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## WATER CONSERVATION & SANITATION ISSUES

**OCTOBER, 2020**

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GIST OF KURUKSHETERA

# WATER CONSERVATION & SANITATION ISSUES

OCTOBER, 2020

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# Water Conservation & Sanitation Issues



WATER



SANITATION

## INTRODUCTION

- In the last few years, India is going through hard times where **water scarcity** and **poor sanitation** Facilities are bigger challenge than the economic development.
- In this issue focus is on factors associated with **ensuring water and sanitation coverage to the rural population**. The aim is to further agenda of **Swachh Bharat Mission** as envisaged by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi at multiple national and international fora.
- The significance of cleaning river Ganga which provides water, food, economic sustenance to 43 % population is immense. To handle the issue of **growing urbanization, industrialization** and **excess use of water** government has initiated **Namami Gange Programme implemented by National mission for clean Ganga**.
- Significance of **Swachh Bharat Mission** is underlined by **UNICEF report which estimated Rs. 50,000 per year saving to every family in ODF village**. Through participation of **Panchayati Raj Institutions** and other local bodies, Swachh Bharat Mission has built more than 10 crore individual household latrines during 2014-2019.

## WATER CONSERVATION: INITIATIVES & FUTURE STRATEGIES

- **Mismanagement of waste water** which also contaminates ground water, lacking liquid waste management, **poor sanitation** conditions and **poor hygiene habits** have contributed to a major portion of population suffering from **water borne diseases**.
- **Unsafe water, sanitation, and hand-washing** are responsible for **4.6% of disease burden** through diarrheal and other infections.
- As per the Indian Constitution, **Water and Sanitation** are **state subjects** under List 2 of the Seventh Schedule. The central govt only plays an advisory role in this area. Along with Centre, many states have come up with innovative measures to encourage water conservation and sanitation practices in their respective jurisdictions.

## GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES

- **Jal Jeevan Mission:** On 15<sup>th</sup> Aug 2019, PM Narendra Modi launched JJM with **vision** - "Every rural household has drinking water supply in adequate quantity of prescribed quality on regular and long- term basis at affordable service delivery charges leading to improvement in living standards of rural communities ". **Waste water management, water conservation and rain water harvesting** are also the mandatory components of this mission. Community approach through **IEC (Information, Education and Communication)** is a key component. Since Inception, the percentage of rural household having access to safe drinking water increased from 18% to 28.41%.
- **Jal Shakti Abhiyan:** Ministry of Jal Shakti launched Jal Shakti Abhiyan in **256 water stressed districts** across the country. Under this Abhiyan, more than **75 lakh traditional and other water bodies and tanks were renovated** and around **one crore conservation and rainwater harvesting structures were created**.
- **Atal Bhujal Yojana (ABHY):** launched in budget 2020 to address **issues** with ground water which include **widespread decline in water tables, reduced availability of water in the wells and contamination of heavy metals and fluoride**. ABHY envisages sustainable ground water management mainly through convergence among various on-going schemes through active involvement of local communities and stakeholders.
- **Composite Water Management Index (CWMI) by NITI Aayog:** The CWMI as a yearly exercise **to assess and improve the performance of States/ Union territories** in efficient management of water resources. **CWMI** comprises of 9 broad sectors with 28 different key performance indicators covering various aspects of **ground water, restoration of water bodies, irrigation, farm practices, drinking water, policy and governance**. Index has been quite successful in sensitizing the states about the impending water scarcity in the Nation.
- **Initiatives by state governments:** **Jalyukt Shivar** In **Maharashtra**, **Mukhya Mantri Jal Swavalamban Abhiyan** in **Rajasthan**, **Neeru Chettu** in **Andhra Pradesh**, **Mission Kakatiya** in **Telangana**, **Sujalam Sufalam** in **Gujarat**, **Integrated Water Resource Management** and **Artificial Recharge Structures Scheme** in **Karnataka**, **Pani Bachao, Paisa Kamao (PBPK)** in **Punjab**.

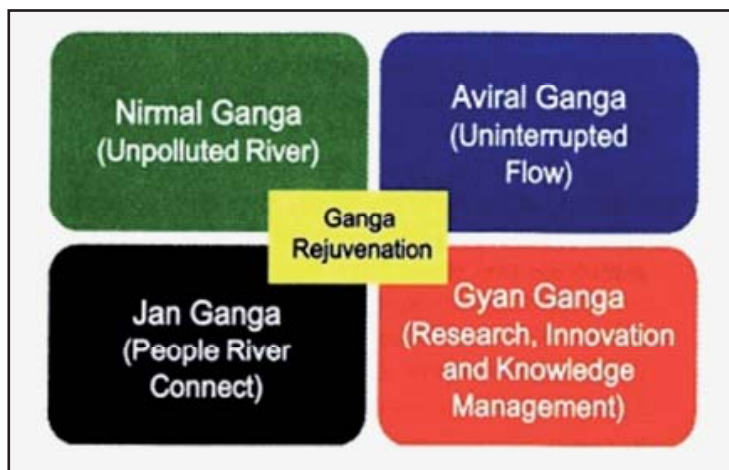
### Way forward:

- **Making Water as Part of Economic Development:** Increase the **budget allocation to water and sanitation** sector, along with agriculture, manufacturing and services sector, it should be a priority sector for investment.

