



Why should we conserve water?	2
Accessibility of fresh water	3
Measures to conserve water	5
Grey to Green	9
Rainwater harvesting	10
Innovative Water Management stories from across the world	12
Activity Sheet	14
Lighten Up Riddles	16
Crossword Puzzle	17
Comic Strip	18
Current Events Updates	20

- BEING WATER-WISE
- MEASURES TO SAVE WATER

# MACVISTA

Macmillan Publishers India Pvt. Ltd.

July-Sept 2018 | [gk.macmillaneducation.in](http://gk.macmillaneducation.in)

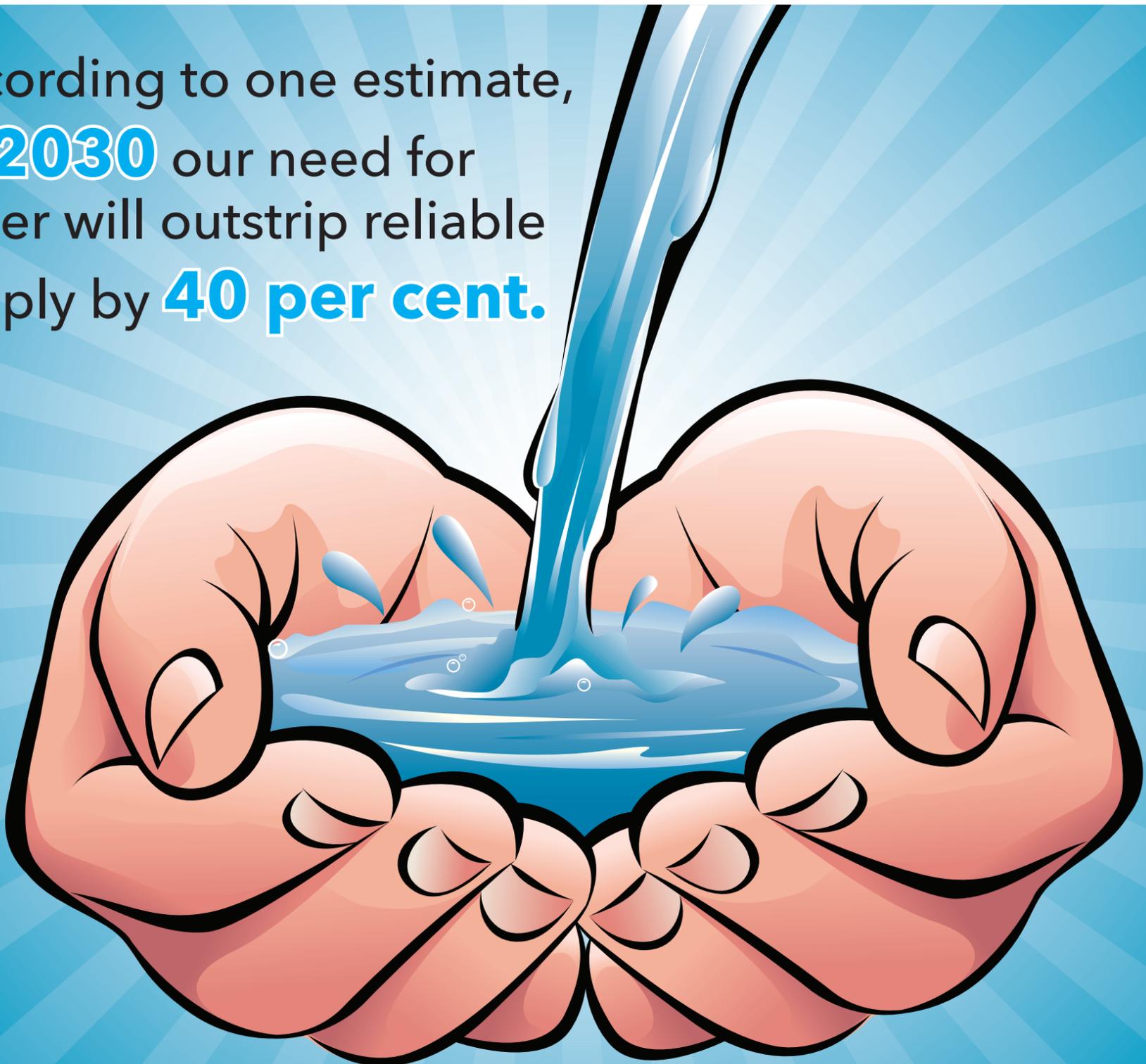
THINK THROUGH IT...

*When the Well is Dry,  
We'll Know the Worth of Water.*

—Benjamin Franklin



According to one estimate,  
by **2030** our need for  
water will outstrip reliable  
supply by **40 per cent.**





# Why should we conserve water?

Water is an indispensable resource on our planet Earth. Think about it! Without water, there would be no plants, no animals, no human beings on Earth. In other words, without water, there would be no life on Earth.

This precious resource is actually abundantly available on Earth. Water found in oceans, seas, rivers, lakes and ponds covers nearly 71% of this planet.

If there is so much water available on Earth, why do we need to conserve it?

We need to conserve water because around 97.5% of the water on Earth is found in oceans. This is salt water which cannot be used by plants, animals and human beings. That leaves less than 3% of fresh water. Of this 3%, around 2% is trapped in glaciers and other ice forms. That leaves less than 1% of fresh water. This 1% includes moisture in the soil as well as vapour in the atmosphere. So, water that is easily available for use is less than 1% of the total volume of water on our planet.

To put it simply, if the entire world's water were to fit into a 1 litre water bottle, the fresh water available to us for use is just around 2 tsp.



## AVAILABILITY OF FRESH WATER



## Accessibility of fresh water

The limited availability of water is further worsened by the fact that the water available for use is constrained by pollution and unequal distribution of water.

### Pollution of water

Water is the 'universal solvent.' What this means is that water has the ability to dissolve more substances than any other liquid on Earth. It is also the reason why water is very vulnerable to pollution. A major factor in pollution of water is the indiscriminate disposal of untreated wastewater.

Surface water, that is, water in rivers, streams and lakes, is polluted by sewage waste from households and industries that flows into it.

Water below the ground, that is, groundwater is no less prone to contamination. Pesticides and fertilisers, as well as waste that is leached from landfills and septic tanks, seep into the ground polluting groundwater.

In fact, cleaning groundwater of contaminants is beyond difficult ... it is nearly impossible!

If you are thinking that this is a problem only in those areas where the groundwater is polluted and unfit for human and animal use, think again. Contamination in groundwater can expand far beyond its source to pollute streams, lakes and oceans.

To have an idea of the scale of pollution of surface and groundwater, check this out:

*Around 80% of global wastewater returns to ecosystems untreated.*

Since what we give is what we get back, it is extremely important to prevent this pollution.



