

# Influence of Land Surface Temperature and Rainfall on Surface Water Change: An Innovative Machine Learning Approach

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## Research Article

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# Abstract

Surface water is the world's largest store of consumable water. It plays an important role in sustaining ecosystems and enabling human adaptation to various climate changes. Although surface freshwater is necessary for life, there is a startling lack of understanding in the current literature of the spatial and temporal dynamics of surface freshwater outflow and storage variations across a large country: India. Current studies have several limitations, such as the use of relatively short data series and inappropriate machine learning methods. This study develops an innovative machine learning approach. It uses a long data series to generate a correct understanding of the spatial and temporal dynamics of surface freshwater outflow and storage variations in a large geographical area. Using the JRC dataset, the authors mapped the change in intensity of surface water, performed an analysis of the thematic maps (Indian subcontinent) generated using ArcMap 10.8 from a period of June 2000 to June 2020. The research presented in this paper devised Google Earth Engine in Python API and remote sensing techniques to detect changes in the trends of surface water levels and quantify changing map trends. ArcMap is used for the viewing and editing of Raster images and to perform raster calculations. Values of the attributes are averaged over 13 rivers over the period of 20 years to find the correlation between the decrease in Surface water levels with the rainfall intensity and land surface temperature changes. The authors use the correlation between the parameters to obtain an average R-squared adjusted value of 0.402 with the dependence of surface water change to the independent variables of change in land surface temperature and rainfall intensity. The results of the study provide an improved understanding of the effects of the change in the land surface temperature and rainfall levels or the causes of the decline and changes in the surface waters of India. The innovative machine learning and data analysis approach developed in this study can be applied effectively to other regions of the world.

## 1. Introduction

Surface water comprises less than one-thousandth of a percent of the total water on the planet but still is one of the essential resources because it helps serve many critical functions of human life and for the environment [1][2]. Surface Water is the primary resource of drinking water and for a myriad of other day-to-day things like irrigation, livestock, industrial uses, wastewater treatment etc. Over the past few years, a decline in surface water intensity has been reported in India. Surface Water in India is the heart and soul of the country and has helped in the preservation and growth of the culture, which makes the monitoring of surface freshwaters a high priority task for the betterment of water management and climate research [3][4]. Many factors can be responsible for the decrease in the intensity of surface water, such as population increase, the decline in annual rainfall levels. India sees around 1–2 meter/year decline in surface water every year, and it is important to know the causes to improve the situation. Multispectral and hyperspectral images captured by various remote sensing satellites provide abundant information that can be used to study as well as observe the objects on the surface of the earth. The potential of remote sensing technologies for analyzing natural resources like water has been extensively researched over the past years and still continues to be a pertinent area of research. The vital nature of water makes

it an important topic to study and research in the scientific community. An effective method for studying the quantitative and qualitative changes occurring on surface water bodies over time can be established by utilizing appropriate digital image processing techniques on images taken from remote sensing satellites or aerial sensors. Surface water detection and mapping is a crucial and necessary step in such studies, and different automated and semi-automated methods have been developed over the years for mapping water in remotely sensed images. This research uses remote sensing technologies to analyze the difference in the surface water levels using the JRC Dataset obtained using Landsat Satellite images. Furthermore, his study focuses on 2 major factors to derive the relationship for the surface level changes: (1) Land Surface Temperature and (2) Rainfall Intensity. After analyzing all three factors, the study concludes that the Land Surface Temperature impacts the surface water levels drastically. The places where the increase in land surface temperature are high show a drastic decrease in the surface water level, indicating that global warming plays an important role in the decline. The worst impacted places showed the maximum increase in the land surface temperature and a sharp decline in rainfall levels. Surface Water levels have shown positive changes for places where the temperature remained constant, and this could lead the author to a probable solution to the problem in hand. Surface water levels might improve if steps are taken to normalize the high temperatures due to Global Warming. This can be done by minimizing carbon footprint, decline in the use of greenhouse gases, reducing industrialization, population control, and afforestation. Rainwater Harvesting and proper irrigation practices for storing and utilizing rainwater efficiently are some ways that can help maintain surface water levels.

## **2. Related Work, Limitations, Objectives And Contributions**

Surface water presence varies widely, and various developments worldwide reflect human and environmental forces both directly and indirectly. For the survival of living beings, surface water is necessary and is an ideal predictor of the change of environment. Precise and up-to-date knowledge on the spatial water flow is a cornerstone for various science activities such as mapping surface water inventories, measuring water for drinking purposes and drainage, mapping and modifying land use/landscape. Remote sensing is a fast-expanding technique that provides accurate, low-cost, reliable, and even real-time data gathered for environmental change on the local, regional, and global scale. High-resolution mapping and long-term variations of worldwide surface water are provided by Jean-Francis Pekel et al. [5]. The paper describes in detail the data sets available as part of the global Surface Water Dataset of the Joint Research Centre. It gives an objective, description, and symbology for each dataset for users to comprehend and utilize each dataset effectively and properly [5].

Ahmed Barakat et al. [6] evaluated the environmental effect of the remote sensing, geographical information system (GIS) and fuzzy analytical hierarchy process (FAHP) in the cities in Béni-Mellal, and the neighbouring communities (Morocco) between 2002 and 2016. The usual LULCC dynamics were measured with remote sensing of the picture linked with the GIS. According to Douglas E. Alsdorf, Ernesto Rodriguez, and Dennis P. Lettenmaier, measurements of the inundated area have been used as proxies for discharge with varying degrees of accuracy, but they are successful only when in situ data is available for

calibration; they fail to indicate the dynamic topography of water surfaces, which explains a future satellite concept, the Water and Terrestrial Elevation [7].

With the growth of artificial intelligence and comprehensive data, feature extraction has become a common research subject in recent years. In Landsat scenes with a mixed water pixel on small rivers or shallow water in China, Jiang et al. [8] suggested an automatic method for the retrieval of rivers and lakes by integrating water indices (NDWI, mNDWI, AWEIsh and AWEI<sub>sh</sub>) with digital imaging techniques. Jiang et al. More information on surface water identification, extraction, and tracking with optical remote sensing can be found in the latest study of Huang et al. [9]. Anza Shakeel, Waqas Sultani, and Mohsen Ali took on the complex situation of counting built structures in satellite images. The built-up area segmentation is a more accurate measure of population density, urban area development, and its influence on the environment than building density. For counting built structures in satellite images, they presented a deep learning-based regression approach [10].

Mustafa et al. [11] compared four soft computing techniques, including multivariate adaptive regression splines (MARS), wavelet neural network (WNN), adaptive neuro-fuzzy inference system (ANFIS), and dynamic evolving neural fuzzy inference system (DENFIS), to find the best model for predicting LST changes in Beijing. Topography change was taken into account in the study to correctly forecast LST, and Landsat 4/5 TM and Landsat 8OLI TIRS pictures were utilized to analyze LST variations in the research region for four years (1995, 2004, 2010, and 2015). The effects of numerous variables on delta flood were measured by Yihan Tang et al. The Pearl River Delta (PRD) is one of China's most developed coastal areas, having a dense river network and population. Variable income flood flow, sea-level rising, and excavated riverbeds have significantly impacted the high-water levels reported during the flood season. To measure the influence of these driving variables in the PRD, a technique was devised that included a numerical model and the index R. [12]

Zha [13] proposed an unprecedented method for the automation of the process of mapping built-up areas based on the Normalized Difference Built-Up Index. Conversion of satellite imagery into a land cover map using traditional methods was a lengthy process. The novel method takes advantage of the unique spectral response of built-up areas and other land covers. Built-up areas are effectively mapped through arithmetic manipulation of re-coded Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) and NDBI images derived from TM imagery. The NDBI method was applied to map urban land in the city of Nanjing, eastern China.

Taylor et al. [14] devised a remote sensing method based on multi-satellite data that offers a global estimate of land-surface open water's monthly distribution and size. The results show significant seasonal and inter-annual variability in inundation extent, with a worldwide average maximum flooded area reduction of 6% throughout the fifteen-year period, particularly in tropical and subtropical South America and South Asia. Significant increases in population over the last two decades have resulted in the largest declines in open water, implying a global scale effect of human activities on continental

surface freshwater: denser populations can impact local hydrology by reducing freshwater extent, draining marshes and wetlands, and increasing water withdrawals.

Prigent et al. [15] developed a novel remote sensing approach to estimate the effect of change in population density from 1973 to 2007 on the surface water levels of tropical and subtropical South America and South Asia and saw an inverse relationship between the two factors.

Wolfe et al. [16] enumerates the expansion of Satellite Remote Sensing for Earth Science in the Earth Science Remote Sensing monograph. It also discusses the NPOESS and NPP missions. It gives emphasis on MODIS on board both Terra and Aqua. This monograph has been designed to give scientists and research students with limited remote sensing backgrounds a thorough introduction to current and future NASA, NOAA and other Earth science remote sensing missions.

### **LIMITATIONS OF THE EXISTING LITERATURE**

There are several limitations of the existing literature in the area of this study: First, in the existing studies, the data series are not sufficiently long, and the consequent modelling and forecasting exercises may not be fully reliable for this reason. Remote Sensing data is essential to monitor the global surface water levels, especially now when the in situ data is rapidly declining. The satellite data, along with the information on the time of capture, makes it possible to analyze the change in surface water levels over the years, but researchers are still limited by the availability of adequate long term data. Hydrologic processes are characterized by the frequency with which events of a given magnitude and duration occur. Infrequent but large-magnitude events (floods, droughts) have very large economic, social, and ecological impacts. Without an adequately long record of monitoring data, it is difficult, if not impossible, to understand, model, and predict such events and their effects. Second, another limitation is the inaccuracy of the mapped data performed using deep learning techniques. Surface water mapping using various methods like deep learning has taken place in various previous researches, but many of them show a lot of false positives. These false positives arise mainly from the ice and snow, which is mistaken to be water bodies due to terrain or cloud shadows.

### **OBJECTIVES AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF THIS PAPER**

The objective of the study is to analyze the changes in the surface water levels of India and to integrate the results with the temperature changes in that area along with the rainfall intensity change from the year 2000–2020. The changes will be mapped using ArcMap, and data analysis will be performed.

The structure of the paper is as follows: In Sect. 3, the Area of Interest is evaluated, and datasets are specified. Section 4 reports how the data obtained were processed, and raster maps were generated for further investigation of the relationships. Later on, pixel values of specific water bodies were averaged, and results are reported in Sect. 5. The paper is finally concluded in Sect. 6.

