

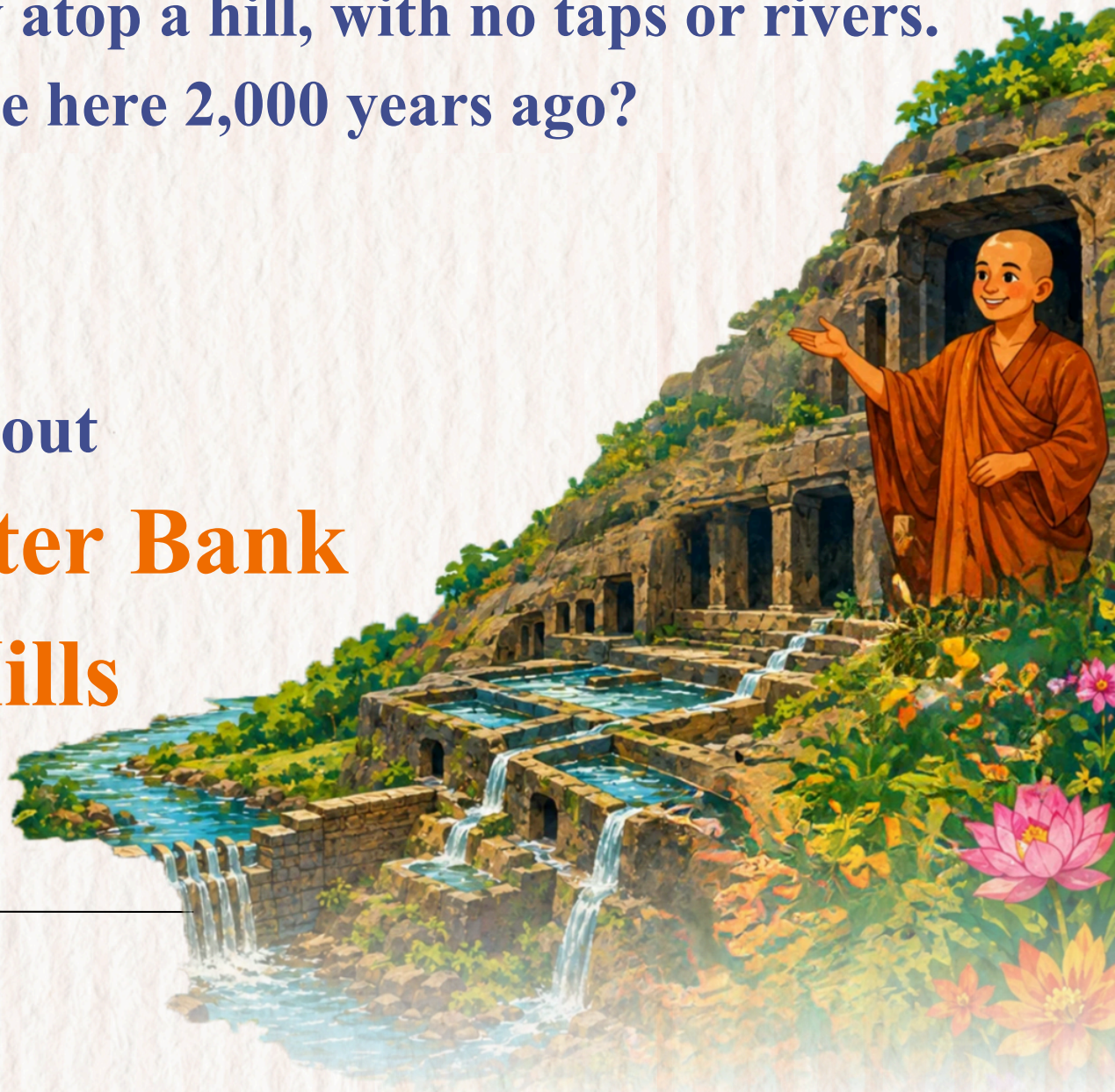


Thirsty For History



Imagine a massive city atop a hill, with no taps or rivers.
How did people survive here 2,000 years ago?

Swipe to know all about
**The Secret Water Bank
in Mumbai's Hills**



Kanheri Caves lie deep within the forests of the Sanjay Gandhi National Park.

Between the 1st century BCE and the 9th century CE (that's 2000 years ago!), monks carved more than a hundred caves into the rocky hills, *until it became a flourishing monastery.*

But they had a BIG problem. The monsoon in the Western Ghats poured heavy rain down the hills, but it all flowed away. The hill had no natural springs, only one small stream that flowed during the rains!

With no permanent rivers, the people
had to **rely entirely on the rainy season**
for water.





SO HOW DID THEY MANAGE TO STORE AND USE WATER **THROUGHOUT THE YEAR?**

The monks had a great idea, which was both practical and efficient.

They carved water cisterns (called **podhis**) directly into the rock alongside the caves. These were not just holes in the ground. They were stone chambers built to trap every drop of the precious liquid!

By the time they finished, almost every cave had its own personal cistern.

This provided the people with a reliable water supply that remained cool and fresh throughout the year.



Sounds simple, right?

It was anything but **easy**!

The system went beyond just simple tanks. The monks carved a **network of channels** across the hill to guide the rainwater.

This network was designed to catch every trickle of water before it could flow away.

When one tank was full, the water flowed into the next. **Nothing was wasted.**

It was a **perfectly connected system!**



But they didn't stop at the hills.

Down below in the valley, they built a **stone dam** to catch the seasonal stream.

This allowed them to save and use water year-round.

It is the **oldest dam in the Western Deccan.**

This shows they were experts at managing the land and water resources!





Kanheri is a great lesson on how our ancestors made the best use of resources and solved big problems with **out-of-the-box thinking and engineering skills.**

Their simple design kept the water clean and full for centuries. Their design worked with nature rather than against it.

Our ancestors could do this 2,000 years ago, ***so what's stopping us now?***

Do you think this kind of system could work in ***your city?***

