

5TH NATIONAL WATER AWARDS, 2023

BEST STATE

FIRST WINNER - ODISHA

Odisha state has made exemplary strides in water conservation activities during the last few years. About 53,000 water conservation & rain water harvesting structures, and 10,800 reuse and recharge structures have been created as well as renovation of 11,000 of traditional water bodies, 68,700 watershed development, and 21,000 waste water treatment plants has been completed. Renovation of about 1,800 km of drainage channel has resulted in retrieval of around 39,000 hectares of agriculture land from water logging. Over 90,900 ha of irrigated area has been transformed from conventional to micro irrigation of sprinkler and drip systems benefiting about 87000 farmers. 9 crore intensive afforestation has been completed. Mukshyamantri Adibandha Tiari Yojana has been implemented for development of check dams and minor irrigation.

Major strides have been made by the State particularly in the last year, i.e., 2023.

BEST STATE

SECOND WINNER- UTTAR PRADESH

Uttar Pradesh has made significant strides under Jal Jeevan Mission in the last few years, wherein over 17,900 villages have been saturated with tap water and 7,200 villages have been Har Ghar Jal certified benefiting over 1.91 crore households constituting 72.78% of the total rural houses in UP. To mitigate inflow of polluted water into Ganga, the State has built 133 Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) with a combined capacity of 4100 MLD. 06 Ganga Biodiversity Parks are being established in the state. 14,679 Amrit Sarovars have been completed. Major strides in this regard have been made in the last year (2023).

Further, under the Jal Shakti Abhiyan campaign (phase-IV) in the year 2023, over 55,400 intensive water conservation and rainwater harvesting initiatives, renovation of 21,200 traditional water bodies and the construction of 39,600 recharge structures/new ponds have been completed. Installation of Rooftop rainwater harvesting structures on 31,300 government and semi government buildings have been completed. Besides around 1,450 other rain water recharge structures and 26,700 water conservation structures have been built and 21,200 traditional water bodies have been restored.

BEST STATE
THIRD WINNER (JOINT) - PUDUCHERRY

UT of Puducherry has done exemplary work in the field of water conservation in the last few years, and particularly in the last year (2023). 84 tanks have been renovated leading to increase in the water storage capacity from 45 to 75 MCM, around 190 village ponds have been de-silted and 6 mini lakes, with a water holding capacity of 1.60 MCM have been created to divert and impound the storm water / river water.

In addition, in the rural areas of Puducherry, about 1,14,900 house holds (HH) have been provided with functional house hold tap connections under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in 2023. Apart from this, 850 roof top harvesting structures have been constructed in 160 industries and educational institutions during the year. In addition, an area of 560 ha has been brought under micro irrigation system, and 25 bed /check dams have been constructed in various locations across the network of rivers to improve ground water level.

In view of the limited geographical area available for the UT, that too consisting of a long coastline, the above achievements have been found to be exemplary.

BEST STATE
THIRD WINNER (JOINT)- GUJARAT

In Gujarat, 25 lakh functional household tap connections (FHTC) have been provided under Jal Jeevan Mission since the inception of the mission, thereby reaching the milestone of 100% FHTC coverage in the state. Further, under "Sardar Patel Participatory Water Conservation Scheme" (SPPWCS), check dams have been constructed in 185 river basins involving NGOs, farmer groups and industries.

In addition, the State has covered about 22.8 lakh ha of net sown area under micro irrigation systems in the last few years, benefitting more than 14 lakh farmers. State has also implemented intra basin transfer of water by completing two bulk water lift irrigation projects in North Gujarat region benefitting over-exploited areas. Under the project, water is being transported for a distance of 600 km from Sardar Sarovar dam with a lift of 275 metres and similar lift irrigation scheme having length of 125 kms and lift of 383 meter has been completed in tribal areas.

Continuing with its tradition of taking up programmes with jan bhagidari, the State has about 17,250 active village Pani Samiti (VWSC/ WUA). They are operating and maintaining the water supply schemes for their respective village.

A substantial part of the above achievements has been done during the last year (2023). In view of the above, the performance of the State in water resources has been found worth emulating.

BEST DISTRICT : (One winner for each of the five regions)

SOUTH ZONE WINNER- VISAKHAPATNAM (ANDHRA PRADESH)-

Major achievements of the District in the field of water conservation include renovation of 33 water bodies under Amrit Sarovar scheme, renovation of about 2,400 various artificial recharge structures have been renovated leading to saving to about 87.74 KL of water, restoration of 336 running meters of riverbanks on Sarada river, preserving flood plains by benefiting 20,600 people with 35,000 Acres, and de-silting of Mudasarlova Reservoir thereby increasing the water storage capacity by 20%.