## **3. Specifications**

## 3.1 Study Area

The study area of this work is the Republic of India, a South Asian country extending from latitudes 8°4'N and 37°6'N and longitudes 68°7'E and 97°25'E. It is the second-most populous nation, the seventh biggest by region. The Arabian Sea borders India on the southwest, the Bay of Bengal on the southeast, and the Indian Ocean in the south. India is a water rich country that comprises roughly 4% of the world's water resources (India-WRIS wiki 2015) [17]. Rivers have played a major role in the preservation and growth of India's culture. They are the heart and soul. There are nearly 400 rivers in India. Among them, there are 12 major rivers that contribute the majority of surface water. Other than rivers and canals, some other inland water bodies like brackish water, ponds, and lakes are unevenly distributed in the country, contributing to the surface water bodies. Therefore, the monitoring and estimation of surface water is an essential task. In India, surface water has different characteristics such as varying temperature, turbidity, depth, and vegetation cover, for which remote sensing technology plays a vital role.

A broad range of spatial data has become widely available in digital form in recent years and thus allow modern data-driven processing and analysis approaches to be used. For the purpose of extraction of these images, the authors have used the shape file of the India Continent as shown in Fig. 3.1.1.

## 3.2 Data

Table 3.2  
Description of datasets

S.No	Name of the dataset	Purpose of the dataset
1	JRC Occurrence Change Intensity	Used to capture difference in the surface level occurrence intensity values over the years.
2	MODIS V6	The LST Band of this dataset is used to evaluate the temperature of the land averaged over a month.
3	PERSIANN	Used to measure rainfall intensity

Table 3.2 enumerates the datasets used in the study and the purpose of each dataset used. Each of these datasets is explained further in the following sections.

### 3.2.1 JRC GSW

Joint Research Centre's Global Surface Water (JRC GSW) dataset [18] is a dataset by the European Commission which is one of the first global surface water datasets to attempt to capture the dynamism of surface water extent at a monthly time scale using high resolution (30 m) Landsat data. This dataset consists of various global surface water characteristics at 30 m resolution, including occurrence, occurrence change intensity, seasonality, recurrence, transitions, and maximum water extent. Additionally, monthly surface water extent maps, from which all of the other products are derived, was found in the JRC GSW database.

JRC Dataset gives a monthly surface water extent and is available from 1984–2020. It was designed using the Landsat Data by the European Commission using complex decision trees and includes many layers to choose from. The layer used in this study was the Occurrence Change Intensity and was viewed and evaluated using Google Earth Engine Code Editor in Python API.

The Occurrence Change Intensity map provides information on where the surface water occurrence increased, decreased, or remained the same between 2000–2020. Both the direction of change and its intensity are documented. A difference in water occurrence intensity between two epochs (June 2000 to June 2020) was produced. This is derived from homologous pairs of months (that is, the same months contain valid observations in both epochs). The occurrence difference between epochs was computed for each pair, and differences between all homologous pairs of months were then averaged to create the surface water occurrence change intensity map. Areas, where there are no pairs of homologous months, could not be mapped. The averaging of the monthly processing mitigates variations in data distribution over time (that is, both seasonal variation in the distribution of valid observations, temporal depth, and frequency of observations through the archive) and provides a consistent estimation of the water occurrence change. An example of the Occurrence Change Intensity dataset is shown in Fig. 3.2.1 for Hooghly River.

Increases in water occurrence are shown in green, and decreases are shown in red. Black areas are those areas where there is no significant change in the water occurrence during the 2000–2020 period. The intensity of the colour represents the degree of change (as a percentage). For example, bright red areas show a greater loss of water than light red areas. Some areas appear grey in the maps; these are locations where there is insufficient data to compute meaningful change statistics. The same is explained in Table 3.2.1; the colour code along with its significance is provided.

**Table 3.2.1 Colour Palette Symbology:**

S.NO	TIFF VALUE	GEE VALUE	COLOUR	HEX VALUE	SIGNIFICANCE
1	0	-100		#FF0000	100% Decrease in Surface Water level
2	100	0		#000000	No percentage change
3	200	100		#00FF00	100% Increase in Surface Water Level
4	253	MASKED		#FFFFFF	No water body found
5	254	-128		#888888	Unable to calculate a value due to no homologous months
6	255	127		#CCCCCC	No data available

### 3.2.2MODIS LST V6

Land Surface Temperature(LST) is the key factor in detecting the overall climate change over a long time. The evaluation of LST was done using the Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) Land-Surface Temperature/Emissivity (LST) dataset [19]. The Land Surface Temperature (LST) and Emissivity daily data are retrieved at 1km pixels by the generalized split-window algorithm and at 6km grids by the day/night algorithm. In the split-window algorithm, emissivity in bands 31 and 32 is estimated from land cover types. Atmospheric column water vapor and lower boundary air surface temperature are separated into tractable sub-ranges for optimal retrieval [19].

The MODIS LST Ver. 6 [19] products provide pixel-by-pixel land surface temperature in Kelvin and emissivity. MODIS Land Surface Temperature products were downloaded onto the system as HDF (Hierarchical Data Format) files. The HDF Files were accessed using ArcMap, which showed the Land Surface Temperature of the globe. Land Surface Temperature of June 2000 and June 2020 was obtained and further raster calculations were performed on both the raster files. Raster Calculator that comes with the ESRI Spatial Analyst extension under the ArcToolbox was devised to create a new raster map from the extracted two existing MODIS Datasets. A scale factor of 0.02 was multiplied in the new raster map created. For example, if the data value is 457, multiply it with .02 to get 10.94 Kelvin after the scale factor is applied. An example of colormap shown in Fig. 3.2.2 is an RGB assignment of colours to values which was used in the MODIS Dataset to better visualize the variations in the temperature.

### **3.2.3 PERSIANN**

Rainfall patterns and intensity affect many human activities and natural factors like groundwater, transient water bodies, and surface water. With the increase in global warming, the rainfall patterns and intensity have been altered and shown huge variation over the last few decades, with severe droughts in some regions and floods in others. PERSIANN (Precipitation Estimation from Remotely Sensed Information using Artificial Neural Networks) [20] and [21] computes an estimate of rainfall rate at each  $0.25^\circ \times 0.25^\circ$  pixel of the infrared brightness temperature image provided by geo-stationary satellites using neural network function classification/approximation procedures. Whenever independent estimates of rainfall are available, an update of the network parameters is facilitated by an adaptive training feature. The PERSIANN system was based on geo-stationary infrared imagery and later extended to include the use of both infrared and daytime visible imagery. The PERSIANN algorithm used here is based on the geo-stationary longwave infrared imagery to generate global rainfall.

## **4 Methodology**

### **4.1 Detection of surface water change**

Using the JRC dataset, the authors mapped the change in intensity of surface water, performed an analysis of the thematic maps (Indian subcontinent) generated using ArcMap 10.8 from a period of June 2000 to June 2020. The Water Occurrence Change Intensity data layer provides a measure of how surface water has changed between two epochs: 2000–2020. The layer averages the change across homologous pairs of months taken from the two epochs. Occurrence change intensity is provided in two

ways, both as absolute and normalized values. The absolute values were used, and a raster calculation was performed.

Raster 2 (year 2020) is subtracted from Raster 1 (year 2000) and the output raster values represent the difference between the two rasters on a pixel-by-pixel basis. Figure 4.1.1, between June 2000 and June 2020, indicates occurrences (variations). Over the course of 21 years, the intensity with which incidence grew or decreased demonstrates gains, losses, and consistency in persistence. The red pixels show the decrease in the surface water intensity over the years, whereas the green pixels show the increase in the surface water. The area with no coloured pixels is missing data that could not be used for appropriate calculations. The colour palette symbology is explained in Table 3.2.1 of Sect. 3.

This variance might be seen as an impact because of anthropogenic activities, including urban development, forest degradation, and resource exploitation. A rise in surface water was seen in the Himalayan and the peninsula area of India, culminating due to change in land temperature, melting mountain glaciers in the Himalayan region, excessive rainfall in the peninsula and other factors.

## **4.2 Detection of changes in other factors and causes**

### **4.2.1 Change in Land Surface temperature**

The rise in greenhouse gases from human activity is largely to blame for rising land surface temperatures. Surface water, glaciers, and ice sheets are all affected by rising land surface temperatures. In the study region, where homogeneous and continuous monitoring is difficult owing to expensive and unreliable equipment and variable seasonality, satellite-derived estimates of land temperature are useful to substitute for observations and data. The Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) is a payload imaging sensor built by Santa Barbara Remote Sensing. The instruments capture data in 36 spectral bands ranging in wavelength from 0.4  $\mu\text{m}$  to 14.4  $\mu\text{m}$  and at varying spatial resolutions. For the research, the MODIS dataset was used to analyze the Land Surface Temperature Dataset from June 2000 to June 2020.

As measured in the direction of the distant sensor, the radiative skin temperature of the land surface is known as the Land Surface Temperature (LST). It is calculated using Top-of-Atmosphere brightness temperatures from a constellation of geo-stationary satellites' infrared spectral channels. LST is made up of a combination of vegetation and bare soil temperatures because both react quickly to changes in incoming solar radiation caused by cloud cover and aerosol load changes, as well as daily variations in illumination.

The calculation of the change in Land Surface Temperature over the years started by initially downloading the MODIS Dataset LST Band[11] for both the years June 2000 and June 2020. After obtaining the datasets, ArcMap was used to view the datasets with geospatial references. The datasets were viewed as shown in Fig. 3.2.2. After adding both the datasets into the software as 'Layers', ESRI Spatial Analyst extension under the ArcToolbox was used to create a new raster map with the help of the

two existing MODIS Datasets. Raster Calculator under 'Map Algebra' was used to create the new map, as shown in Fig. 4.2.1. Output raster was saved in the system and was viewed as shown in Fig. 4.2.2 to carry on the research.

These images were produced using ArcMap10.8; Fig. 4.2.2 denotes the land surface temperature of the year 2000 and Fig. 4.2.3 shows the land surface temperature for the year 2020. Table 4.1 explains the colour symbology of the thematic maps.

**Table 4.1 Colour Palette Symbology**

S. No.	Colour	Hex Code	Pixel Value	Temperature Range(K)
1		#D72F27	17273-14862	345.46 - 297.24
2		#FEFFBD	14862-12887	297.24 - 257.74
3		#4675B5	12887 - 0	257.74 - 0

The fluctuation in LST during the 21-year study years is considerable. Some places have had an increase in LST, while others, such as the peninsular plateau, have seen a reduction or no change, as seen in Fig. 4.2.3. Pixel by pixel raster calculation was performed on the two maps given above using ArcGIS 10.8 Software on the land surface temperature values of 2000 and 2020. Figure 4.2.4 is the new raster map created where each pixel value is the difference between the LST in 2020 (Raster 2) and LST in 2000 (Raster 1). Using the formula (i).

$$x_{change} = Raster(Year "2020") - Raster(Year"2000") \quad (i)$$

The purple pixels show high positive differences in the temperature, which means that the value has increased significantly from 2020 to 2000, whereas the light purple pixels show constant temperatures. The white pixels in Fig. 4.2.4 are the negative difference in the temperature levels. This means that the temperature decreased in 2020 as compared to the land surface temperature in the year 2000. Table 4.2 gives the colour symbology of the map.

