

South Asia's Climate Crisis: Extreme Heatwaves, Floods, and Water Scarcity D

Environment · Answer Key · 15 Questions

1. Which South Asian country experienced heavy rainfall and flash floods in April 2024, resulting in 124 deaths and damage to thousands of houses?

- A) India
- B) Bangladesh
- C) Nepal
- D) Pakistan**

2. New Delhi recorded a temperature above 49°C on which date in May 2024, during a severe heatwave affecting parts of India?

- A) May 1st
- B) May 15th
- C) May 29th**
- D) May 31st

3. What is identified as a major contributing factor to the extreme heatwaves and other extreme weather events in South Asia?

- A) Increased industrialization only
- B) Deforestation and urban sprawl
- C) Human-induced climate change**
- D) Lack of regional cooperation

4. According to a report, by what year is India's per capita freshwater availability projected to fall below 1,000 cubic metres, indicating water scarcity?

- A) 2030
- B) 2035
- C) 2025**
- D) 2040

5. What major environmental issue, particularly prevalent in the Indo-Gangetic Plain, affects Pakistan, Nepal, India, and Bangladesh during winter?

- A) Acid rain
- B) Severe air pollution (PM2.5)**
- C) Ozone depletion
- D) Increased seismic activity

6. The Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) region, known as "Asia's Water Tower," has experienced significant snowpack deficits for how many consecutive years as of 2026?

- A) Two
- B) Three
- C) Four**
- D) Five

7. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as a significant source of PM2.5 pollution in South Asia?

- A) Agricultural residue burning
- B) Industrial emissions
- C) Transportation
- D) Volcanic eruptions**

8. In April 2024, TCL Solar signed a Memorandum of Understanding in Pakistan to advance what type of energy solutions?

- A) Geothermal energy
- B) Nuclear energy
- C) Solar energy**
- D) Wind energy

9. What environmental challenge, exacerbated by factors like industrial development and population growth, puts transboundary rivers like the Indus under considerable pressure in South Asia?

- A) River damming for hydropower
- B) Water pollution and scarcity**
- C) Invasive aquatic species
- D) Increased marine traffic

10. A recent study published in Nature Communications warns that by the end of the century, large regions of the planet, including parts of South Asia, may enter an era of persistent what?

- A) Water surplus
- B) Continuous droughts**
- C) Extreme cold spells
- D) Increased biodiversity

11. What specific environmental concern is highlighted regarding Sri Lanka, where animals are reportedly paying the price for overcrowding and speeding jeeps in wildlife areas?

- A) Overfishing
- B) Habitat fragmentation**
- C) Plastic pollution in marine ecosystems
- D) Illegal wildlife trade

12. In Nepal, the warmest and driest winter in a decade (2023-2024) led to a significant increase in what environmental hazard?

- A) Landslides
- B) Forest fires**
- C) Desertification
- D) Glacial lake outburst floods

13. What is identified as the leading environmental risk factor for poor health in Central, South, and Southeast Asia, with limited funding for improvement?

- A) Water contamination
- B) Air pollution**
- C) Extreme noise pollution
- D) Soil degradation

14. According to a World Weather Attribution study, human-induced climate change made extreme heat events in South Asia around how many times more likely?

- A) 10
- B) 30**
- C) 50
- D) 100

15. Which region is facing a "triple water crisis" characterized by too much water (floods), too little water (droughts/scarcity), and dangerously high levels of water pollution?

- A) East Asia
- B) South Asia**
- C) Central Asia
- D) Southeast Asia