

Steps taken by the Ministry of Jal Shakti and other Central Ministries for Water conservation, Control and regulation of ground water and to promote rain water harvesting / artificial recharge/ water use efficiency etc. are as under:

1. Hon'ble Prime Minister has written a letter to Sarpanches of all the Gram Panchayats of the country on 24.03.2021 regarding the importance of water conservation and harvesting and exhorted them to adopt all appropriate measures to make water conservation a mass movement.
2. Ministry of Jal Shakti launched the Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA) in the year 2019 in 1,592 blocks out of 2,836 blocks in 256 water stressed districts of the country. A campaign "Catch The Rain" with the tag line "Catch the rain, where it falls, when it falls" was implemented in 2020 to nudge the states and all stakeholders to create Rain Water Harvesting Structures (RWHS). In 2021, "Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain" was launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister subsuming Catch the Rain (CTR) campaign to cover all the blocks of all districts (rural as well as urban areas) across the country. JSA: CTR has become an annual feature since 2021. JSA: CTR 2023 with the theme "Source Sustainability for Drinking Water" was implemented across the country. Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain – 2024 with the theme "Nari Shakti se Jal Shakti" has been started emphasizing the pivotal role played by women in the field of water conservation. Five focused interventions, like in the previous years, include (i) water conservation and rainwater harvesting; (ii) enumerating, geo-tagging & making inventory of all water bodies; preparation of scientific plans for water conservation based on it; (iii) setting up of Jal Shakti Kendras in all districts; (iv) intensive afforestation; and (v) awareness generation.
3. National Water Policy(2012) has been formulated by Department of Water Resources, RD& GR, which, inter-alia, advocates rainwater harvesting and conservation of water and highlights the need for augmenting the availability of water through direct use of rainfall. It also inter-alia, advocates conservation of rivers, river bodies and creation of infrastructure towards this should be undertaken in a scientifically planned manner through community participation. Further, encroachment and diversion of water bodies and drainage channels must not be allowed and wherever, it has taken place, it should be restored to the extent feasible and maintained properly.
4. Ministry has circulated a Model Bill to all the States/UTs to enable them to enact suitable ground water legislation for regulation of its development, which also includes provision of rain water harvesting. So far, 21 States/UTs have adopted and implemented the ground water legislation.
5. Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has been constituted under Section 3(3) of the "Environment (Protection) Act, 1986" for the purpose of regulation and control of ground water development and management in the Country.

CGWA has advised States/UTs to take measures to promote/adopt artificial recharge to ground water / rain water harvesting. CGWA grants No Objection Certificates (NOCs) for ground water abstraction to Industries, Infrastructure units and Mining projects infeasible areas in certain States/UTs where regulation is not being done by the respective State/UTs. The latest guidelines for control and regulation of ground water extraction with pan-India applicability was notified by the Ministry on 24 September 2020 with Amendment Notification dated 29.03.2023.

6. Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Groundwater- 2020 has been prepared by CGWB in consultation with States/UTs which is a macro level plan indicating various structures for the different terrain conditions of the country including estimated cost. The Master Plan envisages construction of about 1.42 crore Rain water harvesting and artificial recharge structures in the Country to harness 185 Billion Cubic Metre (BCM) of monsoon rainfall.
7. CGWB has taken up Aquifer Mapping and Management Programme under the scheme of Ground Water Management and Regulation. The Aquifer Mapping is aimed to delineate aquifer disposition and their characterization for preparation of aquifer/ area specific ground water management plans with community participation. The management plans are shared with the respective State governments for taking appropriate measures / implementation. Taking it forward, CGWB is carrying out studies in identified priority areas for preparation of detailed management plans. CGWB has taken up Heli-borne survey, a state-of-the-art technology for high density aquifer mapping in semi-arid/arid areas of Rajasthan, Haryana and Gujarat. The survey work for the project area of 1.00 lakh sq km has been completed.
8. Public Investment Board (PIB) has approved a Project under Ground Water Management and Regulation Scheme (Central Sector Scheme) with an outlay of Rs 805 Cr for the period 2022-26 in which construction of 7000 piezometers along with installation of 7000 Digital Water Level Recorders (DWLRs) with telemetry system, heli-borne surveys for high resolution mapping in ~ 3 lakh sq km area in arid parts of NW India and data generation for Aquifer Mapping through construction of Wells (1135 wells in 11 States) is envisaged.
9. Best practices of water conservation by various entities, including private individuals, NGOs, PSUs, etc., have been compiled and put on the website of the Ministry of Jal Shakti for the benefit of the general public. An interactive link on best practices has also been created for receiving inputs from the public, which, after necessary evaluation and validation, are put on the website for the benefit of the public.
10. Department of Water Resources, RD& GR has instituted National Water Awards to incentivize good practices in water conservation and ground water recharge.
11. The Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India is organizing the India Water

