

# C-PACT WATER BULLETIN

CPACT's WSP (Water Science and Policy) program presents a monthly news bulletin of the latest news from India and abroad on debates, concerns and events related to water.

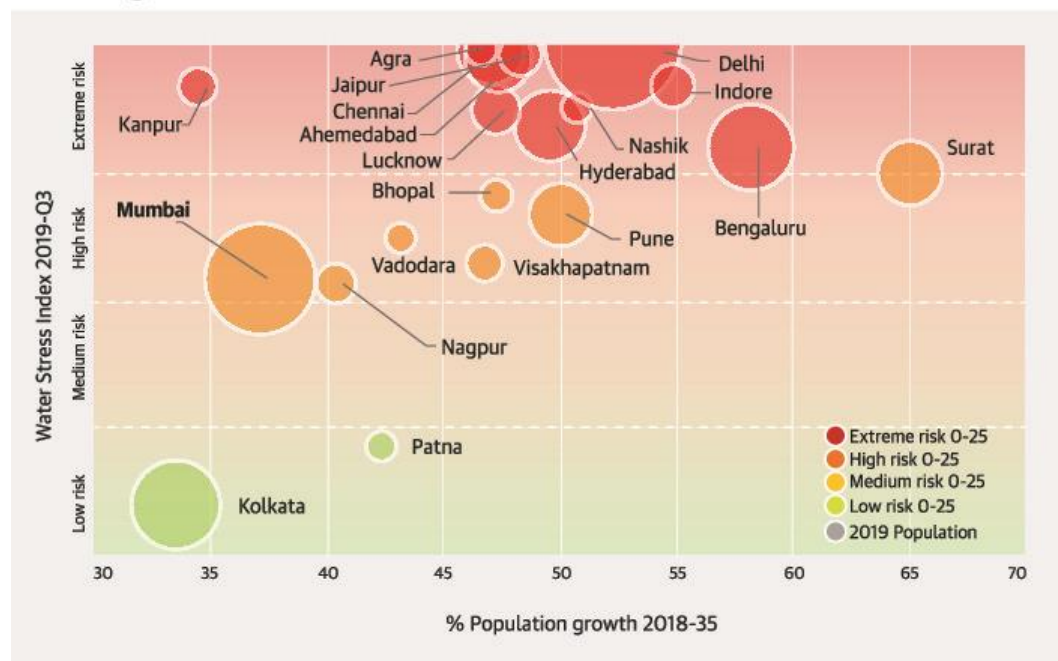
# Urban Water Crisis: Indian Perspective

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‘There is a water crisis today. But, the crisis is not about having too little water to satisfy our needs. It is a crisis of managing water so badly that billions of people and the environment - suffer badly’ states the World Water Vision Report (2000). Furthermore, United Nations reports that the water crisis is caused by insufficient water supply to satisfy basic human needs and growing demands on water resources to meet human, commercial and agricultural needs.

In India today we are witnessing severe urban water crisis because of two primary reasons: demand is increasing for freshwater than its availability, and there is a decline in the availability of freshwater on the surface as well as in the ground water table. The reasons for decline in water quantity and quality in the cities are due to various anthropogenic activities, such as allowing sewage water to drain into various urban water bodies, which results in pollution and contamination, over extraction of underground water, and encroachment of land by closing the wetlands.

## Running out of water



Source: UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, 2018; Versik Maplecroft, 2019

Cities such as Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Kolkata and Mumbai are under pressure to face the ‘Day Zero’ in the near future. As the urban population in India is expected to rise to 590 million by 2030, we anticipate further demand for water and pressure on water sources to also increase. The industrial policies from 1991 paved the way for rapid infrastructure development, which increased the pace of immigration into these cities, and a rise in the demand of water. At the same time, water bodies began to get polluted and encroached, and therefore water resources deteriorated while the cities failed to conserve the water bodies.

A case study of Bengaluru: Historically called the “city of thousand lakes” Bengaluru always had lush green parks, lakes, river and waterfalls, which provided for a moderate climate throughout the year. As the city became the technology-headquarter of India, its population grew and settlements encroached on the green cover. Increasing degradation of water bodies occurred due to the boom in the construction sector, untreated sewage began to inundate the lakes and tanks, and Bengaluru lost over 70% of its green cover, which led to a dip in the water table from 12m to 91m. The city’s population has increased from 4 million in 1990 to 11 million in 2019, with a consistent growth rate of 3.24% every 5 years. Therefore, it is time that the residents and government take necessary steps to conserve water and rehabilitate the city’s water bodies.

