



National Initiative on Water Security

Source: PIB

The Union Government has launched the **National Initiative on Water Security** under [Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act \(MGNREGA\), 2005](#), prioritizing water conservation across rural India

- **National Initiative on Water Security:** It aims to address depleting groundwater levels and ensure long-term rural water security. To implement this, the MGNREGA Act, 2005, was amended to make water conservation works mandatory by allocating funds, providing a statutory backing to the initiative.
 - In 'over-exploited' blocks, **65% of MGNREGA funds** will be used for water-related works.
 - In 'semi-critical' blocks, **40% of MGNREGA funds** will be spent on water conservation.
 - Even in blocks without water scarcity, **at least 30% of funds will go towards water-related works.**
 - It shifts focus from ad hoc water works to systematic water security planning, and reflects **India's commitment** to water conservation through campaigns like '[Catch the Rain](#)' and '[Amrit Sarovars](#)'.
- **Achievements of MGNREGA in Water Conservation:** MGNREGA has become the world's largest social welfare program, creating over 1.25 crore water conservation assets like farm ponds and check dams.
 - These efforts have reduced water stress in rural areas. Under Mission Amrit Sarovar, more than 68,000 reservoirs were constructed or rejuvenated in the first phase.

Read more: [Water Management: From Scarcity to Sustainability](#)

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