

Strengthening Urban Water Security in Indian Cities: A Framework Linking Systemic Challenges and Emerging Technologies



By Pracheta Sawardekar PUI24260
Guided by : Aasim Mansuri and Omkar Kane

“Water is not merely a commodity—it is a priceless asset. Securing our future depends on how we conserve and manage it today.”

*- Droupadi Murmu
Hon’ble President of India*

Source : https://www.presidentofindia.gov.in/press_releases/president-india-graces-jal-mahotsav-2026



Water Security

Are we safe and Sustainable?

Water security is the ability to ensure reliable, safe, and sufficient water for people, the economy, and ecosystems while effectively managing risks and governance.



Water Scarcity

Is there enough water physically?

Water scarcity refers to the physical availability of water, measured as the balance between supply and demand.



Water Stress

Can we actually use it?

Water stress refers to the ability to meet water demand, considering availability, quality, and accessibility.



Water Governance

Who decides who gets water?

Water governance refers to the systems that manage water resources, allocation, and decision-making.

Source : UN-Water (2013). Water Security & the Global Water Agenda: An UN-Water Analytical Brief, FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization) & UN-Water, OECD (2015). OECD Principles on Water Governance

Urbanization and Climate Pressures Driving Water Insecurity



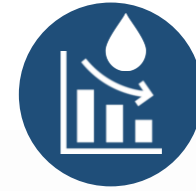
Urbanisation

“The process by which an increasing proportion of a population lives in urban areas, driven by rural-to-urban migration, natural population growth in cities, and the spatial expansion of urban settlements”

“Smaller towns becoming major hubs”

The Pressure Cooker Effect on Resources

Massive “Supply vs. Demand” gap



Resource Scarcity

“Resource scarcity refers to a condition in which the demand for a natural resource exceeds its available supply within a given region or time period”

Water Demand

“Urban dwellers use more water per capita than rural residents (for flushing, washing machines, industry, etc.)”

Housing & Waste

“A need for millions of new homes and systems to process double the current amount of sewage and trash “

Energy

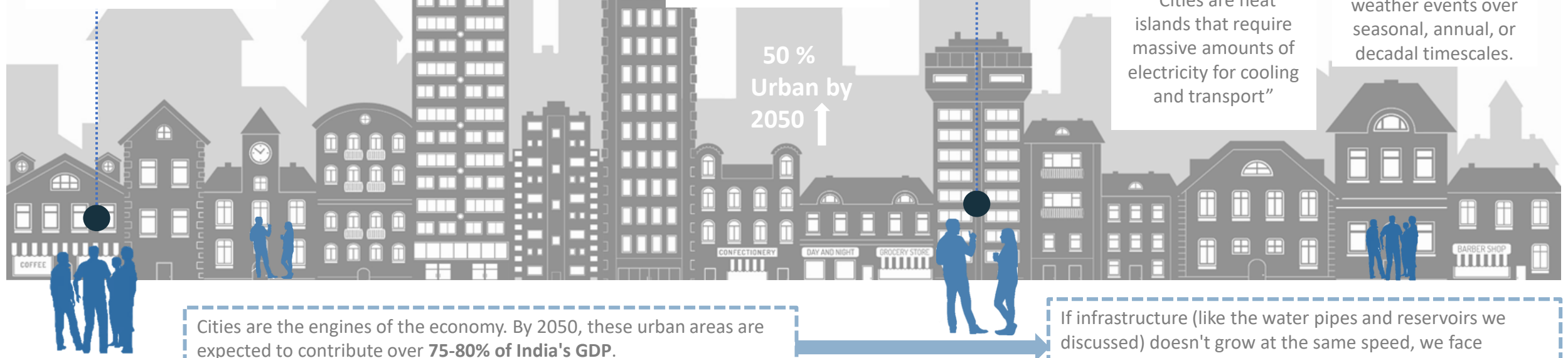
“Cities are heat islands that require massive amounts of electricity for cooling and transport”

Climate Variability



Refers to natural fluctuations in climatic conditions such as temperature, rainfall, and extreme weather events over seasonal, annual, or decadal timescales.

50 % Urban by 2050 ↑



Cities are the engines of the economy. By 2050, these urban areas are expected to contribute over **75-80% of India's GDP**.

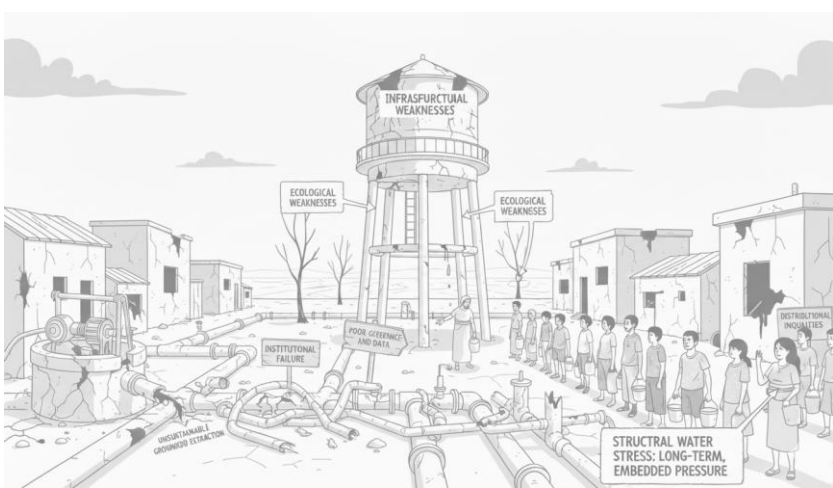
If infrastructure (like the water pipes and reservoirs we discussed) doesn't grow at the same speed, we face "structural stress" where the city exists on paper but cannot provide basic services to half its residents.

Source : India Water Portal and Observer Research Foundation (ORF)

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Structural Drivers of Persistent Urban Water Stress

If infrastructure (like the water pipes and reservoirs we discussed) doesn't grow at the same speed, we face "structural stress" where the city exists on paper but cannot provide basic services to half its residents.



“Structural water stress is long-term, embedded pressure within water systems caused by infrastructural, ecological, and institutional weaknesses that make water insecurity persistent rather than seasonal”

SYSTEM VULNERABILITIES

Drivers



Infrastructure Gaps

- Ageing and under-capacitated distribution networks
- High levels of non-revenue water (leakage and losses)
- Limited treatment and storage augmentation



Unsustainable Groundwater Extraction

- Withdrawal exceeding natural recharge rates
- Declining urban aquifer levels
- Increasing borewell dependency



Poor Governance & Data

- Institutional silos and coordination failures
- Limited real-time monitoring capacity
- Reactive rather than adaptive planning



Distributional Inequalities

- Unequal service provision across urban geographies
- Informal settlements underserved
- Socio-spatial disparities in access



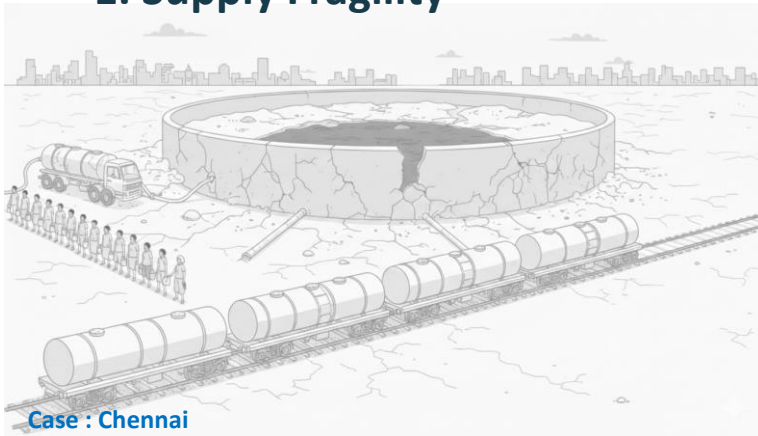
Structural Water Stress

Seasonal → Chronic → Systemic

Source : India Water Portal and Observer Research Foundation (ORF)

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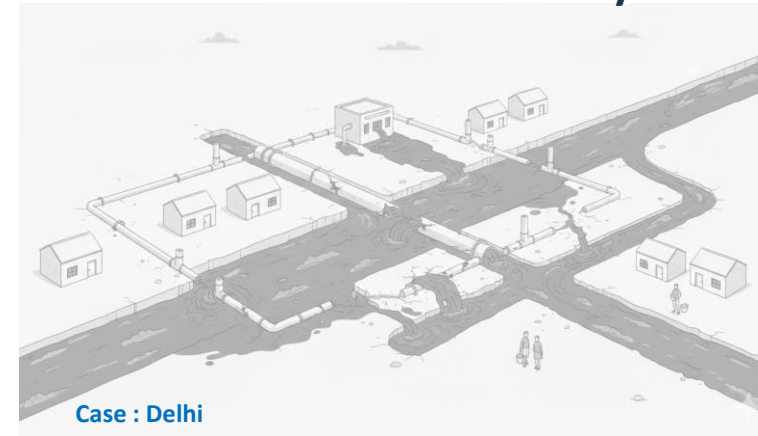
1. Supply Fragility



- Reservoirs ran dry after weak monsoon
- Severe groundwater depletion
- Emergency tanker and rail supply

Shows overdependence on rainfall & aquifers

3. Distribution Inefficiency



- Largest source of water pollution
- ~70% distribution losses (Non-Revenue Water)
- Poor infrastructure → leakages & inefficiency

Infrastructure created, but system integration is weak

2. STP'S without Sewer Connectivity



- Several sewage treatment plants underutilized
- Incomplete sewer networks
- Treated capacity not fully translated into environmental improvement

Infrastructure created, but system integration is weak

4. Inequitable Access

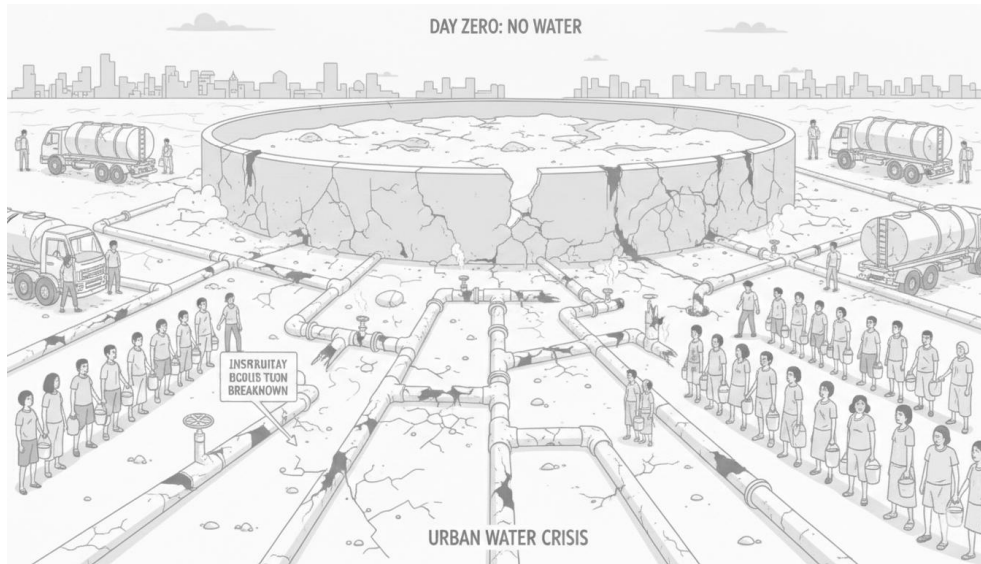


- Informal settlements rely on shared taps or tanker supply
- Pay significantly higher per liter than piped users
- Unequal distribution despite city-level abundance

Service inequality despite large municipal system.

