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IMPORTANT TOPICS FOR UPSC CSE.

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WATER SCARCITY:

- One of the top 5 risks by business leaders in the annual global risk report of the World Economic Forum.
- According to the United Nations, over two billion people live in countries experiencing high water stress.
- India alone has 88 million people who lack access to safe water, placing the nation at the centre of this global problem.
- Eighty per cent of India's freshwater is used in agriculture, making it a critical resource for the livelihoods of farmers and the country's food security.
- Farmers rely heavily on groundwater through wells and tube-wells.

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WOMEN & WATER MANAGEMENT

ROLE OF WOMEN

WATER SCARCITY

- A study conducted on water supply projects in Gujarat in 2000 showed that when women were included in technical and decision-making capacities, there was a marked improvement in the impact of projects.
- Women have been creating consistent ripples in India's water security efforts the time is right to leverage them as leaders of change

WAY FORWARD

- The crisis created by large-scale groundwater extraction needs concerted and scaled-up water management efforts in rural India.
- Considering their high stakes in ensuring water security, women are well poised to champion change.
- The time is right to leverage women as leaders of change.

- Women constitute 37% of the agricultural workforce.
- Several studies shows that, women spend more hours than men in working fields in the cropping season-this need them to plan for and use water judiciously.

The better managers:

- Women engage with the issue of water in different avatars-as farmers, panchayat members, MGNREGS workers and extension workers.
- They have also demonstrated their ability to mobilise funds from the government
- In West Bengal, women influenced the government to release MGNREGS funds as a result, they got additional water potential of 7.4 billion litres and benefitted 35,000 women.
- Unicef's work in India has also proved women's prowess at mechanical work.
- In Jharkhand's Lava panchayat, women formed a diverse group from across every panchayat to maintain 450 pumps.
- Women are more efficient and were able to resolve issues more quickly than their male counterparts
- Women have also shown an eagerness to adopt new technologies, explore sustainable farming methods and spread awareness among their families, making them excellent potential water champions.
- Women-led collectives have driven changes in cropping practices. and demonstrated a bigger willingness to switch to organic inputs and grow climate-resilient crops that consume less water.