



**D.O. No. M-93012/1/2021-NWM**

**15<sup>th</sup> March, 2022.**

Dear Chief Secretary,

It is time to prepare for the rains again. We write to you regarding the 'Jal Shakti Abhiyan - Catch the Rain 2022' to make preparations for water conservation and recharge before the onset of monsoon so as to maximize harvesting and utilization of rainfall during the monsoon.

2. You may recall that the Jal Shakti Abhiyan was taken up in 2019, covering 1,592 blocks, out of 2,836 blocks in 256 water-stressed districts of the country. The Abhiyan achieved considerable success in creating mass awareness and eliciting peoples' participation for water conservation. In 2020, the Abhiyan, as such, could not be taken up due to situation caused by spread of Covid-19, but the States were requested to take up water conservation works under various schemes and programs. In 2021, the scope of JSA was expanded and the "Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch The Rain" (JSA: CTR) campaign was launched in **all districts (rural as well as urban) in the country**. JSA:CTR was implemented from 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021 to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2021 period with the theme "Catch the Rain: Where it falls, When it falls".

3. During the JSA:CTR campaign from 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021 to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2021, about 42 lakh water related works were taken up under MNREGS including creation/ maintenance of 14.76 lakh water conservation and RWH structures, renovation of 2.78 lakh traditional water bodies, creation/ maintenance of 7.34 lakh reuse & recharge structures and 17.02 lakh watershed development related works. This would not have been possible without your support.

4. This year again, the Jal Shakti Abhiyan will be taken up in the pre-monsoon and monsoon seasons, covering both urban and rural areas of **all districts** in the country, focusing on harvesting and conservation of rainwater. The principle of reuse, recycle and recharge of water would be inherent to the Abhiyaan and the management of used or waste water especially greywater would also be part of the campaign. It is also proposed, this year, that Central Nodal Officers will visit districts to familiarize themselves with and encourage water conservation activities.

5. The Hon'ble President will launch the 'Jal Shakti Abhiyan' with the theme 'Catch the rain: Where it falls, When it falls' on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2022. It is requested that after the address by the Hon'ble President, special Gram Sabhas may be organized in all Gram Panchayats of your State to exclusively discuss issues related to value of water and water conservation.

6. In the Jal Shakti Abhiyan, the Districts may take up following activities, in particular:

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- (i) Removal of encroachments in the water bodies and their renovation including de-silting, constructions/ strengthening of inlets/outlets, repairs etc of these tanks and ponds;
- (ii) Undertaking greywater management activities in campaign mode to promote complete saturation with soak pits and other simple onsite treatments, especially of Panchayat ghars, PHCs, Schools, AWCs, Community Centres and other public institutions.
- (iii) Rejuvenation of small rivers and rivulets through community driven river basin management practices;
- (iv) Catchment area treatment (afforestation etc.);
- (v) GIS mapping of all the water bodies and an inventory of all water bodies in the country;
- (vi) Preparing scientific plans for water conservation based on the water availability, nature of soil strata etc.
- (vii) Setting up of Jal Shakti Kendras, a knowledge center on water, in the district headquarters.
- (viii) Taking up works for water conservation through watershed development projects and MGNREGA works and completing formulations of GIS based watershed development plan for all Gram Panchayats. Further, issuing guidance to all the agencies that all NRM/watershed treatment works, by any programme, will be chosen from this plan and taken up as per "ridge to valley" principle.
- (ix) Utilizing Finance Commission's grants for Gram Panchayats for implementation of JSA activities, wherever required.
- (x) Convergence of JSA 2022 activities with the celebration of 75 years of Independence.
- (xi) Taking up roof top rainwater harvesting in government buildings, particularly panchayat offices, a nganwadis, schools and PHCs.
- (xii) Wherever appropriate, existing springs may be mapped and springshed protection/development activities should be taken up.

7. The Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan has been involving students and youth in the campaign. Their support may be taken for expanding the outreach of the campaign.

8. For effective implementation of water conservation activities, consultation/ collaboration with Departments of Irrigation/Water Resources/ Soil & Water Conservation/ Agriculture/ Drinking Water and Sanitation/ Forest/ Panchayati Raj Institutions/ Rural Development/ Youth Affairs of the respective States/UTs is essential. A meeting of all concerned may be convened to firm up JSA activities ensuring convergence.

9. Regional offices of Central Ground Water Board and State Level Nodal Agencies (SLNA) of WDC-PMKSY programme will be able to provide technical support to select suitable locations for construction of suitable water harvesting/ ground water recharge structures.

10. Participation of people and involvement of community is critical in success of the Abhiyan. Steps may be taken to encourage people from different walks of life to participate in the Abhiyan, keeping in mind the constraints of social distancing norms and precautions associated with the COVID pandemic.

11. We hope that, like the three preceding years, the Jal Andolan this year too will be a grand success under your direction and leadership.



(Parkaj Kumar)

Secretary

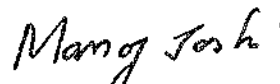
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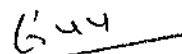
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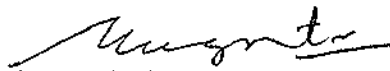
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(Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra)

Secretary

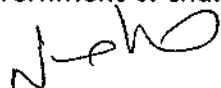
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