Week biannually. It is a 5-day conference and exhibition which is India's international water resources event. Seven editions of events have been organized till date. The India Water Week has continued to focus on the inter-relatedness of water and life-systems over the years.

12. Mass awareness programs (Trainings, Seminars, Workshops, Exhibitions, Trade Fairs, and Painting Competitions, etc.) are conducted from time to time each year under the Information, Education & Communication (IEC) Scheme of DoWR, RD & GR in various parts of the country to promote rainwater harvesting and artificial recharge to groundwater.
13. The Ministry of Rural Development, in consultation and agreement with the Department of Water Resources, RD & GR, and the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, has developed an actionable framework for Natural Resources Management (NRM) titled 'Mission Water Conservation' to ensure gainful utilization of funds. The framework strives to ensure synergies in the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), the erstwhile Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) now PMKSY-Watershed Development Component, and Command Area Development & Water Management (CADWM), given their common objectives. Types of common works undertaken under these programs/schemes include water conservation and management, water harvesting, soil and moisture conservation, groundwater recharge, flood protection, land development, Command Area Development, and Watershed Management.
14. Central Government supports construction of water harvesting and conservation works primarily through Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) and Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana – Watershed Development Component (PMKSY- WDC).
15. A joint advisory by the Department of Rural Development (DoRD), the Department of Water Resources, RD & GR (DoWR, RD & GR), the Department of Land Resources (DoLR), and the Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation (DoDWS) was issued on 24.04.2020 to all States/UTs to emphasize efforts in the area of water conservation and water management in the country. The activities include augmentation of existing water sources, groundwater recharge, rainwater harvesting, and greywater management and recharge.
16. Model Building Bye Laws (MBBL) 2016 circulated by Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs include provisions for Rainwater Harvesting and it has been shared with all the States/ UTs. So far 35 States / UTs have adopted the provisions of rainwater harvesting of MBBL- 2016.
17. Atal Bhujal Yojana (ABHY), a ₹6,000 crore scheme with World Bank funding for sustainable management of groundwater with community participation, is being implemented in the identified over-exploited and water-stressed areas

across the states of Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh. This scheme is expected to contribute significantly towards the water and food security of the participating states.

18. Hon'ble Prime Minister launched Amrit Sarovar Mission on 24th April 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. As on 15 July 2024, nearly seventy thousand water bodies have been developed and rejuvenated under the mission.
19. A D.O. letter M-11015/124/2021-CB dated 31st March 2022 has been written by the Secretaries of Department of Health & Family Welfare, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Department of Drinking water & Sanitation, Ministry of Women & Child Development, Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Department of Water Resources, RD&GR, Department of Land Resources and Department of Rural Development to Chief Secretaries of all States/UTs bringing out the urgent steps needed to make the villages in the country water sufficient by engaging the communities through participatory mode.
20. Ministry of Jal Shakti has organized the 1st ever All India Annual State Ministers' Conference on Water at Bhopal on 5-6th January, 2023. The primary objective of the workshop was to seek and strengthen the partnership with the States and stakeholder Ministries and to achieve a shared vision in order to manage water as a precious resource in an integrated manner with holistic and inter disciplinary approach to water related issues. Taking it forward, MoJS has organized the "All India Secretaries' Conference" on 23rd and 24th January, 2024 at Mahabalipuram, Tamil Nadu to ideate, share best practices & action taken on the recommendations suggested by the Centre and the States during "1st All India Annual State Ministers Conference on Water".