

01-08-2022

Decrease In Ground Water Level

Why in Newspapers?

According to a recent analysis by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), the groundwater level is depleting in some parts of the country.

Quick Issue?

- The data collected by CGWB during November 2021 as compared to the decadal average of November 2011 to November 2020 shows that about 70% of the wells have registered a rise in the water level, while about 30% of the wells have a fall in the groundwater level. (Mostly in the range of 0 - 2 m).

Historical Background?

- According to CGWB, 230 billion meters cubic groundwater is extracted every year to irrigate agricultural land in India, causing rapid depletion of groundwater in many parts of the country.
- The total estimated groundwater depletion in India is in the range of 122-199 Billion Meter Cubic.
- 89% of the extracted groundwater is used in the irrigation sector, making it the highest rated user in the country.
- It is followed by ground water for domestic use which is 9% of extracted groundwater. Industrial use of groundwater is 2%. Ground water also meets 50 per cent of urban water and 85 per cent of rural domestic water needs.
- Green Revolution: The Green Revolution enabled the growing of water intensive crops in drought prone/water scarce areas, leading to greater extraction of groundwater.
- Rapid reduction of water due to repeated pumping of water from the ground without waiting for its replenishment.
- Apart from this, subsidy on electricity and higher Minimum Support Price (MSP) for high water consuming crops.

Other Key Facts?

Central Ground Water Board (CGWB)

- It is a subordinate office of the Ministry of Water Resources and is the national apex agency entrusted with the responsibility of providing scientific information for the management, exploration, monitoring, evaluation, augmentation and further regulation of groundwater resources of the country.
- It was established in the year 1970 by renaming the Exploratory Tube wells Organization under the Ministry of Agriculture which was merged with the Ground Water Division of the Geological Survey of India during the year 1972.
- It is headquartered at Bhujal Bhawan, Faridabad, Haryana.
- The Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) constituted under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 is looking after various activities related to the regulation of ground water development in the country.

- **Requirement of industries:** Water pollution causes damage and depletion of groundwater resources in the case of pollution from landfills, septic tanks, leaky underground gas tanks and overuse of fertilizers and pesticides.
- **Inadequate regulation:** Inadequate regulation of groundwater and no punishment for it encourages depletion of groundwater resources.
- **Federal issue:** Water being a state subject, initiatives on water management including water conservation and water harvesting and providing adequate potable water to citizens in the country are primarily the responsibility of the states.
- **Central Government:**
 - It is promoting the concept of joint use of surface and ground water based on a scientifically prepared gram/gram panchayat level water security plan through community/stakeholder participation.
- **Atal Bhujal Yojana (Atal Jal):** It is a Rs 6000 crore central sector scheme with the assistance of World Bank for sustainable management of ground water resources with community participation.
- **Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA):** It was launched in the year 2019 in 256 water-stressed districts of the country to improve the availability of water including ground water status in these areas.
- Special emphasis has been laid on construction of recharge structures, rejuvenation of traditional water bodies, intensive afforestation etc.
- **Aquifer Mapping and Management Program:** Aquifer Mapping Program has been started by CGWB.
- The objective of the program is to delineate the status of aquifers and their characterization for preparation of aquifer/area specific ground water management plan with community participation.
- **Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT):** Mission AMRUT focuses on development of urban infrastructure in cities, such as water supply, sewerage and septage management, better drainage, eco-friendly spaces and parks and non-parks. Motorized urban transport etc.
- **State Government:**
 - **Various initiatives have also been taken by the State Governments such as:**
 - Chief Minister Jal Swavalamban Abhiyan, Rajasthan
 - Jalyukt Shibir, Maharashtra
 - Sujalam Sufalam Campaign, Gujarat
 - Mission Kakatiya, Telangana
 - Neeru Chettu, Andhra Pradesh
 - Jal Jeevan Hariyali, Bihar
 - Jal Hi Jeevan, Haryana
 - Kudimaramath Scheme, Tamil Nadu



