

Environment News Futures

62 Crore in India Endured Severe Heatwave in June, Highest Globally: Analysis

By Badri Chatterjee – Jun 28, 2024 09:00 AM IST

Nearly 5 billion people worldwide were affected by climate-driven extreme heat in June, according to panel of scientists

In mid-June, nearly 62 crore (619 million) people in India endured extreme heat conditions aggravated and worsened by climate change, according to an analysis by climate scientists released on Thursday.



A passenger drinking water is silhouetted against the sun on a hot summer day at Jalandhar Cantonment railway station in Jalandhar on June 11, 2024 amid heatwave. (Photo by Shammi MEHRA / AFP) (AFP)

India topped the list of countries globally with the highest number of people affected by extreme heat in mid-June, followed by China, Indonesia, and Nigeria, according to a rapid attribution analysis by scientists at Climate Central, an independent group of scientists and communicators who research and report on the impacts of climate change and how it affects people's lives.

Northwest India, especially Rajasthan, New Delhi, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Bihar, were the worst affected due to high heat stress hours during June. Doctors noted a disturbing trend of

labourers suffering sudden cardiac arrest despite having no history of high lipid profiles, high blood pressure, or diabetes.

Underwater Robots Reach New Depths: Unlocking Secrets Crucial to Coral Reef Preservation in India

By Badri Chatterjee – Jul 06, 2024 09:00 AM IST

Equipped with remotely operated vehicles, a team of researchers is exploring mesophotic reefs off the coast of Lakshadweep to combat climate change impacts. Off the coast of Agatti islands in Lakshadweep, a group of researchers have embarked on an exploration to uncover the secrets of uncharted underwater ecosystems. These ecosystems could be key to unlocking new insights into coral biodiversity and developing strategies to combat the devastating impacts of global warming, bleaching, and ocean acidification.



**The ROV in use during initial tests to record coral reef imagery in shallow waters.
(Photo credit: Raheem D.A., REEF)**

Using advanced remotely operated vehicles (ROVs) — uncrewed underwater robots that provide visual and environmental data — the researchers have been exploring the mesophotic coral reefs at depths beyond 40 metres. As against the recreational scuba diving limit of 40 metres from surface waters, the ROVs allowed the team to reach depths of up to 103 metres. This is the first time that an ROV has been used to such depths for conservation research, marking a milestone in marine conservation in India and opening new avenues for understanding and preserving deepwater ecosystems.

“Using ROVs for coral reef exploration at these depths is unprecedented in India,” said Rushikesh Chavan, head of The Habitats Trust. “There is no prior information about these reefs due to their depth. However, we know for sure that reefs exist down there, and these might be critical stock reefs, given that nearly 75% of the world’s coral reefs have bleached this year.”

Baby Beavers Born in City River Delight Residents

14 hours ago

By Yvette Austin, Environment Correspondent, BBC South East • Nathalie Edell, BBC News, South East

Residents and visitors to Canterbury have been treated to the unusual sight of baby beavers swimming in the River Stour. The babies, called kits, are thought to be the first to be born in a wild urban setting in England for centuries.

The semi-aquatic rodents are known as a keystone species because of the enormous impact they have on the wildlife around them.

Sandra King, chief executive officer of the Beaver Trust, said: "It's so exciting to see them here."