

Goal - 6 ENSURE AVAILABILITY AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION FOR ALL

By 2030,

6.1	Achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all
6.2	achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations
6.3	Improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally
6.4	substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity
6.5	Implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate
6.6	Protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes
6.a	Expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water and sanitation-related activities and programmes, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies
6.b	Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management



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NATIONAL SCHEMES AND POLICIES

Nodal Ministry- **Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, Government of India**

Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS)	Related Interventions	Targets	Other Concerned Ministries/ Departments
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. National Rural Drinking water Programme (Core) 2. Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan (Core) 3. Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana 4. National River Conservation Programme (NRCP) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Namami Gange -Integrated Ganga Conservation Mission 2. Inter-linking of rivers 	Target 6.1	Drinking Water & Sanitation, Women & Child Development
		Target 6.2	Drinking Water & Sanitation, Rural Development, Panchayati Raj
		Target 6.3	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Ministry of Water Resources , River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation
		Target 6.4	Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, Agriculture & Cooperation, Land Resources
		Target 6.5	Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, Agriculture & Cooperation, Land Resources
		Target 6.6	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change , Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, Land Resources
		Target 6.a	Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation , Drinking Water & Sanitation, Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation , Ministry of External Affairs
		Target 6.b	Panchayati Raj, Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, Drinking Water & Sanitation, Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation

Source: - http://niti.gov.in/writereaddata/files/SDGsV20-Mappingo8o616-DG_o.pdf

GAPS AND CHALLENGES

According to the 2011 Census data only 46.6 per cent households had drinking water facility within the premises. Even those that had drinking water facility were mostly being supplied with contaminated water because most ground and surface water sources in the country are polluted due to leaching of industrial effluents, pesticides, fertilizers and sewage. Within urban infrastructure the supply of water has become one of the most critical problems. Water is often brought from distant sources. In dry-land areas which are physically water scarce and constitute some 70 per cent of the country the problem becomes even more acute as the costs associated with setting up and running water supply services goes up exponentially.

In urban areas the disposal of sewage and waste water is a major problem for the country. Even though there are sewage treatment plants in many of the larger towns and metropolises they are of inadequate capacity in comparison to the sewage and waste water load. The system is unsafe and outdated and the number of persons employed highly inadequate. Consequently, both open and ground water sources are being contaminated by untreated sewage and most lakes, rivers and streams near cities and towns have become stinking cesspools. In rural areas and also in urban areas, open defecation remains widespread. The biggest problem with toilets in rural areas that is generally brushed under the carpet and overlooked is water supply. Toilets are being built in the hundreds of thousands but in most of these, there is either no or inadequate provision for water supply. Consequently, a large number of them remain unused.

On paper there is a commitment towards this with both the Water and Environment Ministries mandated to do this but on the ground this is not being done as much as is required. The building of dams, industrial and sewage pollution, soil erosion and chemical agriculture and mining are combining to degrade water related ecosystems. The per capita water availability in the country is about 1500 m³ which is below the level of 1700 m³ that is considered to be the water stress level.

Currently there are programmes like the National Rural Drinking Water Mission, The National Watershed Mission and Swacch Bharat Abhiyan which mandate the involvement of the community in planning, design and operation and maintenance of local water conservation, water supply and sanitation. However, adequate mechanisms to draw their participation in planning and monitoring is not available and there is little intent or action of the administration in this regard. Thus, almost all missions remain administrative and bureaucratic projects with negligible stakeholding of the communities.



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RECOMMENDATION

1. Decentralized water supply and sanitation must be adopted as the norm both in urban and rural areas and this must be done with informed and technically supported community participation.
2. User charges and costs must be levied on corporations, commercial establishments and government institutions that use water and considerable portions of land to tackle their waste water disposal to meet the costs and maintenance. This will free panchayats and municipalities to provide subsidised water and sanitation facilities for the poor and vulnerable communities.
3. National and State Finance Commissions should provide special grants to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to implement water supply and sanitation schemes.
4. The detailed master plan for artificial recharge drawn up for the whole country by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB, 2010) should be implemented without any delay so as to improve the overall availability of water in the country. This too will have to be done with informed and technically supported community participation.
5. The many pollution control laws must be strictly enforced to prevent the pollution of water bodies that is rampant at present. The judiciary should play a more pro-active role in ensuring compliance of the pollution control laws.
6. Extreme forms of enslavement through scavenging or safai karamchari work which forces people into indecent forms of work, manual scavenging, sewer cleaning etc. needs to be addressed through the mechanisation and automation of such work and the skilling of sanitation staff into alternate work. The manual scavenger's relief and rehabilitation should be undertaken to ensure that no human being is engaged in this human rights violated occupation. People working on sanitation programmes, almost all from the Scheduled Caste communities should be protected from all mishaps and danger. They and their families should be supported to diversify their occupation through higher and technical education to address the social stigma and discrimination.



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Holding the Government Accountable to its Promise to
End Poverty, Social Exclusion & Discrimination

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