

## World Water Day

*Over Six crore rural household have been provided with tap water connections*

*All the villages, gram panchayats, and districts in the country are ODF*

*SUJALAM 2.0 to ensure better use of grey water and improve the groundwater situation*

(Ministry of Jal Shakti)

March 22, 2022

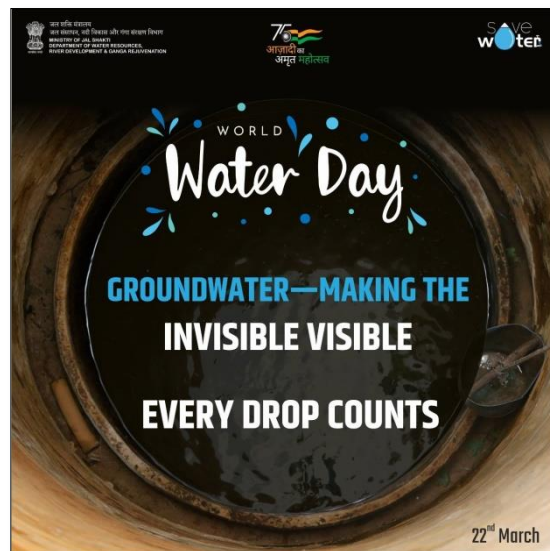
*On World Water Day, let's reaffirm our pledge to save every drop of water. Our nation is undertaking numerous measures like Jal Jeevan Mission to ensure water conservation and access to clean drinking water for our citizens.<sup>1</sup>*

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi

World Water Day is celebrated on 22 March every year. It is an annual United Nations Observance, started in 1993, that celebrates water and raises awareness of the 2 billion people currently living without access to safe water. A core focus of World Water Day is to inspire action towards Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6: Water and Sanitation for all by 2030.<sup>2</sup>

The focus of World Water Day 2022 is **Groundwater**, an invisible resource with an impact visible everywhere.

Groundwater is water found underground in aquifers, which are geological formations of rocks, sands and gravels that hold substantial quantities of water. Groundwater feeds springs, rivers, lakes and wetlands, and seeps into oceans. Life would not be possible without groundwater. Most arid areas of the world depend entirely on groundwater. Groundwater supplies a large proportion of the water for drinking, sanitation, food production and industrial processes.



<sup>1</sup> <https://twitter.com/narendramodi/status/1506097544589627394?t=r68P9pSn9iQBwUUVJVTsRA&s=08>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.worldwaterday.org/learn>

## History of the Day<sup>3</sup>

The idea for this international day goes back to 1992, the year in which the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro took place. That same year, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution by which 22 March of each year was declared World Day for Water, to be observed starting in 1993. Later on, other celebrations and events were added.

## Initiatives/programmes for Water Conservation

Water being a state subject the projects on water conservation are planned, funded, executed and maintained by the State Governments. In order to supplement the efforts of the State Governments, Central Government provides technical and financial assistance to them through various schemes and programmes.

Government of India, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has been implementing various schemes and programmes like **Jal Jeevan Mission, Atal Bhujal Yojana (Atal Jal), Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), Namami Gange, National Aquifer Mapping and Management programme (NAQUIM)** etc., for water conservation and for increasing the level of ground water.

Realising the importance of water conservation, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi wrote letters to all *Sarpanches* regarding the significance of water conservation and harvesting. He exhorted them to make water conservation a people's movement. Further while addressing the webinar on positive impact of Union Budget on rural development held on February 23, 2022, Prime Minister that we have to provide tap water to every household by 2024.



Various initiatives/programmes for water conservation and harvesting are mentioned below:<sup>4</sup>

### 1. Jal Jeevan Mission

Government of India, in partnership with States, is implementing **Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)** to make provision of potable tap water supply to every rural household of the country at the service level of 55 litre per capita per day by 2024. For ensuring tap water supply in drought-prone and water-scarce areas with inadequate rainfall or dependable ground water sources, provisions have been made under JJM for bulk water transfer from long distances and regional water supply schemes. In addition, provisions have been made for source recharging, viz. dedicated bore well recharge structures, rain water recharge, rejuvenation of existing

