

World Water Day (March 22)

Over 11 crore rural household have been provided with tap water connections

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

Central Government taking numerous steps to control Water Depletion and Promote Rain Water Harvesting/Conservation

(Ministry of Jal Shakti)

March 21, 2023

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.¹

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi

World Water Day is celebrated on 22nd 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 2030.²



The focus of World Water Day 2023 is on **Accelerating Change** to solve the water and sanitation crisis.

History of the Day³

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

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

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

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

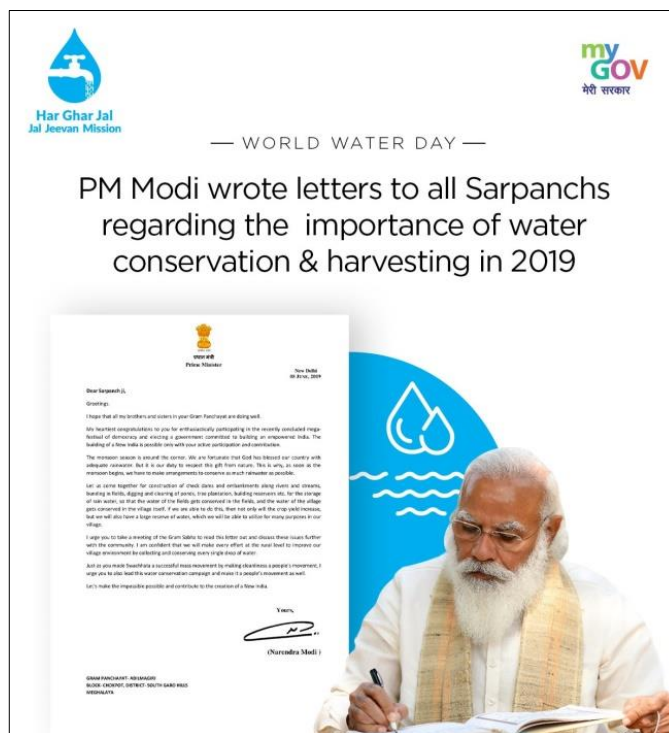
declared World Day for Water, to be observed starting in 1993. Later on, other celebrations and events were added.

Initiatives/Programmes for Water Conservation

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

post-budget webinar on **'Reaching the Last Mile'** held on February 27, 2023, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that "There is a need to take the mantra of 'Reaching the Last Mile' in the tribal and rural areas in India. This has also been given special attention in this year's budget. A **provision of thousands of crores of rupees has been made in the budget for the Jal Jeevan Mission** to achieve the target of Reaching the Last Mile."



Various Initiatives/Programmes for Water Conservation and Harvesting are mentioned below:

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 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 8.26 crore rural households** have been provided with tap water connections.

An allocation of **Rs. 70,000 crores** has been made in Union Budget 2022-23, which is **12 times** the initial allocation of Rs. 5500 Crore in FY 2018-19.

Achievements:

- As on March 21, 2023, over **11.49 crore households** have been provided tap water connections, and over **1.53 lakh villages** have become Har Ghar Jal.



- Piped water supply to Anganwadi Centres has increased from 25,092 on October 02, 2020, to **9.34 lakh** on March 21, 2023, which is a **37 times increase**.
- Piped water supply to Schools has increased from 48,772 on October 02, 2020, to **9.02 lakh** on March 15, 2023, which is a **18 times increase**.
- Piped water supply to Aspirational Districts has increased from 24.32 lakh on August 15, 2019, to **1.59 crore** on March 20, 2023, which is a **six times increase**.
- In JE-AES affected districts, tap water supply to households increased from 8 lakh Households on August 15, 2020, to **1.59 Crore Households** as on March 21, 2023.
- Till January 2023, **5.20 lakh Village Water & Sanitation Committee/Pani Samitis** have been formed, and more than **17 lakh women are trained** for testing water samples using Field Test Kits (FTKs).⁴

2. Atal Bhujal Yojana

Atal Bhujal Yojana, a Central Sector Scheme with a **total outlay of Rs.6,000 crore** is being implemented in **8,220 water-stressed Gram Panchayats** of 229 administrative blocks/ Talukas in **80 districts of seven States**, viz. Haryana, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh for a period of 5 years from 01.04.2020.

⁴ <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1893583>

The focus of the scheme is on community participation and demand-side intervention for sustainable ground water management. 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.

Achievement: A total of **8207 Community-led Water Security Plans (WSPs)**, having details about water budget and proposed demand-side interventions such as micro-irrigation, crop diversification, use of pipelines etc, and supply-side interventions such as check dams, farm ponds, recharge shafts and other artificial recharge/water conservation structures, have been prepared.⁵

3. Namami Gange⁶

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 the 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:⁷

- As on February 02, 2023, a **total of 409 projects**, have been taken up at an **estimated cost of Rs. 32,912.40 Crore**, out of which **232 projects have been completed** and made operational.
- These include 177 projects for sewage treatment of 5,269.87 MLD and sewer network of 5,213.49 kms, which have been sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 26,673.06 crore.
- Among these, 99 sewerage projects have been completed resulting in creation & rehabilitation of 2043.05 MLD of STP capacity and laying of 4260.95 km sewerage network.

4. Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen)⁸

Government had launched Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) with effect from October 02, 2014 with the main aim to make the rural areas of the country Open Defecation Free (ODF) by October 02, 2019, by providing access to toilets to all the rural households.

⁵ <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1898805>

⁶ <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1783513>

⁷ <https://pqals.nic.in/annex/1711/AU168.pdf>

⁸ <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1797158>

Achievements:

- As on March 16, 2023, over **11 crore Individual Household Latrines (IHHLs)** have been built across all States/UTs since October 2014.⁹
- Over **2.23 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.
- Over **1.44 lakh villages** have arrangement of Solid Waste Management and over **1.63 lakh villages** have arrangement of Liquid Waste Management.

