

# THE TIMES OF INDIA

## World Water Week (August 26-30, 2019): Putting the Spotlight on India



A boy stores water from a tap at Nidamanuru near Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh  
(Photo: Mahesh G/ TOI,BCCL,VIJAYAWADA)

As representatives from 100 countries meet in Stockholm, Sweden, for the World Water Week conference (August 25-30, 2019) organised by the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI), the Weather Channel puts the spotlight on water management, policy and innovation in India. Read more [here](#).

### **World Water Week: Five Troubling Facts about India's Water Crisis**

This World Water Week, we take an in-depth look at the five troubling facts about India's water crisis, ranging from economic growth and groundwater consumption to extreme rainfall events. Go through the list [here](#).

### **Thefts, Fights and Murder: Water Scarcity is Making Chennai an Angry City**

In June 2019, just as the country began to slowly cool down with the delayed onset of the southwest monsoon, Tamil Nadu continued facing one of its worst water crises. Lack of water

subsequently triggered rise in disputes, violent clashes, and an increased overall violence amongst neighbours. More details [here](#).

### **3 Ms of Water Woes in India: Monsoon, Mismanagement and Massive Urbanisation**

Disruption to Earth's self-sustaining hydrological cycle is enough to herald calamity, especially for an agriculture-driven, high-population economy like India's. This disruption is caused mainly by monsoon, mismanagement and massive urbanisation. Prof Sridhar Balasubramanian explains about these 3 Ms [here](#).

### **Environmental Flow: How River's Share of Water Can Preserve Ecosystem, Promote Well-being**

As per a recent World Wildlife Fund (WWF) study, just one-third of the world's 246 longest rivers remain free-flowing today. As their natural flows are altered—by dams, pollution, obstruction, and diversion—some of the world's great rivers that thrived for millennia are now gradually dying. However, experts think that the concept of e-flows might provide a way out. Continue reading [here](#).

### **Why Cities Need Better Planning, Not Prayers, to Overcome Water Crises**

Indian cities are currently under extreme water stress, and millions remain exposed to droughts or floods, especially in cities, where rampant growth and the lack of urban planning come together in a deadly cocktail. Therefore, urban planning needs to improve, and the unscientific approaches must vanish. Continue reading [here](#).

### **Disappearing Water: These Satellite Images Show Urban Water Crisis**

Amidst India's rapid urbanisation and the increasing water demands of the domestic, commercial, industrial and agricultural sector, we take a look at satellite images that showcase the gravity of the water crisis the country faces. See them [here](#).

### **Water Under Fire: UNICEF Says More Children Die Due to Unsafe Water than Conflicts in War-torn Regions**

According to a new report named Water Under Fire, released by the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), children under 15 are nearly three times more likely to die from diarrhoeal disease linked to unavailability of safe drinking water and sanitation than violence in conflict. More details on the report [here](#).

## **Tête-à-tête with water experts**

**India Needs Central, Unified Water Policy: Samrat Basak, WRI India**

Samrat Basak, Director of Urban Water, World Resources Institute India, talks about the biggest water-related challenges India faces, right from inefficient management of water resources to the absence of a central groundwater policy. Read his full interview [here](#).

### **Recognise That Groundwater is Our Lifeline: Himanshu Thakkar**

Himanshu Thakkar, coordinator of South Asia Network on Dams, Rivers and People (SANDRP), tells The Weather Channel why India's lack of focus on groundwater management and conserving natural systems to recharge aquifers is leading the nation down a dark path. Read more [here](#).

### **Don't Let Water Bodies Fall Prey to Whims and Fancies of Bureaucracy, Says T V Ramachandra**

Dr T V Ramachandra, a senior scientist at the Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, talks about the most significant issue ailing the water sector in India as well as the long-term solutions to tackling this issue. Read what he has to say [here](#).

### **Recognise the Many Roles Water Plays in our Lives: Vishwanath Srikantaiah**

Vishwanath Srikantaiah, a water activist and urban planner, discusses what cities need to be doing differently with respect to water consumption and scarcity, and why a 'people's movement' around water is the need of the hour. Read [here](#).

### **Groundwater Overexploitation is Sad Reality of Modern Agriculture, Says M G Chandrakanth**

Dr M G Chandrakanth, Director, Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC), Bengaluru, explains why he thinks we are not doing enough to sustain groundwater. Overexploitation has become an economic burden on the farming community, he says. Read [here](#).

## **Water Innovators**



As water sprinkles from the top, it freezes and settles below to form an Ice Stupa in Ladakh. (Photo: The Ice Stupa Project ([icestupa.org](http://icestupa.org)))

As the water woes grow, a spark of innovation rekindles our hope. This World Water Week, we highlight some of the most interesting and innovative solutions to water issues across India.

### **Ice Stupas Are the Difference between Greenery and Desert: Sonam Wangchuk**

Sonam Wangchuk, an engineer turned education reformer, talks about Ice Stupas - frozen conical mounds of water that melt during spring and summer to provide water to the neighbouring areas. First built in 2015, the Ice Stupas are now gaining momentum, with several being added every year. More details [here](#).

### **Meet the Firm Transforming ‘Toilet Water’ into Tap Water With Help from Wriggly Little Allies**

Absolute Water, a Delhi-based water recovery management firm, first hit the headlines in 2015, when it built a sewage treatment plant (STP) in West Delhi’s Keshopur for the Delhi Jal Board (DJB). The plant is able to filter enough sewage to produce one lakh litres of clean, usable water a day. And unlike conventional STPs, Absolute’s process seeks to replicate nature’s methods of cleansing wastewater. Read more [here](#).

### **How Bhungroo Saved 1 Lakh Rural Poor from the Vicious Cycle of Droughts and Floods**

In the late 1990s, innovator Biplab Ketan Paul began noticing complex connections between natural disasters like droughts and floods on one hand, and the desperate plight of poor farming communities in Gujarat on the other. To help the farmers, Paul developed a technology to channel and store millions of litres of rainwater into underground reservoirs, called Bhungroo. More details [here](#).

### **This Bengaluru-based Startup Aims to Make Drinking Water Affordable, Not Just Safe**

Estimates suggest that over 16 crore Indians do not have access to safe drinking water. Hence, affordability of water treatment is clearly a priority issue, and one that pricey purifiers alone cannot solve. That's where Bengaluru-based Pure Paani comes in. This firm provides a wide range of water quality solutions. Read more about the startup [here](#).

### **This Bengaluru Startup is Putting the RO-UF Purifier Dilemma to Rest, and Slashing Water Wastage in the Process**

In their pursuit of a water purifier that is both cost and space effective as well as consumer friendly, Bengaluru businessman Vikram Gulecha and his three friends set up India's first smart water purifier company, OCEO. OCEO purifiers have two faucets for RO and UF treated water. Consumers can opt for either based on the TDS level of incoming water displayed on the system. Read more [here](#).

### **'Sponge Cities' and Other Water Innovations That Could Save the World Someday**

Unpredictable rains, rapid land use changes and extended droughts have led to billions of people around the world becoming water-stressed. However, these water-related challenges have spawned new ideas around the globe to help tackle the issues. Take a look at five such innovations [here](#).

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