Source : Wankhade, K., Balakrishnan, K., & Vishnu, M. J. (2014). *Sustaining policy momentum: Urban water supply and sanitation in India*. Indian Institute for Human Settlements.

Limitations of Conventional Approaches : Chennai & Capetown



“Day Zero refers to the point at which a city’s water system can no longer provide regular municipal water supply due to critically depleted reservoirs, aquifers, or distribution failure.”

Impacts :



Infrastructure
Gaps



Unsustainable
Groundwater
Extraction



Poor
Governance
& Data



Climate
Variability

CHENNAI

- In 2019, Chennai’s four main reservoirs dried up after weak monsoons
- The city depended heavily on seasonal rainfall and groundwater extraction
- Years of over-extraction and poor recharge reduced aquifer levels
- Municipal supply collapsed in many areas
- The city relied heavily on private water tankers and emergency rail transport of water

CAPETOWN

- Between 2015–2017, Cape Town experienced an extreme multi-year drought
- Dam storage levels fell below critical levels
- The government announced a projected “Day Zero” when municipal taps would be shut off
- Strict per capita water limits (50 liters/day) were imposed
- Real-time public dashboards tracked dam levels and usage
- Massive public participation reduced demand significantly
- Day Zero was ultimately avoided

“Chennai illustrates the consequences of **structural water stress** under supply dependence, while Cape Town demonstrates how adaptive governance and demand management can **delay systemic breakdown**.”

Source : Rosado, D., Fárez-Román, V., Müller, F., Nambi, I., & Fohrer, N. (2024). *Rethinking urban water management through drivers-pressures-states-impacts-responses framework application in Chennai, India*. *Environmental Management*, 74, 970–988

Recurring Urban Issues

Water shortages & source stress

Aging infrastructure & leakages

Intermittent & inequitable supply

Unsafe sanitation practices

Untreated wastewater discharge

Poor O&M and monitoring

Policy & Programmatic Interventions

Source augmentation, river and lake rejuvenation, rainwater harvesting under AMRUT 2.0 and Jal Shakti Abhiyan

Pipe replacement, district metered areas, NRW reduction and smart metering under AMRUT

Universal tap connections and service expansion under Jal Jeevan Mission and AMRUT 2.0

Household toilets, containment systems, and sanitation infrastructure under Swachh Bharat Mission

Sewage treatment plants, fecal sludge treatment plants, and co-treatment promoted under Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban and Namami Gange Programme

Institutional reforms, digital monitoring platforms, performance benchmarking under AMRUT 2.0

Implementation Gaps

Cities remain highly dependent on groundwater and distant surface sources

Infrastructure exists but high leakages and poor asset management persist

Supply remains uneven across informal settlements and peri-urban areas

Septic tanks often poorly designed or non-compliant

Sewage networks incomplete and sludge often bypasses treatment

Weak operational capacity, fragmented data systems, limited coordination

Source : AMRUT 2.0 and SBM Guidelines

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Recurring Urban Issues

Policy & Programmatic Interventions

Implementation Gaps

Water shortages & source stress

Source augmentation, river and lake rejuvenation, rainwater harvesting under AMRUT 2.0 and Jal Shakti Abhiyan

Cities remain highly dependent on groundwater and distant surface sources

“Despite national initiatives, gaps persist across the urban water service chain. Traditional infrastructure alone is insufficient—emerging technologies are essential for resilient, efficient, and data-driven water management.”

Untreated wastewater discharge

Sewage treatment plants, fecal sludge treatment plants, and co-treatment promoted under Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban and Namami Gange Programme

Sewage networks incomplete and sludge often bypasses treatment

Poor O&M and monitoring

Institutional reforms, digital monitoring platforms, performance benchmarking under AMRUT 2.0

Weak operational capacity, fragmented data systems, limited coordination

AIM

To develop a decision-support framework that links systemic urban water security challenges with suitable emerging technological interventions for improving reliability, efficiency, and resilience of water supply systems in Class III Indian cities

1

Identify and map key urban water security challenges across source, treatment, distribution, and delivery stages in Class III Indian cities.

2

Analyze and categorize emerging water technologies based on their functional role in addressing specific water security challenges.

3

Assess technologies using multi-dimensional criteria such as technical feasibility, operational complexity, financial viability, institutional capacity, and scalability, supported by case study insights.

4

Design a structured, user-oriented framework to guide cities in selecting context-appropriate technological interventions for improving reliability, efficiency, and resilience.

SCOPE

1

The study focuses on urban water supply systems in Class III Indian cities where demand pressures and operational complexities are significant.

2

The analysis covers the water supply service chain, including: Water sources (surface and groundwater), Treatment, Transmission and distribution and Delivery to consumers

3

Includes assessment of emerging technologies through selected Indian and international case studies

LIMITATIONS

1

Sanitation systems are not analyzed in detail, but the role of treated wastewater reuse as a supplementary source is acknowledged

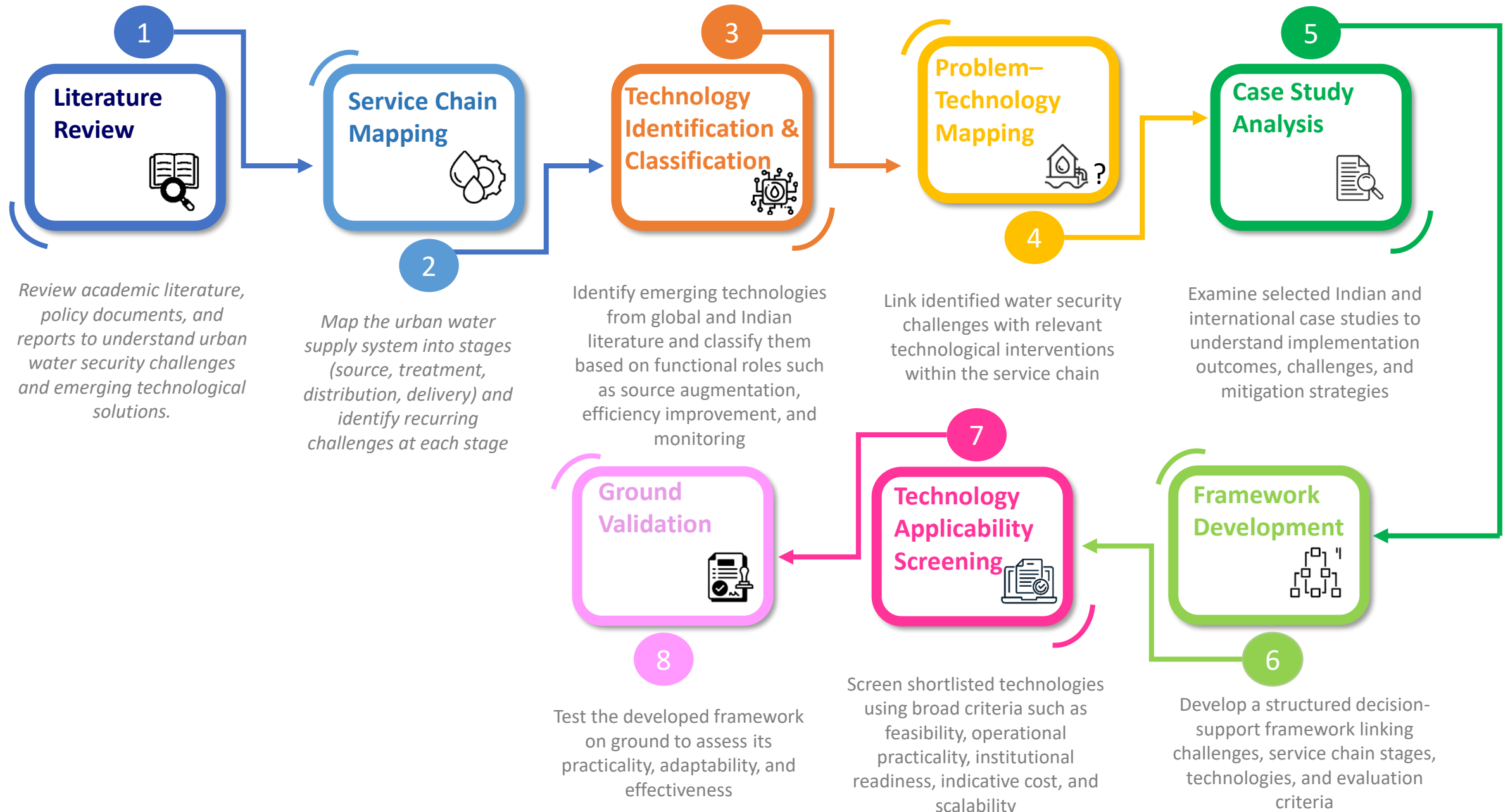
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The research relies primarily on secondary data, including: Academic literature , Government reports and policies , Mission guidelines , Research papers and Documented case studies.

