

16-31 AUGUST, 2024

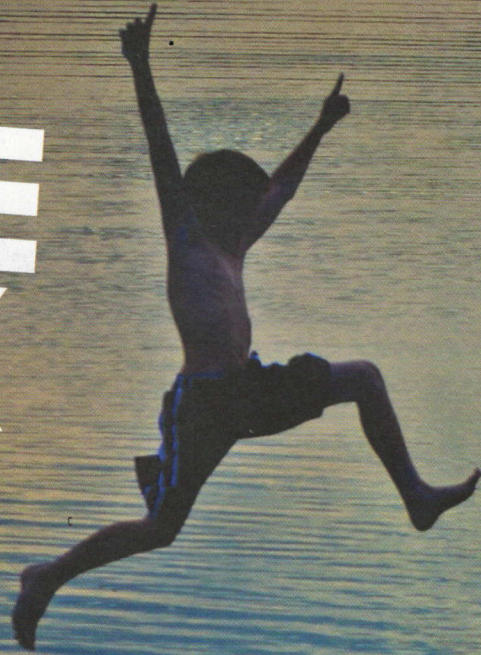
Down To Earth

FORTNIGHTLY ON POLITICS OF DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

Subscriber copy, not for resale

₹80.00

TO THE BRINK AND BACK



Revival tales of India's
lakes, ponds and tanks



WAYANAD TRAGEDY

India races against time
to forecast landslides

P14

NATIONAL CLEAN AIR PROGRAMME

Must focus on dangerous
ultra-fine pollutants

P48

DownToEarth

Founded in 1992 to arm you with knowledge critical to shaping a better world

FOUNDER EDITOR Anil Agarwal

EDITOR Sunita Narain

MANAGING EDITOR Richard Mahapatra

CHIEF COPY EDITOR Snigdha Das

ASSOCIATE EDITORS Aditya Misra, Rajit Sengupta

SENIOR CREATIVE DIRECTOR Ajit Bajaj

SUPPLEMENT EDITOR Souparno Banerjee

CHIEF CARTOONIST Sorit Gupta

REPORTING TEAM Shagun, Akshit Sangomla, Pulaha Roy, Rohini Krishnamurthy, Himanshu N

SENIOR SUB EDITOR Dakshiani Palicha

WEB EDITORS Rajat Ghai, Preetha Banerjee, Nandita Banerji, Pratyaksh Srivastava

DESIGN TEAM Chaitanya Chandan (Art Editor), Ritika Bohra (Assistant Art Editor), Tarun Sehgal (Senior Designer), Yogendra Anand (Illustrator), Vineet Tripathi (Graphic Designer), Shri Krishan

PHOTO EDITOR Vikas Choudhary

PRODUCTION Rakesh Shrivastava, Gundhar Das

TECH SUPPORT Rajendra Rawat, Jaidev Sharma

MULTIMEDIA Joel Michael, Sunny Gautam, Midhun Vijayan, Shreya K.A. Prabhat, Kumar, Dhruval Parekh

INFORMATION AND RESEARCH SUPPORT

Kiran Pandey, Susan Chacko, Madhumita Paul, Sheeja Nair, Lalit Maurya, Dayanidhi Mishra

CONSULTING EDITORS Anumita Roychowdhury, Vibha Varshney

Vol 33, No 9; Total No of Pages: 60

Editorial, subscriptions and advertisements:

Society for Environmental Communications,
41, Tughlakabad Institutional Area, New Delhi 110 062.

Phone: 91-11-40616000, 29955124,

29956110, 29956394, 29956399 | Fax: 91-11-29955879.

Email: editor@downtoearth.org.in

© 2024 Society for Environmental Communications.

All rights reserved throughout the world. Reproduction in any manner is prohibited. Printed and published by Richard Mahapatra on behalf of Society for Environmental Communications. Printed at International Print-o-Pac Limited, B-204, 205, Okhla Industrial Area, Phase I, New Delhi-110020, India, and published at 41, Tughlakabad Institutional Area, New Delhi 110 062.

To subscribe, sms 'dte Subscribe' to 56070

or visit www.downtoearth.org.in/subscribe

FOR ADVERTISEMENTS Jyoti Ghosh

jghosh@cseindia.org

FOR SUBSCRIPTIONS

KCR Raja, raja@cseindia.org



74

India races against time to set up early warning system for landslides

- 11 **Digest**
Conflict, inflation and drought worsen hunger crises across Africa
- 20 **Delhi rains**
June 28 downpour a result of rare interaction of six weather systems
- 24 **Weather as a commodity**
Can futures trading in weather data help hedge climate risks?

- 44 **Patently Absurd**
Private drug firms' bid to reap all the benefits from public research on COVID-19 vaccines
- 58 **Civil Lines**
'Middle-income trap' hinders India target of becoming developed by 2047



◀ Cover design: Ajit Bajaj

Down To Earth does not endorse the content of advertisements printed in the magazine. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent courts and forums in Delhi/New Delhi only.

Contents



COVER STORY

26

Communities leverage government schemes to rejuvenate waterbodies, gain control over the resource

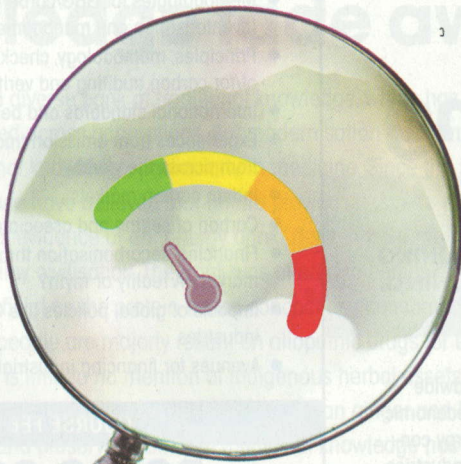


42

Union Budget 2024-25 lays emphasis on some flagship schemes, but several others remain overlooked

48

Time for National Clean Air Programme to shift priorities to reducing PM2.5 pollution



54

The Moral Contagion highlights how societal response to epidemics reflects its morality

