

# Enviro Monitor

April 2016

## Trending topics

### Water stress



- By 2050 Asia at high risk of severe water shortages
- Government's model bill on water to stress on storage
- Over 25% of rural habitations facing drinking water scarcity
- Water shortage to affect industrial output
- 227 villages in Maharashtra go dry in just seven days
- Top groundwater layer dries in Hyderabad
- 66 fodder depots for relief to cattle in water-scarce Kutch
- Water demand spikes 20% as summer peaks in Kochi
- Odisha: 100 drinking water projects for urban areas

### Air quality



- Pollution up in Delhi during odd-even 2.0, show studies
- Among metros, Delhi worst hit by PM2.5
- Gurgaon sees 30% rise in respiratory diseases
- Now monitor air quality in major cities via a tweet for healthier living
- Air pollutants likely to increase cancer risk

### Waste management



- NDMC to set up e-waste, hazardous waste centres
- Waste segregation must in SDMC area
- Toxic smoke from Bhalswa landfill chokes city
- Mumbai: Now, wet waste treatment mandatory for all buildings
- Goa to have own biomedical waste treatment facility

### Forests & Biodiversity



- Uttarakhand forest fire spreads, 6 districts worst-hit
- Germany to fund Himachal Pradesh Forest Ecosystem Services Management
- Three of India's natural world heritage sites face threat from harmful activity



**By 2050 Asia at high risk of severe water shortages.** According to [study](#) by researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, there is a "high risk of severe water stress" across large patches of Asia, home to a big chunk of the world's population. Some 1 billion people in Asia could be without water by 2050, according to new research. The team focused on densely populated river basin regions in China, India and Southeast Asia.

**Government's model bill on water to stress on storage creation.** The Centre's new law aimed at better management of water and its usage will emphasize on creating large-scale rainwater storage facilities. It will also focus on efficient allocation of the valuable resource to states and involvement of the local populace in conservation efforts. The new bill, which is being prepared by the Union Ministry of Water Resources, will also give its suggestion to allocation of water for drinking, agriculture as well as industrial purposes. The guidelines of the bill will not be binding on states as water is a state subject

**Over 25% of rural habitations facing drinking water scarcity.** Successive years of poor rainfall have impacted the drinking water situation and more than 25% of rural habitations in India are facing a scarcity. According to agriculture minister Mr Radha Mohan Singh, Centre and state governments are taking steps like repair and restoration of hand pumps, deepening borewells and running temporary piped water schemes to supply water in scarce areas. Presently, of the 1.71 million rural habitations in the country 441,390 are facing drinking water scarcity.

Tankers are supplying water in 15,345 habitations and governments have hired 13,372 private borewells to augment water supply in addition to repairing 738,650 hand pumps. The minister further said that the Centre has released Rs 820 crore to states to supply water in drought affected districts.

**Water shortage to affect industrial output.** The ongoing water scarcity in several parts of India, especially in Maharashtra, one of the most industrialized states in the country, is expected to have a negative impact on industrial production in the next 2-3 months.

With civic bodies imposing cuts on water supplied to industrial belts across several states, the resultant shortage could pull down Index of Industrial Production growth by around 40-50 basis points, while the manufacturing sector alone could take a hit of about 50-75 basis points, economists said (100 bps = 1 percentage point).

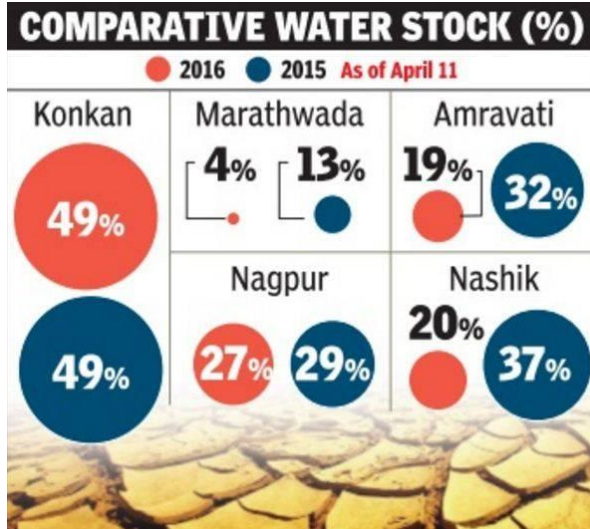
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#### Industries that could be hit by water shortage