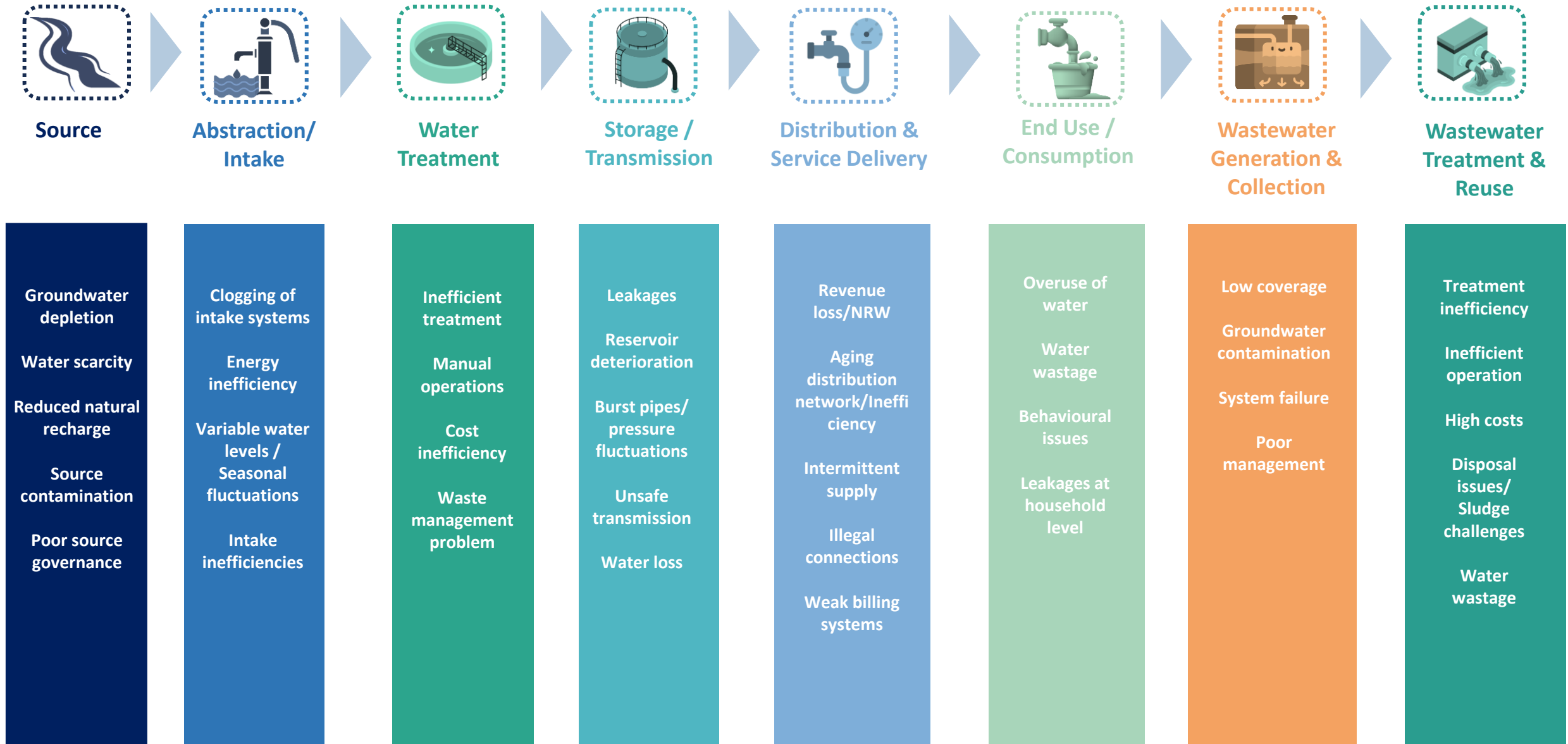
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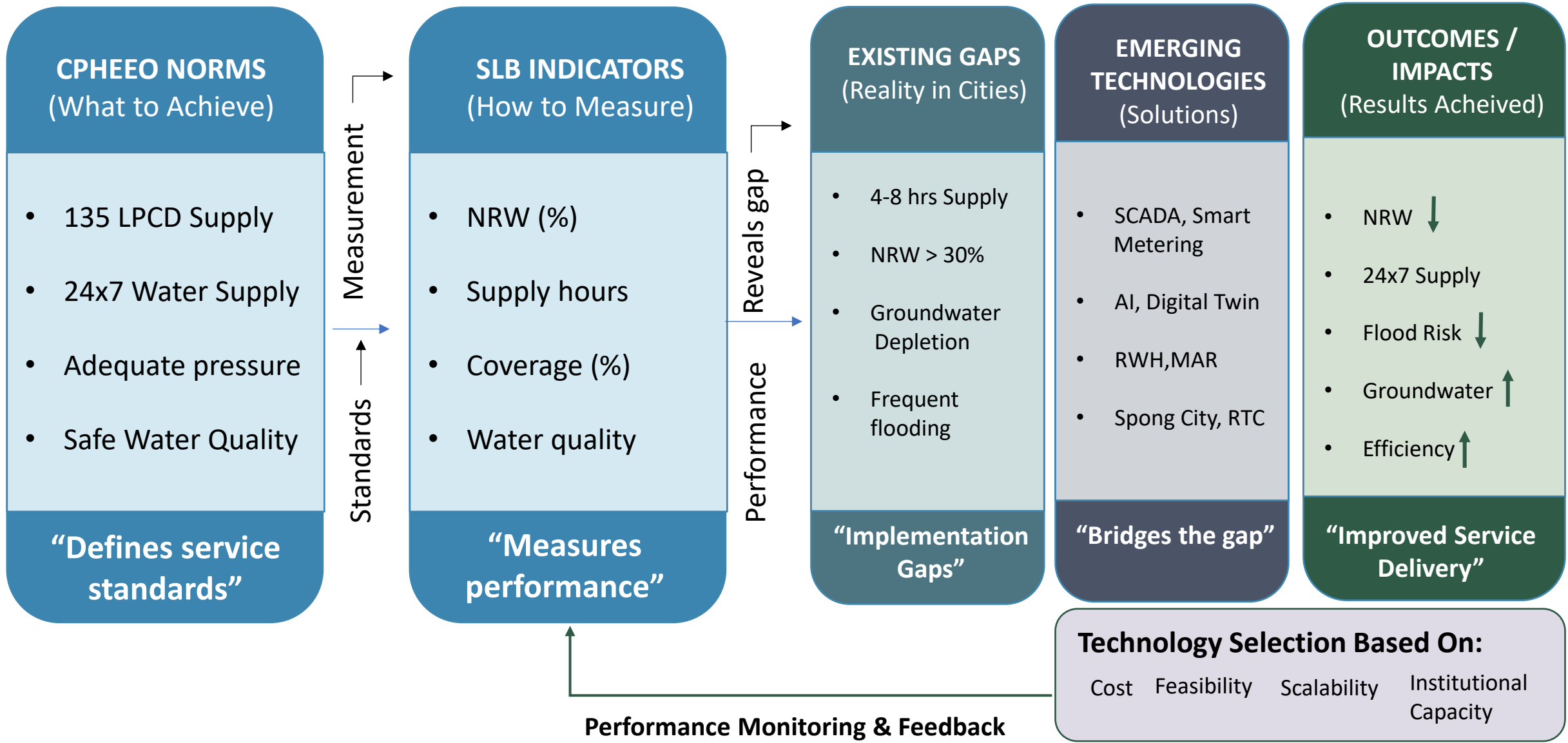
Limited primary validation / field testing

End-to-End Approach for Developing a Water Security Framework

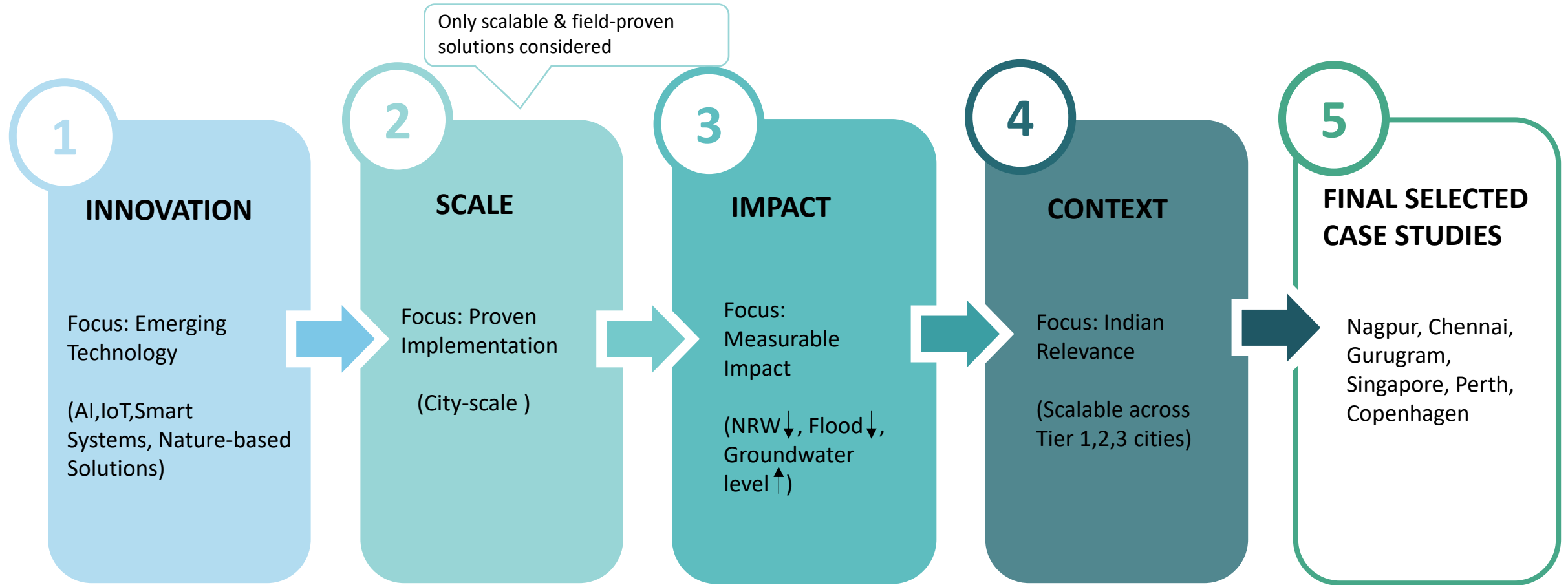


Systemic Challenges in Urban Water Systems





Source : Government of India. (2013). *Manual on water supply and treatment* (3rd ed.). Central Public Health and Environmental Engineering Organization (CPHEEO), Ministry of Urban Development.