In addition, under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana 2.0 scheme, 28 structures with a storage capacity of 79.77 KL have been created in the last year which has enhanced ground water levels in the surrounding areas and is providing critical irrigation to the crops during the drought situations. Further, more than 2 lakh trees have been planted and a well-developed maintenance mechanism has been put in place to protect the existing, naturally established trees, seedlings, and saplings. All the 491 number of water bodies available in the district have been geo tagged and updated in the revenue records.

Further, a 2 MW grid-connected floating solar photo voltaic project at Mudasarlova reservoir has been commissioned. Community engagement with local communities through interactive sessions, awareness campaigns, workshops and training sessions, is undertaken to explain water usage patterns and to encourage community participation in conservation and management initiatives.

Major strides have been made by the district in the last one year (2023).

BEST DISTRICT :

WEST ZONE WINNER- INDORE (MADHYA PRADESH)-

Major achievements of District in the field of water conservation include works carried out in catchment areas of Ajnaar, Balam, Choral, Karaam, Moral, Patalpani rivers, including 366 plantation works, 216 water harvesting works, 60 recharge structures, 90 watershed treatment works, and 814 water and soil conservation works. Also 5 Amrit Sarovars, 4 farm ponds, 5 check dams, and 30 Gabian structures have been completed in catchment area of Balam river.

In addition, about 420 works of nala trenching (deepening) have been implemented, enhancing the percolation and recharging resulting in increase in water table in the surrounding areas of water stream. Further, under Pushkar Dharohar Samridhi Abhiyan, 462 old structures viz ponds, check dams, & stop dams, have been renovated resulting in increase in water storage capacity of 16 lakh cubic meters & creation of additional irrigation facility for 1500 ha of farming land.

Further, roof top rain water harvesting systems have been installed on the roofs of 1 lakh houses by the citizens at their own expense and piezo meters at 10 places have been installed for assessing water level and also all roof rainwater harvesting structures have been geo-tagged. Around 420 farm ponds, 180 percolation tanks, 100 Nistari tanks, and 190 Check dams have been constructed leading to storage capacity of 30 lakh cum.

Also, around 25,500 ha area has been brought under drip and sprinkler irrigation systems benefitting about 16,000 farmers in the district. 20 lakh saplings during Hariyali Mahotsav have been planted. Overall 2.55 lakh saplings have been planted in Indore urban area. Jal Yatras and water

conferences have been organized in every village wherein the importance of water conservation have been explained.

A major part of the above activities have been taken in the last one year (2023) itself in the District.

BEST DISTRICT

NORTH ZONE (JOINT) WINNER- GANDERBAL (J&K)

Major achievements of District in the field of water conservation include maintenance works of about 400 km of canals, and lining of 1.35 km of canals to prevent water wastage through leaks, de-silting and lining to increase water carrying capacity leading to water saving of about 500 million cubic meters. Nagpaw water body, a natural spring, has been revived after 70 years enhancing its discharge capacity from 7 to 50 cubic meters per second. 6 artificial water recharging structures erected in catchment areas with a combined capacity of 152 cubic meters.

In addition, under Mission Amrit Sarovar, 103 water bodies have been renovated. Geo-mapping has been executed for 189 existing water bodies, encompassing 172 springs, 5 ponds/lakes, and 12 water harvesting tanks. 10 ha of land has been covered under drip irrigation and sprinkler irrigation systems. 160 drinking water storage reservoirs have been built collectively holding around 06 million gallons of clean drinking water. 8.21 lakh plants have been planted across catchment areas. A total of 35 springs have been developed or conserved including a spring at Dhumail Sonmarg was revived significantly fulfilling the water requirements of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatris at Dhumail and Baltal Base camps. An innovative ground-breaking re-circulatory aquaculture model

has been established. This innovative system recirculates 15 million litres of water to yield 900 metric tons of trout and 1250 metric tons of trout fingerlings. This initiative has led to the creation of employment opportunities for about 50 individuals.

The district also orchestrated awareness campaigns with focus on water conservation and management in villages and panchayats through Monthly Block Divas and Gram Divas programs.

BEST DISTRICT :
NORTH EAST ZONE WINNER- DHALAI (TRIPURA)

Major achievements of District in the field of water conservation include creation of 748 community recharge structures, micro irrigation systems in additional 15 hectares of land, excavation of 63 ponds, construction of 176 check dams with storage capacity of 9 lakh cubic metres and construction of 137 water tanks for rainwater harvesting.

In addition, 25,684 water bodies available in the district have been geo tagged and mapped. 41.32 lakhs of miscellaneous and bamboo tree saplings have been nurtured and planted across the district's expanse. Community engagement with local communities through interactive sessions, awareness campaigns, workshops and training sessions, has been undertaken to explain water usage patterns and to encourage community participation in conservation and management initiatives.