**Table 4.2 Colour Palette Symbology**

S. No.	Colour	Hex Code	Pixel Value	Temperature Range(K)
1		#5C2C70	17151 - 89	343.02 - 1.78
2		#9A75A8	0 - (-89)	0 - (-1.78)
3		#E5D5F3	(-89) - (-17151)	-343.43

## 4.2.2 Change in Rainfall Intensity

In most landlocked locations, rainfall replenishes subsurface water and transitory water bodies and contributes to surface water. However, the rainfall pattern and intensity have altered dramatically as a result of fast changes caused by anthropogenic activities. Changes in rainfall regimes in the nation are of concern to surface water and the influence of deforestation, increased land surface temperature, melting ice caps, and changes in the carbon and water cycles. The observed tendency toward greater seasonality and a shortening of the rainy season are also explained by intensive land use.

Thematic maps were created for the research period of 2000–2020 after a brief qualitative study of the PERSIANN's ability to recreate the main rainfall regimes in the Indian subcontinent. Changes in rainfall intensity were estimated using the PERSIANN's data as shown in Fig. 4.2.5. Then, the monthly data was averaged to get a normalized result for the two study years. The shape file of India shown in Sect. 3, Fig. 3.1.1 was used to generate the output map.

Regional and interannual rainfall variability is driven by the high uncertainty of ocean-continent surface coupling. In contrast, local spatial-temporal variability is influenced by the great heterogeneity of the structure and intensity of convection associated with evapotranspiration. The increase in the rainfall intensity in the peninsula region could be attributed to the recent cyclone Tauktae in the western peninsula during mid-May 2020 and the early onset of monsoon in June 2020.

**Table 4.3 Colour Palette Symbology**

S. No.	Colour	Hex Code	Rainfall Change (mm)
1		#0001FE	340.17 - 42.0996
2		#02FEFF	42.0996 - 0
3		#FFFF00	0 - (-28.963)
4		#F00100	(-28.963) - (-194.9)

Table 4.3 explains the colour symbology and the change trends in rainfall intensity with dark blue showing a significant increase in the rainfall intensity and yellow and red depicting an overall decrease for a range of value as explained in the table.

## 4.3 Mapping the relation between the surface water and causes.

In the research, the authors analyzed and established a relation between the various discussed causes and factors with the levels of surface water change, i.e., increase, decrease or no change. All the changes were mapped and plotted for visualization, and pixel by pixel raster calculation was performed to map the

changes. A surprising observation was observed that the colour mapping was similar for a few regions such as the western peninsula of India, the Himalayan region and some parts of the east near Bangladesh, as shown in Fig. 4.3.1.

Data was extracted for each of these areas and compared to understand the relation between the given parameters. The increase in the rainfall and decrease in land surface temperature saw an increase in net overall surface water levels. Similarly, a decrease in rainfall or increase in land surface temperature corresponded to a decrease in the surface water levels. The authors also mapped various water bodies in the study region as shown in Fig. 4.3.2. 13 water bodies, namely Ganges, Savitri River, Hooghly River, Krishna River, Brahmaputra River, Mahanadi River, Kaveri River, Kollidam River, Godavari River, Netravathi River, Narmada River, Konya River, Dwarakeswar River, Dal Lake were chosen for analysis. The data of these 13 rivers were extracted, and analysis was performed. These water bodies were further used to verify the findings and establish a relation between the various factors discussed in the results Sect. 5.

## 5. Results

The variation of surface water in India has various reasons, and the rationale behind this disparity needs to be further scrutinized. Hence, the authors manifested the ramifications of changes in land surface temperature and rainfall intensity on the levels of surface water. Global warming is known to be one of the biggest reasons for the escalation, like the melting of mountain ice caps in the Himalayas, resulting in a substantial increase in the water levels. Incessant floods in the region during the rainy season and Tauktae, the cyclone which hit the western peninsula during mid-May 2020 result in a significant increase in the surface water. A decrease in the levels of surface water in other areas was observed where land surface temperature increased significantly.

Following the discussion in Sect. 4.3, after generating the per-pixel raster maps for the changes in the various environmental factors, 13 Indian water bodies were selected at random on the map and analyzed closely to find a correlation between the various discussed factors. The green points on the raster image of Fig. 5.1 signify the water bodies that were chosen and analyzed. These rivers were plotted on both the rainfall intensity variation map Fig. 5.1 (a) and land surface temperature Fig. 5.1 (b).

The values were extracted for each of the following rivers. The extracted parameters included latitude, longitude, change in surface water level, change in rainfall intensity in mm, and change in the land surface temperature in Kelvin. Due to large variance in the data, each of these parameters was normalized  $x_{normalised}$  using the formula (ii):

$$x_{normalised} = \frac{x - x_{mean}}{s} \quad (ii)$$

here is the data value for each river,  $x_{mean}$  is the mean of the column or parameter and  $s$  is the standard deviation of each of the discussed parameters. The authors also classified the rivers into red and green

zones i.e., the zone with decrease and increase in the surface water, respectively as explained in Sect. 4. The observations were plotted for all the 13 rivers in Fig. 5.2 and Fig. 5.3, which were divided on the basis of increase and decrease in the surface water.

The results, as discussed, are divided into two main categories for better identification of features and clearer visualization of results. The graph shown in Fig. 5.2 and Fig. 5.3 clearly shows an inverse relationship between the Occurrence change of Surface Water and the Land Surface Temperature, which is also affected by the change in rainfall intensity.

Figure 5.2 shows the graph for the regions where the surface water levels have increased. The vertical axis shows the normalized value for each of the discussed rivers. Godavari River originates from the north western region of India from the state of Maharashtra and is close to the Arabian Sea. A decrease of -0.42 is observed in the land surface temperature along with an increase in surface water of around 0.46 with a slight decrease in rainfall intensity which is nearly 0. This indicates that the surface water shows a positive trend when the temperature of the region is maintained or reduced over the years. Similar patterns were seen for Narmada and Koyna River.

Narmada River is the fifth largest river in India and originates from Madhya Pradesh. Here, a decrease of - 0.9 in Land Surface Temperature is observed and supporting the results, an increase in surface water of 1.31 is observed. The next river in the study was the Koyna River. It is a tributary of the Krishna River. This tributary shows an increase in surface water levels in the western Maharashtra region, and a decrease in the temperature of - 1.02 is also seen when the temperature of June 2000 and June 2020 were monitored using MODIS Dataset. Along with this, a sharp decrease in the rainfall intensity of over - 1.38 can also be seen. Mahanadi River, Netravathi and Kabini River also show the same results as the above and an indirect proportion was observed between the land surface temperature and the surface water level. However, the Brahmaputra River shows a sharp increase in the surface water levels even though the land surface temperature shows a small decrease. This was a different case from the rest of the rivers and was seen as a special case. One possibility of this increase is the heavy rainfall and melting of glaciers in the region. As the Brahmaputra originates from the Kailash Ranges of the Himalayas and the temperature of the origin point in Tibet of the river was observed and showed increase over the years. This temperature increase leads to the melting of the glaciers of the Kailash Ranges and hence could be the reason for the abnormal increase in the surface water levels.

Figure 5.3 shows the rivers where the decrease in Surface water was observed and the temperature and rainfall change intensity. Kaveri River shows an increase in land surface temperature of 4.2 and a decrease in rainfall, which results in an overall decrease in the surface water levels. Kollidam river in the south-eastern region of India and the Dwarakeswar river, a major river in West Bengal, saw a decrease in the net surface water in the 20-year period. The discussed rivers saw an increased land surface temperature by 1.18, 0.56 respectively and a decrease in the rainfall intensity of -0.14 and - 0.51, respectively. This observation aligns with the inverse relationship observed. The example of Dal Lake, from Fig. 5.3 explains that an excessive increase in land surface temperature and a considerable increase

in the rainfall accounted for nearly no change in the surface water level. Dal Lake is found in northern India, and increased land surface temperature also results in excessive melting of snow which in turn results in increase of the surface water level. The Ganges, the largest river in India and the Krishna River found in Maharashtra observed a similar trend like Dal Lake. Despite the increase in rainfall, the increase in land surface temperature was comparably high, resulting in a net decrease in surface water.

The authors also observed that the rivers in Fig. 5.2 correspond to the green coloured areas (increased surface water) of Fig. 4.4.1 in Sect. 4.2 and the rivers in Fig. 5.3 have their latitude and longitudes in the red coloured region of the same figure. This shows that the increase in land surface temperature and rainfall are influential factors in the change in surface water levels of India.

Further, a correlation was established between surface water and land surface temperature and rainfall intensity parameters. The correlation coefficient between the two parameters is a scale-free measure of a linear relationship. Table 5.1 depicts the correlation of surface water with land surface temperature and rainfall intensity change.

Table 5.1  
Correlation of Surface water with Land Surface Temperature and Rainfall Change

Surface Water Change	Impact of Land Surface Temperature	Impact of Change in Rainfall Intensity
Increase in Surface Water	0.19	0.71
Decrease in Surface Water	0.48	0.388

An increase in the surface water is major because of rainfall change which correlates as 0.71 compared to the 0.19 of land surface temperature, but the decrease in the surface water is because of an increase in land surface temperature correlating to 0.48 and 0.388 correlation of rainfall intensity change. These correlation values were used to find the adjusted R-squared value. To find the same, the authors calculated the R-squared value  $R^2$  which is calculated by the formula (iii).

$$R^2 = \frac{(r_{xz})^2 + (r_{yz})^2 - 2r_{xz}r_{yz}r_{xy}}{1 - r_{xy}^2} \quad \text{(iii)}$$

The variable  $n$  corresponds to change in Land surface temperature and  $y$  corresponds to change in rainfall intensity which are independent variables here. Variable  $z$  in the change in surface water which is the dependent variable. This gives the multiple correlation coefficient.  $R_{adj}^2$  is used to calculate adjusted R-squared value using the formula (iv).

$$R^2_{adj} = 1 - \frac{(1-R^2)(n-1)}{n-k-1} \quad (\text{iv})$$

Here  $k$  is the number of independent variables, which is 2 in this case, and  $n$  is the number of data elements. Table 5.2 gives the  $R^2_{adj}$  value which explains a 41% dependence of increase in surface water on land surface temperature and rainfall and the value of 35.9% dependence of decrease in surface water on land surface temperature and rainfall. Both the values are nearly equal, which corresponds to the observations. The average  $R^2_{adj}$  value is 0.402.

