

# India may run out of Water by 2020 : World Bank



## Do You Know ?

In 2006 between the domestic, agricultural, and industrial sectors, India used approximately 829 billion cubic meters of water every year, which is approximately the size of Lake Erie. By 2050 demand is expected to double and consequently exceed the 1.4 trillion cubic meters of supply.

## Do You Know ?

Currently 30% of the rural population lack access to drinking water, and of the 35 states in India, only 7 have full availability of drinking water for rural inhabitants.

**“Water: We once thought it was an endless natural resource. Now we know better”.**

**India faces a turbulent water future, says a World Bank Report. Within the next 10 years, India’s demand for water will exceed all its sources of supply, it warns.**

Millions of Indians currently lack access to clean drinking water, and the situation is only getting worse. India's demand for water is growing at an alarming rate. India currently has the world's second largest population, which is expected to overtake China's by 2050 when it reaches a staggering 1.6 billion, putting increase strain on water resources as the number of people grows. A rapidly growing economy and a large agricultural sector stretch India's supply of water even thinner. Meanwhile, India's supply of water is rapidly dwindling due primarily to mismanagement of water resources, although over-pumping and pollution are also significant contributors. Climate change is expected to exacerbate the problem by causing erratic and unpredictable weather, which could drastically diminish the supply of water coming from rainfall and glaciers. **As demand for potable water starts to outstrip supply by increasing amounts in coming years, India will face a slew of subsequent problems, such as food shortages, intrastate, and international conflict.**

*“There will be constant competition over water, between farming families and urban dwellers, environmental conservationists and industrialists, minorities living off natural resources and entrepreneurs seeking to commodify the resources base for commercial gain” -UNICEF report on Indian water.*

India's water crisis is predominantly a manmade problem. India's climate is not particularly dry, nor is it lacking in rivers and groundwater. Extremely poor management, unclear laws, government corruption, and industrial and human waste have caused this water supply crunch and rendered what water is available practically useless due to the huge quantity of pollution. In managing water resources, the Indian government must balance competing demands between urban and rural, rich and poor, the economy and the environment. However, because people have triggered this crisis, by changing their actions they have the power to prevent water scarcity from devastating India's population, agriculture, and economy.

IS:779-1994



Class-B

IS : 2373

IS 1538-1993



CM/L-1405940



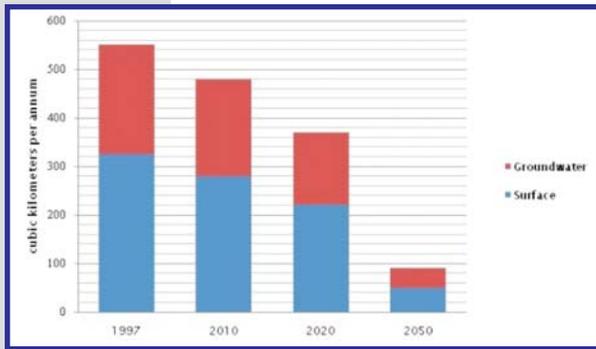
EEC Approved





**Demand:**

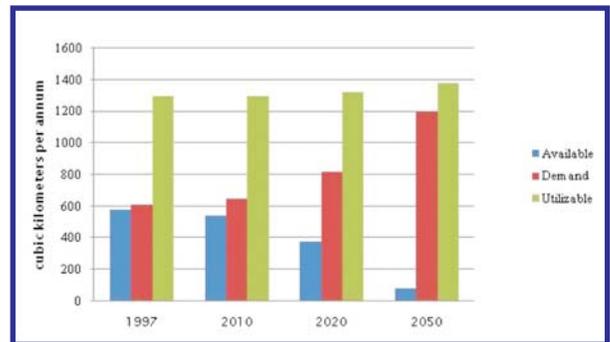
India is moving towards a severe water scarcity scenario where its fragile and finite water resources are depleting, while the demand for water from various sectors of the economy is rapidly rising. Water demand in the next two decades will double in India to 1.5 trillion cubic meters. In recent years, the rapid industrialization (industry is the second major consumer of water with over 50 billion cubic metres) and growing population have increased the disparity between the supply and demand of water.



Source: World Bank Report on Water in India

**Supply:**

Surface water and groundwater are the sources of India's water supply. Other sources, such as desalination, are negligible because they are not cost effective.



Source: World Bank Report on Water in India



**Conclusion:**

India is facing a looming water crisis that has implications not only for its 1.1 billion people, but for the entire globe. India's demand for water is growing even as it stretches its supplies. Water infrastructure is crumbling, preventing the government from being able to supply drinking water to its citizens. Pollution is rampant due to unfettered economic growth, poor waste management laws and practices. Although many analysts believe that demand will outstrip supply by 2020, there is still hope for India. **Water scarcity in India is predominantly a manmade problem; therefore if India makes significant changes in the way it thinks about water and manages its resources soon, it could ward off, or at least mollify, the impending crisis.**

An immediate solution to India's water crisis is to change water management practices by regulating usage with effective legislation.

**Do You Know ?**

Around 29 per cent of ground water blocks in the country are semi-critical, critical or overexploited and the situation is deteriorating rapidly. By 2025, an estimated 60 per cent of ground water blocks will be in a critical condition. Climate change will further strain ground water resources- World Bank Report.