



## Catch the Rain: National Water Mission

---

 [drishtiias.com/printpdf/catch-the-rain-national-water-mission](https://drishtiias.com/printpdf/catch-the-rain-national-water-mission)

### Why in News

---

Recently, the **National Water Mission** (NWM), **Ministry of Jal Shakti** in collaboration with **Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan** (NYKS), **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports** have launched the 'Catch the Rain' Awareness Generation Campaign.

### Key Points

---

- **Tag line: Catch the rain, where it falls, when it falls.**
- **Aims:**
  - To nudge all stake-holders to create **Rain Water Harvesting Structures** (RWHS) suitable for the climatic conditions and subsoil strata to store rainwater.
  - To **engage people at the grassroots through effective campaigning** and **Information, Education and Communication** (IEC) activities for implementation of the campaign.
- **Activities:**
  - **Drives** to make water harvesting pits, rooftop RWHS and check dams.
  - **Removal of encroachments** and **desilting of tanks** to increase their storage capacity.
  - **Removal of obstructions** in the channels which bring water from the catchment areas.
  - **Repairs to traditional WHS** like step-wells and using defunct bore-wells and old wells to put the water back to aquifers.
  - As a preparatory phase of **Jal Shakti Abhiyan** (JSA) II, NYKS will undertake an **awareness campaign** through various IEC activities, to cover 623 districts from December 2020 to March 2021.
    - IEC activities will include conducting education and motivational programs, mass awareness campaigns, environment building including wall writing, etc.
  - States have been requested to **open Rain Centers in each district**, which will act as a **technical guidance centre** to all in the district.

- **Significance:**
  - Emphasized focus on water conservation and rainwater harvesting will make **youngsters understand the importance of water.**
  - **Highest priority to the issue of water conservation** will lead to the adoption of an integrated approach towards water management.
  - The idea of “No or only limited will water to flow out of the compound” will help in **improving soil moisture and rising groundwater table.**
  - In urban areas it will **reduce water gushing onto roads**, damaging them and will prevent urban flooding.

## Steps Taken for Water Conservation

- **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act:**  
Aims to improve groundwater harvesting, build water conservation and storage mechanisms and has enabled the government to introduce water conservation as a project under the Act.
- **Jal Kranti Abhiyan:**
  - Active efforts to revolutionise villages and cities through block-level water conservation schemes.
  - For example, the **Jal Gram Scheme** under it aimed at developing two model villages in water-starved areas for water conservation and preservation.
- **National Water Mission:**  
Aims to conserve water, minimise wastage and ensure more equitable distribution both across and within states through integrated water resources development and management.
- **NITI Aayog's Composite Water Management Index:**  
Aims to achieve effective utilization of water.
- **Jal Shakti Ministry and Jal Jeevan Mission:**
  - Jal Shakti Ministry was formed to tackle water issues holistically.
  - Jal Jeevan mission aims to provide piped water to all rural households by 2024.
- **Atal Bhujal Yojana:**  
Central sector scheme for sustainable management of groundwater with community participation through the formation of **Water User Associations**, water budgeting, preparation and implementation of Gram-panchayat-wise water security plans, etc.
- **Jal Shakti Abhiyan:**  
Launched in July 2019 as a campaign for water conservation and water security in the country.
- **National Water Awards:**
  - Organised by the **Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation**, Ministry of Jal Shakti.
  - Focus on the good work and efforts made by individuals and organisations across the country, and the government’s vision for the path to **Jal Samridh Bharat.**

**Source: PIB**