- Food products & beverages
  - Textiles
  - Paper & paper products
  - Ice production
  - Cold storage
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**Thirsty Latur will now get 2.5 million litres water daily.** The water supply to drought-hit Latur is all set to increase exponentially with the first two 50-wagon trains ready to carry 2.5 million litres of water each to the city daily. The railways, in coordination with the Latur authorities, have formulated a cycle to ensure daily supply

**227 villages in Maharashtra go dry in just seven days.** The number of villages facing acute shortage of drinking water has increased from 2873 to 3100 in the brief span of a week. The largest number of water tankers have been deployed in the worst affected region of Marathwada, where water stock in dams stood at 4% on April 11, against 13% the same day last year.

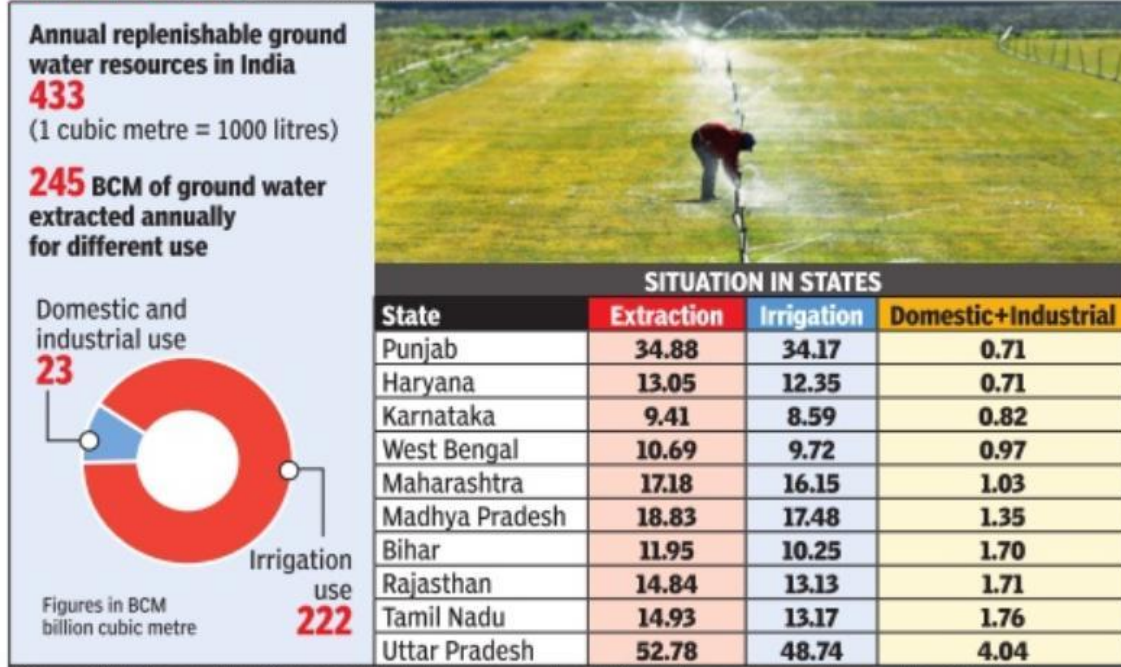


Source. The Times of India, 13 April 2016

**Water scarcity in Shimla threatens tourism, water supply restricted.** Shimla, the erstwhile summer capital of British India, has been reeling under water scarcity, affecting tourists who flock to the city to get away from the heat which grips the rest of India. It had earlier been a favourite of the British rulers, who wanted to get away from the hustle and bustle of administrative duties, but it seems that the water crisis has been forcing people who visit the place during the harsh summers to have to carry their own water or fork out extra bucks for every bucket of water they use. In most parts of Shimla, water supply has been restricted to twice or thrice a week, with several neighbourhoods receiving water barely once in a week.