**Table 5.2  $R^2_{adj}$  value of surface water change**

<b>Surface Water Change</b>	$R^2_{adj}$
<b>Increase in Surface Water</b>	0.41
<b>Decrease in Surface Water</b>	0.359

## 6. Conclusion

### The research issue and major findings

The authors discussed the relationship between the surface water change with change in land surface temperature and rainfall intensity. Google Earth Engine Code Editor with Python API was used to detect changes in the trends of surface water levels and quantify differences in the map trends between the years 2000 and 2020. ArcMap was used to make raster calculations on the datasets obtained. The study on 13 water bodies across India established that the changes in Surface Water Levels to be the causation of Global Warming, which also results in unpredictable precipitation. The purpose of the research was to relate the change in the land surface temperature and rainfall levels using the geo-stationary satellite data to determine the cause of the decline in the surface waters of India. However, an increase in surface water in certain regions was also observed, which can also be attributed to global warming and the excessive rainfall in western peninsula or melting ice caps in the Himalayan region, leading to flooding of riverbanks and disrupting human activities like agriculture.

The authors also calculated an average R-squared value of 0.402 between the dependent variable (change in surface water) and multi-independent variables (change in land surface temperature and change in rainfall intensity), which will be helpful in mapping other causes for the change in levels of

surface water. This work opens up the possibility of finding more issues in relation to the alteration in surface water levels caused by global warming.

The machine learning and data analysis approach developed in this study has useful greater applicability in other regions of the world.

#### **Areas for further research:**

Progress has been made in the field of remote sensing to monitor various environmental trends over the years to better understand the current state of the globe as well as to predict the upcoming events in order to prevent catastrophic results, but many important research questions still remain unanswered. This research is an initiative that gives priority to perform more research on surface water trends and should be continued to improve the current condition. Further machine learning models can be developed using the previous trends of surface water change with attributes like soil erosion, humidity, temperature and rainfall trends to predict the change in the levels in the coming years and determine the most impactful attributes among these.

## **Declarations**

**Funding** (information that explains whether and by whom the research was supported)

*No funding was received to do this research.*

**Conflicts of interest/Competing interests** (include appropriate disclosures)

*There are no conflicts of interest or competing interests in any form.*

**Availability of data and material** (data transparency)

*Data will be provided if asked.*

**Code availability** (software application or custom code)

*Software will be provided if asked.*

**Authors' contributions** (optional: please review the submission guidelines from the journal whether statements are mandatory)

*All authors have contributed to this paper.*

*Additional declarations for articles in life science journals that report the results of studies involving humans and/or animals*