EXCLUSION EXAMPLE :

Air to water technology
Fog Harvesting
Small – Scale Solar Water Generation

Not scalable at City Wide Implementation



COMMON GOAL: All six cities aim to improve urban water security through efficiency, sustainability, innovation and better management

CASE STUDY	CORE APPROACH	KEY INTERVENTIONS	KEY OUTCOMES
Nagpur	 Infrastructure + PPP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DMAs, metering, SCADA • Pipeline upgrade 	 Better supply, pressure, monitoring
Chennai	 Policy (RWH mandate)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rainwater harvesting • Compliance rules 	 Improved groundwater, less tanker use
Gurugram	 Demand management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aerators, leak fixing • Awareness & Training 	 30-40% water savings
Singapore	 Smart technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AI, sensors, digital twin • Real-time monitoring 	 Leak reduction, efficiency, lower costs
Perth	 Wastewater reuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aquifer recharge • Treatment systems 	 New water source, climate resilience
Copenhagen	 System optimization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smart sewers, RTC • Wastewater reuse 	 Reduced overflows, better use



KEY TAKEAWAY: Different approaches, one direction – building resilient, efficient and sustainable urban water systems

Background / Why the Project was Needed

Before the Reform: Intermittent System /Old System Issue



Intermittent supply,
Few hours daily
(2 to 24 hours depending on area)



Unequal distribution
across zones



High water losses;
Leakages
(Total water losses were estimated at 291 MLD & Equivalent to 54% of total water supplied)



Aging pipeline
network, poor
pressure



Increasing demand
From urban growth

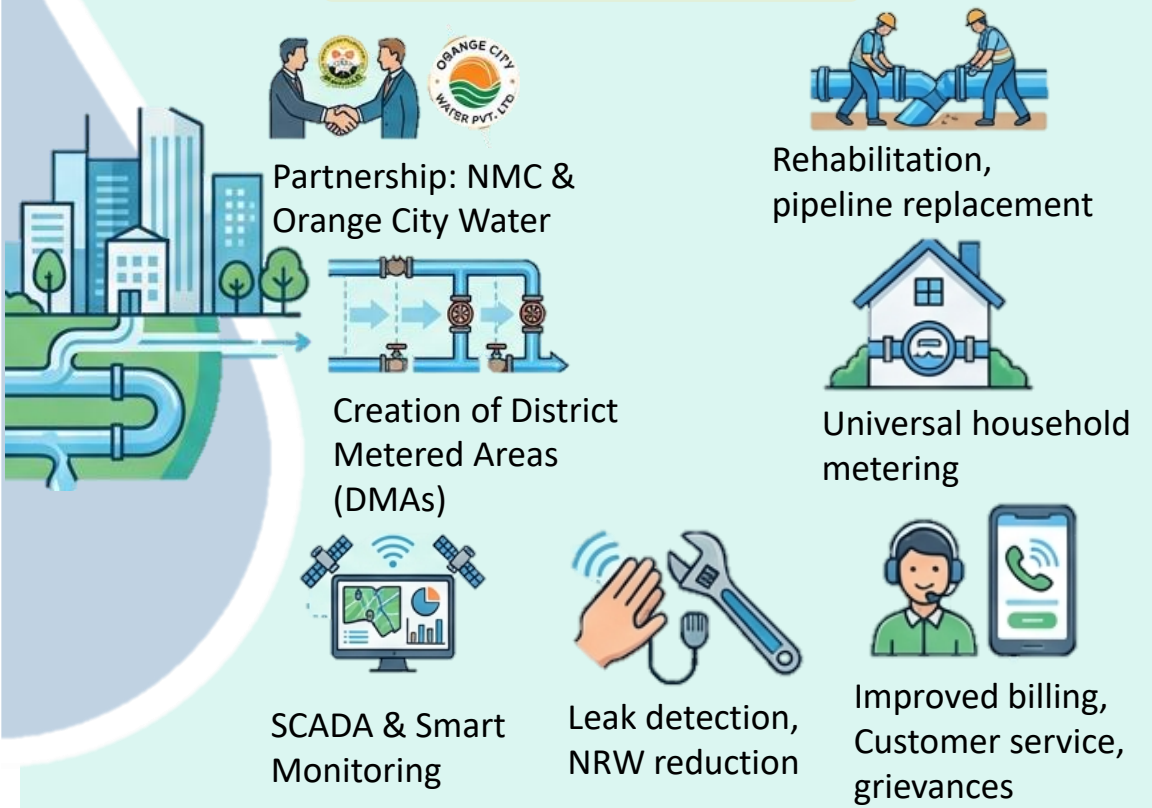


Inconvenience, Storage
dependence

What Nagpur Did

The Reform: City-Wide 24x7 Water Supply Project through PPP

Major Interventions



Source : OCW (2024), Times of India (2023, 2024, 2026)

Positive Outcomes

1 Improved Service Levels



Several areas received significantly longer supply duration

Better pressure And more reliable distribution

2 Better System Management



Meter-based billing introduced



Faster complaint Resolution systems



Real time-network monitoring

3 Reduced Dependence on Storage



Continuous/ long-duration supply reduced need for rooftop tanks and pumps

4 National Benchmark Project



Became a major case study for urban water reforms in India

Challenges Observed



Full 24x7 supply not achieved uniformly in all zones



NRW reduction remained a long-term challenge



Consumer complaints regarding billing/meters



Need for stronger public communication and trust building

Key Lesson for Other Cities

Continuous water supply requires not only infrastructure, but also:



INFRA-STRUCTURE

STRONG GOVERNANCE

NRW CONTROL

TECHNOLOGY

CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT

Continuous water supply requires not only infrastructure, but also: modern water more norms (strong governance), of NRW controls, involvement of citizen engagement

Background / Why the Project was Needed

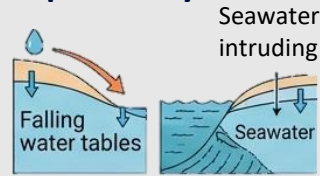
Repeated urban water crises (early 2000s, 2019)



Dried reservoirs

Dried reservoirs

Heavy Groundwater Dependency



Seawater intruding

Freshwater aquifer

Seasonal rainfall lost as surface runoff



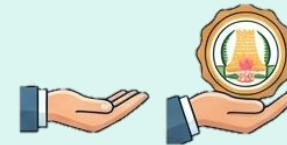
Rapid urbanization and paved surfaces



Reduced natural recharge zones

What Chennai Did

2003: Mandatory Rainwater Harvesting for all buildings



Install rooftop rainwater collection and recharge systems



Compliance linked to municipal approvals



Public campaigns for Participation and awareness

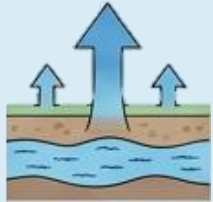


Shift focus to decentralized local recharge systems



Positive Outcomes

1



Significant groundwater level improvement in several zones

2



Better groundwater quality in coastal areas (reduced salinity)

3



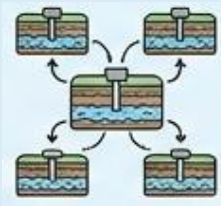
Reduced dependence on private tanker water

4



Increased public awareness of water conservation

5



Demonstrated small-scale complement city supply

Challenges Observed



Enforcement weakened after implementation phase



Many properties adopted token compliance (poor use)



Recharge pits and filters became clogged due to poor maintenance

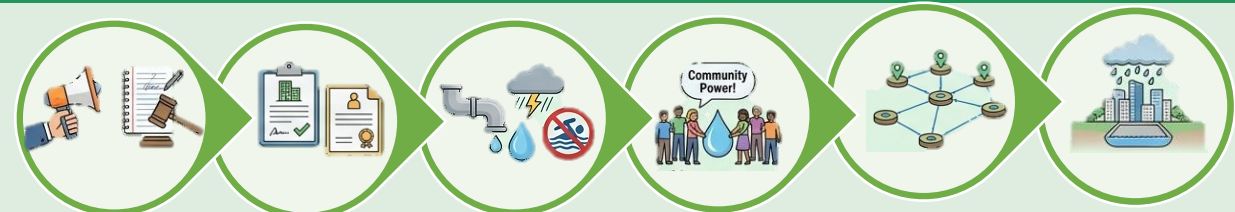


Ongoing urban concretisation percolation capacity



Benefits varied across locations (soil type, density, upkeep)

Key Lesson for Other Cities



**MANDATES
NEED
REGULAR
INSPECTIONS
& PENALTIES**

**INTEGRATE
RWH
APPROVAL
WITH BLDG.
PERMITS & OC
CERTIFICATES**

**LINK RWH
WITH
STORMWATER
DRAINAGE &
FLOOD
MANAGEMENT**

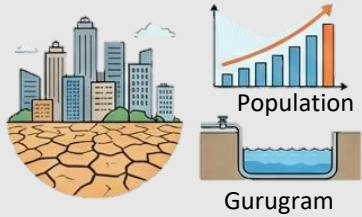
**PUBLIC
PARTICIPATI
ON AND
AWARENESS
DRIVE LONG-
TERM
SUCCESS**

**DECENTRA-
LISED
RECHARGE
SYSTEMS ARE
A COST-
EFFECTIVE
STRATEGY**

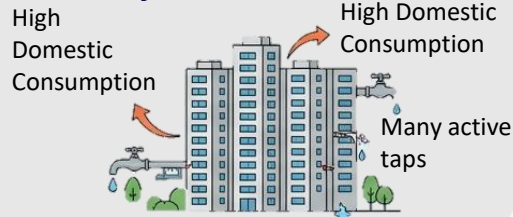
**CITIES WITH
HIGH RAINFALL,
SCARCE WATER,
BENEFIT BY
CAPTURING
LOCAL RAIN**

Background / Why the Project was Needed

Growing Urban Water Stress



Residential Societies as Major Stakeholders



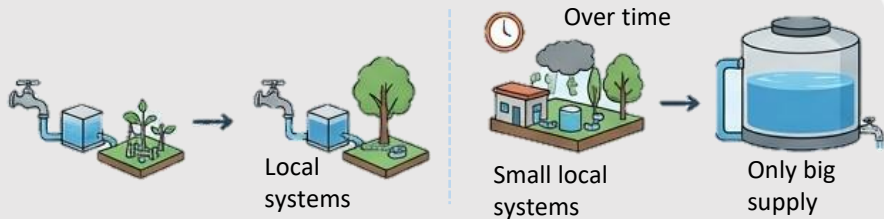
Aging Plumbing Systems Cause Water Losses



Limited Adoption of Conservation Devices & Poor Awareness



Promote Decentralized Conservation Measures



What Gurugram Did

GuruJal Society Launch Conservation Program (2019)



Installed Aerators in Taps & Kitchens



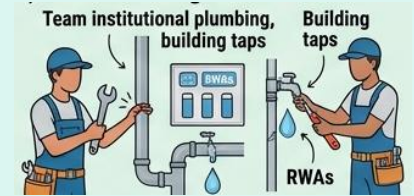
Institutions Prepare Water Budgets



Provide Technical & Cost-Effective Solutions



Leak-Proofing Drivers



Survey 572 Government Schools (RWH assessment)



