

**Seminar on**  
**Water Resources in Maharashtra**

**Speaker**

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**Venue**

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**Abstract**

The state of Maharashtra experienced one of the worst droughts in the year 2012-13. This has again brought to the fore various issues relating to availability of water resources in the state and the shortfall in the supply of water for satisfying water demand of various sectors. This paper makes an attempt to study the availability of water resources viz., surface and ground water resources in Maharashtra that would explain the persistent shortfall in availability of water as compared to the demand for it. The results showed that the total quantum of available water may be presently enough for our requirements. But its availability is highly irregular. It is not available in places where we want it, at the time when we want it and in quantities in which we want it. This precious resource is also getting continuously strained due to consistently increasing population, large scale industrialization and growth of urbanization. In future, the demand for water is expected to change drastically as the water for agriculture sector is likely to increase up to 87 per cent by 2030. There is no substitute for water and therefore the policymakers must take swift action to solve the water crisis before it worsens.