**Not only sugarcane states, others too abuse groundwater.** Over 90% of the extracted groundwater in India is used for irrigation. Though this has never been a secret, the quantum of groundwater use in different states shows that the culprits are not only the sugarcane producing states like Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka. The onus of abusing groundwater resources also lies with wheat, rice, maize and oilseeds producing states like Punjab and Haryana.

## DEPLETING RESOURCES



(Source: CGWB Report of July 2014 - This is the latest assessment report that took ground water data as on March 31, 2011)

Source. The Economic Times, 21 April 2016

**Top groundwater layer dries in Hyderabad.** Scientists at the NGRI have found that people in some parts of Hyderabad are drawing groundwater that has been in the deep pockets of the earth from 6000 years. Except for some low-lying areas in the city, NGRI scientists found that the top, weathered zone in Hyderabad was “practically dry” because of over-exploitation of groundwater necessitated by extensive and intensive domestic and industrial usage. The weathered zone is the top layer of earth where groundwater can be found and its width depends on the topography of a place. In Hyderabad it ranges from 0.5-2 metre in elevated places like Filmnagar and Borabanda to 10-15 metres in low-lying areas like Gowliguda and Lower Tank Bund.

**66 fodder depots for relief to cattle in water-scarce Kutch.** A cabinet sub-committee of Gujarat government dealing with water scarcity in the state, on Wednesday, decided to allow social organizations to open cattle camps in water-scarcity affected areas. The social organizations, in turn, will be given subsidy of Rs 25 per animal.

**Water demand spikes 20% as summer peaks in Kochi.** There has been a 20% surge in demand for potable water in Kochi. Besides constituting special squads to check water theft and leak, the Kerala Water Authority has increased the time of pumping from small pump houses from 14 to 24 hours. The depletion of water table in Periyar is another major headache for KWA, which has requested Kerala State Electricity Board and the irrigation department to release more water into the river from Bhoothathankettu reservoir.

**Odisha: 100 drinking water projects for urban areas launched.** As many as 100 drinking water projects, worth Rs 63 crore, were launched recently to benefit people in 45 urban local bodies in Odisha.

[The Free Press Journal](#), 12 April 2016 | [SirG.co](#), 13 April 2016 | [The Times of India](#), 13 April 2016 | [Deccan Chronicle](#), 13 April 2016 | [The Times of India](#), 14 April 2016 | [Reuters](#), 14 April 2016 | [Mumbai Mirror](#), 18 April 2016 | [The Times of India](#), 20 April 2016 | [The Economic Times](#), 21 April 2016 | [Indian Express](#), 28 April 2016 | [Deccan Herald](#), 28 April 2016 | [Mint](#), 30 April 2016



**Pollution up in Delhi during Odd-Even 2.0, show studies.** The second phase of the odd-even scheme — implemented to improve Delhi’s air quality — saw a rise in pollution levels compared to the period just before it was in force, monitoring by TERI has revealed. Another study by [IndiaSpend](#), a portal that runs a network of ‘low cost sensors’ across the Capital, said the increase was nearly 23% compared to the first fortnight of April. Experts, however, have

observed that the odd-even road rationing scheme was not to be blamed for the foul air quality. Wind speed and summer winds pushing emissions from neighbouring states into Delhi were responsible. In summer, low wind speed increases pollution and high winds makes the air cleaner.

