

Govt. Policy  
22/3/22

The Atal Bhujal Yojana is a step in the right direction for ground water mapping & management and its effective conservation. Explain (200 w).

The celebration of World Water Day on March 2022, themed 'Groundwater: making the invisible, visible' raises awareness of about 2.2 billion people living without access to safe drinking water.

With the onset of human induced climate change, the dependence and pressure on groundwater has been steadily increasing. In India, out of the available water resources of 1123 billion cubic metre, 433 bcm comes from groundwater.

Because of its easy availability, the 80% of domestic demand is met through groundwater resources by ~~cont~~ constructing private tubewells which go on unchecked.

Major concerns,

- excessive exploitation of groundwater
- rapid urbanisation & concretisation.
- global warming induced climate change affecting hydrological cycle.
- groundwater contamination with fluoride, nitrate, arsenic & other heavy metals.

Measures for conserving water table include,

- rainwater harvesting & artificial groundwater recharge
- adequate pricing of water
- Community engagement to create a sense of responsibility among masses.
- easy line of credit for implementation of water conservation measures
- deploying innovative technologies like air-to-water system, decentralised wastewater treatment, ~~separate~~ drains for storm-water management.

Atad Bhujal Yojana, a right initiative that envisages community participation through creation of 'Water User Associations', water help groups, water budgeting and preparation of panchayat wise water security plans will help in efficient management of water resources.

Similarly, creation of 'commercial water user groups' and engagement of commercial & bulk users in groundwater management can be ensured.