- **Introduction of Water Markets at Large Scale:** Water trading allows water users to buy and sell water in response to their individual needs. The most successful water markets are found in **Murray Darling Basin of Australia** where Water trading has become avital business tool and **source of additional income** for many irrigators.
- **Pollution Tax as the Remedy to Decrease Pollution in Water Bodies:** The pollution tax should be regarded as the **part of Extended Prouder Responsibility (EPR)**. Pollution taxes can lead to significant **investment in pollution abatement and technological innovation**, thereby lowering the overall cost to society of meeting environmental targets.
- **New strategies to support Public Private Partnership in Water Sector:** Governments may consider providing **risk mitigation to long-term investment projects**. In the United States, state revolving funds provide examples of a sustainable infrastructure financing model. The public private approach to Themes Tideway Tunnel (TTT) can also serve as the example for the operating PPP in high risk and long gestation period water sector projects.

## IMPACT & PROGRESS OF MANAMI GANGE PROGRAM

- **Namami Gange programme**, implemented by **National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)** is an integrated mission for conservation of Ganga and its tributaries. A comprehensive **Ganga River Basin Management Plan (GRBMP)** was developed by a consortium of seven IITs. The vision is to restore the wholesomeness of the River by ensuring **Aviral** and **Nirmal Dhara**, and **maintaining its geo-hydrological and ecological integrity**.
- **Integrated River Basin Management (IRBM)** approach is followed with multi-sectoral and multi-agency **interventions** such as **(I) pollution abatement (Nirmal Ganga), (II) improving ecology and flow (Aviral Ganga), (III) strengthen people river connect (Jan Ganga)** and **(IV) facilitate diversified research, scientific mapping, studies and evidence-based policy formulation (Gyan Ganga)**.



### Pollution Abatement (Nirmal Ganga)

Pollution abatement measures **comprehensively tackle all sources of pollution** such as municipal sewage, industrial effluents, municipal solid waste, rural sanitation, non-point sources of pollution such as agricultural runoff, open defecation, un-burnt dead bodies etc.

- **Sewerage Infrastructure:** Under Namami Gange, a total of **151 sewerage infrastructure projects** have been sanctioned. **Wastewater is a valuable resource** from which energy, water, organics, phosphates, nitrogen, and other resources can be extracted.

- **Faecal Sludge Management:** **Faecal sludge** and **Septage treatment** is good option in developing a mix of solutions with centralized and decentralized STPs. NMCG has adopted **co-treatment** in its all under construction STPs.
- **Industrial pollution:** To control the industrial pollution in Ganga, all the **Grossly Polluting Industries (GPIs) were identified** and **annual Inspection undertaken** by independent expert institutions such as IITs, NEERI, NITs **leading to Improved compliance by industries.**
- **Solid Waste Management:** **Regular cleaning of river banks, installing screens/filter** to trap solid waste, **ban on single-use plastics** and **periodical third-party inspections.** Trash skimmers have been installed at important places for surface cleaning.
- **Rural Sanitation:** NMCG facilitated construction of around **11 lakh household toilets in 446S identified Ganga bank villages.** They were declared open defecation free (ODF) early and solid, liquid waste management in Ganga Grams is priority in SBM Grameen.
- **Water Quality:** For the first time in India, **Real Time Water Quality Monitoring has been introduced** with **36 stations set up along Ganga** with 40 more in pipeline. **Community monitoring** is also promoted.

## Ecology and Flow (Aviral Ganga)

- **Ecological Flow:** Ecological flow was notified for River Ganga in Oct 2018. This has become a **major component of river rejuvenation** study.
- **Wetland Conservation:** Wetlands are important for Nirmalta, Aviralta and also for **economy, ecotourism, ground water recharge** and **supporting biodiversity.** Toolkits for urban wetlands protection are also being developed with special attention to flood plain wetlands.
- **Afforestation:** Natural, urban and agricultural riverscapes are covered in this plan.
- **Biodiversity Conservation** - Wildlife Institute of India (WII) to **map biodiversity hotspot** for the entire length of Ganga and scientific improvement of habitat, species.
- **Sustainable Agriculture:** NMCG promotes this through **organic farming, eco agriculture** and **medicinal plantation.** Organic farming corridor along Ganga has been proposed.
- **Small River Rejuvenation:** A **GIS based** district wise inventory of small rivers is being created along with district level interventions with convergence with MGNREGA.

## People River Connect (Jan Ganga)

**Namami Gange mission** accords prime importance to People River Connect and is taking several steps for making it a people's movement.