**Ethics approval** (include appropriate approvals or waivers)

*Not applicable.*

**Consent to participate** (include appropriate statements)

*Not applicable.*

**Consent for publication** (include appropriate statements)

*Not applicable.*

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## Figures

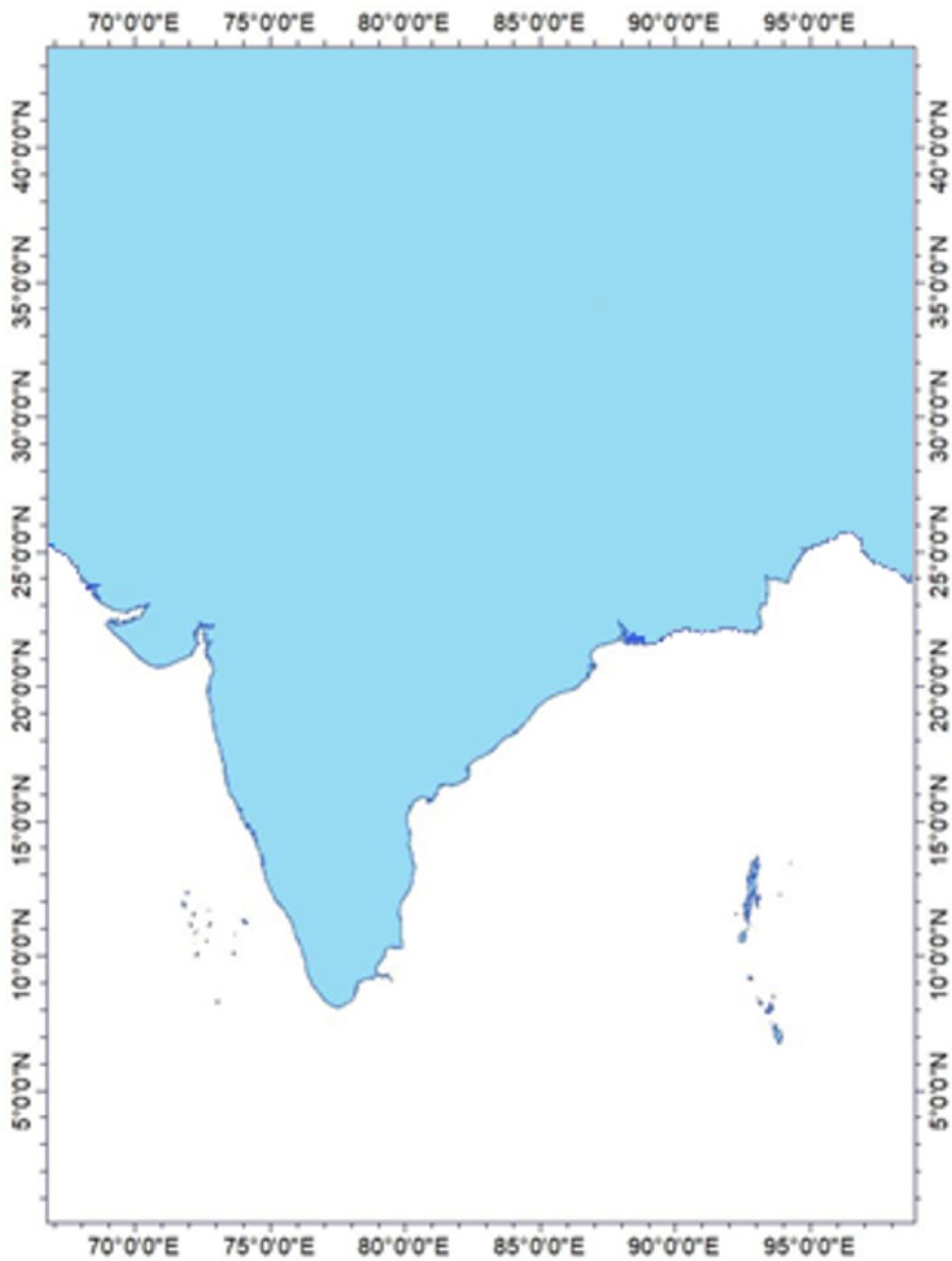


Figure 1

Shapefile of India

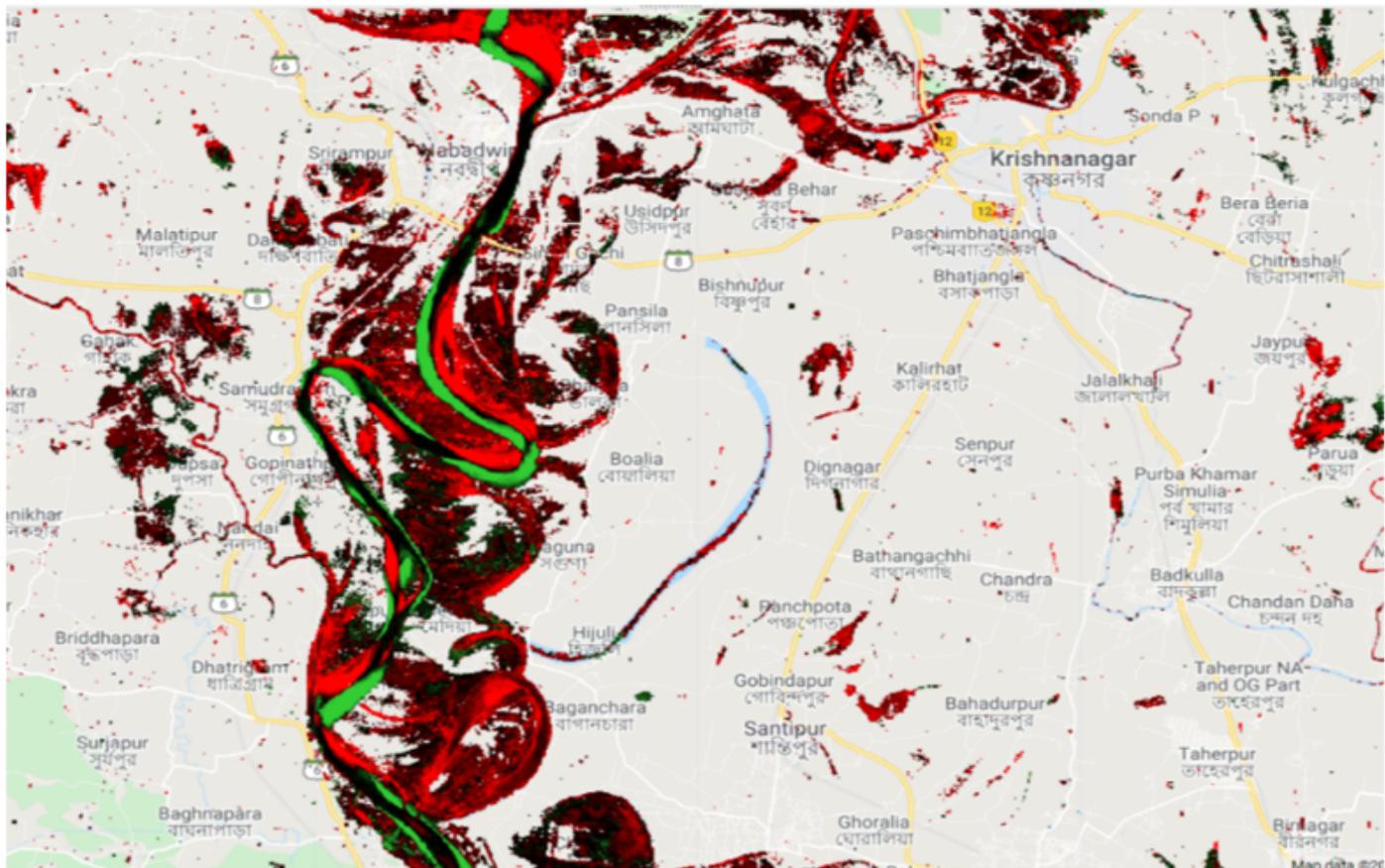


