

Enviro Monitor

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Water stress



- Water saving project extended to three more regions in Bengaluru
- Water crisis in Shimla: Behind acute shortage, depleting water levels and rising population
- 90% of Delhi in critical zone as groundwater level dips
- Maharashtra: Groundwater level dips in 71% of state talukas

Water quality



- Geographic information system technology to aid in Ganga clean-up
- IIT Kharagpur , Oxford develop technology for water treatment

Climate change



- Rising temperature: India is warming up rapidly
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Air quality



- Study suggests 13 measures to reduce air pollution by 40%.
- Eleven polluting factories sealed in Tronica City



Water saving project extended to three more regions in Bengaluru. With the completed Unaccounted For Water (UFW) project in Bengaluru South, East and part of Central resulting in daily savings of 151 million litres of water for the city, the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has recently extended it to three other regions. Contracts have been awarded to private firms to implement the project in Bengaluru North, South East and part of Central. Shanti Nagar, Shivaji Nagar, Vasant

Nagar and Sahkar Nagar figure among the new areas that will be covered. The D164 crore UFW project started in 2013 aimed at bringing down the water losses in the City from 48 percent to 16%. It focused on replacing all pipelines below 100mm diameter, repairing all leaks and cracks in old pipelines and cracking the whip on unauthorised connections as they were causing substantial water losses daily.

Water crisis in Shimla: Behind acute shortage, depleting water levels and rising population. Shimla is in the midst of a major water crisis as the city is reported to have run out of water during the peak tourist season. Shimla, India's most visited hill station, is facing a shortage of water for the past eight days. Amid the situation in the city, the Himachal Pradesh High Court on May 28 took *suo motu* notice of the crisis and has asked whether any new construction should be allowed to come up within the municipal limits.

According to reports, on an average 15,000-20,000 tourists visit Shimla every day during the peak tourist season. The resident population of the city is 2.2 lakh, while tourist arrivals over the weekend reach 25,000-30,000. This increasing number is adding on the pressure over the water situation in the city.

The main reasons behind Shimla's acute water crisis are attributed to:

- Shimla's tourist footfall
- Climate change in Shimla
- Building plan in Shimla

90% of Delhi in critical zone as groundwater level dips. Delhi is heading towards a serious situation as the level of groundwater, continuously depleting in the last two decades, has resulted in 90% of the city being categorised as semi-critical or critical. Presenting a dismal picture, the Central Ground Water Board told the Supreme Court that the water level has been decreasing from 0.5 metre to over 2 metres per year at different places in Delhi and could lead to a crisis if not halted. As per the report, 27% of the national capital territory's 1483 sq km had ground water at the level of 0-5 metres in 2010 but in 17 years this has shrunk to 11%. In 2000, ground water was available till 40 metres but at present water levels in 15% of Delhi, or around 222 sq km, have plunged to 40-80 metres.

Maharashtra: Groundwater level dips in 71% of state talukas. The monsoon cannot come a moment too soon for Maharashtra. A whopping 71% of the state's 353 talukas reported a drop of more than a metre in the ground water level by March this year compared to a 5-year average. By now, two months later, the water level is expected to be even lower. These are findings from a survey by the state's Groundwater Survey and Development Agency, which compared the ground water level in 3,920 observation wells in the state in March with the average water level in the last five years.

[The Times of India](#), 7 May 2018 | [The Financial Express](#), 29 May 2018 | [The Times of India](#), 31 May 2018 | [India Today](#), 31 May 2018 | [The New Indian Express](#), 1 June 2018



Geographic information system technology to aid in Ganga clean-up.

National Mission for Clean Ganga has brought on board Survey of India, to facilitate the Ganga rejuvenation task by using Geographic Information System (GIS) technology. The Survey of India will map the entire stretch of the Ganga in 15 months' time and provide high-resolution maps to the government. It will help river cleaning authorities in getting minute details of sewage and effluent discharge outlets and identify pollution hot-spots up to 10 km on both sides of the river. Since the project will map sewage outlets and other discharges from all units (industrial, commercial and others) from the source to the public drainage network, it will help in monitoring of polluting sources and quicken the process of taking appropriate action.

