



Piped Water Connection by 2024

The Prime Minister has recently said that the **government will provide piped water to every household** in the next five years i.e. **by 2024**.

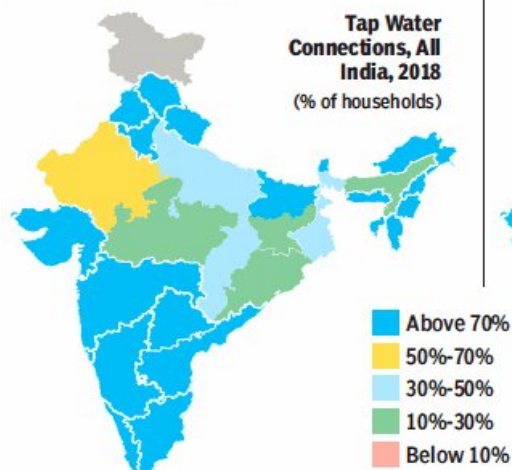
- This is the **12th time** that India has set a deadline to take water at the household-level.

Challenges

- It would be an **enormous exercise**:
 - Some 8.43 million households, currently without drinking water facilities, have to be connected to piped water in the next five years.
 - Some 4,620 households would have to be added to the network every day for the next five years, at the rate of 40 litres per day.

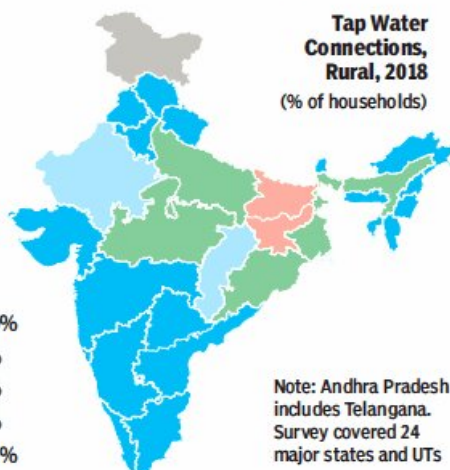
BIGGEST STATES LAGGING IN TAP WATER SUPPLY

The states of UP, Bengal, Bihar are among those where piped water has reached only half the households at the most

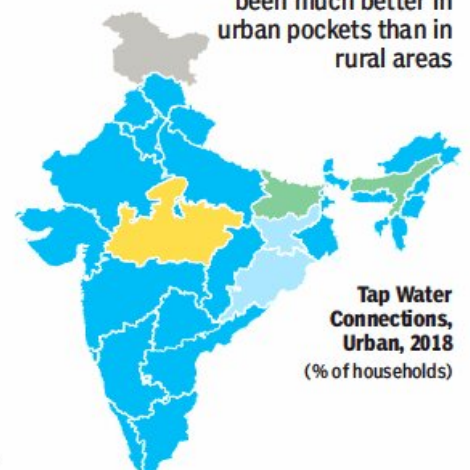


BUT PROGRESS DOESN'T INSULATE AGAINST CRISIS

States of Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu are among states where more than 70% households have access to tap water, including for both rural and urban households. But these are also the ones that have borne the brunt of a parched 2019 summer



While even among states lagging overall on piped water access, the performance in ensuring coverage has been much better in urban pockets than in rural areas



- India remains haunted by what is known as the **“slippage” problem**. It means **villages/habitations covered** with safe drinking water facilities **slip back to 'not-covered'** status **due to** various reasons that include **drying up of the source** or collapse of the facilities due to non-maintenances.
 - Currently, India is facing a [water stressed situation](#), two major reasons being, drying reservoirs and [dipping groundwater levels](#).

- It is to be seen from where the piped water supply scheme would draw water as currently the country is going through a [water crisis situation](#).
- **The quality of water sources** — both surface and ground sources — is hardly suited to drinking. According to NITI Aayog, nearly 70 per cent of all of the country's fresh water sources are contaminated.
- **Water, being a state subject**, the scope of the centre's intervention is therefore limited.

Way Forward

- There is an urgent need to **create awareness among the people** for the conservation of water.
- **The Jal Shakti Ministry needs to work with states** to ensure piped water to every household in the country.
- The **sources as well as the quality of water** in the country needs to be maintained on an urgent basis.

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