**Among metros, Delhi worst hit by PM2.5.** A study by the Centre for Atmospheric Sciences at IIT Delhi, which looked at exposure to PM 2.5 and premature deaths caused by the particulate matter pollution, has revealed that Kinnaur in Himachal Pradesh is the cleanest district while Delhi is

the dirtiest metropolitan area in the country. According to researchers who relied on satellite-based estimate, PM2.5 in Kinnaur was found to be 3.7+-1 microgram per cubic metre (g/m<sup>3</sup>) annually, which is less than 10% of the national air quality target of 40g/m<sup>3</sup>. Delhi's PM2.5 level, they added, stood at 148+-51g/m<sup>3</sup> annually, which is several times higher than the safe limit.

**Gurgaon sees 30% rise in respiratory diseases.** Every year, stubble burning leads to an increase in respiratory diseases in the city in the month of April. According to doctors, asthma and other respiratory diseases are triggered during this time of the year mainly due to the worsening air pollution caused by the illegal practice of burning paddy stubble. The city's top three private hospitals witness an increase of about 20% to 30% in the number of such cases in April.

**Now monitor air quality in major cities via a tweet for healthier living.** Twitter India has partnered with India Spend to launch a #Breathe service. The service will allow Twitter users in Delhi, Mumbai and

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During the Odd-Even scheme, [TERI](#) released regular updates with analysis of air quality in Delhi and nearby towns based on monitoring stations shown below, using its own monitoring devices in five out of nine locations across Delhi/NCR.

→ **Odd-Even is not enough.** Unless all polluting sources are fought, road rationing alone will bring us only limited benefits...

→ **Pollution comes from trucks, industries, diesel generators and open burning.** Air pollution needs consistent attention, and calls for regular five-year, air-quality management plans focusing on different sectors ...

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Bangalore to monitor the air quality in their area through a tweet. Users can avail the service by posting a tweet using #Breathe along with their location. They will then get a visual notification with a measurement of air quality along with possible health implications.

**Air pollutants likely to increase cancer risk.** Long-term exposure to environmental pollutants could be associated with an increased risk of mortality for many types of cancer, a new [study](#) has warned. The findings add to a growing concern around the health risks of prolonged exposure to ambient fine particulate matter, researchers from the University of Birmingham and University of Hong Kong said. The study focused on ambient fine particulate matter, or matter with an aerodynamic diameter of less than 2.5 micrometres (PM2.5). For every 10 micrograms per cubic metre of increased exposure to PM2.5, the risk of dying from any cancer rose by 22 per cent.

[The Times of India](#),... 17 April 2016 | [Dataquest](#), 22 April 2016 | [Business Standard](#), 30 April 2016 | [Hindustan Times](#), 2 May 2016



**NDMC to set up e-waste, hazardous waste centres.** The New Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC) has adopted the Union Ministry of Environment's Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016, which paved the way for the new collection centres. As per the proposal that was passed at the Council meeting, e-waste and hazardous domestic waste collection centres would be set up at Kautilya Marg, Chanakyapuri, Jai Singh Road, Ashoka Road, Barakhamba Road, Netaji Nagar and Lodhi Colony.

**Waste segregation must in SDMC area.** The South Delhi Municipal Corporation's (SDMC) Najafgarh zone sent a notice to all flats, shops, RWAs and cooperative group housing societies and made it mandatory to segregate waste from May 1. Residents are required to segregate waste into bio-degradable, non-biodegradable and domestic hazardous waste. SDMC trucks will collect kitchen waste daily and dry waste every three days. Non-compliance will attract penalty. SDMC will be organizing composting of kitchen waste in nearby parks, the manure of which will be distributed among residents, the notice said. Mixed waste will not be collected.

**Toxic smoke from Bhalswa landfill chokes city.** Huge plumes of white smoke covered an otherwise clear blue sky in North Delhi on 13 April, as fires fed by garbage at the Bhalswa landfill raged on. Small fires at NDMC's Bhalswa landfill turned into a blaze and fire tenders had to be called in. On 13 April, apart from many smaller fires that can be seen throughout the year, a large cloud of smoke was emanating from the landfill.

