

WHO Highlights Environmental Health Concerns Relevant to India

Sand & Dust Storms

- WHO has warned about the growing health impact of sand and dust storms.
 - India's northern belt, especially Rajasthan, Delhi NCR, and parts of Uttar Pradesh, faces frequent storms.
 - Health risks include:
 - Worsening of asthma and COPD.
 - Higher incidence of respiratory infections.
 - Long-term risk of chronic lung disease.
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Household Air Pollution

- Over 25% of the global population still relies on open fires or traditional stoves for cooking.
 - In India, this remains common in rural and tribal regions.
 - Linked health issues:
 - Respiratory illness in women and children.
 - Eye diseases and cardiovascular risks.
 - WHO stresses urgent need for clean cooking solutions and wider LPG/electric stove adoption.
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Green Spaces & Health

- WHO emphasized the role of urban green spaces in promoting mental and physical health.
 - Benefits include:
 - Reduced stress, depression, and anxiety.
 - Encouraging physical activity, lowering obesity and cardiovascular risk.
 - Improving air quality in congested cities.
 - For India, cities like Delhi, Mumbai, and Bengaluru need sustainable urban planning with more parks and tree cover.
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👉 In short: WHO's warning directly applies to India—with dust storms in the north, indoor air pollution in rural households, and lack of green spaces in urban centers all posing major health threats.