BEST DISTRICT :
NORTH ZONE (JOINT) WINNER- BANDA (UTTAR PRADESH)

Major achievements of District in the field of water conservation include rejuvenation of about 405 ponds, construction of 3,300 farm bunds & 530 farm ponds: construction of 250 rooftop rainwater harvesting structure, 4,690 soak pits, and 460 check dams.

In addition, during 2023 over 63 lakh saplings have been planted, and 6,300 ha has been brought under sprinkler irrigation and drip irrigation systems. Also, a total 538 Khet Talabs, 465 check dams, and 405 ponds have been mapped.

Further, Aviral Jal Abhiyan initiated by the district Administration is an initiative in the direction of comprehensive water management through small-scale water infrastructures like ponds, farm bunds, soak pits, rainwater recharge structures etc. The same can also be complemented with Integrated Natural Management in the entire district in the next few years.

Also, community engagement with local communities through interactive sessions, awareness campaigns, workshops and training sessions, have been undertaken to explain water usage patterns and to encourage community participation in conservation and management initiatives.

BEST DISTRICT
EAST ZONE WINNER- BALANGIR (ODISHA)

Major achievements of District in the field of water conservation during 2023 include creation of 167 river embankments, and 241 ha of plantation with soil and moisture conservation done under Green Mahanadi Mission. Further, construction of around 260 farm ponds, 170 check dams, 160 diversion weirs, 1,320 water harvesting structures, 460 percolation tanks & 670 groundwater recharge structures have also been undertaken.

In addition, about 54,00 ha of area has been covered under Drip Irrigation and Sprinkler Irrigation systems and creation of overall 3,250 micro water storage structures with a storage capacity of about 1.8 lakh cubic metres. Besides, about 3,500 farm ponds have also been developed with storage capacity of 26 lakh cubic metres. 1,600 dug wells, storing 76,800 cubic meters of water have also been created.

The district has also reported taking up of 44 minor irrigation projects and 22 diversion weir projects being implemented in Mahanadi river basin, connecting about 50 small Nallas and rivulets with embankment protection which protects cultivable area, as well as help in flood and ground water recharge. Further, about 17 lakh trees have been planted through intensive plantation activities. Pani Panchayat Programs have been organised to facilitate community involvement and ownership in water management decisions at the grassroots level.

BEST URBAN LOCAL BODY
FIRST WINNER- SURAT, GUJARAT

Surat Municipal Corporation (SMC) has set an example by making waste management self-sustainable. Surat is the 1st ULB to have Tertiary Treatment Plant (TTP) for recycle and reuse of sewage water. Waste water generated in the city is treated that this treated water has become not only an alternative source of revenue generation for the Corporation, but has also resulted in saving potable water of around 110-115 MLD. Also comprehensive sewerage system developed in the city has resulted in avoiding direct disposal of sewage into river water.

In addition, rainwater harvesting structures (RWH) are being promoted city wide by encouraging citizens for RWH installation in private societies. About 4,600 nos. of Ground water recharge systems have been installed in city areas, resulting in 1 ft ground water level rise in specific areas. Also, about 34 lakh nos. of plants have been planted by SMC.

BEST URBAN LOCAL BODY
SECOND WINNER- PURI, ODISHA

Puri Municipal Corporation (PMC) is credited with ensuring 100% metered water connections and water supply 24X7 to the entire population. Water quality conformance of 100% has been achieved.

Other achievements of PMC include construction of more than 130 Rain Water Harvesting Structures (RWHS) with an estimated recharge potential of 21 million litres of ground water, 100% toilet coverage as well as a collection efficiency of the sewage network of more than 90%.

In addition, for addressing customer complaints and resolving water related issues a 24X7 interactive voice based customer care system has been set up, which enables automatic complaint logging, transfer of the complaint to the concerned staff for immediate action, and online real time tracking of the redressal of the complaint.

Further, deployment of Smart Water Management system has helped in real time data analysis and decision making for uninterrupted water supply with minimal losses and maximum customer satisfaction. Also, the initiative of community led water supply management by partnering with Self Help Groups (SHG)s, called as “Jalasathi” has acted as a bridge between customers and the administration. Their partnership is based on incentives for women of SHGs. The Jalasathis help in facilitating new connections, reading water meters, distributing water bills, and collecting user charges.

BEST URBAN LOCAL BODY
THIRD WINNER- PUNE, MAHARASHTRA

Pune Municipal Corporation has 100% household coverage in toilets & all blocks have been connected to sewer system. It also has 76% of coverage of water supply connections with 100% quality water being supplied.