Figure 2

Changes in occurrence of water from 2000-2020 in Hooghly River, Kolkata, India

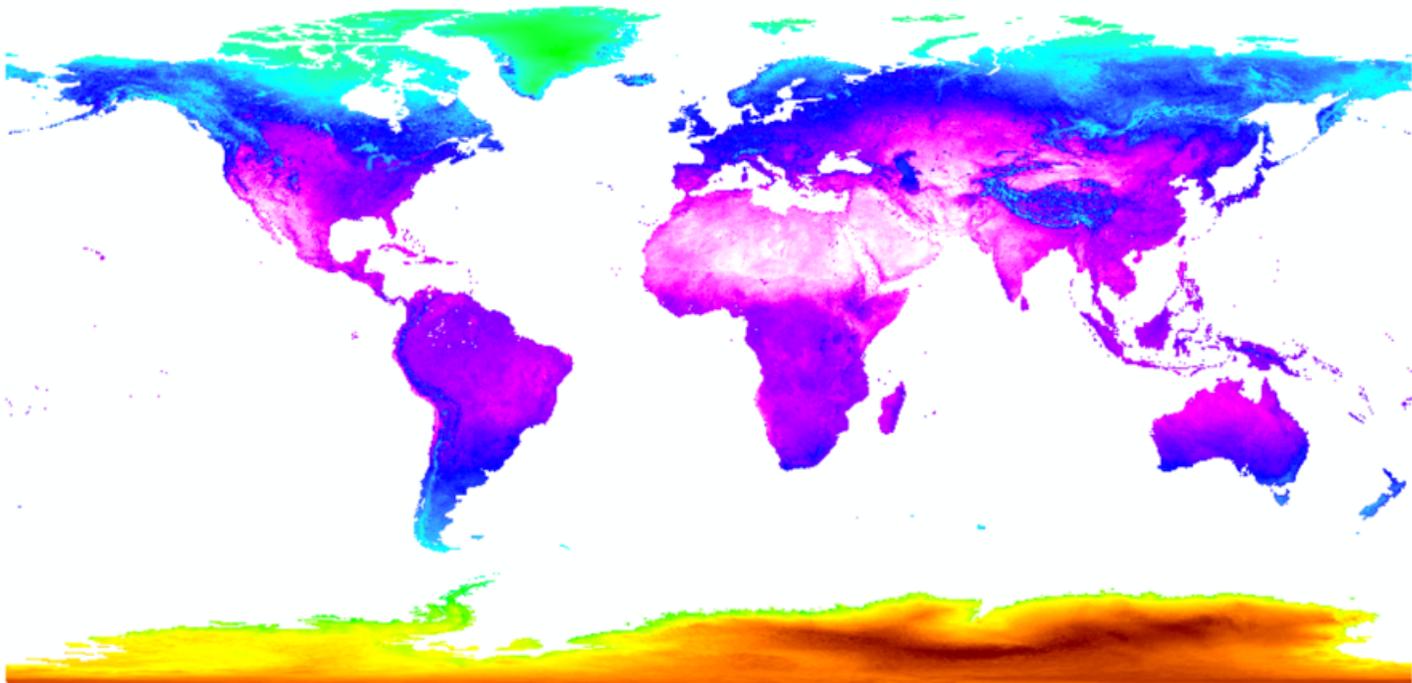


Figure 3

MODIS\_V6 Dataset File viewed in ArcMap

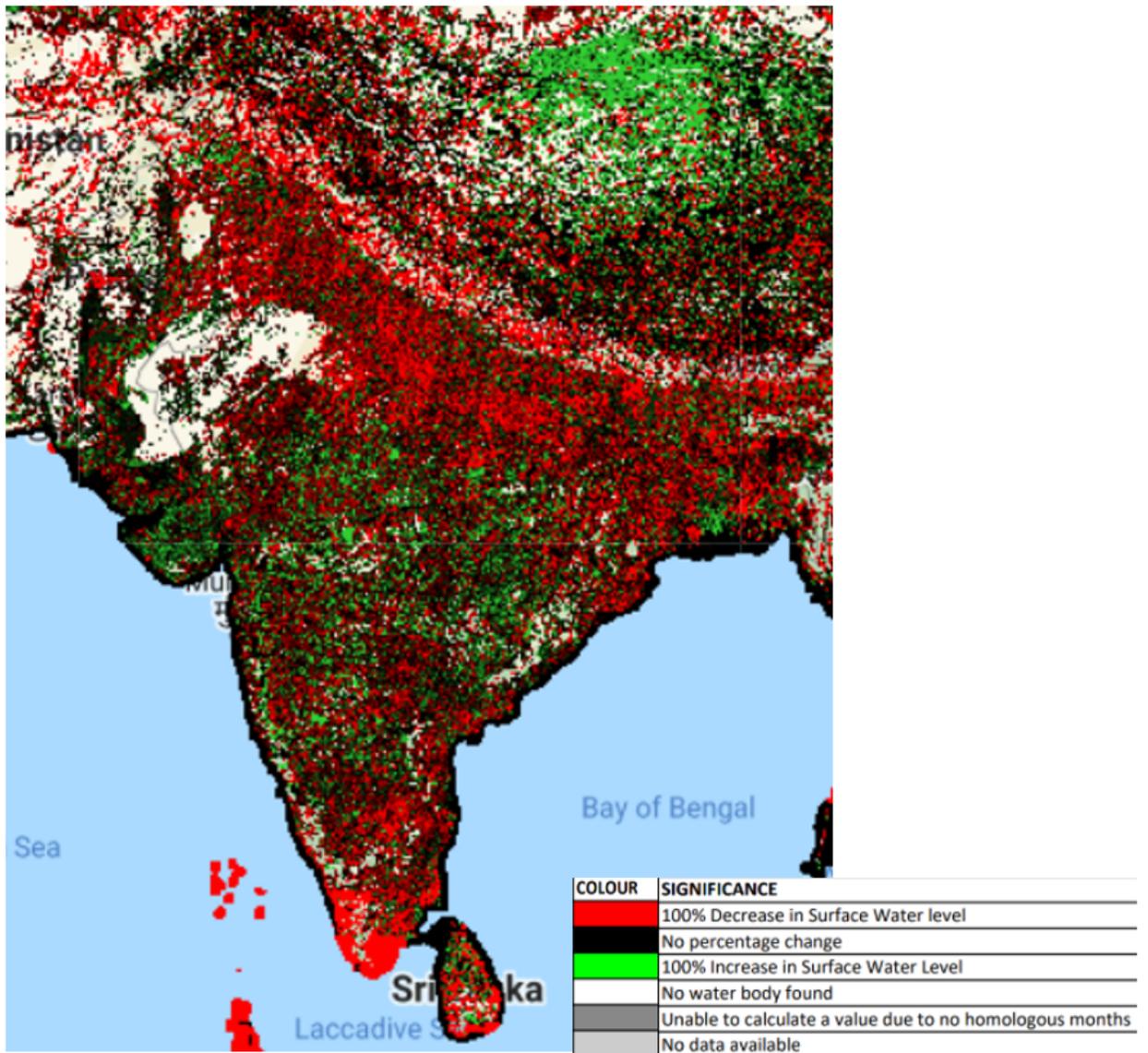


Figure 4

Change in intensity of surface water of India from 2000 to 2020

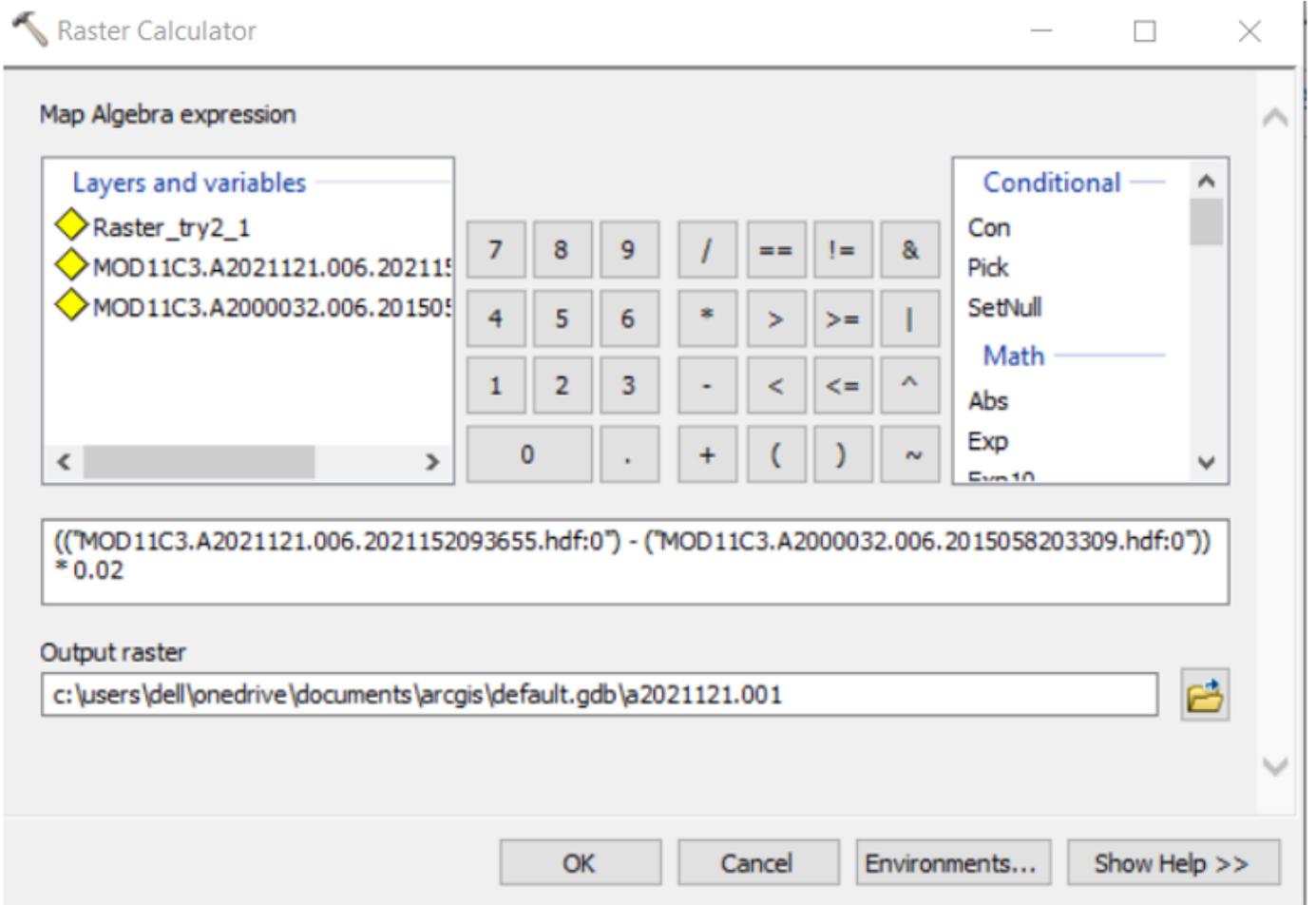
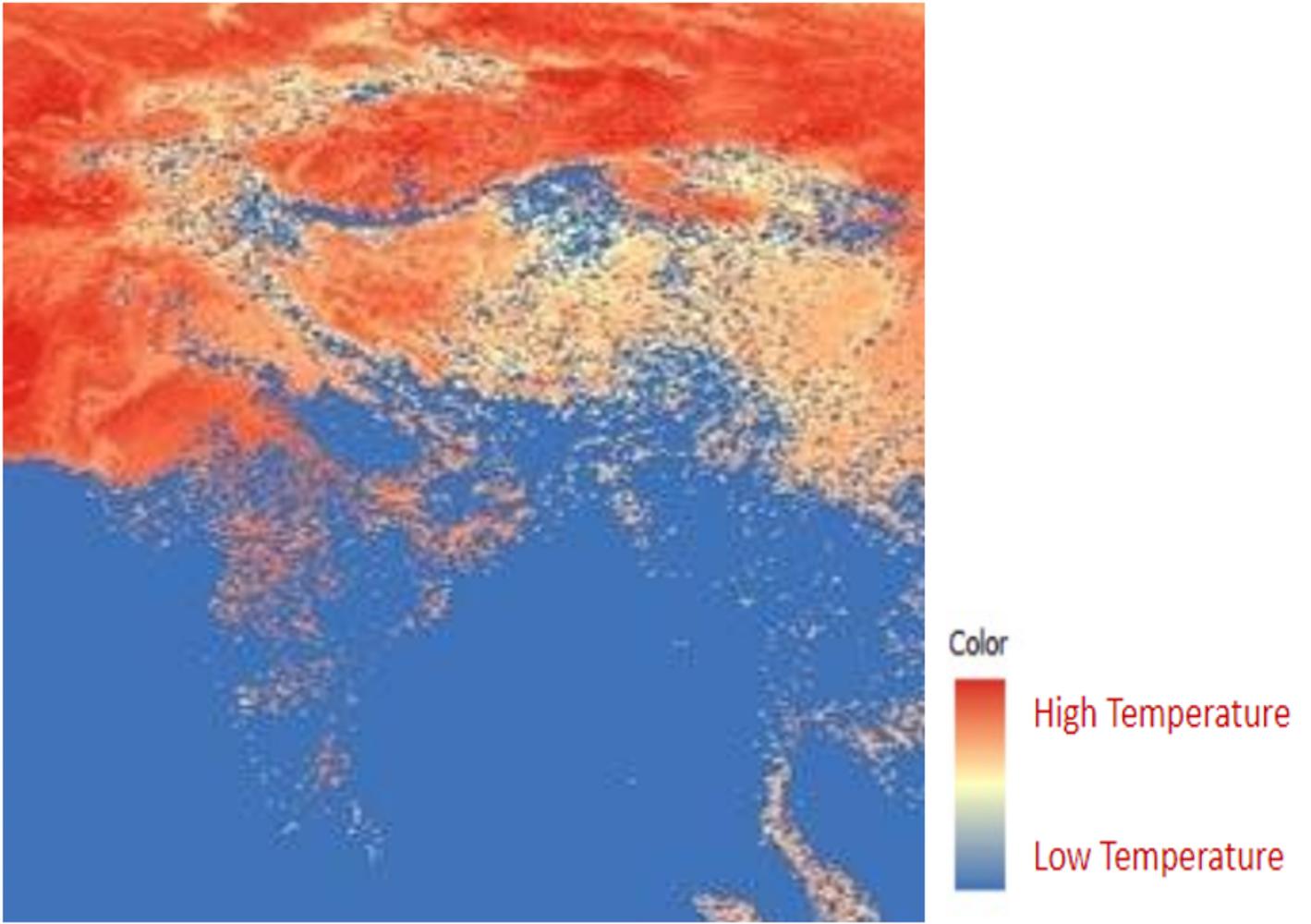


