





Policies Covered In The Edition

SECTOR SPECIFIC REPORT

(Water)

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JALDOOT App to Monitor Depleting Ground Water Table Across Country

The Ministry of Rural Development in association with the Ministry of Panchayati Rajhas launched the "JALDOOT App" to capture the water level across the country to keep a close watch on depleting Water tables. The "JALDOOT App e- brochure" has also been launched at the same event. The app will capture the water level in the specific wells of the village twice a year i.e., in premonsoon (1st May to 31st May) and monsoon season (1st October to 31st October) through manual monitoring.

It will record the water level of 2-3 selected wells from each village. The measurement has been done by Jaldoots who will be the existing Gram Rojgar Sahayak (GRS) employed under MGNREG in the Gram Panchayats. The activity has been supported through uploads of the supporting geotagged photographs during the manual monitoring along with the basic details such as the diameter, depth of the well, etc.



The app works on both online and offline modes and so helps Jaldoots to capture the data even in areas of poor or no internet connectivity. This data has been integrated with the database of the National Water Informatics Centre (NWIC) and will be used to analyzeit further on various dimensions to prepare different reports such as Registered Device Report, Water Level Report, and Monsoon Report. These centralized data and report displays will help various stakeholders involved in groundwater management such as the government, Panchayats, etc on regular basis.



India is facing serious problems related to depleting groundwater levels due to its intensive use by the high-density population. In this regard, initiatives such as afforestation, watershed development and rainwater harvesting have not likely changed the scenario. Thus, a centralized monitoring mechanism through a digital app was the need of the hour so that the Gram Panchayat Development plans can be made according to the real-time data.

This will also align the activities of Gram Panchayats under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005. The central data repository will help to facilitate further research in the area and address the issue comprehensively in a time-bound manner.

Currently, Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) is monitoring the groundwater level across the country through the monitoring of 23,000 wells and is planning to increase the tally by 11,000 monitoring wells to better assess the depleting levels of groundwater between 2021-26. This will bring evidence-based decision-making in the process and utilize the best practices for water management to ease the distress among the community in long run.

India is a land of agriculture but has also seen rapid industrialization in the last few decades to serve the rising needs of a large population. Thus, both these important sectors of the Indian economy have played major roles in depleting groundwater levels in various parts of the country along with increasing contamination. Some of the basic reasons to aggravate the situation at such alarming levels are:



Green Revolution

Water Contamination due to Industrial Use

Inadequate Regulation and Absence of Penalty

Federal Issues

The data of CGWB show that 230 billion-meter cubes of groundwater have been drawn out in India for irrigation purposes. It amounts to a total of 89% of groundwater extraction altogether. The data suggests that 50% of domestic water requirements in urban India and 85% of domestic water requirements in rural India are fulfilled by groundwater and thus also contribute to its depletion and quality degradation significantly.

The contamination of groundwater brings many challenges at the community level such as the availability of poor-quality drinking water, loss of continuous water supply, high clean-up costs, potential health hazards, etc. The data entry from the selected wells of each gram Panchayat through this app will help in transparently disseminating rich validated information to take coordinated actions. It will develop the way forward to address the primary concern of the government related to water conservation on a priority basis and prepare a systematic roadmap to collect data related to groundwater levels for further policy making.

Water Heroes-Share Your Story' Contest to Encourage Water Conservation in India

For the promotion of the value and importance of water in everyday life in general, the Ministry of Jal Shakti under the Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation has launched the 3rd edition of the "Water Heroes: Share Your Stories" contest. The contest was first launched in September 2019 and after receiving great enthusiasm from the public towards water conservation and sustainable development of India's water resources led to the launch of



its 3rd edition starting on 1st December 2021 which was recently concluded on 30thNovember 2022.

The efforts under the contest are made to create awareness among the masses and motivate them to enhance their knowledge and share best practices in the area. It will benefit the rapidly increasing population of the country and promote its sustainable use for the coming generations. Some of the important objectives of this one-of-a-kind contest are as under:

Promotion of Value of Water Support Efforts in the area of Water Conservation and Sustainable Development of Water Resources at Pan India Level Create Awareness through Enhanced Knowledge and Sharing of Live Experiences of Water Heores to Motivate the Large Population of the Country Develop Attitude towards Water Conservation and Management

The contest has given platforms to many individuals and NGOs across the country to date who are working rigorously to revive India's water resources such as dead ponds and working on tree plantation for water conservation. Any Indian citizen can send an entry on the MyGov portal (www.mygov.in) to participate in the contest that is held every month during the prescribed timeline.

