

## **“Reviving Traditional Linkages in Today’s Era”**

### *Our Connection with Rivers & Water Bodies*

Water is indispensable to India's economy, people's well-being, and the sustainability of its ecosystems. At present, there are competing demands for water due to increased industrialization, urbanisation, and agricultural productivity. India accounts for about 4% of the world's freshwater resources, although having nearly 17% of the world's population. Currently, 6 million Indians are living in conditions of severe water stress. Searching for sustainable solutions to meet the increasing needs of the population as a result of urbanisation is imperative. The key issue here is that, despite having few water resources, our population is escalating quickly.

Our ancestors used to manage water very intelligently and effectively back in the good old days. To lessen water shortage in the present, it is conceivable to learn from the past and examine their techniques and approaches to water conservation and utilisation.

Throughout history, Indians have revered and regarded a great number of rivers and other bodies of water as sacred. They were connected to myths from religion. They were preserved or safeguarded in the past by a number of structures associated to their religious significance. These kinds of structures can be found all over the nation, particularly in close proximity to places of worship. These structures contributed to a high standard of living in addition to just being storage facilities. Even if there are still religious ties in the modern world, they are no longer as obvious as they once were.

Apart from the established holy connection, there was no such underground water network system like present in the past. For their daily needs, people were directly dependent on rivers and other bodies of water. Women used to fetch water daily from these water sources in the morning. This created a visual link between the people and the bodies of water. People felt more responsible because they recognised the significance of rivers and other sources of water in their daily lives. The visual link has been blurred in today’s era. The state of rivers and other bodies of water has drastically changed as a result of human ignorance or misunderstanding.

Rivers and other bodies of water will once again become important in people's lives if the visual link is fostered again. For the same purpose, historical water storage structures like baoris and naulas can be restored. It will instil a sense of accountability among individuals. In addition to greatly reducing water scarcity, this restoration will increase tourism without requiring significant investments in infrastructural development.

We can therefore conclude with assurance that the restoration of the religious and visual link will address the issue of water shortage in the urbanisation era. The shortage of water can't be addressed without forming essential connections.

An ideal city, in my view, can be the one where the traditional links are restored, revived and fostered according to the present world. “In short, the traditional linkages gets modernized.”

Chahak Thakur