## Accessibility of fresh water

### Unequal distribution of water

While water is required by all living beings, it is not easily and equally available to all. There are three basic reasons for this –



**(1) Geographical reasons** – **Water in scarce** is desert regions while it is easily available in plains. There is more sea water than fresh water in the coastal regions. Water in springs is available in some mountainous regions but the terrain makes it difficult to access water.

**(2) Human-made factors** – These can be viewed under two inter-linked categories –

**(a) Socio-economic** – Ever wondered why there is no water problem in certain parts of the city, rationed supply to water in some other parts, and a limited and erratic supply in yet other parts?

A closer observation will reveal that access to water is in direct proportion to the social and economic stature of the population. However, since water is a universal need regardless of one's social and economic position, the distribution of water should be decided through the consideration of need and the value of equality.

**(b) Climatic variation** – Isn't climate a part of nature? How does this find place under human-made factors?

A major deciding factor in the climate of any region is treatment of the natural resources of that region by the human population. Activities such as draining river-beds for construction activities, deforestation and mining play havoc with the climatic patterns, which lead to droughts as well as floods – both causing human misery.

It is indeed an irony of nature that lack of conservation and management of water not only spells shortage of water but also floods that threaten human life.



## Measures to conserve water

Heard of the rhyme, **Little drops of water make the mighty ocean?**

Similarly, small measures in our day-to-day life can make a big difference in conserving water. Let us look at some of these water-wise measures.



### Save water while brushing teeth and washing hands

You don't need to run the tap and waste water while you are brushing your teeth or washing your hands. Turn off the tap and save a few litres of water. Did you know that a running tap uses as much as 6 litres of water per minute? So if we are spending a couple of minutes brushing teeth and have left the tap running, we have just poured 12 litres of water down the drain. That is the requirement of drinking water of around 6 people in a day. According to a recent report by the World Health Organization, 3 in 10 people do not have access to readily available water at home.



### Fix leaking taps

Leaking taps is another major source of water wastage. Not only does the leak lead to wastage of water, but the puddle that it creates can also become a breeding ground for mosquitoes, causing outbreaks of malaria and other diseases.

Prevent not just loss of water but also a health disaster – call a plumber and get it fixed immediately.



## Accessibility of fresh water

### Drink that glass of water

Every time you pick a glass of water to drink, do you finish it or leave it after a gulp or two?

Around 60-70 per cent of our body is made up of water. It is important to replenish this by drinking sufficient water. Given the scarcity of fresh drinking water, it is equally important not to waste water.

Always pour only the amount of water that you will consume and finish it.



### Load the washing machine

A washing machine that has the capacity to wash around 7 kg of clothes uses around 70 litres of water. Now, if the washing machine is loaded with just 2 or 3 kg of clothes, it will still use 70 litres of water, that is, 35 litres more than required. Imagine the amount of water that is wasted!

We can save water by ensuring that the washing machine is used only when there is a full load of clothes to be washed.



## Accessibility of fresh water

### Being water-wise with plants

Here are some simple measures you can adopt to save water in your gardens.



Water plants early in the morning or late in the evening. These are the cooler parts of the day. Watering plants at this time will prevent loss of water due to evaporation. This will allow the water to run down into the soil and reach the roots of the **plants**

If possible, use a watering can instead of a hosepipe.

If you have a very large garden and need to use a hosepipe to water your plants, don't leave it unattended.

Remove weeds regularly so that watering helps plants, not weeds.

When you come back from school, do not throw away the leftover water in your water bottle. Pour it on a plant.

## Accessibility of fresh water

### Reuse cooking water



Do not throw the water used to boil vegetables or pasta or noodles down the drain. Instead you can cool it and then use it to water your plants.

Not only would you be saving water, you will be giving your plants tonic feed in that water.

### Sweep and mop your way

Clean balconies and pathways with a broom and mop instead of using a hosepipe.

Your bicycle can also be cleaned with a small bucket of water and a cleaning cloth instead of using a hosepipe.



# Grey to Green

## What is greywater?

Greywater is water used in bathroom sinks, showers, tubs and washing machines. It is water that has not come into contact with toilets, dishwashers and kitchen drains.

Of course, greywater is not completely clean. Since it is water that has already been used, it will contain traces of soap, dirt and hair. However, greywater does not contain any toxic chemicals or excrement.

## How is greywater collected?

Each machine or equipment has an internal pump that automatically pumps out the waste water to a large barrel or temporary storage called a surge tank. At the bottom of the drum, the water drains out into a hose that can be used in several ways.

## Uses of greywater

While greywater isn't crystal clear, it is quite safe to use it to water the lawn, wash cars and flush toilets.

Greywater can also be used in gardens as long as the water doesn't come into contact with the vegetables on the plant.

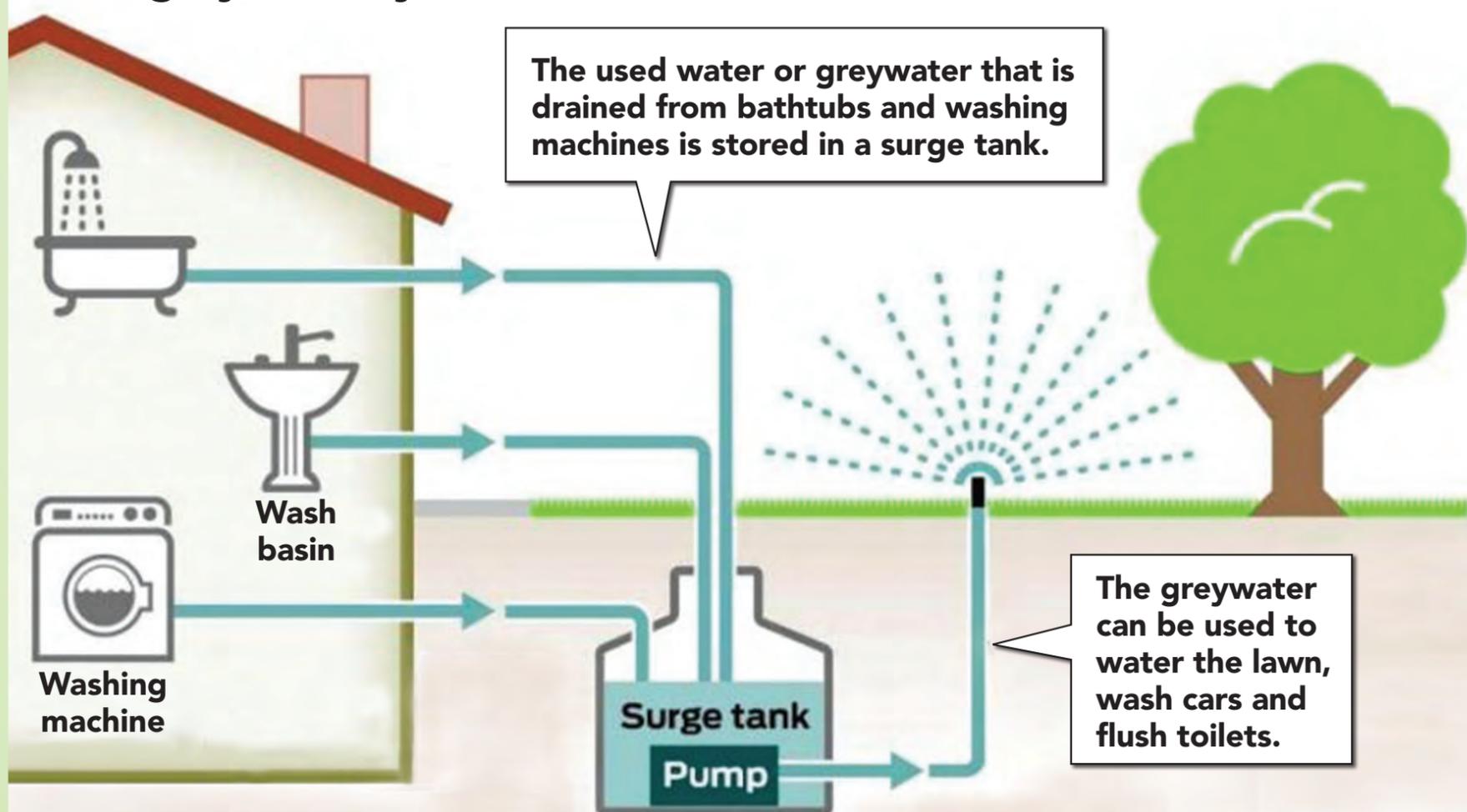
## What are the benefits of using greywater?