The free entry from an individual or on behalf of NGOs or organizations with an appropriate authority letter has been accepted. The entries can also be made through Government employees with prior permission

from their respective employers to participate. Multiple entries from a single applicant are not allowed and each entry is required to provide all the following details on the portal to take part in the contest out of which 10 winners have been awarded a cash prize of Rs 10,000/- along with a certificate and become "Water Heroes" each month:

01

A 1-5 Mins video as Success Story on Water Conservation Efforts 02

300 Word Write up

03

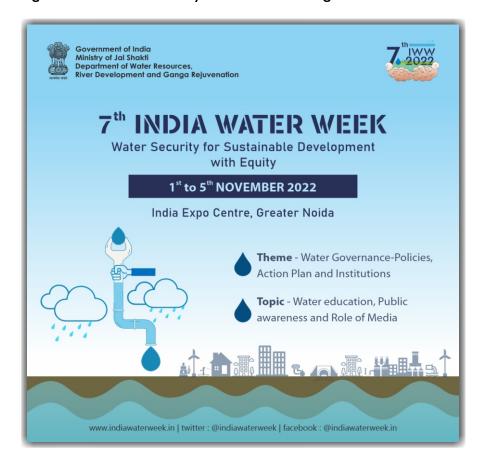
Photographs/Photos Depicting the Water Conservation Efforts

date, 149 entries has won the "Water Heroes" award under the various editions of this contest and strengthened India's water conservation efforts in true sense. These heroes are working aggressively in the field of water conservation, spreading awareness towards water conservation and management, rainwater harvesting along with entrepreneurship in groundwater management, river rejuvenation, rejuvenation of water bodies like ponds, water harvesting, wastewater management, etc.

The Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India reserves the intellectual property rights on the ideas and practices shared by the winning entries. The ministry also has the right to further use

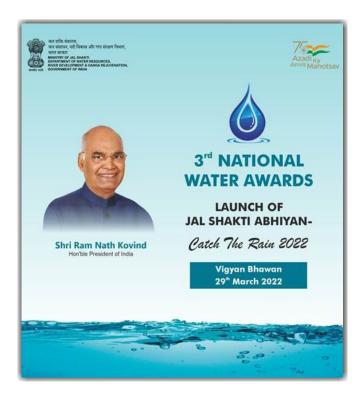
them for promotional purposes and as Information, Education, and Communication material to create awareness along with any additional use where may deem to be fit.

Thus, the contest is working great to prepare a centralized repository of the best practices followed in the area of water conservation and its sustainable management from the various parts of the country. This will bring a transformational shift in the area and produce a multiplier effect in the years to come to inculcate behavioural change in the area of water conservation by the Indian masses.



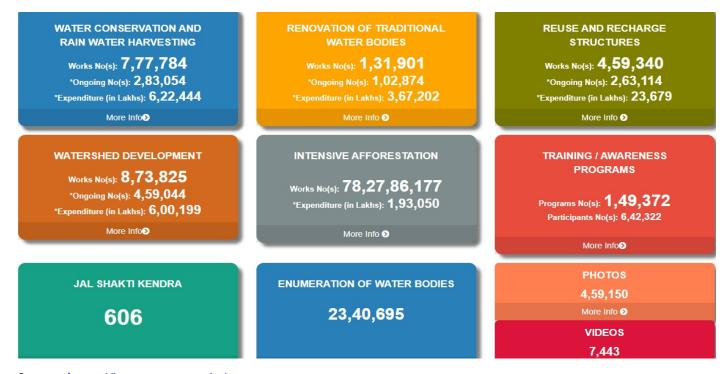
The third series of "Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain" (JSA: CTR)-2022 has recently culminated on 30th November 2022 with a focus on rainwater conservation in the pre-monsoon and monsoon periods. The data has been received under the same from each district of India including rural and urban parts of the country. The campaign has been launched on 29th March 2022 along with the felicitation of the 3rd National Water Awards by the President of India.

The theme of the campaign is "Catch the Rain: where it falls when it falls."The focused intervention under this campaign adopts an approach that includes renovation of traditional and other water bodies, geo-tagging and enumeration of all water bodies, removal of encroachment on tanks and lakes, etc along with



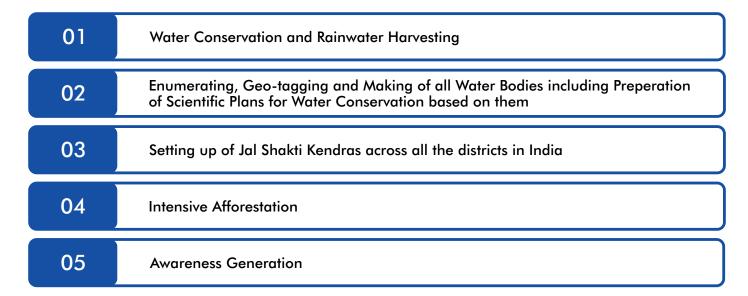
de-slitting of tanks with the help of central and state governments.

Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain" -2022 (Status From 29-03-2022 to 08-12-2022)



Source: https://jsactr.mowr.gov.in/

This year, the target intervention under the campaign is again focused on the same areas as earlier where Jal Shakti Kendras are set up in each district of a respective state and work as a resource center as well as a one-stop solution for all water-related problems for the district. These kendras are assigned with the additional responsibility of preparing a district water conservation plan as earliest to achieve maximum outcome sunder the campaign.

