

Water Resources

If an animal weighs 100 kg there will be 65 kg of water in its body. In some plants it can go up to 99 percent that is if it weighs 100 kg, there will be 99 kg of water in it. Water is most valuable for life as is the air. Can you imagine a single day without water? Look around and try to find all those activities which need water. Here are some of the demands on water:

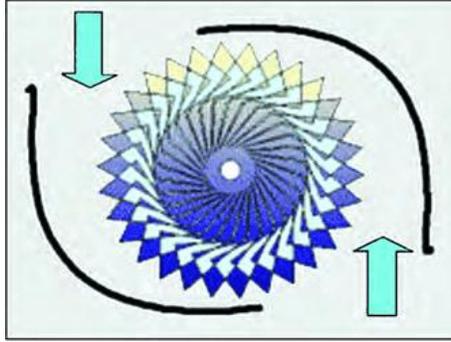
- Drinking and other home uses
- Public health, cleanliness, flushing and draining sewerage
- Industries
- Fishing
- Forestry
- Generation of hydro-electricity
- Agriculture and many more

Water is the most valuable resources of nature. This is renewable and will never exhaust. But there are some serious problems. Very serious. We shall discuss them later.

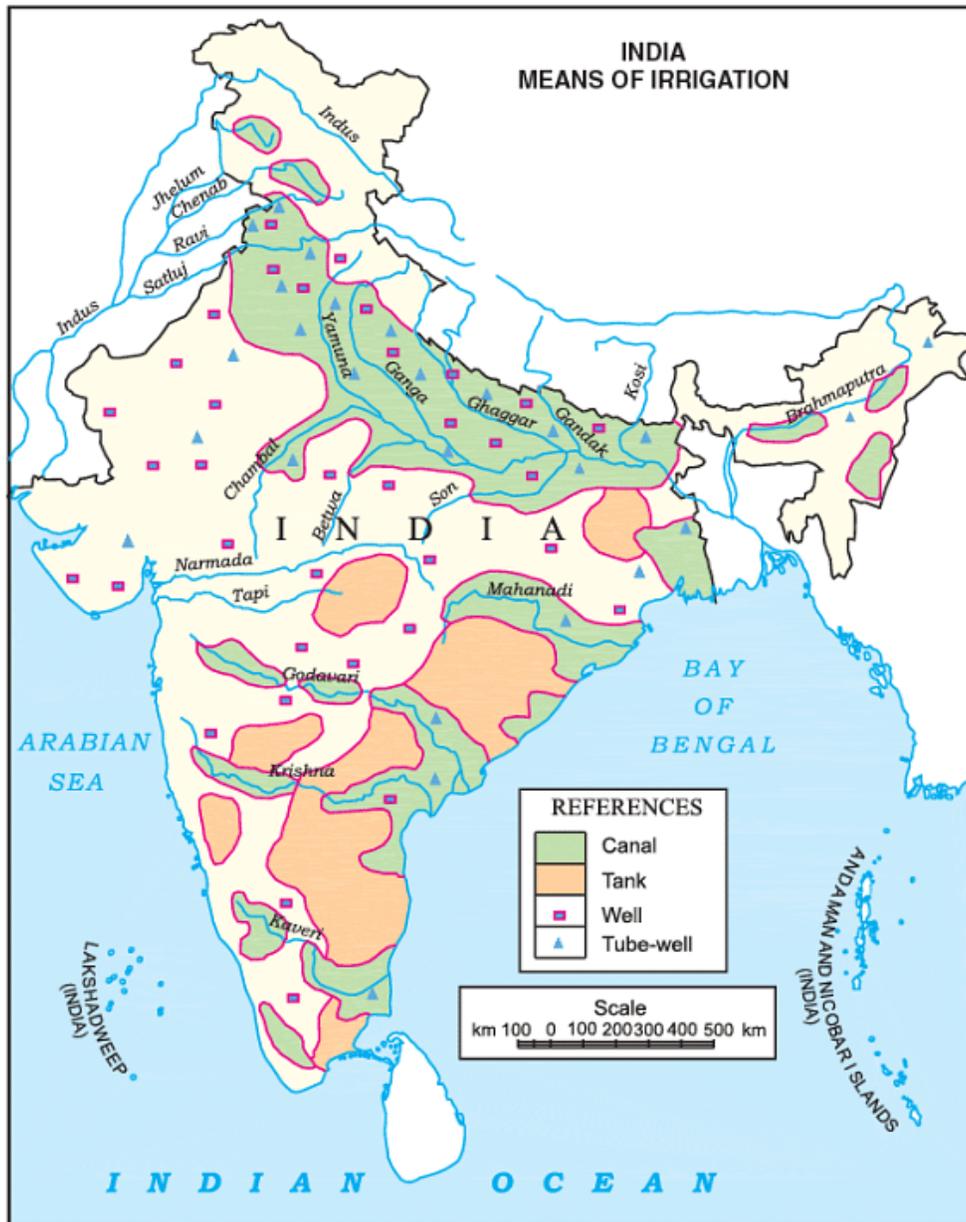
Sources of Water

There are four sources of water. These are:

- Surface water is the water available on the surface. Rivers, streams, lakes and ponds. These sources are fed by the rain.
- Underground water is the water taken out of the surface. This is the water collected underground. This is a part of the surface water. Man takes it out from wells, or by hand pumps or tube wells.
- Atmospheric water reaches us by rain or snow. In India monsoons give us the surface water and the underground water.
- Oceanic water is main source of atmospheric water. All the four sources of water are closely linked with each other.



Turbines move by the force of falling water



Means of Irrigations



Major river valley projects in India

What are the serious problems?

Water is not evenly distributed. Some places have plenty of it and the other places have hardly any of it. Second problem which is much more serious is that man has not felt its value in real terms. If it is available then it is more misused than used.

Water pollution is a serious problem with almost every country including India. Let us analyze few of the problems and solutions found for them.



Street after heavy monsoon

Some regions in India get heavy monsoon rains. Most of the water runs down to sea. On the way it may cause floods, soil erosion and destruction of human life and property. To put this surface water to use dams and hydro electric plants have been built. Forestation has been taken up to control floods and soil erosion.

Other regions get hardly any rainfall. Water conservation, rain harvesting, deep wells, hand pumps, tube wells and canals are put at proper places to meet the need of water.

Water pollution has been taken up at the national level. Major rivers are being cleaned. But religious rituals and traditions are seriously coming in the way of various projects.

Things To Remember

- The four sources of water are
 1. surface water
 2. underground water
 3. atmospheric water
 4. oceanic water
- The sources of water are interlinked
- The serious problems with water are
 1. it is not evenly distributed
 2. man has not felt its value in real term
 3. water pollution
- Some of the solutions are
 1. dams building
 2. water harvesting
 3. forestation
 4. more wells, hand pumps, tube wells and canals
 5. cleaning of rivers