

Sub-Theme: Innovative Financing Model for Water Infrastructure

Topic: Contribution of water in GDP

Background:

Water is a foundational yet under-recognised driver of economic growth and national income. It underpins productivity, value creation, and resilience across agriculture, industry, energy, and services. The availability, reliability, and quality of water directly influence output levels, production costs, employment generation, public health outcomes, and long-term economic sustainability. Even global evidence increasingly frames water security as a macro-economic and fiscal issue, rather than solely an environmental or social concern. Countries that invest in integrated water governance and resilient infrastructure can convert water from a growth constraint into a catalyst for economic resilience. In India, this linkage is particularly strong. Water scarcity, variability, or regulatory uncertainty can disrupt production, increase costs, and deter investment, particularly as India moves towards higher manufacturing intensity. In a water-constrained and climate-vulnerable future, recognising water as an **economic asset** and mobilizing innovative financing models for water infrastructure and modernization are critical to sustaining GDP growth.

Objective:

- Examine economic contribution of water across sectors, and its indirect role in GDP growth.
- Highlight the macro-economic costs of water insecurity and the returns on water investments.
- Explore innovative financing and investment models for water infrastructure, services, and efficiency improvements.
- Position water security as a strategic economic & fiscal priority for India and other emerging economies.

Suggested Sub-Topics:

- Water Demand-Supply Mismatch
- River Basin water availability data
- CWC 1999 Report on Water

Expected Outcome:

- ❖ Improved understanding of water's indirect but decisive contribution to GDP.
- ❖ Stronger integration of water into macro-economic planning, and investment decisions.
- ❖ Reinforced recognition of water as a strategic economic asset, essential for sustaining growth in a climate-constrained future.
