

Vidhav Avasthi & Abhiraj Srivastava
AIS VKC Lko, IX A

Thousands of dejected faces standing in long queues to fill empty containers with water is the current scenario of the Silicon Valley of India aka Bengaluru. Well, it is not the only city that has been struggling with an acute water crisis because statistics show that nearly 2.2 billion people around the globe lack access to safe water. Known to be the most abundant resource on the planet, water, the elixir of life, has been a great matter of concern where the drip of a faucet echoes the weight of various global repercussions, and the thirst for solutions is as pressing as the need for hydration itself. Pondering over the scarcity of this resource, here are a few notable questions that might help us decipher the reasons behind the scarcity of this valuable resource that connects life.

A thirst trap

The Water Problem, One Drop At A Time

How much water is enough?

Water crisis happens when the availability of fresh water is not able to match up to the needs of the growing population. Research says that around 1.1 billion people do not have access to water and around 2.7 billion people face water scarcity for about one month of the year. Often it is not sufficient for people to carry out even their day-to-day tasks. So, to answer the question raised above, in numeric terms, a person needs at least 1000 metre cube of hygienic water per year to perform all their routine functions. And even though water covers about 70% of the earth we reside so happily on, only three percent of that resource is actually usable. Moreover, even out of this three percent, 74% is in the form of glaciers, which are melting anyway, as one might argue. However, it is more the reason for us to worry and not rejoice, since water crisis hasn't really been a one-time occurrence, bringing us to the next question...

How much have we bore?

Well, if we look at history, water shortage for the first time ap-

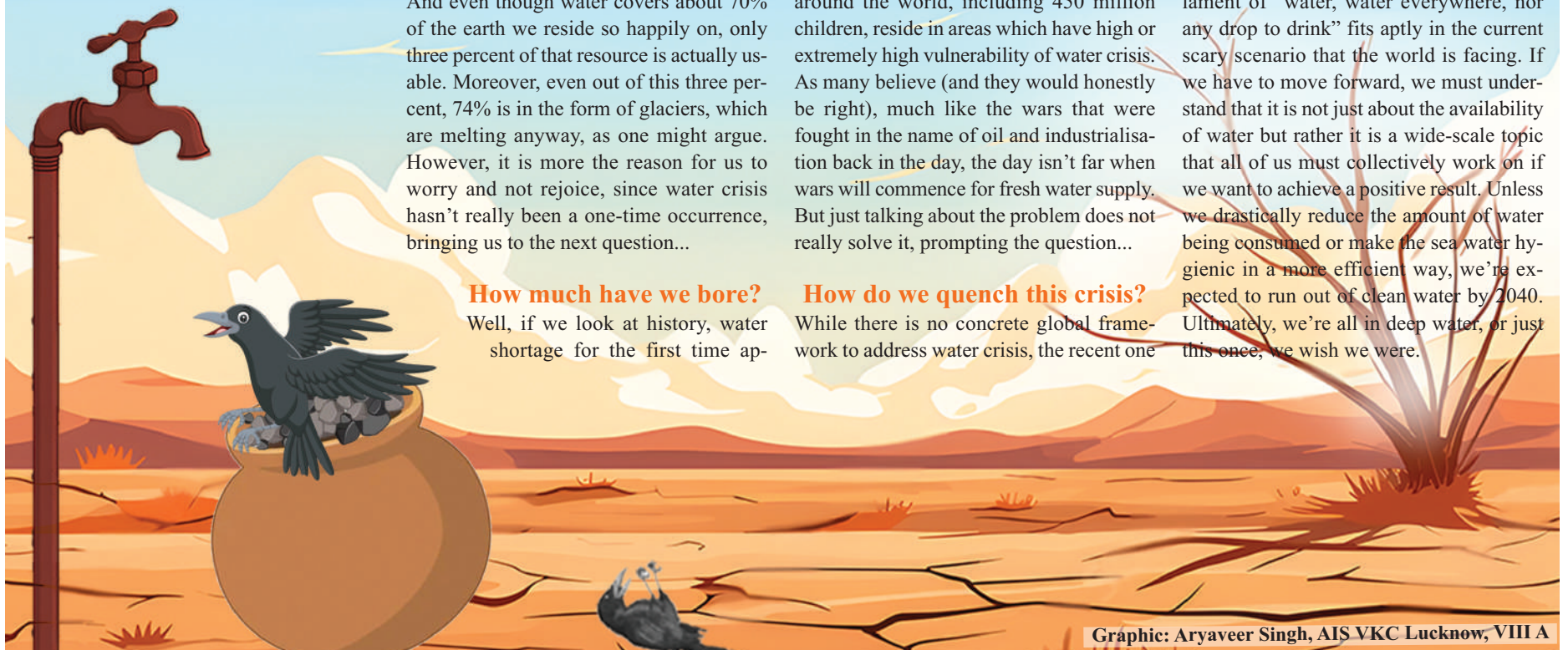
peared in 1800s on historical records. Even now, in the world, there are at least 25 countries, if not even more, that are facing this crazy water crisis. Bahrain, Cyprus, Kuwait, Lebanon, and Oman are at the top of that sad list. Between 2017 and 2021, India's thermal power plants lost 8.2 terawatt-hours of energy due to a shortage of water to cool them down. This amount of energy could have powered 1.5 million Indian households for five years. Shocking, right? And in 2021, one of the UNICEF surveys showed that 1.42 million people around the world, including 450 million children, reside in areas which have high or extremely high vulnerability of water crisis. As many believe (and they would honestly be right), much like the wars that were fought in the name of oil and industrialisation back in the day, the day isn't far when wars will commence for fresh water supply. But just talking about the problem does not really solve it, prompting the question...