- **Ghat and Crematoria:** 138 Ghats and 38 Crematoria have already been constructed with River Front development at Patna and Haridwar, making them important public space.
- **Jan Bhagidari:** Community and stakeholder groups have been developed such as Ganga Vichar Manch, Ganga Praharis, NYK Ganga Doots, Ganga Mitras, and Ganga Task Force with ex-serviceman, NCC, NSS etc.
- **Ganga Amantran Abhiyan:** This was largest social outreach program through adventure sports connecting people from Devprayag to Ganga Sagar last year through 35-daylong rafting expedition.
- **NMCG** regularly conducts several activities to connect youth and others such as '**Great Ganga Run**'.
- **Ganga Quest:** During lockdown, an innovative online national quiz on Ganga to connect school/college students drew overwhelming response with 11.5 lakh participants.

- **Clean Ganga Fund** is another innovative step to create an avenue for people and corporates to donate and take up specific projects for this national cause.

## Research, Policy and Knowledge Management (Gyan Ganga)

- **LIDAR Mapping:** Generation of high-resolution GIS ready database for 10 kms on both sides of Ganga using **LIDAR (Light Detection and Ranging)** which will for the first time provide data on drainage, flood plains etc.
- **Microbial Diversity Mapping:** studying **Water Quality** and **Sediment Analysis** to understand the Special Property of Ganga River.
- **Cultural mapping:** Of entire length of Ganga for natural, built and intangible heritage, taken up through **INTACH (Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage)**.
- **Climate Scenario Mapping:** Understanding and scientifically estimate impact of climate change on water resources in the Indo-Gangetic Plain
- **Spring Rejuvenation:** with IIT Roorkee and Survey of India to assess the impact of land use-land cover change or impact of natural or anthropogenic precipitation variability and mapping of sources of springs for taking up their rejuvenation.
- A project in collaboration with **CGWB and National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI) for aquifer mapping** has been started with focus on paleo-channels in parts of Ganga-Yamuna doab.
- **New Paradigm of Planning for River Cities:** Innovative urban river management plan (URMP) framework is being developed with a template for Kanpur.
- **Namami Gange:** It is collaborating with different international organizations like **India-EU water partnership and German collaboration** for the technology and knowledge transfer.
- **Arth Ganga:** Linking economic development of Ganga Basin with ecological improvement and Ganga Rejuvenation.

## SUSTAINING ODF INDIA

- In **2019** India achieved a historical milestone when it **declared the country as open defecation free (ODF)**. **Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin (SBM-G) Phase II** now seeks to both build upon the achievements and sustain them, by **investing in ODF-sustainability activities** such as improved hygiene practices, solid and liquid waste management, and operation and maintenance of infrastructures.
- The objectives of SBM(G) II are critical elements of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on sanitation; target of **SDG Goal 6** is **“by 2030, 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.**

## SBM(G) Phase I (2014-2019): Success Factors

- **Political Leadership:** Close monitoring from the top level on a regular basis
- **Public Finance:** The Centre and state governments have spent estimated US\$ 24 billions on SBM(G).
- **Partnerships:** Range of strategic partnerships were mobilised, amongst but not limited to the government ministries, development partners, media and influencers at all level.
- **Peoples Participation and Community Mobilization:** Community members were mobilized as motivators, **Nigrani Samitis** (vigilante/village committees), local champions, etc. making SBM(G) a truly people's movement



- **Strong Capacity Development Support from Partners:** Development partners such as UNICEF, World Bank, Tuta Trusts and others supported the capacity development of SBM(G) team, immensely contributing towards desired focus on behaviour change communication.
- **Critical Role of Media:** Mobilizing stakeholders ranging from faith leaders, political cadres, bureaucrats and communities at large was made possible through active engagement of media.

## SBM (G)-II scope and focus:

A budget of Rs 140,881 crores has been approved for the five years (2019-20 to 2024-25) programme period. Two key components of the programme are highlighted below.

- **Sustaining the ODF:** SBM(G)II intends to ensure that all remaining households get access to toilets, existing toilets are retrofitted to meet safety/technical standards,
- **Sustainable Solid and Liquid Waste Management:** The solid and liquid waste management component focuses on: **a) bio-organic waste management, b) plastic waste management, c) liquid waste management, and d) faecal sludge management (FSM).** For the FSM, the SBM(G) II guidelines suggest districts to prepare District FSM Plan.
- **Role of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs):** The provision for the use of 15th Finance Commission grants to/ by local bodies to fund SBM(G)-II initiatives through convergence at the local level. SBM (G) II recommends **establishment of a District SBM Committee**, under the Chair of the District Panchayat (Zila Parishad) with the Co-chair of District Collector/Magistrate.
- **IEC and Role of Media:** Five percent of budget (Rs.7,040 crores) is earmarked for range of social and behavioral change communication strategies and related capacity development work.

