

Some of the important measures taken by the Central Government for reducing the dependence on ground water and arresting the decline of ground water table in the country can be seen at <https://cdnbbsr.s3waas.gov.in/s3a70dc40477bc2adceef4d2c90f47eb82/uploads/2023/02/2023021742.pdf>

Some of them are listed below: -

- i. Government of India is implementing Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA) in the country in which special emphasis is being given for rainwater harvesting / groundwater recharge. First JSA was launched in 2019 in water stressed blocks of 256 districts. JSA is being continued in the year 2023 as well.
 - ii. Hon'ble Prime Minister has 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.
 - iii. Ministry of Jal Shakti (MoJS) has launched Atal Bhujal Yojana in 8213 water stressed Gram Panchayats of 7 states, which is a community led scheme for participatory ground water management focussing on demand side management of ground water. Under this scheme, inter alia, states are incentivized for adopting water efficient water use agricultural practices like switching over to drips/sprinklers, crop diversification to less water incentive crops, mulching etc.
 - iv. MoJS has also issued advisories to States/UTs to review their free/subsidized electricity policy to farmers, bring suitable water pricing policy and may work further towards crop rotation/diversification/other initiatives to reduce over-dependence on groundwater.
 - v. MoJS promotes conjunctive use of surface water and groundwater and to reduce over-dependence on groundwater, surface water based Major and Medium irrigation projects have been taken up in the country under PMKSY-AIBP scheme in collaboration with States/UTs.
 - vi. Bureau of Water Use Efficiency (BWUE) has been set up under MoJS to plan and execute nation-wide program for promotion of efficient use of water in irrigation, domestic water supply, municipal and/or industrial uses in the country.
 - vii. National Aquifer Mapping and Management Programme (NAQUIM) is being implemented with the objectives to delineate and characterize the aquifers geometry and develop plans for sustainable ground water management. Aquifer mapping and management program has been completed by 31.03.2023 and has covered about 25 lakh sq.km area of the country. Further, aquifer maps and management plans are being shared with the State for suitable demand side and supply side interventions.
 - viii. The Central Government finances the construction of water harvesting and water conservation structures across the country through the Mahatma Gandhi National Employment Guarantee Scheme (MNREGS) and Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana- Watershed Development Component(PMKSY-WDC).
 - ix. In addition, a number of States have done notable work in the field of water conservation/harvesting such as 'Mukhyamantri Jal Swavlamban Abhiyan' in Rajasthan, 'Jalyukt Shibir' in Maharashtra, 'Sujalam Sufalam Abhiyan' in Gujarat, 'Mission Kakatiya' in Telangana, Neeru Chettu' in Andhra Pradesh, Jal Jeevan Hariyali in Bihar, 'Jal Hi Jeevan' in Haryana, and Kudimaramath scheme in Tamil Nadu etc.
- (e) Depletion or scarcity of ground water affects the society as a whole and the people at various social strata are affected in different degrees which depends upon time and region. In urban areas, studies indicate that encroachment of water bodies, excessive concretization of earth surface and unmindful abstraction for non-priority uses are the major reasons for depletion of ground water.