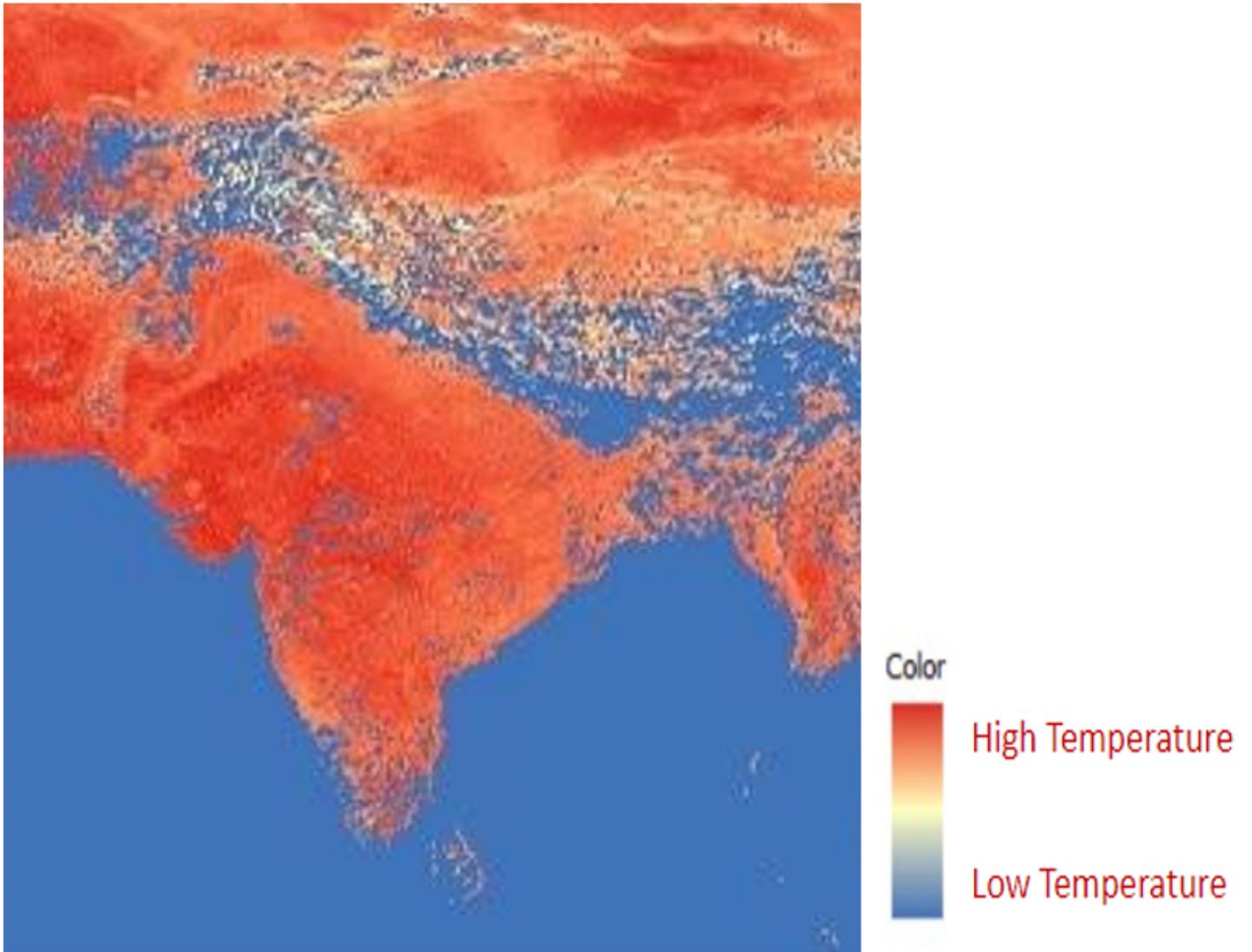
Figure 5

Screen Capture of the Raster Calculation



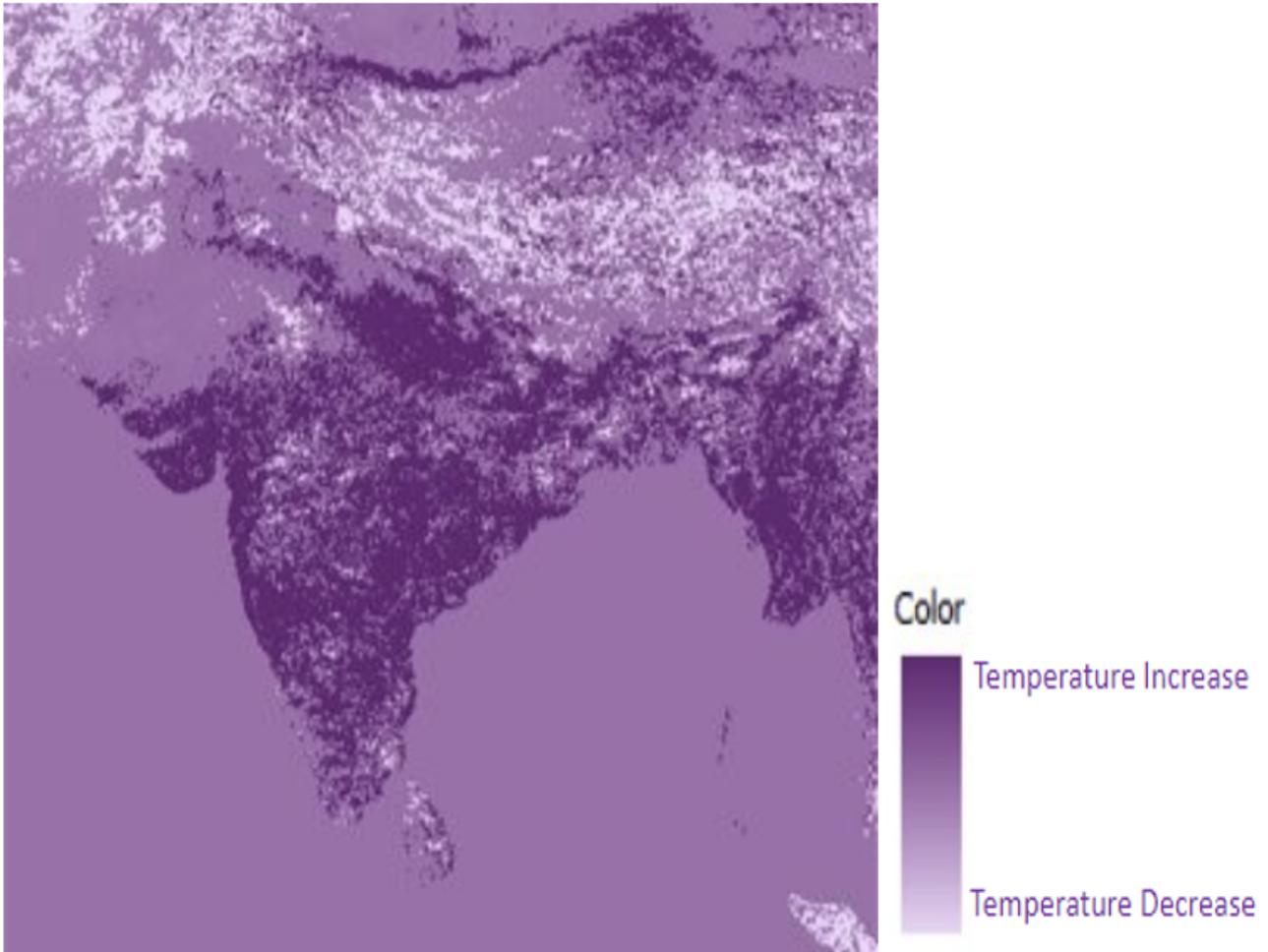
**Figure 6**

Land Surface Temperature, Indian Subcontinent, year 2000



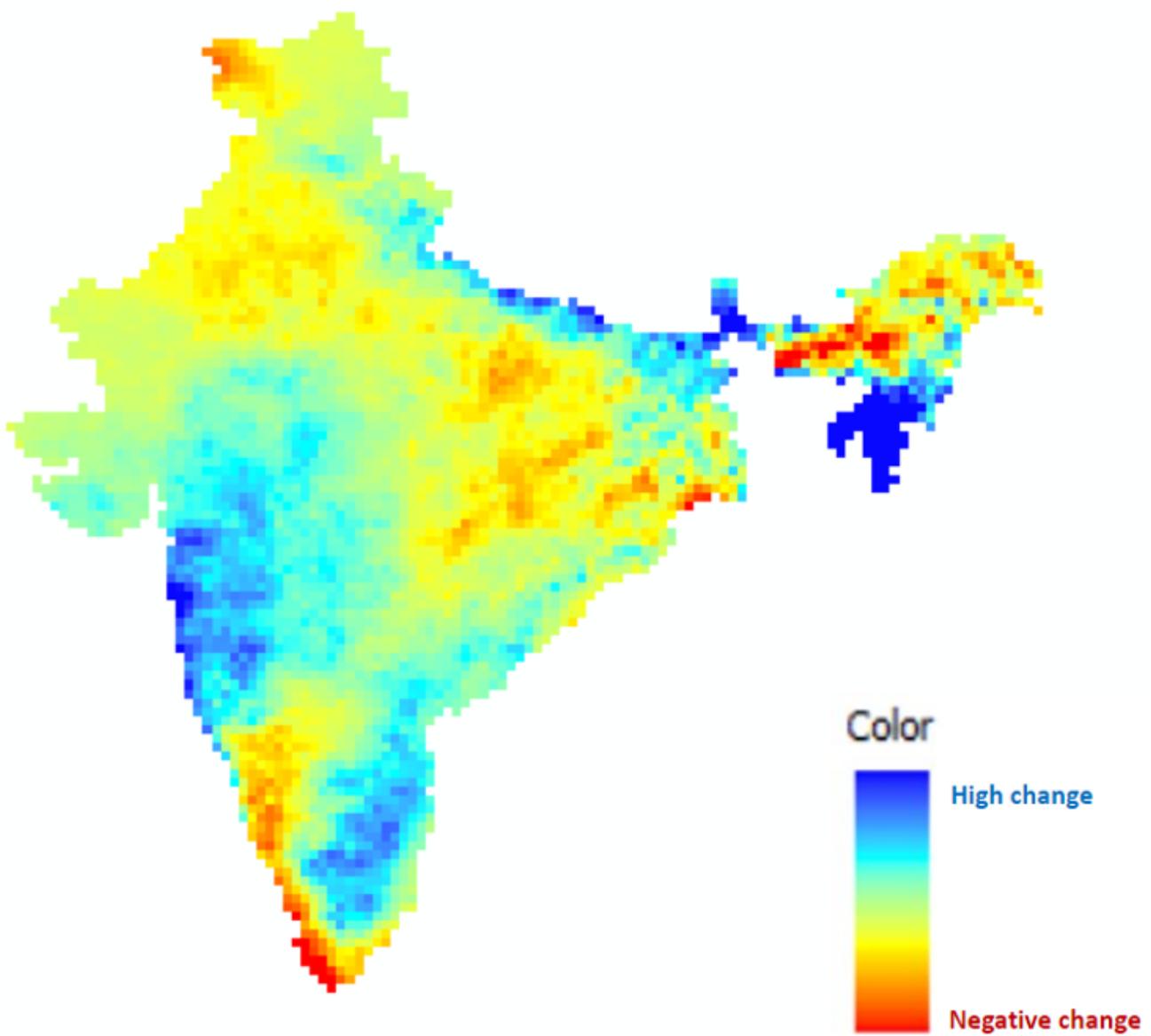
**Figure 7**

Land Surface Temperature, Indian Subcontinent, year 2020



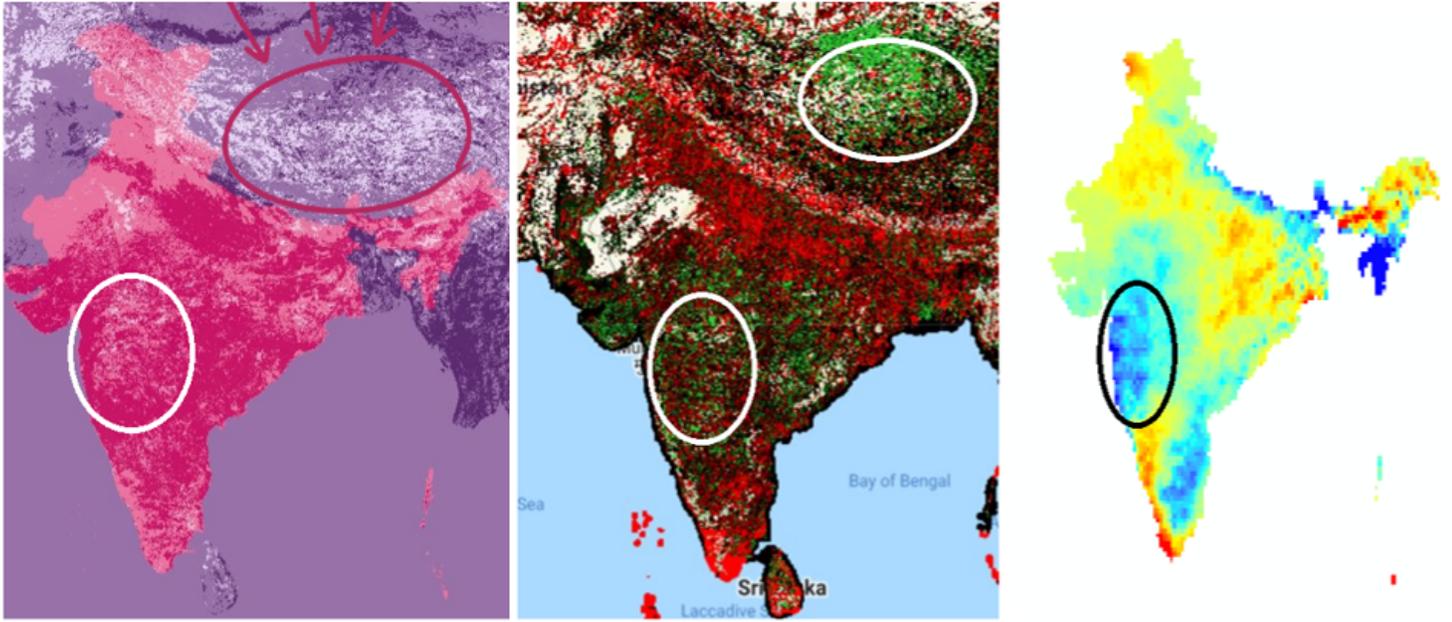
**Figure 8**

Difference between Land Surface Temperatures from 2000 to 2020



**Figure 9**

Difference in Rainfall intensity from 2000 to 2020



**Figure 10**

Comparative analysis of different factors (a) Land Surface Temperature (b) Surface water (c) Rainfall intensity

