



Water Crisis: Challenges to the Aspirations of New India

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Abstract : *India aspires to become a global superpower but that can only be achieved by fulfilling the basic human needs of its population, access to adequate clean water resource being one of them. It is an important thread which binds development of economy, society and polity. Water crisis appears to be a major stumbling block on the road to a prosperous and peaceful NEW INDIA due to its immense disruptive potential. Water is the most basic commodity in human life, hence its crisis may trigger future security challenges as already being witnessed in the form of water wars between states, threats of stopping water to and fro neighbours and frequent water-related violence being witnessed all over the country. Given*

the exigency of the situation, this project work aims to conduct a fact-finding ground study of ramifications of water-crisis on society, economy and national security; sensitize people about the gravity of the problem and to assess Indian states' level of preparedness towards tackling this looming catastrophe.

Keywords: *New India, Water-crisis, Security Challenges, Water wars.*

Introduction :

Over the course of history, numerous civilizations have peaked and then gradually fettered or even disappeared abruptly. In many cases, the cause of both their rise and disintegration was the same: “**WATER**”. The great Indian Indus Valley Civilization, considered an extremely advanced civilization of its time, perished due to mismanagement of water and climatic changes leading to floods, droughts and desertification. Other affluent civilizations, viz. Mesopotamian and Egyptian, had also fallen prey to the devastating effects of the very water that once supported their lavish existence.

From leaps in the Bronze Age to massive droughts that wiped out civilizations, what we have learnt from history is that life depends on water. This precious resource has been a driving factor of progress in the past and will continue to be a determining factor for development in the future as well.

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