State of India’s Environment
Through the eyes of numbers

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State of air

Last winter (October 1, 2023, to January 31, 2024), North and East India remained the most polluted with an average PM2.5 levels of 89.9 µg/m³ and 85.9 µg/m³, respectively. South India recorded the cleanest air.

While Delhi (188 µg/m³) and Chandigarh (100.9 µg/m³) were the most polluted UTs, Bihar (98.3 µg/m³) and Haryana (96.4 µg/m³) ranked highest among states.

Small towns in Karnataka and the Northeast were cleanest in the winter months, with Mysuru the cleanest major city. Bihar and Rajasthan's small cities rivalled large National Capital Region cities in pollution.
State of transport

Between 1951 and 2020, the share of buses in total registered vehicles plummeted from 11.1% to 0.07%.

A quarter of buses operated by 56 state road transport undertakings (SRTUs) are over-aged and require replacement, and only eight SRTUs are profitable.

EV adoption is on the rise, reaching 6.83% of total registrations in 2023-24, up from 2.5% in 2021-22. However, diesel vehicle registrations remain steady at around 11% over the past three years.

Share of EV heavy passenger vehicles in total EV registrations in 2023-24 negligible.
State of waste

Every day, more than 30,000 tonnes, constituting 21% of total municipal solid waste, remains unprocessed in India, eventually ending in landfills.

The number of dumpsites with legacy waste surged in at least 16 states/UTs from 2023 to 2024. Only 17% of India's legacy waste has been dealt with, and plans are underway to address another 26%.

The redressal rate of CPCB's mobile application to report illegal use of plastics has dropped to 19% in May 2024, from 25% in March 2023.
State of biodiversity

In 2022-23, forestland diversion increased by 3.5%, with half occurring in just five states.

Thirteen states experienced a rise in forest fires, notably Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

Elephant deaths surged by 63% due to electrocutions. Although leopard populations grew, over half reside outside reserves.

Crimes under the Environmental (Protection) Act surged by 30.6% from 2021 to 2022. At the current rate, courts will take 34 years, 2 months to clear the existing cases under the Act.
State of agriculture

In 2022, the farm sector witnessed 11,290 suicides, the highest since 2017.

195 major farmer protests occurred across 22 states in 2023 and early 2024, over land acquisition concerns and minimum support price demands.

Despite doubling certified organic areas, organic crop production decreased by nearly 15% over the past three years (2020-21 to 2022-23).
**State of water**

India experienced a **6.5% rise** in micro irrigation (MI) schemes from 2013-14 to 2017-18, but their **overall irrigation potential decreased by nearly 1%**.

**Most MI schemes are privately owned, and among these, 71% are owned by small and marginal farmers.** Half of the MI schemes under individual ownership are funded by farmers' savings.

Although India slightly reduced groundwater dependence in 2023, **17 states/UTs have over-exploited locations** where more groundwater is extracted than the recharge rates allow.
State of employment

The Covid-19 pandemic pushed many back to farming, leading to a growth in agricultural sector employment from 2019 to 2022—the first increase since 2000.

There is an increasing informalisation of the formal sector with 62% of the people working without contracts and social security benefits.

Share of regular and organised sector employment and high-skill jobs in 2022 is highest in southern and western regions.

Nearly 83% of the unemployed population is young, with 66% being educated.
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