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# DATAFIED

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**D**ata is both the new language and script. Starting from researchers to retailers, from weather scientists to taxi operators, from journalists to book publishers, everybody wants to possess and process big data to communicate effectively and precisely. In a world where hand-held devices like the smart phone are the common platform to communicate, data is naturally the way to do so. Because, data is always precise and definitive.

But as the new idiom of communication takes over, there is the usual concern over credibility. Like never before, we have an increasing volume of data hitting us with a higher velocity and in a wider variety. Which data is credible? That is going to be the most challenging aspect of the “datafied” world. While we might have easy access to huge data, without the credibility, we may end up using wrong data and for the wrong reasons.

The State of India's Environment 2017: In Figures is an attempt to equip you with this critical knowledge to survive in the new world. As the name suggests, it is a compilation of data on India's environment. But it simply doesn't give out data aggregated in random ways. Rather, it processes huge data generated through the year and puts them in the right context. All data used here comes with the right message, takes you much beyond the data itself and ultimately arms you with what you need the most: the meaning of the data.

The annual report is a well thought out interactive world of information. First, the chapters have been selected keeping in mind the environmental developments that have been raging in public conscience in recent times or will be the issues we all will deal in the near future. Second, each data set takes you to a wider portal of information. Thus, not just giving you an information on face, but taking you to the original set of data. This will help you to further process information according to your own context and uses. That way, this report links you to more than 40,000 articles, reports and hundreds of other data sets. Third, being backed by the data driven research and advocacy of Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) and *Down To Earth* magazine's reportage and research, the report comes with huge credibility. For every data that has been featured, there is a five-layer check to every aspect of it. Fourth, the report has featured data in such a way that one can make sense of it. For example, on the development index, India has been compared with other countries. Similarly, for every data set, we have featured its background and how things have moved in the past few years. You will also find references to relevant data from the last year's report.

We hope that the publication not just adds value to your own work but also to your understanding of India's environment. For any feedback and suggestions, do write back to us. [n](#)