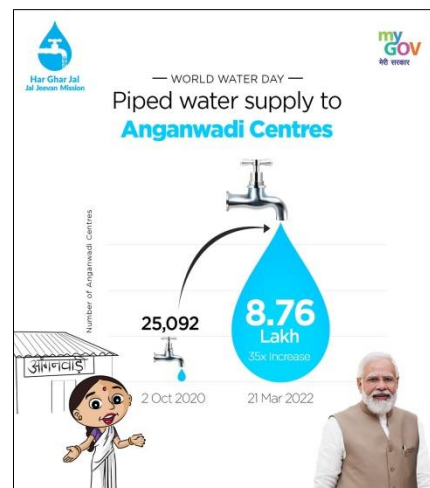
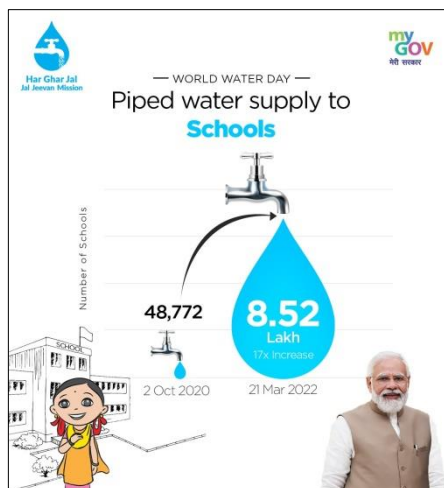
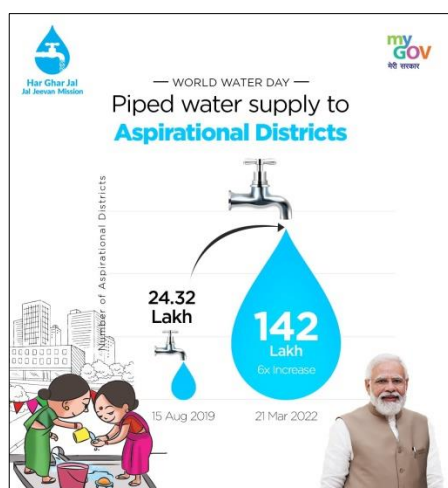
<sup>3</sup> <https://www.un.org/en/observances/water-day>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1807788>

water bodies, etc., in convergence with other schemes such as MGNREGS, Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP), 15th Finance Commission tied grants to RLBs/ PRIs, State schemes, CSR funds, etc. Since the launch of Jal Jeevan Mission in August 2019, **over 6 crore rural households** have been provided with tap water connections.

### Achievements:

- In the last 2.5 years, over **Six crore households** have been given tap water, 63000 houses are connected with tap water every day and 1.4 lakh villages are 'Har Ghar Jal'.
- Piped water supply to Anganwadi Centres has increased from 25,092 on October 02, 2020 to **8.75 lakh** on March 21, 2022 which is a **35 times increase**.
- Piped water supply to Schools has increased from 48,772 on October 02, 2020 to **8.52 lakh** on March 21, 2022 which is a **17 times increase**.
- Piped water supply to Aspirational Districts has increased from 24.32 lakh on August 15, 2019 to **142 lakh** on March 21, 2022 which is a **six times increase**.
- In JE-AES affected districts, tap water supply to households increased from 8 lakh (2.6 per cent) HHs to **1.26 Crore (42 per cent) HHs** as on date.
- So far, above 4.74 lakh VWSC/ Pani Samitis have been constituted in villages to carry out mapping of existing water sources, undertake water conservation, initiate dialogue with the community to pay water user charges, test water quality at regular intervals, etc.



## 2. Atal Bhujal Yojana

Government of India is implementing Atal Bhujal Yojana, a central sector scheme, in 8,774 gram panchayats of 81 districts of seven States namely Haryana, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. The focus of the scheme is on community participation and demand side intervention for sustainable ground water management in identified water

stressed areas. Atal Bhujal Yojana envisages improved source sustainability for Jal Jeevan Mission, positive contribution to the Government's goal of doubling farmers' income and inculcating behavioural changes in the community to facilitate optimal water use.