Using greywater reduces the amount of fresh water used in households. So, usage of greywater results in fresh water conservation.

Another benefit of using greywater is that it reduces the amount of water sent into the sewage system for treatment. This creates a ripple effect: less water is sent into the sewage system and less chemicals are needed to treat the water. Lesser chemical consumption means a cleaner environment.

Greywater contains a lot of organic material that provides plants with essential nutrients. This does away with the use of chemical fertilisers and the contamination of groundwater caused by it.

## How greywater systems work



Todd Trumbull / The Chronicle

# Rainwater harvesting

The primary source of freshwater for most places in the world is rainwater. This means that rainwater harvesting plays a significant role in conservation of water.

So let's catch the rain at –

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vP6wTdu70K4>

## What is rainwater harvesting?

Rainwater harvesting is a method by which rainwater is collected and either directly used or stored for future use. Rainwater harvesting is not a new concept. In fact in rural India, some traditional rainwater harvesting methods were followed from ancient times such as *taankaas* or underground tanks and *surangas* or horizontal wells.

Today rainwater harvesting can easily be practiced in individual homes, schools, apartments, parks and commercial spaces.

## The need to implement rainwater harvesting systems

In India, rainfall mainly occurs during the monsoon months. The rainwater falls to the ground with high intensity and quickly flows away. This leaves little chance for the rainwater to seep into the ground and recharge groundwater.

This results in borewells running dry and water scarcity in many parts of the country. Through rainwater harvesting, this rainwater can be conserved, stored and used at a later stage. It can even be directly used to recharge groundwater.

Recharging groundwater is significant for India. According to a World Bank report, India is the largest user of groundwater in the world – over a quarter of the global total. More than 60% of agricultural and 85% of drinking water requirement in India is met by groundwater. Urban residents too are increasingly relying on groundwater due to unreliable and inadequate municipal water supplies.

Apart from increasing the availability of freshwater and recharging groundwater, rainwater harvesting prevents soil erosion, landslides and floods caused by excessive rain.

## Two types of rainwater harvesting

Rainwater harvesting falls into two categories: storage and recharge. Depending on what the rainwater is going to be used for, structures can be created to store the collected water for direct use or to recharge groundwater. Storage units can include barrels, tanks or sumps. Recharge units can include recharge wells.



# Rainwater harvesting

## Uses of harvested rainwater

Harvested rainwater cannot be used for drinking purposes. However, it can be used for:

- Washing clothes
- Washing dishes
- Bathing
- Flushing toilets
- Watering gardens



In India, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Ranchi Regional Development Authority, Bombay Municipal Corporation and Pimpri – Chinchwad Municipal Corporation, Municipal Corporation of Ludhiana, Improvement Trust, Jalandhar, Jaipur Municipal Corporation, Mussoorie Dehradun Development Authority, and Union Territories of Delhi, Daman & Diu and Puducherry have made installation of rain water harvesting systems mandatory.

Under the *Jal Swawlamban Abhiyaan* programme, there has been an increase in irrigation capacity by 81 per cent in Rajasthan. A total of 4 lakh water conservation structures were created and 1.5 million plantations were done in the last three years. With these efforts, the groundwater level has risen by 5 feet in around 21 districts.

## Innovative Water Management stories from across the world



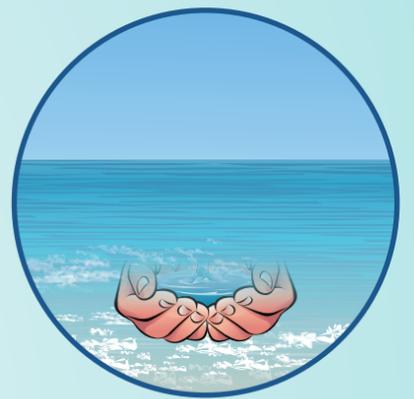
### Water from thin air

Dar Si Hmad, a women-led NGO in Morocco, designed and installed what is now the world's largest operational fogwater harvesting system. Awarded the 2016 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Momentum for Change Award, the project provides accessible potable water to more than 400 people in five villages.

### Sea – the way

Scientists have developed ways to turn seawater into fresh water.

The seawater is pumped in from the sea and dripped over a honeycomb structure inside the greenhouse, where it evaporates. The evaporation cools down the indoor environment, while the water vapour condenses on the greenhouse roof, forming fresh water. First used in Qatar, the seawater greenhouses were later set up in Jordan and Tunisia.

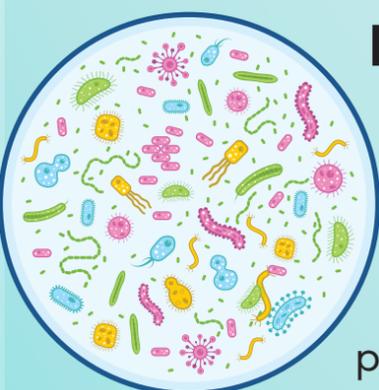


### The Sun shines on

The Sundrop Farm in South Australian town Port Augusta since 2012 has been treating seawater through solar energy to grow tomatoes on a 20-hectare greenhouse. The farm uses 23,000 mirrors to focus sunlight and produce heat, and a thermal desalination plant to treat seawater. That the tomatoes produced by this farm can be found in supermarkets all across Australia stands testimony to its success.

