



## World Water Day 2022

**For Prelims:** World Water Day, Sustainable Development Goals.

**For Mains:** Conservation, Significance of World Water Day.

### Why in News?

**World Water Day** is celebrated on **22<sup>nd</sup> March Every Year** to highlight the importance of water.

- On the Occasion of the **World Water Day UN (United Nations)** University's Canadian-based Institute for Water Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH) has published an assessment report, showing the **levels of water security in Africa overall are unacceptably low**.
- The World Water Day 2022 theme sets the focus for the **annual World Water Development Report**.



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### What is World Water Day?

- **Aim:** The Day aims to **support the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 6:** water and sanitation for all by 2030.

- **Theme:** Groundwater: making the invisible visible.
  - The theme was decided by **UN-water at its 30th meeting in Rome**. It was proposed by the **International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre (IGRAC)**.
- **History:**
  - The idea for this international day goes back to 1992, the year in which the **UN Conference on Environment and Development** in Rio de Janeiro took place.
  - That same year, the **United Nations General Assembly** adopted a **resolution** by which 22nd March of each year was declared World Day for Water, to be observed **starting in 1993**.
  - Later on, other celebrations and events were added. For instance, the **International Year of Cooperation in the Water Sphere 2013**, and the current **International Decade for Action on Water for Sustainable Development, 2018-2028**.
- **Significance:**
  - The day's intention is to **inspire people around the world** to learn more about water-related issues and to take action to make a difference.
    - While water covers almost 70% of the planet, **freshwater only amounts to about 3% of it**, out of which two-thirds is frozen or inaccessible and unavailable for use.
  - These observances **serve to reaffirm that water and sanitation measures are key to poverty reduction, economic growth, and environmental sustainability**.
- **Other Important Days :**
  - **22 March:** [World Water Day](#)
  - **22 April:** [Earth Day](#)
  - **22 May:** [World Biodiversity Day](#)

#### What does the UN World Water Development Report 2022 say?

- **Groundwater, which accounts for 99% of all liquid freshwater**, has the potential to provide societies with tremendous social, economic and environmental benefits and opportunities.
- The groundwater already provides **almost half of the total water used for domestic purposes including drinking water**. The water resource has though been mismanaged, undervalued and abused.
- The report describes **groundwater to be central to the fight against poverty** and achieving food and water security and even the creation of jobs and socio-economic development.
- The **Asia-Pacific region is the largest groundwater abstractor in the world**, containing seven out of the ten countries that extract most groundwater (Bangladesh, China, **India**, Indonesia, Iran, Pakistan and Turkey).
  - These countries alone **account for roughly 60% of the world's total groundwater withdrawal**.
- The **present dependence on groundwater will only increase due to increasing water demand** by all sectors and increasing disruption in rainfall patterns.
- The report states that it all starts with **making the invisible visible** and the action would require strong and concerted efforts to manage and use it sustainably.

#### UPSC Civil Service Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

**Q. On the planet earth, most of the freshwater exists as ice caps and glaciers. Out of the remaining freshwater, the largest proportion (2013)**

- (a) is found in atmosphere as moisture and clouds
- (b) is found in freshwater lakes and rivers
- (c) exists as groundwater

(d) exists as soil moisture

**Ans: (c)**

**Source: IE**

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