



Water scarcity in Indian cities

Why in news?

\n\n

According to a recent official estimate, 22 of the country's 32 major cities are plagued with acute water shortage.

\n\n

What are the inference of the estimates?

\n\n

\n

- There is a rising water crisis in a large part of the national capital region and most of the Indian cities are perpetually water starved.

\n

- Recent studies also ranked Chennai and Delhi at the top of the 27 most vulnerable Asian cities in terms of low per-day water availability Mumbai and Kolkata follow close.

\n

- Apart from mega cities, many fast-growing small and medium cities such as Jamshedpur, Kanpur, Dhanbad, Meerut, Faridabad, Visakhapatnam, Madurai and Hyderabad also figure in this list.

\n

- The demand-supply gap in most of these cities ranges from 30 per cent to as much as 70 per cent.

\n

\n\n

What are the reasons of water scarcity?

\n\n

\n

- The water mismanagement had plagued water supply systems in most Indian cities.

- \n
- Administration gaps, and huge distribution losses also results in water shortage.
- \n
- Traditional sources of water, such as rivers and ponds have turned fully or partly dysfunctional due to neglect.
- \n
- Rivers in the vicinity of cities are degrading due to silting and unchecked inflow of untreated waste, and have been devoured by ever-expanding human habitations.
- \n
- Groundwater which meets over 45 per cent of the total water demand of most cities, is also turning scarce.
- \n
- The quality of underground water has been vitiated by the leaching of toxic pollutants from landfill sites.
- \n
- Neither private builders nor civic authorities appear serious about implementing rain water harvesting.
- \n

\n\n

What needs to be done?

\n\n

- \n
- Water scarcity can be averted with advance planning and better coordination among different agencies.
- \n
- Rainwater harvesting and recycling of used water are among the leading options to alleviate water scarcity in cities.
- \n
- It is vital also to strictly regulate groundwater use by restricting its withdrawal and putting a price on it.
- \n
- Every city with large building and official establishments need to mandate rainwater harvesting systems in place.
- \n
- The compliance of the rain water harvesting mandate must also be checked.
- \n

\n\n

\n\n

Source: Business Standard

\n



IAS PARLIAMENT
Information is Empowering
A Shankar IAS Academy Initiative