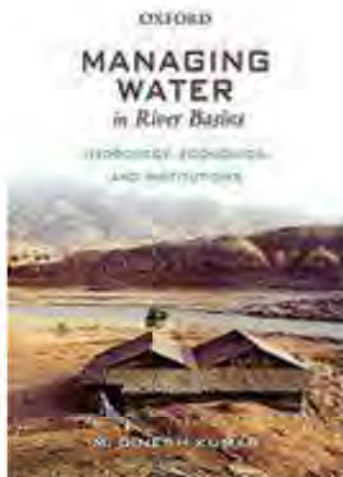


# Managing water in river basins - Hydrology, economics and institutions by Dinesh Kumar - Book Review

*Content Courtesy: Financial Express*

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It is a Himalayan task to make a realistic assessment of the status of water availability in Indian landmass, its demands, depletion and recharge. Even more difficult is the future prospects of availability with respect to emerging consumption trends and anticipated global warming.

Our planners and policy makers have failed in scientific management of resource, its usage and preservation. As a consequence, we are faced with an acute shortage of water in agriculture, drinking and industrial sectors. Periodic annual floods in several areas of the country are a reflection of our neglect towards the preservation and optimal management of available water resource. Nature has been kind to India with a perennial fresh water source in the form of tens of glaciers in the Himalayas and a monsoon system that brings annual rains to all parts of India with a magnitude ranging from around 200 mm (in Rajasthan) to more than two metre (in the Himalayas and north-east). These two sources together take care of our water needs through a complex system of river network traversing a large part of Indian territory. Imagine a situation when all the areas would have received a uniform rainfall like the one in Thar Desert.

The increasing popularity of bottled water and our forced dependence on it on account of deteriorating quality and depleting quantity of potable water is a live example of the consequence of inept management of this resource. Even the grimmest of popular perceptions around a couple of decades back would not have imagined this scenario. Water, locally, has become as costly as milk. In this backdrop of declining standard of water management and realising the needs to stimulate the initiation of corrective measures to control the damage already inflicted on our hydrological system, M Dinesh Kumar has compiled this book, which contains laboriously compiled data, their analysis, synthesis and interpretation.