### **3. Namami Gange<sup>5</sup>**

Cleaning of river is a continuous process and Government of India is supplementing the efforts of the State Government in addressing the challenges of pollution in river Ganga and its tributaries by providing financial and technical assistance under Namami Gange Programme. Under this Programme, a diverse set of interventions for cleaning and rejuvenation of river Ganga have been taken up including waste water treatment, solid waste management, river front management (ghats and crematoria), maintaining continuous flow, rural sanitation, afforestation, biodiversity conservation and Public Participation etc.

**Achievement:** Under the Namami Gange programme, a [total of 364 projects, including 160 projects](#) for sewage treatment of 5024 MLD and sewer network of 5227 kms, have been sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 30853 crore. Further, priority for effective rejuvenation of small rivers has been accorded under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS).

### **4. Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen)<sup>6</sup>**

Government had launched Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) with effect from 2nd October, 2014 with the main aim to make the rural areas of the country open defecation free (ODF) by 2nd October, 2019, by providing access to toilets to all the rural households.

#### **Achievements:<sup>7</sup>**

- Under SBM (G), as per the data reported by the States/UTs on the online Integrated Management Information System (IMIS), 10.93 crore IHHLs have so far been constructed in the country.
- 1.95 lakh Community Sanitary Complexes (CSCs) have also been constructed under the programme.
- All the villages, gram panchayats, and districts in the country have already declared themselves ODF.
- 53,948 villages have been covered with Solid Waste Management and 28,603 villages have been covered with Liquid Waste Management.

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<sup>5</sup> <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1783513>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1797158>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1807850>

## **5. National Aquifer Mapping and Management programme (NAQUIM)**

NAQUIM envisages mapping of aquifers (water bearing formations), their characterization and development of Aquifer Management Plans to facilitate sustainable management of groundwater resources in the country. NAQUIM outputs are shared with States/UTs for suitable interventions.

### **Achievements:**

- During 2021 (1st January to 30th November 2021), Aquifer Maps and Management Plans for 3.7 Lakh km<sup>2</sup> have been prepared covering various parts of the country.
- So far, under the Aquifer Mapping programme, an area of 18.4 lakh km<sup>2</sup> has been covered out of the total ~25 lakh km<sup>2</sup> area identified for mapping in the country.

## **6. High Resolution Aquifer Mapping and Management in Arid Areas Of India**

Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has initiated high resolution mapping of aquifers using modern heli-borne geophysical survey in parts of the arid areas spread over the states of Rajasthan, Gujarat and Haryana. The study has been taken up in collaboration with Ministry of Science and Technology.

**Achievement:** Under phase- I of the project, the work has been initiated in nearly 1 lakh sq km.

## **7. National Hydrology Project**

National Hydrology Project (NHP), a Central Sector Scheme, is being implemented on pan India basis with the support of the World Bank. The objective of the project is to improve the extent, quality, and accessibility of water resources information and to strengthen the capacity of targeted water resources professionals and management institutions in India.

## **8. National Mission for Clean Ganga**

The government notified NMCG as an authority under Environment Protection Act, 1986 and created empowered institutions and laid down fundamental principles with a comprehensive framework for rejuvenation of rivers in Ganga Basin. This approach is now considered a model for application for rejuvenation of other rivers in the country. It integrates rivers, tributaries, wetlands, flood plains, springs and small rivers as a single system.

### **Achievements:**

- 344 projects have been sanctioned under Namami Gange at a cost of Rs. 29,990 crores for sewerage projects, industrial pollution abatement, River front Ghats and crematoria, afforestation and biodiversity conservation, rural sanitation and other related projects. Out of it, 147 projects have been completed and the remaining are under execution.
- Pace of execution has increased manifold reflected in total expenditure of Rs. 10,100 crores from 2014 till March 2021. This is more than double as compared to that from 1985-86 to 2014.



## 9. National Perspective Plan (NPP) of interlinking of rivers

The Government of India formulated a National Perspective Plan (NPP) of interlinking of rivers for transferring water from surplus basins to deficit basins/areas in 1980. National Water Development Agency (NWDA) has identified 30 links (16 under Peninsular Component and 14 under Himalayan Component) for preparation of Feasibility Reports/ Detailed Project Reports under Inter-linking of Rivers Project.

