

GROWING DRY

26 of 29 Indian states have reported an increase in the area undergoing desertification in the past 10 years. Delhi has registered an alarming 11.03% increase in the same period, primarily due to settlement and other human activities

■ Area under desertification

India average

Area under desertification: **29.32%**
% change*: **0.56**

GUJARAT

Area under desertification: **52.29%**
% change: **0.94**
Major causes: Water erosion, salinity

MAHARASHTRA

Area under desertification: **44.93%**
% change: **1.55**
Major causes: Water erosion, vegetation degradation

TAMIL NADU

Area under desertification: **11.87%**
% change: **0.21**
Major causes: Vegetation degradation, settlement

PUNJAB

Area under desertification: **2.87%**
% change: **1.02**
Major causes: Settlement, vegetation degradation

HARYANA

Area under desertification: **7.67%**
% change: **0.55**
Major causes: Wind erosion, settlement

DELHI

Area under desertification: **60.6%**
% change: **11.03**
Major causes: Settlement, vegetation degradation

RAJASTHAN

Area under desertification: **62.9%**
% change: **-0.29**
Major causes: Wind erosion, vegetation degradation

MADHYA PRADESH

Area under desertification: **12.34%**
% change: **0.1**
Major causes: Vegetation degradation, water erosion

GOA

Area under desertification: **52.13%**
% change: **1.76**
Major causes: Vegetation degradation, water erosion

KARNATAKA

Area under desertification: **36.24%**
% change: **0.05**
Major causes: Water erosion, vegetation degradation

KERALA

Area under desertification: **9.77%**
% change: **0.63**
Major causes: Vegetation degradation, settlement

JAMMU & KASHMIR

Area under desertification: **35.86%**
% change: **1.94**
Major cause: Frost shattering

HIMACHAL PRADESH

Area under desertification: **43.01%**
% change: **4.55**
Major causes: Vegetation degradation, frost shattering

UTTARAKHAND

Area under desertification: **12.12%**
% change: **1.25**
Major causes: Vegetation degradation

UTTAR PRADESH

Area under desertification: **6.35%**
% change: **-1.27**
Major causes: Water erosion, vegetation degradation

SIKKIM

Area under desertification: **11.1%**
% change: **0.04**
Major cause: Vegetation degradation

ARUNACHAL PRADESH

Area under desertification: **1.84%**
% change: **0.21**
Major causes: Vegetation degradation, frost shattering

NAGALAND

Area under desertification: **47.45%**
% change: **8.71**
Major causes: Vegetation degradation, settlement

ASSAM

Area under desertification: **9.14%**
% change: **1.84**
Major causes: Vegetation degradation, water logging

MEGHALAYA

Area under desertification: **22.06%**
% change: **0.71**
Major causes: Vegetation degradation, water erosion

MANIPUR

Area under desertification: **26.96%**
% change: **0.4**
Major causes: Vegetation degradation

TRIPURA

Area under desertification: **41.69%**
% change: **10.48**
Major causes: Vegetation degradation, water erosion

MIZORAM

Area under desertification: **8.89%**
% change: **4.34**
Major causes: Vegetation degradation, water erosion

CHHATTISGARH

Area under desertification: **16.36%**
% change: **0.26**
Major causes: Vegetation degradation, water erosion

TELANGANA

Area under desertification: **31.34%**
% change: **-0.52**
Major causes: Water erosion, vegetation degradation

ANDHRA PRADESH

Area under desertification: **14.35%**
% change: **0.19**
Major causes: Vegetation degradation, water erosion

BIHAR

Desertification: **7.38%**
% change: **0.38**
Major causes: Water erosion, vegetation degradation

JHARKHAND

Desertification: **68.98%**
% change: **1.01**
Major causes: Water erosion, vegetation degradation

WEST BENGAL

Desertification: **19.54%**
% change: **0.59**
Major causes: Water erosion, vegetation degradation

ODISHA

Desertification: **34.06%**
% change: **-0.12**
Major causes: Water erosion, vegetation degradation

* % change is calculated for the periods 2003-05 and 2011-2013
[Desertification and Land Degradation, Atlas of India 2016 by Space Applications Centre, ISRO](#)