

Chennai – Water Scarcity

adapted by GLO for Water in the World

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-03-06/government-places-largest-ever-order-for-desalinated-water/10876760>

Chennai is a city that has withstood the rise and fall of empires, but it now faces a crisis as it runs dry due to a severe water shortage.

This week, taps ran dry as water levels in its major reservoirs fell to one-hundredth of what they were this time last year, caused by a devastating drought.

The crisis in India's 6th largest city — with a population bigger than Melbourne and Sydney combined has pushed schools, hotels and commercial establishments to close, while hospitals have put off non-essential surgeries. Millions of people are lining up at water trucks to fill containers of water in a crisis that's hit urban and rural Indians alike, and usually only half leave with their pots filled.



Millions of people are turning to water tank trucks as taps run dry. (AP: R Parthibhan)

But the problem isn't confined to Chennai — in the western state of Maharashtra, some are so desperate for water they are lining up their pots 2 days before water tankers are due to arrive. Children as young as 10 were being sent to fetch water a train ride away, hauling back containers of water almost as big as they were.

While India faces its worst long-term water crisis in its history as **demand outstrips supply**, its story is one that is becoming increasingly common in rapidly urbanising countries around the globe.

Reading ON the lines

In which country is

Chennai?.....

What is another word for *reservoir*?.....

List 5 impacts of the water shortage in Chennai?....

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.....

What is meant by the phrase: *demand outstrips supply*

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.....

Reading BEYOND the Lines

What are the reasons for the water shortage in Chennai?.....

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What is the MAIN IDEA of this article:.....

.....

Urbanisation and poor planning lead to water scarcity

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Cape Town was brought to the brink in 2018 as it faced 'Day Zero', where water levels were almost empty. (Reuters: Mike Hutching)

Around the world, climate change combined with rapid urbanisation and population growth has brought issues around water scarcity and security into focus.

In South Africa, Cape Town, a city of more than 4.2million, faced its worst water crisis in history in 2018. When dam levels fell to record lows, some at less than 10%.

Authorities in Cape Town prepared for Day Zero where taps were to be shut off and citizens were to be restricted to 25 litres per day.

In Northern Africa, Egypt's capital Cairo could run out of water because Ethiopia is damming the Nile River, which provides the city with 97% of its water supply.

In the United States, damming of the Colorado River combined with a 19-year drought may mean that some reservoirs fed by the river will never be full again. The Colorado stretches across the southwest of the country, being a source of water for some of the USA's largest cities such as Los Angeles, San Diego and Las Vegas.



Satellite images from 1997, left, and 2017, right, show the dramatic reduction in water levels along the Colorado River. (NASA Earth Observatory)

Reading ON the lines:

In which country/s would you find the following:

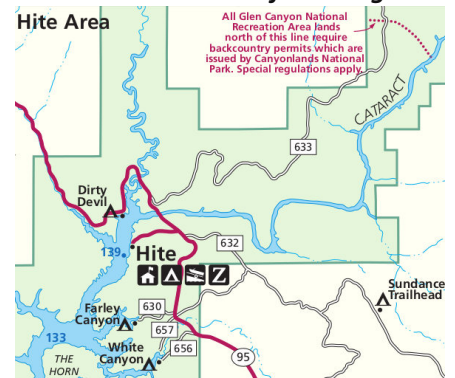
Colorado River?

Nile River? (hint: there are 9) .

.....

In South Africa Day Zero meant that residents had access to how much water a day?

Use the satellite image & the map below to answer the following:



In what direction does Dirty Devil River flow into Hite Dam?

If you paddling upstream into Narrow Canyon, which direction would you be going?

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Reading Beyond the Lines

Underline the Sentence that is the MAIN IDEA for this article

Is this article: persuasive, entertaining or informative?

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What is a meander?

.....

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Circle a Meander on the map above