Likely Question Asked In Preliminary Exam

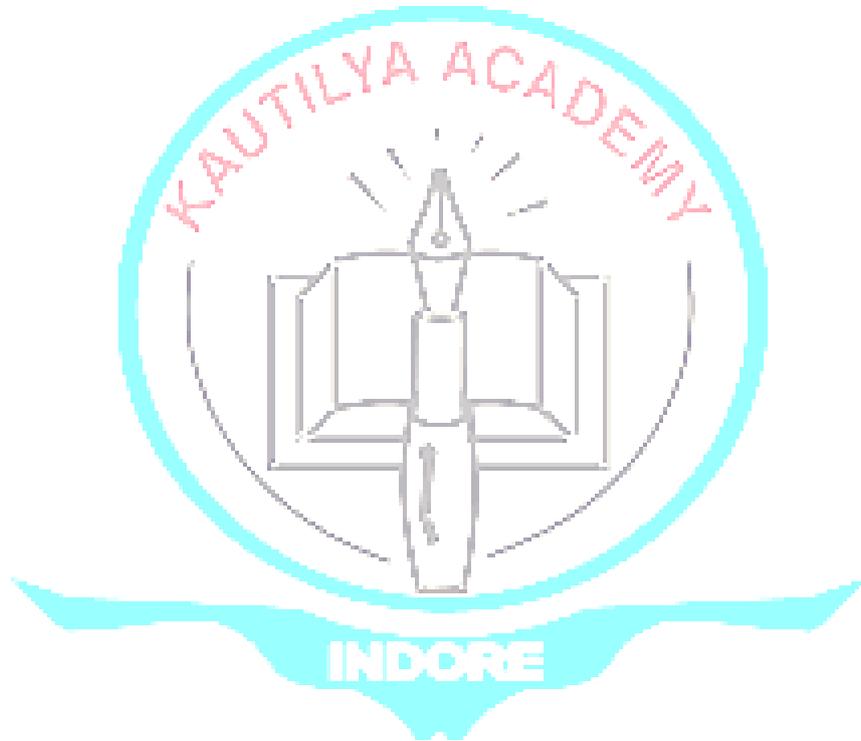
Que. Consider the following statements:

1. The Animal Welfare Board of India has been established under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
2. The National Tiger Conservation Authority is a statutory body.
3. The National Ganga River Basin Authority is headed by the Prime Minister.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 2 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer- (b) 2 and 3 only



Amendment in Warehousing Act

Why in Newspapers?

Significant amendments have been suggested in the 'Warehousing (Development and Regulation) Act, 2007) / 'Warehousing Act' by the Union Ministry of Food and Public Distribution.

Quick Issue?

- Objective of the amendment: The aim of Parivartan is to help farmers to get quality warehouse service.
- Definition: Warehouses are scientific storage structures specially designed to protect the quantity and quality of 'stored products'.

Historical Background?

- Mandatory registration of godowns. Currently, registering with the Warehousing Development and Regulation Authority (WDRA) is optional.
- The power to exempt any class of warehouses from registration before the Authority shall rest with the Central Government only. This provision will ensure gradual and non-disruptive transition to a regulated warehousing system.
- Status: Presently there are about 60,000 godowns in the country. Out of which 4,700 godowns are registered with the 'Regulator' but only 2,910 godowns are active.
- Increase in punishment for various offences: Penalty for various offenses has been increased from existing Rs. 1 lakh will be done.
- The amendment will do away with imprisonment of up to three years as punishment for various offences.
- **Exception for Captive Warehouse:** 'Captive Warehouse' such as the Food Corporation of India is kept out of the purview of the Act.

Other Key Facts?

Related issues:

- A farmer organization 'Samyukt Kisan Morcha' (SKM) fears that this amendment may be brought back to implement some provisions of the repealed 'Farmers Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act' through the back door. have been

Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA):

- The 'Warehousing Development and Regulation Authority' (WDRA) was constituted in 2010 under the Department of Food and Public Distribution under the 'Warehousing (Development and Regulation) Act, 2007' under the Department of Food and Public Distribution for scientific warehousing by laying down structural and procedural standards. was done to be sure.
- Negotiable Warehouse Receipt System – This system was introduced in the year 2011, through which farmers can take loan from banks against the warehouse receipts issued for their storage. The 'Electronic Negotiable Warehouse Receipt' (e-NWR) system was