Awareness & Training Sessions



Positive Outcomes

1 Installation of 8,500 aerators in 15 RWAs



2 Tap water consumption reduced by up to 40%



3 Potential saving of 304 million litres/year if school RWH operates full capacity



4 Reduced leak-related losses & improved efficiency



5 Increased awareness regarding conservation



6 Low-cost retrofits create large cumulative savings



Challenges Observed

Difficulty in changing resident behaviour



Maintenance issues in installed devices over time



Non-functional RWH systems despite prior installation



Scaling model requires funding/monitoring



Data collection and water metering gaps



Key Lesson for Other Cities



DEMAND
MANAGE
MENT=
AUGMEN
-TATION

LOW-COST
DEVICES
CREATE
IMMEDIATE,
MEASURABLE
SAVINGS

RWAs
POWER-
FUL
PARTNER
S

WATER
AUDIT &
BUDGETING
IDENTIFY
WASTAGE

EXISTING
RWH
REGULARLY
INSPECTED
& REVIVED

CITIZEN
AWARENE-
SS
ESSENTIAL

COMBINE
BEHAVIOUR,T
ECHNOLOGY,
GOVERNANCE
FOR
SUSTAINABLE
SAVINGS

Background / Why the Project was Needed

Highly Advanced Urban Water System



MINIMIZING NRW & LEAKAGES CRITICAL

Hidden Underground Leaks



DIFFICULT TO DETECT BY VISUAL INSPECTION

Leak Occurrence Burden



4.5 leaks / 100 km PIPELINE

Repair Crew Maintenance

WATER LOSSES AND MAINTENANCE

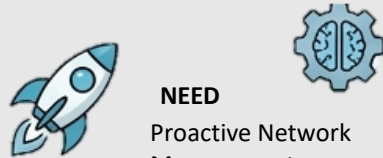
Traditional Monitoring relied on manual surveys



450+ STATIONS

SLOW, LABOUR-INTENSIVE, LESS ACCURATE

Proactive and Intelligent Approach



NEED Proactive Network Management

Large Data Existed, but fragmented



INFORMATION FRAGMENTED, REDUCED EFFICIENCY

What Singapore Did

Developed Digital Twin Integrated with AI Analytics



Predictive Analytics detect abnormal flow & leaks



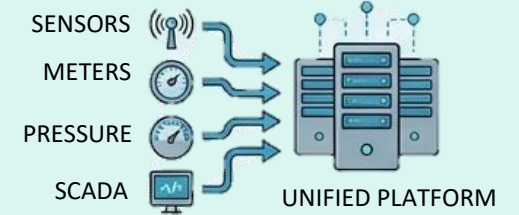
DETECT ABNORMAL FLOW, PRESSURE CHANGES

Risk-Based Targeted Inspections



SHIFT FROM SCHEDULED TO TARGETED

Real-Time Data Connected to unified platform



Rapid Leak Localization



REDUCE SEARCH ZONES

Cloud-Based Interfaces Improve interoperability



BETTER INTEROPERABILITY & DECISION MAKING

Source : Bentley Systems, Incorporated. (2025). PUB Singapore refines digital anomaly and leak detection practices for their smart water grid program: Digital twins, AI, and machine learning drive intelligent network surveillance, localizing leaks to less than one kilometer.

Positive Outcomes

- 1 Improved leak detection**
 Accuracy to 80%

- 2 Faster identification & repair of hidden leaks**

- 3 Reduced water losses, improved system efficiency**






- 4 Lower O&M costs through targeted inspections**

- 5 Reduced manpower needs for routine surveys**

- 6 Better asset management using predictive insights**

- 7 Improved service reliability & resilience**


Challenges Observed

- Data integration from legacy systems & multiple sensor formats**

- Continuous model calibration for dynamic conditions**

- Organizational resistance to digital operations**

- High upfront investment needing justification**

- Dependence on quality sensor data & communication**


Key Lesson for Other Cities



Source : Bentley Systems, Incorporated. (2025). PUB Singapore refines digital anomaly and leak detection practices for their smart water grid program: Digital twins, AI, and machine learning drive intelligent network surveillance, localizing leaks to less than one kilometer.

Background / Why the Project was Needed

Declining rainfall and climate variability (Perth water stress)



Large volumes of treated wastewater discharged to sea (Lost resources)



Annual rainfall dropped 20% reduced inflows to dams



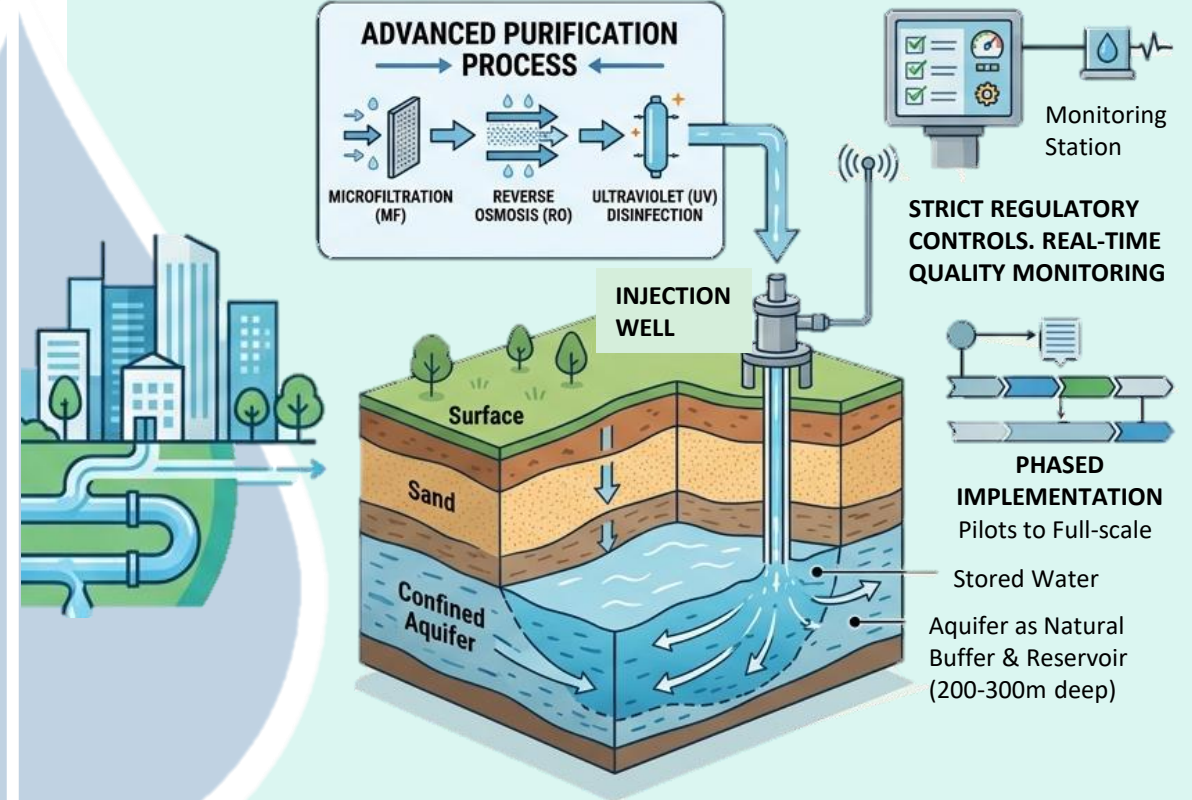
Growing population & drought risk. Need sustainable sources



Falling aquifer levels due to high dependence



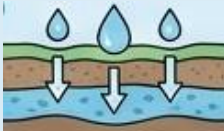






What Perth Did



Source : Bekele, E., Toze, S., Patterson, B., & Higginson, S. (2011). Managed aquifer recharge of treated wastewater: Water quality changes resulting from infiltration through the vadose zone

Positive Outcomes

- 1** **Reliable climate-resilient water source independent of rainfall**

- 2** **Reduced pressure on natural groundwater and surface reservoirs**

- 3** **Improved long-term groundwater sustainability through replenishment**

- 4** **Converted treated wastewater into valuable resource, not ocean discharge**

- 5** **Enhanced drought preparedness and urban water security**

- 6** **Demonstrated safe indirect potable reuse through multi-barrier treatment systems**

- 7** **Increased resilience against future climate change impacts**


Challenges Observed

- Public resistance due to "toilet-to-tap" perception & health concerns**

- Risks related to trace contaminants & micropollutants**

- Well clogging, injection performance decline, & maintenance complexity**

- High-capital & operating costs, especially due to energy intensive RO**

- Need for continuous monitoring & regulatory compliance**


Key Lesson for Other Cities



Source : Bekele, E., Toze, S., Patterson, B., & Higginson, S. (2011). Managed aquifer recharge of treated wastewater: Water quality changes resulting from infiltration through the vadose zone

Background / Why the Project was Needed

Growing Water Stress (Climate Variability & Demand)

Seasonal Imbalances

Wet months- High Availability

Dry Summer- High Demand

Groundwater Risks

Over-extraction Risk

Wastewater Losses

Wastewater Discharged

Need for Climate Resilience

Traditional Sewers Not Optimized

Traditional Systems

Not Optimized for Storage/Reuse

What Copenhagen Did

Implement Smart Sewers with Real-Time Control (RTC)

Sewer network modes

RTC OPTIMIZATION

Use Sensors & Automated Control

Sensors → Telemetry → Automated Valves/Gates

Dynamically control sewer pipe

Divert Wastewater for Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR)

Treated Wastewater → Sand & Gravel Pits → Soil-Aquifer Polishing

Pre-treatment

Nutrient & Micropollutant Removal

Controlled Recharge Rates

RATE CONTROL RATE CONTROL

Continuous Monitoring & Regulatory Compliance

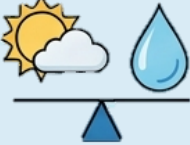
Monitoring Systems: REAL-TIME DATA

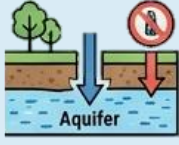
Compliance: 6 green checkmarks


Source : Kalalesøe, A. J., & Vangsgaard, P. (2012). *STORE: Storing treated wastewater for reuse in the Greater Copenhagen area*. Capital Region of Denmark & University of Copenhagen


Positive Outcomes


- 1 Improved seasonal Balancing**



- 2 Reduced groundwater pressure**



- 3 Better wastewater use**


- 4 Increased drought resilience**


- 5 Reduced sewer overflows**


- 6 Data-driven efficiency**


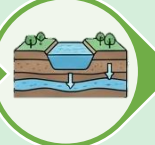


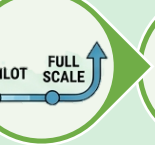



- 7 Urban water security**



Challenges Observed

 <p>Micropollutants & trace organics</p>	 <p>Strict regulations</p>	 <p>Complex hydrogeology</p>
 <p>Public Concerns</p>	 <p>Advanced coordination</p>	 <p>High technical requirements</p>

Key Lesson for Other Cities

						
WASTEWATER SHOULD BE VIEWED AS A RESOURCE, NOT WASTE	MAR CAN PROVIDE LARGE-SCALE DROUGHT – PROOF STORAGE	PUBLIC COMMUNICATION & TRANSPARENCY ARE CRITICAL FOR ACCEPTANCE	MULTI-BARRIER TREATMENT SYSTEMS ESSENTIAL FOR SAFETY & TRUST	PHASED PILOTS HELP DEMONSTRATE PERFORMANCE BEFORE SCALING CITYWIDE	CITIES WITH DECLINING RAIN & GROUND-WATER STRESS CAN DIVERSIFY SUPPLY	COMBINING REUSE + AQUIFER STORAGE IS OFTEN CHEAPER THAN NEW DAMS

Source : Kalalesøe, A. J., & Vangsgaard, P. (2012). *STORE: Storing treated wastewater for reuse in the Greater Copenhagen area*. Capital Region of Denmark & University of Copenhagen

CASE STUDY ANALYSIS ACROSS POPULATION RANGES

Case Study	Population Range	Equivalent Indian Tier	Applicability	Key Insight
Nagpur (24x7 PPP)	~ 46 lakh	Tier 2	Tier 2,3	Institutional + PPP model
Chennai (RWH)	~ 1 crore	Tier 1	All tiers	Policy-driven, scalable
Gurugram (Gurujal)	~ 8-10 lakh	Tier 2	Tier 2,3	Low-cost demand management
Singapore (Digital Twin)	~ 55 lakh	Tier 1 (Advanced)	Tier 1	High-tech, data-driven
Perth (MAR)	~ 20 lakh	Tier 2	Tier 1,2	Alternative water source
Copenhagen (RTC)	~ 8 lakh	Tier 2	Tier 1,2	Smart System Optimization

TARGET CITY TIER

PRIMARY FOCUS:

Tier 3 Cities (<1 lakh population)

WHY TIER 3 ?

