
Chapter – 16

Water: A Precious Resource

- Water is essential for all living beings. There can be no life without it.
 - Water exists in three forms: solid, liquid and vapour.
 - **Solid:** At poles of earth, snow-covered mountains and glaciers.
 - **Liquids:** In oceans, lakes, rivers and underground.
 - **Gaseous:** Water vapour in air.
 - **Surface water:** Sea and oceans, Rivers, Springs, Lakes and Ponds.
 - **Ground water:** It is the water that sweeps into the ground through soil and collects over non-porous rocks (aquifer). Level of groundwater at any place is called water table. Groundwater gets recharged by seepage of water into the ground (infiltration).
 - **Water scarcity:** Depletion of water table:
 - (i) Increase population decreases open areas which decreases seepage of rainwater.
 - (ii) Increasing industries more water is drawn out from ground.
 - (iii) Agricultural activities irrigation systems fail due to erratic rainfall which results in increased used of ground water.
 - (iv) Uneven distribution of rainfall.
 - (v) Scanty rainfall.
 - (vi) Deforestation.
 - Though water is maintained by the water cycle, yet there is an acute scarcity of water in many parts of the globe.
 - There is an uneven distribution of water. Much of it has resulted from human activities.
 - Rapid growth of industries, increasing population, growing irrigation requirements and mismanagement are some of the causes for water shortage.
 - We need to be worried about the wastage during the supply of water through pipes, the leaking taps in buildings and other places.
 - Unnecessary use of water and overdrawing from groundwater should be avoided. Recharge of water to the ground should be increased.
 - The need of the hour is that every individual uses water economically.
 - Plants wilt and ultimately dry-up if they are not watered for a few days.
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