**Mumbai: Now, wet waste treatment mandatory for all buildings.** Taking note of the flak it received from the state government, the High Court as well as citizens over the poor waste management system which led to the fire at the Deonar dumping ground, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation has made wet waste treatment mandatory in all buildings in the new development control regulations. Apart from the new buildings, the civic body is also planning to impose the same regulations on existing buildings as well. The owners of all new buildings will have to provide separate coloured bins to collect dry waste including paper,

plastic, metal, glass and wet organic waste and separate ones for safe disposal of hazardous waste. Buildings will also have to allocate a space dedicated for collecting waste before transferring it for recycling or disposal separately.

**Goa to have own biomedical waste treatment facility.** Following Karnataka's refusal to treat Goa's biomedical waste, the Goa government has now decided to treat the biomedical waste generated in the state on its own. The state government has decided to speed up the work of setting up its own biomedical waste treatment facility project at the Kundaim industrial estate, for which the government has already acquired an area of 10,000 square metres of land.

The state government has also accepted the proposal of Hubballi-based operator to treat biomedical waste at the treatment facility at the Goa Medical College and Hospital, Bambolim, by upgrading the facility till the waste treatment facility comes up at Kundaim.

[Indian Express](#), 7 April 2016 | [The Hindu](#), 15 April 2016 | [The Times of India](#), 26 April 2016 | [The Hindu](#), 27 April 2016 | [Goa.com](#), 28 April 2016



**Uttarakhand forest fire spreads, 6 districts worst-hit.** As a major forest fire ravages the forests of Uttarakhand, some experts suggest poor rainfall, El Nino and climate warming as causes, while some others point fingers at miscreants. Fires have also spread to sparsely populated remote hill areas. As on 1 May, forest stretches in Rudraprayag, Pauri, Chamoli, Almora, Nainital and Dehradun districts remained the worst affected.

Latest satellite images show that of the 427 forest fires in Uttarakhand, 70 per cent have been doused, according to the National Disaster Response Force.

The fires in Uttarakhand have been burning for nearly 3 months, destroying close to 3000 acres of forest cover so far.

In the neighbouring states of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, satellite pictures had captured images of active fires. Till 30 April, over 1300 fires were raging across the hilly regions of north India.

**Germany to fund Himachal Pradesh Forest Ecosystem Services Management.** The Himachal Pradesh government has signed an agreement with Germany for financial and technical cooperation for Forest Ecosystem Services Management project. The total outlay of the project was Rs 38 crore and it would come in shape of grant from the German government through the German Federal Enterprise for International Cooperation. The project is aimed at institutionalizing ecosystems approach in forest management in Himachal and the project envisaged capacity building of the Himachal Pradesh Forest Department to take a lead in integrating economic assessment of ecosystem services in planning and decision making. The project would include micro planning in selected pilot villages with ecosystem services approach.

**Three of India's natural world heritage sites face threat from harmful activity.** India's three major natural World Heritage Sites -- the Western Ghats, Sundarbans National Park and Manas Wildlife Sanctuary -- are facing threats from harmful industrial activities like mining, according to a latest survey by World Wildlife Fund (WWF). Activities such as mining, illegal logging, oil and gas exploration threaten 114 out of 229 natural World Heritage sites. While ecology of Western Ghats covering six states -- Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala -- is threatened by mining and oil and gas exploration, Manas Wild Life Sanctuary faces threat from dams and unsustainable water use, the survey [Protecting People Through Nature](#) said. Sundarbans in West Bengal and neighbouring Bangladesh have been hit by various activities including unsustainable water use, dams, wood harvesting, over-fishing and shipping lanes.

[The Times of India](#), 12 April 2016 | [Business Standard](#), 26 April 2016 | [The Times of India](#), 2 May 2016 | [NDTV](#), 2 May 2016