Further, the Corporation has made it compulsory to install Roof top Rainwater Harvesting systems with proper storage capacity throughout the city area. In addition, 9 STPs have been set up with total treatment capacity of wastewater or sewerage is at around 470 MLD and around 60% of the waste water is being treated and reused for the purposes like agriculture/irrigation, construction works, gardens maintenance, jetting machines for Community and Public Toilets cleaning, etc.

In addition, awareness program of “Women for water, Water for women Campaign” has been taken up to spread awareness about water availability. Process of treatment and distribution has been very popular with the masses, and has positively impacted the people for adopting water conservation interventions.

BEST CIVIL SOCIETY:

FIRST WINNER- BAIF DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH FOUNDATION, PUNE

BAIF Development Research Foundation, Pune has undertaken initiatives which include watershed based resource conservation /management, water resource development, rejuvenation of springs, rain water harvesting, and revival of old water bodies. The Foundation has also taken up diversion based irrigation, and also promotion of smart irrigation practices for water management.

About 3,540 water conservation structures, including rainwater harvesting structures, tanks, water storage structures, etc. have been constructed, creating a water potential for drinking. These structures also meet 19.44 MCM irrigation requirement of rural catchment, apart from improving the cropping systems, restoring of ecosystem with soil carbon enrichment and sustainable natural resource management.

In addition, Foundation's support to Watershed Development has transformed 115 villages, encompassing about 7800 hectares benefiting 16970 families in 12 states.

BEST CIVIL SOCIETY:

SECOND WINNER- YUVA MITRA, MITRANGAN CAMPUS, NASHIK, MAHARASHTRA

Yuva Mitra is a non-profit organization with 28 years of experience in driving rural development across India by empowering marginalized communities through various initiatives including Water Resource Development & Management, Livelihood & Life Skill Development, Health & Education, and Institution building & Agricultural Growth.

Yuva Mitra has left an indelible mark on the landscapes of Maharashtra and Haryana, and has also extended support in 10 other states. Major works undertaken include de-siltation works on 16 sites, creating storage capacity of about 4 lakh cum.

Some of the other works taken up by the Yuva Mitra, majorly in the year 2023, include nalah deepening work on 9 sites creating storage capacity of 73,000 cum, irrigation potential in barren land developed covering around 1,100 Ha, and construction of 37 gabions & 150 loose boulder structures providing creation of 5,000 cubic meters storage.

The Yuva Mitra has also worked for significantly increasing water recharge potential, development of micro-irrigation drip systems across 200 acres of land, creation of 44 ponds with a total storage capacity of 13200 cubic meters, etc.

BEST CIVIL SOCIETY:

THIRD WINNER- GRAMIN VIKAS TRUST, KANCHAN KUNJ, DAHOD, GUJARAT

Gramin Vikas Trust covers various interventions and projects aimed at Water Conservation, Recycling, and Augmentation through its initiative 'Jal Kranti'.

Its major achievements, majorly during the year 2023, include rejuvenation of 100 ponds and Watershed structures, 5 Drip Irrigation & 97 Sprinkler Irrigation infrastructures, 20 group wells, 9 Rain Water Structures (RWH) etc.

Its works span over many states including Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Sikkim, Rajasthan, J&K, etc. Its initiatives have benefited more than 94 thousand people and building a storage capacity of about 7,300 lakh cusec water.

BEST CIVIL SOCIETY

SPECIAL MENTION – ART OF LIVING, VYANKTI VIKAS KENDRA INDIA, BANGALORE

The Art of Living started Water Conservation Projects in 2013 to help overcome the scarcity of drinking water and water for agriculture. These projects have supported in reviving 70 rivers and streams in 8 states: Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Haryana, Punjab, and Rajasthan.

Projects being undertaken include Jal Tara Project- Construction of 25,000 Jal Tara Groundwater Recharge Structures in 83 Villages of Jalna district of Maharashtra, and Bhujal Shakti Project- 82 Recharge Shafts implanted in 35 ponds of 29 villages of Rampur, Uttar Pradesh. Further, the programme has also created 106 recharge structures in Mini-Watershed in Lalitpur District, Uttar Pradesh,

In addition, about 1700 recharge structures such as boulder checks and Recharge Wells have been supported in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and desilting of about Nala, Canal and Dam has been carried out in Akola, Amravati, Nagpur and Latur Districts of Maharashtra under Antarjal Chetna/Jal Sanjeevini Project-.

