

Q.2 India is well endowed with fresh water resources. Critically examine why it still suffers from water scarcity. [250W].

Ans: India has many perennial rivers in the Northern part and many seasonal rivers in the Southern part. The country also receives a good amount of rain over the year. Despite this, the country suffers from water scarcity.

The following reasons show the cause of water scarcity in India:-

[i] EXCESSIVE GROUNDWATER EXTRACTION: Excessive pumping can lower the groundwater table, and cause wells to no longer be able to reach groundwater. The rate of extraction has been steadily increasing over the years.

[ii] POOR MANAGEMENT: India's urban areas have poor & leaky distribution networks leading to water waste. We have lack of sustainable water management policies in any of the governments along with a lack of investment in the same.

[iii] SKEWED DISTRIBUTION: One of the major reason for water scarcity in India is skewed distribution. Regions such as Rajasthan, Vidarbha & other parts of central and North-west India, receive relatively less rainfall compared to other parts of the country.

[iv] WATER CONTAMINATION: Water in most rivers in India is not fit for drinking. Most water sources are contaminated by sewage and agricultural runoff. The facilities created for water treatment are not maintained properly.

[v] GROWING DEMAND OF WATER: Growing demand of water for rapid industrialisation and urbanisation, is putting more pressure on the already scarce water resources of the country. India has to meet the water requirements of agriculture, industries with available water resources so we need to use water rationally by making policies.

[vi] OVERPOPULATED CITIES: Overpopulated cities, which create pressure on natural resources add to the problem of water scarcity.

[vii] LACK OF RECYCLING CAPACITY: Lack of recycling capacity for used water and low emphasis on water treatment and reuse along with dumping of municipal and industrial waste has led to reduction in input to water sources.

↳ To meet the problem of water scarcity it is necessary to use water resources in a planned and comprehensive way.