

Naini Lake's water crisis

Prelims - *Current events of National Importance*

Mains (GS- I) - *Location-changes in critical geographical features (including water-bodies and ice-caps).*

Why in News?

Naini Lake has recorded a water level of 4.7 feet, marking a five-year low that sparked concerns over drinking water scarcity ahead of the summer season.

- It is a natural kidney-shaped lake in Nainital, Uttarakhand surrounded by seven hills.
- **Discovered by** - P. Baron, a british businessman in 1839.
- The **third largest lake** in Uttarakhand by surface area.
- **Topology** -It is connected by a bridge between Mallital (north) and Tallital (south), and this bridge houses the world's only post office on a lake bridge.

76% of the city's water demand was met by the Naini Lake in 2024.

- **Reasons for the water crisis** - Decrease in snowfall and rainfall in the winter months.
- A report from the Uttarakhand State Council for Science and Technology found that compared to other Kumaon lakes, Naini Lake is subjected to the greatest man-made manipulations.
- It cited unplanned construction, encroachment, and degradation of recharge zones as key factors.
- The construction of concrete structures nearby further causes low rainwater infiltration, worsened by the low rainfall in some years.
- Enhancing siltation, dumping debris in **Sukhatal Lake**, which is a major aquifer recharge area for Naini Lake, causing the lake to shrink.
- Pollution from the discharge of untreated wastewater, improper disposal of solid waste, and inadequate sewer systems causing sewage to overflow into stormwater drains, discharge into the Lake.

Reference

[The Indian Express | Naini Lake](#)



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