

Project Him Sarovar, Need, Features, Objectives, Significance

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Project Him Sarovar is a **scientific water conservation initiative launched in April 2026** by Vinai Kumar Saxena in **Ladakh** to **address chronic water scarcity through systematic snow harvesting and storage of meltwater in designed water bodies, ensuring long-term water security in the region.**

Project Him Sarovar Need

The Project Him Sarovar project is necessitated by **Ladakh's fragile water availability system and increasing climate-induced stress on its resources.**

- Ladakh is a cold desert region with extremely low rainfall and high dependence on glaciers and snowmelt for water supply.
- **Climate change** has caused declining snowfall, glacier retreat, and falling water tables, aggravating water scarcity.
- Agriculture and livelihoods in Ladakh depend on limited seasonal water availability, making water management critical.

Project Him Sarovar Objectives

The project is designed to **ensure sustainable water availability while addressing ecological and livelihood challenges in Ladakh.**

- The project aims to enhance water security by scientifically harvesting snow and conserving meltwater.
- It seeks to provide reliable irrigation support to farmers facing water shortages.
- It focuses on building climate resilience against changing snowfall and glacial patterns.
- It intends to restore degraded land and improve ecological balance.
- It aims to generate sustainable livelihood opportunities for local communities.

Key Features of the Project Him Sarovar

Project Him Sarovar is designed as a comprehensive and scientific intervention combining technology, community participation, and institutional support to ensure effective water conservation in Ladakh.

- **Scientific Snow Harvesting:** The project involves scientific techniques to capture and store snowmelt and glacial meltwater for future use.
- **Creation of Water Bodies:** A total of 50 small water bodies are being constructed across Leh and Kargil to store meltwater efficiently.
- **Design and Dimensions:** Each water body is designed with dimensions of approximately 40 × 30 meters and 2 meters depth for optimal storage.
- **Mission Mode Implementation:** Excavation and construction activities have been initiated simultaneously, ensuring time-bound execution.
- **Community Participation:** The project is being implemented with active consultation of local communities to ensure relevance and sustainability.
- **Institutional Support:** The initiative is supported by institutions such as Indian Army, Indo-Tibetan Border Police, and Border Roads Organisation for effective implementation.

The project aligns with the vision of Narendra Modi to restore 2.6 crore hectares of degraded land by 2030.

It contributes to **Sustainable Development Goals** such as SDG 6 (Clean Water), SDG 13 (Climate Action), and SDG 15 (Life on Land).

Project Him Sarovar Significance

The project holds multidimensional importance as it addresses water scarcity while promoting sustainable development and climate resilience in Ladakh.

- **Strengthening Water Security:** The project ensures year-round water availability by storing seasonal snowmelt and reducing dependence on uncertain natural sources.
- **Boost to Agriculture:** Improved irrigation facilities will enhance agricultural productivity and may extend the cropping season.
- **Climate Change Adaptation:** The project acts as a local adaptation strategy to mitigate the effects of rising temperatures and glacier retreat.

- **Ecological Restoration:** Increased water availability will support plantation drives and creation of green and blue assets, improving ecological balance.
 - **Livelihood Generation:** Better water availability will create employment opportunities in agriculture and allied sectors.
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