

Enviro Monitor

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Water stress



- 21 Indian cities projected to run out of groundwater by 2020
- Centre notifies norms for uninterrupted flow of Ganga
- Punjab signs MoUs with Israel for agri research, water management
- 71% of talukas in Maharashtra face groundwater depletion
- Groundwater quality along coast deteriorating

Air quality



- Rising air pollution will impact rainfall patterns in India
- 98% children 'exposed' to toxic air
- MoEF study to evaluate health effects of environment exposure in 20 cities
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Water pollution



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Green buildings



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21 Indian cities projected to run out of groundwater by 2020. At least 21 cities in India are facing a potentially catastrophic water crisis within the next two years as groundwater is depleted, and the resulting shortages could affect more than 100 million people, a recent report says. The water situation in India is already dire, with nearly 600 million people facing high to extreme water stress in the country, according to the report by the National Institution for Transforming India

(NITI Aayog), a government-sponsored think tank. Seventy-five percent of all households are without water on the premises and 70 percent of the water in the country is contaminated, the report also said.

Centre notifies norms for uninterrupted flow of Ganga. In order to restore and maintain continuous flow of river Ganga, the Centre has notified minimum environmental flow (e-flow) for the river that has to be maintained at various locations. Uninterrupted flow of water in any river is important to keep it clean through its natural ecological functions and processes. Any dam or structure meant for diversion of river flows for the purpose of irrigation, hydro-power and domestic or industrial use will now have to maintain the minimum flow under the notification.

There are 784 dams, 66 barrages, 92 weirs and 45 functional lift schemes located, at present, in the Ganga river basin.

Punjab signs MoUs with Israel for agri research, water management.

The MoUs will help boost cooperation between Punjab and Israel in areas such as water conservation as well as agricultural research and education. The agreements will help Punjab secure much needed technical expertise and know-how for strengthening its water management systems and improving its agricultural research and learning. The MoU has assigned Mekorot to formulate a comprehensive, viable, cost effective and efficient water conservation and management plan. This was done as part of an ongoing process of cooperation between India and Israel in the field of water resource management.

71% of talukas in Maharashtra face groundwater depletion. The latest survey by the Groundwater Survey and Development Agency (GSDA), an arm of the Water Resource Department in Maharashtra, found that in, at least, 3,342 villages of Maharashtra the groundwater level had dropped by over 3 meters, while in 3,430 villages, it had reduced by 2 to 3 meters. In 7,212 villages in the state, groundwater level has reduced by over 1 metre. Overall, 13,984 villages from 252 talukas in the state — Maharashtra has 353 Talukas — have witnessed a depletion by more than 1 meter as compared to the average of the past five years.

Groundwater quality along coast deteriorating. The intrusion of seawater into groundwater aquifers, particularly along the coastal areas of Ernakulam district, could be slowly deteriorating groundwater quality, suggests recent research by a team from the Jawaharlal Nehru University. Though water is still potable and can be used for irrigation in a majority of the coastal sites where wells were tested for salinity (a sign of seawater intrusion), some regions — including Chellanam and Vypeen — are a cause for concern. The study, published in Journal of Climate Change, shows that the sea level in the area is rising at 1.8 millimetres per year and that around 30 kilometres of the shoreline — more than 80% of Ernakulam's coast — is eroding.



Rising air pollution will impact rainfall patterns in India. Rising air pollution in India is likely to have a significant impact on long-term rainfall patterns which can cause extensive financial losses, warns the latest United Nations report. [Air Pollution in Asia and the Pacific: Science-based Solutions](#) presents the first scientific assessment of air pollution in Asia and the Pacific. Highlighting the effects of air pollution on Asian monsoon, the report states that the presence of particulate matter 2.5 can affect precipitation patterns during the monsoon season in India.

98% children 'exposed' to toxic air. About 98 per cent of children under the age of five in low- and middle-income countries, which include nations like India, were exposed to air pollution caused by finer particulate matters in 2016, according to a World Health Organization study. In the report, [Air Pollution and Child Health: Prescribing Clean Air](#), deaths of about 600,000 children under 15 years of age in 2016 were attributed to the joint effects of ambient and household air pollution. The report said household air pollution from cooking and ambient air pollution caused more than 50 per cent of acute lower respiratory infections in children under five years of age in low- and middle-income countries.

Of the total number of deaths attributable to the joint effects of household and ambient air pollution worldwide in 2016, 9% were in children.

MoEF study to evaluate health effects of environment exposure in 20 cities. A National Environmental Health Profile Project, aimed at evaluating the quantum of health effects arising from environmental exposure, is underway at the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF). The study will be carried out across 20 cities divided into four zones. The study will be rolled out across four zones. In the north zone, Delhi, Ludhiana, Kanpur and Raipur will serve as test cities while Guwahati will be the referral city. Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Visakhapatnam and Chennai will be test cities and Thiruvananthapuram will be the referral point for the south. In the west zone, Ahmedabad, Mumbai, Jaipur, Bhopal will serve as test areas while Panjim will be the reference point. In the east, Patna, Kolkata, and two other cities will be test cities, and Shillong will be the referral point.

Delhi tops national charts in bad air quality. Fourteen out of the 20 most polluted cities in the world are in India as per figures compiled and released earlier this year by the World Health Organization (WHO). Climate Trends picked up the same 14 cities to analyse the CPCB data in summer and winter months for a comparative analysis. According to the study, Delhi tops the charts of bad air quality nationally.

[The Tribune](#), 29 October 2018 | [The Hindu](#), 29 October 2018 | [The Times of India](#), 30 October 2018 | [Indian Express](#), 1 November 2018



Groundwater near landfills toxic. Waste dumped in landfill sites is contaminating surrounding groundwater, according to a study that assessed the environmental impact of the leachate on underground water resources in the surrounding area of landfill sites in Chandigarh, Mohali, and Panchkula. Scientists fear non-segregation and unregulated dumping of the garbage has deteriorated the quality with the passage of time, an alarming sign. Experts say that once the groundwater becomes polluted,

contamination persists and becomes difficult to treat due to physical inaccessibility. Concentrations of heavy metal ions were not high in the leachate as analysed by the study four years ago. However, due to the dumping of used batteries, switches and paint containers in the landfills, the concentration was at intermediate levels.

Septage treatment plants in 6 Odisha cities to prevent water pollution. In a bid to tackle pollution of rivers and other water bodies across the State, six septage treatment plants (STPs) were inaugurated at Bhubaneswar, Puri, Berhampur, Dhenkanal, Sambalpur and Rourkela. The plant will treat the faecal sludge collected from different pit latrines, septic tanks and other onsite sanitation systems so that water segregated from it can be used in water treatment plants and the sludge can be recycled and reused.

The Times of India, 8 October 2018 | Odisha TV, 26 October 2018



Green norms for commercial buildings. From January 1, all commercial buildings in Goa with a built up area of more than 2000 sqm will have to adhere to green building norms as defined by Indian Green Building Council and TERI Griha, the Town and Country Planning board resolved. The board also made it mandatory for all hotels and government buildings to adhere to the norms.

Andhra government to implement Energy Conservation Building Code.

The State government is going to launch Energy Conservation Building Code (ECBC) for saving energy and reducing air pollution and power outages. The ECBC implementation has been made mandatory by incorporation of the ECBC clause in online Development Permission Management System (DPMS) by the Directorate of Town and Country Planning (DTCP) of the Municipal Administration department from October 22. Administrative Staff College of India (ASCI) has been working with State government to develop and implement the code.

The Times of India, 16 October 2018 | The New Indian Express, 22 October 2018