

India third among countries that provide worst quality of water

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India has the dubious distinction of being third among 122 countries, which provide the worst quality of water to its citizens.

According to the World Water Development Report 'Water for People, Water for Life', only Belgium and Morocco are ahead of India.

What is shocking, says the report, is the lack of commitment to improve the situation.

The report paints a grim picture of water availability in many developing countries. Water resources are likely to decline steadily because of population growth. Seven billion people in 60 countries will be facing water scarcity, it warned.

Finland heads the list of countries with the best quality of water followed by Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, Japan, Norway, Russian Federation, South Korea, Sweden and France.

"The poor continue to be the worst affected, with 50 per cent of the population in developing countries exposed to polluted water sources," says the report.

The report said Asian rivers are the most polluted in the world with three times as many bacteria from human waste as the global average. These rivers have 20 times more lead content than those of industrialized countries.

"The future of many parts of the world looks bleak," says the report in reference to projected population growth, which will continue to be a driving factor in the water crisis.

Humid areas will see more rains while it would be erratic in the drought-prone regions and tropical and sub-tropical regions. The quality of water will deteriorate with rising pollution levels and water temperatures.