Environment & Ecology · GS - III

What are the salient features of the Jal Shakti Abhiyan launched by the Government of India for water conservation and water security?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2020	GS - III	Environment & Ecology

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Water conservation; rainwater harvesting; watershed development; renovation of traditional water bodies; reuse of wastewater; afforestation; community participation; water security

Model Answer

Introduction

The Jal Shakti Abhiyan was launched in 2019 as a campaign to address water stress through coordinated conservation measures, particularly in water-stressed districts. It emphasised local participation and convergence among government programmes.

Salient features

- **Rainwater harvesting:** Encourages rooftop harvesting and the construction or restoration of structures that capture rainwater.
- **Water conservation:** Promotes efficient use of water and conservation measures suited to local conditions.
- **Renovation of traditional water bodies:** Supports the restoration of ponds, tanks and other traditional storage structures.
- **Watershed development:** Encourages soil and moisture conservation to improve infiltration and reduce runoff.

- **Reuse of wastewater:** Promotes treatment and reuse where appropriate to reduce pressure on freshwater resources.
- **Afforestation:** Tree planting and ecological restoration can support soil conservation and local water cycles.
- **Community participation:** Involves local authorities, communities and civil society in planning and implementation.
- **Convergence:** Seeks to coordinate existing schemes and resources rather than relying solely on a separate funding mechanism.

Significance

The campaign encourages decentralised water management, groundwater recharge and greater public awareness. Its effectiveness depends on the quality of local planning and the maintenance of completed structures.

Conclusion

The Jal Shakti Abhiyan promotes a participatory, conservation-oriented approach to water security. Long-term results require sustained maintenance, groundwater regulation, efficient irrigation and active community ownership.

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