## Framework for Empowering the PRI's

- **Making sanitation a part of the GPDP framework:** As envisaged in the SBG(G)II guidelines and the Constitution of India, **GPs are required to prepare inclusive Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDPs)** so that they are implemented with priority and ODF is sustained. Institutional capacity of the states needs to be strengthened.
- **Engagement of Block and District Panchayats:** The District Panchayats and Block Panchayats should have critical role in strengthening and supporting Gram Panchayats within their jurisdiction, in planning and implementation of the sanitation plan. In addition, **the PRIs can be the main vehicle to ensure sustained engagement of Safaikarmis, Swachhagrahis and Nigrani Samitis.**
- **Accountability framework for PRI's: District Panchayats to Lead the district level planning process, Block Panchayats (PS) to Support GPs in implementation of their GPDP linked sanitation plan** and ensure robust monitoring of the outcomes at the Block level and **Gram Panchayats to Ensure preparation of inclusive GPDPs** and implement the SBM(G)II programme as part of the GPDPs.
- **Engagement of Media as a Tool for Downward Accountability:** Role of media is crucial, it could be **threefold: i) sharing information on various aspects** of SBM(G) II and entitlements of communities, **ii) supporting PRIs by sharing emerging best practices** from across the country for replication with or without adaptations, and **iii) identification of gaps and delays** in programme implementation and sharing the same with wider public so that the PRIs are held accountable to their citizens.

## Way Forward:

- **Accountability framework for PRIs:** PRIs need a clearly defined institutional platform to be able to deliver on their mandates
- **Critical role of Media:** Media can be the agency of the marginalized communities, and can promote transparency by communicating on the citizen's entitlements, avenues and good practices.

- **Partnerships and Capacity Building of PRIs and Communities:** Development partners, civil society, private sector and academic institutions need to be considered and engaged at all levels.

## HAR GHAR JAL

- According to NITI Aayog India, 2018 around sixty crore Indians “face high to extreme water stress and about two lakh people die every year due to inadequate access to safe water.”
- The National Sample Survey Office’s (NSSO) 76th round, July-December 2018, informs that one in every five (21.4 percent) households in India has piped drinking water connections.
- In urban India, 40.9 percent households receive piped water while in Rural India, just 11.3 percent households receive potable water directly at homes.

## Water and Government Initiatives

The **key goal** of the newly created **Ministry of Jal shakti** is **to assure “availability of potable water for all”**. Accordingly, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi announced **Jal Jeevan Mission-Har Ghar Jal** from Delhi’s Red Fort on 15th August 2019. The scheme promises **pipled water in every rural household by 2024**.

## Salient or Key Features of the Mission

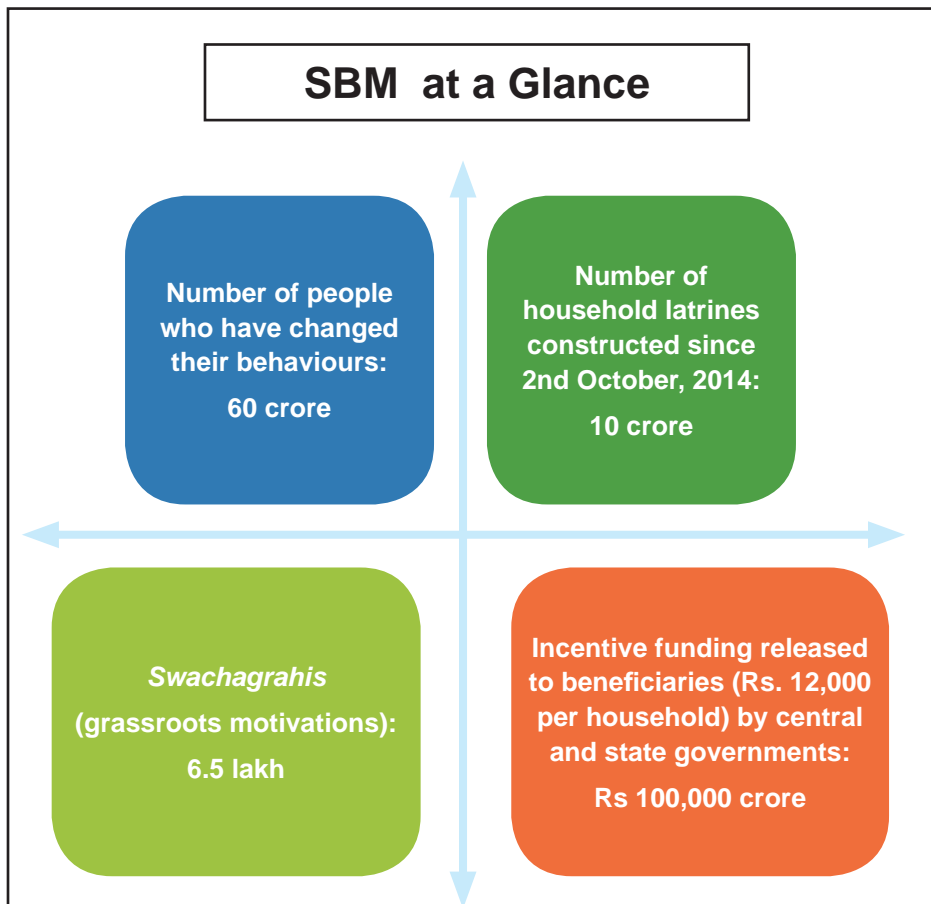
- Emphasis is on ‘**service delivery**’ rather creating Infrastructure.
- SHGs/community-based organizations/NGOs involved as **implementation support agencies** making JJM truly a people’s movement.
- Safe water to be ensured in water quality **affected areas on priority**.
- Create **skilled labour force** to ensure long term maintenance of water supply systems.
- Building **sense of ownership among the community** through specific contribution of capital cost in cash, kind or labour, etc..
- **Performance incentive** of 10% to the village infrastructure based on successful demonstration of operation & maintenance.
- **Monitoring water quality** with 3 tier testing laboratory infrastructures.
- Creating **Local trained workers** especially women to test water supply.
- **Public Finance Management System** is mandatory to be used for all financial transactions to ensure transparency as well as tracking of funds.
- Ministry of Jal Shakti has set up **Integrated Management Information System (IMIS)** for **monitoring of physical and financial progress**.
- **Rashtriya Jal Jeevan Kosh (RJKK)** has been set up to mobilise and accept contributions / donations.