BEST CIVIL SOCIETY

SPECIAL MENTION – S. M. SEHGAL FOUNDATION, INSTITUTIONAL AREA, GURUGRAM

Water Management program undertaken by the Foundation has expanded its impact across 12 states, 23 districts, and 159 villages. The program has effectively addressed water challenges and promoted sustainability through various initiatives, including constructing 8 community water storage tanks, restoring 144 ponds and recharge wells, and constructing 01 check dam and Rain water harvesting structures in 20 schools.

17,250 households with approximately 86,250 beneficiaries across 12 states have been benefitted over the last year via the interventions to revive 42 water bodies. Jal Jangal Jameen Radio Series is educating people on various schemes related to water usage and resources, water-saving technologies, and water-saving agrarian interventions undertaken by the foundation promoting sustainable water management.

BEST WATER USER ASSOCIATION:

FIRST WINNER- PENTAKLI PROJECT UNION OF WATER USER ASSOCIATION, DIST. BULDHANA, MAHARASHTRA

Pentakli project union consists of 12 water user associations (WUAs) and carries out irrigation management project covering a command area 10,700 hectares, to ensure that the farmers get water entitlement as per the provisions made and to take up crop as per available water. This practice has resulted in changing of the crop pattern and achieving maximum irrigation efficiency.

WUAs have also helped support 300 Ha area irrigation through drip irrigation, apart from supporting farmers in business like poultry farm, milk business and goat farms, resulting in increase in their incomes.

BEST WATER USER ASSOCIATION:
SECOND WINNER- WATER USER COOPERATIVE SOCIETY,
KAGEKODAMAGGE, SHIVAMOGGA, KARNATAKA

Water User Co Operative Society consists of 402 members with 96 being women covering 3 villages covering a total command area of 320 Ha. It undertakes operation and maintenance of canals through the money collected through water charges from the farmers.

Its efforts have resulted in improvement in yield per hectare of the crops of sugarcane, paddy, etc. by 100-200 Tonnes/ha. It has also encouraged farmers to improve water use efficiency by adoption of micro irrigation like drip irrigation and sprinkler irrigation system covering about 60 Ha of land.

BEST WATER USER ASSOCIATION:
THIRD WINNER- PARAMBUR BIG TANK WATER USER
ASSOCIATION, PUDUKKOTAI, TAMIL NADU

Parambur Big Tank Water User Association consists of 281 members with total command area of 105 Ha. WUA has developed and implemented a plan for distribution of water among farmers based on the availability of water resulting changing of the crop pattern and achieving maximum irrigation efficiency.

In addition, micro irrigation systems like sprinkler and drip Irrigation covering an area of 20 Ha have been adopted and Rain water harvesting structures have been constructed with a catchment area of about 1 ha.

BEST SCHOOL OR COLLEGE

FIRST WINNER- GOVT. UPPER PRIMARY SCHOOL, JETHWAN KA BAS, SIKAR, RAJASTHAN

Achievements of the School in the water conservation interventions include setting up 2 water harvesting systems with a total storage capacity of 70,000 Ltrs of water.

The school has also undertaken plantation drives, planting of about 200 trees has been undertaken in school premises. In addition, an eco-friendly and water saving cooler has been developed by students, which uses only 10 Ltrs of water per 24 hours, being much less than the conventional water cooler. Further, the school children have also developed an innovative flower pot which utilises only one glass of water for about 15 days for watering the plant.

The school also undertakes activities on fortnightly basis on environment or water related themes for increasing awareness of the students.

BEST SCHOOL OR COLLEGE

SECOND WINNER- GOVT SARVODYA KANYA VIDYALAYA, B-3 PASCHIM VIHAR, NEW DELHI

The school has installed a rain water harvesting system by which all roof water and rain water in school compound is gathered and by filled in rain water harvesting tanks by pipe lines system. As a result, ground water level has been reported to have undergone up by upto 20-25 feet against previously of 80 fts in the school area.

In addition, 167 trees have been planted in the school premises. Also there are eco-parks, herbal park, Garden, fruit plants, etc. in premises. Drip water system has also been installed in the school campus for watering of trees/saplings.

The school is also organising activities like Painting, Poster making, Essay Writing, Debate Competition, Quiz competition, talks in assembly prayer etc. on regular basis, to promote conservation of water among school children. Clean up events around water bodies water tanks, ponds, rivers, lakes etc. are also being organised.

BEST SCHOOL OR COLLEGE
**THIRD WINNER- KHAIRBANI ASHRAM SCHOOL, BAISINGA,
MAYURBHANJ, ODISHA**

The school has established a roof-top rain water harvesting system, wherein a special pit collects the rain water and the water is allowed to percolate into the ground, replenishing groundwater level. Besides, a storage tank has been also installed to collect rainwater. The collected water is used for watering plants & cleaning.