IIT Kharagpur, Oxford develop technology for water treatment . Researchers at Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur and University of Oxford have developed a low-cost technology to treat water contaminated with arsenic. In this new method, water is chemically treated by activating naturally available laterite that acts as an adsorbent to filter arsenic. The department of science & technology as well as the West Bengal public health engineering department and West Bengal arsenic task force have already accepted the technology.

[Press Information Bureau](#), 4 May 2018 | [The Times of India](#), 5 May 2018 | [The Economic Times](#), 22 May 2018



Rising temperature: India is warming up rapidly. A new study on climate change in India has confirmed a rapid rise in surface temperatures in the past 70 years. The [Scientific Reports](#) study calculated temperature rise in terms of change occurring from decade to decade, using information from two different datasets covering the period from 1951 and 2013. The temperature data came from 395 met stations across the country.

Maximum, minimum and daily mean temperature data was analysed for summer, monsoon and winter periods. There is a notable warming trend in northwestern India beginning in the 1970s and accelerating in the 2000s and 2010s, the study has found.

Global warming likely to hit poorest regions hardest. The poorest regions of the world are will bear the worst brunt of climate change if global average surface temperatures reach the 1.5 or 2 degree Celsius limit set by the Paris agreement, a study has found. The wealthiest areas of the world will experience fewer changes, researchers said. The study, published in the journal [Geophysical Research Letters](#), compares the difference between climate change impacts for wealthy and poor nations.

The least affected countries include most temperate nations, with the UK coming out ahead of all others. By contrast, the worst affected are in the Equatorial regions, including countries like the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Electric vehicles could increase net carbon emissions in India: IEA. The International Energy Agency has said there will be a net increase in carbon emissions due to electric vehicles when considering life-cycle emissions in countries, like India and China, which have a carbon-intensive power generation mix. In its report on electric vehicle, IEA says under the New Policies Scenario, India will reach an 11 per cent EV

market share by 2030 (for all modes combined, excluding two- and three-wheelers where the share will be 70 per cent). Under the EV30@30 Scenario outlook, India's electric mobility transition could develop a favourable policy environment and achieve a 25 per cent EV market share by 2030 across all modes, except two and three-wheelers where over 70 per cent of sales will be electric by the same year.

[The Hindu Business Line](#), 15 May 2018 | [Business Standard](#), 30 May 2018 | [The Tribune](#), 31 May 2018



Study suggests 13 measures to reduce air pollution by 40%. A [study](#) by Louisiana State University researchers has suggested 13 measures, including reducing emissions from thermal power plants and cutting use of solid fuel in households, which, it said, can reduce air pollution levels by almost 40 per cent and avoid 9 lakh premature deaths in India every year. The study has re-emphasised that emission from thermal power plants is the largest single-point source of pollution in India. At 22.62%, the highest premature mortality due to toxic emissions from power units was found to be in Chhattisgarh — a state which is often called the country's power hub, having the seventh-largest coal-fired power plant in the country (Korba Super Thermal Power Plant). In case of premature mortality due to industrial air pollution, Delhi topped the list. The study attributes around 40% of premature deaths in the Capital to industrial sources.

Eleven polluting factories sealed in Tronica City. The Ghaziabad district administration and the pollution control board closed down 11 factories in Tronica City for not abiding by norms laid down by the National Green Tribunal. At the core of the problem is a common effluent treatment plant (CETP) that the UP government had set up to facilitate treatment of waste water from these factories. But since the CETP remained non-functional for most of the time, a petition was filed against these factories in the NGT.

[India Environmental Portal](#), 31 May 2018 | [The Times of India](#), 31 May 2018 | [The Pioneer](#), 31 May 2018 | [The Times of India](#), 1 June 2018