



## Piped Water Connection by 2024

[drishtias.com/printpdf/piped-water-connection-by-2024](https://drishtias.com/printpdf/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 **12<sup>th</sup> time** that India has set a deadline to take water at the household-level.

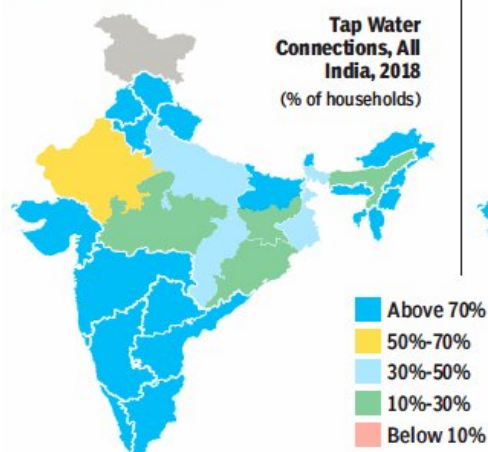
### Challenges

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.

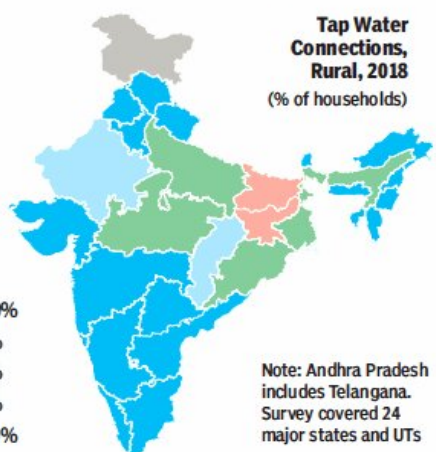
#### BIGGEST STATES LAGGING IN TAP WATER SUPPLY

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

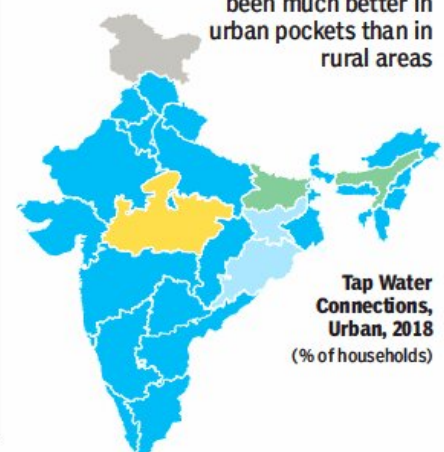


#### BUT PROGRESS DOESN'T INSULATE AGAINST CRISIS

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

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- 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.