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Water Coverage (India)

- **Centre Flags Land and Green Clearance Delays in Infra: A PRAGATI review of 3,300 projects worth ₹85 lakh crore found 75% of delays stem from pre-construction issues, inflating central linear project costs by ₹3 lakh crore over the original ₹31 lakh crore. Land acquisition caused 35% of issues; forest clearances take over 500 days against the mandated 150. Developers need 22 approvals across 16 state agencies, with utility shifting averaging 500-600 days versus the expected 200-300. Haryana leads land acquisition efficiency at 75.8; Gujarat ranks lowest at 30.5.**
- **Malacca Strait Vulnerability Emerges Amid Hormuz Crisis: The Hormuz blockade has exposed...**





... global chokepoint risks, turning focus to the **Strait of Malacca**, which handles **100,000+** vessels annually (**102,500** transits in **2025**) and carries **25%** of seaborne trade and **45%** of oil. Crude flows fell from **24.9** to **16.8 million barrels/day**. Alternatives like **Sunda** and **Lombok** add **1,000–2,400** nautical miles. India's **₹72,000 crore** Great Nicobar transshipment terminal strengthens its strategic position.

- **Finance Ministry Clears ₹430.68 Crore Dredging Subsidy:** The Finance Ministry approved **₹430.68 crore** toward Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port Authority's **₹764.37 crore** dredging bill for **FY25–FY26**, with the balance **₹333.69 crore** borne by the port. The Public Investment Board extended assistance up to **FY31** at an estimated **₹3,765.45 crore**, with the Centre contributing **₹1,839.41 crore**. Subsidy support will taper from **58%** in **FY25** to **40%** by **FY31**, with releases from **FY27** contingent on KPI achievement.
- **MCD Plans Revival of Lost Mughal-Era Pond:** The Municipal Corporation of Delhi proposes restoring the historic Kishan Das Talab, linked to Mughal emperor Jahandar Shah's **1712** camp, for rainwater harvesting and groundwater recharge. MCD will approach the Delhi Jal Board, CRRI, and DDA with survey findings. Research identifies a natural depression with elevation differences of about **15 metres** near Okhla. Delhi has **1,367** water bodies, but only **344** have been ground-verified, highlighting conservation urgency.
- **CPCB Flags Manasbal Lake Water Quality Failure:** CPCB testing revealed none of **7** samples from Kashmir's Manasbal Lake met Class B bathing standards, with faecal coliform reaching **780 per 100 ml** near Kondabal and **2,200** in the Lar Canal. Five sites fell to Class D

Source: ET Infra, EA Water, India Water Portal (October 23, 2026)

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status. Untreated sewage from **14 villages** flows into the wetland, threatening drinking water for **50,000–60,000** people. A sewage treatment plant remains unresolved despite dredging **70,000 sq ft** and de-weeding **1.60 lakh sq m** at **₹22 lakh**. The NGT hearing returns in **October**.

- Flash Flood Exposes Gurez Valley Climate Vulnerability:** A sudden flash flood hit Zadgayi village in Kashmir's remote Gurez Valley on **July 26, 2026**, sweeping through preparations for a local wedding around **3 pm**. Located in Bandipora district, roughly **140 km** from Srinagar, the valley's Dard-Shina community depends on springs, streams, and drainage channels feeding the Kishenganga River. Experts link the event to intense monsoon-western disturbance interactions, while radar blind spots and the Kishanganga Hydroelectric Project's impacts complicate disaster preparedness.
- Dhanbad DRM Reviews Station Amenities via Rail Samvad:** Dhanbad division DRM Akhilesh Mishra inspected facilities at Dhanbad railway station and directed officials to improve passenger amenities. Under the **Rail Samvad** programme, officials interacted with passengers at **103** stations across the division, including aboard the Dhanbad–Alappuzha Express. The station handles over **100** trains daily with around **25,000** daily passengers. While feedback was largely positive, long-distance travellers flagged water shortages, prompting immediate corrective efforts from railway authorities.

Water Coverage (Global)

Source: ET Infra, EA Water, India Water Portal (October 23, 2026)

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- **Climate Litigation Rises as Water Disputes Intensify Globally:** The 2026 Grantham-Sabin report records over **3,600** climate cases across **62** countries, including **249** new cases in **2025**. Water is an emerging litigation frontier: Tokio Marine filed a **US\$368 million** claim over South Africa's 2022 KwaZulu-Natal floods, which killed **544** people. Data centre water use faces legal challenges in Chile, the U.S., U.K., and Ireland, while courts increasingly affirm state adaptation obligations, exposing water infrastructure operators to failure-to-adapt liability risks.

Source: ET Infra, EA Water, India Water Portal (October 23, 2026)

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