In addition, an area of 4,000 sq.ft. of school campus is being utilized for kitchen garden. Further, school students organize awareness campaigns about water conservation & good practices on regular basis with local people, which has helped in increase of reuse of leftover water, developing kitchen garden in every household, and tree plantation in the area.

BEST SCHOOL OR COLLEGE

SPECIAL MENTION- BOYS HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL (BHSS), ZAINAKOTE, SRINAGAR

The school has constructed pits for collection of rain water in the premises which is further used for watering the plants and cleaning purpose. In addition, about 250 saplings have been planted in the school campus.

The school also organises exhibitions on regular basis wherein innovative initiatives on water conservation are showcased among the community causing positive impact on local people.

Looking at the activities in such a remote location, the school has been selected for special mention for its initiatives in the field of water conservation.

BEST PANCHAYAT

FIRST WINNER- PULLAMPARA, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, KERALA

Pullampara Grama Panchayath spans an area of 25.9 sq.km and is home to a population of about 22,000.

The panchayat has built more than 600 ponds, with an average storing capacity of 15 million litres of water. Besides, under Amrita Sarovar project, village panchayat has renovated a pond with storage of 100 cubic meter water.

In addition, a total of 42 km of streams and drains have been renovated and revived during last year. Kalari Vanam project, an afforestation project, has been implemented with huge public participation. Around 18,500 plant saplings have been planted in the area.

Further, Watershed Neighbourhood Groups and Watershed Committees have been formed in each watershed area and the plans are being planned with full public participation.

BEST PANCHAYAT
SECOND WINNER- MASULPANI, KANKER, CHHATTISGARH

Masulpani Panchayat has created 161 water shed structures in the Gram Panchayat, including 99 Farm Ponds which are supporting farmers by providing protective irrigation.

In addition, 39 number Brush-woods, 1 community pond de-silting, 2 number dug wells, 02 underground dykes, 03 gabions, and other structures have been constructed by the panchayat, largely during the year 2023.

Due to these implementations, people have started to utilize surface water through protective irrigation, instead of relying solely on groundwater for irrigation purposes. This, in turn, has resulted in increase of the groundwater level.

Further, with the initiative of the panchayat, farmers have adopted solar based lift irrigation and using surface water of drainage line named Jhura Nala, and more than 50 solar based pump sets have been installed. Trainings to make awareness around improved agriculture practices, aquaculture and supplementary planning events are also being organised by the Panchayat.

BEST PANCHAYAT:

THIRD WINNER (JOINT)- KHLIEHRANGNAH, WEST JAINTIA HILLS, MEGHALAYA

Khliehrangnah Panchayat has renovated and revived 20 water bodies, including 14 springs and 6 streams. 1 dug out pond with 2,400 cubic meters has also been created by the Panchayat.

Other works like contour trenches, land rehabilitation by afforestation, construction of dug out ponds and rainwater harvesting systems have been implemented by the Panchayat, for enhancing groundwater.

With sufficient water now becoming available, the whole cultivable command area of 135 ha has been brought under cultivation, thereby increasing the crop productivity. In addition, community-based monitoring system has been established to keep track of water quality, encroachments, and any illegal activities impacting water bodies.

Further, trainings at the village level including exposure trips to model villages have been imparted which have brought effectiveness and efficiency of the member in undertaking ground water recharge activities.

BEST PANCHAYAT:

THIRD WINNER (JOINT)- HAMPAPURAM, ANANTAPUR, ANDHRA PRADESH

Hampapuram Panchayat has created 78 water conservation structures, including staggered trenches in hillock areas, mini percolation tanks, farm ponds, dug-out ponds, fish ponds, soak pits, peripheral trenches and check dams. These initiatives have created a water storage capacity of 2.60 lakh kilo liter.

Further, de-silting of 1 check dam and renovation of 15 gabion check dams has further provided for a storage capacity of 0.27 lakh kilo liters. One Amrit Sarovar has been developed with water holding capacity of 10,000 cub. mtrs.

In addition, the gram panchayat with support of local authorities, NGOs, and communities, has taken up various awareness programs on a mass scale to create awareness on efficient water conservation and management practices.

BEST INSTITUTION (OTHER THAN SCHOOL/COLLEGE):

**FIRST WINNER-TAMIL NADU AGRICULTURAL
UNIVERSITY, COIMBATORE, TAMIL NADU**

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University has created 9 underground sumps with a total capacity of about 2,300 cubic meters, for harvesting rainwater which is being used to meet water demand for laboratories, agriculture and allied activities. Almost 100% of rainwater is harvested and used effectively.