The threat of urban water crisis puts forth various challenges and highlight the importance of addressing the issues immediately, through water conservation schemes. We see the need for a shift in the way we manage urban water system through Integrated Urban Water Management. It demands measures for reviving wetlands, installing rainwater harvesting systems, recycling waste-water, shifting industries to peripheries and outside city limits, controlling extraction of groundwater, and also creating awareness of the importance of water and its conservation, through uses of technology, among the residents.

#### References:

1. <http://www.worldwatercouncil.org/fileadmin/wwc/Library/WWVision/TableOfContents.pdf>
2. <https://www.un.org/en/sections/issues-depth/water/>
3. <https://www.basf.com/in/en/who-we-are/sustainability/future-perfect/stories/urban-water-crisis.html>
4. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/bengaluru-has-lost-79-of-its-water-bodies-in-the-past-four-decades/articleshow/63425049.cms?from=mdr>
5. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/bengaluru-pune-among-200-cities-facing-serious-water-crisis/articleshow/63411386.cms>

#### Latest News



#### India water crisis flagged up in global report

BBC News, 6 August 2019.

The anger over water scarcity is palpable at a farmers' protest in Dharodi village in the northern Indian state of Haryana. Thousands of protesters from several villages have been demanding clean drinking water for nearly a month and half now. [Read more at:](#)

**River water disputes Bill: Legislation clears Lok Sabha, minister says tribunals didn't do their job**

*The Indian Express*, 1 August 2019

The Lok Sabha passed the Inter-State River Water Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 2019 with a voice vote on Wednesday. The tribunal will be mandated to deliver the final award in two years. Whenever it would pass an order, the verdict would get notified automatically.

[Read more at:](#)



**New Mexico faces extreme water scarcity on par with the United Arab Emirates. Experts warn more 'day zeros' are looming.**

*Business Insider*, 7 August 2019

Morgan McFall-Johnsen

Sandbars fill the Rio Grande north of Albuquerque, New Mexico. Weather forecasters said sparse rainfall in the US Southern Plains since autumn had caused drought conditions to worsen, especially in the Four Corners region of Colorado, Utah, Arizona and New Mexico.

[Read more at:](#)



**India world's 13th most water-stressed country: WRI**



Down to Earth 8 August 2019

India placed thirteenth among the world's 17 'extremely water-stressed' countries, according to the Aqueduct Water Risk Atlas released by World Resources Institute (WRI). The country is under 'extremely high' levels of baseline water stress, followed by the neighbouring Pakistan.

[Read more at:](#)

**Chief Minister underlines need for water conservation**

*The Hindu*, 8 August, 2019

Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami on Wednesday underlined the need for rainwater harvesting and water conservation. Speaking at the 30th anniversary celebrations of the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) in Taramani, he said waterbodies were being desilted through Kudimaramathu scheme.

[Read more at:](#)



## How to resolve Karnataka water crisis



*Down to Earth*, 9 August 2019.

At the peak of Karnataka's water crisis, the state's deputy chief minister, G Parameshwara, made a desperate suggestion. He said the government was mulling over a moratorium on the construction of new residential complexes in Bengaluru for five years to tide over the water crisis. Experts debate on whether restrictions on construction or population are an effective way to resolve the problem, or are there simpler ways to strengthen water conservation.

[Read more at:](#)

## What Does the Article 370 Decision Mean For J&K's Already Troubled Ties With Water?

*The Wire*, 9 August, 2019

Moving a proposal to abrogate the special status of Jammu and Kashmir, which was guaranteed under Article 370, the Union home minister Amit Shah argued that the move will strengthen democracy and lead to developments in the state.

[Read more at:](#)



## Pilot project for water conservation inaugurated

*The Pioneer*, 10 August 2019



In order to make the national Capital self-sufficient in water, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, along with Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, on Friday inaugurated an underground natural water reservoir to conserve rainwater on the Yamuna floodplain.

[Read more at:](#)

### **Maharashtra reservoirs 70% full, more than last year**

Consistent rainfall in Maharashtra resulted into filling the drinking water supplying major reservoirs speedily. These reservoirs has got almost 70% of rainwater storage against 60% last year. It is 10% more than the last year.



[Read More](#)

### **Floods in Kerala, Karnataka: Relief for flood-hit parts of southern India as water level recedes in many areas**

In major relief for flood-hit areas of Karnataka and Kerala, rains have eased out as water levels reside in some parts of both these states. According to ANI, in Kerala, the weather is holding even though an orange alert in force till tomorrow (Tuesday) as Integrated Defence Staff keep a close watch and review the situation in the state.