### Down to Earth

The Greek island Milos is situated on the Aegean Volcanic Arc. The magma beneath the Earth's surface heats the water between the rocks giving this island natural access to geothermal energy. Human ingenuity steps in and the hot water is piped through underground wells where it becomes hot steam. This spins turbines and generates energy. This is used to convert sea water by heating up water to form water vapor that is condensed into drinking water and water for irrigation. It is fresh water that is inexpensive and environment-friendly.



### Beat it with Bacteria

In the middle of a desert in southern Africa, Namibia has recycled wastewater for almost 50 years.

This ingenious method is based on the working of the most basic organism – bacteria. The bacteria help digest the human waste and pull it out of the water – a process that anyway happens in nature, but is a whole lot faster at this recycling plant.

A fountain gurgling with clean and clear drinking water on the way out proves its worthiness as potable water.



## Law

The judiciary in India has interpreted Article 21 of the Indian Constitution, the Right to Life, to include the right to clean drinking water as a part of the Right to a Clean and Healthy Environment developed under the fundamental right to life.



## Child's play!

Span Pumps, a sustainable water solution provider, headquartered in Pune, have designed pumps as see-saw, to pump water from bore wells and large storage tankers. As the children play, water is lifted up to 8 metres above ground for storage. What's more, it does not require electricity or huge monetary investment.



Almost **90 per cent** of wastewater in Israel is purified and used in irrigation. Israel also recycles **95 per cent** of its sewage water for agriculture.

# ACTIVITY SHEET

## Activity 1

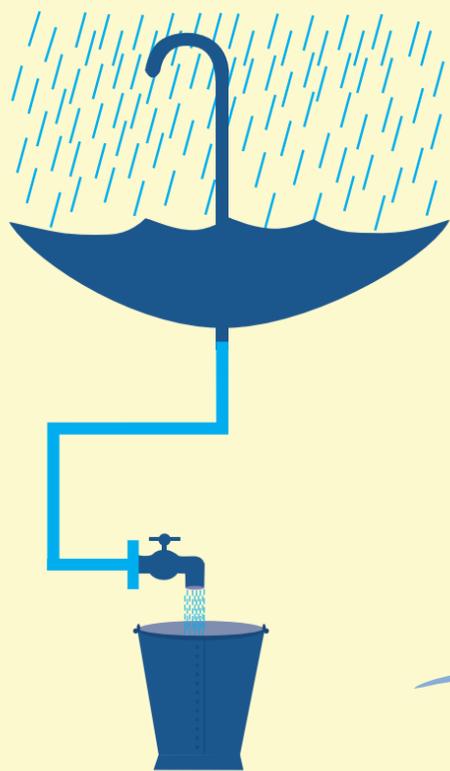
List at least five activities that you do, which involve usage of water. In the second column, next to each activity, write the approximate amount of water required for that activity. In the third column, think of at least one suggestion in which water can be conserved while performing that activity.

Activity	Quantity of Water Used	Steps to Conserve Water

## Activity 2

Read the statements given below. Against each statement write (W) if you feel it will result in wastage of water, write (S) if you feel it will help in saving water and write (R) if you feel it will help in reusing water.

1. Collect rainwater in a barrel and use it to water plants.
2. Brush your teeth while the tap runs.
3. Use bath water to wash cars.
4. Water your garden at noon.
5. Repair a leaking water pipe.





## Lighten Up

Q. Where can you find an ocean with no water?  
A. On a map.

Q. What kind of witch likes the beach?  
A. A SAND-witch

Q. Which kind of rock is never found under water?  
A. Dry rock

Q. How do you make an octopus laugh?  
A. With ten-tickles!

Q. What did the ocean say to the beach?  
A. Nothing, it just waved!

Q. What runs but never walks?  
A. Water

Q. What do mermaids sleep on?  
A. A water bed

Q. What kind of hair did the ocean have?  
A. Wavy!

Q. Why were the student's grades underwater?  
A. They were below C level.

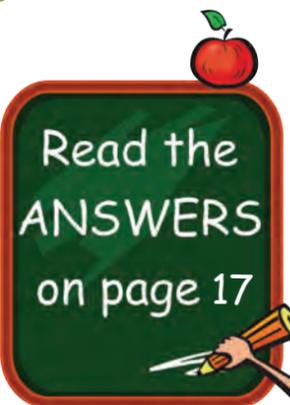
Q. What happens if you throw a white hat into the Black Sea?  
A. It gets wet.

Q. What do you call an old snowman?  
A. Water



## RIDDLES

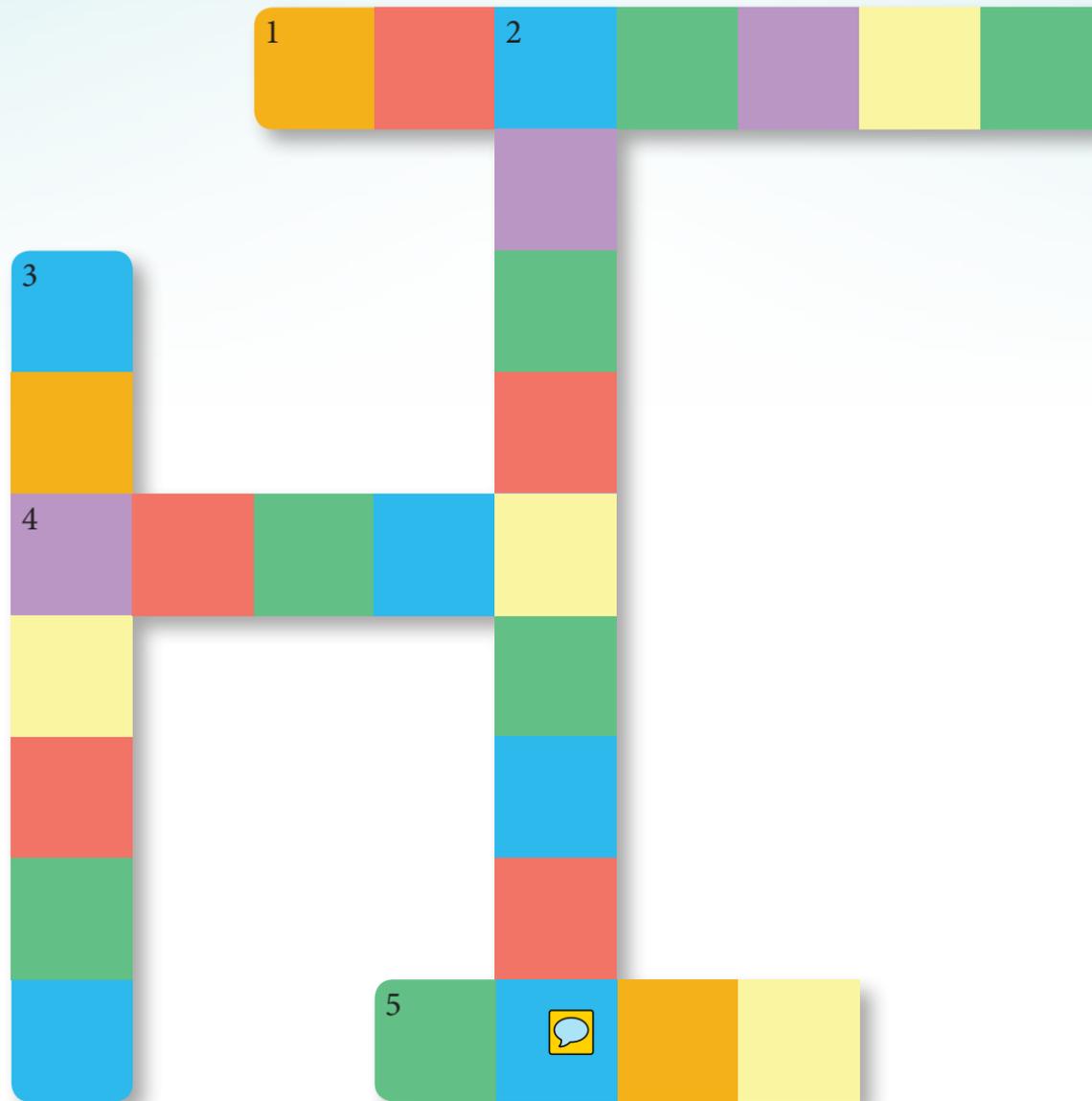
- ☛ I am a bank but I don't need any money. What am I?  
.....
- ☛ I run but I have no feet. I roar but I have no mouth. What am I?  
.....
- ☛ I have holes on my top and bottom, my left and right, and in the middle. But still I hold water. What am I?  
.....
- ☛ I have several eyes but I cannot see. What am I?  
.....
- ☛ I am a letter of the English alphabet and I have the most water. Which letter am I?  
.....