(REASONS FOR FOCUS)

- Facing **growing water stress but limited infrastructure**
- Have **low financial & technical capacity**
- Require **low-cost, decentralized solutions**
- Opportunity to **avoid future crises through early planning**
- Easier to implement **community-based and scalable interventions**

OBSERVATION

- Case studies span small to large cities (8 lakh- 1 crore +)
- Solutions range from low-cost to highly advanced systems
- Decentralized and demand-side approaches are most relevant for Tier 3
- Tier 3 cities can adopt selective, scalable interventions



Source Augmentation Technologies

*Explain technologies that **increase water supply***

A. Water Reuse & Advanced Treatment

- DPR, IPR, Decentralized wastewater reuse
- Advanced membrane filtration

B. Rainwater Capture & Aquifer Recharge

- Rainwater & stormwater harvesting
- Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR)
- Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR)

C. Alternative Water Generation

- Desalination
- Atmospheric water generation
- Fog harvesting
- Solar water technologies

These technologies diversify water sources and reduce dependence on conventional surface and groundwater supplies



Efficiency-Enhancing Technologies

*Explain technologies that **improve infrastructure performance***

A. Smart Monitoring & Control Systems

- Smart water meters
- SCADA systems
- District Metered Areas (DMA)

B. Loss Detection & Pressure Optimization

- Leak detection tools (including AI-based)
- Pressure management systems
- Smart valves & automated pressure control

C. Predictive & Automated System Management

- Digital twin models
- Predictive maintenance systems
- Robotic pipeline inspection systems

These technologies optimize water distribution networks and reduce non-revenue water



Monitoring and Decision-Support Technologies

*Explain technologies that **improve governance and planning***

A. Data Integration & Visualization Platforms

- Digital dashboards
- Integrated data platforms
- GIS-based asset mapping

B. Real-Time Monitoring Networks

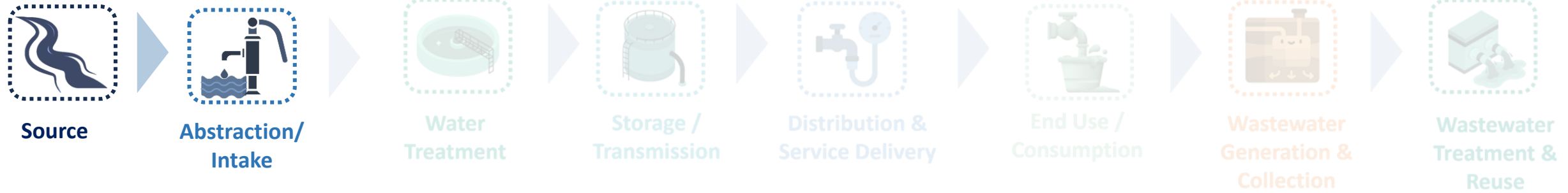
- IoT-based water monitoring systems
- Smart sewer monitoring systems

C. Advanced Analytics & Environmental Intelligence

- AI-based demand forecasting
- Satellite-based groundwater monitoring
- Remote sensing for watershed monitoring

These technologies enable real-time monitoring and data-driven decision-making for urban water management

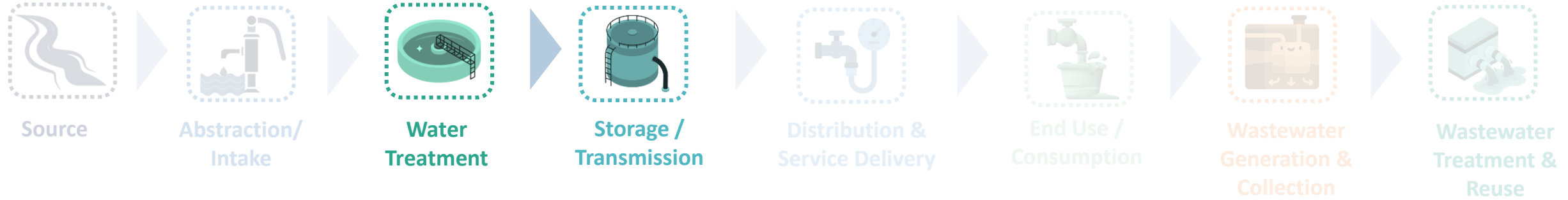
Technical Mapping in Urban Water Systems



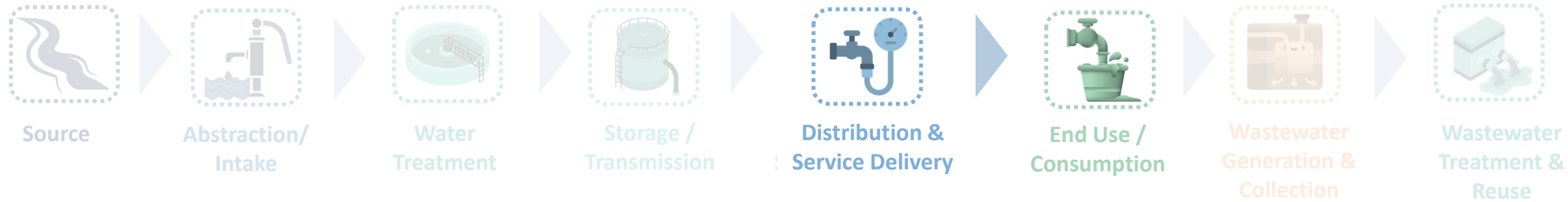
Cause	Challenge	Technology	Description	Outcome
1. Over-extraction of groundwater	Groundwater Depletion	Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR)	Recharges aquifers using treated wastewater/stormwater	Restores groundwater levels
2. Climate Variability	Water scarcity	Rainwater Harvesting Systems	Captures & stores rainwater for reuse	Improves water availability
3. Catchment Degradation	Reduced natural recharge	Watershed Management & GIS Mapping	Uses GIS and remote sensing to restore catchments	Enhances recharge capacity
4. Agriculture & industrial pollution	Source contamination	Real-time Water Quality Sensors	Continuous monitoring of pollutants in water bodies	Early detection & prevention
5. Weak monitoring & regulation	Poor source governance	Satellite-based Monitoring Systems	Tracks water bodies and usage patterns remotely	Improved regulation and planning

Cause	Challenge	Technology	Description	Outcome
1. Energy-intensive pumping	High operational cost	Smart pumps (VFD-based)	Optimizes pump energy usage	Reduces energy consumption
2. Manual operations	Inefficient intake Control	SCADA-based intake systems	Automates intake operations	Improves reliability
3. Sediment load/contamination	Poor raw water Quality	Automated screening & sediment removal	Removes debris and sediments at intake	Protects infrastructure
4. Lack of monitoring	Unpredictable intake performance	IoT flow & quality sensors	Tracks flow and quality in real-time	Better control and planning

Technical Mapping in Urban Water Systems



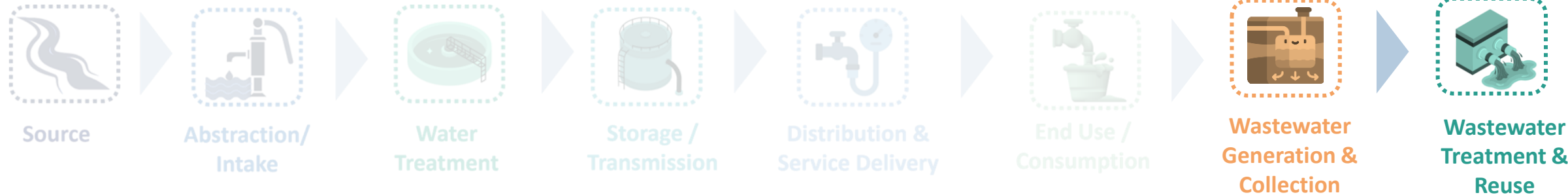
Cause	Challenge	Technology	Description	Outcome	Cause	Challenge	Technology	Description	Outcome
1. Aging infrastructure	Inefficient treatment	AI-based optimization	Optimizes plant operations	Improves performance	1. Aging pipelines	Leakages / NRW	IoT leak detection	Detects leaks using sensors	Reduces losses
2. Industrial pollution	Poor water Quality	Advanced filtration (RO/UF)	Removes contaminants	Safe water	2. Pressure imbalance	Pipe bursts	Smart pressure Management	Controls pressure	Prevents failures
3. Emerging pollutants	Hard to remove Contaminants	Advanced Oxidation Processes (AOPs)	Degrades pollutants chemically	Removes toxins	3. Lack of visibility	Inefficiency	Digital twin	Virtual system model	Optimized planning
4. High energy use	Unsustainable Treatment	Solar-powered Treatment	Uses solar energy	Reduces energy use					
5. Lack of monitoring	Data gaps	IoT water quality sensors	Real-time quality tracking	Early detection					



Cause	Challenge	Technology	Description	Outcome
1. Poor metering	Non-revenue water	Smart meters	Tracks usage & losses	Reduces NRW
2. Weak enforcement	Illegal connections	Data analytics + metering	Detects anomalies	Prevents theft
3. Manual operations	Intermittent supply	SCADA systems	Automates distribution	Improves reliability

Cause	Challenge	Technology	Description	Outcome
1. High demand	Over-consumption	Smart meters	Provides usage insights	Demand control
2. Lack of awareness	Water wastage	IoT monitoring systems	Tracks consumption	Reduces wastage
3. Poor feedback	Inefficient use	Digital dashboards	Visualizes usage data	Behaviour change

Technical Mapping in Urban Water Systems



Cause	Challenge	Technology	Description	Outcome
1. Poor sewer infrastructure	Overflow	Smart sewer systems	Uses sensors for flow Control	Prevents flooding
2. Lack of monitoring	System failure	Real – Time Control (RTC)	Automate sewer operations	Improves Efficiency

