B. A. Part - 01 (Hons.)
First Paper - Physical Geography.
Unit - 03.
Topic - "Karst Topography" (Part - 01)
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"Ground water"

This particular topic is not about "ground water" as a resource for human population, but the focus of this topic is erosional and depositional work by ground water and its resultant landforms.

Ground water forms after penetrating the permeable, thinly bedded and highly jointed rocks. It percolates after vertically going down to some depth (depending upon bed rock, soil type etc) the water under the ground flows horizontally through the bedding planes, joints or through the material itself themselves.

This particular percolation or the downward movement of water causes chemical reaction in calcium rich rocks and because of this chemical reaction the erosion and deposition of rocks takes place.

Physical or mechanical removal of materials by moving groundwater is insignificant in developing landform. That is why, the result of the work of ground water can not be seen in all types of rocks. But in rocks like limestone or dolomite rich in calcium Carbonate, the surface water as well as ground water through the chemical process of solution and precipitation deposition develop varieties of landforms. These two processes of solution and precipitation are active in limestone or dolomite occuring either exclusively or interbedded with other rocks. Any limestone or dolomite region showing typical landforms produced by the action of ground water through the process of solution and deposition is called "Karst topography", after the typical topography developed in limestone rocks of Karst region in the Balkans adjacent to "Adriatic Sea".

The karst topography is also characterised by erosional and depositional landforms.