## SWACHH BHARAT MISSION

The **Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM)** was launched as a mass movement to bring about **behavioral changes** for crores of people in India and instill healthy sanitation practices in their daily lives. The socio-economic impact of SBM has been phenomenal both in terms of improving sanitation in hinterland but also improvement in health parameters especially for women and children.

## Background:

- In the **post-independence phase**, health and sanitation aspects were part of the five-year plans. In 1954, the rural sanitation programme in India was introduced as a part of the First Five Year Plan.
- In 1986 a programme - **Central Rural Sanitation Programme (CRSP)** which solely focused on sanitation was introduced.
- In 1999, **Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC)** with a vision to eradicate open defecation by 2017 was launched.
- In 2006, **TSC** was merged with **Indira Awas Yojana (IAY)** and the convergence allowed the use of funds for the construction of sanitary toilets in IAY houses.
- In 2012, the Centre launched **Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan (NBA)** in convergence with **MGNREGA**, with an aim to provide 100 percent access to toilets in rural households by 2022.
- In 2014, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi led government revamped the NBA into **Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM)** and introduced **two sub-missions - Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) and Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban)**.
- The preparation of **District Swachhta Plan (DSP)** was the key aspect of SBM which outlined the scope of working to be taken up in a specific district for making it ODF in a **time bound manner** through ensuring behavior change initiatives. **Swachh Bharat Abhiyan Gramin** was implemented with the aim of making rural areas in India **open defecation free**.



## The main objectives of SBM(G) are:

- Bring about an improvement in the general quality of life in the rural areas, by **promoting cleanliness, hygiene** and **eliminating open defecation**.

- **Accelerate sanitation coverage** in rural areas
- Motivate **communities** and **Panchayati Raj Institutions** to **adopt sustainable sanitation practices** and facilities through awareness creation and health education.
- Encourage **cost effective technologies** for ecologically safe and sustainable sanitation
- Develop **community managed sanitation systems** focusing on **scientific solid and liquid waste management systems** for overall cleanliness in the rural areas
- Create significant **positive impact on gender** and promote **social inclusion** by improving sanitation especially in **marginalized communities**

Various Initiatives taken up as part of SBM include **Namami Gange** to make villages near Ganga ODF, **Swachh Swasth Sarvatra** to strengthen community health centres, **Rashtriya Swachhata Kendra to monitor the progress of SBM programme**, **Swachhata at Petrol Pumps** and **Swachh Bharat App & Web Portal** to monitor coordination between various departments and ministries.

## Impact Assessment of SBM

The **UNICEF** studied the **Financial and Economic Impact** of the **Swachh Bharat Mission** in India in November 2018. **Key Findings:**

- ▶ On an average, **households in ODF villages accrued cumulative benefits of Rs.50,000 per year.**
- ▶ The benefit summarizes **reduced medical cost, low disease burden, save labour time** and **increase in property value** from having a latrine.

A study titled - **Access to toilets and the safety, convenience and self-respect of women in rural India** was conducted in collaboration between **UNICEF, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), Sambodhi Research and Communications Private Limited** with assistance from **Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti**. **Key findings:**

- 40% of households having toilet under SBM reports **improvement in women safety** and reduction in harms by animals while defecating.
- Majority of **women feel proud** having ownership of toilet.
- 93% of women reported no longer open defecating practices and **absence of embarrassment** over not having private toilet.