Cause	Challenge	Technology	Description	Outcome
1. Linear water use	Low reuse	Wastewater recycling (IPR/DPR)	Treats wastewater for reuse	Demand control Reduces wastage
2. Lack of infrastructure	Untreated wastewater	DEWATS	Decentralized treatment systems	Behaviour change
3. Resource loss	Inefficiency	Resource recovery technologies	Extracts energy/nutrients	Circular economy

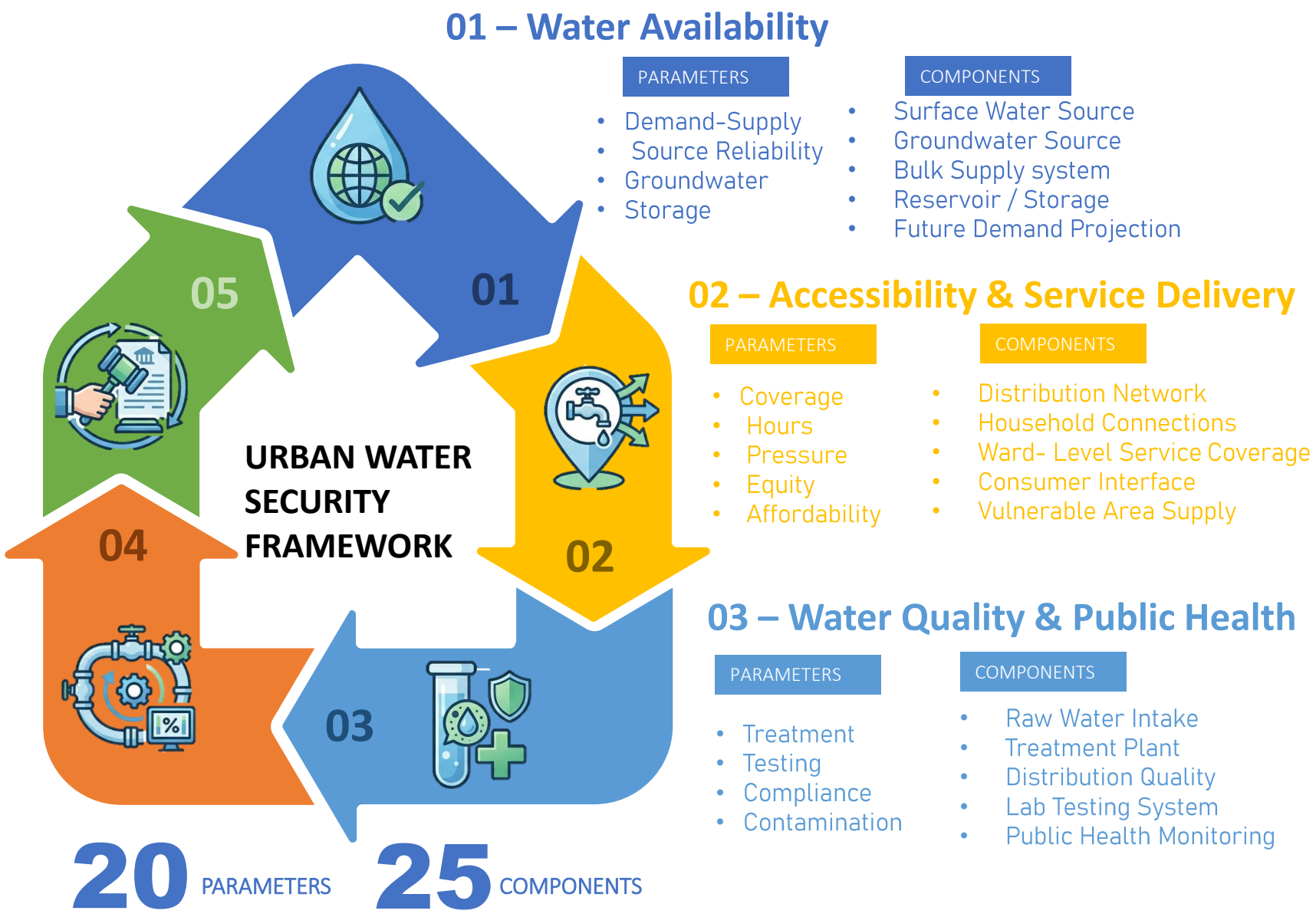
Category	Problem	Technology	Example Providers	Block Cost (₹)	Funding Source
Source	Lack of local water sources	Rainwater Harvesting (RWH)	JalBhagirathi, WOTR, Shivam Water Treaters	₹15K–₹1L (HH) / ₹5L–₹50L (community)	AMRUT 2.0, SBM 2.0, Smart Cities, CSR
	Groundwater depletion	Recharge Wells / GWR	ACWADAM, Arghyam	₹3.5L–₹5L per unit (one recharge well)	Atal Bhujal Yojana, MGNREGA, AMRUT
	Source dependency risk	Air-to-Water (AWG)	Maithri Aquatech, Akvo	₹2L–₹10L per unit (one machine/system)	CSR, Innovation Grants, Pilot Projects
	Freshwater shortage	Wastewater Recycling (STP reuse)	VA Tech Wabag, Ion Exchange	₹1Cr–₹10Cr (per plant/project depending on capacity (KLD/MLD))	AMRUT 2.0, PPP, State Govt, Multilateral (ADB/World Bank)
Distribution	High NRW	DMA (District Metering Areas)	SUEZ, SPML Infra	₹10K–₹1.8L per DMA zone/ network section	AMRUT 2.0, Smart Cities Mission
	Leakages	Leak Detection Systems	Primayer, Gutermann	₹10L–₹50L per city project/ zone package	AMRUT, PPP performance contracts
	Pressure variation	Smart Pressure Management	Kirloskar Brothers	₹5L–₹20L per pressure zone / pipeline zone	AMRUT, State Urban Dev Funds
Quality	Poor monitoring	Online Water Quality Sensors	Endress+Hauser, Eutech	₹5L–₹50L per sensor station / monitoring location	Jal Jeevan Mission (Urban), AMRUT
	Unsafe water	Chlorination Automation	Dosatron	₹5L–₹25L per treatment point / ESR / pumping station	AMRUT, SBM 2.0
	Weak lab capacity	Water Testing Labs	CPCB-approved labs	₹20L–₹1Cr per lab setup	Jal Jeevan Mission, State Govt
Demand	No consumption control	Smart Water Meters	Itron, Kamstrup	₹3K–₹10K per HH meter	AMRUT 2.0, Smart Cities, PPP
	High water use	Water Efficient Fixtures	Jaquar, Hindware	₹500–₹5K per fixture	SBM 2.0, CSR, Incentive Programs
	Low awareness	IEC / Awareness Campaigns	NGOs, ULB	₹5L–₹20L per campaign / ward / city program	SBM 2.0, AMRUT IEC funds
Governance	Poor monitoring	SCADA / Smart Systems	Siemens, Schneider	₹50L–₹2Cr per city / utility control system	Smart Cities Mission, AMRUT
	Weak O&M	PPP / Performance Contracts	Veolia, SUEZ	Depends on contract scope & service area	PPP, State Govt, Multilateral Funding

Source: MoHUA (AMRUT 2.0), Jal Jeevan Mission, SBM 2.0, Smart Cities Mission, DPRs & industry estimates.

Framework	Year	Main Focus / What It Talks About	Parameters / Dimensions	Approx. No. of Indicators	Shared Indicators / Themes	Best Use Case
PAS-CWIS Assessment Framework	2022	Assesses urban sanitation performance using CWIS principles with PAS data; measures inclusive sanitation outcomes and system functions	6 Focus Areas	26 Indicators	Coverage, equity, governance, finance, sanitation chain, accountability	Indian city sanitation benchmarking
Urban Water Security Planning Toolkit	2017	Step-by-step toolkit for improving city water security through integrated planning and local resource management	5 Modules	Multiple tools / module indicators	Demand-supply, NRW, groundwater, RWH, citizen role, governance	Action planning for Indian cities
MDPI Urban Water Security Framework	2019	Holistic urban water security framework combining human needs, ecosystem protection, climate resilience, and socio-economic governance	4 Pillars (DECS)	~20–40 (study dependent)	Availability, quality, resilience, sustainability, governance, equity	Research / strategic planning

Source : Centre for Water and Sanitation (C-WAS), CEPT University, CEPT University (under Bhuj Water Security Project funded by Arghyam), MDPI Journal – Resources
 PRACHETA SAWARDEKAR | PUI24260 | Strengthening Urban Water Security in Indian Cities: A Framework Linking Systemic Challenges and Emerging Technologies





01 – Water Availability

PARAMETERS

- Demand-Supply
- Source Reliability
- Groundwater
- Storage

COMPONENTS

- Surface Water Source
- Groundwater Source
- Bulk Supply system
- Reservoir / Storage
- Future Demand Projection

02 – Accessibility & Service Delivery

PARAMETERS

- Coverage
- Hours
- Pressure
- Equity
- Affordability

COMPONENTS

- Distribution Network
- Household Connections
- Ward- Level Service Coverage
- Consumer Interface
- Vulnerable Area Supply

03 – Water Quality & Public Health

PARAMETERS

- Treatment
- Testing
- Compliance
- Contamination

COMPONENTS

- Raw Water Intake
- Treatment Plant
- Distribution Quality
- Lab Testing System
- Public Health Monitoring

05 – Governance, Finance & Resilience

PARAMETERS

- Tariff Recovery
- Capacity Planning
- Climate Readiness

COMPONENTS

- ULB Water Department
- Billing System
- O& M Finance
- Emergency Response
- Planning & Policy Unit

04 – Infrastructure Efficiency

PARAMETERS

- NRW
- Leakages
- Pumping
- Asset Condition

COMPONENTS

- Pipelines
- Pumps
- ESR/UGR Storage
- Meters
- Monitoring Systems

OVERVIEW: Assessment Pillars (Logical structure to map urban water security)



Pillar 1: Water Availability

- Is total water demand higher than supply?
- Is the city dependent on a single source?
- Are reservoirs sufficient for summer months?
- Is groundwater declining?
- Is source water reliable year-round?
- Is population growth increasing demand pressure?
- Is there emergency backup source available?

/ 7

Citizen experience is key to true water security

Pillar 2: Accessibility & Service Delivery

- Are all wards covered by piped water?
- Are slum areas served adequately?
- Is water supplied daily?
- Are supply hours sufficient?
- Is pressure adequate at tail-end zones?
- Is tariff affordable for low-income users?
- Are complaints resolved quickly?

