



Research Unit
Press Information Bureau
Government of India

Mission Amrit Sarovar

Reviving India's Water Heritage through Community-led Conservation

Ministry of Rural Development

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Introduction

India's water challenges have long demanded both structural and participatory interventions. Against this backdrop, the Government of India launched the **Mission Amrit Sarovar** in **2022** as a flagship initiative under the **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav**. The mission aims to **construct** and **rejuvenate 75 water bodies** in each district across the country, thereby **fostering water conservation**, ensuring **sustainability**, and **reviving traditional community water bodies** through public participation.



Launched with the vision of building **50,000 Amrit Sarovars** by **August 15, 2023**, the initiative has now been extended and has become a **nationwide movement** converging rural development, environmental stewardship, and community empowerment. It is not merely a reservoir creation initiative—it represents the fusion of national pride, ecological restoration, and grassroots governance. In the backdrop of growing concerns regarding groundwater depletion and rural water scarcity, Mission Amrit Sarovar has emerged as a strategic response—blending tradition with modernity and institutional alignment with public mobilization.

As on **March 2025**, **over 68,000 Sarovars** have been completed, enhancing surface and groundwater availability across various regions. Under **Mahatma Gandhi NREGS**, **over 46,000 Sarovars** were constructed/rejuvenated. These Sarovars have not only addressed immediate water needs but also established sustainable water sources, symbolizing Government's commitment to long-term environmental sustainability and community well-being.

Background and Vision

Amrit Sarovars plays an important role in increasing the availability of water, both on surface and under-ground. Development of Amrit Sarovars is also an important symbol of constructive actions, dedicated to the country on the occasion of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, that create sustainable and long-term productive assets, beneficial to both the living beings and environment.

The **Mission Amrit Sarovar** was announced on **24th April 2022** by the Prime Minister during the celebration of **National Panchayati Raj Day** at **Palli Gram Panchayat, Samba District, Jammu**. Anchored by the **Ministry of Rural Development**, the initiative involves **seven ministries**: Ministry

of **Rural Development**, Ministry of **Jal Shakti**, Ministry of **Panchayati Raj**, Ministry of **Environment, Forest & Climate Change**, Ministry of **Railways**, Ministry of **Culture** and Ministry of **Road Transport and Highways**. This mission is also supported by the **Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics (BISAG-N)**. This multi-stakeholder approach was intended to ensure **convergence**, **efficiency**, and **participatory ownership** of the initiative. The **National Informatics Centre (NIC)** has provided a **centralized digital platform**—amritsarovar.gov.in—which tracks **real-time progress** at the granular level, ensuring **transparency** and enabling **coordination** between departments and states.

The **objective** of this mission is “**construction/rejuvenation of at least 75 Amrit Sarovar (ponds) in every district of the country**”. Each Amrit Sarovar is designed to have a pondage area of **minimum of 1 acre (0.4 hectare)** with water holding capacity of about **10,000 cubic meter**. Importantly, the reservoirs also serve as **socio-cultural hubs**—many are associated with national heroes and freedom fighters, nurturing a sense of ownership and respect.

The mission’s **core vision** is to:

- **Conserve water** and promote sustainable water management practices
- **Strengthen decentralized governance** and empower Gram Panchayats
- **Foster employment** under **MGNREGA** and related schemes
- **Revive traditional and cultural water structures** and community participation

Institutional Convergence and Implementation Mechanism

Mission Amrit Sarovar works are being taken up by the states and districts with convergence from various ongoing schemes such as **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme** (Mahatma Gandhi NREGS), **15th Finance Commission Grants**, **Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sichayi Yojna** sub-schemes such as the Watershed Development Component, Har Khet ko Pani, besides States’ own schemes.

For the **monitoring of the progress** of Amrit Sarovars, following arrangements are in place at the Panchayat level:

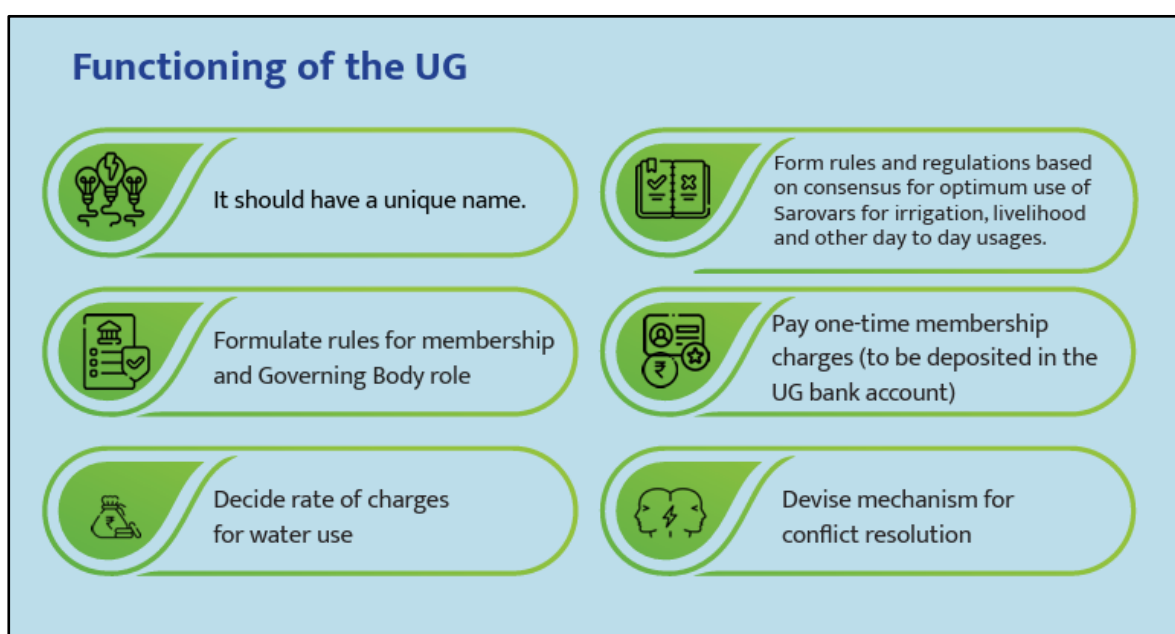
- Two dedicated Prabharis** for each Amrit Sarovar will be positioned i.e. **Panchayat Pratinidhi and Panchayat level officer**.
- Gram Panchayat will nominate **Panchayat Pratinidhi**, who will act as citizen supervisor, and will be responsible for faithful and fair execution of the Amrit Sarovar in the Panchayat while protecting the community interest.
- Panchayat level officer** will monitor the progress and ensure faithful implementation of the mission in the panchayat while reporting the progress in the form of document, with appropriate photos and videos.

As per the guidelines of Mission Amrit Sarovar, **effective maintenance** and **sustainability** of Amrit Sarovars requires a **formation** and **clear mapping of users’ groups** associated with each Sarovar largely drawn from **members of SHGs**. A **User Group** is a **voluntary group** that operates collectively to conserve and manage the Sarovar for promoting water use efficiently. It is a **representative body** of user members of the Sarovar with adequate representation of **women** and **weaker sections**. **Proper identification** and **coordination** of these user groups are essential for the optimal use and upkeep of the Sarovars. The user group will also be responsible for the **ongoing use** and **maintenance** of the Amrit Sarovar including the **plantation activities**. The **removal of silt** from the catchment area should

be done by the users' groups **voluntarily** after every monsoon season.

Different types of user groups could be formed based on the usage:

1. Village Water and Sanitation Committee (VWSC) / Pani Samiti (Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, GoI)
2. Self Help Groups (NRLM)
3. Fishermen group (Department of Fisheries, GoI)
4. Van Samiti (Forest Department)
5. Aquaculture practitioners
6. Water chestnut cultivators
7. Lotus cultivators
8. Makhana cultivators
9. Duckery
10. Water for Livestock users
11. Domestic water users
12. Any other depending on the socio-economic importance of local lakes



In order to optimize the benefit of the Amrit Sarovars and to ensure that the implementation is done in the most credible manner, **latest** and **most relevant technologies** like **remote sensing** and **geospatial** are being used extensively from site selection till its completion.

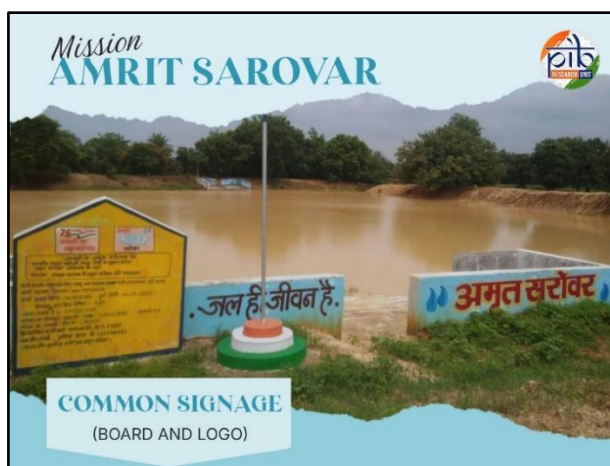
Phase I (April 2022 – August 2023)

Overall, the target to build 50,000 Amrit Sarovar by August 15, 2023, was achieved ahead of schedule. As of **May 2023**, **59,492** Amrit Sarovar were successfully **completed**.

