

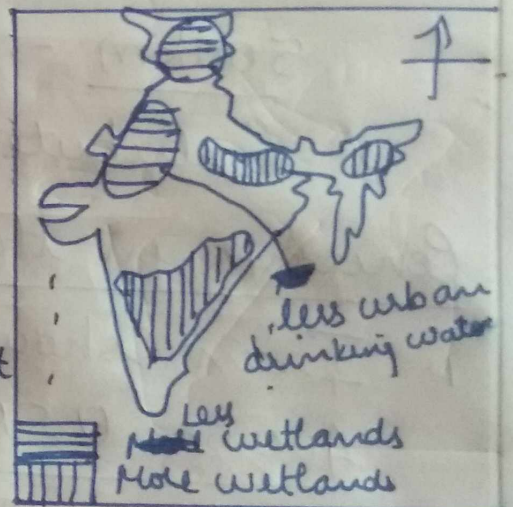
3. Developing and conserving wetlands in urban areas of the country could be the best possible way to avert water crisis. Elaborate.

The rural urban population in India will be 60:40 by 2050, and there is a need to shift out from 'Water Stress' condition as per UN-water since our percapita availability is less than 1700 litres/m³ by 2050. Hence conservation and development of wetlands is a need of hour to have sustainable water in future.

Fig: Wetlands in India

Wetlands in Urban areas:

1. Falls under the municipal corporation - development
2. 30% decrease in urban wetlands - due to encroachment as per Ministry of Housing
3. Prominent in increasing aquifer water by infiltration by conservation.



Benefits of wetlands in urban areas:

1. Rainwater harvestation can be done in wetlands, since open free space is lacking in urban areas for penetration.

2. Under ground water - enrichment can be done by increasing wetland area conservation
3. Increase condensation due to evaporation of water from wetlands.
4. Wastewater reclamation for drinking water from wetlands (e.g) Israel Technology
5. Conservation of urban floodwater catchment can be done using wetlands (e.g) Hydrabad Model.

Government programmes and efforts:

1. Wetland International:

1. Conservation of urban wetlands for flora, fauna and water management
 2. Gets international funding for conservation
- #### 2. Smart cities Mission & 2015

1. Water management in water stress cities
2. Reclamation & restoration of wetlands

3. National Water Mission:

1. Increasing the drinking water and irrigation water availability
2. Part of NAPCC - focus public and private participation

4. Ramsar International Conservation - Iran:

1. Urban wetlands => included; MNO participation
2. Helps in groundwater management for water crisis

Future Prospects:

1. UN convention on water -> laws to be included in policy
2. Israel - co-operation for management of water recycle from wetlands.