### Achievement:

- **Ken–Betwa project** is the first Inter-linking project under NPP, which is under implementation. A tripartite agreement has been signed among the States of UP and MP and Central Government for implementation of Ken-Betwa Link Project in March, 2021.
- The project has been approved by the Government of India with an estimated cost of Rs. 44605 crore at year 2020-21 price level and central support of Rs.39317 crore through a Special Purpose Vehicle.<sup>8</sup>

## 10. Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)

Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) was launched during the year 2015-16, with an aim to enhance physical access of water on farm and for expanding cultivable area under assured irrigation, improve on-farm water use efficiency, introducing sustainable water conservation practices, etc. During 2016-17, ninety-nine (99) on-going major/ medium irrigation projects in the



country having balance estimated cost of Rs.77,595 crore under PMKSY-Accelerated Irrigation Benefifits Programme (AIBP) have been prioritised, in consultation with States, for completion in phases. The extension of PMKSY for the period 2021-22 to 2025-26 has been approved by Government of India, with an overall outlay of Rs. 93,068.56 crore.

**Achievements** made during last three years (2018-2021) in different components of PMKSY, are tabulated below:

Scheme	Achievements made in last 3 years (2018-2021)
AIBP (Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme) with pari-passu implementation of CADWM	Creation of 10.575 lakh hectare irrigation potential. 15 projects have been reported as completed during this period.

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1805809>

SMI (Surface Minor Irrigation)	An irrigation potential of about 0.95 lakh hectare is reported to be created.
RRR (Repair, Renovation and Restoration)	A potential of 0.42 lakh hectare has been created.
GW (Ground Water)	An additional area of 35.44 thousand hectare has been brought under irrigation through ground water.
PDMC (Per Drop More Crop)	32.68 lakh hectare has been covered under micro irrigation
WDC (Watershed Development component)	1.49 lakh hectare has been brought under plantation, and 3.28 lakh hectare wasteland has been made culturable.

### 11. 'Sahi Fasal' campaign

'Sahi Fasal' campaign was launched by National Water Mission (NWM) on 14.11.2019 to nudge farmers in the water stressed areas to grow crops which use water very efficiently, are economically remunerative, are healthy and nutritious, suited to the agro-climatic-hydro characteristics of the area, and are environment friendly.

### 12. Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) 2.0

Government of India has launched AMRUT 2.0 on 1st October, 2021 for a period of Five years (FY 2021- 22 to 2025-26), with the objective of providing universal coverage of water supply through functional household tap connections in all statutory towns in the country. AMRUT 2.0 focuses on making specified cities water secure through recycle/ reuse of treated sewage, rejuvenation of water bodies and water conservation.

### 13. "Jal Shakti Abhiyan - Catch the Rain" (JSA:CTR) Campaign

Addressing different aspects of water conservation and increasing the level of groundwater, after implementation of Jal Shakti Abhiyan in 2019, Ministry of Jal Shakti has taken up a nationwide campaign "Jal Shakti Abhiyan - Catch the Rain" (JSA:CTR) with the with the tagline "Catch the rain, where it falls, when it falls" for creating appropriate rainwater harvesting structures in urban and rural areas of all the districts in the country, with people's active participation, during the pre-monsoon and monsoon periods. The campaign, primarily focusing on saving and conserving rainwater, was launched by the Prime Minister on March 22, 2021, the World Water Day. Creation of new and maintenance of old

Rainwater harvesting structures; revival of traditional rainwater harvesting structures like stepwells



etc; enumeration, geo-tagging and making inventory of all water bodies; preparation of scientific water conservation plans; setting up of Jal Shakti Kendras and intensive afforestation are part of the campaign.

#### **14. Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Groundwater-2020**

Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Groundwater-2020 has been prepared in consultation with States/UTs indicating various structures for the different terrain conditions of the country.

The Master Plan envisages construction of about 1.42 crore rain water harvesting and artificial recharge structures in the country including deep ground level areas to harness 185 billion cubic metre (BCM) of monsoon rainfall.

#### **15. National River Conservation Plan (NRCP)<sup>9</sup>**

National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) is the Centrally Sponsored Scheme implemented for abatement of pollution in identified stretches of rivers in the country, excluding those in Ganga basin, by providing financial and technical assistance to the States/Union Territories (UTs) on cost sharing basis.