Read the  
ANSWERS  
on page 17



# CROSSWORD PUZZLE



## Across

1. The country that was awarded the 2016 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Momentum for Change Award
4. The Greek island situated on the Aegean Volcanic Arc that uses geothermal energy for desalination
5. The city in India where Span Pumps, a sustainable water solution provider has its headquarters

## Down

2. The Indian state that saw an increase in irrigation capacity by 81 per cent under the *Jal Swawalamban Abhiyaan* programme
3. The country in southern Africa that has been recycling wastewater using bacteria for nearly 50 years

## ANSWERS FOR RIDDLES

- Riverbank
- Sea wave
- A Sponge
- The Mississippi River
- The letter C



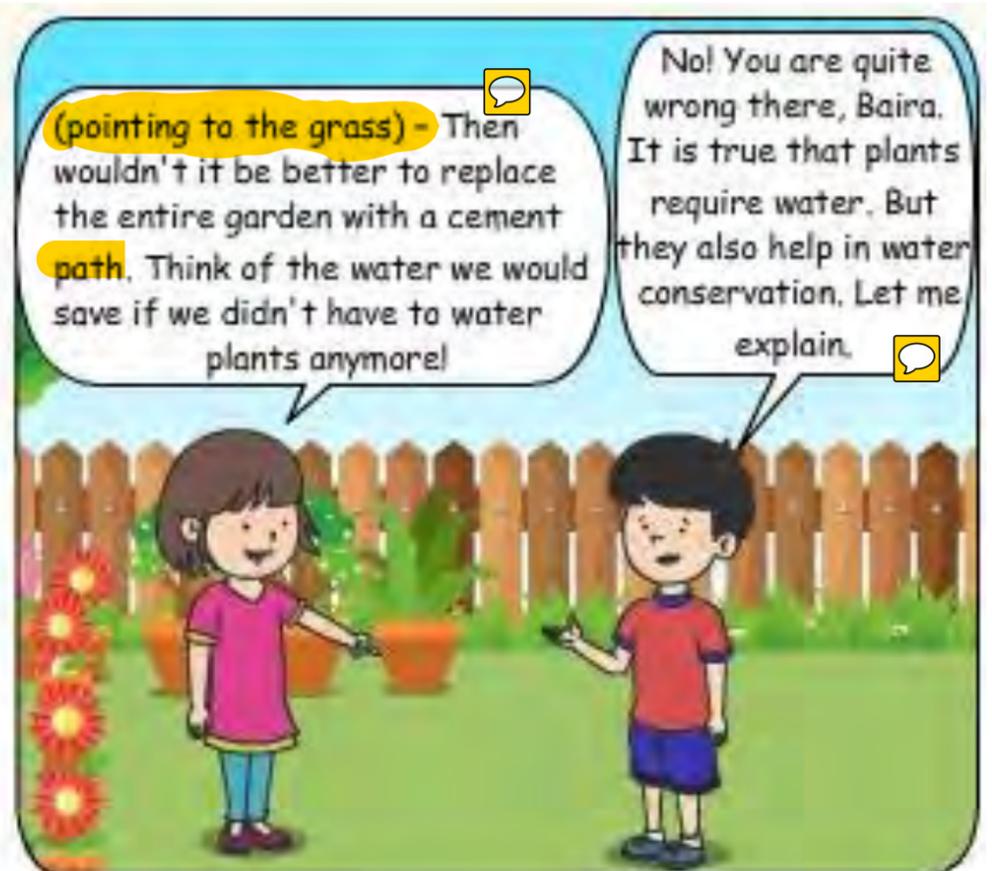
- Down**
- 3. NAMIBIA
  - 2. RAJASTHAN
- Across**
- 1. MOROCCO
  - 4. MILOS
  - 5. PUNE
- Answer**
- Crossword Puzzle**

