

CLIMATE CHANGE AND URBAN AREAS OF INDIA

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While most public discussions on climate change focus on carbon emissions, there are several other causative agents, many of which originate from our growing urban regions. In this article, we first explore what climate change means for urban areas, particularly how extreme weather events affect them. We then look at some of the causative factors: modern sewerage systems, solid waste dumps, refrigerant gases, organic solvents, dust, etc. With examples from cities in India, we discuss how these agents contribute to climate change. To conclude, we reflect that the journey to find alternatives for these causative agents is a difficult one. However, if we understand the inter-relationships between different aspects, we could then re-conceptualize urban spaces as well as our lifestyles, and this effort may bring pleasant surprises.