## SBM (G)-phase II also referred ODF Plus

The **SBM-G Phase II** is aimed at generating employment and providing impetus to the rural economy through construction of household toilets and community toilets, as well as infrastructure for SLWM such as compost pits, soak pits, waste stabilization ponds, material recovery facilities etc.

## CLEAN WATER, SANITATION AND HEALTH

An **adequate quantity of good quality water** is essential for health as is access to sanitation facilities with appropriate disposal of sewage. Coupled with **good hygiene practices**, these two elements play a crucial role in **reducing morbidity and mortality**.

- The **World Bank** estimates that **21 percent of communicable ailments are water-borne.**
- **Diarrhea** is among the biggest killers of children under the age of 5, in addition to **neonatal complications, pneumonia** and **sepsis**.
- **Neglected tropical diseases, polio** and **malaria** also have a strong association with poor water, sanitation and hygiene.

- Inadequate water and sanitation-related facilities in health care institutions is severely **detrimental for mothers and newborns** as it leads to the spread of infectious diseases.
- Poor mechanisms for managing **menstrual hygiene management** in educational institutions not only pose **serious health concerns for girls** but also **impact their attendance and academic performance** adversely.

## Expanding Sanitation Coverage

India has made tremendous strides in the area of sanitation over the last few years. This transformation has been made possible through a combination of factors:

- **Strong political will** has ensured personal commitment towards ensuring the success of Mission.
- Strong emphasis on **behavior change**. SBM has followed a **demand driven approach** as opposed to being supply-driven along with **measuring success in terms of “Open Defecation Free” (ODF) villages and districts**, instead of mere toilet construction.
- Focus on **decentralized monitoring** through the extensive **use of modern technology**.
- All components of the Mission - **construction, payment of incentives, ODF declaration, verification**, and even **active personnel in every village** are **reported on a realtime basis** by states, districts, Gram Panchayats and villages.
- Every toilet constructed under the Mission was **mandatorily geo-tagged** so as to ensure that the process is completely transparent.

## Way Forward

- Behaviour change campaigns need to be implemented on a regular basis.
- **Incentives and benefits** need to be designed for promoting the use of Infrastructure.
- **Targeted behavior change communication campaigns** can also be designed specifically for panchayats and cities where reversals in ODF status are observed.
- **Involving panchayats and local communities** by training them on water quality contamination and management is also critical.
- Technologies that have been successfully piloted in different parts of India or in other country need to be scaled-up, following the necessary adaptation.
- The focus must shift towards ensuring **safe containment, transportation and disposal of faecal sludge** and septage from toilets.
- Lastly but perhaps **most crucially**, all efforts should be made to **ensure the safety and dignity of sanitation workers** through the provision of protective gear and mechanized equipment.

## HEALTH AND HYGIENE CONCERNS FOR RURAL WOMEN

- As defined by **WHO** - ‘**Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of any disease or infirmity**’.
- Women’s Health refers to the branch of medicine that focuses on the treatment/diagnosis of diseases or conditions that affect a woman’s physical and emotional well-being.

- Health is one of the fundamental human rights. As per **Article 47** of the India's Constitution - **"The State shall regard the raising of the level of nutrition and the standard of living of its people and the improvement of public health as among its primary duties and, in particular, the State shall endeavor to bring about prohibition of the consumption except for medicinal purposes of intoxicating drinks and of drugs which are injurious to health"**
- National Health Policy** (NHP; launched in 1983) was revamped in 2017 with an aim to inform, clarify, strengthen and prioritise the Government's role in shaping the health systems holistically covering all its dimensions: **health related investments, organisation of the healthcare services, disease prevention and promotion** of good health through appropriate inter-sectoral coordination, **use of updated technologies, human resource development, strengthening healthcare systems** and **health assurance**. Further, NHP has identified **priority areas** for improving health of the people through coordinated action which include:
  - Swachh Bharat Abhiyan
  - Balanced, healthy diet and regular exercise
  - Addressing tobacco, alcohol and substance abuse
  - Nirbhaya Nari -action against gender violence
  - Reducing indoor and outdoor air pollution

Govt initiatives to support health and nutrition in rural India specially for women-

