

EDITORIAL

Today, Ground water is a major source of water for many uses such as : irrigation, drinking water in urban and rural areas and industries. Ground water has been a principal source of water for mankind since times immemorial. The importance of ground water is felt more than ever in times of recurring droughts as in the recent years.

Management of ground water is a very delicate task since there is no statutory control on the number of wells which can be dug or the quantity of water which can be drawn. Coupled with this, the large production of wastes by the modern society often poses a great threat to ground water quality. Degradation of ground water quality has started taking place in some areas of the country already.

Efficient management of ground water resource involves both conserving the available supplies and maintaining the quality at acceptable levels. The hydrologic and operational characteristics associated with large surface and ground water systems are generally very complex in nature. Decisions related to the best strategy of management of such systems have to be made using computer models which are designed to simulate both the physical as well as the operational behaviour of the system, The operational behaviour of the system is determined by the rules of operation associated with the allocation of water, water rights and other water use practices.

This issue of Jalvigyan Sameeksha is devoted to the theme of Ground Water Management. The articles presented cover a wide spectrum of subjects of inter-disciplinary nature. While some of the articles are informative others would be thought provoking on this important subject area. It is hoped that the articles would increase the awareness among the scientific and engineering community dealing with management of ground water.