



India's First Ecotoxicology Clinic

Recently AIIMS, Delhi, launched a clinical ecotoxicology facility, a first-of-its-kind in India, to investigate increasing cases of diseases resulting from exposure to environmental toxins contaminating water, food and air.

- The new facility will provide diagnostic consultation as well as research services to all the clinical departments dealing with diseases due to ecotoxicity.
- **What is Ecotoxicology?**
 - **It is that branch of science that deals with the nature, effects, and interactions of substances that are harmful to the environment, on ecological entities, i.e. populations, communities or ecosystems.**
 - For example: Ecotoxicology will engage in knowing the origin of unknown factors of a certain rise in the number of cancer cases, even among those who don't smoke.
- According to the **Lancet Commission on Pollution and Health, contaminated water, air and soil are responsible for about nine million early deaths.**
 - About **92% of these deaths** due to environmental toxicity occur in low-income and middle-income countries, which include India.

Source: TH

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