[Read more](#)

### **To check floods, government plans law to manage 13 river basins**

In the backdrop of recurring problem of floods and drought in one or the other part of the country, the Centre has planned to manage rivers by adopting basin approach under a law which may help all interstate and central agencies work in a coordinated manner.



[Read more](#)

### **Academic news: scholarships**

#### **ADB-Japan Scholarship Program for Developing Countries in Asia and Pacific**

ADB/Japan Government  
Masters Degree

**Deadline:** varies  
Study in: Asia, Australia, NZ

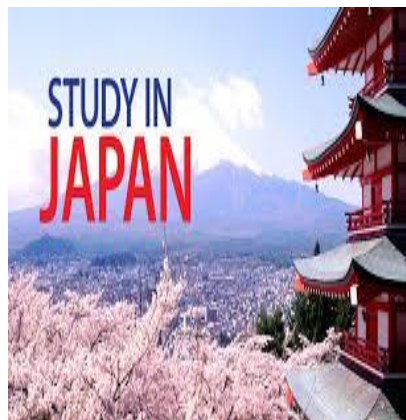


[Read More:](#)

#### **Japanese Government Scholarships for International Undergraduate Students**

Japanese Government  
Bachelor's Degree

**Deadline:** varies per country  
Study in: Japan



[Read more:](#)

#### **Inlaks Scholarships**

Inlaks Scholarships provide the opportunity to young Indian people with exceptional talent in any field to broaden their vision abroad and improve their skills to operate in society, thus making them a future vehicle of change in their environment.



INLAKS SHIVDASANI FOUNDATION  
**Scholarships**

[Read more:](#)

### **Conference/call for papers:**



### **Everything About Water Expo**

August, Thursday 29- Saturday 31

India Exposition Mart Limited, Plot No.  
25, 27, 28, 29 Knowledge Park-||  
Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh

**15<sup>th</sup> EverythingAboutWater  
EXP**  
SOUTH ASIA'S LARGEST WATER EVENT

[Read more:](#)

### **International Groundwater Conference on Sustainable Management of Soil-Water Resources**

October Monday 21 – Thursday 24  
Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee  
Haridwar Highway  
Uttarakhand



[Read more:](#)

### **World Aqua Congress - International Conference**

October Wednesday 30 – Thursday 31  
India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road Near  
Airforce Bal Bharati School  
New Delhi



[Read more:](#)

### **Course/ Training Seminar Workshop/Contest:**

#### **One-day Pre-Conference Workshop Introduction to Water Ethics**



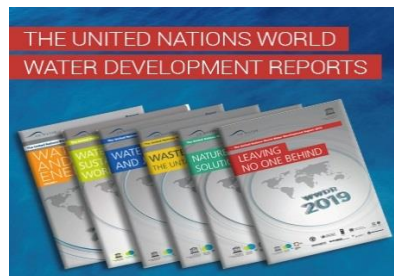
Organised by  
Forum for Policy Dialogue on Water  
Conflicts in India (Pune)  
Water-Culture Institute (New Mexico)  
Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and  
Environment (Bengaluru)

Where? Bengaluru

When? 23 September 2019

[Read more:](#)

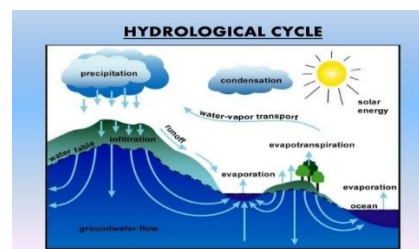
#### **UN World Water Report 2018**



Water is an essential element of life as well as the ecosystem we live in. Without water, life cannot be imagined on Earth. Freshwater comprises only 2-3% of total amount of water found on Earth. Thus, this resource has to be used judiciously. According to UN World Water Report 2018, the global demand for water is increasing at the rate of 1% per year and it will continue to grow in future.

[Read more:](#)

#### **Hydrology & Water Management degrees**



Hydrology and water management deals with global water-related issues such as water quality and water distribution. Hydrology degrees are strongly connected to environmental engineering, but they can also include topics related to policy making and administration of resources. Graduates can become scientific resources managers, hydrogeologists or lecturers.

[Read more:](#)

### **Student Highlights**

WSP MSc (2019-2021) students are visiting local wetlands of Surajpur and Dadri



**For any comments or queries please contact:**

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