**Achievement:** NRCP has so far covered polluted stretches on 34 rivers in 77 towns spread over 16 States in the country with a sanctioned cost of Rs.5961.75 crore, and inter-alia, a sewage treatment capacity of 2677 million litres per day (MLD) has been created.

#### **16. SUJALAM 2.0: Grey Water Management**

On World Water Day (2022), Ministry of Jal Shakti launched the SUJALAM 2.0 campaign for grey water management. Earlier, Ministry of Jal Shakti began 'SUJALAM', a '100-day campaign' on [August 25, 2021](#), as part of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebrations to create more and more ODF Plus villages by undertaking waste water management at village level particularly through creation of 1 million Soak-pits and also other Grey water management activities. With the launch of SUJALAM 2.0, the combined efforts by states and central government will ensure better use of grey water and improve the groundwater situation in the country.

#### **17. Union Budget 2022: Har Ghar, Nal Se Jal Scheme<sup>10</sup>**

An allocation of Rs. 60,000 crore has been made to cover 3.8 crore households in 2022-23 under Har Ghar, Nal Se Jal Scheme. The current coverage of Har Ghar, Nal Se Jal is 8.7 crore, out of which 5.5 crore households were provided tap water in last two years itself.

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<sup>9</sup>[https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1739096#:~:text=National%20River%20Conservation%20Plan%20\(NRCP,UTs\)%20on%20cost%20sharing%20basis.](https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1739096#:~:text=National%20River%20Conservation%20Plan%20(NRCP,UTs)%20on%20cost%20sharing%20basis.)

<sup>10</sup><https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1794161>



## References:

- <http://jalshakti-dowr.gov.in/>
- <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1807830>
- [http://jalshakti-dowr.gov.in/sites/default/files/Steps\\_to\\_control\\_water\\_depletion\\_Feb2021.pdf](http://jalshakti-dowr.gov.in/sites/default/files/Steps_to_control_water_depletion_Feb2021.pdf)
- <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1797321>
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- <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1706665>
- <https://www.un.org/en/observances/water-day>
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- <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1776170>
- <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1807985>
- Jal Jeevan Samvad (February 2022)
- [World Water Day 2022 Celebrations with the theme “Groundwater-Making the Invisible Visible](#)

## Tweets:

- [https://twitter.com/mygovindia/status/1506081385508847623?ref\\_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwterm%5E1506131084052148225%7Ctwgr%5E%7Ctwcon%5Es3\\_&ref\\_url=https%3A%2F%2Fpib.gov.in%2FPressReleaseIframePage.aspx%3FPRID%3D1807985](https://twitter.com/mygovindia/status/1506081385508847623?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwterm%5E1506131084052148225%7Ctwgr%5E%7Ctwcon%5Es3_&ref_url=https%3A%2F%2Fpib.gov.in%2FPressReleaseIframePage.aspx%3FPRID%3D1807985)
- [https://twitter.com/narendramodi/status/1506097544589627394?ref\\_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwterm%5E1506097544589627394%7Ctwgr%5E%7Ctwcon%5Es1\\_&ref\\_url=https%3A%2F%2Fpib.gov.in%2FPressReleaseIframePage.aspx%3FPRID%3D1807985](https://twitter.com/narendramodi/status/1506097544589627394?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwterm%5E1506097544589627394%7Ctwgr%5E%7Ctwcon%5Es1_&ref_url=https%3A%2F%2Fpib.gov.in%2FPressReleaseIframePage.aspx%3FPRID%3D1807985)
- <https://twitter.com/MoJSDoWRRDGR/status/1506110943427710978?cxt=HHwWhMCy9Yv74-YpAAAA>
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- <https://twitter.com/DDNewslive/status/1506154939038552077>
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- <https://twitter.com/swachhbharat/status/1506156506718216196?cxt=HHwWiICp8ZzX-OYpAAAA>

## Video link:

- [PM Modi launches ‘Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain’ campaign on World Water Day](#)
- [Jal Jeevan Mission Programme Video-Animation](#)
- [Jal Jeevan Mission success story of Gadabasti, Himachal Pradesh](#)
- [Jal Jeevan Mission Karnataka](#)

AG/HP/KG