanent disaster rescue and relief centres to be set up in Chennai and its suburban areas: Minister

The Hindu | Jun 25, 2024

The article reports on Tamil Nadu's plan to establish three permanent disaster rescue and relief centers in Chennai and its suburbs. These centers aim to enhance the state's preparedness for emergencies, providing swift response and relief during natural disasters like floods and cyclones. The initiative underscores the government's commitment to bolstering disaster management infrastructure to safeguard vulnerable communities in the region.

Link: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/three-permanent-disaster-rescue-and-relief-centres-to-be-set-up-in-chennai-and-its-suburban-areas-minister/article68328422.ece>

Supriya Sahu posted as the new Health Secretary of T.N.

The Hindu | Jul 02, 2024

The article announces administrative changes in Tamil Nadu's government. Supriya Sahu has been appointed as the new Health Secretary, while Pradeep Yadav is set to assume the role of Higher Education Secretary. These appointments are part of administrative reshuffling aimed at bolstering governance and administrative efficiency in the respective sectors within the state.

Link: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/supriya-sahu-posted-as-new-health-secretary-pradeep-yadav-to-take-charge-as-higher-education-secretary/article68355063.ece>

Project to boost water storage and flood mitigation in Chennai

News Today Net | Jun 24, 2024

The article discusses a project aimed at enhancing water storage and flood mitigation in Chennai. It outlines plans to construct reservoirs and improve infrastructure to manage rainwater effectively. The project's goals include reducing flooding during monsoon seasons and ensuring sustainable water management for the city's growing population.

Link: <https://newstodaynet.com/2024/06/24/project-to-boost-water-storage-and-flood-mitigation-in-chennai/>

Tamil Nadu set to launch website for environmental volunteering

The Hindu | Jun 28, 2024

The article discusses Tamil Nadu's initiative to launch a website dedicated to environmental volunteering. This platform aims to encourage public participation in environmental conservation efforts across the state. It will facilitate volunteering opportunities, information sharing on environmental projects, and coordination among volunteers, NGOs, and government agencies. The initiative reflects the government's commitment to harnessing public support for sustainable development and biodiversity conservation in Tamil Nadu.

Link: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/tamil-nadu-set-to-launch-website-for-environmental-volunteering/article68341185.ece>