



Water Hyacinth in Maharashtra

Why in News?

A thick layer of [water hyacinth](#) has engulfed **the Mula River** near **Holkar Bridge in Maharashtra**, severely affecting its flow and visibility.

Key Points

▪ About the Issue:

- Residents report that despite multiple complaints, **authorities have made minimal efforts to clear the invasive weed** from this crucial waterbody.
- The presence of water hyacinth is a key bio-indicator of [high organic pollution](#) in the river, highlighting **the deteriorating water quality**.
- Regular visitors express concerns over increasing the risk of [vector-borne diseases](#) such as [malaria](#), [dengue](#), and [chikungunya](#).
- Environmental activists reveal that over **50% of untreated sewage from Pune continues to flow into city rivers**, exacerbating pollution levels.
- Despite the ongoing **Mula-Mutha pollution abatement project**, progress remains sluggish, failing to mitigate the crisis effectively.

▪ Water Hyacinth:



◦ About:

- **Water hyacinth**, scientifically known as **Eichhornia crassipes Mart. (Pontederiaceae)**, is an **aquatic weed common in waterbodies across South Asia, including India**.
- This is **not an indigenous species** but was **introduced to India during the British colonial rule** as an **ornamental aquatic plant from South America**.
- The plant **produces beautiful purple flowers** that have **high aesthetic value**.

◦ Significance:

- The plant has been **used as a [bio-fertiliser](#)** in some organic agriculture practices.
- This plant is **a good phytoremediation species**, suggesting it has the **ability to trap and remove toxic metabolites and harmful heavy metals from water**.

Mula River

- The Mula River **flows through Pune** in the state of Maharashtra.
- It is dammed near [the Western Ghats](#) at the Mulshi Dam, which creates the Mulshi Lake.
- Within Pune city, the Mula River **merges with the Pawana River on its left bank and the Mutha River on its right bank**.
 - After these confluences, the river is known as **the Mula-Mutha River**.
- The Mula-Mutha River eventually **joins the Bhima River**, contributing to its flow.

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