How do we quench this crisis?

While there is no concrete global framework to address water crisis, the recent one

has been the UN summit on water held in March 2023, the first-of-its-kind conference where around hundreds of participating countries, businesses, and non-profit organisations came together to sign a Water Action Agenda. On the other hand, in 2022, the USA administration under Joe Biden launched an action plan to work towards global water security as one of its critical agenda under US foreign policy objectives. Further, Namibia, the desert capital, has been recycling wastewater into drinking water and countries like China and USA have been transforming byproducts from wastewater into fertilisers. Even our own land, India, with its Jal Shakti Abhiyan that began in 2019, has been trying to save water, recharge, and harvest rainwater in around 256 water-stressed districts.

Echoing the paradox of abundance amidst scarcity in our modern world, the timeless lament of "water, water everywhere, nor any drop to drink" fits aptly in the current scary scenario that the world is facing. If we have to move forward, we must understand that it is not just about the availability of water but rather it is a wide-scale topic that all of us must collectively work on if we want to achieve a positive result. Unless we drastically reduce the amount of water being consumed or make the sea water hygienic in a more efficient way, we're expected to run out of clean water by 2040. Ultimately, we're all in deep water, or just this once, we wish we were.



Graphic: Aryaveer Singh, AIS VKC Lucknow, VIII A

Page editor: Parth Gupta, AIS VKC Lucknow, XI C

THE GT POLL

Do you think Aaron Taylor-Johnson, rumoured to be the next James Bond in the movie franchise, will do justice to the iconic Agent 007 role?

a) Yes b) No c) Can't say

To vote, check out our Instagram page @the_global_times

Coming next

AIS VYC Lko contest edition



This special edition has been brought to you by Amity International School, VKC Lucknow, as a part of the 'GT Making A Newspaper Contest'. Each page of this unique edition carries a special story handcrafted by the school's editorial team as a part of the competition. The inter-Amity newspaper making competition witnesses different branches of Amity schools across India churn out their own 'Contest Edition' which are pitted against one another at the end of the year, culminating with GT Awards. So, here's presenting the **eleventh edition** of 'GT Making A Newspaper Contest 2023-24'.

What's inside

The grand vision, P3

The mystery of mirages, P4

The unreachable, P6

The magical herb, P7

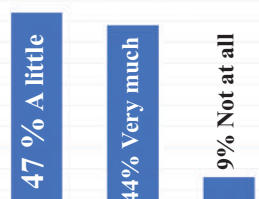
The forgotten lullaby, P8

The mango effect, P10

POLL RESULT

for GT Edition March 25, 2024

To what extent will Mahindra & Mahindra partnering with Adani Gas to establish EV charging infrastructure across the nation boost its sector?



Results as on March 30, 2024

Follow us on: @theglobaltimesnewspaper @the_global_times