Further, run off water is also harvested in a Farm pond holding a capacity of 400 cubic meters. Also, Percolation ponds (1 No.), recharge shafts (3 Nos.), recharge pits (15 Nos.) are available in the campus which are used for recharging groundwater effectively and annually about 4.4 million litres of rainwater is being recharged into groundwater.

In addition, about 12,500 trees have been planted in the campus. Drip irrigation system, Rain hose irrigation system and Pot watering have been installed for watering the tree saplings. An underground carriage system has been developed for transporting sewage through pipes from all buildings and hostels within the university campus to a sewage treatment plant (STP) of 175 KLD capacity to treat the wastewater. About 75 percent of treated wastewater from STP is used for irrigating the fodder crops, agroforestry trees etc. through drip irrigation.

Also, awareness programmes, field demonstrations, meetings related to water management activities are being organised on regular basis. Two policy documents, one on rainwater harvesting through abandoned wells recharge technology, and the other on accelerated recharge through recharge shaft technology have also been published by University.

BEST INSTITUTION (OTHER THAN SCHOOL/COLLEGE):

**SECOND WINNER- KONER LAKSMAIAH EDUCATION
FOUNDATION, GUNTUR, ANDHRA PRADESH**

Koner Laksmaiah Education Foundation has constructed 28 rainwater harvesting pits with desilting chambers with annual yield of about 3,800 cubic meters, and the non-roof water harvesting contributing an additional 1,700 cubic meters annually. There are 9 underground sumps with a total capacity of about 2,360 cubic meters, in which rainwater is harvested and stored to meet water demand for laboratories, agriculture and allied activities. Almost 100% of rainwater is harvested and used effectively.

Further, the campus features over 5,500 trees, and an in-house nursery supports tree plantation programs. IoT-based smart water meters have been installed to monitor water consumption, detect leakages, and utilize alert-based systems, showcasing innovation in water conservation and management. A dual plumbing system is being implemented resulting in a 42% reduction in landscape water usage through the planting of natural trees and the application of drip and sprinkler irrigation systems.

Further, Moving Bed Biofilm Reactor (MBBR) and Advanced Resource-Based Treatment (ARBiT) technology Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) have been installed with a 100% utilization factor, resulting in 51% water reuse through water recycling and reuse. Training programs, awareness programs and workshops have are also being conducted to educate the community about responsible water management practices.

BEST INSTITUTION (OTHER THAN SCHOOL/COLLEGE):
THIRD WINNER (JOINT)- INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY,
MADRAS, CHENNAI, TAMIL NADU

IIT campus has a lake wherein rooftop rainwater collected from buildings is conserved and used through a storm-water drain network. To store the maximum water in the lake, a weir cum sluice gate has been constructed in the campus. Also construction of earthen bunds done as a flood embankment or to intercept run-off from field drains and divert the rain water to campus lake.

Also, rooftop rain water is diverted to the nearby unused bore-well and open wells for ground water recharging. Further, dual flushing flush tanks were installed at toilets to reduce the flushing water. In addition, about 880 million litres from sewage treatment plant is being recycled annually.

In addition, deepening and de-silting of lakes in the campus have been carried out, which has increased the water storage capacity to 104.5 million Litres. Also, about 65,400 trees span over the campus. Regular awareness anthem/messages in connection with water conservation are being created and displayed in the community.

BEST INSTITUTION (OTHER THAN SCHOOL/COLLEGE):

THIRD WINNER (JOINT)-SRI TIRUMALA NAGAR, RESIDENT WELFARE ASSOCIATION (RWA)

The RWA have constructed around 100 rooftop rainwater harvesting structures (RWHS) in the community and cumulatively saved around 16 lakh liters of water. 62 structures, including harvesting pits in parks and along the terrain slopes of the roads in the community with guided trenches, have been constructed to capture surface water runoff water. About 30.97 lakh liters has been saved cumulatively from surface water runoff and supplementing the ground water levels.

In addition, about 3,000 trees span over the area of locality. Further, RWA actively engages in various missions and activities such as Swachh Bharat, Solid waste management as per SWM Rules (2016), greenery development, development of kitchen gardens and terrace gardens, rainwater harvesting, elimination of open-air defecation etc.

Such activities undertaken at the level of Resident Welfare Association, has been considered as a major achievement, and the RWA has been identified for third prize.

BEST INSTITUTION (OTHER THAN SCHOOL/COLLEGE):

SPECIAL MENTION- IIT TIRUPATI ANDHRA PRADESH

IIT Tirupati has undertaken construction of two large ponds which are designed to collect 100% of peak day rainfall with a combined water storage capacity of 8.37 crore litres. Further, across the campus, more than 5,200 native species trees have also been planted.

