

The background features a dynamic splash of water in shades of blue and white, with numerous droplets and bubbles. A decorative black border with floral motifs frames the central text.

Day 4 Water

Team Nifty
Delhi University
shivangi.k.chy@gmail.com



Call To Action

26-A
Vasant Vihar
Delhi

5 October 2021

The Honourable Chairman
Delhi Jal Board
New Delhi

Subject: Calling attention to the inadequate supply of clean water to marginalised communities in our area.

Respected Sir

I hope this letter finds you well. I would like to turn your attention to the ever-growing epidemic of the lack of clean water in our city – especially to how it affects the vulnerable more than the rest of us, and is bound to lead to civic and social challenges that we don't seem equipped to handle.

There has been a rapid surge in water pollution due to industrial effluents, sewage, agricultural runoff and other kinds of discharge we make into our primary sources of water. As you're aware, this leads to the amount of chemicals and microbes like bacteria, protozoa, viruses – many of which are chronic disease carrying pathogens. As these detrimental elements degrade water quality – rendering it excessively toxic to humans and the environment at large, we will have a lot of civic strife across the urban centers in the country in the near future. There will be more disease, more shortages, a vastly increased cost of living and diminished quality of life. But I write to you today about sections of our society for whom this future has already become their pleasant reality.

As you well know, around 80% of our river water is severely polluted because raw, untreated sewage, silt, garbage is all dumped in there. This renders our water not merely undrinkable but largely unfit for any kind of use. Still, the privileged among us somehow get by – we have relatively clean water municipally supplied to us, on tap. To make up for the gaps in supply, we install motors, water purifiers and what not, and we comfortably get by.

It's a different picture in the backward areas of Delhi's urban sprawl. Tap water is still a concept which seems like a luxury for them – there is only a communal tap for all residents to draw from. It runs only for an hour or so each day. Government tankers dispatched from time to time to certain neighbourhoods to fill the shortage are hardly enough to meet the quantum of need. Some among the marginalised communities – who inhabit the underbelly of our city like slums, illegal or semi-legal colonies, and other backward housing complexes by the government or otherwise – have no choice but to rely on tanker mafias. Estimates suggest that by 2030, these shady vendors who illegally draw water from lakes, wells and the groundwater table itself, would become prominent. New Delhi is supposed to be one of the posher and upscale parts of our city-state, which houses all arms of our national government. Yet, in parts of Southern New Delhi, the groundwater recedes by about 9 feet annually, on average. The culprit? Illegal drawing by the tanker mafia.

The number of tankers plying on city roads runs into the thousands.

Although these tankers help meet their daily needs in the short term, they are no substitute to clean water reliably supplied. The frequency of waterborne diseases has largely remained unchanged in Delhi over the past decade. Again, the vulnerable are the worst hit.

This is a serious urban crisis. Our city life, our social fabric cannot be sustained like this. This letter is an SOS call from a distressed denizen of the city – an attempt to open the channels of communication. I will not presume to offer any suggestions of my own, as the constituents of your esteemed department are all professionals and domain experts the city relies upon.

If solicited, though, in the future I would be happy to humbly offer some offbeat but effective and sustainable solutions that your department can profit from. Because I hope this is only the first entry in a long line of fruitful and healthy exchange between your office and civic society, represented by folks like me.

Thanking You

Yours Faithfully

Jia Indrani Kapoor

(A concerned citizen)



Calling attention to the inadequate supply of clean water to marginalised communities in your area



Add label



Jia Kapoor 6:23 PM

to djb, niti, secy-cwc, ngo, pal... ^



From Jia Kapoor • ohgodjik@gmail.com

To djb@delhi.gov.in

Cc niti@gov.in
secy-cwc@nic.in
ngo@india.gov.in
palkrishangurjar14@gmail.com
cmharyana@nic.in
letters@thehindu.co.in
advertise@timesgroup.com

Date Oct 5, 2021, 6:23 PM

[View security details](#)

26-A
Vasant Vihar
Delhi

5 October 2021

The Honourable Chairman
Delhi Jal Board
New Delhi

Subject: Calling attention to the inadequate supply of clean water to marginalised communities in your area

INDIA'S INSATIABLE THIRST

Looming Water crisis

As many as 256 of 700 districts in India have reported 'critical' or 'over-exploited' groundwater levels according to the Central Ground Water Board data (from 2017). Ever wondered what makes India's water footprint both unique and challenging?

India has a serious water problem

India is water-stressed due to changing weather patterns and repeated droughts. India withdraws two times the amount of groundwater compared to China, despite having a similar population size, that's 25% of of the world's groundwater

CONTAMINATED WATER SUPPLY ONLY MAKES MATTER WORSE

Around 80% of India's water is severely polluted. Each year, more than 1.5 million Indian children die from diarrhea. Out of the entire Indian population, experts predict that 40% of people may not have a connection to a clean water source by 2030.

WATER CRISIS-A FEMINIST ISSUE

The water crisis is a women's issue and feminists need to talk about it. A rural woman in Rajasthan walks over 2.5 kilometres to reach a water source, according to a report by the National Commission for Women.

Also, according to a non-profit named 'Water', women around the world spend a collective 200 million hours collecting water. In addition to the time spent collecting water, millions may also spend significant amounts of time finding a place to go to relieve themselves.

This makes up an additional 266 million hours lost each day.

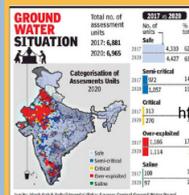
RURAL INDIA IS HEADED FOR CRISIS

Less than 50 per cent of the population in India has access to safely managed drinking water. Chemical contamination of water, mainly through fluoride and arsenic, is present in 1.96 million dwellings. Excess fluoride in India may be affecting tens of millions of people across 19 states, while equally worryingly, excess arsenic may affect up to 15 million people in West Bengal, according to the WHO.

FEASIBLE SOLUTIONS

1. Increased awareness by citizens is crucial.

At the district and state levels, it is important to encourage farmers to choose crops wisely, help to harvest water by using watersheds. At the district and state levels, it is important to encourage farmers to choose crops wisely, help to harvest water by using watersheds,



SOURCES:

<https://www.indiawaterportal.org/>

<https://www.downtoearth.org.in/blog/water/india-s-water-crisis-it-is-most-acute-for-women-78472>

