

# GROUNDING CLIMATE RESILIENT WASH ACTION IN SMALL TOWNS - CHIKKABALLAPURA

(Jointly convened by the District Urban Development Cell (DUDC), BORDA, FISH and TIDE)



## Following the Flows: Tracing the Total Water Flow in Emerging Urban Centres of South Asia

### The Way Forward: From Disconnected Systems to Resilient Circular Towns

- 1 **Plan Around the Whole Water Cycle** ensuring infrastructure works as one system rather than isolated components.
- 2 **Build Circular and Climate Resilient Systems** to reduce dependence on stressed groundwater and build resilience.
- 3 **Strengthen Local Governments to Drive Delivery** by enabling ULBs with training, autonomy and resources to manage assets, not just receive them.
- 4 **Design Solutions that Fit Local Realities** which allow flexible, context fit models instead of rigid, one-size-fits-all schemes.
- 5 **Align Institutions & Investments** which allow coordination among agencies and departments to plan together, ensuring networks, treatment and reuse connect.

### Background

By 2035, nearly 40% of South Asia's urban population will live in small towns

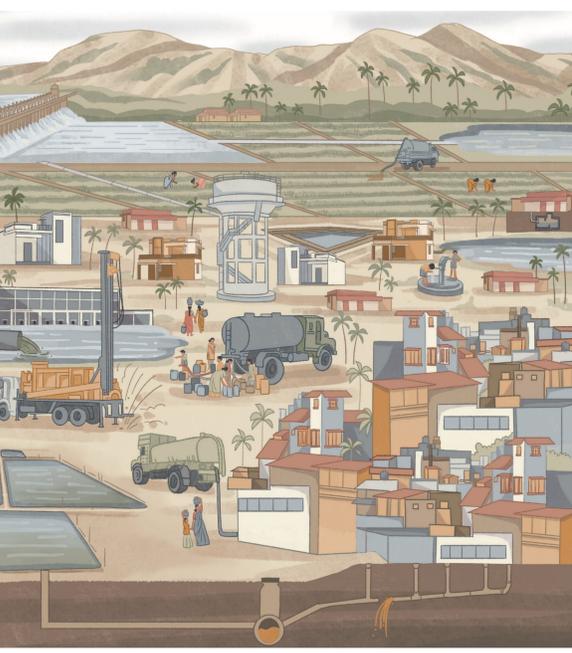
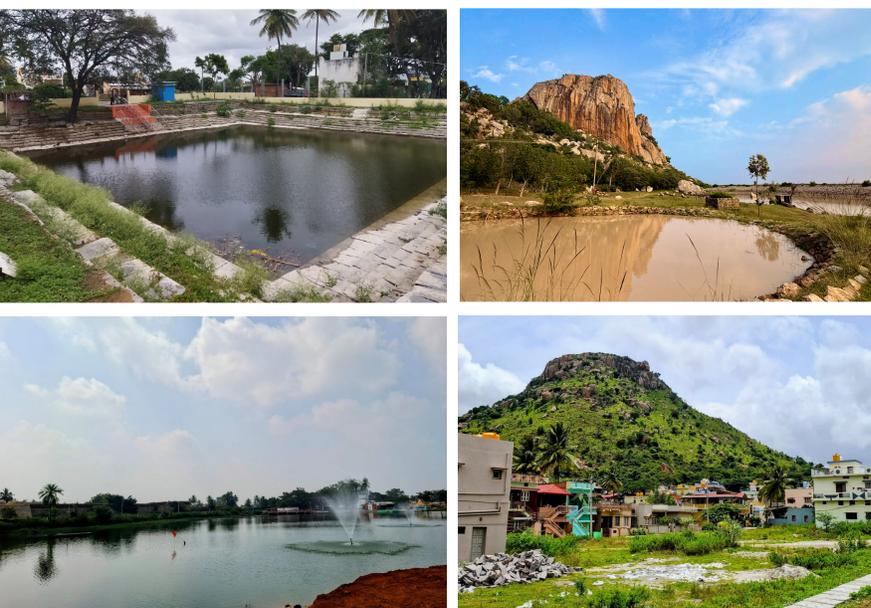
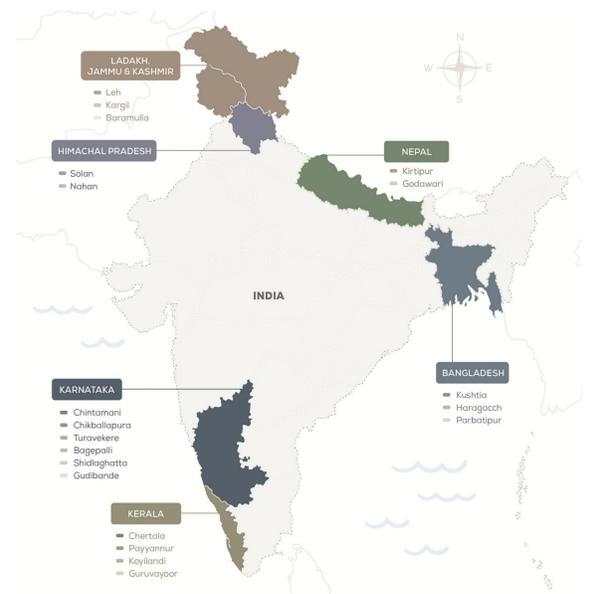
These emerging urban centres, where growth meets capacity gaps & climate risk, sit at the frontline of emerging water stress

Assessed 20 towns across 6 regional flowscapes

Captured lived water sanitation realities in emerging urban centres – mapping their service flows, systemic gaps and invisible linkages

### Gallery

**65%**  
of the towns rely on groundwater as their primary source of water supply



### Adaptive Practices from Karnataka

**Inter-Basin Reuse for Aquifer Revival (HN & KC Valley):** Reusing Bengaluru's treated wastewater to recharge tanks and support drought-prone towns.

**Terrain-Sensitive Sanitation in Rocky Uplands (Gudibande):** KUWSDB adopted FSTP system which fits the local geology instead of a centralised UGD

**Restoring Heritage Kalyanis for Recharge (Karnataka):** Historic stepwells designed for rainwater harvesting and aquifer recharge being restored by NGOs as climate resilient water assets.



Small towns, our emerging urban centres are not peripheral, they are pivotal.

Investing in their water resilience today is investing in South Asia's urban future.



Read the full report