

The Kaveri Basin

- Source: It rises in the Brahmagiri range of the Western Ghats.
- Tributaries of Kaveri:
→ Amravati, Bhavani, Hemavati and Kabini
- Total length: 760 km
- It reaches the Bay of Bengal in south of Cuddalore, in Tamil Nadu.

Other east flowing rivers: The Damoder, the Brahmani, the Baitarni and the Subarnrekha.

Lakes

- India has many lakes which differ from each other in the size and other characteristics.
- Most lakes are permanent while some contain water only during the rainy season.
- Some of the lakes are the result of the action of glaciers and ice sheets, while the others have been formed by wind, river action, and human activities.
- A meandering river across a flood plain forms cut-offs that later develop into ox-bow lakes.
- Most of the fresh water lakes are in the Himalayan region.
 - They formed when glaciers dug out a basin, which was later filled with snowmelt.
- The Wular lake in Jammu and Kashmir is the result of the tectonic activity which is the largest freshwater lake in India.
- Artificial lakes: The damming of the rivers for the generation of hydro power has also led to the formation of Lakes such as Guru Gobind Sagar.
- Importance of Lakes:
 - helps to regulate the flow of a river. During heavy rainfall, it prevents flooding and during the dry season, it helps to maintain an even flow of water.
 - Also used for developing hydro power.
 - They moderate the climate of the surroundings
 - maintaining the aquatic ecosystem
 - Enhance natural beauty
 - Helps in developing tourism and providing recreation.

Role of Rivers in the Economy

- From ancient times, rivers banks attracted settlers as water from the rivers is a basic natural resource essential for various human activities.
- Rivers are used for irrigation, navigation and hydro-power generation.

River Pollution

- The demand for water from river is increasing to meet growing domestic, municipal, industrial and agricultural need which naturally affects the quality of water.
- More and more water is being drained out of the rivers reducing their volume.
- Also, a heavy load of untreated sewage and industrial effluents are emptied into the rivers which affects not only the quality of water but also the self-cleansing capacity of the river.
- Concern over rising pollution in our rivers led to the launching of various action plans to clean the rivers.

