

# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

## **SDG 6: CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION**





# INTRODUCTION

- Though there is sufficient fresh water on the planet to achieve regular and clean water supply for all, 785 million people still lack access to basic drinking water service.
- Even though 45 per cent of the world's population had access to safely managed sanitation services in 2017, 701 million people could not escape open defecation. In the same year, as many as 3 billion people lacked necessary handwashing facilities at home.
- Water and sanitation is the most cost-effective health intervention available.
- Water scarcity weakens food security and dwindles the incomes of farmers. Therefore, the world's sustained economic growth and productivity are in jeopardy since sustainable management of water resources and full access to safe water and sanitation would remain a challenge in many countries.

- Clean water is critical to survival, and its absence can impact the health, food security, and livelihoods of families across the world. Although our planet has sufficient fresh water to achieve a regular and clean water supply for all, bad economics and poor infrastructure can skew supply unfavourably.
- The Sustainable Development Goals have committed the international community to expand international cooperation and capacity building on water and sanitation related activities and programmes, and also to support local communities in improving water and sanitation management.
- Through Goal 6, the countries of the world have resolved to achieve universal access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation and hygiene to all in the next fifteen years.



# IN INDIA

- India has the world's second-largest population but just 4 per cent of potable water.
- Nearly 600 million Indians face high to extreme water stress; and by 2030, the country's water demand is projected to be twice the available supply, implying severe water scarcity.
- The Government is committed to providing safe and adequate drinking water to all habitations by 2022.

18.01%

of the blocks in the country are over-exploited



90.7%

OF DISTRICTS IN INDIA ARE VERIFIED TO BE ODF



87.62%

OF POLLUTING INDUSTRIES COMPLY WITH CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD NORMS FOR WASTE WATER TREATMENT

95.5%

of households have improved source of drinking water

HOUSEHOLD WITH TOILETS

100%

RURAL HOUSEHOLDS

97.22%

URBAN HOUSEHOLDS



97.43%

OF SCHOOLS HAVE SEPARATE TOILET FOR GIRLS

# ACTION TAKEN

- The National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) has already provided 81.07 per cent rural habitations with access to 40 litres of drinking water per capita per day (LPCD) and another 15.58 per cent with partial access. The target is to provide piped water connection by 2024 under the recently launched Jal Jeevan Mission.
- Under the Jal Jeevan Mission, the recently launched campaign of Jal Shakti Abhiyan aims at water conservation and rainwater harvesting, renovation of traditional and other water bodies, reuse of water and recharging of structures, watershed development and intensive afforestation through broader community mobilisation and participation to achieve a water-secure future for the country.

- The Namami Gange Programme is an Integrated Conservation Mission launched to accomplish the twin objectives of effective abatement of pollution, conservation and rejuvenation of river Ganga.
- The flagship initiative of the Swachh Bharat Mission covering all rural and urban areas has successfully achieved the target of making India open-defecation-free (ODF) India by 2nd October 2019.
- The programme also aims at conversion of unsanitary toilets to pour-flush toilets, eradication of manual scavenging, municipal solid waste management, raising awareness and nudging positive behavioural change in people.

# CHALLENGES

- Water Data System– Data systems related to water in the country are characterised by limited coverage, inefficiency, unreliability, and limited coordination and sharing.
- Data are rarely available at the required level of detail to inform policies.
- Unreliability and inefficiency result from outdated collection techniques and methodologies.
- These limitations have a direct impact on research and innovation, policy formulation and maintenance of systems.

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- Gendered access to sanitation facilities – Constraints are often imposed on women to access sanitation facilities in rural communities. Such socio-behavioural issues may restrict the usage of these rural sanitation facilities by the local communities in the beginning.
  - Rising awareness and greater participation of community-based organisations play a crucial role in effecting such social transformation.



# CONCLUSION

- More and more countries are experiencing water stress, and increasing drought and desertification is already worsening these trends. By 2050, it is projected that at least one in four people will suffer recurring water shortages.
- Ensuring universal safe and affordable drinking water involves reaching over 800 million people who lack basic services and improving accessibility and safety of services for over two billion.
- Hence, safe and affordable drinking water for all by 2030 requires we invest in adequate infrastructure, provide sanitation facilities, and encourage hygiene. Protecting and restoring water-related ecosystems is essential.