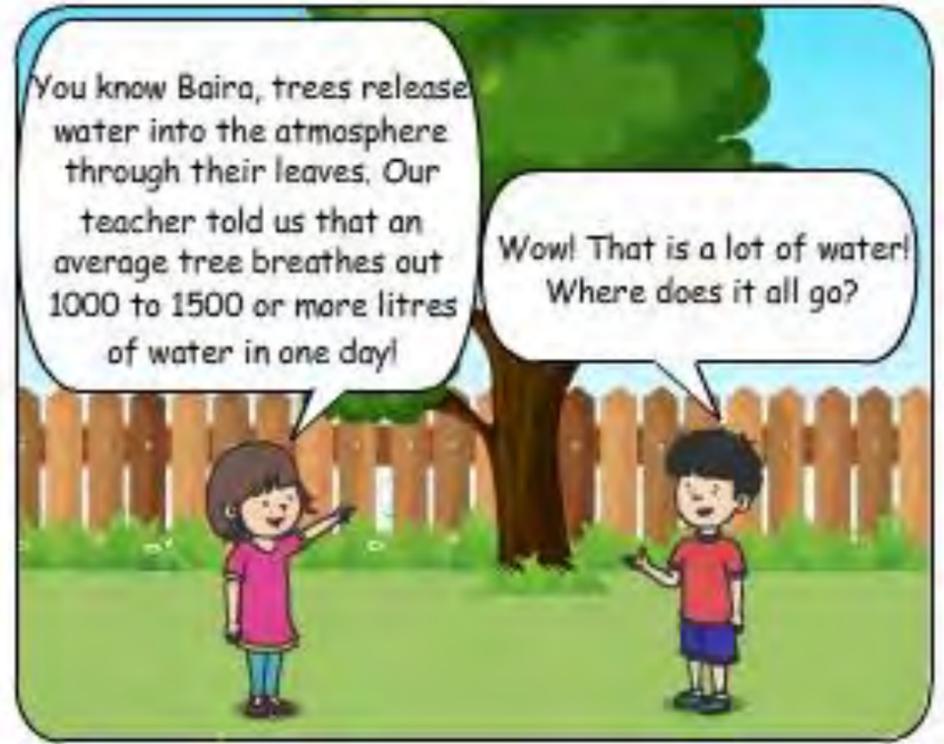


# Comic Strip



## BAIRA AND BELA





## CURRENT EVENTS UPDATES



**3 July 2018**

The Chief Election **Commissioner** OP Rawat, along with the Election **Commissioners** Sunil Arora and Ashok Lavasa, launches a mobile app called 'Cvigil' for citizens to report any violation of the model code of conduct during elections.

**3 July 2018**

The International Cricket Council (ICC) inducts former Indian **captain** Rahul Dravid, former Australian **captain** Ricky Ponting and former England women's **wicket-keeper** Claire Taylor into the Cricket Hall of Fame for their stupendous achievements in international cricket. Dravid is the fifth Indian player to be included in the Hall of Fame.



**3 July 2018**

United Nations **Secretary-General** Antonio Guterres appoints Major General Jose Eladio Alcain of the Uruguayan Army as Head of Mission and Chief Military Observer for the UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP).



**4 July 2018**

BSNL announces the soft launch of **Wings**, the company's first Internet telephony service in India. It includes a prepaid initiative in its landline offerings, and a **rent free** landline connection for existing subscribers.

**9 July 2018**

Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel takes charge as chairperson of the National Green Tribunal (NGT). He has been appointed for five years.

**11 July 2018**

World Population Day 2018 is observed across the globe. A United Nations **initiative**, this day aims at spreading awareness about the exploding world population and the importance of reproductive health. The theme of World Population Day 2018 is 'Family Planning is a Human Right'. The theme is a response to a 50-year-old legislation which states that women and girls can refuse to have multiple pregnancies placed too close, if they so choose.



**13 July 2018**

The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation **launches** a rural cleanliness programme, the 'Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2018', to rank all states and districts on the basis of qualitative and quantitative evaluation.

**15 July 2018**

**France wins the FIFA World Cup beating Croatia in Moscow.**

**16 July 2018**

Veteran actor Rita Bhaduri passes away in Mumbai at the age of 62.



**16 July 2018**

**The 2018 FIFA World Cup ends. France is crowned the world champion. The French team triumphs over Croatia in one of the highest scoring finals ever.**

**17 July 2018**

Haryana Government **has launched** the 'Paudhagiri campaign' to increase green cover in the state by planting 'maulsari saplings' in the Tau Devi Sports Complex premises of Gurugram.

**19 July 2018**

The Supreme Court observes that banning the entry of women in Kerala's Sabarimala temple is unconstitutional. The court questions the temple authorities regarding the same. The bench rules that when a man can enter, a woman can also **go**.



**22 July 2018**

The Tokyo 2020 Olympic mascot and Paralympic mascot greet the Japanese public for the first time. The Olympic mascot's name **was** revealed as Miraitowa based on the Japanese words **mirai** (future) and **towa** (eternity) combined. The Paralympic mascot's name **was** revealed as Someity which comes from **someiyoshino**, a popular cherry blossom variety.

**23 July 2018**

Tokyo 2020 committee officially launches Olympic mascots. The name of the blue-checked Olympic mascot 'Miraitowa' is derived from a combination of the Japanese words for future and eternity and seeks to "promote a future full of eternal hope in the hearts of people all over the world".

## CURRENT EVENTS UPDATES

**27 July 2018**

Pakistan's Election Commission declares former cricket star Imran Khan's party, Tehreek-e-Insaf, the winner of Pakistan's third consecutive election of a civilian government.



**27 July 2018**

The longest lunar eclipse of the 21st century occurs as the moon moves into the shadow of the earth. The total phase of the blood moon eclipse is for a duration of one hour and 43 minutes and it is visible from all parts of India. During this time, the moon turns a spectacular red or ruddy brown colour.



**29 July 2018**

Ustad Hussain Sayeeduddin Dagar, an exponent of the Dhrupad tradition, passes away in Pune at the age of 78.



**29 July 2018**

According to the results announced by the Election Commission of Pakistan, Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) with a total of 116 seats emerges as the single largest party in Pakistan's National Assembly.

Former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) wins 64 seats and former President Asif Ali Zardari's Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) wins 43 seats. Though PTI emerges as the single largest party in the National Assembly, the party is still short of numbers to form the government on its own.



**30 July 2018**

The Assam government releases the second and final draft of the state's National Register of Citizens (NRC). Names of 2.89 crore people out of 3.29 crore applicants have been included in the NRC.

The names of 40.07 lakh people have been excluded.

**AUGUST**

**1 August 2018**

Swachh Survekshan Grameen (SSG) 2018 is launched by the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation. The objective is to undertake a ranking of states and districts in India on the basis of qualitative and quantitative sanitation. The ranking will be based on a comprehensive set of parameters, including district level surveys of public places such as schools, anganwadis, public health centres (PHCs), bus stands and religious places.

**1 August 2018**

The Health Ministry signs an MoU with the Ministry of Electronics to facilitate access to Ayushman Bharat. Ayushman Bharat – National Health Protection Mission (AB-NHPM) provides coverage to 10 crore poor and vulnerable families. Under this scheme, a coverage of 5 lakhs per year is given to each family for secondary and tertiary hospitalization.

**3 August 2018**

India is elected as President of the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development for a period of two years. The Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) is a regional inter-governmental organization. It was established in 1977 under the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

**3 August 2018**

The Andhra Pradesh Government has approved Mukhyamantri Yuva Nestam, an unemployment allowance scheme to provide Rs. 1000 per month to unemployed youth in the state. The scheme, announced by Andhra Pradesh IT and Panchayat and Rural Development Minister Nara Lokesh, benefits 12 lakh youth in the 22-35 age bracket.



**3 August 2018**

India is elected as President of the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development, a regional inter-governmental organisation under UNESCO, for a period of two years.

