# LETTHERE BE DARK

Bright nights detrimental to human health, biodiversity

AGRICULTURE

Consult farmers while framing GM policy

P14

GLOBAL WARMING

Forests turn hotspots for climate impacts

P34

NATIONAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION

Another lacklustre attempt to revamp research?

P44



## **DownTo Earth**

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 Gupto** 

**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 12; Total No of Pages: 60

Editorial, subscriptions and advertisements: Society for Environmental Communications,

41, Tughlakabad Institutional Area, New Delhi 110062,

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/subscription

FOR ADVERTISEMENTS Jyoti Ghosh ighosh@cseindia.org

FOR SUBSCRIPTIONS

KCR Raja, raja@cseindia.org



OVER

Increasing use of artificial light at night a threat to human health, biodiversity

## 10 Digest

A 96-year-old farmer creates a thriving forest in Maharashtra

#### 14 Debate

Farmer consultation needed while formulating GM policy

## 34 Analysis

Western Ghats' forests see myriad impacts of climate change



#### 52 Photo essay

Contents

Houses, roads in Bageshwar, Uttarakhand see cracks due to excessive soapstone mining

## 58 Civil Lines

Non-farm income higher for agricultural households



**◆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.



Punjab's soil loses its organic carbon, microbial health due to intensive agricultural activities

Anusandhan National Research Foundation off to an unpromising start



Perennial herb punarnava gives a healthy boost to traditional dishes





Many faecal sludge treatment plants in Uttar Pradesh have design flaws that make them inefficient, expensive