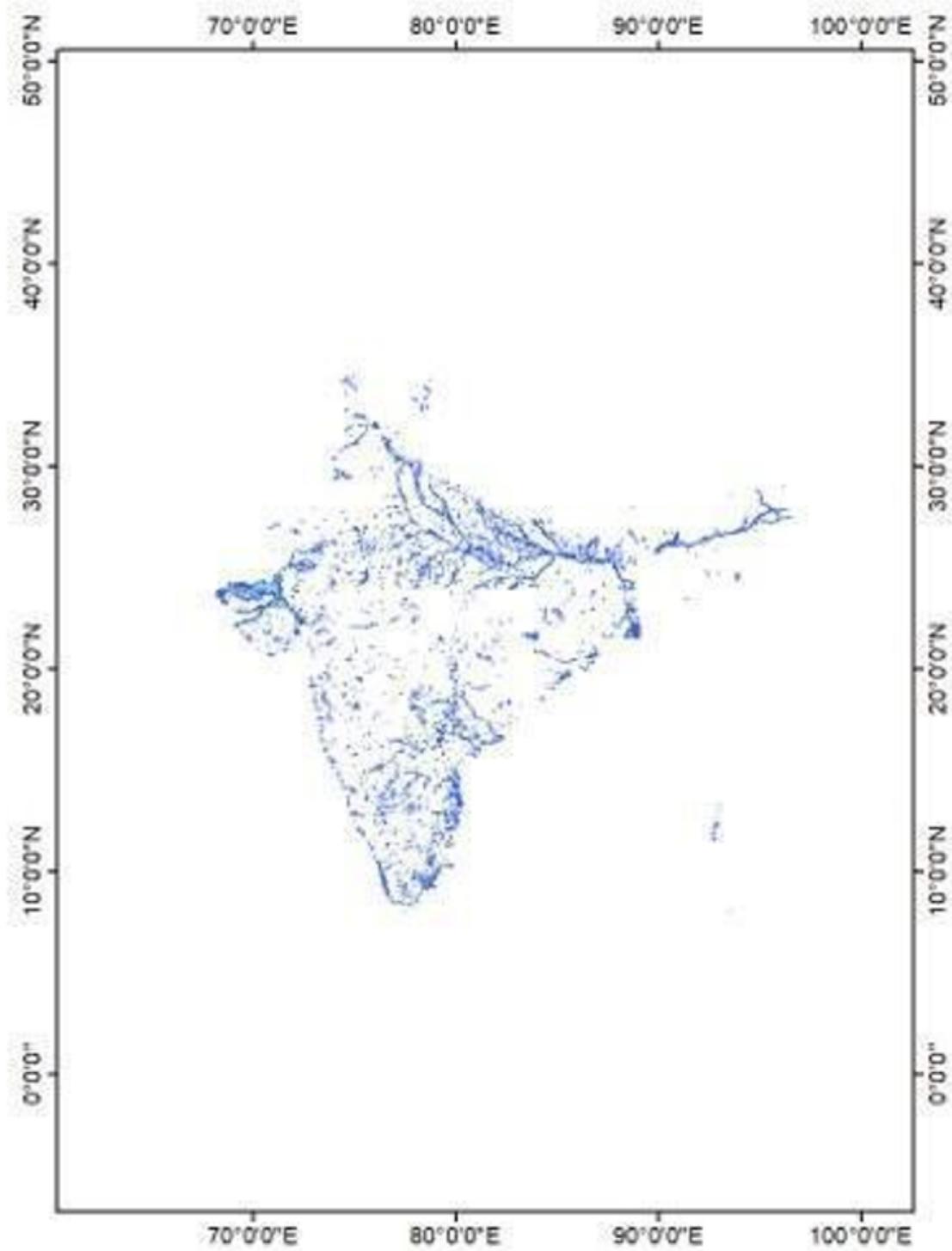
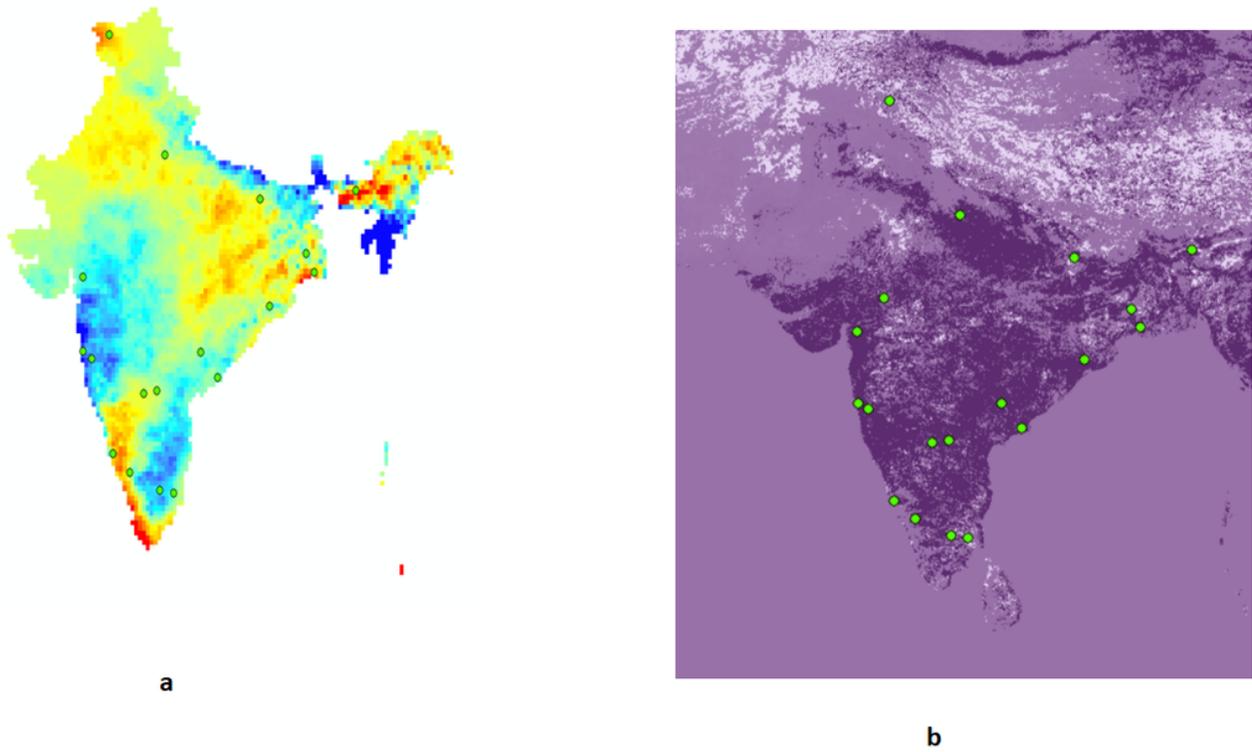


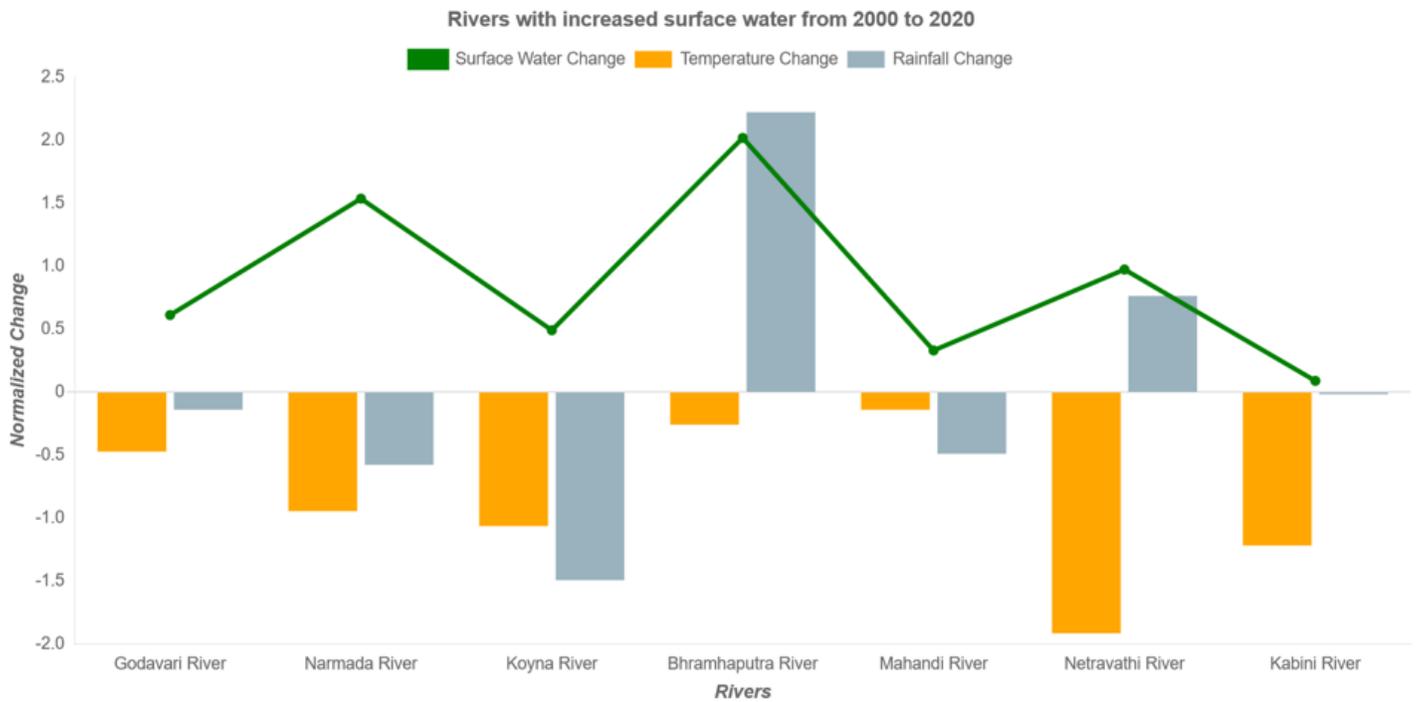
Figure 11

Water bodies and streams detected in India



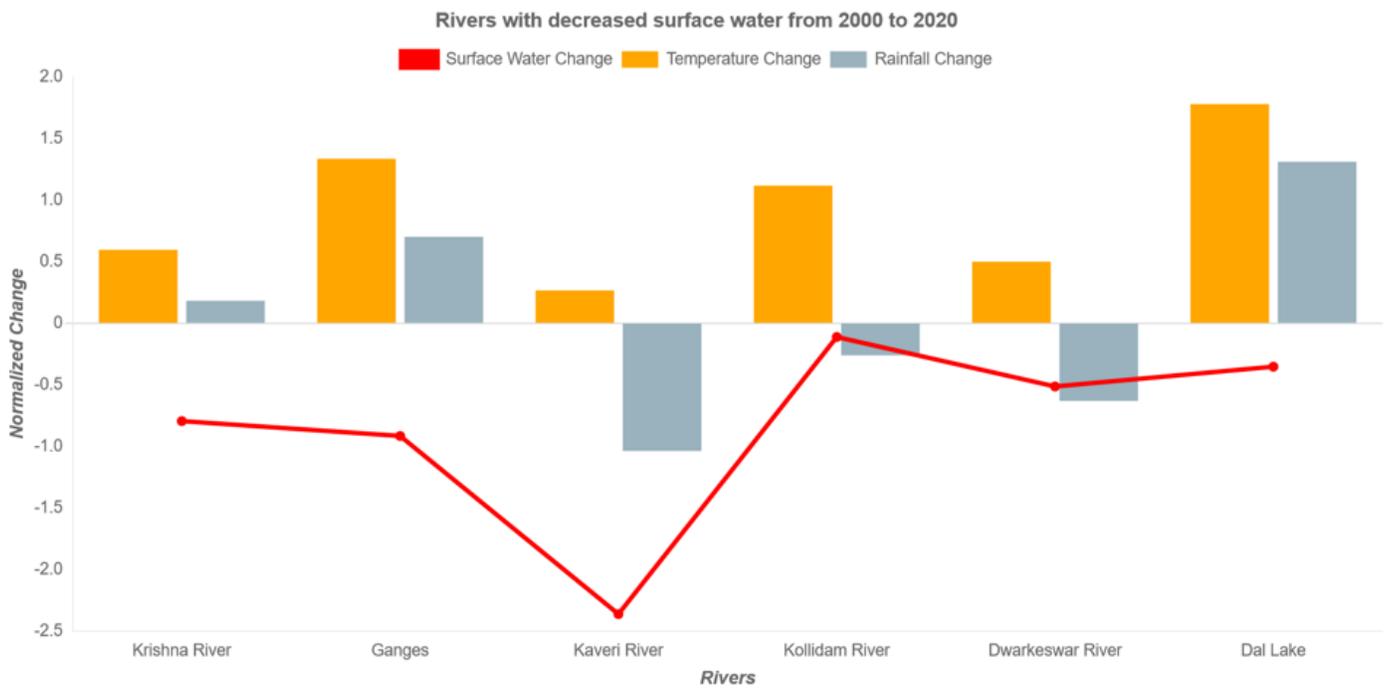
**Figure 12**

(a) Green dots signify 13 water bodies on the rainfall intensity map (b) Green dots signify 13 water bodies on the change in the land surface temperature map



**Figure 13**

## Rivers with increased surface water from 2000 to 2020



**Figure 14**

## Rivers with decreased surface water from 2000 to 2020