- LaQshya programme**: To reduce maternal mortality and still birth
- Universal sanitation campaigning** to reach ODF under SBMG and ODF++
- National Rural Drinking water programme** which aims to provide safe drinking water to rural population
- Jal Jeevan Mission** aims to connect every rural household with tapped water connection by 2022.
- Menstrual Hygiene Scheme (MHS)** for promoting menstrual hygiene among adolescent girls (aged between 10-19 years) in rural areas with the aim to increase their awareness regarding menstrual hygiene; improve access and increase the use of high-quality sanitary napkins; and to ensure their safe as well as environment friendly disposal.
- ASHA workers** and **Anganwadi centres** are given responsibility **to ensure healthy menstrual hygiene practices** and discuss other relevant sexual and reproductive health issues
- SABLA program** stresses on awareness regarding health and hygiene among women.
- The key components of **National Health Mission (NHM)** include - **Anaemia Mukh Bharat**; organization of **Village Health camp; Sanitation & Nutrition days** (for providing maternal & child health services and awareness generation regarding maternal & child care); **Iron and Folic Acid (IFA) supplementation; calcium supplementation** and **promotion of iodized salt consumption**.
- Under **National Iron Plus Initiative (NIPI)** programme, for **control of Iron deficiency anaemia** across life stages, iron and folic acid supplements are being given.
- Intensified National Iron Plus Initiative (I-NIPI)** is aimed at **reducing the prevalence of anaemia** by 3 percentage point per annum.
- Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY)** is being implemented for **reducing maternal and neonatal mortality** by promoting institutional delivery among pregnant women belonging to under-privileged families.

## STATUS OF SAFE DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION

- The quality of **water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)** has significant impact on improving the health outcome and ameliorating the economic condition of rural masses. Especially, the present worldwide outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic has strongly demonstrated the critical role of sanitation, hygiene and access to clean water in protecting human health by preventing and containing diseases.
- At the central level, the **Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation** under the **Ministry of Jal Shakti** is the **nodal agency** responsible for policy planning, funding and coordination of programs for safe drinking water and sanitation in rural areas.
- Presently, it has been assigned the responsibility of two key schemes of the Government: **(i) Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin (SBM-G)**, and **(ii) the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)**.

### Status of Safe Drinking Water

- Though the **rural-urban inequality** in the **access to safe drinking water** has narrowed down tremendously from **26% in 1991** to **nearly 9% in 2011**, yet still it is quite high.

### Status of Rural Sanitation

- As per the **baseline survey** conducted by **Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation**, in **October 2014**, about 55 crore people resorted to open defecating in rural areas, meaning thereby that **nearly 61 percent rural population lacked basic sanitation facilities**.

### Government Expenditure on Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation

- **Total expenditure** of government **on rural drinking water and sanitation** which was to the tune of **Rs. 10,565 crores in 2010-11**, went up to **Rs. 21,494 crore in 2020-21**, reflecting a **compound annual growth rate of 6.67 percent**.

### Economic and Health Effects

- Due to the lack of proper sanitation in the country, more than **30 million people suffer from waterborne diseases** leading to a huge loss of around 73 million working days every year. The **resulting economic cost is estimated over 6 percent of GDP** each year, **as per World Bank estimates**. The quality of life of rural people can be substantially improved by improving access to safe drinking water and sanitation.

### Government Initiatives

- **Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin)** achieved a historic milestone when all the villages and Gram Panchayats of the country, after constructing **over 100 million toilets in rural India**, declared themselves open-defecation free on 2nd October 2019, the day coinciding with 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.
- To ensure that the open defecation free behaviour is sustained, no one is left behind and waste management facilities are accessible in all villages; Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen)-Phase II commenced with effect from 19th February, 2020. **Phase-II of SBM-G is just a shift from ODF to ODF Plus**.

## Challenges and Future Initiatives

- The **per capita annual water availability is estimated to decline further to 1,486 cubic meters by 2021**. If the current trends in the demand and supply of water continue, then soon India is likely to become a **water-scarce country**. This will have serious implications for the sustainability of agriculture, food security, livelihoods, rural sanitation and sustainable growth.
- For making India a water secure nation, especially the rural regions of the country, a lot of challenges are needed to be addressed from both, the demand as well as the supply side of water. **From the demand side, population pressures, changing cropping pattern, high rate of urbanization, rapid industrialization and issues relating to climate change** are needed to be urgently addressed. **On the supply side, proper conservation, storage and distribution of water is needed to be prioritized**. Increased public investment for the creation of potable water infrastructure is also required.
- Over exploitation and contamination of ground water is a concern. In this context, **necessary technology interventions** are needed for the **treatment and removal of contaminants and promote the re-use of water**. Proper water resource management, revival of aquifers and traditional rainwater harvesting structures with the active participation of local communities and NGOs also need to be promoted.
- Last but not least, **public awareness** regarding the **rational use of water** and change in the attitude of people towards sanitation need to be promoted through information, education and communication.

## DECENTRALISED GOVERNANCE: CONCEPT AND IMPLICATIONS IN PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

- Decentralisation, or decentralising governance, as referred by **UNDP** (United Nation Development Programme, 1997) is the **restructuring or reorganization of authority so that there is a system of co-responsibility between institutions of governance at the central, regional and local levels according to the principle of subsidiary**.
- There were **only 39 countries in 1974, which had electoral democratic governance**, the number **increased to 121 in 2002 (World Bank, 2004)**.
- There are **three major forms of decentralization**, namely '**Deconcentration**', '**Delegation**' and '**Devolution**'.
- **Deconcentration** Is the weak form of decentralization and **refers to mere shifting of responsibilities from central government officials in the capital city to those working in regions**.
- **Delegation** refers to **transferring responsibility for decision-making and administration of public functions to semiautonomous organization's not wholly controlled by the central government, but ultimately accountable to it**.
- **Devolution** is the strongest form of decentralization, **where the central government transfer functions, authority for decision-making, finance, and management to quasi-autonomous units of local government with corporate status**.
- The idealized **aim** is **to enable people to present, share, analyse and augment their knowledge as the start of a process**.