## CURRENT EVENTS UPDATES

**4 August 2018**

The state government of Telangana launches a life insurance programme wherein farmers in the state will get an insurance cover of 5 lakhs each. The scheme is called Rythu Bheema and is expected to benefit 2.8 million farmers in the age group of 18 to 59 years.

**5 August 2018**

Rajan Nanda, chairperson of the Escorts **Group** passes away in **Gurgaon** at the age of 76.

**6 August 2018**

Former Union Minister and veteran Congress leader, RK Dhawan, passes away in New Delhi at the age of 81.

**7 August 2018**

M Karunanidhi, DMK chief and former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, passes away at the age of 94 after battling a brief illness at the Kauvery Hospital in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. He was **a strong** Indian politician who dominated Tamil Nadu politics for six decades. Karunanidhi served as the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu for five separate terms **during the period from 1969 to 2011.**



**7 August 2018**

The Lok Sabha passes the Criminal Law Amendment Bill, 2018. The Bill enhances the minimum sentence for offence of rape against girl children and stipulates stringent punishment for those guilty of **rape** particularly of girls **below the age of 16 and 12 years.** The maximum punishment is death penalty.

**7 August 2018**

The Central Government appoints **journalist** Swaminathan Gurumurthy and Sahakar **Bharathi patron** Satish Kashinath Marathe as part-time non-official Directors **on** the Central Board of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) following the approval from the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet. The appointments are for a four-year period.

**9 August 2018**

The NDA **candidate** Harivansh Narayan **Singh** is elected as the new Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha. He was pitted against the opposition **candidate** BK Hari Prasad from the **Congress.** Singh received support from Shiv Sena, Akali Dal, AIADMK, TRS, YSRCP, INLD, BJD, three nominated candidates and **SP MP, Amar Singh.** He won with 125 votes in his **favor** and 105 against.

**10 August 2018**

United Nations **Secretary-General** António Guterres, following approval by the General Assembly, **has appointed** Michelle Bachelet of **Chile** the next United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.



**11 August 2018**

**V.S. Naipaul,** writer, Nobel laureate, passes away at London at the age of 85.



**11 August 2018**

Justice Gita Mittal becomes the first-ever woman Chief Justice of Jammu and Kashmir High Court.

**11 August 2018**

Former Chilean president Michelle Bachelet is appointed as the next **United Nations Higher Commissioner for Human Rights.** She is nominated by UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres and her appointment is approved by UN General Assembly.



**14 August 2018**

Chhattisgarh **Governor** Balramji Das Tandon passes away following a cardiac arrest at Dr B R Ambedkar Memorial Hospital in Raipur. He was 90. In his political career spanning 65 years, Tandon was six-time MLA and served **on** various **posts,** including **as** Deputy Chief Minister of Punjab in the Justice (retd) Gurnam Singh-led Cabinet **in** 1969-70. He also served as the BJP President of Punjab for two years.



**15 August 2018**

Ajit Wadekar, former cricketer and chief selector, passes away in Mumbai at the age of 77.

## CURRENT EVENTS UPDATES

**16 August 2018**

Colorado party's Mario Abdo Benitez is sworn in as the new President of Paraguay for a five-year term. He took the oath of office at a ceremony in the capital Asuncion, attended by hundreds of dignitaries including seven **heads of states**.



**16 August 2018**

Former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee passes away following a prolonged illness at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi. He was 93. He served three terms as the Prime Minister of India. He was elected to the Lok Sabha ten times and was twice elected to the Rajya Sabha.



**18 August 2018**

The 18th edition of the Asian Games officially begins at the Indonesian capital **Jakarta**.

**18 August 2018**

Former **cricketer turned politician** Imran Khan is sworn in as the 22nd Prime Minister of Pakistan. The oath-taking ceremony is administered by President Mamnoon Hussain at the President House in Islamabad.



**18 August 2018**

Kofi Annan, former UN Secretary-General, passes away after a short illness in Switzerland. He was 80. He was the only African to **helm** the post of UN Chief. He served for two terms from 1997 to 2006. He was also awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2001 for his humanitarian work.

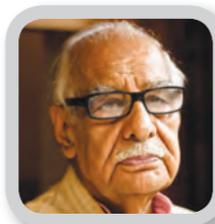


**22 August 2018**

Senior Congress leader and former Union minister Gurudas Kamat passes away in New Delhi at the age of 63.

**23 August 2018**

Veteran journalist and former Rajya Sabha member Kuldip Nayar passes away in Delhi at the age of 95.



**23 August 2018**

Satya Pal Malik, **takes oath** as the Governor of Jammu and Kashmir at the Raj Bhawan in Srinagar.



**23 August 2018**

Lalji Tandon takes oath **as Governor** of Bihar.



**24 August 2018**

Sweden launches a 'feminist foreign policy' manual "in response to the discrimination and systematic subordination that still mark the daily lives of countless women and girls around the world". The manual is published on the government's website and aims to place gender equality at the heart of the country's international agenda. Led by Foreign Minister Margot Wallstrom, the goals of the manual include promotion of economic emancipation of women, fighting sexual violence and improving women's political participation.

**25 August 2018**

Satyadev Narayan Arya takes oath as the Governor of Haryana.



**25 August 2018**

Tathagata Roy takes oath as the Governor of Meghalaya.



**25 August 2018**

Kaptan Singh Solanki takes oath as the Governor of Tripura.



**26 August 2018**

Baby Rani Maurya takes oath as the Governor of Uttarakhand.

## CURRENT EVENTS UPDATES

**27 August 2018**

Ganga Prasad takes oath as the Governor of Sikkim.



**28 August 2018**

Indian development economist Satya S Tripathi has been appointed as the Assistant Secretary General and Head of the New York Office of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) by UN Chief António Guterres.

**28 August 2018**

Indian development economist and environment expert Satya S. Triparthi is appointed the assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations. He will head the New York office of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP). Secretary-General Antonio Guterres made the appointment and it was announced by his Spokesperson Stephane Guterres.

**30 August 2018**

The Uttarakhand High Court has declared fatwas as unconstitutional and illegal. All religious bodies and statutory panchayats in the state have been banned from issuing fatwas. According to the court ruling, a fatwa banishing the family of a rape victim from the village is illegal. Issuing such a fatwa infringes upon an individual's statutory rights, fundamental rights, dignity, status and honour.

**SEPTEMBER**

**1 September 2018**

Managing director and chief executive of Punjab National Bank Sunil Mehta is elected as the new chairman of Inidan Banks Association for the year 2018-19. The managing committee of the banking lobby has also elected Bank of India's managing director and chief executive, Dina Bandhu Mohapatra, as the deputy chairman.



**2 September 2018**

The 18th Asian Games concludes in Jakarta, Indonesia. India puts up a record show at the games walking away with 69 medals, including 15 gold, 24 silver and 30 bronze. The previous highest medal tally for India was at the 2010 edition of the games in China where India finished sixth with 14 gold, 17 silver and 34 bronze medals.