Additional to the accomplishment of the Mission target, linking Amrit Sarovar with Panchayat Pratinidhis, Panchayat level officers, user groups were the imperative aspects. About **79,080 Panchayat Pratinidhi** and **92,359 Panchayat Level Officers** were engaged in the Mission. About **2,203 freedom fighters**, **22,993 eldest members** of the **panchayat**, **385** family members of freedom fighters, **742** family members of **martyrs** and **69 Padma Awardees** participated in the Mission.

Each completed Amrit Sarovar has a **common signage board** stating all the details of the site including

the scheme under which it was constructed and **mandatory plantation of trees** such as **Neem, Bargadh, Peepal** and any other native trees. About **23,51,331 trees** were planted through the Mission out of which **5,32,124** were **Neem**, **3,65,791** were **Peepal**, **3,24,945** were **Bargadh** and **11,28,471** were **other native trees**.



Phase II (Ongoing Since September 2023)

Phase II of Mission Amrit Sarovar is envisaged to continue with a renewed focus on ensuring water availability, with community participation (Jan Bhagidaari) at its core, and aims to strengthen climate resilience, foster ecological balance, and deliver lasting benefits for future generations. A total of 3,182 sites have been identified under Phase II of the Mission, as of April 17, 2025.

State-Wise Performance Highlights

The **top 5 performing states** under the **Mission Amrit Sarovar** initiative as of March 2025, ranked by the **number of Amrit Sarovars completed**, are:

Rank	State	Number of Amrit Sarovars Completed
1	Uttar Pradesh	16,630
2	Madhya Pradesh	5,839
3	Karnataka	4,056
4	Rajasthan	3,138
5	Maharashtra	3,055

Community Engagement and Innovative Practices

Jan Bhagidari has been the core of this Mission and involves people's participation at all levels. So far **65,285 user groups** have been formed for each Amrit Sarovar. These user groups are fully involved during the **entire process of development of an Amrit Sarovar** viz feasibility assessment, execution and its utilization. To encourage mobilization of citizens and non-Government resources for supplementing the Government's efforts to achieve the target, **explicit provisions** have been made in the guidelines of the Mission Amrit Sarovars as follows:

- Laying the foundation stone** for the **Amrit Sarovar** to be led by **freedom fighter** or her/his family member or by the family of **martyr** (post-independence) or a **local Padma awardee**, and in case no such citizen is available, by the **eldest member** of the **local Gram**

Panchayat.

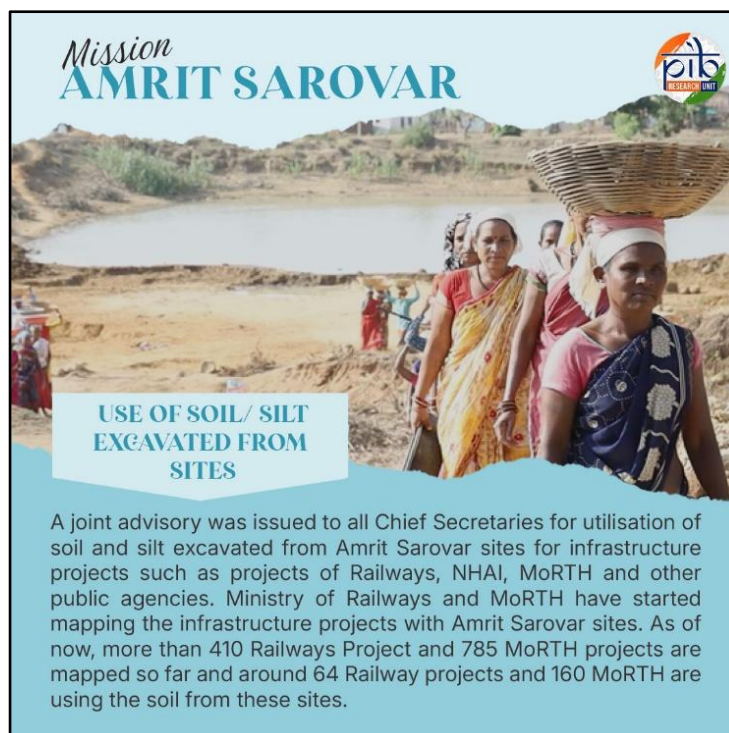
- ii. Provision for people to participate by **donating construction material**, benches and by **Shramdaan**.
- iii. If village community so desires, **beautification works** on the Sarovar site may mobilize necessary donations through **crowd sourcing** and **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)** contributions.
- iv. Provision has been made that on the occasion of **Independence Day/ Republic Day**, the National Flag is to be hoisted at each Amrit Sarovar site, by the freedom fighter or his/her family member or by the family member of martyr or a local Padma Awardee. On Amrit Sarovars sites, national events are to be celebrated.
- v. Possible users of such water structure, including for **irrigation, fishery or water chestnut** cultivation, should be **identified** and **creation of their group are encouraged**.