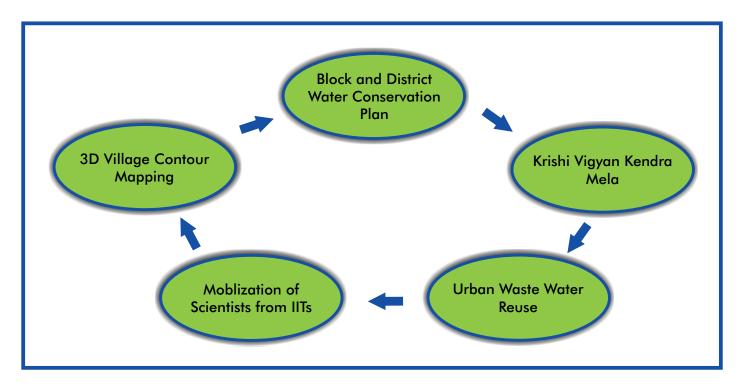


Some of the additional sub-interventions included this year as part of the campaign under the first intervention "Water Conservation and Rainwater Harvesting" are like gender main streaming that will help in associating women in water conservation and its management.

Spring Shed Management
Protection of Water Catchment Areas
Creation and Renovation of Amrit Sarovars
Gender Mainstreaming

This year has also enlisted the sub-intervention plan regarding the "Amrit Sarovar" under the campaign as a part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav. It has aimed to develop and rejuvenate a total of 75 water bodies in each district across the country starting from April 2022 with the help of currently active government schemes, non-government resources as well as citizens by 15th August 2023.

Thus, the campaign works for mobilizing the officials, groundwater experts as well as scientists from the central and state governments together to facilitate water conservation and water resource management at the pan-India level along with a special focus on India's water-stressed districts. Through a focused approach, all the stakeholders work on following special intervention areas to make the campaign a success with the help of public participation and create new assets for water conservation as under:



As water conservation is the priority of the Government of India, thus the expenditure outlay for specific intervention and its corresponding progress can help to showcase the success of the campaign. The enthusiastic participation of the local community at the implementation level as "water warriors" in the area of water management is also sensitizing the movement.

				Interventi	ion Wise	Progress Repor	rt			Sta	tus From : 29-03-2022 to 08-12-2022
S.N.	Jal Shakti Abhiyan	Water Conservation and Rain Water Harvesting Structures		Renovation of Traditional Water Bodies		Reuse and Recharge Structures	Watershed Development	Total Water Related Works		Intensive Afforestation	Training Programmes/ Kisan Melas
		Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban			Rural	Urban		
1.A	Total Nos. of Work	6,90,297	87,487	1,30,666	1,235			21,54,128	88,722		
	Completed	7,77,784		1,31,901		4,59,340	8,73,825	22,42,850		78,27,86,177	54,448
1.B	Total Nos. of Works Ongoing	2,83,054		1,02,874		2,63,114	4,59,044	11,08,086		5,45,381	
2	Total of Completed and Ongoing Works	10,60,838		2,34,775		7,22,454	13,32,869	33,50,	936	78,33,31,558	
3	Expenditure in Rs Crores*	6,224		3,672		237	6,002	16,135		1,931	
4	Total Expenditure Including Water related works and Afforestation (In Rs 18,066										
	Crores)*										
			* Expend	diture is given	only for th	ne works carried ou	t by DoRD under I	MGNREGS			

Source: https://jsactr.mowr.gov.in/PublicDashboard.aspx

The rainwater harvesting structures conducive to their climatic conditions have been also developed as a part of this campaign. It will help in repairing and improving sub-soil strata through continuous improvement in rain Water Harvesting Structures as and when required. The fund allocation and its further utilization under this campaign take place through inter-sectoral convergence of other government development programs in the absence of a separate fund.

Each district under the campaign receives up to Rs 2 lakh financial assistance in two equal installments that are mandated to use for GIS mapping of water bodies and preparing scientific plans for water conservation and management. Thus, the campaign best advocates the conservation, promotion and protection of water to make the best use of it for the community through scientific methods and formulate a comprehensive approach towards water conservation and management at the national level.

Resources

- 1. https://rural.nic.in/en/press-release/jaldoot-app-launched-enable-monitoring-ground-water-tables-across-country
- 2. http://cgwb.gov.in/
- 3. https://nrega.nic.in/Netnrega/Data/Final_JALDOOT_Mobile_app_Brochure_English.pdf
- 4. https://indiawris.gov.in/wris/#/
- 5. https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2015-08/documents/mgwc-gwc1.pdf
- 6. http://jalshakti-dowr.gov.in/
- 7. https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1881201
- 8. https://www.mygov.in/
- 9. http://jalshakti-dowr.gov.in/sites/default/files/Water heroes Terms Conditions 0.pdf
- 10. https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1849940
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- 15. http://jalshaktidowr.gov.in/sites/default/files/Steps_to_control_water_depletion_Feb2021.
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- 16. https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1847096

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