/ 7

Pillar 3: Water Quality & Public Health

- Does treated water meet standards?
- Is water tested regularly?
- Is residual chlorine maintained?
- Are contamination incidents reported?
- Are pipelines crossing sewers?
- Are disease outbreaks linked to water supply?
- Is lab capacity adequate?

/ 7

Select the answers based on in each box :

Yes

No

Pillar 4: Infrastructure Efficiency

- Is NRW above acceptable limit?
- Are pipe bursts frequent?
- Are pumps energy efficient?
- Is storage capacity sufficient?
- Are household meters installed?
- Is preventive maintenance conducted?
- Is SCADA/digital monitoring available?

/ 7

Pillar 5: Governance, Finance & Resilience

- Does tariff recover O&M cost?
- Is billing collection efficient?
- Is staff capacity adequate?
- Is there drought contingency plan?
- Is data regularly updated?
- Is there annual asset management plan?
- Are climate risks integrated in planning?

/ 7

If Supply ≥ Demand If Supply ≈ Demand If Supply < Demand

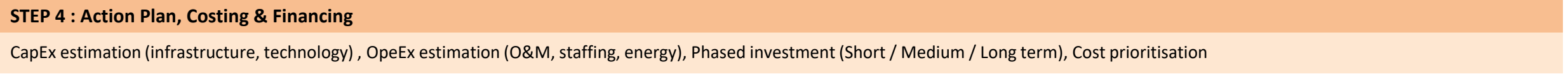
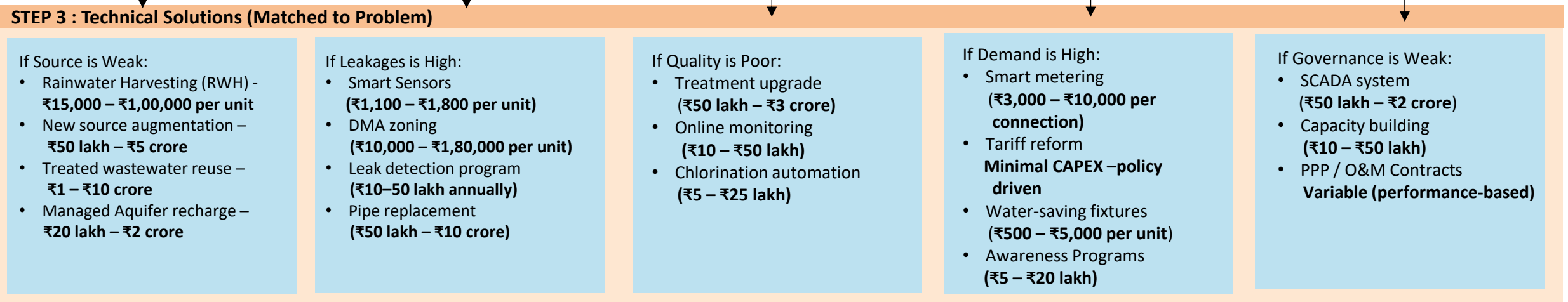
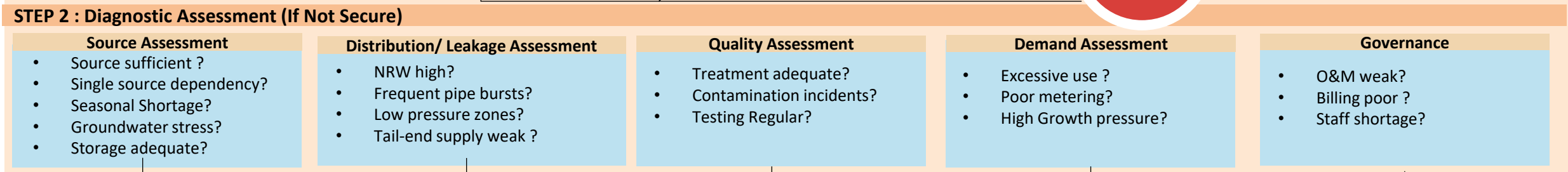
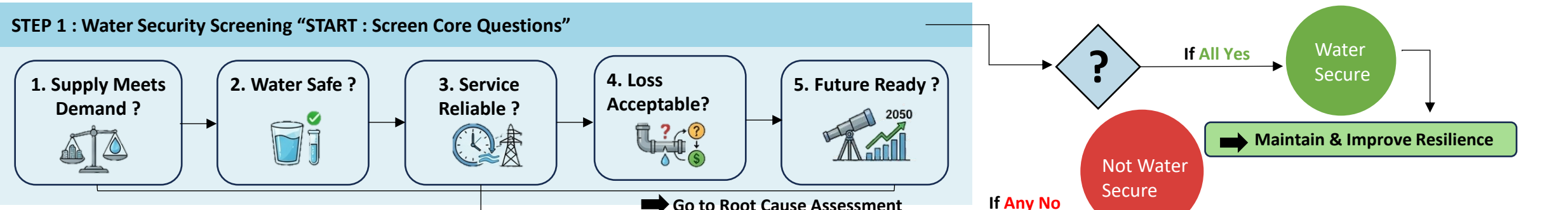
WATER SECURE MODERATE SECURITY WATER INSECURE

STATUS CALCULATOR (MAX 35)

(26-35 Marks) **WATER SECURE**

(11-25 Marks) **MODERATE SECURITY**

(0-10 Marks) **WATER INSECURITY**



GANDHIDHAM



State: Gujarat
District: Kachchh
City: Gandhidham
Tier: Tier 3

- Major economic hub linked to **Kandla/Deendayal Port**, logistics, warehousing, salt, engineering
- Semi-arid / dry climate
- Low rainfall (~250–500 mm)
- Fast-growing urban-industrial town
- Water demand rising due to urbanization + commerce

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WATER INSECURITY

Water Supply Context

- Heavy dependence on **Narmada bulk water transfer**
- Supplemental groundwater historically used
- Local freshwater sources limited

Issues & Challenges

SOURCE RELATED	GROUNDWATER RELATED	SERVICE RELATED	GOVERNANCE RELATED
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dependence on distant external source • Heavy dependence on external bulk transfer system creates supply risk • Limited local storage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salinity ingress • Declining groundwater quality/availability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intermittent supply • Tail-end pressure issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited smart monitoring • NRW/leakage concerns

Framework Diagnosis

Source-Stressed + Climate-Stressed City

Recommended Solutions

Immediate Action

Leak detection in bulk pipeline/network, Pressure management, Universal metering in high-use areas

Mid Term Action

Managed aquifer recharge, Treated wastewater reuse for industry/commercial users, Smart reservoir/storage monitoring

Long Term Action

Source diversification, Modular desalination (buffer supply if viable), Full SCADA monitoring system

ICHALKARANJI



State: Maharashtra
District: Kolhapur
City: Ichalkaranji
Tier: Tier 3

- Known as major **textile / powerloom city**
- Higher rainfall zone (~800–1000 mm)
- Strong industrial economy
- Dense urban settlement + industrial demand

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MODERATE SECURITY

Water Supply Context

- Major dependence on **Panchganga River**
- Limited secondary backup source

Issues & Challenges

DEMAND RELATED	DISTRIBUTION RELATED	SUPPLY RELATED	GOVERNANCE RELATED
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High industrial water demand • Growing urban population pressure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intermittent supply • Short supply duration • Leakage / NRW 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High dependence on single river source • Seasonal variability possible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need stronger digital monitoring and asset planning

Framework Diagnosis

Service-Stressed + Demand-Stressed City

Recommended Solutions

Immediate Action

DMA zones, Smart consumer and industrial metering, Complaint redressal dashboard

Mid Term Action

SCADA automation, Pressure management valves, Leak reduction program

Long Term Action

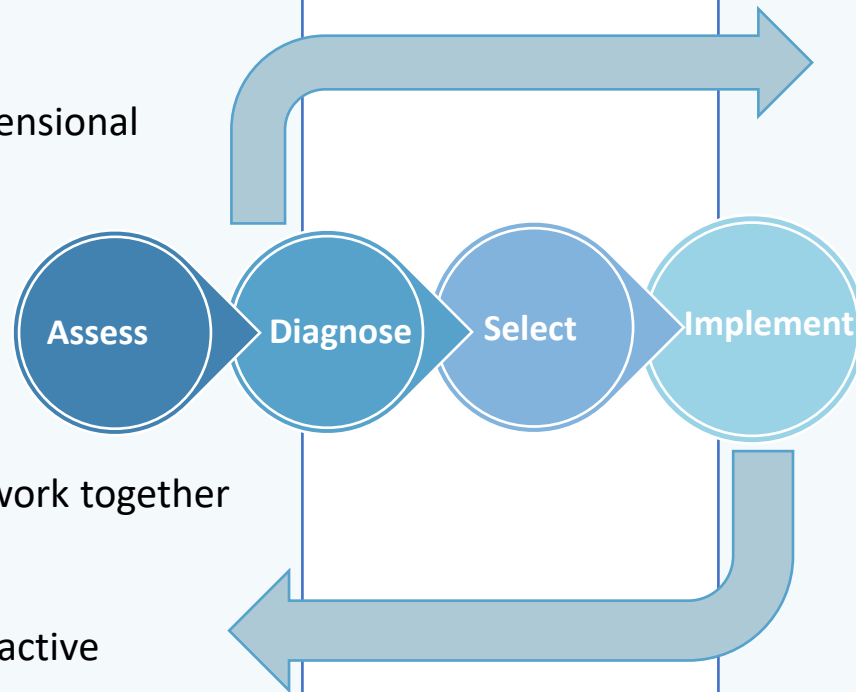
Treated wastewater reuse network for textile sector, 24x7 phased water supply, Digital twin for network planning

Source : Sareshwala, Y. (2024). *Strategies for transitioning from intermittent to 24x7 water supply*, Center for Water and Sanitation (CWAS). (2024). *Moving towards water secure and climate resilient cities: Gandhidham water security action plan and Primary data of CWAS*

PRACHETA SAWARDEKAR | PUI24260 | Strengthening Urban Water Security in Indian Cities: A Framework Linking Systemic Challenges and Emerging Technologies

KEY CONCLUSIONS

- **Multi- Dimensional Stress**
Urban water stress is multi-dimensional
- **Insufficient Systems**
Conventional systems alone are insufficient
- **Integrated Solutions**
Technology+ Governance must work together
- **Proactive Planning**
Need proactive planning over reactive response



PRACTICAL RELEVANCE OF FRAMEWORK

- **Systematic Diagnosis**
Helps ULBs diagnose water issues systematically
- **Technology Selection**
Supports selection of suitable technologies
- **Phased Planning**
Enables phased planning & budgeting
- **Tier Applicability**
Applicable for Tier 3 Indian cities
- **Dashboard Conversion**
Can be converted into dashboard/ toolkit

“ The future of urban water security lies not in building more infrastructure, but in making smarter decisions.”

This framework transforms urban water planning from reactive crisis management to proactive decision-making



THANKYOU