



National Water Awards

For Prelims: National Water Awards , Initiatives to save water, Central Ground Water Board (CGWB).

For Mains: Need of conserving water, Government initiatives to save water.

Why in News

Recently, **Uttar Pradesh bagged the first prize** for efforts towards water conservation in the [National Water Awards \(NWA\) 2020](#) organised by the [Ministry of Jal Shakti](#).

- Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu bagged the second and third prizes, respectively, **in the best state category**.

Key points

▪ About:

- The awards are organised by the Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- The Jal Shakti Ministry had launched the first **'National Water Award' in 2018**.
- They **facilitate a good opportunity for the start-ups** as well as the leading organisations to engage with the senior policymakers on adopting the best water resources management practises in India.
- They 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'**.

▪ Objectives:

- To **motivate individuals/organisations who are doing commendable work** in the field of water resources conservation and management.
- **To create awareness among the people about the importance of water** and encourage them to adopt the best water usage practises.

▪ Opportunities Provided:

- **Start-ups, leading organisations and people** can engage, deliberate and strengthen existing partnerships on issues concerning water conservation and management activities.

▪ Need for Water Conservation and Management:

- Depletion of water resources due to overuse and decline in water supplies due to climate change is **pushing India closer to the tipping point of water scarcity**.
- Apart from these, several government policies especially **pertaining to agriculture resulted in over-exploitation of water**. These factors make India a **water-stressed economy**. In this context there is a need for water resource conservation and management.
- India's current water requirement is estimated to be around 1,100 billion cubic metre per year, which is **projected to go up to 1,447 billion cubic metre by 2050**.
- India constitutes **16 % of the world's population**, but the country has only **4% of the world's freshwater resources**. With the changing weather patterns and recurring droughts, India is water stressed.

- According to the [Central Ground Water Board \(CGWB\)](#), with **230 billion metre cube of groundwater drawn out each year** for irrigating agricultural lands in India, many parts of the country are experiencing rapid depletion of groundwater.
- The total estimated [groundwater depletion in India](#) is in the range of 122-199 billion metre cube.

Related Initiatives

- [Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act](#)
- [Jal Kranti Abhiyan](#)
- [Catch the Rain: National Water Mission](#)
- [NITI Aayog's Composite Water Management Index](#)
- [Jal Jeevan Mission](#)
- [Atal Bhujal Yojana](#)
- [Jal Shakti Abhiyan](#)

Way Forward

- People tend to neglect the importance of water conservation because in most places it is free of cost or charged nominally, so **it is important for them to realise its importance and be aware of its degrading status.**
- **Initiatives** like National Water Awards, along with the other government initiatives **will help to create that awareness and motivate them to adopt the best water usage practises** which will help India in becoming 'Jal Samridh Bharat'.

[Source: PIB](#)

PDF Refernece URL: <https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/national-water-awards-1>