

Thirsty Cities: How Collaborative Efforts Contribute To Water Conservation

The water storage in the major reservoirs and river basins in the country has dropped less than the average storage recorded in a decade for the corresponding period.

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An acute water crisis in Bengaluru has been creating headlines for the past few days and recently, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said that the city was facing a shortage of 500 million liters of water every day, which is about a fifth of the city's daily total demand.

However, the scarcity is not just Bengaluru's fight; it is a nationwide crisis that is looming over India's urban landscape with restricted water in adjoining areas of Telangana and Maharashtra.

Not just this, there are several major cities which could soon be grappling with water shortages. These cities include Mumbai, Chennai, Lucknow, Jaipur, Bathinda, and Delhi.

According to the data released by Central Water Commission, the water storage in the major reservoirs and river basins in the country has dropped less than the average storage recorded in a decade for the corresponding period.

CWC has recorded a live storage of 56.085 billion cubic meters (BCM), which is 31 per cent of the total live storage capacity of these reservoirs. Last week, the total live storage was 33 percent.

In the first week of April, it was 35 percent as compared to 67.57 BCM for the corresponding period.

The situation is grave in the southern states including Karnataka, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu, having combined live storage of 9.31 BCM.

In the western states such as Maharashtra and Gujarat, live storage is about 33.9 percent of the capacity in the 49 reservoirs, CWC recorded. In the northern states of Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, and Rajasthan, live storage was 32.5 percent in 10 reservoirs.

However, in this worrisome situation, several businesses are involved in maintaining the balance in the environment through their efforts and sustainable practices.

Associations and Consultants

Meanwhile, [Pranay Kumar, Executive Director, REPL](#) said that Investing in infrastructure upgrades, such as decentralized water treatment facilities and grey-water recycling systems, can augment water supply resilience. Collaborating with local governments to enact and enforce water-use restrictions during periods of drought can help manage demand effectively.

He also said that governmental policies play a crucial role in promoting water conservation initiatives by providing regulatory frameworks, financial incentives, and public awareness campaigns.

"One key policy reform is the implementation of tiered water pricing structures, where higher volumes of water usage incur progressively higher rates. This encourages individuals and communities to conserve water by linking consumption directly to cost," he added.

