

## EDITORIAL

*Water is a vital element for all forms of life, and most living organisms can survive only for short periods without water. This has resulted in the development of significant interdependence among direct abundance of water, population density, and quality of life. The major issues associated with the use of water by human being are quantity and quality. Within limits, the quantity of water is more important than quality of water.*

*Precipitation water upon reaching the land surface, either percolates into the soil and contributes to groundwater, or runs off along the surface in rivulets, streams and rivers. Minerals dissolve in both surface and groundwater, but greater contact with soil and minerals generally results in higher dissolved salt concentrations in groundwater. The flow of water over land surface also affects the quality of water which changes in space and time. Concentrations of impurities increase because of mineral pick-ups from surface runoff, salts and debris are picked up resulting in muddy and turbid water. There is a tendency of plant and algae growth in still water and slow flowing waters. Surface waters are also considered the best carriers of waste. All these natural and man made changes affect the quality of water. In order to meet demands of growing population there is need for thorough study of water quality.*

*Over the past two decades, water quality and its maintenance has progressed from an art to a science. This has generated both fundamental and applied research, which has improved both design and operation of water quality maintenance systems. Solving water pollution problems today involves a multidisciplinary approach in which the desired quality of water is related to agricultural, municipal, recreational and industrial requirements.*

*This issue of 'Jal Vigyan Sameeksha' is devoted to the theme of Water Quality. Important aspects covering water quality needs for irrigation, groundwater quality, surface water quality, waste water reuse, water quality monitoring and use of newer techniques for water quality studies etc. have been presented by different authors. It is hoped that the ideas expressed and information provided would be found useful by all dealing with water resources and their development and management.*