

DID YOU KNOW?



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Water Coverage (India)

- **NITI Aayog Unveils Data Centre Evaluation Framework:** NITI Aayog's Frontier Tech Hub released a five-pillar framework on **October 14** to guide states on sustainable data centre investments, assessing power, water, environment, economic value, and governance. India's data centre capacity has grown from **375 MW** in **2020** to **~1.5 GW** currently. The framework promotes renewable-backed power, basin-level water stress evaluation, e-waste lifecycle management, and linking incentives to measurable outcomes. It complements a **tax holiday until 2047** for eligible foreign cloud providers using Indian data centre infrastructure.





- **MP Announces Jabalpur-Bhopal-Indore Industrial Corridor:** Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav announced a new industrial corridor spanning Jabalpur, Bhopal, and Indore, backed by initial funding of **₹100 crore** via a fully state-owned company. Phase one will develop **3,000 to 10,000 acres** of land. The government projects investment of over **₹1 lakh crore** by **March 2028**, creating **100,000** direct and **200,000** indirect jobs, scaling to **₹3 lakh crore** and **600,000** jobs over three years. Additionally, **₹3,000 crore** was approved for educational institutions.
- **GSTAT Orders IRCTC to Deposit ₹50.4 Crore:** The GST Appellate Tribunal has directed IRCTC to deposit **₹50.4 crore** in consumer welfare funds for failing to pass on tax benefits on Rail Neer water, including **₹1.8 crore** for Andhra Pradesh and **₹27.8 lakh** for Telangana. The order, dated **October 14**, covers supplies between **July 1, 2017**, and **May 31, 2020**, after IRCTC kept the **₹15 MRP** unchanged despite GST rate cuts. The tribunal rejected claims of ministry-fixed pricing and subsidy exemptions under **Section 171**.
- **Kerala Water Authority to Upgrade Thiruvananthapuram Sewer Lines:** The Kerala Water Authority (KWA) plans **11** works to replace sewer lines older than **25 years** across southern Thiruvananthapuram, benefiting around **5,000** families. Upgrades include enlarging pipes from **150 mm to 250 mm** at Anil Nagar, **150 mm to 200 mm** at Soorya, Sasthri, and Sangeeth Nagar, and **150 mm to 300 mm** at Thaliyal, plus a **250 mm** main between Thampuramukku and Miranda Junction. Administrative sanction is received; tendering concludes shortly, with work starting the second week of **November**.

Source: ET Infra, EA Water, India Water Portal (October 16, 2026)

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- **PMC Lacks Unified Map of Underground Utilities:** Pune Municipal Corporation has no unified digital master plan tracking water pipelines, drainage, electrical grids, gas ducts, and fibre-optic cables, leading to repeated road cutting and mishaps. The civic body is reconsidering a mandatory **Pune Duct Policy** for utility corridors along major arterial roads, last discussed during the Smart City Mission. In a **September** general body reply, PMC confirmed no policy exists for **3D underground mapping** using **GPR** technology, despite operating a **Single Window Utility Portal** modelled on the Central government's **GatiShakti** initiative.
- **LDA Begins ₹53 Crore Green Corridor Road Project:** Lucknow Development Authority has started a **9.9-km** Green Corridor link between IIM Road and Naimish Nagar at a cost of **₹53 crore**, featuring a **24-metre-wide** embankment road and a link road toward Raitha road. Registration opened for **1,673 plots** in Brahma Khand and Bhumi Khand sectors, with infrastructure developed via **16 tenders**. Separately, LDA registered **318 properties** in three days, extending its camp by a day, and resolved **7** of **28** complaints at its Janata Adalat.
- **Study Flags Biodiversity Risks in River Interlinking Plans:** A study in Nature Scientific Reports warns India's National River Linking Project—connecting **37** rivers via **30** links, **15,000 km** of canals, and **3,000+** reservoirs to transfer **174 billion cubic metres** and generate **34,000 MW**—could spread invasive species across basins. Modelling **15** invasive alien species, researchers found the Brahmaputra, Ganga, and Krishna basins most vulnerable, threatening native species like the golden mahseer. The peninsular links (Godavari, Krishna, Pennar,

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Kaveri) fall in high-risk zones, urging biodiversity safeguards in planning.

- **Punjab Groundwater Crisis Driven by Subsidy Policies:** A new study links Punjab's rice-wheat dominance to free power (since **1997/2006**) and assured procurement, depleting water tables by nearly **1 metre/year**. The state's rice yield stands at **4,366 kg/hectare**, India's highest. Reforms show promise: laser levelling cuts water use by **20-25%**, Direct Seeded Rice by **15-20%**, and the **2018** Pani Bachao pilot reduced electricity use by **7.5-30%** without yield loss. Researchers urge crop diversification and integrated water-energy policymaking.

Water Coverage (Global)

- **Xylem Vue Deploys Agentic AI for Water Utilities:** Xylem Vue's report, "Water Technology Trends: Revolutionising Water Management," highlights agentic AI delivering value in operational resilience, regulatory auditability, and knowledge sustainability. With over **30%** of U.S. water-sector professionals retiring by **2030**, agent architectures preserve institutional knowledge. A "water-specific harness" governs model access to SCADA and work-order systems, ensuring human validation for consequential actions and full audit trails, aligned with the **EU AI Act**, while utility data remains under utility ownership.
- **IDRA World Congress Rescheduled to January 2027 Riyadh:** The International Desalination and Reuse Association (IDRA), in partnership with the Saudi Water Authority (SWA), has rescheduled the IDRA World Congress 2026 to **24–28 January 2027** in **Riyadh**,

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Saudi Arabia. Under the theme "Driving Global Water Sustainability Through Innovation," the event will convene global water leaders, regulators, utilities, researchers and innovators to advance **desalination, water reuse, water security and sustainable water management**. Registration is now open via the official Congress website.

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