## Decentralised Governance in India: A Historical Perspective

- **Balwant Rai Mehta Committee** in **1957** recommended a **three-tier Panchayat system** at district, block and Village levels.



- The **second plan document** acknowledged the **necessity of development of democratic institutions** and emphasized upon **'comprehensive village planning'** for efficient distribution of state benefit to weaker sections of society.
- **Ashok Mehta Committee** in **1978** recommended considering **district as a first point of decentralization**.
- **L.M Singhvi Committee**, recommended **involvement of Panchayati Raj institutions in basic planning and implementation of development projects** and consider Panchayati Raj Institutions as Institution of Self Governance to facilitate the participation of the people in the process of planning and development.
- The **73rd Constitutional Amendment, in 1992**, have formalized such an institution by **giving PRI the constitutional provision** to constitute **three-tier panchayat system** in each state as well as emerge as an institute of self-governance.

## Panchayati Raj Institution in India

- **Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI)** is a three-tiered structure in India. **PRIs** include **Gram Panchayats** (village level), **Mandal Parishad** or **Block Samiti** or **Panchayat Samiti** (Block level), and **Zila Parishad** (district level).

## PRI and implementation of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act

- The **Act mandates** that the **selection and prioritization of works** to be taken up in a financial year **has to be done by Gram Sabha**.
- The Act also prescribes that works be allotted in a way that **at least 50 percent of the total works (in terms of costs) be undertaken by the Gram Panchayats**.
- The Act directs the **District Programme Coordinator** at district level **to prepare a Labour Budget every year** in the month of December for next financial year.
- **MGNREGA** has been **integrated with Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), Integrated Watershed Management Programme, Command Area and Water Management schemes** for better outcomes in water conservation and water harvesting works.

## Livelihood Promotion Scheme and PRI

- **Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY)** was designed **to pursue sustainable livelihood opportunities through Micro-Finance and Micro-Enterprises for population Below Poverty Line**.
- In **NRLM**, the **role of PRIs could be to facilitate/ support in social mobilisation, institution building Participatory Identification of Poor (PIP)** and its endorsement in Gram Sabha, allocating resources to the priority demands of the SHGs and their federations in the annual plans/activities of the PRIs and coordinating with different departments and agencies on behalf of the SHG network.

## Current Development Challenge and PRI

- **National Skill Development corporation (NSDC)** adopted a **Public Private Partnership (PPP)** approach to provide skills to 69% youth population aged 18-34 years in rural areas.
- **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)** is the flagship scheme of the **Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE) Implemented by NSDC**, with objective of **enabling Indian youth to take up industry-relevant skill training** that will help them in securing a better livelihood through Skill Certification Scheme.

- **Deen Dayal Upadhyay Gramin Kaushal Yojana (DDUGKY)** launched in the year **2014** also **focused on placement-led skill training initiative of the Ministry of Rural Development**. The scheme aims at transforming poor rural Indian youth ages of 15 and 35 years from poor families into skilled productive employees to empower industry with the right manpower for success and growth.

## Challenges

- **Participatory planning** is often **criticized for over emphasis on process of planning** and it is also **questioned from the standpoint of unequal empowerment**.
- **Women continue to face masculine model of politics, a dual burden of domestic chores and professional obligations, and lack of confidence and self-esteem.**
- In India, there are **Instances of women holding formal rather than effective power** due to reasons like **opposition from the families, interference by husbands, discrimination in meetings, lack of community support, lack of education** and **dependence on men**.

## Way Ahead

Despite such shortcomings, **participation, as a political concept as well as a process, has opened up space for new relationship between governments and citizens**. The concept carries dynamic implications in the wake of recent policies of decentralization, where people are not only expected to voice their opinions during elections, but also enjoy the **power to participate in the decision-making processes**. **Increase in literacy level, access to technology** and **process of digitalization** are helping public participation in government policy planning.

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3	6	10	11	16	17	21	22	28			
30	33	38	39	42	44	46	53	54	59	66	69
70	72	77	78	80	82	84	86	87	94	97	98

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2	3	5	7	27	36	37	40	44	49		
51	52	56	58	62	74	81	89	92	94	98	100

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3	10	19	31	33	35	40	41	44	45	48		
97	100	54	57	63	64	68	71	75	77	80	83	93

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CSE 2016

5	6	9	15	26	29	43	48	53	59	67
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ALL INDIA RANKING  
CSE 2015

9	13	26	34	39	75	77	78	89	91
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