

### VK:e Updates...

“Maitreya Greens” a proposed residential project by Maitreya Realtors in Nashik received **PLATINUM** Green Building Pre-Certification under IGBC Green Homes.

The project developer is very enthusiastic to incorporate all the initiatives suggested by the Indian Green Building Council.

Sustainable measures have been proposed for the construction as well as the operational phase like 100% waste water treatment, 100% rain water harvesting, 100% heat island mitigation of exposed roof area, solar water heating system, well designed landscape with drought tolerant and native species to Nashik, use of Eco-friendly building materials like low VOC paints, materials having recycled content, certified woods, etc.

The project proponents are also planning to educate the occupants and issue Post occupancy green homes guidelines, so that the environmental infrastructure provided by the developer can be well-maintained and utilized throughout the project's life by the building occupants.

### Doha 2012: Climate Change Conference



Climate Change has become real. Research studies have been persistently traced down its effect and how could one fight the climate change consequences. Conference of Parties (COP18) to the UNFCCC and Conference of Meeting of the Parties (CMP8) to the Kyoto Protocol was held on 26 November to 8 December 2012 at the Qatar National Convention Centre in DOHA, Qatar.

The conference assessed and opened a gateway towards climate change action plan. In the conference, countries have successfully launched a new commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol, agreed a firm timetable to adopt a universal climate

agreement by 2015 and agreed a path to raise necessary ambition to respond to climate change.

Countries that are taking on further commitments under the Kyoto Protocol and have agreed to review their emission reduction commitments by 2014, with a view to improvise their actions. The Kyoto Protocol's Market Mechanisms - the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), Joint Implementation (JI) and International Emissions Trading (IET) - can continue as of 2013. Developed countries have reiterated their commitment to deliver on promises to continue long-term climate finance support to developing nations.

Source: Centre for Science and Environment

### Government to develop 54 solar cities

The Minister of New and Renewable Energy, Dr. Farooq Abdullah has given approval to 54 cities for developing as Solar Cities on 17<sup>th</sup> December, 2012. Solar city Master Plan has been designed for 28 cities out of which 8 cities (Agra, Moradabad from Uttar Pradesh, Thane & Kalyan-Dombivli from Maharashtra, Indore from Madhya Pradesh, Kohima from Nagaland, Aizawl from Mizoram and Chandigarh) have been approved for implementation and development plan is in progress. Financial sanction has been released for execution of renewable energy projects in 5 cities.

The Minister further informed that the criteria set by the Ministry for the identification of cities include a city population between 50,000 to 50 lakh (with relaxation given to special category States including North-East States), initiatives and

### National Energy Conservation Week

*The Nation celebrated "Energy Conservation Week" like every year since 2004 - from 14th December to 20th December.*

*Rapid increase in energy demands its shortage and climate change threats has created interest for conservation after the "Energy Conservation Act-2001" was released. All the programs are being financially supported by NREDCAP.*



regulatory measures already taken along with a high level of commitment in promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy.

Source: MNRE

## National Water Policy, 2012



The policies address the concern to deal with the climate change in detail.

It states, “Special impetus should be given towards mitigation at micro-level by enhancing the capabilities of community to adopt climate resilient technological options. These strategies could include increasing water storage in soil moisture, ponds, groundwater, small and large reservoirs, and their combination, which provides a mechanism for dealing with increased variability because of climate change”

*National Water Resources Council approves the National Water Policy, 2012 on 29<sup>th</sup> December, Friday.*

The guidelines for water management under the new policy have been improvised from its previous 2002 edition to meet the future challenges. The policy aims to focus on the crisis in the water sector and lay a road map on the principles of equity, sustainability and good governance.

The policy ensures to meet minimum water quantity for health and hygiene. The significance of community participation in water management and use of local water resources above long distance supply pipeline infrastructure, has also been encouraged.

Source: Down To Earth

## Deadly year-2012 for endangered species



South Africa’s biggest animal Rhino were poached in a record number of 633 by mid December which marked a sharp rise of rhino’s poaching compared to 448 last year. Most of the rhinos killings took place in South Africa’s Kruger National Park.

Adding to the poaching issues, according to the conservation group, TRAFFIC, 2012 was another bumper year for trade in illegal ivory and 28 metric tonnes of illegal ivory has reportedly been seized. In 2011, an estimated 40 metric tons of illegal ivory was seized worldwide, representing thousands of dead elephants.

Source: Rueters

Illicit trade in elephants and other animals has increased since demand for ivory as ornamental items is rising fast with growing Chinese influence and investment in Africa.

Rhino horn has medicinal properties and it has been widely used for centuries in Chinese medicine, where it was grounded into powder to treat a range of maladies including rheumatism, gout and even possession by devils. Trade in rhino horn is strictly prohibited.

Under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), ivory as a commodity of trade is prescribed as illegal.



**Strengthening the roots of sustainable living and encouraging efforts towards resource conservation, VK:e wishes you a Very Happy New Year, 2013.**

**May this new year bring in the happiest and most beautiful times.**

**We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your journey so far with us.**