The institution has three STPs, generating about 700 KLD of treated water, which is being utilised for watering trees and landscape irrigation. A comprehensive liquid sewage collection system has also been developed, through a network of underground pipelines and collection points, causing efficient transmission of treated water from STPs to Over Head Tanks for further utilization on gravity flow.

In addition, Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system has also been implemented for the remote monitoring and control of its entire plumbing network. Workshops, seminars, and interactive sessions are also being conducted to sensitize various stakeholders to water-related issues.

BEST INSTITUTION (OTHER THAN SCHOOL/COLLEGE)
SPECIAL MENTION- BIRLA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY &
SCIENCE, PILANI, RAJASTHAN

BITS, Pilani campus, has 8 efficient rooftop rainwater harvesting structures with a water storage capacity of approx. 8.60 lakh litres. The harvested rainwater is utilized for various purposes like irrigation of the lush green campus, cleaning activities, and toilet flushing. there are rainwater harvesting and groundwater recharge structures at 8 locations in the campus, with a recharge capacity of approx. 6 lakh litres of water.

The campus also has 40 Soak Pit Recharge Wells (up to 30 feet depth) with water recharges capacity of approx. 1 lakh litres. In addition, during the past year, about 1,500 trees have been planted across the campus, enriching the green cover and promoting ecological balance.

BITS Pilani campus also has a comprehensive sewage management system encompassing efficient collection, transmission, treatment, recycling, and reuse processes. The system has a capacity to treat approx. upto 2.4 MLD of wastewater.

Over the past year, the institute has also conducted 14 impactful awareness activities focusing on water conservation and management.

BEST INDUSTRY:

FIRST WINNER- ARAVALI POWER COMPANY PRIVATE LIMITED (APCPL), JHAJJAR, HARYANA

APCPL has a Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD) compliant station with no discharge of any effluent outside its premises. The station is equipped with Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) with treatment capacity of 300 cubic metre/hr to treat the wastewater generated from plant activities.

Further, storm water drains have been provided in plant and township, along with the storm water pump house, for pumping the rainwater from rainwater harvesting sump to a reservoir for use in plant.

The company has also supported construction of retaining wall of 2 number water ponds, one each at two villages. It has also organised planting of 2,100 tree guards across the district.

In addition, within the premises, high-efficiency equipments yielding substantial savings on water including 32 Flow meters for quantifying the water consumption, Float Valves in Overhead Water Storage tanks to prevent water overflow in residents quarter and in plant premises, Smart Wash basins, Smart Urinals, Smart Showers, Water Sprinklers etc. have been installed. Awareness programmes are also being organized on water conservation on different occasions for villagers nearby, employees, family members, township residents, students in schools to sensitize people to save water.

BEST INDUSTRY:
SECOND WINNER- APOLLO TYRES LIMITED (ATL),
KANCHIPURAM,
TAMIL NADU

ATL has supported in restoration of 14 ponds, through pond deepening, desilting, bunding and maintenance activity benefitting about 1.92 lakh people over an area of 3 lakh square feet. It has also set up 4 number RO drinking water plants at two villages, providing about 1,500 households with clean drinking water.

In addition, biological effluent treatment plant has been set up wherein every year around 2,500 KLD of water is being recycled and being reused back in production. Company has also installed high-efficiency plumbing fixtures, appliances and other equipments in the plant area, resulting in reduction of water consumption of about 16 1200 KL/day.

Further, one rainwater harvesting pond has been constructed in the plant area, wherein 46 water recharging points have been provided, Also, 14 number of rainwater percolation pits have also been provided in the plant.

BEST INDUSTRY:
THIRD WINNER- RAYMOND UCO DENIM PVT LTD, YAVATMAL,
MAHARASHTRA

To combat ecological degradation, Raymond UCO has used Activated Sludge Process (ASP) to ensure zero addition of chemical followed by 100 % recycling of ETP sludge & Salt. Thus, the company has achieved state of 'Zero Liquid Discharge & Zero Solid Sludge Disposal' Unit. This technology has also helped to solve the water crisis in the surrounding industry and communities, by providing them with around 3,000 KLD of treated water.

The company is also using innovative technologies to reduce water consumption, such as mist evaporative system in Humidification plants, automated ON-OFF valves in process machines, use of efficient spray guns for cleaning machines, installation of indirect cooling water supply for cooling of cylinder and rubber belt in processing machines, reuse of hot water generated from centrifugal compressor in process and boiler, recycling of blow down water of water softening units and other filter units, etc.

The company is also undertaking projects, including recovery of backwash and rinsing water of activated carbon filter and pressure sand filter in softening process, and recovery of steam condensate by installing more moisture traps and condensate transfer pumps. The same are saving about 900 m³ of water per year.