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.

Out of the total geographical area of around 33 Lakh Sq Km of the entire country, an area of around 25 Lakh Sq Km of mappable area has been identified to be covered under NAQUIM programme.

Achievement: As on December 30, 2022, an area of **24.57 Lakh Sq. Km** has been covered under the programme.¹⁰

6. 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.

Achievement:¹¹

- Total Hydrological Stations - 22,201 (Ground Water – 16,215 and Surface Water – 5,986)

7. 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.

⁹ <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1907510>

¹⁰ <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1898807>

¹¹ https://nhp.mowr.gov.in/Home/nhp_Dashboard.aspx

Achievement:¹²

- Under the two components of NPP, a total of 30 link projects have been identified; 14 link projects under Himalayan Rivers Development Component and 16 link projects under Peninsular Rivers Development Component.
- Out of 30 identified link projects under the NPP, **Pre-Feasibility Reports (PFRs) of all the 30 links have been completed**, while **Feasibility Reports (FRs) of 24 links and Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) of 8 links** have also been completed.
- The **Ken-Betwa Link project (KBLP) is the first link** under the NPP for which implementation has been initiated. 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.¹³

8. 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 Benefits 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.

Achievements¹⁴ made in different components of PMKSY, are tabulated below:

Scheme	Achievements
AIBP (Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme) with pari-passu implementation of CADWM	An irrigation potential of about 1932 thousand hectare has been created.
SMI (Surface Minor Irrigation)	An irrigation potential of about 152 thousand hectare has been created.

¹² <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1907654>

¹³ <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1805809>

¹⁴ <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1908861>

RRR (Repair, Renovation and Restoration)	An irrigation potential of about 53.4 thousand hectare has been created.
GW (Ground Water)	An irrigation potential of about 78 thousand hectare has been created.

9. 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.

Achievements:¹⁵

- As on March 20, 2023, **137 lakh water tap connections** and **105 lakh sewer connections** (including households covered through Faecal Sludge and Septage Management- FSSM) have been provided through AMRUT.
- **Total Sewage treatment capacity of 6,347 Million Liters Per Day (MLD)** is being developed through AMRUT projects. Of which, 2,840 MLD sewage treatment capacity has been created & 1,437 MLD capacity has been developed for recycle/reuse.
- **692 Storm Water Drainage projects** have been completed under AMRUT. This has resulted in elimination of 2,960 water logging points and another 801 water logging points are in progress of elimination.

10. [“Jal Shakti Abhiyan - Catch the Rain” \(JSA:CTR\) Campaign](#)

The Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA) was launched in the year 2019 in 1592 blocks out of 2836 blocks in 256 water-stressed districts of the country and was expanded as “Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain” (JSA:CTR) in 2021 with the theme “Catch the Rain – Where it Falls When it Falls” to cover all the blocks of all districts (rural as well as urban areas) across the country.

“Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain” (JSA:CTR) - 2022 campaign, the third in the series of JSAs, was launched by Hon’ble President on March 29, 2022, in all districts (rural as well as urban areas) of the country for implementation from March 29, 2022, to November 30, 2022 - the pre-monsoon and monsoon period.



¹⁵ <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1908856>

The focused interventions of the campaign include (1) water conservation and rainwater harvesting; (2) enumerating, geo-tagging & making inventory of all water bodies; preparation of scientific plans for water conservation based on it (3) Setting up of Jal Shakti Kendras in all districts (4) intensive afforestation and (5) awareness generation.

Achievements:¹⁶

- Since the launch on March 29, 2022, till February 13, 2023, both urban and rural areas put together, a total of **over 39.46 lakh water-related works**, including rainwater harvesting structures, are completed/ongoing.
- **78.38 Crore afforestation activities** have also been carried out under the campaign.

11. 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.

12. National River Conservation Plan (NRCP)¹⁷

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.

Achievement¹⁸: As on March 13, 2023, NRCP has covered polluted stretches on 36 rivers in 80 towns spread over 19 States in the country.

13. Amrit Sarovar Mission

Hon'ble Prime Minister has launched Amrit Sarovar Mission on April 24, 2022. The Mission is aimed at **developing and rejuvenating 75 water bodies in each district** of the country as a part of celebration of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.

Achievement:¹⁹

- A target of construction of **50,000 Amrit Sarovars** was set to be completed by August 15, 2023.
- As on February 08, 2023, **more than 30,000 Amrit Sarovars**, which constitute 60% of the total target, have been constructed.

¹⁶ <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1898803>

¹⁷ [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.)

¹⁸ <https://newsonair.gov.in/News?title=National-River-Conservation-Plan-covers-polluted-stretches-on-36-rivers-in-80-towns-spread-over-19-States-including-Odisha-in-India&id=457335>

¹⁹ <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1897466>

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- http://jalshakti-dowr.gov.in/sites/default/files/Steps_to_control_water_depletion_Feb2021.pdf
- <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1797321>
- <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1706407>
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- <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1807985>
- <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1807788>
- 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%5Eetweetembed%7Ctwterm%5E1506131084052148225%7Ctwgr%5E%7Ctwcon%5Es3_%2F%2Fpib.gov.in%2FPressReleaseIframePage.aspx%3FPRID%3D1807985
- https://twitter.com/narendramodi/status/1506097544589627394?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Eetweetembed%7Ctwterm%5E1506097544589627394%7Ctwgr%5E%7Ctwcon%5Es1_%2F%2Fpib.gov.in%2FPressReleaseIframePage.aspx%3FPRID%3D1807985
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- <https://twitter.com/swachhbharat/status/1506156506718216196?ext=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](#)

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