

Enviro Monitor

June 2019

Climate change



- Climate change affects major crops in India
- Maharashtra: World Bank project tries to help farmers cope with climate change
- Mizoram starts campaign on global warming, climate change

Pollution



- Ozone pollution higher in Delhi due to heat wave; poses serious health risk
- India sees dip in soil pollution due to Swachh Bharat

Water stress



- 80% rural India waits for piped water
- Four from India in top 20 water vulnerable megacities
- How government is planning to provide clean drinking water to 1 lakh villages
- Government to start Jal Shakti Abhiyan for 255 water-stressed districts from July 1

Waste management



- Solid waste processing doubles in a year



Climate change affects major crops in India: Study. India's grain production is vulnerable to climate change, say scientist who have found that the yield of the country's rice crop can significantly decline during extreme weather conditions. Researchers from Columbia University in the US studied the effects of climate on five major crops in India: finger millet, maize, pearl millet, sorghum and rice. These crops make up the vast majority of grain production during the June-to-September

monsoon season- India's main grain production period- with rice contributing three-quarters of the supply for the season.

Maharashtra: World Bank project tries to help farmers cope with climate change. A substantial subsidy from a World Bank loan-funded state initiative helps small farmers cope with climate change. The Rs 3800-crore Project on Climate Resilient Agriculture (POCRA), which took off last year, is the biggest of its kind in India, covering 5,000 villages, mostly in Marathwada and Vidarbha. Farmers in these drought-prone areas are among the most vulnerable in India to increased heat—temperatures in the region are projected to rise by up to 3.4°C by 2070—and erratic rainfall. Despite massive investments in irrigation dams, most farms in the state remain rain-fed. The six-year POCRA is aimed at increasing water efficiency and crop yield as well as helping people plan so that when the climatic conditions are bad, the impact is less.

Mizoram starts campaign on global warming, climate change. The Mizoram government has launched an awareness campaign across the State on climate change and global warming. The government took action after a report stated that Assam, Mizoram and Jammu and Kashmir are among the 12 Himalayan States in India that are extremely vulnerable to global warming and climate change. The Mizoram Remote Sensing Application Centre (MIRSAC) and Deputy Commissioners of various districts are organising awareness campaigns involving government officials, NGOs, media persons, academicians, village council leaders and students.

[The Times of India](#), 18 June 2019 | [The Sentinel](#), 27 June 2019 | [The Times of India](#), 1 July 2019



Ozone pollution higher in Delhi due to heat wave; poses serious health risk. Ozone level has increased manifold in the national capital due to severe heat wave this season posing a serious health risk, a recent study has revealed and suggested aggressive control of industrial and vehicular emissions. According to the air quality index (AQI), released everyday by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), ozone is emerging as a dominant pollutant along with particulate matter (PM), especially in Delhi and NCR

areas, according to CSE.

India sees dip in soil pollution due to Swachh Bharat. UNICEF study released on Wednesday claimed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's pet scheme, Swachh Bharat [Clean India] mission, has reduced ground water contamination in many villages while another study by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation said the scheme mobilised around Rs 23,000 crore for creating awareness on sanitation in rural areas. The UNICEF study, based on ground reports from three states — Bihar, Odisha and West Bengal — said that groundwater samples suggested that villages not free of open defecation were 11.25 times more likely

to have their groundwater sources contaminated with faecal matters as compared to open defecation free villages.

[Hindustan Times](#), 6 June 2019 | [Business Standard](#), 19 June 2019



80% rural India waits for piped water. Niti Aayog's 2018 Composite Water Management Index (CWMI) report suggests that this crisis will only worsen. The report says 600 million people in India live in high to extreme water stress and clearly the strained water supply system is susceptible to collapse. In a guidance note, the Central Public Health & Environmental Engineering

Organisation (CPHEEO), the technical wing of the urban development ministry, has noted that 24x7 supply is the global norm.

Only 18% of India's 17.9m of rural homes have tap water.

Four from India in top 20 water vulnerable megacities. In an evaluation of 400 cities globally in 2018 with focus on megacities facing high combined levels of water scarcity — recent and projected drought, Chennai emerged in top position as the city facing the most severe water scarcity and drought. There are four Indian cities in the top 20 megacities with populations above 10 million. Chennai aside, Kolkata ranks at number 2, Mumbai at 11 and Delhi at 15. The study drew on The Nature Conservancy's 'Urban Water Blueprint' and used WWF's 'Water Risk Filter', global water management initiatives. Large cities, mostly located along banks of large rivers, are vulnerable because for the most part, the river-systems are "vastly over-allocated and mismanaged"

How government is planning to provide clean drinking water to 1 lakh villages. The government's rural e-governance initiative — Common Service Centres (CSCs) — will now launch a pilot project to provide clean and safe drinking water in 50 villages, following which it will rope in village-level entrepreneurs (VLEs) to set up water filtration plants in 1 lakh villages in the country. CSC has inked an MoU with the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) for installing water filtration plants in villages. BARC has indigenously developed various water filtration techniques.

Government to start Jal Shakti Abhiyan for 255 water-stressed districts from July 1. The Centre is set to initiate the Jal Shakti Abhiyan to ramp up rainwater harvesting and conservation efforts in 255 water-stressed districts from July 1, in line with the government's promise to focus.

[The Times of India](#), 25 June 2019 | [The Hindu](#), 26 June 2019 | [The Financial Express](#), 26 June 2019 | [The Times of India](#), 27 June 2019



Solid waste processing doubles in a year. Processing of municipal solid waste has more than doubled in urban areas in the past one year, government data show. Till May end, little over 54% of municipal solid waste generated across urban areas had been processed as compared to about 25% a year back. Among all bigger states in waste processing, West Bengal is at the bottom of the list where only 9% of the garbage collected in cities and towns was being processed while Puducherry, Chandigarh, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh reported processing more than 80% of municipal solid waste.

[The Times of India](#), 18 June 2019