**4 September 2018**

Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) candidate Dr Arif Alvi wins the Pakistan Presidential Election defeating his two rival candidates Fazal-ur-Rehman and Aitzaz Ahsan. Alvi replaces incumbent President Mamnoon Hussain as the 13th President of Pakistan.



**6 September 2018**

The Supreme Court of India in a landmark decision decriminalises homosexuality in India. A five-judge constitution bench partially strikes down provisions of Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code thereby legalising consensual homosexual activities between adults. While striking down the section, the Court rules that Section 377 goes against the fundamental rights of citizens in the Constitution.



**11 September 2018**

The Union Ministry for Health and Family Welfare issues a notification for bringing the Human Immunodeficiency Virus and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (Prevention and Control) Act of 2017 into effect. The HIV/AIDS Act, 2017 safeguards the rights of people living with HIV and affected by HIV. The Ministry said the Act seeks to prevent and control the spread of HIV and AIDS and prohibits discrimination against affected persons.

**12 September 2018**

In an effort to give a major boost to pro-farmer initiatives, the Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approves a new umbrella scheme 'Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan' (PM-AASHA). The aim of the scheme is to protect farmers' income by ensuring they get remunerative prices for their produce as announced in the Union Budget for 2018. The government has already increased the MSP (minimum support price) of kharif crops by following the principle of 1.5 times the cost of production.

## CURRENT EVENTS UPDATES

**14 September 2018**

Shri Alphons Kannanthanam, the Minister of State for **Tourism** inaugurates India's first tribal circuit project connecting 13 tourism sites in Chhattisgarh under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme. The major components sanctioned under the tribal circuit project include development of eco log huts, craft huts, **souvenir** shops, an open **amphitheater**, tribal interpretation centres, workshop centres, tourist **amenities** centres, viewpoints, nature trails, solar illumination, etc. These components will improve existing tourist facilities, enhance tourist experience and increase tourism in the area thereby creating more job opportunities.



**19 September 2018**

President Ram Nath Kovind signs the Ordinance banning the practice of Instant Triple Talaq. According to this ordinance, triple talaq is now a punishable criminal offence which will attract a maximum jail term **for** three years. The new law incorporates certain safeguards including bail to the accused before the start of the trial.

**19 September 2018**

At a joint news conference, South Korea's President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un agree to permanently abolish the key missile facilities in North Korea and close its main nuclear complex if the United States takes similar action. The leaders of North and South Korea said they would turn the Korean peninsula into a "land of peace without nuclear weapons and nuclear threats."

**19 September 2018**

The Ministry of Labour and Employment announces a scheme called Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana to financially support those who have lost their jobs and were covered under the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948. The scheme is expected to benefit around 3.2 crore Insured Persons. According to this scheme, unemployed persons searching for new employment will receive cash benefit in the form of **25 percent** of their average earning of 90 days.

**20 September 2018**

The Union Government launches an online National Database of Sexual Offenders (NDSO). This database includes names, addresses, photographs and fingerprint details of persons convicted on charges of rape, gang rape, offences related to Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, and stalking. Data from NDSO is available only to law enforcement agencies to enable effective tracking and investigation of cases of sexual **offenses**.

**20 September 2018**

India successfully test-fires surface-to-surface short-range tactical ballistic missile **Prahaar** from a defence facility **off Odisha** coast.

**21 September 2018**

Vietnam's President Tran Dai Quang passes away at the age of 61 in a military hospital in Hanoi after a prolonged serious illness.



**23 September 2018**

Renowned filmmaker, Kalpana Lajmi, passes away in Mumbai at the age of 64.

**23 September 2018**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launches a healthcare scheme called Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana. Under this scheme, over 100 million families will be provided health insurance worth **Rs. 500000** each, every year. Over 15,000 public and private hospitals across the country have expressed their willingness to be empanelled under the scheme.

**24 September 2018**

Ibrahim Mohamed Solih wins the Maldives Presidential Election defeating incumbent President **Yameen Abdul Gayoom**. As per the results announced by Maldives' National Elections Commission, Solih fetched **58.3 percent** of the votes or 134616 ballots, compared to **41.5 percent** or 96142 votes secured by Abdul Gayoom of the Progressive Party of Maldives.



**25 September 2018**

The Supreme Court **has ruled** that political parties should widely publicise criminal charges and their parties should post the details on their websites. Chief Justice Dipak Misra **said** that although the court was "not in a position to add disqualification of candidates on filing of chargesheet in criminal cases," details of candidates must be published thrice after they file their nomination to contest an election so voters can make an informed choice.

## CURRENT EVENTS UPDATES

### 26 September 2018

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approves the National Digital Communication Policy 2018. This policy is in support of India's transition to a digitally empowered economy and society by fulfilling the Information and Communication needs of citizens and enterprises by establishment of resilient and affordable Digital Communications Infrastructure and Services.

### 26 September 2018

A Constitution of the Supreme Court led by Chief Justice Dipak Misra upheld the validity of the Aadhaar but with riders. Aadhaar requirement by CBSE, NEET and UGC has been struck down. Linking Aadhaar with bank accounts and mobile phone numbers is not needed. Schools, too, cannot insist on Aadhaar for admission for students. However, the Aadhaar-PAN linkage has been upheld.

### 27 September 2018

The Union Government hikes custom duties on 19 items including jet fuel, ACs, washing machines, radial car tyres and refrigerators to curb import of non-essential goods. The hike is aimed at narrowing the Current Account Deficit. The total value of import of these items in the last fiscal in 2017-18 was about Rs. 86000 crore.

### 28 September 2018

Union IT Minister Ravi Sankar Prasad inaugurates the Centre of Excellence for Data Analytics (CEDA) in New Delhi. The Centre is set up by the National Informatics Centre in a joint initiative with National Informatics Centre Services Incorporated. CEDA will aid in fast-tracking the adoption of advanced analytics in government and facilitate faster and cost effective technology adoption.

### 30 September 2018

Macedonian Prime Minister Zoran Zaev casts his ballot in his country's crucial referendum on whether to accept a landmark deal ending a dispute with Greece by changing the country's name to North Macedonia. Speaking after voting, Zaev urges his fellow countrymen to come out in force to vote. He said he is confident of a strong turnout that will prove Macedonians are in favor of joining NATO and eventually the European Union.



#### Sources:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/July-2018/news/6>

<https://www.thehindu.com/>

<http://www.unic.org.in/pressrooms/secretary-general-appoints-major-general-jose-eladio-alcain-as-chief-military-observer-for-unmogip/>

<http://www.un.org/en/events/populationday/>

<https://www.ndtv.com/>

<https://www.aninews.in/news/national/general-news/andhra-approves-unemployment-allowance-to-benefit-12-lakh-youth20180822053160001/>

<https://www.usnews.com/news/world/>