The Mission promotes the **formation of user groups**, particularly among farmers, fisherfolk, and local communities, to ensure optimal use of water resources for irrigation, aquaculture, and allied activities.

Economic and Ecological Impact

Mission Amrit Sarovar is boosting the **rural livelihood** as the completed Sarovars have been identified for the purpose of different activities such as **irrigation, fisheries, duckery, cultivation of water chestnut and animal husbandry, etc.** These activities are being carried out by different user groups which are linked to each Amrit Sarovar.

The **Ground Water Resources Assessment** by **Central Ground Water Board (CGWB)**, in collaboration with State Governments, shows a **significant rise in groundwater recharge** due to sustained conservation efforts. Recharge from tanks, ponds and water conservation structures increased from **13.98 Billion Cubic Meters (BCM)** in **2017** to **25.34 BCM** in **2024**, reflecting the success of water conservation such as Mission Amrit Sarovar and the role of tanks, ponds & water conservation structures in sustaining groundwater levels. These Sarovars have not only addressed immediate water needs but also established sustainable water sources that can be utilised for irrigation and other purposes thereby **improving agricultural productivity**.



Stories of Success

1. Rejuvenation of Pond at the near Grave Yard: Andaman and Nicobar Islands

The pond has been rejuvenated under Amrit Sarovar and is located at **Satellite Basti** near Graveyard under **Gram Panchayat Govind Nagar, Campbell Bay, Great Nicobar**. It is a community use base

sarovar which **directly benefits** the **200 villagers**. The work has provided **employment** to **24 households**. **Neem** and **other trees** have been planted with tree guards around the sarovar. Along with this, the sarovar is also helpful for the **local farmers** as moisture remains in the surrounding fields and they use the sarovar water for **irrigation** and **cattle-rearing**.



2. Indpe Gdrahi Pokhar: Bihar

In **Jamui** district in **Bihar** is situated **Indpe Panchayat**, where there was a pond in neglected condition. **Indpe Gram Panchayat** took decision to **rejuvenate** this pond. Rejuvenation works were taken up by **Mahatma Gandhi NREGA**. Thanks to the rejuvenation, this pond has got a **new life** with **attractive look**. Spread across **1.04 acres area**, this sarovar has become **centre of utmost attraction**. It has been **beautifully decorated** with paver block pathway with **proper sitting bench facilities**. **Plantation** has also been done around the area of the pond. **Boating facilities** have also been started in this pond, which is making it unique and **generating livelihood**. Installation of **solar tree** and **soar lights** are giving tremendous look to this beautifully decorated Amrit Sarovar. **An electronic display board** has also been established here. Large number of **morning walkers** are getting **health benefits**. The Sarovar and the area across it is now most preferred choice for the **children** to **play** and **enjoy**. **Naari Shakti Jeevika Group** is using this Amrit Sarovar for carrying out the **fishery** activity.



3. Fish Pond at Dine Dite Rijo: Arunachal Pradesh

Construction of Fish Pond at Dine Dite Rijo which is a **controlled pond**, **small artificial lake** or **retention basin** that is stocked with **fish** and is used in **aquaculture** for fish farming, for **recreational fishing**, or for ornamental purposes which has been taken up under Mission Amrit Sarovar. The pond is being used to raise **fish** for **sale** at a very profitable price. With proper nurturing of fish and management, **harvestable food fish production** has **increased drastically** in such a way that it has been utilised for food production. This pond has also been indispensable for **livestock rearing**, **breeding** and **nurturing** of various species of fishes.



Conclusion

Mission Amrit Sarovar stands as a monumental example of **cooperative federalism**, **environmental action**, and **local democracy**. Its blend of cultural reverence, citizen engagement, scientific design, and institutional convergence has allowed it to evolve into a **Jan Andolan**—a people's movement for water security. As the nation continues into **Amrit Kaal**, this mission not only addresses India's **immediate water needs** but also lays the **foundation for a resilient, water-abundant rural future**. The success of Mission Amrit Sarovar will be likely to inspire more such community-centered development models, placing people at the heart of national transformation.

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