Over millennia, our relationship with water has been richly kaleidoscopic – somatic, cultural, and spiritual. About 60% of our body is water, the food that we eat comes from a magic alchemy of water, sunlight and soil. Water has been an integral part of our daily lives from the very beginning – in food, drink, cleansing, in rituals of birth and death, and everything in between. It’s not surprising therefore, that many of the great, early civilizations flourished around rivers – the Tigris, the Euphrates, the Indus, the Nile, and the Ganges.

The answer to how we can resolve the emergent water crisis, perhaps lies in our learnings from the past. In tribute to humanity’s ever evolving relationship to water, our report carries a special feature highlighting several sterling narratives on this aspect. The ingenuity of the Mayans, the engineering genius of the aqueducts of ancient Rome, and a 5,000 years old drainage system in Harappa that is marveled at even today; these are just a few examples of the featured stories that serve to inform and inspire. ‘Time and Tide’ tries to capture a small part of this long history, as the human race tries to keep the global water crisis at bay.

Scarcity of water tops the World Economic Forum’s suggested list of risks to our planet. At Wipro, our engagement with water goes back more than a decade and spans a range of initiatives both, within our campuses, as well as outside with the larger community. Our initiatives around water efficiency, recycling and harvesting have resulted in a cumulative savings of more than 3,000 million liters over the last four years. In parallel, acting on the fundamental axiom that water is a collective resource that needs collaborative governance with other stakeholders, we started a program three years back in our campuses in Bangalore (Sarjapur) and Chennai, that sought to critically understand the larger picture of our water trail.

Water is the ultimate renewable resource as it cycles perennially through land, the oceans and the atmosphere. Yet, its delicate balance across geographies and seasons is disrupted easily, affecting the fates of millions. We hope that this leaflet is a small step towards information, education, and bringing about progress towards the changes that we want in our future.
made in the craters they dug, using the mud to build their houses. Water had always been a pressing concern for Tribes have been fighting for their political sovereignty. The Danube has seen the rise and fall of emperors to protect their lands, they tell the history of the Danube. Present day Mexico City rests on a bed of aguadas, water basins, that were prized sources of water, so much so that the Mayans built Tenochtitlan their capital. They built a network of canals and dykes, fertile gardens and massive temples. In the ancient city of Mohenjo-daro, the people of the Indus Valley created a drainage system that served as efficient ways to catch and store water. The Indus Valley's efficient system existed on an ancient rock which has been protecting the city from the harsh climate for centuries. The mystery of the Saraswati, one of the ancient river systems, continues to be a subject of research. The shrinking Aral Sea is a stark reminder of the impact of climate change on freshwater bodies. The shrinking Aral Sea has led to the desertification of the surrounding land, making it unsuitable for agriculture. The Grand Anaicut Dam, built 2000 years ago, is a testament to the ingenuity of the ancient civilizations. The massive structure, more than a 1000 feet high, is still fully functional today, irrigating 1,000,000 acres of land surrounding it. The shrinking Aral Sea is not only a direct outcome of climate change but also indirectly affected by human activities like overuse of water for agricultural purposes. The surface area of the Baikal Lake covers a large part of the world's freshwater reserves. The world's deepest lake is home to a unique ecosystem that is not found anywhere else on Earth. The surface area of the Baikal Lake is home to several endemic species that are not found anywhere else in the world. The shrinking Aral Sea and the shrinking of the once vast Lake Chad are direct outcomes of climate change, forcing many communities to migrate to other regions. The shrinking Aral Sea and the shrinking of the once vast Lake Chad are direct outcomes of climate change, forcing many communities to migrate to other regions. The shrinking Aral Sea and the shrinking of the once vast Lake Chad are direct outcomes of climate change, forcing many communities to migrate to other regions. The shrinking Aral Sea and the shrinking of the once vast Lake Chad are direct outcomes of climate change, forcing many communities to migrate to other regions.